

# WESTERN Recorder

June 18, 2013

Shine Stars \* Philippians 2:15

Volume 187, Issue 24



Messengers of the Southern Baptist Convention cast votes to approve a resolution on the Boy Scouts that expresses "opposition to and disappointment in the decision of the Boy Scouts of America to change its membership policy" to allow homosexual members. The resolution does not take a position as to whether churches should disassociate with the Scouts, but it does urge churches that do sever ties "not to abandon their ministry to boys but consider expanding their Royal Ambassadors ministry." (Photo by Thomas Graham)

## Scouts, Calvinism & Mental Health

Top topics as SBC Houston focuses on revival

By Todd Deaton

Houston—"Revive us that we may be one" was the collective cry of 5,100 registered messengers at the annual meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention in Houston last week. Among those 5,100 messengers were 226 Kentuckians.

"My brothers and my sisters, my heart's desire, ... the Executive Committee's desire, is that we will cry out to God," SBC President Fred Luter said, "Lord, revive us that our churches may

□ See Annual meeting ... Page 3



Charles Billingsley leads SBC messengers in worship. (Photo by Thomas Graham)

### BOY SCOUTS

## Baptists voice disappointment, affirm church freedom

By Tim Ellsworth

Houston—Southern Baptists expressed their "opposition to and disappointment in" the membership policy of the Boy Scouts of America, but affirmed the freedom of local churches to determine their own relationships with the national Scouting organization.

The action came in a resolution

drafted by the convention's Resolutions Committee and approved by messengers June 12 during the SBC's annual meeting in Houston. Southern Baptists have tracked the BSA membership controversy closely in recent months, as many churches either sponsor or are affiliated with local Scouting troops.

Steve Lemke, provost at New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary who

chaired the Resolutions Committee, said the committee felt compelled to address the matter.

"We think we did so in a balanced way," Lemke said.

The lengthy resolution detailed the sequence of events that led to the BSA's May 23 vote to approve new membership guidelines stating that "no youth

□ See Boy Scouts ... Page 2

### MENTAL HEALTH

## Mental health issues gain SBC attention

By Barbara Denman

Houston—During a year when mass shootings and suicides have stunned the nation, a resolution on "Mental Health Concerns and the Heart of God" was overwhelmingly approved by messengers to the Southern Baptist Convention's annual meeting in Houston.

The resolution offered by the SBC Committee on Resolutions sought to "affirm, support and share God's love and redemption" while opposing "all stigmatization and prejudice" to those with mental health challenges.

The resolution identified such mental health issues as autism disorders, intellectual disability, mental health conditions like schizophrenia, clinical

□ See Mental health ... Page 6

### CALVINISM



SBC President Frank Page leads a panel discussion with members of the President's Council on Calvinism. (Photo by Adam Covington)

## Calvinism team asks: What next?

By Michael Foust

Houston—Members of an advisory committee on Calvinism say that with their report now issued, the "next step" in cooperation and unity is up to individual Southern Baptists.

Twelve of the 19 members of the

committee appeared together June 10 in the exhibit hall's Cooperative Program Advance booth, answering questions from messengers. The 3,200-word report, which urged Southern Baptists to "grant one another liberty" and "stand together" for the Great

□ See Calvinism ... Page 7

Ditch the cord.

GO MOBILE

Kentucky Baptist news at your fingertips  
WesternRecorder.org



Find us on Facebook and on twitter as westernrecorder

Western Recorder 6-18-2013

## Davidson steps down at Oneida, principal dismissed

By Todd Deaton

**Oneida**—Paul Davidson, president of Oneida Baptist Institute, tendered his resignation at the request of the school's trustees, following a special called meeting of the board June 11 in Manchester.

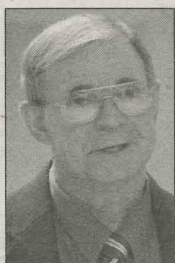
Davidson had served as president of the Kentucky Baptist school for a little over a year.

In a statement to the Western Recorder, OBI Trustee Chairman Marvin Cress said, "We wish to express our appreciation to Dr. Davidson and his wife, Diane, for their years of service as educators, helping shape the lives of the diverse student body at Oneida Baptist Institute.

"The board, along with Mr. Raisor (interim president) and the entire staff of OBI, will work tirelessly to assure that OBI will continue to provide an education in a Christian atmosphere for the students who are led to our campus," the statement continued.

Davidson, a former International Mission Board missionary to Nigeria, taught Bible, math and music at Oneida prior to

becoming its president last April. In Nigeria, he served as a faculty member, dean, director of the church music department and deputy president of the Baptist seminary.



Paul Davidson

Cress, a retired pastor who currently is serving as interim at Greenland Baptist Church in Corbin, told the Western Recorder that the decision reached by trustees of the Kentucky Baptist school was due to "management style differences concerning the direction the school was heading."

Davidson's resignation, Cress said, was not due to any moral or ethical failure or theological differences. "Neither of those entered into the decision whatsoever," he added. Since the action pertains to a personnel matter, "I really can't comment more than that," he said.

An unnamed source, however, suggested to the Western Recorder that Davidson's resignation also may have stemmed from low staff morale after the recent release of a popular faculty member and grievances raised by a number of the individual's peers.

"I'm obviously disappointed by the turn of events," said Davidson, "and I pray the Lord will bless Oneida Baptist Institute in the future. I pray its ministry will be a success in preaching the gospel and reaching teens for Christ.

"I will seek to continue Christ where and how He would have me to serve—whether that is as a seminary professor, college Bible teacher, or in a church position," he said.

At the same board meeting, Dennis Raisor was appointed as OBI's interim president, and in a later action, Dan Stockton, Oneida's principal, was asked to submit his resignation.

Bud Underwood, who served as the school's president for 18 years, has agreed to assist Raisor, a trustee from Carrollton, as special assistant to the interim president. He will assume responsibility for day-to-day operations.

"Oneida will be fine," Raisor said. Oneida is "a mission field in itself. I don't know of any institute that represents the Great Commission more," he said, calling the school a "melting pot of many nations" from which graduates carry the gospel all over the world. (WR)

## Boy Scouts

Continued from page 1

may be denied membership in the Boy Scouts of America on the basis of sexual orientation or preference alone."

The resolution says the Boy Scouts decision is "viewed by many homosexual activists as merely the first step in a process that will fundamentally change the BSA," putting "the Scouts at odds with a consistent biblical worldview."

In their resolution, Southern Baptists expressed continued opposition to the policy change and gratitude for the thousands within the Scouting family and the broader culture who voiced opposition to the BSA executive leadership's intent to change its membership and leadership policies.

The resolution also voiced gratitude to each voting member of the National Council who voted in opposition to the policy change.

Messengers called on the Boy Scouts to remove from executive and board leadership those who sought to change the organization's membership and leadership policies.

In addressing how local Baptist churches respond to the policy changes, messengers declined to encourage either a withdrawal from the Boy Scouts or a continued commitment to the organization. The convention instead opted to "affirm the right of all families and churches prayerfully to assess their continued relationship with the BSA, expressing our support for those churches and families that as a matter of conscience can no longer be part of the Scouting family."

Churches that make such a decision to sever ties with the Boy Scouts should not abandon their ministry to boys, the resolution states, but should consider expanding their Royal Ambassadors ministry, "a distinctively Southern Baptist missions organization to develop godly young men."

As originally worded, the resolution encouraged "churches and families that choose to remain in relationship with the Boy Scouts" to work toward the policy's reversal. An amendment from the floor, however, effectively struck the reference to churches and families remaining in relationship to the organization. An additional amendment passed that encouraged churches who do remain involved with the Boy Scouts to do so with the express purpose of sharing the gospel with boys.

The resolution concluded: "... we declare our love in Christ for all young people regardless of their perceived sexual orientation, praying that God will bring all youth into a saving knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ."

Messengers rejected an amendment that would have removed any references to churches making their own decisions about the nature of their relationship with BSA, in addition to an amendment that would have changed "perceived sexual orientation" to "sexual preference."

Lemke later emphasized that the resolution was not against boys, but was intended to express concern with the direction of the Boy Scouts. (BP) For complete text of SBC's resolution on Boy Scouts of America, see [westernrecorder.org](http://westernrecorder.org).

## Luter 'dares' Southern Baptists to show love



Southern Baptist Convention President Fred Luter preached from John 13:34-35 during his presidential sermon June 11 at the SBC Annual Meeting in Houston. (Photo by Thomas Graham)

By Diana Chandler

**Houston**—America will not see revival until Christians unconditionally love the Scripture, the Savior and one another, Southern Baptist Convention President Fred Luter preached June 11 at the SBC annual meeting in Houston.

With his annual meeting theme of "Revive Us," drawn from John 13:34-35, Luter called on the Lord to use Southern Baptists to birth revival.

"Therefore my cry tonight is Lord, revive us," Luter said, "Lord, revive us that our churches may be one, that our conventions may be one, that our denomination may be one.

"Lord, revive us and make us one like the early believers in Acts 2 where ... the believers were all together in one accord, in one place and as a consequence, because they were all together in one accord, in one place (and) they turned the world upside down."

The attentive crowd often responded with hand claps, amens and other affirmations, praising God and encouraging

Luter during the 40-minute sermon.

Luter referenced 2 Timothy 3 in describing today's perilous times and turned to 2 Chronicles 7:14 in challenging messengers to lead the nation in accepting and modeling God's word.

"What a tragic picture of the society that we're living in," Luter said, reflecting on the Timothy passage. "What difference is the church making in this darkness?"

The roadblock to a revival, Luter said, may be that the lost world does not see Christians loving one another with the love of Christ that they profess.

"Friend, how is it that we say we love God, whom we've never seen, yet don't speak to our brother and sister that we see every day?" asked Luter.

"If we want to see God revive us that we may be one, we must have a love for the Scriptures; Southern Baptists, we must have a love for the Savior; and finally, we must have a love for the saints," he said, adding that he appreciates that Southern Baptist have long loved the Bible.

Divisions among Southern Baptists must end, Luter said.

"Because of our love for the Scriptures, we've had some strong discussion among us. Because of our love for the Scriptures, about our beliefs or what we believe in, we've had some certain things that we've had different opinions about," Luter said. "However, my brothers and sisters, the problem is while we're debating these topics ... lost men, women, boys and girls are dying and going to hell every single day."

"We do not have time for debate," Luter continued. "Our world needs to know that Jesus saves from the guttermost to the uttermost," Luter said. "So let's acknowledge the fact that there are some topics, let's acknowledge the fact that there are some issues that we just will never see eye to eye on.

"Therefore for the sake of those who are lost, for the sake of those who are

dying and on their way to hell—many in your city and many in my city, many in your town and many in my town—let's find the hose that's closest to us and use it to put out the sin-sick fire of those who are lost and on their way to hell.

"In other words, Southern Baptists, let's make the main thing the main thing. And the main thing is that all of us must carry out the Great Commission of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ by going into all the world and sharing the gospel of Jesus Christ."

Luter, who was elected last week to a second term as SBC president, called on Southern Baptists to love across lines and categories that have been divisive.

"My brothers and my sisters, if we want to see God send revival in the Southern Baptist Convention, I dare you ... I double dare you to start having a genuine, authentic love for each other," Luter said. "Not just those who are in your group, not just those who are in your inner circle, not just those who are in your clique, I'm talking about all the saints of God that call ourselves Southern Baptists.

