

WESTERN Recorder

April 22, 2014

Shine Like Stars * Philippians 2:15

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Groups Matter

LifeWay challenges churches to start 100,000 new Bible study groups

By Bob Smietana

Nashville, Tenn.—LifeWay Christian Resources is challenging churches to start 100,000 new Bible study groups by the end of this year.

The new groups initiative is a partnership between churches, state conventions and LifeWay.

It is designed to help longtime

churchgoers jumpstart their faith and to help new believers grow spiritually, Bruce Raley, director of church education ministry for LifeWay, said.

Whether they meet on Sunday mornings or during the week, small groups are the best way to learn the habits of faith, such as prayer, Bible study and serving others, Raley said.

"Discipleship takes place best in the context of a relationship," he said. "And relationships are most likely to develop in a small group."

So far, about 17,000 new small groups have been registered at GroupsMatter.com, which includes guides for starting new groups, resources for new leaders, and

□ See Groups ... Page 7

Mid-Continent University to close doors by June 30

By Kathleen Fox

Mayfield—The financial crisis at Mid-Continent University has reached the breaking point with nearly all faculty and staff laid off and the school scheduled to close by June 30.

The Mid-Continent University board of trustees met for more than three hours April 15 before announcing those decisions. The board also held a six-hour meeting three days earlier.

During the April 12 session, trustees fired former president Robert Imhoff, who had stepped aside seven weeks earlier.

□ See Mid-Continent ... Page 3



ON THAT SAME TOPIC

What do Kentucky Baptists have to say about Mid-Continent University's impending closure?

Editorial on page 4.

Baptist leaders to address marriage at KBC conference in May

By Roger Alford

Louisville—Federal court rulings that authorized same-sex marriages in several states are raising concerns among church leaders that Kentucky will soon follow.

But there are legal ways pastors and churches can protect themselves from being forced to perform or host gay marriages, and a panel of experts will explain those at a conference in Kentucky next month.

The issue flared last year when the U.S. Supreme Court struck down the 1996 Defense of Marriage Act that forbade the federal government from recognizing same-sex marriage. Justices ruled that law deprived gay couples of due process.

Since then, gay rights activists have won eight lower court cases across the country, and expectations are high that the nation's highest court will eventually

rule that gays can marry in every state.

Already, a federal judge in Kentucky signed an order directing officials in the state to immediately recognize same-sex marriages performed in other states and countries. That order was handed down in February.

"These recent court rulings have cracked open the door to redefining marriage in Kentucky," said Paul Chitwood, executive director of the 750,000-member Kentucky Baptist Convention. "Many church leaders are concerned about the implications for their ministries."

Chitwood said those church leaders want to know what the redefinition of marriage means for the local church,

how churches can protect biblical marriage, and what legal issues congregations may face for taking a biblical stand on marriage.

Chitwood and other church leaders,

including Southern Baptist Theological Seminary President Albert Mohler, will answer those questions and more at a conference at Crestwood Baptist Church in Oldham County May 22, 7 p.m.

"There is no doubt that the issue of same-sex marriage and the larger crisis of sexuality in marriage and the

culture creates the greatest challenge to Christian faithfulness of our times and a challenge that we will face for an entire generation and beyond," Mohler said.

□ See Marriage ... Page 2

ON THAT SAME TOPIC

SBC ethicist Russell Moore says defenders of traditional marriage should adopt the same strategies pro-life advocates did years ago when speaking out against abortion.

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Back in the pulpit

Former Ky. congressman returns to ministry

By Becca Owsley

Elizabethtown—After almost 15 years in Congress and a few years' rest, Ron Lewis said God called him to return to the preaching ministry.

It was a simple decision for the 67-year-old who has moved from the inner halls of Washington as the 2nd Congressional District's member in the U.S. House of Representatives to the pulpit of Youngers Creek Baptist Church in a rural corner of eastern Hardin County.

"When God calls you, you feel at peace and content," Lewis said.

Before being elected to Congress, Lewis was pastor of several churches and owned Alpha Christian Bookstore in Elizabethtown for 10 years.

While in Washington, he said he kept close to his faith, participating in the weekly congressional prayer breakfasts and Bible studies sponsored by Campus Crusade.

He said he sees both political office and the pastoral ministry as a form of serving others.

"I was blessed to be able to serve in the 2nd District, but I always tell my staff we are servants to the people," he said.

He couldn't help everyone but told his staff to try their best to find someone who could help, he recalled.

"It was pretty much a ministry in itself," he said.

While in Congress his proudest accomplishments were helping to protect Fort Knox during the base-realignment and closure process and helping to ensure passage of the tobacco buyout bill. He was also chairman of the Family Caucus and supported pro-life issues.

When he retired, he spent most of his time with his grandchildren and attending a local church until he felt the call back into the pastorate.



Ron Lewis has recently answered the call to return to the pulpit as pastor of Youngers Creek Baptist Church. (Photo by Neal Cardin, The News-Enterprise)

Youngers Creek asked him to preach as a fill-in, later becoming the congregation's interim pastor before accepting the call as full-time pastor.

"It eased me back into the ministry," he said.

Smaller churches like 'family'

Lewis said he likes serving smaller churches because the members become like family. When he sees people from former churches he's led, he said it is like a "family reunion."

Lewis and his wife, Kayi, feel at home once again at Youngers Creek.

"We've fallen in love with the people there," he said.

They've enjoyed spending time with the congregation and activities with the senior group called The Young and the Rowdy.

"I think I can speak for everyone at Youngers Creek Baptist Church: We are so blessed and proud to have such a wonderful and caring couple with Bro. Ron and his wife, Kayi, to lead our church," church member Anna Bechanan said.

She said Lewis "immediately stepped into the position of carrying out the duties as pastor."

Church member Rachel Mobley said the Lewises are the "biggest blessings to

come to Youngers Creek in a long time."

"Bro. Ron and Kayi are the people I aspire to be like when I grow up," Mobley said. "Bro. Ron and Kayi coming to our church have not only enriched my faith but the strength of the church as well."

Jeff Mobley said Lewis is a "genuine and sincere man who kindly and lovingly interacts with all people equally."

"His attitude and approach is always positive and encouraging with great sincerity, concern and even humor," Mobley added.

Lewis never dreamed God would take him along this path when he started out in life, he said. He studied political science in school and worked on many campaigns, even running for public office at age 24.

Faith wasn't in the picture. In fact, he was an agnostic.

Lewis said he became a Christian at age 32. After moving to Hardin County, he befriended local chaplain Larry Vance, even though he wasn't sure he would have enough in common to have a pastor as a friend.

He began studying the Bible, mainly to trip up Vance. But he was fascinated by what the Bible said, and the more he read, the more his life was changed.

After becoming a Christian, he said he later felt called to the ministry, feeling unprepared at first.

"When God calls you to something, He prepares the way and takes care of the details, if you are prepared to do it," he said.

Now back in the pulpit, Lewis said he sees God doing a lot of good work through the people at Youngers Creek.

"We're going to see good things because we're just going to let the Lord have His way," he said. (KPNS)

This article originally appeared in The News-Enterprise of Elizabethtown.

Corbin teen chosen for 2014 national Acteens panel

Birmingham, Ala.—National Woman's Missionary Union has named Cassandra Couch, a member of Central Baptist Church in Corbin, to this year's National Acteens Panel.

National Acteens Panelists are teen girls who exemplify a commitment to missions coupled with participation and leadership in their Acteens group, church, school and community. Acteens is the WMU-sponsored missions organization for girls in grades 7-12.

Couch has been involved in Acteens for six years and has demonstrated a commitment to serving others and sharing Christ.

"As I entered Acteens my seventh-grade year, I didn't really realize what I was getting myself in to," Couch recalled. "As soon as I started to get involved in Acteens, God started planting seeds in my heart regarding missions."

Couch describes Acteens as a ministry that allows girls to experience spiritual accountability, love, independence and leadership while equipping them to be missionaries in the true sense of the Great Commission.

"Living a life of missions means you live to serve," she said. "Whether at school, at home, at the store, in another state or in another country, you are always looking for needs and have a longing to put others above yourself. There are people all around us who are lost; it is our job as Christians to show them God's love all the time."

Maryann Lee, Kentucky WMU's youth and college consultant, said of Couch, "I know being active in missions and going on mission trips has been something that has shaped her Christian life and helped to make her into the wonderful person she is."

Couch will serve alongside three other Acteens named to this year's panel: Elizabeth Stanbrough from First Baptist Church of Alexander City, Ala.; Nayely Vallejo from Freeman Heights Baptist Church in Garland, Texas; and Claire Wells from Eastern Hills Baptist Church in Montgomery, Ala.

"These young women not only know what it means to live a missions lifestyle, but they are living it every day," said Suzanne Reece, the national WMU's student ministry consultant. "They are living selfless lives centered on serving God and serving others."

The four girls will serve through Dec. 31 and receive \$1,000 from the Jessica Powell Loftis Scholarship for Acteens from the WMU Foundation. They will also be featured during the WMU Missions Celebration and annual meeting in Baltimore, June 8-9.

Additionally, they may be requested to speak at church, associational and state Acteens and WMU meetings and events and will write articles for The Mag, Acteens' missions magazine. (WMU)

Marriage

Continued from page 1

"I'm very thankful that Dr. Chitwood and the leadership of the Kentucky Baptist Convention have joined with us in this conference that is intended to help Kentucky Baptist pastors and other Baptist leaders think through this challenge faithfully in order to respond in a way that honors scripture, the gospel and the lordship of Christ."

Steve Weaver, chairman of the KBC's Public Affairs Committee and pastor of Farmdale Baptist Church in Frankfort, said church leaders need to prepare for what lies ahead.

"With the recent changes in our culture and legal system, there is a need, not only to strengthen what remains, but also to be ready to defend our legal rights to believe and practice what the Bible teaches about marriage," he said.

The event "is a great example of how a denomination can serve her churches," Weaver said. "Experts on various aspects of the current challenge to



Albert Mohler



Paul Chitwood



Andrew Walker



Curtis Woods



Bill Langley

marriage will be speaking. Additionally, those attending will receive practical tools for addressing the issue in their local congregations and communities."

Also taking part in the conference are Andrew Walker, director of policy studies for the Southern Baptist Convention's Ethics and Religious Liberty Commission; Bill Langley, pastor of Severns Valley Baptist Church in Elizabethtown; Curtis Woods, the KBC's associate executive director for convention relations, and Augie Boto, attorney for the SBC.

"Hardly a week goes by without one or more phone calls to the Kentucky Baptist Convention requesting information on how churches should respond to

gay marriage," Chitwood said.

"Although gay nuptials are not yet legal in the commonwealth, the day of our constitutional definition of marriage being overturned, and gay marriage being forced upon our state, probably isn't very far away."

