

WESTERN Recorder

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Shine Like Stars * Philippians 2:15

Volume 188, Issue 6

Marriage definition 'in jeopardy,' Ky. Baptist leaders say

By Robin Cornet Bass

Kentucky's definition of marriage is on a "slippery slope" after a federal judge's decision, warn Baptist leaders—despite a state constitutional amendment approved by 75 percent of, or 1.2 million, voters in 2004.

U.S. District Court Judge John Heyburn ruled Wednesday (Feb. 12) in Louisville that the state must recognize same-sex marriages performed out-of-state and to do otherwise would violate the U.S. Constitution's guarantee of equal protection under the law. Heyburn did not make a ruling regarding the legality of

performing same-sex marriages in Kentucky.

Paul Chitwood, executive director of the Kentucky Baptist Convention, wrote on his blog that Heyburn's decision "usurped the will of Kentucky voters." He called the development "tragic and disappointing," adding if the ruling stands, the state's constitutional definition of marriage would be "in jeopardy."

"As Heyburn declares that the Commonwealth must recognize gay marriages performed in other states, the Constitution of Kentucky is being undermined," Chitwood wrote. "This decision moves us down the slippery slope toward



"This decision moves us down the slippery slope toward launching Kentucky into moral chaos."

Paul Chitwood

launching Kentucky into moral chaos and depriving children of their innate need of both a father and a mother." Supporters of same-sex marriage

responded to Chitwood's blog soon after the statement was published, labeling his comments insulting and intolerant.

"What is truly tragic is that the Southern Baptist Convention has turned into an institution that no longer values individual thought and personhood, but rather feels compelled to dictate what it thinks is right," commented a writer identified as Luke Hall.

Joining Chitwood in speaking out against the ruling was Southern Baptist Theological Seminary President Albert Mohler Jr.

"Once again, we face a federal court
□ See Marriage ... Page 3

SEEKING GOD BEFORE GOLD

U.S. snowboarder looks to inspire beyond Sochi

By Tim Ellsworth

Mammoth Lakes, Calif.—U.S. Olympic snowboarder Kelly Clark knows some of the trappings that come with athletic success. A four-time Olympian, she has seen those temptations herself. That's one reason she decided four years ago to start the Kelly Clark Foundation to help others compete in the sport that she loves so much.

"As a competitive athlete, sometimes you're required to prioritize yourself and think about yourself all the time," Clark, who won the bronze medal Feb. 12 in the women's halfpipe competition, said. "I thought it might be better if I didn't spend so much time thinking about myself. That's kind of where my inspiration came from to start the foundation."

The foundation's purpose is to help youth be

□ See Clark ... Page 6

Kelly Clark competes during the women's halfpipe qualification in the Sochi 2014 Olympic Winter Games. (Photo by David McIntyre)

Expanded gambling 'on life support'

By Robin Cornet Bass

Louisville—The effort to push casino gambling may be dying a slow death, said the leader of the Kentucky Baptist Convention, and he could not be more pleased.

"It may be too early to declare gambling legislation dead, but it's clearly on life support," said Paul Chitwood, KBC executive director.

Louisville Senator Dan Seum, chairman of the Senate Republican Caucus, said Feb. 10 that his bill to expand gambling through a constitutional amendment lacked the party support necessary to win passage.

□ See Expanded gambling ... Page 2

Mother's Day offering approved for Sunrise

By Roger Alford

Louisville—The Kentucky Baptist Convention Mission Board has agreed to ask congregations across the state to collect a second offering to help with expenses at Sunrise Children's Services, this one on Mother's Day.

The action was taken in response to a request from Sunrise, which saw a major decline in giving when an offering was taken last November at a time when the Kentucky Baptist-affiliated children's home was embroiled in controversy over a recommendation to hire gay employees.

"Due to the controversy, the Thanksgiving offering fell far short of the goal

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Students see Ky. churches' future in Ireland's past

By Ken Walker

Williamsburg—With their vision for inter-denominational outreach awakened by mission trips to Northern Ireland, University of the Cumberlands students are working to arrange a round-the-clock campus prayer vigil this spring.

Two members of Baptist Campus Ministries said the trips showed them how the situation overseas poses a warning for Americans. Although the Protestant-Catholic conflict in Northern Ireland reflects a wider political and social divide, they said if American churches don't unify to share the gospel they will see a similar dwindling influence.

"We're headed in the same direction," said Giné (pronounced "Juh-nay") Nichols, whose father, Greg, is pastor Hiseville Baptist Church near Glasgow. "I see a need to build relationships with other churches and for Christians to build relationships with non-Christians," she said. "Kentucky is the best place to start."

Campus Missionary Dean Whitaker led an Acts 1:8 Leadership team to Northern Ireland last summer, but the school's trips in 2013 and '14 were not part of that initiative.

Instead, Campbellsville graduate Kerri Gonzalez helped arranged the visits. Gonzalez works with a Northern Ireland charity to send U.S. teams, which aren't seen as part of either "side."

While students worked to raise the majority of their support, the Southern Baptist Cooperative Program provided a \$500 per-student stipend for the latest mission Jan. 2-9.

"The trips helped open students' eyes to the need for discipleship and that our churches don't lose sight of what's important," Whitaker said of the vital role Kentucky Baptists played in the students' spiritual growth.

Despite cultural differences, BCM President Kayla Smith said ministry in Northern Ireland is similar to the Bible Belt. As in Kentucky, overseas they often had to use truth to combat misconceptions before they could share about the love of Christ, Smith said.

"This is due to people being so hurt by



Carla Fountain (left), Giné Nichols and Kayla Smith are arranging a prayer vigil at University of the Cumberlands this spring.

'religion' and 'church' that they don't understand the grace and beauty of a real relationship with God," said Smith, who made both trips. "Religion has caused so many problems in Northern Ireland," she added. "It's important for us to realize the importance of worshiping and working together."

One outreach that especially impacted the BCM group was The Dock, a coffeehouse located where the ill-fated Titanic was built. Staffed by volunteers from various churches, it also hosts Sunday evening worship services, including a monthly inter-denominational event.

The Dock recently helped launch a region-wide prayer vigil lasting throughout 2014. Each week, various churches take responsibility for round-the-clock prayers.

That helped inspire the plans for a vigil at UC, with BCM hoping other denominations will participate.

"I could see and understand the importance of so many churches worshipping together," Smith said of the service they attended. "That's a glimpse of what heaven will be like."

Nichols shared about her experiences Jan. 19 at Hiseville Baptist, the first of what she hopes will be many speaking engagements.

It isn't just Kentucky Baptists who need to cross denominational barriers, she said, but churches across the commonwealth and the nation. "Why not work together to spread the message of

Christ and His love?" Nichols asked.

One ministry the students helped with that touched her father's heart was an initiative called Safe Zone.

Volunteers in that program work with police on weekend nights to patrol outside the many pubs and help intoxicated residents find a warm place to stay, a ride home or other assistance.

Greg Nichols said he was impressed with such a hands-on effort, which he said helps demonstrate that Christians "have a compassionate side."

"Those are things that we could be doing here," said the Hiseville pastor. "We need to get outside our comfort zones."

Giné Nichols suggested joint Easter and Thanksgiving worship services sponsored by several Hiseville churches to "break down barriers," she said.

Such cooperation came at a high price in Northern Ireland. Whitaker said churches were forced to unify after so many used religion as a convenient scapegoat for its many social problems.

"It's what the church there has to do because they don't have a voice," he said of cross-denominational cooperation. "Likewise, we shouldn't think that what's happening in the greater culture won't affect us." (KBC)

Sunrise offering

Continued from page 1

and even farther short of the needs," said KBC Executive Director Paul Chitwood. "A special Mother's Day emphasis could potentially allow Sunrise to catch back up. Now that the Sunrise board has quashed the idea of hiring homosexual staffers, I believe Kentucky Baptists will again be willing to provide the financial support needed."

Former Sunrise President Bill Smithwick received a vote of no confidence on Nov. 12 from messengers at the Kentucky Baptist Convention's annual meeting in Paducah. Sunrise trustees had already rejected Smithwick's controversial recommendation.

Chitwood said interim Sunrise

Donnell promoted to KBC associate executive director

Louisville—Jim Donnell, a longtime staffer at the Kentucky Baptist Convention, has been promoted to the position of associate executive director for convention operations.

The KBC administrative committee approved Donnell's promotion last week.

"Helping Kentucky Baptists spread the gospel has been a joy, and I look forward to continuing that in my new role," Donnell said.

Donnell joined the KBC staff in 1994 as director of the administrative services department and assistant business manager. Since then, he has taken on additional duties including overseeing security and facility management, support services, disaster recovery coordination and executive office administration.

Prior to joining KBC, Donnell was an executive in hospital administration, having served as an administrator of a Baptist hospital in Arkansas as well as on the administrative staff of a Baptist hospital in Tennessee.

Chitwood said Donnell's focus will be on internal administration. (KBC)

President Dale Suttles and the board of trustees are committed to supporting biblical values and to ensuring that the organization reflects a strong Christian witness. Because of that, Chitwood said, the organization is worthy of financial support from churches across the state.

Sunrise board Chairman William Hurley has assured Kentucky Baptists that there is no reason not to support the children's agency.

"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," Hurley wrote in a letter to churches last December. "We will not knowingly expose any child in Sunrise's care to unbiblical influences." (KBC)

Expanded gambling

Continued from page 1

Seum, who would not disclose the number of votes needed, said his bill was not dead. All it needs is "time," he said.

Less than half of this year's 60-day legislative session remains. Sixty percent of the 38-member Senate and 100-member House are needed to pass a constitutional amendment proposal.

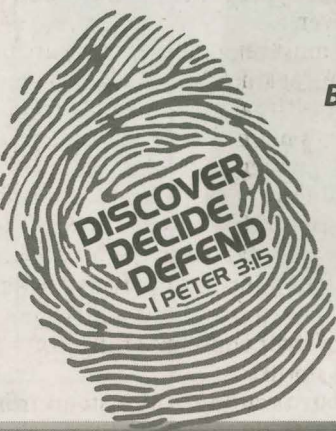
"Lawmakers realize that legalizing casinos is a bad idea because of the misery they'd bring to Kentucky," Chitwood said. "They're also aware that voting for casinos could very well cost them re-election because so many Kentuckians oppose the idea."

