

# WESTERN Recorder

April 8, 2014

Shine Like Stars \* Philippians 2:15

Volume 188, Issue 13

## Hearts 'broken' for Sudanese refugees

*Ky. Baptists called to pray, give to Global Baptist Relief*

By Roger Alford

**Louisville**—A disaster relief team assembled at the request of Baptist Global Response found South Sudanese refugees living in dire circumstances in refugee camps in nearby Uganda where water, food and other basic necessities were in short supply.

Coy Webb, the longtime disaster relief director for the Kentucky Baptist Convention, led the four-man team to the African country where he recommended a variety of actions to meet the needs of those left hurting and hopeless by conflict in their homeland.

International missionaries on the ground in Uganda had requested a rapid response team to come in to assess the needs of the South Sudanese refugees. Baptist Global Response sent Webb, along with disaster relief volunteers Glenn Hickey of Monticello, Larry Hunt from Campbellsville, and Matt Stickel of West Jefferson, Ohio.

"Every person we encountered had experienced unbelievable loss and trauma," Webb said. "The images seared into my mind have left me a bit broken. The camps are overflowing and short on resources. People are drinking contaminated water because they do not have a

□ See Sudanese refugees ... Page 3



Families have fled the violence in South Sudan for refugee camps in Uganda. Coy Webb, Kentucky Baptist Convention Disaster Relief coordinator, and a team of Kentucky Baptists recently returned from the region and reported that refugees are living under tarps and have little food and only contaminated water to drink. (JoAnn Bradberry/IMB)

## NAMB EVANGELISM SPOTLIGHT

## DR volunteers answer 'Why?' with hope



Russell Henry, a Moore, Okla., homeowner who survived the May 20 EF5 tornado that hit the Oklahoma City suburb, listens as Billy Puckett of New Orleans shares the gospel. Puckett, a Southern Baptist Disaster Relief volunteer, is a member of First Baptist Church, New Orleans. Connecting with survivors of disaster is a hallmark of SBDR service and has resulted in thousands of professions of faith. (John Swain/NAMB)

## Disaster relief mission: 'Help, healing and hope'

By Joe Conway

**Alpharetta, Ga.**—Camille. Hugo. Andrew. 9-11. Katrina. Haiti. Tuscaloosa. Joplin. Sandy. Oklahoma City.

Those words often bring to mind disasters; they trigger emotions and memories difficult and poignant. Southern Baptists have had a common response to all of them: Help.

Disaster relief has captured the



Oklahoma Southern Baptist Disaster Relief on-site coordinator Dave Karr gives a hug to a firefighter Kathy Willem. (Laura Sikes/NAMB)

hearts of volunteers from all backgrounds. Regardless of race, age, gender or social status, there seem to be no barriers to keep volunteers from serving people in need. Hundreds of thousands of survivors of disaster have received tireless service from tens of thousands of Southern Baptists.

"The mission of every disaster relief team is to bring help, healing and hope," said Fritz Wilson, executive director for Southern Baptist Disaster Relief at the North American Mission Board. "Meeting a family's physical

□ See Disaster relief ... Page 6

## Kentucky WMU elects new officers

**Winchester**—Susan Bryant of Pleasureville was elected as the 39th president of Kentucky Woman's Missionary Union on April 4 in Winchester. Bryant heads a new slate of officers that includes Shelby Castlen of Busy as vice president and Cathy Mattingly of Louisville as recording secretary.

Bryant served as vice president of Kentucky WMU from 2011-13 and was a member of the executive board from 1994-97 and 2007-09. She currently serves as a trustee of the International Mission Board.

Bryant is a member of Graefenburg Baptist Church in Waddy, where she

serves as WMU director and Girls in Action leader. Bryant has also served as WMU director for Shelby Baptist Association and participated in numerous mission trips. Her most recent trip was with the Kentucky WMU team that ministered in Pietermaritzburg, South Africa in December.

Bryant has served on teams in Boston, Mass.; St. Louis, Mo.; Baltimore, Md.; Belize; Puerto Rico; and South Korea. She has served on mission trips serving with both Mississippi River Ministry and Appalachian Regional Ministry.

□ See WMU ... Page 2



Shelby Castlen (left), vice president, and Susan Bryant, president of Kentucky WMU. (Robin Cornet Bass/WR)

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



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

Western Recorder 4-8-2014

## KBC beefing up children's ministry with help from Crossings

**Louisville**—The Kentucky Baptist Convention has partnered with Crossing Ministries, the Baptist organization best known for its summer camps, to beef up support to local churches in their outreach to children and youth.

KBC Executive Director Paul Chitwood announced the partnership last week, saying the arrangement will give Kentucky churches broader access to children's ministry consultants while saving more than \$100,000 a year in staffing and program costs.

Crossings, which is housed in the Kentucky Baptist Building in Louisville alongside KBC, recently hired two additional children's ministry consultants, Rochell Goff and Lance Howerton, to handle the new initiative. Goff most recently served as children's ministry director at Walnut Street Baptist Church in Louisville and previously served as program director for Crossings. Howerton worked 23 years at Lifeway in student and children's ministry.

"For years, our churches that have been sending children to Crossings summer camps have been directing us to become more involved on a year-round basis with student ministry," said Crossings President and CEO David Melber. "These trends led us to begin the sequence that led to KBC contracting with us for student ministry."

Melber said elementary-age camps are the fastest growing segment of ministry for Crossings.



Rochell Goff



Lance Howerton

"Surveys show the most likely age range for salvation decisions is between 8 and 18," he said. "Additionally, our ministry cannot exist without healthy church children's and youth ministries. Those realities coupled with the directions from our churches have led us to the logical conclusion of expanding the Crossings Center for Youth Ministry to the Crossings Center for Youth and Children's Ministry."

Chitwood said the partnership with Crossings means that KBC's children's ministry consultant, John Bennett, will transition out at the end of the month.

"John will be leaving with our deepest gratitude for his service and highest recommendation," Chitwood said.

Bennett, who has built a reputation as a top expert in children's ministry over his five years at KBC, said he prayed about the transition and that he has peace with it.

"I will deeply miss working with everyone," Bennett said. "We share the same passion and that makes us more than friends and colleagues but brothers and sisters in Christ. Forever."

Meanwhile, Crossings has big plans for even more expansion into the areas of children and youth ministries with a goal of becoming the best possible resource for Kentucky churches.

"One of the keys to being an effective church is equipping lay leaders and staff members to effectively lead student and children's ministries," Melber said. (KBC)

## From poverty to pediatric neurosurgery



Dr. Ben Carson speaks April 1 on "Logical Leadership" at an event sponsored by the University of the Cumberlands and the Forcht Group of Kentucky Center for Excellence in Leadership. (CU)

**Williamsburg**—Perhaps it is the understatement of the year, but growing up with 23 siblings and a single mother amid the poverty of Detroit was difficult, said Ben Carson.

Fortunately, his mother had faith in God and without Him by her side to help her raise her children, Carson might not have become as successful as he is today.

"My mother had faith," said Carson. "She got us to understand intellectual development."

Dr. Carson, as he is now known, is an emeritus professor of neurosurgery, oncology, plastic surgery and pediatrics at the Johns Hopkins School of Medicine. He was the keynote speaker April 1 at the "Logical Leadership" event presented by the University of the Cumberlands and the Forcht Group of Kentucky Center for Excellence in Leadership. Several thousand people attended the convocation to hear Carson give his inspiring testimony.

With God and his mother's constant rejection of excuses, Carson pushed his way to the top and is now making a difference in the world and in people's lives and showing others what it takes to become a true leader.

One highlight of Carson's career includes the first and only successful separation of Siamese twins joined at the back of the head in 1987. Carson holds more than 60 honorary doctorate degrees and has received literally hundreds of awards and citations. He is a member and sits on the board of directors of numerous organizations. He was even appointed in 2004 by President George W. Bush to serve on the President's Council on Bioethics.

As motivational speaker who, he has traveled the country to speak with various audiences and has even spoken twice at the President's National Prayer Breakfast. He was a keynote speaker in the President's National Prayer Breakfast this past February and his speech quickly went viral, leaving many people wondering if he would ever run for president of the United States.

"It is not on my bucket list," explained Carson. "I do realize that our country is in a lot of trouble. One of the biggest challenges that our country faces is our national debt, which is \$17.5 trillion."

"Most people cannot comprehend this amount. Hopefully someone will come along who really catches fire and really understands the Constitution and understands freedom."

"They need to understand why we are here. In that case, I'd just stand behind that person. If that doesn't happen, I would have to give serious consideration to it," Carson said. (CU)

## WMU

Continued from page 1

Bryant is retired after serving more than 30 years with Kentucky state government, including work in the governor's office.

Shelby Castlen served on the Kentucky WMU Executive Board from 2012-14 as a member from Region 8. She and her husband, Jim, served as International Mission Board missionaries for 18 years in the Philippines and Australia.

They have recently retired from service with the Three Forks Baptist Association, where Jim Castlen served as director of missions and Shelby Castlen served as the ministry assistant.

Shelby Castlen also served at Clear Creek Baptist Bible College as development director. She is a volunteer with Disaster Relief and has led mission trip to Russia, China, Honduras, Brazil, Tanzania, Romania and Haiti.

She is a member of Big Creek Baptist Church in Hazard.

Cathy Mattingly, recording secretary, is a member of West Broadway Baptist Church in Louisville. Mattingly served on the executive board from 2008-11 and was chairperson of the bylaws and policy committee. She leads Girls in Action in her church and also serves as



Susan Bryant

associational GA consultant and WMU secretary.

Mattingly is a volunteer with Friendship International and has been involved with numerous local ministries.

Cheryl Hatfield was appointed by outgoing president Linda Cooper as the new development specialist, replacing Twyla Sheffield who served in this position for eight years.

Hatfield and her husband, Jay, serve with Central Baptist Association and Willisburg Baptist Church. She is retiring from teaching school.

Hatfield previously served as recording secretary from 2006-10 and as a member of the executive board from Region 7 (2003-05, 2012-14).

As development specialist, Hatfield will serve as an ex officio member of the Kentucky WMU Executive Board and will lead fundraising efforts on behalf of Kentucky WMU and the Heritage Fund, an endowment established in 1990.

Others elected to serve on the executive board include 24 regional representatives—three from each of the eight regions of the Kentucky Baptist Convention—and two additional ex officio members. Elected regional representatives include:

**Region 1:** Linda Alexander, Cindy Hurley, Pat Bush;

**Region 2:** Peggy Leach, Jan Powell, Diane Thacker;

**Region 3:** Sharon Givens, Julia Devore, Lauri Warden;

**Region 4:** Lisa Crenshaw, Suzanne



Wanda Lee, Woman's Missionary Union president, addresses the newly-elected members of the Kentucky WMU Executive Board during its annual meeting last weekend at Central Baptist Church in Winchester. (Robin Cornet Bass/WR)

Barrett, Melissa Logsdon-Young;

**Region 5:** Patricia Callan, Kim Duvall, Linda Netherly;

**Region 6:** Linda Lee, Lenna Walton, Fay Royalty;

**Region 7:** Rebecca Carnell, Connie Wise, Georgia Burton;

**Region 8:** Kimberly Blanton, Claudia Greenwood, Alison Holbrook;

Serving as ex officio are Baptist Nursing Fellowship President Donna Mitchell and RA/Challengers Representative Rick Gastineau.

