

# WESTERN Recorder

November 19, 2013

Shine Like Stars \* Philippians 2:15

Volume 187, Issue 44

## 'Disappointed' and 'let down' by president

By Todd Deaton

**Paducah**—Messengers to the Kentucky Baptist Convention's Annual Meeting in Paducah voted overwhelmingly Nov. 12 to convey a vote of no confidence in the leadership of Sunrise Children's Services to the agency's board of directors.

Tommy Tapscott (at right), KBC second vice president and associate pastor of East Bernstadt Baptist Church, said it was "disturbing" that Sunrise's President Bill Smithwick (center photo) was the one pushing for a change in hiring practices at the Baptist child care agency in Mount Washington. (WR/Robin Cornetet Bass)



Tommy Tapscott, KBC second vice president and associate pastor of East Bernstadt Baptist Church, brought the "no confidence" motion in Bill Smithwick, Sunrise's president. The vote follows weeks of controversy stemming from Smithwick's recommendation to allow homosexual employees at the Baptist-affiliated child care agency.

Although Tapscott said he was "very pleased" with the Nov. 8 decision by Sunrise's trustees not to change the agency's hiring practices and commended them for standing up for "biblical and Baptist principles," he added that "the disturbing part" for him was that the

□ See Sunrise ... Page 6

## KBC messengers vote 'No confidence' in Sunrise's leadership



KBC Executive Director Paul Chitwood listens as Bill Smithwick, president of Sunrise, answers questions from messengers. (WR/Robin Cornetet Bass)

## Ky. Baptists deal with Sunrise, elect layman, end ties with college

By Todd Deaton

**Paducah**—Messengers to the Kentucky Baptist Convention's Annual Meeting in Paducah Nov. 12 conveyed a "no-confidence" vote in the leadership of Sunrise Children's Services, ended a partnership agreement with Georgetown College, elected a Princeton layman to its highest office, and rejoiced in more than 330 decisions for Christ recorded through RISK:Paducah events.

□ See Annual meeting ... Page 2

## Philippine typhoon: 'a call to action' for global compassion

By Mark Kelly

**Taloban, Philippines**—Emily Ortega was swept off her feet when the storm surge from Typhoon Haiyan struck Tacloban, Philippines.

The typhoon's sustained winds, peaking at nearly 200 mph, drove waves 20 feet tall into the coastal city. Ortega clung to a post while storm debris hammered her. Hours later, the evacuation center in Tacloban where the pregnant 21-year-old found refuge was filled with

cheers as she gave birth to a healthy baby girl—Bea Joy Sagales.

The news for most Filipinos in the typhoon's path, however, is far from jubilant, with the estimated death toll now exceeding 10,000, a Baptist leader in the Philippines said.

"Typhoon Haiyan left the country, leaving behind widespread damage that will take days to assess," Gerlie Baltero of the Luzon Convention of Southern Baptist Churches said in an e-mail.

□ See Typhoon ... Page 9



The Philippines military, in a scene being repeated countless times since Typhoon Haiyan's landfall on Nov. 8, assists survivors in the aftermath of the largest typhoon ever recorded. The Philippines government has declared a national state of calamity. (Foter.com NC)

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Western Recorder 11-19-2013

# CP celebration includes new \$1 million milestone churches

By Dannah Prather

**Paducah**—Kentucky Baptists were thanked for outstanding support of the Cooperative Program during the convention's annual meeting at Lone Oak First Baptist Church in Paducah.

During fiscal year 2012-13, the top three churches in total giving to missions and ministries through the Cooperative Program were:

- Severns Valley Baptist Church, Elizabethtown
- Lone Oak First Baptist Church, Paducah
- Eastwood Baptist Church, Bowling Green

The top three churches in per capita CP giving during the same period were:

- Countryside Baptist Church, Morgantown



Tim Burdon (left), pastor of Mexico Baptist Church in Marion, is recognized at the Kentucky Baptist Convention's annual meeting in Paducah by Paul Chitwood (right), KBC executive director, for his church's faithful contributions to the Cooperative Program. Mexico Church has more than doubled its CP giving during Burdon's 10 years as pastor. (WR/Robin Cornet Bass)

- Mexico Baptist Church, Marion
  - Briensburg Baptist Church, Benton
- Kentucky Baptist churches that reached a "lifetime" total of \$1 million in missions support through CP during the past fiscal year were:
- 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

Reaching the \$2 million in "lifetime" CP giving this year were Florence Baptist Church at Mt. Zion and Rich Pond Baptist Church in Bowling Green.

Reaching a "lifetime" total of \$8 million in CP support was First Baptist Church of Paducah.

Reaching the \$11 million milestone in "lifetime" giving through CP was Severns Valley Baptist Church.

Tim Burdon, pastor of Mexico Baptist Church in Crittenden County, received the CP Distinguished Leadership Award.

Mexico Baptist Church currently contributes 25 percent of its undesignated receipts to missions and ministries through the Cooperative Program. The church, which has an average Sunday worship attendance of 225, even increased their CP support during a building campaign. (KBC)

## Annual meeting

Continued from page 1

Meeting at Lone Oak First Baptist Church, the 666 registered messengers, through resolutions, also challenged Kentucky Baptists to make a commitment to child safety in their lives and their churches and expressed appreciation to Al Mohler, president of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, in recognition of his 20 years of service.

Total attendance for the two sessions of the annual meeting exceeded 1,100.

### No-confidence vote

Messengers overwhelmingly passed a vote of no confidence in the leadership of Bill Smithwick, president of Sunrise Children's Services.

The action follows weeks of controversy surrounding a proposed change to the agency's hiring practices that deny employment to homosexuals. Smithwick, who has served as Sunrise's president for 16 years, has described the proposed change as a pre-emptive action to sustain government funding. The agency receives about \$1 million of its \$27 million budget from Kentucky Baptists.

Sunrise's board, however, voted Nov. 8 to continue its current hiring practices, in response to the growing concern of Kentucky Baptists.

The motion for a vote of no confidence was brought by Tommy Tapscott, second vice president of the KBC. Messengers later approved recommendations from the Committee on Nominations to replace a slate of nominees to serve on Sunrise's board and to fill five other vacancies. (See related story page 1.)

### Georgetown partnership

Messengers voted to conclude the KBC's partnership agreement with Georgetown College on Nov. 12, 2014.

At Georgetown's request, a covenant relationship with the KBC concluded in 2009, ending Cooperative Program support of the college. A partnership agreement was then established to maintain ties between the two entities.

In 2012, however, a special study committee of Kentucky Baptists recommended concluding the partnership agreement after the group determined the college was distancing itself from the state convention.

The KBC Mission Board proposed the

recommendation prior to the 2012 annual meeting, but convention action was postponed for one year while the college searched for a new president following Richard Crouch's retirement.

KBC Executive Director Paul Chitwood told messengers that he had recently met with Georgetown's new president, Dwaine Greene, and both had agreed to conclude the partnership.

Alan Reddit, pastor of Georgetown Baptist Church, opposed the action on procedural grounds, challenging that the Mission Board's recommendation had not been published in the Western Recorder 30 days prior to the annual meeting. He requested that action be delayed for another year, allowing time for Georgetown's new president to set its direction.

Convention parliamentarian Adam Greenway, however, ruled that voting on the action was in order since the convention had been given a year's notice when the recommendation was postponed by the Mission Board in 2012.

### Layman elected

Chip Hutcheson, editor and publisher of the Princeton Times-Leader and The Eagle Post of Oak Grove, was elected by acclamation as president of the Kentucky

Baptist Convention. He becomes only the sixth layman to serve as KBC president in the past 75 years.

A deacon of Southside Baptist Church in Princeton, Hutcheson has served on the KBC's Public Affairs Committee and is a trustee for Western Recorder, the Kentucky Baptist newspaper.

Serving with Hutcheson will be Kevin Milburn, pastor of Union Baptist Church near Florence, as first vice president; and Ed Amundson, pastor of High Street Baptist Church in Somerset, as second vice president. (See related story page 3.)

### CP budget

A Cooperative Program goal of \$22.5 million for 2014-15 was approved by Messengers. The CP gifts will be divided evenly between KBC and SBC causes, after 7 percent has been set aside for CP resourcing.

The convention welcomed 12 churches as new KBC affiliates and accepted four congregations under watchcare.

In other business, messengers approved allowing the Kentucky Baptist Foundation to use any undesignated bequests for the work of the foundation.

And, they heard first readings of two proposed changes to the KBC


Constitution and Bylaws. The first specifies that trustees of the KBC Mission Board or its affiliated agencies and institutions will be members of cooperating churches, which previously were defined as those that contribute to the Cooperative Program and submit an Annual Church Profile. The other removes a mention of the president of Kentucky Baptist Men on Mission because its steering committee no longer exists.

