

WESTERN Recorder

February 19, 2013

Shine Like Stars * Philippians 2:15

Volume 187, Issue 7

Time to Go

SBC president calls for more African-Americans on international mission field

By Tess Rivers

Richmond, Va.—This is not your father's Southern Baptist Convention.

That's the message SBC President Fred Luter wants an increasingly diverse generation of young evangelicals to hear.

"Our challenge as Southern Baptists is to let young believers know that you are welcome at the table," said Luter, who met recently with International Mission Board leadership and staff at the home office in Richmond, Va. "We want you to come, sit at the table and tell us what we can do to help you fit in more with this convention."

The SBC's first African-American president, Luter also is encouraging ethnic minorities, particularly

□ See ... Page 6



Ky. Baptists set all-time record for gifts received

Louisville—Kentucky Baptists gave more than \$2.4 million to missions and ministries through the Cooperative Program in January.

The \$2,462,133 total was \$628,800 above the monthly budgeted goal for CP giving of \$1,833,333.

"This January's total was higher than any January since 2009," said Lowell Ashby, leader of the Kentucky Baptist Convention's business and finance team.

"Even more exciting is that, because of Kentucky Baptists' support of the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering (for International Missions) and other designated contributions, January's total receipts were the highest monthly total ever in the history of the Kentucky Baptist Convention," Ashby added.

Total Cooperative Program giving thus far for the fiscal year is \$159,120 behind the budget goal passed by messengers to the 2011 KBC annual meeting.

KBC Executive Director Paul Chitwood said that during this time of year, □ See January giving ... Page 2

Mississippi tornado victims getting much-needed relief from DR teams

By Diana Chandler

Hattiesburg, Miss.—Mississippi Baptists have activated chainsaw, blue tarp and feeding units to respond to victims of the Feb. 10 tornado that damaged or destroyed 300 homes and businesses in the state, injured 85 residents, but took no lives.

The number of structures Southern Baptist Disaster Relief workers are targeting for repair is significant, said Jim Didlake, disaster relief director for the Mississippi Baptist Convention.

"Where the tornado was on the ground, it's very serious," Didlake said. "It's been rated an EF-4 tornado, so a lot of the houses were just devastated."

Two tornados

struck Lamar, Forrest, Marion and Lawrence counties Feb. 10. The National Weather Service graded one tornado as an EF-4, with winds as high as 170 mph, and the other an EF-2, with winds as high as 115 mph. Oak Grove in Lamar County and Hattiesburg and Petal in Forrest County were particularly hard hit. □ See Disaster relief ... Page 6



COMMUNITY IN ACTION Volunteers help neighbors clear debris Feb. 11 after a tornado touched down in Hattiesburg, Miss., a day earlier. (Photo courtesy of Temple Baptist Church, Hattiesburg, Miss.)

Meet Me in St. Louis



A map of St. Louis represents the ongoing Southern Baptist ministry efforts in the Gateway City. The blue dots on the map represent church plants that already are in place. The red dots represent targeted areas of the city where ministry leaders want to plant churches over the next decade. The Kentucky Baptist Convention has been involved with a missions partnership in the city since 2011, and dozens of Kentucky Baptists traveled to the city Feb. 4-5 to explore ways they and their churches could be part of reaching St. Louis neighborhoods for Christ.

Story and more photos on page 7

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Garrison: VBS a bridge to the gospel for 'spiritual orphans'

By Polly House

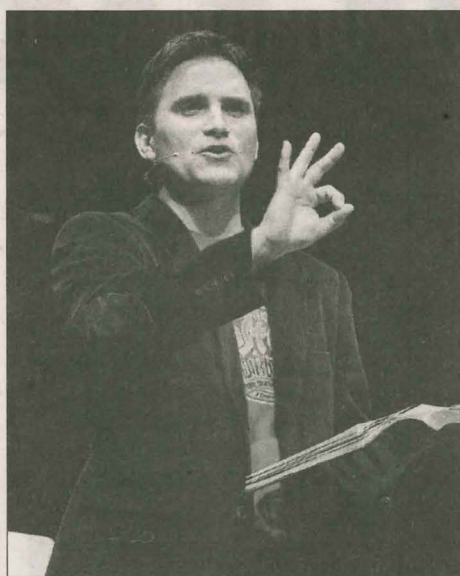
Nashville, Tenn.—When Shane Garrison was a little boy, the chasm between his non-Christian home and the local Baptist church was just too wide to cross. But, one summer, Vacation Bible School became his bridge.

"I grew up in a home where no one had any association with God or Jesus or a church," Garrison said. "It was just never talked about at all. I knew there was a church in town, but I didn't think it was some place I could go. It was for other people. But one summer, VBS became a bridge ... a way for me to get from my house to the church."

Garrison, an assistant professor of educational ministries at Campbellsville University, was the keynote speaker at LifeWay Christian Resources' recent VBS preview events. LifeWay hosted more than 3,500 VBS leaders at events in Fort Worth, Texas; Nashville, Tenn.; Kissimmee, Fla.; and Ridgecrest, N.C.

Every year more than 25,000 churches host VBS, enrolling nearly 3 million children and adults, resulting in an average of more than 80,000 professions of faith in Christ.

Leaders learned about the Colossal



Coaster World-themed VBS taken from 2 Timothy 1:7: "For God has not given us a spirit of fearfulness, but one of power, love, and sound judgment." The curriculum will challenge kids to face their fears and trust God on the roller coaster of life.

Breakout sessions at the preview events emphasized decorations, music, crafts, age-group teaching, outreach and

Shane Garrison:

"I knew there was a church in town, but I didn't think it was some place I could go. It was for other people."

But one summer, VBS became a bridge, ... a way for me to get from my house to the church."

follow up. Participants were encouraged to make VBS an evangelistic event to reach unchurched children in their communities.

Three types of kids

Garrison told those who attended there are three categories of kids in their towns:

Children of believing parents. These kids are growing up in a home where both parents know about Christ, have accepted Him as their Savior, and are interested in the children learning about Him. The parents attend church at least semi-regularly, he said, and they probably say a blessing before meals. They teach their children about faith and expose them to the gospel.

50/50 kids. These kids grow up in a home where one parent is a believer, but the other isn't. They probably attend church or church events occasionally, Garrison said, and they likely have been exposed to the gospel in some way.

Spiritual orphans. These kids have no spiritual influence in their homes. Neither parent is a believer. Their home life may be stable or completely dysfunctional. There is no gospel presence for them, and they don't attend church. They don't know anything about the Bible or what it means to be a Christian.

Garrison said he was a spiritual orphan. His grandmother decided he needed to go to VBS one summer, so she made sure he was up and ready each day.

"I don't know that she was so intent on me learning what VBS offered as

much as she was just determined that I wasn't going to stay in bed all morning every day that summer," he said. "So, I went."

He reminded VBS leaders that these spiritual orphans do not know "the church rules."

"To me, VBS looked a lot like school," Garrison said. The morning celebration, he said, was like a school assembly; snacks were like lunch; the preacher was like the principal; recreation was like recess and craft time was like art, he explained.

The similarities ended on Wednesday of that week, though, when he heard the preacher explain the gospel.

"I'd never heard that Jesus loved me," Garrison said. "I didn't know my life could be any different. I didn't know I was supposed to close my eyes and bow my head when we prayed."

"So, I was watching him pray and listening to every word," Garrison recalled. "As I thought about what he was saying, God reached down and spoke to me—directly to me—and I couldn't believe it."

When the pastor asked if anyone had prayed that prayer with him and wanted to talk, Garrison said he didn't know any better than to yell out, "Me, me!"

Eliminate VBS 'barrier'

"You may be unwittingly erecting a barrier to the spiritual orphans if you are planning your VBS around your own church kids," he noted.

Garrison, who also serves as transitional pastor of Living Grace Church in Campbellsville, said he understood that church parents want their kids to have a great time at VBS, but he implored leaders not to forget about using it as an evangelistic bridge.

"VBS might be the only time during the entire year you have the opportunity to reach these spiritual orphans," Garrison said. "It may be the only time they get to come to your church."

He urged leaders to turn their hearts away from the priority of music, crafts and snacks. "This year, make the spiritual orphans your priority." (LW/BP)



Southern Baptist leaders: Retiring Pope Benedict a 'friend of life'

By Erin Roach

Vatican City—As the world reacted to the unexpected news that Pope Benedict XVI would become the first pope in six centuries to resign, evangelicals acknowledged Benedict's commitment to human dignity as a key to his legacy.

Benedict, 85, announced Feb. 11 that because of his advanced age and infirmity, he will vacate his position as spiritual leader of the world's 1 billion Roman Catholics at the end of the month. He has been pope since 2005.

Albert Mohler, president of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, said Benedict "has offered a brave and intelligent defense of truth against a relativist tide, and he has been a stalwart friend of life."

Chuck Kelley, president of New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary, said Benedict "is a man worthy of our respect and appreciation."

"Although there are profound differences in Baptist and Catholic perspectives on faith, we shared a commitment to the sanctity of life and

other biblical values," Kelley said.

Daniel Sanchez, associate dean of the Roy Fish School of Evangelism and Missions at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, said this now is a time to pray for Catholics.

"The news of the resignation of the pope is undoubtedly creating concern and confusion in the minds of many sincere and devoted Roman Catholics," Sanchez said. "While it is true that the Roman Catholic Church has a recognized process for the election of a successor to the current pope, it is also true that this is a time of transition for the church and its adherents."

"In a time of transition and uncertainty, it is important that we remind ourselves and our Roman Catholic friends that Jesus, through the person of the Holy Spirit, is always with us and never leaves us," Sanchez added. "It is also important to emphasize the fact that it is through a personal experience of salvation in Jesus Christ that we can have the assurance of His presence with us and the hope of being with Him when we die." (BP)

January giving

Continued from page 1

Kentucky Baptists can see clearly how Cooperative Program dollars are used to strengthen churches and support missions in the commonwealth.

"With help from GuideStone Financial Resources, we are providing free workshops on how churches can plan financial support for their pastors and other church staff," he said. "Because of Kentucky Baptists' gifts through CP, we also are offering Vacation Bible School training in March, completely free of charge."