"We are grateful for the service of the

Kentucky WMU officers and board members," said Joy Bolton, executive director of Kentucky WMU. "Our board gives oversight to our work and provides valuable insights from across our state. The board handles details like budgets and personnel matters allowing us to have an annual meeting that is inspirational and completely missions focused."

"We are blessed by the wealth of experience and commitment to the work of Kentucky WMU that our officers and Executive Board members bring to our work," Bolton said. (WR)

# Kentucky forward takes his 'solid' faith into Final Four matchups

By Tim Ellsworth

**Arlington, Texas**—When he took the court in Final Four matchups with Wisconsin and University of Connecticut, Kentucky forward Julius Randle was close to home.

The freshman star who has led the eight-seeded Wildcats to an unlikely Final Four berth is a graduate of Prestonwood Christian Academy in Plano, Texas, just down the road from AT&T Stadium in Arlington. PCA is a ministry of Prestonwood Baptist Church.

"Julius is a great young man who is solid in his faith," Jack Graham, pastor of Prestonwood Baptist Church, said. "He and his mother, Carolyn, have an incredible bond, and it is wonderful to see how he is devoted to her. Julius loves his family, and he loves his family at PCA, where he was a good student for six years."

The 6-foot-9, 250-pound Randle averaged 15.1 points and 10.7 rebounds per game for Kentucky and leads the nation in double-doubles (games in which a player has double digits in both points and rebounds) with 24. He posted double-doubles in the first four NCAA tournament wins.

Some experts are projecting Randle to be a top-five pick in the NBA draft in June.

On multiple occasions, Randle has publicly expressed his faith in God and his love for the Bible.

"Depending on whether it's a home game, I go to the team chapel," Randle wrote in a blog article on Coach John Calipari's website. "That's just something that's important to me that I spend time hearing God's word before I go out and play."

Even as a 15-year-old in high school,

Randle was willing to talk about his faith in the Lord. In a video interview with ScoutsFocus, Randle said God was "my everything" and that he appreciated the devotionals his PCA coach held for the team.

"He keeps us into the Bible and into the word constantly," Randle said.

As a senior at PCA, Randle led the team to the Texas 5A state title, even though he missed much of the season with a broken foot. He returned from the injury sooner than he expected and scored 34 points in the championship game.

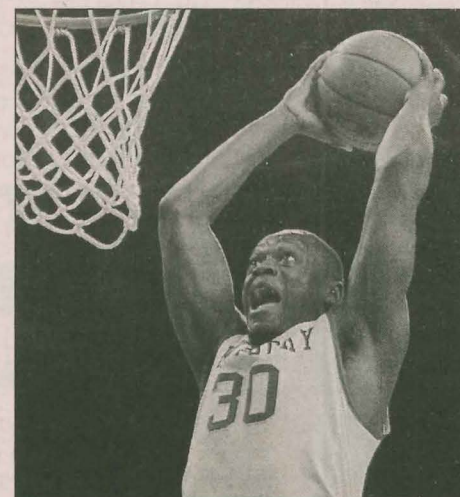
"Honestly, I just think it was a blessing from God," Randle said in an article at coachcal.com about the experience. "He gave me the power to go out there and do that stuff. I don't know how I did it, but it happened. It was definitely God

working through me."

Larry Taylor, head of school at PCA, said one of his favorite memories of Randle took place off the basketball court.

"I asked Julius to speak at a Student Leadership Institute National Conference, where I heard him publicly proclaim Jesus as his Lord and Savior," Taylor said. "He graduated PCA having achieved many personal and team accolades, including meeting his goal of a GPA above 3.0. But I will always think of Julius as simply a kind and caring young man."

"I truly love the joy that you see in Julius, regardless of what he's doing," Graham added. "He has a great smile, an infectious smile, that now the entire country has noticed. I am confident that Julius will honor Christ with his life and incredibly bright future." (BP)



University of Kentucky forward Julius Randle says it's important for him to spend time reading the Bible before games. (Chet White/UK Athletics)

## Golden Gate Seminary sells campus, initiates relocation

By Ben Skaug

**Mill Valley, Calif.**—Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary has reached a sale agreement for all its campus property in Mill Valley, Calif., and has initiated relocation of its primary campus to Southern California.

President Jeff Iorg announced the agreement with North Coast Land Holdings. The seminary's board of trustees approved the sale agreement unanimously.

"The final sale agreement will result in resources for a new primary campus in Southern California, a new commuter campus in the Bay Area to continue to service this area, as well as a substantial addition to the seminary's

endowment," Iorg reported.

"This is an unprecedented opportunity to build a new kind of seminary campus for education in the 21st century," Iorg said. "We are seizing the moment to focus on fulfilling our mission in bold, innovative new ways."

Full details about the sale agreement will be announced after the sale is finalized.

The terms of the sale will enable the seminary to remain fully operational during the transition. The seminary will lease back the Mill Valley Campus property and continue present operations for at least two more academic years. After that, the seminary will operate a new commuter-style campus in the Bay Area, much like its current

Southern California Campus.

The decision to build a new primary campus in Southern California reflects church and population demographic projections for that region. The new seminary campus will be in the center of the largest area of projected population growth in the American West—also meaning the center of church planting and ministry development in the region.

Iorg assured students currently enrolled at the Mill Valley Campus will be allowed to complete their degrees before the seminary relocates. Iorg also said the seminary will work closely with those who cannot finish their degrees in the allotted time to assure degree completion. (BP)

## Sudanese refugees

Continued from page 1

decent well. The food never lasts long enough. Some water tanks have been dry for days. Families are living under U.S. AID tarps. Orphaned children are trying to survive alone."

Webb estimated nearly 100,000 South Sudanese refugees living in a series of camps. They have fled to Uganda to escape violence from civil unrest that's been raging since December in their home country.

The United Nations has reported an outbreak of hepatitis E that has affected thousands of the refugees. The UN also has reported mass casualties from the violence in South Sudan.

Webb said one of the refugees he talked to likened the tribal violence in South Sudan to two bull elephants fighting, crushing the people caught between them.

"These words sum up the despair of tens of thousands of displaced refugees," Webb said. "Our team drove over 2,500 kilometers, assessed 20 refugee camps, and witnessed the tragic deprivation of more than 100,000 displaced people. The vast majority of these driven from their homes and living in these hopeless camps were women and children."

Webb recommended that Baptist Global Response arrange to have wells drilled for four of the camps the team visited, and possibly a fifth that had

Disaster response team members Larry Hunt (left), Matt Stickel, Coy Webb and Glenn Hickey (right) visit Uganda in March to assess needs in refugee camps. They recommended a variety of measures to improve quality of life for refugees, including drilling wells to provide clean drinking water. (Kentucky Baptist Disaster Relief photo)



nearly exhausted its water supply.

Members of the team also urged distribution of "Mamma Kits" filled with birthing supplies for pregnant women who would be delivering in the refugee camps and mosquito nets to protect refugees from the biting insects at night. They also called for soap and laundry detergent, women's sanitary cloths, hoes and seeds for planting, and supplies specifically for the elderly and disabled who have arrived at the camps.

The team said trauma chaplains are needed in the camps to focus on the needs of women and children who have been exposed to violence and bloodshed. Ministers need bicycles or motorcycle taxis for transportation to the camps.

Volunteers are needed to help build shelters for the more vulnerable people in the camps. And the team recommended partnering with Vapor Sports Ministries or Rawling Sports to provide athletic equipment for children living in the camps.

The struggles of the refugees and the South Sudan unrest is getting little media attention, which means people who could help are unaware of the need.

"The media has moved on to the crisis in the Ukraine and other breaking stories," Webb said. "Fighting in Sudan is old news, and those in the camps feel forgotten and forsaken."

Webb said he promised the refugees that he wouldn't forget them, "that I

would lift their needs to the God of glory and share their story with followers of Christ."

He is calling on Christians in the U.S. to pray for the people of South Sudan, for missionaries serving in the region, and for God to use this time of brokenness to awaken people to the Good News of Christ.

Webb urged Christians give to help the refugees who have so little.

"A gift through Baptist Global Response or Kentucky Baptist Disaster Relief of \$25 could provide a hoe and seed to a mother trying to feed her hungry children in a camp. A gift of \$500 could provide blankets, care kits, and hope to the elderly living under tarps. A gift of \$10,000 could drill a borehole providing clean water to an entire settlement. Your continued support of the Cooperative Program, through your local church, enables missionaries and ministries like Kentucky Baptist Disaster Relief to offer help, healing, and hope to the hurting."

Webb also called on Christians to urge their churches to reach out to tribes in South Sudan and others around the world who are waiting for someone to bring them the hope of Christ.

"My heart was broken over the need that I witnessed," Webb said, "and I was reminded of a word from Isaiah: 'And if you offer yourself to the hungry, and satisfy the afflicted one, then your light will shine in the darkness, and your night will be like noonday.'" (KBC)

**'Worthy' of our calling**

Editor's note: David Milburn, first vice president of the Kentucky Baptist Convention and pastor of Union Baptist Church in Union, is this week's guest columnist in place of KBC

**Together  
We are the KBC**

Executive Director Paul Chitwood.



Paul Chitwood

My 10-year-old daughter and 3-year-old son recently found themselves in a bit of a disagreement that sent my son off into the other room crying.

As he turned and fled, she said, "You're acting like a little baby!"

He stopped in his tracks, quickly dried the tears, stared her down with intense confidence, and said, "I AM NOT A BABY! 'Cause dad says I'm a super-hero and if dad says I'm a super-hero then that's what I am!"

My son's confidence arose from my affirmation of him each time he had achieved a "big boy" accomplishment in life. You see, my encouragement to this admirer of all things super-hero was to say, "Great job! You are a true super-hero!" It was clear, in this moment of confidence before his big sister, that the voice of his father had given him assurance in knowing just who he was.

In Ephesians 1:5, the apostle Paul encourages the church with a reminder of our identity as the blood-bought followers of Christ—we are adopted as "children of God."

In Ephesians 4:1, Paul uses our position in Christ, as he had established in chapters 1-3, to challenge our walk with Christ when he calls us to "live lives worthy" of our calling. The word "worthy" literally speaks of "an equal or balanced weight." The point is powerful—the weight of our lives is meant to live up to the weight of our calling. What a great reminder of our calling—to live holy and pleasing lives to the Lord that measure up in weight to the high calling we have as children of the one true King.

Such a calling does not make us a super-hero. Our frailty and imperfections certainly remind us of this fact day after day (Romans 3:23). And yet, while our high calling does not grant us super-hero status, it should fill us with a passion and a desire to love and please the Holy God who has called us to salvation and sanctification in Christ Jesus.

My friends, we are living in tough days. As we speak for and live for Christ, we are increasing maligned, mocked, and persecuted, and yet, we must remain firm in our proclamation of the truth of the gospel. Rest assured, the world considers us fools for all we hold dear.

In these times, it is necessary to be reminded of who we are and to Whom we belong. No matter what this world calls us, as followers of Christ, may we humbly and confidently walk in the assurance of our heavenly Father's voice, Who has called us "children of the King" (1 John 3:1).