Next year's annual meeting will be held at Living Hope Baptist Church in Bowling Green, Nov. 11, with Curtis Woods, the KBC's associate executive director, delivering the convention sermon.

### RISK: Paducah

Prior to the annual meeting, Baptists converged on the western Kentucky city for RISK: Paducah, a series of outreach events that included prison ministry, wild game dinners, sports camps, revivals and a quilting seminar.


The first-ever RISK outreach resulted in a total of 331 decisions, reported Chuck McAlister, leader of KBC's evangelism, church planting and collegiate ministries team. He said the RISK event may become a regular pre-convention outreach in annual meeting cities. (WR)





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# Princeton layman, Hutcheson, elected 2014 KBC president

By Todd Deaton

**Paducah**—With his election Nov. 12 in Paducah, Chip Hutcheson, of Princeton, becomes only the sixth layman to serve as president of the Kentucky Baptist Convention in the past 75 years. Elected to serve with Hutcheson are Kevin Milburn of Union and Ed Amundson of Somerset.

Hutcheson is the first layman to serve as president since Eugene Siler, a judge and member of First Baptist Church of Williamsburg, was elected 10 years ago.

Hutcheson told the Western Recorder that he hoped his election would “encourage more laypeople to realize ‘all hands on deck.’”

“It is time for everyone to get involved in their local churches and on the state level,” Hutcheson said. “The work of ministry is not just for the ministerial staff. There are incredible demands on our pastors these days and they need laypeople who are willing to help shoulder the load.”

The new president also noted that KBC needs to create more opportunities for laypeople to serve and find ways to get them involved on convention committees. By doing this, Hutcheson said, laypeople will then “understand the blessing (of serving) and grow spiritually and in obedience to Christ.”

Ronnie Sivells, pastor of Nortonville Baptist Church in Little Bethel Baptist Association, spoke at length about Hutcheson’s servant-like attributes in nominating the layman for the post.

“It is my conviction that God has equipped Chip with unique gifts and abilities that will be used of the Holy Spirit to lead the KBC in these exciting yet challenging days,” Sivells said.

Hutcheson, publisher of The Times Leader of Princeton and The Eagle Post of Oak Grove, currently serves as a deacon and has been a Sunday School teacher for more than 30 years at Southside Baptist Church in Princeton, where Sivells previously served as pastor.



Chip Hutcheson, of Princeton, makes his first address to messengers after being elected by acclamation as president of the Kentucky Baptist Convention. Standing in the background are newly-elected KBC vice presidents Kevin Milburn and Ed Amundson (right). (WR/Robin Cornet Bass)

A three-time deacon chairman at Southside, Hutcheson works in the church’s after-school ministry and participates in a local prison ministry.

He also has served two terms on the KBC Public Affairs Committee, being twice elected as chairman, and currently is serving as a Western Recorder trustee.

“My desire would be to encourage people in the faith—not only pastors and ministerial staff members, but laypeople,” Hutcheson told the Western Recorder earlier. “We have much work to do in Kentucky, and it requires not only pastors, but people in the pews, becoming actively involved in evangelism and discipleship.”

## First VP

Milburn, senior pastor of Union

Baptist Church in Union, was elected as first vice president by acclamation. He was nominated by Paul Badgett, senior pastor of First Baptist Church of Pikeville.

Milburn told the Western Recorder that his first priority would be to serve and support the vision of new KBC President Hutcheson.

“He has a passion to see not just the pulpits, but also the pews come alive with excitement, not just to give, but to go reach the lost,” Milburn said of the layman president.

Milburn said he also plans to encourage churches to increase their giving through the Cooperative Program.

“The more that I’ve been involved in Kentucky Baptist life and been privileged

to serve on various committees, I have seen the difference the Cooperative Program is making and the more passionate I have become about championing the Cooperative Program,” the Union pastor said.

A graduate of Southern and Liberty Baptist seminaries, Milburn has served on the KBC Mission Board, administrative committee, Committee on Nominations and Committee on Public Affairs.

## Second VP

Amundson, pastor of High Street Baptist Church in Somerset, was elected as second vice president, also by acclamation.

He was nominated by Brian Burkhead, pastor of Cornerstone Baptist Church in Lexington.

Amundson told the Western Recorder he wanted to thank Kentucky Baptists for the opportunity to serve them.

“My heart’s desire is to be faithful to the Lord,” the Somerset pastor said, “to push what has been started through RISK:Paducah in seeing souls saved across the state, to help local associations join together to accomplish what we did in Paducah, and to serve Kentucky Baptists as faithfully, as generously and as completely as they have served me and my family.”

Amundson served as chairman of the KBC Committee on Nominations for 2011-12. Most recently, he was vice chairman of the Mission Board’s nominating committee and a member of its executive and evangelism committees.

He is a graduate of Boyce College at Southern Seminary and Campbellsville University and is working on a Master of Divinity degree at Liberty Baptist Seminary. (WR)



Ed Amundson



Kevin Milburn

# ‘Go forward!’ Summerlin encourages Kentucky Baptists

By Todd Deaton

**Paducah**—Drawing on the annual meeting theme, “Forward ... to what lies ahead,” Dan Summerlin, president of the Kentucky Baptist Convention, challenged convention messengers, “Will you go forward for Christ? Or, do you want to go backward, or stand still?”

The pastor of Paducah’s Lone Oak Baptist Church, host of this year’s annual meeting, began by telling the story of John Steven Aquari, the last of the Olympic marathon runners to complete the race in Mexico City in 1968.

Over an hour earlier, Mamo Wolde of Ethiopia had charged across the finish line, winning the race, Summerlin said. As the last of the spectators were leaving, a sole figure, wearing the colors of Tanzania, came limping into the stadium. He was bandaged and bloody due to a bad fall early in the race.

After he crossed the finished line, one man dared to ask why he had not quit. Aquari answered, “My country did not send me 7,000 miles to start a race. They



Dan Summerlin

sent me to finish,” Summerlin said.

In Numbers 13, God’s people were coming to their finish line, the promise land, but stopped, Summerlin said, adding, “God never planned for them to stop there; He planned for them to finish.”

Calling it a sad picture, Summerlin explained how the people of God were at the edge of doing what God wanted them to do, but wouldn’t go forward.

“Are we going to be like them?” he asked. “Will we fail and falter in going forward, or are we going to be faithful” in fulfilling the Great Commission and carrying the gospel around the world?

In the story of the 12 spies who scouted the promised land, Summerlin highlighted some reasons why God’s people do not go forward—and why they do.

What would cause them not to move forward and even to want to go back? Summerlin asked. “I can sum it up in one word: fear,” he answered.

Summerlin described three fears that can paralyze God’s people: fear of the future, fear of failure and fear of fighting.

“Kentucky Baptists, please understand this: Failing is not failure; faithlessness is failure,” he said, asserting that God’s people fail when they do nothing.

In encouraging God’s people not to

lose heart because of conflict and criticism, Summerlin quipped, “You cannot have medals without scars, and you cannot have trophies without pain.”

Christians often are moving against today’s cultural current, he noted. Still, in spite of conflict, they must move forward, relying on the weapons of truth, love, compassion and the Word of God, Summerlin urged. “Nothing can stand against those weapons,” he affirmed.

Explaining how entomologists have discovered that some butterflies—if their cocoons are opened and they are released without a struggle—are not able to fly, Summerlin observed, “In the Christian walk, struggle sometimes develops us to be what God wants us to be.”

While fear may keep them from moving forward, faith is what should drive God’s people onward, Summerlin said, encouraging them to stay focused on God’s promises, person and power.

“If you stand on the promises of God, you will always go forward,” he asserted.

Emphasizing another scriptural principle, he said, “If you look at your problems, then your problems always will be like giants and God will be like a grasshopper; but if you look at God, then God

becomes the giant and your problems will become like a grasshopper.”

One’s faith is only as strong as the object it is placed upon, he asserted, urging Kentucky Baptists to place their faith, not in their abilities and talents, but in God’s power:

“Can God control the weather? Elijah says He can: It didn’t rain and then it did.

“Can God control people? Nehemiah says He can: He change the king’s mind.

“Can God control events? Joseph says He can: He went from the pit to Potiphar house to prison and then to the palace.

“Can He control sickness? Naaman says He can: He was healed of leprosy.

“Can He control life and death? Lazarus says He can: He was raised from the dead.

“Can He control your life? Paul says He can: I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.”

Be “nevertheless Christians,” who regardless of whether a task looks impossible or seems like a good idea, resolve, “Nevertheless we are going to do it” because God said to do it, he urged.

