

# WESTERN Recorder

October 1, 2013

Shine Like Stars \* Philippians 2:15

Volume 187, Issue 37

## Pastors' task force to study baptism decline



Pastor Reggie Robbins baptizes Senika Strong at a service in Atlanta. The number of baptisms in Southern Baptist churches fell to a 65-year low in 2012. (NAMB file photo by John Swain)

By Joe Conway

Nashville, Tenn.—The North American Mission Board is convening a national Pastors' Task Force on Evangelistic Impact & Declining Baptisms to address the continued decrease in baptisms among Southern Baptist churches. The group's first meeting was Sept. 18 in Nashville.

The 2012 Annual Church Profile reported a drop of 5.52 percent in baptisms in Southern Baptist churches, confirming a two-decade downward trend. The most recent accounting marked the first time since 1948 that baptisms dropped below 315,000.

□ See Baptism task force ... Page 3

## FOUND AFTER 29 HOURS Blackaby surgery 'could not have gone better'

Atlanta—Southern Baptist Bible teacher Henry Blackaby's quadruple bypass surgery "could not have gone better" Sept. 24, and his prospects for future ministry look good, according to a statement from his family.

"Henry has been living with blocked or 70 percent blocked arteries for several years," said the statement, posted on the Blackaby Ministries International website.

□ See Blackaby ... Page 7



Henry Blackaby

## WORLD HUNGER SUNDAY OCTOBER 13



## URBAN GARDEN yields more than food

Children enjoy a mix of outdoor fun and urban farming through an urban garden-based Vacation Bible School at Philadelphia's The Foundry Church. Garden Camp has been so successful that the church plans to publish an e-book as a guide for churches to reproduce the outreach. (Photos courtesy of Michael Kelley)

## Church finds teachable moments for starving souls

By Joe Conway

Philadelphia—A rural concept has taken root at a urban church in Philadelphia as an outreach to its neighbors.

An urban garden at Philadelphia's The Foundry Church naturally provided an abundance of teachable moments, along with a 500-pound annual yield of fresh produce.

The next step, pastor Chuck Kieffer thought, would be "Garden Camp," an urban gardening-based Vacation Bible School.

"We teach gardening techniques and nutrition, which are easy to bridge to biblical concepts of our Creator," said Kieffer, a North American Mission Board church planter. "Doesn't every church have some piece of ground they are not using? Every church can do this." The Foundry Church plans to publish an e-book as a guide for others interested in reproducing the outreach.

To help operate a food pantry, the church uses resources from Southern Baptists' Global Hunger Relief (formerly



Trey Reid leads parable time during the Garden Camp Vacation Bible School at The Foundry Church. The church uses resources from Global Hunger Relief to help care for their neglected neighbors through a food pantry, bread distribution and other initiatives.

the World Hunger Fund). GHR funding also is used in delivering food to shut-ins and distributing bread on the streets. Everything is done to help open doors for the gospel.

Global Hunger Relief is challenging a new generation of believers to person-

**"Doesn't every church have some piece of ground they are not using? Every church can do this."**

Chuck Kieffer

ally take Jesus' love, in both word and deed, to starving souls.

Kevin Ezell, president of the North American Mission Board, said NAMB's close work with Southern Baptist state partners "has given us many opportunities to be sure underserved communities in North America are receiving food for the hungry and a chance to experience the hope found in Christ."

GHR is one of the avenues NAMB's LoveLoud initiative uses to help churches discover how to help neglected neighbors, neglected communities and neglected children. The desire behind LoveLoud ultimately is to see people like Amjad\* led to faith in Christ.

□ See Urban garden ... Page 6

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Western Recorder 10-1-2013

## 'Inasmuch' reveals God's love for Somerset

By David Roach

**Somerset**—Health screenings, haircuts, pet grooming, car washes and more were among the free services offered in Somerset when four Kentucky Baptist churches partnered with three congregations of other denominations to host an outreach blitz Sept. 14 called Operation Inasmuch.

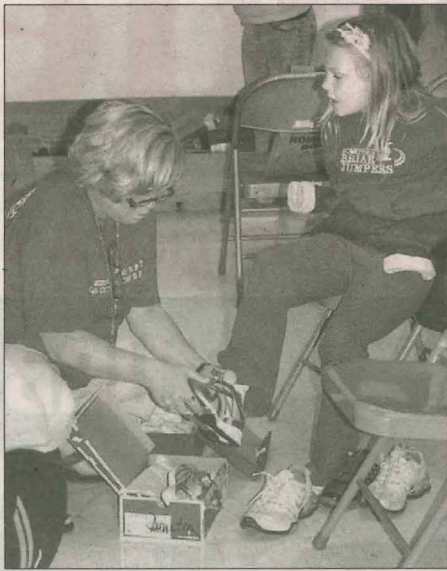
"The goal of this was to love people," said Suzette Davis, Operation Inasmuch volunteer coordinator at First Baptist Church of Somerset. "We were there to love them and help them as an example of what Christ did for us."

First Baptist hosted the outreach, with High Street, Beacon Hill and Duke Memorial Baptist churches participating as well. It was the seventh annual Operation Inasmuch in Pulaski County.

Named for Jesus' statement in Matthew 25:40 that "inasmuch" as believers serve "the least of these," they serve the Lord Himself, the ministry brought together 200 volunteers ranging in age from six to 80 and served at least 600 people. Operation Inasmuch is affiliated with a Tennessee-based organization of the same name that equips churches of all denominations to serve the neediest members of their communities.



Multiple churches amassed a volunteer force of 200 to show the love of Christ in their community through various service projects.



Clothing, household items and more than 500 pairs of shoes were given away as part of Operation Inasmuch at Somerset First Baptist. (Photos courtesy of FBC Somerset)

One young woman made a profession of faith through the Somerset outreach, though Davis classified it as "pre-evangelism" more than active gospel sharing—making initial contact with unchurched families, loving them in Christ's name and giving them information about local churches.

Many of the day's ministries took place at First Baptist, but Operation Inasmuch also included projects in the community, such as family photography at a park and yard work.

Perhaps the most popular project was a free yard sale at First Baptist, Davis said. Each guest received a bag with information about the participating churches, and they were invited to fill it with items donated by members of the congregations. More than 500 bags of sale items were given away as well as several boxes.

Among the other ministries at First Baptist:

- Kroger gave away 50 cases of water and performed diabetes screenings.

- Doctors and nurses did blood pressure checks, eye screenings, skin cancer screenings and stroke awareness screenings.

- A pastor from High Street was available in a prayer room where guests could share their needs and concerns.

- 500 pairs of new shoes were given away.

- More than 400 personal hygiene kits were distributed, containing mouthwash, toothpaste and other grooming items.

- Volunteers provided minor grooming services on pets—a very popular ministry, according to Davis, since pet grooming often is one of the first items to be cut from a family's budget in difficult economic times.

Other projects in the community included building a new porch for one family, painting an elderly woman's home, installing a wheelchair ramp for a 14-year-old boy in hospice care and delivering handmade blankets and bathrobes to nursing home residents.

For Davis, a gratifying part of the day was realizing how much the ministries meant to people.

The elderly woman who received her painting "felt like she'd been forgotten and had no one to help her in her home," Davis said. When volunteers arrived, "she was thrilled."

The boy in hospice had to be carried to the car by his mother before volunteers built his ramp. It is a blessing "to think how much easier her life probably is," Davis said of the mother.

A Methodist church is scheduled to host next year's Operation Inasmuch before High Street hosts the event in 2015.

"One of the other wonderful blessings of this is working with and meeting people from other churches and seeing what they are doing," Davis said. "Each church has something to offer. It doesn't matter the size—small, medium or large—or where they are located." (WR)

## Sunrise Children's case 'far from over'

By Ken Walker

**Louisville**—Despite reports that Kentucky is close to reaching an agreement that would restrict the care agencies that religiously restrict, the presence of Baptist-supported Sunrise Children's Services says the case is far from over.

The state is a defendant in a lawsuit filed in 2000 by Alicia Pedreira, a residential counselor fired by Sunrise in 1998 after her lesbian practices became public knowledge. Pedreira's employment discrimination lawsuit was dismissed by a federal court. However, she and three other plaintiffs pressed a separate claim, arguing that state funding of agencies teaching religious beliefs violates the First Amendment.

However, last week president and CEO Bill Smithwick said Sunrise is not guilty of coercing children to participate in religious activities.

If adopted, the settlement involving the state calls for ensuring that religiously-affiliated organizations receiving state funds don't pressure children to participate in religious activities or read religious materials.

"We don't agree to the settlement agreement that assumes Sunrise is guilty of these allegations," Smithwick told the Western Recorder. "It's never been proven in court that we are."

Nor will the case end soon. On Sept. 20, when the settlement between the plaintiffs and the state was filed in federal court, Sunrise attorney John Sheller filed a new motion to dismiss the case. A response is not expected before late October.

Sheller questions the plaintiffs trying to change the state's method of operations. Their previous argument involved the use of taxpayer funds, but now they are seeking to dictate how Kentucky operates its child care system, he said.

"They shifted gears earlier this year by reaching a settlement agreement that will be enforced by the court," Sheller said. "It's a consent decree without us agreeing to it."

"What will change is the feature of how the program will operate. In light of this change, we're saying that it's not a taxpayer (funding) case anymore. They don't have the right to change the day-to-day operation of the program."

The dispute won't have any impact on Sunrise's current budget, since its latest fiscal year began Sept. 1. But, if the state ever enforces new regulations, Smithwick said it will be forced to comply.

"We couldn't operate without it," Smithwick said of state funding. "We take care primarily of state agency children. If we lose our contract, we're out of business. So would we have to agree with the consent form? Yeah, we would have to sign it like everyone else."

This year, Sunrise will receive about \$305,000 from the Kentucky Baptist Cooperative Program. Smithwick said total support from all Baptist contributions is just over \$1 million, or 3.8 percent of its budget.

The CEO suggested Baptists not just pray, but write checks.

"I'm serious," Smithwick said. "Prayers are good and we appreciate them, but what we need from Kentucky Baptists is financial support." (WR)

## Snowfall greets Colorado flood relief volunteers

By Joe Conway

**Boulder, Colo.**—The first day of fall brought snow to Colorado's Front Range, and a caution to Southern Baptist Disaster Relief volunteers: Ministry in the Rockies brings its own set of challenges. Estes Park, an area where SBDR leaders hope to be serving soon in response to recent flooding, received snowfall last Monday.

Fourteen Kentuckians were among those serving last week in Greeley, Colo. The team, led by Bob Perkins, a member of Simpsonville Baptist Church, joined volunteers from at least three other state conventions—North Carolina, Oklahoma and Tennessee—in providing aid to flood victims.

"The peaks are white now and there was snow as we traveled to do assessments," said Colorado Disaster Relief Director Dennis Belz. Belz reminded leaders and volunteers that freezing temperatures were coming soon and full-scale mobile operations will only be tenable through the end of October.

"We are working in Longmont, Bolder, Loveland and Greeley," said Belz. "We hope to be opening up Estes Park

and some of the other mountain areas soon. Jobs are being completed, but we have a lot of work to do, weeks of work."

