

WESTERN Recorder

December 10, 2013

Shine Like Stars * Philippians 2:15

Volume 187, Issue 46

'Living water' in the middle of a monsoon



Scott and Alyssa Branding* ride a boat through Ranong, Thailand, where they reach out to fishermen and migrant workers with the gospel. **AT RIGHT:** Scott Branding teaches on a rubber tree plantation with a Burmese pastor he has mentored. The group of migrant workers have formed churches at a few farms with Branding's help. *Names changed. (Elijah Wilson/IMB)

Maysville missionaries offer hope to Burmese immigrants

By Susan O'Hara and Evelyn Adamson

Ranong, Thailand—It rains eight months out of the year in the Thai province Scott and Alyssa Branding* call home.

For many of the country's 2.5 million Burmese living in the southern part of Thailand, monsoon rain is their only dependable water source. But drinking the rainwater can make them sick.

So, the Brandings give them small clay water pots lined with rice husks to filter impurities from the rainwater. Then, they tell them about Jesus, the source of "living water."

"Everyone who drinks this water will be thirsty again, but whoever drinks the water I give them will never thirst. Indeed, the water I give them will become in them a spring of water welling up to

□ See Burmese ... Page 7



What is the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering?

Southern Baptist churches collect the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for the purpose of supporting international missions.

Every penny of the offering goes to the International Mission Board's missionaries and their work. The 2013 theme is "Totally His ... heart, hands, voice," based on Matthew 22:36-39. God asks for no less than all of our heart, soul and mind. All believers, all of the church, all Southern Baptists are totally His. This year's offering goal is \$175 million.

'THANK YOU' Typhoon victims react to 'generous' BGR relief

By Mark Kelly

Mabunao, Philippines—A murmur rippled through the crowd as the first families opened the food packages delivered by the Baptist Global Response team. Those items included canned meat, rice, noodles, sugar, powdered milk, drinking water and instant coffee.

Most relief organizations were only

bringing rice—two kilos per family—but the Southern Baptists brought more than twice that amount. It was enough to feed a family of five for a week.

In the rural community of Mabunao, on the northern end of Cebu Island, the entire community gathered at the plaza outside the town hall. They came to receive relief supplies provided by donations from the United States in response to Typhoon Haiyan that had devastated the Philippines.

Volunteers from the U.S. accompanied the delivery, which was organized by Nabanglo Driz, a Filipino pastor and BGR partner.

□ See BGR relief ... Page 3



Dwain Carter, of Freshwater Church, Jefferson City, Mo., helps load boxes of food and water onto a boat destined for Gibitngil Island, just off the coast of northern Cebu. Carter is the Disaster Relief Strategist for the Missouri Baptist Convention. (BGR)

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At Creation Museum

'New Christmas Town' features live nativity, spectacular lights

A visitor to the Creation Museum takes a zipline ride over the bright lights of Christmas Town and the facilities' three-acre lake. (Creation Museum)



Petersburg—The popular Christmas festivities at the Creation Museum—now called "New Christmas Town"—are returning this year, and once again a live Nativity and tens of thousands of lights draw large crowds in December.

With new attractions and enhancements this year, museum officials are expecting to break the museum record of 24,945 visitors.

New this year will be an opportunity to ride a zipline over the museum's three-acre lake, and soar over one of the most spectacular Christmas light shows in the Tri-State area.

With a live Nativity on the museum's decorated grounds, New Christmas Town presents the true meaning of Christmas. In addition, New Christmas Town provides families a glimpse into the amazing events surrounding the wonder of Christ's birth.

"This is the time of year to reflect on the greatest gift ever given to us: the free gift of salvation through Jesus Christ, who was the Babe in the manger," said Ken Ham, president of the Creation

Museum and Answers in Genesis.

"New Christmas Town at the Creation Museum is our way to say thank you to our community for its support and to offer families a free gift at Christmas—complimentary admission to New Christmas Town," he said.

The museum's large gardens are being transformed into a "Garden of Lights" featuring a breathtaking display of tens of thousands of Christmas lights.

The museum's planetarium will present a special ticketed program, "The Christmas Star," about the mysterious star in the east that heralded the birth of Jesus and guided the wise men to Him. In addition, the planetarium's program about comets, "Fires in the Sky," describes the Comet ISON, which was visible this month as it traveled near earth.

New Christmas Town will be held 5-8 p.m. on Friday and Saturday evenings: Dec. 13-14, 20-21, 27-28.

The Creation Museum is located in Petersburg, at exit 11 off I-275, two exits west of the Cincinnati Airport. (CM)

Trace Creek pastor passes ministry to son after 41 years of service

By Whitney Jones

Mayfield—After 41 years of service in Mayfield, Ronnie Stinson retired as Trace Creek Baptist Church's pastor, and the congregation had some gifts for their leader who helped the church grow from 63 members to well over 1,000.

Trace Creek members committed to pay his family's health insurance until he is eligible for Medicare, bought his wife a new car and gave him a \$125,000 check as a retirement gift. Trace Creek student minister Nathan Rogers said the church's generosity springs from the respect they have for Stinson.

Rogers said the church believes what the Bible says about "those who rule well deserve double honor." Rogers added that the church would have given more to the retiring pastor, but decided it was wise to practice restraint.

Don Gough has known Stinson since he was born and has served as a deacon many years under Stinson's leadership. Gough said more than being a wise pastor, Stinson was a friend.

"I could go to him and talk to him about anything and he would listen to me," Gough said. "I count him as a dear friend, and I'm just fortunate to count him as my pastor."

Early career

Gough has attended Trace Creek since before Stinson began preaching there. He said when Stinson came to

lead the church as a young man the congregation had faced some turmoil. But with Stinson's guidance, as well as the foundation the previous pastor laid for him, the church grew and overcame its previous struggles.

The church facilities also used to be much smaller. Gough said he wasn't sure if the church had running water or bathrooms at the beginning of Stinson's time there.

Now Trace Creek has finished two building projects including a family center and its facility can hold around 1,300 people. And yes, there are plenty of bathrooms.

Rogers said when the church built the new building in 1995 the church went more than a million dollars into debt. But with Stinson's leadership and the congregation's giving, the church paid its debt in three years.

Passing the legacy

Stinson's family included an infant son when he came to Trace Creek, who is the church's next pastor. Ronnie Stinson Jr. has been the church's associate pastor for seven years and now steps into the role he watched his father serve in his whole life.

He said the church has been incredibly kind to his father and their family.

"God's done a lot of miraculous things through the ministry through the years," the son said. "He's just had a great fellowship with the people and had a privilege of raising his family in a church that loved for and cared for him. It's been a great journey." (WR)

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Mandela's 'long walk to freedom' ends

By Diana Chandler

Pretoria, South Africa—Former South African President Nelson Rolihlahla Mandela's "long walk to freedom" has ended. He died Dec. 5 at age 95 at home after months of declining health.

Southern Baptists joined diverse leaders worldwide who hailed the civil rights champion for his life's work against apartheid, economic injustice and AIDS.

Russell Moore, president of the Southern Baptist Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission, noted the heroism of the leader who rose from 27 years of incarceration to become the first black South African president.

"Nelson Mandela's heroism will outlast him throughout untold generations. Mandela will be remembered for standing up to a racist regime, for persevering under persecution, and for leading his country toward democracy," Moore said. "Mandela's move from prison cell to president's office was a living parable of the power of freedom over apartheid. Even those who don't agree with all of Mandela's political or religious views ought to give thanks for the many good things that came from his life and work. As we remember Nelson Mandela, let's pray for a South Africa that experiences the freedom not only of the voting booth but also of widespread gospel reconciliation to God and to one another."

Mandela rarely discussed religion outside the arena of religious freedom, but a transcript on NelsonMandela.org quotes

his comments on religion in a 2000 Christian Science Monitor interview.

"Religion has had a tremendous influence on my own life. You must remember that during our time—right from Grade 1 up to university—our education was provided by religious institutions. I was in missionary schools," the transcript records Mandela as saying. "The government had no interest whatsoever in our education and, therefore, religion became a force which was responsible for our development."

"I appreciate the importance of religion," Mandela said. "You have to have been in a South African jail under apartheid where you could see the cruelty of human beings to each other in its naked form. Again, religious institutions and their leaders gave us hope that one day we would return."

Nigeria native Adeniya Ojutiku, a Southern Baptist in the U.S. who fights for Christians and their livelihood in his homeland, described Mandela as "an epitome of forgiveness, kindness and love" who had "a dogged resolve for the pursuit of peace and justice."

"His extraordinary life story, witty sense of humor and lack of bitterness toward his former oppressors has ensured global appeal for his type of charismatic leadership," Ojutiku said. "Mandela has no equal in the contemporary history of harmonious race relations."

