

WESTERN Recorder

May 6, 2014

Shine Like Stars * Philippians 2:15

Volume 188, Issue 17

Ky. Baptists see membership jump in '13

By Roger Alford

Louisville—Southern Baptist churches in Kentucky reported significant growth in membership in 2013, adding more than 26,500 believers to their rolls.

The growth further strengthens the Kentucky Baptist Convention, which already is the state's largest religious organization.

"We thank God for each of our new members, and look forward to seeing them impact Kentucky and the world for Christ," KBC Executive Director Paul Chitwood said. "We're truly humbled to see the Lord bless the work of our churches in every part of Kentucky, whether tiny rural communities or large urban centers."

Actual membership growth could be significantly higher, considering that nearly 20 percent of the state's Southern Baptist churches did not submit annual reports with statistics on new members.

Churches that did submit paperwork reported a total of 13,970 members added by baptisms and 12,597 who transferred from other congregations for a total of 26,567.

The 2013 growth followed a strong

2012, when 14,984 member were added by baptism and 12,710 transferred in for a total of 27,694.

"Those totals are especially eye-catching when you consider they exceed the populations of cities like Ashland and Paducah, the regional hubs of eastern and western Kentucky," Chitwood said. "We have seen enough people added to our churches to fully populate a mid-size Kentucky city."

Hillvue Heights Church in Bowling Green led the state last year with 571 baptisms. Valley View Church in Louisville was second with 142. Severns Valley Baptist Church in Elizabethtown and First Baptist Church of Somerset reported 108 and 102 baptisms in 2013, respectively.

Churches in Warren Baptist Association, based in Bowling Green, reported a total of 1,065 baptisms and 809 transfers from other congregations. Long Run Association, based in Louisville, reported 755 baptisms and 1,029 transfers.

"I'm thrilled that Southern Baptist churches are being so successful in their outreach to Kentucky," Chitwood said.

"We need to keep in mind, this is not about numbers. It's about introducing the lost to Jesus. It's about changed lives. It's about the hope of heaven." (KBC)

26,567

New Kentucky Baptists in 2013



"We need to keep in mind, this is not about numbers. It's about introducing the lost to Jesus. It's about changed lives. It's about the hope of heaven."

— Paul Chitwood

Southern Baptist Convention 2014: BALTIMORE

Luter ready for restoration & revival through prayer

By Shawn Hendricks

Baltimore—With a desire to keep the focus on the power of revival and prayer, Southern Baptist Convention President Fred Luter expressed excitement about this year's annual meeting June 10-11 in Baltimore.

Messengers also will elect a new presi-

dent as Luter concludes his second term.

Pointing to the annual meeting theme of "Restoration and Revival through Prayer," Luter noted the return of a Tuesday evening revival service, similar in style to last year's, that has drawn positive feedback from participants.

"I wanted to again stay with the theme (of) revival, but let's undergird it with prayer," said Luter, pastor of Franklin Avenue Baptist Church in New Orleans. "Last year in Houston, ... it was

phenomenally successful. It was standing room only. ... All we had was music and preaching.

"That was something that we thought went so well that we wanted to do that again," he added. "We just come for worship and the word. That's it. No business will be conducted."

Luter selected the theme verse, Psalm 80:18-19: "Then we will not turn away from You; revive us, and we will call on

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Western Recorder 5-6-2014

SEND Cincinnati focus of upcoming luncheon

By Ken Walker

Florence—Although the emphasis is named SEND Cincinnati, its goal of planting 77 new churches in the Queen City area by 2017 features a distinct Kentucky flavor.

That's because, along with Ohio's Cincinnati Area Baptist Association, Florence Baptist Church at Mt. Zion is the lead church helping sponsor the emphasis.

Florence Baptist will host a pastors luncheon May 20 that organizers hope will inspire more churches to join the initiative. The speaker will be Louisville native Aaron Coe, vice president of mobilization for the North American Mission Board.

The experienced church planter will review the SEND emphasis, which seeks to start churches in 32 metropolitan areas across North America.

Coe will also discuss the upcoming "Cast the Vision Tour." The three-day event includes a Sept. 18 roundtable for urban church planters at Florence Baptist. Well-known pastor and bestselling author David Platt will speak that evening.

SEND Cincinnati Coordinator Dennis Holmes said he hopes to see at least 100 pastors at the May 20 luncheon. Both it and the September events are designed to help mobilize congregations to support church planting, Holmes said.

"It's like two audiences," said Holmes, noting that Platt will speak at nearly all 25 regional SEND events this year.

"First, our desire at these events is to reach pastors and church leaders," he said. They "are also attended by church planters and others who are challenged to live out their call to church planting."

Kentucky Baptist involvement

Stretching back two years to the first steering committee meeting, SEND Cincinnati has received support thus far from six Kentucky Baptist churches.



Aaron Coe

The assistance includes finances, prayers and practical support. The latter has included mission teams and a church van donated by New Friendship Baptist Church in Auburn to a new Nepali congregation in Cincinnati.

Florence Baptist Pastor Corey Abney helped Holmes lead a breakout session on SEND Cincinnati at the 2013 national conference at Prestonwood Baptist Church near Dallas.

"I can't say enough how much we appreciate Florence at Mt. Zion's participation," Holmes said.

The feeling is mutual, said Travis Kaiser, teaching pastor at the northern Kentucky church.

"We're already seeing God do a great work through the church plant efforts in Cincinnati," Kaiser said. "Our church wants to be involved where God is at work."

"The longer we're involved in partnership with church planters, the more we hear about life change. That motivates our church to be more involved in God's kingdom work."

In addition to Abney's leadership, Kaiser said Florence Baptist's involvement stems from two former staff members starting churches as part of this emphasis.

Robert Wooten is pastor of Connection Point Church in New Richmond, Ohio; Ben Brown is an intern at a new work in nearby Covington.

Florence Baptist is supporting four other church planters in the area, including Michael Clary at Christ the King Church in Cincinnati.

Support isn't always in the form of direct financial aid. Florence Baptist has invited

church planters to its Christmas luncheon and sometimes helps fledgling congregations save money by handling printing projects.

Members are also reaching out individually. A group of businessmen who attend Florence and work in downtown Cincinnati met with Clary recently to learn more about his church and its prayer needs.

'Relational support'

Florence Baptist maintains ties with planters in other cities, such as Philadelphia. One morning in April, a member who works for a major airline hopped a free flight to Philadelphia. After taking the church planter's spouse to lunch and encouraging his family, she returned to Kentucky that evening.

"The No. 1 thing we've heard from planters is they need relational support," Kaiser said. "Loneliness is one of their greatest struggles. When we asked one guy what we could do, he said, 'This. I don't have staff members to hang out with.'"

Florence has also helped spread this vision to others. After learning about SEND Cincinnati, Indian Baptist Church of Bagdad voted to send \$150 a month to one of the new churches.

Participating in starting churches has created an awareness at Florence Baptist that God's kingdom extends far beyond its weekly ministries, Kaiser said.

"It's led to where we partner with an organization in Haiti that is also about church planting," the teaching pastor pointed out. "A member just gave a large sum of money to buy some land in Haiti" for a church.

"These stories keep coming. It's motivating us to push the kingdom ball further down the field." (KBC)

The May 20 SEND Cincinnati luncheon is free, but registration is required.
Sign up online at:
www.eventbrite.com/e/cincinnati-pastors-luncheon-tickets-10198218145

Seven Kentucky Baptists tapped for SBC roles

Baltimore—Seven Kentucky Baptists have been selected to serve on Southern Baptist Convention boards and committees.

SBC President Fred Luter, pastor of Franklin Avenue Baptist Church in New Orleans, appointed two Kentucky Baptists to serve on a committee during the SBC annual meeting June 10-11 in Baltimore.

Those Kentuckians selected for convention service are:

Roger Alford, communications director for the Kentucky Baptist Convention in Louisville, Committee on Committees;

Norm Brock, pastor of First Baptist Church of East Bernstadt, Committee on Committees.

The Committee on Committees is responsible for selecting members of the Committee on Nominations, who will then nominate trustees next year for the boards of SBC entities.

The 2013-14 Committee on Nominations, which includes **David Chrisman**, a member of Kings Baptist Church in Taylorsville, and **Ed Amundson**, pastor of High Street Baptist Church in Somerset, selected five Kentucky Baptists to serve on various SBC trustee boards.

Kentuckians nominated to a first term of service are:

Andrew Dyer, pastor of Corinth Baptist Church in London, Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary.

Mike Pope, a member of Grace Baptist Church in Somerset, Executive Committee;

Richard Staab, a member of Highview Baptist Church, Southern Baptist Theological Seminary.

Those Kentuckians nominated for a second term are:

Dan Summerlin, pastor of Lone Oak First Baptist Church of Paducah, Executive Committee;

Lynn Traylor, pastor of Buckner Baptist Church in La Grange, Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission. (WR)

Louisville church forgoes Easter fashions to help kids

By John Shindlebower

Louisville—A Louisville church bucked tradition Easter Sunday to help children in need across Kentucky.

Americans typically flock to Easter services dressed in the latest styles and the colorful pastel hues of spring. For members of Walnut Street Baptist Church, the call was to ignore the temptation to purchase new clothes.

Instead, they were challenged to donate what they would have spent on outfits to Sunrise Children's Services, a nonprofit organization that cares for victims of child abuse and neglect.

In lieu of the seasonal fashions, Lead Associate Pastor Kris Billiter, members of the choir and many in the congregation sported green T-shirts which they purchased for \$20. Proceeds from the shirts went to Sunrise.

Even those who couldn't bring themselves to wear a T-shirt to church on Easter Sunday, made donations to the cause. Altogether, the church raised more than \$7,000 for Sunrise.

The effort was part of the "Forget the Frock" movement, which encourages individuals to dress down for Easter in order to help those in need.