“We need to move forward in faith!” Summerlin exclaimed. “Let’s quit waiting and watching and wishing and start moving.” (WR)

## Love, hate & caring

In light of the vote of Sunrise Children's Services board of trustees to maintain Christian standards in the ministry's hiring practices, some have asked if Baptists hate homosexuals.

I know that is not true of me and I believe it is untrue of any Baptist who seeks to obey God's word.

### Together We are the KBC



Paul Chitwood

The Bible teaches us God is love (1 John 4:8) and we are to love those who are a part of the family of God (John 13:35), as well as those who might not be (Mark 12:31)—even including a call to love our enemies (Matt 5:44). I believe God's word and submit my life to its teachings.

Refusing to work at Sunrise which practice homosexuality to work at Sunrise is not hate. The hiring practices of Sunrise are as follows:

"Every employee is a role model for the children and families under Sunrise Children's Services care, therefore, employees are expected to exhibit values in their professional conduct and personal lifestyles that are consistent with the Christian mission and purpose of the institution.

"Sunrise Children's Services prohibits personal behavior which:

- 1) interferes with Sunrise's pursuit of its Christian mission and purpose;
- 2) fails to exhibit a regard for the rights of others; or
- 3) shows disrespect for the safety of persons and property."

As a Christian ministry, Sunrise expects its employees to model a Christian lifestyle. All of us are sinful and fall short in many ways. For any Sunrise employee, heterosexual or homosexual, to practice a lifestyle that is absolutely contrary to what the Bible teaches is unacceptable. Since God has spoken clearly in the Bible about homosexuality being a sin, it is one of the lifestyles that would preclude employment.

Before prelude I worked for a ministry to boys who were victims of abuse and neglect—a ministry very similar to Sunrise. I saw their pain, brokenness, and the physical, emotional, and spiritual scars of their abuse. I loved them and wept when I left the job to go to seminary.

Michelle and I have adopted an orphan. We have served the children at Sunrise in Mount Washington with our Sunday School classes. I successfully helped petition the Mount Washington City Council to permit that facility to be built. We commissioned Sunrise foster parents as in-home missionaries in our church. Like all Kentucky Baptists, I love Sunrise and the children it serves.

Through Sunrise, Kentucky Baptists will continue to care for as many children as we possibly can unless the homosexual community's influence on the government takes those children from our care.

I am praying that those who practice homosexuality will not hate Christians so much that they refuse to allow us to care for hurting kids. Please join me in that prayer.

Paul Chitwood is executive director of the Kentucky Baptist Convention.

## Drawing a clear line in the sand

My heart is heavy.

Kentucky Baptists drew a clear line in the sand. We sent a strong signal both to Sunrise Children's Services and to our morally confused culture: Kentucky Baptists will not compromise their biblical convictions on homosexuality and their stance for traditional family values, regardless of the cost. In Paducah, convention messengers commended Sunrise trustees for their recent decision not to change the agency's hiring practices; they replaced a slate of nominees for its trustee board; and they spoke decisively in rendering a no-confidence vote in Sunrise's leadership.

To some onlookers replacing six nominees, filling five more vacancies on the board, and passing a vote of no-confidence may appear heavy handed. The vast majority of the convention messengers, save a handful or so, evidently believed these actions were warranted to restore the trust of Kentucky Baptists in a wayward drifting agency. What is commendable is that—in spite of homosexuality being a hot-button issue and strong disagreement with the recommendation to change Sunrise's hiring practices—a tone of civility and Christian decorum prevailed throughout our tense discussions.

And yet, my heart is still heavy.

After hearing all that has transpired at Sunrise, our hearts are heavy ... especially for the hurting kids there and our continued employees ... and for the capable foster families connected with it. Our state's hurting, lonely, abused and neglected kids have suffered greatly in their short lifetimes. We must not allow our vital ministry to them to end, or to be pared down beyond recognition.

Kentucky's hurting kids need us too much. And, Kentucky's government depends on us to provide quality care for them. I pray that the dire day when Sunrise can no longer care for Kentucky's children never comes. As long as our commonwealth allows Kentucky Baptists to assist in

healing hurting kids, without compromising our convictions, we must continue serving and saving as many lives as possible—always recognizing, of course, that our work must be, foremost, a Christ-centered ministry, anchored in biblical principles and family values.

Since 1869, Kentucky Baptists have been concerned about helping orphans and hurting kids. Our Baptist forebears' concern gave rise to the Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children, which transformed into the expansive ministry of today's Sunrise Children's Services. Through the years, our churches have faithfully supported its work, giving of their time, resources and strength. Our commitment to caring for

children has not wavered!

What struck me most during the discussions was that as messengers expressed their desire for the convention to address Sunrise's direction, they also bore testimony to the impact the child care agency had made on their own families. Even Tommy Tapscott, who brought the no-confidence motion, told how his father-in-law and four siblings had been cared for at Spring Meadows with Christian compassion and now was concerned that Sunrise may be drifting away from its gospel-centered heritage. Another, although the recent events troubled his soul deeply, also spoke of adopting a child through Sunrise and encouraged more Kentucky Baptists to be involved in helping hurting kids.

No, this is not the time for our ministry to children to retrench, but to move forward to what lies ahead—for the sake of kids and the kingdom. More than ever, our churches need to rally around our child care agency, giving and encouraging more than we ever have through the Thanksgiving offering to ensure this vital ministry continues unabated.

Kentucky Baptists, we've rescued our child care agency from cultural accommodation. We've taken a strong stand for biblical morals and family values. Now, let's make an equally passionate stand for caring for Kentucky's hurting children. It's about the kids.

## After Thought

By Todd Deaton



### An open letter to Ky. Baptists

As the new president of Georgetown College, I want you to know how delighted I am that God led me to Kentucky to serve such a wonderful institution. As a proud Baptist, I am humbled by that calling.

For many decades, Georgetown has provided superb educational preparation to Kentucky Baptists. There is every reason to be proud of the many ministers, teachers, physicians, business persons, along with thousands in other professions, who have come through Georgetown College. Their lives are witness to the excellent academic and faith commitments treasured by Georgetown. Thankfully, we continue to work with young people who will become the Christian leaders of tomorrow.

While the Kentucky Baptist Convention has voted to discontinue the previous partnership agreement with Georgetown College effective November

2014, I am hopeful that the college and the convention can work toward shaping an appropriate relationship which affirms the purposes of both institutions. Georgetown is a leader in Christian higher education in Kentucky. Its Christian mission remains firm and deeply rooted with Kentucky Baptists.

Going forward, Georgetown College continues to provide numerous programs that enable students to expand their knowledge while growing in relationship with Jesus Christ. Preparing student leaders for their careers, their churches, their communities, and their missions remains a distinguishing hallmark of the college.

I deeply respect the rich history between Georgetown College and Kentucky Baptists, and I look forward to helping shape a clearer expression of that long-standing relationship. It shall be my pleasure in the months ahead to meet pastors and members of Baptist churches throughout the commonwealth. I look forward to that with joy.

Dwaine Greene, president  
Georgetown College

### Our appreciation

I would like to express appreciation for the leadership of Mark Swadley, chair of the committee on the annual meeting. Mark did an extraordinary job in giving precise instructions for staging entrances, video/audio/lighting cues, and providing anointed leadership for our congregational singing and choir anthems. His gift of administration helped provide a seamless flow.

His pastor and the congregation of Lone Oak First Baptist Church are blessed to have the talents, gifts, and passions of Mark as their minister of music. Thank you, Mark, for a job well done.

Jason "Bubba" Stewart  
KBC Worship & Music  
Ministry consultant

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

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# Pastors 'revived' by colleagues, ready to impact the world

By Robin Cornetet Bass  
and Todd Deaton

**Paducah**—Kentucky Baptist pastors gathered Nov. 11 at Lone Oak First Baptist Church in Paducah for fellowship and inspiration as they heard from six of their colleagues at the 2013 Kentucky Baptist Convention Pastors' Conference. Speakers preached on the theme of "Revived to Touch Our World and Impact Eternity."

## Nathan Joyce

Nathan Joyce, pastor of Paducah's Heartland Worship Center, began his sermon with an admission of frailty.

"I'm coming out of one of my heaviest, darkest times in my ministry," Joyce said. "I would get up to preach and God would give me a dose of adrenaline, but I would go home and I would crash and there would be this emptiness to the point when I began to ask the question, 'God, am I even supposed to be doing this?'"

Only in the last two months, he said, has the light begun to shine—in part because of a tight network of friends, but mostly due of a change in perspective thanks to the story in John 13 about Jesus washing the feet of His disciples.

