

WESTERN Recorder

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Shine Like Stars * Philippians 2:15

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Calvinism advisory committee issues report

By Michael Foust

Nashville, Tenn.—A 19-member advisory committee on Calvinism has issued its report to Southern Baptist Convention Executive Committee President Frank Page, urging Southern Baptists to “stand together” for the Gospel, even as “we experience tension.”

“We can talk like brothers and sisters in Christ, and we can work urgently and eagerly together,” the 3,200-word report

reads. “We have learned that we can have just this kind of conversation together, and we invite all Southern Baptists to join together in this worthy spirit of conversation. But let us not neglect the task we are assigned. The world desperately needs to hear the promise of the Gospel.”

The advisory team—not an official committee of the convention—was assembled by Page in August 2012 to advise him on developing “a strategy

whereby people of various theological persuasions can purposely work together in missions and evangelism.”

The committee was composed of Calvinists and non-Calvinist from different walks of life in the convention. The report lists areas of theological agreement and acknowledges differences between the two camps. But it says those differences should not be a barrier to cooperation.

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Adam Greenway to become dean of new Billy Graham School

By Aaron Cline Hanbury

Louisville—The immediate past president of the Kentucky Baptist Convention, Adam Greenway, was appointed June 1 as dean of the Billy Graham School of Missions, Evangelism and Ministry at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary.



Adam Greenway

Greenway became the fourth dean of the Billy Graham School, replacing Zane Pratt, who will continue teaching on the seminary faculty, even as he returns to overseas service.

“Adam Greenway brings a wealth of experience and a compelling vision to this newly-expanded school and its mission,” said Southern Seminary President Albert Mohler Jr. “He has served well as senior associate dean of the school and he has the eager confidence of his faculty colleagues. He is a proven leader, having served as president of the Kentucky Baptist Convention and in a host of similar roles.

“He is a passionate evangelist who deeply loves the local church,” Mohler continued. “He is a recognized leader within the Southern Baptist Convention and he brings a solid track record of denominational cooperation to this strategic new role.”

Greenway, 35, is associate professor of evangelism and applied apologetics at the seminary, a role he began in 2007 and plans to continue. He also served, beginning in 2010, as senior associate

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Texting & driving: Bible ‘calls us to discernment’

By Erin Roach

Nashville, Tenn.—This spring at some high schools, students used simulators to learn how dangerous it is to text and drive now that texting has surpassed alcohol as a greater risk for teens on the nation’s roadways.

Russell Moore, president-elect of the Southern Baptist Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission, said there is a biblical angle to the problem of texting while driving.

“The Bible calls us to discernment, to see how our actions might harm our neighbors. Texting and driving seems innocent enough, bantering back and forth about some light matter, until we see the horrible possibilities of wreckage and death,” Moore told Baptist Press.

Alcohol use among teen drivers has decreased by 54 percent since 1991, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, due in part to an increased stigma after years of educating teens on the dangers.

Texting while driving, however, has skyrocketed in

□ See Texting ... Page 3



LifeWay survey: People turn to God after natural disasters

By David Roach

Nashville—When natural disasters occur, most Americans take increased interest in God and donate to relief agencies—and they trust faith-based agencies more than their secular counterparts. A third also believe prayer can avert natural disasters.

Those are among the findings of a LifeWay Research survey conducted days after an historic EF5 tornado devastated parts of Oklahoma May 20, killing two dozen people and causing billions of dollars in damages.

According to the study, commissioned by LifeWay’s Bible Studies for Life

curriculum, a third of Americans increase their trust in God during times of suffering. In response to the question, “How do you feel about God when suffering occurs that appears unfair?” the most common response is “I trust God more” (33 percent).

Nearly six in 10 Americans (57 percent) agree with the statement, “When a natural disaster occurs, my interest in God increases.” Thirty-one percent disagree and 12 percent don’t know. Nearly two-thirds of respondents living in the South agree (62 percent), compared with just over half in the West (54 percent) and Northeast (51 percent). Women, people with a college degree, and those

who attend worship services once a week are also likely to be more interested in God during a disaster.

Despite their increased interest in God following disasters, most Americans doubt prayer can avert natural disasters. Fifty-one percent disagree that praying can avert natural disasters, with a third (32 percent) strongly disagreeing. Still, 34 percent believe prayer can avert natural disasters. Americans in the South (40 percent) are more likely to believe than those in the Northeast (26 percent) and West (28 percent).

Thirty percent of Americans post on social media that they are praying for

□ See Disaster survey ... Page 7

How do you feel about God when suffering occurs that appears unfair?

I trust God more	33%
I am confused about God	25%
I don't think about God in these situations	16%
None of these	15%
I wonder if God cares	11%
I doubt God exists	7%
I am angry toward God	5%
I am resentful toward God	3%

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Princeton layman to be nominated for KBC president

By Todd Deaton

Princeton—Chip Hutcheson, publisher of The Times Leader of Princeton and The Eagle Post of Oak Grove, will be nominated as Kentucky Baptist Convention president when the KBC annual meeting convenes Nov. 12 in Paducah.

Hutcheson, a deacon and Sunday School teacher for more than 30 years at Southside Baptist Church in Princeton,

will be nominated by Ronnie Sivells, pastor of Nortonville Baptist Church in Little Bethel Baptist Association. Sivells, who served as church development strategist for the Western Region for the KBC until last June, is a former pastor of Southside.

Hutcheson is the first announced candidate for the KBC office.

"It has been some time since a layman has been elected president of the Kentucky Baptist Convention," Sivells said.



Chip Hutcheson

"Most of the time, one of our pastors serves in this place of leadership, and they all have served our Lord and our convention well.

"Perhaps the time is right for one of our very capable and faithful laymen to be called upon to lead our great convention," Sivells added. "These men of God who have served untiringly in their churches have so much to offer our state."

Since Henry Huff was elected in 1975, only two other laymen have served—Charles Barnes, who presided in 1999, and Eugene Siler, who presided in 2004. If elected, Hutcheson would become only the sixth to serve as KBC president in the past 75 years.

Sivells' friendship with Hutcheson stretches back to their high school days and service together in the Army Reserves and through 13 years as Hutcheson's pastor. "During those years," Sivells said, "I found him to be both a supporter and encourager.

"It is my conviction that God has equipped Chip with unique gifts and

abilities that will be used of the Holy Spirit to lead the KBC in these exciting yet challenging days," Sivells said.

A three-time deacon chairman at Southside, Hutcheson works in its after-school ministry and participates in a local prison ministry through HR Ministries.

Hutcheson also has been active in Kentucky Baptist life, having served two terms on the KBC Public Affairs Committee, being twice elected as chairman, and currently serving a second term as a Western Recorder trustee.

"I am very humbled to even be considered (as a candidate for KBC president)," Hutcheson said.

"My desire would be to encourage people in the faith—not only pastors and ministerial staff members, but laypeople," he added. "We have much work to do in Kentucky, and it requires not only pastors, but people in the pews, becoming actively involved in evangelism and discipleship.

"Hopefully we can get more people involved in living out their faith and

sharing their faith," Hutcheson said.

A graduate of the University of Kentucky, Hutcheson served as sports editor for the student newspaper. He also was sports editor for the Kentucky New Era in Hopkinsville, 1970-76, and publisher of the Princeton Leader, 1976-92.

Hutcheson has received numerous Kentucky Press Association awards. He served as KPA president in 2010, was recognized as the KPA's "Most Valuable Member" in 2011, and was inducted in the Kentucky Journalism Hall of Fame in 2012.

He and his wife, Karen, have two children: Cindy Birrell, CFO of the Princeton Electric Plant Board, and John Mark, senior pastor of Parkview Baptist Church in St. Augustine, Fla.

According to the 2012 Annual Church Profile Report, Southside Baptist Church in Princeton gave \$107,622 through the Cooperative Program from its undesignated gifts of \$767,062, or 14 percent. Actual CP received from Southside in 2011-12 was \$113,441, ranking it 24th among all KBC churches. (WR)

Greenway

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dean under two previous deans of the Billy Graham School.

KBC officials welcomed Greenway's appointment announcement.

KBC Executive Director Paul Chitwood said, "As an alumnus of the Graham School and as one who has come to have great admiration for the bountiful gifts God has given Adam, I think Dr. Mohler has made the perfect choice.

"Due to Adam's Great Commission zeal and love and service to the churches of the Kentucky Baptist Convention, I also believe Kentucky Baptists will be very pleased by this news," Chitwood said. "Who better to help educate the next generation of leaders for our churches than a man who has been serving those churches and already distinguished himself as a leader in Kentucky Baptist life?"

Paducah pastor Dan Summerlin, current KBC president, said he was excited for Greenway and proud for Kentucky Baptists in his appointment.

"Dr. Greenway has one of the sharpest minds in the convention," Summerlin said. "I know he will represent Southern Seminary and Kentucky Baptists with excellence and passion," Summerlin said.

Greenway arrived in Kentucky via Florida in 2002 as pastor of The Baptist Church at Andover in Lexington. After joining the seminary's faculty, he continued his pastoral ministry through interim roles in five churches across Kentucky, Indiana and Ohio.

As KBC president, he was the youngest in its history, assuming the role as a 33-year-old. Before that, Greenway served as first vice president, as a member of its Mission Board, as chair of the board's size study committee, and as convention parliamentarian.

Greenway will be the first dean of the school since it expanded as the Billy Graham School of Missions, Evangelism and Ministry.

With additional reporting by Todd Deaton.

Friendships a path to gospel for campus ministry

By Whitney Jones

Louisville—The end of the school year brings many goodbyes for college students, especially for international students returning home. Many of those students will leave for the summer—or longer—with friendships built for eternity among students and leaders in Baptist Campus Ministry groups throughout Kentucky.

Brian Combs, collegiate evangelism strategist for the Kentucky Baptist Convention, said about 6,000 students from China, India, South Korea, Saudi Arabia and other nations are studying at Kentucky colleges each year. Some of their home countries are closed to Christianity and evangelical missionaries.

Since 2008, Riley Byers has ministered to international students through University of Louisville's Baptist Campus Ministry. He has seen several students accept Christ as their Savior, but he says, "International ministry is tricky."

"On the surface, international students are usually much more open to talking about religious things (than many U.S. students)," Byers said.

He noted that students from other countries often are enthusiastic to hear about Christianity or the Bible "because they don't want to offend people, so they'll politely listen to what you say and may even agree to do some kind of Bible study."

That enthusiasm does not always result in a salvation decision, Byers said, so BCM's focus is to build relationships between Christian and non-Christian students, and to try to get international students involved in a local church so they can experience the love of Christ.

Hannah Parker, a North American Mission Board-appointed intern at Murray State University's BCM, agrees that friendship paves the way to sharing the gospel with international students.

"Whenever you build that relationship with them, they get to know more



Susan Stine (with guitar) and several international students from Northern Kentucky University assist Main Street Baptist Church in Alexandria, in serving children in a lower-income area of the community. (Photo provided by KBC)

of your heart," Parker said. "So, when you begin sharing about Jesus, and you begin talking to them about the scriptures, it means more to them because you mean more to them."

Earlier this year, the Murray State and Louisville BCM groups organized retreats for students from other countries and their peers who are strong Christians.

While in Gatlinburg, Tenn., Parker said students bridged culture gaps, had fun and deepened friendships.

In addition to hiking and other recreation, each night students cooked a meal from another culture, including Chinese and Korean cuisine.

Cong Tran is a Murray State senior from Vietnam who went on the Gatlin-

burg trip. He said he is involved with BCM because they approached him during his freshman year and have been friendly ever since. That welcoming attitude is what has kept him coming back every year.

Tran, who graduates in December, noted that spending time with students at the BCM allowed him to more fully understand Christianity and rid himself of some of his previous prejudices about Christians.

Louisville's BCM also held a retreat in the Great Smoky Mountains for international students during spring break.

"It's a way to make the gospel known to people from all over the world," Byers said. "And a lot of the students (who) have come to study in the United States, particularly here at U of L, (are) from restricted-access countries. They come from places where the gospel's not able to be freely proclaimed."

Cindy Pelphrey, KBC campus missionary for a group of colleges in the Owensboro area, coordinates the annual "Engage" conference for international students. Funded in part by gifts to the Eliza Broadus State Missions Offering, Engage provides students from other countries an opportunity to share their culture with their peers through a "parade of nations," a talent show and other activities.

Nearing its 60th year, the conference concludes with a worship service where the gospel is presented.

Pelphrey said some international students make professions of faith at that worship service, and many others ask questions about salvation in the days and weeks following.

Like Byers, Pelphrey said an openness to discuss the Bible does not always mean that a student from another culture will accept Christ as Savior.

"Our command is to share the gospel and to trust God with the eternal consequences of people's decisions," she said. (KBC)

Reaching outdoorsmen and families for Christ

By David Roach

Madisonville—It wasn't a typical church event. There were 15 guns given away. The food included bear, raccoon and squirrel meat. And the attendees were 750 rugged outdoorsmen—more than 600 from outside the church.

But at the end of the night more than 100 people said they prayed to receive Christ as their Lord and Savior, and

Grapevine Baptist Church in Madisonville began to feel the flames of revival.

The event was one of many wild game dinners being hosted by Kentucky Baptist churches with assistance from the Kentucky Baptist Convention. At each dinner, the men attending have a chance to win free guns while eating wild game, listening to country music and hearing a message about hunting, the right to bear arms, and most importantly, the gospel.

"There have been some definite changes in some men's lives because of (the wild game dinner)," Grapevine pastor Greg Gaddis said. "And because of their change, we've seen some definite changes in their families' lives, and their whole families are coming (to church) because of their commitment on that night."

KBC Evangelism and Church Planting Team Leader Chuck McAlister says wild game dinners are among the most effective ways to reach Kentucky men for Jesus. They are part of his larger affinity evangelism strategy—a method of sharing Jesus by bringing people together based on common needs or interests—from military and cross-cultural communities to hunting, quilting and dozens of other possibilities.

Wild game dinners "are a great opportunity for churches to build a bridge of connection," McAlister said. "In that affinity you have to find a hook that you can use to connect with people. And in the hunting affinity, that hook happens

to be guns."

For their wild game dinners, McAlister encourages churches to get local businesses to donate guns to give away. The more guns given away, the more

men will attend, he said, adding that larger attendance usually translates into more salvation decisions. He is quick to add that no gun winner ever receives a weapon without passing a criminal background check first.

