

WESTERN Recorder

December 17, 2013

Shine Like Stars * Philippians 2:15

Volume 187, Issue 47

A NEW DAY DAWNS Interim Sunrise president named

By Todd Deaton

Louisville—Dale Suttles, Sunrise Children's Services' eastern region advancement director, has been named interim president by the Baptist child care agency's trustees.

Suttles, who was appointed during a special called trustee meeting Nov. 26, joined the Sunrise staff in January 2012 after a 25-year career with Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Bluegrass, during which he advanced from case support manager to regional director, director of development and chief executive officer.

Suttles was introduced to members of the Kentucky Baptist Convention's Mission Board Dec. 10, with KBC Executive Director Paul Chitwood noting that Suttles has "a track record" of turning around organizations that were at a point of challenge or crisis.

In response to a question from a Mission Board member about Bill Smithwick's status as Sunrise president, Chitwood said he was not at liberty to



Dale Suttles, interim president of Sunrise Children's Services, addresses the Kentucky Baptist Convention Mission Board Dec. 10 in Louisville. He was appointed by Sunrise trustees during a special-called meeting Nov. 26. (KBC)

comment at the time. Other sources have confirmed, however, that Smithwick is on administrative leave.

Smithwick received a vote of no confidence Nov. 12 from messengers during the Kentucky Baptist Convention's Annual Meeting in Paducah. The vote followed weeks of controversy stemming

from Smithwick's recommendation to allow homosexual employees at the Baptist-affiliated child care agency. Sunrise's trustees, however, rejected his recommendation Nov. 8, refusing to compromise biblical values by changing the agency's hiring practices.

□ See Sunrise ... Page 2

'Hopeless' & homeless Encounter changes two women's lives

By Tobin Perry

Atlanta—Some encounters change your day. Others change your life. Just ask North American Mission Board staff member Deborah McCutchen.

Her interaction with a homeless woman during NAMB's annual Day of Service has profoundly impacted her Christmas preparation.

NAMB's staff spent Dec. 6 serving Atlanta's homeless in partnership with 7 Bridges to Recovery, a ministry to the homeless through The Garden inner-city church.

As McCutchen handed a lunch to a homeless person living in a tent under one of Atlanta's many bridges, she offered to pray for the woman.

"It doesn't matter," the woman told McCutchen.

"Oh, it does," McCutchen said. "God loves you. He sees you right where you are and He loves you."

□ See Day of Service ... Page 7

Lottie Moon Christmas Offering Baptists help Kenyans transform lives

By Susan O'Hara

Richmond, Va.—On a chalkboard easel, Southern Baptist missionary Chad Pumpelly and his co-workers serving on two college campuses in Kenya write down names of students, categorizing

them as "already a believer," "on the fence" and "would take a miracle."

When a student becomes a believer, his or her name moves to a different category: "new relationship with Christ."

At least 30 of the students, including Hindus, animists (those who believe that objects in nature have souls) and Muslims, have decided to follow Christ since January 2013. The campuses Pumpelly works with contain more than 60,000 students each.

Pumpelly grew up in Uganda as a child of Southern Baptist missionaries. Informed by that background, he teaches new believers to go on missions trips to unreached people groups within their own countries. The students witness cross-culturally to other tribes, despite tough cultural barriers between people of different ethnic origins.

This past February, Pumpelly met Freddy, a student in Nairobi who came from a church background but was not following Christ. By the third week of their friendship, Freddy announced he



Chad Pumpelly, a Southern Baptist missionary, hands out water filters alongside college students from Nairobi and U.S. volunteers in a village that is home to the Digo, a tribe that practices folk Islam. For many of the students, this is the first time they have shared about their new faith with someone from a different tribe. (BP)

wanted to dedicate his life to Christ.

By April, Freddy was one of the newest believers on a mission trip to the Digo people, a tribe practicing folk Islam.

Freddy launched himself into sharing his faith with the group. Freddy studied material about witnessing. At college, he

□ See Kenyans ... Page 7



Why give to Lottie Moon?

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- Presented the gospel to more than 1.4 million individuals
- Baptized more than 266,000 new believers
- Started more than 24,000 churches
- Engaged 133 new people groups

Every penny of the Lottie Moon offering supports 4,800 missionaries. Meeting the \$175 million goal would send 576 more missionaries to the field. (Source: IMB.org)

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Sunrise

Continued from page 1

Suttles, in addressing the KBC Mission Board, said, "This time of year (Christmas) is about rebirth; it's about revival." He told the board, "Honestly, I think there is a reason I'm here (at Sunrise) at this time."

Suttles said he approaches life in "a very basic" manner, explaining, "I try to love God and love people."

Recalling his "grassroots upbringing" in the small northeast Kentucky town of Olive Hill at a time when people would look out for one another's kids, Suttles said, "That's how I know people are important in the lives of kids."

Suttles shared with the Mission Board how being the parent of a special needs child had given him a heart for helping hurting children. He related how he and his wife had struggled at first in adjusting and caring for an adopted son, who had been abused as a child and was severely developmentally delayed.

"There is a reason I am here," Suttles affirmed again. "I want to take this organization because my Matthew is a Sunrise kid," he said, recounting how his son was later diagnosed with Aspergers and had faced many of the same emotional challenges as some of the children at Sunrise.

"If you could take a tour through some of the facilities (at Sunrise) and hear some of their stories, and then if you could see the outcome, it is so amazing," Suttles said, reminding the board, "(There are) a lot of good people there, doing a lot of good work."

Suttles said he recently had encouraged Sunrise's employees: "We could get where we want to go if we go hand in hand with the Baptist community."

"We are going to come back bigger and stronger than ever," Suttles assured. "But we can't do it without (Kentucky Baptists)," he said, "and we won't do it without (the Mission Board)."

Chitwood then spoke three assurances to Kentucky Baptists: Sunrise has the right people leading the agency for this season; its board of trustees is committed to being an organization that reflects biblical values and a gospel witness; and Sunrise will remain committed to being Baptist and an agency of the Kentucky Baptist Convention.

Picking up on a comment by Suttles that receipts were down in November for Sunrise's annual Thanksgiving Offering, Chitwood urged Mission Board

Mission Board meets interim, approves two KBC hires

By Todd Deaton

Louisville—The Mission Board of the Kentucky Baptist Convention met the newly appointed interim president of Sunrise Children Services and filled two key positions on the convention's staff during its Dec. 10 meeting.

Dale Suttles, a regional advancement director at Sunrise's interim president at a special called meeting of its board of trustees Nov. 26 at an off-campus location (see relate story). Suttles' appointment follows a vote of no confidence in the leadership of Sunrise's president, Bill Smithwick, during the KBC annual meeting in Paducah Nov. 12.

Members of the Mission Board approved the appointment of Roger Alford, bivocational pastor of Long Ridge Baptist Church in Owenton, since 2009, as the KBC's communications director. A graduate of Union College in Barboursville, he also is supervisory correspondent for the Associated Press bureau in Frankfort, covering state government and politics.

Alford previously has served as an AP correspondent in Pikeville and as a staff writer for the Columbus Dispatch, the Portsmouth Daily Times, The Ashland Daily Independent and The Middlesboro

Daily News.

The Mission Board also approved hiring Andy McDonald as the KBC's affinity evangelism strategist, a newly created position—leaving only one remaining vacancy on the KBC staff, noted KBC Executive Director Paul Chitwood.

McDonald currently serves as minister of students and discipleship at First Baptist Church of Simpsonville. A graduate of William Tyndale Bible College and Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, he previously has served in similar capacities at Zion Baptist Church in Henderson and Memorial Baptist Church in Frankfort.

In his first address as the new KBC president, Chip Hutcheson drew upon the story of Bartimaeus, a blind beggar, to challenge the Mission Board.

Bartimaeus, said Hutcheson, a member of Princeton's Southside Baptist Church, was not going to be discouraged by naysayers. He also did not worry about his handicap or complain about what he could not do. Instead, he set aside anything that would hinder him from reaching the Lord.

Asserting that "we need more Bartimaeuses in our world," Hutcheson emphasized that when Jesus heard his desperate cry, He stood still. "Jesus stood still for me, and He stood still for



Andy McDonald



Roger Alford

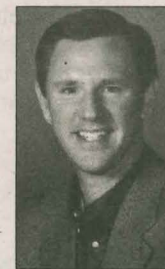
members, "Go back to your church and give them the assurances you received today" and ask them to make a sacrificial gift to Sunrise.

In a Dec. 9 letter to pastors, Sunrise board chairman William Hurley also sought to reassure Kentucky Baptists: "If recent headlines have your congregation wondering whether or not they should continue their support of Sunrise, let me assure there should be no cause for concern. Rest assured that if you and your church continue to support Sunrise financially, we will never forget our responsibility to the children extends not just to their physical well-being, but to their spiritual well-being also."

"We will not knowingly expose any child in Sunrise's care to un-biblical influences. We dare not do anything to lead any of these little ones astray," Hurley stated. "We as a Board have asked and are continuing to ask God for His

"Go back to your church and give them the assurances" and ask them to make a sacrificial gift to Sunrise.

Paul Chitwood



wisdom and discernment in all Sunrise business affairs, to sustain us and to sustain the children in our care."

Chitwood, in his overall report to the Mission Board, said Kentucky Baptists' 176-year history continues to be characterized by "resilience, unity and Kingdom legacy." Speaking from 1 Corinthians 16:23-29, he exhorted Kentucky Baptists to "ascribe to the Lord the glory due His name."

them discipline, order and responsibility.

When Wake moved out of the children's home he found work at a grocery store by Mel Keeling. Wake said Keeling was the closest thing to a father figure he had at that point in his life. Wake remembers Keeling would say, "If a job's worth doing, it's worth doing well," and Wake has lived his life trying to instill that message into his own children and students.

While attending Lyndon Baptist Church in Louisville, Wake and a group of friends visited Cumberland College. The boys loved the school so much that most of them ended up enrolling. Wake was one of them.

In 1965, Wake graduated from Cumberland College with a degree in history. He would go on to earn his master's

you," Hutcheson said.

"Do I stand still?" Hutcheson asked. "I can be awful busy," the Times Leader editor said, urging Kentucky Baptists to stand still to see the needs of others.

