

WESTERN Recorder

October 22, 2013

Shine Like Stars * Philippians 2:15

Volume 187, Issue 40

Paducah believers Ready to Reach



(sxc.hu/Ahmed Al-Shukail)

RISK: Paducah events lead up to KBC Annual Meeting

By Whitney Jones and Dannah Prather

Paducah—Kentucky Baptists are working together and partnering with other ministries in Paducah to serve others and share the gospel in November.

“RISK: Paducah” begins Nov. 1 and leads up to the 176th Annual Meeting of the Kentucky Baptist Convention, Nov. 12 at Lone Oak First Baptist Church.

Outreach efforts include revivals, a basketball camp, quilting event, wild game dinner, “girls’ night out” for middle- and high-schoolers, and more.

Lee Rust, founder of Freedom Forever Ministries, said Risk: Paducah is providing opportunities to reach

□ See RISK: Paducah ... Page 3

GuideStone sues HHS over abortion mandate

By Tom Strode

Dallas—The Southern Baptist Convention’s health and financial benefits entity has filed its first-ever lawsuit against the federal government in a legal challenge to the Obama administration’s abortion/contraception mandate.

GuideStone Financial Resources, and two of the organizations that take part in the entity’s health plans, filed the federal suit Oct. 11 in Oklahoma City. Joining GuideStone in the suit were Oklahoma City-based Reaching Souls International and Truett-McConnell College in Cleveland, Ga.

The suit contends the religious liberty of the entities and other non-church-related organizations covered by GuideStone’s health plan, is

□ See GuideStone ... Page 7

NAMB trustees find growing isolationism amid Toronto's 'Vertical neighborhoods'



Toronto native Mike Hauser, a church planter in the Greater Toronto Area leads North American Mission Board trustees on a vision tour of evangelism needs in the city. (NAMB/John Swain)

By Adam Miller

Toronto—For the first time in the 17-year history of the North American Mission Board, its trustees gathered on Canadian soil, and a vision tour preceding the Oct. 9 meeting revealed to many just how real the needs are.

Toronto, for example, is increasingly vertical as a large number of residents—about 40 percent—live in buildings of five stories or higher. High-rise condos are becoming the norm and are indicative not only of a population boom, but also of a growing isolationism among residents in “vertical

neighborhoods,” as city coordinator Brett Porter of NAMB’s Send North America: Toronto calls them.

“We have a whole new set of challenges as we try to reach vertical neighborhoods where access can be so difficult,” Porter said. “Even the people who live in these buildings only have access to their own floors and no others, so floors don’t mix.”

Populations the size of small cities now fill a single block in the Greater Toronto Area as glassed-in urban residences launch skyward. In many places populations are expected to double in just a few years.

□ See Toronto ... Page 6

Could Sunrise be considering reversing its hiring policy?

By Todd Deaton

Mount Washington—Following the Supreme Court’s repeal of the Defense of Marriage Act, has the time come for Sunrise Children’s Services to reverse its hiring policy banning open homosexuals and lesbians from working at Kentucky Baptists’ child-care agency?

That question reportedly was discussed at a special called meeting of Sunrise’s Board of Trustees in August and a vote could come at its regular quarterly meeting in early November, about one week prior to the Kentucky Baptist Convention’s annual meeting in Paducah.

The board’s discussion of its hiring

(Allowing) “employment of known homosexuals ... will surely have consequences.”

Rick Fyffe



policy has prompted one trustee, Rick Fyffe of Ashland, to resign abruptly from Sunrise’s board Sept. 30, and another, Stan Spees of Paducah, to voice his concerns to convention leaders. Fyffe had served for two years on the board, which

is comprised of 24 trustees, all of whom are elected by the KBC.

“In my opinion, the decision to reverse the hiring practices at Sunrise to allow for continued employment of known homosexuals and any revision to these practices not to discriminate against this lifestyle will surely have consequences,” Fyffe, a member Oakland Avenue Baptist Church in Catlettsburg, wrote in his Sept. 16 resignation letter.

“Once entities see Sunrise’s willingness to change and/or adapt to today’s liberal agenda in order to secure funding, everything else is on the table,” Fyffe continued. “Regardless of the views and

□ See Sunrise ... Page 2

Ditch the cord. **GO MOBILE** Kentucky Baptist news at your fingertips WesternRecorder.org



Find us on Facebook and on twitter as westernrecorder

Western Recorder 10-22-2013

Prayer only hope for U.S., PrayerLink told

By Diana Chandler

Nashville, Tenn.—Only prayer by God's people will heal His church from complacency and a mediocre Christianity that weakens overseas missions, former international missionary Gordon Fort told PrayerLink, a national network to mobilize Southern Baptists in prayer.

"This is a call to pray. There's no other answer," Fort said at the PrayerLink 2013 annual meeting in Nashville Oct. 10-12. "There's no other person going to come riding in on a white horse and save the day. The Republicans aren't going to save the day. The Democrats aren't going to save the day. A new independent party isn't going to save the day. This is something that only God Himself ... will fix."

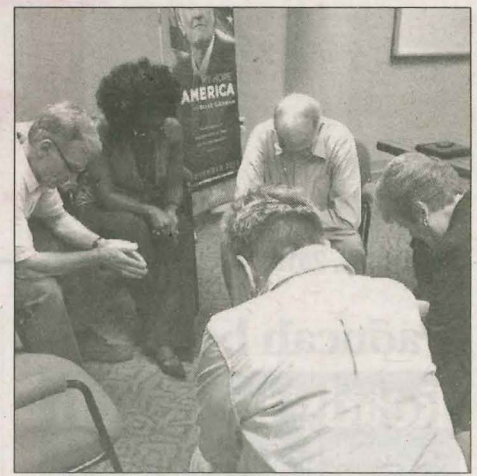
Fort, International Mission Board senior vice president for prayer mobilization and training, briefed the 20 PrayerLink members in attendance on the IMB's new School of Prayer for All Nations (SPAN) that immerses 10-15 people in an intensive week of prayer and Bible study at IMB's International Learning Center near Richmond, Va.

"What is the need of the hour?" Fort asked the group. "You are the spiritual watchmen.... You stand between the people of God and the nation and God Himself. What is the need of the hour? I just became convinced that ... there's no answer except prayer. There's nowhere else to go. You can't program your way out of this. You can't manipulate your way out of this. You can't motivate people

out of this."

PrayerLink, comprised of representatives from cooperating Baptist state conventions, the Canadian National Baptist Convention and the ministry entities of the Southern Baptist Convention, promotes and facilitates a renewed prayer emphasis among churches. SPAN, one of many resources available to churches, will offer sessions Oct. 28-Nov. 1 and Dec. 2-6. PrayerLink will hold its 2014 session Oct. 8-10 in Denver, followed by an After-Glow Prayer Emphasis, Oct. 10-12.

Southern Baptists in the U.S. trail other nations in mobilizing Baptist missionaries, and only prayer will change that reality, said Fort, a career missionary before joining IMB's administrative team in 2004. (BP)



PrayerLink's 2013 meeting Oct. 10-12 in Nashville included several breakout sessions for small-group prayer. PrayerLink, encompassing prayer leaders from across the Southern Baptist Convention, pledged to seek God, elevate prayer and help mobilize churches in prayer. (Photo by Rebecca Wolford)

Sunrise

Continued from page 1

explanations being offered, Sunrise has become a debtor to the state and must operate accordingly.

"After all, if money was not the driving force, the decision to stand strong on God's word would be a clear choice for everyone," Fyffe wrote, stating his preference would be "for Sunrise to stand on what the Bible clearly teaches" concerning homosexuality.

Last year, Sunrise reported receiving \$541,268 through its Thanksgiving offering from churches and \$312,177 in Cooperative Program support from the KBC, with a total of \$1,058,984, or about 4.8 percent, of its \$22 million budget coming through Baptist support. This year, Sunrise expects to receive about \$305,000 through CP gifts from KBC churches, suggesting that a significant portion of its annual budget comes from government subsidies, donors and other revenue sources.

"My sole purpose for serving on the board of directors for Sunrise was to promote Christ, in and through the teachings of the Bible," Fyffe told the Western Recorder. "We are placed on the board of Sunrise by the KBC and therefore have an obligation to guide Sunrise in a direction that honors Christ.

"After all, this should be what separates Sunrise from other child-care service agencies, and Sunrise should be willing to stand for Christ in these situations," he continued.

"For Sunrise to allow for continued employment of homosexuals and not to address the situation, or to change their hiring practice to allow it to continue, is, in my opinion, going totally against biblical principles," Fyffe maintained.

"I know these are hard decisions," he acknowledged, "but we should do what is pleasing in God's sight and not man's.

"Although it may not be the popular choice, I think God wants us to stand strong," he added. "He wants us to promote His principles to a dying world whenever and wherever we have the opportunity."

"I think any organization that is affiliated with Kentucky Baptists needs to follow biblical principles."

Stan Spees

Another opposes change

Unlike Fyffe, Spees has decided to remain on Sunrise's board and voice his opposition to reversing its current hiring policy, though he fears there now may be a move to remove him from the board. Some are accusing him of violating trustee confidentiality, Spees said, in seeking the counsel of his pastor, Dan Summerlin, president of the KBC, and KBC Executive Director Paul Chitwood.

Although Spees, a member of Lone Oak First Baptist Church, was unable to attend the August meeting, in which a reversal was reportedly discussed, due to scheduling conflicts, he attempted to communicate his views with Sunrise trustees through a three-page letter prior to the meeting.



In the letter, Spees, an attorney, cited a scriptural basis for "the policy that we (Sunrise) have already had all this time" and stated his conviction that Sunrise should not change it.

"I think any organization that is affiliated with Kentucky Baptists needs to follow biblical principles," Spees told the Western Recorder.

"But I feel that is especially true if you are talking about a situation where we have under our complete control adolescents who are impressionable ... (and) struggling with all sorts of problems," he said. "They need good examples, they need biblical examples, and they don't need people who are in control of them who are going to tell them that it is alright to be a homosexual."

In his letter, Spees stated, "We (Sunrise) exist because we care where the children will spend eternity. If not for the spiritual aspects of our care, we would have no reason to exist.

"Some might say that we can concede the homosexuality issue and continue to teach Christian values on all other points," he continued. "I ask, what happens when the government says we have to concede those points too?"

"I don't think Kentucky Baptists need to know something until there is something to know."

Bill Smithwick



Do we surrender our Christianity one 'minor' point at a time? On what point do we finally say, 'This is where we will take a stand'?"

Acknowledging there may be a price to pay in the loss of donors, cutbacks to programs and job reductions, Spees cited Esther 4:14, challenging fellow trustees, "Why do we hold our positions on the board at this time in history? Are we here to accommodate a culture which has lost its way, or are we here to stand for what we know to be right?"

According to Spees, Chitwood, Summerlin and another KBC official have attempted to set up a meeting with Sunrise's president, Bill Smithwick, to discuss the matter, but were turned away.

No comment

Contacted by the Western Recorder, Smithwick declined to comment, insisting that no decision has been made by the board, and until then, the issue remains a trustee matter.

"I don't think Kentucky Baptists need to know something until there is something to know," Smithwick said.

"Right now, my comment is, there's nothing that Kentucky Baptists need to know, and all this will do is hurt us.

"I will not discuss what our board is talking about in private with anyone," Smithwick added.

