

WESTERN Recorder

April 29, 2014

Shine Like Stars * Philippians 2:15

Volume 188, Issue 16

Despite never leaving home, Brownsville native still makes

GLOBAL IMPACT

By Robin Cornetel

Brownsville—Jessie Mae Reed lived all 100 years of her life inside less than one square mile, yet the Brownsville native's influence will travel the globe, changing lives in a real and lasting way.

Reed, who passed away 24 days short of her 101st birthday last November, bequeathed \$10,000 to the Cooperative Program through the Kentucky Baptist Convention.

Through the Cooperative Program, her gift will join those from Southern Baptists representing more than 2,400 KBC churches to help start new churches, train church leaders and fund missionaries serving across North America and around the world.

"Mrs. Reed's legacy gift is a great example of the Cooperative Program's eternal reach throughout the world, touching lives for Christ even beyond her long earthly life of more than 100 years," said Lowell Ashby, the KBC's finance and business services team leader.

□ See Jessie Mae Reed ... Page 2

Survey: 'Under God' should stay in pledge

By Bob Smietana

Nashville, Tenn.—In 1954, Congress added the words "under God" to the Pledge of Allegiance. Sixty years later, most Americans would like to keep it that way, despite ongoing legal challenges to the pledge.

A lawsuit filed against a New Jersey school district in late March contends that reciting the phrase "under God" in the pledge sends a message that nonbelievers are bad citizens and creates a hostile environment for atheist students.

But a survey of more than 1,000 Americans by Nashville-based LifeWay Research found that 85 percent want to keep "under God" in the pledge.

Researchers did find 1 in 4 Americans (25 percent) believe forcing students to say "under God" violates their rights. But less than 1 in 10 (8 percent) Americans want to remove "under God" from the pledge.

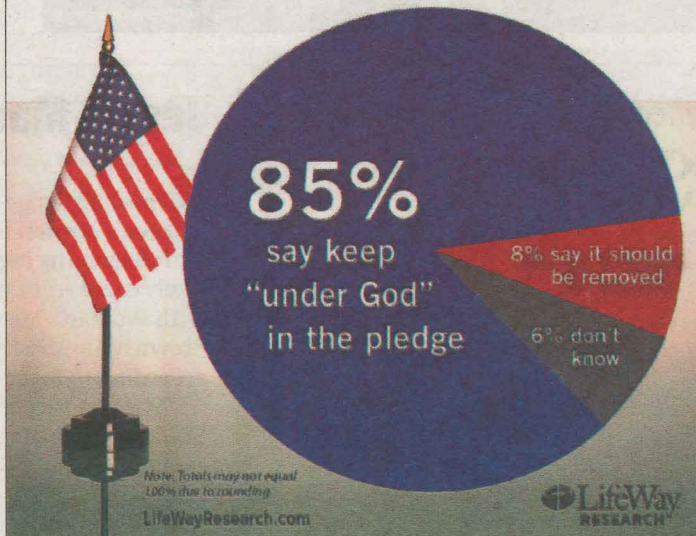
"Most Americans have recited the pledge hundreds of times and are not inclined to memorize a different pledge," said Scott McConnell, director of LifeWay Research. "Changing it may just feel wrong. Most Americans say they believe in God or a higher being and feel comfortable having 'under God' in the pledge."

Lawyers for parents in the New Jersey lawsuit disagree. They issued a statement April 21 announcing the suit had been filed.

"Public schools should not engage in an exercise that tells students that patriotism is tied to a belief in God," said David Niose, attorney for the American Humanist Association's Appigiani Humanist Legal Center, which represents the parents. "Such a daily exercise portrays atheist and humanist children as second-class citizens and certainly contributes to anti-atheist prejudices."

The Pledge of Allegiance

Should the words "under God" be removed from or remain in the Pledge of Allegiance to the United States of America?



A similar legal challenge to the pledge is pending before the Supreme Judicial Court of Massachusetts. That case, brought by atheist parents of a public school child, claims the "under God" phrase violates the state's equal rights laws.

The study by LifeWay Research found younger Americans are more likely to support removal of "under God" from the pledge. Fourteen percent of those ages 18-29 want to remove the phrase, compared to 5 percent of those over 64.

Women (88 percent) are more likely to want to keep "under God" than men (83 percent). Americans with a college degree are more likely (13 percent) to want it removed. And, self-identified born-again, evangelical or fundamentalist Christians are most likely (94 percent) to say it should remain. (LifeWay)



8 MARATHONS MONTHS STATES

Ky. Baptist runner sets lofty race goal to fund missions

By Roger Alford

Ashland—A Baptist marathon runner who has raised more than \$50,000 over the past year for an African mission has set an ambitious new goal of running eight marathons in eight months in eight states in what promises to be a grueling fundraising initiative.

Amy Compston, a member of Unity Baptist Church in Ashland, wants to raise an additional \$45,000 this year for a ministry serving residents of the small town of Moyo, Uganda.

The 29-year-old founder of Amy for Africa ran the first of those marathons last week in Boston, where she and her family and friends also distributed Christian literature to runners and spectators.

"It's really amazing how God has blessed," Compston said. "It's been truly amazing watching Him work."

□ See Amy for Africa ... Page 6

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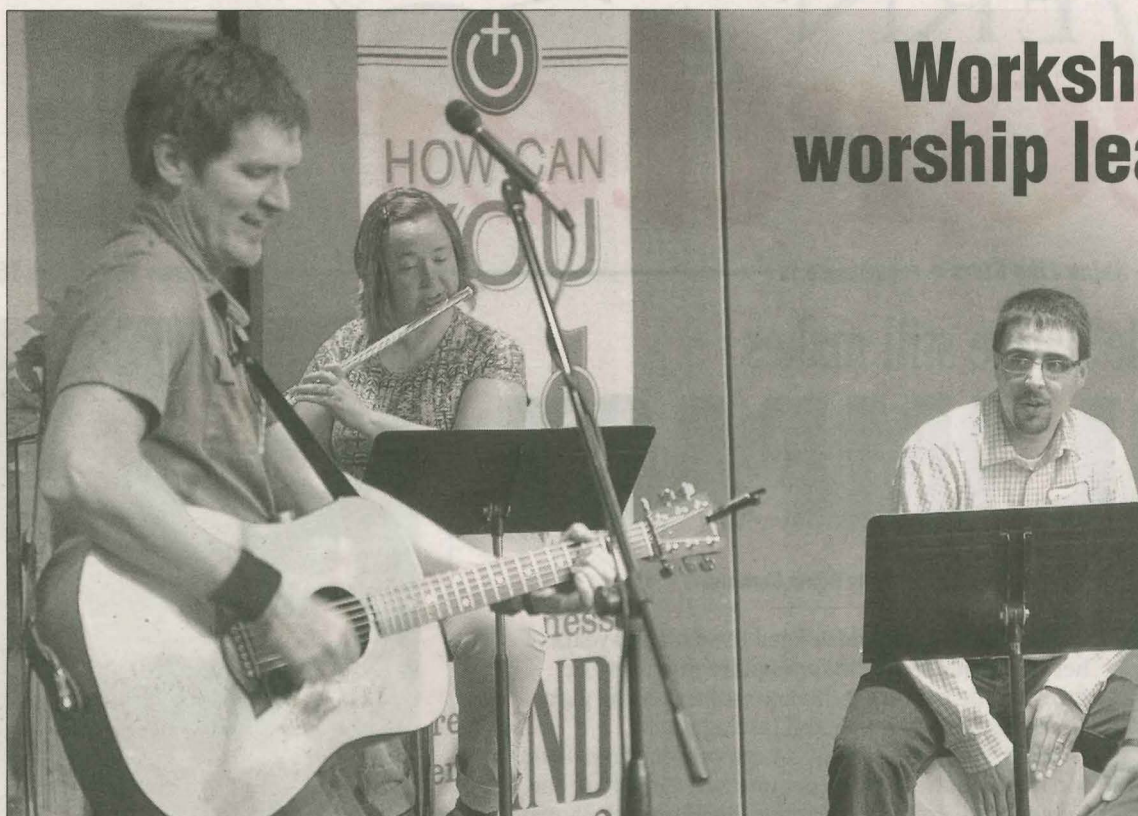
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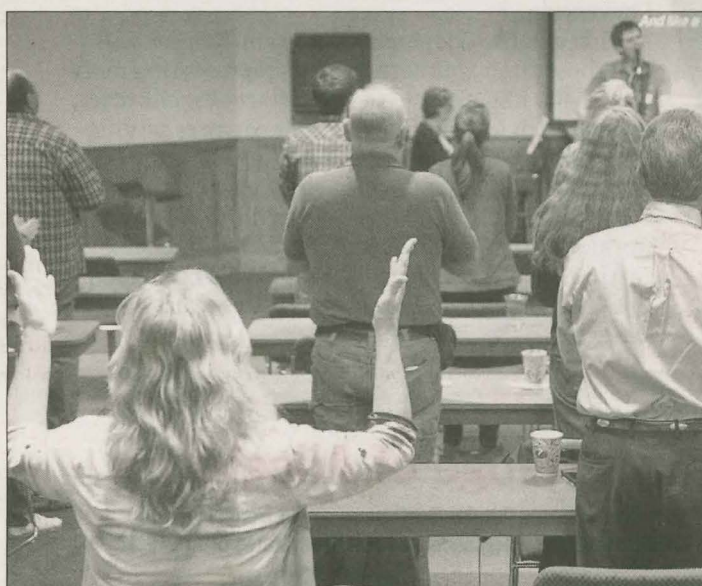


Western Recorder 4-29-2014



Above: Grant Norsworthy (left) puts a modern spin on the classic hymn "Amazing Grace" at the April 24 More Than Music workshop at the Kentucky Baptist Building in Louisville. He is accompanied on flute by Jacquie Miller (center), minister of music at Rineyville Baptist Church, and on cajón, a box-shaped percussion instrument, by Matthew Bone, minister of music at Parkland Baptist Church in Louisville. Miller and Bone were part of a "laboratory band" who joined Norsworthy to show workshop participants how the instruments can most effectively be blended to get the right sound mix for a live setting.