"Before Jesus called them to wash someone else's feet, He first serves them and washes their feet," Joyce noted. In essence, he said, God's desire is to serve His children through His Son.

"There is a danger for each of us in leadership to think that we can serve and change the world without blatant authenticity and honesty before Jesus; to allow Him to wash our dirty feet," Joyce said. "When we mess up this sequence, when we think we can ignore our frailty and our needs, our wounds and our sin, our temptations and our propensity for moral failure—when we ignore them we end up empty," he said.

"If revival is going to happen, it's going to happen because it's happening in the hearts of pastors. And that is only going to happen because we are going to get honest about our needs, allowing God to serve and start a new work in our hearts," Joyce said.

## Adam Dooley

Adam Dooley, an alumnus of Kentucky's Clear Creek Bible College and pastor of Dauphin Way Baptist Church in Mobile, Ala., said it was the book of Job that spoke to him during a recent trial. Dooley described for pastors the terrifying circumstances surrounding his son being diagnosed with leukemia.

Like Job, "there are times when we suffer and it has absolutely nothing to do with us—and everything to do about (God)" Dooley said.

Job's suffering was more about Satan's persistent attempt to defame God than tripping up a righteous man, he noted.

"Satan is not afraid of us. He's not intimidated by our ministries. He doesn't care about our circle of influence,"

Dooley said, "but he trembles at the glory of God."

During his son's battle with cancer there were days when he was paralyzed with fear, Dooley said. Then there were other days when well-meaning people would openly question God's motives in allowing his family's suffering.

The one truth that kept him anchored, Dooley said, was the belief that "the greater the pain in our lives the greater the potential for God to be glorified."

Instead of crying out to God, he told pastors to point others to God.

"Jesus was willing to suffer for the glory that God would get, therefore you are never more like Jesus than when you do the same."

## Curtis Woods

Curtis Woods, associate executive director of the Kentucky Baptist Convention, using Psalm 1 for his text, declared, "Associations matter."

"Every (Baptist) association within the state of Kentucky matters," Woods affirmed.

"Because an association matters, we know churches matter; and because churches matter, we know that pastors matter."

"Because pastors matter, communities matter; and because communities matter, we know that every individual who bears the image of God matters," he continued.

Observing that we live in an age in which people have turned their hearts away from the true and living God, and in which individuals question whether

they should surrender their thoughts to His thoughts, Woods reminded pastors that their goal should be to encourage the local church not to lose hope.

The association the psalmist refers to in the passage, though, is one between the godly and ungodly, Woods noted.

Contrasting the two ways in which one can choose to live, Woods affirmed that the way of the righteous brings biblical prosperity, while the way of the unrighteous brings destruction. "You need to become wise," he urged. "Don't be foolish."

Psalm 1, he noted, teaches three key truths about pursuing godliness in a godless world: Discern the slippery slope, find delight in revelatory hope, and disassociate from destructive worldviews.

## O.S. Hawkins

"The gospel that we preach and teach is not just cross cultural, it's counter cultural," began O.S. Hawkins, president of GuideStone Financial Resources.

"It (the gospel) smacks in the face of a culture that has gone awry," he said.

Look around and see an emerging generation that is lost to the gospel, raised in a world where relativism is rampant, Hawkins urged Kentucky pastors, outlining five characteristics which sociologists use to describe them:

- Searching for a meaningful relationship in life, victimized by divorce and pornography.
- Wanting immediate gratification and, thus, paralyzed by debt;
- Desiring something for nothing, often with an entitlement mentality;



Wesley Noss, president of the KBC Pastors' Conference, leads pastors in a prayer at the altar. (WR/Robin Cornetet Bass)

■ Searching for guilt-free living, despite growing up in culture that teaches there are no moral absolutes;

■ Thirsty for prosperity, yet not knowing how to attain it.

"We (Christians) are the only ones who have the answer," Hawkins declared, pointing to Ephesians 1:7 as the key.

Hawkins then explained how "in Him" one can find a meaningful relationship through Christ; obtain immediate gratification in receiving redemption now; get something for nothing because salvation is "through His blood" and not earned; obtain guilt-free living through the forgiveness of sins; and attain a biblical prosperity according to the riches of His grace.

Other speakers at the Pastors' Conference were Charles Carter, interim pastor of First Baptist Church of Birmingham, Ala., and Bryant Wright, pastor of Johnson Ferry Baptist Church in Marietta, Ga.

Ben Stratton was elected president of the 2015 Pastors' Conference. Steve Hill will preside over the 2014 conference. (WR)



Nathan Joyce



Curtis Woods



O.S. Hawkins

## Convention message spotlights the 'Power of hope'

By Robin Cornetet Bass

**Paducah**—"I want to talk about real hope," said Bill Langley.

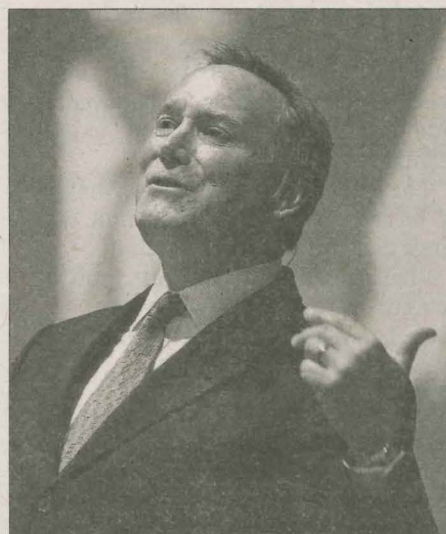
The pastor of Severn Valley Baptist Church in Elizabethtown was speaking to more than 1,000 Kentucky Baptists Nov. 12 at the 176th Annual Meeting of the Kentucky Baptist Convention at Lone Oak First Baptist Church in Paducah.

"The kind of hope that will not disappoint," he continued. "The kind of hope that will not let you down. The kind that will keep you faithful to Jesus Christ and to the message of the gospel even when circumstances are anything but what you would choose."

Langley cited a national statistic that more than 1,500 pastors quit their profession last month—averaging close to 20,000 a year.

"Only one out of every 10 ministers will actually retire from some sort of vocational ministry," Langley noted. "And the reason so many are walking away from their assignments is simply they've lost hope. I don't want that to happen to you. I don't want you to be a casualty. We need you. We need each other. There's too much at stake. Kentucky is lost without Christ."

Preaching from Micah 4, Langley gave a reason for believers in Christ to



Bill Langley, pastor of Severn Valley Baptist Church in Elizabethtown, at the 176th Annual Meeting of the Kentucky Baptist Convention in Paducah Nov. 12. (WR/Robin Cornetet Bass)

have a renewed hope. With the stage set for Christ's millennial kingdom, the pastor said, there are no more prophecies to fulfill and Jesus could come at any moment.

Through Micah, Langley said God promises that during Christ's reign faithfulness will be rewarded and the world will experience true righteousness and justice. Israel will be regathered and restored as a nation. Wars will

cease. There will be health, healing, abundance and prosperity, and Christ will be universally worshiped.

Yet, in the midst of offering encouragement, Langley said that Micah also recognizes life has its ups and downs. Times are hard for followers of Christ, and will likely become more difficult in the days ahead. That is why it is important for Christians to keep their eyes on God's promises and not be distracted by circumstances.

"As followers of Christ, we always have hope," Langley said, but added there are many others who do not share in these promises. "My city of Elizabethtown is lost, without Christ and without hope—and I suspect your city is, too."

The pastor reminded the hundreds of messengers, church members and convention guests that God has called those who serve Him to curse the darkness and shine His light. Langley issued a challenge to be more diligent and more creative in evangelism and discipleship.

"Our message is not about a man who lived and then died," Langley said. "Our message is about a man who died and now lives."

"What a message of hope. That's the message people in our cities, our towns, our counties must hear." (WR)

## Sunrise

Continued from page 1

recommendation had been advanced by Sunrise's president.

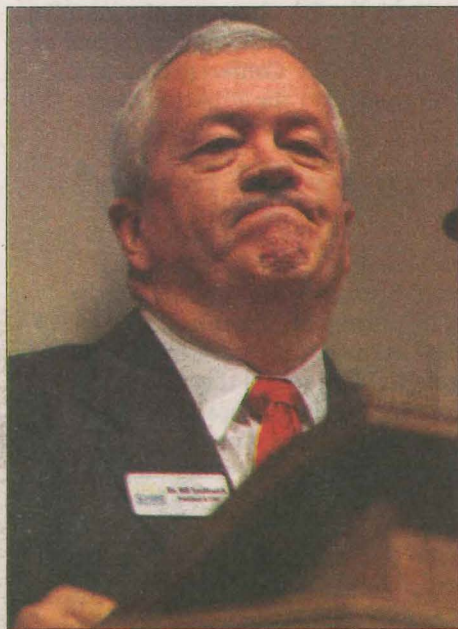
Tapscoff said that he felt "very disappointed, very let down" and was left "wondering if this leadership will stand for biblical leadership shared by Baptists across the commonwealth. "I have no confidence of that to be the case," he asserted.

