

WESTERN Recorder

March 19, 2013

Shine Like Stars * Philippians 2:15

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KBC exec urges governor to protect religious freedom

By Todd Deaton

Louisville—Stating that he wished “to do all I can to see this bill become law,” Kentucky Baptist Convention Executive Director Paul Chitwood sent a letter to Gov. Steve Beshear March 12, urging him to sign House Bill 279, the Religious Freedom Act.

“The protection of religious liberty is of vital importance to more than 750,000

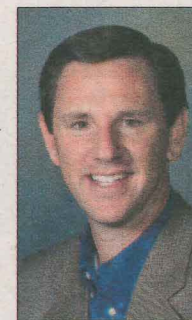
Kentucky Baptists and all people of faith in our great state,” Chitwood said in a cover letter to state legislators, expressing his thanks to those who supported the bill’s passage.

The Religious Freedom Act seeks to strengthen legal protections for religious minorities by restoring “compelling interest” and “least restrictive means” as the legal tests by which the government must prove any action before restricting

religious freedom. The bill, proponents argue, brings Kentucky back into line with federal courts, which have been the standard since the 1930s. They argue that the courts can determine if a law “substantially burdens” someone’s religious practices.

“All this bill would do is to return long-standing legal protections to the people of faith that the Kentucky

□ See Religious liberty ... Page 3



“(G)overnment must be extremely hesitant and principled when dealing with matters of religion ...”

Paul Chitwood

A legacy of loving

WHATEVER IT TAKES

REACHING THE ONE

By Joe Conway

Denver—A new home, new position, new ministry and new outlook came to Lorna Bius in the summer of 2012. But a childhood memory—forgotten for years—helped her realize something oddly familiar about it all.

“I’m discovering that sometimes people need to experience LoveLoud ministry for a while before they recognize it,” said Bius, one of this year’s North American Mission Board Week of Prayer missionaries. “It was true in my life.”

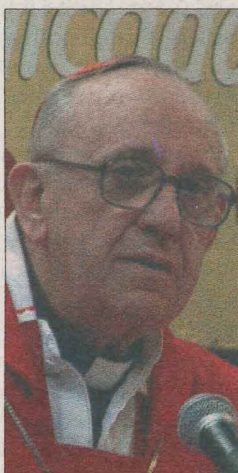
□ See Reaching the one ... Page 6



Lorna Bius remembers seeing examples her father’s servant’s heart when she was a young child and now, the LoveLoud catalyst is carrying on his legacy by teaching others how to love and serve in Christ’s name. (Photo by Greg Schneider/NAMB)

“He is a leader who has stood strongly for the values of religious freedom, the sanctity of human life, marriage, and the family ...”

Alan Sears



Pope Francis

New pope encourages ‘shoe-leather evangelization’

Rome—Cardinal Jorge Mario Bergoglio, the archbishop of Buenos Aires, was elected as pope March 13, choosing Pope Francis as his name and becoming the first non-European pope in the modern era. Latin America now is home to about 40 percent of the world’s Catholics.

Meanwhile, Albert Mohler, president of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, reaffirmed Southern Baptists’ doctrinal differences with Roman Catholics concerning papal authority in a March 14 podcast.

Francis has taken stands with the

Argentinian government in support of traditional marriage and the sanctity of life, CNN reported. He succeeds Pope Benedict XVI, who abdicated in February after an eight-year pontificate.

Alan Sears, president of Alliance Defending Freedom—a Christian legal group—applauded the election.

“We join millions in congratulating Francis I on his selection as pope,” Sears said. “He is a leader who has stood strongly for the values of religious freedom, the sanctity of human life, marriage, and the family, often under very

trying circumstances. We appreciate his many strong statements over the years on the protection of marriage and the unborn and trust he will continue to be a powerful voice on the deep importance of these issues.”

The Argentine-born Francis is the son of an Italian railway worker and is known as a compassionate conservative, according to NBC News. Reports indicate he was the runner-up during the balloting in 2005 that elected Benedict.

“The 76-year-old Jesuit prizes

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Western Recorder 3-19-2013

Rockcastle churches band together in fight against drug abuse

By Todd Deaton

Mount Vernon—Seven area churches, including three Kentucky Baptist congregations, are hosting a series of seven prayer services in March and April in an effort to stem a rising tide of deaths from prescription drug overdoses in Rockcastle County and neighboring counties.

"Last year when our community was faced with an alcohol sales proposal, we organized the churches in prayer to confront the issue," said Randy McPheron, director of missions for Rockcastle Baptist Association. "At those prayer meetings we heard pastors confess, asking God to forgive them for not getting together sooner to pray for our community."

"We are facing an even bigger problem with the drug abuse issue," McPheron observed, adding that his heart has been "deeply burdened" to call area churches to come together again to pray.

At least 30 churches were represented at the first prayer service at Northside Baptist Church in Mount Vernon on March 7, when two students spoke of family tragedies. A second service was

held on Thursday at First Christian Church.

Other services are planned for March 21 at Brodhead Baptist Church, March 28 at Mt. Pleasant Baptist Church, March 4 at Bible Baptist Church, April 16 at Crossroads Assembly of God in Brodhead, and April 23 at Pine Hill Holiness Church.

Operation Unite, a community coalition devoted to preventing drug overdose deaths, will lead a rally April 11, and church leaders are promoting observance of the National Day of Prayer May 2 at the county courthouse.

All area churches are invited to participate in the seven prayer services and the rallies. McPheron asks fellow Kentucky Baptists and other Christians to be in prayer for the services and the Rockcastle community.

The series of prayer services comes on the heels of a CNN program last December in which three students at the local high school—Avery Bradshaw, Hannah Eaton and Sean Watkins—shared their grief at having lost parents and family members to prescription drug overdoses. Kentucky has the sixth highest rate of overdose deaths, according to CNN.

An epidemic of prescription drug overdoses is tearing family after family



SPEAKING OUT High school student Avery Bradshaw speaks at the recent prayer event at Northside Baptist Church. (Photo provided by Rockcastle Baptist Association)

apart in Rockcastle County, which averages one drug-related death per week and is rapidly losing a whole generation of adults, CNN reported.

Area churches not only want to promote awareness of the drug abuse issue, they also want families affected by prescription drug addiction to know there is hope.

At one of the prayer services, for example, Jordan—who inspired a song by

contemporary Christian recording artist Matthew West, "Hello My Name Is," which appears on his "Into the Light" album—will share his testimony about how an addiction to a prescription drug quickly spun out of control, robbing him of a college athletic scholarship. After ending up at Teen Challenge, a Christian rehabilitation center, he returned to school to earn a master's degree and has become a teacher and coach. Today, Jordan no longer feels compelled to introduce himself as a drug addict, but instead gladly tells others, "I'm a child of the one true King!"

"What a powerful example of God at work in someone's story," West wrote on his website. "I couldn't help but wonder how many people in the world are walking around defined by the defeat and the regret of past mistakes, believing the lie that they will never be able to kick an old habit or move on from yesterday's mistakes."

"Jordan's story is powerful proof that we are not defined by our past," West added. "God can restore, redeem, and renew our hearts and lives. He can set our feet on a new path that will lead our lives to a destination far greater than where we used to call home." (WR)

'Project More' reaches women and changes their hearts

By Ken Walker and Dannah Prather

Hazard—Joann Hall hadn't been to church for years, but a simple evening out last spring changed her heart.

Already a Christian, the Hazard Middle School teacher said she had stopped attending church several years earlier after losing seven close family members in 27 months.

"I had so much anger and resentment inside of me, I couldn't let it go," Hall said. "If I hadn't gone to that dinner, I don't know if I would have gone back to church."

The dinner, organized by First Baptist Church of Hazard, was hosted by a group of Christian women with open arms and listening ears who also were equipped to share the gospel.

Hall decided that night to re-embrace her faith in Christ. She now faithfully attends a Baptist church near her home, 45 minutes from Hazard.

Nine other women made professions of faith in Christ at last spring's dinner.

'Common thread'

Similar stories have been told from churches around the commonwealth following the first Project More Women in 2012, an initiative of the Kentucky Baptist Convention that encourages women to organize one-day events with a soul-winning emphasis.

"To hear the God-results at First Baptist Church of Hazard moved me beyond words," said Shelly Johns, women's/senior adult ministries consultant with the KBC. "It is humbling to see how God blesses the work of hands and hearts in service to Him."

Cindy Cornett coordinated the dinner outreach for First Baptist Hazard.

"I wanted to develop an outreach in the community toward women and for women," she said. "We prayed and asked



REACHING MORE Vince Scarbrough, minister to preschool children and families at Hurstbourne Baptist Church in Louisville, presents the Easter story to boys and girls during last year's Resurrection Celebration, an event designed to reach more families in the local community. The event was part of Project More Women, an evangelistic emphasis of the Kentucky Baptist Convention. Hurstbourne Baptist is preparing for its second Resurrection Celebration on March 23.

God who to invite. We asked people we worked with. One woman brought her hairdresser. Some women invited their daughters who were struggling. We tried to be very deliberate."

Through the Project More Women webpage, www.kybaptist.org/projectmore, churches that may not have an idea for an event can connect with nearly a dozen ministries. The KBC asks that groups use the webpage to register their project by May 31 and report the results.

"These reports are an encouragement for fellow believers to seek opportunities to reach people for Christ," Johns said. "They also provide churches with intentional ideas for future evangelistic events that meet needs while sharing God's love."

More than 60 Kentucky Baptists volunteered last year through Project More. Johns said she hopes to see more women involved this spring.

The common thread uniting these projects is HeartCall, an evangelistic approach that originated with the Southern Baptist North American Mission Board. Written by Jaye Martin, HeartCall is a four-week Bible study that is available online. Participants are asked to complete it prior to their project.

HeartCall training is available for viewing and downloading at the Project More Women webpage, www.kybaptist.org/projectmore. Kentucky Baptists can also request information on hosting HeartCall training at their churches.

Attracting 'new faces'

Other churches reported success in drawing new faces to their congregations through Project More Women in 2012 and are scheduling events for this spring.

Hurstbourne Baptist Church in Louisville will host its second "Resurrection

Celebration" on March 23.

Focused on the Indian, Spanish and Korean students in Hurstbourne's English as a Second Language program, the church expects at least two dozen adults and youth to attend.

