

WESTERN Recorder

May 13, 2014

Shine Like Stars * Philippians 2:15

Volume 188, Issue 18

KBC MISSION BOARD

Board re-affirms request made of A&I trustees last year

Agencies' & institutions' boards chided for not following through on 2013 recommendation from study committee

By Drew Nichter

Louisville—The Kentucky Baptist Convention's relationship with its agencies and institutions came to the forefront at the May meeting of the KBC Mission Board last week.

The board's membership voted May 6 to re-affirm a recommendation it approved one year earlier that requested

action on the part of the trustee boards of the KBC's agencies and institutions.

Upon recommendation of a committee charged with evaluating the relationship between the KBC and its agencies and institutions, the Mission Board last May approved three general requests made of each of the 10 entities that maintain covenant agreements with the convention.

The second of those requests called on the organizations to invite the KBC executive director-treasurer to join the trustee boards as an ex officio member.

Administrative committee chair Adam Greenway pointed out last week that only one board has complied with that recommendation—Crossings Ministries.

The May 2013 recommendations were approved along with decreased Cooperative Program funding for the agencies and institutions. The total cuts shifted approximately \$700,000 from those organizations to Southern Baptist Convention causes as a means of reaching a 50/50 CP funding split between the KBC and SBC.

While acknowledging that the recommendation to the agencies and institutions "carries no binding force," Greenway criticized the nine boards who have not "fully complied."

□ See Mission Board ... Page 2



Administrative committee chair Adam Greenway updates the Mission Board May 6 on the status of a request made to the convention's agencies and institutions last May to invite the KBC executive director-treasurer to join the organizations' boards as an ex officio member. Thus far, only one agency, Crossings Ministries, has done so. Most of the other nine affiliated entities' trustee boards have invited Executive Director Paul Chitwood to attend their meetings as a guest only. Greenway urged the boards to reconsider the recommendation "prayerfully" and extend the invitation "without any strings attached." (Photos by Robin Cornetet/KBC)

ALSO FROM THE MISSION BOARD

KBC Executive Director Paul Chitwood warns associations they could soon be washed away by a 'financial tsunami,' urges a 'combining of resources'

Story on page 2.



Members of the Kentucky Baptist Convention Mission Board listen intently to reports and updates from fellow board members and convention leaders during their two-day meeting.

Kentucky pastor to be nominated for SBC president

Hustonville—Jared Moore, pastor of New Salem Baptist Church, in Hustonville, will be nominated for president of the Southern Baptist Convention during the June 10-11 annual meeting in Baltimore.



Jared Moore

In a May 5 blog post announcing his willingness to be nominated, Moore, the current SBC second vice president, stated he wants to represent rural Southern Baptists. Moore will be nominated by Paul Sanchez, pastor of Willow Baptist Church in Brooksville.

"I was saved in a rural Southern Baptist Church, and I've primarily served rural □ See Moore nominee ... Page 3

Baptist relief efforts continue in multiple states

By Joe Conway



An Arkansas Baptist State Convention disaster relief volunteer uses a tractor to clear trees from a home in Mayflower, Ark., north of Little Rock. Southern Baptist Disaster Relief volunteers from Arkansas joined hundreds of other volunteers serving in Florida, Mississippi, North Carolina, Missouri and Tennessee May 3. (Arkansas Baptist News photo)

Alpharetta, Ga.—Southern Baptist Disaster Relief chaplains recently offered aid to the classmates of an 8-year-old tornado victim in Mississippi. They were among hundreds of SBDR volunteers at work clearing up damage from tornadoes, high winds and flooding across 13 states.

The body of Tyler Tucker was found three days after a tornado destroyed his home in Louisville, Miss., according to published reports. His parents' bodies were found a half mile from where their house once stood the day the tornado hit, April 28.

"Chaplain John Temple was able to go to the school and speak to his classmates," said Donna Swarts, who serves as Mississippi Baptist Convention Board child care coordinator. "The day before □ See Disaster relief ... Page 7

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Western Recorder 5-13-2014

Chitwood warns associations of coming 'financial tsunami'

By Drew Nichter

Louisville—The responsibility of leaders within the Kentucky Baptist Convention is to sound the alarm when they spot danger coming. And Paul Chitwood said he sees a "financial tsunami" headed for many of the state's churches and associations.

Addressing the Mission Board May 5, the KBC executive director urged associations to protect themselves from oncoming destruction by pooling their collective resources and forming partnerships.

The financial tsunami "threatens to wash away many of our associations if intentional steps are not taken that can preserve a strategic level of church partnership," Chitwood said.

Citing statistics from John Dickerson's 2013 book, "The Great Evangelical Recession," Chitwood noted that as the country's eldest generation passes on, so to will nearly half of the financial support they provide to national, regional and local evangelical ministries.

Dickerson warns that the generations replacing them are becoming less and less evangelical and are not supporting those ministries as their predecessors did. Should that trend continue, charitable giving may decline by about 70 percent in the next quarter-century, the author states.

It is a "silent tsunami that has already broken," Dickerson writes, one for which most ministries are unprepared.

Chitwood said when the tsunami waves do crash, some Baptist associations may very well take the brunt of the blow.

"That tsunami will affect the association, because funding, as you know, flows from the church to the association," he said. "The bride (the church) will take care of herself, and then she will keep her commitments."

Many of the state's 70 associations, Chitwood noted, are comprised of fewer than 20 churches. And a number of those are already mired in an ongoing decline, he said.

"I believe that the window of opportunity stands open for many of our associations to begin combining their resources, thereby increasing their number of churches and their capacity to hire a strong missional leader" as directors of missions, Chitwood said.

That window will not remain open very long, he warned.

Chitwood acknowledged the KBC nor the Mission Board has jurisdiction over the associations, but said from the vantage point of a leadership position, "if we see a tsunami coming," he and others are obligated to "sound a warning."

"As a generation of faithful Christ followers ... pass from the scene—and go unreplaced, by and large, with the generation following them—we'd better be prepared," he said.

Sandefur joins KBC staff

In other business, the Mission Board filled a recently vacated position on the KBC's church consulting and revitalization team.

Nick Sandefur was unanimously elected the new pastoral ministry consultant for the north central region. The area spans 11 associations from around Lexington to the Ohio River and includes two of Kentucky's most populous Baptist

associations, Northern Kentucky and Tates Creek.

Sandefur will begin his duties June 1. He had served as pastor of Edgewood Baptist Church in Hopkinsville since 2001. His previous pastorates include stints at Pellville Baptist Church, First Baptist Church of Lewisport and Victory Baptist Church in Owensboro.

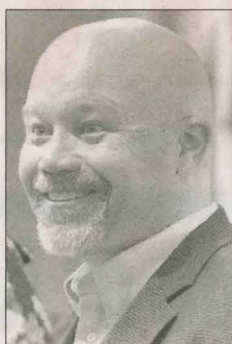
Sandefur replaces Ronny Raines, who left the role earlier this year to become pastor at Bradfordville First Baptist Church of Tallahassee, Fla.

All six regional pastoral ministry consultants positions are now filled for the first time since their creation in 2012 as part of the KBC's extensive staff reorganization. Paul Badgett was elected the east region consultant at a special-called Mission Board meeting in March.

Building repairs and lawsuit

Mission Board members agreed to let the convention move \$1.75 million from the State Mission Reserve fund to complete repairs and reconstruct parts of the Kentucky Baptist Building.

Lawyers advised the convention to



Nick Sandefur

proceed with the work as part of its litigation against parties involved in the construction and purchase of the KBC headquarters in east Louisville. The convention moved into the building in 2005.

In 2011, it was discovered that the outer wall did not meet the "original building's architectural design and drawings," according to background information provided by the Business and Finance Committee. That allowed mold to grow in the walls, posing a health risk.

The KBC filed legal action in December 2011 seeking a "settlement on the costs of repairing our building and all professional fees." Any funds recovered as a result of the litigation will be returned to the State Mission Reserve.

Budget details

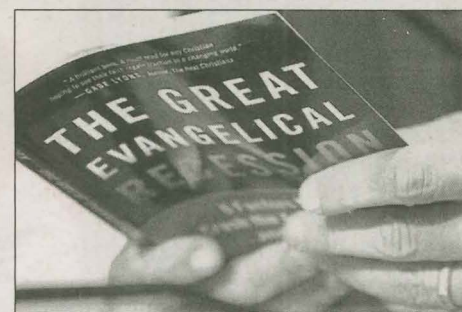
The Mission Board approved the details of a proposed \$22 million Cooperative Program budget for 2014-15 fiscal year.

KBC messengers approved the CP budget total last November. It represents a 2.22 percent decrease from the current budget.

Allocations of CP funds approved May 5 include 46.5 percent each distributed to KBC and Southern Baptist Convention causes, with 7 percent reserved by the state convention for shared expenses, known as "Cooperative Program Resourcing." (WR)



Based on information culled from John Dickerson's book, "The Great Evangelical Recession" (below), KBC Executive Director Paul Chitwood warns the state's Baptist associations of an approaching "financial tsunami" that threatens to "wash away" many of them if "intentional steps" to prepare for it are not taken, such as "combining of resources" and creating associational partnerships. (Photos by Robin Cornet/KBC)



Mission Board

Continued from page 1

He further decried allegations that the recommendation is "part of an agenda or a conspiracy to try to exercise greater control of the boards."

"Terms like 'Calvinist agenda,' 'Calvinist conspiracy' (and) 'controlling agenda' get thrown around by some who are unsympathetic to this recommendation," said Greenway, dean of the Billy Graham School of Missions, Evangelism and Ministry at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary.

"Our agenda is not Calvinism; it is missions, evangelism and biblical truth," he said, calling any allegations to the contrary "disturbing" and "distasteful."

KBC President Chip Hutcheson echoed Greenway's sentiment, saying the recommendation is not a "power grab," but rather an issue of accountability.

