

# WESTERN Recorder

November 5, 2013

Shine Like Stars \* Philippians 2:15

Volume 187, Issue 42



**FORWARD**  
TO WHAT LIES AHEAD  
Philippians 3:13-14  
Kentucky Baptist Convention  
Annual Meeting 2013  
Tuesday, Nov. 12  
Lone Oak First Baptist  
Church, Paducah

## Burdon to accept CP leadership award

By Ken Walker

Paducah—Mexico Baptist Church has more than doubled its missions giving during Tim Burdon's 10-year tenure, but the pastor says he simply jumped on board a fast-moving train.

"This church is very missions-minded," said Burdon, whose Crittenden County congregation gives 25 percent of its undesignated



Tim Burdon

offerings to support missions and ministries through the Southern Baptist Cooperative Program. "It just needed somebody in the engine."

Burdon came to the Marion area in October 2003 after 11 years at Whitesville Baptist Church near Owensboro. Mexico Baptist's gifts that year were nearly \$53,000; in 2012 they surpassed \$112,000.

For his commitment to missions support through the Cooperative Program, Burdon will receive the CP Distinguished Leadership Award during the 176th Annual Meeting of the Kentucky Baptist

Convention, Nov. 12 at Lone Oak First Baptist Church in Paducah.

### 'Man of conviction'

In 1925, the Kentucky Baptist Convention adopted the Cooperative Program, a unified plan of funding Southern Baptist and Kentucky Baptist missions and ministries. To date Kentucky Baptists have contributed more than \$750 million through CP.

Kentucky Baptists annually recognize churches as top CP supporters in total and per capita giving. Mexico Baptist  
□ See Burdon ... Page 2

## DoM fellowship starts petition drive opposing Sunrise change

By Todd Deaton

Hardin—The West Kentucky Fellowship of Directors of Missions has launched a letter-writing campaign and petition drive opposing any changes to Sunrise Children's Service's hiring practices that would allow employment of known homosexuals.

Sunrise President Bill Smithwick reportedly has recommended the change at a special called meeting in August, which has led to the resignation of one trustee, Rick Fyffe of Ashland, in protest and to another, Stan Spees of Paducah, expressing his concerns to Kentucky Baptist Convention leaders. Though Sunrise trustees tabled the action in August, a vote could come during their Nov. 8 meeting.

In urging fellow directors of missions across the state to "take a stand," the letter from West Kentucky DoMs, composed by Rodney Cude of Ohio River Association, states, "This is not a battle against homosexuals, but a stand against this sin becoming so culturally acceptable that we evade calling it sin." "Our hearts should be moved to assist those in this lifestyle because it carries

*"(L)et us hold our ground for the children ... at Sunrise."*

Rodney Cude

□ See Sunrise petition... Page 3

## Lukewarm faith

By John Evans

Colorado Springs, Colo.—The idea that young adults are abandoning their faith in droves may be widely accepted but isn't fully accurate. So says a Focus on the Family study that casts light on trends among young adults that may contradict doomsday predictions for the Christian faith.

The study, titled "Millennial Faith Participation and Retention," tracked the religious trends of Millennials (usually those born between 1980 and 2000) and found that only a fraction are leaving their childhood faith—usually because they may not have had much of one to begin with.

The study utilizes data from the Pew research sources and the National Science Foundation's annual General Social Survey.

About a fifth (18 percent) of young adults raised in homes with any measure of religious influence are now unaffiliated with a specific faith, according to the Focus on the Family analysis. Sixty percent of Millennials, meanwhile, categorize themselves as "keeping faith."

Of those who are unaffiliated, only 11 percent said they had a strong faith as a child and lived in

a home where a vibrant faith was practiced and taught. In other words, the vast majority of young adults leaving Christianity never had a strong faith to start with.

"This is not a crisis of faith, per se, but of parenting," the Focus on the Family study noted.

"Parents who provide a home where faith is vibrantly practiced—even imperfectly—are remarkably likely to create young adults who remain serious Christians, even as they sometimes go through bumpy spots in the road," the study said. "(N)ot surprisingly, homes

□ See Lukewarm ... Page 6

*"This is NOT a CRISIS OF FAITH ... but of Parenting."*

## A look at why young adults leave the church

### Ready to make a splash?



### Ways to help young adults stay in church

By Steve Masters

Nashville, Tenn.—What can you do to help a student or young adult have a lifelong faith?

Here are a few practical things—whether you are a parent, grandparent, youth leader or church staff member—to help students in your church grow and mature in Christ.

#### Encourage mission involvement

Going on church and youth mission trips is one of the best ways for a student to personalize his or her faith. Consider participating in a mission trip and

□ See Young adults ... Page 6

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



Find us on Facebook and on twitter as westernrecorder

Western Recorder 11-5-2013

# Princeton lay leader discusses goals as KBC presidential nominee

Chip Hutcheson, publisher of The Times Leader of Princeton and The Eagle Post of Oak Grove, will be nominated as Kentucky Baptist Convention president when the KBC annual meeting convenes Nov. 12 at Lone Oak First Baptist Church in Paducah. He is currently the only candidate.

Hutcheson, a deacon and Sunday School teacher for more than 30 years at Southside Baptist Church in Princeton, has served two terms on the KBC Public Affairs Committee, twice as chairman, and is currently serving a second term as a Western Recorder trustee. If elected, Hutcheson will be the first lay president since Eugene Siler in 2003.

**Q: If you are elected KBC president, what would be your primary hopes and goals for the coming year? Do you have a particular theme or issue you would like to champion?**

Of course, it is our primary goal of Gospel Baptists to proclaim the gospel, and through the power of the Holy Spirit see lives transformed by a saving knowledge of Jesus Christ. As that happens, we will see more active and vibrant churches. A theme I hope to encourage is that laypeople can and should be active in Kentucky Baptist life.

**Q: Your election as a lay leader president would be the first since 2003. How does being a lay leader uniquely equip you for this position? What experiences or knowledge could you bring to the role?**

I have been blessed over the years to work with wonderful people in various KBC agencies, such as Western Recorder and Committee on Public Affairs. The opportunity to get to know and work with committed Baptists from across the state has been indeed rewarding, and I believe those relationships will be of great benefit in the days ahead.

I have been on the board of organizations that have flourished and others that have struggled to remain in existence. Hopefully, lessons learned from

both sides will help in the days ahead.

I will never forget something Bill Mackey said to me several years following a Public Affairs meeting. I had driven from Princeton to Louisville, been involved in a productive meeting, and was thinking about the work I had ahead of me when I arrived home. He thanked several of us for attending the meeting, then said "You're doing kingdom work." That has stuck with me ever since—that the work may not be convenient to our schedules, but it is necessary. I hope to carry that message on to others.

**Q: How has your position with the Western Recorder Board of Directors, or other KBC boards and committees, helped prepare you for this new opportunity?**

As much as anything, it has afforded me the opportunity to hear pastors from churches—ranging from small congregations to large ones—talk about the victories, the difficulties and the challenges they face. Hopefully that has helped provide a perspective that I might not otherwise have had.

And it has put me in the position of helping fight for causes and principles which we, as Kentucky Baptists, hold dear. Foremost in that category is our continued opposition to expanded gambling in the state. We have learned that is a constant fight, and that we must be intent on being involved in the battle constantly. And we must be proactive rather than reactive.

**Q: As a trustee of one of KBC's agencies and institutions, how do you feel about KBC's recent move toward a 50/50 split of Cooperative Program gifts to state and SBC missions?**

While I have some pastor friends who are quick to say they don't like the 50/50

split and insist it hurts the home base, I do believe the 50/50 split is the most effective way to be sure that we are carrying the gospel to the ends of the earth.

There is no doubt this split is painful for some agencies, such as the Western Recorder, which has done a superb job in dealing with reduced funding. To say it is a challenge is an understatement, yet the Western Recorder has managed to do that.

I am reminded of the pastor, whose church was facing a major building project. He said, "The problem isn't that we don't have the money; the problem is the money is in your pockets." I am afraid that is true with Kentucky Baptists—we must be more

faithful in giving.

**Q: How would you encourage Kentucky Baptists and Kentucky Baptist churches to give more to the Cooperative Program?**

I think that is a question every pastor and KBC leader wrestles with. It is important that we make a concerted effort on a continual basis to inform churches of the outstanding work being accomplished as a result of Cooperative Program giving. We need to consistently challenge people to give. I believe the short videos from the North American Mission Board and the International Mission Board, which are available for churches to show during services, help to show the benefits of Cooperative Program support.

**Q: One of the primary responsibilities as president is to appoint three individuals to the KBC's Committee on Committees. What criteria would you use to make your appointments?**

I would seek out those who have a heart for missions and whose churches model the role of sacrificial giving. These



Chip Hutcheson

individuals would be those who I believe are strong advocates for the Cooperative Program. They would be individuals who have a strong track record of involvement with Kentucky Baptist causes.

**Q: What do you consider to be Kentucky Baptists' greatest strengths and why?**

All it takes is a glance at any issue of the Western Recorder and you will see some significant work being done by Kentucky Baptists. That is, indeed, a strength. We have many, many strong churches and Bible-believing pastors who are faithfully proclaiming the word of God day in and day out. We have churches and pastors who are not satisfied with the status quo, but are looking for new opportunities to carry the gospel to the lost. I see Kentucky Baptists positively influencing their communities through their gospel presentations and their tangible help in addressing the needs of people. Caring for people—their spiritual as well as physical needs—should always characterize our strength.

**Q: What do you consider to be Kentucky Baptists' greatest challenge and why?**

There has been much attention focused in recent times on the fact that the younger generation is not attending anyone's church. It is a great challenge to reach that demographic. Also, we must be aware that there are strong attacks being waged on religious liberties, and that will present major challenges in the future for churches. While these are challenges that we must address, it seems the greatest challenge is how do we encourage pastors. There are far too many throwing in the towel—leaving churches because they are so discouraged, yet these are men who have so much to offer. Ministry today is not easy, and unfortunately too many church members don't realize the pressures and burdens of pastors. We must do a better job of providing encouragement and a support network for pastors. (WR)

## Burdon

Continued from page 1

Church has been singled out as a top per capita giver repeatedly. This year the congregation ranks second in the category.

"Tim Burdon serves in a church that has always exhibited a sacrificial commitment to reaching Kentucky and the world for Christ," KBC Executive Director-Treasurer Paul Chitwood said.

"Tim has led Mexico Baptist to maintain and strengthen that commitment and is very deserving of this award."

In referring to Burdon, KBC Associate Executive Director Curtis Woods quoted a noted seminarian professor, the late Howard Hendricks, who said: "We hold beliefs, but convictions hold us."

"Tim Burdon is a man of conviction," Woods said. "He stands head and shoulders above most in his commitment to, and confidence in, the genius of the Cooperative Program. We are thankful for his leadership."

### 'Role model' for pastors

A leader in the Ohio River Baptist Association, Burdon has served repeated terms on the Kentucky Baptist Convention Mission Board, as well as on the con-

vention's administrative committee.

Growing up in a Pentecostal church, the Henderson native accepted Christ at age 17. His brother, an assistant pastor at Washington Baptist Church in Evansville, Ind., led him to receive Jesus as Savior and become a member of that church.

Two months later, Burdon felt God's calling to preach. His first pastorate, in 1983, was Whispering Meadows Baptist Chapel, a mission of First Baptist Church of Morganfield.

At that time, Steve Thompson, former KBC assistant executive director, was pastor of the sponsoring congregation.

Thompson described Burdon as "evangelistic" and "warm-hearted," adding that "Tim serves as a good role model for other pastors."

"He does this in a rural church that is not in a growing area," said Thompson, who now serves as assistant to the president of University of the Cumberland. "Tim represents many other pastors who are and have served unselfishly, without thought of recognition."

Although Burdon did not grow up Southern Baptist, he said that after his conversion, he frequently attended national conventions and developed a keen awareness of the Southern Baptist

Convention's cooperative efforts.

### Credits church's generosity

The pastor takes no credit for Mexico Baptist's staunch support, saying that goes all the way back to 1946.

"This has been a long-standing history of this church," Burdon said. "I thought, 'We're going to fuel this.' As people began to join, by the nature of our (set percentage), our dollars increased."

Thompson noted that in recent years, the congregation increased its giving through CP even as they raised funds to expand their facility.