Activities will include a pancake breakfast, gospel tract distribution, children's Easter egg hunt, and a presentation of the Easter story by children's minister Vince Scarbrough.

Similarly, a women's conference inspired by Project More Women last year prompted First Baptist Church of Brandenburg to schedule a second one for April 19-20.

Nashville author Shawn Lantz will be the keynote speaker. After discussing the topic of forgiveness in 2012, her theme this spring is "Mary or Martha, Which Are You?"

Roxanne Nanney, minister of music and senior adults, and leader of First Baptist Brandenburg's women's ministry, said half of the women who attended the first conference were from outside the church.

"It was most definitely a success," Nanney said. "We were expecting 50 women and ended up with 70, so we were thrilled. This year we're shooting for 100."

"It helped us reach into the community," she continued. "We picked up a few people in our regular women's Bible study. When people come to an event and their heart is touched and needs are met, that's good PR for God's Kingdom."

Hall agrees. The guest speaker at last May's dinner in Hazard was excellent, but Hall said what touched her most was the camaraderie and sharing at her table.

"I'm more at peace," she said of how the evening changed her life. "I don't jump as quick and take things as they are. When I go to church and listen to the sermon, it helps me the rest of the week." (KBC)

Pastor's book helps parents cope with 'the greatest loss'

By John Shindlebower

Elizabethtown—Henry White experienced every parent's nightmare the night his 18-year-old son, Matthew, was late coming home. He knew something was wrong, so he got out of bed, dressed and drove just over a mile from his house when he saw the accident. His son's small car had been broadsided by a pickup truck, and the boy he and his wife, Brenda, had adopted at six-days of age was dead.

As a pastor, White had comforted families in times of grief before, but this time he was in need of comfort. What he learned in the coming days, weeks and even years has led him to write a book to help ministers and lay people understand how to help those who endure such a loss.

Good intentions

In "The Greatest Loss," White shares from both his heart and from what he's learned from other grieving families in an effort to equip readers to be better comforters. It's a lesson he said is needed.

Although well-intentioned, White recalls some of the things people said to him following the death of Matthew.

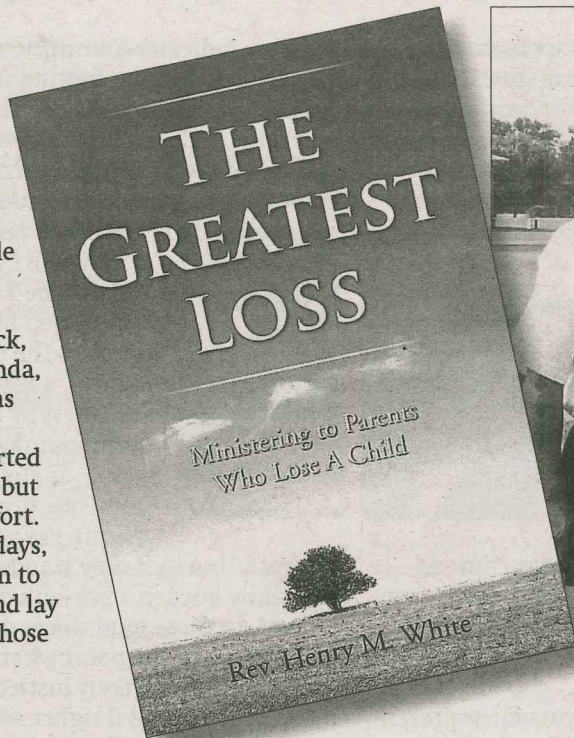
"We had numerous people offer us reasons or explanations. One neighbor told us that God probably took Matthew in order to spare him from some worse calamity later on," said White. The neighbor meant well, he said, but at the time he could only think to himself, "What could be worse than dying?"

"It was his time to die," was another popular comment that he heard, as well as the familiar phrase that "God just needed another angel." White said, as a pastor, those comments rang hollow. His theology is such that God doesn't cause bad things to happen, but that He simply allows them. As for angels, He knows the Bible is clear that humans and angels are two separate entities.

Comments such as this reinforced White's belief that the church needed to learn how to properly comfort the grieving.

Sometimes the best comfort doesn't come from words, but by simply being there.

"I've developed a practice of when a family experiences a loss, I just go in, and if I know the person would be comfortable with a hug, I just hug them and tell them I am sorry, and I let them talk,"



Henry White hopes to help others cope with the loss of a child by telling his own story about losing his 18-year-old son. Pictured above are White, his wife, Brenda and son, Matthew, who was a freshman at Georgetown College. (Photo provided by Henry White)

said White. Allowing the grieving person to set the tone of the visit and conversation can help determine what is, or what isn't, appropriate to say.

The most important thing, especially for pastors to learn, is to simply make sure you are there when you are needed. Through his involvement in Compassionate Friends, a grief support group, he has heard many stories of people who have suffered loss, yet who have felt abandoned or neglected by their ministers.

White has devoted an entire chapter in his book to emphasize the importance of clergy members making a priority of those enduring such sorrow. "If you find out a family has a death, then drop what you're doing and go minister to them," he said.

Time to cope

Matthew was a freshman at Georgetown College and a member of the football team when he was killed. White recalls how caring the school family was to him and his wife. The president of the school, Bill Crouch, came that very night to visit. The football team would later invite the Whites to a game, brought them onto the field and presented them with a championship ring that commemorated their success the year before. Matthew's high school teammates organized a golf scramble to help raise money for a scholarship fund that had been set up in his name.

"Those small tokens and gestures

were very helpful," said White. "They are a way of keeping your child's name alive. Like in biblical times, the name represents the person, and it's extremely helpful when people will let us talk about our child."

It's been nearly 14 years since Matthew's death, and White will attest that

time simply does not heal all wounds. "Time allows you to develop coping skills, but the grief is there forever and the hole is there forever."

What does offer healing is having people support you, not only in the days following the tragedy, but in the months and years to come.

Writing his book was therapeutic for White, although it was a labor of both love and necessity that took several years. The first chapter was devoted to writing about Matthew, as White said he wanted to illustrate the need parents have to talk about their lost child.

The rest of the book, however, is intended to serve as a guide for how the church, pastors and the congregation can lovingly minister to families who endure the greatest loss they could ever imagine.

White is pastor of Heavenbound Baptist Church in Elizabethtown. His book, "The Greatest Loss," can be ordered by visiting White's website at www.thegreatestloss.com. (WR)

John Shindlebower is associate director of communications at Sunrise Children's Services in Mt. Washington.

UC recognized for community service

Williamsburg—University of the Cumberland was named to the 2013 President's Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll, the highest honor a college or university can receive for commitment to volunteering, service-learning and civic engagement.

"The University of the Cumberland strives to provide all students valuable learning opportunities in the areas of leadership training and community," said UC Vice President for Student Services Michael Colegrove. "Our expectation is that UC graduates will make service to others an important part of their lives."

Recently, students, faculty and staff have been actively involved in several service projects, including outreach to the local community through missions, construction ministry work through Mountain Outreach, and preparing for its third annual Relay for Life event.

"Congratulations to University of the Cumberland, its faculty and students for its commitment to service, both in and out of the classroom," said Wendy Spencer, CEO of the Corporation for National and Community Service. "Through its work, institutions of higher education are helping improve their local communities and create a new generation of leaders by challenging students to go beyond the traditional college experience and solve local challenges."

Inspired by the thousands of college students who traveled across the country to support relief efforts after Hurricane Katrina, CNCS has administered the award since 2006 and manages the program in collaboration with the U.S. Department of Education and the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, as well as the American Council on Education and Campus Compact. (UC)

Religious liberty

Continued from page 1

Supreme Court took away in a decision last October," Martin Cothran of The Family Foundation said in a recent press release.

Opponents, including the American Civil Liberties Union and other human rights organizations, are urging the governor to veto the bill, however. They fear the law could lead to discrimination against homosexuals on religious grounds—though, according to a recent Associated Press article, there is little evidence to support these fears in the states where religious freedom measures have been passed.

Chitwood, in his March 12 letter to the governor, urged: "I, along with the more than 2,400 churches in the Kentucky Baptist Convention, representing some 750,000 citizens of the Commonwealth, wholeheartedly encourage you to sign the bill with honor and confidence as you and the General Assembly protect the rich religious freedom tradition that America and the Commonwealth have enjoyed for over two centuries."

Specifically addressing the Kentucky Supreme Court's decision regarding "the Amish case" last fall, Chitwood said he realized the state had real safety concerns in making the black buggies more visible. "Though the legislature settled the issue in a commendable way," he said, "the Supreme Court took the

Commonwealth in a new direction with its implementation of the 'rational basis' standard for church/state interaction."

In 1990, the U.S. Supreme Court similarly attempted to apply a "rational basis" test in reaching a decision. Congress, however, corrected the federal court's action in 1993 by passing the Religious Freedom Restoration Act. Kentucky's General Assembly, proponents contend, seeks to do the same thing now.

Calling House Bill 279 a "corrective" measure, which was easily passed by both chambers of the legislature, Chitwood wrote: "I'm sure you know the 'wall of separation' phrase was used by Thomas Jefferson in writing to the Danbury Baptists to describe how government must be extremely hesitant and

principled when dealing with matters of religion.

"I view House Bill 279 very positively—in the same way that liberals and conservatives and Democrats and Republicans viewed the 1993 Religious Freedom Restoration Act that redirected the U.S. Supreme Court when it erred with its 1990 'rational basis' decision," Chitwood said.

The Kentucky Baptist leader urged Gov. Beshear to set a signing ceremony date soon.

The House of Representatives overwhelmingly approved the Religious Freedom Act by an 82-7 margin, and the Senate voted 29-6 in its favor. At press time, the bill still awaits the governor's signature or veto. (WR)

KBC's core values

Since the mission of the Kentucky Baptist Convention is summarized by the statement: "Created by churches, for churches, to help churches reach Kentucky and the world for Christ," how our Mission Board staff members serve our churches is of the utmost importance. To help ensure that we do our best, we have developed five core values to govern our character and conduct. The acrostic TEAMS helps us commit those values to memory. TEAMS means that we strive to be:

Together We are the KBC



Paul Chitwood

Trustworthy. We can be relied upon as a resource to ease ministry pain, not create more. "Like a broken tooth or a lame foot is reliance on the unfaithful in a time of trouble" (Proverbs 25:19).

