

WESTERN Recorder

November 12, 2013

Shine Like Stars * Philippians 2:15

Volume 187, Issue 43



FLAMES of REVIVAL

RISK events ignite hearts in west Kentucky prisons

By Drew Nichter

Paducah—Following an altar call that saw 16 men stand and make decisions for Christ, one McCracken County Jail inmate just couldn't stand it any longer. He had to speak out.

"I believe something's happening in Paducah," he proclaimed. "I believe you all are fixing to have revival break out in this city."

The flames of that revival were fanned even further Nov. 1-2 through a pair of events at area prisons at the start of RISK: Paducah, a week of gospel outreach leading up to this week's Kentucky Baptist Convention annual meeting.

During RISK's opening weekend, some 230 people made decisions for Christ, 174 of whom were prisoners who attended worship services at the

□ See RISK ... Page 8

Over 170 prisoners in Paducah's McCracken County Jail and Western Kentucky Correctional Complex in Fredonia made decisions for Christ during RISK: Paducah, a series of outreach events organized by the Kentucky Baptist Convention in the week leading up to the 176th annual meeting. (KBC)

Sunrise trustees reject change to agency's hiring practices

By Todd Deaton

Mount Washington—After enduring a dozen years of defending lawsuits stemming from the firing of a lesbian worker, the Board of Directors of Sunrise Children's Services rejected a recommendation Nov. 8 to change the Kentucky Baptist childcare agency's current hiring practices.

Sunrise Children's Services will continue its practice of "informing applicants that the organization does not hire gay people," according to a press release from Brandi Felser, chief operating officer of Sunrise.

"Let's be clear about this vote," said Joyce Smith, chairman of Sunrise's board. "With this decision, we are not promoting anything other than the physical, mental and spiritual welfare of our children."

"We remain focused on our mission of providing love and support to the victimized children that Sunrise serves and our decision today will not affect

the everyday care Sunrise provides to families and children."

Upon hearing the board's action, Kentucky Baptist Convention Executive Director Paul Chitwood rejoiced in "the courage and conviction exhibited by the

□ See Sunrise ... Page 3



The Nov. 8 trustee meeting was moved from the Eldred M. Taylor Ministry Support building in Mount Washington to a Shepherdsville conference center due to possible media attention. (WR/Todd Deaton)

KBC messengers to consider ending Georgetown partnership

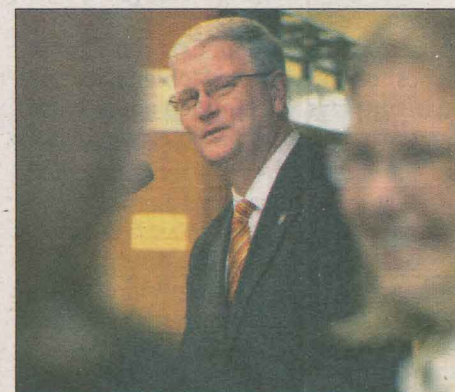
By Dannah Prather

Paducah—Messengers to the 176th Annual Meeting of the Kentucky Baptist Convention will be asked to consider the partnership between KBC and Georgetown College Nov. 12 in Paducah.

Originally set for discussion at the 2012 KBC Annual Meeting, the convention's Mission Board decided to table the issue following the announced retirement of then-Georgetown President Bill Crouch.

Acting on a recommendation from the convention's administrative committee, the Mission Board agreed to postpone presenting a motion to messengers to end the partnership with the college until after a new president was in place.

Following a recent meeting between KBC Executive Director-Treasurer Paul Chitwood and Georgetown's new president, Dwaine Greene, Chitwood said he anticipates the motion to conclude the partnership will make it to the conven-



Dwaine Greene, president of Georgetown College, recently met with KBC Executive Director Paul Chitwood and discussed dissolving the partnership between the college and the convention. (WR file photo)

tion floor this year.

He said the meeting was "cordial" and included an honest assessment of the current relationship between KBC and the college.

After Georgetown College's decision □ See Georgetown ... Page 3

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



Find us on Facebook and on twitter
as westernrecorder

Western Recorder 11-12-2013

Kentucky Baptists offer DR training for students

By Jennifer Wake-Floyd

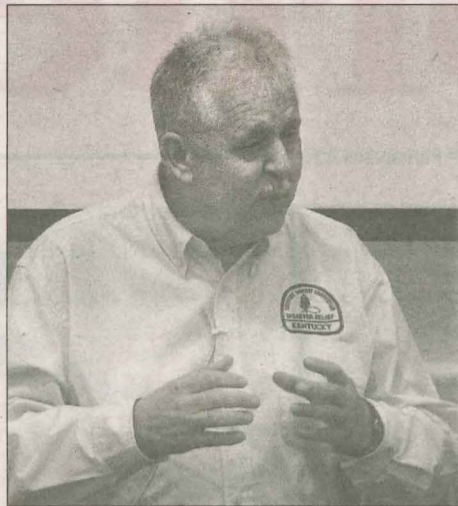
Williamsburg—Coy Webb, director of Kentucky Baptist Disaster Relief, recently led the first Collegiate Disaster Relief Training session on the campus of the University of the Cumberlands.

"We need as many people as possible to be trained and willing to move when disasters strike," Webb said. "It is extremely important that they know what to do once they get there.

"Also, we need volunteers who are willing and able to keep the Lord's reputation from being tarnished," he added. "These volunteers need to reach out and help heal the victims' lives while always representing Jesus Christ."

During the three-hour training session, Webb covered the various types of disasters that volunteers might encounter, such as tornadoes, earthquakes, hurricanes and forest fires. He also explained how each situation and disaster is different to each victim.

No matter how the disaster affected



Coy Webb, director of Kentucky Baptist Disaster Relief, encourages University of the Cumberlands' students to participate in the first Collegiate Disaster Relief training in Kentucky. (UC)

them, they need someone to not only help them clean up and pick up the pieces of their lives, but to also listen to them, hug them and cry with them, as

well as share the gospel with them, Webb said.

Webb also covered the different stages of recovery and explained in detail what volunteers should expect and how to respond in particular situations. He discussed safety and prepared students by sharing first-hand experiences and stories.

"A lot of what we do can't be taught in a classroom setting," Webb said. "It will be learned through experience on the field. But we must do the best we can to prepare our volunteers to the best of our ability."

Thirty-eight students and four faculty members attended the training and were certified. Certification will last up to three years and their identification cards will arrive by mail in about four weeks.

Persons interested in getting involved with Collegiate Disaster Relief can visit www.kybaptist.org/dr or can make a contribution to make service possible for participating student volunteers. (UC)

New Southern chair named for the late W.A. Criswell

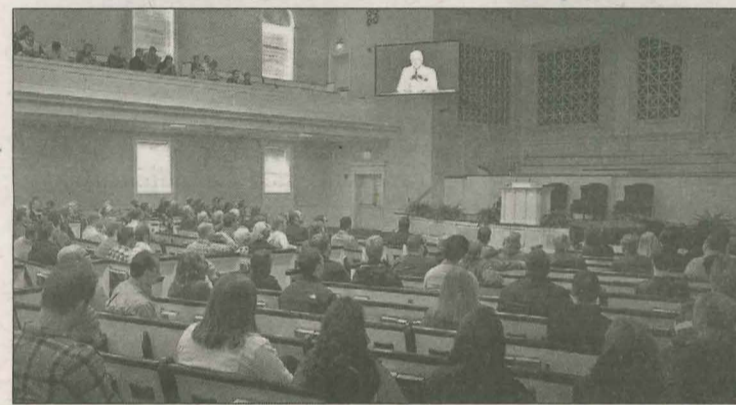
By RuthAnne Irvin

Louisville—In honor of the late W.A. Criswell, Southern Baptist Theological Seminary has announced a new academic chair in preaching named for the long-time pastor of First Baptist Church in Dallas, Southern Baptist statesman and two-time Southern graduate.

Jack Pogue, a longtime friend of Criswell (1909-2002) who was present for the seminary announcement Oct. 17, funded the chair. After introducing Pogue, SBTS President Albert Mohler Jr. thanked him for his generosity.

"It is my great privilege to announce today, at the great generosity of this friend, the funding of the W.A. Criswell Chair of Expository Preaching," Mohler said.

Commenting about Criswell's gift of expository preaching, Mohler said, "He, in many ways, exemplified not only for Southern Baptists, but for evangelicals at



Students and faculty view a sermon by the late W.A. Criswell Oct. 17 at Southern Seminary. SBTS President Albert Mohler recently announced the establishment of the W.A. Criswell Chair of Expository Preaching. (Photo by SBTS/Emil Handke)

large a recovery of expository preaching."

From the time of Charles Spurgeon to W.A. Criswell, Mohler said there are "very few prominent preachers who are actually committed to what we would call biblical exposition."

Mohler introduced a video of Criswell's 1985 address, "Whether We Live or Die." Criswell preached the

message, one of his most well-known sermons, at the Pastors' Conference held before the Southern Baptist Convention's annual meeting in Dallas, which was one of the great turning points in SBC history, Mohler said.

Pogue, a businessman from Dallas, also has funded the W.A. Criswell Sermon Library. (SBTS)

Georgetown

Continued from page 1

to withdraw from its covenant relationship with the Kentucky Baptist Convention in 2005, Kentucky Baptists adopted a partnership agreement to guide future dealings between the two entities.

Georgetown College requested to end its covenant agreement with the KBC in 2005 to establish a self-perpetuating board of trustees, meet Phi Beta Kappa academic standards and to expand its donor base.

Georgetown has not received Cooperative Program funds since 2009.

According to the terms of the partnership agreement, either party may choose to terminate the partnership with a notice of one year.

In 2010, a special KBC committee was formed to review the partnership. The panel recommended to the administrative committee that the administration forego the partnership to place greater

focus on affiliated agencies and institutions in covenant agreements with the convention.

Even if messengers vote to conclude the partnership, Chitwood and Greene noted that a cordial parting still allows possibilities for the future.

"We (KBC) left the door open for Georgetown to come back into the Kentucky Baptist family as a covenant partner anytime they choose, notwithstanding the expectations Kentucky Baptists have for any agency or institution in which we invest our missions offerings."

Greene said he hoped that his meeting with Chitwood did not close avenues for future cooperation.

"I hope that there is a possibility that a different form of relationship could be established at a later point between the KBC and the college," he said.

Such a relationship "would acknowledge the longstanding Baptist traditions of Georgetown College, and the desire of the college to find appropriate avenues for the college to find appropriate avenues," Greene added. (KBC)

Motion to be presented

The motion that the administrative committee will present to the KBC Mission Board Nov. 11 to consider placing before messengers to the Nov. 12 annual meeting at Lone Oak First Baptist Church in Paducah, reads:

"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."

'World class' dinosaur donated to Kentucky's Creation Museum

Petersburg—The Creation Museum is about to see the addition of a world-class dinosaur skeleton. An impressive Allosaur—recently donated to the Petersburg museum located near the Cincinnati Airport—is believed to be one of the four best-preserved of its kind ever discovered.

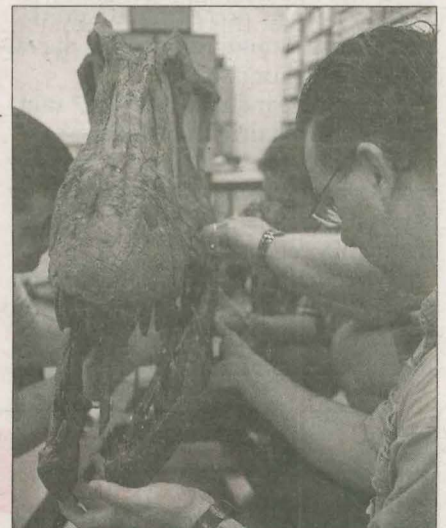
Allosaurs, sometimes confused with a Tyrannosaurus rex, were large theropod dinosaurs. The museum's new dinosaur probably stood 10-feet high and measured 30-feet long. It is one of many Allosaurus fossils uncovered in the Morrison Formation of North America.

A press release from the museum says this Allosaur is exceptional because rather than mixed and scattered as almost all the Morrison fossils are, the bones were found together, with many in their articulated position.

Ken Hamm, president and founder of the Creation Museum and its parent organization Answers in Genesis, said that this skeleton, dubbed Ebenezer, "fulfills a dream I've had for quite some time. For decades I've walked through many leading secular museums, like the Smithsonian in Washington, D.C., and have seen their impressive dinosaur skeletons, but they were used (in reference to) evolution. Now we have one of that class for our museum."

The skeleton was donated by the Elizabeth Streb Peroutka Foundation, which bought the specimen 10 years ago. The foundation chose to give it to the Creation Museum in order to assure that the display of the fossil would be representative of the creative power of God and provide evidence to the truth of a worldwide catastrophic flooding of the earth about 4,500 years ago as described in the Bible.

"While evolutionists use dinosaurs more than anything to promote their worldview, especially to young students, our museum uses dinosaurs to help tell the account of history according to the Bible. This remarkable allosaur is a great addition to our dinosaur exhibits. It's been a pleasure to work with the Peroutka Foundation, which wants to use this great fossil in a God-honoring way," said Hamm. (Creation Museum)



Creation Museum recently received an Allosaurus skeleton. (Photo courtesy of the Creation Museum)

Sandy Rebuild needs college students for Christmas

By Laura Sikes

Staten Island—When college students return to Staten Island over Christmas break this year, some of them might cross paths with Frank Primiani, a resident and Hurricane Sandy survivor who benefited from the work of Baptist students during Spring Break 2013. But they won't find the same "Frank Primiani" who met those earlier student volunteers.

Following the storm's devastation Primiani felt hopeless. He said he was overwhelmed with a recent cancer diagnosis, the damage to his home, and with caring for his mother.

"I cried out to God for help and He answered me by bringing Gene Cole and his crew to help me," Primiani said.

In March, SBDR team leader Gene Cole, from Deer Lodge, Tenn., and several collegiate volunteer teams arrived at Primiani's house to hang sheetrock and install insulation. They were part of SBDR's collegiate spring break initiative working on Staten Island during the recovery phase.

Baptist Disaster Relief leaders are calling on college students again this year, hoping that teams from across North America will use part of their Christmas and spring breaks to assist homeowners still rebuilding after Sandy.

