

# WESTERN Recorder

February 12, 2013

Shine Like Stars \* Philippians 2:15

Volume 187, Issue 6

## MIND-BLOWING

Imagine conference opens windows of possibilities in minds of ministry leaders



Jason Lindsey, founder of Hooked on Science, demonstrates an experiment during a hands-on session at the Imagine Preschool and Children's Ministry Conference held at Parkway Baptist Church in Bardstov Feb. 9. In his book, "Beyond the Science Lab—A Celebration of God and Science," Lindsey provides hands-on experiments that can be used to connect kids with the wonders of their Creator. Lindsey's "Amazing Science Experiments" was among more than two dozen sessions designed to inspire preschool and children's ministry leaders. For more, see page 7.

## Survey: Majority of churches offer no estate planning help

By Russ Rankin

Nashville, Tenn.—The majority of Southern Baptist pastors believe Christians should include a legacy gift to a ministry or church, but 86 percent of their churches provide no assistance for estate planning, according to a study by LifeWay Research.

LifeWay Research conducted a survey of Southern Baptist pastors on behalf of the Southern Baptist Foundation to gauge the awareness and preparedness of churches to issues surrounding estate planning, investments and wills.

According to the survey, 84 percent of Southern Baptist churches received no estate gifts in the year preceding the poll. Eleven percent received one estate gift and just 1 percent received three or more gifts the previous year.

Churches that reported receiving at least one gift bequest received an average of \$22,507.

"One of the issues revealed by the research is the need for education," said Warren Peek, president of the Nashville. See Estate planning ... Page 3

## Leaders past & present reflect on Bangalore hospital's 40-year legacy

By Hope Livingston

Bangalore, India—A barren tract of land marked the spot in India. There were no trees, no fences and no buildings—just a dream.

Forty years later, a countless variety of trees and buildings have multiplied on that same tract of land where, now, the Bangalore Baptist Hospital has garnered a lasting legacy.

Past and present physicians, staff and students recently filed into the new Smrithi Auditorium. Benny Woods, the hospital's director of chaplains at BBH, delivered three concise points: We can give God thanks for past accomplishments; we can enjoy a sense of His peace in the present; and we can look to the future with hope.

The hospital began with the gospel and a high-school essay. They inspired the dream of Jasper McPhail, the first Southern Baptist missionary to India, who eventually obtained permission

from the government to build a Baptist hospital.

With the general region chosen, Ralph Bethea arrived, searched for and chose the site—a dusty 13-acre strip of land.

John Wikman arrived in 1967 as the first surgeon who supervised the beginnings of the hospital—first as a clinic out of his home in Bangalore, then in a converted cow shed on the property.

"When we got here, we hit the ground with evangelism," Wikman recalled. "We had medical clinics in slum areas where our church work was going on."

BBH planted its first church in 1968 in Sonnen Halli, known as "Mosquito Village."

"Before we had the hospital, we couldn't go into the villages," Wikman said. "It opened the door to share the gospel."

As church planting progressed, See Bangalore hospital ... Page 6



CELEBRATION Bangalore Baptist Hospital's 40th anniversary celebration included dance, tree plantings, a lamp lighting and the return of former staff members who played key roles in the hospital's development over the years. (Photo by Will Stuart/IMB)

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# Baptist leaders hopeful as Scouts delay vote

By Michael Foust

Irving, Texas—Facing pressure from its supporters and members, the Boy Scouts of America's executive board announced last week it is delaying a decision on lifting its prohibition of gay Scout leaders and members until May, when it will put the matter before its 1,400 voting members.

The board was considering a proposal that would have replaced the national ban with a "local option" for local councils to determine the policy, potentially leaving a patchwork of different policies within the same city. Outside groups on both sides had criticized the proposal.

In a statement, the Boy Scouts announced that "after careful consideration and extensive dialogue within the scouting family, along with comments from those outside the organization," the board concluded that "due to the complexity of this issue, the organization needs time for a more deliberate review of its membership policy."

The organization further stated that the board directed its committees to engage Scout members and "listen to their perspectives and concerns." The board will "work on a resolution on membership standards" and present it to the 1,400 voting members at the national annual meeting in May.

Southern Baptist Convention President Fred Luter called the delay "encouraging news" and thanked believers nationwide for their prayers in the matter.

"I just can't help but think that the 'prayers of the righteous availeth much' in this situation," Luter said. "I don't think it's a coincidence that the decision was delayed."

SBC Executive Committee President Frank Page also applauded the move.

"While I wish they had put this to rest by voting to maintain their current policy, at least this gives all segments of the scouting family an opportunity to express their views to the scouting leadership," Page said. "I urge all Bible-believing Christians to continue to pray that the Boy Scouts will hold fast to the biblical principles of morality and righteousness when they revisit this issue in May."

Simultaneous to the vote, a prayer vigil and rally sponsored by Texas Values, an Austin-based conservative group, was held outside the Boy Scouts' national headquarters in Irving, Texas, drawing several hundred people, including Boy Scouts who were protesting the proposed change.

Chip Turner, chairman of the Boy Scouts' Religious Relations Committee, said Feb. 6 that he was pleased with the decision as it reflects a resolution passed by committees representing all 109,000 Boy Scout troops in the U.S. The resolution asked the executive board to table a vote on the matter pending further discussion.

WORLD Magazine reported that after the Boy Scouts of Canada lifted its ban on homosexual leaders in 1999, membership dropped by half over the next five years.

The Boy Scouts of America have lost at least three corporate sponsors in recent months because of the current policy: UPS, Intel and the Merck Foundation. All cited the Scouts' policy on homosexual leaders in their decisions. Also, two



**OPPOSED TO POLICY CHANGE** Boy Scouts from the Dallas area gathered at a rally Feb. 6 to show their support for the traditional policy of the Boy Scouts of America, which encourages them to be morally straight. The Boy Scouts currently do not allow homosexuals to serve as members or leaders. A vote to reverse that policy was tabled last week and will go before the full voting membership in May. (Photo by Jerry Pierce/Southern Baptist Texan)

prominent Boy Scouts board members—AT&T CEO Randall Stevenson and Ernst & Young CEO James Turley—also had said the Scouts should change their policy.

But the Boy Scouts' base remains traditional, with around 70 percent of all scouting units owned and operated by

faith-based organizations. The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints (Mormons) leads all religious organizations with 38,000 units and 420,000 participating youth, followed by the United Methodists and the Roman Catholic Church; Baptists are sixth. (BP)

## Pastor Dukes, 70, remembered as 'one of God's choice servants'

Beechmont—Wayne Dukes, a Kentucky Colonel and pastor of Mount Olivet Baptist Church in Lewisburg, who was known for his passionate love for the Lord, died Jan. 18. He was 70.

Scott Casebier, pastor of Ebenezer Baptist Church in Drakesboro, described Dukes as a humble servant of Christ who was much more than a preacher.

"He was one of God's choice servants," Casebier said. "He was one of those guys when you were around him you sensed that he loved the Lord and loved people. He just had a positive influence on those that knew him."

Dukes' walk with the Lord began at the age of 10 when he accepted Jesus Christ as his personal Savior. Nineteen

years later, Dukes committed his life to full-time ministry and preached his first sermon in 1971 at Forest Oak Baptist Church in Drakesboro.

Dukes would go on to lead several churches during his more than 40 years of ministry, including Mount Olivet Baptist Church, where he served as pastor for a total of seven years.

"Bro. Wayne had a true pastor's heart. Those he has pastored he taught how to love or to love again," said Travis Fox, pastor of Woodson Baptist Church in Powderly.

Dukes is survived by his wife, Shirley, and three daughters. Funeral services were held Jan. 21 at Ebenezer Baptist Church in Drakesboro. (WR)

## Plan would reduce D.C.'s role in SBC

Nashville, Tenn.—The Southern Baptist Convention Executive Committee will consider a proposal to fold the District of Columbia Baptist Convention into a larger region, reducing the number of Baptists in the nation's capital represented on the governing boards of SBC agencies and institutions.

A bylaw change scheduled for a first read-through by the Executive Committee at its Feb. 18-19 meeting, would pool churches in the D.C. convention with others in an expanded region, probably including those in the Baptist Convention of Maryland/Delaware, said Roger Oldham, the Executive Committee's vice president for convention relations.

Oldham said the proposed move is

largely administrative. He said only about 66 of the D.C. convention's 150 churches contribute through the Cooperative Program.

"There has been a concentration of trustees coming out of a handful of churches in the District of Columbia Baptist Convention," said Oldham—a disproportionate amount compared to other states and regions around the country, he added. The proposal is a way to achieve "a more equitable distribution of trustees," he said.

The Executive Committee will give fuller consideration of the bylaw change in June and, if adopted, recommend it for action at the SBC's annual meeting in June. (Virginia Religious Herald/ABP)

## Nichter to leave Recorder staff for Oldham paper

Louisville—The Western Recorder will bid farewell later this month to News Director Drew Nichter when he leaves to assume a new assignment as editor of the Oldham Era newspaper in La Grange. His last day with the Western Recorder will be Feb. 25.

