

WESTERN Recorder

July 16, 2013.

Shine Like Stars * Philippians 2:15

Volume 187, Issue 27

Jungle camp teaches missionaries coping skills

By Emily Pearson

Amazon Basin—Eighteen International Mission Board workers and their children watched with mixed emotions as the twin-prop plane took off from the jungle airstrip, headed back to the city.

As they stood surrounded by wide rivers and miles of dense Amazon rain forest on all sides, reality began to sink in. They were on their own.

The group trudged through mud and stifling heat, loaded down with children, suitcases and boxes of supplies, before arriving at the camp—a row of simple wooden cabins beside a river—that would

be home for the next month.

The missionaries—some new, some veterans—were the first group to arrive at IMB's new jungle training center, designed to help missionaries learn to live and work in tough rural places.

Donny Barger, an IMB missionary and trainer who helped start the camp, said the program will better prepare missionaries going to work among the nearly 230 unengaged, unreached people groups living in isolated places throughout the Americas. That's 230 people groups that are less than 2 percent evangelical Christian and who have no one seeking to reach them with the gospel.

"One of the things we hear most often from missionaries after they complete their first term is, 'I really wish someone would have helped me understand what it was really going to be like going into an indigenous area,'" said Barger, from Alabama. "And sometimes (lack of participation) causes you to make big mistakes with your people group that takes you a long time to get out of."

As the older kids set off to explore their new surroundings, the confused adults began learning how to set up a home in the jungle, asking basic questions such as "Where will we sleep?" "Is

□ See Jungle training ... Page 7



Participants in the IMB's new jungle training program wash clothes in a river during their month-long stay in the Amazon. Learning to adapt to rustic living conditions is one emphasis of the experience. (Photo by Rebecca Springer.)

Purposeful service



Hundreds of students share love & labor with Warren County residents

By Laurel Wilson

Bowling Green—Although it was a lot of work, Charity Payne, 15, of Rockfield, had fun fixing a roof at a house on Rich Pond Road as part of the construction ministry of Kentucky Changers.

"I've learned a lot about construction and how God's able to help me through it all," she said.

About 270 middle school, high school and college students from across the state converged in Warren County this week to work on 19 construction projects at homes in the area.

"For the community, it gives them a chance to get things done that wouldn't be done otherwise," said Joe Ball, director of Kentucky Changers. "For the participants, it's just a chance for them to share the love of Jesus in a tangible way. I hope they're sharing not just with home-

□ See Ky. Changers ... Page 3

LEFT: Under the watchful eye of skilled craftsmen, 270 students take on 19 construction projects last week through Kentucky Changers. (Photo by Nate Brelsford)

'Fight the good fight' Lexington pastor teaches youth

By Todd Deaton

Lexington—Most Baptist preachers would try to discourage people from coming to blows. Not William Farris. He loves to see a good fight.

Farris even set up a boxing ring and sells tickets to the bouts. And, as strange as it may sound, church members see it as their ministry. Some even serve as referees and scoring judges.

Then again, Farris isn't your average pastor, and Maranatha isn't exactly a typical Baptist church. That much is obvious from the moment one sets foot in its

unconventional "sanctuary."

At the front of the building is a boxing ring; two rows of wooden pews, where services are held on Sundays, face the ring. Punching bags, gloves and other boxing equipment are scattered on the sides; colorful banners of notable boxers hang from the ceiling, as if taunting any challengers.

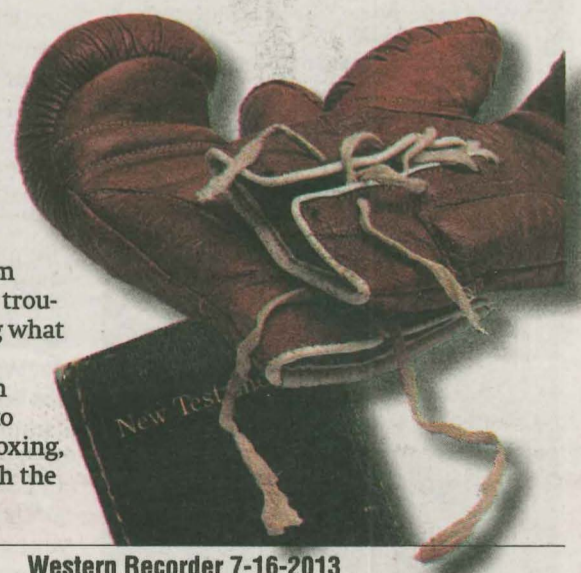
During the week, the aluminum building where the small congregation meets on Versailles Road in Lexington doubles as a gymnasium that is home to Legends Boxing Inc. Founded by Farris in 2004, the boxing club draws inner-city

youth after school to the facility, where they also hear the message of the gospel.

"I felt the Lord wanted me to do more than I could do in a traditional church setting," Farris said. Believing God was calling him to work with inner-city youth and troubled teens, Farris resorted to using what he knew best: boxing.

Farris resigned from the church where he had served for six years to launch a new outreach, Legends Boxing, in Lexington. He also went through the

□ See Boxing ... Page 2



No Western Recorder July 23

In keeping with our 2013 summer publishing schedule, as approved by Western Recorder trustees, there will not be an issue next week.

We will return to our regular schedule July 30.

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Western Recorder 7-16-2013

Georgetown College names Blevins acting president

Georgetown—The board of trustees of Georgetown College has named Granetta Bingham Blevins as the college's acting president.

Blevins, a 1980 alumna, is a long-time trustee having first been elected to the board in 1992. She has served two terms as board chair. Currently, she is a member of the executive committee of the board and chairs the trustee committee on academic excellence. She was the college's interim chief financial



Granetta Blevins

officer from September 2002 through May 2003.

"We are delighted that Granetta is willing to accept this critical assignment at such an important time in our history," said Earl Goode, board chairman. "Granetta is extremely capable and we are confident that she, as both an alumna and trustee, will provide strong leadership."

During her career, Blevins, who earned a master's degree in business administration from Xavier University in 1982, has served as chief financial officer for several companies and has held other senior management positions in

public and private organizations. Blevins currently has her own business services practice specializing in strategy development and implementation, business operations and providing interim chief financial officer services.

Blevins is actively involved in a number of community and civic organizations. She devotes much of her volunteer time to her church, First Baptist in Mount Sterling, and to Georgetown College.

Blevins is originally from Paducah and she lives in Mount Sterling with her husband Al Blevins, also a 1980 graduate of Georgetown College. (GC/WR)

Boxing

Continued from page 1

"Basic Training" program for church planters offered by the Kentucky Baptist Convention.

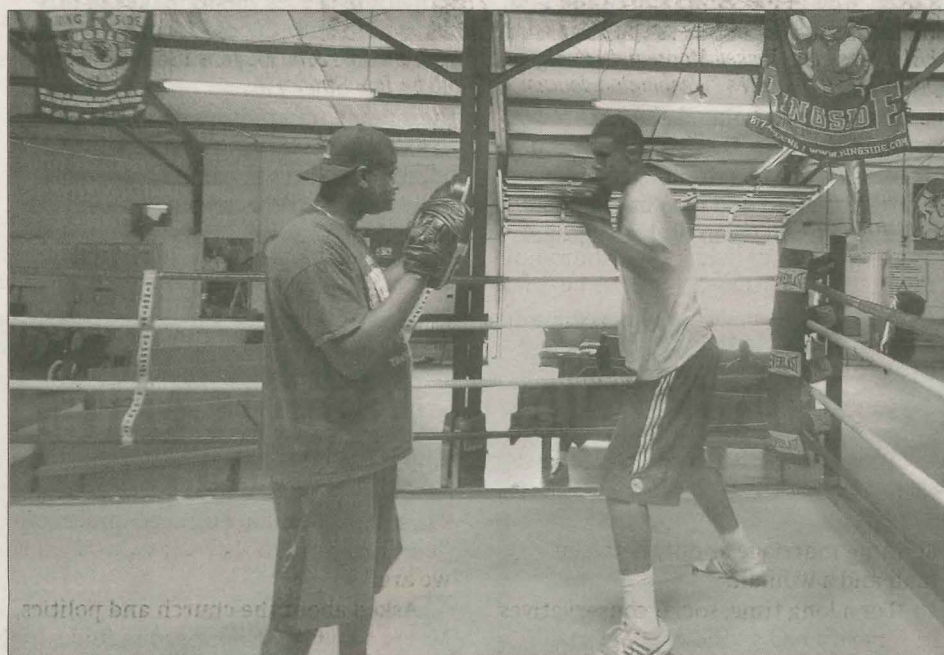
"Before the term 'affinity groups' became popular among Kentucky Baptists, Farris had one," said Don Reed, director of missions for Elkhorn Baptist Association. "His church was part of a dream that he had of moving outside the bounds that most people have" for youth ministry, Reed explained.

Affectionately known as "Sarge," Farris, a former Army boxer who retired from the military in 1997 after serving 20 years, serves as a coach, mentor and spiritual advisor to young boxers. Many come from underprivileged backgrounds, broken homes and troubled pasts; some have juvenile records of crime, gangs, violence, guns and drugs. He sees their challenges, however, as a ministry opportunity—a chance to change the direction of someone's life for the better.

"Sarge had the idea of forming a group around a segment or situation in our society, in which people will come to his church who may have had issues with the law," Reed continued. "He will go to court to help them, and he gives them opportunities to step back into society."

Farris, who also teaches at an alternative school in Lexington, sometimes encourages students to take up boxing. "I know what boxing could do to help the younger generation," he said, "because it had helped me."

As their coach, Farris often takes to the ring, sparring with youth—teaching them more than boxing skills by providing a male role model and spiritual guid-



William "Sarge" Farris, pastor of Maranatha Baptist Church in Lexington, works on boxing techniques with Raekwon Long. Church pews can be seen in the background where Sunday worshipers sit as Farris brings the message beside the boxing ring. (Photos by Todd Deaton)

ance along the way.

"The boxing club provides an outlet and a haven for youth," Farris said. "It's a place where you feel invited, and you can come and be safe," he added. "It can become another type of gang—one that is Christian-based."

Other youth—like Raekwon Long, a 7-foot rising sophomore at Scott County High School in Georgetown—however, come to the gym to boost their athletic ability and agility. In addition to improving physical fitness and muscle coordination, boxing, Farris maintains, teaches participants essential character-building lessons: perseverance, self-discipline, anger management, the value of hard work, and self-esteem.

He uses boxing much as Paul did, Farris says. Seeing it as a metaphor for the Christian life, he points out verses in 1 and 2 Timothy that urge believers to "fight the good fight for the faith," and not to "run like one who runs aimlessly or box like one beating the air" in pursuing eternal crowns.

"We're not playing in boxing; it's serious business," Farris said. "It requires commitment and hard work, just as being a Christian requires commitment and dedication."

Though boxing typically appeals to young men, one of Farris' prized fighters, is a pastor's daughter. Yes, that's right: daughter. Guess that's one prospect for nothing here is quite what she expects.