The choir at Walnut Street Baptist Church in Louisville ditches the fancy Easter Sunday attire in favor of green T-shirts as a show of support for Sunrise Children's Services. Altogether, the church raised more than \$7,000 for the Kentucky Baptist-affiliated organization.

Billiter said the movement is specific in its challenge to help orphans, and the timing was perfect. Sunrise is in the midst of their Shine! campaign to help enlist financial support from Kentucky Baptist churches.

"I knew about the Shine! offering coming up. Given that Sunrise, formerly known as Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children, started here at Walnut Street Baptist Church, it was an easy call," Billiter said.

"People here know about Sunrise, and frankly, it's a source of pride."

Sunrise traces its 145-year-old roots back to Walnut Street Baptist. In 1869, a group of ladies from the congregation began an orphanage to help children left homeless in the years following the Civil War. Today, Sunrise cares for more than 600 children each day through a statewide network of foster homes, residential programs and community-based services. (Sunrise)

Baptist schools looking to help MCU students

Louisville—Southern Baptist-affiliated schools in Kentucky are trying to help students soon to be displaced by the closure of Mid-Continent University.

University of the Cumberlands, Clear Creek Baptist Bible College and Boyce College all announced last week they will waive application fees for students looking to transfer from Mid-Continent.

The Mayfield school announced April 15 it will shut its doors by June 30. Most faculty and staff members have been laid off. Students are finishing out the spring semester with help from volunteers.

Representatives from University of the Cumberlands traveled to the Mid-Continent campus last week to meet with students interested in transferring to the Williamsburg school.

Some transferring students may be eligible for a transfer merit or academic scholarship at Cumberlands, which can be worth up to \$10,000 per school year, the school announced.

Cumberlands has both traditional on-campus and online learning options available for transferring students.

Meanwhile, Clear Creek Baptist Bible College President Donnie Fox has instructed his staff to waive application fees for transferring MCU students.

"In addition, if students get financial help from their churches, we have some matching funds available," Fox said. "Our goal is that no one who had their ministry training interrupted by the situation at Mid-Continent University will have to walk away from Clear Creek because they cannot afford to come."

Clear Creek Admissions Director Shannon Benefiel has been receiving calls from impacted students searching for options to finish their ministry degrees. He has been working with the students to help those who want to transfer to Clear Creek.

Fox said Clear Creek Financial Aid Director Sam Risner will work with each of the students "to leave no stone unturned in seeking financial help beyond that tuition savings."

Boyce College, too, looking to help MCU students by waiving application fees and offering other assistance.

"Boyce College is well-equipped to serve a significant number of Mid-Continent University students who are looking for transfer options to complete their programs of study," said Matthew Hall, vice president for academic services at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville. Boyce is the undergraduate school of Southern.

"Both through our residential offerings, as well as 100 percent online options, we are eager to welcome any MCU students who God calls to study here," Hall added.

In addition to waiving the application fee, Mid-Continent students interested in transferring to Boyce are offered:

- a free two-night stay and meals for a campus visit;
- free and expedited transcript evaluations;
- the maximum number of transfer hours permitted by Boyce's accrediting agencies to ensure the clearest path to graduation. (WR)

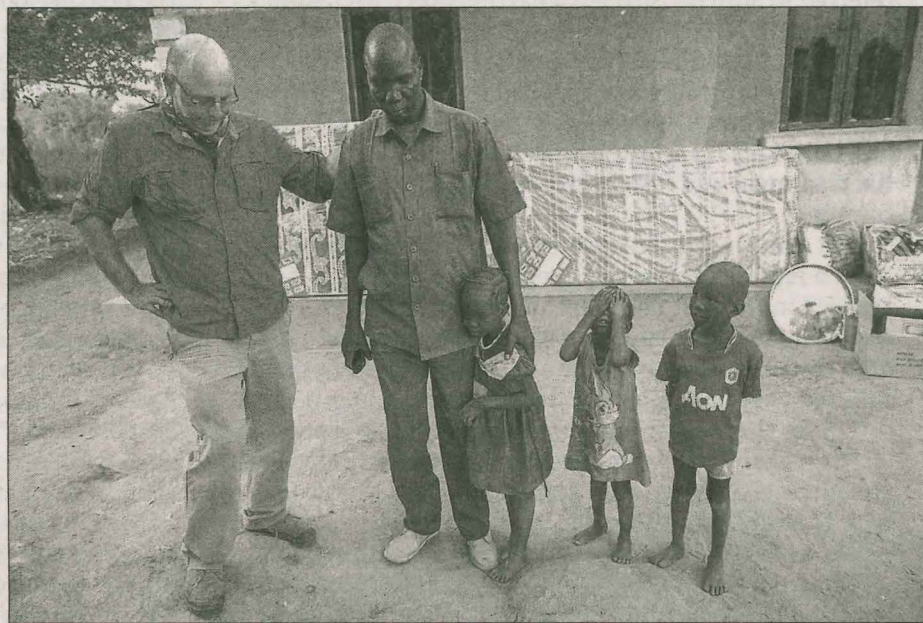
Wells to provide water to South Sudanese refugees

Louisville—Baptist Global Response reacted quickly to recommendations of a team that toured South Sudanese refugee camps in Uganda where they found a "desperate need" for water.

Baptist missionary Curt Iles said contractors have recently been hired to drill the wells at four of the camps within the next week. The cost is about \$10,000 each.

"Baptist Global Response is funding

this project through Southern Baptist World Hunger Relief," said Coy Webb, disaster relief director for the Kentucky Baptist Convention who visited the refugee camps in March. "This will meet a vital need in four camps that had desperate water needs and will provide safe, clean water to thousands of refugees. My prayer is that the gift of clean drinking water will continue to open the door to share the living



International Mission Board missionary Curt Iles prays with pastor John Monychol and his family, who are living at a refugee camp in northern Uganda. The pastor and his family were forced to flee fighting in their homeland of South Sudan. (Photo by JoAnn Bradberry/IMB)

water of Christ."

Webb led a four-man team to the African country, finding a shortage of clean water for the South Sudanese refugees who have fled their home country to escape violence from civil unrest.

International missionaries on the ground in Uganda had requested a rapid response team to come in to assess the needs of the refugees.

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

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

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

The team also recommended that BGR distribute "Mamma Kits" filled with birthing supplies for pregnant women who would be delivering babies in the refugee camps. They also called for soap and laundry detergent, women's sanitary cloths, hoes and seeds for planting, and supplies specifically for the elderly and disabled who have arrived at the camps.

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

SBC: Conference designed to 'pour into pastors'

By David Roach

Baltimore—Through hearing a diverse array of speakers—both in terms of race and age—Southern Baptist Pastors' Conference President Bruce Frank said he hopes pastors will attain a clearer vision of God's glory. Hence the theme of this year's gathering: "Show Us Your Glory!"

"You don't want to miss any of it," said Frank, pastor of Biltmore Baptist Church in Asheville, N.C. "By going and getting coffee or skipping a speaker, you very well could miss exactly what God wants to say to you right then."

The June 8-9 Pastors' Conference will feature preaching, worship and prayer to undergird the ministry of pastors and their wives. The sessions at the Baltimore Convention Center will be held prior to the Southern Baptist Convention's June 10-11 annual meeting there.

"What I did as I thought about the speakers and the theme was to have guys that have a heart to pour into pastors," Frank said.

Speakers for Sunday evening, June 8, at the Pastors' Conference will include Johnny Hunt, pastor of First Baptist Church of Woodstock, Ga.; H.B. Charles, pastor of Shiloh Metropolitan Baptist Church in Jacksonville, Fla.; and David Platt, pastor of The Church at Brook Hills in Birmingham, Ala.

Monday morning, June 9, will feature messages from Ronnie Floyd, pastor of Cross Church in Northwest



Francis Chan



Tony Evans



Johnny Hunt



David Platt



Rick Warren

Arkansas; Clayton King, evangelist and founder of Crossroads Worldwide in Shelby, N.C.; and Eric Mason, pastor of Epiphany Fellowship in Philadelphia.

Monday afternoon speakers will include J.D. Greear, pastor of The Summit Church in Durham, N.C.; and Tony Evans, pastor of Oak Cliff Bible Fellowship in Dallas.

Monday evening speakers will include Rick Warren, pastor of Saddleback Church in Lake Forest, Calif.; James MacDonald, pastor of Harvest Bible Chapel in Rolling Meadows, Ill.; and Francis Chan, founder of Eternity Bible College in Simi Valley, Calif.

Worship will be led by Matt Redman, Harvest Bible Chapel's Vertical Church Band and Biltmore Baptist Church's Biltmore Worship.

The Pastors' Conference offering will go to Mission:Dignity, a program administered by GuideStone Financial Resources that provides financial assistance to retired pastors, Christian workers and their widows who are

struggling to make ends meet. In addition to an offering, attendees are asked to bring blankets to donate to the homeless in Baltimore through a local ministry.

This year's leadership team, which includes Clint Pressley, pastor of Hickory Grove Baptist Church in Charlotte, N.C., as vice president and Alex Himaya, pastor of theCHURCH.at in Tulsa, Okla., as treasurer, said they hope the conference will refresh pastors and their families.

"The design of this conference is simply for men and women who oftentimes are just giving, giving, giving—pouring out. Ministry can be kind of lonely. Ministry can be exhausting," Frank said. "The design is that there would be a worship experience that would refresh and renew the men and women who are going to be there."

The Pastors' Conference is free and requires no registration. To learn more about this year's schedule, sponsors and theme, visit sbpc.net. (BP)

Going is not optional

The following is a guest column from Eric Allen, missions mobilization team leader for the Kentucky Baptist Convention. Allen and his team post regularly at www.KyandBeyond.org.