"It never hurts to have another set of eyes," Hutcheson said.

Thus far, only Crossings Ministries has placed KBC Executive Director Paul Chitwood on its board as an ex officio member.

Ex officio status affords a trustee all rights and privileges of a fully elected member. Individual boards can, however, decide not to grant voting privileges.

Chitwood already is a full trustee of Sunrise Children's Services. He was elected to the organization's board last November by KBC messengers to the annual meeting in the wake of the hiring practices scandal involving former Sunrise president, Bill Smithwick.

However, the Sunrise board recently

voted to change Chitwood's status to that of a non-voting member on an annual call. That means his retention is subject to a yearly vote.

Greenway also pointed out that at the time of his appointment as KBC executive director in 2011, Chitwood was a member of the University of the Cumberlands' board. That status was changed to honorary status when he joined the convention.

The boards of Baptist Healthcare System, Clear Creek Baptist Bible College, Kentucky Baptist Foundation, Kentucky Woman's Missionary Union, Oneida Baptist Institute and Western Recorder have all invited the KBC executive director-treasurer to sit in on their meetings.

All of those trustee boards, as well as that of Campbellsville University, have not, as of yet, extended ex officio status to the KBC executive director.

Greenway urged the boards to reconsider the recommendation "prayerfully" and extend the invitation "without any strings attached."

When asked if the Mission Board has any recourse to compel the agency and institution boards to comply, Greenway admitted it is simply a request and the board "cannot direct an agency" to submit to the suggestion. The only "leverage" the convention has, he suggested, would be "related to finances."

In his address to the Mission Board a day earlier, Chitwood, too, focused on the KBC's agencies and institutions, specifically noting last year's "drama" surrounding Sunrise.

"The recovery of Sunrise is a perfect example of why the details of our relationships with our agencies and institutions matter," he said. "Point to any agency or institution of the KBC, and you'll be pointing to an organization

that owes its existence to the Cooperative Program of Kentucky Baptists, to individual donors who are Kentucky Baptists, and/or to special offerings from KBC churches."

In exchange for CP support of the agencies and institutions "as their lifeblood," Chitwood noted, KBC churches have the privilege of board appointments, as a way to provide "direct accountability."

"At the end of the day, this right and responsibility is the only meaningful accountability that can be exercised by our churches," he added.

No Georgetown action

In other business, a now-former KBC institution will remain outside the convention's umbrella as the Mission Board's Agencies and Institutions Committee declined to consider a proposal from Georgetown College to revisit a relationship with the KBC.

In January, the school proposed the creation of an "affiliate relationship" between Georgetown and the KBC, a status KBC leaders felt is best reserved for churches, not organizations.

Last November, KBC messengers voted to sever all ties with Georgetown College, once its oldest educational institution. The decision came after a Kentucky Baptist study committee concluded in 2012 that the college was distancing itself from the convention.

The vote was to happen in November 2012, but was delayed one year while the school searched for a new president following William Crouch's retirement.

Discussions between Chitwood and Georgetown President Dwaine Greene, who was hired last August, yielded no consensus, and KBC messengers voted to end the partnership. (WR)

Moore nominee

Continued from page 1

Southern Baptists ever since," Moore wrote. "Where I live now, the nearest gas station is seven miles away. My church is a small church made up of about 60 people. They're a loving, caring, godly group of people. Some of the godliest people I've met in my ministry worship here.

"I want to represent Southern Baptists like the ones I serve on a daily basis who may not have the opportunity to attend the convention or serve at the convention level," he added.

Moore is the second announced nominee for SBC president, joining Arkansas pastor Ronnie Floyd.

The 33-year-old Moore noted he will accept the nomination because of his desire to serve Southern Baptists, promote unity in the convention and promote the Cooperative Program.

New Salem, by a congregational vote, gives 16 percent of its undesignated receipts to CP and another 3 percent to its local association.

"Apart from cooperating with other SBC churches through the Cooperative Program, our small church could not support as many ministries on our own," Moore wrote. "I realize the Cooperative Program and the ministries it supports are not perfect, but New Salem Baptist Church believes in the Cooperative Program. I hope to encourage churches to begin, continue or increase their support of the Cooperative Program. It's still the best way available for supporting the equipping of Southern Baptist ministers to take the gospel locally and abroad and to train other Southern Baptists to do the same."

Regarding his goal of promoting unity within the SBC, Moore wrote, "I think traditionalists, Calvinists, and everything in between in the SBC can work together. Since the founding of the Southern Baptist Convention, Southern Baptists of different stripes have been able to work together. There's no reason to divide beyond the Baptist Faith and Message 2000. I believe we'll accomplish far more together than we will if we're divided.

"In order to accomplish such unity, we must accurately represent what one another believe, lovingly debate and line up behind Scripture," he added. "Our disagreements should not be ignored, but they also should not divide us. Hopefully, this year will be one of renewal as Calvinists and traditionalists reach across the aisle for the sake of the gospel and for the sake of the future of the SBC."

Moore holds a bachelor of arts from Trinity College of the Bible, a master of arts in religion from Liberty Baptist Theological Seminary and a master of divinity from Southern Baptist Theological Seminary. He is a doctor of philosophy student at Southern majoring in systematic theology.

Moore has authored two books, "10 Sacred Cows in Christianity that Need to Be Tipped" and "The Harry Potter Bible Study: Enjoying God Through the Final Four Harry Potter Movies."

Moore and his wife, Amber, have three children. (BP)

La Grange pastor to chair SBC mental health advisory council

Nashville, Tenn.—Southern Baptist Convention Executive Committee President Frank Page has named a 23-member volunteer advisory body of local church leaders and professionals in the mental health field to advise him on possible ways of better communicating with Southern Baptists about mental health ministry needs in their churches and communities, as well as provide ministry resources to address those needs.

Kentucky pastor Tony Rose of La Grange Baptist Church will chair the new Mental Health Advisory Council.

In keeping with the advisory nature of other groups named by Page, the mental health advisory group is designed to assist him and other SBC entity leaders by:

- Reviewing current mental health ministries offered through SBC entities, state conventions and associational and local church initiatives;
- Assessing the best practices of such ministry initiatives;
- Suggesting ways in which these ministry initiatives can or should be formalized through other means.

"The group's goal is to consider ways to assist SBC entity leaders and local church leaders in their common task of reaching all people with the transformative gospel of Jesus Christ," according to SBC Life, journal of the Executive Committee.

Prompted by 2013 motion

The Executive Committee, during its Feb. 17-18 meeting in Nashville, agreed with the spirit of a motion referred from the 2013 SBC annual meeting regarding mental health ministry. The committee voted to amend an annual ministry report form it solicits from SBC entities to include questions

pertaining to what they are doing to assist Southern Baptist churches in equipping and ministering to people with mental health challenges.

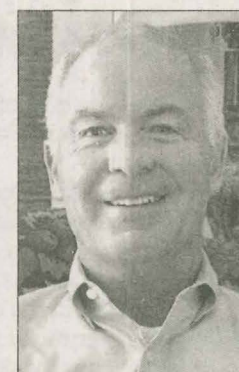
The Executive Committee also voted to "continue to seek ways to work in cooperation with SBC entities and others to address the severe challenges imposed by mental illness."

Messengers to the 2013 SBC annual meeting also approved a resolution affirming the "immeasurable value to God" of those with mental health concerns, committing to "affirm, support and share God's love and redemption with those with mental health concerns" and opposing "all stigmatization and prejudice against those who are suffering from mental health concerns."

The resolution affirmed messengers' support for "the wise use of medical intervention for mental health concerns when appropriate" and "research and treatment of mental health concerns when undertaken in a manner consistent with a biblical worldview."

In addition to Rose, the Mental Health Advisory Council includes one other Kentuckian, Eric Johnson, a pastoral care professor at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary and a member of La Grange Baptist Church.

Other members include Ronnie Floyd, pastor of Cross Church in northwest Arkansas, who presented the original motion at last year's SBC annual meeting, and Daniel Akin, president of Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary. (BP)



Tony Rose

Bowling Green ladies go extra miles for kids

By John Shindlebower

Bowling Green—When most people see a penny on the ground, they simply walk on by. Ruth Snazelle and Mabel Kirk cannot just pass it up. They've been collecting pennies for years—and children in Kentucky have reaped the benefits.

Snazelle, 93, and Kirk, 90, have nearly completed their 29th mile of pennies collected over the past couple of decades. It takes 84,480 pennies to complete one mile, meaning the two ladies have counted out nearly 2.5 million pennies.

And they show no signs of stopping.

Longtime members of Bowling Green's First Baptist Church, the ladies cash in the pennies and send the checks to Sunrise Children's Service, a ministry that

serves abused and neglected children across Kentucky.

Snazelle was a member of her church's Woman's Missionary Union and heard a representative from Sunrise suggest the Mile of Pennies fundraiser.

"We all thought it was a good idea, and as soon as I got back to church, I started it," she recalled.

Soon, she enlisted others like Kirk and another friend, Doris Harrison. Snazelle described Harrison as a small, engaging lady who would make regular visits to Sunday School classes each week, rounding up pennies and loose change.

"People called her the 'Penny Lady,'" Snazelle said. Harrison passed away just two months shy of her 90th birthday, but Snazelle and Kirk have carried on.

Snazelle said she has slowed a bit in recent years as her eyesight has weakened, but individuals continue to send in their pennies. Mile 29 is within reach.

For years, Kirk's husband, Buddy, completed the task of rolling the pennies before lugging them to the bank. Today, Mabel simply takes the pennies to the bank to be rolled and counted. She said she plans to continue her penny collecting for as long as her health will allow.

Some may think a penny is worthless, but Kirk and Snazelle disagree. "They really add up," Kirk said. One mile of pennies is worth \$844.80, and all of it goes to help children in need, she said.

Sunrise is Kentucky's largest nonprofit provider of services to children in need. Through a statewide network of foster homes, residential programs and community-based services, Sunrise cares for more than 600 children each day.