"We plan to address not only the breakneck speed of our society's abandonment of a biblical definition of marriage but also what that abandonment may mean for churches that refuse to surrender their biblical convictions on this issue," he added. "In all likelihood, gay marriage is here to stay. How churches respond to that reality will determine whether a true witness of the

Baptists hold sway in Kentucky

Lawmakers, church leaders take credit for gay marriage ban, no casinos

By Scott Wartman

Frankfort—Why have casinos and gay marriage had such a tough time in the Kentucky General Assembly?

Baptists.

That's the consensus among the Kentucky Baptist Convention and lawmakers themselves, who say the high number of Baptists in the General Assembly can take the blame or credit for Kentucky's continuing ban on gay marriage and lack of casinos.

Baptists make up 25 percent of the state's 4.4 million population, but 40 percent of the General Assembly, according to statistics gathered by the 2010 Religious Census by the Association of Statisticians of American Religious Bodies and the KBC and Legislative Research Commission.

Almost half the Senate and more than one-third of the House identify as Baptists, with many coming from the rural areas in the eastern, southern and western parts of the state.

With many Baptists in key leadership positions in the Senate and House—including chairing seven committees in both the House and Senate—that's had a noticeable impact on what gets passed and what doesn't.

Some of the notable legislation influenced by Baptists include the General Assembly's ban on gay marriage that passed in 2004 and why the General Assembly can't pass legislation to allow for casinos.

Baptists also led the charge on the "religious freedom" bill in 2013 that stated government couldn't infringe on religious beliefs without "clear and convincing evidence." Many civil rights groups feared it would lead to discrimination of gay people on religious grounds. Gov. Steve Beshear vetoed the bill but the General Assembly overrode the veto.

Not all Baptists agree. Speaker of the House Greg Stumbo is a Baptist but has

supported expanded gambling and other issues that may be at odds with other Baptists.

"Not every elected official that claims to be Baptist would take a biblical stand on issues, but we feel a majority do," said Paul Chitwood, executive director of the KBC, which represent 2,500 Southern Baptist churches with 750,000 members. "We see favorable outcomes as a result."

The Baptist influence isn't as heavy elsewhere, with Baptists making up 13.7 percent of Congress and 17 percent of the total adult population of the United States, according to the Pew Research Center's Religion and Public Life Project.

Gay marriage a top concern

When asked about their top concern, many Baptist ministers didn't hesitate when identifying it as stopping the legalization of same-sex marriage.

"I want to see a stronger stance on preserving marriage between a man and woman" said Russell Noss, pastor of Highland Hills Baptist Church in Fort Thomas. "I think we're muddying the picture of what we believe God intended marriage to be, the relationship between a man and woman."

A federal judge has overturned the gay marriage ban in Kentucky, but Beshear, the son of a Baptist preacher, has appealed the ruling.

The opposition to gay marriage hasn't softened among Baptist churches, said Todd Toole, pastor of Burlington Baptist Church. They can't support something they believe to be immoral, he said.

"I'd like to see them stay strong against it, but I think that's for most people in Kentucky," Toole said. "We are not haters. I know that people have a right to do whatever they choose, but if it is up to a vote, we're going to stand against it."

Arguments against gay marriage from Baptists start and end with the Bible. Sen. Whitney Westerfield (R-Hopkinsville), a Baptist from southeastern Kentucky, quoted Genesis 2:24,

"Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife, and they shall be one flesh."

"God's word is clear this is what is intended," Westerfield said. "It's what scripture says. I would have a hard time compromising on something so concrete and well-defined."

Gay marriage proponents, however, believe the tide has started to shift among conservatives in Kentucky. For the first time, a bill that would prohibit discrimination based on sexual orientation received a hearing in the House. Every year for 15 years it would get ignored in committee. Now, it could pass within five years, said Chris Hartman, director of the Fairness Campaign, a Louisville-based gay rights group.

The more people come out as gay means the more familiar Republicans and Democrats become with the gay community and issues, he said.

"With the modern forms of communication and more and more folks coming out, people have more LGBT (lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender) folks in their lives," Hampton noted.

Expanded gambling struggles

Expanded gambling has also struggled to find traction in the face of significant opposition from Baptist legislators and congressmen.

Horse tracks want the ability to operate casinos to increase purses and compete with surrounding states. Beshear has pushed legislation every year to give the tracks casinos in the six years since he became governor without success.

It has died in the Republican-controlled Senate, despite having the support of Republicans and Democrats in both chambers. Baptist organizations and legislators, in particular, have railed against the evils of gambling, which preys on the poor, Chitwood said.

Lawmakers from urban areas of northern Kentucky and Louisville, even Baptists, have supported gambling. In

northern Kentucky, six out of the 13 legislators are Roman Catholic with only two Baptists.

State Rep. Arnold Simpson (D-Covington) is a Baptist but he supports the constitutional amendment to expand gambling. Simpson said he takes religion as one of many factors when determining how to arrive at a decision in the legislature.

"You have to balance these issues and come to terms with them," he said. "In some regions, the influence is such that it crosses over beyond the scope of religion and gets in the sphere of politics."

Despite the diverse support for expanded gambling, lawmakers from rural areas remain staunchly against it. Sen. Sara Beth Gregory (R-Monticello) a Baptist from Wayne County, said opposition to casino gambling hasn't waned among her and her constituents.

"In my area, it has not really changed," she said. "People are still very conservative minded on their views. ... There's still a strong percentage of folks that are very church oriented with strong traditional beliefs."

As casino legislation has stalled, interest among the thoroughbred industry has also started to weaken. Some casino proponents have soured on the experiences by tracks in other states where government has taken higher portions of the gambling revenue to plug budget holes, said David Switzer, executive director of the Kentucky Thoroughbred Association.

"I really think nationally it may have run its course," he said. "What we've seen in all jurisdictions that have gaming revenue going to the racing and breeding industry is that the legislative bodies are coming in and taking money away from them. What the Lord giveth, the Lord taketh away. Well, what the legislature giveth, the legislature taketh away." (KPNS)

This story originally appeared in The Kentucky Enquirer of Cincinnati.

Mid-Continent

Continued from page 1

The board unanimously voted to end Imhoff's contract, a three-year agreement which was to continue until 2015. The board would not comment about reasons for the firing.

The board also voted to dismiss wife Jackie Imhoff, an at-will salaried employee who had served as vice president of adult services, during that same meeting, according to board Chairman Tom Butler.

Robert Imhoff had served as Mid-Continent president since 2000. He stepped aside officially on Feb. 24, and Jackie Imhoff left the following week, but both continued to receive a salary until the April 12 vote.

Butler said the decision was effective the same day and Imhoff will not receive any additional pay or benefit beyond that date. The vote didn't include a buyout of

Imhoff's contract or a severance payment. Robert Imhoff was dismissed for cause, but Butler declined to say anything further about what led to the decision.

Meanwhile, acting President Tom Walden, who was appointed April 12 to replace Ken Winters, who stepped down due to family reasons, said every staff member has been laid off because of lack of finances. Employee benefits will cease immediately.

However, a potential property sale agreement means the university could recall some terminated employees with paid salaries. Mid-Continent Chief of Staff Bill Bartleman said it is not yet known how many workers could be recalled. The focus would primarily be on rehiring faculty members and employees who are essential to students completing in-progress classes and reaching graduation, he said.

For now, Walden said, the school will remain open thanks to faculty and staff

members who have volunteered their time so current seniors can graduate. All Advantage classes with at least one student due to graduate will continue. Others courses could end immediately and would be handled on a one-on-one basis, he said.

"We have to be optimistic but also realistic," Walden said. "We didn't know until today what we had to do. But the real heroes are the teachers who have stepped up to the plate out of concern for the students."

The final day of classes for the cycle is set for May 2 and graduation for May 10. The school will cease classes for all students on June 30.

Walden said the school will have clerical volunteers to help retrieve student transcripts. He also said school officials are in preliminary discussions with other colleges to coordinate transfer opportunities.

Area Kentucky Baptist associations will donate food for students and will

sponsor the graduation ceremony.

Walden said funding from the sale of the Paducah property, increased private donations and a dozen other avenues could allow the school to remain open after the June deadline.

Walden said the situation with the fifth round of Department of Education paperwork affecting student grants and loans has changed now that the university will cease operations at the end of June. He said school officials will have to find a different process that will apply given its new situation.

A team of representatives from the Department of Education's regional office in Kansas City, Mo., arrived on campus last week. The school had been working on a new submission of paperwork involving about 400 current students.

The next trustee meeting is set for May 17, but one could be called sooner, Walden said. (KPNS)

This story originally appeared in The Paducah Sun.

Celebrating associations

The third week of May on the Southern Baptist Convention calendar is designated as the Baptist Association Emphasis.

Together
We are the KBC

Paul Chitwood

Baptist associations in the U.S. have been around for more than 300 years, historically predating the SBC and state conventions.

The relationship between the churches in Antioch and Jerusalem is, at minimum, an example of an informal association. Paul instructs the Colossians to be "also read in the church of the

Laodiceans and that you in turn read the letter from Laodicea" (Colossians 4:16). That suggests a fraternal relationship akin to an association.

Baptists in 17th century Europe offer examples of formal, organized associations that gave rise to important doctrinal statements, like the First London Confession, a precursor of the Baptist Faith and Message. The Modern Missions Movement—the founding of which is often credited to a Calvinist named William Carey—was born from Carey and other Baptist ministers who met together in a local associational context.

Over the past few centuries, local Baptist associations have been an irreplaceable vehicle for church planting, doctrinal preservation, cultural influence and overall gospel advance. Does the same remain true today? I believe that it can.

In fact, in the SBC, I would go so far as to suggest that the era in church history most needful of the local association is that which lies before us, not behind us. There are two reasons for my suggestion.

First, the ease of global travel and communications presents every church with the opportunity for direct involvement in an Acts 1:8 missions strategy. Heretofore, missions work far beyond the borders of one's state and nation was necessarily left to the work of the North American and International mission boards. While those boards remain necessary and strategic, churches feel an appropriate obligation to give and go.

Yet, given that the average size of a Southern Baptist congregation is less than 100 members, as well as churches' dwindling financial resources, partnering together through the local association creates the best opportunity for every church of every size to give and go.

Whether through planting a church in the community or evangelizing an unreached people group overseas, associations can fill a strategic kingdom role.

Second, our society's growing isolation of evangelical churches means our churches need one another now more than ever. Attempts to preserve policies guarding religious freedom, whether on the local, state or federal levels, are undertaken most effectively by a well-organized and solidly unified constituency. The local association can play a key role in that.

Let's celebrate, May 18-24, all God has done, is doing and plans to do through our Lord's churches as they partner together at the associational level.

Paul Chitwood is executive director of the Kentucky Baptist Convention.

What does Mid-Continent's impending closure mean?

