

WESTERN Recorder

March 4, 2014

Shine Like Stars * Philippians 2:15

Volume 188, Issue 8

Elliff urges 'expediency' in search for his IMB successor



"Once God's will becomes clear, our responsibility is to step out in faithful obedience."

Tom Elliff
In his open letter, on page 3.

By Diana Chandler

Austin, Texas—International Mission Board President Tom Elliff asked the mission agency's trustees to begin searching for his successor because the Lord told him during prayer that it was the best way to ensure a smooth transition to new leadership, Elliff said.

"(God's) telling me that this is the time to leave," he said, "and that if I will obey Him and ask the Board of Trustees

to appoint a search team ... that is the surest way to ensure a smooth transition.

"Not every entity has gone through that kind of a process, and sometimes things go along with fits and starts. But we've got so many personnel on the field, they don't need that. They need a sure vision. They need sure communication. They don't need to feel at any moment that there's a lack of leadership."

Elliff has no timeline for his

departure, but asked the board at its Feb. 25-26 meeting in Austin, Texas, to begin the search immediately. The last search, he said, took about a year and a half.

"I am urging the search team to act with utmost expediency ... not with careless haste or abandon, but with all prayerful and tireless deliberation," Elliff wrote in an open letter to IMB personnel, trustees and Southern Baptists. The full text of his letter is on page 3.

□ See Elliff successor ... Page 3

ANNIE ARMSTRONG EASTER OFFERING WEEK OF PRAYER MARCH 2-9



Church planter and NAMB missionary Patrick Coats (right) baptizes Kingdom Covenant Baptist Church member Andrew Fellas, with the assistance of Coats' uncle, Joe (left). Patrick Coats planted the church in Homestead, Fla. to reach the mobile community of north Miami. (Ted Wilcox/NAMB)

Church planter embraces legacy he once tried to escape

By Joe Conway

Homestead, Fla.—You could say Patrick Coats is a product of his spiritual legacy. But it's a legacy he attempted to elude—at least for a time.

A native of Miami, Coats was raised by his grandfather, Joe Coats, the first African-American pastor to affiliate with the Florida Baptist Convention in 1968. The elder Coats planted a church in a school

building and saw it grow to 4,000.

"Hurricane Andrew destroyed the church building, but it did not destroy the church family," said Coats. "The last major project for my grandfather was rebuilding the church (facilities)."

Coats was never far from his grandfather, so he was constantly in church. When he was old enough, he began serving alongside his grandfather, first as a music minister. A degree in music

education followed, and though Coats will tell you he is primarily a trumpeter, he can play an array of instruments, including drums.

"I was immersed in Southern Baptist life," said Coats. "I've been everything there is to be in church from a deacon to a preacher. But I ran from a specific call as lead pastor."

Coats ran to music and started a

□ See Church planter ... Page 2

'Forward into the darkness,' speakers urge Ky. Baptists

By Todd Deaton

Elizabethtown—Three Kentucky Baptists urged their colleagues in ministry to go "forward into the darkness" during the RISK Evangelism Conference at Elizabethtown's Severns Valley Baptist Church last week.

Steve Ayers, founding pastor of Hillvue Heights Church in Bowling Green, challenged pastors to "advance the gospel," spotlighting the Apostle Paul's conviction, caring and commitment to sharing Jesus.

"To advance the gospel," Ayers said, "we are going to have to get out of the elementary thinking of liking everything, and we are going to really have to start being filled with the Holy Spirit and loving others who only God can love."

Jesus' disciples have only one mission, Ayers asserted. "There is no such thing as missions; we made that up," he said. "There is one mission from

□ See RISK ... Page 2



Steve Ayers, pastor of Hillvue Heights Baptist Church in Bowling Green, speaks at the RISK conference at Severns Valley Baptist Church in Elizabethtown. (Brenda Smith/KBC)

Ditch the cord. **GO MOBILE** Kentucky Baptist news at your fingertips **WesternRecorder.org**

Find us on **Facebook** and on **twitter** as **westernrecorder**

Western Recorder 3-4-2014

Judge: State must recognize same-sex marriages March 20

Louisville—U.S. District Court Judge John Heyburn signed a final order last Thursday that gives same-sex couples married in other states the same rights and privileges as traditional married couples.

He later agreed to stay the ruling until March 20 to allow the state "proper time to administratively prepare for compliance," said Heyburn.

Same-sex couples still cannot marry in Kentucky, according to the Louisville Courier-Journal, but Heyburn is considering whether to allow that as well, after allowing two couples seeking that privilege to intervene in the lawsuit.

Attorney General Jack Conway said he will decide in a matter of days whether to appeal the ruling.

"This is a betrayal of Kentucky voters," said Martin Cothran, spokesman for the Family Foundation of Kentucky, referring to a referendum approved by 75 percent of voters to define marriage in the state as being a union between one man and one woman. "If this were a private case, it would be legal malpractice."

Cothran said Conway should either put real effort into defending Kentucky voters or admit that he is complicit in letting the court disenfranchise them on this issue.

USA Today reported that no state or federal judge has opposed same-sex marriage since the Supreme Court in June struck down the Defense of Marriage Act's ban on federal benefits to legally married same-sex couples. (Compiled from various news reports)

RISK

Continued from page 1

Jesus Christ, and it is to go everywhere.

"Let me show you what 200-proof grace looks like," he said. Pointing to the Great Commission in Matthew 28:19-20, Ayers continued, "This is Jesus straight; this is Jesus powerful; this is Jesus intoxicating."

All some people may remember from attending church while growing up is being told not to drink beer or smoke cigarettes, Ayers said. "Many are going to end up in hell, and you're going to want a cold beer, and you're already smoking. Now how bad will that be?" he quipped. "It's about Jesus, guys!" he exclaimed.

"I don't know how you can read the Scripture, how you can look at the bloody cross, how you can see that empty tomb, and not tell someone," Ayers said. "I'm going to tell you what Jesus said: 'Go! Teach! Preach! Advance it! Baptize them ...!'"

Kevin Smith, teaching pastor at Highview Baptist Church in Louisville, using the story of how Hosea pursued his unfaithful wife, Gomer, seeking to restore her, reminded pastors, "If we are His witnesses, ought not our demeanors reflect His demeanor?"

God's demeanor toward lost people is, "Come here. I want you ... I'm seeking you," Smith explained. Yet often those who are lost don't feel the love of God or that the church really wants them, he charged.

Recalling that Jesus was described by Pharisees as "a friend of sinners," Smith said, "If we desire to be perceived like Jesus was (perceived), then we may be misunderstood by church folk."

"When the people are at their worst, God still desires them," he affirmed. Yet, it is not always obvious that God's people are those who really believe that where



Kevin Smith, teaching pastor at Highview Baptist Church in Louisville, was one of several speakers at the Kentucky Baptist Convention RISK evangelism conference held at Severns Valley Baptist Church in Elizabethtown Feb. 24-25. The conference also offered 15 breakout sessions. (Robin Cornet Bass/WR)

sin abounds, grace abounds even more, he said.

The book of Hosea, though, is a stark picture of how much God loves the sinner, Smith explained. "It's a long, enduring, pressing, 'I-want-you and seek-you' type of love," he maintained.

"Do we want the dirty and defiled the way God wants the dirty and defiled?" he asked. "Do we want those who are far from God to be close to God as much as God wants them to be close to Him?"

"We were Gomer. We're still Gomer sometimes," Smith pointed out. "Yet the Lord seeks us by His love and by His grace," he said. "So we got to seek the drug dealer, the prostitute, the corporate thief, the materialist, the homosexual, the liar, the power hungry, the racist ... because God wants them."

"Do you want Gomer? How bad do you want her back?" he challenged.

In the closing message, KBC Evangelism Team Leader Chuck McAlister outlined ways pastors can "make your ministry count," based on Philippians 3:12-14.

"To win this race," McAlister began, "you don't have to come in first. You just

have to finish. You just have to stay faithful.

"Stay in the race, keep running—no excuses, no retreat, no surrender!" he exclaimed.

To make your ministry count, face your situation, McAlister urged. "God didn't call you into the ministry just so you could camp out and make people in the church happy," he said. "God called you to assault the darkness in your community."

Focus your attention, McAlister advised, observing that when light is concentrated, it can become a laser powerful enough to cut through steel. "Jesus gave us our focus: We are supposed to be engaged in winning lost to Jesus and making disciples," he said. "What if pastors focused on ministry like athletes focus on a sport?" he challenged.

Forget the past, he counseled, encouraging pastors to "follow through" on their commitment to the Lord. "You can't win a race by looking over your shoulder (at other racers), ... and you can't mature as a leader if you're holding onto the past," he explained, emphasizing a need to set aside guilt, grief, glory and grudges.

Sharing the amazing story of Cliff Young, a 61-year-old Australian potato farmer who unexpectedly won the inaugural Sydney to Melbourne Ultramarathon in 1983 by maintaining a steady, enduring pace even through the night, McAlister asserted, "The wonderful thing about this race (of gospel ministry) is that every person who hits the tape at the end wins."