Samantha Kinchen, a senior at Henry Clay High School, is USA's reigning champion in the 152-pound

welterweight class. After winning the 2012 Junior Olympic National Champion title, her dreams of competing at the 2016 Summer Olympic Games in Rio de Janeiro may be in reach, according to the Lexington Herald-Leader.

Samantha's father, Alex Kinchen, is associate pastor of Lexington's Turning Point Church. Master's Church, as Turning Point was known before it was relaunched recently, was the KBC's first "High Impact" church.

Farris and Samantha have appeared together on former University of Kentucky Basketball Coach Joe B. Hall's radio show on several occasions.

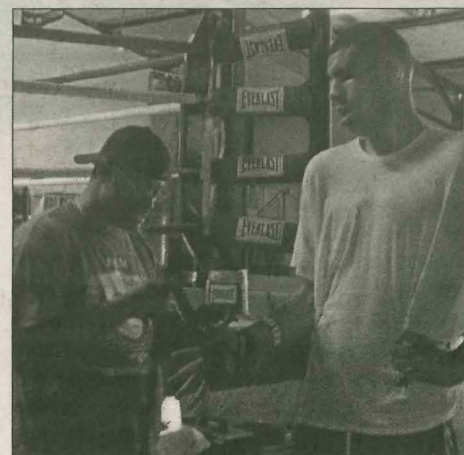
"I believe he has a sincere intent of steering youth in the right direction," said Coach Hall, "and I've tried to help by making the public more aware of his boxing program."

"It's a big thing he is doing with those kids," he said.

Through Legends Boxing, Farris has found an opportunity to redirect their lives toward a higher purpose, Reed agreed.

"He presents boxing in a Christian fashion, as a means for touching their lives, redirecting them from where they are, pointing them to what they can become," Reed added. "He becomes a good role model, helping them see that you can be successful in life, that you can overcome the obstacles you may face."

For more information about Legends Boxing or Maranatha Church, contact Farris at wffarris@aol.com or call 859-396-5248. (WR)



Maranatha Pastor William Farris tapes Raekwon Long's hands before beginning his boxing tutorial at the unconventional church building.

Appalachian Ministries continues VBS outreach

Williamsburg—University of the Cumberlands' students hosted their third annual Vacation Bible School at Corbin Manor apartments in Williamsburg, June 24-28, through Appalachian Ministries.

The UC students were joined by six youth from Blackwood Baptist Church in Hawesville and assisted in teaching Bible lessons, making crafts and playing with the 20 children from the apartments.

The ministry also hosts a Bible study night on Mondays during the school year.

At the beginning of the week, AM students also bought several pairs of shoes for some of the children who probably had outgrown ones used during the school year.

The ultimate goal, however, according to team leader LeAnn Wright, UC senior and member of Double Springs Baptist Church in Waynesburg, is "to share God's love in the community through building relationships."

Appalachian Ministries volunteers—made up of UC students—will continue hosting Vacation Bible Schools in the Whitley County community throughout the summer. (UC)

NEWS BRIEFS

CU hosts 7,000 campers

Cumberlands University will host about 7,000 campers this summer on their campus. Participants attending so far represent 10 different states more than 120 churches, and 28 high school and junior high sports teams.

Themed camps held at CU range from basketball, wrestling, softball, football to Fellowship of Christian Athletes leadership, CentriKids and Kentucky Baptist All-State Youth Choir and Orchestra.

CentriKid is the biggest camp with eight sessions. The sports ministry camp is run by LifeWay Christian Resources of the Southern Baptist Convention.

For more information, call (270) 789-5047.

Former youth minister charged

The former youth minister of Walnut Street Baptist Church in Benton pled not guilty July 3 to 25 criminal counts related to inappropriate relations with a 16-year-old female, according to the Marshall County Tribune Courier.

Police records stated Robert Byars, 32, of Benton, was the minor's youth minister at the church. Some of the acts are alleged to have taken place on the church's property.

Byars had reportedly resigned as youth minister at the church about a month ago.

DR assists with wildfires

Kentucky Baptist Disaster Relief deployed two chain saw/ash-out teams to Colorado Springs, Colo., to assist in Colorado wildfires. Teams led by Jeff Free and Lew Cook will serve through July 21.

Team members will be stationed at Lake Forest Baptist Church in Colorado Springs.

SBTS Press publishes evangelism guide

Louisville—SBTS Press, a division of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, has released a new book, "A Guide to Evangelism." The fourth volume in SBTS Press' guide book series debuted at the 2013 Southern Baptist Convention in Houston.

According to a news release from the seminary: "The apostle Peter instructs Christians to be ready to give a defense for their hope (1 Peter 3:15), and today's cultural and religious landscape requires Christians to be ready to interact with a myriad of world-views. A Guide to Evangelism prepares Christians for such a defense and interactions."

In the his introduction, editor Dan DeWitt writes that he hopes the book not only serves Christians as a resource for fruitful evangelism, but also to "cultivate craving" for spreading the gospel.

In addition to DeWitt, dean of Southern Seminary's Boyce College, contributors to the book include Boyce professors and staff Chad Brand, Brian Payne, Denny Burk, Jim Stitzinger, Troy Temple, Owen Strachan, Travis Kerns and John Klaassen.

The book is divided into two sections: "For the Church" and "For the Christian." The two sections include nine essays.

A Guide to Evangelism is available from press.sbts.edu, Amazon.com and Southern's Lifeway Campus Store. (BP)

Church's views 'seem freakish' to popular culture



ERLC President Russell Moore (left) awaits questions from host John McArdle before his July 8 appearance on C-SPAN's "Washington Journal." (Photo by Tom Strode)

By Tom Strode

Washington—American evangelicals' view of themselves should resemble more closely that held by the church in the first century than that held by Christians in recent decades, Southern Baptist ethicist Russell Moore said in a nationally televised interview.

Moore, in an appearance on C-SPAN's "Washington Journal" July 8, said there was a message for evangelicals and other social conservatives in the U.S. Supreme Court's invalidation of a federal law defining marriage as only between a man and a woman.

"For a long time, social conservatives in America had a kind of silent majority view of ourselves, and conservative evangelicals and conservative Roman Catholics had a moral majority view of ourselves, as though we somehow represent the mainstream of American culture—most people really agree with us except

for some elites somewhere," the president of the Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission said. "That really isn't the case."

Instead, Moore said, Christians "need to start seeing the fact that we're very similar to the way the Christian church was at the very beginning of its existence—a minority of people who are speaking to the larger culture in ways that are going to sometimes seem freakish to that larger culture. I don't think that's anything that should panic us or cause us to become outraged or despondent. I think it's a realistic view of who we are."

Asked about the church and politics, Moore said Christians need to find a path between two erroneous approaches.

"The church can become a political action committee in a way that detracts from the mission of the church and destroys the mission of the church," Moore told C-SPAN host John McArdle.

"But I think there's also a way in which the church can stand back and say, 'We don't speak to anything that we believe to be political,' which really means the old question that the Scripture gives us: 'Who is my neighbor?' If we care about our neighbors and if we care about our society, then we have to speak to those things that are for the common good and are for human flourishing."

He said there was a time "when evangelical Christians in America became too triumphalistic, had a Christian definition of a balanced budget amendment or a Christian position on a line-item veto or a Christian position on foreign aid in ways that there is no clear, biblical authority for that. But I think there are some foundational issues that we must speak to out of the convictions that we hold."

Moore was not surprised the Supreme Court struck down the 1996 Defense of Marriage Act in its June 26 opinion, but he was startled by the justices' reasoning, he said.

The majority "essentially said there's no reason to define marriage as the union between a man and a woman exclusively except for hostility and animus toward persons, which we don't believe is the case," Moore said.

Defenders of the biblical, traditional definition of marriage are not saying "the state ought to somehow penalize or stigmatize people," Moore said. "We're just saying that children have a right to a mother and a father, and there's something distinctive about that sort of family structure that the state has an interest in."

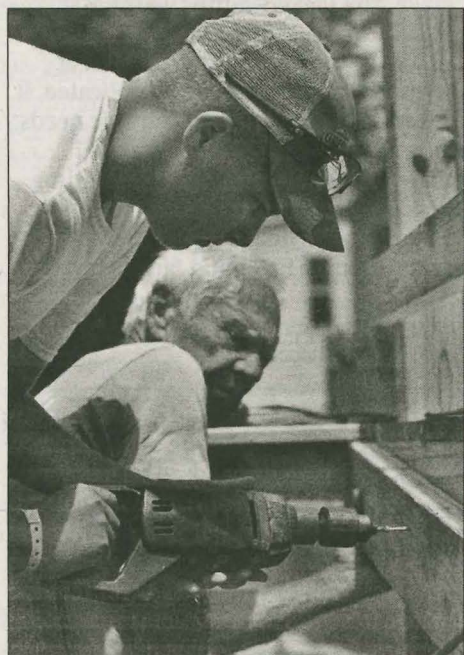
During the 45-minute program, Moore responded to questions from McArdle, phone callers and tweeters on a wide variety of topics. (BP)

Ky. Changers

Continued from page 1

owners but the entire neighborhood."

This is the 20th year for Kentucky Changers, which is run by Crossings Ministries in Louisville and brings student crews to several communities in the region each summer. Those participating



The Warren Baptist Association raised most of the \$30,000 used by Kentucky Changers to complete construction and repair projects. (Photo by Nate Brelsford)

in this week's projects slept at Rich Pond Baptist Church, but other churches that are part of the Warren Baptist Association also provided support, raising most of the \$30,000 needed to complete the projects. The city of Bowling Green donated the rest.

"I love seeing the teenagers from across the state come together for one purpose," said Tim Colovos, pastor of Oakland Baptist Church and a Kentucky Changers committee member. "It's about coming together for more than just construction. It's something the Lord would want them to do. It gives a sense of purpose to these teens."

Being part of Kentucky Changers was a good experience for Charity, a member of Clear Fork Baptist Church in Rockfield, the only local congregation with students participating this week.

"It's really cool because I've always passed this house and never knew they needed help," she said.

Jennifer Turpin, 16, of Danville, helped put a roof on a home in Woodburn. Her experience at last year's Kentucky Changers in Somerset made her feel more confident during the construction.

"I definitely know more about building this year," she said. "This is my first time building a roof."

It felt good to reach out to the homeowners with her faith and pray with them before beginning the project.

"It is tremendously meaningful



After a long day working on construction projects near Bowling Green last week, students with Kentucky Changers found food and rest at Rich Pond Baptist Church. (Photo by Nate Brelsford)

because it gives you a sense of happiness and hope for the future," Turpin said. "This family could be lost and not know it."

She also made many new friends during Kentucky Changers.

"It's different than being at home," she said. "We come here and it's just a God thing, and we can be around other people who think the same way we do."

Alex Dennis, 19, of Spencer County,

also worked on the house in Woodburn and hoped to show others the way to God during the week.

"It makes me feel really good. I like putting smiles on people's faces that hadn't smiled in a while," he said. "(I know) that it's not about me, it's about God and what He's done for me and what he can do for other people." (Daily News/WR) Laurel Wilson is a writer for the Daily News in Bowling Green.

