

WESTERN Recorder

March 5, 2013

Shine Like Stars * Philippians 2:15

Volume 187, Issue 9

Mali

Kentucky Disaster Relief joins pilot, sends first team to Sub-Saharan Africa

By Robin Cornetet Bass

Louisville—Kentucky Baptist Disaster Relief is joining a pilot program in partnership with Baptist Global Response that rethinks international crisis ministries and makes Kentucky Baptists among the first responders to disaster relief in Sub-Saharan Africa.

An initial team from the commonwealth will soon embark on a humanitarian mission in Mali providing medical treatment for refugees in the capitol city of Bamako.

"It's a big undertaking," said Coy Webb, director of Kentucky Baptist Disaster Relief, in reference to the organization adopting all 48 countries of the Sub-Saharan region. "I was a little overwhelmed at first.

"In the past, different state conventions were on call during different months of the year. That's why we did so much in Haiti. We were on call in January and that's when the earthquake hit," Coy said of last year's response.

But being on call for disasters across the globe has its problems, the DR director noted, when considering the training necessary to adequately reach the world's wide range of cultures and assist with seemingly endless potential disasters.

□ See Disaster relief ... Page 5

Annie Armstrong Easter Offering



OPENING DOORS NAMB missionary Peter Yanes (left) greets Haitian pastor Wadner Gedeon in Philadelphia. Yanes assists church planters like Gedeon with leadership development and mobilization strategy. (Photo by Ted Wilcox/NAMB)

A HEART for CHURCH PLANTING

By Sara Shelton

If anyone understands the impact church planting and evangelism can have on someone, it's Peter Yanes. Together, the two changed his life.

Born and raised in the islands of the Philippines, Yanes grew up in a predominantly Roman Catholic nation with a family deeply devoted to the church. Yanes himself spent much of his youth serving as an altar boy with aspirations of one day becoming a priest.

All that changed with an invitation.

"I was in high school and a friend invited me to a Bible study," Yanes recalls. "That's where I came to know Jesus Christ in a personal way. Since then, there's been no turning back."

The church that hosted this Bible study was a church plant started by a Filipino planter.

"Church planting is very special and important to me. Without it, I wouldn't be where I am," Yanes explains.

□ See Church planting ... Page 4



Love people more than preferences, McAlister urges Kentucky Baptists

By Todd Deaton

Elizabethtown—"Give me a church full of people who love the unchurched more than they love their preferences, and I will show you a church that will turn this world upside down for Jesus Christ," Chuck McAlister asserted Feb. 25 at the first RISK conference in Elizabethtown.

In a passionate appeal at the conclusion of the one-day evangelism conference at Severns Valley Baptist Church, McAlister exhorted Kentucky Baptists to get outside the four walls of the church and start "Reaching Into the State of Kentucky."

"How much do you really care about people in your church?" asked the new leader of the KBC's church planting and evangelism team. In his travels, McAlister said he sees churches that seem to care more about their preferences than they do about people.

"When did we get the idea that church was about what we want, what we've got to have?" he asked. "It's got to be my style, my desire, what I think it ought to be."

"God help us!" he exclaimed. "It's not your church; it's His church ... and He loves the unchurched," he asserted, urging.

□ See McAlister... Page 2

SELF SERVING "When did we get the idea that church was about what we want, what we've got to have?" said Chuck McAlister during the first RISK conference held Feb. 25 at Severns Valley Baptist Church in Elizabethtown. (Photo by Todd Deaton)

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Harvie teaches a multiplication lesson to pastors and church planters

By Todd Deaton

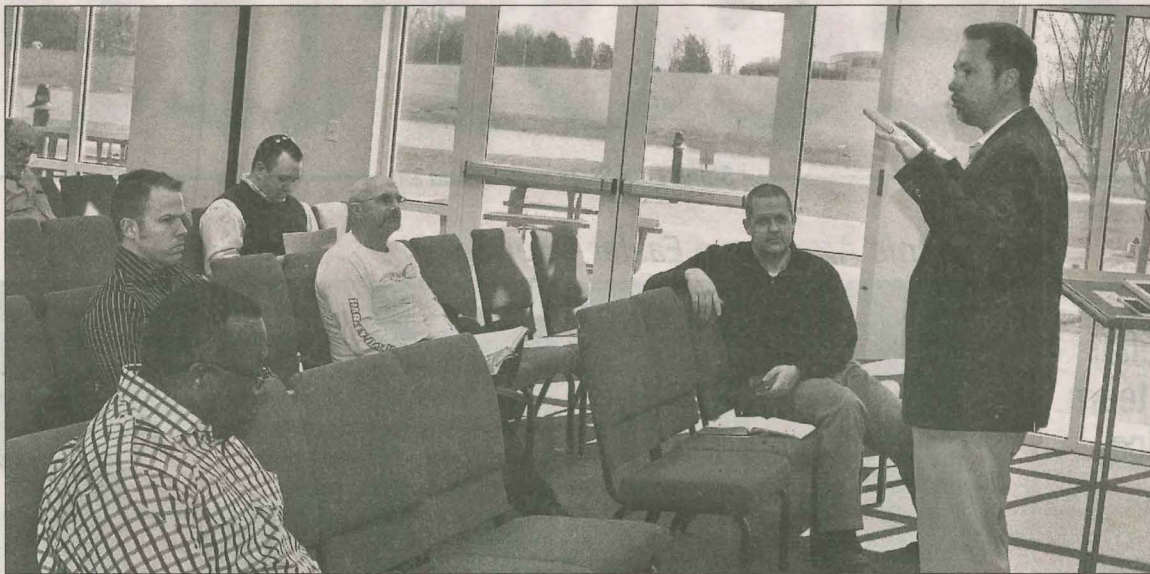
Elizabethtown—"God designed the church to take the gospel to a lost and dying world, and we have the privilege to multiply that," according to Aaron Harvie, the new church planting strategist for the Kentucky Baptist Convention.

Multiplication begins with prayer—crying out to God, Harvie told a room full of pastors and church planters attending one of several breakout sessions offered during the RISK conference in Elizabethtown.

When facing overwhelming and overpowering obstacles that often make would-be church planters feel powerless and helpless, they need to be reminded, "Guys, it's time to go old-school," he said. "Sometimes they have forgotten the power of prayer."

Harvie planted Riverside Community Church in Philadelphia, which since has launched four more congregations. Now an employee of the NAMB, as well as the KBC, he has a triple role, also working in partnership with seminary students interested in church planting.

"If we are really honest, as a pastor, sometimes our natural tendency is to understand what we are up against and begin to put our church in a defensive position," Harvie observed. Operating in a survival mode, "we begin making decisions not based on an offensive position, but more of a defensive. And, it takes the Lord to break through



MULTIPLYING Aaron Harvie said church leaders must be discontent before growth can occur. (Photo by Todd Deaton)

and remind us how He sees us."

In Judges 6, Gideon is not acting like "a man of valor," Harvie pointed out. Yet God saw Gideon differently, he noted, reminding church planters that they belong to Him, that they are ambassadors for Christ, and that they have been commanded to go and make disciples.

Finding courage in God's words to Gideon, "Do I not send you?" Harvie charged church planters to recapture the sense that "we are a people who are called to be sent."

Drawing insights from Steve Addison's book, "Movements That Change the World," Harvie highlighted three things that have to happen for a congregation to become a multiplying church:

■ **Discontent.** Church leaders must come to the place where there is a discontent, they are burdened to do something about it, and they realize that God has something more for them, Harvie explained.

■ **Vision.** Church leaders must see a preferred future, Harvie said, encouraging them to "make a promise" to multiply and to decide "this is going to happen."

"Isn't it ironic that we always offer up to God excuses. 'Man, we can't do this ...,'" he confided. "God is saying, 'You need to go plant another church,' and the question is, will we receive God's answer?"

Highlighting God's assurance, "But I will be with you," Harvie said, "Here's the secret to success when it comes to

multiplying: It is not your strategy; it is not your abilities; it is not your resources. It is the Lord. ... He's the preferred future."

Yes, the odds are overwhelming, Harvie allowed, but God is greater. "When are we going to stop looking at the difficulties of the task, and start focusing on the greatness of God?"

■ **Action.** Finally, movement must take place, Harvie insisted.

"If we remain in the discontent phase, then down the road all we become are critics," he quipped. "If you move on to seeing a preferred future, all you become is a dreamer.

Create an action plan, he urged, that leads to a "rekindling" and a moment of consecration.

Then "go to war," raising up a new generation of leaders and

sending out the best, he continued. "We have to intentionally invest in young men to send out, not to keep," he said.

Affirming that blessings will come through multiplication that churches will never experience in addition, he explained, "There is something about taking a step of faith and allowing the Lord to plant other churches through you in your community that changes not only your church, but also changes your community.

"My hope and dream for you is that God plants a seed that begins to stir in you a desire to multiply," he urged, longing for the day when churches are known more for their "sending capacity" than for their seating capacity.

PRAISE & WORSHIP



Jeane Bope leads the musical group *This Hope* during worship at the RISK conference Feb. 25 at Severns Valley Baptist Church in Elizabethtown. (Photo provided by KBC)

McAlister

Continued from page 1

ing people to lay their preferences aside.

Kentucky Baptist churches have been declining in worship attendance at an average rate of 2.4 percent per year for the last six years—a 14.4 percent decline since 2006, McAlister noted. "What's going on?" he asked.

Drawing from Acts 17, he outlined five areas in which the church needs to honestly evaluate itself to reach people in today's secular culture:

■ **Motivation—Care about people.**

Before hiring him, KBC leaders did not do a good job of vetting, confided McAlister, a former Arkansas evangelist and host of an award-winning cable TV program, "Adventure Bound Outdoors."