"Whatever the next step is, take it!" he urged.

The RISK Conference also offered 15 breakout sessions and a luncheon featuring Aaron Coe of the North American Mission Board, a native of Louisville who previously served as a church planter in New York. (WR)

Church planter

Continued from page 1

Christian rap group. Although it was a rebellious run, his was a mild one. He remained involved in church leadership, but did not want to be a pastor. Coats' uncle, Joe Coats, started a church, tapping his nephew to serve as minister of music. After 10 years his uncle had a new idea.

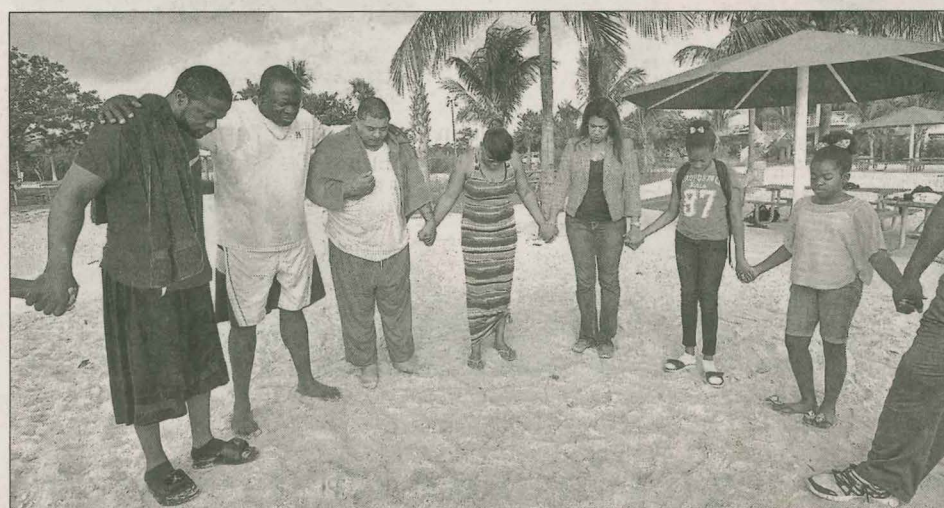
"In 2005 my uncle threw me into the pulpit," said Coats. "That began a three-year journey of preaching, attending seminary and the realization that I had to embrace the call of a pastor to be obedient to my Lord."

Perhaps still testing the waters lightly, Coats moved his family to Homestead and intended to start slow with his first church plant. He planned a small Bible study.

"We began with a group of 14 at the first Bible study preview," said Coats. "They all asked a question I wasn't prepared to answer. 'What are you going to do now?'"

Coats did the only thing he could think of and began looking for meeting space. In December 2009 he located a movie theater that allowed him to rent space for the Bible study. The Bible study launch was set for New Year's Eve.

"Forty people showed up," said Coats. "The next week more came and everyone wanted to have a worship service. That



NAMB missionary Patrick Coats (second from left) leads a prayer following a beach baptism service with members of Kingdom Covenant Baptist Church, the church he planted in Homestead, Fla. Coats is a Week of Prayer missionary for NAMB and is being featured during the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering promotion. (Ted Wilcox/NAMB)

year we baptized 30 people. In 2011, we baptized 33. I backed into church planting."

All the while Coats remained involved in Southern Baptist life. He is one of six missionaries featured this year by the North American Mission Board as part of its 2014 Annie Armstrong Easter Offering promotion.

Miami, where Coats serves, is one of 32 Send North America cities NAMB is bringing special emphasis and resources to in its effort to help Southern Baptists start 15,000 new churches in 10 years. Half of NAMB's financial support comes

from the Annie Armstrong offering.

Kingdom Covenant Baptist Church was the result of Coats' accidental planting. He said the church is kingdom focused, connecting people with the gospel.

"God is up to something. You don't have to over think it. Just do it," said Coats.

With connections through working on the Florida Baptist Convention's church planting team and through the NAMB's church planting network, Coats continues to sharpen his planting skills. Kingdom Covenant is establishing city

groups to create a culture of discipleship, and it is working in practical ways.

"If you go to a city, you go as a missionary. The church grows out of your missional living. It's not about making the right moves or reading the right books. It's disciple making and obedience," Coats points to the example of his son's football team as evidence of effective missional living.

His son, Patrick II, plays quarterback for South Miami Senior High School. As an involved parent, Coats got to know the team's head coach. At a team meal for the families the coach asked Coats to give a blessing.

"From that I was able to share the gospel and three players have given their lives to Christ and been baptized since," said Coats. "That's how church happens, in living. It's Acts 2:42."

Being named an Annie Armstrong Week of Prayer Missionary was humbling to Coats. He has long known of the significance of the offering for North American Missions.

"The Annie Armstrong offering is super important," said Coats. "We've benefited from training, resources and partnering churches who've come down and labored with us in the field. The best encouragement for a church planter is knowing he's not alone. Through the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering, other SBC churches are made aware of church planting and they come alongside the plant to help in a big way." (BP)

Elliff pens open letter to Southern Baptists

Dear IMB Personnel, both overseas and stateside, members of IMB's Board of Trustees, and members of our Southern Baptist family, Please permit me a few moments to reminisce.

Three years ago you invited Jeannie and me into what is proving to be one of the most humbling and challenging assignments of our lifetime. The privilege of serving the Lord and Southern Baptists by serving our missionary family is at once exciting and sobering. We have often found ourselves on our knees in prayer, seeking God's vision, power and guidance for these days. And He has never failed!

No IMB president could be blessed with a finer staff and leadership team, both in Richmond and around the world. No president could be encouraged and prayerfully undergirded by a more supportive Board of Trustees. You could look the world over and never find better qualified, skilled, passionate-hearted and sacrificial missionaries than those we are privileged to serve. And it is sheer joy to walk and work among the incredible family of believers called Southern Baptists.

Years ago, Jeannie and I developed what has become a purpose statement for our family. Our guiding purpose is to serve as living illustrations of the faithfulness of God to any person who will take Him at His word. You see, we believe that the plans of God are revealed to the man or woman of God, by the Spirit of God and through the Word of God. Once God's will becomes clear, our responsibility is to step out in faithful obedience.

Now, that simple truth by which we strive to live brings me to another matter.

Based on what we believe to be the Lord's clear leading, today I am asking our chairman to appoint a search team to seek my successor. I pledge my eager and devoted service as your president until my successor is chosen and in office. But I am urging the search team to act with utmost expediency...

Viewpoint



Tom Elliff

"Our vision is a multitude from every language, people, tribe and nation knowing and worshipping our Lord Jesus Christ."

Tom Elliff

not with careless haste or abandon, but with all prayerful and tireless deliberation. We must work and pray together, just as we have these past years, to make this transition as seamless and effective as possible. The cause of our Savior and the welfare of our personnel deserve nothing less than our best!

In some ways, as I look at the many initiatives we have put in place by working together over these years, both the pace and ease of implementation has been almost breathtaking. This can only be accounted for by the grace of God, the foresight and harmonious spirit of our trustee board, coupled with the diligence and spiritual maturity of our personnel, both in Richmond and across the globe.

We are, indeed, "chasers after darkness," looking for the black holes of sin in our world and thrusting into that darkness the Light of the glorious gospel of Christ. With such urgent need, I am content to believe that God is already at work, preparing both the heart and mind of our next president to lead IMB into its most effective years of service ever.

It has been a humbling privilege to serve as your eleventh IMB president in our storied 168-year history. Now, Jeannie and I joyfully anticipate the privilege of joining ranks with those who, like you, will prayerfully support our next president, faithfully holding up his hands in this great battle for the souls of the unsaved billions scattered across the globe.

You may rest assured that we will run through the finish line of this course the Lord has set before us with whole-hearted resolve and our eyes focused on Christ. We have the command of the Lord, and we hear the cry of the lost. Along with you, we must go together... to the ends of the earth!

For the Vision!

Tom Elliff

Elliff successor

Continued from page 1

Elliff was elected president of IMB after a lifetime of service as a missionary, denominational leader and pastor.

He and his wife, Jeannie, served as missionaries to Zimbabwe in the early 1980s. He led the Southern Baptist Convention as president from 1996-1997 and served as pastor of First Southern Baptist Church in Del City, Okla., from 1985 to 2005. Elliff was also IMB's senior vice president for spiritual nurture and church relations from 2005 to 2009.

Elliff was 67 when he accepted the post in 2011, and marked his 70th birthday this February. He is hesitant to give advice to a successor, but said prayer should remain a priority for anyone who accepts the position.

"Every person follows the leadership of God and they don't need someone standing over their shoulder saying, 'If you're not doing it my way, you're doing it the wrong way,'" Elliff said. "If I had one little bit of counsel ... I would say ... live in prayer. I don't know how you could do it any other way. I don't know



IMB President Tom Elliff chats with people attending the IMB trustee meeting in Austin, Texas, Feb. 25-26. Elliff said Feb. 26 that God has told him "this is the time to leave." (Chris Carter/IMB.)

how one person could move the organization forward if he's not hearing from God, and if God's not hearing from him."