"He rekindled hope in the humaneness and greatness of the black, colored and white races, as he soared above the petty

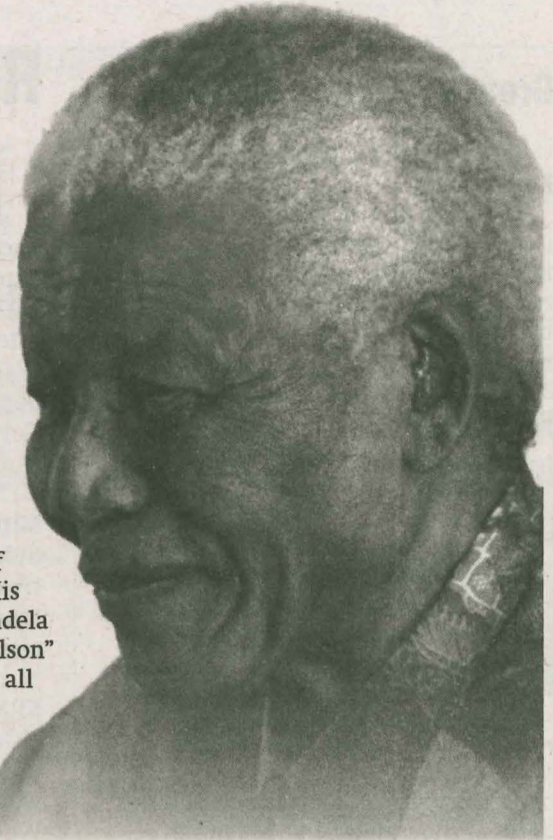
confines of party politics and prejudice," Ojutiku said.

Mandela was inaugurated in May 1994 as president of South Africa, the first black and the first leader democratically elected to the post, stepping down after one term as he had vowed. Mandela chronicled his life in his 1994 autobiography, "Long Walk to Freedom," published in several languages.

He was born Rolihlahla Mandela on July 18, 1918, into the Madiba clan in the small village of Mvezo in Transkei, South Africa. His teacher at the primary school Mandela attended in Qunu named him "Nelson" in accordance with custom to give all school children Christian names. Mandela heard stories of his ancestors' valor during the wars of resistance and dreamed of helping South Africans secure freedom.

His comments to the court in 1964 that sentenced him to life in prison for his work to abolish apartheid have become immortalized.

"I have fought against white domination, and I have fought against black domination. I have cherished the ideal of a democratic and free society in which all persons live together in harmony and with equal opportunities," Mandela told the court. "It is an ideal which I hope to live for and to achieve."



South African civil rights leader Nelson Mandela died Dec. 5 at age 95. (BP)

But if needs be, it is an ideal for which I am prepared to die."

During his incarceration, Mandela developed a lung infection that would affect him throughout his life.

Mandela received the 1993 Nobel Peace Prize with former South African President F. W. deKlerk, who had joined hands with Mandela in defeating apartheid. (BP)



A Baptist Global Response national partner volunteer calls out the names of local residents of Gibitngil Island in order to distribute tickets that entitle each family to a relief package of food and water. (BGR)

BGR relief

Continued from page 1

"There were so many people coming by and saying thank you," Mike Beasley, a volunteer with Trimble (Mo.) Baptist Church, said.

Scottie Stice, pastor of Southwest Texas Cowboy Church in Uvalde, Texas, said "they hadn't had any coffee since before the typhoon," Stice said. "The barangay captain said, 'I cannot believe how generous you are, how much you have given us. We were not expecting this. This is more than we could have imagined receiving.'"

Seeing the plight of storm survivors firsthand is very moving, Stice said. Many roofs were torn off houses, while other homes completely collapsed. Some people are trying to live in their now-dilapidated houses. Others are using scraps to build a lean-to for shelter.

"We're seeing desperately poor people who have just gone through a

typhoon and lost even more," Stice said. "The immediate need is the housing, but for me, I'm looking down the road. What will these farmers be doing? Their crops were damaged. It's not over with."

BGR's strategy for disaster response looks beyond immediate survival needs like food and water and helps communities plot a course toward recovery, said Ben Wolf, who with his wife, Pam, leads BGR work in Asia Rim.

"We had been having trouble finding suppliers for the food packages we are assembling," Wolf said.

"With so much relief work going on, warehouses don't have much on hand," Wolf noted. "We found one warehouse that could supply us and went back to them today and they couldn't help us. We called another one and they delivered everything we needed. When one source dries up or something happens they can't meet the need, the Lord pops up somebody else."

"I'm continually amazed by the divine appointments," Wolf added. (BP) For more, visit BGR's Typhoon Haiyan project page.

Mountain Outreach brings Christmas to kids

Williamsburg—The University of the Cumberland and Mountain Outreach program recently held their annual Midnight Toy Shopping Spree at Wal-Mart in Williamsburg.

Marc Hensley, leader of Mountain Outreach, said the goal of the shopping trip was to find Christmas gifts for children between 2 and 14. This year, Mountain Outreach shopped for 380 children.

"We learned over the years that this is the only Christmas these kids will have," Hensley said.

About 70 students participated, including many members of the archery and golf teams.

"The event would not have been possible without those who reached out with a helping hand to Mountain Outreach," Hensley said. (UC)

Cumberlands BCM students lead DNow

A Discipleship Now event was led by the Baptist Campus Ministries of the University of the Cumberland's recently at Laurel Lake Baptist Camp.

"The purpose for Discipleship Now is for teenagers to grow in Christ and learn what it means to be a disciple," said Kelsey Day, an intern at the BCM. "And for college students to invest in them, have fun, and really get serious about what it means to be a disciple of Christ."

Five churches participated in DNow with nearly 50 youth and adults, and about 40 BCM volunteers.

Using the book of Ruth, speakers related Ruth's story to what the gospel is, why Christians should share the gospel, and how to share it.

"I learned not to be ashamed to tell

your friends about God," said Mercedes Canada.

"Being Christian doesn't mean we're not fun," said Annmarie Lake of Mason, Ohio, a UC student.

Youth were active in learning to be disciples of Christ as they participated in a service project and by making hair bows and writing letters for girls in Guatemala and making manger scenes to sell to support missions. (UC)

Scrooge at CU



Campbellsville University Theater and Town Hall Productions presents "A Christmas Carol" at Campbellsville University's Russ Mobley Theater. Pictured above are Jason Garrett as Scrooge and Alexandra Curry as Tiny Tim. Remaining shows are Dec. 14 at 2:30 p.m. and Dec. 15 at 2:30 p.m. For more information, go to campbellsville.edu/theater or call (270) 789-5266. (CU)

Great Commission gains

It's a good day to be a Kentucky Baptist!

In our 176th year of cooperative ministry, Kentucky Baptists are seeing tremendous results. Adding the evangelistic work of our mission board ministries to that of our agencies and institutions and the ministry of our 2,400 churches, more than 20,000 people came to faith in Christ this past year through the work of Kentucky Baptists!

Moreover, through the Cooperative Program, our churches planted 15 new churches in Kentucky, more than 1,000 new churches in North

America, more than 24,000 new churches overseas, and witnessed hundreds of thousands come to faith in Christ around the globe!

While we rejoiced over these accomplishments and many more at our annual meeting last month in Paducah, we also celebrated the impact of RISK: Paducah, the evangelistic effort leading up to the convention. That effort resulted in over 330 people calling on Christ for salvation! We appreciate the churches, individual Kentucky Baptists, and members of the Mission Board staff who served in RISK: Paducah. We rejoice in God's faithfulness to use the preaching of the gospel to save the lost.

We're already making plans for RISK: Bowling Green leading up to the 2014 annual KBC meeting. The annual meeting will take place on Nov. 11, 2014 at Living Hope Baptist Church. If you want to save dates to participate in RISK, mark off Nov. 2-10. We will be communicating the specific evangelism projects you can participate in, as well as dates and times, well in advance of November.

Fulfilling the Great Commission requires cooperation. None of us, alone, are able to make disciples among all the world's people groups. Working together, however, I believe the Great Commission can and will be fulfilled.

During the Christmas season, Southern Baptists are challenged to focus on Great Commission work overseas. Today more than 3,000 unreached people groups around the world remain unengaged with the gospel. At the same time, due to a lack of funding, our overseas mission force on assignment through the International Mission Board remains in a state of decline. Tragically, over the past 5 years, nearly 1,000. Today it stands at roughly 4,800 missionaries.

The issue is not that Southern Baptists are too poor to provide for 5,800 overseas missionaries. Rather, we are not willing to make the lifestyle sacrifices that would allow us to be, at a minimum, tithers. If every Southern Baptist simply committed to giving the Lord 10 percent of their income, the result would be that church budgets would more than triple, as would the sending capacity of our mission boards in Kentucky, North America, and overseas.

Will you sacrifice so others will have the opportunity to hear the gospel?

Paul Chitwood is executive director of the Kentucky Baptist Convention.



Paul Chitwood

Together
We are the KBC

Roberts' heart raced when sharing Christ

Kentucky's race fans received some sad news over the weekend. John Roberts, 62, chaplain for the Kentucky Speedway and cofounder of Kentucky Raceway Ministries—through which hundreds of Kentucky Baptist volunteers have reached out to tens of thousands of NASCAR fans at the Sparta track—died after a period of declining health. The Warsaw resident who attended Paint Lick Baptist Church was also a Missions Service Corps Missionary with the North American Mission Board.

"When we started Kentucky Raceway Ministries, John was the overwhelming driving force behind it," said KRM executive director J.T. Marsh. Calling Roberts "the motor that drove the car," Marsh noted, "It was his vision that we worked to build."

Looking back now at how God gave Roberts a vision for KRM that has turned into something so much larger than either imagined, Marsh recalled, "The day that we officially began the ministry at the speedway, we thought we would hand out some Bible tracts and then go to the race. We weren't even sure anyone would come to our first worship service, but a shuttle bus arrived exactly at the worship start time and dropped off several folks for worship. I think we both new at that moment God was going to us, but we had no idea how this would all turn out."

