

# WESTERN Recorder

March 25, 2014

Shine Like Stars \* Philippians 2:15

Volume 188, Issue 11

## A GREAT HARVEST

Corbin church sets goal of seeing a year of baptisms in 21 days

By Todd Deaton

Corbin—"God, would You do in four Sundays what You did in all of last year?" That simple prayer held profound power.

"We saw something supernatural happen," members of a Corbin congregation are now saying after having witnessed a baptismal service in which—in addition to using its baptistry—they set up a swimming pool in the sanctuary and borrowed a portable baptistry from an area church planter.

Last year Immanuel Baptist Church baptized 77 people. Their hearts were united in February around a single purpose: To see as many people come to faith in Christ in 21 days—four consecutive Sundays—as they saw in all of last year.

"We believed that this was the heart of God," said Pastor Allen Bonnell. "And what we began to do is to align our hearts, our goals and our ambitions with the heart of God, because God wants people to be saved even more than we do."

The congregation began planning, preparing and praying for a great harvest last fall, asking God: "Would You come in power and do what only You can do, so that when all is said and done, our people will say, 'That was of the Lord?'"



Members of Immanuel Baptist Church in Corbin prayed and fasted for a great harvest of new believers to come to faith and be baptized over a four-week period. Seventy-five people felt God moving in their hearts and acted in obedience to His call. (Photos provided by Immanuel Baptist Church)



Many reacted emotionally during the mass baptism at Immanuel Baptist Church in Corbin.

Bonnell said.

For 21 days, many members participated in a "Daniel fast"—a spiritual diet based on healthy eating of fruits and

vegetables and drinking water—while reading the gospel of John, a chapter a day. "We were soaking ourselves in the word of God, and we were praying to the Lord to bring about a great harvest," he said.

Bonnell launched a special emphasis, "Found People Find People," focusing on bringing people to church. "Those of us who have been captured by the love of Christ desire for other people to know that same love and forgiveness that we have in Christ," he explained.

His messages centered around the theme, "Chained," also desiring for this to be a time where people were set free from the bondage of sin, fear, hurt and

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## Supreme Court hears Hobby Lobby case today

By Tom Strobe

Washington—The fate of religious freedom for Americans, especially business owners, could hang in the balance when the U.S. Supreme Court convenes March 25.

Justices will hear oral arguments today in challenges by two family owned corporations to the Obama administration's abortion/contraception mandate, which requires employers to provide abortion-causing drugs for their workers. Hobby Lobby, a nationwide retail chain based in Oklahoma City, and Conestoga Wood Specialties, a Pennsylvania business, contend the federal regulation violates their owners' consciences and a 1993 law protecting religious liberty.

The Supreme Court will hear the case after more than two and a half years of protests by pro-life and religious freedom advocates.

Russell Moore, president of the Southern Baptist Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission, said the high court's opinion "will determine the next 100 years of church/state jurisprudence."

More than 300 parties—some non-profit organizations and some for-profit corporations—have joined to file 94 lawsuits against the Department of Health and Human Services for requiring employers to pay coverage for abortion-inducing contraception. The case justices will hear March 25 involves for-profit businesses. Nonprofit cases have yet to work their way up to the high court.

While some conscientious objectors to the HHS rule oppose underwriting all contraceptives, Hobby Lobby and Conestoga Wood protest paying only for abortion-causing drugs.

A major question the Supreme Court will consider in the case is whether owners of for-profit companies can exercise their religion in the conduct of their businesses.

"Americans do not give up their freedoms when they open a family business, and no American family should be forced to choose between following their faith and submitting to unlawful and unnecessary government mandates," said Matt Bowman, of Alliance Defending Freedom.

The Supreme Court's decision is expected late June or early July. (BP)

### NAMB EVANGELISM SPOTLIGHT

## LoveLoud ministries open doors for evangelism by meeting needs

By Joe Conway

Alpharetta, Ga.—"Pure and undefiled religion before our God and Father is this: to look after orphans and widows in their distress and to keep oneself unstained by the world" (James 1:26-27, HCSB).

James writes that one measure of true religion is evidenced by how Christ followers treat the neglected. LoveLoud is a movement of churches demonstrating God's love by meeting significant human need while sharing Christ.

The search for the neglected is not a

difficult one. Look no further than your local public school. That's what they did in Jackson, Ga.

The congregation of Jackson's Macedonia Baptist Church decided to do something to help the hundreds of students in their community who may not get regular meals during the summer. For 10 weeks last summer their church joined two other congregations in providing lunches for more than 200 local children whose families said they'd like to have the help.

"I hope (our community) sees the love

See LoveLoud ... Page 9



Serving neglected communities is a hallmark of the LoveLoud movement. (John Swain/NAMB)

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# New Breed: A 'culturally-relevant' urban church plant in Louisville

By Ken Walker

Although T.C. Taylor's vision is to reach people from urban culture, he doesn't want New Breed Church labeled a "hip hop" congregation.

"We have a heart for people from that social context, but we don't do rap on Sunday morning," said the pastor of the new multi-ethnic church meeting at the Academy at Shawnee in West Louisville.

"It's more than the music," Taylor said. "It's (the style of) dress and a way of looking at the world. Jay-Z, Kanye West and some of these rappers are the philosophers of our time and shape the way people see the world."

Hip hop enthusiasts often stress money, dress and fame as life's ideals. Taylor wants to point to a different standard and proclaim, "No. This is how God wants us to live."

Mentoring support from Curtis Woods, associate executive director for Convention Relations & Communications at the Kentucky Baptist Convention, and Todd Robertson, lead pastor of Antioch Church, helped Taylor plant a new work. It meets in an area that is 79 percent African-American.

After eight months of worship for members of the core group, New Breed held its public launch service Jan. 19. It meets in a building housing Shawnee High School, an early-child education program, and an academy for new immigrants.

At the first service, Taylor surprised Woods with a generous check to the



New Breed Church, a church plant the meets at Shawnee High School in west Louisville, recently held a launch Sunday. (Photo provided by New Breed Church)

Cooperative Program. It represented a portion of the offerings the core group collected during 2013.

Noting that his protégé drew inspiration from another network, Woods said instead of being left on his own, Taylor can look to associational and state convention resources for guidance and moral support.

In return, the new church expands the number of intentionally multi-cultural congregations that represent one of the KBC's primary goals.

"First and foremost it's missiology," Woods said of New Breed, which includes people of African-American, Anglo-American, Puerto Rican and Laotian backgrounds.

"It tears down walls culture has created. For Kentucky Baptists, it will be a conscious reminder that heaven will be multi-ethnic and all people will come together to worship one King and one Christ for His glory."

A native of Terre Haute, Ind., Taylor and his wife moved to Louisville so he could enroll at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary. Although he came to Kentucky with the idea of pastoring a traditional African-American church, Taylor changed his mind during a visit to Sojourn Community Church.

"I was rocked by all the young people," Taylor recalled. "I thought, 'This is what I want to see, but in an urban context.'"

Eventually, that led him to Antioch Church, another multi-ethnic church located in the south end of metro Louisville.

A former missionary with the North American Mission Board, Robertson planted it four years ago after local experience as an associational missions strategist and missions pastor. Years before, Robertson served as a church planter in Florida.

Robertson met with Taylor weekly for two years to help him prepare. Robertson said New Breed has a similar philosophy to Antioch, which includes half a dozen nationalities. Antioch recently planted a

church for Bhutanese/Nepali immigrants who speak Nepali.

Not only are these new outreaches one way older congregations can see their legacy continue, Robertson said Kentucky Baptists need to appreciate that the gospel is bigger than human differences.

"That's part of my reason for being engaged in a multi-ethnic church," Robertson said.

"We often say the gospel is more powerful than anything, but then we sort of set aside race or ethnicity and say, 'Except for that.' But there's a lot to learn on both sides when we'll get around people who aren't like us."

New Breed has been averaging 50 to 60 in Sunday attendance. Its 30-plus members meet in three home-based "missional communities" throughout the week.

Taylor's goal is to double attendance, membership and home group numbers by the end of 2014.

He also hopes to see more active community ministries. Last summer, the church hosted a barbecue for the neighborhood and a monthly "poetry slam" that allowed singers, artists and others a venue to perform.

The pastor wants to serve as a model of a church that is both biblically-solid and culturally-relevant while inspiring others to plant urban congregations.

"I believe in the KBC and the Cooperative Program," Taylor said. "I want to do anything I can to serve Southern Baptists. They've served me well." (KBC)

## Baptisms

Continued from page 1

brokenness in their lives through the gospel.