IMB trustee board chairman David Uth, senior pastor of First Baptist Church in Orlando, Fla., appointed a 15-member committee to find Elliff's replacement.

Search committee members include: Uth, chairman; first vice-chair John Edie, retired, member of Second Baptist Church, Springfield, Mo.; Jay Collins, civil engineer, member of First Baptist Church Houghton, La.; Jay Gross, pastor,

West Conroe Baptist Church, Conroe, Texas; Scott Harris, minister of missions, Brentwood Baptist Church, Brentwood, Tenn.; Rick Lewis, pastor, Ken Caryl Baptist Church, Littleton, Colo.; Jaye Martin, ministry director, Houston's First Baptist Church, Houston, Texas; Vickie Mascagni, a registered dietitian and member of Morrison Heights Baptist Church, Clinton, Miss.; John Meador, senior pastor, First Baptist Church, Euless, Texas; Matt Pearson, pastor of First Baptist Church, El Dorado, Ark.; Doyle Pryor, senior pastor, Bethel Baptist Church, Norman, Okla.; Cindy Snead, a clinical laboratory scientist and member of North Phoenix Baptist Church, Phoenix, Ariz.; Matt Taylor, senior pastor, First Baptist Church Lebanon, Mo.; Kristen White, director of global mobilization for California Baptist University and a member of Magnolia Avenue Baptist Church, Riverside, Calif.; and Jay Wolf, pastor, First Baptist Church, Montgomery, Ala.

The search committee is receiving names for consideration by email at searchteam@imb.org. The next IMB trustee meeting is May 13-14 in Spartanburg, S.C. (BP)

Gospel's power & reach

The Apostle Peter wrote, "I urge you as sojourners and exiles to ... keep your conduct among the Gentiles honorable ... Be subject for the Lord's sake to every human institution, whether it be to the

Together We are the KBC



Paul Chitwood

emperor as supreme, or to governors as sent by him to punish those who do evil and to praise those who do good. For this is the will of God, that by doing good you should put to silence the ignorance of foolish people" (1 Peter 2:11-15).

Some take Peter's words as an admonition against Christians who engage the political sphere. They argue that Christians are to accept the rule of government, submit themselves to the rule of government, and keep their religious opinions out of government and politics.

Indeed Peter calls for submission, acknowledging God's sovereign reign extends to government. But Peter does not instruct the Christ follower, who sojourns in the kingdoms of this world until the consummation of the Eternal Kingdom, to remain unengaged in political affairs. He does, however, command us to conduct ourselves honorably so that we might bring glory, not to ourselves or our government, but to our God.

As for engaging the political sphere, in Old Testament times, among many other examples, Moses confronted Pharaoh, Samuel confronted David, and Jothan confronted the leaders of Shechem. In the New Testament, men like John the Baptist teach us to declare godly principles with boldness. John called out Herod for, among other things, his disregard of God's standard for marriage. According to Mark 6, "John had been saying to Herod, 'It is not lawful for you to have your brother's wife'" (v 18).

These men of God did not hesitate to enter the political arena to confront sin, cry out for justice and righteousness, and to call kings, citizens and nations to repentance and faith. More often than not, their presence was unwanted, their declarations ignored, and their courage came at great personal cost. Yet, they refused to remain silent, maintaining with Peter, "We must obey God rather than men" (Acts 5:29).

The pious phrase, "Just preach the gospel and stay out of politics," sounds appealing, but such an approach ignores the gospel's power and reach. The gospel extends far beyond the church sanctuary or the private witnessing encounter. The gospel extends to the living room, bedroom, classroom, voting booth, capital building, courthouse and the White House.

God's righteous standards and the good news that, because of Christ crucified, grace abounds for those who fall short of God's standards, will only be known in our world when we have the courage to declare these sacred truths with the courage of the saints and martyrs who have gone before us.

Paul Chitwood is executive director of the Kentucky Baptist Convention.

WESTERN Recorder

Box 43969
Louisville, KY 40253

DR. TODD DEATON
Editor

ROBIN CORNETT BASS
News Director

THOMAS C. TOWNSEND
Marketing & Business Manager

Shine Like Stars * Philippians 2:15

Board of Directors:

Wayne Spivey (chairman), Harrodsburg;
Bill Ellis (vice chair), Lexington;
Lanna Kilgore (secretary), Bowling Green;
Bill Bartleman, Paducah;
Duane Bolin, Murray;
Billy Compton, Mount Washington;
Bill Edmonds, Louisville;
Chip Hutcheson, Princeton;
Paul Nunn, Prestonsburg;
Rick Robbins, Florence;
Larry Rowell, Campbellsville;
Dan Summerlin, Paducah.

Western Recorder is published weekly 47 weeks a year by Western Recorder Inc., an agency of the Kentucky Baptist Convention, Box 43969, Louisville, KY 40253. It will not be published Jan. 7, July 8, July 22, Dec. 2 or Dec. 30. Periodicals postage paid at Louisville, Ky. (USPS 679-380)

For general information or to give news tips, call (502) 489-3535; or email: news@westernrecorder.org.

POSTMASTER: Send address corrections to: Western Recorder, Box 43969, Louisville, KY 40253.

To subscribe: Send \$15 for a one-year, individual subscription or visit our website and subscribe to our electronic-only edition at \$10 per year. Group subscriptions (church budget plan) are \$10 per year.

Letters to the editor:

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



THE POWER OF 'AND'

IN ACTS 1:8, JESUS SAYS,

YOU WILL BE MY WITNESSES

IN JERUSALEM,
AND IN ALL JUDEA
SAMARIA,

AND TO THE ENDS
OF THE



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

HOW CAN
YOU



AS

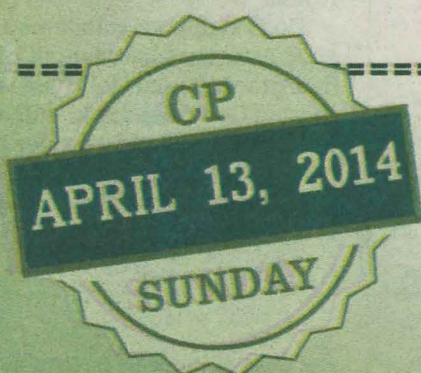
1

BELIEVER

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

THROUGH THE

COOPERATIVE PROGRAM



SCHEDULE A SPEAKER or ORDER FREE RESOURCES

www.kybaptist.org/cp

QUESTIONS? E-MAIL cp@kybaptist.org OR CALL
(502) 489-3365 OR 1-866-489-3365 (TOLL-FREE IN KY)



SCAN THIS CODE TO SEE VIDEO!

WMU Kentucky Notes

SPRING 2014

Contact us: P.O. Box 436569, Louisville, KY 40253-6569 • (502) 489-3534 • Toll-free (866) 489-3534 • www.kywmu.org

A quarterly publication of the Kentucky Woman's Missionary Union • Supplement to Western Recorder • Funding provided by the Eliza Broadus Offering and the Cooperative Program

A PERSONAL WORD

'Be radically involved' with Kentucky WMU

In December I had the opportunity of walking up a muddy path to a small home in Sweetwaters Township near Pietermaritzburg, South Africa. There I met Christopher and shared the gospel with him. This was no chance encounter. Christopher has AIDS and we were delivering a Hospice Care Bucket provided through Baptist Global Response.

Kentucky WMU sent a team of 12 to South Africa to lead Holiday Bible Clubs with children and to experience bucket delivery first hand. We saw the needs and why each item in a hospice care bucket is important. Kentucky Baptists will be collecting buckets all year and you can be part of the kick-off at the Kentucky WMU Annual Meeting.

You are invited to bring items that go in buckets or completed buckets to the meeting. We will have tables set up in the gym to assemble buckets. If you don't know how to pack one, Herb and Wanda Edminster, our state Bucket Coordinators, will be there to help you. If you bring completed buckets, we will have labels for your bucket and a truck ready for loading. Lori Funderburk, BGR Buck-

et Project Prayer Coordinator, will be on hand to share bucket stories as well as the work of BGR in meeting needs around the world.

This year's annual meeting program promises to be challenging and fun! You will laugh at the antics of Miss Bertha and her friend, Berniece (Jana McKnight and Vickie Lloyd), be inspired by the theme interpretations from Wanda Lee, and be challenged by Gordon Fort, a grown up MK and now VP of Prayer Mobilization at the International Mission Board.



Joy Bolton

Kentucky WMU is your partner to be radically involved in the mission of God. The events and missions opportunities that we provide are avenues for you to be inspired and personally involved. The Bucket Project and Annual Meeting are but two examples.

FamilyfestSM returns to Kentucky again this summer! This is another WMU provided opportunity for you to be radically involved in the mission of God. Familyfest is a partnership between the host association, national WMU and state WMU. Boone's Creek Association has many needs calling for an army of WMU volunteers! We are excited about those

from out of state who will come to Kentucky this summer and we pray that there will also be a large Kentucky contingent!