Right: About 40 Kentucky Baptist worship leaders and music ministers, representing more than 30 churches statewide, attended last week's workshop.



Workshop encourages, equips worship leaders, music ministers

Louisville—Like it or not, in church, the music matters.

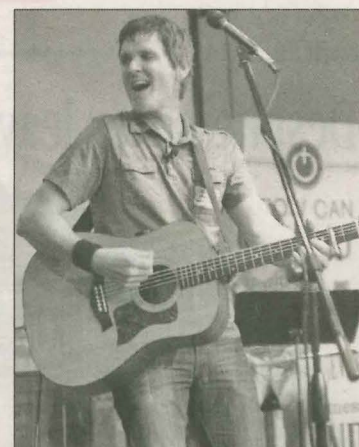
According to LifeWay Research, worship style and music are among the top 10 reasons churchgoers choose the congregation in which they will ultimately settle.

To that end, the Kentucky Baptist Convention welcomed around 40 worship leaders and musicians to its More Than Music workshop at the Baptist Building in Louisville last week.

The event offered a day of networking, encouragement and resources for church music leaders, many of whom serve in part time or volunteer roles at their congregations, according to Jason Stewart, worship and music consultant for the KBC.

Christian musician Grant Norsworthy led the April 24 workshop, sharing his passion for leading others in worshiping the Lord through song. The native Australian is a member of the Paul Colman Trio and a former member of Sonicflood. Norsworthy released his debut solo album in 2012.

At the workshop, Stewart put together what he called a "laboratory band" of local musicians to play alongside Norsworthy. The group, consisting of a guitarist, a pianist, a flautist and a percussionist, experimented by playing at different volumes to achieve a "healthy blend" of



Grant Norsworthy, an Australian-born Christian musician, who now lives in Nashville, Tenn., leads a group of Kentucky Baptist music ministers in worship. (Photos by Drew Nichter)

sound, Stewart said.

"When everyone is playing full on, it's just noise to the audience," he explained.

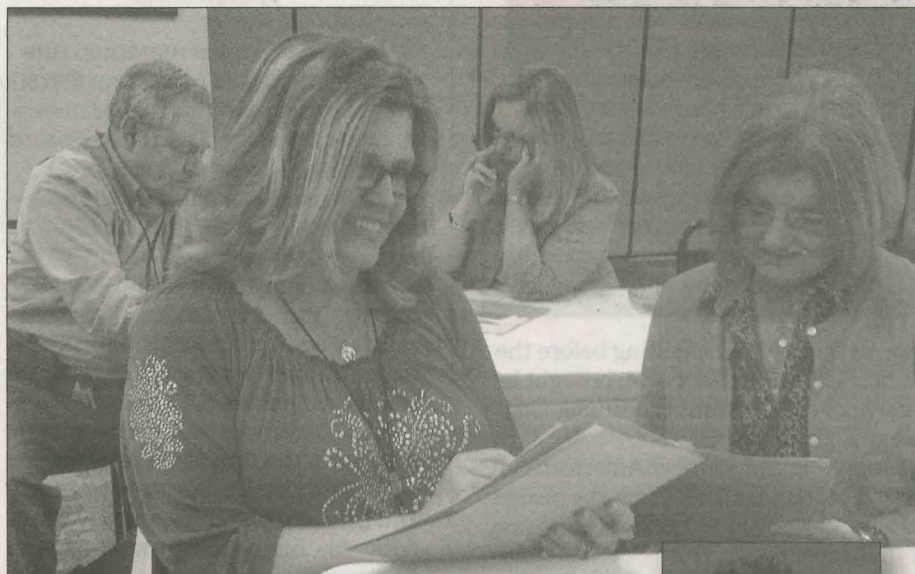
But when each musician plays at just the right volume, Stewart said, the worship band can achieve the perfect live sound, one that rivals even that of a studio recording.

The More Than Music workshop offered attendees a number of resources ranging from children's music to leading a senior-adult choir.

To find worship resources from the KBC, visit KyBaptist.org, click on the "Church Revitalization" tab, then click on the "Worship" link. (WR)

KBC Ministry Assistants' Conference

Seasons of the Soul



Dozens of ministry assistants from Kentucky Baptist churches statewide gathered in Shepherdsville last week to learn, share and grow together at the "Seasons of the Soul" Ministry Assistants' Conference. Attendees heard from keynote speaker Jill Baughan (right), author of "Born to Be Wild: Rediscover the Freedom of Fun." Several breakout sessions were offered covering a number of topics such as business writing (above), social media management and event planning.

Photos by Sarah Nichter



Jessie Mae Reed

Continued from page 1

Reed's passion for sharing the love and redeeming message of Jesus Christ likely came from her years of service with Woman's Missionary Union at Brownsville Missionary Baptist Church, according to niece, Katie Ashley.

"She was very much missions-minded. She knew what she was doing," Ashley said of her aunt. "She made this decision long ago."

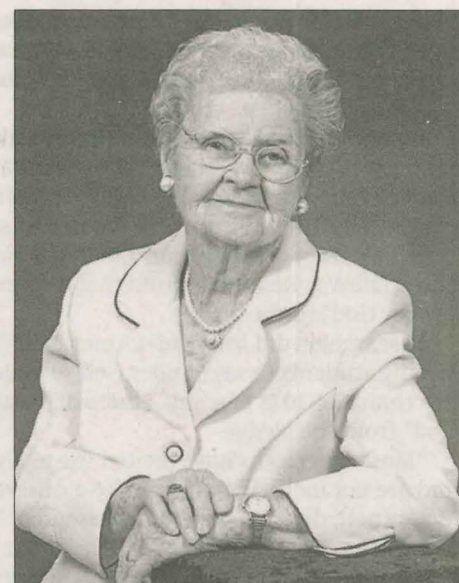
Ashley described her Aunt Jessie as an active church member who believed that through the Cooperative Program her gift would have the ability to reach more people than she, or even a single church, could from rural Edmondson County.

"She was a very God-loving, people-loving person," Ashley recalled.

Calvin Bond, pastor of Brownsville Missionary Baptist Church, said Reed joined the church through baptism in 1924 and remained a faithful member until her death. She not only served with WMU, but also as a Sunday School teacher and with Vacation Bible School.

Bond fondly recalled Reed's independent spirit and dedication to regular attendance by remarking how, at 99, she was still driving herself to church.

"Ms. Jessie was a great lady," Bond said. "She was one of the sweetest Christians you'll ever meet."



Jessie Mae Reed

Reed was one of seven siblings and spent her entire life in Brownsville, always living within sight of the house where she was born. She married Cortland Reed as a teenager in 1931 and began her teaching career in a one-room schoolhouse.

Ashley said her aunt and uncle were never able to have children of their own, so Reed showered her love on her many students while an elementary school teacher for 28 years.

"She was a remarkable person," Ashley said. (KBC)

Campbellsville to waive fees for transfer students from Mid-Continent

Campbellsville—When Mid-Continent University in Mayfield announced it had to close its doors, an unexpected burden was placed on the school's 2,000-plus students.

Now, Campbellsville University is stepping in to assist those Mid-Continent students who wish to transfer by waiving its application fees, according to Dave Walters, CU's vice president for admissions and student services.

"A large percentage of their students were enrolled in adult learning extension sites and online programs," Walters said, "and CU offers a variety of programs specifically designed to meet the needs of students across a wide spectrum."

Mid-Continent University announced April 15 that the school would be closing its doors by June 30. An ongoing financial crisis forced Mid-Continent to lay off nearly all of its faculty and staff.

Students at the Mayfield school are completing the school year with help from faculty and staff volunteers. Local Baptist associations are also pitching in with food donations and by sponsoring graduation ceremonies.

Walters said CU staff will continue to work to provide expertise in the areas of admissions, academic advising and financial aid counseling for prospective transfer students from Mid-Continent.

In order to assist those students in a consistent and timely manner, Walters said a custom email address has been set up for MCU students, MCUhelp@campbellsville.edu, to connect them directly with Campbellsville's Center for Distance Education.

"The staff of the Center for Distance Education is ready to help MCU students quickly connect to the CU location nearest their program plan and location," said DeWayne Frazier, CU's associate vice president for academic affairs.

He said the faculty is also working diligently on evaluating the curriculum in order to ease the transition of Mid-Continent students to Campbellsville's programs.

"We are praying for the MCU student body, their faculty, staff and coaches, as well as their community," Walters said, "This unfortunate event has created a time of uncertainty and hardship on each of them." (CU)

Summit addresses 'sex-saturated' culture

By Tom Strode

Nashville, Tenn.—Pastors and other evangelical Christians should speak biblically and live purely to minister faithfully in a sex-saturated culture, speakers said at a Southern Baptist-sponsored summit on the gospel and sexuality.

In addresses during the three-day conference, speakers challenged participants with messages designed to equip church leaders and other Christians to live with purity while aiding people inside and outside the church who are captive to a sexualized society. The Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission sponsored its inaugural ERLC Leadership Summit in sessions April 21-23 at the Southern Baptist Convention building in Nashville.

As sexualized as American culture is, it does not appear to be at the saturation point, ERLC President Russell Moore said.