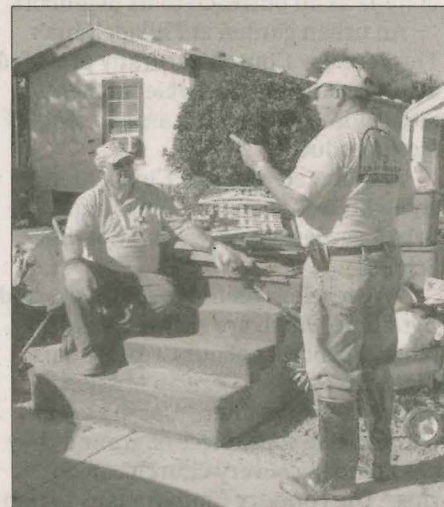
Weather was still mild, but a cold front was forecast for last week, and freezing temperatures will make mobile units vulnerable to the elements. Leaders will look to alternative ministry locations but hope to keep clean-up and mud out crews working as long as practically possible.

"We are going into some areas that have been closed to the gospel," said Eddie Blackmon, North American Mission Board SBDR coordinator on site in Longmont. The Lord is doing some great things and is opening the doors to ministry. We need to be ready to walk through the doors."

Susan Hampton, of Immanuel Baptist Church in Corbin, experienced first hand while she and her husband, Dave, worked in a Hispanic mobile home park where few spoke English.

"We were covered in mud and grim and a little elderly lady hugged me and said, 'Gracious, gracious' as tears poured down her face. 'Is it worth it?'"

Hampton replied, "Yes. Every grimy,



Kentucky Baptist Disaster Relief volunteers confer while working a mud-out in Colorado. (Photo courtesy of Ky. DR)

dirty second of it."

More SBDR volunteers are also on the way from Arkansas, Texas and Utah/Idaho. Additional states have committed to the response. Blackmon said trained mud out teams are still needed.

SBDR volunteers also are active in Nebraska, New Mexico and Texas in response to flooding. (NAMB)

# Judgment House prompts 189 decisions for Christ

More than 2,400 attend afterlife dramas held at Lebanon Baptist Church

By John Shindlebower

Lebanon—Would you stand in line to get a glimpse of hell?

Many did just that in Lebanon for two weekends in September as Lebanon Baptist Church hosted a multi-congregational production of the Judgment House, a dramatic revelation of the afterlife that's designed to provoke individuals to both thought and decision.

It worked.

Over the course of six evening showings, 2,400 people walked through the production that depicted the life of a normal American family who experienced an unexpected twist of fate that ultimately exposed the spiritual decisions and indecisions each had made.

## Focusing on what's important

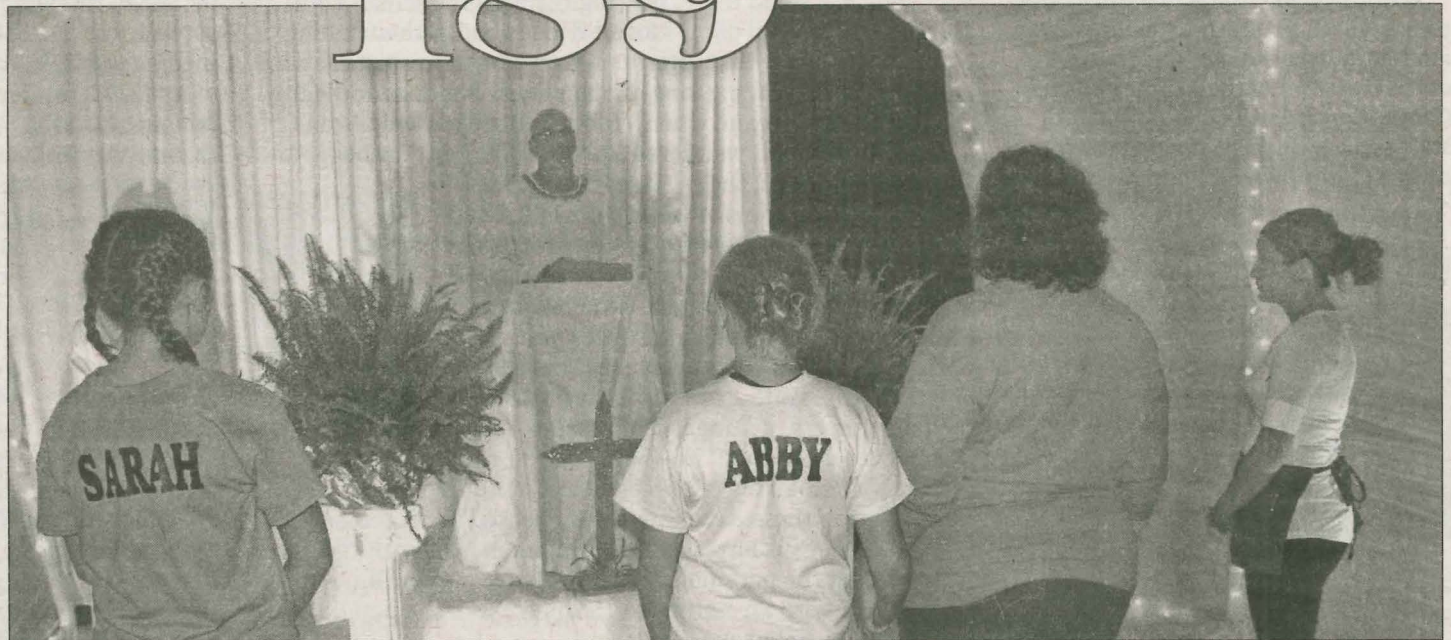
Visitors first met the Endicott family at breakfast, talking about the day's busy schedule. Dad was about to leave on a business trip, while Mom was planning her afternoon routine of picking up her children from various activities before gathering for an evening meal at a cafe.

The family was loving and supportive. Nothing seemed amiss. Yet we learned that life's busyness had kept them from focusing on what's really important.

Abby, the oldest daughter, was invited to a friend's after-school church activity where she heard the gospel message about the need of a Savior. Later that day, she and her friend discussed it, and Abby prayed to accept Jesus. When her mother learns of the decision, she's a bit indifferent, and quickly hurries the kids out to the car so they won't be late for dinner.

Tragedy strikes when a young driver, busy texting, runs her car up onto the sidewalk cafe, striking four, including Abby, her friend Sarah, her mother, and an 18-year-old waitress. Visitors are then led to a scene at the graveside of Abby and her mother.

Her grieving brother wonders aloud about what happens to a person when they die. He recalls Abby being excited about accepting Jesus, but wonders about his mom. Dad doesn't have the answers,



Actors in Lebanon Baptist Church's production of Judgment House portray the recently deceased standing at heaven's gate, waiting to hear their names called from the book of life. The afterlife drama, involving four Ky. Baptist churches, was viewed by more than 2,400 people.



During one scene Judgment House, the lives of four people are suddenly extinguished after a careless driver crashes at an outdoor cafe—reminding the audience that salvation is a gift that should not be postponed. (Photos by John Shindlebower/WR)

but reasons that Mom was such a good person that she surely was deserving of heaven.

The next scene is at the gates of heaven. Abby and Sarah are welcomed as the angel reads their names from the book of life. Mom, however, is denied entry despite her pleas and begging. The same holds true for the young waitress, who testifies that her life was never supposed to end so soon, so unexpectedly.

By now, visitors have gotten to know the family, have been moved by the sudden, tragic twists and have experienced both the joy and the pain that awaits them in that judgment after death. If that's not enough, the next scene is a dark, uncomfortably hot place of wailing and misery where visitors are given just a taste of what complete separation from God, love, mercy and hope must feel like.

Thankfully, it lasts only a few minutes

before the guests are then ushered into heaven, where they are met with warm smiles, radiance and a welcoming hug from Jesus.

## 'Effective' evangelism tool

It was an emotional hour-long journey for those who experienced it, and it moved many to act. David Whitlock, minister at Lebanon Baptist Church, reported that over the six evenings, there were 189 professions of faith, 274 rededications and more than 150 requests for prayer.

Those walking from station to station could be seen wiping away tears, and at the end, guests were led to a room where Whitlock would lay out the plan of salvation. Counselors from area churches were available for those deeply affected.

"This has been huge and very effective," said Whitlock of the production.

He said they would start the production around 5:30 each night, and on some nights they were still running people through at 11 p.m.

He said the Judgment House was a dramatic, graphic way to explore a lot of biblical themes, but most importantly, was a way to introduce the plan of salvation to those who attended.

One of the most dramatic moments came at heaven's gate where people were either allowed or denied entry into heaven. Each visitor's name was read aloud by the angel, but they were then told that their time had not yet come. Many understood it as a stark reminder that no one knows what day will be their last.

The production was the result of months of planning, originating with Tracy Cochran, a member of Muldraugh Hill Baptist Church, and Kandice Spalding, a youth minister at Lebanon Baptist. Both said they felt led by God to present this drama to the community and enlisted the help of five churches from Central Baptist Association.

"It's been encouraging to all involved," Whitlock said. "They pray and see the answers to those prayers. They pray for people to come and they come. They pray for people to come to the Lord and people come to the Lord. They are getting involved and they feel like they're being used by God." (WR)



Benny Wong (left), pastor of First Chinese Baptist Church in Los Angeles, is serving on the North American Mission Board's task force addressing the decline of baptisms among Southern Baptist churches. Shane Critser (right), director of NAMB's church and missionary discovery team, moderated the conference session. (NAMB file photo by Susan Whitley)

## Baptism task force

Continued from page 1

From 1950-2011 Southern Baptists baptized an average of 379,711 people annually. Only twice during that time did the numbers dip more than 10 percent below that average. But in 2012 the decline was 13 percent off the average—the worst drop in 62 years.

"Southern Baptists leaders are concerned," said Al Gilbert, NAMB's vice president of evangelism. "Our baptismal trends are all headed in the wrong direction. With a burden to penetrate lostness in North America, we must pray and think through what we can and should do to turn around this decline."

Gilbert is facilitating the group's sessions along with LifeWay Research President Ed Stetzer. In addition to the first

meeting in Nashville, the task force will meet multiple times via conference calls and face-to-face meetings, with the goal of completing its work by May 2014.

Prior to the meeting Los Angeles pastor Benny Wong said one way churches will see increased baptisms is to narrow their concentration.

"We need to focus again on the most important mandate for the church today, which is the Great Commission," Wong said.

In its first 40 years, First Chinese planted five churches, Wong said. Following a long gap in planting, the church planted a new church four years ago with 12 people. It now has 200. A second plant just launched.

"There is no magic," Wong said. "It is not complicated. It is going back to the basics and following God's leading in obedience. If we only focus on the second-

ary issues, we will miss out on what is most important in the eyes of God."

Alvin Reid echoed Wong's thoughts.

"Obviously evangelism is of primary importance to Southern Baptists, and our primary means of evaluating evangelism is baptisms," Reid said. "It is not the best means, but it is the best one we have. We need some metrics to determine how we are doing."

"This task force will actually attempt to accomplish something strategically," Reid said.

Gilbert said the most recent ACP was the final catalyst in bringing the pastors' task force together.

"Southern Baptists have talked about declining baptisms, but haven't figured out a way to own it," Gilbert said. "It was important to pull together pastors from different regions and backgrounds to address the issue." (NAMB)

## The treasurer half

My official job title is executive director-treasurer. About this time each year, I am reminded of what it means to serve as the treasurer of the Kentucky Baptist Convention as I work closely with our staff and the Business and Finance Committee of the Business Board to set budget

### Together We are the KBC



Paul Chitwood

goals, review year-end receipts and spending totals, and evaluate the spending priorities for the missions dollars of Kentucky Baptists.