"That saint sitting to your left, do you really love him? That saint sitting to your right, that saint sitting in front of you, do you really love them? Those saints who love contemporary music, do you really love them? Those saints who love traditional music, do you really love them? ...

"Those saints who are Calvinist, do you really love them? Those saints who are not Calvinist, do you really love them? Those saints who love just a King James Version of the Bible ... do you love them? Those saints who love the Holman Christian Standard Bible, do you love them? ...

"Do you love the saints of God enough to work together to impact lostness in America?" Luter asked, "Jesus says we should love each other like He loved us, and He loved us so much that he died for us." (BP)

## MOORE BEGINS NEW ROLE

## Religious liberty top cultural issue, says new ERLC president

By Tom Strode

Houston—Religious freedom has become the most significant issue in American culture, Russell Moore told reporters at the annual meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention.

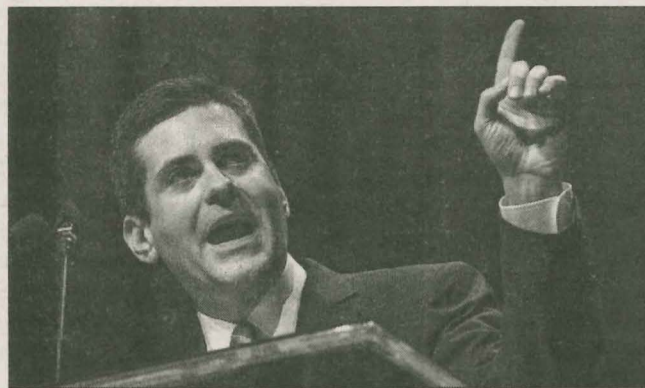
The new president of the Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission said religious liberty is the premier issue "because without a sense of freedom of conscience you do not have the place to articulate the gospel" and advance Christ's mission.

That does not mean religious freedom is only for Christians, Moore said.

"We're not an interest group claiming our own rights," Moore said. "This is religious liberty for everybody, because we believe the conscience cannot be negotiated away. We believe that the gospel comes to free people. That means we believe in freedom of conscience and the ability to speak openly in a free marketplace of ideas."

The ERLC and other religious liberty advocates have pointed to the military and health care as two of the arenas in which freedom of conscience is at risk.

The ERLC has joined with the North American Mission Board to express



*"(W)e believe in freedom of conscience and the ability to speak openly in a free marketplace of ideas"*

Russell Moore

concern regarding the Pentagon's commitment to religious freedom for chaplains and troops. The ERLC also has signed amicus briefs in support of the freedom of conscience of employers who oppose the abortion/contraception mandate in the federal health care reform law.

When asked about churches possibly losing their tax-exempt status, Moore said while he hopes that will not happen, someday it may become a reality. Moore described the tax exemption as "an important aspect of protecting religious liberty. The power to tax is the power to destroy."

"Obviously though, the church of Jesus Christ has to be ready to stand true to its principles and true to its Lord regardless of the political situation," he said. "There are times when the church must say to the state, 'We cannot abide by your rules and regulations.' And there are a number of alternatives at that point. I don't think we're there yet."

Moore said he sees the ERLC's role as "serving as the catalyst for conversations within churches because I believe churches are the places where Christians are shaped and formed and where consciences are re-created and sent forward"

into the world, he said.

Moore rejected the idea that Christians "can form some sort of bubble in which we are isolated out from the world." Instead, he cited Romans 12:21 to say followers of Christ should make sure they are not "overcome by evil but overcome evil with good."

Moore said he thinks "expressions of outrage, boycotts consistently against everyone who doesn't conform to our sense of values (are) not an effective way to engage culture."

"What I am really burdened to do is to try to speak prophetically to the churches and also speak for the churches to the outside culture" with kindness and gentleness, he told reporters. "I don't think kindness is weakness. I don't think gentleness is capitulation. I think this is the way that Jesus speaks and speaks the truth in love."

Regarding evangelicals' relationships with Democrats and Republicans, Moore said, the church "shouldn't be co-opted by any political party."

The ERLC will "keep a prophetic distance that enables us to speak honestly and bluntly to people in both parties," he said. (BP)

## Annual meeting

Continued from page 1

be one, that our conventions may be one, that our denomination may be one."

SBC messengers re-elected Luter, pastor of Franklin Avenue Baptist Church in New Orleans, La., as SBC president.

Serving with Luter will be Kentucky pastor Jared Moore of New Salem Church in Hustonville, who was elected 2nd vice president. The last time a Kentuckian served as an SBC officer was in 2009, when John Mark Toby, then pastor of Somerset's Beacon Hill Church, was elected as first vice president.

A roadblock to revival may be that the lost world does not see Christians loving one another unconditionally, Luter challenged Southern Baptists. "We will never see revival in the world until we see revival in the church," he said in urging them to keep their focus on carrying out the Great Commission.

The question of the hour, Luter said, is, "Do we really love the saints of God enough to work together to impact loss in America?"

"Our world needs to know that Jesus saves from the 'guttermost' to the uttermost," he said. "So let's acknowledge the fact that there are some topics, let's acknowledge the fact that there are some issues that we just will never see eye to eye on," he added, calling Southern Baptists to come together as one.

## Calvinism 'hot-button' issue

One of those hot-button issues, Calvinism, was specifically addressed in a report by members of a 19-member advisory committee, appointed by Executive Committee President Frank Page. The group's lengthy report, released in the weeks leading up to the annual meeting, urges Southern Baptists to "grant one another liberty" and "stand together" for the sake of the Great Commission.

Twelve members of the Calvinism

committee appeared on the Cooperative Program Advance stage in the SBC exhibit hall to answer questions.

"We sought to have something that would call all Southern Baptists together around the gospel," said Erik Hankins, one of its members who, along with Southern Seminary President Albert Mohler Jr., helped craft the report.

"We sought to have something that would clearly express that there were real differences (while recognizing) we still want to partner together for the cause of Christ and the announcement of the gospel all around the world," Hankins said. "We hoped to have a document that would ... return us to a time period that we were in not so long ago in which we shared theological differences, but the rhetoric wasn't so harsh."

But committee members acknowledged that their desired outcome really depends on the attitudes and dispositions of individuals and churches, advocating the need to keep the focus on winning people to Jesus.

## Scouts, mental health &amp; child abuse

Among social issues on the minds of messengers in Houston were the new Boy Scout policy, mental health and child sexual abuse.

In a resolution, Southern Baptists expressed their "opposition to and disappointment in" the membership policy changes of Boy Scouts to allow homosexual members. They stopped short, however, of calling for churches and families to leave Boy Scouts, opting instead to affirm the freedom of churches to determine their own affiliations with the Scouts. Expressing support for those who, as a matter of conscience, choose no longer to participate in Scouting, they urged churches to consider expanding Royal Ambassadors programs.

Messengers also urged churches to develop intentional, compassionate ministries for the mentally ill, in the wake of



Kentucky native Jared Moore (top, right), pastor of New Salem Baptist Church in Hustonville, was elected second vice president of the Southern Baptist Convention during the annual meeting in Houston last week. Other officers include (clockwise from bottom left): Bart Barber, first vice president, pastor of First Baptist Church in Farmersville, Texas; John Yeats, re-elected recording secretary, executive director of Missouri Baptist Convention; Jim Wells, re-elected registration secretary, strategic partners team leader for the Missouri Baptist Convention; Moore; and Fred Luter, re-elected president, pastor of Franklin Avenue Baptist Church in New Orleans. (Photo by Adam Covington)

recent national tragedies and suicidal deaths related to psychological disorders. Southern Baptists were asked to avoid stigmatization and prejudice and to look for creative opportunities to minister to individuals and families struggling with mental health concerns.

And, messengers amended a resolution regarding child sexual abuse to request that SBC leaders and employees practice the highest level of discernment in affiliating with groups or individuals with questionable practices in protecting children. They also urged churches to report any accusations of sexual abuse.

In hearing reports of SBC entity and mission board leaders, they witnessed a changing of the guard at the Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission, as Russell Moore assumes the reins at the SBC's moral concerns entity from Richard Land. Moore previously was a dean and senior vice president at Southern Seminary.

Describing his vision for the ERLC, Moore said the entity would not be a political action committee and that

under his leadership ERLC will "push back against the fallenness and injustice around us."

Southeastern Seminary President Daniel Akin, in the convention sermon based on Romans 15:14-24, outlined six undeniable marks of a Great Commission people. "For me, the issue is not will we be called Great Commission Baptists? The real issue is will we be Great Commission Baptists?" Akin said.

And, in the Executive Committee's report, Frank Page drew attention to the Great Commission Advance initiative, which he said will have "an extremely impressive and hard launch" at next year's annual meeting.

"We will be talking more about Great Commission Advance, but I want you to know as your 'Chief Encouraging Officer,' I am not ready to back down, back off or back up from God's call for us to be a Great Commission people," Page said.

Next year's SBC annual meeting will be held June 10-11 in Baltimore, Md. (R)

## Death reports exaggerated

The 2013 Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting kicked up very little Texas dust. Other than a resolution about the gay agenda finding a home in Boys Scouts of America, the biggest news coming out of Houston was the scarcity of Southern Baptists who showed up in Houston.

### Together We are the KBC



Paul Chitwood

Low messenger registration, along with reports about declining baptisms and church membership, caused the media and doomsday prophets to place their news releases on the SBC in the obituary section. While I am as concerned as anyone about the unwillingness of many of our churches to fill out an Annual Church Profile and some of the woeful statistics that were reported, I don't believe the SBC is in need of an epitaph.

To borrow a line from Mark Twain, I think the reports of our death have been greatly exaggerated. What is my cause for optimism?

Declining baptisms and falling church membership are by no means a reason for celebration, but the fact that more than 300,000 believers were baptized in our churches is causing much rejoicing among the angels in heaven (Luke 15:7).

A Lottie Moon Christmas Offering of more than \$149 million for overseas missions is not the best missions offering Southern Baptists have ever given, but it is the third best. And \$149 million is a lot of money!

Our overseas mission force has tragically shrunk to less than 5,000. Still, more than 4,500 Southern Baptist missionaries are taking the gospel to more than 180 nations. And those missionaries reported more than 23,000 new churches and more than 300,000 baptisms overseas.

The majority of our churches are plateaued or declining but we still have more than 45,000 churches and are planting approximately 1,000 new churches every year. When accounting for churches that closed and new churches that were planted or affiliated, the overall number of SBC churches grew this past year.

For all of the shocking statements about Southern Baptists no longer being "relevant" and the lists of things we must do to "stop the bleeding," I am simply not convinced that it's time to begin casting for "The Last of the Baptists." Rather, I believe that, as long as there are among those who "contend for the faith once for all delivered to the saints" (Jude 1:3), Baptists will be around to "hear the trumpet call of God" (1 Thess. 4:16).

Until then, will we be able to boast of being the "largest Protestant denomination" or continue to have the "largest missionary sending agency in the history of Christianity?" While we are grateful for the ways God has chosen to use and bless Southern Baptists as a people, we are also mindful of Scripture's admonition to "Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord" (1 Cor. 1:31).

Paul Chitwood is executive director of the Kentucky Baptist Convention.

## Captivating conversations from the exhibit hall

Most observers in the days leading up to the convention likely could predict messengers would re-elect Fred Luter as president, discuss Calvinism and hear calls for unity, speak their minds on the Boy Scout membership policy, and express concern over tragedies involving mental health issues. What caught some eyes and ears in Houston, however, didn't happen on the convention floor, but in the exhibit hall. There, five denominational leaders, including our state executive director, mounted the Cooperative Program Advance stage, providing a captivating look at their collective heartbeats.

