

WESTERN Recorder

January 14, 2014

Shine Like Stars * Philippians 2:15

Volume 188, Issue 1

Governor gambles on casinos again

By Robin Cornet Bass

Louisville—More of the same. That's what Steve Weaver said he's expecting from the General Assembly in the coming months after Governor Steve



Steve Weaver

Beshear again pitched expanded gambling as the panacea for Kentucky's revenue shortfalls.

Beshear, in his State of Commonwealth Address Jan. 7, spoke of hopes to place a constitutional amendment on the ballot—giving voters the opportunity to speak.

Weaver, chairman of the Kentucky Baptist Convention Committee on Public Affairs and pastor of Farmdale Baptist Church in Frankfort, said it will be up to Kentucky Baptists to make sure their voices are heard long before a gambling bill reaches the ballot box.

"It's not any more complicated than calling your representatives," Weaver said. "As Kentucky Baptists, we really need to let our voices be heard so they will know where the constituency stands on this issue."

□ See Gambling ... Page 3

Allen announces plans to retire from Foundation

Louisville—Barry Allen, president and CEO of the Kentucky Baptist Foundation, has announced his intention to retire, effective Feb. 1, 2015, completing 44 years of denominational service to Kentucky Baptists.



Barry Allen

Allen has served for 19 years as the Foundation's president and was assistant business manager and business manager of the KBC Executive Board (now Mission Board) the previous 25 years.

In informing the KBF Board of Directors of his decision at their regular meeting in December, Allen said, "I am one of those fortunate individuals who discovered early in my life not only God's vocational call, but also God's specific place

□ See Allen to retire ... Page 3



Top news stories affecting Kentucky Baptists in 2013

By Todd Deaton

Louisville—Not surprisingly, addressing the social issues of homosexual rights, gay marriage and religious liberty were at the forefront nationally in 2013. For Kentucky Baptists, however, a controversial proposed change to hiring practices at their child care agency, reaching a significant milestone in cooperative giving, the naming of a Kentuckian to lead the denomination's ethics agency, and their state and national disaster relief work also grabbed headlines.

Here's a recap of some of the top news-making events for Kentucky Baptists during the past year:

SUNRISE SHIFT



The hiring practices at Sunrise Children's Services came under scrutiny after two of the child care agency trustees voiced their concerns publicly. (WR file)

Controversy erupted among Kentucky Baptists when at least two trustees of Sunrise Children's Services disclosed to convention leaders that its board was discussing changing its hiring practices to allow employment of homosexuals at the KBC-affiliated agency. Although the recommendation was brought by Sunrise's president, Bill Smithwick, trustees rejected

the change Nov. 8, as Baptist opposition mounted.

Meanwhile, messengers to the KBC annual meeting in Paducah, still feeling "disappointed" and "let down" by Smithwick's action, conveyed a vote of "no confidence" in his leadership, which subsequently led to his departure in December. Dale Suttles, an advancement director at Sunrise, was appointed as interim president.

CP MILESTONES

More than \$700,000 in Cooperative Program funding shifted from Kentucky Baptist agencies and institutions to increase support for international missions, in keeping with a recommendation of a special advisory workgroup formed by KBC Executive Director Paul Chitwood. Following last year's restructuring of convention personnel, the Mission Board approved changes in CP allocations for its 10 affiliated agencies, colleges and schools, enabling Kentucky Baptists to reach their goal of equally dividing CP dollars with Southern Baptist causes seven years ahead of schedule.



Executive Director Paul Chitwood presents 50/50 split recommendations to the Mission Board in May. More than \$700,000 in CP funding was shifted from agencies and institutions to international missions. (KBC)

During 2013, Kentucky Baptists topped the \$750 million mark in total Cooperative Program giving since the inception of the SBC's unified missions and ministry budget in 1925. Because of generous gifts to the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for International Missions, January's total receipts, including CP, of more than \$2.46 million were the highest monthly total ever in KBC history.

RELIGIOUS LIBERTY



Kentucky Baptists rejoiced last March when state legislators overwhelmingly overturned Gov. Steve Beshear's veto of the religious freedom bill, HB 279. (WR file)

The Kentucky General Assembly overturned the governor's veto of House Bill 279, commonly referred to as the religious freedom bill. The bill, proponents argued, strengthened legal protections of religious minorities by restoring "compelling interest/least restrictive means" as legal tests before the state government can restrict someone's religious freedom.

GuideStone Financial Resources, the SBC's health and retirement benefits agency, filed its first-ever lawsuit against the federal government. Like Hobby Lobby, GuideStone challenged the Department of Health and Human Services' mandate

□ See 2013 Rewind ... Page 2



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Western Recorder 1-14-2014

2013 Rewind

Continued from page 1

requiring employers with religious objections to pay for coverage of workers' contraceptives or drugs that cause abortions.

TRANSITIONS



Southern Baptist Convention Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission President Russell Moore described his view of the entity to messengers at the SBC's Annual Meeting: "We are not a political action committee." The ERLC, he said, is "fiercely independent." "We are about the Gospel of Jesus Christ." (Adam Covington/BP)

Russell Moore, dean of the school of theology at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, was elected as president of the Southern Baptist Ethics and Religious Liberty Commission.

Adam Greenway, immediate past president of the KBC, was appointed as dean of the Billy Graham School of Missions, Evangelism and Ministry at Southern Seminary. He is associate professor of evangelism and applied apologetics there.

Larry Gritton, alumnus and former athletic director at Oneida Baptist Institute, was named president of the southeastern Kentucky boarding school. He succeeded Paul Davidson, who resigned in June at the request of the school's trustees.

Chip Hutcheson, editor of the Princeton Times-Leader, became the first layman to be elected as KBC president in a decade. A member of Southside Baptist Church, he is only the sixth layman to serve in the past 75 years.

UNIVERSITY RELATIONS



Shortly after Georgetown President Dwaine Greene took his post, KBC messengers followed through with previously-made plans to sever ties with the college. (WR file)

Dwaine Greene, academic vice president of Campbell University, assumed the presidency of Georgetown College in October, succeeding Bill Crouch who retired after 22 years.

Already in the pipeline, though, was severing the KBC's ties with Georgetown. A partnership arrangement—forged in 2005 after the college requested to end its covenant agreement with the convention to establish a self-perpetuating board of

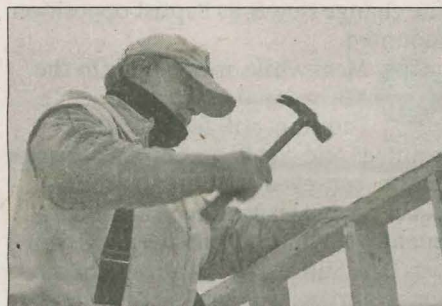
trustees, meet Phi Beta Kappa standards and expand its donor base—was annulled. The Mission Board had delayed action in 2012, awaiting the outcome of the presidential search.

KBC leaders sought a dialogue with Campbellsville University's president and other representatives after concerns were raised in emails, blogs and tweets about professors who allegedly rejected biblical inerrancy. The controversy swirled around a New Testament and Greek professor, an alumnus of Southern Seminary, who was denied tenure. Following the dialogue, convention and college officials reaffirmed their partnership.

TALKING CALVINISM

A 19-member advisory committee on Calvinism issued its report to SBC Executive Committee President Frank Page. The 3,200-word report urged Southern Baptists to "stand together" for the gospel, even as "we experience tension" related to Calvinism. The report listed areas of theological agreement and acknowledged differences, but maintained that differences should not become a barrier to cooperation among Baptists.

REBUILDING WEST LIBERTY



Eddie Osburn, a volunteer from Salem Baptist Church in West Kentucky, works on the frame of a house. (Larry Brannin/KBC)

Approximately 165 Kentucky volunteers continued rebuilding homes for residents of West Liberty after tornadoes nearly swept the small town off the map a year ago. Kentucky Baptists also assisted in recovery efforts in New York following Hurricane Sandy's landfall the previous fall, and four Kentuckians have made commitments to stay through the rebuilding process there.

Flooding, tornadoes and wildfires made for a very busy year in disaster relief work as more than 250 Kentucky Baptist volunteers served in Colorado, Oklahoma, Alabama, New York, Illinois and Michigan.