As we close the books on the 2012-2013 Cooperative Program budget, I am delighted to share some great news regarding giving through the CP. Thirty percent of KBC

churches increased their CP giving over the previous year. Moreover, all CP gifts combined allowed us to meet ministry expensing and come within 1 percent of reaching the \$22 million CP budget goal.

We praise the Lord for His provision and the generosity of Kentucky Baptists.

Our current budget year that began on Sept. 1 includes significant changes in the way missions dollars are being divided between state, national and international causes. Cooperative Program gifts will be divided evenly between mission work of the KBC and SBC, with 45 percent going to each. The other 10 percent of CP funds are designated for Cooperative Program Resourcing on behalf of the SBC and KBC.

The phrase, "CPR: Giving Life to the Great Commission," points to the role and value of the investment of this portion of the CP budget. CPR funds are used to promote the Cooperative Program and process CP funds.

Next year's budget shows this line item from 10 percent to 7 percent in order to get even more of our resources to the international mission field.

A recent comparative study of all SBC state conventions revealed that Kentucky is second overall in the percentage of CP funds that we forward to the SBC for the cause of global missions. I'm proud to be a Kentucky Baptist!

As we celebrate this good news, the treasurer part of my job title necessitates that I share other news with you. The 30 percent of churches that increased their CP giving were unable to offset the churches that gave less through the Cooperative Program. Thus, the overall downward trend in cooperative mission giving has not yet been reversed.

Our Lord has given us this charge: "But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth" (Acts 1:8). My prayer is that each of our KBC churches will once again consider the opportunity for Acts 1:8 obedience and Great Commission faithfulness afforded by supporting thousands of missionaries and mission work from Pikeville to Pittsburg to Peru, and beyond, through the Cooperative Program.

Paul Chitwood is executive director of the Kentucky Baptist Convention.

## Hear their haunting cry: 'I ain't ate yet!'

He stood there, peering through the screen door. Several of my closest friends had gathered at my house that afternoon to celebrate my birthday. We had stopped playing long enough to eat hot dogs and have cake and ice cream, when Wilbur, a little boy who lived down the street, wandered up. "I ain't ate yet," he begged.

As a pre-teen, the incident was perhaps my first awareness of world hunger ... but it came in the form of a child—not from some distant place with a strange name, but from just down the street—who had innocently intruded upon a birthday party. Now, nearly 40 years later, I still haven't forgotten his name ... nor his forlorn stare. The haunting cry of hunger still invades our bliss: "I ain't ate yet!" How will you respond?

It's a despairing cry being heard more frequently across our nation these days. Estimates released in September in the U.S. Census Bureau's 2012 American Community Survey show that the national rate of child poverty continues to increase, with an estimated 15.9 percent of the population now living below poverty level.

Kentucky has one of the top five poverty rates in the nation, with 19.4 percent of its population now living below poverty level. That's approximately 823,000 of its estimated 4.2 million residents. Meanwhile, the percentage of families with children under age 18 living in poverty rose to a staggering 26.5 percent, or approximately 263,800 families.

Education seems to play an important role. In 47 percent of families at or below poverty level, the highest educational attainment of the householder may be a high school diploma. Meanwhile, in only 3.1 percent of those families, the householder holds a college degree or higher.

Likewise, marriage also seems to be a factor. In 10.2 percent of families with children below poverty level, the couple is married, while in 50.2 percent of these families with children, the householder is a single female present.

It's a despairing cry that is also being heard often in communities across Kentucky's Appalachia region, where many of the poorest counties in the nation have grown even poorer. In Owsley County, where 39.3 percent of its 4,722 residents live below poverty level, the per capita income was \$11,883 in 2011, while the median household income was \$19,344. In Clay County, where 36.5 percent of

its 21,566 residents live below poverty level, the per capita income was \$12,568 in 2011, while the median household income was \$20,206. In Martin County, where 37.6 percent of its 12,743 residents live below poverty level, the per capita income was \$13,759 in 2011, while the median household income was \$23,920. And in Knox County, where 36.4 percent of its 31,735 residents live below poverty level, the per capita income was \$14,673 in 2011, while the median household income was \$22,364.

By comparison, the per capita income of all Kentuckians in 2011 was \$23,033, while the median household income was \$42,248, nearly double that of these Appalachia counties. Yet, the national poverty threshold in 2012 for a family of four was an annual income of \$23,283.

Cold facts, yes. But they are not just numbers. They are the faces of kids in Appalachia, staring back at us and crying out: "I ain't ate yet!" All across Kentucky, one in every four children now are hungry. Pastors, look around at the smiling faces of kids in your congregation this Sunday. Teachers, take a look at the kids in your classroom this week. Coaches look at the players on your team. Moms and dads look at the kids playing in the yards on your street. Count four. Tell yourself, one of them may silently be crying out, "I ain't ate yet!" How will you respond?

World Hunger Day is Oct. 13. On that Sunday, we again will have an opportunity to demonstrate the love of Christ to a hurting and hungry world. While some hunger relief ministries use 40 percent or more of their income for administrative costs, the SBC Global Hunger Relief uses every penny of every dollar to purchase food.

"How sad it is that the average Kentucky Baptist gives less than the cost of a canned soft drink to the SBC world hunger fund during the year," said Eric Allen, missions mobilization team leader for the Kentucky Baptist Convention, in challenging us to give more to alleviate hunger. More than 190 people were introduced to the "Bread of Life" last year as a direct result of KBC hunger relief ministries, he said. See the "Donate the Difference" initiative, [www.kybaptist.org/homepage/missions-mobilization/hunger-relief/](http://www.kybaptist.org/homepage/missions-mobilization/hunger-relief/), for some simple ways any church can use to raise dollars for hunger needs.

## How is it possible?

By Kevin Ezell

Alpharetta, Ga.—How is it possible that in North America—the land of promise, possibility and plenty—millions of children go to bed hungry each night?

As difficult as it is to believe, with a restaurant on almost every corner, hunger is a daily reality in the U.S. and Canada. And this situation exists even with a church on almost every corner.

We are not in this state because God's people don't care, rather because His people are not aware. The same blind spots that keep churches from engaging in ministries keep them from recognizing the need around them.

The real answer to crushing poverty and hunger is the gospel-driven

community transformation found through the LoveLoud movement of churches. These churches take the responsibility to be the first to say, "Yes, we will care for our neglected neighbors." Churches like The Foundry Church in Philadelphia where pastor Chuck Kieffer helped create a community garden that produces more than 500 pounds of fresh produce annually. (See related story on Page 1.)

LoveLoud churches don't stop at providing answers to physical needs. Spiritual transformation is the heart of community transformation. The Foundry Church connects with the community through a "Garden Camp" vacation Bible School as well as other strategic outreach and church planting. An area that once was languishing has received nourishing food and gospel hope.

The Foundry Church is an example of

a church using Southern Baptist World Hunger Funds to build a bridge from a ministry that meets a need to gospel-driven community transformation.

The integrity of the "dollar-in, dollar-out" of the World Hunger Fund, now also known as Global Hunger Relief, means Southern Baptists can rest assured what they give will be used to fuel hunger relief ministry.

As you prayerfully consider what you and your church will do to love your community, I urge you to give sacrificially to GHR. Find your neglected neighbor and love them with the gospel.

Consider using World Hunger Sunday, Oct. 13, as a day to heighten awareness and call for commitment. Learn more about Global Hunger Relief at [worldhungerfund.com](http://worldhungerfund.com). To find out how your church can join the LoveLoud movement, visit [namb.net/loveloud](http://namb.net/loveloud).

Kevin Ezell is president of North American Mission Board.

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

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# Engaging the whole person in worship

By Marc Brown

What is worship? Many Baptists understand worship to be the place the church gathers and the gospel is proclaimed. This perception has led to the common understanding that worship was the sermon and everything else was simply "warming-up" the congregation. Interestingly, over the last 20 years "worship" has been understood as the music portion that precedes the sermon.

Regardless of style or context, the Bible portrays worship as what happens when God reveals Himself to His people and we respond by giving ourselves to God. As in Deuteronomy 6:45: "Hear, O Israel! The Lord is our God, the Lord is one! You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might." The command for God's people in Deuteronomy can be understood as more than just a call to worship, it is an instruction on how we should worship—by responding to God's revelation. Jesus reinforces this concept when asked, "Of all the commandments, which is the most important?" In Mark, Jesus responds that the way we respond to God is of utmost importance. "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength (Mark 12:30)."

Baptists have been influenced by the salvation-focused worship of frontier evangelism. Being a Great Commission people has led our worship to concentrate on challenging them to make decisions. We have also intentionally connected with their souls through strong emotions or their minds through new, transformational understanding. Just like all worshipping traditions though, we have the tendency to focus on one or two parts of the Shema and the Great Commandment

rather than on the whole. We unintentionally lead people to understand only some of the ways God reveals Himself, limiting their response and keeping our worship from being as significant as we want.

Communication with God is divinely initiated. Understanding this can cause us to change the way we worship. Understanding that revelation and response can happen at any point in a worship service leaves worshipers waiting for His revelation before responding to Him. If we understand that God's revelation and our response occurs in corporate worship, we will also gain better expectations of what our roles in worship are. If we know what we are supposed to do (and not do) in worship, then our response to that revelation becomes the experience of engaging our hearts, souls, minds and strength. Embracing alternatives risks letting our churches' worship descend into a series of hollow and sometimes consumer-based experiences.

The good news is that many congregations are seeking worship renewal based on more than trendy church-growth techniques and a great band. One example is through encouraging congregations to recapture worship practices that engage the whole person with heart, soul, mind and strength. The holy dialogue of revelation and response can be expressed through every element of corporate worship, so the never-ending questions of style become irrelevant.

When we see worship as a dialogue between God and His people, believers more easily understand God's revelation, have a better means to respond, and the story of God's mighty acts of redemption are communicated.

Marc Brown is minister of music at Grace Baptist Church in Woodbridge, Va., a native of Bowling Green, Ky., and a graduate of Southern Seminary.

## FIRST PERSON

## Discount relationships

**Q:** I am a single man struggling with loneliness. I'm tempted to go into an online "adult" chat room, but I know that would be wrong. My brother, who used to hang out with me, died. I have an illness which makes life socially awkward. What should I do?



**A:** You also do well to heed the Apostle Paul's admonition to "flee immorality" and steer clear of discount relationships and the world of Internet pornography. Such distractions, as Paul said, "war against your soul" and do not meet your deepest needs for connection.

**Focus on healthy activities instead.** There are safe, Christian websites and chat rooms and even those that are built around on-line Bible studies.

**Find a Bible study group.** Find one where participants also "do life together." Friendship and prayer support can be incredible benefits of such a group.

**Use the public library.** Sometimes sitting in the same room with other people is therapeutic. While there, check out resources on topics of concern.

**Go to free community events.** Find out where you can be with others with similar interests.

**Take a walk.** The very act of getting outside and moving around can sometimes lift your spirits.

**Serve those less fortunate.** Volunteering in hospitals, nursing homes, and other places of service can put things in perspective.

**Find a counselor.** Find a pastoral counselor in your area at AAPC.org. Consider a grief support group. Your counselor, your local Hospice or funeral home may be offering an ongoing or seasonal safe place to share your grief.

James Stillwell is minister to singles at Immanuel Baptist Church in Lexington.

## Financial aptitude test

By Don Spencer

True or false?

