

WESTERN Recorder

January 22, 2013

Shine Like Stars * Philippians 2:15

Volume 187, Issue 3

Long-term Investment

In the three years since Haiti's devastating earthquake, much of the world has moved on

Crossings Ministries has moved in



By Robin Cornetel Bass

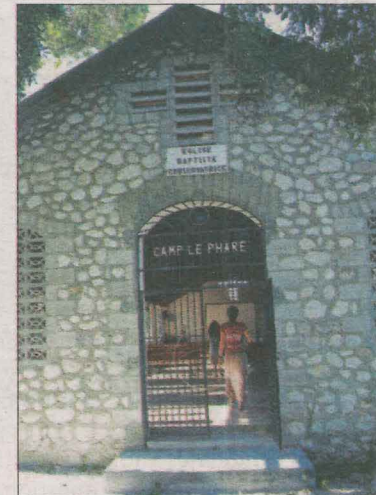
Port-au-Prince, Haiti—Three years ago this month, organizations around the world were rushing to offer humanitarian aid in Haiti following the catastrophic earthquake that left a reported 316,000 dead and more than 1 million people homeless.

And Kentucky Baptists were among the thousands of relief workers who responded to the overwhelming physical needs of the Haitian people.

But unlike government agencies and secular nonprofits pouring money and food into the devastated Third World country, Kentucky Baptists were additionally concerned about spiritual needs—and it was that desire to share the gospel that has led several Kentucky Baptists to remain in Haiti for as long as God needs them.

“We want to invest in Haiti for the long haul,” said David Melber, president of Crossings Ministries. “We want to walk alongside the people of Haiti and practice the Great Commission.”

In 2012, Crossings formed a partnership with Baptist Haiti Mission, a ministry with a 60-year history of serving the country that currently is



■ **Above:** The exterior of the sanctuary at Camp Le Phare, a camp on Haiti's western coast that is operated by Crossings Ministries. The Kentucky Baptist organization began hosting camps there last fall for Haitian children with help from Kentucky Baptist student groups on short-term mission trips. ■ **Left:** A Crossings worker holds a sleeping Haitian child in her arms. The Kentucky Baptist camp ministry began its missions work in Haiti last year with a series of camps and plans to expand on those opportunities in the coming years. (Crossings photos)

affiliated with more than 350 Haitian-led churches. The bond helped establish Camp La Phare, located on the central western

□ See Crossings in Haiti ... Page 6

Fort Campbell helps connect military families with faith community

By Diana Chandler

Fort Campbell—Heather Junkin was putting her 9-month-old daughter, Adelynn, to bed when the sound rang out.

The young military wife rushed to the kitchen to find her husband, Justin, lying on the floor, blood pouring from his face, a gun no longer in his grasp.

“I was trying to put our daughter to sleep, and he committed suicide in the other room, leaving me with a 9-month-old baby,” said Junkin, one of nearly 200 ministry leaders, mental health professionals and volunteers at a Jan. 11 ministry fair at Fort Campbell, the Kentucky base that serves as the home for the U.S. Army's 101st Airborne Division.

Two weeks before his death, Junkin's husband had been diagnosed with obsessive compulsive disorder and was given prescription drugs for depression and anxiety. Hours before his death, he began drinking heavily, compounding the drugs' side effects of suicidal tendencies, Junkin said.

“It's a very difficult set of emotions to deal with when someone that you love commits suicide, and there's a lot of guilt, a lot of anger, a lot of sadness. It has a different dimension than if they die respectfully,” said 27-year-old Junkin, whose husband killed himself in September 2011 after deployments in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Fort Campbell's Religious Support Office hosted the ministry fair to familiarize the faith community with the 571 support

□ See Fort Campbell ... Page 7



EMOTIONAL EXHIBIT A display at the Fort Campbell Religious Support Office's ministry fair—each pair of gray boots representing a suicide—depicts the growing problem among active duty, National Guard and Army Reserve soldiers. (Photo by Fred Holly Jr., Blanchfield Army Community Hospital)

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Western Recorder 1-22-2013

Grudem to Christians: 'Influence government'

By Chip Hutcheson

Princeton—Acclaimed theologian Wayne Grudem issued a call for Christians to "influence government for good" in a presentation to about 200 people at Southside Baptist Church Jan. 16.

At a program coordinated by the Family Foundation of Kentucky, Grudem told a multi-denominational crowd that a common theme of Scripture is that "government leaders are accountable to God, and that Christians should be involved in influencing government to do good."

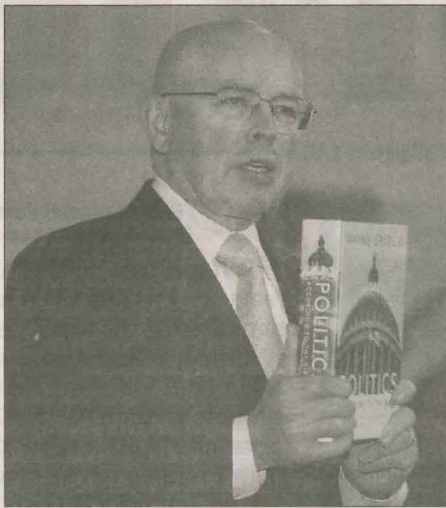
"Our freedom (of religion) is being nibbled away. Will you sit on the sidelines or get in the game?" he asked the crowd that included pastors and laypeople. "We have a biblical responsibility to influence government for good."

Grudem dispelled the commonly held belief that pastors cannot preach on political candidates and their worthiness for office. In response to a question, Grudem said there are "all sorts of misunderstanding" about the Johnson Amendment of 1954, which pertains to a change in the IRS tax code that prohibits tax-exempt organizations from endorsing or opposing political candidates.

"No church in the history of the United States has had its tax-exempt status revoked," Grudem observed. The Johnson Amendment "is telling pastors what they can say or not say," Grudem noted, saying that is in opposition of the freedom of speech and freedom of religion provisions of the Constitution. "If we brought it to court, we'd win."

He noted that the Alliance Defending Freedom organization has challenged that amendment in recent years. Five years ago, 34 pastors sent their sermons to the IRS ahead of time—sermons that violated the Johnson Amendment. This past November the number of pastors who submitted sermons swelled to 1,200. For five years, the IRS has done nothing to those churches. And there is conjecture that if the IRS did try to revoke tax-exempt status, Grudem said, it would only affect offerings taken on the particular Sunday the sermon was preached.

Grudem exhorted pastors not to shirk from preaching about politics. "If you say you don't want to, then what (other) parts of the Bible are you not going to



CHRISTIANS & POLITICS Wayne Grudem, professor of theology and biblical studies at Phoenix Seminary, holds a copy of his 2010 book, "Politics According to the Bible," during a Jan. 16 speaking engagement at Southside Baptist Church in Princeton. (Photo by Chip Hutcheson/Princeton Times-Leader)

preach from? Are you not going to preach about the prophets when they bore testimony to civil leaders? ... The Bible talks about all areas of life, including government."

As an example, Grudem said the Bible's greatest evangelist, Paul, did not back away from preaching unpopular topics (Acts 20:26).

Grudem, who recently authored the book, "Politics According to the Bible," gave numerous examples from the Bible and history of how believers have positively influenced government for good. There was Joseph, second in command in Egypt; Nehemiah, who was the king's cupbearer; Daniel, a high advisor to Nebuchadnezzar; and Esther, who risked her life to enter the presence of the king.

But perhaps the most pertinent example Grudem cited is Jeremiah, who was among the Hebrews taken captive by Babylon. Although in exile, God told him to "seek the welfare of the city where I sent you in exile."

"That applies to us," Grudem said. "We are exiles from heaven. We should seek the welfare of the city and state government where we live."

In the New Testament, there are numerous examples of Christians not shying away from political involvement.

Grudem cited John the Baptist for rebuking Herod and Paul "reasoning over a long period of time" with the Roman governor Felix.

Grudem said pastors should be faithful to preach what the Bible says about government and the responsibilities of civil leaders because someone in that congregation might enter politics and "needs to be prepared."

Grudem said he believes there are five incorrect views of Christianity and government:

Government should compel religion.

Grudem noted that is the view held in Saudi Arabia and other Muslim countries, and "unfortunately there were Christians who held this view in the past. They failed to understand that genuine faith can't be forced."

Government should exclude religion.

He said that view, which advocates that crosses, nativity scenes and the Ten Commandments cannot be displayed on government property, and that high school valedictorians cannot quote the Bible or talk about Jesus, "distorts the meaning of the U.S. Constitution."

Grudem said some are "taking this valuable freedom and trying to change it to freedom from religion."

All government is evil and Satanic and Christians should stay out. But, Grudem said, that view is contrary to passages such as Romans 13:4 and Daniel 4:17.

To illustrate, Grudem used drunk driving. Advocates of this position say, "If you just preach the gospel so people's hearts are changed, then that person wouldn't drive drunk." But, he noted, "it doesn't work that way. Some will resist, and some born-again Christians will make a bad judgment. That's why we need laws and policemen. It's both government and the gospel—not just one."

Christians should do evangelism, not politics. Grudem said the Bible clearly espouses doing "good works" as a result of one's faith in Christ. Quoting Ephesians 2:10, he said that one who accepts God's salvation by grace alone is created for good works.

"After one is born again, you are to love your neighbor, husbands love your wives, wives submit to your husbands, children obey your parents—those are good works," Grudem pointed out. "If we are obedient to the Bible, it is doing spiritual good."

Do politics, not evangelism. Grudem said that view urges Christians to "get all the right people in office and change the laws." But Grudem said the No. 1 focus must be on preaching the gospel.

In addition to those five views, Grudem also advocated a significant Christian influence on government.

He cited the influence of Christians in stopping the deaths of gladiators; in stopping the practice in India where a young widow would be burned alive when her husband died; of William Wilberforce and his long-standing efforts to end the slave trade in the British Empire; of the abolitionist leaders in the U.S. who combated slavery, noting that two-thirds of those leaders were Christian pastors; and of Martin Luther King Jr., who believed segregation was wrong and led in the Civil Rights movement in the 1960s.

"From 374 A.D. to 2013, Christians have influenced government for good," Grudem concluded. (Princeton Times-Leader/WR)

Union University President Dockery to transition to chancellor in 2014

Jackson, Tenn.—David Dockery will transition from president of Union University to the role of university chancellor no later than July 2014, and Union trustees will immediately begin the process of searching for his successor.