On the first Sunday, members were asked to write on the church walls the names of people whom they wanted to see come to know Jesus in the next 21 days. "We literally had hundreds and hundreds—well over 3,000—names that were written on the church walls," Bonnell said. Then, the people committed to pray for three of those names for 21 days.

"That first Sunday we had a visitor who said something that we hadn't picked up on, but he articulated it very well," Bonnell recalled. "He said, 'You know what it communicated to me is, you care more about people than you do about your building.' We were like, 'That's it! That's exactly what we believe.'"

The next week, Bonnell highlighted the blind man on the road from Jericho to Jerusalem, who called out to Jesus, "Son of David, heal us." Calling his people to get their own hearts right before the Lord, Bonnell asked, "What are those areas that have you in bondage? What do you need Jesus to do for you today?" They responded by writing on another church wall things with which they were struggling in their personal lives.

"When we went back, it was amazing to see," Bonnell said. "It breaks your heart, and yet it also gives you great courage when you look at what people wrote that they were in bondage to," he said. Some also wrote special Scripture verses, a date when they were set free, or

what God was doing in their lives.

"Every week we saw people coming to faith and taking steps of faith," he said.

The third week, on a huge scroll on the wall, individuals and families signed up for an hour that they would come to the auditorium to pray—from Sunday at midnight until Saturday at midnight—for each of the persons whose names were on the church walls.

"We are going to be relentless," Bonnell charged his members. "These names are never going to stop echoing through the halls of eternity this week. Every hour these names are going to be lifted up to the Father."

"It was amazing what we saw God do, as we just humbled ourselves before the Lord," he said.

Bonnell recalled finding a man sitting in the sanctuary one day with tears flooding down his face. When he asked what was going on, the man confided, "Somebody wrote my name on that wall. I remember hearing about this church being open for prayer 24 hours a day, so I knew I had to come here and get things right with the Lord." The man accepted Christ, and he and his wife were among those baptized.

All of the preparation led up to a key evangelistic service on Feb. 2, in which a friend of Bonnell's, Daniel Lucas, was guest preacher. Lucas is a pastor of Crosspoint Baptist Church in Morehead.

"We were praying for 77 people to come to faith in Christ, and for 1,000 to be in worship that Sunday," Bonnell said. Each week the crowds grew and grew, and more than 135 people made decisions.

"Over a tenth of those in our building

that Sunday came forward," rejoiced Bonnell. "We had marriages healed, people come to faith, people surrender to the ministry, people getting right with others and, most importantly, getting right with the Lord. It was phenomenal!"

"We still get emails about what God is doing in people's lives," he said.

Immanuel Baptist scheduled a baptism service the following week. "We knew we could get a crowd there for Daniel, but we also wanted to get them to come back the next week," Bonnell explained.

And they did. More than 1,300 people attended the baptismal service.

But that created a logistical problem: How would they baptize all of the people in one service? They quickly set up a 15x15-foot swimming pool in the sanctuary, and they borrowed a portable baptismal tank from a church planter in Pineville.

"We basically rotated from our baptism to the pool to the portable baptism, so we wouldn't lose a lot of time as people got in and out of the water," Bonnell recalled. "We had everything from children, 8-9 years of age, to adults in their late 60s and early 70s. We had entire families, husbands and wives, come forward to give their lives to Christ."

Immanuel ended up baptizing 54 that Sunday; 11, the next Sunday; and five more on each of the following Sundays.

"It's amazing! We've had a lot of fun, a lot of excitement," he said.

"We are just trying to keep up with the Lord and what He is doing," Bonnell added. "But it was all birthed out of the Scriptures and prayer, and God deciding He wanted to do something."

"We just said 'yes' to the Lord," and they encouraged others to say "yes," too. (WR)



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# At 36, Greenway 'one of the most remarkable' KBC leaders

By Roger Alford

**Bowling Green**—A wireless microphone is a mere formality, entirely unnecessary when attached to Adam Greenway, the dean of the Billy Graham School of Missions, Evangelism and Ministry at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary.

The fiery yet refined Greenway has a reputation for presenting the gospel clearly, simply and boldly. Some have even dared to compare him to Graham, the famed preacher who held his crusades in coliseums to accommodate the massive crowds that came to hear him.

"I believe the word of God is life-changing," Greenway said, explaining his passion for evangelism. "I'm convinced that when a man of God, under the anointing of the Spirit of God, opens the word of God and proclaims the good news of God, that people are going to be changed, broken lives are going to be restored, sinners are going to find salvation and Christians are going to find spiritual renewal."

"Nothing gives me a greater sense of sheer joy and delight than seeing people come alive because of what they encounter through God's word," he said.

Settling in as head of the Graham school, Greenway, a world-class preacher, is making himself available to churches across the Southern Baptist Convention—no matter the size.

## Amen corner

One of his stops last Sunday was at a small satellite congregation of a few dozen people meeting in the cafeteria of Plano Elementary School in Bowling Green. There he challenged believers to stand strong in the face of a growing animosity toward the gospel.

"Friends, we live in challenging times; there's no doubt about that," Greenway boomed, drawing amens from worshipers. "But God has given us His word and His strength. Are you ready to rise up and meet the need of this hour?"



Adam Greenway, dean of the Billy Graham School of Missions, Evangelism and Ministry at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, meets with the school namesake, Billy Graham (right), in the famed evangelist's home in October. (SBTS)

More amens.

Greenway's voice reverberated off the walls and his fist pumped the air as he reminded worshipers at the Eastwood Baptist Church satellite that "whosoever calls upon the name of the Lord shall be saved."

Greenway, now a family man with a wife, Carla, and 4-year-old son Adam Wade II, started preaching as a teenager and by the time he was 17 was serving as an interim pastor at Southside Baptist Church in Frostproof, Fla., his hometown. After that stint ended, he headed to Samford University in Birmingham, Ala., where he received a bachelor's degree in 1998. He followed that with a master's degree from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas, in 2002.

For his doctorate, Greenway, 36, chose Southern, where professors were immediately struck by his intellect. His fields of study there were evangelism and church growth, as well as apologetics and philosophy. He maneuvered his way through the doctoral program while serving as senior pastor of The Baptist Church at Andover in Lexington. By the

time he had his degree in hand in 2007, Greenway had been invited to join the faculty as an assistant professor.

## 'Stinking smart'

"In my estimation, Adam Greenway is one of the most remarkable and gifted leaders in the Southern Baptist Convention today," said Paul Chitwood, executive director-treasurer of the Kentucky Baptist Convention. "His IQ is off the charts, yet, for a guy who is so stinking smart, he has a rare ability to communicate passionately and effectively from the pulpit to the pew. As a preacher, he calls to mind the young Billy Graham. As an intellect, Al Mohler has a new peer."

Don Mathis, staff evangelist at Eastwood Baptist Church, describes Greenway as a brilliant man with an uncanny ability to remember everything he has ever studied or read. Mathis jests that Greenway is a powerful speaker despite his degrees.

"He doesn't let his education get in the way of his preaching," Mathis said. "He's got a powerful delivery. He has no reservations about getting down among the congregation when he's preaching."

Obviously, his verbiage is unusually good, but he uses it in a way that really reaches the congregation."

## Graham's 'blessing'

Greenway, former president of the Kentucky Baptist Convention, describes a sense of awe in serving the Lord as dean of the Graham school. It's a position he never could have envisioned for himself, one that he credits entirely to the Lord.

"I've discovered that when God writes the script it's always far better than the best plans or desires that we could choose for ourselves," he said. "I never could have ever dreamed that I would be doing what I'm doing today apart from the sheer grace and mercy of God. And I'm thoroughly convinced that seeking to obey him, following his plan and his path, is not just the best in terms of what God desires, but it really is the best for us. There's no more fulfilling place to be than in the center of God's will."

Greenway leads the only academic graduate school Graham has permitted to be named for him. That in itself brings a sense of great responsibility.

"It's an incredible trust, a sacred trust," Greenway said.

It's one that Graham gave his blessing to shortly after Greenway became dean last June. Greenway drove to Graham's North Carolina home in October and visited with Graham to be, in a sense, personally commissioned by the elderly evangelist to uphold the school's legacy of faithfulness to the gospel.

As they chatted, Greenway leaned in and put his hand on Graham's chair. "He immediately put his hand on mine," Greenway recalled. "Talk about being blessed. He told me to be faithful to Jesus and preach the word. That has been my prayer." (KBC)

If your church would like to invite Adam Greenway to speak, email him at [adam@adamgreenway.com](mailto:adam@adamgreenway.com) or visit his website at [adamgreenway.com](http://adamgreenway.com).

