

WESTERN Recorder

April 15, 2014

Shine Like Stars * Philippians 2:15

Volume 188, Issue 14

Easter story revealed

Exploring key events of Jesus' earthly life often overlooked

By David Roach

Nashville—In AD

33 Jerusalem was a political powder keg ready to explode. More than ever, Jews expected a Messiah who would overthrow their hated Roman oppressors. In turn, the Roman Empire was spring loaded to pounce on any rivals to Caesar at the first sign of trouble.

Into that milieu came an itinerant rabbi from Nazareth, riding into town for Passover on a donkey and being proclaimed by the crowds as the promised Messiah. Within days one of two things would surely happen: either he would

overthrow the Romans or suffer a brutal death.

This is one of many dramatic and theologically rich moments from the Passion Week highlighted in "The Final Days of Jesus," a harmonization published by Crossway of the Bible's four accounts of the week leading up to Easter. Drawing material from Matthew, Mark, Luke and John, Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary professor Andreas Kostenberger and popular blogger and publisher Justin Taylor present the last week of Christ's earthly life as a single, unified story. They dub it "the most important week of the most important person who ever lived."

They explain the theological

significance of key events and highlight Passion Week facts often overlooked by Bible students.

"As a biblical scholar, and as a Christian, I want to know what I can know about the Bible and about the life of Jesus as precisely as possible," Kostenberger said in an interview with pastor and author Chris Brauns. "On the one hand, I want to be honest with the limitations we have with regard to the available evidence, but on the other hand, I want to use the evidence we have to the fullest extent possible to determine a given piece of information, such as the dates for Jesus' crucifixion, burial and resurrection."

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Backpack initiative for needy kids expands nationwide

By Jim Burton

Syracuse, N.Y.—When Ronnie Wyatt moved with his wife and three of his daughters from North Carolina to central New York state, they settled into one of the roughest neighborhoods in North Syracuse. Having left a secure pastorate in the South, Wyatt soon learned that only about 4 percent of Syracuse's residents are Christians.

"There are more Muslims in our area than Christians," said Wyatt, a North American Mission Board church planter who is starting The Neighborhood Church.

He has counted more than 10 nationalities in the impoverished Butternut/Schiller Park neighborhood where his family now lives. The neighborhood is so crime-ridden that Syracuse police have told Wyatt they only go there to respond to 911 calls. The neighborhood is that dangerous, Wyatt said.

"God really broke our heart for the neighborhood," he said.

The Wyatts began home Bible studies last August and now have as many as 50 people attending, of which he estimates that 35 have never associated with a church. And most families are among

the lower socioeconomic strata.

"High poverty and high crime—they usually work hand in hand," Wyatt said.

"Four blocks over from where I am right now, a man was shot and killed in the street," Wyatt

continued. "A few days later his wife came to look at the (impromptu) memorial and was shot and killed in the same place."

Wyatt soon learned that acts of kindness created inroads to the community. That's when he got a phone call about distributing children's backpacks for Christmas.

Backpacks for Appalachia began in 2001 when Appalachian Regional Ministries missionary Bill Barker received 300 gift boxes for children from an Atlanta-area church. He sent them to West Virginia. Now a national missionary appointed by the North American Mission Board, Barker said the initiative has continued to mature and grow. Last December, Southern Baptists delivered nearly

24,000 backpacks to children throughout Appalachia filled with toys, school supplies, food, clothes, a copy of the Christmas story and an invitation to take a correspondence Bible course. "The intent has been to show the love of Christ by sharing Christmas with a child in an appropriate way," Barker said.

Wyatt delivered two of those backpacks to a North Syracuse home where the Muslim dad was in prison. The mom began attending The

□ See Backpacks ... Page 2

Williamsburg's Cedaridge Ministries, recently supplied 1,600 children with backpacks and recorded 60 professions of faith from adults. Cedaridge is led by Kentucky Missionary of the Year Keith Decker.



Violence, prayer spreads in Ukraine



Multi-denominational public prayer gatherings are taking root in eastern Ukraine for unity and peace. (Charles Braddix/IMB)

By Nicole Lee

Donetsk/Kharkiv, Ukraine—Tensions—and prayer—are now rising across eastern Ukraine as the conflict with Russia continues to escalate.

Violent demonstrations erupted during the April 4-6 weekend, with pro-Russian demonstrators calling for independence from Ukraine or annexation by Russia. Thousands demonstrated in the eastern cities of Donetsk, Kharkiv and Luhansk, battling anti-riot police and seizing government buildings. In Donetsk, the Ukrainian flag was hurled to the ground from the city's administrative center and replaced by a Russian flag.

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Western Recorder 4-15-2014

PBS examines Calvinism debate in the SBC

By Bob Allen

Louisville—While other U.S. denominations face schism over homosexuality, Southern Baptists are rehashing a 17th-century debate about why a loving God would create billions of souls predestined to an eternity in hell.

"I think it's a fantastic thing," Albert Mohler, president of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, said in a story about the "New Calvinism" April 3 on Religion and Ethics Newsweekly on PBS.

"When you imagine that mainline Protestant denominations have largely been arguing over things like same-sex marriage and any number of other things, and trying to figure out how in the world to engender some kind of genuinely theological discussion, I think we should see this as a tremendous achievement of the Southern Baptist Convention," said Mohler, a leader in the "young, restless and reformed" movement taking root in Southern Baptist life. The question is now how we steward that, and I hope we steward it in a very healthy direction."

Last week, Mohler and other Calvinist leaders headlined "Together for the Gospel," a biennial preaching conference in Louisville that affirms doctrines including "the righteousness of Christ is imputed to believers by God's decree alone."

Joining Mohler at the April 8-10 meeting at the KFC Yum Center were co-founders Ligon Duncan, chancellor/

CEO of the Reformed Theological Seminary system, and Mark Dever, the senior pastor of Capitol Hill Baptist Church in Washington.

Other keynote speakers include John Piper, founder of Desiring God Ministries and patriarch of the movement of younger evangelicals seeking to recover what founders term the "doctrines of grace."

Calvinism is "about as countercultural as anything you could imagine in secular America."

Albert Mohler



Mohler told PBS Calvinism is "about as countercultural as anything you could imagine in secular America," because by its nature the movement "gets right to the reality of the one, true and living God."

Not everyone is enamored by the movement's success.

"I think that there are still people worried that someday the Southern Baptist Convention could split over these issues," said Steven Lemke, provost of New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary. "So that continues to be one of the tension lines in the Southern Baptist Convention."

In 2012, SBC Executive Committee President Frank Page appointed a 16-member advisory committee to study the impact of Calvinism in the nation's second-largest faith group. A 2012 study by LifeWay Research found that 60 percent of pastors were "concerned about the impact of Calvinism in our convention."

Page's committee determined that Calvinism need not split the SBC but urged Calvinist ministers to "be fully candid and forthcoming about all

matters of faith and doctrine" when talking to search committees at non-Calvinist churches.

Lemke said young pastors coming in and teaching and preaching things different than what church members have been taught all their lives has "obviously created tensions in churches and led to churches splitting or pastors being fired."

Religion and Ethics Newsweekly noted that part of Calvinism's appeal is to women who believe the Bible commands them to "graciously submit" to their husbands.

"I have a husband who is, I believe, called by God to be the head of our home, and therefore the responsibility lies with him, and I'm happy with that fact," said follower Connie Christian. "I'm glad I'm not responsible, you know."

The "Together for the Gospel" faith statement affirms that "the Scripture reveals a pattern of complementary order between men and women, and that this order is itself a testimony to the gospel, even as it is the gift of our Creator and Redeemer."

"We further affirm that the teaching office of the Church is assigned only to those men who are called of God in fulfillment of the biblical teachings and that men are to lead in their homes as husbands and fathers who fear and love God," it says.

"There's no justification for any discrimination on the basis of gender," Mohler explained to PBS, "unless the Creator has told his church, 'This is how I expect you to organize your church in obedience to me, and this is how I expect you to organize your marriage in obedience to me.' And I do believe we're under that authority." (ABP)

Cooperative Program receipts up more than \$250,000 in March

Louisville—Financial contributions to the Cooperative Program rose significantly in March over the previous month despite a late winter blast that forced another round of canceled Sunday worship services in parts of Kentucky.

Lowell Ashby, leader of the Kentucky Baptist Convention's Finance & Business Services Team, said CP receipts reached nearly \$1.7 million in March. That was up from \$1.4 million in February.

"Although we didn't have the prolonged wintery blasts like February, some parts of the state still had significant snow that forced church members to hunker down," Ashby said. "We're praying for a good April."

Ashby cited two reasons why he believes April will result in a spike in CP giving: "There was only one day after the last Sunday in March so most of the final week of March will go into April's receipts. And April ends with three days left for the churches to get their CP gifts sent in and counted. We should have a big April, just like last year."

CP giving topped \$12.3 million for the first seven months of the fiscal year, which began Sept. 1—down by about \$50,000 from the same period.

Receipts were largely unchanged in a March 2013 to March 2014 comparison.

"We anticipate a healthy rise in contributions to support the ministries of the local church and the Cooperative program," said Paul Chitwood, KBC executive director. "It's crucial we have a strong rebound, considering so many ministries and ministries are counting on the generosity of Kentucky Baptists to carry on the all important work of reaching Kentucky and the world for Christ." (KBC)

Top DC Baptist exec takes position in Ky.

Washington, D.C.—Ricky Creech will step down as executive director of the District of Columbia Baptist Convention April 24 to take the helm of a faith-based non-profit in Kentucky that helps troubled youths in Appalachia.

Creech, who has been the DCBC's chief executive since 2011, announced his plans April 3 following the adoption of a restructuring plan that reduced the governing body from 163 members to 25.

Creech said he received the offer to be president and CEO of the Kentucky-based ministry and saw it as an opportunity to return to his social work roots and to be closer to family.

Creech counts as a key accomplishment the DCBC's shift from a governing structure dating to the early 1950s. Before his election to the DCBC position, Creech was executive director of the Birmingham (Ala.) Baptist Association and a missionary for the Southern Baptist Convention's Home (now North American) Mission Board. (ABP)



Ricky Creech

Backpacks

Continued from page 1

Neighborhood Church's home Bible study. He noticed one night that she was agitated and asked what was bothering her.