After a financial crisis at Mid-Continent University reached a breaking point last week, climaxing in immediate faculty layoffs and imminent closure, area ministers are lamenting the significant loss of their beloved school, but are still hopeful students—thanks to committed faculty volunteers—will be able to complete degrees.

Though not officially connected to the Kentucky Baptist Convention, the university has deep roots in western Kentucky Baptist soil. Birthed by a movement that sprang from First Baptist Church of Clinton in 1949 and quickly received endorsement of Western Kentucky Association churches, the Baptist Bible Institute settled in Mayfield in 1957, before changing its name to Mid-Continent Baptist Bible College in 1965 and later assuming university status in 2004.

Rick Reeder, director of missions for Caldwell-Lyon Association, graduated from Mid-Continent in 1981. "Many of the men who attended about the time I did have gone on to serve the Lord for nearly three decades," he said. "At one time we were told, back in those days, that about 75 percent of the Baptist churches in the area were pastored by graduates or former students."

"Since then, there have been many more ministers who have come from the school and are faithfully serving around the world—missionaries, pastors, DOMs and others in just about every area of ministry you can think of," he continued. "Many students in the years of the Adult Advantage program are new believers, stronger believers, in their respective career calling."

Reeder's own commitment to the school goes well beyond his educational experiences there. His son, Kim, is a graduate and now serves as a pastor in Arkansas. His other two sons also attended—Kyle, pastor of evangelism and missions at Trace Creek Church in Mayfield, and Joel, an Army veteran who works at Fort Campbell. "So you can see why I love the school!" he exclaimed.

Ronnie Stinson Jr., pastor of Trace Creek, also has felt the impact of the school's closing, both as a graduate and trustee. Five on its staff are former students. His wife and father are graduates, and a cousin is enrolled.

Mid-Continent has faithfully served Baptists in the region for 65 years, Stinson said, pointing out that many churches in western Kentucky and western Tennessee are

led by men who attended there. "In addition, many individuals and churches have faithfully supported the school through those years," he said. His church has included MCU in its budget for years. "When the financial issues became evident, some churches sent additional monies to

the school. Some did this by taking up an offering," he added. For the immediate future, help is needed to fund feeding students until classes are over.

Charles Frazier, pastor of Zion's Cause Church in Benton, recalled feeling that "the place is where God wanted me to be" when he walked onto campus in 1993. "I am pained and saddened that this voice of theological education will be silenced,

and those currently called to ministry will not have the same opportunity as I had," he said, adding that the theological education he received prepared him well for ministry and his further studies at Southern Seminary.

Former KBC President Dan Summerlin, pastor of Lone Oak Church in Paducah, said he, too, was saddened by what has transpired. "We have faculty and students who are members at our church and it hurts all of us to see their pain," he said. "The closing not only will affect our local economy, but also will have an impact for the Kingdom of God, because many men and women going into the ministry attended there. Also, the evangelistic thrust to all the students and their families to hear the gospel is lost."

Stephen Williams, dean of MCU's Bible college, also highlighted the "extraordinary impact" that the university has made on western Kentucky. "It has a faculty who, year after year, have driven up to five hours one way to make education available in many small communities across the state," he noted. "While doing this we have focused on four core courses in Bible and Christianity and seen many adult students return to church or come to know Christ."

And, Director of Community Relations Bill Bartleman stated, "All of us at Mid-Continent are saddened by the events that led to the closing. We were part of a unique mission to win the lost to Christ and renew the faith of believers. I am comforted by knowing that God is in control and that all of this is part of His plan. Someday we will understand the blessing behind the heartache."

As fellow Kentucky Baptists, we should covenant to be in prayer for Mid-Continent's faculty, staff, students and trustees as they seek God's direction in the days ahead.

After
Thought

By Todd Deaton



KBC's audit work group submits its 2013 report

The audit work group of the Kentucky Baptist Convention Mission Board's business and finance committee met Dec. 10, 2013, to perform its annual review and evaluation of the financial condition and practices of the KBC's affiliated entities and its Mission Board as reflected in their 2013 audited financial statements.

This annual audit review process is an important way Kentucky Baptists receive an accountability report from the convention and its affiliated entities. Kentucky Baptists can be pleased that this procedure exists whereby the convention and its institutions and agencies can give an accounting of the stewardship of the resources entrusted to them.

These entities include Campbellsville University, University of the

Cumberlands, Clear Creek Baptist Bible College, Oneida Baptist Institute, Kentucky Baptist Assemblies, Sunrise Children's Services, Baptist Healthcare System, Woman's Missionary Union, Western Recorder, Kentucky Baptist Foundation and the Kentucky Baptist Mission Programs and Subsidy.

Kentucky Baptists also can be pleased and encouraged with the sound financial condition and stability of the institutions and agencies and the level of cooperation demonstrated by them. The work group complimented the board and administrative leadership of the convention and each of its affiliated entities. Kentucky Baptists are encouraged to increase their support of these institutions and agencies prayerfully and financially.

Members of the audit work group were: chairperson Don Mathis, Bowling Green; Jerry Anderson, Pleasureville; Matthew Brawner, Ghent; Stephen Bruce, Versailles; Dan Russell, Paris; Bobby Sharp, Hardinsburg; Charles Steger, Walton; Bill Wallace, Putney; KBC Executive Director Paul Chitwood; KBC Business Manager Lowell Ashby; KBC Associate Executive Director for Convention Operations Jim Donnell; and KBC Accounting Services Director Cathi Roy-Sanders. In addition, a certified public accountant met with the group.

The work group's report was made to the full business and finance committee on March 28, 2014 and approved.

Don Mathis, chairperson
KBC audit work group and
business and finance committee

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Seven questions all potential donors should ask

By Jason Allen

Recently, the evangelical world jolted to attention when World Vision announced it would permit the employment of practicing homosexuals in same-sex marriage relationships. Thankfully, within 48 hours the organization humbly and penitently reversed its decision.

In the aftermath, one issue lingers that, given our cultural trajectory, will only intensify: How can a Christian donor know which ministries and institutions are most worthy of financial support?

Seven questions should be asked by every donor and answered by every recipient before a gift is made.

Does the entity have a clear, functioning confessional statement?

An organization worth supporting must have a clear statement of belief, one that is publicly expressed, well-defined and enforced within the ministry. It does not have to be exhaustive, but it must be faithful to the word of God, the gospel and, at a minimum, other first-order doctrines. Is the document actually functioning? And are employees truly expected to believe and teach in accordance with it?

What is the code of conduct policy for employees?

Most every organization has some sort of code of conduct or lifestyle expectation for its employees. By reviewing these documents, you can ascertain not only what behavior(s) it tolerates, but also what is encouraged. Consider carefully what is stated and unstated. Ambiguity is the breeding ground for doctrinal unfaithfulness, moral decay and ministry drift.

What is the organization's structure of accountability?

Generally speaking, the further from the local church you find an entity, the more prone it is to drift from its original mission. There are some parachurch ministries that are strong in confession and mission, but if the nonprofit is not governed by the church, one should inquire of the entity's legal structure. Who governs the organization? Who are the fiduciaries? How are trustees elected? To whom is the ministry ultimately accountable?

Does the ministry give a clear, sound gospel witness?

As one who supports ministries in addition to my

local church, I am often presented with good, better and best choices. Whether it is feeding children, supporting orphan care or general benevolence assistance, there are explicitly Christian organizations that meet those needs while giving a clear gospel presentation. Why settle for meeting only physical needs when you can meet eternal needs as well?

VIEWPOINT

Is the ministry clear and public on social issues?

If the entity is not clearly, publicly and frequently making plain its stand on marriage, abortion and other key issues, you have every reason to be concerned. If the entity is not clear on these issues, it is not cynical to assume the worst—it is wise. In this regard, do not settle for private reassurances.

From where does most of the entity's funding come?

Just as flowers grow toward sunlight, nonprofits grow toward their sources of funding. If an entity receives most of its funding from the federal government, secular foundations or more socially progressive sources, this should cause concern. After all, if the nonprofit is robustly Christian, then why would more secular groups be willing to fund them? Moreover, if a tug of war over a ministry's future occurs, ministries tend to go the way of their most generous supporters.

How, exactly, will my gift be spent?

Finally, it is always right for the donors to gain as much insight into how the money will be spent. I do not give my children a dime without inquiring why they need the money. Why would I give an organization thousands of dollars without full disclosure as to how my gift will be used?

Recently, I visited with the leader of an institution far to the left of the one I lead. When I inquired of her school's position on same-sex marriage, she acknowledged the instructional staff was far more progressive than its older, more conservative donor base. She candidly admitted the school's intent to "hang out in the mushy middle as long as possible" so as not to offend the faculty or alienate their constituency.

I fear this strategy is common today. My greater fear is that many Christians naively support it. Do not be duped by a nonprofit's sleight of hand. Make sure you know the cause to which you are giving is truly worthwhile. Jason Allen is president of Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary.

Making godly decisions

By Scott Wigginton

Q: How can we help our teenager discern and follow God's will for his life?

A: Determining God's will is not like following a blueprint for building a house or a recipe for making a casserole. It is more the result of a close walk with the Lord and a willingness to pay attention to ways that God might be communicating. Determining His will is a process.

Here are eight practical questions for you and your teen to ask as you seek His will for your lives:

Is this consistent with biblical teaching?

God has given us His word to guide our lives. His word will never contradict His will. Psalm 119:105 says, "Your Word is a lamp for my feet and a light on my path."

Have I prayed and asked for God to reveal His will to me?

We are reminded by Paul in Philippians 4:6, "Don't be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, let your requests be known to God."

How has God arranged providential events to give me guidance?

Revelation 3:8 says that God places before us open doors that no one can shut. Conversely we must sometimes remember that "doors of disappointment" are among His greatest gifts.

What talents and abilities has God given me and how does He want me to use these?

What do godly family, friends and mentors think?

Proverbs 15:22 says, "Plans fail for lack of counsel, but with many advisors they succeed."

Does this decision make good sense?

Isaiah 1:18 says, "Come, let us reason together." Someone else once wrote, "Too bad common sense isn't."

Do I have peace about this decision?

Isaiah 32:17 says that "the fruit of righteousness will be peace."

Am I ready to take action to proceed or halt in response to what God has shown me?

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

First step in estate planning

By Laurie Valentine

A Christian estate plan is one developed by determining how God wants you to: (1) provide for your family and other "dependents" at your death, and (2) have your finances managed and decisions made for you if you

became incapacitated during your lifetime and are no longer able to do those things for yourself.

The first step in developing a Christian estate plan is to make a list of all your assets (bank accounts, investments, life insurance, retirement accounts/benefits, real estate, business interests, collectibles, jewelry, etc.); each asset's current market value (what you would get for it if you sold it or it paid out its full face value); and how each is titled (is it just in your name or jointly-owned or beneficiary-designated).