Over the next several years, Roberts and Marsh solicited the help of Promise Keepers, local churches and three Baptist associations—Ten Mile, Owen County and Whites Run. They also forged relationships with other raceway ministry groups, Kentucky Woman's Missionary Union, the Kentucky Baptist Convention, the National Fellowship of Raceway Ministries and Motor Racing Outreach.

As the interdenominational ministry grew, Roberts would serve not only as KRM's executive director for nine years, but also on NFRM's board of directors and as

chaplain at the Kentucky Speedway. "Over the years KRM has passed out thousands of tracts (driver line-up cards) that John helped write, and given away thousands of bottles of water, WMU 'Jesus cookies' and Bibles," Marsh noted. "Unofficially we have been able to touch nearly 1/2 million fans, employees and officials at Kentucky Speedway with God's love and grace."

In 2011, my son and I were among some 100,000 NASCAR fans at the Kentucky Speedway for the Inaugural Quaker State 400. That weekend, we saw firsthand about 150 volunteers with Kentucky Raceway Ministries in action and discovered what an incredible opportunity they have to reach out to race fans. Drawn by the

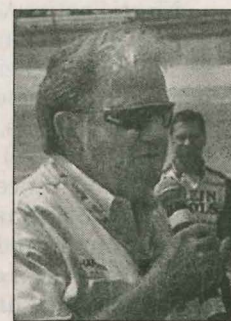
sport they enjoy, the fans not only hear the roar of the engines, but some may also hear the gospel as well.

Roberts was described by his friends as "an awesome Christian who lived his faith." Whites Run Baptist Association Director of Missions Bob Young said, "Through race

ministry, John really got us involved in ministry. He renewed our interest in local missions and help renew us really, as he led us in serving others." Recalling how Roberts ministered faithfully to fans, families and track employees, Coy Webb, director of Kentucky Baptist Men on Mission, said, "John had a heart for people and a passion for the gospel. He was creative in exploring many different approaches of presenting Christ." Rick Gastineau, coordinator of the Pit Stop Challenge Ministry, which partners with KRM, agreed, "John was the heartbeat of ministry with Kentucky Raceway Ministry. During a hectic race week his low key attitude allowed him to be friends with all and share Jesus with all that he could."

After
Thought

By Todd Deaton



John Roberts

Christmas Eve and your church plans for celebrating

By Diana Davis

A Christmas Eve service can be one of your church's most meaningful

Fresh Ideas



Diana Davis

moments—and one of its largest outreach events of the year. For a meaningful community-wide event, begin planning early. Here are some suggestions:

Early prep

■ Carefully plan a top-quality program of worship. Forty-five minutes or an hour is ideal.

Establish a minute-by-minute timetable for program participants. Make it relaxed, yet power-packed.

■ Prepare fabulous music, and include some traditional carols. The pastor's sermon is strategic, but may be different than usual. Pass-it-on candle lighting never goes out of style.

■ As early as possible, ask for a commitment from vocal and instrumental

musicians, your media team, and reliable greeters and fellowship reception.

■ Preplan unique exterior lighting to attract guests that night—a high, giant star, searchlight or laser lights.

■ Purchase needed supplies early.

■ Offer at least two service times.

■ Prepare guest cards and handouts.

A "Celebrate Jesus All Year" handout can invite guests to return, listing worship times, small groups, website, upcoming sermon series and events.

■ Your publicity team strategizes to invite the entire town, using e-invitations, newspaper, Facebook event, outside banner invitation, and printed invitations. Members intentionally invite friends, neighbors and co-workers.

■ Deliver ribboned invitations to each home and business near the church.

■ Involve many volunteers—early greeters to greet with guests, a single adults team to prepare a hot cocoa reception and birthday cake for Jesus.

■ Assign a follow-up team to email each guest by Saturday, Dec. 28, to invite

them to Sunday worship.

Make it extraordinary

Try one of these unique touches:

■ A side-stage live intimacy provides a striking visual during the sermon.

■ An acoustical guitarist plays carols by candlelight in the entry foyer.

■ Creative lighting provides ambiance, such as dim lights, candles and up-lights on a cross and a manger.

■ Add an unusual instrumentalist, such as a harpist, cellist or whistler.

■ As children enter, give each a shepherd costume to wear. During one song, invite kids to the front to kneel reverently by a manger.

Yes, a Christmas Eve service is a big commitment for staff and lay leaders, but it's an opportunity that can't be replicated any other day of the year. Begin a new tradition this year. To Eve or not to Eve? There is no question.

Diana Davis is author of "Fresh Ideas" and "Deacon Wives" and wife of North American Mission Board vice president for the South Region, Steve Davis.

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Christ is worthy of your all, be 'Totally His'

By Tom Elliff

Years ago, in my wife's home church, the pastor received an unusual call on Sunday afternoon from the chairman of the church's finance committee.

That morning, the church had begun collecting its annual Lottie Moon Offering for International Missions. As they were tallying the results in order to give a report that evening, the committee found an interesting response in one envelope. The envelope had been turned inside out, and the names of a couple from the congregation were printed inside.

Wanting to ensure that an offering had not fallen out, the chairman asked the pastor to phone the couple and explain the situation.

"Yes, that was our offering," said the husband when the pastor called, "and we meant it."

When asked by the pastor what they meant, the husband responded, "We couldn't think of anything better to give the Lord than ourselves. This is our decision to surrender everything to the Lord."

"Totally His!" Now that is the kind of commitment Christ expects, honors and blesses! Once it is settled that we are His ... heart, hands, voice ... the Lord then moves us into places of incredible effectiveness.

Paul commended the churches of Macedonia by saying that, in spite of their affliction and deep poverty, they were noted for their generosity. "For I testify that according to their ability, and beyond their ability, they gave of their own accord," he wrote.

How were these churches able to give so generously? "They first gave themselves to the Lord," Paul continued. In other words, their remarkable generosity sprung from hearts that were totally His!

During this year's Lottie Moon Offering emphasis, you will have the opportunity to hear about individuals from around the globe who have determined that Christ is worthy of their all. They are working together with Southern Baptist churches right here at home. God is using their combined efforts in some of the darkest corners of the globe. Together they are touching others with the gospel in remarkable ways.

The International Mission Board's role is to assist you and your church in the fulfillment of the Great Commission. When you give generously to the Lottie Moon Offering, you are ensuring that you have people "on the ground" in some of the most broken and lost communities of the world. These are missionary personnel you have placed in position there to assist your church in fulfilling its mission.

As you prayerfully consider giving your support to this global effort, a picture will unfold portraying what it means to be Totally His.

Please join in praying that this year's emphasis will be, first and foremost, about offering ourselves to the Lord in total commitment. And once that is in place, the stage is set for an offering that reflects the kind of generosity only God inspires.

Totally His! That should be our goal at any season of the year! (IMB)
Tom Elliff is president of the International Mission Board.

VIEWPOINT



"When you give generously to the Lottie Moon Offering, you are ensuring that you have people in some of the most broken and lost communities of the world."

Tom Elliff

Determining God's direction

By Scott Wigginton

Q: Our son is unsure about what he will do after high school. How can we help him figure out God's will for his life?

Following God can be compared to taking a trip across Kentucky at night. If you go as far as your headlights take you, by the time you reach that point, you can see several yards further. Remind your son that there is no road to faithfulness, only the road of faithfulness. If he has trusted Christ and is seeking after Him daily, the following suggestions

might help him in discerning the next steps to take:

- Help him to identify careers in which he has some interest. Have him talk with a counselor about vocational testing, or consider taking personality inventories as a way of growing in self-awareness.
- Encourage him to talk with individuals who are involved in various careers that interest him.
- Empower him to visit nearby colleges, universities or trade schools that offer degrees in which he has some interest.
- Invite him to talk with you about his anxieties and fears about taking the next step.
- Talk frankly with him about your journey after high school and what you have learned.
- Suggest that he contact friends and family members to ask for prayer as well as for their input into how they perceive his interests and talents.
- Remind him that trying a job, college, or training program does not commit him for life. Let him know it is normal to change directions.

Whatever he does, God desires that he do it with a mindset that Christ be glorified.

Scott Wigginton is professor of pastoral ministries and counseling at Campbellsville University and minister of counseling at Campbellsville Baptist Church.

Avoiding dumb mistakes

By Donald Spencer

Avoid the dumb mistakes some people make with their IRAs, 401(k) and 403(b) plans.



Missing the match—Many companies provide a percentage in matching retirement contributions. Many employees don't take advantage of this "free money."

Betting on the company—If your employer issues company stock for retirement, be careful. If the company collapses, so does the value of your retirement. Invest about 5 percent or less of your retirement in company stock.

Freezing contributions—As pay increases be sure to increase personal retirement contributions. If not, inflation erodes your contribution's value.

Cashing out—If you leave a company, don't withdraw your money. If necessary, roll it to another retirement plan or IRA. Cashing out robs your retirement and you will have to pay tax on the money. If you are under 59½, you pay a penalty tax.

Misusing target-date funds—People often use a mix of several target date funds or combine them with other plan funds, which can defeat the whole purpose of using these funds.