Roger Alford is communications director with Kentucky Baptist Convention.

# Kentucky Baptist leaders respond to controversy over 'gun giveaways'

By David Roach

**Louisville**—An evangelism strategy involving giving away guns to attract unchurched men to wild game dinners has drawn criticism from gun control advocates in an array of national media outlets this month, including TIME, USA Today, MSNBC and Fox News.

But Kentucky Baptist Convention leaders say God is using KBC's controversial ministry effort and the flurry of media attention to increase attendance and salvation decisions. Sixty-eight people professed faith in Christ at a recent wild game dinner, and nearly 500 attendees have done so in Kentucky churches since Jan. 1.

"The recent reports ... have, by and large, missed the essence of the story," KBC Evangelism and Church Planting Team Leader Chuck McAlister said.

"There is a basic misunderstanding of evangelism and what compels us to

share the gospel of Jesus Christ. ... The offense that many have regarding the guns themselves also causes the greater story to be ignored."

The dinners, which some churches refer to as "Second Amendment Celebrations," feature a free meal and a message from McAlister about the outdoors, hunting and how to know the God who created nature through His Son Jesus.

**"If giving away toasters would accomplish the same purpose, I would be glad to give them away."**

Chuck McAlister



The Second Amendment Celebrations are part of the KBC's larger "affinity evangelism" strategy, a method of sharing Jesus by bringing people together based on common needs or interests—including hunting, quilting, archery and dozens of other possibilities.

Local businesses and individuals donate guns to be given away during the events as door prizes. Gun winners are photographed with their prizes but can only claim them at local gun dealers after passing background checks.

McAlister told the Louisville Courier-Journal that he does not "advocate violence" and that the guns are intended "for hunting and protection only." But that hasn't silenced critics who question whether KBC's would have given away guns, toasters, or raffle tickets to draw an audience.

"It is an appalling form of outreach of evangelicalism that is an offense to the Gospel of Jesus," Nancy Jo Kemper, pastor of New Union Christian Church in Lexington, told MSNBC.

McAlister has participated in outreach events featuring gun giveaways for more than 20 years, he said, but "only recently have these events been called into question."

Largely due, he said, "to the explosion of violence that we are seeing in our nation, particularly on our school campuses. Many in our culture would point to guns and access to guns as the culprit in this escalating violence. ... However, the people to whom we target our gospel message do not share this mindset. They see guns as a part of their everyday life."

Giving gifts to draw people to Jesus follows the example of God Himself, who

gives creation, conscience and the cross to woo sinners, McAlister said.

"I believe the giving away of guns draws the men to hear (the gospel) message," McAlister said. "If giving away toasters would accomplish the same purpose, I would be glad to give them away. It would be much less controversial."

KBC executive director Paul Chitwood said that neither giveaways nor guns are new to Kentucky Baptists.

"While gun control advocates may bristle at the approach, personally, I find nothing about these events to be sinful," Chitwood said. "To the contrary, at events like these in Kentucky and beyond, Southern Baptists are seeing thousands of people won to Christ each year."

Southern Baptists have long practiced "attractional evangelism" said Chitwood, "from the Power Team to 'Judgment Houses' to Upward Basketball and Easter egg hunts." The convention welcomes the opportunity for evangelism provided by Second Amendment Celebrations, he added.

"While we have not sought this attention, we are praying that God will find us good stewards of it," Chitwood said. (BP)

## An Acts 1:8 strategy

An Acts 1:8 mission strategy is essential to the fulfillment of the Great Commission. In Matthew 28:19, Jesus stipulated that we are to make disciples of

### Together We are the KBC



Paul Chitwood

*panta ta ethne*, "all the peoples." In Acts 1:8, he emphasized the disciples' witness "in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth." Thus, obedience to our Lord's mandate is best achieved by an intentional effort to share the gospel in our community, our state, our nation and among the

nations.

Southern Baptists realized long ago that the best way for every church to achieve a meaningful missionary presence at home and abroad is by cooperating with other churches. As they combine their resources, churches can guarantee ample and consistent support for missionary personnel and ongoing mission projects across the globe. Moreover, not having to spend time away from the work to go from church to church soliciting funds means our missionaries can be much more focused and effective. Ah, the beauty of the Cooperative Program.

A meaningful missionary presence at home and abroad is achievable for every church as they send and support missionaries through CP. Sending vocational missionaries does not, however, preclude church members from "hands-on" involvement in the work.

As a pastor, I quickly learned that providing opportunities for volunteer missions at home and abroad dramatically increased the Great Commission culture in our church. Those who served as workers in the harvest grew in their personal faith, saw God's kingdom grow, and grew in their generosity for God's mission. Likewise, I grew in my appreciation for our denominational mission strategy and an Acts 1:8 missionary strategy customized and personalized for our local church.

Doug Williams recently joined the Kentucky Baptist Convention's Mission Board staff to assist churches and associations seeking to develop a customized and personalized Acts 1:8 mission strategy. Previously, Williams has served as pastor of two KBC churches, Bullitt Lick Baptist Church in Shepherdsville and Camp Ground Baptist Church in Somerset. Before coming to Kentucky, he was associate pastor at Calvary Baptist Church in Oak Ridge, Tenn. Williams, a graduate of Clear Creek Baptist Bible College and The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, is nearing completion of a Doctor of Philosophy from Southern.

Williams brings the formal training, practical experience and Great Commission passion that will make him a blessing to Kentucky Baptists. If your church or association needs assistance, you can contact him at [doug.williams@kybaptist.org](mailto:doug.williams@kybaptist.org).

Remember, the KBC was created by churches, for churches, to help churches reach Kentucky and the world for Christ.

Paul Chitwood is executive director of the Kentucky Baptist Convention.

## Seeing the power of intentional prayer

"We are just trying to keep up with the Lord and what He is doing. But it was all birthed out of the Scriptures and prayer, and God deciding He wanted to do something." That's how Pastor Allen Bonnell describes a spiritual renewal occurring at Immanuel Baptist Church, called "Found People Find People," in which it has nearly matched in just 21 days the 77 baptisms the congregation saw last year.

At first reading, the story on page 1 may appear to be about a remarkable evangelistic service at the Corbin church, which God blessed with a huge harvest of more than 135 decisions, over a tenth of those in attendance on that Sunday. That's certainly true. Fifty-four were baptized the next Sunday—so many that they had to set up a swimming pool to accommodate them all—and more were baptized on the following Sundays. While the number currently is still two or three short, they expect to surpass the goal by Easter Sunday.

But the story is as much about how God's people sought to align their hearts with the heart of God. As Bonnell observed, "God wants people to be saved even more than we do." Quoting Henry Blackaby, author of the "Experiencing God" study, he explained, "It's really about finding out where God is at work, and then joining Him in that work."

Following the counsel of 2 Chronicles 7:14, Bonnell led Immanuel to start with intentional prayer for the lost in their community—by name—and in urging them to get their own lives right with God. The church walls became a living testament to God working in their lives. On one side, a woman in the church painted huge hands with the chains falling off, depicting the power of the gospel to set people free from the bondage of sin, fear, sickness, hurt and brokenness. They fasted for 21 days; they centered everything on God's word; and they committed themselves to pray around the clock for family members, friends, neighbors and the lost.



### After Thought

By Todd Deaton

"It was amazing what we saw God do as we just humbled ourselves before the Lord," Bonnell said. Yet, as thrilling as it was to see how the Lord opened up a flood of response, the service on Feb. 2 also took on a personal meaning for Bonnell and his wife, Robin, when a couple whom they had been praying for, visiting and building a relationship with came forward.

Jimmy and Kita Monhollen were among the names that he and Robin had written on the church wall. Kita works with Robin, but Jimmy, while friendly, did not seem interested in attending church. "I don't do church. You'll never see me there," he had told Bonnell. "They aren't your typical church folk; they're 'tatted up' and hair-dyed," he continued. Still, Robin and he kept inviting Kita and Jimmy. Their young son attended an Easter egg hunt and later the church's fall festival.

"When they came forward, I just lost it," Bonnell recalled. "I was celebrating with all these people who were giving their lives to Christ, but when I saw Jimmy and Kita, it became real personal. ... It was just awesome!" They were among the 54 who were baptized Feb. 9 in a service that rotated between the church's baptistry, a portable baptistry and a swimming pool. Yet every person who came forward has a story, Bonnell noted. Just like Jimmy and Kita, someone has made a spiritual investment in their lives—someone wrote their name on the church walls, someone has been lifting their names up in prayer, someone invited them to church.

