

WESTERN Recorder

February 25, 2014

Shine Like Stars * Philippians 2:15

Volume 188, Issue 7

Buckets of comfort



Kentucky Woman's Missionary Union is partnering with Baptist Global Response this year to fill 5,000 hospice care buckets that are intended to bring comfort to people in Africa dying from HIV/AIDS. Sub-Saharan Africa is more heavily affected by HIV/AIDS than any other part of the world. Nearly 23 million people are living with HIV in the region. A gospel presentation accompanies each bucket delivery. (BGR)

Kentucky WMU hopes to fill 5,000 buckets; bring comfort to dying

By Robin Cornetet Bass

Louisville—Christopher tried to be polite. He tried to sit on the edge of the bed when visitors entered his small, mud home, but after a few moments his

efforts proved too exhausting and he laid back down.

Like nearly 23 million other people living in Sub Saharan Africa, Christopher has been infected with HIV—and he now is showing the advanced stages of AIDS.

"He looked weary, just weary," said Joy Bolton, the executive director of Kentucky Woman's Missionary Union.

Bolton recently took a 12-member team to South Africa to work with

Tabitha Ministries who, along with Baptist Global Response, is reaching out to meet the needs of those infected by HIV/AIDS. Team members from Kentucky had the opportunity to deliver the few remaining hospice kits to bedridden individuals in Sweetwaters Township near Pietermaritzburg, South Africa.

Each BGR hospice kit consists of a five-gallon bucket packed with items intended to make life a little more

□ See Buckets ... Page 2

SBC messenger qualifications may be updated

Nashville, Tenn.—The Southern Baptist Convention's Executive Committee will consider a proposal June 9 to update the SBC constitutional qualifications for messengers sent to the annual meeting.

During its Feb. 17-18 meeting in Nashville, Tenn., the Executive Committee decided to place the item on its June 9 agenda prior to the SBC annual meeting in Baltimore to allow Southern Baptists time to discuss the proposed change and provide feedback. The committee's deliberations, then, will determine whether the proposed revision will be presented at the June 10-11 SBC annual meeting.

The Executive Committee also took action on motions referred from the 2013 SBC annual meeting in Houston regarding gender-neutral Bible translations and churches' response to mental health issues. (See separate story, page 6, on the EC's mental health response.)

Messenger qualifications

The proposal to amend Article III came as a motion from the floor at last year's SBC annual meeting—the 16th motion on this article in the past 35 years—to reevaluate the minimum qualifications for seating additional church messengers at the SBC.

Article III states that churches in friendly cooperation with the convention can send one additional messenger for every 250 members or for each \$250 per year "paid to the work of the Convention," an amount dating back to 1888.

Under the new proposal, each cooperating church that contributed to

□ See Executive Committee ... Page 6

'Unexpected blessings' in Sochi

Baptist troubadours strum Gospel in streets of Russia

By Evelyn Adamson

Sochi, Russia—Members of the Earl Brackin Band sing and strum their traditional bluegrass instruments, rendering a soul-stirring version of "I'll Fly Away," as dozens of Olympics fans gather to listen, some of whom capture the music on their smartphones.

Earl Brackin, minister of worship at Church on the Hill in Dalton, Ga., said prior to leaving for Russia, "In Sochi, we'll be like troubadours. Since bluegrass bands don't need electricity, we can set

up and play anywhere—street corner, open market, hotel, café, anywhere there is space for us to stand."

Listeners, whether in delight or intrigue, break into broken conversations with each other while Brackin and his band play. Cultural barriers break down as smiles segue to new friendships, and language no longer seems to be a problem, replaced with gestures and pantomime vocabularies.

Russian soldiers and police officers are among those enjoying the bluegrass

□ See Sochi singers ... Page 7



Members of the Earl Brackin Band entertain Olympics fans on a train ride to Games venues in Sochi, Russia. (Photo/Evelyn Adamson)

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Kentucky Disaster Relief nears first anniversary of Sandy Rebuild

By Robin Cornetel Bass

Long Island, N.Y.—Kentucky Baptists have been "instrumental," said Bill Johnson, in the effort to restore the New York coastline to a semblance of what it was prior to Hurricane Sandy making land-fall in October 2012.

A year ago this month marked when Kentucky Baptist Disaster Relief volunteers began gearing up for long-term recovery as part Sandy Rebuild, an initiative instituted by the North American Mission Board last April.

Johnson, a Grayson native and Sandy Rebuild project coordination, said that, so far, 189 Kentuckians have faithfully given their time and talents—compiling thousands of volunteer hours in construction or as support staff for the numerous Baptists ministering in New York City and Long Island.

Johnson pointed to volunteer Robert Puttoff who was among the first to respond after Hurricane Sandy and help with Kentucky Baptist Disaster Relief's

feeding unit. Puttoff, of Highland Baptist Church in Shelbyville, has since agreed to return to New York several times for three-to-four-week spans.

Johnson said that with Puttoff's background in education and industrial arts, he was "a perfect fit" to design and oversee construction of 125 volunteer bunk beds—many of which were prefabricated by members at Parkway Baptist Church in Bardstown.

Carolyn and Jerry Gray, of Zion's Cause Baptist Church in Benton, also have returned time and time again to help with Sandy Rebuild. The Grays and a team of volunteers recently spent an entire month cleaning and organizing a facility that was vacant for four years. Johnson said plans are to use the building to house and feed volunteer groups.

"It was a daunting task," Johnson said. "All of the stainless was very tarnished and dirty and the area had been used for storage, so it was piled up with all sorts of stuff. (The team) worked from early in the mornings until late in the evenings

cleaning, sanitizing and organizing the massive kitchen and the living quarters which encompass over 39,000 sq. ft. of floor space."

Other tasks performed by Kentucky Baptist volunteers include working on recovery, chainsaw and ministry teams, Johnson said. He expressed gratitude for the continued support of Kentucky Baptist churches and the Kentucky Baptist Convention's Disaster Relief team.

Coy Webb, director of Kentucky Baptist Disaster Relief, said he views their efforts as an example of how Kentucky Baptists are fulfilling the Great Commission.

"Kentucky Baptist Disaster Relief volunteers were the first responders to arrive in New York City following Superstorm Sandy, and continue to provide compassionate ministry and leadership in the rebuild effort," said Webb. "They have brought help, healing, and hope to countless hurting people in an area that is part of a tremendous window of loss." (WR)



Sandy Rebuild continues in New York and so do Kentucky Baptist volunteers. (KBDR)

BGR buckets

Continued from page 1

comfortable, such as clean linens, towels, gentle soap and new socks. Also included is lip balm for chapped lips—a common sign of infection—and bendable straws, so the infirmed can more easily ingest medicines and vitamins with water. For caregivers, each bucket contains a box of latex gloves, fingernail clippers and a cleaning brush.

While the items in each bucket are "things that most of us take for granted," Bolton said, "to those in extreme poverty and too weak to work, the items are a treasure."

Kentucky WMU has set a goal of collecting 5,000 buckets this year and plans to kick off the effort at their annual meeting April 4-5 at Central Baptist Church in Winchester. Bolton said participants are encouraged to bring completed buckets or items for buckets and help fill two shipping containers with 1,500 completed buckets. Before heading to Houston for shipment, Bolton said there will be a blessing prayed over the buckets at the conclusion of the meeting.

'I was sick and you visited'

As Bolton sat on the bucket she and others on the team brought to Christopher, she presented him with the gospel using an EvageCube. Christopher silently watched from his bed as Bolton flipped through the images of Jesus hanging on a cross and His defeat over death.

"We have an obligation to minister to people in need," Bolton said. Then paraphrasing Matthew 25:35-40, she added, "'I was sick and you visited me.' That's what happened that day. Jesus was in that room."

Lisa Crenshaw, WMU director of Nelson Baptist Association, had a similarly moving experience when she delivered a hospice bucket to Mavis, a 39-year-old mother with two young daughters.

Mavis had spent the last three years of her life in bed suffering from the advanced stages of AIDS. A year ago, she had a stroke and lost her ability to speak.

As Crenshaw watched Mavis's wounds



A worker with Tabitha Ministries leads a Kentucky Woman's Missionary team to deliver BGR hospice care buckets and food parcels while on mission in South Africa. "That's your World Hunger Funds at work," said Joy Bolton referring to the food parcel on the workers head. (KyWMU)

being cleaned, the Sunday School teacher from Vine Hill Baptist Church in Shepherdsville, began to talk.

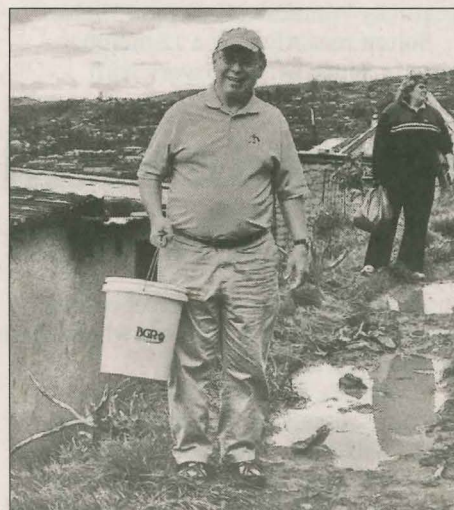
"God brought me all the way from Shepherdsville—all the way from the United States—to bring you the good news," said Crenshaw. "If you died today, do you know where you would go?"

Mavis gestured down with her thumb. Crenshaw told Mavis that she also has two daughters and somehow, Crenshaw said, that resonated with the dying woman. As Crenshaw shared the gospel, she said, "You could feel God's presence was so strong. She had been witnessed to many times, but this time she got radically saved."

When asked where she would go after accepting Christ, Mavis this time pointed up with her thumb and mumbled something Crenshaw said sounded like "hallelujah" as a tear fell down the woman's cheek.

"We were so excited about her accepting Christ we almost forgot to give her the bucket," Crenshaw said. "You think you are going to be the blessing (when you are faithful to God's call), but it's you that really receives the blessing."

Herb and Wanda Edminster are coordinating the BGR Bucket Project in



Lee Bolton, pastor of Clayville Baptist in Shelbyville, delivers a BGR bucket while on a mission trip in South Africa. (KyWMU)

Kentucky and said the effort is part of a five-year commitment by the Kentucky Baptist Convention to partner with BGR in Sub Sahara Africa.