David Dockery

The announcement comes in the middle of what ultimately will be a three-year transition process at the Jackson, Tenn., campus. Dockery, 60, began talking with the executive committee of Union's board of trustees in the fall of

2011 about the need to start succession planning for the university's future, at which time the board approved a five-member succession planning team. Dockery said discussions with that team and with other members of the board have taken place regularly since then.

"I am hopeful and prayerful for a good, smooth, joyful and positive transition," he said. "God has blessed the work of our hands and manifested His favor to this university time and time again during these past 17 years. I am confident that we will continue to see God's grace made known to Union in the future."

Union trustees will appoint a search committee in the near future and will retain the services of an executive search firm to provide counsel in the process. As chancellor, Dockery will serve Union as an adviser for the board and the new president for the next several years.

The search process is expected to take about a year.

At the time of his transition next year, Dockery will have served as Union's president for 18 and a half years, approximating the tenure of president Robert Craig as the longest among Union's 15 presidents since its founding in the 1800s.

Under his leadership, Union has more than doubled in size, growing from an enrollment of 1,972 to 4,262 in 2012. The budget has expanded from \$18 million to more than \$90 million per year.

Dockery guided a major institutional rebuilding made necessary by a tornado that struck Union's campus on Feb. 5, 2008, causing about \$40 million in damage and leveling most of the university's student housing. Dozens of students were trapped inside collapsed buildings as rescuers worked for hours to free them. Several sustained serious injuries, but nobody was killed.

Though plunged into uncertainty about the university's future, Dockery led Union through a rebuilding process in which thousands of donors and volunteers came to Union's aid.

"Out of the rubble across this campus I am praying that we will see renewal," Dockery said during that time. "We lost the buildings, but we did not lose the Union spirit."

A prolific author and editor, Dockery has written or edited several major books on Christian higher education and Baptist history and heritage. (UU/BP)

Lewis to lead NAMB pastor outreach

Alpharetta, Ga.—Florida pastor Michael Lewis is joining the North American Mission Board to lead efforts to build closer relationships between it and Southern Baptist Convention pastors.

Lewis, pastor at First Baptist Church of Plant City, Fla., will begin his role as NAMB's executive director for church revitalization and pastoral relations in February.

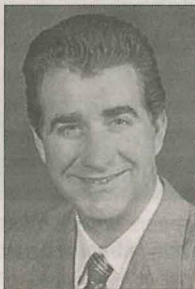
"If Southern Baptists are mobilized to the North American mission field, it will be because pastors are leading the way," NAMB President Kevin Ezell said. "That is why it is so important for us to have an ongoing, focused effort to serve pastors."

Lewis will help churches mobilize

for church planting and revitalization. In addition, he will look for ways to strengthen pastors, their marriages and their ministries throughout the SBC.

"I share the same heart and vision that Dr. Ezell has—that healthy pastors lead to healthy churches," Lewis said. "We want to reach out and encourage pastors in their relationship with the Lord, then their relationships with their marriage and their family. This will lead to healthy relationships ... throughout the church—and reaching lost people for Christ."

In addition to First Baptist, Plant City, Lewis has led churches in South Carolina, Georgia and Texas. (NAMB/BP)



Michael Lewis

Campolo: Church's future to be rooted in Bible's 'red letters'

By Bob Allen

Georgetown—The church of the future will focus less on saving souls and more on following Jesus, author and sociologist Tony Campolo said at Georgetown College ministers' conference Jan. 10.

"The reality is the vision for the future does not come from old guys like myself," Campolo, professor emeritus at Eastern University and author of more than 30 books, said in a keynote address at the conference on "Following the Call of the Church in Times Like These." "There's a whole array of young people who are emerging on the scene who are not willing to be preoccupied with issues that are preoccupying our attention."

Campolo said he has noted a shift over the decades away from a faith composed primarily of beliefs about Jesus toward taking Christ's teachings both literally and seriously.

"I grew up at a time when the church was organized around the theologies of the Apostle Paul," Campolo said. "Every Bible study I ever went to growing up was on Paul. We studied Ephesians and Philippians and Romans, and we went through Paul verse by verse."

"Being solid theologically was of crucial significance," he continued. "It still is. The shift that has taken place, however, is a shift away from the Pauline

epistles to the Gospels."

Campolo said he doesn't want to minimize teachings about how to be saved and go to heaven after you die, but it isn't the major emphasis in the teachings of Jesus. He said Jesus instead emphasized a kingdom relevant in the here and now.



Tony Campolo

"As young people are forcing us to shift to the red letters of the Bible ... the first thing we have to deal with is the kingdom of God," Campolo said. "This has incredible ramifications, because the kingdom of God stands in opposition to the kingdoms of this world."

"Now that sounds good when you say it theologically,"

he continued. "But when you say the kingdom of God stands over and against the value system of the United States of America, you're in trouble, but it does. You can't read through the Sermon on the Mount and believe in war. ... When He said love your enemies he probably meant that we shouldn't kill them."

Campolo said he has great respect for the military, because he recognizes his right to make countercultural statements is the result of brave men and women who sacrificed their lives to defend it. "But to be a follower of Jesus is to say whether it's safe to do it or whether it's not safe to do it. To quote Scripture, you must obey God rather than man." (ABP)

BRIEFLY

CBF nominates woman leader

Suzii Paynter, the first woman to serve as director of the Baptist General Convention of Texas Christian Life Commission, has been nominated as the third executive coordinator of the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship. If elected, Paynter would join Sharon Watkins of the Disciples of Christ and the Episcopal Church's Katharine Jefferts Schori as the few women ever to lead a national denominational organization in the United States. Paynter is a graduate of Baylor University with master's degrees from Stephen F. Austin University and the University of Louisville, she was elected head of the Texas CLC in 2006. Before that she served five years as the agency's citizenship and public policy director. Paynter is a frequent teacher and ordained deacon at First Baptist Church of Austin, Texas, where her husband, Roger, is pastor. The CBF Coordinating Council is scheduled to vote on Paynter's nomination at the group's meeting Feb. 21-22.

Fort, pioneer missionary doctor, dies

Retired International Mission Board missionary Milton Giles Fort Jr., 89, who served at the forefront of Southern Baptist medical missions efforts as a doctor in Zimbabwe for nearly 36 years, died Jan. 14 in Baton Rouge, La. Fort and his wife, Wana Ann, were the first doctors at the remote Sanyati Baptist Hospital in Southern Rhodesia (now Zimbabwe) after the couple's

appointment as Southern Baptist missionaries in 1952. Fort oversaw the construction of the hospital while they treated and shared the gospel with thousands of patients. The Forts retired from missionary service in 1988, not long after he was diagnosed with axial dystonia, a muscle condition from which he suffered for many years. He is the father of Gordon Fort, the IMB's senior vice president for prayer mobilization and training.

Russians protest adoption ban

As many as 20,000 Russians marched through Moscow Jan. 13 to protest the country's new ban on adoptions by Americans, as confusion continued to swirl over the law's immediate impact. The Kremlin reportedly announced Jan. 10 that the law will not take effect for one year due to a 2011 bilateral adoption agreement between the U.S. and Russia. The Washington Post reported. That agreement says adoptions can continue for one year even after one party withdraws from it. Russian President Vladimir Putin signed the ban on American adoptions in December as a retaliatory response to U.S. sanctions against Russia for human rights abuses. Estimates vary over the number of children in Russia who are orphaned but most put it at more than 100,000. The Russians who marched against the ban shouted "shame on the scum" and carried posters of Putin and members of Russia's parliament, according to news reports.



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Time to 'RISK' it all

This week's column is written by Chuck McAlister, the Kentucky Baptist Convention's evangelism and church planting team leader.

Together
We are the KBC

Paul Chitwood

American churches are in crisis. Polling organizations like Gallup, Lifeway, Barna and the Pew Research Center point to an unprecedented decline in attendance.

In a New York Times article New York Times article titled, "The Decline of Evangelical America," John Dickerson notes five primary

reasons for the unraveling of the American church: declining church attendance; a donation crises (older evangelicals who once gave large sum of money are aging); failure by the church to adapt its methods to changes in American culture; inability by the church to achieve conversions; and youth being increasingly disinterested in faith and church.

The state of the church in Kentucky is no different than the state of the church in America. Of the 2,085 churches reporting to the Kentucky Baptist Convention in 2011, 1,563 are either plateaued or in decline, with 412 churches reporting no baptisms. Primary worship attendance among our reporting churches has been declining an average of 2.4 percent per year since 2006. Research shows counties in Kentucky with less than 2 percent of their population as evangelical. According to the International Mission Board, these people would qualify as an unreached people group.

We must reverse these trends. We must impact the lostness of our state. We must reach into the darkness and help people encounter Jesus, which means we no longer can be content to do business as usual.

On Feb. 25, we will launch RISK (Reaching Into the State of Kentucky) to address the challenging situation churches in our state are facing. This one-day conference will focus on evangelism, but it will not be your typical evangelism conference. With speakers and breakout sessions focusing on how we can make a difference in our communities for the kingdom of Christ, we will emphasize theologically sound, practical strategies that can help each church reach its community.

We also will emphasize the health of local churches and their pastors as the catalysts for church growth. We will be discussing everything from church planting to how to utilize event evangelism to impact the unchurched. We also will address how affinity evangelism can leverage the needs and interests in a community as platforms to help people encounter Jesus.

Paul said, "I have become all things to all men so that by all possible means I might save some." (1 Corinthians 9:22). Paul knew the message never changes, but our methods of communicating that message must adapt. Just as Paul was willing to enter the world of the lost without embracing their way of life, so must we make the adaptations necessary to reach those around us who need Jesus. Let's gather at RISK to learn ways we can help one another get the gospel to Kentucky.

Paul Chitwood is executive director of the Kentucky Baptist Convention.

Rec Lab celebrates 50 years of impacting lives, churches

If you could attend a recreation and leisure conference any place in the continental U.S., where would it be? How about Orlando, Fla.? Can you think of a more ideal setting for it?

This week, approximately 150 pastors, ministers of education and recreation, and youth and children's ministers, music and senior adult leaders will gather in Orlando for the 50th anniversary of Rec Lab. Never heard of it? Well, it has made a big impact on many Kentucky Baptist churches and their recreational and educational ministers—even some who have never actually attended a "Lab." How?