Together We are the KBC



Paul Chitwood

Going as a witness to our community, state, nation and world is not an option; it is a mandate given to us by Christ himself. Matthew 28:19-20 says that we should go into all the world and make disciples. Acts 1:8 tells us that after receiving power, we will be His witnesses everywhere.

Given these and other scriptures that tell us to proclaim His name among the nations, going as a witness is something expected of Christ followers. It is not an option.

We don't need to wonder if we should go, because the Great Commission is very clear that we are to go. Gordon Fort, International Mission Board senior vice president of prayer mobilization and training, has said, "The only question we should ask is 'where?'"

Opportunities for ministry exist in the very community where you live and work. God has gifted and equipped you to serve as His witness in your "Jerusalem." And very close to you are pregnancy care centers, homeless shelters, clothing and hunger relief ministries, after-school programs, nursing homes, hospitals and local churches.

Will you go to places in your Judea (Kentucky) or Samaria (North America)? Missionaries and ministry leaders need help from people like you who are willing to go and meet needs related to church planting, evangelism, construction, church strengthening and community outreach. For a complete list of current missions opportunities, visit www.KyBaptist.org/Go.

Trained disaster relief workers will be needed to go after the recent outbreak of deadly tornadoes across the central and southern United States. To find out more about becoming a disaster relief volunteer, visit www.KyBaptist.org/DR.

Will you go "across the pond" or to the uttermost parts of the world? Missionaries in London, England, are needing churches to adopt boroughs for prayer walking, evangelization and church planting. Contact KBC Missions Strategist Doug Williams at (502) 489-3420 or by email at doug.williams@kybaptist.org to get involved.

Villages in sub-Saharan Africa need volunteer teams to drill wells for drinking water, deliver hospice buckets for AIDS patients, care for orphans, train local pastors and plant churches. Find out more about our sub-Saharan Africa partnership with Baptist Global Response at www.KyBaptist.org/Hope.

These are only a few of the many opportunities of which I am aware to go. The question has been asked: "Where will you go?"

Since going is not an option and you have many opportunities for where God may be calling you to go, I have another question: "When are you going?"

Paul Chitwood is executive director of the Kentucky Baptist Convention.

'Shine' the Light for Sunrise's children

Our recent visit with Dale Suttles, interim president of Sunrise Children's Services, began in a rather unusual way. Gathered around a small boardroom table and joining us by phone were a dozen or so ministry leaders of various aspects of the agency's state-wide services. Each was asked to report something worth celebrating from the past week.

And, we learned that, indeed, there is much to rejoice in as Kentucky Baptists!

Through Sunrise, Kentucky Baptists "shine the Light" of Jesus every day into the lives of more than 650 children at one of the agency's 11 facilities across the state, offering hope and healing to hurting children. Many of these kids have been

referred to Sunrise through a partnership with Kentucky's Department of Community Based Services or by psychiatrists, school counselors and psychiatric hospitals for comprehensive care. Through a skilled team of dedicated workers, Sunrise provides in-home services for troubled families, individual or family counseling, psychiatric residential treatment and foster care, serving all of the state's 120 counties.

Our state's needs are tremendous! The number of investigated reports of abuse and neglect in Kentucky nearly doubled in the past five years, exceeding 58,000 in 2013, according to DCBS data. During that same period, 130 children died as a result of abuse and neglect, and another 220 suffered near fatal injuries. The physical toll may be measured, yet the mental, emotional and psychiatric trauma is just as real and can last a lifetime. These are children who are hurting! Children who desperately need for the Light of hope to shine brightly again.

We, as Kentucky Baptists, can make the difference.

Though it was then still a few weeks shy of Mother's Day, when a special offering for Sunrise Children's Services will be collected in many churches, Randy Greene, Sunrise's new vice president of marketing and advancement, excitedly reported to the group that nearly \$220,000 already had been received. Yet, there is still a long way to go to meet Sunrise's goal of \$5 million needed to offset a recent deficit in charitable giving.

"One of the joys of working here is the people; they have such a passion for sharing Christ and His redeeming power," Greene observed. Pointing out the significance of the fundraising campaign's name, "Shine!" he observed how the word links people's hearts with the agency's mission of transforming the lives of children.

More than money, though, Sunrise needs our

prayers. "Yes, we need the \$5 million to support our ministry, but we also need 2,400 churches praying for Sunrise, for Dale (Suttles), for our workers, and for the children," Greene urged. "Money alone won't provide the kind of care these kids need," he noted. Even if a church is unable to

give additional financial support for the ministry at this time, he added, "If they just gave us the names of 10 people who will pray for Sunrise daily, they've given a fortune to us."

Without reliving Sunrise's recent controversy and its course correction, suffice it to say, it's a new day! "Sunrise is a hub of healing," Suttles explained, "and there is no way we could do what we do without

the help of God, and we rely upon godly people, like the ones who serve around here."

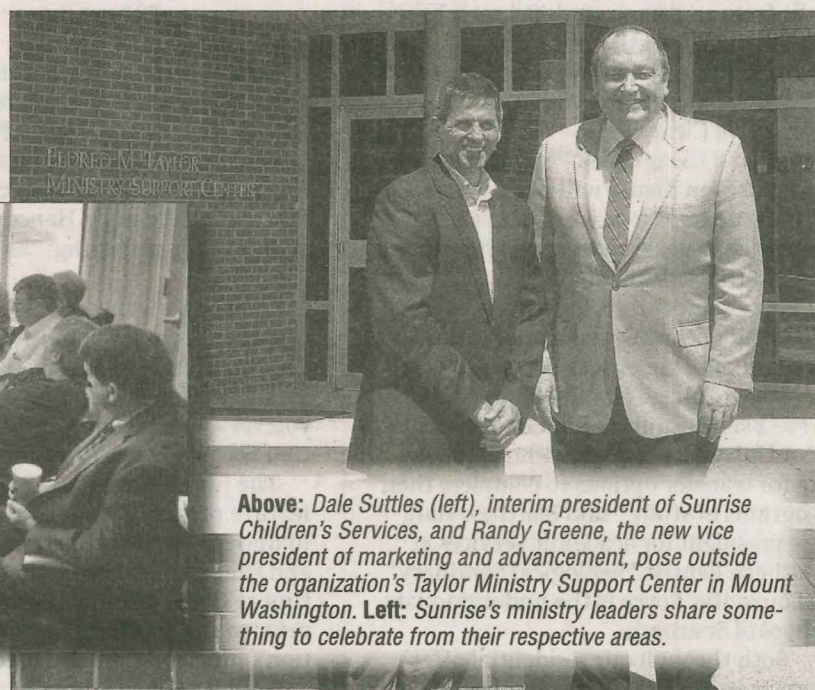
The employees we talked with during our visit all sense a renewed spiritual focus. They see their work as a ministry, not just as a social service, and they are eager to reconnect with Kentucky Baptists. A truly exciting opportunity is Sunrise's vision of partnering with each of the 2,400 Kentucky Baptist churches, pairing up a congregation with a foster family whom they can adopt, pray for, encourage and support. In doing so, these churches will, in effect, create a network of care, all reaching out to children in need with the gospel.

"Can you imagine the change we could make if we had 2,400 churches willing to open their homes to a child?" Suttles asked. "The kids who are hurting the most not only need treatment, they also need something larger than themselves that they can believe in and will give them hope and a future," he said. "And, if we do that (pair up our churches with foster families), we will definitely be moving the needle on the meter of care, and making a difference in kids' lives," he urged.

If your church was one of the 2,400-plus to receive a "Shine!" campaign box recently, then you've heard the child's voice: "When I look into your face, I see hope." That's because they see Christ's face shining in ours—when we care, give and serve even "the least of these." This Mother's Day, won't you join with other Kentucky Baptists all across our state in helping make sure every child in our Baptist care knows he or she is loved and is a child of God?

After Thought

By Todd Deaton



Above: Dale Suttles (left), interim president of Sunrise Children's Services, and Randy Greene, the new vice president of marketing and advancement, pose outside the organization's Taylor Ministry Support Center in Mount Washington. Left: Sunrise's ministry leaders share something to celebrate from their respective areas.

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Kentucky communities full of children in need

Support the 'SHINE!' offering in your church this Mother's Day

By Dale Suttles

Somewhere in your community tonight, a child is crying himself to sleep. The tears do little to soften the pain of the blows that left marks on his face and body. His sobs offer little relief to the hurt in his heart following another beating at the hands of a mother who is supposed to love him.

Across town, a little girl is frightened by the opening of her door. The large shadow of her stepfather appears. He's made her uncomfortable before. As he walks slowly to her bed again this evening, she closes her eyes and prays morning will come soon.

Tomorrow morning, children will be sent to your local schools hungry, dirty and ill-prepared for the day ahead. Their homes are filthy and the cupboards are bare. Mom and dad spend more money on drugs and alcohol than on food and clothes for the children. The bus will drop these kids off at these same homes in the afternoon, but there probably won't be another hot meal until the next day at school.

Child abuse and neglect occurs in every county in Kentucky—and way too frequently. Last year alone, nearly 60,000 reports of abuse and neglect were investigated across the commonwealth. Over the past five years, at least 130 children have died from abuse or neglect.

April was Child Abuse Prevention Month, a reminder for us to open our eyes to the ugly truth that thousands of children in Kentucky suffer from neglect and/or emotional, physical and sexual abuse.

May is Foster Care Awareness Month, a time to celebrate those who have opened their homes and hearts to children just like these.

At Sunrise Children's Services, we've been a refuge for hurting children in Kentucky since 1869. Today, through our network of foster

families, residential programs and community-based services, Sunrise cares for more than 600 children each day from virtually every corner of the commonwealth.

You can also make a difference by being the voice of those who cannot speak for themselves. Report suspected child abuse in your commu-

nity. It can be done confidentially by calling the Child Abuse Hotline at (877) 593-2331, or by contacting your local law enforcement office. You can also learn more about becoming a foster family by visiting Sunrise.org.