The church's generosity extends well beyond 25 percent. It gives another five percent to the Ohio River Baptist Association, plus special missions offerings and gifts to needy in the community.

Congregational giving is on the upswing, too. The church recently voted to allocate 25 percent of its fifth-Sunday building fund offerings through CP, taking the initial step in late September.

Burdon cites two reasons for this focus, starting with the multiple mission groups—such as Woman's Missionary Union, Royal Ambassadors and Mission Friends—that meet monthly to plan and report on projects.

The second is Missions Coordinator Denny Mott, an active Kentucky Baptist Disaster Relief volunteer and leader.

"He spearheads a lot of different things," Burdon said. "Denny does a great job of encouraging everyone to go on trips."

Describing his flock as "gracious and generous," Burdon said he knows their giving is why God has blessed the rural church, which averages 225 on Sundays.

Burdon recommends that all pastors lead their churches to participate fully in the Cooperative Program, which in Kentucky funds the training and services provided by the KBC Mission Board staff, makes possible more than 20 Kentucky Baptist Campus Ministry groups, and helps support 10 KBC-affiliated agencies and institutions.

Outside Kentucky, CP gifts support the work of the North American Mission Board, International Mission Board and other Southern Baptist causes.

A pastor who embraces cooperative giving "and his congregation are going to be blessed," Burdon said. "How many blessed by helping others? That's true. When you give, that blessing is going to turn around. That's what God has done for us." (KBC)

# KBC & Southern Seminary help train young supply preachers

By Ken Walker

**Louisville**—Filling another pastor's pulpit can be challenging and frustrating work for young preachers. Just ask Paul Chitwood about his inaugural sermon at First Baptist Church of Jellico, Tenn.

Filling in while the church lacked a senior pastor, Chitwood prepared a seven-page, handwritten manuscript. However, the young speaker's Wednesday-night sermon only lasted six minutes of a 16-minute-long meeting.

"Those in attendance were extremely gracious with their comments," recalls Chitwood, executive director-treasurer of the Kentucky Baptist Convention. "In part, I credit the fact that I later rose to preach a second time to the graciousness of those saints."

Sometimes those greeting a guest speaker can be more blunt, such as the elderly member who told Jeff Crabtree he was sorry, but the music director wasn't there, so "you need to talk to the piano player about what you're going to sing."

"To say the least, I'm not musically inclined," said Crabtree, who was then serving as director of missions for

Warren Association of Baptists. He can still laugh at the memory.

Seeking to help seminary students prepare for sermons and similar encounters, the KBC and Southern Baptist Theological Seminary recently co-sponsored a pulpit supply training workshop.

The event attracted 53 students, said Matt Haste, ministry connections specialist at Southern Seminary. Haste said the seminary wants to serve local churches while providing students with ministry experience.

With an emphasis on the practical, speakers reviewed suggestions for supply preaching, the state's unique dynamics, and the need to share the gospel.

"I would have loved to have had practical training when I started out," said Alan Witham, the KBC's regional consulting group leader. "I still do pulpit supply preaching at least three out of four Sundays."

Witham said he approached the training as a way to review basic information



Jeff Crabtree

that would-be pulpit replacements need to know—things such as attire and a church's preferred scripture translation.

He presented a series of questions to review in advance, such as sermon length, biographical information, style of closing invitation, and best travel route to the church.

Also central region consultant for the KBC, Witham advised arriving at least 30 minutes early, reviewing the bulletin before the service, getting a microphone from the sound booth, and discussing transitions with the worship leader.

"A lot of the things were common-sense, but we need to be reminded of them," Witham said.

Now the state convention's south central region consultant, Crabtree reviewed Kentucky's cultural make-up. Among the factors: the prevalence of small churches—more than half the 2,400 in the KBC average fewer than 100 in attendance—doctrinal emphasis in different regions, and expectations.



Alan Witham

At the start of his session, Crabtree asked how many participants were from Kentucky and was surprised to see only a few hands go up. He said the main point he wanted students to appreciate was the differences they would face in the state.

"I deal with a lot of guys who have been in one church all their life and they think every church is like theirs," said Crabtree, who fills a pulpit nearly every week.

Student Michael Wellman, a Louisville native, said presenter Hershael York's warning to avoid controversial topics helped him almost immediately.

Soon after the talk by York, pastor of Buck Run Baptist Church in Frankfort and a professor at Southern Seminary, a member at the church where Wellman spoke asked about the seminary being "a bunch of Calvinists who don't believe in evangelism."

"I remembered what York said," commented Wellman, the seminary's new student evangelism coordinator. "I said, 'No, we do believe in evangelism.' I quickly went back to the heart of the gospel and what's important about sharing it." (KBC)

## Sunrise petition

Continued from page 1

immediate and eternal consequences," the letter continues. "Still, let us hold our ground for the children entrusted to our ministry at Sunrise by not exposing them to this lifestyle through employees, their spouses, or in the future perhaps foster parents."

The letter encourages DoMs to contact the members of Sunrise's board to encourage them to stand for the principles of Scripture and the biblical values under which Sunrise was formed.

The West Kentucky DoMs also request other DoMs

pass on an accompanying "Petition of Moral Concern" to the churches in their associations.

"One is called to question how Sunrise, which has been fighting a legal battle concerning their current hiring procedure that forbids the paying of same-sex benefits, and hiring a person who is knowingly homosexual, that spent thousands of dollars (which includes special gifts from KBC churches to aid in that fight) even allowed this issue," the letter states. "How has such an issue, based on abandoning biblical principles, been allowed to find a foothold in a KBC partner agency?"

### Three options

A PowerPoint presentation that accompanies the trustee minutes from the Aug. 16 meeting (posted on the agency's website at [www.sunrise.org](http://www.sunrise.org), according to a Nov. 1 BP article) presents Sunrise trustees with three options:

- change the employment practice;
- become a one-site religious home for privately placed kids, or
- close.

Noting the "increasing, perpetual

push for the normalization of homosexuality, including marriage" which "means our (Sunrise's) primary funding source and hiring practices are on a collision course," the PowerPoint—which trustee sources have confirmed was presented by Smithwick—states, "Sunrise will comply or close."

Asserting that Sunrise cannot meet the needs of today's abused and neglected children without public assistance, the presentation maintains that, even if hiring practices include homosexuals, Sunrise can



**"(It's) not about separation of church and state or government money. (It's) 'What is the greater good?'"**

Bill Smithwick

"continue to integrate our Christian principles of grace, unconditional love, and hope throughout our programs to the children we serve and our staff."

Kentucky Baptist churches contribute about \$1 million annually, or approximately 5 percent of the agency's budget. According to the Courier-Journal, about 85 percent of its funding comes from the state, with the Cabinet for Health and Family Services being a main contractor.

### 'Healing over doctrinal purity'

In a letter sent last week to Kentucky Baptist pastors, Smithwick said, "The issue for the Sunrise Children's Services Board has not been and is not about homosexuality. The core question is not about separation of church and state or government money.

"The question is, 'What is the greater good?' Do we walk away from the pain, suffering, loneliness and brokenness of the kids we serve over our hiring practice or continue ministering to young children who desperately need someone to show them God's love?"

Smithwick drew a comparison with the Pharisees confronting Jesus: "What did Jesus do that was so sinful? He helped and healed those who could not help themselves on the Sabbath much to the chagrin of the righteous Pharisees.

He put people over dogma, grace over law, and healing over doctrinal purity.

"Such is the principle we face at Sunrise—which is the greater good—save the kids or keep our hiring practices and close," Smithwick explained.

Business for Sunrise will continue as usual, Smithwick assured. "We will continue to meet the children's spiritual, emotional and physical needs in the same way we do today," he wrote. "We currently have and stringently enforce boundary policies prohibiting all staff from sharing personal information, especially personal sexual information whether heterosexual or homosexual with the kids."

He offered a hypothetical illustration: "Suppose my wife and I are appointed as missionaries to a Muslim country to start a church, but to stay in the country she has to cover her head, which is an acknowledgement of Islam and Allah. Which is the greater good, stay, keep her head covered in public and start the church—or leave?"

Identifying the distinguishing feature of Southern Baptists as traditionally being a focus on missions, he said, "Sunrise is as focused on missions as any other KBC institution or agency. Changing our hiring practices makes us no less distinctively Baptist."

### Forsaking 'Baptist character'

In the "Petition of Moral Concern," the West Kentucky Fellowship of DoMs, however, implore Sunrise trustees: "We believe this is against our stand as Southern and Kentucky Baptist regarding this lifestyle choice and will be detrimental to the best care of the children you serve."

KBC Executive Director Paul Chitwood, also has denounced Sunrise's proposed change in its hiring practices: "If the trustees decide to follow Smithwick and surrender biblical values to maintain government funding, then clearly

they will have forsaken the Baptist character of Sunrise and become the equivalent of any secular corporation that contracts with the state to provide childcare."

On his blog, Chitwood wrote, "In addition to what it would mean for the kids, another great tragedy of Smithwick's recommendation is that it ignores the investment of untold tens of millions of Baptist dollars and surrenders the very reason Sunrise came into existence as Kentucky Baptists' gospel-centered ministry to orphans and neglected children."

Calling Smithwick's line of reasoning in his letter to pastors "an end justifies-

the-means approach," Chitwood asked, "Why could not this line of reasoning justify Sunrise hiring an adulterous, homosexual, or Muslim president for the organization?"

With regard to Smithwick's example of contextualization in missions, Chitwood countered, "Indeed, a female Christian missionary in the Muslim world might wear a jibab, but we don't hire Muslims to be Christian missionaries!"

"How I wish Smithwick would have been willing and desirous to meet with Kentucky Baptists or their elected leadership before attempting to secretly change the biblical convictions that have guided the organization since its founding 154 years ago," Chitwood added.

"Surely we could have found a better way to walk forward together," he said.

The West Kentucky DoM fellowship is comprised of 12 associations. In addition to Cude, the fellowship includes Tim Cole, Blood River; Rick Reeder, Caldwell-Lyon; Bob Melton, Christian County; Glynn Copeland, Graves County; Bill Patterson, Green Valley; Bob Morrison, Little Bethel; Mike Rust, Little River; John East, Ohio Valley; Jim Ewing, Purchase Area; Chuck Blair, West Kentucky; and Howard Atkinson, West Union. (WR)



**"Smithwick's recommendation ... surrenders the very reason Sunrise came into existence."**

Paul Chitwood

## Annual meeting preview

This year's convention will be marked as one of the most important spiritual events in the history of the KBC. How so?

**RISK:** Paducah has a spiritual army of Kentucky Baptists on mission. Numerous local churches are hosting simultaneous revivals and outreach initiatives with

### Together We are the KBC

Kentucky Baptists from all across the state participating in the evangelistic events.



Paul Chitwood

I am grateful for the visionary leadership of KBC Evangelism & Church Planting Team Leader Chuck McAlister and all of the members of our mission board staff who have helped in planning, organizing and participating in

**RISK:** Paducah. I am also grateful for the churches and directors of missions joining this massive evangelistic emphasis. We look forward to the annual meeting where we will be celebrating all the ways God has used these efforts. Never before has our annual meeting been marked by such gospel proclamation.

In other annual meeting news, the choice facing the Sunrise board of trustees may or may not be acted upon before the annual meeting. Continue to pray for their board as it meets on Nov. 8, just days before Kentucky Baptists gather.

A matter likely coming for consideration to the messengers on Nov. 12 is that of our relationship with Georgetown College. Last year, the Western Recorder announced a motion regarding the partnership agreement with Georgetown College would come during the 2012 annual meeting.

That motion read as follows: "In these days of limited resources and a more focused ministry assignment, Kentucky Baptists are choosing to invest Christian education resources, energies, and attention on our institutions that are in covenant agreement with the Kentucky Baptist Convention. Therefore the KBC will terminate its ministry partnership with Georgetown College pursuant to the memorandum of understanding between the parties dated Nov. 15, 2005. Upon expiration of the ministry partnership, the KBC will no longer maintain a partnership agreement with Georgetown College, which elected to terminate its Covenant Agreement with the KBC in 2005. We appreciate the Baptist foundation of Georgetown College and offer our prayers for their endeavors to serve Christ and His Kingdom."

Upon the announcement of Georgetown's search for a new president, and by request of Earl Goode, Georgetown's board of trustee chairman, that motion was delayed for one year to give Georgetown time to choose a new president and determine if that new president would want the college to reinstate the covenant agreement with the KBC.