The pools are gone now, but the 70-plus baptisms left a lasting impression on the members of Immanuel. "They're fired up!" Bonnell said. "They've seen what only God can do, and they are really going after it now." It has become one of those times where members can point to and say, "We saw God work in our lives," he added. But it isn't just those who were baptized, he noted. "It is also those of us whom God spoke into our lives as we prayed and fasted, as we got up in the middle of the night and came to an auditorium to pray, that God pushed us all deeper relationally with Him as a church body, as a community of believers." They, indeed, have witnessed the power of intentional prayer, of lifting up the lost—by name—and experienced God's blessings.

## Why is marriage hard?

By Scott Wigginton

Q: If marriage is such a good thing, why is it so hard at times?

A: Have you ever noticed that the Bible begins and ends with a marriage?



In Genesis 2, God places the man into a deep sleep, removes a rib, and creates a woman. This man and woman, given to each other at the

dawn of time, begin a grand story and great adventure that will finally come to a remarkable finish in the book of Revelation (chapter 21) when Christ is united to His resplendent Bride, the

Church. In between the creation and the final wedding feast, every marriage exists in the midst of war.

As John and Staci Eldredge point out in their excellent book, "Love and War," there is an enemy, but it is not your spouse. As wise old Peter indicated ages ago to the followers of Jesus in 1 Peter 5:8:

"Be self controlled and alert. Your enemy prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour. Resist him, standing firm in the faith, because you know that your brothers throughout the world are undergoing the same kind of sufferings."

Why is marriage hard? It is hard because there is an evil one, a terrorist, who seeks to disrupt the divine love story to which God calls us. If Christ wants us to learn to love God and others

more and more, doesn't it make sense that the evil one would do everything possible to block this happening?

Why is marriage hard? It is hard because of our own sin and selfishness that move us to want what we want. Marriage is hard because of our mate's sin and selfishness. Marriage is hard because the world, distorted by sin and brokenness, presents us daily with a warped, fun-house view of what marriage should be.

But while marriage is hard, it is also filled with echoes of the divine romance. For the ones who give themselves fully, marriage is not only a great offering to Christ, but a joy-laced spiritual discipline.

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

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### 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.

## Alumni Spotlight



Duane Floro has served as the Ministry Evangelism Strategist on the State Convention of Baptists in Ohio resource team since 2002. He graduated from Cumberland College (BA-Religion); Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary (MDiv); and Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary (DMin). He loves being about the Father's business across Ohio and beyond. His life passage is Joshua 1:6-9.

He pastored churches for 26 years in Kentucky, West Virginia, Indiana, Arizona, and Oklahoma. Duane and his wife Deana have four children.



Tony Merida graduated from Cumberland College in 2000. He is the founding pastor of Imago Dei Church in Raleigh, NC. He also serves as the Associate Professor of Preaching at Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary. He is married to Kimberly, with whom he has five adopted children.

Tony is the author of *Faithful Preaching and Proclaiming Jesus*. He is also the co-author of *Orphanology*. Along with David Platt and Danny Akin, Tony serves as a general editor and as contributor for the upcoming commentary series with B&H entitled *Christ-Centered Exposition*.

Tony speaks around the world at a variety of events, including church planting conferences, pastors' conferences, orphan care events, student camps, and for courses at theological institutions.

## Stairwells, Comfort and Hope

As one goes throughout life it is interesting to realize that amid times of difficulty, great comfort can often come from the most ordinary things. These ordinary things can be found in nature, such as the sounds of birds chirping or the sights of bees or butterflies moving over a bed of flowers in full bloom. Often these things can also be found in various forms of art or in the architectural design of buildings. University of the Cumberland's President Jim Taylor recalls a memory that has brought comfort to him and Mrs. Taylor through the years when thinking of their son. Dr. and Mrs. Taylor reflect on words of comfort that were shared with them after the tragic accident that claimed the life of their son, Jim. Those words include the image of a stairway - what some might consider an object so easily overlooked - to offer a sense of shared grief and an expression of comfort and care. These words are often recalled by Dr. and Mrs. Taylor when they see and use some of the magnificent stairways on campus.

*"If tears could build a stairway and memories a lane  
I would walk right up to Heaven and bring you back again."*

A similar sense of comfort comes to mind as one experiences the kindness expressed by the caring and committed UC faculty and staff. Cumberland has always been a special purpose institution with employees serving out of a sense of mission as they help students discover and prepare for their life purpose. Rather than promoting the dog-eat-dog model of success so often prevalent in today's society, individuals at Cumberland see the value and potential that is held by each eager student. This sentiment was perhaps most appropriately stated by UC alum Dr. Arliss Roaden, class of 1949, while emphasizing the unique qualities of a Cumberland education:

*"At Cumberland College we see life  
not as a ladder but rather as a giant  
spiraling staircase with room enough for  
everyone to attain a lofty position."*

Since its founding in 1888, Cumberland has sought to serve deserving students by providing a high quality academic experience, enriched in Christian values and offered at an affordable cost to make the dream of a university education available to everyone - especially those from the economically challenged regions of Appalachia. This approach, like a giant spiraling staircase, provides equal opportunities for all to achieve the life goals and dreams that fuel the hope for each new generation to build on the successes and sacrifices of the generation which came before it.

*Continued on pg. 4*



Cumberland Inn

## Recognitions

*Named One of "America's Best Universities" by U.S. News & World Report*

*Named NAIA Champions of Character 5 Star Institution*

*Ranked by Washington Monthly College Rankings*

*Ranked one of AC Online's top Baptist Colleges with High Starting Salaries for Graduates*

*President's Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll*

*Named one of top Kentucky Colleges with Highest Financial Return on Investment by College Database Online*

*Named to America's Best Christian Colleges*

*Named Military Friendly School*



### Guatemala



Instead of staying home for semester break, eleven students and alumni from University of the Cumberlands traveled to San Cristobal, Guatemala to minister with the girls at the Prince of Peace Home for Girls during Dec. 26, 2013 until Jan. 1, 2014.

Susan Albertson (Greenup, Ky.), Mary Jewell Allen (Williamsburg, Ky.), David and Christen Dierken (Florence, Ky.), Caroline Johnson (Morganfield, Ky.), Joey Koogler (Hebron, Ky.), Haley Ferguson (Hawesville, Ky.), Matt Lawson (Lawrenceburg, Ky.), Haley Swihart (a high school student from Hawesville, Ky.), Leann Wright (Lawrenceburg, Ky.), and Bethany Yonts (Lexington, Ky.) made the trip. They received monetary support from family and friends and also prayers to go minister at Prince of Peace.



Not only did the mission team minister to the girls at Prince of Peace, they had the opportunity to go to a couple of indigenous villages one day and give the people food and the children toys. They also went to El Refugio (The Refuge) a Women's home for women in need. The girls on the team baked them cookies and the guys did some landscaping by trimming the trees with machetes.



The mission team from UC stayed at the girls' home to spend every day with the girls. The students were there for them daily, visiting with them, showing them God's love and showing them that they are special young girls who are needed. The girls clung to the team and loved them.

"Going there expecting to serve so much but it was great to be served and see them show God's love just as much as we did," said Koogler.

"We were serving with the girls not just to them."

The Prince of Peace Home for Girls' mission is to provide a place where girls can be emotionally, physically, educationally, and spiritually healed in a safe refuge where they can learn about and experience God's love.

The girls come from broken homes where they're not wanted or can't be taken care of by their families. At Prince of Peace they have an opportunity to seek a good education that will be beneficial to their future. The girls' home specifically wants the importance of God and a personal relationship with Him to make a great impact on the girls.

"As soon as you step in, you feel God's presence," said Yonts. It was her first time, as well as a few of the other students, overseas. According to Yonts, it wasn't hard to communicate with the

language barrier because through smiles, hugs, and showing kindness the mission team and girls shared in the love of God. It was encouraging to Yonts to see the girls' pure faith because they have nothing so they have to completely rely on God.

"To see girls who have been every kind of abused and then to see them at the girls home being healed," said Yonts. "It wasn't just them healing by me loving on them; I was healed by loving on them."



### Ireland

Five University of the Cumberlands students rang in 2014 in a special way - ministering in Ireland. Carla Fountain and Kayla Smith organized the trip for themselves and Jung Won Jo, Giné Nichols, and Taylor Schroeder. For nine days, the students attended multi-denominational services on a ship, held Bible schools for children at churches, and participated in a program called Safe Zone.