"RISK," the KBC's evangelism and church planting conference, is set for Feb. 25 at Severns Valley Baptist Church in Elizabethtown. The event is free and features top speakers and 11 breakout sessions on a variety of gospel-sharing topics.

"In addition to special events, the services of our consultants are supported through CP," Chitwood said.

Kentucky Baptist CP gifts at a glance

Giving for Jan. 1-31, 2013 & Year-to-Date



Monthly budget goal*	\$1,833,333
Actual giving:	\$2,462,133
Over budget:	\$ 628,800
Year-to-Date budget goal*:	\$9,166,667
Year-to-Date actual giving:	\$9,007,547
Under budget:	\$ 159,120

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

"Every time they make a visit or phone call to help a Kentucky Baptist church, there are thousands of other Kentucky Baptist churches making that assistance possible.

"And we can't forget about the 5,000 missionaries serving overseas who are supported through CP," he added. "Many of them are taking the gospel to places where the name of Jesus has never been spoken." (KBC)

Page: Boy Scouts need leadership change

SBC Exec. Comm. head calls for leaders 'with backbone' to take stand against policy change

By Art Toalston

Oklahoma City—New leadership is needed for the Boy Scouts of America, Southern Baptist leader, Frank Page has urged.

"I think it's time for scouting people across the nation to rise up and ask for a change in leadership in scouting," Page, president of the Southern Baptist Convention's Executive Committee, told editors of state Baptist papers during their annual meeting last week in Oklahoma City.

"We need scouting executives with backbone," Page said.

Page did not mention specific names. The chief executives of AT&T and Ernst & Young, however, have been proponents of changing Boy Scout policy to permit openly gay Scout troop leaders and members.

"I don't think the national leaders have listened carefully to the local people," Page said, referring to the push within the organization's 64-member Executive Board to abandon the BSA's male leadership/membership tradition.

"The local people are torn up over this," Page said.

The Scouts' Executive Board pulled

back from adopting the policy change during a Feb. 6 session at the organization's national headquarters in Irving, Texas. Instead, the Executive Board will place the issue before the May 22-24 meeting of scouting's 1,400-member National Council, encompassing Scout leaders from local and regional levels who will gather in Grapevine, Texas.

The proposed policy, which called for local Scout councils and troops to begin determining their own leadership and membership policies, generated heavy media attention as well as alarm among many churches with Scout troops.

National standards vs. local autonomy

While local Scout organizations could hold to "biblical standards of morality" under the proposed policy, Page noted that "as soon as those Scouts leave ... (for) a state or national camping event, national rules apply.

"At some point, the national policy shift will trump local autonomy," Page explained, and church-based Scout troops will forfeit their standards "when they move beyond the bounds of their local organization."

Page made his comments during the Feb. 11-14 meeting of the Association of State Baptist Publications in Oklahoma City.

In conversations with national scouting representatives prior to the BSA Executive Board's recent meeting, they

were "resolute to move forward with their change in policy," Page noted. "I think they're hoping that the conservative furor will die down and they'll move forward with that which they purposed in the first place."



Frank Page

Asked what churches with Scout troops can do, Page said, "I'm encouraging churches to pray about their future involvement. ... Pray about where God would lead you in this regard."

The BSA's chief executive, Wayne Brock, assumed the position last September and, according to a news release in

December, is a Southern Baptist. Brock has not issued a personal statement about the proposed policy, although the organization described it in a Feb. 4 news release issued at the outset of the BSA Executive Board's three-day meeting. The move came just six months after the Scouts reaffirmed the current policy prohibiting openly gay leaders and members following a two-year review.

The two high-profile corporate executives on the Scouts' Executive Board who have made clear their support of a policy change are Randall Stephenson of AT&T and James Turley of Ernst & Young.

Neither Stephenson nor Turley issued statements following the Executive Board's reticence to move forward with the new policy, according to media reports. Stephenson, according to The Washington Post, is "on track to become president of the Scouts' national board in 2014."

Last year AT&T and Ernst & Young each received a perfect score of 100 for their policies affirming homosexuality, according to a yearly ranking from the Human Rights Campaign, the nation's largest gay-rights group. An Ernst & Young employee, Bryan Parsons, sits on HRC's Human Rights Campaign Business Council, which according to HRC, provides advice and counsel to HRC "on lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender workplace issues based on their business experience and knowledge." (BP)

LifeWay president sees positives despite challenges during past year



Nashville, Tenn.—"I've never been more challenged, and I've never been more encouraged," LifeWay Christian Resources President Thom Rainer told the Southern Baptist entity's trustees during their semi-annual meeting.

"God is working through us during what seems to be, by the world's standards, an impossible time," Rainer said in his report to the trustees during their Feb. 11-12 meeting at LifeWay headquarters in Nashville, Tenn.

Overall, Rainer described 2012 as a positive step forward for LifeWay.

He also spoke of the challenges facing the company in 2013 including the struggling economy, transition to the digital world, changing church practices, increasing regulations and the power of social media.

Challenge and optimism worked simultaneously throughout Rainer's address as he reminded trustees just who is leading LifeWay. "Even in the toughest of times, God is in control of LifeWay," he said.

During his president's report, Rainer cited several areas of encouragement for LifeWay including the success of The Gospel Project; the positive trajectory of B&H Publishing Group; the turnaround that has begun in church resources; the relaunch of Bible Studies for Life, LifeWay's largest curriculum line; the energy of LifeWay Christian Stores; and Ministry Grid, a new approach to discipleship and training.

"That LifeWay not only survives but thrives is a testimony to God's power," Rainer said.

Also during the meeting, trustees unanimously elected Tim Vineyard as the new vice president of the LifeWay Christian Stores division.

"Tim Vineyard is one of the most creative, idea-producing men I've ever known," Rainer said. "It is a blessing of God to have someone who has a head and heart for retail already in our midst to take on this vital role."

Trustees also re-elected the trustee board officers for another year including Adam Greenway, senior associate dean and assistant professor of evangelism at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, as chairman; Mark Dance, pastor of Second Baptist Church of Conway, Ark., as vice chairman; and Rick Geist, a financial advisor and member of First Baptist Church of Seminole, Okla., as recording secretary. (LW/BP)

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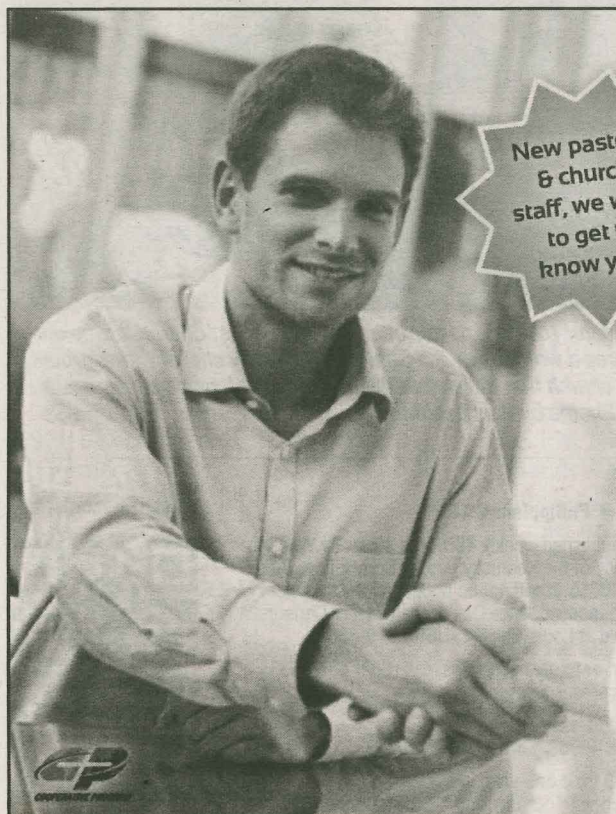
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Black history, American history

This week's column is by Curtis Woods, the Kentucky Baptist Convention's associate executive director for convention relations.

For years I have heard black history is American history. Black History Month invites all Americans to sit around the historical campfire to be warmed by the flames of African-American achievement. When these flames are properly understood in light of God's providence and the gospel, it creates persevering joy, not malice, in the hearts of Christians.

Together We are the KBC



Paul Chitwood

On Feb. 11, I had the privilege of talking to a few students at Simmons College in Louisville. I marveled at their passion for history. They shared how Simmons' founders courageously fought against the tide of cultural apathy regarding formally educating African-Americans. Portraits of African-American high achievement bedecked the walls and ushered me back to my own undergraduate years at two historically black institutions, Philander Smith College and the University of Arkansas, Pine Bluff.

In the spirit of African-American historian Carter G. Woodson (1875-1950), the students carefully crafted their words to show the contemporary implications for the past events. They, in the words of Michael A.G. Haykin, "laid hold of a usable past." Truthfully, when I entered the room, my knowledge of Simmons College was extremely limited. Upon my departure, however, a spark of intellectual curiosity was lit in my heart.

Woodson, author of the perennial best-seller, "The Mis-Education of the Negro," founded the Association of Negro Life and History for the purpose of protecting Americans from historical amnesia with respect to black history. A consummate scholar and educator, Woodson also created and served as editor of the Journal of Negro History and the Negro History Bulletin. These two resources are readily available at most university and seminary libraries, including the flagship seminary of the Southern Baptist Convention.

In 1926, Woodson established an annual Negro History Week (now Black History Month), seven days in February devoted to the celebration of black history and culture. He selected February to honor the birthdays of two cultural change agents, Frederick Douglass and Abraham Lincoln.

Douglass, who many regard as one of the greatest Christian intellectuals in American history, finds his name virtually unknown among most evangelical Christians then and now. Woodson makes a valid point, saying, "No one can be thoroughly educated until he learns as much about the negro as he knows about other people." He believed historical ignorance kills contemporary relationships.

This month we have the opportunity to expand our horizons concerning the African-American experience because black history is American history. Might our learning deepen our appreciation for one another and our commitment to take the gospel to the races, tongues and tribes in America and beyond.

Paul Chitwood is executive director of the Kentucky Baptist Convention.

IMB event calls Ky. churches to 'Embrace' UUPG

Key question: How do we embrace the remaining 3,109 people groups who have yet to hear the name of Christ?