An affiliate of the Kentucky Baptist Convention, Sunrise relies heavily on the generosity and efforts of church members like Kirk and Snazelle, two ladies who understand the importance of helping young people.

Snazelle taught Sunday School at First Baptist Church, Bowling Green, for 62 years, and recalled a group of ladies 50 years ago that visited Sunrise's Glen Dale Home in Hardin County. The ladies adopted a cottage, providing boys there with food, Christmas presents. They even had the children come to Bowling Green some weekends to attend church.

Today, the effort continues, penny by penny. The two ladies have gone the extra mile to help children in need, and both say they hope to see more involvement in the Mile of Pennies campaign for Sunrise. To learn more, visit www.Sunrise.org/Mile-of-Pennies. (Sunrise)



Ruth Snazelle (left) and Mabel Kirk sort through their latest donation of pennies on their way to completing their 29th mile of pennies. The pair have raised nearly \$25,000 for Sunrise Children's Services over the years through the organization's Mile of Pennies program. (Submitted photo)

Celebration & concern

Jesus said, "There is rejoicing in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents."

Together We are the KBC



Paul Chitwood

Last week, the Western Recorder featured an article celebrating 26,567 membership additions claimed by Kentucky Baptist churches through our Southern Baptist reporting system known as the Annual Church Profile (ACP).

That number is eye-catching when you consider it exceeds the populations of cities like Ashland and Paducah,

the regional hubs of eastern and western Kentucky. 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 reported 108. And First Baptist Church of Somerset reported 102.

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. The Kentucky Baptist Convention is by far the commonwealth's largest religious organization, with some 750,000 members.

In actuality, the numbers of people baptized or transferring their membership into KBC churches is even higher, but since hundreds of our churches do not consistently submit ACP reports, we have no way of knowing the final count.

Nevertheless, as Kentucky Baptists, we are rejoicing over the nearly 14,000 baptisms that were reported, and we are also grateful for every church member added to a congregation by transfer.

While we celebrate those numbers, Chuck McAlister, who leads the KBC's evangelism and church planting team, was quick to point out to me that we also have reason to be concerned.

This year's baptisms were down from last year and our overall membership totals, when we account for deaths and those who left our churches, continue to decline.

In his book, "I am a Church Member," Thom Rainer writes, "I am suggesting that congregations across America are weak because many of us church members have lost the biblical understanding of what it means to be a part of the body of Christ." He argues that until we who are church members begin taking our responsibilities seriously—our membership seriously—we should not expect to see a turnaround from the precipitous decline of Christianity in North America.

McAlister said it like this: "Until we are genuinely broken over the lostness of our state, things will continue to get worse. What we need is heaven-sent revival, the kind that only comes from godly sorrow and repentance."

We are praying for that kind of revival to fall upon our state and nation. Apart from a movement of God, no hope will be found for our country. Will you pray with us?

Paul Chitwood is executive director of the Kentucky Baptist Convention.

'Shining the Light' through what we write

Many of us sang it around a campfire as youth: "It only takes a spark to get a fire going/and soon all those around can warm up in its glowing. That's how it is with God's love" That's also how it is with the Western Recorder. We want to "shine the Light" through the stories we write.

In each issue, we want to spark new ideas, foster new methods, develop new skills that Kentucky Baptist can use to shine the Light in sharing the good news with their families, neighbors and coworkers and in their communities, across the commonwealth, and around the world. We want them to see the many ways that Kentucky Baptists are shining the Light through our Christian camps, our colleges and campus ministries, children's ministries, disaster relief volunteers, WMU missions projects, our North American and international missionaries, and especially through our local churches and individual believers—just like them.

Why? Because "soon all those around will warm up in (the gospel's) glowing."

But how will they hear this good news? Paul answered that question in Romans: "How then shall they call on Him in whom they have not believed? And how shall they believe in Him of whom they have not heard? And how shall they hear without a preacher?"

How will they hear? They need someone to share the good news with them. They need someone to shine the Light. They need you!

Pastors, you are the key in their hearing the good news of the gospel. And, you are also the key in their hearing the good news of all that God is doing through and among Kentucky Baptists. You can help them to see how God is using them in a mighty way! Help us shine the Light!

Yes, as a pastor, you receive the Western Recorder—either in print or online. You read and know about all the good things that are happening across the Bluegrass to advance the Kingdom of God. The Kentucky Baptist Convention believes it is important for you, as a church leader, to hear and be encouraged by how God is blessing our shared ministry, as cooperating Kentucky Baptists.

But do your church members know? How will they ever hear, unless you share the good news with them? They, too, should be receiving and reading their Kentucky Baptist newspaper. Shine the Light!



After Thought

By Todd Deaton

You can help church members grasp how reading about fellow Kentucky Baptists and how we are working together in sharing the gospel will benefit their growth as disciples, by encouraging them in being obedient to the Great Commission. That's why it is so important for your church to provide the state Baptist newspaper to them: So they will be encouraged to shine the Light.

Some of you may be thinking: "Our church just can't afford to subscribe now for all our families." But I ask, can you really afford not to provide them with such a tremendous resource, especially one that helps them grow as disciples, that sets before them real-life examples of what it means to follow Jesus daily, that encourages them to become fishers of men, to shine the Light into the darkness?

So, allow me to offer a couple of suggestions of how your church can help shine the Light by sending the Western Recorder to its members:

1) Start by subscribing for your church staff and deacons. For less than \$1 a month, your church can send the Baptist newspaper into each of their homes. Then, consider adding adult Sunday school teachers and encouraging them to look for stories that illustrate biblical truths or the need to engage our culture with the gospel.

2) Next, encourage other members to join the church's group, rather than paying the higher individual subscription rate. You could include a clip-out blank in the bulletin, or register new subscribers outside the church office one Sunday. (Then, you could ask them to contribute what they've saved to missions or the Cooperative Program and help shine the Light even farther.)

But, the key is your church members have to hear. Otherwise, they won't know about what God is doing among Kentucky Baptists through their church—but if they do know, they very likely will be more inclined to support God's work through their offerings and volunteer service. They will be more apt to shine the Light.

We want to thank all of the churches and associations who are partnering with us in encouraging Kentucky Baptists to "shine like stars" by offering a group plan through which some or all of their members receive their state Baptist newspaper (see page 5). Call us today (866-489-3442) and we'll help you get the Western Recorder started in your church.

Through CP, 'reach, touch & transform' the world

By Bill Pritchett

I was saved as a young adult in a small, Southern Baptist church in Beaufort, S.C. Early in my church experience, I saw our church willingly and gladly invest 10 percent of our undesignated gifts through the Cooperative Program, in spite of its many financial needs.

It was exciting to hear how our financial and prayer support helped place our missionaries in North America and around the world. In theory, I learned the value of partnering together to take the gospel to the world.

In my early 30s, God called me to the

ministry and my first church in Bluffton, S.C. Even though we were small in number, the church's commitment to missions through CP was very strong. Missionaries on furlough would speak to our church, and I still remember the excitement of hearing from those

whom we supported through our giving. Then God called me to pursue my education. Through my studies, my theological understanding of the Cooperative Program became more personal. I discovered that CP helped financially support my education. I benefited personally from the generosity of thousands of Southern Baptist churches.

FIRST PERSON

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Shine Like Stars * Philippians 2:15

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As the years unfolded, the genius of the Cooperative Program became more apparent. Its value to Southern Baptists' mission to take the gospel to the end of the age is unparalleled, except for the work of the Holy Spirit and prayer. The strength of partnering and cooperating together to give, pray and go on mission is evident nowhere more than in our Cooperative Program.

During these challenging financial times, Southern Baptists can turn "the world upside down" (Acts 17:6) for Christ by strengthening our resolve to give 10 percent and more through CP. Doing so helps reach, touch and transform lives. I'm one such life. (BP)

Bill Pritchett is pastor of Southside Baptist Church in Andalusia, Ala.

Letters to the editor:

The Baptist Forum section of the Western Recorder provides an opportunity for Kentucky Baptists to express their viewpoints. Opinions expressed do not necessarily reflect those of the Western Recorder's editorial staff, its Board of Directors, or the Kentucky Baptist Convention. Letters should be no more than 300 words in length and will be edited for style, clarity and space. Letters must reflect a spirit of Christian charity and civility.

Thank You, Kentucky Baptist Churches

The Western Recorder would like to thank all of the churches and associations that offer a group plan to send the print edition to some or all of their families. We invite other churches to be a part of our Western Recorder family. If your church is not listed, call

(866) 489-3442 (toll free in Kentucky), and we will provide information on how to subscribe. If your church is listed and you would like to receive the Western Recorder, please contact your church office. And if your church should be listed and is not, please let us know.