"I've been honored to work alongside Kentucky Baptists during my time with the Western Recorder," Nichter said. "It's been a privilege to have others share their stories with me about how God has used them in their ministries to reach others for Christ."

Nichter, 35, an Oldham County native, has served with the Recorder since May 2007, performing a variety of editorial duties during his tenure, including editing, reporting and page design. Among the accolades bestowed on Nichter is a first-place award from Baptist Communicators Association in 2009 for his story about Kentucky Baptists' response to Hurricane Gustav evacuees in Louisville and a "Best Front Page" award from the Kentucky Press Association in 2011.

"I am excited to get the opportunity to lead my hometown newspaper. But I also know that I wouldn't have this opportunity if it wasn't for the one Kentucky Baptists have afforded me," Nichter said, adding he hopes readers will remember him for his fair reporting.

Editor Todd Deaton expressed mixed emotions about Nichter's departure. Deaton arrived at the Western Recorder in 2009, filling a vacancy left by previous editor, Trennis Henderson. Nichter was among several staff members who helped bridge the transition.

"We are sad for us, but we are delighted for him and Oldham County," Deaton said. "He will make an excellent editor for the county newspaper, and we wish him well. Drew not only was my right hand in making the Western Recorder an award-winning publication, but he also truly helped the pages of the Western Recorder to shine for our readers week in and week out. We are going to miss him greatly."

A farewell reception will be held in Nichter's honor Feb. 21 at 2 p.m. in the Marshall Board Room at the Kentucky Baptist Building in Louisville.

"We hope you will take a moment to thank Drew for his exceptional and dedicated service to Kentucky Baptists during these past five and a half years," Deaton said.

Nichter and his wife, Sarah have been married for 10 years and the couple have two daughters, Caroline, 6, and Sadie, 3. He is a graduate of Indiana University Southeast and a member of Phos Community Church in Centerfield. (WR)



Drew Nichter

# Ezell: Offering increase reflects 'unmatched' heart for missions

By Adam Miller

**San Diego**—North American Mission Board president Kevin Ezell expressed gratitude to Southern Baptists whose giving to the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering increased 1.9 percent in 2012.

The gain, Ezell said during the NAMB trustees' Feb. 5-6 meeting in San Diego, will translate into greater effectiveness in reaching North America for Christ.

The offering totaled \$57.2 million in 2012—the second year in a row for an increase.

"It's a humbling thing every day that we get to do what we do because of the sacrificial giving of Southern Baptists," Ezell said. "Their heart for missions is unmatched."

Trustees also approved Gary Frost as vice president of NAMB's Midwest region and of prayer and spiritual awakening initiatives (see related story). Frost, who is pastor of Evergreen Baptist Church in New York, is a former NAMB vice president. Steve Davis, who previously served as Midwest region vice president, now serves as vice president of NAMB's South region.

The trustee meeting was held in San Diego to spend time with NAMB church planting missionaries and to see their work firsthand during a tour the day before the business sessions. San Diego is one of 30 cities in NAMB's Send North America strategy to connect established churches with church plants.

Steve Bass, NAMB's West region vice president, told trustees how important their visit was to church planters and Southern Baptists.

"These planters will not soon forget," Bass said at the outset of the visit. "I think you're going to find out that you have some God-called and very sharp church planters who are proud to be a part of the Southern Baptist family."

Church planter Ben Pilgreen of Epic Church shared a devotion from Ecclesiastes. Epic Church, although only 2 years old and located in the heart of San Francisco, gave more than \$40,000 to missions in 2012. Epic already is on track to give more than \$67,000 in 2013.



**CALIFORNIA CHURCH PLANTER** Victor Schloss, pastor of The Body Church in Spring Valley, Calif., describes his ministry to North American Mission Board trustees in conjunction with their Feb. 5-6 meeting in San Diego. (Photo by John Swain/NAMB)

## In other business:

■ Trustees approved Al Gilbert as vice president of evangelism. He will continue to serve as executive director of LoveLoud, NAMB's ministry evangelism initiative. Gilbert reported on NAMB's Hurricane Sandy disaster relief activities as well as on preparations for Crossover 2013, which will take place in Houston leading up to the Southern Baptist Convention's annual meeting in June.

■ Carlos Ferrer, NAMB's chief financial officer and vice president of mission support, reported to trustees that NAMB is in the "strongest position financially" as it has been in his 20 years of service.

■ Trustees heard a report from NAMB's chaplaincy group, which noted that Southern Baptist chaplain ministry resulted in 97,200 gospel presentations in the last quarter of 2012, along with 22,047 professions of faith and 4,413 baptisms. All three categories saw gains over the previous year.

Ezell, in his address to trustees, again sounded a call for 15,000 new churches in the next 10 years so that Southern Baptists can begin to make gains on the SBC's church-to-population deficit that

has developed over the last century. Ezell also noted that NAMB is partnering with state Baptist conventions to help revitalize churches that are plateaued, declining or near death.

If 15,000 churches are to be started in the next decade, Ezell said thousands of new missionaries will be needed. NAMB's missionary "farm system" is designed to intentionally discover new missionaries, develop them for service and deploy them to the field.

"We're raising a generation of young missionaries who are bold and absolutely believe in missions and absolutely believe in church planting. They are intent on penetrating lostness," Ezell said.

The NAMB president challenged trustees and all Southern Baptists to adopt NAMB's new "10:2" prayer push based on Luke 10:2. At 10:02 (a.m. or p.m.) each day, Ezell asked that Southern Baptists pray to the Lord of the harvest to send more workers into the field.

"We're in desperate need and these are desperate times," Ezell said. "God has allowed us to focus, and we need to make the most of it." (NAMB/BP)

## NYC pastor Frost to lead NAMB's Midwest region

**San Diego**—North American Mission Board trustees approved the appointment of Gary Frost as the board's new Midwest region vice president during their Feb. 6 meet-

ing in San Diego. Frost is returning to NAMB's staff from New York where he has been a pastor and leader of a local association of Southern Baptist churches.

Frost, an Ohio native, said he is "deeply humbled by



Gary Frost

such an opportunity to minister in the midst of SBC life."

Frost served as NAMB's vice president of the strategic partnerships group from 2001-04.

The move is something of a homecoming for Frost. He spent 18 years as pastor of Rising Star Baptist Church in Youngstown, Ohio. He plans to locate near Cleveland for his new role in spearheading efforts in the Midwest to start new churches and mobilize existing churches to become involved in church planting.

"I love the Midwest and I came from Ohio, so we are excited about the move. And people in Cleveland face many of the same issues we face in New York, Frost said. "I hope I will be able to draw on those experiences and apply them to reaching new people and helping plant new churches in the Midwest."

In addition to his vice presidential role, Frost will provide leadership for NAMB's prayer initiatives.

Frost and his wife Lynette have been married for 36 years. (NAMB/BP)

## Estate planning

Continued from page 1

Southern Baptist Foundation.

"While the research shows pastors believe the estate planning of Christians should include gifts for the future health and financial ability of a church or ministry, four out of five pastors—86 percent—have not provided their congregation with seminars or even basic information such as fliers and notices on estate planning in the past year," Peek said.

Nine percent of Southern Baptist churches surveyed did report providing information on estate planning, and 3 percent have held a seminar on estate planning. Seven percent indicate they publish notices that gifts of non-liquid assets (such as stocks, real estate and cars) are accepted.

Pastors also were asked if their churches had three things in place related to estate planning: 3 percent say

they have an endowment, 10 percent have a process for the disposition of non-liquid assets given as gifts; and 12 percent have a scholarship fund. Eighty percent have none of these.

The study also revealed that while 72 percent of pastors agree that "Christians should include a legacy gift to a church or ministry in their estate plan," 40 percent of pastors do not know if their congregation would want to contribute to the church with estate planning. Another 29 percent say their congregation would not want to contribute to the church with estate planning.

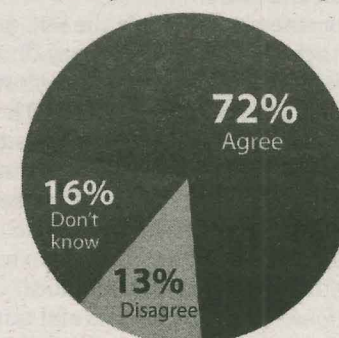
The LifeWay Research study shows that Southern Baptist pastors are much more inclined to preach on the importance of giving from one's income than one's assets. Eighty-five percent of pastors agree they "regularly preach on believers giving a portion of their income to God's work." This compares to 59 percent of pastors who agree they regularly preach on believers giving a portion of their assets to God's work.

