

WESTERN Recorder

April 2, 2013

Shine Like Stars * Philippians 2:15

Volume 187, Issue 13

LAWMAKERS OVERTURN VETO

Kentucky Baptist leaders rejoice, grateful



By Todd Deaton

Frankfort—The Kentucky General Assembly voted overwhelmingly March 26 to override Gov. Steve Beshear's veto of House Bill 279, also known as the religious freedom bill. The Democratic House passed the measure 79-15, and the Republican-controlled Senate voted 32-6.

"This important law will protect the rights of people of faith in Kentucky," said Paul Chitwood, executive director of the Kentucky Baptist Convention.

"Religious freedom was a good ideal

when Kentucky became the 15th state of the Union on June 1, 1792. It still is," Chitwood said. "I praise God for this victory."

"I praise God for this victory."

Paul Chitwood

Chitwood and Curtis Woods, the KBC's new associate executive director, were among religious leaders and state legislators who publicly denounced the governor's veto at a Family Foundation of Kentucky-led rally prior to Tuesday afternoon's legislative sessions (see related story on page 3).

In an open letter to Gov. Beshear dated March 22, Chitwood asked, "When

did the cherished, constitutional right of religious freedom become such a danger to our society?"

"An overwhelming majority of our legislators obviously don't see it that way, nor do Kentucky Baptists see it that way," he added.

House Bill 279, proponents argue, brings Kentucky back into line with federal court standards that the U.S. Congress affirmed in its 1993 Religious Freedom Restoration Act. The law seeks to restore "compelling interest/least restrictive means" as legal tests that government must pass before restricting religious freedom. See Veto overturned ... Page 3

Southern dean, Moore, elected ERLC president

By Tom Strode

Nashville, Tenn.—Russell Moore has been elected as the next president of the Southern Baptist Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission.

The ERLC's board of trustees approved Moore, currently dean of the school of theology at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, in a special, called meeting March 26 at a Nashville hotel.



Russell Moore

Moore, 41, a native of Biloxi, Miss., will be the eighth president of the entity charged by Southern Baptists with addressing moral and religious freedom issues. With a background in government, the pastorate and seminary training, he already is well-known as a commentator from a Southern Baptist and evangelical Christian perspective on ethics, theology and the culture.

"I am honored and humbled to be asked to serve Southern Baptists as ERLC president," Moore said. "I pray for God's grace to lead the ERLC to be a catalyst to connect the agenda of the kingdom of Christ to the cultures of local congregations for the sake of the mission of the gospel in the world."

Moore's election means he will be only the second ERLC president in See Russell Moore ... Page 3

Is Supreme Court searching for way around gay marriage?

By Kevin Eckstrom

Washington—In nearly two hours of arguments March 27, the Supreme Court heard many of the expected cases for and against recognizing gay marriage: that refusing to do so is blatant discrimination, that gay marriage is a social experiment that the court should not preempt, that Washington has no role in state marriage laws.

Yet it was arcane arguments over matters of legal standing that seemed to

most animate the justices, reflecting what seemed to be a desire to find a way for the court to sidestep a definitive up-or-down ruling on one of the most divisive social issues.

NEWS ANALYSIS

In short, the court—particularly its conservative majority—seemed to ask why they should hear a second gay marriage case in as many days, particularly one in which the government supports the lower court's ruling. And the answer to that question will go a long way toward determining the outcome of a spirited

national debate.

It's not an insignificant question; the high court in recent years, especially under Chief Justice John Roberts, has used questions of legal standing to bypass definitive rulings on a number of hot-button issues, particularly church-state disputes.

There are three options facing the court in *United States v. Windsor*, a challenge to the 1996 Defense of Marriage Act that defined marriage at the federal level as between a man and a woman: See Supreme Court ... Page 7



Supporters of gay marriage rally outside the U.S. Supreme Court March 27 as the court heard a challenge to the Defense of Marriage Act. (RNS/Kevin Eckstrom)

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World missions in 'backyard'

Volunteers, church partners needed with ministry at Refuge Louisville

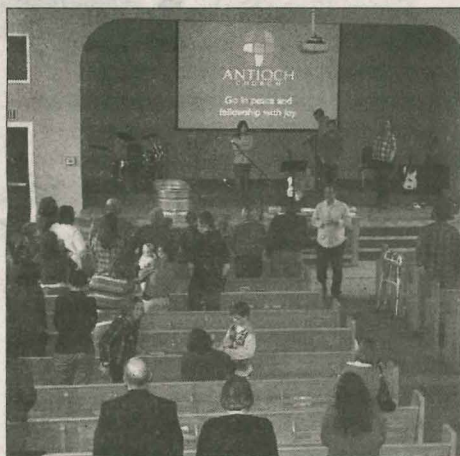
By John Shindlebower

Louisville—Do you have a heart for foreign missions, but maybe not the means or ability for foreign travel? God has a way to use you here in Kentucky.

Refuge Louisville, formerly known as Southside Ministries, offers individuals and church groups from Kentucky and abroad the opportunity to make a difference in the lives of refugees from all corners of the world. Located in the most ethnically diverse neighborhood in Louisville, Refuge is home to six congregations that represent more than 20 ethnicities on a given Sunday.

Refugees and immigrants are drawn to Louisville for a variety of reasons and many of them arrive in the city with little support, guidance or practical knowledge.

Refuge Executive Director Jonathan Braden said he recently worked with an Eritrean man who relocated to Louisville with his wife and seven children. They had limited resources and were in need of someone to point them in the direction of the help they would need.



WALKING THE TALK Refuge Louisville staff are trying to lead by example and recently constituted Antioch Church located in the neighborhood where they serve and live with their families.

These families and individuals may have been given a grocery card, but they have no idea where the store is located, how the bus service operates or how to reach out for help. The practical needs are obvious and Refuge is there to offer a helping hand, and to organize other helping hands in the process.

"Refuge exists to mobilize the church to bring 'holistic' change to bless the nations," said Braden. "We want to see the church follow what the Bible says and go make disciples."

Refuge's approach targets four areas of life—economic, education, engaging the community and establishing health initiatives.

To help the new residents of Louisville become more self-sufficient, Refuge works to empower them with economic opportunities. This is done through skills training, providing entrepreneurship training for those looking to start independent businesses, and resumé help.

Refuge provides community training sessions on health, hygiene and preventive practices. Classes on healthy eating habits and meal preparation are also offered, and in-home visits are offered to help ensure new residents are correctly practicing these skills.

Educating new residents is also a priority. From providing English as a Second Language classes, citizenship courses and life skills courses, the aim is to help these new residents acclimate to life in the United States as smoothly as possible. In addition, Refuge partners with Youth for Christ's City Life to empower today's youth to change their community for Christ.

Most importantly, Refuge is there to meet spiritual needs as well. The ministry offers biblical worldview classes for volunteers, helps local churches connect with new families to build long-term



REFUGE FOR REFUGEES More than 500 worshipers attend one of six church services each Sunday at Refuge Louisville, formerly Southside Ministries. Seen above is the Evangelical Church Winning All II service, which is translated in Swahili and Kirundi. (Photos by John Shindlebower)

relationships, and provides meeting space for a number of worship services that serves a variety of ethnic groups as well as supporting other efforts designed to share the love and the gospel of Christ.

Refuge's campus is the former home of Lynn Acres Baptist Church, which later merged with Yorktown Baptist Church to become Grace Community Baptist Church. Grace maintained the former campus as a place for various ethnic congregations to meet. Braden and Trent DeLoach, direc-

tor of training, launched Southside Ministries in 2011, and the board recently made the decision to rename the ministry as Refuge.

While Refuge staff challenges other churches across the area to serve their fellow man, they have positioned themselves to lead by example. Braden said many of the leaders have relocated their families and now live in the neighborhood and as a result, started their own church—Antioch, which was officially constituted in March.

On any given Sunday, the building

attracts some 500 worshipers to one of its six church services. In addition to Antioch, Refuge hosts Asha Church, which is made up mostly of people from Nepal. There is the Evangelical Church Winning All (ECWA) that is English-speaking but predominantly from Nigeria, and ECWA II that is translated in Swahili and Kirundi. The Iglesia Bautista Senda De Luz congregation is a Spanish-speaking church that attracts heavily from Cuba, and the Kentucky Myanmar Christian Church serves the Burmese immigrants. All are affiliated with Long Run Baptist Association.

The need at Refuge is for more volunteers and churches to embrace a missionary's heart for people in the community.

"We need people to invest in people's lives and to make disciples," said Braden.

Getting to experience a new culture and spread the gospel no longer means months or years away from home in a strange land.

"You can go overseas right here in your own backyard."

For more about Refuge visit their website at www.smlouisville.com or email jonathan@smlouisville.com. (WR)

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

"We need people to invest in people's lives and to make disciples. ... You can go overseas right here in your own backyard."

Jonathan Braden

Ky. Baptists give \$1.65M through CP in February

Louisville—Kentucky Baptists gave more than \$1.65 million to missions and ministries through the Cooperative Program in February.

The \$1,654,018 total was \$179,315 below the monthly budgeted goal for CP giving of \$1,833,333.

The drop comes after Kentucky Baptists, in January, set their highest record ever in total giving for a single month, contributing through the Cooperative Program and other offerings.

Total CP giving thus far for the fiscal year is \$338,435 behind the annual budget goal of \$22 million passed by messengers to the 2011 Kentucky Baptist Convention Annual Meeting.

April 14 is Cooperative Program Sunday. KBC Executive Director-Treasurer Paul Chitwood encourages Kentucky Baptists to learn more about the unified giving program that has supported missions and ministries since 1925.

"A lot of us were raised in the Baptist

Kentucky Baptist CP giving at a glance	
Giving for Feb. 1-28, 2013 & Year-to-Date	
Monthly budget goal*	\$ 1,833,333
Actual giving:	\$ 1,654,018
Under budget:	\$ 179,315
Year-to-Date goal*	\$ 11,000,000
Year-to-Date actual giving:	\$ 10,661,565
Under budget:	\$ 338,435

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

church and have heard about the Cooperative Program for years," Chitwood said. "But there also are a lot of people who don't know about CP, how it works and what ministries it provides."

To schedule a speaker for CP Sunday, e-mail cp@kybaptist.org or call (502) 489-3373 or 1-866-489-3373 (toll-free in Kentucky). Speakers can give a brief five-minute presentation or preach the sermon for the day.

Free brochures and other materials are available at www.kybaptist.org/cp. Click on "free promotional materials" and complete the online form.

Videos also can be found on Vimeo, www.vimeo.com, and YouTube, www.youtube.com by searching "Kentucky Baptist Convention." (KBC)

Senior adults to celebrate active lifestyles and 'trailblazing spirit'

Louisville—This year's three Senior Living Celebrations sponsored by the Kentucky Baptist Convention will acknowledge the trailblazing spirit of seniors, and provide insight on how to maintain an active Christian lifestyle.

"Many of our senior adults have invested their hearts into our churches for a number of years," said Shelly Johns, women/senior adult consultant for KBC. "They have been the pacesetters in their congregations. We want to celebrate that and also encourage and provide practical ideas on how they can continue to serve and share Christ."

Johns said the events also provide some seniors the opportunity to meet Christ for the first time.

This year's events are:

- April 22, Red House Baptist Church, Richmond
- April 23, Parkway Baptist Church, Bardstown
- April 25, Zion Baptist Church, Henderson

Each event begins with a worship

celebration at 9:20 a.m. Doors open at 8:15 for registration and a continental breakfast.

The registration fee includes breakout sessions and lunch with comedian Jeff Allen.

"Laughter is an important part of the celebrations as well," Johns said. "So I am really excited about showcasing the antics of Jeff Allen."

Early Bird registration is underway at www.kybaptist.org/seniorcelebration for \$15 per person and concludes April 11 when the fee increases to \$20 per person. Registration at the door is \$25 per person.