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Bainbridge Grove, Cerulean
Ballardsville, Crestwood
Barbourville First, Barbourville
Barlow First, Barlow
Beacon Hill, Somerset
Beaver, Cynthiana
Beaver Dam, Beaver Dam
Bedford, Bedford
Beech Grove, Campbellsville
Beechland, Russellville
Bellevue, Burlington
Berean, Elizabethtown
Bethabara, Philpot
Bethany, Louisville
Bethany, Bowling Green
Bethany, Mayfield
Bethel, Salvisa
Bethel, Eubank
Bethel Bible, Salyersville
Bethlehem, Pleasureville
Bethlehem, Louisville
Binghamtown, Middlesboro
Blackford, Lewisport
Blanket Creek, Falmouth
Blue Ball, Elizabethtown
Blue Lick, Stanford
Blue Spring, Cadiz
Boone's Creek Association
Briensburg Church, Benton
Bruners Chapel, Harrodsburg
Buck Creek, Calhoun
Buck Run, Frankfort
Buechel Park, Louisville
Buffalo, Buffalo
Buffalo Lick, Shelbyville
Bullittsburg, Petersburg
Burkesville, Burkesville
Burlington, Burlington
Cadiz, Cadiz
Calvary, Lexington
Calvary, London
Calvary, Betsy Layne
Calvary, Corbin
Camp Ground, Somerset
Campbellsville, Campbellsville
Campton, Campton
Canmer, Munfordville
Canton, Cadiz
Carlisle Avenue, Louisville
Carrollton First, Carrollton
Casky, Hopkinsville
Cecilia, Cecilia
Cedar Creek, Fern Creek
Cedar Creek First, Bardstown
Central, Winchester
Central, Maysville
Cerulean, Cerulean
Chaplin, Chaplin
Chenoweth Park, Louisville
Cherry Corner, Murray
Clayville, Shelbyville
Clear Run, Beaver Dam
Columbia, Columbia
Concord, Dry Ridge
Coral Hill, Glasgow
Corbin First, Corbin
Corinth, Winchester
Corinth, London
Cornerstone, Burlington
Countryside, Morganfield
Cow Creek, Ravenna
Crescent Springs, Crescent Springs

Crestwood, Crestwood
Crittenden, Crittenden
Cumberland, Cumberland
Dallasburg, Worthville
Dawson, Philpot
Dawson Springs First, Dawson Springs
Deer Park, Louisville
DeHaven, La Grange
Dixon First, Dixon
Donaldson, Princeton
Duke Memorial, Somerset
Dunmor, Dunmor
Dunn, Dawson Springs
Dycusburg, Fredonia
East Cadiz, Cadiz
East Hickman, Lexington
East View First, East View
Eddyville First, Eddyville
Edgewood, Hopkinsville
Edgewood, Nicholasville
Elizabethtown, Elizabethtown
Elkhorn Association
Elkhorn City, Elkhorn City
Elkton, Elkton
Elsmere, Erlanger
Eubank, Eubank
Ewing, Ewing
Fairlane, Alexandria
Faith, Frankfort
Falmouth, Falmouth
Fern Creek, Louisville
Flint, Dexter
Florence, Florence
Floyd Switch, Eubank
Fordsville, Fordsville
Forest Hills First, Forest Hills
Friendship, Russell Springs
Friendship, Campbellsville
Friendship, Oakland
Fry, Greensburg
Gardnersville, Crittenden
Ghent, Carrollton
Gilead, Glendale
Good Hope, Campbellsville
Grace, Lexington
Grand Rivers, Grand Rivers
Green Acres, Louisville
Greensburg, Greensburg
Greenville First, Greenville
Greenville Second, Greenville
Harrodsburg, Harrodsburg
Hart, London
Hartford, Hartford
Hazard First, Hazard
Hebron, Hebron
Henderson First, Henderson
Highland Heights First, Highland Heights
Highland Hills, Fort Thomas
Highland Park, Louisville
Hindman First, Hindman
Hobbs, Cows Creek
Hodgenville First, Hodgenville
Holland, Scottsville
Hopewell, Louisville
Hopkinsville First, Hopkinsville
Horse Cave, Horse Cave
Horse Creek, Manchester
Hurricane, Cadiz
Hurstbourne, Louisville
Immanuel, Lexington
Immanuel, Pikeville
Immanuel, Paducah
Immanuel Temple, Henderson
Independence, Beaver Dam
Jackson First, Jackson

Jamestown, Jamestown
Johnson Island, Nebo
Jordan, Carrollton
Junction City First, Junction City
Kelly, Hopkinsville
Kevil First, Kevil
La Grange, La Grange
Lake City, Grand Rivers
Laurel River, London
Lawrenceburg First, Lawrenceburg
Lebanon, Lebanon
Lewisport, Lewisport
Liberty, Mayfield
Liberty, Leitchfield
Liberty, Russell Springs
Liberty, Campbellsville
Liberty First, Liberty
Lincoln County, Stanford
Lockport, Lockport
Locust Grove, Cadiz
London First, London
Long Run, Eastwood
Loyall First, Loyall
Lyndon, Louisville
Macedonia, Kuttawa
Macedonia, Greensburg
Macedonia, Jonesville
Madisonville First, Madisonville
Mallard Point, Georgetown
Manchester, Manchester
Manitou, Manitou
Maple Grove, Louisville
Marion, Marion
Mayfield First, Mayfield
May's Lick, May's Lick
Melber, Melber
Melbourne Heights, Louisville
Memorial, Murray
Memorial, Frankfort
Mexico, Marion
Midway Missionary, Dawson Springs
Mill Creek, Tompkinsville
Millville, Frankfort
Milton, Milton
Monticello First, Monticello
Morgantown First, Morgantown
Mortons Gap First, Mortons Gap
Mount Carmel, Hartford
Mount Carmel, Boston
Mount Gilboa, Campbellsville
Mount Gilead, Greensburg
Mount Hermon, Bedford
Mount Moriah, Mount Eden
Mount Olive, Russell Springs
Mount Olivet, Lowes
Mount Pisgah, Bremen
Mount Pleasant, Nicholasville
Mount Pleasant, Lewisburg
Mount Pleasant, Somerset
Mount Tabor, Elkton
Mount Vernon, Jamestown
Mount Vernon First, Mount Vernon
Mount Washington, Campbellsville
Mount Washington First, Mount Washington
Mount Zion, Elizabethtown
Mount Zion, Dry Ridge
Murray First, Murray
New Bethel, Hardinsburg
New Bethel, Eddyville
New Bethel, Verona
New Columbus, Corinth
New Enterprise, Somerset
New Friendship, Auburn
New Hope, Springfield
New Hope, West Liberty
New Palestine, Crofton

New Salem, Monticello
New Zion Missionary, Horse Branch
Nolynn, Hodgenville
North Benson, Frankfort
North Livingston, Hampton
Nortonville, Nortonville
Oak Grove, Tyner
Oak Grove, Cadiz
Oak Grove, Russellville
Oak Grove, Mount Hermon
Oak Ridge, Covington
Okalona, Nancy
Okolona, Louisville
Old Salem, Salem
Oldham-Trimble Association
Olivet, Herndon
Olivet, Paducah
Oneida, Oneida
Ovesen Heights, Hodgenville
Owens Chapel, Kirksey
Owensboro First, Owensboro
Owensboro Third, Owensboro
Owenton First, Owenton
Paducah First, Paducah
Paint Lick, Warsaw
Paris First, Paris
Parkland, Louisville
Parksville, Parksville
Parkway, Bardstown
Parkway, Lexington
Pellville, Hawesville
Penile, Fairdale
Penn Avenue, Georgetown
Petrey Memorial, Hazard
Peytontown, Richmond
Pierces Chapel, Columbia
Pigeon Fork, Waddy
Piner, Morning View
Pineville First, Pineville
Plano, Bowling Green
Pleasant Grove, Shepherdsville
Pleasant Hill, Campbellsville
Pleasant Home, Glencoe
Pleasant Ridge, Manchester
Pleasant Ridge, Frankfort
Pleasant Ridge, Owenton
Pleasant Valley, Horse Cave
Pleasant Valley, Providence
Pond Run, Beaver Dam
Ponderosa, Cadiz
Poplar Spring, Murray
Powderly, Powderly
Powells Valley, Clay City
Powersville, Brooksville
Prestonsburg First, Prestonsburg
Princeton First, Princeton
Providence, Winchester
Providence, Frankfort
Providence, Kevil
Pulaski Association
Ralph Avenue, Louisville
Red Hill, Vine Grove
Rich Pond, Bowling Green
Richmond First, Richmond
Ridgecrest, Beaver Dam
Rineyville, Rineyville
Riverside, Fourmile
Robinson Creek, Campbellsville
Rolling Fork, New Hope
Rosemont, Lexington
Round Top, Elizabethtown
Russell First, Russell
Russell Springs First, Russell Springs
Salem, Irvine
Salem, Pembroke
Salem, Campbellsville
Saloma, Campbellsville

Salvisa, Salvisa
Sand Spring, Lawrenceburg
Sanders, Sanders
Sandy Creek, Morgantown
Scottsville, Scottsville
Sebree First, Sebree
Severns Valley, Elizabethtown
Shady Grove, Franklin
Sharon, Mayfield
Shepherdsville First, Shepherdsville
Sherman, Crittenden
Shiloh, Arlington
Shively, Louisville
Sinking Fork, Hopkinsville
Slover, Manitou
Smithfield, Smithfield
Smithsboro, Vicco
Somerset First, Somerset
South Elkhorn, Lexington
South Fork, Hodgenville
South Jefferson, Valley Station
Southern Heights, Lexington
Southside, Princeton
Spears Mill, Paris
Spottsville Missionary, Spottsville
St. John, Frankfort
St. Matthews, Louisville
Stanley, Owensboro
Stanton, Stanton
Station, Island
Stearns First, Stearns
Stewarts Creek, Lebanon
Stithton, Radcliff
Sullivan, Sullivan
Sulphur Spring, Franklin
Taylorsville First, Taylorsville
Temple Hill, Glasgow
Ten Mile, Glencoe
Thompsonville, Springfield
Thornhill, Frankfort
Trammell Creek, Greensburg
Trenton, Trenton
Tunnel Hill, Elizabethtown
Turner Ridge, Falmouth
Twelve Oaks, Paducah
Unity, Ashland
Versailles, Versailles
Viney Fork, Berea
Walkers Chapel, Parkers Lake
Wallaceton, Paint Lick
Wallins, Wallins Creek
Wallonia, Cadiz
Walnut Street, Louisville
Walton First, Walton
Warfield, Warfield
Wayne County Association
West Providence, Beaver Dam
West Union Association
Westport, Westport
White Sulphur, Princeton
Whitesburg First, Whitesburg
Whitesville, Whitesville
Whitley City First, Whitley City
Willard, Grayson
Williamsburg First, Williamsburg
Willow, Falmouth
Willow Grove, Danville
Winchester First, Winchester
Wolf Creek, Grayson
Woodland, Louisville
Woodland, Greenville
Worthville, Worthville
Yellow Creek, Owensboro
Yuma, Campbellsville
Zion, Henderson
Zion, Reynolds Station
Zion's Cause, Benton

Mass. Supreme Court: 'Under God' can stay in pledge

By Bob Smietana

Boston—Reciting the words "under God" in the Pledge of Allegiance is

constitutional, the Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court ruled last week.