"We're aware that no bill is truly dead as long as the legislature is in session, but we do hope that this one doesn't survive," Chitwood added.

Chitwood encouraged Kentucky Baptists to call the legislative message line at (800) 372-7181 and tell lawmakers to vote "no" on expanded gambling. (WR)

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Virginia judge says marriage amendment illegal

Traditional marriage definition 'changed by the stroke of a judge's pen'

Richmond, Va.—Voter-approved marriage amendments are under fire in several states now, including Virginia, where a federal judge struck down that state's protection of traditional marriage by saying it violates the Equal Protection Clause of the U.S. Constitution.

Fifty-seven percent of Virginia voters approved the amendment in 2006, defining marriage as between one man and one woman, but U.S. District Judge Arenda Allen ruled Thursday (Feb. 13) that "the right to marry is a rigorously protected fundamental right" for all Americans.

"The right to marry is inseparable from our rights to privacy and intimate association," Allen wrote.

The judge also concluded, "Our nation's uneven but dogged journey toward truer and more meaningful freedoms for our citizens has brought us continually to a deeper understanding of the first three words in our Constitution: we the people. We the people have become a broader, more diverse family than once imagined. ... We have arrived upon another moment in history when We the people become more inclusive, and our freedom more perfect."

Mat Staver, chairman of Liberty Counsel, called the decision "outrageous and legally flawed."

"The Constitution cannot be changed by the stroke of a judge's pen, nor does it bow to a judge's personal ideology. The overwhelming majority of Virginia voters who make up 'we the people' voted to affirm natural marriage," Staver said.

On appeal, Liberty Counsel will file an amicus brief in the case.

Allen's decision follows a turnaround by Virginia's attorney general, Mark Her-

ring, who as a state senator eight years ago supported the marriage amendment, but now says he will not defend the law in federal court.

A spokesman for Equality Virginia called the judge's ruling "an historic day in Virginia," according to the Richmond Times-Dispatch, and said Virginians "are no longer asking if the freedom to marry the person you love will be a reality, but instead we are asking when."

Victoria Cobb, president of the Family Foundation of Virginia, lamented the ruling, which, if upheld, could make Virginia the first Southern state to legalize

same-sex marriage.

"Regardless of one's stance on marriage, the people of Virginia were disenfranchised by this ruling as our voice and our vote that amended our Constitution have been rendered meaningless by a judge with the aid and assistance of our own Attorney General," Cobb said, according to the Times-Dispatch.

"Protecting a timeless institution for the well-being of children was the will of the overwhelming majority of Virginians, and the ruling denies this important state interest as it places the desires of adults over the outcomes of children," Cobb said.

Much like in the Kentucky case handed down last week, in Virginia language from the U.S. Supreme Court's landmark decision last year in *United States v. Windsor* served as a guide.

Justice Anthony Kennedy's opinion in *Windsor* "is, in a sense, a road map for the attack now being made by plaintiffs attacking bans on same-sex marriage in state and federal courts around the country," A.E. Dick Howard, a constitutional law professor at the University of Virginia, told the Times-Dispatch.

Seventeen states allow gay marriage, and 33 have laws protecting marriage between a man and a woman. (BP)

ERLC files brief upholding states' marriage laws

Washington D.C.—The Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission of the Southern Baptist Convention filed an amicus brief with a coalition of religious groups in support of the people of Utah and Oklahoma as the 10th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals considers whether the U.S. Constitution prohibits them from preserving the husband-wife definition of marriage.

"The voices of millions of Americans are represented in the broad cross-section of faith communities that join in this brief," says the brief. "Our theological perspectives, though often differing, converge on a critical point: that the traditional, husband-wife definition of marriage is vital to the welfare of children, families and society."

ERLC President Russell Moore said, "The government shouldn't subvert the democratic process in a quest to institutionalize the sexual revolution. The fact that this is happening in Utah and Oklahoma should send a signal to our churches that the struggle for soul freedom and religious liberty should concern all of us, everywhere, all the time," Moore said. (BP)

Marriage

Continued from page 1

striking down a constitutional amendment that had been overwhelmingly adopted by the citizens of a state," Mohler wrote on his blog. This decision marks the 10th state or federal court to hand down rulings on the issue of same-sex marriage based on the outcome of *United States v. Windsor* case, he noted. The U.S. Supreme Court ruled 5-4 last June that the Defense of Marriage Act was unconstitutional and made it illegal for the federal government to refrain from recognizing state-approved marriages of same-sex couples.

'Fundamental shift'

A federal judge in Virginia brought that total to 11 on Feb. 13 when Arenda Wright Allen of the U.S. District Court in Norfolk declared the state's ban on same-sex marriages unconstitutional. The ruling also overturned a constitutional amendment adopted by voters in that state. Virginia would also respect same-sex marriages that were performed in other states.

Evan Wolfson, president of the advocacy group Freedom to Marry, issued this statement: "The bipartisan momentum for marriage is building at an unprecedented speed. In just the past several weeks, federal judges in Utah, Oklahoma, and Kentucky; the Attorney Generals of Virginia and Nevada; the Governor of Nevada, and now a federal judge in Virginia have all said that marriage discrimination against loving and committed gay couples is indefensible under our Constitution. There has been a fundamental shift in the legal landscape."

Back in Kentucky, Mohler called the words of Supreme Court Justice Antonin Scalia prophetic when in his dissent

Scalia wrote, "(N)o one should be fooled; it is just a matter of listening and waiting for the other shoe."

"As Justice Scalia predicted, we did not have to wait long for the other shoe [to fall]," Mohler noted. "Within hours of Judge Heyburn's decision, advocates of same-sex marriage announced their intention to file a challenge to what remains of Kentucky's marriage amendment."

Mohler then made his own prediction: "(O)pposition to the recognition of any and all forms of human relation will soon pass away—or at very least be dismissed as of no legal significance," Mohler wrote. "Soon we will face very real challenges to religious liberty."

What's next? Polygamy?

Martin Cothran, spokesman for The Family Foundation of Kentucky, said voters in the state will be disappointed with the ramifications of this decision.

"This decision puts Kentucky voters on notice that if their reasons for defining marriage as between a man and a woman don't correspond with the political ideology of liberal judges, their votes don't count," Cothran said. "If a state like Utah were ever to legalize polygamy, Kentucky would be forced to recognize it under this decision."

Other religious liberty issues pointed out by the KBC's executive director included the definition of "hate speech," the legalization of marijuana and other drugs, and sanctity of life concerns such as euthanasia and cloning.

Chip Hutcheson, KBC president, warned that Kentucky Baptists can no longer expect the government to lead them down a moral path.

"There is no question that the full-fledged effort to redefine marriage will not end here, but I fear will only pick up steam," Hutcheson, the editor and

publisher of the Princeton Times-Leader, said. "And that means religious liberty is under attack. Those of us who have the conviction that same-sex marriage is contrary to the teaching of Scripture will see escalating efforts to not only muffle our voices, but, in fact, to finance this lifestyle."

"Christians will be expected to celebrate a lifestyle we believe to be morally depraved," he said.

Appeals process

The important aspect to remember, said KBC Public Affairs Committee Chairman Steve Weaver, is that a much higher court than the Supreme Court has already ruled on the definition of marriage and it has not, and cannot be changed.

"The sanctity of marriage exists because God defines marriage, not federal judges," Weaver said. "The court has usurped the will of the people and our Constitution, but this is not the worse place for us, because it puts us in a place of greater dependence upon the God of the universe."

"We must remember that we are not wrestling against flesh and blood, but against spiritual forces," Weaver said. "This does not mean we should demonize our opponents, but that there are spiritual forces at work and we must be constantly vigilant."

Weaver cautioned that it may not be long before ministers are forced to perform same-sex marriages under the threat of their churches losing tax-exempt status.

Heyburn's ruling, which stems from a lawsuit brought by four gay and lesbian couples, is not final. According to the American Civil Liberties Union, another hearing on the matter will be scheduled in the near future.

"The ACLU of Kentucky asks the state

to let the ruling stand rather than appealing the decision, as it has been done in several other states," Michael Aldridge, executive director of the ACLU of Kentucky, said. "If the decision is appealed, the ACLU of Kentucky will file an amicus brief in support of marriage equality."

As leader of Kentucky's largest religious organization, Chitwood said his hopes were quite the contrary.

"I pray the appeals process will honor the Commonwealth's constitution and protect her children," the executive director said. "Any departure by government from the historical definition of marriage between a man and a woman welcomes chaos into the lives of children, families, communities and a society. We, therefore, implore our elected officials and judges, whether appointed or elected, to maintain the current wording of our state constitution."

'End of the story: Christ wins'

Weaver said that while this latest ruling casts a gloomy cloud over the hopes of Kentucky Baptists to live in a society honoring to God, it provides an opportunity to remind each other about the nature of Christian discipleship.

"We are called to take up a cross and follow our crucified Savior. We weren't promised that it would be easy; in fact, we were promised that it wouldn't be," Weaver said.

"However, we know that there is a day coming when the kingdoms of this world will become the kingdom of our Lord and He shall reign forever and ever," he said. "Until that day, we stand, speaking the truth in love, with conviction and kindness, willing to suffer for our beliefs, but not as downcast and defeated doubters. We can press on with joy because we know the end of the story. Christ wins." (WR)

What is a mission board?

Mission boards are a unique design of churches and denominations strategically created to advance the gospel. Among Southern Baptists, mission boards have been created corresponding to an Acts 1:8 model.

To help evangelize their "Judea" in Kentucky, our churches have the Kentucky Baptist Convention Mission Board. Our state mission board helps churches by providing training, resources and missionary personnel in areas of evangelism, missions, church planting and church revitalization. The state mission board also receives and distributes missions funds given through the Cooperative Program and various missions offerings. Among many other roles, KBC also helps churches have a voice in society on issues like casino gambling, gay marriage and the sanctity of life.

To help evangelize their "Samaria," SBC churches have created the North American Mission Board. NAMB is engaged in helping churches plant churches. NAMB also provides a wealth of resources, missionaries, and strategic initiatives to assist churches as they take the gospel to the least evangelized places and people groups in our Samaria.