If recent statistics are any indicator, a new "hook" for unchurched men is desperately needed. In a typical week, only 39 percent of American men attend church, compared to 44 percent of women, according to a Barna Group study. Only 13 percent of American men attend Sunday School during a typical week.

In spite of that, McAlister has seen more than 200 people saved (most of them men) at the seven Kentucky wild game dinners at which he has spoken since Jan. 1. Hundreds more have registered salvation decisions at events in other states featuring McAlister. Though the events are geared toward men, women are welcome to attend too.

Besides guns, another component of a successful dinner is advertising it as a hunting event, not a church event, and creating an atmosphere that is comfortable for unchurched people. The speaker should be billed as a hunter and not a preacher or an evangelist, according to McAlister. After a wild game dinner, follow-up is vital in order to assimilate new Christians into the church, he said.

"While the method of how we do what we're doing is very adaptable, we don't adapt the message," McAlister said. "Once I earn the right to be heard by them because they realize that I know what I'm talking about when it comes to hunting and that bridge is formed, I walk across that bridge and I tell them



Texting

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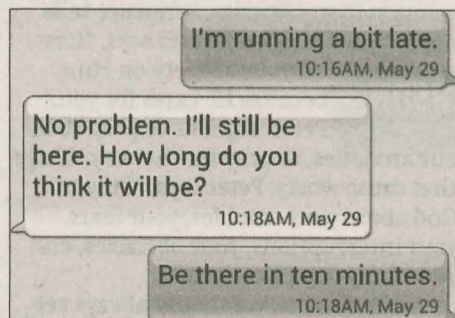
the last five to seven years, with half of high school students of driving age admitting to the practice, according to a recent study.

A team of researchers led by Andrew Adesman at Cohen Children's Medical Center in New York, in a survey of nearly 9,000 teenagers aged 15-18 nationwide, found that an estimated 49 percent of boys admitted to texting while driving compared with 45 percent of girls.

"A person who is texting can be as impaired as a driver who is legally drunk," Adesman said.

As early as 2009, Vicki Courtney, an author and speaker who addresses teen issues—particularly among girls—was warning of the need for parents to have some control over their teens' texting habits.

"While most of us don't have teens who are logging 35,000 text messages a month (the average is 1742/month among teens 13-17), we would still be wise to



have some boundaries in place to ensure that our tweens and teens don't become so focused on texting that they miss out on life," Courtney wrote on her blog.

Texting while driving, Adesman said, is in the same risk category as other hazardous activities such as lack of seatbelt use, drinking and driving, binge drinking, drug and tobacco use, unsafe sex and tanning devices, Newsday reported.

Yet it appears everybody's doing it. "We have very strong taboos against drinking and driving. Kids don't drink and drive every day. But some kids are out there texting and driving seven days a week—and they admit it," Adesman

point blank, up-front what the gospel requires. Then I go into the invitation."

He continued, "We average 10 percent of the number in attendance praying to receive Christ as their Savior."

At the Tates Creek Baptist Association wild game dinner in January, 27 men made professions of faith following McAlister's gospel presentation. The association's Baptist Men on Missions group hosts a wild game dinner annually and in the past has had noted speakers such as Paige Patterson, president of Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas.

The annual dinner "has been an excellent event that has been fun, good fellowship, challenging and we have seen significant numbers of lost saved each year," Tates Creek Baptist Association Director of Missions Larry Baker said. "It has been a good way to get lost people into an event where they hear a strong presentation of the gospel. I would highly recommend this type of event for other associations and churches."

Like the Tates Creek Association, some churches and associations were already hosting outreach events geared toward outdoorsmen before McAlister's arrival in Kentucky last year. Calvary Baptist Church in Corbin, for example, has hosted the Tri-County Sportsman's Expo each year since 2010. It includes the chance to win a four-wheeler for anyone present at the gospel presentation.

Similarly, Rolling Fork Baptist Church and Bardstown Christian Fellowship, both in Nelson Baptist Association, co-hosted a "coon hunt dinner" where attendees gathered for a meal, a gospel presentation and a hunting competition. And Living Faith Baptist Church in Hartford has hosted "beast feasts," another name for wild game dinners.

To bolster such events across the state, McAlister is forming a speakers bureau of outdoorsmen who can connect with hunters and share the gospel at evangelistic events. To schedule a speaker, email chuck.mcalister@kybaptist.org or (502) 489-3417 or 1-866-489-3417 (toll free in Kentucky). (KBC)

told Newsday.

Of course, the practice isn't limited to teenagers. With the wide availability of smartphones, adults of all ages have made a habit of reading and sending texts while behind the wheel. As the adage goes, no one expects an accident.

"Technology, including texting, can be a great blessing, keeping parents and children in touch with one another," Moore noted, "but that is only true when we teach our children the limits of this technology. Immediate conversation and so-called multitasking can give us the illusion of omnipresence, but the sad carnage left behind reminds us we are mortals, who can hurt and be hurt."

To combat what AT&T calls "an epidemic," it and other cell phone service providers Verizon, Sprint and T-Mobile are launching a multimillion dollar ad campaign called "It Can Wait," calling people to pledge never to text and drive.

The campaign, at itcanwait.com, began Memorial Day and will continue until Labor Day, which are known as the 100 deadliest days on the roads for teen drivers, AT&T said. (BP)

Calvinism

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"We must not only acknowledge but celebrate the distinctive contributions made by the multiple streams of our Southern Baptist heritage," the report says. "These streams include both Charleston and Sandy Creek, the Reformers and many of the advocates of the Radical Reformation, confessional evangelicalism and passionate revivalism. These streams and their tributaries nourish us still.

"We must also remember that labels, though often necessary, are often misleading and unfair. They must be used with care and assigned with charity. The use of the words 'Calvinist' and 'Calvinism' can be both revealing and misleading, since individuals may hold to any number of variants on doctrinal points. Similarly non-Calvinists, who may resist even that designation, will cover an even larger landscape of positions. Labels like these often fail us.

"We must stand together in rejecting any form of hyper-Calvinism that denies the mandate to present the offer of the Gospel to all sinners or that denies the necessity of a human response to the Gospel that involves the human will. Similarly, we must reject any form of Arminianism that elevates the human will above the divine will or that denies that those who come to faith in Christ are kept by the power of God. How do we know that these positions are to be excluded from our midst? Each includes beliefs that directly deny what The Baptist Faith and Message expressly affirms."

Each of the members of the Calvinism advisory group also issued statements affirming their report.

David Dockery, chairman of the advisory group and president of Union University, said:

"For several years, Southern Baptists have been asking important questions about our identity and our future. At times we have struggled with trying to grasp the breadth of our doctrinal and historical differences, particularly related to matters such as Calvinism. What has been needed is a new consensus that will help point us toward a new sense of cooperation and renewal for the sake of the Gospel.

"It is our hope that Truth, Trust, and Testimony in a Time of Tension, while not a perfect statement, will, nevertheless, provide a significant and positive step in that direction. The statement reflects the efforts of many diverse voices who have attempted to speak as one with a sense of convictional civility and Spirit-enabled charity toward and with one another.

"We pray that these efforts will enable us to serve collaboratively and work faithfully, while offering a joyful and Gospel-focused witness to a lost and needy world."

To read the advisory group's full report and other statements by its members, see www.westernrecorder.org.

Part of the tribe

As Southern Baptists travel to Houston for next week's annual meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention, I am reflecting upon some of the reasons I am a part of the Southern Baptist tribe.

First, deacons from a Southern Baptist church showed up at the door of our rented house when I was five years old. My father was raising three sons on his own. We had just moved from the government projects where we had been living with his parents and two of his younger siblings while he got back on his feet after our mother had filed for divorce.

A couple of deacons from First Baptist Church of Jellico, Tenn., came by to invite our family to worship. I'm not sure what those men were thinking since, other than trouble, we didn't have much to offer First Baptist Church. But they knew they had much to offer us in a loving church family that ministered to us in our brokenness and helped my father give the guidance that boys need.

A second reason I am Southern Baptist is due to another visitor from that church a few years later. The visitor this time was our pastor, Allen Harrod. Pastor Harrod was there, at the invitation of my father, to speak with my older brother who was considering giving his life to Christ. My younger brother and I listened in as our pastor shared the gospel. We all trusted Christ and were later baptized together, entering into the membership of a Southern Baptist church.

A third reason I am Southern Baptist also relates to First Jellico. The pastors, Sunday School teachers, Vacation Bible School leaders, and so many others taught me that the Bible was "totally true and trustworthy ... and the supreme standard by which all human conduct, creeds, and religious opinions should be tried," as stated in the Baptist Faith and Message. As I grew older and became familiar with other religious faiths and denominations, I was easily convinced that the beliefs of Southern Baptists were most closely aligned with what the Bible teaches.

Among the many other reasons I am Southern Baptist is that I believe God would expect me to embrace the most efficient and effective means of accomplishing the Great Commission. While Southern Baptists don't have the Great Commission market cornered, I haven't seen any other denomination, network, or movement that rivals the work being done by the cooperative efforts of Southern Baptists.

Southern Baptists evangelized me, helped raise me, disciplined me, educated me, licensed me to preach, ordained me for ministry, and have always helped facilitate opportunities for me to obey the Great Commission. For these and many other reasons, I can't imagine being anything other than a Southern Baptist.

Paul Chitwood is executive director of the Kentucky Baptist Convention.

RAs not an 'alternative,' but an imperative

Royal Ambassadors is being touted by some as an alternative to Boy Scouts. It is not. The National Council of Boy Scouts of America voted May 23 to allow boys who openly identify themselves as homosexuals to be members, in effect reversing the organization's stance concerning homosexuality. According to reports, about 1,400 delegates to the National Council approved the new membership standards by a 61-39 percent margin. For now, BSA has stopped short of allowing homosexual leaders, and its rules about sexual misconduct, heterosexual and homosexual, remain intact. But some are predicting that, too, may soon change.

Consequently, many Christian parents and conservative churches that sponsor BSA troops face a hard decision of whether or not to remain a part of an organization that now accepts homosexual behavior, which they believe is immoral. The new BSA policy has prompted many Southern Baptist leaders and prominent pastors to begin promoting Royal Ambassadors and Challengers as an alternative to Boy Scouts.

While their concern to protect children is warranted and well-meaning, encouraging parents to see RAs as an alternative organization to Scouting may be somewhat misguided, for there is a wide gulf between the two. Royal Ambassadors, at its heart, is a church-based missions organization, molding young hearts for Christian service by teaching biblical virtues; Boy Scouts is a civic-minded organization, promoting good citizenship through developing character, leadership qualities and social values.

Both organizations developed about the same time. The RA program was established in 1908, just a few years before Boy Scouts. The first RA chapter was formed at First Baptist Church of Goldsboro, N.C., and in a decade, Southern Baptists created 1,200 more chapters. At its centennial mark in 2008, the missions education program had grown to encompass RA chapters in more than 8,000 churches and 14 countries.

Like Boy Scouts, Royal Ambassadors participate in outdoor camping and camp craft activities, learn sports skills, make wood and leather crafts, build pinewood derby cars, attend summer camps and earn merit badges. In that regard, RAs could be seen as an alternative, but that's where the similar paths diverge.

Richard Bodenhamer, a WMU marketing specialist for

Royal Ambassadors, perhaps explains the pivotal difference best: "Royal Ambassadors espouses many of the same virtues and character-building activities that are found in Boy Scouts, but with the added benefit for Southern Baptists that our primary goal is developing boys into men who understand the mission of God and carry the gospel with them into the world." That's huge!

As a young boy, I learned the Lad pledge, "Help others in Jesus' name." That's a great start. And, watching men and women of godly character who lead Royal Ambassador chapters in our churches and organize camping trips and missions projects for them is a key foundation in teaching biblical values and virtues. Wanda Lee, executive director of Woman's Missionary Union, nailed it: "At a young age, boys learn that life isn't all about them as they develop a biblical worldview by actively serving others and learning how God is at work through missions efforts around the world." They grow mentally, physically, socially—and spiritually.

As a Crusader, the RA motto is added: "We are ambassadors for Christ." It was here that I first gained a sense of meaning and purpose: I was an ambassador of the King, commissioned to serve and share His love. But that goal was not something I would do one day when I grew up; it was something I was to be every day—then and always. Through RAs I grasped that missions was not a vocation for some, but a lifestyle for all.

One look at the RA pledge and this distinctive is obvious: "As a Royal Ambassador, I will do my best to become a well-informed, responsible follower of Christ; to have a Christ-like concern for all people; to learn how to carry the message of Christ around the world; to work with others in sharing Christ; and to keep myself clean and healthy in mind and body." As Christian parents, that's what we most desire for our children.

RAs teaches boys about God's mission, fosters Christian character, develops skills by participating in community missions and ministry projects, and encourages praying and giving to support missions. And, if Southern Baptists are serious about fulfilling the Great Commission, then Royal Ambassadors (and Girls in Action) should be seen as a priority rather than an alternative to anything—even Scouts. Regardless of whether they leave or stay in Scouting, providing first-rate missions organizations and experiences for our boys and girls must be an imperative.

After Thought

By Todd Deaton



Pray about headaches and problems, even when they feel small

By Marc Webb

In our daily prayers, it seems like we're always focusing on major needs. As believers, we pray about the health concerns of friends and family. We pray for the lost. We ask for God to end slavery and abortion. We lift up need after need. Yet, Christians rarely pray for themselves.

Sometimes I feel trivial and unimportant. I ask myself, "Do my problems really matter to God?" I know there are needs all across this world. I know there are people who are hurting and craving the peace of God. I worry that I am wasting God's time by praying about my

petty problems and difficulties.

However, in 1 Peter 5:7, I am given a solution to my worries. Scripture tells me to pray for myself. Peter says, "Cast all your anxiety on Him because He cares for you." Peter urges us to pray about our anxieties, to pray for the very things that cause worry. Peter says, "Pray to God about your troubles, your fears, your interruptions, your obstacles, and your daily complications."

As Christians, we should always celebrate the big things of God. We should praise Him when miracles happen. We should thank God for His eternal and perfect purpose. We should pray for

loved ones who are struggling. We should remember all the lost souls around the world.