Paul Chitwood is executive director of the Kentucky Baptist Convention.

**Peace in the midst of crisis**

By Frank Page

On Tuesday morning, March 25, I had the privilege of speaking with Vyacheslav Nesteruk, president of the Baptist Union of Ukraine. A fellow Baptist who works in Ukraine helped facilitate the phone call and served as our translator. Vyacheslav is a faithful servant of Christ. It was a wonderful conversation between brothers in the Lord.

During our conversation, I expressed my prayerful support for pastor Nesteruk and let him know that I would be calling on all Southern Baptists to pray for our Baptist brothers and sisters in Ukraine as they minister in the midst of a national crisis.

Russia's seizure of Crimea and subsequent military build-up on the border of Eastern Ukraine has implications beyond just the politics of the moment. This is a spiritual crisis of the highest order.

After speaking on a number of points of mutual interest, we discussed specific prayer requests. Brother Nesteruk specifically asked Southern Baptists to pray for the following:

- That there would be no war in Ukraine, but peace.
- That there would be a sense of peace in the hearts of Ukrainian people, rather than a sense of unrest or anxiety.
- For the economic situation, as sanctions imposed by Russia have already begun making life difficult in Ukraine.
- Most of all, that people would be open to the gospel and actively seek the gospel during these troubled times.

These prayer requests take on special meaning when we think about Ukraine's history.

Ukraine suffered horrific deprivation, starvation and oppression throughout most of the twentieth century. Lenin's harsh rule of the early 1920s was followed by Stalin's reign of terror in pre-WWII Ukraine. Beginning in 1929, thousands of Ukrainian scholars, scientists, cultural and religious leaders were falsely accused of plotting insurrection against Russia and were either shot without a trial or deported to prison camps in remote areas of Russia.

The following year, when private property was seized and farms "collectivized," about 10 million Ukrainians were forcibly removed from their homes. Many were put on railroad cars and deported to the wilderness of Siberia. Stalin's forced starvation of Ukraine in 1932-1933 resulted in as many as 7 million Ukrainian deaths. Our Ukrainian Baptist brothers and sisters were not exempt from these horrible events. Churches were destroyed and entire congregations perished

from the face of the earth.

When Germany invaded Ukraine during World War II, things went from terrible to even worse. The German army drove the Russians inch by bloody inch across the countryside. Hundreds of thousands of noncombatants were killed or left homeless.

A few years later, Russia fought to regain its lost territory.

The retreating German army wreaked even more havoc, destroying every standing structure—homes, churches, businesses—in every village.

Those Baptists who managed to survive the war continued to experience persecution during 45 more years of Communist rule.

With the fall of the Iron Curtain in 1989, a new wave of spiritual hope flooded the land. Despite continuing economic struggles, Baptists have seen family and friends come to faith in Christ, have rebuilt churches all across the country, and experienced a rising tide of religious liberty.

The heart-rending hymns of suffering and persecution that dominated the 20th century churches have been replaced with vibrant songs of joy and deliverance during these 25 years.

The spiritual significance and importance of the Baptist ideal of a free church in a free state cannot be overstated!

The Baptist worker who translated our conversation to me this is indeed a special spiritual time. Almost all of the Ukrainian Baptist churches have been joining in special prayer for the nation during this current crisis. In fact, many have begun gathering in their city squares, hundreds at a time, for a concentrated time of prayer.

In one city in Eastern Ukraine, more than 100 men have begun gathering for prayer every morning at 7 a.m. The same thing is happening in other parts of the country as well. For the first time since the early 1990s when restrictions against evangelism were eased, people are again very open to a gospel witness.

These are days of spiritual receptivity in the Ukraine. Pray for the people there. Pray for our Baptist brothers and sisters as they share the gospel and minister to hurting people in this time of national crisis.

And, as we pray, join me in praying for our own country, that people in the United States will also be open to a gospel witness and that it will not take a crisis of this magnitude to bring us to our realization of our need for the Lord. (BP)

Frank Page is president of the Southern Baptist Convention Executive Committee.

**Guest  
Viewpoint**

Frank Page

**Nearly-wed class: Getting serious about ministering to young adults**

By Diana Davis

If your church is serious about ministering to young adults, here's a fresh idea: Plan an eight-week seminar, titled

**Fresh Ideas**

Diana Davis

"It Takes Three," for engaged or newlywed couples.

■ Prayerfully select eight church members to take turns preparing and presenting a relevant Bible class about an assigned topic, such as communication, intimacy, commitment, parenting and praying

together. Instructors are respected couples or individuals. Their purpose is to teach God's basic principles for

marriage using Bible, multiple handouts and visuals, current technology and personal testimony.

■ Announce dates at least six months ahead, and preregister church members and attendees who are engaged or newly married. Challenge all church members to invite potential participants. Publicize on social media and with a printed brochures that can be placed in local florists, bakeries and wedding shops. Or, maybe rent a booth at your local bridal fair.

■ Use nametags, and be intentional about learning names and needs. Help participants make friends by displaying a photo of each couple. Plan lunches, cookouts and ball games.

■ Most importantly, give them Jesus. Help each person learn to know God

personally. Teachers and church members can share their personal God-story. Encourage couples to attend worship together. If a class member accepts Christ, the entire group can attend the baptismal service. Assure that each person gains a clear understanding of God's eternal plan of salvation and His purpose for their life and marriage.

At the seminar's conclusion, present a certificate and promote the graduates into a current or new small group for young couples.

During big life changes—like marriage—many lost people begin to think about eternal things. Will your church intentionally share Jesus with nearly-weds?

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

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.

## Cooperation: Baptists, ants & swarm intelligence

By David Crosby

Perhaps a long-sought secret to the vitality of the Baptist movement is swarm intelligence, the “collective behavior of decentralized, self-organized systems.”

The most useful metaphor for Southern Baptists’ cooperative work heretofore has been the “rope of sand” introduced by James L. Sullivan in his short book “Rope of Sand with Strength of Steel” in 1974. This metaphor gained prominence in Baptist life and thought as denominational servants and theologians attempted to communicate to Baptists and others how things work in our convention.

Swarm intelligence conveys an upgrade in two ways. First, it is a biblical metaphor:

*Go to the ant, you sluggard;  
consider its ways and be wise!  
It has no commander,  
no overseer or ruler,  
yet it stores its provisions in summer  
and gathers its food at harvest.  
(Proverbs 6:6-8)*

Baptists definitely fit in the “no commander, no overseer or ruler” group. We are fiercely independent. All our churches, entities and conventions are self-governing and autonomous. Jesus is Lord, of course, just as God is sovereign over the ants. But as far as social and business structures are concerned, Baptists have no commander, no pope or bishops.

Second, Baptists are living entities, not inert matter. Ants are an improvement on grains of sand in this regard. Grains of sand do not have even elemental intelligence, volition or initiative. But ants, though not one of the higher life forms, exhibit amazing resolve and purpose. Ants get things done even though they are not hard-wired to a central command.

Ants (and termites and other life forms) circle the project looking for something to do. If they see a grain of sand out of place or a defect in the structure, they immediately go fix it. They seem personally responsible for whatever task they notice. There is scarcely any specialization. Every ant works on the project

independently, and the swarm ends up building extensive and complex living quarters for the colony.

Small robots the size of guinea pigs are now being built which employ this swarm approach, and apparently they are capable of constructing significant projects.

### FIRST PERSON

If one robot breaks, the others keep working without interruption. If a robot is added to the group, it does not change the dynamic. Like termites building tunnels through your house, these swarms of robots work independently and without central coordination or communication. One day such robot swarms may build levees or lay bricks.

Baptists are the ants of the religious world. Our emphasis on the importance of the individual may be our finest contribution to religious thought. We insist that each individual give his or her own answer to God. Parents cannot decide for their children; clerics cannot decide for their parishioners.

We insist that all true faith is voluntary. Hence we are champions of religious liberty. Faith at gunpoint is not faith at all. Freedom of conscience is the fundamental freedom. Each individual soul is competent to respond to God. The ground is level at the cross of Christ. And each believer is competent to be a priest before God. No place in the church is reserved only for the clergy. The church may worship, observe its ordinances, and conduct its business with or without ordained leadership.

All associations in Baptist life are voluntary. Each of our 46,000-plus churches is independent and self-governing. Each of our state and national conventions is also independent. Baptists are a swarm of individuals and independent churches working on inspiring projects for Kingdom advance.

The key to maximizing the energy and initiative of a swarm is turning them loose and staying out of their way. Any effort to centralize control thwarts the whole system.

People have asked for years how such independent-thinking Baptists ever got anything done. We can reply: “Consider the ant!” (BP)

David Crosby is pastor of First Baptist Church of New Orleans.

## How couples approach one another

By Valerie Vincent

How couples approach one another is essential. The manner in which one spouse speaks to the other is very important.

Tone of voice, facial expressions, word content, body language all can communicate absolute derision. If the word content is incongruent with tone, facial expression, body language, then the non-verbal communication carries significantly more weight and the content will not be credible.

Often couples will declare their goal for communication is to share their side or explain their view so that they as a couple can get along or have better communication. Yet, the manner in which they communicate is so divisive that the more accurate goal would be to tear down or get the upper hand.

We can become very frustrated that others do not respond to our needs and instead deal with us in anger. This tends to happen because we fail to voice our real needs clearly and instead use blame, sarcasm, silence and pouting as tools of communication.

For some, this leads toward martyrdom and thoughts of “I am alone. My spouse does not care about me. I am so angry that I just want to hurt my spouse.”

When we feel hurt or injured emotionally, we tend to strike out. Sometimes this is backhanded.

If you want to experience responses of love, care, sensitivity, kindness, thoughtfulness, then you must pay attention to how you approach and how you speak to your spouse.

Each of us is responsible for our behavior in this way. There is no excuse or exception for this.

Valerie Vincent is a Christian counselor with Hardy Day & Associates in Louisville.

## Lessons I learned in choir rehearsal

By Joe McKeever

*“Come before Him with joyful singing”  
(Psalm 100:2).*

During the time I sang with the choir at our church, I loved singing for the worship service, but had to make myself go to rehearsal.

Rehearsing songs—whether for church or school assembly or for the juke joint down the street—is hard work.

Gradually, I began to see some patterns forming. Eventually, those shapes merged to form life-lessons that have remained with me all these years.

### I do not like new songs.

The minister of music would say, “Joyce, pass out the new music,” and I would cringe. I did not read music and did not do well trying to negotiate my way around these clotheslines of black-birds. The piano is picking out the melody of the song and I’m working to get it. This is no fun. It’s work.

But a funny thing happened. The following week, when the director passed out that music for the second time, I was interested in that piece. It had possibilities. And the third week, I kind of liked it. By the fourth week, I was in love with it and had been humming it all week.

But you know what happened, I expect. At rehearsal, the minister handed out some new music once again.

And again, I cringed. “I hate learning new music.”

### We sound better together than we do separately.

Even the good singers, when called on to do a little solo in rehearsal to help the others, were not all that great. And of course, I was the very definition of mediocre. But a funny thing happened. When we all joined our voices together, the result was something magical.