1. It's always smart to send a minimum credit card payment and stretch out payments.
2. Your credit record can be a factor when you apply for a loan or credit card, but cannot affect non-credit decisions such as applications for insurance or an apartment.
3. A debit card may be a good alternative to a credit card because the money is automatically deducted from a bank account, thus avoiding interest charges or debt problems.
4. It makes no sense for very young adults to put money aside for retirement. People in their 20s should focus on monthly expenses and short terms goals. Save for retirement after age 30.
5. If you receive an email from a company you've done business with asking you to update your records by entering your Social Security number or bank account numbers, it's safe.
6. If you or your family has \$100,000 or less on deposit at an FDIC insured bank, and the bank fails, your money is completely safe.
7. All checking accounts are pretty much the same in terms of features, fees, interest rates, balance requirements, etc.
8. There's no harm in having many different credit cards. The number of cards won't affect your ability to get a loan. What matters is using them responsibly.
9. While one or two late payments on bills may not damage your credit record, making a habit of it will count against you.
10. The best way to avoid a "bounced" check is to keep your checkbook up to date and closely monitor your balance. Institutions do offer "overdraft protection," but these programs come with added costs.
11. How one handles money is no different for the Christian than it is for a non-Christian.

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

Answers: 1. False 2. False 3. True 4. False 5. False 6. True 7. False 8. False 9. True 10. True 11. False

## No shortcuts to becoming a disciple, it takes work

By Erich Bridges

**Richmond, Va.**—Hey sports fans, it's quiz time. Who broke Muhammad Ali's jaw during one of the biggest boxing upsets ever?

Ken Norton did. And there's a truth behind his victory we need to remember.

Norton, who died Sept. 18 at age 70, was a heavyweight fighter during the sport's last golden era. He wasn't as famous as Ali. But Norton, a three-time boxing champion in the Marine Corps before he turned pro, was for real. In his prime, he was a 6-foot-3-inch, 210-pound, one-man wrecking crew who kept coming at you. He won 42 fights, including 33 knockouts, and lost only seven over a 14-year pro career.

The first time he fought Ali, in 1973, he was a 5-to-1 underdog. Ali, who was looking ahead to a big title shot at then-champ George Foreman, expected the upstart Norton to be a punching bag. Big mistake.

Norton came out firing, pounded Ali and took over the fight. Ali might have been "the greatest of all time," but he didn't see Norton's determined assault coming.

"Godzilla couldn't have beaten me that night," Norton said in an interview years later.

How did he do it? Simple: work, work, and more work. Norton trained relentlessly. He allowed no distractions. He believed he could win and prepared for battle. Once the bell rang, he didn't listen or respond to his opponent's legendary trash talk. Norton talked with his fists. Chastened by that painful

wake up call, Ali won two later fights against Norton by razor-thin decisions, but never knocked Norton out in the 39 total rounds they fought.

Hard work doesn't always triumph over hype. But it wins more often than you might think.

"Success depends on effects," observes James McIntosh, who coaches leaders and executive teams in the business world. "Do you do things mainly to impress others, or do you do things to accomplish something of consequence? ... Your choice determines whether your success is flash-in-the-pan or sustainable."

Children raised to believe they are extra-special expect straight A's in school just for showing up. They think they'll breeze through college and into great careers, without years of hard work and despite all economic indicators. Psychologists call this "magical thinking." It flies in the face of reality, experience and common sense.

This mentality has seeped into our spiritual lives. We want closeness to God without prayer, Bible knowledge without study, church growth without missions, and blessings without obedience.

God's economy doesn't work that way. Grace is free, but it isn't cheap. Dietrich Bonhoeffer, who died at the hands of the Nazis because he refused to submit to their evil, writes, "Cheap grace is grace without discipleship, grace without the cross, grace without Jesus Christ living and incarnate."

"Costly grace," on the other hand

Bonhoeffer writes, "is costly because it costs a man his life, and it is grace because it gives a man the only true life. It is costly because it condemns sin, and grace because it justifies the sinner. Above all, it is costly because it cost God the life of His Son ... and what has cost God much cannot be cheap for us."

There are no shortcuts to becoming a disciple. God provides the power and brings the results—not our puny efforts. But He requires commitment and obedience.

The apostle Paul put it this way: "So then, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your salvation with fear and trembling; for it is God who is at work in you, both to will and to work for His good pleasure. Do all things without grumbling or disputing; so that you will prove yourselves to be blameless and innocent, children of God above reproach in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, among whom you appear as lights in the world" (Philippians 2:12-15).

Paul turned the world upside down, one disciple and one church at a time, through relentless work, prayer, teaching and missionary activity, even in his last days in Roman chains when he wrote the above words.

If you're looking for instant success, Christian discipleship isn't for you. If you want to participate in the only enterprise that will produce eternal results, get to work. (BP) Erich Bridges is global correspondent for the International Mission Board.

# Moore: Much-needed marriage bill would guard religious liberty

By Tom Strode

Washington—New legislation designed to protect freedom of conscience regarding the definition of marriage should receive support even from legislators who favor same-sex unions, says Southern Baptist ethicist Russell Moore.

The Marriage and Religious Freedom Act, H.R. 3133, would bar the federal government from denying tax exemption to, or withdrawing it from, individuals and institutions that define marriage as only between a man and a woman.

Moore, president of the Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission, called for "all members of Congress, whatever their views on marriage, to vote for religious liberty" by supporting the bill.

"Skirmishes all over the country demonstrate that this bill is needed," Moore said. "As Americans, we may disagree about sexual morality or even about the definition of marriage, but we have a First Amendment that guarantees freedom of conscience and the free exercise of religion to everyone. We cannot allow the culture war to extinguish the natural right of religious liberty, a right for which our forebears fought so hard."

While the proposal affects only federal tax law, recent events in various states have demonstrated religious freedom rights are under threat in the face of the expanding legalization of same-sex marriage. For instance:

- The New Mexico Supreme Court

rejected Aug. 22 the religious free exercise arguments of Jonathan and Elaine Huguenin, a Christian couple who operate a photography business, and ruled they violated the state's ban on sexual orientation discrimination by refusing to photograph a same-sex ceremony.

■ Aaron and Melissa Klein closed their Oregon bakery Aug. 31 after a lesbian couple filed a complaint with the state government because the Kleins declined to bake a wedding cake and invoked their Christian beliefs as the reason. Pro-

tests from gay marriage advocates followed, and the state is conducting an investigation of the couple, who moved the business to their home.

Like Moore, the bill's sponsor—Rep. Raul Labrador, R-Idaho—rejected any idea the measure is politically partisan.

It is not a "Republican or Democrat issue," Labrador said upon introducing the bill Sept. 19.

"Regardless of our ideology, we can all agree about the importance of religious liberty in America," Labrador said in a written statement. "Our bill will protect freedom of conscience for those who believe marriage is the union of one man and one woman."

Some same-sex marriage proponents did not agree such legislation is needed.

"Our Constitution and laws already strongly safeguard" religious liberty, said Allison Herwitz, legislative director for the Human Rights Campaign, the country's largest organization

advocating for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender rights.

Herwitz charged the bill's purpose is "simply to let federal employees, contractors and grantees refuse to do their jobs or fulfill the terms of their taxpayer-particular contracts because they have a particular religious view" about legally married, same-sex couples.

The Marriage and Religious Freedom Act, which has 62 cosponsors, will make certain the federal government will not, according to Labrador's office:

- Withhold or nullify tax exemption under Sec. 501 of the IRS Tax Code. Most religious institutions are 501 (c)

organizations;

- Reject a tax deduction for any charitable gift to or by an individual;

- Refuse or withhold a federal benefit, or

- Bar an individual from receiving "any federal grant, contract, loan, license, certification, accreditation, employment, or other similar position or status."

Other supporters of the bill are the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, the Family Research Council, the National Organization for Marriage, Focus on the Family, Concerned Women for America and Heritage Action. (BP)

**"We cannot allow the culture war to extinguish the natural right of religious liberty."**

Russell Moore

## Urban garden

Continued from page 1

Last year on Oct. 5, Canada's Thanksgiving, Rendezvous Church in Toronto hosted a meal for immigrants, including Amjad, a new arrival from Iran. The night before, Amjad's mother called him from Iran to say she had dreamed a group of Americans were coming to share Jesus with him the next day.

The next day, a North Carolina mission team arrived to help prepare and serve the Thanksgiving meal at Rendezvous for 60 community residents. Amjad could not believe his mother's dream had come true. He sat for hours listening to the gospel shared by his new American friends.

Hunger funds do more than provide

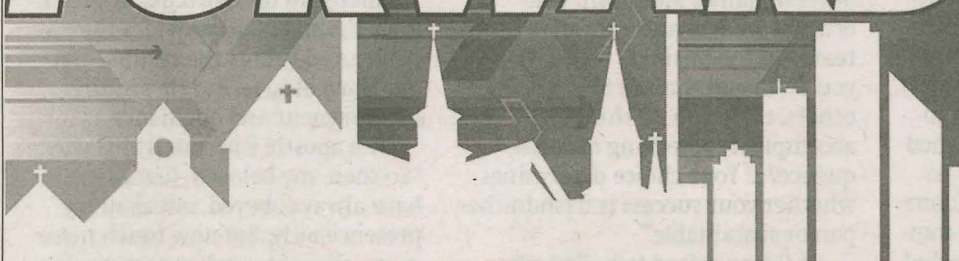
meals. They open doors to the gospel. Both are tremendous needs in many North American communities.

"We live in an area in Philadelphia that is a true paradox," Kieffer said. "We are just a few blocks from some of the wealthiest residents of the city, but within our immediate area one out of three children go to bed hungry each night. We have to do something to help feed them and reach them for Christ."

The Foundry Church, a Send North America: Philadelphia multiplying partner, plans to release an e-book on how churches can incorporate LoveLoud outreaches like urban gardens and Garden Camp VBS into their ministries. (BP)


This article appeared in the Fall 2013 edition of *On Mission* magazine. Ideas for promoting World Hunger Sunday, Oct. 13, in your church are available at [worldhungerfund.com](http://worldhungerfund.com).

# FORWARD



## TO WHAT LIES AHEAD

Philippians 3:13-14

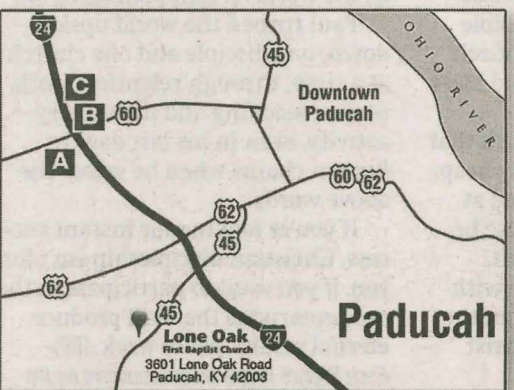


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# 176<sup>th</sup> KBC Annual Meeting

## Tuesday, November 12

### Lone Oak First Baptist Church, Paducah

The KBC Mission Board, Pastors' Conference, and other affiliated meetings convene on Monday, November 11. The KBC annual meeting on Tuesday, November 12 has only **TWO (2) sessions** – morning and afternoon – and will conclude by 5:00 p.m. CST.