Encouraging. We find joy in ministry and in helping others find joy in theirs. "Therefore let us not pass judgment on one another any longer, but rather decide never to put a stumbling block or hindrance in the way of a brother" (Romans 14:13).

Accountable. We strive to make a Kingdom difference, understanding that ministry is not simply about activity, but about proclaiming and expanding the Kingdom of God. "Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for human masters, since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward. It is the Lord Christ you are serving" (Colossians 3:23).

Mature. We are actively responsible for our own spiritual formation. "Train yourself to be godly. For physical training is of some value, but godliness has value for all things, holding promise for both the present life and the life to come" (1 Timothy 4:7-8).

Sensitive. We listen humbly to diverse voices, seeking understanding and reconciliation. "Do nothing out of rivalry or conceit, but in humility consider others as more important than yourselves" (Philippians 2:3).

KBC churches deserve the best from their Mission Board staff. Thankfully, I could not be more pleased by the team of servants God has given us.

Our staff members are a diverse group of men and women who love the Lord, His word, His churches, and His work. Each is uniquely gifted and feels a strong sense of calling to their ministry. I am humbled by the privilege of working alongside such a devoted group of servants.

We pray regularly God will use us to encourage pastors and leaders in their work. We long to see new churches birthed and existing churches strengthened. We desire for the lost to come to a realization of the truth of the gospel and be saved.

And we want very much for God to receive the glory He is due: "Ascribe to the Lord, all you families of nations, ascribe to the Lord glory and strength. Ascribe to the Lord the glory due his name" (1 Chronicles 16:28-29).

Paul Chitwood is executive director of the Kentucky Baptist Convention.

Parking tickets? Religious freedom far more serious

The General Assembly deserves the applause of Kentucky Baptists for standing up for religious freedom, a fundamental principle of our heritage as Southern Baptists that extends back to the founding of our country and its guarantee in the First Amendment.

Some accusations being made now about the religious freedom bill, which sailed through both the House and the Senate, border on the absurd, however. Parking tickets—really? How offensive! An American Civil Liberties Union spokesperson, according to an AP story, feared churchgoers will attempt to get out of parking tickets that deter attendance at church services. Or, how about this allegation: The bill could allow Catholic priests to cover up sex abuse and pedophilia. Highly unlikely, since it is a crime.

And, what about the objection raised by some human rights groups that apartment managers could refuse to rent to gay or lesbian couples because of their religious beliefs? One opponent went so far as to charge that the bill would be used as a "sword" against minorities.

This objection, though, arises out of a gross misrepresentation of the bill's origin and a misapplication of a law intended only to protect religious minorities from unnecessary persecution. House Bill 279, as the religious freedom bill was originally known, is an effort, according to its sponsor, Robert Damron, a Democrat, to correct the basis for a ruling made by the Kentucky Supreme Court that relied upon a "rational" standard, rather than the proven "strict scrutiny." The latter test requires the state not only to demonstrate "compelling interest," but also to find the "least restrictive" means of infringing upon religious beliefs.

What was his stated reason for presenting the bill? Damron said he filed the bill in reaction to the court's decision last October that required Amish to display orange safety triangles on their horse-drawn buggies. The Amish men refused to display the bright signs on religious grounds, but the court overruled their argument. A legislative compromise eventually allowed the Amish to use white reflective tape, instead.

Whitney Westerfield, a Republican who chairs the

Senate's Judiciary Committee, said, "(T)he bill simply puts us back on the legal footing we were on prior to the Kentucky Supreme Court's decision that used a lesser standard last fall." And, Sen. David Givens has it right: "This legislation simply states that government needs a good reason to impose rules superseding someone's deeply and firmly held religious beliefs"—not vice versa.

The bill's language is nearly identical to that of the Religious Freedom Restoration Act passed by the U.S. Congress in 1993. Prior to the bill's arrival in the Kentucky Senate, a key word, "substantial," was added. Why is this important? Before, it perhaps may have been interpreted by some as any claim of infringement on someone's religious beliefs could possibly trump the government's "compelling interest," but as it now stands, "government shall not substantially burden a person's freedom of religion."

And, to those loud voices decrying that it bolsters religious views to the point where they trump anti-discrimination laws, it is unlikely justices would render a ruling that overrides other civil rights, which typically are viewed in the state's "compelling interest" to uphold. Martin Cothran of the Family Foundation cautions that the religious freedom bill would provide little protection in such cases. "All of the case law is going in the other direction," he noted. "It's not going in the direction of over-protecting people's religious freedom." In fact, in states where similar religious freedom bills have been approved, a Michigan law professor, Christopher Lund, found 10 had only one or two cases, and those claiming religious infringement lost more often than not.

So, why all the hubbub? And, why does our governor appear hesitant to sign it? Good questions. Guess it depends on the voices to which one chooses to listen, and some seem particularly loud at the moment. That's why it is so important for concerned Baptists and other Christians to be sure they are heard, too.

The governor has until March 23 to decide. Should he veto the bill, the General Assembly can call for an override on March 25-26. Let your state legislators know you support their efforts to stand firm on religious freedom.

After Thought

By Todd Deaton



Take 30 seconds to brag about what God is doing in your church

I've noticed an interesting common denominator in vibrant, growing churches: They always seem to be celebrating something God's doing there. Use these two simple steps to add a mini-celebration during weekly church announcements.

Step One: Be vigilantly observant to see what God is doing in His church. Keep an ongoing list, and select at least one praise to mention each Sunday.

Step Two: Plan the best way to brag on God. Use varying methods to praise Him for that specific blessing during Sunday worship's announcements. Here are some ideas, each requiring less than 30 seconds:

■ **Show it.** "Firefighters sent this thank you note for our church's prayers

and the Fireman's Bibles we sent."

■ **Numbers.** Create giant numbers, and use them to announce camp enrollment, baptism numbers, cans of food collected, etc.

■ **Tour instructions.** "After worship, follow the yellow arrows to see our beautifully remodeled nursery!"

■ **Assignment.** "God's blessing our new singles class. Class members are distributing invitation cards for you to give to a single adult you know."

■ **Tradition.** Play four musical bars of "Jesus Loves the Little Children" then announce "God's newest blessing at our church—Ian Key, born to Hal and Jan on Monday."

■ **Reminder.** "We exceeded our Annie

Armstrong offering goal! Take the bookmark in your chair to remind you to pray for our NAMB missionaries."

■ **Ask for action.** "Let's use our vehicles as mobile invitations. Take a church window sticker. Volunteers in the parking lot with help with installation."

■ **Wall graphic.** After every baptism, our pastor refers to the wall visual tallying God's blessing of new believers.

■ **Applause.** "God has answered our church's prayers for new small group leaders. Let's all applaud Him for His blessing!"

Be constantly on watch, and use praise announcements during worship to intentionally, joyfully celebrate what He's doing.

Diana Davis is author of *Deacon Wives* and *Fresh Ideas*.

Fresh Ideas



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Shine Like Stars * Philippians 2:15

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Parents: an important part of youth ministry

Parents. Sometimes the thought of them sends chills through the spines of youth ministers. They pick up their child late from a youth event, ground their students from church, question your abilities, and rarely say thanks. Sometimes they seem like adversaries, instead of our allies.

Despite that, research shows that the No. 1 influence in the life of a teenager is not their friends—even though they are in the top five—or their teachers, coaches, scoutmasters, bosses, media, celebrities, the Easter bunny or a minister (go figure), but their parents. Look at the deluge of TV commercials that encourage parents to talk to their kids about drugs, sex, smoking, bullying or whatever the issue is.

So, why is it then that we do not find more of our parents involved in youth ministry? If parents are the No. 1 influence in the life of a student, then doesn't it figure that we ought to capitalize on that since we are trying to be influencers of teens?

How do we incorporate parents into the mainstream of our youth meetings?

Chaperones

Yes, I know students hate to have their parents tagging along on youth trips. It "cramps their style." But very few things in my life compare to the times when I saw the truths of Scripture or the Spirit of God come alive in my children during a youth event. Why should I deprive other parents of that opportunity? Believe me, when you see your own child get right with God, it makes you want to do the same.

Set clear boundaries

To protect the parent-child relationship, establish a "no parent rule" during youth events. Here is what I mean: Parents involved in the youth ministry cannot correct their own child at a youth event. It is amazing how much you will let other students in the group get by with, but you will ream out your own child for it.

Youth Ministry Corner



Joe Ball

Also, it is not fair rehashing at home what happened at the youth event. That is probably a reason students are less than enthusiastic about having their parent along on a youth event. The other side of the coin is that parents also can't do special favors for their child unless they do them for the entire group (holding money, buying snacks, souvenirs).

Small group leaders

How amazing would it be if the teens in your ministry got to sit under their parents teaching of Scripture, to experience firsthand the Deuteronomy 6 principle in their home? Enlist parents to be small group leaders, and let them lead a small group consisting of their child and his or her peers. Let them stand in

the gap for other students in the ministry whose parents are not Christians or who do not feel equipped to lead a small group.

Parent training

The older my children became, the less I knew about parenting. As we began to experience some of the joys and trials of life with our two children, I sought out other youth ministers, who had already been there and survived it with their children, for advice and counsel. Other parents need the same assistance. Moms who have sent their child off to college are a great resource for those who are about to do so. Churches can provide training in the Internet and social media and on how to help your student migrate the messy stuff out there. There are programs that will e-mail you daily about every site that your child visits and how long he or she stays there. It helps parents teach their children accountability for their actions.

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

Marriage as a journey

By Valerie Vincent

Many of us love to hear stories about a great journey. Take the "Lord of the Rings" movies for example. What an incredible journey filled with great diffi-



culty, but also great courage and faithfulness. Many of us are inspired by these stories. We enjoy a tremendous sense of satisfaction when ordinary people reach the end of their journeys and look like heroes for what they have come through.

Scripture is filled with ordinary people who embark on challenging journeys. They sin, reach out to God, long for relief, and often at the end of their journeys realize a truth about themselves and God.

Why then is it so unfashionable to view marriage as a journey? When there is difficulty—divorce. When you see someone else more attractive who makes you feel good—divorce. When your spouse has hurt you or caused suffering—divorce.

