

WESTERN Recorder

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Shine Like Stars * Philippians 2:15

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SOUTHERN BAPTIST CONVENTION

HOUSTON

ANNUAL MEETING ★ JUNE 11-12



Luter signals 'Revive Us That We May Be One'

By Erin Roach

Houston—A Tuesday evening revival service with worship led by Charles Billingsley and a sermon by Southern Baptist Convention President Fred Luter will be among the highlights of the SBC annual meeting June 11-12 in Houston.

Messengers will convene with the theme "Revive Us That We May Be One," based on John 13:34-35, at the George R. Brown Convention Center.

Luter chose the theme because he believes the brotherly love that distinguishes God's disciples is the only way the convention will experience the revival it so desires. The theme passage commands Christians to love one another because such love is how the world will know that believers follow the Lord.

"We're not going to do it by just our preaching or by our singing or just by our giving, we've got to prove it through our actions that we truly love one another," Luter said. "And the way we do that

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'Returning Hearts' Relationships restored through prison ministry

By Chip Hutcheson

Princeton—Heartwarming stories of children reuniting with their fathers—some after several years of separation—abounded during a recent "Returning Hearts" celebration at Green River Correctional Complex in Central City.

Approximately 90 volunteers with Princeton-based HR Ministries, which is supported by the Cooperative Program, conducted the event for the second straight year at Green River.

There were 28 inmates who were allowed to spend time with their children behind the prison walls in an atmosphere that included games and activities as well as opportunities for the families to simply sit together and talk privately. About 50 children attended.



Balloon lift-off culminates the "Returning Hearts" celebration at Green River Correctional Complex in Central City. (Photo by Chip Hutcheson)

One family included two children, ages 7 and 8, who had not seen their father in seven years. The younger child had never been able to touch her father.

Jenny Hammett, one of the event coordinators, said the young girl told her father she was mad at him. By the end of the day, however, when a balloon lift-off culminated the day's activities,

the girl held onto her balloon rather than release it into the sky. She said she was keeping it because it reminded her of her dad, and she hugged him for the first time.

One inmate's sister-in-law brought the man's two teenage boys from Texas, marking the first time they had seen

□ See 'Returning Hearts' ... Page 2

Dialogue leads KBC, Campbellsville to reaffirm partnership

By Todd Deaton

Campbellsville—"Kentucky Baptists who had concerns that Campbellsville University refuses to allow on (its) faculty professors who believe the Bible is literally true can be assured that such professors are welcomed at Campbellsville," according to Paul Chitwood, executive director of the Kentucky Baptist Convention.

"Moreover, Dr. Carter stated unequivocally that everyone who teaches at Campbellsville is a professing Christian and believes God created the world," Chitwood said, following an April 29 dialogue with President Michael Carter and eight university representatives.

The dialogue came in response to concerns regarding professors who allegedly reject biblical authority and biblical inerrancy that surfaced in emails, tweets

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Kentucky churches seek to 'expand' urban partnerships

By Ken Walker

South Charleston, W. Va.—Though Kentucky native Chris Dalton is a long way from home, the pastor of Exalt Community Church senses support from familiar faces.

With Exalt's first preview service scheduled for September, Burkesville Baptist Church recently agreed to offer prayer and financial support and make a future visit.

In addition, in June a team from the Lincoln County Baptist Association will help Exalt the Southern Baptist church with prayerwalking and other tasks.

"It makes me feel like even though we're 240 miles from where we grew up, people still see the importance of ministry continuing on, and not just where they're located," Dalton said. "It's been a huge support for me."

These partnerships are among many continuing through Go Metro. The Kentucky Baptist Convention launched this emphasis in the fall of 2010 to encourage churches and associations to help plant churches in urban areas.

Though the official who spearheaded the launch has departed, KBC missions mobilization leader Eric Allen said Go Metro is still operational.

"The KBC's role was to cast vision, assist in networking associations and provide some initial resources," Allen said. "The level of involvement was, and still is, up to the local associations."

"We want to expand our vision," said Kyle Page, pastor of Pleasant View Baptist Church. The Waynesburg congregation helped stage a Vacation Bible School last summer at West Virginia's North Charleston Baptist Church and will return June 23.

"What we've done in the past is great, but it's just a small beginning for what God wants us to do," Page said. "Over the long term we can make an impact, not only locally but globally."

Pleasant View is one of several in the Lincoln County Baptist Association helping church planters in the Huntington-



Pleasant View Baptist in Waynesburg helped put on a Vacation Bible School at North Charleston Baptist Church in West Virginia last summer. The Kentucky church plans to return this June to help with the church plant. (Photo provided by Pleasant View Baptist Church)

Charleston corridor, the state's primary urban area.

The partnership also includes Kentuckians from the Pulaski, Freedom and Wayne associations.

"It's helped our churches cooperate a little with the work of the association," said Gary King, director of missions for the Lincoln association. "That's what pastors have said they wanted."

While he said getting churches involved is a gradual process, Robert Spradlin—director of missions for Freedom and Wayne associations—is encouraged that two churches have already volunteered.

In addition to the Burkesville partnership, last summer Oak Grove Baptist Church of Monticello took a team to Huntington.

Working near Marshall University, they helped put on a backyard Bible club, cleaned yards, did small construction

jobs, and spent a day knocking on doors. The latter effort led to four professions of faith in Christ.

"Our goals are to connect with church planters and existing churches," Spradlin said. "We want to be an encouragement to them to share the gospel ... and lead our association to pray more for our partnership."

Meanwhile, a multi-faceted partnership focused on metropolitan Pittsburgh is helping stir excitement, according to Cliff Jenkins, an urban church planting catalyst there.

Jenkins said five new works are underway through the Kentucky partnership, which has a goal of starting 30 over a three-year period.

"It's been a pretty good help," Jenkins said. "We're coming up on the end of the first year. There have been a lot of starts, but it will take a little time to reach the goal."

Partnering with Pittsburgh are the Nelson, Lynn, Severns Valley and Oldham-Trimble Baptist Associations.

The groups stay in touch through a Facebook page on which they share prayer requests, travel plans and personal updates.

This is a two-way partnership, with several Pittsburgh church planters speaking at various churches and meetings in Kentucky last year and again this spring.

"That's one thing I didn't expect to happen," said Stan Lowery, director of missions for the Nelson association.

"One of the most exciting things is the partnerships that are developing. It's church-driven—churches are connecting with church planters. Seeing the local churches getting strengthened by partnering has been a real plus."

Members of Rineyville Baptist Church and Upton Baptist Church are planning a trip to Pittsburgh the week of July 7 to put on a Vacation Bible School and help with renovations at an associational ministry center.

Not only is Rineyville pastor Mitch Ash excited about his congregation's first trip to Pittsburgh, he hopes to establish a long-term relationship with a new church called The Forge.

"We're excited about the opportunity," Ash said. "That's a different world up there than down here in the Elizabethtown area."

The pastor's challenge last fall to make 2013 a year of missions projects has paid dividends, with Rineyville Baptist raising a record \$9,300-plus in its December international missions offering.

In addition to its upcoming trip, members have collected clothing and other supplies for two Kentucky Baptist outreaches, are preparing comfort kits and quilts for Sunrise Children's Home, and have members directly involved in international missions.

"We've seen all our missions activity increase," Ash said. "I'm seeing people being blessed by this." (WR)

'Returning Hearts'

Continued from page 1
their dad in years.

Another inmate had asked his teenage son to visit, but didn't know if the boy would make the trip from North Carolina. The boy's grandmother helped see that it happened, making the first time the boy and his dad had seen each other in seven years.

One of the HR volunteers from the Louisville area offered to bring a family from that area to visit an inmate. The man's 12-year-old son remarked later that spending the day behind prison walls with his dad "was the best day of my life."

Harrell Riley, director of the ministry, said the longevity of the ministry work at Green River is beginning to show dividends.

"This is the first time we've been able to do Returning Hearts two years in the same place," he said related to men's ministry work. "We have seen men grow through the program and the whole atmosphere has changed. You could see

this year men taking charge of their families and they initiated the presentation of the gospel."

Also, the support and encouragement of volunteers as well as family members of inmates continues to make an impact on the inmates.

"They (inmates) are beginning to understand there are people who truly care for them, both among the volunteers and in their families. And family members, based on the responses of the inmates, are beginning to open up. Also, we've had three successful ex-offenders who have been through the program talking to families to encourage them.

"We have some older ones who have stayed with the (Malachi Dads) program and continue to change the culture inside the prison," Riley noted.

The event was not only successful from the viewpoint of HR Ministries, inmates and families, but also from the prison staff.

Riley said Warden Alan Brown commented that he was "encouraged and inspired to watch families come together."

The result of the successful prison work by HR Ministries is resulting in



Nathan Dorrell, known as the Crazy Tie Guy, juggles for the inmates and their children prior to his gospel presentation. Three inmates and 10 children made professions of faith.

calls for help from various correctional facilities.

"They're calling us—Christian County Jail, Kentucky State Penitentiary, one in Tennessee and a halfway house in Louisville," said Riley, stressing the need for more volunteers to help work in those

programs.

Saturday's volunteers included not only people from this area, but folks from Louisiana, Georgia, Ballard County, Elizabethtown and the Louisville area.

Chip Hutcheson is editor of the Times Leader in Princeton.

Leaders, strategy on BCM's horizon

By Dannah Prather

Louisville—The Kentucky Baptist Convention Mission Board was expected to elect a new leader for its campus ministry, and more changes are on the horizon for the more than 20 BCM ministry locations across the commonwealth.

"We view Kentucky Baptist Campus Ministry not as an entity separate from other mission board staff," said Chuck McAlister, leader of the KBC evangelism and church planting team. "BCM is a boots-on-the-ground, gospel-sharing network that we intend to make the most of as we answer the call to share Christ with everyone in Kentucky and the world."

"Any evangelistic strategy that the KBC develops that doesn't capitalize on Baptist Campus Ministry will fall short," he added.

Brian Combs, former campus minister at Northern Kentucky University in Highland Heights, has been serving as KBC's interim collegiate evangelism strategist since December. At the May 6-7 mission board meeting in Louisville, members were to vote on making that appointment permanent.

The board's administrative committee affirmed the recommendation, made by McAlister, at its March meeting.