Up to now, Smithwick has consistently told the KBC Mission Board and convention messengers that Sunrise would continue defending its right to discriminate based on sexual orientation in on-going lawsuits. For the past 13

years, Sunrise has been embroiled in legal suits stemming from its dismissal of Alicia Pedreira after officials learn of her lesbian relationship. The employment discrimination lawsuit was dismissed, but she and other plaintiffs

then filed a claim challenging that state funding of agencies that teach religious beliefs violates the first amendment.

While the state has reached a settlement agreement in the case, Sunrise has not accepted it, maintaining that the terms unfairly single out the child-care agency when it has never been proven guilty of coercing children to participate in religious activities.

Smithwick, however, was quoted in a story that appeared in last week's Western Recorder as saying that if the state government ever enforces new regulations, Sunrise may be forced to comply.

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

KBC response

Since no official decision on its hiring practices has been reached by Sunrise's trustees, the KBC's response, if any, is yet to be determined.

"Obviously we do not know what, or if any, decision the board might make, but knowing Kentucky Baptists and their passion for the principles for holding strong to the doctrines of our faith and to the purity of the mission of the Cooperative Program, I

would be shocked if there was not some sort of action from the Mission Board if they felt either principle had been violated," Summerlin told the Western Recorder.

In the meantime, Chitwood said he would be praying for each of Sunrise's trustees by name, "asking God to give them courage and wisdom," and urged fellow Kentucky Baptists to do likewise.

"Sunrise has been different from secular caregivers because of the biblical values that undergird the ministry and are modeled by the caregivers," he noted. "Hurting children need that from Kentucky Baptists.

"When the government will no longer help fund it, I pray Sunrise will continue to give gospel-centered care, even if it means a significant reduction in their budget," Chitwood said. "I am confident Kentucky Baptists will always minister to hurting children and do so through a ministry with biblical values." (WR)



"I am confident Kentucky Baptists will always minister to hurting children."

Paul Chitwood

Paducah pastor kicks off KBC Pastors' Conference

By Dannah Prather

Paducah—Nathan Joyce, senior pastor of Heartland Worship Center in Paducah, is the opening speaker for the 2013 Kentucky Baptist Pastors' Conference, Nov. 11, at Lone Oak First Baptist Church.

The event begins at 2 p.m.

Joyce was called to pastor Heartland Worship Center in 2007. He is a graduate of Union University in Jackson, Tenn.; Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas; and Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville.

The theme for this year's conference is "Revived to Touch Our World and Impact Eternity" and focuses on 2 Chronicles 7:14 which records the words of God that if "My people who are called by My name humble themselves, pray and seek My face, and turn from their evil ways, then I will hear from heaven, forgive their sin, and heal their land."

Also preaching at this year's conference:

■ **Curtis Woods**, associate executive director for the Kentucky Baptist Convention. Woods is a graduate of Dallas (Texas) Theological Seminary and a doctoral student at Southern Seminary in Louisville. Previously, Woods served as Baptist campus minister to Kentucky State University in Frankfort. He has been selected to preach the convention sermon for the 2014 KBC Annual Meeting in Bowling Green.

■ **Adam Dooley**, senior pastor, Dauphin Way Baptist Church, Mobile, Ala. Dooley is a graduate of Clear Creek Baptist Bible College in Pineville and Southern Seminary. From 2002-2006 he was senior pastor of Red House Baptist Church in Richmond. He has served at Dauphin Way Baptist since 2010.

■ **Charles Carter**, interim pastor, First Baptist Church of Birmingham, Ala. A native of Birmingham, Carter is pastor emeritus of Shades Mountain Baptist Church, where he served for 26

years. He is a graduate of Southern Seminary and of Samford University, where he currently serves as a faculty member at Beeson Divinity School. He served two terms as president of the Alabama State Convention.

■ **Bryant Wright**, senior pastor, Johnson Ferry Baptist Church, Marietta, Ga., and 2010-2012 president of the Southern Baptist Convention. Wright has served at Johnson Ferry since 1981 when it launched as a mission church. He is the founder of "Right from the Heart Ministries" and has authored five books including "One Minute of Your Time," "Seeds of Turmoil," and "Right from the Heart." He is a graduate of University of South Carolina and Southern Seminary.

■ **O.S. Hawkins**, president of GuideStone Financial Resources of the Southern Baptist Convention, and former pastor, First Baptist Church of Dallas, Texas; and First Baptist Church of Fort Lauderdale, Fla. Hawkins began serving as president and CEO of GuideStone in 1997. He is a graduate of Texas Christian University in Fort Worth, Texas; Southwestern Seminary, also in Fort Worth; and Luther Rice Seminary in Lithonia, Ga. He served First Baptist Church of Fort Lauderdale for 15 years before accepting the pastorate of First Baptist Church of Dallas in 1993.

Bo Warren, worship pastor for Immanuel Baptist Church in Lexington, will lead worship.

Wesley Noss, pastor of New Hope Baptist Church in Versailles, is serving as president of this year's pastors' conference. During the event, members will select a new president-elect who will preside over the 2015 conference.

This year's president-elect, Steve Hill, pastor of New Horizon Baptist Fellowship in Glendale, will preside over the 2014 conference, Nov. 10, at Living Hope Baptist Church in Bowling Green.

The Kentucky Baptist Pastors' Conference is a free event and precedes the 2013 KBC Annual Meeting Nov. 12, also held at Lone Oak First Baptist. (KBC)

Residents open homes to share 'Hope'

By Dannah Prather

Paducah—Dozens of families in the Paducah area are putting out the welcome mat for neighbors, friends and co-workers to come in, watch some videos and have a chat as part of "My Hope with Billy Graham."

The Billy Graham Evangelistic Association has produced several programs featuring personal testimonies from Christians and messages from Graham. Host families hope that the conversations following the videos will provide them the opportunity to share with others what a relationship with Christ means to them.

An estimated 24,000 churches nationwide are participating Nov. 3-12. In Paducah, about 25 churches are represented, and time remains for more individuals and families to participate.

The website, myhopewithbillygraham.org, provides video previews and step-by-step tips on how to arrange a

"My Hope" get-together.

Dan Powell is the Kentucky coordinator for "My Hope with Billy Graham." He can be reached by email at dpowell198@aol.com, or by phone at (502) 693-9075.

The "My Hope" viewing parties in West Kentucky are part of RISK: Paducah, an evangelistic emphasis coordinated by the Kentucky Baptist Convention, West Union Baptist Association and several local churches and ministries.

Through Nov. 1-10, Kentucky Baptists and others will host a variety of special events aimed at sharing the love of Christ and the gospel message to the people of West Kentucky.

For a complete list of RISK: Paducah events, visit www.kybaptist.org/annualmeeting and click on the "RISK: Paducah" tab. (KBC)

For information on "My Hope with Billy Graham," contact Dan Powell by email at dpowell198@aol.com or by phone at (502) 693-9075.



Lee Rust, founder and director of Freedom Forever Ministries, will provide opportunities for missions outreach with more than 40 male inmates and about 700 incarcerated women during RISK: Paducah. (WR file photo/Robin Cornet Bass)

RISK: Paducah

Continued from page 1

more people through her ministry to the incarcerated. For 14 years, Rust has ministered to women in prison, but by joining forces with Kentucky Baptists, Freedom Forever will serve a meal and share the gospel with 40 male inmates of the McCracken County Jail.

"This is an opportunity to preach the gospel to these men, but also to encourage Christian leadership in their families, in their home, (and) to boost these men and move them forward out of the system," Rust said.

A second lunch is being held Nov. 2 for about 700 women at a local prison.

The meals and messages will expand Freedom Forever's reach beyond their regular ministry efforts. Rust said the evangelistic push leading up to the Nov. 12 KBC Annual Meeting focuses on diverse groups in the community "to try to promote or start a wave of revival."

For the incarcerated, acts of kindness such as a meal and an inspirational message can rekindle the Christian faith that 86 percent of the female inmates say they became familiar with years ago, Rust said.

"They are drawn back to it by what they were taught as a child," she explained. "They miss it and desire it. Now they're ready to hear the gospel; they're ready to understand what they need to do to be released from this guilt and unforgiveness."

Opportunity: Prayerwalking

Risk: Paducah has been a rallying point for members of First Baptist Church of Paducah, according to Pastor Russ Wilson.

"We're to be witnesses outside the walls of the church," he said. "The only way the world is going to hear about Christ is if we go, and it's certainly the same way in our communities."

First Baptist Church of Paducah is partnering with Lone Oak First Baptist Church on Nov. 9 to conduct door-to-door faith surveys and prayerwalk the communities.

Wilson said the surveys give believers an easy way to introduce the topic of spirituality in a door-to-door encounter.

"It's just a good way, even for the people who are conducting the surveys, to

feel a little more comfortable, kind of break down their fear barrier if you will," he said.

Wilson said he hopes other churches in McCracken and Ballard counties will participate in the surveying and prayerwalking. For details, phone Wilson at (270) 442-2728 or Howard Fuller at (270) 554-1441.

Opportunity: Girls' event

Kristen White, an author and speaker from Shelbyville, is helping coordinate "Beyond Compare" on Nov. 9, a girls' night out for students in middle and high school.

"Many girls spend a lot of time these days comparing themselves to one another or to images in a magazine or on TV," said White, who consults for the KBC Evangelism & Church Planting Team. "We want to let them know that their real value lies in how God sees them and loves them, and how He demonstrated that love."

First Baptist Church of Paducah is hosting the event which begins at 6 p.m., CST. Participants will make Pinterest-style gifts to take home as reminders of what they have learned, White said.

Additional volunteers, preferably from the church, are needed to help at the Beyond Compare event. For details, contact White by e-mail at kris.white@kybaptist.org or call (502) 489-3349 or 1-800-266-6477, ext. 3349.

Opportunity: Wild game dinner

Twelve Oaks Baptist Church is hosting a wild game dinner Nov. 7 at its facility at 2110 New Holt Rd. in Paducah. Chuck McAlister, leader of the KBC Evangelism, Church Planting & Collegiate Ministries Team, said several KBC churches have hosted similar events this year with good results.

"What really excites church members is seeing their fellowship halls filled with people who probably would never feel comfortable coming to a church service," McAlister said. "Those are the folks who need to hear about the love of Christ, and this is a great way to share with them." (KBC) For more about Risk: Paducah activities, or information on the Kentucky Baptist Pastors' Conference and 176th Annual Meeting of the Kentucky Baptist Convention, visit kybaptist.org/annualmeeting.



Kristen White



Chuck McAlister

CP investment in UC

I recently attended the board of trustees meeting at University of the Cumberlands. Jim Taylor, UC president, invited me to serve as a board member some years ago. After resigning that position to become executive director of the Kentucky Baptist Convention, I continue to

Together We are the KBC



Paul Chitwood

be involved in the life of the university as an honorary board member.

My interest in UC's mission is, to a large degree, selfish. I was raised in the shadow of her steeples and in a family indelibly marked by the institution. To date, 34 members of my and Michelle's families have attended the university. That includes

both Michelle and me, and Michelle holds both undergraduate and graduate degrees from UC. My sister is a current student. How could I measure the impact of UC upon our family?