Our events are also great ways for you to provide missions activities for children and students. Include events like Exalt/4:GO, RAM-CON, GA JAM, Mission Adventure Camp, Overnights at the Creek, Acteens Splash, Kentucky Changers and Camp Courage in your plans for the year. Your children and students will be able to connect with others and see the big picture of missions. These events can be special "road trips" for your group and a significant part of what your church offers during the year. Best of all for leaders - Kentucky WMU does the planning!

Kentucky Changers will involve 800-1,000 students, leaders, and other volunteers this summer. This will be the first time under Kentucky WMU leadership and represents yet another way that WMU partners with you to be on mission.

These are exciting days for Kentucky WMU. Join us!

Joy Bolton is the executive director of KY WMU.

2014 Annie Armstrong Easter Offering® for North American Missions

Theme:
Firmly Planted

Offering Goal:
\$70 million

Kentucky Baptist churches gave \$2,298,813.21 to AAEO in 2013.

*The largest AAEO ever given from Kentucky!
Can we exceed this in 2014?*

THE CELEBRATION

Continues
of WMU's 125th Birthday!

Kentucky WMU Annual Meeting and Missions Celebration

Friday April 4 • Saturday April 5, 2014
Central Baptist Church, Winchester

SPECIAL PROJECTS



Central Baptist Church is located at:
101 West Lexington Ave.
Winchester, KY 40391

The Prelude will begin ten minutes before the start of each session
All times listed are in Eastern Time

FRIDAY, APRIL 4

8:30 a.m. Registration, Bookstore, Displays
9:00 a.m. Conferences & Activities
Choose from a variety of options: Conferences, pack a bucket, prayerwalk, local ministry walking tour, bookstore and displays
10:00 a.m. The Celebration Continues
Theme Interpretation - Wanda Lee
Missionary Recognition

Totally His - Gordon Fort
Baptist Global Response - Lori Funderburk
Offering for Kentucky WMU Ministries to Missionaries

12:15 p.m. Conferences & Activities

1:15 p.m. Conferences & Activities

Choose from a variety of options

Box Lunch by pre-reservation

2:15 p.m. The Celebration Continues ...

Kentucky WMU

Theme Interpretation - Wanda Lee

Heritage Fund Mite Boxes

WMU & GA Through the Years

Business Session & Election of Officers

3:45 p.m. Break

Bucket Project will be open until 4:30 p.m.

5:00 p.m. Executive Board Reunion Dinner

For current and former Executive Board members

7:00 p.m. Accepting the Challenge of the Great Commission

Theme Interpretation - Wanda Lee

Kentucky Missionary of the Year Award

Kentucky Missionaries Commissioning

Message - Gordon Fort

8:45 p.m. WMU Birthday Celebration & Reception

Honoring outgoing officers & Kentucky missionaries

SATURDAY, APRIL 5

9:00 a.m. Conference & Activities

Choose from a variety of options: Conferences, pack a bucket, prayerwalk, local ministry walking tour, bookstore and displays

Welcome, children, students and leaders!

Special session in the Chapel (Adult leaders must attend with children)

10:00 a.m. The Celebration Goes Forward

Theme Interpretation - Wanda Lee

Oneida Baptist Institute Choir

Buckets for Africa - Lori Funderburk

NAME Prayer Emphasis - Gordon Fort

Passing the Gavel

12:15 p.m. Blessing the Buckets

Join us for prayer at the bucket loading area

Prayerwalk downtown before you leave!

COLLECTION PROJECTS:

- Items for BGR Hospice Care Buckets or completed buckets.
- Items for block parties at FamilyfestSM

Complete Annual Meeting information and registration: www.kywmu.org/annualmeeting

ADULTS & CHURCHWIDE

Thank you for your prayers

By Wanda Walker

I want to express my gratitude and appreciation to you. I have been overwhelmed with cards, emails, and condolences with the unexpected death of my husband Stephen.

He loved WMU almost as much as I do. Stephen was my biggest supporter of the work and, as many of you know, he and the girls traveled with me to many of your churches and associations.

I appreciate your prayers as we transition into a different normal in our lives. We do not know what lies ahead for our future, but we hold on to our faith and confidence in our Lord Jesus Christ.

There are many things you can elect to become involved in at any level of WMU. Our associations and churches are busy with spring events. The Kentucky WMU annual meeting April 4-5 will be a major kickoff of our yearlong bucket project with BGR. Every church in Kentucky could make at least one bucket. Most churches could handle two or more!

Ladies...two words...SPRING RETREATS! Then don't miss out on the national WMU meeting.

Late spring and summer brings leadership development. For associational leaders there is SALT in May and EXCEL will be in three locations, three different months. July 19: First Baptist Church Richmond; Aug. 16: First Baptist Church Madisonville and Sept. 13: St. Matthews Baptist Church in Louisville.

Take advantage of the spring to promote and lead your association and churches to grow in missions education. There is a great video available on the internet. The link is <http://vimeo.com/84685536>

Praying for you amidst your busyness.

CALENDAR

MARCH

- 2-9 Week of Prayer for North American Missions
- 15 RAMCON, Beaver Dam Baptist Church, Beaver Dam
- 21-22 Exalt/4-GO, Refuge Louisville, Inc.

APRIL

- 4-5 Kentucky WMU Annual Meeting, Central Baptist Church, Winchester
- 25-26 "Free Indeed" Women's Retreat, Camp Schafer, Hawesville

MAY

- 2-3 "Free Indeed" Women's Retreat, Laurel Lake Baptist Camp, Corbin
- 17 SALT, Kentucky Baptist Building, Louisville

KENTUCKY CHANGERS

Answering the call

By Peggy Murphy

That is the theme for 2014 Kentucky Changers. Students entering 8th grade through college from all across the state of Kentucky and beyond will be participating in Kentucky Changers this summer.

What is Kentucky Changers? It is a pre-packaged mission trip that gives students the opportunity to be "On - Mission" throughout Kentucky. Jesus says to "GO and make disciples." At times that means to go into your own neighborhood. Other times that involves your own state. It can even involve going across the world.

This year, youth groups will be sharing



the love of Jesus in a tangible way in four locations across Kentucky. Changers will start in Hopkinsville, June 7-14. Then they will go to Lawrenceburg and Frankfort, June 21-27. From there they will move to Richmond July 5-11 and end up in Louisville, July 13-18.

At each of these projects, students will learn how to complete skills such as roofing, siding, building handicap ramps and decks, painting, landscaping and replacing windows and doors on homes. They also will be sharing the love of Jesus with everyone that they come into contact with.

Why not just go out and tell people about Jesus?

Sometimes it is hard to see

God's love when your roof is leaking or you can't get your wheelchair outside of your home because you do not have a handicap ramp. People need the Lord and they also need physical needs met from time to time. Kentucky gives students the opportunity to meet both needs.

Kentucky Changers has been around for over twenty years and has assisted with the physical needs of hundreds of homeowners who just needed a little help with repairs to their home. Over that period of time there have been homeowners and family members accept Jesus as their personal Lord and Savior. As one homeowner told me a few years ago, "I had never seen Jesus until those teen-



agers showed up at my house and fixed my roof for free with a great big smile on their face the whole time. It was at that point that I knew that I needed what they had!"

Why do students and adults pay hard earned money to come and sleep on the floor, work out in the hot sun and smile the whole time? If you ask a student that question, they will be quick to let you know that they receive a lot more than they give. Serving the Lord is the greatest blessing we will ever receive. You just can't out give God.

What are some long term effects of Changers? I have seen students go on to full-time ministry or apply with the IMB to be full-time missionaries. Changers is a great tool to teach students the importance of the Great Commission.

Is God inviting you to answer His call? It is not too late to get involved with 2014 Changers. You can go to our website www.kywmu.org/changers and register today.

RAS/CHALLENGERS

'Great things are happening'

By John Auten

Royal Ambassadors

I recently had the privilege of attending Bates Creek Baptist Association's RA Congress on Feb. 8 at Silver Creek Elementary School in Berea. Johnny Webb and the RA leaders in Bates Creek do a fantastic job with their Congress every year.

This year, the boys competed for trophies in knot tying, RA Racers, and the Missions Around the World Basketball Shootout. The missionary speaker was Job Juarez. He spoke about the work that was being done among the Spanish speaking people in the central part of our state. It is always wonderful to hear about what God is doing in our world. My prayer is that many of those Royal Ambassadors went home that day with a greater understanding of how they too can be on mission with Jesus.

Great things are happening with the RA's in Crittenden Association as well. Josiah McComas and the RA leaders in Crittenden have a couple of great RA events lined up for this spring. On March 8, they will be

holding their own associational RA Congress. And then on Saturday, April 26, they will be hosting the RA Cruise in for Christ Car Show. I have this innovative event on my calendar, and if you live in the northern Kentucky area, you might want to add it to yours as well. Please be in prayer for these folks as they seek to share Christ with the people who are a part of the hot rod community.



Finally, this report wouldn't be complete without mentioning RAMCON 2014. Our state-wide RA Congress is set for March 15 at Beaver Dam Baptist Church. The day will feature missionary speakers Larry and Peggy Wakefield (IMB) and Phil Schultz (Jefferson Street Baptist Center in Louisville). RA Racers, a Mission Sports Skills Challenge, and a mission project will make it a full day. Go to kywmu.org/ramcon for more information and to sign up your group. Hurry! Registration closes March 10!