"Brian has a unique combination of education and experience that makes him perfect for this role," McAlister said. "He has a doctorate in College Student Personnel Services from University of Louisville, as well as a master of divinity with an emphasis in campus ministry from Southern Seminary."

Currently, Combs is facilitating a 19-member task force assembled by KBC Executive Director-Treasurer Paul Chitwood to take a fresh look at Kentucky Baptist Campus Ministry.

In other Kentucky Baptist Campus Ministry news:

- Daniel Berry, campus minister for University of Kentucky, has accepted the pastorate of Calvary Baptist Church in West Lafayette, Ind. Berry served at UK for seven years.

- At its May meeting, held in conjunction with the meeting of the full mission board, the KBC administrative committee will consider the appointment of Nathan Cornett, collegiate minister for Immanuel Baptist Church in Lexington, as interim campus minister for UK.

- Members of the administrative committee will consider making permanent the appointments of Brian Hinton as campus minister for Kentucky State University in Frankfort and Paul Gibson at University of Louisville.

- This summer, 39 college students will serve in four countries and four locations in Kentucky through BCM's 1:8 Leadership Experience. A commissioning service for the 2013 teams will be held May 28 at 1 p.m., EDT, at First Baptist Church of Shelbyville. (KBC)

Kentucky National Guard seeks partners in care

By Ken Walker

Louisville—Located 15 miles west of Fort Knox, Buck Grove Baptist Church already reaches out to military families. However, the Ekron church will soon join a new effort to provide assistance to National Guard soldiers.

Pastor Dave Campbell attended a launch ceremony in Frankfort May 6 for Partners in Care, designed to match Kentucky congregations with National Guard enlistees needing help.

"Right now, it's food, but it can develop into other things," Campbell said of Buck Grove's benevolence efforts. "Offering transportation might be one thing we can do. As we learn what other churches are doing, it may spur us on to say, 'Hey, we can do that.'"

Started in 2005 by a chaplain in the Maryland National Guard, Partners in Care has since spread to 18 states. Kentucky is one of 15 more slated to affiliate with the program during 2013.

Through this grassroots program, churches, synagogues and other groups sign an agreement to provide services to Guard employees regardless of their religious beliefs. Placed in a database, they will be matched with requests for assistance from Guard members, based in all but one Kentucky county.

This can include such outreach as food and clothing, emergency financial assistance, auto repairs or child care. Each group decides what services it will offer.

Two other Kentucky Baptist congregations were expected to be represented as new partners at the launch, and about 10 others have expressed interest, according to Chaplain Maj. Jerry Shacklett.

The help is greatly needed, he said, noting that the 8,000 Kentucky Guard personnel face such problems as unem-



Kentucky National Guard, which is seeking Kentucky Baptist churches as Partners in Care to assist soldiers and their families in transitions. (Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Michael Oliver, Kentucky National Guard Public Affairs Office)

ployment, marital discord and post traumatic stress disorder.

Some units have been deployed overseas three times in the past decade, said Shacklett, who pastored two Kentucky Baptist churches before becoming a full-time Guard chaplain.

With the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan winding down, some may think that Guard members are facing less stress but that isn't necessarily true, Shacklett said.

Even though this is an inter-denominational initiative, Eric Allen of the Kentucky Baptist Convention said it offers KBC churches a chance to act as Christ's hands and feet.

"If chaplains are willing to refer enlisted men and women to the local church for assistance, we must be ready to seize this ministry opportunity," said Allen, leader of the KBC's mission mobilization team. "It may only come once."

Chaplain Col. William Lee, the

Campbellsville

Continued from page 1

and blogs of current and former students. The accusations swirled around the university's recent decision not to renew the contract of a popular New Testament and Greek professor, who has been described as being conservative in theology.

Chitwood said that the accusations about other professors were "difficult for many Kentucky Baptists to swallow."

Campbellsville officials, however, have strongly disagreed with the accusations, stating that they were "perplexed by the unfounded charges" thrown at the university's faculty.

"Campbellsville University has not changed and has not wavered in our strong and historic commitment to the Kentucky Baptist family," school officials maintained.

The three-hour meeting, which also involved eight other Kentucky Baptists, was described as "candid and transparent."

In a joint statement with the Campbellsville representatives following the meeting, KBC leaders said they had received assurance that those who believe the literal truthfulness of every word of the Bible are welcomed as students and as faculty members.

"While, as a liberal arts university, a diverse faculty and curriculum are

typical in higher education, CU affirms its desire to prioritize the integration of faith and learning," the statement read, in part.

Campbellsville officials reaffirmed the school's commitment to remain a Kentucky Baptist institution and to operate in accordance with a covenant agreement with the state convention.

"We look forward to further dialogue with CU leaders that will strengthen our partnership," the statement added.

"I'm grateful for the outcome of today's meeting," Chitwood said. "I believe the cause of Christian higher education that drew the support of Kentucky Baptists in the beginning is still a worthwhile cause for Kentucky Baptists," he said.

KBC President Dan Summerlin, one of the KBC representatives, said that he believed the open dialogue "helped everyone to understand the importance of our partnership."

"As a local pastor, and since we have students attending and planning to attend Campbellsville, I see the importance of higher Christian education in our state—through not only Campbellsville University, but also the University of Cumberland," said Summerlin, pastor of Lone Oak First Baptist Church in Paducah.

In a joint statement for the Western Recorder, Carter and CU Trustee Chairman Joseph Owens said, "We remain committed to our partnership with the

Maryland minister who designed Partners in Care, expressed excitement over its growth. The four churches that originally signed up have expanded to 92 in all 23 Maryland counties. Last year, they helped 138 families; emergency food assistance was the number-one need.

"We weren't sure what the Lord was going to do with this idea," Lee said. "It's given churches the opportunity to live out their faith in a very practical way and touch folks who live in their community."

It is spreading beyond the National Guard, said Wayne Stinchcomb, a weekend Guard chaplain who attends a Southern Baptist church in suburban Baltimore.

In addition to his chaplain duties, Stinchcomb is president of Praise N Thunder, a nine-year-old evangelistic group of Christian motorcycle riders.

Praise N Thunder joined Partners in Care in 2010 and last year aided nearly 20 Guard families. That included distributing \$400 in gift cards and half a dozen food baskets during the Christmas season.

"What a great way to minister outside your four walls," said Stinchcomb. "As Southern Baptists, our desire is to preach the gospel verbally, but this is preaching the gospel with action."

Even though the program is open to all faiths (or no faith), and help is extended to everyone, churches aren't prohibited from sharing about Jesus Christ, Shacklett said.

"A church still has the right to ask, 'Would you be interested in us telling you about Christ?'" Shacklett said. "Our hope is people (receiving help) will get connected to a church."

Churches interested in learning more or signing up can contact Shacklett at (502) 607-1232 or (502) 607-1563, or email him at jerry.l.shacklett2.mil@mail.mil. (KBC)



Last Monday, Joseph Owens, chairman of trustees, and Michael Carter, president of Campbellsville University, met with Paul Chitwood, executive director of Kentucky Baptist Convention, and KBC President Dan Summerlin as part of an open dialogue between university and KBC representatives. A total of 18 representatives participated in the meeting.

Kentucky Baptist Convention and the churches as we have exemplified for nearly 100 years."

"We thank the committee of KBC leaders for visiting with us and look forward to moving ahead in our ministry together," they added.

The desired outcome for the meeting, Chitwood said, is for Campbellsville and Kentucky Baptist churches to be able to "walk closely together in our efforts to make disciples and disciple-makers of the rising generations of students." And, he anticipates ongoing conversations that "prayerfully, will yield good results for both CU and the churches of the KBC." (WR)

CPR & Great Commission

Churches of the Kentucky Baptist Convention have a long history of making a sacrificial commitment to the Great Commission. They support in-state colleges and universities and Southern

Together We are the KBC



Paul Chitwood

Baptist seminaries training the next generation of Great Commission Baptists. And they support the Southern Baptist mission boards commissioning them. They believe Great Commission work begins in Kentucky and extends to all the earth. And they seek to obey the Acts 1:8 mandate that keeps them

focused on their Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria, and the ends of the earth.

That is why Kentucky Baptists have embraced the Great Commission Resurgence. And that is why Kentucky Baptists have chosen to invest their missionary dollars in ways that evidence their Great Commission commitment.

Over the next two fiscal years, the KBC mission board will vote on transitioning a higher percentage of Cooperative Program receipts to SBC causes, the majority of which will find their way to the international mission field. Due to budgeting shortfalls, the mission force serving through the International Mission Board has been reduced by more than 700 missionaries in the past few years. We want to do everything we can to reverse that trend.

Once the transition is complete, Kentucky Baptists will send 46.5 percent of every CP dollar outside of the state. Another 46.5 percent will be spent on in-state mission work.

What about the other 7 percent? That money will be used on behalf of the SBC and the KBC to promote CP. We refer to those funds as Cooperative Program Resourcing funds. Or, as I like to put it, "CPR: Giving Life to the Great Commission."

Without CP, much of the kingdom work of Southern Baptists will die.

Since these funds are being spent on behalf of the SBC and the KBC, we state that we are embracing a 50/50 split of CP funds, with 7 percent of those funds designated for CPR.

Historically, the role of the state convention in CP promotion has always been valued. The Great Commission Resurgence proposals, adopted by the SBC in 2010, called upon state conventions to accept a renewed responsibility for that role.

How does the 50/50 split impact our work in Kentucky? A reorganization of the KBC Mission Board resulting in a current staff headcount 37 percent smaller than just a decade ago (net loss of 41 positions) has helped position the KBC to move more funds to the foreign field. A newly proposed \$700,000 reduction of the CP allocation to our in-state agencies and institutions will help further.

These sacrifices help balance our Great Commission work. We are investing half of CP funds in the mission field of Kentucky and half beyond Kentucky. And we are undergirding CP.

Thank you, Kentucky Baptists, for Great Commission faithfulness!

Paul Chitwood is executive director of the Kentucky Baptist Convention.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Editor's note:

The column space normally used by Editor Todd Deaton will be used this week for letters to the editor. Due to a large volume of correspondence received from students, alumni and supporters of Campbellsville University, excerpts from some of these letters are presented here.

Changed life

I had an amazing experience at Campbellsville University. It changed my life, and I am so thankful for the professors and Baptist Student Union staff who love Jesus and loved me while I was there and still to this day.