REDEFINING MARRIAGE



Messengers expressed their opposition in the change in the Boy Scouts' policy during the annual meeting in Houston (BP)

The U.S. Supreme Court delivered a historic ruling in favor of same-sex marriage in June. The court struck down a portion of the Defense of Marriage Act that defined

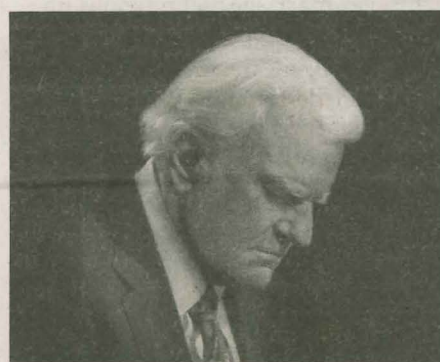
marriage as being only between a man and a woman. Following the high court's 5-4 decision, Kentucky was hit with several lawsuits challenging the constitutionality of its law against gay marriages.

Frankfort, the state capital, became the fifth Kentucky city to pass an ordinance prohibiting discrimination in employment, housing and public accommodations based on gender identity. Frankfort joined Louisville, Lexington, Covington and Vicco in adopting measures protecting the rights of lesbians, gays, bisexuals and transgendered people.

Delegates to the National Council of the Boy Scouts of America adopted new membership guidelines that allow youth who openly claim to be homosexuals to participate. Southern Baptists expressed their "opposition to and disappointment in" the change in the Boy Scouts' policy during their annual meeting in Houston. Some church leaders even touted Royal Ambassadors as an alternative to Scouting.

In an effort to help strengthen traditional marriages, Marriage Savers offered a 10-city "whistle-stop" tour across the Bluegrass State. Hosted by the Family Foundation of Kentucky, Mike McManus led two seminars per day, sharing a five-pronged approach to saving troubled marriages.

MISSIONS & EVANGELISM



The Billy Graham Association promoted in-home evangelism with the My Hope with Billy Graham campaign. (BP)

My Hope with Billy Graham garnered support of more than 22,000 churches, including many Kentucky congregations. For Graham's 95th birthday, the Billy Graham Association led a week-long endeavor to reach the country with the gospel.

Kentucky Baptist Disaster Relief sent its first team to Sub-Saharan Africa as part of a pilot program with Baptist Global Response. The team worked in Mali, providing medical treatments for refugees in its capital, Bamako.

Crossings Ministries, the KBC's youth camping ministry, announced plans to expand its program by building two new camps for elementary school-age children, near its Jonathan Creek and Cedar-more facilities.

Prior to the KBC annual meeting, Baptists converged on western Kentucky for RISK: Paducah, a series of outreach events that included prison ministry, wild game dinners, sports camps, revivals and a quilting seminar. More than 330 decisions for Christ were recorded, and organizers anticipate RISK events becoming a regular outreach in host cities. (WR)

Most-read Baptist stories of 2013

Nashville—In a year filled with headlines about healthcare, national debt, same-sex marriage—a story about a hip-hop artist was the most-read article of 2013 on the Baptist Press website.

"Lecrae speaks of hip-hop's relevance." In July, Baptist Press posted a story about Lecrae Moore, a hip-hop artist, ministry leader, producer and actor took the No. 1 spot. LeCrae described hip hop as "the new pop music," and the artists as "modern-day philosophers." He has received a Grammy Award and two Dove Awards.

"The Giglio Imbroglio—The public inauguration of a new Moral McCarthyism." A column by Albert Mohler Jr. about Louie Giglio withdrawing from giving the benediction during President Obama's second inaugural ceremony came in at No. 2. Mohler, president of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, drew a parallel with the media uproar during the Joseph McCarthy hearings in 1954.

"Max Lucado transcends Church of Christ beliefs." Coming in at No. 3 was an interview with author Max Lucado about his church's heritage and decision to change its name from Oak Hills Church of Christ to simply Oak Hills Church.

"Duck Dynasty's commander talks faith." Months before Phil Robertson's biblical views on homosexuality stirred up a media circus, Baptist Press posted this No. 4 story about the family patriarch's faith in March.

"Syria Christians face 'ethno-religious cleansing.'" The story of Syrian Christians being caught in the conflict between President Bashar-Assad's forces and rebel fighters captured Baptists' attention—earning No. 5.

"Andy Stanley's stance on homosexuality questioned." At No. 6, a story reported that megachurch pastor Andy Stanley stopped short of calling homosexuality a sin during an April 15 sermon. Mohler later wrote the sermon seemed to suggest homosexuality is biblically acceptable.

"Calvinism committee issues report, urges SBC to 'stand together' for Great Commission." A 19-member advisory committee on Calvinism came in as No. 7 on the most-read list of 2013. The report acknowledged tension and disagreement within the denomination on the issue of Calvinism while urging Southern Baptists to "grant one another liberty" and "stand together" for the Great Commission.

"Henry Blackaby to undergo heart surgery." Southern Baptist Bible teacher Henry Blackaby underwent successful heart bypass surgery in September after suffering a heart attack while driving in Atlanta and became confused. His story was No. 8.

"Attorney: Church bylaws should define marriage." The No. 9 most-read story was about Alliance Defending Freedom encouraging churches that host wedding ceremonies or other events for traditional couples to examine their bylaws and shield themselves from the impact of possible litigation.

And rounding out the list at No. 10 was, **"Exodus Int'l closes after Chambers' apology."** In June, Exodus International, a ministry designed to help people overcome homosexual behavior, announced it was closing. President Alan Chambers issued an apology that same day to people who have been hurt by the organization. (BP)

Imagine Preschool & Children's Conference: 'You'll come away excited'

By Robin Cornet Bass

Louisville—John Bennett could be called a curator—not of priceless art or ancient artifacts, but of good ideas. And he will be displaying a wide assortment of his collected gems at the Imagine Preschool and Children's Ministry Conference later this month.

In his role as preschool and children's ministry consultant at the Kentucky Baptist Convention, Bennett encounters some fairly resourceful Kentucky Baptists who are engaging the hearts and souls of children in some innovative ways.

Take Al Chandler for example. As children's minister of Trace Creek Baptist Church in Mayfield, Chandler has managed to turn the traditional Vacation Bible School—where parents would drop off the kids and go their merry way—into an immersive family event complete with family crafts, recreation and Bible study.

Want to know how?

Then, don't miss Chandler's breakout session titled, "VBS in a Family-Equipping Model" during the Imagine conference Jan. 31-Feb. 1 at Parkway Baptist Church in Bardstown.

"One of the goals of Imagine is to take people to the edge and challenge them with new ideas and new ways of thinking," Bennett said.

Twenty-six breakout sessions await children's ministry leaders and volunteers this year; each focused on one of four pillars:

- Empowering families,
- Discovery-based learning,
- Children serving the community, and
- Changing your scorecard, which provides a new way to evaluate effectiveness.

Bennett said he pleased to bring in two nationally-known speakers on the preschool and children's ministry conference circuit: Michael DeMarco and Gary Lindsay.

DeMarco is co-author with his wife of their bestselling book titled, "Own It—Leaving Behind a Borrowed Faith," which appeared in the movie "Grace Unplugged." He will be speaking about equipping parents with "authentic faith."

"Kids are living in a world of inconsistencies and broken promises," Bennett said. "With kids, you can't just show up. You have to personally invest in their lives."

Lindsay, children's minister of Irwin Bible Church in Texas, will provide insight into discovery based learning, a technique that allows children to own what they learn through discovery—mimicking a learning style to which they have already become accustomed.



"When they play video games, they interact with a virtual world. They problem solve and negotiate. What they are doing is creating their own path of learning through experience," Bennett said. "It's not good or bad. It's just different."

Also speaking at the Imagine conference are Chuck McAlister, the team

leader of the KBC Evangelism, Church Planting and Collegiate Ministry Team, and James Carroll, pastor of Parkway Baptist Church.

Churches are encouraged to bring gently used curriculum (Sunday School, VBS, Awanas, etc.), supplies and decorations to the Swap and Shop where items will be made available for use by other churches.

Registration is open with an early bird fee of \$25/person. After Jan. 27 the cost goes to \$27/person. For more information, visit kybaptist.org/imagine.

Teaching children about biblical truths is all about making it real, relevant and interactive, Bennett said, and this conference will provide the tools.

"You'll come away excited," Bennett said. (WR)

Gambling

Continued from page 1

Weaver said it is important for Kentucky Baptists not be "fatigued" by the governor's repeated attempts to expand gambling in the state.