According to the Chronicle of Philanthropy, the average charitable estate gift in 2010 was \$70,000. LifeWay Research asked pastors how they would most want to use these funds if they were to receive a gift of that size. Among those listed, pastors would most want to use such a gift for capital improvements (26 percent); 15 percent would "pay off church debt"; 10 percent would begin a new ministry; 8 percent would plant a church; 8 percent would hire staff; 7 percent would want to improve the church's cash position. Other answers included purchase land (4 percent), purchase equipment for existing ministries (4 percent) and other capital investments (3 percent). Only 1 percent of pastors surveyed would create an endowment.

"The importance of being prepared and having a plan for the future cannot be understated," Peek said. "It is clear pastors have a desire to serve their congregations in the area of giving and to foster an environment of generosity that benefits future generations."

Among Southern Baptist Pastors:

I believe Christians should include a legacy gift to a church or ministry in their estate plan.



Note: Total not 100% due to rounding.  
LifeWayResearch.com

LifeWay RESEARCH

"Two practical steps pastors can take to cultivate this type of thinking are to put a process in place to accept and dispose of gifts of non-liquid assets and to make available information on estate planning," Peek added. (LW/BP)

## Cooperating to do more

With my 6-year-old daughter Cai practicing her reading, I recently was reacquainted with the story of the lion and the mouse. If you recall, the mouse somehow convinces the lion that the day will come when he will give aid to the lion. So, the lion foregoes the mouse as a snack and sets him free. Soon enough, the mouse sets the lion free by chewing through the lion's ropes and freeing him from a trap.

### Together We are the KBC



Paul Chitwood

The Scriptures teach us, "Two are better than one, because they have a good reward for their toil" (Ecclesiastes 4:9). Even partnerships that seem unlikely and, at least at first, very one sided, can pay significant dividends to everyone involved.

The more time I spend in my role as your executive director, the more I appreciate the partnerships of Kentucky Baptists which are paying huge dividends.

For example, each year the Kentucky Baptist Convention partners with Baptist Healthcare System to minister to ministry couples in Kentucky through our Shepherding the Shepherd event. According to feedback from participants, this event continues to bless and reinvigorate ministry couples year after year.

The International Mission Board's EMBRACE Conference, hosted by the KBC on the campus of Southern Seminary, is another illustration of three partnering agencies coming together for the sake of getting the gospel to the unreached and unengaged around the world.

Likewise, the KBC's four upcoming "Seminary for a Day" events are a model of partnership aimed at equipping ministers and leaders in KBC churches. Consider the long list of partners who have come together: the North American Mission Board, LifeWay, Clear Creek Baptist Bible College, University of the Cumberland, Campbellsville University, Mid-Continent University, Southern Seminary, and, of course, the KBC. I am anxious to see the impact these events will have as the synergy of so many partners is focused upon strengthening ministry in local churches.

Other ongoing partnerships are those between the KBC and local associations to undertake a long list of kingdom ministries including church planting, evangelistic events, leader training, church revitalization and more.

The partnership between the KBC and the Kentucky Woman's Missionary Union is another illustration of impacting lostness through cooperating together. The WMU works hard to promote and ensure the success of the Eliza Broadus Offering for State Missions that now totals more than \$1 million dollars each year. The WMU then disperses that offering to ministries of the KBC Mission Board, local associations, state missionaries and others to resource vital kingdom ministries.

I have only scratched the surface, but I hope you are able to see that so much of the kingdom work taking place in Kentucky is only possible because Kentucky Baptists and Southern Baptists are committed to cooperating together.

Paul Chitwood is executive director of the Kentucky Baptist Convention.

## Valentine's Day checkup: Are you 'shepherding' your spouse?

The annual "Shepherding the Shepherd" conference tends to be particularly helpful and encouraging to ministers and their spouses. It's a huge reason the event is so popular with many Kentucky Baptist ministers.

At this year's event in Lexington, Hayes Wicker, pastor of First Baptist Church of Naples, Fla., spoke on "how a pastor can shepherd his wife," drawing from Psalms 107, 78 and 23. He reminded pastors that "the most important sheep in your flock is your wife." In a breakout session, he then offered a "shepherding checklist," and since it's nearing Valentine's Day, I thought it was worth sharing with all Kentucky Baptist couples. Here are some of the marriage-evaluation questions he posed:

### Am I trusting the Lord to shepherd me?

"Sheep need 'the Good Shepherd,'" Wicker began. "The issue is not my I.Q., but my D.Q.," he said. "Your 'dependence quotient' is the big question."

### Am I able to give to my wife what I have already received?

"If I am not eating from the green pastures and drinking from the still waters, how can I shepherd my wife?" he asked. "I've got to taste for myself and see that the Lord is good."

### Am I trying to meet needs in her that only God can meet?

The myth of happiness in marriage is that someone is going to fulfill my needs and make me happy. Then, of course, it doesn't happen, because no one can do what only God can do, Wicker explained. "Do the math," he quipped. "One sinner plus one sinner equals two sinners—double trouble."

### Am I experiencing God's peace and leading my wife into green pastures?

"If I am not at peace, there will be conflict in the home; that's why the word says, 'Be still and know that I am God,'" Wicker noted. "Cease striving. The green pastures and still waters only come about when they are experienced by the husband, as well as the wife."

### Am I personally in need of restoration?

A "caste down" sheep often referred to in the Psalms likely was one that had lain down, rolled over and was unable to get back on its feet, he explained. Describing how a shepherd would gently lift the sheep and right it again, Wicker affirmed, "The Lord has to restore us; He does it all the time."

### Am I leading for the Lord or for my own glory?

"In business, they talk about branding, trademarking your talents, what you can do that no one else can. ... That's

the world," he observed. "But I lead by laying down my life for my wife and my children."

### Am I preparing my wife for aging and death?

"We all are getting older," he lamented, sharing that he and his wife now are grandparents. "You have to remind your wife: 'You are still beautiful in my sight.' 'You're No. 1.' 'I will stay with you for the rest of our lives.'"

### Am I properly responding to conflict and walking in the power of the Spirit?

"We spend three or four years learning how to talk; then we spend the rest of our lives learning what not to say," Wicker joked. "Movement produces friction; friction produce heat; heat produces fire; fire burns up a marriage," he said, pointing out how unresolved conflict takes one away from "green pastures" and "still waters."

### Am I experiencing the overflow or the undertow?

"Ministry takes it out of you. You are constantly giving and giving," he said, suggesting a need for couples to be recharged periodically.

Wicker shared about a humorous adventure that he had some time ago while on a trail ride in New Mexico, when he tried to get a big horn ram to eat some rock salt out of his hand. As he reached out to pet the ram, it backed up as if it was about to buck. The words of Charles Lowery came to his mind, Wicker chuckled: "It's better for people to say, 'doesn't he run fast,' than 'doesn't he look natural.'" But, the ram then did something Wicker didn't expect: It turned around and bucked the ewe that was behind it.

At times we can be "ram tough," when we should be "ewe-sensitive" to our wives, Wicker observed. Cautioning that there are "ram-ifications" to one's actions, he counseled husbands to learn to be more sensitive. "I don't want to be like that ram on the hillside in New Mexico. I don't want to turn around and butt my wife with my horns," he said, adding that one of the most important things in any marriage is to be humble and teachable.

More little relational gems were scattered throughout Wicker's words: Overcome failure by working to restore your spouse; live a pure life; learn to give thanks; be understanding; affirm her worth; give the gift of time; be relentlessly encouraging; learn to serve by meeting her needs; control your anger; be patient with the other's shortcomings; develop contentment.

As you consider what to give your spouse this Valentine's Day, keep these gems in mind. They are more precious than rubies, more beautiful than roses and sweeter than chocolates. And, for a quick marriage refresher, you can hear more at [www.KyBaptist.org/category/audio](http://www.KyBaptist.org/category/audio).

## After Thought

By Todd Deaton



## Celebrating baptisms

When a new believer is baptized, it's a momentous event; a life has been changed for eternity. Try these fresh ideas to make baptism a true celebration:

- Express true joy. Baptism is a holy ordinance, but it's also a joyful event. I love it when the church breaks into applause.

- Get personal. One small church invites its entire congregation to gather around the baptism. Some churches invite family or friends to stand during baptism.

### Fresh Ideas



Diana Davis

- Invite everyone. Create a Facebook event. Provide printed invitations so the new Christian can invite everyone he or she knows. Put a notice on the church website.

- Assign members to update paint color, art, towels, hair dryer, etc., to ensure the baptism dressing area is nice enough for a new "child of the King."

- Prepare mementos. Take a quality photo to post to the church website. Present a photo and baptismal certificate in a nice frame.

- Keep celebrating. Encourage his or

her small group, family and friends to plan an after-party at home or go out to celebrate. Plan an all-church fellowship with stories and Scriptures shared by those who influenced the new Christian.

- And to remind the church of those eternity-impacting baptisms, create a music video of the year's baptisms to watch in December.