To help evangelize "the ends of the earth," SBC churches also have created the International Mission board. Of the 11,700 people groups discovered through IMB research, 6,000 are unreached with the gospel, meaning that less than 2 percent are professing Christians. Half of unreached people groups are also unengaged, meaning there is no ongoing strategy to evangelize, disciple, or plant churches among those people groups. Through IMB, our churches are seeking to reach these unreached people groups by providing complete support to 4,800 missionaries serving in 140 countries.

The three mission boards supported by KBC churches receive funding from two primary channels: the Cooperative Program and an annual offering specified for each board. For our state mission board—in addition to CP—1,096 KBC churches last year gave through the Eliza Broadus Offering for state missions emphasized in September. For NAMB—in addition to CP—1,359 KBC churches gave through the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering emphasized in April. For IMB—in addition to CP—1,503 KBC churches gave through the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering. As for CP—1,893 of our 2,400 affiliated churches contributed last year.

Through these mission boards churches see gospel advance in Kentucky, North America, and among the nations. This past year, 15 new churches were started and thousands of lost souls were saved in our state through the ministries of our state convention. More than 1,000 new churches were started in North America through NAMB. Another 23,000 new churches were started overseas through the IMB and more than 300,000 new believers were baptized.

Paul Chitwood is executive director of the Kentucky Baptist Convention.



Paul Chitwood

Decision sends shockwave among Ky. Baptists

Shortly after 10:30 p.m. on Valentine's Day, I received a distressing text message from my sister who lives in upstate South Carolina. There had just been an earthquake, she said. No significant damage or injuries were reported across the state, but several residents of Edgefield, a small town near the Georgia line that was the epicenter of the 4.1 magnitude quake, described the tremor as being like the rumbling of a freight train. My sister, who lives more than 90 miles away, said her house shook as though a low flying jet screeched overhead. Although South Carolina reportedly experiences 15 to 20 small tremors each year, last Friday's tremor registered the highest magnitude since 2002. On Sunday afternoon, a 3.2 magnitude aftershock rocked Edgefield again.

Last summer, the Supreme Court sent a tremor of a different sort among Southern Baptists and other conservative, evangelical Christians when justices delivered a historic ruling in favor of same-sex marriage, but stopped short of redefining marriage nationwide. In what was seen as a breakthrough for homosexual couples, justices issued a 5-4 decision that the Defense of Marriage Act violated "equal protection" under the Constitution by refusing to recognize gay marriages and denying benefits.

This past week, Kentucky Baptists and other Christians in the commonwealth felt an aftershock of that Supreme Court ruling when a U.S. District Court judge in Louisville reached a similar decision regarding the recognition of same-sex marriages performed in other states. Although the ruling did not specifically address the legality of same-sex marriages performed in Kentucky, Baptists and other Christian leaders are becoming increasingly concerned that day isn't far off. "This decision moves us down the slippery slope toward launching Kentucky into moral chaos and depriving children of their innate need of both a father and a mother," warned KBC Executive Director Paul Chitwood. Two days after the judge's ruling, another lawsuit was filed by a gay couple wanting to be married in Kentucky.

Particularly troubling to some is that Judge Heyburn's decision not only disqualified religious convictions as a legal basis when seen as discriminatory, but also seemingly discounted the ballots of 75 percent of Kentucky voters—not to mention the legislative process by which duly elected representatives framed a constitutional amendment in 2004. The next day, a federal judge in Virginia also overturned a constitutional amendment adopted by voters there, suggesting a trajectory for Kentucky. Can our votes now be rendered irrelevant and subject to a particular judge's ideology? Equally troubling, as KBC President Chip Hutcheson points out, is that those who adhere to a

conviction that same-sex marriage is contrary to the teaching of Scripture likely will see escalating efforts to muffle their voices and run a greater risk of being labeled as religious bigots as our culture's views of homosexuality clash.

A LifeWay survey in November 2012 found the percentage of Americans who believe homosexuality is a sin had fallen from 44 percent to 37 percent in the preceding year. Meanwhile, 45 percent said they do not believe homosexuality is a sin. Seventeen percent were unsure. Not surprisingly, those who did not attend church services were the most likely to say they do not believe homosexual behavior is a sin (71 percent). Another LifeWay poll in March 2013 showed 58 percent of Americans felt same-sex marriage is a civil rights issue, while 64 percent believed it is inevitable that same-sex marriage will become legal.

"We have gone as a people from a broad and general trust of the Bible to a nation that questions whether there really is any such thing as absolute truth," observed Bob Stith, a Texas pastor who formerly served as Southern Baptists' national strategist for gender issues, following the first survey. Such trends, he said, "have opened the door for gay apologists to cast doubt on what the Bible really says about homosexuality." Southern Baptists must do a better job of addressing these issues from the pulpit, he urged.

In our top story, Steve Weaver, chairman of the KBC Committee on Public Affairs, rightly reminds Kentucky Baptists that regardless of the U.S. District Court's ruling, a much higher court than the Supreme Court has already ruled on the definition of marriage. Indeed, God defines marriage, not any federal judge or government leader. Whether or not our culture accepts homosexuality as normative behavior and gay marriage becomes legal, the church must continue to teach and adhere to a higher, biblical standard and model a lifestyle that honors God.

Accordingly, in a recent BP article titled "New gay marriage rules hamper states," Barrett Duke, vice president for public policy of the Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission, emphasizes the church's ongoing responsibility: "Churches must be vigilant in teaching a biblical view of marriage to their members and helping their communities understand why God's design for marriage matters to children and society." As the aftershocks of a Louisville federal judge's ruling rumble across the commonwealth in the weeks and months ahead and our culture barrels further away from traditional Christian values, we are reminded yet again of the urgency of our task in reaching a lost world with the gospel, showing the grace and forgiveness of our loving Father to others, and seeking to reconcile them with Him.

After Thought

By Todd Deaton



Pointless debate

It's pointless to debate creationism, whether involving 6,000 years or thousands/millions of years, vis-à-vis naturalism (evolution) since both require faith to accept—the former in God, the latter in man. No one alive has any idea of the world's makeup 6,000 years ago.

Creationists can believe the Genesis account as involving six, 24-hour days, but creationists can also see the Genesis account (one day as a 1,000 with the Lord) literally, with the process covering

a long period, the extent to which no one has a clue, notwithstanding any scientific consensus that the earth is 4.5 billion years old.



I'm a creationist with the long view regarding the physical earth and even animals, but with the insistence that humankind was a spontaneous construct by God, whether 6,000 years ago or 6 million, and not any part of a chain involving evolution from lower forms or transpositioning into "higher" forms. Creationists can believe that the Grand Canyon was made in a twinkling, while

"scientists" can claim it was carved out by erosion over millions of years. No one can say for sure that he's right because no inhabitant of that era ever made a record. In any event ... so what?

The believer conceives of the human being as a soul, while the naturalist conceives of him as just another organism. Believing the latter is to put man on animal-level, with instincts rather than reason motivating his behavior. Atheists can be brutal because they deny man is a soul, and thus is animal-instinctive.

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Richmond church offers High School Seminary

By Joe Ball

One of the struggles I hear repeatedly from youth ministers is the tension between teaching Scripture for unchurched or new believers and students wanting to go deeper in the faith.

Last fall, Steve Coleman, minister of youth and families at First Baptist Church of Richmond, began a once a week Bible study for high school students that challenges them to take their discipleship seriously. Now that the school year is half over, I asked Steve to write about his experience so we can learn from what has happened there.

"I have been involved in youth ministry for a long time now. Every year, it seems that we have that summer event called 'youth camp.' You know the drill: You go to camp, isolated from the culture, and students get very close to Christ. They pledge lots of things while at camp to only come home and go right back to the same old, same old.

"This plays out annually, but this year I wanted to try something different. We had camp with the same commitments, but to our high school students I threw down a new challenge.

"If they were serious about growing in Christ and the commitments they made at camp, would they commit to attending an early morning Bible study before school once a week? No frills, no fun stuff, no food provided—just deeper, challenging study. I called it 'High School Seminary.'

"I talked to a local coffee shop and they opened early so we could start at 7 a.m. I planned on 12, hoping for nine, but thinking three would show up.

"The first morning we had 19! Since August, we have had 19 as a high and the low has been 9 (due to the weather).

"What have we studied? Thus far, we took a month just to study faith. What is faith? Do I have it? How can we become more faithful, pillars of the faith, and plan

on getting stronger in our faith?

"This concluded with a minimal two-page, typed paper with cover sheet, answering questions and including biblical quotes. They did it! I graded the paper with red ink. Yes, red ink. No one failed, and they understood what it meant if the margins weren't right, the cover page wasn't included, the text they used wasn't referenced, etc.

"The second topic we looked at is, 'How to be a rebel with a cause.' Learning how to live differently from the culture. In the middle of this study we had a second paper requirement, 'Why does God allow suffering?'

"I have seen our students rise to the occasion and do the readings, writings, study and read their Bible every day to keep up with class assignments. They are growing, they are working hard and their faith in Christ is more real than ever before—their words, not mine.

"We have lost some along the way and that's OK. This is hard and not for everyone. We have added some students, too. As students have been telling others of what we are doing, they want to try it. Some students come to check it out, but find out that this hard work. Our High School Seminary is not another object lesson, music and fluffy youth ministry thing, but digging deeper into the word of God and what we believe.

"I have asked the students if they still want to continue this after the Christmas break or to carry on into the next semester. All of them have said emphatically, 'Yes!'

"Camp has come and gone, but these students still have the 'camp high' because they continue to be in the presence of the One on High!"

Growing disciples is not an easy or a quick process; it takes time, energy and a commitment to raising the bar for our students, and may require us to meet at odd times and places.

Joe Ball, a former youth minister at Edgewood Baptist Church in Hopkinsville, is youth ministry strategist for Crossings Ministries.

Youth Ministry Corner



Joe Ball

Dad & daughter relationships

By David Garrard

Dads and daughters share a special relationship. Little boys grow into big men who typically trade tenderness for toughness, but little girls never get too big to give their dad a hug and say, "I love you." Daughters have special needs that dads will want to meet.