Beshear ran for office in 2008 against then-Governor Ernie Fletcher on the issue of expanding gambling in Kentucky, and has pushed the idea nearly every year since. Last year, an expanded gambling amendment bill was defeated when it failed to pass in the Senate.

"It's disturbing and discouraging," Weaver said, describing Beshear's efforts as a "display of arrogance."

"It's one thing to bring this up once as a possibility and have it rejected," Weaver noted, "but his obstinacy has to make one question what the motivations might be."

The day after the governor's address, KBC Executive Director Paul Chitwood expressed his disappointment in the decision to again push expanded gambling.

"This proposal, while garnished with

false promises of financial windfall for the state, allows casino operators to prey on human weakness for profit," Chitwood said. "I urge our lawmakers to say no to this bad idea yet again."

Martin Cothran, spokesperson of the Family Foundation of Kentucky, gave any gambling bill little chance for survival in what he called "a politically volatile situation in the House."

"It would be political suicide for (legislators) to vote on a measure that is going to make a lot of their constituents angry," Cothran said. "If we did get into another fight over gambling, it will suck up all the political oxygen needed to address tax reform or any other major issue."

Weaver said while the Public Affairs Committee stands ready to fight expanded gambling—or "predatory gambling" as he called it—the committee is also prepared to champion bills designed to protect the Kentuckians. The chairman pledged support for lawmakers who push for restrictions on payday lenders and who provide

opportunities for women seeking an abortion to view ultrasounds of their unborn children.

"We're for the family and for the protection of Kentucky's citizens," Weaver said. "We believe the government's role is to protect its citizens and not exploit them, even if the citizens want it."

Weaver urged individuals and pastors to seek out informational materials

"We believe the government's role is to protect its citizens and not exploit them."

Steve Weaver

offered by KBC and the Family Foundation that would help church members to apply biblical principles when thinking through political issues like expanded gambling. He also encouraged Kentucky Baptists to sign up for email alerts at kbcpublicaffairs.org.

"We want to urge Kentucky pastors and church members to call their legislators now and express opposition to expanded gambling. The best number to call is (1-800) 372-7181," Weaver said. "Our hope is to kill the expanded gambling effort before it gets off the ground." (WR)

Allen to retire

Continued from page 1

of service in which that call would be fulfilled, and I have spent my entire adult life in the fulfillment of that call.

"I have attained the normal age of retirement, and it is my conviction the best way for the KBF to enter a new era of service to Kentucky Baptists is for me to step aside so the new leader the Lord has for this vital ministry can be put in place," he told the board.

KBF Board Chairman Willis Henson, of Paducah, told the Western Recorder, "The KBF board accepted with regret Barry's retirement and commended him for his long, faithful service and for bringing the highest Christian ethical and business standards in his leadership of this ministry, which is so vital to the future of Kentucky Baptist life."

Allen assured the KBF board he would continue to give "110 percent" in the fulfillment of his duties and do everything possible to assure donors and institutional clients they can count on the KBF to remain "steadfast and solid" through the transition, and that the best days of KBF service are in the future.

Allen was employed at age 23 as the KBC assistant business manager on Feb. 1, 1971, by the late Harold Sanders, then KBC executive director, and the late Garrett Morton, then business manager. During the Frank Owen years as executive director, Allen succeeded Morton when he retired as business manager.

Toward the end of Bill Marshall's tenure as executive director, the KBF board tapped Allen as president and CEO on Feb. 1, 1996. Allen also served as acting executive of the KBF for 39 months, from 1985 to 1988, following the retirement of Grady Randolph.

Allen will hold the longest tenure of any executive head of the KBF. Among the KBF's accomplishments under his leadership are:

- total funds under management increased from \$52 million to more than \$180 million.
- the number of accounts increased from 220 to 1,053;
- total distributions to beneficiary causes totaled \$136.7 million, which represented 87 percent of all distributions

in the KBF's 68-year history;

- received the largest single bequest (\$3 million) in KBF history;
- enhanced the investment management approach with greater diversification across multiple asset classes and increased the number of professional

investment managers/strategies from one to 26.

■ implemented an endowment distribution policy that resulted in a more equitable intergenerational distribution plan to beneficiaries;

■ initiated online account query capability for institutional clients;

■ developed customized reporting periods for institutional clients;

■ offered institutional clients enhanced flexibility in asset allocation selections and rebalancing options;

■ implemented direct deposit of distributions to beneficiaries/clients;

■ implemented a paperless document management system for filing and storage of records;

■ streamlined operating costs via various cost efficient systems and methods

"(T)he best way for the KBF to enter a new era ... is for me to step aside so the new leader the Lord has for this vital ministry can be put in place."

Barry Allen

to below market levels versus comparable organizations; and

■ adjusted to a lower level of dependency upon the Cooperative Program budget subsidy, from 60 percent to 31 percent of KBF operating revenues.

In addition, Allen has been involved in more than 3,700 presentations of the KBF ministry to individuals, couples, churches and other organizations across Kentucky and beyond; was responsible for the first woman to serve on the KBF Board of Directors; contributed more than 1,700 stewardship related articles through his Western Recorder column; directed development and enhancements of the KBF's website; and initiated use of social media for networking and communication purposes.

The KBF executive committee will be responsible for conducting the search for Allen's successor. Executive Committee members are Charles Barnes, Louisville; Arnold Caddell, Burlington; Willis Henson, Paducah; Shirley Spalding, Louisville; and M.A. Winchester, Lexington.

Recommendations and resumes of interested candidates should be mailed to: Search Committee, Kentucky Baptist Foundation, P.O. Box 436389, Louisville, KY, 40253-6389. (WR)

Listen up, legislators

In the 2014 Kentucky General Assembly session, several critical issues will be considered, but two rise to the top of my list of concerns for families in our state.

First, after nine years of committee leadership deliberately killing all pro-life bills, will the state House of Representatives work to get

one to the floor for a vote? Most legislators believe any pro-life bill would pass the full House with a huge margin of victory.

We know from experience that any pro-life bill would easily pass the Senate. The problem is that there are high-level manipulations in the House com-

mittees that prevent any pro-life bills from coming to the floor where the will of the people can prevail.

This matter is literally one of life and death for unborn children in Kentucky. Please consider calling the legislative message line at (1-800) 372-7181 and leaving a message encouraging the support of any pro-life bills. If you do not know who your legislators are, the receptionist will be glad to tell you.

Second, after 20 years of attempting different kinds of gambling expansion, will this predatory industry finally succeed in 2014? Expanded gambling will hurt families in Kentucky. The impact has been documented in other states. Consider this excerpt from a study of gambling from the California State Library:

"Social costs are the costs borne by society as a whole that result from the behavior of the problem gambler. Social costs includes such items as fraud, theft, bad loans, bad checks, lost work time, unemployment and welfare benefits, insured or publicly supported medical costs, and criminal justice system costs. Those types of social costs are easier to quantify than other types of social costs that result from gambling such as increased rates of suicide and incidence of child abuse. Social costs should also include lost productivity of spouses, impaired judgment and efficiency on the job, divorces, added administrative costs for unemployed, and the costs of depression and physical illness related to the stress and lower quality of family life."

Government should not sell "hunting licenses" to casino companies to prey upon the very citizens government was designed to protect. Please consider calling the legislative message line and leaving a message encouraging the defeat of expanded gambling.

I highly recommend using the materials available from The Family Foundation to help church members be informed of the issues during this 2014 legislative session. Their web address is kentuckyfamily.org. Also, keep a check on the KBC Public Affairs Committee blog at kbcpublicaffairs.org.

For righteousness' sake, I pray that our unified voice will bring a renewed concern in Frankfort for the lives of unborn children, the health of families, and the well-being of all Kentuckians.

Paul Chitwood is executive director of the Kentucky Baptist Convention.



Paul Chitwood

Is that in the Old Testament? Or New?

By David Garrard

When I was just a small boy, I was at a downtown Atlanta cafeteria with my family when a stranger walked up to my younger brother, Paul and asked, "Can you say the books of the Bible?" My brother immediately rattled them off.



The man reached into his pocket and handed Paul a dollar bill. (That was back when a dollar was worth something.) I was kind of ticked off because I knew them, too. Fortunately, my mother corrected this inequity later that day.