The Senior Living Celebrations are a partnership effort of the KBC, the host congregations and the Kentucky Baptist Foundation, and are made possible, in part, through the Cooperative Program.

A list of breakout sessions, the schedule, directions, and free downloadable promotional materials are available on the webpage, www.kybaptist.org/seniorcelebration. (KBC)

Chitwood, Woods champion religious freedom at Capitol

By Todd Deaton

Frankfort—“On June 1, 1792, when Kentucky became the 15th state of the Union, religious freedom was not considered to be a dangerous thing; on March 26, 2013, religious freedom is still not a dangerous thing,” Paul Chitwood, executive director of the Kentucky Baptist Convention, told a group of more than 150 gathered in the Capitol rotunda for a rally on Tuesday.

Chitwood and Curtis Woods, the KBC's new associate executive, helped championed religious freedom at the rally sponsored by Family Foundation of Kentucky, which featured more than a dozen bipartisan state legislators expressing support for religious freedom and pledging to vote to overturn the governor's veto of House Bill 279.

Contrary to the view of the bill's detractors, Chitwood said, “In fact, I believe it will be clear to anyone who would survey the history of our world, that one of the most dangerous and negative things that could ever happen—that could ever be taken from a human being—is his or her religious freedom.”

“Countless are the number of lives that have been lost and the number of lives that stand in jeopardy all over the world today simply because religious freedom has been forsaken and surrendered,” Chitwood reminded rally participants.

“No, it is not a dangerous thing for our legislators to vote today to override the governor's veto,” he corrected. “I believe it is a very dangerous thing if our legislators would vote not to override the governor's veto.”

Asserting that religious freedom is a matter that should concern every citizen of the commonwealth, regardless of their faith or religious tradition, Chitwood affirmed, “We embrace this bill and affirm our legislators in taking action today because we are concerned for the wellbeing of every citizen of this commonwealth.”

Woods reminded rally-goers of God's sovereignty—even over political affairs—encouraging them to take heart in a God of deliverance who never slumbers or sleeps.

“He is always on the case,” when it comes to taking care of His children,” Woods affirmed.

Quoting Psalm 127, he added, “I believe that God is on His case even now ... and we worship, praise and adore the only One who is worthy.”

Kent Ostrander, director of the Family Foundation, told those gathered for the rally that the fears of the bill's opponents are unfounded.

“It is primarily a shield for people of faith, not a sword,” he said. “This legislation is doing nothing more than what the U.S. Congress did in the early 1990s,” he explained.

Ostrander thanked the state legislators who worked to pass the religious freedom bill 82-7 in House and 29-6 in the Senate.

Among the lawmakers who expressed appreciation at the rally for encouragement received through prayers, emails and calls were David Givens, Stan Lee, Ben Waide, Jonathan Shell, C.B. Embry, Tim Moore, Addia Wuchner, Myron Dossett, Joe Fischer, Mike Harmon, Kim King and Tom Kerr. (WR)

Veto overturned

Continued from page 1.
religious freedom.

The legislation was drafted in response to the Kentucky Supreme Court's “Amish case” decision last fall in which the court implemented a “rational basis” standard for deciding a church/state matter.

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 by passing the Religious Freedom Restoration Act.

Proponents contend that HB 279 is a similarly worded “corrective” measure.

House Bill 279 was sharply opposed, however, by gay advocacy and other groups such as the American Civil Liberties Union. In the Lexington Herald-Leader, Chris Hartman, director of the Kentucky Fairness Campaign, was quoted as saying the override of Beshear's veto made minorities more vulnerable to discrimination.

“Much to the contrary, this law protects against discrimination,” Chitwood

told the Western Recorder. “History has proven that religious freedom isn't to be feared.”

Beshear, in vetoing the bill, had said it was vaguely worded and could result in costly and protracted lawsuits. The Democratic governor released a statement after the March 26 legislative action, expressing disappointment with the

“Protecting religious freedom ... is one of the first principles of our Baptist identity ...”

Adam Greenway

override of the only bill he vetoed in the 2013 legislative session, the Louisville Courier-Journal reported.

“As I explained in my veto message, I have significant concerns that this bill will cause serious unintentional consequences that could threaten public safety, health care, and individu-

als' civil rights,” Beshear said.

Kentucky Baptist leaders—who, along with The Family Foundation, have maintained throughout the controversy that these concerns were unfounded—were pleased, however, with Tuesday's outcome, pointing out the magnitude of the vote margins in both chambers.

Chitwood expressed his deep appreciation to Kentucky Baptists who took time to call their legislators. “Once again, we see how our people's involvement makes a difference,” he said.



PEACEFUL ASSEMBLY Supporters of the veto override gathered at the Capitol last week calling for lawmakers to act. (Photo by Todd Deaton)

“I am thrilled that our legislatures came together to stand for religious freedom in the commonwealth,” said KBC President Dan Summerlin of Paducah.

“This was a bipartisan effort and it demonstrated how people can work together to achieve vital legislation for the protection and the welfare of our society,” said Summerlin, pastor of Lone Oak First Baptist Church.

Adam Greenway, immediate past KBC president and associate dean and professor of evangelism and apologetics at

Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, was also “deeply encouraged” by the strong bipartisan vote.

“Protecting the religious freedom of all Kentuckians is one of the first principles of our Baptist identity and a necessary commitment of our responsible citizenship,” Greenway said. “On this matter, people of faith from all across this great commonwealth contacted their legislators and cried out to God, and as a result the Lord has brought about a great victory.” (WR)

Russell Moore

Continued from page 1

the last quarter of a century. He will succeed Richard Land, who will retire upon the completion of 25 years leading the entity.

“I am delighted that the Holy Spirit has led the ERLC's trustees to Dr. Russell Moore as the commission's next president,” Land said. “His excellent academic preparation, combined with his keen mind and his tender heart for God and His people, make him a person uniquely suited to serve our Savior and Southern Baptists in this crucial role at such a critical moment in our nation's history.”

Moore will begin his new responsi-



Richard Land

bilities June 1. At that time, Land will become the entity's president emeritus, an honor bestowed on him by trustees in September.

The ERLC trustees' seven-person presidential search committee, chaired by Barry Creamer of Criswell College in Dallas, recommended Moore to the full board after a seven-month process.

Moore has served since 2004 as dean of the school of theology and senior vice president for academic administration at Southern Seminary in Louisville. He joined the faculty in 2001 as professor of Christian theology and ethics and continues in that role.

He was preaching pastor at a campus of Highview Baptist Church in Louisville from 2008-12. While a student at New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary, Moore was associate pastor at Bay Vista Baptist Church in Biloxi, Miss.

Moore and his wife Maria are the parents of five sons.

Moore is a leading voice in the

growing pro-adoption movement among evangelicals. His 2009 book—“Adopted for Life: The Priority of Adoption for Christian Families and Churches”—has played a significant role in that cause.

On his blog, in written commentaries, in speeches and in news media interviews, Moore comments frequently on a range of issues, including sanctity of life matters, race relations, marriage, pornography, politics and popular culture.

“His presence of mind and keen insights as a theologian and pastor are such that his work has not only benefited me personally, but many who serve our nation in public life,” said Louisiana Gov. Bobby Jindal, a Republican. “I have never read anything by Russell Moore that did not leave me with a strong impression that this was a man who could speak carefully and power-

fully to the public square.”

Southern Seminary President Albert Mohler Jr. said, “He will provide a public voice Southern Baptists will follow and the secular world will respect. ... The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary will greatly miss him, as will I, but we congratulate Southern Baptists on the wisdom of their choice. Russell Moore was made for this position of leadership, and for this hour.”

Paige Patterson, president of Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, said Moore “has uniquely prepared himself spiritually, theologically, academically, and politically for just such a moment as this. Placing a leader with the right convictions, a razor-sharp mind, and a moral compass that will not fail paints a bright picture for Southern Baptists' future.” (BP)

“(Moore) will provide a voice Southern Baptists will follow and the secular world will respect.”

Albert Mohler

Getting unstuck

Editor's note: This week's column is by Steve Rice, KBC Church Revitalization Team leader.

As a boy growing up in eastern Kentucky, my brother and I rode motorcycles in the mountains a lot. Occasionally we would get bogged down in a muddy area and get stuck.

We could rev the engine and spin the tires, but we weren't going anywhere. At that point, we had to try something different to get unstuck. Sometimes a simple push would do the job, but one time we had to hook a rope to the bike and pull it out with a truck.

The goal was always to get unstuck, so we could keep using the motorcycles for their intended purpose—speeding along the trails.

Studies indicate that 75 percent of churches in Kentucky are "stuck" (plateaued) or "sinking" (declining).

Here are some questions that will help you if you are "stuck":

■ **Does your church have a ministry plan?** You know the saying, "if you fail to plan, you plan to fail!" As we consult with churches across Kentucky, we're observing that churches that have "traction" tend to have a ministry plan. A ministry plan does not have to be elaborate or complicated, but a biblical plan that can be understood and followed can be key to moving a church forward.

■ **Does your plan have a leader?** The pastor is the key person in developing and communicating the ministry plan. John Maxwell says that "anyone can steer the boat, but it takes a leader to chart the course."

■ **Does the staff know the plan?** Many church staffs are working hard, but they're not working together—not working in the same direction. In order to move a church forward, the staff must be moving in the same direction. The staff must plan the work and work the plan—the same plan!

■ **Do the members know the plan?** It is common for the ministry plan to be lost between the staff and the pew. The plan must be communicated over and over, again and again.

■ **Does the plan shape our decisions and ministries?** Sometimes the most difficult question is not "what do we do?" it is "what do we no longer do?"

According to Gary McIntosh, "Churches tend to function day-to-day, week-to-week, month-to-month, and year-to-year doing pretty much the same things. They assume that existing ministries continue to be sufficient for today's needs and tomorrow's opportunities."

Being busy is not enough. We must not just do good things; we must do God's things.

Let me know if our team can help you get your church unstuck. Email me at steve.rice@kybaptist.org or call (502) 489-3471. You can also call toll-free in Kentucky at (866) 489-3571.

Paul Chitwood is executive director of the Kentucky Baptist Convention.



Paul Chitwood

How to respond when our beliefs are under attack?

With U.S. Supreme Court justices hearing arguments on legalizing gay marriage and the Kentucky General Assembly fending off a serious threat to religious liberty, many may find themselves in a quandary as to how we should best respond to those who don't share our beliefs or values. Three responses to the question, "If the Supreme Court legalizes same-sex marriage, what next?," posed by Christianity Today may aid us in pulling together tangents and provide points to ponder.

In the article, Timothy Dalrymple of Patheos.com writes, "When pastors are pressed for their opinions about same-sex marriage, they should affirm both the theological position that marriage is designed for the union of male and female, and the moral position that sexual relations outside of marital union transgress the generous will of God." Emphasizing the church's primary role is to witness to the love of God, he challenges, "When we exclude and ostracize, we only make it more difficult for these men and women to hear the call of the God who made them in His image and for His glory. Let the church confess, let the Spirit convict, and let Christ redeem."

More boldness and compassion are needed.

Next, Jim Daly, president of Focus on the Family, observes, "The biblical ideal of self-sacrificing, lifelong, heterosexual marriage is already countercultural." And he agrees, "If we want others to understand marriage from God's perspective, we should strive to converse in a spirit consistent with God's heart. We must speak truth boldly, yet with compassion, understanding, and love." Daly then urges, "We must train our children about this issue, first in the home, but also in Sunday School and teen groups." He challenges couples: "The single greatest argument we can present to the world on this issue is to live out marriage in all its God-ordained fullness and radiant beauty."

More godly models of marriage are needed.