"Volunteers walk the streets on Thursday, Friday, and Saturday nights while people are in the clubs and bars," Nichols explains. "If someone comes out and they need help because they've had too much to drink, they help them get to a safe spot. To me, that was a really good ministry because they're just there to help. That's how Jesus was; that's Christ-like."

The students also spent time at a cafe called The Dock located in Titanic Quarter (the site where the famous ship was designed and built). The Dock held 24 hours of prayer for the start of the new year, something that touched Nichols. "They had a prayer room where you could go and pray," she said. "They had millions probably of prayer requests posted up on the wall. It was awesome." So awesome, in fact, that Nichols and Smith are now working to get a similar project started on UC's campus.

Nichols said she learns something on every mission trip she goes on. "I think any time you go on a mission trip, you have to be flexible and you have to be open," she said. "Not only to leading someone to Christ if that opportunity arises, but to learn." In particular, the Ireland trip provided Nichols with a rejuvenated focus on relationships. "I need to build relationships and just love on people and let them know what I'm about," she said. "We're supposed to love on people and care about them."





### UC student, Julie Paris, plans mission trip to Uganda

A mission trip to bring joy to the people of Uganda, Africa is being planned by Julie Paris (Ashland, Ky.), a senior at the University of the Cumberlands, for December.

"The heart of this trip is to open their [UC students'] eyes about what they can do to glorify the Lord whether it is helping little kids, speaking truth to youth, or digging a hole, anything to glorify God," said Paris.

Paris is just beginning to plan the trip and work out the logistics. Depending on when they go, they will be doing different mission work. Most likely, she said that they will go on a safari, but most importantly they'll be visiting medical clinics, hanging out with youth, visiting schools and orphanages, and helping the people in any way that they can.

There is a great need to minister to youth between the ages of 12-28. Paris explained that they don't really know how to serve and the mission teams try to encourage them whenever they go.

Other short term mission teams have gone ahead of this group to Uganda. Paris' dad, Dr. Floyd Paris, former pastor of Unity Baptist Church and former president of the Kentucky Baptist Convention, has led these teams with the help of the non-profit organization called United Christian Expedition (UCE) that he started. Through this organization, he started two schools in honor of his late wife, Penne Paris.

Paris wants to show people her dad's heart for the Ugandan people. She has wanted to lead a mission trip like this for people to understand the necessity of mission trips. Her friends have been asking to go to Uganda on a mission trip and she wants them to be involved.

The high importance of short term mission trips is known well by the Paris family. Paris said that it's good for students around her age to know that it's not all about them. It is important to see the various work being done there and possibly save a person's life. A mission trip changes the way people view missions. They become more involved and more supportive as givers, doers, or as a spokesperson.

"This is a prime opportunity for college students to go on a mission trip," said Paris. "It's a pivotal time of when people are growing into who they're going to be."



### UC students in it to End It



Students of University of the Cumberlands gathered in the Gatliff Chapel to draw a red "X" on each other's hands and to take a picture to raise awareness on social media about the End It movement on Feb. 27, 2014.

According to the End It website, 27 million people are still being sold into the many different forms of slavery. There are currently 200,000 slaves in America and 17,000 more will get trafficked in the next year. The average age of a victim is 14 years old.

Slavery was abolished about 150 years ago, but it's thriving more than ever, coming in as the third most profitable organized crime and the fastest growing, according to the Federal Bureau of Investigation's website.

"Ending slavery is really important to me because nobody should be forced into something they don't want to do, especially slavery. You're not supposed to be a servant to anyone except God," said Sara Donahue (Harlan, KY), a senior at UC. "Sex is something sacred between two people and not to be exploited. This is a problem and these people need to be saved. We need to do something."

Around the world, people are drawing a red "X" on their hands to tell the world that they won't stand for slavery. UC students showed their support for End It by doing the same. End It's motto is "Shine a light on slavery." People can show the message of freedom by a simple red "X."

"I think a big thing to end it is to raise awareness because a lot of people don't realize that slavery is still out there," said Alisha Brown (Jacksonville, FL), a junior at UC. "Drawing an 'X' on our hands might not seem like a lot, but it's something."

### International buddy system begins at UC

The International Student Association (ISA) and the International Student Ministry (ISM) of University of the Cumberlands paired up students for the beginning of the International Buddy System.

The buddy pairing event involved American and international students who had signed up to be involved in the program. Bethany Yonts (Lexington, KY), sophomore and coordinator of ISM, and Jungwon Jo (Seoul, South Korea), senior and president of ISA, paired students by interests, majors and personalities. Yonts and Jo have assigned about fifty students to be buddies together, this will help international students transition to America and make friends. The international students will have somebody to rely on, ask questions about American culture and share their culture with their buddies.

"International Student Association's purpose is to integrate with American students," said Jo. "The International Student Ministry's purpose is to reach out to international students, so it was a perfect pairing."

At the buddy pairing event, students found their buddy by matching song lyrics or sayings together. Team building games were played and snacks were provided as well.

"It's so crazy because games we play in Korea are played in Japan and here, but just a little bit different," said Jo.

The two organizations started working together last semester. They hosted an international food night and international game night as their events. The ISA and ISM will work on how to improve the buddy system for next semester by finding out what works to get internationals interested and connected. The buddy system will also help incoming international freshman feel welcome and help them transition by pairing them with Americans right away.

"I think the program is a good idea and I hope it helps students become friends with others from all around the world," said Hayley Davis (Mt. Vernon, KY) sophomore and ISM team member. "There's no greater feeling than connecting well with someone seemingly so unlike you."

The two leaders expressed their excitement to begin a new semester with students of various cultures uniting together and being involved in campus activities. Jo said that it means a lot to the international students because they're far away from their families and having close friends helps them not feel lonely. She knows how hard it is for them to approach Americans because she was once in a new culture and had to learn a new language when she first came to UC.

"What set me on fire was when they talked about how lonely they felt when they first came to America," said Yonts.

ISA and ISM want to reach more ethnicity groups that are represented on campus. Even with the few that are involved in the buddy system, other students have noticed the impact that ISA and ISM are making in the students involvement on campus. The organizations will do this by hosting events in the future such as foreign film nights and game nights as well as other activities that are open to all students on campus.

"It's all about building more communities," said Jo.



# UNIVERSITY of the CUMBERLANDS

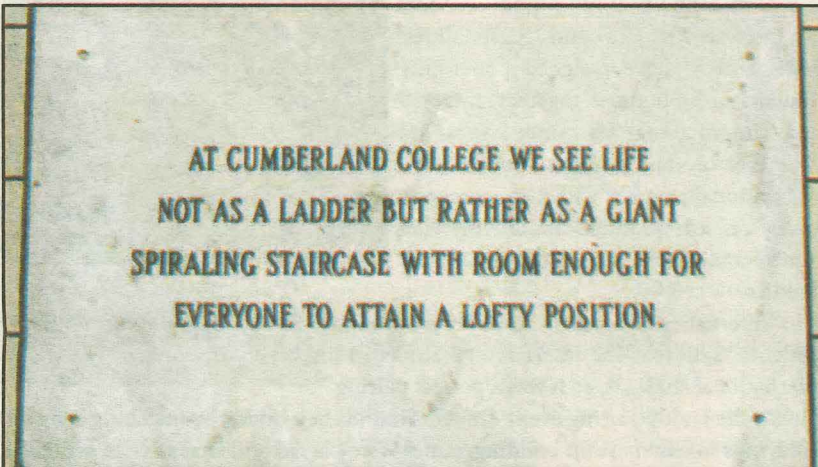
Continued from pg. 1



*Moss-Roburn Hall*



*Grace Crum Rollins Fine Arts Center*



*Marble tile at the Cumberland Inn*



*Ward & Regina Correll Science Complex*

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# Buck Run Baptist celebrating two decades of missions in Romania

By Joan Whitney and Alex Kramer

This summer Buck Run Baptist Church in Frankfort will celebrate its 20th year of missions in Romania—an evangelistic vision of former Buck Run senior pastor, the late Bob Jackson.

"He knew that one day he wanted to reach people (for Jesus) in a far away place. He just didn't know where that far away place was," said Jackson's son, Rob Jackson, senior pastor of Central Baptist Church in Decatur, Ala.

That far away place was revealed in 1994 when the Buck Run pastor was presented with an opportunity to go to Romania and spread the gospel.