"I just realized that if I die right now I'm going to go to hell," the woman said. "Can we get me saved first and then get back to the Bible study?"

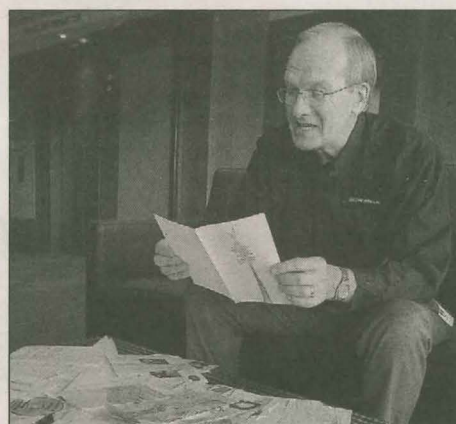
The study stopped as she committed her life to Christ. The next day, her husband got out of prison and attended the following Saturday's Bible study.

Similar stories emerged throughout the Appalachian Regional Ministries region, which involves 12 state Baptist conventions.

■ Cedaridge Ministries in Williamsburg helped 1,600 children and recorded 60 professions of faith among adults, said Cedaridge president Keith Decker, who was recently named Kentucky Missionary of the Year.

■ One Accord Ministries in east Tennessee gave backpacks to 1,440 children along with boxes of food for their family, and 149 adults made professions of faith in Christ.

■ In 2013, Backpacks for Appalachia was primarily a Georgia Baptist Convention initiative. John Waters, senior pastor of First Baptist Church, Statesboro, Ga.,



Bill Barker, a NAMB national missionary, looks over some of the hundreds of thank-you cards received in response to the 24,000 backpacks distributed last year. (John Swain/NAMB)

and president of Georgia's convention, issued a statewide challenge that resulted in 21,004 backpacks from Georgia.

In 2014 the Christmas backpack initiative will go national, Barker said. Not only will it serve Appalachia, but also the Mississippi River Ministry, which he also oversees. The goal is 40,000 backpacks.

As the initiative expands, Barker will ask state Baptist conventions west of the Mississippi River to focus their efforts on MRM's Delta region, where leaders have already identified 50 distribution sites.

Each state Baptist convention will be

involved in the delivery and distribution of their backpacks, making the initiative as hands-on as possible, Barker said.

Serving Appalachia and the Delta meets just a fraction of the poverty challenge in the United States where an estimated 46.5 million people live below the poverty line, according to the U.S. Census Bureau.

Those who did receive help in 2013 were often quick to say thank you. Children near Blackey, Ky., wrote thank-you notes, itemizing each gift they received. One girl wrote, "However, I did not need the deodorant or the hair brush, so I gave them to my mother who needed them BAD!"

Barker also learned of another boy who longed to have a particular shirt that his parents couldn't afford. The backpack he received happened to have that shirt. But the boy didn't keep it. His best friend did not receive a backpack, and he needed a shirt, too. The friend received the coveted shirt.

Barker hopes Southern Baptists will be as selfless in 2014 as the boy who gave up the shirt.

"The backpacks have provided an avenue," Barker said of the ministry opportunities. "This (kind of result) was not happening until we started doing the backpacks." (BP)

For more about the LoveLoud Christmas Backpack ministry, go to namb.net/Backpacks.

Celebration continues for Ky. WMU, women urged: 'Go forward'

By Robin Cornet Bass

Winchester—Kentucky Woman's Missionary Union threw a party at Central Baptist Church in Winchester earlier this month for more than 800 of its closest friends. There was laughter, lots of music and even cake.

But this revelry was about much more than reconnecting with acquaintances, or even recognizing the 125th birthday of national WMU. The 111th annual meeting of Kentucky WMU was about celebrating missions past and present, as well as equipping women to "go forward" into the future, embracing the Great Commission.

That is, after all, the "purpose of WMU," said Wanda Lee, national WMU executive director.

"Sharing the gospel, equipping people with mission concepts, developing models of ministry that could be replicated from one area of ministry to another—all helping people engage in what Jesus has called us to do."

As theme interpreter throughout the April 5-6 meeting, Lee urged women in Kentucky to follow the example set by Annie Armstrong whose rallying cry more than a century ago laid the foundation for the formation of a national missions organization for women. Lee described Armstrong as a sacrificial giver who was so committed to the cause that she wrote more than 10,000 letters during a year's span in seeking support for missions.

"Of all her words," Lee said, "the simple phrase, 'Go forward,' became her final marching orders" as Armstrong left her post as the organization's leader after 18 years.

"As we close this yearlong celebration of our 125 years, I wonder if we have rediscovered our voice. Is it possible that we have a new voice for missions that we let languish for a time?" Lee said. "I believe we have everything we need to be the voice and echo the words of Annie Armstrong if we simply 'go forward' with all that God has blessed us with."

"Go forward" will be the rallying cry once again for the missions organization this June at the national WMU Missions



Wanda Lee



ABOVE: Marie Davidson (far right), vice president of West Virginia WMU, joins other women as they pray over the semi-trailer containing more than 700 buckets bound for AIDS victims in Africa. The Bucket Project is an initiative by Baptist Global Response that seeks to bring not only hospice care items to terminally-ill adults and children, but also the saving grace of the gospel.

RIGHT: Susan Bryant (left), newly-elected president of Kentucky WMU, receives an embrace from outgoing president Linda Cooper.



Celebration and Annual Meeting in Baltimore, Md.—Armstrong's hometown.

'Where am I to go?'

Kentucky WMU Executive Director Joy Bolton reiterated Lee's call and encouraged women in Kentucky to embrace all that God may have in store for the future by noting some unexpected changes in her own organization.

"Kentucky Changers and Creative Ministries Festival were not even on the horizon for Kentucky WMU at this time last year," Bolton said. She said there still may be other surprises awaiting. "But God is still saying, 'Go forward.' Pray for



Joy Bolton

Kentucky WMU and join us on the journey."

That journey, said featured speaker Gordon Fort, comes with the realization that every believer in Christ is called to go forward.

"You can go home and pray about the Great Commission all you want, asking 'Lord, am I suppose to go?'" said Fort, senior vice president of Prayer Mobilization and Training with the International Mission Board. "What is God going to tell you when you open your Bible to Matthew 28:19?"

"The only question you have to ask God is 'Where am I to go? Is it across the



Gordon Fort

street? Is it in the state of Kentucky? Or is it somewhere overseas?" Fort asked.

A 'servant to Him'

For Keith Decker, president of Cedaridge Ministries, the journey went no further than southeastern Kentucky. From his ministry in Williamsburg, Decker, his staff and a host of volunteers seek to provide for the physical and spiritual needs of people living in seven Appalachian counties.

"Last year, approximately 300 persons became Christians as a direct result of this ministry," said Teresa Parrett, missions mobilization coordinator for KBC, as she presented Decker with the award.

The Kentucky missionary was so overwhelmed by the honor that he stood in near silence for 20 seconds. Finally, after wiping away a few tears, Decker said, "Wow. There's no way I can put it into words. I just so love the Lord. I wish I could be a better servant to Him."

By the numbers

The spirit of servanthood hovered over Kentucky WMU's annual meeting as participants emptied their pocket-books and hearts to meet the needs—physically and spiritually—of others. Among the offerings:

■ A total of \$9,470.40 was given through mite boxes and other offerings for the Kentucky Heritage Fund, which supports missions education through Kentucky WMU.

■ \$7,660.43 was collected for Ministries to Missions, which provides Christmas gifts and other monetary gifts to missionaries who are originally from Kentucky.

■ 778 buckets bound for HIV/AIDS victims in Africa were packed or collected at the annual meeting. Each bucket was filled with hospice items valued at \$85, making the total monetary contribution \$66,130. Another \$540 in donations will be used to help with shipping costs.

"God has a plan for each of our lives. His plan is to move us beyond obstacles and excuses that we offer instead of doing His will," Lee said. "We can do this. We can be the voice in our churches so that the lost world will know our Savior. May it be so." (WR)



Kentucky Missionary of the Year Keith Decker, president of Cedaridge Ministries in Williamsburg, is overcome with emotion after being presented the award by Teresa Parrett (background). (Photos by Robin Cornet Bass/WR)

Ukraine

Continued from page 1

On April 6, International Mission Board worker Tom Long* heard a local news agency report that the city of Donetsk would be renamed the People's Republic of Donetsk.

"This is exactly what they did in Crimea," Long said. "One day they overtook the parliament building, and then they called for a referendum." The day after the vote for independence, Crimea was annexed by Russia.

Within an hour a referendum in Donetsk was slated for May 11.

Pro-Russia activists stormed the local government headquarters in Donetsk on April 5 and built a barricade around it. More than a hundred people were holed up inside, declaring a change of government. Ukrainian police were on guard outside, but had said they will not use violence against

the activists.

Similar scenarios were being played out in the cities of Luhansk and Kharkiv. In Luhansk, demonstrators seized a stockpile of government weapons.

IMB worker Joy Burnett*, who lives just blocks from the city center of Kharkiv, said the Ukrainian flag is still waving and won't be removed without a fight.

"They're not going to give it up the way they did Crimea," Burnett said.

Even among Ukrainian Baptists, who are historically pacifists, the threat of foreign domination is having an effect. Burnett said a Baptist friend recently told her, "I am ready to fight for my country."

Burnett and Long said it has been encouraging to see the way Ukrainian churches have responded to the crisis. They are praying and fasting, opening their doors at all hours and welcoming people to come and pray.

And the need is huge. In the city center of Donetsk alone, for example, there is no evangelical church among a population of 100,000, Long said.

For this reason, the two IMB workers have no plans to leave the country in spite of the possible dangers of staying.

"Why would I leave when God is at work?" Burnett asked. "This is exactly where I should be."

Long agreed. "My heart cry has been for God to establish His church in the center of this city where I live with 100,000 others," he said. "I shouldn't fear for myself or believers, but need to fear for those who have not yet heard or who have heard and not made a decision. That's why we stay here."