KBC leader Paul Chitwood set the tone for a panel discussion, led by LifeWay's Ed Stetzer, which also featured both mission board leaders and the Executive Committee president. Speaking of Kentucky Baptists' move to direct more Cooperative Program funds to taking the gospel to the nations, Chitwood began, "I think it is a great conversation, a conversation that we must have for the sake of the lost, for the sake of accomplishing the Great Commission, for sake of getting the next generation of leaders in tune with cooperative missions work."

Some might say that it is a lot to be sending out of state when there is so much work to be done, Chitwood acknowledged. "But doing simple math, we concluded, 'No, we need to be doing more, not less,'" he said. Only about 2 percent of a church's offering plate money, he contended, actually goes to carrying the gospel to the nations. "So, we feel a burden; we feel the necessity to push as much as we can of those missions dollars coming from our churches (to international missions)," Chitwood said, pointing out that at least 16 more IMB missionaries could be sent.

"The issue is real," Stetzer chimed in, speaking of huge sacrifices made by Kentucky Baptist entities and the need for many churches to be willing to sacrifice as well. Page, head of the Executive Committee, agreed: "The bottom line is always stewardship at the local level." Emphasizing that the average Christian gives about 2.3 percent of his income to the church, he said, "The issue always goes back to local church—that's where people are won to Christ, that's where missionaries are called from, that's where tithing occurs, or doesn't occur."



### After Thought

By Todd Deaton

"The pastor is the gatekeeper when it comes to the Cooperative Program," Chitwood nodded. "If we can do a better job of communicating the vision that is driving the IMB and NAMB, I think we will see a 'Great Commission resurgence' among Southern Baptists, and not just be talking about it." Stetzer interjected, "We're actually not seeing GCR," pointing out the SBC's declining numbers in many measures. "(W)e've got to reclaim that evangelistic passion," he suggested. Picking up on Chitwood's earlier remark, Page added that when it comes to personal evangelism, "the pastor is not just the key; he's the lock."

"There ain't no people that God's saved that ain't been went after," quipped the IMB's Tom Elliff. Missions is the stack pole, he maintained, explaining, "It's the pole around which you can put the hot-hearted people who have said we're going to take the gospel to the ends of the earth." While rejoicing that 24,000 churches had been added overseas this past year, Elliff asked, "But what could it have been if we had mobilized more people, more churches?"

"I believe that churches are driven more by vision than by loyalty," observed NAMB's Kevin Ezell. "We are fooling ourselves if we think churches are going to give to CP out of loyalty," he said, emphasizing the need to show "value added." Churches need to see themselves as missions-sending agencies, he urged. The problem, he said, is "people are more hungry to hear, than we are motivated to share"

But, it was Elliff who, after Chitwood told of challenging churches to adopt an Acts 1:8 strategy, gave the most colorful illustration about the ability of any church to engage unreached people with the gospel—one which resonates well with Kentuckians. Some years ago, his church worked among "backsiders" at a local track. While they were walking the horses, Elliff noticed some were smaller and asked if they were all in the same race. "Oh, yes," a jockey replied, "it's not the size of the horse; it's the size of the heart in the horse." The same is true of churches, Elliff noted, explaining that some of the most effective, embracing churches are smaller ones with huge hearts.

At the CP Advance stage, messengers not only were treated to some "tweet-able fodder," but they also left with plenty to ponder.

## Why we should teach church members about the SBC

Take this short test:

1) *What is the world's largest evangelical denomination?* **Clue:** It has 45,000 churches with more than 16 million members.

2) *Which is the largest missions-sending organization in the entire world?* **Clue:** It sends nearly 5,000 international missionaries to 180 countries and 5,000 missionaries in North America.

3) *The Red Cross and the Salvation Army are two of the three largest disaster relief organizations in the world. What is the third?*

4) *Which denomination consistently plants more churches across North America than any other?*

5) *Which denomination is currently training approximately 16,000 future pastors, missionaries and church leaders in its six*

*theological seminaries?*

The answer to each question is the **Southern Baptist Convention.**

### Fresh Ideas



Diana Davis

But do members at your church know about your denomination? Can a website visitor easily discover you're Southern Baptist? Here are some ways to help your church stay informed about how God's working through our convention:

■ Send representatives to the SBC's annual meeting. They'll be wowed and informed about SBC ministries.

■ In your church's new member class, tell about your denominational relationships. Use quality video clips in your worship service from SBC, NAMB and IMB websites. Celebrate Cooperative Program Sunday in April with a mission

fair or interactive display.

■ Challenge members to subscribe to Baptist Press' free daily e-newsmagazine to read exciting, current SBC news, missions and ministry updates. They can subscribe at [baptistpress.com/SubscribeBP.asp](http://baptistpress.com/SubscribeBP.asp).

■ Partner in planting a church in an unreached area of North America. Connect with an SBC international missionary or unreached people group. Help a student at an SBC seminary with a scholarship.

■ Provide links to SBC and state convention websites on your church website.

And that's just a snippet of SBC work! Explore SBC websites to discover thousands of exciting facts and resources.

Diana Davis is author, columnist and wife of North American Mission Board's vice president for the south region, Steve Davis.

## WESTERN Recorder

Box 43969  
Louisville, KY 40253

DR. TODD DEATON  
Editor

ROBIN CORNETT BASS  
News Director

THOMAS C. TOWNSEND  
Marketing & Business Manager

### Board of Directors:

Floyd Price (chairman), Richmond;  
Bill Bartleman, Paducah;  
Duane Bolin, Murray;  
Bill Edmonds, Louisville;  
Bill Ellis, Lexington;  
Chip Hutcheson, Princeton;  
Lanna Kilgore, Bowling Green;  
Paul Nunn, Prestonsburg;  
Linda Polley, Elizabethtown;  
Rick Robbins, Florence;  
Wayne Spivey, Harrodsburg;  
Dan Summerlin, Paducah.

### Shine Like Stars \* Philippians 2:15

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

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

POSTMASTER: Send address corrections to: Western Recorder, Box 43969, Louisville, KY 40253.

To subscribe: Send \$15 for a one-year, individual subscription or visit our Website and subscribe to our Electronic-Only edition at \$10 per year. Group subscriptions (church budget plan) are \$10 per year.

WesternRecorder.org



Scan this QR code with your smartphone to subscribe to Western Recorder.

# Elliff challenges Baptists, commit to be 'Totally His'

By Laura Fielding

**Houston**—International Mission Board President Tom Elliff challenged Southern Baptists to commit to being "Totally His" and cooperate for the sake of the gospel during the mission board's report at the Southern Baptist Convention's annual meeting in Houston.

Now is the time of greatest lostness in the world, Elliff said, when nearly 1 billion people are likely to die without ever hearing the gospel in a way they can understand or respond. But also during this time, access has never been easier and resources have never been more abundant.

"God has given Southern Baptists something incredible, and that is an understanding of what it means to cooperate," Elliff said. "... The essence of (the Cooperative Program) is that we found out how to work together. Are we going to let that slide? Are we going to retrench in this day of the world's greatest lostness? Are we going to refuse to sacrifice?"

## Story worth repeating

Elliff told the story of Sam and Debbie Cordell, who partnered with many Southern Baptist short-term mission teams to minister to the Quichua Indi-

ans in Ecuador.

Through the work these partners and the Cordells, "God began to bless among the Quichua," Elliff said. In less than a decade, Cordell had disciplined and trained 200 Quichua believers to share the gospel, and trained 41 Quichua to plant churches. In the process, one of the men began to stand out—Cebrián Bolívar, who planted and led 26 churches.

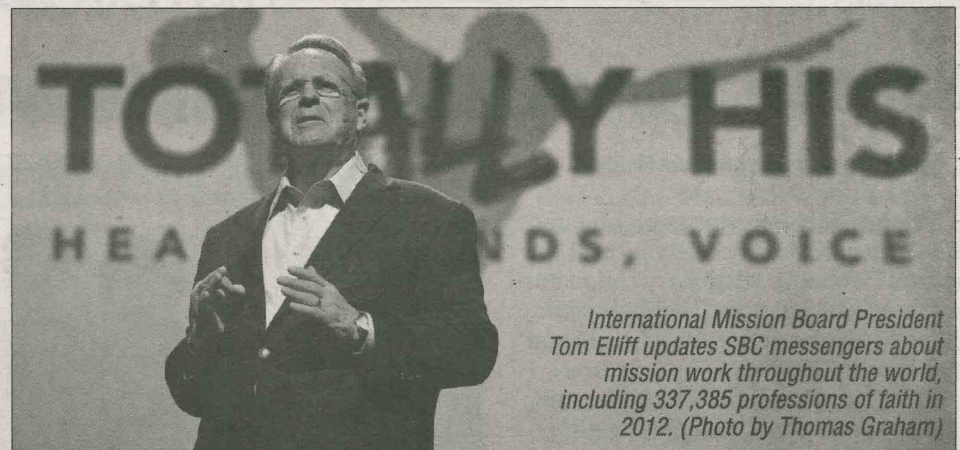
After some time, the Cordells began to realize their work among the Quichua was drawing to a close, and they began to think about serving in another area of the world.

"We're not to be settlers, we're to be pioneers," Elliff said. "We're not to just settle down and enjoy the light ... Sam wanted to be a person who punched holes in the darkness."

When the Cordells announced they were leaving South America for southern Asia, Bolívar asked if he could come with them. Cordell sensed that Bolívar was truly called—but warned him it would not be easy.

Bolívar's father, although a believer, opposed his going. Bolívar, one of 10 children, was expected to take over his father's farm and care for him in old age.

One day Bolívar asked his father: "If



International Mission Board President Tom Elliff updates SBC messengers about mission work throughout the world, including 337,385 professions of faith in 2012. (Photo by Thomas Graham)

you had 10 sheep, how many of those belong to the Lord?"

"One," his father answered.

"What about 10 chickens?" Bolívar asked.

"Well, one," his father responded.

"You have 10 children," Bolívar said. "Shouldn't one of them go to the Lord?"

And his father said, "So, son, it must be you."

Bolívar has now been working in southern Asia with the Cordells for nearly two years, making new friends and learning English and Hindi.

"It was so hard for me to really believe that God was calling me," Bolívar told SBC messengers via Skype. "It was tough. But I felt love for these people so far away in South Asia that I knew God was calling me."

This is much more than a story that begins with one man and his wife, Elliff

said. It is the story of Southern Baptists cooperating to touch the ends of the earth—through the work and partnership of Southern Baptist churches, IMB, the Quichua of Ecuador and the people of southern Asia.

And it is a story that "could be repeated time and time again," Elliff said.

In closing, Elliff gave five challenges:

- Pray for the unreached and missionaries working among them every day.
- Engage with your church in support of global mission every week.
- Pray with your church for a genuine revival that produces laborers for the harvest.
- Participate in one of your church's global missions projects every year.
- Offer yourself as a faithful witness every day, for the rest of your life. (BP)

\*Names changed.

# More missionaries, church planters needed, says Ezell

By Joe Conway

**Houston**—North American Mission Board President Kevin Ezell, during his report to the SBC annual meeting, called on Southern Baptists to dramatically increase the number of missionaries and church planters being sent to the North American mission field.

"This year we have 600 student missionaries," Ezell told messengers June 11 in Houston. "In a convention with 45,000 churches and 16 million members, that is not bad, that is pathetic. We must have 6,000 student missionaries every year."