God used the staff and students at CU to challenge my faith and grow me in Christ. All of my professors love the Lord and all of my theology professors' beliefs were equal to the KBC's statement of faith. They all taught inerrancy of scripture and high biblical authority.

I can't imagine what my life would be like without my four years at Campbellsville. I am where I am today because of their teaching and challenging my walk with Christ.

Allison Allen, minister to children
Beechland Church, Louisville

Proud alumnus

Campbellsville gave to me the opportunity to become a part of a top notch, Christ-centered environment. The faculty loved God and selflessly modeled the servant leadership that I read about in the Bible.

Besides the friendly and caring professors, Campbellsville had students and leaders ready to embrace international and home students in a variety of campus activities and missions.

As I look back, I am thankful for my CU experience. Because of peers, professors and an in-depth search for what I believed as a member of a Southern Baptist church, I left with stronger faith.

I am proud to be an alumnus.

Chris Barton, student minister
Alton Church, Lawrenceburg

Changing hearts & minds

I played sports and was a psychology major. My professors were not all pastors or doctors of theology, but I learned more than just their expertise as a student. I learned that as faculty and staff of Campbellsville, they were not just doing a job, but they were investing their passion for a Savior, whom they knew well, in their students.

The administration of this institution have done no job better than to uplift the Name above all names. Their mission is to help their students find their calling, and in their eyes this can never be fully acquired until they have a personal relationship with their Creator

and Savior.

Campbellsville University is such a special place because no other institution I have seen can change your heart and mind more and make a kingdom impact for eternity.

Jill Carter Pendergraft
Owensboro

'Accusations hold no truth'

Holding a degree in pastoral ministry, I knew the professors in the school of theology in a very close way during my time there. They are some of the most genuine, godly men I have had the pleasure of knowing. The same can be said for Dr. Carter and the men who serve closely with him.

The accusations leveled by one disgruntled student hold no truth to the CU and its faculty that my family, friends or I have come to know. I would challenge anyone to step onto the campus of CU to see for themselves the great people and godly spirit that are apparent.

Justin Carter
Sturgis

Choose CU again

My experience at Campbellsville University, in every aspect, was nothing short of a blessing in my life. God placed me at Campbellsville and did a work in my life at that campus. The professors I had during my time there aided in my growth in Christ. On many occasions, I had professors pray individually with me and for me for things happening in my life. If I had college to do all over again, I would without a doubt choose Campbellsville again.

Joy Carter
Owensboro

Teaching & discipling

I attended another Baptist college for two years, hoping to receive a solid education founded in biblical truth. I was not, so I transferred to Campbellsville. My experience at CU not only met that expectation, but also surpassed it.

In addition to a biblically founded education, I was mentored and cared for by many faculty and staff. I found that CU focused not only on academic growth, but also spiritual growth. I treasure my years at CU, because God used so many people to grow me into the woman God designed me to be. CU is committed to teaching and discipling those in their care in accordance with Scripture.

Jennie Paiva
Campbellsville

Found calling at CU

I am so thankful that the Lord led me to study at Campbellsville. It was there that the Lord used the faculty and staff to prepare me for a career in ministry.

I learned many things. What I value most can be summed up like this: First, be evangelical, in all things. Second, be

rooted in scripture. Third, even if serving in a para-church ministry, stay connected to the local church. Fourth, be a servant. I learned how to lead from the bottom up. Fifth, have the attitude of a spiritual entrepreneur—not leading with a spirit of fear, but boldly and confidently following where the Lord leads. Sixth, build lifelong partners in ministry and stay in fellowship with them.

I continue to use the core values instilled in me by my mentors and professors on a daily basis as I serve as the executive director of Ky. Heartland Outreach, which exists to share the love of Jesus to the less fortunate by meeting physical needs through home repairs.

Todd Parish
Campbellsville

Challenged by CU

At Campbellsville, I had several different Christian studies professors. I was challenged by all my professors to get into the word (infallible and inerrant) daily, and it was used on a regular basis in classes.

I know President Carter personally and feel confident in saying that his desire is to see students taught the word of God and challenged to grow spiritually in a manner aligned with the SBC and KBC—but even more importantly, to grow in a Christ-like manner.

Frank Wright
Panama City, Fla.

'World changers'

Looking around our state at recent Campbellsville graduates serving in Kentucky Baptist churches, I see great champions who are actually making a difference.

During my experience at CU, I never heard the Bible demeaned and a high view of scripture was always presented. In addition, Campbellsville sends mission teams all over the world exposing college students to foreign and domestic missions. I know several former classmates who encountered missions for the first time at CU who are now on the mission field and planting churches.

As a church planter, whose church received "Kentucky Baptist High Impact Funding," I believe I was equipped for this task at hand by Campbellsville.

Many of the practical ministry skills that I learned at CU have been applied to our current church planting ministry. CU taught me much about

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Forum Disclaimer:

Baptist Forum is provided as an opportunity for Kentucky Baptists to express their viewpoints. Opinions expressed do not necessarily reflect those of the Western Recorder's editorial staff, its Board of Directors, or the Kentucky Baptist Convention. Letters should be no more than 300 words in length and will be edited for style, clarity and space. Letters must reflect a spirit of Christian charity and civility.

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Mother's Day: The greatest legacies

By Kathy Chapman Sharp

People say my daughter looks like me. She does, but it is not the only similarity we share.

We both love to decorate. I am in my French Country stage of life, having gone through Country and Colonial. Rebekah, not so much.

We also both love to cook and entertain. Even when she was too short to reach the counter, she'd pull up a chair and help me stir the batter for cookies and scones as we prepared for open houses and afternoon teas. She learned to carefully measure ingredients for cakes and watched the time as we baked cookies for a school function or the new neighbors next door.

When Rebekah was 6 years old, we moved to São Paulo, Brazil. We settled into our new life quickly. Every morning Terry and I would go to language school where we were learned Portuguese, and Rebekah would head off to school where she soaked up the language like a sponge.

One day she burst into the kitchen. "I need cardboard boxes," she said. When I asked why, she told me about the little boy at the front gate. "He's looking for cardboard and paper because the storm blew his house down."

We found some old moving boxes in the storage room and broke several down. "I can do it," she insisted when I offered to help carry the cardboard to the front gate. But before she reached her destination, she set her bundles down and ran back into the kitchen. "Do we have any food we can give them?" she asked in a low voice with a troubled look in her eyes. "I bet they're hungry since they don't have a house."

She took three little loaves of fresh bread and put them into the bag of black beans from the pantry. By the time she added a banana, two apples and an orange, the bag was bulging. She made her way outside and

lifted it through the bars to the eager hands that waited patiently on the other side. First the bag of food, and then, one by one, the flat boxes, destined to become the new walls of a shanty.

They talked for a few minutes before the boy tucked the bag into the crook of one arm and dragged the cardboard down the street, back to the slum he called home.

The very next day, we bought large bags of rice and beans and measured them into brown paper sacks that Rebekah had decorated with drawn hearts and flowers, carefully writing "Arroz" across the bottom of half the bags with rice and "Feijão" on the rest. We lined them up on the pantry shelf so that whenever hungry children came to the gate, Rebekah would have something to give them.

And that's what she did. She watched for them, hurrying out to the gate to greet them before running back in to grab the bags of food. The only difference she saw between them and herself was the hunger in their eyes.

Rebekah is a married woman now, but I still see the generous heart of the little girl who drew pictures on brown paper bags and carried her gifts of food to the gate. I hope others see the fingerprints I have left on this child. But more importantly, I hope others see the fingerprints she has left on me.

Sometimes legacy is handed down, but other times a legacy is handed up. People may say my daughter looks like me, but I hope I look more like her.

As a mother I've learned that the greatest legacies are not family heirlooms or recipes handed down from generation to generation. The greatest legacies come when we allow the Holy Spirit to guide our motives of love and compassion. Life's too short to leave legacies for tomorrow—we must live them today and build trails on which our children will follow. (BP)

Kathy Chapman Sharp is a conference leader and author of "Life's Too Short to Miss the Big Picture for Women", from which this article is excerpted.

Consider pre-retirement issues

By Don Spencer

Over the years, most of us have been conditioned to view life in four basic stages. First is childhood.

Second are the years devoted to education and training. Third is one's career or work years. Finally we reach the retirement phase.

In recent years a new stage has been suggested: "pre-retirement." It comes between the career and retirement phases. This generally

includes people in their late 50s and into their 60s. From a financial perspective they have been defined as those who have reached a level of some financial independence, often because they have finished the child rearing years. But they are emotionally a long way from being ready to retire.

Financial planner and author Peter Lindquist has described pre-retirement as applying to those folks between the "rat-race and the rocking chair."

Financial consultant Keith Weber suggests what is important to these people is the ability to create lives of meaning, balance and purpose without being tied so heavily to a job that consumes all their energy and leaves little room for anything else in their lives. Many of those in the "pre-retirement" phase have become disillusioned in the pursuit of a retirement goal that seems to be less and less possible to achieve.

All of these changes have financial implications. While the issues to be addressed often focus on goals and purpose in life, they must also include issues of budgeting, investing decisions and retirement income options.

Perhaps you identify with this phase in your life as it relates to goals and purpose. If so, it is important to consider how your commitment as a Christian affects these issues? Finally, as you contemplate these issues, be sure to address the financial aspects that go with this. How does it affect your financial planning now and for the future. Remember that "life is a journey" and any decisions you make at your current stage in life also have implications for the future.

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

Letters to editor

Continued from page 1

Baptist life, the cooperative program, and the convention itself.

I support Campbellsville and I believe they are making "world changers" that are being sent out all across Kentucky and the world.

Kenny Rager, pastor

Life Community Church, Owensboro

Ignited a flame

I cannot say enough about how God used my experience at Campbellsville to transform my walk with Christ and ignite a flame in my heart to impact my community and world with the gospel.

At Campbellsville, I found amazing, genuine, dynamic, caring, outward-focused, Christian professors and administration who were committed to seeing students come to a saving knowledge of Jesus Christ and sending them out as missionaries to whatever vocation God had for them. I was taught that God's word is inerrant and infallible, as well as other sound, conservative doctrine.

I am so thankful for the ministry of Campbellsville University and the way that God has used them and will continue to use them as a catalyst to see the gospel advanced.

Shea Allen
Louisville

'God at work'

God has spoken to and changed the lives of many of our students through this university. For anyone to say that this university doesn't fully submit to the word is just unbelievable. God is at work in this

university and the world knows it.