In other action, the Mission Board approved a recommendation from its business and finance committee that \$365,500 of \$563,050 in unspent budget funds from fiscal year 2012-2013 be retained in the KBC's current unrestricted fund balance to be used for ongoing staff transitions.

The board also approved transferring the remainder of \$198,550 and short-term interest funds of \$52,450, totaling \$250,000, for distribution to various year-end mission board needs in 2014, including:

- \$15,000 for ministers in need;
- \$20,000 for communications/media equipment;
- \$15,000 for unlimited partnerships project;
- \$30,000 for computer software development;
- \$2,500 for staff wellness emphasis;
- \$67,500 for repairs to the exterior of the Kentucky Baptist Building;
- \$75,000 for replacement and repair at campus ministry facilities;
- \$25,000 for computer equipment.

Don Mathis, chairman of the business and finance committee, reported that CP giving for September through November was 5 percent above the same period last year. (WR)

"I could not be more pleased with where we are today," Chitwood said in regard to progress made since the mission board's staff restructuring that began two years ago toward sending more Cooperative Program support to missions.

Chitwood predicted that opposition to a biblical worldview will continue growing and sweep across the nation as the culture becomes increasingly secular, and that culturally-minded Christians soon may abandon pews because they are unwilling to pay the price.

"God has called on us not in a time when it is easy and getting easier; He has called on us in a time when it is challenging, and it's going to get downright hard," Chitwood said.

Yet, "God must think a lot of you," he encouraged Kentucky pastors, emphasizing that God has entrusted them to do His work at such a time. (WR)

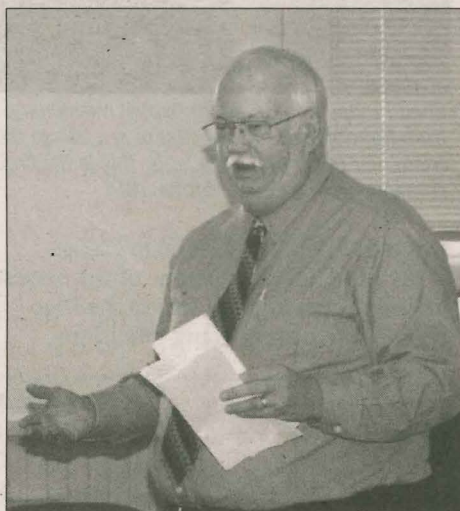
Eric Wake:
A Cumberland's legend

By Jennifer Wake-Floyd

Williamsburg—Few people can honestly say that their life was a dream come true, but Eric Wake can.

After losing both parents, which forced him to spend a number of years in a Baptist children's home, Wake had the courage to dream a dream and then set the goal to make his dream a reality.

Wake's experience at the Baptist Children's Home in Louisville was different than some would assume. The home was filled with older women who cared very much for the children and instilled in



Eric Wake has been a history professor at Cumberland for 47 years. (UC)

degree in history at Texas Christian University and then a Ph.D. in early modern European history, also at TCU.

Finally, Wake returned to his beloved alma mater as a history professor.

"University of the Cumberland means everything to me," said Wake. "It is my home. My family is right here."

Wake, now in his 47th year at Cumberland, is celebrating his journey with a new book, "A City Set on a Hill Cannot be Hidden"—a reflection of the University of the Cumberland's last 25 years.

"I could not have done what I did without UC and the people who have helped me along the way," Wake said.

"I wouldn't be teaching either, and I would literally feel lost without my teaching career," Wake added. "I owe everything to this university." (UC)

Zombies helping plant New York church

'Walking Dead' comics to fund Owensboro couple's mission trip

By Beth Noffsinger

Owensboro—Brian and Sarah Baughn want to go on a mission trip to New York City with Life Community Church, but they didn't know how they would be able to raise the funds to make the trip.

A conversation about pop culture and comic books between Brian Baughn and his pastor, Kenny Rager, led to a comic book discovery that could yield enough money for the couple's first mission trip.

"It's kind of like God provides for us. ... Here, we've got this," Baughn said. "We've got it taken care of."

The Baughns, along with Rager and his wife, Taran, had taken their children trick or treating, when the conversation turned to "The Walking Dead," a television show and comic book series about a zombie apocalypse.

"We started talking about 'The Walking Dead' and the phenomenon of zombie everything out here," Baughn said. "I said, 'I think I might have some 'Walking Dead' comics.' He kind of looked at me. He said, 'Do you have some of the (older) issues?'"

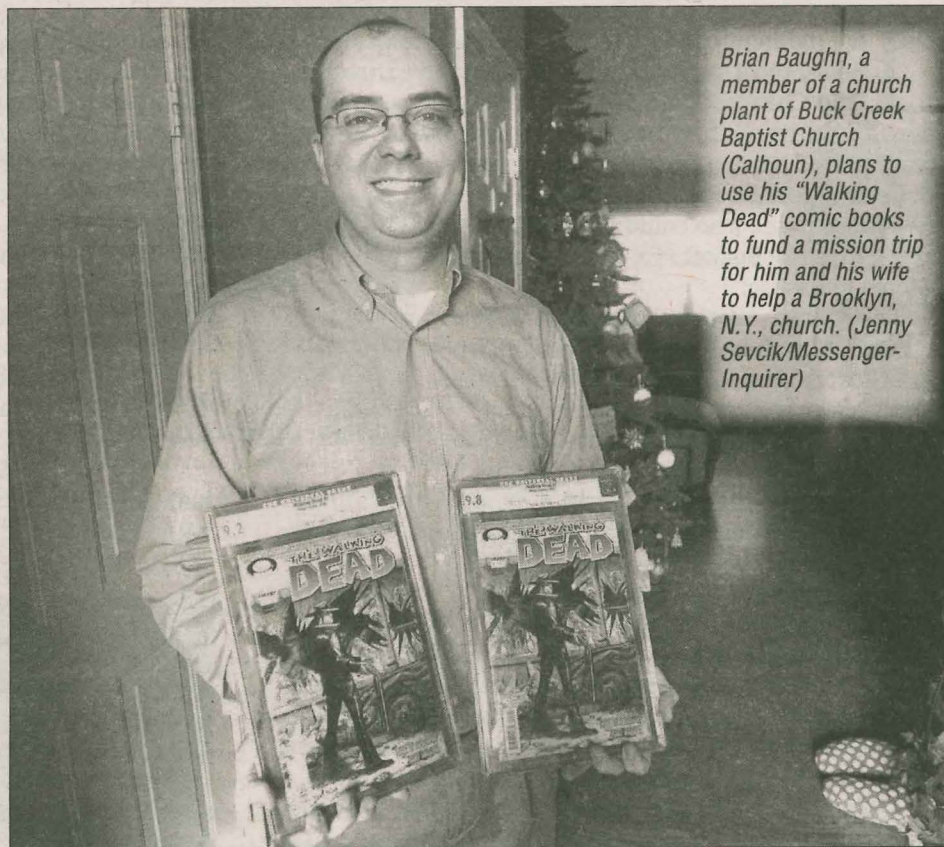
Baughn read the comic book when it started about 10 years ago, and told Rager he had about 20 of them.

At that point, Rager's "eyes kind of bulged," Baughn said, as the pastor pulled out a smart phone and showed him a copy of the first issue of the comic selling for about \$2,000.

"Kenny's like, 'do you think you have the No. 1?' ... I said, 'I think I've actually got two No. 1s,'" he said.

Baughn's comic book collection is stored at his mother's house, and he called her that same night. As she counted back from 20, Baughn discovered he had 19 of the first 20 issues—missing only issue No. 2—and two copies of the first edition.

Baughn explained that he always bought two copies of a No. 1 issue—that way, if the comic became collectible, he



Brian Baughn, a member of a church plant of Buck Creek Baptist Church (Calhoun), plans to use his "Walking Dead" comic books to fund a mission trip for him and his wife to help a Brooklyn, N.Y., church. (Jenny Sevcik/Messenger-Inquirer)

had one to keep and one to sell.

Baughn began calling comic book stores and was told he could get between \$1,000 to \$2,000 for the No. 1.

"They told me that this comic book in particular is the highest selling comic book in the 21st century with it only being 10 years old," Baughn said.

"It's just phenomenal," Rager said. "You take a book about zombies, of all things—how spiritual is that, right? A book about zombies, and you turn around, and you're using it to help people and to bless people, to share the good news of Jesus. It's just amazing."

Life Community Church, a church plant of Buck Creek Baptist Church in Calhoun and affiliated with the Kentucky Baptist Convention, will be doing service projects in late June and early July for a new church plant in Brooklyn. The Owensboro church learned about the mission opportunity through the North American Mission Board.

Life Community Church will be helping the New York church "bless the neighborhood," Rager said, by helping the homeless, cleaning sidewalks and other projects.

"We're a little over a year old, so we wanted to go ahead and help another new church," he said.

Around 20 members are expected to make the church's first-ever mission trip.

Rager is a fan of "The Walking Dead" television show, though he doesn't read the comics. He said some people think that when a person becomes a Christian, his or her life is dried up.

"Some people think we become the walking dead when we become a Christian," Rager said, "but Christ gives us life. It's OK to laugh. It's OK to have fun. It's OK to have hobbies. ... I've loved comics every since I've been a little kid."

"I just think it's amazing. God can use anything, absolutely anything for his kingdom." (Messenger-Inquirer)

Patriots take 'Road to Rome'

UC heads to first NAIA championship

Williamsburg—The University of the Cumberlands football program will make its first-ever appearance in the NAIA National Championship when they face off against number two Grand View University Dec. 21 in Rome, Ga.

The Patriots (13-0) clenched their place in the championship finals after beating six-time NAIA National Champion Carroll College Dec. 7 in overtime 34-27. Carroll College is a private, Catholic liberal arts college in Helena, Mont.

Defense was key in defeating the Fighting Saints during semifinal play. The Patriot line denied Carroll College all 12 third-down conversions. UC's defense was led by Weston Hazelhurst with 17 tackles and a key sack that ended the game.

Offensively, the Patriots were led by freshman Adam Craig with 27 carries for 165 yards and two touchdowns, bringing Craig's season stats to 1,157 rushing yards with 24 touchdowns, and 1,305 passing yards with 13 touchdowns.

"Now, we just have one more game to go to reach our ultimate goal of winning a national championship," said UC Head Coach John Bland after the semifinals.