While grateful for all that Kentucky Baptists have done for Georgetown College, newly-elected president Dwaine Greene has indicated he and the board have no desire for Georgetown to re-establish the covenant agreement. Thus, the Mission Board will likely bring the delayed motion for convention approval.

Paul Chitwood is executive director of the Kentucky Baptist Convention.

## Sunrise's decision would affect us all

Some decisions aren't easy to make. Our words and actions must be measured carefully because of the sensitive nature of the subject and the serious impact they may have on others. The unfolding story at Sunrise Children's Services entails one of those tough decisions.

Concerned trustees alerted Kentucky Baptist leaders that Sunrise's trustees are considering drafting its hiring practices to allow employment of open homosexuals. Trustees were told the child-care agency inevitably may have to comply or close. Sunrise would not be able to operate without government funding.

Yet, the vast majority of Kentucky Baptists would strongly object to Sunrise changing its hiring practices regarding homosexuality. A decision by our child-care agency to do so would go against the grain of biblical teachings and our Christian morals. Hence, Kentucky Baptists should know that Sunrise's trustees are, indeed, considering making such a momentous change, for it affects us all.

No, the decision to alter its hiring practices to allow homosexuals to be employed by Sunrise has not yet been reached by its board of directors. But, from all indications, it appears to be a matter of serious board discussion, and a vote could come at its meeting this Friday, just prior to the Annual Meeting of the Kentucky Baptist Convention in Paducah. When KBC Executive Director Paul Chitwood and KBC President Dan Summerlin tried to confer with Sunrise's president, Bill Smithwick, they were refused.

According to Baptist polity, we should respect the trustee process. Trustees are the KBC's duly-elected representatives, who have been given responsibility and oversight in setting agency policy. Still, all of Sunrise's trustees are elected by the KBC and, thus, all are accountable to it for their actions—especially since Kentucky Baptists have supported the agency through their CP gifts, special offerings and volunteer labor for decades. The child-care agency, though, now receives the bulk of its annual budget from

government subsidies and corporate donors, suggesting a potential exists for significant outside influence.

Nevertheless, the subject of hiring homosexuals at a childcare agency is one that is emotionally and spiritually charged for Kentucky Baptists, especially for the many churches with strong ties to Sunrise. For that reason and out of concern for the welfare of children and our gospel witness to them, Kentucky Baptists should be aware that the potential exists for such a momentous decision affecting their childcare agency—a ministry which they love dearly and to which so many churches and individuals have contributed so much through the years.

Sunrise does immeasurable good through a wide variety of residential-care programs and counseling services for hundreds of hurting children and their families. No question, Smithwick and the staff care deeply about hurting, lonely and abused children. However, deciding now to place open homosexuals in charge of caring for hurting children would send a wrong signal both to them and our confused culture. The decision would be viewed by some as a capitulation of our Christian beliefs and family values.

Sunrise trustees face a tough choice, one that will chart the child-care agency's course both financially and spiritually for the foreseeable future. We desire only the best for Sunrise, our child-care agency, and long for a continued gospel-centered ministry among Kentucky Baptists. Please know we are praying for Sunrise's trustees and for God's direction as they deliberate.

"Kentucky Baptists need and deserve to know about the debate that is apparently taking place among Sunrise trustees. We have invested 154 years and untold tens of millions of dollars and sweat equity in this ministry," said KBC Executive Director Paul Chitwood. "Not only do we need to be praying for the trustees, we need to remind them of all that is at stake."

Let's pray and enjoin Sunrise's trustees to do the right thing—for kids and the kingdom.

## After Thought

By Todd Deaton



## Selling our birthright for government pottage

By Hershael York

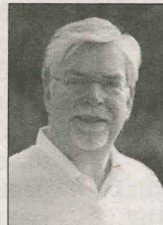
I am heartsick to think that Bill Smithwick would ask the board of Sunrise Children's Services to reverse their longstanding policy against hiring practicing homosexuals to serve in an agency of the Kentucky Baptist Convention. By even suggesting such an action, Dr. Smithwick has placed himself outside the overwhelming majority of the churches and people who have supported this ministry with their tithes and offerings given as unto the Lord.

Through a dozen years of legal challenges, the Baptists of the Commonwealth have stood with Sunrise because the biblical principles on which that ministry was founded were not for sale. Now, Dr. Smithwick is asking his board to run up

the white flag of surrender to the spirit of the age, all in the name of doing ministry on our behalf.

When the board asked Kentucky Baptists for permission to drop "Baptist" from their name, we were assured that nothing substantial would change and the ministry would still reflect the gospel-centered and Christ-honoring values that had always defined it. Now, we are

### Guest Opinion



Hershael York

left feeling duped, misled and possibly robbed of the investment of generations of faithful people of God who were motivated to care for children because of their belief in the word of God.

I do not question Dr. Smithwick's love for children, but it would be immeasurably better to do what only we Baptists can afford without the government than to capitulate our convictions in order to get Caesar's money. When we assure the state that we will not "proselytize," we promise a Christless social ministry that feeds the body

and starves the soul. When we bend our beliefs to remain palatable to the culture or acceptable to the state, we cease to follow a crucified Savior who counseled us that the world would do to us what it did to Him.

James wrote that pure and undefiled religion is to care for orphans and widows in their affliction, but also "to keep oneself unstained from the world" (James 1:27). By suggesting that we should compromise on the latter in order to do the former, Dr. Smithwick has edited the inspired word of God and is attempting to make faithful Kentucky Baptists complicit in his revision. We must not sell our birthright of God's favor for a bowl of government contract pottage.

When the board of Sunrise Children's Services meets on Nov. 8, their first order of business should be to refuse to compromise the clear teaching of God's word as suggested by Dr. Smithwick. Hershael York is a professor at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary and senior pastor of Buck Run Baptist Church in Frankfort.

## 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 a one-year, individual-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.

## Should you really believe in ghosts?

By Rob Phillips

Ghosts star in major motion pictures from "The Shining" to "Scary Movie 2." Some ghosts are friendly and some are frightening. Television shows like "Ghost Adventures" use the latest technologies to "prove" that spirits of the dead are all around us and want to make their presence known.

But is this true? The short answer is no. As Christians, we must gauge all truth claims by the Bible, the ultimate and unchanging measure of reality.

Some people argue that the apostles believed in ghosts and even thought Jesus was one when He walked toward their boat on the Sea of Galilee (Matthew 14:22-33). Later, after Christ's resurrection, the apostles once again mistook Jesus for a ghost. He assured them that "a ghost does not have flesh and bones as you can see I have" (Luke 24:39).

Let's be clear on two points: First, Scripture teaches that all humans possess both physical and non-physical properties—the body and the soul/spirit, the second of which survives physical death.

Second, nowhere does the Bible support the notion that spirits of the dead ("phantasma" or "pneuma" in the Greek) are free to return to the physical realm. In other words, the departed are just that—departed. The souls of the dead either are in the presence of God in heaven or separated from Him in torment in hell.

In the story of Lazarus and the rich man, the righteous beggar at death is carried by the angels to Abraham's side and is comforted. The unrighteous aristocrat finds himself in torment beyond the grave. The rich man petitions Abraham to send Lazarus to warn his brothers, but Abraham makes it clear that is not permitted. "They have Moses and the prophets; they should listen to them," Abraham explains (Luke 16:29).

The apostle Paul reminds us that when Christians die, their souls/spirits go directly into the presence of God (2 Corinthians 5:8).

### FIRST PERSON

The appearances of the righteous dead on earth are brief and rare exceptions to the rule. For example, Moses and Elijah appear briefly on the Mount of Transfiguration with Jesus and His apostles (Matthew 17:1-9).

In the Old Testament, we read the story of Samuel, who appears on earth after his death. King Saul has gone to the witch of Endor, seeking to engage her in necromancy—communicating with the dead, a practice denounced in Scripture and banished by fiat from the land of Israel in Saul's day. The appearance of Samuel shocks the witch as much as it surprises Saul.

As Bible teacher/broadcaster Hank Hanegraaff describes it, "When the departed Samuel appeared to the living Saul, the witch of Endor immediately recognized the occasion as a non-normative act of God—a divine display of judgment rather than a haunting."

In other words, God called the witch's bluff. She dabbled in deception and demonic activity to ply her trade, but had no real power to bring back spirits of the dead.

What are we to make of reports of modern-day hauntings?

First, understand that ghosts—the spirits of the departed—do not roam unseen among us; they are with the Lord in heaven or apart from Him in hell.

Second, avoid fascination with modern-day "ghost adventures." They rob you of your time and, worse, they draw you into demonic deception. While Satan has no power to raise the dead or create human flesh, he and his demons play on the field of superstition.

Third, stay armed. Paul tells us to put on the full armor of God to evade Satan's plots (Ephesians 6:18ff).

Finally, measure all experiences by the Scriptures, "which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Jesus Christ" (2 Timothy 3:15).

Who you gonna call? The word of God is the ultimate ghostbuster.

Rob Phillips is director of communications for the Missouri Baptist Convention, and leads apologetics ministry in the state.

## Thank a teacher!

By David Garrard

Recently, I spoke to a group of teachers at St. Matthews Elementary School in Louisville. The title of my talk was, "Teacher, I Need You." I thanked the teachers for their impact and influence as I remembered and told stories about my grade school teachers and the ways they changed my life so many years ago.



I told the group that my guess was my teachers had no idea the influence they were having in my life at the time. I certainly didn't tell them. And yet, in a very real sense, I owe a lot of who I am today and what I have been able to accomplish to that group of special people.

Over the past several years, I have tried to track down a few of my teachers and say thank you. The experience has been extremely rewarding—to me, as well as to the teachers I have been able to locate.

I guess there is a sense in which we are all slow learners. It may take some of us 30 or 40 years to understand what teachers have done for us—the difference they have made; the impact they have had. However, by that time, it may not be possible to go back and find the special folks who changed our lives.

November is on us, and brings with it a special season of thanksgiving. Why not take time this month to say a special thank you to your child's teachers? School teachers especially, but church teachers and others as well.

Tell them how much you appreciate who they are and what they do for your child. Promise to pray for them. Perhaps give them a card or some other item as a symbol of this promise. Your words can be a witness. At the least, they will be an encouragement.

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

## Are gruesome horror movies OK for Christians to watch?

By Phil Boatwright

October is that time of year when haunted houses spring up in communities across the country and when cable networks run classic fright flicks, "Halloween" rip-offs or new made-for-TV offerings in the macabre and grotesque.

Should we Christians put this stuff in our heads?

Thought-provoking thrillers are few and far between, amid tales of conflicted wolfmen, alien space invaders, zombie flesh-eaters and other vile things that go bump in the night.

A few months ago I was offered a press junket trip to Los Angeles to view "The Conjuring." Despite the fact that

The Conjuring portrays a Christian couple doing an exorcism, I decided to skip the screening of this R-rated horror film about demonic possession. I've already seen several, including "The Exorcism of Emily Rose," "The Rite" and the godfather of this genre, "The Exorcist."

But the subgenre of horror movies about demons bothers me spiritually. It's important for people to be aware of the existence of demonic spirits, but I feel uncomfortable viewing such subject matter for entertainment purposes.

The horror film has undergone more transformations than Katy Perry's

musical career. In the 1930s and '40s, spooky movies such as "Frankenstein" and "The Wolf Man" were actually morality plays, where good was triumphant over evil. Because of restrictive decency codes during that era, studios

mandated that their filmmakers not offend the church-going public. So when you view "The Bride of Frankenstein" or "The Cat People" or even Bela Lugosi's "Dracula," you can detect a moral message amid the jars and jolts.

In the '50s, most horror films were goofy, the Saturday matinee screen being bombarded with giant lizards and ants and even a 50-foot woman. The '60s saw classic creeps resurrected by Hammer Studios ("Frankenstein Must Be Destroyed," "Dracula Has Risen from the Grave") and its penchant to use vivid color to captivate, especially a thick red liquid that looked more like candy apple syrup than gushing blood.

During the '70s and '80s, horror films became gruesome showcases for studio special effects. Malevolent and apparently indestructible ghouls such as Freddie Kruger of "Nightmare on Elm Street," Michael Myers of "Halloween" and Jason of "Friday the 13th" returned sequel-after-sequel to kill as many randy teenagers as possible in 96 minutes.