"These buckets will not end the HIV epidemic in Africa, but they will give patients and their families the realization that someone cares enough for their suffering to make this contribution," said Herb Edminster. (WR)

COLLECTION POINTS

ASHLAND—First Baptist Church of Cannonsburg, Stan Williams, (606) 928-8582.

BARDSTOWN—Parkway Baptist Church, Rodney Lynch, (502) 348-4677.

BENTON—Zion's Cause Baptist Church, Jerry or Carolyn Gray, (270) 703-9501 (Jerry), (270) 703-1212 (Carolyn).

BOWLING GREEN—Forest Park Baptist Church, Donna Chatman, (270) 843-3419.

ELIZABETHTOWN—Severns Valley Association of Baptists, Gerald Murphy, (270) 765-4023.

GLASGOW—Glasgow Baptist Church, Joan, (270) 651-2186.

HARDIN—Blood River Baptist Association, Tim Cole, (270) 437-4203.

HARRODSBURG—Mercer Association of Baptists, James Harley, (859) 734-9683.

HAZARD—First Baptist Church, Mildred Ritchie or Melody Claussen, (606) 436-3533.

HENDERSON—Green Valley Baptist Association, Karen Totton, (270) 827-9867.

HIGHLAND HEIGHTS—Northern Kentucky University Baptist Campus Ministry Building, Roberta Rush, (859) 474-3106.

LEXINGTON—Elkhorn Baptist Association, Sandra Williams, (859) 254-7747.

LOUISVILLE—Bashford Manor Baptist Church, Jim Carpenter, (502) 645-0357.

MAYS LICK—Bracken Baptist Association, Cherri Pollitt, (606) 763-6260.

MURRAY—First Baptist Church, Diane Jonas, (270) 753-1854.

OWENSBORO—Davies-McLean Baptist Association, Leslie Rice, (270) 684-2377.

PIKEVILLE—Pike Association of Southern Baptists, Jessica Johnson or Jason Lowe, (606) 432-2660.

STANFORD—Lincoln County Baptist Association, Lori Bailey, (606) 365-7123.

STANTON—Emmanuel Baptist Church, Terry Leap, (859) 391-4942.

For more information about Kentucky WMU's bucket collection, visit kywmu.org/buckets.

Mid-Continent president steps down, school in financial trouble

Mayfield—Following a marathon meeting of the Mid-Continent University Board of Trustees, the Mayfield-based school has a new acting president and renewed hope for keeping its doors open.

The Board of Trustees met Saturday, Feb. 22, in executive session for more than four hours to discuss various plans for the school's future.

"The money is nearly gone," said board chairman Tom Butler Sr. "There is great concern for the financial future of the school."

Butler said the school has had several rounds of student financial grant and loan paperwork from the U.S. Department of Education and in-state higher education funding rejected. The school's funding was cut off and the Board of Trustees was notified in October.

Butler said the first and most important step is submitting a fourth round of paperwork and receiving the U.S. Department of Education's approval, which would unlock up to \$9 million. Bill Bartleman, school chief of staff, and

other officials met with Department of Education representatives in Washington, D.C., on Friday.

Board member Gale Hawkins told the Paducah Sun Thursday that after talking with government officials he believes the school will close.

"There is no money coming in, the government doesn't owe us any," Hawkins said. "We have just been trying to survive until graduation."

Hawkins said the school will need about \$6 million to reach spring graduation.

In the past five months, the Mayfield college has used between \$7 million and \$9 million from the bank for tuition, books and other education expenses to keep current students in school. The money would typically be used for salaries, maintenance and utility costs. Butler said because of the college's relatively small budget of about \$22 million annually, the impacts have been felt heavily.

"The money is nearly gone. There is great concern for the financial future of the school."

Tom Butler Sr.

Questions also have been raised about the number of Imhoff's relatives working at the school. Hawkins said in total there

were nine relatives of the current president earning about \$1 million in salaries.

Mid-Continent is accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools and any past credits earned by students would be transferable to other institutions.

As acting president, Ken Winters said his role will

most likely be limited to several months and include an evaluation of the school's dire financial situation and implementation of steps to remedy it.

Winters previously served as the president of Campbellsville University in Campbellsville for 11 years. He then was a Republican state senator from 2004 to 2012 and chairman of the Senate Education Committee. Winters said he has been meeting with school and board

officials since last Tuesday to analyze the situation before deciding to take the temporary role.

Mid-Continent is not officially affiliated with the Kentucky Baptist Convention, but the university has strong Southern Baptist roots dating back to 1947, when area pastors with the endorsement of West Kentucky Baptist Association organized a school in Clinton.

According to Mid-Continent's website, initial sessions were held at First Baptist Church of Clinton in 1949, but the school later moved to its own campus in 1951, where it remained until 1957 when the college, then known as the West Kentucky Baptist Bible Institute, moved to Mayfield. The school's name was changed to Mid-Continent Baptist Bible College in 1965 and then to Mid-Continent University in 2004.

During Imhoff's tenure, enrollment has increased from about 170 students to more than 2,000. (Compiled by reporting by Kathleen Fox of The Paducah Sun, with additional reporting by WR)

SBTS dedicates Center for the Christian Understanding of Islam

By Aaron Cline Hanbury

Louisville—The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville dedicated a new academic center Feb. 13 called the Jenkins Center for the Christian Understanding of Islam.

Albert Mohler Jr., president of Southern Seminary, said that faithfulness to the Great Commission requires ministers to study this rival religion, and "not merely to understand Islam as others might seek to understand it, but to achieve a Christian understanding of Islam."

The dedication of the new center coincided with the seminary's annual Great Commission Week.

According to Mohler, the Jenkins Center, named for donors Connie and Bill Jenkins, will lead Southern Seminary—and the broader evangelical academy—in studying and engaging Islam through the lens of the Christian gospel. And while he affirmed the value and even necessity of studying Islam through secular and Islamic scholarship, the primary concern of the center is engagement, including evangelism and apologetics.

Randy Stinson, senior vice president for academic administration and provost, explained that a group of fellows who are "experts in the area of Islam" will lead the Jenkins Center through research, seminars and writing.

"Not only will they be able to help believers understand various global events from a Christian perspective, they will be producing articles, books and other resources for the church," Stinson said. "They will also host conferences, roundtable discussions and summits with Islamic scholars from around the world."

The center opens with four fellows, two of whom cannot be announced for security reasons related to their



Albert Mohler Jr., president of Southern Seminary, speaks at a Feb. 13 dedication ceremony launching the Jenkins Center for the Christian Understanding of Islam at the school in Louisville. (SBTS)

work. The other two, J.D. Greear and Michael Youssef, are scholars who live in the United States.

Greear, who is lead pastor of The Summit Church in Durham, N.C., earned a doctorate in Islamic studies and served as a missionary among Muslims prior to pastoring in the United States.

Egyptian-born Youssef is an author, founding rector of the Church of the Apostles in Atlanta, Ga., and founder and president of Leading The Way, a worldwide media ministry.

Mohler said that Islam represents the "main rival" to Christianity around the world. He also emphasized the importance of Southern Seminary's new initiatives in developing a Christian understanding of Islam, calling it a "non-negotiable" for future ministers.

The Jenkins are member of Paoli Christian Church in Paoli, Ind. (SBTS) For more information, visit the Jenkins Center website at jenkins.sbts.edu.

Baptists react to 'slot machine' ruling

By Janet Patton

Frankfort—In a unanimous opinion, the Kentucky Supreme Court ruled Feb. 20 that the Kentucky Horse Racing Commission has the legal authority to regulate wagers on previously run horse races presented on electronic gambling machines—but that the legality of the wagers themselves has yet to be determined.

The court said the case must go back to Franklin Circuit Court, where it originated, to determine whether "the licensed operation of wagering on historical horse racing as contemplated by (the racetracks and the state) constitutes a pari-mutuel form of wagering."

The court also reversed Franklin Circuit Court's previous finding that the state Department of Revenue could tax betting on instant racing, as the wagering is known.

"We adjudge that the department lacks the statutory authority to tax the money wagered on historical horse racing devices," the court held.

The Family Foundation, a conservative advocacy group, sued the state and the racetracks involved to block instant racing after the Kentucky Horse Racing Commission approved the regulations in 2010. Franklin Circuit Court ruled that the games were legal, and wagering began in September 2011 at Kentucky Downs in Franklin.

The games later were added at Ellis Park in Henderson, but other racetracks have held off to see whether the Supreme Court would find them legal.

Through Jan. 31, more than \$573 million has been wagered on instant racing machines, generating about \$8.6 million in taxes.

It is unclear whether the state will have to refund that money or stop collecting taxes; the tracks, which have received more than \$36 million, may continue operating the games.

Proponents of instant racing hailed the ruling as a victory, although Thursday's decision apparently means the legal debate continues.

Gov. Steve Beshear said he was pleased

with the judge's opinion.

"I know there are some additional hearings now that will have to go on at the trial court level on specific games, but I am pleased overall that the Supreme Court has confirmed our belief that it was legal for the racing commission to take the actions that it did," Beshear said.

Kentucky Baptist reaction

Kentucky Baptists, however, are hopeful a future court will rule the wagers are illegal.

"Although some are claiming this decision as a victory, the truth of the matter is that nothing concerning the legality of the wagers placed on instant racing has been decided," said Steve Weaver, chairman of the Kentucky Baptist Convention Committee on Public Affairs.

"Advocates for this form of gambling are merely using this ruling as a public relations ploy," Weaver, pastor of Farmdale Baptist Church in Frankfort, said. "The court did find that the state did not have the authority to tax these games."

KBC President Chip Hutcheson said Kentucky Baptists will continue to oppose instant racing.

"What has been forgotten is the cost to families and society that results when \$573 million has been wagered in what we believe is gambling and not pari-mutuel wagering," Hutcheson, the editor and publisher of the Princeton Times, said.

Family Foundation attorney Stan Cave said his group intends to continue pursuing the case in Franklin Circuit Court.

"We believe that when light is shed on these devices, we'll be able to discover their true nature," said Cave.

The foundation contends the bets are not truly pari-mutuel. In the games, which are played on betting terminals designed to look like slot machines, players wager on previously run horse races.