The association's role

This week's column is by Eric Allen, leader of the Kentucky Baptist Convention's Missions Mobilization Team. The column originally appeared as a post on the team's blog at kyandbeyond.org.

Most Southern Baptists are familiar with the term "association" since each church is typically part of a local association of Baptist churches, historically because of geographic location, but sometimes because of theology or doctrinal positions.

Associations of Baptist churches have been around since 1650 and their purpose has changed over the years to reflect the needs of member churches. The first associations in England existed to encourage fellowship and assistance between member churches. Some of the first Baptist associations in America were instrumental in developing a broader concern for missions. The years that followed saw associations change from a focus on their congregations to being program promoters of the SBC and state conventions. Years later, another philosophical shift took place and the role of the association was to develop local missions programs.

Other roles include:

- leading churches to impact lostness through church planting, community ministry and evangelism.
- assisting churches in the making of disciples through leader development, training and resources.
- leading churches to cooperate and accomplish what one church cannot do alone.
- providing support for needy churches.
- commending individuals to ministry at other churches.
- maintaining doctrinal and moral integrity of churches.

The role of the Baptist association will continue to change and must, if it is going to endure and remain relevant in our constantly changing world.

What is needed in your association, and will your church commit with others to that purpose? In light of our current reality, there's never been a more critical time for associations to re-dream and evaluate their role. I challenge associations to assess and review their current strategies and organizational structure to ensure they are providing value and effective ministry assistance to their member churches.

As leader of the KBC's Missions Mobilization Team, I strongly believe Baptist associations today must be functional, streamlined and practical in their approach to strategically challenge and assist member churches in fulfilling the Great Commission.

The Missions Mobilization Team of the Kentucky Baptist Convention offers assistance to associations wishing to review current structure, evaluate effectiveness or develop new strategies. I would be happy to talk with you and explore how I can support your association's efforts to move forward. Call me at (502) 489-3530 or (866) 489-3530 (toll free in Kentucky only).

Paul Chitwood is executive director of the Kentucky Baptist Convention.



Paul Chitwood

Together We are the KBC

Shine bright—like a lighthouse

On our family vacation to St. Augustine, my daughter, Laura, and I mustered up the courage to climb 219 steps—about 14 stories—to the precipice of the historic city's lighthouse. That, of course, was after we had drunk from the famed Fountain of Youth, and I was feeling young at heart. (I apparently was mistaken.) Nonetheless, the beautiful vista was worth the arduous ascent, and I descended with some timely reflections.

On our trek up the spiraling staircase, we took note of a heavy oil bucket that lighthouse keepers once used to keep the powerful lamp atop shining. Later, in the caretaker's house, we saw cleaning supplies that were toted up those many steps to polish the lamp's lens, so the bright beam would travel far out at sea to warn approaching ships. Naval inspectors came regularly, so the tedious chore had to be done frequently.

As we sat on a beach shore adjacent to St. Augustine on the eve of July 4, the city's streetlights were darkened for a fireworks display. The lighthouse's bright beam suddenly grew more evident against the dark backdrop of a night sky. Its mission remained, but now seemed all the more urgent.

Addressing the Supreme Court's recent rulings favoring gay marriage, Tennessee Baptist editor **Lonnie Wilkey** observed, "Today, we are living in a world that is growing darker with each passing day." He implored readers to "be beacons of light." Likewise, on the facing page, **David Roach**, of Shelbyville, encourages us to take heart: "Though sexual perversion may increase, God has a history of making His gospel shine brightest where culture is darkest."

A bevy of Baptist voices have echoed this counsel in recent days:

Those of **Ed Stetzer** of LifeWay Research, bear repeating: "Regardless of the Supreme Court rulings, your church—as well as mine—has the same mission it did last week: We are to love people and share the good news of Christ with them." He advocated a need to show grace and friendship to those who struggle with homosexuality while holding fast to what scriptures teach. "Without hiding our beliefs," he said, "we need to look for opportunities to have conversations, build relationships and demonstrate grace."

Jeff Iorg, president of Golden Gate Seminary, observed that though the Supreme Court's ruling was a "dark day" in American history, "it's time to accept the reality and move

on to discussing how to minister in a new context." He focused, instead, on another ministry challenge: "Christians work in companies, hospitals, schools and governmental agencies which must now legally provide services to gay married couples. Churches will be challenged to help their members think theologically about and behave ethically in these situations."

LifeWay editor **Trevin Wax** saw a good news/bad news scenario. "The bad news: Being a convictional Christian, especially in matters related to sexuality, morality and marriage, likely will mean the loss of cultural clout and respectability. We will pay a personal and social cost for our beliefs ...," he warned. The good news, however, is, "(K)nowing you are the minority and may be ostracized for your views increases the level of commitment and participation of those who follow Christ." He foresees a potential upside of our Christian witness becoming more potent in our society.

Meanwhile, **David Platt**, a Birmingham pastor and author of the best-selling book "Radical," cautioned, "Be careful not to be guilty of selective moral outrage" regarding homosexuality. Everyone is bent toward sexual sin, he nodded. "If we roll our eyes and shake our heads when we see the Supreme Court ruling ..., yet we turn the channels on our TVs to watch the trivialization of sex on shows and advertisements, to surf the Internet to find images in order to satisfy our lusts, to go to movies that glamorize sex ... and entertain sexual thoughts and desires outside of our own marriage, then we have missed the entire point," he said. The church, he urged, must declare war on every sexual sin that plagues Christians and model sexual purity and godly marriage.

Finally, **Jeff Robinson**, also of Birmingham, employed the imagery of a lighthouse, too. Calling Christians to see "the tremendous opportunity that exists for us to share the light of the gospel of Christ to the untold millions who are walking in sin's dark night," Robinson challenged: "I want the world to see the gospel portrayed in our own marriages so that they might be lighthouses from which God's glory shines forth into the dark and tumultuous sea that is our fallen culture."

The takeaway? Faithfully polish the lens of your Christian life, so the brilliant beam of God's word shines far out into a surrounding sea of darkness.

After Thought

By Todd Deaton



Happy half-birthday

By Jeremy White

When our daughters were young, we enjoyed celebrating their "half-birthdays." We didn't give any presents, but my wife would make one-half of a birthday cake. Then, our girls would no longer be six, but they would proudly say "six-and-a-half."

Somewhere along the way of growing older, we all stop wanting to be known as 38½ years old and preferred just 38, or 39. When nearing retirement, however, a person needs to start paying attention again to their half-birthdays.

Through the strange result of

political compromise and negotiations, the tax code has two odd ages to keep in mind: 59½ and 70½.

For traditional individual retirement accounts (IRA), a 401(k), or a 403(b), you generally must wait until age 59½ to withdraw money without a tax penalty. Although certain exceptions exist, you incur a penalty of 10 percent of the amount withdrawn from your retirement account if you are under age 59½. This 10 percent penalty is in addition to the ordinary income tax you pay on the amount withdrawn.

Although you may withdraw money at 59½, you do not have to withdraw any money for the next 11 years.

But in the year in which you turn 70½, you must begin some amount of withdrawals in that year and each year thereafter. These are called required minimum distributions. If you do not

take out the RMD, you will be hit with a whopping penalty—50 percent of what you should have been taken out.

Congress did not intend for you to defer taxation forever on these retirement accounts. The institution that is holding your IRA or retirement account usually reminds you of your RMD, but ultimately it is your responsibility to make sure you withdraw your RMD.

When should you withdraw money? Choosing the timing and amount of your withdrawals can be complicated. It depends on your current lifestyle needs, income tax brackets, and financial goals. It is worthwhile to spend a dime to save a dollar. See a certified public accountant or financial planner to help you minimize taxes and factor in your goals.

Jeremy White is a certified public accountant with BlytheWhite in Paducah.



WESTERN Recorder

Box 43969
Louisville, KY 40253

DR. TODD DEATON
Editor

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News Director

THOMAS C. TOWNSEND
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Shine Like Stars * Philippians 2:15

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A flourishing church in a culture of sexual immorality

By David Roach

In recent days Christians have rightly decried the U.S. Supreme Court's decisions in favor of gay marriage, calling them unjust, unwise and ungodly. The decisions will have adverse effects on society, and followers of Jesus should work tirelessly to see them overturned. At the same time, however, the Bible reminds us not to be discouraged or imagine that a culture awash in sexual immorality will rob the church of its power.

The first-century Roman Empire practiced and even embraced an array of sexual perversions, but God used that sin as a backdrop to highlight the power of the gospel and the holiness of His church. Consider several of the cities where early believers lived.

The apostle Paul's description of Gentile-dominated Rome included reference to homosexuality. Women there "exchanged natural relations for those that (were) contrary to nature" while men "likewise gave up natural relations with women and were consumed with passion for one another" (Romans 1:26-27).

Indeed, Rome was a bustling metropolis that offered an array of sexual perversions to those seeking illicit pleasures. Yet in that city, the gospel proved to be "the power of God for salvation to everyone who believed" (Romans 1:16) and the virtue of the church was "known to all" (Romans 16:19).

Ancient Corinth was infamous for its wanton sexuality. Paul included among the common sinful lifestyles in Corinth "the sexually immoral," "adulterers" and "men who practice homosexuality" (1 Corinthians 6:9). Some Corinthian believers were even among those groups before their conversions. But when Paul preached the gospel there, "many of the Corinthians hearing Paul believed and were baptized" (Acts 18:8).

Among the "works of the flesh" present in Galatia were "sexual immorality," "impurity," "sensuality" and "orgies" (Galatians 5:19-21). But the Galatian believers

were "redeemed from the curse of the law" (Galatians 3:13) and called to live by faith (Galatians 3:11).

Ancient Ephesus was the site of a great temple dedicated to the Greek goddess Artemis, and its centerpiece was a large and perverse statue of the deity. It was a city of pagan immorality, including "sensuality" and "every kind of impurity" (Ephesians 4:19).

In such a city, though, Paul preached for two years and saw many come to faith in Christ (Acts 19:10). Believers there were to be set apart from all sexual immorality (Ephesians 5:3) and known for their godly families (5:22-6:4).

Thessalonica, as a city of more than 100,000 in Paul's day, had its share of pagan vice too, including "sexual immorality" (1 Thessalonians 4:3). In contrast, the Thessalonian Christians' faith and personal holiness "became an example to all the believers in Macedonia and Achaia" (1 Thessalonians 1:8).

The recipients of 1 Peter also lived among pagans and were bombarded by calls to indulge the "passions of the flesh" (1 Peter 2:11-12). Yet they stood out from the sinfulness around them as "a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for (God's) own possession" (1 Peter 2:9). And one of the most powerful preachers in history, John the Baptist, exercised his prophetic ministry against the backdrop of an evil king who persisted in an illicit relationship with his brother's wife (Matthew 14:1-12). Eventually John was beheaded because of his stand for righteousness. But his call to repentance has helped bring countless thousands to Christ through the centuries, while Herod's sexual sin was short-lived.

So fight to protect traditional marriage and lament the court decisions that were handed down. But take heart. Though sexual perversion may increase, God has a history of making His gospel shine brightest where culture is darkest. (BP)

David Roach is a freelance writer in Shelbyville.