The court ruled that the pledge is voluntary and allowed under state law. If a student objects to the terms "under God," they can skip that part of the pledge, Chief

Justice Roderick Ireland wrote, according to *The Boston Globe*.

"Students are free, for any reason or for no reason at all, to recite it in its entirety, not recite it at all, or recite or decline to recite any part of it they choose, without fear of punishment."

A recent LifeWay Research survey found little support for efforts to change the pledge. Fewer than 1 in 10 Americans (8 percent) want to remove "under God" from the pledge. Researchers also found that 1 in 4 Americans (25 percent) believe forcing students to say "under God" violates their rights.

The decision concludes a legal battle that started in 2010. An atheist couple, who have three children in public school, objected to the pledge because they said it violates their beliefs.

The couple also feared their children would be labeled unpatriotic, since they don't believe in God. A similar lawsuit has been filed in New Jersey.

Both cases are part of a new legal

strategy for atheist groups. Their efforts to change the pledge have failed in federal courts, so they've switched focus to state courts, according to the *Christian Science Monitor*. Instead of arguing the pledge violates the First Amendment, atheist groups now argue that reciting it discriminates against nonbelievers.

"So, if you're an atheist who happens to feel that you're being discriminated against, it only makes sense to consider all of the alternatives," David Niose, legal director at the American Humanist Association, told the *Monitor*.

Judges in Massachusetts rejected the discrimination claim. They found no evidence the children had been harmed because they refused to say the pledge.

"There is nothing in the record indicating that this has, in fact, happened to the plaintiffs' children or to any other Massachusetts schoolchildren because of their decision to exercise their right not to recite the words 'under God' in the pledge," Ireland wrote. (BP)

Supreme Court upholds ceremonial prayer at public meetings, says it holds with tradition

Washington—The U.S. Supreme Court has ruled overtly Christian prayers at government meetings do not violate the First Amendment's ban on establishing religion.

Writing for the majority, Justice Anthony Kennedy said the town of Greece, N.Y.'s, practice of opening council meetings with prayers led by a local minister is in keeping with the long tradition of "legislative prayer," consistent with both houses of Congress maintaining a chaplain

to open each day's session with prayer.

The majority reversed an appeals court ruling that because the prayers were overwhelmingly led by Christians, the practice gave the appearance that the town was endorsing one religion over others. The parties in the lawsuit did not oppose the use of ceremonial prayer but argued that it must be non-sectarian.

Russell Moore, president of the Ethics and Religious Liberty Commission of the Southern

Baptist Convention, said the Supreme Court "did the right thing" in reversing the lower court's decision.

"The Town of Greece case is about a government seeking to establish a state-ordered civil religion that crowds out the most basic rights of freedom of speech," Moore said in a written statement. "That is not what our ancestors, and their allies among the American founders, meant by religious liberty." (ABP)

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For King & Country

for KING & COUNTRY
— CRAVE —



Lysa TerKeurst is President of Proverbs 31 Ministries, a New York Times bestselling author and a speaker who helps women live an adventure of faith through following Jesus Christ.



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A member of an Arkansas Baptist State Convention disaster relief chainsaw team works to clear downed trees from a home in Mayflower, Ark., north of Little Rock. Hundreds of Southern Baptist Disaster Relief volunteers responded to storm-related damage in at least six states May 3. (Arkansas Baptist News photo)

Disaster relief

Continued from page 1

that, chaplain Charles Light was also able to visit in the school. Our chaplains have had the opportunity to serve people who are in great need." Temple served with the chaplain team that responded to the 2012 Sandy Hook Elementary School shooting in Newtown, Conn.

In addition to Mississippi SBDR volunteers serving in the hardest-hit areas of Brandon, Columbus, Louisville and Tupelo, three chainsaw teams from Louisiana have also served in the state, Swarts reported.

Arkansas SBDR director Joe Garner said eight chainsaw and clean-up teams were working in the Mayflower and Vilonia areas May 2.

"These storms were so strong that the slabs were swept clean by the wind," Garner said, noting that 250 volunteers recently helped with the work in those areas. "There is very little chainsaw work to do. It is mainly clearing debris."

"Much like Arkansas, most of the homes here were completely destroyed. There is little to do even in recovery. Everything is gone," said David Acres, SBDR director for the Tennessee Baptist Convention.

Missouri SBDR director Dwaine Carter, who returned from rebuild efforts in the Philippines May 2, reported that mud-out units were working in response to flooding in the southeast corner of the state. Teams also were active in Florida and North Carolina in response to storms in those states.

Since April 26, destructive storms have affected 13 states.

North American Mission Board Disaster Relief Executive Director Fritz Wilson praised the service of SBDR volunteers.

"This is one of the many things that DR volunteers do so well," he said. "In the immediate response, they are there. The physical help is tremendous. The presence of someone who cares truly helps. It begins the healing process for survivors. And then the long-term nature of our volunteers' service, in places like the Philippines and New York and New Jersey, ... eventually brings hope."

Those wishing to donate to SBDR storm relief can visit the Kentucky Baptist Convention website, KyBaptist.org or visit Donations.NAMB.net/DR-Donations.

NAMB coordinates and manages Southern Baptist responses to major disasters through partnerships with 42 state Baptist conventions, most of which have their own disaster relief ministries. (NAMB)

'Explore the Bible' curriculum expands to include kids, students

Nashville, Tenn.—This fall, LifeWay's Explore the Bible line of curriculum will expand to include studies for young adults, students and children.

"Until now, Explore the Bible has been a book-by-book study only for adults," said Toby Jennings, managing editor of the study. "With this expansion, it will become the only curriculum we know that provides book-by-book Bible study for groups of all ages."

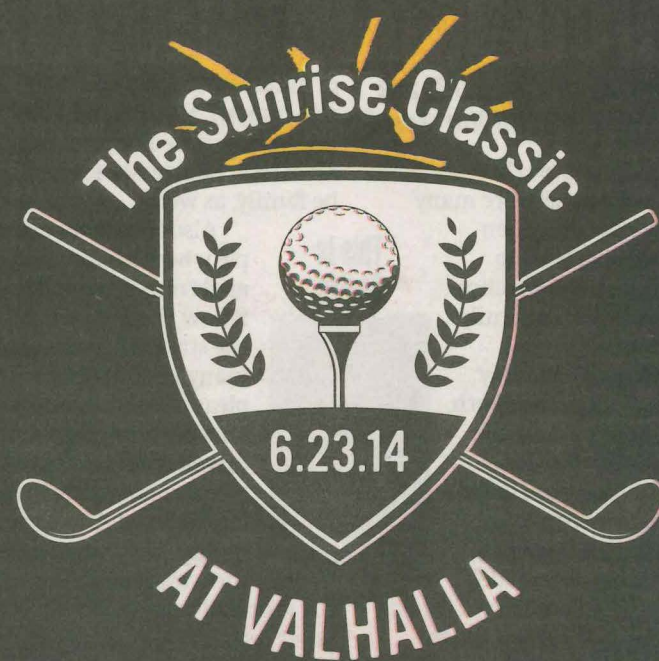
Adults and students will study the same passage of Scripture every week. The material for kids will focus on the same concept within the same book as adults and students. They may, however, cross-reference a connected story in Scripture that elaborates on the primary message to make challenging concepts more kid-friendly. All ages will study the



same memory verse.

Jennings said each study session is developed to help groups understand a Bible passage within its larger context. Sessions include discussion questions, in-depth commentary and a reading plan for each book of the Bible.

Explore the Bible also is partnering with leading Bible teachers and scholars to develop the material and serve as general editors for specific studies. (LifeWay)



CHARITY TOURNAMENT

Play Kentucky's most prestigious course for one of Kentucky's most precious causes - our children.

There are still spots for golfers and sponsors for the Sunrise Classic to be held at Valhalla Golf Club in Louisville on June 23.

This charity tournament benefits Sunrise Children's Services as we continue our 145-year effort to care for children across the Commonwealth who have been abused and neglected.

To learn how you can participate, visit us at sunrise.org or call us at 800-456-1386.



The Oneida family

Those with connections to OBI are found across Ky., around the world

Many of our choir trips this year have been to places where there are many Oneida connections. But when our choir recently traveled to First Baptist Church of Lawrenceburg, it was like a Gritton family and OBI reunion.

The church has two Sunday morning services; I spoke in both, and the choir joined me for the later service. I traveled to Lawrenceburg on Saturday so I could visit my sister, brother-in-law, nephew and the little 1-year-old boy who is the most recent addition to our family. My Saturday visit had already been great, but what was to come on Sunday was great, too.

After arriving at the church, I saw one of my aunts and two cousins. I hadn't seen one of those cousins since my grandmother's funeral in 1997. As it came closer to service time, another aunt, uncle and other cousins and their spouses appeared. Some were members of the church, but others had come over for the early service before heading to their own churches.

After the service, I attended Sunday School with my uncle, whose two sons graduated from Oneida. During that class, a 2001 graduate I had as a student at Oneida came by and said hello. Afterward, I met her husband and two children—which kind of made me feel old.

Before the second service, I got to chat with another cousin who served as a teacher at Oneida during the 1980s. I also got to see another aunt and more cousins before the service started.

While preaching, I asked for a show

of hands from folks who had been on our campus. More than half of the people present raised their hands. I consider all of our OBI friends across this state to be family, as well.

Also in attendance was a couple whose son recently graduated from Oneida. They often follow the school choir around the state. After the service, I met many new OBI friends and was pleasantly surprised to see another alumnus who had driven from Lexington.