In 1978, Taylor received unanimous appointment as president-elect of what was then known as Cumberland College. Himself a graduate, Taylor served in several administrative roles at the college before becoming president. During his tenure, student enrollment has grown from under 2,000 to nearly 5,000 undergraduate and graduate students. Because of Taylor's commitment to undergirding the financial future of the institution through tireless fundraising efforts, endowment funds have grown from under \$7 million in 1980 to more than \$76 million today.

Changes to the campus during Taylor's nearly four decades of leadership are impossible to appreciate from a written description. Let me simply state that updates to buildings I walked as a boy make them difficult to recognize and those buildings have been multiplied many times over. If traveling I-75 near the Kentucky/Tennessee border, take exit 11 at Williamsburg and enjoy a driving tour. Now visible from the interstate, it will only take a few minutes of your time, but will surely leave you in awe of the architectural beauty of this Kentucky Baptist institution.

Over the years, Kentucky Baptists have invested tens of millions of dollars in the university through the Cooperative Program. I'm fairly certain that CP is the largest single donor in the university's history. And Kentucky Baptists have additionally invested untold millions of dollars in the university through personal gifts, estates, scholarships, etc.

The return on this investment is not only the ongoing educational opportunities afforded by an institution espousing a Christian worldview and distinctly Baptist identity, but also generations of graduates who serve the Kentucky Baptist and broader Southern Baptist family. Moreover, the impact of students on mission through UC's local Mountain Outreach ministry, through national and international mission trips, and through careers where they will live out the teachings of Scripture and bear witness to Christ means that, through UC, Kentucky Baptists are reaching Kentucky and the world for Christ.

Paul Chitwood is executive director of the Kentucky Baptist Convention.

Oneida impacting students' lives for Christ

This past week, I had an opportunity to tour our Kentucky Baptist boarding and day school, Oneida Baptist Institute, and meet its new president, Larry Gritton, and his wife, Angie.

Gracing a small, rural community in a picturesque mountain valley in southeast Kentucky, Oneida has been educating children for nearly 115 years. Today, its student body is comprised of approximately 260 students from 25 states and 17 countries. Most of these students, about 35 percent of whom come from Kentucky, are in the 6th through 12th grades, but the school also offers classes for kindergarten onward for the children of faculty members and area residents.

For Gritton, Oneida has become part of his family legacy. He understands from personal experience what the school's mission is all about. He and Angie seem to be a natural fit, both having been former students. Larry grew up at Oneida, while his parents, Larry Sr. and Linda Gritton, taught at the school. His father served as basketball coach, athletic director and principal, and his mother also served as principal of its middle school. In fact, one of OBI's gyms is named in their honor.

Gritton and Angie met while attending OBI, and Angie even took classes that were taught by his parents. After graduating from college, they returned to serve on its staff; he, as a teacher coach and athletic director from 1997-2004; and she, as a teacher, coach and guidance counselor. For the past nine years, though, Gritton has been athletic director at two Christian schools in Fort Myers, Fla. They returned to Oneida in August with their three children—Trey, Madison and Alexander—who, from their mother's accounts, all seemed to be adjusting well to the slower pace of their new home in the mountains and are excited about attending school at Oneida.

The new president beamed as he showed off his campus, stopping to chat with some of its 130 faculty and staff members, as if to beloved family members, along the way. Oneida's administration building features a large, beautiful auditorium, where students attend chapel services daily. In addition to a classroom building, boys and girls dormitories, and dining

hall, there are two gymnasiums—one with a beautiful hardwood floor—and a swimming complex.

Hundreds of volunteers visit the campus every year and donate their labor for campus maintenance and renovation projects. While we were there, some carpentry volunteers from Alabama were staying in the nearby campground while assisting with remodeling the interior of Anderson Hall, which will soon be ready to house guests in its comfortable, attractive rooms in the heart of the campus.

For high school students, Oneida offers a core curriculum of English, math, science, social studies and physical education as well as Bible, fine arts and computer literacy. Electives include art appreciation, yearbook, piano, guitar, chorus, music, drama, clothing design, commercial art and Spanish. More than 60 percent of its graduates continue their studies at institutions of higher education.

In addition to providing a quality education taught in a caring, Christian environment, Oneida offers a variety of sports opportunities, including girls' volleyball and softball, boys' baseball, and coed basketball, track and field, cross-country, tennis and soccer. Gritton hopes to add golf soon.

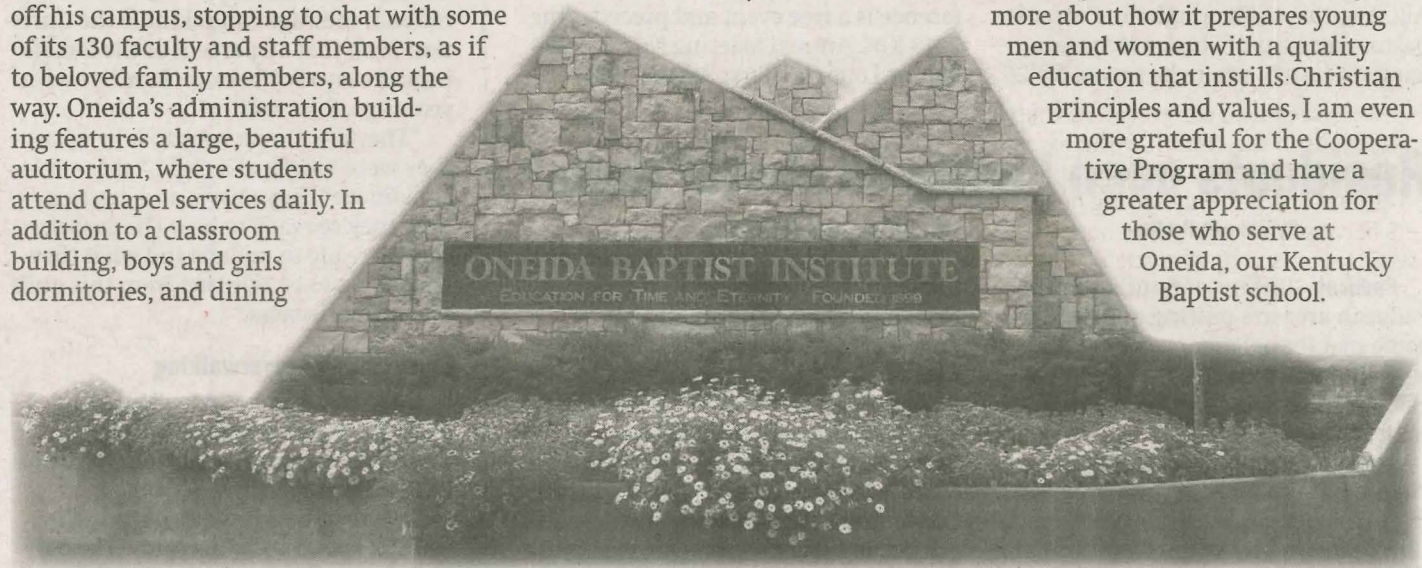
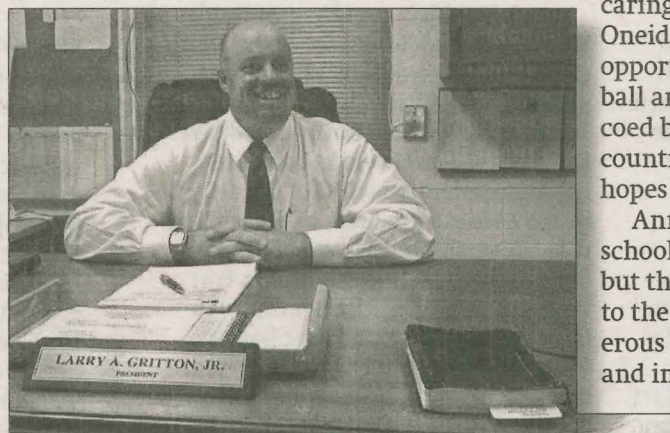
Annual tuition and boarding at the school would likely exceed \$20,000, but thanks to Kentucky Baptists' gifts to the Cooperative Program and generous contributions from churches and individual donors, the cost drops to an average of about \$6,000 per student, making it much more affordable for the region's families. No student, however, is turned away because of a lack of ability to pay, and Oneida offers work-study options where students can serve on maintenance and cleaning crews or work on its farm.

Oneida is making a significant impact for Christ in the lives of its students. After seeing this Kentucky Baptist school, meeting some of its dedicated faculty members, and hearing more about how it prepares young men and women with a quality education that instills Christian principles and values, I am even more grateful for the Cooperative Program and have a greater appreciation for those who serve at Oneida, our Kentucky Baptist school.



After Thought

By Todd Deaton



WESTERN Recorder

Box 43969
Louisville, KY 40253

DR. TODD DEATON
Editor

ROBIN CORNETT BASS
News Director

THOMAS C. TOWNSEND
Marketing & Business Manager

Board of Directors:

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

Shine Like Stars * Philippians 2:15

Western Recorder is published weekly 48 weeks a year by Western Recorder Inc., an agency of the Kentucky Baptist Convention, Box 43969, Louisville, KY 40253. It will not be published the first week of January, the week of Independence Day or the week of Christmas. Periodicals postage paid at Louisville, Ky. (USPS 679-380)

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

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

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

WesternRecorder.org



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

Want to reach teens? Take social media seriously

By Joe Ball

If you are going to work with teenagers today you have to have a working knowledge of social media and how teens use it to communicate with the world around them. So, let's take a look at some of the top social media sites teens are using today. But keep in mind that you could probably write this article every three months and the list would be different.

Texting—Virtually all students text. If you are not familiar with texting or using it to engage students, you are a dinosaur and may not be relevant to their culture at all. Like it or not, texting is the primary way that students communicate with other people in the world around them. Working cross-culturally requires us to learn how to communicate to and with the culture we are trying to reach.

Facebook—According to a May 2013 Pew Internet report about teens and social media usage, "when asked where they maintain profiles or accounts, some 94 percent of teen social users say they have a Facebook profile, and 81 percent of them say that Facebook is the profile they use most often." But even how they use Facebook is changing. It is no longer the go-to place for everything. It is seen more like a family reunion where you go to catch up on the latest news, than the hangout with your friends that it used to be.

Twitter—Offers connections with anyone in the world and users post updates in 140 characters or less. They call follow celebrities, athletes or their favorite TV show, and be followed by them as well. The Holy Grail for twitter users is to be retweeted by one of the celebrities they are following. It is one of the fastest growing social apps among teens.

Instagram—This photo editing and sharing app is popular with teenage girls who love their "selfies." This app allows users to take pictures, apply digital filters, and share them on a variety of social networks such as Facebook and Twitter, and the images are publicly visible by default. It now has video sharing capa-

Youth Ministry Corner



Joe Ball

bilities as well.

You Tube—A video sharing service that allows users to watch videos posted by others users and upload videos of their own. You don't have to register to watch videos that others post. While schools and companies use You Tube to post training and other materials, most of You Tube videos are just for fun.

Snapchat—Allows users to send messages, photos and videos that are destroyed six seconds after they have been received. This service is marketed to teens with "capture the moment" messaging, and plays on its contrast to Facebook, which archives every post and picture for years. Snapchat's fleeting image feature offers users the illusion of anonymity, but screenshots can be taken. According to Yahoo news 150 million snaps are shared daily.