CU was used by the Spirit to change my life, to show me my calling, and for the first time ever, to accept my salvation in Him. I praise God every day for CU and as a pastor, I fully support and encourage students to pray about where God would have them go to college. One after another, the Spirit leads them to CU. This shows me the Spirit of God supports this fine institution, and the KBC should as well.

Michael Coogle, minister to students
Immanuel Church, Elizabethtown

Solidify partnership

The professors, administrators, and staff at Campbellsville fostered an environment in which I matured greatly as a disciple of Christ. The relationship I maintain with the university continues to edify me as a Christian. I have the utmost respect for the administration and professors who I know at the university and am grateful for their Christian influence on my life.

As an associate pastor and member at a Kentucky Baptist church, I appreciate the Kentucky Baptist Convention and its leadership and assistance to the local church.

Therefore, I urge the Kentucky Baptist Convention and Campbellsville University to maintain and strengthen their relationship with each other for the unity of the Baptist faith and the furtherance of the gospel. The partnership between CU and the KBC is beneficial to Southern Baptist life in Kentucky and throughout the world.

James Griffith
Nancy

Supports faculty

The faculty of CU's theology department care deeply for their students' spiritual development. Dr. Hurtgen, dean of the department of theology, brings his guitar to class to lead worship. Dr. Howell has a passion for training ministers and teaches his students how to tend to their "sermon gardens." Dr. Wigginton gives challenging sermons to prepare students for Christian marriages. Dr. Taylor has an enthusiasm for Jesus that is contagious.

They are amazing men of faith and I am honored to have been taught by them. I trust their judgment entirely to compose a faculty with biblical worldviews who are the best possible teachers.

I attend Harvard Law School, a testament to the level of education I received at Campbellsville. A Baptist school at the educational caliber of Campbellsville University should be praised, not condemned.

Sarah Ellen Adkins
Arlington, Mass.

Timely words

Thank you for a very timely editorial, "Social Media and the Campbellsville Flap." This is a very helpful and accurate description of what happened in our state regarding CU and Dr. Williams. I will be referring my people to your words for the best explanation I've seen anywhere. I especially appreciate how you reference James' words, helping us all realize that the Bible's admonitions about speech are even to be heeded in the age of Twitter and blogs.

Mike O'Neal, pastor
Hurstbourne Church, Louisville

Are you a 'hot' mom?

By David Garrard

Made you look! The Pure in Heart Conference is an exciting one-day event for girls ages 7-12 and their



moms, grandmothers and mentors. The conference teaches young girls practical, biblical wisdom that lays the foundation for making future choices about purity. It also shares a message of hope and forgiveness for anyone struggling with past failures.

Last year, our church sent several moms and their daughters to a Pure In Heart event. After the conference, our group leader gave me a summary of the experience. As I looked over her notes, one item leaped out at me: the importance of being a "HOT" mom. When I asked, Sherry explained that HOT stood for honest, open and transparent.

As we head towards Mother's Day, I would like to challenge mom's to incorporate these three characteristics into their relationship with their children.

I do not think this means that you tell your children everything about everything. Being honest, open and transparent means being sincere, authentic and real. I think the idea here is that you do not have to pretend to be a perfect parent, person or Christian. You do have to let your children see that you are doing your very best to follow Jesus and live a life that is pleasing and useful to Him. You also have to talk to your children about your quest as you have opportunity.

Live your life in open goodness so that others can see your commitment to Christ and be pointed to God through your example—especially your children.

David Garrard is minister to children at St. Matthews Baptist Church in Louisville.

2013 Pastors' Conference seeks to 'Launch' a movement

By Kelly Ledbetter

Houston—By strengthening the pastor and his family, Southern Baptist Pastors' Conference President Gregg Matte wants to create a movement that could become the spark God uses to bring revival. Thus the theme of this year's gathering: "Launch: Taking Our Hearts, Homes, and Ministries to a Higher Place."

The June 9-10 Pastors' Conference will feature preaching, worship, prayer and panel discussions to undergird the ministry of pastors and their wives. The sessions, at Houston's George R. Brown Convention Center, will be held prior to the Southern Baptist Convention's June 11-12 annual meeting there.

"Our vision for PC13 is to inspire the heart and offer practical application to the hands of the pastor and his wife," Matte, pastor of Houston's First Baptist Church, has said, toward seeking to create a movement rather than another conference.

"The Pastors' Conference is not just a connection with an event, but a connection with a pathway" to a relationship with the convention, Matte said. "That's something we can bring to the table that others can't. You can go to another conference and it starts, it finishes and

it's over."

In contrast, by interacting with other pastors of all ages at the Pastors' Conference, Matte said, "You connect and now you're connected with the resources that relationship can provide for you.

"The denomination was created to be a blessing to the local church," he added in describing the camaraderie among believers who take a strong stance on the word of God and want to make a difference in the world.

"That's a huge deal. That's what's important to young guys, too," Matte said, voicing a belief that all generations should participate in the annual meeting, pre-convention sessions such as the Pastor's Conference and the Crossover evangelistic effort. For speakers and schedule, visit sbpc.net.

Wives invited, childcare provided

Wives are encouraged to join the afternoon session on family issues following the women's concurrent session on Monday morning.

Childcare for children ages 6-12 will be offered. Register at www.childrensconferences.com. Southern Baptist Disaster Relief volunteers will offer childcare for newborns through age 5. (BP)



Gregg Matte



WMU celebrates 125 years of missions

By Julie Walters

Houston—A yearlong celebration of the 125th anniversary of WMU kicks off this year at the WMU Missions Celebration and Annual Meeting, June 9-10 in Houston.

"When WMU organized in 1888, praying and giving to missions was at the forefront of the women's minds," Wanda Lee, executive director/treasurer of national WMU, said. "What began with gathering eggs and baking bread to sell for missions soon turned into a missionary movement unlike anything their churches had ever experienced.

"WMU was born and continues today with that same passion for praying and giving on behalf of our missionaries," Lee said.

Over the course of 125 years, WMU has grown from a group of women passionate about missions to a thriving international missions organization—WMU—that encourages both genders and all ages to share the love of Christ and seek to make Him known.

"The Story Lives On" is the theme of this year's celebration. "The story of WMU is a story of God at work in the lives of His people as they followed His call," Lee said. "It is a story worth telling over and over as we celebrate, so that others may join us in our missions calling."

In Houston, participants will have the

opportunity to glimpse into 125 years of missions history through theme interpretations and interactive exhibits; gain insight into how God is at work around the world and how each person can be a part; visit with and hear from international and North American field personnel; hear from Debby Akerman, national WMU president, and on Monday afternoon; participate in breakout sessions.

Featured field personnel from the International Mission Board will include Jackie Bursmeyer, the Americas; Gregg and Donna Fort, Zimbabwe; Richard and Fran Kelly, West Africa; and Randy and Debbie M., South Asia.

Featured missionaries with the North American Mission Board will be Chet Cantrell, Baptist Center director of the Christian Activity Center in East St. Louis, Ill.; Patrick and Archalena Coats, who serve in Homestead, Fla., with the Miami Baptist Association; and Scott and Ashley Venable, who serve in inner-city Chicago with the Illinois Baptist State Association.

A variety of breakout sessions on June 10 will be geared toward church missions leaders, including those who lead or are interested in knowing more about WMU's various organizations—Mission Friends, GA, RA, Children in Action, Acteens, Challengers, Youth on Mission, and myMISSION.

All meetings of the WMU Missions Celebration will be on level four of the Hilton Americas Hotel, 1600 Lamar St. in Houston. Visit www.wmu.com for more information, including a complete schedule.

The yearlong celebration of 125 years of missions through WMU will culminate at the 2014 WMU Missions Celebration in Baltimore, June 8-9. (BP)

7 Kentuckians tapped for boards, Exec. Committee

Nashville—Seven Kentucky Baptists are among the proposed nominees to serve with various Southern Baptist Convention committees, agencies and institutions.

Nominees were selected by the 2013 SBC Committee on Nominations.

Election by the messengers will be held at the annual meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention, June 11-12 in Houston, Texas.

Kentucky nominees

- Executive Committee: **Arnaldo (Tino) Soto-Cuevas**, layperson and member of Immanuel Baptist Church, Corbin.
- Guidestone Financial Resources: **Wesley Noss**, Versailles (second term).
- International Mission Board: **Charlie Davis**, Louisville (second term).
- Lifeway Christian Resources: **Timothy Turner**, Lexington (second term).
- New Orleans Seminary: **Ralph Prince**, member of Lone Oak First Baptist Church, Paducah (exp. 2016).
- Southeastern Seminary: **Todd Linn**, Henderson (second term).
- Midwestern Seminary: **Larry Lewis**, Paducah (second term). (BP)

'Revive Us'

Continued from page 1

is by being the disciples that God has called us to be.

"And if we ever get in one accord, I believe something can happen like happened in Acts chapter 2," Luter said. "When the New Testament church was in one accord, God did great things through the church. And that's my prayer for this convention."

The SBC would be more Christlike in fulfilling its mission if the convention were to experience greater unity, Luter said.

"I would just love for us to come together as a convention one year and say, 'You know what, we're going to put aside our petty differences and just put aside all these things that's going to separate us, and let's come together in one accord,'" Luter said. "The only way we can do that, we've got to love each other with the love of God and we've got to make the main thing the main thing and that's evangelism and discipleship. When we can do that, then I think we're on our way to being the convention that God desires for us to be."

Luter expressed excitement about the meeting in Houston, which is dear to his heart because Franklin Avenue Baptist Church, planted a congregation there to serve its displaced New Orleans members after Hurricane Katrina.

Reports showing the level of success of the 1 percent Cooperative Program challenge, aimed at increasing CP funding by \$100 million within a year and extending the work of the North



REVIVE US
THAT WE MAY BE ONE JOHN 13:34-35

American Mission Board and the International Mission Board also will highlight the annual meeting, Luter said.

"I want to see how those have impacted NAMB in planting churches and strengthening other churches, how it's impacted IMB through the missions board with Dr. Elliff as far as impacting the lives of missionaries," Luter said. "So I'm excited to hear those reports, as well as the reports that will be coming from the six seminaries."