Sandy Rebuild is a two-year partnership of the North American Mission

Board and North Carolina Baptist Men in cooperation with the Baptist Convention of New York, Metro New York Baptist Association, New Jersey Net and local churches. The goal is to help restore communities not only physically but also spiritually. The bulk of the work is on Long Island. Projects also are ongoing on Staten Island and in Allenwood, N.J.

Cole said Primiani was gracious and wanted to work alongside them. Because of Primiani's illness, Cole would guide him away from the physical labor. It was during these times that Cole was able to answer Primiani's questions about a relationship with Christ.

"These people were thanking me for allowing them to help me," Primiani said. "I couldn't understand it; a typical New Yorker doesn't understand something like that. They wouldn't accept pay so I would order them pizzas and offer some kind of gesture to pay them back. They just kept giving and giving and giving."

Primiani said he saw Christ through the volunteers and wanted what they had.

"I didn't need to see the wounds on His hands," he said. "His work spoke for itself. That was enough for me. I felt obligated to search out God and to find out what it's all about. I'm glad that I did. Finally I got it."

Primiani recounts the Good Friday when he was with Cole picking up



Pastor Ray Parascando of Staten Island's Crossroads Church (right) greets Frank Primiani outside the church's meeting location. Parascando baptized Primiani on Easter Sunday shortly after Southern Baptists Disaster Relief teams worked on Primiani's home and shared the gospel with him. Photo by Laura Sikes/NAMB

supplies. The two men were sitting in the truck when Primiani said, "Gene, I'm going to meet you in heaven. I've accepted Jesus as my Savior." The men started hugging, praying and crying.

Cole returned home the next day, but before leaving, he shared the good news about Primiani to Pastor Ray Parascando of Crossroads Church of Staten Island. Primiani had visited the church, and the pastor baptized him on the following Easter Sunday.

Parascando said the church had a heart for starting a cancer ministry to offer support to patients and families, and Primiani immediately joined in the work. "Not only did Frank find Christ in the midst of all the disaster, but God gave him a burden to serve Him in some way." On Oct. 24, the church held its first benefit for the ministry.

Parascando, a NAMB church planting missionary, said, "So many times volunteers go on trips and may ask, 'Is it all worth it?'"

He continued, "These seasoned believers came to help Frank. They get it. They

were serving first, being obedient to God. And, of course, you can't help it when the Spirit of God leads you to a Frank. God set that up. All these dollars and hours that these gracious volunteers spend to come up here to work in disaster relief bring honor and praise to God. He will come to receive the praises of His people."

A total of 816 college students representing 67 colleges and church groups responded during Christmas and spring breaks last year to serve Sandy survivors.

Primiani says he still finds it hard to believe that so much good came out of the disaster and his circumstances.

"I don't feel alone or empty anymore," he said. "I feel full. I don't fear anymore, even though I'm dealing with cancer, rebuilding my house and taking care of my mother. I don't feel weak. I feel strong."

"It took cancer. It took Sandy—a disaster—to bring me to God. He had to show me. I don't recognize myself anymore. It has to be God's work. I've gone from night to day." (NAMB/BP)

Brenda Mancilla (left), and Bianca Rivers toss debris from a Staten Island home into a dumpster as part of mud-out efforts by Southern Baptist Disaster Relief volunteers in response to Hurricane Sandy. More than 500 students volunteered part of their winter breaks to work with SBDR volunteers last year. Registration for this year's Sandy Rebuild effort is now open for Christmas and spring breaks. (NAMB file photo/John Swain)



Sunrise

Continued from page 1
board's decision."

Chitwood added, "While I know, given where our culture is headed, government funding for Sunrise may someday be in jeopardy, I recommit my personal and financial support, as well as my advocacy for this Great Commandment ministry of Kentucky Baptists.

"We will stand with this board," he pledged.

Dan Summerlin, president of the Kentucky Baptist Convention, was also excited about the "courageous" board decision and thanked its members for standing on God's principles.

"I also want to thank all Kentucky Baptists for their prayers and efforts to express their feelings on this matter," Summerlin added.

"My prayer is now for (Sunrise) and KBC to move forward by sitting down together and working on building a stronger bond between SCS and the KBC," said the pastor of Paducah's Lone Oak First Baptist Church.

The trustee meeting was moved from

its usual location at the Eldred M. Taylor Ministry Support Center on Sunrise's Mount Washington campus to a conference center in nearby Shepherdsville and "closed" to the media.

In the news release, Sunrise President Bill Smithwick stated that the board "understands and respects" the position of those who may not like this decision.

"For those that do not agree with our practice, we understand and we would love to have you join us in putting the kids first and support our mission of helping the least among us; victimized children who need a safe haven and the chance to see love and experience hope," Smithwick said.

Smithwick added that he was hopeful that support remains strong to continue the mission of providing assistance to fragile young people who have been served by the organization since 1869.

"We need the assistance of caring people everywhere," said Smithwick.

In a recent letter to Kentucky Baptist pastors, Smithwick disclosed that its board of directors was discussing the possibility of altering the ministry's anti-discrimination policy. At an Aug. 16 meeting the proposal was tabled until

the board's meeting last Friday.

"The day is soon coming when sexual preference will become protected status attached to Federal monies and will likely be added to State monies, forcing anyone who accepts either to comply or close," Smithwick stated. "This is not an 'if' but a 'when' event

"Thus the core question, 'Will Sunrise change its hiring practices or not?' Smithwick continued. "Will we walk away from the broken, forsaken, lonely kids who can hear the gospel, find love, forgiveness, and hope through our mission because we choose to focus on one sin, while overlooking the many others? Or, will we seek the greater good to save the kids?"

Chitwood, however, denounced the proposed change in Sunrise's 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."

West Kentucky directors of missions recently launched a letter-writing

campaign and petition drive calling for trustees to oppose changes in Sunrise's hiring practices. The group representing 12 associations urged fellow DOMs across the state to "take a stand" for biblical values, stating, "This is not a battle against homosexuals, but a stand against this sin becoming so culturally acceptable that we evade calling it sin."

Following the Aug. 16 meeting, one trustee, Rick Fyffe of Ashland, resigned in protest. Another, Stan Spees of Paducah, expressed his concerns to Kentucky Baptist Convention leaders.

In 1998, Sunrise, then known as Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children, fired an employee when it became known that she was a lesbian. Since then, the agency has been embroiled in a lawsuit with the American Civil Liberties Union and Americans United for Separation of Church and State over the use of taxpayer funds by faith-based organizations.

Although the Commonwealth has reached a settlement in the suit, Sunrise has opposed the agreement, claiming that it unfairly singles them out for scrutiny that is not required for other childcare agencies that contract with the state. (WR)

Churches help each other

Teresa Parrett, Kentucky Missions Mobilization coordinator with the Kentucky Baptist Convention, is the author of this week's column.

Just off the Mountain Parkway, on the Wolfe-Morgan County line, sits Crossroads Baptist Church, a little white church in the quaint little community of Helechawa. The building once housed the community school, but has now been given to the church as a place for worship.

In 2007, Crossroads was started as a mission of Faith Baptist Church in Cannel City with six people, but soon grew to 18.

Recently, I chatted with Betty McGuffey and she could not stop talking about all the things going on at their church and about the mission teams who have partnered with them. She was so excited that I just had to make a trip to visit with her and see for myself the work that had been done.

Mission teams from Pellville Baptist Church in Hawesville, White Hall Baptist Church in Richmond, First Baptist Church in Mount Washington, Little Flock Baptist Church in Shepherdsville, and Shively Baptist Church in Louisville have come alongside this little church to fix up the building and help with outreach. They have dry walled the sanctuary, painted, added bathrooms with showers, installed a baptistry, added siding and underpinning, put on a new roof, and landscaped. For the past six years, Shively Baptist also has come to lead Vacation Bible School.

Since Jan. 2013, 17 people have been baptized. Four new believers were under the age of 18, nine were between ages 19 and 50, and four were over 50. The oldest were an 82-year-old man and his wife.

Crossroads Church now averages 36 each Sunday. Betty shared about how they were giving to missions through their local Baptist association, the Cooperative Program, Eliza Broadus, Annie Armstrong and Lottie Moon offerings. There is definitely a spirit of revival in this little church!

In Nov. 2012, Crossroads voted to move from mission to church status. They will be one of at least 10 churches to be welcomed to the Kentucky Baptist Convention family as an affiliated church during this year's annual meeting.

Red River Baptist Association Director of Missions George Drake shared that West Liberty Baptist Church had been the mother church of Faith Baptist Church in the early 1980s. Faith Baptist Church was the mother church of Grace Baptist Church in the mid-1990s and Crossroads Baptist Church in 2007. Grace Baptist Church was the mother church of Wrigley Baptist in 2005.

Perhaps sometime in the future we will hear that Crossroads has also birthed a church.

Churches helping churches and churches planting churches; this is the cooperative Kentucky Baptist way!

Paul Chitwood is executive director of the Kentucky Baptist Convention.

Terry: 'A lifelong companion for a lifelong journey'

Several months ago, Bob Terry, editor of The Alabama Baptist, wrote an excellent editorial sharing his insights on the important ministry of state Baptist newspapers titled "A Lifelong Companion for a Lifelong Journey." Terry has been a Baptist editor for more than 38 years, serving two state conventions—Missouri and Alabama. He also served as associate editor of the Western Recorder from 1968 to 1975. Though his words were originally intended for Alabama Baptists, they are applicable to all Baptists, and with his permission I am drawing extensive excerpts and adapting them for our Kentucky Baptist audience.

"Becoming a Christian disciple is not an easy task. Yes it begins with a conscious decision to be a follower of Jesus. But becoming a disciple—a student of Jesus—is a lifelong journey.

"Learning the teachings of Jesus is only the beginning. Knowing the implications and applications of those teachings and incorporating them into one's life is a vital part of Christian discipleship.

"Jesus said, 'If you hold to My teachings, you are really My disciples' (John 8:31). James, the half-brother of our Lord, added, 'Be ye doers of the Word and not hearers only' (James 1:22). Knowledge and action, faith and works always go together.

"Some have called Christian discipleship a 'process.' It involves regular Bible study, disciplined prayer times and faithful obedience resulting in personal growth as a student of Jesus. If one were to draw a graph of the process, it would show peaks and valleys but the trend line would be generally upward.

"For many Baptists, a valuable resource in the process of becoming a Christian disciple is their state Baptist paper. ... Flowing from its pages week after week are stories that capture the heart, articles that refresh the spirit, information that challenges the mind and reports that build up the body of Christ.

"... A report in (The Western Recorder) about what God is doing in a distant part of the world may help one value the way Baptists work together to share the good news of Jesus. The next week the state Baptist paper may rally Baptists to minister to an immediate community need.

"Information about a typical family crisis may provide new insights that help a family cope amid stress and pressure. The information may spark ministry ideas for a church desiring to serve in Christ's name to people caught in difficult circumstances.

"Week after week after week (the state Baptist paper) informs, interprets and inspires and week after week after week readers take steps, sometimes ever-so-small steps, on the upward way of Christian discipleship.

"... The state Baptist paper is the only missions publication providing important, reliable, up-to-date information about Baptists in the state, in the nation and around the world. Its stories illustrate the implications and applications of Bible teachings.

"Regular reading helps lift the missions vision of a congregation beyond the boundaries of a local community to include the ends of the earth. Articles and stories help develop an appreciation for Baptists and other Christian believers who serve God elsewhere, often in difficult circumstances.

"Consistent attention to what Baptists believe and how Baptists work together helps flesh out what it means to be a Baptist and enables churches to practice cardinal Baptist teachings such as the Lordship of Christ, the primacy of Scripture, the priesthood of all believers and autonomy of the local church.

"The state Baptist paper promotes all that Baptists do together—benevolent ministries; (and) ... special missions offerings for state, national and international missions; and ministries such as disaster relief efforts.

"Such contributions to Baptist churches and the convention as a whole over the years of its existence are the kinds of contributions (The Western Recorder) continues to make today. Perhaps that is why studies show churches providing the state Baptist paper as part of its Christian resources for active resident families have members who give more for missions, on average, than churches that do not. Studies also show that churches that include the paper participate more in convention activities than churches that do not include the paper among their resources.

"The value of regular reading of (the state Baptist paper) to the believer's walk with the Lord is unquestionable. So is the importance of the state Baptist paper to a church when active members use the state Baptist paper as a resource in their growth as Christian disciples. The resulting significance to the convention of strong individual Christians and healthy local congregations is obvious."

If your church does not provide the state Baptist paper for active resident families, you can subscribe individually by contacting the Western Recorder. Better yet, you can ask church leadership to provide the newspaper for all church members. Call us today at (866) 489-3442.



Paul Chitwood



After Thought

By Todd Deaton

Unnecessary & unwise

The decision Sunrise trustees face concerning changing their hiring practices to include openly homosexual employees is both unnecessary and unwise.

Sunrise President Bill Smithwick has said the issue "is not about homosexuality," but rather a question of "the greater good." I agree with him on both counts, while disagreeing with his conclusions.

The issue is not about homosexuality. It is about hiring anyone living in an unrepentant pattern of sin. All lifestyles the Bible clearly calls sinful, whether it

be anger, gossip, heterosexual fornication, greed, etc., should disqualify anyone from employment with Sunrise. While I fully acknowledge my own sin nature, I also know Christ delivers from sin through repentance and faith.

What is best for the children God has entrusted to Sunrise? The best is an agency that will not compromise biblical truth on the altar of the bottom line. If, in the future, Sunrise were to lose government funding, it would limit the number of children for which they could care, but it will not limit the quality of care.

Conversely, if they change their policy, the number will still be limited, but the quality will be reduced dramatically—not because homosexuals may be

hired, but because biblical principles are blatantly jettisoned as the guide.

While it is true only about \$1 million of Sunrise's budget comes directly from Kentucky Baptists, how does one measure the blood, sweat and tears of volunteers across 150-plus years of ministry? What is the monetary value of the prayers of faithful people that currently

See Letters ... Page 5

Forum Disclaimer: Baptist Forum is provided as an opportunity for Kentucky Baptists to express their viewpoints. Opinions expressed do not necessarily reflect those of the Western Recorder's editorial staff, its Board of Directors, or the Kentucky Baptist Convention. Letters should be no more than 300 words in length and will be edited for style, clarity and space. Letters must reflect a spirit of Christian charity and civility.