Bob Jackson led a group of 17 volunteer missionaries, 15 of whom were members of Buck Run, that year to Bucharest and began sharing the gospel. They found a group of people who were hungry for the good news of Jesus Christ—having been recently liberated from Communist rule. Over the next two years more than 40 members of the Frankfort church traveled to Romania. There they constructed church buildings, prayer walked, preached on the streets, and shared the gospel.

Buck Run has continued each year since to follow God's commandment to "preach unto the ends of the world"—now under the leadership of Hershael York, senior pastor at the church.

"What a joy I felt to be called to serve a church that was already committed to missions," York said. "Romania was Buck Run's first window through which the church learned to see the world. While our vision is now truly global, Romania



Bob Jackson (on right, in hat), former pastor of Buck Run Baptist Church in Frankfort, was instrumental in starting the church's ministry in Romania. Jackson is pictured with church members in this 1997 photo. (Submitted by BRBC)

remains at the heart of our church because that's where we went first."

## New mission partnership

Those early trips had a profound impact upon the members of Buck Run. Jackson asked a professional videographer and Buck Run member to film the trip one year. Once there, God touched the man's heart and, as he said, "I went over to Romania as a videographer and came back as a volunteer missionary."

This growing heart for missions at Buck Run set the stage for a new work in Romania. In 1996, representatives from the Romanian Baptist Union asked Bob

Jackson to form a partnership between Romanian Baptists and American Baptists. This partnership took form in Romanian American Mission (RAM).

Under the pastor's leadership and with the support of the church family, RAM was headquartered at Buck Run.

Over the years, Buck Run and RAM—made up of churches from Alabama, Mississippi, Florida and North Carolina—have been constantly improving and refining their mission efforts. Agreements with existing Christian churches has allowed Buck Run and RAM to send mission teams to strategic areas and through these churches to partner with indigenous

missionary pastors to reach outlying and impoverished areas.

"None of our missionaries are from North America," said Rob Jackson, RAM president. "We feel that the best person to relate to the Muslim community is a Muslim and the best person for the gypsies is a gypsy."

## Spreading the gospel

In 2007, Romania joined the European Union allowing Romanians unrestricted travel throughout Europe. Many churches lost members, especially among young people, as they moved to Western Europe for more job opportunities and better living conditions.

While initially viewed as a loss, the dispersion of Romanians led to the spread of the gospel throughout the European Union. Many Romanian Christians formed congregations wherever they settled.

Desiring to see all Romanian peoples evangelized, Buck Run and RAM began sending mission teams to work with these new churches in Austria, Spain and Serbia. Most recently, teams have been sent to work with Muslims in Macedonia. A future trip is planned for the Ivory Coast in Africa.

RAM partners with 11 churches in Romania, Moldova, and Austria, while providing financial support for 35 indigenous missionary pastors. The organization provides medical care through short-term mission teams. Short-term mission teams sent by Buck Run and RAM typically consist of a medical team, children's team and an evangelism team. (BRBC/WR)

## LoveLoud

Continued from page 1

of Christ coming through us," said Lane Sanders, pastor of Macedonia Baptist Church. "We don't look at ourselves as separated unto ourselves, but we have a mission and an investment in the community."

According to Jerry Daniel, the North American Mission Board's LoveLoud team leader, Macedonia Baptist is one of a growing movement of Southern Baptist churches that are demonstrating God's love by meeting significant human need while sharing Christ.

"There's a movement happening among Southern Baptists," Daniel said. "God has created a groundswell of churches that are loving their communities like Jesus would. We want to highlight this and encourage other churches to get involved."

Sanders says his church members delivered lunches in neighborhoods they had never visited and met people struggling with great need. Several of the children they've fed last summer attended the church's Vacation Bible School. At least one of them committed her life to Christ.

Discovering a similar need among students in Philadelphia, Chuck Kieffer



Sustained, tangible community engagement is one of the key elements of LoveLoud. (John Swain/NAMB)

thought of a novel solution. Kieffer, a church planter and pastor of Philadelphia's The Foundry Church, led his congregation to reach their urban neighbors by growing fresh produce. Their urban garden naturally provided teachable moments, along with a 500-pound annual yield of fresh produce. Garden Camp, an urban gardening-based Vacation Bible School, was the next step.

"We teach gardening techniques and nutrition, which are easy to bridge to biblical concepts of our Creator," Kieffer said. "Doesn't every church have some piece of ground they are not using? Every church can do this."

As part of its efforts to help foster a LoveLoud movement through churches, NAMB is trying to shine a spotlight on activities like those championed by Macedonia and The Foundry in hopes that such examples can serve as a model for other churches.

"We are collecting data and identifying churches and ministries involved in

mercy ministries," said Ryan West, NAMB's national director for LoveLoud. "We are furthering the conversation of what churches are already doing. We are attempting to help foster and build networks."

West said one goal is to help those involved in mercy ministries feel more connected to others doing similar work.

"There are some common issues among caregivers. Many struggle with the feeling of isolation. They think they are attempting to assist the neglected in their community by themselves. We can help them find partners and others who are helping the neglected in their communities in other ways. This helps alleviate that sense of becoming overwhelmed," West said.

An aspect of the LoveLoud movement that makes it attractive to cities is how those deeply involved in mercy ministry are instruments of peace in their cities—personal peace through the presence of Christ and peace within the community.

"LoveLoud brings a refreshing peace. The gospel brings the fountain of life to the desert," said West.

It is precisely this result that so often opens the doors to gospel conversations and faith encounters, said West. Mercy ministries with ties to local churches are important when people come to faith in Christ. Established relationships help new Christians feel welcome when they come to worship and join churches. (NAMB)

Explore how your church can expand its ministry to neglected communities through LoveLoud at [namb.net/loveloud](http://namb.net/loveloud).



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## We don't do snow days

### School day delayed, not cancelled thanks to Oneida teamwork

I learned a lot about leadership under the headmaster of the last Christian school where I served in Florida. He is a wonderful Christian man who leads quietly, but effectively.

When I told him I would be returning to Oneida, he was very gracious and encouraging to me and said, "Having listened to you talk of Oneida for so long, I knew you would one day return there."

I hated to leave because we had such a great working relationship. I have called him a few times since my move to ask for his advice. I spoke to him just before Christmas and he asked many questions about Oneida.

"I can't imagine running a school where the kids do not go home after school is over," he said.

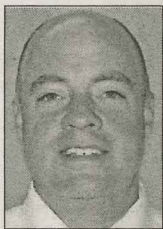
There are many challenges involved with being a boarding school, but there are also some great advantages. On a recent Sunday night, we received a blast of winter that I can't recall in Kentucky for some time. The storm started with rain, then ice, and eventually snow.

We have a small crew of men who arrive on our campus at 5 a.m. when our roads and sidewalks need to be cleared of snow or ice before school. Unlike other schools, we do not have snow days at Oneida. Most of our students live on campus and classes continue no matter the weather.

At 5:20 a.m. after the Monday morning snow storm, I received a call from one of those staff members. He informed me that the roads and sidewalks were very difficult to clear

because of the solid sheet of ice beneath the snow. After a few minutes of pondering, I decided to put our school day on a two-hour delay. Angie began to work the phone to alert our faculty and staff.

### This is Oneida



Larry Gritton

I threw on what little winter gear a guy who has lived in Florida for the last nine years would have and headed over to campus. The Chevy Trailblazer the school provides to me did a nice job of getting me safely to school. We already had five staff members and a student working diligently to make our roads and sidewalks functional and safe. I grabbed a shovel and did

what little a guy who sits behind a desk every day could do to help out.

I later checked in with our food service director to see how things were coming along in our cafeteria. Just because we weren't having school would not mean we wouldn't still have to feed three meals that day to well over 400 people. I saw several of our teachers and administrators pitching in to help out in the kitchen. Most of our kitchen workers are folks who live several miles off campus and were not able to travel the treacherous roads to work that day.

Breakfast was served from 8-9 a.m. and school promptly commenced at 10 a.m. Our snow crew continued to work the rest of the day to clear the campus. Students were thrilled to get a little extra sleep, and I was thrilled to watch our staff pitch in as working unto the Lord because school at Oneida must and will go on!

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

## Right hand man

### Graduate follows God's call into administration role

Graduating senior Bruce Fisher is thankful he listened to some wise counsel that God placed around him when he first arrived at Clear Creek Bible College.

"My calling from God is in an administrative leadership role," said Fisher. "I know there are a lot of administrative needs that a pastor has. I want to be that person who can come alongside my pastor and help him with all the administrative tasks that can take up so much of their time. I feel led to be that 'right hand man' my pastor can depend on to help with everything in the church," he said.