IMB's answer: One church at a time.

The problem: You need 3,109 churches that have an urgent passion for sharing the gospel with lost people.

IMB's solution: Pray ... and launch a bold initiative to challenge and equip churches to make a commitment to do "whatever it takes" and to go "wherever He leads" to tell others about Jesus.

Recently church leaders from across Kentucky and seminary students attended the "Embrace the Ends of the Earth" conference at Southern Seminary in Louisville.

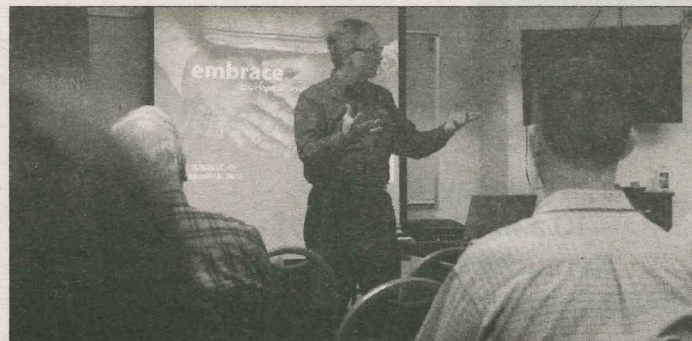
Launched during the 2011 annual meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention in Phoenix, the Embrace emphasis—led by the International Mission Board—was one of a handful of such conferences thus far specifically aimed at calling out churches to become intentionally involved in making Jesus' name known among a "UUPG."

What's a UUPG? An unengaged, unreached people group. "Unengaged" means there is no known evangelical church-planting effort among the people group; and, "unreached" describes a people group that is comprised of less than 2 percent evangelical Christians. The Embrace conference challenges churches to claim responsibility to reach out to these people groups—many of which are found in some of the hardest places in the world to evangelize and disciple believers.

Gordon Fort, the IMB's vice president of prayer mobilization and training, delivered a powerful appeal to those attending the Embrace conference, maintaining that going isn't an option for us. "The command to go has already been given," he asserted. "I'm not sure why anyone would feel they need to spend time praying about whether or not they are to be involved in taking the gospel to the nations when the Master has given us an extremely clear command," he said. "The only question for you and me, as His people and as the church, is, 'Where are we to go?'"

While "going" could mean crossing the street, visiting a neighbor, traveling to another state, or taking a mission trip to another country, Fort insisted, "There can never be any question in any believer's mind that he has been given clear marching orders, and that every day he draws breath he is responsible to make disciples of the nations and extend the gospel to every person on this planet.

"I think we have a clear responsibility that the lost should at least, once in their life, hear the name of Jesus," he challenged. Pointing to Mark 13:10, Fort reminded the churches, "God said you are to be a light to the nations."



An International Mission Board representative leads a breakout session for those interested in connecting with unreached people groups in southeast Asia. The mission board hosted the Embrace conference earlier this month on the campus of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary.



After Thought

By Todd Deaton

Observing that because of technology and transportation advances, we now have an opportunity to get on a plane in Louisville and go anywhere in the world in about 24 hours, Fort challenged: "We must realize we live in a different age in which there exists at this time in history the opportunity for you and me, with clarity of vision, to absolutely have confidence that this gospel can literally be delivered to the doorsteps of every person on our planet in our generation."

Fort shared that his family recently had gathered for his father's funeral. His father, who served 37 years as a missionary in southern Africa, suffered from dementia for much of the past 10 years. He wanted to remember his sons' names and to recall Matthew 28:18-20, so he would recite the names and verse frequently. During their last visit together, Fort recalled how his father had written on a piece of paper: "Dear Gordon, Go ye therefore ... all the world—your Dad."

"That was a quick recalibration," Fort said. "It's not that I had forgotten—for 29 years that's been the one purpose of my life," he explained. "But when I think about where we are in the world today, it is just difficult for me to think about the fact that ... with our 46,000 (Southern Baptist) churches and our hundreds of associations, and 40-something state conventions that last year in our offering plates took up over \$12 billion, how can there be any people on this planet who have never heard the gospel?"

"How can we take a treasure that has been entrusted to us, the gift of salvation, and keep it to ourselves?" Fort asked, calling Southern Baptists to embrace the nations. "If you have in your heart a burden for those who have never heard the gospel and you are asking, 'Is there a way we can become an integral part of taking the gospel to people who perhaps have never heard before? Can God use us?' we are here, as IMB staff, to say, 'Absolutely you can!'"

The International Mission Board wants to come alongside churches and associations to partner with them in reaching the nations, and about 40 churches and associations were represented at the conference at Southern Seminary. As of last November, according to Scott Pittman of the KBC's missions mobilization team, about 40 Kentucky churches and associations have already made commitments to adopt a UUPG through the Embrace emphasis, and more soon will be joining these. This is exciting news, for as church members become personally engaged in missions, it has a transformational effect. Prayers become more focused on seeing people come to know Christ, giving to missions and the Cooperative Program increases, and others are inspired to share the gospel. If you missed this Embrace event, let me encourage you to learn more at www.call2embrace.org.



Nick Sandefur (center), pastor of Edgewood Baptist Church in Hopkinsville, shares a word inside the Southern Seminary chapel with a group from his church that traveled to the Embrace conference earlier this month. (Photos by Paul Lee/IMB)

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Shine Like Stars * Philippians 2:15

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In big cities or small towns, teens are hurting

By Joe Ball

We are a state of primarily small towns. When you get outside of Louisville, Lexington and the northern Kentucky area, we are very rural at heart.

I think a lot of times we believe that because we live in small communities far from the "big city," the students in our churches are not like other students in the real world, and that somehow we have been able to shield them from the issues other teens face.

So, it was with great interest that I read a blog post from Scott Douglas, the minister to youth at Westside Baptist Church in Murray. I have asked his permission to use his content.

At a recent youth worship, he asked his students to write out their prayers. "I think writing prayers helps to process what you're praying for rather than a series of 'dear Lords,'" Douglas said. "This past time, I had them write out their sin they wanted to confess on black paper with a dark pencil and tape it to the cross, after they had read 1 Peter 2:21-25.

"I read the pieces of paper," he confided. "This is as old a youth-minister trick as the caramel-covered onion or the camp roommate assignment list. It provides an immediate and anonymous look into the lives of students—to give a window into what prayer needs are there in our student ministry. "It's beautiful, but it's heartbreaking," he said. "But that image of Mayberry is not what I read on those slips of paper," Douglas continued. "Most of them were your standard teenage angst: rude to parents, talking about other people, dating one guy and being interested in another, struggling with siblings, and not focusing on school as much.

"But there were some that hurt to read," he admitted. "A girl who cuts and covers it by bullying. Several guys who admitted to pornography. One who admitted to repeated inappropriate text messages to different girls. Still others who admitted to pot, alcohol and other substance abuse. Broken relationships, sexual promiscuity, dysfunctional family situations, same-sex attraction—name it, it's sitting on my dining-room table, the tears and shame visibly evident.

"The veneer of our community, and even our church and student ministry, is one where everything is OK,"

he added. "But behind that good face is an indescribable hurt, one that is being masked by a fig leaf of religiosity—or worse yet, the false promise of an insecure salvation. None of the self-help, guidance counseling, crisis intervention or anything like that can solve this pain. Only Jesus can."

As Douglas finished his post, he offered this advice as to what to do:

Pray. "Intercede for these students; pray for wisdom for parents; pray for repentance; pray for God to increase grace."

Don't be naive. "We cannot pretend that these kinds of problems belong 'over there,' and miss out on reality. These problems aren't city problems or poor problems or ethnic problems—they're problems that come from a deceiver who wants teenagers to believe something else besides Jesus will satisfy them."

Address the heart of the issue. "The issue isn't drugs or alcohol or peer pressure; the issue is the heart—one that is bent against God. Make sure to not lose sight of this and try to fix addiction, self-harm, etc. The first need is Jesus. Then work on everything else in light of that."

Be honest. "I plan on sharing that I read the cards and begin by offering myself and my wife as resources. Knowledge isn't power; only knowledge that is used has any value. I could choose to overlook these findings or choose to respond to them. These issues are very real and painful; to ignore them is a shameful act."

Involve parents. "Small-town ministries may find themselves fighting against a cultural Christianity rather than an emphasis on the work of Christ. Many times my thought is that parents assume their kids are safe, fine, good. But meet with your parents and begin to bring them on board. Take time to pray for students. Maybe they're even hiding knowledge of their teen's problems because of shame. Remove that and every other barrier that prevents the Spirit from working."

Refocus. "Take a minute and assess if you're teaching accurately about the power of the gospel. Make every message, teaching time and devotion about the gospel. Teach the all-inclusive and all-encompassing power of the gospel to not only save the soul, but also provide the answer to the deepest conditions of the human heart."

Pray. "Worth repeating."

Seek wisdom. "Student ministers, remember: We're not Superman. Bring in other godly leaders who have likely dealt with similar issues. Get yourself in a network; get in contact with older student ministers. Involve your pastor in the conversation. Whatever you do, do not do it alone!"

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

Youth Ministry Corner



Joe Ball

The Marriage Bucket List

By Valerie Vincent

Do you have a "bucket list" for your marriage? What is a bucket list? It is a list of things important to a person that they want to do before they die.

A bucket list is viewed as a personal list for an individual. But what would a bucket list for a married couple look like?



The Marriage Bucket List:

1. Renew your vows.
2. Serve on a mission trip together.
3. Travel and work in a different area of the world than which you now live.
4. Attend a weeklong marriage event with personal marriage coaching.
5. Book a honeymoon vacation package.
6. Spend a solid month romancing each other.
7. Buy two trees and plant them at your favorite park so they can grow together.
8. Purchase a collection of your favorite marriage education books and donate to your local or church library.
9. Start a book club of two for you both to share your favorites with each other or explore new books together.
10. Choose a foundation or charity that you decide to invest in together.
11. Pick an activity you both have always wanted to do and schedule it for next month.
12. Build or create a piece of art or furniture together that you can enjoy in your home.
13. Volunteer together for an organization whose work you both greatly value.
14. Take a class and learn a skill or study a topic together.
15. Make a video or photo book of your life together.
16. Write a song and record it together at a local studio.
17. Enter a dance competition or take dance lessons.
18. Design a treasure map that takes you to several places across the country.
19. Write a memoir of your life together and have it printed. Share with family and friends.
20. Have a painting or drawing made of the two of you in the present or from a favorite photo to display in your home.