While noted as an outdoorsman, he has another side, McAlister said. "I've been known to participate in tea parties ... and it gets worse," he confessed.

"I've been known to participate in tea parties, wearing a tutu," he continued. And, since he couldn't find one that fits, he has been known to wear a tutu on each leg and a tiara on his head, he chuckled.

While his preference would be to watch football games and hunting shows, McAlister said he gladly engages in tea parties because of his three granddaughters. "Why? Because I love my

granddaughters more than I love my preferences," he said.

"When you care more about people than you do about preferences, God will use your church to make a difference," he asserted.

■ **Motion: Go where people are.**

In Athens, Paul shared the good news of Jesus not only in a house of worship, but also in the marketplace daily, McAlister observed.

"Where in the world did we get the idea that we are supposed to sit on our blessed assurance in church and expect the unchurched to come to us?" he asked.

"The way I read the Great Commission is, we are supposed to go make disciples," he said. "We are supposed to engage them ... get into their world."

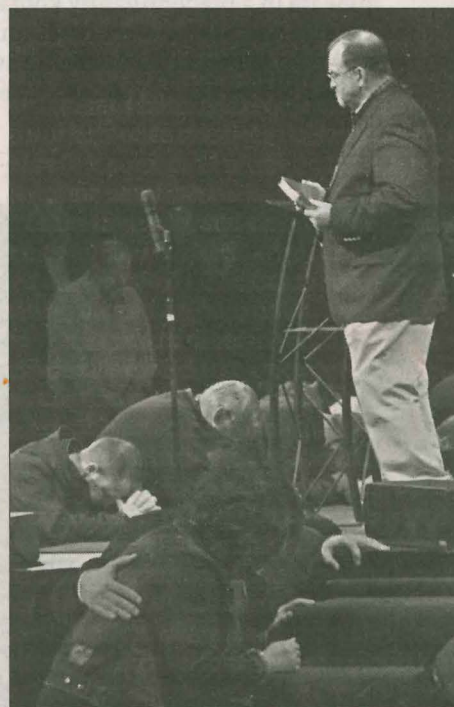
Declaring that he wants to make a difference with his life, McAlister asserted, "I don't want to be safe; I want to be dangerous!

"I want the demons of hell to wake up in the morning and go, 'Oh, no! He's at it again!'" he exclaimed.

■ **Methods: Adjust methods to connect with people.**

Drawing attention to an altar to an unknown god, Paul didn't attack, make fun, or point fingers at people, McAlister observed. Instead, Paul adjusted his methods to communicate more effectively.

McAlister told a humorous story



ALTER CALL RISK conference participants bow at the altar while Chuck McAlister prays. (Photo by KBC)

about a man who was sitting on a riverbank, fishing with blackberries. "What are you using for bait?" someone asked him. "Blackberries," he replied. "Why?" "Cause I like them." "Well, what do the fish like?" "I don't know."

Some churches have been doing that kind of thing for years, he said,

challenging, "Why can't we make adjustments to reach people where they are?"

While some might object to using guns to win people to Jesus, McAlister told about a church that recently gave away 80 guns at a wild game dinner and saw 382 men pray to receive Christ—many of whom had never set foot in church.

"I apologize to nobody for using anything God makes available to us to win somebody to Jesus," he said.

■ **Message: Tell people the truth.**

Decrying a tendency to weaken the gospel, McAlister charged, "You know why we are not effective? It's because we've got the wrong message. Hear me well: belief is not enough.

"We have taken the gospel and diluted it to point of saying it's all about believing the right thing," he said. Noting that Satan even believes in God and knows the Bible is God's word, he maintained, "It is not about believing the right thing; it's about who you bend your knee to."

God has called the church to tell people the truth, call them to repentance, and let them know the judgment is coming, he urged.

■ **Mindset: Expect people to respond.**

"Is Jesus your life? Why not?" McAlister pleaded. "What is it going to take to help us realize that the message we've been given and the Savior who has captured our heart is worth sharing?" (WR)

Take more 'risks' in sharing gospel, Ky. Baptists

Last Monday's RISK conference in Elizabethtown encouraged Kentucky Baptists to find creative ways of "Reaching Into the State of Kentucky" with the gospel. While our coverage spotlights two of the KBC's newest staff members, Chuck McAlister and Aaron Harvie, other keynote speakers also gave stirring appeals about the urgency to tell others about Christ.

"It is risky when God tells you to go forward, and you stay put or retreat," said Richard Harris, retired evangelism leader for the North American Mission Board. "It may very well be a sin to be satisfied with a good church when God wants your church to be a great one," he said. "Too many churches are operating with a maintenance mentality, rather than a ministry movement mentality. We've got to move to a siege mindset, rather than just a survival mindset."

Harris suggested five meanings for "RISK": You 1) see opportunity, rather than obstacles; 2) understand the challenges as you weigh the cost; 3) are willing to pay the price because of obedience to your call; 4) move forward in faith,



After Thought

By Todd Deaton

not fear; and 5) do all for the glory of God, not the praise of men.

"We've lost a sense of urgency" in carrying out the Great Commission, Harris asserted, charging, "We will not change Kentucky, North America, or the world until we get back to taking serious the command God gave us." Recalling the words spoken by the guards at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, "Orders remain unchanged, he added a word, "My orders remain unchanged."

Robert Smith, preaching professor at Beeson Divinity School of Samford University, called evangelism "risky business." Recounting the story of Rahab, the prostitute, he told how she risked her life and family in harboring the spies in Jericho.

In sharing Christ, we should have the "can't-help-its," as Peter and John did in Acts 4:20, Smith urged. "You have to get to the place that you just can't help it. It's not your duty; it's your delight. It's not your job; it's your joy. You just can't help yourself."

Is there someone God is calling you to share Christ with today? Take a risk!

Lead by example

Throughout the New Testament, leaders are challenged to lead by example. Paul encourages believers to put into

Together We are the KBC



Paul Chitwood

practice what they see in his life (Phil. 4:9) and exhorts Timothy to "set the believers an example" (1 Tim. 4:12).

The author of Hebrews tells believers to imitate the example of faith set by their leaders (13:7). Peter admonishes those spiritual shepherds to be examples to the flock (1 Peter 5:3). This biblical principle could apply to a near endless list of spiritual disciplines and virtues including the realm of stewardship.

I learned to tithe by the Baptist Sunday School Board's envelope system. Not only did the envelopes allow me to fill out the amount I was giving as my offering to the Lord, a specific box could be checked to indicate that my gift was a tithe. With that accountability, my allowance and the money I earned keeping our coal furnace filled and mowing most of the yards in the neighborhood, provided a weekly opportunity for me to experience the joy of giving. It also instilled a lifelong spiritual discipline that I've never questioned nor found to be a strain.

Those who have tested God's faithfulness through generous giving know that God is faithful. Always faithful. Abundantly faithful.

Over time, my practice of tithing became informed by the gospel. I came to understand my life had been bought at the price of One who had suffered and died in my place. Thus, I live every day, own every possession, make every profit, draw every breath only as a steward of that which has been entrusted to me by the Lamb of Glory who has taken away my sin. He has been faithful to me; I long to be faithful to him.

Desiring to be faithful with our finances, Michelle and I give our tithes and most of our offerings through the church where we serve as members. We have two reasons. First, we feel an obligation to support the church we belong to and whose ministers and ministries bless our family. Second, we have intentionally chosen a church that, through sacrificial Cooperative Program giving, supports a long list of Great Commission ministries we believe in.

Closely related is the fact that we eat our bread from the CP table. Since the sacrificial giving of Kentucky Baptists through CP provides for my family, I feel a strong sense of obligation to be a member of a church giving sacrificially through CP. To me, that is non-negotiable.

My challenge to others who eat their bread from the CP table, including those who are administrators or staff member of agencies or institutions receiving CP support, is that you will also join and give your tithes through a church giving sacrificially through CP. I call it leading by example.

Paul Chitwood is executive director of the Kentucky Baptist Convention.

Leverage your charitable giving

By Laurie Valentine

Leveraging in the context of charitable gift planning means using the financial resources you have in a way that provides the biggest ultimate gift.



Using life insurance to fund a charitable gift is a great way to leverage your charitable giving. While you may not be able to make a gift of thousands of dollars all at once, you may have the financial resources to make gifts of modest amounts on a regular basis to cover the cost of the premiums on a

life insurance policy on your life. Or, you may be in a position to give up ownership of a policy you purchased years earlier for a financial need that no longer exists.

The simplest way to set up a gift to charity using life insurance is to designate one or more charities as either the primary or contingent beneficiary of a policy on your life. This option provides no current tax benefits to you, but sets up a plan to fund a potentially significant gift to the designated causes at your death for which your estate would get an estate tax deduction. You may designate the proceeds to be paid outright to the charitable beneficiaries or to an endowment fund benefiting one or more charitable causes.

Another option is to make an irrevocable transfer of the ownership of an existing policy to charity, or arrange for the charity to purchase a new policy on your life with funds you provide. Such a gift is a charitable contribution for income tax deduction purposes. And, if you give the charity-owner of the policy cash in future years to pay the premiums after you transfer ownership, you will be entitled to additional deductions.

At your death, the charity can collect the life insurance proceeds immediately; there is no waiting for the settlement of your estate and usually no expense. Best of all, the amount the charity receives is usually far larger than the total premiums paid during your lifetime.

A charitable gift of life insurance is a simple, but effective way to leave a legacy and make a lasting difference.

Laurie Valentine is trust counsel for the Kentucky Baptist Foundation.

Curbing texting, social media

By Scott Wigginton

Q: My teenager says I am just being "old fashioned" in insisting that the texting, iPod usage, email, gaming, Facebook, Twitter, and the like can't be good. What do you say?