Paul and I both got a reward that day for knowing the books of the Bible, but the greater reward was in having that kind of foundation for spiritual growth in place so early in life. For that, we thank our parents.

So many of our children have no idea where anything is in the Bible. That should probably come as no surprise because neither do many of their parents.

My church puts the page number of scripture texts on the screen to help new believers and those outside the faith. Unfortunately, most of the congregation also needs the help.

Children's Bible Drill can help change that.

Bible drills are specifically designed to help children increase in their knowledge of the Bible, develop skills in the use of the Bible and begin developing Bible memory skills. Knowing their way around the Bible will improve the quality of your child's Sunday School and Bible study experience. Bible knowledge and skill will help them get more out of worship, retreats, Vacation Bible School, personal devotions—just about any and every opportunity for spiritual growth.

Diane Kiser will be providing central coordination for Kentucky Baptist's Bible Drill this year. Most Bible drill programs get going about this time of year. Contact me at dgarrard@smbclouisville.org for more information on how your church and your children can participate.

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

FRESH IDEAS: A New Year's challenge for new small groups

By Diana Davis

When a church begins new small groups or Sunday School classes, eternity is impacted. New hands are put to the task. Easy entry points are estab-

Fresh Ideas



Diana Davis

lished. Members are more likely to invite lost friends. Peripheral members become involved. And Christians joyfully rediscover the outreach purpose of the church.

Imagine what would happen if your church began lots of new classes this year. Need some fresh ideas?

Life changes offer opportunities for new classes.

Provide a small group for expectant parents or engaged couples. (They will evolve into new parents and newlyweds classes.) How about a class for recent retirees or college students? If your youngest adult class has aged a bit, add

a new class for younger adults.

Your church ministries may provide opportunities for new small groups.

Example: a church with weekday childcare could invite those parents for a new class.

Consider establishing a new small group for each decade of adults.

Fresh new classes attract newcomers and others who do not currently attend. Provide a list of new members who aren't active in a small group, as well as recent guests and uninvolved church members. Advertise the new class in your community.

Look at growing areas in your church.

If the youth group is exploding, you might begin new small groups for parents of middle- or high school students.

Look at "holes" in your current attendance.

What groups of people are uninvolved? What segments of your community are untouched? What types of new classes would include overlooked

people? Example: About a third of adults in your town are unmarried. Are you organized to reach them?

Kick off a targeted new group with a themed study.

For example, if there are lots of artists in your town, the class could begin with a short study of biblical art.

Ask church members to submit suggestions.

What kind of small groups do church members think your church needs? Perhaps their ideas will lead to small groups leaders might never considered. Also ask for ideas for leaders and names of people that might attend.

Challenge current classes to multiply themselves.

The current teacher shares responsibilities and helps train a co-teacher, and then some group members go with that teacher to begin a new class.

It's a new year. Will your church make a plan to reach new people by establishing new small groups?

Diana Davis is author of "Deacon Wives," "Fresh Ideas," and "Fresh Ideas for Women's Ministry."

7 Habits of financially wise people

By Don Spencer

Whatever your financial situation, there are books telling you how to fix it—get rich quick, get out of debt, make money without risk, avoid taxes, etc. Financial self-help books are the



new diet books: a short-term hot item that swiftly disappears to used book vendors.

Only a few have stood the test of time. One of those is "The Intelligent Investor" by Benjamin Graham. Another is George Clason's "The Richest Man in Babylon."

Clason uses parables set in ancient Babylon that are funny and include many insights about managing money. In one parable, Algamish tells Arkad the secret of his wealth in one sentence, "I found the road to wealth when I decided that a part of all I earned was mine to keep." Arkad responds, "Is that all?" Arkad reluctantly applies the wisdom and at Algamish's death Arkad becomes the richest man in Babylon giving that same advice to others, "Say to yourselves, 'A part of all I earn is mine to keep.' Say it morning, noon and night. Say it to yourself until the words stand out like letters of fire across the sky."

People often lose common sense when dealing with dollars and cents. "The Richest Man in Babylon" has endured for many years because Clason was able to put in a nutshell the basics of good financial planning. Here are seven to ponder:

1. Start thy purse to fattening (Keep a tenth of your earnings for yourself. Save.)
2. Control thy expenditures (make a budget).
3. Make thy gold multiply (invest wisely).
4. Guard thy treasures from loss by consulting with "wise men" (qualified financial professionals).
5. Make of thy dwelling a profitable investment (own your home).
6. Insure a future income (have adequate life insurance, disability insurance and retirement income.)
7. Increase thy ability to earn. (improve your job skills to strengthen your value in the marketplace.)

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

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

KENTUCKY EVANGELISM CONFERENCE

RISK

FORWARD INTO THE DARKNESS

Kentucky Baptist Evangelism Conference

FEBRUARY 24-25

Severns Valley Baptist Church

1100 Ring Road

Elizabethtown, KY 42701



This free event powered by gifts through the Cooperative Program.

Register online for lunch/breakout sessions at

www.kybaptist.org/risk



A Word from Chuck McAlister



Dear Pastor,

I want to personally invite you to RISK on February 24-25, 2014. Having been a pastor myself for over 30 years, I understand that your time and energy must be well guarded. Taking that fact into consideration, it is our goal to make your time at RISK not only inspirational, but informational as well. We have not only planned speakers who will encourage and challenge you, but instructors who will help you know how to maximize your resources to help as many people as possible encounter Jesus through your church.

It is my conviction that the hope of Kentucky (and our world) rests with the local church. Therefore, our team wants to empower you to lead your church to fulfill the Great Commission given to it by our Lord. The reason we call this conference "RISK" is because we know that the kind of leadership required to move your church "forward into the darkness" will cost. You will have to pay a price. But how can you not pay the price, even "risk" it all, when Jesus gave His all for you...and His Church?

I will look forward to seeing you at RISK as, together, we move forward... Into The Darkness.

Sincerely His,
Chuck McAlister

Chuck is the Team Leader for Evangelism, Church Planting & Collegiate Ministries. Reach him by e-mail at chuck.mcalister@kybaptist.org or by phone at 502-489-3417, 866-489-3417 [Toll Free in Kentucky]. [facebook.com/promiseforthopeministries](https://www.facebook.com/promiseforthopeministries).

A Word from Andrew Dyer



As a pastor, I know four things: 1) you get lots of information about training events; 2) these events are usually far away and have high costs; 3) your time and money are very limited, so you don't go; 4) you often wish you could go to get help and experience renewal.

What if you had the opportunity to receive specific training from proven leaders, in areas of your choosing, to be equipped to better fulfill the Great Commission? What if I told you it was near your local mission field? What if it were FREE? It is. And it is. And it is.

I am excited to invite you and your church leaders to RISK: Kentucky Evangelism Conference, February 24-25, at Severns Valley Baptist Church in Elizabethtown.

RISK has changed its name, it's format, and, we trust, its usefulness. More than ever the need for the gospel is extensive and the obstacles are numerous. Yet, the calling and the task remain. Join me and hundreds of others from across the Commonwealth as we partner together to go "Forward Into the Darkness." Looking forward to seeing you there.

Grace and Peace,
Andrew Dyer

Andrew Dyer is pastor of Corinth Baptist Church in London and is chairman of the KBC Mission Board's Evangelism, Church Planting & Collegiate Ministry Committee.

RISK -- Forward into the Darkness

By Andy McDonald, KBC Affinity Evangelism Strategist



I am very grateful to be serving Kentucky Baptist Churches in my new role as Affinity Evangelism Strategist! I consider it a great honor to help churches and individuals become more intentional in sharing the transforming message of Jesus Christ. In fact, what an amazing privilege God has given each of us as He graciously chooses to use you and me to point people to His Son Jesus.

Leading people to know and follow Jesus allows us to impact eternity and is one of the greatest joys a Christian will ever know. That's why I'm especially excited about RISK - Forward into the Darkness, February, 24 -25 at Severns Valley Baptist Church, Elizabethtown KY. RISK is all about God calling His people together to inspire, motivate and challenge us to have a greater passion in reaching those who don't yet know His Son. During RISK we will hear powerful evangelistic preaching and learn practical ways to share the transforming message of Jesus Christ. RISK will afford church leaders the opportunity to learn the affinity strategy, empowering them to discover and reach affinity groups all around them.