P.S. Be on the lookout for info about Mission Adventure Camp and Camp Courage 2014.

Challengers

As this edition of Kentucky Notes wings its way to your mailbox, last minute details for Exalt/4GO will be put in place and students will be getting ready to board church vans for Refuge, Inc. in Louisville. Please be in prayer for these teen boys and girls as they meet with the missionaries and leaders at Refuge to learn about cross-cultural ministry among the many refugee groups that come to our country. I am looking forward to a great weekend resulting in many wonderful testimonies being shared with home churches across our state.

Opportunities for Challengers and teen boys to be involved in missions experiences in 2014 will not end, however, when the final prayer is said at Exalt/4GO. Kentucky Changers is now a part of the WMU family and youth boys can serve Christ and make a difference in Kentucky by participating in a Changers event this summer.

Peggy Murphy has been involved in Kentucky Changers for many years and now serves as Kentucky WMU's coordinator for the ministry. You can read all about what Changers will be doing this summer in Peggy's article in this edition of Kentucky Notes. More information is also available at kywmu.org/changers.

STUDENTS

Corbin Acteen on national panel

By Maryann Lee

Being a part of Acteens provides teenage women with many opportunities. The curriculum is designed with Bible studies that will challenge them to grow spiritually. There are also leadership opportunities that will help them grow into adults that are ready to change the world for Christ.

Every year, National WMU chooses Acteens who have applied from all over the nation to be part of the National Acteens Panel. This year, we are proud to have one of the panelists chosen from Kentucky. Cassie Couch is from Corbin and attends Central

Baptist Church. Cassie has been involved in Acteens for many years and as a result has had opportunities to travel internationally on missions trips, attend conferences such as Exalt/4GO, and be part of the Kentucky Acteens Advisory Panel. She is also involved in many activities in her school, church and community.

Being on the National Acteens Panel will provide Cassie with many opportunities for leadership. She will get to travel to Baltimore this summer for the National WMU Annual Meeting and Missions Celebration. Panelists also write articles for *The Mag*, the Acteens magazine for teen girls, speak in churches and serve as part of a focus group to help determine the future direction of Acteens.

Congratulations Cassie! Kentucky WMU is so proud of you and glad to have you as a representative of Kentucky and Acteens.

While not every Acteen can be a part of

the National Acteens Panel, there are many other ways for them to gain leadership and spiritual growth opportunities. Teens involved in Acteens, Youth on Mission and Challengers can apply to be on the Kentucky Teen Advisory Panel. This group of teenagers provides leadership for an annual event hosted by Kentucky WMU. Acteens and Youth on Mission groups can go on mission trips know as Acteen Activators and Youth on Mission Point Teams. And by being a part of weekly meetings, Acteens, Youth on Mission and Challengers have their world changed through learning about the Bible, hearing about missionaries, learning about other cultures and being involved in missions projects.

If your church would like to learn more about any of these programs or how you can begin one in your church please visit our website kywmu.org/youth.

PRESIDENT'S PERSPECTIVE

Thumbs up or thumbs down

By Linda Cooper

In cooperation with Baptist Global Response, on Dec. 5-16 a WMU team of 9 women and 3 Wise Men who Understand traveled to Pietermaritzburg, South Africa to lead morning VBS sessions with children in the Hope Centre Orphanage and the township of Sweetwaters, where I served. The missionaries told us to not be disappointed if we only had 30 children the first day but the children would tell their friends how much fun they had and we would have more as the week progressed. The first day, we had approximately 120 and by Friday we had between 350-400! Several raised their hand that they would like to know Christ personally. Please pray for future teams who will build on what God began while we were there. We also saw four salvations at the Hope Centre. God was truly at work.



Linda Cooper

In the afternoons we had instruction sessions, crafts and play time with the orphans in the Hope Centre. During the week, we also participated in food parcel packing and distribution in Sweetwaters and delivered Hospice Care Buckets to families caring for someone with AIDS.

Sub-Saharan Africa is more heavily affected by HIV/AIDS than any other part of the world. Approximately 23 million people are living with HIV in the region. Many children have lost one or both parents to HIV/AIDS; therefore, many homes in the region have children, some as young as 8 years old, as head of the household.

BGR has found that sharing a five-gallon "bucket of hope" may be the most effective way to open the door to sharing the love of Christ with those who are at death's door. The "bucket of hope" is a collection of medical/hygiene supplies placed in a 5-gallon bucket with a sealable lid that will provide assistance to caregivers for these terminally ill patients. "Hope" is not found in the bucket but is found in the love of Jesus as He is shared by those delivering the buckets. The bucket is the way the door is opened to share Jesus...and we did just that as our team delivered 6 buckets of "hope" while

we were in South Africa.

We delivered the buckets with nationals and the missionaries that we served with tried to prepare us for what we might experience. When we entered the home, where I was to share Christ, the bed was empty and the S. African ladies looked very concerned. We all thought we were too late for that delivery, only to find out she was in another room from where they had visited before. I began to share the plan of salvation and when asking questions, through her daughter interpreting, she assured me that she and her mother knew the Lord personally. We had prayer and explained the contents of the bucket. They were so appreciative and spoke of how helpful the contents would be.

Another team was making their delivery to a lady named Mavis who not only had AIDS but had also suffered a stroke and could not speak. They explained to her that they had traveled all the way from the U.S. to bring her good news of Jesus Christ. One of them shared their testimony with her and knowing that she couldn't speak, she asked her to give her the sign of thumbs up or thumbs down as to where she would go if she died. She gave thumbs down. They used the evangcube to share how to be saved. Again they asked for thumbs up or down if she was ready to re-

ceive Jesus into her heart. She gave thumbs up. They lead her in the sinner's prayer. Being convinced she had prayed the sinner's prayer, they were all pretty emotional. As the team rejoiced, they heard her whisper "Hallelujah!"....one who could not speak before! The team members were so excited; they almost forgot to give her the bucket!

As they were leaving, the local lady visiting with them said that she had brought many other mission groups to Mavis' home but she would not receive Christ. But on this day, she did!...thumbs up!

The next day, the local lady had gone back to visit Mavis and said that her whole countenance had changed. She was different. She asked that now we all pray for Mavis' complete healing so she could be a powerful witness to others in Sweetwaters Township. Please pray for Mavis.

Was Mavis' hope found in a bucket? No, the bucket was just the way into the home to share the hope that we all can find in Jesus Christ. I would also now ask you: Are you going thumbs up or thumbs down? I pray you find hope as Mavis did, in Jesus Christ our Lord.

Come to KY WMU's annual meeting in Winchester on April 4-5 and participate in the bucket project. Contact KY WMU or go to www.gobgr.org/buckets. One bucket = One Changed Life!



Missions Safari

Mission Adventure Camp for Girls and Boys

This summer, campers will "journey" to Africa as they learn about missions. Kentucky WMU is offering three full weeks for girls and boys. Campers will participate in worship, Bible study, swimming, recreation, and, of course, missions. Each week hosts a camp missionary. Each group of 1-7 children attending camp needs to be accompanied by a church chaperone. Contact Kentucky WMU about discounted rates for chaperones. Mission Adventure Camp is held at Cedar Crest on the grounds of Cedarmore Camp and Conference Center.

Weeklong Camps \$195*

- June 9-13 Girls and boys in grades 3-6 and their chaperones
- June 16-20 Girls and boys in grades 3-6 and their chaperones
- June 23-27 Girls and boys in grades 3-6 and their chaperones

Mother/Daughter and Father/Son Overnights

Mother/Daughter and Father/Son Overnights provide a chance for moms and daughters and fathers and sons to grow closer to God and each other. Girls in grades 1-3 and their moms and boys in grades 1-3 and their dads will enjoy learning about missions together!

Mother/Daughter and Father/Son Overnights \$50*

- June 13-14 Girls in grades 1-3 and their moms, Boys in grades 1-3 and their dads
- June 20-21 Girls in grades 1-3 and their moms, Boys in grades 1-3 and their dads

*All rates are Early Bird rates through May 1, 2014. Rates are per person. Visit: kywmu.org/mac

Overnights at the Creek
Jonathan Creek July 12-13

Campers at Jonathan Creek will also learn about the culture and missions in Africa. Campers will enjoy worship, Bible study and recreation.

- | | | |
|---------------------------|---|--------|
| Mother-Daughter Overnight | Girls in grades 1-3 and moms | \$50** |
| GA Overnight | Girls in grades 4-6 and their chaperones | \$50** |
| Acteens Splash | Girls in grades 7-12 and their chaperones | \$50** |

**Early Bird rates through June 1, 2014. Rates are per person. Visit: kywmu.org/overnights

CHILDREN & PRESCHOOL

The kingdom of heaven and children

By Stacy Nall

This past December, I had the privilege of going to South Africa with a team from Kentucky WMU. We conducted Holiday Bible Clubs at an orphanage and township in Pietermaritzburg.