You've had no recent baptisms at your church? Put down this article and go invite someone who doesn't know Christ to church. Then, get ready to celebrate.

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

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## Today's church: A generation of fans, not disciples

By Marty Comer

George Barna's research group explored how religion in America changed over the 20-year period from 1991-2011. Some of his findings were quite disturbing. They discovered that since 1991:

- The number of Americans reading the Bible during a typical week declined by 5 percent.
- Volunteering in the church has dropped by 8 percent.
- Sunday School attendance has dropped by 8 percent.
- And the number of Americans who believed that the Bible was "totally accurate in all of the principles it teaches" has dropped from 46 percent in 1991 to 38 percent in 2011.

Further evidence of the decline of religion in America comes from Stephen Prothero, a professor at Boston University. He gave a religious literacy quiz to his college students. These young minds, brilliant enough to gain enrollment to the university, didn't do so well. Forty percent failed to accurately answer the question: "Where, according to the Bible, was Jesus born?" When asked to list as many of the Ten Commandments as they could, the students, on average, could only list 4.6 of them.

When he gave the test in 2007, Protestant students' final grades averaged 44 out of 100. Catholic students' final grades averaged 52 out of 100. Neither were sterling, but it could be viewed as somewhat surprising that the Protestant students, who theoretically grew up in churches that emphasized the authority of Scripture, did worse than those from the Catholic tradition.

What is going on? Or perhaps more accurately, what is going wrong in the church today?

I was going through some old files of class lectures from my seminary days recently and came across a quote from one of my history professors. He was discussing the impact that the para-church movement and the electronic church was having on Baptist church life.

Now, you must remember these notes were from a class I took in the late 1980s. In that period para-church groups like Campus Crusade for Christ, the Navigators and others were gaining influence. Also, the electronic church was beginning its rise to prominence. Television ministries (such as Jerry Falwell, Jimmy Swaggert and Oral Roberts) were thriving and Christian radio was increasingly available in almost every city in America.

And in that context, my professor made a statement that I believe was prophetic. He said those movements had "produced a generation of fans rather than disciples." Fans? Absolutely.

His thesis was that the local church was the victim of these "ministries of popularity" and that it is always in the context of the local New Testament church that disciples are produced.

Jesus never wanted a legion of fans. His desire was

that we be His disciples. He isn't interested in whether we are fans of a popular author, followers of a preacher or teacher or fans of a musical group at the top of the charts. You can be a fan without developing as a disciple.

Fans follow what is popular. Fans are in it for the fun. Fans don't care for things like sacrifice and service. Fans want the excitement and the thrill, but when the thrill is gone, so are the fans. If you don't believe that, ask any recently fired college football coach and he will tell you that fans are fickle and when the bandwagon stops rolling, those on the bandwagon usually jump off.

Jesus wants disciples, not fans. According to Dallas Willard, author of "The Great Omission," the word "disciple" is used 269 times in the New Testament. In contrast, he points out that the word "Christian" is only found three times in the New Testament. Perhaps it says something about the state of the church in America today that we are much more likely to call ourselves a "Christian" than a "disciple."

The responsibility of the church is to go and make disciples and to teach "them to obey everything I have commanded you" (see Matthew 28:19-20). Yet, most churches are failing in that task. Willard says, "I do not know of a denomination or local church in existence that has as its goal to teach its people to do everything Jesus said." Shame on us.

Perhaps that is another reason why, in America, Jesus today has more fans than disciples.

It is the duty of the church to focus on disciple making. We are not called to draw a crowd or to entertain goats, but to feed the sheep and to produce disciples.

Fans enter the church's front door and soon exit the back door, never to be seen again. Fans attend when the program is exciting, but vanish when there is service to be rendered in Christ's name. Fans enjoy the shouting but not the serving, the victories but not the defeat, and want to share in the success but buckle under at the mention of sacrifice.

At the height of His popularity, Jesus had thousands of fans. At Calvary, the disciples were few indeed.

Church, let's refocus our attention on producing a generation of disciples, not fans. That job can only be done in the local church as we reach, teach, train, love and grow together to be more like Christ.

And when disciples are produced, they will read God's word, they will volunteer for Christian service, they will attend Sunday School, and they will know the answers to some of the most fundamental questions in the Bible.

We have two options: (1) We can curse the darkness of our confused generation, or (2) we can light a candle and show those in our confused culture the way to Christ. I say, let's light our world!

Marty Comer is pastor of Sand Ridge Baptist Church in Lexington, Tenn. Reprinted with permission from the Tennessee Baptist & Reflector.

### COMMENTARY

## Is debt controlling you?

By Don Spencer

Debt continues to be one of the major financial problems for many people today. If you do not control debt, you become a slave to it. You can never have financial freedom as long as you are a slave to debt.

Accumulating debt is so easy. You can get a five-year car loan and have a period of time when you owe more than the car is worth. Home equity loans make for easy debt. Pre-approved credit cards are much too easy to obtain.

Recently I have heard of people doing debt-consolidation loans involving their mortgages, and they end up owing up to 125 percent of their house value. This is terribly bad financial planning, and sets one up for a major financial disaster.

Many people continue to add debt as long as they feel they can handle the monthly payments. Have you added a debt based on looking at the monthly payment without looking at how that debt affects your total financial picture? If so, you are a slave to those debts.

In today's world, you can easily get over your head in uncontrolled debt. The idea of "buy now and pay later" is appealing and allows us to enjoy things we cannot buy with cash today. Remember that borrowing money carries with it many potential financial dangers. Here are a few:

- Buying on credit increases the cost of the items we purchase.
- Buying on credit assumes one's future ability to repay the debt.
- Buying on credit can create a bonded relationship to the lender—a relationship never to the advantage of the person borrowing.
- Repaying debt can seriously lower your future lifestyle.
- As debt takes increasing control, it creates more stress, which can cause health problems and affect your ability to earn. This, in turn, decreases your ability to repay the debt, which then adds more stress. It's an endless cycle.
- Excessive debt can damage your credit rating, restricting your ability to borrow in the future.
- Loans with a variable rate can create substantially higher future payments—more than were planned.

Use extreme caution in taking on debt. Be aware of the added costs. Avoid the debt trap. You can never have financial freedom as long as you are a slave to debt.

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



## Closing the back door: From entitlement mentality to servant mentality

By Thom Rainer

A number of persons and organizations have studied the phenomenon of the church "back door," the metaphorical way we describe people leaving the church. And there will always be relocations or personal crises. We should recognize those issues, though we can respond to the latter more than the former.

But all the research of which I am aware, including my own, return to one theme to explain the exodus of church members: a sense of some need not being filled. In other words, these members have ideas of what a local congregation should provide for them, and they leave because those have not been realized.

We recognize there are many legitimate claims by members of unfulfilled expectations that can undoubtedly be the fault of the local church and its leaders.

But many times, probably more than we would like to believe, a church

member leaves a local body because he or she has a sense of entitlement. I would therefore suggest that the main reason people leave a church is because they have an entitlement mentality rather than a servant mentality.

Look at some direct quotes from exit interviews of people who left congregations:

- "The worship leader refused to listen to me about the music I wanted."
- "The pastor did not feed me."
- "No one from my church visited me."
- "I was not about to support the building program they wanted."
- "They moved the worship service times and it messed up my schedule."
- "I told my pastor to go visit my cousin and he never did."

Please hear me clearly: Church members should expect some level of ministry and concern. But, for a myriad of reasons, we have turned church membership into country club membership: Pay your dues

and you are entitled to certain benefits.

The biblical basis of church membership is clear. In 1 Corinthians 12:12-31, Paul describes church members not by what they should receive in a church, but by the ministry they should give.

The solution to closing the back door—at least a major part of it—is therefore to move members from an entitlement mentality to a servant mentality.

Here are a few practical steps to help close the back door by changing the membership mentality:

**Inform church members.** I would conjecture that more than half of church members do not have a biblical understanding about church membership. Providing that information in a new members' class can move an entire congregation toward a servant mentality.

**Raise expectations.** We have dumbed down church membership in many congregations to where it has little meaning.

Clarify expectations of members.

**Mentor members.** Take two or three members and mentor them to become biblical church members. After a season, ask them to mentor two or three as well. Let the process grow exponentially.

**Train members.** Almost all pastors agree that their role is to train and equip members. But almost three-fourths of these pastors have no plans on how they will train them (see Ephesians 4:11-13).

**Encourage small groups.** Those in Sunday School classes and small groups are more likely to be informed and functioning church members. In other words, there is a much greater likelihood of a member with a servant mentality to be in a small group than not.

What are you doing in your church to close the back door? What are you doing to move members from an entitlement mentality to a servant mentality? (BP)

Thom Rainer is the president of LifeWay Christian Resources.

### FIRST PERSON

# Bangalore hospital marks 40 years

Continued from page 1

architects had designed plans for a 200-bed general hospital when an unforeseen messenger arrived.