WESTERN Recorder

Box 43969
Louisville, KY 40253

DR. TODD DEATON
Editor

ROBIN CORNETET BASS
News Director

THOMAS C. TOWNSEND
Marketing & Business Manager

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

Shine Like Stars * Philippians 2:15

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

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

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

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

WesternRecorder.org



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

Homosexual activists at the church door

By Kelly Boggs

Homosexual activism in America may have started as a movement for toleration. In recent years, however, it seems to have developed into an intolerant campaign to force complete acceptance of a lifestyle many regard as immoral behavior.

Most historians trace the homosexual rights movement's beginnings to what is known as the Stonewall Riots that began June 28, 1969, in New York City.

According to the History Channel website, "Just after 3 a.m., a police raid of the Stonewall Inn—a gay club located on New York City's Christopher Street—turns violent as patrons and local sympathizers begin rioting against the police.

"Although the police were legally justified in raiding the club, which was serving liquor without a license among other violations, New York's gay community had grown weary of the police department targeting gay clubs, a majority of which had already been closed.

"The crowd on the street watched quietly as Stonewall's employees were arrested," the History Channel report continued, "but when three drag queens and a lesbian were forced into the paddy wagon, the crowd began throwing bottles at the police....

"The so-called Stonewall Riot was followed by several days of demonstrations in New York and was the impetus for the formation of the Gay Liberation Front as well as other gay, lesbian, and bisexual civil rights organizations. It is also regarded by many as history's first major protest on behalf of equal rights for homosexuals."

The early stages of the movement seemed content with securing a live-and-let-live attitude toward those who pursued a homosexual lifestyle.

With success comes the desire for more success, and eventually homosexual activists sought and gained anti-discrimination employment policies on a variety of government and corporate levels, the decriminalization of homosexual acts, and hate crimes legislation that included the designation of homosexuality as a specially protected group.

No longer content just to be tolerated, homosexual activists sought to have their lifestyle regarded as equal to heterosexual relationships by pushing for homosexual marriage. The movement that began out of a desire to be tolerated morphed into a crusade to be celebrated as natural, normal and healthy.

One segment of society that stands in the way of the activists' ultimate goal is conservative Christians. In

order to have complete cultural confirmation, conservative churches will have to be dealt with.

With the U.S. Supreme Court ruling striking down the Defense of Marriage Act this summer, expect homosexual activists to take the issue of homosexual matrimony directly to conservative churches.

Months before the Supreme Court's DOMA ruling, a lesbian couple approached the Ocean Grove Camp Meeting Association—a group loosely affiliated with the United Methodist Church—in the New Jersey seaside community of Ocean Grove about renting the Christian group's beachfront pavilion for their civil union ceremony.

OGCMA denied the couple's request, saying homosexual unions went against the group's beliefs. The couple sued and in January 2012 a New Jersey state administrative law judge ruled the Christian group had no grounds for denying the couple's request and had discriminated against them.

The judge said the OGCMA pavilion had been previously open to the public for a variety of community events, thus it had been established as a venue of public accommodation. The only denial, other than for scheduling conflicts, had been to the lesbian couple.

Furthermore, the judge pointed out that OGCMA received a state tax exemption with the understanding the Christian group's property was to be "open for public use on an equal basis." Since the association did not allow a lesbian wedding, it violated the terms of the agreement.

What does the ruling against the Ocean Grove camp mean for conservative religious organizations in America?

Many churches, if not most, allow the public to utilize facilities for weddings and other occasions. Some are even used as polling places for elections. Additionally, churches have long been granted a tax exemption by the government, originally to keep the state completely out of the churches' business.

Like OGCMA, many churches could be deemed places of public accommodation. Add to this the liberal interpretation that the U.S. Constitution's First Amendment was designed to keep the church out of the public square (a means by which the government can restrict the church) and homosexual activists will seek to force conservative churches to provide space wherein they can celebrate their lifestyles via same-sex weddings.

It seems the only recourse for conservative churches will be to close their doors to any and all public access. Either that, or be faced with expensive lawsuits or perhaps even the loss of a tax exemption.

FIRST PERSON

Letters

Continued from page 1

undergird this ministry?

The most beneficial thing for the children is adults faithfully modeling biblical truth in love. Sunrise will be defined by their decision on this issue because there is a defining difference between bowing to Caesar as lord and bowing to Jesus as Lord.

**Andrew Dyer, pastor
Corinth Church, London**

Hypocrites

What a group of alarmists! I say that to avoid saying, "What a group of pharisaical hypocrites!" Have you no shame?

Your demagoguery against Sunrise Children's Services is totally out of line. Would you destroy an effective means of sharing Jesus simply because some of those sharing might be sinners? Presently, Sunrise serves thousands of hurting children, sharing the gospel. Many receive Christ and go on to useful, fulfilling futures. But you would drop that number to less than a dozen in order to "stand strongly for Christ?" Would you

let those children go to hell while you posture in self-righteous hypocrisy?

Yes, I said hypocrisy. You and the others quoted vote for various politicians, even though those for whom you vote do not always project your values. You don't "stand strongly for Christ" by not ever voting. In fact, you have voted for Catholics, Mormons, Methodists, or even Baptists with whom you did not agree on all points. You have compromised for the greater good. You all have, repeatedly.

Furthermore, you pay taxes, even though the government uses your money to fund abortions, homosexuality and other sins. You compromise for the greater good. Shall we close all our churches and defund and disband your paper and the KBC? People in glass houses should not cast stones. You, your churches, the KBC, your newspaper, and the persons quoted have repeatedly compromised for the greater good. Is your posturing in regard to Sunrise then not shamefully hypocritical?

In all situations, everywhere and at all times, we must serve Christ. He is not a creed or list of sins to oppose. We must love people, not rules. Get it? "Let

him who is without sin, be the first to cast a stone."

**John C' de Baca, pastor
First Church, Lexington**

Editor's Note: We would kindly remind our readers that Christian decorum allows our public discussions to maintain civility before a watching world. We also would correct a possible misperception from the previous letter: The editor, thus far, has refrained from calling for anyone's dismissal or for defunding an agency—only encouraging the KBC agency's trustees to stand on biblical teaching and for traditional family values.

Appreciates stance

I share Paul Chitwood's concern for the future of Sunrise Children's Services.

My father, Tom Moore, worked as director of development for the Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children (now Sunrise) for 15 years and was pastor of three churches in the Louisville area. He spent a lot of time and effort making sure there was a good foundation to fund the children's home for years to come.

My father and Eldred Taylor led a campaign across our state called "Beyond This Time," raising money for KBHC. Many people faithfully and sacrificially

More ways to celebrate

By Valerie Vincent

In the feasts and festivals in Scripture, in the Psalms, in the sacred rituals, we are reminded to celebrate and offer thanksgiving to God for what he has given. Married love is certainly worth celebrating as a gift from God. Here are some more ideas to celebrate a wedding anniversary:



Photo collages and books

Gather some of the photos you most enjoy from trips, special events, everyday life, or your wedding and create a photo collage or a photo book. You could add commentary and captions to the photos in your photo book. The goal is to create something unique about your marriage that demonstrates the love you share.

Marriage treasure box

Use a treasure chest and fill with various items that reflect what you value in your marriage. These treasures may include the menu from your favorite restaurant, movie ticket stubs, a brochure from a favorite travel destination, the lyrics to your favorite song, a recipe for a dish you both enjoy, or story that made you both laugh until you cried. The idea is that the treasures in your box remind you of the love you share for one another and for life.

Dream jar

Find a clear glass jar that you can fill with ideas, goals and dreams that you want to experience together. Fill it with slips of paper. Periodically, pull a slip from the jar and write down a place the two of you would like to go, something you would both like to experience, a goal you both want to attain. If you pull out a slip with something already written on it, then you will be reminded of one of your dreams.

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

The homosexual rights movement was born out of a desire to be tolerated. Through the years it seems to have morphed into a crusade bent on forcing all of society, even conservative churches, to accept and celebrate homosexuality as natural, normal and healthy.

The irony would be amusing if the threat to religious liberty weren't so serious. (BP)

Kelly Boggs is a columnist for Baptist Press, director of the Louisiana Baptist Convention's office of public affairs, and editor of the Baptist Message, newsjournal of the Louisiana Baptist Convention.

gave and even put KBHC in their wills so that the ministry would have the funds to continue to minister to children in the years to come and to do it with biblical principles. I am sure they gave with the confidence that the money would be used wisely to provide Christian care for children in the years ahead. Those people would be appalled to see where the agency has gone and what their dollars are supporting.

When my father was there, they did not take very much money from the state so the agency would never be dependent on state or federal money. Because of poor decisions, the agency has now come to the point of going in a non-biblical direction completely opposite of those who have given to that ministry over the years and even included that agency in their wills.

I appreciate Kentucky Baptists' biblical stance on this issue and will answer the call to prayer. My father did not give 15 years of his life to help support an agency that has clearly deviated from the biblical standards that has driven the agency for years.

**Ron Moore
Shepherdsville**



THE POWER OF 'AND'

2012-13 TOP COOPERATIVE PROGRAM GIVING CHURCHES

MILLION DOLLAR MILESTONES

11 MILLION

Severns Valley Baptist Church,
Elizabethtown

8 MILLION

First Baptist Church of Paducah

2 MILLION

Florence Baptist Church, Mt. Zion

Rich Pond Baptist Church,
Bowling Green

1 MILLION

Horse Cave Baptist Church

Memorial Baptist Church, Murray

Simpsonville Baptist Church

Sinking Fork Baptist Church, Hopkinsville

Buck Grove Baptist Church, Ekron

Lowell Avenue Baptist Church, Campbellsville

TOP 100 CHURCHES PER CAPITA GIVING

- | | |
|---|--------------------------------------|
| 1. Countryside, Morganfield | 51. Christ Community, Shelbyville |
| 2. Mexico, Marion | 52. Walnut Grove, Fredonia |
| 3. Briensburg, Benton | 53. Lone Oak First, Paducah |
| 4. Good Hope, Campbellsville | 54. Sturgis First, Sturgis |
| 5. Grace, Somerset | 55. Polly Ann, Eubank |
| 6. Henderson Memorial, Hopkinsville | 56. Immanuel, Madisonville |
| 7. Sovereign Grace, Lawrenceburg | 57. Mount Pleasant, La Center |
| 8. Mosaic, Lexington | 58. Fredonia First, Fredonia |
| 9. Eastwood, Bowling Green | 59. Casky, Hopkinsville |
| 10. Woodland, Greenville | 60. Temple, Central City |
| 11. Redemption Hill, Taylorsville | 61. Murray First, Murray |
| 12. Hillcrest, Hopkinsville | 62. Broadway, Lexington |
| 13. Emmanuel, Jenkins | 63. Crooked Creek, Marion |
| 14. Gracey West Union, Gracey | 64. Lebanon Missionary, Princeton |
| 15. Rich Pond, Bowling Green | 65. Frenchburg, Frenchburg |
| 16. Bethabara, Philpot | 66. Olivet, Paducah |
| 17. Mount Zion, Kuttawa | 67. Elm Grove, Murray |
| 18. Bullitt Lick, Shepherdsville | 68. Lakewood, Louisville |
| 19. Dripping Spring, Olmstead | 69. Corn Creek, Milton |
| 20. Covenant, Evansville | 70. Sand Spring, Lawrenceburg |
| 21. Hobbs, Coxs Creek | 71. Pleasant Grove, Owensboro |
| 22. Wildwood, Ashland | 72. Old Salem, Salem |
| 23. Heritage, Winchester | 73. Henderson First, Henderson |
| 24. Princeton First, Princeton | 74. Hurstbourne, Louisville |
| 25. Hardinsburg, Hardinsburg | 75. Jackson First, Jackson |
| 26. Northside, Murray | 76. Bruners Chapel, Harrodsburg |
| 27. Buck Run, Frankfort | 77. Donaldson, Princeton |
| 28. Kuttawa First, Kuttawa | 78. North Oldham, Goshen |
| 29. Hillview, Bowling Green | 79. Severns Valley, Elizabethtown |
| 30. Pleasant Valley Community,
Owensboro | 80. Mount Vernon, Jamestown |
| 31. Russell First, Russell | 81. Oakland Avenue, Catlettsburg |
| 32. Clay First, Clay | 82. Wolf Creek, Grayson |
| 33. Northside, Elizabethtown | 83. Southside, Princeton |
| 34. Westport Road, Louisville | 84. Covington, Westport |
| 35. Salem, Campbellsville | 85. Fairview, Waynesburg |
| 36. Pleasant Hill, Somerset | 86. Fountain Run First, Fountain Run |
| 37. Sinking Fork, Hopkinsville | 87. Christ, Cold Spring |
| 38. Pleasant Home, Glencoe | 88. Lowell Avenue, Campbellsville |
| 39. Howards Mill, Mount Sterling | 89. Elkton, Elkton |
| 40. Altona Missionary, Calvert City | 90. Greenup First, Greenup |
| 41. Christ Fellowship, Bowling Green | 91. Falmouth, Falmouth |
| 42. Cedar Bluff, Princeton | 92. Emmanuel, Shelbyville |
| 43. Friendship, Campbellsville | 93. Lebanon, Lebanon |
| 44. Donaldson Creek, Cadiz | 94. Forest Grove, Adairville |
| 45. Versailles, Versailles | 95. Mount Gilboa, Campbellsville |
| 46. Eddyville First, Eddyville | 96. Quality, Lewisburg |
| 47. Highlands, Lexington | 97. New Bethel, Eddyville |
| 48. Hopewell, Corbin | 98. Owenton First, Owenton |
| 49. Campbellsville, Campbellsville | 99. Deer Creek, Marion |
| 50. Owens Chapel, Benton | 100. Immanuel, Glasgow |