Our culture will not describe marriage as a journey, but Scripture will. Yahweh called them out of Egypt to follow. He invited them to be His people, devoted and belonging only to Him. Christ is the bridegroom, loving and sacrificing for us, the bride.

Bilbo could have stayed home. Frodo could have given up. But we don't want them to. We cheer them on wanting them to keep going, keep fighting, keep hoping until there is relief, reward, resolution.

What if we saw marriage as a journey? What if we understood there will be difficulty, sadness, hurt and struggle? What if, instead of giving up, we fought hard to find a way through the barriers to joy, satisfaction, reward and all that God wants to give us in our marriage?

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

Call to Prayer: Proposition 8, Defense of Marriage Act at High Court

By Roger Oldham

Nashville, Tenn.—Christians need to intensify their prayers for the Supreme Court in the countdown days to its deliberations on same-sex marriage later this month, according to Frank Page, president of the SBC Executive Committee.

Page, who issued a call to prayer for the court, reminded members of the Executive Committee of the urgent need for prayer during his remarks at the EC's plenary session in Nashville.

The court is set to hear oral arguments in March on two cases that will either lead to the legalization of gay marriage nationwide or affirm the rights of legislators and voters to protect traditional marriage. It will consider the constitutionality of California's Proposition 8 March 26 and the federal Defense of Marriage Act March 27.

California voters passed Proposition 8 in 2008 by a margin of 52-48 percent. The amendment stated, "Only marriage between a man and a woman is valid or recognized in California." It reversed a California Supreme Court ruling that had legalized gay marriage. A district court later declared the law established by the voter-initiated amendment unconstitutional. That court's decision was upheld by the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals, paving the way for it to be considered by the U.S. Supreme Court.

DOMA passed both houses of Congress in 1996 with wide bipartisan support—342 to 67 in the House and 85 to 14

in the Senate. President Bill Clinton signed it into law. Two years ago, President Barack Obama instructed the Department of Justice no longer to defend this federal law. Congress has stepped in to defend its constitutionality.

In his January call to prayer, Page listed specific ways believers in Christ should pray for the nine justices of the highest court in our nation and for those who will present oral testimony before them.

Pray first and foremost that God's will be done.

Page outlined numerous instances of God's judgment on individual sin (in King David's and King Rehoboam's lives) and on national sin (against the northern kingdom of Israel and the southern kingdom of Judah).

While our preference is for God to extend mercy to us, Page said that the Lord remains a "Righteous Judge" who "punishes the unrepentant heart," whether an individual, a family or a nation. "If He allowed judgment to fall upon His chosen people throughout history, how much more on a nation that forgets God?" Page asked.

Plead for God's mercy rather than His justice.

Pointing to Habakkuk's words in Habakkuk 3:2 (LORD, I stand in awe of Your deeds. Revive Your work in these years; make it known in these years. In

Your wrath remember mercy!), Page called on Southern Baptists to "pray for the hearts and minds of the justices."

Though our nation has wandered far from biblical morality, "it only takes five justices," Page wrote, "to establish the constitutionality of these laws and

"It only takes five justices to establish the constitutionality of these laws and rescue our nation from the precipice of moral destruction. ... (Ask the Holy Spirit to) 'guide and sway each justice.'"

Frank Page



rescue our nation from the precipice of moral destruction." He urged Christians everywhere to ask the Holy Spirit to "guide and sway each justice."

Pray for supernatural wisdom for those who argue for the constitutionality of these two laws.

Drawing attention to the ebb and flow of the judicial process, Page wrote, "The law is a fluid thing. It is always being shaped by a combination of factors, including precedent, logic, the effect of past laws on the human condition and even personal charisma of the presenters."

He urged Christians to "pray that the

individuals selected to argue for the constitutionality of traditional marriage will have keenness of insight, eloquence and logical consistency in their arguments and in response to each question directed their way" and that "their arguments will be biblically sound, compelling, reasonable and persuasive."

Pray that those who argue against biblical truth will be ensnared in their own pride and taken captive by their own conceits.

In his remarks, Page expressed disappointment that the president of the United States had instructed the Department of Justice not to defend the law of the land.

Some of the arguments presented before the court will be intended to deflect the merits of the case by raising peripheral or technical matters that are not germane to the central issue. In his January call to prayer, Page observed that "the Psalmist frequently asked the Lord to let the wicked be caught in their own schemes (Psalm 10:2)."

Pray God's word back to Him. Page closed his call to prayer in January by quoting the entire chapter of Isaiah 59 as a "most fitting text for us to pray as we intercede on behalf of our nation." He noted that the Isaiah passage acknowledges God's might, His ability and His willingness "to rescue our land from imminent moral peril." (BP)

Roger Oldham is vice president for convention communications and relations with the SBC Executive Committee.

Dockery: greater unity, new partnerships needed in SBC

By Tim Ellsworth

Wake Forest, N.C.—Southern Baptists must rise above the rampant individualism and isolation that characterize today's world and embrace each other in new partnerships for the sake of the gospel, Union University President David Dockery recently told Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary students.

"Today I want to urge us to move beyond cooperation, which many of us have championed, to a new and even higher calling, toward an intentional and purposeful collaboration," Dockery said.

Speaking in a chapel service at the seminary, Dockery addressed Paul's words in Philippians 1 in which the apostle affirmed the Philippi church's "partnership in the gospel."

Paul was writing in the midst of opposition from without and conflict from

within, Dockery said, and challenged his readers to live as worthy citizens of their heavenly homeland. In doing so, Paul appealed to their civic responsibility within the Christian community.



David Dockery

In that appeal, Dockery said, Southern Baptists can learn how to live as dual citizens of earth and heaven, and between the gospel and the culture.

"It is the standing firm in one spirit that makes it possible for them to participate as partners, striving together for the cause of the faith," Dockery said. "For

Paul, the gospel was the beginning and end of everything."

Paul encouraged his readers to embrace both resolve and unity at the same time, which allowed them to address disharmony within the church and external opposition, Dockery said. That challenge is applicable to modern Christians, Dockery said, because people

in today's culture have grown increasingly disconnected. Even Christians have succumbed to the trend of privatization, whether they realize it or not.

'A new connectedness'

That disconnection stems largely from the Enlightenment, Dockery said, which elevated science and reason above belief in the supernatural and caused the separation of faith and reason from revelation.

"As a result, most of us live through life in compartmentalized ways, and it all comes as a result of this philosophy that undergirds all aspects of contemporary life," he said.

In response to this movement, Dockery said Christians often embraced one of four alternatives: pietism, which largely disregarded intellectual challenges and advocated only maintaining warm hearts toward God; liberalism, which discounted some of Christianity's difficult theological issues; funda-

mentalism, in which people withdrew from culture entirely; and pragmatism, which accepted ideas and practices only if they worked.

The Southern Baptist Convention is not immune to this fragmentation, Dockery said. SBC entities and state convention entities at times are unaware of what the other is doing, he said, and universities and seminaries sometimes find themselves competing with each other, instead of working together.

Dockery called for a new connectedness between and among all elements of the SBC—a connectedness that is faithful to Southern Baptist polity and not one that will lead to "connectionalism."

In addition, Dockery said the convention needs a new vision that connects with the multi-ethnic and multicultural society in which Southern Baptists find themselves. (BP)

Tim Ellsworth is director of news and media relations for Union University in Jackson, Tenn.

Reaching the one

Continued from page 1

Bius, the first LoveLoud catalyst appointed by NAMB, moved to Colorado to give leadership for the initiative in NAMB's West Region for churches to demonstrate God's love by meeting significant human need while sharing Christ.

"I only realized a couple of years ago that I first witnessed LoveLoud when I was a child," Bius noted. "It started with my dad. When I was young, in early grade school, my dad took me with him on an errand. We drove into a neighborhood that I was unfamiliar with. He stopped in front of an old dilapidated house."

The memory of what happened next reawakened Bius' understanding of LoveLoud.

"My dad went to the trunk and took out two grocery bags, one in each arm," Bius recounted. "He went to the door—it only had steps, no porch. When he knocked an older woman answered. She

pulled back the screen door and my dad disappeared inside. A few moments later he came back out without the bags. He never said a thing about what he did. He showed me. I had forgotten about that day until the memory came back to me a couple of years ago. I realize now that was the first time I saw LoveLoud in action."

Now Bius hopes to multiply LoveLoud across the region, seeking to discover churches already engaged in similar ministries, with the goal of replicating them contextually for other churches. Bius began networking almost immediately after her move to Colorado from Nevada.

"I've been able to follow up with people I met at the Send North America Conference and the Colorado convention annual meeting," Bius said. The Send North America Conference is NAMB's gathering for church planting and mobilization. "I've also connected with people whose churches have been featured in state newspapers. I tell them I saw them in the paper and am interested in how their strategies are working."

In addition to her new church family, Bius also is involved with the Send North America: Denver team. City coordinator Dave Howeth quickly connected Bius with the group leading the initiative in Denver, one of nine Send North America cities in the West Region.

"Dave has been great," Bius said. "I'm so thankful that he brought me on board and helped me get established. I've made some good initial connections. Being in Denver is great. Twitter has been helpful, and I'm engaged in informal field research."

The annual Week of Prayer for North American Missions and the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering provide support for Bius and other missionaries like her who serve on behalf of Southern Baptists in North America. With a goal of \$70 million, this year's offering theme is "Whatever It Takes—Reaching the One."

The heart of the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering is to support missions, Bius noted.

"It is amazing to me that I am able to see when people give in Mississippi or New York and then see it used to reach



HELPING CHURCHES Discovering new ways to help churches reach families is part of Lorna Bius assignment as a LoveLoud catalytic missionary.

someone for Christ in Phoenix," Bius said. "I get to see the other side of the offering plate, the effects of not just the funds, but the heart behind the giving. It is incredibly potent with every offering and every voice.

"And not only giving, but in what the giving provides. It is phenomenal to be able to tell people that someone provided a resource because they wanted to help reach someone else for Christ. People are amazed, particularly in the West, that someone they don't know would give to help them."

Bius also sees LoveLoud as an avenue to develop future missionaries and leaders, noting that LoveLoud gives people the opportunity to participate in serving others, helps them develop interests and skills, and shows them how to take those interests and skills and engage people with the gospel.