I wonder if that’s the reason for church. We work better and worship better and pray better in concert with brothers and sisters than we do alone.

### I sing better and learn faster when standing near a good singer.

Larry Andrews, our minister of music, would place the non-music-reading singers next to solid singers. And we would pick up the notes from them. Later, once we got the hang of the song, we could stand anywhere.

Encouragers and examples to those who are new to the faith are worth their weight in gold.

### Singing can transform your mood.

That 100th Psalm calls for us to “enter His gates with thanksgiving.” There is the clue as to how to “come before Him with joyful singing.” We start by giving

thanks to our Lord for His abundant blessings. Do that—“count your many blessings, see what God hath done”—and the darkness of the blues seems to dissipate. Soon, you’re singing and doing so quite well, thank you.

### Those who bless us on Sundays are the ones who did the hard work of rehearsing during the week.

Just this week, a pastor told me about his worship ensemble. “I cannot get them to come to rehearsal. They love to sing on Sunday, but if I announce a rehearsal, only one or two show up.” Not good. I suspect they enjoy gathering fruit from crops they did not plant or cultivate, too. That kind of laziness is common. Something inside me feels the same way.

Rehearsing is work. But for those who know how transforming an hour of worship with God’s people can be, it’s an investment of faith.

When done right, a rehearsal for worship is also a time of worship.

Many a time, I have left the choir rehearsal with my spirit lifted and my heart full. The fellowship with friends was great. Some of us hugged one another, and we laughed a lot. We fell in love with some songs and learned to express our love for our Savior more with them.

### Singing is as much a faith enterprise as praying or giving.

Anytime we do anything by

faith—believing, worshiping, giving, praying, going, serving—we do so regardless of what we have or do not have, what we know or still question, those nagging doubts and the discouragement from others. The operative word is “regardless.”

When we pray or drop our offering into the plate, we do so regardless of seeing the results in our lifetime. And with singing to others, in church or assembly or a classroom or nursing home, we must not look for immediate results.

Paul and Silas showed us how this is done in Acts 16:25. Beaten and their wounds left untreated, then locked into stocks in the interior of the Philippian jail,

they began to pray and sing hymns. “And the prisoners were listening to them.”

They’re always listening to us sing.

In the case of Paul and Silas, God did some amazing things that night, all of them instigated by their faith-singing.

What will He do with your singing? I have no idea. But count on it, friend, He will use it for His glory.

So, go ahead. Join with me now. “I love you, Lord. And I lift my voice, to worship You, O my soul rejoice. Take joy my King, in what you hear. May it be a sweet sweet sound in Your ear.” (BP)

Joe McKeever is a former longtime pastor and former director of missions for the New Orleans Baptist Association



## 10-year-old's story helps purchase DR tools

**Shorewood, Ill.**—The newest pieces of disaster relief equipment for a Baptist association in northern Illinois came from what many might consider an unlikely source: a 10-year-old girl.

Lily Eddington, a fifth-grade student, wanted to help the Three Rivers Baptist Association purchase a new, larger chainsaw for the team to use following the tornadoes that struck the state last November and impacted many communities. To help the team, Eddington put her writing skills to use and wrote a story that garnered more than \$2,000 in donations—enough to purchase a larger chainsaw, another smaller one and other needed safety equipment.

Eddington learned of these specific needs through her grandfather Dan Eddington, the association's director of missions.

"She knew through my father that they needed help raising money for that," Matt Eddington, Lily's dad, said. "And she came up with the idea of writing a story, and he took the idea and kind of ran with it. And it worked out really well."

Lily's grandfather helped her publish the story in booklet form, with her own



Lily Eddington and Three Rivers Disaster Relief leader Ken Cummins picked out a new chainsaw after Eddington wrote a story that raised nearly \$2,000 in donations for disaster relief efforts. (Photo provided by Illinois Baptist)

illustrations. The story centers on a family trapped in their home after a tornado. Eddington's sisters Megan and

Brianna take shelter in the basement with their parents—plus their cat and hamster—but a large tree keeps them trapped inside after the storm passes.

"Then they heard a truck pull up," Eddington wrote. "On the side of the trailer they saw the words, 'Three Rivers Baptist Association Disaster Relief.'"

The story continued, "Suddenly they heard, 'Come on guys, we need to get this tree off the house.'"

Ken Cummins, leader of the association's disaster relief team, could easily be the model for Eddington's fictional rescuer. He often goes wherever a chainsaw is needed. He and Eddington picked out the new Stihl chainsaw.

"We really needed a larger saw on board," Cummins said. Last November, "(The team) came across quite a few (trees) ... that we weren't able to do as easily as we should have because we didn't have the right saw."

Eddington is already working on her next story to help the disaster relief team's mud-out crew. Her grandfather reported she's also working on a story to raise funds for a mission trip to Slovakia, where she will help teach conversational English to kids her age. (BP)

## Disaster relief

*Continued from page 1*

needs with practical help starts their healing process, which leads to a sense of hope that things will be better. This gives us the opportunity to share a different type of hope that is only found in a relationship with Jesus."

That important spiritual element sets SBDR apart from other large relief entities. NAMB has placed the national SBDR team in its Evangelism Group to maintain an intentional evangelistic focus in Baptist relief ministry.

Survivors have asked the question, "Why?" Why would people come help someone they do not know? That question has led to tens of thousands of gospel presentations and thousands of professions of faith in disaster settings.

Innovation and adaptation have marked SBDR efforts across 46 years of service. Need often drove innovation, including the introduction of laundry and shower units and the creation of childcare teams. Southern Baptists' heart of compassion also led to more long-term responses, culminating in the two-year Sandy Rebuild project now underway in New York and New Jersey.

"The disaster relief team at NAMB works not only to coordinate volunteers from across the country to meet physical needs, we also partner with local churches, associations and conventions to be sure both the gospel is shared and that new believers are connected to a body of believers so they can grow as Christ followers," Wilson said.

SBDR has also developed a bridge to Southern Baptist church planting efforts. The strategy is now an integral part of SBDR efforts.

"If there is no local congregation, we work with the NAMB mobilization team to explore the possibility of planting a church in that area," Wilson said. "During the 2013 flooding response in Boulder, Colo., SBDR teams from Oklahoma worked with a church planter, Derek Barnett, so he could meet the families we were helping. This allowed him to build relationships with the families, which will accelerate his ability to start his church plant."

There are approximately 90,000 trained SBDR volunteers from every state Baptist convention and Canada. It is a rare day when there is not an SBDR volunteer working somewhere around the world sharing the gospel in the midst of disaster recovery. (NAMB)

## Volunteer's wife gives back to disaster relief

By Bob Nigh

**Oklahoma City, Okla.**—Christina Kiser has supported and prayed for her husband Dean, who has served for 12 years as a dedicated disaster relief volunteer.

Dean Kiser first volunteered with disaster relief in June 1992 on assignment with an Oklahoma Baptist disaster relief team came after Hurricane Andrew struck the Gulf Coast in August that year.

Following years of service in various disaster relief leadership roles, he now serves as chairman of the North American Mission Board Feeding Committee, which provides oversight for Southern Baptist Disaster Relief feeding operations.

Christina Kiser is thankful for her husband's dedication to disaster relief and his ability to lead volunteer efforts that minister to those in need.

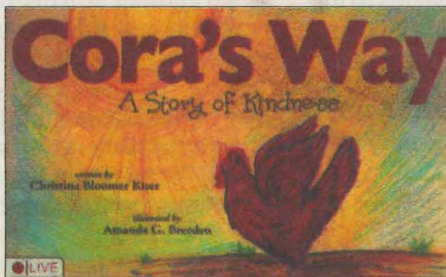
Now, as a retired educator, Kiser has found a way to use her own talents to help those in need as well and educate children about the value of showing kindness to others.

Kiser has published a book, "Cora's Way—A Story of Kindness," in which the title character—a Rhode Island Red hen named Cora—mirrors the actions of disaster relief volunteers by helping others in the flock. The book is illustrated by Amanda Breeden, daughter of Larry Breeden, pastor of First Southern Baptist Church of Arcadia. The Kisers are members of the church.

Through Tate Publishing, Kiser has produced 150 copies of the softcover book. Sales will benefit disaster relief through the Baptist General Conven-

tion of Oklahoma.

"We're going to give all of the proceeds to disaster relief," Kiser said. "This is my opportunity to give a little, because I don't go out on disaster relief with Dean. I think everybody has a mission, a gift. Dean's is organization, and he uses that very well in disaster relief. All I can do is write, so since that is what I can do, I hope this helps somebody else be blessed."



Kiser had written dozens of the Cora stories during her 30-year career with the Oklahoma City Public Schools. In that role she served as curriculum coordinator and consultant before moving on as an elementary school principal for 17 years. This is the first one of her Cora stories that has been illustrated and published.

"The book is Amanda's initial professional debut as an illustrator," Kiser said. "I felt really blessed that she would take the time out of her busy schedule to do this, because she spent hours watching and taking photos of the birds to make sure she was doing it correctly. Just to see a young person interested in doing something for the Lord very visibly and very intently was cool."

Cora's Way has a theme verse of Proverbs 11:25, "He who refreshes others will himself be refreshed."

The dedication page reads: "This story is dedicated to the men and women who volunteer for the Southern Baptist Disaster Relief Teams."

"Their sacrifice of time and service brings encouragement and hope to individuals who need practical demonstrations of God's love. They will tell you that it is their privilege to serve the

Lord by helping others."

Kiser said, "I was inspired to write it because many disaster relief volunteers take Proverbs 11:25 to heart. We're trying to teach children that kindness becomes a habit; it's something that you do for others, but you also internalize it, and you find yourself enjoying being kind to others. I was trying to think of a way to show that."

"If children are exposed to stories and deeds of sacrificial giving as they grow up, it is more probable that they will choose to do the same kinds of things as adults. The story of Cora can be a springboard for discussion about disaster relief, mission trips and other kinds of service," Kiser said.

In the book, Cora shows her love for the flock by helping in various ways.

"This is an opportunity to be of service, and I feel like the Lord was pushing me to do something. You can only sit back and watch so long."

The book is available at Amazon.com or by calling Kiser at (405) 760-9698. (BP)

KENTUCKY  
BAPTIST  
FOUNDATION

KENTUCKY BAPTIST FOUNDATION  
PRESIDENT SEARCH COMMITTEE  
P.O. BOX 436389  
LOUISVILLE, KY 40253-6389

The board of directors is seeking a person to serve as  
**President & CEO of the Kentucky Baptist Foundation.**

Interested persons may obtain a packet of information  
relevant to the job and qualifications at:  
[www.kybaptistfoundation.org/about](http://www.kybaptistfoundation.org/about)

*Resumes should be mailed to the above address on or before May 1.*

## Church near Fort Hood leans on prayer

By Jerry Pierce

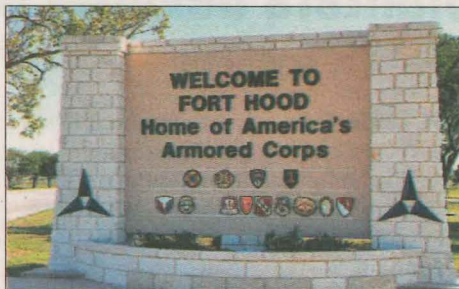
**Killeen, Texas**—On April 2, after a lone gunman at Fort Hood reportedly killed three people and injured 16 others before turning the gun on himself, members of Skyline Baptist Church in Killeen, Texas, gathered to pray for those impacted by the tragedy.