And while a vote of no confidence may not have any bearing on Sunrise's current board, Tapscoff said he hoped that it would serve as "a strong, wake-up call." The convention's no confidence vote, though, is non-binding in the sense that only Sunrise's board of directors can dismiss its CEO and president.

Robert Franklin, pastor of Main Street Baptist Church in Alexandria, and Luke Bray, pastor of Jeffersontown Baptist Church in Louisville, both opposed Tapscoff's motion.

Pointing to the Sunrise board's recent decision to maintain its hiring practices, Franklin maintained Kentucky Baptists could trust Sunrise's board to guide Smithwick and requested that grace be extended. Meanwhile, Bray observed that, according to James, the testament to true religion is not necessarily "toeing the line" on homosexual employment, but caring for widows and orphans.

Ron Shaw, pastor of Community Baptist Church in Somerset, spoke in favor of the motion, reminding messengers that while caring for kids is important, the main goal is to uphold the gospel because that is what will deliver them.



Sunrise President Bill Smithwick pauses during his report to Kentucky Baptists in Paducah. (WR)

He challenged Kentucky Baptists to be personally involved in helping children who are hurting because of abuse and neglect, and to share the gospel with them.

Stan Spees, a member of the Sunrise board from Lone Oak First Baptist Church in Paducah, told messengers that Smithwick's recommendation had divided Sunrise's board more than any other issue raised during his six years on its board.

Spees, one of two trustees who first brought the board's discussions of Sunrise's hiring practices to light, recounted events over the past four months, emphasizing opportunities at which Smithwick would have changed his course but had, instead, persisted. Smithwick refused to meet with the KBC's executive director and president, sought to remove a trustee who held dissenting views, and removed the trustees' contact information from the agency's website, preventing Kentucky Baptists from communicating further with them, Spees charged.

"If all Smithwick wants to do is care for the children's food, clothes, housing and medical care, that can be done by a secular agency," he maintained, implying that what differentiates Sunrise from other child care agencies is its mission of sharing the gospel with children and operating with biblical principles.

Smithwick, in his report to convention messengers earlier that day, told messengers, "I'm the same man that I was who stood before you the first convention (16 years ago), and the same man that stood before you the last convention.

"My scriptural beliefs about homosexuality ... and about our command to take care of orphans and to love kids and to love one another have not changed," he insisted. "I remain the same."

Explaining that a part of his responsibilities as president is to look "down the road" to see opportunities and threats that could help or hinder Sunrise in fulfilling its mission, Smithwick recounted how he had made Sunrise's executive board aware of how an issue with the agency's hiring practices, he believed, could pose "a substantial threat" to its ongoing ministry.

"The full board has voted on what to do," he reported. "We will continue to do things just like we've done them."

What saddens him the most, Smithwick said, is the ministry that he's devoted 16 years of his life to could one day soon close.

"And that kills me," he said.

Following his report, Smithwick was barraged with questions from the floor.



Luke Bray, pastor of Jeffersontown Baptist Church in Louisville, spoke in opposition to the motion of "no confidence." (WR/Robin Cornet Bass)



Stan Spees, a Sunrise trustee, said the president of the child care agency had several opportunities to "change his course." (WR)

Hershael York, pastor of Frankfort's Buck Run Baptist Church and professor at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, sought assurance from Smithwick that the issue of the agency's hiring practices was settled and would not be raised again.

Smithwick replied that he could not promise that Sunrise's board would not discuss it again, noting a possibility of the Employment Non-Discrimination Act being passed by Congress or an executive order issued by the president.

"When that happens ... the commonwealth would not do business (with Sunrise)," he said. "At that point, I would have to say, are we going to continue, or are we going to change?"

Smithwick acknowledged that four of Sunrise's employees had resigned recently over the issue of its hiring practices, but he would not divulge the count of the trustees' secret ballot vote on the change he had proposed.

He reiterated his belief that it would be possible for Sunrise to employ homosexuals and still care for children. When pressed, though, he said that someone who was "openly (homosexual), persuasive and pushy" would not be allowed to be part of Sunrise's ministry.

When asked by Jonathan Carl, pastor of South Fork Baptist Church, Hodgenville, if there was anything for which he would apologize or if he now felt he had made any missteps in his handling of the issue, Smithwick responded, "Yeah,

perhaps. (But) I have to say to you I felt compelled I had to bring this (issue) to the board. As a matter of fact, we had said in board meetings (that) it is not a matter of if, but when, we would be forced to face this issue.

"I know there is not a way that is palatable to this body," he said, "but I see these kids, I see their pain and their hurt, and I just felt like we have got to do what we can do to keep serving them."

Daryl Cornett, pastor of First Baptist Church of Hazard, inquired about ways Kentucky Baptists could come alongside Sunrise to help them in ministering to kids if Sunrise should have to chart a course without state funding.

"You are going to, in essence, close," Smithwick insisted, explaining that a state license is required to provide congregate or foster care.

"We could still maybe have a little something" without state funding—possibly a group home that cares for six or fewer children, he allowed. "But the kids with the big hurts and the big pain, we wouldn't be touching."

Unswayed by Smithwick's responses, convention messengers later approved a recommendation from the KBC's Committee on Nominations to replace a slate of six nominees for Sunrise's 24-member board, along with five other vacancies due to resignations from the board.

In all, messengers approved 11 new trustees to the board, including—in an unprecedented move—KBC Executive Director Paul Chitwood. The KBC Mission Board, however, has encouraged all affiliated agencies and institutions to include Chitwood on their boards.

The other new trustees include: Tom James, Eastwood Church, Bowling Green; Buddy Slaughter, Means Ave. Church, Hopkinsville; Rodney Cude, First Church, Smithland; William Price, First Church, Owensboro; Jenny Oldham, Severns Valley Church, Elizabethtown; Corey Abney, Florence Church, Florence; Wesley Noss, New Hope Church, Versailles; Dale Rose, First Church, Monticello; Lange Patrick, Highview Church, Louisville; and Nathan Young, Mercy Hill Church, Shepherdsville.

Smithwick was informed of the proposed nominee changes Nov. 12, immediately prior to the start of the annual meeting.

Replaced as Sunrise trustees were: Thomas Adkisson, Shelbyville; Thomas Christopher, Danville; Paul Daugherty, Taylorsville; Timothy Hatfield, Belfry; Patricia Howard, Bowling Green; and Charlotte Whittaker, Beaver Dam. (WR)

Hershael York, pastor of Buck Run Baptist Church in Frankfort, asked Bill Smithwick a barrage of questions following the Sunrise president's report to messengers at the 176th Kentucky Baptist Convention Annual Meeting at Lone Oak First Baptist Church in Paducah last week. (WR/Robin Cornet Bass)



# Modeling a Christ-like spirit his greatest accomplishment

By Todd Deaton

**Paducah**—Prior to his election as president of the Kentucky Baptist Convention, Dan Summerlin set as a primary goal encouraging pastors and churches to be more focused on prayer, proclamation and presenting the gospel to lost people, and he has been faithful to his word.

The Paducah pastor, as one would expect, has spent many long hours traveling thousands of miles back and forth on the Western Kentucky Parkway to speak at churches, associational meetings and schools throughout the state, challenging Kentucky Baptists to “go back to the foundations of ministry.”

When asked about what he saw as his main accomplishment, though, Summerlin didn't point to a specific achievement. Instead, he humbly responded, “I would hope that my main accomplishment was demonstrating how to be a Christian leader.”

And wherever Summerlin met with groups to discuss any issue, he has modeled for Kentucky Baptists what it means to have a Christ-like spirit. “I wanted to demonstrate that Christians can discuss, debate and even disagree with love, and still stand firm on biblical principles and truth,” he said.

Summerlin said he “thoroughly enjoyed” his experiences as president this past year, mainly because of being surrounded by Kentucky Baptists and seeing their faithfulness.

As for the KBC Mission Board's restructuring plan and its emphasis on sending more funding for international



Dan Summerlin, outgoing president of the Kentucky Baptist Convention and pastor of Lone Oak First Baptist Church, addresses convention messengers at his church in Paducah Nov. 12. (WR/Robin Cornet Bass)

missions, Summerlin said that he has heard more positives than negatives across the state.

He believes this may be because “the average person in the pew believes when they give, they are giving to missions.”