The kinds of assets you own guide decisions about who should serve as executor of your estate, how assets should be left to family and others at your death, and who would be best equipped to manage what you own if you became incapacitated during your lifetime.

The value of what you own guides decisions about the type of estate and gift tax planning you may need to do to accomplish your estate planning objectives.

The way your assets are titled determines what document will govern how each asset will pass at your death. Assets in your name alone will pass under your will, if you have one, or by law if you do not. Jointly-owned assets pass directly to the surviving joint owner at the first joint owner's death by operation of the titling document (deed, bank account form, etc.). Beneficiary-designated assets, like life insurance, pass directly to the person or persons named on the beneficiary designation form.

Laurie Valentine is trust counsel for the Kentucky Baptist Foundation.



Easter: Rejoicing in the death of darkness

By Erich Bridges

I saw my friend James at a church supper after being out of touch for several years, and it was like we'd never been apart.

We talked, laughed, hugged, sang and prayed together. I met his wife for the first time and celebrated with them over the way God has healed wounds in their marriage and family. It was a great evening; we didn't want it to end. We said good night, promising each other we'd meet again soon.

A few weeks later, James was dead. Chronic illness caught up with him. He hung on for days in the hospital, but his body was worn out.

This life seems so strong and sure for a season—and then it's over. We try to escape death, delay it, appease it, fight it and deny it. "Do not go gentle into that good night," the poet Dylan Thomas advised. "Rage, rage against the dying of the light."

Rage all you want; death will come for you one day. But darkness, its close companion, is a choice.

"There was the true Light, which, coming into the world, enlightens every man. He was in the world, and the world was made through Him, and the world did not know Him. ... But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in His name," the Apostle John declared of Jesus Christ (John 1:9-12). "And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us" (John 1:14a).

Later in John's Gospel, Jesus Himself said, "This is the judgment, that the Light is come into the world, and men loved the darkness rather than the Light, for their deeds were evil" (John 3:19).

First Person



Erich Bridges

Men love the darkness, but God sent His Son, the light of the world, to rescue us from eternal darkness. By His resurrection, Christ put darkness to death. Two millennia later, however, not everyone knows the truth. That's why missionaries and other servants of God go to places

of darkness, no matter the potential cost. They bring the light of the gospel not only through their words and actions, but by their presence.

"There have been several attacks recently," wrote a worker who lives in one such place.

"Often the gunfire and explosions would cease, and I would think it must be over—but it would start again. I was sharply reminded that we are here to pray." And not only pray, but to be, to love, to speak and to lift up the flaming torch of Christ amid great darkness.

On a recent plane trip, International Mission Board President Tom Elliff struck up a conversation with a fellow passenger who asked him, "What do you do for a living?"

"I chase darkness," Elliff replied.

Bewildered, the passenger inquired, "Are you in lighting?"

"In a way," Elliff told the man.

Reflecting on the encounter, the IMB leader said, "We are indeed 'chasers after darkness,' looking for the black holes of sin in our world and thrusting into that darkness the light of the glorious gospel of Christ."

My friend James experienced darkness in his life, but when Christ filled his soul with light and salvation, he became one of the most joyful witnesses I've ever known. This Easter, I know James is celebrating the resurrection in the presence of the Risen One. (BP)

Erich Bridges is an IMB global correspondent.

Warrens seek to help others one year after son's suicide

By Diana Chandler

Lake Forest, Calif.—On the first anniversary of their son's suicide, Saddleback Church founders Rick and Kay Warren are using the painful experience to uplift others, incorporating Facebook, YouTube, a mental health seminar and worship services scheduled at Saddleback campuses on Easter weekend.

"The old Rick and Kay are gone. They're never coming back," Kay Warren wrote in a March 13 Facebook post with more than 3.2 million views and more than 10,000 supportive comments. "We will never be the same again. There is a new 'normal.' April 5, 2013 has permanently marked us. It will remain the grid we pass everything across for an indeterminate amount of time."

Saddleback Pastor Rick Warren referenced the experience in encouraging viewers to attend services scheduled April 17 through Easter at the church's 12 campuses in Southern California. The Warrens' son Matthew killed himself at age 27 in his Mission Viejo, Calif., home after a lifetime of mental illness. He had spent the previous evening with his parents, giving no indication, they've said, of the impending suicide.

"During the past year I've often been asked, 'How have you made it? How have you kept going in your pain?' And I've often replied, 'The answer is Easter,'" he said in a video posted to YouTube. "You see, the death, the burial and the resurrection of Jesus happened over three days. Friday was the day of suffering and pain and agony. Saturday was the day of

doubt and confusion and misery. But Easter, that Sunday, was the day of hope and joy and victory. Here's the fact of life. You will face these three days over and over.

"And when you do, you'll find yourself asking," the pastor said. "No. 1, what do I do in my days of pain? Two, how do I get through my days of doubt and confusion? Three, how do I get to the days of joy and victory? The answer is Easter."

On Facebook, Kay Warren wrote of her difficulty in dealing with those who have expressed expectations that she should have been able to put the suicide behind her.

"As the one-year anniversary of Matthew's death approaches, I have been shocked by some subtle and not-so-subtle comments indicating that perhaps I should be ready to 'move on,'" she wrote.

While thousands offered 'utterly amazing support' through prayer and an 'unbelievable volume of cards, letters, emails, texts, phone calls, and gifts,' she wrote, many seemed to wonder when things would return to normal.

"Because these comments from well-meaning folks wounded me so deeply, I doubted myself and thought perhaps I really am not grieving 'well' (whatever that means). I wondered if I was being overly sensitive—so I checked with

parents who have lost children to see if my experience was unique. Far from it, I discovered."

In an April 7 follow-up post, Warren thanked readers for their supportive comments.



A Facebook post Kay Warren wrote in advance of the first anniversary of her son Matthew Warren's suicide drew 3.2 million views and more than 10,000 favorable comments.

"I don't know how to interpret the volume of response other than to say it confirms what I suspected," she wrote. "Grief is a long, arduous, slow process and it deserves to be respected and supported, not minimized and condemned."

The responses comforted Warren, she wrote, but also broke her heart that so many are experiencing similar pain.

"So many of you have said, 'This is my story too; you've put into words what I feel.' You've told me about your sons and daughters, mothers and fathers, brothers

and sisters, best friends, grandparents, cousins, neighbors and co-workers and how their deaths created such a well of pain and grief in your hearts; how the grief remains fresh and raw, and how much you wish 'comforters' had been more sensitive."

Saddleback hosted March 28 the seminar "The Gathering on Mental Health and the Church," with speakers including interdenominational clergy, mental health professionals and educators, including Eric Johnson, professor of

pastoral care at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, and Charles Hannaford, a practicing psychologist and adjunct professor of psychology at Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary in Wake Forest, N.C.

The seminar was designed to mobilize the church on behalf of those living with mental illness, equip lay and pastoral leadership to minister to those affected, and stand side-by-side with those who suffer. At least half of the 3,000 registered had a family member living with a mental illness, Kay Warren said.

She compared her son's suicide, and God's restoration, to the Ezekiel 36 story of God's promise to deliver the Israelites from Babylonian captivity.

"I don't know for sure how God is going to take the calamity of my son's mental illness and his death and use it victoriously; it's only been a year," she said in a video of the seminar posted on YouTube. "But what I am certain of is this. God's love is still working."

"I believe God wants us to spread this word. God is not helpless among the ruins," she said. "Matthew, too, is already experiencing the ruins being rebuilt in his life. He has already experienced the complete restoration. And if you were to use the scriptural metaphor from Ezekiel 36, the fields have begun to bear fruit again. The cities have been rebuilt and they're fortified and it's more inhabited."

"His life is better than it has ever been for a single day in this lifetime and all of God's promises to him have come true," she said. "And I thought to myself, I can go on." (BP)

NORTH AMERICAN MISSION BOARD

'Send North America' vision shared with So. Baptist pastors, planters

By Tobin Perry

Nashville, Tenn.—More than 260 church planters and pastors came together to learn about and engage with Send North America through the Discover North America Experience.

The Nashville, Tenn., gathering both introduced church leaders to the North American Mission Board's Send North America strategy and cast a vision for the Send North America Conference, to be held next year at Bridgestone Arena in Nashville, Aug. 3-4.

Those who have attended past Send conferences were challenged to not only attend the 2015 event but to commit to being conference ambassadors and bring others with them.

Tom Smiley, pastor of Lakewood Baptist Church in Gainesville, Ga., said the Discover event will play an important role in his church's ongoing journey to engage in church planting. He said he gained a fresh appreciation for NAMB's Send North America strategy and was particularly excited to see young Southern Baptist leaders involved in the effort.

"I was very, very impressed," Smiley said. "I learned a tremendous amount. I really believe I understand more fully the strategy and implementation of the Send North America strategy—both as a senior pastor and as a Southern Baptist.



Aaron Coe, the North American Mission Board's vice president of mobilization and marketing, briefs pastors on NAMB's Send North America strategy at the Discover North America Experience, March 31-April 1 in Nashville, Tenn. (Photo by John Swain/NAMB)

I'm very impressed with what we're doing and the strategy we're using to see that fulfilled."

After returning to his church, Smiley has begun making plans to invite people from his staff and laypeople to the 2015 Send conference.

Send North America is NAMB's national strategy to help Southern Baptist churches plant new congregations in 32 of the largest, most influential and least-reached cities in North America.

To learn more about Send North America, visit NAMB.net/mobilize-me. To learn more about the 2015 conference, visit sendconference.com. (NAMB)

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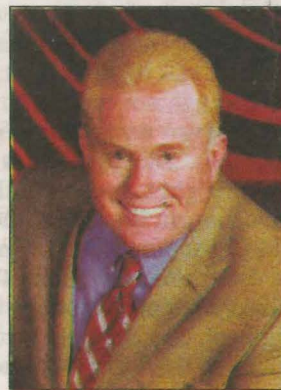
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Groups

Continued from page 1
promotional materials.

Raley and other organizers say the new groups can be started at any point in the year. But they suggest the first Sunday in September as one of the best options. That way, he said, churches can spend the summer months getting ready.

"We believe thousands of new groups will kick off on that day," he said.

The idea of starting 100,000 new groups began as a grassroots effort.

Need for 'dynamic' groups

About three years ago, Bob Mayfield, a small groups expert at the Baptist General Convention of Oklahoma, and some other state small groups leaders were having breakfast at a denominational meeting and talking about ways to draw more people into groups.

"We needed something dynamic—something our people could grab hold of," he said.

Not long afterwards, Mayfield and the

others met with Raley, who brought up the idea of starting 100,000 new groups, as part of the Groups Matter campaign. It was just what they needed to hear, Mayfield said.

"This is something people have been waiting to do," he said. "But nobody had said, 'This is what we are going to do.'"