The Patriots now turn their attention to Grand View University, a private liberal arts school affiliated with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Des Moines, Iowa.

"We have watched some film on Grand View," Bland said. "They are fast, physical and tackle really well."

Both teams head into the championship game 6-0 in their divisions and 8-0 against NAIA Top 25 teams.

Kickoff for the 58th Russell Athletic-NAIA Football National Championship will be at Barron Stadium in Rome, Ga. at 4:30 p.m. (WR/UC)

Campbellsville partnering with area schools, teaching robotics

By Austin Yates

Campbellsville—When one thinks of Campbellsville University, "robotics" is not the first word that comes to mind.

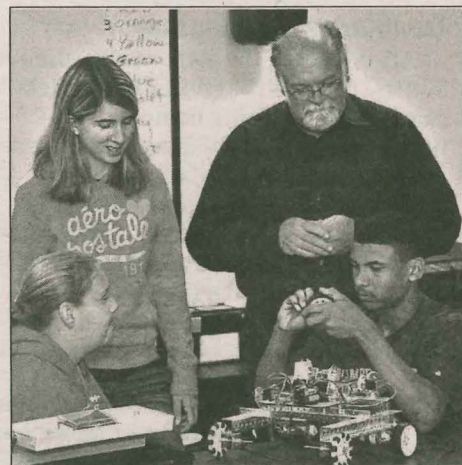
But thanks to a partnership with Green County Area Technology Center, Campbellsville and Taylor County schools and Team Taylor County—a science fiction fantasy is becoming a reality for some local high school students.

Campbellsville University's Technology Training Center II is housing a new robotics course taught through the Green County Area Technology Center. The class is being offered to students enrolled at Taylor County and Campbellsville high schools.

David Rauch of the Green County ATC teaches the course.

"What kids are learning here is going to help them wherever they go after graduation," Rauch said.

Computer engineering is what Eric



Robotics instructor David Rauch looks over work being done at a new robotics class by Fayth Wise (standing), Brooklyan Cox (seated, left) and Austyn Thornton. (CU/Austin Yates)

Lamer, a junior at Campbellsville High School, wants to do.

"Knowing robotics helps with things

like programming and coding," Lamer said. "This class has helped better me with what I want to do with my life."

"I've enjoyed it," said Austin Colvin, a sophomore from Taylor County High School. "It's been difficult, but it's been fun."

Through the class, Colvin discovered that he is "more of a mechanical-type person," and said he now is interested in becoming a disc rotor technician.

Ron McMahan, Team Taylor County executive director, said the robotic students were "top notch at what they do."

One of the benefits of the class is how it affects the local economy, said John Chowning, vice president for church and external relations and executive assistant to the president at Campbellsville.

"Area industries need more career-ready workers trained in these programs. This creates a need for a facility in Campbellsville," Chowning said.

Michael Rodenberg, president of

Murakami Manufacturing USA, said there is a great benefit in cities like Campbellsville having skilled workers.

"We need people in the area who know how to operate these kinds of machines," Rodenberg said. "For these students, we want them to get excited about robotics because of its use in manufacturing and engineering."

"We look forward to partnering with the school systems of Green County, Taylor County, Campbellsville and Campbellsville University is encouraging our students to develop their talents as well as working together to create opportunities in the future for local advanced and degreed technical education," he said.

All partners involved hope the robotic classes will get bigger and more expansive over time.

"This will attract high school students and adults to the campus. Some other longer term partnerships could result from this as well," Chowning said. (CU)

Past, present, future

Baptist churches in Kentucky 176 years ago became convinced they could do more to reach Kentucky and the world for Christ if they partnered together than if they worked in independence and isolation. They formed an association that would later be known as the Kentucky Baptist Convention.

Together We are the KBC



Paul Chitwood

That decision would have a profound impact upon the Southern Baptist Convention when it was formed nearly a decade later. The impact is still being felt today.

For example, the first and largest of Southern Baptist's seminaries has been

located in Kentucky since 1877. Moreover, the Cooper Program was modeled after the budget plan adopted by the KBC in 1915 in my home church of Jellico First Baptist. Furthermore, a disproportionate number of SBC leaders have either hailed from Kentucky or called the Bluegrass home for a period of time. Consider that of the 12 SBC agency heads serving today, five have been teaching pastors at one of our KBC churches, Highview Baptist. Several others have studied at our seminary. And of all the state conventions, the KBC was the first to adopt a Great Commission Resurgence initiative.

More than a history lesson or an opportunity to celebrate the faithfulness of the people we know as Kentucky Baptists, I hope reminders of our past and our legacy will challenge us to persevere when we confront the unique challenges of our generation. Whether we think about the crisis experienced by our churches in this border state during the Civil War, the struggles endured by our people during the Great Depression, or the pervasive confusion felt by people in the pew during the Conservative Resurgence, Kentucky Baptists and a reputation for resiliency, unity, and Kingdom legacy. That hasn't changed.

Nor has the fact that, in the words of our Lord, we are merely unworthy servants who have been called to do our duty: reach Kentucky and the world for Christ. I believe we will be most effective as we labor together, leverage partnerships for the sake of the gospel, and live as light in an ever-darkening culture.

Kevin Ezell, North American Mission Board president, recently asked where I see things going in the future of our work. I confessed that I believe the culture will become increasingly hostile to the gospel and to a biblical worldview, resources will continue to diminish, and planting churches, growing churches and pastoring churches will become increasingly difficult. I also told him that I was not lamenting any of these realities. To the contrary, I celebrate the fact that God has chosen us to serve when the work is getting harder rather than easier.

God must hold Kentucky Baptists in high regard. So do I.

Paul Chitwood is executive director of the Kentucky Baptist Convention.

BGR: A bucket full does a world of good

In a moment of levity in an otherwise routine Mission Board meeting last week, KBC Executive Director Paul Chitwood and Adam Greenway, a past KBC president and current chairman of its administrative committee, squared off in a friendly competition during Joy Bolton's report for Kentucky WMU. The two raced to see who could pack a bucket faster for "The Bucket Project" of Baptist Global Response.

The contest, though, turned out to be a bit unfair. In short, Chitwood cheated. In lighthearted fun, Chitwood swiped Greenway's bucket before he could even start packing, bringing a round of laughter from onlookers. Seconds later, with a "touch-down gesture" and puckish grin, Chitwood proclaimed victory as the Southern Seminary dean shook his head in dismay. He never had a chance.

Through the Bucket Project, however, a bucket full of everyday items will do a world of good. Bolton and WMU president Linda Cooper, of Bowling Green, were in South Africa last week at the request of Baptist Global Relief. In her report, videotaped prior to departure, Bolton explained that they were working with Tabitha Ministries, a ministry which reaches out to children and families with AIDS.

"Tabitha has the Hope Center, an orphanage for children whose parents have died from AIDS," she explained. "They also reach out to children in Sweetwaters Township, where many live in child-headed households because the parents have died of AIDS." She and Cooper went to South Africa now because it is summer school break there, Bolton continued. "We are leading Vacation Bible School in the mornings, working with the children at the orphanage in the afternoons, and packing Christmas boxes to be delivered into the community," she said. "We also will be delivering Hospice Care Buckets in the community."

Kentucky will be the lead state for the Bucket Project in 2014, and Kentucky WMU are inviting churches to fill buckets or bring the items to go in the WMU annual meeting, April 4-5, at Central Baptist Church in

Winchester. "We will have a bucket packing party during the meeting and hope to fill a shipping container on site," Bolton said. A shipping container holds 700 buckets. "We really would like to fill two shipping containers with the second going wherever BGR thinks it is needed most,"

Bolton added.

Many of the items are ones which we may take for granted: vitamins, soap, lip balm, disposable gloves, fingernail clippers, toothbrushes, toothpaste, body lotion, washcloths, towels, straws, kitchen scrub brushes, garbage bags and socks—just to name a few. "But in very poor homes, these items are so needed to help care for a sick family member," Bolton

After Thought

By Todd Deaton

said. For the full list and instructions, email Herb and Wanda Edminster, the Kentucky BGR Bucket coordinators, at kybuckets@msn.com. One kit costs about \$85, so you

may want to recruit a few friends or a Sunday school class to help fill a bucket.

After seeing the needs in South Africa first hand last week, Bolton and the others on the BGR team will have plenty of stories to tell. In Facebook posts, Bolton wrote: "It has been a great week of ministry, but also one that has affected us deeply as we have visited in homes where someone is dying from AIDS and worked with children in poverty. I am so grateful for Baptist Global Response and



Chitwood swipes Greenway's bucket as Jon Auten looks on. (KBC)

Tabitha Ministries that care for "the least of these." And as the team left Johannesburg to return home, she posted: "(It) was great to be here and we leave with a greater understanding of the needs and opportunities. Can't wait to pack a shipping container of hospice care buckets at (the) annual meeting!"

Base Camp training

Recently the Western Recorder ran a story about Kyle Noffsinger and myself partnering in Sub-Saharan Africa to reach unreached-unengaged people groups. Thank you for promoting this work. We need more churches to engage these areas of darkness.

One aspect that was not in the Baptist Press story was that I feel called to do more than just go to West Africa and evangelize. I really feel a burden to mobilize others with work.

I am partnering with Greg Queen to host a Sub-Saharan Base Camp training at my church March 28-29 that will be slightly different than most. It will include a mobilization module to encourage pastors who are not currently involved to adopt their own UUPGs (unengaged, unreached people groups).

When I attended this same Inter-

national Mission Board training, I had to drive to South Carolina which was 14 hours away. I now serve an Illinois Baptist church, but this training is supposed to be a regional IMB event and will be the closest many of my Kentucky brothers will ever have the opportunity to attend, and is unique in that it will have a mobilization component. For more information or to register, call (618) 735-2191.

Carlton Binkley, pastor
First Baptist Church
Woodlawn, Ill.

Troubled by assumption

After reading the articles regarding Sunrise Children's Services and its decision regarding hiring homosexuals, I have been extremely sad and perplexed. My opinion about this issue has come only after many hours of reading and study, as well as a number of years working in the area of child abuse. I am concerned that the leadership of the KBC and others are taking the view that

strictly being homosexual automatically removes one from the ability to serve children in the name of Christ.