Finally, Elodie Ballantine Emig, an instructor at Denver Seminary, affirms: "In the beginning, God ordained marriage to be a lifelong, loving covenant between one man and one woman. We need to tell this truth with conviction,

regardless of politics. If we are secure in God's love, people who reject what we believe pose no real threat to us." But this is not a one-size-fits-all endeavor, Emig cautions. "Some people need to hear right up front that homosexual behavior is sinful. Others need to hear that no sin is too big for God to forgive. Still others need the assurance that Father God wants only the best for His children before sin is ever mentioned," Emig explains. "We must choose to love the ones God puts in our path and trust the Holy Spirit along the way."

After Thought

By Todd Deaton

More effective communication of the gospel is needed.

A second article that crossed my desk suggests a prudent action. An attorney who specializes in religious liberty issues counsels churches that host wedding ceremonies for traditional couples to examine their bylaws and shield themselves from possible litigation. "I think we're in a day where every church needs to have a statement in its bylaws of its doctrinal beliefs on marriage and sexuality," advises Erik Stanley of Alliance Defending Freedom. "Because then it becomes: You're not discriminating against an individual based upon their sexual orientation or marital status. You're making a decision to abide by your religious beliefs. And that's protected by the Constitution."

More legal protection is needed.

Finally, a third article identifies the root of the issue. An American Bible survey, conducted by the Barna group, found Americans overwhelmingly (77 percent) believe morals and values are declining, and most felt a lack of Bible reading was the culprit. The research, however, uncovered a significant disconnect: While 66 percent agreed that the Bible contains everything one needs to know to live a meaningful life, 57 percent read it fewer than five times per year. "Americans overwhelmingly recognize the decline of morality in our nation," observes ABS President Doug Birdsall. "The good news is the Bible is the ultimate instruction guide on how to live a moral life. Unfortunately, more than half of Americans rarely, if ever, read it."

More study of God's word is needed.

Open letter: Thanks for helping with West Liberty Build Blitz

I would like to thank all the people who participated in the West Liberty Build Blitz. I cannot thank the crews and individuals enough for all their hard work in spite of bad weather.

I would especially like to thank Keith Stinson, of Richmond, whose idea it was to revitalize the recovery efforts in West Liberty and helped us avoid losing grant monies targeted for tornado survivors.

I want to thank Coy Webb, KBC Disaster Relief director, and the KBC staff for their help promoting and supporting this project.

Another special thank you goes to our cooking crews led by Alan Owens, Porter Memorial Church, Damon Young and Burgin Baptist Church. Thank you to Index Community Church for allowing the use of their kitchen and dining facilities and to New Hope Baptist

Church for housing the volunteers.

During the two week build blitz, more than 189 people participated, volunteering more than 5,000 hours and serving more than 1,740 meals.

Four new houses were started. All were completely framed and roofed. All interior walls were completed. Three were wrapped and most of their windows and doors installed. Two other houses were completed to the point of installing electric. One resident was lacking the roofing on half of his house and a crew completed it before hard rains set in. Two future homeowners helped work on their houses and were extremely excited about the efforts of the volunteers and the hope that recovery would soon be complete for them.

Many comments were heard from the residents of West Liberty and

Morgan County about the hard work being done through miserable conditions and the progress being made. They wondered what compels people to suffer so. Everyone there had given of their own time, sometimes using their vacations. They paid for their own gas, food and, sometimes, shelter. They brought and used their own tools and supplies.

To some it was inconceivable. To others they knew it was the love of our Lord. It was a good witness and testimony to the people in West Liberty and Morgan County.

Stephen Howard, coordinator
West Liberty Rebuild

Editor's Note: Volunteers or teams interested in being part of the West Liberty rebuild effort may contact Stephen Howard at svhoward@mrtc.com or (606) 486-8756.

WESTERN Recorder

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

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

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Eight questions to assess your evangelism methods

By Matt Queen

A lady once criticized the evangelism methods used by Dwight L. Moody, the famed 19th century American pastor, to win people to saving faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. In response Moody replied, "I agree with you. I don't like the way I do it either. Tell me, how do you do it?" Moody's critic answered, "I don't do it." Moody quipped, "In that case, I like my way of doing it better than your way of not doing it."

Like Moody, I would rather be a criticized personal evangelist than a non-evangelistic critic. Sometimes another's critique of our evangelism is biblically warranted. At other times critical comments about our evangelism discourage us without cause. Perhaps the evangelistic enterprise would be served best if first, we sternly look ourselves in the mirror and say, "I question your evangelism!"

What questions might a believer ask himself in order to assess his evangelistic practices? In "Tell It Often-Tell It Well," Mark McCloskey offers three essential questions every believer should ask himself in order to assess his evangelism and its methods biblically. In addition to McCloskey's three questions, I suggest five additional questions. A believer's response to each of these questions assists him in discerning 1) whether or not someone else's critique of his evangelism proves warranted, and 2) what aspects of his evangelism fall short of the biblical ideal and need adjusting.

Concerning your practice(s) of evangelism:

Does the New Testament teach it?

Evangelism finds its origin in the New Testament. A believer who assesses his evangelistic practices should begin by ensuring his evangelism conforms to the evangelistic doctrines, instructions and principles found in the New Testament. McCloskey offers a few follow-up questions that frame the context of this

Who should be trustee?

By Laurie Valentine

Whether you are using a revocable living trust as part of your plan for management of assets in the event of incapacity or an irrevocable trust for tax

planning, one of the most important decisions as you plan the trust is your choice for trustee.

Under Kentucky law, the trustee may be an individual or a bank, trust company or other entity that has trust powers. An individual serving as trustee does

not have to be resident of Kentucky, nor do they have to be related to you.

As you select a trustee or successor trustee think about the types of assets that are, or may be, in the trust. You will want a trustee that understands the management of those types of assets, knows about taxes, investments and financial matters.

Select someone who is a self-starter. There is little supervision of the management of a trust. Your choice should be someone that will not neglect their responsibilities due to lack of time, interest or knowledge.

Don't just assume the person or entity you wish to name as trustee is willing to serve. Ask before you complete your planning. If possible, allow them to review the trust agreement before it is signed to better assure that all necessary powers are granted and that they are clear on any special or unusual provisions.

Finally, make sure the trustee can be objective. Trustees must make decisions that affect the interests of both the income beneficiaries and the remainder beneficiaries. While family members may be appropriate choices, you may need to consider a professional, corporate or institutional trustee. Corporate trustees are accountable not only to the beneficiaries of the trust, but also to their own management, directors, auditors and other examiners.

Laurie Valentine is trust counsel for the Kentucky Baptist Foundation.

particular question for personal evangelistic assessment. These questions include the following: "Is my approach to evangelism grounded in theological convictions regarding salvation, the gospel, and evangelism? Is it grounded in the certainties of God's plan to redeem a lost creation, the lostness of man, and responsibilities of our ambassadorship?"

Did the first century church demonstrate it?

The first-century church initially received the Great Commission of our Lord, who passed it down to all ages of His church. For this reason a believer interested in assessing his evangelism should consider the philosophy, practice, and pattern of the apostolic church. McCloskey suggests the following supplemental considerations: "Has my philosophy and practice of evangelism been modeled by the first-century church? Have the theological realities that drove the first-century church to proclaim the gospel with boldness and sensitivity caused me to develop similar patterns for communicating my faith?" Biblical evangelism results from one's evangelistic consistency with the philosophy, practice and pattern of the early church.

Does it work?

While a believer should evangelize with all excellence and purge ineffective practices, McCloskey has something else in mind here. He frames the intended meaning of this assessment question by offering another: "Does my philosophy and practice of evangelism make me effective in getting the gospel out to as many as possible, as soon as possible and as clearly as possible?" In other words, does what you believe about evangelism encourage or hinder your practice of it? No matter how "biblical" someone perceives his beliefs to be, any belief that deters him from evangelizing inevitably will lead him to deter others from evangelizing.

Does it ground itself in the Great Commission?

McCloskey suggests we ought not to ask ourselves, "Why are men not coming to us?" Rather we must ask ourselves, "Why are we not going to men?" Though many symptoms prevent us from going to men with the gospel, they all result from disobedience to Jesus' authoritative command in the Great Commission:

Evangelism is not the result of mere coincidence. Evangelism rarely occurs when someone relegates it to a pastime activity. Evangelism ensues when a believer submits himself to the authoritative command of Jesus and disciplines himself to make disciples.

Does it demonstrate urgency considering the reality of heaven and hell?

Concerning the reality of heaven and hell, evangelism can be described in terms of two, opposite extremes—either lethargic or urgent. If heaven and hell really exist and someone's eternal destiny in one or the other depends on whether or not he repents of his sins and believes in Jesus Christ's death, burial and resurrection for salvation, how then will he believe and be saved if he does not receive the gospel by means of evangelism (cf., Romans 10:14-17)? An unbeliever will not be saved on the basis that we have heard and now believe—he must hear the gospel in order to believe. Ensure that you exhibit an urgency to evangelize as many as possible, as soon as possible and as clearly as possible.

Does it consider the role of the Holy Spirit?

According to the Bible, a personal evangelist and the Holy Spirit cooperatively partner with one another in the evangelistic enterprise. Evangelism that fails to depend upon the Spirit of God has a tendency to become manipulative. On the other hand, the Holy Spirit does not evangelize on His own apart from the evangelistic witness of a believer. Rather, He assists a believer in the proclamation of the gospel to an unbeliever. For these reasons a personal evangelist should rely on the evangelistic role of the Holy Spirit in preceding (e.g., Acts 10:19-22; Acts 8:27-35), empowering (e.g., Acts 1:8; Acts 6:10), and emboldening his witness (e.g., Acts 4:8-13; Acts 4:29-31), as well as convicting an unbeliever of his sin and need for Christ (e.g., John 16:8-11) and sealing him for salvation after he hears the gospel and believes in Christ (e.g., Eph 1:13-14).

Keeping relationship on track

By James Stillwell

Q: My spouse and I hardly talk any more. Can you suggest a resource that will keep our communication on track?

A: One of the finest marriage education programs available is called PAIRS. One of their resources is called "The Daily Temperature Reading" because when couples use it daily, they tend to stay "up to date" in their relationship. The exercise has five parts:

New Information. Think of something you have not yet told your spouse. It could be something someone else told you or something you heard on the news.

Appreciation. If a contemptuous attitude toward our spouse is the "battery acid" that most easily destroys marriages (according to marriage expert John Gottman), then letting our spouse know something we appreciate about them has the opposite effect. Practice thinking a positive thought about your spouse every day.

Puzzles. A puzzle is anything that you do not understand. You are not accusing, you are seeking information. It is noticing, not reacting. When you describe your puzzle, maybe your spouse will have information to help you with what you need to know.

Complaint with a request. This is when you describe a situation and suggest a solution. It is not a personal attack; it is a description that comes with a way your spouse can help you. You are not describing how your spouse has failed, but what you need.

Wishes, hopes, and dreams. This is anything you are looking forward to, whether near in time or far away. When the person to whom you most wish success shares with you what they would like, you have the possibility of being part of it.

If you practice these five pieces of communication every day, you and your spouse will be "caught up" in confiding in one another and you will be partners in solving problems and helping reach your dreams.

James Stillwell is minister to singles at Immanuel Baptist Church in Lexington. E-mail: james@ibs-lex.org.

A believer who evangelizes without utilizing a helpful technique may experience frustration. However, a believer who evangelizes without depending on the Holy Spirit will find failure.

Does it incorporate the Scriptures?