A: There are at least two major problems with the use/overuse of these technologies. First, when teenagers rely too much on these, they risk face-to-face social retardation. That is, the social skills that are honed naturally through conversation never develop because face-to-face interactions are replaced with these other things.

Since this problem has been the subject of much attention, I will focus on a second, more subtle but equally distressing, consequence that is the subject of Archibald Hart's book, "Thrilled to death: How the Endless Pursuit of Pleasure is Leaving Us Numb."

Hart points out there is a part of the brain called the locus acumbens that allows us to experience pleasure. Commonly referred to as the "pleasure center," this area is responsible for all the pleasure humans experience. While the Lord gives us His joy, we must have a reasonably healthy brain to appreciate it. Hart points out that when the brain is abused with overstimulation, we cannot fully appreciate the joy that comes from God. Since God does not give us joy outside our brains, we need to learn to "live within the box."

One sure way to contribute to shutting down the pleasure system is over-indulgence in stimulating behavior. When we push the pleasure button too often, the pleasure center begins to shut down. This is seen with excessive video gaming, where persons stop experiencing pleasure and get depressed.

It is important to limit the amount of excitement in your teenager's life through limiting time spent playing video games, watching television, listening to music whose only aim is to excite, and use of social media. Instead, encourage creativity and imagination through alternate means. Replacement activities might include learning to play a musical instrument, doing chores, reading books, exercising, playing outdoor sports, and actually talking face-to-face with family and friends.

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

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Movement seeks '1 Million Men' to fight pornography addiction

By James Smith Sr.

Oklahoma City, Okla.—Pornography is the "pink elephant in the pew"—the embarrassing subject no one wants to talk about—and that silence is harming churches, pastor Jay Dennis told state Baptist convention executive directors and editors gathered in Oklahoma City.

"Our enemy has found the perfect tool to deliver temptation to men—men who love God, men who love their wives, love their children and love their churches," Dennis, pastor of First Baptist Church in Lakeland, Fla., said Feb. 14. "Yet their involvement in looking at pornography has virtually duct-taped their mouths closed and taken them out of spiritual leadership in the home and in the church."

Dennis told the state executives and editors that too many pastors are "out of touch," believing that pornography affects only a small percentage in their

congregations. He cited a 2011 LifeWay Research survey of 1,000 pastors that found 62 percent of pastors believe less than 10 percent of men in their churches viewed pornography on a weekly basis. Dennis believes the figure is more like 80 percent.

"This is a winnable war, but we must act very quickly," he said.

Taking a stand

Dennis said the "God-sized project" of creating a campaign for churches of all sizes and denominations seeks to involve at least 1 million men to take a public stand against pornography—and 1 million women praying for men. The campaign is geared to Christian men, he said, because only through the power of the Holy Spirit can men overcome struggles with pornography.

Convinced he needed to address the problem in his church, Dennis said he attended the Institute for Sexual Wholeness in Atlanta where he earned a certification in sexual addictions. He wrote the initial materials and taught them to his men in the spring of 2010 during six Wednesday evening sessions.

"The response, honestly, surprised me," Dennis said, noting that after the third session he asked those who were struggling with pornography to stand while no one was looking. The noise of

"theater seats flapping" constituted the "far majority" by his estimation.

"I thought to myself, 'This sounds like the beginning of freedom in our church,'" he said. "There was a spirit of revival that broke out among our men."

'Action steps'

To date, 1,300 men have signed commitment cards that have been posted to a wall and tower prominently displayed at the church. The porn-free commitment includes 14 statements the men affirm.

Dennis said he has urged even men who say they do not struggle with pornography to make the commitment as encouragement to those who do and to "draw a line in the sand ... to never go there."

"The wall has become an opportunity for our church to discuss this very sensitive issue," he said. "The door has been opened to publicly demonstrate our men's passion for purity."

Dennis outlined 10 "action steps" to "win the battle of pornography in the pew," including educating pastors; having churches of all sizes participate in "Join 1 Million Men," educate women and involve them in prayer; provide "man-friendly" resources; involve men who don't currently struggle with pornography; have the Southern Baptist Convention "lead the way" as it has on other moral concerns; and train the next

generation of church pastors.

Asked what success in the campaign will look like, Dennis responded, "When men are more passionate about purity than they are about pleasure, when churches can openly discuss this, instead of sweeping it under the rug."

National campaign

The national campaign will be unveiled in June during the Southern Baptist Convention's annual meeting in Houston, with Woman's Missionary Union and the Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission collaborating to provide exhibit space and other promotion.

New Hope Publishers, WMU's publishing arm, will publish in April two books along with other resources by Dennis. A chapter of one of the books, "Our Hardcore Battle Plan A-Z," is available as a pamphlet now exclusively through Christian Book Distributors until June.

The campaign is a "church-tested strategy on how the local church can help insulate their people from the ravages of pornography," said Richard Land, president of the ERLC. "I cannot imagine there is a church in North America that would not benefit from implementing the Join 1 Million Men program. It will help to avoid tens of thousands of human tragedies," Land said. (BP)

James Smith Sr. is executive editor of the Florida Baptist Witness.



PARK PREACHING Serving as a pastor in his native Philippines prepared NAMB missionary Peter Yanes for the opportunities he finds to preach, like at a Filipino community church service held in a Philadelphia park. (Photo by Ted Wilcox/NAMB)

Church planting

Continued from page 1

This heart for church planting makes Yanes the perfect fit for his role as a mobilization missionary for the Baptist Convention of Pennsylvania/South Jersey. Based in Philadelphia, Yanes' work as a mobilizer for the area allows him to identify and support planters and partners as they start and grow new churches. With only 400 SBC congregations serving a population of more than 15 million in the convention, the area needs new churches. For his part, Yanes is working specifically to catalyze ethnic church planters to reach the growing number of people groups in the area.

Sharing knowledge

"My ministry allows me to build great relationships with our ethnic pastors," Yanes says. "Having relationships and support can be such an asset because their position can be very lonely and very tough at times."

This is a feeling Yanes knows firsthand. After pastoring a church in the Philippines, he and his wife, Irene, made the move to the United States in 1998 and began the work of church planting in Philadelphia. He has spent the better part of the last 14 years serving the growing ethnic population in Philadelphia. He supported the now thriving Philadelphia Bible Church International in its early years in an effort to provide a place of worship for Filipino transplants

living in the city. By taking on his current role, Yanes can share his experiences in ethnic church planting with others like him looking to reach their own diverse communities.

"Philadelphia is a very diverse city with many ethnicities and nationalities," Yanes explains. "Anything that I can do to help planters build relationships with their people groups and eventually share the message of the gospel in cities like Philly is important. It takes a great relationship with all of our ethnic pastors around the area to see this happen."

Encouraging others

One such person he is pouring his leadership into and building a relationship with is fellow Filipino church planter Noel Geniza. While serving as both worship leader and deacon at Philadelphia Bible Church International, Geniza's heart for ministry caught Yanes' eye.

"Noel has been a faithful member of our church for so long," Yanes says. "Back home in the Philippines, he was a pastor and it's clear this is his calling. It was just a matter of time before he stepped back into it here."

Having settled in Pottstown, a suburb some 50 miles north of Philadelphia, Geniza and his family were traveling every Sunday to attend Philadelphia Bible Church International and worship with a Filipino community. However, the continuous commute proved taxing on the Geniza family, and Noel began to see the need for a church like this closer to home.

"I thought Pastor Pete would probably work to start a church in our area and I would just support him as a worship leader," Geniza explains. "Instead, he prayed for me and said, 'Why don't you start the church?' Church planting has

The Annie Armstrong Easter Offering provides support for missionaries like Peter Yanes who serve on behalf of Southern Baptists in North America.

This year's goal is \$70 million, with the theme "Whatever It Takes—Reaching the One."

always been on my heart so when he said this I thought, 'Yeah, why don't I?'"

Yanes has quickly come alongside Geniza to begin the process of planting a church to reach the Filipino community of Pottstown. This support has made all the difference for Geniza as he walks the long, sometimes lonely road of church planting.

"I know that on this path, God is with me," Geniza says, "but I also know Pastor Pete is with me. He says, 'I'll be there. I'll support you,' and that is a big encouragement to keep going."

This heart to mobilize and encourage planters as they seek to save the lost through church planting and evangelism is the driving force behind the work Yanes does.

"What I like most about what I do is seeing souls come to know Christ in a personal way," Yanes says. "Because of the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering, I can partner with local churches, pray for and encourage their pastors and mobilize them to reach the lost in their communities. I am so grateful to do the work I love, the work the Lord has called me to do." (NAMB)

For more information about how you can get involved in reaching Philadelphia with the gospel, visit namb.net/Philadelphia. Sara Shelton writes for the North American Mission Board.

LifeWay survey: Spiritual maturity entails intentionality

By Russ Rankin

Nashville, Tenn.—Christians on the path to spiritual maturity have a habit of seeking God through prayer and worship—not just in church but also as a part of their daily life as a way to please and honor God, according to a survey released by LifeWay Research.

The survey of Protestant churchgoers identifies "Seeking God" as one of eight attributes of discipleship that consistently show up in the lives of maturing Christians. Seeking God invokes the intentional steps a Christian takes to follow Christ for the purpose of becoming like Him.

LifeWay Research found 73 percent of Protestant churchgoers set aside time for prayer every day to a few times a week. Nineteen percent say they set aside time for prayer of any kind between once a week and once a month, and 8 percent of churchgoers say "rarely/never."

Female churchgoers are more likely than men (77 percent vs. 70 percent) to set aside time for prayer every day to a few times a week.

