

WESTERN Recorder

February 5, 2013

Shine Like Stars * Philippians 2:15

Volume 187, Issue 5

'Power in Numbers'

By Robin Cornetet Bass

Taylorsville—Jim Carpenter called the concept "genius"—Protestant churches in Taylorsville have reached across denominational lines in a concerted effort to meet the physical and spiritual needs of their community.

Carpenter, the church planting and missions strategist for Long Run Baptist Association, said such multi-denominational efforts are "key to the future of the church."

"We Southern Baptists like to get off in our own corner," Carpenter said. "I think we have been reluctant, but it's time for us to wade into that water and begin to explore working with, partnering with (and) praying with other denominations."

Four Spencer County churches—First Assembly of God and First Baptist Church of Taylorsville, along with Redemption Hill Baptist Church and Spencer Christian Church in Fisherville—have pooled resources to open a needs-based ministry in Taylorsville called Love My Neighbor. The goal is to collectively share the gospel of Jesus Christ while providing the community with an affordable option for clothing, household items and appliances.

Jason Cox, founder of Love My Neighbor, said the idea for the ministry developed about a year ago after he and fellow members of Redemption Hill served on a mission trip to eastern Kentucky. On the

Multi-denominational ministry fulfills needs, builds up community

drive home, Cox noticed segments of his hometown appeared to be just as poverty stricken as he witnessed in Lynch.

"The whole experience made me think about all the missed opportunities to share God's love in Taylorsville," Cox said. "We know the Great Commission commands us to go, but we're not to 'go' and step over the 25 or 30 hurting people right in front of us to get over there."

Cox said the burden for his hometown began to weigh on his heart. He sought counsel in childhood friend Chad Goodlett, pastor at First Assembly of God, and they soon discovered it was a burden they both shared.

Goodlett's church already had

□ See Love My Neighbor ... Page 2



■ Left: Carolyn Thurman shops among the donated women's clothing at Love My Neighbor, a clothing ministry run by four churches in Taylorsville. Customers unable to pay are provided free assistance along with the gospel message and a Bible. Names of customers receiving assistance are later given to one of the partnering churches for followup. ■ Above: Free Bibles are available to anyone visiting Love My Neighbor. (Photo by Robin Cornetet Bass)



Missions-focused RAs touted as alternative to Boy Scouts

By Erin Roach

Birmingham, Ala.—As the Boy Scouts of America considers lifting its ban on gay and lesbian troop leaders, churches across the Southern Baptist Convention may turn to the Royal Ambassador program, which for decades has shaped boys into responsible followers of Christ.

"Royal Ambassadors espouses many of the same virtues and character-building activities that are found in Boy Scouts, but with the added benefit for Southern Baptists that our primary goal is developing boys into men who understand the mission of God and carry the gospel with them into the world,"

Richard Bodenhamer, a marketing specialist for Woman's Missionary Union, said last week.



Royal Ambassadors is the Southern Baptist missions organization for boys in grades 1-6. Challenging engages young men in grades 7-12 in missions education.

The RA program was established by WMU in 1908. Years later, responsibilities for the program were transferred to the North American Mission Board, and in 2011, WMU again assumed those responsibilities.

Based on 2 Corinthians 5:20, the Royal Ambassadors motto is: "We are ambassadors for Christ," providing boys with a lifestyle goal.

National WMU Executive Director Wanda Lee described Royal Ambassadors as "unique and significant in that it instills godly characteristics in boys, while helping them understand the mission of God and their responsibility for living out and sharing the gospel."

Boys in RAs participate in fun activities that are appropriate for their age and gender, Lee said, and the curriculum helps nurture their mental, social, physical and spiritual development.

"At a young age, boys learn that life isn't all about them as they develop a biblical worldview by actively serving others and learning how God is at work through missions efforts around the world," Lee said.

The importance of godly leaders in □ See Royal Ambassadors ... Page 3

On the inside...



In light of the Boy Scouts of America's decision to recommend allowing homosexuals to serve as troop leaders, Southern

Baptist Convention Executive Committee President Frank Page says his call for all in the denomination to pray in 2013 is even more urgent.

See page 5

Ditch the cord.

GO MOBILE

Kentucky Baptist news at your fingertips
WesternRecorder.org



Find us on Facebook and on twitter as westernrecorder

Western Recorder 2-5-2013

KBC challenges believers to take 'RISK' for gospel

Elizabethtown—Learning new ways to share God's love with the people of Kentucky and the world is the focus of the Feb. 25 RISK conference sponsored by the Kentucky Baptist Convention. Severns Valley Baptist Church in Elizabethtown will host the free event.

"The RISK conference is about 'Reaching Into the State of Kentucky' with the message of the gospel," said Chuck McAlister, leader of the KBC's church planting & evangelism team. "Our goal is to inspire people through the preaching of God's word, and we'll also be sharing some creative ways that they can use in their daily lives to build relationships with others, and in the process, tell them about Christ."

The one-day event begins at 9 a.m. with coffee and doughnuts. Worship begins at 9:30 a.m.; the first message of the day begins at 10:30 a.m.

In addition to McAlister, guest preachers are Richard Harris, pastor and retired evangelism leader for the North American Mission Board; and Robert Smith, professor of preaching at

Beeson Divinity School of Samford University in Birmingham, Ala.

The group, "This Hope," will lead in worship.

Women are invited to a luncheon session with McAlister and Shelly Johns, the KBC's women's ministry consultant. The fee is \$7 per person and advanced registration is required at www.kybaptist.org/risk.

Participants also can attend two breakout sessions during the day. Topics include:

- The Power of Affinity: A Strategy for Evangelistic Engagement.
- Building a Church that Multiplies.
- Church Planting: Embracing the Past, Celebrating the Present, Shaping the Future.
- Church Planters and Their Identity.
- Wild Game Dinners.



Chuck McAlister



Richard Harris

- Collegiate Ministry in the Church.
- How to Use Social Networks to Expand Your Ministry Reach.
- Hope for the Hurting: Sharing Christ in Disasters.
- Creating Pinterest: Reaching Girls & Young Women

Through Affinity Workshops.

Descriptions of the breakout sessions and information on facilitators can be found online at www.kybaptist.org/risk.

"One of the messages we want to convey to Kentucky Baptists is that it's important to find ways to get outside the walls of the church to meet people who need Christ," McAlister said. "There are so many people in Kentucky who have just given up on church. They don't feel they belong. Christians have to get creative and very intentional about really getting to know folks in their community." (KBC)

KBC Mission Board staff may receive pay raises in '13-'14

Louisville—The Kentucky Baptist Convention's administrative committee has approved recommending a 3 percent pay increase for all Mission Board staff for the 2013-14 budget year.

KBC officials cited a pair of factors for the action:

■ Three out of the past four years, the Mission Board staff has not received raises.

■ During this time, the Mission Board's salary structure has not kept pace with the Consumer Price Index, and the proposed increase will help make up some of that deficit.

The last time a raise was approved for the Mission Board staff was for the 2010-11 budget year, when they received a 1 percent pay increase, with the possibility of an additional 1 percent merit raise, according to Jim Donnell, director of the convention's administrative services department.

The recommendation, approved during the Jan. 31 administrative committee meeting, now advances to the May meeting of the KBC Mission Board for consideration.

In other business

■ Committee members heard an update on Cooperative Program receipts through the end of January. Through five months of the KBC's fiscal year, estimated receipts from Kentucky Baptist churches may be down approximately 6 percent from last year's receipts, and are falling behind the projected budget by about \$500,000, reported Lowell Ashby, head of the KBC's business and finance team. (WR)

Love My Neighbor

Continued from page 1

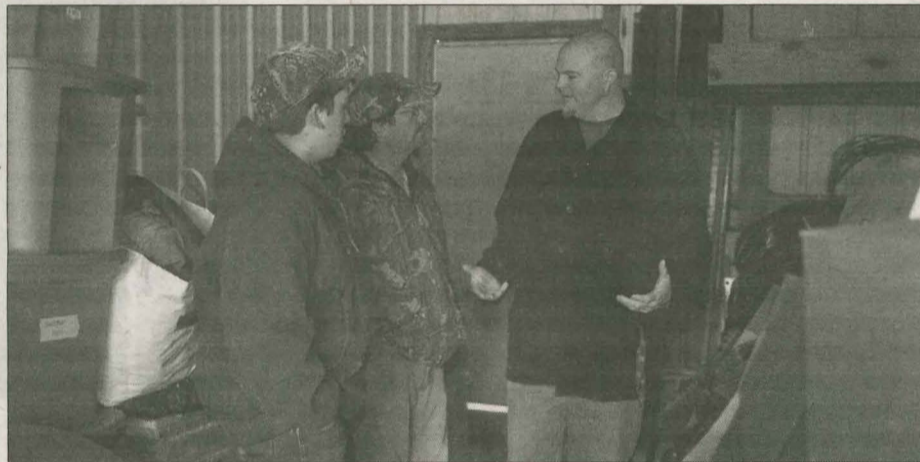
started a ministry called "I Love Taylorsville" that was attempting to provide food and clothing to every resident living within the city's floodwall. It had successfully clothed 70 students before the start of school, but was quickly running out of space in the church while the needs continued to grow.

"There is power in numbers," said Cox, who oversees local ministries for Redemption Hill Baptist. "I understand we are a Baptist church and the gospel is the gospel and it can't be changed, but other Bible-believing churches that believe Christ is the son of God and He rose and died for our sins and is the only way to salvation, I believe they could partner with us and we could do more with greater numbers."

Cox and Goodlett began soliciting help from more than two dozen Protestant churches in Spencer County and quickly found willing partners in First Baptist and Spencer Christian churches. A representative from each partner church sits on the governing board of Love My Neighbor, Inc., a nonprofit organization that is separate from the churches, but with a structure that promotes ownership in the ministry.

"We have prayed for a long time for more cooperation among churches in Spencer County," said Michael Waits, director of missions evangelism at First Baptist, Taylorsville. "We're finding out we have a lot more in common. We all want to meet the same kind of needs. I think that's one of the best things about (Love My Neighbor): Churches are pulling their resources together to minister to the community."