I am deeply troubled by what appears to be an assumption that a person who has come out of the closet to claim who they are, homosexual, is suspect of being a negative influence on children. As Baptists we claim to have such high moral values that promote healthy young adults. What about the young adult who reads these articles and finds himself or herself struggling with self-identity? They are supposed to believe that God made them beautiful as they are, but wait, no, God must have made

□ See Letters ... Page 5

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WESTERN Recorder

Box 43969
Louisville, KY 40253

DR. TODD DEATON
Editor

ROBIN CORNETT BASS
News Director

THOMAS C. TOWNSEND
Marketing & Business Manager

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Dan Summerlin, Paducah.

Shine Like Stars * Philippians 2:15

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Pastors, let's move Lottie beyond \$175M

By Johnny Hunt

I can see Southern Baptists coming together on mission with purpose to empower a called-out people to touch the nations. Do you see it, the fulfilling of the Great Commission?

There is a movement, a mighty movement in place in our hearts, our churches, our associations, our states and our convention. God is allowing us to join Him in touching the nations. We are coming together and it is rallying around our mission—to make Christ known everywhere.

My heart has been moved as I have heard from Tom Elliff and others concerning the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for International Missions. We have had a goal of \$175 million for several years, only to fall short each year. We have been noted as a people on mission for God. It is my prayer that we would step up to the plate this year and empower our International Mission Board to do what God has called them to do—send the called and equipped to the nations. Would you consider your Lottie Moon Christmas gift as your gift to the Lord Jesus Christ as we celebrate His birth?

I have often felt that what is important to you as a leader, the pastor, is what is important to your people. Let's make Revelation 7:9 important. Remind our people to get a glimpse of that day around the throne when every tribe, every nation, every people will be there because of God's marvelous grace and the faithfulness of His dear people to make the gospel known.

By the will of God, I am going to lead First Baptist Church of Woodstock to send its largest Lottie Moon Christmas Offering ever. I am going to do it predicated on 1 Chronicles 29:14, that everything I have was placed in my hand by God. Even the gifts I give Him were actually His to me. I am going to challenge you and our people with 1 Chronicles 29:3, that we set our affection not on the house of God as David challenged the people in building the temple, but that we set our affection on the nations coming to know God.

In 1 Chronicles 29:5 the people consecrated

themselves to the Lord and in verse 6 they offered willingly. Let's give while our hands are warm. Remember you will never miss anything you give away and we are never more like Jesus than when we are giving. It is my prayer that each of us will do now what we will be glad we did when we stand before the Lord. Let's give in light of eternity.

FIRST PERSON

I would like to make some suggestions to my Southern Baptist brothers and sisters:

- Would you give more to Jesus through the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering this year than you spend on any other person or gift?
- Would you prayerfully consider giving the amount equivalent to a week's tithe to the LMCO?
- Would you pray about giving a week's income to the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering?
- Would you pray about having a LMCO yard sale with all proceeds going to the nations?
- Would you pause right now and ask your heavenly Father what He wishes to give through you?

What would happen if we began to believe God to really help us be faithful and sacrificial in going and giving to the nations? I believe that if we will be faithful in giving our missions gifts, it will embolden our missionaries on the field. I believe our own churches will be overwhelmed by our unity around God's mission. We could make Jesus known in a new way around the world.

It is my prayer that each of us would allow God to transform our hearts into hearts for the nations and realize that God indeed loves a cheerful giver and that it is more blessed to give than to receive.

Southern Baptists, we can do this!

In Jesus' name, let's all challenge our churches to give far over and above. Let's lead out as pastors not only by exhorting our people, but by emulating these principles of generous giving before them. Let the worshippers arise so that others may have the privilege to worship God with us. Let's exceed the \$175 million goal. Let's do it in Jesus' name and for Jesus' sake.

Johnny Hunt is pastor of First Baptist Church, in Woodstock, Ga., and a former SBC president.

'Tis grieving season for many

By James Stillwell

You're not alone if you're grieving this holiday season. Look for grief gatherings in your area by entering key words into Internet search engines such as "grief support" or "grieving during the holidays."



Remember that the reason for the season is not the consumer-driven, competitive search for gifts or excessive end-of-year parties. Find ways to observe the birth of the Savior that fit your energy level. Consider something you have avoided in the past, but now seems right for you, such as touring Christmas-decorated historical homes.

Grieve in your own way. Remember your loved one by giving to a cause they supported, by placing a special ornament on the tree, or by taking time to visit their grave or scattering site.

As the year winds down, find the reflective activity that feels right for you. Contemplate the promise of life-everlasting reunion someday and the comfort in the midst of sorrow.

Consider these Christmas gifts to yourself:

Say "no" to guilt for choosing activities that seem right for you.

Say "no" to a too-busy holiday schedule that gives you no time for reflection.

Say "yes" to new traditions of giving that honor what your loved one held dear.

Say "yes" to however you feel, whether you need comfort or a moment of joy.

Say "yes" to time-honored traditions that bring comfort by their familiarity.

To navigate the end of December successfully, grieve in a way that's right for you, not in a way that is boxed in by the expectations of others. In a world that's busy with "do" and "go," give yourself permission to just be.

James Stillwell is a pastoral counselor and serves as interim pastor of Calvary Baptist Church in Irvine.

Letters

Continued from page 4

an error. Those young people must be thinking, I am OK, but not OK enough to be employed by a Baptist agency.

What I would love to see from the trustees of Sunrise is a high standard for actions required while working for the agency, regardless of sexual orientation. I would want to find out what that person's relationship to Jesus Christ is. Do they feel called to minister.

As the Baptist position is now, if a person admits to being homosexual, he or she is not fit for service in the kingdom. How sad. I do not believe this stand is consistent with the teachings of Jesus. What a missed opportunity to show the world that Jesus' message of love is there for all.

Linda Waller
Shepherdsville

Laws protect church

Several weeks ago, the Western Recorder ran a first person piece by Kelly Boggs titled "Homosexual activists at the church door." The article focused on a New Jersey court ruling that required Ocean Grove Camp Meeting Association to make their pavilion available for the wedding of a lesbian couple. Boggs concluded that this set a legal precedent that could force churches to do the same in the near future.

The article seemed a bit alarmist, so I took my questions to Brent Walker,

executive director of the Baptist Joint Committee in Washington.

Walker told me that the OGCMA was very loosely related to the United Methodist Church, and that the ruling was more an accommodation to the Civil Rights Act than an intrusion on the church. In Brent's words, "Churches are different, and pervasively religious bodies get treated differently."

Walker told me about a Supreme Court decision earlier this year that resulted in a 9-0 verdict in favor of strong church autonomy. Chief Justice, John Roberts Jr. wrote for the court, "The interest of society in enforcing employee discrimination statutes is undoubtedly important, but so too is the interest of religious groups in choosing who is going to preach their beliefs, teach their faith and carry out their mission." The issue here was employment discrimination, but the principle remains. Churches still have the right of self-determination that allows them to protect their beliefs and values.

In summation, present laws adequately protect the church, and these laws cannot be second-guessed by the courts. At the same time, Walker encourages churches not to stray too far from their main mission and their primary ministry goals. He tells churches to limit the activities they host to non-profit organizations whose work flows more directly from the mission and ministry of the church.

David Garrard
Louisville

Pastors and Christmas gifts

By Thom Rainer

I received a query from a person recently who indicated his curiosity and perhaps concern about how pastors are treated at Christmastime. On topics similar to this, I typically hear from one or two persons who are eager to point to pastors who feel entitled or who are treated too lavishly.

Please hear me clearly. Those pastors are the clear exceptions. Most pastors receive little and expect little. They see their clear call to serve and to care for the congregation.

On Twitter, I then asked a simple question: What do you do for your pastor at Christmastime? For pastors, I asked what their congregations gave them at Christmas.

Having been concerned about how congregations treat pastors, I thought the issue of the Christmas gift would at least be an indicator of such concern.

Though my survey was not scientific, it was nevertheless revealing.

There were two dominant responses, each at about 40 percent of the total. One of those came from pastors or church members who shared with me that they indeed did give a gift to their pastor during the Christmas season.

The most common gift noted was a cash gift equivalent to one week of salary. The pastors who received such a gift expressed deep appreciation for the

thought. I sensed no attitudes of entitlement in their responses.

A second dominant response, from both pastors and church members alike, was that the pastor received nothing at Christmastime. Church members were more likely to comment on this attitude than pastors. One person said: "If it's anything like pastor appreciation month, they won't even know it's Christmas."

My heart broke as I read many of those type of responses. My pain is not so much related to the failure of a church to give a monetary or material gift; rather, it's the failure of a church to acknowledge the gift that a pastor is during this season.

There are few hundred thousand pastors in America. The vast majority of them sacrifice and give for the sake of their congregations and for the glory of God. Many of them struggle financially and, often, emotionally.

A gift of some sort would do wonders for the pastor and the pastor's family. The amount or cost of the gift is not the issue here; it is the encouragement the pastor receives when he knows he is loved and appreciated.

As we approach the Christmas season, remember your pastors and staff. Let them know in some tangible way how much you truly value them. (BP)
Thom Rainer is president of LifeWay Christian Resources of the Southern Baptist Convention.

Calvinists plan student mission confab

By Bob Allen

Louisville—Students of the New Calvinism movement, identified by titles including "young, restless and reformed," will head to Louisville during Christmas break for a missions conference organized "for the global purpose of magnifying the kingly majesty of Jesus Christ" by focusing "on all the unreached peoples of the world where Jesus is not worshipped as God and Savior."

Joining John Piper on the leadership team are Thabiti Anyabwile, senior pastor of First Baptist Church of Grand Cayman in the Grand Cayman Islands; Kevin DeYoung, senior pastor at University Reformed Church in East Lansing, Mich.; and David Platt, pastor of the Church at Brook Hills in Birmingham, Ala.

Another member is Zane Pratt, team leader of the Global Theological Education Strategy Team for the Southern Baptist International Mission Board and former dean of the Billy Graham School of Missions, Evangelism and Ministry at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary.

David Sitton, president of To Every Tribe, a missionary church-planting organization based in Los Fresnos, Texas, and Mack Stiles, CEO of Gulf Digital Solutions and general secretary for the Fellowship of Christian UAE Students (FOCUS) in the United Arab Emirates, round out the leadership team.