"Spiritual maturity is not an accident," said Ed Stetzer, president of LifeWay Research, "the believer who desires to know God in a deeper way, strives toward that goal."

Seventy-eight percent of churchgoers

indicate "one of the main reasons I live my life the way I do is to please and honor God." Six percent disagree with the statement and 16 percent neither agree nor disagree.

Besides prayer, 54 percent of churchgoers say they set aside time daily to a few times a week for private worship, praise or thanksgiving to God. Nearly a third (30 percent) say they do so between once a week and once a month. Seventeen percent indicate they rarely/never set aside time for private worship, praise or thanksgiving to God.

According to the survey, women are more likely than men (58 percent vs. 49 percent) to set aside time daily to a few times a week for private worship, praise or thanksgiving to God.

Churchgoers also indicated a propensity for prayerfulness. Three quarters (75 percent) agree (strongly or somewhat) with the statement: "I find myself praying at the spur of the moment throughout the day." Thirteen percent of churchgoers disagree with the statement. Eighty-four percent of female churchgoers and 66 percent of male churchgoers surveyed agree with the statement.

Online evaluation

To help pastors, churches and individuals measure spiritual development, LifeWay Research used the study's data



to develop a questionnaire for believers, called the Transformational Discipleship Assessment. This online evaluation delivers both individual and group reports on spiritual maturity using the eight attributes of biblical discipleship. The TDA

also provides helpful and practical suggestions on appropriate next steps for spiritual development. (LW/BP)

Russ Rankin is a writer for the communications office of LifeWay Christian Resources.

Disaster relief

Continued from page 1

With their focus on Sub-Saharan Africa, Kentucky Baptists could better prepare for disasters common in the region, such as famine, cyclones and village fires, as well as providing more effective assistance with refugees and AIDS victims.

Patrick Melancon, managing director of disaster response and training with Global Baptist Response, said the "on-call method is still in place" for most state Baptist conventions; Kentucky, Mississippi, Virginia and Minnesota/Wisconsin Baptists will be among a handful of conventions participating in the pilot.

Each participating DR has been asked to commit to a minimum of five community development projects and five disaster response projects per year for the next five years.

Providence of God

Kentucky's volunteers will be the first in the region as they focus on providing medical care to refugees fleeing their homes in northern Mali due to conflicts between government forces and Islamic rebels. The four-member team, consisting of a doctor, medical technician and two nurses, expect to treat more than 750 people during their mission as they set up clinics in various locations around the capitol. Refugees have been fleeing to

Bamako and neighboring countries since the northern Mali conflict began in January 2012.

Coy said while the government in Bamako is considered relatively stable, he postponed the team's departure last month after learning from their field partner that conditions were "too volatile." The Mali team has been instructed to confine their humanitarian efforts inside the city limits as a precaution.

Despite the potential dangers, DR volunteer Chelynn Stuart said she is ready to go—her muumuus are packed and she's been practicing common phrases in Mali's official language: French.

"The unknown is always fearful," said the 70-year-old nurse, "but our God is in control. If He doesn't say not to go, then I'm going."

Stuart, a 17-year DR veteran, said God was in control while she was serving in Indonesia and militants began issuing threats to Christians in the country. No one on the team was harmed, Stuart noted, but several Indonesian Christians were killed.

Regardless of the situation in which she finds herself, Stuart said it is important that she always show Christ's love in her and not fear.

"It's about serving," Stuart said. "It's not about you. It's about them."

Coy said while Mali is predominately a Muslim culture, Kentucky Baptist volunteers will not have to hide that they are part of a faith-based medical team. Volunteers will have the opportunity "to share their faith and help build a platform for the gospel" while also helping to establish the integrity of partners currently working in the country.

Vision tour


Coy said future missions in the Sub-Saharan will take on a different look than what Baptists typical think of when they hear the words "disaster relief."

"Here, we typically do the ministry," Coy said. "But in the future we will become the specialists who train nationals."

Later this spring, a second team of Kentucky Baptists will be taking a vision tour of the region to help refine future DR training so that it meets the specific needs of the Sub-Saharan people. Among expected needs are distributing bulk foods, digging wells and teaching sanitation procedures.


A two-day intensive training for international disaster relief is set for April 26-27 in Louisville. For more, go to kybaptist.org/hope. (WR)

*Name changed for security.



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- 7 Servant Leadership: Encouragement for Bivocational Pastors, Columbia Baptist Church, Columbia.
- 8 Servant Leadership: Encouragement for Bivocational Pastors, Apollo Heights Baptist Church, Owensboro.
- 8-9 Disaster Relief Chaplaincy Training—Region 5, First Baptist Church, Walton.
- 9 Disaster Relief Training—Region 5, First Baptist Church, Walton.
- 9 Seminary for a Day, First Baptist Church, Mount Washington.
- 9 Vacation Bible School Clinic, Union Baptist Church.
- 14 Seminary for a Day, Mid-Continent University, Mayfield.
- 16 RAMCON 2013, Elkton Baptist Church.
- 16 Vacation Bible School Clinic, First Baptist Church, Richmond.

WMU exec. director urges Baptists: Help stop predatory gambling

By Joy Bolton

I have been asked to serve on the Board of Directors for a new organization called Stop Predatory Gambling Kentucky. We would like to invite supporters, friends, lawmakers and media to our launch event Wednesday, March 6, 11:30 a.m. in the Capitol Rotunda.

The focus of this organization is to prevent predatory gambling, which is defined as the "practice of using gambling to prey on human weakness for profit."

"For-profit gambling, or commercial gambling, is illegal unless the government makes it legal. Where you have legal gambling, the government has given its support and in nearly every instance operates in partnership with gambling interests, whether in the form of state lotteries, commercial casinos or tribal casinos," according to the website StopPredatoryGambling.org.

One might ask, "How is predatory gambling different than social gambling, like the office Super Bowl pool or a Friday night poker game with friends?" Predatory gambling has these distinctions:

- The speed of the games.
- The "buzz" or high people get when they play.
- The frequency of gambling and the length of time doing it.
- The amount of money people lose.
- The business practices used to promote it.

In the midst of continuing efforts to expand gambling, it would be easy for me to say, "Gambling is a stupid tax and if you want to pay it, go

ahead." But I cannot let it go without a fight. I cannot condone a state government that encourages people to gamble, waste and throw away their money. Expanding gambling is not about offering people more ways to have fun. It is about a predatory industry that wants people to lose money to them and our government is encouraging it in order to get their share.

It can be argued that people waste money on recreation (movies, trips, golf, etc.). Why not let them waste it on gambling if they want to? Because unlike purely recreational pursuits, gambling is addictive. It destroys families. And when children go hungry because of compulsive gambling, we as taxpayers foot the bill. Take the lessons learned about tobacco.

When the health industry finally woke up to what it cost to treat all of the medical problems caused by smoking, they got on-board with anti-smoking efforts. We need to understand the costs of expanded gambling. They are huge and far exceed the revenue generated. And even if the revenue did exceed costs, how can we justify allowing any family to be destroyed by encouraging a behavior that is known to be addictive and destructive?

If a company introduced a new product that did as much harm as gambling, there would be a huge outcry to take it off the shelves. Yet, our government turns a blind eye to the harm of gambling out of sheer greed.

I am investing my time and energy into this effort because mission action includes combating social and moral problems. Gambling causes a ripple effect of problems including crime, destruction of families, increased foreclosures, and the list goes on.

Even if you are unable to join us at the Stop Predatory Gambling Kentucky event, please help us spread the word.

Joy Bolton is the executive director of Kentucky Woman's Missionary Union.

FIRST PERSON



Your church newsletter

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CORRECTION: First Baptist Church of Hodgenville was cited as the location of Route 66 North American Missions Night in the Feb. 26 edition under Mountains to the Mississippi. That was incorrect. First Baptist Church of Hopkinsville was the host of that event.

Disciples or fans?

Discipleship starts with teaching the commands of Jesus

I was struck by Marty Comer's commentary in the February 12 issue of the Western Recorder titled, "Today's church: A generation of fans, not disciples." His remarks were based upon the results of the George Barna research group's study of how religion had changed during the 20-year period from 1991 to 2011 and a Boston University professor's study of the religious literacy of his college students. Some of the findings were disturbing.

In addition to these findings, Comer referred to a statement one of his seminary professors made in the late 1980s when the para-church movement was gaining influence, the electronic church was rising in prominence and certain television ministries were thriving. His professor observed those movements had "produced a generation of fans rather than disciples." And, the church had become the victim of these "ministries of popularity."

Jesus wants disciples, not fans. However, one of the disturbing findings in these studies reveals Jesus may have more fans than disciples. But Jesus commissioned the church to go and make disciples and to teach them to "obey everything I have commanded you" (Matthew 28:19-20).

I agree with Henry Blackaby's

assessment of where we are as Southern Baptists and where we ought to go from here. He said, "If Southern Baptists want to see a Great Commission resurgence, we need to focus on the relationship between the disciples and the living Lord Jesus, not launch a new emphasis on evangelism. Southern Baptists have focused on evangelism and missed discipleship. The heart of the Great Commission and discipleship is to teach them to practice everything I have commanded you."

It is in the context of a New Testament church that disciples are produced. My favorite mission statement for any church is: exalt the Savior, equip the saints

and evangelize the sinner. Notice the order of these foundational pegs. Before a disciple of Jesus Christ can evangelize another, he or she must be equipped. I contend that at the heart of discipleship is financial stewardship for kingdom advancement. For Kentucky Baptist churches to be successful in reaching Kentucky and the world for Christ, they must be equipped to equip their church members in the vital discipline of financial stewardship, which is why the KBF exists. Give us the opportunity to assist your church.