"In terms of the entire society, I don't think we're there yet, because I think that what's happening is that technology is making the sexual revolution more and more elastic," Moore said during a panel discussion on ministry in a sex-permeated culture.

He suspects that "what we are going to find is there are a lot of people who have been promised a kind of easy gospel of sexual freedom who are going to be asking, 'What now? What's after this?' And so I think we need to be the sort of church and the sort of people who can be ready" to welcome and help them, Moore said.

The Gospel and Human Sexuality summit dealt with such issues as moral purity, marital sexuality, pastoral care for sexual immorality, pornography, homosexuality, same-sex marriage, sex trafficking, discussing sex with children and young people, and biblical manhood and womanhood.

J.D. Greear, lead pastor of The Summit Church in the Raleigh/Durham (N.C.) area, said presenting the beauty of the gospel of Jesus is vital in dealing with sexuality and sexual sin.

"The problem is not that our desire for sex is so strong but that our love for God is so weak," he said in a keynote speech on pastoral care for sexual sin.

"Our message cannot simply be, 'Stop having sex.' Our message has to be, 'Behold your God,'" Greear told the audience. "What you have to do is to be consumed with a God and His work so much that it breaks the craving" for sex.

Various speakers pointed to the need for pastors to preach systematically through the Bible, and some pointed to the damage that preaching to address felt needs has done among evangelicals in recent decades.

"The generational effect of felt-needs preaching, the generational effect of preaching what we think people want to hear and not exalting the unique person and unique work of Jesus Christ has caused irreparable harm in the church world," said Kevin Smith, assistant professor of preaching at the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary and teaching pastor at Highview Baptist Church in Louisville.

"It's easy to scapegoat gay people," he said. "It's easy to scapegoat the culture war without proclaiming the word of God from the pulpit to the people sitting in your congregation looking at your face."

The summit also addressed the pervasiveness of pornography, especially among church leaders and Christians.

Pornography "represents the greatest moral crisis in the history of the church,"



Pastor Jimmy Scroggins (right) makes a comment during a panel discussion at the inaugural ERLC Leadership Summit, titled "The Gospel and Homosexuality," April 21-23 at the Southern Baptist Convention building in Nashville, Tenn. In the background are pastors Greg Belser (left) and J.D. Greear (center). (Photo by Kent Harville)

said Heath Lambert, executive director of the Association of Certified Biblical Counselors and assistant professor of biblical counseling at Southern Seminary.

While there are all sorts of moral problems, "porn is something evangelicals can do in a dark room behind a shut door after they have railed against homosexual marriage," he said during his keynote speech.

"I think the greatest threat to the church today is the Christian pastor, the Christian school teacher, the Christian college and seminary student who exalts sound theology, who points to the Bible and then retreats to the basement computer" for an hour of pornography, Lambert told the audience.

The average age of a boy's first experience with hardcore pornography is 12, Lambert said. "We don't know what it is like to have a nation of men who are addicted to pornography," he said.

David Prince, pastor of preaching at Ashland Avenue Baptist Church in Lexington, and associate professor of preaching at

Southern Seminary, said he is convinced pornography is "devastating the spiritual vitality of our churches."

The problem of pornography among evangelicals was reflected in research data presented by Mark Regnerus, an author and associate professor of sociology at the University of Texas. He cited research showing:

- 25 percent of evangelical men report using pornography in the past week.
- 14 percent of evangelical men report porn usage in the past day.

Regnerus also reported that more than 48 percent of evangelicals report having premarital sex with their spouse.

Prince pointed to the gospel in a keynote address about helping parents address their children's sexuality.

"We are to have a distinctive, Christ-centered view of everything, including sexuality," he said.

"Our approach can't be, 'Just say no.' That is not Christian sexuality. We want them to have a comprehensively, Christ-centered view of sexuality." (BP)

Newbell: Sexual sin not just problem for men

By Bob Allen

Nashville, Tenn.—When it comes to sexuality, many women are suffering, a plenary speaker at a Southern Baptist summit on sex said during the final session of the three-day gathering.

"Some women are suffering, and some women are struggling," Trillia Newbell, consultant on women's initiatives for the Ethics and Religious Liberty Commission for, told those attending the ERLC's first-ever national leadership conference.

Newbell, lead editor of the women's channel for the Council on Biblical Manhood and Womanhood in Louisville, said the idea that men and women are both created in the image God but created different "does indeed affect our sexuality."

"The fall of man wreaked havoc on what was perfect in this world," Newbell said. "It specifically affected women and our sexuality."

"We know in Genesis 3 that the punishment for Eve's disobedience was that women would have pain in childbearing. But we know it doesn't end there. Women are reminded every four to six weeks of the death and destruction of the fall through our menstrual cycle. There is miscarriage and hormonal imbalance

and cancers that attack our organs that produce life and give substance.

"And then we have the unfortunate reality that because of the sin in this world women are objectified," she continued. "We objectify ourselves in magazines and through supporting sexually explicit images, and we are objectified by men. This is our reality."

Newbell said pastors cannot ignore statistics about how many women are victimized by sexual assault and human trafficking.

"Your pews may be filled with women who have suffered under the hands of another person, and these women may be too embarrassed to say a word," she said.

But Newbell added that people often underestimate the impact of pornography on women. She cited one study showing that one in three Americans who click on a pornographic website is a woman. "This is not a male-only issue."

Newbell said "there is a stereotype and a really, really bad rumor" that women don't struggle with sexual sin.

"Or so it appears," she observed. "Most of the books, sermons and articles addressing sexual temptation are geared toward the man. There is no doubt that men need to hear these things, but so do women." (ABP)



Trillia Newbell

State Baptist influence

Last week's Western Recorder included a story on the influence of Baptists upon Kentucky's government. The article is

Together We are the KBC



Paul Chitwood

cause for rejoicing since our Baptist voice is still being heard on issues like religious liberty, the sanctity of marriage and defense of the poor.

With the 2014 legislative session having come to a close, the latest attempts to expand gambling in Kentucky may seem dead and buried yet again. What many Kentuckians fail to realize, however, is that slot-like machines have been fully operational in our state since 2011, even though they are prohibited by our constitution.

Section 226.3 of the Constitution of the Commonwealth of Kentucky mandates that, with the exception of the state lottery, all other "lotteries and gift enterprises are forbidden, and no privileges shall be granted for such purposes, and none shall be exercised, and no schemes for similar purposes shall be allowed."

According to USLegal.com, "gift enterprise includes any scheme using ... any non-telecommunication related, player-activated electronic or electromechanical facsimile of any game of chance, or any slot machine of any kind."

Casting the constitution aside, the Kentucky Horse Racing Commission voted July 20, 2010, to essentially recognize these slot-like machines as a form of horse racing. With the cover of a gambling-friendly governor, these so-called "instant racing" machines are now operating illegally in the state.

The Family Foundation of Kentucky sought to join a lawsuit in the Franklin Circuit Court to have the instant racing machines shut down. Though the Family Foundation was granted standing by the court, it was not permitted to ask pre-trial questions or do pre-trial discovery. Shockingly, the court found the machines "not to be illegal." Even more shocking, in February of this year, the Kentucky Supreme Court also gave legal standing to the machines.

What have these matters to do with Kentucky Baptists? They illustrate, once again, the incessant push to expand gambling. They also illustrate the need of every Kentuckian to be aware of the protections guaranteed by our constitution and to elect officials who will refuse to compromise those protections.

Whether the issue is redefining marriage, welcoming slots and casinos or some yet-unforeseen matter on the horizon, Kentuckians have already addressed most of the issues that would bring corruption and moral chaos to our state. We have done so in our most basic governing document—our constitution.

Often referred to as the "principal law of the Commonwealth," our constitution is in greater need today of men and women who will stand for it and on it than at any other time in our history. Might the quarter of the population in Kentucky who call ourselves Southern Baptist remember this need as we exercise our right to vote.

Paul Chitwood is executive director of the Kentucky Baptist Convention.

You can believe it: 'Heaven is for real!'

A recent editorial in The State Journal of Frankfort begins: "Mudslide. Missing jetliner. Capsized ferry. Avalanche.

"These horrible tragedies of the past weeks, unfortunately, all have something in common: There are victims who have not been recovered. Even more unfortunately, some never will be," the writer states.

The article, titled "Tragedies leave many without closure," observes, "Each of us, and each culture, has a different way of grieving. But it certainly is more difficult for those grieving for someone who is missing." The writer concludes, "Even without the physical body of their loved ones, we hope these families can grieve while we all search for answers. Answers that often never come and rarely comfort."

We mourn with those who grieve for their lost loved ones. For those of us who have placed our faith in Christ, though—even as the answers so longed for may not come—many find great solace in knowing loved ones have gone on to heaven, and we will be reunited with them one day. Death really isn't the end; something far better awaits the believer.

But what is heaven really like? We've probably all pondered that question at some point, haven't we?

The summer after I graduated from high school, when the Southern Baptist Convention met in Los Angeles, my family extended our trip on to Hawaii for a week of vacation. A fellow minister and his family traveled with us. He had recently suffered a heart attack and said he had a near-death experience on an operating-room table. Curious, I asked him the obvious questions: What was it like? What did you see? Was there a tunnel and a bright light?

As I remember, his answer didn't provide many specific details, but it was nonetheless remarkable. What he could recall was having a feeling of intense joy, of being at perfect peace, of being surrounded by love more wonderful than one could ever imagine. Wow! I'm not sure what I had

expected him to say, but to a teenager, to someone with a still budding faith, his account—along with the Bible's testimony—was very reassuring and comforting. He was convinced, and I was, too: "Heaven is for real!"