"The Bible reminds us not to be discouraged or imagine that a culture awash in sexual immorality will rob the church of its power."

Helping a depressed loved one

By Valerie Vincent

Q: I am worried about my husband and think he might be depressed. How do I help him?

A: If you have noticed changes in your husband's behavior, such as a lack of interest in activities or relationships, or he seems more angry or withdrawn, then he might be struggling with some form of depression.

A good place to start is with your physician. There are physiological changes or medical problems that need to be ruled out first. Thyroid disorders, hormonal changes, levels of serotonin, and even lack of sleep can produce symptoms of depression. Once an evaluation has been performed, you and your husband will have more information to help you understand what is happening.

Sometimes, life events or changes in routines can produce depression, such as the death of someone close, children leaving home, retirement and job changes. There may be points in a person's life, such as starting a new job, starting a family, moving and establishing a career. If a goal is not attained, disappointment can result in depressive symptoms. In these cases, working with a counselor, mentor, or minister can help.

For a person, feeling depressed can bring a burden of guilt. They may ask themselves, "How can I be depressed when I know Jesus loves me and has given his life for me?" Realize that depression is not what someone chooses, and it can enter one's life through genetics, physiological changes and life circumstances.

God may use the skills of others to help bring about new life for someone. God as healer and source of all knowledge, continues to reveal ways to bring about the abundant and full life Jesus talked about.

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



Honoring the real Lottie Moon intent of former Murray State prof's book

By Duane Bolin

In 2012 alone Southern Baptists collected \$150 million for international missionaries through the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering. International missionaries could not continue to do the work that they do without these funds donated sacrificially outside tithes and offerings given through the Cooperative Program. Just think what international missionaries—married couples and single women—could accomplish if the leadership of the Southern Baptist Convention allowed them to follow the example of the heroic woman for whom the Christmas offering was named.

A long-standing mythology surrounding Lottie Moon, our own Baptist saint, continues to be maintained by the convention's leadership, who themselves hold to a complementarian, rather than an equalitarian, view of the roles of men and women. (In other words, men and women are equal, but not really; at least, not in any sphere—leadership, work, politics, church, the mission field—outside the home). The convention's perpetuation of Lottie Moon mythology has also been deferred to by the laity—both men and women—thus making it easy for them to maintain a submissive role for women in the church and on the mission field.

But this is exactly the view of women that Charlotte Diggs Moon fought so hard against. She was indeed an early Southern Baptist woman's rights advocate. A careful study of Moon's correspondence makes this crystal clear. Her letters from China show the evolution of her thinking about what women should and could do for the cause of Christ. And this is exactly what Regina Sullivan reveals in her book, "Lottie Moon: A Southern Baptist Missionary to China in History and Legend," published by the Louisiana State University Press in 2011.

Sullivan is a first-rate historian. She is an even better

person. I know. She was my colleague at Murray State University. She did her undergraduate work at Ouachita Baptist University in Arkansas, a master's at Yale Divinity School, and she completed a Ph.D in History at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Her Lottie Moon book should be read by every pastor of a Southern Baptist Church, by every student, staff or faculty member at a Southern Baptist college or seminary, and by every member of a Southern Baptist church. The book should be read by anyone interested in religion in the South.

While we Southern Baptists give millions to the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering year after year, and while we continue to keep women from serving in leadership roles in churches and on the mission fields, there was Lottie Moon all those years ago teaching us exactly what women could accomplish if they allowed themselves to be open to God's calling. And she did this work in the most unlikely place; in China, where girls and women have been historically undervalued.

As Moon and Martha Crawford and Sally Holmes went to the villages to speak to the Chinese people about Jesus, as Sullivan tells us, "they did not separate the villagers out by sex." Instead, "they simply started 'preaching,' as they termed it themselves. Moon immediately sensed how their behavior blurred the boundaries of what was considered proper, but she was overwhelmed by her responsibility for the souls of all the people she met—not just the souls of women."

"I should not have dared to remain silent with so many souls before me sunk in heathen darkness," she wrote to Foreign Mission Board secretary Henry Tupper.

Lottie Moon concluded that she should listen to God and not SBC officials or other traditionalists in the convention.

Sullivan quotes from letter after letter of Moon's ongoing argument with the SBC's patriarchy about a woman's missionary work. She published articles about "Woman's Work in China." She threatened to resign. She continued to preach. Yes, she preached. She preached to girls and women. She preached to men.

And when those Chinese men died and went to Heaven, the Judge of all things did not ask them if they were convicted under the preaching of a tiny woman in Chinese garb from the American South. No, He simply knew that they had professed Jesus Christ His Son as their Lord and Savior at the end of an open air worship service in some Chinese village sometime in the last three decades of the 19th century or the first decade of the 20th. How could they have heard without a preacher? The preacher was Lottie Moon.

Sullivan's work is a path-breaking book on the legendary Southern Baptist missionary. Through archival research Sullivan corrects long-standing beliefs about Moon. The irony—as Sullivan shows so convincingly—is that Moon preached to men, as well as women and children in China, while Southern Baptists give millions of dollars to the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering year after year, yet maintain a strictly submissive role for women in the church, in the pulpit and on the mission field. This is just one example of the many myths about Lottie Moon that Sullivan corrects in this solid piece of research and writing.

Duane Bolin teaches in the Department of History at Murray State University. He and his family are members of Murray's First Baptist Church.

A Letter from the Laity



Duane Bolin

Regina Sullivan's archival research has created "a path-breaking book" that "corrects long standing beliefs" about "the legendary Southern Baptist missionary" Lottie Moon.

Hobby Lobby wins legal appeal, spared hefty mandate fines

Washington—The Southern Baptist owners of Hobby Lobby won't have to pay millions of dollars in fines, thanks to a federal appeals court ruling June 27 proceeding with its lawsuit challenging Obamacare.

The 10th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals said a lower court erred in refusing to grant an injunction blocking implementation of the Affordable Care Act. The appellate court stopped short of issuing the injunction, however, returning the case back to the district court to examine unresolved religious-liberty claims.

The next step in a lawsuit by Hobby Lobby and a sister Christian bookstore chain, Mardel, is a July 19 hearing regarding their request for a preliminary injunction blocking enforcement of the abortion/contraception mandate while the court case continues.

Hobby Lobby owners claim that a section of the law requiring employers to provide healthcare coverage that pays for FDA-approved contraceptives violates their faith.

The Green family does not object to artificial birth control, but believe that two types of birth-control drugs and intrauterine devices represent an early form of abortion by preventing implantation after an embryo is conceived. Members of the Green family have said they will not obey the mandate.

Unlike the lower court, the 10th circuit determined that the plaintiffs have a likely chance to succeed under the Religious Freedom Restoration Act, which prevents the government from "substantially" burdening a sincerely held religious belief without a "compelling" government interest.

The Becket Fund for Religious Liberty,

which represents Hobby Lobby in the case, called the ruling "a tremendous victory not only for the Green family and for their business, but also for many other religious business owners who should not have to forfeit their faith to make a living."

"We are delighted that both the 10th Circuit and the district court have spared them from this unjust burden on their religious freedom," said Kyle Duncan, general counsel with the Becket Fund for Religious Liberty.

Americans United for Separation of Church and State, one of several groups to file friend-of-the-court briefs on both sides of the lawsuit, termed it "a dangerous distortion of the principle of religious liberty."

"This court has taken a huge step toward handing bosses and company owners a blank check to meddle in the

private medical decisions of their workers," said Barry Lynn, executive director of Americans United. "This isn't religious freedom. It's the worst kind of religious oppression."

"Religious freedom means the right to make decisions for yourself, not the power to use your dogma to control other people," said Lynn, an ordained minister in the United Church of Christ.

Hobby Lobby seeks to honor God "by operating the company in a manner consistent with Biblical principles," according to its statement of purpose. Its stores are closed on Sundays. The Oklahoma City-based chain contributes to Oklahoma organizations selected by the Green family that seek "to share the Good News of Jesus Christ to all the world," according to its website.

Compiled from reports by Baptist Press and Associated Baptist Press.

Baptist businessman wins against mandate

Washington—A federal judge granted a preliminary injunction June 25 blocking enforcement of the Obama administration's abortion/contraception mandate against Thomas Beckwith and his electric company in Largo, Fla. His company faced a penalty that could have been \$6 million a year for refusing to comply with the mandate.

Beckwith, a member of First Baptist Church of Indian Rocks in Largo, filed suit against the mandate, contending it violated his religious beliefs by requiring employers to provide drugs that can cause abortions as part of health care coverage for workers.

"I fought the law and the Lord won!" Beckwith said in response to the decision, The Tampa Tribune reported.

Beckwith Electric Co. is one of 22 for-profit organizations that have won injunctions or temporary restraining orders blocking enforcement of the controversial requirement while their suits proceed in court, according to the Becket Fund for Religious Liberty. (BP)

Baptists, Catholics urge stop to mandate's coercion

Washington—A widely diverse coalition headed by Southern Baptist and Roman Catholic leaders has called on the Obama administration to reverse the religious coercion in its abortion/contraception mandate.

In an open letter to Americans released July 2, the collection of about 100 religious, pro-family and religious freedom leaders urged the administration to extend the conscience protections to include individuals and organizations with objections to the mandate. The mandate, which is a part of regulations implementing the 2010 health care reform law, requires nearly all employers to carry insurance plans that cover drugs defined by the federal government as contraceptives, even if they can cause chemical abortions.

The letter represented another act in the ongoing protests against the abortion/contraception mandate since it was announced August 2011. The coalition called on Congress June 21 to find a way to bar such future offenses. (BP)

January Bible Study Preview: Colossians: "The Secret is Out: Christ in You is the Glorious Hope!" Dr. John Hurtgen and Dr. Shane Garrison Banquet Hall (Badgett Academic Support Center) August 1, 2013 (12:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.)

The School of Theology and Church Relations Council of Campbellsville University invite you to this year's January Bible Study Preview of *Paul's Letter to the Colossians*.

The leaders of the study are **Dr. John Hurtgen** (Professor of New Testament & Greek; Dean of the School of Theology) and **Dr. Shane Garrison** (Assistant Professor of Educational Ministries; Director of Theology Online).



John Hurtgen is professor of New Testament & Greek and Dean of the School of Theology. He most recently edited *World Changers for Christ*, a book he wrote with fellow CU Theology faculty. He is currently working on *Pastoral Letters, Pastoral Leadership*, which will be published fall 2014. Dr. Hurtgen has taught at CU for 23 years and has just recently returned from working with the American College of Thessaloniki in Thessaloniki, Greece (think: 1 & 2 Thess.).



Shane Garrison is assistant professor of Educational Ministries and serves as Director of Theology Online. He serves as a frequent conference speaker on issues of family ministries and intergenerational studies. Dr. Garrison is a certified Transformational Church Consultant (LifeWay Christian Resources), a spokesman for LifeWay VBS Training Events, and also serves as camp pastor and staff trainer for LifeWay's CentriKid Camps hosted at Campbellsville University. He is President & Lead Consultant, Maple Trail Ministry Consultants (www.mapletrail.org). Dr. Garrison has taught at CU for 5 years.