Hurting children need adults who care. Join us in our efforts to prevent abuse and neglect. Partner with us in our service to those who have already been victimized. To learn more about Sunrise, visit Sunrise.org. Dale Suttles is interim president of Sunrise Children's Services.

Guest Viewpoint



Dale Suttles

May is Foster Care Awareness Month, a time to celebrate those who have opened their homes and hearts to children just like these.



Handling money: 3 key words

By Don Spencer

Scripture emphasizes stewardship. Many of Jesus' parables deal either directly or indirectly with stewardship. Why is stewardship so important?

I believe it is because it is an outward visible indicator of an inner spiritual condition. Show me how someone handles money and material possessions and it tells me volumes about his or her relationship with God.

The same can be said for a church. How a church deals with financial and material issues speaks loud and clear about that church's relationship with God. In regard to a church dealing with money, let's focus on three key words:

Integrity. If finances are handled with integrity, it is done with honesty, accuracy and truthfulness. When a church and its leaders handle finances with integrity, they do it based on the values, beliefs and principles they claim to hold.

Accountability. On a basic level, this includes things like tracking how much comes in, who it comes from and what it's used for. A church must have good internal controls, and there must be a healthy transparency. On a higher level, it recognizes that all persons who handle money in the church recognize it is God's money. Though it may be done with good intentions, whenever a person or group in the church approaches money like its owners, problems develop.

Witness. The way a church handles its finances and material possessions will present either a positive or negative witness. An individual's witness is made stronger or weaker by his or her reputation. The same is true of a church. Over time, a church and its leadership gets a reputation for how it handles financial issues. That reputation then impacts the church's collective witness to members and lost people.

In your church, do all you can to make sure anyone handling any part of the church's finances is doing it in a way that helps facilitate, enhance and strengthen the church's ministries.

Don Spencer is a certified financial planner and a consultant with the Kentucky Baptist Convention's church financial benefits department.

Helpful marriage websites

By James Stillwell

Q: What websites do you find helpful for marriage education and pastoral care?

A: PREP offers great marriage education tools and features Christian resources written by marriage researcher Scott Stanley. These have proven to be some of the best and most recommended resources for Christian couples in the areas of communication and conflict resolution: prepinc.com.

PAIRS also has both secular and church-based resources. PAIRS specializes in marriage repair for couples of returning veterans from military combat. PAIRS has some of the best hands-on tools for couples to use in an app format: apps.pairs.com.

PREPARE-ENRICH has helped millions of premarital couples through their premarital inventory and other resources. The inventory has a variety of faith-based versions. Many churches and ministers do great preventative work by requiring three to seven sessions with a PREPARE trained counselor before they will host or officiate a wedding. PREPARE does a good job of keeping an up-to-date list of trained counselors in your area. www.prepare-enrich.com.

Many couples' ministries are successful with a fun, date-based approach to marriage education known as 10 Great Dates. Schedule 10 weekly meetings where a lesson on a relevant marriage topic is presented and then send the couples out on a creative date to talk about the subject of the night. It is also good for pre-marriage education: www.10greatdates.org.

When one person is willing to work on a marriage in crisis that still has a chance, the resources at www.divorcebusting.com can prove helpful.

A center that hosts marriage retreats for couples in crisis, as well as many other marriage topics, is the one paid for by Chik-fil-A. They will sometimes even pay the cost for couples in crisis.

General resources for pastoral care can be found at the the Wayne Oates Institute website: www.oates.org. James Stillwell is site director and pastoral counselor at Frankfort Pastoral Counseling.



Petition & praise: Witnessing prayers from prison

By Myriah Snyder

"Thank you, Lord, for Your mercy and grace," a female inmate prays. "I ask for wisdom, Lord, and to prosper in any and everything I touch. Bless everyone that comes across my path. I pray that Your hand be with me, protect me from evil, and that I may not cause any pain."

Prisoners, specifically female prisoners, are largely forgotten. The spiritual state of incarcerated individuals is not among the day-to-day thoughts of most Christians.

In working with a prison ministry in Paducah, I learn about various inmates from all walks of life, often through the prayer requests they pen. Many of their stories are tragic. Sometimes I see that an inmate is no older than myself, 22.

I grew up in a Christian home with a Christian education continuing into my college years. Although my life was far from perfect, I received love and nurture in abundance. When I consider the person I have become today, I am fully aware of the faith that was birthed and nurtured in my surroundings.

At the same time, I can tell from inmates' prayer requests and from volunteers' ministry reports that these women often are the product of their upbringing. So many of them have been abused, unsheltered and forgotten by those who should have nurtured them. Sometimes I wonder how I would have turned out had their lives been mine. Of course, this stands as no excuse for whatever actions landed them behind bars. Nevertheless, their heart-wrenching pasts are sobering.

This ministry's sole purpose is to lead these forgotten souls to Christ, working primarily with inmates in two

women's prisons and with women and men in the McCracken County Regional Jail. Each week, volunteers conduct worship and teach Scripture. What could be boring paperwork received at our office yields the life stories of these women, helping staff and volunteers understand the situations in which they live.

"Please pray for my family and also for each and every one here and their families, including all the inmates and staff," one woman inmate writes. "I give praise to God for opening doors to come and teach us about God."

Sometimes the prayer requests we receive are just a line or two. Other times, they are paragraph-long heartfelt prayers from broken lives. Their situations are so bleak and sentences so long, but what makes these prayers stand out in my mind is gratitude. In a place where not one individual on the outside could imagine being thankful, they pour out praise.

I often wonder if I were in their place, if my prayers would consist of pleading with the Lord for a hurried release, or if they would be the unselfish offerings of praise so many of these individuals write.

Another moving aspect of the inmates' prayers is their concern for families they left behind.

"I ask that you pray for my children and their caregivers," one female prisoner writes. "Pray that my children are being taught God's word and are safe."

One of the simplest ways to reach out to these inmates, as well to those in your community, is to pray for them and their families. Reach out to them in love.

Whatever the reason for their incarceration, they are hurting souls.

Myriah Snyder is a senior at Mid-Continent University in Mayfield.

First Person



Myriah Snyder



SBC Baltimore

Continued from page 1

Your name. Restore us, Yahweh, the God of Hosts; look on us with favor, and we will be saved."

As the first-ever African American to lead the convention when he was elected in 2012, Luter will deliver his final message to the convention as president June 10. Luter also will address Southern Baptist associational leaders June 6.

Officer elections

Arkansas pastor Ronnie Floyd will be nominated by SBC president for Southern Baptist Theological Seminary President Albert Mohler. Floyd's nomination for president is the only one announced thus far.

Floyd has led Cross Church in northwest Arkansas—with campuses in Springdale, Rogers and Fayetteville—for 27 years.

Floyd led the SBC's Great Commission Resurgence Task Force in 2009-10. The group's report called for international missions to receive 51 percent of all Cooperative Program gifts. Last year, Cross Church contributed more than \$700,000 to the Cooperative Program, Mohler noted in a letter announcing Floyd's nomination.

Floyd is a former chairman of the SBC Executive Committee and was a member

of the SBC's Program and Structure Task Force during the mid-1990s. In recent months, Floyd has helped spearhead two pastor/leader prayer gatherings.

In addition to serving as general editor for LifeWay's updated "Bible Studies for Life," Floyd has authored 10 books. His latest, released in 2011, is "Our Last Great Hope: Awakening the Great Commission."

Two other nominees for SBC offices have been announced:

Clint Pressley, pastor of Hickory Grove Baptist Church in Charlotte, N.C., will be nominated by Ted Traylor, pastor of Olive Baptist Church in Pensacola, Fla., for the office of first vice president. Pressley serves as vice president of the SBC Pastors' Conference and is a former vice chairman of the trustees for Southern Seminary.

Hance Dilbeck, pastor of Quail Springs Baptist Church in Oklahoma City, will be nominated for the office of second vice president by former SBC president Johnny Hunt. Dilbeck has led the 4,600-member church since 2003 and has been a pastor for more than 20 years.

Constitutional revision

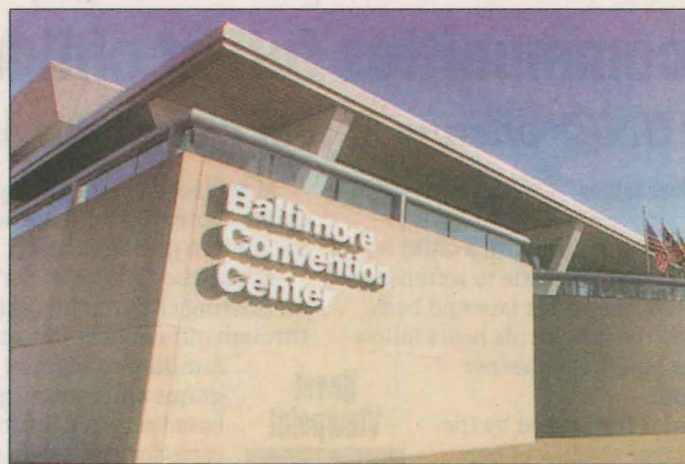
The SBC Executive Committee will consider a proposal June 9 to update the convention's constitution regarding qualifications for churches sending messengers to the annual meeting.

SBC REGISTRATION

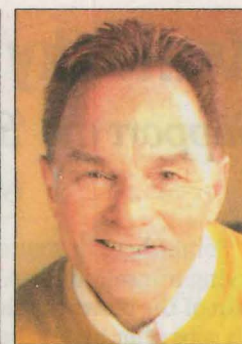
Online registration is available at

www.SBCAnnualMeeting.org
click the 'Messengers' tab

Each messenger will receive an eight-digit registration code to present at the 'Express' registration line. There the codes can be entered and name tags will be printed.