A greater turnout and more ethnic diversity among messengers also are among Luter's hopes for the meeting, and he looks forward to worship being led by Billingsley, this year's convention music director and worship pastor at Thomas Road Baptist Church in Lynchburg, Va. (BP)

1 Million Men—New Hope Publishers, a division of Woman's Missionary Union, and the Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission are partnering with pastor Jay Dennis of First Baptist Church at the Mall in Lakeland, Fla., to launch the "Join 1 Million Men in the War Against Pornography" campaign and its related resources at this year's annual meeting.

Smartphone app—Messengers can stay up to date with an SBC annual meeting smartphone app, which will include more than a dozen features, including maps, alerts, the Book of Reports and the Daily Bulletin. The free app is available by typing in "SBC Annual Meeting 2013" in the smartphone's app store.

Registration—Register online at www.sbcannual-meeting.net, under the Messengers tab. After online registration, each messenger will receive an eight-digit registration code to present at the annual meeting's Express registration lane. There, the registration code can be entered into a computer and a nametag will be printed. The traditional registration method also is available. (BP)

'Crossover,' 'Loving Houston' offer intentional evangelism

By Stephanie Heading

Houston—When Southern Baptists at every level cooperate to reach people for Christ, it's always effective, said Darrell Robinson, a former pastor and longtime evangelist from Texas.

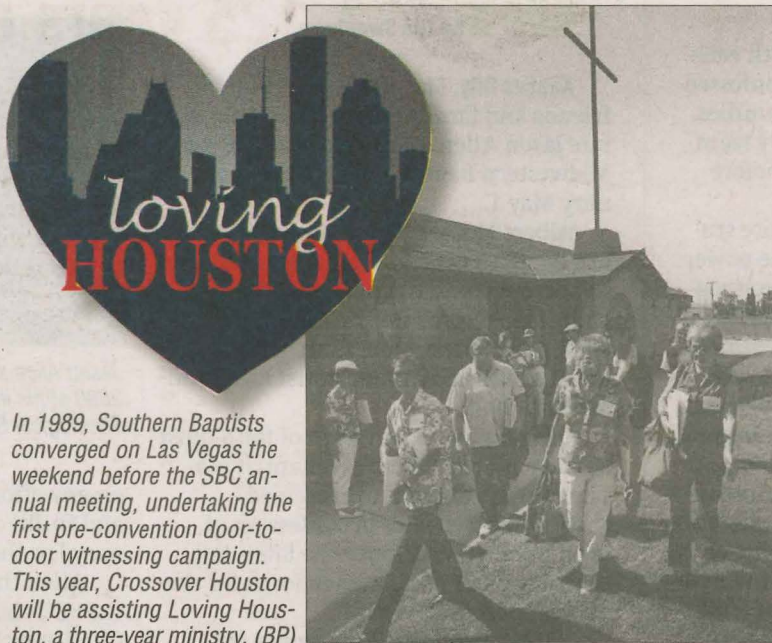
Continuing the tradition of reaching out to the host city of the Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting, the pre-convention "Crossover Houston" effort is offering opportunities for intentionally sharing the gospel through block parties and door-to-door evangelism.

"The Southern Baptists of Texas Convention is working with the North American Mission Board to provide a more traditional Crossover experience," said Nathan Lorick, the SBTC's evangelism director. "This includes working with seminary students Monday through Friday, June 3-7, on going door-to-door with the gospel. On Saturday (June 8), churches will be hosting block parties across Houston."

Also, NAMB is working with Union Baptist Association in Houston to help kick off "Loving Houston," a three-year program featuring projects such as home renovation, clean-up, demolition, outreach and prayerwalking.

Started in 1989

Crossover has been a staple of SBC evangelism efforts in host cities since its



In 1989, Southern Baptists converged on Las Vegas the weekend before the SBC annual meeting, undertaking the first pre-convention door-to-door witnessing campaign. This year, Crossover Houston will be assisting Loving Houston, a three-year ministry. (BP)

inauguration at the 1989 Las Vegas convention. An evangelistic thrust had been on Robinson's heart when he was pastor at Dauphin Way Baptist Church in Mobile, Ala., and a member of the SBC Executive Committee.

"... (F)or many years I had the conviction that when we do the SBC in a major city, we should also plan to try to do a major evangelistic effort in the city," Robinson said.

The Las Vegas event, originally called "Saturation Evangelism Project," had a great impact, Robinson said. "It got the attention of all of Las Vegas. The people were responsive. It was a huge success. My recall is that around 1,800 professed

faith in Christ. Churches were impacted. Ultimately, new churches were started."

The success of the Las Vegas outreach led the SBC to decide to sponsor evangelism events every year during the SBC annual meeting in the host city.

"Morris Chapman at the Executive Committee suggested the name Crossover," Robinson said, noting that the name alludes to SBC messengers crossing over a city to proclaim the hope found in Christ.

Crossover Houston

First Baptist Church in Pearland is one of the churches planning a block party as part of Crossover Houston.

"We have concluded that one large block party could effectively reach several thousand over a three-hour time," pastor Sonny Foraker said.

The block party is set to include bounce houses, rock climbing, water slides for older kids, interactive games, a petting zoo and pony rides, as well as hot dogs, popcorn, cotton candy and snow cones. In addition, the church band will perform from a bandstand.

"The Crossover event will allow many people to participate in a fun day when many residents' normal busy schedules would not otherwise allow them to hear or see that the gospel can impact their lives," Foraker said.

Directors of Missions' focus: 'Missional Living'

By John Evans

Houston—"Missional Living" will be the theme of the Southern Baptist Conference of Associational Directors of Missions annual meeting, June 8-10 at Houston's Second Baptist Church.

"So much of life is lived like parallel lines that never cross," said Johnny Rumbough, SBCADOM president and director of missions for the Lexington Baptist Association in South Carolina. "Life-on-life missional living is about lines that cross. Common daily occurrences of life can become extraordinary God-size missional opportunities."

Kevin Ezell, president of the North American Mission Board, will speak on "Reaching North America." Tom Elliff, president of the International Mission Board, will address "To the Ends of the Earth."

DOMs at the Houston meeting will vote on an SBCADOM restructuring, which would involve tripling the number of associational and denominational leaders in the organization.

For more information about speakers, or to register, go to sbcadom.org. (BP)

Lorick said intentional witnessing at all the Crossover Houston events would benefit the sponsoring churches, those hearing the gospel and those sharing it.

"We pray that God blesses these efforts and many people will come to faith in Jesus on June 8 through Crossover Houston," Lorick said.

To see a complete list of churches hosting block parties, visit www.namb.net/crossover or www.sbtexas.com/crossover or email crossover@sbtexas.com. (BP)

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NAMB to spotlight Send North America

By Tobin Perry

Houston—The North American Mission Board will highlight a variety of ways Southern Baptists can help penetrate lostness in North America at the annual meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention in Houston.

NAMB hopes several thousand church leaders will attend its third annual Send North America luncheon as part of this year's SBC Pastors' Conference. The noon luncheon, titled "Building Vision and Celebrating Missions in North America," will be Monday, June 10, in Hall B3.

The free luncheon will help pastors and other church leaders discover how Send North America can help their evangelistic efforts. After the luncheon, attendees can connect with NAMB mobilizers from Send North America cities and regions where they may have an interest in involving their church.

"The 2013 Send North America Luncheon at the SBC Pastors' Conference in Houston will once again prove to be a vital part of NAMB's strategy to mobilize people and churches toward the goal of penetrating lostness in North America," said Aaron Coe, NAMB's vice president for mobilization. "This luncheon is for anyone who is interested in how NAMB can help them in their Great Commission work in the U.S and Canada. Each luncheon attendee is sure to leave inspired and informed."



Kevin Ezell, president of NAMB, makes his presentation at SBC's annual meeting in 2012. (BP)

To register for the luncheon, visit sna.luncheon.com. Free tickets will be required for entry and the box lunch.

Kevin Ezell, NAMB's president, is slated to share NAMB's official report on the convention floor Tuesday, June 11, at 11:05 a.m. The report will highlight NAMB's partnership with Southern Baptists to penetrate lostness through Send North America, update the convention on SBDR recovery efforts after Hurricane Sandy and share about the development of a "farm system" to train the next generation of SBC missionaries. (BP)

Revival comes to Oneida

Students, staff and faculty experience 'power of God'

Editor's note: Jonathan Barnes, faculty member and FCA sponsor at Oneida Baptist Institute, will be filling in for Paul Davidson this week.

The newly re-established Oneida Baptist Institute huddle of Fellowship of Christian Athletes recently hosted a four-day rally/revival. The main speaker was Greg Locke, an experienced youth evangelist and revivalist from Nashville, Tenn. The band was named "Uncaged Lion."

The first night of revival was the beginning of breakthroughs for some students. The message Sunday night was about Zacchaeus and his desire to see Jesus. At the close of that service, many students went forward to pray and respond to what God was doing in their lives.

Monday night the message was about Jonah and the need for all of us to throw the "Jonahs" (sins, idols and influences) in our lives overboard. At the altar, one student placed dog tags that represented the things in life that he had placed before God. Other students wrote down the sins and hindrances in their lives that they were laying down so God could take their burdens and they could take His easy yoke.

The evangelist stated that real revival would be when the students were ministering to each other in the dorms and that the community around Oneida would catch the fire of God as well.

On Tuesday night both students and adults were challenged to purge the sin in their lives and to give testimony to what God was doing. Students went to

the front and made amends with each other. There were many who confessed sins and struggles with their families. Some of Oneida's adult ministry team also confessed their struggles before the Lord and repented.

On the final night, even more students testified about the power of God in their lives, the struggles of life, and more family difficulties. It seemed that almost every student's struggle was somehow rooted in problems in families: abuse, divorce, neglect, abandonment and the like.

Finally, one team member went forward and apologized on behalf of all of the parents of the students. The team member shared how she had had a father who was not there for her as she grew up and how hurtful it was, until Jesus revealed to her that she was her Heavenly Father's precious little girl. She said that she realized her father was a man broken by sin. She told the students that their parents are broken by sin and we have to forgive our earthly parents and embrace the Father who heals all hurts.

There were more student testimonies and the service went into the night. Near the end, a student came to me and asked if we could just keep on having revival for more nights to come.

My prayer is that the revival will continue in the hearts of all who were there, and as the speaker said, that it will be carried out into the dorms and the community.