Kentucky is a leader and across the Southern Baptist Convention people are watching, Summerlin observed, noting that two current state convention presidents wanted to know how Kentucky Baptists are doing it because their conventions are moving toward dividing their Cooperative Program gifts evenly with the SBC.

“We do not deny these are tough choices because the choice is not between good and bad, but between the good and the best,” he said.

Yet, what Summerlin is most excited about in Kentucky Baptist life is the passion for missions and evangelism, especially among young pastors. “Being around them will give you energy,” he said.

“What we need to work on, though, is for more of our churches to give through the Cooperative Program,” Summerlin continued. “Even though Kentucky's CP percentage per church is higher than the national average, we are nowhere close to where we should be,” he noted.

His greatest surprise as president, Summerlin said, was the amount of daily information he received from the state office, agencies and institutions, associations and churches, updating him on their victories and about issues they were facing.

“I will miss spending time with the leadership of the KBC,” he said. “Iron sharpens iron, and I grew daily by being with them.”

So, after a year as president, what does Summerlin now see as Kentucky Baptists' greatest strengths?

“I still believe our greatest strength is the number of strong leaders throughout our state and all they bring to the table,” he replied, “Our greatest assets are the many faithful Baptists who will never be recognized or honored on earth but are daily serving our Lord faithfully.”

And what about our greatest challenges? Summerlin answered: to remain faithful to Christ in a fast changing secular society.

“All of us will one day be called upon to make public choices on where we stand on moral issues, and we need to be ready,” he said.

His successor, Chip Hutcheson, a layman from Princeton, is one of his colleagues on the Western Recorder board of trustees.

“Chip is a great Christian and leader, and I am glad he is our new president,” Summerlin said, offering this bit of advice to Hutcheson as he takes the helm: “Trust God, trust the system, trust Kentucky Baptists, be willing to sit down and talk with anyone, and remember you will give an answer to God for all your actions.” (WR)

## Messengers pass resolutions about abuse of children, Mohler's 20 years

By Dannah Prather

**Paducah**—A resolution on protecting children from abuse, and another one commending Southern Baptist Theological Seminary President Al Mohler on his 20 years of service in that role were passed Nov. 12 by messengers to the 176th Annual Meeting of the Kentucky Baptist Convention.

The “Resolution on the Sexual Abuse of Children” was very similar to the one passed by messengers to the Southern Baptist Convention in June.

Committee on Resolutions Chairman Chris Turpin challenged Kentucky Baptists to make a new commitment to child safety in their lives and their churches. He encouraged them to use the resources provided by the KBC through its Safe Church Initiative, found at [kybaptist.org/safechurch](http://kybaptist.org/safechurch).

“We remind all Kentucky Baptists of their legal and moral responsibility to report child abuse,” states the resolution. “We strongly urge Kentucky Baptist churches to utilize background checks. Screening all potential staff and volunteer workers, particularly those who minister to children and youth.”

The resolution of appreciation to Mohler referenced his close ties to Kentucky Baptists, as well as his dedication to restore the school as “a confessional



Messengers voted on a variety of resolutions during the KBC annual meeting in Paducah. (WR/Robin Cornet Bass)

seminary based on the total truthfulness of God's word.”

Mohler, the ninth president of SBTS, previously served as an administrator at the school and was pastor of Union Grove Baptist Church in Bedford. (KBC)

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## Next big thing

Longing for Weeki Wachee,  
but focused on living for Him

Many of us are guilty of trying to fast forward our lives. Experience teaches us that living every day as if it is our last is the best way to live life, but for some reason we seem to prefer living for the next big thing.

The Geico hump day advertisement, while amusing, is an example of how we live our lives in anticipation of the next big event. Shouldn't Wednesday, or any other day for that matter, be worthy of our best efforts? Yet, we often view Wednesday as just one day closer to the weekend.

What do you look forward to? Is it weekends, birthdays, holidays or vacations? I love University of Kentucky basketball games and look forward to visiting Rupp Arena again. Hopefully, I will be able to attend a few games this season.

A couple of years ago I was hooked by a new attraction when my family discovered Weeki Wachee natural spring in Florida. We absolutely fell in love with this little known treasure and it became our favorite Florida destination.

We love to kayak the seven-mile crystal clear river. There are rope swings, wildlife and manatees that flock to its warm waters during the winter months. We hope to make a stop there when we visit my parents during Christmas break.

Weekends on the Oneida campus can be challenging. While we all seem to

enjoy the arrival of Friday, the absence of routine can often lead to boredom and apathy. When I am home for more than a day or two, Angie often becomes irritated with me because I don't do well without a routine. Perhaps now I know why my mother tried to script and schedule every day of summer break for me when I was a kid.

When Fridays arrive, students and staff are usually ready to hit the road and break from the normal routine. Before our fall break, I told our students to enjoy the anticipation of the break because often times the anticipation is better than

the break itself. However, I know in my heart that heaven will be so much better than we can possibly fathom in our minds. We should long for heaven, but also live each day to the fullest.

I often tell young people not to be in a hurry for tomorrow. Soon enough, they will become adults who pay bills, work all their lives, and deal with many daily stresses. When we long for each day to pass so we can make it to a day that we like better, we are doing ourselves and the Lord a disservice.

We should all be longing for heaven and the privilege of being in God's presence forever. As we serve the Lord and others here on earth, we must do our best to live each day and moment for God's glory.

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

This is  
Oneida

Larry Gritton

## A friend's witness

Spreading the good news one  
friend at a time

New student Yeager Smith never thought he would find himself at a Bible college in Pineville. He is glad that God had other plans for his life.

"I was born in Birmingham, Ala., and lived there with my whole family," said Smith. "I didn't grow up in a Christian home. My focus in life growing up was playing music. I allowed music to become my religion in my life for a while. I wasn't interested in (having) anything to do with God. But God changed all that a few years ago," he said.

"A friend of mine, who is now a student here, began to have an impact on my life after he came to know Jesus Christ as his Savior," Smith continued. "His life had literally been transformed when he surrendered his life to Christ. I noticed that he was reading and studying the word of God and it was impacting his life in a whole new way.

"I knew I was missing something in my life. Watching my friend and the

change in his life got me to thinking that there might be something to Christianity. I remember him telling me one day that Christianity is for real.

"My friend challenged me to start reading the word of God and be open to allowing the Holy Spirit to speak to me. I began to do that and the Holy Spirit convicted my heart that I was a sinner and I needed a Savior. I trusted Jesus Christ as my Savior at that time.

"After my friend came to Clear Creek, he introduced me to the college and I felt that I was where God wanted me to be," Smith said. "I am studying

in the missions and evangelism program. I don't know what God has planned for me, but I am ready to do whatever He wants me to do.

"I am so excited about the focus on the Scriptures at Clear Creek. God is using my training to draw me closer to Him through the study of His word. I look forward to seeing how God is going to use that in my life."

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

Clear Creek  
Chronicle

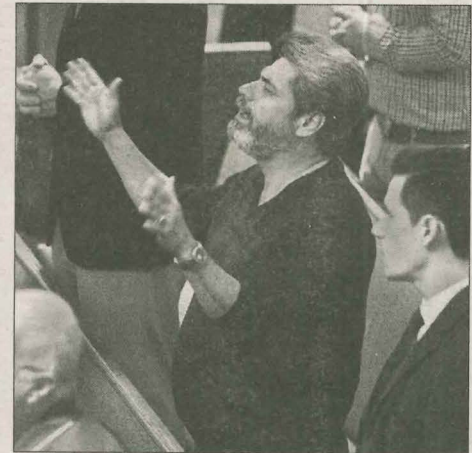
Donnie Fox

## Messengers welcome new churches to KBC

Paducah—During the first session of the 176th Annual Meeting of the Kentucky Baptist Convention, messengers welcomed 12 churches as new KBC affiliates and four congregations were accepted under watchcare.

New affiliated churches are:

- Antioch Church, Louisville
- CrossPoint, Leitchfield
- Crossroads Baptist Church, Campton
- Eolia Baptist Church, Whitesburg
- Faith Family Ministries, Hopkinsville
- Main Street Baptist Church, Lexington
- Maranatha Community Fellowship, Shepherdsville
- Mercy Hill Baptist Church, Shepherdsville
- New City Church of Louisville
- Old Salem Road Baptist Church, Murray
- Point Pleasant Lighthouse Baptist Church, Campbellsville
- Throne of Grace Community Church, Louisville



An attendee at the KBC Annual Meeting participates in worship. (WR/Robin Cornet Bass)

Congregations welcomed to the KBC under watchcare usually are just beginning their acquaintance with the mission and ministries of the convention. Accepted under watchcare this year were:

- Exodus Baptist Church, Louisville
- Steadfast Baptist Church, Hodgenville (KBC)

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**Typhoon**

*Continued from page 1*

"Many are in need of food, water and medicine," Baltero writes.