Since Love My Neighbor opened its doors Dec. 29, each partnering church has adopted a day—Tuesday through Friday—on which to staff the store with volunteers. Saturdays typically are rotated, but on a recent weekend volunteers from several area churches were sorting through mounds of donated clothing while others helped a steady



COMMUNITY BUILDING Jason Cox (right), founder of Love My Neighbor, speaks with a pair of visitors to the Taylorsville ministry. The multi-denominational effort of four Spencer County churches has brought people together in Great Commission service who might not otherwise have worked together, Cox said. (Photo by Robin Cornetet Bass)

stream of customers with their purchases.

"Today, we have two Baptist churches and one Christian church all working together," Waits noted. "They have the same foundational beliefs, serve the same Christ and are working together. We have people that are becoming friends who would have never met each other and made these connections."

In addition to building up believers in Christ, Cox said the ministry has opened a host of opportunities to share the gospel not only with customers in need, but with the county at large. He has been approached by a variety of community and school groups that are hoping to volunteer at the store. Cox said he also is working on approval from local authorities to be a location where individuals can fulfill court-ordered community service hours.

"It's not just people who are struggling that need the gospel," Cox said.

For those who are struggling financially—regardless of the reason—Cox said, Love My Neighbor wants to help. Customers who are unable to afford the nominal prices are welcome to receive assistance in exchange for a presentation of the gospel. Cox said every person accepting assistance is given a Bible "whether they want it or not," and their

names are forwarded to one of the four partnering churches for follow-up efforts.

At Redemption Hill, Cox said the names are being assigned to a church family who commits to pray for each individual. Families also are encouraged to follow up with a phone call and an invitation to church.

"We don't want to just give people clothes, we are telling people about the gospel," he stressed. "We are not a church, but we are funneling people to churches. We consider ourselves to be a vehicle to churches."

Love My Neighbor also is actively directing customers to church-sponsored life skills classes, such as financial counseling, cooking on a budget and minor home repairs.

"When we work together, there is no limit to what can be accomplished," said Doug Martin, pastor of Spencer Christian Church.

Cox said he remains hopeful other local churches will feel called to serve at Love My Neighbor. He has been in conversations with leaders at Plum Creek Baptist Church, which would be the third Long Run Baptist Association church to join the effort.

"Nothing gets you closer than serving together," Cox said. (WR)

Recorder staff earn Kentucky Press Association honors

Louisville—Western Recorder staff members received accolades for their journalistic work during the Kentucky Press Association's "Excellence in Newspapers" awards banquet Jan. 25 at the Brown Hotel in Louisville.

Robin Cornetet Bass, the Western Recorder's partnership and digital editions director, brought home seven awards, including two first-place awards in the categories of Best Spot News Picture and Best Picture Essay.

Other awards received by Bass included: second place for Best Ongoing/Extended Coverage Story; second place for Best Spot News Picture; second place for Best General News Picture; third place for Best Spot News Coverage; and an honorable mention for Best General News Picture.

Western Recorder Editor Todd Deaton was awarded second place in the Best Editorial category. Judges said his collection of three editorials were "well-written and thoughtful."

The Arkansas Press Association judged the entries in the Kentucky Press Association contest. The contest period was open for entries published between Oct. 1, 2011 and Sept. 30, 2012 by KPA member newspapers. (WR)

'Shepherding the Shepherd'

LifeWay president to pastors: Focus on building God's house

By Todd Deaton

Lexington—LifeWay Christian Resources Kentucky Baptist offered counsel to Kentucky Baptist "shepherds" about ministering in "the meantime," which he described as that time between the calling and the calling home, when the demands are many and the rewards seem few.

Rainer, a keynote speaker at the recent "Shepherding the Shepherd" event in Lexington, encouraged pastors and vocational ministers who found themselves in difficult circumstances: "God has called you to this place and He's got a plan for you."

"Imagine this scenario," Rainer began, "the leader is discouraged. There is supposed to be growth taking place. ... There had been meetings and people were sometimes saying, 'If you just did your work everything would work out OK.'"

"There were complainers; there were those who said, 'He's just not leading us right,'" Rainer continued. "And, there were some who said, 'The house of God should be built up, but it's not. What is happening to our leader?'"

Though the story has a contemporary flare, it actually is from about 520 B.C., Rainer revealed. He then recalled the story of the prophet Haggai, in which the people of God had become discouraged in rebuilding the wall and the city

looked desolate.

"They had this vision to build the house of God. So, they began building the foundation—but something happened," Rainer said.

"There was opposition from the outside; there was dissension from within; and, the people got discouraged," he explained.

Observing that the people lost their focus and stopped building, Rainer asserted, "I'm convinced that one of the great works of Satan, by his standards, is to take our focus off of building the house of God (and) to take our focus off of sharing the good news of Jesus Christ."

Rainer pointed to Haggai 1:1 as "a monometal time in God's word" when God speaks after having been silent for years. "God came to the prophetic leader, the political leader and the priestly leader," Rainer noted. "What did He have to say?"

"These people say: The time has not yet come for the house of the Lord to be rebuilt," Rainer quoted, adding that one could almost hear an incredulous tone in God's voice in the passage. "Is it a time for you yourselves to live in your paneled houses, while this house lies in ruin?"

God challenges the people to "think carefully about your ways," Rainer noted.

"You are not being blessed; nothing is happening because you are not building the house of God."

While serving as a pastor, one of the most important and powerful words from God came during one of those agonizing times that nearly every minister experiences, Rainer confided. "Those times ... when critics are heavy, the so-called results aren't good, and the burden is there," he said.



Thom Rainer

God then spoke to him, Rainer recalled, through the story of the prophet Haggai: "Thom, you go about building your house, and it won't work, but you build my house and you look at what the blessings will be."

Rainer said today's ministers can learn some important truths from a prophet, a political leader and a priest more than two millennia ago.

First, ministers should be reminded: "If I'm not in prayer, I have no power," he said.

In his book, "Surprising Insights from the Unchurched and Proven Ways to Reach Them," Rainer said research shows that the most evangelistic churches—those that were consistently reaching people year in and year out—were led by pastors who were consistent in prayer and in studying God's word.

"That is not to suggest that if you are not evangelistic and if your church is struggling, you are failing," Rainer allowed. "But it is to suggest that power is found in His word and in the power of prayer."

Rainer highlighted the word "go" in Haggai 1:8, calling it a Great Commission passage. "Notice that the first focus here is to tell leaders to get about the business of building the house of the Lord," he said.

The good news here, Rainer noted, is found in verse 12 where a revival occurs as the people of God hear and obey His voice, and the Lord declares, "I am with you."

"Here's my encouragement for you: When times seem their lowest, when struggles seem their greatest, when you wonder if you can just go on, start building the house of the Lord," Rainer urged. "Put your time, your life (and) your heart into telling people the good news of Jesus Christ."

Other plenary speakers at the Shepherding event included Kevin Smith, pastor of Watson Memorial Baptist Church in Louisville; Hayes Wicker, pastor of First Baptist Church of Naples, Fla.; and Michael York, pastor of Durbin Memorial Baptist Church in Lexington. Audio recordings of their addresses are available at www.kybaptist.org/category/church-consulting-and-revitalization-team. (WR)

Royal Ambassadors

Continued from page 1

RAs cannot be overstated, she added.

"WMU believes in a man's calling to influence and lead boys in missions education. More than ever, boys desperately need male Christian role models who live out the gospel," Lee noted. "Boys grow into godly young men and tomorrow's leaders as they model the example of their leaders."

About 3,000 churches across the country have RA programs, and many churches have more than one RA group, according to the WMU.

Horace Maddox, a member of Blackshear Place Baptist Church in Flowery Branch, Ga., has been involved with RAs for many years, first as a student and then as a leader.

"I still get visits from men who are dads themselves now that stop by my house to talk about some of the camping trips we went on, some of the activities that we've been involved in—like the Royal Ambassador Racers—and the sports teams that we've had down through the years and the impact that it's had on their lives," Maddox said.

"Some have gone on to be pastors, and one in particular is a North American missionary in Colorado. There have been a lot of good things that came out of the program over the years. I'm sold on it," Maddox said. "I feel like it's made a big impact on the boys that I've been involved with over the years."

Bob Terry, editor of The Alabama Baptist newspaper, was both a Boy Scout and a Royal Ambassador growing up and still

has an appreciation for both.

"The Bible verses we learned (in RAs) I still remember, but the most lasting benefit was the introduction to what Baptists do together in the cause of Christ," said Terry, also a former RA leader.

"Like most church members, my view of the kingdom of God was fairly limited to my church and a few other churches," Terry said. "Through RAs, I was introduced to Baptists working together to share the gospel with people around the world. In RAs is where I first learned to love missions and to realize that I was a part of that effort, even though I was only a teenager and had never been to those places."

Western Recorder Editor Todd Deaton credited Royal Ambassadors with shaping his call to the ministry.

"Attending a state Royal Ambassador camp as a boy and then working at that camp while I was a college student was a life-impacting experience, which led me to respond to God's call into ministry," Deaton told Baptist Press. "Answering God's call directed me toward making a commitment to use my talents to serve Christ as a denominational journalist."

"Although the boys may come home talking about all the fun activities they did, the best part of any Royal Ambassador camp is seeing decisions made for Christ during the week," Deaton added.

Lee, at the SBC annual meeting in New Orleans last year, noted, "We recognize there is such a short window of opportunity for shaping young minds to be missions focused, and we are fully committed to effectively discipling children and students in Southern Baptist missions." (BP)

GET NEWS NOW
on your smart phone

Go to our website and click on the share icon to add Western Recorder to your home screen.
westernrecorder.org

WESTERN Recorder
Tuesday, 12.4.12
Partnerships soon to pair students with disaster relief at home, abroad
READ MORE

SIGN IN & SUBSCRIBE
LATEST E-ISSUES
RECENT ARTICLES
CHURCH NEWSLETTER
ADVERTISE

Like us on Facebook
Follow on Twitter

EMAIL US
CALL US
VIEW FULL SITE

Chemo is over!

Chemo is over! How thankful we are for God's faithfulness and for the prayers of His people. Michelle has fared well through her surgeries and treatments and

Together We are the KBC



Paul Chitwood

appears to be on the road to complete recovery. Of course, those who have walked through the valley of cancer know that recovery doesn't mean "back to life as usual." We can already see that life will never be the same.