The Southern Baptist Convention will convene its 2014 annual meeting at the Baltimore Convention Center (above) June 10-11. With SBC President Fred Luter concluding his second term, messengers will elect a new president. The lone announced candidate for the post is Ronnie Floyd (top right), pastor of Cross Church, a three-campus megachurch in northwest Arkansas. Two other megachurch pastors are up for SBC offices: Clint Pressley (middle right), pastor of Hickory Grove Baptist Church in Charlotte, N.C., is the lone nominee for first vice president, while Hance Dilbeck (bottom right), pastor of Quail Springs Baptist Church in Oklahoma City, is the only announced candidate for second vice president.



The proposal to amend Article III came as a motion from the floor at last year's SBC annual meeting. It currently states that churches in friendly cooperation with the convention can send one additional messenger for every 250 members or for each \$250 per year "paid to the work of the Convention," an amount dating back to 1888.

Under the proposal, each cooperating church that contributed to convention causes during the preceding fiscal year would automatically qualify for two messengers. Additional messengers would be recognized from a cooperating church by one of two options, whichever allows the greater number of messengers:

- One additional messenger for each full percent of the church's undesignated receipts through any combination of gifts through the Cooperative Program, designated gifts through the Executive Committee for convention causes, or to any SBC entity.

- One additional messenger for every \$6,000 the church contributes in the preceding year through the same combination of the Cooperative Program, designated gifts through the Executive Committee for convention causes, or to any SBC entity.

The \$6,000

figure was arrived at by adjusting for inflation and other factors since 1888. It is meant to be comparable to the \$250 figure adopted 126 years ago.

During its Feb. 17-18 meeting, the Executive Committee decided to place the item on its June 9 agenda in order to allow Southern Baptists time to discuss the proposed change and provide feedback. The committee's deliberations, then, will determine whether the proposed revision will be presented to messengers at the annual meeting.

Resolutions

Messengers planning to propose resolutions must submit them no later than 15 days prior to the annual meeting. Detailed guidelines on submitting resolutions are available at www.SBCAnnualMeeting.net under the "Messengers" tab. Resolutions may be submitted online but must be followed up by a letter of credentials from the submitter's church. (BP)

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Decisions and regrets

Visit with old friend is reminder that Christ offers life with no regret

On a recent Sunday afternoon, I was trying to catch a little nap as I watched some baseball. Our choir trip that day had been to a local church, so I was home earlier than usual.

With three children in our home, attempting to nap can be challenging. Perhaps it is my children's way of paying me back for waking them up each school day, one of my favorite things.

I am not usually pleased when awakened from a nap, but this particular afternoon, I was so pleased when my son told me I had a visitor. It was a classmate who was one of my best friends while growing up here at Oneida. I spent many a weekend at his house on Teges Creek.

It was great to catch up with my friend and hear how the Lord was at work in his life. We talked about some of the goofy things we used to do as kids.

My friend admitted to me that he had spent several years away from the Lord and made some poor choices during that time. But he also shared how the Lord had blessed him recently.

During our senior year, my friend quit the basketball team. He told me he still regretted that decision. He also said he regretted spending some years away from the Lord and felt like he missed out on what He would have done in his life during that time.

My friend and his family are now walking closely with the Lord and are part of a great local church. I look

forward to spending more time with my prodigal friend.

Regrets can stick with us for a long time—perhaps for the rest of our lives. I sometimes regret that I chose not to play college basketball. Telling my father I was no longer going to play was one of the hardest things I ever had to do, but he loved and supported me anyway.

The Lord provided a way for us to leave all regrets behind, through His Son, Jesus Christ. When we are content in our walk and service to the Lord, He can turn our regrets into the ability to bless others.

I am sure some of our students have regrets, and they often hear from our faculty and staff about their own regrets. They share candidly with students about their own experiences in the hope they will not make the same mistakes. We do our best to teach students to seek the Lord on every decision they make. If we all do this, we will have few regrets in life.

Every day, I watch students make simple, yet profound, decisions. Poor decisions lead to unpleasant consequences. Good decisions lead to pleasant things. Both poor and good decisions help make our young people who they are, but, more importantly, who they will later be in God's kingdom.

Please pray that Oneida will be a place where young people can make decisions, good and bad, and learn from them.

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

'The multi-tasker'

Graduating senior added 'student' on top of roles as wife & mother

Graduating senior Amie Lake was already filling multiple roles when she first arrived on campus six years ago with her husband, Adam, and son, A.J., as Adam answered the call to Clear Creek.

"When our family first arrived on campus six years ago, I initially had no intentions of becoming a student," Amie recalled. "I certainly had more than enough to do with raising a child, homeschooling a child and working while my husband was completing his studies. After we had lived on campus a couple of years, though, the Lord began convicting me about taking classes so I could be better prepared to do ministry alongside my husband."

"We have been here for six years now," Amie said. "I am definitely going out different as a student than when I came in. I initially approached taking classes with the mindset that I would just learn a few things about the Bible and that would be it. As I complete my studies, though, the Lord has helped me see that my eyes were never really opened to some important things in ministry, like missions and evangelism, sharing my faith, serving in a local church and just learning about the Bible in general."

"I have been studying on the Christian service track during my four years here," she said. "I know God has used this area of study to help prepare me for doing ministry as I serve alongside my husband, who is an associate pastor. Before I took classes like church administration and other practical classes, I didn't really understand how to go about doing certain things in the church. Before I took my classes, I basically reacted to things that would happen in ministry."

"Now after my training, I have learned how to approach different things in a more diplomatic way," Amie continued. "I am confident that I am much more prepared now to serve alongside my husband after completing my studies."

"I work with young kids in our church," she said. "I have just started taking them through the Bible, starting in the book of Genesis. It is nice to be able to use my training to teach them and help them grow spiritually."

Clear Creek
Chronicle



Donnie Fox

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



A powerful tornado leveled Grace Falls Baptist Church in Fayetteville, Tenn., and destroyed the pastor's home next door. The tornado was part of a storm system that hit 10 states since April 26. Southern Baptist Disaster Relief volunteers have been serving in response in each of the affected states. (Photo courtesy of the Tennessee Baptist Convention)

Tornado stirs Tenn. pastor to reach out, serve neighbors

By Joe Conway

Fayetteville, Tenn.—Pastor Darrell Haney said he had been praying for a way to reach his neighbors. He found his answer in a storm.

"God could not have answered our prayer more clearly," said Haney, pastor of Grace Falls Baptist Church in Fayetteville, Tenn., as he described the powerful tornado that leveled the church building and destroyed his home next door. Haney was sifting through the rubble that was his home the morning following the storm.

The tornado was part of a recent storm system that claimed more than a dozen lives in Arkansas and Mississippi April 27 and 28, and two lives in Lincoln, Haney's home county in Tennessee.

In all, 10 states were hit by damaging tornadoes since April 26. Southern Baptist Disaster Relief volunteers have been serving in response in every affected state.

"We are collecting what belongings we can," said Haney, himself an SBDRL volunteer. "The church building was wiped out. Our property is adjacent to the church. It came across and took everything."

Haney was home with his wife, Tammy, son Matt, daughter-in-law Christi and their children Carson, 4, and Elyse, 2, when the storm hit late in the evening. They had just enough warning to seek shelter in an interior bathroom.

"Elyse was asleep in the bedroom," Haney said. "Matt had just returned from their trailer that was also on our property. The first series of storms had come through, and we thought the worst was over. The news broke on TV that a tornado was on the ground near us. We had just enough time to get Elyse and everyone into the bathroom and then it hit out of nowhere."

After leveling the Grace Falls sanctuary, the storm toppled oak trees and threw vehicles like toys, Haney said. A

tree fell on the house, the roof was ripped off, and then another tree fell across the house.

"There was not a scratch on either of our grandchildren," said Haney, who has pastored Grace Falls for seven years. "We are still looking for Matt's trailer."

Haney made sure his family was OK, helped secure his property as best he could, then he and associate pastor Ryan Tate headed into the subdivision near the church to offer help.

"We were able to pray with several of our neighbors," the pastor said.

North American Mission Board Disaster Relief Executive Director Fritz Wilson said he has seen God's hand in SBDRL ministry.

"That is the beauty of the SBDRL volunteer network," Wilson said. "In 10 states, we have volunteers bringing help, healing and hope to people who are suffering. It is why we do this."

The Home Depot Foundation contacted SBDRL and were able to deliver 175 Rubbermaid storage containers they donated to Arkansas for survivors to recover belongings, Wilson said.

'Where Was God?'

In related outreach, the Baptist General Convention of Oklahoma, churches and various faith-based groups have partnered to produce a documentary focusing on God's compassion in the face of natural disasters.

"Where Was God?: Stories of Hope After the Storm," will premiere May 16 in Moore, Okla.

The documentary will eventually be made available for viewing through the film's website, WhereWasGod.com.

Those who wish to donate to Southern Baptist storm relief can contact the Kentucky Baptist Convention or visit Donations.NAMB.net/DR-Donations. To make donations by phone, call (866) 407-NAMB or mail checks to NAMB, P.O. Box 116543, Atlanta, GA 30368-6543. Designate checks for "Disaster Relief." (NAMB)

WMU annual meeting focus: Annie Armstrong's challenge

Baltimore—With the theme of "Go Forward," Woman's Missionary Union will hold its Missions Celebration and annual meeting June 8-9 in Baltimore.

"What better place to wrap up a year-long celebration of the 125th anniversary of WMU than the home of Annie Armstrong," Debby Akerman, president of national WMU, said of the Baltimore woman who was instrumental in the missions organization's founding in 1888 and was its first corresponding secretary.

"We will embrace Annie's challenge to 'go forward' with missions," Akerman said of the June meeting, "as we celebrate how God is working around the world and through WMU, and renew our commitment to advancing missions education and involvement."