The IMB workers asked for prayer for peace and wisdom in Ukraine in the current crisis and for churches to continue boldly sharing Christ; for many to come to repentance; and for police who are standing in the middle, between their government and their people. (BP)

Wise decisions

Jesus said, "Wisdom is proved right by all her children" (Luke 7:35). One of extrapolating that proverb could be to say that, over time, a wise decision is proven as such.

Together We are the KBC



Paul Chitwood

At our annual meeting in 2013, Kentucky Baptists made the heart-wrenching decision to formally end all ties with Georgetown College. This decision was precipitated by the choice of Georgetown's trustees to walk away from their Covenant Agreement with Kentucky Baptist churches in 2005. Moreover, Georgetown's unwillingness to honor the terms of a partnership agreement in place since 2005 made it clear the college was continuing to drift from the churches that had long supported her.

While those facts may have made the decision seem like a "no-brainer," other circumstances made it grievously difficult. Among those circumstances is the reality that Georgetown is the alma mater of several generations of Kentucky Baptist pastors and lay leaders. Shake the hands of four or five Kentucky Baptists and you have shaken the hands of at least one Georgetown grad. Moreover, Kentucky Baptists have invested tens of millions of dollars in Georgetown. I dare say the college would have closed its doors long ago had it not lived off the generous support of KBC churches and church members. To walk away from such a significant investment of Kingdom resources was a very difficult decision made only after years of study by KBC leaders and countless failed attempts to woo the college back to her churches.

With the matter decided last year, why reference it now?

An article appearing recently in The Georgetownian, the college's weekly newspaper, stated that the new president, Dwaine Greene, "implied that his commitment to fairness and the College's willingness to accept gay faculty, staff and students should be seen as a measure of progress." Another article by Kentuckians for the Commonwealth noted, "The College adopted a formal policy prohibiting discrimination against gay students in 2008. College officials shy away from public acknowledgment of these policies." The article went on to disclose the fact that the college began to sponsor a gay student group in 2011 and, "In the Spring of 2012, about 90% of the faculty at the College voted in favor of a proposal to expand non-discrimination in hiring to include sexual orientation." The next statement was particularly revealing, "The proposal was considered especially timely in view of the fact that the College now does employ a few openly gay faculty and staff members."

Georgetown's enthusiastic endorsement of lifestyles condemned by Scripture proves the wisdom of the decision made by our churches last year to end the failed partnership agreement with the college. Thank God for our KBC covenant partners still willing to stand with the Bible!

Paul Chitwood is executive director of the Kentucky Baptist Convention.

Join counter rebellion, become a kingdom agent

Are you a rebel? According to Ed Stetzer, that's what we all should be.

The word "rebellious" is often associated with teenage defiance and immaturity. But Stetzer, head of LifeWay Research, believes the term should describe every mature follower of Christ. In this year's Baptist Doctrine Study, which the denominational calendar suggests for April, Stetzer proposes that we become "daring agents of God's subversive kingdom," bent on changing lives through the transforming power of the gospel.

In his book, "Subversive Kingdom," a companion to the six-session study of Jesus' parables, Stetzer maintains, "The kingdom of God is a radical rejection of every value or point of view that keeps people in bondage to untruth, blinded to Christ's mercy. It is a refusal to classify any person as being expendable or beyond reach, an unwillingness to view any situation as something that cannot be transformed and infused with hope."

Thus, in everyday places, Christ's followers serve as ambassadors for His kingdom, Stetzer advocates. "So rather than (or maybe in addition to) inviting the unbeliever to the Sunday morning show, we demonstrate our faith by how we live, relate, and care," he asserts. "Life with Jesus is now demonstrated where they are. The last place they ever thought to look. Right in the middle of where they live, work, and play. We go there." That's how it's subversive—in sharing and showing the good news of Jesus, we help bring about a change in their hearts and transform our communities, our world ... subtly, gradually, in unexpected, but remarkable ways.

As kingdom agents our task is to advance and expand God's kingdom through Spirit-led, subversive ways—by pursuing a different agenda, a different mission in life, i.e., being rebels against the world's rebellion. Jesus was obsessed with the kingdom of God, speaking of it more than 80 times in the Gospels, Stetzer notes. And through the parables, He gave "real-world descriptions" of the kingdom. His parables were "word pictures" drawn from everyday life, intended to grab the hearers' attention and stir up questions in their minds, he explains.

During the six sessions, Stetzer focuses on several of these "word pictures" of the kingdom, helping us to grasp

the implications for today's church. For example, Jesus draws a striking comparison between the word of God and seed, emphasizing the word's ability to produce abundant kingdom fruit when planted in receptive soil. So, our first job as subversive kingdom agents is to eagerly receive and obey God's word, Stetzer explains. What can a gospel seed do in someone's heart? "Change a man. Change a family. Change a life. Change a nation," he observes. "What might it start growing in you?"

Last weekend was spring-like, so Jesus' parable of the weeds perhaps naturally took root. During the winter months, weeds overtook our flower beds, so I spent last Saturday working in the yard. I really

longed for someone—anyone—to say: "Just leave 'em be." Alas! No one did. My legs and back ache as I finish this column. But those weeds looked bad. They had to go. In that regard, Jesus' parable seems counterintuitive. Two sowers cast seeds—a good one sows wheat, while another sows weeds—yet the wheat and weeds are allowed to grow together. We are not responsible for weeding; that's God's task, Stetzer observes. "You've gotta like the sound of that," he quips.

"So for now, we ought not be surprised to see the telltale weeds of enemy presence in our cities and workplaces, in our families and neighborhoods, in our government and nation. Everywhere. That doesn't mean we're losing the battle. It just means we're experiencing kingdom life," Stetzer adds. "But that's OK. Because we're not here to weed. Our job as subversive kingdom agents is just to keep sowing and tending the wheat, keep pouring ourselves and his Word into the people's lives around us—teaching, helping, serving, ministering, pushing back the darkness by our very presence...."

"Don't worry about the weeds," he advises. "Just keep growing more wheat."

That's a quick look at two of Jesus' parables that Stetzer explores in "Subversive Kingdom"—and there are plenty more insights. LifeWay has produced some exceptional doctrine studies, and if your church hasn't taken advantage of this effective way to encourage church members to focus on specific biblical truths or doctrines, the "Subversive Kingdom" study is a great opportunity to begin developing disciples into daring agents of gospel transformation.

After Thought

By Todd Deaton



An invitation from Campbellsville's president

Over the past two years of our capital campaign, "Our Time—This Place: The Next Century Campaign for Campbellsville University," it is astounding how God has blessed Campbellsville University.



Because of the generosity of our alumni and friends, we reached our goal of \$30 million two and a half months

ahead of time. This level of progress has resulted in record enrollments, new residence halls, new programs and expanded ministry through Christian higher education. However, our work is not done! We have many additional opportunities to see lives changed if we can provide the resources.

With this solid foundation, I am excited to announce that the next phase of our campaign, which we are calling the "Campaign for the Commonwealth," will be coming to Elizabethtown, Louisville, Lexington, Somerset, Danville, Bowling Green, Owensboro, Frankfort, Florence, and Paducah.

It is an essential step in meeting our overall campaign goal of \$61.1 million and reaching the goals set forth in our bold strategic plan for the future—Vision 2025—Preparing Christian Servant Leaders. With this achievement, Campbellsville University will be poised to take the next step forward in preparing young people to become servant leaders in Christ's kingdom and to continue to emerge as one of America's pre-

mier Christian universities.

We invite you to be part of this great effort. With the growth Campbellsville has experienced over the past 15 years, God's leadership has been present in every phase of university life. Now we are poised to continue that growth and serve even more students in the years ahead. Your involvement and support are essential.

In the coming months, we will be moving forward with the Campaign for the Commonwealth and visiting with many of you around our state. Our second event is at 6 p.m., April 24, at the Louisville Education Center at 2300 Greene Way. We hope you will be able to attend and spend time with CU representatives. Contact Paula Smith at (270) 789-5216 to make a reservation.

Michael Carter, CU President

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Youth ministry in a small church has advantages

By Joe Ball

I have the privilege of having a lot of conversations with small churches (under 100 in worship attendance) about youth ministry. For some reason there seems to be a myth that small churches can't do quality youth ministry or that they do second-class youth ministry. "If only we had a bigger building," or "if we had the money to hire a youth minister," or "we only have a few students" are just some of the phrases I hear over and over. While there are struggles with youth ministry in a small church, there are also some distinct advantages. While not true of all situations, below are some observations about the advantages of doing youth ministry in a small church.

Family connections—There is a greater chance of real connections to the families of the students in smaller churches. Part of that, I am sure, is because most smaller churches have strong familial ties. There are several generations of families that are connected to the church and while the parents of the youth may not come, the students that do attend are either friends of the church kids or nieces, nephews, cousins or grandkids of church members. Larger churches have to be a lot more intentional to connect with the families of students.

Our kids—I have noticed that a far greater percentage of the church takes ownership of the students and the student ministry. They notice when students are there and when they are not. They make an effort to learn the students' names, make sure they have supplies for classes (they'll even offer their old furniture for the youth room), and help provide resources needed to go to camp. Smaller churches also seem to be more invested in helping every student succeed—because after all "they are our kids." Intentional prayer for the youth is the norm because "they are our kids."

Church involvement—There seems to be a greater integration of students and adults in smaller churches. Students serve alongside adults on committees, teaching VBS or taking up the offering. Also, because these

are "our kids," there are greater opportunities for special gifts and talents to be utilized during worship. Special music, whether a voice solo or a beginner on the violin accompanied by the church pianist, isn't uncommon. Students aren't just part of the youth group, they are part of the church.

FIRST PERSON

Youth Ministry Corner



Joe Ball

Adult to student ratio—Quality youth ministry requires a ratio of about one adult for every five students. Most small churches easily have that and more. I tell volunteers in smaller churches that large/mega churches spend an exorbitant amount of time and energy recruiting enough volunteers to get to the adult/student ratio that they already have. The more adults we have speaking into the life of a student, the more opportunities that exist for helping students along their spiritual journey.

Intergenerational connections—where else can students regularly interact with people from several generations? In a world where half of our students come from "non-traditional" families and may have regular contact with none or four-plus sets of grandparents, these connections are rare. These intergenerational connections are vital in the spiritual development of students. One of my favorite events every year was when the youth would host the "PEP" club events. Those times of year when our students and senior adults would intentionally spend time laughing and learning together. Mission opportunities also provided opportunities for the different generations to learn from and about each other.