I was reminded in a fresh way why I love to work with children! It doesn't matter whether the children are in Kentucky or South Africa, children (and preschoolers!) have a lot to teach us about the kingdom of heaven. They are fun-loving and

joyful. The children in South Africa enjoyed playing games, hearing Bible stories, and making crafts, just like American children. Isn't it wonderful when the children you teach have questions about God? South Africa children were curious, too, especially about their American visitors!

Perhaps the most striking characteristic I noticed about South African children was their ability to live in the moment. Many of the children we worked with were infected with HIV, but you wouldn't know it by seeing their big smiles. I know you can think of many more ways in which children set an example for us.

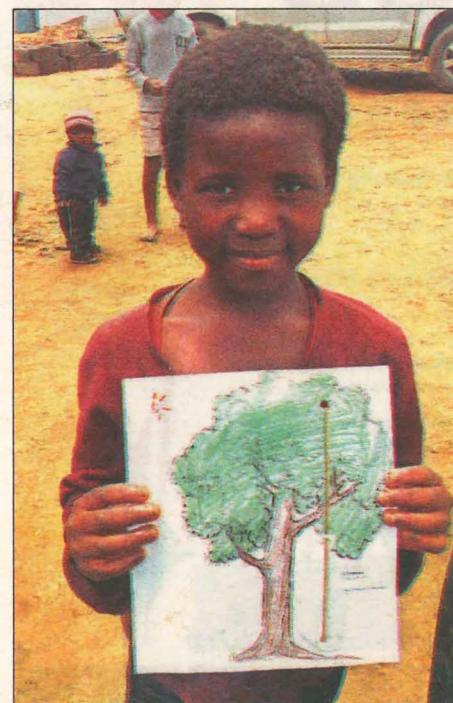
Let's continue to ask God to help us learn from the children we teach!

The Bucket Project

This year, Kentucky WMU is leading efforts to send buckets of supplies for AIDS patients in Sub-Saharan Africa. Items in these buckets not only help caretakers minister to patients, but also provide an opportunity for missionaries and volunteers to share the gospel.

You can involve your preschoolers and children in packing a bucket. Each complete bucket costs around \$90. Preschoolers and children can bring items for the bucket. Older children could do chores to raise money to purchase items. Your GAS can continue to celebrate the 100th birthday of GA by setting a goal of \$100 for The Bucket Project.

You can learn more about The Bucket Project by visiting the Kentucky WMU website at www.kywmu.org/buckets.

Kentucky BNF
Summer Meeting and
Continuing Education Session

Saturday * June 28 * 10:00 AM

Severns Valley
Baptist Association Office
500 College Street Road
Elizabethtown

BNF members \$20
All others \$25

Lunch and contact hours certificate
are included.

Summer session topic and contact hours
information will be available April 1.

2014 Dates and Locations

- July 19, First Baptist Church, Richmond
- August 16, First Baptist Church, Madisonville
- September 13, St. Matthew's Baptist Church, Louisville

To register, visit kywmu.org/excel



FAMILYFEST is recommended for anyone first grade and older ... perfect for families, adult teams, and student teams.

FAMILYFEST exists to assist the churches/ministries through the local Baptist associations in reaching the physical and spiritual needs of those in their communities.

Eastern Kentucky FAMILYFEST
Boone's Creek Baptist Association
(Winchester area) July 19-24

Eastern Kentucky FAMILYFEST is a partnership between national Woman's Missionary Union®, Kentucky WMU, Boones Creek Baptist Association, and Appalachian Regional Ministry.
To register or learn more, visit wmu.com/trips

KENTUCKY WMU HERITAGE FUND

Sept. 1 – Dec. 31, 2013

The following persons were honored or remembered through gifts to the Kentucky WMU Heritage Fund during the final months of 2013. Our thanks to each person who gave to the Heritage Fund this year. Heritage Fund gifts are a great way to support Kentucky WMU and honor or remember someone significant to you and WMU

In Honor of:

125th Birthday of WMU
Mission Friends Teachers
Joy Bolton
Marcia Ballard
Twyla Sheffield
Linda Cooper
KY Raceway Ministries
Pat Beatty
Susan Bryant
Denise Gardner
Amanda-Grace Richey
Maribeth & Horace Hambrick
Laverne Sublette
Lenna Walton
125th Birthday of WMU
KY WMU Exec. Bd.

Donor:

Jay & Cheryl Hatfield
Pat Reaves
N. KY Assoc. WMU
KY WMU Exec. Bd.
KY WMU Exec. Bd.
KY WMU Exec. Bd.
Linda Cooper
Beth Wyatt
Linda Alexander
Joy Bolton
Joy Bolton
Frankie & Chuck Johnson
Fulton First, Gleaners S.S. Class
Irma Woodrow
Denise Gardner
Linda Cooper

In Memory Of:

Joe Ashcraft
Frances Knight Cisney
Marian Singletary
Florence Ogden
Jean Reaves
Betty Simpson
Mary Ann Terrell
Dorothy Robinette
Ruth Thomas
Marian Singletary
Eloise Kenney
Mary & Ira Porter

Donor:

Jay & Cheryl Hatfield
Maribeth & Horace Hambrick
Pat & Dudley Reaves
Owen County WMU
Pat & Dudley Reaves
Lincoln County WMU
Kentucky WMU
Jessie Boyd
Patricia Whobrey
Adeleru Women on Mission
Allison WMU, Rose Hill Baptist Church
Maribeth & Horace Hambrick

Current: \$479,028.74
Goal: \$500,000.00

to reach by Annual Meeting 2014

**The Heritage Fund is growing!**

We are excited because Heritage Fund distributions help to support the total work of Kentucky WMU. Distributions help us provide camps and missions events for children, train leaders, and provide resources for new WMU organizations.

Our goal is to reach the half-million dollar mark by the conclusion of Annual Meeting!

Bring your filled Heritage Fund Mite Box to the Friday afternoon session for our blessing of the boxes and gifts.

You can make your own Heritage Fund Mite Box using the pattern found at:

kywmu.org/hfmitebox

In memory of Stephen Walker:

Kentucky Woman's Missionary Union Staff, Muhlenberg Baptist Association, Lee and Joy Bolton, Christian County Association WMU Team and Kentucky WMU.

In Honor of these Baptist associations by Linda Cooper:

Gaspar River, Monroe, Northern Kentucky, Grayson County, Laurel River, Crittenden, West Union, Lincoln County WMU and Taylor.

In Honor of these Baptist churches by Linda Cooper:

Cox's Creek, Lancaster, Barlow, Hopkinsville First, Fern Creek, Stanton, Dry Ridge, Glasgow, Walton, Forest Park, Bowling Green First, The Community Church at Cedar Springs and Hurstbourne.

Other Gifts:

Kentucky WMU Staff, Irma Woodrow, Big Creek Baptist Church, Children's Church and Anna Cook.

GO FORWARD

Join us in Baltimore, home of Annie Armstrong and the first home of WMU!

WMU® MISSIONS CELEBRATION AND ANNUAL MEETING
Baltimore, Maryland

SUNDAY, JUNE 8 • 4:00 P.M. • Commissioning Service for IMB and NAMB Missionaries
Baltimore Convention Center Ballroom • Corner of Pratt Street and Howard Street

MONDAY, JUNE 9 • 9:00 A.M. • Missions Celebration
Sheraton Baltimore City Center Hotel • 101 West Fayette Street

**Monday features:**

- Worship and dynamic testimonies of how God is working around the world
- Tour of historical sites related to Annie Armstrong and her missions legacy
- Culmination of a yearlong celebration of the 125th anniversary of WMU!

The event is free, but advance registration is required for bus tour of Annie Armstrong sites on Monday afternoon. To register, go to wmu.com/annietour; registration is open February 1–May 15.

wmu.com/baltimore



So if the Son sets you free, you will be

FREE INDEED

John 8:36 NIV

2014 Women's Retreats

April 25-26, 2014

Camp Schafer, Hawesville

May 2-3, 2014

Laurel Lake Baptist Camp, Corbin

Visit www.kywmu.org/free to learn more and to register.

Questions?

Contact Kentucky WMU

502-489-3534

866-489-3534 (toll free in KY)

kywmu@kybaptist.org

**Guest Speaker:**

Rachelle Starr

Founder & Director of

Scarlet Hope

Love is in the air

Oneida teaches young people to love and be loved by Christ

As I observe the young people on our campus who are "dating," I cannot help but think of the memories I have of the time Angie and I spent on this campus.

We started "dating" in middle school. Would you believe Angie is a couple of years older than I am and she chased me all over this campus? I guess I will need to be sure to hide the Western Recorder from her after penning that last sentence. Perhaps this next sentence or two will help dig me out of this hole. Angie is an amazing wife, mother and person. We met and fell in love at Oneida, and now continue to love each other more and more. Young love is such a fickle thing, but it potentially can grow into an amazing, lifelong thing.

We recently had a Valentine's Day celebration on our campus. It was funny to watch the gift-giving amongst our young and in love students. Our activities director and food service director put on a festive event at lunch. There was music, good food and gift exchanging. Our students seemed to enjoy the event and hopefully appreciated the efforts of our people who made it happen.