Pheed—Allows users to share all forms of digital content in 420 character or less. Teens are the primary users of Pheed, which is one of the top apps in the iPhone store. Each user gets their own channel where they can post their content publicly or privately. In addition to the social media aspects like Facebook, Pheed is a full service broadcast medium. Users can share audio tracks and live broadcasts. Your teenager could conceivably live-stream every waking moment on Pheed.

Vine—Users create and post six-second videos, which are often also shared on Twitter and Facebook. Expect enough inappropriate content here to earn the app a 17+ rating in the iTunes Store.

The biggest news in social media may not be in what teens are using, but in how they are using it. Teens are moving from open to discrete in usage. Moving away from regular usage of sites like Facebook and Twitter (where everything is open and archived) to building private networks with apps like Vine and Snapchat, where they have more control over who sees their postings.

Joe Ball, a former youth minister at Edgewood Baptist Church in Hopkinsville, is youth ministry strategist for Crossings Ministries.

Will your gift be deductible?

By Laurie Valentine

Do you know which gifts are charitable contributions that can be deductible on income tax returns?

To be deductible the transfer must be a gift to charity. The IRS requires what you give have a value that exceeds any benefit you receive from the charity in return. If you receive some thing or benefit, your deduction is limited to the difference between the value of what you give and the value of what you receive.

If you receive or expect to receive a bargained-for benefit, you are not entitled to a charitable income tax deduction, no matter how the transaction is styled.

A gift to charity earmarked by the giver for a particular individual is not deductible if the giver's intention was to benefit a individual, rather than advance the mission of the charity. The test for deductibility is whether the charity has full control and discretion over the gifted funds and their use.

Gifts must be completed by Dec. 31 to be deductible in that tax year.

Cash gifts are completed if the check is dated by Dec. 31 and delivered to the charity, or placed in the mail with postage, by Dec. 31. Gifts of securities are completed when endorsed stock or bond certificates are delivered to the charity (or mailed), or when the securities are received into the charity's brokerage account, or when the security is retitled on the books of the issuing company, whichever occurs first. Real estate gifts are completed when a properly executed deed is delivered to the charity.

If the amount of charitable gifts in one tax year exceeds percentage limits, you are permitted to carry the unused portion of the deduction forward and use the balance over the next five tax years. Contributions of services to charity and allowing a charity to use your property rent-free are not deductible gifts.

Laurie Valentine is trust counsel for the Kentucky Baptist Foundation.

Competing with big box churches? Sometimes being different is good

By Mark Wingfield

There's a "big box" church in our town that's all the rage. If you live anywhere in America that's even slightly urban, there's probably a big box church in your area as well.

By "big box" I mean the kind of huge generic conservative evangelical congregation that is analogous in the church world to Walmart or Best Buy in the retail world. Walmart and Best Buy are big box retailers because they establish enormous retail spaces and cover such a diverse inventory. Big box churches build themselves on drawing worshippers from other smaller congregations and always having the latest stuff. And they're always more hip than other churches.

One of the problems with big box retailers is they tend to shut out existing smaller retailers. For good or for ill, that's just the fact. The same is true with big box churches. It's hard for a small- or mid-sized church to sustain a viable youth ministry when the big box church nearby has all the energy and magnetism and technology.

So what are other churches to do?

My brother-in-law is a business consultant. He's one of those MBA-types who hires out to various companies to become the outside voice to tell them what they ought to do, which has taken him into a wide variety of business appli-

cations and systems.

The other day, I asked him this question: "What is the course of action when a business begins to lose market share to a big, innovative, fast-growing competitor who moves into an area and sucks up

FIRST PERSON

customers from all the smaller, more established shops in town?"

His answer: "The most successful way to compete with innovative superstores is to highlight your own specialization."

So think for a moment about the practical application of this truth. When Walmart moves in to town, the local grocery store, clothing store and even hardware store may quake in fear. But there is another way. And that is to figure out what your store can do really well that Walmart can't do. Maybe it's customer service. Maybe it's carrying specialty items. Maybe it's being easy to access. Maybe it's having staff who are friendly and knowledgeable.

Faced with similar challenges, the answer most Protestant churches in America have chosen over the last 20 years is to try to compete with the big box church by adopting its style and feel. We've been told that the only way to compete with the new contemporary worship, seeker-driven, big-box churches is to copy what they do. If it's working for them, surely it will work for us.

The reality, however, is that while changing worship styles or program formats does work for some congregations,

it doesn't work for many others. Putting on the kind of programming and worship the mega-churches offer requires resources far beyond what most American congregations have.

Take it from a sociologist

If you don't believe me, listen to Jason Wollschleger, sociology professor at Whitworth University in Spokane, Wash. Wollschleger was interested in the effects of conservative evangelical mega-churches on other existing churches. The results of his inquiry was published in the Review of Religious Research.

One of the things he discovered was that "having a mega-church in the same county was going to have a negative effect on congregations that occupied a similar religious niche." Evangelical, Pentecostal and Fundamentalist churches located in the same counties as mega-churches were all slightly worse off than they should be, compared to U.S. averages.

The second thing this sociologist learned was that when a conservative evangelical mega-church moves in to an area, it actually helps the churches that are seen as dissimilar to the mega-church. The researcher believes that "the mega-church's presence might spur competition and provide leaders of other kinds of churches with a kind of foil against which they could identify themselves."

Wollschleger also draws on a

Walmart analogy. "When little stores could create a unique identity and offer something that Walmarts can't ... they do well," he reported. In counties where conservative evangelical mega-churches have taken root, the rate of decline for Mainline Protestant churches was found to be about one-third the rate of decline for similar churches elsewhere in the nation. Churches that are clearly different than the mega-churches are benefitting.

The third thing the research showed is congregations that try to compete with the mega-churches on the same turf with the same techniques and style don't fare well. To quote Wollschleger, churches that attempt to do what the mega-churches are doing but don't have the size or resources to do it as well are "getting slaughtered. It looks like they're just being wiped out."

My own congregation is large by most standards, but is not a mega-church and certainly isn't a big box church. What we are is a "boutique" church, a label I use to explain that we're not trying to be all things to all people. We're more like a large specialty store that knows what works in its context and can easily be contrasted to the mega-church down the road. We've found Wollschleger's advice to ring true.

Sometimes you just need to be different. (ABP)

Mark Wingfield, a former editor of Western Recorder, is associate pastor of Wilshire Baptist Church in Dallas.

Ezell to NAMB trustees in Toronto: 'This is a historic time'

By Mike Ebert

Toronto—President Kevin Ezell punctuated his remarks at NAMB's Oct. 9 board meeting by challenging trustees to remember: "We are not where we need to be—there is still much to do."

Ezell also told trustees of NAMB's transition to a new funding model with southern conventions that will yield more funding for key church planting initiatives across the country.

Ezell's comments came at the close of a three-day meeting when NAMB's trustees gathered for the first time in Canada. Trustees visited church plant sites throughout Toronto to meet church planters who shared the challenges of ministering in one of the world's most



Kevin Ezell

culturally diverse cities and how God is moving in the hearts of its residents.

Also at the meeting:

- Carlos Ferrer, who is now executive vice president/chief financial officer, reported that NAMB's fiscal year-to-date revenue at the end of August was \$109 million with expenses of \$99 million. Cooperative Program revenue at the end of September had totaled \$42.9 million and gifts to the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering for North American Missions totaled \$56.9 million.

- NAMB-endorsed chaplains have shared Christ 31,000 times so far in 2013, with 7,238 professions of faith and 1,065 baptisms, trustees were told. Carver said he anticipates continuing challenges for SBC military chaplains and asked for continued prayer.

- Al Gilbert, NAMB's vice president for evangelism, reported that NAMB is gearing up for the 2014 "GPS: God's Plan for

Sharing" emphasis and announced the development of an online presence for churches to post the various ministry evangelism programs they have and how they might be willing to coach others in developing similar ministries.

- Micah Millican, NAMB's director for church planter relations, reported that 1,500 church planters are now part of NAMB's Send North America Network planter care ministry.

Ezell announced a new funding model between NAMB and South Region state conventions. The traditional cooperative budget agreement between NAMB and each South Region convention is transitioning to a grant system that is simpler, leaves more spending decisions to the states and will no longer include personnel.

With savings from the transition, Ezell said NAMB will be able to double church planting funds in 2015 in states

such as Illinois, Indiana and Ohio. The shift of funds from South to non-South regions also will allow NAMB to invest \$1 million over four years for new churches in the Interstate 29 corridor stretching from the Dakotas to Kansas City. The funding shift also will provide an additional 15 church planting catalysts throughout North America.

"This is an historic time," Ezell said. "It allows us to do things we would not have had the funds to do."

Ezell announced plans for three new national church planting catalysts:

- national CPC for deaf churches to focus on starting 100 new churches for the deaf in the next 10 years.

- national CPC for military churches.

- national CPC for missional communities to focus on forming cell groups or missional communities in Send North America cities with the goal of eventually yielding new church plants. (NAMB)

Toronto

Continued from page 1

The growing population and a growing skepticism toward Christians make Toronto an especially critical place for church planting. Jeff Christopherson, NAMB's regional vice president for Canada and the Northeast, noted when Christians are denied space in buildings that once housed churches you know you've reached a profound place.

"Not many people know A.W. Tozer pastored a church in Toronto," Christopherson said. "Now his church and a number of others are being rented by religious groups like the Hari Krishnas."

Tozer, who wrote "The Pursuit of Holiness," was pastor of Avenue Road Church in Toronto.

Trustees loaded three buses heading out to the east and west sides of the city. They heard from native Torontonians, political refugees fleeing their countries and Southern Baptist church planters who moved to the GTA within the last few months or years. While stories of how they came to the area may vary, they shared the common conviction that God had placed them there to bring the gospel to Canada's cultural and economic nerve center.

Church planter Mike Hauser, who left a prominent position at a large church in Toronto to plant a church in a neighboring community, summed up the mindset of reaching people in a place like Toronto.

"When God calls you to do something and you look around with your eyes, you begin to think, 'There's nothing here!'" Hauser said. "That's when God says, 'I've got this. Just step out in faith.'" God often just wants us to make ourselves available."

If trustees had visited Toronto only a few years ago, there might not have been enough church planters for a worthwhile tour. But as trustees and planters gathered after the tour, it was obvious the tide in Toronto is changing.

"A few years ago I was personal friends with most of the planters in Toronto," Christopherson said. "I knew them because I had personally dragged them here myself. This is truly a historic moment not only for Toronto but for Canada as a whole." (NAMB)



Sandi Patty

LIVE in Lexington

Thursday, November 7, 2013 7pm

Immanuel Baptist Church

3100 Tates Creek Road | Lexington, KY 40502

Tickets On-Sale Now Starting at \$15 | (855) 223-1008

www.AttendStar.com (keywords: Sandi Patty)

Mohler honored for 20 years as SBTS president

By James Smith Sr.

Louisville—Twenty years to the day after his inauguration as Southern Baptist Theological Seminary's ninth president, the school's trustees honored Albert Mohler Jr. for his leadership in recovering the founders' vision for the seminary and for its progress since 1993.

During an Oct. 15 chapel service, trustee chairman Todd Fisher read a resolution of "thanksgiving and appreciation," unanimously adopted during the trustees' Oct. 14-15 semiannual meeting, tracing Mohler's stewardship of Southern Seminary through two decades.

The statement expresses "profound gratefulness" for Mohler's "faithfulness" to restore the seminary, which was a key concern of grassroots Southern Baptists resulting in the "Conservative Resurgence" in the nation's largest Protestant denomination during the 1980s and 1990s.