What's on your bucket list? Jesus was purposeful in the time He had to live on earth. Perhaps a bucket list can help us be purposeful with the time we have on this earth.

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

When it comes to eating healthier, just what does the Bible say?

By David Roach

It's that brief season of the year when most people are still on track with their resolutions to eat healthier and lose weight. In pursuit of that goal, millions have consulted Weight Watchers, Jenny Craig, online diet plans, calorie-counting apps and a host of other nutritional guides—most of which have great value.

But what does the Bible have to say about our eating habits? Incorporating Scripture's wisdom into our resolutions could mean the difference between success and failure.

First of all, we should make a distinction between healthy eating and fasting. The Bible says a great deal about fasting, but that's abstaining from food for a purely spiritual purpose.

Healthy eating habits are a different matter, which the Bible also addresses. The apostle Paul calls the body "a temple of the Holy Spirit" and urges, "You are not

your own ... glorify God in your body" (1 Corinthians 6:19-20). The context is an exhortation to flee sexual immorality and not profane the body that was created to honor God, but there's an application to diet as well. Honoring our bodies as sacred temples includes eating healthy foods that keep them functioning well.

The Old Testament, in fact, includes an example of God's blessing people who eat healthy food. When Daniel and his three friends resolved not to eat the rich food of Babylon but instead make their diet vegetables and water, "they looked healthier and better nourished than any of the young men who ate the royal food" (Daniel 1:15). Of course, health was not the reason for Daniel's food choice. It had to do with ritual purity and being set apart from the pagan culture of Babylon, and God honored his obedience.

Nevertheless, it also was an occasion when God brought positive consequences

from healthy eating. (It's worth noting that the Old Testament ceremonial laws on diet are no longer in force under the New Covenant, though moral principles related to food still hold. See Acts 10:9-16.) Add Proverbs' warning about the ruinous effects of gluttony (Proverbs 23:20-21), and this is enough to assure us that God cares

about our caloric intake.

That's not all the Bible has to say about eating. Paul says that God "richly provides us with everything to enjoy" (1 Timothy 6:17). The writer of Ecclesiastes makes the connection to eating explicit, telling us that we should enjoy food as a gift from God (Ecclesiastes 3:13). Perhaps that is part of the reason why the Old Testament law required Jews to participate in a series of feasts every year and why scriptural examples of godly hospitality commonly include large quantities of food.

Jesus Himself instituted the New Covenant at a feast, the Passover meal. And

when God wanted to illustrate for the apostle John the joy that will occur in heaven at Christ's second coming, He showed him a vision of the Marriage Supper of the Lamb (Revelation 19:6-10)—another meal. God not only cares about healthy eating, there's also a place for feasting in His economy.

So, what does all this mean for dieters? While the Bible doesn't prescribe any specific diet plan, it does highlight the principle of balance—between healthy restraint and enjoyment of rich foods. In other words, make a habit of disciplined, healthy eating, but on occasion let yourself enjoy a feast of God's good gifts. Looking forward to the feasts will help keep you going during the seasons of restraint.

Interestingly, that distillation of the Bible's wisdom on eating is the same conclusion dieticians have reached after thousands of years of research. (BP)

David Roach is pastor of Emmanuel Baptist Church in Shelbyville.

COMMENTARY

Luter: More African-Americans needed on foreign mission field

Continued from page 1

African-Americans, to look to international missions as a means of expanding God's kingdom. Of the IMB's 4,900 missionaries, 27 are African-American, 79 are Hispanic and 317 are Asian.

For African-Americans, that's one-half of 1 percent of the total IMB missionary count, explained Keith Jefferson, IMB's African-American church missional strategist.

When compared to an estimated 1 million African-Americans included in the SBC's 16 million members, "that's a disproportionately low number of African-Americans serving overseas," he said.

Although African-Americans have served in spurts with the IMB since shortly after the SBC began in 1845, the low number serving overseas today does not surprise Luter.

"A lot of our African-American churches are in the 'hood,'" said Luter, who leads Franklin Avenue Baptist Church in New Orleans. "It's a daily fight every day. (People ask), 'Why do I need to go to Africa, Asia or Europe? We need to get people saved in this community.'"

With Luter set on changing that mindset, Jefferson said he hopes to help.

"It's a both/and approach," Luter said. "We need to reach the people in our neighborhoods and get African-Americans out on the foreign field."

Jefferson agreed. "Charity begins at home, but it doesn't end there. The command begins in Jerusalem, but we don't stop at the beginning."

As SBC president, Luter said he has three specific goals to promote the importance of international missions: model a personal commitment; educate churches about needs; and instill a vision for the world in the hearts of young people.

To accomplish the first goal, Luter will travel on an international mission trip—his first—to Ethiopia and Uganda later this year.

However, the pastor said he hopes to do more than simply model and learn. He also plans to leverage his international experience to educate his church and others about overseas needs.

"I'm going to bring it back to my people and light a fire in them," Luter said. "Next time, I want to bring a group from Franklin Avenue. Let's keep this thing going."

A third goal is to encourage and challenge young people—particularly African-Americans—to consider international missions as a career choice. Both Luter and Jefferson agree that the missionary challenge is under-communicated in many black churches. It's one Luter now is taking personally.

"Granted, some (young people) want to



MORE ARE NEEDED TO SERVE International Mission Board missionary Eric Reese is one of 27 African-American missionaries serving with the missions organization. Reese regularly walks the streets of the favelas (slums) in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, to minister to those outside the church. (Photo by Kristen Hiller/IMB)

be nurses, doctors or attorneys. Some want to be football players or basketball players, but a lot ... can be missionaries," Luter said. "I never heard that all my life in the church I grew up in. ... I don't hear it being said in the church I pastor now."

"As SBC president, I will let African-American churches know that we desperately need more African-Americans on the mission field," Luter continued. "I want to challenge pastors to start with your young people."

It isn't that African-Americans have not been open to serving overseas, Jefferson said. In fact, as early as 1783, freed

South Carolina slave and preacher George Leile moved his family to the Caribbean. By 1784, he had founded the First Baptist Church of Kingston, Jamaica, and grown it to more than 400 members.

"Our ancestors didn't say, 'We've got to take care of Jerusalem before we go,'" Jefferson said. "No, some of them had the call and they went."

Revolutions in transportation and communication, increased affluence of African-Americans and a growing number of black congregations in the SBC reveal that black evangelicals are a "sleeping giant," Jefferson said. (IMB/BP)



IMMEDIATE ACTION A team from Temple Baptist Church in Hattiesburg, Miss., plans the church's disaster relief efforts after a Feb. 10 tornado ripped through town, narrowly missing the church. (Photo courtesy of Temple Baptist Church)

Disaster relief

Continued from page 1

Many residents "are still in shock, because it hit, came through so quick and was so devastating," Didlake said. "The need that will be in the immediate future is going to be financial help for these folks. We try to reach out and help them as much as we can that way."

Mississippi churches have responded well to the disaster, Didlake noted, with teams activated from southern and northern portions of the state. Temple Baptist Church in Hattiesburg and Petal-Harvey Baptist Church in Petal are serving as command posts, with several other area churches responding.

"Our churches have responded tremendously in what they're doing, in having volunteers in the field and trying to

reach out to the people in the community and helping them," Didlake said.

A Southern Baptist feeding unit has been preparing up to 3,000 meals a day for storm victims, Didlake said, adding to the nearly 2,000 meals Temple Baptist has prepared for emergency response personnel, and additional meals Petal-Harvey Baptist is preparing for storm victims, he added. Area churches also are providing chaplaincy outreach, which is expected to continue well after debris removal and roof repairs are completed. Shelters are open, but most victims who've lost their homes are staying with relatives, Didlake pointed out.

Volunteers had applied tarps to dozens of homes as of last week, Didlake said, but that number is expected to grow as crews inspect neighborhoods.

The disaster relief work is expected to continue through at least Feb. 23. (BP)



HOPE

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Supporting sister churches

St. Louis—Representatives from 15 Kentucky Baptist churches and two associations toured St. Louis church plants Feb. 4-5 as part of an ongoing partnership with the Kentucky Baptist Convention.

Traveling to St. Louis were First Baptist Church of Whitesburg; Monticello Baptist Church, Provo; Mount Pisgah Baptist Church, Bremen; Big Creek Baptist Church, Hazard; Cave City Baptist Church, Cave City; First Baptist Church of Hazard; Rich Pond Baptist Church, Bowling Green; Hunsinger Lane Baptist Church, Louisville; (continued below)

■ **RIGHT:** A burned out shell of a church became symbolic of many older St. Louis churches, Pittman said, "old, run down, burnt out and in great need of transition or transformation." Fourth Street Baptist Church in St. Louis will be demolished when St. Louis Metro Baptist Association finds the needed funds.



Crossland Community Church, Bowling Green; Immanuel Baptist Church, Lexington; Crossroads Community Baptist Church, Whitley City; Horse Cave Baptist Church, Horse Cave; First Baptist Church of Hindman; Bethlehem Baptist Church, Mt. Eden; Coral Hill Baptist Church, Glasgow; Liberty Baptist Association, Glasgow; and Three Forks Baptist Association, Hazard.

Scott Pittman, the KBC's Acts 1:8 partnership consultant, said the purpose was to expose church leaders to the ministry needs in St. Louis and how churches or associations can get involved to "support our sister churches there." (WR)

■ **ABOVE:** Kentucky Baptists share a meal with St. Louis church planters and take the opportunity to learn about the struggles and successes while ministering in the urban areas of the city.

■ **LEFT:** Kell Eckdahl, of Hunsinger Lane Baptist Church, Louisville, chats with a woman attending a St. Louis church plant ministry geared toward Bosnian immigrants.