After swinging through Lexington to let Angie spend a little money, we returned home. On the way, I thought of how great

our visit had been in Lawrenceburg. It never ceases to amaze me how many folks have been impacted by God's work at this little place.

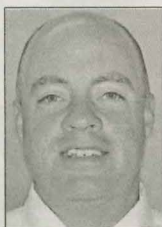
Once home, I attended the Sunday night service with our students. Our senior class thanked the Oneida faculty and staff for what they had done for them and for being family. Oneida is blessed with so many great friends who have ties to us, and the OBI bond is different than most any of which I know.

As I watch our senior class finish their OBI experience, I wonder when and where I might one day encounter them in the future. Perhaps in one of our state churches, or perhaps I will read about what the Lord is using them to do in some other part of the world.

The Oneida family extends across the globe as our students leave us and return to places from afar hopefully to share about the Christ they met 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

Investments in kingdom work

Cooperative Program investment in Clear Creek seen in graduates

As I write this article, I am sitting at my desk and looking out the window that faces the quad. I am watching a group of graduates who will be walking across a stage at the end of the week to receive diplomas stating they have completed the necessary requirements toward a bachelor's degree in their ministry fields.

Their mood is definitely more joyous than it was last week when they were facing their senior finals. But they all survived, and now they are enjoying the week-long festivities we have for our graduates before we send them out.

As I watch these graduates, I am reminded of what it takes for them to get to this point in their ministry calling. For students like these who come to Clear Creek, a major portion of their support comes from Kentucky Baptists who invest in these students and their ministry calling through Cooperative Program giving.

As Kentucky Baptists, you can be proud of the result from your investment in kingdom work through your CP giving that comes to Clear Creek. A

large percentage of our graduates are already serving as pastors and in leadership roles at local churches here in Kentucky and the neighboring tri-state area. And now they will simply transition from their studies to the ministry field.

Your Cooperative Program support will also send church planters out to share the good news of Jesus Christ in North America. Your gifts will send our students to the other side of the world to serve as career missionaries to share the gospel with those who have never heard. Your investments in

kingdom work will enable students to minister in halfway houses and jails sharing the good news of Jesus Christ and discipling women who are trying to turn their lives around.

A large percentage of our financial support here at Clear Creek comes from Kentucky Baptist churches and their Cooperative Program giving. We could not fulfill the mission God has called us to without your support. Thank you, Kentucky Baptists, for investing in the lives of these graduates.

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

Sunrise Children's Services

Caring for the abused & neglected children of the commonwealth



By John Shindlebower

David is a friendly, smiling 5-year-old boy who is excelling in his first year of school and has made plenty of new friends. That's only remarkable when you learn what David's life was like the year before.

Sexually abused by his mother's boyfriend, David was suffering physically and emotionally. It's not known how long the abuse had been going on. It only stopped when the abuse was reported and David was removed from the home.

Still, he struggled with anger, nightmares and other issues because of the wounds. He needed security. He needed love. He needed a real family.

He was placed in a foster home through Sunrise Children's Services, and his new family accepted him with open hearts and open arms. His nightmares began to subside, his fits of rage disappeared, and the smile returned to his face.

Child abuse and neglect cause real pain. Mistreatment leaves real scars, both physical and emotional. But there is hope for healing and recovery.

Sunrise Children's Services provides a refuge for these children in need. Its work began in 1869 in Louisville. Today, Sunrise operates eight residential programs, a number of community-based counseling programs and a statewide network of foster homes. Sunrise cares for more than 600 children each day.

The stories are heartbreaking. The results are often amazing.

Four young children came to Sunrise after they were removed from a home where the living conditions were unimaginable. They were so hungry, they were barely able to communicate. They had very little clothing. They hadn't been bathed in some time. They were infested with lice.

A dedicated foster family spent the first evening feeding, bathing, cleaning and caring for these children. In a few days, one of them, a 4-year-old girl was able to open up and share stories about the horrible conditions in which she and the other children had lived.

After an investigation, it was discovered that two babies had previously died in this home. Those who were

responsible fled the state, but the four rescued children remained in the safe care of their foster family.

Not only has Sunrise seen lives saved, they've seen lives transformed.

A 14-year-old boy named Kevin had never heard the words, "Good night, I love you." He never knew his father, and his mother was a regular drug user who moved from place to place to satisfy her addiction.

When his mom needed a "fix," he would be given a dollar or a piece of candy and told to "get lost" for a while. Eventually, Kevin was removed from the home and placed in a foster home where he has been staying for more than two years.

In his foster home, he gets the love he's longed for. The last words he hears before drifting off to sleep are words of love and encouragement. He jokes with his foster mom that he'll have a place to call home, even when he's 40 years old.

Often, the foster homes become forever homes through legal adoption.

Such was the case for an 11-year-old girl named Candi and her younger brother. She can recall being left in a parked car with her brother while her biological parents went into a home to party and do drugs. She remembers knocking on neighbors' doors looking for food.

Finally, the abuse and neglect was reported, and the children were removed from the home. The biological parents expressed little concern over the welfare of their children, and the courts terminated their parental rights.

Three years after moving into their foster home, the children became permanent members of the family through legal adoption. No more being left in parked cars. No more begging door to door for their next meal.

Child abuse and neglect shouldn't happen, but it does. Thankfully, there are caring organizations and people who stand ready to pick up a child who has been beaten down.

If you would like more information about how you can help a child in need, or make a gift to Sunrise's Shine! offering, visit Sunrise.org.

John Shindlebower is associate director of communications at Sunrise Children's Services.

Florida pastor announced as SBC Pastors' Conf. presidential nominee

West Palm Beach, Fla.—Willy Rice, pastor of Calvary Baptist Church in Clearwater, Fla., will be nominated for president of the Southern Baptist Pastors' Conference, according to an announcement by fellow Florida pastor Jimmy Scroggins.

Scroggins, pastor at First Baptist Church of West Palm Beach, Fla., stated in a May 5 announcement to Baptist Press: "It will be my great privilege to nominate my friend, Dr. Willy Rice, as president of the Pastors' Conference of the Southern Baptist Convention. Willy has served as the pastor of Calvary Baptist Church in Clearwater, Fla., since 2004.

"Under his leadership this historic congregation has experienced renewed health and significant growth in every area," Scroggins wrote. "Calvary averages more than 3,500 people attending multiple services on two campuses. Calvary is annually recognized as one of the leaders

in missions giving and baptisms in the state of Florida. Outreach magazine has listed Calvary as one of the 100 fastest growing churches in America."



Willy Rice

Scroggins said Rice "understands and rejoices in the rich history of the SBC, but Willy pastors in a major metropolitan area, and his church embodies the racial and socio-economic diversity required for Southern Baptists to be a gospel force in the future."

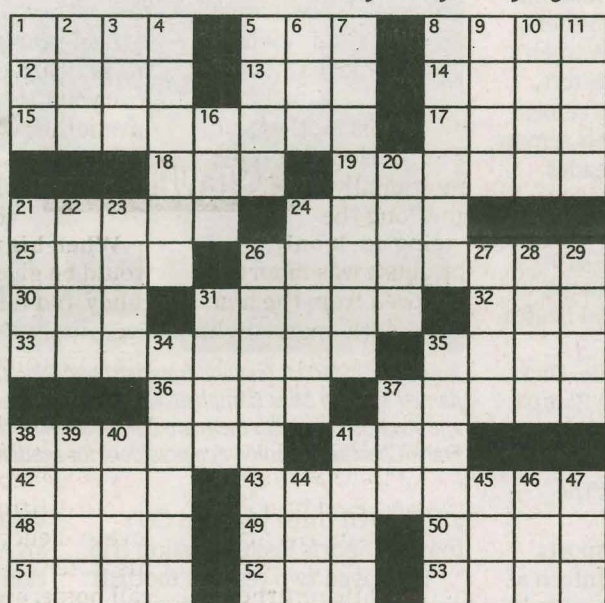
Rice, 50, led Calvary Baptist Church through a complete relocation from its historic campus in downtown Clearwater, Fla., to its current location in the east area of the city. The church has a second campus in East Lake, Fla., just to the north.

Rice served previously at Hillcrest Baptist Church in Pensacola, Fla., and was president of the Florida Baptist Convention from 2006-08. (BP)

Bible Crosswords

Across

- 1 "What ____ I am afraid, I will trust in thee" (Psalm 56:3)
- 5 "They cast ____, that is, the lot, before Haman" (Esther 3:7)
- 8 It's not exactly red
- 12 In the near future (arch.)
- 13 Gobbled up
- 14 First two words in Key's composition
- 15 "Help thou mine ____" (Mark 9:24)
- 17 Au ____ (teenaged helper)
- 18 Relieve
- 19 Filled with evil desires, as a heart
- 21 Synonym for scow
- 24 Toward the sheltered side
- 25 "____ them that have the rule over you" (Hebrews 13:17)
- 26 "Thou hast ____ me when I was in distress" (Psalm 4:1)
- 30 Legal object
- 31 Michael, for one
- 32 Poem
- 33 "Yea, I ____ unto you, and ... none of you that convinced Job" (Job 32:12)
- 35 Zone
- 36 Beverages
- 37 Squander
- 38 Cyrus was the king of ____ (Ezra 3:7)
- 41 One who hisses



#199

Down

- 1 Greek letter
- 2 Holiday, for one
- 3 Multitude
- 4 Strength
- 5 Receipt word
- 6 Western Native American
- 7 What the watchful waiter did?
- 8 Mines found on Cyprus
- 9 Dweller in the land of Seir, the country of Edom (Genesis 32:3)
- 10 Depilatory brand
- 11 Seaport in Lebanon
- 16 Recline
- 20 Repast
- 21 Fierce wind of the Adriatic
- 22 Aid's ally
- 23 What's left

- 24 Skirt feature
- 43 "Be sober, be ____" (1 Peter 5:8)
- 48 Melita, for one
- 49 Natural mineral
- 50 Day before (pl.)
- 51 Samuel, to some
- 52 See ____
- 53 Want no more
- 24 Heavenly beings (Fr.)
- 26 Earnest attempt
- 27 Blood and guts
- 28 Utopia
- 29 "If we be ____ with Christ ... we shall also live with him" (Romans 6:8)
- 31 Girl's nickname
- 34 Resurrection day
- 35 "A word fitly spoken is like ____ of gold" (Proverbs 25:11)
- 37 Supplemental income (abbr.)
- 38 Greek letters
- 39 Word in a threat
- 40 Stir up
- 41 Long in the tooth
- 44 Anger
- 45 Actress Gardner
- 46 Fish trap
- 47 Double this for (perhaps) fatal flier

By Evelyn Boyington

Defining 'convictions'

Times demand believers look only to the Word for 'firmly held' beliefs

What do convictions mean? Well, unfortunately, like much of our world and society, just taking the Webster's Dictionary definition at face value is no longer telling of what people actually do.