Franklin Fowler, medical consultant with the then-Foreign Mission Board, brought news that the board would prefer an outpatient medical clinic rather than a hospital. Wikman took Fowler to the state health minister to discuss the proposal.

The minister stated that Southern Baptists received an invitation to build a hospital and anything less would probably result in a revocation of the invitation.

"That meeting saved the hospital," Wikman said. The architects altered the original plans to begin with 80 beds instead of 200.

Bangalore Baptist Hospital broke ground on Feb. 27, 1971, and celebrated its grand opening on Jan. 15, 1973, with Wikman in charge of hospital administration.

Arriving in 1974, William Mason, who later took over administration of the hospital, said, "As we were putting the finishing touches on the hospital, I wanted a Christian symbol to put on the wall."

Today, the carved plaque with the Scripture—"I am the way, the truth and the life"—can still be seen in the hospital.

## Growing together

In keeping the hospital doors open, Rebekah Naylor dedicated her life—beginning in 1973—to Bangalore Baptist Hospital. "I and BBH sort of grew up together," she said.

The first day Naylor went to work, there were 12 patients.

As BBH expanded, Naylor arrived early and stayed late—performing surgeries, delivering babies, teaching doctors, mentoring one on one, training staff, taking up administration, planting churches and more.

"I loved what I was doing, so I was happy in the work," Naylor said.

Among her many accomplishments, she served as the hospital's director, trained physicians and administrators, and began the nursing program; yet she managed to make time to write her family every other day.

"Letter writing was just what you did, and I did a lot of that," Naylor said. "It recorded history."

During the early years, Van Williams came to develop the pediatric department in 1975 and served nine years alongside Naylor.

By 1976, the hospital began to sponsor students from the Christian Medical College in Vellore for medical training.

"One of the students we sponsored is Dr. Naveen Thomas" and another is the current chief executive officer, Alexander Thomas, Williams said. "That's what's helped build the hospital staff—by sponsoring these students."

One of the turning points in the hospital's history was the request—which came to Naylor in 1986—by the mission board to sell the hospital. "That was a very bad time for us," she recalled.

After three years, the IMB handed over management to the Christian Medical College and on Jan. 1, 1989, a

partnership formed among the Foreign Mission Board, CMC and the leadership at the hospital.

In retrospect, "I think the hospital could never be what it is today without that," Naylor said. "God turned a seemingly bad thing into something good."

Once the partnership formed, Naylor said she quickly learned how to raise funds in order to find \$400,000 to build a private wing, which opened a couple of years later in 1991. "I'm still raising money today for the hospital," she noted.

The hospital's current CEO, Alex Thomas, became the first houseman (junior doctor) under Naylor.

During the anniversary event last month, Thomas said, "It is my pleasure (to introduce Naylor) because I had the privilege of serving under her," and he recalled with laughter having to be at the hospital at 6:30 a.m. every day.

## International reach

With the growth of competitive hospitals nearby, Bangalore Baptist Hospital began to train medical students from Malaysia. It also has focused on making every division more patient focused; keeping each department aware of its finances; and instituting performance-based salaries.

Today, BBH is considering additional private beds, increasing its intensive



**NEW UNIT OPENED** Bill Mason (right), the first administrator of Bangalore Baptist Hospital in India, physician Derek Mendonca (left) and Mendonca's colleagues, cut the ribbon for the hospital's new plastic surgery unit. It joins the many specialties, clinics and services the hospital offers its near 200,000 annual patients by its 750 staff and students. (Photos by Will Stuart/IMB)

care beds, adding a nine-story hostel for the staff, and "looking at whether we need to start a medical college," Thomas said.

Even as BBH leaders look to the future, former CEOs Naylor, Williams, Mason and Wikman traveled to the hospital's anniversary with memories of the past. Hospital leaders honored their special guests in traditional Indian fashion with the draping of shawls.

The honorees cut ribbons during their visit to inaugurate a new

auditorium annex, hand surgery unit and plastic surgery unit. Before cutting the ribbon, Mason said, "This is the first time I have been back to Bangalore Baptist Hospital in 35 years. I am absolutely stunned."

That evening, a lamp lighting and a special dance honored the visitors with a cultural flare.

The anniversary celebration concluded days later with the planting of 40 trees, one for each year of the hospital's existence. A groundbreaking ceremony was held for a new nurses' hostel, and guests shared their own stories of the hospital.

A final testimony by Michael Dean, pastor of Travis Avenue Baptist Church in Fort Worth, Texas, brought the gathering to a close.

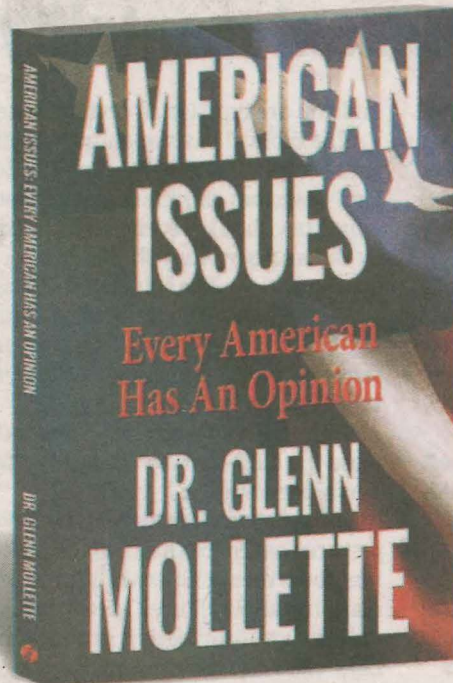
During one of his trips to BBH, Dean visited room after room, prayed with the staff and shared the gospel. One man, who was not doing well, accepted Christ as his Savior during that visit. The next day when Dean returned to the man's room, the bed was empty.

"In the night, he went to heaven," Dean said. "That man is in heaven today because of the ministry of Bangalore Baptist Hospital." (IMB/BP)



## HONORED

Rebekah Naylor (standing), in her nearly 40 years at the Bangalore Baptist Hospital in India, performed innumerable surgeries, delivered countless babies, trained physicians and administrators, served as director and began the nursing program. She returned to the hospital for its 40th anniversary celebration.



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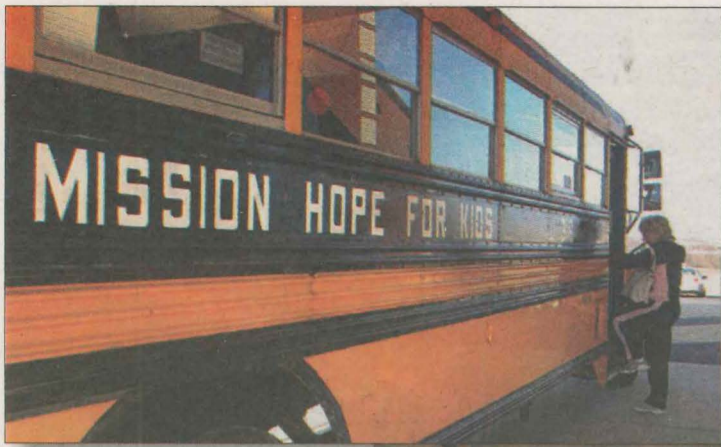


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# IMAGINE CONFERENCE 2013



■ **RIGHT** Nelle Thomas (center), of Mission Hope for Kids in Elizabethtown, uses large cue cards taped to windows throughout the bus to teach a Bible verse on the "Amazing Bus Ride Experiment" at Imagine Saturday, Feb. 9, in Bardstown. Thomas and her helper, Shirley Riggs (in green shirt), taught creative ways to conduct a church bus program on wheels. Adults participating in games and songs received golden tokens that were later exchanged for candy; much like the children who regularly use the Mission Hope bus ministry.

■ **ABOVE** Children's ministry leaders had two opportunities to join the "Amazing Bus Ride Experiment." Mission Hope for Kids is a program provided for school aged children of low income families. They provide meals and opportunities for educational and spiritual growth.



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**LEARNING & LAUGHING** Participants act out scenes from the parable of the sower found in Matthew 13 during the "Interactive Learning" break-out session. Shelia Pence (second from right), of Panther Creek Baptist Church in Owensboro, pretended to be the seeds that "fell among thorns, which grew up and choked the plants" (Matt. 13:7). Her acting partners consisted of Vicki Graham (left), of Friendship Baptist Church in Hodgenville; Nickole Underwood, of Buck Creek Baptist Church in Calhoun; and Crystal Townsend (right), of Northside Baptist Church in Elizabethtown.

**SECRETS OF SUCCESS**  
John Bennett (left), preschool and children's ministry consultant for Kentucky Baptist Convention, hosts a question/answer segment with Bruce and Josie Callahan about their success at children's ministry leaders at Hazel Baptist Church in Hazel during the Imagine conference. The ministry couple, who grew the number of children regularly attending church exponentially, stressed the importance of building relationships with both children and parents through displays of compassion and genuine concern.