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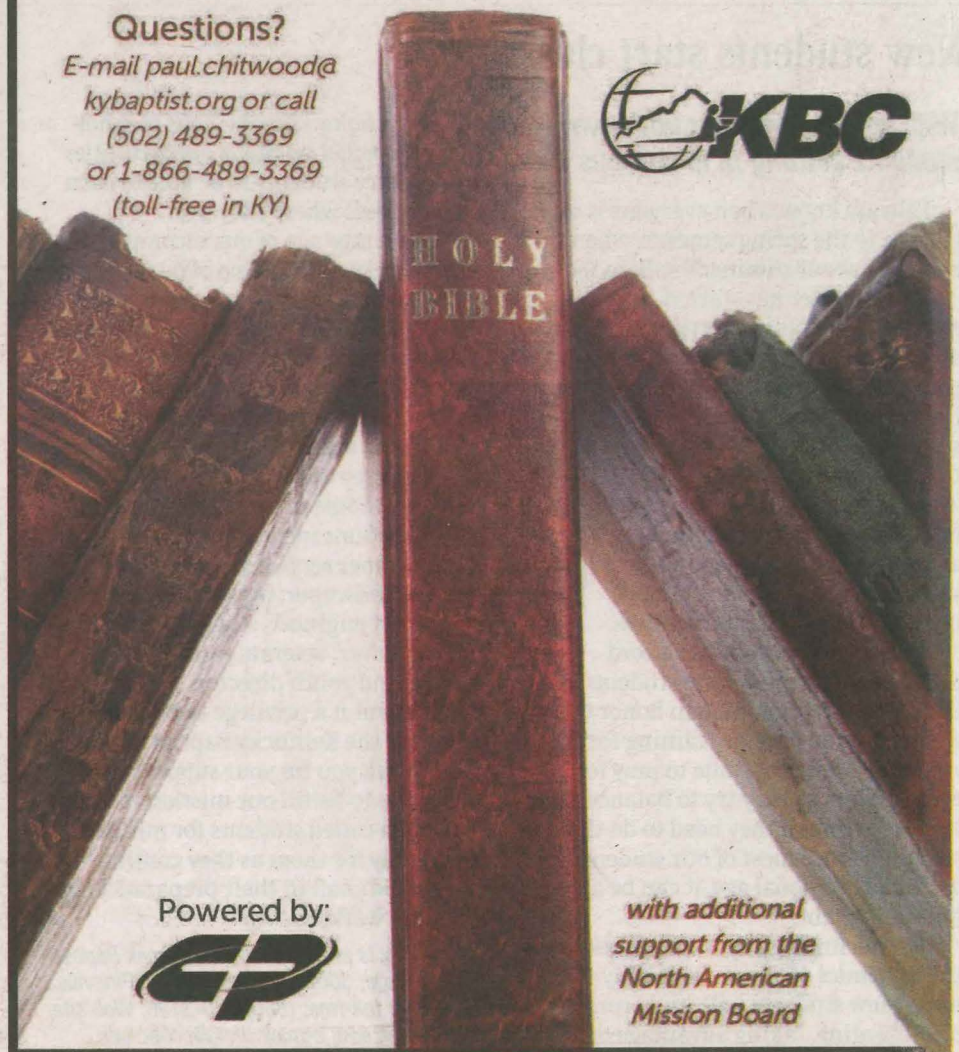
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Failed drug test

Incident reveals Oneida students deal with same issues as others

I never would have suspected that Grayson* would test positive for any drugs, much less for the two we found in his system. I had enjoyed the privilege of having Grayson in my geometry concepts class. He is a tall, athletic, good-looking young man with a ready smile and a consistently respectful attitude, and he gave every sign of being a Christian and trying to live like one. Could these random drug test results which showed that Grayson had used marijuana and amphetamines be right?

The administrative council called Grayson in to talk about the test results. When we asked him if he had gotten ADHD medicine from his friend, Martin* (as we knew another student previously had), Grayson immediately said, "Yes." Why? Grayson had to take the ACT exam on that previous Saturday and hadn't had time to study. Martin told Grayson that if he took the pill, he would be able to concentrate better and get a higher score on the test. Desperately wanting to do well, Grayson took the pill and then took the ACT exam.

We then talked about the marijuana, but here was no quick and easy admission. In fact, Grayson stated repeatedly and emphatically—but respectfully—that he had not smoked dope. That led us to another question: "Grayson, have you been around anyone who was smoking dope in your presence, even though you yourself might not have been smoking?"

This put Grayson in an even worse situation. Among our youth, it is one thing to admit you did something wrong, but it is considered far worse to say (truthfully) that someone else did

something wrong, even if what they did was or could be dangerous. Grayson sat there in silence for a long time before he admitted that he had been around some friends who were smoking marijuana. Reluctantly, he gave us the names of his friends. Thankfully (for his sake), I was able to tell him we already had those boys' names and had spoken with them.

We went on to discuss the dangers of using another person's medications, and I told Grayson I was glad that we weren't standing beside his bed in a hospital or beside his coffin in a funeral home. He received the normal five days' suspension for a first-time drug-related offense. (Martin was expelled for this, his third offense.)

I laid my hands upon Grayson's shoulders and prayed for him. I then asked him to stand so I could hug him before he left. As soon as I put my arms around him, Grayson's emotional dam broke. He sobbed inconsolably on my shoulder. He was broken by his failure in the face of temptation, sorry for how he had failed his Lord, concerned about what we adults would think of him, and unable to imagine how he would tell his father.

After his sobbing subsided, I offered to call his dad and tell him about the failed drug test and Grayson's sorrow. He accepted. A couple of days later, I spoke with Grayson's father. He was thankful for the test, the counseling of his son, and the phone call. God is working with Grayson and Martin. Please pray for them—and for all of our students.

*Names changed for privacy reasons

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

New students start classes

With spring semester underway, students settling in to campus life

I always know when everyone is settling in to the spring semester when I hear talk about summer break so soon.

The semester has started, and our new students are settling in and adjusting to the task of budgeting their time between family, work, ministry and their studies. I always enjoy meeting the new students God sends our way and hearing them share how He is working in their lives. They are always excited to begin their studies and prepare for the calling God has placed on their lives.

This spring we praise the Lord for 11 new degree-seeking students at Clear Creek. We count it an honor to be used of God to provide training for these students. Please continue to pray for each of them as they try to balance their time between all they need to do this semester. Since most of our students are of a non-traditional age, it can be a major life adjustment.

New technology continues to expand the dynamics of our student body. Eight of our new students will study completely online, taking advantage of our

online bachelor's degree. This technology has opened up many opportunities for ministry students to be able to earn their degrees where they live.

The average age of our incoming fall semester class is 35. Nine of our new students are married and two are single. These new students come to us from six different states: three from Kentucky; three from Tennessee; two from Virginia; and one each from Indiana, New Jersey and Ohio.

Some of their previous occupations include: cashier; customer service representative; landscaper; park manager; project engineer; stock clerk; truck driver; veteran; warehouse

worker; and youth director. We count it a privilege to be the Bible college of the Kentucky Baptist Convention. Thank you for your support that enables us to fulfill our mission to equip these God-called students for ministry. Please pray for them as they continue to follow God's call in their preparation for kingdom work.

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

Clear Creek Chronicle



Donnie Fox

WHAT'S GOING ON?

Youth choir auditions end March 1

High school students who are active in their Kentucky Baptist churches' music ministries are invited to audition for the 25th Kentucky Baptist All-State Youth Choir and Orchestra by March 1. The group, comprised of students from across the commonwealth, gathers annually for a summer music retreat followed by a tour. "In addition to the usual group of talented students, we will be inviting choir and orchestra alumni to participate," said Jason Stewart, the worship and music consultant for the Kentucky Baptist Convention. Students in grades 9-12 who were previously accepted into the group do not need to re-audition. This year's choir conductors are Mickey and Sue Ellen Ballard. Scott Bersaglia will conduct the orchestra. Mickey Ballard is minister of music and worship at Central Baptist Church in Paris. His wife, Sue Ellen, is the church organist. Bersaglia is the director of bands for Pikeville High School. This year's retreat and tour will be held June 16-23. Details on audition requirements, the retreat and the tour can be found at www.KyBaptist.org/ASYCO.

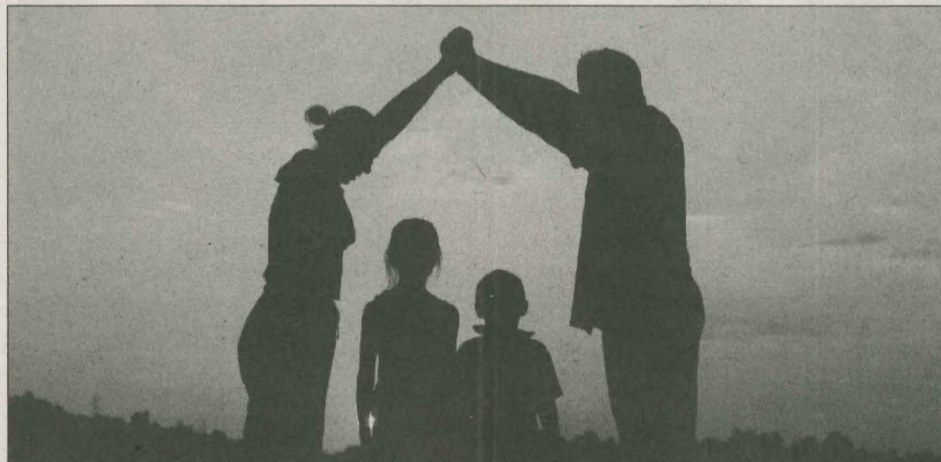
Interim pastor workshop March 12-13

A training conference to help prepare ministers for interim pastorates is set for March 12-13 in Owensboro. The event, sponsored by the Kentucky Baptist Convention and hosted by Daviess-McLean Baptist Association, starts at 10 a.m., local time, at the associational

office in Owensboro. The course is designed for experienced ministers who feel led to serve Kentucky Baptist churches in transition. Specific areas of focus include assessing a church's current situation, supporting a pastoral search committee, conflict management and preparing the church for the next pastor. Fees are \$100 per person and include all training materials, lunch on both days and dinner on Tuesday evening dinner. Participants are responsible for their own lodging. Advanced registration is required by contacting Leslie Rice at Daviess-McLean Baptist Association at (270) 684-2377. For additional information, visit www.KyBaptist.org/TIP.