"When people walk away from LoveLoud they haven't just done something, they are becoming something," Bius said. "LoveLoud has a real opportunity to lead to church planting."

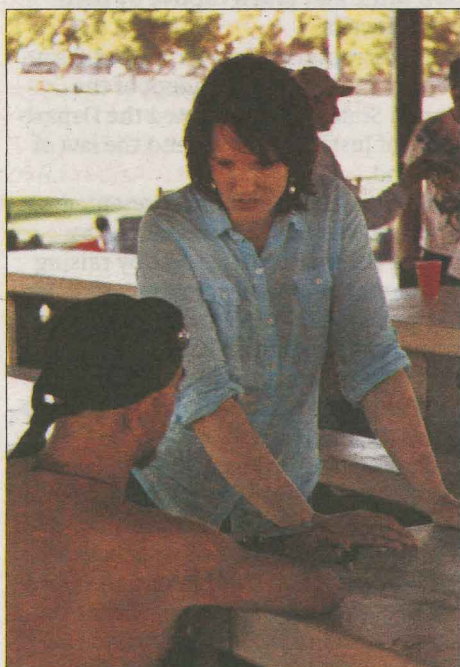
"My parents were great influences on me. That golden thread of God's heart runs through my family and my life over the years. I have been the beneficiary, and now I get to be a cheerleader for it. I never would have dreamed it." (NAMB/BP)

Stassen to receive BWA award

Falls Church, Va.—Ethicist Glen Stassen has been named the 2013 recipient of the Baptist World Alliance Denton and Janice Lotz Human Rights Award. The award—approved March 5 during a meeting of the BWA executive committee in Falls Church, Va.—will be presented during the BWA annual gathering scheduled July 1-6 in Ocho Rios, Jamaica.

Stassen, professor of Christian ethics at Fuller Theological Seminary in Pasadena, Calif., has for three decades been a leading Baptist voice for peacemaking around the world. His groundbreaking book, "Just Peacemaking," outlined an alternative to pacifism and just-war theory in the form of positive and practical steps that human beings can take to abolish war.

Stassen taught Christian ethics for 20 years at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, before joining Fuller's faculty in 1997. He is a member of the BWA Commission on Peace and a former board member of Baptist Peace Fellowship of North America. (ABP)



CROSS CULTURE LoveLoud means reaching across cultures, one thing North American Mission Board Week of Prayer missionary Lorna Bius understands.

Most Americans think homosexuality is a civil rights issue

Nashville, Tenn.—As public policy continues to change on the issue, a LifeWay Research poll shows 58 percent of American adults believe homosexuality is a civil rights issue and 64 percent say it is inevitable same-sex marriage will become legal throughout the U.S.

LifeWay Research conducted a wide-ranging survey of American adults about same-sex marriage, specifically examining whether Americans believe clergy, wedding photographers, landlords and employers have the right to refuse access and services to same-sex couples even if same-sex marriage is made legal.

According to the findings:

■ 63 percent agree that pastors should be allowed to refuse to officiate same-sex weddings if legal in their state.

■ 58 percent agree photographers should be allowed to refuse to work same-sex weddings if legal in their state.

■ 67 percent disagree that landlords

should be allowed to refuse to rent housing to same-sex couples if same-sex marriage is legal in their state.

■ 82 percent disagree that employers should be allowed to refuse employment to someone based on their sexual preference.

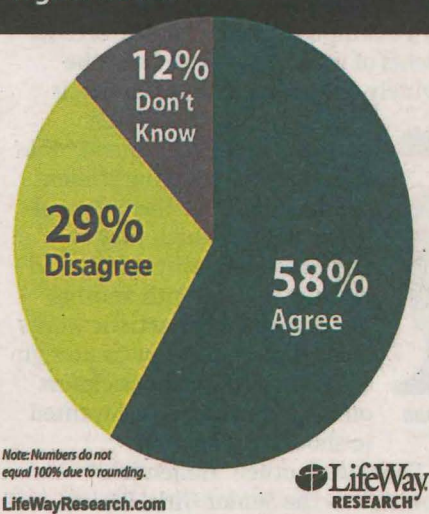
“Clearly, Americans believe the prerogative exists for individuals such as clergy or photographers to deny services for same-sex marriage,” said Ed Stetzer, president of LifeWay Research. “However, the level of agreement changes with scenarios that could be interpreted as more basic rights such as housing and employment.”

While 64 percent of Americans agree same-sex marriage will become legal in the United States, a quarter disagree and 12 percent “don’t know.”

The survey was conducted with a sample of 1,191 surveys. Margin of error does not exceed +2.9 percent. (LifeWay/BP)

Online Survey of Adult Americans:

Like age, race and gender, homosexuality is a civil rights issue.



Page: Scouts will 'lose members'

Nashville, Tenn.—The Boy Scouts will lose members and the support of faith-based organizations if it changes its policy on homosexuality, the president of the Southern Baptist Convention's Executive Committee told top Boy Scouts leaders March 7.

EC President Frank Page met in Nashville with Boy Scouts Chief Executive Wayne Brock and Exxon Mobil CEO Rex Tillerson, who serves on the Boy Scouts executive board and is a past president. Brock and Tillerson urged Page to continue supporting the Boy Scouts if the organization overturns its policy preventing homosexual leaders and members.

The Boy Scouts board is expected to put the issue before its 1,400 voting members at their national convention in May. The proposal would remove the national rule and replace it with a local option.

Page told Brock and Tillerson that no matter how well-intentioned they are, a national policy allowing homosexual leaders and members would trump the local councils who decide otherwise, embroiling local groups in legal issues. Many local groups, Page said, will withdraw if the policy changes.

Tillerson, a professing Christian, explained why he believes the policy should be overturned. There are changing cultural winds on the issue of homosexuality, Tillerson said. Tillerson asked Page to support the Boy Scouts no matter what decision is reached in May.

God's truth is abiding, Page said, and principles should not be subject to the changing tide of human opinion. Scripture, not opinion polls, should provide the basis for leadership, Page said.

About 70 percent of all Scouting units are operated by faith-based organizations. (BP)

Clergy depression rising at same rate as other Americans

Winston-Salem, N.C.—Bryan Hatcher was a Baptist pastor once, so he gets it when ministers buckle under the strain of long work weeks, budget pressures and that feeling of constantly being in a fish bowl.

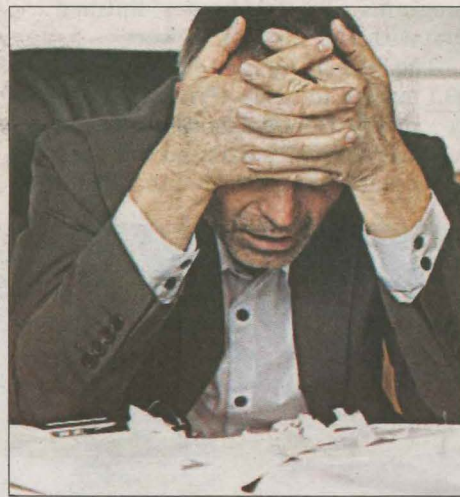
“There is a cultural expectation that our pastors have it all together and that they are the last people who are going to be depressed,” Hatcher, CareNet director of center development and education with Wake Forest Baptist Medical Center in Winston-Salem, N.C., said.

Hatcher added that it is vital, regardless of profession or expectations, to seek mental health treatment.

Instances of clergy depression are rising right along with those of the general population. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention says more than 25 percent of all Americans suffer from a mental illness, and that 50 percent of all adults in the United States will develop

one in their lifetimes.

Even the healthiest of pastors are not immune to the stress caused by a difficult economy, reductions in church staff, and seminary tuition debt.



Discord in the congregation, disagreements over ministry and finances—all natural occurrences—can trigger depression.

Pastors also tend to be placed on pedestals and the result often is social isolation—which is also one of the top predictors of depression.

Besides getting more sleep and exercise, Hatcher said seeking therapy, joining peer groups or developing one-on-one relationships with clergy can provide much-needed outlets for stress.

Another key to staving off depression: “Setting firm boundaries that are firm and healthy, but not overly rigid.”

And stop putting jobs ahead of their own physical and spiritual wellbeing.

“It’s when I get hyper-focused on work and don’t get to the gym and start living on coffee ... that my thinking gets cloudy and my feelings get cloudy,” Hatcher said. (ABP)

Pope Francis

Continued from page 1

simplicity and humility and would encourage priests to do shoe-leather evangelization, his biographer says,” NBC News reported.

Francis entered the Society of Jesus in 1958 and obtained a licentiate in philosophy, according to the Catholic News Agency. He was ordained a priest in 1969 and became a theology professor. Francis also was a provincial leader for the society and a seminary rector.

The first Jesuit pope, Francis was elected on the first fifth-ballot vote in

more than 100 years, on the first full day the College of Cardinals gathered in the conclave at the Sistine Chapel. A two-thirds majority vote was required, meaning 77 of the 115 cardinals were needed to secure a new pope.

Observers said the relatively quick election signaled the new pope would lead as a traditionalist, even as some Catholics hoped he would take more liberal stances on controversial issues.

500 years after Christ

Christendom had no pope at the time of Christ's death and resurrection. Nor did the pope's authority ever extend to the various branches of Eastern Ortho-

doxy in subsequent centuries.

The papacy's development spanned several centuries, with the first dates attached to the papacy, as recounted in the Westminster Dictionary of Church History, revolving around Pope Leo the Great in the fifth century.

By the middle of the 11th century, the election of a pope had become “firmly vested in a college of cardinals,” the Westminster volume notes.

Today, Catholic doctrine holds that the pope is “the representative (vicar or vicergerent) of Christ on earth, and that his solemn official pronouncements on matters of faith and morals are infallible, safeguarded from error by God,” the Westminster volume states.

Rejection of papal power

Mohler, president of Southern Seminary, wrote after Pope John Paul II's death in 2005: “For evangelicals, the crucial question comes with the institution of the papacy itself. After all, the Reformation of the 16th century

required a rejection of papal power and authority, and the Reformers soon came to understand the papacy as an unbiblical office that inevitably compromised the authority and sufficiency of Scripture....