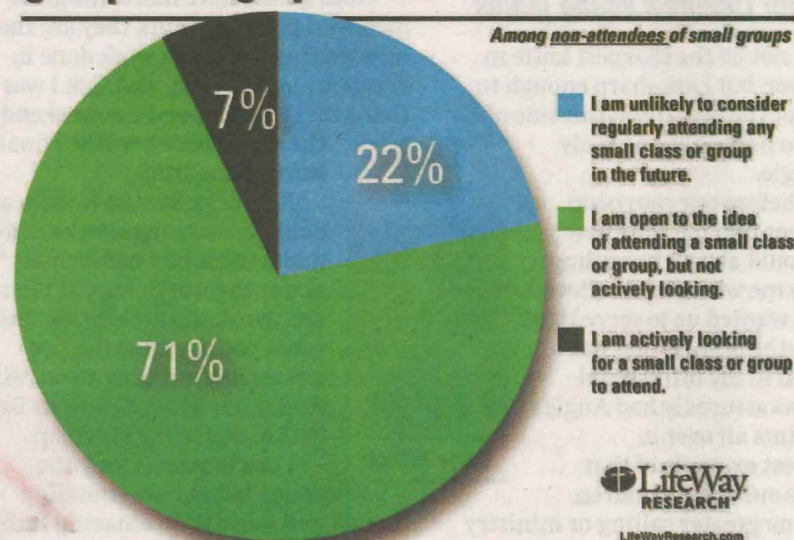
The new initiative piggybacks on existing small group ministries that most churches already provide, Mayfield said.

"It's the one strategy virtually all of our churches have—either they call it Sunday School, life groups or community groups," he said. "It's already the largest organization in most churches."

And small groups are often their most effective discipleship program. Small group members read the Bible more, give more and are usually more spiritually mature.

A study of 3,500 Protestant churchgoers in North America from LifeWay Research found that those who belong to a Bible study group are more likely to go to church at least four times a month (79 percent) and to read the Bible daily (28 percent). Being in a group helps them

Which best describes your attitude toward attending a small class or group through your church in the future?



feel closer to God (69 percent) and understand the Bible better (74 percent), and become more loving in their relationships (47 percent).

Group members also develop deep friendships, often staying together for years.

The LifeWay Research study, which was published in a new book called "Transformational Groups," found that half of current group attendees have been in the same group for at least two years. A quarter (27 percent) have been in the same group for more than five years. But having tight-knit groups has a downside, Raley said. It's often hard for new people to join.

"The reality is that many groups close after a few years," he said. "Relationships in a group go from being social to being personal. That's good for the group but bad for people trying to get in the door."

Launching new groups means more space for new people, Raley said.

Mayfield agrees. A good small group will form a tight social circle, he said. That's hard for newcomers to break into.

"But in a new group, the social circle is wide open," Mayfield said.

Small group crucial for growing faith

That was the case for Tommy "TJ" Thresher of First Baptist Church of Moore, Okla. Being part of a small group has been crucial in helping him learn the Christian faith, he said.

Thresher, a sergeant in the Oklahoma National Guard, didn't grow up in a church-going family, and had little interest in faith. In the summer of 2012, he said his wife decided to give church a try.

"She woke up one day and said, 'I'm going to church. You can go if you want to,'" he said.

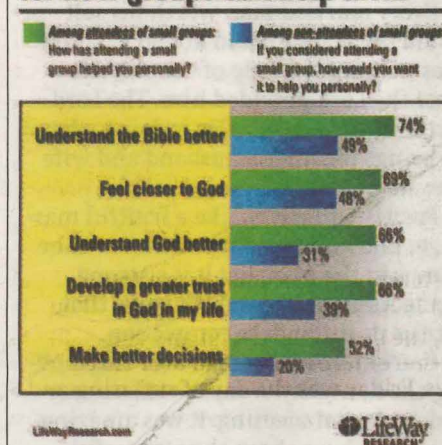
Thresher did, and said he was hooked from the first Sunday. A few weeks later, he gave his life to Christ. That fall, he decided to help start a small group—which his church refers to as a "life group"—on Sunday mornings, with other newcomers to the church.

"The best way for a follower of Christ to learn is to really get in there with believers," he said.

Churches will find a welcome audience for new groups, according to LifeWay Research. The small groups study found that many churchgoers who aren't part of a group are open to joining one.

Two out of three (63 percent) of those not currently in a small group said

Top 5 responses people give for how groups can help them



they'd been part of one in the past. Most of those left their group either because of a change in their life situation (51 percent) or because the class ended (32 percent).

Among the types of changes in life situation that lead to no longer attending are family responsibilities (26 percent), general busyness (26 percent) or work responsibilities (25 percent) kept them from attending.

About a third (33 percent) said they are busy when groups are offered. One in five (22 percent) said groups are offered at an inconvenient time.

Churches should offer groups at a variety of times and in a number of settings to attract as many people as possible, Raley says.

Cross Point Church in Nashville has already started 140 new groups this year as part of the new groups initiative. Most of those groups meet in homes. But they hold the first meeting at a church.

Chris Surrat, Cross Point's missions pastor, says that approach makes it easier for new members to plug in.

"We have all the hosts and leaders in a room, at tables, and we walk people through the first week," he said. "We tell them, this is what it will be like for the next five weeks. It's less scary to experience small groups at a church for the first time."

Thresher said being in a small group has changed his life. It's helped him grow as a disciple.

"Without a life group, I think my faith would have become stagnant by now," he said.

To learn more about the groups initiative, visit GroupsMatter.com. (LifeWay)

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God's good women

Christian women provide godly model for Oneida's young ladies

I may not be the sharpest knife in the drawer, but I am sharp enough to know that the best thing this side of heaven to happen to me is my wife, Angie.

Long before our courtship, my mother told me she knew Angie would always be willing to follow me wherever I believed the Lord wanted us to serve Him. Most anything good that has happened in my ministerial career has assuredly had Angie's fingerprints all over it.

The best example of that would be our three children.

There is no greater calling or ministry for any lady who has children than to be a godly mother. All things good about my children should be credited to Angie, and anything not so good would be a reflection of their dad.

Every married man worth his salt would tell you he could not do what he does without the help of the suitable mate the Lord provided him. The Lord certainly knows what He is doing when He brings together a husband and wife who seek to serve Him.

Fruitful ministry, like a fruitful marriage, takes a team effort. There will be bumps in the road, but it is a strong connection to God and His word that carries us through to completion.

I recently had the privilege of attending the Kentucky Woman's Missionary Union annual meeting. It was amazing to see and hear about the wonderful

work of the Christian ladies of our state.

I told them I have met some great men who probably think they are the ones getting the Lord's work done in Kentucky and beyond, and that I was thankful I was to spend the weekend at the conference because I finally learned the truth.

This is Oneida



Larry Gritton

Kentucky Baptist women are doing great things in the commonwealth, our nation and across the world. Baptist men are also doing great work, and when you combine the two groups it is amazing to see what the Lord is using Kentucky Baptists to do for His kingdom.

I can hope and pray the young ladies now attending Oneida will one day do amazing things for the Lord like Kentucky WMU women are doing.

I can also do everything within my power—and with Angie's assistance and love—to put our faculty and staff in a position to execute programs that will touch the hearts of our young ladies so they one day will serve the Lord.

I enjoy meeting and reconnecting with former Oneida students and hearing what they are doing with their lives, especially when they are serving Christ.

Thank you for providing the prayers, support and resources necessary so we can continue to touch the lives of young men and women and direct them toward lives lived for Christ and others.

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

All in God's timing

Music and worship professor fills new position at just the right time

Our campus is filled with stories from students about how God has led each of them here at just the right time to prepare for the calling He has placed on their lives.

Those stories of God's timing also apply to the call He places on the lives of our faculty and staff who come here to serve in teaching and administrative roles.

We recently had a need in our music and worship studies area, and God sent Gene and Angela Roberts at just the right time to fill that need.

"I served a church in the local area in LaFollette, Tenn., about 13 years ago as music minister," Gene said. "We moved from the area to another ministry after that time, but one of our children stayed here in the area."

"We recently began to look at moving back to the area to be closer to the family, and I was called as pastor of Hillcrest Baptist Church in LaFollette," Gene continued. "I knew that the position would be a bivocational role. So, I began to look for some other work that I could do in the area."

"In the process of searching for some other work," Gene recalled, "I

found out that Clear Creek was looking for someone to lead their Clear Creek Singers and to teach a worship class. I have a master's degree in music, so I applied for the position and God opened the door for me to take on this role along with my position as pastor.

Clear Creek Chronicle



Donnie Fox

"I have really enjoyed working with the singers," Gene said. "We have a special group of students who are involved in our praise and along with the singers. I have challenged them with different kinds of music, and they have responded well. They have really been a great

group of students to work with. I have enjoyed sharing knowledge about the importance of music with them as they go out to serve in churches wherever God plants them."

"It is a blessing for both of us to be a small part of preparing students for the ministry calling God has placed on their lives."

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.

Moore: Marriage defenders must adopt pro-lifers' strategy

By Tom Strode

Washington—Advocates for the biblical, traditional meaning of marriage should take a page from the playbook of the pro-life movement, Southern Baptist lead ethicist Russell Moore says.

Appearing on a national radio broadcast April 10, the president of the Southern Baptist Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission said pro-life gains in public opinion provide a pattern to follow as same-sex marriage ascends in the polls.

The pro-life advance among Americans has occurred "because the pro-life movement took a 30-year strategy to seek to persuade people at multiple levels, to work legally but also to work to spend a lot of time showing people how the unborn child is our neighbor," Moore said. "And I think that's starting to bear a great deal of fruit."

The pro-life movement did not start that way, Moore told leading social conservative Bill Bennett on his "Morning in America" broadcast.

The pro-life movement's problem early on, Moore said, "is there were a lot of social conservatives who just assumed, 'Of course, everybody's going to oppose abortion. It's something that's crazy.' But over time the pro-life movement said, 'We need to learn how to talk to the people to be able to demonstrate to them this really is your issue, you really ought to be concerned about this.'"

"I think we have to do the same thing with marriage and say, 'Here's why this really does matter for you, for your community,' and spend time building the case for what that looks like," he said.

Polls in March showed 59 percent of Americans support same-sex marriage, 69 percent among those under age 30. Already this year, federal judges have struck down bans on same-sex marriage in Michigan, Oklahoma, Texas and



Russell Moore
ERLC president

"What's significant about a family with both a mom and a dad? I think we need to talk about that more, not less, but talk about it in a way in which we are trying to persuade, not simply trying to vaporize our opponents."

Virginia. Those decisions have yet to be enforced while the cases proceed through the courts.

"What I say to folks in my community all the time is to say, 'If you think that you're isolated from this simply because you're in a red state, you're wrong,'" Moore told Bennett.

The result should not be to refrain from discussing the issue, Moore said.