Since 1964, well in excess of 10,000 ministers and missionaries have attended Rec Labs in various locations across the country through the years, according to John Garner, who coordinated the events for many years for the Baptist Sunday School Board and LifeWay Christian Resources. "What began as a Southern Baptist conference is now an interdenominational meeting with attendees coming from most evangelical denominations in all 50 states and several foreign countries," Garner said.

The purpose of Rec Labs is to train church and religious organizations in the intentional use of recreation and sports as ministry tools to impact our sports and leisure-oriented society. And, while providing professional training is the primary focus, those who attend frequently are affected more deeply by its spiritual emphasis, Garner explained.

Rec Lab's impact on contemporary church life, however, extends further than equipping recreation ministry leaders. Several sports and leisure outreach programs in churches today are spin-offs. "It is interesting to note that Upward Basketball had its genesis at Rec Lab and that influential sports ministries, like In His Grip Golf and Connect Ministries, were introduced to many churches at Rec Lab," Garner noted.

For the past three years, Oklahoma Baptist University has picked up the mantle of organizing Rec Labs through its National Sports and Recreation Ministry Center, under the direction of Bill Buchanan. This year's Lab features youth evangelists Jay Strack and Brent Crowe of Student Leadership University; Bobby Kelly, OBU professor of religion; Pat Williams, senior vice president of the NBA's Orlando Magic; and David Garrard, a renowned Christian magician.

Rec Labs also have served as a key resource in connecting people and churches in Kentucky, providing a forum for exchanging ideas and improving techniques in using

recreation as a ministry tool to reach people, make disciples and grow churches. Here's what some fellow Kentucky Baptists recently told the Western Recorder:

Tom Smoot, former associate director of students and recreation consultant for the Kentucky Baptist Convention: "Rec Lab was always a wonderful time of fellowship, learning and encouragement. On top of that, it brought together church recreators from Kentucky like no other conference. We created a Church Recreators Association here in Kentucky and Rec Lab served as one of our annual meetings."

Garrard, minister to children at St. Matthews Baptist Church in Louisville: "Rec Lab has shaped my ministry more than any other single experience or resource I have encountered in 37 years of church work. At Rec Lab, I have learned how to play with a purpose, and how to use recreation to reach people for Christ. The people I have met at Rec Lab have become close friends, respected colleagues and valued sources of information and inspiration. Without question, Rec Lab has made me a more effective minister."

And, **Larry Pursiful**, associate pastor of Westport Road Baptist Church in Louisville: "When I was doing recreation ministry, Rec Lab was always the highlight of every year. I enjoyed the warm weather in Florida, seeing lots of old friends and rehashing all that was going on in our areas of ministry. But I especially enjoyed the worship services each night; they were always refreshing and uplifting. Those good times will always hold a special place in my heart."

From "trust falls" and "night hikes" to ropes courses, outdoor camping and Upward Basketball, recreational ministry is a powerful tool in shaping the Christian walks of many children, youth and young adults. For some, an outreach through a sports and leisure activity was their first connection with a local church, and the avenue through which they came to know Christ.

And, it's easy for us to understand why Pursiful, Garrard, Smoot, Garner and so many other ministers are so passionate about it. "I know it works, because God used it to reach a kid like me through a church recreation program," Garner said. "The things I was into as a kid—sports, camping, music—were things God used to reach me." And, God is using these same things today to reach many others and help lead them to find Christ as their Savior.

After
Thought

By Todd Deaton



How do guests see your church building?

A simple way to evaluate how guests see your church building is to take the "5-spot test." Stop at five specific places at your church for five minutes and answer five questions.

Parking lot.

- 1) How easy is it to find a parking space?
- 2) How enticing is the building's appearance?
- 3) Is the parking lot well kept?
- 4) Is the church sign current and attractive?
- 5) Is the entrance inviting?

Main entrance.

- 1) Is the front door clean, attractive and well-maintained?
- 2) What's your first impression?
- 3) Is the entry area perfectly clean?

4) Does signage direct guests to child care, restrooms or the worship center?

5) Are wall displays and printed materials attractive, positive and current?

Fresh Ideas

Diana Davis

Back row pew.

- 1) Is your view unobstructed? Can you hear well?
- 2) What is the overall atmosphere of the worship center?
- 3) Are envelopes, books, pens or clipboards neat and current?
- 4) Are seats, ceilings, walls and floors in perfect condition?
- 5) Does the worship center reflect careful consideration of

décor, upkeep, seasonal touches?

Preschool area.

- 1) How simple is it to locate?

- 2) Is it well lit and clean?
- 3) Does it seem safe and secure?
- 4) Are there obvious signs that Christian teaching occurs here?
- 5) Is the hallway and room updated, stimulating, inviting?

Restrooms.

- 1) How easy is it to locate?
- 2) Is it clean and well lit?
- 3) Is the décor attractive and up to date?
- 4) Is there a baby-changing table, seat covers, Bible shelf or purse hanger?
- 5) Does it smell fresh?

Friendly people, wonderful worship and godly teaching will impact newcomers, but the building itself is part of that first impression—make it count.

Diana Davis is an author, speaker and the wife of Steve Davis, the North American Mission Board's vice president for the Midwest region.

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Caution: Destructive secular intolerance at work

By Ed Stetzer

Louie Giglio withdrew from the program at President Obama's inauguration in the face of criticism over a 15-year-old sermon referencing homosexuality as a sin. Many will want to debate and desire to nuance the specific wording he used in the sermon, but his points are largely mainstream evangelical beliefs.

This Louie Giglio moment, and the Chick-fil-A moment that preceded it, and the Rick Warren moment which preceded that, raise the question: Where do people of faith with long-standing traditional religious/scriptural convictions go from here?

For those of us who know Louie, this is a strange moment indeed—but also illustrative of how our culture has turned. Louie has dedicated his life to helping others—the poor, the enslaved, those trapped in sexual trafficking.

Yet, I do not recognize the person I see portrayed on the news—a bigoted homophobe driven by his hatred for gays. You can be certain that is not Louie Giglio—even though some prefer to believe that any opposition to homosexual practice, and people who hold that view, must apparently be silenced for the common good.

Some are wondering if those who hold to traditional evangelical beliefs on homosexuality are no longer welcome in the public square. In a recent LifeWay Research study, 37 percent of American adults

agreed that homosexuality is a sin. That number is declining (down from 44 percent according to a 2011 survey), but it is still a substantial minority.

Yet, such views (which were mainstream just a few decades ago) are indeed now a minority position—and viewed as unacceptable by many in society.

FIRST PERSON

So, what does this mean for Catholics, Mormons, Muslims, Orthodox Jews and others who believe that their authoritative religious texts teach something the prevailing culture finds so unacceptable that they are no longer welcome in the public square?

Must they jettison their sacred texts and adopt new views to be accepted as part of society? If they do not, will they be marginalized and demonized even as they serve the poor, care for the orphan or speak against injustice?

Or, instead, can we recognize that a substantial minority in our culture hold views they see as rooted in their scriptures and part of their faith, even though those views may not always be popularly accepted?

Yes, the First Amendment protects these views. But we also have to decide if the people who hold such views can be protected by our self-identified tolerant culture as they seek not just to hold those beliefs in secret, but also dare to utter them in public—even on a sermon tape 15 years ago. (BP)

Ed Stetzer is president of LifeWay Research. This column first appeared at USA Today.com.

Continuing to trust God in the winter of life

By David Jeremiah

What comes to your mind when you think of winter? Short days? Chilling blasts of air? Flames in the hearth? Many people have a love/hate relationship with the wintry season. There's something cozy about snuggling under thick blankets on frosty nights.

But reduced daylight and plummeting temperatures can affect our mental and physical health. Seasonal affective disorder (SAD) is a type of winter depression that hits half a million people due to inadequate sunlight.

We need sunshine for physical and emotional well-being. Too much sun damages skin, but too little reduces the production of hormones that help us remain healthy and upbeat. Sunlight produces vitamin D in the body. Lack of vitamin D results in chronic fatigue and depression.

Some people become "SAD" in the winter of life, too. They look sadly back over the springtime of their youth, the summer of mid life and the autumn of advancing years. Facing them now are the cold blasts of winter, and they feel their time on earth is drawing to a close.

We can face winter at any age, of course. We never know when an illness, trauma or tragedy—a reversal of fortune—will chill us to the bone.

Even so, we often equate winter with advancing years when many adults live alone. The onset of age begins removing life's most precious possessions—friends and family, health and energy, employment and meaningful activity, even hobbies. A sense of uselessness creeps over the soul. The elderly often become worn down by the dark days of inactivity and illness.

In the winter of life, "SAD" stands for sickness, age and death. Depression affects 18 percent of the elderly, but only 8 percent of the young. But it doesn't have to be dark in winter. Christ can make the difference.

In the dead of winter, doctors treat seasonal affective disorder with light therapy. Daily treatment with a lamp 10 times the intensity of ordinary lighting is 85 percent effective.

A similar prescription works for those facing the sickness, age and death of life's cold winter. Bask in the light on a cold winter's day. John the apostle lived to a ripe old age, and he faced life's winter with enthusiasm because of "light therapy": "Jesus spoke to them. ... I am the light of the world. He who follows Me shall not walk in darkness, but have the light of life" (John 8:12).

"If we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have

fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin" (1 John 1:7).

If you're facing the dark days of life's winter, let the light of Jesus brighten your days.

Here's an aggressive treatment of "light therapy":

First, re-dedicate yourself to Christ. He wants you to trust Him even with sickness, age and death. He was faithful earlier in life, and He will not forsake you now.

Jesus faced winter, too. On a cold night, He was betrayed. Under dark skies, He faced death. But He rose three days later—and it was springtime, Easter, which brings to an end the tyranny of winter and ushers in a beautiful world of new and eternal life.

Second, spend extended time studying God's word.

Third, let the light of Christ reflect from you to others. During the winter of life, God often can use us more powerfully—more time and experience to pray, witness and uplift others through notes, calls or volunteer work. We could encourage our grandchildren, pastor, family—anyone in need of a ray of sunshine. Be God's "light therapy."

Are you facing illness? Trust Christ and walk in His light. Are you facing old age? God won't forsake you. Are you worried about dying? Even in death, the Lord opens the doors to new life.