"When I first got to Clear Creek, I came in under a different track of study," Fisher recalled. "After a couple of semesters of getting settled in to my classes and figuring out what the classes were all about, I started having conversations with some of my professors who counseled me in areas of study where I was excelling.

"They shared with me that they were seeing some administrative qualities in me that were very apparent and that I might want to think about looking at another area of ministry," Fisher said.

"I began to prayerfully look at how God might be able to use me in this area, and after some wise counsel through my professors, I realized God was leading me in the direction of church administration and leadership.

"I have had a wonderful experience at Clear Creek," Fisher said. "My fellow students have helped me through many of the struggles that we all face. There is so much pressure on campus for your time and you can easily get as stressed out here as you can at a church.

"During our dorm meetings each week, there will always be someone who will say they are going home because they just cannot stand the pressure anymore. Sometimes that has been me; other times it has been close friends.

"When that happens, the meeting is stopped and we all just gather around the person and pray for him and encourage him to hang in there," Fisher said. "There is community here at Clear Creek. It is a family that will pick you up and encourage you when you are down."

Donnie Fox is president of Clear Creek Baptist Bible College, 300 Clear Creek Road, Pineville, KY 40977; toll-free: (866) 340-3196; [ccbbc.edu](http://ccbbc.edu); email: [dfox@ccbbc.edu](mailto:dfox@ccbbc.edu)

### Clear Creek Chronicle



Donnie Fox

## Through the roof

### Removing barriers keeping people from saving grace of Christ

The story of the paralytic in Mark 2 is one of my favorite stories in the Bible.

There are many details of this story that are just amazing to ponder when you read the account of these four men carrying their friend to meet Jesus. To think about it, these guys going to such effort—to maneuver around the pressing crowd, then to actually go onto the roof, tear a hole in it, and then lower their friend—is by worldly standards, unbelievable to consider.

The convicting part of the story for me is: What am I willing to do to just get someone to Jesus? The story ends in worship and that is how all Christian efforts on this earth should end. I have to imagine the four mat-carriers from that day forward always looked back on the event with great memories. I know if I would have been one of them I could not help but think back and say, "Remember the

day Jesus changed all of our lives?" What a great story, and what a result that was far more than anyone expected!

As we prepare for camp this summer, I do think of this story most days. How

we must be about doing all we can to get the gospel in front of as many people as possible. Not just proclaiming the gospel, but also removing any and all barriers that would hinder the gospel being presented. Additionally, we are to be people of a resolved faith, believing that God can and does do miracles each and every day.

At the end of our efforts, worship should be taking place with all thanks and glory must be going to the father. We live in a world in

which miracles do take place every day. Step out in faith today to see the gospel taken to our world, I sure believe it will create a story worth telling and one that ends in worship to our Lord Jesus.

David Melber is president of Crossings Ministries. Contact Crossings at (502) 491-7000 or [GoCrossings.com](http://GoCrossings.com).

### Crossings Ministries



David Melber

## SEEKING: Associate Editor Western Recorder

The Western Recorder is looking for an associate editor who is a capable news reporter and writer, creative page designer, and skilled photographer. Specifically, the experienced journalist must:

- Manage weekly production of the newspaper, including page design and layout;
- Have a solid understanding of news design principles and Adobe InDesign;
- Generate well-written news and feature stories, as assigned;
- Demonstrate ability to take quality photos and edit using Adobe Photoshop;
- Supervise the work of freelance writers and photographers, as needed;
- Embrace digital media platforms and post content to website and Facebook page;

**Requirements:** College degree with minimum of two years of experience in writing and editing for print and digital publications, expertise in shooting photos (videos a plus), flexibility to travel statewide on assignments, understanding of Southern Baptist churches and the Kentucky Baptist Convention.

**If interested:** Send cover letter, resume and links to articles, art and design work to:

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[todd.deaton@westernrecorder.org](mailto:todd.deaton@westernrecorder.org)  
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## March

- 27 Basic Training for Church Planters, Ky Baptist Building, Louisville.
- 29 VBS Clinic, Crestwood Baptist Church, Crestwood.

## April

- 1 Power Lunch, Kentucky Baptist Building, Louisville.
- 4 Kentucky WMU Annual Meeting, Central Baptist Church, Winchester.
- 8 Committee on Nominations, Kentucky Baptist Building, Louisville.
- 10 Ministers in Transition, Kentucky Baptist Building, Louisville.
- 11 International Mission Team Leader Training, Kentucky Baptist Building, Louisville.
- 11 Disaster Relief Chaplaincy Training, Pikeville Baptist Church, Pikeville.

## South Fork heads west on mission trip

A 16-member team from South Fork Baptist Church in Hodgenville will set out for a Native American Indian reservation in Arizona this Friday for a weeklong mission trip. The team plans to help build a mission house and minister to women and children on the reservation. Pictured are: (front, left) Machell McDowell, Michelle Tarpley, Jamie Hines, Susan Skaggs, (2nd row, left) Ricky Hines, Paula Cottrell, Bill Cottrell, Aaron Williams, (3rd row, left) Chuck Riggs, Jesse Skaggs, Scott Clemons, Kelly Lawler, (back row, left) Jeremy Williams, Glenn Phelps, David McDowell and Brandon Smith. (SFBC)



## Box 'cars' drive-in ready



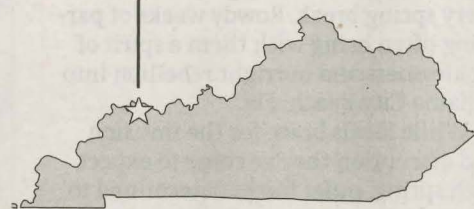
More than 60 Clubbers, made up of children in pre-kindergarten through fifth grade, have been getting their "cars" ready for this week's Awanas drive-in movie at Zion's Cause Baptist Church in Benton. For the last two weeks, nearly 30 volunteer leaders have assisted the children in decorating their box roadsters with paint and paper plate wheels. Above, Madison Odom proudly shows off her finished car. At right, Angela Carnine helps out Marin Oakley. (Photos by Evelyn Hercula)



## MOUNTAINS TO THE MISSISSIPPI

### Spotlight on ...

#### HENDERSON



Water's Edge Church celebrates its first anniversary with a special guest from the Harlem Globetrotters March 30, 11 p.m. **Nathan Butler** is pastor.

■ **WINCHESTER**—Heritage Church will hold a spring revival with speaker **Shawn Allen** March 28-30, 6 p.m. **Timothy Christopher** is pastor.

■ **SOMERSET**—Buena Vista Church will host **Kelly Burton** in concert March 30, 6 p.m. For more information, call (606) 679-1686. **Mike Stacey** is pastor.

■ **CAMPBELLSVILLE**—Saloma Church will host the **Grimes Family** in concert March 30, 6 p.m. For more information, call (270) 789-0082. **John Chowning** is pastor.

■ **LOUISVILLE**—Deer Park Church will hold a chili cook-off March 30, 12 p.m. **David Platt** is pastor.

Parkland Church will hold a free community dinner March 27, 5 p.m. Parkland also will hold a men's prayer breakfast March 29, 8 a.m. **Tom Curry** is pastor.

■ **SPRINGFIELD**—New Hope will host Central Association's annual spring meeting March 31, 6 p.m. **Johnnie Bailey** 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:** Planning your beach or Smokies vacation? Check with us first. Family ministry offering discounted rates for weeks in 2014. staciegillenwater@gmail.com.

**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. Resumés accepted until March 31.

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

**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. Resumés will be accepted until March 31 or until filled. For further details regarding the job description, visit our website at cbcparis.org.

**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-habtcfuse.net.

**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.

**SEEKING:** The Community Church at Cedar Springs, located in the rural community of Cedar Springs near Brownsville, is seeking a part-time or bivocational senior pastor. If interested, send resumé to Phillip Coleman at phillip.coleman@wku.edu. For more, communitychurchlovesyou.com.

**SEEKING:** Pleasant Point Baptist Church in Kings Mountain is seeking a part-time youth minister. Call (606) 416-3994. Visit us at pleasantpointbaptist.com.

**SEEKING:** Liberty Missionary Baptist Church, in London, is seeking a bivocational pastor. This person must be an enthusiastic soul winner, boldly preach the word of God, a good shepherd to the congregation, willing to reach out to the community, a person who loves people, able to lead by example, and someone interested in growing the church. If you feel that God is leading you to apply for this position, send your resumé to the following email: smurray@napierlawoffice.com.