This year's celebration will feature a rare opportunity to experience a joint commissioning service of up to 100 new field personnel representing the

International and North American mission boards, along with messages from Southern Baptist Convention Executive Committee President Frank Page, as well as mission board presidents Tom Elliff of the IMB and Kevin Ezell of NAMB.

"Commissioning missionaries for special service is a great privilege," said Wanda Lee, executive director of national WMU. "It is a time to celebrate their calling, voice our affirmation and prayers as we hear their testimonies and commit ourselves to 'hold the ropes' prayerfully and financially as they go."

There also will be a special bus tour through Baltimore to see significant historical sites related to Annie Armstrong. The tour is free but advance registration is required. To register, visit WMU.com/AnnieTour. Registration is open through May 15.

Visit WMU.com/Baltimore for more information. (BP)

Helping children in crisis SHINE

Times change, but the mandate to help children in need has not

Regretfully, there are thousands of children across the Commonwealth of Kentucky who are abused and neglected on a daily basis. It is estimated to be 7,000 per year. They suffer 24/7 from physical, sexual and emotional abuse. We wish these tragic circumstances would go away, but they do not. In fact, they are escalating, resulting in the continued disintegration of families.

Fortunately, we Kentucky Baptists have a solution that includes providing these children a safe place to stay in the care of people who love them and give them hope, which, in turn, results in healing and the opportunity to mature and live fulfilled lives as adults toward a brighter future.

Currently, Sunrise Children's Services cares for more than 2,000 of these children in crisis each year through its comprehensive scope of services.

Sunrise is the oldest Southern Baptist-related children's ministry, dating back to its beginning in 1869 when the women of Louisville's Walnut Street Baptist Church stepped out to do "more for Christ" and opened up a shelter for children left orphaned by the Civil War. It is the only agency of its kind in Kentucky that provides a comprehensive, continuum of care.

So many things have changed in the generations since 1869, including the

kind of care most children need today. In the 1800s there was care for orphans. In the early 1900s there was care for poverty-stricken and abandoned children. Today we face challenges best met through foster homes and residential programs.

What hasn't changed is the mandate for us Kentucky Baptists to provide solutions to children who continue to suffer from abuse and neglect. This is no easy task, and it can be accomplished best by cooperation. Indeed, we can do "more for Christ" together than we can alone. So, let's do it.

How can you plug into being a part of this Christ-honoring

solution? First, include in your prayers Interim President Dale Suttles, the staff and the volunteer board members who give leadership to this vital ministry.

Second, be sure to make a generous contribution through your church or directly to the special SHINE emphasis on Mother's Day.

Third, call toll free (855) 334-2273 for information about becoming a foster parent.

Finally, call toll free Laurie Valentine or me about making this vital ministry to children a part of your legacy through your estate plan. We look forward to your 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

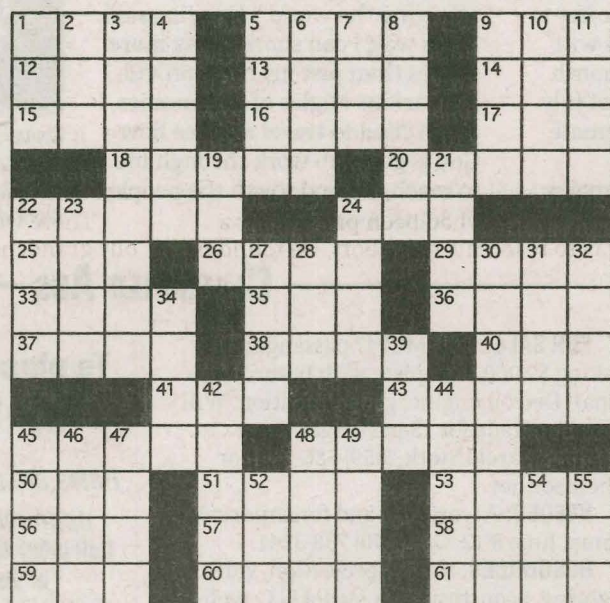


Barry Allen

Bible Crosswords

Across

- 1 "And falling into a place where two _____ met, they ran the ship aground" (Acts 27:41)
- 5 Father of Adoniram (1 Kings 4:6)
- 9 Linking verb
- 12 Yen
- 13 "I will fasten him as a _____ in a sure place" (Isaiah 22:23)
- 14 "La _____" (Debussy composition)
- 15 Tear
- 16 "And David saith, Let their table be made a _____" (Romans 11:9)
- 17 Certain vegetable serving
- 18 Extraordinary, in a way
- 20 "She layeth her _____ to the spindle" (Proverbs 31:19)
- 22 "If ye be reproached for the name of Christ, _____ are ye" (1 Peter 4:14)
- 24 Flap
- 25 Like a New York minute (abbr.)
- 26 At _____
- 29 Watch _____
- 33 Is supine
- 35 Cotton _____
- 36 Genus of the lily family
- 37 "My father did _____ you with a heavy yoke" (1 Kings 12:11)
- 38 Remove bobby pins
- 40 _____ the line
- 41 Poetic before
- 43 Rethink and revise
- 45 "He will not always _____; neither will he keep his anger" (Psalm 103:9)
- 48 It's sometimes glaring
- 50 "Thy word have I _____ in mine heart" (Psalm 119:11)
- 51 Kind of light or line



#198

- 53 Tribe of Israel
- 56 Natural combination of minerals
- 57 Kilmer subject
- 58 And others (abbr.)
- 59 Pod dweller
- 60 "O _____ out thy light and thy truth" (Psalm 43:3)
- 61 Synagogue

Down

- 1 Polite title
- 2 Greek letter
- 3 "Behold, now is the _____ time; behold, now is the day of salvation" (2 Corinthians 6:2)
- 4 "We thy people and _____ of thy pasture" (Psalm 79:13)
- 5 Kind of hero
- 6 "John _____ witness of him" (John 1:15)
- 7 Circle part (abbr.)
- 8 Wave or ray
- 9 So be it
- 10 "They could not _____ the writing" (Daniel 5:8)
- 11 Solomon writes that whoever refuses reproof _____
- 19 Pastrami on _____ (deli order)
- 21 "_____ Father, all things are possible" (Mark 14:36)

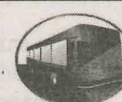
- 22 "I _____ have the keys of _____ and of death" (Revelation 1:18)
- 23 Continent
- 24 Mind the store
- 27 Marked by chills
- 28 "Where _____ abounded, grace did much more" (Romans 5:20)
- 30 "The law of the Medes and Persians, which _____ not" (Daniel 6:8)
- 31 High time
- 32 "A prophet mighty in _____ and word" (Luke 24:19)
- 34 Kind of money
- 39 Boathouse sight
- 42 Musical notations
- 44 Underground workers
- 45 Kind of house
- 46 "The labourer is worthy of his _____" (Luke 10:7)
- 47 Notion
- 48 "All the trees of _____, the choice and best of Lebanon" (Ezekiel 31:16)
- 49 "A bruised _____ shall he not break" (Matthew 12:20)
- 52 Wrath
- 54 Hebrew letter
- 55 Under the weather

- 24 Flap
- 25 Like a New York minute (abbr.)
- 26 At _____
- 29 Watch _____
- 33 Is supine
- 35 Cotton _____
- 36 Genus of the lily family
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- 50 "Thy word have I _____ in mine heart" (Psalm 119:11)
- 51 Kind of light or line

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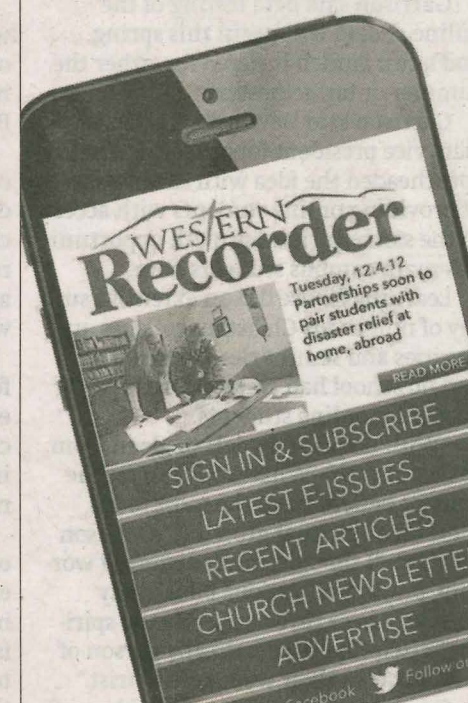
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May

5-6 KBC Mission Board Meeting, Kentucky Baptist Building, Louisville.

6 May Power Lunch, Kentucky Baptist Building, Louisville.

14-16 Directors of Missions Leadership Event, Rough River Dam State Resort Park, Falls of Rough.

17 International Rapid Response Training, First Baptist Church, Shelbyville.

17 SALT, Kentucky Baptist Building, Louisville.

19 Encounter Women of Worth Lifestyle Evangelism Conference, New Harmony Baptist Church, Benton.

22 Protecting Biblical Marriage, Crestwood Baptist Church.

June

3 June Power Lunch, Kentucky Baptist Building, Louisville.

7-13 Kentucky Changlers 2014, Hopkinsville.

MOUNTAINS TO THE MISSISSIPPI

COMPILED BY STAFF

HOPKINSVILLE—Christian County Association will host the MULTIPLY Sunday School workshop May 8, 6:30 p.m. The cost to attend is \$5 per person, with a \$25 maximum per church team. For more information, call (270) 885-8777. **Bobby Melton** is director of missions.

LOUISVILLE—Cloverleaf Church will host **The Perrys** in concert May 8, 7 p.m. For more information, call (502) 367-0218. **Geoffrey Lacefield** is pastor.

MAYS LICK—Mays Lick Church will host Bracken Association's MULTIPLY Sunday School workshop May 12, 6:30 p.m. The cost to attend is \$5 per person, with a \$25 maximum per church team. For more information, call (606) 763-6260. **Kevin Cornette** is pastor.