Taking too much risk—Older investors should not use the same higher risk investments they used in their 30's and 40's. As you get older, change allocations to a less volatile investment.

Ducking out—Out of fear, many people move money out of aggressive investments when the market falls and then miss out as stocks recover. A good investor knows you cannot make short-term decision for long-term money.

Borrowing from your future—While an attractive option for many, borrowing from your retirement plan has numerous potential problems.

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

Winning the lost by all possible means

By Kevin Ezell

When the apostle Paul wrote in 1 Corinthians 9 about being all things to all people so that he might win a few for the sake of the gospel, he wasn't talking about changing or watering down the message of Jesus, but about presenting it in a way that everyone could understand and relate to.

That is the approach we must use as we plant evangelistic churches across North America—especially in those areas where Southern Baptists have such a small presence. No single church can reach every type of person, so we need all kinds of Christ-centered churches that will proclaim the truth in their communities in a way people can hear and embrace.

With the North American Mission Board's Send North America strategy, we are working toward helping Southern Baptists start 15,000 new churches over 10 years. We are especially focusing those efforts on our large cities where SBC church-to-population ratios have fallen to very low levels in the last 50 years.

But another important part of our strategy is to be sure we are starting churches where people feel at home. That might be different for others than it is for you and me. Again, there is no changing or compromising of the gospel message, but a recognition that God created all of us uniquely.

This is so critical to our mission as Southern Baptists and it is why NAMB is in the process of bringing on board three new national church planting catalysts who will focus on starting churches for specific groups.

Churches for the deaf—Our new national CPC for the deaf will work with leaders throughout North America to identify where the next 100 deaf churches need to be planted. We will have a national map indicating the area of greatest need for deaf churches and ministries. Many churches have deaf ministries that are doing a great job. What we want to do is help start deaf churches where those who are deaf and profoundly hearing impaired will have a place to call

home if they prefer it.

Military churches—This national CPC will focus on starting churches for members of the military. Research shows that 80 percent of U.S. military members stationed stateside live off-base. Some churches are doing a great job of ministering to them. But churches specifically started for military will take into account the transient nature of military life, the difficulties that come with deployment, the challenges for children whose families move a lot or who must go on with life without seeing a parent for months at a time. I believe churches designed for and led by those in the military will have great potential for attracting military members who currently don't attend church.

Missional communities—Many people who would not initially attend a church would come to a small group that was meeting in their neighborhood or a friend's house. Our new national CPC for missional communities will work in our 32 Send North America cities to start missional communities where unchurched people will gather in small groups to study the Bible and learn about Jesus. These groups will be organized with the hope that they will one day be combined with other missional communities and become a church. Missional communities are great starting points for many people—especially in crowded cities where access to churches is often limited and inconvenient.

I spoke recently to one of our church planters in Canada who is bringing together three missional communities to form a church among South Asian immigrants. Our hope is that many of these groups eventually will grow into new churches. Our hope is that by 2020 we will have 100 of these groups going at all times in each one of our 32 Send North America cities.

If we are serious about pushing back lostness in North America, we will have to be both industrious and creative to reach this culture that has become so hardened to the gospel. If Southern Baptists will embrace the challenge, I believe we have exciting days ahead. (NAMB)

Kevin Ezell is president of the North American Mission Board.

VIEWPOINT



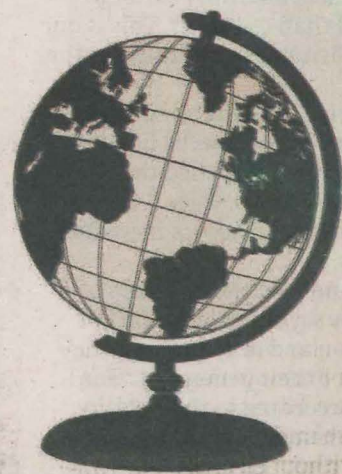
THE POWER OF 'AND'

IN ACTS 1:8, JESUS SAYS,

YOU WILL BE MY WITNESSES

IN JERUSALEM,
AND IN ALL JUDEA
AND SAMARIA,

AND TO THE ENDS
OF THE



JESUS DIDN'T SAY 'OR.' HE SAID 'AND.'

HOW CAN
YOU



AS **1** BELIEVER

bear witness here, there **AND** everywhere?

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Supreme Court to rule on Hobby Lobby suit, expected by summer

By Tom Strode

Washington—The U.S. Supreme Court will decide if the federal government can enforce an abortion/contraception mandate against business owners who conscientiously object.

The justices announced Nov. 26 they would review lower court rulings in lawsuits against the Obama administration's requirement that employers provide contraceptives, including abortion-causing drugs, for their workers. The high court consolidated two cases and will hear oral arguments next year but not before March. A decision is expected by the time the court adjourns next summer.

The cases involve split opinions in two appeals court circuits: The 10th Circuit Court of Appeals in Denver ruled in favor of the religious freedom rights of Hobby Lobby and its sister corporation Mardel, Oklahoma City-based retail chains owned by the pro-life evangelical Christian Green family, while the Third

Circuit in Philadelphia decided against Conestoga Wood Specialties, a Pennsylvania business owned by Mennonites.

Hobby Lobby founder David Green welcomed the news.

"This legal challenge has always remained about one thing and one thing only: the right of our family businesses to live out our sincere and deeply held religious convictions as guaranteed by the law and the Constitution," Green said in a release. "Business owners should not have to choose between violating their faith and violating the law."

A major question the Supreme Court will consider is whether owners of for-profit companies can exercise their religion in the conduct of their businesses.

In its July ruling against Conestoga Wood, a divided three-judge panel of the Third Circuit said for-profit secular organizations "cannot engage in religious exercise." A month earlier, however, the 10th Circuit rejected the Obama administration's argument that protections

under the 1993 Religious Freedom Restoration Act do not extend to for-profit companies. The 10th Circuit ruled corporations such as Hobby Lobby and Mardel "can be 'persons' exercising religion for purposes" of RFRA.

The Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) issued the abortion/contraception mandate on behalf of the Obama administration as part of implementing the Affordable Care Act. In addition to contraceptives, the mandate requires coverage of such drugs as Plan B and other "morning-after" pills that possess a post-fertilization mechanism that can cause an abortion by preventing implantation of tiny embryos. The rule also covers "ella," which can even act after implantation to end the life of the child.

HHS provided an exemption to the rule for churches and their auxiliaries but did not extend it to non-church-related, non-profit organizations and for-profit companies that object. (BP)

High court denies Liberty Univ. appeal

Washington—The U.S. Supreme Court announced Dec. 2 it had denied Liberty University's request that it review a lower court decision upholding aspects of the Affordable Care Act.

The law requires employers with 50 or more workers to provide health insurance or face stiff penalties.

The university's suit also challenged the required funding of abortion by individuals under the law and the abortion/contraception mandate implemented to enforce the ACA.

Liberty University, located in Lynchburg, Va., appealed the Fourth Circuit Court of Appeals' rejection of its arguments against the controversial health care law.

The Supreme Court disclosed without comment that it would not review the ruling. (BP)

Burmese

Continued from page 1

eternal life" (John 4:13-14).

The Brandings, from Calvary Baptist Church in Maysville, have been sharing the gospel with Burmese migrant workers for more than 10 years.

Many of these migrant workers live in remote areas without electricity or running water. They work on rubber and palm oil plantations or are undocumented immigrants living in the jungle to avoid detection by local immigration police.

Living in fear

Families build spirit houses in their yards, setting out food every day to appease spirits—even when there is not enough food left to feed their families.

Fear of angering spirits is so deep-seated that new Christians often do not immediately throw out their idols.

"When we go into a home and we see their altar being totally clean, we just praise God because we know they've made that final step, they have totally committed their whole selves to the Lord," Alyssa said.

When a small group of believers



Burmese immigrant workers sort fish at a large fish market in Ranong, Thailand. The Brandings work with the immigrants, saying, "When they come to Thailand, they're away from their families," making them more open to the gospel. The Brandings reach out to their physical needs through water filtration projects that help give clean drinking water. (IMB)

formed among the plantation workers, one of the first things they prayed for was time each week to meet together, said the congregation's pastor Ye Htoelt. With no means of transportation, walking more than six miles to another plantation can take an hour each way.

Htoelt was unsure he had the ability

to lead the congregation, so Scott mentored and trained him in discipleship for two years.

"(It is) such a joy now to see him be able to share the gospel and have confidence," Scott says. "When he starts speaking about the Bible, it's just like he comes alive and he just explodes with power. ...It's because the power of Jesus Christ (is) in him."

Living in joy

The Brandings, who live in an area surrounded by fish processing plants, also have helped start Bible studies among factory workers.

WinWin Ma is a young woman who works in a squid processing plant, and the only Christian in her workroom of 30 laborers.

"I work 10 hours a day and sometimes face problems at work," she said, "but when I worship, the worry and stress fall away. I feel joy."

She also has learned the joy of giving what she can to help others in need. For the past two years, the small migrant congregation has hosted a Christmas program for AIDS patients in the community, said its pastor Simon David, a Burmese immigrant Scott has mentored.

"We go and distribute everything

from food, medicine and clothes. We also pray and have fellowship with them," David says. "I love that whenever there is someone in need of counseling or money, they want to give. They don't have much, but they love to give."