Kentucky law allows pari-mutuel wagering, regulated by the racing commission, but not casino-style gambling. (Lexington Herald-Leader/WR)

'Shine' for Sunrise

I am urging each of our 2,400 Kentucky Baptist churches to support a one-time special offering, Sunrise Children's Services' "Shine!" campaign.

Just a few months ago, Sunrise was in the headlines. The agency's former CEO proposed to its board of directors a

**Together
We are the KBC**



Paul Chitwood

change in hiring practices that was contrary to biblical principles. Kentucky expressed their concern. The Sunrise board heard that message and acted on it, rejecting the proposed change.

It should come as no surprise, however, that funding streams were severely damaged during the last three months of 2013. That's when many donors, unsure of where Sunrise stood, simply did not give.

As a result of their biblical stand, Sunrise has a cash flow crunch and needs our help. To remedy this problem, the KBC Mission Board has approved the "Shine!" campaign.

You know Sunrise. It is one of the most beloved Baptist entities in our state. Since 1869, this KBC-affiliated agency has been a refuge for abused and neglected children across the Commonwealth. Sunrise is, and always will be, a Christ-based ministry that provides physical, emotional and spiritual healing to children in desperate situations.

Sunrise's recent step of faith has led to a new and exciting day. That step of faith has also kept the focus on children. And children really matter most at Sunrise. From Paducah to Pikeville, Sunrise provides comprehensive care to more than 600 children each day, many of them referred by the state. Government funding, however, falls far short of what Sunrise needs to serve children who have faced adversities that most of us could never imagine.

Sunrise receives about 70 percent of its funding from government contracts, leaving a funding gap of around \$7.5 million. Some secular funding sources, displeased with Sunrise's hiring practice that seeks to keep good role models in front of the children, have withdrawn the monies they had earmarked for Sunrise. To make up for this deficit and do much needed repairs on some of the aging facilities, Sunrise stands in need of \$5 million.

It's time for each of our 2,400 Kentucky Baptist churches to step out and fully support Sunrise's "Shine!" campaign. We are praying that KBC churches will give \$2,000 each. Some of our smaller churches will understandably give less and our larger churches will give more. We need all churches and all of our Baptist friends involved. Will you join us in underwriting every dollar of this \$5 million "Shine!" campaign?

Watch for your Sunrise "Shine!" kit, coming soon in the mail. If you have questions, please call Carmen Gibson, Claudia Eggleton or Randy Greene, Sunrise campaign leaders, at (502) 538-1000.

Thank you so much for all that you do, and have done, for this incredible organization.

Paul Chitwood is executive director of the Kentucky Baptist Convention.

Harrodsburg's inspiring faith encouraging for all

Perhaps almost as exciting as building a new facility is when a congregation pays off the debt. But to pay off a remaining debt of nearly \$1 million in three-and-a-half years is an incredible blessing and an inspiring story for the rest of us.

When Wayne Spivey arrived as pastor at Harrodsburg Baptist Church in January 2009, the church had been paying the debt on its Recreation and Outreach Center, "the ROC," for several years. Yet they still owed \$953,666. The plan was to make payments out of the church's budget of about \$90,000 annually. Following that plan, though, would take at least 16 more years, and that concerned Spivey. "We knew we had a lot of things we should be doing for the kingdom and in missions, instead of just paying off debt," he said.

So Spivey led the church to launch another capital campaign. Previously, the largest amount collected, as Spivey recalls, was around \$380,000. "Everyone wanted to get rid of the debt, but no one believed we could pay it off within four years," he said. Spivey, who had been through six capital campaigns at four prior churches, was convinced, however, that a church Harrodsburg's size (about 400 in worship attendance) could do it with the Lord's help—even in the midst of a bad economy.

Harrodsburg turned to LifeWay Christian Resources' "Beyond Measure" campaign for direction. "Debt is the hardest thing to be successful at in raising money," Spivey noted. "It's really hard to raise money once you have poured concrete." For Spivey, the great thing about Beyond Measure was that no one had to twist anyone's arm. "It was really Spirit-filled," he said. "We just said we want you to pray about what God might be leading your family to give." And, the people responded. They committed to give \$749,977 over the next three years—nearly doubling what had been collected in the past. Even more amazing, though, was the amount actually collected: \$882,766—an additional \$130,000. "Pretty awesome!" Spivey nodded.

Still, Harrodsburg was \$71,000 short. More determined than ever, Spivey gathered the deacons and urged them to make a final push. On Dec. 8, 2013, they held a debt-elimination Sunday and pulled within \$5,000 of their goal. "By Dec. 31, we paid off every penny of it!" Spivey rejoiced.

On Jan. 2, a custodian found a \$1 bill while cleaning. For



Harrodsburg, it was highly symbolic. It represented the first dollar given in 2014 since the church became debt free, and it now could be used solely for missions and ministry in Harrodsburg and across Kentucky, the nation and the world. The following Sunday, Spivey exhorted church members, "Let's refocus on our real mission—not paying off a debt, but reaching more people for Christ."

Spivey then asked them to give \$1 more each Sunday for the next 52 weeks, above their offerings. "If we do, then we will have \$20,800 more to use for missions and ministry on top of what we already do for international, national and state missions," he estimated. Each Sunday, members walk down the aisle to place \$1 into a chest. "It's such a testimony!" Spivey exclaimed. "It's exciting to see people giving sacrificially for missions and ministry. It's revitalizing our people," he added. "God has blessed us!"

Church members agree. Sonny Ransdell, chairman of the Beyond Measure campaign, told us: "Witnessing God respond to our collective faith in the Beyond Measure effort is both humbling and spiritually exhilarating. We have an incredibly loving and giving creator, and Harrodsburg Baptist Church has just experienced His awesomeness firsthand." While wiping clean the debt in a relatively short time has inspired them, he said, equally important is that the church can now focus on other ministries, as well as fulfilling its own mission "to go make disciples."

And while Jason Tyler, chairman of deacons and a member of the finance committee, found paying off nearly a million dollars in the last three years "especially remarkable," what really excites him is the numerous mission opportunities locally and abroad in which they plan to be more involved. "This has strengthened our church spiritually as our faith has been tested," Tyler said. "As always, God showed up and showed off by allowing us to eliminate the debt. God is good!"

Good news, like this, is worth sharing. It inspires and encourages us all to do more for Christ, and it increases our faith. Hebrews 10:24 urges believers to "stir up one another to love and good works." Contact the Western Recorder when your church has good news to share, so we can all rejoice in how God is at work and we can encourage other Kentucky Baptists.

After Thought

By Todd Deaton

Making true connections brings visitors back to your church

By Diana Davis

Your God is awesome. Your church is wonderful. Yet guests who visit your church don't often return. No true connection was made. Why not challenge every member of your church to use these tips to connect with guests:

- Make a personal commitment to intentionally "connect" with one guest every Sunday. Ask God to make you aware of visitors. If you accidentally welcome someone who isn't a guest, no problem. You've found a new friend.
- Once you've found a possible

newcomer, pray for God's guidance. Smile, greet the guest warmly, and introduce yourself. Pay careful attention to his name. Repeat it. Write it down.

Fresh Ideas



Diana Davis

- Chat casually and purposefully. You may ask, "Is this your first time to worship here?" Ask non-intrusive questions such as, "Did you just move to town?" or "What brought you to church today?" Warning: never ask, "Are you a native here?" That warns the guest they aren't welcome unless they're from your town.
- As you chat, listen carefully to find things you have in common. Most importantly, offer friendship. Make a plan to get together this week.

Invite them to join you for lunch today, meet for coffee Monday, or be your guest at an upcoming church event.

- Give the guest your email or phone number, and ask for their contact info. Call them Tuesday to remind them of the kids' Wednesday program or on Saturday to say, "I hope you come back again tomorrow. I'll save you a seat!"
- Help the guest to connect with at least one other person at the church. As you converse, think of someone who has a common interest, i.e. children's ages, similar life stage, employment, neighborhood, hobbies or background. Introduce them.

Diana Davis is an author, columnist and minister's wife based in Pensacola, Fla.

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Lying, one of the more 'fascinating of sins'

By Allen Raynor

There is an old Hindu law which says lying is justified in only two cases: in saving a person's life and in paying a compliment to a lady. It gives us cause to chuckle, but most often lying takes on a more ominous nature.

Lying is one of the most fascinating of sins. It is denounced and often despised by those on the receiving end, whereas it is commonly brushed off as no big deal by those on the giving end. Lies are easy to justify in the human mind. There is always someone to protect, someone to avoid disappointing or some reason to try to achieve what one believes is "the greater good" in a given situation.

Christians historically have believed it sinful to lie and that it somehow simultaneously displeases God while actually pleasing Satan, who is identified in Scripture as the "father of lies." Longtime Southern Baptist pastor Adrian Rogers said, "A man is never more like the devil than when he lies."

Throughout Scripture the concepts of "truth" and "lies" are contrasted. It begins as early as Genesis 3 when sin first entered the world. It was God's "truth" which was "lied" about by Satan who then helped lead Adam and Eve astray. Sadly, mankind has been lying ever since.

In order for there to be a lie, there must first be truth. A lie is nothing more than a distortion or denial of the truth. Truth is the objective standard and the lie always falls short, conceals or attempts to change/pervert truth.

Most often, lies are about self-preservation or self-promotion. Perhaps the worst lies of all are those we tell ourselves and actually believe. People will not be honest with God unless or until they become honest with themselves. Many lies have been contrived to protect one's self from the harm of consequences, whether it be shame or anything else. Quite often it seems another purpose, another agenda is in view.

FIRST PERSON

The Lord Jesus stated He is the Way, Truth and Life in John 14:6. We are actually most like Jesus when we stretch ourselves to be as truthful as possible and hold "truth" in high regard. Lies demand tolerance, understanding and creative interpretation of facts, whereas truth calls for as close and as thorough examination as can be given. Truth never has fear of having the brightest of lights turned on it. It is always able to stand the test.

The problem is that the "looked to" standard has changed. God's word was once the standard in American and European culture, but no more. Now, it seems, serving other interests is the primary objective. That makes it easy for the standards of truth to change. Truth essentially now is seen as whatever someone says is the truth. No longer are people "servants" of the truth, they have instead found ways by which to make the truth subservient to them.