**SEEKING:** Sacramento Baptist Church in Sacramento, Ky., is seeking a part-time youth minister. 12 to 15 hours per week.

If interested email Wendell Wood at wbhewood@sbcglobal.net for more information.

**SEEKING:** Bruner's Chapel Baptist Church in Harrodsburg is prayerfully accepting resumés for the full-time position of pastor. Sunday morning attendance between 180-200. Candidate will have previous pastoral experience, and education is preferred, but not required. Send resumé with references and CD/DVD/Internet link of three sermons to: Bruner's Chapel Baptist Church, Attn: Pulpit Committee, 2672 Mackville Road, Harrodsburg, KY 40330.

**SEEKING:** Part-time minister of music at First Baptist Church in La Center. Duties include selecting music for morning and evening services on Sunday and leading the choir in rehearsals and performance. Complete job description available upon request. Salary negotiable. Contact First Baptist Church-La Center at (270) 665-5408.

**SEEKING:** Forks of Elkhorn Baptist Church in Midway seeks full-time student minister for middle/high school and college programs. Experience as a student minister and relevant college degree required. Communicates well with parents and volunteers. Joyful spirit and good sense of humor. Self starter. Organizational and administrative abilities. Send resumé, letter and references to office@forksbaptist.org.

**SEEKING:** A splendid opportunity to serve in Appalachia. Three Forks Baptist Association is now accepting resumés for the position of director of missions. Resumés will be accepted through May

## To place an advertisement in the Western Recorder:

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14. For more information, visit threeforksbaptist.com. Questions? Or to submit resumé, contact Tony Brown at (606) 634-0104 or email tony.brown@whitesburgfbc.org.

**SEEKING:** Sharon Baptist Church in Mayfield is accepting resumés for a full-time pastor. Candidate needs to have a passion for preaching the gospel and reaching the lost. A degree is preferred, but not required. Send resumés to Ralph Steel, 20 Terri Aire Drive, Mayfield, KY 42066. Resumés will be accepted through April 15.

**SEEKING:** Water's Edge Church in Henderson (watersedgechurch.org) is seeking a talented musician/co-leader to develop a band and lead worship on Sundays. Must raise your own money to support the position. If you think this position is for you, send an email to pastornate.we@gmail.com.

**SEEKING:** Glen's Creek Baptist Church is seeking a pastor or bivocational pastor. Submit resumé to the church at 4678 Steele Road, Versailles KY 40383.

## BeachReach: Spring breakers find Jesus 'by surprise'

By Amy Jacobs

**Panama City Beach, Fla.**—The land of bright sunshine and snow-white sand can be a spiritual dark spot each and every spring break. Rowdy weeks of partying often bring with them a spirit of recklessness and outright rebellion into Panama City Beach, Fla.

While locals brace for the invasion and disruption they've come to expect with spring, quiet forces determined to share the hope of Jesus Christ make their way south. Retirees who serve with the Georgia Baptist Disaster Relief Team link arms with college students from churches and collegiate ministries across the country for BeachReach.

BeachReach is a mission trip experience in the heart of Panama City Beach. Servant evangelism takes the form of free van rides and free pancake breakfasts. College students provide simple acts of service that open the door to life-changing conversations about the hope and love of Jesus Christ.

Here's how it happens:

Each evening a team of students takes their place in a call center, where they receive inbound calls from spring breakers who need rides. An entourage of white passenger vans, church vans and the occasional minivan are dispatched to the Panama City Beach strip where they offer free and safe van rides in hopes of sharing their faith.

Each morning, armed with pancake mix and truckloads of syrup, the Georgia team sets up a mobile kitchen in a nearby strip mall parking lot. Hungry spring breakers trickle in and are greeted with pancakes—pancakes that lead to conversations.

"BeachReach is often the experience that causes my students to share their faith for the first time," Austin Wadlow, college pastor at First Baptist Church of Denton, Texas, said. "When they start a conversation, on the van or over pancakes, it opens a door in their walk with Christ. They go from not sharing their faith at all, to sharing it on the strip or in a bowling alley, to realizing they can do that anywhere. What they learn to do at BeachReach is so transferrable to what they should be doing on campus."

Prior to joining LifeWay Christian Resources as the BeachReach event coordinator, Bill Noe spent 12 years in Baptist Collegiate Ministry on the University of Louisville campus and participated in



BeachReach students point the way to free pancakes. (Russ Rankin/BP)

BeachReach year after year.

"I brought students to BeachReach and did so every year because there was no other experience I'd offered my students that created that kind of change in them, one that lasted beyond the week and came back to the campus," Noe said. "BeachReach really seeks to help believers develop a passion and heart for lost students. That doesn't just stay in Panama City Beach; it transfers back to the local campus."

If Panama City Beach is the school-room for learning to share faith, it's a rough one. BeachReachers are stretched and challenged by what they see and hear and, as they learn to share their faith, they learn to extend grace to their peers.

"One of the things that overwhelms me about BeachReach every year is how it takes spring breakers by surprise," Noe

said. "They expect one thing from us and they get something that's so much more genuine, loving and gracious than they expect. There is a temptation to be overwhelmed by the behavior and think we have to correct behavior. That's not the heart of BeachReach. BeachReach is offering the hope of Jesus through service."

LifeWay offers BeachReach as a ministry opportunity each spring break.

"BeachReach is one of the most important ministries we do. We see both souls and lives saved each week," Faith Whatley, LifeWay's director of adult ministry, said. "As we mobilize college students to share their faith boldly, those van rides and conversations often save young women from dangerous and destructive evenings. The ministry our BeachReachers extend is life-saving."

Last year, after two weeks of ministry, 11,186 van rides were given. Seventy-eight students accepted Christ. The 767 BeachReach participants served 9,473 plates of pancakes. At three pancakes per plate, that stacks up to 28,419 pancakes all prepared by the hands of the Georgia Baptist Disaster Relief Team.

"The Georgia team is made up of retired senior adults who know that Jesus loves these spring breakers, and at some level they may feel unequipped to reach them. But they've found this unique way to impact these students," Noe said. "The pancake volunteers know the students are better equipped to have those conversations. They want to see that happen and they set them up to have those conversations over a hot plate of pancakes."

It's a collaboration of college students and an older generation who believe service and friendship will make a difference. (LifeWay)

## Ky. students impact lives during spring mission trips

By Samantha Stevenson

**Campbellsville**—For most college students, spring break either means a relaxing time at home, earning money at work or going on vacation with friends. For about 50 students at Campbellsville University, however, they did everything from serving pancakes to beachgoers and ministering in prisons to teaching English in Belize. During the first week of March, students served in Panama City Beach, Fla., northern Florida, Mexico, Haiti, Belize and Tanzania.

Students from CU's Baptist Campus Ministry organization spent the week in Panama City Beach ministering to spring breakers as part of Lifeway's BeachReach.

Jasmine Barnett, a BCM intern from Greensburg, said that the highlight of her trip was presenting the gospel to an atheist.

"He was genuinely interested in what we were saying, and I could tell he didn't want to leave. He didn't get saved, but we definitely planted a seed," Barnett said.

Several Campbellsville football players spent their spring break also serving in Florida sharing the gospel and playing softball with inmates in maximum-security prisons. They spent one of their last days painting and restoring a Habitat for Humanity Center in the Orlando area.

Another group of students partnered with Project Fortify and traveled to Mexico to work with low-income families and orphans. The students also spent time with the children by teaching them, playing soccer with them and sharing the gospel with them.

"I had an amazing time, I left my heart in Mexico," Sadie Mills said. This trip sparked a missionary call on her life, and Mills intends on spending more time in serving in Texas and Mexico in the years to come.

Other mission trips:

■ Dustin Ford, of Campbellsville, spearheaded a trip to Haiti through "My Life Speaks," an organization that ministers to the needy, particularly special needs children.

■ Students with Campbellsville's School of Education and School of Nursing took mission trips to different parts of the Southern Hemisphere. Some taught English in Belize and brought school supplies and clothes to an orphanage. Two nursing students went to Kigoma, Tanzania, to work with the Kigoma Baptist Hospital with an International Mission Board American missionary.

■ Students in the School of Theology traveled to Israel and Jordan with several of their professors, CU alumni, family and friends. While there, the travelers toured some of the famous sites in the Bible, including the Jordan River, the Sea of Galilee and the tomb where Jesus is said to have been placed after his crucifixion.

At the site of the tomb, BCM president Noah Blackburn, and president-elect Joey Bomia, led a meaningful worship service and communion. (CU)



A student engages van riders in conversation. (Russ Rankin/BP)