Recently, my wife and I went to see the movie, "Heaven is for real," about a four-year-old boy's near-death experience and what he later recalls. His father, a minister, and mother struggle with believing his vivid revelations. Some Christians have embraced the movie; others are more hesitant, objecting to what they see as its extra-biblical depictions of heaven. I'm not going to weigh in here, but what seems apparent is that to a little boy the vision of heaven and of Jesus

was very real, and his description of it made a profound impression on his family's faith as well as his father's congregation. And, we should be sensitive to those around us who may find this reassurance helpful, especially as they face grief or other trying circumstances in life.

Still, we can be available to answer their questions, especially about the gospel and salvation, and lead them to explore specific references in Scripture regarding the Hope of heaven. And, what we can rest assured of is that our Lord spoke of a paradise, where all who place their faith in Him will spend eternity with God. He even told us He was going there to prepare a place for us. Indeed, there is something more beyond this life—and it's going to be wonderful!

I heard a story once about a hostess who after serving a marvelous meal would tell her guests, "Keep your fork!" Her guests eagerly anticipated a scrumptious desert would follow. We, as believers, share the same anticipation of an afterlife. There's a scrumptious reward coming that the faithful will taste one day.

Until then: "Sing the wondrous love of Jesus, Sing His mercy and His grace: In the mansions bright and blessed, He'll prepare for us a place. When we all get to heaven, What a day of rejoicing that will be! When we all see Jesus, We'll sing and shout the victory."



After Thought

By Todd Deaton



Article furthers division

As a Kentucky Baptist pastor, I was appalled to read Bob Allen's irresponsible article titled "PBS examines Calvinism in SBC." The article, which purportedly covered a recently aired PBS special, largely served as a misleading commentary on the beliefs of Southern Baptist president Al Mohler and other leaders of the "Together for the Gospel" conference, a gathering I attended.

Allen portrayed Mohler as either happy about a doctrinal "schism" in the Southern Baptist Convention or pleased with the notion that God pre-determines people to hell. (Allen's writing left room for either inference.) Neither idea came close to Mohler's point. Mohler stated "it's a fantastic thing"

that the SBC is not mired in controversial issues like gay marriage and can focus on important doctrines.

Allen reduced a multi-faceted conversation to "a 17th-century debate about why a loving God would create billions of souls predestined to an eternity in hell," an extreme position called "double predestination." Allen also stated the T4G leaders believe righteousness is obtained "by God's decree alone," while omitting their affirmation of a person's responsibility to exercise saving faith.

Practically all of the conference's 7,500 congregants—many of whom were Southern Baptists—would emphatically deny these mischaracterizations. In fact, Allen overlooked the theme of this year's conference: evangelism. If this kind of emotive

reduction is not poor journalism, it is certainly poor theology.

Seminary students rightly devote entire semesters to these subjects with open Bibles and prayerful hearts. Unfortunately, many pastors, church members and journalists have not learned to recognize a caricature when they see one.

Allen managed to describe little to nothing about the PBS special. He instead used the opportunity to misrepresent the positions of Mohler and other T4G leaders and attack Reformed theology. By reporting division, the media once again created division. I found Allen's article irresponsible and disappointing.

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Who could use a little more compassion?

By Judy Bates

At a huge Christian music event, I waited in line to enter a restroom and eventually joined another 20 or so women inside. Above the roar of hand dryers, there was chatter and laughter, but there was also another sound. One woman faced the wall in the far corner and was sobbing uncontrollably.

I don't know how long this had been going on, but I was appalled to see how every woman there was simply ignoring a situation they either didn't know how to handle or didn't want to get involved in.

I couldn't ignore her. I excused my way through the crowd and went to the lady, gently putting my hand on her shoulder and asking, "Is there anything I can help you with?"

She turned and, between sobs, told me that she was the mother of a family group who was currently on stage and that she'd just received a phone call that her own mother had passed away. Surrounded by professing believers at a Christian event, this woman was dealing with a devastating heartache alone.

Jesus Christ had compassion for the hurting. In Matthew 14:14, He looked at the crowd and "had compassion." Likewise in Mark 6:34; and Matthew 9:36; and Mark 8:2; and in so many other passages. And we're to be like Him.

Scripture clearly teaches us that compassion is a distinguishing characteristic of those who are in Christ Jesus. If an individual believer or church focuses only on self, the compassion of Christ is missing.

If we are to reach a lost and dying world with the good news of Jesus, we must do so with hearts of compassion. Our job is not solely to comfort and love "the brethren"—we're to extend Christ's love outside our

comfort zones, beyond our family and friends, beyond the walls of church buildings.

Jesus never stood at the church door, so to speak, and said, "Y'all come" (even though He was from the Southern Kingdom of Judah). He did, however, tell the church to, "Go out into the highways and hedges, and compel them to come in" (Luke 14:23).

When I was a kid, an emaciated, clearly abused, dog appeared on our carport during a rainstorm. Trembling, she cowered against the brick wall, as terrified of me as she was of the booming thunder and torrential downpour. How did I get her to trust me? I patiently worked my way closer to her as I spoke softly and offered her food and water. I was willing to put in the time it took to get her to trust me.

It took days, but eventually I was able to put out my hand to pet her without her flinching in fear. A couple of weeks later, she actually allowed me to clean and doctor her wounds. Halo and I became the best of friends because I made a conscious effort to get her to trust me, which was when I was able to truly show her compassion.

There are so many hurting, wounded people in the world. And some may want no part of your offer of help—at first, anyway. Relationships, like houses, require building, one piece at a time. Don't sit around waiting to develop compassion because it'll never just happen. You learn compassion through extending it.

Who around you could use a little compassion, like the woman at the Christian concert? Be the hands and feet of Jesus—patient, loving, open, vulnerable, willing to meet people on their level and taking the time necessary to nurture a relationship. (BP)

Judy Woodward Bates is a speaker, TV personality and author of "Bargainomics: Money Management by the Book."

VIEWPOINT

Gardening: An appropriate metaphor for churches

In recent years, I've been giving a good deal of thought to metaphors that communicate clearly what a healthy church or minister is like. There are many of them, but the one I keep returning to is that of the garden.

As a gardener who finds personal renewal and energy in the rhythm and mystery of gardening and landscaping, I am drawn to this mindset as I engage congregations and clergy. I come from a long line of gardeners and ministers and find the overlap more than coincidence.

The garden is a powerful biblical theme that resonates deeply with me and the way I approach ministry. So, I want to explore some of the ways I believe this metaphor is critical to the future of all of us.

From beginning—"The Lord planted a garden in Eden, in the east; and there he put the man whom he formed" (Genesis 2:8)—to end—"On either side of the river is the tree of life with its twelve kinds of fruit, producing its fruit each month; and the leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations" (Revelation 22:2)—the Bible speaks of gardens, gardeners and growing things.

Jesus taught many lessons involving plants, growth, agriculture and gardening. He invoked images of fig trees, soils, sowers, seeds, fruit, mustard seeds and vineyards to drive home His teachings.

There are profound implications for us from the world of gardens, gardeners and plants as we seek to bring hope, help and healing to churches and clergy in the spirit of Christ.

Seasons

The power of the seasons is never far from the mind of the gardener. At the heart of any issue or project in the garden lies a central question: What season is it? No season is unimportant, and each season is indispensable for a healthy garden.

We are currently enjoying the new life of spring after an especially intense winter. The wise gardener knows that spring will soon fade into summer and

prepares accordingly. Understanding the life cycle of a garden is critical to creating and sustaining a healthy growing environment.

In churches, our lack of understanding of life-cycle seasons may blind us to deeper causes than what the prevailing symptoms may suggest. Congregational life cycles are undeniable. Proactive renewal and re-imagining take place when leadership recognizes the need for innovation and a fresh vision for ministry.

Just as a gardener knows the symptoms of decline, decay, renewal and new growth in the garden, so, too, the congregation leader keeps one eye on today and one eye on tomorrow. Healthy churches know to anticipate and plan for what is coming, not simply to live in the moment.

Good soil

Healthy soil is a prerequisite to healthy plants. Gardeners spend much energy and expense amending and improving the soil of their gardens. Doing so creates an environment conducive to vibrant growth.

Plants and gardens need food to survive. Light, water, nourishment and nutrients combine to provide the building blocks of growth for a plant or garden.

Churches that thrive are constantly seeking ways to feed spiritual truth and insight to people. Using a wide array of learning vehicles, combined with sensitivity to learning styles, they constantly innovate and create rich learning and growth opportunities for their communities.

Healthy churches know that sustainable Christians and churches require deep, rich soil. The parable of the sower reminds us of the folly of expecting rocky or shallow soil to produce mature believers. Many churches need to consider what it would look like to think about going "deeper" and not simply "wider" in their approach to ministry.

Setting

Context matters. Plants that may thrive in a

Teaching kids to defend faith

By David Garrard

Several weeks ago, my wife and I went to see "God Is Not Dead." The film had been highly recommended by friends, and we enjoyed it very much. The story



centers around a college student who is challenged by an agnostic professor to defend his belief in God.

As we walked out of the theater, I found myself wondering what I would have done if I had been in this young man's shoes.

Would I have stood up for what I believe? Would I have been able to defend my faith? I also began to wonder how my own children would have fared in a similar situation.

Lifeway's 2014 Vacation Bible School theme, "Agency D3: Discover, Decide, Defend," frames the challenge nicely. Discovering God's plan for our lives and deciding to follow it are important.

However, we should also be able to defend our faith to some extent. We not only need to know what we believe; we need to know why we believe it. The VBS theme verse is 1 Peter 3:15: "Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have."