But it simply never works. It always blows up somehow if given enough time.

When a person makes the declarative statement "this is true," what does it mean? One must determine what standard is being used. Is it the biblical standard or another standard? The Bible was given as a foundation to mankind. Scripture asks us quite pointedly, "If the foundations be destroyed, what will the righteous do?" (Psalm 11:3).

The good news for Christians is that we do not have to live enslaved to lies. God has promised, "You shall know the truth and the truth shall set you free" (John 8:32). The truth is incredibly liberating and unencumbering, whereas lies constrain, entangle and ultimately control. Believers need not wander around in the darkness and constraints of lies. There is the light of God's truth to illumine our path. In John 17:17, the Lord Jesus appealed to the heavenly Father on behalf of His disciples, "Sanctify them by your truth. Your Word is truth." Jesus desires for all people to identify themselves with Him by identifying with all that is true. (BP)

Allen Raynor is senior pastor of First Baptist Church in Rogers, Texas.

Losing weight on Twinkies

By Scott Wigginton

Q: How can I help my teenager be healthy when it comes to her emotional life?

A: In Matthew 22, a Jewish expert in the Law tried to entrap Jesus by asking him which commandment was the greatest. Jesus said that he should love the Lord with all his heart, soul and mind. Jesus was saying that we should love God with every aspect of our being. We are to love Him with our intellect, will, body and emotions.

Vincent Van Gogh wrote, "Let's not forget that the little emotions are the great captains of our lives and we obey them without realizing it." Unfortunately, teenagers allow emotions to be the captains rather than passengers on life's passage.

Help your teenager understand that there are emotional swings that tend to be greater in the teenage years. This is influenced by the enormous hormonal changes, new life experiences, and a mind that is distorted in its thinking as a result of original sin. While there is not much we can do about the first two, the Bible does encourage Christians in the "renewal of the mind" (Rom. 12:2) so that we can begin to give our anxious thoughts to God (Ps. 139:23) and thus "take thoughts captive" (2 Cor. 10:3-5) to the obedience of Christ.

Wrong thinking leads to negative emotions, unwise behaviors and potentially devastating consequences. Believing lies about oneself, others and the world and expecting to live a victorious Christian life is like eating only Twinkies and expecting to lose weight. It just doesn't work. But right thinking, biblical thinking, leads to manageable emotions that lead to wise behaviors that lead to fruitful consequences.

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



Providing support for a time

By Laurie Valentine

Is your church in a capital campaign? Would you like to fund your annual giving for charitable causes for the next few years in a new way? If you answered "yes" and you want to coordinate your charitable giving with a tax-saving way to transfer assets to your family, a charitable lead annuity trust (CLAT) is a giving vehicle to consider.

CLAT is a giving plan that provides a fixed income stream to one or more charitable causes for a designated period of years. At the end of the trust term the trust remainder can either be returned to you (a "grantor lead trust") or be distributed to your children and/or other family members (a "non-grantor lead trust").

While a gift to a non-grantor CLAT does not entitle you to a charitable income tax deduction, it does provide a way to pass assets to your children or others at reduced gift and estate tax cost. Gift tax savings come from the fact the tax value of the future gift to your family is the present value of the trust's remainder interest, not the full value of what you place in the trust. With careful coordination of the fixed amount paid to the charitable beneficiaries and the trust term, you can reduce the value of the remainder gift to family. Estate tax savings result from removal of the asset, any subsequent appreciation and its future income from your estate.

Example: Sam and Betty Smith set up a 5-year, 8 percent CLAT funded with \$50,000 to pay their capital campaign pledge. Over the 5-year term their church will receive \$20,000. If the trust assets average annual return of 6.7 percent earnings annually, there will be \$44,000 left for their children and, if the gift tax value of the future gift is \$31,150, \$12,850 passes tax-free to the children.

Laurie Valentine is trust counsel for the Kentucky Baptist Foundation.



Taking a minority lesson from the Puritans

By Zach Crook

A cursory glance at the state of cultural morality in America can be somewhat disheartening.

The Defense of Marriage Act has been labeled unconstitutional. A health care reform act has been passed requiring all businesses to offer employees drugs that could cause abortions. Same-sex marriage is being legalized in state after state.

We now live in a post-Christian culture. The 1950s have come and gone and as the pastor of a Baptist church, I hear the alarmists sounding the end of Christian influence and the demise of our country.

Culturally, it seems as though Christians have "lost" the battle. What was once considered taboo is now considered normal. There is no absolute truth. One's gender is no longer determined by physiological make-up, but by choice and feeling. God's word doesn't seem to have much place in the public square. Now that we stand on the other side of a failed "moral majority," there is one question everyone is asking: "What now?"

In many ways, the English Puritans of the late 16th century were undergoing the same sense of political failure that the Religious Right is experiencing now. They had tried for decades to influence the politics of Elizabeth I and reform the Church of England and the religious state of their country.

They, much like our efforts in the 1980s and 1990s, were galvanized for a time in believing they could influence Elizabeth and the national church, only to realize that their efforts were ultimately futile. It was their response to their political shortcomings that sheds light on how a religious minority can still influence the future of a nation.

By the 1590s, the Puritans realized they weren't going to influence the monarchy or the Church of England to reform. They had lost the political battle and "retreated" from London to Cambridge.

If anyone could have held a defeatist attitude toward the state of their country, it would have been them.

FIRST PERSON

However, they didn't give up or didn't lament the future of their nation. They simply changed their strategy.

Rather than continually trying (and failing) to influence reform, they focused on educating and influencing the next generation of leaders who were studying in Cambridge.

The Puritans embraced their minority status and changed their aim. They realized that a top-down approach wasn't working, so they switched to bottom-up. No longer focusing solely on those in power, they went about teaching biblical truth to the next generation of leaders. While presenting the power of the gospel to university students, many were saved and developed a biblical worldview.

Many Puritans eventually separated from the Church of England and started churches that influenced theologians like John Smyth, who in turn mentored Thomas Helwys, who began the first Baptist church on English soil. Helwys would go on to write a ground-breaking work on religious liberty, "A Short Declaration on the Mystery of Iniquity," which had lasting influence on generations of believers. He influenced greatly those who eventually helped get the Act of Toleration passed, which made it legal to worship any way you wanted in England.

It can be argued that God worked mightily among these Puritans when they stopped trying to change the government and started simply sharing biblical truth with the masses.

Who is in political power shouldn't be our greatest concern. Our greatest concern should be the sharing and spreading of God's truth. If we do that, I believe that God can work through our prophetic minority in the same way He worked through the Puritans.

As believers, we need to continue to fight to ensure that our nation embraces religious liberty. With the freedom to share God's word, we should trust in its power to change. (BP)

Zach Crook is pastor of Friendship Baptist Church in Weatherford, Texas, and a student at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary.

EC addresses mental health motion

Nashville, Tenn.—The Southern Baptist Convention Executive Committee has concurred with the spirit of a motion referred from the 2013 SBC annual meeting regarding mental health ministry.

In its Feb. 17-18 meeting in Nashville, the EC voted to amend an annual ministry report to include questions asking appropriate entities what they are doing to assist Southern Baptist churches in equipping and ministering to people with mental health challenges.

The EC also voted to "continue to seek ways to work in cooperation with SBC entities and others to address the severe challenges imposed by mental illness."

SBC Executive Committee President Frank Page will name a volunteer advisory body of professionals in the mental health field to advise how to inform Southern Baptists about available mental health service providers and resources.

The EC was responding to a motion by

Ronnie Floyd, senior pastor of Cross Church in northwest Arkansas, at last year's annual meeting in Houston.

In the motion Floyd asked "that the Executive Committee and the Bylaw 14 entities of the Southern Baptist Convention work in cooperation to assist our churches in the challenge of ministry to those suffering from mental health issues, and that each entity in their written annual ministry report inform the messengers what they have done, are doing, and will do annually to assist our churches in equipping and ministering to the people in our churches and communities who suffer with mental health challenges."

Bylaw 14 of the SBC constitution names as entities the International and North American mission boards, LifeWay Christian Resources, GuideStone Financial Resources, the Ethics & Liberty Commission and the SBC's six seminaries. (BP)

Executive Committee

Continued from page 1

Convention causes during the preceding fiscal year would automatically qualify for two messengers. Additional messengers would be recognized from a cooperating church by one of two options, whichever allows the greater number of messengers:

- One additional messenger for each full percent of the church's undesignated receipts through any combination of gifts through the Cooperative Program, designated gifts through the Executive Committee for convention causes or to any SBC entity.

- One additional messenger for each \$6,000 the church contributes in the preceding year through the same combination of the Cooperative Program, designated gifts through the Executive Committee for convention causes or to any SBC entity.

The \$6,000 figure was arrived at by adjusting for inflation and other factors since 1888. It is meant to be comparable to the \$250 figure adopted 126 years ago.

Additional updates to Article III will be discussed, with a Q&A on the matter to appear in SBC Life and other outlets at the request of SBC President Fred Luter.

Frank Page, president of the Executive Committee, noted that the proposed revision mentions Cooperative Program as the preferred means for convention funding for the first time. He also underscored EC chairman Ernest Easley's affirmation that the revision of the SBC constitution "is not a hill on which to die."

"The question for me ... if the perception is that it will hurt small churches, this is DOA," Page told EC members. "I will not tolerate something that even seems like it's going to hurt small churches."

Executive Committee members want to hear from Southern Baptists on the issue. The goal is not to decrease the number of messengers to the annual meeting, Page said.

Gender-neutral translations

The Executive Committee, in adopting a recommendation addressing a motion from last year's annual meeting, stated it does not have authority to publish a theological position paper

concerning which Bible translations Southern Baptists should and shouldn't use. The EC added that messengers have addressed the issue through resolutions during three past SBC annual meetings—1997, 2002 and 2011—which encourage pastors to make their congregations aware of possible translation errors in various translations of the Bible.

The recommendation addressed a motion by Tim Overton, pastor of Halteman Village Baptist Church in Muncie, Ind., that the Executive Committee publish a theological position paper on whether to recommend that Southern Baptists use gender-neutral Bibles.

Addressing committee members Feb. 18, Overton shared why a position paper endorsed by the EC would be helpful to Southern Baptists and would provide "clarity" on the issue.