TOP 100 CHURCHES TOTAL GIVING

- | | |
|---|---------------------------------------|
| 1. Severns Valley, Elizabethtown | 51. Pleasant Hill, Somerset |
| 2. Lone Oak First, Paducah | 52. Woodburn, Woodburn |
| 3. Eastwood, Bowling Green | 53. Unity, Ashland |
| 4. Henderson First, Henderson | 54. Simpsonville, Simpsonville |
| 5. Hillcrest, Hopkinsville | 55. Eddyville First, Eddyville |
| 6. Owensboro First, Owensboro | 56. Barbourville First, Barbourville |
| 7. Immanuel, Lexington | 57. Northside, Elizabethtown |
| 8. Russell First, Russell | 58. Elkton, Elkton |
| 9. Living Hope, Bowling Green | 59. Rose Hill, Ashland |
| 10. Princeton First, Princeton | 60. Hardinsburg, Hardinsburg |
| 11. Mount Washington First, Mount
Washington | 61. Red House, Richmond |
| 12. Rich Pond, Bowling Green | 62. Bellevue, Owensboro |
| 13. Campbellsville, Campbellsville | 63. Glasgow, Glasgow |
| 14. Westport Road, Louisville | 64. Twelve Oaks, Paducah |
| 15. Paducah First, Paducah | 65. Sturgis First, Sturgis |
| 16. Briensburg, Benton | 66. Calvary, Glasgow |
| 17. Buck Run, Frankfort | 67. Mayfield First, Mayfield |
| 18. Porter Memorial, Lexington | 68. Walnut Street, Louisville |
| 19. Sand Spring, Lawrenceburg | 69. Immanuel, Corbin |
| 20. Yellow Creek, Owensboro | 70. Kings, Mount Washington |
| 21. Lawrenceburg First, Lawrenceburg | 71. Fairview, Ashland |
| 22. Central, Winchester | 72. Beacon Hill, Somerset |
| 23. Central, Corbin | 73. Oakland Avenue, Catlettsburg |
| 24. Mexico, Marion | 74. Kuttawa First, Kuttawa |
| 25. Hardin, Hardin | 75. Crestwood, Crestwood |
| 26. Murray First, Murray | 76. Bruners Chapel, Harrodsburg |
| 27. Edgewood, Hopkinsville | 77. Benton First, Benton |
| 28. Shelbyville First, Shelbyville | 78. Owenton First, Owenton |
| 29. Southside, Princeton | 79. Altona Missionary, Calvert City |
| 30. Burlington, Burlington | 80. Lowell Avenue, Campbellsville |
| 31. Hopkinsville First, Hopkinsville | 81. Mount Vernon First, Mount Vernon |
| 32. Pikeville First, Pikeville | 82. Parkland, Louisville |
| 33. Hickory Grove, Independence | 83. Madisonville First, Madisonville |
| 34. Florence, Florence | 84. Immanuel, Elizabethtown |
| 35. Broadway, Lexington | 85. Sinking Fork, Hopkinsville |
| 36. Hurstbourne, Louisville | 86. Ormsby Heights, Louisville |
| 37. Versailles, Versailles | 87. Marion, Marion |
| 38. Central City First, Central City | 88. Northside, Murray |
| 39. Ninth and O, Louisville | 89. Oak Ridge, Covington |
| 40. Beaver Dam, Beaver Dam | 90. Cedar Creek, Louisville |
| 41. LaGrange, La Grange | 91. Russellville Second, Russellville |
| 42. Hopkinsville Second, Hopkinsville | 92. Gracey West Union, Gracey |
| 43. Greenville Second, Greenville | 93. Lancaster, Lancaster |
| 44. Richmond First, Richmond | 94. Hopewell, Corbin |
| 45. Corinth, London | 95. Hillvue Heights, Bowling Green |
| 46. Dripping Spring, Olmstead | 96. Monticello First, Monticello |
| 47. Pleasant Grove, Owensboro | 97. Pleasant View, Waynesburg |
| 48. Grace, Somerset | 98. Sojourn, Louisville |
| 49. Valley Creek, Elizabethtown | 99. Lewisport, Lewisport |
| 50. Wildwood, Ashland | 100. Whitesburg First, Whitesburg |

FOR A COMPLETE LIST OF THE KENTUCKY BAPTIST CHURCHES' FY 2012-13 CP TOTALS, VISIT WWW.KYBAPTIST.ORG/CP



Graham's 'My Hope' reaches into Christian homes across U.S.

By Elaine Helms

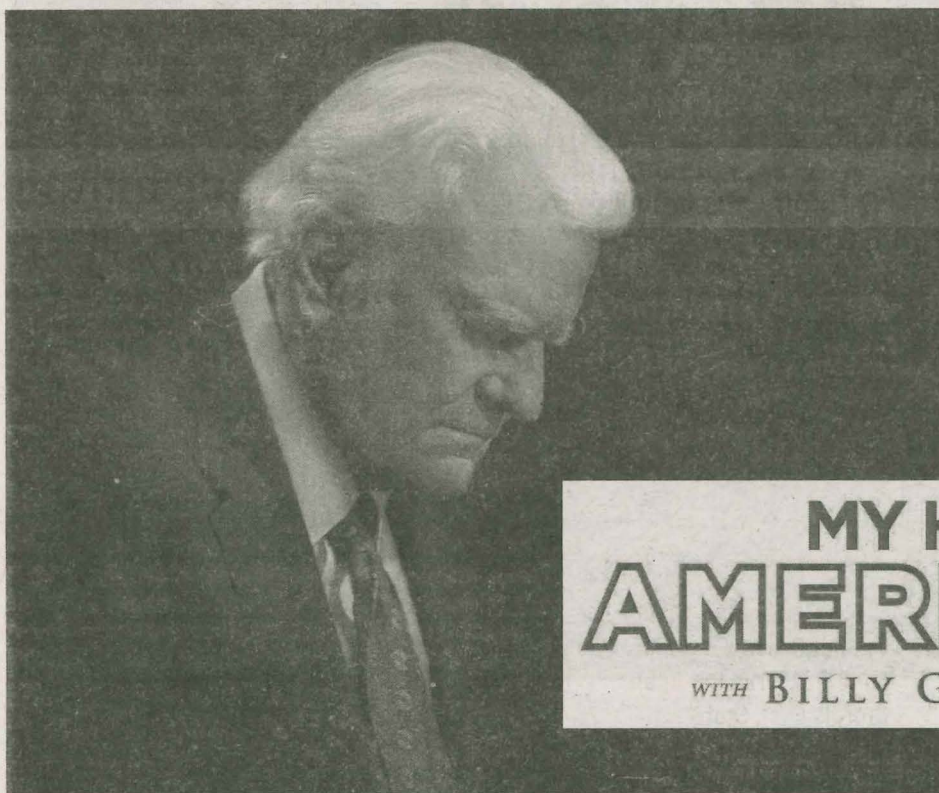
Charlotte, N.C.—My Hope America with Billy Graham was in full swing as the evangelist turned 95 Nov. 7 and Christians across the U.S. shared his newest message to America with friends, family and neighbors.

"My Hope has been used in many countries and hundreds of thousands of people have received Christ as Savior," Billy Graham said. "I've been praying that we might have a spiritual awakening. But I think that becomes possible as individuals surrender their lives fresh and anew to Christ. And that's the hope that we have."

My Hope America with Billy Graham is a grass-roots evangelistic effort of the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association, anchored by the already released 30-minute films "Lose to Gain," "Defining Moments," and its Spanish version "Momentos Decisivos," and "The Cross," which Graham released on his birthday. All feature relevant testimonies and a clear gospel message.

The outreach was designed for Christians to host in their homes neighbors and friends who have not accepted Christ, view a My Hope film with them and offer salvation. The strategy was inspired by the biblical account of the Apostle Matthew, recorded in Matthew 9:9-13 and Luke 5:27-31. When Jesus called Matthew to follow Him, Matthew threw a party and invited people to his home to meet Jesus.

My Hope began in 2002 to take the gospel into homes around the world through mass media and personal



relationships. Ten years and 57 countries later, the outreach is spreading across North America.

As with previous Billy Graham crusades, this project is built on prayer. For over a year, church leaders across the nation have been meeting, praying and preparing to engage their churches in the project.

Christians in over 28,000 churches across the U.S. and Canada created a list of their friends, family and neighbors who need to know Jesus. They began

praying by name for these individuals and sought opportunities to build relationships with them before inviting them into their homes for the presentation this month.

Those only hearing about the event this fall may not have had as much pre-invitation prayer time, but they quickly planned community or church-wide events to encourage individuals to invite their unsaved friends, neighbors and families to hear the gospel.

Prison ministries also participated

through materials designed specifically for Christian inmates to invite their peers to view one of the programs.

"I'm so glad you have included us, the prisons, in My Hope," a prison chaplain from Georgia said. "Many times we're overlooked. Thank you for including us. The men are hungry for God."

Pray for a revival in prisons and jails across the U.S. as inmates are exposed to the clear gospel message of My Hope, Graham encouraged.

High school and college students, including groups from Liberty University, Evangel University and Moody Bible

Institute, hosted large My Hope viewings.

Some were even using class time to prepare students to host individual viewings.

Pray also for a revival to break out among young people as Christian students are praying together and

seeking God, organizers encouraged.

Ministries for the homeless, city missions and day shelters took advantage of the opportunity to show a My Hope America program as well.

Through nationwide broadcasts Nov. 7-10, and tens of thousands of DVDs and downloaded programs, My Hope is designed for the message of redemption in Christ to be shared through the holidays and beyond.

My Hope's goal is for Christians to make prayer for and outreach to the world around them an everyday part of their lives. (BP)

High court debates legislative prayer

By Tom Strode

Washington—The high court heard arguments Nov. 6 in an appeal of a lower-court ruling that invalidated a New York town's prayer policy for its board meetings. In overturning a federal judge's opinion, the Second Circuit Court of Appeals in New York City had ruled the Greece, N.Y., Town Board violated the First Amendment's ban on government establishment of religion with a prayer practice that "had the effect of affiliating the town with Christianity."

The justices are expected to announce a decision in the case before they adjourn next summer.

The Southern Baptist Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission and other defenders of the town's prayer policy contended in friend-of-the-court briefs the practice did not violate the establishment clause. The ERLC argued the policy provided a forum for private citizens to offer prayers that were constitutionally protected and the Second Circuit's opinion would require judges to make theological decisions regarding the acceptability of different prayers.

Part of the Nov. 6 arguments focused on the issue of whether the prayers at issue constituted a government exercise. (BP)

Layman's sensitivity yields community's Graham event

By Diana Chandler

Nocatee, Fla.—Sensing a divine command during a hospital stay, a layman's responsiveness has yielded a community-wide event for the My Hope America with Billy Graham evangelistic outreach.

Frank Bernatt was hospitalized for heart tests when he felt God prompting him to reach his booming community for Christ in Nocatee, Fla.

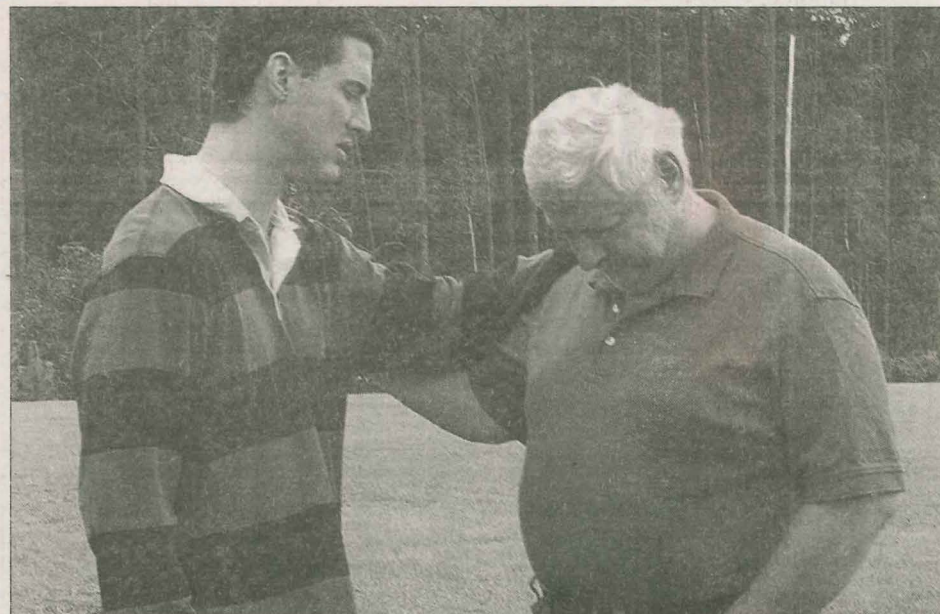
Hundreds were expected to gather Nov. 8 at a drive-in theater type of set-up in Splash Water Park Field to view "Defining Moments," one of several films offered through My Hope.

"I would just say it's amazing," Bernatt said. "We got to see a miracle firsthand because we were obedient and allowed Him to work through His Holy Spirit."

"I bet we could hold 500 cars in this field," he said. "I believe that everything that has been organized or attempted to be organized, God had His hand in it all."

"Every step of the way, as we went to get different approvals, we prayed. And we put it in God's hands, and if it were meant to happen, He was going to make it happen," Bernatt said. "What it's become today, I don't think any of us could have planned it to result in the way it is. The Nocatee development folks have been more than cooperative."

A local Publix store manager in the growing planned community with 2,000 occupied homes offered to pop popcorn



Frank Bernatt (right), a layman in Nocatee, Fla., joins in prayer with a local Baptist pastor, Jeremy Pellum, on the site of a field where a community-wide drive-in-type showing is slated Nov. 8 for "Defining Moments," a film associated with the national My Hope America with Billy Graham evangelistic outreach. (BP/Submitted photo)

for the event, and more than 800 Bibles and soft drinks were anonymously donated.

A local Baptist pastor, Jeremy Pellum, said he is impressed that the event is lay-led, involving more than two dozen volunteers to plan and serve at the outreach.

Pellum is hopeful the event will reach many for Christ.

"I want to see folks embrace the

gospel of Jesus Christ. ... That's primary," he said. "Secondary is, I want the hearts of the people to turn toward the mission."

The event opened with brief greetings from community leaders and featured Christian music videos broadcast onto a screen that may stretch 30 yards wide, followed by the film, an invitation to Christian discipleship and individual counseling led by volunteers. (BP)

RISK

Continued from page 1

McCracken County Jail in Paducah and the Western Kentucky Correctional Complex in Fredonia.

The KBC outreach was coordinated through Freedom Forever Ministries, which has shared the gospel inside west Kentucky prison walls for 14 years now.

Lee Rust is the ministry's executive director. She agreed that revival is indeed taking hold among the region's penal population.

"The prayer team for this ministry has prayed for a year for revival," Rust said, "and we have watched it begin."

On Friday night, volunteers hosted a dinner for 40 of the McCracken County Jail's inmates who are due to be released soon.

Attendance for the worship service afterward was optional, but at least 20 of the men stayed to hear a gospel message from Chuck McAlister, KBC's evangelism and church planting team leader.

Rust said 16 of those men made decisions for Christ that night, a response that overwhelmed her—even though she had prayed specifically for it.