But, in the midst of your prayers, don't forget the details. Don't let your personal life get pushed to the side.

Peter tells you to take time and pray for the anxieties that knock you off course. Pray for the headaches in your life. Even when matters feel small and insignificant, pray about them.

God cares about what we have to say. So, go ahead, pray for the small things. Cast your anxieties on Him. He can handle it. He's a very big God.

Marc Webb is pastor of Victory Baptist Church in Shelbyville.

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Box 43969
Louisville, KY 40253

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Rick Robbins, Florence;
Wayne Spivey, Harrodsburg;
Dan Summerlin, Paducah.

Shine Like Stars * Philippians 2:15

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Romans 1 and a nation's tipping point

Romans 1 defines widespread acceptance of homosexual behavior as a tipping point in a nation's story. Using a threefold refrain, Scripture outlines God's release of a nation to the consequences of its rebellion against Him (see Romans 1:24-28).

I am certain that the attention of the Supreme Court's nine justices, along with the rest of the country, was focused on Grapevine, Texas, when the Boy Scouts of America held its annual meeting. At issue was whether the BSA would affirm its longstanding membership policy or bow to the pressure of political correctness by affirming homosexual behavior as an acceptable lifestyle.

In the 12 months since President Barack Obama announced his support for gay marriage during the run-up to the 2012 presidential election, six states have legalized gay marriage, bringing to 12 the number of states that have done so. In addition, a small cadre of Boy Scouts leadership proposed a resolution to change its historic membership policy, and the Supreme Court heard oral arguments about the constitutionality of the federal Defense of Marriage Act and California's Proposition 8, both of which define marriage as between one man and one woman.

With the onslaught of attacks to traditional marriage, it's easy to lose sight of the 30 states that have

adopted constitutional amendments defining marriage as between one man and one woman. It's easy to forget that North Carolina became the 30th state to do so, just one day before Obama's announcement.

With so many things happening in so short a period of time, it could appear that the momentum for radical social change has shifted to those who oppose a biblical worldview and biblical values. It seems that many in the Christian community, overwhelmed by current events, have already run up the flag of defeat.

However, unless and until the Supreme Court reverses 237 years of biblical morality in regard to sexual matters enshrined in our nation's governing documents, we as a nation, despite the large numbers of our citizenry who are already there, have not yet moved into the latter part of Romans 1.

As we look at the Boy Scouts vote—and beyond to the anticipated Supreme Court decision about gay marriage—we must answer for ourselves these questions:

■ Am I an "inevitable-ist"—("It's going to happen no matter what!")? Or am I a faithful prayer warrior?

■ Am I a "culturalist"—("Whatever! Live and let live!")? Or am I truly a "people of His own"?

■ Am I an "evangelist"—("I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God unto

salvation...")? Or am I merely a worried bystander?

The answer to these questions will guide the content of our prayers for our nation. So, how do we pray?

■ Let us pray that a majority of the Supreme Court justices will stand on biblical principle and established practice and not be swayed by recent current events that seek to elevate same-sex marriage.

■ Let us pray that God's people will engage their friends and neighbors in winsome evangelism, giving both verbal and lifestyle witness to the transforming power of the gospel.

■ Let us pray that our churches will recommit themselves to biblical discipleship, shining as houses of hope and prayer.

■ Let us pray that our worship services will be oases of vibrant worship and momentary places of refuge from a lost and clamoring world, preparing and fortifying us to head back out into howling storms of spiritual battle.

■ Let us pray that our God, who is mighty to save, will bring across our path many whose hearts He has already filled with hunger and thirst for righteousness.

And let us not forget: "Blessed is the nation whose God is the LORD, the people he chose for his inheritance" (Psalm 33:12, NIV).

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

Guest Viewpoint



Roger Oldham

Talk about marriage with kids

By David Garrard

June is a time for weddings, which prompts the question, "How can I help my children prepare for marriage?" At first, the question may seem ludicrous. If your children are very young, marriage lies in the distant future—not something to worry or even think about now.

However, here's the reality. You can and should begin now preparing your children for marriage—while they are young and still under your influence.

Talk about marriage as the opportunity presents itself. Attending a wedding or seeing a wedding on TV or in a movie can provide a good starting point for such a conversation. Tell your kids your own love story of how you met and fell in love. Tell them why you wanted to get married. Talk about the role your relationship with God plays in your marriage.

Celebrate your family and the happiness of your home. Without being judgmental, point out some of the problems that families have when a marriage breaks up. Teach your children that, like so many other things, life goes better and everybody is happier when God's plan is followed and couples are true to each other.

Show your kids how to treat the opposite sex. Dads, date your daughters and set a standard for how they will want a man to treat them. Set the bar high! Moms, talk with your sons about the importance of being courteous, kind and thoughtful to the fairer sex. Beyond what you say, set a good example in how you treat your spouse.

Finally, get your kids to think specifically about the kind of person they might want to marry someday. Have them make a list of the qualities they would like that person to have. Save the list and give it to them when it comes time to start dating.

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



Credit cards: 5 things to know

By Don Spencer

Use them carefully. Credit cards offer convenience, but studies have proven that individuals spend 25 to 30 percent more when using credit cards. Be aware of this tendency and exercise self-discipline. Keep the use manageable.

Choose them carefully. Don't choose a credit card just because there is no annual fee. Look for the card that meets your spending habits. If you expect to carry a balance month to month, look for a card with a low interest rate and/or a generous grace period.

Pay as much as you can to minimize interest charges. The goal should be to always pay the bill in full each month. Paying only the minimum means paying excessive interest—and for some, paying more in interest than for the product.

Pay on time. Late fees are typically \$35 or more. That's a high price to pay for being a few days late. More importantly, continued late payments may be reported to credit bureaus as a sign you have problems handling money. If your credit rating gets lowered, your credit card company could raise interest rates on your card, reduce your credit limit, or cancel your card. Late payments can also be a mark against you when applying for a job or an apartment.

Protect your numbers. Never provide the number, expiration date or security code in response to a communicate you did not originate. When online, make sure you're dealing with a legitimate website that encrypts data. Major credit card companies also are offering more protection by providing "zero-liability" for unauthorized use of a card.

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

America still cries out to God when tragedy strikes

By Ed Stetzer

When tragedy strikes, deep and abiding religious convictions, shared by so many in our country, rise to the surface and reveal what was thought to be discarded.

Much has been written about the secularization of America, and in some ways that is the case. Pew Research found that one in five adults in our nation have no religious affiliation, a group identified as the "Nones."

Oftentimes, research like this and other anecdotes about the waning influence of Christianity on the public square are presented as proof that America is no longer a religious nation. This supposedly demonstrates that we have left our religious traditions in history's dust bin. Then, a tragedy strikes.

Times of grief reaffirm our identity as a religious nation. Shortly after the tornado in Oklahoma, #PrayforOklahoma rose to the top of Twitter's trending list as millions shared their prayers for the victims.

Some may say, "But that's Oklahoma—it's the Bible Belt." Yet, after the Sandy Hook tragedy, I was struck by the comment made by Connecticut Gov. Dan Malloy:

"In the coming days, we will rely upon that which we have been taught and that which we inherently believe: that there is faith for a reason, and that faith is God's gift to all of us."

Many are embarrassed by this national identity—until it is time to grieve. Then, politicians, celebrities and reporters can unashamedly say they are praying for those affected. News networks will show church bells ringing in memory of those lost. Nightly news will broadcast excerpts from sermons. Journalists interview religious leaders about how God can help us through.

And yes, that is where the discussion often begins. We consider why this would happen. Some people representing faith groups may speak quickly (and unwisely), assuming they can connect the dots between some-

thing in our culture and the most recent tragedy.

Others ask, "How could God allow this to happen?" These are hard questions and there are no easy answers. Moments like this remind me that I am desperate for a Savior, and reveal a world crying for rescue.

Yes, Americans remain a religious people. It is not simply personal observations that bear this out. A closer look at the statistics demonstrates the staying power religion has in America, especially during difficult times.

LifeWay Research found that people tend to be more open to matters of faith during tragedies. After a crisis like the terrorist attacks of 9/11, 38 percent said they were more open. More than 30 percent said a natural disaster would do the same, while 25 percent said the start of a war or international tension would cause them to be more receptive to religious considerations.

Frank Newport of the Gallup organization recently published "God Is Alive and Well: The Future of Religion in America." In it, he explains how religious we are: "In the 1950s and 1960s, more people said that religion can answer all or most of the day's problems than say that today. But over the last 25 years, there hasn't been a lot of change. About six in 10 Americans consistently say that religion can answer life's problems. When we put it all together, we get the image of a basically religious American population whose underlying religiousness has not changed a lot in recent decades."

Times like this show that America still has faith. Yes, there is evidence of secularization in our culture. Yes, the "Nones" are on the rise. When tragedies strike, however, those deep and abiding religious convictions shared by so many in our country rise to the surface and reveal what was thought to be discarded. We still cry out to God because we, as a nation, still believe God is the one who can help. (BP)

Ed Stetzer is president of LifeWay Research. This column first appeared in USA Today.

FIRST PERSON

NEWS BRIEFS

Florist must do gay wedding

A florist who was told by the state of Washington she must provide her services for a gay wedding is countersuing the state, saying she has served gay customers her entire career and is concerned the state's position on gay weddings will harm religious freedom. The countersuit by Arlene's Flowers came weeks after Washington Attorney General Bob Ferguson sued the florist when its owner, Barronelle Stutzman, declined to design a floral arrangement for a longtime customer who is gay. Washington legalized gay marriage last year. The countersuit, filed by the group Alliance Defending Freedom, claims the owner's Christian faith precludes her from providing her services to a gay wedding.

Cheerleaders can use Scripture

After nearly eight months on defense, cheerleaders at a Southeast Texas high school can get back to purring up their football team—and if they want to use a Bible verse on a banner to do it, they have every right. Texas state district Judge Steve Thomas has ruled that the Kountze High School cheerleaders' banners are constitutionally permissible, declaring that no law "prohibits cheerleaders from using religious-themed banners at school sporting events." The dispute began when the district received a complaint from the Freedom From Religion Foundation.

FCC public comment ends June 19

Public comment on the Federal Communications Commission's plans to change decency restrictions for broadcast TV has been extended to June 19. The FCC is considering permitting "isolated expletives" and isolated "non-sexual nudity." To comment, go online to <http://apps.fcc.gov/ecfs/> and click "submit a filing." Use the number 13-86 when prompted.

Churches to have 'hard discussion' about Scouts

By Bonnie Pritchett

Grapevine, Texas—With the decision to open the Boy Scouts of America membership to homosexual youth, the 70,000 faith-based organizations, including many churches, must decide whether to cut ties with the Scouts or continue their association with evangelistic outreach in mind.

Of the 100,000 chartered Scouting units in the United States, 70 percent are sponsored by faith-based organizations. Church leaders said the decision of affiliation with the Boy Scouts would be made at the local level.

"We're going to have a long, hard discussion of our support for our local troop," said Gregg Simmons, pastor of the Dallas-area Church at the Cross in Grapevine. For five years Church at the Cross has chartered Troop No. 4. Though he could not speak for the congregation at large, Simmons said it would be difficult for him in good conscience to continue sponsoring an organization that holds unbiblical views.

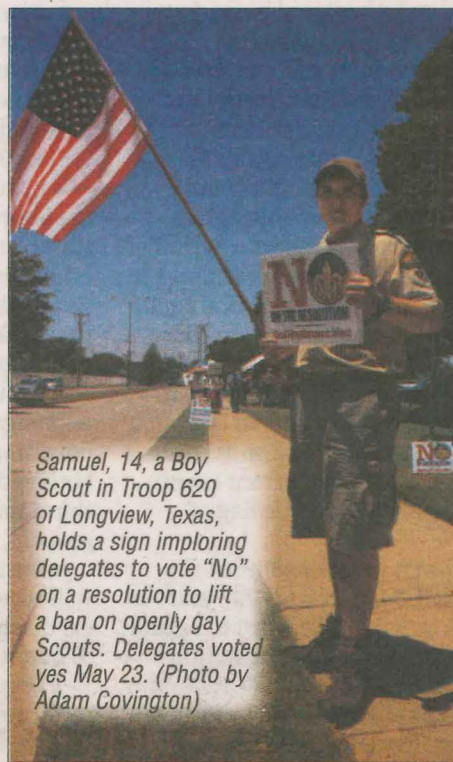
The new policy is rife with moral confusion and legal ambiguity, said Ben Wright, associate pastor at High Pointe Baptist Church in Austin, but he said the vote is not necessarily a "deal breaker" for High Pointe. However, progression toward acceptance of homosexual leaders would warrant another review of the relationship, Wright said.

Both pastors said their churches welcome the opportunity to minister to youth or adults who struggle with same-sex attraction.

Several Southern Baptist leaders, including Frank Page, Richard Land, Russell Moore and Frank Luter, have been critical of the Scout's new policy.

Chip Turner, chairman of the BSA Religious Relationships Committee and former president of the Association of Baptists for Scouting, wrote an "open letter to Southern Baptists" asking them not to abandon Scouting.

"Are the evangelism and family ministry opportunities now lessened in the church's Scout unit(s)?" he asked. "Are the lost and un-enlisted any less our responsibility now? I respectfully re-



Samuel, 14, a Boy Scout in Troop 620 of Longview, Texas, holds a sign imploring delegates to vote "No" on a resolution to lift a ban on openly gay Scouts. Delegates voted yes May 23. (Photo by Adam Covington)

mind us that the Great Commission remains unchanged and no vote can alter this reality. The local church still owns its Scout units and is responsible for selecting the leadership. As 'fishers of men,' are we not to go where the fish are located?"

Commenting on Turner's open letter, Roger Oldham, vice president for convention communications and relations with the SBC Executive Committee, said, "It is disappointing, but not surprising, that Turner's letter repeats the BSA party line—we've changed; but don't leave us!"

"Our ability to show the love of Christ will not be hampered by choosing not to expose our children to an organization that has taken the first step toward a worldview at odds with biblical morality," Oldham said. "The Boy Scouts have planted the seed of their own destruction. It may take a while for the seed to germinate fully, but when it does, its flower will not bear the pleasant aroma of the gospel. As 'fishers of men,' we are to rescue men and women and boys and girls from the destructive consequences of sin, not subject them to it." (BP)

Leave Boy Scouts, Atlanta pastor advises

Marietta, Ga.—Parents of Boy Scouts should remove their children from the organization and consider RAs as an alternative, Atlanta-area pastor Ernest Easley advised.