The movie clearly illustrates that standing up for what you believe takes courage. And God has promised to be with us any time we take a stand and to help us know what to say. Jesus told His disciples not to worry about what to say or how to say it, but that when the time came to speak what to say would be given to them (Matthew 10:19). Jesus also promised that the Holy Spirit would bring to mind the words of Jesus (John 14:26).

At the same time, these promises do not mean that we don't have to do some thinking. We do not have to become experts in apologetics, but we do need to remember a couple of important facts.

Brilliant people—those who are a lot smarter than you or I—have come down on both sides of the God question. At the end of the day, it comes down to the worldview in which you are willing to put your faith. Neither can be proved beyond a point that does not require faith—even if it is not religious faith. Still, good arguments can and should be made, and there are resources that can help. Tim Keller's "The Reason for God" is an excellent starting point as are the works of C.S. Lewis, particularly "Mere Christianity."

As a parent, spend some time thinking about why you believe what you believe. Then look for ways to pass that knowledge along to your kids. Help them know that, while ultimately being a matter of faith, Christianity makes sense. Give them the confidence to stand up for what they believe and pray that God will give them—and you—the courage to do so.

David Garrard is minister to children at St. Matthews Baptist Church in Louisville.



Bill Wilson

rainforest die quickly in the desert, and vice versa. Each plant adapts to its environment and either finds a way to survive and thrive, or it must be moved to a setting more aligned with its DNA. The wise gardener knows to pay attention to climate zones, sun and shade tolerance, water requirements, etc.

While some aspects of gardening are transferable to any setting, most gardens must be custom designed to their contexts.

Healthy churches are students of their setting and context. They understand their unique locations and cultures are defining components of their ministries. Ignoring them is inviting disaster.

Ministry has common components no matter where it takes place. However, there are methods and approaches that are germane to your city, county, neighborhood or region that differentiate you from all other congregations. Learning those distinctives and deliberately building a congregation that is congruent with them is essential for long-term health. (ABP)

Bill Wilson is director of The Center for Healthy Churches in Winston-Salem, N.C., and a graduate of Murray State University.



With Bible in hand, Amy Compston shares her story of how she has used to running to overcome a former life of drug and alcohol abuse to develop a relationship with Jesus Christ and a love for missions. Amy competed in last week's Boston Marathon, finishing in just more than three and a half hours. The wife and mother of four said it was not her best time because of injuries. But the slower pace gave her an opportunity to interact with other runners and spectators. Compston will run seven more marathons in the next seven months to raise \$40,000 for ministry efforts in Moyo, Uganda. (Submitted photo)

Amy for Africa

Continued from page 1

The African town that benefits from the money happens to be where former Unity Baptist Church pastor Floyd Paris serves as a missionary.

Compston, a nurse in Ashland, has been a runner most of her life, but said she didn't envision it as more than a pastime until after the 2013 Boston Marathon when she and her family handed out more than 1,200 Bible tracts. She finished in the top 15 percent of female finishers last year and decided to run for missions.

Compston followed that with a 50-mile ultra marathon in Nashville, Tenn., last November, finishing second among female runners.

Her athleticism is generating funding to care for Ugandan children, as well as to provide medical supplies for several clinics and the hospital in Moyo.

"Amy is one of the many Kentucky Baptists who are using the gifts and talents God blessed them with to help spread the gospel at home and around the world," said Paul Chitwood, executive director of the Kentucky Baptist Convention. "Amy truly is putting sweat equity into the kingdom's work with these marathons. Hers is an unusual initiative and a wonderful example of the imaginative and creative ways Kentucky Baptists are supporting missions."

Chitwood said every member of the KBC engages in missions with his or her tithes and offerings to local churches, a portion of which goes to the KBC's

Cooperative Program that funds a wide variety of ministries and programs.

Those initiatives include summer camps at Crossings Ministries where 794 teenagers came to Christ last summer, campus initiatives in which 300 Kentucky college students were saved, and the work of missionaries throughout the world that resulted in more than 300,000 new believers being baptized overseas.

Between marathons, Compston, her husband, Chris, and ministry co-founder Mark Maynard speak to churches and other organizations to raise funds for the mission project. She shares with them about a time in her life she was running from the Lord. For some 14 years, she was involved with drugs

and alcohol, despite being a regular churchgoer.

"I was just going through the motions," she said. "I didn't really understand what it was to be a true follower of Christ."

Now running for the Lord, Compston, a mother of four, finished this year's Boston Marathon in 3 hours and 39 minutes, far from a personal best because of pain in her right hip and hamstring. But she still finished in the top 22 percent of women runners.

The slower pace, Compston said, allowed her to interact with other runners and the crowd that lined the streets.

"I think God slowed me down on purpose," she said. "I was able to share my testimony and share this mission with hundreds of people."

Amy's husband, Chris, will be joining her in six of the marathons to come between now and November. (KBC)

ON THE WEB...

Learn more about Amy's marathon journey to raise money for the Ugandan town of Moyo at

www.AmyforAfrica.org



BGR 2013 report: 'Needs, fears, struggles' of 1.3 million helped

Nashville, Tenn.—Labby cried loudly as her parents left her on the first day of preschool. The 3-year-old was overly thin. Her brittle hair and small, black teeth were signs of poor health and poor hygiene.

At lunch, Labby and her friends devoured everything on their plates. The day was full of firsts: nutritious food, clean water, a toothbrush, washing hands—and the first toilet Labby had ever seen.

Nearly a year later, Labby looks healthier and is doing well in her class. She has become an expert in washing her hands before eating, brushing her teeth and using the toilet. She and her friends are getting the nutrition they need to be healthy, and the life skills they need to live abundant lives.

Labby and her friends are just a few of more than 1.3 million people in need worldwide who received help from Southern Baptists during 2013 through Baptist Global Response.

"Every day we are faced with a new challenge: hunger in Sub-Saharan Africa, poverty in mega-cities, typhoons in the Philippines, a refugee

crisis in Syria or Sudan," Jeff Palmer, BGR executive director, said. "It is easy to lose sight that these challenges represent people and not just statistics."

The 1,385,030 individuals helped in 2013 lived in 4,359 communities in 53 countries, according to BGR's annual report, released April 17. The organization's 297 projects addressed issues of clean water, hunger relief, disaster response, livelihood training, health care and assistance for widows and orphans, among other things.

In the first five years since it launched, BGR saw a 381 percent increase in direct donations for hunger and relief. A full 93 percent of donations in 2013 went directly to program services.

"Thanks to the partnership of Southern Baptists who care about people in need, we are able to provide simple housing, health care, food and hope to people who are suffering."

Baptist Global Response provides regular updates on new and ongoing projects at its website, www.GoBGR.org. The 2013 BGR annual report can be found at www.GoBGR.org/Annual. (BP)



Encounter: Women of Worth LIFESTYLE EVANGELISM CONFERENCE



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5:45 pm—registration / refreshments

6:35—general session

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A busy, cooperative & great day

Entire campus pitches in to make sure day goes off without a hitch

There always seems to be much activity going on at our campus, but some days seem to be a little busier than others. Recently, we had one of our busiest days of the year, but it was one of my favorite days.

The Lord continues to impress upon my heart the need to reach out to the community and young people of eastern Kentucky.

On Monday morning, our middle school principal stopped by my office and shared with me an encounter he had with a local family while getting a hair cut. At first I was jealous because those of you who know me know I am "follically challenged." My envy over our principal's ability to have his hair cut quickly turned to thoughts about reaching out to our local elementary schools.

Our spring play had just concluded Saturday night, and the set was still up. I called our drama director and asked if we could do the play again, if we were able to get some local schools to come on Friday. She said we could.

So, I then called in our minister of advancement, who got on the phone with three local schools. All three said they would bring their fourth-, fifth- and sixth-graders.

My next call was to our food service director to see if we could feed 250 extra folks between lunch periods. She also had a can-do attitude.

The local school students came and seemed to enjoy the play, "Once Upon a

High School." Many staff members jumped in to make sure feeding so many people went off without a hitch.

When the local school buses pulled away, our spring fling was up next. Students piled into the Sparks Gymnasium for some class competitions. From there, they headed outside for fun on inflatable slides, a dunking booth, cornhole, tie-dyed T-shirts and much more.

Backyard Ministries provided much of the entertainment and some great food. On the way, Backyard Ministries had car trouble, and one of our staff members jumped in a truck to rescue them and get them to our campus.

Have I mentioned that I love it when our staff members jump in and do what needs to be done?

Our annual talent show followed dinner. We have some amazingly talented young people. It never ceases to amaze me how the Lord blesses His people with gifts that can be used for His glory.

After the talent show, nearly everyone was treated to pizza, chips and drinks. We came up a little short on the pizza, but others shared, did without or sacrificed without complaining to make sure everyone got something.

It was a long and busy day, but a great day in the life of Oneida Baptist Institute. Come and see for yourself what is happening at OBI.

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

This is
Oneida



Larry Gritton

God's direction

Clear Creek student thankful for God's divine appointments in life

First-year student Spencer Conner, from Atlanta, envisioned himself being just about anywhere but in Pineville until last year.

"I was raised in church as a young child and was saved when I was 7 years old," Conner recalled. "I did grow in my faith during my younger years through the discipleship efforts of my family, but I moved away from walking with the Lord where I should have been during my teenage years."

"I attended a conference during this time, and the Lord spoke to me about re-dedicating my life to Him and getting back to where I needed to be in my relationship with Him," Conner said. "After I recommitted my life to the Lord, I began to feel the call to ministry. God really changed my life during this time."

"I originally had plans to pursue a music career in Nashville, Tenn.," he said. "I was planning to make the move from Atlanta to Nashville to be a studio musician in the country music industry. I was pretty sure that was going to be my career. That was before my mother got on a plane."