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

This is Oneida



Paul Davidson

Allen inaugurated as MBTS president

By Tim Sweetman

Kansas City, Mo.—Trustees, guests, friends and family gathered to inaugurate Jason Allen as the fifth president of Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary May 1.

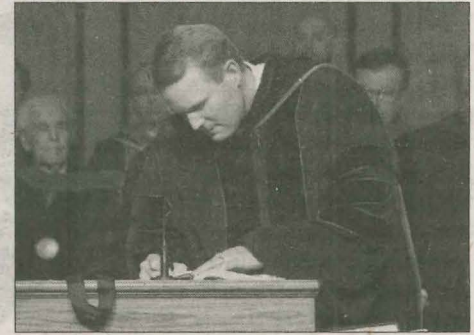
Albert Mohler Jr., president of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, delivered the inaugural sermon, charging Allen to steward the sacred trust and confession of faith, particularly as outlined in the Baptist Faith and Message 2000.

"Among us, a confession of faith must be seen as a gift and a covenant. It is a sacred trust that guards revealed truths," Mohler said. "A confession of faith never stands above the Bible, but the Bible itself mandates concern for the pattern of sound words."

Allen's presidential response outlined his vision for the future of Midwestern Seminary.

"To our watching denomination I say, this day a man has been installed that loves the churches of this convention," Allen said. "He resolves to serve, in both letter and in spirit, in good faith with the churches of this convention and welcomes the oversight and accountability the churches of the Southern Baptist Convention exercise over this seminary; this seminary they own."

The newly inaugurated president highlighted Midwestern Seminary's calling to exist "For the Church," saying, "Under the auspices of this vision, we intend to bear any burden, pay any price, endure any hardship, seize any opportunity, launch any initiative and embark



Jason Allen signs the Baptist Faith and Message 2000 at his inauguration as Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary's fifth president. (BP)

on any effort to strengthen our claim and fulfill our mission to be the seminary For the Church."

Allen then made a call for unity to all SBC churches, their leaders and to all Christians beyond the denomination:

"To this denomination, and to brothers and sisters of like-faith beyond this denomination, I say join us, hope the best for us, believe the best about us, and expect the best from us," he said. "Pray for us, partner with us, support us, send us your men and women to train for ministry, stand with us in solidarity of spirit, shared conviction and Gospel aspiration; and, without guile, I say, hold us accountable. Hold us accountable to our denominational, confessional and missiological commitments so that we might rightly exist For the Church."

Allen was elected by the seminary's board of trustees last October. Previously, he had served as vice president for institutional advancement at Southern Seminary. (SWBTS/BP)

Malware to blame for block of SBC website

A military official says malware was to blame for the Southern Baptist Convention's website being blocked on some military bases.

Lt. Col. Damien Pickart, a Defense Department spokesman, said the military's software filters detected malware at SBC.net and blocked the website. The malware since has been removed off the website, and the denomination's website unblocked, he said.

"The Department of Defense is not intentionally blocking access to this site," Pickart told The Tennessean in an email. "The Department of Defense strongly supports the religious rights of service members to include their ability to access religious websites like that of the SBC."

Social media sites were buzzing April 25 over allegations that the military had blocked the website for other reasons.

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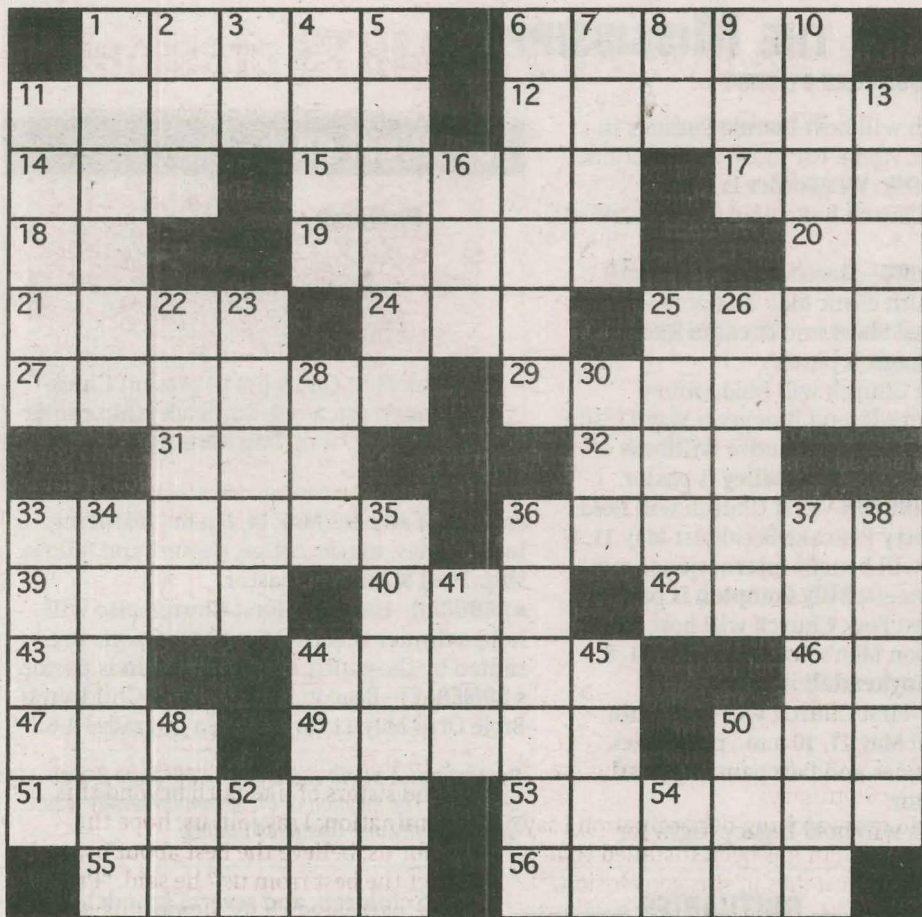
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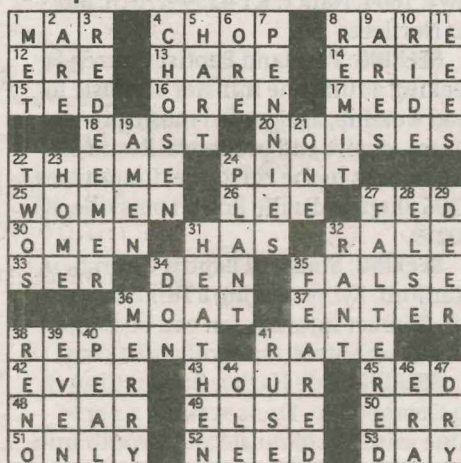
By Evelyn Boyington

Across

- 1 "Except I shall see in his hands the print of the ____" (John 20:25)
- 6 "Bring forth ... every living thing ... that they may ____ abundantly" (Genesis 8:17)
- 11 "Take heed and beware of the ____ of the Pharisees" (Matthew 16:6)
- 12 Occupied an apartment
- 14 More than a kernel
- 15 Wife of Abram
- 17 Tavern brew
- 18 Mideast dialect (abbr.)
- 19 "____ up a child in the way he should go" (Proverbs 22:6)
- 20 Buffalo college
- 21 "The ____ of the temple was rent in twain" (Matthew 27:51)
- 24 "This gospel ... shall be preached in all the world ... and then shall the ____ come" (Matthew 24:14)
- 25 1,061, to Claudius
- 27 Bloopers
- 29 "Ye shall appoint you cities ... of refuge ... that the ____ may flee thither" (Numbers 35:11)
- 31 Cereal grain
- 32 Son of Bela (Numbers 26:40)
- 33 Grouped together
- 36 Claudius ____, who wrote a letter to Felix on Paul's behalf (Acts 23:26)
- 39 ____ is more
- 40 The Gilded Age, for one
- 42 Say "whoa"
- 43 Printer's measure
- 44 Shasta ____
- 46 Hawkeye state (abbr.)
- 47 Red, for one
- 49 "I am ____ and Omega" (Revelation 22:13)
- 50 Put it in writing
- 51 English or western, in the tack room
- 53 Item to do
- 55 "The angels shall come forth, and ____ the wicked from among the just" (Matthew 13:49)
- 56 Tizzies

- traps unto you" (Joshua 23:13)
- 6 "French" is one style of these
- 7 Slow down or stop
- 8 Fourteenth letter of the alphabet
- 9 Greek letter
- 10 Super-duper
- 11 "For thou wilt not ____ my soul in hell" (Psalm 16:10)
- 13 King of Eglon (Joshua 10:3)
- 16 Headed for the hills
- 22 Golfer's gear
- 23 Large quantities
- 25 Mystery writer Ngaio
- 26 Seller of purple from Thyatira
- 28 Highway (abbr.)
- 30 "Now I ____ me down ..."
- 33 "I will ____ thy name for ever and ever" (Psalm 145:1)
- 34 Man sick with the palsy for eight years (Acts 9)
- 35 Wheeler follower
- 36 Speaks angrily, with "out"
- 37 Not citizens
- 38 "Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to ____ against the wiles of the devil" (Ephesians 6:11)
- 41 Tear
- 44 Roy's partner
- 45 Storyteller's specialty
- 48 Summer drink
- 50 Almost too reasonable, as an excuse
- 52 Wounded ex-soldier (abbr.)
- 54 Eastern U.S. state

Last puzzle's solution #159



Down

- 1 "Now is our salvation ____ than when we believed" (Romans 13:11)
- 2 Rhine tributary
- 3 Patient adjunct, in hospital (abbr.)
- 4 For fear that
- 5 "But they (other nations) shall be ____ and

Famous last words

Help members extend stewardship 'beyond offering plate'

Recently, a pastor called me and informed me that a church member wanted to make a gift of appreciated stock to the church. He needed help in how to do that.

I asked him if the church had a brokerage account to which he responded, "No."

I suggested step number one was for the church to open a brokerage account. Not only would that accommodate this member's stock gift, but also would open the door to a whole new way of giving for other church members who likely would make non-cash gifts for the benefit of the church, if such opportunity were available to them.

The pastor was a bit resistant to the idea. "We've never done that before," he said.

Those are the famous last words of too many Baptist church and denominational leaders. Instead, church and denominational leaders should be encouraging, educating and equipping church members in how to give non-cash gifts to and through their churches.

I urge pastors and church leaders to communicate regularly to church members your gratitude for their faithful,

consistent and generous support of the church and other kingdom ministries. In addition, I urge pastors and church leaders to ask church members to consider extending their stewardship beyond just offering plate gifts to include estate gifts.