Every Kentucky Baptist pastor and church leader would greatly benefit by attending RISK. In fact, we believe in it so strongly that we are willing to help get you there. Contact me and I will be glad to get you registered and assist with any logistical details that you may have so that you can attend RISK. Let me know how I can serve you as we seek to reach Kentucky and the world for Christ!

Andy McDonald is Affinity Evangelism Strategist and former minister of youth and discipleship at First Baptist Church of Shelbyville. Reach him by e-mail at andy.mcdonald@kybaptist.org or by phone at (502) 489-3354 or 1-866-489-3354 (toll-free in KY).

One of Satan's greatest strongholds... College Campus.

By Brian Combs, KBC Collegiate Evangelism Strategist



We live in a day where it is riskier than ever to follow Jesus. Recent studies point to the reality that evangelical Christians make up only about 3.5% of our US population. The pressure is higher than ever to be a closet Christian and protect ourselves from the world around us. However, Jesus commands us to Go. He commands us to take his light into the darkness and let it shine brightly so that some may encounter Him.

One of the most strategic strongholds of Satan is our American education system. Since 1962 when prayer was banned in schools, we have watched our country continue to unravel. Today, we have laws being developed that ban counseling kids away from homosexual behaviors, legalize marijuana, same-sex marriage, and a myriad of other state sanctioned behaviors that are detestable to our Lord.

Combine these current realities with the fact that 70-80% of our "Christian" students walk away from the church when they graduate high school and the issue becomes greater. Our students are entering college unprepared for the culture that is about to devour their flimsy faith.

Church, we need to engage! But, we need to engage effectively. Yelling at the problem like some street preacher with a blow horn is not going to be effective. We need to be willing to step into the mess and take the light of Jesus into the darkness so that more people can encounter Him.

It's a new day in Kentucky Baptist Campus Ministry! While we celebrate great successes in the past, we are pressing forward into the darkness that exists on the college campus like never before. Join us at RISK: Forward into the Darkness to learn how to effectively engage the darkness on college campuses. Steve Lutz, author of *College Ministry in a Post-Christian Culture*, will be with

See College Campus, page 4 >>

Worship Leaders



Justin Hornsby

has served as Worship Pastor at Severns Valley Baptist Church in Elizabethtown since 2010. He began leading worship at the age of 16 as a student in his hometown of Winchester. Serving with him in the music ministry is his wife, Hollye.



Jason Stewart

is Music/Worship & Prayer Strategist for the Kentucky Baptist Convention. He provides consultation services to churches and also coordinates music enrichment opportunities. Previously, Stewart served as worship pastor for Parkland Baptist Church in Louisville.

Guest Speakers



Steve Ayers

is the Founding and Lead Pastor of Hillvue Heights Church in Bowling Green which was formed in 1991 with 30 members. In 2012 the congregation reported that 554 people had been baptized through the church's ministry during the previous year.



Aaron Coe

is Vice President of Mobilization for the North American Mission Board, providing leadership in mobilizing churches and missionaries to plant churches. A native of Louisville, Coe served previously as lead pastor/church planter at Gallery Church in New York.



Paul Chitwood

assumed his duties as Executive Director-Treasurer of the Kentucky Baptist Convention in 2011, leading staff to serve approximately 2,400 churches across the Commonwealth. He is a previous pastor of First Baptist Church of Mt. Washington.



Chuck McAlister

is leader of the Kentucky Baptist Convention Evangelism, Church Planting & Collegiate Ministries Team, and founder of Promise of Hope Ministries. A pastor for more than 35 years, McAlister felt God's call to full-time evangelism with the goal of equipping believers across the country to share their faith with boldness and creativity.



Kevin L. Smith

was called as Teaching Pastor for Highview Baptist Church in Louisville in 2013. He served previously as pastor of Watson Memorial Baptist Church in Louisville. Currently, Smith is a doctoral candidate and Assistant Professor of preaching at the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville.

Breakout Session Leaders

Sessions are at 10:45 a.m. & 1 p.m. Tuesday. Unless otherwise noted, each session is available at both times.



Stan Albright is National Director for Associations with the North American Mission Board in Alpharetta, Ga. He is responsible for partnering, coordinating, developing, and implementing strategy and leadership development with Baptist associations throughout North America.



Brian Combs is the Collegiate Evangelism Strategist for the Kentucky Baptist Convention. He works with dozens of campus missionaries and interns to proclaim the gospel among the estimated 300,000 college students in the Commonwealth.



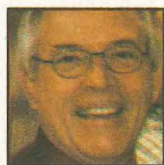
T.J. Francis is Pastor of New City Church in Louisville having served previously as Pastor of First Baptist Church of Walton. He has been a pastor for 10 years and was second vice president of the Kentucky Baptist Convention in 2012.



Patti Kimble has served as the Administrative Assistant for Promise of Hope Ministries since 2009. In 2011, she and Sue Delaney began Promise of Hope PieceMakers ministry, a Bible study for quilters.



Chris McAlister Chris has pastored and served in churches small and large. He is lead pastor of Discovery Church in Columbus, Ohio and CEO of the Eremos Group. He is an adjunct professor at Capital University and he is the chief facilitator of the SightShift events. He counsels, coaches, and trains leaders of all types. Leading staff, teams, and individuals, Chris helps leaders see how their internal world drives their external leadership.



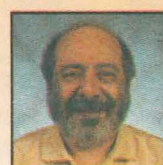
Daniel Powell is the Kentucky Coordinator of "My Hope with Billy Graham," an effort to mobilize Christians to host unchurched friends for an evening of inspirational, gospel-focused videos. Powell served as Pastor of Lawrenceville Baptist Church, Vine Hill Baptist Church in Cocks Creek, and Green Acres Baptist Church in Louisville.



Coy Webb has served as Director of Kentucky Baptist Disaster Relief since 2011. He began his work with the Kentucky Baptist Convention as a Ministry Associate in 2008. Webb is former Pastor of First Baptist Church of Monticello.



Greg Farrell has served for the last eight years as Senior Pastor of Crossland Community Church in Bowling Green. About 1,600 people attend worship each week at Crossland. The congregation has baptized more than 100 people annually for the past three years.



Carlos De la Barra is the Church Planting Strategist for the Kentucky Baptist Convention. He joined the KBC staff in 2007 as ethnic associate for new work and associational missions. A native of Chile, De la Barra accepted Christ through the ministry of a Southern Baptist missionary who also disciplined him.



Aaron Harvie is a Church Planter Strategist with the North American Mission Board and the Kentucky Baptist Convention, working to develop a church-planting culture and network among students at the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville.



Steve Lutz is a Pastor with Calvary Church in State College, Pa. He is the author of King of the Campus (2013) and College Ministry in a Post-Christian Culture (2011), and speaks frequently to college students and churches on the importance of reaching college campuses.



Cameron Mills felt God calling him to Christian ministry at age 12. As a student and basketball standout during high school and at University of Kentucky, he began leading Bible study and witnessing to his peers through the Fellowship of Christian Athletes. Cameron Mills Ministries launched in 1998.



Tim Stafford is the Producer and Co-Host of the weekly Promise of Hope Internet radio program. For more than 25 years he has been an author, speaker, consultant, and trainer in communications, social media and other disciplines.



Kristen White is an Author and Speaker who consults with the KBC Evangelism, Church Planting & Collegiate Ministries Team. White has written for ParentLife, Clubhouse, Open Windows and other magazines.

Follow us, please!

@chuckmcAlister, @kentuckybaptist, @kybcm

www.facebook.com/chuck.mcalister
www.facebook.com/kybaptist

Affinity Evangelism: www.kybaptist.org/get2know

Baptist Campus Ministry: www.kybcm.org

Church Planting: www.kybaptist.org/churchplanting



The RISK conference is made possible only by Kentucky Baptists' gifts through the Cooperative Program

College Campus

Continued from page 3 >>

us. Campus Missionaries and Church-based college ministry leaders will be with us. Come Monday night for an extended time with Steve and others as we discuss what it looks like to RISK stepping into the darkness so that we can help more people encounter Jesus. You will leave with practical ideas and strategies to engage as well as a new network of ministry partners to journey with you. We hope to see you at RISK: Forward into the Darkness!