In the committee's recommendation, it pointed to a 1997 resolution encouraging Southern Baptists "to be continually vigilant regarding this matter and prayerful for the Bible publishers and translators in the monumental task that they undertake." In 2002 and 2011 resolutions, messengers encouraged Southern Baptists to make their congregations aware of possible translation errors found in such translations as the Today's New International Version and the 2011 New International Version.

The Executive Committee also noted that convention messengers in a 2012 resolution "On Biblical Scholarship and the Doctrine of Inerrancy" reaffirmed their "belief in and adherence to the doctrine of the inerrancy of Scripture, as set forth in the Bible itself and in Article 1 of The Baptist Faith and Message."

The EC recommendation added that "the Convention has not assigned the Executive Committee the duty of recommending to churches or individual Southern Baptists whether or not they should use particular translations of the Bible, believing, as Convention resolutions consistently affirm, that it is the duty of pastors to teach and disciple their members on such matters...."

The recommendation stated the Executive Committee has posted in the past scholarly position papers by Southern Baptists on a variety of biblical subjects at baptist2baptist.net and will continue to post such papers, including papers on Bible translation theory. (BP)

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Page hopeful for CP uptick in the face of 'challenging days' ahead

By Shawn Hendricks

Nashville, Tenn.—Southern Baptists face “challenging days” with Cooperative Program giving, Frank Page, president of the SBC Executive Committee, told committee members in Nashville, voicing hope for an upswing in giving.

While sharing his passion for CP and its role in supporting missions and ministry around the globe, Page said the momentum for the “1% CP Challenge” continues to grow for churches to increase CP giving by 1 percentage point of their budgets.

Giving through CP is the best way to “concurrently, consistently and, yes, completely fulfill Acts 1:8 as a church body,” he added. “Through that, you’re involved in missions and ministries all over the world, all the time.”

Giving has increased in recent years, and 53 percent of churches say giving is up, Page reported. Despite increased giving in other areas, CP giving has continued to decrease through the years. In the last five years, CP gifts forwarded by churches have dropped 11 percent.

“In 1982, the average Southern Baptist church forwarded on 10.7 percent of its undesignated receipts to the Cooperative Program,” Page said. “But in 2012 it was down to 5.41 percent. It’s pretty much



Frank Page, president of the SBC Executive Committee, gives his report to committee members Feb. 18 in Nashville. (BP)

declined two-tenths of a percent every year.”

One potential bright spot, Page said, is that the current 5.41 percent has held since 2012, a possible indicator the CP Challenge is beginning to resonate with more churches.

“We pray (the decrease has) ceased and will now tick back up,” Page said.

Biblical stewardship is the key to reversing the downward trend of giving, Page said. To help, the Executive Committee is renewing efforts with state Baptist conventions to implement comprehensive plans for biblical stewardship.

“I’m going to push churches to do more, to give more,” Page said. “When I ask you to give more, it doesn’t come to the Executive Committee. We’re

lowering our Cooperative Program allocation so when you hear me beating the drum and asking for more, it’s to go to these other entities and agencies to do that which God has called them to do.”

While CP giving numbers among churches have decreased, Page said state giving percentages have risen.

The average percentage of CP gifts forwarded to SBC causes from 33 state conventions has gone from 34.7 percent in 2001 to 38.2 percent, according to the latest figures. But because CP giving from churches has decreased, the dollar amount from states has only increased from \$182 million in 2004 to \$183 million in 2013.

State conventions also are streamlining staff. From 2000 to 2013, the number of state convention staff has dropped from 1,750 to 1,350, Page reported. Some conventions are becoming “extremely focused” to better meet the needs of churches, he added.

“State conventions are trying to do that which they believe their churches are calling for and that’s to send more to the national level so that we might touch this lost world for Christ.”

While giving patterns and trends continue to fluctuate, Page said he will remain firm on his commitment to promoting the Cooperative Program.

“I know that church giving is different these days but I will not back away from what I believe is the best Acts 1:8 strategy that ever had,” he said. “... I will tell you I’m excited about the unity that we’ve had in this body by the Spirit, a passion for reaching this world for Christ and I’m excited about it.” (BP)

Clayton promoted to CP vice presidency

Nashville, Tenn.—Longtime Southern Baptist Convention Executive Committee employee Ashley Clayton is now vice president for Cooperative Program and Stewardship Development.

Clayton has helped guide Cooperative Program promotion and stewardship development since joining the Executive Committee in 2006 as associate vice president for Cooperative Program and Stewardship. After holding several related posts, he was named in March 2013 as special assistant to the president for CP and stewardship.

Clayton’s promotion was announced at the SBC Executive Committee’s Feb. 17-18 meeting in Nashville. (BP)

Floyd to be SBC president nominee

By Art Toalston

Nashville, Tenn.—Arkansas pastor Ronnie Floyd will be nominated for president of the Southern Baptist Convention at the SBC annual meeting this June, seminary president Albert Mohler Jr. announced Feb. 20.



Ronnie Floyd

Floyd has “unparalleled experience as a leader among us, an unquestioned commitment to the Great Commission, and he has demonstrated an unstinting urgency to unite Southern Baptists around our shared beliefs, mission, and programs,” Mohler, president of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, wrote in an open letter to Southern Baptists stating his intention to nominate Floyd.

During the 27 years Floyd has led Cross Church in northwest Arkansas, it has become “one of the most evangelistic, visible and innovative congregations in our convention,” Mohler wrote. The church encompasses campuses in Springdale, Rogers and Fayetteville.

Highlighting Floyd’s support for Southern Baptists’ Cooperative Program channel for funding missions

and ministries internationally and nationally, Mohler wrote:

“Over the last several years, Ronnie Floyd has led his church to become one of the convention’s leading contributors toward the Cooperative Program. Last year, Cross Church contributed over \$700,000 to the Cooperative Program. What makes that giving even more remarkable is that Cross Church increased its giving during a time of economic stress in the nation.”

“Ronnie Floyd led the Great Commission Resurgence Task Force for our denomination, and when that task force called for Southern Baptists to demonstrate a bold commitment to increasing giving through the Cooperative Program, Ronnie Floyd took that vision home to his church, and the church has responded with great generosity and a vision for missions at home and around the world.”

In addition to the GCR Task Force, Mohler noted that Floyd is a former chairman of the SBC Executive Committee and was a member of the SBC’s Program and Structure Task Force during the mid-1990s. That task force produced The Covenant for a New Century restructuring that streamlined the number of SBC entities to nine from the former 12 and set forth updated ministry assignments for each SBC entity. (BP)



A member of the Earl Brackin Band shows a Russian soldier how to play the banjo. (Photo/Evelyn Adamson)

Sochi singers

Continued from page 1

music, and some get impromptu lessons about the banjo from band members.

“An unexpected blessing,” Brackin said, “You see pictures of people from other countries, but to rub shoulders with them, for them to give you a hug, it really changes perspective.”

“And I’ve been struck how much we are alike—you know God loves me as much as He loves them.”

Brackin sees the Olympics as an opportunity to share music that bridges cultures and languages while helping to spread the gospel message.

“There’s an internal feeling that I was made to do this, and when I see people react with joy to the music, obviously there’s a sense that I am doing what God has called me to do,” Brackin said.

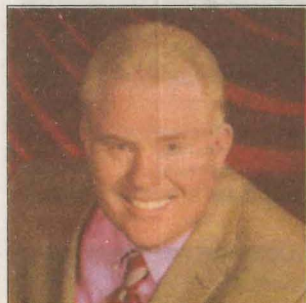
After finishing their mini-concerts, Brackin and his band pack up their

instruments. New friends walk off humming gospel and bluegrass tunes as Olympics events continue around them.

Brackin’s band is playing smaller concerts throughout the Olympics venues, and he likes how they provide more access to pedestrians walking to their events than at a large concert, “and that’s why we are here.”

“One special feature of our mini-concerts involves Olympic pins,” Brackin noted. “Since pin trading is a popular activity, we have specially designed pins to give away at each of our impromptu gigs. Each pin will be used to share the gospel and the hope found in Christ.”

Events in Sochi have included performances at Mayor’s Plaza and USA House in Olympic Park. Their performance on a local train brought cheers of delight from fellow passengers. The band also has performed at larger venues while in Russia. Before arriving in Sochi, they shared their love of bluegrass and the gospel at a concert in Moscow. (BP)



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'Nuts' about Oneida

Sharing news about OBI across the Bluegrass State

I very much like for things to be in their proper places. I'm really kind of nuts about it. So, when my children came along one of the most difficult adjustments for me was the mess and lack of order in my home. Still, I wouldn't trade my three precious munchkins for anything in this world.

Perhaps now my only securely ordered space is the desk in my office. If something was moved on my desk ever so slightly, I would certainly notice it and quickly move it back to its proper location. (I sure hope only a few of my staff are reading this, because those who are might have a little fun rearranging my desk the next time they visit my office.) I like for incoming tasks to touch my desk once and be quickly and properly taken care of.

I recently returned to my office from an exhausting, but rewarding four-day road trip around our beloved Bluegrass State. Since then, I have spent some long days trying to clear and reorganize my desk. As I write this article it is after 9 p.m., but I've got to meet the deadline. I am sure 9:30 p.m. was early for Barkley Moore or Bud Underwood, but it sure seems late to me.

I would like to think that everything I do as I lead Oneida is for our students. As our development director and I traveled Kentucky, I often reminded myself that our efforts were for our students. We visited churches, pastors, donors, alumni and a boys and girls club. We stopped in London, Somerset, Bowling Green, Hopkinsville, Paducah, Owens-

boro and Louisville. We had some great meetings with folks who already knew about, and were supporting, Oneida. Some meetings were with new friends; others were with potential friends and partners for our school.

This is Oneida



Larry Gritton

As we shared about Oneida, we invited them to partner with us by praying for us, referring kids in need to us, supporting us financially, scheduling our choir for a visit, making a day trip to attend chapel, touring the campus and eating lunch, and sending volunteer groups to our campus. These are only a few of the ways in which you can partner with Oneida and

the young people God has sent our way.

Please come and see for yourself what God is doing at Oneida, but know we may come to visit you one day in the future. We want Kentucky Baptists to know that Oneida appreciates them and needs their support so we can continue to minister to young people who need a home away from home where they can receive Jesus and a great education.