Ezell's presentation included an overview of NAMB's strategy and spotlighted several key ministry areas.

"Our mission is to penetrate lostness in North America. Our strategy is Send North America," Ezell told messengers.

"We seek to partner with you and your church to penetrate lostness by planting healthy, evangelistic churches," Ezell said, reporting that 929 new Southern Baptist churches were planted in 2012, with another 155 joining the SBC by affiliation. He noted that 2,589 churches have become engaged in the Send North America strategy.

"Churches plant churches, and we only plant Southern Baptist churches," Ezell said. "We have raised the bar on our church planter assessment and all planters must affirm the Baptist Faith and Message 2000 and give to the Cooperative Program and other Great Commission (causes)."

Ezell told messengers that "too many churches are sick, plateaued and are dying." To help remedy this Ezell said NAMB has sponsored nine church revitalization conferences led by Johnny Hunt in nine states and launched a Pas-



Kevin Ezell said NAMB's mission is to penetrate lostness in North America and its strategy to accomplish the task is Send North America. (Photo by Susan Whitley)

tor for Pastors initiative.

A full 81 percent of people in North America live in cities, Ezell said as he shared that NAMB has identified 32 Send North America cities on which to focus, with a missionary serving as a Send City coordinator deployed to each one.

Additionally NAMB's goal is to have at least one church planting catalyst for each 1 million people in North America. Ezell said this is not a hard rule, noting the adjustment in Alaska with a total population of 750,000 people but with three major cities. There will be three catalysts in Alaska.

On balance, in states like Mississippi where there is one SBC church for every 1,385 people, Ezell said Southern Baptists have done well. But he said resources and priorities must recognize places like New Jersey where there is one church for every 78,760 people, or Canada with one church for every 115,040.

A combination of increasing the birth rate of church plants and decreasing the death rate of existing churches is

needed, Ezell said, not for the sake of church numbers but for the people those churches will reach.

Ezell said, "We know where the next generation of missionaries are: They are in your churches." He introduced NAMB's "Farm System," a strategy to help reach a goal of 15,000 new church plants in the next 10 years.

The number of student missionaries, Ezell said, must grow from the current 600 to 6,000 each year. The next level in the Farm System—church planting interns—must grow from the current 125 to 3,000 annually.

Church planter apprentices, NAMB's final level of training before a missionary becomes a church planter, need to increase from the current 125 apprentices to 1,500 per year in order to meet the need for 1,500 church plants each year.

To help existing churches, Ezell said dying churches can become legacy church plants by passing on their resources as a means of revitalization. (BP)

# Anti-pornography initiative launched

By David Roach

**Houston**—An initiative seeking commitments from 1 million men to live pornography-free lives was launched at the SBC annual meeting June 11-12 in Houston.

Named "Join One Million Men," the initiative calls Christian men to commit to sexual purity and, specifically, to protect themselves and their families from the devastation caused by pornography. The Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission and Woman's Missionary Union jointly sponsored the initiative, along with Jay Dennis, pastor of First Baptist Church at the Mall in Lakeland, Fla.

The Join One Million Men website ([join1millionmen.org](http://join1millionmen.org)) includes a place for men to register their porn-free commitments as well as a place for women to register their commitments to pray for the purity of men in their lives.

Resources from the WMU's New Hope Publishing also are available at the site, including Dennis's book "Our Hardcore Battle Plan: Joining in the War against Pornography" and the companion volume for wives, "Our Hardcore Battle Plan for Wives: Winning in the War against Pornography" by Dennis and Cathy Dyer. There is also a mobile app that delivers daily Scriptures.

WMU's report at the annual meeting focused on Join One Million Men, noting that it is part of the WMU's larger three-year campaign against human exploitation. (BP)

# National Woman's Missionary Union celebrates 125 years of missions

By Shannon Baker & Laura Fielding

Houston—Missions stories highlighted the 125th anniversary celebration of the national Woman's Missionary Union during their 2013 Missions Celebration and Annual Meeting, June 9-10, at the Hilton Americas in Houston.

This year also marks the 100th anniversary of missions education for girls (Girls' Auxiliary, Girls in Action and Acteens) as well as the 25th anniversary of WMU's Second Century Fund, which was birthed at WMU's centennial to fund leadership training for women worldwide.

With the theme "The story lives on," the meeting featured testimonies of missionaries from both the International and North American Mission Boards, birthday gifts from WMU friends and video greetings from WMU partners throughout the world.

Gregg Fort, an IMB missionary in Zimbabwe told WMU women, "With over 200 years of missionary experience in our immediate family, (the Forts) owe a tremendous amount to WMU."

Fort's parents are Wana Ann Fort and the late Milton Giles Fort Jr., who served as medical missionaries in Zimbabwe for nearly 36 years.

Gregg Fort and his wife Donna recounted stories of God's work in a spiritually dark area of Zimbabwe, where until recently no evangelical churches existed. There are now 14 churches in the region.

Other testimonies included:

■ Randy and Debbie M., IMB missionaries in South Asia, told how they distribute audio devices with recordings of the Bible in the country's native languages and follow up with discipleship training. As a result, they have seen "over 600 people come into the Kingdom and 60 people become pastors," Randy said.

■ IMB missionary Jackie Bursmeyer, who has served in Chile for 35 years, attended the 50th anniversary of Girls in Action when she was 13. Now celebrating the 100th anniversary of the group, she said, "I don't think I'd be on the field today if not for your prayers and missions education."

## Mental health

Continued from page 1

depression, anxiety orders, bipolar disorders and diseases of the aged including dementia and Alzheimer's.

The resolution expressed support for "the wise use of medical interventions" and supported research and treatment "when undertaken in a manner consistent with a biblical worldview."

Specifically addressing suicide as "a tragedy, leaving heartache, pain and unanswered questions in its wake," the resolution urged that families of victims be treated with "great care, concern and compassion" from Christians and churches. Included in this is the "assurance that those in Christ cannot be separated from the eternal love of God in Christ Jesus."

And it called for churches to find ways to love, minister and develop methods and resources to those who struggle with these challenges and their families.

After being presented, the resolution



Linda Devine (second from left), Kentucky WMU executive board member, Joy Bolton (white jacket), KyWMU executive director and Susan Bryant (second from right), KyWMU vice president, pose for a photo with several members of Korean Baptist Woman's Missionary Union during the National WMU meeting in Houston last week. (Photo provided by Joy Bolton)

■ Patrick Coats, a NAMB church planting missionary in Homestead, Fla., said, "God tackled (him) into the ministry." He started a community Bible study at a local theater that eventually turned into a church as more and more people began attending. Over time, he baptized 30 people.

Each missionary, as well as others, expressed thanks for the ways WMU touched their lives through GAs, RAs (Royal Ambassadors program for boys) and Acteens and through the prayers and encouragement of WMU members. In honor of the anniversaries, several denominational leaders offered birthday greetings and presented gifts to WMU. Frank Page, president of the SBC Executive Committee, thanked WMU for its partnership in gospel work.

"We count you as a valued, valued partner in the work of the gospel and thank God for what you're doing to promote the work of the Lord through Southern Baptist missions and ministries across the world," Page said.

IMB President Tom Elliff and NAMB President Kevin Ezell presented WMU with two frames, each containing four pages from the 1888 SBC Annual—the year WMU was organized in Richmond, Va.

NAMB's gift featured a joint report of

was debated for 15 minutes as two amendments were offered that sought to affirm the sufficiency of Scripture as the final authority on all mental health issues. Messengers defeated the amendments as discussion centered on the recognition that any mental illness, just as any other physical condition, needs medical care.

A third amendment was offered by Steven Owensby, pastor of First Baptist Church in Enoree, S.C.—"that the mission of Jesus described as His own in Luke 4:18-19 should also be the mission of His Church, namely to proclaim liberty to those who are oppressed with godly biblical counsel."

At a news conference after the Resolutions Committee report, chair Steve Lemke, provost of New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary said the resolution could open doors for churches to develop partnerships between congregations and health care providers to develop a holistic approach to offering a compassionate ministry for those who suffer from all types of mental health issues. (BP)

the then-Home and Foreign Mission Boards. Both boards encouraged the "formation of Woman's Missionary Circles and Children's Bands in all our churches and Sunday Schools for the double purpose of exciting interest in mission work and raising funds for the spread of the gospel."

IMB's gift was the Foreign Mission Board report from the 1888 SBC annual meeting, which affirmed the work of Baptist women.

Five leaders from Korea Baptist Woman's Missionary Union extended birthday greetings from themselves and the Asian Baptist Women's Union. Sook Jae Lee, co-executive director of KBWMU, said

that since its founding in 1954 the organization has appreciated the help of Southern Baptist missionaries and partnerships with the national and state WMUs.

"We can never pay you back for what you have done for us, but we believe God will reward you greatly," Lee said through tears. "We hope to pass on this blessing that you have given us to Korea, Asia and the rest of the world for God's Kingdom enlargement."

Soon Shil Beck, executive director of KBWMU, presented Wanda Lee with a plaque of appreciation and a gift of \$3,000 to the Second Century Fund and the WMU Foundation. Sook Jae Lee presented another plaque of appreciation to the Alabama WMU for their sisterhood and partnership with KBWMU from 1992-97 and a gift of \$2,000 to national WMU in honor of Alabama WMU.

Rachel Contreras, women's minister for the Baptist World Alliance, also presented a plaque to WMU, recognizing the entities' partnership and "the chain of influence for 125 years that WMU has had in the world as it changes lives and gives new meaning."

In other business:

■ Sook Jae Lee received this year's Delanna West O'Brien Award for Women's Leadership, named in honor of the past WMU executive director.

■ WMU representatives reelected Debby Akerman of South Carolina as WMU president and Rosalie Hunt of Alabama as WMU recording secretary.

Next year's WMU annual meeting is set for June 8-9 in Baltimore. (BP)



**SUNRISE**  
Children's Services

## IT'S BACK TO SCHOOL TIME FOR THE CHILDREN OF SUNRISE.

In addition to monetary donations, you can support Sunrise through donations from our wish list. Many of these items we purchase, so collecting and donating them helps to keep our expenses down. For more information on how you can help, visit our website [sunrise.org](http://sunrise.org) or call Carmen at 502.538.1046.

Backpacks • Composition Books • Notebooks Without Wires • Ink Pens  
Colored Pencils • Loose-leaf Paper • Pencils • Erasers • Folders • Binders  
Rulers • Scientific Calculators • Glue Sticks • Index Cards • Poster Board

Helping children in crisis shine.



ACCREDITED  
CHARITY  
bbb.org



We hold ourselves to the highest accountability standard. We are the only non-profit private child care provider in Kentucky offering a full array of services that is accredited by the Joint Commission, the premiere health care accreditation organization in the country.

Owensboro - Elizabethtown - Mt. Washington - Somerset - Morehead - Ivel  
Paducah - Bowling Green - Louisville - Lexington - Danville - Florence - Hopkinsville

# Pastors' Conference speakers exhort faithfulness

Houston—Pastors received encouragement and were challenged to remain strong in ministry and to champion the gospel during the Southern Baptist Pastors' Conference June 9-10 in Houston.

## Bruce Frank

Bruce Frank, pastor of Biltmore Baptist Church in Arden, N.C., opened the conference with a message on finishing well in ministry.

Frank, who later was elected as SBPC president, preached from 2 Timothy 4:9-18. Speaking from his experiences with ministry struggles, Frank said, "I understand that you are going through many trials, pastor, but what is going to matter 10 years from now? The important thing to remember is to both finish—and finish well—in your service to Christ and others."