This question helps a believer assess the extent to which he includes the Scriptures in his gospel presentation. Hearing the word of Christ is prerequisite for biblical faith (Romans 10:17). Evangelistic proclamations in the New Testament overwhelmingly incorporate the Scriptures (e.g., Luke 24:14-32; Acts 2:14-41; 3:11-26; 4:1-12; 7; 8:4, 35; 13:13-49; 16:25-32; 17:10-13; 18:5, 28; 20:27; 26:22-23; 28:23-27). When he evangelizes, a personal evangelist often summarizes the gospel. Whether he uses his own words or the words of another, an evangelist should ensure his evangelistic proclamation incorporates and structures itself around the word of God.

Does it call for a decision?

A personal evangelist does not evangelize merely to convey information about Jesus. Rather, a personal evangelist evangelizes in order to call people to faith in Jesus. An evangelistic presentation must include a call for decision for at least two reasons. First, evangelistic presentations recorded in the New Testament include a call for unbelievers to believe in Jesus Christ for salvation and to repent of their sins (e.g., Matthew 3:2; 4:17; Mark 1:14-15; Acts 2:38; 3:19; 14:15; 26:20). Second, unbelievers do not know how to respond to the gospel apart from receiving instruction through an evangelistic invitation (e.g., Luke 3:10-14; Acts 2:37; 16:30). For these reasons, ask yourself, "Does my evangelistic proclamation emulate those recorded in the New Testament?" Also ask yourself, "After I present the gospel to an unbeliever, does he know how he can receive the gospel?" Matt Queen is assistant professor and associate dean at Southwestern Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas.



7 questions & answers: the Supreme Court & gay marriage

By Michael Foust

Washington—Following are commonly asked questions about the Supreme Court's two days of arguments in the gay marriage cases.

What issues were the justices deciding?

The constitutionality of two laws: the federal Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA) and California's Proposition 8. Passed and signed into law in 1996, DOMA has two main sections: 1) It gives states the option of not recognizing gay marriages from other states and 2) it defines marriage for federal purposes and federal benefits as being between a man and a woman. Only the second section of DOMA was in front of the court. But even though the court did not deal with the DOMA section that affirms states' rights, it nevertheless could get to that issue with the Prop 8 case.

Prop 8 is a constitutional amendment, adopted by California voters in 2008, that defines marriage as between a man and a woman. California is one of 30 states that define marriage within the state constitution in the traditional sense. Another 11 states define it that way via statute. Nine states recognize gay marriage.

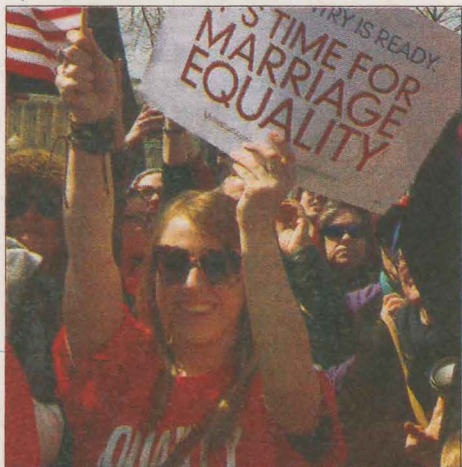
What are the possible outcomes of the cases?

If the court strikes down both DOMA and Prop 8, then gay marriage could be legalized in all 50 states. But there are other possible outcomes, including the upholding of both as constitutional. Based on the oral arguments heard by the court, though, that type of sweeping victory for social conservatives seems unlikely. If the court arguments are any indication, it seems more likely the court will overturn the DOMA section at issue while at the same time not ruling on the constitutionality of Prop 8, thus keeping the issue—for now—a state matter.

Predictions, though, can be tough, as proven in 2012 when most court-watchers thought the justices would overturn the historic health care law, only eventually to see the court uphold it.

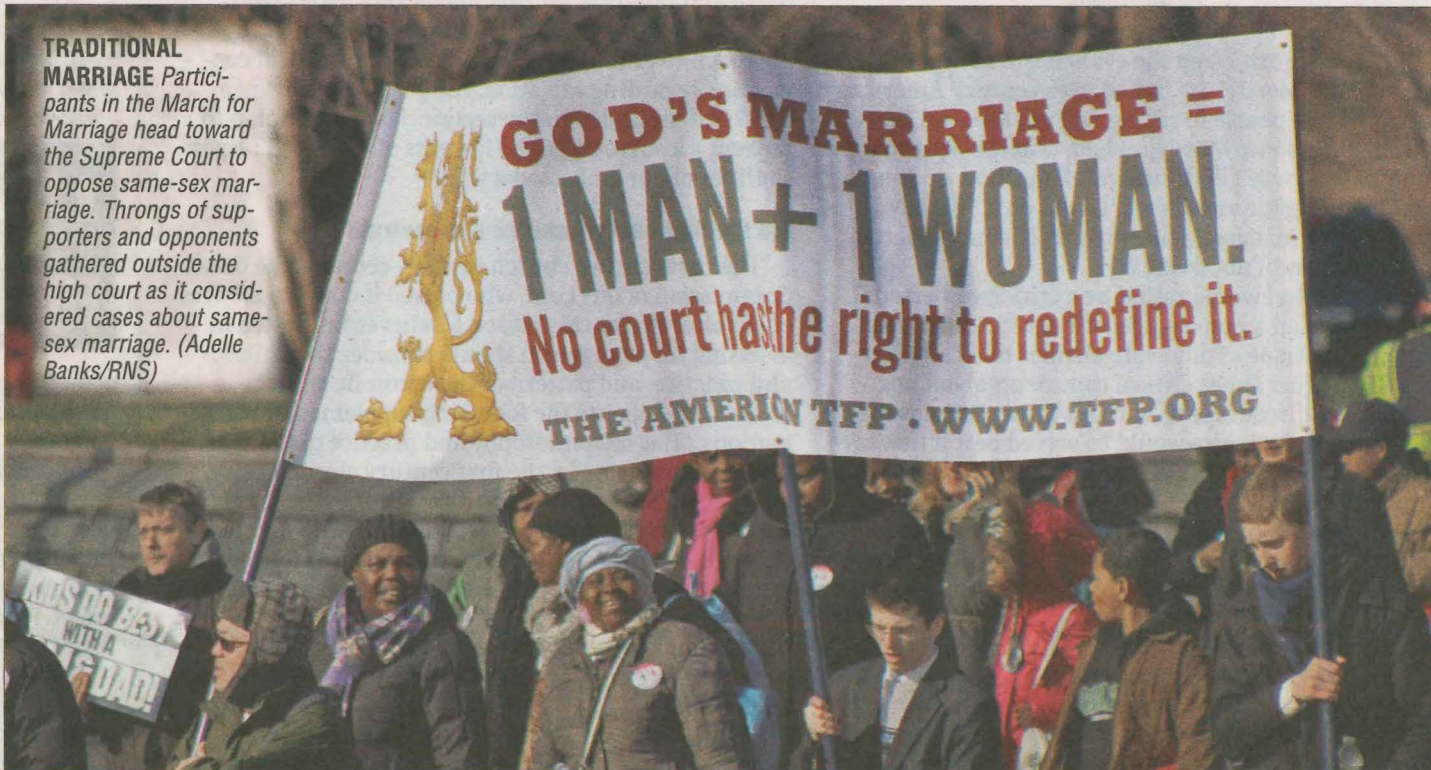
If the court avoids ruling directly on Prop 8, what happens to the issue nationwide?

A ruling that skirts the constitutionality of Prop 8 would limit the lower court's overturning of Prop 8 to California. Under one scenario, the court could rule that ProtectMarriage.com—the official sponsors of Prop 8—did not have



PRO GAY MARRIAGE Supporters of gay marriage rally outside the U.S. Supreme Court. (Kevin Eckstrom/RNS)

TRADITIONAL MARRIAGE Participants in the March for Marriage head toward the Supreme Court to oppose same-sex marriage. Throngs of supporters and opponents gathered outside the high court as it considered cases about same-sex marriage. (Adelle Banks/RNS)



"legal standing" to appeal the decision after Prop 8 was overturned by the federal district court. "Standing" became an issue when the governor and attorney general of California chose not to appeal the decision. Politico.com reported that under that scenario, the district court's ruling "could end up being limited to only the couple of counties and state officials named as defendants in the lawsuit." The court also could dismiss the petition as "improvidently granted"—that is, justices could say it should not have taken the case in the first place.

Justice Anthony Kennedy—a swing vote—seemed to open the door for either scenario when he said there's a "substantial question" on standing and in the next sentence said, "I just wonder if the case was properly granted." A majority of the justices seemed to be in favor of punting on Prop 8's constitutionality.

Where did the justices fall on the broader question of gay marriage legalization?

Kennedy, as he often does, made comments friendly to both sides. Conservatives were heartened to hear him express concern about going into "uncharted waters" and to note that "we have five years of information" on the impact of gay marriage "to weigh against 2,000 years of history or more" on the impact of traditional marriage. But liberals pointed out that Kennedy also seemed concerned about the "legal injury" to the "40,000 children in California" who live with same-sex parents and want "their parents to have full recognition and full status." But, as previously noted, Kennedy also implied that the court should not be considering Prop 8.

The court's liberal wing—Ruth Bader Ginsburg, Stephen Breyer, Sonia Sotomayor and Elena Kagan—all made comments friendly to gay marriage legalization, with Kagan rejecting the notion that traditional marriage laws can be tied to procreation. But all four justices also questioned whether the court should be hearing the Prop 8 case.

And Sotomayor heartened social conservatives when she said in the DOMA arguments that "states control" marriage, although she said it in the context of the DOMA case, not Prop 8.

Three of the four members of the court's conservative wing—John Roberts, Antonin Scalia and Samuel Alito—expressed concern about gay marriage legalization. Roberts said marriage, throughout history, "developed to serve purposes that, by their nature, didn't include homosexual couples." Conservative bloc member Clarence Thomas did not ask questions, as is his custom.

Which side won oral arguments—liberal or conservative groups?

Potentially both, simply because there are two laws at play. If the DOMA section in question is struck down, it would be a win for social liberals and would grant gay couples in the nine states where gay marriage is legal the federal benefits of marriage. But if the court also gives deference to states on the issue of marriage, it would leave in place traditional laws in the remaining 41 states—with the possible exception of California. That would be mostly a win for social conservatives. Kennedy made comments in support of state rights.

When will the court issue its decisions?

Most likely in June.

Where is public opinion on the issue?

Polls are showing a small majority in support of gay marriage, although there's evidence that polling is off, at least some. That's because—as the argument goes—a portion of the population is giving only the "socially desirable" answer to pollsters. Chris Stirewalt, digital politics editor for Fox News, noted in a March 26 column that among the approximately 30 states that have voted on traditional marriage, pre-election polls "have underestimated support" for the traditional side in all but one instance. He quoted New York University political science professor Patrick Egan as saying pre-election polls, by average, underestimate support for traditional marriage laws by 7 percentage points. "There is more to this than simply the difference between the electorate and the general population," Stirewalt wrote. "Some folks are lying to pollsters." (BP)

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Expert predicts split ruling by court in marriage cases

By Tom Strode

Washington—The U.S. Supreme Court appears likely to provide defenders of the traditional definition of marriage with no more than a partial victory, a legal expert says.

After sitting in on the landmark arguments March 26-27, Family Research Council lawyer Ken Klukowski said he is "fairly optimistic" the justices will support the right of states to continue to define marriage. The federal government's authority to define marriage, however, is an "uphill battle" at the high court, he said.

Associate Justice Anthony Kennedy will be the swing vote in both debates over the constitutionality of government definitions of marriage, Klukowski predicted.

The Supreme Court heard arguments March 26 on a challenge to Proposition 8, a 2008 California voter initiative that defined marriage as only between a man and a woman. On March 27, the justices considered the 1996 Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA), which used the same definition for federal purposes.

Klukowski said he is "fairly optimistic" that the court is going to correctly say that there is no invisible, previously unnoticed federal constitutional right to

gay marriage whereby the people of the 50 states cannot vote on the issue."