Ernest Easley

"We are not going to put our arms around organizations that openly oppose the moral guidelines taught in God's word," said Easley, pastor of Roswell Street Baptist Church and chairman of the Southern Baptist Convention's Executive Committee.

The pastor said ties between Roswell Street and Troop 204 dating back to 1945 will likely be broken Jan. 1, 2014, when BSA implements their newly approved policy to allow openly gay members. Easley predicted the policy change would not only lead to litigation that would force the Boy Scouts to accept openly gay leaders, but also the increased potential for the sexual abuse of children.

Easley encouraged parents to enroll their boys in the Royal Ambassador program—a Southern Baptist missions organization for boys in grades 1-6 or Challengers, a tandem program that engages young men in grades 7-12 in missions education.

Easley said Southern Baptists "really have an opportunity here to strengthen our RA programs and to get the boys in a program where they're going to be protected, where there's a high moral standard and where they will have an opportunity to learn about camping, missions, evangelism in the local church." (BP)

How does your Kentucky Baptist church plan to address BSA's policy change?
Email: robin.bass@westernrecorder.org.

Public not swayed by Gosnell case, Gallup polling finds

Nashville—The Gallup polling organization said Kermit Gosnell's murder trial did not change public opinion on abortion, but it also acknowledged Americans paid little attention to the case.

In a survey conducted May 2-7, Gallup found views on abortion's legality were nearly identical to those of most of the last decade: 52 percent think abortion should be legal only in certain circumstances; 26 percent think it should be legal in any circumstance; and 20 percent think it should be illegal in all circumstances. Of the 52 percent, 38 percent said it should be legal only in a few circumstances.

A Philadelphia jury convicted the abortion doctor May 13 of the first-degree murder of three babies who were delivered alive at his clinic. Gosnell received three consecutive life sentences without parole for the murders of the children, who were only a few of hundreds killed after induced delivery at



Kermit Gosnell's murder trial did little to sway public opinion about abortion, according to a recent Gallup poll. (BP)

least six months into gestation, according to a grand jury report. In addition, jurors convicted him of 21 counts of violating a state ban on abortions after 24 weeks of pregnancy and of involuntary manslaughter in the death of a mother after an abortion at a clinic that was a health and safety hazard.

Gallup reported a minority of Americans paid attention to the trial: 54 percent said they followed news about the

case "not at all," while only 7 percent said "very closely," 18 percent "somewhat closely" and 20 percent "not too closely."

Nearly half, 46 percent, of those Americans following the case said the mainstream news media had not provided enough coverage of the trial.

Gallup says was unclear whether the "relatively low attention to the Gosnell case reflects a lack of interest in it, or a lack of coverage by the mainstream media."

Michael New, an expert on abortion legislation, said the Gosnell trial still may produce "some long-term good for the pro-life movement."

"It may lead to better enforcement of existing abortion clinic regulations," New wrote in a blog post at National Review Online. "It will likely facilitate the passage of stronger regulations on abortion providers. It may also generate some much-needed discussion about the legality of late-term abortions." (BP)

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Joplin tornado survivor ministers in Moore

By Tobin Perry

Moore, Okla.—Gary Hunley had seen it all before. As he surveyed the damage left behind from last Monday's EF5 tornado in Moore, Okla., he saw an all-too-familiar scene of overturned cars, metal signposts bent to the ground and houses reduced to rubble.

Almost two years to the day before the historic Moore tornado, Hunley's home was destroyed by an equally historic tornado in Joplin, Mo., which killed 158 people. Since then Hunley, the leader on his Spring River Baptist Association Disaster Relief team, has participated in numerous Southern Baptist Disaster Relief responses. Yet because of the amount of damage in Moore, the latest assignment has brought back a variety of memories.

"I understand it," Hunley said. "I saw it yesterday for the first time. It was like Joplin—the scene, the smell, the look on people's faces. Some are trying to be uplifting and act like everything is O.K. They're hiding it though; I can see it on their face. I feel so sorry for them."

Hunley and his team of three Missouri Baptists were among hundreds of SBDP volunteers serving in Moore and Shawnee, Okla., following recent tornadoes, including the May 19 Shawnee twister that killed two.

Southern Baptist volunteers have ministered to the practical and spiritual needs of Oklahoma residents by



Southern Baptist Disaster Relief volunteer Gary Hunley of Joplin, Mo., sifts through the remnants of a home destroyed by an EF5 tornado in Moore, Okla., May 20. Hunley, a member of First Baptist Church in Diamond, Mo., survived the 2011 EF5 tornado that destroyed his Joplin home as he and his wife huddled in a closet. (Photo by John Swain/NAMB)

removing fallen trees and other debris, searching for personal items, putting tarps on roofs and counseling survivors and performing other tasks.

Volunteers have come from the Southern Baptists of Texas, the Texas Baptist Men and state conventions in Arkansas,

Iowa, Kansas-Nebraska, Louisiana, Missouri, North Carolina and Oklahoma.

Southern Baptists had logged a total of 972 volunteer days, prepared more than 30,000 meals, presented the gospel 47 times and distributed 278 Bibles through Saturday, May 25. (BP)

Disaster survey

Continued from page 1

specific people or things. Sixty-seven percent do not post topics of prayer on social media and 3 percent don't know.

Among those who do post prayers on social media, most take a moment to actually pray rather than consider the post itself a form of prayer. When asked to complete the statement, "If I post a prayer on social media ...," 23 percent say they always take a moment to actually pray and 10 percent consider posting the update to be a form of prayer. Sixty-four percent complete the statement by saying they don't post prayers.

When a natural disaster occurs, Americans trust faith-based groups to be more responsible than secular groups with their donations by nearly a two to one margin. Fifty-six percent agree they trust faith-based groups more, while 28 percent do not. Those who live in the Midwest and South, men and those who do not have a college degree are more likely to trust faith-based charities, while those in the Northeast and Americans ages 45-64 are not as likely.

Almost 60 percent of Americans donate to relief agencies in the wake of natural disasters. Thirty percent donate to both faith-based and secular relief agencies. A third of Americans (32 percent) don't donate to any relief agencies. (BP)

Land passes ERLC baton to Southern Seminary's Russell Moore

By Adelle Banks

Washington—In a generational changing of the guard, Southern Baptists are gaining a new advocate for their values in Washington and around the country as Russell Moore, a media-savvy theologian, takes the helm of the Ethics and Religious Liberty Commission.

The ERLC is the public policy arm for the Southern Baptist Convention, and Moore is taking over from Richard Land, who headed the ERLC since 1988 and used it as a platform to rally social conservatives in the nation's culture wars.

Like Land, Moore is an abortion opponent, a believer in an errorless Bible and a fan of Coke Zero.

But even though both men assumed the ERLC post at age 41, it's clear that Moore is part of a new era. While Land, 66, has been computer-averse, Moore is a frequent blogger and can tweet more

than a dozen times a day. Moore, a Mississippi native, is a fan of country music and Christian hip-hop; Land, a sixth-generation Texan, favors Elvis and the Beatles.

Albert Mohler Jr., president of the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, said Moore—who had been head of the seminary's theology school—is "unabashedly committed to the same convictions" as Land, but uses newer cultural skills.

"My legacy will be decided long after I'm gone."

Richard Land

Change in command

Land said he has no plans to join the Twitterverse, but he does have a copy of "iPad for Dummies" and will teach an online class in his new job as the head of Southern Evangelical Seminary near Charlotte, N.C.

While the audience is different—the interdenominational seminary has just 350 resident and online students—Land's mission will be much the same as he aims to create, in his words, "green

berets and paratroopers of God's army."

The difference in language and tone between the two men is significant.

Citing Jesus' "calm tranquility," Moore likes to speak of the need to defend Southern Baptist ideals by using "convictional kindness" rather than the stern moralism that propelled the previous Moral Majority generation.

"Jesus is convictional," Moore said in an interview as he began to adjust to his Washington office just off Capitol Hill. (He officially started on June 1 and will split time between Washington and Nashville, Tenn.) "He speaks clearly about sin, righteousness and judgment but Jesus is not panicked or outraged."

Moore, who was registered as an Independent in Kentucky but admired former President George W. Bush's "compassionate conservatism," supports what he calls "engaged communitarianism"—a middle ground between the evangelical extremes of triumphalism and cultural separation.

No matter how the Supreme Court rules in June on same-sex marriage, he thinks evangelicals need to rethink marriage by affirming the roles of men and women and moving away from the notion of clergy as the "marrying parson" who willingly weds "unbelievers."

"The church is not some sort of justice of the peace with a prayer book," he said.

Having 'fun again'

Last year, Land was embroiled in a

controversy about racial comments he made about the Trayvon Martin case, an ironic turn of events given that Land is credited for pushing Southern Baptists to apologize for their Civil-war-era defense of slavery in 1995. The incident—along with accusations that Land lifted writings from others for his radio show—came shortly before the ERLC moved in a different direction.

Fred Luter, who was elected as the SBC's first African-American president last year, said he was concerned when

Land announced his retirement: "One thing about Richard: You never had to guess what he stood for."

But he's pleased with the selection of Moore, who was one of the earliest

"The church is not some sort of justice of the peace with a prayer book."

Russell Moore

supporters of Luter's historic presidency. With connections to older Southern Baptists and social media outreach to younger ones, Luter said, "He's going to be a great, great fit."

In an interview, Land didn't seem concerned about how he'd be viewed in light of the scandals that overshadowed his final year in office: "My legacy will be decided long after I'm gone."

But as he heads to Charlotte with his wife of almost 42 years, his German shepherd and his 36,000 books, Land seemed to relish his changing role.

"Before I was head of the ERLC, I used to enjoy the Southern Baptist Convention," he said of the annual gatherings each June. "For the last 25 years, it's been work. Now it'll be fun again." (RNS)

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Barkley Moore Offering

Testimonies help explain what the Father's Day offering is all about

Each June, Kentucky Baptist Convention churches have the opportunity to collect the Barkley Moore Father's Day Offering for Oneida Baptist Institute.

What are the results of those offerings and the prayers that accompany them? Listen to two voices from the Class of 2013 and I think you will understand.

Morgan: "I will never forget Oneida, the place, the people, and—most importantly—the obstacles I had to overcome. At first, I was reluctant as to coming, but as time went by it baffled me how there were such wonderful people who care and would do whatever it takes to help us grow spiritually, mentally and physically. I must admit it wasn't easy. However, I couldn't have done it without the help of my Savior who guides me and protects me everywhere I go, or without my mother.

"Coming from New York City to Oneida was out of the norm. I was in the middle of nowhere with farms, mountains, and everything so far away. This place is just what I needed. It helped me go from a world full of skepticism to a firm belief.

"I also was able to involve myself in various activities and excel in school. I was very fond of sports and enjoyed them. I was able to learn responsibility by having the opportunities to work in field placement and every day after school.

"I was able to learn how to carry myself as a young lady due to the discipline provided. This school has prepared me for the real world, and it has

built me up so that I can handle most things that come my way. My goals now are to attend a university and study to become an anesthesiologist. With the help of the Lord and my support system, I will accomplish those goals. Thank you, Oneida, for having such a positive impact on my life every step of the way."

This is Oneida



Paul Davidson

Aris: "I am from Ethiopia. The reason I came to Oneida is because my sister graduated from here about four or five years ago, and my parents thought it would be a good experience for me and a better education.

"The reason I wanted to graduate from Oneida is because it is truly unique and the most special place I have ever been. I also believe I have done a lot of growing in the two years I have been here—all the more reason to graduate from Oneida.

"Honestly, I wasn't looking for anything when I enrolled. My parents thought it would be good for me, so I came, but the most important thing Oneida offered me that I didn't even know I needed, or the thing I thought I already had but didn't, is the knowledge of Jesus Christ.

Don't get me wrong. I knew a lot of things about Jesus before I came here, but Oneida helped me to see the main point and because of that, I can say I know Christ personally. That is something I wouldn't have been able to say two years ago."

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

Finish what God started

Student returns to complete degree at Clear Creek

Eric Greene is one of our students from a neighboring county. This is his second time at Clear Creek.

"I was born in Harlan, grew up there, and went to school my whole life there," said Eric. "I came to know the Lord as my Savior when I was a junior in high school. I am a product of the First Priority group that was active in my high school.

"First Priority is a Christian organization that helps students to organize devotion times on school campuses in our area. The group has a strong presence in my high school and they were instrumental in leading me to the Lord during my junior year.

"After I got saved, the Lord led me to Harlan Baptist Church where one of the Clear Creek professors, Dr. John Ditty, was the pastor," said Eric. "During this time God began to place a call on my life to ministry and he pointed me to Clear Creek.

"When I came to Clear Creek the first time I was a single student. I was probably not the most mature student that I needed to be during that time. I ended up leaving after a little while and

began to have some doubts about my calling.

"As I think back over all that happened during that time, I can say I probably wouldn't have met my wife if I had not left Clear Creek," said Eric. "During

my time away from Clear Creek I met my wife Hannah and started going to church with her and started helping her to work with the youth.

"As I began to get more involved with her at church, God began to open up doors for me to move into more leadership roles at the church. Then God began to convict me about coming back to Clear Creek to finish what He had started in my life."

"When I shared with my wife what God was leading me to do in going back to Clear Creek, it was like she already knew it before I did. It's pretty neat that God began to prepare her before he even prepared me."

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; email: dfox@ccb.edu.

Clear Creek Chronicle



Donnie Fox

Obsession with the end of days

By Ken Camp and Bob Allen

There is a billboard along I-35 in Central Texas that proclaims on Aug. 2, 2027, "Christ stands on Mt. Olivet at noon." It cites Amos 8:9 as Bible proof. A website links the verse to an anticipated solar eclipse that will be visible in Jerusalem.

Date-setting is most common among fundamentalist Christians who interpret the Bible most literally.

Thomas Slater, professor of New Testament language and literature at Mercer University's McAfee School of Theology, calls it a form of "neo-gnosticism," similar to an early Christian heresy with a dualistic belief system that the material world should be shunned and salvation attained through knowledge.