Don't worry about the passing seasons. If it's icy now, spring is just around the corner. If it's winter now, remember that Easter is near at hand. (BP)

David Jeremiah is the founder and host of Turning Point for God and senior pastor of Shadow Mountain Community Church in El Cajon, Calif.

Be Christ's hands & feet

By Kevin Ezell

I believe what we do in North America impacts the church's global mission. Historically, North America has sent great numbers of missionaries around the globe. Now we are becoming one of the most ethnically diverse areas on earth.

This is no accident. In fact, it's an unprecedented opportunity for Southern Baptists to impact the peoples of the world. But we must remain intentional.

The danger we face in North America—despite its diversity—is that familiarity can lull us into complacency. Southern Baptists can't let this happen.

If your church is successfully reaching people in

Take the 'compassion challenge'

By Valerie Vincent

What is one thing that marriage too often lacks? Compassion.

From "Baker's Evangelical Dictionary of Biblical Theology" online: "Compassion, a form of love, is aroused within us when we are confronted with those who suffer or are vulnerable," "to show pity," "to love," and "to show mercy." Other synonyms include: "to be loved by," "to show concern for," "to be tenderhearted," and "to act kindly."



As a counselor, too often I see couples that are hurting. Each describes how the other has wounded them. Sometimes it is betrayal, but more often it is neglect, selfishness, rudeness, unkindness, lack of care or the absence of any compassion for a spouse.

"Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience" (Colossians 3:12).

What does it mean to be "clothed in compassion?" Clothing covers our nakedness. Clothing covers what is vulnerable to temperature and the environment. It serves as a barrier of protection. Compassion, in marriage, is meant to serve as a barrier of protection from an environment that would scorch or harm a marriage.

What makes it near impossible to show compassion toward your spouse who has injured you? Is it impossible? In our sinful state, it is. The natural desire is to injure the one who has hurt us, to seek revenge, to cause pain to the same degree or worse than has been done to us.

"For a brief moment I forsook you, but with great compassion I will gather you. In overflowing wrath for a moment I hid my face from you, but with everlasting love I will have compassion on you, says the Lord, your Redeemer" (Isaiah 54:7-8).

"He does not retain his anger forever, because he delights in showing clemency. He will again have compassion upon us" (Micah 7:18-19).

God always returns to compassion. His anger passes. He chooses again and again to show compassion—not because we stopped hurting or being rude to God, but because it is the divine nature. God on a cross loves us still. It must be a choice—a decision. It is not a feeling of compassion. It is an act of compassion—not because my spouse deserves it, but because God knows the act of compassion and has the power to change lives and to change hearts.

"You in your amazing compassion didn't walk off and leave them in the desert" (Nehemiah 9:19).

In 2013, some people will choose to challenge themselves physically, exercising and striving to lose weight. Some may set career or educational goals. Some may challenge themselves to fulfill personal dreams. Will you take the "compassion challenge"? It might be harder than skydiving. It might be harder than earning a degree or getting a promotion. It might be exactly what God wants for your marriage.

Valerie Vincent is a Christian counselor with Hardy Day & Associates in Louisville.

your community and beyond, you probably have had to shift your methodology and approach over the past two decades. Your community's culture probably has shifted some in ethnic makeup and size.

Multiply such changes by thousands of communities in the U.S. and Canada that are experiencing an influx of new businesses, immigrant populations and belief systems. That is today's North American mission field.

These new complexities mean Christians have to be the hands and feet of Christ to our communities more than ever before. To make disciples of people and connect them with real hope, we first love them in genuine and tangible ways.

We follow Christ where He leads, and all of our strategies and endeavors begin here. It's the same spot where our new lives began: at the cross of Christ. (BP) Kevin Ezell is president of the North American Mission Board.

College students wrap up post-Sandy disaster relief work

By Tobin Perry

New York—No more sleeping in tents or working long hours during a cold New York City winter. For college students who've spent part of their Christmas break ministering to Hurricane Sandy survivors, it's back to their routines of school, work, church and friends.

Many also return with memories and experiences that will last a lifetime.

"There's nothing that replaces the look on a homeowner's face when you get to talk with them and you get to share the gospel with them, when you get to look them in the eyes and pray with them and tell them there's hope in the middle of this destruction," said Jordan Niemeyer, a student at Anderson University in Indiana.

The last team of students serving with disaster relief in the Northeast are headed back to school this week. More than 500 Southern Baptist students from 22 states participated in the DR effort.

As the students return to school, Southern Baptists will continue transitioning to a long-term strategy of ministry to Hurricane Sandy survivors. Fritz Wilson, the North American Mission Board's executive director of disaster relief, said SBDR ministry in the region will continue for as long as a year.

Long-range SBDR plans in the Sandy-affected areas will focus on places where the Baptist Convention of New York and Send North America: New York City teams will be planting churches. Wilson said he hopes the relationships and goodwill garnered by SBDR efforts will help the new churches as they reach out to their communities.

"We can't be everywhere, so we want to be in those communities where we'll



REWARDING WORK Brenda Mancilla (left) and Bianca Rivers toss debris from a Staten Island home into a dumpster as part of efforts by Southern Baptist Disaster Relief volunteers in response to Hurricane Sandy. Mancilla is a student at Winthrop University in Rock Hill, S.C.; Rivers is a student at South Carolina State University. (Photo by John Swain)

be starting new churches so we can enhance what they're doing," he said.

In this long-term work, Wilson said Southern Baptists will continue to do some flood recovery—such as mud-out work—but will do more pressure washing and spraying. Many homeowners have cleaned out their homes but need help getting rid of mold. Wilson said Southern Baptists also will be helping in some rebuilding efforts.

"It won't be on the scale of Operation NOAH (after Hurricane Katrina) but we'll be recruiting churches and disaster relief teams to come in and help homeowners rebuild," he noted.

SBDR continues to have non-collegiate

teams in the Sandy-impacted region as well. To date, Southern Baptists have served more than 1.8 million meals to storm survivors. More than 34,000 volunteer days have been recorded.

The pastor of a small, independent church that disaster relief volunteers worked on last November now says the church plans to worship in the building by late January. Last fall, Hurricane Sandy threatened Port Monmouth Community Church, which sits less than a mile off the New Jersey shore. Church members say a 13-foot storm surge left the church's furnishings floating in five feet of water and destroyed two pulpits.

SBDR volunteers from Texas spent three days in November removing the salvageable contents from the building, pulling out damaged sheetrock, and power washing and sanitizing the interior walls and floors.

"I honestly believe if the Texas men had not shown up, our building would have been condemned by the city," the church's pastor said. (NAMB/BP)



CLEAN-UP CREW Nikki Merck (with shovel) and Mary Batchelor (standing right) are two of a group of Francis Marion University students who participated in Southern Baptist Disaster Relief efforts on Staten Island. More than 500 students volunteered part of their winter breaks to work as volunteers.

Crossings in Haiti

Continued from page 1

coast, as a site for training Haitian Baptist pastors and ministering to both Haiti and Kentucky youth through camps.

More than 200 Kentucky Baptist students participated in Crossings: Haiti last summer and spent part of their mission trips helping to clean up Camp La Phare in preparation for a Haitian youth camp last fall. Crossings currently has three Haiti camps offered in 2013 for Kentucky youth wanting to experience serving in a foreign country.

Melber said plans are to open a second camp in Haiti this year—primarily intended to equip local Christians.

"The long-range plan is that we would have seven camps operating in Haiti, strategically located throughout the entire country so they are more easily accessible and are located near large populations of people," Melber said. "Much like 30 to 50 years ago in the United States, these camps would be a place people could go for retreats and training."

Answering the Lord's call to preach the gospel in Haiti has not come without obstacles, Melber noted. Voodoo is prevalent in the culture and often is incorporated with newly held Christian beliefs.

Melber also said the Haitian government recently began confiscating imported non-government organization

containers filled with building materials and other supplies purchased in the U.S. and elsewhere.

"You lose your material and you're forced to buy material in Haiti, which is at astronomical prices," Melber explained.

Scott Bidwell, who worked for Crossings moving to Haiti as a missionary five months ago, said good intentions might be the cause of the country's current economy.

"There was so much food and other stuff that got dumped in that it killed some of the commerce," he pointed out.

Bidwell now works as part of an effort to help Haitians help themselves. As the director of Mountain Maid, a ministry of Baptist Haiti Mission, Bidwell heads up a retail outlet/restaurant in Ferme that employs 40 people and purchases goods from more than 150 local artisans affiliated with Haitian Baptist churches. He described it as a ministry to disciple individuals while providing them opportunities to earn a sustainable income.

"I know the Lord has called us to be here," Bidwell said of his wife, Monica, and their two children, ages 6 and 3. "The culture is different, but there are an amazing amount of similarities. People are people."

Bidwell said he is looking forward to finding disciples he can walk with on a daily basis and "watch them grow up to be leaders of local churches and mission-



CALLED TO SERVE Monica Bidwell and her daughter entertain a little girl at a Haitian orphanage. Hundreds of thousands of children are without families in the island nation, a number which grew significantly after the 2010 earthquake. Bidwell, her husband, Scott, and their two children moved from Louisville to Haiti last year to serve full time with a ministry of Baptist Haiti Mission. Scott Bidwell worked with Crossings Ministries for nine years before relocating to Haiti. (Photo courtesy of Scott Bidwell)

To learn more about Crossings' ongoing work in Haiti, visit www.GoCrossings.com

aries for Haiti."

The earthquake "opened a door," Bidwell added, but commitment will keep it open.

"We are all looking at this Haiti partnership, and we can honestly see

ourselves working there for decades and still facing many of the same obstacles," Melber said. "But at the end of the day, it is worth trying to share the gospel of Christ with people who are in bondage." (WR)

Survey shows many pastors lack adequate estate plans

Nashville, Tenn.—While the majority of pastors in the Southern Baptist Convention have a will, nearly 40 percent possess no type of estate planning document at all.

A recent survey conducted by LifeWay Research on behalf of the Southern Baptist Foundation found 37 percent of SBC pastors do not have a trust, will, living will, electronic will, legacy story or durable power of attorney with health care directives.

"Pastors know they can't take it with them when they die, but estate planning is really about good stewardship for your family," said Warren Peek, president of the Southern Baptist Foundation. "Basic planning saves a lot of headaches and ensures that assets are not lost."