While we sometimes felt a bit like traveling salesmen on our trip, we knew the Lord would open the right doors for us. We were amazed at the graciousness of the people we visited, and we look forward to making, developing and strengthening even more friendships and partnerships with Kentucky Baptists.

Oh, when we visit, we promise not to move things around on your desk in case you are a little nuts like me.

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

Wherever He leads

Soon-to-be grad ready to be sent 'wherever' God calls

Senior Kyle Hughes, of Tampa, Fla., is a child of a former student. In fact, he is one of many second generation students who are beginning to show up on campus. It is a blessing to see these children of former students follow the same call their parents followed years earlier.

"I grew up in a Christian home," said Hughes. "My father surrendered to the ministry in his 30s and brought his family to Clear Creek. So, I always knew about God and the importance of having a relationship with Him."

"I thought for many years that I was saved as a young child," Hughes said, "but God convicted me after I was married and showed me that I needed a personal relationship with Jesus Christ. That's when I surrendered my life to Him."

"My degree is in pastoral ministry and I have been studying on the pastoral track," Hughes said. "I will be graduating in Dec. 2014. I have really enjoyed my classes at Clear Creek. My sermon delivery classes have really been a blessing to be a part of. Learning how to construct and deliver a sermon properly

has given me some good experience in how to really put a sermon together the way it needs to be developed.

"All my Bible classes have helped me to get a good grasp on the word of God in general," Hughes said. "God has really helped me grow spiritually through my classes. I can look back and see many things that I have learned. I am thankful for what I have learned at Clear Creek."

"I have enjoyed getting the opportunity to do ministry while being a student at Clear Creek," Hughes said. "My wife and I are worship leaders at a nearby church and we are also involved with the youth program. We are blessed to be a part of this ministry. We are seeing young people saved and baptized. It is a blessing to be able to help young people who are dealing with things in their lives that they need help with."

"I am thankful for the preparation I have received at Clear Creek," Hughes said. "We have been equipped and are ready to serve wherever God wants to send us."

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

200,000 Hindi Bibles donated for Asia

LifeWay customers give twice initial goal amount

By Aaron Earls

Nashville, Tenn.—LifeWay Christian Stores set a goal last fall of donating 100,000 Hindi language Bibles across South Asia, but customers gave enough for twice that many.

"LifeWay has proven once again it is an organization with a heart for the world," Tom Elliff, president of the International Mission Board, said. "Never in our wildest dreams did we imagine The Thomas Project would be such an overwhelming success."

Named for the disciple believed to have been the first Christian missionary to the region, The Thomas Project invited customers at LifeWay's 186 stores to purchase a Bible for \$5 to send to South Asia.

Considering similar initiatives in the past garnered considerably less, the original goal was a significant one for The Thomas Project, a joint venture with LifeWay Christian Stores, B&H Publishing and the IMB.

This time, however, customers resonated with the project, giving enough for 200,000 Bibles. Churches continued to donate even after the initiative ended in November, with one church donating enough to print 1,200 Bibles in January.

"We are indeed grateful for the opportunity to partner in ministry with our customers and the IMB through The Thomas Project," Thom Rainer, president of LifeWay Christian Resources, said. "The response has been amazing, thanks to the Lord's blessings and the tremendous generosity of our customers who

truly have a compassion for the lost and confidence in the word of God."

Not only did LifeWay stores sell the Bibles, retail employees will help deliver them.

A LifeWay employee mission team will go to South Asia this spring to help IMB workers distribute the Bibles.

"It is especially gratifying that some of our own LifeWay employees will be joining workers in the field to help distribute the Bibles that are so desperately needed," Tim Vineyard, vice president of LifeWay Christian Stores, said. "Our prayer will be that each Bible donated will have a life changing impact on the

individuals who receive them."

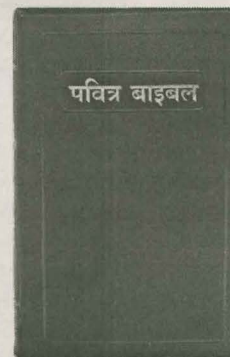
The mission team will visit locations strategically selected by the IMB and work through local church leaders and believers to distribute the Bibles. Additionally, they will be involved in direct evangelism and training.

Elliff expects the results in South Asia to continue defying expectations.

"God has honored the heart desire of both LifeWay and IMB to see the gospel penetrate the unengaged unreached people groups in South Asia," Elliff said.

According to the IMB president, there were 413 UUPGs in South Asia last year and 20 of those groups had a population over 1 million.

"Today, the UUPGs with a population of more than 1 million has dropped to nine," Elliff said. "We can only dream what will happen as these Hindi Bibles are distributed to the new believers and the lost as well." (LifeWay)



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Pharmacist fired for refusing to sell Plan B pills sues Walgreens

By Bob Allen

Jamestown, Tenn.—A Tennessee pharmacist and Baptist church deacon is suing Walgreens in federal court claiming the drug store chain failed to accommodate his religious objection to dispensing Plan B — also known as the “morning-after pill.”

Pharmacist Philip Hall, a deacon at Allardt First Baptist Church in Jamestown, Tenn., shares concerns about a contraceptive drug at the center of the high-profile Hobby Lobby lawsuit headed toward the U.S. Supreme Court challenging required coverage of all FDA-approved forms of birth control and sterilization under Obamacare.



Hall says in a lawsuit filed Feb. 11 in U.S. District Court in Nashville, Tenn., that company policy in the past allowed him to avoid filling prescriptions for what he regards as an abortion-causing drug by referring patients to another pharmacist.

When Walgreens announced last July it would begin selling the drug over the counter, Hall called corporate headquarters to complain. When the first shipment of the over-the-counter version of the drug Levonorgestrel arrived at the store, he purchased all six packages for full retail price and disposed of them.

Supervisors told Hall he would have to replace the pills. When he said in a meeting that if someone came into the store asking for Plan B he would continue to refer the customer to another employee, he says he was fired on the spot.

Hall claims Walgreens violated Title VII of the Civil Rights Act by failing to accommodate his sincerely held religious beliefs, and that his firing was in retaliation for complaining about the policy change.

He also claims protection under a state “right to refuse” law that says no physician or hospital can be required to perform an abortion. He seeks compensa-

tory and punitive damages.

“Americans have the right to live according to their sincerely held religious beliefs and not be forced to participate in actions that they deeply and sincerely believe are morally wrong,” said Larry Crain, a Brentwood, Tenn., attorney who represents Hall along with the Thomas More Society.

“It is illegal for Walgreens to attempt

to force employees like Dr. Hall to dispense certain drugs in violation of their religious and moral beliefs,” said Jocelyn Floyd, attorney with the Thomas More Society, a Chicago-based public interest law firm, “especially after six years of settled store practices showed that Walgreens could reasonably accommodate Dr. Hall’s religious beliefs with no difficulties.” (ABP)

Bible study accompanies ‘Son of God’

By Carol Pipes

Nashville, Tenn.—Pastor and The New York Times best-selling author Rick Warren has partnered with LifeWay Christian Resources to release a Bible study to accompany the upcoming “Son of God” movie.

“Son of God: The Life of Jesus in You” is a DVD small group Bible study, which features Warren explaining how you can find your purpose in studying the life of Jesus. The study is available at LifeWay Stores and LifeWay.com/SonofGod.

“There’s nothing more important you can do with your life than spending time getting to know Jesus,” Warren, pastor of Saddleback Church in Lake Forest, Calif., and author of “The Purpose Driven Life,” said. “Through the ‘Son of God’ study, people will receive practical teaching on the life of Jesus and its impact on individual lives and life purpose. Jesus’ teaching transforms from the inside out.”

The six-session study features video clips from the movie and videos from Warren explaining Jesus’ teachings and their impact on people’s lives. Topics include baptism, temptation, suffering, death, resurrection and ministry. Scenes from the movie such as Jesus being baptized by John the Baptist will help illus-

trate each topic.

“Son of God” is the second Bible-based production by husband-and-wife team Mark Burnett and Roma Downey. The first was “The Bible,” the history-making miniseries on the History Channel viewed by more than 100 million people last spring.

Burnett said bringing the full story of Jesus’ teaching and ministry to the big screen—the first time it’s been done by a major Hollywood studio in more than 50 years—is long overdue.

“A story larger than life needs to be experienced larger than life,” he said.

“Now people can bring their family, friends and neighbors to experience together the incredible story of Jesus,” Downey said. “We pray this film will really spread the word about Jesus’ love and sacrifice for all of us.”

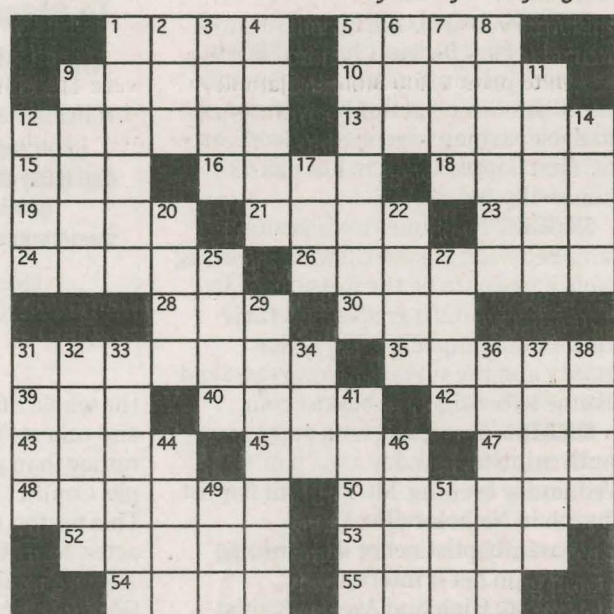
The couple said they hope the movie draws generations of people closer to Jesus.