### Paducah Accommodations:

A	B	C
<b>Country Inn &amp; Suites</b> 145 McBride Lane 270/442.2201 \$89 (1-4 persons)	<b>Drury Inn Paducah</b> 3975 Hinkleville Road 270/443.3313 \$90-\$104 (1-4 persons)	<b>Fairfield Inn &amp; Suites</b> 3950 Coleman Crossing 270/442.1700 \$89-\$99 (1-4 persons)
Free breakfast Free high speed Internet Indoor pool Fitness center Complimentary parking Reservation by: Oct. 10	Free hot breakfast Free wireless Internet Indoor pool & whirlpool Exercise room Complimentary parking Reservation by: Oct. 10	Free hot breakfast High-speed Internet Indoor pool & whirlpool Fitness center Complimentary parking Reservation by: Oct. 20

**Paducah Accommodations for KBC Messengers - I-24, Exit 4**  
Rates do not include the current Paducah 13.42% hotel tax. Messengers are responsible for making their own reservations. Kentucky Baptist Convention must be mentioned and reservation deadlines met to receive blocked room rates. Please note that most room blocks do not include Tuesday evening.

## NEWS BRIEFS

**ERLC challenges buffer zones**

The Southern Baptist Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission has called upon the U.S. Supreme Court to protect the First Amendment rights outside abortion clinics. The ERLC urges justices to invalidate a Massachusetts buffer zone law and to reverse a previous opinion upholding a similar law in Colorado. Oral arguments in *McCullen v. Coakley* are expected early 2014. The ERLC joined nine organizations in signing onto the brief filed Sept. 16 by the Christian Legal Society. In the case, the First Circuit Court of Appeals in Boston upheld a 2007 Massachusetts law that establishes a 35-foot zone around the entrances and driveways of abortion clinics. The measure bars pro-life sidewalk counselors from entering that zone to talk to women considering an abortion.

**Hendricks to join BP**

Baptist Press has named Shawn Hendricks as managing editor, effective Oct. 28. Hendricks has been managing editor of the *Biblical Recorder*, newsjournal of the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina, since 2011 and was a senior writer with the International Mission Board when he joined the Recorder's staff. Hendricks also has worked as a feature writer at the former Missouri Baptist newsjournal *Word & Way*. He replaces Michael Foust, who in July became editor of *Off The Grid News*, a Christian-owned news website based in Illinois.

**Young adults gain vision through Generation Send**

By Sara Shelton

**Alpharetta, Ga.**—When 24-year-old Laura Coulter signed up to spend her summer serving at a new church plant in Atlanta, she was looking for opportunities to expand her understanding of missions and life in ministry. It was a tweet from the North American Mission Board that led her to Atlanta and a NAMB Generation Send internship.

"Through Generation Send, I would get to serve in a new city, live and work alongside like-minded believers my age, learn more about church planting and be on mission for the gospel. How could I pass it up?" said Coulter, a recent graduate of Taylor University in Upland, Ind.

Coulter is among 31 young adults who spent their summer to serving in Atlanta, Portland and New York City as a part of NAMB's Generation Send experience.

The 10-week internship immersed young adults in ministry, missions and church planting in an urban context and offered opportunities to develop as ministry leaders and missionaries through hands-on, practical knowledge of the reality of missions and church planting.

"The goal is to see young adults become equipped to be future church planters, team members or church and ministry leaders," said Steve Canter, NAMB's urban mission initiatives coordinator.

"To see the gospel spread in North America, we need healthy churches. And to have healthy churches in the future, we need to develop the young people who will one day be leading and investing in them," Canter said. "Generation



Atlanta-area interns in Generation Send—the North American Mission Board's 10-week internship designed to immerse young adults in ministry, missions and church planting in an urban context—took a day off to visit a local attraction, Stone Mountain. (NAMB)

Send is a great program that prepares young adults to do just that—be missionaries and church planting leaders in the most diverse and dense contexts in North America."

For 21-year-old college student Robert Fisher, that context was Portland, Ore. A far cry from his home in Ash Grove, Miss., the city provided the backdrop for Fisher and his teammates to put down gospel roots in the city in preparation for future church plants.

"I wanted to be in the program because I have always had an interest in exploring church planting," Fisher said. "(O)ur team literally became the church, doing whatever we could to identify the needs around us, invest in the people and invite them to join in what God is doing in their city."

This type of hands-on ministry pushed Fisher to a deeper understanding of the gospel and how it can move the hearts of those who hear it.

"We had the opportunity to share the gospel with one man we encountered who was very much a spiritual seeker," Fisher recounted "At one point he told us

that he'd never seen young people so excited about the church. Experiences like this helped me walk away from the summer with a greater grasp of the gospel and how it moves a missionary or church planter out into service."

It's experiences like these that Generation Send leaders hope participants will carry with them as they return home and go forward in their own callings.

Many of this summer's participants were so inspired by their experiences that they opted to stay in the cities where they served and continue working alongside their church plants. Coulter is one of those. She moved back to Atlanta and committed the next year serving Blueprint Church.

"This experience is so unique," Canter said. "I would encourage any pastor or ministry leader to recommend a young adult in their church to take part in the program. They will be intentionally developed as missionaries (and) have the chance to learn firsthand what it looks like to serve God in our cities and hear His call on their lives." (NAMB/BP)

For more, visit [namb.net/generation-send](http://namb.net/generation-send).

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Continued from page 1

"The doctor claims he will feel much better once his recovery is complete. Please pray for his recovery and that there will be no complications," the statement said. "The family cannot thank you enough for your prayers and kind wishes. We believe God has some

special tasks remaining for Henry to do and we know he will be eager to undertake them as soon as he is better!"

Blackaby, 78, suffered a heart attack while driving in Atlanta, becoming confused and traveling for 29 hours before police found him Sept. 20 in Tifton, Ga., 150 miles southeast of his home.

Blackaby had been missing since Thursday, Sept. 19, around 4 p.m. from his home in Rex, Ga.. He was on his way to pick up his wife Marilyn from an appointment, according to a statement posted Saturday on the Blackaby Ministries International website.

"He did not have his cell phone with him nor insulin for his diabetes," the statement said. "As a result, his blood sugar rose and his kidneys began to struggle as well. The family was able to track his movements as he used a credit card to make occasional purchases. The police assigned a detective group to monitor his movements and to track him down. Hundreds of volunteers, many from his church at First Baptist Church of Jonesboro, Ga., drove all over the city looking for him."

Blackaby is best known for the "Experiencing God" Bible study he coauthored with Claude King. Blackaby is retired from the Southern Baptist North American Mission Board but has continued to lead prayer and spiritual awakening conferences internationally. His ministry began as a pastor in his native Canada. He later became president of the forerunners of the Canadian Southern Baptist Seminary and College and the Canadian National Baptist Convention. (BP)

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'What am I doing here?'

Having a willingness to let the Lord take the lead

In my previous years of service at Oneida, I can remember walking the campus and asking myself, "What am I doing here?"

Although I loved Oneida very much, I constantly questioned if Oneida was really what God had for me to do in His kingdom.

During those seven years it would make me uneasy to think of leaving Oneida, but when the Lord called Angie and me to Florida, I had peace and I knew it was, in fact, God who had called me away from this unique ministry.

One of the Scriptures the Lord gave me as I left was Acts 18:21. "As he left, he promised, 'I will come back if it is God's will.'" Just as Paul told the folks in Ephesus that he would return one day if it was the Lord's will, I returned Angie and I would possibly return home to Oneida one day as well.

In my nine years away from Oneida, I was constantly reminded I really didn't do a good job of ministering to the world mission field of students that the Lord had brought to my own back yard.

Our farm manager, Marty Bevil, recently approached me about taking some of our students to an off-campus event. As he talked, I pondered the costs, the possible risk, and other things, but gave him the green light to go.

After their return, I was thrilled when Mr. Bevil shared with me that three of our students accepted Christ as their Lord and Savior.

Before our school year began, I encouraged our faculty and staff to get out of the way when necessary and let our students come to the Lord, just as young children came to Christ in Matthew 19:14.

It is now our responsibility as a school to do our very best to help mentor and encourage these three students in their walk with the Lord.

Many Christians are simply satisfied to let Christ save them from eternal damnation and be their Savior, but are hesitant to allow Him to be their Lord because they don't want to give up control of their everyday lives.

When we allow Christ to be Lord of our lives, we have the privilege of helping others come to salvation. We don't require our students to be professing Christians to come to our Christian school, but once students are here, they hear the gospel presented at least seven times per week.

One of the many things I love about our school is that we have the ability to lead lost students to Christ and to disciple those who already know Him as Lord. The next time you find yourself pondering your life calling, ask the Lord what He wants from you.

Perhaps He will call you away from what you are doing to draw you closer to Him. Our willingness is a powerful and wonderful vehicle for the Lord's work. I now know what I am doing at Oneida, and hope to do my best to serve Him here.

This is Oneida



Larry Gritton

Larry Gritton Jr. is president of Oneida Baptist Institute, a Christian boarding and day school. Website: oneidaschool.org. Phone: (606) 847-4111

The children are following

Former students' kids keep returning to campus

It started happening a few years ago and they just keep coming.

It is pretty neat to see the children of former students attending Clear Creek Bible College as students. It is always exciting to see God work in the lives of these children, just like He did in the lives of their parents.

Jonathan Morgan is the son of former student Cecil Morgan, who attended Clear Creek at the same time as me. Cecil now serves as pastor of Smithsboro Baptist Church in Sassafras.

I was pleased to get to know Jonathan a few weeks ago and learn the connection we had because of his father. Jonathan works with the youth alongside his father at Smithsboro.

"My dad graduated from Clear Creek 20 years ago," said Jonathan. "So, I grew up in church. I was 6 years old when I asked Jesus Christ to come into my heart and trusted Him as my Savior."

"I didn't really get serious about serving the Lord until a little over a year ago when the Lord just convicted me at a time in my life when I realized I was not doing what He really wanted me to do.

Since that time I have committed my life to His calling.

"I originally felt like the Lord was going to lead me to a college near St. Louis, Mo.," Jonathan continued. "I had been involved with some mission trips to the area through the Kentucky Baptist Convention partnership with St. Louis. I felt like the Lord was leading me to do church planting in that area. I visited some schools in the area, but I never felt like there was the one place that I needed to be."

"Naturally, my dad kept talking to me about his time at Clear Creek," Jonathan said. "He kept encouraging me to visit the college and at least check it out. He kept telling me about how good his experience was when he was here. So I decided to visit the campus and check it out."

"When I visited, it just felt like home. I called my father and told him I didn't want to come home because it felt like home to me here on campus. I'm thankful for the nice family atmosphere here."

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

Clear Creek Chronicle



Donnie Fox

Supreme Court review of HHS mandate likely by early 2014

Washington—The Obama administration's controversial abortion/contraception mandate has moved a step closer to Supreme Court scrutiny.

Both the Department of Justice and Conestoga Wood Specialties, a business owned by pro-life Christians, asked the high court Sept. 19 to review separate lower court decisions regarding a rule issued to implement the 2010 health care reform law.

The mandate, as well as the administration's failure to provide adequate conscience protections for pro-life institutions and businesses, has resulted in 71 federal lawsuits.

DOJ filed a petition urging the justices to review an appeals court ruling that favored the arts and crafts chain Hobby Lobby, which is owned by evangelical Christians who object to the mandate. On the same day, Conestoga Wood Specialties, a Pennsylvania company owned by a Mennonite family that opposes the rule, petitioned the high court to accept a case it lost in another federal appeals court.

If the Supreme Court grants review in either or both cases, it is likely to hear oral arguments early in 2014 and render a decision on the abortion/contraception mandate before it ends its term in late June or early July.

Drugs covered by the mandate include Plan B and other "morning-after" pills that possess a post-fertilization mechanism that can cause an abortion by preventing implantation of tiny embryos. The rule also covers "ella," which—in a fashion similar to the abortion drug RU 486—can even act after implantation to end the life of the child.