“Furthermore, this office is then invested with claims to spiritual and temporal power that are combined with claims of apostolic succession and serve as foundational pillars for the comprehensive claims of the Roman Catholic Church,” Mohler wrote, noting, “The Protestant rejection of the papacy was no small matter, though some liberal Protestants and careless evangelicals seem to have forgotten why.”

Mohler maintained that evangelicals “simply cannot accept the legiti-

macy of the papacy and must resist and reject claims of papal authority. “To do otherwise would be to compromise biblical truth and reverse the Reformation,” Mohler said. (BP)

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Not just another Sunday

A church visit by the OBI choir yields a life changed for Christ

We made it! As I write today on the second day of spring break, that is the general sense for both our students and our academic ministry team. We made it through third quarter and only have one more to go to reach the finish line for this academic year.

Third quarter is always a bit of a challenge for everyone. It is during the coldest and darkest time of the year. It is the quarter of nine straight weeks of classes without a break.

This year, it also was a quarter of an incredible bout with sickness among the academic team members and their families. Day after day, week after week—even with the privilege of having a full-time substitute teacher on the team—faculty were asked to sacrifice their planning periods in order to give direction and supervision to students whose teachers were physically unable to be in class.

Additionally, teachers remained in the classroom and/or made an early return to the classroom even when they were in less than the best of health, knowing that the progress of their students depended upon their presence and not just upon their lesson plans.

In the end, as always, the grace of God was more than sufficient for the needs we faced. There were still the routine-breaking moments of celebration and affirmation when the goodness of God shone through in special ways,

even in the last fatiguing moments of the quarter.

Our art classes had their annual open house at which they welcomed the entire campus to marvel at the artistic talents of which they have been the divinely-chosen recipients. For me, it

This is Oneida



Paul Davidson

was truly a spine-tingling moment to see the framed "doodlings" of a struggling student be recognized for the outstanding drawings which they are, and to see him animatedly and joyfully talking with another student about the artistic works around them. There was no sign of depression or homesickness on his face that night. I wanted to shout, "Hallelujah!"

There were other "Hallelujah!" moments at the Senior Girls' Praise Night, an annual event during which the goodness and greatness of God's delivering power is celebrated in music and testimony. To hear the heartbreakingly honest narrations of some of our senior girls' odysseys and to be able to reflect thankfully on the huge strides of progress, which the Lord has enabled them to make in their relationship to Him during their time at OBI, was a memorable occasion. He does heal the broken-hearted. He does set the captives free. He does bring the dead out of the darkness into the life and light of His love. It's a privilege to see the Lord Jesus at work.

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

Student led revival

Clear Creek student body takes initiative, organizes event

In 1806, there was a spirit of revival in America. Prayer groups were common and students were often involved.

In Massachusetts, five students at Williams College met regularly in a field north of the school to pray. One day a thunderstorm forced them to the shelter afforded by a haystack. The prayer meeting continued there and the resulting revival is legendary.

Clear Creek students have learned the lessons of history. Great movements start with the masses, not with the few. School leaders can plan activities and meetings, and can even schedule revivals, but God seems to prefer that His people come to Him seeking revival out of their own desire.

That is why it pleased me when our students came to us with plans of a student-led revival. Our campus was blessed by the meetings that followed. The project was completely initiated by the student body. Students presented the idea, planned the meetings, called the speakers, and arranged for the music. This truly was not a "top-down" event. It was a grassroots effort, and it was great.

The students invited alumni, a trustee and a local pastor to be guest

speakers. Trustee Roy Graves preached the first service on Tuesday morning, followed by 2003 alumnus, pastor and adjunct faculty member Shannon Benefiel Tuesday night. Josh Smith, a 2008 graduate, brought the Wednesday morning message. A more recent graduate, 2011 alumnus Ed Goodman, spoke Thursday morning. Local pastor Chad Burdette brought the final message on Thursday night. We also had individual students and student teams lead worship.

It was all coordinated by Jeremy Glenn, student body president, and Ian Watkins, vice president. Solid messages and spirit-filled music blessed students, faculty and staff. It was a time of revival, a learning experience, and much more. To me, it was an encouragement and an affirmation that God is going to continue to do great things through those He sends to Clear Creek. Teachers teach, students learn, diplomas are distributed, and graduates disperse to various places of service. If those graduates know how to listen to God and act on His urging without waiting for someone else to take the lead, it all works out to His glory.

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.cccb.edu; e-mail: dfox@ccb.edu.

Clear Creek Chronicle



Donnie Fox

Baptist named to White House post

Washington—The White House announced March 13 that Melissa Rogers, a Baptist church-state specialist who formerly worked at the Baptist Joint Committee for Religious Liberty, will serve as special assistant to the president and director of the Office of Faith-Based and Neighborhood Partnerships.

Rogers, director of the Wake Forest University School of Divinity Center for Religion and Public Affairs and a non-resident senior fellow with The Brookings Institution, previously served as inaugural chair of President Obama's Advisory Council on Faith-Based and Neighborhood Partnerships.

The White House Office of Faith-based

and Neighborhood Partnerships was opened by President George W. Bush in 2001 and continued under President Obama. It serves to encourage partnerships between public and private entities to help the nation's social-service needs.

Obama issued an executive order in 2010 addressing concerns related to the separation of church and state that were criticized during his administration's early years. Those changes incorporated recommendations from a task force led by Rogers and comprised of religious and community leaders including BJC Executive Director Brent Walker.

A graduate of Baylor University, Rogers earned her law degree from the University of Pennsylvania. Before coming to Wake Forest she worked three years as first executive director of the Pew Forum on Religion and Public Life. (ABP)



Melissa Rogers

'The Bible' series retains strong ratings

Nashville—History Channel's "The Bible" miniseries retained strong ratings in its second week with 10.8 million viewers March 10, placing it second among all cable programming.

"Walking Dead" (11.46 million) finished first among cables shows for the night. Among both broadcast and cable programs, CBS' "60 Minutes" finished first with 11.58 million viewers.

The Bible miniseries debuted with 13.1 million total viewers March 3 to become the No. 1 entertainment telecast on cable so far this year and was the top show that night on either broadcast or

cable television.

More than 50 million cumulative viewers have seen at least a portion of the series since it began, according to a press release.

Media websites have noticed the miniseries' popularity. BusinessWeek.com posted a story with the headline, "How the History Channel Turned 'The Bible' Into a Blockbuster." Time.com and several other websites posted stories calling the miniseries a "hit."

The five-night series will be telecast over the next two Sundays, concluding Easter. (BP)

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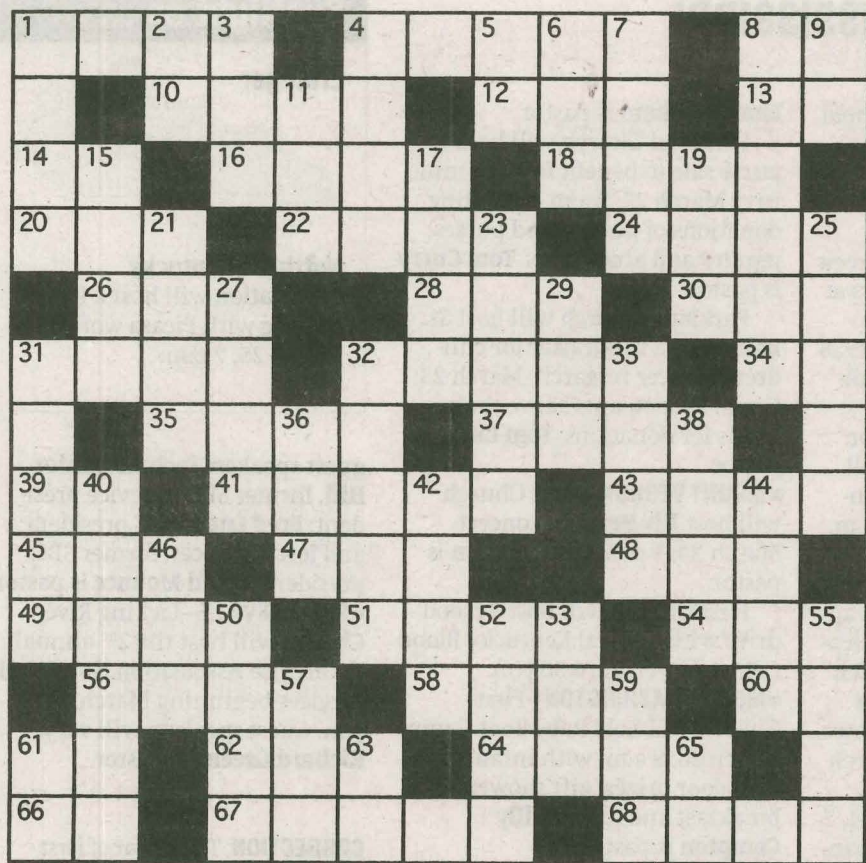
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Bible Crosswords

By Evelyn Boyington

Across

- 1 "I will go before thee, and ... cut in sunder the _____ of iron" (Isaiah 45:2)
- 4 "For now we see through a _____, darkly" (1 Cor. 13:12)
- 8 Optometrist's degree (abbr.)
- 10 "There followed _____ and fire mingled with blood" (Revelation 8:7)
- 12 "It is appointed unto men once to _____" (Heb. 9:27)
- 13 One of twenty-six
- 14 Printer's measure
- 16 "_____ for them that despitefully use you" (Matt. 5:44)
- 18 "They that sow in tears shall _____ in joy" (Psa. 126:5)
- 20 Slangy negative reply
- 22 First garden
- 24 "The nations are as a _____ of a bucket" (Isaiah 40:15)
- 26 Relative of 911
- 28 Was a pathfinder
- 30 "It is a people that do _____ in their heart" (Psalm 95:10)
- 31 Cream of the crop
- 32 Courtroom verb
- 34 Note in diatonic scale
- 35 "The _____ of mine apostleship are ye in the Lord" (1 Corinthians 9:2)
- 37 "Who is this that cometh from Edom, with _____ garments?" (Isaiah 63:1)
- 39 Simile syntax
- 41 "Learn first to shew _____ at home" (1 Tim. 5:4)
- 43 "Father, glorify thy _____" (John 12:28)
- 45 Sault _____ Marie
- 47 Chafed, as skin
- 48 Feminine nickname
- 49 Tattled, with "on"
- 51 Become bored
- 54 Cave dweller
- 56 Presummertime priority
- 58 Partner of dear
- 60 Dr. _____ (I. Fleming work)
- 61 Land-grant college department (abbr.)
- 62 Hula-Hoop, for one
- 64 Epochs
- 66 Western state (abbr.)
- 67 "_____ yourselves unto God, as those that are alive from the dead" (Romans 6:13)
- 68 Created