## One of those days, part 2

### Recent day filled with number of blessings, obvious & anonymous

The last blessing of the day was the most spiritually and emotionally involved. It concerned Serena, an adopted international student who has very real issues to overcome.

I have had Serena in class and know that she is a hard worker, but English is her third language and it doesn't come easily. Because English is such a struggle, the other students sometimes find it difficult to relate to her. There is a real language barrier which has created a very lonely child, in spite of the smile she will flash at you if you give her a little bit of positive attention and encouragement.

Another challenge Serena faces every day is that of believing that God loves her. Although she is a Christian, her pre-adoption experience of losing her parents and grandparents by death and then having been passed from one family member to another as an unwanted responsibility has left its scars.

It was those scars which became very obvious on this day of blessings, for Serena had written a note to her biology teacher—after she had first written a note to God, asking Him why He had made her to not ever have any friends and to feel so dark and lonely inside. The biology teacher had taken the issue seriously, but because of non-negotiable, pressing responsibilities involving other students, she couldn't do more than pass the note and her concern along to me while I was in the middle of a conference with one of the assistant principals about the needs of yet another student.

When I finally had the time to get personally involved, I first talked with

the teacher and then with our dean of girls. Together, the dean and I sat down with Serena and began to try to minister to her spiritual and emotional needs. After giving her the opportunity to affirm that she was, in fact, a Christian, we read the Scriptures to show her that

God loved her, forgave her, gave her eternal life, had promised to never abandon her, knew all about her and had a good plan for her life.

Next, we asked Serena what had caused her to feel so sad on that particular day and write such a note to God and to her teacher. After her initial reluctance passed, she gradually told us the painful story: She had

never had a boy as a friend (not a "boy-friend"), so she had approached one of the American boys whom she knew to be kind and whom she thought would understand if she tried to talk with him. Sadly, he was put off by the entire situation and his reaction caused the nearby students to start laughing and making fun of Serena. As a result, Serena was devastated and felt that God never intended for her to have a real friend.

The dean of girls and I both tried to help Serena see the event from other points of view and turn her attention to other possibilities for fun and fellowship. Thankfully, both of us knew one of the female students who had been trying to befriend Serena and have a weekly time of devotion and prayer with her. When it turned out that this friend could be with Serena at free time, the prickly and precarious situation turned out to be a blessing for Serena and for me.

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

#### This is Oneida



Paul Davidson

## Clear Creek Baptist Church

### Recent mission trip remembered for church planted a world away

I recently returned from a mission trip to "the other side of the world." It has been a blessing for me to take multiple trips to this area to work with International Mission Board missionaries who have served in the area for many years. I always enjoy making the trips with Clear Creek alumni, Doug Criswell and Ronnie Owens.

The focus of our trips always includes doing evangelism in areas where the gospel has never been shared with this people group. We also conduct a Bible conference for pastors and church leaders who are serving in churches throughout the region. We use this time to share leadership and discipleship principles that these leaders can use in their churches.

Many of the pastors and church leaders travel more than 200 miles by bicycle just to attend the three-day conference. It is always exciting when we go back the next year to see how these pastors have taken what we have taught them and used it in churches they serve.

This year we worked in another area

where the gospel had never been shared. We saw many accept Christ as their Savior. We also were able to plant a new church in one of the area villages where we were working. One of the established pastors in the region will begin working with the people in the area. I am looking forward to hearing about the growth that has taken place when we return next year.

One of the neat things we were able to do in this new church was to teach the meaning of baptism and the Lord's Supper in the first church service. We had a baptismal service and baptized 42 new believers in the creek that runs through the village. We also conducted the church's first Lord's Supper service.

The village chiefs wanted to honor the work we were doing for the Lord by calling the church Clear Creek Baptist Church since a creek runs through their village and Clear Creek Baptist Bible College was involved with the work.

Now there is a Clear Creek Baptist Church on the other side of the world!

*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



**A CAMPUS REBORN** An aerial view of Union University's recovery since the February 2008 tornado. (Union University photo)

## Union University celebrates renewal five years after tornado

By Tim Ellsworth

**Jackson, Tenn.**—Union University students, faculty, staff, alumni and friends celebrated God's goodness and providence on the five-year anniversary of a tornado that destroyed much of the campus Feb. 5.

"Our purpose in gathering tonight is not to be nostalgic," Union President David Dockery said. "What we're doing tonight is something very biblical, which is to remember."

The service featured testimonies from students, a devotional from Dockery and singing and prayer in Union's G.M. Savage Memorial Chapel in Jackson, Tenn.

The EF-4 tornado that hammered Union on Feb. 5, 2008, caused about \$40 million in damage, leveling 17 buildings and trapping dozens of students in collapsed apartments. Fifty-one students went to the hospital for treatment, nine of them with serious injuries. But despite the damage, no lives were lost.

"We prayed diligently and desperately beginning that night for God to bring renewal out of rubble, to bring restoration out of ruin, and He has answered our prayers," Dockery said.

Kevin Furniss, one of the students trapped in the Watters Commons building that night, recalled his rescue. Furniss and several friends were buried under nearly 25 feet of rubble for several hours before rescue workers were able to free them.

"We began to pray," Furniss said. "We began to sing hymns and give thanks to God for protecting us to that point. ... We didn't really feel like we had much hope, to be honest."

Furniss said he remembered hearing the chainsaws cutting through the debris and smelling the gasoline, until

he was finally able to stick his hand into the cold night air and feel a rescue worker grab it.

"It felt like the first time that I received Christ and salvation—the feeling of knowing that I no longer was a part of my sin and my filth, and God has rescued me from that," Furniss said.

Danny Song was another former Union student who was trapped in a different part of the same building as Furniss. As the tornado ripped through and crushed the structure, Song was thrown to the ground and a couch was blown and wedged next to him—propping up a concrete wall that otherwise would have crushed him.

"I have heard, and I've been tempted to feel that, man, I must be pretty great for God to have spared me," Song said. "I must have either done something great or am about to do something great, because God spared me."

"It's just a recent realization that it wasn't about me at all," Song continued. "It wasn't about us. It's just because God's good. God's not good because He saved me; God saved me because He's good. It's just that the works of God might be displayed in us."

Dockery said that the original hopes in the days after the tornado were that the campus could be rebuilt within five years. Two years later, in February 2010, Union celebrated the completion of the Bowld Student Commons—the last facility that was destroyed by the tornado to be rebuilt.

"That's the ultimate story tonight—that God is good, and God did something here in our midst that only God can do," Dockery said. "He did something for us that we could not do for ourselves. Just as He saved us in Christ, so He brought renewal to this campus." (Union/BP)

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**Bible Crosswords**

By Evelyn Boyington

**Across**

- 1 KJV verb
- 5 Mouthfuls of chewing gum
- 9 Linking verb
- 12 Tribe of Israel (var., N.T. spelling)
- 13 Son of Rehoboam (1 Chronicles 3:10)
- 14 Body of water, in Boulogne
- 15 "Can any understand the \_\_\_\_ of the clouds?" (Job 36:29)
- 18 Note on the diatonic scale
- 19 Parched
- 20 Diminutive ending (pl.)
- 22 "The Lord is thy \_\_\_\_ upon thy right hand" (Psalm 121:5)
- 25 Printer's measure
- 27 Of flying (prefix)
- 28 "The lot is cast into the \_\_\_\_" (Proverbs 16:33)
- 29 Misplace
- 31 Subject of Kilmer poem
- 33 "That through your mercy they also may \_\_\_\_ mercy" (Romans 11:31)
- 35 Boat ends
- 37 "The \_\_\_\_ of God is eternal life" (Romans 6:23)
- 38 It can be cold and hard
- 40 When Columbus is feted (abbr.)
- 41 Stagger
- 43 "\_\_\_\_ with thine adversary quickly" (Matthew 5:25)
- 45 "They could not drink of the waters of \_\_\_\_" (Exodus 15:23)
- 46 "It is a \_\_\_\_ thing that the king requireth" (Daniel 2:11)
- 48 Workout zone (sing.)
- 49 The act of washing out or flushing
- 54 Crafty
- 56 Roof edge
- 57 \_\_\_\_ Bator (Mongolian capital)
- 58 Three (comb. form)
- 59 Lea languishers
- 60 Part of la famille

**Down**

- 1 Used to be
- 2 "The child shall play on the hole of the \_\_\_\_" (Isaiah 11:8)
- 3 Sunday speech (abbr.)
- 4 "I give unto you power to \_\_\_\_ on scorpions" (Luke 10:19)
- 5 Dry valley or ravine, except in the rainy season
- 6 "The one who says he \_\_\_\_ in Him ought himself to walk in the same manner as He

- walked" (1 John 2:6, nas)
- 7 Loud, continuous noise
- 8 Wise man
- 9 "I \_\_\_\_ he that liveth" (Revelation 1:18)
- 10 Adjunct to a resume
- 11 Historical periods
- 16 Son of Gad (Genesis 46:16)
- 17 Aver
- 21 "Thou shalt not be afraid for the \_\_\_\_ by night" (Psalm 91:5)
- 22 Trudge
- 23 In move-in condition
- 24 "All that were strong and \_\_\_\_ [2 words] war" (2 Kings 24:16)
- 26 Promontory; headland
- 30 Fairy-tale beginning
- 32 This (Sp.)
- 34 Grandson of Sheshan (1 Chronicles 2:35)
- 36 Father of Abraham (Luke 3:34)
- 39 Realize success
- 42 Number of months baby Moses was hidden before his mother put him in an ark (Exodus 2:2)
- 44 Elaborate dress
- 45 "Thou shalt be ... as he that lieth upon the top of a \_\_\_\_" (Proverbs 23:34)
- 47 Matures
- 50 Not polished
- 51 \_\_\_\_ de la Cite, in Paris
- 52 "All that handle the \_\_\_\_, the mariners" (Ezekiel 27:29)
- 53 Compass dir.
- 55 Part of a century (abbr.)