The '90s once again unearthed the

original vampire, but with a twist. In Francis Ford Coppola's "Bram Stoker's Dracula," his child of the night was an omnipresent creature who, rather than turning away from the significance of the cross, contemptuously stared down crucifixes until they burned. Ever since Bela Lugosi first put on a set of fangs, crucifixes had trumped blood suckers. This gothic reversal changed the entire theme of the Dracula legend. No longer was God the conqueror of the devil; now man alone was in control of his fate.

I once wrote an appreciative critique of M. Night Shyamalan's psychological thriller "Signs," about alien beings coming to take over the earth. In Signs, suspenseful Hitchcockian elements served to unnerve the audience. Added to the unsettling atmosphere, the story's subtext concerned a man losing and regaining his faith. The film also had an intriguing take concerning coincidence in our daily lives: Do things happen by chance or do they intentionally develop our nature? Shyamalan's film was about finding our way—or finding our way back. I guess you could say, it's a thinking man's (or woman's) horror movie.

I'm not sure any of us realize the true effect of horror movies on our psyches. We are bombarded by a great deal of media influence, much of which doesn't feed the soul. Still, some will defend the escapist value of the horror film, while others steadfastly maintain that it is a genre with a satanic

impact. Here's something we should consider: Like all living things, the spirit of man needs to be nourished.

I couldn't possibly say it any better than the following quote, and it came from a movie, Miramax Films' "I've Heard the Mermaids Singing." You might keep it in mind when attending any new release: "Your head is like a gas tank. You have to be really careful about what you put in it, because it might just affect the whole system." (BP)

In addition to writing for Baptist Press, Phil Boatwright reviews films for previewonline.org.



Photo by Richard Dudley

## Young adults

Continued from page 1

local mission ministries as a family. Organize your service with several families in your church.

### Live it out

As a parent or grandparent, be an example to students. They are watching and observing how you live out your faith.

Are you having a daily quiet time? Are you memorizing Scripture? Are you using your spiritual gifts? Are you sharing your faith with your co-workers, friends and relatives? Are you involved in local missions and the mission trips of your church?

If your son or daughter really is like you spiritually, what kind of Christian will that make them? Are you a 24/7 Christian or just a weekend warrior? If you aren't living out your faith, then chances are great that your son or daughter will follow in your footsteps.

### Help them get to know the staff and adults in your church

Students need to be a part of the total church, not just the youth ministry. Be creative in helping them get to know the church staff and other strong Christian adults in your church. As they spend time with other strong Christian adults, students grow in their faith.

### Realize the importance of the summer student conferences

Many youth groups participate in a summer conference such as World Changers, Student Life or FugeCamps.

These weeks can be invaluable in helping students grow and mature in their faith. As they spend a concentrated period of time in Bible study, prayer and worship, they "catch" a passion for Christ from the camp leaders and counselors. They develop strong friendships with other students and the adult leaders of your church.

Plan your vacations around major youth conferences your church attends. Make sure your older students don't let summer jobs or sports activities keep them from participating. Valuable spiritual growth can be missed.

### Connect graduating seniors to campus ministries

Being able to contact incoming students months before they arrive on campus greatly increases the opportunity of reaching and involving students. Visit sbccampusconnect.net to connect with your student's campus ministry. To contact the BCM director visit bcmlife.net.

### Encourage high school juniors to be senior disciples

Senior disciples commit to being leaders in their youth groups and to reaching out to their high school for Christ during their senior year. They can sign up at seniordisciple.net.

### Encourage high school grads to be collegiate disciples

Collegiate Disciples commit to being involved in a local church and the Baptist Collegiate Ministry at the college or university they attend, as well as being a disciple for Christ while in college. Students can sign up at collegiatedisciple.net. (BP)

## NEWS BRIEFS

### 'God' optional in honor oath

The Air Force Academy announced Oct. 25 that "so help me God" will no longer be required when cadets take their annual honor oath.

The oath was adopted in 1959 without the phrase "so help me God." It was added in 1984 following a cheating scandal.

Honor oaths at other U.S. military academies do not include the word "God."

The change came after complaints from the Military Religious Freedom Foundation, a New Mexico-based organization.

### Gage sees harvest of souls

More than 600 people made professions of faith during a Rick Gage GO TELL Crusade recently in Alabama.

This number was added to the 130 professions of faith made at pre-crusade events.

The outreach was held in an area of special concern in northeast Alabama known as "Meth Mountain," about 40 miles from Huntsville.

Gage not only spoke at the nightly crusade meetings, but also at jails, schools, football practices, a youth rally and a Celebrate Recovery meeting for recovering alcoholics.

## Lukewarm

Continued from page 1

modeling lukewarm faith do not create enduring faith in children."

The study also found that 20 percent of young adults are switching faiths, with most of the transition being from one Christian denomination to another.

The study, which was released in August, cited some leading theories as to why "nones" have risen in number among Millennials: Young adults tend to engage less in community participation (which includes church); are more likely to view religious people as insincere, hypocritical or judgmental; and are increasingly breaking from churches and people who practice "what they see as prudent conservative political rhetoric."

Additionally, the study noted that

leading scholars associate religious disengagement with the trend to postpone marriage and parenthood.

Among the study's key conclusions for ministry:

- Churches clearly teaching the Bible (conservative evangelical churches) grew while those that do not (mainline denominations) declined. Young adults want "uncompromising truth" that "calls them to something beyond themselves."

- Homes with serious faith tend to produce children who carry faith into adulthood. Christians should create homes where children "witness a vibrant faith that's lived out honestly and intentionally."

- Millennials want serious, substantive faith—not entertainment and theatrics. "Truth trumps trappings," the study said. (BP)


The Georgetown College Alumni Office invites you to a reception to meet

Dr. M. Dwaine  
*Greene*  
24<sup>th</sup> president of Georgetown College

at the home of  
Dr. Wally & Gerry  
Montgomery

Monday, November 11, 2013 | 5-7:30pm  
117 N. 2nd Street, Suite 202 | Paducah, KY

RSVP to Laura Owsley  
by November 5  
502.863.8007  
alumni@georgetowncollege.edu

  
GEORGETOWN  
COLLEGE  
Live. Learn. Believe.

*Derby Dinner*  
PLAYHOUSE

Winter  
Wonderettes

This energetic musical features over 20 seasonal favorites and is the perfect escape from the stress of the holiday season!

GROUPS OF 20 OR MORE GET SPECIAL RATE

- Dinner Included
- Free Parking

November 12 - December 31

812-288-8281 www.derbydinner.com

## Texas abortion regs upheld on appeal, likely closing 12 clinics

By Bonnie Pritchett

Austin, Texas—A Texas law regulating abortions may take effect as drafted, the U.S. 5th Circuit Court of Appeals in New Orleans ruled Oct. 31, stating that challenges to the law's constitutionality likely would fail.

The ruling likely will force the closure of 12 or 13 Texas abortion clinics, according to abortion provider Planned Parenthood.

The decision—by a three-judge panel of women on the appellate court—reverses an Oct. 28 ruling by a U.S. district judge who declared a provision in House Bill 2 that an abortion doctor have hospital privileges within 30 miles of his practice unconstitutional.

Judge Lee Yeakel also partially blocked the law's more stringent guidelines for how the abortion drug RU-486 is administered.

"God is so good," said Kyleen Wright, president of Texans for Life.

The three-judge panel acknowledged "a substantial likelihood that the state will prevail in its argument that Planned Parenthood failed to establish an undue burden on women seeking abortions or that the hospital-admitting-privileges requirement creates a substantial obstacle in the path of a woman seeking an abortion.

"We also conclude that the state has made a strong showing of likelihood of success on the merits, at least in part,

as to its appeal of the injunction pertaining to medication abortions," namely the use of mifepristone (RU-486) and misoprostol.

Wright said she believes the decision will have a significant impact on the state's abortion industry. According to information from the Oct. 28 district court hearing, clinics in Lubbock, Killeen, Waco, McAllen, Fort Worth and possibly Dallas will cease providing abortions because their staff physicians do not have admitting privileges.

The Fort Worth Women's Whole Health Clinic, which opened in June, meets all standards outlined in HB 2 with the exception of the physician privileges provision, even though the clinic sits across the street from a hospital.

The clinics could close temporarily and reopen when their doctors become compliant. But, Wright said, they might not be able to recover from the loss of revenue generated by abortions.

The pro-choice organization NARAL called the decision "devastating." NARAL retweeted a post from Planned Parenthood, "Abortion providers in #Texas are cancelling their patients' appointments: 'It's a sad and dark day.'"

Planned Parenthood, the primary complainant named in the suit against the State of Texas, could appeal the 5th Circuit Court's ruling to the Supreme Court, but Wright said she thought that remains doubtful. (BP)

## Hobby Lobby appeal gains support

By Tom Strobe

Washington—The Southern Baptist Convention's religious freedom entity has urged the U.S. Supreme Court to review lower rulings on the Obama administration's abortion/contraception mandate for the purpose of striking down the controversial rule.

In a friend-of-the-court brief, the Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission joined seven other groups in asking the justices to review split decisions at the appeals court level on the mandate. The brief calls for the Supreme Court to rule in favor of the religious freedom rights of Hobby Lobby and other family-owned businesses that have conscientious objections to a regulation that requires employers to provide abortion-causing drugs for their workers.

The brief asks the high court to uphold a lower-court decision in favor of Hobby Lobby and its sister corporation, Mardel, Oklahoma City-based retail chains owned by the pro-life evangelical Christian Green family. The brief also calls for the justices to overturn a ruling against Conestoga Wood Specialties, a Pennsylvania business owned by

pro-life Mennonites.

President Russell Moore said the ERLC stands with the family-owned businesses "for religious liberty and against the audacity of a state that believes it can annex the human conscience."

"This is not just a matter for Christians, but for all people of good will who recognize the dangers of a coercive state church, including that of a state church of sexual revolution," Moore said in a statement to Baptist Press.

The Supreme Court is expected to announce after Nov. 12 if it will grant review in the cases, according to the Christian Legal Society, which wrote the brief signed onto by the ERLC.

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

The Department of Health and Human Services issued the abortion/contraception mandate as part of implementing the Affordable Care Act, the 2010 health care reform law known as Obamacare. (BP)

**"This is not just a matter for Christians, (but all who recognize coercion.)"**

Russell Moore

## Report: Giving reaches Depression-era lows

By Katherine Burgess

Washington—Collection plates are growing even lighter as Protestant church member giving reached new lows in 2011, and tithing probably will not recover from the recession, according to a new report by Empty Tomb, a Christian research group.

The percentage of a church member's income given to the church dropped to 2.3 percent in 2011 (latest available statistics), down from 2.4 percent in 2010, according to the study. In 1968, church members gave an average of 3.1 percent of their income.

Giving has declined for four consecutive years, according to the report. The only other period of prolonged decline in giving per member was from 1928

through 1934, almost entirely during the Great Depression.

The decline could be attributed to a variety of reasons, including economic struggles, said Matt Branaugh, director of editorial and business development for the Church Law & Tax Group at Christianity Today.

He said another reason could be a decline in church member attendance.

Some churches struggle with how to talk about finances, not realizing that churches must teach about how a relationship with God involves giving—"stewardship," as churches would say, Branaugh said.

"If it's not being talked about and it's not really being taught, it may not necessarily grow into the culture of that congregation," Branaugh said. (RNS)



## HOPE

### The Evangelism Response Center

Reach people for Christ without leaving your home.

Jesus' Great Commission charges us to reach out and offer hope with His message of salvation to those in need. This sounds simple enough, but can be a challenging thing to do in today's busy world.

But what if you could share the message from your own home,

- using your own telephone or computer,
- at a time that is convenient for you,
- and without even initiating the contact?

Those seeking hope and help willingly connect with you!

Interested in learning more? Let us equip you with innovative tools that will allow you to reach seekers from your own home. Partner with us and start sharing your faith today.

The Evangelism Response Center  
erc@namb.net  
770-410-6383



SEND NORTH AMERICA



J. H. Spencer

### J.H. Spencer Historical Society 6th Annual Meeting

Monday, Nov. 11, 10:30 a.m.  
Lone Oak Baptist Church  
Room A102  
3601 Lone Oak Road  
Paducah, Kentucky

Featuring:

**BEN STRATTON**

"H. Boyce Taylor, West Kentucky's Most Influential Baptist Pastor"

**C.C. BRASHER**

"Reflections of My Baptist Role Models"

Everyone is invited to attend.