“We don’t want the experience to end for audiences when the credits roll,” Burnett said. “There is so much to learn from and apply to our everyday lives in the things Jesus did and said. So the companion study is essential for congregations to dig deeper into the life lessons of Jesus’ ministry.” (LifeWay)

Bible Crosswords

Across

- Revolutionary hero Nathan
5 Step made by faith
9 Age of Methuselah when he had a son: one hundred eighty- (Genesis 5:25)
10 Aerie dweller
12 This may include “or else”
13 Most faithful
15 “There stood before the river a _____ which had two horns” (Daniel 8:3)
16 Treasured, in a way
18 Assess
19 Herdsman of Tekoa whom God called to be a prophet
21 Rod and _____
23 Bishopric
24 Noted Quaker family, and others
26 Chooses
28 At odds (abbr.)
30 Songdom’s “gal”
31 “The way of man is _____ and strange” (Proverbs 21:8)
35 Is diminished
39 “Go, sell the _____, and pay thy debt” (2 Kings 4:7)
40 He went searching for his father’s lost donkeys
42 Neap, for one
43 “Incline not my heart to any _____ thing” (Psalm 141:4)
45 Sesquicentennial segment
47 Mature
48 Stern
50 Like-_____ (kindred spirit)
52 “The angels shall _____ the wicked from among the just”



#190

- (Matthew 13:49)
53 Ezekiel saw a valley that was full of _____
54 Takes no action
55 “There shall come forth a rod out of the _____ of Jesse” (Isaiah 11:1)

Down

- 1 Mount on the northeastern boundary of Palestine (Joshua 12:1)
2 Roadway (abbr.)
3 Seep
4 Door direction
5 Colossians and Philippians, familiarly
6 What one lends
7 “The words of _____ the son of Jakeh, even the prophecy” (Proverbs 30:1)
8 “Do I seek to _____ men?” (Galatians 1:10)
9 “Let them be confounded and put to _____” (Psalm 35:4)
11 Fragrant compound
12 Sand, for one
14 Wooden pegs
17 Vitality

- 20 20th-century English novelist
22 “His _____ also shall not wither” (Psalm 1:3)
25 LaCosta, and others
27 Apartment
29 “He had offered up _____ and supplications with strong crying” (Hebrews 5:7)
31 Those opposed
32 Splits
33 Mount of _____
34 _____ date
36 “Thou shalt also be ... a royal _____ in the hand of thy God” (Isaiah 62:3)
37 “These things, saith he which hath the sharp sword with two _____” (Revelation 2:12)
38 _____ money
41 “Two _____ of the first year for a sacrifice of peace” (Leviticus 23:19)
44 Israel’s high priest had to descend from this tribe
46 Lose control
49 Soak flax
51 Compass dir.



Ambassadors for Christ

Like Olympians, we are representatives of our allegiance

The Olympics are a favorite of the Melber family. It never fails that our younger kids will latch onto an event and become obsessed to train and one day become an Olympian.

This year in particular the winter games have had quite the impact as we have been snow covered for what seems like an eternity. Our youngest two boys are daily in the snow with the neighborhood “pack” and recently have become self-professed “snow boarders.”

When I think of what it must be like to be an Olympic competitor representing your country, it speaks of a great privilege and responsibility to carry your country’s flag. Next to being in the armed services, some might even say that is one of the highest callings you can have as a citizen.

As Christians, we have a calling that has a worth and significance that is beyond compare.

In 2 Corinthians 5:20, the Bible says, “Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, God making his appeal through us. We implore you on behalf of Christ,

be reconciled to God.”

Hopefully, we can personally ponder this statement: We are His ambassadors. There is not higher person to represent than the Lord Jesus Christ. We know that at the name of Jesus every knee shall bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of the Father (Philippians 2:10-11).

While you may not have been, nor ever will be, an Olympian—as a Christ follower, we have a much weightier task and appointment where eternity literally is at stake with our assignment. I try each night as the

boys’ talk of sports to be supportive, however, at the same time reinforce to them of their primary assignment as an ambassadors of Christ.

In the meantime, I hope you have enjoyed the Olympics and I pray that each time we hear that term it causes us to be reminded of the fact that we have been appointed ambassadors for Christ.

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

Crossings Ministries



David Melber

KBC KENTUCKY BAPTIST CONVENTION CALENDAR OF EVENTS

March

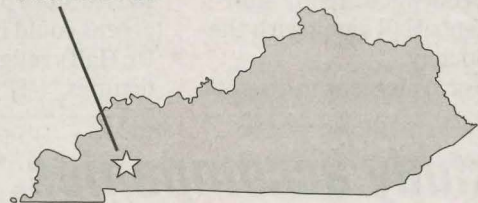
- 4 Power Lunch, KBC Building, Louisville.
- 6 Seminary for a Day, Trace Creek Baptist Church, Mayfield.
- 7 Disaster Relief Chaplaincy Training, First Baptist Church, Richmond.
- 8 Vacation Bible School Clinic, Bellevue Baptist Church, Owensboro.
- 8 Disaster Relief Training, First Baptist Church, Richmond.
- 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.

MOUNTAINS TO THE MISSISSIPPI

COMPILED BY STAFF

Spotlight on ...

PRINCETON



Southside Church will host the 27th Annual Western Kentucky Evangelism Conference March 3, 9 a.m., with guest speakers **Jeff Iorg, Fred Luter, Al Mohler** and **Paige Patterson**. **Mark Williams** is pastor.

■ **EDDYVILLE**—First Church will host **Bo Warren** in concert March 2, 6 p.m. For more information, call (270) 388-7693. **Timothy Perdue** is pastor.

■ **KEVIL**—First Church recently ordained **James Renfro** as a deacon. **Stewart Strickland** is pastor.

■ **LOUISVILLE**—Melbourne Heights Church will hold a chili cook-off Feb. 28, 5:30 p.m. **Adam**

'Fuzzy' bears bring comfort to a child in crisis



Christian County Baptist Association collected teddy bears in conjunction with Focus on Woman's Missionary Union Week, Feb. 10-16. A total of 739 bears were collected by 15 churches during the "Fuzzy Wuzzy Sunday" and will be distributed to law enforcement, firefighters, EMS, the Sanctuary House and the Children's Advocacy Center to help comfort children in crisis. Pictured from left are: Jo Pelham, CCBA WMU director, Vivian Moore and her granddaughter Anna, Jan Powell, Ann Grace, Judy Powell and Caroline Moss. WMU groups and churches are encouraged to participate in a ministry project during Focus on WMU Week. (CCBA)

Schell is pastor.

Parkland Church will hold a free community dinner Feb. 27, 5 p.m. **Tom Curry** is pastor.

■ **OWENSBORO**—First Church will hold a Recipe Swap March 4, 6 p.m. **Paul Strahan** is pastor.

■ **PADUCAH**—Lone Oak First Church will hold 2nd Amendment Celebration and dinner with guest speaker **Chuck McAlister** March 6, 6 p.m.

Dan Summerlin is pastor.

■ **VERSAILLES**—Versailles Church will hold Southern Gospel Concert with **The Capital City Boys** in concert March 2, 6 p.m. For more information, call (859) 873-7338. **Michael Cabell** is pastor.

■ **WINCHESTER**—Central Church will host the Boone's Creek Association Missions Fair Feb. 28, 6 p.m. **Travis Drake** is pastor.

CLASSIFIED ADS

FOR RENT: Two condos for rent in Destin, Fla. Two bedrooms, two baths, sleeps six, 10 percent discount for first-time guests. (423) 309-4422 lbrammer@charter.net

FOR RENT: Vacation rental Madeira/St. Pete beach area 2BD/2BA condo on the beach. May, June, August specials. (502) 797-0717 or (502) 777-7046.

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: Ephesians 4:11-12. Lewis Lane Baptist Church in Owensboro is accepting resumes for a full-time worship and education pastor. Experience and education preferred. Email resumé and/or video to llbcmusicsearch@gmail.com, Attn: Jeff.

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, 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 dkdarnon@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.

SEEKING: Full-time pastor for Woodlawn Baptist Church in Lebanon. Congregation of approximately 150. Experience preferred. Send resumé to Jerry Albertson, 620 George St., Lebanon, KY 40033, or woodlawnbaptist2serve.org.

SEEKING: Whitesville Baptist Church is seeking a part-time worship leader. Email resumé to ctmeier42378@att.net, or call (270) 925-9021.

SEEKING: The Northern Kentucky Baptist Association is seeking a director of missions/missions strategist who is a Baptist, a visionary and a doer. Available immediately. The NKBA is looking for someone who has executive experience, who is relational and can work easily with churches. This individual must be a leader, inspirer, catalyst, activator, challenger, proclaimer and prophet, and one who can relate to the association in terms of being a "pastor to the pastors." The director/mission strategist must have a pastoral or shepherd's concern for

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the whole life of the churches, pastors and others—directly and personally rather than programmatically. For example: Conflict resolution may be required. This person must be one of highest character, honest and forthright with all. Their experience and relationship with God are primary as they will be involved in leading the association in missions, ministries, religious education, church development, training, church growth, evangelism and other priorities. Supervisory experience will be needed to shepherd a multi-tasked office staff. Resumes must include educational and employment history with background references—including a present neighbor—and must be submitted electronically to lorne@nkybaptist.org by March 8.

SEEKING: The Pastor Search Committee of Second Baptist Church, Madisonville, prayerfully seeks a southern Baptist minister for pastoral position. Send resumes to Second Baptist Church, 633 Bishop Street, Madisonville, KY 42431-1379, or contact Clarence Berry, search committee chairman, at (270) 841-8308.

SEEKING: Oakland Baptist Church, in Oakland, is seeking a part-time music minister to direct our praise teams and choir in blended worship. All applicants can learn more at obclive.com, or by contacting us at (270) 563-4011. Send resumes to Oakland Baptist Church, P.O. Box 154, Oakland, KY 42159, Attn: Personnel Committee.