Yet, what we have come to realize is that most of the changes

cancer has brought into our lives are positive. We trust more fully in God's providential care for us (Romans 8:28) and see how His people truly are His hands and feet as they have ministered to us (1 Corinthians 12:26-27). We cherish more deeply our loved ones, the beauty of God's creation, the work to which He has called us and each day He grants us. And we pray with greater urgency for the day when "death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain" (Revelation 21:4).

Michelle's doctors have given her a most favorable long-term diagnosis. For that we are grateful. At the same time, our visits to the chemotherapy center and our experiences with other family members, friends and members of our Kentucky Baptist family who have battled cancer leave us knowing that every story is different, and there are many unexpected and heartbreaking turns.

Thus, we rejoice that overshadowing even the most painful stories is the gospel. The gospel is the miraculous message that Jesus bore our sin on the cross (1 Peter 2:24) where, by his stripes, we are healed (Isaiah 53:5). Now the worst of all cancers, the malignancy of the sin that brings death, has been cured (1 Corinthians 15:54-57). The gospel is our hope and assurance that no malady, physical or spiritual, will separate us from the love of Christ (Romans 8:35) nor plague us in Christ's kingdom to come (Revelation 21:27).

Words are not adequate to express my gratitude for God's mercy in healing my wife of cancer. My children still have a mother and I still have my helpmate, best friend and the one who is part of my own flesh (Ephesians 5:31).

But a few more years together in a fallen world can bear no comparison to the eternal glory that awaits those who are in Christ (Romans 8:18). So "bless the Lord, O my soul, and all that is within me, bless his holy name! Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits, who forgives all your iniquity, who heals all your diseases, who redeems your life from the pit, who crowns you with steadfast love and mercy" (Psalm 103:1-4).

Paul Chitwood is executive director of the Kentucky Baptist Convention.

Toward a Christian response to homosexuality

Homosexuality is back in the headlines. Atlanta pastor Louie Giglio canceled his plans to deliver the benediction at President Obama's inaugural after gay activists raised objections to a sermon he delivered in the 1990s, identifying homosexuality as sin. Locally, a gay minister of a Louisville Baptist church—not affiliated with the Kentucky Baptist or Southern Baptist conventions—was arrested for staging a courthouse sit-in, protesting the state's ban on gay marriage after he and his partner attempted to apply for a license. And, Boy Scouts of America, under mounting internal and external pressure, has announced it could change its policy that prohibits homosexuals from leadership posts.

These are more indicators of the wider moral upheaval that our society is currently experiencing, and with which the contemporary church continues to grapple. "Faithful Christians are left in the excruciatingly difficult position of maintaining fidelity to moral judgments revealed in the Bible while the culture around us races in the opposite direction," Southern Seminary President Albert Mohler recently observed. In January, Baptist Press reported that gay marriage supporters gained landmark victories in 2012, while political battles are brewing in at least six states where marriage redefinition bills are being advanced. Meanwhile, a LifeWay survey indicated the percentage of Americans who believe homosexuality is a sin fell this past year, from 44 to 37 percent.

All of this may lead to some confusion among Baptists in the pew who do not always possess as sound of a biblical footing as their church leaders. Those espousing a biblical worldview of homosexuality often are depicted as judgmental, bigoted and intolerant. Consequently, some young adults who have faced this issue in their workplaces may wonder why the church just can't be as accepting and affirming of persons with same-gender orientations. "Shouldn't the church be welcoming of everyone?" some may ask. "After all, we are all sinners in need of God's grace, aren't we? Homosexuality isn't worse than any other sin, is it?"

Yes, that's true. For conservative Christians, however, the issue is not about comparing homosexuality with other sins, but about one's need for repentance, an integral part of our faith in Christ. And, it is clear from Matthew 19:4-6 that Jesus affirmed the standard for human sexuality is the marital union of one man and one woman for life, and all other sexual relations are contrary to God's purpose and design.

In "Tough-Minded Christianity," Thomas Johnson, a

professor at Martin Bucer Seminary, elaborates on Romans 1:26-27, where God gives those who reject Him and His moral law over to a confused state of mind, which leads to dishonorable, unnatural passions. Johnson asserts, "He (Paul) claims homosexual desires and actions arise from a darkened heart and mind, a heart and mind deeply alienated from God and God's created order." Thus, homosexuality may be viewed as "self-punishment for the sin of disbelief and rejection of God's created order." However, the gospel message is, "God has not left the human race in the predicament we have made for ourselves," he declares. "It is the message of forgiveness and reconciliation with God, leading to the beginning of a new way of life that is marked by a renewed heart and mind, replacing the darkened heart and mind."

After Thought

By Todd Deaton

So, how do we respond appropriately to homosexuality? First, we must see homosexuality as not being about an issue, but about people—people who God loves and for whom Christ died. While the church must advocate a clear biblical position on homosexuality, we must be careful to do so in a compassionate, redemptive manner. "God's word still speaks clearly to the issue of homosexual behavior—it is sin," asserts Barrett Duke of the Ethics and Religious Liberty Commission. But he adds, "We must make sure we share this message in a way that communicates our genuine concern for those struggling with same-sex attractions. God has a better plan for their lives. We want them to experience it."

Chick-fil-A founder Dan Cathy perhaps provides for us a good example in responding to those advocating social acceptance of the homosexual lifestyle. Even after recent protests of his restaurant by those who object to his pro-family stance, Cathy developed an unlikely friendship with one of his critics, Shane Windmeyer. He even invited Windmeyer to attend the Chick-fil-A Bowl as his guest. Cathy expressed genuine sadness that people had been treated unkindly in the name of Chick-fil-A, according to Windmeyer, but Cathy offered no apologies for his beliefs about marriage and family.

Cathy's actions remind us that to disagree is not to hate. Even as we hold to an increasingly unpopular biblical conviction that homosexual behavior is sinful and contrary to God's design, we should strive to follow the Golden Rule found in Matthew 7:12, which calls us to be respectful and kind—even to those with whom we find ourselves at odds theologically. In doing so, we may help open their hearts and minds to the redemptive and transforming grace of Christ.

Charitable IRA rollover reinstated through 2013

By Laurie Valentine

The recently enacted American Taxpayer Relief Act reinstated the IRA charitable rollover giving opportunity through the end of 2013.

Generally, IRA owners must report distributions out of their IRA as income, whether they receive the IRA funds or direct them to someone else. And, while an IRA distribution to charity is a charitable contribution for income tax deduction purposes (if you itemize), the increase in reportable income and restrictions on the amount of charitable gifts that may

be deducted in a given year may not result in a "wash" for tax purposes.

The charitable IRA rollover provisions are an exception to the general rule. They permit a person who is 70 and a half years or older to make tax-free outright gifts in any amount up to a total of \$100,000 during 2013 from a traditional or Roth IRA to qualified charities. Your church and our Kentucky Baptist Convention and Southern Baptist Convention agencies and institutions are "qualified charities." Private foundations and donor-advised funds are not.

The distributions must be made

directly from your IRA to the qualified charitable organization. A distribution to the IRA owner/donor, followed by a gift to charity, does not receive the special treatment provided by ATRA.

A charitable IRA rollover distribution is not included in the income of an age 70 and a half or older IRA owner, but it does count as part of their required minimum distribution. And, while it is a gift to charity, it is not a deductible charitable contribution for income tax purposes.

For those age 70 and a half with IRA assets, make sure you take a look out this "window of opportunity" before it closes on Dec. 31, 2013.

Laurie Valentine is trust counsel for the Kentucky Baptist Foundation.



WESTERN Recorder

Box 43969
Louisville, KY 40253

DR. TODD DEATON
Editor

DREW NICTER
News Director

THOMAS C. TOWNSEND
Marketing & Business Manager

Board of Directors:

Floyd Price (chairman), Richmond;
Bill Bartleman, Paducah;
Duane Bolin, Murray;
Bill Edmonds, Louisville;
Bill Ellis, Lexington;
Chip Hutcheson, Princeton;
Lanna Kilgore, Bowling Green;
Paul Nunn, Prestonsburg;
Linda Polley, Elizabethtown;
Rick Robbins, Florence;
Wayne Spivey, Harrodsburg;
Dan Summerlin, Paducah.

Shine Like Stars * Philippians 2:15

Western Recorder is published weekly 49 weeks a year by Western Recorder Inc., an agency of the Kentucky Baptist Convention, Box 43969, Louisville, KY 40253. It will not be published the first week of January, the week of Independence Day or the week of Christmas. Periodicals postage paid at Louisville, Ky. (USPS 679-380)

For general information or to give news tips, call (502) 489-3535; or email: news@westernrecorder.org.

POSTMASTER: Send address corrections to:
Western Recorder, Box 43969, Louisville, KY 40253.

To subscribe: Send \$15 for a one-year, individual subscription or visit our Website and subscribe to our Electronic-Only edition at \$10 per year. Group subscriptions (church budget plan) are \$10 per year.

WesternRecorder.org



Scan this QR code with your smartphone to subscribe to Western Recorder.

'Put your heart into it': Honest effort goes long way

By Bill Wilson

Recently, our staff was talking about things our parents would tell us that we find ourselves repeating to our children. We had to admit that we increasingly sound like those voices we vowed never to imitate.

Some of our favorites: "If you'd done it right the first time, you wouldn't have to do it a second time." "Use it up, make it do, wear it out."

"Clean your plate, there are starving children in the world." "If you start something, finish it."

Finally, Chris Gambill mentioned one that we all agreed retains great merit. When he would give only half-hearted effort to some task, his mother would implore him, "Put your heart into it!"

She was inviting him to show some energy, to display some real effort and give an honest try at whatever task in which he was passively engaged. Whether it is washing a car or cleaning a room or doing homework, "putting your heart into it" is a way of saying "invest all of yourself in this and you'll do a better job and be a better person."

As we talked, we agreed that "put your heart into it" is an appropriate antidote to much of what ails the modern-day congregation. Far too often, we find churches that have devolved into patterns of ritualistic, meaningless repetition.

Such congregations sleepwalk through worship, teaching, outreach, prayer or any number of projects or ministries. As their energy ebbs, conflict and discord begin to arise. Pessimism and fear dictate how they approach their future.

The admonition to "put your heart into it" is not simply suggesting adopting a positive attitude or an invitation to look at the world unrealistically.

Instead, it is something akin to what Jesus said to His disciples when He taught them to pray in Matthew 6. Lamenting the "meaningless repetition" of many prayers, He invited them into an intensely personal, self-revealing, humbling posture of prayer that transformed their very lives.