Migrant work by its nature is transitory. David tries to stay in contact with relocated workers, telling them, "Do not be afraid. Trust God all the time." He often calls ahead to help the family locate a new congregation. If there isn't one, he stresses the importance of the believers staying grounded in God's word and sharing it with others.

Living by faith

But it can be especially difficult when family members don't share their faith.

Alyssa tells about a pregnant woman whose husband wouldn't allow her to pray to God when she was sick.

"When my husband saw me reading the Bible, it didn't please him at all," the woman told Alyssa. "He kicked me and then took and burned my Bible. Yet I decide to cling to God."

Others are eager to hear God's word. One day while walking along the docks to distribute rice and share the gospel, Alyssa was invited into a small home. There, she was shown a newborn baby.

"Will you name the baby?" the strangers asked—much to Alyssa's surprise.

Alyssa prayed for wisdom, looked at the infant and named him after the Bible's Joshua—a great warrior for the Lord. She prayed that this child, too, would be strong and courageous.

The family began attending church. This year, 7-year-old Joshua sang a Bible verse to the congregation.

The Brandings are serving in Thailand through Southern Baptists' gifts to the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering and Cooperative Program, which fund the presence and missions outreach of nearly 5,000 Southern Baptist missionaries internationally.

"The Lottie Moon Christmas Offering helps us stay here, helps us be face-to-face, helps us to show compassion to people when they're hurting, helps us to be hands and feet when they need specific mentoring, when they need someone to pray for them," Scott said. (IMB)

*Name changed



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Unexpected

Here are a few facts you may not know about Oneida

A few years ago, my father provided a quick, but mostly accurate description of Facebook.

"Looks like just a bunch of bragging to me," he said.

Recent studies have shown that Facebook can have a depressing effect on those who use it. After reading posts and seeing pictures about how everyone else's life is so wonderful, a person might feel depressed about his or her own life. Few of us post the bad things that happen in our lives on social media.

I can't say I really fit into this social networking world we live in, but I'd like to borrow a trend seen on Facebook. People are given a number by a friend and then that person has to list that many things about themselves that others may not know. I have assigned myself the number 20, so without sounding overly braggish or depressing, please allow me to share some things with you that you might not know about Oneida Baptist Institute.

1. OBI was founded in 1899 in an attempt to educate the children of the mountains so they would stop feuding and killing one another.

2. Students represent 20 nations.

3. Students represent 25 states.

4. About one-third of OBI's students are from Kentucky.

5. OBI has 130 full-time faculty and staff.

This is Oneida



Larry Gritton

6. OBI receives and houses nearly 1,000 volunteers each year.

7. OBI has a working farm and was the first private school in Kentucky to have an FFA chapter.

8. Two-thirds of OBI's funding comes through giving.

9. OBI doesn't turn students away if they cannot pay tuition.

10. OBI doesn't turn students away if they don't know Jesus as their Lord and Savior.

11. Students clean the buildings and maintain the grounds.

12. OBI does not cut athletes from athletic teams. If students work hard and do what the coach asks, they can be on the

team no matter what their skill level or ability.

13. OBI has multiple state championships in the sport of fencing.

14. OBI has graduated 3,718 students.

15. OBI's choir travels 7,000 miles annually and is available to sing in your church.

16. OBI is accredited by the National Non-Public School Commission, the Kentucky Non-Public School Commission, and the Kentucky Department of Education.

17. OBI hosts dozens of groups every year for chapel, a free lunch, and a tour.

18. OBI accepts all donations.

19. OBI has an indoor pool.

20. OBI is the most unique school in all of the world.

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

Watch and learn

Student says learning occurs inside and outside the classroom

Most Clear Creek Bible College students arrive having no prior experience as a pastor and, yet, all the ministry responsibilities that come along with that position.

Senior Eddie Barker, of Grayson, is an exception. He already had some prior ministry experience when he came to us from the church where he was serving as pastor. But he still learned a lot.

"I have a wife and three kids, and our family was serving the Lord there in the church at Grayson," said Barker. "God began to work in our hearts about a change; that maybe it was time for us to move on to somewhere else. We didn't know exactly where that was going to be.

"God began to open doors as only He can and He began to show us that the move for us meant Bible college. As we visited the area God began to make it very clear to us that this was the Bible college where He wanted us to be. So we made the move to campus a few years ago to study and prepare for what God has next for us.

"I really feel that my time at Clear

Creek has prepared me well for the next phase of ministry that God has planned for me and my family," Barker said.

"When I think about all the different classes I have been able to take, I am

thankful for the things I have learned about God's word and about doing ministry.

"My Bible classes have been great and have really opened my eyes to a lot of things in the Old Testament that I had never thought about.

"My preaching classes have been a great help to me in showing me how to study the text and help people apply it to their lives.

"Some of the most important lessons I have learned have actually come outside of the classroom," Barker noted. "I have been able to spend years around some godly people on this campus and have watched how they have handled their struggles in life. We get to see that what they teach you is lived out in their lives.

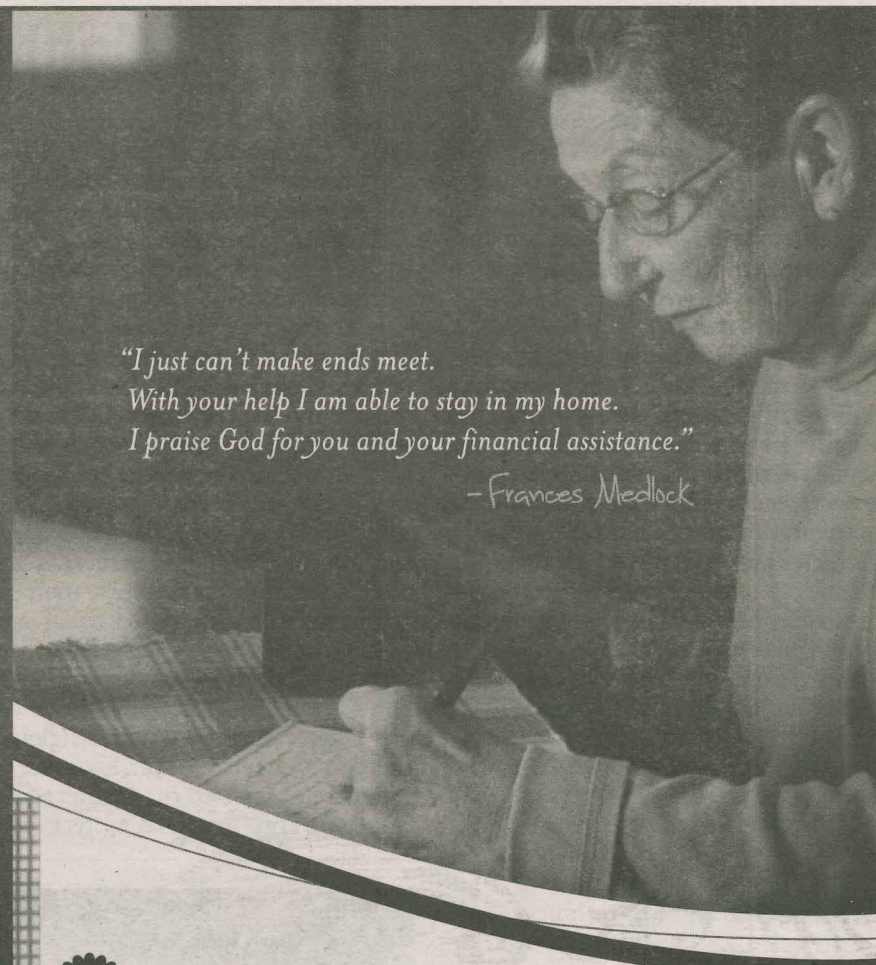
"It has been an amazing experience for me," Barker said.

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

Clear Creek Chronicle



Donnie Fox



"I just can't make ends meet.

With your help I am able to stay in my home.

I praise God for you and your financial assistance."

-Frances Medlock



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STATE CONVENTION ROUNDUP

Ohio focuses on prayer

Perrysburg, Ohio—With a focus on prayer and a goal to reach 1 million of 11.5 million residents in their state with the gospel, 254 Ohio Baptist messengers plus guests gathered for their 60th annual meeting.

In a presentation and prayer time called Pray Ohio: Partnering in the Great Commission, attendees were reminded to pray for people in the state and presented opportunities for churches to pray throughout next year for a spiritual harvest.

Jack Kwok, executive director of the State Convention of Baptists in Ohio, called for people to Praise God, Repent, Ask, and Yield to God (PRAY) as churches move forward with their Mission Ohio goal to reach 1 million people with the gospel by the end of 2020. This year messengers gathered Nov. 6-7 in Perrysburg, Ohio.

Messengers approved the 2014 budget that included a 0.992 percent increase from 2013. The budget maintains the division of receipts from churches

through the Cooperative Mission Program at 59.75 percent for mission work in Ohio and 40.25 percent for worldwide missions outside the state. (BP)

Ga. surpass 20,000 backpacks

Dacula, Ga.—Under the leadership of Georgia Baptist Convention President John Waters, a goal of 20,000 backpacks for impoverished Appalachian children was exceeded by 300 at the close of the convention.