'Get Acquainted' with the KBC

Pastors and other church staffers who are new to Kentucky, or the Kentucky Baptist Convention, are invited to a free "Get Acquainted Day" March 19 in Louisville. Participants and their spouses will have the opportunity to meet KBC leaders, as well as leaders from Kentucky Baptist-affiliated agencies and institutions. There is a time of worship, an informal question-and-answer session, a tour of the Kentucky Baptist Building and more. The KBC reimburses participants' mileage for the event and for one evening of lodging if needed. The event is free but registration is required at www.KyBaptist.org/Welcome. Directions to the Kentucky Baptist Building can be found at www.KyBaptist.org/About.



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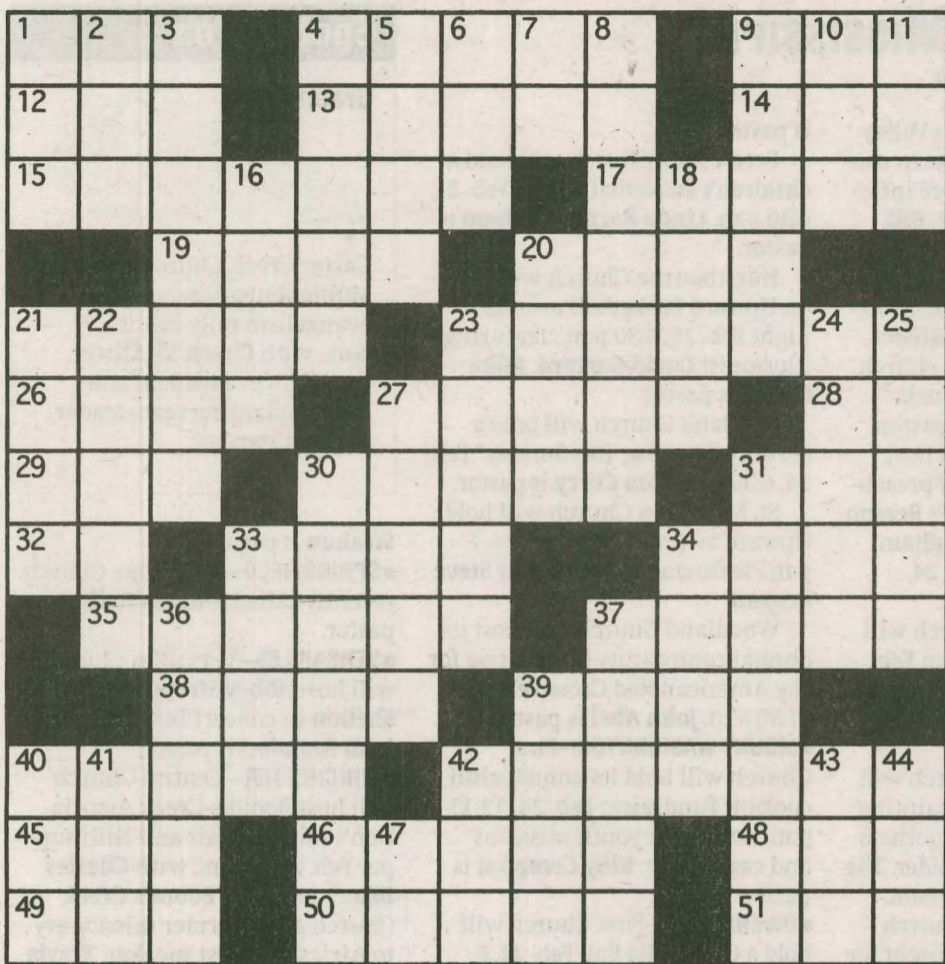
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Bible Crosswords

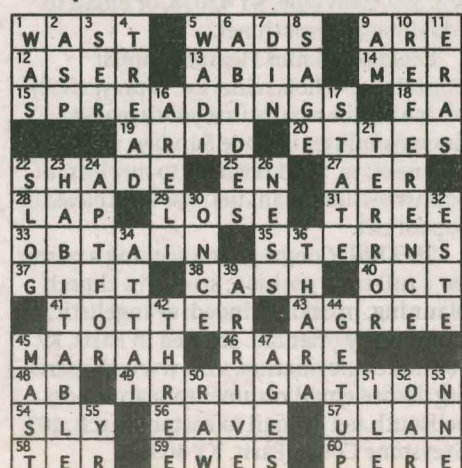
By Evelyn Boyington

Across

- 1 "I will come in to him and will ____ with him" (Revelation 3:20)
- 4 "The foxes have ____" (Matthew 8:20)
- 9 Isaac, to Abraham
- 12 ____-la-la
- 13 Pole vault or high jump, for example, in a track meet
- 14 "____ of every sort shalt thou bring into the ark" (Genesis 6:19)
- 15 Went in
- 17 Alter, hopefully for the better
- 19 "And he shall rule them with a rod of ____" (Revelation 2:27)
- 20 Celestial sign, to Magi
- 21 Remnant of a broken pot (KJV var.)
- 23 "Nor silver, nor brass ... nor scrip for your ____" (Matthew 10:9, 10)
- 26 Fowl creatures
- 27 Nonsense
- 28 In ____ (concerning)
- 29 Consume
- 30 Certain collectibles
- 31 Age
- 32 Title used when not on a first-name basis (abbr.)
- 33 "You're So ____" (C. Simon hit)
- 34 Confirm
- 35 "If any man ____, let him come unto me" (John 7:37)
- 37 Drops pounds
- 38 Act as accomplice
- 39 Actor Orson, for one
- 40 "Ye are not in darkness, that that day should overtake you as a ____" (1 Thess. 5:4)
- 42 Pasture activity
- 45 Rowing implement
- 46 Chief son of Kohath (1 Chronicles 15:5)
- 48 Born (Fr.)
- 49 Twisted strand in rope
- 50 "Make a joyful noise unto the Lord, all ye ____" (Psalm 100:1)
- 51 Came into possession

- 7 Half an em
- 8 Icons, perhaps
- 9 Far from cracking a smile
- 10 Possess
- 11 "And Cain ... dwelt in the land of ____ on the east of Eden" (Genesis 4:16)
- 16 Blunders
- 18 One betrothed to Joseph
- 20 In the near future
- 21 Son of Noah
- 22 "A merry ____ maketh a cheerful countenance" (Proverbs 15:13)
- 23 Elbow, for one
- 24 "Who concerning the truth have ____, saying that the resurrection is past" (2 Timothy 2:18)
- 25 "For I have laid upon thee the ____ of their iniquity" (Ezekiel 4:5)
- 27 Raise up
- 30 "Be ____ for nothing" (Philippians 4:6)
- 31 After dusk
- 33 Emotional reaction (colloq.)
- 34 Son of Jotham, king of Judah (2 Kings 16:1)
- 36 Hirsute
- 37 What the Lamb opens, in the Book of Revelation
- 39 Partner of born
- 40 Over the ____
- 41 Masculine nickname
- 42 Cotton ____
- 43 New (comb. form)
- 44 "____ thee behind me, Satan" (Matthew 16:23)
- 47 Chemical element (abbr.)

Last puzzle's solution



Down

- 1. Jeanne d'Arc, e.g.
- 2. Vase
- 3 "Rejoicing in hope, ____ in tribulation" (Romans 12:12)
- 4 "For ____ feared John, knowing that he was a just man" (Mark 6:20)
- 5 Appliance
- 6 "He was ____ as a sheep to the slaughter" (Acts 8:32)

An under-tapped tool for churches

Foundation exists to help churches understand value of estate gifts

Earlier this month, the results of a survey conducted by LifeWay Research among pastors of Southern Baptist churches throughout the United States were published. The purpose of the survey was to gauge the awareness and preparedness of churches to the issues surrounding estate stewardship.

Let me share a few of the findings for your awareness and for any needed action you and/or your church might need to take in light of the findings: Only 16 percent of churches received any kind of estate gift in the year preceding the survey; that means 84 percent did not. Churches that reported receiving at least one estate gift received an average of \$22,507. According to the Chronicle of Philanthropy the average estate gift to all charities was \$70,000.

Seventy-two percent of pastors believe every Christian should include the church and other ministries in their estate plans, but 86 percent of them confess they have not provided their congregations with seminars or even basic information on estate planning during the last year. The survey

results also reveal that the majority of pastors are more comfortable and more inclined to preach on the importance of giving from one's income than one's estate.

The Kentucky Baptist Foundation has the conviction that for Kentucky Baptist churches to be successful in reaching Kentucky and the world for Christ, Kentucky Baptist churches must be equipped to cultivate and secure estate gifts from their members. And, the KBF was established in 1945 "by the churches, for the churches to help the churches reach Kentucky and the world for Christ."

Ky. Baptist Foundation



Barry Allen

If your church has not yet called upon the KBF to assist it in putting in place a plan of education and awareness, casting a vision about the vital importance and use of estate gifts, and facilitating the receipt and administration of such gifts, please do not hesitate any longer and take advantage of this under-tapped tool. Laurie Valentine and I are awaiting your call and the opportunity to assist.

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

Grants offer 'Bold Hope'

Kentucky Baptists make possible many unique ministries statewide

Two years ago, we introduced this column to help you know where the Eliza Broadus Offering is used across Kentucky. I hope you have been excited about the many ways the offering brings "Bold Hope" throughout the commonwealth.

Thank you for your faithful giving. We are well on our way to reaching the 2012-13 goal of \$1,250,000. A total of \$1,078,530 has been received through the end of January. We will continue to receive 2012-13 EBO gifts through Aug. 31.

The Kentucky Woman's Missionary Union's finance committee met a few weeks ago to make EBO special ministry grants for this year. A total of \$95,000 was awarded to 107 different ministries. In addition, 70 Kentucky Baptist associations once again will receive grants of \$500 to be used as needed for missions in the associations. Associational grants total \$35,000.

Each of our associations provided a report on how their \$500 grants were used this past year. Some of the ministries assisted through associational grants include:

- Mission trips.
- Crusade outreach.
- Food pantry ministries.
- Baptist Builders.
- Disaster relief equipment repairs.
- Kids' festival outreach expenses.
- Plumbing materials for rebuilding in West Liberty.