Fisher, senior pastor of Immanuel Baptist Church in Shawnee, Okla., read from 2 Timothy 4:1-5, a passage he said is "very fitting" for the occasion.

Addressing Mohler, Fisher said, "Thank you so much for all you've done for this seminary and the Kingdom of God."

A framed copy of the resolution was presented to Mohler and his wife Mary, who were greeted by a lengthy standing ovation by the filled-to-capacity audience in Alumni Memorial Chapel.

In response, Mohler told the seminary community the recognition is "humbling" for himself and Mary. "And what an incredibly moving day," he said.

Saying he did not want to "linger" on the matter, but reflecting on his inauguration ceremony in the same building 20 years earlier, Mohler said, "We had no assurance that we would be here 20 years thereafter. Matter of fact, we had no assurance that this seminary



Albert Mohler Jr. and Mary Mohler receive from trustee chairman Todd Fisher (right) a resolution of "thanksgiving and appreciation" unanimously adopted by Southern Seminary's trustees during their Oct. 14-15 semiannual meeting marking Mohler's 20th anniversary as president of the Louisville school. (Photo courtesy of SBTS.)

would be here 20 years thereafter."

Mohler also reflected, "This is the seminary that God has built and what a joy it is to be able to reflect upon that."

Noting 20 years is a "significant period of life," Mohler said, "I think in many ways those were the most strategically invested years of my life and I want you to know that I would do nothing other with them if ever I were asked or given the alternative. There is no alternative history I would choose here. This is it. And for that I am unspeakably grateful."

Mohler then preached on the theology of gratitude in a sermon titled, "What Do You Have That You Did Not Receive? Gratitude and Christian Discipleship," from 1 Corinthians 4:1-7.

Following chapel, a reception for the president and his family, attended by students, faculty and staff, was held in

the seminary's Duke K. McCall Sesqui-centennial Pavilion.

The trustee resolution notes that Southern is now one of the largest seminaries in the world, with the largest enrollment of master of divinity students in any seminary. According to the Association of Theological Schools, in 2012-13, Southern had a total enrollment of 4,366, compared to 2,858 in 1993, making it the second-largest ATS-accredited school.

Trustees requested copies of the resolution be sent to SBC President Fred Luter and Executive Committee President Frank Page "with encouragement that it be shared with the wider Southern Baptist family so that all may join us in celebrating this important milestone in the ministry of Dr. Albert Mohler Jr. and history of The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary." (SBTS)

Southern releases documentary about Mohler presidency

Louisville—The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary has released a new 25-minute documentary film that tells the story of Albert Mohler Jr.'s presidency of the seminary. The film, "Recovering a Vision: The Presidency of R. Albert Mohler Jr.," looks at Mohler's 20-year tenure within the school's own history and the history of the Southern Baptist Convention.

When, in 1993, Mohler became president of the seminary, the school's board of trustees charged him with returning the school to its founding commitments. But Mohler's task came with a high cost.

"Recovering a Vision," produced by Southern Productions in cooperation with the seminary's Office of Communications, documents the seminary's drift to liberalism and Mohler's fight to recover the school in the face of severe opposition. The film also places the struggles of Southern Seminary within the Conservative Resurgence movement in the SBC, particularly examining the inherent and symbiotic relationship between the convention and its seminaries.

The documentary features interviews with historians and first-hand accounts of the events by students, faculty and SBC leaders, including Gregory Wills, Jimmy Scroggins, Timothy George and Paige Patterson.

The release of the film coincides with the seminary's Heritage Week activities, most of which centered this year around Mohler's anniversary. Other events for the week include the seminary's semi-annual meetings of its board of trustees and the Foundation Board. Both boards held banquets honoring the Mohlers. (SBTS)

Recovering a Vision is available for viewing on the Southern Seminary Resources Web page: sbts.edu/recovering-a-vision.

Guidestone

Continued from page 1

violated by a rule issued by the Department of Health and Human Services to implement the 2010 health-care law. The HHS regulation requires employers to pay for coverage of workers' contraceptives, including drugs that can cause abortions, but does not provide an exemption for entities like those that filed suit.

"GuideStone plans do not cover drugs or devices that can or do cause abortions," GuideStone President O.S. Hawkins said in a written release from the entity Oct. 14.

"We reluctantly take this step because we are committed to protecting the unborn and preserving the religious freedom that is guaranteed under the laws of this nation," he said.

GuideStone has protested a series of "final" rules issued during the last two years by HHS on contraceptive coverage, joining the Southern Baptist Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission and Southern Baptist leaders—as well as evangelical and Roman Catholic organizations—in opposing the mandate and its

lack of adequate conscience protections for religious employers.

After GuideStone failed to achieve satisfactory results through legislative and regulatory processes, Hawkins signaled to the Southern Baptist Executive Committee in September the entity would file suit.

"While we have secured some partial relief, it does not go far enough. Many ministry organizations are still in harm's way despite the fact that they also share core convictions regarding the sanctity of life," said Hawkins in a written statement to Baptist Press.

ERLC President Russell Moore said in a statement to Baptist Press, "GuideStone is absolutely right to stand against this incursion on conscience and the free exercise of religion. Southern Baptists stand with GuideStone. We at the ERLC will continue to work to repeal this obnoxious mandate and to restore religious liberty in this vital area."

The lawsuit cites 16 counts against HHS and its mandate, including violations of the First Amendment's free

exercise and establishment clauses and the 1993 Religious Freedom Restoration Act. Foes of the abortion/contraception mandate say HHS has provided adequate conscience protections for churches and affiliated auxiliaries, but not for other religious institutions.

The suit seeks a preliminary injunction blocking enforcement of the mandate until the judicial process is complete. GuideStone and its fellow plaintiffs face heavy financial penalties for non-compliance. The mandate will take effect Jan. 1, 2014, for GuideStone.

The GuideStone suit is the 74th filed against the mandate, according to the Becket Fund for Religious Liberty, which is representing GuideStone and the other plaintiffs.

"The government's refusal to treat these ministries as 'religious employers' is senseless," said Mark Rienzi, senior counsel for the Becket Fund, in a written release. "These people spend their lives teaching and preaching their religious faith—if they do not qualify as 'religious employers,' the government needs to get a new definition."

"GuideStone is absolutely right to stand against this incursion on conscience and the free exercise of religion."

Russell Moore

The U.S. Supreme Court is expected to announce soon if it will review lower court decisions regarding the abortion/contraception mandate. Both the Department of Justice and Conestoga Wood Specialties, a Pennsylvania business owned by pro-life Christians, asked the high court Sept. 19 to review separate decisions that clashed at the appeals court level. The DOJ petition came in an appeal won by Hobby Lobby, an Oklahoma City-based retail chain owned by pro-life evangelicals.

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 mandate before the end of its term in late June or early July.

Truett-McConnell is affiliated with the Georgia Baptist Convention, and Reaching Souls is a mission organization that trains Africans to reach their continent with the gospel of Christ.

GuideStone, which is based in Dallas, serves not only churches but missions organizations, schools, hospitals and other ministries. In addition to health and other insurance coverage, GuideStone also offers retirement, investment management, property and casualty coverage and other services. (BP)

'Head out the window'**Youngest son, many students ask Jesus into their hearts**

When my daughter accepted Christ three years ago, my father said, "Well, son, you are two-thirds of the way there." With Madison's salvation, two of my three children had accepted the Lord. Since that day, I have often thought of the day when I would possibly be 100 percent of the way there. My youngest son, Alex, has asked many questions about salvation in the past year or so. During a recent car ride, Alex said to his mom, "Mom, while I had my head out the window, I asked Jesus into my heart."

While I don't suggest it as a common practice, this might serve as a lesson to all Christian parents that maybe your child hanging his head out of the window of a vehicle is not all bad. Alex and I talked about what it meant to ask Jesus into our hearts, and while he is only 7 years old, I believe he understands what it means to be a sinner who accepts God's gift of forgiveness and eternal life.

On Oct. 5, I was blessed with a 100 percent parental success rate. While I have so many other things I want to see my three children accomplish, I will sleep well at night knowing their salvation and eternity are secure in Christ.

As I grow to love our student body as I love my own children, my prayer is that they all come to know Christ as their Lord and Savior, or grow in their faith if they already know Him. The Lord recently blessed us with revival on our campus. We had a speaker from Ohio and a former local student who led in musical worship. The former student who led in worship told our young

people that while they may not realize it at the time, being a student at a Christian school is a tremendous blessing. Throughout the course of seven services, many of our young people gave

their hearts to the Lord. My heart was blessed as I watched so many of our students walk the aisle and pronounce their newfound faith in Christ.

Young people come to our campus with their heads out of the window looking for so many things. They come looking for better grades, a diploma, friends, freedom from addiction, work ethic and job skills, safety, love, respect for authority, and more. The list could go on and on, but the most important thing our kids can find here is the Lord Jesus Christ. Our students attend seven worship services each week, and while some of them may feel Christianity is forced upon them, I know when the Holy Spirit moves, our efforts with these services are more than worthwhile. Our students also have devotions, campus ministry events, and a loving faculty and staff available to them around the clock.

Whether 7 or 17 years old, new believers in Christ have the opportunity to grow each day as they walk in their faith. I want to encourage each of you to grow in your faith, to remember what it was like when you first found Jesus, and to share that faith with all you encounter. I can't wait to see Alex and our other OBI students get baptized and then grow and mature in their faith.

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

This is Oneida**Larry Gritton****Welcome to campus****New staff joins the ministry of Clear Creek**

Meet our new staff and faculty:

■ Gerald P. Simmons (or "G. P." as he likes to be called) and his wife, Jenny, came to Clear Creek in July to respectively serve as director and secretary of the Christian Service Department. They are no strangers to campus. Sensing God's call into the ministry, G. P. and Jenny moved from West Virginia to Clear Creek in 2004. G. P. graduated from Clear Creek in 2008 with a bachelor's in pastoral ministry, then went on to graduate from Liberty University in 2010 with a master's of arts in professional counseling. He holds licenses as a professional counselor in Tennessee and Kentucky.

■ Gene Roberts and his wife, Angela, arrived at Clear Creek in August. He will serve as adjunct instructor of Church Music. Gene earned his degree in business administration at The Citadel in Charleston, S.C., and earned a master's of music from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. He has served churches in South Carolina, North Carolina, Texas, Tennessee and Georgia. Angela holds a bachelor's degree in chemistry and serves as a

private tutor focusing on chemistry, English, math and test preparation.

■ James E. "Ed" Goodman joined the staff as director of admissions in September. He is married to Emily, who is a alumna of Mt. Vernon. Ed is an alumnus of Clear Creek and recently graduated from Union University with his master's degree. He begins work on his educational doctorate from The University of the Cumberlands this month. Emily received her bachelor's degree from the University of the Cumberlands and her master's from Mississippi State University with an emphasis in meteorology.

New staff members expressed excitement about being able to serve the Lord at Clear Creek Bible College.

Ed Goodman added, "My heart is humbled to have my former professors and mentors as colleagues now. My heart's desire is to help God-called people prepare for ministry and fulfill the divine call that has been placed on their lives."

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

Clear Creek Chronicle**Donnie Fox****State judges, legislators weigh gay marriage definition and legality**

By Tom Strode

Washington—Judges and legislators are preparing to determine the definition of legal marriage in a variety of states.