The convention adopted a "straight allocation budget" of \$41,800,000, same as the 2013 budget that reflects 2000 funding levels. Under a new budget structure, 40 percent of Cooperative Program gifts from Georgia churches will be allocated to Southern Baptist Convention missions and ministries; 11.03 percent in a category titled "Mission Extension Ministries"; and 48.97 percent to Georgia Baptist Convention ministries.

Under the budget, Mission Extension Ministries encompasses GBC institutions such as the three Baptist-affiliated colleges in the state while GBC ministries

include evangelism, church planting and collegiate ministry supported by the state convention.

The convention concluded with a message from Bill Barker, missionary to Appalachia, and then scores of convention-goers formed a procession carrying backpacks laden with gifts down the aisle to the altar of Hebron Baptist Church. The backpacks were symbolic of thousands of backpacks that were donated. Eight trucks, provided by the North American Mission Board, were required to deliver the backpacks to Appalachian ministries. (BP)

Tenn. implementation vote slated

Chattanooga, Tenn.—An emphasis on 1-5-1 Harvest Plants brought perhaps the most culturally diverse group of messengers ever to the Tennessee Baptist Convention's annual meeting Nov. 12-13 at the Chattanooga Convention Center.

The annual meeting drew 1,333 registered messengers from 532 churches, the largest number of messengers since 2007.

Messengers heard from the Vision 2021 Transition Team, which has been developing an implementation plan. Included in the plan is a goal of 50/50 distribution of Cooperative Program funds with the Southern Baptist Convention by the 2018-19 budget year.

Churches also were encouraged to sign up to begin harvest plants in 2014. The 1-5-1 initiative entails a commitment to start no less than one plant in the year, making an effort to reach, win and baptize five people through each plant, and planning on each plant multiplying itself by starting another plant by the end of the first year.

A budget of \$36,500,000 was approved for 2013-14. The amount is \$500,000 below the 2012-13 budget. Of the approved budget, 58.75 percent will go toward TBC missions and ministries while 41.25 percent will be forwarded to the SBC, an increase from the current allocation of 59.25 percent for TBC causes and 40.75 for SBC causes. (BP)

Mo. Baptists affirm CP, marriage

Kansas City, Mo.—The Missouri Baptist Convention reaffirmed a "50-50 by 2020" cooperative giving initiative, defended the biblical definition of marriage and prayed for persecuted believers around the world.

A total of 942 messengers and 265 guests from 530 churches gathered Oct. 28-30 at Kansas City's Sheraton Hotel at Crown Center, where Southern Baptist Convention President Fred Luter proclaimed that the gospel can transform lives and cultures.

A resolution encouraging Missouri Baptist churches "to continue supporting the Cooperative Program and give serious consideration to increasing their commitment to the Cooperative Program by 2020" was approved by an overwhelming majority of messengers.

A \$14.5 million CP budget was approved, a decrease from last year's \$14.6 million budget. Nevertheless, messengers moved toward the "50-50" cooperative giving plan, approving 60 percent of the CP budget for state causes and 40 percent for SBC causes. Additionally, 5 percent of the 2014 budget was placed in a separate "shared expenses" category, which would not count toward the 50-50

goal. The funds will be allocated for annuity protections and The Pathway state newspaper.

Two resolutions were approved defending the biblical perspective on marriage and homosexuality. (BP)

S.C. Baptists closer to 3-year goal

Columbia, S.C.—Messengers to the South Carolina Baptist Convention approved a 2014 budget that could move the convention closer to increasing its international missions giving by 21.95 percent—and eventually a 50/50 split in Cooperative Program receipts.

Attendance at the convention was down by 19.5 percent from last year.

Messengers approved a \$28.6 million budget for 2014, which reflects previously scheduled reductions in funding to The Baptist Courier and Baptist Foundation of South Carolina; a freeze in funding to the SCBC's three affiliated universities, two retirement centers, a children's home and South Carolina WMU; and a 1 percent cut to Executive Board (Baptist building) ministries.

Of the convention's \$28.5 million CP budget for 2014, \$16,815,000 is designated for in-state ministries; \$11,685,000 will be forwarded to SBC causes.

1st Chinese church joins W.Va.

Princeton, W.Va.—West Virginia Baptists welcomed eight new churches, including their first Chinese congregation, to the convention during their 43rd annual meeting at Immanuel Baptist Church in Princeton, which drew 173 messengers and 78 guests.

The West Virginia Chinese Baptist Church in Scott Depot, sponsored by Good Shepherd Baptist Church, was constituted during a special service Aug. 11.

Messengers approved a 2014 budget of \$2,698,159—a 1 percent increase over the current year.

The convention anticipates nearly \$1.5 million in Cooperative Program gifts from the state's churches. Messengers voted to increase their giving to national and international SBC missions and ministry from 39 to 39.5 percent of CP receipts. Cooperative Program giving for 2013 was up about 1.2 percent over last year. (BP)

Fla. closer to 50/50 CP split

Jacksonville, Fla.—Florida Baptists moved one step closer to sending half of their Cooperative Program gifts to national and international missions with the approval of a \$30.5 million CP budget during their 152nd annual meeting.

Messengers celebrated 25 years of service by John Sullivan, executive director-treasurer of the Florida Baptist State Convention.

The \$30.5 million Florida Baptist Cooperative Program Budget for 2014—its lowest amount since year 2000—sends 43 percent to the Southern Baptist Convention and retains 57 percent for Florida Baptist missions and ministries. The 43 percent earmarked for the SBC represents a 1.5 percent increase from the previous year.

The budget, a half million dollars below the 2013 revised budget of \$31 million, keeps Florida Baptists on track to reach an even 50/50 percentage division between national and state mission causes by 2018. (BP)

Bible Crosswords

Across

- 1 White, for one
- 5 "For I have no man ... who will naturally ____ for your state" (Philippians 2:20)
- 9 Kind of truck
- 12 Minor prophet
- 13 So be it
- 14 Female lea dweller
- 15 3.1416
- 16 Sixties-style dress
- 18 "They compassed me about like ____" (Psalm 118:12)
- 19 "She shall shave her head and ____ her nails" (Deuteronomy 21:12)
- 20 Greek letter
- 22 NY or CA
- 23 Greek isle
- 25 "Do ye think that the scripture ____ in vain" (James 4:5)
- 27 Definitely pink
- 28 Nick Charles, aka The ____ Man
- 29 Exclamation of discovery
- 32 ____ on parle francais
- 33 "For if ye love them which love you, what ____ have ye?" (Luke 6:32)
- 34 ____ fried
- 35 Barbara ____ Geddes
- 36 Baby and bath, to name two
- 37 "And he ____ and touched his tongue" (Mark 7:33)
- 38 "Is the Lord's hand waxed ____?" (Numbers 11:23)
- 40 Prophets
- 41 Athens is here (abbr.)
- 43 "Joseph ... was the son of his ____ age" (Genesis 37:3)
- 44 ____ there, done that
- 45 "The workman is worthy of his ____" (Matthew 10:10)

By Evelyn Boyington

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#182

- 47 Come together; touch
- 48 "Arise, go up to ____" (Joshua 8:1)
- 50 Mess up
- 51 Shut's partner
- 53 Apparent one
- 55 Asiatic deer
- 56 Accustomed
- 57 "I'm all ____"
- Down**
- 1 "The trees of the Lord are full of ____" (Psalm 104:16)
- 2 French friend
- 3 Biblical exclamation
- 4 "He hath regarded the low ____ of his handmaiden" (Luke 1:48)
- 5 Hawaiian product, for short
- 6 Quantity (abbr.)
- 7 Concerning
- 8 ____gedi (where David dwelt for a time)
- 9 To a ____
- 10 Is beholden to
- 11 Author Nathanael
- 17 Before
- 18 Bridle part
- 19 Pauline's adventures of filmdom
- 20 "Whom God hath raised up, having loosed the ____ of death" (Acts 2:24)
- 21 Kind of hole
- 23 "Where no oxen are, the ____ is clean" (Proverbs 14:4)
- 24 3 K or 5 K, for example
- 25 "Thou ____ love thy neighbor" (Romans 13:9)
- 26 "He ... began to tell them what things should ____ unto him" (Mark 10:32)
- 28 "The Lord called Samuel again the ____ time" (1 Samuel 3:8)
- 30 Absalom's stunning feature
- 31 "The ____ are a people not strong" (Proverbs 30:25)
- 33 Hand or power
- 37 Rage inside
- 39 Salsa choice
- 40 Jurisdiction of a bishop
- 41 Ancient Hebrew dry measure
- 42 Deli order
- 44 "He hath ____ his bow, and made it ready" (Psalm 7:12)
- 46 Linking verb
- 47 "I will ... that ____ pray every-where" (1 Tim. 2:8)
- 48 Broadcast
- 49 Government agency (abbr.)
- 51 Ouch!
- 52 River in Italy
- 54 Per person (abbr.)

#181

B	A	R	A	S	H	E	R	A	S	S
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December

- 12 Kentucky Baptist Foundry Board of Directors meeting, KBC building, Louisville.
- 24 Christmas holiday, KBC building closed through Dec. 31.

January

- 10 Disaster Relief Chaplaincy Training, Edgewood Baptist Church, Hopkinsville.
- 23 Shepherding the Shepherd, Hilton, Lexington.
- 30 Administrative Committee, KBC Building, Louisville.
- 31 Imagine Preschool and Children's Ministry Conference, Parkway Baptist Church, Bardstown.