SCHEDULE

- 12:30 – 1:00 PM – REGISTRATION – Banquet Hall (Badgett Acad. Support Center)
- 1:00 PM – WELCOME
- 1:15 – 2:30 PM – SESSION 1: Garrison (Col. 1:1-14) // Hurtgen (Col. 1:15-23)
- 2:30 – 2:45 PM – BREAK
- 2:45 – 4:15 PM – SESSION 2: Garrison (Col. 1:24-2:5) // Hurtgen (Col. 2:6-3:4)
- 4:15 – 4:30 PM – BREAK
- 4:30 – 5:45 PM – SESSION 3: Garrison (Col. 3:5-4:6)
- 6:00 – 6:45 PM – DINNER (COST: \$10.00, PAYABLE THAT DAY)
- 6:45 – 8:15 PM – SESSION 4: Hurtgen (Col. 4:7-18) // Colossians Q&A (Hurtgen & Garrison)
- 8:15 – 8:30 PM – Final Words & Benediction

Just a reminder!

Invite laypersons
in your church
who love to study
God's Word.

For more information and to register, contact Sherry Bowen in the School of Theology
(270) 789-5029 or sbowen@campbellsville.edu

Jungle training

Continued from page 1
the river safe to swim in?" "What is for dinner?"

The learning process had begun.

The tough stuff

For the next month, trainees lived in a closely packed community with few modern luxuries. There was no Internet or phone access. Generator-powered electricity was available only for a couple hours—most evenings. Food selection was limited to a hodge-podge of non-refrigerated goods from a small local store, accessible only by canoe every few days. Indoor running water was precious, and the nearby river served as the community bathtub, washing machine, food disposal and transportation route.

Despite the challenges, trainers emphasized that the goal was to teach, not torture.

For more than a decade, IMB missionary Jake Johnson* has lived in the Amazonian community where the camp was built. He and his wife Tanya* now use their expertise in jungle living to teach other missionaries how to thrive in difficult places.

"This is not about roughing it," Johnson told the trainees when they arrived. "This is to help you and your family figure out what needs you're going to have to live comfortably in a remote setting ... and give you ideas on how to build things and do things that are going to make it easier on you."

The trainees soon learned how to collect rainwater in barrels and pump it into their homes. They—and their



Missionaries at the IMB's jungle training camp document the features of a caiman, a species of small alligator indigenous to the Amazon Basin. Participants learn to identify poisonous frogs and snakes, tarantulas, scorpions and carnivorous fish. (Photos by Rebecca Springer)



Students at IMB's jungle training camp, helped by locals, pile into a canoe to head upriver.

children—quickly discovered how to avoid the huge thorn trees that lurked beneath the muddy river water, waiting for a bare misplaced foot.

Meat was scarce and a friendly competition soon arose over who could catch the biggest piranha or wolf fish for dinner. Killing scorpions and tarantulas became routine, and it was understood that privacy and silence didn't exist during waking hours.

Learning what's important

While braving the environment, the missionaries attended sessions on sharing the gospel with indigenous peoples. They also studied some of the most common obstacles missionaries face in rural cultures steeped in animism and witchcraft. Experienced missionaries gave tips

on being a strong, godly family in isolated places.

The group practiced learning difficult, non-written languages. Participants learned to tell simple Bible stories to those who can't read, and each family developed evangelism plans for their specific people group.

Each day's schedule also included times for personal devotion, reflection and prayer.

"We're spending a lot of time focusing on personal devotions," Barger said. "While we have people in a close community with no electricity, no Internet or phone, no television or anything, we're able to disconnect them and give them some solitude."

Over the course of four weeks, the trainees fell into a practiced, if not necessarily comfortable, jungle routine. While the first day saw a group of nervous newbies, the group that sat by the airstrip a month later, laughing and joking about their unforgettable experience as they waited for their ride home, was dramatically different.

They were more creative cooks, better fishermen and semi-professional bug-killers. They were experts in navigating muddy terrain by touch and flashlight. More importantly, they were better Bible-storytellers, language learners and prayer warriors with established plans for reaching their people group with the gospel.

At this same remote location in the Amazon Basin, IMB leaders in the Americas will hold training sessions several times a year to prepare more missionaries for work among unreached people groups. (IMB)
*Name changed.



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August 24, Immanuel Baptist Church, Lexington
September 7, Bellevue Baptist Church, Owensboro

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'Broken in a million pieces'

Testimony reveals a better student, brother, son and friend

A voice cries: "In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord; make straight in the desert a highway for our God. Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low; the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain. And the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together, for the mouth of the Lord has spoken" (Isaiah 40:3-5).

2013 graduate testimony

"My life before Oneida Baptist Institute was broken into a million pieces by depression, drugs, alcohol, anger and defiance.

"I was left at home alone a lot because whenever I had a baby sitter to watch me, I would be so rude and disrespectful to them that they did not want to watch me again. I became so defiant that my mom would not come home after work without stopping at the bar to have a couple of beers with her friends.

"I would be home alone with no one to tell me what to do or help me with my homework. My grades began to fall. At 14, I started smoking weed and found it was a feeling that made me happy. I did not realize the effects it had on my family until long after, because we had always fought and yelled when we were together.

"When I was 16, going on 17, my mom was diagnosed with cancer and it sort of shook me back to reality for a short time, but then I sank straight back down to where I had been before.

"Two months after I turned 17, my

mom found the bowl that I used for smoking weed. We continued to get into bad arguments, and one day after the worst argument we ever had, I told her I wanted to leave. I was not happy there anymore. Mom called my dad and told him, and a couple of weeks later I was brought to OBI.

"I came to OBI when I proved to Mom that I could not be trusted or handle the responsibility of living an adult and going to school without an adult at home. She was often away from home receiving her cancer treatments.

"When I first came to OBI, I was only supposed to be at the school during the period Mom was having her treatments, but because of the improvements I made while I was here, I was told I had to stay.

"On Jan. 9, I was saved and on May 13 I was baptized. Due to my spiritual and educational progress and many great blessings, I decided to stay at OBI until I graduated.

"While attending OBI, I became a better student due to my advances in study habits and my appreciation of education. I became a better son from the experience of almost losing my mother and coming to know God. I became a better brother because I realized how much my siblings meant to me when I was sent away from them.

"Because of the dorms, I learned how to be a better friend. And I became a better follower of Christ due to the presence of Christian staff members, teachers and house parents."

Oneida Baptist Institute, Box 67, Oneida, KY 40972; www.oneida.school.org.



The love of books

Student finds way to campus through bookstore

The one thing you will find a lot of on any college campus is books. Clear Creek is no different. Books are great resources for our students.

When student Travis Pillow, from Michigan, picks up a book at Clear Creek, it serves as a reminder how the love of books actually led him to our school.

"I grew up in church and was saved at a young age," said Travis. "When I was 16 years old the Lord began to place a call on my life to the ministry. I ran for a while, but eventually surrendered to His calling.

"I had never heard of Clear Creek before, but my grandfather new about it from his pastor who had introduced him to the school," Travis noted. "He and my grandmother would travel from Michigan to Florida quite often and my grandfather would stop here at Clear Creek to shop in the bookstore because he loved to look at the books they had here.

"So, my grandfather suggested that I check out the college. We visited and felt the Lord leading us here. So here I am now, all the way from Michigan,

studying to be a pastor because of the love for books that my grandfather had.

"When God placed a call on my life to ministry, I felt His leading to serve as a pastor," Travis said. "Since I have been here at Clear Creek, I also have had a lot of youth ministry activities come my way.

"I am always open to God's plan for my life—whatever direction He leads. I am thankful for the many practical ministry opportunities we get as students at Clear Creek.

"I am on a team of students that go to the local minimum security prison nearby and I have the opportunity to preach in their worship services. It is a great environment in which to minister. I also get an opportunity to work with some youth in one of the local churches."

"The Clear Creek campus is a great place to live and study," Travis said. "It is so quiet here and everyone is so friendly. We have enjoyed the fellowship with other families."

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

Clear Creek Chronicle



Donnie Fox

CBF embracing 'challenge of change'

By Bob Allen

Greensboro, N.C.—The Cooperative Baptist Fellowship "embraced the challenge of change" during the past 12 months, CBF Moderator Keith Herron said in his report to the 2013 General Assembly in Greensboro, N.C.

Last year's General Assembly in Fort Worth, Texas, saw passage of a major restructuring of the 1,800-church Fellowship following a two-year study by a blue-ribbon panel known as the 2012 Task Force.

That was just the beginning of a year of transition, Herron, senior pastor of Holmeswood Baptist Church in Kansas City, Mo., told the crowd.

Shortly after last year's Assembly, Executive Coordinator Daniel Vestal retired after 15 years as the second permanent CEO of the group. CBF leaders turned to former CBF moderator Pat Anderson as interim coordinator.

The ensuing months brought a series of unexpected resignations by high-ranking and long-term staff, Herron said, all voluntary.

An implementation team was formed to build from the blueprint contained in the 2012 Task Force report. Amid all that, the Coordinating Council approved formation of a 501(c)3 charity named Fellowship Responds to expand its disaster-relief ministry.

Needing qualified leaders to populate a new governing council and two new mission and ministry councils, the national CBF appointed state and regional CBF coordinators as an interim nominating committee.

The group brought forth a full slate for a 12-member Governing Council, which takes over administration duties before now carried out by a 69-member Coordinating Council, and the first cycle of three-year terms for the new Ministries Council, chaired by Michael Cheuk, senior minister of University Baptist Church in Charlottesville, Va., and Missions Council chaired by Mimi Walker,

pastor of Druid Hills Baptist Church in Atlanta.

As the Coordinating Council welcomed Suzii Paynter as new executive coordinator in February, they also authorized officers to renegotiate a lease with Mercer University with plans to relocate to new offices in Decatur, Ga.

"We have a new organization. We have a new leader. We have a new ministry and we have a new location, custom space that is designed to help our organization achieve its purpose," Herron said. "We have changed a lot this last year."

Next year's moderator will be Bill McConnell, a layman active at Central Baptist Church, Bearden, in Knoxville.

Along with a new constitution and bylaws to govern the new structure, participants approved a \$12.4 million budget for the 2013-14 fiscal year. (ABP)

Baptist Women in Ministry celebrates 30 years

Greensboro, N.C.—Baptist Women in Ministry celebrated its 30th anniversary June 26 in conjunction with the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship General Assembly.

Formed by 33 women March 20-21, 1983, in Louisville, the new organization was created to encourage women to fuller ministry in churches of the Southern Baptist Convention.

That June, 75 people attended the first meeting of the group, initially called Women in Ministry, SBC. The organization changed its name in 1986 to Southern Baptist Women in Ministry and in 1995 dropped the "Southern" designation, since by that time the nation's second-largest faith group officially discouraged women from serving in pastoral roles.

SBC amended the Baptist Faith and Message in 1990 limiting the office of pastor to men. (ABP)

By God's grace

Crossings expects to top 80,000 campers by the end of the year

How does camp actually work? Only by God's grace.