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

Ky. Baptist Foundation



Barry Allen

CLASSIFIED ADS

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

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 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.

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: 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 resumé to veronicab22@shelbywireless.net.

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: 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 resumé to searchcbc@bellsouth.net or mail to Pastor Search, 107 Greystone Court, Paris, KY 40361.

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 or by mail to Tony Rodgers, 2667 Chatham Lane, Owensboro, KY 42303.

SEEKING: First Baptist Church, P.O. Box 321, West Liberty, Ky. 41472, is seeking a full-time or bivocational pastor. Send resumé to address above.

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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, contact the church at 3465 Buckner Lane, Paducah, KY 42001, or email directed to jsnook@vci.net or call (270) 443-5306.

SEEKING: Cedar Creek Baptist Church, Louisville, is seeking to fill the position of a part-time worship leader who is also capable of leading a choir and small band. Church musical style is "blended." Experience preferred. Send resumé to: CCBC, 7709 Bardstown Rd., Louisville, KY 40291, Attn: Music Search Committee, or email: cedarcreekbc@gmail.com. Deadline for submission is April 5.

SEEKING: DeHaven Baptist Church in La Grange, Ky., is seeking a full-time pastor. Interested applicants are invited to submit resumé either by email to: dehavensearch@gmail.com, or by regular mail to: Pastor Search Committee, c/o David Fendley, 3100 Rock Creek Dr., Louisville, KY 40207.

SEEKING: Youth minister. A growing and vibrant church in Oldham County, Kentucky desires to fill a full-time position for youth minister, serving grades 6-12. A bachelor's degree with seminary preferred and experience in ministry required. Candidates must have good leadership and communication skills. Resumé with cover letter may be submitted to: darlene@bbclife.org.

FFA: 'Have a great day'

Busy week of agriculture activities ultimately point to Creator

Sometimes you can smell it—whether you want to or not. Sometimes you can hear it—even in the middle of the night. If you look south across Goose Creek from the middle of campus you cannot help but see it.

"It" is the OBI farm where seven full-time ministry team members and two regular volunteers work with the cattle, swine, goats and sheep. They grow hay and corn, prepare livestock feed, and maintain equipment. But it is not the animals, crops and equipment that make the farm an integral part of OBI. It's the students who work on the farm and the personal learning and growing, which takes place through those experiences, that make the farm an important place. And the impact of the farm is heightened by the work of two organizations that have long been associated with our agriculture education program: FFA (formerly Future Farmers of America) and 4-H.

Since 1999 when the Oneida Baptist Institute FFA was first chartered, these two programs have added focus and structure, specific goals and purposes, broader challenges and wider opportunities for our students. The FFA motto is "Learning to Do, Doing to Learn, Earning to Live, Living to Serve." The mission of FFA is to make "a positive difference in the lives of students by developing their potential for premier leadership, personal growth, and career success through agricultural education."

Using the three integral components of FFA—classroom instruction, supervised agricultural experience, and life skills—the OBI farm offers hands-on

experience to expose the students to a diverse field of career opportunities from agricultural mechanics to livestock production.

Our FFA chapter's 22 members observed FFA Week recently, and they were busy! FFA advisor Jennifer Sink, adjunct agriculture teacher, their activities for the week included the following: creating an FFA bulletin board, teaching our K-2 staff students about agriculture, serving the student body through their "Build a Burger" supper, participating in a 6 a.m. sunrise worship service, organizing a scavenger hunt competition for students each

school day, encouraging students by giving them candy as a random act of kindness and sharing the message "Have a great day from the FFA," leading in two days of chapel through sharing information about FFA, presenting a homemade video of OBI FFA life and activities as well as hosting two state FFA officers, expressing thanks to faculty and staff by serving homemade cake and giving them red and white carnations, visiting U.K.'s Wildcat Leadership Conference, picking up trash on campus and having a "trash art" show, and ending the week with a pool party and hot dog roast.

As you can tell, it was quite a week for our FFA. Hopefully, more students will be encouraged to join the organization and find an abundant life in working with our Lord's creation and knowing our Creator better. After all, He is what it's all about.

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

Called to serve

Graduate excited about call to South American mission field

Graduating senior Christine Bledsoe knew when God was calling her to serve as a missionary.

"God began dealing with me about a call to missions when I was in a class where my mother was teaching Mission Friends in our church," Bledsoe said. "The class did a presentation for the church about a mission team called Extreme Team. The focus of the story was on how difficult it was to serve on this team in South America. They would go to remote areas of the country and preach the gospel. That was really interesting to me.

"It was at that moment God began to lead me to a call to missions," she continued. "I even started taking Spanish lessons after the class to begin to learn the language so I would be prepared when God sent me there.

"I attended church with a lot of students who were already going to Clear Creek," Bledsoe said. "Through them God showed me that I needed to enroll after I graduated from high school. I feel led to South American countries. I recently went on a mission trip to

Guatemala. I have been working on my Spanish since I came back. I am trying to get better prepared for wherever God wants me to serve.

"I am thankful God gave me the opportunity to go to Guatemala," Bledsoe noted. "The trip really affirmed God's call on my life to serve as a missionary. When I got there, I felt like God showed me time and time again that this was what I was called to do. Along with the evangelism we were able to do, we also helped work on a hospital that they were building there. We also brought some donations for the villages we visited. We were able to actually wash the feet of the villagers and distribute shoes to them.

"When I was there, all the adjustments I thought would be difficult with the environment were not difficult at all," Bledsoe said. "Nothing even seemed like that big of a deal to me the whole time I was there. It all just fit really well for me. It was God's affirmation that I was called to serve in that part 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.ccbbc.edu; e-mail: dfox@ccbbc.edu.

Clear Creek Chronicle



Donnie Fox

MOUNTAINS TO THE MISSISSIPPI

COMPILED BY STAFF

■ **CADIZ**—Cadiz Church will host health screenings March 13 conducted by Life Line Screening. For more information or to schedule an appointment, call (800) 449-2350. **Kyle Noffsinger** is pastor.

Little River Association will host a pastor's forum on marital counseling, March 16, 8 p.m., with **Mike Rust** as guest speaker.

Oak Grove Church will host a revival March 10-13. **Paxton Redd** is pastor.

■ **CORBIN**—First Church will hold a chili cook-off and Bible drill March 10, 5 p.m. **Jim Hunter** is pastor.

■ **COLUMBIA**—Columbia Church will host "A Night of Encouragement for Bivocational Pastors" March 7, 6:30 p.m., featuring **Paul Badgett**, pastor of First Church of Pikeville, as speaker. Dinner will be provided. **Randy Copeland** is pastor.

■ **LEXINGTON**—Grace Church will hold an ordination service for **Steven Price**, March 10, 3 p.m.

■ **LOUISVILLE**—Parkland Church will hold "Angelic" ladies night on March 8, 7 p.m. **Tom Curry** is pastor.

Ralph Avenue Church will hold a men's prayer meeting March 10, 4:30 p.m. **Samuel Vance** is pastor.

St. Matthews Church will hold a chili cook-off March 10, 5:30 p.m., to benefit the youth summer mission trip to New

Spotlight on ...

Barlow



Ohio Valley Church will host its fifth annual "Youth Explosion" student-led revival March 8-10, featuring praise and worship music led by local youth groups and students' personal testimonies. **John Baker** is pastor.

York. **Greg Barr** is pastor.

■ **MARTIN**—First Church recently called **Greydon Howard** as pastor. He served at the church for six years as pastor and Sunday School director prior to 2005.

■ **MIDWAY**—Midway Church will host a WMU prayer breakfast for Elkhorn Association March 9, 8:30 a.m. **Stephen Hadden** is pastor.

■ **SILVER GROVE**—First Church recently called **Sheldon Hale** as pastor.

■ **UNION**—Union Church will host Colossal Coaster World VBS training March 9, 9 a.m. **Kevin Milburn** is pastor.

History Channel producers aim to 'glorify God' with series

By Dwayne Hastings

Nashville, Tenn.—The Hollywood mogul best known for producing reality television programs is behind a new production of the ultimate "reality" story—the Bible.

Mark Burnett and his wife, Roma Downey, who played the angel Monica on the hit CBS show "Touched by an Angel," are executive producers of "The Bible," a 10-part miniseries that began March 3, on the History Channel.

Burnett, a four time Emmy Award winner, is responsible for the popular network programs "Survivor" (CBS), "The Voice" (NBC), "Shark Tank" (ABC), and the upcoming "The Job" on CBS.

"We know we couldn't tell the whole Bible in 10 hours—we wish we could have had 1,000 hours—but we have done our best to make these stories come to life with fresh visual imagery on the screen in ways that will deeply and emotionally connect with an audience," Downey said.

The series has been nearly four years in the making, she noted. It will air in two-hour segments over five Sundays concluding on Easter.

"This is unlike anything we have ever worked on," Burnett said. "This is not a TV show to us; this is the Bible.

"Growing up with a Presbyterian Scottish mom and a Catholic Scottish father, I never remember not having a Bible in my house growing up but it always felt like a rule book," he said. "Over the past four years I have realized it is a love story, God's love for us."

He said in the first episode of the miniseries, Noah uses the oral story of creation to keep his family calm on the ark during the global flood.

It is a picture of "how God didn't give up on us," Burnett explained. "It is a love story from Genesis through to Revelation."

"We believe in the Bible; we are Christians. We wanted to make sure that this would be enjoyed by young kids to older people," he said.

Said Downey, "The intention of making this series was to glorify God. It has been such a privilege to work on it with my husband. It has deepened our love and our friendship. It has deepened our faith."

There will be people who will watch this miniseries and who will be changed by the experience, said Richard Land, president of the SBC's Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission.