February

- 10 Disaster Relief Chaplaincy Training, Westport Road Baptist Church, Louisville.

- **BEREA**—Valley Church recently called **Evan Eckler** as pastor.
- **BENTON**—Pleasant Valley Church recently called **Jack Kee** as pastor.
- **CAMPBELLSVILLE**—Campbellsville Church will present "The Ornament" Dec. 13-14, 7 p.m., and Dec. 15, 6 p.m. The production will be accompanied by 32-voice choir and 20-piece orchestra. **Michael O'Neal** is pastor.

Saloma Church will hold a candlelight community service Dec. 18, 7 p.m. with seasonal music and communion. **John Chowing** is pastor.

- **CECILIA**—Cecilia Church will present "The Jesus Gift," a Christmas cantata, Dec. 15. **Eric Oliver** is pastor.

- **FANCY FARM**—Beulah Church will present its Christmas play Dec. 15, 5 p.m., followed by a meal. **Ian Carrico** is pastor.

- **FRANKFORT**—Buck Run Church will hold a single mom's wrapping party Dec. 12. **Hershael York** is pastor.

Crestwood Church will hold Family Christmas Celebration Dec. 14, 1 p.m. **Michael Hail** is pastor.

- **FREDONIA**—Unity Church will celebrate 34 years of ministry Dec. 16. **Danny Sherrill** is pastor.

- **FULTON**—First Church will hold a special Christmas performance with the orchestra Dec. 15, 6 p.m. **Jeff Keith** is pastor.

- **GREENVILLE**—Second Church will hold Christmas Cantata Dec. 14-15, 6 p.m. **Ray England** is pastor.

- **HARRODSBURG**—Harrodsburg Church will present "Come Messiah King" Dec. 15, 6:30 p.m. **Wayne Spivey** is pastor.

- **HOPKINSVILLE**—First Church will "Come Messiah King" Dec. 15, 10:45 a.m.

- **LEXINGTON**—Boone's Creek will host a community Christmas service with neighboring

MOUNTAINS TO THE MISSISSIPPI

COMPILED BY STAFF

churches Dec. 15, 6 p.m. **Charles Dixon** is pastor.

Elkhorn Association recently elected **David Stokes**, pastor of Baptist Church at Andover, in Lexington, as executive director.

Grace Church will present "Christ Was Born for This" Dec. 15, 6 p.m. **Steve Price** is pastor.

- **LOUISVILLE**—Deer Park will hold "Come Hear the Christmas Story" Dec. 15, 10:45 a.m. **David Platt** is pastor.

Parkland Church will hold a free community dinner Dec. 12, 5 p.m., followed by Family Christmas Movie Night Dec. 13, 7:30 p.m. **Tom Curry** is pastor.

Maple Grove Church will present "Bethlehem Morning" Dec. 15, 6 p.m. **Raymond Hayes** is pastor.

- **MADISONVILLE**—First Church will present "Return to Bethlehem," a walk-through drama, Dec. 14, 16-7, 5 p.m., and Dec. 15, 2 p.m. Live music also will be featured in the sanctuary. **Joe Leonard** is pastor.

- **MAYTOWN**—First Church will present its Christmas play Dec. 15, 5 p.m. **Robert Varney** is pastor.

- **MOUNT VERNON**—Scaffold Cane Church will present "A New Home for Christmas" Dec. 15. **Chris Cobb** is pastor.

- **OWENSBORO**—First Church will present "First Christmas: All is Calm, All is Bright" Dec. 15, 6 p.m. **Paul Strahan** is pastor.

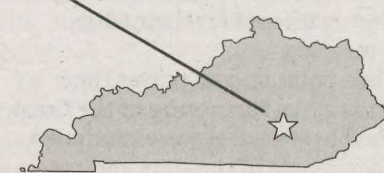
- **PADUCAH**—Lone Oak First Church will present "Be Born in Me" Dec. 15, 7 p.m. The musical will be presented by the worship choir, orchestra and Living Water. **Dan Summerlin** is pastor.

- **RICHMOND**—Unity Church will hold a Christmas cantata Dec. 15, 10:45 a.m. **Dennis Brewer** is pastor.

- **RUSSELLVILLE**—First Church will hold a Christmas cantata Dec. 15, 6 p.m. **Buddy**

Spotlight on ...

Mount Vernon



Northside Church will hold a clothing and toy giveaway Dec. 13, at noon. **Randy McPheron** is pastor.

Crabtree is pastor.

- **SHELBYVILLE**—First Church recently called **Maurice Hollingsworth** as senior pastor.

- **WINCHESTER**—Central Church will present "Christmas is Coming" Dec. 15, 6 p.m. **Travis Drake** is pastor.

Campbellsville extends invitation to Israel, Jordan

Campbellsville—Kentucky Baptists are invited to take an 11-day tour of Israel and Jordan with Campbellsville University. The group will leave from Nashville, Tenn. March 1 and return March 14. During the 11 days, the group will tour over 20 different sites and locations throughout Jordan and Israel.

Travel to the tomb of Moses and see where Jesus was baptized by John the Baptist. Visit the cities of Bethsaida, Corazim and Capernaum. For more information or to make a reservation, call (270) 789-5037 or email sewigginton@campbellsville.edu. Last day to reserve a spot is Dec. 15. (CU)

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FOR SALE: 40 1991 edition, Convention Press Baptist hymnals, \$7 each, very good condition, turquoise deep. Call Jane Wise (502) 223-2959.

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

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. Resumés may be sent to jwest@fbcowb.org.

SEEKING: Christian Values Technology Company seeks mature business professionals for high-income opportunity. Home-based office. Hands-on support and apprenticeship-style training. For complete information, call Keith at (888) 395-6557.

SEEKING: Spring Bayou Baptist Church is seeking a full-time associate pastor of students. Spring Bayou is located on the outskirts of Paducah in western Kentucky. Email resumés to sbbc@brtc.net, or mail to Spring Bayou Baptist Church, ATTN: Youth Search Team, 11205 Wood-

ville Road, Kevil, KY 42053.

SEEKING: Full-time children's pastor. Campbellville Baptist Church is prayerfully seeking God's person to lead in a ministry to preschool and school-age children, and their families in our church and our community. Send resumé and requests for information to bradl@cvillebaptist.com.

SEEKING: Pianist needed. Marion Second Baptist Church is in need of a pianist for Sunday morning worship service. This is an important ministry position. If interested, contact Chris Lowery at (270) 625-9129, or email lowery.chris@hotmail.com.

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

SEEKING: Versailles Baptist is accepting resumés for a full-time minister of discipleship and evangelism. We are a dynamic, missions-driven church in central Kentucky averaging 400 weekly worship attendees. The ideal candidate will have gifts in evangelism, discipleship, assimilation, missions, leadership and administration. Accepting resumés through Dec. 16 in care of glyn@versaillesbaptist.org.

SEEKING: First Baptist Church of Paris is seeking a full-time minister of music and education, experience and education

preferred. Send resumé to First Baptist Church, P.O. Box 327, Paris, KY 40362, ATTN: Gary Elcessor, or email to fbcbrogary@att.net.

SEEKING: First Baptist Church of Paris is seeking a full-time minister to students and families. This person will be working with all ages, from preschool to senior adults. Send resumé to First Baptist Church, P.O. Box 327, Paris, KY 40362, ATTN: Gary Elcessor, or email to fbcbrogary@att.net.

SEEKING: Tunnel Hill Baptist Church in Elizabethtown is seeking a part-time youth director. Approx. 20 hours per week. Submit resumé to tunnelhillbaptistchurch@gmail.com no later than Feb. 1.

SEEKING: Part-time youth pastor. Campbellville Baptist Church is prayerfully seeking God's person to lead in a ministry to the youth (7th-12th grades) and their families in our church and our community. Send resumé and requests for information to bradl@cvillebaptist.com.

SEEKING: Full-time pastor of Lake City Baptist Church. Send resumé to Lake City Baptist Church, 410 Hazel Demery Road, Grand Rivers, KY 42045.

SEEKING: The congregation of Walnut Grove Baptist Church in Lodiburg is seeking a part-time youth pastor. Interested candidates send resumé to pastorerich@gmail.com.

SEEKING: Gamaliel Baptist Church is in search of the man that God has chosen to be our new pastor. If you are that man, or you know him, forward a resumé to: Pastor Search Committee,

To place an advertisement in the Western Recorder:

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Gamaliel Baptist Church, P.O. Box 148, Gamaliel, KY 42140, or email to gamalielbaptist2013@gmail.com. Deadline Jan. 31.

SEEKING: Full-time, experienced, enthusiastic minister to preschoolers and children for a growing ministry in a strong, healthy church. Check us out at mtcarmelbaptist.org. Resumés to mountcarmelbc@fuse.net.

SEEKING: Little Bethel Baptist Association in Hopkins County is now accepting resumés for the position of director of missions. Send resumés to : DOM Search Committee, Little Bethel Baptist Association, 445 Thompson Ave., Madisonville, KY 42431-1293.

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

Health care workers 'connecting the dots' in global outreach

Rockville, Va.—A 70-year-old nursing home patient's failing health opened the door for International Mission Board medical workers in Asia to see several dozen staff and patients turn to Christ and begin meeting for worship and discipleship.