She needs your time. Invest your life in hers. Pay attention to her. Notice everything about her and take an interest in everything she does. Make her feel special. Make memories together.

She needs your prayers. Pray for her. Ask God to protect and guide your daughter. Ask Him to help her make good choices. Choose a specific Bible verse that expresses your hopes for your daughter and pray it for her daily. Pray with her.

She needs your example. Model what it means to be a gentleman. Help your daughter set high standards. Treat her with respect and courtesy and teach her to expect that kind of treatment from men.

She needs your touch. Hugging and holding often becomes harder when young ladies begin to mature physically, but dads need to set aside inhibitions and step up to the plate. Appropriate touching meets an important emotional need in your daughter's life, making it less likely that she will seek satisfaction in the wrong ways from the wrong people.

She needs security. Set boundaries. Give grace. Constantly communicate unconditional love. Love her mother, and work together to make your home a happy place.

She needs your trust. Trust helps your daughter find a proper balance between the independence she wants and needs, and the respect she still wants to give and show to you.

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

Time to stop fighting for our way and begin leading others to the Way?

By Mike Goeke

As a Christian living in a very post-Christian San Francisco, I have found myself questioning the way the Christian community engages culture.

With the debate over gay marriage and other issues related to homosexuality, the cultural divide over abortion, the odd Christianization of war policy and gun control, and the fight for Christian symbols in school, government, media and marketing, it seems that many Christians tend to connect the collective moral fiber of our country to our laws, our politics or our media—that Christian principles somehow give us a "Christian" identity as a country.

'Promised to be odd'

We clearly like to be in the majority and like culture to validate our faith and our moral decisions. We like to be popular. Yet nothing in the Bible points to a Christian majority or cultural acceptance of our beliefs.

Rather than sweeping majorities, popular influence and laws that line up with Scripture, we are promised to be odd, persecuted outcasts who leave all, die to all, endure all and serve all for the cause of Christ.

We are not called to lead people to shiny churches designed to meet all their needs. Our calling is not to clean

up society or legislate morality or overthrow government, or to tie tax and survivor benefits to the biblical truth of marriage.

We are called simply to reach the world with the amazing love of Jesus Christ, to help reconcile a lost and disconnected world back into relationship with God through Christ.

FIRST PERSON

A little history lesson

Christianity's rise to power and cultural influence caused us to fit comfortably into culture, rather than standing out from culture. We faced little opposition to our bold assertions of our belief system. In many parts of our country Christianity and church were entrees into business and society.

As culture began to shift from Judeo-Christian values, we reacted and began to look less and less like Jesus. We asserted our rights instead of understanding that Christianity stripped us of rights. We demanded acceptance instead of graciously

enduring rejection.

Some of us, meanwhile, began to redefine our Christianity to create something more palatable for society.

We forgot that God is not concerned whether a country looks or acts Christian any more than He is concerned

about whether a person looks or acts Christian. He is concerned about the hearts and souls of people.

The rise of cultural Christianity created many Christian lives that were just like secular lives, but with added rules and a "get out of hell free" card. There is a very real possibility that many who claim to follow Christ will fall away as Christianity becomes less and less culturally acceptable.

But as the ranks of professing Christians become smaller, my prayer is that our smaller numbers would become more focused on shining the light of Christ in a very dark world.

What if instead of fighting for the culture to validate us, we did what Jesus told us to do and turned the other cheek and loved those who hate and persecute us? What

if we, with no strings attached, began to use our God-given gifts of leadership and creativity and finances and time to truly seek the welfare of our cities? What if the world saw Christians really living differently?

We have perhaps claimed a different moral standard, but have we really lived differently? Have we forgiven when the world says to seek revenge? Have we loved sacrificially and unconditionally when others have hated us?

Have we respected our leaders even when they do not honor our beliefs? Have we shown mercy to those both

deserving and undeserving of mercy?

Have we fought for all people, even those whose lives are in great contrast to biblical principles, to be treated with dignity?

Opportunity is knocking

The body of Christ stands before an open door of opportunity as the world moves further away from cultural Christianity. The door is open for amazing growth, hope and testimony. The door is open for a true, living orthodoxy.

We don't follow Christ because we get tax benefits or because the Ten Commandments hang on the courthouse walls. We follow Christ because Christ is worthy of our following and because we desire to be part of the work He is

doing all over the world.

Perhaps, in the end, we will see lives radically changed. And all these issues that distract us will assume their proper place. And we, fully reconciled to the living God of the universe, will succeed as God's agents to this world—walking others into the beauty that is the life reconciled to God through Christ. (BP)

Mike Goeke, associate pastor of First Baptist Church San Francisco, has been in full-time ministry since leaving his law practice in 2001. He speaks and writes on issues related to life, Christianity, culture and sexuality.

We want to be popular, in the majority and have our faith validated, but "nothing in the Bible points to a Christian majority or cultural acceptance of our beliefs."

"What if instead of fighting for the culture to validate us, we did what Jesus told us to do and turned the other cheek and loved those who hate and persecute us?"

American flag leads to many gospel encounters during Olympics

By William Bagsby

Sochi—John Christensen, a Missouri State Highway Patrol officer, is passionate about sharing Jesus with the world. As the world convenes for the Olympics, he has come prepared to share Jesus using whatever tools he has, including Engage Sochi trading pins, highway patrol officer patches and an American flag from the basement of his church.

"I have the calling every other believer has," Christensen, who is a member of Strong Tower Baptist Church in St. Joseph, said. "We're to be salt and light, we're to go into the world and make disciples in other nations. I was really fortunate to come here, and my prayer is that many people will come to know Jesus Christ."



John Christensen poses with a Russian police officer after sharing patrol patches with him. John serves as an officer with the Missouri State Highway Patrol. (IMB)

Christensen says wearing the flag as a cape might sometimes be seen as

arrogant, but the Olympics has provided a unique way of getting to know people from Sochi and all over the world through doing so—and as he meets people, he shares Jesus.

"I have even had a few opportunities to speak with a few police officers and give them a patch and a pin," Christensen said.

He is encouraged by each encounter he has, as well as by seeing other Christians sharing Jesus. As Christensen continues to make friends from around the world, he shares his faith whenever possible.

"The Lord (is using) this flag to open doors for Him and for the gospel to be shared," Christensen said, "for people to meet Americans and allow us to visit with them, make a connection with

them, put Olympic pins in their hands and spread the gospel."

Christensen's charisma and a minimal American presence in Sochi have gained him numerous interviews with worldwide television networks, celebration dances with fans from other countries and innumerable shout-outs to America.

"When we get back (to America), we are going to become nobodies again," Christensen joked to another flag bearer who has gained attention from several news stations around the world.

As Christensen continues to share about Jesus with new friends, in conversations initiated because of a flag draped over his shoulder, he grins and declares, "I will never look at an American flag the same again." (BP)

Clark

Continued from page 1

successful through the avenue of snowboarding. Clark said she looked at the needs in the snowboarding industry and determined that the sport is sometimes cost-prohibitive for potential athletes. So through the foundation, she helps fund high-level competitive athletes and underserved youth who otherwise might not have a chance to participate.

So far, the foundation has donated about \$65,000 to about 100 people—such as Kelly Berger, a high school snowboarder in Mammoth Lakes, Calif., where Clark also lives. Berger recently traveled to Pennsylvania for a competition, and the foundation helped pay for her expenses.

"It's been a tremendous help," Berger

said. "I definitely wouldn't have been able to travel as much."

Clark's generosity flows from her Christian faith. As a young snowboarder—but one with an Olympic gold medal to her credit already—Clark knew something in her life wasn't right. One night in 2004, she sought out a fellow snowboarder in her hotel room.

"My name's Kelly," Clark announced. "I think you might be a Christian, and I think you need to tell me about God."

That was the beginning of Clark's journey to faith in Christ. Now 10 years later and making her fourth Olympics appearance, Clark has come full circle—she's now the one that other snowboarders come to for prayer, encouragement and spiritual discussions.

"There is no formula to being a professional snowboarder or to walking with God, for that matter," Clark said. "I can look back at my Olympic experiences,



Kelly Clark, an olympian in the Sochi 2014 Olympic Winter Games, says much of what she does flows from her Christian faith. (Photo by David McIntyre)

and I've seen how I've grown as an individual, how I've grown in my faith, how I've grown as an athlete. Every four years

I get a little snapshot of how I'm doing."

When she competed in the ladies' halfpipe event in Sochi, Russia, Feb. 12, she did so with a sense of gratitude for what God has done in her life.

"It's very easy in the world of competitive sports to be defined by what you do," Clark said. "I found that God's really into what's in your heart. He just wants your heart. It's been a great privilege to pursue my dreams and pursue God at the same time."

That sense of gratitude is part of the reason that Clark has chosen to make such a significant investment in the lives of others through her foundation.

"I just want to build something that's bigger than me," she said. "I want to build something that's going to outlast my ability to perform and compete. I want to look back at the sport of snowboarding and know that it's better because I was a part of it." (BP)



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Exploitation threatens millions of African children

By Charles Braddix

Johannesburg—A young child sits on the side of the road in Madagascar crushing rocks with a hammer almost too heavy for him to hold.

Another accidentally slices his hand open with a machete while opening cocoa pods on a plantation in Ghana.

A young teenage girl, trafficked for the sex industry, walks the beaches of Kenya looking for business.

A young boy squats naked in a mine-shaft in Burkina Faso, chipping ore and loading it into buckets all day long.

A child soldier in the Democratic Republic of the Congo carries an automatic weapon he was forced to use to kill villagers he knew.

The words of a young child in South Africa, originally written as a poem in the Xhosa language, read:

"How can I live in this world?

"Oh, what can I do?

"It is so dark ahead of me.

"Mother and father do not want us.

"They sell us to thugs."

Every day millions of children in Africa are at risk of being exploited, resulting in slave-like working conditions. Their childhood is forever lost.

"Forced labor robs children of a childhood, which in turn negatively affects their ability to be constructive members of their communities for the rest of their lives," said Mark Hatfield, Africa director of Baptist Global Response, a Southern Baptist humanitarian aid and relief organization.

According to the International Labour Organization (ILO), an agency of the United Nations, Africa has the world's largest child labor population, with the agriculture and mining sectors among the worst offenders.