A few church members were unable to attend the prayer gathering because of a base-wide security lockdown. Army Maj. Kevin Thompson, an officer at Fort Hood, serves as co-interim pastor of the church along with an Army chaplain, also from the base, and left the post about 20 minutes before the shooting. According to media reports, the shooter was being evaluated for post-traumatic stress disorder.

A 25-minute prayer service, heavily focused on the shootings, preceded the evening Bible study.

"It was kind of conversational and people were telling details of conversations they had with those they knew on the base or the latest of what they had heard on the news," Thompson told the Southern Baptist TEXAN. "Generally we were praying for the victims and their families and that somehow God would find a way to prompt people to call out to Him through this incident, no matter how horrific."

Thompson said the prayer time, as usual, involved groups of two or three gathered together, pleading in prayer.



Skyline Baptist Church in Killeen, Texas, holds prayer service for those impacted by the Fort Hood shooting. (BP)

Church members said they knew of no one from the church who was shot, but the unit of one of the church members was directly affected by the tragedy.

"There's going to be a lot of anguish, particularly this time," Thompson said, alluding to past incidents at the base, including the 2009 shooting at Fort Hood that claimed the lives of 13 and left 32 others injured. Army psychiatrist Maj. Nidal Hasan was found guilty of the shooting and is awaiting the death penalty.

"From a spiritual standpoint, pray that people realize that you never know when your time is," Thompson added, "and that they would trust Christ before it is too late."

Elaine Clark, a longtime Killeen resident and former Killeen school counselor, was teaching AWANA at Skyline when the story broke.

About half of the children and adult

volunteers were absent because they live on Fort Hood—home to more than 45,000 soldiers, families and personnel—and weren't able to leave, she said.

"Children have questions and they need to be answered," said Clark, who noted that last night, appropriately, they were studying and memorizing 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18: "Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you."

After Clark explained to a girl the importance of knowing God is always in control, even in danger, she responded: "You know God sent Jesus to die for that man," the girl said of the shooter.

"That just spoke to my heart how God speaks even to these little ones in these terrible times," Clark said.

Clark said she has a community of friends on Facebook that she's in frequent contact with who have ties to Killeen and Fort Hood, and that prayers are being sent up for the survivors, the families of the victims, and for the family of the shooter.

"That family has a lot to go through and I'm sure they will have questions that will never be answered," she said.

Clark said prayers are needed for children in the Killeen-Fort Hood area, that "they would cross paths with people who will share Jesus with them and that God loves them and He is with us even when we are afraid. ... They don't have to be afraid with Jesus as their friend." (BP)

## 8.2 earthquake 'rattles' Chile; calls for prayer



By Maria Elena Baseler

**Santiago, Chile**—IMB missionaries in Chile are asking Southern Baptists to pray following an 8.2-magnitude earthquake that rattled the country's northern city of Iquique April 1. Some expressed thanks to God that the damage wasn't worse.

"Praise the Lord that Chile is very prepared for earthquakes," said IMB's Chita Drinkard, who serves in Santiago, Chile's capital. Drinkard endured a similar 8.8-magnitude quake that rocked Santiago in 2010, and said Chileans are familiar with the country's frequent seismic activity.

"Even so, the terror of going through an earthquake of this magnitude can affect one for a long time, so please continue to pray," she added.

Tuesday's quake caused landslides, damage to buildings, power outages and triggered a small tsunami; at least six people have been confirmed dead.

The earthquake's epicenter in the Pacific Ocean was about 60 miles northwest of Iquique, where International Mission Board missionaries Cathy and Lee Zwink serve.

The Zwinks are currently on state-side assignment in Colorado.

"Pray for our brothers and sisters in Christ in northern Chile following the 8.2 earthquake off the coast of Iquique," the Zwinks posted on their Facebook page. "Pray that our Lord's grace and mercy will be poured down on our country (Chile) and be shared with all those affected by the quake."

No other IMB personnel live in the quake zone. The nearest IMB missionaries are Bryan and Deana Wolf in the coastal city of La Serena, about 800 miles south of Iquique. They and most other IMB missionaries in Chile didn't even feel the quake, said Bob Shirey, IMB's logistics coordinator for Chile.

This latest earthquake was the most powerful temblor to rock Chile since Feb. 27, 2010, when an 8.8-magnitude quake shattered central Chile. That quake and a subsequent tsunami claimed the lives of 524 people.

"More than anything, pray for the people to be calm and to have their hearts turned to the Lord for their needs," said Jackie Bursmeyer, a veteran IMB missionary in Chile who experienced both the 2010 earthquake and an earlier 8.0-magnitude temblor in the coastal city of Vina del Mar in 1985. (BP)

## 'Where was God?' documentary shares miracles amid disaster

**Oklahoma City**—A new documentary explores the role of faith and hope in overcoming life's storms through the eyes of survivors of the devastating tornadoes in Moore, Okla., and Joplin, Mo.

"Where Was God? Stories of Hope After the Storm," showings will be available after May 16 throughout the country via the documentary's website at wherewasgod.com.

"Our goal with this film is to showcase faith, hope and the ability to overcome after life's storms—whether they be literal or figurative," said Steven Earp, the film's executive producer and pastor at Elevate Church in Oklahoma City.

"We want to remind people that God is always near, no matter what. There is not a single thing that we could ever go through that our heavenly Father does not understand, and there is not a single dark place that He has not already walked," Earp said.

The documentary—directed, produced, edited and filmed in Oklahoma—follows the stories of survivors, parents, children, first responders and volunteers who share the devastating and miraculous events that changed their lives.

The Baptist General Convention of Oklahoma, fellow churches and various faith-based groups and companies partnered with "Where Was God?" filmmakers in the making of the documentary.

"In May of 2013, Oklahoma was devastated by a series of massive tornadoes, which resulted in the loss of life," Anthony Jordan, the Oklahoma convention's executive director-treasurer, said. "We did not lose hope amid this tragedy, and God showed Himself faithful. The stories contained within this docu-

mentary, which the BGCO is helping fund and promote, show how God is always at work and how the gospel of Jesus Christ is ultimately the only safe shelter."

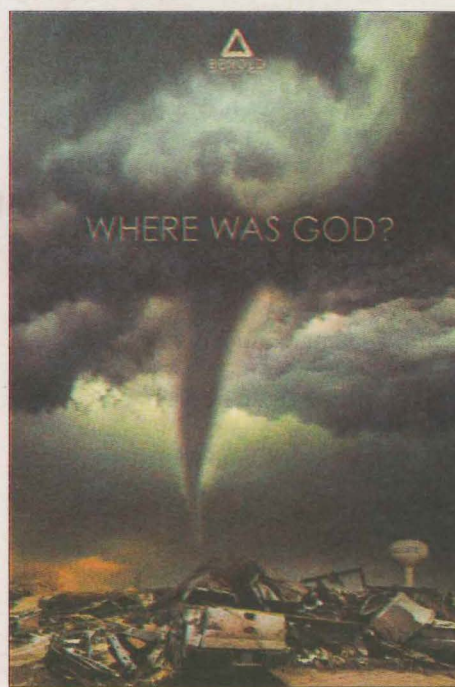
Sam Porter, state director for Oklahoma Baptist Disaster Relief, makes an appearance in the film. He is featured giving his perspective of what happened last year in the aftermath of the Moore tornado.

"It is a gripping story," said Porter. "One of the cool things about the movie is it helps see the Fatherhood of God, which makes it a great movie for men and men's ministries. It is a movie that churches can recommend, take people to see. Individuals who have experienced loss in their lives will be impacted. I believe it can lead people to the Lord."

Karen Marinelli, first grade teacher at Plaza Towers Elementary School, shares her experience protecting three little boys in her classroom. Marinelli's tailbone was shattered as she used her body to protect her students.

"I literally just squeezed my eyes shut as tight as I could, and I buried myself on top of those kids," Marinelli said. "The wall fell down and it was just so crushing of a feeling. I immediately thought we're gone, we're going to die. I just kept praying, please keep us safe—please help me to breathe. I continuously prayed that we would make it through and that the weight of the wall wouldn't come down anymore."

Kayla Carmona, a 15-year-old survivor of the 2011 tornado in Joplin, Mo., traveled to Moore with her mother to volunteer and minister to those impacted by the storm and has since moved to Moore



to stay close to the connections she and her family made. Carmona lost her father and younger sister in the Joplin tornado. Her father held up the wall of the church where they took shelter to help others escape from the rubble.

"My dad was holding the building as much as he could with the strength he had," Carmona said. "When he heard that everybody had gone out of the building, he took his last breath. But he didn't forget to tell us that he loved us. To know that my dad would be proud of me is a great relief. It's something that helps me to move forward. Whenever I help others, I feel like that's something he would have done, and if that's something he would have done, he must be proud." (BP)

## Darkness verses Light

### Guiding students to 'be a light in this dark world'

Remember the summer nights of your youth when your mother called you inside either for supper or because it was getting dark? It's amusing as an adult I often desire to get home as soon as I can.

As a child, I didn't want to go to bed at a decent hour. My mother was a stickler for bedtime, and I can remember going to bed while it was still daylight. Angie and I now find ourselves sometimes wanting to put our kids to bed before dark so that we can go to bed or steal a few moments of peace and quiet. It's funny how perspectives change.

I recently attended a home baseball game. For the first four innings or so, our team was getting knocked around pretty good and trailed 13-2, but in the next two innings we rallied and trimmed our opponent's lead to 13-10. Our team had the momentum and really believed they were going to win the game, but there was a significant problem. It was getting dark and our fields do not have lights because they are in a flood zone.

Before the final inning, the umpires suspended the game due to darkness. Our team wanted to continue with their comeback, but it simply wasn't safe. As darkness took over, the game ended. When our team travels to this opponent for a road game, the suspended game will be completed. Perhaps we will continue our rally. Perhaps

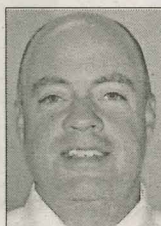
we will lose, but we will get our chance in spite of the previous darkness.

Scripture talks about the evil that men do in darkness, and it also talks about the need for light, The Light, in the world. Darkness caused the young men on our baseball team some grief, and darkness in this world causes us all grief. Many of our students come from dark situations and circumstances. Oneida is a place they can find light and get a fresh start. Even when our students find the Light that is Jesus Christ, they will still be challenged by darkness as they progress through their journey in life.

As our senior class prepares to take a dark world head on, I often wonder if we have done a good enough job of preparing them. Like a father worries about his children, I worry about our students and what will become of them after they leave here. I probably worry about the kids who leave our campus before graduating a little more than those who make it to the finish line with us. In my short time back at Oneida, I have had multiple students ask me about staying on as a staff member after graduating. I encourage them to go meet this dark world head on, experience life, and then call me back down the road. I pray that all of our students will be a light in this dark world.