Transportation—Even without a church van or bus, transportation is simpler in a smaller church. It doesn't matter if you are making an unscheduled trip to Dairy Queen or traveling across five state lines for camp, arranging rides for a group of 15 is a lot simpler than arranging transportation for a group of 200.

Bigger isn't always better or a great measure of success. What is most important in youth ministry is the quality of what we offer and in real, tangible ways that is sometimes easier to achieve in a small church.

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

Developing understanding

By Valerie Vincent

Wife: I wish my husband would try to understand the pressure I feel to work and take care of the kids.

Husband: I wish my wife would be more understanding of the pressure I'm under to do well at work, so I can keep my job and pay for our home, the bills, and all the stuff my kids need.



Understanding is something both a wife and husband want from each other, but sometimes are unwilling to give. Understanding is not, "I heard what you said, but you're not hearing what I'm saying." Understanding is not, "OK, OK, I get it. Would you please let it go?" Understanding is not, "Fine, you're right."

Understanding is more than what words are heard. Often, it is more than what words are spoken.

Here are some examples in Scripture where understanding is used in conjunction with wisdom:

"For this reason, since the day we heard about you, we have not stopped praying for you. We continually ask God to fill you with the knowledge of His will through all the wisdom and understanding that the Spirit gives ..." (Colossians 1:9).

"For the LORD gives wisdom; from his mouth come knowledge and understanding" (Proverbs 2:6).

Although these verses are not speaking about a marriage relationship, it is clear that understanding is to be sought and developed.

The act of understanding takes effort and requires full engagement. Scripture tells us that understanding comes from the Lord. While we desire to be understood, we must develop a capacity to understand. Strive to become familiar with what your wife is saying to you and seek to grasp its significance and importance. As you listen to your husband, work at knowing how he feels and why he does the things he does. Focus on grasping the implications. Allow God to guide and teach you to truly show understanding. Valerie Vincent is a Christian counselor with Hardy Day & Associates in Louisville.

'Millionaire Next Door'

By Jeremy White

No matter how much money you have, no matter how much more you can earn, there always will be unlimited ways to allocate limited resources.

It is easy to think that the rich are spending all kinds of money. But in the book, "The Millionaire Next Door," professors Thomas Stanley and William Danko point out that self-made millionaires have surprising secrets:

- They live below their means, drive cars older than three years old, wear inexpensive suits and know what they spend on household items.

- More than half of millionaires operate on an annual budget. Most of those who do not budget say that they follow a strict "pay yourself strategy," setting aside at least 15 percent of their income.

- The large majority of millionaires buy inexpensive watches, avoid luxury cars, shun car leases and do not own mansions.

Basically, the millionaires make good choices and spend less than they earn. The ancient wisdom by Solomon, probably the world's first billionaire, echoed the same idea: "He who gathers money little by little makes it grow" (Proverbs 13:11).

Nobody sets a goal to spend 15 percent more than they earn. Our yearnings exceed our earnings. Unanticipated expenses come. Things break. Prices rise. Emergencies happen. Life just happens.

Choose to spend less than you earn. It does not matter what you make; it matters if anything is left over. *Jeremy White is a CPA with Blythe, White & Associates in Paducah. This article appeared in the June 30, 2009, issue of the Western Recorder.*

Cooperative Program: An old song made new again

By Nate Adams

Our youngest son, Ethan, recently mentioned that he had heard a couple of great new Christian songs he really liked. Imagine our surprise when the songs he named were 100-year-old hymns.

As we reviewed the churches our family attended since Ethan was born, we realized that each of those churches had a contemporary worship style, or at least a blend of contemporary music and hymns. Therefore, hymns that I know by heart, sometimes even by page number, have become almost lost treasures to my son.

Music is just one example of the things in church life that sometimes need to change or evolve over time in order to stay relevant to new generations. But as my son's new love for old hymns illustrates, sometimes we let treasures that have lasting value slip away simply because we have not properly maintained them, or passed them along effectively.

Cooperative missions giving is one of those time-proven treasures that we risk losing in the next generation if we do not more intentionally teach its value and practice its power. As with hymns, we may be assuming that what we have known by heart will always be with us, even if we're not rehearsing it regularly with new church leaders and members.

That's one reason many Southern Baptist churches set aside one Sunday in April to inform and educate their church members about the incredible, week-after-week power of our ongoing missions support system known as the Cooperative Program. This year national CP promotion Sunday was April 13, but since that happened to fall on Palm Sunday, many churches may have chosen another date for this emphasis.

Whether it's April 13 or some other time,

intentionally educating everyone in the church about Cooperative Program missions is extremely important. Church members need to understand that the Cooperative Program portion of their church budget provides foundational support for thousands of faithful Baptist missionaries, throughout North America and around the world. They need to know that hundreds of people groups in more than 150 countries are receiving the gospel through these missionaries, and that thousands of new churches are being planted as a result.

Right here in North America, 900 new churches were planted last year, and coordinated ministries such as Southern Baptist Disaster Relief help place thousands of volunteers and chaplains right in the middle of people's deepest physical and spiritual needs.

Cooperative Program giving helps make theological training at six world-class seminaries affordable for tomorrow's pastors, church staff and missionaries. And it gives us an important voice in the culture through the Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission and the SBC Executive Committee.

There are lots of good resources at sbc.net to help church members understand how CP works, and, more importantly, how many lives are being transformed through it as the Great Commission is advanced. There are short videos to use in worship services or small groups and well-designed print pieces ranging from bulletin inserts to multiple-page articles.

Many of us may assume that, like a treasured hymn, the Cooperative Program will always be there, always fueling the most effective and far-reaching missionary system in history. But that will only happen if we consistently and continually teach new generations of church leaders to carry the tune. (BP)

Nate Adams is executive director of the Illinois Baptist State Association.



FIRST PERSON



Though different, Scripture's four Easter narratives are not contradictory and give unified witness to the truth of Christ's resurrection, Andreas Kostenberger and Justin Taylor contend. (Image courtesy of LifeWay Christian Resources)

Easter

Continued from page 1

A moment of particular significance during the Passion Week came at the crucifixion, Kostenberger and Taylor note, where Jesus' promise that a repentant thief would be with Him in Paradise illustrated salvation by grace through faith.

"Jesus' acceptance of the man powerfully illustrates the opportunity for forgiveness and eternal life that will soon be proclaimed to all people on the basis of his sacrificial death for sin," the authors state in the book. "The robber has no time or ability to do any good works—he could not possibly make up for the wrong he had done if that were even possible—but he does have the strength to believe in Jesus and ask him for salvation. That is all that is needed, and the man's eternal destiny changes decisively from separation from God to spending eternity with Jesus in Paradise."

When it comes to the resurrection, Kostenberger and Taylor propose three scenarios of how the Gospel accounts—which are all slightly different—could fit together. Matthew, Mark and Luke each record a group of women going to the tomb on Easter morning while John tells only of Mary Magdalene going. The narratives make it clear that John is describing a different event than the other three.

Perhaps, Kostenberger and Taylor note, a group of women went to the tomb, and upon finding the stone rolled away, Mary Magdalene fled to tell the disciples while the others entered the tomb and discovered angels. After telling Peter and John that Jesus' body had been moved, Mary returned to the tomb and saw Jesus.

Alternately, Mary may have gone to the tomb by herself before the other women, found it empty and fled to tell the disciples, with the other women arriving later. Or Mary could have gone to the tomb alone initially and made a second visit with the rest of the women.

However the events unfolded, Kostenberger and Taylor turn the tables on critics who argue that the Bible's resurrection accounts are contradictory and cannot be true.

"While the Gospel narratives are different, they are not contradictory. They reflect exactly what we would expect from eyewitness accounts of such an

unexpected and supernatural event. Their very differences confirm the truthfulness of the resurrection," Kostenberger and Taylor contend.

The book's commentary on the Easter narratives highlights other often neglected details. Among them:

■ Judas likely was seated next to Jesus at the Last Supper, explaining how Jesus was able to give him a morsel of bread.

■ Between Jesus' teaching in John 14 and its continuation in John 15, He and the disciples probably moved from the upper room to the Garden of Gethsemane. That explains the final sentence of John 14, "Get up; let's leave this place."

■ Pilate did not normally live in Jerusalem. He governed from Caesarea, along the Mediterranean coast, but came to Jerusalem during major festivals like Passover to keep order.

■ Mark's reference to Jesus' crucifixion occurring at the "third hour" is probably not a precise reference to nine o'clock. Ancient time designations were very general and based on observing the sun's position in the sky. Mark likely was making a general reference to the quarter of the day surrounding 9 a.m.—anytime between about 8 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. References to darkness at the "sixth hour" and Jesus' death at the "ninth hour" are also general rather than precise indications of noon and 3 p.m.

■ Jesus probably repeated the Great Commission many times during the 40 days between His resurrection and ascension. That assurance for the different versions of it spoken on different occasions in different books of the Bible.

In the end, Kostenberger and Taylor note the Passion narratives are intended not merely to impart historical knowledge, but to call people to faith in Jesus.

"Will you and I believe?" they write. "Will we place our faith once and for all in the one who came and died and rose again so we can be forgiven and have eternal life? If so, our Easter has dawned, and God's Morning Star has arisen in our hearts."

"For true believers, every day is Easter, and we can celebrate Easter joyfully, thanking God for His amazing salvation and looking forward expectantly to the day when our Lord will return and summon us to spend eternity with Him, for His glory and for our eternal happiness." (BP)

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Thirteen

'Old coach' sets a dozen plus one goals for Oneida Baptist Institute

Thirteen has always been my favorite number. There is a road sign 13 miles from our campus that reads, "Oneida 13." I've always loved that sign because I wore the number 13 during my basketball-playing days. Most of my family members wore it as well.

As I write this article, I am looking at my number 13 Oneida jersey on my office wall and I am amused to even think what it would look like if I tried to put that thing on. I would like to think jerseys shrink drastically over time, but I think we all know that isn't true.

Some hotels and larger buildings will "skip" the 13th floor because the number is thought to be bad luck. I don't believe in luck. I believe in preparation and trusting the Lord's design and plans.