Noting that many clergy are burned out or stressed in their ministry, Frank reminded attendees always to be aware of obstacles and confront them.

"You are going to be lonely, tired, angry and impatient at times," Frank said. "I have a question for you, though: 'Is ministry still worship for you?'"

"From this passage in 2 Timothy, you see Paul fired up about his love for Jesus. So, are you in awe of Jesus and are you allowing God's message of salvation to change you daily? When Paul looks in the mirror, he sees not a pastor or a church planter, but who Christ is and what Christ has done in his life."

Frank said they, like Paul, pastors must focus on both their ministry and their devotion to Christ.

## John Bisagno

Bisagno, pastor emeritus at Houston's First Baptist Church, urged ministers to finish the task to which God has called them and for which He has equipped them.

"I know ministry can



Bruce Frank

be a battle," Bisagno said. "Some win. Sadly, some lose."

Those who quit the battle or find themselves disqualified, he said, subject America and the world to an ever-quickening spiritual decline. The decline of Christianity and the disappearance of those once committed to the ministry do not have to continue, Bisagno said. He offered four areas of focus: moral issues, money, people and a realistic understanding of success in ministry.

"Go back to basic training," Bisagno said. "Go back to the Cross. Get some guts. Pay the price. ... Get back in the battle. It's a day for heroes. It's a day for leaders. It's a day for change. It's a day for victory. God built you to last."

## Ed Stetzer

Ed Stetzer, president of LifeWay Research, told pastors that Southern Baptist churches must reclaim salt-and-light ministries.

"Christians are called ... to live in such a way that makes us distinct from the world, but also impacts the world," Stetzer said.

Preaching from Matthew 5, Stetzer, who also is lead pastor of Grace Church in Hendersonville, Tenn., said that salt "preserves," "creates thirst" and "needs to stay salty."

Citing statistics that indicate a decline in total membership of the SBC and the lowest baptism rate since 1948, Stetzer warned pastors that the SBC runs the risk of losing its saltiness.

"What this convention needs to be about ... is our people in God's church saying, 'Lord, our hearts are broken. Revive us, Jesus. Send us again on Your mission.'"

## Rodney Woo

In an age of shifting demographics, churches must focus on uniting believers from different cultures into one family of God, said Rodney Woo, pastor of International Baptist Church in



Ed Stetzer



Rodney Woo

Singapore. Woo pointed to the church in the books of Acts and Romans as a model.

Woo said today's churches would be able to identify with the "church in the New Testament because of the shifting times in the United States, and especially among Southern Baptists."

"We get some indicators from the apostle Paul that there were some elements of tension between the minority Jews and the majority Gentiles," he said. "The ones who used to be in charge now are no longer in charge."

Paul did not ignore the real ethnic differences within the church, Woo said, but rather emphasized that there was no distinction in God's sight between Jew and Gentile, that all are one in Christ.

"We as the recipients of the gospel of God's grace," said Woo. "God has called us to reach across lines."

## Matt Carter

Matt Carter, pastor at Austin Stone Community Church in Austin, Texas, challenged pastors to love their wives and family well.

Carter preached from Ephesians 5, emphasizing Jesus' love for the church. Using his own personal story as an example, he confessed that earlier in his ministry, if someone pulled back the veil on his life, it would be evident he was not a great husband.

Several years ago, after Carter's wife said she did not feel pursued or cherished by him, he realized his passion for the church had eclipsed his primary call to love his wife. Carter said he turned to Ephesians 5 to seek guidance from God as he sought to win back the heart of his wife.

"Find out, men, the way your wife receives love and then love her that way," Carter said, "and do it first regardless of what she's doing."

Carter encouraged pastors to lead first in the arena of conflict: "In the midst of conflict, you take the initiative to bring peace."

"I believe there are way too many



Matt Carter

wives out there that are widows spiritually," Carter said, "and we as pastors are ministering to everyone around us but her."

## Greg Laurie

Greg Laurie, senior pastor of Harvest Christian Fellowship in Riverside, Calif., spoke from Acts 17 to challenge believers to be faithful in preaching the gospel.

Laurie shared that the gospel carried him through the darkest valleys, including his oldest son's death in 2008.

"It tested my faith. If the gospel did not come through for me in my hour of need, I would have given up preaching," Laurie said. "Everything we go through in life is preparation for something else. With the comfort God has given me, I want to comfort others. We should never waste our pain."

Laurie urged pastors to preach biblical messages that do not overlook the cross and return of Christ.

"Focus on Jesus Christ crucified and risen," Laurie said. "If you want your message to have authority, you have to speak of Him crucified."

## Tim McKenzie

Tim McKenzie, president and founder of On Every Word Ministries, brought a message from God's word that was just that: God's word.

McKenzie put a twist on the most basic of sermons as he wove passages from both the Old and New Testaments in a 37-minute memorized recitation that drew from 19 books of the Bible. He began in Genesis, walking through the seven days of creation and jumping periodically to Romans 1 and other passages to view "His eternal power and divine nature."

Other elections included Clint Pressley, Charlotte, N.C., pastor, was elected as vice president and Alex Himaya, a Tulsa, Okla., pastor, as treasurer. (BP)



Greg Laurie



Tim McKenzie

## Calvinism

Continued from page 1

Commission, was unanimously approved and released in late May.

"It's really up to all of you as to what happens with this," committee member Tammi Ledbetter told an audience gathered around the CP booth. "We can talk it to death, and I think we probably have. What matters is what you do with your life in the way you relate to other people. And every time you have a conversation about this document or you have a conversation about a fellow believer ... how you handle yourself will make the whole difference."

The hope, Ledbetter added, is that both sides will put the focus "back on winning people to Jesus."

Daniel Akin, president of Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary in Wake Forest, N.C., and a committee member, agreed.

"So some of this comes back to ... our own personal attitudes and dispositions,"

Akin said, adding that Southern Baptists need to be "men and women of honesty and integrity."

"If we will pursue those types of agendas in the days ahead, I believe we can come together for the very purpose on which we fought the conservative resurgence—that is, standing on an inerrant Bible to get the gospel to every person on the planet."

## Granting 'liberty'

The advisory team—not an official committee of the convention—was assembled by Executive Committee President Frank 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-Calvinists in the convention.

The writing committee consisted of Eric Hankins, pastor of First Baptist Church in Oxford, Miss., and Albert Mohler Jr., president of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville.

Mohler is a Calvinist; Hankins is not.

Hankins said he wants Southern Baptists to "grant one another liberty" and "cut out the meanness."

"We sought to have something that would clearly express that there were real differences (while recognizing) we still want to partner together for the cause of Christ and the announcement of the gospel all around the world," Hankins said.

Referencing the year of the Southern Baptist Convention's formation, Mohler said, "If you go back to 1845, there were people like me in the room, and there were people like Eric Hankins in the room. And they wanted to be in the same room together, because they wanted to send missionaries together, and they wanted to do great things for the Great Commission together."

## Co-existing in churches

During a question-and-answer time, the panel was asked if both strands of theology can exist in the same church or whether a church needs to take a stand

on one particular side.

Steve Lemke, provost and director of the Baptist Center for Theology and Ministry at New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary, noted there are churches that have a "great deal" of theological diversity, and who have Calvinists and non-Calvinists among their staff and congregation.

"I think it's possible (for both sides to exist) within the same fellowship," Lemke said. "That may cause some tensions. But I think it's a good thing within the body of Christ to be able to disagree without being disagreeable."

Stephen Rummage, pastor of Bell Shoals Baptist Church in Brandon, Fla., and a committee member, said the report "can really serve as a model for local churches" to "navigate through how we think about these issues and how we relate to one another."

"We're not going to treat one another as though we have deficiencies or as though we are somehow less because we have this position or that position," Rummage said. (BP)

## 'God's vessels'

### Graduate learns that doors open when she is in God's will

The salutatorian for OBI's Class of 2013 was Rebekah Roughton, the 18-year-old daughter of two of our ministry team members. Although Rebekah and her family joined us only at the beginning of her senior year, she was one of the most active of all our students, participating wholeheartedly in drama, vocal and instrumental music, art, cheerleading, student council, creative ministries, and Baptist Campus Ministry. She plans to attend Word of Life Bible Institute in Florida.

In her "Oneida Experience" essay she wrote: "My school day and all the activities afterward have all been blessings to me, and I can see in all of them that this was God's purpose of my last year of high school.

"The single most important lesson I have learned by coming to Oneida is that being willing to do God's will—no matter how difficult—while keeping an open heart and mind to His plan and being receptive to Him, will open doors and create opportunities that you would never have imagined.

"God does indeed know what is best for me. I have learned to give up what I want and do what He wants. He wants me to grow closer to Him as my leader, master, friend and Father. I love Him and He has shown me His love this year in more ways than one, and I am very thankful to Him for sending me here. I know it was the right thing to do and it has taught me so much and helped me in several ways."

As is the normal custom, our salutatorian was among those members of the graduating class who were given the opportunity to address the congregation during the graduation service. What follows below is an extended excerpt from Rebekah's salutatory address.

#### This is Oneida



Paul Davidson

"My oldest brother, Stephen, is now 26 and a missionary in Mexico. Last summer I visited Stephen for six weeks. I saw how other people live: their culture and lifestyle. The one thing I will always remember is their smiles and love.

"One day I sat down and prayed for a long time. I cried when I talked about children and how they need love and the orphans who are neglected. I dedicated my hands to the Lord. I told Him that I want my hands to be His hands.

"If we are a Christian, we are God's vessels, His instruments; He lives in us and through us. Our body becomes Christ's body and we are one with Him. Our hands are one of the main tools He uses to do His will. Out of all the parts of our bodies, our hands are working the most. Our feet are also very important, for they take us to places. God wants our hands and feet to go where He wants us to go and do what He wants us to do there. Both are vitally important, but we need to dedicate our whole bodies to Christ.

"Give your hands to Christ. Tell Him that He can use them as He pleases."

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

## It's all about the call

### Graduates receive degrees later in life

Clear Creek is different in many ways. One difference is the average student's age. For as long as anyone can remember, the average age of a student at Clear Creek has been in the 30s.

Sure, we have some students just out of high school. But we also have students on the other end of the spectrum—which brings to mind Joe Sluss, 61, and Leslie Ritchie, 65.

At graduation recently, Joe and Leslie did one more thing in a list of tasks accomplished together. They walked across the stage and received their diplomas, making them official Clear Creek alumni and college graduates.

Each has more than 30 years pastoral experience. Friends for 40 years, they started their studies at Clear Creek together, traveled together, prayed and studied together. Both used to work in the coal mines and both are now full-time pastors. Both of them give God the glory for allowing them to complete their Bachelor of Arts degrees.

Leslie described their degree completion not as a burden lifted, but as a blessing received.

Joe said growing in the bonds of friendship has been "an absolute joy."

The 250-mile round trip meant spending five hours in the car to attend classes, missing time away from home and family.

They were ages 55 and 51 when God set them out on this journey, and it took 10 years to complete that journey. Both graduates testify to a depth of study and scriptural understanding they could not have achieved on their own.

One would think these graduates would be worn out and ready to coast after this. One would be wrong. The two are looking at master's programs and doctoral work. They encourage others to take advantage of the opportunity to train for the ministry to which God has called them.

"There are so many opportunities for learning," Ritchie said. "Don't let them pass you by."