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

### This is Oneida



Larry Gritton

## 'Cheap' is not the word!

### Ministry training made inexpensive

I recently asked a prospective student how he found out about Clear Creek. It is not unusual for students find us through the Internet. His response was interesting. He said, "When I looked at your prices, I thought it was too cheap to be true for what the college offered and I started to look elsewhere. Now that I am here, I am amazed at what God is doing on this campus."

His response reminded me that a Clear Creek education is not cheap.

#### We are not cheap in quality.

- Seventy-five percent of our faculty members have earned doctorates.
- All of our faculty members are credentialed in their field.
- We are accredited by two accrediting agencies.
- The Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges is the regional body for the accreditation of degree-granting higher education institutions in the southern states.
- The Association for Biblical Higher Education is a North American agency, made of approximately 200 postsecondary institutions throughout North America specializing in biblical ministry formation and professional leadership education.
- Clear Creek Baptist Bible College

carries both of the above accreditations. **We are not cheap in cost.**

■ We do not have a "secret sauce" that makes everything we need to train ministers come cheaply. Education is an expensive business.

■ Though our faculty/staff could make much more elsewhere, personnel is still a great expense.

#### We are inexpensive to our students.

■ A Clear Creek education costs a fraction of what you would expect to pay.

■ Our housing costs less than half what equal quality would cost in the surrounding community.

■ Even our meals cost less than those from area fast food restaurants.

How does it all work? Our answer, without a doubt, is that it's a God thing! God moves on the hearts of His people to support Clear Creek through the Cooperative Program and individual giving, so that our students pay approximately one fourth of the total cost of their education. For every dollar our students pay to go to Clear Creek, someone else pays \$3 toward their education. A Clear Creek education is not cheap, but it is extremely affordable. Thanks for your partnership in ministry.

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

## 'Home-field advantage' helps church planters develop new relationships

By Tobin Perry

**St. Louis**—When Steven Helfrich first sensed God leading him into church planting, he figured it would be in some far-off land where customs would be different and language would be a barrier.

For Matt Bartig, a youth pastor who had served in some of the largest Southern Baptist churches in the United States, returning to his hometown to start a church was inconceivable.

Yet God had other plans for both men. Instead of sending them to be missionaries in a foreign land or distant city, He sent them close to the St. Louis area where both had a home-field advantage.

St. Louis has one Southern Baptist church for every 7,889 people and only 17 percent of the population identify themselves as evangelicals. The metro area is one of 32 cities listed as part of the North American Mission Board's church planting effort called Send North America.

Helfrich had been pastor of a church not far from where he grew up, in Otterville, Ill., when he began to recognize God calling him to plant a church in Alton, Ill., a small town less than 45 minutes from St. Louis. Today, the bi-vocational Helfrich teaches at the elementary school he attended as a boy, and resides in his childhood home.

And with 190 in attendance at The Bridge most weeks, Helfrich is seeing success as a church planter.

Bartig's story also started in the St.

Louis area—where he and his wife Betsy grew up, left and later returned to in 2013 to plant a church. Bartig left the area after graduating from high school in Troy, Mo., a small town of around 10,000 people, located an hour's drive northwest of the Gateway City.

Until God began to tell Bartig otherwise in late 2012, he didn't have a desire to plant a church. As he began to explore the possibility, a friend at First Baptist Orlando connected him to Send North America: St. Louis city coordinator Noah Oldham. As the two talked, Oldham began to share some places in the St. Louis area in need of churches. To Bartig's surprise, Oldham mentioned Troy.

In the fall of 2013, Bartig officially launched North Road Church in Moscow Mills, Mo., just a few miles away from Troy. Today, the church averages more than 260 people in attendance each weekend and added a second service the first week of February.

Since the church's launch last fall, North Road has baptized 16 people.

"I knew the demographic already," Bartig said. "I knew the culture. Nobody had to teach me what the people were like in Lincoln County. Nobody had to tell me what the per capita income was. I grew up here."

(NAMB)

For more information on Send North America: St. Louis, visit <http://www.namb.net/stlouis>.

## Newbell: Ethnic diversity viable in church

By Tom Strobe

**Nashville, Tenn.**—Barriers to ethnic diversity in the church—barriers already torn down by the gospel of Jesus—can be eliminated in practice as Christians shed assumptions and overcome fears, author Trillia Newbell contends.

Newbell, author of "United: Captured by God's Vision for Diversity," said relationships based on a humble desire to understand can be vital in a cause she is passionate about.

"You don't want to assume. You want to ask questions," she said in an online video interview for the Southern Baptist Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission. "It's amazing what we can learn from each other when we are open and willing."

"(Race) can be kind of a touchy topic, but it doesn't have to be," Newbell said. "When we start talking about it, it will help break these divides and barriers, especially with Christians because there isn't one, there shouldn't be one."

Newbell noted the gospel has eradicated such divisions for Christ followers. "Only in the body of Christ can two people be different and yet the same (equal in creation, equal in redemption). Jesus' blood breaks the divide that so often entangles us," Newbell said.

Despite the gospel and God's celebration of the diversity in humanity, "the problem with the current church model and experience for most of us is that while we affirm these truths with our lips, Sunday morning reveals a different story," she said.

When she became a Christian, she grew to understand being black "wasn't even my first identity," she writes in her book. "And though the richness of that truth took some time to sink in, I had become first a Christian, then a black woman."

She also benefited greatly from deep relationships with two young Christian women—one white and one Chinese. Those friendships fleshed out for her the ethnic diversity of the body of Christ and form much of her personal pilgrimage described in the book.

"True unity is found first through being reconciled to God and then to each other. To walk in that unity arm in arm with people of every tribe and race is to declare to the world that Christ's blood is enough for the fight for racial reconciliation," Newbell said.

Because Christ's salvation of sinners cuts across all ethnicities, "our churches should be the most gracious environments on the planet," she writes. "More than any other place, the church should be more open to and excited about having people unlike themselves."

Churches, especially their leaders, can take intentional steps to foster ethnic diversity, Newbell said. "I think it's important to try to develop a staff that reflects their desire for diversity," she said. "I also think it's important that they talk about it and cast a vision for it to their congregations."

Christians can promote diversity in their families by inviting people of different ethnicities into their homes and teaching children about hospitality. (BP)

## Landslide survivors aided by Baptists

By Joe Conway

**OSO, Wash.**—Northwest Baptist Convention disaster relief volunteers are part of the efforts to aid landslide survivors and emergency workers in north-west Washington.

The Baptist volunteers were activated in late March to provide meals to survivors and emergency workers and to support chaplaincy efforts led by Enio Agüero, North American Mission Board chaplain coordinator for disaster relief.

The landslide left at least 30 people dead and 13 missing.

NAMB Disaster Relief Executive Director Fritz Wilson expressed appreciation for Northwest Baptist volunteers.

"It is great that the Northwest Baptist Convention and the local churches are able to handle this response," Wilson said. "It shows the strength of their commitment and the value of the DR network. We are able to walk alongside them and offer help if they need it."

Wilson pointed to the increasing capability and flexibility robust state conventions bring to Southern Baptist

Disaster Relief efforts. Puget Sound Baptist Association disaster relief team members and other SBDR volunteers served their neighbors in the Oso, Arrington and Darrington communities.

Additional volunteers are responding as needed, said Oso Chapel pastor Gary Ray, who is helping coordinate local ministry efforts.

With the mudslide's death toll, Mountain View Baptist Church's ministry of providing funeral dinners will be active in the coming weeks, pastor Michael Duncan said. The ministry originated some 60 years ago when ladies at the church would host dinners for bereaved families.

"When a logger was killed on the mountain, the wives would host a dinner for the family," Duncan said. "It grew from there."

The ministry has become a central part of Mountain View's community outreach and has expanded to include anyone who requests a funeral dinner.

"Now people value the events," Duncan said. "It allows us to love people when they are suffering." (BP)

## Act of discipleship

**Don't miss the daily opportunities to invest in the lives of others**

The act of discipleship perhaps has different meanings depending on who you speak to and their respective stage in life. I used to think of discipleship in terms of small group studies, perhaps some one on one meetings, and various other Bible studies. When you look at Deuteronomy 6: 7-8 I think we can get a good framework for what the lifestyle of discipleship looks like.

The Bible says, "You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise. You shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes."

Additionally, in the New Testament according to the Great Commission, we are commanded to "go and make disciples."

Each text points to an ongoing lifestyle that is lived out throughout each day. These descriptions certainly point to more than just appointed times of study or small groups. I am a supporter and believer of these practices, but discipleship is much more than

study times.

One of my favorite parts of camp life is the long hours and the real sense of doing life together with our coworkers. Especially during the summer, the schedule runs around the clock for some 10-12 weeks.

During this time, the passage in Deuteronomy certainly comes to mind on how we should function. We are seen by each other at times when we are at our best and at times when we are at our worst.

I think this authenticity is critical and necessary for true discipleship. We must as believers become transparent with each other so that necessary life adjustments take place.

Life is full of opportunities each and every day; don't miss what God has placed in your life to invest in another. Perhaps your most significant discipleship opportunities with others may be in non-traditional times just by doing life with another.

### Crossings Ministries



David Melber

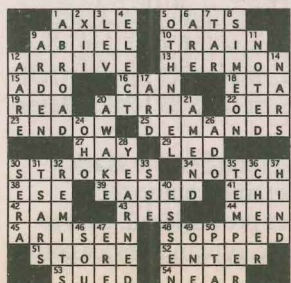
David Melber is president of Crossings Ministries. Contact Crossings at (502) 491-7000 or GoCrossings.com.