## Flexibility and blessings

### Ability to adapt at fall festival yields unexpected joy

We recently had a fall festival on our campus. Our campus activities director had planned for months to give our young people a fun day of food, friends and fellowship.

As she and the student council worked tirelessly on a recent Saturday to set up for the event, it became evident that the weather did not plan to cooperate with our outdoor plans. The decision was made, therefore, to move the event into our gym.

The inflatables, tables, games, food and much more were squeezed into the gym. As our students played carnival games, participated in a hot dog eating contest, competed for prizes and ate lots of food, it was evident that the bad weather and limited space did not hinder their ability to enjoy the event.

The last activity of the festival was a movie. Staff members scrambled to make popcorn and give out candy and soda while others set up the movie. The movie was originally going to be outdoors, but it turned out great indoors due to the flexibility of both staff and students.

Oftentimes, we become so accustomed to routine, plans and structure that we forget we serve a Lord who was the most flexible servant the world has ever seen or ever will see. Matthew 8:20 says the Son of Man had no place to lay His head. If Jesus could minister and serve without a home, I believe we can overcome and adjust to the small obstacles we sometimes encounter.

In our country we really do live in luxury. As a young man, I was blessed with the opportunity to travel. I visited Argentina, Brazil, China, Japan, Mexico and Mongolia. These trips opened my eyes to what life was really like in the rest of the world. I learned to appreciate all the wonderful blessings that we so often take for granted in this nation. All Bible-believing Christians who desire to fulfill the Great Commission should possess a passport and be ready to go whenever the Lord calls.

Comfort is the adversary of the Lord's work. When we grow comfortable in our routines and ministries, we grow unwilling to be flexible. I so appreciate our faculty and staff who cheerfully adapt and sacrifice comfort for the sake of our young people.

Oneida is a wonderful place to work and minister, but it is not an easy place to work or minister. I recently attended an annual associational meeting in which the speaker challenged all the pastors present to never quit or grow weary of serving Him with gladness. Our pride and propensity for comfort often hinder our ability to serve the Lord and others.

My experience has often been that as I grow comfortable, the Lord moves me or expands my territory. The prayer of Jabez is a powerful thing and all who ask the Lord to enlarge their ministry should be prepared to be flexible and to be blessed.

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

### This is Oneida



Larry Gritton

## Still learning

### Clear Creek profs do not 'terminate' personal education

We do not offer a "terminal degree" at Clear Creek. In fact, a terminal degree does not even sound like something anyone would want to have, but by one definition it is a good thing.

Our accrediting agencies (ABHE and SACS) require us to have someone with a terminal degree in each program we offer. Generally, that means a doctorate in the field taught. Not all of our professors must have a doctorate, but most do.

At Clear Creek, nine out of 12 full-time faculty members have earned doctorates and, of course, all our faculty members are more than qualified to teach in their field.

I almost started this article by saying that no one at Clear Creek has a terminal degree. I chose not to do that because someone may read the first line and stop. In academic terms, many of our faculty and administrators have terminal degrees. In practical terms, no one here has a terminal degree.

"Terminal" means "constituting or situated at the end of something." A terminal degree means the person has reached the end of the prescribed academic course in their field. To say someone has reached the end of their education, however, is something

entirely different, and we would not want that.

Roy Lucas has a Ph.D. in New Testament and Greek, but he is researching, writing, traveling and studying on an ongoing basis.

Bruce Merrick keeps up with all the latest in Christian education and leadership.

Robert Hughes completed his Ph.D. some years ago and spent years on the mission field, but his education continues.

I could go on throughout the faculty.

So, we do not offer a terminal degree at Clear Creek. Academically, many of our students take the bachelor's degree earned here and go on to seminary, one of our fine Baptist universities, or some other master's program. From there, some go on to do doctoral work.

But we hope and pray that Clear Creek has instilled in them a love and hunger for learning that will never allow them to declare the end of their education. After all, their professors are still learning!

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

### Clear Creek Chronicle



Donnie Fox

## Biblical literacy wanes with rise of 'nones'

By Jeff Brumley

Religious literacy has declined to the point where modern audiences would be baffled at films like Monty Python's 1979 *The Life of Brian*, a British Broadcasting Corp. official said recently.

Comedians are also affected, Naquill Ahmed told *The Independent Newspaper* in England, because audiences don't have the basic biblical knowledge required to get certain jokes. "They can't go into specific stories anymore because no one knows what the stories are."

Some Christian leaders on this side of the Atlantic agree with Ahmed's observation, adding that a drop in religious literacy is a natural result from the rise of the "nones"—that growing population of church-averse Americans.

And it's more than an academic issue for the nation's churches as those trends are changing how newcomers learn the Bible and the way preachers preach.

### 'Insiders vs. outsiders'

"One of the results of biblical illiteracy is that sermons are, for the first time in centuries, getting longer," said Brett Younger, associate professor of preaching at the McAfee School of Theology in Atlanta.

"Precisely because people have not grown up with the stories, many preachers see their job as explaining the text rather than helping worshippers experience the hope of the story," Younger said.

Church members must also make room for worshippers who are not steeped in biblical stories and the traditional teachings about them. It calls for patience for longer sermons and a willingness to avoid church-speak around those who are learning, said Brandon Hudson, pastor at Crosscreek Baptist Church in Pelham, Ala.

"One of the real challenges for those of us who grew up in the church—and now work in the church—is to now realize what kind of translation is necessary in this insider vs. outsider language," Hudson said.

Baptists in particular are experiencing these shifts, especially outside the Bible belt where they are still relatively known, said Bruce Gourley, executive director of the Baptist History and Heritage Society.

"Out here in the West, the general concept is that all Baptists are Southern Baptist or Westboro Baptists," he said.

Baptist, Christian and religious literacy in general has been in rapid decline in the Western states well before the concept of the "nones" gained national headlines in 2012.

"We moved to Montana 20 years ago and I immediately realized that some of the stories of the Bible that I took for granted ... were not known by many people," Gourley said. "Even the Christmas story was not known by many children."

The South is headed in the same direction "if the trend of the 'nones' continues," he said. (ABP)

### "Even the Christmas story was not known."

Bruce Gourley

Campbellsville  
UNIVERSITY



Cordially invites  
CU Alumni & Friends  
to attend a  
Complimentary Lunch  
during the Kentucky Baptist Convention

November 12 at 12:30 p.m. CDT  
Lone Oak Church of Christ  
2960 Lone Oak Road  
Paducah, KY

Reservations may be made by calling  
800-264-6014 ext. 5216  
or via email at  
[pjsmith@campbellsville.edu](mailto:pjsmith@campbellsville.edu)

1 University Drive - Campbellsville, KY 42718  
800-264-6014 - 270-789-5000  
[www.campbellsville.edu](http://www.campbellsville.edu)

## Nobel Prize winners highlight universe's design, profs say

By David Roach

**Nashville, Tenn.**—Discovery of the so-called "God particle" not only helped two physicists win this year's Nobel Prize, it also unwittingly bolstered the arguments of the Intelligent Design movement, according to Southern Baptist scientists.

The particle, whose scientific name is the Higgs boson, derives its popular name from the title of the 1993 book, "God Particle," by atheist physicist Leon Lederman. However, "a closer consideration of the function and properties of the Higgs boson is very enlightening from a theistic perspective," Bruce Gordon, associate professor of the history and philosophy of science at Houston Baptist University, said.

Gordon also is a senior fellow at the Discovery Institute, a Seattle-based think tank that plays a leading role in the Intelligent Design movement, which argues that the universe is the product of intelligence rather than blind chance.

Theoretical physicists Peter Higgs, 84, and Francois Englert, 80, were announced as this year's Nobel Prize winners in physics Oct. 8 for proposing

the existence of the Higgs boson nearly 50 years ago. When the particle was finally discovered last year at the world's most powerful particle accelerator in Switzerland, it vindicated their theory. The two scientists will split a prize of \$1.2 million to be awarded in Stockholm Dec. 10.

The Higgs boson was the last missing ingredient in a set of equations known as the Standard Model that explains how particles interact. It took half a century to discover the Higgs boson because it exists as matter for less than a billionth of a billionth of a second and disappears in ways that make it look like other types of particles.

If the Higgs field did not exist, particles would be massless and move at the speed of light. Atoms would not exist either, and the universe would be lifeless.

"Along with a handful of other fundamental forces and laws" like gravity and electromagnetism, "the Higgs mechanism is necessary for the existence of life," Gordon said. "Without it, we wouldn't be here."

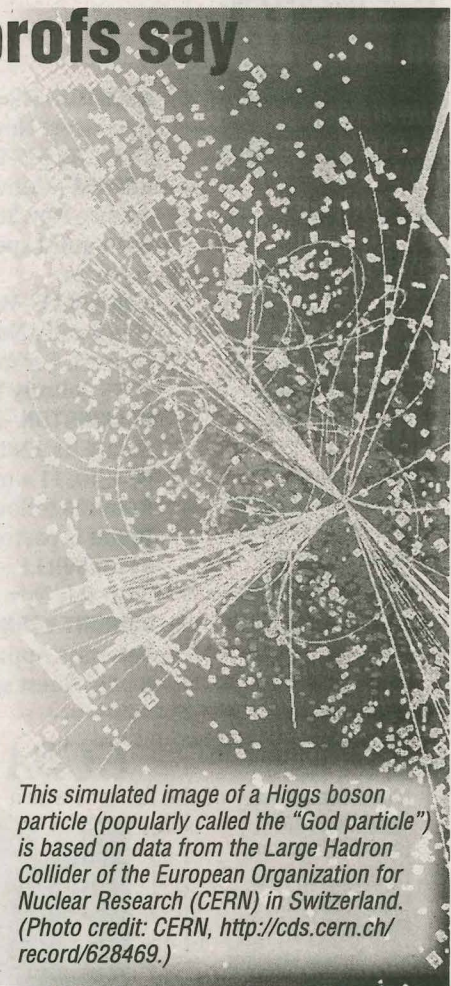
The Higgs boson is significant for the Intelligent Design movement because its mass and interaction strength are

fine-tuned to accommodate the existence of life, which points to the particle's being the product of a rational creator rather than an undirected natural process. If the subatomic Higgs boson had even five times its measured mass, it would render life impossible, Gordon said.

"The amount of fine-tuning present in the forms taken by the laws of nature, the conditions governing the beginning of the universe and the values associated with various universal constants (force-field strengths, particle masses, etc.) is beyond the reach of any undirected process," Gordon said. "The specified nature of these forms, conditions and values, combined with their staggering and (mostly) multiplicative improbabilities, leads inexorably to the conclusion that the universe has these properties as the result of an intelligent cause, not an undirected process."

Discovery of the Higgs boson, Gordon noted, should spur scientists to pursue additional insights that demonstrate the universe's intricate design.

"Where the fine-tuning of the universe for the existence of life is concerned, these observations about the Higgs boson are just the tip of the iceberg," he wrote. (BP)



This simulated image of a Higgs boson particle (popularly called the "God particle") is based on data from the Large Hadron Collider of the European Organization for Nuclear Research (CERN) in Switzerland. (Photo credit: CERN, <http://cds.cern.ch/record/628469>.)