One trait that seems to be ever present in thriving congregations but largely absent in dying congregations is energy or passion. High levels of energy and passion for the gospel mark congregations that have been seized by the enormity of their mission and have given themselves fully to it.

On the other hand, when we have grown calloused toward the transforming power of the gospel, we tend

to adopt a laissez-faire spirit that dulls us and blinds us to its potential.

The church of the 21st century faces significant headwind and a multitude of challenges. Half-hearted effort will doom us to irrelevance at best and extinction at worst.

Paul wrestled with the same issues as he made the rounds to churches in Greece and Asia Minor in the first century. Facing intense oppression and resistance, many found the going so difficult that they were tempted to give up or give only a weak effort.

In Colossians 1, he reminds his readers that they, like him, are called to a grand mission, "to make the word of God fully known, ... to make known how great among the Gentiles are the riches of the glory of his mystery, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory." He concludes with his personal testimony that "for this I toil and struggle with all the energy that he powerfully inspires within me."

The energy we need as God's people is not something we conjure up or create on our own. We are, like Paul, to be inspired by the person of Jesus Christ and the mission He has given us.

So, how might we invite our congregations to "put their heart into" their lives? How do we inspire one another?

■ Why not start with confession? Admit it: We're tired and tending toward lukewarm. The first step in doing something about it is to own it.

■ Look inward first, then outward. Do we have a heart problem? Have we lost our first love? Have we gotten caught up in the "thick of thin things"? Is it time to fall in love with the gospel again?

■ Assess what about our congregational lives drains us of energy and what inspires and motivates us.

■ Ask the hard question: What do we need to stop doing so that we can do the things that matter most?

While ministry in our day is challenging, I believe the opportunities to impact our world have never been more real. Our culture has never needed what we can provide more. We really do know the answer to every question that people are asking. Let's remember: Jesus is the answer—to everything. That is our message for the world. That is our task.

Now, what would it look like if you fully put your heart into it? (ABP)

Bill Wilson is president of the Center for Congregational Health in Winston-Salem, N.C.

COMMENTARY

"The church of the 21st century faces significant headwind and a multitude of challenges. Half-hearted effort will doom us to irrelevance at best and extinction at worst."

A call to pray for Boy Scouts to reverse impending policy change

By Frank Page

Little did I know when I called on Southern Baptists to dedicate 2013 as a year of prayer for spiritual awakening that we would have so much to pray for so early into the new year.

When I received a call from the Boy Scouts two weeks ago asking for a face-to-face meeting, I somehow knew it would not be good. They wanted to let me know—along with leaders of other conservative religious groups—of a probable change in their long-standing policy against allowing openly practicing homosexuals into positions of leadership in their national scouting organization.

I was gravely distressed. But what was even more distressing was to hear how far down the path toward change they already had traveled. After a time of prayer and consultation with other leaders, including Southern Baptist Convention President Fred Luter, I sent a letter

asking the Boy Scouts to reconsider.

On Jan. 28, I spoke with three of their top leaders. I learned that the recommendation to the full board already was formalized before we were even informed that a change was being considered.

Is there a light at the end of this tunnel? Is there a silver lining to this ominous cloud hanging over an organization I have lauded and loved? Yes, there is.

First, there is worship. When Jesus heard the reports from the 70 following their mission trip (Luke 10), He reminded them that He had seen Satan fall from heaven like a lightning flash. He then began to worship before the Father, saying, "I praise You, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because You have hidden these things from the wise and the learned and have revealed them to infants" (Luke 10:21). The same Lord who saw Satan cast out from heaven knows the eventual end of all who engage in

FIRST PERSON

sinful behavior. We must never forget that God is still on His throne.

Second, there is providence. I find it very interesting that the Scouts themselves set the first Sunday in February (this past weekend) as Scout Sunday.

Across our nation, thousands of churches were focusing their attention on the Boy Scouts. I strongly urge every Southern Baptist member and congregation to direct our prayers toward the Heavenly Father that the board members will reject this recommendation.

Third, there is action. While we pray, let us act. I was told by the Scout leaders that they have received petitions asking them to reverse their long-standing, principled policy. I believe, had there been time, Southern Baptists and other Bible-believing Christians could have matched their petitions, not one for one, but 10 names for every name on their petitions, asking them to continue their

principled stand on biblical morality.

I join the Association of Baptists for Scouting in their call to Baptists involved in scouting to contact Boy Scout leadership at www.scouting.org/ContactUs to express their views and/or concerns with them. The Boy Scouts need to hear from grassroots Baptists who will be deeply impacted by this decision.

Fourth, there is prayer. We should never confuse prayer as a substitute for human action. But, neither should we treat human action as if it were equal to prayer. At the end of the day, the steps we take can only do so much. Apart from the wooing influence of the Holy Spirit, the human heart remains stone cold to His purposes. Intercessory prayer is more than a quick rush of words in the midst of our busy schedules; it is a focused time of intense beseeching before the Father. Let us pray like never before! (BP)

Frank Page is president of the Southern Baptist Convention's Executive Committee.

Need ideas for Valentine's Day?

By Scott Wigginton

Q: What are some creative ways to celebrate Valentine's Day for Christian couples?

A: Moving beyond cut flowers, candy and cards, couples need to keep several things in mind for celebrating Valentine's Day. First, while romantic love is quite marketable, it is a poor foundation on which to build a marital house. Passion and romance alone are meant to be the caboose of the relational train, never the engine.

Second, whenever we celebrate a day such as this, it is good to use this as a date to take stock of whether we are making the small gestures day in and day out that will make our spouse feel valued and special. Are we treating him or her as a person of great worth and value before God?

Third, waiting until the last minute to go out and purchase a gift or card misses the whole point. Instead of "checking the box," true love suggests that it is the thoughtful approach to finding a gift, service or card that really lets the other person know of one's sincerity and intent. This is true not just for Valentine's Day, but for any occasion where we want the other person to feel special. The date simply serves as a prompter to cause us to reflect on how to be a more effective lover of God, spouse, family and friends.

Consider a few options for making your spouse feel special this Valentine's Day:

■ Eleven coupons that offer your spouse a different date or service each month through December. These may be redeemed for such things as: a 30-minute back rub; an evening of bowling and dinner; a wild card of doing his or her favorite activity without whining; renting a movie he or she wants along with a snack.

■ Cover the house or his or her office with Post-It notes that each express something you appreciate about them or recall one of your favorite moments through the course of the relationship.

■ Burn a CD of songs that express what he or she means to you.

■ Create a collage of favorite couple photos and put it in a frame.

■ Create your own card which gives him or her a multiple choice of Valentine's Day activities from which to choose.

Keep in mind that the love Christ demonstrates for us models sacrifice, service and submission. We are to follow His example.

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



From metro D.C. to Asia, where it's 'so different than us'

Thailand—The small groups whispered around the classroom—students at a seminary in Thailand and their American visitors—sharing about their families and other facets of their lives.

After prayers flowed in different languages, the students reached out to hug Joseph Lyles, which isn't the normal way to say "thank you" in southeast Asia. But after spending three days with the mission team from Fort Foote Baptist Church, the Thai seminarians showed their thanks "American" style. The Fort Foote pastor wiped away a tear and noticed there wasn't a dry eye in the room.

"I wasn't expecting this ... for us to become a little family, for a bond to develop," said Lyles, pastor of the predominantly African-American congregation in Fort Washington, Md.

"When one of the young men called me 'brother' ...," Lyles began to say, touching his heart and pausing to gather his emotions, "I just never imagined that we could connect to southeast Asians. I thought they were so much different than us.

"Honestly, we just came here out of obedience, to support our missionary, and now my world is turned upside down."

Fort Foote is not new to missions. The church sends teams to Africa and the Caribbean. The

congregation reaches out to its surrounding community in the Washington, D.C., area. But then God called Sandra McIntyre* out of the congregation to be a full-time missionary in southeast Asia with the International Mission Board.

Lyles said he knew the church was going to be stretched.

"I must confess that it was a sacrifice to come to southeast Asia instead of Africa," Lyles admitted. "We came because we made a commitment to support our missionary."

McIntyre is one of 27 African-American IMB missionaries serving around the world. She, too, realized that Fort Foote members would be stretched in their worldview, to see that there are lost people God wants to reach in regions thousands of miles from Maryland.

Fort Foote's vision trip introduced the team to mission work in a medium-sized southeast Asian city. The volunteers participated in seminary classes, shared the gospel with sex-trafficked women in a red-light district and told Bible stories at a Buddhist boys' school.

Church member Bridgett Brown said her favorite part of the trip was being with people in an Asian culture and seeing how her team's skills transferred so effortlessly to that context.

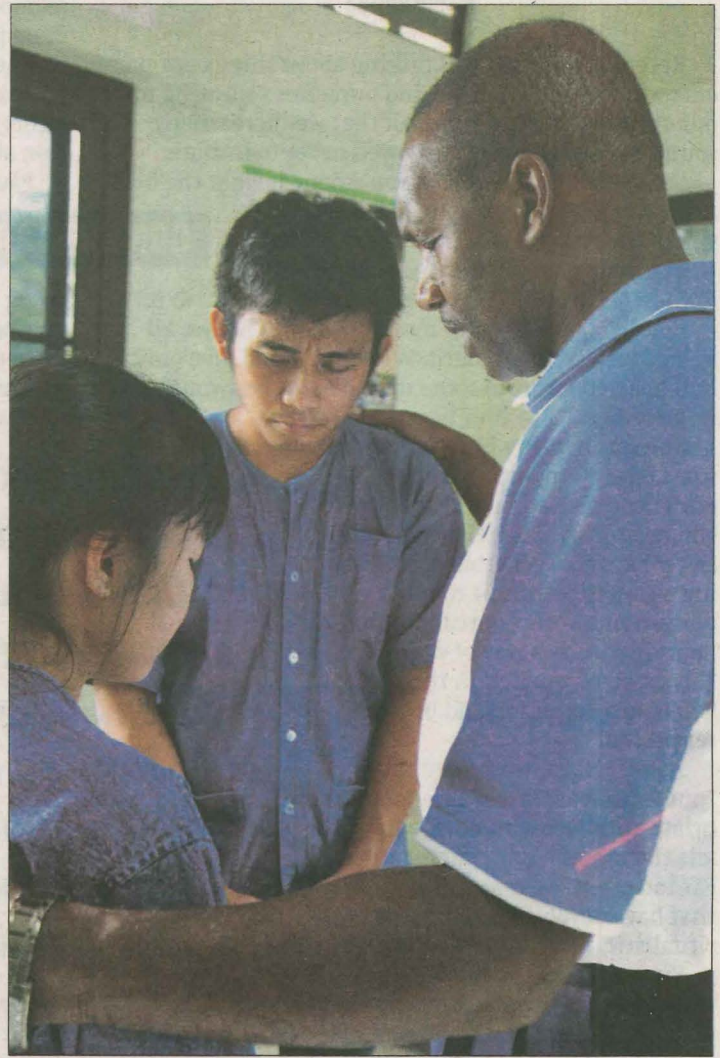
When Ann Palmore, a retired school administrator and the church's minister of missions, addressed a class, she said she was awed by how the future missionaries could not stop taking notes.