Other Collegiate equipping events:

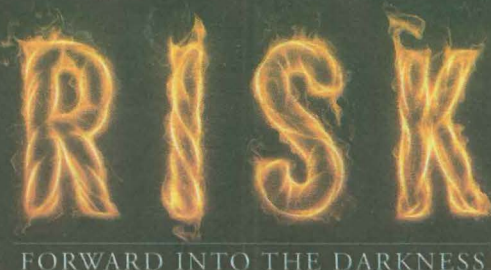
- BeachReach - Spring Break mission opportunity
March 1-21
- RISK: Changing the Channel - A Collegiate Leadership event
April 11-12

Brian Combs is collegiate evangelism strategist for the Kentucky Baptist Convention. Learn more about Kentucky Baptist Campus Ministry by visiting www.kybcm.org, www.facebook.com/kentuckybcm and on Twitter at @kybcm. collegiate@kybaptist.org // (502) 489-3345, 1-866-489-3345 (toll-free in KY).



Register online for:
complimentary lunch,
breakout sessions,
& the chance to win an iPad at
www.kybaptist.org/risk

Kentucky Baptist Evangelism Conference
February 24-25
Severns Valley Baptist Church
1100 Ring Road, Elizabethtown, KY 42701



Kentucky Baptist Evangelism Conference

Monday, February 24

- 7:00 p.m. PreRISK Service**
Steve Ayers (Hillvue Heights Church, Bowling Green), speaker
- 8:00 p.m. Affinities Networking Dessert Fellowship**
Pastors & Church Planters (Carlos De la Barra, Aaron Harvie, Steve Ayers facilitating)
Collegiate Ministries (Brian Combs, Steve Lutz facilitating)

Tuesday, February 25

- 8:15 a.m. Free Coffee & Pastries**
- 9:00 a.m. RISK Service**
Kevin Smith (Highview Baptist Church, Louisville), speaker
- 10:30 a.m. Break**
- 10:45 a.m. Breakout Session 1**
- 11:45 a.m. Lunch**
Chick-fil-A lunch sponsored by North American Mission Board.
Speakers: Aaron Coe, Paul Chitwood, Chuck McAlister
- 1:00 p.m. Breakout Session 2**
- 1:50 p.m. Break**
- 2:00 p.m. RISK Service**
Chuck McAlister, speaker

14 Breakout Sessions

Provocative Evangelism on Campus
Steve Lutz

"Churches Planting Churches"
Stan Albright

Campus Ministries
Brian Combs

Affinity Evangelism
Andy McDonald

Leaders and their Identity
Chris McAlister

"My Hope with Billy Graham"
Daniel Powell

Church Planting
Carlos De la Barra & Aaron Harvie

Role of the Pastor in Affinity Evangelism
Gregg Farrell

Sports as a Platform for Affinity Evangelism
Cameron Mills

Quilting as a Platform for Affinity Evangelism
Patti Kimble

Preaching Evangelistically
Kevin Smith (a.m. session only)
T.J. Francis (p.m. session only)

Disaster Relief as a Platform for Affinity Evangelism
Coy Webb

Women & Affinity Evangelism
Kristen White

Using Social Media in Evangelism
Tim Stafford

Barkley Moore remembered

Chapel service Jan. 29 in honor of former president

I have had the privilege of knowing a few great men in my life, and Barkley Moore was one of those great men.

As I grew up as a faculty kid at Oneida, Moore was not only the intimidating and passionate man at the helm of my school, but he was also a part of my family. His late night visits, meals with my family, and the time he spent talking with my parents are indelible images seared on the Oneida Baptist Institute portion of my brain. Even as a child, I knew whenever I was in the presence of Moore I was indeed in the presence of greatness.

Basketball was a huge part of my Oneida experience. In March 1993, my Oneida basketball playing experience came to a close when we were defeated by Corbin High School in the regional tournament at Bell County High School.

As I sat in the locker room and wept like a child, the first person on the scene to comfort me was my coach and father.

Moore soon followed with his own support. His words were comforting and his care for me as a young man meant so much. He knew I wanted to travel with the Kentucky Baptist Sports Crusaders that summer and the trip to China would be far more expensive than my family could ever afford.

As I cried that night Moore said, "I am going to pay for your trip to China."

The trip cost \$2,500 and Moore wrote me a personal check.

In the fall of 1993, Moore had me

speak in chapel to the student body about my trip. Even as an 18-year-old kid, I could clearly see how proud he was of me and what I had learned.

That experience and my subsequent mission trips had such a major role in making me who I would become, and Moore had a major part in that.

In the summer of 1994, I would return to China and the Lord used that trip to teach me lessons about trusting Him that I still carry with me today. Had Moore not sent me on that first China trip in 1993, I am sure I would not have gone in 1994. His generosity changed my life.

Each of the thousand upon thousands of young people and adults who have passed through this little place we call Oneida could probably tell you their own Moore stories. I could tell you story after story about my encounters with this great man.

Moore lived, ate, breathed and slept Oneida Baptist Institute.

Two decades have past since Moore's death and people tied to Oneida still talk about the man known as "Barkley."

Please join us on Wednesday, Jan. 29 at 11 a.m. for a special chapel service in which we will remember Barkley Moore. If you knew Moore or would like to see and hear more about him and the school he loved, we would love to have you as our guest that day for chapel, lunch and a tour of our campus.

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

This is Oneida



Larry Gritton

Making a new home

Student and family enjoy new surroundings

New student Rich Albertson is originally from Oregon, but has been living in Larue County for the last 20 years.

Albertson said coming to Clear Creek has really made him feel right at home.

"Being from Oregon, I love the mountains, the smell of the mountain laurel, the pine and the hemlock," Albertson said. "As soon as we arrived on campus it really felt like home."

"I was saved when I was a young boy, but didn't fully realize the Lordship of Jesus Christ in my life until later. I had lived my life the way I wanted to live it for a while and got away from serving the Lord," Albertson recalled.

"It was a scary time for me and really put a hardship on my family. I almost lost my wife and my family, and God used that to give me a wake up call about my walk with Him."

"It was at that time that I fully surrendered my life to Him and understood what it really meant to make Him Lord of my life. I had never been willing to commit to that until the wake up call from almost losing my family."

"For the last eight years, God has allowed me opportunities to be involved in the church where we served," Albertson said, "but I felt like I wasn't fully equipped for what I was doing."

"I began to seek the Lord's direction for my life and He used my wife to convince me that I needed to go back to school. I was hesitant at first because I was never comfortable in school."

"I heard about Clear Creek from my pastor who was taking some online classes. I was encouraged when I found out that many students who go to

Clear Creek have surrendered to the Lord later in life just like me.

"I checked out the college and the Lord showed us that this is where we needed to be."

"When we left our home to come to Clear Creek, we left with the mindset that we were leaving to make a new home," Albertson said. "We feel like that is what we have here now."

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

NEWS BRIEFS

True Love Waits re-launch

Twenty years after launching True Love Waits—a virginity-pledge program—LifeWay Christian Resources has retooled its sexual abstinence commitment with The True Love Project, an eight-week, video-driven Bible study on the issue of sexual purity.

The project issues a "summons" for young people to view their sexuality in light of the gospel, said Ben Trueblood, director of student ministry at LifeWay.

By beginning lessons in the broader paradigm of the Bible—creation, fall, redemption, restoration—Trueblood believes The True Love Project's lessons will provide the proper perspective for later lessons dealing with sex and purity.

Since its inception in 1993, an estimated 3 million students around the world have made the True Love Waits pledge. For more information, visit truelovewaits.com.

Same-sex marriage blocked

The U.S. Supreme Court halted same-sex weddings in Utah after lower courts refused to block the ceremonies while the state challenged their legality.

The high court issued its temporary stay Jan. 6 of a federal court ruling that struck down a 2004 Utah constitutional amendment that defined marriage as only between a man and a woman.

Federal judge Robert Shelby—whose Dec. 20 decision made Utah the 18th state with legalized same-sex marriage—had refused the state's request to block enforcement of his decision while it appealed to the 10th Circuit Court of Appeals in Denver. The 10th Circuit also rejected the state's application for a stay.

Barrett Duke, vice president for public policy and research with the Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission said the stay showed the Supreme Court "honored its own ruling" last summer in a high-profile case on same-sex marriage "when it stated that marriage is a matter for the states individually to decide." Regrettably, though, the fate of same-sex marriage in Utah is still going to be debated and decided in federal courts.