Whether same-sex unions should be recognized as marriages soon will be weighed by government in New Jersey, New Mexico, Hawaii and Michigan. The fate of the latest efforts to expand gay marriage beyond 13 states and the District of Columbia will be determined in those states either in the next few weeks or next year. Among the latest developments:

■ The New Jersey Supreme Court agreed Oct. 11 to review a state judge's decision to legalize same-sex marriage in the state. The justices scheduled oral arguments in the appeal for Jan. 6-7.

■ The New Mexico Supreme Court will hear oral arguments Oct. 23 on whether judicial decisions legalizing gay marriage in two counties should be extended throughout the state.

■ Hawaii's attorney general issued a legal opinion Oct. 15 saying the legislature has the authority to legalize same-sex marriage being amended. The ruling came as the Hawaii legislature prepares for a special session that will begin Oct. 28 to con-

sider legalizing gay marriage.

■ A federal judge in Michigan disappointed same-sex marriage advocates Oct. 16 by delaying a decision on the state's ban on such unions, saying he would rule after a trial scheduled to begin Feb. 25.

Southern Baptist ethicist Russell Moore pointed to the responsibility of Christians to defend the biblical view of marriage amidst cultural change and legal challenges.

"We have known for some time now that we're in the midst of a major cultural redefinition of marriage," said Moore, president of the Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission.

"At the end of all of this, though, will be a basic marriage longing to know whether marriage is rooted in something more permanent than court decrees or culture shifts," he said. "We must stand here with a witness to the marriage of man and woman as more than a state creation, but instead as an icon of the gospel of Christ and his church, bride and Groom."

Same-sex marriage is legal in California, Connecticut, Delaware, Iowa, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Minnesota, New Hampshire, New York, Rhode Island, Washington and Vermont. (BP)

Research: Bad choices & second chances

By Aaron Earls

Nashville, Tenn.—Regret weighs down many Americans. According to a new study from LifeWay Research, almost half the country feels the weight of a bad choice from their past, even though a vast majority believe God gives second chances.

When asked to respond to the statement, "I am dealing with the consequences of a bad decision," 47 percent of respondents agreed.

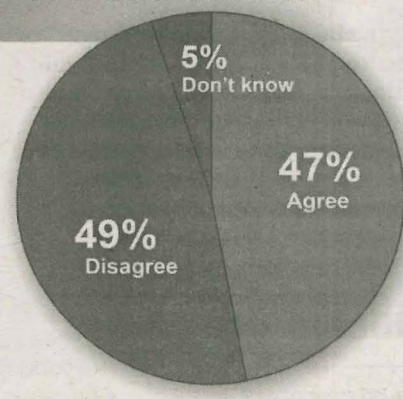
While self-defined Protestant or non-denominational Christians are less likely to agree (42 percent), a majority of those who said they are a born-again, evangelical or fundamentalist believe (51 percent) they are still dealing with a wrong choice from their past.

Recognizing a sizeable percentage of people are suffering consequences from past mistakes allows Christians to show grace, Ed Stetzer, president of LifeWay Research, said.

"Christians minister grace out of grace," Stetzer said. "Caring for those dealing with pain and regrets is not about fulfilling obligations or relieving guilt, as all of that has already been taken care of by Christ."

The study, sponsored by Bible Studies for Life, a group study from LifeWay Christian Resources, also found the vast majority of Americans believe God gives second chances for those who have made a bad decision. Overall, 84 percent believe so, while 94 percent of Protestants and 98 percent of evangelicals agree God gives second chances.

Nearly one in five Americans believe God gives a second chance when a person depends only on God (19 percent), followed closely by when a person makes restitution (18 percent), does enough good (15 percent) or promises not to

I am dealing with the consequences of a bad decision.

repeat the mistake (11 percent). Fewer than one in six Americans say they are not sure why God gives second chances.

"In all, some 44 percent of respondents believe God's offering of a second chance depends on some kind of human action," said Ronnie Floyd, general editor for Bible Studies for Life.

For Floyd, this viewpoint creates unneeded issues. "The problem with trusting in one's self to gain a second chance from God is that we cannot trust ourselves to get it right," he said.

"Why put extra pressure on ourselves to fix things?" Floyd asked. "We shouldn't. The most scriptural response to a failure is to ask God to intervene to accomplish His will."

Bible Studies for Life commissioned the study to demonstrate the need for a better understanding of what the Bible teaches about past mistakes and God's grace in providing second chances.

The study also is part of a book, "Do Over," available in LifeWay Christian Stores and at LifeWay.com. (LifeWay/BP)

Cumberlands, Mountain Outreach, area volunteers partner in Repair Affair

By Jennifer Wake-Floyd

Williamsburg—The Williamsburg Convention Center was packed to the brim recently as more than 100 students from the University of the Cumberlands and volunteers from the community gave back to their community through the Bell-Whitley Repair Affair.

The event, organized by the Bell-Whitley Community Action Agency Inc., provided a means through which volunteers could serve their community by doing yard work, painting, building ramps for elderly or disabled community members, and other home repairs.

Seven of the 10 projects were completed by Mountain Outreach and UC volunteers.

"At the end of the day, it's not about the projects, it's about the people," said Marc Hensley, Mountain Outreach director.

People like Richard Rose who has

been helping to care for his in-laws after both recently suffered strokes.

"I desperately needed these porches and ramps," said Rose of the work completed by volunteers. "Mountain Outreach is such an amazing program and I am forever grateful for them."

Rose said this was not the first time MO had come to his aid. The organization helped install a septic tank at his former home.

"When I realized how much I needed help this time and knew I couldn't do it alone, I contacted MO again and they pulled through for me," Rose said. "There are some great folks working here for me today and I am very thankful for that."

Eagerness to be involved with the ministry of MO also was apparent at the work sites where the college's women's wrestling team gathered to paint a house.

"If I could do this every day, I would," said UC student Darby Newman. (UC)

Optimism over realism

Choosing a better way to look at our fallen world

As each year goes by, I find myself thinking that our world just gets worse and worse. I like to think that I am not a pessimist, but I would certainly call myself a realist—and given our world's recent trends, I don't think things will get much better.

In spite of the trends we see, as believers in Christ, we have a great and certain hope that God is in control and we can rest in that fact. When I was growing up, my mother always said, "You have to believe that things do work out for the best." Her saying was a simplified reference to Romans 8:28, which says "and we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to His purpose."

The Romans passage is one of those passages that is very comforting and at times hard for us to believe, depending on the circumstances we face on this earth. The phrase "much easier said than done" can apply when trying to put this into practice in the midst of pain.

In spite of this difficulty, we must

accept God's word fully and we also must live our lives in such a way to reflect that our actions match our beliefs.

In my realist way of looking at life, one can assume Romans 8:28 will be tested more and more in the coming years as we see the affect of decay and sin throughout our culture.

The society in which we live continues to press against the values of the Bible. I imagine we will one day see para-church ministries such as Crossings on the hot seat as we face decisions that will set us against our biblical convictions.

We, as Christ followers, must become more convinced each day of our God's absolute sovereign rule over all things. If not, what will we hold to in times of trials?

We can be at peace only when we are resting in Him as He commands. So at the end of the day, I should choose optimism over realism.

Sounds like a better way to look at life.

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

Crossings Ministries



David Melber

Bible Crosswords

Across

- 1 Polite word (pl.)
- 5 Seaport of Israel
- 9 Nocturnal creature
- 12 David or Solomon, perhaps
- 13 London's Abbey is one
- 14 Nineteenth-century American author
- 15 Prophetess and daughter of Phanel
- 16 They respond to 911 (abbr.)
- 17 Like food or water
- 18 "Or if he shall ask an _____, will he offer him a scorpion?" (Luke 11:12)
- 20 Former P.M. of Israel
- 22 "_____ not at all; neither by heaven" (Matthew 5:34)
- 24 Period
- 25 Simile syntax
- 27 One hundred fifty-one, to Livy
- 28 Hoover, for one
- 30 Large group
- 32 Trite phrase
- 34 Like one who "hath a devil" (John 10:20)
- 36 Always
- 37 "Be ye _____, and sin not" (Ephesians 4:26)
- 39 Regret
- 41 Before
- 42 Movie rating (abbr.)
- 43 Texas Tech's _____ Raiders
- 45 Like a foyer
- 47 Room's partner
- 49 Just a _____
- 50 Asaph the _____ (2 Chronicles 29:30)
- 52 Have a bite
- 54 After crucifixion, soldiers gambled for Jesus' _____
- 57 Hole-making tool
- 58 "His clothes shall be rent and his head _____" (Leviticus 13:45)

| | | | | | | | | | | |
|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 |
| 12 | | | | 13 | | | | 14 | | |
| 15 | | | | 16 | | | | 17 | | |
| | 18 | | 19 | | 20 | | 21 | | | |
| | 22 | | | 23 | | 24 | | | 25 | 26 |
| 27 | | | 28 | | 29 | | 30 | | 31 | |
| 32 | | 33 | | 34 | | 35 | | 36 | | |
| 37 | | | 38 | | 39 | | 40 | | 41 | |
| 42 | | 43 | | 44 | | 45 | | 46 | | |
| | 47 | | | 48 | | 49 | | | | |
| 50 | 51 | | | 52 | | 53 | | 54 | 55 | 56 |
| 57 | | | 58 | | | | | 59 | | |
| 60 | | | 61 | | | | | 62 | | |

By Evelyn Boyington

#178

- 59 Prophet who follows Joel
- 60 Still
- 61 Former British P.M. Anthony
- 62 It comes with the territory, in the kitchen
- Down**
- 1 Retreat, perhaps
- 2 Electrically charged atom
- 3 "Be ye transformed by the _____ of your mind" (Romans 12:2)
- 4 _____ struck
- 5 Linking verb
- 6 Search thoroughly
- 7 Demolished (as in Psalm 137:7)
- 8 Sullivan, for one
- 9 Pull to _____
- 10 "One _____ is past and behold there come two" (Revelation 9:12)
- 11 "He was _____ as a sheep to the slaughter" (Acts 8:32)
- 17 "As vinegar upon _____, so is he that singeth songs to an heavy heart" (Proverbs 25:20)
- 19 Tribe of Israel
- 21 "There is but one _____" (1 Corinthians 8:6)
- 22 "His _____ was in his hand; and he drew near the Philistine" (1 Samuel 17:40)
- 23 Slam against
- 25 _____ Fisher Hall, in NYC
- 26 Withered
- 27 "O _____ your hands, all ye people" (Psalm 47:1)
- 29 Deface
- 31 "But be of good cheer; I have _____ the world" (John 16:33)
- 33 "He is risen from the dead; so the last _____ shall be worse than the first" (Matthew 27:64)
- 35 Date _____ (library logo)
- 38 KJV affirmative
- 40 Naval officer (abbr.)
- 44 "Fear and _____ shall fall upon them" (Exodus 15:16)
- 46 Father of Abram
- 47 Update of biblical girdle
- 48 "For I will not _____ to speak of any of those things which Christ hath not wrought" (Romans 15:18)
- 50 "_____ what?"
- 51 Lea dowager
- 53 "Praise the Lord with _____ an instrument of _____ strings" (Psalm 33:2)
- 55 Flamboyant wrap
- 56 NYC time
- 58 Exist