"We knew exactly what we were praying for, but it still surprised us when we saw it," she recalled.

To see nearly all of an audience stand at once to make decisions for Christ is something Pastor Mike Moynahan has rarely seen, even after more than 40 years in the pulpit.

"It confirms that we have felt the Lord is very much at work—and we're giving Him the credit," said Moynahan, the bivocational pastor of Paducah's Schneid-



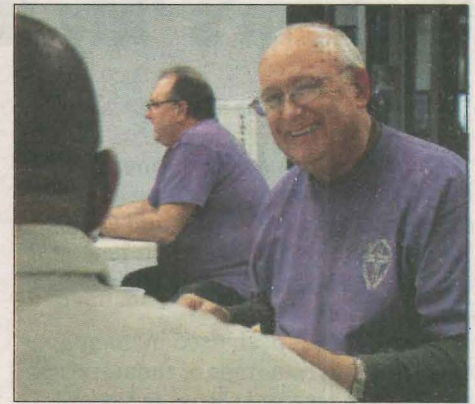
RISK: Paducah volunteers (in purple shirts) pray with women inmates at the Western Kentucky Correctional Complex in Fredonia. (KBC)

man Road Baptist Church.

With little sleep, the volunteers traveled Saturday morning to Fredonia and the Western Kentucky Correctional Complex, which houses upwards of 700 women. There, inmates were offered meals and an opportunity to participate in worship.

McAlister joined Chris Turpin, pastor of Donaldson Baptist Church in Princeton, to preach at six worship services throughout the day.

In all, 158 women made decisions for Christ, Rust said.



Wayne Graham, chaplain of the Marshall County Detention Center in Benton, shares a meal with an inmate at the McCracken County Jail during a RISK: Paducah evangelistic event Nov. 1. (KBC)

she said, "it's about repentance—admitting our sins.

"When I look at that sea of inmates, they all have the same clothes on, and they no longer have any socioeconomic status," Rust explained. "They're just people who God loves—and I think that's the way God sees all of us."

And Rust said she believes if the same revival fires consuming the prisons are going to spread to area churches, Kentucky Baptists must focus less on earthly things such as their clothes, jobs, social status or the style of worship music played in their churches.

"I think if we didn't care so much about that and we cared more about our relationship with Christ and we would seek Him with a repentant heart, we would see revival break out in our churches across this state," Rust said.

(WR) Larry Brannin and Jay Parker of the KBC contributed to this story.

GIVE A GIFT SUBSCRIPTION and Christmas lasts all year.



Individual print subscriptions to the Western Recorder cost only \$15 a year and include full website access to online editions and archives. Subscribe online at westernrecorder.org/subscribe-now.

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

Adoption: a kaleidoscope reflecting light

By Valerie Foriest

Columbia, Tenn.—Bryan and I married when we were young, silly, in-love sophomores in college—and barely 19. We had gotten engaged after dating just a couple weeks. We've always been people who once we know, and feel God's confirmation, we act. We did this in marriage—and adoption was no different.

Bryan and I always knew we wanted to have a lot of children. When I started to have fertility issues and miscarry repeatedly, we decided to adopt sooner rather than later. We found an agency and rushed through the home study and application process in a month.

After dropping off the last paper needed for our home study, I overheard a conversation with a social worker about a baby. There was a baby boy whose birth mother had HIV, and they were unsure of his prognosis. All I heard was “there is a baby boy.” I went home and shared with Bryan.

Later that afternoon there was a call. “Would you be interested?” We hung up the phone and smiled big goofy grins and knew this was our promised child from the Lord. For this reason we named our first born Canaan, the land of promise after two years of wandering in the desert.

The next day we would find ourselves seated across a table with a tall athletically built woman in her mid-30's. She selflessly placed a most beautiful baby in my arms and made my dreams a reality. I was now a mommy.

God has had His hands all over Canaan from the very beginning. We were unsure when blessed with Canaan whether he would receive a death sentence. Our mighty God chose life. By the time our sweet boy turned 3, we learned that Canaan only had the antibodies for HIV and that AIDS would not tear him from us. When our house burned down, and Canaan was trapped behind a wall of flames, not a hair on his body was singed. God has His hands all over this child; he is most certainly His.

Canaan was 8 months old when our agency approached Bryan and me about becoming foster parents. We were God's vessels for the following two and a half years. Seventy-two newborn drug- and alcohol-addicted babies graced our home. Most of our foster babies came with no name, so we plucked names from the Bible and temporarily called them Ruth, Job, Delilah and such.

Most of the time this was the best job, but every time you love and give away, your heart is left a bit frayed.

Baby 36 was a tiny 4-pound, 8-ounce, 16-inch-long diva. She was born with a blood alcohol level of .23 and tested positive for seven drugs in her system. She came at a difficult time. I was in the midst of another miscarriage.

All of the loss we'd endured had taken a toll. My heart was weary when they brought baby 36. I explained to the



Valerie Foriest with her husband Bryan and 12 children. Bryan Foriest, in rear at right, is holding the youngest. As Orphan Sunday approached Nov. 3, Foriest shared her story of infertility, foster care and how adoption is like a kaleidoscope. (BP/Photo submitted)

agency social worker that she would have to be our last foster baby for a while.

Due to all the loss and leaving, my heart was unable to think of giving away another little one again. We didn't even name her. We called her Noname (pronounced no-NAH-may). That is, until the agency called and said, “If we let you keep her, will you keep being our foster parents?”

We hung up the phone and it didn't really seem real. But at that moment, we went from having baby Noname to sweet baby Addison. Addison was a hard baby, the worst thus far. She screamed continually the first 6 months. She was

“Like the kaleidoscope, God gave us something that after the beads all crashed down was much prettier than anything we could've made on our own.”

Valerie Foriest



delayed in every way. We worried that she wouldn't walk or talk.

But she's one tough cookie. Addison takes everything head on and has amazed every speech therapist, physical therapist and doctor we met.

As she has gotten older, He has made her a gifted athlete. The little girl whose stiff legs and arms I'd have to move in therapy is able to outrun, outplay and

always outdo others with a smile. We've watched God break our daughter's strong rebellious spirit and turn her to Him and make her a passionate young woman who fights for the Lord.

While 36 more babies came through our doors just long enough to be loved on and placed in their forever family, we haven't been blessed with another child through adoption—although the doors are always open should God place one on our doorstep.

We continued to pursue growing our family through fertility treatments, 19 miscarriages and countless rounds of fertility drugs. We added Malachi, Aidan, Brysan, Gideon, Emerson, our twins Judah and Harper, Solomon and Storie. And with no trying or loss, and just because God likes to show off when the medical world said it wasn't possible, God gave us a surprise—our newborn daughter, Jericho. We have 12 children that God has given us the honor of raising up for Him.

I've often referred to adoption as a kaleidoscope. I have always loved looking through them, the way the light shines and how each turn creates a beautiful random pattern. I've always been fascinated when I try to turn the cylinder to form the pattern I want; the beads all crash and create something so much prettier than I could've made all on my own. Each little mosaic is different, reflecting light in its own way. They are beautiful and different and no matter which way things turn, light shines from them.

I know that with God we can make a Malachi and an Aidan and Harper. But we could never make an Addison or Canaan. Like the kaleidoscope, God gave us something that after the beads all crashed down was much prettier than anything we could've made on our own. (BP)

Valerie Foriest is a member of The First Family (First Baptist Church) in Columbia, Tenn.

ERLC leader urges care for orphans

By Tom Strode

Washington—Russell Moore's visit to a hushed Russian orphanage more than 10 years ago opened his eyes to a new understanding of his spiritual adoption. The experience furthered his path to becoming a leading advocate for Christian involvement in orphan care.

The president of the Southern Baptist Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission recalls that day in a new video on the entity's website.

His wife Maria and he walked into the orphanage to meet two 1-year-old boys who would become their first of five sons, and it was the silence—not the squalor or stench—that struck him, Moore says. There were many children in the building, but there was no noise. Workers told them it was normal for the orphanage.

“Children cry for a reason,” Moore says in the video. “They cry to alert a parent: ‘I'm hungry. I'm cold. I'm scared. I'm alarmed.’ But a child who doesn't receive a response ultimately stops crying.”

Moore is a leading voice in the growing pro-adoption movement among evangelical Christians. In his first year as the president, the ERLC is seeking to help Southern Baptists and other evangelicals understand and become involved with orphan care and adoption.

He acknowledges not all are called to the same role in fulfilling the biblical call “to look after orphans and widows in their distress” (James 1:27).

“Not everybody's called to adopt,” Moore says in the video. “Not everybody's called to participate in foster care. Not everybody's called to lead a mission trip overseas. But all of us are called to care for orphans and widows in some way.”

“Right now, there is a crisis of fatherlessness all around the world,” he says. “Chances are, in your community, the foster care system is bulging with children, moving from home to home to home, with no rootedness or permanence in sight.”

Christ's followers “should fill in the gap left by a contemporary Western consumer culture that extends even to the conception and adoption of children,” Moore said. (BP)



Three of six orphaned children peer from a doorway. (IMB file photo)

FORWARD

Philippians 3:13-14

KBC Annual Meeting - Nov. 12, 2013
Lone Oak First Baptist Church

TO WHAT LIES AHEAD

2013 Report of the KBC Committee on Nominations

Committee on Committees &
Committee on Annual Meeting

SPRING REPORT - KBC MISSION BOARD:

Daviess McLean (Region 2): 2014 Unexpired Term - Eddie Duke (Owensboro)

FALL REPORT - KBC MISSION BOARD:

At Large (Region 4): 2016 Term - Adam Greenway (Taylorsville)

At Large (Region 5): 2016 Term - Charles Steger (Walton)

At Large (Region 6): 2016 Term - Tim Johnson (Lawrenceburg)

At Large (Region 8): 2015 Unexpired Term - Bill Wallace (Putney)

Allen (Region 7): 2015 Unexpired Term - James Gifford (Scottsville)

Anderson (Region 6): 2016 Term - Mike Hamrick (Lawrenceburg)

Blackford/Breckinridge (Region 3): 2016 Term - Bobby Sharp (Hardinsburg)

Blood River (Region 1): 2015 Unexpired Term - Jason Sharp (Benton)

Boone's Creek (Region 6): 2015 Unexpired Term - Travis Drake (Winchester)

Caldwell-Lyon (Region 1): 2015 Unexpired Term - Bryan Grigg (Kuttawa)

Central (Region 7): 2016 Term - Justin Compton (Springfield)

Christian (Region 2): 2016 Term - David Tucker (Hopkinsville)

Daviess-McLean (Region 2): 2015 Unexpired Term - Mary Martha Reynolds (Owensboro)

Daviess-McLean (Region 2): 2016 Term - Clive Bell (Livermore)

Elkhorn (Region 6): 2016 Term - Steve Bruce (Versailles)

Elkhorn (Region 6): 2016 Term - David Stokes (Lexington)

Franklin (Region 5): 2016 Term - Benita Decker (Frankfort)

Graves (Region 1): 2016 Term - Brad Hall (Mayfield)

Grayson Co. (Region 3): 2016 Term - Keith Oller (Clarkson)

Green Valley (Region 2): 2015 Unexpired Term - Jeff Burke (Henderson)

Greenup (Region 8): 2016 Term - Jeff Ferguson (Catlettsburg)

Knox (Region 8): 2016 Term - Josh Smith (Bimble)

Lincoln (Region 7): 2016 Term - Kyle Page (Waynesburg)

Little Bethel (Region 2): 2016 Term - Andrew Sexton (Slaughters)

Logan Todd (Region 3): 2016 Term - Gene Bracken (Russellville)

Long Run (Region 4): 2016 Term - Les Hughes (Louisville)

Monroe (Region 7): 2016 Term - Gene Gearlds (Gamaliel)

Nelson (Region 4): 2015 Unexpired Term - Richard Carwile (Bloomfield)

Nelson (Region 4): 2016 Term - Greg Crenshaw (Shepherdsville)

New River/McCreary (Region 7): 2016 Term - Louis Heineman (Whitley City)

Northern KY (Region 5): 2014 Unexpired Term - Mark Wolgamott (Hebron)

Northern KY (Region 5): 2016 Term - Dan Francis (Erlanger)

Ohio County (Region 2): 2016 Term - Andy Gowins (Hartford)

Oldham-Trimble (Region 5): 2016 Term - Don Wright (LaGrange)

Owen (Region 5): 2016 Term - Bill Allen (Owenton)

Pulaski (Region 7): 2016 Term - Paul Hines (Somerset)

Severns Valley (Region 3): 2015 Unexpired Term - Leon Chambers (Elizabethtown)

Severns Valley (Region 3): 2016 Term - Shawn Edwards (Vine Grove)

Tates Creek (Region 6): 2016 Term - Roger Bartley (Richmond)

Ten Mile (Region 5): 2014 Unexpired Term - Eddie Adkins (Union)

Three Forks (Region 8): 2016 Term - Cecil Morgan (Vico)

Warren (Region 3): 2015 Unexpired Term - Kenny Chyle (Rockfield)

Warren (Region 3): 2016 Term - Steve Ayers (Bowling Green)

West KY (Region 1): 2016 Term - Kevin Clark (Clinton)

West Union (Region 1): 2016 Term - Brandt Lyon (Paducah)

Whites Run (Region 5): 2015 Unexpired Term - Matt Brawner (Ghent)

BOARDS OF AGENCIES & INSTITUTIONS

Campbellsville University (Trustees)

2014 Unexpired Term [1]: Mary Frances May (Columbia); 2015 Unexpired Term [1]: Mike O'Neal (Campbellsville); 2016 Unexpired Term [1]: William Steven Wright (Elizabethtown); 2017 Terms [11]: Barry Bertram (Campbellsville); Jerry Blankenship (Louisville); George Bright (Nashville, TN); Teresa Cassell (Campbellsville); Mike Eastridge (Bowling Green); Henry Lee (Campbellsville); Ron Lewis (White Mills); Carol Bertram Peddicord (Albany); Norris Priest (Henderson); Ralph Tesseneer (Campbellsville); Tommy Valentine (Danville)

Clear Creek Baptist Bible College (Trustees)

2014 Unexpired Term [1]: Max Cooper (Columbus); 2016 Unexpired Term [1]: Lynita Brown (Richmond); 2017 Terms [8]: Ed Amundson (Somerset); Paul Badgett (Pikeville); Mike Blankenship (Catlettsburg); Bennie Bush (Corbin); M. D. Cabe (Sparta, GA); Dane Poe (Jonesville, VA); Jeff Shouse (Spottsville); Josh Smith (Barbourville)