Abortion decline reports

Planned Parenthood Federation of America (PPFA) recorded nearly 6,800 fewer abortions according to its annual report released Dec. 11. The total number of lethal procedures by its affiliates in 2013 was 327,166 abortions, down from 333,964 the previous year.

Planned Parenthood's 2 percent decline in abortion procedures was welcome news for pro-life advocates.

"The pro-life movement continues prophetically to speak to the American uneasy conscience about the lives of our unborn neighbors," said Russell Moore, president of the Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission.

"As churches, we must continue to call for justice for the unborn while pointing burdened consciences to the forgiving mercy of God through the blood of Christ," Moore said. "We must call for legal protection for the unborn even as we create counter-cultural congregations where children, whatever their circumstances, and their mothers are received as gifts of God."

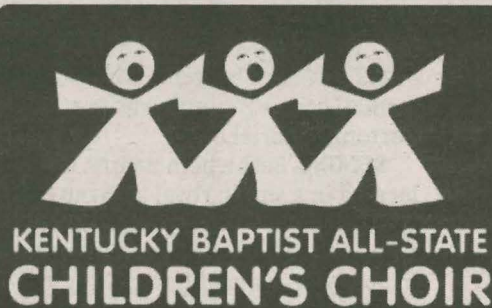
Abortions continued to decline in the United States, according to a Nov. 29 report by the Centers for Disease Control that showed the reported legal procedures dropped by 3 percent from 2009 to 2010, the latest year for which statistics are available, and by 9 percent from 2001 to 2010.

Puzzle returns next week

This week's crossword puzzle has been suspended due to limited space and will return Jan. 21. Below are the answers to the Dec. 24 puzzle.

#184

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
M	A	R	A	F	O	A	M	D	O	A
12	O	R	E	B	I	D	L	E	R	U
13	W	A	S	H	L	O	A	D	E	S
14	T	O	W	E	R	E	M	I	T	S
15	S	H	O	R	E	U	S	A		
16	A	I	R	B	E	E	N	H	A	L
17	I	D	E	A	L	A	D	I	D	O
18	L	E	S	S	T	O	P	O	N	E
19	E	W	E	R	O	P	E	D		
20	S	H	A	R	E	W	H	E	A	T
21	T	A	X	A	S	I	A	T	I	R
22	A	R	E	R	E	S	T	H	O	U
23	Y	E	S	S	A	T	E	S	N	E



KENTUCKY BAPTIST ALL-STATE CHILDREN'S CHOIR

The Kentucky Baptist All-State Children's Choir is an auditioned choir made up of young musicians in fourth, fifth or sixth grade from Baptist churches throughout Kentucky. Members are chosen by audition and, once selected, may continue to participate through sixth grade.

Cost: \$175 for singers

(Food, lodging, t-shirt, digital photo, final concert recording and a program fee)

\$130 for chaperones

(Food and lodging)

For complete information and forms to help prepare your singers, visit our web-site: www.kybaptist.org/ascc

Coordinator: Roxanne Nanney Roxanne.Nanney@kybaptist.org

502-489-3537

Rehearsal Retreat: April 25-27, 2014 Cedarmore (Bagdad, KY)

Auditions due:
February 19, 2014
(\$10 per church audition fee)



January

- 23 Shepherding the Shepherd, Hilton, Lexington.
- 30 Administrative Committee, KBC Building, Louisville.
- 30 Ky. WMU Winter Committee meetings, KBC Building, Louisville.
- 31 Imagine Preschool and Children's Ministry Conference, Parkway Baptist Church, Bardstown.

February

- 6 Administrative Committee, KBC Building, Louisville.
- 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.

What's happening?

Send church and association events to: **Mountains to the Mississippi** in care of: sitha.salyers@westernrecorder.org.

Campbellsville VP to retire at year's end

By Drew Tucker and Joan McKinney

Campbellsville—Frank Cheatham, senior vice president for academic affairs and professor of math and computer science at Campbellsville University, will retire Dec. 31, 2014, after 40 years of service, he announced Jan. 6.

Cheatham, 70, will remain at his post while the university conducts a yearlong search for his successor.

Michael Carter, university president, described Cheatham as a "trusted advisor."

"His love for Campbellsville University and Christian higher education has been and is evident," Carter said.

Cheatham began his teaching career at CU in 1973 and was awarded the first "Teaching Excellence and Campus Leadership Award" by The Sears-Roebuck Foundation in 1989.

In 1992, he was awarded the Campbellsville/Taylor County Chamber of Commerce "Educator of the Year Award." He received it again in 2000.

In addition to teaching at Campbellsville, Cheatham has also taught at Western Kentucky University, Campbell College in North Carolina and Taylor County High School.

At CU, Cheatham has served on numerous committees and as faculty representative on several administrative positions. He was also faculty chairman and vice chairman and faculty representative to the CU Board of Trustees for two terms.

Cheatham led the discussion of providing the Internet at CU in 1994.

He has served as faculty advisor for Sigma Zeta, the science and math honor society, and also served as national president of Sigma Zeta.

Cheatham and his wife, Shirley Hardin Cheatham, have one daughter. They members of Campbellsville Baptist Church. (CU)



Frank Cheatham

Foundation names 2014 officers, committee chairs



The Kentucky Baptist Foundation Board of Directors elected officers and committee chairpersons at their quarterly meeting Dec. 12. Officers for the coming year are Willis Henson, of Paducah, chair; Mike Melloan, of Owensboro, vice chair; Sky Tudor, of Lancaster, secretary; Barry Allen, of Louisville, Treasurer; and Laurie Valentine, of Louisville, assistant secretary. Committee chairpersons are Bob Higgins, of Louisville, audit committee; Henson, executive; Dean Warren, of Bowling Green, investment; Ken Winters, of Murray, scholarship; Tudor, development and promotion; and Melloan, real estate. (KBF)

Universities named among 'top' in business, education

Louisville—Two Kentucky Baptist universities claimed bragging rights last week as U.S. News and World Report released a list of the country's best online graduate business programs.

Campbellsville University was ranked 79th among business schools in the U.S. offering master's degree online programs. University of the Cumberlands, located in Williamsburg, was just shy of cracking the top 100 with a ranking of 110.

DeWayne Frazier, associate vice president of academic affairs at Campbellsville, credited the "tireless efforts of faculty who make their classrooms academically rigorous, but flexible to meet the needs of 21st century learners."

Vonda Moore, Cumberlands' MBA program director, said it was especially honoring with the program being online only since 2010.

U.S. News and World Report based rankings on student engagement, admissions selectivity, peer reputation, faculty credentials and training, student services and technology.

Campbellsville University also was recognized by U.S. News and World Report for having the 70th ranked online education program.

For more rankings, see usnews.com and click on the banner "Best Online Programs."

In other recognitions, both Campbellsville and University of the Cumberlands have been selected as Military Friendly Schools for 2014.

The list honors the top 15 percent of colleges, universities and trade schools in the U.S. that do the most to embrace America's military service members, veterans and spouses as students—and to ensure their success on campus. (WR)

CLASSIFIED ADS

RESOURCES: Do you need a church pianist? We have CDs for congregational singing. Hymns, seasonal, choruses. Worship Service Resources (1-877) 977-6800. Free demo. Special church pricing. wsrpianocds.com.

SEEKING: Living Faith Baptist Church in Hartford is accepting resumes for a senior pastor. We are a young and thriving church that will benefit from an enthusiastic individual with spiritual maturity. Candidate needs to have a passion for proclaiming the gospel and reaching the lost. A degree is preferred, but not required. Send resumé to Kevin Burt, 75 Mount Carmel Church Road, Utica, KY 42376, or email to rbsautomotive@bellsouth.net. Resumes will be accepted through Feb. 28 and confirmation will be sent when received.

SEEKING: First Baptist Church of Sherwood, Ark., is seeking a full-time associate pastor of music/worship. Resumes received through March 7. Send to First Baptist Church, Music/Worship Search Committee, 701 Country Club Road, Sherwood, AR 72120, or email to responsefbcs@swbell.net.

SEEKING: Burton Memorial Baptist Church, a gospel-centered, evangelical church, is actively searching for the pastor whom God has chosen to lead us into the future. Burton is a unique, family-oriented church located outside Bowling

Green. We are a multi-generational congregation of 150 members in need of a gospel-centered, visionary man to lead us. While equipping the saints for ministry should be a strength, his gifting should also include dynamic, practical and relevant expositional preaching and teaching. Send resumé to Burton Memorial Baptist Church, Search Committee, 4377 Cemetery Road, Bowling Green, KY 42103, or email burtontsearchcommittee@gmail.com. Visit our website at burtonmemorial.com.