If the justices come to that conclusion, Prop 8 will stand, and similar decisions by states will as well.

"Everyone acknowledges marriage doesn't show up once in the Constitution," Klukowski said. "The only question is whether it's an implied right that does not allow any of the 50 states to have any laws saying marriage is one man and one woman, that gay marriage is a federal right that all states must embrace and must do so now. It did not look like to me that there were five votes for that at the Supreme Court."

In the Prop 8 case, "what will weigh more heavily on" Kennedy is his belief "this is an issue better left to the democratic process and that the federal Constitution does not include any empowerment to authorize unelected federal judges to shut down democracy on this issue and just declare a national, constitutional right," said Klukowski, director of FRC's Center for Religious Liberty.

Kennedy seemed drawn, however, in the arguments over DOMA to the view that a federal definition of marriage would interfere with the sovereignty of the states, Klukowski said. There are more than 1,100 federal provisions based on the traditional definition of marriage, including employee, Social Security and tax benefits.

Kennedy "appeared to be only talking about federalism as a one-way street," Klukowski said. Federalism is the division of power between government levels.

However the states define marriage, Kennedy appeared to signal the "federal government must cater to the states to provide benefit to whoever the state tells them is married, that the federal government cannot have its own separate definition," said the FRC lawyer, whose organization filed friend-of-the-court briefs in support of both Prop 8 and DOMA. "So that is the issue (the decision) will stand or fall on."

The odds are "not strongly against" a

favorable ruling on DOMA, Klukowski told BP, "but I think it's an uphill climb" for DOMA to "survive on the merits."

While he predicted Kennedy will be the swing vote, Chief Justice John Roberts will be the deciding vote on the procedural issues in both cases, Klukowski forecast.

The justices could refuse to rule on constitutional grounds in both cases by deciding they should not be before the high court.

In the Prop 8 case, the court heard arguments on whether the initiative's supporters had legal standing to appeal a lower court ruling when state government officials, including the governor and attorney general, refused to do so.

One of the procedural issues weighed by justices in the DOMA appeal was whether the House of Representatives leadership had standing to defend DOMA after President Obama's administration refused to advocate for it.

The high court is likely to say Prop 8 advocates can defend the amendment in court, Klukowski said, although he acknowledged a "realistic chance" it may not. Regarding DOMA's technical questions, however, he placed 50-50 odds on the justices throwing the case out.

The court is expected to issue rulings in both cases in June. (BP)

Supreme Court

Continued from page 1

- Uphold DOMA as constitutional.
- Strike down the law.
- Bypass the debate by saying it lacks jurisdiction, based on the unusual path by which DOMA arrived at the high court.

That third option seemed to both intrigue and flummox the justices, who grappled with the Obama administration's decision to stop defending DOMA in federal courts. A bipartisan legal advisory group appointed by the House GOP leaders stepped in to defend the law when the White House stepped out.

The Obama administration has agreed with federal court rulings against DOMA, even as it is charged with supporting and enforcing it. Normally the White House could only punt the case to the Supreme Court by appealing the case against DOMA, but instead it agreed that it is unconstitutional and asked the high court for a final say.

And that's where the justices got uncomfortable—as if they had just been tasked with caring for someone else's baby.

When and how does the executive branch get to decide which laws to support and which to ignore, Roberts asked.



LOVE SIGN A Virginia Baptist minister shares his views about same-sex marriage outside the Supreme Court March 26. (Adelle Banks/RNS)

If Obama doesn't support DOMA, he said, he should at least have "the courage of his convictions" and fight it through the proper legal channels or seek its repeal in Congress.

Justice Antonin Scalia peppered the government's lawyer, Deputy Solicitor General Sri Srinivasan, on why the justices are considering a case when the government agrees with the ruling. He expressed dismay at this "new world" where the Attorney General seems to be able to pick and choose which laws to enforce.

The court's decisive swing vote, Justice Anthony Kennedy, who has written powerful opinions in favor of gay rights before, nonetheless said he found it "very troubling" how the case arrived at his doorstep.

The court's liberal wing, meanwhile, had its own questions about whether House Republicans have legal standing to defend the law.

"From where do they derive the right, the statutory right, to take on the power of representing the House in items outside of the House," Justice Sonia Sotomayor wanted to know, calling it "sort of unheard of."

Kennedy, too, had questions. Why did the House get to defend DOMA, and not the Senate?

If the justices decide that they have grounds to decide the case, they will have to decide the degree of legal scrutiny to give DOMA. If a law fails to advance a government interest on a "rational basis," opponents argue, it must be struck down. And if a law targets a minority—in this case, gays and lesbians—it must face an even higher level of judicial scrutiny.

Paul Clement, arguing for DOMA on behalf of congressional Republicans, said Congress was only interested in clarifying the federal definition of marriage as states began debates over gay marriage. The idea, he said, was to "stick with what we've always had" so there would be no confusion.

In essence, he said, early efforts to allow gay marriage in the mid-1990s "forced Congress to choose between its

historic practice of deferring to the states (on marriage law) and its historic practice of preferring uniformity." Nothing more, nothing less.

But the practical result, Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg said, was two kinds of marriage: full marriage for some, and a less satisfying "sort of skim milk" marriage for others. The day-to-day results of a "skim milk" marriage, she said, were "pervasive" when it comes to hospital visitation, inheritance and Social Security benefits.

Justice Elena Kagan pounced, in one of the most dramatic exchanges of the day, pointing to a House report that accompanied DOMA's passage that said "Congress decided to reflect and honor a collective moral judgment and to express moral disapproval of homosexuality." Is that what happened in 1996?

Clement appeared caught off guard as the packed courtroom gasped. "Does the House report say that? Of course, the House report says that," Clement conceded. "And if that's enough to invalidate the statute, then you should invalidate the statute."

At the same time, Roberts seemed to doubt that gays and lesbians are a targeted political class deserving of greater protection. Politicians have been "falling all over themselves" to support marriage equality, he noted, and conveyed his dim view of the idea that the 84 senators who voted for DOMA in 1996 were motivated by "animus."

Appearing to speak directly to Roberts and his desire to find a way around an up-or-down decision on gay marriage, Clement said this was a question for voters and lawmakers, not the court.

"You have to persuade somebody you're right. You don't label them a bigot. You don't label them as motivated by animus," he said. "You persuade them you are right. That's going on across the country." (RNS)

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Greyhound patron impressed by traveling OBI students

The call came at noon on Tuesday. "You don't know me, but last weekend I rode the Greyhound from New York with two of your students. They were very polite."

I must confess, my mind was experiencing some troubling thoughts. The last time I had received a call about our students on a Greyhound bus, I ended up writing my first official letter of apology to the company on which our ministry depends to transport nearly 40 percent of our students. We still feel the effects of that call today. My heart didn't get any calmer when, after I said, "I'm glad to hear that," he said, "I'm far from done with my story."

He continued, "I rode with them all the way to Cincinnati, where they changed buses. They were joined by others of your students along the way. I never heard any profanity or vulgarity. All of them were extremely well-mannered. Even when some of your girls joined the bus, the boys greeted them, but stayed apart from them. When I talked with them during the two-hour layover in Columbus, they told me a lot about your school. Everything they said was very positive. They said they had especially good relationships with their teachers."

By then I was beginning to think that I was dreaming. This was almost too good to be true. Nonetheless, the

gentleman proceeded: "I'm a native of Louisville, but I had never heard of your school. I have spent many years in parochial school education in New York as an athletic director in a middle school. If my students had been like your students on the bus, I would still be an ath-

letic director today. I sent my boys to parochial schools in Louisville and spent about \$60,000 on just tuition for each of them. If I still had kids, I'd send them to your school."

While he paused for a breath, I took my opportunity.

"If you happen to meet a family with students who need a place to start again and get a good education, you could tell them about OBI."

He immediately responded, "Yes, I could, and I will. I'd be happy to."

Eventually he gave me his name and our conversation ended.

I have to confess that I was rejoicing in what I had heard. Our students had done extremely well in advertising the ministry of OBI simply by being their best selves, just as my colleagues and I know they can be. It was my further joy to tell the student body about the call on Thursday, just before we celebrated the third-quarter honor roll.

"I'm proud of you," I told them—and I truly am.

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This is Oneida



Paul Davidson

Clear Creek Chronicle



Donnie Fox

related topics.

"The Jesus film is a very powerful tool also being used there. Several have said that they first heard of Jesus in that film and it is usually many years later that they come to profess Christ. While

the law of the country says they are free to follow any religion, their tradition and family pressure means they will have a hard time if they profess Christ," Hester said.

"I was blessed to be able to go on this mission trip and share the gospel with our adopted people group during spring break," said student Cody Dean. "God showed me so much throughout my week there. It

was great to visit with our missionaries and the villages where they serve. The people were very open to us presenting the gospel. There were many good questions that were asked and they genuinely wanted to know what we had to share.

"Each night the Holy Spirit led us within our conversations," Dean continued. "The Lord is really moving in this village. This trip showed me that persecution is very real in the world. It is very easy to be a Christian in America compared to Islamic areas of the world."

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

Combs named collegiate evangelism strategist

Louisville—Brian Combs will be nominated for the position of collegiate evangelism strategist for the Kentucky Baptist Convention when the Mission Board meets May 6-7.

Combs has been serving on an interim basis since January, following Keith Inman's departure after 25 years of service with the KBC to become pastor of First Baptist Church of Murray.

The Mission Board's administrative committee approved Combs' nomination March 25.

In a statement recommending Combs for the post, Chuck McAlister, leader of the KBC evangelism and church planting team, noted that Combs has led in the development and writing of the Affinity

Evangelism Workbook, which is now being used extensively by Kentucky Baptist churches.

McAlister described Combs as "a strong and effective leader" who understands "the intricacies of leading in a denominational environment while still willing to 'think outside the box.'"

"He is a tremendous mentor to college students and campus ministers," McAlister noted, adding that Combs is "all about helping people encounter Jesus."

Combs previously was Baptist campus minister at Northern Kentucky University for 11 years. A graduate of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, he also holds a PhD from the University of Louisville. (WR)

Campbellville listed on president's honor roll



HONORING SERVICE Members of Ted Taylor's FIRST CLASS visited with the residents of Grandview Nursing and Rehabilitation Facility as part of a community service project. (Photo by Ye Wei)

Campbellville—Campbellville University has been named to the President's Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll for the second year in a row. The university was recognized as a leader among institutions of higher education for its support of volunteering, service learning and civic engagement.

"We are very pleased to be named to the 2013 President's Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll by the Corporation for National and Community Service," said university president Michael Carter.

"This recognition is further acknowledgment of the positive and rich educational experience that Campbellville University students are receiving and exemplifies an ethic of servant leadership on the part of the faculty, staff, coaches and students," Carter said.

Jon Hansford, director of the First Year Experience at CU, said 2,236 students participated in community service activities, with each student averaging 21.73 hours. A total of 48,584 hours of community service was engaged in by students, with 351 completing at least 20

hours of service per semester.

More than 70 percent of Campbellville employees engaged in service activities, with 51 faculty members facilitating service learning. They contributed 8,702 hours, with each averaging 68.52 hours.

"Being recognized in this way continues to speak of our heritage as a Christian higher education institution," Hansford said.

Among the activities reported were "Repair Affair," which involved the freshman class of 462 students, along with 24 faculty members, who benefited 17 low-income homeowners with needed home repairs. The group worked with Kentucky Heartland Outreach.

"Congratulations to Campbellville University and its students for their dedication to service and commitment to improving their local communities," said Patrick Corvington, chief executive officer of CNCS. "We salute all the Honor Roll awardees for embracing their civic mission and providing opportunities for their students to tackle tough national challenges through service." (CU)

First Baptist Dallas opens \$130M campus

Dallas—First Baptist Church of Dallas celebrated with two services the grand opening of its \$130-million, 500,000-square-foot campus in downtown Dallas, Texas, on Easter Sunday.