"It's a kind of religious elitism that says the knowledge we have puts us in a different category," he said. "In trying to eliminate uncertainty, it creates a form of gnosticism that teaches, 'My knowledge will save me.' What saves any of us is trust in God through Jesus Christ. There's not any amount of knowledge that will save us."

Belief in the Second Coming is a fundamental of the Christian faith. The Westminster Confession of Faith, a Reformed confessional statement drawn up in 1646, says Jesus "ascended into heaven, and there sits at the right hand of His Father, making intercession, and shall return, to judge men and angels, at the end of the world."

The 1689 London Baptist Confession of Faith picked up that language. The 2000 Baptist Faith and Message states both that Jesus "ascended into heaven and is now exalted at the right hand of God" and "will return in power and glory to judge the world and to consummate His redemptive mission."

Weaver said interest in end-times prophecy historically has intensified during periods of cultural crisis. Middle East unrest, terrorist attacks and natural disasters prompt many Christians today to study prophetic timelines to determine if current events might be signs of Christ's Second Coming.

"It's been going on for a long time, but it gained new momentum with the rise of premillennial dispensationalism," Weaver said.

The millennium describes a 1,000-year period prophesied in Revelation 20 where Satan is bound and Christ reigns with the resurrected saints on Earth.



The Four Horsemen of the Apocalypse is one of the most famous works of German artist Albrecht-Dürer.

Christians historically have divided into three predominant schools of thought on the matter.

Amillennialists view the 1,000 years as figurative and symbolic.

Postmillennialism, which reached its apex in the 19th and early 20th century, believes Christians will usher in the kingdom of God through social reform and missions.

Premillennialists take a dimmer view of history. They believe things are getting worse and will continue that way until Christ intervenes to set things right and establish a 1,000-year reign on Earth.

The premillennial view goes back a long way, but its most popular form today—dispensationalism—dates back to John Nelson Darby and the Plymouth Brethren in the mid-1800s.

It received a boost among conservative Christians in the United States in the 20th century through the annotated Scofield Reference Bible. Interest accelerated with Hal Lindsey's bestselling "The Late, Great Planet Earth" in 1970, and entered popular culture with the Left Behind series in the 1990s.

Weaver said the movement's positive side is its absolute certainty in God's providential care for His people and in offering hope for the future. "The problem is that it doesn't focus on the present," he said. "It's all about God's activity in the future." (ABP)

Lee Strobel joins HBU apologetics department

Houston—Author and apologist Lee Strobel has joined Houston Baptist University's School of Christian Thought in the department of apologetics.

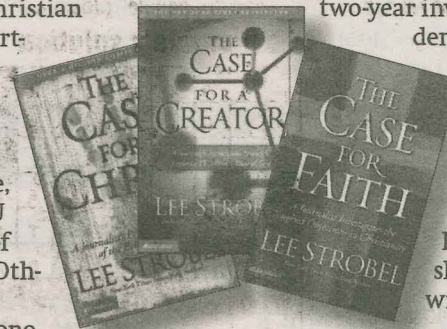
Strobel, an award-winning former legal editor of The Chicago Tribune, is one of several HBU hires in the School of Christian Thought. Others include Nancy Pearcey, who The Economist called "America's pre-eminent evangelical Protestant female intellectual," and Mike Licona.

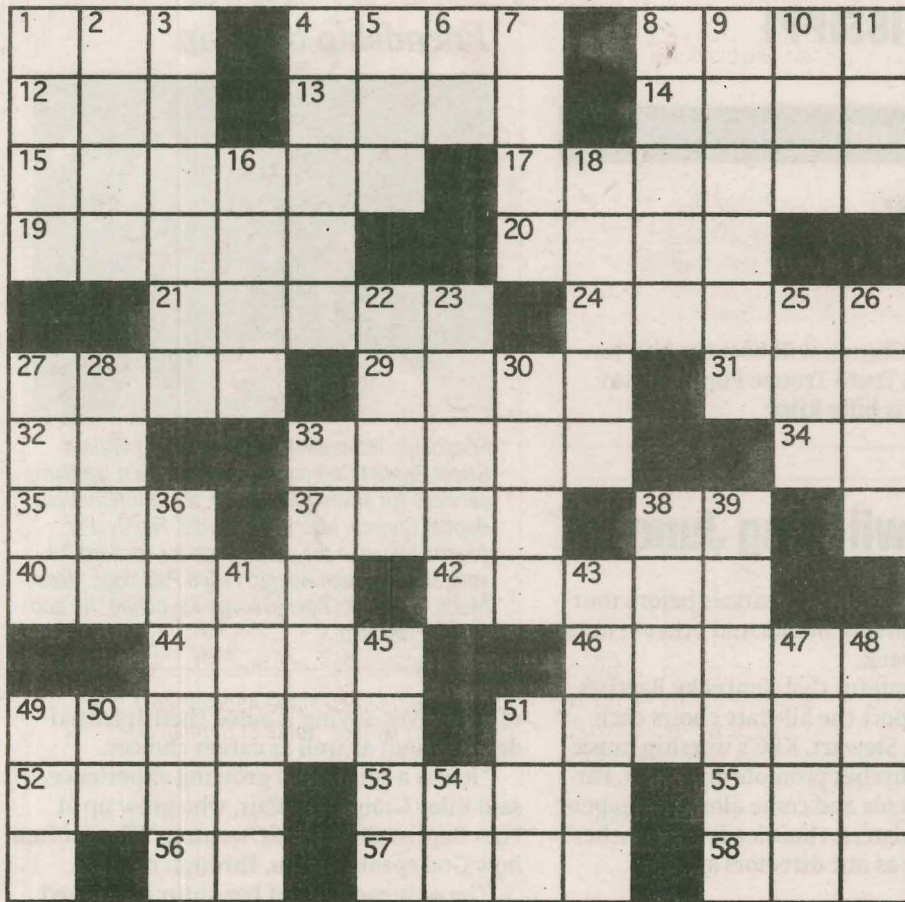
Strobel, described in The Washington Post as "one of the evangelical

community's most popular apologists," became a Christian in 1981 after a nearly

two-year investigation of the evidence for Jesus. Beginning in 1987, he served on the staffs of Willow Creek Community Church in South Barrington, Ill., and Saddleback Church in Lake Forest, Calif., before shifting his focus to writing.

Strobel won Gold Medallions for his books "The Case for Christ," "The Case for Faith" and "The Case for a Creator," all of which have been made into documentaries distributed by Lionsgate. (BP)





#163

Bible Crosswords

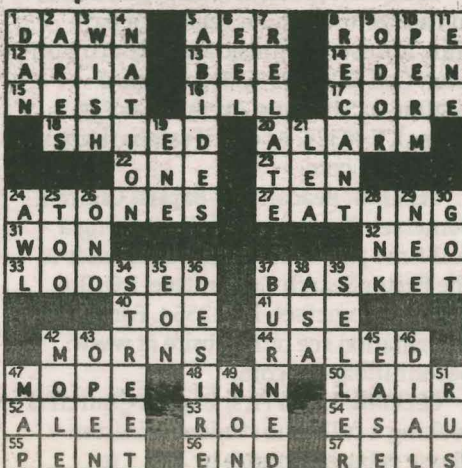
By Evelyn Boyington

Across

- 1 Director Peckinpah
- 4 Understands
- 8 "Thou liftest me up to the wind; thou causest me to ____ upon it" (Job 30:22)
- 12 Ripen
- 13 Secular person
- 14 SW Ohio city
- 15 "Blessed be the God and ____ of our Lord Jesus Christ" (1 Peter 1:3)
- 17 "Whosoever shall exalt himself shall be ____" (Matthew 23:12)
- 19 "I ____ not from thy precepts" (Psalm 119:110)
- 20 "Let us run with patience the ____ that is set before us" (Hebrews 12:1)
- 21 "To do" tasks
- 24 Crone
- 27 So much, so great
- 29 New Jersey, to Noelle
- 31 ____ shirt
- 32 Dolly's domain (abbr.)
- 33 "We should be holy and without ____ before him in love" (Ephesians 1:4)
- 34 Administrator of TLC
- 35 Fruity drink
- 37 To be (Fr.)
- 38 University of Michigan's Schembeckler, familiarly
- 40 "He (Judah) couched as a lion ... who shall ____ him up?" (Genesis 49:9)
- 42 Where Saul encountered a witch
- 44 Son of Melchi (Luke 3:27)
- 46 Blot out
- 49 "The Lord said, My ____ shall not always strive with man" (Genesis 6:3)
- 51 Does the hora
- 52 Act or result (suffix)
- 53 "____ was a tiller of the ground" (Genesis 4:2)
- 55 Meadow
- 56 Masculine nickname
- 57 Disapproving sound
- 58 Flightless bird

- 7 To mark permanently
- 8 "Then saith he to Thomas, ____ hither thy finger" (John 20:27)
- 9 Place inside
- 10 Stag's mate
- 11 Bitter or dead
- 16 Abraham and Sarah were buried in field purchased from sons of ____ (Genesis 25)
- 18 Tend to a turkey
- 22 "The heart of Egypt shall ____ in the midst of it" (Isaiah 19:1)
- 23 "I may tell all my bones: they look and ____ upon me" (Psalm 22:17)
- 25 Poetic contraction
- 26 Benign tumors
- 27 "There fell a great ____ from heaven" (Revelation 8:10)
- 28 Disentangle
- 30 "Let all the people say, ____" (Psalm 106:48)
- 33 Father of Hosea (Hosea 1:1)
- 36 Mother of Timothy (2 Timothy 1:5)
- 38 "Unto you is ____ this day ... a Saviour" (Luke 2:11)
- 39 Kin to a prophet
- 41 Son of Zebulun (Genesis 46:14)
- 43 College officials
- 45 Restless desire
- 47 Appear likely
- 48 "____ despised his birthright" (Genesis 25:34)
- 49 Game, ____ match
- 50 Like an IOU, only more specific
- 51 Show no respect (colloq.)
- 54 "I have given into thy hand the king of ____ and his people" (Joshua 8:1)

Last puzzle's solution #162



Down

- 1 "The king said, Is the young man Absalom ____?" (2 Samuel 18:29)
- 2 "For this ____ is mount Sinai in Arabia" (Galatians 4:25)
- 3 ____ system
- 4 Animal not to be eaten (Deuteronomy 14:13)
- 5 It contains a hammer and a stirrup
- 6 Note on diatonic scale

A popular way to give

Donor-advised funds found 'to be most beneficial'

Giving through donor-advised funds (DAF) is surging in popularity these days, especially with the strong stock market, which has resulted in capital appreciation on which a capital gains tax will be owed when the securities are sold. Giving through a DAF allows you to give the appreciated security, or cash, avoid the capital gains tax and receive an immediate tax deduction without specifying at the time of the gift the charity or charities you want to benefit. The specific charity or charities can be determined at a later date.

Ky. Baptist Foundation



Barry Allen

In addition to spontaneous giving opportunities, a DAF also can be used for strategic gift planning and for helping you make giving a multi-generational family affair. Many donors use a DAF in anticipation of selling a business or a business interest. It's very much like establishing your own private foundation but without the hassle and expense.

Even a business can establish a corporate DAF. Stewardship is not limited to individuals and families. Oftentimes business owners and corporations feel the same desire to give back as individu-

als and families feel.

The KBF has been offering the DAF option since 1993. Those who have utilized this option have found it to be most beneficial. Rather than writing multiple checks and tracking numerous

receipts, you only need the receipt you receive from the KBF. You can empower children or grandchildren to participate in the "advisory role" to provide them hands-on experience in stewardship decision-making. The DAF ultimately can become an irrevocable, permanent endowment fund as a lasting legacy of your stewardship through the cause(s) near and dear to you. The DAF facilitates

you taking advantage of the tax benefits available to you without the administrative burdens and expense of a private foundation. And, last but not least, you receive the beneficial assistance of our professional staff to maximize the impact of your giving.

Don't wait! Act now! Call Laurie Valentine or me toll free for assistance in establishing a DAF for you, your family or your business.

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

Hobby Lobby awaiting appeals decision

By Tom Strode

Washington—Hobby Lobby's hopes for deliverance by July 1 from fines under the Obama administration's abortion/contraception mandate now rest with eight federal appeals court judges.

Lawyers representing the chain of arts and crafts stores and the federal government presented oral arguments before the 10th Circuit Court of Appeals May 23 in Denver. Hobby Lobby's lawyers asked the judges to block enforcement of the controversial provision before July 1, when a mandate that could result in a penalty of \$1.3 million a day takes effect for the company.

Hobby Lobby filed suit last year

against the portion of the 2010 health care reform law that requires employers to pay for coverage of drugs defined by the Food and Drug Administration as contraceptives, even if they can cause abortions. The Green family, which owns Hobby Lobby, does not oppose all contraceptive methods, only those that have abortion-causing qualities.

A federal judge and a three-judge panel of the 10th Circuit Court refused last year to block enforcement of the mandate, but the appeals court made the highly unusual move in late March of granting a hearing before its full panel of eight active judges.

Nationally, 60 lawsuits have been filed against the mandate. (BP)

More Americans linking homosexuality to birth

By Michael Foust

Washington—A record number of Americans believe homosexuality is morally acceptable and is something people are born with, according to a new Gallup poll.

Fifty-nine percent of adults say gay and lesbian relations are morally acceptable while 38 percent say they are morally wrong, according to the poll conducted May 2-7 among 1,535 adults. The 59 percent is an increase from 54 percent last year and 49 percent in 2009, when the upward trend began.

The trend is a dramatic reversal from 2004, a year in which 13 states passed constitutional amendments defining marriage as between a man and a woman. That year, only 42 percent said such relations were morally acceptable and 54 percent said they were morally wrong.

On the question of homosexuality's origins, 47 percent say "being gay or lesbian" is "something a person is born with" while 33 percent say it is "due to factors such as upbringing and environment." Both numbers are records.

The percentage of people who believe homosexuality is present at birth has increased or remained steady since 2009 when the upward trend began and a plurality of Americans (42 percent) said it was due to upbringing/environment and 35 percent said it was something with which people are born.