- Easter baskets distributed throughout a school system.
- Repairs at a Baptist clothing center.
- Community ministry supplies.
- Bibles for Kentucky Raceway Ministry.

EBO at Work



Joy Bolton

- Read to Succeed, a ministry to low-income children.
- Bibles, tracts and outreach materials.
- Kentucky Changers.
- Equipment for an association's special-event trailer.
- A "back-to-school bash" community outreach.
- Direct-mail promotion of Vacation Bible School in all of an association's churches.
- A new Hispanic church.
- Purchase of a new disaster relief laundry unit.

Some of the ministries selected by our associations already were underway, and the Eliza Broadus grants helped with needed funding. Some ministries would not have been done at all without the EBO grants. And all of these ministries were made possible by faithful volunteers who gave of their time and energy to share Christ. You were part of ministries in every Kentucky Baptist association this year through your praying and giving.

Keep praying as this year's grants go out across our state. Pray that every dollar will be effectively used to give "Bold Hope" to someone who needs Christ as Savior.

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



February

- 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 & Conference Center, Bagdad.

MOUNTAINS TO THE MISSISSIPPI

COMPILED BY STAFF

■ **BRADFORDSVILLE**—Bradfordsville Church recently called **John Simpson** as pastor.

■ **CAMPBELLSVILLE**—Campbellsville University will hold "A Journey of Faith in His Song," a congregational song festival, Feb. 20, 6:30 p.m., at the Ransdell Chapel on campus. The event is free and open to the public. For more information, call (270) 789-5520.

■ **CECILIA**—Cecilia Church will hold a WMU Focus Sunday Feb. 24, 9:50 a.m., with **Keith, Megan** and **Jackie Taul** as guest speakers.

■ **CENTRAL CITY**—Cedar Grove Church recently celebrated its 120th anniversary with **Set Free Ministries** as special guest musicians. **Cody Crowell** is pastor.

■ **CRESTWOOD**—Crestwood Church will hold a parents' focus group Feb. 24 & 27, 6 p.m., for parents to share resources and ideas. **Donnie Patrick** is pastor.

■ **EDDYVILLE**—First Church's youth ministry will hold a church-wide soup and chili lunch Feb. 24, noon, to raise money. **Tim Perdue** is pastor.

■ **ELIZABETHTOWN**—Severns Valley Church will host **This Hope** in concert Feb. 24, 6 p.m. For more information, call (270) 765-7822. **Bill Langley** is pastor.

■ **FRANKFORT**—Buck Run Church will hold a wild-game dinner Feb. 22, 6 p.m., with **Chuck McAlister**, the KBC's evangelism and church planting team leader, as guest speaker. **Hershael York** is pastor.

Crestwood Church will host **Robert Smith**, professor of preaching at Samford University's Beeson Divinity School in Birmingham, Ala., as guest speaker Feb. 24, 10:45 a.m. & 6 p.m.

■ **HODGENVILLE**—First Church will hold an Upward celebration Feb. 22, 6 p.m.; featuring comedian and ventriloquist **Gene Cordova**. **Paul Richey** is pastor.

■ **HOPKINSVILLE**—First Church will hold a "Mommy and Me" painting party Feb. 23, 10 a.m., for mothers with children ages 5 and older. The cost to attend is \$30 per person.

■ **LOUISVILLE**—Farmdale Church will hold a pajama movie night for preschoolers Feb. 22. **Doug Strader**

is pastor.

Fern Creek Church will hold a children's basketball clinic Feb. 21, 6:30 p.m. **Linda Barnes Popham** is pastor.

Hurstbourne Church will hold an Upward Basketball awards night Feb. 25, 6:30 p.m.; featuring illusionist **David Garrard**. **Mike O'Neal** is pastor.

Parkland Church will hold a "Family Corn Bag Toss Sunday" Feb. 24, 6:30 p.m. **Tom Curry** is pastor.

St. Matthews Church will hold Upward awards night Feb. 24, 6 p.m., featuring ventriloquist **Steve Brogan**.

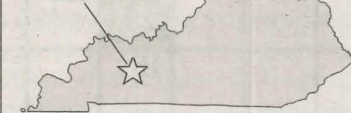
Woodland Church will host its annual community blood drive for the American Red Cross Feb. 24, 11:30 a.m. **John Abel** is pastor.

■ **MOUNT WASHINGTON**—First Church will hold its annual chili cook-off fundraiser Feb. 24, 12:15 p.m., to benefit youth missions and camp trips. **Billy Compton** is pastor.

■ **OWENSBORO**—First Church will hold a Cinderella Ball Feb. 22, 6 p.m., for girls in grades K-5. **Paul**

Spotlight on ...

Greenville



Carter Creek Church will host Muhlenburg Association's evangelism rally Feb. 26, 7 p.m., with **Chuck McAlister**, the KBC's evangelism and church planting team leader, as guest speaker.

Strahan is pastor.

■ **SPRINGFIELD**—New Hope Church recently called **Johnnie Bailey** as pastor.

■ **VERSAILLES**—Versailles Church will host **Abbey Strepp** and **Faye Shelton** in concert Feb. 24, 6 p.m. **John Brandon** is pastor.

■ **WINCHESTER**—Central Church will host Boone's Creek Association's missions fair and chili supper Feb. 22, 6 p.m., with **Charles Dixon**, pastor of Boone's Creek Church and a former missionary to Africa, as guest speaker. **Travis Drake** is pastor.



Williamsburg ministry finds new home

Williamsburg—Now in its 20th year of serving needy and homeless families in Whitley and surrounding counties, Cedaridge Ministries has a new place to call home.

The Williamsburg nonprofit has moved into a new warehouse space four miles from its previous location. The building is six times larger than its occupancy, with 42,000 square feet of floor space.

Cedaridge Ministries, led by Mission Service Corps missionary Keith Decker, provides food, clothing,

household necessities and the gospel to the underprivileged and homeless in the area.

Decker said the ministry is looking for volunteer groups to join in the effort. Last year, more than 50 groups helped out at Cedaridge. Decker said he hopes to see the number of volunteer groups grow to 75 or more in 2013.

Cedaridge Ministries formed in 1993 and serves residents of Whitley, Knox, Laurel, Campbell, McCreary, Scott and Bell. (WR)

CLASSIFIED ADS

FOR RENT: Condos for rent in Destin, Fla.; two bedrooms, two bathrooms, sofa bed; lbrammer@charter.net, (423) 309-4422.

FOR SALE: Beautiful 1924 antique Kimball baby grand piano with cherry finish, completely restored in 1995; excellent condition with matching piano stool, \$1,800, (502) 418-0925.

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

SEEKING: Calvary Baptist Church, 111 N. McWhorter Street, London, Ky., is seeking a part-time minister of youth. For more information, call (606) 864-7071; Pastor Harlan Avera.

SEEKING: 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.

SEEKING: Church secretary, permanent part time, five days per week; requires knowledge of Microsoft Office, specifically Publisher. Submit full resumé, along with references to: Evergreen Baptist Church (affiliate of Southern Baptist Convention), 2698 Evergreen Road, Frankfort, KY 40601, c/o Personnel Committee. Resumés must be received by Feb. 28.

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: 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.

SEEKING: A full-time minister of worship and students or a part-time minister of worship. Candidate should have a bachelor's degree or be working toward one. Send resumé to First Baptist Church of Mason, 735 Reading Road, Mason, OH 45040, Attn: Personnel Committee, or send via email to pastorbill@fbcmason.com.

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

SEEKING: Mount Pleasant Baptist Church in Eddyville, Ky., is seeking a part-time minister of children. Applicant must have experience working with children and parents. Send resumés to First Baptist Church, P.O. Box 599, Eddyville, KY 42038, or email to eddyfirst@bellsouth.net.

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 mtpleasantbaptist@windstream.net; www.mtpleasantbaptist.net.

SEEKING: Congregation seeking a pastor for a full-time position; strong in church planning; mission minded; evangelistic; community oriented. Located in Paris, Ky. For more information, visit www.cbcparis.org. Please email resumés to searchcbc@bellsouth.net or mail to Pastor Search, 107 Greystone Court, Paris, KY 40361.

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: Immanuel Baptist Church is seeking a choral director to continue and build upon our strong heritage of music ministry. This person will lead and direct choirs and music education opportunities for children, youth and adults. This person will coordinate and direct special music presentations. A bachelor's degree in music is required. This is a part-time position. To request more information or to submit a resumé by March 15, you may contact the church at 3465 Buckner Lane, Paducah, KY 42001, or email directed to jsnook@vci.net or call (270) 443-5306.

SEEKING: Part-time music minister needed in Bagdad, Ky.; musician & leader for contemporary & traditional worship music; will oversee church music activities; piano/choral skills & worship leader experience a plus. Send resumés to veronicab22@shelbywireless.net.

Celebrities share memories of their brushes with Billy Graham

By Adelle Banks

Cos Cob, Conn.—Evangelist Billy Graham has rubbed elbows with celebrities ranging from presidents to journalists to musicians. In "Billy Graham & Me," a new book in the "Chicken Soup for the Soul" franchise that was released Feb. 12, 101 people who have met Graham on the public stage share their private memories of the 94-year-old preacher.

Here are excerpts from 12 of them:

Former President George H.W. Bush

Billy came to stay with Barbara and me at the White House on the eve of the air war against Iraq. I told him what I was then having to do—our diplomacy and our quest for a peaceful solution having failed. I told him when the first cruise missiles would hit Baghdad, and we watched in wonder as the war to liberate Kuwait began. Just the three of us were there. Billy said a little prayer for our troops and for the innocents who might be killed. The next day we attended a church service at Fort Meade. His very presence brought great comfort to the people in uniform who were praying at that special service.

I cannot begin to tell what Billy's presence and his faith meant to me as President and as Commander in Chief. His own beliefs and abiding faith gave me great strength.

Former President Bill Clinton, recalling Graham's 1959 crusade in Little Rock, Ark.