Poverty is cited as the primary reason for forced child labor in Africa.

In sub-Saharan Africa more than 40 percent of all children ages 5-14, about 48 million children, work for survival, according to the ILO. Child trafficking for the purpose of labor is common throughout the continent. Family members often exchange children for money, goods or gifts.



Young girls in Africa are at high risk of being exploited for the sex industry or used as domestic workers. They are often impregnated. (IMB)

"Children forced to work before they reach a reasonable age limits their future capabilities by taking away their right to a basic education, which can be the springboard out of poverty," Hatfield said. "Child labor perpetuates the poverty cycle by keeping the child in a low income, subsistence-only status all their lives."

Tim Cearley, head strategist for the International Mission Board's work in sub-Saharan Africa, raised the questions, "Why should people care about children in Africa? Does it matter?"

He responded, "Jesus said, 'Let the little children come to Me.' I believe we must find ways to share Jesus' love with the 'least of these'—helping them know the safety and security they can find in Jesus and in Christian community."

Cearley, as well as Hatfield, laments the fact that children are exploited by the very ones who should be providing for them and showing them love and care—the children's family and friends.

"This horrible business affects children and teens all over Africa," Cearley said, and retold the story about a young girl lured away from home by men from her own tribe working with a gang that was selling children and shipping them off.

A call for action now resounds around the globe from government and non-government organizations to non-profit, charity and Christian groups.

"The Bible teaches us to speak up for the oppressed, help the captive, love the children," Hatfield said. "The question is, what are we going to do about it?" (BP)

FIRST PERSON

Singer shares story behind 'Set Her Free'

By Anissa Haney

Johannesburg—"She is wonderful and beautiful, treasured and unique. She is heaven's child, full of hopes and dreams, valued and esteemed. Set her free!"

These thoughts ran through my head as I heard the story of a young human trafficking victim from South Africa. I was moved to tears as I read this girl's story and watched a video clip of the work that is being done to help trafficking victims in Johannesburg at meetjoburg.com. My heart was stirred to write the song "Set Her Free."



Greg Laurie

Human trafficking is the practice of deceiving someone or taking them against their will, then selling, buying and transporting them into slavery. According to stopthetraffick.org, it is second to drug trafficking as the largest crime in the world. It is hard to imagine that this type of slavery is taking place in front of us and on such a large scale.

God began to remind me how much He loves all of us, and these girls who are victims of trafficking are no different. They are beautiful and loved by God.

As Romans 8:35-38 says, "Can anything ever separate us from Christ's love? Does it mean He no longer loves us if we have trouble or calamity or are persecuted, or hungry, or destitute, or in danger, or threatened with death? ... No, despite all these things, overwhelming victory is ours through Christ, who loved us ... and I am convinced that nothing can ever separate us from God's love."

Those who are trafficked are not only God's beloved children, but were children that an earthly mother once tenderly cared for. I began to think of my own children and all of the hopes and dreams we, as mothers, have for them.

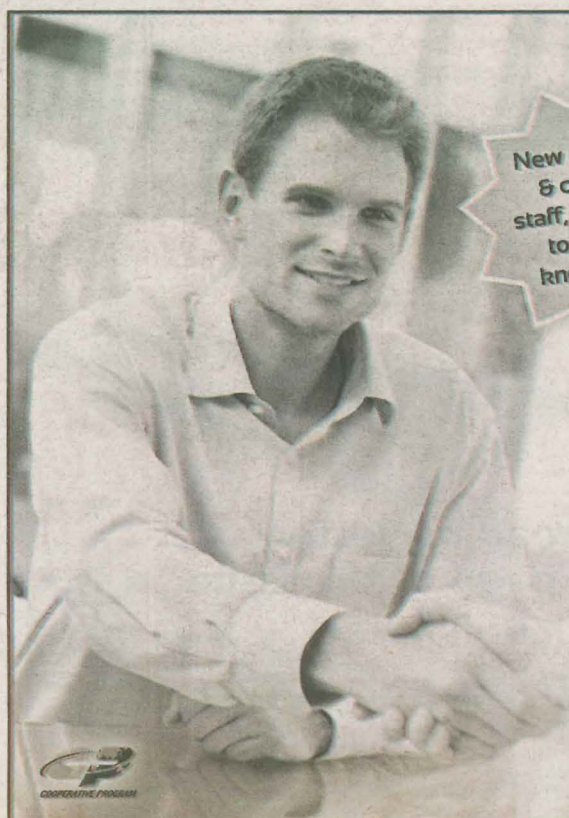
My heart broke for these children, these young women who have been tricked, taken and sold. Their hearts are full of hopes and dreams, and God has a special purpose for their lives.

This particular Johannesburg girl's dream was to become a social worker, but that dream was snatched away as she tried to survive another day as a sex slave and sought to escape the life that she had been tricked into and trapped in.

She had survived unimaginable acts of violence and then was forced back to work the next day. After unsuccessful attempts to run away, she had been severely beaten and left to die. This was not the life she chose for herself. She desperately longed for freedom and hope of leaving this life.

We, as the church, can make a difference through Christ. I encourage you to ask God what you can do to get involved, such as with prayer and financial support of organizations such as the one in Johannesburg that are on the front lines.

"You can be the one who could stop to make the difference. You could set her free from her prison she's been given. You can bring her hope in the nightmare she's been living. Show her God's love unconditionally given. Set her free." (BP)



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Celebrate in life

Don't wait; tell people today what they mean to you

Several years ago, after attending the funeral of someone who was not necessarily well thought of, a friend said, "I'd like to attend a funeral someday and hear someone get up and say old so-and-so was a dirty, rotten scoundrel."

His point was that everyone seems to be presented and remembered as a good person after their death. I have often wondered why we wait until someone has passed on before we say the great things we think about them.

A couple of years ago, a friend of mine lost her job at a Christian school. Facebook was covered with wonderful and kind thoughts about my friend. I felt bad for her, but I did point out it was kind of like she was reading about her own funeral even though she was still alive. She was getting to hear the great things many people had to say about her.

Most people don't get to hear what we really feel about them because we assume time is on our side. I know we all have regrets about someone we care about leaving this life before we take the opportunity to let them know how much they mean to us.

Please take some time today and tell people who have had an impact in your life just how much you appreciate them.

On Jan. 29, we celebrated the life and ministry of Barkley Moore. It was a wonderful day. Nearly all of our faculty and staff attended the chapel service with our student body. We also were blessed with about 30 guests. It was a

wonderful reunion of former students and staff members. It was a blessing to visit with and eat lunch with folks who love Oneida and loved Barkley Moore.

Visiting that day was a former OBI president and first lady, a former trustee and his wife, two former students who were married at Oneida, a former alumni director and her sister, three former houseparents, a future trustee, the author of "The Offering" and her daughter, two former staff members who ran our print shop, two former staff members who ran our grill, Moore's sister and brother-in-law, four retired former staff

members, two former local students, and a former staff member who cared for Moore many years in Anderson Hall.

It was great for our students to learn some of the history of our school and see folks who would drive from as far away as Florida to celebrate with us. Oneida is a great place for young people, but it can also be challenging for them. It was good for them to see people who care about Oneida so much, so many years after they were either students or staff members. I often tell our young people that Oneida is a place they will appreciate much more as they grow older.

I am thankful for so many who have given to and sacrificed for Oneida Baptist Institute so that God could be glorified in the lives of countless young people.

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

A dual role

Graduate heeds call as a bivocational pastor

Soon-to-be-graduate Willie Dybas, of West Liberty, is looking forward to using his carpentry skills along with his newly-acquired ministry skills.

"I was raised in church all my life," said Dybas. "But I never surrendered my life completely to Christ."

"During my grandmother's funeral the preacher's message convicted me about what a personal relationship with Christ really meant. Soon after that, I surrendered my life to Christ. My wife also accepted Christ and we were baptized together. I felt God calling me into the ministry a short time later."

"I had tried some other studies to help me, but they just didn't work for me," Dybas said. "My pastor had mentioned Clear Creek to me several times, but I had never taken the time to see if it was the place for me."

"We were doing 'Experiencing God' at our church during this time and the Lord led me to really check out the college and I felt like the Lord's timing was right for us to come here."

"I am studying in the bivocational ministry track," Dybas said. "God has

given me a skill of carpentry to use in a dual role as he leads me to a bivocational church to pastor after I graduate."

"The majority of churches in our convention are smaller, dual-role

churches. They really need pastors to help in these churches. That is what I feel God has called me to do," he said.

"I am thankful for the preparation I have received from Clear Creek Baptist Bible College," Dybas noted. "Classes like spiritual formation have taught me the importance of really making my personal time with the Lord a priority in my ministry. I have always read my Bible

in preparation for teaching a Sunday School class and such, but until I took my spiritual formation class I had never really placed a priority on my personal spiritual formation like I needed to."

"My Greek classes have also equipped me well for my ministry calling. They have helped me to see the importance of the original meaning of the words in the Scriptures," Dybas said. "It has added a whole new dimension to my sermon preparation."

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

Oliver succeeds Dockery at Union Univ.

Jackson, Tenn.—Union University trustees selected Samuel "Dub" Oliver as Union's 16th president in a Feb. 10 vote. Oliver comes to the post from the presidency of East Texas Baptist University.

Oliver succeeds David Dockery, who has served as Union's president for the past 18 years.

"Dr. Oliver is a man of strong Christian conviction who is theologically informed, passionate about students and highly respectful of the work of faculty members," said Norman Hill, chairman of Union's trustees and chairman of the search committee that selected Oliver. "His skills as an administrator and educator build on Union's already established reputation for academic excellence, and we are honored and thrilled by this appointment."

Oliver will spend some time at Union's campus in Jackson, Tenn., throughout the spring semester and

will begin full time on June 1.

A native of San Antonio, Oliver has been the ETBU president since 2009. The university in Marshall, Texas, enrolls about 1,250 students and employs about 300 faculty and staff.

Prior to the ETBU presidency, Oliver has served his alma mater, Baylor University, in several roles, including director of student activities, associate dean for campus life, dean for student development, and vice president for student life.