In both cases, the business owners are

pro-life and object to providing funds for drugs that can cause abortions. They contend the mandate violates their religious freedom rights. The owners in both cases argue religious liberty protections extend to corporations established for profit.

The 10th Circuit Court of Appeals in Denver agreed in June with Hobby Lobby that the 1993 Religious Freedom Restoration Act applies to businesses established for profit, but the Third Circuit Court in Philadelphia rejected in July Conestoga's RFRA argument, saying "for-profit, secular organizations cannot engage in religious exercise."

On Sept. 17, the Sixth Circuit Court in Cincinnati also spurned the religious freedom arguments of another firm, Autocam. Supreme Court review is more likely, given the division among the appeals court circuits.

The Southern Baptist Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission has filed friend-of-the-court briefs defending the businesses' religious freedom in both cases. The Christian Legal Society wrote both briefs. The ERLC and the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops lead a coalition of diverse religious organizations that have urged the Obama administration to protect freedom of conscience under the mandate.

HHS issued a final rule on the mandate June 28, but its foes found it inadequate. The rule did not provide a religious liberty accommodation for for-profit companies such as Hobby Lobby and Conestoga, and religious freedom advocates said it failed to remedy the conscience problems for objecting non-profit organizations, such as evangelical and Roman Catholic universities.

The 10th Circuit case is Hobby Lobby v. Sebelius. The Third Circuit case is Conestoga Wood Specialties v. Sebelius. Kathleen Sebelius is the HHS secretary. (BP)

FAST FACTS

Department of Justice has requested the Supreme Court to review a decision by a lower court that favored Hobby Lobby's objection to paying for medications that can cause abortions.

In a similar move, pro-life owners of a Pennsylvania company have asked for Supreme Court review for their unfavorable ruling by a lower court.

So far 71 federal lawsuits have been filed by pro-life institutions and businesses.

At issue is the failure of the HHS mandate to provide a religious liberty accommodation for for-profit companies.

Statement of Ownership, Management, and Circulation form for Western Recorder, dated September 24, 2013. Includes publication details, circulation statistics, and contact information for Tom Townsend, Business Manager.

## Mall siege witnessed by missionaries

By Charles Braddix

**Nairobi, Kenya**—As sporadic gunfire continued to echo through sections of Nairobi and smoke hovered over Westgate Shopping Mall, the International Mission Board announced that all its personnel were accounted for.

"Please pray for them, though, since some were caught up in the tragic events of these past four days," said IMB spokesperson Wendy Norvelle.

Militants of the Somali-based al-Shabaab organization seized the mall on Sept. 21 in retaliation for what they called Kenya's interference in internal Somali affairs. "Non-Muslims were lined up and shot—even children," one IMB missionary said.

The death toll now approaches 70 with more than 150 wounded. Kenya's president, Uhuru Kenyatta, declared three days of national mourning.

An IMB missionary family of seven

was trapped in the mall and separated as gunfire raged around them and bodies fell. They escaped within the first few hours of the siege. Another family lives a block away, and for four days they heard gunfire, explosions and the sounds of helicopters, ambulances and military vehicles moving in and out of the area. From their windows they saw smoke billowing from the mall.

For many who experienced the horrors, personal peace and calm may be some time off. "After a few weeks, we might be able to better evaluate how this tragedy has impacted individual lives and ministry," an IMB missionary said.

Another added, "Thank you so much for continuing to lift Kenya up to the Father as people heal from this ordeal. Pray that even as people's thoughts ran to God during the crisis, they would continue to run to God as daily life resumes." (BP)

## Pakistan Christians don black bands for mourning, solidarity

By Susie Rain

**Peshawar, Pakistan**—It was easy to spot a Christian in Pakistan on Sept. 23. Normally they tend to keep a low profile for fear of persecution. But this day, they wore black bands around their arms as a sign of mourning and solidarity following Sunday's church bombing.

The Christian community declared three days of mourning after what is regarded as the deadliest attack on a minority religion in Pakistan to date, with 81 people killed and more than 130 injured.

The attack occurred at the historic All Saints Church in the northwestern city of Peshawar. As the Anglican congregation was leaving worship, a pair of suicide bombers detonated explosives at the door of the church. More than half of the casualties and injured were women and children.

Christian worker Louis Claman described Monday as a "very, very dark day." Families began burying their dead. Mourners cried with grief in massive numbers. Some held vigil outside the hospital for those still listed in critical condition from the blasts. Thousands of others took to the streets in protest, carrying wooden crosses, chanting and burning tires.

"This is not the first attack on a church, or on other places of worship, but it is the highest casualty count to date," Claman said. "The Christian response has been one of frustration and adds to the sense that this is not a country where Christians or other minorities can survive."

Christians make up less than 3 percent of Pakistan's 180 million people, with less than 1 percent considered evangelical. The Asian nation is listed 14th on the World Watch List for persecuted countries.

The small and largely impoverished Christian community suffers discrimination in the overwhelmingly Muslim-majority nation, but bombings against them are extremely rare. Christians worry more about being accused of blasphemy—a derogatory (and illegal) comment about Muhammad—than suicide bombers.

The Sept. 22 blasts were among roughly 85 bomb and suicide attacks that have occurred throughout Pakistan this year, according to the Pakistani Interior Ministry. Claman said many Muslim clerics and government officials have condemned this act of terrorism as inhumane and against any religion.

As images from Sunday replayed on television, angry Pakistani Christians took to the streets to demonstrate in cities throughout the country. In a few places the protests turned violent, but demonstrators continued protesting and chanting: "Who will protect us?"

Christian workers Clamans and Darren Cantwell asked Christians worldwide to join in standing beside Pakistani Christians.

"We stand beside our brothers and sisters in Pakistan, mourning with them during this attack," Cantwell said, "and asking with them for God's comfort in these days. Our hearts break to see the suffering of God's people." (BP)

\*Names changed.

## Bible Crosswords

### Across

- 1 Holiday symbol
- 4 "The \_\_\_\_ of the wicked shall be put out" (Proverbs 13:9)
- 8 Not as much
- 12 \_\_\_\_ reliever
- 13 Object of worship
- 14 Press
- 15 "\_\_\_\_ far from me vanity and lies" (Proverbs 30:8)
- 17 Linking verb
- 19 KJV exclamation
- 20 Reverence
- 21 Pantry pest
- 22 What Nebuchadnezzar was washed with, in the wilderness
- 23 As thin as a \_\_\_\_
- 25 Fitting
- 26 "For my yoke is \_\_\_\_, and my burden is light" (Matt. 11:30)
- 27 Vase
- 28 Take in a little at a time, literally
- 29 Low island
- 30 State of the Southwest (abbr.)
- 31 "Thou \_\_\_\_ my wanderings: put thou my tears into thy bottle" (Psalm 56:8)
- 33 "Look!" to King James
- 35 Cow sound
- 36 Gershwin
- 37 "Man that is born of a woman is of \_\_\_\_ days and full of trouble" (Job 14:1)
- 38 Pump
- 40 Understand
- 41 "Then shall the \_\_\_\_ man leap as an hart" (Isaiah 35:6)
- 42 SRO show
- 43 Like a basset hound's expression
- 44 \_\_\_\_ hen
- 45 Of Middle Eastern ancestry (abbr.)
- 46 "Make thee an \_\_\_\_ of gopher

By Evelyn Boyington

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#175

- wood" (Genesis 6:14)
- 47 "Such \_\_\_\_ works are wrought by his hands" (Mark 6:2)
- 50 Very special
- 52 "Thou hast been in \_\_\_\_ the garden of God" (Ezekiel 28:13)
- 54 Kind of lamb in Nathan's symbolic story to David
- 55 Redact
- 56 "The Lord is my strength and \_\_\_\_" (Psalm 118:14)
- 57 Become soft
- Down**
- 1 "Son of man is as a man taking a \_\_\_\_ journey" (Mark 13:34)
- 2 Put on \_\_\_\_
- 3 "That my joy might \_\_\_\_ in you" (John 15:11)
- 4 Animate
- 5 Summer drink
- 6 Detective's quest (abbr.)
- 7 Put down roots
- 8 Fabrication
- 9 Sound of hesitation
- 10 Shoe parts
- 11 Unsoiled; spotless
- 16 "I am like an \_\_\_\_ of the desert" (Psalm 102:6)
- 18 Not left (abbr.)
- 21 "I \_\_\_\_ mine heart to know ... and to seek out wisdom" (Ecclesiastes 7:25)
- 22 "To proclaim ... the \_\_\_\_ of vengeance of our God" (Isaiah 61:2)
- 23 "Ye did \_\_\_\_ well; who did hinder you" (Galatians 5:7)
- 24 Get equipped
- 25 Be in distress
- 26 Take a nibble
- 28 Baste
- 29 Jeff Davis's org.
- 31 Digit
- 32 Before
- 33 Haw's partner
- 34 Be in debt
- 35 "\_\_\_\_ fell on Matthias; and he was numbered" (Acts 1:26)
- 37 God is our \_\_\_\_
- 38 "The Lord is thy \_\_\_\_ upon thy right hand" (Ps. 121:5)
- 39 "Paul dwelt two whole years in his own \_\_\_\_ house" (Acts 28:30)
- 40 "All things are for your \_\_\_\_" (2 Corinthians 4:15)
- 41 Journey jaunt
- 43 Dad might be one (abbr.)
- 44 Annex
- 46 "\_\_\_\_ thou he that should come?" (Luke 7:19)
- 47 Fathers and uncles, for example
- 48 "\_\_\_\_ of every sort shalt thou bring" (Genesis 6:19)
- 49 "Though he slay me, \_\_\_\_ will I trust in him" (Job 13:15)
- 51 "Gibeon ... was greater than \_\_\_\_ and all the men ... were mighty" (Joshua 10:2)
- 53 Act

#174

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## Master of multiplication

### Jesus 'takes our insufficiency and makes it sufficient'

The great truth of Jesus' miracle recorded in Mark 8:1-9a is: Jesus is the "great satisfier" and the "great multiplier." Through this feeding of the 4,000, we discover the master of multiplication.

As the crowd gathered around, Jesus had compassion for them and expressed to His disciples a concern for all the people in the crowd. He did not want to send them away hungry.

How did the disciples respond? The same way you and I would have responded, and too often do respond today when faced with challenges beyond our human comprehension. They responded with a sense of helplessness and hopelessness. They responded, "Where in this remote place can anyone get bread enough to feed them?"

But what did Jesus do? He asked the disciples how much food was available. They replied, seven loaves of bread. Then Jesus told the crowd to sit down; He blessed the loaves and fed all the people. There also were a few fish, which He blessed and the disciples distributed among the people.

Mark's Gospel recorded this: "The people ate and were satisfied." And, there were seven basketfuls left over.

So, the lesson for us is when we focus on Jesus, He satisfies our hunger and multiplies our potential. He takes what we give Him and multiplies it to impact people in need and who need what Jesus has to offer. He truly can multiply our little into a lot. He is the master of multiplication.

### Ky. Baptist Foundation



-Barry Allen

Like the disciples, we too often focus on what we do not have, what we cannot do, and why we cannot help. Remember this: When the disciples put the little they had into the hands of Jesus, He multiplied it to become a lot.

As Dr. Paul Powell observed in his stewardship book some years ago, "Jesus takes our insufficiency and makes it sufficient; He takes our inadequacy and multiplies it into an abundance."