In my time leading Oneida, I have been asked regularly what my vision or goals are for the school. As an old coach, I love setting goals for my team. I'd like to share 13 goals with you. Please pray the Lord will guide us as we do our best to implement these goals.

1. I want Oneida to help as many kids as possible. I don't know exactly what that number is, but I do know there is a need now more than ever for a place like Oneida. Young people need hope and there is hope at Oneida because Jesus is here.

2. I want Oneida to be the greatest

school in our state, country and world, but most of all to be the greatest school in God's kingdom.

3. I want Oneida to have the greatest and most loving faculty and staff of any school or ministry in this world.

This is
Oneida



Larry Gritton

4. I want Oneida to educate students for "time and eternity," and prepare our graduates—and even those who don't stay with us until graduation—to reach this world for Jesus.

5. I want Oneida to reach and impact our local community and students in a way it never has before.

6. I want Oneida to connect, reconnect and stay connected with alumni and friends.

7. I want every student who passes through Oneida to meet Jesus on our campus each and every day.

8. I want our alumni to remember their experience here and tell the world about it.

9. I want Oneida to be a place where people can feel the spirit of the Lord when they step foot on our campus.

10. I want Oneida to love the lovable and the unlovable.

11. I want Oneida to be a place where Jesus is ministered to the sick, hungry and lost.

12. I want Oneida to be "home" for all who have called it their "home away from home."

13. I want Oneida to be all the Lord wants it to be each and every day.

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

Practical ministry training

Graduate thankful for training in and out of classroom

Graduate John Riggs knows God has called him to be a pastor. As he finishes his studies, he is thankful for the practical ministry opportunities he has had while a student at Clear Creek Bible College.

"I knew God was calling me to be a pastor years ago," said Riggs. "When I first surrendered to preach I thought I would do pulpit supply around the area where I lived. I really didn't know what God was going to do with me."

"My pastor at that time was a Clear Creek graduate and he recommended I check out the college. When I visited the campus, God gave me a peace about being here and I knew this was where I needed to be to prepare for God's calling on my life."

"I am thankful for the practical ministry opportunities I had at Clear Creek both in and out of the classroom," Riggs said. "One of my greatest learning opportunities came by participating in Clear Creek Days while I have been a student. Clear Creek Days are preaching opportunities hosted by different Baptist associations in which the association brings in a team of preachers on a Sunday morning and we get to preach in different churches throughout the association."

"These preaching opportunities have been great learning tools for me outside of the classroom," Riggs noted. "They have given me good practical experience getting to be in different size churches and preaching in front of people that I do not know."

"I am thankful for the classes I have been able to take while a student at Clear Creek," Riggs said. "I have really enjoyed my ethics classes because they have challenged me to dig deep into some important issues in ministry."

"My Bible classes have really been a blessing to me. They have given me the opportunity to get deeper into Scripture like I never imagined."

"All my classes have been a tremendous blessing to me in my preparation for ministry."

"I am also thankful for the time management skills that God has taught me while a student here," Riggs said. "After getting married, working two jobs and taking classes, God has really shown me the importance of balancing my time."

Clear Creek
Chronicle



Donnie Fox

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

Remove story from Gospel of John, says Southern theology professor

By Bob Allen

Louisville—A Southern Baptist pastor and seminary professor says the story of Jesus forgiving a woman caught in adultery in the gospel of John is not in the earliest texts, belongs in a footnote and should not be preached in pulpits.

James Hamilton, pastor of Kenwood Baptist Church in Louisville, and associate professor of biblical theology at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, says Bible translators should remove John 7:53-8:11 from the Gospel text and put it in a footnote the way that modern Bibles treat verses at the end of Mark about snake-handling.

The English Standard Version of the Bible sets the verses off in brackets with a footnote explaining they are not in some early manuscripts and appear in others in different contexts.

Hamilton, who has a Ph.D. from Southern Seminary and taught previously at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary's satellite campus in Houston, says translation committees should do pastors a favor and move both passages to footnotes.

"Those passages do not belong in the text and should not be preached from pulpits," Hamilton argued in a blog. "The snake-handlers are woefully mistaken. They should not think there is any warrant in the New Testament for such a practice."

"Similarly, those who cry that no one should throw stones anytime sinners are called to repentance have misunderstood this interpolated passage (Jesus does tell the woman to stop sinning in 8:11), but still the passage has no business in the text," he continued. "It was not written by John, and it should not be there interrupting the flow of thought between 7:52 and 8:12. Put it in a footnote."

The passage describes a confrontation between Jesus and the scribes and Pharisees over whether a woman caught in the act of adultery ought to be stoned. Jesus writes with His finger on the ground and answers in the King James Version, "He that is without sin among you, let him first cast a stone at her."

Hamilton says it's the only place in John where Jesus' adversaries are identified as scribes. While that designation occurs in other books of the New Testament, he says, elsewhere in John they are identified simply as Jews.

He says the placement of the story doesn't make sense. The passage says Jesus' opponents are setting a trap in order to accuse him, but three chapters earlier they were already seeking to kill him for breaking the Sabbath and blasphemy.

Preaching from John 7:53-8:29 in his Sunday morning sermon at Kenwood Baptist Church March 30, Hamilton skipped over the part about Jesus and the woman caught in adultery.

"I don't think John wrote this passage," he explained to the congregation. "I'm certain he didn't put it here, and therefore I'm not going to preach it."

"The reason I'm not going to preach it



James Hamilton

"Then they all went home, but Jesus went to the Mount of Olives."

"At dawn he appeared again in the temple courts, where all the people gathered around him, and he sat down to teach them. The teachers of the law and the Pharisees brought in a woman caught in adultery. They made her stand before the group and said to Jesus, 'Teacher, this woman was caught in the act of adultery. In the Law of Moses commanded us to stone such women. Now what do you say?' They were using this question as a trap, in order to have a basis for accusing him."

"But Jesus bent down and started to write on the ground with his finger. When they kept on questioning him, he straightened up and said to them, 'Let any one of you who is without sin be the first to throw a stone at her.' Again he stooped down and wrote on the ground."

"At this, those who heard began to go away one at a time, the older ones first, until only Jesus was left, with the woman still standing there. Jesus straightened up and asked her, 'Woman, where are they? Has no one condemned you?'

"No one, sir," she said.

"Then neither do I condemn you," Jesus declared. "Go now and leave your life of sin" (John 7:53-8:11).

is because I believe I am supposed to preach the scriptures here in this pulpit, and I come to the conclusion that this is not part of the scriptures," he continued. "It's not part of what John wrote."

"That should not bother you," he counseled. "You should not be troubled by that. In fact you should be encouraged that we have enough evidence on the contents of John's Gospel to come to a conclusion like that, because there are many, many documents from the ancient world that we would never be able to determine like that, because we just don't have enough copies and we can't be certain about what was originally there."

At some point, he explained, the story "entered into the manuscript tradition" of Bible transmission.

"We're thinking about a world prior to the printing press," he said. "Prior to the printing press in the 1400s, people copied manuscripts by hand. At some point this section—John 7:53 through 8:11—started being copied, but it was copied at different places, and we're confident that it's not original to John's Gospel."

Hamilton said a couple of spurious texts should not undermine confidence in the Bible.

"You shouldn't start thinking something like, 'Oh, well, what other parts of the New Testament?'" he said. "Just pay close attention to the book in front of you, and it will have these brackets right here. We've got this passage and we've got Mark 16. Those are the two big ones."

Hamilton has been preaching pastor at Kenwood Baptist Church since 2008. Elders include Associate Pastor Denny Burk, associate professor of biblical studies at Boyce College, and Owen Strachan, assistant professor of Christian theology and church history at Boyce College and executive director of the Council on Biblical Manhood and Womanhood. (ABP)

Patterson & Kelley edit women's Bible

Fort Worth, Texas—A new study Bible compiled by women for women with special attention to passages of interest to women was introduced by general editor Dorothy Kelley Patterson during a chapel service April 9 at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary.

The Study Bible for Women, from Holman Bible Publishers, was produced by an all-female team of scholars led by Patterson, wife of Southwestern Seminary President Paige Patterson. Rhonda Harrington Kelley, wife of New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary President Chuck Kelley, served as managing editor.

The Study Bible for Women, which features the full text of the Holman Christian Standard Bible, includes an introduction for each book explaining key themes, outlining the book and situating it in its historical context. Study notes highlight important truths and provide insights on difficult passages. At the end of each book is a devotional application for women.

Woven throughout are explanations of foundational doctrines, profiles of

biblical women, discussions of biblical womanhood, word studies and answers to hard questions prompted by Scripture.

In 1995, Patterson and Kelley led the editorial team for The Woman's Study Bible, which has sold 1.5 million copies. With The Study Bible for Women, they hope to reach a new generation by addressing the issues and concerns faced by women today.

This latest study Bible is the third in a trilogy of biblical resources—which also includes The Women's Evangelical Commentary on the New Testament and The Women's Evangelical Commentary on the Old Testament—that Patterson and Kelley helped create for women.

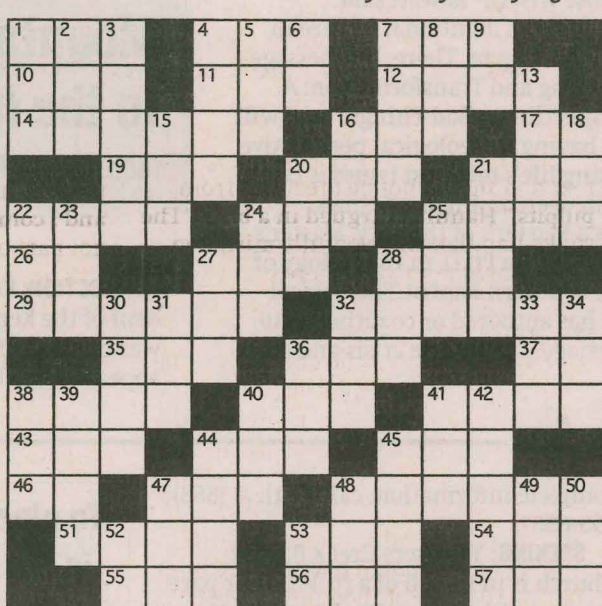
"All three volumes should be on the desk of women serious about Bible study and teaching, but the study Bible is a volume that can be the companion for a woman wherever she may go—a virtual library of information at her fingertips," Patterson said.