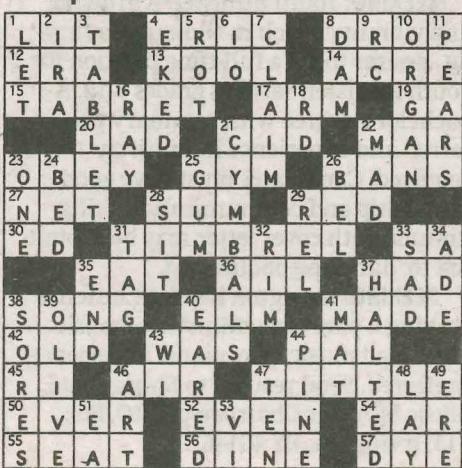
Down

- 1 "_____ there, done that"
- 2 Blood factor
- 3 "The trees of the Lord are full of _____" (Psa. 104:16)
- 4 Bag or rags
- 5 Classified, for one
- 6 Title of address
- 7 "He that goeth forth and weepeth, bearing precious _____, shall doubtless come again" (Psalm 126:6)

8 Send home

- 9 Beast of burden
- 11 Anger
- 15 Win by a _____
- 17 Give a holler
- 19 Linking verb
- 21 Coin _____
- 23 "Open thy hand wide unto ... thy _____" (Deu. 15:11)
- 25 Conceit
- 27 "There is but a _____ between me and death" (1 Samuel 20:3)
- 29 "A _____ in thy courts is better than a thousand" (Psalm 84:10)
- 31 "Every _____ of the forest is mine" (Psa. 50:10)
- 32 Fold
- 33 Cubs' coves
- 36 Tune, melody
- 38 To coat with slime and pitch, as Moses' mother did with his ark (Exodus 2:3)
- 40 Uninteresting
- 42 Jacob, to Esau
- 44 "A Jew of Tarsus ... a citizen of no _____ city" (Acts 21:39)
- 46 Father of Hophni and Phineas
- 50 "The Philistine said, I _____ the armies of Israel" (1 Samuel 17:10)
- 52 "A bruised _____ shall he not break" (Isaiah 42:3)
- 53 "Incline thine _____ unto me and hear my speech" (Psalm 17:6)
- 55 Sped like the wind
- 57 _____ chi, ancient Asian art of controlled exercise
- 59 What Abraham saw caught in a thicket (Genesis 22)
- 61 Exclamation of disappointment
- 63 Bethany Beach state (abbr.)
- 65 Continent (abbr.)

Last puzzle's solution



The church offering envelope

1959 version encouraged discipleship, accountability

What happened to the church offering envelope concept that my home church, First Baptist Church of Grenada, Miss., used when I was boy? It functioned as much more than a means by which I could give my weekly tithe. It also functioned as a weekly incentive, motivator, reminder and measure of progress and accomplishment in my spiritual maturity.

While recently perusing through the King James Version of the Bible my parents gave me and I used as a boy, I discovered one of those blank envelopes I had stuck in that Bible. It was dated Nov. 1, 1959. In addition to a space for the amount of my offering, there were five additional spaces and seven boxes for me to record and to mark that gave an accounting of how well I had fulfilled the church's expectations of me that week.

The five boxes were used to record the total number of contacts I had made that week by telephone, personal visit, phone call, a letter or card. The seven boxes were used to record my total weekly grade on a scale of 10 percent to 100 percent in six important disciplines. The disciplines and the percentage assigned to each were: being present for Sunday School (20 percent); being on time (10 percent); having your

Bible (10 percent); bringing an offering (10 percent); studying your lesson (30 percent); and staying for preaching (20 percent); the seventh box was for the combined total of the other six with a potential perfect grade of 100.

I don't remember when the offering envelope concept changed from this broader purpose to being just a means by which to give an offering. But, I wish it had never changed because I believe the byproduct of it resulted in more mature and engaged disciples than today's concept.

Can you believe it? In 1959, all age groups were expected not only to be present for Sunday School and worship, but also expected to be on time, to be prepared, to bring an offering and to invite others to do the same. And, we were expected to grade ourselves each week on an honor system to demonstrate how well we fulfilled the expectations of a maturing Christian. The church actually kept a record of each person's weekly grades and provided periodic reports or each person's progress.

Let's bring back the church envelope concept of discipleship accountability used in 1959.

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

Hard-working EBO

See how your offering impacts missions at the annual meeting

The Kentucky Woman's Missionary Union Missions Celebration and Annual Meeting at First Baptist Church of Hopkinsville April 5-6 will be a great opportunity for you to see Eliza Broadus Offering at work!

Several recipients of Eliza Broadus Offering grants will be leading conferences and presenting displays at the meeting. You can meet these missionaries, hear their stories, and learn how to get involved.

EBO recipients leading conferences include Susan Cooper, Bags of Hope Ministry; Harrell Riley, Rubies for Life/Malachi Dads Ministry; Van and Marjorie Yandell, Intentional Innovative Community Evangelism; Delores Spears and Sue Puckett, Friendship International West Union Association; and Bettie Wright and Dolores Gilmore, Kentucky FamilyFEST.

In addition, Kentucky Baptist Disaster Relief, which receives EBO funding, will be on display. We will have the childcare unit, chainsaw unit, feeding unit, and other units on display. Disaster Relief volunteers will be there to show you the equipment and explain how it is used to respond to disaster-related needs.

We will also have a Disaster Relief meal on Saturday at noon. We encourage you to preregister for the meal to help us know how many are coming. A \$5 donation at the door is requested to

help defray costs for the food.

Because a portion of the Eliza Broadus Offering is used by Kentucky WMU to provide missions education training and resources, the annual meeting will include "Good to Great" conferences.

EBO at Work



Joy Bolton

Leaders of Mission Friends, Girls in Action, Royal Ambassadors, Children in Action, Acteens, Challengers, Youth on Mission, and Women on Mission will find ideas and inspiration for taking missions groups from good to great. Plus, there will be an introduction to myMISSION, a new WMU opportunity for young adult women.

Additional EBO recipient ministries on display include Pit Stop Challenge, Kentucky Raceway Ministries, Christian County Association Restorative Justice Ministry, Impact Ministry, Christian Women's Job Corps, River City Ministry, Freedom Forever Ministry, and KBC Missions Mobilization.

Other Cooperative Program supported ministries will also have displays including the KBC, Western Recorder, Sunrise Children's Services, and others.

Come see EBO at work and join us as we celebrate the Eliza Broadus Offering in the Friday afternoon session. For more information: www.KyWMU.org/AnnualMeeting.

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



MOUNTAINS TO THE MISSISSIPPI

COMPILED BY STAFF

March

- 21 Pastor/Staff Forum, Severns Valley Baptist Church, Elizabethtown.
23 Seminary for a Day, Corinth Baptist Church, London.
23 Affinity Evangelism, Grapevine Baptist Church, Madisonville.

April

- 5 Ky. WMU Annual Meeting, First Baptist Church, Hopkinsville.
6 Ky. WMU Annual Meeting, First Baptist Church, Hopkinsville.
6 Affinity Evangelism, Farmington Baptist Church, Farmington.
9 Reaching the Summit, First Baptist Church, Mount Washington.
12 Disaster Relief training, First Baptist Church, Monticello.

■ **BARDWELL**—Mississippi Church will hold a revival March 21-24 with **Robert Johnson**, former pastor, as guest speaker. **Mark Burnett** is pastor.

■ **CLINTON**—Obion Church will host a homecoming March 24, 11 a.m., featuring **Better Way** in concert. Lunch provided after worship service. For more information, call (270) 677-4131. **Herbert Stephens** is pastor.

■ **DRAKESBORO**—Ebenezer Church will present a live, outdoor Easter production with scenes of Jesus' betrayal, trial, crucifixion and resurrection March 23, 6 p.m. Groups welcome. Refreshments will be provided. **Scott Casebier** is pastor.

■ **ELIZABETHTOWN**—Severns Valley Church will host the 2013 Severns Valley Associational Youth Bible Drill, March 26, 7:30 p.m. **Bill Langley** is pastor.

■ **HARRODSBURG**—Harrodsburg Church will hold "Life Action" revival service March 17-21, 6:30 p.m.; March 24-27, 6:30 p.m. **Wayne Spivey** is pastor.

■ **KUTTAWA**—First Church will hold an ordination service for **Van Yandell** March 24, 2:30 p.m. **Carl Nelson** is pastor.

■ **LANCASTER**—**Morris Trayner** retired as pastor of Gilbert's Creek Church March 17 after 23 years at the church and 61 years in the ministry. He was ordained in 1956 by former Western Recorder Editor C.R. Daley at Harrodsburg Church, while Daley was pastor.

■ **LONDON**—Corinth Church will host "Seminary for a Day," sponsored by KBC, March 23, 8:30 a.m. **Andrew Dyer** is pastor.

East Pittsburg Church will host the Laurel River Association Evangelism Rally March 25, 6 p.m., featuring the **East Pittsburg Church Choir** and **Jerry Lowrie** as guest speaker. **Denny McCowan** is pastor.

■ **LOUISVILLE**—Fern Creek Church will hold "Meditations on the Cross through Music" March 24, 7 p.m. While focusing on the meaning of the cross, participants are encouraged to share their vocal and instrumental music talents.

Linda Popham is pastor.

Parkland Church will hold a purse sale to benefit feeding ministry March 23, 9 a.m. Accepting donations of gently-used purses, jewelry and accessories. **Tom Curry** is pastor.

Parkland Church will host St. Baldricks, a fundraiser for children's cancer research, March 23, 6 p.m. Participants shave their heads for donations. **Tom Curry** is pastor.

■ **MOUNT VERNON**—First Church will host **His Heart** in concert, March 24, 7 p.m. **Eddie Nation** is pastor.