Bob Stith, former Southern Baptist national strategist for gender issues, said much of the growing acceptance of homosexuality can be blamed on the church's failure to prepare Christians "to understand and communicate God's original intent" on sexuality and "to do so in a redemptive and compassionate manner." (BP)



June

- 10 Mission Adventure Camp, Cedar Crest, Bagdad.
- 14 Mother/Daughter Overnight, Cedarmore, Bagdad.
- 14 Father/Son Overnight, Cedarmore, Bagdad.
- 16 All-State Youth Choir and Orchestra 25th Anniversary, Campbellsville University, Campbellsville.
- 17 Mission Adventure Camp, Cedar Crest, Bagdad.
- 21 All-State Youth Chor and Orchestra, Kentucky Baptist Convention, Louisville.
- 21 Mother/Daughter Overnight, Cedarmore, Bagdad.
- 21 Father/Son Overnight, Cedarmore, Bagdad.
- 24 Mission Adventure Camp, Cedar Crest, Bagdad.
- 27 Foundation Board of Directors Meeting, Kentucky Baptist Convention, Louisville.
- 29 Ky. Baptist Nursing Fellowship Summer Meeting, Elizabethtown.

MOUNTAINS TO THE MISSISSIPPI

COMPILED BY STAFF

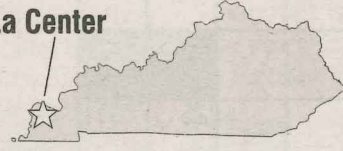
■ **HICKMAN**—Sassafras Ridge Church will hold homecoming June 9. **Charles Southerland** is pastor.

■ **LOUISVILLE**—Fern Creek Church will host **Fishers of Men** in concert June 7, 7 p.m., with a spaghetti dinner at 5:30 p.m. For more information, call (502) 239-0316. **Linda Popham** is pastor.

■ **MARION**—Second Church will host **The Williamsons** in concert June 9, 7 p.m. For more information, call (270) 388-7367. **Chris Lowery** is pastor.

Spotlight on ...

La Center



New Hope Church will host the Newton Creek Church Truth Troupe Puppet Team June 9. Pastor is **Billy Riley**.

Choir alumni recall group's impact; will sing June 23

By Ken Walker

Louisville—Nearly 20 years have passed since David Gagel first sang in the Kentucky Baptist Convention's All-State Youth Choir, but the experience left an indelible mark on him.

"The Lord used this in calling me to ministry back in 2000," said Gagel, who grew up at Parkland Baptist Church in Louisville. "We thought this year being the 25th anniversary it would be a good time to pull off a reunion."

A youth music consultant for the KBC while studying at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Gagel now is coordinating a committee organizing an alumni reunion June 21-23 in Bowling Green.

More than 700 former members are encouraged to attend the event, which will conclude with alumni joining this year's youth choir and orchestra for the final concert of the tour, June 23 at 3 p.m., CDT, at First Baptist Church of Bowling Green.

For a complete list of tour stops for this year's choir and orchestra visit www.kybaptist.org/asyco. All performances are free.

Originally assembled in 1989 by the Kentucky Baptist Convention, the program expanded in 1995 by adding an orchestra.

Combined in 2008, the choir and orchestra

meet for several days of rehearsals before touring churches, nursing homes and other venues the rest of the week.

"We are so grateful that Kentucky Baptists continue to support the all-state choirs each year," said Jason Stewart, KBC's worship/music consultant. "Churches promote auditions. Parents send their kids and come along as chaperones. Music ministers, choir leaders and other musicians serve as our directors and accompanists."

The fact that many alumni are music ministers or active in music programs shows that the choir and orchestra have served their purpose, said retired KBC worship and music director Jim Cordell.

"We talked about 'calling out the called,' but we didn't do much to encourage that," Cordell said. "We wanted to model music as a ministry for our youth."

Although looking forward to reconnecting with old friends, the reunion committee's leading goal is promoting the choir.

"We decided we could all participate in the combined concert so youth could see how good it has been in our lives," said Gagel, a member of First Baptist Church of Paducah who currently is seeking a position as a music minister.

Some alumni describe the choir a highlight

Friendship baptism



Friendship International, a ministry at Walnut Street Baptist Church in Louisville, held baptism services for seven people Jan. 27 at International Baptist Church, also in Louisville. Family and friends joined in the celebration for Richard Adenir, Edward John Adenir, Felipe Palasigue, Jesse Mudd, Sheryl Kuriger, George Payocong, III, and Marivic Navarro.

of their lives, saying it aided their spiritual development as well as career choices.

"It was a spiritually growing experience," said Kiley Craigmyle Blair, who grew up at First Baptist Church of Owenton. "That's often how God speaks to you, through music."

The only member of her church involved from 1993-96, Blair said the group quickly became a family; she saw many of the same faces each summer.

John Strickland said his year in the choir helped redirect his career path from teaching to music ministry. After graduating in 2012 from Southern Seminary, he became minister of music at Southside Baptist Church in Suffolk, Va.

Even though travel plans will prevent Strickland from attending, he thinks the reunion will be significant for Kentucky Baptists.

"Regardless of style, singing is still an integral aspect of worship," he said. "It's something we're commanded to do and is going on in heaven right now. People who started the choir understand it's not only important to sing ourselves but to teach kids to do this." (KBC)

CLASSIFIED ADS

AVAILABLE: Sound/projection/video/theatrical lighting. JCA Media, LLC, well known in KBC, 20+ years experience installing quality equipment at reasonable pricing. Jim Cottrell, owner, Elizabethtown, (270) 862-9586 or (270) 312-7492. Rusty King, project manager, Nashville, Tenn., (615) 972-8869. Amy Cottrell, operations manager, Louisville, acottrell@jcamediasolutions.com. References available.

FOR SALE: 1995 Eagle Model 15 bus for sale, 55 passenger, AC/heated comfort, restroom, DVD/VHS/P.A. system, large storage compartments. Call Hyland Baptist Church at (270) 827-1258.

FREE: 15 pews (16' long) and 15 pews (7' long). Sharpsburg Baptist Church. Contact Frank at (606) 783-0670.

SEEKING: Part-time minister of music for Grace Baptist Church, Lexington, Ky., to direct the adult choir, lead worship services and guide the church's music programs. Please submit your resumé by mail to the Minister of Music Search Committee, 811 Bryan Avenue, Lexington, KY 40505, or by email to dfoley@gbclexington.org by June 30.

SEEKING: Fordsville Baptist Church of Fordsville, Ky., is seeking a pastor. Accepting resúmes through May. Send to: Pastor Search Committee, c/o J.L. Staples, 890 Hawesville Road, Reynolds Station, KY 42368.

SEEKING: The Kentucky Baptist Convention is seeking a webmaster to work in concert with the communications team to help deliver excellent user experiences for visitors to all of our websites. Proficiency with WordPress, HTML, CSS, PHP and other tools is required. Successful candidates will also enjoy working with a diverse team, will be eager to identify and contribute solutions and will be committed to learning and adapting. Send resumé, cover letter and references to curtis.woods@kybaptist.org, or mail to the attention of Curtis Woods at Kentucky Baptist Convention, 13420 Eastpoint Centre Drive, Louisville, KY 40223-4160.

SEEKING: Southern Heights Baptist Church is seeking a full-time youth and music minister. The position includes working with the senior pastor in developing a biblical based, church involved youth program, as well as leading choir and congregation with a blend of traditional and contemporary music. Send resúmes to pam.southernheights@gmail.com, or to Southern Heights Baptist Church, 3408 Clays Mill Road, Lexington, KY 40503.

SEEKING: Emmanuel Baptist Church is seeking a pastor. Please send resúmes to Emmanuel Baptist Church, Attn: Search Committee, 108 Hillcrest Drive, Marion, KY 42064.

SEEKING: Burlington Baptist Church, a contemporary, vibrant & growing church in Burlington, Ky., is seeking a full-time young adult pastor & worship leader. Responsibilities include working with college age & young adults, ages 18-25, and leading worship for a contemporary, young adult-type service on Sunday nights. Please refer inquiries to gttoole@yahoo.com by June 30.

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

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

SEEKING: Beacon Hill Baptist Church, Somerset, Ky., is prayerfully seeking a full-time pastor. Please send resúmes to the Pastor Search Committee, P.O. Box 3205, W. Somerset, KY 42564. For more information see our website at www.beconhillbaptist.com.

SEEKING: Hayti First Baptist Church is seeking a full-time student minister. Please submit resúmes by July 1 to

To place an advertisement in the Western Recorder:

Rates are available upon request. Call (502) 489-3428; or visit WesternRecorder.org. Claims made by advertisers are not necessarily those of the Western Recorder's staff or directors.



haytifbc@gmail.com, or 201 East Lincoln Street, Hayti, MO 63851.

SEEKING: Franklin Crossroads Baptist is seeking a full-time senior pastor. Please see website for details: franklin-crossroadsbaptist.com.

SEEKING: Calvary Baptist Church, 111 N. McWhorter Street, London, Ky., is seeking a part-time minister of youth. For more info, please write or call (606) 864-7071, or email us at calvarybapt2000@yahoo.com. Website: calvarybaptistlondonky.com.

TRAVEL: Senior adult tour to Niagara Falls and Toronto, Sept. 9-13, \$599, includes transportation, lodging, four breakfasts, four dinners, tour of Toronto, Canada, dinner at Skylon Towers, dinner theater in Canada, Maid of the Mist tour, Niagara on the Lake and much more. We have 10 spots available. For info, call Floyd Price, (859) 421-1418.

TRANSFORMING YOUNG HEARTS IN BANGLADESH

one girl at a time

By Laura Fielding

Bangladesh—When Geri Hennerman* began serving in Bangladesh nearly 10 years ago, she didn't anticipate being constantly overwhelmed by poverty and needs.

Each day she saw women and children begging on the street, families living in poverty in the slums and Bangladeshi friends struggling with finances.

"It's not just people you're seeing on the street. It's people knocking on your door, coming in your home. So it's not something that you can really get away from unless you just don't deal with people at all, ever," said Geri.

Dealing with people is exactly what Texans Geri and her husband Mickey* want to do—they're Christian workers who strive to be Jesus' heart, hands and voice to Bangladeshi people.

Even if they wanted to, getting away from people isn't easy in Bangladesh. The country is the fifth most densely populated in the world. Roughly the size of the state of Arkansas, Bangladesh contains more than half of the population of the entire United States. Eighty-four percent of the population lives on less than \$2 a day, and an estimated 7 million people live in slums.

Geri learned that only about half the women over age 15 can read and write, and that a Bangladeshi child's school "life expectancy" is typically eight years.

"Education is for people who can afford it, and it's first for boys, then for girls," Mickey explained. "To quote James Brown, 'It's a man's world.' Women are second- and third-class citizens."

Geri knew the only way for these young women to have a brighter future was to develop skills and get an education. She soon discovered that a good friend and Christian shared her same calling and passion and they opened the Light of Hope Learning Center.

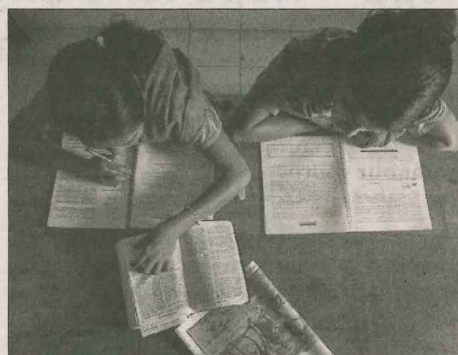
Transforming lives

In addition to learning about Jesus, girls receive an education that includes economic, social, mental, physical and emotional skills.

"Most of our girls that we chose are from the slums and they were beggars



Elementary-age girls take part in a Bible study lesson at Light of Hope, a ministry for impoverished girls in Bangladesh. Young girls, like Minara (name changed), center, once attended every day, but due to lack of staff, funding and resources their program was suspended. They can still come to the center once a week for an afternoon Bible study class. (Photos by Joanna Pinneo)



Older Light of Hope students have taken on more responsibility at the center—two of the oldest girls prepare a Bible study lesson for young girls they will teach the next day.

on the streets," Geri said.

Today, the Light of Hope accommodates 14 girls between the ages of 13-18; they attend five days a week from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Geri and Mickey serve as the center's directors, while a core group of national women run its day-to-day operations.

While at the center, the girls take showers, receive clean uniforms and eat two healthy meals. They and their families receive basic health care and assistance if they need to see a doctor or have a medical emergency.

Students also are taught to embroider handicrafts. They are paid a small income for their embroidery work,

which allows them to continue their education and not have to beg or work elsewhere.

Other members of the family come to the center as well. Many of the girls' mothers and sisters go to sewing and embroidery classes as well as a weekly reading and writing class. Girls under the age of 13 used to attend the center but now come only for Wednesday Bible study; their program was suspended due to lack of funding, staff and resources.

"If I had not gone to the Light of Hope Center, I would not be able to learn many things about Jesus Christ. Moreover, I would not get the opportunity to study," said Rekha,* a 17-year-old who has been attending the center since it began. "I would have to work in a house as a house cleaner. That would be very difficult for me."

Threat of persecution

Though the center is helping better the girls' lives, it still faces challenges. Christians are the extreme minority in Bangladesh—only 0.3 percent of the population—and often endure persecution, which is why those girls who have become followers of Christ have not told their families.

"I am afraid of—if I share about my faith to them, they may hit me," said Ruma,* a 13-year-old student.

"It would be a different story if they were young men. They could easily or independently live on their own," but as women it wouldn't be easy, Geri explained. That fact is what drives her to make sure these vulnerable girls are prepared should they have to leave home.

Sometimes it is their families who are persecuted.

Several of the girls' fathers have been beaten, families have been threatened with eviction and many girls have endured ridicule for being associated with the Light of Hope. The center's staff offers support by visiting their homes and communities at least once a month to teach about health, pray with families, prayerwalk and build relationships—but sometimes the community asks them to leave.

Geri encourages the girls to share their faith, but knows she cannot push them to make that decision—"I can't walk in their shoes." But she prays that one day they will have the boldness to tell others what He has done in their lives.

What lies ahead

During the past year Geri has stepped back from day-to-day involvement and taken on more of a guiding role in hopes that national women will take leadership roles.

Several girls at the shelter are ages 16, 17 and 18—marriageable ages in their families' eyes—and Geri and the staff are working through how to help them as they mature past school age. Some have requested that the Light of Hope start a hostel—a place where they can live away from the pressures of their families and continue their studies.

Geri's prayer is that "some of our girls would be able to come in and do some of the teaching, and that we can start the little girls to come back again." She also wants the handicraft business to grow so the girls can provide even more support for their families.