"I can look back now and see the divine appointment from God," Conner recalled. "My mother was flying

back to Atlanta from a conference where she was singing. On this particular flight she met a man who had a connection with Clear Creek Baptist Bible College. They began to talk, and she shared with him about the calling God had placed on my life. He told her that she needed to get me to Clear Creek and have me check out the campus. We visited the campus, and after the visit, I felt that God was leading me to study here.

"I am studying on the pastoral ministry track," Conner said. "I feel that God is calling me to serve as a youth pastor in some capacity."

"I still play music, but now it is in a Christian band based out of Atlanta," he said. "We are focused on leading worship for other churches and events. I am also involved with a group in the local area planning a big youth event later this year. God has given me some practical ministry opportunities through this event that are helping me to gain some valuable ministry experience."

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.

Clear Creek
Chronicle



Donnie Fox

HOT TOPICS

'Exceedingly dangerous'

Mohler, SBTS professors seek to refute pro-homosexual book with new e-book

By James Smith

Louisville—A new book's "exceedingly dangerous" assertions that homosexual orientation and gay marriage are consistent with a high view of the Bible are refuted by President Albert Mohler and four of his colleagues at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in an e-book published last week.

"God and the Gay Christian? A Response to Matthew Vines" released the same day as the official release of Vines' volume, "God and the Gay Christian: The Biblical Case in Support of Same-Sex Relationships," which has garnered significant attention.

A blog post by Mohler asserts that Vines' interpretation of Scripture is driven by his experience as a homosexual rather than the normal rules for understanding written documents.

"When he begins his book, Matthew Vines argues that experience should not drive our interpretation of the Bible," Mohler writes. "But it is his experience of what he calls a gay sexual orientation that drives every word of this book. It is this experiential issue that drives him to relativize text after text and to argue that the Bible really doesn't speak directly to his sexual identity at all, since the inspired human authors of Scripture were ignorant of the modern gay experience."

A review of Vines' book by Andrew Walker of the Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission argues that "Vines has compiled liberal biblical scholarship and popularized it for a non-technical audience." Walker's review, published on the ERLC's Canon & Culture website, summarizes the book in detail and includes bulleted arguments for pastors to use as they discuss "God and the Gay Christian."

Vines, a 24-year-old former Harvard student, weaves with his treatment of Scripture his personal biography of growing up as an evangelical Christian and "coming out" as a homosexual to his parents and now former home church. In the process, Vines left Harvard in order to study the Bible's claims about homosexuality, which later resulted in the publication of his book.

"Not every book deserves a response, but some books seem to appear at a time and context in which response is absolutely necessary," Mohler said. "The kind of argument that is presented by Matthew Vines, if not confronted, can lead many people to believe that his case is persuasive and that his treatment of the Bible is legitimate. I think that it's very important that evangelicals be reminded that the church has not misunderstood Scripture for 2,000 years."

Published by SBTS Press, the 100-page critique of Vines is edited by Mohler, who also contributes a chapter. Other contributors are: James Hamilton, professor of biblical theology; Denny Burk, professor of biblical studies; Owen Strachan, assistant professor of Christian theology and church history; and Heath Lambert,

assistant professor of biblical counseling. Burk, Strachan and Lambert teach primarily for Boyce College, the undergraduate school of Southern Seminary.

Mohler's chapter provides an overview critique of Vines' argument, while Hamilton primarily addresses Old Testament claims, Burk deals with New Testament claims, Strachan looks at the church history assertions and Lambert answers the question of whether there is such a thing

as a "gay Christian."

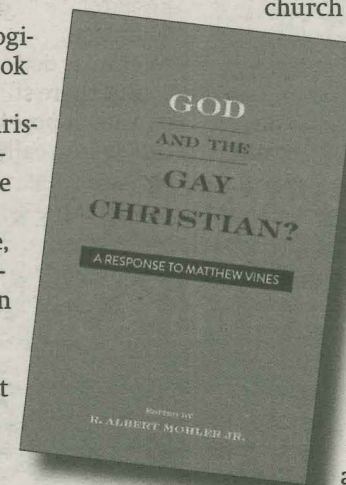
Vines' special contribution to the debate, Mohler said, is his claim to having a "high view" of Scripture, even while relying upon a "world of very liberal biblical scholarship" as his primary sources.

"Evangelical Christians have enough biblical instinct to trust only someone who comes with a high view of Scripture," Mohler said. "But this is a warning to us that not all who claim a high view of Scripture actually operate by a high view of Scripture."

Some evangelicals hope to avoid the "cultural pressure cooker" of homosexuality by finding a "convenient, persuasive off-ramp" from traditional biblical arguments, Mohler said. Vines' book "could be for some of those wavering evangelicals the kind of off-ramp for which they've been searching. However, it's a fatally flawed argument. And it will take them into a non-evangelical identity."

Vines' argument is "exceedingly dangerous," Mohler said, "because if we do not know what the Bible teaches on homosexuality, and if the church has misunderstood that vital issue for two millennia, then what else has the church misunderstood about the gospel? If we can't trust the Bible to tell us what sin is in order to tell us why Christ's death was necessary, then we really don't know what the gospel is. And if you can read the Bible the way Matthew Vines reads it, then biblical theology is impossible. I cannot imagine greater challenges facing the church than these."

The e-book—published as the first in a new "CONVERSANT" series—is available for free as a PDF download on the seminary's website. CONVERSANT titles are "designed to engage the current evangelical conversation with the full wealth of Christian conviction." Soon, the seminary's e-book will be available for order on digital platforms, including Kindle, Nook and iBook. (BP)



Poll: Most voters favor generic prayers at public meetings

Madison, N.J.—The U.S. Supreme Court will soon rule on the constitutionality of prayer at public meetings. But a new survey finds U.S. voters clearly favor prayer—as long as the public prayer is generic and not specifically Christian.

Fairleigh Dickinson University's PublicMind survey asked about attitudes on high profile cases before the court. Most registered voters (73 percent) said "prayer at public meetings is fine as long as the public officials are not favoring some beliefs over others." And 23 percent said "public meetings shouldn't have any prayers at all because prayers by definition suggest one belief or another."

While support for prayer was similar for every age group and both men and women, the most religiously observant were the most inclined to approve of it.

Among those who attend religious services (aside from funerals or weddings) at least once or twice a month, 86

percent would allow prayer, 11 percent would not.

For those who attend services a few times a year, 73 percent support it, but opposition doubles to 26 percent.

But even those who seldom or never go to church backed the prayers at public meetings, with 58 percent approving and 36 percent opposing.

Surveys continually find prayer in general—not specified by denominational distinctions—is hugely popular.

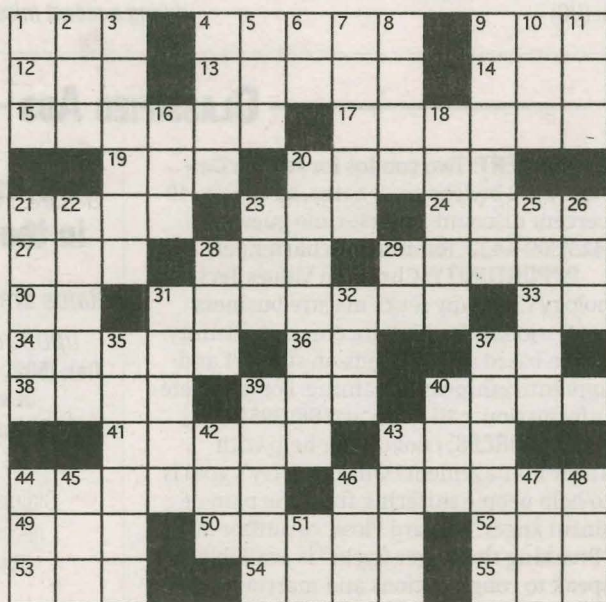
Gallup, Barna Research and Pew Research Center all find that about 8 in 10 Christians say they pray at least weekly, as do Muslims and Hindus.

But there still remains a vocal minority that opposes having officials call on God before calling a public meeting to order. Groups often send letters to legislators and public officials relaying citizen complaints and asking them to drop the prayer practices. (RNS)

Bible Crosswords

Across

- 1 Poetic contraction
- 4 "The ____ of the mountains is his pasture" (Job 39:8)
- 9 ____ fried
- 12 Linking verb
- 13 "The ____ of Egypt shall be moved" (Isaiah 19:1)
- 14 Inlet
- 15 "Behold a man gluttonous ... a ____ of publicans and sinners" (Matthew 11:19)
- 17 "Charity ... is not ____ provoked, thinketh no evil" (1 Corinthians 13:4, 5)
- 19 Joke
- 20 Brownish gray
- 21 Liturgical season that coincides with spring
- 23 ____ sum (Chinese dumplings)
- 24 Man, for example
- 27 Printer's measures
- 28 "Every ____ that a man doeth is without the body" (1 Corinthians 6:18)
- 29 "When thou prayest, ____ into thy closet" (Matthew 6:6)
- 30 ____ out (tennis term)
- 31 "The ____ went before, the play-ers on instruments followed" (Psalm 68:25)
- 33 Movie rating
- 34 "Pay that which thou hast ____" (Ecclesiastes 5:4)
- 36 Singing syllable
- 37 About
- 38 Pitcher
- 39 James Herriot, for short
- 40 Driven group
- 41 "But ____ foolish questions, and genealogies" (Titus 3:9)
- 43 Blue