First Church will host a blood drive with Central Kentucky Blood Center March 26, 6:30 p.m.

■ **MOUNT WASHINGTON**—First Church will hold Baby Boot Camp March 23, 9 a.m., with infant care tips, door prizes, gift shower, breakfast and lunch. **Billy Compton** is pastor.

■ **OLMSTEAD**—Dripping Spring Church will hold a spring revival March 17-21, 6:30 p.m. Nightly

Spotlight on ...

Erlanger



Northern Kentucky Association will host a Photo Editing with Picasa workshop March 25, 7 p.m.

guest speakers include: **Junior Hill**, former SBC first vice president; **Fred Luter**, SBC president; and **Jerry Spencer**, former SBC president. **David Mounce** is pastor. ■ **SALYERSVILLE**—Licking River Church will host the 2nd annual Enterprise Association Holy Week services beginning March 24, 6 p.m. Guest speakers will vary. **Richard Greene** is pastor.

CORRECTION: The pastor of First Church of Murray was incorrectly identified in the March 12 issue. **Keith Inman** is pastor.



Jenny Beth Willis, of First Baptist Church of Owensboro, competing on American Idol. (Photo provided by Willis family)

Willis an American Idol top 20 female

Owensboro—With America Idol in her rearview mirror, 17-year-old Jenny Beth Willis has set her course straight for a career in the music industry. But first, Willis plans to stop in a Nashville studio to record her first demo.

Willis, who began singing on stage at First Baptist Church of Owensboro, was among the top 20 female contestants on the popular TV vocal contest before she was cut.

"I just wanted to make it to the celebrity judges," said Willis, who initially auditioned in Bowling Green

before heading to Baton Rouge, La.

Willis said her faith helped her throughout the competition.

"It takes so much to get out there on stage. I wouldn't be able to do it without prayer," she noted.

The Owensboro Catholic junior said she even had the opportunity to share her faith in Jesus while in California for the taping of the show.

Willis plans to attend Belmont University in Nashville, Tenn., and enroll in the music program after graduating from high school in 2014.

Social work stipend at CU

Campbellsville—The Master of Social Work Stipend Program is available at Campbellsville University to all of Kentucky's Department for Community Based Services staff working in a protection and permanency child welfare-related position, beginning with the fall 2013 semester. The prospective student must have 24 months of active service prior to May first of this year for acceptance into this program.

CU's Master of Social Work is the only Kentucky Baptist affiliated MSW program and one of only three Baptist affiliated institutions nationwide.

For more information about this opportunity at the Carver School of Social Work and Counseling, call (270) 789-5209, or email Michelle Tucker at tmtucker@campbellsville.edu. (CU)

CLASSIFIED ADS

FOR RENT: Two condos for rent in Destin, Fla. Check our website HarmonyVentures.net for more information, (423) 309-4422.

FOR SALE: Do you need a church pianist? Try piano CDs for churches to sing by. Hymns, seasonal, choruses, etc. Worship Service Resources, (1-800) 977-6800. FREE DEMO! Special church pricing. www.WSRPianoCDs.com.

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

SEEKING: Forest Park Baptist Church is seeking a pastor. Please submit resúmes to Forest Park Baptist Church, 520 Old Morgantown Rd., Bowling Green, KY 42101, Attn: Search Committee. We will accept resúmes until April 30.

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

SEEKING: Tunnel Hill Baptist Church in Elizabethtown, Ky., seeks an experienced pastor who ascribes to the Southern Baptist Faith and Message. Resúmes must be postmarked by April 25, 2013. Pastor Search Committee, 799 Franklin Street, Radcliff, KY 40160.

SEEKING: Children's Ministry director for work with ages 4 to fifth grade in children's church, Sunday School and Wednesday evening services. Experience with leading VBS, recruiting volunteers and budget. Must be a professed Christian and have experience working in a church setting. 20 hours/wk. Send resumé to DeHaven Baptist Church, P.O. Box 349, La Grange, KY 40031.

SEEKING: Springfield Baptist Church in Springfield, Tenn. is seeking a full-time leader of music and worship. The worship leader will be responsible for planning and conducting worship services, directing various choirs, praise team and instrumentalists. Our worship services are a blend of traditional and contemporary music. A bachelor's degree in music is required. A master's degree is preferred. Please send all resúmes to Springfield Baptist Church, Music Search Committee, 400 North Main Street, Springfield, TN 37172. Please include a recent worship service DVD. Emails may be sent to: bethbohler05@gmail.com.

SEEKING: Youth minister. A growing and vibrant church in Oldham County, Ky., 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.

SEEKING: Irvington Baptist Church is seeking a part-time minister of music. Must read music, play piano. Experience preferred. Send resumé to Shirley Pate, Music Minister Chairperson, P.O. Box 313, Irvington, KY 40146.

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: New Hope Baptist Church, West Liberty, Ky., conservative congregation (45-50), is seeking a bivocational pastor. Parsonage provided. Inquiries: (606) 743-7437. Send resumé/sermon DVD to: 175 Beacon Hill Drive, Morehead, KY 40351, ATTN: Fleshman.

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

DOCTOR IN BABY'S HIV CURE

'Minsters through everything she touches'

By Diana Chandler

Jackson, Miss.—Faith and godly compassion are guiding principles in the life of Hannah Gay, the University of Mississippi Medical Center pediatrician at the forefront of the reported cure of HIV in a 2-year-old girl born with the disease in rural Mississippi.

Gay and her husband, Paul, served as Southern Baptist representatives in the Horn of Africa 25 years ago as HIV was taking root there, but Gay's interest in the disease is driven more by a desire to achieve the best for children, rather than a desire to find a cure, her husband told Baptist Press.

"(Faith) influences every area of her practice. Hannah ministers through everything she touches. Her ministry is supported and guided by prayer," Paul Gay said. "The affection, the love that she has for the families and the children, the commitment she has, all (stem) from her faith. She has a dedication that flows from her relationship with God and I think that has attracted a team to work with her who share her commitment."

'Functional cure'

A longtime advocate of early antiretroviral intervention for babies born with HIV, Gay is being credited with achieving the "functional cure" of a baby born to an HIV-infected mother. Knowing the baby's high risk of being born with the disease, compounded by results of viral load tests, Gay began an aggressive treatment of the child 30 hours after birth and continued the therapy for the next 18 months.

Today, 10 months after the child's last therapy, she continues to test negative for HIV, according to research Gay and a team of doctors from Maryland and Massachusetts presented March 4 at the 20th Conference on Retroviruses and Opportunistic Infections in Atlanta.

The breakthrough is being hailed by the medical community as a functional cure that could lead to the elimination of HIV in children.

"In contrast to a sterilizing cure—a complete eradication of all viral traces from the body—a functional cure occurs when viral presence is so minimal it remains undetectable by standard clinical tests, yet discernible by ultrasensitive methods," UMMC said in a news release on its website.

Attending the Atlanta conference through March 7, Gay is limiting media contact. But in an interview with CNN, she said the full implications of the singular case are not clear.

"It will take a long time of studying and seeing if we can replicate this outcome in other babies before we can say yes, we've got a definite cure," Gay told CNN. "Until that point, all children, and adults for that matter, who are on good therapy and are controlling their (infection) need to stay on that therapy."

In an audio interview on UMMC's website, Gay said her work in Mississippi has been very fulfilling.

"We've been very successful at keeping the rate of transmission very low, and ... we're proud of that work and we continue to focus on prevention of HIV in children," Gay said.

Death sentence

During Gay's time as a Baptist worker in the Horn of Africa, AIDS was becoming an epidemic there, her husband Paul told Baptist Press from the couple's home near Jackson, Miss.

"There just huge numbers coming out of Uganda (were) and some frightening numbers coming out of Kenya about HIV. There was great work going on in Uganda to try to get some kind of handle on the massive problem. A third of the adult population in Uganda was infected with HIV back at that time," Paul Gay said.

In Ethiopia, the government denied there was a problem, he said.

"Although we could not document it, the rumor was that people (in Ethiopia) who contracted HIV disappeared. None of the nongovernmental organizations, none of the international organizations that were there in the country, did

testing because we were afraid that a diagnosis would be a death sentence, not from the disease but from whoever was responsible for these disappearances," Paul Gay said. "So it was a silent problem. It was only after the fall of the communist government to the coalition of Eritrean and Tigrayan forces in 1991 that people in authority began to speak."

Even then, he said, the government realized faith would play a role in the control of the disease.

"Their leadership said ... there is a component in stopping HIV that the government is not equipped to handle. The NGOs, the religious organizations will have to provide that component," he said. "While they weren't saying it openly, they were saying it very clearly that they recognized that there was a faith component, a moral component in stemming the growth and the tide of this disease. So that was an amazing disclosure by the authorities."

Driven by love

Gay's extensive work in pediatric HIV began after the couple returned to Mississippi. Already a pediatrician and wanting to secure part-time work in the field, she gained employment at UMMC's division of pediatric infectious diseases to



"Her interest in HIV has always just stemmed from her love of children and her heart's desire to use her gifts to help as many as she could."

Paul Gay

Referring to the source of his wife's drive for helping children and families affected by HIV.

(Photo by Jean Scheijen/Stock.xchng)

help implement an early program to prevent transmission of HIV from mothers to newborns.

"Hannah came on with that in just a part-time position in what was considered a small program," her husband said, "and it just grew dramatically as knowledge about the nature of the disease, and how effective prevention could be grew. As the information grew and the need was recognized, Hannah's role and her job involvement grew.

"Her interest in HIV has always just stemmed from her love of children and her heart's desire to use her gifts to help as many as she could. When she found herself working in HIV, she did like she does in everything else. She threw herself fully into it and was determined to learn all she could to do the best she could for the children that came under her care. That's been the driver."

The Gays are active members of Trace Ridge Baptist Church in Ridgeland, where they teach Bible Drill classes to elementary students.

"We're in the middle of trying to get our kids ready for Bible Drill and she's sending me teaching tools from the conference today and I'll be leading the group tonight," he told Baptist Press. "But she normally leads." (BP)

A photograph of a person walking away from the camera down a narrow, cobblestone alleyway. The alleyway is flanked by buildings, and the lighting is warm and golden, suggesting sunrise or sunset. The person is silhouetted against the bright light at the end of the alley.

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