Southern Baptists and their partners in the Philippines are among those at the leading edge of the relief effort following the Nov. 8 typhoon.

A specialized disaster-relief team from the Southern Baptists of Texas Convention will join others already in the storm zone to assist people with immediate survival needs, said Pat Melancon, managing director of disaster response and management for Baptist Global Response. That "rapid assistance" team will be followed by a group that will make detailed assessments and formulate a longer-term strategy for helping survivors rebuild their lives.

The leader of the rapid assistance team, SBTC disaster relief director Jim Richardson, asked Baptists to pray for them as they step into the chaos of the storm zone.

"The team is preparing to assist the

churches and brothers and sisters in Christ to share the help, healing and hope of our Lord Jesus with the people affected by Typhoon Haiyan," Richardson said. "Pray for the Holy Spirit to guide their thoughts and actions."

Baptist Global Response has released an initial \$15,000 in relief funds to humanitarian partners who are focusing their efforts on three areas: Tacloban, which is the hardest-hit area, and northern Cebu and Panay provinces, said Jeff Palmer, BGR's executive director. Baptist churches in the Philippines and Filipino teams trained in disaster relief will be working alongside Southern Baptist workers in efforts focusing on immediate needs such as water, food and shelter.

The extent of the damage—a national state of calamity has been declared—begs for Christian compassion to be shown to more than 9 million people affected by the typhoon, Baltero said.

"For Christians, every disaster is a call to action; we are called to help those who are suffering when they need it," Baltero said. "This is one ministry we cannot turn our backs on." (BP)

*Editor's note: Last week's puzzle was published with the wrong grid. This is a corrected version of the puzzle with its proper clues repeated from the Nov. 12 issue.*

**Bible Crosswords**

*By Evelyn Boyington*

**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.

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#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
- 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

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**New designation**

**KBF now a development and trust agency for churches**

Your Kentucky Baptist Foundation has been serving Kentucky Baptist churches for more than 68 years by providing stewardship related services. Among those services are administering endowment and trust funds that benefit churches and other Christian causes, educating individuals and couples about the importance of having a Christian estate plan that includes a benefit for their church, and equipping churches in how to be more proactive in cultivating and securing estate gifts for their benefit.

Since its inception in 1945, the KBF has been identified as the "trust agency" of the Kentucky Baptist Convention.

I am delighted and excited to announce to you the messengers to the annual meeting of the Kentucky Baptist Convention meeting in Paducah on Nov. 12 approved a recommendation that now adds to the KBF's identity the designation of "development agency" for cooperating affiliated Kentucky Baptist Convention churches, including but not limited to, promoting legacy gifts to and administering funds of those churches.

This new designation is a result of

the review process conducted this past year by the agencies and institutions advisory committee and KBC Executive Director Paul Chitwood.

This new designation recognizes the reality that Kentucky Baptist churches are the most overlooked charities in the realm of estate stewardship, and for our churches to be successful in reaching their communities and the world for Christ, they must be equipped to cultivate and secure legacy gifts from their members.

So, as together we look forward to what lies ahead, the KBF desires an even closer relationship than it has ever had with you and your churches. How you, as a Christian, plan your estate likely will be the single most significant stewardship decision you will ever make.

Call upon the KBF to become your and your church's development and trust agency. Your KBF staff stands ready to assist; we are just a toll free call away. Go ahead and make an appointment with us now, even if the appointment date will be in early 2014. We look forward to your call.

**Ky. Baptist Foundation**



Barry Allen

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

**Changers changes**

**Affecting lives through ministry of Kentucky Changers**

For 20 years, lives have been changed through Kentucky Changers.

Student participants have been changed as they learned new skills, experienced the satisfaction of helping others, and grown spiritually. Many students have come to faith in Christ during a week of Kentucky Changers, while others have deepened their faith and some have committed their lives to ministry.

Homeowners have been changed as people who were struggling received hope when students came to work.

From new roofs to wheelchair ramps, from painting to landscaping, students have given hope to people in need. Above all, students have shared the hope found in a personal relationship with Christ.

Communities have been changed as the work done on a few houses in a neighborhood have often inspired others to do what they could to improve their property, too. And the renewed hope that comes with a fresh coat of paint, a wheelchair ramp, new siding or a roof that does not leak opens doors to the gospel in wonderful ways.

For these reasons and more, we are pleased to welcome Kentucky Changers to the Kentucky Woman's

Missionary Union family. Peggy Murphy is going non-stop to make arrangements for next summer. Dates and locations for 2014 include Hopkinsville (June 7-13), TBD (June 21-27); Richmond (July 5-11), and Louisville (July 13-18).

Over the past few weeks I've learned a lot about Changers by attending meetings with Peggy. Setting up a Kentucky Changers project requires the cooperation of the local Baptist association, local government, school district, and a host of volunteers. Fees paid by the stu-

dents cover meals, T-shirt, insurance and program expenses. Costs of materials for the home repairs are provided by local government, churches and other donations.

The Eliza Brodus Offering contributes to program expenses.

Pray for Peggy and the preparations underway for Kentucky Changers in 2014. Due to the timing of the transition we have a lot to do in a short time.

Publicity materials will go out soon. Registration information is on the Kentucky WMU website: kywmu.org/changers.

Joy Bolton is executive director-treasurer of Kentucky Woman's Missionary Union, PO Box 436569, Louisville, KY 40253; (502) 489-3534; KyWMU.org

**EBO at Work**



Joy Bolton





## November

- 19 Kentucky WMU Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon, KBC building, Louisville.
- 21 Placement 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 Board of Directors meeting, KBC building, Louisville.
- 24 Christmas holiday, KBC building closed through Dec. 31.

## What's happening?

Send church and association events to:

## Mountains to the Mississippi

In care of:  
sitha.salyers@westernrecorder.org

MOUNTAINS TO THE MISSISSIPPI  
COMPILED BY STAFF

■ **CADIZ**—Cadiz Church will host **Rodney Barber** as he presents an organ concert **Nov. 22, 7 p.m.** For more information, call (270) 522-6002. **Kyle Noffsinger** is pastor.

■ **CAMPBELLSVILLE**—Pleasant Hill Church will host a community Thanksgiving meal **Nov. 24, 5:30 p.m.**, followed by worship. The event is sponsored by Friendship, Good Hope, Mount Roberts, Pleasant Hill, Salem and Saloma Baptist churches. **James Jones** is pastor.

■ **CRESTWOOD**—Crestwood Church will hold Thanksgiving and Chili Cook-Off **Nov. 24, 5:30 p.m.** **Donnie Patrick** is pastor.

■ **EDDYVILLE**—First Church will hold a community Thanksgiving service **Nov. 26, 7 p.m.**, with guest speaker **James Redd**. **Timothy Perdue** is pastor.

■ **ELIZABETHTOWN**—Severns Valley Church will hold a Thanksgiving meal and baptism **Nov. 24, 5 p.m.** **Bill Langley** is pastor.

■ **FRANKFORT**—Crestwood will hold its annual Thanksgiving dinner **Nov. 24, 6 p.m.** **Michael Hail** is pastor.

■ **GREENVILLE**—Second Church will hold a community Thanksgiving service **Nov. 26, 6:30 p.m.**, with guest speaker **Curtis McGehee**. **Ray England** is pastor.

■ **HOPKINSVILLE**—First Church will hold Thanksgiving Feast **Nov. 24, 5 p.m.**, with singing by the Creative Kids Choir.

■ **MAYFIELD**—Pryorsburg Church recently ordained **Chris Wilson** to the gospel ministry. **Marshall Ivey** is pastor.

■ **LONDON**—New Salem Church recently ordained **Clifford Durham** as deacon. **Gregory Deaton** is pastor.

■ **LOUISVILLE**—Deer Park will hold its annual Thanksgiving meal **Nov. 24** following the worship service. **David Platt** is pastor.

Fern Creek Church and Highview Ministerial Association will sponsor a community Thanksgiving service at Saint Bernard Catholic Church **Nov. 26, 7:30 p.m.** **Todd Benner** will be guest speaker and music will be provided by **Joe Southerland** and a community choir.

Hurstbourne Church will hold a Thanksgiving dinner **Nov. 26, 6 p.m.**

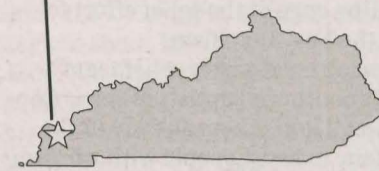
Maple Grove Church will hold a Thanksgiving potluck lunch **Nov. 24**, at noon. **Raymond Hayes** is pastor.