As Kentucky Baptists you can be proud of the fact that God used you to make this opportunity available to Joe and Leslie. Thank you for giving through the Cooperative Program. Clear Creek Baptist Bible College exists to provide educational preparation for adults called of God into Christian service.

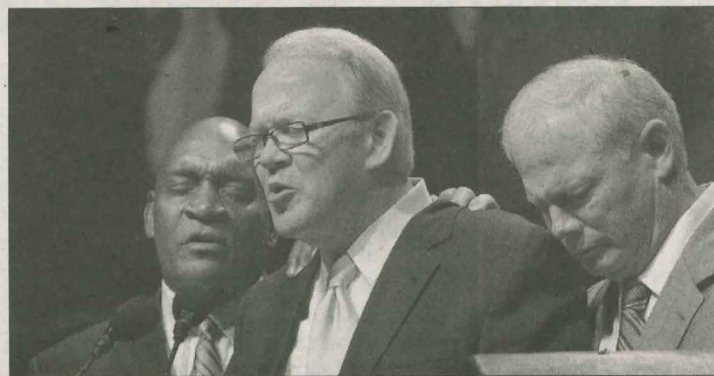
Donnie Fox is president of Clear Creek Baptist Bible College, 300 Clear Creek Road, Pineville, KY 40977; toll-free: (866) 340-3196; www.ccbcc.edu; email: dfox@ccbcc.edu.

#### Clear Creek Chronicle



Donnie Fox

## 'Pray like never before,' says Page



Frank Page, president of the Southern Baptist Convention Executive Committee, is joined on stage by Gary Frost of the North American Mission Board and Gordon Fort of the International Mission Board for prayer emphasis. (By Photo by Van Payne)

By Erin Roach

Houston—Challenging days, both in the culture and in the church, call for an unprecedented faithfulness in prayer, Executive Committee President Frank Page told messengers to the Southern Baptist Convention's annual meeting in Houston June 11.

"Most everyone knows of my most recent efforts in these past months to persuade Scouting leaders to maintain a policy which I believe upholds a commitment to morality. That battle was lost. It broke my heart," Page said.

"Most of us know that in a few days we can expect the Supreme Court to issue a ruling about the constitutionality of DOMA, the Defense of Marriage Act," he said. "We need to pray like never before. We are under attack. The worldview of God and our Lord Jesus and the Holy Spirit is under attack."

Instead of advancing as it ought, the Southern Baptist Convention in some ways is guilty of sliding backwards, Page said, adding that the world is winning too many battles and "the evil one has splintered God's people into so many directions that unity is at best an elusive goal."

Page mentioned an initiative—Great Commission Advance—which he said will have "an extremely impressive and hard launch" at next year's annual meeting in Baltimore.

"Great Commission Advance is an effort in partnership with our entities, with our seminaries, our mission boards, our state convention partners, our pastors and churches," Page said. "Part of it is the 1% Challenge."

Page recapped some of the ways he has worked during the past year to help turn the convention to a more God-honoring direction in key areas: prayer, ethnic participation and Calvinism.

Page has been calling for increased involvement from ethnic groups in the leadership of the convention, and he reported that he has seen some encouraging signs.

By the year 2050, Page said, there will be no majority population in the United States. Instead, everyone, including Anglos, will be part of a minority people

group. "And to reach this world for Christ we need to do it together," Page said.

Another topic of concern to the convention, Page said, has been disagreements over Calvinism that have led to serious divisions. Page assembled an advisory committee on Calvinism last year. The committee released a report in late May calling on Southern Baptists to stand together for the Great Commission despite theological differences.

Also in his address to messengers, Page noted that recent data from the convention's Annual Church Profile survey showed continued declines in nearly every category, including baptisms, average attendance and total giving.

"One of our big challenges in these days is that one out of every five Southern Baptist churches will not send in an ACP. We can only tell what we know. Our baptisms numbers are down. Or are they? We don't know because you won't tell us. Please participate," he said.

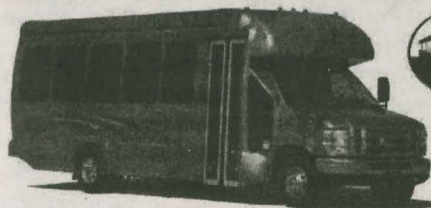
The issues facing the Southern Baptist Convention, Page said, "are facing us in the local church," where the average Southern Baptist gives only 2.3 percent of his income to the church.

"If the issue of biblical tithing were settled in the local church, we would not be having the issues we're having now," Page said. "... The issue is really not in percentages of Cooperative Program allocation, though that may need to be revisited. I'm not opposed to that. It's not in the arguing of percentages here and there. The issue is happening in the pew."

During the Executive Committee report, Page lamented that churches are giving a little more than 5 percent of their receipts through CP and total missions giving also has declined.

"I know I live in a dream world, but if Southern Baptists were actually to obey God's call to tithe, which Jesus affirmed, and were to give 10 percent at least, and if churches were to go back to the historical patterns of giving at least 10 percent to missions through the Cooperative Program, friends we would see a dramatic increase so that we could send double, triple the number of missionaries we now do," Page said. (BP)

YOUR PRIORITY IS MINISTRY... OURS IS GETTING YOU THERE



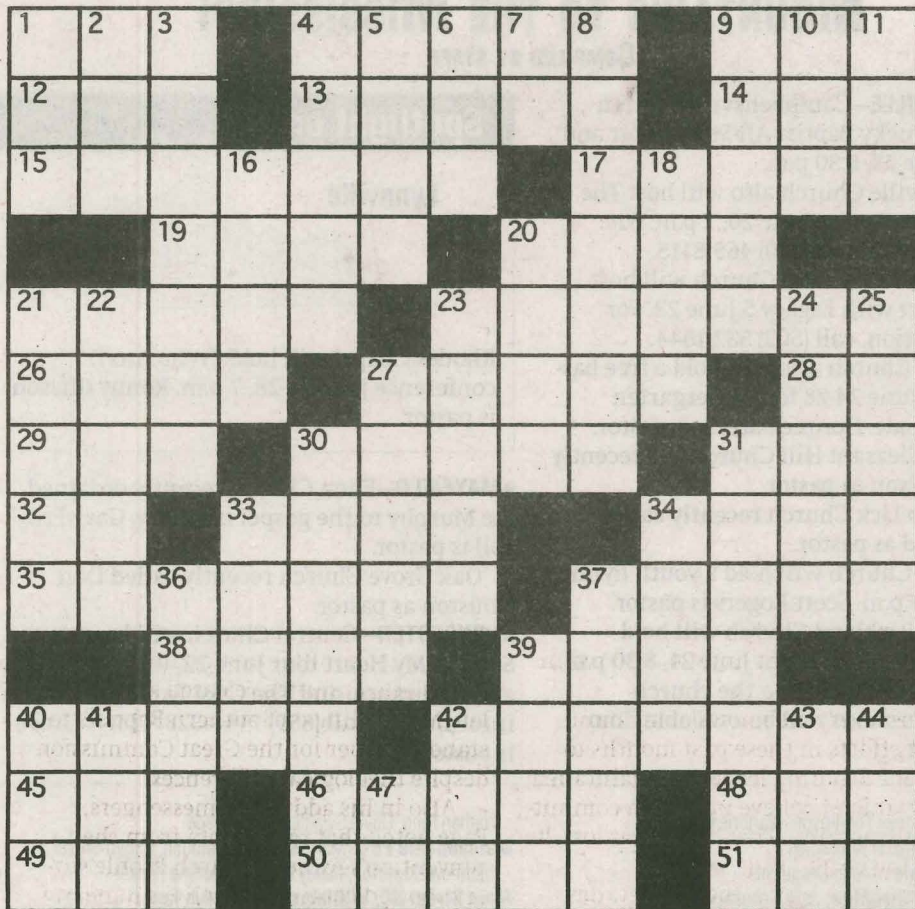
THEBUSCENTER.COM

Search our Huge Inventory of New & Used Buses

- Nationwide Delivery
- Online Pricing
- Onsite Bus Graphics
- Quick & Easy Leasing or Financing

800-322-4024

KENTUCKY'S PREMIER BUS DEALER  
A DIVISION OF MID-SOUTH BUS CENTER



#164

**Bible Crosswords**

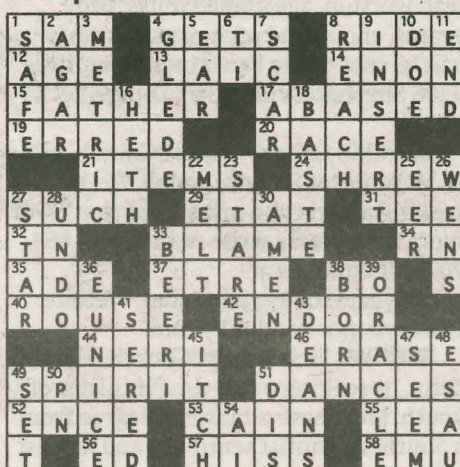
By Evelyn Boyington

**Across**

- 1 Places for the accident prone (abbr.)
- 4 Things to do
- 9 "Festus said ... much learning doth make thee \_\_\_\_" (Acts 26:24)
- 12 "The trees of the Lord are full of \_\_\_\_" (Psalm 104:16)
- 13 First letter of Hebrew alphabet
- 14 Hullabaloo
- 15 "The Lord had prepared a great fish to \_\_\_\_ up Jonah" (Jonah 1:17)
- 17 Consumed
- 19 Noise or disturbance
- 20 "Have \_\_\_\_ in yourselves, and have peace one with another" (Mark 9:50)
- 21 Star of Gigi
- 23 "The \_\_\_\_ beguiled me, and I did eat" (Genesis 3:13)
- 26 In a short time (arch.)
- 27 Swift mammals
- 28 Conjunction
- 29 Girl Scouts of America founder
- 30 \_\_\_\_ girl
- 31 Actor Vigoda
- 32 Maxwell Perkins, to F.S. Fitzgerald (abbr.)
- 33 "For whosoever will \_\_\_\_ his life shall lose it" (Luke 9:24)
- 34 "I ... am persuaded that he is \_\_\_\_ to keep that which I have committed" (2 Timothy 1:12)
- 35 Edible bugs, according to Leviticus 11:22
- 37 "The \_\_\_\_ of them which have reaped are entered into the ears of the Lord" (James 5:4)
- 38 Feminine nickname
- 39 House or hog
- 40 Motif
- 42 Old Testament book
- 45 "\_\_\_\_ (2 words) the Rose of Sharon" (Song of Solomon 2:1)
- 46 "The good shepherd giveth his life for the \_\_\_\_" (John 10:11)
- 48 Ascot, for one
- 49 Less than desirable abode
- 50 Certain amphibians
- 51 Stolen (colloq.)