OWENSBORO—First Church will host a children's carnival as part of the BBQ Festival's Family Pavilion May 10, 10 a.m. **Paul Strahan** is pastor.

Spotlight on ...

SYMSONIA



Elva Church will host Blood River Association's men's breakfast May 10, 8 a.m. **Michael Littrell** is pastor.

UC freshman heads to South Asia on mission

Williamsburg—Although she knew missions was in God's plan for her future, University of the Cumberland's freshman Lydia Huggins, of Erwin, Tenn., said she feels blessed for the opportunity to journey to South Asia to spread the gospel this summer.

"When I was in Italy doing missions, I felt God calling me to return," Huggins said. "I thought that Europe is where God was going to lead me next, but things changed, and I have to go where God is calling me.

"The people of South Asia need the Lord and need to hear of His glory and promise of salvation," Huggins added. "I am more than excited to go on this trip and fulfill my duties as a Christian and

advocate for Christ."

Huggins visited South Asia in 2008 with her family and was able to see kingdom work through missionaries in areas where the knowledge of God's love and hope were nearly absent. Huggins said she has been patiently waiting on God's call for an international trip in need of her services, and she feels now is her time to go.

Word of the trip came as a surprise to her but she eagerly made the decision to accept the offer to take this journey. Huggins will travel to South Asia this month and stay through the end of July working with two other female volunteers.

Huggins, a journalism major, will work with a photographer

and videographer to capture God's glory as He works through the other student missionaries. The journalism team will be recording stories of students, field workers and others they encounter, as well as their own experiences, as they seek ways to serve.

"While working as a journalist, I will have the opportunity to show Americans and fellow Christians exactly where their money is going and how missionaries are affecting the world," Huggins said. "This way, I can share many more stories than just my own, providing various angles of testimonies. I am excited to travel and see how God is going to work through me to reach out and touch the people of South Asia." (UC)



University of the Cumberland's freshman Lydia Huggins will travel to South Asia this month to document God's work on the mission field.

Campbellsville University develops online chapel experience for students

Campbellsville—Campbellsville University has kicked off an online chapel experience for students.

Developed in partnership with Learning House, the school's online chapel is the first of its kind in the online educational world, according to Shane Garrison, assistant professor of educational ministries and director of theology online at Campbellsville.

There were no models for CU to pattern the online chapel upon, so Garrison conceptualized the project with three major sections.

Garrison said beta testing of the online chapel will begin this spring, and a full launch is slated for either the summer or fall semesters.

Garrison said DeWayne Frazier, associate vice president for academic affairs, spearheaded the idea with the objective of providing online students with access to the same spiritual-growth opportunities main campus students have.

Learning House did an extensive survey of numerous Christian colleges, universities and seminaries, Garrison said, and no school had created anything for chapel for online students.

"With no prior models to glean from, I asked myself, 'What would an online student benefit from the most to aid their own spiritual growth?'" Garrison recalled. "I thought immediately of worship, prayer and various Bible study options. These three are essential spiritual disciplines that help any person of faith grow in their walk with Christ."

Garrison used pictures and videos of

the campus' Ransdell Chapel and submitted the images to graphic designers to employ virtual reality technology. The result is an online chapel that looks like a virtual match to Ransdell Chapel.

There are three aspects of the online chapel. The first includes a chapel archive and live web streaming of the university's regularly scheduled programs. By clicking on the pulpit in the online chapel, any student in any location at any time can watch previously recorded main campus chapel services or a live stream of a current service.

Part two is the Bible study center, which is located at the lectern in the online chapel. The weekly Bible teaching consists of Garrison leading a brief Bible study.

Section three of the online chapel consists of the prayer center, which is depicted by the candle in the online chapel. Students can post prayer requests or praise reports, and Garrison and other students in the online forum will pray for these requests.

"With these three components as the foundation, we created a virtual chapel environment where students who choose various spiritual opportunities in much like a video-game format," Garrison said.

"The virtual chapel will allow more of the sweet spirit that students experience at Campbellsville to convey over into the online realm," Frazier said. "It is also great to be at the cutting edge of technology to engage the next generation of learners, as well as seekers." (CU)

CLASSIFIED ADS

FOR SALE: 1982 MCI 47-passenger bus, asking \$7,900. Complete with bathroom, small Detroit engine; good condition. Will consider trade for 15-passenger van. Contact Harold Stork, (859) 586-5821 or bbc@isoc.net.

NEEDED: A worship band for children's camp, June 8-12. Call (270) 788-3241.

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: Need your piano tuned/ repaired? What about a Piano Life Saver climate-control system? Certified and affordable; Mark Mudd, CPT, PE; call/text, (270) 999-2433 or KyPianoService.com.

SEEKING: Oneida Baptist Church is seeking a bivocational pastor. Submit 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: 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.

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SEEKING: Crofton Baptist Church is prayerfully accepting resumé for the full-time position of pastor. Candidate will have previous pastoral experience, and education is not required. Please send resumé to: Crofton Baptist Church, 155 College St., Crofton, KY 42217.

SEEKING: Central Baptist Church in Winchester, Ky., is seeking a full-time associate pastor of family life/outreach. Candidate needs to have a passion and calling for families and family ministry. If you feel God is leading you to apply for this position, please send your resumé to searchcommittee@cbcwinchester.com by June 15. For additional church information and a job description, see our website at www.CBCWinchester.com.

SEEKING: Southside Baptist Church, Princeton, Ky., is now accepting resumé for a full-time student and children's minister. Seminary training and experience is preferred. Please email resumé to searchteam@southsidebaptist.com or mail them to: Southside Baptist Church, Attn: Search Team, P.O. Box 684, Princeton, KY 42445. Deadline to submit a resumé is May 31.

'What did I learn at seminary?'

Baltimore pastor draws on seminary education for urban ministry

By Keith Collier

Baltimore—Ronjour Locke would meet his girlfriend Annie at McDonald's for a breakfast date every Monday morning during college. He would grab a napkin as they talked to scribble down their brainstorm sessions filled with dreams and "what-ifs" for the future.

"We discussed if we were ever going to do ministry somewhere, where would it be?" Locke said of the morning conversations when they talked about where they might live and minister after they married and completed their studies at Washington Bible College near Washington, D.C.

Having gone on their first date and gotten engaged in Baltimore, they thought it would be a "pretty cool" place to settle.

"We knew the need was there," Locke said, "and the diversity was something we were passionate about—being some place where people from different walks of life and different backgrounds could worship the Lord together."

In January 2012, the Lockes, their dreams and their four children made their way to one of Baltimore's southernmost neighborhoods, Brooklyn, where Ronjour, a graduate of Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas, became pastor of the neighborhood's First Baptist Church, the only Southern Baptist church in the area.

Diverse neighborhoods

Baltimore encompasses more than 200 individual neighborhoods. Whether it is the trendy, up-and-coming Federal Hill filled with young urban professionals or the iconic Inner Harbor with its waterfront shops and restaurants, each neighborhood reflects a distinct history, culture and personality.

Brooklyn is an ethnically diverse, mostly low-income and lower-middle-class neighborhood. "I initially thought that this was an older neighborhood based on how many folks in our church lived in the area," Ronjour said, "but I was wrong. It's actually a lot more generationally diverse than I thought."



Ronjour Locke has carried a readiness for gospel transformation to one of Baltimore's urban neighborhoods, while drawing from his training at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas. (Photo by Matt Miller/SWBTS)

Over the past few decades, government-constructed Section 8 housing left a densely populated neighborhood. "They put houses everywhere, squeezing them in all kinds of places," Locke noted. "And, of course, within them are people."

First Baptist, Brooklyn, encompasses "people who are making good money, and we have people who are struggling," Locke explained. "We've got some folks who have lost their jobs over the last couple of years (and) who cannot find a job for the life of them. We've got some folks that are homeless, and we're trying to help them."

As with many urban communities, Brooklyn suffers from crime, drugs and broken homes.

"You'll have homes where the mom is there and you have, say, five or six kids, and each kid has a different dad. That's not uncommon around here," Locke said.

While the streets immediately surrounding the church are quiet, Locke said, "you go down (a couple streets) and you're going to see a lot more drugs, a lot more violence—a lot more stuff going on."

"It's really sad," Annie Locke said of the area's troubles. "It's a lot of theft, but it's usually a family member to a family member because of their addictions."

"It's sort of the personality of Brooklyn that we are the forgotten," Ronjour added. "We're not the cool Federal Hill. We're not the Inner Harbor."

Many of Brooklyn's churches have closed in recent years, leaving an even greater need for gospel-centered lights in the community.

"You have a community that changes around you, whether it be ethnic or generational diversity that comes in—and those (former) churches met it with resistance," Annie pointed out.

"I think it's a cultural shift," Ronjour added. "The churches that are closing their doors peaked around the 1970s or '80s. They all had kids but didn't have intentions of reaching their kids or their kids' friends. It's that whole cultural battle of, 'We're not going to adapt.' Now they're shutting their doors. The church dies with their generation."

"The gospel that saves us is the gospel that changes us. And the gospel forms this church, so that when we gather together, we worship God through Jesus by the power of the Holy Spirit."

Ronjour Locke

Seminary influence

Amid the challenges, the Lockes feel their time at Southwestern Seminary prepared them to serve and revitalize the church in Brooklyn.

Ronjour had taught school for a while in Maryland after graduating from college and then served on staff at a church in Hanover, Pa., where he and Annie began to explore seminary options.

"Annie and I flew down to Texas (to visit Southwestern), and while we were there," Ronjour recalled, "there was something about the culture

that (said), 'We're about the nations,' which was much of a continuation from college for me. Southwestern was about getting the gospel to every neighborhood and to every nation."