The 11,000-member church is calling its venture the "largest church building project in modern history," the result of a campaign the congregation began in 2009, under the leadership of senior pastor Robert Jeffress.

The new campus retains the landmark 1890 sanctuary, adding a 3,000-seat worship center with the latest high-tech

features, including a 150-foot-wide viewing screen stretching across nearly two-thirds of the auditorium.

A glass sky bridge connects the center to the five-story Horner Family Center, housing children's and youth classrooms, a gymnasium, three indoor playgrounds and a parking garage.

Distinguishing the church is a cross tower and fountain surrounded by three-quarters of an acre of public community space. The church celebrated by illuminating the tower and fountain's lighting. (BP)

'Other side of the world'

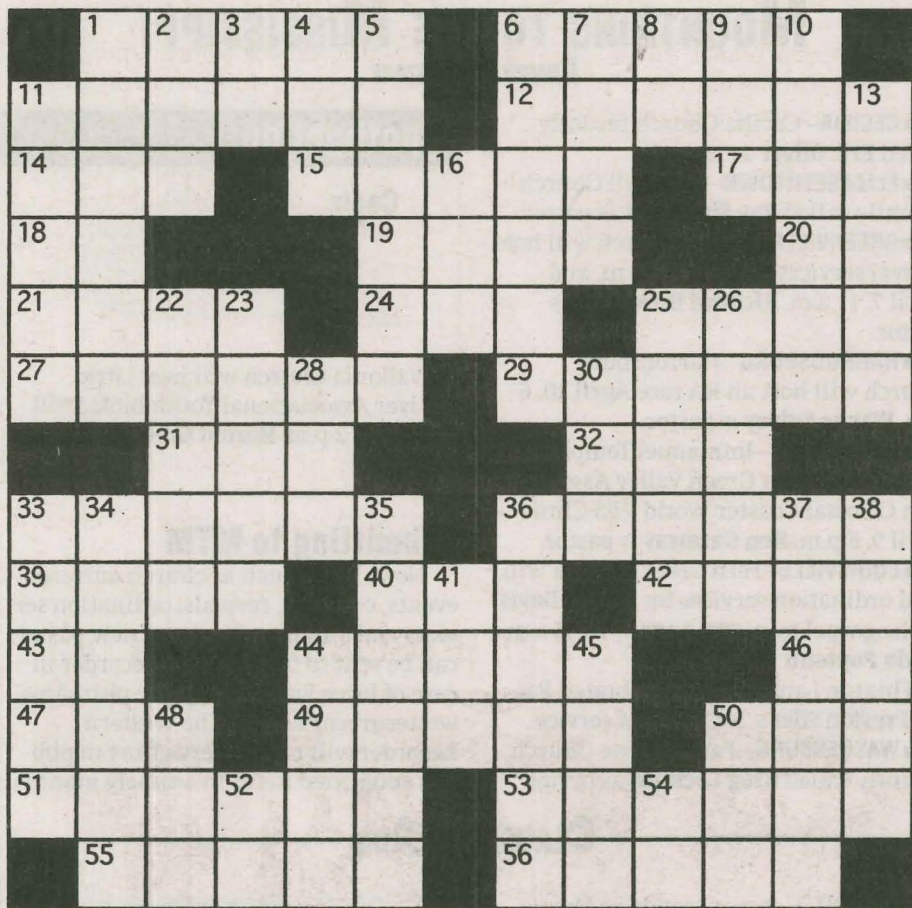
Clear Creek faculty, students participate in overseas mission

Last week, I wrote about some of our faculty, staff and students who served stateside during spring break. This week we are unpacking a story about folks from Clear Creek who spent their spring break on an international trip serving "on the other side of the world."

Our college has adopted a people group in this unnamed area of the world and two of our alumni are currently there serving as International Mission Board missionaries. The population of this region is 97 percent Muslim.

"The first night there, we were able to present the gospel to 32 adults using the 'Bible Cloth,'" said, Malcolm Hester, Clear Creek academic dean. The Bible Cloth is a cloth with pictures telling the Bible story from creation to the cross. A large number of adults were present because there had been a Muslim "baptism" or baby naming ceremony earlier. After the presentation, there were many good questions from the people.

"On the following days, we were able to actually meet with the chief and other men of the village," Hester continued. "We really had good discussions each evening related to who is Jesus, the fact that Jesus died on the cross, the necessity of sacrifice, the reality of sin and forgiveness, and many other



Bible Crosswords

By Evelyn Boyington

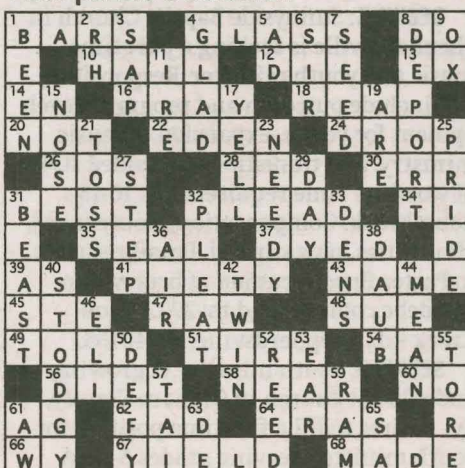
Across

- 1 "But the very ____ of your head are all numbered" (Matthew 10:30)
- 6 Throws a fit
- 11 Twilight
- 12 Changes the subject
- 14 California time (abbr.)
- 15 "Carry neither ____, nor scrip, nor shoes" (Luke 10:4)
- 17 A tree's blood
- 18 Buckeye bailiwick (abbr.)
- 19 "Prove me now ... if I will not ... ____ you out a blessing" (Malachi 3:10)
- 20 Note on the diatonic scale
- 21 "____ it, even to the foundation thereof" (Psalm 137:7)
- 24 "Go, sell the ____ and pay thy debt" (2 Kings 4:7)
- 25 One of Jezebel's gods
- 27 "The stone shall cry out ... and the beam out of the ____ shall answer it" (Habakkuk 2:11)
- 29 "And I was afraid, and went and hid thy ____ in the earth" (Matthew 25:25)
- 31 Long, long time
- 32 Thing, in legalese
- 33 Positions
- 36 Getaway destination
- 39 Adjective or adverb that is the equivalent of an exclamation mark
- 40 Take advantage of
- 42 Incite, with "on"
- 43 Printer's measure
- 44 A transparent body used to refract light
- 46 Quadrant in D.C.
- 47 Conjunction
- 49 Eagle abode
- 50 "There was no room for them in the ____" (Luke 2:7)
- 51 Escargots
- 53 "David ____ before the Lord with all his might" (2 Samuel 6:14)
- 55 Touching, as a gesture
- 56 Member of church hierarchy

- 8 Peachy place (abbr.)
- 9 Manuscript refiners (abbr.)
- 10 One who takes to the seas
- 11 "Be a ____!"
- 13 "We ... are as water ____ on the ground" (2 Samuel 14:14)
- 16 Like Louis XIV, par exemple
- 22 Libel, slang
- 23 Pioneer African American periodical
- 25 "My soul may ____ thee before I die" (Genesis 27:4)
- 26 Fabled author
- 28 "Be sober, and hope to the ____ for the grace" (1 Peter 1:13)
- 30 Linking verb
- 33 In Sverige, you may meet more than a few
- 34 "Two ____ shall there be in one board" (Exodus 26:17)
- 35 Most certain
- 36 Hang one's hat
- 37 Messenger
- 38 Fashion statement
- 41 Title of respect
- 44 "Behold a ____ horse: and his name ... was Death" (Revelation 6:8)
- 45 ____ ticket
- 48 Uncooked
- 50 Diamonds, slang
- 52 Oft-used abbr.
- 54 Bismarck bailiwick (abbr.)

Editor's note: The puzzle solution below is a reprint from March 26 and provides answers to a puzzle that appeared March 19.

Last puzzle's solution



Down

- 1 Friend of David (2 Samuel 15:32)
- 2 "Go to the ____, thou sluggard" (Proverbs 6:6)
- 3 Linking verb
- 4 Agent, slangily
- 5 Kin to comatose state
- 6 Outcome
- 7 To declare positively

Rope of sand, strength of steel

The common ground that holds Southern Baptists together

I am in my 43rd year of serving Christ vocationally through our Kentucky Baptist family. I have been an advocate, ambassador and agent of the Cooperative Program throughout my entire ministry. Even before that, I learned about the miracle of the Cooperative Program as a Royal Ambassador at the First Baptist Church of Grenada, Miss., in the 1950s.

My longtime commitment to the Cooperative Program has not been because part of my livelihood has come from Cooperative Program giving; in fact, it's just the opposite. My commitment has been based upon my ongoing conviction that cooperation is the Baptist way to a lost world, and the Cooperative Program facilitates cooperation at the highest and broadest level.

Over the years, denominational leaders have used a variety of analogies to describe the Cooperative Program. Among my favorites was the one chosen to celebrate the 50th anniversary of CP in 1975. It was "Rope of Sand—With Strength of Steel." It portrayed the reality that among Baptists there is no coercive element or organizational strength that holds us together; there is nothing organically that keeps us from splitting into thousands of directions.

Ky. Baptist Foundation



Barry Allen

The late James L. Sullivan observed, "... on the surface the 'tie that binds' looks terribly fragile." However, at a deeper level we Southern Baptists have common ground on which to stand; namely, the Great Commandment and the Great Commission of our Lord. As a result, the force that is so fragile also is very forceful in keeping us working together like a rope of sand with the strength of steel. Honest cooperation is not fragile and does not come apart easily, but it cannot be forced. When it does result truly from that common ground on which we stand, it is a powerful force indeed.

As you and your church celebrate Cooperative Program Sunday on April 14, give thanks to the Lord for how He has used the Cooperative Program since 1925 to enable us Southern Baptists to accomplish more for Him together than we ever could on our own. And, consider how you and your church can be more like a rope of sand with the strength of steel.

For information on how to make a Cooperative Program legacy gift, call us toll free.

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

Duck Dynasty's commander talks faith

By Diana Chandler

Nashville, Tenn.—The 8.6 million viewers of "Duck Dynasty" no doubt enjoy family patriarch Phil Robertson's antics, from his unkempt beard to talk of poor hygiene. But the fisherman and duck caller with a master's degree in education also tells a story of faith.

Robertson's faith walk began in his late 20s during his "sex, drugs and rock and roll lifestyle" when his sister was handing out Christian tracts in a bar where he worked, he said in an interview at LifeWay.com.

"I just decided to follow Him 38 years ago when I heard that He, in fact, was God in flesh," Robertson said. "Well, I'm sitting there listening and I'm like, 'Man, that was a mighty kind thing to do for a scumbag like me.'"

When the reality show premiered in March 2012 on A&E television, his sons and co-stars told him to contain himself, "because the Hollywood people wouldn't let him get away with preaching," Robertson said.

Amidst the quackish wisdom, he seeks to model a Christian life.

"We're godly people. We really don't use filthy language. We really do fear God," Robertson said. "We really do love you; you're our neighbor. We're gonna be good to you, really. And, we love you, irregardless of how you feel about us. In other words, our love for you is not contingent upon whether you love us or not. We just love you and ... you say, 'well I don't like you.' I say that's OK. I love you anyway."

"I just go on down the road."

Robertson credits the Lord with his success, sharing his epiphany from a sinful, unfulfilled school teacher to a faithful fisherman and duck caller set on turning his life's passion into his livelihood.

After accepting Jesus at age 28, he told his wife "Miss Kay" he would fish the Ouachita River and market and sell the duck call he had created from cedar wood to support her and their four sons.

"But if you fast-forward 40 years, from the fishing and trying to get the duck call going to where we now are, we have now entered the world of Hollywood. We now have a multi-million-dollar business," he said.