### Bible Crosswords

#### Across

- 1 "God clave an hollow place that was in the \_\_\_\_\_, and there came water thereout" (Judges 15:19)
- 4 Prepare fruit
- 8 Whatever \_\_\_\_\_ you
- 12 Jurist Fortas
- 13 Black
- 14 Dagger
- 15 "He \_\_\_\_\_ my strength in the way" (Psalm 102:23)
- 17 Permanent mark
- 18 Evidence of beating
- 19 Sesame, for one
- 20 Northwest \_\_\_\_\_ (abbr.)
- 21 "Shoot out thine \_\_\_\_\_, and destroy them" (Psalm 144:6)
- 24 Ate out
- 27 Linking verb
- 28 Comprehend
- 29 Son of Zeus
- 30 "How can a man be born when he is \_\_\_\_\_?" (John 3:4)
- 31 Dead \_\_\_\_\_ (Dick Francis classic)
- 32 French pronoun
- 33 Hole-making tool
- 34 Amusement park amusements
- 35 Begin a conversation
- 37 Wager
- 38 Hurry (arch.)
- 39 Punish (arch.)
- 43 Steakhouse selection, perhaps
- 45 "Though they would have cast anchors out of the \_\_\_\_\_" (Acts 27:30)

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		

#180

J	A	M	A	R	O	M	E	W	A	R
E	L	A	M	A	N	E	M	E	L	I
N	A	E	D	G	E	S	T	R	E	A
P	R	I	C	E	S	T	H	I	E	F
L	A	T	E	S	H	A	M	O	D	D
A	S	H	S	P	A	R	E	R	O	E
N	E	E	S	T	I	N	E	A	G	U
S	T	I	C	K	S	W	O	R	D	
S	H	A	R	E	M	E	A	T		
T	O	W	N	L	E	A	K	E	R	
O	A	R	A	R	I	A	E	A	S	E
P	R	I	M	E	E	T	N	E	E	D

#179

- 47 Cary Grant, once
- 48 Father of Azariah (2 Chronicles 15:1)
- 49 Paris summer
- 50 Challenge
- 51 Whirlpool
- 52 Affirmative vote
- Down**
- 1 Spielberg film
- 2 Aid's partner
- 3 \_\_\_\_\_ thin
- 4 "There was none that moved the wing or opened the mouth, or \_\_\_\_\_" (Isaiah 10:14)
- 5 Son of Ner (2 Samuel 2:8)
- 6 "Asahel was as light of foot as a wild \_\_\_\_\_" (2 Samuel 2:18)
- 7 Like omega
- 8 Son of Kohath (1 Chronicles 6:22)
- 9 "And they wrought onyx stones \_\_\_\_\_ in ouches of gold" (Exodus 39:6)
- 10 Bucolic locale
- 11 Indian weight
- 16 Unclean birds (Deuteronomy 14:13)
- 19 Pay dirt
- 21 Son of Bela (Numbers 26:40)
- 22 Used to be
- 23 Cupboard collections, as in dishes
- 24 Fruit of the palm
- 25 Smooth
- 26 One close by
- 27 Cheer competitor
- 30 "\_\_\_\_\_ no man any thing, but to love" (Romans 13:8)
- 31 Refers to
- 33 Mature
- 34 "The wrath of the Lord arose against his people, till there was no \_\_\_\_\_" (2 Chronicles 36:16)
- 36 Seat location
- 37 Told all
- 40 Feminine name
- 41 Bethlehem: \_\_\_\_\_ of David
- 42 Fencing gear
- 43 Exterminate
- 44 Lupino
- 45 Nemesis
- 46 "The \_\_\_\_\_ number ... is to be redeemed" (Numbers 3:48)

### Small trusts

#### KBF is an alternative that can save a trustee expenses

Many banks, especially the large banks, no longer desire to serve as the trustee of "small trusts." These banks have different definitions of "small trusts." Sometimes a larger bank becomes the trustee of a "small trust" as a result of a merger or acquisition of a smaller bank.

The primary reason a bank may no longer desire to serve as trustee of a "small trust" is it no longer is cost effective for the bank or the beneficiary of the trust. As a result, it is in the best interests both of the bank and the beneficiary to find a successor trustee that can manage it cost effectively. The successor trustee must be approved by the district court.

The Kentucky Baptist Foundation is available to serve as the successor trustee of such "small trusts" if the beneficiary is a Baptist organization or a charitable organization with Christian purposes as determined by the KBF board.

There have been several instances in the past, and we expect in the future, where the bank trustee and the beneficiary(s) have petitioned the district court to name the KBF as the successor trustee, and the KBF has accepted

gladly this fiduciary responsibility. In addition to our positive investment performance, the KBF applies a Christian-based social screening policy to all individually-owned securities, and our costs are below the market.

#### Ky. Baptist Foundation



Barry Allen

If your church or other charitable organization with which you are affiliated is the beneficiary of a trust for which the costs are consuming a disproportionate amount of the distributable earnings, please give us a call. It is possible the trustee would be happy to know there is an alternative like the KBF.

If your church or other charitable organization is contacted by a bank to inform you of its intent to resign as the trustee due to the "small" size of the trust for which the organization is the beneficiary, please make sure the bank knows about the KBF as an alternative to be the successor trustee. Every dollar the KBF can save in trustee expenses is a dollar more for kingdom advancement. So, keep your eyes and ears open for opportunities for the KBF to be the successor trustee of "small trusts," and let me know when you discover one. Grace and peace!

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

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



THE BUS CENTER.COM

- Search our Huge Inventory of New & Used Buses
- Nationwide Delivery
- Online Pricing
- Onsite Bus Graphics
- Quick & Easy Leasing or Financing

800-322-4024

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

## MOUNTAINS TO THE MISSISSIPPI

COMPILED BY STAFF



## November

- 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.
- 11 DOM Dinner, First Baptist Church, Paducah.
- 12 KBC Annual Meeting, First Baptist Church, Lone Oak, Paducah.
- 21 Nominating committee of the Mission Board, KBC building, Louisville.
- 21 Kentucky WMU volunteer appreciation luncheon, KBC building, Louisville.
- 24 Thanksgiving Offering for Sunrise Children's Services, KBC churches.

- **BENTON**—Zion's Cause will host **Tammy Trent** in concert Nov. 7, 7 p.m. For more information, call (270) 527-9696. **Charles Frazier** is pastor.
- **BEREA**—Conway Church will hold fall revival service Nov. 10, 11 a.m., and Nov. 11-13, 7 p.m., with guest speaker **Ralph Baker**. **Bobby Turner** is pastor.
- **DANVILLE**—Willow Grove Church will hold a youth rally Nov. 9, 6 p.m., with **Josh Reardon** in concert. For more information, call (859) 236-4956. **Johnny Thompson** is pastor.
- **LEXINGTON**—Boone's Creek Church will celebrate its 228th anniversary and homecoming Nov. 10, 11 a.m., with guest speaker **Wendell Romans** followed by a potluck meal. **Charles Dixon** is pastor.
- **LOUISVILLE**—Fern Creek Church will hold a craft fair Nov. 9, 9 a.m. **Linda Popham** is pastor.
- **MOUNT VERNON**—Maretburg Church will hold Veterans Appreciation Service and meal Nov. 8, 6 p.m. Guest speaker will be **John Mark Toby**

and **Zach Rice** will provide special music.**Wayne Harding** is pastor.

- **PRINCETON**—Donaldson Church will host the Caldwell-Lyon Association Men's Breakfast to honor veterans Nov. 9, 8 a.m., with guest speaker **Eric Nelson**. **Chris Turpin** is pastor.

Northside Church will hold revival services Nov. 10, 10:30 a.m., and Nov. 11-13, 7 p.m., with guest speaker **Todd Gray**. **Jeffery McCarty** is pastor.

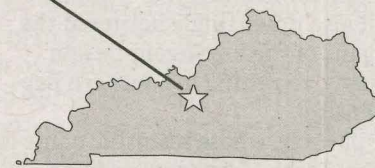
Parkland Church will hold a Red Cross Blood Drive Nov. 10, 11:30 a.m. **Tom Curry** is pastor.

Southside Church will hold their 7th annual Abstinence Youth Rally Nov. 9, 6:30 p.m. **Mark Williams** is pastor.

- **SOMERSET**—First Church will hold Veterans' Recognition Service Nov. 10, 11 a.m., followed by a luncheon. Veterans and their spouses, widows or widowers are invited to attend. **French Harmon** is pastor.

## Spotlight on ...

Cecilia



Cecilia Church will hold Festival of the Lord Nov. 9, 3 p.m. with guest speaker and Messianic Rabbi **Vann Lanz**. **Eric Oliver** is pastor.

## KBC junior high, men's vocalists perform Nov. 10

**Louisville**—Two Kentucky Baptist choirs will perform Nov. 10. The events are open to the public.

The junior-high choir will sing at both morning worship services at Rich Pond Baptist Church, 200 Brad Ave., Bowling Green. Services are at 9 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. They will sing again at Eastwood Baptist Church, 500 Eastwood St., also in Bowling Green, at 3 p.m.

The Kentucky Baptist Junior High Choir is comprised of 54 students in grades 7-9 from 37 Kentucky Baptist Convention-affiliated congregations.

The Kentucky Baptist Men's Chorale will be in concert Nov. 10 at First Baptist Church in Henderson at 6 p.m. The church is located at 307 Center St.

The Kentucky Baptist Women's Chorale will join the men on Nov. 12 to sing at the 176th Annual Meeting of the Kentucky Baptist Convention at Lone Oak First Baptist Church, 3601 Lone Oak Rd., Paducah. (KBC)

## GCBA's new officers



The Graves County Baptist Association's new officers for the coming year are (from left) **Don Gough**, assistant treasurer; **James Gream**, treasurer; **Ronnie Stinson, Jr.**, moderator; **Brad Hall**, vice moderator; and **Presley Lamm**, clerk. Not pictured is **Matthew Jackson**, assistant clerk. Officers were elected at the Graves County Association annual meeting, Oct. 17-18, held at Sedalia Baptist Church in Sedalia and First Baptist Church of Mayfield.

## Surprise! It's the Oak Ridge Boys



The Oak Ridge Boys surprised **Buzz Cason**, singer, songwriter and rock 'n' roll musician, while he was singing "Glory Bound" as the opening act for The Oak Ridge Boys concert at Campbellsville University's Ransdell Chapel Oct. 28. The Oak Ridge Boys are from left: **Duane Allen**, **Joe Bonsall**, with **Cason**, **William Lee Golden** and **Richard Sterban**. Concert proceeds went to the university's Scholarship Fund. **Cason** is a member of the Campbellsville's Board of Trustees. (Photo by **Rachel DeCoursey**)

## CLASSIFIED ADS

**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](http://Jcamedia.com). References available.

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

**SEEKING:** Trenton Baptist Church in Trenton is seeking a part-time student minister for grades 6-12. Trenton is located in Todd County near Hopkinsville and Clarksville, Tenn. For information, or to submit a resumé, contact the Student Minister Committee at P.O. Box 191, Trenton, KY 42286, or email [trentonbaptist@bellsouth.net](mailto:trentonbaptist@bellsouth.net).

**SEEKING:** Minister to assist pastor with preaching, visitation and building a Sunday School. Prefer a family man that has a desire to see souls saved and church growth. Contact pastor **James Hook** at (502) 637-4404.

**SEEKING:** Immanuel Baptist Church in Elizabethtown is seeking a part-time worship minister. Responsibilities include planning, evaluating and

leading congregational music, coordinating music and directing the adult choir, praise team, young adult/youth praise band, preschool, children's choirs and working with the media team. Worship at Immanuel can be described as "blended" with a mix of both traditional hymns and contemporary choruses. Emphasis is on exalting the heavenly Father and the Lord Jesus Christ, under the leadership and quickening of the Holy Spirit. Interested candidates may contact the church office at (270) 765-6516 for detailed job description. Mail resumé to: Immanuel Baptist Church, c/o Worship Minister Search Committee, 800 Rhodes Drive, Elizabethtown, KY 42701, or email to [chuck@ibcetown.org](mailto:chuck@ibcetown.org). Deadline: Nov. 15.

**SEEKING:** Salvisa Baptist Church is seeking a senior pastor. Mail resúmes to Pastor Search Committee, P.O. Box 75, Salvisa, KY 40372, or email to [patty@salvisabaptist.org](mailto:patty@salvisabaptist.org).

**SEEKING:** Pianist needed. Mount Washington United Methodist Church is in search of a pianist. This would involve traditional morning service on Sundays, one hour with youth choir Sunday afternoons, and one hour with adult choir on Wednesday evenings. If interested, email pastor **Steve Boutell** at [mwumc@gmail.com](mailto:mwumc@gmail.com).

**SEEKING:** New Hope Baptist Church, a conservative congregation (45-50) in

West Liberty, is seeking a bivocational pastor. Parsonage provided. For inquiries: (606) 743-7437. Send resumé/sermon DVD to ATTN: **Fleshman**, 175 Beacon Hill Drive, Morehead, KY 40351.

**SEEKING:** Rineyville Baptist Church is accepting resúmes 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 resúmes to P.O. Box 120, Rineyville, KY 40162, or email to [rbcpastorsearch@yahoo.com](mailto:rbcpastorsearch@yahoo.com). Resúmes will be accepted through Nov. 15.

**SEEKING:** Elizabethtown Baptist Church is seeking an interim pastor. Send resumé by Dec. 1 to Elizabethtown Baptist Church, 1525 North Miles, Elizabethtown, KY 42701.