According to the survey, pastors age 18-44 are the least likely to have durable power of attorney with health care directives (12 percent), a will (32 percent) or a living will (13 percent).

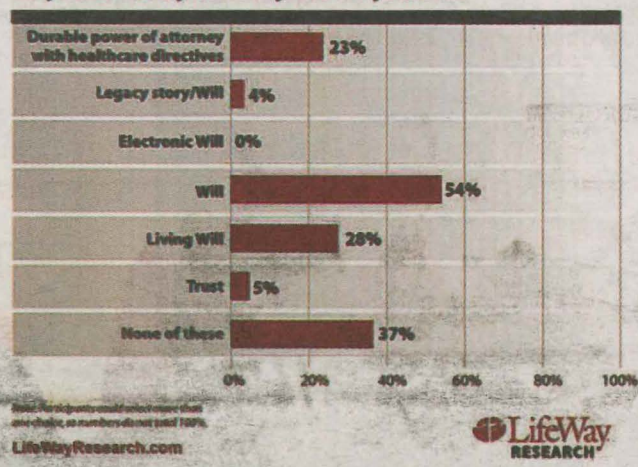
Scott McConnell, director of LifeWay Research, said the survey reveals an apparent lack of

education and awareness about estate planning and accompanying laws, which may contribute to pastors not having a plan in place.

McConnell said it should still be a point of concern that so many pastors do not seem to have a plan for their families and property after their death, especially since "the segment that should be most likely to be thinking about this issue—those with young families—seem to be the least prepared," he added.

Among pastors with children under the age of 18, 58 percent do not have a will and 96 percent do not have a trust. (LW/BP)

Among Southern Baptist Pastors: Which of the following estate planning documents do you currently have in place for yourself?



Q&A SESSION Maj. Jimmie Gregory (right), Fort Campbell's family life chaplain, responds to a question during a ministry fair panel discussion at the base. The Family Life Center counsels soldiers and family members dealing with a myriad of problems, including post-traumatic stress disorder, traumatic brain injuries, combat stress, marital infidelity and pornography. Physician Theresa Benchoff (left), director of Fort Campbell's Warrior and Resiliency Center, also participated in the discussion. (Photo by Fred Holly Jr., Blanchfield Army Community Hospital)

Fort Campbell

Continued from page 1

programs the military base offers to help soldiers and military families in crisis, encompassing 40 different areas of need, including soldier and family assistance, chaplaincy, medical support and prevention programs.

The military and the faith community can work together to improve the lives of soldiers, veterans and their families, ministry fair leaders and participants all agreed.

"You are here today because you have a passion for soldiers and families. ... You see the needs that we see," said Maj. Jimmie Gregory, a Fort Campbell family life chaplain. "So today, if we do nothing more than share with you some information on the issues that we deal with on a regular basis here, and if you take that information back to your place of ministry and use it to help take care of soldiers and families, we have been successful."

A cooperative effort

On any given Sunday, while about 1,200 soldiers worship on base at Fort Campbell, another 3,000 to 4,000 soldiers worship at churches in nearby Clarksville, Tenn., Gregory said.

"We're not competing against each other; we're working together," Gregory said. "This is a community effort."

Soldiers returning from combat deal with a host of issues, but at the forefront are post-traumatic stress disorder, traumatic brain injuries, infidelity, pornography and problems associated with blended families, Gregory pointed out.

The faith community's outreach will be crucial as the next wave of soldiers return from Afghanistan.

Joe Varney, manager of suicide prevention for Fort Campbell's Army Substance Abuse Program, said the strength of the family is essential to a soldier's successful re-entry into civilian life.

"Soldiers emerge from war victorious," Varney said. "It is not the traumatic events of war that are causing our soldiers to kill themselves."

Instead, 70 percent of suicides stem from failed relationships, Varney said. In 2012, 321 Army soldiers committed suicide, he pointed out—181 of them active-duty service members.

Theresa Benchoff, a physician and director of Fort Campbell's Warrior and Resiliency Center, said the church can contribute greatly to families' health.

"We've done everything we know to do, and the suicide (rate) keeps going up," she said. "Anything we as a community can do to support the family network so it doesn't fall apart and become broken, I think that's what stops this vicious cycle that we find ourselves in."

"My husband has been in Afghanistan five times," Benchoff added, "so I know who helped me during each of those deployments, and it was people in the church (and) people in the community."

Particularly, the faith community can provide a non-threatening setting in which soldiers and family members can discuss their problems and, when needed, refer individuals to military programs for added help.

Heather Junkin said her husband expressed concern about the stigma associated with soldiers who struggle with mental health issues.

"I remember him specifically telling me about some people who had been ridiculed within the unit for needing services," Junkin said. "In general, it was a negative thing to need help—and that's where the communities come in. Until that stigma is broken down, someone needs to fill the gap. And that's what this is all about."

Timothy Collazo, an Army veteran and pastor of Gordonsville Baptist Church in Hopkinsville, a congregation affiliated with the General Association of Baptists in Kentucky, said leaders must be transparent and reach out to soldiers to discern their needs.

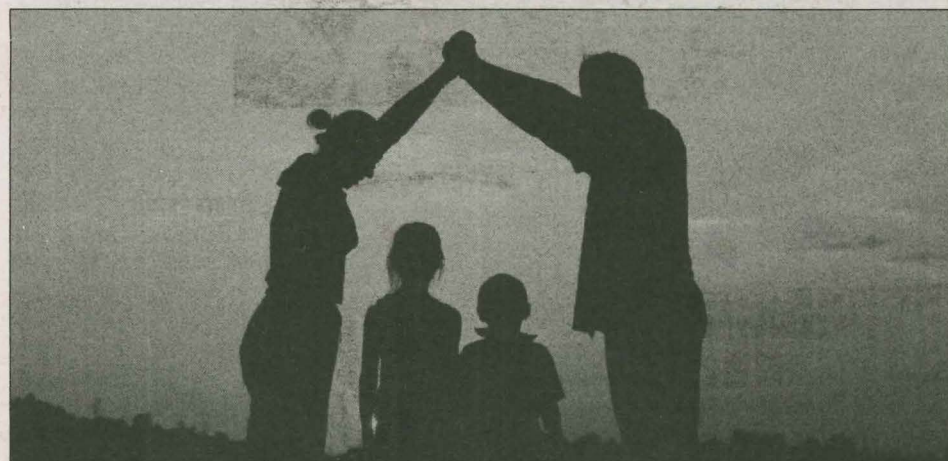
"As leaders both spiritual and in the secular realm, the first thing we have to do is make ourselves approachable. If we're not approachable, there's hardly any way that you're going to be able to identify that there's a problem," Collazo stressed.

"There has to be willingness to engage," he added. "Once you have identified (the problem) and you've given spiritual advice, if you're above your head, for the lack of a better term ... that you direct the individual and their family to the proper agencies."

Junkin said the church may have been able to help save her husband's life.

"I think if churches could show that they have the knowledge base to relate," she said, "if they make it known that they have talked to (soldiers) just like them ... (and) could help them too, that would help."

Fort Campbell's Chaplain Family Life Center can be reached by phone at (270) 798-3316. (BP)



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Parental perspectives

Interacting with students' parents sometimes tense, mostly joyful

Although the primary focus of OBI's ministry is teenagers, it is almost always a parent or guardian who takes the first step toward enrolling a student with us. It is they who fill out the application, answer questions during the telephone interview, bring their child to Oneida, and make arrangements for financial support while he or she is with us.

Because of this, it is not unusual to receive phone calls, e-mails or even drop-in visits from parents wanting to get information about their child or to give us feedback on what has been happening with or what they have been hearing from their student. It also is a regular part of my week to make contact with students' parents or guardians, particularly if there has been a problem of some sort.

It would be nice if I could tell you that communications between the administrators here at OBI and our students' family members are always relaxed and calm without any distress or strain, and that there are never any raised voices on either end of the phone lines. Regrettably, that is not the case. Understandably, when there is a major issue regarding a child's actions, the parents often are shocked at their teen's behavior (even to the point of denying it) and wonder whether we have responded to their child appropriately, especially when he or she has been suspended or, sadly, expelled. At the end of the communication process (and it frequently is a multi-phase interaction), there may have been raised voices, weeping, frustration, disappointment and deep sadness in the hearts of all who have been involved.

Thankfully, stressful conversations are not the only type of contact we have with parents. Recently, I had the privilege of receiving the following e-mail:

"I know Ms. B has shared my previous e-mail about how well we feel Rob is doing at OBI. We were able to come to the play Saturday night and were simply overwhelmed.

"I don't know if you've ever had the experience of being in a car accident, that horrible feeling of reliving it. You finally go to sleep and then it all comes flooding back. Well, when I woke up yesterday it was with overwhelming joy.

"Our lives have completely turned around in the last six months. To see my son finally living out his potential is just overwhelming. We knew it was there all along, and you all have been able to bring it out in him. We could not get him to participate in any activity, let alone perform in a play. He was so funny I would start laughing and then start crying because I was so happy.

"He is doing well in all of his classes and is applying to colleges on his own with no nagging or prodding on my part. I was at the point of feeling that college was just not going to be possible for him. By the time we found Oneida, I was pretty hopeless.

"I knew if Rob didn't cooperate and participate he was headed down one of two roads—jail or death—all because he just didn't understand the consequences of the bad decisions he was making. ... Please know we will be eternally grateful to all of you. I only wish I had a million dollars to send you to show it."

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

Part of the family

Student & his family enjoy being involved on Clear Creek campus

First-year student Alex Hanke is another example of how God uses our Clear Creek alumni as one of our main resources for new students.

"My dad was in the Air Force and we moved around a lot," Alex recalled. "We eventually ended up in Lakeland, Fla., and I started attending Crestview Baptist Church where the pastor and youth pastor were graduates of Clear Creek.

"As I began to struggle with a call from God to the ministry, I am glad God placed those Clear Creek alumni in my pathway," Alex said. "I started asking some questions about what I should do and they suggested to me that I at least take time to visit the campus of Clear Creek and see if that might be where God wanted us to go. So my wife, Mandy, and I, along with our children, Emma and Ethan, took a trip to campus to visit with the admissions director to see what God would show us.