**Last puzzle's solution**

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10			
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**'GIVE20'**

**Crossings' 2013 offering challenge to reach Haitian students for Christ**

By Kelly Collins

"Christ reconciled us to Himself and gave us the ministry of reconciliation; that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to Himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation. Therefore we are ambassadors for Christ, God is making His appeal through us" (2 Corinthians 5:18-20).

The verse above reminds us of the glory of our own reconciliation and reminds us of the challenge set before us to be ambassadors for Christ. Each year, Crossings is given the opportunity to share with thousands the good news of Jesus Christ with those who come to our properties.

In recent years, God has expanded our area of ministry and has led us to the broken country of Haiti. By combining our passion for camp and our burden for the "least of these" God has opened doors for us to have Crossings in Haiti through a partnership with the Baptist Haiti Mission.

Since 2001, students have given more than \$805,000 toward the "Beyond Effect" offering to see people reached

with the gospel in countries around the world. This summer we are issuing a new challenge: GIVE20. GIVE20 provides each student an opportunity to "go beyond" and partner with Crossings in Haiti. Our prayer is that each student attending camp would give \$20 toward seeing Haiti reached for Christ. If every student shared in this burden, we could see more than \$200,000 raised in this year alone.

**Crossings Ministries**



David Melber

Haiti is the poorest country in the Western Hemisphere, and with more than 80 percent of the people living below the poverty line, these offerings allow Haitian students opportunities they would not have without the sacrificial gift of Crossings' students.

These funds would allow for the building and renovation of properties in Haiti where students can come and hear the gospel presented—and it covers their cost of camp. We are confident that God uses students, and we know He wants to use them in a big way this summer through GIVE20.

For more information about our GIVE20 campaign or how you can partner with us to reach Haiti, visit [www.gocrossings.org](http://www.gocrossings.org)

David Melber is president of Crossings Ministries. Contact Crossings at (502) 491-7000 or [www.GoCrossings.com](http://www.GoCrossings.com)

**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 [jehowning@campbellsville.edu](mailto:jehowning@campbellsville.edu).



## February

- 12** Kentucky Baptist Men's Chorale and Wind Orchestra, University of the Cumberlands, 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.

## MOUNTAINS TO THE MISSISSIPPI

COMPILED BY STAFF

■ **CADIZ**—Cadiz Church recently called **Kyle Noffsinger** as pastor. He previously was pastor at First Church of Fredonia.

Cadiz Church will hold WMU's children's ministry day Feb. 16, 9 a.m., for school-age children, who will pack personal-care items and clothes to be distributed by local churches. **Kyle Noffsinger** is pastor.

■ **COLUMBIA**—Cane Valley Church recently called **Mike Woodrum** as pastor.

■ **HODGENVILLE**—First Church ordained **Todd Rogers** as a deacon Feb. 10. **Paul Richey** is pastor.

■ **HOPKINSVILLE**—Edgewood Church will hold "Helping Hands"

children's ministry day Feb. 16, 10 a.m., at which kids will collect and assemble hygiene packets and make cards for residents of the Pennyryle Veterans' Center. **Nick Sandefur** is pastor.

■ **LOUISVILLE**—Deer Park Church will hold an Ash Wednesday worship service Feb. 13, 6:30 p.m. **David Platt** is pastor.

Parkland Church will hold a daddy-daughter dinner Feb. 15, 7 p.m., for girls of all ages and their fathers. The cost to attend is \$10 per family. **Tom Curry** is pastor.

Woodland Church's student ministry will hold an "Entertainment Tonight" event Feb. 16, 6 p.m., to raise funds for the minis-

try. **John Abel** is pastor.

■ **MOUNT WASHINGTON**—First Church will host the **Annie Moses Band** in concert Feb. 17, 8:15, 9:35, 11 a.m. & 6 p.m. For more information, call (502) 538-7361. **Billy Compton** is pastor.

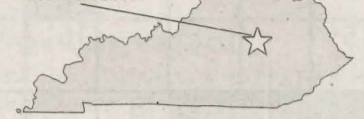
■ **PADUCAH**—Bellview Church will hold its annual widows' Valentine's banquet Feb. 15. **Mike Nolen** is pastor.

Lone Oak First Church will hold a Gospel music night Feb. 17, 7 p.m., featuring **Faith Quartet**, **One Accord Men's Quartet** and **Peacemaker's Quartet**. For more information, call (270) 554-1441. **Dan Summerlin** is pastor.

■ **VERSAILLES**—New Hope Church

## Spotlight on ...

## Richmond



Unity Church will hold a marriage renewal service Feb. 17, 10:45 a.m., where couples can renew their marriage vows. The church also will hold a ladies' appreciation night Feb. 17, 6 p.m. **Dennis Brewer** is pastor.

will host the **Emmaus Road Gospel Quartet** in concert Feb. 17, 6 p.m. For more information, call (859) 873-1707. **Wesley Noss** is pastor.

## KBC to offer free Vacation Bible School clinics next month

**Louisville**—The Kentucky Baptist Convention is sponsoring three free training clinics in March to assist churches planning to host Vacation Bible School this year.

The events will provide insight for church staff members and volunteers on all aspects of VBS including outreach, Bible study, crafts, decorations and other topics.

This year's theme from Life-Way Christian Resources is "Colossal Coaster World" and is based on 2 Timothy 1:7, "God gave

us a spirit not of fear but of power and love and self-control."

All events are free and advanced registration is not required. They will be held:

**March 2** at Lone Oak First Baptist Church of Paducah.

**March 9** at Union Baptist Church.

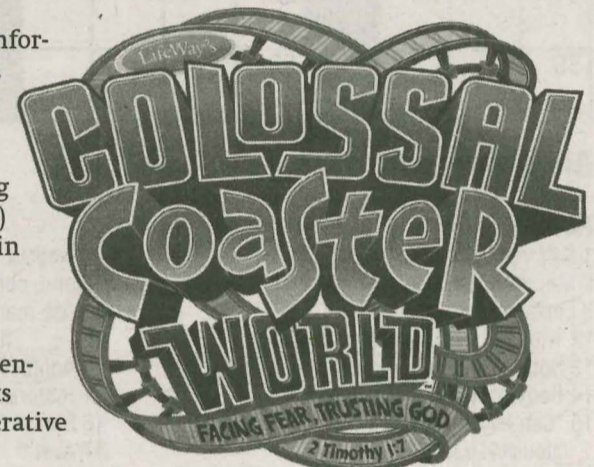
**March 16** at First Baptist Church of Richmond.

Each clinic begins with registration at 8 a.m., local time, followed by training from 9 a.m. until noon.

For additional information, visit [www.KyBaptist.org/VBS](http://www.KyBaptist.org/VBS),

contact the KBC by e-mail at [children@kybaptist.org](mailto:children@kybaptist.org) or by phone at (502) 489-3575, toll free in Kentucky at (866) 489-3575.

VBS training is made possible by Kentucky Baptists' gifts through the Cooperative Program. (KBC)



## Audition tapes for Kentucky Baptist All-State Children's Choir due soon

**Louisville**—Children in Kentucky Baptist churches are invited to be part of the 2013 Kentucky Baptist All-State Children's Choir by auditioning with their music minister or choir director.

Kentucky Baptist music leaders should submit the recorded auditions to the Kentucky Baptist Convention office in Louisville by Feb. 19.

Once a member of the children's choir, he or she may participate through grade six. Dozens of Kentucky Baptist churches from across the commonwealth send boys and girls to the children's choir retreat each year.

This year's retreat and concerts are April 26-28. The retreat is when all

choir members gather to work on their music together. It is held at Cedarmore Camp and Conference Center in Bagdad.

This year's concerts are April 28 at Valley View Church in Louisville at 10:45 a.m., and Macedonia Baptist Church in Owensboro at 3 p.m.