## Bible Crosswords

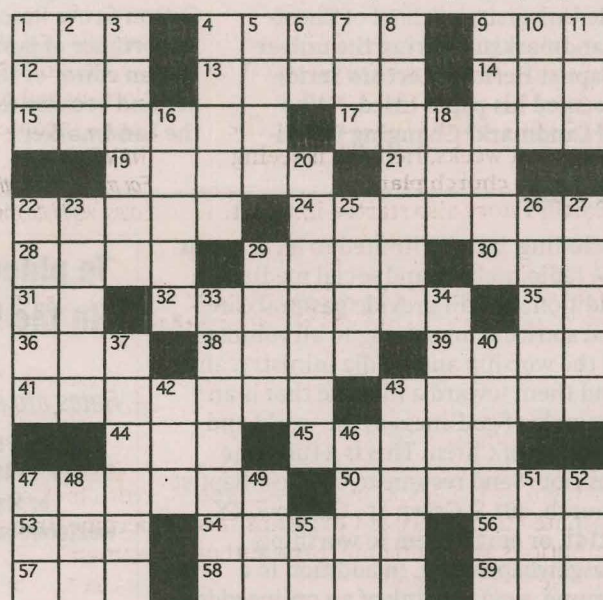
### Across

- 1 Sinful
- 4 "And the Spirit and the \_\_\_\_\_ say, Come" (Revelation 22:17)
- 9 Word in many ranch names
- 12 On the outside (prefix)
- 13 To let slacken
- 14 Put on \_\_\_\_\_ (postpone)
- 15 Rebelled against
- 17 Convalesced
- 19 Friendly and Flintstone
- 21 "Shall I come unto you with a \_\_\_\_\_, or in love" (1 Corinthians 4:21)
- 22 "I give unto you power to \_\_\_\_\_ on serpents" (Luke 10:19)
- 24 "The labour of the righteous \_\_\_\_\_ to life" (Proverbs 10:16)
- 28 Actor William
- 29 Ms. Moreno
- 30 "As it was in the days of \_\_\_\_\_" (Luke 17:26)
- 31 Product safety inits.
- 32 "There was a rainbow ... in sight like unto an \_\_\_\_\_" (Revelation 4:3)
- 35 Western state (abbr.)
- 36 NYC opera house
- 38 "Ye shall eat neither bread nor parched corn, nor green \_\_\_\_\_" (Leviticus 23:14)
- 39 Protest
- 41 Kind of alphabet
- 43 Dispatches
- 44 Requirement for college (abbr.)
- 45 Provides sketchy information
- 47 Spice rack spice
- 50 Like a mule, supposedly
- 53 Miner's pay dirt

#193



By Evelyn Boyington



#194

- 54 "Neither let us \_\_\_\_\_ Christ, as some of them" (1 Corinthians 10:9)
- 56 Actor Louis
- 57 \_\_\_\_\_ & breakfast
- 58 "Foxes have \_\_\_\_\_" (Luke 9:58)
- 59 Oolong, for one
- Down**
- 1 "I remember thee upon my \_\_\_\_\_" (Psalm 63:6)
- 2 Mirror
- 3 "Who maketh thee to \_\_\_\_\_ from another?" (1 Corinthians 4:7)
- 4 To be fruitful
- 5 Comedian Foxx
- 6 Within; toward (prefix)
- 7 "Mine eye also is \_\_\_\_\_ by reason of sorrow" (Job 17:7)
- 8 "The \_\_\_\_\_ God is thy refuge" (Deuteronomy 33:27)
- 9 Implored (arch.)
- 10 Team's "winningest" pitcher
- 11 \_\_\_\_\_ Sea
- 16 Consumed with anger
- 18 Where Cain dwelled: land of \_\_\_\_\_
- 20 "I was dumb with silence ... and my sorrow was \_\_\_\_\_" (Psalm 39:2)
- 22 Tom of Ringling Bros. fame
- 23 "I will make thee \_\_\_\_\_ over many things" (Matthew 25:21)
- 25 Greek letters
- 26 Namely (2 words)
- 27 Gives new life, as Jesus Christ does
- 29 Camino \_\_\_\_\_
- 33 "My soul \_\_\_\_\_ for heaviness" (Psalm 119:28)
- 34 "They that will be rich fall ... into many ... lusts, which \_\_\_\_\_ men in destruction" (1 Timothy 6:9)
- 37 "When the ruler of the feast had \_\_\_\_\_ the water that was made wine" (John 2:9)
- 40 Say okay
- 42 "\_\_\_\_\_ (2 words) with you, saith the Lord" (Haggai 1:13)
- 43 Book divisions
- 46 On cowboy's saddle checklist
- 47 \_\_\_\_\_ Hill, San Francisco
- 48 Office or function (suffix)
- 49 Neon competitor
- 51 Grain
- 52 KJV assent
- 55 Metric measure (abbr.)

## 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:

Todd Deaton, executive editor, Western Recorder

todd.deaton@westernrecorder.org.

Deadline for submissions is April 11.

## YOUR PRIORITY IS MINISTRY...OURS IS GETTING YOU THERE



THE BUS CENTER.COM

Search our Huge Inventory of New & Used Buses

- Nationwide Delivery
- Online Pricing
- Onsite Bus Graphics
- Quick & Easy Leasing or Financing

800-322-4024

KENTUCKY'S PREMIER BUS DEALER  
A DIVISION OF MID-SOUTH BUS CENTER



## April

- 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.
- 11 RISK: Changing the Channel, First Baptist Church, Bowling Green.
- 12 Disaster Relief Training, Pikeville Baptist Church, Pikeville.
- 24 More Than Music, Kentucky Baptist Building, Louisville.
- 24 Ministry Assistant's Conference, Paroquet Springs Conference Center, Shepherdsville.

## MOUNTAINS TO THE MISSISSIPPI

COMPILED BY STAFF

**CAMPBELLVILLE**—Campbellville Church will hold "The Living Lord's Super" April 13, 6 p.m. Campbellville Church also will hold a Seder Meal April 18, 6 p.m. For more information or to make a reservation call, (270) 465-8115.

**Mike O'Neal** is pastor.

**FRANKFORT**—Buck Run will hold a Maundy Thursday Service: Christ in the Passover April 17, 6:30 p.m. **Hershael York** is pastor.

**HODGENVILLE**—First Church will hold Eggstravaganza April 12, 1 p.m. First Church also will present The Story by the music ministry April 13, 6 p.m. **Paul Richey** is pastor.

**LOUISVILLE**—Bethany Church will hold "Witness: Revealing the Power of the Living Christ" Easter cantata April 13, 6:30 p.m. **Ken Vickery** is pastor.

Bethlehem Church will hold an Easter Egg Hunt April 19, 12 p.m. **Steve Thompson** is pastor.

Carlisle Avenue Church will hold their Spring Family Celebration April 12, 11 a.m.

**Brad Walker** is pastor.

Deer Park will hold Maundy Thursday April 17, 6:30 p.m. **David Platt** is pastor.

Fern Creek will hold an Easter Egg Hunt April 12, 1 p.m. **Linda Popham** is pastor.

Melbourne Heights Church will present "O What a Savior" April 13, 6 p.m. **Adam Schell** is pastor.

Parkland will hold a Maundy Thursday Service April 17, 7 p.m. **Tom Curry** is pastor.

St. Matthews Church will hold an Easter Eggstravaganza April 12, 10 a.m. **Greg Barr** is pastor.

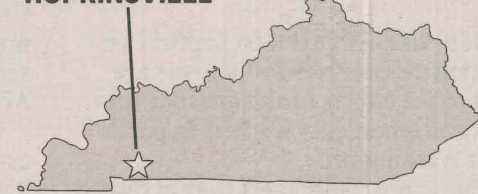
**PADUCAH**—Lone Oak Church will hold a Family Recreation Night April 11, 6 p.m. Lone Oak also will present an Easter musical "The Cross" April 13, 7 p.m., and a Red Cross Blood Drive April 14, 12:30 p.m. **Dan Summerlin** is pastor.

**RUSSELLVILLE**—First Church will hold an Easter cantata April 13, 6 p.m. **Buddy Crabtree** is pastor.

**SOMERSET**—First Church will hold an Easter

## Spotlight on ...

## HOPKINSVILLE



First Church will present Two Crowns by the music ministry April 13, 10:45 a.m.

Eggstravaganza April 16, 5:30 p.m. **French Harmon** is pastor.

**WINCHESTER**—Allansville Church will present their East Passion Play April 18 and 19, 7 p.m. **Ray Coates** is pastor.

## What's happening?

Send church news and association events to:

**Mountains to the Mississippi**

sitha.salyers@westernrecorder.org



## Landmarkism discussion at Campbellville

**Campbellville**—Bart Barber, pastor of First Baptist Church of Farmersville, Texas, and Joe Early Jr., assistant professor of theology in Campbellville University's School of Theology, discuss Landmarkism during the university's recent Baptist Heritage Lecture Series.

Barber presented his paper titled, "Who Moved My Old Landmark? Changing Defini-

tions of Landmarkism in the Early Twentieth Century." Early, in presenting his paper, "The Unofficial Beginning of Landmarkism: The Cotton Grove Resolutions," spoke about the importance of James Robinson Graves, who was an editor of the Tennessee Baptist newspaper and became the founder and champion of the Landmarkers.

## CLASSIFIED ADS

**FOR RENT:** Two condos for rent in Destin, Fla. Two bedrooms, two baths. Only a few weeks left for April-June Book now. lbrammer@charter.net (423)309-4422.

**FOR SALE:** Hammond organ. Home size. Excellent condition. Good for small church. Well maintained. Moving. Must sell. Call (270) 769-0414.

**RESOURCES:** Looking for help with anger management? Our ministry's goal is to help people suffering from the pain of sinful anger. Howard Floss, co-author of "Breaking the Anger Cycle," is available to speak to congregations and marriage workshops about taking steps toward changing behaviors and saving marriages. Visit HowardFloss.com.

**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:** 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:** 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 resúmes for the position of director of missions. Resúmes will be accepted through May 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 resumes 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 resúmes to Ralph Steel, 20 Terri Aire Drive, Mayfield, KY 42066. Resúmes will be accepted through April 15.

**SEEKING:** Seeking pastor or bivocational pastor. Submit resumé to Search Committee, Glen's Creek Baptist Church, 4678 Steele Road, Versailles, KY 40383.

**SEEKING:** Irvington Baptist Church seeks part-time music minister. Must read music, play piano. Experience preferred. Send resumé to Yvonne Kennedy, P.O. Box 101, Irvington, KY 40146, or email yvonnekennedy28@gmail.com.

**SEEKING:** Glasgow Baptist Church is searching for someone with at least three years' experience leading worship in a church. Candidate must have experience leading a team of volunteer musicians and vocalists. Candidate must have a bachelor's degree, preferably in worship and/or ministry. A desire, but not required, would be to have seminary work or degree. Accomplished with at least one instrument and basic knowledge of multiple instruments, strong vocal ability and strong leadership skills. This person will also provide leadership with regard to all church media

including, but not limited to local access TV, radio, website and social media. In addition, he will provide pastoral care and spiritual mentoring to all volunteers in the worship and media ministry, and lead them toward a lifestyle that is an example of godliness to the world and the body of Christ. This is a full-time position. Send resumé to Glasgow Baptist Church, 401 S. Green St., Glasgow, KY 42141, or email them to worship@glasgowbaptist.org. In addition to a resumé, send the link of an online video of you leading worship.

**SEEKING:** Living Hope Baptist Church is seeking part-time music/youth minister. Traditional, Southern Baptist. Contact: bplyesjr@windstream.net.

**SEEKING:** Christian Values Technology Company seeks mature business professionals for high-income opportunity. Home-based office. Hands-on support and apprenticeship-style training. For complete information, call Keith at (888) 395-6557.

**SEEKING:** Fitzpatrick First Baptist Church of Prestonsburg is seeking a full-time associate pastor/minister of youth and children to aid the senior pastor in ministering to our growing church body while concentrating on the youth, children and their families. Experience needed in leading and growing a youth/children's ministry that is focused on evangelism and discipleship. Submit resúmes by mail to Fitzpatrick FBC, P.O. Box 410, Prestonsburg, KY 41653, or email fitzpatrickfbc@att.net. Attn: Pastor Tommy Reed. Must include four references, which will be contacted.

**SEEKING:** Rosemont Baptist Church in Lexington is seeking a part-time minister of children and families. Send resumé to rosemontbc@windstream.net, or to Attn: Pastor at 556 Rosemont

## 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.

Garden, Lexington, KY 40503. For more, call (859) 277-6147.