Once on campus, Ronjour said the seminary helped shape and solidify his understanding of the gospel's impact on the church, particularly "in terms of the primacy of the word, the insistence on making disciples and shaping disciples with the very gospel that was used to save them."

"The gospel that saves us is the gospel that changes us," he added. "And the gospel forms this church, so that when we gather together, we worship God through Jesus by the power of the Holy Spirit. All of that is by means of the gospel, by means of what God has accomplished for us. That affects the way that I

parent, the way that I live with Annie, the way that I pastor."

This gospel-shaping influence has played a key role in the Lockes' ministry in Brooklyn.

Once he arrived, Locke said he began asking himself, "What are my priorities as a pastor? ... Do I have to be the coolest guy in town? Or am I here to shepherd, to continue to say over and over and over again, 'This is the gospel. This is the one true living God—and this is where life happens, in Him'—constantly pointing people and shepherding people toward Him."

While he didn't take a class on shepherding people with drug issues whose kids have been taken from them, Ronjour realizes Southwestern helped equip him with the answer.

"With all the violence and things I've encountered—people knocking on my door at 1 a.m. and saying they don't have a place to live—I think, 'What did I learn at seminary?'"

"I learned that the gospel is the power of God unto salvation."

"So, how do I address these things with the gospel? How do I address addictions with the gospel? Love them, give them the help they need, and share the gospel. With broken families and poverty and all these things that we have over here, it's the gospel that changes lives. So, ground zero for us is, 'Let's be a church that's about the gospel.'"

Locke said he has been stirred by "watching people learn (about the gospel) for the first time."

"Nothing has been drastic in terms of change and transformation," he said. "It's just slowly but surely. It's a systematic walking through the Bible and seeing how God is changing and shaping us."

Annie agreed, adding that she never grows tired of "seeing Christ become more than enough for people," more than their addictions, more than their broken relationships or sin-stained lives. (BP)

UNIVERSITY of the CUMBERLANDS

2014 SUMMER SERVANTS



WHITLEY COUNTY, KY

Appalachian Ministries Team

Aaron Adkisson (Brodhead, KY - Brodhead Baptist)
Susan Albertson (South Shore, KY - South Shore First Church of God)
Tyler Bird (Burnside, KY - Mt. Union Baptist)
Aaron Brewer (Mason, OH - Montgomery Community Church)
Trey Bryant (London, KY - Victory Christian Fellowship)
Shantel Buchner (Boston, KY - Parkway Baptist)
Abbey Cherry (Cincinnati, OH - Clough Pike Baptist)
Kaitlin DeJarnette (Alexandria, KY - Main Street Baptist)
Kathleen Kovach (London, KY - Calvary Baptist)
Tim Smith (Corbin, KY - Corn Creek Free Church of God)

Mountain Outreach Team

Dirk Berta (Williamsburg, KY - Wofford Missionary Baptist)
Chad Bond (Tullahoma, TN - First United Methodist)
Kara Cliffe (Lexington, KY - Hillcrest Baptist)
Brodie Craig (Lexington, KY - Immanuel Baptist)
Iquan Deed (Montezuma, GA - Oasis World Outreach)
Justin Dyer (Woodburn, KY - Woodburn Baptist)
Shawn Harris (Williamsburg, KY - Wofford Missionary Baptist)
Randy Maynard (Pikeville, KY - Pikeville United Methodist Church)
Brandon Nance (Corbin, KY - West Corbin Baptist)
Tracy Taphouse (Dacula, GA - Belmont Baptist)

Laurel Lake Baptist Camp

Natalie Graham (Chattanooga, TN - St. Luke United Methodist)
Chris Setters (Taylor Mill, KY - Oak Ridge Baptist)

KENTUCKY AND OTHER STATES

Home Churches

Alex Campbell (Middlesboro, KY - Old Yellow Creek Baptist)
Aaron Cook (Stanford, KY - Pleasant View Baptist)
Cory Crabtree (Somerset, KY - First Baptist)
Auburnleigh Debruler (Lawrenceburg, KY - Hope Community Church)
Tyler Edwards (Hartsville, TN - Long Hollow Baptist)
Chloe Fogle (London, KY - Soul's Harbor Church)
Deana Gabbard (Mt. Vernon, KY - First Baptist)
Hannah Gray (London, KY - New Bethel Missionary Baptist)
Rachel Helton (Corbin, KY - Hawk Creek Church)
Jordan Infield (Knoxville, TN - Fellowship Church of Knoxville)
Kelsey (Day) Infield (Knoxville, TN - Fellowship Church of Knoxville)
Mark Partin (LaFollette, TN - Faithway Assembly of God Prayer Warriors)
Jacob Ratliff (Amelia, OH - Clough Pike Baptist)
Blake Reams (London, KY - Calvary Baptist)
Tanner Williams (Louisville, KY - Southeast Christian Church)
Debbie Walters (Corbin, KY - Grace on the Hill)

Mountain View Baptist Camp

Tori Dishman (Monticello, KY - Mt. Zion Baptist)

BCM 1:8 Experiences

Hayley Davis (Berea, KY - Berea Baptist Church) - Serving at First Baptist Church Shelbyville, KY & Guatemala

Appalachian Outreach

Jasmine Minke (Bellingham, WA - Hillcrest Chapel)

Centri-Kid Camps

Hayley Ferguson (Hawesville, KY - Blackford Baptist) - Serving in Campbellsville, KY
Marissa Hoffpauir (Thompson's Station, TN - Oak Valley Baptist) - Serving in NC & GA
Joey Koogler (Hebron, KY - Immanuel Baptist of Corbin) - Serving in Pulaski, MS
Caleb McDonald (Shelbyville, KY - First Baptist Church) - Serving in Anderson, SC
Bethany Yonts (Lexington, KY - House Church) - Serving in Campbellsville, KY

Crossings Camps

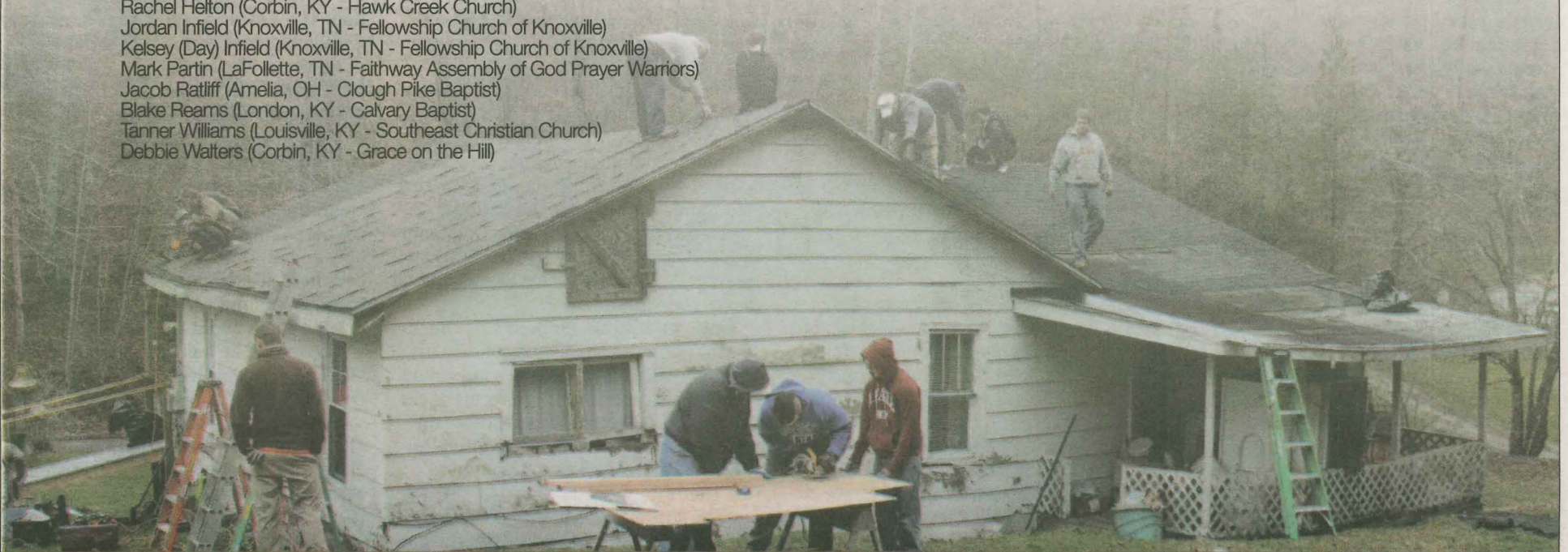
Maggie Ballou (Corbin, KY - Central Baptist)
Alisha Brown (Jacksonville, FL - First Baptist Church)
Ben Staggs (Meta, KY - Meta Baptist)

M-Fuge Camps

Kayla Smith (Williamsburg, KY - Faith Baptist of Corbin) - Serving at Belmont, Nashville, TN

INTERNATIONAL

Hayley Davis (Berea, KY - Berea Baptist) - Serving in Macedonia
Haley Ferguson (Hawesville, KY - Blackford Baptist) - Serving in Macedonia
Brittney Gadd (Mercer, PA - Victory @ New Wilmington) - Serving in Dominican Republic
Lydia Huggins (Irwin, TN - Unaka Avenue Baptist of Johnson City) - Serving in South Asia
Jake McPheron (Mt. Vernon, KY - Northside Baptist) - Serving in Macedonia
Giné Nichols (Horse Cave, KY - Immanuel Baptist of Corbin) - Serving in Kenya
Patrick Paten (Clinton, TN - Cornerstone Christian) - Serving in Peru
Jessica Upchurch (Stanford, KY - Stanford Baptist) - Serving in Uganda
Lindsi Weis (Lexington, KY - Parkway Baptist) - Serving in Kenya
Bethany Yonts (Lexington, KY - House Church) - Serving in Macedonia



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