Burnett said they realized the technical effects used in blockbuster films have set expectations high among audiences. The pair wanted to make sure special effects were epic in "The Bible" miniseries but also they wanted to ensure there was "poignancy in the connective emotional love in the characters."

"I think the faithful will find it, but I think there is opportunity for people who have never read the Bible or been to church but who will turn their televisions on and discover this program," Downey said.

"Our hope is that it goes out into the world and that lives will be touched by this love story, the beautiful redemptive power of God's love for us," she added.

The show was shot on location in Ouarzazate, Morocco, for six months in 2012. (BP)

Dwayne Hastings is a vice president of the Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission of the Southern Baptist Convention.

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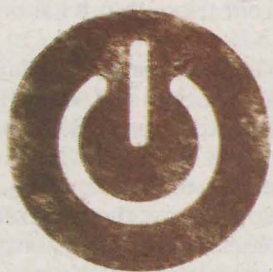
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A PERSONAL WORD

Celebrate 125 years with old fashioned 'spunk'

By Joy Bolton

With determination and boldness, Peter and John declared to those who had beaten them and thrown them in prison, "As for us, we cannot help speaking of what we have seen and heard" (Acts 4:20). I long for that kind of boldness—in my own witness, and in WMU.

The stories of early WMU leaders are those of grit and determination. These women did not ask for or receive permission to pray for missionaries, to raise money to support missions, or to go out into the community to minister to people in need. In a new history of WMU, Rosalie Hunt captures these stories and inspires us today to carry on with equal determination.

In another book, Nik Ripken tells story after story of believers who embody faith in the face of persecution. The boldness of Peter and John still lives among those who are persecuted for their faith. Through the pages of *The Insanity of God*, we see evidence that the miracles of the New Testament are still tak-

ing place in our world today and that the story lives on.

As we celebrate 125 years of WMU, our challenge is to demonstrate the spunk and determination of our foremothers and to emulate the resolve of those who are faithful in the face of persecution.



Joy Bolton

During the Kentucky WMU Annual Meeting we will launch a year-long celebration of WMU work in Kentucky. At our banquet on Friday evening, each participant will receive a Heritage Fund "Mite" Box. Mite boxes played a significant role in our early history and were the means of saving money for missions. We will tell the story of mite boxes and of determined women.

During this year, every member of Kentucky WMU is asked to save 125 of something. It might be pennies, nickels or dimes for preschoolers and children. It could be dollars for youth and adults. It might be hours of service. What will your 125 be?

From time to time I receive calls from lead-

ers who are discouraged. The calls that grieve me the most are from leaders who face opposition from within their own churches. Yet, there is a lesson from *The Insanity of God* that we must not miss: **It is always possible to obey Christ's call to make disciples. Every believer—in every place—is always free to make that choice ... The question is never, "Am I free to do that?" Rather, the question is "Will I be obedient?" Believers in the world of persecution have already decided their answer to that crucial question.**

With or without the support of others, every one of us is free to pray for missions, support missions, engage in mission action and witnessing, learn about missions, grown spiritually towards a missions lifestyle, and support the work of the church and denomination. **"It is simply a matter of obedience."**

Come to Hopkinsville as we celebrate 125 years of WMU, 100 years of GAs and the 100th anniversary of the Eliza Broadus Offering. **The Story Lives On!**

Joy Bolton is the executive director of Ky. WMU.

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All times listed are in Central Time

FRIDAY, APRIL 5

- 8:30 a.m. Registration, Bookstore, Displays
- 9 a.m. The Story Lives On Around the World
Theme Interpretation – Rosalie Hunt
Missionary Recognition
Telling the Story in North Africa & the Middle East
Telling the Story in Southeast Asia
Offering for Kentucky WMU Ministries to Missionaries
- 11 a.m. Conferences & Activities
- 12 p.m. Conferences & Activities
- 1 p.m. Conferences & Activities
Choose from a variety of options
Box Lunch by pre-reservation
- 2 p.m. The Story Lives On ... Kentucky WMU
Theme Interpretation – Rosalie Hunt
State Missions & EBO- Kentucky missionaries
Kentucky WMU Staff Skit
Business Session & Election of Officers
- 3:30 p.m. Break
- 4:30 p.m. Connecting Your Story – Christian Life Ctr.
Come early for the banquet and participate in the WMU Time Line activity.
- 5 p.m. WMU 125th Birthday Celebration & Heritage Fund Banquet
Dress in historical dress from 1888 or from the time period when you connected with WMU. Banquet tickets are \$20 and include a gift to the Heritage Fund.
- 7 p.m. The Story Lives On ... Cooperative Program
Theme Interpretation - Rosalie Hunt
Kentucky Missionary of the Year Award

Collection Project:
We will be collecting hygiene and toiletry items for Impact Ministry & FamilyFEST.

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 - toothpaste
 - bars of soap
 - shampoo
 - combs
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SATURDAY, APRIL 6

- 9 a.m. Conference & Activities
Choose from a variety of options
Welcome, children! Meet the missions consultants in the display area or attend a missionary conference
- 10 a.m. The Story Lives On through Missions Education & Involvement
Theme Interpretation – Rosalie Hunt
GA Birthday Celebration
Praying for North Africa & the Middle East
- 12 p.m. Disaster Relief Luncheon
- 1 p.m. Tour of Hopkinsville area ministries

**First Baptist Church
1400 South Main St.
Hopkinsville, Ky., 42240**

Celebrating 125 Years

WMU[®] Missions Celebration and Annual Meeting June 9-10, 2013

The Story Lives On

Hilton Americas Hotel
Lanier Grand Ballroom
1600 Lamar Street
Houston, Texas

Our yearlong celebration begins this year in Houston, and we have a lot in store:
Glimpse into our rich history
Hear from inspiring missionaries

Celebrate generations of missions through WMU!

www.kywmu.org/houston125



myMISSION Atlanta 2013

a mission experience for women 18-35

August 30 – September 2

What we'll be doing:

- Work with ministries combating human trafficking.
- Working with ministries meeting the needs of refugees.

For more information, visit www.kywmu.com/trips



KENTUCKY WMU BUS TOUR TO NATIONAL WMU OFFICE

May 9-10

Join us as we celebrate the 125th birthday of WMU!



Cost of Tour: \$150 per person

Tour price includes: Charter bus transportation with Toby Tours, bus driver gratuity, lodging at the Wynfrey Riverchase Galleria Hotel (double occupancy), tour of LifeWay headquarters in Nashville, tour of WMU SBC headquarters in Birmingham, and lunch at the WMU building. Meals not included (other than lunch at the WMU building).

Registration Deadline: April 1, 2013

The tour will be filled on a first come, first served basis (paid). If the bus is filled, we will start a waiting list and will consider taking an additional bus if it can be filled and if additional hotel rooms are available.

Tour is non-refundable after the deadline.

Tour price after April 1 is \$200 if space is still available. Register early!

For more information and registration: www.kywmu.org/wmusbctour

CHURCHWIDE

'V.E.L.C.R.O.' book provides inspiration for growing church WMUs

By Wanda Walker

Recently, I have been reading *The V.E.L.C.R.O. Church* by Ken Hemphill and Mike James. Reading the preface alone was inspirational as you learn of how Velcro was invented. George de Mestral was intentional about creating this new type of fastener. He was determined. With the right materials and hard work, he achieved his goal. And today, we have all benefitted in some fashion from his invention.

As I continue to read this book, the principles applied to the church or small group apply to WMU and how we grow missions education. There are four VELCRO facts listed in the book for churches and they have been adapted for WMU.

FACT #1: Your [WMU] cannot grow without guests

FACT #2: Your [WMU] cannot grow if your guests don't come back!

FACT #3: You never get a second chance to make a great first impression.

FACT #4: Your [WMU] cannot grow if people join, and then drop out!

I encourage you to read this book and apply its ideas and principles to WMU in your church and your association. You can purchase this book at AuxanoPress.com.

Changes with Missions Leader

Beginning with the September issue, *Missions Leader* will be more targeted to help you in planning the annual emphases such as World Hunger Sunday and mission offering promotions, including planning calendars for implementing programs, theme suggestions and program ideas. Materials will also include summaries of what the organizations are studying so that you can better support the leadership and suggestions for implementing Project HELP ideas in your area. Also, there will be a section

to help in communication plans to church staff. *Missions Leader* will come unbound and hole-punched so you can easily make copies, distribute sections and organize in a notebook for future use. This way, you can save the portions of *Missions Leader* you want to use and, perhaps, pass portions on to others. There will no longer a kit to order. (A savings of over \$30.) Instead, you will receive three color posters, one larger and two smaller each relating to the focus for the season in a packet with the other materials. The *Missions Leader* subscription will now be \$19.99 per year and arrive in three-month increments: fall (Sept. - Dec.), spring (Jan. - April) and summer (May - Aug.)

Missions Leader will address the needs of both the church and the association. There will be content for those who are working on the associational level. You no longer have to choose between *Missions Leader* for

the church or the association.

National WMU Mission Opportunities

Promote in your church and association Family FEST in western Kentucky July 13-18, 2103. Early bird registration is April 15. This is the first Family FEST to be in our state. Please see ad in this issue of KY Notes.

And speaking of mission opportunities, encourage your young adult women to go to myMISSION Atlanta. This is only for young women, 18 - 35. This opportunity will bring young women together to minister to refugees and women coming out of human exploitation. Detailed information can be obtained at wmu.com/trips. Deadline for early registration is May 30. Some scholarship money may be available. For eligibility requirements, please contact Kentucky WMU.

*Hemphill, Ken and Mike James. *The V.E.L.C.R.O. Church*. 2011. Auxano Press.