**SEEKING:** Bethlehem Baptist Church is seeking a part-time office manager proficient in Microsoft Office products. Applicant must be able to effectively communicate verbally and in writing. Recent experience is preferred. Salary will be commensurate with experience. Send cover letter and resumé to Bethlehem Baptist Church, ATTN: Personnel Committee/Scott Whittenberg, 5708 Preston

## To place an advertisement in the Western Recorder:

Rates are available upon request. Call (502) 489-3428; or visit [westernrecorder.org](http://westernrecorder.org)



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

Hwy., Louisville, KY 40219, or email [curryj@iglou.com](mailto:curryj@iglou.com).

**SEEKING:** Bethlehem Baptist Church is seeking part-time office support personnel to assist office manager. Sufficient skills in Microsoft Office products required. Applicant must be able to effectively communicate verbally and in writing. Send cover letter and resumé to Bethlehem Baptist Church, ATTN: Personnel Committee/Scott Whittenberg, 5708 Preston Hwy., Louisville, KY 40219, or email [curryj@iglou.com](mailto:curryj@iglou.com).

**TRAVEL:** 100's of Bible land departures catering to Southern Baptists—Israel, Greece, Turkey, Italy, Germany, Switzerland, Britain, Jordan, Egypt, etc. [pilgrimtours.com](http://pilgrimtours.com) (800) 322-0788.

# The Duggars & their 'EXCITING ADVENTURE'



Jim Bob and Michelle Duggar, along with 18 of their 19 children, spread across the stage in Southwestern Seminary's MacGorman Chapel to share Scripture, play instruments and sing hymns.

## Jim Bob, Michelle Duggar & their kids featured speakers

By Keith Collier

**Fort Worth, Texas**—A seminary chapel service turned into a family affair as Jim Bob and Michelle Duggar and 18 of their 19 children spread across the stage to share Scripture, play instruments and sing hymns.

In addition to the musical performances, Jim Bob and Michelle recounted their life stories and how their family was selected for the hit cable television show "19 Kids & Counting," which airs on TLC.

Jim Bob and Michelle, speaking in Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary's MacGorman Chapel on Oct. 24, began their story by recounting how they came to faith in Jesus Christ. Jim Bob grew up attending church and became a Christian at an early age. Michelle, however, never attended church as a child, but became a Christian in high school after a friend shared with her how she could have a right relationship with the Lord.

Shortly after Michelle became a Christian, Jim Bob and a friend were making neighborhood visits to people from church. As they considered where to visit next, his friend said, "Hey, I know this girl who just became a Christian and she's a cheerleader." Jim Bob promptly replied, "Well, let's go see her!"

"It was love at first sight," Jim Bob told the chapel audience.

A year later, Jim Bob and Michelle went on their first date to a high school banquet. Afterward, they talked for

hours about spiritual matters, and according to the couple it was the night that God knit their hearts together.

The two married after high school and, like most couples, they were unsure if they wanted to have children right away, so Michelle took birth control pills. Three and a half years later, Michelle stopped birth control, became pregnant and gave birth to their first son, Josh.



Members of the Duggar family sign books and speak with families following a chapel service at Southwestern Seminary Oct. 24.

"Then, we didn't want to have them too close together, so she went back on the pill," Jim Bob said.

"But we did not realize—and this is not something that is really well known—but sometimes the pill can allow you to get pregnant, but can then be abortive. And that's what happened in our situation. Michelle was on the pill, got pregnant, and then the pill caused a miscarriage, and we lost our second child."

"We were devastated," Michelle said. "Here we were, Christians, loving being parents, holding this one baby in our arms and then realizing that with our own hands, our own lack of knowledge, we held out our baby to be destroyed."

"We got on our faces before the Lord,

and we cried out, 'Father, forgive us and give us a love for children like You love children.'"

Jim Bob and Michelle committed to receive whatever gifts—that is, children—God would give them. Soon thereafter, Michelle gave birth to twins, and the Lord continued to bless them with one child after another.

"Before you know it, we had so many kids running around, we thought, 'What have we done?!'" Jim Bob joked.

"It was a busy time," he said, "and we were so overwhelmed that we thought, 'We don't know if we can handle it anymore.'"

Provisionally, the couple said, the Lord brought encouragers and helpers into their lives as they learned to trust in His strength. One lady they knew, for example, offered to help Michelle with laundry each week, and did so faithfully for 13 years.

Jim Bob admitted they are not a perfect family nor are he and Michelle perfect parents.

"I really never had an anger problem until we had started having children," Jim Bob said. "I realized that when we started having these kids and I started blowing up in anger to correct them, it was building a wall between me and my children."

Jim Bob said he asked his family to forgive him and requested that they keep him accountable when they noticed him reacting in anger. He encouraged the chapel audience to consider doing likewise.

"You can take your children to church Sunday morning, Sunday night and Wednesday night," Jim Bob said, "but if you're blowing up at home, it will undermine your whole ministry."

Additionally, Jim Bob challenged fathers to "be the spiritual leaders of

your family."

"Read the Bible to your children, explain what the Scriptures mean, give illustrations and make it practical for them."

The Duggars' love for children not only extends to their own children and grandchildren, but they also have a passion to support the rights of unborn children in America. Inspired by a pro-life rally at the Arkansas state capitol, Jim Bob ran for and was elected to the Arkansas House of Representatives, where he served from 1999–2003.

During a bid for Congress in 2002, an Associated Press photographer took an image of him and his large family on Election Day. Though he lost the race, the photo appeared the next day in *The New York Times*, which sparked interest from a writer for a parenting magazine.

A few months later, an executive with Discovery Health Channel saw the parenting magazine story and contacted them about filming a documentary on their family.

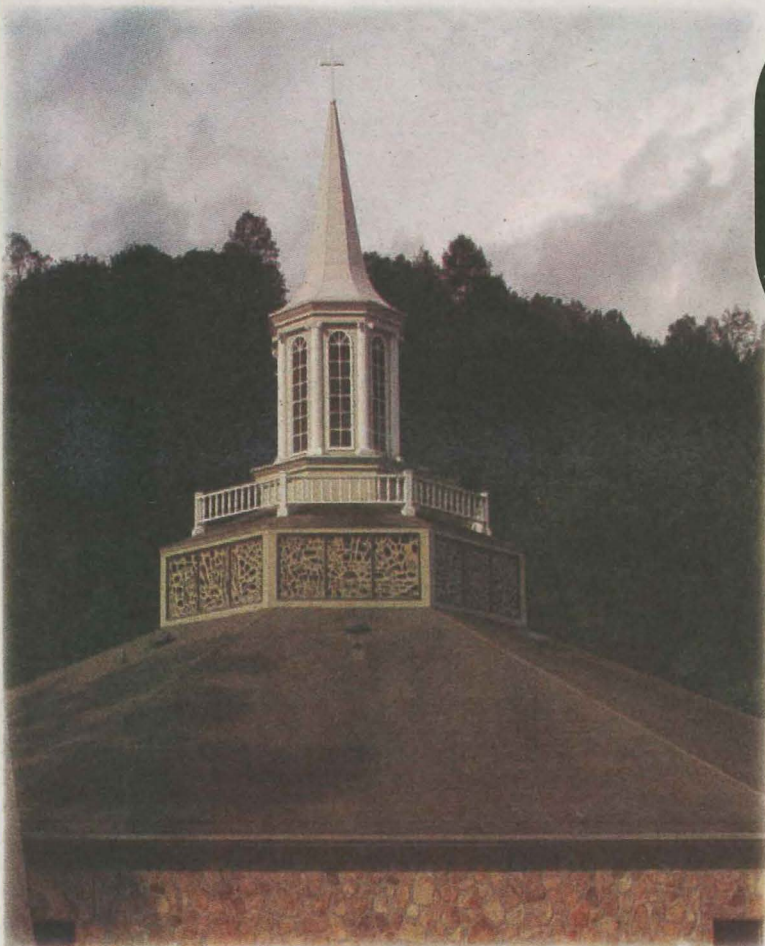
"I really believed that this was an opportunity to share with the world that children are a blessing from the Lord," Jim Bob said. Eventually, the documentary became one of the top shows on cable television.

Jim Bob and Michelle concluded their time in Southwestern's chapel service with a challenge to seminary students.

"Our challenge to you," Jim Bob said, "is to follow the Lord wherever He leads you, to do whatever He puts on your heart—maybe to be a missionary overseas or to be a pastor or maybe getting involved in politics."

"Following the Lord is an exciting adventure, and I pray that each one of us will follow that still, small voice of the Lord and watch Him work in our lives in a miraculous way." (SWBTS/BP)

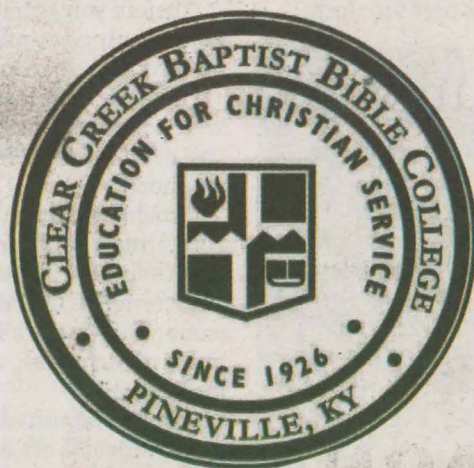
# Clear Creek Baptist Bible College would love to see you at the Kentucky Baptist Convention!



**November 12**  
First Baptist Lone Oak  
Paducah, Kentucky

Look for our exhibit at booth #12, we hope that you will stop by and visit with us. We would love to talk with you and discover new ways in which we can assist and undergird you in your ministry.

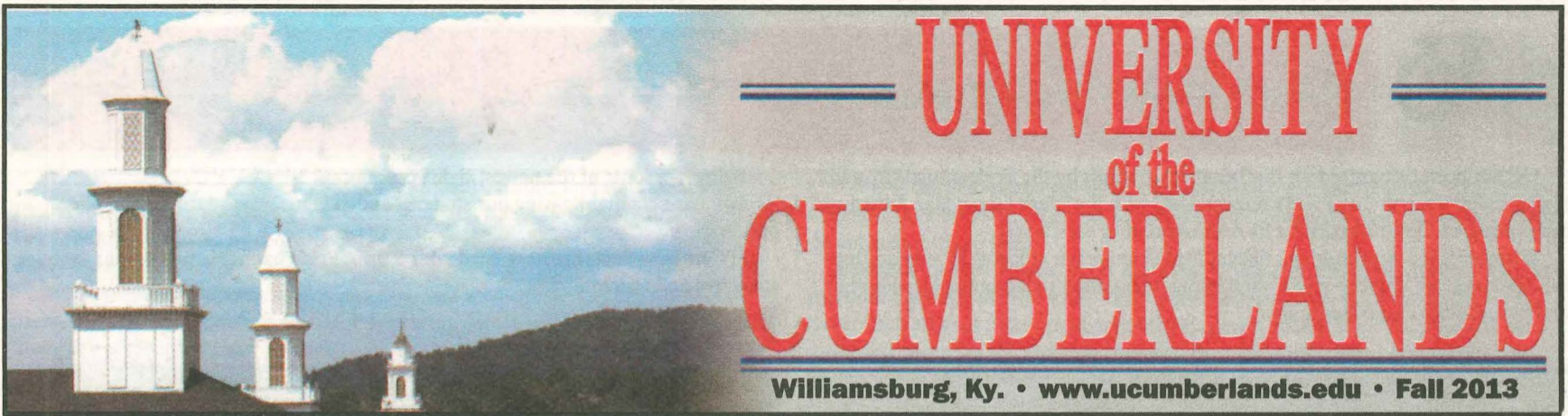
## See you in Paducah!



Clear Creek Baptist Bible College exists to provide educational preparation for adults called of God into Christian service.  
ABHE and SACS accredited

CLEAR CREEK BAPTIST BIBLE COLLEGE  
300 Clear Creek Road  
Pineville, Kentucky 40977-9754  
Dr. Donnie Fox, President  
Phone: 606-337-3196 Fax: 606-337-2372  
Internet: [www.cbbbc.edu](http://www.cbbbc.edu) E-Mail: [cbbbc@cbbbc.edu](mailto:cbbbc@cbbbc.edu)

*Clear Creek is an institution of the Kentucky Baptist Convention*



# UNIVERSITY of the CUMBERLANDS

Williamsburg, Ky. • [www.ucumberlands.edu](http://www.ucumberlands.edu) • Fall 2013

## Alumni Spotlight



Dr. Paul Chitwood has served as executive director-treasurer of the Kentucky Baptist Convention since July 1, 2011. A native of Jellico, Tenn., Chitwood is a 1992 graduate of Cumberland College (now UC) where he previously served as a trustee. He earned a master of divinity degree from Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in 1995 and a doctorate from the seminary in 2001.