At any given moment practically anything can happen during camp. Throughout this summer, we have people attending camp in Haiti, Kentucky Changing and groups at both Cedarmore and Jonathan Creek. To put this in perspective, there have been multiple times when we had more in attendance during a single week than were in total attendance for the entire summer when Crossings began in 2000.

It is amazing how God has watched over and provided for us each and every year. By the end of this year, we will have had more than 80,000 students participate in Crossings—students coming from more than 20 states, and some even from other countries.

Thousands have made life changing decisions while at camp and we are quickly approaching \$1 million in world missions offerings from campers.

Crossings Ministries



David Melber

For all this to happen, we are supported by a network of churches. Without the church, we do not have any reason for existence. Our ministry is tasked with coming alongside the church for

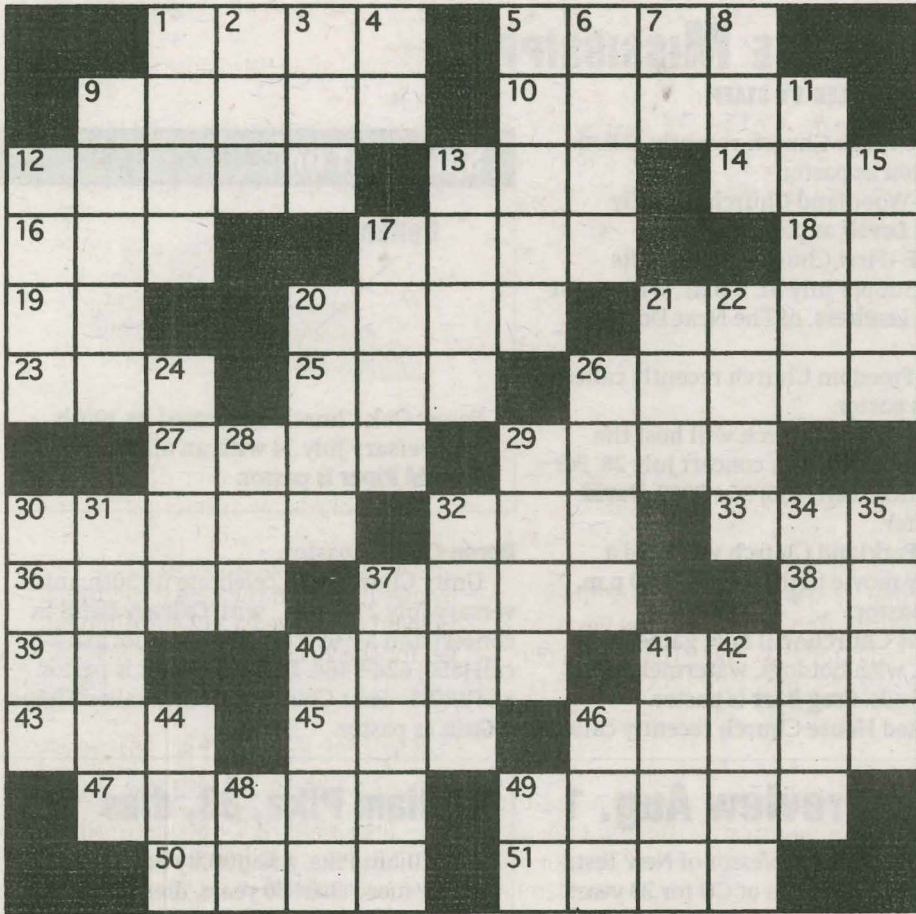
brief moments in time in this strange environment called camp. Our mission states, "We exist to proclaim the gospel through partnering with churches to make disciples and equip leaders."

How does camp work? Because God works through the church and we are literally an outflow of the activity within each church. The implications of this cannot be overstated. The countless numbers of people from

churches all over this country are actively involved with camp through prayers, volunteer support, and various other tangible ways.

On behalf of all the staff at Crossings, thank you—church. It is our privilege to serve with you each year.

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



#167

Bible Crosswords

By Evelyn Boyington

Across

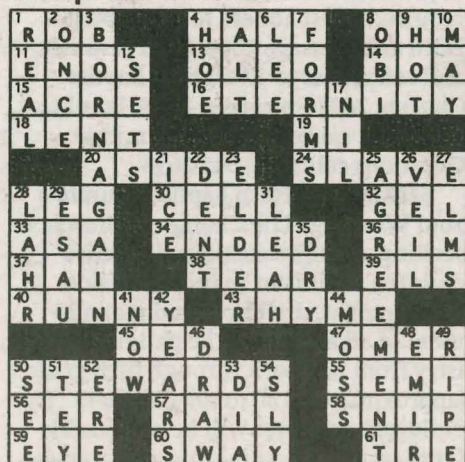
- 1 Spelunker's domain
- 5 "Out of his belly shall _____ rivers of living water" (John 7:38)
- 9 Majorette's must
- 10 "Ye are all children of _____" (1 Thessalonians 5:5)
- 12 Tendon
- 13 "I will come in to him, and will _____ with him" (Revelation 3:20)
- 14 At present
- 16 Chemical suffix
- 17 Off one's rocker
- 18 "There is none righteous, _____, not one" (Romans 3:10)
- 19 Biblical exclamation
- 20 _____ Western Reserve University
- 21 VCR button
- 23 "Lo, I am with you alway, even unto the _____ of the world" (Matthew 28:20)
- 25 Orthopedists' org., and many others (abbr.)
- 26 "They were swifter than eagles, they were stronger than _____" (2 Samuel 1:23)
- 27 Latest fad
- 29 "Yet _____ of you keep the law" (John 7:19)
- 30 Stock in trade
- 32 Family room, formerly
- 33 "A time to rend, and a time to _____" (Ecclesiastes 3:7)
- 36 Mammoth
- 37 Meat paste
- 38 Bar Harbor state (abbr.)
- 39 Preposition
- 40 "Dear _____:"
- 41 "_____ up the gift of God, which is in thee" (2 Timothy 1:6)
- 43 Summer, en Paris
- 45 Coop denizen
- 46 For _____!
- 47 Ancestor of Jesus; father of Achim (Matthew 1:14)
- 49 Tows away
- 50 Cantered
- 51 "The coast turneth to Ramah, and to the strong city _____" (Joshua 19:29)

Down

- 1 Sugar, for one
- 2 Gobbled up
- 3 "_____, and pay unto the Lord your God" (Psalm 76:11)
- 4 Printer's measure
- 5 James Galway's forte
- 6 "My _____ shall utter praise" (Psalm 119:171)
- 7 King of Bashan (1 Kings 4:19)

- 8 Pourquoi, to Pete
- 9 Before the West was won, they were plentiful
- 11 Partner of mortise
- 12 White _____
- 13 Capital of ancient Elam, now a city in ruins in Iran
- 15 A-one
- 17 "Father, glorify thy _____" (John 12:28)
- 20 Canary coop
- 21 "For the wages of _____ is death" (Romans 6:23)
- 22 Appendages
- 24 Bore (colloq.)
- 26 Unattached
- 28 Linking verb
- 29 "They straightway left their _____, and followed him" (Matthew 4:20)
- 30 If the _____ fits ...
- 31 Pursues with a vengeance
- 32 Mend a sock
- 34 "The _____ dwelt therein in times past, a people great" (Deuteronomy 2:10)
- 35 Existed
- 37 _____ de resistance
- 40 "Your feet _____ with the preparation of the gospel of peace" (Ephesians 6:15)
- 41 "Abraham journeyed ... and dwelled between Kadesh and _____" (Genesis 20:1)
- 42 "We spend our years as a _____ that is told" (Psalm 90:9)
- 44 What the high priest's servant lost in the Garden of Gethsemane, temporarily
- 46 Have one's _____
- 48 "Let him eschew evil, and _____ good" (1 Peter 3:11)
- 49 Kin to alt.

Last puzzle's solution #166



Stuck and stubborn

Charitable giving at roughly same rate as 40 years ago

Charitable giving from all sources in America in 2012, the latest records available from "Giving USA" was \$316 billion. That represented a 3.5 percent increase over 2011. Giving by individuals was \$229 billion, a 3.9 percent increase, and represented 72 percent of all giving. As usual, religious organizations received the largest proportion of giving at 32 percent. Educational organizations received the next largest proportion at 13 percent. The \$229 billion given by individuals was the second highest in history. The \$233 billion given in 2007 was the all-time high.

What is really astounding and disappointing is we Americans are giving about the same proportion of our disposable incomes as we were 40 years ago. In fact, we are giving less proportionately. In 1972 the proportion was 2.2 percent; in 2012 it was 1.9 percent. Despite the significant growth in disposable personal income over the past 40 years and the growth in the intensity of appeals for funds from the ever growing number of charitable causes, we have been stubborn and decided not to give a larger share of our incomes. Instead, on average we continue to be stuck at about 2 percent and continue

to give ourselves and our families top priority in the use of more than 98 percent.

I was struck by what one charitable giving consultant observed about this 2 percent phenomenon. He stated he was convinced the key factor in driving increased giving for most people was to teach them "when" to give. He cited two reasons. First, the habit of most is to give out of what is left after all the bills are paid instead of giving first before the bills are paid. Second, in the Christian tradition those who have been taught to give the "first fruits" tend to give more proportionately than those who are simple told to give because it's their Christian duty.

The solution for being stubborn and stuck in our charitable giving is related directly to the Lordship of Jesus Christ in our lives. And the Holy Scriptures are filled with truths about giving. I strongly urge you to be more intentional in your study and application of those truths, including the advice of the Apostle Paul in 1 Corinthians 16:2 to set aside on the first day of the week a proportionate sum to give.

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

Intentional discipling

Berea College BCM tries a new way to engage students

Grants from the Eliza Broadus Offering help a variety of ministries across Kentucky. Bates Creek Association is using an EBO grant to help them provide campus ministry at Berea College.

"Thanks to EBO funds, we will have an operating budget," writes Larry Baker, director of missions.

Here's the story: Bates Creek Association has taken on responsibility for providing Baptist Campus Ministry at Berea College. Julie Dalton, the new campus minister, is a native of Berea, has been a school teacher, and has a great passion for college kids and the Lord. She is a member at Gethsemane Baptist Church in Berea and is married with one teenage daughter.

Julie's testimony is that she did not live for the Lord when she was a college student and made some terrible mistakes. She wants to help other young people to avoid her mistakes.

Julie is an effective worker in the church and has just been on an associational mission trip to Villagran, Mexico. Her daughter was part of the team, too. Prior to the trip, Villagran had only one known evangelical family.

The Bates Creek Association strategy will be to connect with the KBC theme of engaging students with the gospel and will take advantage of mission opportunities that are offered on other

campuses that have KBC sponsored BCMs. However, their method of engaging on the campus will be different.

Julie plans to train students to be Intentional Discipling Bible Storying Group leaders and start small groups in the dorms of Berea College. She will begin with a retreat.

She is also working with Jeff Prosser, Eastern Kentucky University BCM, as her mentor. Julie will be pointing the students to local churches and will engage the students with ministry opportunities.