For complete information about the choir, visit [www.KyBaptist.org/ASCC](http://www.KyBaptist.org/ASCC). The webpage contains audition instructions and downloadable forms.

For additional information, contact coordinator Roxanne Nanney by email at [roxanne.nanney@kybaptist.org](mailto:roxanne.nanney@kybaptist.org). She can be reached by phone at (502) 489-3537 or toll free in Kentucky at (866) 489-3390. (KBC)

## DuBois leaves White House faith-based post

**Washington**—Longtime White House aide Joshua DuBois, who heads the White House office focused on the intersection of religion and public policy, has stepped down.

President Obama announced the departure at the National Prayer Breakfast Feb. 7. He asked DuBois to lead his White House Office of Faith-based and Neighborhood Partnerships in 2009 when the Pentecostal reverend was 26, and hoped DuBois could sustain the ties he had helped forge between Obama

and religious groups during the 2008 presidential campaign.

DuBois will teach at New York University starting later in the year, according to White House officials.

The 30 year old, who grew up in Nashville, Tenn., and worked as an assistant pastor in Massachusetts and for Obama when he was a senator, also plans to start a new organization to help groups and local governments partner with faith-based organizations, according to a White House source. (RNS)

## CLASSIFIED ADS

**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:** 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](mailto: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. Email resumé to [tony.rodgers@omhs.org](mailto: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 an associate pastor for students and families to provide dynamic leadership; accredited seminary degree optimum. Send resumé to [family-ministrysearch@gmail.com](mailto:family-ministrysearch@gmail.com).

**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 resumé or questions to [matt576@aol.com](mailto:matt576@aol.com), or mail resumé to MBC, 44 High Street, Monterey, KY 40359.

**SEEKING:** First Baptist Church of Eddyville, Ky., is seeking a part-time minister of children. Applicant must have experience working with children and parents. Send resumé to First Baptist Church, P.O. Box 599, Eddyville, KY 42038, or email to [eddyfirst@bellsouth.net](mailto:eddyfirst@bellsouth.net).

## To place an advertisement:

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



**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 resumé to [dpcpersonnel@aol.com](mailto:dpcpersonnel@aol.com).

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

**SEEKING:** First Baptist Church, Shelbyville is currently seeking God's person for the position of senior pastor. Interested applicants may submit resumé to the pastor search committee through March 15 either by email or regular mail to the following addresses: [rwaynea@bellsouth.net](mailto:rwaynea@bellsouth.net), or Pastor Search Committee, c/o Wayne Anderson, 139 Pueblo Drive, Shelbyville, KY 40065.

**SEEKING:** First Baptist Church, Fulton, Ky., seeks God's man to serve as full-time pastor. Send testimony, resumé and sense of calling to [milton@deanfs.com](mailto:milton@deanfs.com).

# Two decades of promises

*True Love Waits returns to where it began 20 years ago*

By Sharayah Colter

Nashville, Tenn.—True Love Waits morphed from a nameless concept in coffee break conversations into a movement that, beginning in February 1993, steadily spread to teenagers across the country.

That month, 53 students at Tulip Grove Baptist Church committed themselves to sexual abstinence before marriage.

In the 20 years since, millions of teenagers have followed suit, bringing abstinence to the national conversation and strengthening innumerable marriages before they ever began.

The grassroots movement calling teenagers to make commitments of purity celebrated its local-church anniversary with a True Love Waits-themed Disciple Now weekend Feb. 1-3 at the Nashville-area church where the first group of Tulip Grove students made a True Love Waits pledge.

The pledge states, "Believing that true love waits, I make a commitment to God, myself, my family, my friends, my future mate, and my future children to be sexually abstinent from this day until the day I enter a biblical marriage relationship."

Richard Ross, professor of student ministry at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, cofounded the movement with then fellow-LifeWay employee Jimmy Hester while also serving as youth minister at Tulip Grove. During the 20th anniversary weekend at the church, Ross watched as a second generation of students pledged their purity before God.

"In several cases, I was speaking to teenagers who are the teenage children



**WHERE IT ALL BEGAN** Richard Ross, a professor at Southwestern Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas, prays with about 65 teenagers and their parents during a True Love Waits ceremony at the Nashville-area Tulip Grove Baptist Church on Feb. 3. (Tennessee Baptist & Reflector photo)

of those who made the first promises," Ross said, marveling at the wonder of leading those he knew as babies in the same commitment as their parents to wait for their future mate.

Susan Bohannon was among that first group of students making True Love Waits commitments at Tulip Grove. Now married and a mother of three, Bohannon said the movement that began when she was a teenager has reached beyond her Tennessee church to impact the lives of people across the world as they make the transition from childhood to adulthood with their purity intact.

"True Love Waits was not just for one generation of teens but every generation of teens," Bohannon said. "The children who are being born now will be teens one day, and it will be for them. It is not a movement that is relevant to only our culture or our ways, but (it is) an international, inter-generational and timeless movement."

Since its formation, True Love Waits has spread to more than 100 countries—something for which Ross said only God can receive the credit.

"For a Supreme Being, this was no problem at all," Ross said. "The fact that the movement continues in its 20th year is a clear indication that it is empowered by the Spirit of God and not by some human ingenuity."

Ross said it was the Lord's hand that allowed the movement to spread beyond the walls of Tulip Grove.

"We had virtually no funds for advertising to let people know about the movement," Ross said, recalling the fledgling days of True Love Waits. "So, God simply harnessed the entire news industry at zero cost."

"As I explained True Love Waits to Katie Couric on the 'Today Show,' or as Oprah interviewed the teenagers on her show, that was more powerful than millions of dollars of advertising," Ross said. "Virtually every national news (outlet) or local news coverage carried stories about True Love Waits. You cannot explain that other than the Spirit of God."

Next year will mark True Love Waits' 20th year as an outreach of LifeWay Christian Resources. More than 100,000 teens' commitment cards were displayed at the 1994 Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting in Orlando, Fla., followed by a display of 200,000-plus commitments on the National Mall in Washington in July of that year.

Though a tally has never been kept of those who have made the True Love Waits pledge, a U.S. government study conducted three years after True Love Waits began found that 3 million teenagers had made a promise of purity. As the movement grew and expanded into other denominations and countries, Ross said he believes the number of commitments made to date reaches into the multimillions.

In the 20 years of True Love Waits' existence, the United States has seen a decrease in teenage sexual activity. Before then, there had been 20 years of steady increases. In countries where the movement has spread, AIDS infection rates also have declined, despite

True Love Waits co-founder Richard Ross:

**"The fact that the movement continues in its 20th year is a clear indication that it is empowered by the Spirit of God and not by some human ingenuity."**

increases in other nations.

Part of the longevity of the movement can be traced to its leadership, which understands that effective teenage decisions must be heart based and not fear based.

"Teenagers live with a developmental characteristic called the myth of invulnerability," Ross said. "They really do not believe that bad things can happen to them, which means calling young people to abstinence and purity only to avoid negative consequences will never be effective."

"We have to give them much stronger and a much higher motivation," he said. "They really need to believe that they're committing the most intimate part of who they are for the glory of the King."

Ross explained that while True Love Waits' focus always has transcended preventing sexually transmitted diseases and unintended pregnancies, it stretches beyond simply being an obedient Christian. The focus, Ross explained, is the glorification and magnification of Christ.

"In the past, True Love Waits young people have often made promises thinking, 'Jesus wants me to do this because it will make my life better, so bad things will not happen to me, so I will not be a disobedient Christian,'" Ross said. "There is an element of truth in each of those statements, but I detect a shift (toward), 'Not that I do this so that my life will be better, but I choose purity for Christ's glory. I am doing this for His sake, not my sake. I am doing this because He deserves adoration, and the purity of my life is a way to show Him that adoration.'"

"The focus comes off of 'me,' and the focus goes to 'Him.' There is no moralism," Ross said. "If I choose sexual purity for the glory of Christ, that is just pure worship."

Ross said he has seen that act of worship transfer into worship through marriage.

"In scores of weddings over the past 20 years, brides and grooms have made slight changes to the wedding ceremony in order to celebrate promises they made as teenagers," Ross noted. "For example, we know of True Love Waits rings that have been melted down and have become part of wedding rings."

"We know of tattered True Love Waits cards that have been exchanged by brides and grooms after riding in a billfold or purse for many years. I have loved this for the joy it brought to the couple but also for the witness it is to the younger youth watching from the audience," he said. "They got to see the power of promises kept." (SWBTS/BP)



**ORIGINAL PARTICIPANTS** Richard Ross (third from left), co-founder of True Love Waits, visits with three adult members of Tulip Grove Baptist Church in Old Hickory, Tenn., who were in his youth group 20 years ago when the abstinence movement began. From left are Susan Bohannon, Scott Dender, Ross and Caryn Miller. (Tennessee Baptist & Reflector photo)

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- 3) Schedule a speaker to kick off your project or mile.



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