Gerald Robinson, a pastor and executive director of the missions-oriented Know the Truth ministry, was told by one student that she wanted to be just like him—to teach others to go on mission and show God's love.

"Being able to share the word of God through classroom studies and activities has been a wonderful experience," Brown said. "I can't believe the kind of connection we made with everyone we met. The women in the red-light district visited with us. The seminary students loved on us more than we did on them. I wish everyone could experience this."

Lyles agreed, saying the trip had been an eye opener. The world is hungry and thirsty for Jesus, Lyles said, and "you'll never truly know it until you experience it."

"It's exciting and a little bit unnerving to think of going somewhere else, a place that's so different than us. But, the people will capture your heart," Lyles said. "I know that I must go back to southeast Asia, I have some unfinished business. I need to share the good news." (IMB/BP)



CLOSE BOND Joseph Lyles, pastor of Fort Foote Baptist Church in Fort Washington, Md., prays with seminary students in Thailand. Praying for one another offered a sense of family to the visiting team from Fort Foote and the Thai seminarians. (IMB photo)



2013 Evangelism Conference Turning Your Passion Into Hope

Monday, February 25
9 a.m. - 4 p.m., EST
Severns Valley Baptist Church
1100 Ring Road, Elizabethtown, KY

This free event is powered by Kentucky Baptists' gifts through the Cooperative Program.



Do What You Love.
Go Where They Are. Share Your
Passion. **Encounter Jesus Together.**

Breakout Sessions: Kentucky Church Planting Network, Social Media, Disaster Relief, Wild Game Dinners, and more! Ladies are invited to luncheon discussion with Chuck McAlister and Shelly Johns (\$7/person).

Women's lunch reservations online at www.kybaptist.org/risk.



Robert Smith,
Beeson
Divinity
School



Richard Harris,
Former VP &
29-year NAMB
staff member



Chuck McAlister,
Leader of KBC's
Evangelism & Church
Planting Team



"This Hope" will lead in worship.

Questions?

Visit www.kybaptist.org/risk
E-mail evangelism@kybaptist.org
or call (502) 489-3576 or
1-866-489-3576 (toll-free in KY)



Evangelism & Church Planting Team
P.O. Box 43433
Louisville, KY 40253-0433

Evangelist Drace to fathers: 'Take time ... and be dads'

By Diana Chandler

Nashville, Tenn.—The United States is suffering the effects of a fatherless generation, born not only of single mothers, but of Christian fathers who fail to have an adequate presence in their children's lives, evangelist and author Jerry Drace said recently on Mike Huckabee's syndicated radio broadcast.

"We have so many children in our nation who are growing up in single-parent homes. They have no concept (of) what it is to be under authority, have a father figure in their life," said Drace, author of "From the Heart of a Father: Godly Counsel from Proverbs."

"It's not just non-church people. It's dads needing to take time to back off and be dads,"

Drace said. "I've met pastors and other religious leaders who've spent so much time out there doing 'God's work,' they haven't worked in their own family. It takes a lot of work."

Drace, of Humbolt, Tenn., is a former president of the Conference of Southern Baptist Evangelists. Drace's book on fathers complements the Hope for the Home family conferences he and his wife Becky have conducted internationally.

Drace said he learned the need to focus on family ministry 20 years ago when he would ask pastors about their greatest challenges in ministry.



Jerry Drace

"Their answer was, 'How do I effectively minister to the families in my church?'" Drace said, noting: "So often, the children in our churches that are hurting the most are the preachers' kids or the step-kids."

While the book covers a number of aspects of the Christian family, Drace focused on a few key points in the 15-minute interview with Huckabee.

"I would say, 'Please, fathers, listen to your children,'" Drace urged. "Give them time."

Drace, whose two children, Drew and Becca, are now adults, encouraged the use of Scripture in building relationships with children.

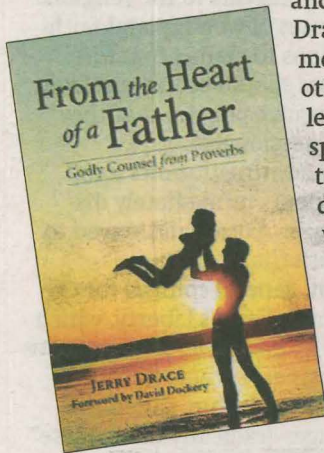
"I always read a verse of Scripture with Drew and Becca every morning when they were growing up, and if I was away, which I often was at meetings or crusades, I would call back home at 7 o'clock their time, and I read the Word of God," Drace said. "I would read one verse of Scripture and I'd just let that word of God sink into their hearts. And we did this all the way through high school and even into college."

"I would say to the Christian dads out there in your audience, put the word of God in their heart," Drace said. "That will stay with them a lot longer than our own words will."

Society is suffering because children seem to be in control of the home, Drace lamented.

"I have so many parents ask questions and by the very questions they ask, you realize that the children are running the home," Drace said. "It's almost as if parents are afraid to take a stand, so therefore the children set the rules."

Parents too often try to be their children's friend, instead of the parent, Drace said, noting, "We don't need to be friends with our children first, we need to be parents first." (BP)



Poll shows 'double standard' on religious liberty in United States

Ventura, Calif.—Half of Americans worry that religious freedom in the U.S. is at risk, and many say activist groups are trying to remove "traditional Christian values" from the public square.

The findings of a poll published Jan. 23, reveal a "double standard" among a significant portion of evangelicals on the question of religious liberty, said David Kinnaman, president of the Barna Group, a California think tank that studies American religion and culture.

While these Christians are particularly concerned that religious freedoms are being eroded in this country, "they also want Judeo-Christians to dominate the culture," Kinnaman noted.

"They cannot have it both ways," he said. "This does not mean putting Judeo-Christian values aside, but it will require a renegotiation of those values in the public square as America increasingly becomes a multi-faith nation."

Religious freedom has become an

increasingly important political issue within the last year, as Republican candidates hammered President Obama for a contraception mandate that many conservatives feel tramples on the religious freedom of employers who must cover birth control in their health plans.

The poll showed that 29 percent of respondents were "very" concerned that religious liberties are under threat, and 22 percent "somewhat" concerned. Evangelicals were the religious group most likely to be concerned, at 71 percent.

Asked for their opinions as to why religious freedom is threatened, 97 percent of evangelicals agreed, "some groups have actively tried to move society away from traditional Christian values."

And 72 percent of evangelicals also agreed that gays and lesbians were the groups "most active in trying to remove Christian values from the country." That compares to 31 percent of all adults who held this belief. (RNS)

Seminary for a Day

Practical Theology for Problematic Times

SOUTHERN BAPTIST
THEOLOGICAL
SEMINARY FACULTY

March 9
First Baptist Church
of Mt. Washington

MID-CONTINENT
UNIVERSITY FACULTY

March 14
Mid-Continent Campus
Mayfield

CLEAR CREEK BAPTIST
BIBLE COLLEGE &
UNIVERSITY OF THE
CUMBERLANDS FACULTY

March 23
Corinth Baptist Church
London

CAMPBELLSVILLE
UNIVERSITY FACULTY

April 13
Greenwood Baptist Church
Bowling Green

Find class offerings, other details & online registration at
www.kybaptist.org/seminaryday

Special Offer for Bivocational Pastors
Fees are \$20/person. Bivocational pastors receive \$10 off!

Questions?

E-mail paul.chitwood@kybaptist.org or call
(502) 489-3369
or 1-866-489-3369
(toll-free in KY)



HOLY
BIBLE

Powered by:



with additional
support from the
North American
Mission Board

One of those days, part 1

Recent day filled with number of blessings, obvious & anonymous

One of those days, that's what it was—just one of those days when, for no obvious reason, the Lord sent blessing after blessing, sometimes very obviously and sometimes at the end of a prickly and precarious process.

It began with a string of obvious blessings. First, a family from the community whose two oldest children are with us as students stopped by for a surprise visit. The good news was that they just wanted to report that they and their children were very happy with their OBI experience since they had transferred here from another nearby Christian school. Dad has served as a houseparent in a Christian boarding school on the West Coast, so he has an insider's appreciation for what we are doing. Hopefully, when their youngest child is old enough, he will join his siblings as a Mountaineer.

The next blessing came via email from a distant part of the country. An unofficial guardian for one of our students wrote that she felt led to send a sizable donation so our ministry team families would each have a little extra money to buy Christmas gifts for their children. By the time we did our calculations, her generosity had made it possible to give each family \$10 for each of their children.

I want to lump the next three blessings together, because they each involve the beautiful experience of having kids wonderfully and genuinely be kids. First, one of our international seniors stopped by while he was picking up mail for the dormitory to thank me for all we were doing for him.

Next, a much younger student from

Kentucky was almost beside himself with joyous anticipation when he asked me if his mom had called yet to talk with me about him getting to leave school so he could go see his sister graduate from college. (She hadn't yet, but she eventually did, and when she came, he threw his arms around her and gave her a strong hug while he said, "I love you, mom!")

Lastly, two big eighth-grade boys (imagine two large, overstuffed teddy bears) humorously approached me in the dining hall to see if they could "borrow" 50 cents apiece to get some pop out of the pop machine. (They were in luck that time.)

The last two memorable blessings were not so "warm and fuzzy," but they were blessings all the same. Each case involved a student in a potentially serious crisis. In the case of the boy, he had been caught smoking down by the soccer field in the company of another boy who had run away. The conversation between him and the principal didn't start off well, but thankfully I was there to take a different tack.