I received a gift or two—some from my children and Angie. My children are still at the age where they think I am pretty cool. The gift that was most surprising was from one of our international young men. The gift was a rose with a hand-written note that said, "I just want to thank you that you accepted me to graduate at this school."

THANK YOU!" That same student also sent Angie a rose with a note that said, "Thank you for always smiling and having a positive attitude. When I see you smile it makes me happy and makes me want to be like you." We were so touched by the fact that this young man took the time and went to the expense to express his gratitude.

I can't help but wonder how many of our "dating" couples will one day be married, love each other unconditionally, raise a family together, and hopefully live a life of service to our Lord. I also wonder how many faculty and staff members from the late 1980s and early 1990s wondered if Angie and I would one day marry. By my count, we currently have 10 faculty and staff married couples who met at Oneida. Perhaps there is and always has been something in the water around here.

Scripture says we must love the Lord more than anyone or anything else. Those verses in the Gospel of Luke are so challenging, yet so powerful. Hopefully we are doing a good job of teaching our young people not only to love one another, but to love Jesus with all their heart, soul and mind.

Oneida is a great place to find both the love of Christ and the love of friends. Take time today to tell your special someone how much you love them, but always remember Christ loves us all more than we could ever love ourselves or anyone else.

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

This is Oneida



Larry Gritton

Time management pro

Communiting student thankful for discipline learned

Senior Travis Farris, of Danville, will graduate this December and said that he is thankful for all that God has taught him during his time as a student at Clear Creek Bible College.

"The reason God led me to Clear Creek initially is through the interest He gave me for biblical geography," said Farris. "I felt that if I knew the Bible's geography as I read about all the Bible lands then I would understand the Bible better. God has also grown me so much in more areas of the Bible, theology and just studying altogether."

Travis also has served as a communiting pastor during his time at Clear Creek and said God has taught him a lot during this journey.

"With the responsibility of being a pastor, I also have a wife and children and it can be very meticulous—as far as scheduling goes—to make sure you have enough time to get everything completed," Farris said. "You have to be very careful and schedule ahead. God blesses me while I am here on campus. Here in the mountains I have the opportunity where God just allows me some time to study and prepare."

"While things can get hectic, God

has always provided every step of the way," Farris said. "With all the communiting back and forth, along with the responsibilities of a family, the financial burdens can become heavy. This

Clear Creek Chronicle



Donnie Fox

past semester probably has been the most difficult for me financially. But God providentially provided a scholarship that was actually a little more than what I needed to pay the balance off on my account and (pay off) my semester fees.

"God is so good," he said.

"I am thankful for the way God has allowed me to grow through my classes at Clear Creek," Farris said. "My biblical geography classes have brought the Bible to life for me. I pray God will open up an opportunity for me to now travel to the Holy Land and experience it firsthand. My systematic theology classes have challenged me to think critically and consider some theological issues."

"I'm thankful for the ways God has taught me discipline during my time at Clear Creek," Farris said. "He taught me very early that you can lack discipline and fail miserably in life at Clear Creek and ministry in general."

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.

Engage Sochi, post-Olympics, to nurture churches worldwide

Sochi, Russia—As the 2014 Winter Olympics comes to a close in Sochi, Russia, the Engage Sochi outreach kicks into its next phase—church planting.

Marc Hooks, co-director of Engage Sochi, noted that a major part of the Engage Sochi strategy during the Olympics was to use specialized trading pins that facilitated sharing the gospel.

"The unofficial Olympic spectator sport is pin trading," Hooks said. "So we designed a pin that is fun to trade, that people like and that they want, but has elements that allow us to share the gospel."

Colors on the pin represented key aspects of the plan of salvation—"the same five colors as the Olympic rings," Hooks said, "so we can tie it all together and share God's love with the people."

Nearly 200 Southern Baptists traveled to the Games to participate in Engage Sochi. They included The Singing Men of Oklahoma; the University of Mobile Jazz Band; the bluegrass Earl Brackin Band, who are members of First Baptist Church of Middleburg, Fla.; and Strong Tower Baptist Church of St. Joseph, Mo.; along with participants from the national Woman's Missionary Union and the Georgia and Oklahoma Baptist state conventions.

Stephanie Brock, wife of Tod Brock, fiddler for the Earl Brackin Band, said, "I saw firsthand magnificent grace that broke through cultural and language barriers. ... It was an unbelievable experience to simply say, 'Here's a gift of love' as I handed a new friend a pin and tract."

... I know I planted a seed. As I watched our whole team work as one to promote God's love, I have no doubt that lives were changed."

More than 13,000 Engage Sochi trading pins and gospel tracts were distributed during the 17 days of the Games. Three people told of committing their lives to Jesus while talking to Engage Sochi volunteers and more than 130 contacts were made with individuals who wanted to learn more about Him.

The Engage Sochi strategy is more than pins and gospel presentations, Hooks noted. There is another focus as well. "Church planting is based on forming relationships. So, what our Engage Sochi folks are doing here is the building blocks for new churches to be started in Sochi and around the world," he said.

"We want everybody that we came in contact with to have the opportunity to continue the conversations that were started in Sochi," Hooks continued. "So, regardless of where that person is from, we want to connect them with a believer in their area who can make a relationship with that person and continue to speak with them about issues of faith."

Hooks put out a plea for prayer as Engage Sochi enters the final strategy phase. "Pray for us as we finish this part of the project and we move into the next part, as we do follow-up and discipleship, that these new believers would be disciplined and be brought into bodies of believers," he said. (BP)

A missions legacy

Jesus 'satisfies our hunger and multiplies our potential'

This week, I want to share another testimonial of a story of Christian stewardship that linked a retired couple together with their church and the Kentucky Baptist Foundation in a sacred trust.

This wonderful couple had two adult children and grandchildren. They were very active in all aspects of their church. She was active in WMU and the missions committee; he was a deacon, Sunday School teacher and involved in weekend lay revivals. But, missions was their first love, and over the years they combined their love for missions and their love of travel into a series of short term mission trips—including several trips with the KBC partnership missions groups.

Their love for missions and their sense of stewardship resulted in a desire to establish a missions legacy. Their pastor recommended they contact me. I met with them in their home. What an informative and inspirational experience that visit was for me. I listened with admiration, appreciation and affection as they shared not only their stewardship testimonies, but also their compassion for those who were without Christ and their passion to continue to share the good news of Jesus Christ beyond their lifetimes.

So, it was fitting this faithful,

generous couple established with the Kentucky Baptist Foundation a perpetual endowment fund bearing their names, the earnings from which are distributed to their church, and will continue to be until the Lord returns,

to provide financial resources for other church members to carry on their missions legacy by participating in short term mission trips.

Remember the story of Jesus feeding the 5,000? The great truth of that experience is: Jesus is the great satisfier and the great multiplier. He satisfies our hunger and multiplies our potential. This couple understood that Jesus takes

what we give to Him and multiplies it to meet the needs of the world; He can multiply our little into a lot. Jesus takes our insufficiency and makes it sufficient; he takes our inadequacy and multiplies it into an abundance. What this couple came to realize was what each of us must come to realize, and that is: Obedience leads to abundance.

I encourage the many of you who have participated in short term volunteer mission trips to emulate this couple's example of faithfulness, obedience and generosity. Laurie Valentine and I are here to assist you like we assisted them. Please call toll free.

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

Ky. Baptist Foundation



Barry Allen

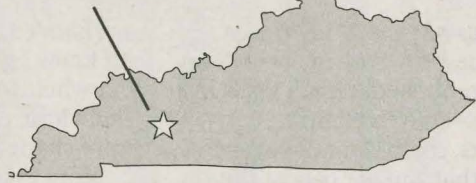


March

- 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.
- 15 Vacation Bible School Clinic, First Baptist Church, Richmond.
- 16 Seminary for a Day, Mount Washington, First Baptist Church, Mount Washington.
- 18 Get Acquainted Day, Kentucky Building, Louisville.

Spotlight on ...

GREENVILLE



Second Church will hold Parent vs. Youth Winter Olympics March 9, 5 p.m. **Ray England** is pastor.

Send your church and association news to:

Mountains to the Mississippi

Email: sitha.salyers@westernrecorder.org

MOUNTAINS TO THE MISSISSIPPI

COMPILED BY STAFF

CADIZ—Canton Church will host motivational speaker and author of "A Dose of Hope" **Sara Meece** March 8. Event is free, but reservations are needed for lunch. For more information, call (270) 924-5227.

Canton Church also will hold revival services with guest evangelist **Josh Horner** March 9-12. **Damian Phillips** is pastor.

Maple Grove Church recently called Don Duncan as pastor.

CECILIA—Franklin Crossroads Church will hold Marvelous Mondays in partnership with Cecilia Church, March 10, 18 and 25, 6:30 p.m.

Guest speakers will be **Kenny Rager**, **Cameron Mills** and **Alan Witham**. **Louie Williams** is pastor.

CRITTENDEN—Crittenden Church recently called **Doug Miller** as pastor.