The crusade happened as Billy wanted it, with tens of thousands of people, black and white, pouring into the stadium where the Arkansas Razorbacks played. When Billy finished preaching and issued the call, inviting us to rededicate our lives to Christ, thousands, black and white together, some smiling, some crying, went down to the field to answer the call. It was a moment in Arkansas history after which nothing would be quite the same for those who were there and those who knew the stand Billy had taken. And Billy didn't have to preach one word about integrating the schools. All he had to speak was God's Word to all God's children. It may seem easy now, but back then, fifty years ago, it was an act of moral courage and deep faith.



PRESIDENTIAL INFLUENCE Billy Graham (far left) with former Presidents (from left) George H.W. Bush, Jimmy Carter, and Bill Clinton. (RNS photo courtesy Billy Graham Evangelistic Association)

Southern Baptist public policy ethicist Richard Land

In terms of Evangelical Christianity reengaging the culture, Billy Graham is the man who really did it, on a mass level. And he gave us, the Evangelicals, both the model for how to do it and the confidence with which to do it. There would not have been a modern evangelical movement without him. And I love the guy. He was a hero to me in my boyhood, and he remains a hero to me today.

Former dc Talk frontman Toby McKeehan (TobyMac) on playing at a 1994 Graham crusade in Cleveland

We were asked to meet with Dr. Graham and his wife Ruth at their home in North Carolina. When we arrived, we were invited to sit down and we all started talking. Then something happened that I'll never forget. Dr. Graham asked us if we wanted something to drink. He actually went to the kitchen and brought us two Cokes and a glass of water on a tray. That servant's heart at work even in his home impressed me deeply.

Billy told us that we were his translators for the next generation, helping put the gospel message into a

language they could understand. I saw that he cared enough for the world's youth to risk the possibility that half his people might not like us joining him on stage. However, for Billy Graham, reaching young people was worth the risk. To me, that showed who he was.

Former U.S. Senator Sam Nunn (D-Ga.)

I gave him a small Bible once. It was very small, one you could put in your pocket. I saw him many years later toward the end of his career of actively holding crusades around the country. It was during a crusade at the big coliseum in Atlanta, and I was up on the stage with him and six or eight other people.

He pulled that Bible out in front of thousands and thousands of people and said that he had gotten it as a gift from me, and he'd had it with him in his pocket ever since. That was an amazing memory. His authenticity and sincerity shines through. People realize it instinctively. That distinguished him from any preacher I know of in that generation who was in the public limelight.

CNN's HLN News Anchor Kyra Phillips

I looked at this legendary man of unwavering faith and said, "Reverend Graham, I'm a little overwhelmed right now. It took so much to get here. I didn't think you would grant me this interview. I was told it wasn't going to happen. Then, I was told it was on. I'm not quite sure which way is up and which way is down at the moment. Could we just pray?" He looked at me like a caring father. This man, who over six decades counseled presidents and gave millions of Americans hope for a better life through faith, smiled at me and simply said, "Well, of course." Then he held my hand and we bowed our heads. We prayed for a few minutes, then opened our eyes. I sat back. I felt so at peace, so calm, and so relaxed. I never once looked down at my notes. We had an amazing conversation, one of the most memorable and beautiful moments I have had in my career.

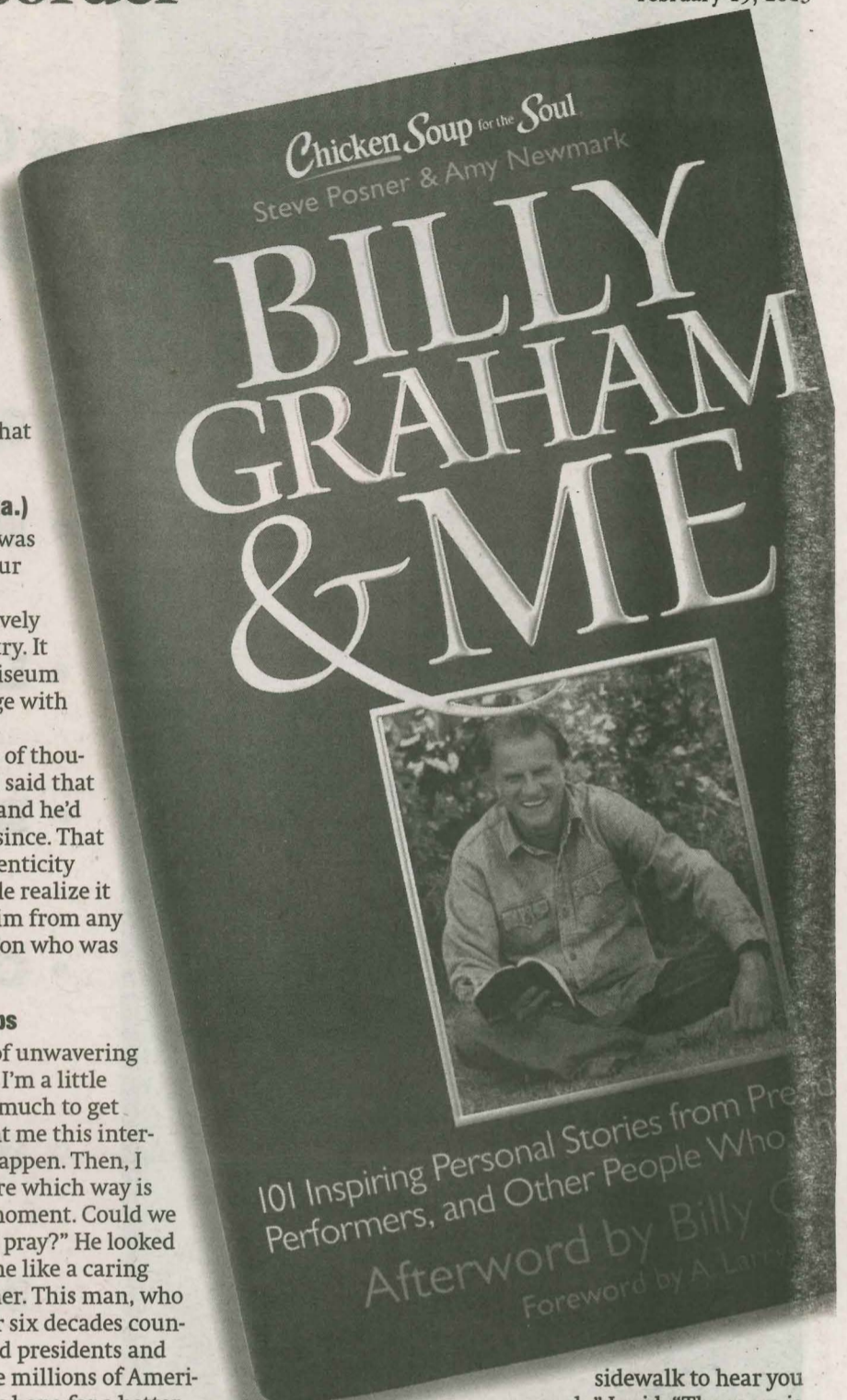
Christian Broadcasting Network Founder Pat Robertson

I've been with him on a group prayer retreat. He's just a humble man under God. He puts on no airs or pretense, none of the "flash and dash." He lives very simply. He once told me he had been offered an airplane—someone wanted to give him one, but he wouldn't accept it. He felt that he should not have luxury for himself. People in his kind of position are offered everything, and he said no.

Sojourners Founder Jim Wallis, recalling Graham admitting to being nervous in addressing Harvard students in 1999

Billy said, "Jim, I'm really nervous tonight." "Why in the world would you be nervous?" I replied. "I feel very weak physically, and am not sure if I will be effective answering questions from these Harvard students."

At that moment, I had such a feeling of great warmth for him. "Billy, they slept overnight on the



sidewalk to hear you preach," I said. "The room is full. They're not here to eat your lunch. They're here because they want to tell their grandchildren they were in the same room as Billy Graham." His vulnerability, his humanity, was so much in evidence in that moment, and I had the chance to do what many of us have known with our aging parents—to give something back to them. I said, "I'll be sitting right in the front row, and I'll be praying for you the whole time. So if you get nervous, just look down and you'll see me there praying for you. They're here to hear from you. Just speak from your heart, from your soul, and they're gonna love it."

He gave me a hug and he went up to the podium, and a couple of times as he was speaking he looked down at me, and I put my head down and prayed for him.

Of course, despite his doubts, Billy gave an incredibly brilliant, statesmanlike talk about faith and public life.

Saddleback Church Founder Rick Warren

President Obama asked me to pray the invocation at his inauguration, so I promptly went out and bought a nice hat from a store in West Hollywood. But I left it in a hotel room a few days later and it was stolen. I was disappointed, but had no time to buy another.

To this day, I still don't know how Billy found out about my hat loss. But about a week later, an unexpected package arrived at my home. Inside, carefully wrapped, was a beautiful black Homburg hat from Billy Graham! It was the hat Billy had worn at the inaugurations where he'd prayed! Attached was this note: "It's your turn, Rick. It's your hour. This is your hat now." Tears filled my eyes. Once again I saw the greatness of my mentor, his deep love for others, and his encouraging heart. I wore Billy's hat when I prayed on the Capitol steps at that 2009 inauguration. Billy was unable to attend, but once again, his influence was present. (RNS)

Calendar of Upcoming Events at Clear Creek Baptist Bible College

- **Spring Revival** - February 26, 27 & 28.
11 am & 7 pm in the Main Chapel
(No Wednesday PM Service)
- **Spring Break** - March 11-15. *Offices closed.*
- **Registration for Fall 2013 Semester** -
March 18 to April 5.
- **Lacy-Lykins Lectures** - March 26 & 27.
Lecturers: Chuck and Janice McAlister
- **Registration for May Term Intensive Classes** -
April 8 - 12.
- **CCBBC Graduation** - May 10.
*Commencement Speaker:
SBC President Dr. Fred Luter, Jr.*
- **May Term Intensive Classes begin** -
May 13 - 16.
- **Southern Baptist Convention** - June 11 - 12.
Houston, TX.
- **Alumni Conference** - August 5 - 6.

For more information on any of these events you may contact the college by calling our toll free number, 1-866-340-3196 or visit us on the web at www.ccbbc.edu.



ABHE and SACS accredited

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Clear Creek is an institution of the Kentucky Baptist Convention