Before it was over, we had had the opportunity to teach about why smoking is bad, express our concern for him and the choices we wanted to steer him away from so he didn't destroy his future, and also hear from his own lips what had actually happened. He had been smoking to try to cope with the residue of a difficult time with one of his teachers. He left us after a prayer and a hug—and a promise to listen when he needed to talk and have a sucker in place of a cigarette.

(To be continued next week...)

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

Taking inventory

Keeping track of hunting gear not unlike taking stock of one's needs

This week's column is written by Gary Miller of Outdoor Truths Ministries.

I take inventory at the beginning of every deer season. I try to make sure I have what I need. Most of the time, what I think is a need is actually a want. It never fails that each season I get by without something I thought I could never get by without.

It also seems it takes more and more equipment to hunt. Sometimes it's more for convenience; other times, it's more to give us the best opportunity at tagging a big buck.

I've noticed that today's hunter is hunting more in ground blinds. Tree stands will forever be the most flexible, but those blinds sure are a lot easier and more convenient. And almost as important as a gun is the introduction of trail cameras. They offer 24/7 scouting and can make the amateur look like he's been chasing deer for years. The problem with trail cameras, however, is you need two of them—one watching the deer and the other watching the guy steal the first camera.

With all of these tools, my yearly inventory is not only growing, but now needs its own building. I'm afraid to figure out how much money it takes just to get one area ready to hunt. Stands, cameras, ropes, steps, plot prep—the list goes on. I just have to make sure it's all there.

It's also good to take a personal inventory; one that looks at what we have and need, that evaluates last year and determines what is needed to make this year better, and one that is willing to ask the questions that no one wants to ask about things like aging, health, contribution to the world, family, life and death, heaven and hell.

To ignore these things is to deny the inevitable. Some people think if they never talk about it, it will, by some miracle, go away.

The easy cure is simply to take a healthy inventory and make sure that what is needed for the days ahead is firmly in place. That way you will be ready for anything.

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

Clear Creek Chronicle



Donnie Fox

White House eases contraception mandate for religious organizations

By David Gibson

Washington—The Obama administration Feb. 1 sought to placate religious groups by broadening religious exemptions and giving faith-based organizations more room to maneuver around its controversial contraception mandate, but the new rules offer no loopholes for privately owned businesses.

The contraception mandate, part of Obama's health care overhaul, had set off an explosive church-state dispute and soured relations between the White House and some Christian groups.

The new rules, issued by the Health and Human Services Department, seek to address religious freedom concerns in two ways: First, they broaden the definition of "religious employers" so that all houses of worship and dioceses and affiliated organizations will be clearly exempt. Second, for other faith-based employers, the rules would transfer the costs and administrative tasks of the birth control insurance policies to insurance companies.

When the rules were first issued in early 2012 religious leaders and religiously affiliated hospitals and universities objected that the definition of what constituted an exempt religious organization was far too narrow.

That original HHS definition said that in order to qualify as a religious employer that would not have to provide free contraception insurance an entity would have to be a nonprofit that had "the inculcation of religious values as its purpose" and primarily employed and served co-religionists.

Religious leaders noted that churches often employ people not of their faith and their social services welcome anyone, regardless of religious beliefs. As a result they said they feared that church-run soup kitchens, as well as dioceses and religious schools, could be subject to the birth control mandate.

The new proposals reflect those concerns by eliminating the original definition and using the standard definition of "religious employer" as found in the IRS tax code—the solution that religious leaders were seeking.

In March of last year the administration first issued new rules that addressed some concerns, but not all. The White House pledged to revisit the regulations but a growing number of religious groups—as well as private companies whose owners claimed a moral objection to providing contraceptive coverage—sued the federal government.

Those suits have met with mixed results in the lower courts and the issue appears headed for a Supreme Court review later this year.

The new regulations might make some of those lawsuits moot.

The new HHS approach could refocus complaints from threats to the religious freedom of houses of worship and faith-based institutions to claims that for-profit businesses should be exempt from providing insurance policies that they find morally objectionable.

Many of the administration's long-standing opponents immediately dismissed the new proposals and vowed to press ahead with the lawsuits.

Kyle Duncan, general counsel for the Becket Fund for Religious Liberty, which has represented a range of religious institutions and business owners in court challenges to the mandate, called the proposed changes "radically inadequate" and "extremely disappointing."

Matt Bowman, senior legal counsel at Alliance Defending Freedom, said: "The administration's narrow gesture does nothing to protect many faith-based employers or religious families from the unconstitutional abortion pill mandate. The government has no business putting religious freedom on the negotiating table, or picking and choosing who is allowed to exercise faith." (RNS)

South home to most 'Bible-minded' cities

Ventura, Calif.—The South is home to the 10 most "Bible-minded" cities in the United States, according to new Barna Group research.

Defining Bible-minded as a person who reads the Bible in a typical week and strongly asserts the accuracy of its teaching, researchers determined that Knoxville, Tenn., is the most Bible-minded city in the United States, with 52 percent of the city's population fitting that category.

Other cities in the top five are

Shreveport, La., with 52 percent of its population deemed Bible-minded; Chattanooga, Tenn., 52 percent; Birmingham, Ala., 50 percent; and Jackson, Miss., 50 percent.

At the bottom of the list are Providence R.I./Bedford, Mass., 9 percent; Albany/Schenectady/Troy, N.Y., 10 percent; Burlington, Vt./Plattsburgh, N.Y., 16 percent; Portland/Auburn, Maine, 16 percent; Hartford/New Haven, Conn., 16 percent; and Boston, Mass./Manchester, N.H., 16 percent. (BP)

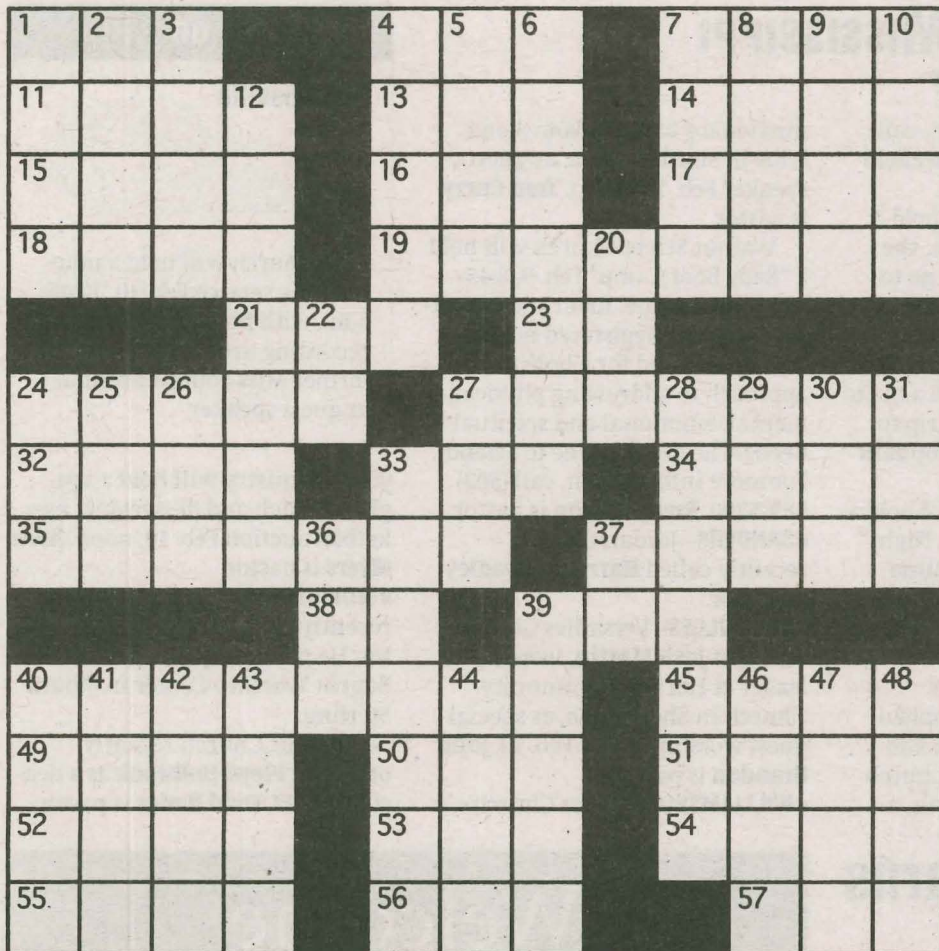
Your church newsletter

Mailed to every church family
for about the price of a postcard!

For more information,
call (866) 489-3535.

WESTERN
Recorder





Bible Crosswords

By Janet Adkins

Across

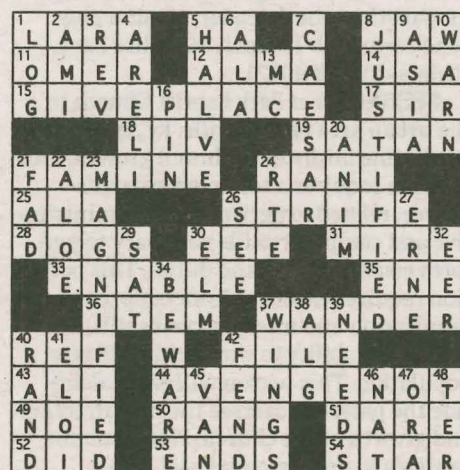
- 1 Hand or season
- 4 "___ things are lawful for me ... but I will not be brought under the power" (1 Corinthians 6:12)
- 7 ___ the bill
- 11 Very (Fr.)
- 13 Medic's abbr.
- 14 King of Israel (1 Kings 16)
- 15 Bye-bye, to Brits
- 16 Canadian prov.
- 17 The act of (suffix)
- 18 Biblical measurement
- 19 "Redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto himself a ___ people" (Titus 2:14)
- 21 Put on the feedbag
- 23 Pronoun
- 24 "They defile not their ___, in the midst whereof I dwell" (Numbers 5:3)
- 27 "For the ___ of this people cause them to err" (Isaiah 9:16)
- 32 To braid
- 33 "And the anger of the Lord was ___ against Israel" (Judges 2:20)
- 34 Great Lake
- 35 "Send me also cedar trees, fir trees ... out of ___" (2 Chronicles 2:8)
- 37 Land measure (pl.)
- 38 That hurts!
- 39 Boring tool?
- 40 "___ now thy Creator in the days of thy youth" (Ecclesiastes 12:1)
- 45 "Neither do the ___ understand judgment" (Job 32:9)
- 49 Great-grandfather of Lamech (Genesis 4:18)
- 50 Within (prefix)
- 51 Partner of rant
- 52 Virginia ___, first English child born in America
- 53 Possessive pronoun
- 54 Tied
- 55 Father of Ahira (Numbers 2:29)
- 56 Article
- 57 Golfer Ernie