All belong to the Gospel Coalition, a Reformed evangelical movement started in 2007 over concern about "some movements within traditional evangelicalism that seem to be diminishing the church's life and leading us away from our his-

toric beliefs and practices."

Piper wrote in a recent blog that the conference planners believe God is stirring among young people today in ways similar to the Student Volunteer Movement, which recruited thousands of missionaries between 1886 and 1920.

"We see a growing tide of students with a big view of God as sovereign and glorious," Piper wrote. "This tide has been fed by decades of God-exalting worship music, Bible-saturated campus ministries, and the book-publishing and social-media explosion of the Reformed resurgence."

"In other words, there are thousands of students eager to plug the cord of their passion into the great biblical truths of the Reformation," Piper said. "They care about building their lives and ministries on robust theology. We want to point that tide to the unreached peoples of the world."

The conference website includes a statement of faith that describes "election" as "an unconditional act of free grace" by which "God chose, before the foundation of the world, those who would be delivered from bondage to sin and brought to repentance and saving faith in His Son Christ Jesus."

Scheduled speakers include Albert Mohler, president of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, and David Sills, professor of Christian missions and cultural anthropology at SBTS. Current students who attend the conference can earn three hours of transferable graduate or undergraduate credit through Southern Seminary or Boyce College, the seminary's undergraduate school. (ABP)

NEWS BRIEFS

Dockery bids farewell to Union

David Dockery bade farewell as Union University's 15th president during an emotional address Dec. 5 to university trustees, administrators and community leaders.

In January, Dockery announced his intentions to step down from the presidency and assume the position of chancellor no later than July 2014. More recently, he said that he had decided the chancellor's position would be only an honorary role.

Though he will still technically be the university president until June, Dockery said his final months in that position will most likely be spent preparing to transition to new opportunities. The search committee expects to name a new president early in 2014, and Dockery said he wants to give that person the freedom to begin crafting a new administration.

Hawaii's new executive director

The Hawaii Pacific Baptist Convention has chosen Christopher Martin, pastor of Lahaina Baptist Church in Maui, as its next executive director.

A graduate of New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary and pastor in Hawaii for eight years, Martin has served in several convention roles and was elected president of the Hawaii convention just weeks before being named executive director. Having resigned as president, he will begin as executive director Jan. 1.

Martin succeeds Veryl Henderson, who will retire in December after more than 40 years in ministry.

A native of Louisiana, Martin worked for 10 years in the secular world as a maintenance mechanic and employee trainer before going to seminary and entering full-time ministry.

His first pastorate was at Angie Baptist Church in Louisiana, followed by two years at First Baptist Church in Cedar Key, Fla. Martin and his wife Wendy and their two children moved to Hawaii in 2005.

Utah polygamy law upended

U.S. District Court Judge Clark Waddoups declared key parts of Utah's polygamy law unconstitutional on Dec. 13 in a case involving the Brown family from TLC's reality show, "Sister Wives."

The 91-page ruling "sets a new legal precedent in Utah, effectively decriminalizing polygamy," the Salt Lake Tribune stated.

State officials, as of midday Dec. 14, had not indicated whether Utah will appeal Waddoups' ruling.

Waddoups was a nominee of President George W. Bush in 2008. Waddoups holds a law degree from the University of Utah's law school and an undergraduate degree from Brigham Young University.

The text of Waddoups' ruling can be accessed at <http://www.scribd.com/doc/191414121/Sister-Wives-Ruling>.

Merry Christmas to All

from President Michael V. Carter
and everyone at

Campbellsville
UNIVERSITY



Celebrating the birth of Jesus Christ, the reason for the season.

Please pray for our CU students, faculty and staff who will be fanning the globe to share the gospel over the holiday break. Over 20 students are heading to Grand Isle, Louisiana, working with John Boss (who did CU's fall revival). BCM President, Noah Blackburn, is leading the mission trip. CU faculty and a Board of Trustees member just returned from a mission trip to Cuba. Many students are planning mission work with their home churches and organizations over the holiday break. CU helps in every possible way during this holiday season in the name of the Christ of Christmas, most recently in Phillipine typhoon relief, a concert to raise money for Green River Ministries Shelter, Operation Christmas Child boxes, awareness of human trafficking and many other acts of Christian service.

To schedule a visit to campus in the New Year, call
270-789-5220 or visit the website: www.campbellsville.edu



Day of Service

Continued from page 1

The woman burst into tears—as did McCutchen.

“She was so hopeless,” McCutchen said. “She was so sad. She had resigned herself to the life she was now living.”

McCutchen was one of 130 NAMB staff members who participated in the Day of Service, during which NAMB intentionally involves staff in Southern Baptist ministries that help neglected neighbors, communities and children in the Atlanta area.

McCutchen, a ministry assistant who serves in NAMB’s mobilization and marketing group, was so profoundly moved by the experience that her family has decided not to buy one another Christmas presents this year and donate the money to 7 Bridges.

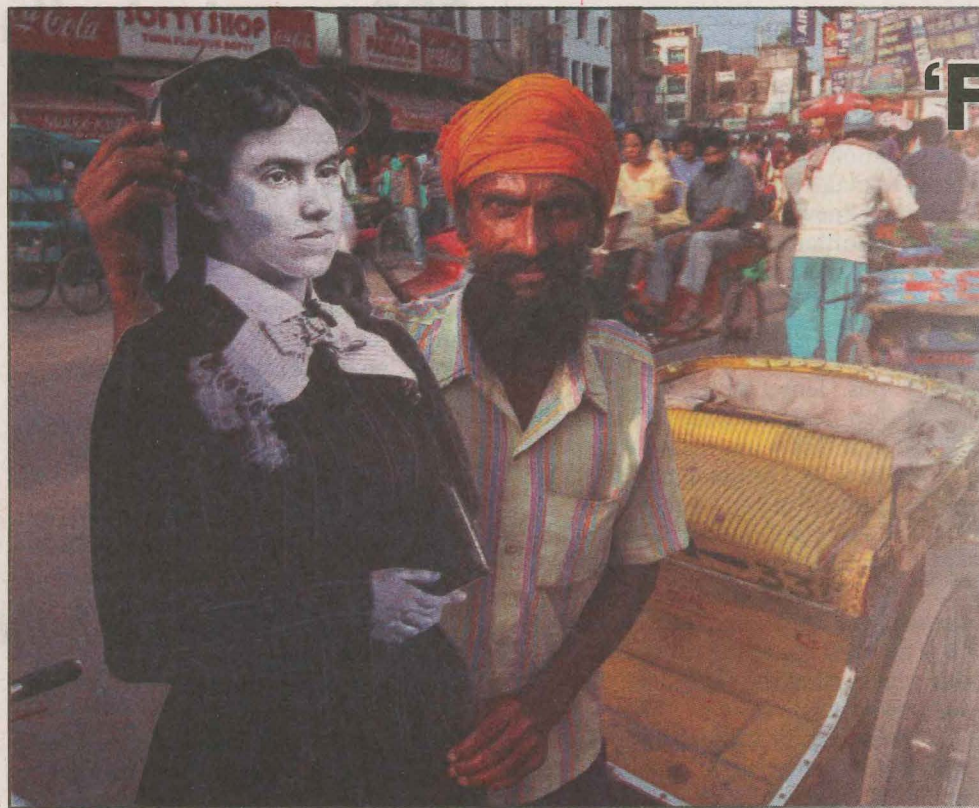
“We sit in our offices and talk about being missionaries,” McCutchen said. “But out there you get to be the missionary. You get to be the hands and feet of Jesus. You get to see what difference a meal can make. You’re on the front lines.”

7 Bridges is a ministry that began in 2001 when pastor 7 Wells (yes, the number 7) started reaching out in the places where Atlanta’s homeless, prostitutes and addicts reside in order to share the gospel and help them see how Jesus can restore their lives.

NAMB staff served the 7 Bridges team in a variety of ways—by preparing lunches for the homeless, distributing food and praying for the homeless, decorating the church for Christmas, helping with a construction project and helping with a women’s Bible study, among other activities. (BP)



NAMB staff member Deborah McCutchen delivers a sack lunch to a person living in a tent under one of Atlanta’s many overpasses. (John Swain/NAMB)



‘FLAT LOTTIE’ Shares her missions encounters

Twenty-five million Sikhs live around the world. Flat Lottie Moon visits with one in India through IMB representatives Bryan and Anne Evans.* (Name changed.)

BELOW: “Flat Lottie,” via computer graphics, joins the flow of urban bike riders in one of Asia’s megacities in one of her treks to report of the work of Southern Baptist missionaries.

By Art Toalston

Southeast Asia—Ever heard of Flat Stanley? How about Flat Lottie?

With Flat Stanley, schoolchildren exchange paper cutouts or digital images of Stanley as a way of interacting with students in other locations, even other countries.

Flat Lottie, akin to missionary pioneer Lottie Moon 100-plus years ago in China, is intent on stirring Southern Baptists to the fullest of missions support through their prayers, finances and involvement.

Flat Lottie, as a 4-foot/3-inch poster (the same height as the real-life Lottie Moon), has accompanied IMB writers, photographers and videographers across Asia as they’ve reported on the work of Southern Baptist missionaries in 2013 and 2012. Flat Lottie also has been transported to various missions settings as a caricature via computer graphics and as a hand-held paper cutout.

Flat Lottie’s travels in 2013 can be seen via an online, interactive map. Each pin in the map connects to a brief story about the missionary or missions outreach there.

“Wondering what your mission dollars have done this year?” one of the IMB/Asia writers noted in describing the purpose of Flat Lottie’s travels to communicate to Southern Baptists. “Flat Lottie



Moon set out across Asia to find out how every dollar given to the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering makes a difference. She visited our representatives who were hard at work sharing the gospel and helping communities.”

Flat Lottie also has been seen in a video featuring two young missions enthusiasts who tell about the famed missionary’s labors in China preceding her death in 1912.

“Our multimedia teams see your mission offering dollars at work in every story we do,” International Mission Board personnel in Asia wrote on their

AsiaStories website last year in describing their initial Flat Lottie project. “It’s a humbling experience to see how small and large gifts to the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering combine to make it possible to reach a lost world.”