"Therefore, I either was real lucky, there had to have been a lot of coincidences, or God was right all along, 'Love Me, trust Me, work hard, do what is right and I will bless you and your barns will be filled up, tapped down and running over.' That's what happened. It's either luck or God said, 'I'll bless you. You did good.' I'm leaning toward it was the Almighty."

The entrepreneur was born to a financially stretched family in Vivian, La., and attended Louisiana Tech University on a football scholarship. Robertson turned down an opportunity to play pro ball because it would have meant missing duck season, he has said.

Robertson's book "Happy, Happy, Happy: My Life and Legacy as the Duck Commander" will be available in May. He also tells his story of faith at churches and community events across the U.S. (BP)



April

- 5 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.
- 12 Team Leader Training for International Missions, KBC, Louisville.
- 12 Changing the Channel, Cedarmore, Bagdad.

Pulitzer Prize winner Charles Krauthammer to speak at Cumberlands

Williamsburg—University of the Cumberlands and the Forcht Group of Kentucky Center for Excellence in Leadership will present "Ethical Leadership," featuring Charles Krauthammer, April 7 at 7 p.m. in the O. Wayne Rollins Center.

Charles Krauthammer has won a Pulitzer Prize and been named by Financial Times as the most influential commentator in America.

He has been described by MSNBC's Joe Scarborough as "without a doubt the most powerful force in American conservatism."

UC's annual lecture series is made possible by an endowment from local business owners Terry and Marion Forcht, who founded the Forcht Group of Kentucky Center for Excellence in Leadership in 2006. Past speakers in the series have included Roy Moore, Zell Miller, Stephen Covey, Ben Stein, Karl Rove, Mike Huckabee, and Rudy Giuliani.

For free tickets to the leadership program, visit University of the Cumberlands' website, www.UCumberlands.edu tickets or call the ticket line at (606) 539-4432. (UC)

'Super Saturdays' are back

Louisville—Pastors, church staff, Sunday School workers and other church volunteers are encouraged to mark their calendars now for the return of the Kentucky Baptist Convention's flagship training event, Super Saturday.

The three events will be held Aug. 17 in Louisville, Aug. 24 in Lexington, and Sept. 7 in Owensboro.

This year's Super Saturday features church growth expert and author Gary McIntosh in addition to dozens of breakout sessions on virtually every aspect of church ministry.

According to Steve Rice, church consulting and revitalization team leader for the Kentucky Baptist Convention, the aim is to help churches "excel in the Lord's work," as referenced in 1 Corinthians 15:58.

"One person could pay hundreds of dollars and travel thousands of miles to receive the same quality of training that KBC can offer for a modest registration fee," he said.

Rice added that he hopes more Kentucky Baptists than ever before will seize the opportunity to learn how their churches can better reach their communities with the gospel of Jesus.

"With 75 percent of Kentucky Baptist churches stuck or declining, we must work together to bring traction and Christ-honoring movement to our ministries if we are to fulfill the Great Commission," he said.

McIntosh is author of 20 books and countless articles on church revitalization. He has assisted more than 1,000 congregations in three countries in renewing their gospel focus and becoming more effective servants in their communities.

"The principles he will share with us will work for churches with 30 members or 3,000," Rice said.

The webpage, www.kybaptist.org/supersaturday, will include workshop descriptions and other details. Online registration opens May 8. (KBC)

BWA president, Upton, to speak at Campbellsville

Campbellsville—John Upton Jr., president of the Baptist World Alliance and director of the Virginia Baptist Convention, will speak at Campbellsville University April 3 in Ransdell Chapel.

As BWA president, Upton travels the world representing over 41 million Baptists.

He received a bachelor of arts from Averett College in Danville, Va. He also attended Southern Baptist Theological Seminary and the International Baptist Theological Seminary in India.

He and his wife, Deborah, served as missionaries in Taiwan through the former Foreign Mission Board. (CU)

Start developing mentoring skills at April training

Louisville—Not everyone is a born leader, but through training provided by the Kentucky Baptist Convention, men and women can learn skills to help them develop into godly mentors, coaches or supervisors.

Developing and Managing People is April 23 at the Kentucky Baptist Building in Louisville.

"This training is great for missionaries, but really it is helpful to anyone who is in any kind of supervisory role, as a career or as a volunteer," said Eric Allen, leader of the KBC Missions Mobilization team.

The event begins at 9 a.m. The \$15 per person fee includes materials and lunch.

Online registration is underway at www.kybaptist.org/developingpeople. The webpage also includes information on lodging and directions to the Kentucky Baptist Building. For more information, e-mail missions@kybaptist.org or call (502) 489-3530 or (866) 489-3530 (toll-free in Kentucky). (KBC)

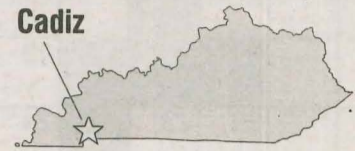
MOUNTAINS TO THE MISSISSIPPI

COMPILED BY STAFF

- **CECILIA**—Cecilia Church recently called **Eric Oliver** as pastor.
- **ELIZABETHTOWN**—Blue Ball Church recently called **Ray Sinkhorn** as pastor.
- **GREENVILLE**—Unity Church will hold revival services April 5-6, 7 p.m. and April 7, 11 a.m. **Richard Browning** is pastor.
- **HARRODSBURG**—Harrodsburg Church will host an RA race April 10, 6 p.m. **Wayne Spivey** is pastor.
- **HENDERSON**—Immanuel Temple Church will host Green Valley Association Colossal Coaster World VBS Clinic April 9, 6 p.m. **Ken Gazaway** is pastor.
- **LOUISVILLE**—Fern Creek Church will hold ordination services for **Daniel Davis** to the gospel ministry April 7, 10:45 a.m. **Linda Popham** is pastor.
- Thixton Lane Church celebrated Pastor **Preston Siler's** 20th year of service.
- **WAYNESBURG**—Parlor Grove Church recently called **Greg Lockard** as pastor.

Spotlight on ...

Cadiz



Wallonia Church will host Little River Associational Youth Bible Drill April 7, 2 p.m. **Harold Greenfield** is pastor.

Submitting to MTM

News briefs such as church outreach events, concerts, revivals, ordination services and announcements of new pastors can be sent to the Western Recorder in care of Joyce Pittman at joyce.pittman@westernrecorder.org. The Western Recorder will make every effort to publish submitted items in a timely manner.

CLASSIFIED ADS

FOR RENT: Get-away condo in Myrtle Beach, S.C. Beautiful, two bedrooms, two bathrooms, sofa bed. Go to www.MBvacationCondo.com, or call (803) 566-0214.

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

FOR SALE: Church chairs, tables at great prices. Call Gary, (615) 351-3120

SEEKING: DeHaven Baptist Church in La Grange, Ky., is seeking a full-time pastor. Interested applicants are invited to submit resumés 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: Forest Park Baptist Church is seeking a pastor. Please submit resumés to Forest Park Baptist Church, 520 Old Morgantown Rd., Bowling Green, KY 42101, Attn: Search Committee. We will accept resumés 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 resumés to searchcbc@bellsouth.net or mail to Pastor Search, 107 Greystone Court, Paris, KY 40361.

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 resumés to Pastor Bruce Truman at bruce@sunnysidebc.com, or send to: 2722 Knob Creek Rd., Shepherdsville, KY 40165.

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

To place an advertisement:

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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: Gilberts Creek Baptist Church in Lancaster, Ky. (Garrard County), is seeking a bivocational pastor for a conservative values, traditional worship congregation (60-65). Send resumé to P.O. Box 612, Lancaster, KY 40444.

SEEKING: Trinity Baptist Church, Lexington, Ky., is currently accepting resumés for an interim youth minister. The qualified candidate will have a minimum of 5 years youth ministry experience. The strong candidate will possess a passion for Christ and a calling to work with youth. The interim will be considered for the permanent position. Resumés should be mailed to Trinity Baptist Church, ATTN: Personnel Committee, 1675 Strader Drive, Lexington, KY 40505, or emailed to gmcclellan@yourtrinity.com.

SEEKING: Post Oak Baptist Church is seeking an associate pastor, Christian activities and youth. This is a full time position. Send resumé to Post Oak Baptist Church, 900 Bluegrass Ave., Russellville, KY 42276. A complete job subscription is available upon request. Call (270) 726-2157, or email secretarypobc@bellsouth.net.

SEEKING: Cedar Creek Baptist Church is seeking a full time youth pastor to lead a growing ministry. Minimum of college degree and experience preferred. Send resumés to CCBC Youth Search Committee, 7709 Bardstown Road, Louisville, KY 40291, or CedarCreekBC@gmail.com. Deadline April 28.

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Mali Christians aiding displaced northern countrymen

By William Bagsby

Bamako, Mali—Throughout the conflict in Mali, Christians in the south have embraced their fleeing northern countrymen with compassion and helped provide basic necessities. As their funds run dry, international Christian workers in Mali are coming together with Baptist Global Response, the Southern Baptist international relief and development organization, to meet their needs.

Last year several rebellious factions, including Islamic extremists, took over the northern part of Mali. As they pushed from town to town, northerners were forced to escape south to save their families. There are now over 260,000 internally displaced persons (IDPs) in Mali, reports the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs. Around 170,000 more are refugees in neighboring countries.

More than 400 Christians arrived in Mali's capital, Bamako, with what they could carry in a simple sack and the clothes on their back.

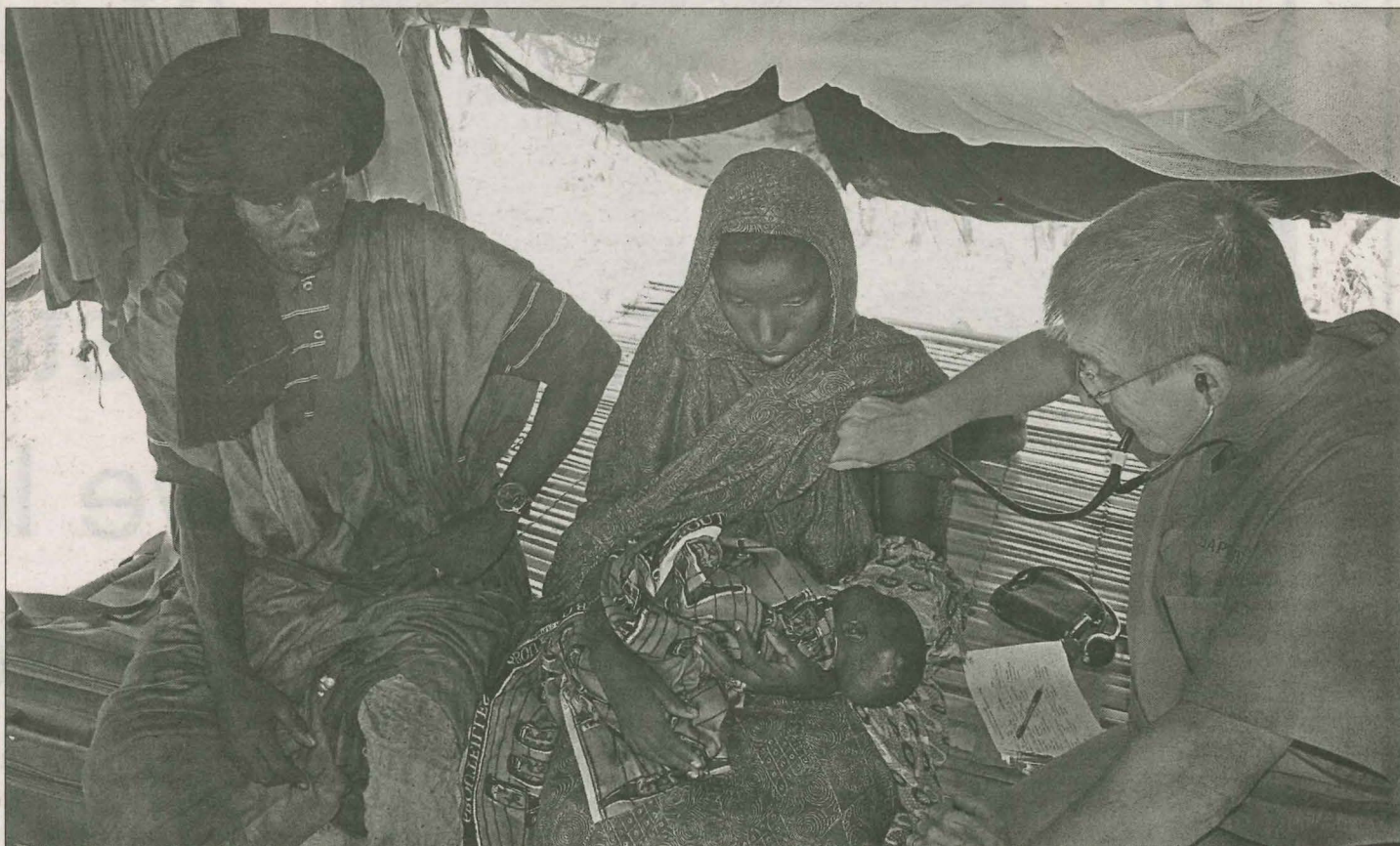
"The Christian community in Bamako rallied together and, despite many missionaries being called to return to their sending countries or choosing to evacuate temporarily, the Malian believers began collecting offerings to support their brothers and sisters from the north," said Debra Fields,* an American Christian living in Mali.