As you prayerfully ponder what Jesus would have you to do in the use of the resources entrusted to you, remember the master of multiplication can take your little and make it to become a lot. And, in the process you will be blessed with contentment and satisfaction.

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


**CALENDAR  
OF EVENTS**
**October**

- 3 Ministry Assistant's Training Workshop, KBC Building, Louisville.
- 8 Committee on Credentials, KBC Building, Louisville.
- 10 Ministers in Transition, KBC Building, Louisville.
- 15 Administrative Committee, KBC Building, Louisville.
- 15 Men's, Women's Choral concert, Parkway Baptist Church, Bardstown.
- 17 Committee on Resolutions, KBC Building, Louisville.
- 19 1:8 Leadership Experience orientation, KBC Building, Louisville.
- 22 Committee on Nomination, KBC Building, Louisville.
- 24 DiscipleShift 1 Conference, Eastside Community Church, Richmond.
- 24 Kentucky WMU Executive Board meeting, KBC Building, Louisville.

**November**

- 1 Engage International Conference, unnamed venue, Cave City.
- 3 RISK: Paducah Friend Day, unnamed venue, Paducah.
- 11 Kentucky Baptist Music Conference, Southside Baptist Church, Princeton.

**MOUNTAINS TO THE MISSISSIPPI**

COMPILED BY STAFF

■ **CADIZ**—Liberty Point Church recently called **Anthony Jolly** as pastor.

New Hope Church will host Little River Association's 200th annual meeting Oct. 7, 7 p.m., and Oct. 8, 3 p.m. **Mark Thweatt** is pastor.

■ **HODGENVILLE**—First Church will host 5th Quarter after the LaRue County High School homecoming game Oct. 4. **Paul Richey** is pastor.

■ **LOUISVILLE**—Walnut Street Church holds worship services for people with dementia on the second Saturday of each month, 11 a.m. Nurses and other trained volunteers will provide a safe environment. **Rusty Ellison** is pastor.

■ **MARION**—Second Church will hold revival services Oct. 6, 6 p.m., and Oct. 7-9, 7 p.m., with guest speaker **Carl Nelson**. **Chris Lowery**

is pastor.

■ **MOUNT STERLING**—Reid Village Church will hold revival services Oct. 6-11 with guest speaker **Jeff Griffin**. **Todd Wiley** is pastor.

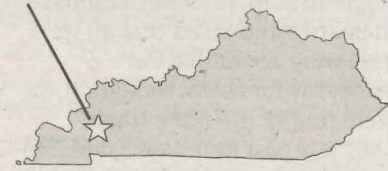
■ **MURRAY**—Grace Church will host Blood River Association's annual meeting Oct. 8, 9:30 a.m. **Sammy Cunningham** is pastor.

Locust Grove Church will host Blood River Association's annual meeting Oct. 7, 7 p.m. **Ryker Wilson** is pastor.

■ **NEW CONCORD**—Blood River Church will host Blood River Association's annual meeting Oct. 8, 7 p.m. **Hal Barlow** is pastor.

■ **PENDLETON**—Sligo Church will host the Oldham-Trimble Association annual meeting Oct. 6, 4 p.m.

■ **WINCHESTER**—Ephesus Church will hold a fall

**Spotlight on ...****EDDYVILLE**

First Church will hold In His Image conference Oct. 5, 9 a.m. **Timothy Perdue** is pastor.

festival Oct. 5 with laser tag, inflatables, carnival games, trunk-or-treat and a free chili supper. **Todd Rader** is pastor.

**Sunday School teacher, 99, a 'hero in the faith,' says pastor**

**Bellevue**—At age 99, Evelyn Heister has not retired from serving her Lord. She continues to live out her faith with enthusiasm and love for her Lord and her church, First Baptist Church of Bellevue.

"Evelyn is a hero in the faith to me," said her pastor, Aaron Sams. She "truly demonstrates what it means to live a life for Jesus Christ. She continues to be a powerful influence in our congregation and a powerful example for our entire fellowship."

Baptized at age 10 on Easter Sunday, Heister began teaching a women's Sunday School class in 1988—when she was a spry 74. At this time, Heister also took on the role of clerk during

church business meetings and Vacation Bible School, and leader of the telephone prayer ministry.

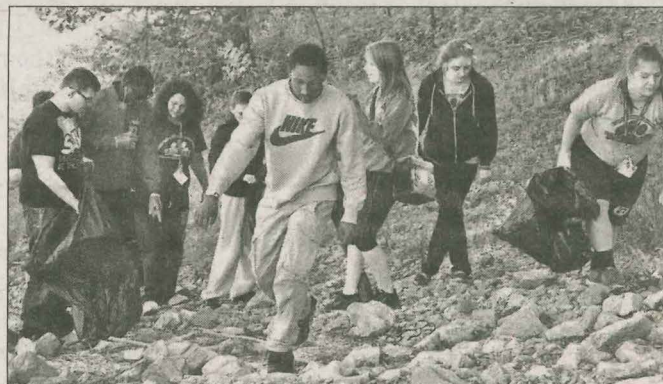
"And she still pursues those responsibilities with enthusiasm and love for the Lord," Sams said.

"One of the many things that I have come to admire about Evelyn is her love for God's word," the pastor said. "You have only to talk to her for a few moments to witness the vast biblical knowledge and wisdom she possesses."

Sams said that as he watches her interact with the congregation, it is obvious that "she loves everyone and the feeling is mutually returned." (WR)



Aaron Sams, pastor of First Baptist Church of Bellevue with Evelyn Heister, a faithful and active 99-year-old.

**Campbellsville athletes clean up Green River Lake**

**Campbellsville**—Campbellsville University athletes spent a recent Saturday morning picking up trash along the banks of the Green River.

More than 400 CU athletes, coaches and community members joined forces with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

AT LEFT: CU freshman Xavier McDuffie (center) leads a group at Green River Lake during the cleanup. (Photo by Courtney Drury/CU)

for the 27th Annual Volunteer Lakeshore Cleanup at Green River State Park.

Andrea O'Bryan, a representative of the Corps of Engineers, said staff had trouble finding places to clean up because there were so many people volunteering their time—more than double the attendance from the previous year.

Volunteers were asked to spend up to five hours picking up trash in an effort to keep the lake and trails clean. (CU)

**CLASSIFIED ADS**

**FOR SALE:** Two 2010 14-passenger buses, plus co-pilot. Sharp appearance, great condition with luggage compartment. 59,000-62,000 miles. V-8 Ford, \$39,000. Call Cliff or Andy at (615) 890-6368. Email: cwalker@thebuscenter.com.

**FOR SALE:** 15-passenger bus, 2005 Ford, 9,625 miles, excellent condition, \$29,000. Hurry Baptist Church, (270) 350-1334.

**FOR SALE:** Sound/video/theatrical lighting. JCA Media, LLC, well known in KBC with 20+ years experience installing quality equipment at reasonable pricing. Contact: Jim Cottrell, owner, Elizabethtown, (270) 862-9586, or (270) 312-7492; Rusty King, project manager, Nashville, Tenn., (615) 972-8869; or Amy Cottrell, operations manager, Louisville, (502) 802-4310. Jcamedia.com. References available.

**FREE:** New Hope Baptist Church in Winchester has five 15-foot-long wooden pews, painted white with red upholstery. Free. In good condition. Must be picked up. Contact Doris or Tim Satterwhite at (859) 744-3162, (859) 771-7433, or (859) 595-8267.

**SEEKING:** White Stone Quarry Baptist Church is now accepting resumés for senior pastor. Applicants must proclaim the gospel of Jesus Christ and must uphold the doctrines of the Baptist Faith & Message 2000. A minimum of 1 to 3 years exper-

ience preferred. Need an energetic person to lead while working to reach the unchurched in a growing community. Send resumé to whitestoneapplicant@gmail.com, or mail to: White Stone Quarry Baptist Church, Attn. Search Committee, 2764 Blue Level Road, Bowling Green, KY 42101. Resumés will be accepted through Oct. 15.

**SEEKING:** Ferguson Baptist Church in Somerset is seeking a part-time minister of music. Submit resumé to fergusonkybapt@yahoo.com or mail to: P.O. Box 247, Ferguson, KY 42533. For questions, call the church at (606) 679-1690.

**SEEKING:** Southside Baptist Church in Princeton is seeking a full-time student and children's minister. Seminary training and experience preferred. Email resumés to mark@southsidebaptist.com, or mail to: Southside Baptist Church, Attn. Mark Williams, P.O. Box 684, Princeton, KY 42445. For more information about Southside, visit southsidebaptist.com.

**SEEKING:** Grace Baptist Church, in Lexington, is seeking a part-time minister of music to direct adult choir, lead worship service and guide children's music programs. Mail resumés to: Minister of Music Search Committee, 811 Bryan Avenue, Lexington, KY 40505, or email to dfoley@

gbclerkington.org by Oct. 6.

**SEEKING:** Stithton Baptist Church in Radcliff is seeking a full-time/part-time children's ministry director. Formal training and experience are preferred. Email resumés to pastorgc@stithton.org, or mail to Stithton Baptist Church, 95 Park Ave., Radcliff, KY 40160. For more info about Stithton, visit stithton.org. Phone: (270) 351-6055.

**SEEKING:** Watson Memorial Baptist Church is actively praying and searching for a pastor under the guidance of 1 Timothy 3 and Titus 1. Review the job description and submit your resumé online at watsonmbc.org, or mail to Watson Memorial Baptist Church, P.O. Box 91074, Louisville, KY 40291. Resumés delivered by any other means than listed above after Sept. 9 will not be accepted.

**SEEKING:** Floyd Switch Baptist Church, in Eubank, is accepting applications for a part-time paid youth minister. Mail resumé to pastor David Gambrel at 171 Pleasant Point School Road, Waynesville, KY 40489. Or email to floydswitch@yahoo.com. Must be received by Oct. 22.

**SEEKING:** First Baptist Church of Louisa, a vibrant mission-minded church is seeking a full-time pastor. Send resumés to Pastor Search Committee, 301 West Pike St.,

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Louisa, KY 41230.

**SEEKING:** Vine Run Baptist Church, located in rural northern Kentucky, is seeking a pastor. Mail resumé to Vine Run Baptist Church, 8805 Warsaw Road, Dry Ridge, KY 41035.

**SEEKING:** Auburn Baptist is seeking a pastor. Send resumés to Pastor Search Committee in care of tcorum@logantele.com.

**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.

# Giving 'God the glory'

*Orioles' slugger, first baseman strives for godliness*

By Joshua Cooley

**Baltimore**—Three years ago, life was so different for Chris Davis. The Baltimore Orioles' slugger was adrift on a sea of uncertainty and retirement by age 25 was a painfully realistic option.

Called up on Sept. 11, 2010, by the Texas Rangers for his third major league stint that season, Davis was struggling. His greatest asset—his power—was virtually nonexistent. In 14 games to finish the season, he totaled one home run, one RBI and hit .211, which actually raised his season batting average to .192.

The Rangers, en route to the first of two straight World Series appearances, left him off their postseason roster. Ten months later, after another round of unmet expectations, Davis was traded to the Orioles, carrying with him the dreaded "4A player" label—a prospect who dominates Triple-A but can't solve the big leagues.

## The difference a few years can make

In a shocking transformation over the last two seasons, Davis, 27, suddenly has become one of the major league's premier sluggers. Through Sept. 19, the left-handed first baseman aptly nicknamed "Crush" Davis was leading the league in home runs (51) and total bases (354) and was ranked second behind Detroit's Miguel Cabrera in RBI (134), slugging percentage (.641) and on-base-plus-slugging percentage (1.013).