Each media team, while traveling to gather missions stories, “took a life-sized poster of Lottie Moon with the goal of showing ‘Lottie@Work’ in places and doing ministries you’d never expect,” continued the description. “You should have seen the crazy looks thrown our way when we pulled out a 4-foot 3-inch poster of a missionary from the early 1900s. Of course we got a lot of smiles and laughter when we asked people to pose with our Flat Lottie. But to our surprise, this poster (sitting in a dugout canoe, scuba diving or digging a well) provided an opening to share about this legacy missionary and the message she carried so many years ago.”

The Lottie Moon Christmas Offering supports nearly 5,000 IMB missionaries worldwide. To view Flat Lottie’s travels; visit commissionstories.com and type “Flat Lottie” in the search. (BP)

Kenyans

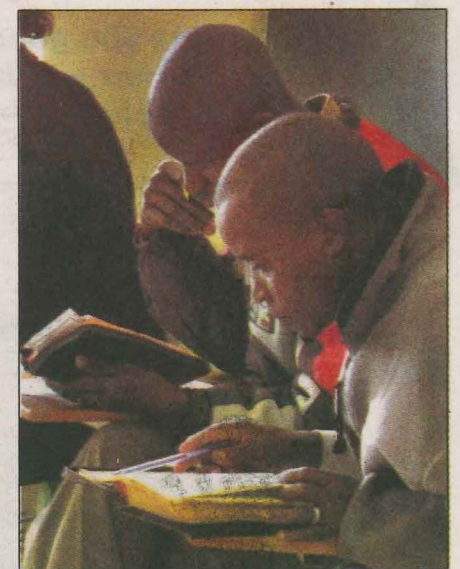
Continued from page 1

engaged in spiritual discussions in his dorm.

“That’s just really rapid and exciting discipleship,” Pumpelly said, “to watch someone grow from being just a ‘churchy’ background kind of person to taking hold of the faith and being committed to obey even the call to go and be a witness among another people.”

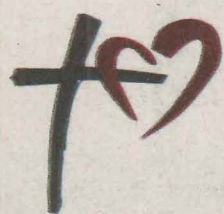
Southern Baptists’ giving to the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for International Missions and through the Cooperative Program makes Pumpelly’s presence in Kenya possible, along with nearly 5,000 other Southern Baptist missionaries overseas.

This giving enables Pumpelly to not only share the gospel in person but also to give Bibles to students like Freddy. Pumpelly said with more Lottie Moon dollars he could help



Students study their Bibles at the Kenyan Baptist Seminary where Southern Baptist missionary Chad Pumpelly teaches. (BP)

more Kenyan students like Freddy travel to unreached populations in Kenya to share the gospel with those who do not know Christ as Savior. (BP)



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Hurstbourne Baptist Church is seeking a pastor. Interested candidates, who feel led by the Holy Spirit, may submit their resume to the Pastor Search Committee at the above address.

Walking by faith

Student thankful for opportunity to grow his ministry skills

Senior Chris Jensen, of Springfield, Tenn., will be graduating in May and said he is thankful for all the ways God has helped him grow over his years at Clear Creek Bible College.

"I served at a church in Springfield and its congregation had always helped support a student attending (Clear Creek), so I knew a little about the college," said Jensen. "While serving there a few years ago, the Lord began to convict my heart about surrendering to the ministry to preach. I knew I would need some training if I made that commitment and I allowed some things to hold me back.

"One night we had a guest speaker at our church and God used him to speak to me about making a commitment to surrender my life to Him. I made a commitment that night, but I still allowed some things to hold me back from getting the training I knew I needed.

"I was struggling with what to do next," Jensen said.

"Then some things happened to my family that I believe the Lord used to take away some of the things I was trying to use as an excuse to hold me

back," Jensen said. "Once that happened, I recognized that God was using the situation to point me toward Clear Creek to make that commitment to the training I knew I needed. I was already familiar with the college and I felt like this was where the Lord wanted me to be.

"I sent in my application and we scheduled a visit to the campus," Jensen said. "We fell in love with the place and realized that this is where God wanted us to be. I resigned my job at the post office and we moved to Clear Creek on faith that God would provide for our needs.

"We had some pretty hard times in the beginning," Jensen noted, "but the Lord has always provided for our needs just at the right time when we needed it."

"My time at Clear Creek has been wonderful," Jensen said. "When you are at Clear Creek, you study from one end of the Bible to the other. My favorite classes have been my sermon preparation and sermon delivery classes. They have really helped me learn how to present what God has given me to say."

Clear Creek Chronicle



Donnie Fox

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.

CDC reports decline in U.S. abortions

By Emily Belz

Atlanta—Abortions are on the decline in the United States, though numbers remain shockingly high in New York City, according to a recent CDC report.

From 2001 to 2010, the number of reported legal abortions in the U.S. fell by 9 percent. However, the abortion rate among teenagers fell about 30 percent, likely due to the overall drop in teen pregnancies.

The number of abortions in New York City alone remains high with 83,750 occurring in 2010. That amounts to 694 abortions for every 1,000 live births. No other jurisdiction approaches that high

an abortion ratio.

The CDC report also showed that 82 percent of abortions in New York City were performed on African American or Hispanic women.

The CDC authors noted that the numbers, because they are voluntary, significantly underreport abortions, particularly the more fully researched Guttmacher Institute studies. For 2008, the CDC reported 825,564 abortions while Guttmacher reported 1.21 million abortions.

The study used voluntary data from 44 states, New York City and the District of Columbia. The six states not included in the study had not provided data for each of the 10 years. (BP)

William Hull, scholar, author, dies at 83

Birmingham, Ala.—William Hull, a renowned Baptist preacher, author and provost at both Samford University and Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, died Dec. 10 after a battle with amyotrophic lateral sclerosis.

Hull, 83, taught New Testament 17 years at Southern Seminary in Louisville and held administrative positions including dean and provost before accepting the pastorate at First Baptist Church of Shreveport, La., in 1975.

He returned to the classroom in 1987 as provost and university professor at Samford University in Birmingham, Ala. After retiring as provost in 1996, Hull served as theologian in residence at Mountain Brook Baptist Church in Birmingham.

Diagnosed with ALS in 2007, Hull

chronicled his journey with the progressive neurodegenerative condition often referred to as "Lou Gehrig's Disease" in a final sermon in 2008 and in a 2011 essay.

A native of Birmingham, Hull graduated from Samford, then known as Howard College, in 1951. He went on to earn the bachelor of divinity and doctor of theology degrees at Southern Seminary. He also completed post-doctoral studies in New Testament at the University of Goettingen, Germany.

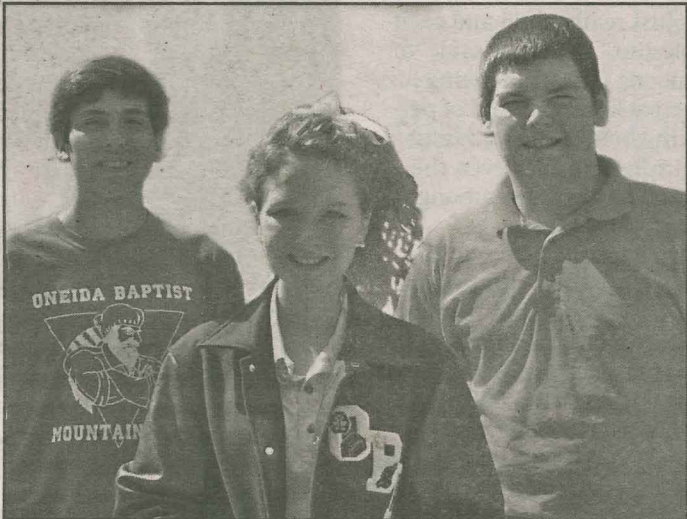
Hull wrote 21 books on theological subjects and Christian themes and contributed to 24 others. He served in numerous leadership roles in both the Southern Baptist Convention and Baptist World Alliance and delivered more than 7,500 sermons in a ministry that spanned from 1949 to 2008. (ABP)

Merry Christmas

From the faculty, support staff, and students of Oneida Baptist Institute

Thank you for your support throughout the year as we share the good news of Jesus with young people from Kentucky, across the U.S. and around the world. You are a very real part of our ministry.

"I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people." ~Luke 2:10b



Samuel
International student

Savannah
Kentucky student

Isaac
Community/day student

SUNRISE
Children's Services
Helping children in crisis shine.

"THE HARVEST IS PLENTIFUL, BUT THE WORKERS ARE FEW." Matthew 9:37

There are a lot of ways to help rescue these children who find themselves in troubled homes. Please thoughtfully consider bringing in a child and sheltering them from their storm. Or perhaps you can be generous with your support of those who do. Visit www.sunrise.org or call 1.855.33.iCARE.

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Ex-defense chief Gates to lead Scouts

Asheville, N.C.— Former Defense Secretary Robert Gates, the man who helped pave the way for homosexuals to serve openly in the military, will become the new volunteer leader of the Boy Scouts of America in 2014.

Gates would begin a two-year term as the BSA national president in May if approved by the National Council.

Some are calling the move unprecedented. AT&T chairman Randall Stephenson has been Scouting's BSA president-elect the past two years, and the normal procedure would have been for him to become president.

"This move was made because the BSA had the opportunity to take advantage of a unique moment to add Dr. Gates," said Scouting spokesman Deron Smith.

Smith added that Gates has had a long association with Scouting and had been slated for a BSA leadership role until his service as secretary of defense and CIA director made that impossible.

Stephenson will continue to serve in the role of president-elect during the

Gates presidency.

Richard Matthews, a former general counsel for the Boy Scouts who now serves as general counsel for TrailLife USA, a Christian alternative to the Boy Scouts, said it is a "very difficult thing to know" whether Gates will be more or less likely than Stephenson to allow homosexual leaders in the BSA.

"Both of them have been outspoken about their belief that homosexuality should not bar participation or leadership roles in organizations," Matthews said. "Certainly if an organization planned on making such a change there would be great value in having someone as its leader who has already supported and led such a change in the Department of Defense."

Pro-homosexual groups praised the Boy Scouts for bringing Gates on board.

"We urge Dr. Gates to continue his work to ensure all people are treated equally, no matter who they are and no matter what uniform they wear," said Wilson Cruz, a spokesman for the gay activist group GLAAD. (BP)

Giving is the best part

Survey: Influence is the number one reason why people give

The results of a recent study conducted by U.S. Trust, a subsidiary of Bank of America, were published by The Chronicle of Philanthropy. Although the study focused on wealthy Americans, I found the results to be encouraging, relevant and worthy of sharing with you, my brothers and sisters in Christ, as we approach this special season of giving.