"I think we talk about it more, and I think we talk about it in a way that we don't simply assume," Moore said. "And I think a lot of people who agree with me about what marriage is have for a long time simply assumed, 'Well, we all agree on what marriage is except for some elites out there in society.' No, we have to spend time talking about why this is important and what this has to do with society and how it isn't an expression of hate but that we all agree there are some limits on what marriage is, that you can't just make the term so elastic that it means anything."

"So, what's significant about the union between a man and a woman? What's significant about a family with both a mom and a dad? I think we need to talk about that more, not less, but talk about it in a way in which we are trying to persuade, not simply trying to vaporize our opponents," Moore said. (BP)

ERLC, IMB, GuideStone all urge court to uphold housing allowance

Washington—Three entities of the Southern Baptist Convention have called for a federal appeals court to overturn a decision invalidating the ministerial housing allowance.

The Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission and the International Mission Board signed on to a friend-of-the-court brief with a diversity of religious organizations in the important church-state case before the Seventh Circuit Court of Appeals in Chicago.

The brief, filed April 9 by the Becket Fund for Religious Liberty, urges the court to reverse a federal judge's November 2013 opinion that invalidated the portion of a 1954 federal law that allows clergy to exclude for federal income tax purposes a portion or all of their gross income as a housing allowance.

GuideStone Financial Resources also signed on to a brief in support of the allowance. It joined with other denominational benefit boards as part of the Church Alliance, which filed April 10.

In her November decision, Judge

Barbara Crabb ruled that the allowance violates the First Amendment's prohibition on government establishment of religion but blocked enforcement of her opinion until the appeals process is complete. The Obama administration appealed Crabb's decision.

The Becket Fund brief tells the appeals court the ministerial housing allowance is both equitable and administrable. Eliminating the allowance, the brief contends, would "needlessly entangle courts in religious questions; create discrimination among religions; and insert the government into important decisions about the relationship between a church and its ministers."

Under the federal income tax system, some housing costs are primarily for "the convenience of the employer," not the employee. As a result, such costs are not considered income. Among those who receive such benefits, in addition to ministers, are members of the military, workers living overseas and employees of educational institutions. (BP)

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Bible Crosswords

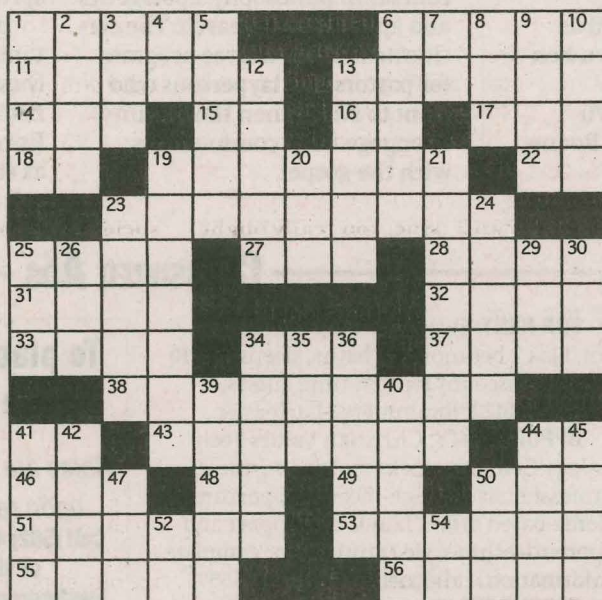
Across

- 1 Colonies, in eastern Iowa
6 Balmy weekend sky sight (pl.)
11 "I will bring the third part through the fire and will _____ them" (Zechariah 13:9)
13 Reason for saying "excuse me"
14 Popular NYC art museum, for short
15 Org. that includes Braves but not Indians
16 Pacific state (abbr.)
17 Pitcher's stat.
18 Mulberry, for one (abbr.)
19 Recover from the attic? (2 words)
22 Masculine nickname
23 "And _____ were the more added to the Lord" (Acts 5:14)
25 Prohibits
27 Compass pt.
28 Site of Miami University
31 Door sign
32 "Open _____"
33 Pictured on highway sign
34 Sporty Ford model
37 Mimic
38 "Ye became _____ of us and of the Lord" (1 Thessalonians 1:6)
41 Hospital abbr.
43 Desired deeply
44 Kind of M.D.
46 Bygone automobile
48 Article
49 Sound of hesitation
50 Library section (abbr.)
51 "Thou shalt heap coals of fire upon his head, and the Lord shall _____ thee" (Proverbs 25:22)

#195



By Evelyn Boyington



#196

53 Missouri and Ohio

55 Mohair measure

56 "The way of an _____ in the air" (Proverbs 30:19)

Down

- 1 "Underneath are the everlasting _____" (Deuteronomy 33:27)
2 Track competition
3 Astern
4 Metal in a 5-ct. piece
5 Abolish
6 Butter, for one
7 Common abbr.
8 Summer wear, for short
9 Old Testament scribe
10 "_____ the law among my disciples" (Isaiah 8:16)
12 Feminine nickname
13 More pointed than push
19 "There is one lawgiver, who is able to save and to _____" (James 4:12)
20 "Abram had dwelt _____ years in the land" (Genesis 16:3)
21 "A _____ man soweth strife" (Proverbs 16:28)
23 Lawyer's homework.
24 "King Solomon made a navy of _____" (1 Kings 9:26)
25 "Arise, take up thy _____ and go" (Matthew 9:6)
26 Let go (colloq.)
29 Chemical suffix
30 Poetic contraction
34 Pituitary, for one
35 Rocky hill
36 Land _____
39 "Now _____ a parable of the fig tree" (Matthew 24:32)
40 Strange
41 Answers incorrectly
42 Exude fumes
44 "That _____" (one-time TV sitcom)
45 Assume a position
47 Assume a mortgage, for example
50 "Let his children be continually vagabonds, and _____" (Psalm 109:10)
52 "I have given into thy hand the king of _____" (Joshua 8:1)
54 Site of Jamestown (abbr.)

God's word by H.E.A.R.T.

Believers instructed to be quick to hear, slow to speak, slow to anger

By Roger Palmer

"This you know, my beloved brethren. But everyone must be quick to hear, slow to speak and slow to anger; for the anger of man does not achieve the righteousness of God. Therefore, putting aside all filthiness and all that remains of wickedness, in humility receive the word implanted, which is able to save your souls" (James 1:19-21).

We all struggle with listening at times. We've all fallen into the trap of thinking, "What I have to say is more important than what I'm listening to." In God's word though, we are commanded to be "quick to hear." In other words, being ready to listen at all times. Then God says that we also need to be "slow to speak" and "slow to get angry." As believers and followers of our Lord Jesus Christ, we must take this truth to heart. Our world has convinced us that we all have something to say and that no matter what, we should be able to say it.

That's not what God is saying. He wants us to listen first, and as we listen, to be sure we think through carefully before we respond, making

sure we respond in the right way and not in anger.

Why is responding in anger so bad? Because our anger will never advance the righteousness of God—the righteousness in which He desires all of us to live.

So, what is our response to be?

God's word tells us we need to get rid of all uncleanness, evil and wickedness from our lives, and we need to receive God's word with a humble heart and mind. To receive God's word means we must get into God's word in order for it to get into us.

We do that by H.E.A.R.T.:

Hearing God's word (through preaching and teaching);

Examining God's word (reading);

Analyzing God's word (careful study);

Remembering God's word

(memorizing);

Thinking on God's word

(meditating).

We must do this daily to receive the fullness of His word in our HEARTS.

Let us all be quick to hear, slow to speak, and slow to get angry.

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

Crossings Ministries



David Melber

Southern updates employment policies, eliminates faculty tenure

By James Smith

Louisville—In order to continue to "attract and retain a first-class academic faculty," President Albert Mohler said, Southern Baptist Theological Seminary's board of trustees approved updates to faculty employment policies and unified the graduate and undergraduate faculties during its April 14-15 meeting.

Trustees also approved a \$40.6 million budget for the 2014-2015 academic year, a 5.87 percent increase from the current year.



Faculty tenure
"is an economically unsustainable model and sooner or later virtually every academic institution is going to have to abandon tenure or face disaster."

Albert Mohler, Southern Seminary president

No more tenure for SBTS professors

Under new employment policies, all elected faculty will serve under a "simple academic instructional contract" rather than a tenure-based contract. Faculty will be eligible for contract terms of between one and nine years. The new policy is effective immediately and applies to all current faculty.

"Southern Seminary is returning to the classic, traditional method of hiring faculty that has marked this institution through most of its history," Mohler said. "A tenure-based contract was the

basis for hiring and retaining faculty from about 1960 to the present. But we have returned to making the election of faculty by the board of trustees the most important issue, and returning faculty to teaching on the basis of a simple academic instructional contract."

Mohler said tenure "no longer really meets the needs of the faculty or the institution" and it "no longer ensures academic quality, but actually is a major impediment to it."

Tenure is a "ticking fiscal time bomb" in the world of higher education, Mohler said. "It is an economically unsustainable model and sooner or later virtually every academic institution is going to have to abandon tenure or face disaster."

Trustees also approved an administration recommendation to "unify" the faculty of Boyce College, Southern Seminary's undergraduate school, with the graduate faculties in the School of Theology and the Billy Graham School of Missions, Evangelism and Ministry.

With this trustee action, Mohler said, the college faculty is now "on par" with the graduate school faculties.

"We want to avoid any artificial, two-tier relationship between the graduate and undergraduate faculty," he said, noting that full professors of the graduate faculty "eagerly welcomed" the undergraduate faculty in an action taken several weeks ago to affirm the administration's recommendation to the board of trustees.

In reports, trustees learned that Southern Seminary's 2012-13 total student head count of 4,567 was the largest in the school's history. (SBTS)



April

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

May

- 1 Senior Living Celebration, Living Hope Baptist Church, Bowling Green.
- 2 Senior Living Celebration, Lone Oak First Baptist Church, Paducah.
- 2 Women's Regional Retreat, Laurel Lake Camp, Corbin.

MOUNTAINS TO THE MISSISSIPPI

COMPILED BY STAFF

CENTRAL CITY—First Church will hold a retirement reception honoring pastor **Bob Lowery** and his wife, **Charlotte**, April 27, 2 p.m.

GRAHAM—Unity Church will hold revival services April 25-26, 7 p.m. & April 27, 11 a.m., with **Bill Bursztynski** as evangelist. **Richard Browning** is pastor.

LONDON—First Church will host Laurel River Association's Vacation Bible School clinic April 26, 9 a.m. For more information, call (606) 864-9441 or (606) 493-5611. **Terry Lester** is pastor.

LOUISVILLE—Deer Park Church will present "Resurrection Alleluias" by **Benjamin Harlan**

April 27, 10:45 a.m. **David Platt** is pastor.