| | | | | | | | | | | |
|----|---|---|---|---|---|----|---|---|---|----|
| 1 | O | W | L | S | 5 | S | L | A | P | 11 |
| 2 | T | R | I | A | L | 6 | T | A | M | E |
| 3 | G | R | A | N | D | 7 | A | D | O | R |
| 4 | A | T | D | E | N | 8 | Y | S | I | N |
| 5 | A | L | O | E | 9 | P | A | I | R | S |
| 6 | L | A | R | G | E | 10 | G | N | A | S |
| 7 | | | | | | | | | | |
| 8 | | | | | | | | | | |
| 9 | | | | | | | | | | |
| 10 | | | | | | | | | | |
| 11 | | | | | | | | | | |
| 12 | | | | | | | | | | |
| 13 | | | | | | | | | | |
| 14 | | | | | | | | | | |
| 15 | | | | | | | | | | |
| 16 | | | | | | | | | | |
| 17 | | | | | | | | | | |
| 18 | | | | | | | | | | |
| 19 | | | | | | | | | | |
| 20 | | | | | | | | | | |
| 21 | | | | | | | | | | |
| 22 | | | | | | | | | | |
| 23 | | | | | | | | | | |
| 24 | | | | | | | | | | |
| 25 | | | | | | | | | | |
| 26 | | | | | | | | | | |
| 27 | | | | | | | | | | |
| 28 | | | | | | | | | | |
| 29 | | | | | | | | | | |
| 30 | | | | | | | | | | |
| 31 | | | | | | | | | | |
| 32 | | | | | | | | | | |
| 33 | | | | | | | | | | |
| 34 | | | | | | | | | | |
| 35 | | | | | | | | | | |
| 36 | | | | | | | | | | |
| 37 | | | | | | | | | | |
| 38 | | | | | | | | | | |
| 39 | | | | | | | | | | |
| 40 | | | | | | | | | | |
| 41 | | | | | | | | | | |
| 42 | | | | | | | | | | |
| 43 | | | | | | | | | | |
| 44 | | | | | | | | | | |
| 45 | | | | | | | | | | |
| 46 | | | | | | | | | | |
| 47 | | | | | | | | | | |
| 48 | | | | | | | | | | |
| 49 | | | | | | | | | | |
| 50 | | | | | | | | | | |
| 51 | | | | | | | | | | |
| 52 | | | | | | | | | | |
| 53 | | | | | | | | | | |
| 54 | | | | | | | | | | |
| 55 | | | | | | | | | | |
| 56 | | | | | | | | | | |
| 57 | | | | | | | | | | |
| 58 | | | | | | | | | | |
| 59 | | | | | | | | | | |
| 60 | | | | | | | | | | |
| 61 | | | | | | | | | | |
| 62 | | | | | | | | | | |

#177

All I want for Christmas is a family!

Give a child the gift of a family this holiday season. Become a foster parent or learn how you can support those that do.

SUNRISE
Children's Services

Helping children in crisis shine.

To learn more about becoming a foster parent call 855.35.iCARE or visit sunrise.org.

WESTERN Recorder + Your church newsletter
two great publications, one less post office headache



October

- 24 Administrative Committee, KBC Building, Louisville.
- 24 DiscipleShift 1 Conference, Eastside Community Church, Richmond.
- 24 Kentucky WMU Executive Board meeting, KBC Building, Louisville.
- 27 Women's Chorale Concert, Hartford Baptist Church, Hartford.

November

- 1 Engage International Conference, unnamed venue, Cave City.
- 2 RISK: Paducah Jail Ministry, Lion County.
- 2 Reaching the Summit Conference, Friendship Baptist Church, Irvine.
- 3 RISK: Paducah Friend Day, unnamed venue, Paducah.
- 7 Wildgame Dinner, Twelve Oaks Baptist Church, Paducah.
- 8 All-State Junior High School Choir Retreat, Eastwood Baptist Church, Bowling Green.
- 10 Men's Chorale Concert, First Baptist Church, Henderson.
- 11 Kentucky Baptist Music Conference, Southside Baptist Church, Princeton.
- 11 KBC Pastors' Conference, First Baptist Church, Paducah.
- 11 Kentucky Baptist Music Conference, Southside Baptist Church, Princeton.

Grammy winner Sandi Patty to perform in Lexington

Lexington—Christian music's Sandi Patty is returning to Lexington for the first time in over a decade Nov. 7, 7 p.m., to Immanuel Baptist Church.

Known as "The Voice of Christian Music," Patty has received five Grammy Awards, four Billboard Music Awards, 40 GMA Dove Awards, including female vocalist of the year 11 consecutive years, and was recently inducted into the Gospel Music Hall of Fame.

Patty will be joined by the Immanuel Church worship choir led by Bo Warren.

For more information call (859) 685-3200. Tickets are available at Lifeway Christian Bookstores in Lexington and Richmond, online at www.attendstar.com, or by calling (859) 223-1008.

22 years and counting



Jackie Cox (left), of Campton Baptist Church in Campton, recently was recognized for 22 years perfect attendance in Sunday School.

Campton—Jackie Cox, a member of the Campton Baptist Church in Campton since Oct. 6, 1986, received the 22nd year pin for perfect Sunday School attendance during a Sunday morning recognition service, Sept. 29.

"Cox's dedication to his church is seen especially in his regular attendance in Sunday School. His faithfulness is an inspiration that encourages others to attend Sunday School," said Gary Conner, pastor of Campton Church.

Cox, 82, served as the church van driver for many years and now serves as a supporter of the church's Sunday School ministry.

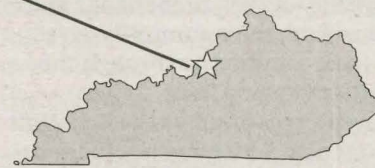
MOUNTAINS TO THE MISSISSIPPI

COMPILED BY STAFF

- **CADIZ**—Maple Grove Church recently called **Wayne Duncan** as interim pastor.
- **CORBIN**—First Church will hold a fall festival Oct. 30, 6 p.m., with inflatables, games and trunk or treat. **Jim Hunter** is pastor.
- **BRADFORDSVILLE**—Temple Church will host the Muhlenberg County Men's Conference Oct. 25-26. **Adam Brown** is pastor.
- **BROWDER**—Browder Church will hold revival services Oct. 27-30 with guest speaker **Nick Holeman**. **Jeremy Jessup** is pastor.
- **CADIZ**—Maple Grove Church will be holding revival services Oct. 27-30 with guest speaker **Doug Anderson**.
- **COVINGTON**—Ashland Avenue Church will host the Oneida Baptist Institute Choir in concert Oct. 27, 10:45 a.m. For more information, call (859) 431-1624. **Clarence Shelton** is pastor.
- **EDDYVILLE**—First Church will host the In His Image Conference Oct. 26, 9 a.m. First Church also will hold Harvest Festival Oct. 30, 6 p.m. **Timothy Perdue** is pastor.
- **FRANKFORT**—Crestwood Church will hold a fall festival Oct. 26 with inflatables and more. **Michael Hail** is pastor.
- **GREENVILLE**—Macedonia Church will hold revival services Oct. 27, 10:45 a.m., and Oct. 28-30, 7 p.m. **Curtis McGehee** will be guest speaker. **Richard Allen** is pastor.
- **LOUISVILLE**—Farmdale Church is hosting the African Children's Choir in "Our African Dream" Oct. 27, 6 p.m., as part of the group's first North American tour. For more information, call (502) 366-1434.
- **FERNCREEK**—Fern Creek Church will hold Trunk or Treat Oct. 27, 5:30 p.m. **Linda Popham** is pastor.

Spotlight on ...

La Grange



La Grange Church will honor the 20th anniversary of **Tony Rose** as pastor Oct. 27, 10:45 a.m.

Green Acres Church will hold Trunk or Treat Oct. 27, 5 p.m. **Phil Ellis** is pastor.

Hurstbourne Church will hold Good News, Games and Goodies Oct. 27, 5 p.m.

Melbourne Heights Church will hold a fall festival Oct. 26, 4 p.m., with inflatables, food, hay rides and more. **Adam Schell** is pastor.

Parkland Church will hold a free community dinner Oct. 24, 5 p.m.

■ **PRESTONSBURG**—First Church will hold a fall festival Oct. 27, 5:30 p.m. **Jerry Workman** is pastor.

■ **RICHMOND**—Unity Church will hold their annual fall festival Oct. 30, 6 p.m., with a costume parade, games and food. **Dennis Brewer** is pastor.

■ **WAYNESBURG**—Fairview Church will hold revival service Oct. 27-30 with guest speaker **Jonathan Grizzell**. **Johnny Baker** is pastor.

OBITUARIES

Hall, 1940s Ky. pastor, dies

Andrew Maurice Hall, a retired pastor and former member of the Foreign Mission Board, died Sept. 30 in Fayetteville, Ark. He was 92.

Hall served as pastor for a span of 74 years in Arkansas, Florida and several Kentucky churches during the 1940s—including Dawson Baptist Church and Hopewell Baptist Church in Philpot, and Philpot Baptist Church in East Bernstadt.

He also served with the Foreign Mission Board, now the International Mission Board, and as chairman of the Southern Baptist Radio

and TV Commission. He did missions work in Barbados, Antigua and Grand Cayman.

Hall received his doctorate from Southern Baptist Theological Seminary and was an avid golfer and University of Arkansas fan.

He was preceded in death by his wife of 58 years, Harriet Grant Hall.

He is survived by a daughter, Andrea Hall Savage, a son, Grant Hall, two brothers, several grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Memorials may be made to the Andrew and Harriet Hall Ministerial Scholarship Award, Ouachita Baptist University, Arkadelphia, Ark., or First Baptist Church of Fayetteville, Ark.

CLASSIFIED ADS

FOR RENT: Two condos in Destin, Fla. Special for remainder of 2013. \$550 week total price. lbrammer@charter.net.

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.

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., Louisa, KY 41230.

SEEKING: Corinth Baptist Church in Winchester is prayerfully seeking a music/youth minister to live in our church parsonage. (859) 744-0018.

SEEKING: Wickland Baptist Church in Bardstown is accepting applications for a

part-time youth minister. All details may be found at wicklandbaptist.org.

SEEKING: First Baptist Church of Madisonville is seeking an interim minister of music. If interested, inquire at (270) 821-3611.

SEEKING: First Baptist Church of Walton is seeking a senior pastor. Send resumé to cncforjc@gmail.com, or mail to 47 S. Main St., Walton, KY 41094. Include a CD/DVD.

SEEKING: Rineyville Baptist Church is accepting resumés for senior pastor. The ideal candidate is spiritually mature and must boldly proclaim the gospel of Jesus Christ while upholding the doctrines of the Baptist Faith and Message 2000. He should be in good standing with the Southern Baptist Convention. A theological degree is preferred. We are looking for an energetic person to lead while working to reach the lost in a growing community. Send resumés to P.O. Box 120, Rineyville, KY 40162. Resumés will be accepted through Nov. 15.

SEEKING: East Cadiz Baptist Church in Cadiz is seeking a pastor. Looking for someone who is a passionate soul winner with a vision for church growth, is a man of God who loves to shepherd people of all ages and demonstrates excellent leadership and administrative skills. If you feel God's guidance in applying for this position, send resumé to East Cadiz Baptist Church, Attn: Brian Stallons, 407 Third St., Cadiz KY 42211.