EBO is also at work this week in Paducah and Henderson through FamilyFEST. FamilyFEST is a mission trip opportunity jointly sponsored by national WMU, the host associations, and Kentucky WMU.

Grants to both West Union Association and Green Valley Association helped with ministry supplies.

More than 150 volunteers from 12 states, including many from Kentucky, are at work this week sharing Christ through block parties, work at Baptist centers, servant evangelism ministries, construction projects, sports camp, VBS and much more.

Pray for these and other ministries that receive funding through the Eliza Broadus Offering. EBO dollars will be used even more effectively when supported in prayer.

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



July

- 16 FamilyFEST continues through July 18 in Henderson and Paducah.
- 25 Basic Training for Church Planters, Kentucky Baptist Convention, Louisville.
- 27 Excel, First Baptist Church, Central City, and First Baptist Church, Shelbyville.

August

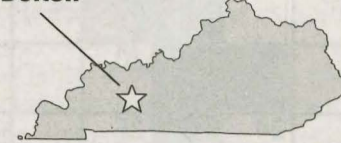
- 2 Courage Camp, Laurel Lake Baptist Camp, Corbin.
- 15 Administrative Committee, Kentucky Baptist Convention, Louisville.
- 17 Super Saturday, Highview Baptist Church—Fegenbush Campus, Louisville.
- 20 Committee on Committees, Kentucky Baptist Convention, Louisville.
- 22 Committee on Public Affairs, Kentucky Baptist Convention, Louisville.

- **CECILIA**—Cecilia Church will hold a Back-to-School Bash July 31, 5:30 p.m., with free backpacks filled with school supplies, food and games. **Eric Oliver** is pastor.
- **CRESTWOOD**—Crestwood Church will hold Family Movie Night July 24. **Donnie Patrick** is pastor.
- **FRANKFORT**—Buck Run Church will hold Kool for School, sponsored by the Single Women's Group, July 20, 10 a.m., with free school supplies, clothing, food and haircuts. **Hershael York** is pastor.
- **FREDONIA**—**Justin Ramsey**, pastor of Crider Church in Princeton, and **Danny Sherrill**, pastor of Unity in Fredonia, will be among the guest speakers at Revival in the Valley July 25-27 at American Legion Ballpark. Also speaking will be **Van Yandell**, evangelist, with **Jerrell White** as worship leader.
- **GRAHAM**—East Union Church recently called **Joe Chambers** as pastor.

- **GRAY**—Candle Ridge Church recently called **Ricky Broughton** as pastor.
- **GREENVILLE**—Woodland Church recently called **Clifford Lovell** as pastor.
- **HOPKINSVILLE**—First Church will hold its Annual Salad Supper July 31, 5 p.m., with guest speaker **Linda Leathers**, of The Next Door Ministry.
- **LANCASTER**—Freedom Church recently called **Tom Sowers** as pastor.
- **LONDON**—Providence Church will host the **Kentucky Mountain Trio** in concert July 28. For more information, call (606) 864-7063. **David Thomas** is pastor.
- **LOUISVILLE**—Parkland Church will hold a drive-in family movie night July 19, 8:30 p.m. **Tom Curry** is pastor.
- St. Matthews Church will hold game night July 25, 6 p.m., with hotdogs, watermelon and games of all kinds. **Greg Barr** is pastor.
- **RICHMOND**—Red House Church recently called

Spotlight on ...

Belton



Forest Oak Church celebrated its 100th anniversary July 14 with an all-day service. **Donald Piper** is pastor.

Deron Cobb as pastor.

Unity Church will celebrate its 30th anniversary July 27, 6 p.m., with **Calvary Heirs** in concert and a fish fry. For more information, call (850) 624-9464. **Dennis Brewer** is pastor.

■ **STURGIS**—First Church recently called **Shane O'Guin** as pastor.

Campbellsville's January Bible Study Preview Aug. 1

By Joan McKinney

Campbellsville—Campbellsville University's January Bible Study Preview led by John Hurtgen, dean of the School of Theology, and Shane Garrison, assistant professor of educational ministries and director of theology online, Thursday, Aug. 1 from 12:30 p.m. until 8:30 p.m.

The preview will focus on Colossians: "The Secret is Out: Christ in You is the Glorious Hope!" Pastors and laypersons are invited.

There will be four sessions, with study materials and dinner included.

Hurtgen, who is also professor of New Testament and Greek, has taught at CU for 23 years.

Garrison serves as a frequent conference speaker on issues of family ministries and intergenerational studies.

Garrison is a certified transformational church consultant with LifeWay Christian Resources and a spokesman for LifeWay VBS training events. He has taught at CU for five years.

For more information and to register, contact Sherry Bowen, secretary in the School of Theology, at (270) 789-5029 or slbowen@campbellsville.edu. (CU)

William Pike, 83, dies

William Pike, a Kentucky Baptist minister for more than 50 years, died June 9 in Bardstown. He was 83.

The Taylor County native was retired from Bloomfield Baptist Church in Nelson Baptist Association. He also served as pastor of Muldraugh Hill and New Hope Baptist churches—both of Central Baptist Association. As a young man, Pike was a member of Mill Creek Baptist Church, where he was baptized.

Pike was preceded in death by his wife, Louise, in 1997. He is survived by wife Wanda Pike, two sons and three step-children.

CLASSIFIED ADS

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

FOR RENT: Two condos in Destin, Fla., for rent. Two bedrooms, two bathrooms, sofa bed. Special for August-December \$595/week. No clean up fee. Contact Lew Brammer at lbrammer@charter.net or (423) 309-4422.

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 build 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 resumés 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. Resumés can be sent to the Personnel Committee, 7206 Shepherdsville Road, Louisville, KY 40219.

SEEKING: Crittenden Baptist Church is seeking a full-time pastor. Please send resumé, cover letter to: Crittenden Baptist Church Pulpit Team, P.O. Box 582, Crittenden, KY 41030. Please submit between July 1-31.

SEEKING: Brownsville Missionary Baptist Church is seeking a youth education director. This is a part-time position. If you love the Lord and have a desire to invest yourself in the lives of youth and children, send a resumé or contact Bro. Calvin Bond at 522 N. Main Street, Brownsville, KY 42210. (270) 597-7525 calbond@windstream.net.

SEEKING: Thornhill Baptist Church in Frankfort, Ky., is seeking a part-time music leader. If you are interested, please call Sean Post at (502) 223-7302 or email sean@thornhillbaptist.org.

SEEKING: Cedar Creek Baptist Church (Louisville) is seeking to fill the position of a part-time worship leader (including a small band). Additional leadership of adult choir is preferable. Church musical style is "blended." Experience preferred. Send resumé to: CCBC, 7709 Bardstown Rd., Louisville, KY 40291, Attn: Music Search Committee, or email: cedarcreekbc@gmail.com. Deadline for submission is Aug. 15.

SEEKING: Ballard's Baptist Church (Oldham Co.) is seeking a pianist to serve on Wednesdays, 7:30 p.m.-9 p.m., Thursdays, 7:30 p.m.-9 p.m., and Sundays, 8:15 a.m.-12:15 p.m. This is a paid position. Contact Neal Green, worship pastor, at (502) 931-4091.

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

SEEKING: Belmar Baptist Church in Louisville is seeking qualified childcare for three services a week (Sunday morning and evening, and Wednesday night). Candidates need not be available for every service as we may employ several workers. Each service will have approximately 3-5 young children. If interested, please contact Pastor Hopson Boutot at (662)397-6526, or at hopsonboutot@gmail.com. For more information about Belmar Baptist Church, visit belmarbaptistchurch.org.

SEEKING: White Hall Baptist Church, in Richmond, is accepting resumés for the part-time position of minister of music. Please send your resumé to WHBC, Personnel Committee, 3401 Colonel Road, Richmond, KY 40475.

SEEKING: Evergreen Baptist Church is seeking a part-time minister of children. Sundays, a.m. and p.m. service; Wednesdays, p.m. service and planning time. Experience working with children required. Must adhere to the Baptist Faith and Message 2000. Send resumé and references to: Evergreen Baptist Church, 2698 Evergreen Road, Frankfort, KY 40601, c/o Personnel Committee. Questions call: (502) 545-2696.

SEEKING: Elk Horn Baptist Church, a Soul Winning—Life Changing Church, is seeking an enthusiastic and creative children's minister to provide vision, development, direction, and management of all aspects of the children's ministry from newborn through fifth grade (approximately 150 to 175 children). The children's minister will be responsible for planning, coordinating and overseeing all areas of our growing children's

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ministry. The applicant must be a devoted follower of Jesus Christ and have a heart, passion and calling for children's ministry. A college degree is preferred, but not required; experience is a plus. To apply, please email a resumé, along with a statement of beliefs and, preferably, a photo to office@elkhornbc.org. Paper resumés can be mailed to Elk Horn Baptist Church, 3145 East Elkhorn Road, Campbellsville, KY 42718. A full job description can be found on the church website at www.elkhornbc.org. Resumés will be accepted through Aug. 11.

SEEKING: Lewisport Baptist Church is seeking a part-time minister of music who is responsible for leading worship through working with choir and band. Send resumé and cover letter to lewisportbaptist@tds.net.

SEEKING: Crittenden Baptist Church is seeking a part-time youth minister. Please send resumé to Personnel Committee, Crittenden Baptist Church, P.O. Box 132, Crittenden, KY 41030, or via email to crittendenbaptist@fuse.net.

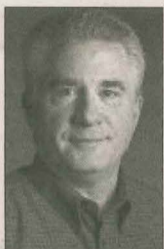
Dangerous, but opportune moment to tell the 'Truth' in Egypt

By Erich Bridges

Richmond, Va.—Millions of protesters have brought down a government for the second time in little more than two years in Egypt, a land where change once flowed as slowly as the Nile at its drowsiest.

The huge June 30 demonstrations that marked a year in office for President Mohamed Morsi—and sparked his downfall a few days later—were the biggest since the 2011 Arab Spring protests that toppled Hosni Mubarak, Egypt's president for three decades. Many Egyptians, particularly students and the urban middle class, vented their anti-Morsi rage and despair over the ongoing lawlessness, economic stagnation and repressive Islamism that have characterized Egypt during his brief rule.

As the Egyptian military that deposed Morsi moves to consolidate power, furious Morsi supporters from the still-potent Muslim Brotherhood have clashed



Erich Bridges

with opponents across the country. Dozens of people have died and hundreds have been injured. The conflict took an even uglier turn July 8 with the killing of at least 51 Islamist protesters by security forces at an early-morning rally for Morsi.

The Muslim Brotherhood leaders have called for a national "uprising," deepening fears of civil war. Meanwhile, Al Nour, an Islamist party that initially supported the military takeover, suspended its role in the interim government.

What comes next? A more inclusive and secular government, the current victors hope. But Egypt is deeply divided between urban and rural, secularists and religionists, between the Muslim majority and large Coptic (traditional Christian) minority, between moderates and fiery Islamists.