Ky. Baptist Foundation



Barry Allen

More often than not, when I speak in churches about estate stewardship, church members respond by saying "you know, I've never thought about that before, and my church has never asked me to consider such giving."

If your church is going to be effective in reaching for Christ your community, this state, the nation and the world, it must

encourage, educate, equip and enable its members in how to steward out of their estate assets. Offering plate dollars will not be sufficient.

The Kentucky Baptist Foundation exists and stands ready to assist your church. Please do not delay. Contact Laurie Valentine or me today.

As a disciple of Jesus Christ, I want these to be the famous last words of my life: "Well done, good and faithful servant." What about you?

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

Finding peace in chaos

Tending to last minute camp details, a true test of patience

Summer is for camp purpose at Crossings and because of our God-driven purpose, the 45-day window prior to camp is always one of the most exciting and crazy times of the year.

The impending deadline of camp week one creates a frantic pace as Crossings staff tend to last minute items that, due to timing, have to be last minute.

In the midst of this organized chaos, May is typically a chaotic month with end of school activities, board meetings and a host of other pre-summer events taking place. All these events combine to make a time in which trusting God's sovereignty is sweet and precious.

I am not always the most patient person and those that know me likely would not use the term "patience" to describe anything about my personality or practice. This is troubling because patience is listed as a fruit of the Spirit, and patience is a practice that can

reveal a trust in God's ordering of all of life's circumstances.

As I go through this time of year, taking time to be still and read God's word is like a breath of fresh air. It helps me to calm my anxiousness as it relates to all of the things on our very long to-do list, and it is a reminder of my weak human condition.

Crossings Ministries



David Melber

Life seldom goes as I have planned. We never know from day-to-day what the world will bring our way, so our only source of certainty is in Him.

As we prepare for the summer, please pray for our practice of abiding in Him as stated in John. We know that we cannot

bear fruit apart from Him and the fruit of God's kingdom is what we long to see.

This summer will be our largest ever and therefore the greatest opportunity the Lord has given us. Pray that we faithfully preach the gospel to all that come to Crossings.

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

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May

- 8 DOM Leadership Event, Rough River Resort
- 11 Reaching the Summit, Marion Baptist Church, Marion.
- 18 WMU State Associational Leadership Training, First Baptist Church of Mount Washington, Mount Washington.

June

- 1 Reaching the Summit, Red House Baptist Church, Richmond.

- **BARDSTOWN**—Bardstown Church will hold their 7th annual Ladies Brunch May 11, 11 a.m., with vocal artist and communicator **Joanie Tabor** as guest speaker. For ticket information, call (502) 348-3866. **Dylan Mays** is pastor.
- **CADIZ**—Cadiz Church will hold a Mother's Day Breakfast May 12, 9 a.m., with **April Noffsinger** as guest speaker. **Kyle Noffsinger** is pastor.
- **DENVER**—Liberty Church held ordination services for **Hershey Blewins** as deacon May 5. **Robert Collins** is pastor.
- **GILBERTSVILLE**—Bethel Church will host Fundamentals of the Faith conference, May 11, with **Brad White** and **Kyle Reeder**, pastor of Bethel.
- **HARRODSBURG**—Harrodsburg Church will feature children's choirs in the musical drama "Down By the Creek Bank" May 8, 6:30 p.m. For more information, call (859) 734-2339. **Wayne Spivey** is pastor.
- **LOUISVILLE**—South Jefferson Church will hold a Bible reading contest through July. **Richard Carver** is pastor.
- **MAYFIELD**—Baltimore Church has called **Robbie Courtney** as pastor.

First Church will host **Donnie Sumner** in concert May 16, 7 p.m. For more information, call (270) 247-2992. **Wes Fowler** is pastor.

New Hope Church has called **Alan Morris** as pastor.

■ **MOUNT STERLING**—Macedonia Church will host a free health clinic May 11, noon-3 p.m., with Drs. **Rachel Short** and **Dreama Rucker**. **Kevin Strausbaugh** is pastor.

Reid Village Church will hold annual Mother-Daughter-Friend luncheon May 11, 10 a.m., with guest speaker **Sandra Williams** of Elkhorn Association. **Todd Wiley** is pastor.

■ **MOUNT WASHINGTON**—First Church will hold Missions Ministry Pancake Breakfast May 11, 8 a.m. Proceeds will benefit international mission trip volunteers. **Billy Compton** is pastor.

■ **MURRAY**—West Fork Church will host Blood River Association Men's Breakfast May 11, 8 a.m. **Randall Kuykendall** is pastor.

■ **OWENSBORO**—First Church will hold Children's Carnival May 11, 10 a.m., inflatables, clowns, train rides and face painting. **Paul Strahan** is pastor.

First Church will hold Legacy Night for

Spotlight on ...

Paducah



Lone Oak First Church will present Chick-fil-A Leadercast, a one-day leadership conference, May 10, 7 a.m. **Dan Summerlin** is pastor.

women of all ages May 14, 6 p.m., featuring testimonies, music, coffee, dessert and fellowship. **Paul Strahan** is pastor.

■ **PADUCAH**—Lone Oak First Church also will hold a dinner theatre May 10-11, 6 p.m., presented by the youth. **Dan Summerlin** is pastor.

■ **SOMERSET**—Beacon Hill will hold Children's Bible Drill May 11 for children in grades 4-6.

Correction: A photo caption April 30, page 2, was incorrect. The location of the detention facility was Casey County, not Campbell County.

State Bible drill winners, west region



A total of 35 children in grades 4-6 competed in the West Kentucky Region Children's State Bible Drill in Cadiz April 27.

Cadiz—The West Kentucky Region Children's State Bible Drill was hosted by New Hope Baptist Church in Cadiz April 27. Little River Baptist Association organized the Bible drill in the west region and had a total of 35 children in grades 4-6 that participated.

Below is a list of state winners in the West Kentucky Region.

- C.J. Ahart**, Liberty Point BC, Little River Association.
- Kailee Aisbrooks**, Diamond BC, Little Bethel Association
- Bethel Aickersstaff**, Friendship BC, West Union Association
- Aaron Bruce**, Friendship BC, West Union Association
- Isabella Buckingham**, FBC, Fulton, West Kentucky Association
- Keenan Bush**, Wallonia BC, Little River Association
- Amy C.A. Jarvis**, FBC Mayfield, Graves County Association
- Gracie Downey**, Salem BC, Ohio River Association
- Madison Felts**, Northside BC, Graves County Association
- Tyler Freeman**, Liberty Point BC, Little River Association
- Hannah Greenfield**, Wallonia BC, Little River Association
- Anna Greisz**, FBC, Mayfield, Graves County Association

- Bella Hancock**, FBC, Fulton, West Kentucky Association
- Dalton Haney**, Pleasant Grove BC, Caldwell/Lyon Association
- Eli Hudspeth**, Friendship BC, West Union Association
- Katelynn Johnson**, Oak Grove BC, Little River Association
- Kate Keller**, Salem BC, Ohio River Association
- Macy Mitchell**, New Hope BC, Little River Association
- Gracie Murt**, Lone Oak FBC, West Union Association
- Kelley Newell**, Northside BC, Graves County Association
- Jeremy Rains**, New Barren Springs BC, Christian County Association
- Emma Rittenberry**, Salem BC, Ohio River Association
- Katelyn Slone**, Liberty Point BC, Little River Association
- Lakyn Slone**, Liberty Point BC, Little River Association
- Cole Smiley**, Pleasant Grove BC, Caldwell/Lyon Association
- Jacob Stallons**, New Barren Springs BC, Christian County Association
- Elizabeth Taylor**, Pleasant Grove BC, Caldwell/Lyon Association
- Shaun Terrell**, Liberty Point BC, Little River Association
- Austin Tinajero**, Arlington BC, West Kentucky Association
- Jacy Travis**, Walnut Grove BC, Caldwell/Lyon Association

OBITUARIES

Wendell Wegford, 86

Newport—Wendell Wegford, a Baptist minister, vocational teacher and World War II veteran, passed away April 3 at the Baptist Convalescent Center in Newport. He was 86.

Wegford served as pastor of Persimmon Grove Baptist Church in Alexandria for more than 30 years. During his ministry, Wegford also was pastor of First Baptist Church of Covington and Flagg Springs Baptist Church in California, Ky.

A native of Walton, Wegford worked as an auto repair teacher at Northern Kentucky Vocational School and Quarter-Tech Vocational School in Cincinnati, Ohio, while ministering.

He served in the U.S. Navy during WWII and was a member of First Baptist Church of Cold Spring.

Wegford is survived by his wife, Betty,

two children, and several grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Anson Perkins, 79

Monticello—Anson Perkins, pastor of Sandusky Chapel Baptist Church in Monticello for 50 years, passed away April 25 at his home. He was 79.

"He had never married; the church was his family," said Robert Spradlin, director of missions with Freedom and Wayne County Baptist associations.

Spradlin said that Perkins led many people to Christ and was known for helping people in need.

He "loved to praise the Lord with a shout," Spradlin said.

Perkins was called to Sandusky Chapel Jan. 1, 1963, and remained in service at the Wayne County Baptist Association church until his death. He was a native of Monticello.

Perkins is survived by five brothers and six sisters.

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FOR RENT: Two condos for rent in Destin, Fla. Two bedrooms, two bathrooms, sofa bed. Available all year. May special: \$495 for full week. Contact lbrammer@charter.net or call (423) 309-4422.

SEEKING: Bethlehem Baptist Church is looking for a full-time pastor. Please contact Bethlehem Baptist Church, 4411 Hwy. 1664, Nancy, KY 42544, Attn: Morris Norfleet.

SEEKING: Parkland Baptist Church is seeking a full-time minister of music to lead worship, age/graded music programs, choirs and orchestra. Resumes can be sent to the Personnel Committee, 7206 Shepherdsville Road, Louisville, KY 40219.

SEEKING: Stanford Baptist Church, in Stanford, Ky., is seeking a full-time pastor. Contact information can be found on our website: standfordbaptist.com.