At least half of those surveyed stated giving money to good causes was "the most satisfying part of life." In fact, giving money away ranked highest among a majority of the participants than the possessions and lifestyle that come from their wealth.

One unexpected finding was 70 percent of those between the ages of 18 and 32 cited philanthropy as the best part of having wealth. Only 35 percent of those over age 68 felt that way.

Not surprising was the fact that 76 percent said supporting charities had a positive influence on society and 80 percent said the same thing about volunteering.

The number one reason for giving cited by the participants was "creating a positive impact on issues or causes while still alive." Having a positive impact and changing peoples' lives has

always been the number one reason for giving in all of the studies.

Another important reason for giving, according to the study, was "setting an example for family members." More than half the participants listed

that as a top reason for giving. This study also confirmed what other studies over the years have shown, namely, tax considerations are very low on the list of reasons people give. That, too, was an encouraging finding and consistent with biblical stewardship truths.

And, the finding I found most compelling was more than a third said they learned charitable values from their

parents and other family members. So, parents, what kind of example are you being to your children, whether minor or adult children, in conveying Christian values and principles in your giving?

To the extent we in the Kentucky Baptist Foundation can be of assistance in applying those values and principles and setting the example in your estate plan, please give us that privilege.

Ky. Baptist Foundation



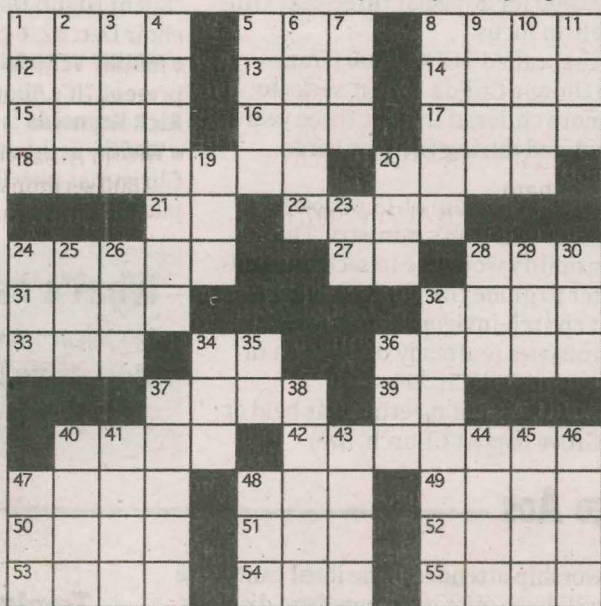
Barry Allen

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

Bible Crosswords

Across

- 1 "Until the day dawn, and the day ____ arise" (2 Peter 1:19)
- 5 "Believe not every spirit, but ____ the spirits" (1 John 4:1)
- 8 Some circles
- 12 "Take thine ____, eat, drink, and be merry" (Luke 12:19)
- 13 Do garden work
- 14 Wild rest stop
- 15 Operatic highlight
- 16 Mange, in Marshalltown
- 17 Land measure
- 18 "Let them be for signs, and for ____, and for day, and years" (Genesis 1:14)
- 20 Pine
- 21 Exclamation of pain
- 22 Item to do
- 24 Newsman Phillips
- 27 Laughing sound
- 28 Moisture
- 31 Holds the deed to
- 32 "We have also a more ____ word of prophecy" (2 Peter 1:19)
- 33 Forest female
- 34 "If God ____ for us, who can be against us?" (Romans 8:31)
- 36 "We pray you in Christ's ____, be ye reconciled to God" (2 Corinthians 5:20)
- 37 "They wandered in deserts, and in mountains, and in ____" (Hebrews 11:38)
- 39 ____ of the Chaldees
- 40 Late actor Ames
- 42 Survived in water
- 47 Kind of scale
- 48 "Ye ____ bought with a price" (1 Corinthians 6:20)



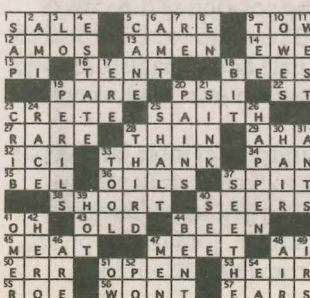
By Evelyn Boyington

#183

- 49 Tabu, to toddler
- 50 Greek letter (pl.)
- 51 Nothing
- 52 Oaf; bully
- 53 Black, for one
- 54 Kind of glass
- 55 Sea bird

Down

- 1 "The gathering together of the waters called he ____" (Genesis 1:10)
- 2 "The devil threw him down and ____ him" (Luke 9:42)
- 3 "The churches of ____ salute you" (1 Corinthians 16:19)
- 4 "Produce your cause ... bring forth your strong ____, saith the King of Jacob" (Isaiah 41:21)
- 5 There's partner
- 6 Sunday entree
- 7 "____ not I, but Christ liveth in me" (Galatians 2:20)
- 8 "The Lord is not ____ concerning his promise" (2 Peter 3:9)
- 9 Every
- 10 Soggy ground
- 11 Anger
- 19 "____ no man any thing, but to love" (Romans 13:8)
- 20 King of Judah; son of Abijam
- 23 Exclamation of delight
- 24 Earth
- 25 When this many are gathered together, the Lord is present
- 26 Christians worship the ____ true God
- 28 "A word spoken in ____ season, how good is it" (Proverbs 15:23)
- 29 Historical period
- 30 Unite
- 32 "How shall we sing the Lord's song in a ____ land?" (Psalm 137:4)
- 34 ____-oni, Rachel's youngest
- 35 Printer's measure
- 36 "A Boy Named ____" (J Cash hit)
- 37 KJV verb
- 38 Airport runway
- 40 Recently, with "of"
- 41 Showing no favoritism (Fr.)
- 43 Call on for help
- 44 "Behold, I stand at the ____" (Revelation 3:20)
- 45 ____ Church, Virginia (site of 1864 battle)
- 46 Well ____
- 47 Charlotte's ____ (E.B. White classic)
- 48 Reply (abbr.)



#182

'Uniquely connected'

The joy of watching God mold the lives of Crossings' staff

One of the greatest blessings I experience in the life of Crossings is being able to witness how God changes our staff.

Camp ministry is special in that we see hundreds of college age students each year, some of which come to work with us on a full-time basis for their first real job. As one would imagine, people do not always stay in one job for life these days. We may be able to work alongside someone a year or for as many as eight years.

Recently, the Bidwell family—who now serves in Haiti—came back for a visit to the states. Scott Bidwell worked for us as a summer staff employee, then as a part-time employee, and finally in a full-time capacity.

During his tenure with us, it was a great privilege for me to see how God grew him, established his marriage to Monica, and grew their family with a daughter and son. Throughout his time with Crossings, I appreciated how Scott contributed to our growth—but more and more I more appreciate how God is

spiritually growing their family.

Their personal growth continued in a life altering way about two years ago when the Lord started leading them to move to Haiti. They were exposed to the work through our partnership in Haiti and in August 2012 the Bidwells left their home, families and country to follow the Lord in obedience to the mission call.

Over the last 15 months, we continue to work with the Bidwells—but on a different level. Seeing college students grow into roles as spouses and parents, and then following the Lord no matter where He leads is very humbling and fulfilling.

I am so thankful for the work God is doing in young adults. I wish we could hear more success stories of God being glorified through His people these days.

While I do not claim our summer staff as my kids, our staff as a whole does feel uniquely connected to them and celebrates with them throughout life as God teaches and conforms all of us through life's circumstances.

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

Crossings Ministries



David Melber

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

December

24 Christmas holiday, KBC building closed through Dec. 31.

January

10 Disaster Relief Chaplaincy Training, Edgewood Baptist Church, Hopkinsville.

11 Disaster Relief 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.

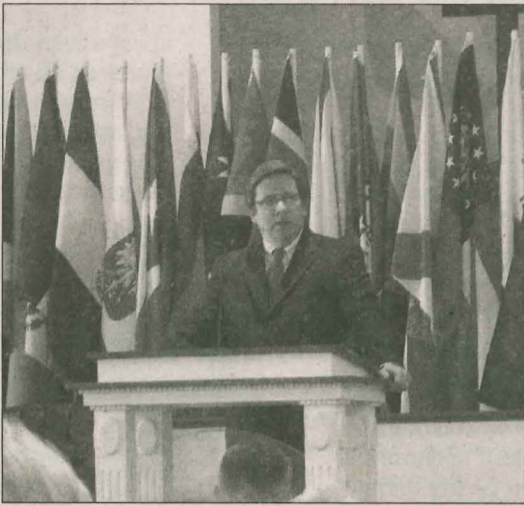
February

7 Disaster Relief Chaplaincy Training, Westport Road Baptist Church, Louisville.

8 Disaster Relief Training, Westport Road Baptist Church, Louisville.

10 SEND>>St. Louis Vision Trip 2014, unnamed venue.

Little River Association celebrates 200 years



Guest speaker Dan Summerlin, of Lone Oak First Baptist Church in Paducah, stands with a backdrop of flags that represent the 40 countries and states where Little River has sent mission teams. (Submitted photo)

Ky. Baptist 'Music Teacher of the Year'

Louisville—Joanna Ximenes, a member of Walnut Street Baptist Church in Louisville, received the 2013 Distinguished Teaching Award by the Kentucky Music Teachers Association. The award is given annually for outstanding service and commitment to music education and performance.

Ximenes, who goes by "Jody Milby," will be a candidate for the National Music Teacher of the Year award. She is an alumna of Georgetown College and earned her masters from Campbellsville University.

"I was blessed with good teachers," said Ximenes. "Among those was Daniel Tilford who guided me through four years of lessons and recitals at Georgetown and has also been a friend and role model to this day."

A native of Kentucky, she studied early in her life at the Conservatory of the Royal



Joanna Ximenes

Cadiz—Little River Baptist Association, organized at Eddy Grove Baptist Church outside of Princeton in November 1813, recently celebrated its bicentennial.

The association predates Trigg County and the Kentucky Baptist Convention.