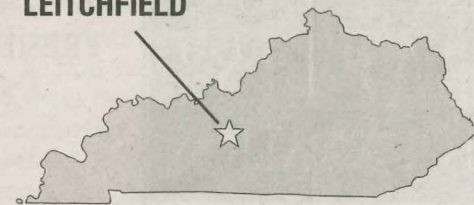
Parkland Church will hold a free community dinner April 24, 5 p.m. **Tom Curry** is pastor.

MOUNT VERNON—First Church will host the Rockcastle Association's Vacation Bible School clinic April 28, 7 p.m. **Neal Thornton** is pastor.

Send your church news & association events to:
Mountains to the Mississippi
todd.deaton@westernrecorder.org

Spotlight on ...

LEITCHFIELD



First Church will host the 3rd annual "Keep Your Tweet Sweet" ladies' conference, sponsored by Grayson County Women on Mission, April 26, 7:45 a.m. For more information, call **Pamela Miller** at (270) 259-6573. **Douglas King** is pastor.

Northern Ky. Association calls DOM

Erlanger—The churches of Northern Kentucky Baptist Association have a new leader to oversee its ministries.

Jim Woolums was elected as the association's new director of missions April 14. He began in his new role April 21.



Jim Woolums

Woolums previously served on staff at a pair of northern Kentucky churches, most recently at Burlington Baptist Church as its minister of strategy. He also served at Campbellsville University since 2002, both as an assistant professor of Christian studies and leadership and as an assistant to the school's vice president for regional campus development.

Woolums replaces Rick Robbins, who retired as DOM in late March after 17 years with Northern Kentucky Association.

The Association is comprised of more than 70 churches located throughout six northern Kentucky counties: Boone, Bracken, Campbell, Grant, Kenton and Pendleton. (WR)

SWBTS approves apologetics degree

Fort Worth, Texas—Trustees at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary have approved a new master's degree in apologetics.

Trustees at the Fort Worth, Texas, school approved a 45-hour master of arts in Christian apologetics, as well as a 15-hour certificate in Christian apologetics.

The master's degree includes courses in philosophy, apologetics and apologetics research. The certificate is a non-degree program for pastors and laypersons who want to strengthen their ability to engage their communities with the gospel.

The school also reported a double-digit enrollment increase during the spring semester.

Steven Smith, vice president for student services and communications, said enrollment increased by 12 percent from 2013 to 2014. The seminary's School of Theology reported a 19 percent enrollment bump for the spring 2014 semester.

In other trustee actions, Assistant Professor of Evangelism Matthew Queen was elected to the L.R. Scarborough Chair of Evangelism. The position is also known as the "Chair of Fire." (BP)

Campbellsville University honors former state WMU leader Byrdwell

By Kasey Ricketts

Campbellsville—Anna Mary Byrdwell was part of the first graduating class that spent all four years at what was then known as Campbellsville College.

"Campbellsville shaped me into who I am today, who I have been and what my purpose is," said Byrdwell, a member of the university's board of trustees.

Byrdwell received the Campbellsville University Derby Rose Gala Award for Distinguished Service April 14 for her lifelong service and contributions to the local church, as well as more than 36 years of service to Kentucky Woman's Missionary Union.

Byrdwell is a member of Hurstbourne Baptist Church in Louisville and also serves as a member of Campbellsville University's Church Relations Council, which she chaired in 2010.

A 1960 graduate, Byrdwell earned a bachelor's degree in music. She later received a Master's of Religious Education degree from Southern Baptist Theological Seminary.

In 1967, she joined Kentucky Woman's Missionary Union, where she served until 2004.

Byrdwell is now involved with Friendship International Ministries in Louisville, which serves the city's international community.

"Anna Mary is a loyal and faithful contributor to CU. She is proud of her alma mater," said Benji Kelly, Campbellsville's vice president for development.

The university is involved in a "Campaign for the Commonwealth" which

Byrdwell said she supports. Events are being held in 10 cities in connection with the campaign. The next is slated for April 24 in Louisville at the CU's Louisville Education Center.

"The Campaign for the Commonwealth is an opportunity to be involved in Campbellsville," Byrdwell said. "It gives us the chance to help the lives of many students."

She said the campaign will help students by keeping

the cost of school down and help students graduate without such a heavy debt burden.

"With the growth Campbellsville University has experienced over the past 15 years, God's leadership has been present in every phase of university life," CU President Michael Carter said. "Now, we are poised to continue that growth and serve even more students in the years ahead."

Upcoming events include: May 8 in Somerset, May 15 in Stanford, and May 22 in Lexington. Other events will be scheduled in the fall in Bowling Green, Florence, Frankfort, Owensboro and Paducah. (CU)



Anna Mary Byrdwell

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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.

RESOURCES: Sound, projection, video, lighting, acoustical; JCA Media LLC, well known in KBC; 20+ years' 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.

RESOURCES: Ky. Piano Service, Mark S. Mudd, CPT, PE certified piano tech/licensed engineer. Professional, courteous and affordable; KyPianoService.com; (270) 999-2433.

SEEKING: Highland Avenue Baptist Tabernacle Church is seeking a part-time youth pastor, 15-20 hours weekly. For more information, 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;

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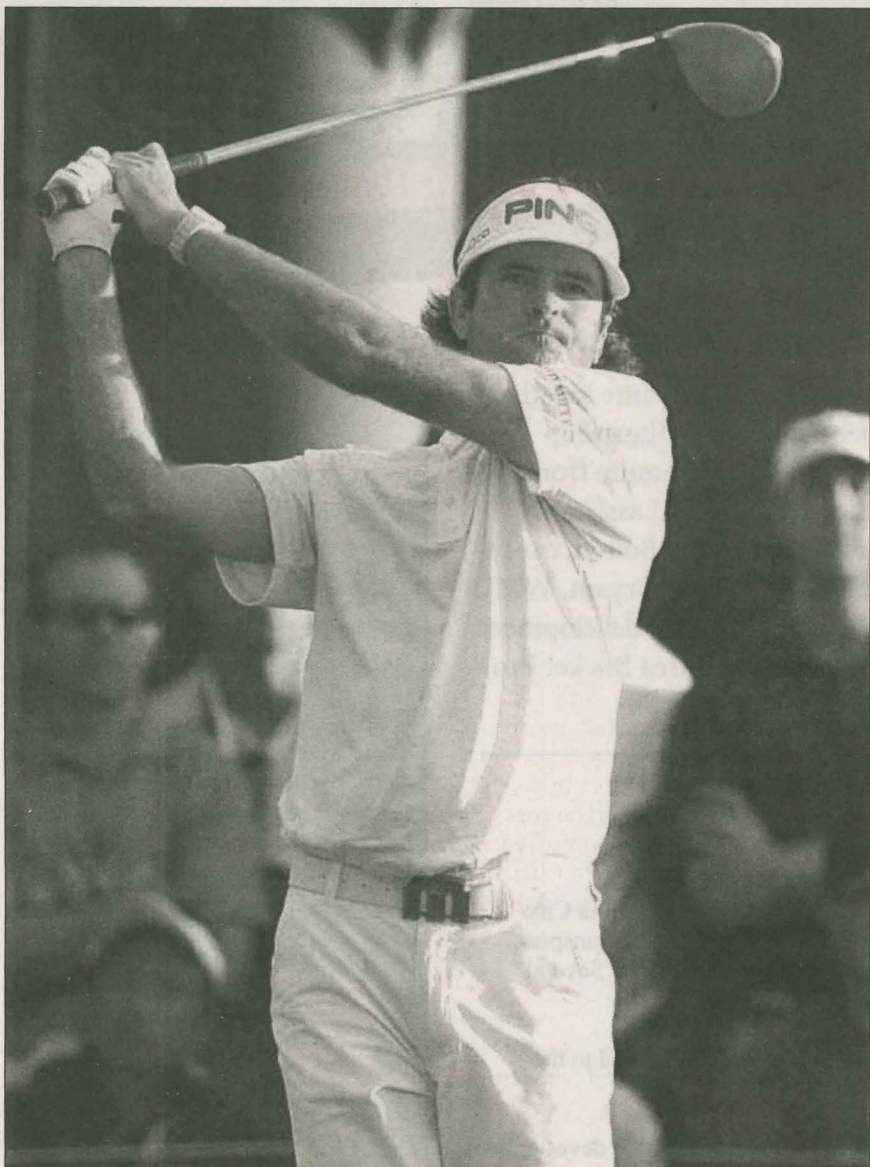
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SEEKING: Westport Road Baptist Church, a large, growing church in northeast Louisville, is looking for a minister to youth. Experience with a master's degree preferred. Submit resumé to Chip Pendleton, Westport Road Baptist, 9705 Westport Road, Louisville,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

SEEKING: Oneida Baptist Church is seeking a pastor. Submit your resumé to missy.nichols@oneidaschool.org, or by mail to Missy Nichols, P.O. Box 346, Oneida, KY 40972. Deadline is May 30. For more info, call Missy at (606) 847-4111, ext. 248.

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



Two-time Masters champion Bubba Watson is an outspoken Christian and frequently tweets about his faith on Twitter. (BP photo)

#IncrediblyBlessed

Masters champ tweets praise after second Green Jacket

Augusta, Ga.—Bubba Watson shot a 3-under-par 69 April 13 at Augusta National, cruising to his second Masters championship in three years. An outspoken Christian, he took to Twitter following the win and proclaimed himself “blessed.”

“I want to thank everyone for the support, encouraging words & congrats that have poured in this week!” he tweeted. “I feel incredibly blessed.”

Watson, of Bagdad, Fla., identifies himself on Twitter as “Christian. Husband. Daddy. Pro Golfer.” Only 16 other golfers have won multiple Masters titles, including Jack Nicklaus, Tiger Woods, Arnold Palmer and Phil Mickelson.

“It’s overwhelming,” Watson said after the win. “To win twice, to be with those great names. ... A small-town guy named Bubba now has two green jackets. It’s pretty wild.”

Watson won by three strokes over Sweden’s Jonas Blixt and 20-year-old American Jordan Spieth.

Before he teed off for his final round, he pledged prayer support for a follower on Twitter, tweeting, “Praying for you!”

Weeks earlier he tweeted an endorsement of the movie “Son of God,” saying, “Just watched the movie Son of God. Best interpretation of the life of Jesus through a movie!!

#DiedForOurSins.”

It’s not unusual for Watson to use Twitter, or his platform as a professional golfer, to speak about his faith in Christ and encourage others to follow Jesus, according to a 2012 Baptist Press article following his first Masters victory.

Speaking to the Augusta, Ga., crowd and a TV audience two years ago, he thanked “my Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.” His first Tweet after he won the 2012 Masters read simply: “To God Be the Glory!!!”

Watson is a regular at the PGA Tour’s Wednesday evening Bible study, which has an attendance of 50 at times, the 2012 BP story noted.