HUSTONVILLE—New Salem Baptist Church will host the 91st Lincoln County Association Annual Meeting with guest speaker **Craig Hamlin** and worship leader **Joe Perry** March 10, 6 p.m. **Jared Moore** is pastor.

MOUNT WASHINGTON—First Church will hold Baby Boot Camp March 8, 9 a.m. **Billy Compton** is pastor.

Mackey leads prayer conference March 22-23

Louisville—Bill Mackey, former executive director of the Kentucky Baptist Convention, will lead a two-day prayer conference March 22-23 at Hunsinger Lane Baptist Church in Louisville.

The conference begins Saturday at 4 p.m., and continues through Sunday evening.

In 2011, Mackey retired as KBC's executive director after 13 years of service. Currently, he helps coordinate continuing education classes for pastors and lay leaders through Fruitland Baptist Bible College in Hendersonville, N.C.

"Dr. Mackey has served in various ministry roles over the years, and one thing that has never changed is his passion about prayer," said Charlie Davis, pastor of Hunsinger Lane



Bill Mackey

Church. "He has seen how the prayers of God's people can bring about change and open hearts and communities to the gospel."

Davis said the conference will address common questions from believers about prayer. Topics include:

- What is prayer?
- Why should Christians pray?
- Prayer and fasting

Mackey will preach on "The Necessity of Prayer" at both Sunday morning services, 8 a.m. and 10:44 a.m. The final session concludes Sunday, 5 p.m., with a corporate prayer service.

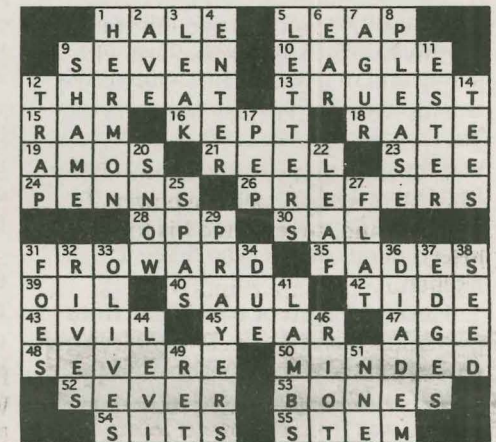
Davis said the conference and open to the public. Care is available at no cost for children up to fifth grade with advanced reservation. Call (502) 491-4356 by March 15.

The church is located at 3400 Summerfield Dr., Louisville. (HLBC)

Puzzle returns next week

The crossword puzzle has been suspended this week, but will return March 11. Below are the answers to the puzzle that appeared Feb. 25.

#190



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 lbammer@charter.net

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

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

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 ctmeyer42378@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 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

To place an advertisement in the Western Recorder:

Rates are available upon request.

Call (502) 489-3428; or visit westernrecorder.org



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

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.

SEEKING: Auburn Baptist Church is seeking a pastor or bivocational pastor. Send resumé to Pastor Search Committee in care of tcorum@logantele.com.

SEEKING: Ladies who will be 75 years of age or older in 2014 for a senior ladies travelling softball tournament team. Call (256) 690-6277, or email pjcox6277@gmail.com.

SEEKING: Walnut Street Baptist Church, in the heart of urban Louisville, is seeking a senior pastor to lead our church and the staff to significant ministry. Walnut Street offers every facility to reach our urban community including a television ministry. Written communication should be sent to: WSBC Pastor Search Team, c/o Marilyn James, 8313 Alpena Way, Louisville, KY 40242 or via email: pastorsearch@walnutstreet.org.

Bibles for 'my people'

Pair find a shared ministry passion through Bible translation

By Evelyn Adamson

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

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

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

It was only after Patrick shared one-on-one that Jaya grasped the power of the gospel and surrendered his life to Christ.

"This work is important for my

people," Jaya says, "because many already have access to a Bible. This (is a) Bible my people can read and understand. Until now, they did not have one."

Both Jaya and Patrick embarked on this project to provide access to the gospel for those who have yet to know Christ. Having worked on the translation together for more than two years, friendship plays a major role in driving the project forward.

Village Bible study

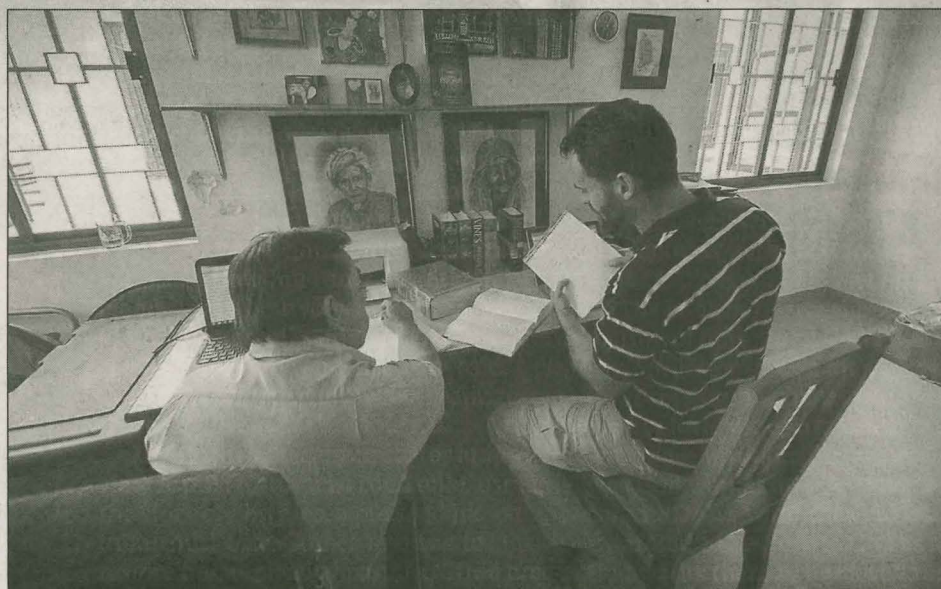
Sputtering in protest, the small truck quiets to a stop, refusing to start. Patrick opens his door and pops the hood. Examining the engine, he tries starting the truck one more time before Jaya walks over and hops in the driver's seat.

Jaya turns the key and the engine reluctantly begins churning. Smiling, a laugh escapes as he pokes Patrick in the arm and says, "Let me show how to fix a truck. You pray first!"

The men climb back in the truck and whiz down the dirt road, destined for a village where believers lead small house churches in their communities.

As the truck shifts into third gear, Patrick and Jaya are lost in conversation. With one hand on the steering wheel, Patrick gestures often as he gives updates on believers and then listens as Jaya discusses his herbal medicine classes. Aiming to help other believers, Jaya uses his herbal medicine materials to provide medical aid to those who are too poor or too far from medical facilities.

Upon arrival at the village, Patrick parks the truck while Jaya hollers a greeting to a young believer, Balin



In his home office, Don Patrick* compares notes with Rith Jaya* during a translation session. In the course of two years, the pair has translated nearly half of the Bible, and they plan to complete the rest within the next two to three years. (Grace Chapman/IMB)



As a result of translation work by Don Patrick* and Rith Jaya*, believers are able to understand the gospel more clearly.

Nhek*, who owns a roadside shop and shares Bible stories with customers as they come in his store.

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

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

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

the Bible, I can remember the lessons (better)."

Conversation continues between Patrick and Nhek as Jaya listens to the health problems another believer is experiencing. Jaya, a certified acupuncturist, suggests a session of acupuncture might help. He asks the man to lie down on a mat as he prepares the materials needed for the treatment. After the session ends, Jaya places his equipment in a small backpack and follows Patrick out of the house.

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

Back on the road

Red dust swirls behind the truck as it moves over the bumpy, clay road and the village fades in the distance. Jaya steps out of the truck, stretching and yawning. He walks over and sits down at a local restaurant. Patrick soon plops down next to him and they look over the menu, deciding to order two baguette pizzas.

After a night's rest, the final leg of the trip will take the men through two more tropical provinces before they return home. Whether sleeping on hardwood floors in villages and comparing who snores the loudest or sharing a meal of popcorn and peanut butter sandwiches while praying over their families, Patrick and Jaya approach every day as brothers in Christ.

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

Giving Jaya a bear hug, Patrick says, "I love this guy! He's great!" (BP)

*Names changed.



Rith Jaya* and Don Patrick* examine a sick woman after spending the day at a Bible study with other believers. It is not uncommon for both men to spend hours with several families, talking with those who are sick and helping those in need. (Grace Chapman/IMB)

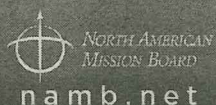


WEEK OF
PRAYER FOR
**NORTH
AMERICAN
MISSIONS**
AND THE ANNIE ARMSTRONG
EASTER OFFERING®

ARMY PLANTED

Matthew 13:3-9, 18-23

ROOTED IN THE GOSPEL



SEND» **NORTH AMERICA**



Annie.Armstrong.AAEO



Annie Armstrong Easter Offering®
is a registered trademark of WMU®.



@AnnieSBC

**ANNIE
ARMSTRONG**
EASTER OFFERING®
anniearmstrong.com

National Goal: \$70 Million