Tim Jordan of B&H Publishing said women's Bible "equips women to unlock the riches of God's word. (BP)

Bible Crosswords

Across

- 1 Horned mammal, often mentioned in the Bible
- 4 Son of (Hebrew)
- 7 ____ of Man
- 10 Tizzy
- 11 Compass pt.
- 12 One from Tarsus
- 14 "The younger son ... his substance with riotous living" (Luke 15:13)
- 16 "Aaron and ____ stayed up his hands" (Exodus 17:12)
- 17 Exclamation of relief
- 19 Many moons
- 20 Mother ____
- 21 Jeanne d'Arc, for one (abbr.)
- 22 Hive dweller
- 24 "Exalt him that is ____" (Ezekiel 21:26)
- 25 To dam up
- 26 Simile syntax
- 27 "____ thou on my right hand" (Mark 12:36)
- 28 Legume
- 29 ____ eagle (skating stunt)
- 32 Almost
- 35 Cereal grain
- 36 Baseball great Drysdale
- 37 That is (abbr.)
- 38 "What do ye, loosing the ____" (Mark 11:5)
- 40 "Ye are grown ____ as the heifer at grass" (Jeremiah 50:11)
- 41 Appeal
- 43 Hole-making device
- 44 Put down
- 45 Nemesis, certainly
- 46 Exist
- 47 Outward appearance
- 48 "Do I seek to ____ men?" (Galatians 1:10)
- 51 "____ thyself now with



#195

- majesty and excellency" (Job 40:10)
- 53 ____ Dolorosa
 - 54 "All the rivers ____ unto the sea" (Ecclesiastes 1:7)
 - 55 Consumed
 - 56 "Go to the ____ thou sluggard" (Proverbs 6:6)
 - 57 Mamie Eisenhower, ____ Dowd

Down

- 1 Unrefined
- 2 Michigan town near Grand Rapids
- 3 Brother of Miriam
- 4 Has ____
- 5 Kind of game
- 6 Quadrant in D.C.
- 7 "All the women ... in wisdom ____ goats' hair" (Exodus 35:26)

- 8 Paddle
- 9 Greek letter
- 13 Better than never
- 15 Big ____: circus site
- 16 "____ thee two tables of stone" (Exodus 34:1)
- 18 It gets let down
- 20 Kind of plate
- 21 "We have seen his ____ in the east" (Matthew 2:2)
- 22 "And there ____ light" (Genesis 1:3)

By Evelyn Boyington

Give to God and Caesar

Taxes can play an important role in the size, timing of legacy gifts

Legacy giving by us Christians is unique and distinct because it is a spiritually motivated, not a tax motivated, decision.

However, much of the legacy giving in the U.S. is driven by tax avoidance, not biblical stewardship principles. As Americans, we still enjoy the most favorable tax system in the world in terms of encouraging and facilitating charitable giving. So without question, we should seek to maximize the available tax benefits in our giving. But, at the end of the day we Christians must recognize we shall be held accountable by God for how we steward what He has entrusted to us. And, a legacy gift is a gift you cannot put in the offering plate; it is a gift out of your assets, not your income, and it is made in light of your overall estate and financial plans.

It is important to remember charitable giving in America preceded all of our current tax systems. Many charitable organizations were created and continuously funded through generous outright gifts, bequests in wills and life income gifts before the establishment of the modern federal income tax in 1913, the federal estate tax in

1917, and the federal gift tax in 1935.

I am pleased to acknowledge those whom the Kentucky Baptist Foundation has had the privilege of assisting have demonstrated their primary motivation to give was not the tax savings

opportunities, but the opportunities to make an impact, to make a lasting difference, to leave a legacy of their love for Christ and His mission in this world through their churches and other Christian ministries near and dear to their hearts.

Having said that, taxes can play an important role in the size and the timing of legacy gifts. Inherent in the mission of the KBF is to facilitate the

making of legacy gifts by simplifying the process and ensuring each giver is maximizing the tax savings opportunities available. To that end, the KBF makes available to all Kentucky Baptists confidential estate and charitable gift planning consultation.

Please call toll free Laurie Valentine, our trust counsel, for assistance in fulfilling the teaching of Jesus to "give to Caesar what is Caesar's and to God what is God's" (Matthew 22:21).

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

Ky. Baptist Foundation



Barry Allen

Eliza Broadus goes to camp

Register now for summer missions, camp opportunities

In spite of a long winter, spring has finally arrived and summer will be here soon (though not soon enough for students who are spending some summer days in school). This column comes as a reminder that the Eliza Broadus Offering is at work during summer camps, overnights, and through Kentucky Changers. EBO allows us to keep participation fees lower by covering some of the expenses of these ministries.

Kentucky Changers is wonderful hands-on missions experience for students in grades 7-12. Kentucky Changers goes way beyond a typical summer camp experience as students live out their faith while getting their hands dirty doing exterior home repairs for low-income families.

Changers will be working in five locations this summer: Hopkinsville, Frankfort/Lawrenceburg, Richmond, Louisville and Henderson. Cost per person is \$200 which includes housing, meals, and project materials. Peggy Murphy, Kentucky Changers Coordinator, welcomes adult volunteers as well as student participants. Learn more at kywmu.org/changers.

Mission Adventure Camps and Overnights will be held at Cedar Crest, on the grounds of Cedarmore Conference Center near Bagdad in June. Three Monday to Friday camps for girls and boys in grades 3-6 and their leaders are offered in June.

There are also two Mother/Daughter

and Father/Son Overnights for children in grades 1-3 and parents (or another adult). In 2014 participants will go on a Missions Safari and learn about missions in Africa, including the Bucket Project.

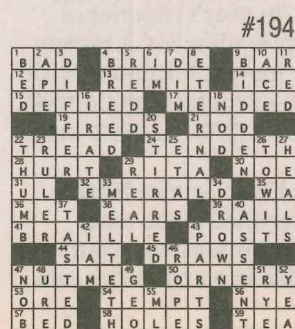
The regular early bird rate for weeklong camps is \$195 per student with a special rate of \$25 for required chaperones. The early bird rate for overnights is \$50 per person. These rates are in effect until May 1.

While camps are coed, boys and girls stay in separate cabins and enjoy many gender specific special activities. In addition, we are offering \$50 "Snow Special" discount for the first week of camp to encourage more participation by those who can come when so many others are still in school. Information and registration can be found online at kywmu.org/mac.

Overnights at the Creek will be held July 11-12 at Jonathan Creek Conference Center near Aurora. Three simultaneous overnights will be offered: Mother/Daughter for girls in grades 1-3 and moms (or another adult), GA Overnight for girls in grades 4-6 and leaders, and Acteens Splash for girls in grades 7-12 and leaders. The early bird rate for these overnights is \$50 per person until June 1. Learn more at kywmu.org/overnights.

The Eliza Broadus Offering will be at work all summer.

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





April

- 24 More Than Music, Kentucky Baptist Building, Louisville.
- 24 Ministry Assistant's Conference, Paroquet Springs Conference Center, Shepherdsville.
- 25 All State Children's Choir, Cedarmore, Bagdad.
- 29 Senior Living Celebration, Sand Spring Church, Lawrenceburg.

May

- 1 Senior Living Celebration, Living Hope Church, Bowling Green.
- 2 Senior Living Celebration, Lone Oak First Church, Paducah.
- 2 Women's Regional Retreat, Laurel Lake Camp, Corbin.
- 6 Power Lunch, Kentucky Baptist Building, Louisville.
- 8 Churches Planting Churches Training, Kentucky Baptist Building, Louisville.
- 14 Directors of Missions Leadership Event, Rough River State Resort Park, Falls of the Rough.

MOUNTAINS TO THE MISSISSIPPI

COMPILED BY STAFF

CECILIA—Cecilia Church will hold an Easter egg hunt April 19, 10:30 a.m. **Eric Oliver** is pastor.

CRESTWOOD—Crestwood Church will host the Uganda Children's Choir in concert April 19, 5 p.m. For more information, call (502) 241-8534. **Donnie Patrick** is pastor.

FREDONIA—White Sulphur recently called **Roger Felker** as pastor.

GLENDALE—Gilead Church will hold a Easter egg hunt and lunch April 19, 11 a.m. **Sam Hinkson** is pastor.

GRAY—**Rudy Montalvo** was recently called as pastor of the Hispanic Mission with Knox Association.

GREENVILLE—Second Church will host a Red Cross blood drive April 22, at noon. **Ray England** is pastor.

HOPKINSVILLE—First Church will hold Easter Eggstravaganza April 19, 9:30 a.m.

KUTTAWA—First Church will sponsor an Easter egg hunt April 19, 10 a.m. **Carl Nelson** is pastor.

LEXINGTON—Boone's Creek Church will hold an Easter egg hunt April 19, at noon. **Charles Dixon** is pastor.

LOUISVILLE—Bethlehem Church will hold an Easter egg hunt April 19, at noon. **Steve Thompson** is pastor.

Parkland Church will hold Easter Eggstravaganza April 19, 10 a.m. **Tom Curry** is pastor.

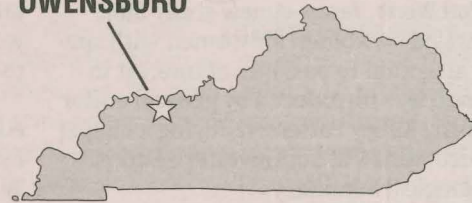
Green Acres Church will hold an Easter egg hunt April 19, 11 a.m. **Phil Ellis** is pastor.

Woodland Church will hold an Easter festival April 19, 4 p.m. **John Abel** is pastor.

MASCOT, TENN.—**Raymond Long**, a graduate of Clear Creek Bible College and Campbellsville University, announced his retirement March 2 after serving churches in Kentucky, Louisiana and Tennessee for 56 years.

Spotlight on ...

OWENSBORO



First Church will hold a video game night for fathers and their sons in kindergarten through 5th grade April 25, 6:30 p.m. Register by April 23 at fbcowb.org/videogames. **Paul Strahan** is pastor.