Parkland Church will hold a free community dinner **Nov. 21, 5 p.m.** **Tom Curry** is pastor.

South Jefferson Church will hold a Thanksgiving dinner **Nov. 26, 6:30 p.m.** **Richard**

## Spotlight on ...

## West Paducah



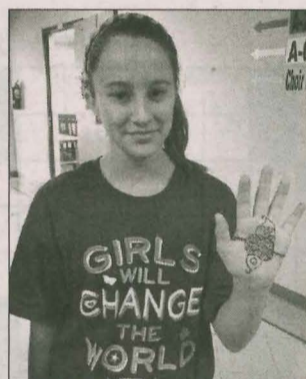
Mount Zion Church will host the West Union Association Pastors' Luncheon **Nov. 22, 11:30 a.m.**, with guest speaker **Chris Wells**. **Tim Smith** is pastor.

**Carver** is pastor.

■ **PADUCAH**—Bellview Church will hold Thanksgiving Praise **Nov. 24, 6 p.m.**, followed by a meal. **Mike Nolen** is pastor.

■ **RUSSELLVILLE**—First Church will hold a Thanksgiving potluck lunch **Nov. 24** following the morning service. **Buddy Crabtree** is pastor.

■ **WILLIAMSBURG**—First Church will hold a Thanksgiving luncheon **Nov. 24** following morning worship. **Ande Myers** is pastor.



## GA JAM!

Girls in Action celebrated the 100th birthday of GA **Nov. 9** at First Baptist Church of Bowling Green. Girls in grades 1-6 had the opportunity to talk to missionaries from around the world and learn about how they can get involved in local ministries. Fun activities included participating in a fashion show that displayed clothing styles through the decades hands-on mission projects. GAs also had the opportunity to learn about the long history of Girls in Action. (WMU)



## CLASSIFIED ADS

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

**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, Ash-

land, 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.

**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. Resumé may be sent to jwest@fbcowb.org.

**SEEKING:** Christian Values Technology Company seeks mature business profes-

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# Irrecoverable moments of JFK & Graham

A missed opportunity to meet with John F. Kennedy before the president's tragic death in 1963 left famed evangelist Billy Graham wondering what might have been if the two had met one last time.

By Douglas W. Mize

**Talors, S.C.**—It has been 50 years since that tragic day in Dallas when bullets from an assassin ended the life of our nation's 35th President John F. Kennedy. His death remains one of the darkest moments in our nation's history.

All who were old enough at the time still remember where they were when they heard the news in 1963. But as we pass the 50-year mark of this tragedy, we also recognize another famous figure of the 20th century. This month Billy Graham celebrated his 95th birthday. You already know these two men among the biggest historical figures of recent times, but what you may not know is their close association and a certain "irrecoverable moment" they shared before Kennedy's death.

In the early '60s most of our country had a fondness for JFK. He still remains one of the most popular presidents ever. He averaged a 70 percent approval rating during his time in office. These were the days of "Camelot," and despite some pressing world issues that included the beginning of the conflict in Vietnam, the early '60s were viewed as a grand age.

This all changed on Nov. 22, 1963. In fact, this horrific day served as a marker of a much more depressing age in our country with more terrible assassinations to come, escalating violence in Vietnam, the crime rate doubling and the drug age around the corner.

Billy Graham had known JFK before he won the presidency in 1960. After Kennedy's victory, Graham made it clear that he would do anything to help the new president unify the nation under his leadership. Only a few days before the inauguration, Graham was invited to play golf with the president-elect. The two men enjoyed a conversation about world events and politics, but Graham was most passionate about their discussion of Jesus Christ and His pending return to earth for those who follow Him.

Kennedy was so intrigued with their discussion that he requested to meet again with Graham concerning Christ.

They continued to stay in touch through Kennedy's presidency and were together in February 1963 at the

## FIRST PERSON

National Day of Prayer Breakfast. In Billy Graham's autobiography, "Just As I Am," he shares his memory of the morning's events.

After the gathering, Kennedy and Graham walked out together toward the presidential motorcade on this particularly cold and snowy day. Suddenly the president stopped in his tracks, turned and invited Graham back to the White House so he could discuss something with him. But Graham was battling the flu. Fearing he'd make the president sick, he declined and asked if they could meet another time.

The president agreed it could wait for a more convenient occasion. But that moment never came. For Graham, this moment will forever stay with him. In his book he wrote, "His hesitation at the car door, and his request, haunt me still.

What was on his mind? Should I have gone with him? It was an irrecoverable moment."

Today, Billy Graham is still making his life count for the gospel of King Jesus. Earlier this month on the occasion of his 95th birthday he released maybe his final message for the world, titled, "The Cross."

It is the central part of his campaign called "My Hope America with Billy Graham." This month thousands, and possibly millions, of people will see his final message on televisions, computers and handheld devices. Billy Graham knows the value of taking advantage of every single moment. It is remarkable that a man so well loved, who dedicated his entire life to spreading the gospel, still remembers this one missed opportunity to discuss Christ.

Fifty years ago the assassination of JFK reminded our nation that evil never takes a sabbatical and time is fleeting. The apostle Paul believed in "making the most of the time, because the days are evil" (Ephesians 5:16 HCSB). What a challenge this is for all of us. As followers of

Christ we dare not be satisfied until we take every opportunity to share the love of Christ. So who are the family members, friends or acquaintances in each of our lives who seem open to discuss Christ? For indeed today is an irrecoverable moment for all of us. (BP)

Douglas W. Mize is minister of evangelism and discipleship at Talors (S.C.) First Baptist Church.

## Pastor to presidents

"Every U.S. President since World War II has met with Billy Graham," states the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association website. "Both Johnson and Nixon, the two who probably sought him the most, offered him high positions in government—which he quickly and politely refused."

Below are what some of what Commander-in-Chiefs had to say about Graham.

"Billy Graham is one of the best ambassadors our country has but he told me, 'I am an ambassador of heaven.'" —Dwight D. Eisenhower

"My mind went back to those lonely occasions at the White House when your friendship helped to sustain a President in an hour of trial." —Lyndon Johnson in a letter to Billy Graham.

"It was through Billy Graham that I found myself praying even more than on a daily basis ... and that in the position I held, that my prayers more and more were to give me the wisdom to make decisions that would serve God and be pleasing to Him." —Ronald Reagan

"Billy and Ruth Graham have practiced the ministry of ... being friends with Presidents of both parties ... always completely private, always completely genuine."

—Bill Clinton

(Source: billygraham.org)



Billy Graham with President John F. Kennedy at the National Prayer Breakfast. (Photo courtesy of the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association archives)

# Oneida Baptist Institute

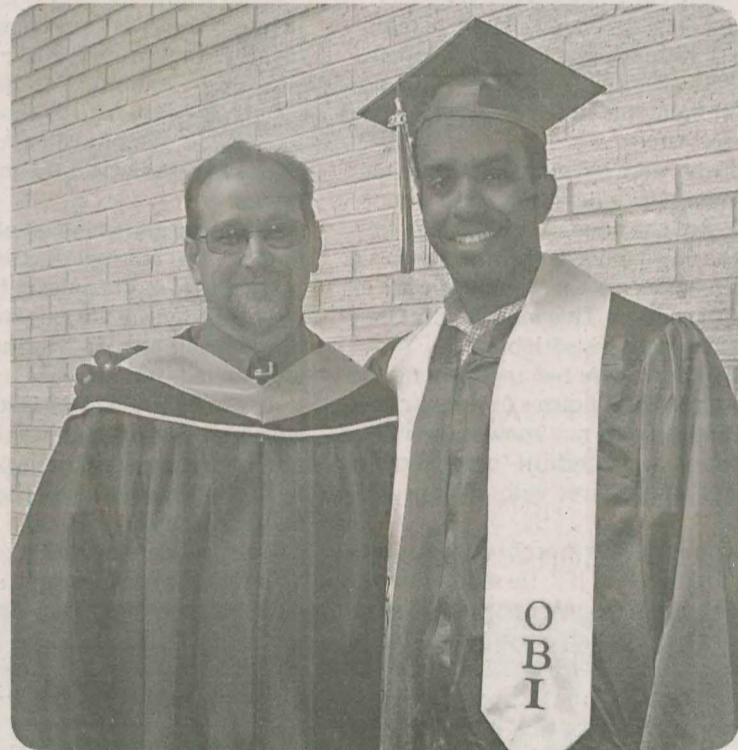
How can we thank God enough for you in return for all the joy we have in the presence of our God because of you? ~ I Thessalonians 3:9



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