Regardless of what lies ahead, Geri is thankful for the impact the shelter is making.

"The greatest joy is seeing the hearts and lives that have been changed and seeing them wanting to serve the Lord and wanting to do more for Him," Geri said. "I mean, to me that's the greatest reward—is seeing them want to start a Light of Hope Center themselves."

To get in touch with the Light of Hope Learning Center directors about how you or your church can get involved, email lightofhope916@gmail.com. (IMB/BP)

*Name changed.

QUALITY OF LIFE IN BANGLADESH

- Bangladesh, a nation of 140 million mostly Muslim people, is home to regular political strife and overwhelming poverty.
- Sixty million Bangladeshis are classified as "very poor," and per capita income is \$1,700 a year.
- The average worker earns the equivalent of 24 cents an hour. Garment workers can earn up to four times that amount.
- The garment industry, a major pillar of

- Bangladesh's economy, employs roughly 4 million people.
- Bangladesh has 5,000 factories of varying sizes producing for major clothing chains, such as H&M, Benetton, The Children's Place, Gap, J.C. Penney, Mango, Target and Sears.
- These garment firms make up 80 percent of Bangladesh's total exports.
- Bangladesh is the second-largest exporter of clothes in the world. Only China exports more clothing.

- Eighty percent of garment workers are women who work as seamstresses and often support entire families.
- Many garment operations have sprung up in the past decade in buildings sometimes refurbished in a hurry to capture customers.
- Rana Plaza factory, an eight-story complex in Dhaka, Bangladesh, collapsed April 24 and killed more than 1,100 workers. It has been called the world's deadliest industrial accident since India's Bhopal chemical plant disaster took

2,260 lives in 1984.

- Last November, a factory fire killed 117 people who were making T-shirts and jackets.
 - Since 2005, at least 1,800 garment workers have been killed in factory fires and building collapses in Bangladesh.
- Excerpts from "Do Americans really care how their clothes are made?" by Calum MacLeod of Religion News Service.



POTENTIAL

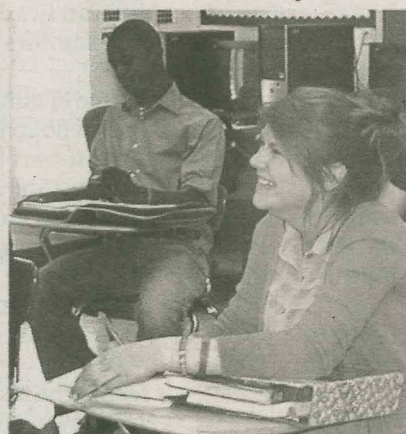
*We are God's workmanship,
created in Christ Jesus
to do good works,
which God prepared
in advance for us to do.*

~ Ephesians 2:10

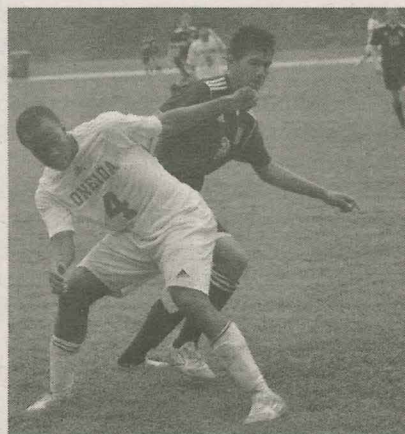


“Potential.” It's a word that invokes hope -- hope for a bright future, untapped resources, hidden treasure. At Oneida Baptist Institute, we make it our mission to help teenagers discover their fullest potential. Whether it's...

Improving
academically...



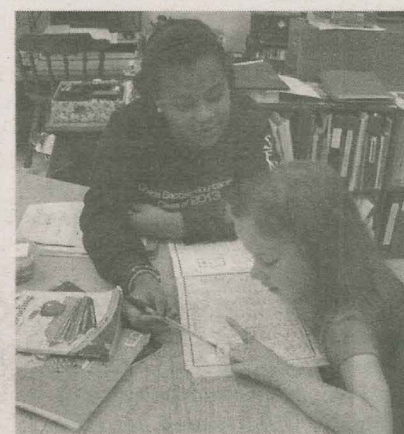
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Education for Time and Eternity

A PERSONAL WORD

WMU's value is in the outcomes of what we do

By Joy Bolton

With many celebrations we begin celebrating weeks in advance leading up to the big day, and then it's over. Not so with celebrating the 125th birthday of WMU. We began the celebration last year as we introduced "The Story Lives On." Now the celebration continues!

National WMU will launch a year-long birthday party at the national WMU Missions Celebration and Annual Meeting, June 9-10 in Houston. The national party will culminate in Baltimore next year when the SBC and national WMU meeting will be held in the city that was the first home to WMU. Many events celebrating Annie Armstrong and her influence are planned for 2014.

Kentucky WMU started our celebration at the recent Annual Meeting in Hopkinsville. Participants at the 125th Birthday Celebration and Heritage Fund Banquet received mite boxes to use for the next year. In keeping with the 125th celebration, we are asking everyone to



Joy Bolton

save 125 of something and bring the mite boxes back next year to our annual meeting in Winchester. Learn more about mite boxes and our project at kywmu.org/hfmitebox.

For additional 125 celebration ideas, be sure to see Linda Cooper's article in the Fall issue of *Missions Leader*. As the celebration continues, she has lots of ideas for 1-2-5 things you can do to celebrate and promote WMU.

It is so important to realize that celebrating WMU's 125th means that we honor the spunk and courage of the women who began our work by our own determination to continue the work of WMU until Jesus comes. The value of WMU is not in bragging rights

about an organization, but rather in the outcomes of what we do. When a WMU member uses the missionary prayer calendar and prays for missionaries to be encouraged, kept safe, and experience open doors for the gospel, and that day someone comes to know Christ through the witness of the missionary, the value of WMU is shown in the outcomes.

When WMU volunteers send envelopes, posters, and prayer guides to churches, people give and pray, missionaries are sent, and people are saved, the value of WMU is shown in the outcomes.

When WMU leaders teach children about missions, children share Christ with their friends, other children and their families are touched, the value of WMU is shown in the outcomes. When WMU members engage in mission action ministry in the community which meets a need and provides an opportunity to witness, the value of WMU is shown in the outcomes.

Learn more about how the celebration continues at Excel, Kentucky WMU summer training, to be held in two locations on Saturday, July 27. Everyone who attends will receive a mite box. Let's make this a year of celebration and remember that there is no better way to celebrate WMU's 125th birthday than to stand firm for WMU, focus on the vision and objectives of WMU, and do the work of WMU with determination and zeal.

Joy Bolton is the executive director of Ky. WMU.

Eliza Broadus Offering Update

We have not yet reached our 2012-13 goal of \$1.25 million.

\$1,142,516.35

given as of 5/30/2013
(and still counting through 8/31/13!).

Help reach our state missions goal!

Excel 2013

Leadership development and enrichment for church and associational WMU leaders.



One Date:
July 27, 2013

Two Locations:
First Baptist Church, Shelbyville
First Baptist Church, Central City

Learn about leading age-level missions organizations.
Attend special interest workshops.
Be inspired and encouraged in your leadership role.

Each participant will receive a copy of the 2013-14 WMU Year Book.



Contact Kentucky WMU
(502) 489-3534
1-866-489-3534 (toll-free in KY)
kywmu@kybaptist.org

Kentucky WMU

Excel Leadership Development is partially funded by gifts to the Eliza Broadus Offering and the Cooperative Program.

ADULTS

Spring retreats draw 140, encouraging women's faith



By Wanda Walker

Over 140 women attended the spring retreats at either Laurel Lake or Camp Schafer. Nicole Coomer was a blessing. She encouraged women in their walk with the Lord and reminded us that we are chosen women ... chosen to be a joyful grape, chosen to have hope and chosen for endurance. In addition there was plenty of food, fellowship and fun! If you have not ever attended a regional retreat, make plans to attend April 24-25, 2014, Camp Schafer and May 2-3, 2014, Laurel Lake.



Nicole Coomer

As we continue our emphasis, The Story Lives On, do you know the history of Adult Mission Education? Here is a review.

• 1890 — Women's Missionary Society.

• 1907 — Young Woman's Auxiliary.

• 1970 — Women's Missionary Society changed its name to Baptist Women and Young Women's Auxiliary became Baptist Young Women.

• 1995 — Adults on MissionSM began and Baptist Women and Baptist Young Women joined to become Women on Mission.

• 2012 — myMission.

Who first introduced you to missions education. Was it as a Mission Friend, GA/RA, Acteen/Challenger, or as an adult? How did missions education help you as you continued your walk into a missional lifestyle? Are you sharing your story with other adults in your church? Not a prepared story ... your story! Your story can change the world.

RAs/CHALLENGERS

RAMCON 2013 — a great success!



By Jonathan Auten

RA Report

With 200 boys and leaders in attendance, representing 20 churches, I think it is safe to say that our state Royal Ambassador Missions Congress for 2013 (RAMCON 2013) was a great success. A sunny, March day in Elkton, KY saw the boys participating in a variety of activities.

Royal Ambassadors listened attentively as Mark and Melissa Hobson shared about their work in Argentina and Ron and Marilyn Leonard told about their ministry among the militia at Ft. Campbell. The boys also got an opportunity to test and improve their missions IQ during the Missions Fitness Challenge by answering questions about Annie Armstrong, Eliza Broadus, Fannie Heck, and three of the missionaries that were featured in this year's RA literature.

RA Racers tested their muscles as well in the Missions Fitness Challenge as they sought to achieve the age-level standards for activities like Crunches, Front Squats, and the Plank. As always, the RA Racers were a hotly contested event with everyone watching the finish line closely to see how their car would do. Only a few took home a trophy, but everyone loved to see their car come cruising down the track.

Many thanks go out to Elkton BC, the Logan Todd WMU, Allen Walker, Jason Fuson, Betty Coppage, David Buie, Lori Sharp, Mark and Melissa Hobson, Ron and Marilyn Leonard, and Rick Gastineau for all their hard work. We had a great event because these folks did a great job. Adrienne Gastineau took pictures of the event and these can be viewed at www.facebook.com/KentuckyRA.

4:GO Report

2013 saw something new for the guys of 4:GO. April 12-13

was the date and Parkway Baptist Church was the place for a joint venture (Exalt/4:GO) that not only combined the girls and the guys in one location, but also combined missions learning with missions action in one event.

During the joint worship rallies, the guys and girls were blessed to hear from David and Mandi Buckner of Westport Rd. Baptist Church as they unpacked our theme, "Bondservant." What does it mean to be "bound" to Christ and what does it mean to be a servant of Christ? David and Mandi answered these questions through scripture, humor, and interactive illustrations.

After worship on Friday evening, the boys broke off from the group to attend sessions on being a Christian witness on a sports team, preparing spiritually for college, and understanding what the Bible says about relationships. They also had the opportunity to listen to Josh Pollitt, former IMB journeyman, as he talked about "The Good Life in Ghana."

Saturday morning was full of mission action as the guys and gals did yard work and landscaping at a pregnancy center, prayerwalking with a church, or spring cleaning at another church. They also had the option of staying at Parkway and doing onsite ministry projects arranged by Maryann Lee, Kentucky WMU Acteens, and Youth Consultant.

My thanks to Parkway Baptist Church, Virginia Drake, Matt Flanagan, the Parkway youth praise band, and our many breakout leaders for making this event a blessing for the guys and the girls.

Pictures of this event can be viewed at www.facebook.com/kychallengers or at www.facebook.com/kentuckyacteens.



WMU DIRECTORS

Leader resources

By Wanda Walker

Have you invested in the resources to assist you in your role as a leader for WMU in your church or association? For several years, national WMU has made available *Missions Leader* and *WMU Leadership Team Resource Kit*. If you do, you are aware of the great materials to promote missions and missions education in the church and association. The following is one piece of the leadership kit for this summer.

Eight Wise Ways to Share Leadership

1. Don't assume sharing leadership is easy.
2. Assess first; speak second.
3. Don't insist on always playing the lead role.
4. Scout for new leaders
5. Accept the weight of the leadership role.
6. Be a sponge and soak up success.
7. Collaborate.
8. Look for ways to make others successful.

Missions Leader and the *WMU Leadership Team Resource Kit* are combining into redesigned *Missions Leader*. The new *Missions Leader* is a mix of magazine, leadership tools and color posters. It will also have a hole-punch format so you can keep for future reference in one notebook. It will arrive three times a year in the fall, spring and summer. Existing *Missions Leader* subscriptions will roll over to the new version with the fall issue. This new *Missions Leader* will be \$19.99 and the best money you will invest in your church and association. If you have any questions, please contact WMU Customer Service at 1-800-968-7301.

Don't forget to register for Excel! Leadership development is important as you plan for the new year. This year, Excel will be at FBC Shelbyville and FBC Central City on July 27. You can register on line at kywmu.org/excel

2013-14 Ky. WMU Executive Board

President: Linda Cooper

Vice-President: Susan Bryant

Recording Secretary: Marcia Ballard

Region 1: Cathy Terrell, Linda Alexander, Cindy Hurley

Region 2: Jenifer Shearon, Peggy Leach, Jan Powell

Region 3: Betty Coppage, Sharon Givens, Julia Devore

Region 4: Pati Hoskins, Lisa Crenshaw, Suzanne Barrett

Region 5: Susan Hutcherson, Patricia Callan, Kim Duvall

Region 6: Linda Devine, Linda Lee, Lenna Walton

Region 7: Maribeth Shelton, Cheryl Hatfield, Connie Wise

Region 8: Alison Holbrook, Shelby Castlen, Claudia Greenwood

BNF President: Dolores Gilmore

Development Specialist: Twyla Sheffield

Royal Ambassadors/Challengers

Representative — Rick Gastineau

PRESCHOOL/CHILDREN

Learn how missionaries 'Tell The Story'

By Stacy Nail

During 2013-2014, Mission Friends, Children in Action, Girls in Action and Royal Ambassadors will discover how missionaries are telling the story of Jesus through the theme, "Tell The Story." They will learn stories from the Bible of God's compassion and be challenged to tell others the story of Jesus' love. These ideas can be used to support the theme:

Encourage the children in your group to read (or read aloud to preschoolers) age-appropriate books about Annie Armstrong, Lottie Moon and other early missionaries. Invite church members to tell their stories of how they met Jesus. Collect Bible story books to give to a local ministry.