MOUNT VERNON—Northside Church will hold a Good Friday outreach event and Passion play April 18, 7 p.m. **Randy McPherson** is pastor.

PRESTONSBURG—First Church will hold an Easter egg hunt April 19, at noon. **Jerry Workman** is pastor.

Rowatt to speak at Campbellsville University

By Kevin Thomas and Samantha Stevenson

Campbellsville—Campbellsville University's School of Theology will host Wade Rowatt as a guest speaker on Wednesday, April 16 at 10 a.m. in Ransdell Chapel.

Rowatt is currently the senior professor of pastoral care and counseling at the Baptist Seminary of Kentucky, located in Georgetown. He is also the director of Clinical Pastoral Education at the St. Matthew's Pastoral Counseling Center in Louisville.

Rowatt's chapel address is centered on the idea of being joyful while serving. Rowatt will speak on finding the real fun in "everything we do," especially in serv-



Wade Rowatt

ing others.

"We seldom find happiness in advertised places. Happiness often finds us in the weirdest locations. We all make a few, sometimes random, choices that control much of the rest of our lives. Choose wisely," Rowatt said.

Rowatt will give an additional lecture in the Banquet Hall at 2 p.m. There, his message is called "Suffering and Transformation: A Christian Perspective on Bad Things," and will focus on how having a theological perspective when addressing life's toughest issues is the best strategy in overcoming hard times.

Rowatt has a Master's of Divinity, Master's in Pastoral Care, and a Ph.D. in Psychology of Religion from Southern Baptist Theological Seminary. He has authored or coauthored 10 books on marriage, family, life crisis and counseling. (CU)

What's happening?

Send your church news and association events to:

Mountains to the Mississippi

todd.deaton@westernrecorder.org

CORRECTION: Kevin Milburn, first vice president of the Kentucky Baptist Convention, was misidentified in his column that appeared April 8.

CLASSIFIED ADS

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

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

SEEKING: A splendid opportunity to serve in Appalachia. Three Forks Baptist Association is now accepting resumés for the position of director of missions. Resumés will be accepted through May 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: 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: 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: Youngers Creek Baptist Church is in search of a full-time or part-time worship leader. Send resumés 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.

SEEKING: Spears Mill Baptist Church in Paris is seeking a full-time pastor. All resumés should be submitted before June 15 to the following address: Spears Mill Baptist Church, 179 Southland Drive, Paris, KY 40316.

SEEKING: Senior pastor (FT) First Baptist Church Ashland is located in a small college town minutes north of Richmond, Va. Average attendance over two services: 300. We just completed the intentional interim process and desire to expand young adult, youth and children's ministries. Candidates should exemplify strong spiritual leadership, be devoted to pastoral care and the Great Commission, and preach the inspired word of God. Prefer seminary degree with 6+ years senior pastor, or equivalent, experience. Resumés: P.O. Box 928, Ashland, VA 23005, or fbcsearch14@gmail.com. Deadline: June 15.

SEEKING: Westport Road Baptist

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.

Church, a large growing church in northeast Louisville, is looking for a minister to youth. Experience with a master's degree preferred. Submit resumés to Chip Pendleton, Westport Road Baptist, 9705 Westport Road, Louisville, KY 40241.

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 jcamedia.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.

Blending hobbies with the art of sharing the gospel

By Laura Fielding

East Asia—For Ann Lane,* the “main thing” is sharing the gospel with an unreached people group in the mountains of East Asia.

But Lane also uses a surprising talent in her life and ministry—painting.

“I used to think that spending time painting was too self-indulgent because it’s not the main thing,” Lane said, but she’s learned she can paint for pleasure and paint to help others, too.

Connecting with people

Lane, 49, is a single International Mission Board worker who has lived in East Asia for about 20 years. Her main focus is ministering to her assigned people group by building relationships, telling the good news, encouraging disciples and teaching English. She works to connect mainly with the women of this group.

To better connect with this people group, Lane is learning their heart language, which is different from the country’s more prominent language she already knows how to speak. Though some of this people group’s men also speak the primary language, very few women do.

Lane listens to recordings of the words of the heart language being spoken. The easiest way for her to learn is “to do something with my hands while I’m listening,” so she often paints during her language lessons.

“And the more I listen, the more I can understand when people are sharing with me and when I’m talking with people,” which is crucial to building strong relationships, Lane said.

Many brush strokes, many ways

Though Lane also occasionally paints while she listens to audio recordings of the Bible, she uses her painting as more than just a listening comprehension tool. She often uses her artwork in outreach and ministry.

She has a national friend who is her “painting partner”—they get together to create art, and during their time Lane can share about Jesus. Lane also hosts craft parties at her home, inviting women and children to have fun and craft together. But it is also a time for Lane and national Christian women to share with them the gospel.

Lane gives her paintings as gifts to bless others and also puts her artwork onto cards or calendars to give away. Some of her art provides visual backgrounds for worship music DVDs developed in the minority’s heart language. She sometimes paints outside by a lake in her city, which is also a way to start conversations and meet new people.

She often sits alongside groups of women enjoying the sunshine as they weave or embroider and their children play. She draws quick portraits of the children while an MP3 player plays the good news for the women to hear in their dialect. The women enjoy seeing the portraits, Lane said, and the children enjoy receiving them.

Before Lane goes on stateside assignment to spend several months with family, friends and churches, she often creates drawings of “specific people I want my friends in America to be pray-



ing for,” she said.

She puts those drawings, along with the person’s story, on bookmarks to distribute or adds them in her prayer letters. These drawings are a safe way to show nationals’ faces without the threat of persecution, which happens frequently to believers in this part of East Asia.

Balance is key

Sometimes, though, painting is just for herself—“sometimes it’s not related to ministry; sometimes it’s a hobby.”

Someone once asked Lane, “How do you find time to paint?” she recalled. She often paints at night after the day’s tasks. Occasionally she paints during the day, too—the key is balance, she said.

The International Mission Board worker recognizes the importance of having a hobby to enjoy while doing ministry, because it can be easy to get “burned out.”

Hobbies can tie into spiritual life, too. Lane referenced a famous quote from Scottish athlete Eric Liddell: “God made me fast. And when I run, I feel His pleasure.”

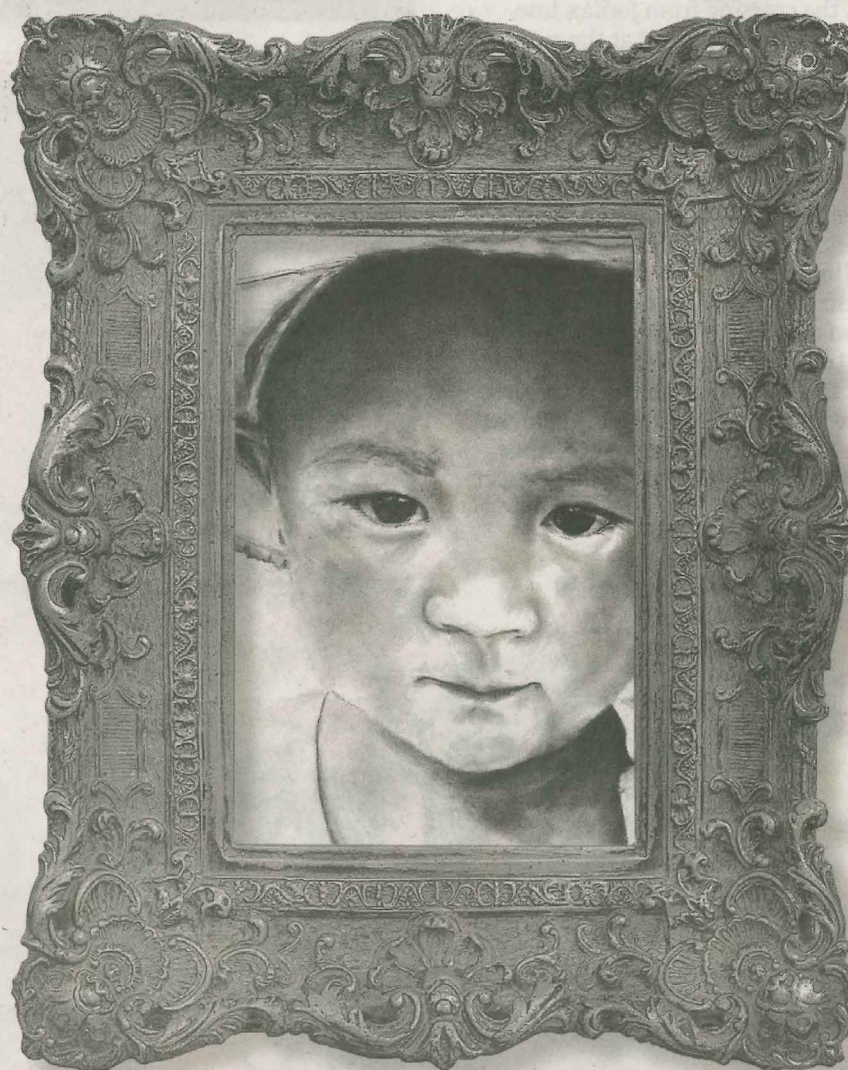
Lane added, “I can’t sing, but sometimes I can praise Him when I paint.”

But every so often, painting is simply just for fun.

“Painting is not the main thing,” she reiterated. “... I have to balance it, but it can support the main thing.”

Pray for her ministry:

- Pray that the people group she



works with will clearly hear the gospel, and that Christians in East Asia will stand strong against persecution and share Jesus with their own people.

■ Pray that Lane will continue to find creative ways to use her talents for Christ. (BP)

*Name changed.

'Surreal' Campbellsville theology students, faculty tour Holy Land

By Samantha Stevenson

Campbellsville—Thirty-six Campbellsville University School of Theology students participated in some long distance learning as they toured the Holy Land with a group of faculty, family, friends and alumni in March.

Mary Kate Young said her most memorable moments came during one of the last days of the trip when she was able to perform an impromptu hymn for her fellow travelers at the site where Peter is believed to have preached at Pentecost.

"I sang 'How Great Thou Art,' and was able to worship the same God in Israel that I do here in Campbellsville," said Young. "As a music student, it was a surreal experience that I'll never forget."