Crossings Ministries (Trustees)

2014 Unexpired Term [1]: Dennis Smith (Benton); 2017 Term [1]: Gina Rogers (Auburn)

Kentucky Baptist Foundation (Directors)

2015 Unexpired Terms [3]: David E. Griffith (Elizabethtown); David A. Nunery (Campbellsville); Dennis Tindle (Somerset); 2017 Terms [4]: Mike Melloan (Owensboro); Robert Wayne Scott (Lexington); Shirley T. Spalding (Louisville); M. A. Winchester (Lexington)

Kentucky Ethics League (Trustees)

2016 Terms [5]: James Clontz, Jr. (Danville); Fred Harrison (Providence); Chip Hutcheson (Princeton); Wilbur Powell (Russellville); Rick Reeder (Princeton)

Oneida Baptist Institute (Trustees)

2017 Terms [6]: Ken Bolin (Manchester); O. W. Conrad (Falmouth); Kathy Davis (Cecelia); Marsha Hurst (Richmond); Fred Rogers (Manchester); Ron Rose (London)

Sunrise Children's Services (Directors)

2017 Terms [6]: Thomas L. Adkisson (Shelbyville); Thomas A. Christopher (Danville); Paul Daugherty (Taylorsville); Timothy A. Hatfield (Belfry); Patricia M. Howard (Bowling Green); Charlotte Whittaker (Beaver Dam)

University of the Cumberlands (Trustees)

2016 Unexpired Term [1]: Bruce Rector (Lexington); 2017 Terms [7]: Paul Estes (Williamsburg); French Harmon (Somerset); Richard Knock (Florence); Lori Albro Lewis (Jeffersonville, IN); Howard Mann (Ashland); James David Myers (Corbin); Dallas Petrey (Snellville, GA)

Western Recorder (Directors)

2016 Unexpired Term [1]: Billy Compton (Mt. Washington); 2017 Terms [3]: Paul Nunn (Prestonsburg); Larry Rowell (Campbellsville); Dan Summerlin (Paducah)

Committee on Nominations:

Committee Members: Bill Patterson (Chairperson), Paul Badgett, Harold Best, Rick Bowden, James Carroll, Bill Clark, Dot Crace, Rodney Cude, Bob Ehr, Richard Gaines, Steve Hill, Steve Hussung, Kevin Milburn, Calvin Naylor, Shane Nickell, Kyle Noffsinger, Pat Reaves, Nick Sandefur, Mark Shelton, Wilton Shelton, Chris Short, Ronnie Stinson, David Tucker and Bill Wright

Ex Officio Members: Executive Director Paul Chitwood and Convention President Dan Summerlin

2013 Report of the KBC Committee on Committees

Committee on Annual Meeting:

2014 Unexpired Term - Kevin Roberts (Elizabethtown); 2016 Terms - Robert Atchison (Winchester) and Scott Kerr (Elizabethtown)

Committee on Constitution & Bylaws:

2016 Terms - Ina Fenton (Burlington), Choe Sergent (Junction City), and Eric Stephens (Guston)

Committee on Credentials:

2014 Unexpired Term - Brent Rowe (Danville); 2016 Terms - Linda Netherly (Independence), Ron Andrew (Monticello), and Allen Bonnell (Corbin)

Committee on Nominations:

2016 Terms
Region 1: Mike Jones (Marion)
Region 2: Matthew Williams (Earlington)
Region 3: Barry Fields (Hawesville)
Region 4: Brian Croft (Louisville)
Region 5: Mark Webb (Taylor Mill)
Region 6: Scott Rogers (Irvine)
Region 7: Dale Rose (Monticello)
Region 8: Joshua Smith (Barbourville)

Committee on Public Affairs:

2015 Unexpired Term - Erin Roach (Frankfort); 2016 Terms - Jim Smith (Louisville), Rick Hardison (Georgetown), and Tony Brown (Whitesburg)

Committee on Resolutions: 2016 Terms - Richard Black (Lexington) and Rusty Thomaston (Auburn)

Committee on Committees:

Committee Members: Bill Langley (Chairperson), Norm Brock, Darrell Crawford, Tom Curry, Jeff Pennington, Andrew Sexton, David Stokes, Charles Steger, and Stephen Wilson.

Ex Officio Members: Executive Director, Paul Chitwood and Convention President, Dan Summerlin

2013 Report of the KBC Committee on Annual Meeting

Persons to Report - 2014

Preacher of the Annual Sermon: Curtis Woods (Louisville); Alternate David Prince (Lexington)

Obituaries: David Daugherty (Rockfield); Alternate Steve Hussung (Bowling Green)

Committee on Annual Meeting:

Committee Members: Mark Swadley (Chairperson), Howard Atkinson, Brandon Carrier, Brad Walker, and Jerry Workman

Permanent Member: Executive Director Paul Chitwood

Ex Officio Members:

Convention President Dan Summerlin
First Vice-President Tom James
Second Vice-President Tommy Tapscott
President of Pastors' Conference Wesley Noss
President of KBMC Bob Blankenship
President of KBREA Mark Quigley



NAMB training helps churches develop multiplication plan

By Tobin Perry

Nashville, Tenn.—When Steve Gallimore arrived for Churches Planting Churches Training at Brentwood Baptist Church in Nashville, Tenn., he already knew how church planting could be in reaching people with the gospel.

But when he completed the training the next day, Gallimore had what he believed to be a workable plan to start new churches in three neighboring counties in need of churches.

Designed to address concerns churches encounter when deciding to plant, CPCT gives every attending church team the opportunity to develop and present a plan to start a new church.

"The second day of the training we began to design plans and began to envision how we could implement those plans," Gallimore said. "I think that's what is missing so often in other conferences. You don't just come away with ideas. You come away with a plan."

Thirteen years ago Gallimore planted Tennessee Valley Community Church in rural Paris, Tenn., to reach his community's unchurched. The church has grown to more than 750 in attendance and baptized 450 people.



One primary goal of Churches Planting Churches Training is to foster more Canadian and Southern Baptist church plants, like The Point in Vancouver, B.C., where church planter Victor Thomas leads services in his home, and in a rented lecture hall at Simon Fraser University. To find out more about Churches Planting Churches Training, including future dates and locations, visit namb.net/CPCT. (NAMB file photo/Craig Pulsifer)

Now, thanks in part to CPCT, the church plans to start new churches in three neighboring counties where they currently have 168 members and church attendees living. Gallimore came to the training with the vague thought to plant one church in the area. He left with concrete plans to start three.

CPCT is a key part of NAMB's strategy to encourage and help Southern Baptists start 15,000 new churches during the next decade. NAMB is bringing the training to churches, local associations and state conventions. While the training encourages churches to consider planting anywhere there is a need, it focuses on preparing churches to plant in the

underserved areas of North America, particularly NAMB's 32 Send North America cities.

CPCT, which is typically held in local churches, covers the biblical basis for why North America needs more churches and provides practical coaching as churches develop their own plans. The training helps pastors and church leaders learn to answer objections to church planting, avoid common mistakes as a parent of a new church and find a church planter (inside or outside of the church). NAMB considers the training a critical next step once churches accept God's call to plant.

"It's a great tool for any church

desiring to be a supporting, sending or multiplying church," said Shane Critser, NAMB's team leader for church and missionary discovery. "It's absolutely worth a leader's time to attend."

Bob Lowman, who serves as the director of missions at the 130-church Metro-olina Baptist Association in Charlotte, N.C., said the training, which his association hosted in June, played a key part in his associations' efforts to plant more churches.

In addition to local churches, staff from the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina and the South Carolina Baptist Convention also attended. By the first few months of next year the association plans to hold several shorter CPCT sessions—each just a few hours long—that will preview at least one extended training session.

The Alabama Baptist Convention State Board of Missions has also made the training a key part of its efforts. It hosts regular "Basic Training" for church planters throughout the state with plans to have a minimum of 20 CPCT trainers to help churches learn how to be effective "mother churches."

ABC hopes to see at least 150 sending churches trained by 2015. (NAMB)

Senate passage of ENDA appears near, House leader affirms his opposition

By Tom Strode

Washington—The U.S. Senate has taken a step that apparently assures it will approve for the first time a bill to grant workplace civil rights on the basis of a person's homosexual, bisexual or transgender status while, opponents say, threatening religious liberty.

Senators voted 61-30 Nov. 4 to invoke cloture and bring the Employment Non-Discrimination Act (ENDA), S. 815, to the floor for consideration. The roll call—with all but one Democrat and seven Republicans voting in favor—means the Senate almost certainly will hold a floor vote that seems destined to gain the measure's passage.

Speaker of the House John Boehner delivered some encouraging news to ENDA's foes, however, when he affirmed on the same day his opposition to the bill.

President Obama has endorsed the legislation, but it seems doubtful the House will give him the opportunity to sign it into law.

ENDA would make discrimination based on "an individual's actual or perceived sexual orientation or gender identity" illegal in such areas as hiring, firing and compensation in both the private and public workplaces.

The Southern Baptist Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission, which has been expressing opposition to the proposal since the 1990s, says the legislation not only subverts the free exercise of religion, but promotes a perspective that conflicts with that of Christianity.

"Though the bill makes a narrow exemption for explicitly religious institutions and employers, ENDA undermines the Constitution's guarantee of religious freedom by preventing many

employers with religious objections to homosexual and transgender behavior from conducting their business in accordance with the dictates of their faith," said Andrew Walker, the ERLC's director of policy studies, in an interview published Nov. 4 on the blog of Denny Burk, associate professor of biblical studies at Boyce College in Louisville.

Tony Perkins, president of the Family Research Council, voiced disappointment at the Senate's vote. ENDA, he said in a written release, "would increase litigation, diminish religious liberty, and create a new federal mandate on businesses based on sexuality. The law would not allow businesses, including schools and daycares, to take things into consideration when they think it is appropriate."

Speaker Boehner also expressed concern about lawsuits, with spokesman Michael Steel saying ENDA "will increase frivolous litigation and cost American jobs, especially small business jobs."

Advocates for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender rights applauded the Senate's action. Chad Griffin, president of the Human Rights Campaign, said ENDA's "time has come, and we're not going to stop fighting until it is passed once and for all."

The only previous Senate vote on ENDA came in 1996, when it failed by 50-49.

A similar non-discrimination bill in the House has 193 cosponsors. (BP)

ENDA "would ... diminish religious liberty ... (and) would not allow businesses, including schools and daycares, to take (sexual identity) into consideration."

Tony Perkins

Moore: Promote gospel and religious freedom in harmony with each other

By Tom Strode

New Orleans—Christians should seek to preach with clarity the gospel in its strangeness while advocating for religious freedom at the same time, Russell

"If the state is able to assert its lordship over the conscience, the state has become a god."

Russell Moore

Moore told seminary students at his alma mater.

"(T)he worst thing we can do in defending religious liberty is to seek and to try to make Christianity normal," said Moore, president of the Southern Baptist Ethics & Religious

Liberty Commission.

"We don't seek to make Christianity normal. We seek instead to make Christianity clear," he said, while speaking at a recent chapel address at New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary.

Preaching from Acts 26:24-32, Moore said Paul both defended his religious freedom and proclaimed the gospel in an appearance before King Agrippa and the governor, Festus.

"Paul here understands that freedom itself is not enough," Moore said. "The mission isn't what we do after we've achieved religious liberty. The mission is what we're doing while we are appealing for religious liberty," Moore said.

At a time when nominal Christianity is collapsing because it is no longer perceived as useful, the declaration of true Christianity will clash with culture, Moore said.

"If we settle for an almost gospel, if

we settle for an almost kingdom, religious liberty is easy, because Uncle Caesar isn't troubled by what we're saying," Moore said. "But if we stand up and clearly say there is another King, Jesus, and He isn't dead any more, then the Pharisees and the Sadducees and the government will all be in an uproar together, and we must stand there with grace, with mercy, with grit, with conviction, with truthfulness, with kindness, and preach freedom and preach the gospel with liberty and Jesus for all."

Moore told future chaplains in the audience they would be "on the front lines of these sorts of questions." The ERLC has worked with the North American Mission Board, which commissions Southern Baptist chaplains, in the effort to defend the freedom of military chaplains.

Chaplains will be told to pray generic prayers, not ones in Jesus' name, Moore said. The problem with agreeing to do so is "you have allowed the government to set up a generic religion that you are a minister of," he said. "When it comes to prayer, the government does not have jurisdiction there."

Moore said, "If the state is able to assert its lordship over the conscience, the state has become a god."

"When you and I say to our government, 'We must live freely and exercise our beliefs freely and we believe everybody around us ought to exercise their beliefs and consciences freely,' we are not asking for a favor from the government as though we were a business looking for a bailout," he said.

"We are saying to the government, 'Because no bureaucrat is going to be standing next to us at judgment, you do not have authority over the free human conscience.'" (BP)

Answering the call

New staffer expresses 'honor' of doing God's work at OBI

The following is an account from John Monday, a new staff member.

It was late July when I arrived in Oneida with my wife and four kids. We had come to visit only once before, but this time it was permanent. There was no going back to Jacksonville, Fla.

Jacksonville had been our home for the last 19 years. It was where I had met my future wife. It was where our four kids were born, and where we had started, grown and come to love our church family.

There were times between April and July of this year when I would look at my wife and ask her if she was still sure she wanted to move to a little town in southeast Kentucky. But we both knew why we were coming.

It is an honor and a privilege to be serving our Lord at Oneida. The people who work alongside us are a special kind of people. Oneida is a place where the ministry potentially never ends. And it is this ministry that continues to drive us.

I am struck by how many different ways there are to serve at Oneida. Not just service to the kids, but service to one another. I have seen a helpfulness and real understanding among the Oneida faculty. There is a general bearing of one another's burdens that makes me strive to be more Christ-like every day.

There is also a sincerity of heart

among the workers that I have not seen anywhere else. The volunteers who come to Oneida and freely give their time and resources without thought for what they get in return are humbling to me. The sincerity with which they serve and work alongside us continues to urge me on to do good to those around me.

On top of all of these, there is a seriousness in what we are doing at Oneida. Not only have the kids put their trust in us, but so have the parents. They have chosen to entrust us with the lives of their children—and that we will nurture them toward godliness.