"One (IDP) explained that they didn't really know what to expect," Fields shared. "There were cultural and language barriers with these believers from the south, but their common bond was Jesus. Local believers brought clothes, food and money to the (IDPs), and they were visited and comforted by their new brothers and sisters."

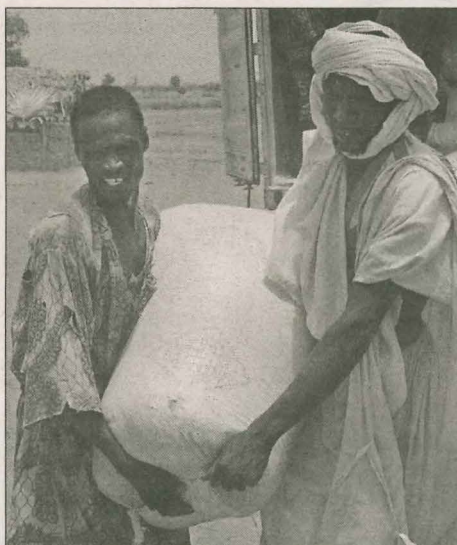
These provisions were made possible, Fields said, because a local evangelical association spread the word, church by church, and a committee was formed to set up a fund to help with this crisis.

"The initial fund that was put together was quite substantial, but now, 10 months into the crisis, the funds are practically finished," Fields explained.

Fields explained that "though much



BAPTIST RESPONSE Baptist Global Response is partnering with southern Malian Christians to help provide displaced northern Malians with food and support for housing and school fees. (IMB)



AIDING COUNTRYMEN Last year Christians in southern Mali began a fund to support displaced northern countrymen with food and money. (IMB)

of the north has been liberated, basic services, such as police, schools and government offices, have not been reopened. It is not a stable or safe environment to return to as of yet. With the local funds used up and stress levels rising, (we) in partnership with BGR will be bringing food, support for housing and school fees to these internally displaced persons.

Fields asks for prayer for the believers to have wisdom to know when to return to their homes. Humanitarian activities in the north are restricted due to the threat of mines and other explosive remnants of war, as well as on-going violence and military operations.

"Pray also for reconciliation with the believers who fled and their communities," she continued. "Their possessions left behind were stolen and sold, their libraries burned and their worship places desecrated."

Jerry Samples,* as Southern Baptist

worker in West Africa, challenged Southern Baptists in the U.S. to consider how they can assist Mali's IDPs and refugees.

"BGR funds are in short supply and the needs are enormous," he said. "The figures concerning IDPs change constantly. Hundreds of thousands are in countries bordering Mali wondering when they can/should return and what they will find when they do. They will need help."

"Will Baptists respond on their knees in prayer, be willing to take risks and come as volunteers ... and sacrifice financially to BGR so that we can intervene and help?"

Resources for the Malian IDP assistance are provided by the World Hunger Fund. To inquire about ways you can help displaced Malians, contact BGR via their website at www.baptistglobalresponse.com. (BP)

*Name changed

Cities' church planting maps posted by NAMB

By Tobin Perry

Alpharetta, Ga.—Southern Baptists may access new online church planting maps for North America's largest, most influential and least-churched cities.

The North American Mission Board has posted digital maps highlighting current and planned church plants for 17 of the 30 cities targeted in its Send North America outreach. The maps are available at namb.net/cities. Maps for the remaining cities will be posted as they are completed.

The online maps stem from NAMB President Kevin Ezell's longstanding desire to show Southern Baptists specific "dots on a map" where new churches are needed in North American cities.

"If a church wants to get involved in a specific city, you don't have to wonder where the needs are," Ezell said.

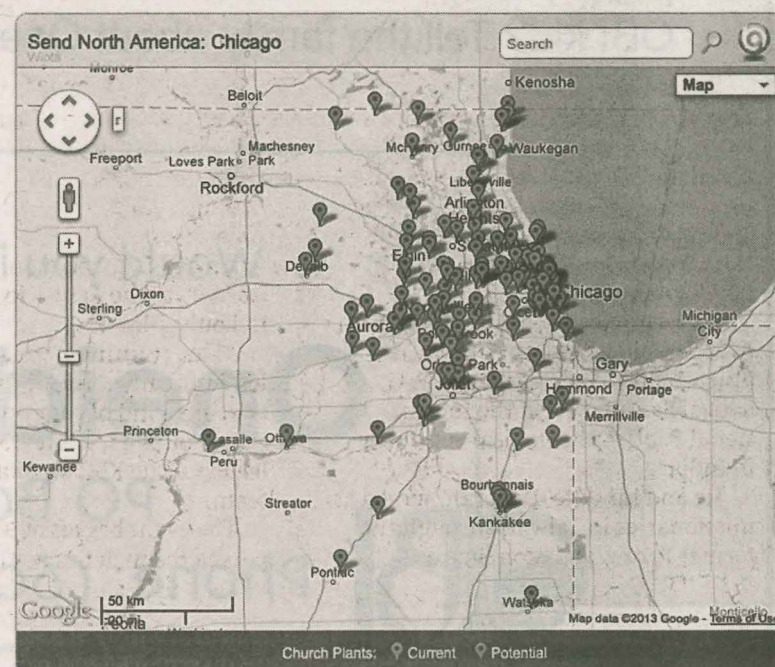
The online maps show the locations of current church plants with red dots and the locations of future plants with blue dots. The future

church locations have been identified by local strategy teams as needing church plants, but lacking church planters. When a user clicks on a current or future church plant, they'll find its address and primary ethnicity.

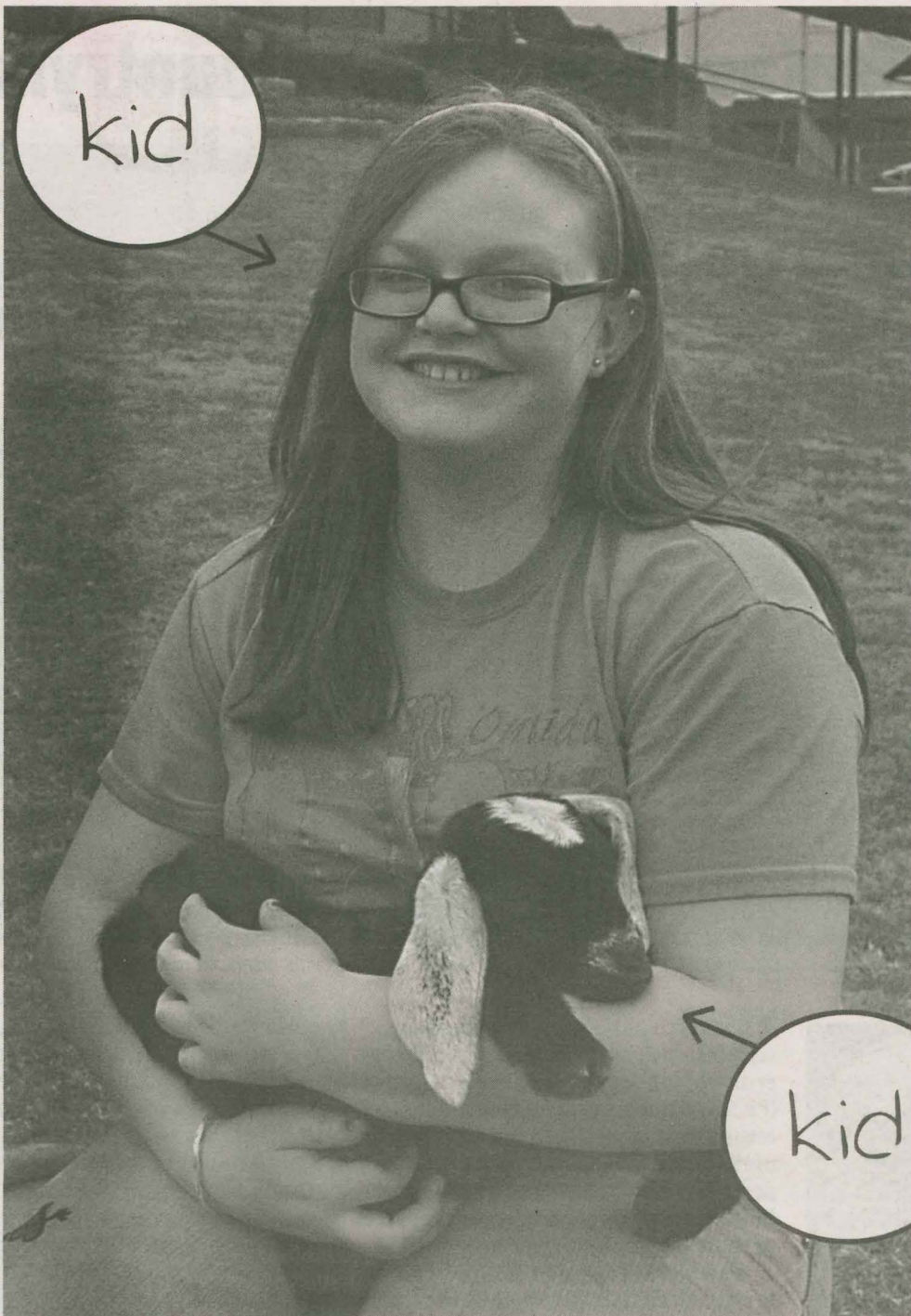
Users can zoom out to get a big-picture view of the city's church planting needs or zoom in to take a look at the actual neighborhoods near current and future church plants.

Shane Critser, NAMB's team leader for church mobilization, said churches can find out in advance the areas they want to target. He also hopes churches will use the maps to guide them as they pray for the cities. For prospective church planters, the street-level views can allow them to assess possibilities in a variety of cities without ever leaving their homes.

Churches wishing to become involved in a specific Send North America city can send an email using that city's name, followed by @namb.net (i.e. cincinnati@namb.net) or visit namb.net, click "Mobilize Me" and indicate interest in a specific city. (NAMB)



CHICAGO CHURCH PLANTS This map denotes with churches the North American Mission Board has planted in Chicago, as well as locations targeted for future church plants in the nation's third-largest metropolitan area.



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