Their tour began in Jordan, where travelers were able to see the famous biblical sites from the Old and New Testament, including the tomb of Moses, the Dead Sea and the site where John the Baptist was beheaded.

The rest of the trip was spent in Israel, where travelers visited the Sea of Galilee, the Garden of Gethsemane, Jesus' tomb and some of the known paths He walked.

Scott Wigginton, professor of pastoral ministries and counseling, organized the trip. He was accompanied by John Hurtgen, dean of the School of Theology, Shane Garrison, assistant professor of educational ministries, Ted Taylor, director of the Big Maroon Club and former professor in the School of Theology, and Ed Pavy, director of campus ministries. They, along with Brad Lauer, discipleship pastor at Campbellsville Baptist Church, led devotionals at some of the major sites and stops.

At the crossing from Jordan into Israel, the group paused at the river where Jesus is said to have been baptized by John the Baptist. There, seven travelers were baptized, including Shane Garrison's father.

"I was there with my biological father, my spiritual father and in the presence of my Holy Father," said Garrison.

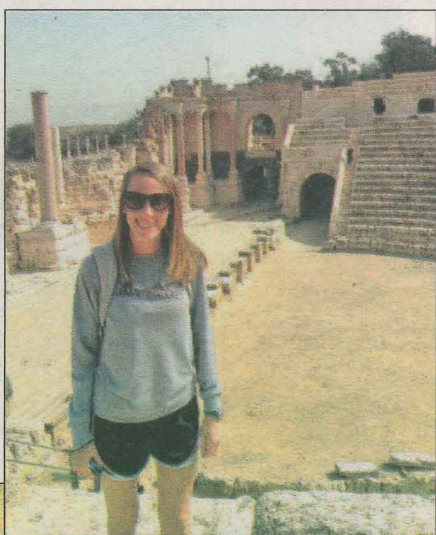
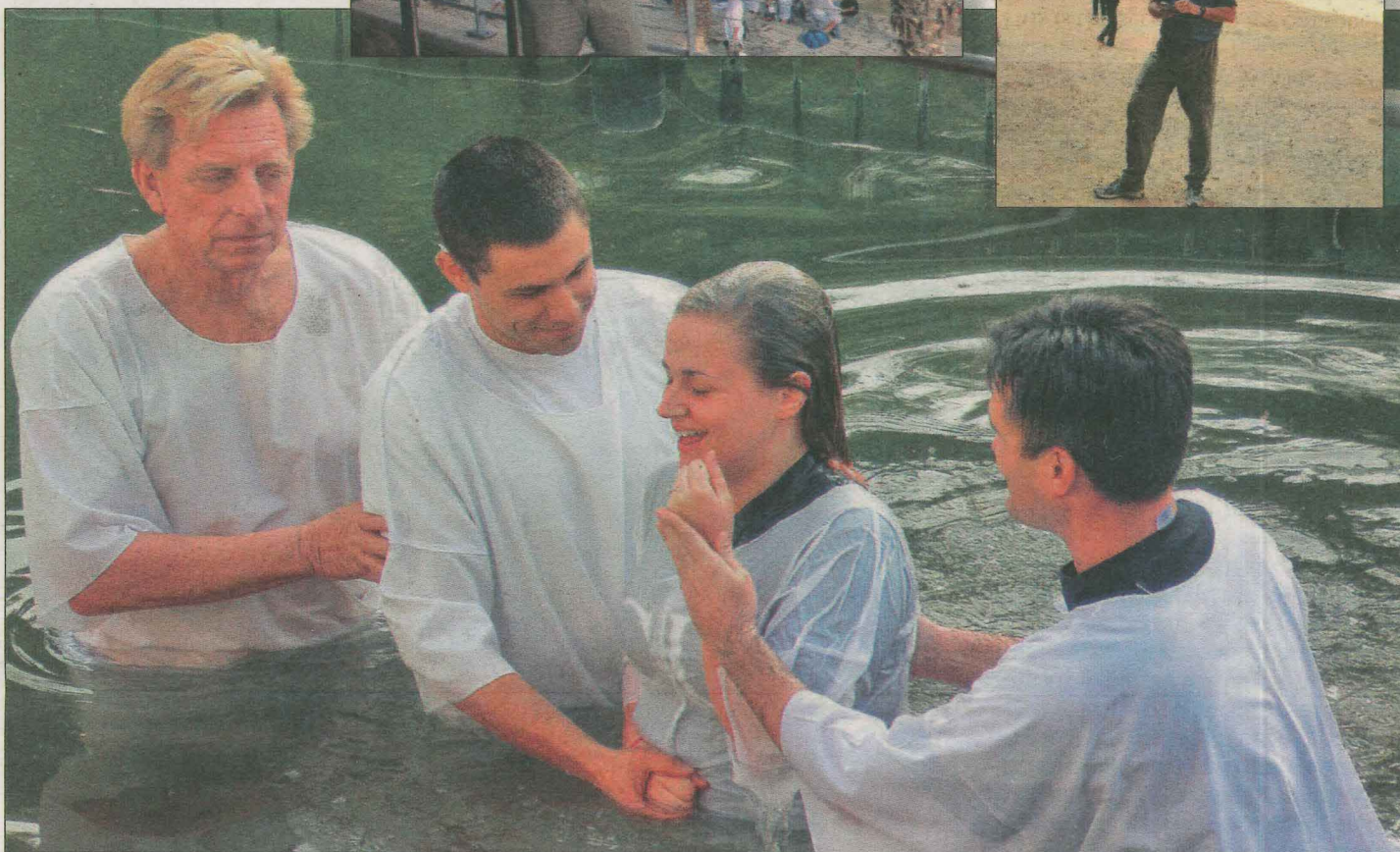
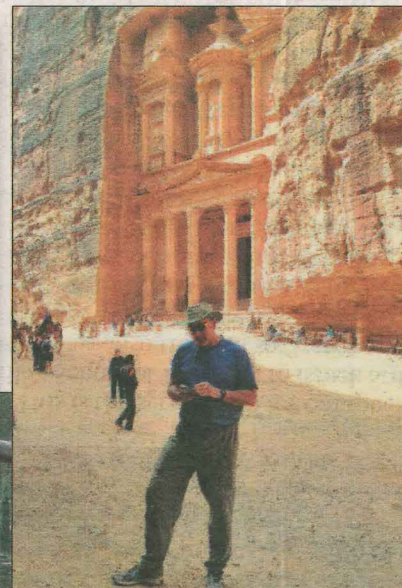
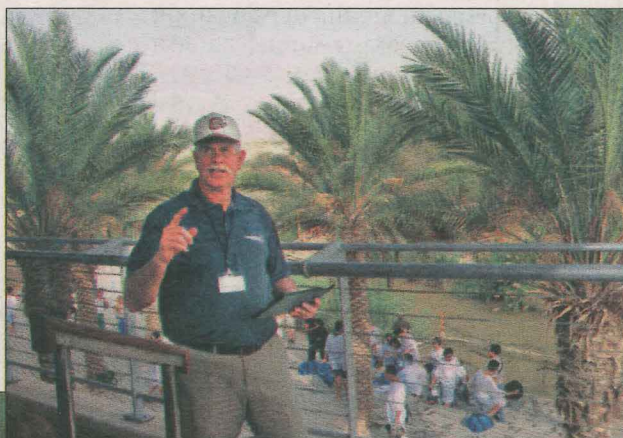
Also baptized were Marissa Rehmet, Dalton and Shelby Hicks, Tommy Ramey, Brad Lowe and Aron Neal.

At the site of the tomb in Jerusalem where Jesus is said to have been buried, Noah Blackburn, CU Baptist Campus Ministry president, and president-elect

AT RIGHT: CU Campus Minister Ed Pavy leads a devotional at the location where Jesus was baptized by John the Baptist.

FAR RIGHT: Scott Wigginton teaches at The Treasury in Petra, Jordan. Petra is a city carved out of red rose sandstone and was inhabited by the Edomites, the descendants of Esau.

BELOW: Ted Taylor (left) and Shane Garrison (right) baptize Dalton and Shelby Hicks in the Jordan River.



FAR LEFT: Mary Kate Young poses for a photograph at Beit Shean, an archaeological site in Israel. After defeating Saul and his sons on Mount Gilboa, the Philistines hanged their bodies here. This was also one of the chief cities of the Decapolis in Jesus' time.

LEFT: Aron Neal stands on the Mount of Olives overlooking Jerusalem.



Pete Hurtgen (left), Shane Garrison, Scott Wigginton, Dalton Hicks and Shelby Hicks climb the Snake Hurl on Masada, the mountain fortress that was the last point of Jewish resistance against the Romans after Jerusalem fell in 70 B.C.

Joey Bomia led the travelers in a worship service and communion.

"It was my first experience of participating in a Lord's Supper that was not held in a Baptist church venue," said Steve Horner, Campbellsville alumnus and advancement board member.

When they returned to Campbellsville, several spoke of their favorite experiences on March 26 at CU's weekly chapel service.

Aron Neal said one of his most challenging, but rewarding moments was hiking up a mountain in Masada, Israel, with fellow student Hunter Smith.

"It was hard getting up there, but that's how life is sometimes. Sometimes it's hard, but at the end it's worth it when you're standing in the presence of God," said Neal.

"There were no words for the view at the top," added Smith. "All you could see was mountains. It was just really cool."

This is the second trip for Campbellsville's School of Theology to Israel. Students have also traveled to Greece and Turkey to follow the path of Paul.

In 2016, a trip is planned to Italy and Germany for a look at several historical churches and sites relating to the Protestant Reformation.

CU students on the trip included: Melissa Goble, Matthew Feather, Adam Coleman, Brittney Casey, Zachary Gray and his father, Mark Gray, Kevin Rothaker, Marissa Rehmet, Dalton Hicks and his wife, Shelby, Mary Kate Young, Hunter Smith, Joey Bomia, Aron Neal and Noah Blackburn.

Others included: Danny Garrison, Stephen Horner and his son, Aaron, and daughter-in-law, Laura, Sheri Taylor, Pam Hurtgen and her son, Peter, Phil and Tina Speller, Mary Stansbury and Joan Stansbury, Steve Arnold, David Wray, Tommy Ramey and Andy Matthies. (CU)