Egypt's Christians, already reeling from increasing persecution, feel especially vulnerable. A Coptic priest was shot dead in the northern Sinai July 6. Christian homes near Luxor were burned by a mob, sending their residents fleeing for police protection. The Muslim Brotherhood has bitterly denounced Coptic

Pope Tawadros, leader of the nation's 8 million Copts, for supporting the removal of Morsi.

"We were worried that Morsi and the Brotherhood would not allow us to build churches or have freedom of religion

because they were persecuting so many Christians," one Egyptian believer said. "Now we hope and pray that the next president is more neutral and not an extreme Muslim, or Christian even, so it will prevent the protests and constant disagreement and all the chaos."

A Coptic university professor who participated in the Cairo protests that helped topple Morsi told World Watch Monitor: "We will keep at our revolution until we achieve the three values of social justice, freedom and human dignity. The situation has become worse, but we will keep on until the end."

She was talking about Egypt, but her words are being echoed in many other places from Turkey, to India, to Brazil. Hundreds of millions of young people with hopes of a better life are expressing their utter weariness not only with government and social corruption but a host

of unmet expectations.

"We saw early versions of it in China ... (and) Venezuela," observed New York Times columnist Bill Keller, writing just before the latest Egyptian explosion. "We saw it in Iran ... (and) in Russia. ... The vanguard in each case is mostly young, students or relative newcomers to the white-collar work force who have outgrown the fearful conformity of their parents' generation," Keller wrote. "With their economic wants more or less satisfied (definitely less in Egypt), they now crave a voice, and respect."

The protesters may be put down or temporarily appeased, Keller said, but "morale does not improve. There is a new yearning."

This is a dangerous moment. But it is also a moment of opportunity for the global church to respond to a vast generation of searchers. They yearn not only for political freedom, social justice and material opportunity, but for something far deeper and more lasting. Now is a time for them to hear Truth and have the chance to grasp it. (IMB/BP)

Erich Bridges is the International Mission Board's global correspondent.

Egypt's upheaval called 'precipice of opportunity' for prayer & change

By Eden Nelson

Cairo—The day after Mohamed Morsi was deposed as Egypt's first democratically elected president, the country's streets once again filled with millions of Egyptians exercising their right to protest.

Now, violent and deadly demonstrations continue both in support of the ousted leader and in opposition. Since the military took control, the number of deaths associated with the protests was approaching 100 as of July 8 while more than 1,000 had been injured.

Morsi served as Egypt's head of state only one year—elected June 30, 2012, and deposed on July 3.

Although uncertainty remains, Egyptians continue to observe the unfolding events with hope. Dr. M. Ibrahim*, an American-Egyptian Christian, considers the news "amazing," saying this "has never happened before."

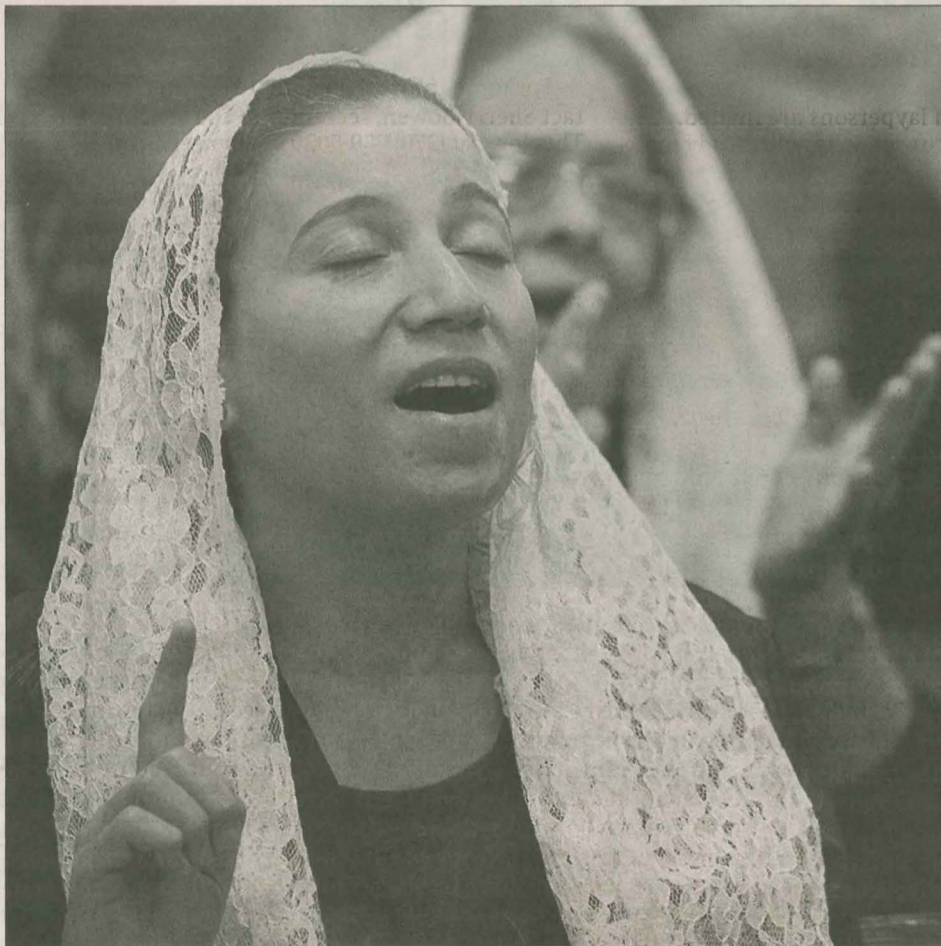
Ibrahim moved to America with his family after growing up in Egypt and serving in the Egyptian army. He lived through the persecution of Christians in Egypt for many years. For Egyptians to rise up and be seen fighting for secular rule is unbelievable to Ibrahim. "We have never heard of this," he said.

As he watched the news unfold on July 3, Ibrahim texted his wife saying, "Now we can go home and visit Egypt freely without having to be afraid."

"My family in Egypt are all so excited," he said in an interview, "but they are cautiously optimistic."

Ramez Atallah, the general secretary of the Bible Society of Egypt, said in an article on Beliefnet.com. "We are on the precipice of opportunity, and feel that there is an incredible spiritual gap that must be filled.

"Our urgent desire is for the word of God to speak," Atallah said. "We cannot fail to seize this opportunity to share the relevance of God's word during this momentous time in Egypt's history."



Evangelical Christians in Egypt, during a gathering in 2011, worship through song, singing such words as "With my faith I will see the good in my bad situations. I ask my soul to sing for the Christ. Allelujah." (IMB file photo)

Mike Turner*, a Christian worker in northern Africa, agreed. "We have to believe that God can do an amazing thing across all of Egypt. In these changing days, the history books are being rewritten by the hour. I hope that God's people will respond in greater number."

While Egyptians went to the streets to address their political circumstances, the prayer of Christians around the world is that the gospel will reach the masses during this time of rapid change, Turner said.

"If a geo-political scenario can play

out like this and have enormous ramifications for all of Egypt," he said, "the Holy Spirit can do the same thing in the lives of many."

As people watch the news from Egypt, Turner asks that they stop and pray where they are "that the kingdom will come in that place as it is in heaven."

"God will use those situations, when it looks like it's bleak and there is no positive or desirable outcome on the news. God has a different plan," Turner said.

A senior International Mission Board global strategist said, "Watching events



Egyptian demonstrators gathered June 30 near the presidential palace in Heliopolis, a section of Cairo. (Photo submitted by Mike Edens)

unfold for Egyptians draws you to prayer. Pray for peace in the moment, but also pray for a future where many will one day know the Prince of Peace."

Egyptians are desperate and willing to put everything "on hold" for weeks at a time to express what they think might solve their problems, said Rye Martins*, a Christian worker in Egypt. "But we know that it's not" the ultimate solution. The solution is Christ, he said.

"Our hope is that every mention of Egypt on the news will be a trigger for prayer," Martins said.

"God can do it. He is capable of doing it, at His own time," Ibrahim said. "He is always doing something big, sometimes we realize it and know it, sometimes we don't—but He never lets His people down."

Missions leaders suggest that, for some Christians, they consider responding by going to Egypt to share the hope of Jesus Christ in a season of unprecedented opportunity. (BP)

*Names changed for security purposes. Eden Nelson is a writer for the International Mission Board based in the Middle East.



Campbellsville University hosts several different summer camps that range from basketball, wrestling, softball, football to Fellowship of Christian Athletes leadership, CentriKids and Kentucky Baptist All-State Youth Choir and Orchestra. Above CentriKid camper Jaide Jones, from First Baptist Church in Murphysboro, Ill., laughs with camp leader Caleb McDonald from First Baptist Church in Shelbyville, Ky.

Campbellsville UNIVERSITY

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Bradshaw recommends missions and having hearts blessed by those who are being served

Campbellsville University 2013 graduate Kayla Bradshaw, at right, from Greensburg, Ky. received her diploma from President Michael V. Carter. In her Facebook post right before commencement, she wrote:

"I've had an amazing experience at Campbellsville University. God blessed me with great professors and friends."

Look for Kayla's story and that of other students who found their way at CU on our website: campbellsville.edu



Welcome to Summer at CU!



An estimated 7,000 kids will experience summer camp at CU this season. They're coming from 10 different states. As this is published in early July there have been 102 first time decisions for Christ, plus many children who have rededicated their lives for Christ. Over 120 churches are represented plus 28 high school and junior high sports teams. For more information on camps at CU, contact Rusty Watkins at (270) 789-5047.

January Bible Study Preview:

COLOSSIANS

"The Secret is Out: Christ in You is the Glorious Hope!"

August 1, 2013
12:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.

Campbellsville University's
Banquet Hall in the
Badgett Academic Support Center

Featured speakers will be
Dr. John Hurtgen and Dr. Shane Garrison

For details call (270) 789-5029

With every student, CU is committed to the "whosoever will gospel" of Jesus Christ, following the Great Commission, practicing the Great Commandment.

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 - 16th in the nation, 2013 Best Online Graduate Education Programs
 - 86th in the nation, 2013 Best Online Graduate Business Programs
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- Rated as a Military Friendly School
- Named a Five-Star Champions of Character Institution by the NAIA
- Named to the President's Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll
- Listed in the Chronicle of Higher Education among the nation's fastest growing campuses

Three continents covered by twenty-five CU students sponsored by Baptist Campus Ministry in May and June

A group of ten students was led by Trent Creason, campus ministries intern, to Niamey, Niger in Africa. While there, they worked in two-to-three remote villages outside the capital, assisting in medical, health and hygiene items, and looking for opportunities for spreading the Gospel.

Another group of ten students, led by Charity Powell, campus ministries graduate assistant, made their way to the Philippines. They worked with an organization called Kid's International Ministries. For two weeks, they worked in two children's homes, helped out at a local school, painted new classrooms and worked with a food ministry.

Ed Pavy, CU's director of campus ministries, led five students from CU and five from Lindsey Wilson College to Honduras. Their work consisted of doing projects in and around a missionary house in Agua Caliente, working with the poor, and doing street evangelism where they worked with children and helped lead worship services.

As of May 9, over 140 students have participated in mission trips through CU, with 112 coming to Christ.



www.campbellsville.edu