Chitwood has pastored several churches in Kentucky, including First Baptist Mount Washington, First Baptist Church Somerset, First Baptist Church Owenton and South Fork Baptist Church in Owenton. He is the immediate past chairman of the board of trustees for the International Mission Board of the SBC, an assistant professor of evangelism and church growth at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, and he has served as an adjunct professor of Missions and Ministry at UC.

Chitwood resides in Louisville, Ky., with his wife Michelle and their three children, Daniel, Anna and Cai. In a recent KBC meeting, Dr. Chitwood indicated that his family has a strong tie to UC, with he, his wife and more than 30 relatives counted as UC alums.



Dr. Chuck Lawless currently serves as Professor of Evangelism and Missions and Dean of Graduate Studies at Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary, in addition to serving as Global Theological Education Consultant for the International Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention where he previously served as a Vice-President for Global Theological Advance. Prior to that, he was dean of the Billy Graham School of Missions and Evangelism at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, KY, where he also served as Vice President for Academic Programming and the Director of Professional Doctoral Studies. He pastored two Ohio churches prior to joining the Southern Seminary faculty in 1996.

Lawless is the author of eight works, including *Membership Matters*, *Spiritual Warfare*, *Disciplined Warriors*, *Putting on the Armor*, *Serving in Your Church Prayer Ministry*, and *Mentor*.

He received a B.S. degree from Cumberland College and M.Div. and Ph.D. degrees from Southern Seminary. He and his wife Pam reside in Wake Forest, NC.

## New Development at Cumberlands!

Matthew 17:20, New International Version: "...If you have faith as small as a mustard seed, you can say to this mountain, 'Move from here to there,' and it will move. Nothing will be impossible for you."

Today, people have all types of mountains to move—from disappointment, dejection, depression, divorce, debilitation, deficits, and all the other "d's." All of these mountains can be eased, even mountains of debt through hard work and faith for the future.

Here on the campus of UC we're lowering the peaks and elevating the valleys.

We've already turned a mountain upside-down into a valley. How? Like you eat an elephant, one bite at a time. For over a year, seven trucks worked eight hours a day filling in the valley one truck-load at a time—thousands of cubic yards of dirt were moved, resulting in a vast expansion of the campus.

Now we are lowering another mountain peak by 40 feet so the 42,000 people who pass each day on I-75 from Mackinac Island, Michigan, to Miami Beach, Florida, will see the campus—steeple representing excellence sweeping up into the heavens.

From Handel's "Messiah": "Every valley shall be exalted, and every mountain and hill made low, the crooked straight, and the rough places plain."

As Edgar Albert Guest wrote:

Somebody said that it couldn't be done,  
But he with a chuckle replied  
That "maybe it couldn't," but he would be one  
Who wouldn't say so till he'd tried.  
So he buckled right in with the trace of a grin  
On his face. If he worried he hid it.  
He started to sing as he tackled the thing  
That couldn't be done, and he did it.

*Continued on pg. 4*



*Artist's drawing of new entrance into campus*

## Recognitions

*Named One of "America's Best Universities" by U.S. News & World Report*

*Named NAIA Champions of Character 5 Star Institution*

*Ranked by Washington Monthly College Rankings*

*Ranked one of AC Online's top Baptist Colleges with High Starting Salaries for Graduates*

*President's Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll*

*Named one of top Kentucky Colleges with Highest Financial Return on Investment by College Database Online*

*Named to America's Best Christian Colleges*

*Named Military Friendly School*



## New Scenes on Campus

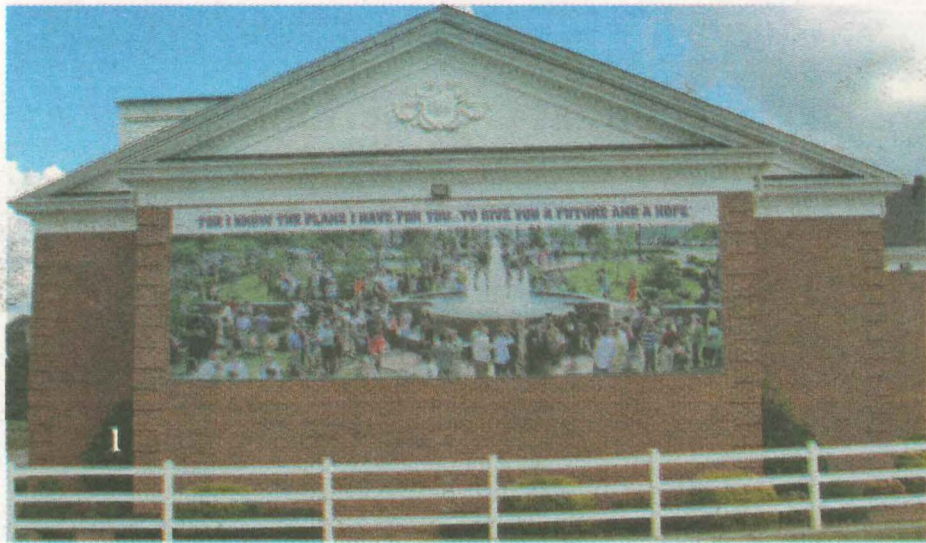
UC has been recognized for our beautiful grounds by the Professional Grounds Management Society. The PGMS honored UC with the Merit Green Star Award and complimented the University for its commitment to excellence.

Whether it is a new building, Patriot Pride banners or colorful flowers dotting the landscape, we strive to make our campus a beautiful, welcoming place for our students, visitors and community.

Below are some of the newest sights on campus.

1-4: Banners highlighting our students and campus now adorn several of our buildings.

5: Campus streets are now lined with Patriot Pride banners, making our avenues attractive and welcoming.



### Bequests

Over the past few months, UOTC has been blessed to receive a number of bequests from alumni and friends totaling \$3,914,580:

Ruth Peckham	\$72,500.00
Joe Stanford	\$87,000.00
Robert Gudmundsen	\$100,000.00
Arnold Garrison	\$100,000.00
Dorothy Keeran	\$100,000.00
Betty Miller	\$128,704.00
Homer Thompson	\$250,000.00
Celdon Lewallen	\$588,477.00
Susan Brown	\$1,138,002.00
Mary Teer Buehrle	\$1,349,897.00

We praise God for His blessings and for these friends who have passed our way and who have entrusted to us their legacy for future generations. These friends were modest individuals who had a genuine concern for Christian Higher Education and who, through their bequests, generosity and selflessness have helped change the lives of future generations attending University of the Cumberlands.



On August 27, 2013, more than 100 UC students, faculty and staff welcomed 200 local elementary students to campus for its first Barefoot for Bare Feet event. The children, identified by their school's family resource centers as most in need, were each given a foot bath and a new pair of socks and shoes.

While several children at a time had their feet washed and donned with new shoes, the others waited their turns while playing games with volunteers. Many of them, shy at the attention they were receiving, began to open up when they saw the games and toys provided to entertain them.

"This is the best day of my entire life," one young girl said happily. "This is like a vacation just for kids! This is so much fun and I even got a new pair of shoes that are actually mine to keep!"

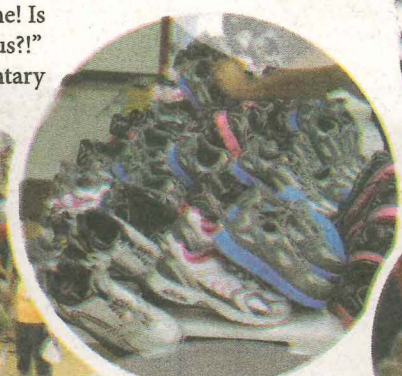
Barefoot for Bare Feet workers and event organizers pre-registered the students and their shoe size so they knew exactly what to give them once the students arrived. Each student received a backpack filled with school supplies as well as the shoes and socks. As the children removed their old socks and shoes to have their feet washed, they put them in their new bag to carry them home.

"The little girl I was working with was so tiny and cute! She loved her shoes. They had pink on them and she was excited because she said pink was her favorite color. It was almost as if she was shocked that someone wanted to give her something that she actually liked versus just leftovers or hand-me-downs." Kristen Yamasaki (UC student volunteer and women's wrestler)

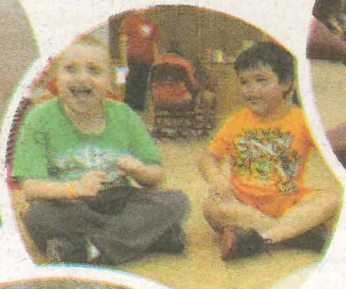


"Oh wow! This is awesome! Is this really for us?!" Boston Elementary student.

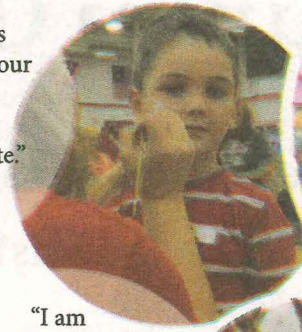
"Today was such an amazing and humbling experience. So many kids were so excited to have new shoes." Courtney Hixson (twitter)



"I just lived one of the most amazing experiences of my life! We had 200 kids from elementary school, we played with them, we talked to them, we got to know them a little bit. We washed their feet and gave them a brand new pair of shoes along with a bag and school supplies! I could see the smile on their faces and the happiness in their eyes. Some of those kids never had a NEW pair of shoes! I felt terribly guilty to have everything I need but this experience made me a better person! Thanks UC for letting me experience this. This is a day I will never forget!" Charlotte Parent (facebook)



"This is amazing. It's a wonderful event for our kids and it's great that so many have come out to participate." Dr. Jim Taylor



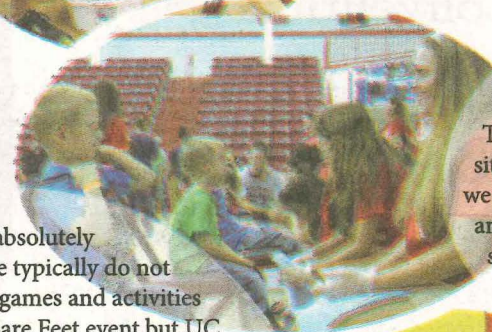
"Really experienced a blessing this morning working with the Barefoot for Barefeet event...so humbling and glad that I got to be a part of it!" Annie Bailey (facebook)



"I am having so much fun! This is much better than sitting in a classroom plus we are getting to play games and get new shoes! This is so cool!" Pleasant View student



"This is absolutely unbelievable. We typically do not have all the music, games and activities for the Barefoot for Bare Feet event but UC decided to add that effect into theirs and it was a terrific idea. The kids are coming in forgetting that they are in need and just having a blast. This is a life changing experience for the kids and everyone who is witnessing this today. This means much more than just kids getting a new pair of shoes; they have volunteers in front of them washing their feet that are making them feel like they are the most important person in the world. UC has been incredible and I consider this a definite success. What you see out there on that gym floor is nothing short of an absolute blessing." Chip Kauchak



# UNIVERSITY of the CUMBERLANDS

Continued from pg. 1

For years the campus has been divided with the football stadium and the Cumberland Inn separated from campus by houses and a mountain that completely blocked the view of one from the other. We have slowly been buying property, planning for the day when we could unite the campus. Today we are realizing that vision as we remove delapidated buildings and begin preparing the hill to be lowered.

The project is made up of three basic parts: new athletic fields that will hold a woman's softball field and two lacrosse fields, enhancement of the football arena, including more parking; a new entrance into the university that will lead directly from 10th Street to the campus.

In perfect timing, the state of Kentucky is also preparing to widen 10th Street, build sidewalks on both sides and add lighting, making the busy road into Williamsburg and the campus more attractive and much safer.



## UC Alumni & Friends

You are invited to attend a complimentary luncheon during  
the Kentucky Baptist Convention

Tuesday, November 12  
12:30 p.m.

Bob Evans Restaurant • 3961 Hinkleville Road • Paducah, KY

To make a reservation please call  
606-539-4462