“For me, it’s a way to get back connected with the Bible and with God and Jesus,” Watson said of the Bible study. “Now you know other people you can talk to, ask questions to, tell them what you’re thinking, tell them what’s going on in your life.”

Talking about Jesus is “just showing the light,” Watson said in 2012. “There’s people who want to put down Christians. I try to tell them Jesus loves you. It’s just a way to be strong in my faith.”

Saved as a teenager, Watson recommitted his life to Christ in 2004 and was baptized later that year along with his wife, Angie. The couple has an adopted son. (BP)

By David Roach

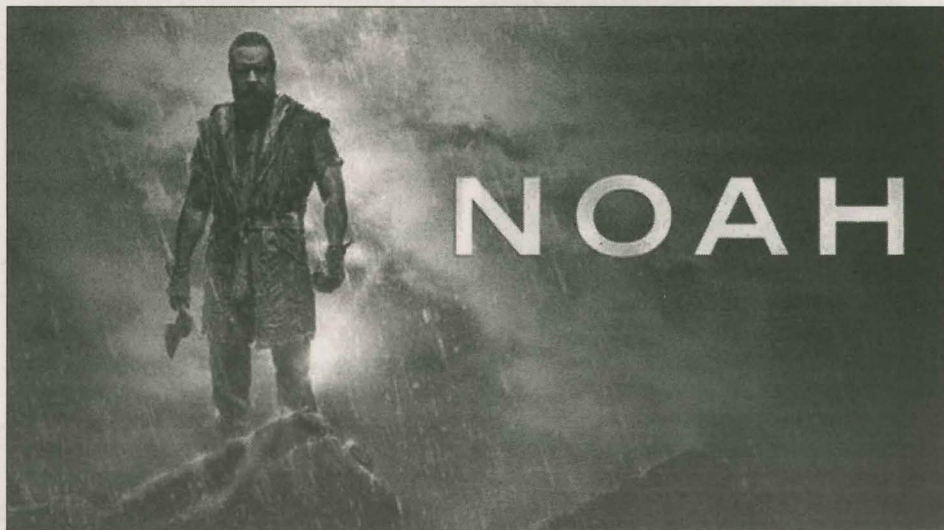
Nashville—After its initial weeks in theaters, Paramount Studios’ Bible-inspired movie “Noah” had generated more than \$76 million in ticket sales and continued to provoke discussion among Christian commentators—including suggestions that the film’s director, Darren Aronofsky, drew inspiration from the ancient idea of Gnosticism.

Gnosticism, a religion that flourished during the first four centuries after Jesus’ birth, teaches that all physical matter is evil and that the goal of life is to attain “secret knowledge” that will free humans from entrapment in the physical world. Physical matter is an accident created by an inferior deity, according to Gnosticism. Early Christian leaders, perhaps including some New Testament authors, refuted Gnosticism in their writings.

Meanwhile, reports indicate that Americans are reading the biblical story of Noah in Genesis at an increased rate in response to the movie, which stars Russell Crowe in the title role. The weekend of Noah’s release, BibleGateway.com saw a 223 percent increase in views of Genesis 6-9. A Facebook survey by the American Bible Society found that 87 percent of respondents were reading the story of Noah because of conversations about the film.

Under an agreement with National Religious Broadcasters, Paramount added to Noah’s opening credits the message, “The film is inspired by the story of Noah. While artistic license has been taken, we believe that this film is true to the essence, values and integrity of a

Does ‘Noah’ owe more to Gnosticism than the Bible?



Hit film recasts ancient heresy, experts say

story that is a cornerstone of faith for millions of people worldwide. The biblical story of Noah can be found in the book of Genesis.”

But some question whether Aronofsky’s recasting truly reflects the Bible’s “essence, values and integrity.”

“We are so living in the leftover atmosphere of Christendom that when somebody says they want to do ‘Noah,’ everybody assumes they mean a rendition of the Bible story,” Brian Mattson, senior scholar of public theology at the Center for Cultural Leadership, said in a blog

post. “That isn’t what Aronofsky had in mind at all. I’m sure he was only too happy to let his studio go right on assuming that, since if they knew what he was really up to they never would have allowed him to make the movie.”

Noah is filled with Gnostic theology, Mattson said, specifically a form of Jewish Gnosticism called Kabbalah that was popularized by the singer Madonna.

Among the Gnostic references in Noah cited by Mattson:

■ Adam and Eve are depicted as luminous and fleshless until they eat the

forbidden fruit and are relegated to the evil material world.

■ Lesser divine beings (the film’s giant rock creatures) redeem themselves, shed their material nature and return to the heavens.

■ As in Gnosticism, earth’s creator in Noah seems, at times, to be a violent lower deity.

■ Gnostics’ concept of the serpent as a representation of the true god dovetails with Aronofsky’s portrayal of a serpent skin from the Garden of Eden as the key to receiving blessing. Before Noah turns from a murderous frenzy and professes love for his newborn granddaughters, he kills his archrival and recovers the serpent skin—possibly a source of inspiration for his enlightened perspective.

■ The rainbow in Noah is circular like an important sign in Kabbalah. The rainbow appears not as the sign of a covenant between God and Noah, but appears after Noah wraps the serpent skin around his arm and blesses his family.

The movie “was a thoroughly pagan retelling of the Noah story direct from Kabbalist and Gnostic sources,” Mattson said. “To my mind, there is simply no doubt about this.” He charged Christian theologians who gave the movie positive reviews with “a bit of theological malpractice.”

“I’m not condemning or shaming anybody for seeing the film, talking about the film, debating the film or even enjoying the film,” he said. “I’m concerned that Christian leaders were basically asked to ‘vet’ the film for their constituents, and they came to conclusions that simply missed the themes I’ve highlighted.” (BP)

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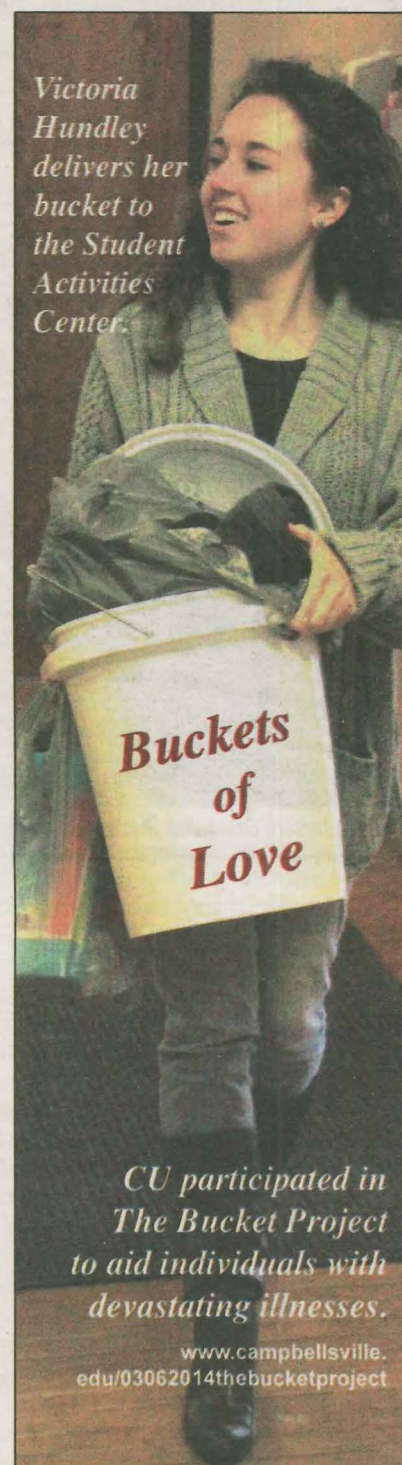
VISION 2025



Leaders on campus for Bucket Project collection day

Leaders of the Bucket Project came together at Ransdell Chapel. From left in the group photo are Bry Carlin, CU sophomore from Harrodsburg; Lesley Newton, CU assistant director of student activities; Joy Bolton, executive director of the WMU; Susan Bryant, WMU president; Cheryl Hatfield, WMU development specialist and Edwina Rowell, area Bucket Project director and CU ESL instructor.

Victoria Hundley delivers her bucket to the Student Activities Center.



CU participated in The Bucket Project to aid individuals with devastating illnesses.

www.campbellsville.edu/03062014thebucketproject

Baptist Heritage celebrated

Dr. Bart Barber, pastor of First Baptist Church in Farmersville, Texas, and Dr. Joe Early Jr., assistant professor of theology in the School of Theology, discussed Landmarkism during CU's recent Baptist Heritage Lecture Series and chapel.



Dr. Charles Carter

Church Relations Council holds spring meetings on main campus

CU held the spring 2014 CRC meeting based on "For Such a Time as This" from the Book of Esther 4:14 with guest speaker Dr. Charles Carter, a James H. Chapman fellow of pastoral ministry and professor of ministry leadership development at Beeson Divinity School at Samford University. He told pastors in attendance to, "have an undivided mind, an open mind and an anchored mind in the absolute truth of Jesus." The following new members of the CRC were installed: the Rev. J.D. Shipp, the Rev. Joel Bowman, the Rev. Paul Richey, the Rev. Steve Custer, the Rev. Steve Skaggs, the Rev. Terry Tipton, the Rev. Walter Davis IV, and the Rev. William G. Nelson.

Spring break mission trips made by CU students, faculty, staff

CU's Baptist Campus Ministry ministered to college students in Panama City Beach, Fla., to share the gospel through their breakfast preparation and transportation services to teens and 20 year olds in the Panama City Beach area. Several football players spent their spring breaks serving in **FLORIDA**.

BELIZE: CU's School of Education and School of Nursing journeyed to the Southern Hemisphere.

TANZANIA: School of Nursing staff and students led morning Bible devotions for the healthcare providers to encourage them spiritually and shared a postoperative nursing care lecture to hospital staff.

HOLY LAND: School of Theology students traveled to the Holy Land in Israel and Jordan with several of their professors, CU alumni, family and friends. While there, these travelers got to tour some of the famous sites in the Bible, including the Jordan River where Jesus was baptized, the Sea of Galilee and the tomb where Jesus is said to have been placed after his crucifixion.



HAITI: Students worked with "My Life Speaks," an organization that ministers to the needy.

PROJECT FORTIFY, MEXICO

CU students spent time delivering supplies and repairing an orphanage in Mexico.

Plans are being made now for summer mission trips from CU.

Trent Creason, left, CU director of student activities, with one of the children.

QEP at CU focuses on developing a basis for students' ethical decision making

CU's Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP) is a major component of accreditation with the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC). *Find Your Compass: Developing a Basis for Ethical Decision Making* is the topic that will be incorporated across the curriculum. The goal is to enhance our Christian students' ethical decision-making skills as part of their journey as servant leaders.

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- Named to President's Higher Ed Community Service Honor Roll
- School of Business highlighted in Forbes Southern U.S. Business Schools

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