New for Mission Friends

Storytelling 1-2-3 helps children and parents of preschoolers make storytelling a fun and exciting experience.

Missions Bank will help preschoolers support missions offerings. Both items are from www.wmustore.com.

New for Children in Action

Missions Expedition is the new and updated individual achievement plan for Children in Action. This leader book is full of engaging hands-on learning activities and access to web-based resources. *Missions Expedition* can also be ordered from www.wmustore.com.

New for Girls in Action

Girls in Action will be celebrating its 100th Birthday all year! Join in the fun by asking GAs to collect 100 items for a ministry project. Host a birthday party for former GAs at your church. Challenge your girls to think of 100 reasons they love GA! Submit some of those reasons on the Kentucky Girls in Action Facebook page. Plan to take your children to Mission Adventure Camp at Cedar Crest or Overnights at the Creek. (See info box bottom right)

State Missions

In September, preschoolers will be learning how volunteers are sharing the love of Jesus through the Pit Stop Challenge Ministry during the State Missions Emphasis. Children in grades 1-6 will learn how a ministry to the Deaf enables Deaf children to learn about Jesus.

Excel

Would you like to Excel at leading Mission Friends, Girls in Action, Royal Ambassadors or Children in Action? Attend Kentucky WMU's leadership development this summer, July 27, at two locations: First Baptist Church in Shelbyville and First Baptist Church in Central City. You'll learn about the basics of mission education for preschoolers and children as well as information about 2013-2014 curriculum. Special conferences are planned to meet the needs of preschool and children's leaders.

Children in Action Day Camp
Missions Expedition

Travel the world!

Be involved in a hands-on mission project!

Meet missionaries!

Get ready for a missions adventure! For girls and boys in grades 1-6 and their leaders

Saturday, September 21
10 a.m.-2:15 p.m. (CDT)Second Baptist Church
Hopkinsville, KentuckyEarly bird rate-\$10 per person
Registration after Sept. 9 through Sept. 13:
\$15 per person

STUDENTS

Teens experience missions



Kentucky Acteens Panelist Makenna Thibodeaux helps conference leader David Buckner demonstrate how we are bonded to Christ in a unique way.

By Maryann Lee

What comes to mind when we think of the word "Bondservant"? Do we think of someone who is a slave or indebted to another person?

This word used in Galatians 1:10 was the theme for Exalt and 4:GO, an event held for teens April 12-13. Conference leaders, David and Mandi Buckner, spent the weekend helping teens to see that we are Bondservants to Christ and — as a result — our lives are changed and we should be seeing and doing everything through Him.

Teens also got to experience missions first hand. Many of them went out into the community of Bardstown prayer walking and helping local churches and ministries in a variety of ways including yard work and promoting church events.

Some of the groups stayed onsite at Parkway Baptist, but they were still involved in missions. From making salvation bracelets that will be taken to Honduras, writing thank you notes to missionaries, and decorating lunch bags used in a feeding ministry; they were able to impact several ministries.

Being involved in an event like Exalt and 4:GO is such a great honor. Seeing the lives of teens being radically changed for Christ is such a wonderful experience. All of those involved were impacted in some way, and they certainly will never think of the word "Bond-



Students participated in a variety of mission projects including decorating lunch bags that will be used to feed the homeless.



The youth praise band from Parkway Baptist Church leading in worship.

servant" in the same way again.

If your group missed coming to Exalt and 4:GO there are still ways to be involved. Acteens Splash is July 12-13, 2013 at Jonathan Creek. This overnight camp is designed for teenage girls in grades 7-12 and their leaders. This will be a fun time of learning about missions, bible study and adventure on the lake. Make plans not to be involved in Acteens Splash!

For more information and to register visit our website kywmu.org/overnights.

Are you planning to attend summer training at Excel, July 27, 2013? Leadership training will be available for student leaders of Acteens and Youth on Mission.

This year Excel is at two locations at First Baptist Church Shelbyville and First Baptist Church Central City. Pick the location closest to you and plan to attend. There are many new things happening in students missions that we looking forward to sharing with you. Visit our website kywmu.org/excel for more information, to download a poster and to register.

I hope to see you at one of these locations!

If you have not 'liked' the Kentucky WMU or Kentucky Acteens Facebook pages please do so. Not only can you see pictures from our events, but also share what your group is doing. This is a great way to get ideas and find out the latest information about Acteens and student missions. Check us out on Facebook!



Some students were able to get out into the community and help with landscaping and cleanup projects.

PRESIDENT'S PERSPECTIVE

Consider missions education

By Linda Cooper

Summer is here bringing vacations, mission trips, WMU training, and camps. Perhaps it is also the time in which your church leadership decides the curriculum or programs that will be used for the children in your church on Wednesday nights this fall. I would like to encourage you to consider missions education through WMU.

Many of you have invited me to come and share about missions and missions education as you host various events in your churches and associations. A few weeks ago, as I was speaking in Leitchfield during a women's conference, a young lady attended a conference that I taught in which I highlighted how WMU challenges Christian believers to understand and be radically involved in the mission of God.

I shared how for 125 years our mission has been the same to pray for missions, engage in mission action and witnessing, support missions, participate in the work of the church and the denomination, learn about missions, and develop spiritually toward a missions lifestyle. I shared that we teach men, women, boys and girls how to integrate these six objectives into their everyday lives ... sharing Jesus every day, just living life.

After the conference, she shared how missions is her heart and was so excited about what WMU has to offer. She worships at a community church in Elizabethtown and asked if WMU was available there? Was WMU available in Elizabethtown... the question took me by surprise! I told her that it sure was and we could get their church started if she would like. After 125 years of missions and missions education, WMU is still changing lives.

I would like to pose the same question to you. Is there WMU in your church? Are your men, women, boys and girls praying for specific needs of our missionaries and their children...are they praying at all? Are they ministering to others through mission action and actively sharing the saving knowledge of Christ?

Is your church giving sacrificially to support our missionaries on the field through Eliza, Lottie and Annie? Are they coming together as a church/denomination encouraging one another to work together, serving others? Are they virtually traveling all over the world by studying about different cities and countries where our missionaries are serving? Are they memorizing scripture in order to share Christ every day in their everyday lives?

I recently spoke to a young lady who is attending Western Kentucky University who expressed to me that WMU had changed her life. She shared how as a young girl, she attended GA camp at Cedarmore. The missionary for the week had shared about serving in Russia. It literally opened up the world and the vast lostness to this young lady and she was called to mission work. She is now studying to better serve as a

full-time missionary all because someone took the time to teach her about missions as a child at camp when she was younger.



Linda Cooper

KY WMU still offers camps for young people with the hopes of changing young hearts eternally. To learn more about our camps this summer, go to kywmu.org. Or better yet, bring a group!

You might say that our church doesn't have many children so I'm not sure WMU is for us. I hope you are aware that WMU has blended groups for boys and girls together called Children in Action and Youth on Mission. At the same time don't discount the value of small groups. I once learned about a missionary who served in the Philippines. She shared how she went to a small church in Tennessee as a child and wanted to thank the woman who taught only two of them as Acteens. Only two each week but that was enough. It was worth the leader's time. Now can you only imagine how many lives have been touched through this missionary, all because someone cared enough to teach only two.

I serve on a committee with national WMU that distributes grant monies for various women's events all over the world. A lady serving as a teacher in Wales had written a thank you note to our committee for monies used for an event they had for women there. She also continued with a personal note of thanks for what WMU had meant to her throughout her entire life. She talked of completing her Forward Steps as a GA and memorizing scripture that she still recites today. She spoke of a scholarship that the Georgia state WMU gave her when she went to Oxford as she obtained her doctorate.

Think about it...she is an American lady who studied abroad, now living and working with women in another country, who is obviously an older adult, but yet she has NEVER forgotten the impact that WMU had and still has on her life. WMU truly changes lives.

Call the state WMU office today and inquire how you can get WMU started in your church so that you can have an influence on children that will last a lifetime. Isn't their eternal destination worth it? If you have not had WMU in your church for at least two years, we can help you with free materials for the first six months!

For those of you who have been leading the various branches of WMU, some for years, THANK YOU! I think the young lady attending WKU that I talked about earlier said it best: "THANK YOU to all the women in the KY WMU who have made young girl's (and boys) hearts, minds, and souls their mission field." Please know that what you do as a missions leader really matters...for a lifetime.

And please continue to pray for me as I serve as your president sharing about missions and missions education through WMU traveling this wonderful state as you invite me to your events. May God bless you all.

KENTUCKY WMU HERITAGE FUND

Jan. 1, 2013 — March 31, 2013

The following persons were honored or remembered through gifts to the Kentucky WMU Heritage Fund during the first quarter of 2013. We were also blessed by other gifts to the Heritage Fund and by the bequest of Ms. Mabel Brigrance Grinstead who left a tithe of her estate to Kentucky WMU. Her gift was given in memory of Jennie Graham Bright, Kentucky WMU Executive Director, 1925-1933.

IN HONOR OF:	DONOR:
Sarah O'Neal.....	Marilyn Lamkin
Patty Renfrow.....	Buck Grove Baptist Women
125th Birthday of WMU.....	Saloma Baptist Church

IN MEMORY OF:	DONOR:
Wilma Harpool	Pat & Dudley Reaves
Velma P. Mills	Edwinna Rowell
Ruth Thomas	Cathy & George Chinn
Robyn Spears.....	Cathy & George Chinn
Donald White.....	Anna White
Virginia Rhodus.....	Women for Hope
Jim Fox.....	Cheryl & Jay Hatfield
Jennie Graham Bright.....	Bequest from Mabel Brigrance Grinstead



OTHER GIFTS:	
Kentucky WMU Staff	Ruth Hinkle
Dr. & Mrs. Barry Allen	Jennifer Peed
Stephanie Fowler	Suzanne Barrett
Shelby Baptist Association	Judy VanMeter
Esther Money	Vicki Jeffs
	Ruth McConnell



Beautiful "In Honor" greeting cards for the Heritage Fund are now available from the Kentucky WMU Office. These cards are the perfect way to let the family know of your gift to the Heritage Fund in memory of their loved one. Distinctive "In Honor" greeting cards are a wonderful way to honor a special person with a gift to the Heritage Fund. Contact the Kentucky WMU Office for cards. You may wish to keep some at your church for future use.

KENTUCKY WMU CALENDAR

JUNE
 9-10
 WMU, SBC Annual Meeting and Missions Celebration, Houston, Texas
 10-14
 Mission Adventure Camp for Girls and Boys, Cedar Crest, Bagdad, KY
 14-15
 Mother/Daughter Overnight, Cedar Crest, Bagdad, KY
 14-15
 Father/Son Overnight, Cedar Crest, Bagdad, KY
 17-21
 Mission Adventure Camp for Girls and Boys, Cedar Crest, Bagdad, KY
 21-22
 Mother/Daughter Overnight, Cedar Crest, Bagdad, KY
 21-22
 Father/Son Overnight, Cedar Crest, Bagdad, KY
 24-28
 Mission Adventure Camp for Girls and Boys, Cedar Crest, Bagdad, KY
 29
 Kentucky Baptist Nursing Fellowship Summer Meeting, Elizabethtown

JULY
 12-13
 Overnights at the Creek, Jonathan Creek, Hardin (GA Overnight, Mother/Daughter Overnight, Acteens Splash)
 13-18
 FamilyFEST, Henderson and Paducah
 27
 Excel, First Baptist Church, Central City
 27
 Excel, First Baptist Church, Shelbyville

AUGUST
 2-3
 Camp Courage, Laurel Lake Baptist Camp, Corbin



OVERNIGHTS at the CREEK

Jonathan Creek July 12-13

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

Mother-Daughter Overnight

Girls in grades 1-3 and moms..... \$50*

GA Overnight

Girls in grades 4-6 and their chaperones \$50*

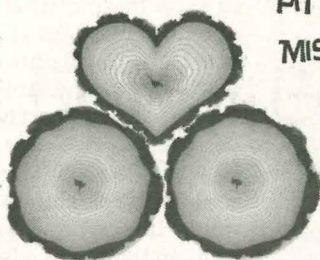
Acteens Splash

Girls in grades 7-12 and their chaperones \$50*

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

COURAGE 2013

A STATEWIDE MISSIONS EDUCATION EVENT FOR ROYAL AMBASSADORS, CHALLENGERS, DADS AND LEADERS



PIT STOP CHALLENGE

MISSIONS SPEAKERS

WORSHIP RALLY

CROSS BUCKS

RA RACERS

AND MORE!

AUGUST 2-3, 2013

LAUREL LAKE BAPTIST CAMP
CORBIN, KY

www.kywmu.org/courage

CHURCH LEADERSHIP INFORMATION

Be sure that Kentucky WMU has current names and contact information for the WMU leaders in your church. You can provide updates by:

- Completing the WMU Leadership Form sent to your church clerk with the 2013 Annual Church Profile (ACP).
- Providing your church WMU Leadership information to your associational WMU director (or

other leader) when contacted for this information.

- Calling or emailing Kentucky WMU with your updates (any time of the year). Phone: 866-489-3534 or email: kywmu@kybaptist.org.

NOTE: The WMU Church Leadership Form includes a box to report enrollment of each WMU organization in your church. WMU enrollment is no longer reported on the ACP.

Kentucky Baptist Nursing Fellowship

presents

DEMENTIA:



Not Your Grandparents' Senility Anymore!

Saturday June 29

Severns Valley Baptist Association
500 College Street Road
Elizabethtown

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

More than ever ... Make A Difference

Season of Prayer for State Missions and Eliza Broadus Offering

September 2013
Offering Goal: \$1,250,000



- More than ever, we must make a difference! The 2013 materials feature eight ministries in Kentucky that are making a difference as we share the gospel.
- A promotional booklet and DVD will be mailed to WMU directors and pastors in July.
- The DVD includes short videos for worship services or mission studies, and computer files of all print materials and graphics.
- All state missions materials are free.
- The material is undated and may be used any time during September or throughout the year.
- Suggested date: September 8-15.
- Orders for posters, prayer guides and envelopes will be filled in July and August based on the annual order form for missions offerings. Contact Kentucky WMU to place a new order or make changes to a standing order.