RAs/CHALLENGERS

4:Go/Exalt venue now at Parkway

By Jonathan Auten

Challengers

January has had some frigid days this year, but spring should be knocking at the door as this edition of Kentucky Notes arrives in your mailbox. The arrival of spring brings with it the promise of warmer weather and brighter colors. It also means that 4:GO will soon be here.

As noted in the December issue, 4:GO is joining with Exalt to bring one great event on April 12-13. Since announcing this joint effort, the venue has had to be changed. The new location is Parkway Baptist Church in Bardstown.

The change was unanticipated, but needed, and we really appreciate the good folks at Parkway welcoming us on short notice. It has been wonderful to work with Parkway's staff and WMU, as well as with DOM Stan Lowery and the WMU of Nelson Association.

Challengers and other teen guys can look forward to learning from keynote speakers, David and Mandi Buckner as they interpret and apply our theme, "Bondservant," based on Galatians 1:10. The young men will also be challenged by several breakout speakers as they address topics for guys only like: transitioning to college, missional living on a sports team, dating and relationships, and missional living and social media.

Participation in a live missions project will be a part of the weekend as well.

There is still time to get the guys (and girls) registered for this fantastic event. The deadline is March 29.

Go to www.wmu.org/exalt4go to download a registration form or to register online.

Royal Ambassadors

The boys of RA are busy as they continue to learn about missionaries in cities around the world through their RA World magazines. Many RAs have also been preparing for, or participating in, a racer day or congress.

On Feb. 16, Ten Mile Association combined Children's Ministry Day with an RA racer event. The morning saw the children engaging in missions learning and action as the discovered how they could be "Helping Hands" in their community. During the afternoon, the boys and the girls had a blast as they raced their cars down the track and under the finish line.

Tates Creek Association held their annual Royal Ambassador Congress Feb. 16 as well, bringing their boys together for racing, knot tying and missions learning. March 23 will find the Royal Ambassadors of Greenup Association gathering for their association congress. At the site of one of the former regional congresses, the RA leaders of several churches will bring their boys together for a great day of racing and other RA fun and learning.

In closing, this report wouldn't be complete without mentioning RAMCON 2013. This is our state-wide RA Congress, set to be held on March 16 at Elkton Baptist Church. The day will feature missionary speakers Mark Hobson (IMB) and Ron and Marilyn Leonard (MSC). RA Racers and a Mission Fitness Challenge will make it a full day.

Go to www.wmu.org/ramcon for more information and to sign up your group. Hurry! Registration is about to close!
P.S. Be on the lookout for info about Mission Adventure Camp and Camp Courage 2013.

ADULTS

BNF untapped

By Wanda Walker

Do you want to know about one of the best-kept, untapped ministries of Kentucky WMU for adults of all ages?

Baptist Nursing Fellowship is a Christian organization for health-care professions with the purpose to encourage health-care service from a personal commitment to Jesus Christ.

This is national Baptist Nursing Fellowship's 30th anniversary. It will have its national annual meeting and celebration April 11-13 at the national WMU office in Birmingham, Ala.

Kentucky BNF was formed in 1987. For 26 years, Kentucky BNF has provided worship and Bible study opportunities; participation in volunteer mission activities; prayer support for other health care professionals and missionary nurses; information and encouragement about mission careers in the medical field; and preparation for lifestyle witnessing.

Many of our churches continue to provide Baby Boot Camp for pregnant and parenting teen girls. They have launched a new ministry to women providing minimal health screenings, health education and a time of fellowship with games and crafts.

Kentucky BNF has also had coordinated health care for Kentucky MissionFESTs and will do so again this summer with FamilyFEST in western Kentucky.

If you are a nurse or other health care professional or you know someone, consider being a part of this ministry. Contact your WMU office and request information about Baptist Nursing Fellowship.

Spring is here ... celebrate God's blessings!

STUDENTS

Exciting changes for teen guys and girls this spring

By Maryann Lee

Spring is gearing up and so are we here at Kentucky WMU as we plan all of our spring events.

I am most excited about the events we have planned for teenagers. I hope that your church is planning to bring your teens to Exalt and 4:GO! This event for teenage guys and girls will be held at Parkway Baptist Church in Bardstown.

Traditionally, this event called Exalt has been for girls only. We are excited about the opportunity for Acteens, Challengers, Youth on Mission and whole youth groups getting to experience this weekend together. Acteens leaders who have brought their teenage girls to this event for many years don't have to worry. We will still have plenty of girls only

time with breakout sessions where girls can choose topics that are relevant to teenagers today.

There will also be a strong missions emphasis with missionary speakers and hands on missions opportunity on Saturday morning. This event is shaping up to be a wonderful time for teens to grow in their walk with God and learn about what God is doing in our state and around the world.

Have you received your March/April copy of *The Mag*? This magazine produced by National WMU is the curriculum piece for girls involved in Acteens and is a great resource for teenage girls filled with articles about missions, personal spiritual growth, and issues that teens deal with. There are sever-

al changes to *The Mag* including a new center spread that can be pulled out of the magazine and used as poster. Hang it in a place where the scripture can be an encouragement!

National WMU has been seeking feedback from Acteens leaders and is working to implement these changes in the future.

For more information about Acteens and *The Mag* please visit our website, kywmu.org/acteens or the National WMU website, wmu.com/students. To let us know any ideas you may have please email acteens@wmu.org or maryann.lee@kybaptist.org. We would enjoy hearing from you.

God bless you as you seek to reach out to teenagers across our state.

Two Excel Locations for 2013

Church leaders will have two locations to choose between for Excel this summer.

First Baptist Church, Central City
First Baptist Church, Shelbyville

Saturday July 27

Detailed information will be mailed in May.

PRESCHOOL & CHILDREN

Take a tech cue from kids

By Stacy Nail

The preschoolers and children of 2013 sometimes know more about technology than their missions leaders. Don't let that stop you from using technology in your missions class.

Technology can enhance children's creativity and problem solving. Tablets, for example, are powerful tools when teachers carefully select activities that match children's interests and abilities.

Read e-books related to your unit of study in large group or activity centers. If your new unit is set in Sub-Saharan Africa, use webcam sites of African animals to create interest. (Just be sure to preview the site first.)

Use programs and apps that let children record their own stories and plays about missions. Make arrangements to talk with and see a missionary over the Internet.

Don't worry if your computer skills aren't up to par. Just ask a kindergarten for help.

What's new in Mission Friends?

Look for these great new resources this spring from wmustore.com—

■ The Mission Bank encourages preschoolers to support missions by giving to missions offerings.

■ "Storytelling 1-2-3, Creative Ideas for Telling a Story," helps teachers and parents of preschoolers make storytelling fun and exciting.

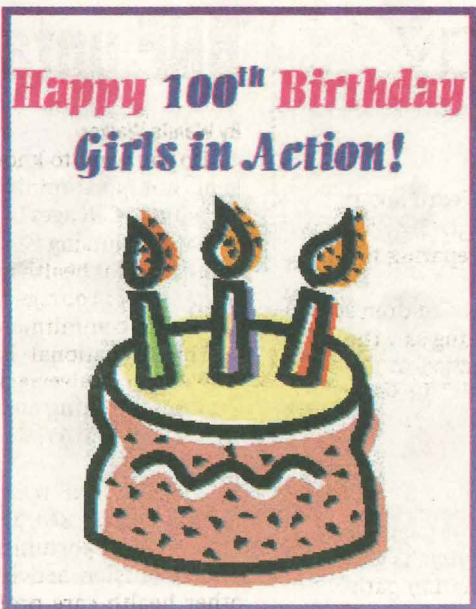
■ "First Steps in Missions, Volume 19," provides 96 pages of activities based on the missions areas in the current year of Mission Friends Leader.

What's new for GA, CIA and RA?

■ "Tell the Story Promotion Pack," promotes the 2013-14 Tell the Story theme in Girls in Action, Royal Ambassadors and Children in Action. This pack also provides ideas for Children's Ministry Day 2014.

■ "Missions Expedition" is the new individual achievement plan for Children in Action coming this March. Activities have been updated and awards have a fresh new look.

■ Girls in Action will be celebrating its 100th birthday this year. Kentucky GAs will celebrate together at GA JAM Nov. 9.



PRESIDENT'S PERSPECTIVE

Meet me in Hopkinsville April 5-6

By Linda Cooper

Spring ... it's almost here! And so is Kentucky Woman's Missionary Union's 110th Annual Meeting! Hopefully, you have already made plans to be with us as First Baptist Church, Hopkinsville hosts the celebration on April 5-6! This annual meeting will be very special in the fact that we will be celebrating the 125th birthday of WMU, the 100th Anniversary of the EBO, and the 100th birthday of GA! You won't want to miss it!

Rosalie Hunt, national WMU recording secretary, will bring the theme interpretations in each session. She spent her childhood living in China as the daughter of missionaries (an MK!). Later, she and her husband served as missionaries in Asia. She will be portraying Ann Judson, Eliza Broadus, Lottie Moon, and will share a special interpretation of our theme: The Story Lives on!

We will have two Last Frontier missionary couples from Kentucky who serve in North Africa and the Middle East and Southeast Asia, sharing of their work there. Please pray for them as they serve in areas where it is dangerous to be a Christian.

Friday evening, you can participate in a time line activity where you will share your WMU story. We all have a story, one that began when you asked Jesus into your heart to be your Lord and Savior. Because we have a story, we can celebrate during the WMU 125th Birthday Celebration/Heritage Fund Banquet. Attendees are asked to dress from 1888 or dress in the style of when you joined WMU! Look out shoulder pad dresses and big hair ... this could be interesting. The night session will feature a panel presentation about the Cooperative Program with Dr. Curtis Woods and others as they share stories of how CP missions provides the foundation for our Southern Baptist work around the world. Then the KY Missionary of the Year award will again be presented.