#197

- 44 "Pharaoh was wroth ... against the chief of the ____" (Genesis 40:2)
- 46 "The wicked shall be ____ in darkness" (1 Samuel 2:9)
- 49 Be in debt
- 50 "Aeneas, which had kept his bed ____ years" (Acts 9:33)
- 52 Years and years
- 53 Skin tumor
- 54 Grown-up gadgets, collectively
- 55 Ran into
- 22 "He shall surely ____ her to be his wife" (Exodus 22:16)
- 23 Noise level
- 25 Disdained individual, in Bible times
- 26 Energy unit
- 28 Caesar
- 29 TV series
- 31 "If any man ____ me, let him follow me" (John 12:26)
- 32 "Where wilt thou that we prepare for thee to ____ the passover?" (Matthew 26:17)
- 35 "O Lucifer ... which didst ____ the nations" (Isaiah 14:12)
- 37 "I will ____ them from death" (Hosea 13:14)
- 39 Call on
- 40 Masculine nickname
- 42 Swedish coin
- 43 Tends to tots, tersely
- 44 Half a canine call
- 45 Reverence
- 46 Less than, with "of"
- 47 "As it was in the days of ____" (Luke 17:26)
- 48 Terminator, in a way (abbr.)
- 51 Matthew 28:19 verb

Down

- 1 Boor
- 2 Stumble
- 3 Royal eras
- 4 American humorist Lardner
- 5 "____ to your faith virtue" (2 Peter 1:5)
- 6 Negative
- 7 Shine like the sun
- 8 More hirsute son of Isaac
- 9 "Jesus, made an high ____ for ever" (Hebrews 6:20)
- 10 Fare poorly
- 11 Negative, old style
- 16 Sup
- 18 Twirls
- 20 Got goosebumps
- 21 Make a getaway



The gift that lives on

Charitable gift annuity offers an income for life, a legacy beyond

I recently received a letter from a 96-year-old donor who had set up a charitable gift annuity 16 years ago when she was in her 80s. She stated: "I am 96 years young and want to give a gift to my church that will live on in my memory." And she wanted to set up another charitable gift annuity for the benefit of the church of which she has been a member for 83 years.

What an inspiration! And what insight she has exhibited in using this unique form of giving to leave a legacy of her love for Christ and His mission in the world through her church, while receiving income for the remainder of her life.

Like her, you may depend upon income from certificates of deposit. If so, you wish interest rates were a lot higher than they are. You also may have been thinking about how to provide some kind of financial benefit to your church and/or other charitable causes, but do not feel you can give-up that income-producing CD.

I am happy to inform you the Kentucky Baptist Foundation offers you the same solution this woman has used. That solution is a charitable gift annuity.

A CGA is an agreement between you and the foundation under which, in exchange for your gift to the

foundation of cash or appreciated assets with a value of at least \$5,000, KBF agrees to pay you a fixed amount each year for the rest of your life. The payout rate depends upon your age. The older you are, the higher the rate.

Also, a CGA can be on one or two lives. It can be on the lives of a husband and wife or a parent and a child. Not only is the payout partially tax free, but also the gift is tax deductible.

If you give appreciated assets instead of cash, there likely will be capital gains tax savings. The portion of your gift not needed to make the lifetime annuity payments to you will be available at death for the cause(s) you designate in advance. You can specify for that remaining portion to be available to the charitable cause(s) outright or to be held by the foundation in a permanent endowment fund with only the earnings, not the principal, being paid to the cause(s) in perpetuity.

Anyone age 50 or older is eligible. The one-life rates range from 3.7 percent at age 50 to 9 percent at age 90 or older. Other rates are: 4.7 percent at 65; 5.8 percent at 75; 7.8 percent at 85.

As you anticipate the maturity of your CD, consider using it for a CGA, which will provide an income for life and a legacy beyond life. Laurie Valentine and I are awaiting your toll-free call.

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

Ky. Baptist Foundation



Barry Allen

Southeastern honors Akin for decade of service to seminary

Wake Forest, N.C.—Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary celebrated 10 years of leadership by President Daniel Akin during its spring board of trustees and board of visitors meeting.

Trustees also approved new Ph.D. tracks, established the Kingdom Diversity scholarship program, met new faculty members and approved the purchase of additional property. Southeastern also awarded former president Paige Patterson its Presidential Award, the highest honor the school grants.

Speakers at a banquet in Akin's honor included Wake Forest, N.C., Mayor Vivian Jones, James Merritt, Susie Hawkins and Thom Rainer.

Jones thanked Akin for his positive influence on the area. "Southeastern has a very pivotal part in our community. You are one of our largest employers," Jones said during the recent meetings.

Akin "has built relationships in our community that have made our community a better place," Jones continued. "You have made this a better place for all of us to live."

Merritt, pastor of Cross Pointe Church in Duluth, Ga., spoke on Akin's legacy and called his relationship with the seminary president a "treasured friendship."



Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary President Daniel Akin and his wife, Charlotte, celebrates 10 years are honored for their 10 years of service to the school.

Akin gave God the glory for Southeastern's achievements. "It is His doing, not ours," Akin said. He called on the audience to remember the urgency of the Great Commission and those who will go to hell and never hear the name of Jesus.

Akin expressed gratitude for "10 wonderful years" and the opportunity to "emphasize what Southeastern is all about: the Great Commission." He also led in the commissioning of 20 International Mission Board missionaries.

Kentucky pastor tapped as board chair

In other business, trustees elected Todd Linn, pastor at First Baptist Church of Henderson, as the new trustee chair and approved the 2015 budget of \$25.5 million. (BP)



April

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.
2-3 Women's Regional Retreat, Laurel Lake Baptist Camp, Corbin.
5-6 KBC Mission Board Meeting, Kentucky Baptist Building, Louisville.
6 May Power Lunch, Kentucky Baptist Building, Louisville.

MOUNTAINS TO THE MISSISSIPPI

COMPILED BY STAFF

CRESTWOOD—Crestwood Church will hold a National Day of Prayer service May 1, 6:30 p.m. **Donnie Patrick** is pastor.

LEXINGTON—Grace Church will host **David Biddle** in concert May 4, 6 p.m. For more

information, call (859) 252-1119. **Steve Price** is pastor.

WILLIAMSBURG—First Church's youth ministry will hold a yard sale May 3. **Ande Myers** is pastor.

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Mountains to the Mississippi
news@westernrecorder.org

UC student serves with medical missions team

Williamsburg—University of the Cumberlands junior Sarah England, a biology major from Versailles, recently returned from Nicaragua where she served on a medical mission trip.

England traveled with about 20 others from Parkway Baptist Church in Bardstown. They worked on Ometepe Island, located off the coast of Nicaragua. The team painted murals at a church and ministered to children, while England worked triage at medical clinics.

England said most of the patients she encountered needed basics such as pain relievers and vitamins.

At the clinics, England had several opportunities to share the gospel with patients.

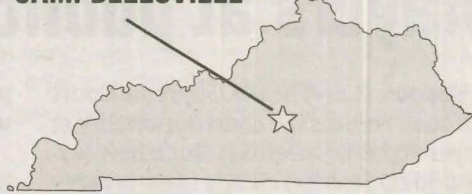
"I enjoyed getting to know the people," she said. "The focus is based on relationships and they're not worried about where they need to be next or when. They're concerned about growing in their relationships with Christ."

England said she wants to continue doing missions work during college. Once she completes medical school, she said she plans to become a full-time medical missionary.

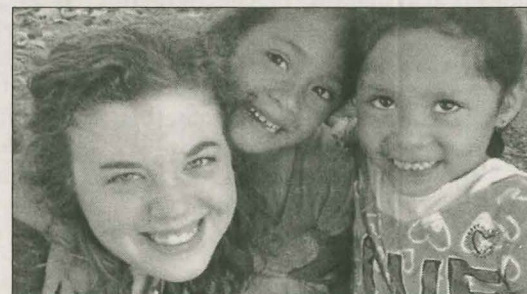
"Wherever God calls me, I'm willing to go," England said. (UC)

Spotlight on ...

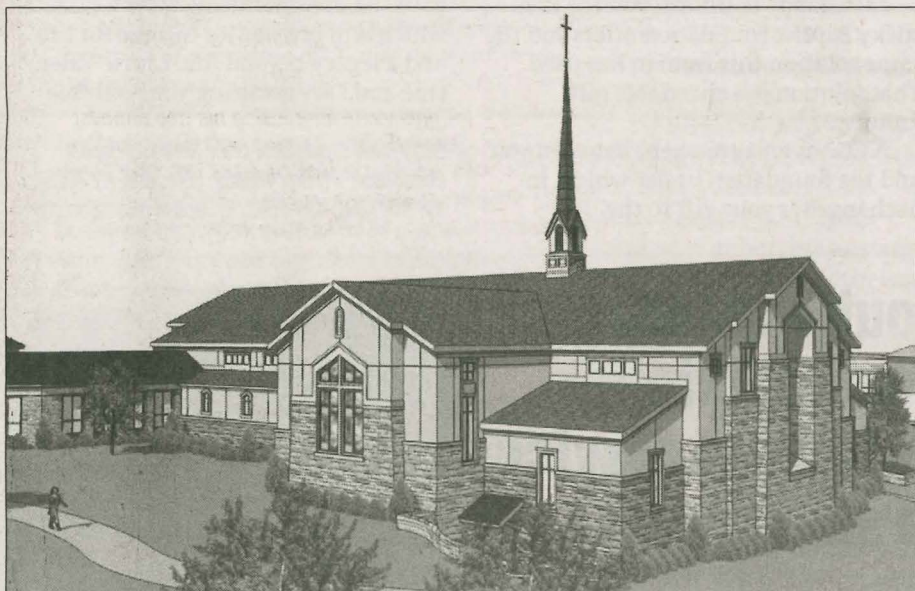
CAMPBELLVILLE



Campbellsville Church will hold the ZOOM! Day Camp July 14-18, 9 a.m., for students who have completed grades 1-3. The cost to attend is \$95 before May 1; \$125 after May 1, with a non-refundable deposit of \$50 due at registration. Register online at www.cvillebaptist.com under the "CLC Activities" tab. **Mike O'Neal** is pastor.