Down

- 1 King of Germany, and Holy Roman Emperor
- 2 Oil filter maker
- 3 Honor, as at a banquet
- 4 Use as one's own
- 5 Single
- 6 "Nor the ___ of their shoes be broken" (Isaiah 5:27)
- 7 Young farm animal

- 8 All, everywhere (comb. form)
- 9 Killer whale
- 10 Arena area
- 12 "Unto none of them was Elias sent, save unto ___, a city of Sidon" (Luke 4:26)
- 20 Vowel trio
- 22 Simile syntax
- 24 Army rank (abbr.)
- 25 ___ wife
- 26 Fairy queen of English folklore
- 27 Actor Chaney
- 28 "Sing praises to the Lord ... ___ among the people his doings" (Psalm 9:11)
- 29 Mess up
- 30 Bible grain (Isaiah 28:25)
- 31 French possessive pronoun
- 33 Nevertheless (arch.)
- 36 ___ de plume
- 37 Exclamation of protest
- 39 Was resurrected, as Jesus Christ
- 40 To stay afloat, with "out"
- 41 One of the sons of Shuthelah (Numbers 26:36)
- 42 "Call me ___: for the Almighty hath dealt very bitterly with me" (Ruth 1:20)
- 43 Idyllic setting
- 44 O.T. book
- 46 Contributed
- 47 First name in "daredeviltry"
- 48 Cubs' "cribs"?

Last puzzle's solution



Communicating with you

KBF faces challenges in promoting Christian financial stewardship

Every charitable organization, the Kentucky Baptist Foundation included, faces three major challenges: (1) the communication challenge; (2) the cultivation challenge; and (3) the competition challenge.

The cultivation challenge for us is to have the opportunity to encourage, educate and enable every adult Kentucky Baptist to have a Christian estate plan. An effective way to do that is to receive an invitation from a church or an adult group in the church to conduct one of our Christian estate stewardship education seminars. We have nothing to sell, and we do not twist anybody's arm to do anything; it's purely an educational experience.

With more than 1.5 million charitable organizations seeking to tap into the greatest generational wealth transfer in history, the competition among these organizations, including churches and church-related organizations, has become fierce, thus the competition challenge. Our greatest concern is that charitably minded individuals will become confused about which organizations to support and, as a result, will become desensitized in their giving. We remind them as Christians, in the matter of financial stewardship, our first

loyalty is to Christ through our churches and other Great Commission service ministries.

The communication challenge is our greatest challenge. Since information and news is received in so many different ways today, it is a challenge for us to disseminate effectively the information we want to share via all of the different media methods people are using. The cost of communicating also is part of the challenge. As a religious organization we must maximize the stewardship of the limited financial resources available to us.

Ky. Baptist Foundation



Barry Allen

As we look to the future, we would like to communicate with you via email. And we pledge never to share your email address with anyone else. We shall appreciate you providing us your email address either by email response to me at barry.allen@kybaptist.org or by telephone at (502) 489.3533, or toll free in Kentucky only at (866) 489.3533.

Also, please "Like" us on Facebook if you are a Facebook user, and share our page with others any time you find it useful.

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

Campbellsville UNIVERSITY



INVITES YOU TO THESE SPECIAL UPCOMING EVENTS:

Congregational Song Festival
"A Journey of Faith in His Song"

Wednesday, Feb. 20, 6:30 p.m. EST
Ransdell Chapel, 401 N. Hoskins Ave., Campbellsville, KY

Baptist Heritage Lecture Series
"The Apocalyptic Beliefs of Thomas Helwys"

Tuesday, Feb. 26, 6:30 p.m. EST
Banquet Hall in the Badgett Academic Support Center,
110 University Drive, Campbellsville, KY
Lecture by Dr. Joe Early, Jr., CU assistant professor of theology

ADMISSION IS FREE

Contact the Office of Church and External Relations
for more information,
(270) 789-5520 or email jchowning@campbellsville.edu.



February

- 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, Bardstown.
- 12** Kentucky Baptist Men's Chorale and Wind Orchestra, University of the Cumberland, Williamsburg.
- 18** Financial Support Issues for Ministers and Churches, Daviess-McLean Baptist Association, Owensboro; West Union Baptist Association, Paducah.
- 19** Financial Support Issues for Ministers and Churches, Edgewood Baptist Church, Hopkinsville; Warren Baptist Association, Bowling Green.
- 21** Financial Support Issues for Ministers and Churches, First Baptist Church, London; Florence Baptist Church at Mount Zion.
- 25** RISK: The Kentucky Baptist Evangelism and Church Planting Conference, Severns Valley Baptist Church, Elizabethtown.

March

- 1-2** Creative Ministries Festival, Cedarmore Camp and Conference Center, Bagdad.

MOUNTAINS TO THE MISSISSIPPI

COMPILED BY STAFF

■ **CAMPBELLSVILLE**—Pitman Valley Church ordained **Mike Woodrum** to the gospel ministry Feb. 3. **Dannie Nelson** is pastor.

■ **GEORGETOWN**—Royal Springs Church recently called **Allen Baker** as pastor.

■ **INEZ**—First Church recently called **Sam Schmidt** as pastor. He previously was pastor at Wolf Creek Church in Grayson.

■ **LEXINGTON**—Trinity Church recently called **Greg McClellan** as pastor.

■ **LOUISVILLE**—Bethlehem Church will hold the Soaring Eagles Hoops Fest Feb. 8-9 to raise funds for Wings Like Eagles, which ministers to the Oglala Lakota Sioux residents of the Pine Ridge Reservation in South Dakota. For more information, call (502) 964-6002.

Cloverleaf Church will host **Sons of Liberty** in concert Feb. 9, 7

p.m. For more information, call (502) 367-0218. **Geoffrey Lacefield** is pastor.

Deer Park Church will hold a chili cook-off Feb. 10, noon, the proceeds from which will go to Extreme Build missions projects. **David Platt** is pastor.

Fern Creek Church will hold a pancake breakfast Feb. 9, 8 a.m., to raise funds for a mission trip to Honduras. **Linda Barnes Popham** is pastor.

Green Acres Church will hold a "Mission, Mug and Muffin Night" event Feb. 6, 6 p.m., with **Anna Mary Byrdwell**, director of Long Run Association's Friendship International ministry, as guest speaker. **Phil Ellis** is pastor.

Parkland Church will hold a wild game dinner for men and boys Feb. 8, 6:30 p.m. The church also will host **Mike Brennan**, a

missionary to the Lakota Sioux tribe in South Dakota, as guest speaker Feb. 10, 6 p.m. **Tom Curry** is pastor.

Walnut Street Church will hold a "Baby Boot Camp" Feb. 9, 8:45 a.m., for teenage, first-time expectant mothers. Registered nurses will be on hand for a holistic approach to addressing physical, mental, emotional and spiritual needs. The event is free to attend. For more information, call (502) 589-5290. **Rusty Ellison** is pastor.

■ **SANDERS**—Jordan Church recently called **Harrison Swadley** as pastor.

■ **VERSAILLES**—Versailles Church will host **Josh Martin**, worship leader at Harvest Community Church in Shelbyville, as special guest worship leader Feb. 10. **John Brandon** is pastor.

■ **WILLIAMSBURG**—First Church's

Georgetown College grad earns second American Idol ticket

Hollywood, Calif.—Georgetown College alum Lauren Mink is headed back to Hollywood.

The Winchester singer received a golden ticket from American Idol judges for the second straight year and advances to compete in the next round of the popular TV singing competition.

The 26-year-old Mink tweeted the news Jan. 23 with the words, "So glad to finally have this secret out!" Included was a television screenshot of her leaving the American Idol audition in Charlotte, N.C.

Mink was the subject of a Western Recorder article last February, in which she talked about her debut performance as a child at First United Methodist Church of Winchester. She would later gain the confidence to sing in front of

her high school classmates and play a role in a Georgetown College production of "Grease." These days the singer can be found performing on various local stages and at regional events.

"The judges were really different this year," she told interviewers. "I was really excited there was Keith Urban, who is a country person. They've never had a country judge before."

Mink also advanced to the Hollywood stage of the show last year before being eliminated from the competition. She said she was looking for another crack at the top spots.

"I auditioned today because I wanted a second chance," she said. "I think I would be an amazing next American Idol." (Georgetown News-Graphic/WR)

Spotlight on ...

Hopkinsville



First Church will hold a note-burning service Feb. 10, 10:45 a.m., with **Dawn Smith Jordan**, recording artist, author and former Miss South Carolina, as guest speaker.

youth ministry will hold a spaghetti lunch and dessert/gift basketball auction Feb. 10, noon. **Ande Myers** is pastor.

■ **WINCHESTER**—Central Church recently called **Travis Drake** as pastor. He previously was pastor of Baptist Worship Center in Mount Sterling.

Ephesus Church recently ordained **Floyd Holbrook** as a deacon Jan. 27. **Todd Rader** is pastor.

Welcome
West Union Association, Paducah
Associational Newsletter Plan
Howard Atkinson, DOM



SECOND CHANCE

After being eliminated from American Idol a year ago, Lauren Mink, a Georgetown College graduate and Winchester native, has earned a second shot at winning the TV singing competition, having earned a ticket to compete in the show's finals in Hollywood, Calif. (Photo by Robin Cornet Bass)

CLASSIFIED ADS

FOR RENT: Two condos for rent in Destin, Fla.; two bedrooms and two bathrooms, fully furnished; 10 percent discount on all one-week bookings made before March 1; lbrammer@charter.net, (423) 309-4422.

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

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: Part-time coordinator of music and family ministries; Sunnyside Baptist Church in Shepherdsville is seeking a part-time staff member to coordinate ministries to youth and children and to assist with music and worship development. Seminary students encouraged to apply; house and utilities provided, 10 hours per week time commitment. Please e-mail resumés and direct inquiries to Bruce Truman, pastor, at bruce@sunnysidebc.com.