There is a visible, daily accountability at Oneida that drives me to godliness and makes me remember that my life is not my own. My life, along with all of the teachers and staff, is daily being poured into the lives of these kids.

It is the combination of service, sincere hearts and the seriousness of our charges that really drives me to trust in our Lord for strength to do what is right.

My family has only been here for three months, and as I sit and think about all that has happened in that short time I am grateful for the faithfulness that God has shown us in providing for us and giving us the ability that we have to work and serve along with all of the saints at Oneida.

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

This is Oneida



Larry Gritton

Young, eager to serve

New student excited for God's call on his life

Brandon Kelley, a first year student at Clear Creek Bible College, said he is thankful for the place where God has led him. Just a few years ago, he would have never envisioned himself at a Bible college.

"I am originally from Detroit, Michigan," said Kelley. "I moved south to this area when I was 14 years old.

"I was basically unchurched my entire life until I came to know the Lord as my Savior five years ago when I was 20."

"Although I lived near the school, I really didn't know there was a Bible college here," Kelley recalled.

"When I surrendered to God's call to preach, I was attending a local church where the pastor and associate pastor are Clear Creek alumni. They began to talk to me about getting some training for the calling God had placed on my life and they pointed to Clear Creek.

"I visited the college and felt that this was where God wanted me to be to get the training I needed.

"I was glad to find out that there was a place like this in our area. I know God

put those Clear Creek alumni in my path to point me here. It is a wonderful setting to learn about ministry."

"I am studying in the Church administration and leadership degree program," Kelley said. "I like teaching and working with youth. I feel like that is what God has called me to do with my life.

"I am currently serving at a church in the area where I am part of the youth team. We have a separate worship service on Wednesday nights where I get to teach and preach every week.

"We have a great group of students from the area who attend."

"I'm excited about the younger generation of ministers who are answering the call to serve," Kelley said.

"I have only been saved for five years and there are many others like me. Please pray for us to stand strong in the Lord as the enemy tries to attack and disrupt His work."

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

Clear Creek Chronicle



Donnie Fox

Clock ticking to teach manhood

By Aaron Earls

Springville, Ala.—For John Croyle, the clock continues to tick. Whether on the football field or in the life of a child, the seconds slip away until the outcome is clear.

Playing on championship teams for legendary University of Alabama head coach Paul "Bear" Bryant, the former All-American defensive end knows the value of every moment in a game. But mistakes are magnified when the clock starts winding down, which inspired the title of his book "The Two-Minute Drill to Manhood: A Proven Game Plan for Raising Sons."

Football games often are determined in the final two minutes of a game and, often with teenagers, parents are coming down to their two-minute drill, Croyle said. "Before our sons leave our home, they have to know how to be a good man, a good husband and a good father."

In addition to raising two biological children, Croyle has been a father figure to nearly 2,000 kids at Big Oak Ranch. Croyle began the boys' ranch 40 years ago for abused, neglected and abandoned children. Big Oak Ranch, which has since added a girls' ranch and a Christian school, will receive 100 percent of the author proceeds from the book.

The lessons learned from the hurting hearts of those who come to stay with "Mr. John," along with experiences with his son and daughter, served as the parenting book's foundation.

"We are raising a generation of boys who don't know what real manhood looks like," Croyle said. "Our girls have no idea what to look for in a husband."

He is driven to change that.

Years ago, in preparing for a trip with his then-13-year-old son Brodie, who would later become a quarterback at Alabama and in the NFL, Croyle felt God impress on his heart one question: "What do you want to teach your son

about manhood?"

The last word of the question stayed at the forefront of his mind until he found an answer. Seven life principles based on the acrostic M-A-N-H-O-O-D became Croyle's formula for training sons: Master, Ask and Listen, Never Compromise, Handle Responsibility, One Purpose, One Body, Don't Ever, Ever, Ever Give Up.

Croyle expressed confidence in the wisdom gained from his parenting experience in summing up The Two-Minute Drill: "If you apply the seven aspects from this book, you will raise a thoroughbred."

From standing by one's word to resisting the temptation to compromise morals, "The Two-Minute Drill" challenges parents,

particularly fathers, to model the character they want to see in their children.

"If I ask your son who is the most godly man he knows, and he doesn't say you, something is wrong," Croyle said. "And you need to fix it."

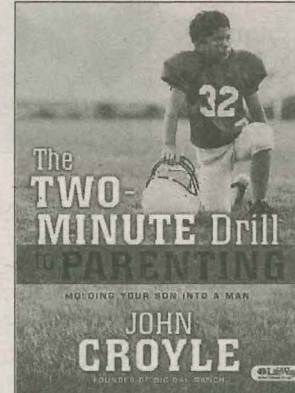
While the book emphasizes the need for parents to begin training their children for success as soon as possible, Croyle made it clear that time remains for those who feel discouraged.


"It is never too late to be a great parent," he said. "Unless you or your child is in the grave, you still have time."

He has seen it firsthand in the lives of children at Big Oak Ranch. Many who endured unspeakable pain and abuse, but responded to the love and opportunity they found at the ranch have become successful men and women.

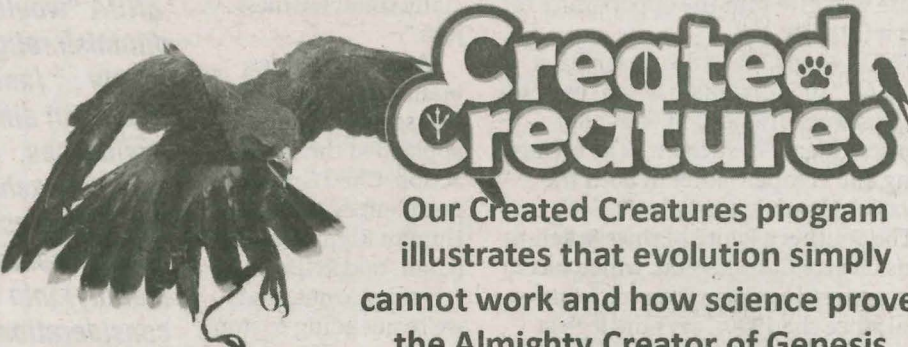
"This book is a tool—something to help you develop your children to become who God created them to be. But just like any tool, you have to use it. You still have to build on the foundation to establish the eternal home in the heart of your son or daughter."

He couldn't help but grin when he said, "There are some great lessons in the book, because I've had close to 2,000 great teachers." (BP)






Live Animal Programs Brought to You!



Our Created Creatures program illustrates that evolution simply cannot work and how science proves the Almighty Creator of Genesis.



Children Programs
Adult Programs

45 to 50 minute program
\$295 in most areas!

www.animalzedZOOcation.com
 Mayfield, KY 1-800-589-5408 info@animalzedzooocation.com

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

Veterans Day: Vietnam War chaplains helped soldiers through era

By Tobin Perry

Sumter, S.C.—Army chaplain Charlie Clanton had found it difficult to look at the severely burned young soldier at a makeshift medical evacuation station in Vietnam. The soldier's face had been charred beyond recognition by a Viet Cong grenade launcher attack.

As Clanton, a Southern Baptist chaplain, walked to the gurney and bumped it, the young soldier opened his eyes.

"Sir, you were right the other night," the soldier told Clanton.

"Right about what?" Clanton asked, not sure which worship service the young man had attended. Later he realized it had been a service when he had taught on Psalm 23 in the mess hall.

"The other night when you told us about 'the valley of the shadow of death.' I was there tonight, sir," the young man said. "And God kept me going."

Later that night the young man died on a helicopter en route to the hospital.

"That statement to me, a young minister—'What you're telling me is right; what God said He would do He did; He

kept me going that night'—that really helped me see that my ministry (in Vietnam) was worthwhile," Clanton said.

Clanton would later win a Silver Star for leading troops through hostile territory and back to base camp after an injury to a commanding officer.

This year marks the 40th anniversary of the end of the Vietnam War. Clanton was one of an estimated 300 Southern Baptist chaplains in a 10-year period who served in the war. Southern Baptist chaplains played a key role in providing spiritual guidance and support for more than 530,000 American soldiers. The North American Mission Board, then called the Home Mission Board, is the endorsing entity for Southern Baptist chaplains in both military and civilian roles.

Chaplain Steve Gantt, who served in Vietnam for a year in the late 1960s, said many soldiers told him they felt safer when the chaplain was around.

"I didn't necessarily feel like that," Gantt said with a laugh. "But I did have a chance to tell them that God cares for you—even in this hellish place."

Worship services often were held in



Chaplain Charles Clanton leads a simple worship service near Bien Hoah, South Vietnam, in January 1970. Many Vietnam chaplains had to be prepared to hold worship services at any time and in any place. Approximately 300 Southern Baptist chaplains served in the Vietnam War throughout the U.S. military. (BP/Photo provided by Charles Clanton)

dangerous places, Gantt said. His commanding officer would send a vehicle with a 50-caliber machine gun with the chaplain when he left the base.

Both Gantt and Clanton gave a similar description of their ministries. Besides leading worship services wherever they found a place, chaplains counseled soldiers, officiated memorial services, visited the wounded and spent time getting to know their makeshift congregations.

Gantt said much of his counseling time was spent helping soldiers deal with the moral objections to the war, a discussion fueled by the growing anti-war movement in the U.S.

"My observation was that the choice usually came down to, 'Well, I'm in this. That guy that's on my right and on my left, he's here and wants to get home and I'm here and want to get home,'" Gantt said. "I'm going to fight for my brother—not just myself. It's a proposition that most soldiers shared once they were exposed to combat."

American social unrest during the period—often centering around the war—made the troops' return difficult, whether in 1973 or earlier. Clanton said he remembers being told to dress in civilian clothes as he traveled back to the U.S. through San Francisco on his way to a new assignment in 1968.

"I see such an improvement today,"

Clanton said. "You see stories every day about troops coming home. You turn on (the news) and they do a salute to a soldier overseas. I think our country learned a great lesson from Vietnam."

Clanton said he has been "welcomed home" numerous times in the last few years along with Iraq veterans. Often, he said, churches and other organizations will add Vietnam veterans to their welcome because they know many weren't treated well upon their return.

The improvement in the treatment of returning veterans has been seen throughout Southern Baptist life as well, Gantt said.

"I think our denomination has done a much better job of bringing the needs of our troops overall and the ministry of our chaplains in particular in front of our churches," he said.

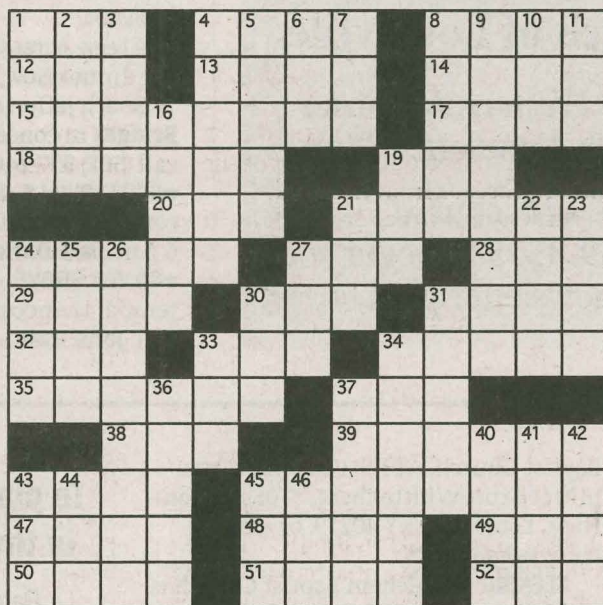
Chaplains Clanton and Gantt continued their ministry on active duty with the Army until retirement in the early 1990s. Clanton now serves as pastor to senior adults at First Baptist Church of Sumter, S.C. Gantt serves as the transitional pastor of Sandy Level Baptist Church in Blythewood, S.C.

NAMB serves as the endorsing entity for 1,355 Southern Baptist chaplains in the military with a total of 3,547 chaplains, including those who serve in hospitals, prisons and other settings. (NAMB)

Bible Crosswords

Across

- 1 This admits attorneys
- 4 Tribe of Israel
- 9 Son of King Abijam
- 12 KJV verb
- 13 "The last ___ of that man is worse than the first" (Luke 11:26)
- 14 Atlantic state (abbr.)
- 15 Exist
- 16 "Abstain from ___ lusts which war against the soul" (1 Peter 2:11)
- 18 Apiece (abbr.)
- 19 Golf goal
- 21 Golf bag contents
- 23 "I will not give sleep to mine ___" (Psalm 132:4)
- 25 Aerie
- 26 Prophetic O.T. book (abbr.)
- 28 Entreat
- 30 What may be let out
- 33 Linking verb
- 34 "___ yourselves likewise with the same mind" (1 Peter 4:1)
- 35 "As it was in the days of ___, so shall it be" (Luke 17:26)
- 36 Del ___, CA
- 37 Fades
- 39 "There was no room for them in the ___" (Luke 2:7)
- 40 In short order (arch.)
- 42 ___ man (jazz player)
- 44 King of the Moabites (Numbers 22:4)
- 46 Dinner table favorites, especially with children
- 49 Linking verb
- 50 Populates
- 54 Twelve Step gp.

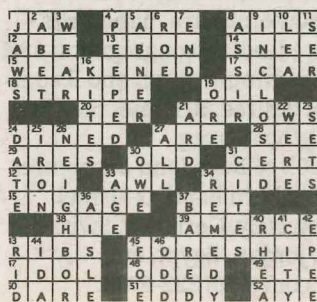


By Evelyn Boyington

#181

- 55 Under-___ (beach hazard)
- 57 Hebrew month
- 58 ATM number
- 59 "It will be fair weather: for the ___ is red" (Matthew 16:2)
- 60 Undergarments
- 61 What Hophni and Phineas took into battle
- Down**
- 1 Bunyon's ox
- 2 ___ code
- 3 Correct (abbr.)
- 4 "Where is the promise of his coming? for since the fathers fell ___" (2 Peter 3:4)
- 5 Sault ___ Marie
- 6 Possesses
- 7 Ordinal suffix
- 8 Depended on
- 9 Classified info
- 10 "God hath ___ mine affliction" (Genesis 31:42)
- 11 Exclamation of dismay
- 16 Summer pest
- 17 Time period (abbr., pl.)
- 20 "To the ___ assembly and church of the firstborn" (Hebrews 12:23)
- 22 First judge of Israel
- 24 "In the midst of the elders, stood a Lamb as it had been ___" (Revelation 5:6)
- 25 "Your ___ are written in heaven" (Luke 10:20)
- 26 Flood preventer, sometimes
- 27 Former NFL coach Parseghian
- 29 "Ye do ___, not knowing the scriptures" (Matt. 22:29)
- 31 Many moons
- 32 "Let no man glory in ___. For all things are yours" (1 Corinthians 3:21)
- 37 "Who sent ___ and wonders into the midst of thee, O Egypt" (Psalm 135:9)
- 38 Mythological nymphs
- 41 Part of fabric
- 43 PC operating system
- 44 Cavern dwellers
- 45 Lose control, with "run"
- 47 Hideaway
- 48 Went down
- 51 What was poured on Saul's head
- 52 Greek letter
- 53 Sitting down, you get this
- 56 Western state (abbr.)
- 58 State College state (abbr.)