A simple dictionary definition for conviction is: "a firmly held belief or opinion." Seems pretty clear to me, but how firm is "firmly" and does "held" mean all the time or just in certain cases?

I believe we are entering into what will prove to be a most defining time for the church and Christian faith in the modern era. It will all come down to which convictions do actually define us as Christ followers.

Throughout history, the church has flourished most when persecuted, and, honestly, we have had little persecution in the United States up until now or which is likely to come very soon. It seems as though our culture is on such a fast track to total moral collapse, we will be forced to becoming highly public with our "convictions" individually

and corporately as churches, ministries and denominations.

With all that being said, it is with great humility that we must approach this time. Additionally, holding firm to the inerrancy of the Bible must continue to be the anchor that grounds our faith, empowers our words and defines our actions.

I always consider that passage beginning in John 1, "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God and the Word was God." We could spend a lifetime seeking to understand all the truth and implications of this one verse.

Perhaps a great place to start is to be convicted of this passage and hold firm to it. The times demand it.

The Bible attests to itself that it is completely true. Therefore, the very foundation of any conviction must begin in the Bible, remain in the Bible, all while being a sustained Word in us.

Crossings Ministries



David Melber

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

PROTECTING Biblical MARRIAGE

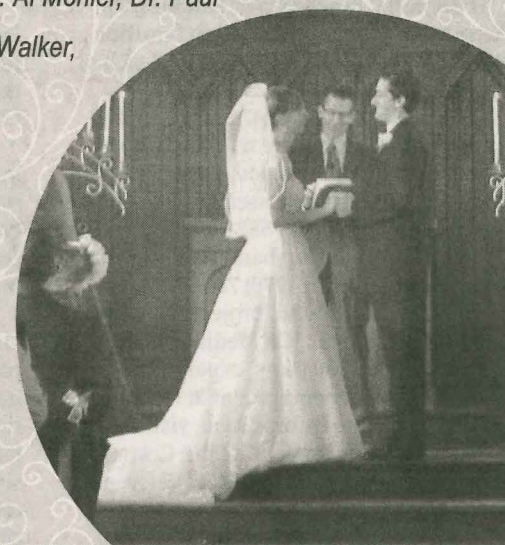
PRACTICAL AND LEGAL ISSUES FOR YOUR CHURCH

May 22, 2014 | 7 pm-9 pm | Crestwood Baptist Church
6400 Sweetbay Drive, Crestwood, KY 40014

Recent court rulings have cracked open the door to redefining marriage in Kentucky. What legal issues will churches face for taking a biblical stand on marriage? Hear from leaders like Dr. Al Mohler, Dr. Paul Chitwood, D. August Boto, Andrew Walker, Curtis Woods and Dr. Bill Langley.

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May

- 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 Changers 2014, Hopkinsville.
- 8-9** National Woman's Missionary Union Missions Celebration and Annual Meeting, Baltimore.
- 9-13** Mission Adventure Camp for Girls and Boys, Cedar Crest Camp, Bagdad.
- 10-11** Southern Baptist Convention Annual Meeting, Baltimore.
- 13-14** Mother/Daughter and Father/Son Overnight Camps, Cedar Crest Camp, Bagdad.
- 15-20** Kentucky Changers 2014, Louisville.
- 16-20** Mission Adventure Camp for Girls and Boys, Cedar Crest Camp, Bagdad.

MOUNTAINS TO THE MISSISSIPPI

COMPILED BY STAFF

■ **AUBURN**—New Friendship Church will celebrate its 180th anniversary with homecoming services May 18, 9 a.m. **Barry Raley** is pastor.

■ **CECILIA**—Cecilia Church will hold an area-wide evangelism rally May 21, 7 p.m. **Eric Oliver** is pastor.

■ **GREENVILLE**—Cave Springs Church will hold revival services May 18, 11 a.m. & 6 p.m.; May 19-21, 7 p.m., with **Steve Rutherford**, pastor of New Salem Church in Nortonville, as evangelist. **Mickey McPherson** is pastor.

■ **HOPKINSVILLE**—First Church will host **Bruce & Lisa Wethely** in concert May 18, 10:45 a.m. & 6 p.m. For more information, call (270) 886-1216.

■ **LOUISVILLE**—Bethany Church will hold a community "Spring Fling"

May 17, 4 p.m. **Ken Vickery** is pastor. Carlisle Avenue Church will hold a ladies' tea event May 17. **Brad Walker** is pastor.

Gilda's Club Louisville will hold a "Cancer as a Journey of Faith" seminar May 19, 7 p.m., moderated by **Rebecca Church**, director of pastoral services for the Wesley Manor Retirement Community in Louisville. The meeting's theme is "prayer." For more information or to register, visit www.Gildas-ClubLouisville.org/Events or call (502) 583-0075.

St. Matthews Church will hold its annual St. Matthews Street Festival May 17. **Greg Barr** is pastor. **MORGANFIELD**—First Church will hold a women's painting class May 15, 5:30 p.m. **Tim Leadingham** is pastor.

■ **OWENSBORO**—First Church will hold an Awana Oscars event May 14, 5:45 p.m. **Paul Strahan** is pastor.

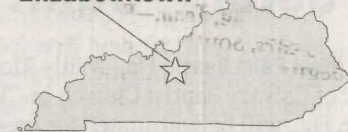
■ **PRESTONSBURG**—First Church will host Enterprise Association's MULTIPLY Sunday School workshop May 19, 6:30 p.m. The cost to attend is \$5 per person, with a \$25 maximum per church team. For more information, call (606) 886-3335. **Jerry Workman** is pastor.

■ **PIKEVILLE**—Grace Church will host Pike Association's MULTIPLY Sunday School workshop May 20, 6:30 p.m. The cost to attend is \$5 per person, with a \$25 maximum per church team. For more information, call (606) 432-2660. **Brian Horton** is pastor.

■ **PRINCETON**—Northside Church will host its annual missions banquet May 16, 6:30 p.m. **Jeff McCarty**

Spotlight on ...

Elizabethtown



Severns Valley Church will host an area-wide evangelism rally May 21, 7 p.m., with SBC President **Fred Luter**, pastor of Franklin Avenue Church in New Orleans, as evangelist. A youth pizza bash will precede the service at 6:15 p.m. **Bill Langley** is pastor.

is pastor.

■ **WILLIAMSBURG**—Main Street Church held revival services April 27-29 with **Brent Gambrell**, president of Brent Gambrell Ministries in Nashville, Tenn., as evangelist. **Bill Wright** is pastor.

Mr. and Miss Campbellsville exhibit heart for ministry

Campbellsville—Miss Campbellsville University, Audrey Wunderlich, said she plans to continue the Lord's work wherever He leads, while Mr. Campbellsville University, Rico Dickerson, said he hopes to work with youth, showing them the love of Christ.

Wunderlich will be traveling on mission trips throughout the United States this summer.

A Frankfort native, Wunderlich is a May graduate with a bachelor's in mass communication and public relations.

While at Campbellsville, she was president of the local chapter of the Public Relations Student Society of America and the Student Government Association.

Wunderlich has participated in Beach Reach in Panama City, Fla.

She has worked as an admissions intern for the past six semesters, resident assistant of the Women's Village the past four semesters, First Class mentor for two semesters, and as a lifeguard this semester. She also was a cheerleader four years.

Dickerson, of Memphis, Tenn., graduated in May, receiving his bachelor's with a double major in educational ministries and health and physical education.

While at Campbellsville, Dickerson has served with the Baptist Campus Ministry's sports ministry and Athletes in Action. He was also one of the leaders for the "Crazy Love" Bible study.

Dickerson served as a sports and recreation activities intern at Campbellsville Baptist Church. He



Audrey Wunderlich (second from left) and Rico Dickerson (second from right) were named Mr. and Miss Campbellsville University during the school's recent Honors and Awards Day. With them are Campbellsville President Michael Carter (left) and Frank Cheatham, senior vice president for academic affairs. (CU photo)

also served three years on CU's football Sports Reach mission trip. He played two years of football and was a member of the 2011

Victory Bowl champs. He received an All-Conference honorable mention in 2011 and was a pre-season All-American in 2012. (CU)

CLASSIFIED ADS

FOR RENT: Beach trip or Smokies? Accommodations for Christian families available at reduced rates, Myrtle Beach or Pigeon Forge. Call (865) 210-1118.

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

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

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.

SEEKING: Tunnel Hill Baptist Church is seeking a part-time youth director for approximately 20 hours a week. If interested, please email resumé to tunnelhill-baptistchurch@gmail.com.

SEEKING: East Frankfort Baptist Church (a conservative Southern Baptist church) is prayerfully seeking an ordained, full-time senior pastor. Sunday morning average attendance is 100-125. Candidate should have pastoral experience, effective communication skills and a love for all people. Seminary education is preferred, but not required. Send resumé with references and a DVD or Internet link of two sermons to EFBC, 457 Versailles Road, Frankfort, KY 40601.