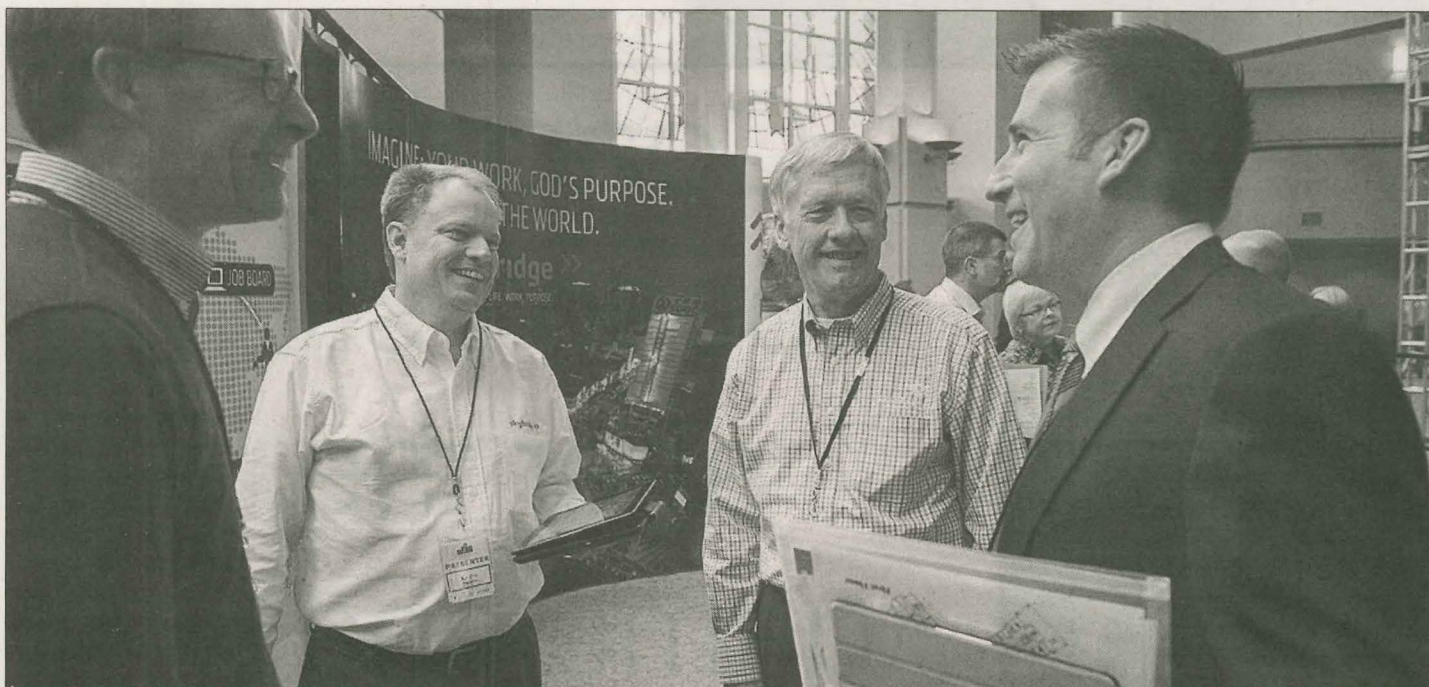
**SEEKING:** Youngers Creek Baptist Church is in search of a full-time or part-time worship leader. Send resúmes to Youngers Creek Baptist Church, 251 Youngers Creek Road, Elizabethtown, KY 42701, or email to info@youngerscreek.com.

**SEEKING:** Will you donate or sell your books to Missions Multiplier to help support missions in NYC? KBC seminarian (270) 601-1650 missionsmultiplier@gmail.com.

**SERVICES:** Sound/projection/video/lighting/acoustical. JCA Media, LLC, well known in KBC, 20+ year's experience installing quality equipment at reasonable pricing. For more information, visit jcamediaky.com, or contact Jim Cottrell at (270) 862-9586, or (270) 312-7492. References available.

**SERVICES:** Ky. Piano Service Mark S. Mudd, CPT, PE certified piano tech/licensed engineer professional, courteous and affordable.kypianoservice.com (270) 999-2433.

## Missions at work: Professionals explore calling in marketplace



Kevin Prewett (center left), who serves with IMB's Marketplace Advance initiative, connects with summit participants Larry Cox (center right) and Brandon Paulsen (right). "We wanted to partner with a missions-minded church like Germantown to awaken marketplace professionals to the possibilities of integrating their faith and vocation for the sake of reaching the lost with the gospel," said Prewett. "Our hope is that these professionals will see those possibilities on a personal level, from their own neighborhoods to the nations." (Paul W. Lee/IMB)

By Erich Bridges

**Germantown, Tenn.**—Work gets intense for emergency room doctor Chris Andershock—so intense that he occasionally thinks about making a break for it to escape the pressure.

Andershock, 46, who lives and works in Memphis, Tenn., said "emergency medicine can be extremely raw and very emotional."

"Dealing with life-and-death issues all the time, seeing the best and the worst of people, you kind of wonder what's important and what's not important," he said. "You can curl up in a ball or you can run away. Or, you can engage and go all in and let God take care of it. That's what I'm interested in doing."

Sarah Wylie, meanwhile, is just beginning her work life. A senior completing an education degree at the University of Memphis, she hopes to become a missionary. But she's willing to use her professional teaching skills any way—and anywhere—the Lord leads.

"All I care about is being in His will," she said. "So if that's in India or Africa or Memphis, I don't mind. I want to be where He is."

Andershock and Wylie joined about 500 other participants in the Missional Marketplace Summit, March 21-22 at Germantown (Tenn.) Baptist Church. The summit, sponsored by the church in partnership with IMB, offered an array of perspectives on living the gospel in the professional marketplace, whether it's in greater Memphis, the mid-South or the farthest reaches of the globe.

Conference sessions and 30 breakout seminars focused on everything from ministry through government, the media and the healthcare arena to religious freedom in small companies and large corporations, spiritual leadership and disciple making in the workplace, using business models to take the gospel to unreached peoples and equipping the next generation for marketplace ministry.

"I think it's important for all of us to not just do church on Sundays but recognize that God is the God of Mondays and Tuesdays and Wednesdays," Jason Little, executive vice president of Baptist Memorial Health Care Corporation, who chaired the summit's leadership team, said.

"Where we spend the bulk of our time

every day is in the workplace. We have a responsibility as Christians to reflect God there—and that's difficult. If it were easy, everybody would be doing it. We need to be encouraged and equipped and inspired to do it because it's a ripe mission field."

Charles Fowler, senior pastor at Germantown and a driving force behind the event, said now is the time to equip Christians more intentionally for ministry in the many marketplaces where they live and work. The summit, he believes, is an opportunity to kick-start the effort.

"When I came to be pastor, I wanted to begin developing a strategy to mobilize our business-oriented church so business people could go and do mission in their field," he said. "I began asking in the business community, 'Who are some people who are good leaders but you also associate them with their faith expression?' And the Lord drew a lot of very busy, very influential leaders who cleared their schedules and agreed to be here on the same weekend."

They interacted with professionals from many fields during the weekend conference. Some want to be more effective gospel representatives in their local context. Others are already traveling and working internationally and looking for ways to leverage their professional influence for Christ.

"As part of looking to the nations, we are trying to awaken people who are already going globally," Charles Clark, who leads the International Mission Board's Marketplace Advance initiative, said. "They are busy in their careers, but they just haven't caught the vision that God created them for a purpose, and that purpose is that wherever they are, whatever their profession, they are supposed to be fishers of men. ... Marketplace Advance helping people understand that God has placed you in your profession for a purpose: to be excellent at your work and to open doors for the gospel with that only you would have access to through your travels."

**Missional Marketplace Summit speakers**  
**Alan Barnhart**, president and CEO of

Memphis-based Barnhart Crane and Rigging, a company that handles heavy-lifting and transport projects around the country.

"God doesn't need our money. He doesn't want to extract things from you; He wants to give you things. He wants you."

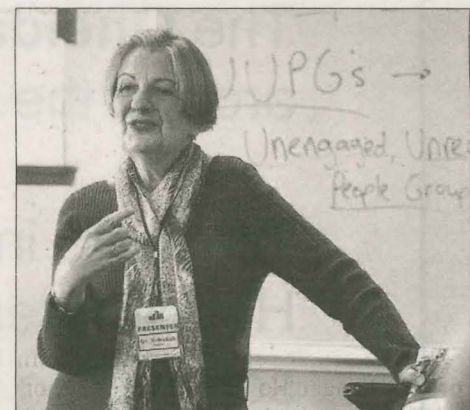
**Memphis Mayor A. C. Wharton**, spoke of the many challenges that come with leading a major city—from balancing the interests of different religious groups to getting yelled at by irate city council members. He deals with his colleagues' anger by quietly writing down Scripture verses and words such as "faith" and "long-suffering" before responding.

**Mearl Purvis**, news anchor at Memphis' FOX affiliate and a TV news veteran, reflected on the pressures of living her Christian faith every day in the public eye, even when she's off-camera.

"It's frightening," she admitted. "But it's also an opportunity."

She regularly talks about faith on her Facebook page, where she builds relationships with viewers who watch her newscast.

**Adrian Keillor**,\* who heads a company in India that employs more than 5,000 people. Keillor and his wife, Nicole,\* came from India to talk about their spiritual journey from seeking success and money to representing Christ in the fast-paced Indian business world. See more of their story at [commissionstories.com/powercouple](http://commissionstories.com/powercouple).



Veteran missionary doctor Rebekah Naylor, who now serves with Baptist Global Response, speaks about medicine's potential to carry the gospel to UUPGs—unengaged, unreached people groups. (Paul W. Lee/IMB)

### Follow-up

Fowler, Germantown's pastor, said several CEOs told him that as a result this conference they were leaving committed to a different walk with their life.

Summit leaders plan to follow up on responses like that in the weeks ahead with lunch groups for conference participants, as well as online networking, to encourage and equip professionals thinking about how to live their faith in the marketplace.

What's next for Chris Andershock, the emergency room doctor?

"I'm coming to the realization that we are conduits; God can work through us or He can work in spite of us," he said. "I think it starts with the realization that you can do it, and the second thing is that you have to start looking for those opportunities every day. For me, starting tonight at work, I'm going to look for an opportunity (to share Christ)." (IMB/BP)

\*Name changed. Learn more about being a global marketplace professional at [marketplaceadvance.com](http://marketplaceadvance.com).



About 500 people attended the Missional Marketplace Summit, March 21-22, the first of its kind for host Germantown Baptist Church. (Paul W. Lee/IMB)



Coaching  
doesn't stop  
after the  
game ends.

The **Oneida Baptist Institute** faculty and staff are busy around the clock coaching our students in the lessons of life.

Teachers instruct students from a Christian worldview. Houseparents help teens deal with everything from fabric softener to friendships. Coaches and work supervisors teach valuable skills and the importance of a job well done.

Do you know a child in grade 6-12 who needs to be a part of our team?

---

Would you like to learn more about Oneida? Contact us!

**Oneida Baptist Institute**

PO Box 67 Oneida, Kentucky 40972

Phone: (606) 847-4111 Fax: (606) 847-4496

Web site: [www.oneidaschool.org](http://www.oneidaschool.org)



*Education for Time and Eternity*