#180



Favorite time

Fall is a time of year to enjoy creation and the Creator

The leaves have turned to a vibrant array of fall colors marking one of my favorite times of the year. We have numerous groups each week coming to Cedarmore and Jonathan Creek during this season. We have lots of bonfires going each weekend and each fire typically includes a feast of tasty s'mores.

Recently, I attended an overnight retreat at Cedarmore where I was able to enjoy the peaceful and relaxing effects of sitting at a nighttime bonfire. Fall is in my estimation the best time for a retreat as the weather fits the circumstances for an enjoyable outdoor retreat.

The groups we serve come from far and wide and all are seeking a mental relief from the everyday stresses of life. Each guest I speak with expresses their excitement and relief just to get away from the schedule of everyday life.

While I am thankful to live in this modern era, I do think we have lost

much as compared to a more simple life without all the comforts our high tech word gives to us each day. Bible stories about shepherds and their lives on the open land paints a vivid picture of a much different and less complex life, though perhaps harder in many ways.

The outdoor setting should draw us closer to God as we are witnesses to the truth in Romans where we are told that creation bears witness to His attributes.

While you may not be able to schedule a retreat, you can do something to get out in creation, slow your daily pace, and enjoy His glory being demonstrated in the beauty of creation. I know the more I enjoy God's creation, the more at peace I can be in this hectic and high tech world in which we live. This is the perfect time of year and before you know it, winter will be upon us. So, enjoy the fall and the God who made it.

Crossings Ministries



David Melber

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



November

- 15 English as a Second Language Tutor Training, Corinth Baptist Church, London.
- 19 Kentucky WMU Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon, KBC building, Louisville.
- 21 Nominating committee of the Mission Board, KBC building, Louisville.
- 24 Thanksgiving Offering for Sunrise Children's Services, KBC churches.
- 28 Thanksgiving holiday, KBC building closed through Nov. 29.

December

- 5 Committee on Public Affairs, KBC building, Louisville.
- 9 Mission Board, KBC building, Louisville.
- 12 Kentucky Baptist Foundation Baptist Directors meeting, KBC building, Louisville.
- 24 Christmas holiday, KBC building closed through Dec. 31.

Land discusses public policy at Campbellsville



Richard Land, president of Southern Evangelical Seminary, speaks at Campbellsville University about public policy.

By Samantha Stevenson and Jose Soriano

Campbellsville—Richard Land, president of Southern Evangelical Seminary, spoke on the "Primary Public Policy Issues Facing the United States in 2013 and Beyond" during Campbellsville University's Kentucky Heartland Institute on Public Policy event.

Land, former president of Southern Baptist's Ethics and Religious Liberty Commission, discussed the Manhattan Declaration, a

document that states three issues in which, according to Land, "cannot be compromised."

The document states Christians believe in and will protect the sanctity of human life, the sanctity of the biblical definition of marriage, and the right to practice religious freedom. Since becoming available online, the declaration has accumulated more than 750,000 signatures.

"I long for a time when Christians are thermostats, controlling the temperature of this culture, rather than thermometers, which merely reflect it," Land said.

Land spoke about the current state of the United States healthcare and economy and suggested one solution to the debt crisis would be a law limiting government spending. Land also suggested a 12-year maximum term for Congress. By limiting the term duration to 12 years, he said this would give the Congress a society in which to live by the standards they've created.

"The only way to change the government is to change the people. The people are the locomotive; the government is the caboose," Land said. (CU)

7th grader donates 40 Bibles

Twelve-year-old Isaac O'Flynn, of Macedonia Baptist Church in Owensboro, decided for his birthday this year he would forego presents. Instead, the money he received—and later collected—went toward the purchase of 40 new Bibles that were donated to Sunrise Children's Services' Owensboro office. Inside the cover of each he wrote, "Jesus Loves You, from Isaac." O'Flynn said the idea came to him last year after accepting a challenge at church to read through the Bible. (Sunrise)



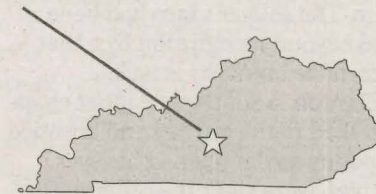
WELCOME
Carlisle Avenue Baptist
Church of Louisville
to the Western Recorder
Church Newsletter Plan.

Contact us at
(502) 489-3535 to begin your
church newsletter plan today!

MOUNTAINS TO THE
MISSISSIPPI
COMPILED BY STAFF

Spotlight on ...

Summersville



Summersville Church will host the **Hoskins Family** in concert Nov. 17, 6 p.m. For more, call **Mary Lynn Chaudoin** at (270) 932-3451. **Nathan Crawford** is pastor.

■ **ELIZABETHTOWN**—Severns Valley Church will hold a women's craft night Nov. 15, 6:30 p.m. **Bill Langley** is pastor.

■ **HODGENVILLE**—First Church will hold a Thanksgiving dinner Nov. 20, 5:35 p.m. **Paul Richey** is pastor.

■ **LOUISVILLE**—Farmdale Church will hold a community Thanksgiving dinner Nov. 20, 6 p.m.

Fern Creek Church will host the Baptist Medical and Dental Mission International Regional Conference Nov. 15-16. **Linda Popham** is pastor.

Green Acres Church will hold a Thanksgiving dinner Nov. 20, 6 p.m. **Phil Ellis** is pastor.

South Jefferson Church will host **Three Bridges** in concert Nov. 17, 10:40 a.m. For more, call (502) 937-2404. **Richard Carver** is pastor.

■ **SCOTTSVILLE**—Scottsville Church will hold a community-wide Thanksgiving service Nov. 17, 6 p.m. **Dale Darley** is pastor.

■ **SILVER GROVE**—First Church will hold a Centennial Homecoming Celebration Nov. 17, 6 p.m. **John Hale** is pastor.

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. References available.

FOR SALE: A perfect Christmas gift for any dog lover. "31 Spiritual Lessons I Learned from My Dog," by local author Raylene King. Visit frontporchresources.com for details. Free same day shipping.

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.

SEEKING: Salvisa Baptist Church is seeking a senior pastor. Mail resumé to Pastor Search Committee, P.O. Box 75, Salvisa, KY 40372, or email to 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.

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. 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 Hwy., Louisville, KY 40219, or email 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.

SEEKING: Mount Elmira Baptist Church is seeking a senior pastor. Mail resumé and CD or DVD to: Jerry Shepherd, 410 Pitts Point Road, Shepherdsville, KY 40165.

SEEKING: Unity Baptist Church is seeking a senior pastor. Interested persons must submit an initial candidate package consisting of: cover letter, current resumé including a summary of relevant ministry, professional and educational experience, ministerial license, ordination certificate, and copy(ies) of degree(s). Send application packets to UBC Pastor Search Committee, P.O. Box 1296, Ashland, KY 41105.

SEEKING: Alton Baptist Church is seeking a part-time youth pastor. Email resumé to altonbaptist@altonbaptist.org or mail to church at 1321 Bypass North, Lawrenceburg, KY 40342. Deadline: Dec. 1.

To place an advertisement
in the Western Recorder:

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



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

SEEKING: Alton Baptist Church is seeking a part-time children's minister. Email resumé to altonbaptist@altonbaptist.org or mail to church at 1321 Bypass North, Lawrenceburg, KY 40342. Deadline: Dec. 1.

SEEKING: First Baptist Church, Owensboro, is seeking a full-time minister of music. The qualified candidate will be responsible for the overall music ministry of the church including adult and children's choir, orchestra, hand bells, etc. Experience leading congregation and choir, strong communication and leadership skills are desired. Resúmes may be sent to jwest@fbcowb.org.

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

Deep devotion



'Jersey' impacting Ohio and world with CP giving and hands-on ministry

By Karen Willoughby

Pataskala, Ohio—Jersey Baptist Church has baptized 1,482 people—more than 100 a year—during the last 10 years, according to its Annual Church Profile.

The number includes a baptism ratio of one baptism for every 20 members each year as the church, located in Pataskala, Ohio, has continued to grow. This is about double the average baptism to member ratio for Southern Baptist churches nationwide, according to LifeWay Christian Resources' ACP that is compiled in cooperation with Baptist state conventions.

"A core value is that we make Christ known and share the gospel in everything we do," said John Hays, senior pastor for 32 years of Jersey Church. Each Sunday the church draws about 1,500 people who participate in one of five morning worship services.



John Hays

The Cooperative Program is another way "Jersey," as it's known locally, fulfills its missional core value. Jersey contributes 11 percent of undesignated offerings to missions through CP.

"The Cooperative Program is a portal for us to fulfill in part the Great Com-

ABOVE: Church members of Jersey Baptist Church in Pataskala, Ohio, minister to impoverished Vietnamese refugees at least twice a year in Southeast Asia. (BP)

AT RIGHT: Jersey Baptist Church members pass out jugs of water to Vietnamese refugees that they can refill from wells the church dug for them on nearby land. Many of the people there live on boats surrounded by water they cannot drink. (BP)

mission," Hays said. "We, as a church, are committed to taking the gospel to the ends of the earth. The Cooperative Program gives us a way to financially contribute and also to connect with those who are serving on the field.

"We truly are a church with a strong conviction on the Great Commission and the challenge to reach all people groups," the pastor said. "What we are yet to see is a comprehensive means of spreading the gospel that is superior to what is being done through the Cooperative Program."

Focus on missions

Jersey has contributed nearly \$3.5 million to missions through CP giving during the last 10 years. Additional missions activities include local missions and teams serving nationally and internationally—with a specific focus on

Southeast Asia.

A team from Jersey recently ministered to Vietnamese refugees, the sick and orphans in an undisclosed nation. Hays said the purpose of the trip was to encourage individuals to provide financial support for an addition to a hospital started by Southern Baptist missionaries that will be used to train medical professionals in that part of the world.

Previous trips to the nation have involved construction projects, children's programming, pastor/leader training, and building floating food gardens for landless, impoverished people who live on a large lake.

Jersey also has sponsored Grace City Church, a church plant in Las Vegas, Nevada, and a counseling center at the church for Jersey members and other community residents.

Caring, connecting to Christ

Jersey is in a rural, but urbanizing area about 25 miles east of downtown Columbus, Ohio. The congregation considered building in the early part of this decade to accommodate its 23 percent growth in attendance, but instead, they opted to start multiple services with various styles of music.

"We'd rather give more to missions," said Keith Matthews, Jersey's executive director.

Earlier this year, the church implemented a new vision called "Caring for People and Connecting them to Christ."

"Not that the Great Commission had changed," Jersey's pastor said as he explained the new vision. "I just felt we

need to evaluate again how we were uniquely gifted to fulfill the Great Commission at Jersey, to make sure we haven't lost relevance. This was a great struggle for me."

Jersey's new vision involves an emphasis on making disciples, Matthews said.

"For a church to grow, you have to delegate," he said. "There are a lot of things that can distract our focus. Over the years, Pastor John found people with spiritual gifts and allowed them to use their gifts. With everyone staying focused on what God has called us individually to do, God can grow the church."

Jersey hired four student associates, each assigned to a different school. Student associates focus on working alongside of students and their parents to find creative ways to "Care for them and seek to Connect them to Christ."

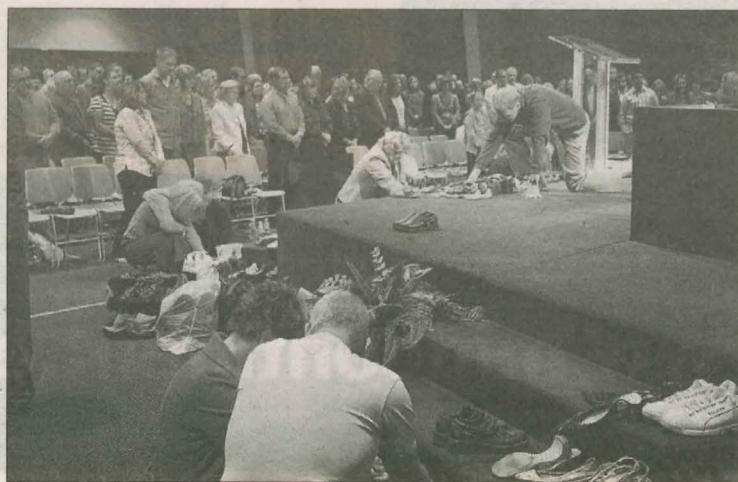
"With this new vision, we also wanted to be more evangelistic locally," Hays said. "The Great Commission includes this community."

Plans are to expand this student ministry to additional schools in the future.

"We want to meet people where they are, not expect them to come to us," Hays said. "We need to have our eyes open and be sensitive to the Holy Spirit leading us in seeing the needs of those who are lost, and caring for them."

"The Jersey family is not perfect, however, they do have a long history of being a caring group of believers who seek to meet needs," he said. "Connecting others to Christ is similar in that we must always be encouraging each other to a deeper devotion to our Savior." (BP)

About 1,500 people gather for worship each Sunday at Jersey Baptist Church, located just outside Columbus, Ohio. They give 11 percent of their undesignated offerings to missions through the Cooperative Program as part of their commitment to fulfilling the Great Commission. (BP)





A GREAT COMMISSION BAPTIST UNIVERSITY
UNDERGRADUATE AND GRADUATE PROGRAMS
INSTRUCTION IN BIBLE AND LIBERAL ARTS

New Online Pathway to Biblical Studies
Free First Course
Continue For Only \$150 per Credit Hour!
For More Information
onlinepathway.midcontinent.edu
855-276-7300

270-247-8521

www.midcontinent.edu