"I will never forget that just within minutes of being on campus and visiting with the director of admissions, my

wife looked at me and told me this is where we needed to be," Alex recalled. "That was significant for me because she was very hesitant at first about coming. So we knew from the very first moment we were on campus that God

wanted us at Clear Creek.

"We have been so blessed as a family since we moved to campus," Alex said. "Once you get here, they go so far to ensure that you have a life outside of your studies. There are so many things to do on campus and activities to be involved in.

Everyone really makes an effort to make you feel like part of the Clear Creek family.

"I am looking forward to my studies," Alex said. "I have felt for years that God was leading me to youth ministry. There were some times in my younger years that I went through some significant trials in my life. My youth pastor was my rock during those times. Now I want to be that for other young people who may be experiencing the same things with their lives."

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

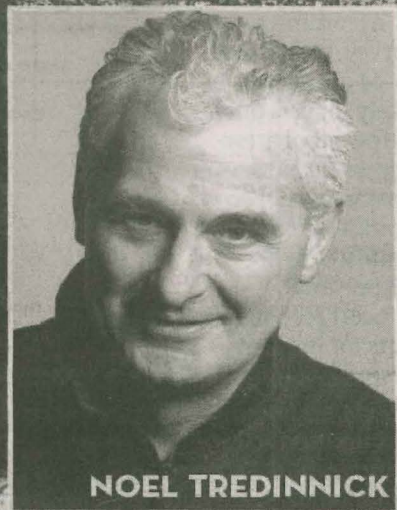
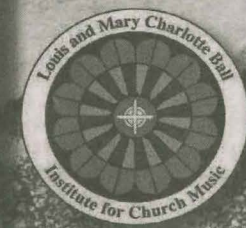
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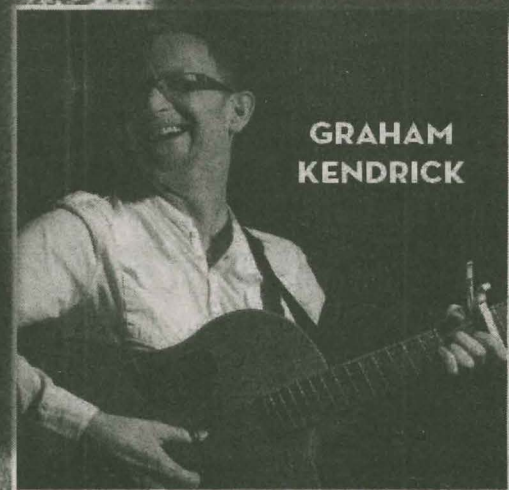
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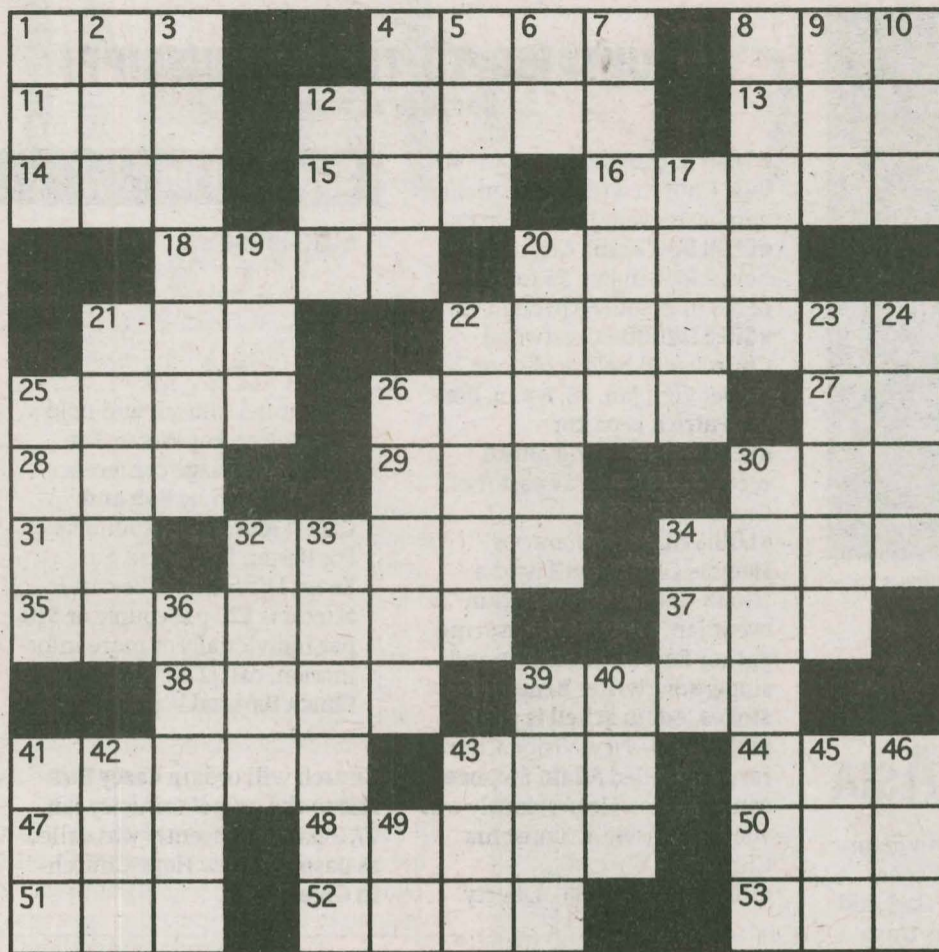
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Bible Crosswords

By Janet Adkins

Across

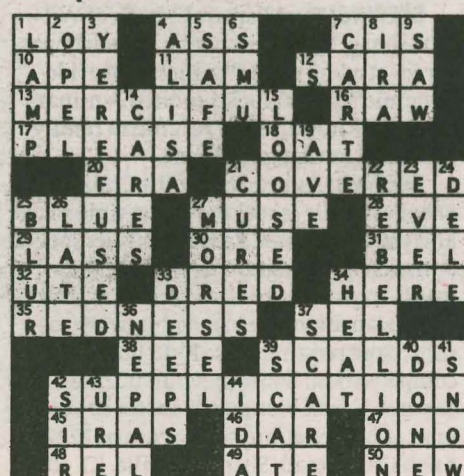
- 1 Feminine name
- 4 "All the trees of the field shall ____ their hands" (Isaiah 55:12)
- 8 State, Main, etc.
- 11 Johnny ____
- 12 Lucifer
- 13 Biblical exclamation
- 14 First name of Greek magnate
- 15 One (comb. form)
- 16 Confederate general Jubal
- 18 Easter time
- 20 Civil rights activist Guinier
- 21 O.T. book
- 22 Aloof
- 25 Geometrical shape
- 26 Main part of the church building (pl.)
- 27 Buckeye state (abbr.)
- 28 "Stand in ____, and sin not" (Psalm 4:4)
- 29 Linking verb
- 30 "Asahel was as light of foot as a wild ____" (2 Samuel 2:18)
- 31 Quadrant in D.C.
- 32 Brother of Rebekah
- 34 "Yet he abideth faithful: he cannot ____ himself" (2 Timothy 2:13)
- 35 "When I shall send ____ unto thee, or Tychicus" (Titus 3:12)
- 37 "Cursed be every ____ that curseth thee" (Genesis 27:29)
- 38 "I am weak: O Lord, ____ me; for my bones are vexed" (Psalm 6:2)
- 39 Reveal
- 41 "Ye ask, and receive not, because ye ask ____" (James 4:3)
- 43 Father of Saul
- 44 Pale
- 47 "I count all things but loss ... that I may ____ Christ" (Philippians 3:8)
- 48 Son of Enan (Numbers 1:15)
- 50 Compass dir.
- 51 Record of progress
- 52 Replied
- 53 Moisture

Down

- 1 Retirement acct.
- 2 German article
- 3 Texas town
- 4 Metric measure (abbr.)
- 5 28 x 2, to Tiberius
- 6 "And Joshua sent men from Jericho to ____" (Joshua 7:2)
- 7 Aim to satisfy

- 8 Mideast country
- 9 ____ Aviv
- 10 ____ what?
- 12 Grayish brown color
- 17 "The ____ are a people not strong" (Proverbs 30:25)
- 19 "As the serpent beguiled ____ through his subtlety" (2 Corinthians 11:3)
- 20 Bring cheer
- 21 "For thou hast made him a little ____ than the angels" (Psalm 8:5)
- 22 Belonging to the fifth son of Zerah (1 Chronicles 2:6)
- 23 "____ comes to the Father except through Me" (2 words, John 14:6, NKJV)
- 24 Not we
- 25 "And ... there was a marriage in ____ of Galilee" (John 2:1)
- 26 "David heard in the wilderness that ____ did shear his sheep" (1 Samuel 25:4)
- 30 "Thy youth is ____ like the eagle's" (Psalm 103:5)
- 32 Sheltered place (pl.)
- 33 Belonging to Absalom's captain of the host (2 Samuel 17:25)
- 34 Of gold (Fr.)
- 36 Object
- 39 Coach of the Indiana Pacers
- 40 Good king of Judah (1 Kings 15)
- 41 Hole-making tool
- 42 Mine (Ital.)
- 43 Ripe old age, in Rome
- 45 Chemical suffix
- 46 "And he hath put a ____ song in my mouth" (Psalm 40:3)
- 49 Laughing sound

Last puzzle's solution



The gospel in a nutshell

Reflections on John 3:16 from GuideStone president, evangelist

John 3:16 has to be the most-often quoted verse in the Bible. "For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life."

As part of my 2013 devotional plan, I am using "The Joshua Code," written by my friend and president of GuideStone Financial Resources, Dr. O.S. Hawkins. By the way, all royalties from the book go to support Mission:Dignity, a GuideStone ministry that enables thousands of retired ministers and widows who are living below the poverty level to live out their days with dignity and security.

In the book, Hawkins reminded me that the late evangelist Angel Martinez referred to John 3:16 as salvation's formula revealed in one verse—the entire gospel in a nutshell. During my growing-up years in Mississippi in the late 1950s and early '60s, our church had Martinez as the spring revival evangelist on several occasions. Hawkins further observed that Martinez suggested John 3:16 revealed salvation's cause, cost, condition and consequence.

First, God's love for every person is the motivating cause of His salvation plan, and not just that God loves us, but He so loves us.

Second, the forgiveness of our sin and the promise of life abundant and eternal come with a cost. "But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: while we were still sinners. Christ died for us" (Romans 5:8). Our salvation in Christ came at great cost: God gave His one and only Son.