SEEKING: Connection Church in Spearfish, S.D., is a new church plant in search of a youth pastor. Being a new church plant, this is an area that is new and ready for leadership. For more information, please go to our website, www.spearfishconnection.com, and look under the 'Ministry' tab.

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.

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SEEKING: Pinckard Baptist Church, located in Woodford County, is in search of the man that God has chosen to be our full-time pastor. Forward resumé to Pastor Search Committee, 3401 Pinckard Pike, Versailles, KY 40383, or email to pbcpastorsearch@windstream.net.

SEEKING: Bivocational minister of music; minimum of 10 hours per week; must be a Southern Baptist; Sunday a.m. & p.m. choir practice. Resumé to Crittenden Baptist Church, P.O. Box 132, Crittenden, KY 41030, Attn: Personnel Team.

By Rebecca Wolford

Nashville, Tenn.—For the past 25 years, Southern Baptists have begun each annual meeting by celebrating hundreds—sometimes thousands—of new souls won for Christ.

This celebration is the result of Crossover, the evangelistic outreach initiative preceding the annual meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention.

Each year, the North American Mission Board partners with state conventions, associations and local churches to saturate the host city of the convention with evangelistic events. Volunteers from across the country arrive in the city a few days prior to the annual meeting to participate alongside local church members. Last year, Crossover Houston marked the 25th year of outreach.

In 1983, when messengers approved Las Vegas as the 1989 SBC annual meeting site, they adopted a recommendation to add “a strong evangelistic emphasis” in connection with the meeting.

The week prior to the annual meeting in Las Vegas, more than 2,000 volunteers participated in door-to-door witnessing campaigns and revival services. They visited more than 100,000 homes and led approximately 470 people to Christ.

The following year, the SBC Home Mission Board (now NAMB) planned a second evangelistic event to coincide with the SBC. The yearly evangelism initiative became known as Crossover in 1991, when then-SBC president Morris Chapman worked with the HMB to expand the one-day outreach into a full week.

Crossover Atlanta, that year, included door-to-door witnessing, serving meals to the homeless, street evangelism and prayer throughout the city.

The event saw 333 decisions for Christ.

The name “Crossover” was inspired by an evangelism conference in Australia where Chapman spoke in 1987. The theme of the conference was “Crossover Australia.”

Chapman’s original vision for “Crossover America” focused on church planting, but the name ultimately found its home with the pre-convention evangelistic thrust Southern Baptists know today.

Leaders equipped

Participating in Crossover equips believers to share their faith more effectively, including that of the next generation of pastors and ministers who are in seminary.

Preston Nix, director of the Leavell Center for Evangelism and Church Health at New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary, said he has seen

Crossover transform the lives of his students, some of whom were already serving as pastors. “It changes students’ lives, and it affects and impacts their ministry.”

Since Crossover Louisville in 2009, seminaries have offered personal evangelism training courses that coincide with Crossover outreach. Students partner with Intentional Community Evangelism teams or local church members to participate in door-to-door and street evangelism the week leading up to the SBC annual meeting.

“We’re intentional about verbally communicating our faith to the lost so they can come to faith in Jesus Christ,” Nix said.

Crossover Louisville resulted in 1,035 recorded salvations.

Some seminary students, including those who are active ministers, have never shared their faith outside a church setting, Nix pointed out. Crossover allows the students to lead people to Christ one on one rather than from behind a pulpit, he added.

Nix said he has had many students who were skeptical about spending a week practicing intentional evangelism, but

their lives and ministries were ultimately changed by the experience.

Churches planted

Crossover efforts, in partnership with local associational initiatives, have also made an impact on communities through church plants.

Larry Doyle, director of missions for Piedmont Baptist Association in Greensboro, N.C., said his community was hugely impacted by Crossover and church planting efforts in 2006. Fifteen new churches were started that year, due in part to Crossover and a church planting initiative called Operation Reach. Twelve of those churches are still active today, he said.

“As a result of both Crossover and Operation Reach, church planting became a passionate priority for the Baptist family,” Doyle said. “I believe it was the intentional focus on our community that did it. It helped us turn our focus outward and enabled us to see people and needs we had not seen before.”

Keith Hall, pastor of The Journey Church in High Point, N.C., was already burdened to reach his community by early 2006. He, another pastor and others

began meeting as a church that summer.

Hall said he learned a lot from Crossover Greensboro and other related training events. He saw people from diverse backgrounds and various levels of training all working together to reach the community. Seeing all the volunteers on the “same missional page,” he said, “inspired me to believe in the mission.”

Communities encouraged

When Crossover volunteers serve alongside local churches, those churches come out of the experience encouraged.

From a practical standpoint, Crossover teams can assist churches with projects or events that they may not have the manpower to complete on their own. The teams also advertise church events door-to-door, which increases the church’s visibility in the community and creates new opportunities for church members to develop relationships.

Nix said he sees an opportunity to encourage churches in SBC host cities located outside the Bible Belt. Nix participated in the first outreach in Las Vegas, and recalled the effect

the event had on the local churches there.

“It was an emotional spiritual boost to them that Southern Baptists were coming in and helping them in a very non-Southern Baptist, very secular, worldly setting,” he said.

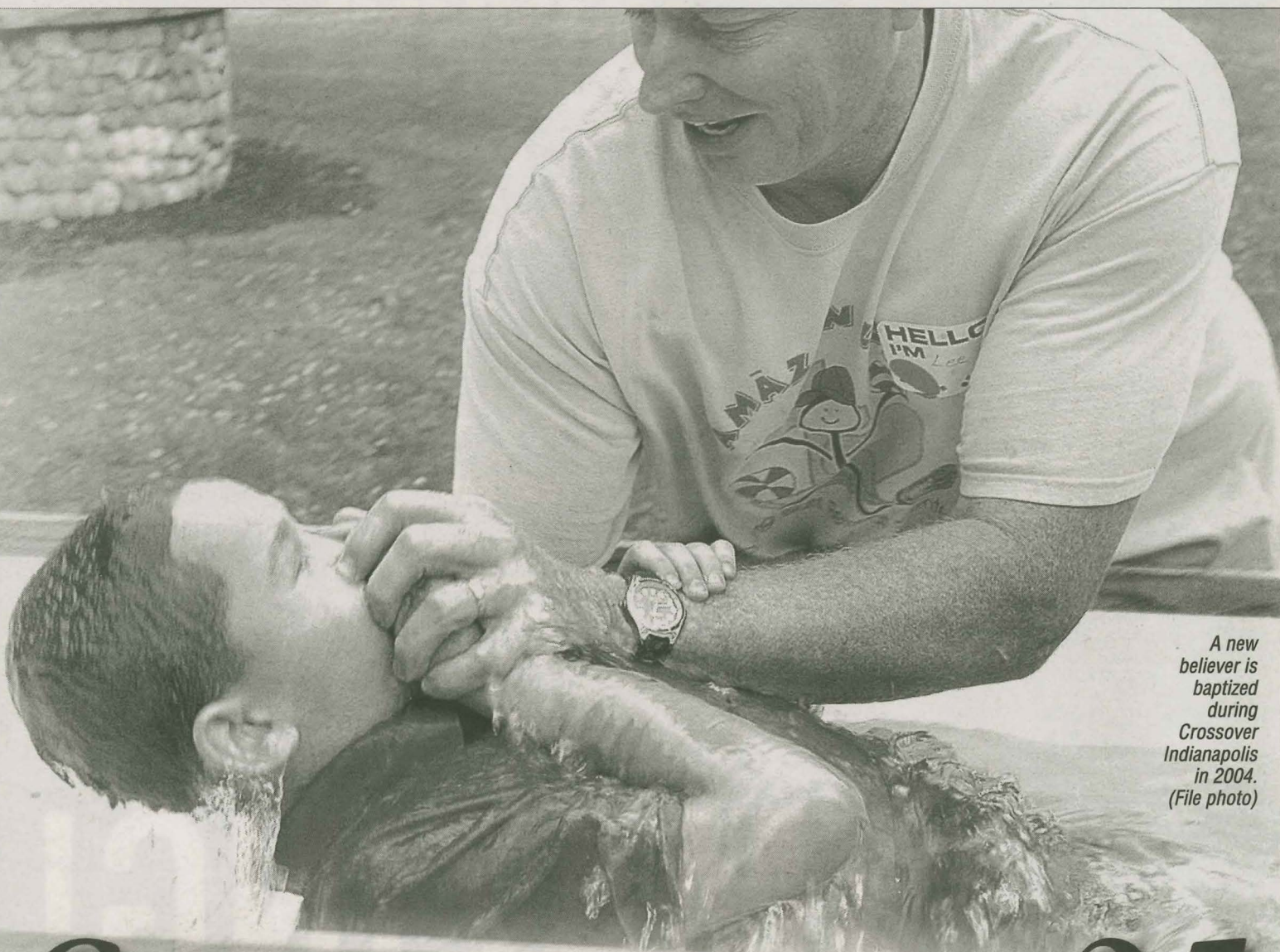
Souls saved

Since 1989, NAMB has reported more than 30,000 professions of faith in Jesus Christ as a direct result of Crossover activities. Thousands more have been put in contact with local Southern Baptist churches.

When a person is saved, Chapman said, there is incredible joy both for the one who accepts Christ and for the ones who are able to witness their spiritual transformation.

“Salvation is a miracle when it happens and Christ has given us the opportunity to experience the joy of a miracle taking place right in front of our eyes,” he said.

“What a joy it is for the believer to return to his or her home church and testify that upon witnessing to an unsaved person, the person confessed his or her sin and trusted Jesus Christ as Savior,” Chapman said. (BP)



A new believer is baptized during Crossover Indianapolis in 2004. (File photo)

Crossover at 25

Thousands of lives transformed through pre-SBC evangelism



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