SEEKING: Bethlehem Baptist Church, located in a small, rural area outside Springfield in Washington County, is seeking a full-time pastor. Send resumes to bobbyjoe.mattingly@washington.kyschools.us or mail to Bobby Joe Mattingly at 1615 Jimtown Road, Springfield, KY 40069. Include a DVD/CD if available.

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: 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: 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: 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, 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

To place an advertisement in the Western Recorder:

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

resumes for the position of director of missions. Send resumes to: DOM Search Committee, Little Bethel Baptist Association, 445 Thompson Ave., Madisonville, KY 42431-1293.

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: Jefferson Baptist Association, south of St. Louis, Mo., is looking for a full-time director of missions. Requirements: Degree from an SBC-affiliated seminary and senior pastor experience. Full salary and benefits package. Send cover letter and resumé by Feb. 28 to domsearchteam@gmail.com

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.

Evolution

Plenty of people believe, but at what cost?

By Erin Roach

Nashville—Nearly two-thirds of Americans believe in human evolution and one-third reject the idea, according to a Pew Research Center study highlighting a battle of worldviews with implications for multiple facets of life.

Sixty percent of those surveyed said “humans and other living things have evolved over time,” while 33 percent said “humans and other living things have existed in their present form since the beginning of time,” Pew reported Dec. 30.

About half of those who reported a belief in human evolution said it’s “due to natural processes such as natural selection” while 24 percent said “a supreme being guided the evolution of living things for the purpose of creating humans and other life in the form it exists today.”

Pew’s study contrasts with a Gallup poll from 2012 that found 46 percent of Americans believe that God created humans in their present form at one time within the last 10,000 years. In that poll, about a third of Americans said they believe humans evolved but with God’s guidance, while 15 percent said God had no part in the process.

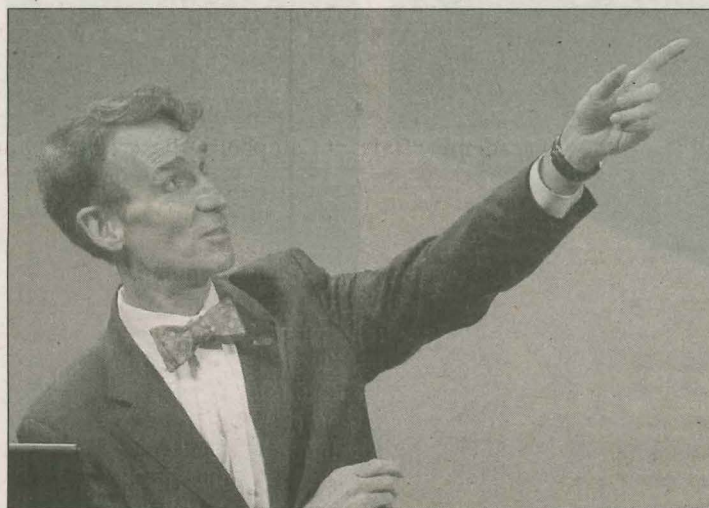
Casey Luskin of the Discovery Institute’s Center for Science and Culture said the Pew data could be analyzed to mean 57 percent of Americans hold a view compatible with Intelligent Design, that the universe is the product of intelligence rather than blind chance.

“If you define evolution as mere ‘change over time,’ then sure, most Americans (about 60 percent) believe humans have ‘evolved,’” Luskin said. “But if you further define evolution as ‘unguided natural selection,’ then apparently only about a third of Americans agree with that type of evolution.”

“If we interpret the poll correctly, well over half of Americans—at least 57 percent—take a view that fits within Intelligent Design and don’t support Darwinism,” Luskin said.

Ken Ham, president and founder of Answers in Genesis and the Creation Museum, which are grounded in the belief that God created the world in seven literal days and that the earth and universe are thousands—not billions—of years old, said the way Pew phrased the questions determined how people answered and even he would have said living things have not existed in their present form since the beginning of time.

“I believe there have been a lot of changes in animals because there has been a lot of speciation within a kind,” Ham said. But overall, he is encouraged that the study indicates that a strong number of people have not been per-



Tickets to a debate on creationism between Bill Nye (left) “the Science Guy” and Ken Ham, founder and president of the Creation Museum, were sold out within minutes of being announced. The Feb. 4 debate will be held in the museum’s 900-seat Legacy Hall in Petersburg. The museum is an outreach of the apologetics organization of Answers in Genesis. (Photo by Ed Schipul)

suaded by the human evolution theories.

“In a culture where generations of kids are being taken through a public education system where there’s been legislation to protect them from even hearing about creation and to teach them evolution as fact—that we still have a third of the population who would stand basically very similar to where we stand, I think that shows there’s been a significant influence in this culture to teach people about (God as creator),” Ham said.

The Pew study, though, does reflect that evolution is pushed overwhelmingly in the education system, Ham said, and a significant number of people believe God used evolution to create the world.

To change Americans’ views on creation and evolution going forward, Ham cited two needs: to educate children and to reach the church. Secularists, he said, have learned that the key is to capture the minds of children by teaching evolution in schools, and creationists need to be similarly involved.

Toward that end, this year the Creation Museum is offering free admission to children 12 and younger, and Answers in Genesis is producing apologetics curricula to address the origin of the earth and man.

Also, the Creation Museum is hosting

a sold-out debate Feb. 4 between Ham and Bill Nye “The Science Guy,” the former host of a popular science television show for youths.

Ham continued, “We need to be reaching the church because I believe the state of the nation reflects the state of the church. Because we know that so many Christian leaders don’t take a stand on Genesis as they should and are being influenced to believe in evolution.”

“We’re finding more and more the average person in church wants to believe God’s word but hasn’t been instructed how to and doesn’t know how to defend their faith, and they really love our ministry and then put pressure on their pastors and other Christian leaders and colleges concerning these issues,” Ham said. “There’s a problem from the leadership down (in the church) and we need to address it.”

A basic battle of worldviews

The Pew study is another argument for the need for Christians to take a strong stand on the absolute authority of the word of God, Ham said.

“Really what’s going on in our culture is a battle of worldviews. It’s a worldview built on God’s word versus a worldview built on man’s word,” Ham said.

“The first attack was on the word of God, and it has always been a battle between who is the authority. Is it God’s word or is it man who determines truth?” Ham said.

Mark Coppenger, professor of apologetics at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, said while religious liberalism has “embraced Darwinism from the start and has ridden it down into spiritual feebleness,” he’s pleased that the Pew study shows many have refused to abandon a biblical worldview.

“Perhaps the evolution skeptics ... doubt that the math will work out, even if you grant the Darwinists the gazillions of years they claim,” Coppenger said. “Maybe they’re leery of a story that gives so much aid and comfort to atheists. Maybe they’ve read the strong work of Philip Johnson and Michael Behe or picked up on the AiG museum or (a creation-themed) Grand Canyon tour.”

“Maybe they’ve figured that science, by its very nature, is incompetent to pontificate on utterly non-repeatable, far-distant occurrences, such as the origin of earth and man,” Coppenger said. “Perhaps they find assurances that science and religion don’t conflict when they read of miracles in the Bible. It could be any number of things.”

Rob Phillips, an apologetics leader for the Missouri Baptist Convention, said the beliefs expressed in the Pew study have implications for daily life because if evolution is true, life is meaningless.

“Your life might have some temporal significance with respect to how you impact other people’s lives or alter the course of history, but death remains our common destiny,” Phillips said.

“If creation is true, however, life is not only meaningful but everlasting. We are created in the image of God, for a relationship with God, and with the divine purpose of knowing our Creator and living with Him beyond the grave,” Phillips said. “Death is no longer our destiny but a defeated enemy.” (BP)

Is Your Church Prepared?



***How many of your long time,
faithful members have died
in the past year, 2 years, 3 years, etc?***

***How many of them included the church
in their estate plans?***

Lifeway
Research
reported in
February 2013

72% of Southern
Baptist pastors
believe every
adult member
should include
the church and
other ministries
in their estate
plans, **BUT**

86% stated they
had not provided
their
congregations
with any basic
information on
estate planning
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