Children and students are especially invited to attend on Saturday morning. We will be celebrating the 100th birthday of GA with MKs sharing with them. Everyone is encouraged to wear their mission badges/vests/sashes/shirts or GA outfits

from any era.

The Disaster Relief volunteers will be preparing a lunch on Saturday. You will get to see how this part of DR works and taste their delicious food. Everyone will be able to participate in ministry collection projects that will benefit the low-income families in Hopkinsville and FamilyFEST that will be held right here in Henderson and Paducah later in July.

There is so much more planned for you when you come. We hope to encourage you to share His Story so that the Story will live on. In a world where there are over 3,800 people groups who have never been exposed to the gospel of Jesus Christ ... We must keep the story of Jesus alive!



Linda Cooper

Other spring events

Many other events are planned through WMU for the spring. RAMCON 2013, an all-new statewide RA event will be held on March 16 in Elkton. Boys, grades 1-6 will gather for a special missionary speaker, participate in a missions project, and learn how to be an Ambassador in their city...and of course, there will be racers!

Acteens, Challengers, or any boy or girl grades 7-12 will gather in Bardstown at Parkway Baptist Church on April 12-13 for Exalt and 4:Go. Send your teenagers for a fun-filled weekend of special interest workshops and a focus on missions. It's always a GREAT time! There are also a couple of Women on Mission Regional retreats planned for April. I can't wait to hear about being a grape in a world of raisins?? Go to our web site to find how The Story Lives On in ministry.

Please pray for me as I travel our wonderful state as you invite me to share about missions work, missions education and how to be involved in the great commission through WMU. If I can help you or your association in any way, please let me know. 20 centuries later we can know His Story because a group of disciples and new believers kept telling the story of Jesus. Now it's our turn! May God Bless you as the story Lives on through you.

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Mission Adventure Camp for Girls and Boys

Campers will discover how they can be "Fearless" in sharing their faith this summer at Mission Adventure Camp. Kentucky WMU is offering three full weeks for girls and boys. Campers will participate in worship, Bible study, swimming, recreation and missions. Each week hosts a camp missionary. Each group of 1-7 children attending camp need to be accompanied by a church chaperone. Contact Kentucky WMU about discounted rates for chaperones. Mission Adventure Camp is held at Cedar Crest on the grounds of Cedarmore Camp and Conference Center.

Weeklong Camps \$195*

Available June 10-14, June 17-21 and June 24-28 for girls and boys in grades 3-6 and their chaperones



Mother/Daughter and Father/Son Overnights

These overnight camps provide a chance for moms/daughters and fathers/sons to grow closer to God and each other. Girls in grades 1-3 and their moms and boys in grades 1-3 and their dads will enjoy learning about missions together!

Mother/Daughter and Father Son Overnights \$50*

Available June 14-15 and June 21-22 for girls in grades 1-3 and their moms, boys in grades 1-3 and their dads

*All rates are Early Bird rates through May 24, 2013. Rates are per person.



Overnights at the Creek

Campers at Jonathan Creek will also discover how to be "Fearless" in sharing their faith as they learn about missions at beautiful Jonathan Creek Jonathan Creek July 12-13. Campers will enjoy worship, Bible study and recreation.

Jonathan Creek July 12-13 \$50*

Mother-Daughter Overnight, for girls in grades 1-3 and their moms \$50*

GA Overnight, for girls in grades 4-6 and their chaperones \$50*

Acteens Splash, for girls in grades 7-12 and their chaperones \$50*

*All rates are Early Bird rates through May 24, 2013. Rates are per person.

**Exalt 4:GO
Bondservant**

April 12-13, 2013
Parkway Baptist Church
Bardstown, KY
\$25 per person

New This Year!
Exalt and 4:GO will be together providing worship and hands on missions opportunities for teenage guys and girls.

Visit kywmu.org/exalt4go for more information and to register.

Kentucky Notes

KENTUCKY WMU HERITAGE FUND

Sept. 1, 2012—Dec. 31, 2012

The following persons were honored or remembered through gifts to the Kentucky WMU Heritage Fund during the final months of 2012. Our thanks to each person who gave to the Heritage Fund this year. Heritage Fund gifts are a great way to support Kentucky WMU and honor or remember someone significant to you and WMU.

IN HONOR OF:

Pat & Dudley Reaves.....	Jim & Shirley Taliafero
Linda Cooper	Greenup Assoc. WMU
Lisa Nickell.....	Greenup Assoc. WMU
Three Forks Bacon Creek BC	Linda Cooper
Gaspar River Assoc WMU.....	Linda Cooper
Hartford Baptist Church	Linda Cooper
Elkhorn Association WMU.....	Linda Cooper
Laurel River Assoc WMU.....	Linda Cooper
Freedom Association WMU.....	Linda Cooper
Buck Creek Baptist Church.....	Linda Cooper
Burkesville Baptist Church.....	Linda Cooper
Monroe Baptist Association.....	Linda Cooper
Temple Hill Baptist Church.....	Linda Cooper
Greenup Association WMU.....	Linda Cooper
Little River Association WMU.....	Linda Cooper
FBC Bowling Green.....	Linda Cooper
Hazel Hampton.....	Patricia Hoskins
WMU Executive Board.....	Linda Alexander
Lodema Parsons.....	Marcia Ballard
Dr. & Mrs. Jim Clontz.....	Donna Fegenbush
Cathy Chinn.....	Peggy Leach
Mildred Johnson.....	Pat Callan
Joyzette Fields.....	Shelby Castlen
Linda Cooper.....	Lisa Crenshaw
Marilyn Lamkin.....	Ky. WMU Devel. Comm.
Kentucky WMU Staff.....	Pat Reaves
Maribeth & Horace Hambrick.....	Frankie & Chuck Johnson
Linda Devine.....	Irma Woodrow
Frankie & Chuck Johnson.....	Maribeth & Horace Hambrick
Brad, Jennifer, Carter Cooper.....	Jim & Linda Cooper
Jamie Cooper.....	Jim & Linda Cooper
Stacy Nall.....	Joy Bolton
Wanda Walker.....	Joy Bolton

DONOR:



Honor your Heritage Fund the future

KY WMU CALENDAR

MARCH

3-10
Week of Prayer for North American Missions / Annie Armstrong Offering

16
RAMCON (Royal Ambassadors Missions Congress), Elkton Baptist, Elkton

APRIL

4
Kentucky WMU Executive Board Meeting, Hopkinsville

5-6
Kentucky WMU Annual Meeting, First Baptist Church, Hopkinsville

12-13

Exalt/4:GO, Parkway Baptist, Bardstown

19-20

Women on Mission Regional Retreat, Laurel Lake Baptist Camp, Corbin

26-27

Women on Mission Regional Retreat, Camp Schafer, Hawesville

MAY

9-10
Bus Tour to National WMU Office

18

SALT (State Associational Leadership Training), First Baptist, Mt. Washington

In Honor of Tina Nicely: Twyla Sheffield, Lesa Keown, Dolores Gilmore, Linda Alexander, Peggy Leach, Susan Bryant, Susan Hutcherson, Cheryl Hatfield, Betty Coppage and Joy Bolton.

IN MEMORY OF:

Hilda Hawkins.....	Kentucky WMU
Margaret Arvin.....	FBC Hopkinsville WMU
Willie Crenshaw.....	Liz Sadler
Willie Crenshaw.....	Dale & Mary Wilkerson
Elizabeth Wells.....	Grober-Parrish Baptist Women
Brenda Bush.....	Mitzi Noel
Pauline Adkins.....	Lisa Nickell
Teresa Pike Roberts.....	Lori Sharp
Wyona King.....	Irma Woodrow
Mona Tamme.....	Friendship Club of Bardstown
Mary Lou Brock.....	Marilyn Lamkin
Jessie Denton.....	Kentucky WMU
Evelyn Mottram Aldridge.....	Dolores Gilmore
Juanita Gaines.....	Mercer Association
Wyona King.....	Latonia Baptist Winsome Class
Doris Henry.....	Donald Henry
Mona Tamme.....	Brenda Price
Charlene Tallant.....	Brenda Price
Betty Marsh.....	Cheryl Hatfield
Helen Ash.....	Cheryl Hatfield

In memory of Dorothy Luebbert: FBC Barlow WMU, Greenup Assoc. WMU, Mt. Vernon WMU, Linda Devine and Tina Nicely.

In memory of Donald White: Elkhorn Assoc WMU, Maribeth & Horace Hambrick and Anna White.

OTHER GIFTS:

Cadiz Baptist WMU
Linda Lee
Kentucky WMU Staff
Dolores "Dee" Peterson
Jennifer Shearon



WESTERN KENTUCKY FAMILYFEST
JULY 15-18

• BLOCK PARTIES • ELDER CARE • DAY CAMPS • SPORTS CAMPS • LIGHT CONSTRUCTION • PRAYER WALKING • SERVANT EVANGELISM • HEALTH CARE MINISTRIES •

Registration and information at www.wmu.com/trips

Being a Grape in a World of Raisins

April 19-20
Laurel Lake Baptist Camp
Corbin, KY

April 26-27
Camp Schafer
Hawesville, KY

www.kywmu.org/beingagrape

Kentucky Baptist Nursing Fellowship
presents

DEMENTIA:

Not Your Grandparents' Senility Anymore!

Saturday June 29
Severns Valley Baptist Association
500 College Street Road
 Elizabethtown

BNF members \$20
Guests and non-BNF members \$25
Lunch included

RAMCON 2013

March 16, 2013
10:00 am- 2:30 pm (Central Time)
Elkton Baptist Church
Visit kywmu.org/ramcon to learn more or register.