- armholes" (Ezekiel 13:18)
- 7 Mess duty (abbr.)
- 8 "Like a lamb dumb before his \_\_\_\_" (Acts 8:32)
- 9 Dull finish
- 10 Summer quaff
- 11 Actor Ameche
- 16 "The first beast was like a \_\_\_\_" (Revelation 4:7)
- 18 European mountain range
- 20 Dried up; withered
- 21 One of the twelve spies sent by Moses into Canaan (Numbers 13)
- 22 Positively charged electrode
- 23 Jesus \_\_\_\_ our souls
- 24 Duke or earl, for example
- 25 Isaiah describes these as clapping their hands
- 27 Shanty; hut
- 30 "Why \_\_\_\_ thou me good?" (Matthew 19:17)
- 31 "Like unto the Son of God; \_\_\_\_ a priest continually" (Hebrews 7:3)
- 33 "There shall come forth a rod out of the \_\_\_\_ of Jesse" (Isaiah 11:1)
- 34 Mideast resident
- 36 "How long shall mine \_\_\_\_ be exalted?" (Psalm 13:2)
- 37 Graduate degree tests (abbr.)
- 39 Regretted
- 40 Poetic contraction
- 41 \_\_\_\_ trick
- 42 Teachers' organization (abbr.)
- 43 \_\_\_\_ Grande
- 44 Jelled
- 47 "\_\_\_\_, every one that thirsteth" (Isaiah 55:1)

**Last puzzle's solution #163**



**Down**

- 1 Type of curve
- 2 Unrefined
- 3 "Yea, the \_\_\_\_ hath found an house" (Psalm 84:3)
- 4 Bird claw
- 5 Oodles
- 6 "Woe to the women that \_\_\_\_ pillows to all

**Endowment power**

**Furthering kingdom impact with planned stewardship**

Do you know what an endowment fund is? Colleges, universities, children's services, museums, the arts, other public charities and some church traditions have utilized endowment funds for decades to enhance and to strengthen their financial futures and to assure the perpetuation of their missions. However, endowments have not been utilized widely among Baptist churches, except in a few instances, until now.

Some church members resist philosophically the endowment concept for a church lest the church become too dependent upon them and relieve the current members of their on-going giving responsibilities. Others lack confidence in the church's ability to administer such funds. These obstacles can be overcome through education and vision casting.

First, the sources for endowments are not the same as the sources for the on-going giving of the members. Offering plate giving typically comes from one's cash income; endowment giving typically comes from one's estate, represented by non cash assets such as securities, real estate, bequests in wills or trusts and beneficiary designations of life insurance and retirement accounts. Second, the Kentucky Baptist Foundation exists to relieve your church from the on-going administration of endow-

ment accounts and is available to assist church leaders in casting a vision for how and why endowment funds should be incorporated into the stewardship ministry of the church.

Think about this. If a church member, who died 20 years ago, had included in his or her will a \$20,000 bequest to establish an endowment with the KBF for the benefit of your church, your church would have received \$22,875, an average of \$1,144 per year, over that 20 year period to further the church's kingdom impact. Those funds could have been used for special mission opportunities, capital improvements, student scholarships,

human need ministries or other special purposes. Furthermore, this \$20,000 fund would have grown to \$32,454 and would continue to provide, until Jesus comes again, a growing stream of funds for ministry.

What if five members had done the same thing, or if one member gave \$100,000. In that case the church would have received \$114,374, and the fund value would be \$162,270. That's what I call endowment power.

Call us toll free for individual assistance or to assist your church to utilize this power.

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

**Ky. Baptist Foundation**



Barry Allen

**Barbers and Bibles**

**Love Loud Block Party kicks off busy summer for EBO funds**

Eliza Brodus Offering accountability forms from associations and other ministries that received EBO grants this year are starting to come in. Seymour Wattenbarger, director of missions for Knox Association, wrote across the top of his forms, "The Story Lives On!"

Knox Association used their EBO association grant of \$500 and an additional grant of \$1,000 to help provide expenses for a Love Loud Block Party with 114 volunteers (including 10 pastors) from 14 churches serving.

There were doctors and nurses doing health screenings and four dentists who extracted 30 teeth and filled many more. There were four barbers and beauticians cutting hair all day. They also served 400 families more than 41,000 pounds of food.

During the block party volunteers gave out English and Spanish Bibles, cases of shoes and clothes, and 400 new dress shirts. The block party also included clowns and inflatables for the kids.

The best part of all was that they held the first service of a new Hispanic church plant the next day, which was Easter.

Through the block party and the new church, the association witnessed to hundreds of people. Two pastors said "I haven't witnessed this much in years!"

Rev. Wattenbarger wrote on the accountability forms, "Thank you so much for sharing in our ministry and for the Eliza Broadus Offering. Thank God for the WMU and the Eliza Broadus Offering funds for His ministry in Knox County."

Summer mission camps and overnights are underway. We are currently in our second week of three weeks of Mission Adventure camp.

Our second Mother/Daughter, Father/Son overnight will take place this coming weekend. On July 12-13, we will have Overnights at the Creek (Mother/Daughter, GA, and A teens Splash).

Camp Courage for Royal Ambassadors, Challengers, dads and leaders will take place August 2-3 at Laurel Lake Baptist Camp in Corbin. EBO funding helps keep camping costs lower for participants.

July also is a busy month with FamilyFEST July 13-18 in Paducah and Henderson. EBO funds are helping to provide ministry supplies for projects, including some led by Baptist Nursing Fellowship. On July 27, Excel WMU leadership development, will take place in Shelbyville and Central City.

EBO plays a part in providing missions education leader training and resources. Thank you, Kentucky Baptists. Your gifts are making an eternal impact!

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

**EBO at Work**



Joy Bolton



## June

- 21 All-State Youth Choir 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.

## July

- 12 GA Overnight, Jonathan Creek, Hardin.
- 12 Mother/Daughter Overnight, Jonathan Creek, Hardin.
- 12 Acteens Splash, Jonathan Creek, Hardin.

## Kentucky Baptist All-State Musicians on tour June 19-23

**Louisville**—The Kentucky Baptist All-State Youth Choir kicks off its 25th anniversary tour, with the youth orchestra, June 19 at Campbellsville Baptist Church.

The six concerts are free to the public. To commemorate the choir's 25th anniversary, the final event includes performances from more than 30 former Kentucky Baptist All-State Youth Choir members. Alumni will also perform with this year's choir and orchestra.

This year's youth choir and orchestra is comprised of 71 students from 42 Kentucky Baptist congregations who auditioned for membership.

This year's tour schedule is:

- June 19, 6:30 p.m., Campbellsville Church.
- June 20, 7 p.m., Walnut Street Church, Louisville.
- June 21, 9:30 a.m., Kentucky Baptist Building, Louisville.
- June 22, 7 p.m., Sandspring Church, Lawrenceburg.
- June 23, 10:45 a.m., Severns Valley Church, Elizabethtown.
- All-State Alumni Choir, June 23, 11 a.m., First Church of Bowling Green.
- Combined Choirs, June 23, 3 p.m., First Church of Bowling Green.

## All-State Youth Choir &amp; Orchestra

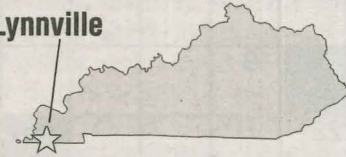
- Albany FBC:** Hannah Campbell, Alissa Cook, Mildred Dominguez
- Bethel BC, Harrodsburg:** Gillian Casey, Rachel Casey
- Brandenburg FBC:** Lucas Butler, Sarahbeth Cox, Jenny Fackler, Olivia Kessinger
- Burkesville BC:** Kailey Phelps
- Canton BC, Cadiz:** Peyton Taylor
- Crescent Hill BC, Louisville:** Morgan Anne Schussler-Williams
- Edmonton BC:** Ellen Howard
- Fern Creek BC:** Loren Been
- Fisherville BC:** Paige Ruddell

## MOUNTAINS TO THE MISSISSIPPI

COMPILED BY STAFF

## Spotlight on ...

## Lynnville



Rhodes Chapel will hold "Who Am I?" conference June 24-28, 7 p.m. **Ronny Glisson** is pastor.

■ **MAYFIELD**—Enon Church recently ordained Ike Murphy to the gospel ministry. Gary Frizzell is pastor.

Oak Grove Church recently called Don Houston as pastor.

■ **WINCESTER**—Central Church will host the Song in My Heart tour June 22, with Brian Free and Assurance, and The Crist Family. For more information, call (859) 744-4328. Travis Drake is pastor.

■ **CAMPBELLVILLE**—Campbellsville Church will host Kentucky Baptist All-State Choir and Orchestra June 19, 6:30 p.m.

Campbellsville Church also will host The Inspirations in concert June 20, 7 p.m. For more information, call (270) 465-8115.

■ **CRESTWOOD**—Crestwood Church will host Gospel Concert with Legacy 5 June 22. For more information, call (502) 532-1044.

Crestwood Church also will hold a free basketball camp June 24-28 for kindergarten through 8<sup>th</sup> grade. Donnie Patrick is pastor.

■ **EDDYVILLE**—Pleasant Hill Church has recently called Eric Nelson as pastor.

■ **IRVINE**—Knob Lick Church recently called Fred Livingood as pastor.

Friendship Church will hold a youth hymn sing June 21, 7 p.m. Scott Rogers is pastor.

■ **LOUISVILLE**—Parkland Church will hold Drive-In Family Movie Night June 21, 8:30 p.m., showing "Monsters, Inc." on the church grounds. Concessions will be available. Tom Curry is pastor.

**Frankfort BC:** Courtney Thompson, Marjorie Mason, Mina Thomas, Margaret Whitworth

**Gilead BC, Glendale:** Austin Desjardins

**Greenup Fork BC, Owenton:** Julie Spaulding

**Hartford BC:** Olivia Baird, Stephanie Morgan

**Highland Park FBC, Louisville:** Kylee Auten, Reese Milburn, Trase Milburn

**Highview BC, Louisville:** Tyler Dorris

**Hopkinsville Second BC:** Mason Sims

**Horse Cave BC:** Arianna Baird

**Hurstbourne BC, Louisville:** Andrew O'Neal, Kathryn Weeks

**Immanuel BC, Elizabethtown:** Liah McKinley, Henry Nichols

**Immanuel BC, Lexington:** Daniel Fathergill, Morgan Fathergill

**Lawrenceburg FBC:** Emily Couch, Sydney Jessee, McKenna Lewis

**London FBC:** Rachel McDonald, Michaela V. R. Bowman

**Lone Oak FBC, Paducah:** Leah Beach, Ashley Chandler,

Nathan King, Olivia Swadley, Millie Wade

**Madisonville FBC:** Mary-Margaret Gamblin, Ragan Glover, Matthew Howerton, Kasey Miracle, Victoria Walker

**Main Street BC, Williamsburg:** Kaitlyn Taylor

**May's Lick BC:** Elizabeth Peeff

**Middletown FBC, Louisville:** Bennett Cobban

**Millville BC, Frankfort:** Robbie Sams

**Ninth & O BC, Louisville:** Noah Robinson

**Owenton BC:** Corey Cobb, Andrea "Andi" Wash

**Parkway BC, Bardstow:** Magnolia Young, Ryan "Neill" Young

**Richmond FBC:** Wesley Newman

**Rineyville BC:** Jake Breeding

**Rockhaven BC, Brandenburg:** Caitlyn Neal

**Shelbyville FBC:** Ruthie Jo White

**Somerset FBC:** Nathanael Sears

**Sonora FBC:** Mallory Akers

**Sovereign Grace BC, Lawrenceburg:** Ashton Bain, Matthew Bain

**Versailles BC:** Kathryn Green, Paige Kinman, Anna Shelby

## 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.

**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:** 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:** Hayti First Baptist Church is seeking a full-time student minister. Please submit resumé by July 1 to haytifbc@gmail.com, or 201 East Lincoln Street, Hayti, MO 63851.

**SEEKING:** Ovesen Heights Baptist Church, a SBC congregation, is seeking a bivocational pastor with a heart for evangelism and reaching young adults. Send resumé to: Ovesen Heights Baptist Church, Attn: Pastor Search Committee,

1604 Bardstown Road, Hodgenville, KY 42748, or email to: ovesenheightsbaptistchurch@windstream.net. Deadline for submission of resumé is June 30.