Cumberlands junior Sarah England snaps a photo with a couple of the Nicaraguan children she ministered to during a recent mission trip.



Midwestern Seminary dedicates new, debt-free chapel complex

Kansas City, Mo.—Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary dedicated its new chapel complex during a trustees' meeting April 15.

The new Daniel Lee Chapel is named in honor of Daniel Lee, founder and pastor emeritus of South Korea's Global Mission Church, which provided significant financial support during the fundraising process.

Trustees and others praised God for allowing the chapel to be dedicated debt free, the result of a generous gift from a long-time seminary friend, former trustee and businessman Gene Downing and his wife, Jo.

Midwestern President Jason Allen described the provision as a reminder of God's continued blessing on the institution and thanked the Downings for the gift.

"Their incredible Christian generosity, as demonstrated over the past decade at Midwestern Seminary and in a penultimate way this week, is a sign

of God's faithfulness to Midwestern Seminary, and it catapults us forward in the next season of institutional growth and advance," Allen said. "I am thankful to God for friends like Gene and Jo Downing, who are standing with Midwestern Seminary and its mission to exist for the church."

The ceremony featured all living previous presidents of Midwestern Seminary, who were in attendance and participated in key roles during the service.

Paige Patterson, president of Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas, presented the chapel inaugural message, preaching from Matthew 22.

Following the dedication of the new chapel, Patterson, Allen and former Southern Baptist Convention President Paul Pressler conducted a panel discussion on the "conservative resurgence" within the SBC, as well as the topic of biblical inerrancy. (BP)

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FOR RENT: Two condos for rent in Destin, Fla.; 2 bedrooms, 2 baths, sleeps six, 10 percent discount for first-time guests; (423)309-4422; lbrammer@charter.net.

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

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 prices. 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 & affordable; KyPianoService.com; (270) 999-2433.

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

SEEKING: 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 bivocational pastor. Submit your resumé to missy.nichols@oneidaschool.org, or by mail

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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 resumé 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.

SEEKING: New Harmony Missionary Baptist Church in Benton, Ky., is seeking a full-time children's pastor/associate pastor. Email resumé to nhmbc@newharmony-baptist.net, or mail to New Harmony Missionary Baptist Church, P.O. Box 627, Benton, KY 42025; phone: (270) 527-3811.

SEEKING: Prepares incoming and outgoing mail for distribution. Duties include, but are not restricted to, time stamping, opening, reading, sorting and routing incoming/outgoing mail; keeping necessary records and completed forms; receives/responds to internal and external customer emails; orders supplies, supports copy center and assists internal customers as needed. Applicant should forward his/her resumé to acmefastfreight@gmail.com.

Taking HOPE to where there is NO HOPE

Tennessee Baptists minister to state's homeless population

By Chris Turner

Chattanooga, Tenn.—Jimmy Turner practically glides across the large, chunky quarry rock scattered under an overpass to prevent erosion. Navigating the rock isn't easy, but Turner navigated a lot harder in the Marine Corps. Of course in the Marine Corps Turner never approached an enemy camp with a bag of sausage biscuits in one hand and a jug of orange juice in the other.

Truth is, Turner has crossed these rocks so many times it's a wonder he hasn't already worn a path across them. And it isn't an enemy camp he's stalking, it's a homeless camp where a few guys huddle in obscurity with no hope, fight for survival, and remain unknown to most of the world.

But Turner knows them, loves them, and is determined that they are going to know that Jesus loves them more. His presence in their world is a shock to many of the homeless he encounters.

"The greatest need I see out here is there is no hope," Turner said. "They don't understand why we are here. The idea that there is anything beyond today is just lost to them. They don't comprehend that we are offering something for their future."

Turner founded Relevant Hope, a ministry focused on providing relevant needs and a future hope. Meeting needs is a practical ministry that offers tangible help. A future hope definitely includes sharing the gospel with a goal of planting churches. Turner works with the Tennessee Baptist Convention to incorporate the TBC's 1-5-1 church planting strategy. It may not be the average person's idea of church, but baptized believers gathering together in Jesus' name sometimes look like sitting on an old upside down bucket under an interstate overpass.

"The most exciting thing about all this is that people are won to Christ," said Steve Pearson, a TBC evangelism specialist. "Because of our churches across the state giving through the Cooperative

Program, we can come along beside Jimmy and Relevant Hope and resource and encourage them.

"But Relevant Hope is also a catalyst. We are working with a number of churches in the area, training them how to go out and start 1-5-1 groups. Several people from those churches get connected to the homeless community through Relevant Hope. It's amazing how a church in (Northwest Tennessee) giving through the Cooperative Program can have a positive impact on lives in Chattanooga. We are just trying to flood the community with as many gospel touches as we can and we are seeing God bring about an amazing result."

The 1-5-1 strategy trains church members to start one off-campus group with a goal of seeing at least five people accept Christ and become baptized. The strategy then challenges that group to then plant a group of its own, replicating the strategy.

Jeff Parton is one of those 1-5-1 church planters. Parton is a carpenter and member of Morris Hill Baptist Church in East Brainerd. Stumbling through the pre-dawn darkness to crawl into a makeshift shelter made from blue tarpaulins to lead a Bible study lights Parton's fire.

"I got connected with Jimmy and he said, 'C'mon and go with me before sunrise through the bushes and under bridges to reach these homeless people,'" Parton said. "He kept going on and on (trying to sell me on it) and I said, 'Hey, you had me at before sunrise and under bridges.'"

Parton bounces from one homeless camp to another early on Friday mornings to lead the small congregations of a few people. It is intense discipleship as the group digs into Scripture. There are always a lot of questions that show evidence that people are rooting around in

their Bibles between meetings. It was Parton's own study of the Bible that drove him to ministry among the homeless.

"I was a good church member, but I wasn't doing anything for the Lord," he said. "I got tired of playing church and I started studying who Christ really was. He is a supreme example of dealing with the homeless and the poor and that is something that just struck a chord with me."

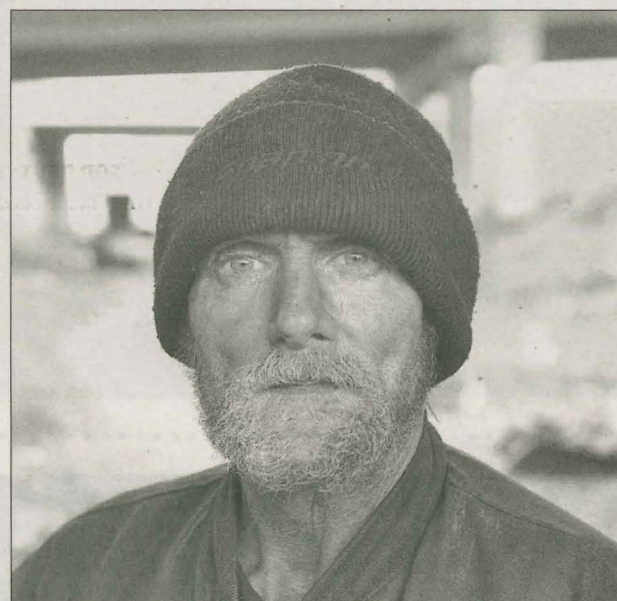
Bill Mason, Morris Hill's pastor, said the church emphasizes being on mission every day, or as he calls it, "Live to Serve." He said the challenge to each member is to live in such a way that they look for opportunities to do something daily for other people so that they'll know that "Jesus Christ has been in their life."

"Jeff is definitely one of those people who have taken Live to Serve to heart," Mason said. "He really sensed working with Jimmy as a calling from God and saw this as a real opportunity."

The opportunity comes to life as Turner and Parton make their way across the rocks, turn left and walk along an old rail bed to the makeshift—but elaborate—shelter. The "camp" began as a tent and has expanded with the blue tarpaulins tied off overhead around the pylons



Above: Jeff Parton (left) "Tree Man" Smith (center) and Jimmy Turner huddle in a make-shift tent under an overpass to study the Bible. Parton leads a number of early-morning groups before heading to work as a carpenter.



Right: "Tree Man" Smith has been homeless for nine years after losing his tree removal business. However, through the ministry of Jimmy Turner, Smith accepted Christ last fall, was baptized, and is now reaching out to other homeless people with the gospel. (Photos by Royce DeGrie)

of the overpass. Homeless people have lived here for a decade. Tree Man Smith has only lived here since November.

"I was run off from my other camp because I got my life right and was trying to tell people about Jesus," he said. "Wasn't none of them interested in hearing about it. They all wanted to keep doing that crack (cocaine)."

"Tree," as people call him, had a tree removal service in Florida but lost everything when his truck motor threw a rod and his tools were stolen. A number of people didn't pay him for services and he lost everything. He wound up homeless and relegated to a life of aimless wandering consumed with alcohol and crack. Then Turner appeared with sausage biscuits and orange juice.

"Jimmy came in and talked with us and asked if it was alright to hold church service in our camp once a week," Smith said. "He just kept showing up and sharing the Word with us. I was baptized in the river down here and that's when I really learned to trust in the Lord."

The people connection is the key, Pearson said.

"What we see through the 1-5-1 strategy and through working with people like Relevant Hope and churches like Morris Hill," he said, "is it comes down to people who are making disciples who are making disciples. We are seeing that among people who are homeless on the streets coming to faith in Christ. It is an exciting thing that's happening." (BP)

This article originally appeared in the *Tennessee Baptist & Reflector*.

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