Oliver holds a doctor of philosophy in educational administration and a master of science degree in educational psychology, both from Texas A&M, and a bachelor of science degree in education from Baylor.

His wife, Susie Combs Oliver, is a native of Hazard, Ky., and a graduate of Eastern Kentucky University. They have a daughter Callie who is a senior at Baylor. (BP)



Samuel Oliver

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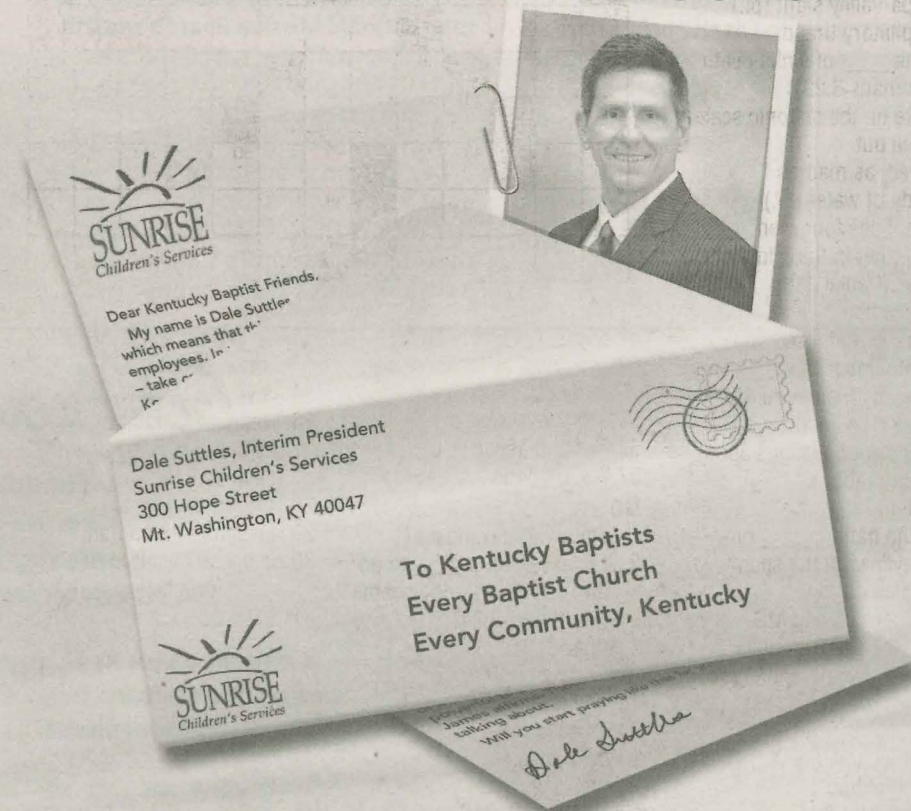
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Wyo. widower comes to faith at 92

By Gary Myers

Torrington, Wyo.—James Abernathy proves it is never too late in life to come to Jesus, and his story illustrates that door-to-door evangelism is still effective.

The World War II veteran and retired machinist answered an afternoon knock on his door. By the time the visit was over, Abernathy had committed his life to Jesus Christ. At age 92, Abernathy experienced forgiveness and new life in Christ.

The couple who knocked on Abernathy's door in June 2012, Lamar and Gail Twiner, traveled to Wyoming from Brandon, Miss., to help with a new church start in Torrington promote an upcoming Vacation Bible School.

The Twiners had knocked on hundreds of doors in Torrington before they reached Abernathy's door. They were tired, but they knocked anyway. When Abernathy answered the door, he seemed resistant at first.

The Twiners asked if he had grandchildren who would be interested in VBS. His answer was short: "Grown and gone." So the Twiners invited him to visit Lifeway Church. Abernathy said no

because he was angry with God over the death of his wife Dorothy. The Abernathys had enjoyed almost 70 years of marriage before Dorothy's death on Feb. 12, 2011. Still, Abernathy invited them in and began telling stories.

The Twiners listened to Abernathy share about his wife and kids, his time as a farmer and how he made parts for NASA. Then they lovingly shared their own stories of coming to faith in Christ. They shared the gospel and told him of his need for a Savior. Abernathy's bitterness seemed to melt away and he gave his life to Christ.

Abernathy now attends Lifeway Church every Sunday and often invites others to come with him. At least two people have visited the church because of Abernathy.

The Twiners visited Abernathy again last September. During their first visit, Abernathy had told stories about his life and showed them the cedar chest that helped him win Dorothy's heart back in high school. This time, Abernathy talked about his church family. He expressed appreciation for the love he receives from his church and the weekly visits from his pastor. (BP)

Stop procrastinating

Young couples: Do not wait to make will & estate plans

The services of the Kentucky Baptist Foundation are not just for older adults. They are available to adults of all ages

and circumstances. Unfortunately, we find so many young couples, and especially those with minor children, have not executed any estate and incapacity planning documents. Oftentimes they simply have not considered the extreme risks to which they are exposing themselves and their minor children.

Among the young couples who have called upon the KBF for assistance was a couple with two minor children. Furthermore, they owned some real estate in Kentucky and in another state. They did not have any estate planning documents.

The husband had saved a bookmark he had received at the Christian Estate Planning Basics seminar that Laurie Valentine, our trust counsel, and I had conducted in their church some time ago. The KBF's toll free phone number was on the bookmark. He contacted me, and I arranged a private consultation session for him and his wife with Laurie. There was no cost to them for this service because it is subsidized by the collective giving of Kentucky Baptist churches through the Cooperative Program. Laurie was able to answer their

questions, make suggestions helpful in accomplishing their objectives, identify the estate and incapacity planning documents they needed and refer them to an estate planning attorney to represent them and produce the legal documents for them.

This couple's testimony was "Laurie is very good at listening and making suggestions about what is needed and makes it easier to get an estate planning attorney to prepare the needed documents to carry out the plan. It was a pleasant, painless experience, and we highly recommend young and older adults to stop procrastinating in their planning and let the

Foundation assist them. We now have peace of mind knowing a plan is in place to care for our children should we die or become incapacitated before they are adults."

If you are a young adult, single or married, and have not executed a will and other important documents, please call Laurie toll free for assistance. If you are a parent, grandparent or friend of a single young adult or couple without these legal documents, encourage them to procrastinate no longer, and call Laurie.

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

Ky. Baptist Foundation

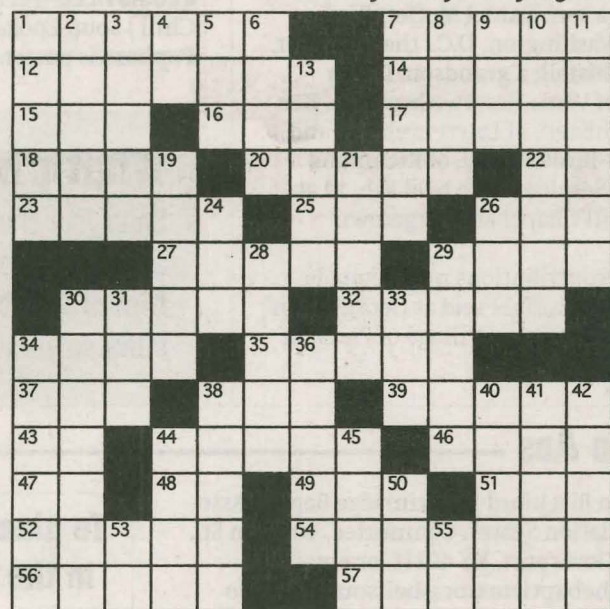


Barry Allen

Bible Crosswords

Across

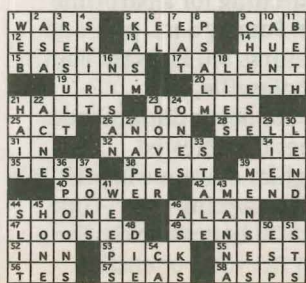
- 1 Buys (tickets) for later profit
- 7 "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be _____" (Acts 16:31)
- 12 "An inheritance may be gotten _____ at the beginning" (Proverbs 20:21)
- 14 John, on Patmos
- 15 Luc, to Lisette
- 16 Kind of shot or shirt
- 17 Napa Valley sight (pl.)
- 18 Depilatory brand
- 20 "The _____ of sin is death" (Romans 6:23)
- 22 Note on the diatonic scale
- 23 Mete out
- 25 Bleed, as madras
- 26 Body of water (Fr.)
- 27 "Lo, I see four men _____, walk-ing in the midst of the fire" (Daniel 3:25)
- 29 Horse hair
- 30 Aircraft authority
- 32 "Remember how _____ my time is" (Psalm 89:47)
- 34 1/1000 of an inch (pl.)
- 35 Has strong feelings about
- 37 Ocean (abbr.)
- 38 Solidify
- 39 "Who hath _____ out heaven with the span" (Isaiah 40:12)
- 43 Borders VA and MD
- 44 Sewing fundamentals
- 46 "_____ thyself, and come down from the cross" (Mark 15:30)
- 47 Interjection
- 48 Conjunction
- 49 Shoe size



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- 51 Sue _____, honey brand _____ with a man that is a sinner" (Luke 19:7)
- 52 Traversed by les bateaux mouches
- 54 RSVP request
- 56 Ash and aspen
- 57 Wears; dons
- 24 As well
- 26 "Neither shalt thou _____ the corners of thy beard" (Leviticus 19:27)
- 28 Further; additional
- 29 Husband of Zipporah
- 30 He doesn't want to be called for a balk
- 31 "Love worketh no _____ to his neighbour" (Romans 13:10)
- 33 Haw's partner
- 34 "Thou _____ him a little lower than the angels" (Hebrews 2:7)
- 36 Change
- 38 Stations (Fr.)
- 40 Bible mount near Nazareth
- 41 Occurrence
- 42 "Ye have put off the old man with his _____" (Colossians 3:9)
- 44 Exhausted, with "in"
- 45 Understands
- 50 Particularly (abbr.)
- 53 Common abbr.
- 55 River in Italy
- 1 Columnist Alexander
- 2 "It is easier for a _____ to go through the eye of a needle" (Matthew 19:24)
- 3 Father of Seraiah (1 Chronicles 4:35)
- 4 Army officer (abbr.)
- 5 Pothole's cousin
- 6 Whole bunch
- 7 "I will serve thee _____ years for Rachel" (Genesis 29:18)
- 8 Alignment between countries
- 9 French export, to the French
- 10 Earth or air, for example
- 11 "Master _____ do for us whatsoever we shall _____" (Mark 10:35)
- 13 "Receive my sayings; and the _____ of thy life shall be many" (Proverbs 4:10)
- 19 Road trip expenses, sometimes
- 21 "That he was gone to be

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EBO time

Your gifts to Eliza Broadus make a difference in people's lives

Since 2007, Kentucky Baptist gifts to the Eliza Broadus Offering have been amazing. That offering year we exceeded the million dollar mark and have never looked back. In response to the great needs across our state and your generous giving, we kept raising the goal so we could do more for state missions.