A city 'broken and bankrupt'

Detroit draws those intent on 'the Lord's business'

By Tobin Perry

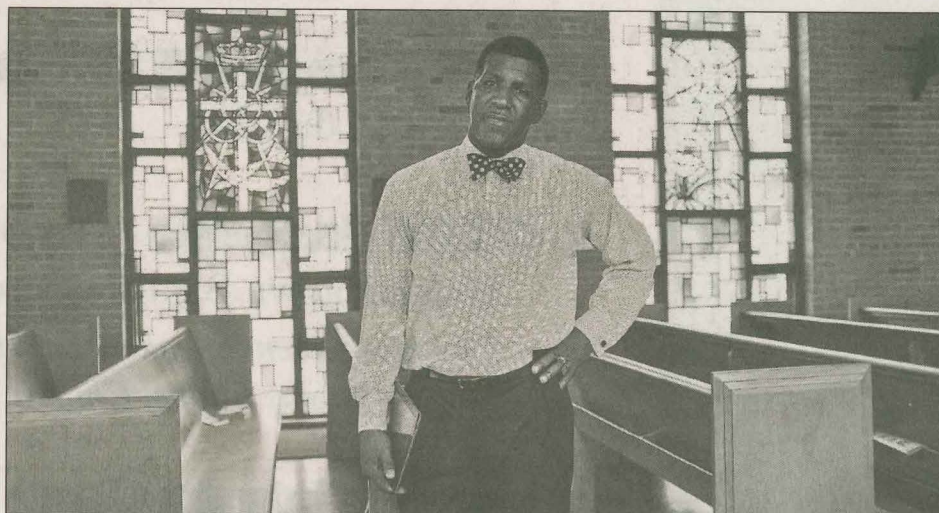
Detroit—People say Detroit is broken and bankrupt. Yet Southern Baptist church planter Daryl Gaddy has another word for his beleaguered city: home.

Detroit became the largest city in American history to file for bankruptcy last summer—a decline that began in the 1950s and accelerated in the 1980s. The city's auto industry had cranked out 90 percent of American soldiers' helmets during World War II and half of the Consolidated B-24 Liberator bombers. But today more than half of the city's 140 square miles sit vacant. A million people have left the city since 1950.

No matter what the pundits say, Gaddy sees hope for Detroit "because of the Spirit of God and the Word of God."

"The Bible says, 'If my people who are called by my name humble themselves and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways,' I believe that if we get back to the Word of God and loving the people of God, there will be a great revival in the city," Gaddy said, "and we will see a great return to those things that are beneficial for the people of the city."

That's one of the reasons Gaddy and his wife Daphne started Victory Fellowship Church in 2006. The city needs new churches. Only one in 10 metro Detroit residents claims to be an evangelical Christian. The city has one evangelical church for every 3,641 people and one



Detroit's economic and social collapse has opened a unique opportunity to define the future of the city. The city's spiritual leaders, such as church planter Daryl Gaddy, believe Detroit's defining moment is now. (Joe Garrad/NAMB)

Southern Baptist church for every 36,221 people in the metro area.

"There is a need for churches that are serious about the Lord's business," said Gaddy, whose ministry is the subject of a photo essay in the most recent issue of *On Mission* magazine, which has been redesigned as a tool for the North American Mission Board's development of its Send North America strategy for reaching the nation's population centers with the gospel.

"There is a need for churches who understand that we are the voice of God in the community and that we've been sent to be servants in this world, to impact the lives of others with the gospel," Gaddy said.

Gaddy had been a pastor, serving on the staff of his father-in-law's church

when God began to nudge him toward church planting to reach a generation of inner-city youth who weren't attending traditional congregations. Noticing a little bit of himself in the youth, he began a small group Bible study in the bookstore his family owned.

Gaddy accepted Christ at a young age, but with no one to mentor him in the faith he drifted far from God. Drugs, alcohol and illicit relationships followed. Though in time he came back to God, Gaddy always carried the sting of not having a mentor to help him grow.

Through his own experience and by spending time around his children and their peers, Gaddy realized that a huge part of inner-city Detroit's woes stemmed from the need for mentoring—particularly among boys and young men.

Even before starting Victory Fellowship, Gaddy had long been involved in mentoring youth through a local Scout troop, writing public school mentoring curriculum and one-on-one mentoring. Through the new church plant he became even more involved when it moved into a former Episcopal church building on the corner of Detroit's Frankfort and Lakewood streets.

"We moved into that community, and we engaged a lot of rough behavior," Gaddy said. "A lot of kids didn't have parents and were living on the streets carrying guns and just conducting themselves in ways that were not going to be beneficial for their futures."

"We built relationships, loved on them, walked the streets with them and showed them genuine love, care and concern. We didn't just preach to them. But let them know that 'I'm you and you're me. You are doing what I used to do. But guess what, where I am is where you can be also.'"

Victory Fellowship mentors young

people both formally and informally. The church's senior women—called the Mature and Marvelous Saints—provide mentoring support for young mothers. The church's laymen's ministry, Brothers for Others, similarly mentors young men.

The men come together every other week on a Wednesday, "and they talk about some of the issues that involve being a man and living as a man in the community, home and the church—how to not have to go to extremes as a man but to be the priest of your own home, how to care for and love your family," Gaddy said. "And also how to be a leader in the community."

Knowing that many of the youth in the community struggle with basic job skills, Victory Fellowship has started a job training program. The program not only helps prepare high school youth for their futures but provides them with funds for their pockets now. The youth run a silkscreen shop in the church, for example, to create Christ-centered clothing they sell to their peers.

Through partnerships with the police department, the mayor's office, the governor's office and the public schools, the church provides behavior counseling for youth, financial literacy programs for young mothers and a computer lab where students can finish their high school education. They've also partnered with the Navy to teach kids aviation.

"A lot of people would say that we couldn't do what we've done because we have not had the resources financially," Gaddy said. "But what I've found is that God will send you the partners at the right time, for the right reason. When you're in for ministry and not serving for money ... God will provide for the ministry."

Gaddy believes the best may be yet to come for his hometown. With Detroit being in economic and social flux, new opportunities for influencing the city's future are emerging. Through Send North America and the partnership of Southern Baptists, Gaddy is praying for more churches to start in the city and for the gospel to begin to take root.

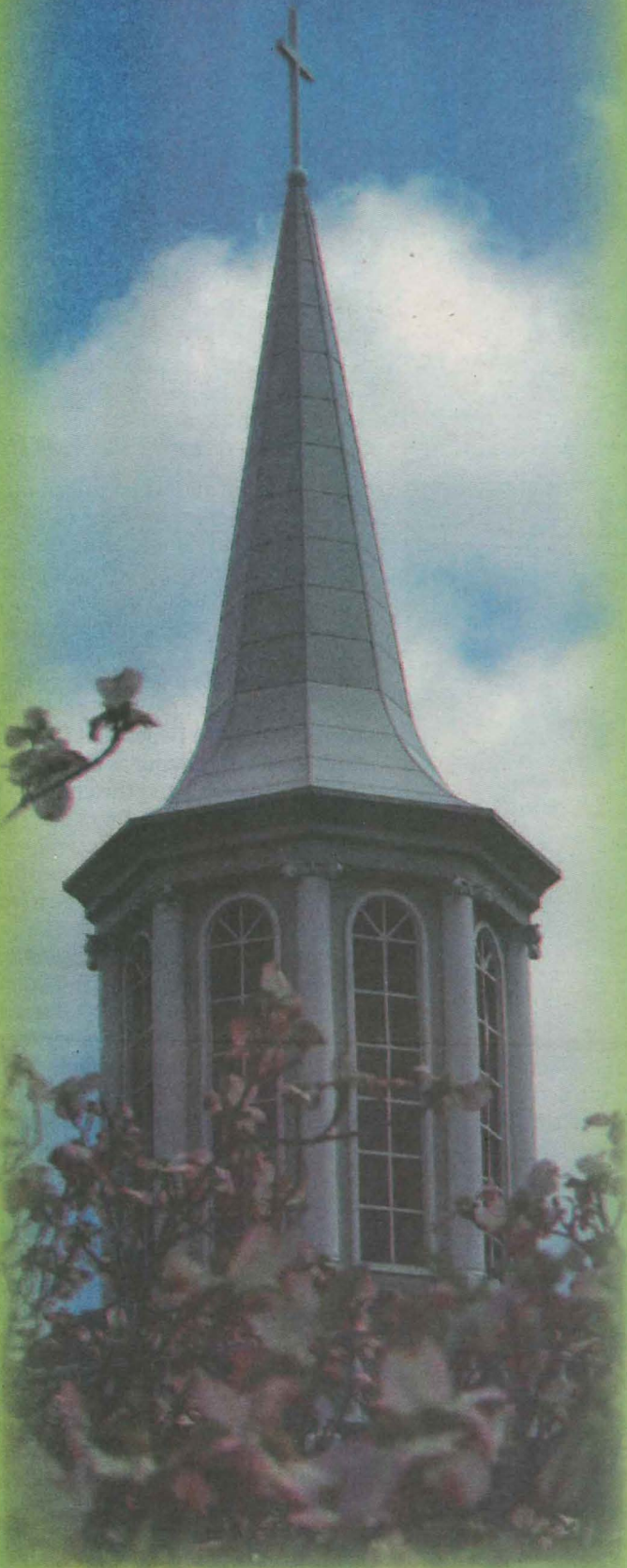
"But it's going to take some help," Gaddy said. "It's going to take some folks who have the Word and who have the heart and who have the resources to come into the city and to partner with those of us in the city."

"Those of us who recognize that the time is now, we must begin to take up the cross, walk forward and do the work of God," Gaddy said. "And so I just say that if there is a call of God, if there's ever been a call of God, the time is now."

(BP)



Young children walk and play after a wedding at Victory Fellowship Church in Detroit. Without youth, a city's future stifles, pastor Daryl Gaddy says. Victory Fellowship—the youngest Southern Baptist church plant within Detroit's city limits—works with a variety of other organizations providing job training and mentoring for neighborhood youth. (Joe Garrad/NAMB)



Calendar of Upcoming Events at Clear Creek Baptist Bible College

- **Spring Break** - March 10 thru 14. *Offices closed.*
- **Seminary for a Day** - March 22.
London, KY @ Corinth Baptist Church
- **Registration for May/Summer Term Classes** -
April 7 thru 11
- **Registration for Fall 2014 Semester Classes** -
April 14 thru 25
- **CCBBC Graduation** - May 9 @
Binghamtown Baptist Church, Middlesboro, KY
*Commencement Speaker: Dr. Hollie Miller, Pastor
Sevier Heights Baptist Church, Knoxville, TN*
- **May Term Intensive Classes begin** -
May 12 thru 16
- **Southern Baptist Convention** - June 10&11.
Baltimore, Maryland
- **Alumni Homecoming** - August 4&5
- **Fall Semester On Campus Classes begin-**
August 14

For more information on any of these events you may contact the college by calling our toll free number, 1-866-340-3196 or visit us on the web at www.ccbbc.edu.



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