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.

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

SEEKING: Lawrenceburg, Ky., First Baptist Church is looking for a children's minister. To apply or if you have questions, please feel free to contact Chip Carpenter at (502) 773-2358 or at ccarpent@teksystems.com.

SEEKING: Full-time pastor; please submit resumés to High Point Baptist Church, 220 West Farthing Street, Mayfield, Ky., 42066.

SEEKING: Monterey Baptist Church of Owen County, Ky., is seeking a full-time pastor to lead its small, rural congregation. Applicants should have strong desire to focus on youth/children's ministries and be willing to reside in community area. Church on-site housing is an option. Send resumés or questions to matt576@aol.com, or mail resumés to MBC, 44 High Street, Monterey, KY 40359.

SEEKING: Seeking an individual/couple for part-time youth leader; music a plus. Send resumé to Thomas, 1610 Rice Lane, Taylorsville, KY 40071.

SEEKING: Deer Park Baptist Church in the urban area of Louisville, Ky., is seeking a full-time minister of church growth. This position requires a seminary master's degree, related experience, the administrative and computer skills necessary to perform essential tasks and duties. This position requires excellent leadership, communication and interpersonal skills, as well as the ability to work with a diverse population. This person will work alongside the pastor to oversee the life, direction and growth of the church. Please submit resumés to dpcpersonnel@aol.com.

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: FBC Marshfield, Mo., seeking full-time discipleship pastor to lead Sunday School, discipleship, missions. Resumés may be submitted to staffopenings@marshfieldfirst.org or P.O. Box 746, Marshfield, MO 65706. Details at www.marshfieldfirst.org/#/connect/staff-openings.

SEEKING: Evergreen Baptist Church seeks part-time minister of children. Position is approximately 10 hours per week, requiring Sundays, a.m. and p.m., Wednesdays, p.m., and planning time; experience working with children required; \$125 per week. Send resumé and references to Evergreen Baptist Church, 2698 Evergreen Road, Frankfort, KY 40601, c/o personnel committee.

God's glory revealed in Haley's life

Parents refused advice to 'interrupt' pregnancy

By Meredith Flynn

Anna, Ill.—Haley Willis has exceeded expectations her whole life. Diagnosed with a neural tube defect 21 weeks before she was born, doctors told her parents, Jeff and Lynel, that Haley wouldn't survive the pregnancy. When she was born on her due date, the Willises were told to take her home and enjoy her for as long as she survived, two weeks, at most.

Haley will turn 10 this summer. And Jeff and Lynel Willis, who serve at Harvest Church in Anna, say their oldest daughter is a miracle with a special gift for making people smile and drawing shy kids out of their shells. And defying the odds.

The Willises, who were told it would be easier to "interrupt" or terminate their pregnancy and start over, knew from the moment of Haley's diagnosis what their responsibility was concerning their daughter.

"I was realizing really quickly that this wasn't about Jeff and me," Lynel said. "This was about God showing His glory through something as little as this baby. And we were just along for the ride."

One month before her birth, the Willises named their daughter Haley Faith. Lynel said, "We wanted faith in the name, because we were having her out of faith."

Knit together

Jeff and Lynel met at Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Kansas City, Mo., where Lynel was preparing for the international mission field and Jeff was studying to be a worship minister. He's no stranger to defying his own odds; born without several of his fingers, Jeff plays drums, piano and guitar.

Before they got Haley's diagnosis, their biggest concern was that she would have all her fingers and toes. But after their doctor gave them the bleak news of her condition and prognosis, the Willises started praying very specific things



10-YEAR-OLD TEACHER Haley Willis, who will turn 10 this summer, speaks to future special education teachers at Southern Illinois University in Carbondale. (Photos courtesy of the Willis family.)

for her birth: to see her eyes, hear her cry and make snuggle sounds, to be able to feed her, and that Haley would grab on to Jeff's pinkie.

"When they laid her on my chest, and at the very moment, she grabbed on to his pinkie," Lynel said. "And the whole room just went quiet, because they all knew what we had prayed for, and it was happening right before our eyes."

Haley's neural tube defect caused part of her brain to separate and grow in a sack called an "encephalocele." She was born without one-third of her brain, and what she did have was "disorganized," Lynel said.

From the very beginning, the Willises knew it was up to them to be Haley's advocates. She was eating and sleeping like any baby but doctors still didn't give her hope for long-term survival. She desperately needed a shunt to relieve pressure in her brain, but the neurosurgeon they visited wouldn't even see her at first because he considered it a waste of time.

One physician who did fight alongside the Willises for Haley's quality of life came to be known by the family as "Uncle Freddie." He set up hearing and seeing tests for Haley—which she passed—and at six months, the neurosurgeon agreed to see her.

"By this time, she was smiling and looking at us, almost like a normal baby," Lynel said. "She looked up at him, and he said, 'This child is looking at me.' And she smiled at him."

Haley had her shunt surgery that day,

the first in a long string of major procedures to better her life. Jeff accepted a church staff position in Tucson, Ariz., far away from the couple's Midwestern roots. But it put them much closer to the Barrow Neurological Institute in Phoenix, where, shortly after her first birthday, Haley had a craniotomy to repair her skull.

The procedure should have taken six to eight hours, so the Willises were stunned when the surgeon walked out after an hour and a half. "He just said, 'I can't believe what I just saw,'" Lynel recounted. The surgeons had been able to use some of the bone in Haley's skull to close the tennis ball-size opening. He told the Willises they had "knitted the pieces together."

The surgeon didn't know her parents had prayed Psalm 139—"You knit me together in my mother's womb"—over Haley since before her birth, praying that God would knit her skull together, bind her, heal her.

"Just the words he had used, that he had knit them together, God was showing us all over again how much He loves us," Lynel said. Jeff added, "... And that He was in control."

Perfect in weakness

The Willises second daughter, Brynna Grace, was born in 2008. "For a 4-year-old, she can be pretty deep sometimes," Jeff remarked. "She's always thinking and she's very detailed—she picks up on things in a whole different way. She'll ask me about my hands."

He responds to his daughter's questions by telling her, "God made me special and gave me the opportunity to share about how He made me...." There's no physical connection between Jeff's condition and Haley's, but he does see a spiritual connection.

"The whole thing points back to Scripture—in our weakness, He is made strong," Jeff said, referencing 2 Corinthians 12:9. Haley is "a little girl who

shouldn't be here, let alone functioning at such a high level, and how God uses her in her weakness ... the minute she walks into a room and just wins them over. People are drawn to her for some reason."

As she looks toward her milestone 10th birthday, Haley is a student in a regular third-grade classroom. She gets special help during the school day for reading and math, and she walks on her own with a walker or her recently-acquired crutches. She's a big sister to Brynna Grace, 4, and Roslyn Joy, 3. And she's a teacher. For the past several semesters, Haley and Lynel have served as guest lecturers in a class for future special education teachers at Southern Illinois University in Carbondale.

Lynel also has connected with other families with kids like Haley, communicating with them through Facebook, where she has documented Haley's story, and even in-person visits. As the Willises talk with families facing a diagnosis like Haley's, they encourage expectant couples to see the pregnancy through—and see what God's going to do.

While Haley's case is definitely miraculous and not the norm, Lynel counsels, "(E)ven if you don't get the baby that you hope for, and you don't get to

keep your baby, that doesn't mean that God isn't trying to show you something, to do some great things in your life."

The Willises learned the same lesson 10 years ago when, against all odds, they chose to stick with a pregnancy that almost everyone else thought was hopeless.

"It really started dawning on us that what God was doing in our lives and through our lives as we went through this difficult trial," Jeff said, "It wasn't in the outcome of whether Haley was going to be alive when she was born, but that He gave us the peace, and let us minister to people." (The Illinois Baptist/BP)



MIRACLE BABY Jeff and Lynel Willis were told by doctors their daughter, Haley, would not likely live longer than two weeks because of a neural tube defect. Haley will be celebrating her 10th birthday this year.



ANSWERED PRAYER Haley Willis grips her father Jeff's finger right after she is born, a very specific answer to her parents' prayers.

UNIVERSITY of the CUMBERLANDS

In December Mountain Outreach (MO) provided 176 disadvantaged families in the area surrounding our campus with "food for the soul" as the students and other volunteers distributed a Bible to each family visiting the MO warehouse. In addition, families received "food for the body" in the form of a \$50 gift certificate to Sav-A-Lot in Williamsburg. Other items available were toys, clothes and household items.

Mountain Outreach



MO volunteers and Wal-Mart employees show receipt from Gift Day midnight shopping spree.



Child enjoys a visit with Santa while parents visit MO warehouse.



Child patiently waits as his grandmother looks through clothing.



UC basketball players Craig Trotter, (Louisville, KY), and Ernie McCoy, (Columbus, OH) right, interact with children at MO's children's gift day.

UC Baptist Campus Ministries students served with Adventure Leadership Training in Belfast, Northern Ireland over the semester break. Accompanied by the BCM director the group led a Holiday Kid's Club, teaching Bible lessons from Luke 15 and reaching 30 children and their parents. The students also participated in The Dock, a fellowship and Bible teaching ministry directed at university students, professional football (soccer) athletes and local business people.

Baptist Campus Ministries



UC's BCM ministry team with some of the children they served in Northern Ireland.



A young Kid's Camp participant shows her "luv" of Jesus.



Tyler Bird, (Somerset, KY) center, and Nick Monroe, (Frankfort, KY) right, work with a boy at Kid's Club.



Carla Fountain (Springfield, NE) and a young girl work together on a project.



These four girls received salvation during Kid's Camp.

Discover UC at Campus Discovery Day



ATTENTION
High School
Juniors & Seniors...

Thinking about your future?
Join us on **February 16th** for
CAMPUS DISCOVERY DAY!
To register or for more information visit
www.ucumberland.edu/admissions
or call 606-539-4201 or 800-343-1609

Scholarship Opportunities for Leader-Servants

UC is committed to providing an exceptional education at a reasonable cost. UC's cost of tuition, room and board remains below the national average for private four-year colleges and universities.

Check out our online scholarship calculator and scholarship listings at
<http://www.ucumberland.edu/financialaid/calculate/>



Let us show you how affordable a private, Christian education can be!

Williamsburg, KY • www.ucumberland.edu • 800.343.1609