More than ever, Jesus calls us to pray for laborers in the harvest, pray for the lost to hear the gospel, and give to provide missions ministries. More than ever we each need to be personally involved in ministry and telling people about Jesus.

While our state missions emphasis is held in September, gifts to EBO are received all year. We are grateful for the contributions each month. To see where we are in reaching our goal for the year, go to kywmu.org/ebo. There you will find a graphic that changes from grayscale to color to represent our progress towards the goal.

The Special Ministries portion of the offering provides grants of \$500 to each of our 70 Baptist associations (\$35,000) as well as grants to various ministries that apply directly to KyWMU. Executive Committee approved grants Feb. 1 totaling \$95,000 to 90 different ministries. Letters and checks to these ministries go out by the end of the month.

Because of your EBO gifts, a grant to The Way/Christian Youth Ministries of Trigg County helped to reach a self-professed atheist. When he first came to

The Way, he made it clear that he did not want anyone to talk to him about his need for Christ. But because of the music, devotions and seeing Christ's

love through volunteers, he has accepted Christ, is attending a Baptist college and sharing his testimony with other students.

Your gifts helped Little River Association conduct "Camp Cadiz," which involves youth in doing home repairs, leading VBS in a low income area, delivering food, and doing random acts of kindness in the community.

EBO support helps to provide supplies so that youth can be involved in doing the ministries.

Your gifts were used to provide school supplies to more than 500 children living in the Baptist Fellowship Center community. EBO funds also helped provide a summer day camp program involving 40 children in Bible study, music, sports, recreation and arts and crafts. Through the children's activities, three children and five adults were saved last year.

This summer, EBO will provide support to Kentucky Changers. Projects are planned in Hopkinsville, Lawrenceburg/Frankfort, Richmond, Louisville and Henderson. We are praying for 1,000 students and leaders to join us for hands-on missions in June and July. Learn more: kywmu.org/changers.

Together let's do more than ever for Kentucky missions.

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

EBO at Work



Joy Bolton



February

- 22 Leadership Network Meeting, KBC Building, Louisville.
- 24 RISK 2014: State Evangelism Conference, Severns Valley Baptist Church, Elizabethtown.

March

- 4 Power Lunch, KBC Building, Louisville.
- 6 Seminary for a Day, Trace Creek Baptist Church, Mayfield.
- 7 Disaster Relief Chaplaincy Training, First Baptist Church, Richmond.
- 8 Vacation Bible School Clinic, Bellevue Baptist Church, Owensboro.
- 8 Disaster Relief Training, First Baptist Church, Richmond.
- 11 Transitional Interim Pastor Training, Warren Baptist Association, Bowling Green.
- 13 Kentucky Baptist Men's Chorale/Women's Chorale combined concert, Central Baptist Church, Corbin.
- 14 RAMCON, Beaver Dam Baptist Church, Beaver Dam.

Missionary in Guatemala to serve UK students

By Roger Alford

Louisville—A missionary serving in Guatemala has been appointed to serve at the University of Kentucky.

Jon Barron's hiring has been approved by the Kentucky Baptist Convention's administrative committee, and he is making arrangements to return to the U.S. to begin the new job.

Barron, who served as Baptist Campus Ministries director at Eastern Kentucky University for 10 years, beginning in 2002, has been working with orphans in the South American country since 2012.

"His most recent experience as a missionary in Guatemala has prepared him to re-engage campus ministry in Kentucky with an even greater vision for helping churches in the Lexington area and beyond help more



Jon Barron

people encounter Jesus," said Brian Combs, collegiate evangelism strategist for the Kentucky Baptist Convention.

Barron is a graduate of the University of Texas at El Paso and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary at Fort Worth.

"I believe the college campus is the greatest mission field in the U.S.," Barron said. "It is a community of people from different cultures all over the world doing life together. I can relate to where they are spiritually because half of my college years I lived without Christ, while the other half I walked with him. I've experienced college from both perspectives."

KBC Executive Director Paul Chitwood said he expects Barron to have great success on the UK campus.

"We look forward to seeing Lexington area churches aggressively engaging the campus and are praying for many students to come to Christ under Jon's ministry," Chitwood said. (KBC)

Birdwhistell, professor, pastor and author, dies at 67

Lawrenceburg—Pastor Ira "Jack" Vinson Birdwhistell, a professor and campus minister at Georgetown College, died at his residence in Lawrenceburg Feb. 7. He was 67.

Birdwhistell was a professor of religion at Georgetown and pastor of Drakesboro Baptist Church, in Drakesboro, and Canmer Baptist Church, in Canmer.

As part of its sesquicentennial observance in 1987, the Kentucky Baptist Convention published Birdwhistell's "Kentucky Baptists: 150 Years on Mission Together." He also wrote a history of the First Baptist Church of Murray.

Birdwhistell was a graduate of Georgetown College and the Southern Baptist



Ira Birdwhistell

Theological Seminary in Louisville.

He is the son of the late Carl Vinson and Mary Lois Moffett Birdwhistell. He was a member of Faith Baptist Church in Georgetown.

He is survived by a daughter, Cory Curl, of Versailles; a son, Daniel Moffett Birdwhistell, of Washington, D.C.; their mother, Nancy Birdwhistell; a grandson, Dylan Boone Curl, of Versailles; two brothers, Ben Moore Birdwhistell, of Lawrenceburg, and Mark Dudley Birdwhistell, of Richmond.

Memorial Services were held Feb. 10 at the John L. Hill Chapel at Georgetown College.

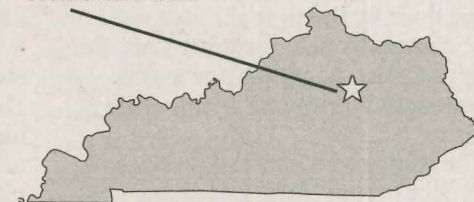
Memorial contributions may be made to the "Doc" Memorial Fund at Georgetown College or to the Shaker Village of Pleasant Hill.

MOUNTAINS TO THE MISSISSIPPI

COMPILED BY STAFF

Spotlight on ...

WINCHESTER



Central Church will hold a "Multiply" training and planning event presented by **Darryl Wilson** Feb. 25, 6:30 p.m. **Travis Drake** is pastor.

■ **ELIZABETHTOWN**—Severns Valley Church will hold a Parenting Conference Feb. 28, 6 p.m. **Bill Langley** is pastor.

■ **GREENVILLE**—Second Church will host **Les Snyder** and **Sons of the Father** in concert Feb. 23, 6 p.m. For more, call (270) 338-6160. **Ray England** is pastor.

■ **HOPKINSVILLE**—First Church will hold Winter Olympics for Kids, Feb. 22, 10:30 a.m., for children in grades 1-5. Activities include bobsleding, curling, luge and more.

■ **LOUISVILLE**—Fern Creek Church will hold a Chili / Soup Cook-off Feb. 22, 5 p.m. **Linda Popham** is pastor.

What's happening?

Send your church news and association events to:

Mountains to the Mississippi
sitha.salyers@westernrecorder.org

CLASSIFIED ADS

FOR RENT: Two condos for rent in Destin, Fla. Two bedrooms, two baths, sleeps six, completely furnished. (423)309-4422 lbrammer@charter.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.

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: 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: Eubank (Southern) Baptist Church, congregation of approximately 300, located in Eubank, is seeking a senior pastor. Send printed (no email) formal resumé with cover letter to

Eubank Baptist Church, P.O. Box 3356, West Somerset, KY 42564. Resumes accepted until March 31.

SEEKING: Woodhaven Baptist Church, Burlington, is seeking a full-time, bivocational pastor for a small, but growing church. If interested, contact Jack at jackandlindalawrence@gmail.com or (859) 586-6542.

SEEKING: Elizabethtown Baptist Church, a congregation of 280, is seeking a pastor. Send resumé to 1525 North Miles St., Elizabethtown, KY 42701. Resumes accepted until March 15.

SEEKING: Zion Baptist Church of Henderson is seeking a full-time equipping pastor to lead the church in equipping and training, with the focus on mobilizing the church evangelistically. 3-5 years pastoral experience and a degree from an SBC-affiliated seminary preferred. Send resume to Equipping Pastor Search Committee, Zion Baptist Church, 8158 Hwy. 351, Henderson, KY 42420.

SEEKING: Scottsville Baptist Church, located in south central Kentucky, is seeking a full-time minister of music. Send resumes to Scottsville Baptist Church Search Committee, P.O. Box 392, Scottsville, KY 42164. Resumes will be received through March 5.

SEEKING: The Blackford Breckinridge Baptist Association is accepting resumes until March 31 for a full-time director of missions. Mail resumes with references

to Blackford Breckinridge Baptist Association Search Committee, 404 Elm St., Cloverport, KY 40111, or email to thebaptistassoc@bellsouth.net. No phone calls.

SEEKING: Central Baptist Church of Paris is seeking a full-time associate pastor of families and youth. Send resumé to Central Baptist Church, Attn: Charles Courtney Jr., 829 High St., Paris, KY 40361, or email to youthcbc@bellsouth.net. Resumes will be accepted until March 31 or until filled. For further details regarding the job description, visit our website at cbcparis.org.

SEEKING: Full-time communications coordinator. Maintains church's publications, website, social media, database and performs reception tasks. College degree preferred. Experience with MS Office and Publisher required. Experience with WordPress and ACS preferred. Graphic design experience desired. Must have interpersonal skills and the ability to multitask. Email resume to cholm@hurstbournebc.org or mail to Hurstbourne Baptist Church, Attn: Carolyn Holm, 8800 Shelbyville Road, Louisville, KY 40222.