SEEKING: Safe Harbor Baptist Church in Georgetown, Ky., is seeking a part-time minister of music and a youth minister. Call (502) 570-5851, or send a

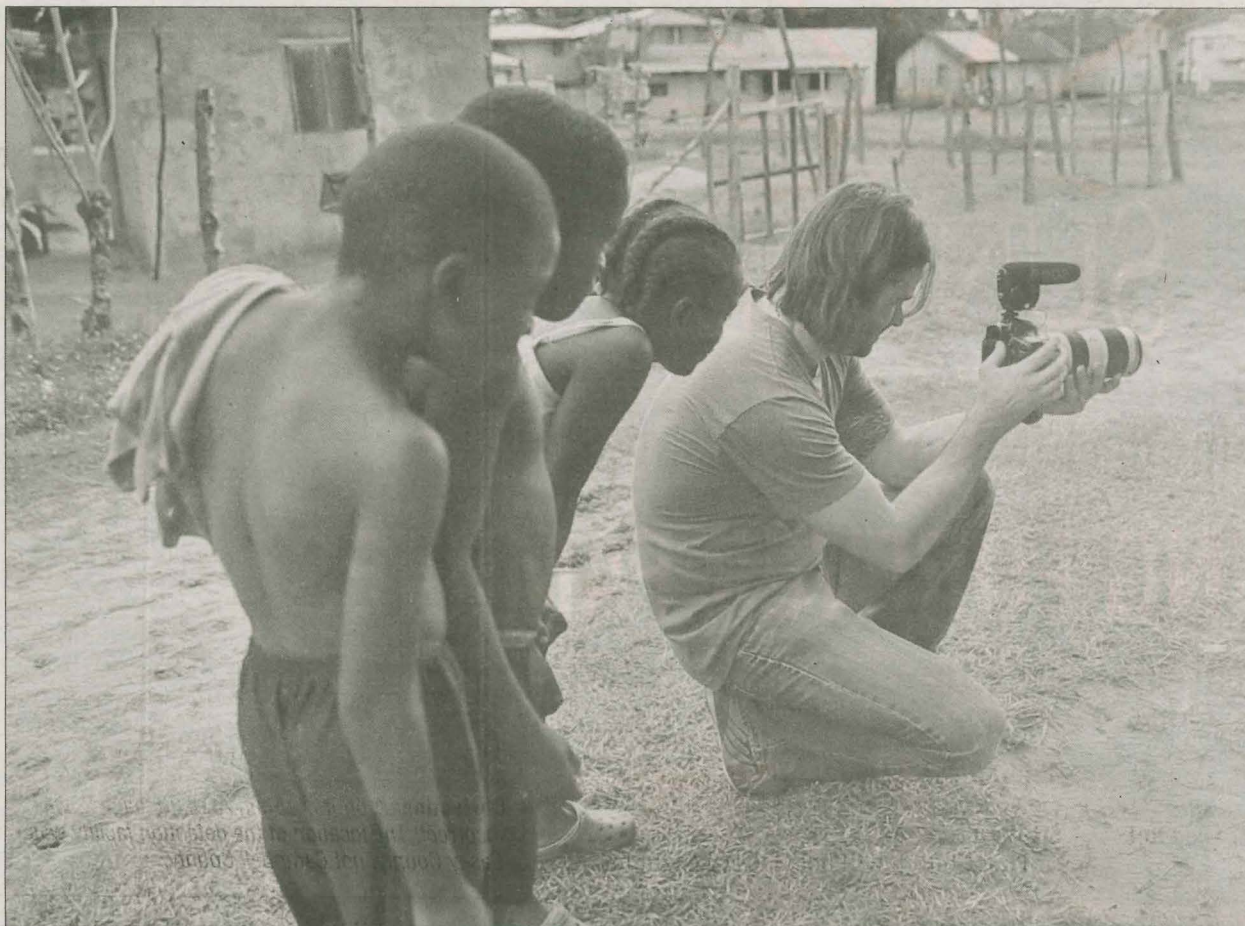
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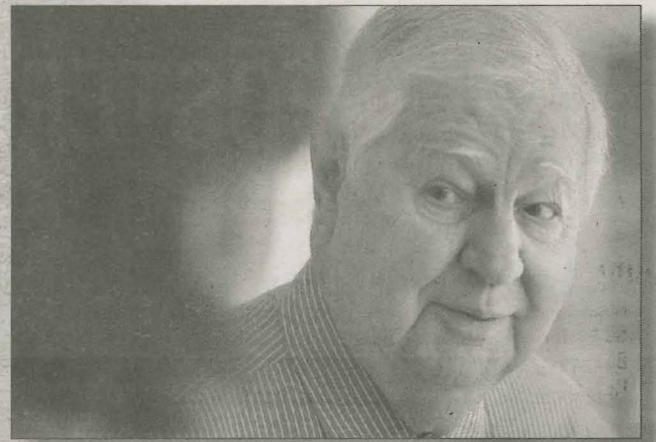
resumé to 519 Gano Avenue, Georgetown, KY 40324, or email safeharborpastor@gmail.com.

SEEKING: An American Baptist church in Huntington, W.V., is seeking a full-time, seminary-trained minister of music who is capable of blended worship styles. Fifth Avenue Baptist is a historical church with a comprehensive music program, including children, youth, instrumentalists, handbells, ensembles and a chancel choir. For more information, contact Katherine Pyles at (304) 523-0115, or submit a resumé with three references to katherinep@fifthavenuebaptist.org.



'EXPERIENCING GOD'

New LifeWay film recaps 23 years of discipleship, features Kentucky town



Neil Hoppe, with camera, filmed a segment of the "Experiencing God" documentary in Honduras with Anthony Ponceti (not pictured). Ponceti has worked with churches in Honduras using *Experiencing God* as a text, saying the discipleship study transcends cultures. **INSET:** Henry Blackaby wrote *Experiencing God* as a way to tell the story of how he has always related to God and how he led the churches he served. The study, released in 1990, has sold more than 7 million copies and has been translated into more than 45 languages.

By Polly House

Nashville, Tenn.—A documentary about the impact of "Experiencing God"—a discipleship study that influenced a generation—is the first release of LifeWay Films. "Experiencing God: Knowing and Doing the Will of God" by Henry Blackaby and Claude King has touched and changed millions of lives and thousands of churches worldwide since its release in 1990. The workbook has sold more than 7 million copies, is available in more than 45 languages, and has been used in almost every denomination.

Experiencing God has spawned dozens of other books and tools including the newly released "Experiencing God at Home" book and curriculum, "Your Church Experiencing God Together," "The Man God Uses," "Fresh Encounter" and the "Experiencing God Musical."

Now, the documentary focuses on some of the stories reflecting Experiencing God's influence for more than two decades. LifeWay Films is a division of LifeWay Christian Resources.

"We've heard hundreds of stories about how Experiencing God served as a catalyst for someone to make a dramatic life change," King, LifeWay's discipleship specialist, said. "We pray that these three will represent well the influence Experiencing God has had over these 23 years."

Neil Hoppe, producer and host of the documentary, and director Bill Cox traveled to Lynch, Ky., Angola (La.) state penitentiary, two villages in Honduras and Atlanta to film segments that chronicle the movement of God through the discipleship study. The film is available at LifeWay stores and LifeWay.com.

Messengers to the 2013 Southern Baptist Convention are invited to attend a free screening of the documentary June 11 and 12, from noon to 1 p.m.

God at work in Miami, Honduras

Anthony Ponceti was living in Texas when he sensed God asking him to move to Miami.

Ponceti was shocked to discover why. Panamanian dictator Manuel Noriega had been arrested on drug trafficking charges and sent to prison in Miami. Several months later, Southern Baptist evangelists Clifton Brannon and Rudy Hernandez led the former dictator to Christ. Ponceti was asked to disciple Noriega following his conversion.

"I couldn't do it," Ponceti said. "My brother died because of drugs, and here is one of the biggest drug traffickers in the world.... Disciple him? No. I hated him."

But having been through Experiencing God, Ponceti knew God had invited him to be a part of His work with Noriega. This was Ponceti's crisis of faith. Would he obey?

Ponceti's heart softened and he agreed to disciple Noriega using Experiencing God.

Joining God in Kentucky

Lonnie and Belinda Riley were so convinced of God's plan through Experiencing God that they moved to the small

coal-mining hamlet of Lynch, Ky., to begin ministering to the community. They had no plan, no support and no income. What they did have was assurance that God wanted them there and would take care of the details.

The Rileys, now serving in Lynch as North American Mission Board missionaries, have seen the opening of a food pantry and clothes closet and have led in such ministries as home repair and school assistance. They've also seen an influx of mission teams and monetary contributions that have helped revitalize the town.

In all this time, Riley said, he has never asked for anything except for God to show him the need. When he sees the need, he prays and God answers.

God's work in Angola

After Burl Cain, warden of the Louisiana State Penitentiary in Angola, went through Experiencing God, he had a preposterous idea: What if he took Experiencing God into the prison and offered the class to some of the inmates?

Angola houses more than 5,000 inmates and at one time was considered the most dangerous prison in America.

But now, in part due to Experiencing God and the work God is doing in the prison, "50 percent of the inmates are Christians," reported John Robson who heads the New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary's extension center at Angola.

His work with inmates has led to hundreds receiving Christ, hundreds studying Experiencing God and many earning seminary extension degrees.

Where the story begins

The documentary closes with Henry and Marilyn Blackaby.

Experiencing God is Blackaby's life message, the principles by which he has understood and walked with God. It was how he guided God's people as a pastor.

Blackaby, a native Canadian, was pastor of a large, affluent congregation in Southern California when he was approached by a Canadian pastor who asked him to consider returning to Canada and becoming pastor of a small, dying church in Saskatoon.

Blackaby was struck when he said, "The only hope for Canada is if Canadian pastors come back home."

There, in that place of difficult ministry, the principles of Experiencing God took shape into what would become the resource that has led to countless changed lives.

LifeWay Films, producer of the Experiencing God documentary, offers films with the message of faith and hope. For more information, including information about site licenses and movie offerings, go to www.lifeway.com/films.

The original Experiencing God Bible study is available in Spanish as "Mi Experiencia con Dios" for adults, youth and kids in both leader and member editions. Experiencing God is currently published in more than 45 languages around the world, nine of them available as downloads at www.lifeway.com. (LifeWay/BP)



Documentary producer Neil Hoppe films a prisoner in Louisiana's Angola prison telling of his life change in becoming a Christian and studying "Experiencing God." The discipleship study is the focus of a new film recapping its 23 years of influence worldwide.



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