Third, our good works are not the pathway to eternal life. Our salvation has been purchased for us by the blood of Jesus Christ. The condition is to believe or, as Hawkins stated, transfer our trust from ourselves and our own efforts to His finished work on the cross of Calvary.

Fourth, those who do not believe in His finished work are perishing; and those who believe have the promise of eternal life. And what a promise! What a consequence!

Let's share the good news in 2013 like never before!

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

Ky. Baptist Foundation



Barry Allen

Offering 'Bold Hope' to those in need

WMU committee meeting soon to distribute EBO funds to ministries

Each year in the promotional material for the Eliza Broadus Offering, we provide information about how the offering will be used in the coming year. The largest portion of the offering is directed through the Kentucky Baptist Convention and used in various areas of mission work, church planting, collegiate-ministry and evangelism.

Another portion of the offering is used for grants to Kentucky Baptist associations and various ministries across the state. This year, EBO will provide \$130,000 for these ministries. Please pray for the Kentucky Woman's Missionary Union's finance committee as it meets Jan. 31-Feb. 1 to review this year's applications.

Throughout the year, this column is devoted to sharing stories from the ministries that receive EBO funding. We get these stories from thank-you notes, e-mails, stories shared at events and through accountability forms.

Did you know that every association and ministry across our state that receives an EBO grant must complete an accountability form to be eligible to apply for a subsequent grant? We do this because we have a deep sense of accountability to you, Kentucky Baptists, for your generosity in providing EBO funds. We want you to know the

impact of your giving. We want those who receive funds to understand how important our accountability is to God and to you.

On cold winter nights, sleeping on the streets can be life threatening. Four years ago in Shelby County, there was no place for homeless men to go. But now, through the Open Door of Hope, many homeless men have a safe place to sleep and are able to take a hot shower and get a hot meal. The men participate in Bible studies and hear the gospel. EBO funds have helped Open Door of Hope provide this ministry. While EBO is not the only funding source for Open Door of Hope, it does mean that people all over Kentucky have shown concern to homeless men in Shelby County.

So, on the next cold night, think about your gift to the Eliza Broadus Offering and the homeless men who now have a place to get in out of the cold. Think about young women facing crisis pregnancies who now are participating in parenting classes and "earn-while-you-learn" programs to get free baby items. Think about internationals who are receiving Bibles in their heart language.

Your gifts give "Bold Hope" to people who need to know Jesus!

Joy Bolton is executive director-treasurer of Kentucky Woman's Missionary Union, PO Box 436569, Louisville, KY 40253; (502) 489-3534; www.kywmu.org

EBO at Work



Joy Bolton



January

- 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.
- 2** Disaster Relief Training—Region 3, Hardinsburg Baptist Church.
- 4-5** St. Louis Partnership Vision Trip, St. Louis.
- 8** Embrace the Ends of the Earth Conference, Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville.
- 8-9** Imagine Preschool and Children's Ministry Conference, Parkway Baptist Church, Bardstow.



TRIP REFLECTIONS Students from Campbellsville University's Baptist Campus Ministry who recently returned from east Asia are (from left): Trevor McWhorter, Rebekah Carl, Sarah Scott, Devan Bishop and Andrew Neal. (CU photo)

CAMPBELLVILLE UNIV. STUDENTS RECALL MISSION TRIP TO EAST ASIA

Campbellsville—Five Baptist Campus Ministry students from Campbellsville University spent their recent holiday in east Asia presenting the true Christmas story—and while there, learned something about their own walks with the Lord.

"This story can be shared here in the United States or overseas, and its importance remains," said Rebekah Carl, a senior from Houston, who was on her second such trip to east Asia.

At a BCM worship service last

week, Carl and her mission teammates shared their experiences with fellow CU students. Carl said the team's knowledge was transformed and their understanding deepened while sharing the story of Jesus' birth with people in a foreign land.

Sophomore Andrew Neal, of Harrodsburg, suggest to those students at the worship service that they start by serving, building relationships and sharing their lives with others to amplify the kingdom of God.

MOUNTAINS TO THE MISSISSIPPI

COMPILED BY STAFF

Spotlight on ...

Elizabethtown



Immanuel Church will hold a "For Better, For Worse, For Keeps" marriage conference Jan. 25-26 led by **Bob and Cheryl Moeller**, co-founders of For Better, For Worse, For Keeps Ministries. The cost to attend is \$20 per couple or \$10 per individual. For more information, call (270) 765-6516. **Chuck Darland** is pastor.

Church will ordain **Casey Durrett** to the gospel ministry Jan. 27, 3 p.m. He recently was called as pastor of New Hope Church in Greensburg.

- **CAMPBELLVILLE**—Campbellsville Church will hold a missions emphasis event Jan. 27, 6 p.m.
- **CECILIA**—Cecilia Church will hold a lock-in Jan. 25 for students in grades 6 through 12.
- **CRESTWOOD**—Crestwood Church will hold a 24-hour prayer vigil Jan. 26, 6 p.m. **Donnie Patrick** is pastor.
- **LEXINGTON**—**David Smith** recently resigned as pastor of Grace Church.
- **LOUISVILLE**—Melbourne Heights Church will hold a "God's Got His Mojo Workin'" event Jan. 26, 6 p.m., featuring author **Bert Montgomery** and singer/songwriter **Benton Stokes**. **Adam Schell** is pastor.
- **MAYFIELD**—New Vision Church recently called **Adam Stephenson** as pastor. He previously was youth minister at Symsonia Church.
- **RUSSELL SPRINGS**—Liberty

Much like the missionaries in east Asia, students at Campbellsville who are sharing their faith will encounter obstacles, Neal noted. The mission team did. They struggled with the inability to speak the language, financial expenses and food discrepancy between nations. The team also endured living in an apartment

where the temperature remained between 30 and 40 degrees.

But, the students said they saw strength in their host missionaries. Scott said they tenaciously shared their faith, undaunted by any persecution they may suffer.

Like those missionaries, "we want to encourage you to share your faith," Neal said. (CU/WR)

Convention-led workshops designed to help churches plan staff support

Louisville—The Kentucky Baptist Convention is providing free workshops to assist church leaders in developing a plan of financial support for their pastors and other staff members.

The conferences will be held Feb. 18, 19 and 21 in six cities across the commonwealth. Dustin Sanders, a relationship manager with GuideStone Financial Resources is the conference leader.

Don Spencer, church financial benefits consultant for the KBC, said the conferences will be practical and will address how churches should structure financial support for ministers, IRS reporting requirements, benefits packages, church-owned housing for staff, and many other topics.

The schedule is as follows (all times are local):

Feb. 18, West Union Baptist Association building, Paducah, 9 a.m.

Feb. 18, Daviess McLean Baptist Association building, Owensboro, 6:30 p.m.

Feb. 19, Edgewood Baptist Church, Hopkinsville, 9 a.m.

Feb. 19, Warren Association of Baptists building, Bowling Green, 6:30 p.m.

Feb. 21, Florence Baptist Church at Mount Zion, 9 a.m.

Feb. 21, First Baptist Church of London, 6:30 p.m.

There is no fee for the events, but participants are asked to register to help with planning. Register online at www.KyBaptist.org/FinancialBenefits.

For additional information, contact Spencer at don.spencer@kybaptist.org or by phone at (502) 489-3385; toll free in Kentucky at (866) 489-3335. (KBC)

'Imagine' conference set for Feb. 8-9

Bardstown—Time remains to register for the Kentucky Baptist Convention's third annual Imagine Conference, Feb. 8-9 in Bardstown.

This year's event, held at Parkway Baptist Church, features speakers Timothy Paul Jones, Patty Smith and Jason Byerly. There also will be more than 20 breakout sessions on many aspects of preschool and children's ministry.

The early bird fee of \$25 per person extends through Feb. 6. Register online at www.KyBaptist.org/Imagine.

Jones is an associate professor of leadership at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary. He is the author of the "Family Ministry Handbook."

Smith is an author, speaker, trainer and former senior product developer for Group Publishing.

Byerly leads the the multi-site children's ministry at Southland Christian Church in Lexington.

The conference begins Feb. 8 at 5:30 p.m., local time; the Feb. 9 session starts at 8:30 a.m. (KBC)

CLASSIFIED ADS

RESOURCES: Do you need a church pianist? Try our piano CDs for churches to sing by; hymns, Easter, choruses, etc. Call Worship Service Resources at (877) 977-6800; free demo; special church pricing; www.wsrpianocds.com.

SEEKING: Calvary Baptist Church, 111 N. 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: Mount Pleasant Baptist Church in Nicholasville, Ky., is prayerfully searching for a part-time youth leader. Responsibilities include Sundays and Wednesdays. Send resumé to mtpleasantbaptist@windstream.net; www.mtpleasantbaptist.net.

SEEKING: First Baptist Church of Williamsburg, Ky., is seeking an associate pastor for students and families to provide dynamic leadership; accredited seminary degree optimum. Send resumé to familyministrysearch@gmail.com.

SEEKING: Sunnyside Baptist Church in Shepherdsville is seeking a part-time music and youth minister. Responsibilities include outreach and program development for youth, expansion of music ministry, and assist transition to a blended style of worship. Time requirement: 10-15 hours/week; compensation: house (new) all utilities, plus stipend. E-mail resumé to Pastor Bruce Truman at bruce@sunnysidebc.com or 2722 Knob Creek Road, Shepherdsville, KY 40165.

To place an advertisement:

Rates are available upon request. Call (502) 489-3428; or visit WesternRecorder.org. Claims made by advertisers are not necessarily those of the Western Recorder's staff or directors.



SEEKING: Full-time worship minister for First Baptist Church of Franklin. Please submit resumé by Feb. 14 to jgifford@franklinfbc.org.

SEEKING: Mackville Baptist Church in Mackville, Ky., is seeking a full-time pastor; some pastoral experience required. E-mail resumé to nathancochran@bellsouth.net.

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.

SEEKING: Kento-Boo Baptist Church, Florence, Ky., is seeking a part-time worship leader. Responsibilities would be to work with choir and lead worship on Sunday mornings. If interested, please contact Stan Cole, e-mail: stanc@insightbb.com, or call (859) 308-7605.