**SEEKING:** Part-time worship leader (16-20 hours/week), Buckner Baptist, Oldham County, Ky. Above average pay for above average minister. Worship band and choir leadership, keyboard skill preferred. Email resumé (including references) with cover letter to bucknerbaptistchurch@insightbb.com.

**SEEKING:** Community Fellowship Baptist Church, Hickory, Ky., is seeking a part-time, paid children's coordinator. Ideal candidate will have some experience working with children and great organization skills. He/she will be a mature believer and possess a willingness to work within a leadership team structure. Please email resumes to the pastoral assistant at lizindsey@cfbc.tv before June 23. For more information about us, go to www.cfbc.tv or call (270)856-4463.

**SEEKING:** Beacon Hill Baptist Church, Somerset, Ky., is prayerfully seeking a full-time pastor. Please send resumé to the Pastor Search Committee, P.O. Box 3205, W. Somerset, KY 42564. For more information see our website at www.beconhillbaptist.com. Deadline July 15, 2013.

**SEEKING:** Green Acres Baptist Church in Louisville is seeking a part-time director of student ministries. Primary focus toward middle school and elementary

aged children. Submit resumé to greenacresbaptist@bellsouth.net or 5189 Poplar Level Road, Louisville, KY 40219, to the attention of Personnel Team.

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

**SEEKING:** The Elkhorn Baptist Association, based in the greater Lexington area, is actively seeking an executive director that will cast a vision to help member churches carry out the Great Commission and build the kingdom of God. This is an opportunity to redefine and re-energize an association that has many resources and is primed to make a kingdom impact. Send resumé to ebaexecdirsearch@yahoo.com by Aug. 1.

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

**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.

**SEEKING:** First Baptist Church, Martin, Tenn., is seeking a full-time minister of youth. Must have a master's degree from a Southern Baptist seminary and at least

## 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.



3-5 years of youth ministry experience. Please email resumé to youthsearch@fbcmartin.org.

**SEEKING:** Financial administrative assistant for First Baptist Church, Shelbyville. Self-motivated, multitasking individual with a high level of confidentiality is being sought to maintain accounts relating to contributions, donations and bank reconciliations. Duties also include procurement, expense reporting, payroll and general office functions. Microsoft Office and Automated Church System software experience desired. Education: Accounting degree preferred. Experience: Accounting, bookkeeping experience required. Salary: Competitive. Benefits: Medical, dental insurance, paid holidays, vacation, sick days, payroll deduction and retirement. Applications will be accepted through July 15. Please send to: Chip Gibson, 1516 Midland Trail, Shelbyville, KY 40065.



# New births in Christ

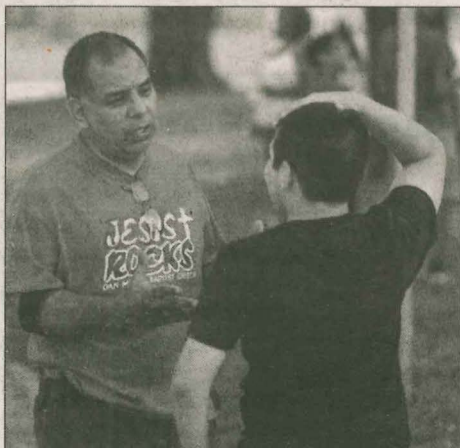
**ABOVE** Jaime Garcia, a pastor at Bethel Baptist Church in Houston, prays with sisters Elenora Graham, left, and Shellie Smith, right, during a block party at the church as part of Crossover 2013. About 20 churches throughout the city participated in Crossover 2013. (Photo by Thomas Graham)

## 582 new believers emerge from Crossover witness

**Houston**—As Southern Baptists gathered in Houston to conduct the business of the convention, the power of believers working together to intentionally share the gospel is being felt in the SBC host city, with 582 new believers recording faith decisions.

The annual “Crossover” event featured 25 block parties on June 8 and had reported more than 200 professions of faith as of Monday afternoon. In addition, 182 salvation decisions were recorded through door-to-door contact by local churches.

For the previous week, David Mills was guiding a group of students from several campuses of Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary and The College at Southwestern to share their faith door to door and on the streets of Houston.



Gilbert Chavez shares the gospel with students during a Crossover event. (Photo by Thomas Graham)

The SWBTS evangelism professor encouraged the students to make prayer a priority as they set out across the city, sharing their faith in very diverse settings.

“We have found where there has been intense and fervent prayer there is an openness to the Holy Spirit with humility and repentance,” Mills said. “Otherwise, it’s almost a hostility to the gospel.”

Students Benjamin Smith and Harrison Chow saw the results of prayer as they welcomed Jose and his son Fernando who had followed signs to a block party hosted by Northeast Houston Baptist Church.

“One student led that same dad I had prayed for to the Lord while the other student led the son,” Mills said, noting his awe in the way God had directed them to the home where he had seen them earlier that wasn’t even near the neighborhood.

Lazybrook Baptist Church sponsored two block parties as part of the outreach. The first was held at Colonial Apartments, a largely Hispanic low-income apartment complex. Pastor John Neesley said residents were surprised to see the church there.

One resident told Neesley, “I can’t believe you came here because it’s kind of dangerous. That’s why most people don’t want to come here.”

The willingness of Lazybrook members and volunteers from Ohio, North Carolina, South Carolina and Florida as well as seminary students led 13 people to profess faith in Christ.

Neesley recounted leading a boy to



Kory Kroschel, 4, throws a plastic chicken at the Chicken Chuckin’ game as his dad, Kyle, looks on at a block party June 8 at Memorial Baptist Church in Houston. The church was one of 20 in the area that hosted events as part of Crossover 2013, a series of evangelistic opportunities held across the city prior to the start of the two-day Southern Baptist Convention June 11-12 at the George R. Brown Convention Center in Houston. (Photo by Matt Miller)

Christ who went back to his apartment and returned with his brother, who also prayed to receive Christ. They went back home and brought back a third brother who also was saved.

In door-to-door outreach, church members and volunteers at First Baptist Church Pearland handed out more than 10,000 door hangers advertising their block party and shared the gospel as they went.

Worship Pastor John Godby shared with a mother and son on their front porch. He asked if they wanted to pray to receive Christ and they said yes but also asked if a friend who had been listening from inside the house could also pray. “I said, ‘Of course she can.’”

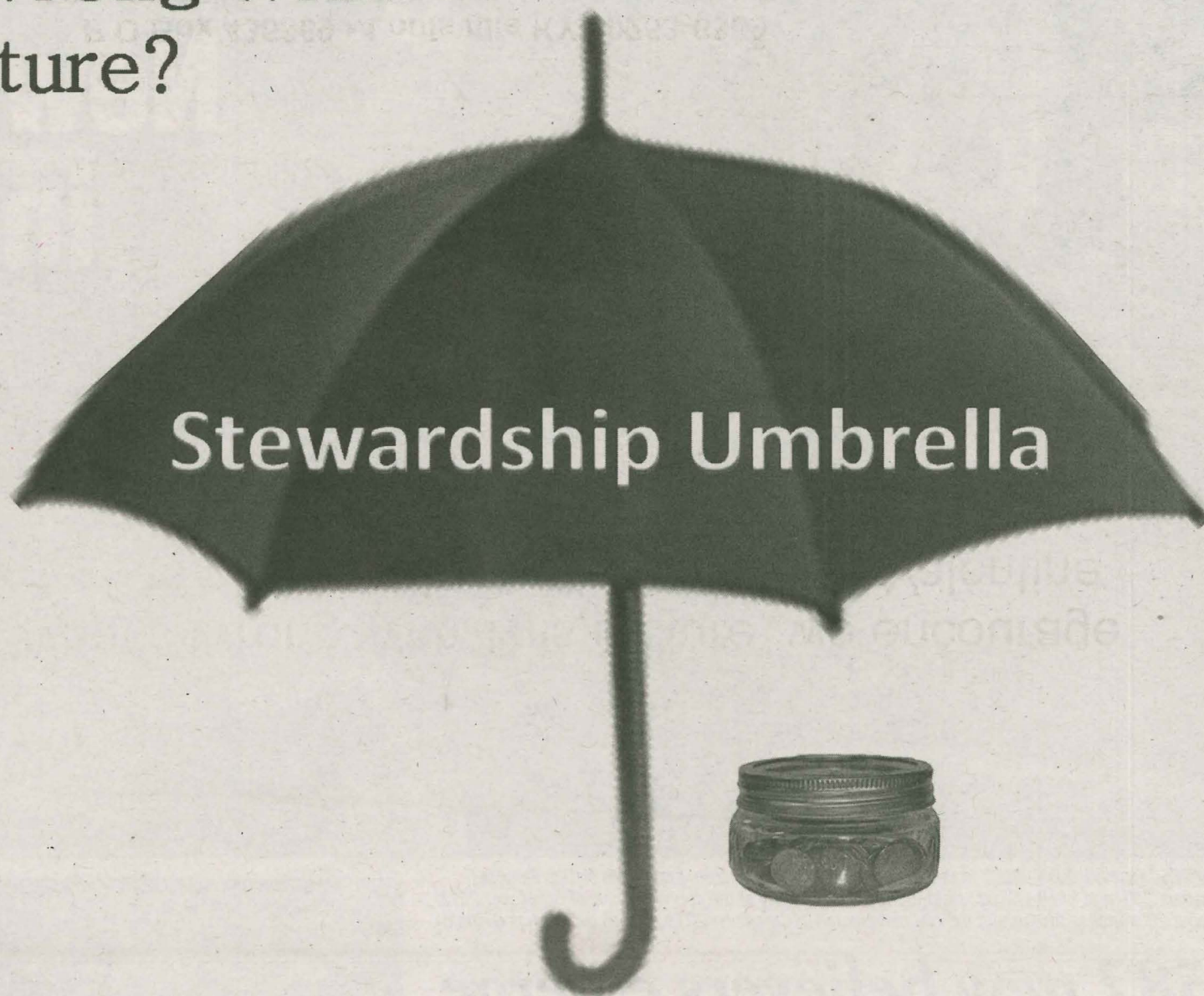
“God has been moving in amazing ways,” said James Jordan, a member of Northeast Houston Baptist Church who coordinated four block parties and the

participation of the Southwestern students. “Our pastor’s focus in 2013 has been on prayer,” Jordan noted, describing hour-long sessions on Sunday evening and corporate prayer during morning worship.

Longtime Crossover’s visionary Darrell Robinson said the prevailing attitude that door-to-door outreach no longer works is false. What is needed, he said, are pastors who not only exemplify personal evangelism but convince laypeople it is their job to win souls and then equip them to do it. As with any evangelistic endeavor, fervent prayer and a humble spirit must precede door-to-door evangelism, he added.

A come-hear-my-preacher approach isn’t enough, Robinson said, adding, “We must convince the people that it is their job” to evangelize as they go about their daily business. (BP)

What's Wrong With  
This Picture?



To find out "What's Wrong With This Picture" we encourage **church leaders** to contact Barry Allen or Laurie Valentine at the Kentucky Baptist Foundation office.



Steadfast and Solid for Kingdom Advancement - Since 1945

---

P O Box 436389 • Louisville KY 40253-6389  
502.489.3533 or 866.489.3533 (toll free, KY only)  
[www.kybaptistfoundation.org](http://www.kybaptistfoundation.org)

---