In the Horn of Africa, meanwhile, simple medical attention paved the way for 500 gospel presentations over the course of a year, yielding 150 professions of faith.

In Europe, medical missionaries are training local believers to give eye exams while also distributing reading glasses and Scripture portions.

Globally, medical professionals are playing crucial roles in taking the gospel to people in great physical and spiritual need, said John Brady, International Mission Board vice president for global strategy, speaking to a five-day gathering of health care workers at the IMB's International Learning Center in Rockville, Va.

"Health care is one of the best ways for the gospel to be present in places of need, especially among unengaged, unreached people groups," Brady said. "God has incredibly gifted health care personnel in the North American church with medical skills. Even simple techniques can radically change life expectancy in places where most people live to be 41 or 42 years old.

"In the West, we have seen God increase medical knowledge to the point where we now have some of the best understanding of how God created the body and the environment in which we live, and we are able to apply that knowledge for His glory," Brady said. "God didn't just do that to bless the people in our own community. He wants us involved in His mission around the world as His disciples."

To that end, IMB links health care professionals in North America with medical missionaries overseas, mobilizing them for key roles in church planting efforts that model Jesus' command to "preach and heal," said Rebekah Naylor, an emeritus medical missionary who now leads efforts to mobilize Southern Baptist medical professionals.

A total of 381 IMB personnel are engaged in health care missions



Medical workers are getting strategically involved in overseas missions. To learn how you can be intentionally on mission check out Skybridge Community, a new initiative by the International Mission Board at skybridgecommunity.com. (IMB file photo)

overseas—all but 21 of them medical professionals, Naylor told the group. Health care strategy coaches are now in place across the world to help develop effective ways for health care ministries to enhance the global mission effort.

Health care workers at the gathering briefed IMB leadership on many situations where health care is helping people experience whole-life transformation. Among them:

- In one European country, 707 people made professions of faith in medical clinics during 2012, with churches strengthened and new groups started.

- In South Asia, one health care strategy is demonstrating the love of God to women by providing disposable feminine hygiene products to take the place of the cloth, shredded newspaper, coconut husks, even ash from cooking fires

used by women—if they use anything at all. Women's ministry circles in North America are hand-making the supplies.

A growing number of Southern Baptist churches are engaging holistic approaches to evangelism and church planting overseas, many of them through health care, said Ken Winter, IMB vice president for church and partner services.

"They are meeting human needs, addressing social justice issues, meeting medical needs and not just saying, 'Let's go do this,' but connecting the dots strategically," Winter said.

Nothing connects proclamation and demonstration of the gospel together the way medical ministries do, he said. "This is one of the greatest ways I can see Southern Baptists cooperatively coming together in partnership in the task."

Participants in the meeting also heard a presentation by Scott Holste, IMB vice president for global strategic mobilization, who described the new "Marketplace Advance" initiative.

Medical workers are a good example of the growing numbers of marketplace professionals who are getting strategically involved overseas, Holste said.

Skybridge Community, a new IMB initiative, helps the estimated 1 million North American adult Christians living overseas find ways to intentionally be on mission where they are. Learn more at skybridgecommunity.com.

A major IMB conference for mobilizing North American health care professionals, titled MedAdvance, will be held July 17-19 of next year. Email medicalmissions@imb.org for more information. (IMB/BP)

Online map helps missions-minded volunteers find projects stateside

Alpharetta, Ga.—Volunteer mission teams now need to look no further than online to find their next mission project.

The North American Mission Board's Volunteer Opportunities map, located online at namb.net/volunteer-opportunities, is a tool to connect churches and associations that have needs with volunteer mission teams who can help.

As pastors, church planters and ministry leaders identify areas of their ministry or in their community where they could use some extra help, they can simply go online and submit their need on the map. The site allows them to be as specific as they want, including details like a summary of the project, how many teams are needed to serve, the duration of the project and more.

Then, as other churches throughout North America begin praying and planning for upcoming short-term mission opportunities for their congregations,



they can go online and search the site for needs their team might be able to meet. The map is customized by region, with each need represented by a dot on the map. Those searching for opportunities can go online, view the needs available, pray through these opportunities and easily connect with a place to serve.

"The map has made connecting churches and volunteers as simple as one

click," said Susan Peugh, volunteer opportunities coordinator for NAMB. "We hope that by simplifying the connection process for both churches in need and volunteer teams looking for needs to meet, we'll see more and more connections made and partnerships formed between churches."

More than 300 needs already are posted to the map and more are on the way as Southern Baptist state convention leaders, NAMB Send North America city coordinators, church planters and missionaries from across the U.S. and Canada utilize the tool to connect and partner with other Southern Baptist churches and mission teams.

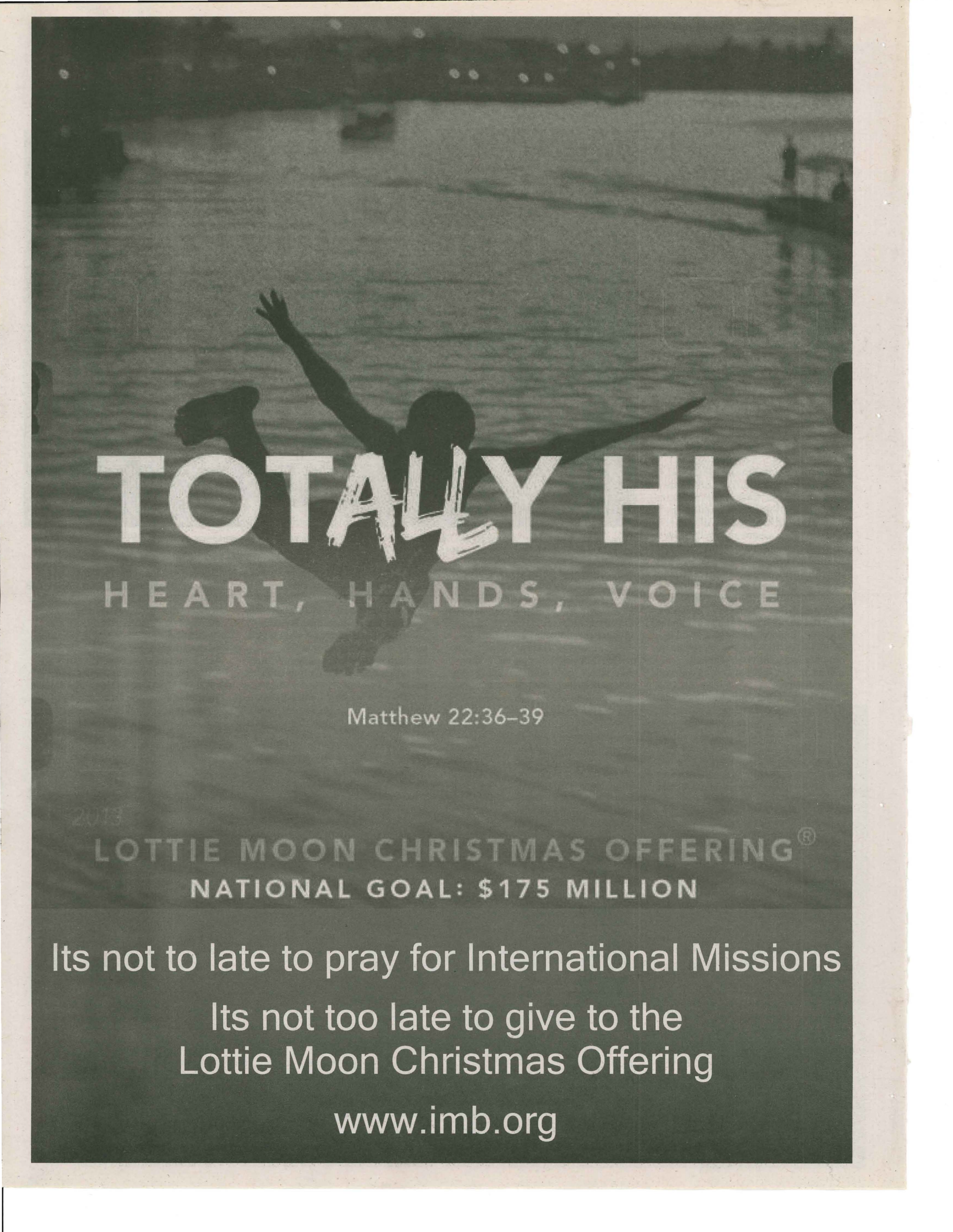
"Short-term mission teams encourage and expand the work of church planters and churches in underserved areas of North America," said Jerry Daniel, NAMB's LoveLoud ministry team leader. "Often these trips will be a key factor in

developing partnerships and focused prayer for cities and people groups in need. Serving together creates a deeper bond of fellowship and an opportunity to see God's Spirit draw people to faith in Jesus."

Lorna Bius, a LoveLoud missionary in NAMB's West Region, is encouraging church planters and leaders there to use the tool to connect with others through service and prayer.

"This is a great tool to serve as a connection point for those who want to 'go,' but don't know where to start," Bius noted. "Dots on a map become real places to pray for and ministries to partner with in the future."

In 2014, the map will expand as new needs are posted and churches begin planning their short-term trips for spring and summer breaks. NAMB hopes to see the tool utilized as a part of Cross-over 2014 in Baltimore. (NAMB)



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