SEEKING: Is God calling you to rural Missouri? First Baptist Church (SBC) is seeking a full-time pastor. Send resumé and CD/DVD/Internet link of sermon, if available, to bjnn.kiger@gmail.com, or PSC First Baptist Church, P.O. Box 627,

To place an advertisement in the Western Recorder:

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



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

Gainesville, Mo., 65655.

SEEKING: Full-time youth pastor. Campbellsville Baptist Church is seeking a youth pastor to be the missionary to the youth (7th-12th grades) and their families in Campbellsville, Taylor County and the surrounding areas. Send resumé to bradl@cvillebaptist.com.

SEEKING: Searching for a part-time youth minister. Sunday a.m., p.m. and Wednesday evening. Mt. Pleasant Baptist Church in Nicholasville, Ky., mtpleasantbaptist.net or dkdamron@windstream.net if interested.

SEEKING: Highland Avenue Baptist Tabernacle Church is seeking a part-time youth pastor, 15-20 hours weekly. For more, call (859) 781-4510, or email pastor-habtc@fuse.net.

'Answered prayers' Woman's faith deepens as she helps support family with handmade dresses

By Evelyn Adamson

Southeast Asia—Uncertainty rocked Vanna Keo* after her husband Rith* accepted Christ. She had never met any Christians before, and now her husband was one.

In supporting her husband, Keo agreed to meet Don and Dayla Patrick*, International Mission Board workers in Southeast Asia for more 15 years. The Patricks were the ones who shared the gospel with her husband and led him to Christ.

Keo wanted to see for herself what real Christians were like. Laughing at her perspective at the time, Keo said she met the Patricks "and saw they did not do any weird or crazy things to us. After that, I didn't have any bad feelings towards them."

A couple of years following her husband's conversion, Keo accepted Christ. Then the family came on hard times when their Muslim community turned against them. Unable to cover their expenses, Rith looked for work aiding several Christian organizations with various projects. But the jobs did not produce much income.

The friendship between Keo and Dayla Patrick continued to grow. Keo talked about ways she could help bring in money. "I considered what I could do since I'm a mother," she said, "and I decided on sewing."

Six years later, Keo and Patrick sit on a white tiled floor, poring over new designs for the dresses that sustain Keo's family. The dresses are primarily sold in churches across the United States.

Susan McPherson* lives in Texas and is



Vanna Keo* works on a dress design in a project facilitated by IMB worker Dayla Patrick*. The dresses provide an income for Keo and her co-workers in their community in Southeast Asia and give Keo opportunities to share the gospel. (*Names changed.) (Grace Chapman/IMB)

a longtime customer of Keo's project. McPherson has bought dresses when Patrick sells them in churches during her visits to the United States. Patrick sends the profits directly back to Keo's project.

"The quality is wonderful," McPherson said, "and I loved that I was able to help other mothers across the world by buying a dress from them."

"One of the things I really like about the project," Patrick said, "is it connects women in Southeast Asia who are trying to feed their families, with women in the States, who want

to help in a tangible way."

After finishing another dress, Keo and Patrick sat on the cool tile in the early evening and watched the children play. The women talked about what they have learned during the course of the

sewing project.

Keo paused before looking up and said, "We had money for once; I had a job. At one point my brother was helping us, and now he is at university. It paid for his university. The project was a way for my family to help themselves during a time of real need."

Patrick recounted that while Keo's husband studied the Bible and set to work on an important ministry project, it was the dresses Keo sold that supported the family until Rith found a steady stream of income.

Keo said the dresses have done more than help provide an income for her family. The project has deepened her faith.

"I have experienced the Lord's intervention in my life," she said. Looking at the newly sewn dresses, she continued, "To see answered prayers has helped my faith grow and helped me through difficult struggles."

And Keo's eyes lit up as she said, "When they come, I can share about Jesus. That is what is important ... the opportunity to share my faith I wouldn't normally have in the community." (BP)

*Names changed. To purchase dresses Keo has made, email AsiaStoriesIMB@gmail.com. The WorldCrafts initiative of WMU also features products from women in

more than two dozen countries to help provide sustainable incomes.

Vanna Keo* and IMB worker Dayla Patrick* work late into the night as they finish working on a new dress design. Keo and Patrick have grown closer during the long hours sewing dresses that support Keo's family and those of other women in her Southeast Asian community. (IMB)

(Inset by Julia Freeman-Woolpert)



Translating God's word gives new believers 'something to cling to'

By Evelyn Adamson

Southeast Asia—The constant tick, tick of computer keys provides the backdrop as Don Patrick* and Rith Jaya* compare notes on flickering laptop screens. The men swish the pages of a dictionary as they work on their translation project.

The ticking and swishing have comprised the soundtrack of the past two and a half years, the period during which Patrick and Jaya have been translating the Pentateuch and New Testament. Their translation will benefit a people group in Southeast Asia that consists of 290,000. With half the Bible still needing to be translated, the pair has at least two years of work ahead of them.

Jaya, who is from this people group, recounts how he became involved with the project, "I started reading the Bible, but I couldn't understand (the gospel) clearly."

It was only after Patrick, an IMB missionary, shared with him one-on-one that Jaya was able to understand the power of the gospel and accept Christ.

Jaya said, "This work is important for my people because many (people around the world) already have access to a Bible.



An IMB missionary and a believer in Southeast Asia work together to translate the Bible. (IMB)

This (is a) Bible my people can read and understand. Until now, they did not have one."

After working on the translation together for more than two years, friendship plays a major role in driving the project forward.

Village Bible study

The men climbed into a truck and whizzed down the dirt road, destined for a village where believers lead small house churches in their communities.

With one hand on the steering wheel, Patrick gestures often as he gives updates on believers and then listens as Jaya discusses his herbal medicine

classes. Aiming to help other believers, Jaya uses his herbal medicine materials to provide medical aid to those who are too poor or too far from medical facilities.

Upon arrival at the village, Patrick parks the truck while Jaya hollers a greeting to young believer, Balin Nhek*, who owns a roadside shop and shares Bible stories with customers as they come in his store.

Nhek invites Patrick and Jaya into his home, located directly above his shop. Soon, three more believers arrive for the Bible study.

Tapping his Bible on its deep green cover, Nhek said, "I'm happy to have this Bible. It's something I can cling to. It's something I can refer to."

Another believer, the leader of a house church, offered his own testimony: "Don has taught us many lessons, but sometimes it is difficult to remember them all. Now that we have the Bible, I can remember the lessons (better)."

Conversation continues between Patrick and Nhek, as Jaya listens to the health problems another believer is experiencing. Jaya, a certified acupuncturist, suggests a session of acupuncture

might help. He asks the man to lie down on a mat as he prepares the materials needed for the treatment. After the session ends, Jaya places his equipment into a small backpack and follows Patrick out of the house.

On their way to the truck, someone asks if Patrick and Jaya could visit a sick woman living nearby. Examining the woman, Patrick calls his wife, who is a nurse, to hear her suggestion. She said the woman might have Hansen's disease, a bacteria skin condition more commonly known as leprosy. Fortunately, there is a non-profit clinic nearby where she can receive treatment.

The next morning, the final leg of the trip takes the men through two more tropical provinces before they return home. About halfway into this part of the journey, Patrick's phone rings. He greets a ministry partner who asks about ordering some Bibles for a ministry event. Patrick promises to deliver the Bibles later that day.

Jaya said, "We have been like one family, it's not an American family and Southeast Asian family. We're all together and care about each other." (IMB)

*Name changed

PRAY FOR SUNRISE, REALLY PRAY...



Dear Kentucky Baptist Friends,

My name is Dale Suttles. I work on behalf of Baptists like you. My job title is Interim President, which means that this non-profit organization pays me to serve more than 360 Sunrise employees. In turn, these Sunrise heroes and heroines – and they really are amazing people! – take care of about 600 kids every day. That's right. Our good people take care of Kentucky's neediest, abused, abandoned and victimized children.

That's why I'm asking Kentucky Baptists like you to pray for Sunrise, for our employees, for the children we serve, and for me.

From Florence to Somerset, from Paducah to Pikeville, we do the Lord's work. We operate residential treatment facilities. We oversee foster care programs and community counseling programs. Each Sunrise child benefits mentally, physically, emotionally and spiritually from every program or service that we provide. And we can't work like that without God's grace. So please pray.

I love kids, and I love the Lord. That's my business card.

For more than 25 years, I have worked, first at Big Brothers, Big Sisters, and now at Sunrise, because every day is an adventure when you do this work. My wife Libby and I truly believe that helping children is a high, noble calling.

You also love kids, and you love the Lord. I know that because Kentucky Baptists have supported Sunrise, and before that, Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children, since 1869. Now the time has come to really pray about this relationship. While we continue working on your behalf, pray for us. We need you, now more than ever.

Soon we will launch a "SHINE! Campaign," seeking broad-based support for Sunrise from every Kentucky Baptist church, and from every Kentucky Baptist. SHINE! will feature a two-minute video, sermon tips, personal appeals for prayer, and various ways you can donate to Sunrise. We will also launch a "Wake Up with Sunrise" initiative to encourage healthcare professionals and providers to refer children and youth to our facilities.

Upcoming fundraisers will include golf tournaments, concerts by The Hoppers and direct-mail appeals. We need your ongoing, earnest generosity.

But today – particularly today – our children, our workers, our board of directors and Sunrise leaders like me need your prayers. "The prayer of a person living right with God is something powerful to be reckoned with," the book of James affirms. Those are the kinds of prayers I'm talking about.

Will you start praying like that for us?

Dale Suttles

300 Hope Street • Mt. Washington, KY 40047 • 800.456.1386 • sunrise.org



We hold ourselves to the highest accountability standard. We are the only non-profit private child care provider in Kentucky offering a full array of services that is accredited by The Joint Commission, the premiere health care accreditation organization in the country.



Owensboro – Elizabethtown – Mt. Washington – Somerset – Morehead – Pikeville
Paducah – Bowling Green – Louisville – Lexington – Danville – Florence – Hopkinsville