Last year, he led the Orioles to their first playoff berth since 1997 with what was then career highs in home runs (33) and RBI (85), and he has the team in the postseason hunt again this year. This all raises the question: What happened?

Davis, a soft-spoken Texas native, credits regular playing time as the driving factor behind his career resurgence.

"Just consistency," he said. "Being in the lineup every day and knowing where I'm going to hit in the lineup, being at first base."

But for a Christian like Davis, his remarkable career path also speaks to a sovereign God who has outlined a course for him, filled with tough, life-shaping lessons.

"Looking back, I've grown so much not only as a man but as a Christian, knowing that there are times when it looks like there's no end in sight, but if you continue to put your faith in God, He'll never steer you wrong," he said.

## Career, faith take nosedive

After being drafted by the Rangers in the fifth round in 2006, Davis immediately began bullying minor league pitching, hitting .302 with 74 home runs and 233 RBI in 275 minor league games over his first three professional seasons. He debuted for Texas in June 2008 at age 22

and clubbed 17 home runs with 55 RBI and a .285 batting average over the next 80 games. The future looked bright.

But the 2009 season was a disaster. When he was optioned to Triple-A in early July, Davis was hitting .202 and leading the majors with 114 strikeouts in 80 games. For the next two years, he shuttled between the majors and minors at a dizzying rate.

Davis only played 45 games for the Rangers in 2010 and 28 in 2011. It was a frustrating time for a young player trying to make his mark.

Spiritually, Davis was floundering. He grew up attending First Baptist Church in Longview, Texas, and was baptized at age 6. But for a

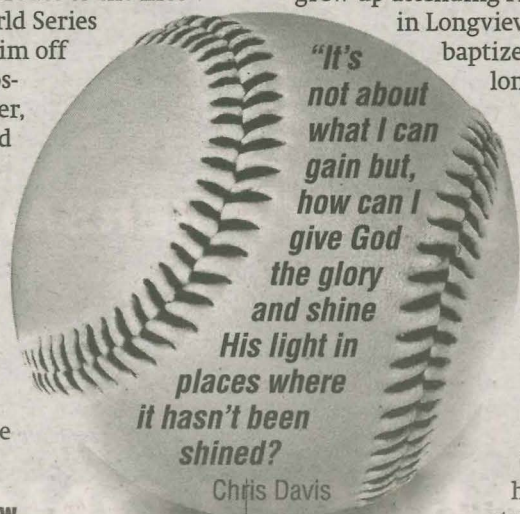
long time, Christianity was more ritual than relationship to him. He thought it was about church attendance and managing guilt. He didn't fully understand yet the realities of the gospel—that Jesus Christ died to free him from sin and striving.

## Season of refocus

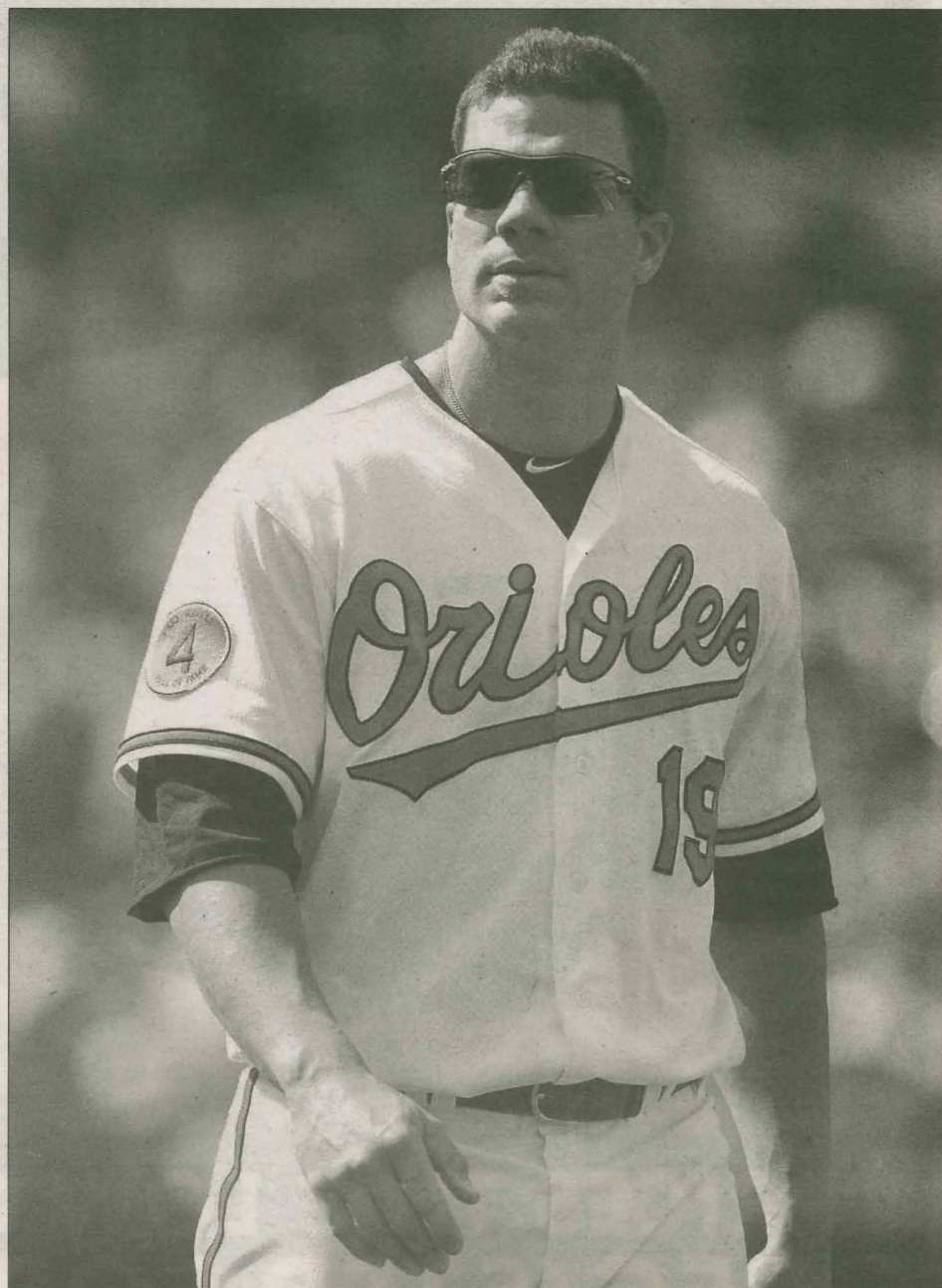
But the Lord was mercifully working on his heart. A humbling trip to the Dominican Republic for winter ball after the 2010 season helped refocus his faith. So did getting engaged to his wife Jill and the friendly counsel of former Rangers teammates David Murphy and Josh Hamilton, who encouraged him to spend time with God every day.

"It was more of a daily routine, making sure I was in the word and praying and knowing what it meant to walk with the Lord," Davis said. "We'd have chapel on Sundays. ... The fact that they were older gave me more perspective."

When Davis hit .362 with a team-high five home runs and 18 RBI in 2011 spring



Chris Davis



Orioles first baseman and record-breaking slugger Chris Davis said his goals go beyond the baseball field. He is aiming to "be known as a godly man."

training and still started the regular season in the minor leagues, he knew his time in Texas was limited. But by then, he had developed a different outlook on the fickle nature of the game. He had learned to trust God and not wring his hands over every at-bat.

"I got to the point where, when I was at the field, I was going to work hard and do everything I could to be the best player I could be," he said, "and when I went home, I was going to enjoy being around my friends, my wife, and try not

to think about what was going on in baseball. I think that was really the biggest point—knowing that it is a game."

The trade to Baltimore gave Davis a fresh start. In his first full major league season last year, he exploded. Davis hit .320 with 10 home runs and 20 RBI in the final month of the regular season, including a playoff-clinching home run in a 1-0 win in Tampa Bay in the penultimate game of the regular season.

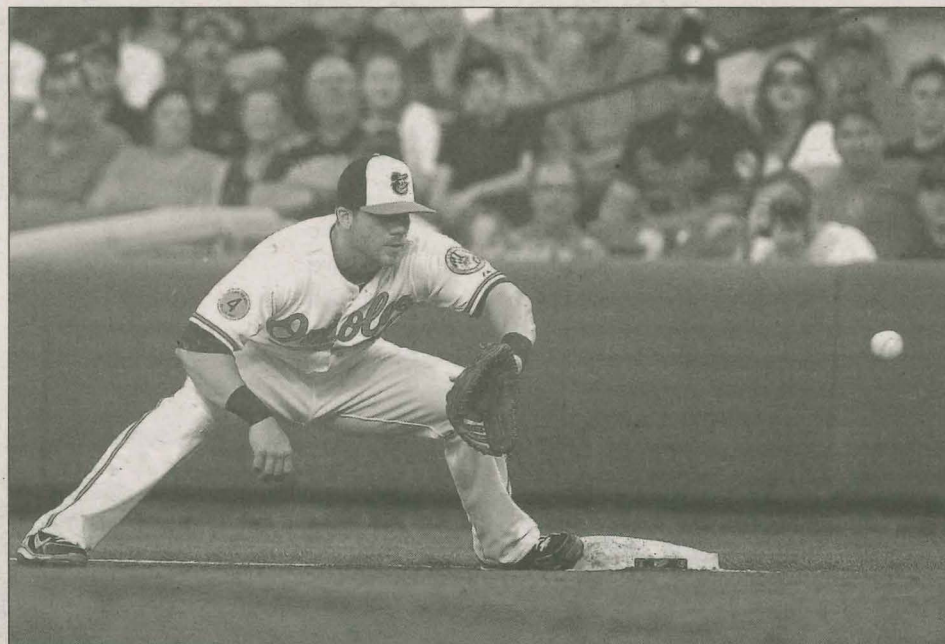
This year, he has upped his own ante. At the end of June, Davis was batting .332 with 31 home runs and 80 RBI in 81 games.

On Sept. 13, he hit his 50th longball of the season, tying Brady Anderson's single-season franchise mark from 1996 and joining Babe Ruth (1921) and Albert Belle (1995) as the only players in major league history with 50 home runs and 40 doubles in a season.

It's been quite a journey, but things look awfully promising for the late bloomer. He's still in his prime years and surrounded by plenty of other young talent in Baltimore's revitalized dugout.

Davis has taken his sudden stardom in stride. He has loftier goals than baseball fame.

"I just want to be known as a godly man," he said. "That's more important than any legacy on the field or numbers you leave behind. What will they say about me as a person? That's been important to me for a long time. It's not about what I can gain but, how can I give God the glory and shine His light in places where it hasn't been shined?" (BP)



Former teammates encouraged Orioles slugger Chris Davis to spend time with God every day and refocus his life on what is really important in life—his spiritual walk. (Photos by Todd Olszewski/The Baltimore Orioles)

WHAT  
GOES

UP

MUST  
COME

DOWN

(AND VICE VERSA).



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June 9-13**	Josh Howerton
June 15-19**	T Alan Lusk
June 19-23	John Nix
June 23-27**	John Nix
June 30-July 4	Rob Turner
July 7-11**	Rob Turner
July 11-15	Rob Turner
July 15-19	Rob Turner
July 30-August 3	Roger Palmer
August 4-8	Roger Palmer

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