SEEKING: Richland Baptist Church, a church in Richland, Wash., with a strong missions and Bible-teaching culture, is seeking an associate pastor for education and family who can help lead the church to the next level of discipleship, family and relationships. Richland is seeking a seminary graduate with experience, training or interest in modern, small group Bible study methods (life groups, ABFs). The church envisions a strong family emphasis will be critical to preparing its congregation for a challenging future society. Richland Church has

To place an advertisement in the Western Recorder:

Rates are available upon request.
Call (502) 489-3428;
or visit westernrecorder.org



Claims made by advertisers are not necessarily those of the Western Recorder's staff or directors.

built and sustained a strong platform of missions, outreach, Bible study, discipleship and age group ministries. The church is preparing for the future and needs an energetic, small group leader with a proven record of making godly things happen, and who wants to join a solid, caring staff. For informal inquiries, call Bob Marshall at (509) 521-2494. richlandbaptistchurch.org.

GEORGIA CHURCH Embracing a colorful community

By Karen Willoughby

Lilburn, Ga.—Locals say the once-cozy country town of Lilburn, Ga., began to attract immigrants and experience “white flight” after the 1996 Olympics.

The majority of Lilburn’s First Baptist Church members—despite being faced with a drastically changing community and the decision of other local churches to relocate—chose to stand firm where God had planted them in 1840.

By the time Ken Hall was called as pastor in 2003, the congregation had determined its God-given responsibility for reaching whomever God brought to their community northeast of Atlanta’s I-285 beltway.

Many congregations, one church

First Baptist Church has become a microcosm of the multicultural SBC, with 15 distinct congregations, three of which worship in English. Together, the various congregations reported 1,091 in Sunday morning worship, 94 baptisms and a bit more than 10 percent of undesignated receipts given through Southern Baptists’ Cooperative Program in the SBC’s 2012 Annual Church Profile.

Through the church’s ethnic congregations, it is able to reach the world God has sent to its town. Between 1990 and 2010, Lilburn’s Anglo population declined from 95.2 percent in 1990 to 69.1 percent in 2000, to only 52.7 percent in 2010, according to the U.S. Census Bureau.

Today First Lilburn’s congregations include Hispanic and Asian Indian, both with services in the “heart language” (for first- and second-generation immigrants) and English (to reach the younger generations). Other ethnic congregations are Korean, Mandarin Chinese, Cantonese Chinese, Vietnamese, Hmong, Haitian, Ethiopian, Bhutanese, Arabic and Persian (Farsi-speaking) as well as English.



Children sing during the Festival of Nations celebration held at First Baptist Church in Lilburn, Ga., each April. First Baptist has become a microcosm of the multicultural Southern Baptist Convention, with 15 distinct congregations, only three of which worship in English. (Photos courtesy of First Baptist Church, Lilburn.)

“I’m from this area so I knew the changes,” Hall said. “Gwinnett County was a white, middle- to upper-middle-class area. The world came to Atlanta for the Olympics, liked what they saw, and came back. Now Lilburn has a larger majority of ethnics than Caucasians.... We just began to pray and God began to systematically open doors to reach different groups.”

Initially, Lilburn tried to become a truly international congregation.

“It totally flopped,” Hall said. “We were quite puzzled about that because we felt it was a great need. But we came to realize every group wants to worship in their own heart language and culture.”

“If we were going to reach them, we would have to focus on language-specific groups,” the pastor said. “When we first began the process, we were focusing on first- and second-generation, so we needed someone who could speak the language. For that reason, we decided to not start a congregation if we don’t have

leadership for it.”

Hall said he and the ethnic pastors have learned that most first- and second-generation immigrants want to worship in their own language. On the other hand, many third- and fourth-generation Americans want to worship in English, but in their parents’ cultural context. Fifth- and sixth-generation immigrants are usually fully “Americanized” and often are more comfortable in an English-speaking congregation.

How First Baptist works

Hosting so many groups is not without challenges. Refrigerator storage space is one example. Just as many Americans keep ketchup, mustard, mayonnaise and a variety of pickles on hand, every culture has its favorite “keepers.” Sharing the space for this is manageable; the amount of forgotten leftovers isn’t. “We sometimes have to remind the congregations to keep refrigerators cleaned out,” said Elaine Brown, missions coordinator.

Children’s behavior also can be a challenge, when standards vary among different cultures. Like the refrigerator, that issue too was addressed and resolved during a regular Tuesday morning staff meeting of all the vocational staff.

“We deal with issues straightforwardly,” Hall said. “We try to be understanding; we also understand everybody has to be considerate of everybody.”

Twice each year the church gathers for worship as one body: the last Sunday in April for the Festival of Nations and a Lord’s Supper service in September. Also, the ethnic congregations often baptize during the Anglo service.

A respect by everyone involved for people individually, for cultures and for the facilities enables First Baptist to handle the logistical challenges of meeting the needs of the various congregations.

“We do have a large facility and we do have a number of places that can accommodate larger groups, up to 50, 60 or 70,” Hall said. “We do not charge rent; we do

not see these as outside groups. We consider each language pastor an associate pastor of Lilburn First in addition to being senior pastor of their respective congregations. With every congregation that comes in, we sit down and explain our philosophy, both what we do and how they relate to the church as a whole.

“They come in as a ministry to the church, just like youth or music,” Hall added. “They have full access to the facilities, go through the same process to reserve the facilities, and it is first-come, first-served. If the youth want the gym and another group has reserved it, the youth just find someplace else.

“I’ve seen afresh and anew that when we look at the Scriptures, God has a heart for the nations,” Hall reflected. “God loves all people—not just us white bubbas. I’ve seen God’s love for all people, regardless of who they are.”

Committed to cooperation

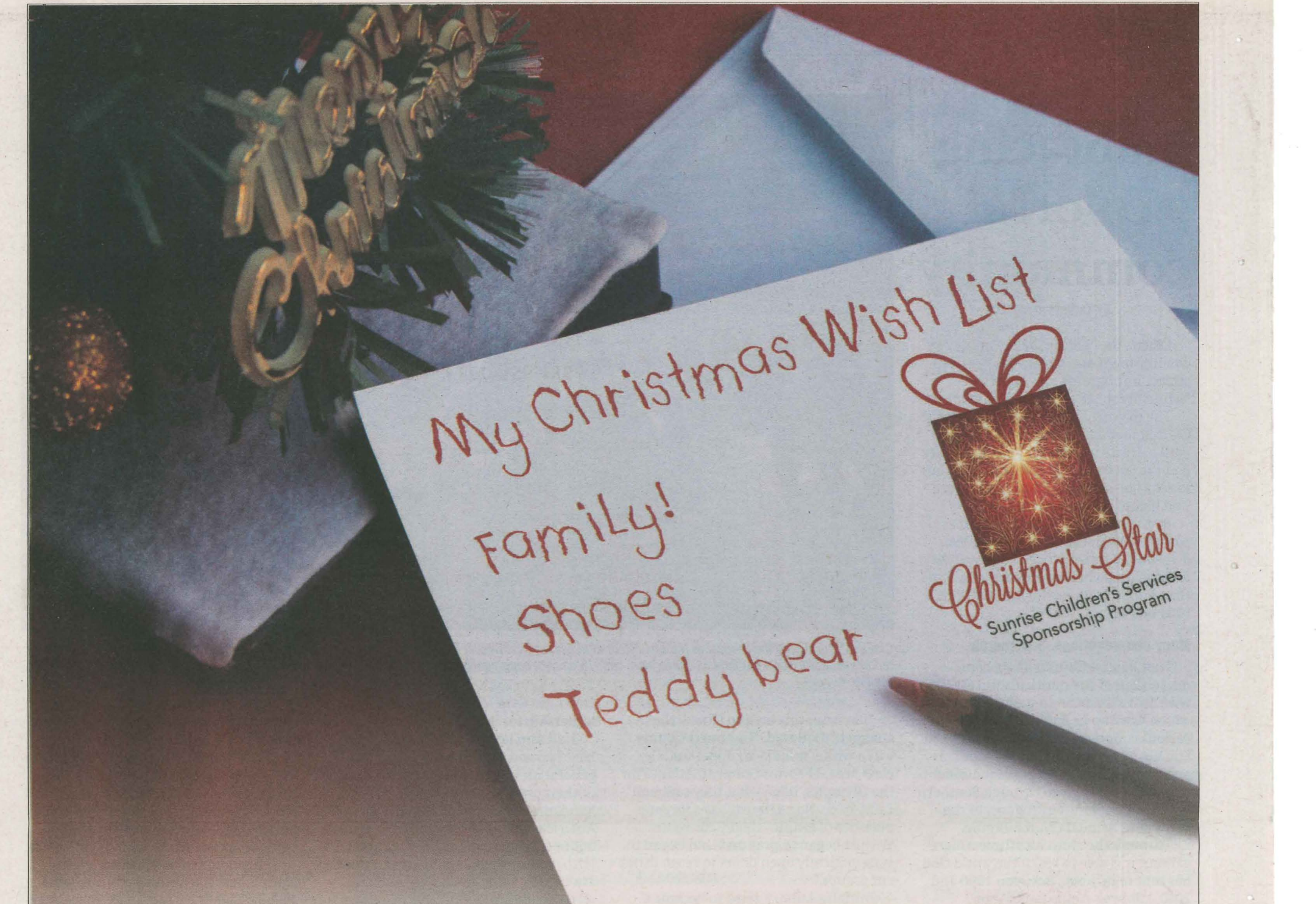
While primarily focused on reaching its community, the church has maintained an aggressive vision of funding missions through the Cooperative Program to share in Southern Baptists’ part of the Great Commission.

“I’ve been a Southern Baptist all my life—saved and called to ministry as a Southern Baptist—and I have come to a deeper and deeper appreciation of the fact we can do more together than we can separately,” Hall said. “One of the greatest—if not the greatest—things about the Cooperative Program is that we work together to be able to accomplish more than we are able to accomplish just by ourselves.

“I think the greatest benefit to what we’re doing—what God is doing through us—is that we’re able to reach people here who come to America for school, work and freedom,” Hall said. “They come for that, and find Christ. ... We’re reaching people we’d never be reaching otherwise if we didn’t have the language congregations. As God leads, more ethnic congregations could be in the church’s future.” (BP)



An Ethiopian believer is baptized at First Baptist Church in Lilburn, Ga. An Ethiopian congregation is one of 15 distinct congregations at First Baptist, only three of which worship in English.



My Christmas Wish List

Family!

Shoes

Teddy bear

Christmas Star
Sunrise Children's Services
Sponsorship Program

IMAGINE WAKING UP ON CHRISTMAS MORNING WITH NO TREE OR PRESENTS.

That's all too common for the more than 600 kids Sunrise serves every day. Sunrise Children's Services is committed to providing a wonderful Christmas experience for all of the children in our care through our statewide network of residential programs and foster homes.

If you would like to sponsor a child, putting a smile on their face Christmas morning, now is the time.

Please contact **Cindya Hills** at **800.456.1386** or **chills@sunrise.org** to request a **child's wish list**. Each list is limited to three items... in recognition of the three gifts brought to Jesus.

You can either shop directly from a child's wish list or make a donation that will allow our staff to do the shopping for you.

BLESSINGS TO YOU AND YOURS!

800-456-1386 • SUNRISE.ORG



Helping children in crisis shine.