SEEKING: Full-time minister of music and worship for Yellow Creek Baptist Church, Owensboro, Ky.; seminary and previous experience preferred. E-mail resumé to tony.rodgers@omhs.org or by mail to Tony Rodgers, 2667 Chatham Lane, Owensboro, KY 42303.

Ready to Rescue

Chaplains bring jumpers back from cliff's edge in England

By Ava Thomas

Beachy Head, England—For eight years, Ross Hardy has walked the white chalk cliffs of Beachy Head, England, among the thousands who travel there from around the world.

Many come to take pictures. Some come to die.

And by God's grace and a keen eye, Hardy said he usually can tell the difference.

"We are trained in certain signs, to infer things from people's behavior," he said. "But many times it is nothing but God's prompting that makes us know who to go talk to in a crowd of people standing near the edge."

The "we" Hardy's talking about is the Beachy Head Chaplaincy Team, a group of 14 trained chaplains who patrol the cliffs and are on call 24/7 for people in need of help.

It's not easy work, Hardy said. He's seen people jump, and he has a fear of heights. He and other chaplains sometimes have to dangle over the edge with a harness. They sit still for hours in the freezing wind and rain to talk to someone. And they all face constant emotional exhaustion.

But Hardy, formerly a pastor, said he started the team and keeps it going for two reasons—a vision from God and dis-



mal numbers.

Beachy Head consistently ranks in the top four on many lists of the world's most popular suicide destinations, among Golden Gate Bridge in San Francisco, Calif.; Aokigahara forest at the base of Mount Fuji, Japan; and Niagara Falls in New York.

Hardy isn't too excited about that.

But there are other numbers he's happier about—after face-to-face contact and communication with a chaplain, 99 percent of the suicidal individuals they meet choose to come away from the edge. Since 2004, the team has rescued about 1,750 people.

SAVING LIVES

Crosses dot the cliff edge at Beachy Head, England, where many people have committed suicide. But Ross Hardy and the Beachy Head Chaplaincy Team have been working for eight years to save lives at the cliffs, notorious for being one of the most popular suicide spots in the world.

HELP IN CRISIS Ross Hardy, founder and director of the Beachy Head Chaplaincy Team, says God has placed him and his fellow chaplains at the white cliffs on the southeast coast of England "to rescue people's lives." (IMB photos)

"It's very rewarding, invigorating work. We may talk to between two and 14 people in a week," Hardy said.

The chaplains aren't all ministers—they're just followers of Christ who responded to the need to help others, Hardy said. They're dance teachers, firefighters, builders, doctors and journalists. They're Baptist, Church of England and several other Christian denominations.

"God has placed us here to rescue people's lives. It's terribly sad to see so many broken lives, but we get the opportunity to speak with them and let them talk, and we listen without judging," he said. "Their situations don't stop us from loving them."

As the worldwide financial recession drags on, the level of crisis deepens for people, he said. Some come because they've lost a job, committed a crime, broken up with someone or simply aren't happy.

"Some have planned it for months. We talked with one man who had flown all the way here from Switzerland," Hardy said. "Others have only been thinking of suicide for a few hours and something just caused them to break and make a quick decision to end their life."

That was the way it was for the first man Hardy encountered in 2004, only 40 minutes into his very first shift. The man was walking up the side path toward the cliff, and something about him caught the attention of Hardy and another chaplain.

"We couldn't get him out of our heads, so we went back and found him sitting on the edge in a spot hidden from view," Hardy said. "He wasn't particularly impressed that we'd shown up,

Ross Hardy:

"God has placed us here to rescue people's lives. It's terribly sad to see so many broken lives, but we get the opportunity to speak with them and let them talk, and we listen without judging. Their situations don't stop us from loving them."

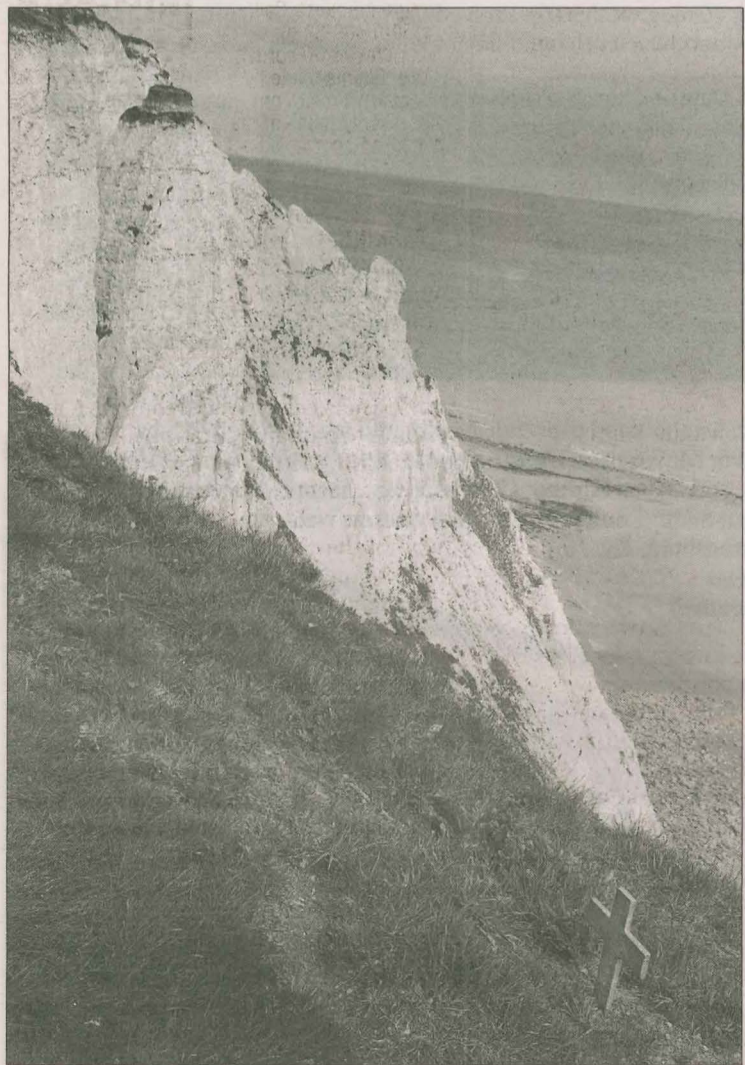
which is what often happens at first. Most think it's their choice and don't want us to interfere."

But as Hardy talked with the man and helped him explore his doubts, he agreed to come back to the chaplaincy hut, have a cup of tea and talk about it more. "We saw his hopelessness. He had a lot of gambling debt and didn't know how to move on."

Hardy shared the gospel with him, and he professed faith in Christ that night. Six months later, he came back and asked if he could help with the ministry.

"It's so amazing how, through the grace of God, we get to be one thing in a chain of events to see lives dramatically transformed," Hardy said.

For more information about the Beachy Head Chaplaincy Team, visit BHCT.org.uk. (IMB)



CU graduates 216 Christian servant leaders in December



Kelsey Best receives her degree from CU President Michael V. Carter.



Lucretia Antionette Starnes Young receives her degree from CU President Michael V. Carter.



Karl Lee Hatton receives his degree from CU President Michael V. Carter.

Next Preview Days
February 2 and April 6;
Tiger Round Up days
March 14 and 15.

"God invested eternal salvation and love for us. Now that we hold this degree in hand, it is our duty as Christians to go out and invest in others as God invested in us." - Kelsey Best, Harrodsburg, Ky.

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial Service

CU is sponsoring Dr. C.B. Akins, senior pastor at First Baptist Church Bracktown in Lexington, Ky., as the speaker for the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial Service in Ransdell Chapel at 401 North Hoskins Avenue, Campbellsville, Wednesday, January 23 at 7 p.m. All are welcome!

"Singing the Journey of Faith" is Feb. 20

Everyone is invited to CU for its first "Singing the Journey of Faith," a hymn festival of congregational songs and hymns celebrating the diversity of Christian music, blending the traditional and contemporary sounds, adding every voice. It is set for Wednesday, February 20 from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. in Ransdell Chapel.

Baptist Heritage Series lecture is Feb. 26

Dr. Joe Early Jr., assistant professor of theology in the CU School of Theology, will present the Baptist Heritage Series lecture Tuesday, February 26 at 6:30 p.m. in the Banquet Hall in CU's Badgett Academic Support Center.

BWA President Upton to speak at chapel

Dr. John V. Upton, Jr., president, Baptist World Alliance (BWA) will speak Wednesday, April 3 at 10 a.m., in Ransdell Chapel. As President of the BWA, Upton travels the world representing over 41 million Baptists and sharing the message of the redeeming love of Christ.

SBC President Luter to speak at chapel

The Rev. Fred Luter, Jr., senior pastor of the Franklin Avenue Baptist Church in New Orleans, La., who made history when he became SBC's first ever African-American president, will be the guest chapel speaker Wednesday, April 10 at 10 a.m., in Ransdell Chapel.

Providing faculty for KBC's Seminary for a Day

CU is pleased to provide faculty for this special KBC event Saturday, April 13 at Greenwood Baptist Church in Bowling Green, Ky. More details to be announced later.

Church Relations Council meets in March

The spring meeting of Campbellsville University's Church Relations Council will be held on the main campus Thursday, March 21 and Friday, March 22. Call (270) 789-5520 to register or email jechowning@campbellsville.edu for details.



The Flanagan family, above, gathers around son, husband and father Matt who completed his M.Th. degree completely online. From left in front are: Caleb, Matt and Eli Flanagan. In back are Ginny, Felicia and Dan Flanagan.

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East Asia mission trip taken over Christmas break

Rebekah Carl, Sarah Scott, Trevor McWhorter, Devan Bishop and Andrew Neal went on an East Asia mission trip over the Christmas break. Carl had been overseas previously so when fellow CU students expressed interest, she was able to help them coordinate the trip. She said, "Going on this trip showed the group the magnitude of individuals around the world who do not know Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior. A lot of individuals simply have not heard the story of God's love and grace. Also, it showed us the practical way we can share the story of Christ and Christmas with individuals in the United States."



East Asia mission trip students pictured are, from left in back: Trevor McWhorter, Campbellsville, Ky.; Rebekah Carl, Houston, Tx.; and Devan Bishop, Columbia, Ky.; from left in front are: Sarah Scott, Louisville, Ky.; and Andrew Neal, Harrodsburg, Ky.

(Photo submitted)