The association has been a pioneer in the development of churches and colleges in western Kentucky and northern Tennessee. At one time, its area ran along the Ohio River from Henderson to Clarksville, Tenn.

Little River Baptists officially marked their 200th year of ministry at its annual meeting, Oct. 7-8, at New Hope Baptist Church.

A history of the association reveals that 14 other associations in Kentucky and Tennessee and 122 churches have been birthed through Little River Association. Among the associations birthed were Caldwell/Lyon, Christian, Little Bethel, Blood River, Graves, Ohio River, and West Union. (WR)

College of Music of London in Zimbabwe while her parents served there as Southern Baptist missionaries. (WR)

NKBA transforming hearts

Independence—Messengers to the Northern Kentucky Baptist Association annual meeting allocated \$100,000 for a special three-year children's evangelism focus.

The initiative, called TOUCH 500 (Transforming One Unique Child's Heart), seeks to baptize 500 more children in next three years than were baptized during the past three years.

NKBA has formed a team of 15 people who are passionate for children's ministry. The team's responsibility would be to secure a children's minister to guide the process. NKBA reported that church invigoration through children's ministries is already being seen in the initial stages of TOUCH 500.

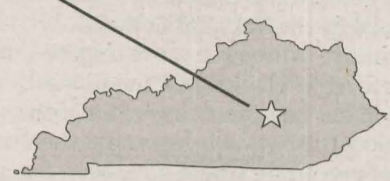
The 46th NKBA annual meeting was held at the Hickory Grove Baptist Church. (WR)

MOUNTAINS TO THE MISSISSIPPI

COMPILED BY STAFF

Spotlight on ...

Berea



Valley Church will present "Christmas Presence" Dec. 22, 6 p.m. **Evan Eckler** is pastor.

■ **CAMPBELLSVILLE**—Campbellsville Church will present "The Other Christmas Story" Dec. 18, 6 p.m. **Mike O'Neal** is pastor.

■ **GREENVILLE**—Second Church will hold a Christmas homecoming Dec. 22, 6 p.m. **Ray England** is pastor.

■ **LOUISVILLE**—Fern Creek Church will present "Appalachian Winter: A Cantata for Christmas" Dec. 22, 10:45 a.m. and a pancake breakfast Dec. 24, 10 a.m. **Linda Popham** is pastor.

Melbourne Heights Church will present "Silent Night! Holy Night!" featuring the adult choir Dec. 22, 6 p.m. **Adam Schell** is pastor.

■ **MOUNT VERNON**—Roundstone Church will present "It's About the Cross" Dec. 22, 6 p.m. **Rick Reynolds** is pastor.

■ **WACO**—Bethlehem Church will present a Christmas play Dec. 22, 6 p.m. **Mark McGuire** is pastor.

What's happening?

Send church and association events to:

Mountains to the Mississippi

in care of sitha.salyers@westernrecorder.org

CLASSIFIED ADS

RENTAL: Timeshare week of Jan. 31-Feb. 7, Marriott Ocean Watch at Grand Dunes in Myrtle Beach. Unit is 2 bed/bath, full kitchen condo, asking \$550. Contact strausbaugh@nku.edu.

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

SEEKING: Part-time student minister (6th-12th). South Jefferson Baptist (Louisville) is seeking God's person to lead the student ministry to our church and community. Education required. Musicianship a plus. Send resumé or info requests to Jerry, southjeff@mysjbc.org.

SEEKING: Alton Baptist Church is seeking a part-time youth pastor and a part-time children's minister. Email resumé 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 resumé to sbbc@brtc.net, or mail to Spring Bayou Baptist Church, ATTN: Youth Search Team, 11205 Woodville Road, Kevil, KY 42053.

SEEKING: Full-time children's pastor. Campbellsville 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: Part-time youth pastor. Campbellsville 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: Versailles Baptist is accepting resumes 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 resumé 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 Ellcessor, 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 Ellcessor, 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: Full-time pastor for Lake City Baptist Church. Send resumé to Lake City Baptist Church, 410 Hazel Demery Road, Grand Rivers, KY 42045.

SEEKING: Gamaliel Baptist Church is in search of the man that God has chosen to be our new pastor. If you are that

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man, or you know him, forward a resumé to: Pastor Search Committee, Gamaliel Baptist Church, P.O. Box 148, Gamaliel, KY 42140, or email to gamalielbaptist2013@gmail.com. Deadline Jan. 31.

SEEKING: Little Bethel Baptist Association in Hopkins County is now accepting resumé for the position of director of missions. Send resumé 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. pilgrimage.com (800) 322-0788.

Singing faith

Hymns both praise and teach

By Ken Camp

Last summer's controversy over removal of the contemporary hymn "In Christ Alone" from a new Presbyterian hymnal because of doctrinal differences illustrates the importance of church music not only to celebrate, but also to inculcate a faith tradition, said a Baptist music professor.

"I rejoice in the controversy," Terry York, professor of Christian ministry and church music at Baylor University's Truett Theological Seminary, said of the dustup over a line in the song that says "as Jesus died the wrath of God was satisfied" that divided the hymnal committee over theology.

York, who has published more than 40 hymns and served as project coordinator for the 1991 edition of "The Baptist Hymnal," said the debate is evidence of increased interest in theology in worship songs.

"We've gone through a time when if it rhymed and said 'Jesus,' that was enough," York said. "We're finally back to giving attention to what we are saying," York said.

Todd Wilson, pastor of worship and music at First Baptist Church in Abilene, Texas, also welcomes the serious examination of hymn texts.

"What we sing shapes our theology, and a careful reading of the text of any worship song is necessary for inclusion in the publication of a denominational hymnal or a weekly service of worship," he said.

Wilson said church music should always

reflect the congregation's theology, but it also serves a teaching function and that places a heavy responsibility on worship leaders to examine songs they select.

York said well-rounded worship demands consideration of both biblical truth and the full range of human experience.

"I don't know if there are any biblical concepts that are not 'singable,' but there are some that we don't like to sing," York said. "We don't like laments. We don't want to sing slow and sad in a minor key."

York said the tendency to focus only on celebration, so guests will see the church as "a happy place" and the people of God as perpetually joyful, is a concept foreign to the psalms in the Bible.

"Shortcuts to evangelism and church growth have stolen 11 o'clock on

Sunday morning," York said. "It's fun to sing praise and testimony of how God is at work in our lives.

We also need to sing laments, or the cork will pop somewhere."

John Jackson, minister of music at First Baptist Church in Farmington, Mo., said compared to "the incessant debate over what style of music should and should not be sung in the church," the theology expressed in worship songs has received too little attention.

"Churches, pastors and church musicians owe it to themselves, their congregations and the lost communities they seek to reach to offer songs that contain sound doctrine and use those songs in contexts that reflect and complement the truth of the gospel," Jackson said.

Bob Brooks, dean of the graduate school of ministry and director of the master of arts in worship leadership program at Dallas Baptist University, said each congregation "has its own musical vocabulary" to inform of its approach to worship.

Cowboy churches, for example, may use classic hymns or gospel songs presented in a country-western style, Brooks said, while young congregations may have contemporary Christian music.

"We should celebrate the great diversity of the people of God," Brooks said. "It doesn't have to be the same for everyone."

Wilson said worship leaders need to take responsibility for studying the lyrics of hymns before selecting them for congregational singing.

"Sometimes, we have found that word choice in a text might leave the truth open for interpretation that is distant from the original meaning," he said.

"The context out of which the text appears will often shape word choice that could lead to misrepresentation of the original intent."

"I have often researched the writing of various songs of worship and have found a greater depth of meaning, out of that context, that has heightened the rich truth found in the lyrics," Wilson said. (ABP)

Why the great texts endure

By Ken Camp

Musical tastes and worship styles come and go, but some hymns of the church endure for centuries. Worship leaders say hymns that cross denominational lines and span generations are those that people can embrace as a shared experience, both corporately and as individuals.

Shared identity

"Essentially, they are hymns that give us a sense of a shared identity that is sustainable across many eras and cultures," said John Jackson, minister of music at First Baptist Church of Farmington, Mo. "Many times they are passed down from generation to generation within families, churches and denominations through various means as a result of this shared identity."

Biblically accurate

Bob Brooks, dean of the graduate school of ministry at Dallas Baptist University, said enduring songs of worship "are biblically accurate, theologically sound, musically well-written and 'singable' by the people of God."

Many people view "Amazing Grace" as the quintessential enduring hymn. Brooks noted it appeared in "Olney Hymns" in 1779, but it wasn't paired

with the New Britain tune—with which it is known now—until 1844.

Even today, classic hymn text set to newer tunes is well received, Brooks said.

Wedding word and music

Terry York, professor of Christian ministry and church music at Baylor University's Truett Theological Seminary, said what matters most is a good marriage of melody and lyrics.

"In a good marriage, the tune does not fight the text, but underscores and maybe enhances it," said York, who has written more than 40 published hymns. "New musical settings must match the mood and the meter of the text—one is not enough."

While the timeless character of some hymns never should be discounted, worship leaders should also recognize the importance of songs that speak meaningfully to a particular time and place, York added.

"It's OK that some songs don't endure," he said. "Some are long-lasting, and there are some that are for the moment, and that's all right."

"Songs of worship that endure are both timely and timeless," York said. "Their timeliness never goes away, and they become timeless. Some are timely, period. There are none that are timeless without first being timely." (ABP)

TOP 25 HYMNS

1. How Great Thou Art
2. Great Is Thy Faithfulness
3. Blessed Assurance, Jesus Is Mine
4. All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name
5. Holy, Holy, Holy
6. Jesus Paid It All
7. Christ the Lord Is Risen Today
8. Crown Him with Many Crowns
9. It Is Well with My Soul
10. To God Be the Glory
11. The Solid Rock
12. Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing
13. I Stand Amazed in the Presence
14. Victory in Jesus
15. Nothing but the Blood
16. Amazing Grace! How Sweet the Sound
17. Praise to the Lord, the Almighty
18. At the Cross
19. Revive Us Again
20. Be Thou My Vision
21. Because He Lives
22. Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee
23. A Mighty Fortress Is Our God
24. O For A Thousand Tongues To Sing
25. America, the Beautiful

This list was created by LifeWay after combining the sales from a traditional arrangement and a contemporary arrangement of each hymn from 2008-2012.

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