

WESTERN Recorder

May 20, 2014

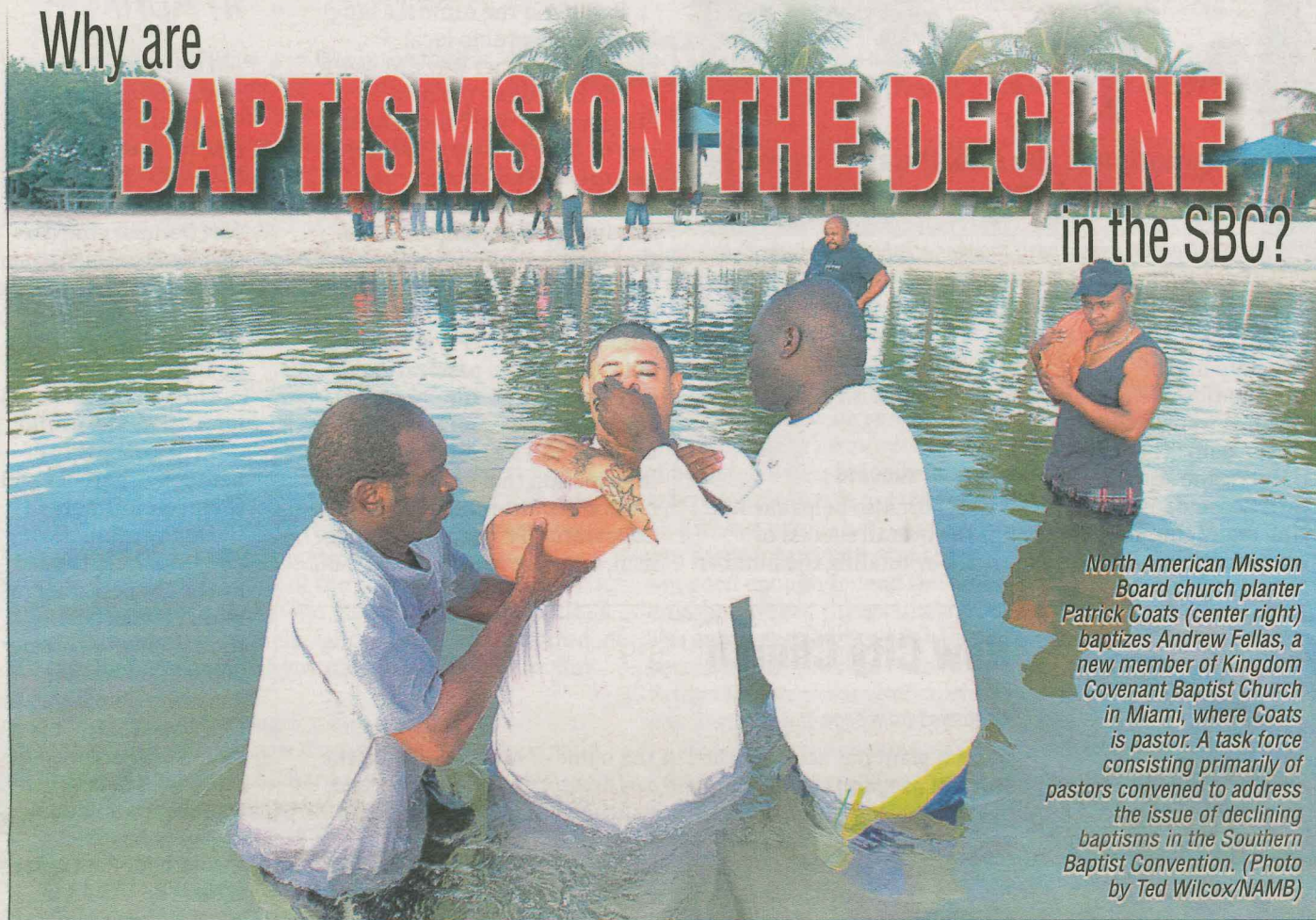
Shine Like Stars * Philippians 2:15

Volume 188, Issue 19

Why are

BAPTISMS ON THE DECLINE

in the SBC?



North American Mission Board church planter Patrick Coats (center right) baptizes Andrew Fellas, a new member of Kingdom Covenant Baptist Church in Miami, where Coats is pastor. A task force consisting primarily of pastors convened to address the issue of declining baptisms in the Southern Baptist Convention. (Photo by Ted Wilcox/NAMB)

Task force report calls for 'fervent' prayer, prioritize evangelism, discipling

By Joe Conway

Alpharetta, Ga.—A task force designed to address declining baptisms among Southern Baptist churches released its full report last week.

An urgent, immediate call for spiritual renewal and personal commitment to evangelism and discipleship are the common threads among five recommendations made by the Pastors' Task Force on Evangelistic Impact and Declining Baptisms.

The national task force, aimed at addressing the continued decrease in baptisms among Southern Baptist churches, was convened last year by the North American Mission Board. Most task force members are pastors.

"Southern Baptists' downward spiral in baptisms is the fruit of our spiritual lukewarmness," said task force member Ted Traylor, pastor of Olive Baptist Church in Pensacola, Fla. "I am greatly encouraged by the stirring I see among



"Southern Baptists' downward spiral in baptisms is the fruit of our spiritual lukewarmness."

Ted Traylor

us toward spiritual awakening and the need for the resurgence of the Great Commission. This task force work and report gives me hope."

The group was formed, in part, because the 2012 Annual Church Profile reported a drop of 5.52 percent in the number of baptisms in Southern Baptist churches, continuing a two-decade downward trend.

Al Gilbert, NAMB's vice president for evangelism, facilitated the group's meetings. LifeWay Research President Ed Stetzer assisted the task force with research support.

"Recognition and ownership of the issue are keys to reversing the decline," Gilbert said.

The task force identified five key areas, described as problems, that pastors and churches must address to reverse the baptism decline:

Spiritual: "With urgency, we must join together in fervent and effective prayer for spiritual awakening in our churches and our nation."

Leadership: "As pastors, we must intentionally model and prioritize personal evangelism while providing clear pathways for our congregations to follow."

Disciple-making: "As pastors, we must create a disciple-making culture—focusing on multiplying disciples who know how to grow in Christ and lead others to Christ."

Next generation: "As pastors, we must leverage our influence, activity and resources to reach and make disciples of the next generation."

□ See Baptisms ... Page 7

Ky. Baptist Disaster Relief volunteer dies while serving

Grand Rapids, Mich.—Bob Waldron, a longtime volunteer with Kentucky Baptist Convention Disaster Relief, died May 16 while on assignment in Michigan helping victims of recent flooding.

Waldron, of Mount Washington, was leaving a job site Friday afternoon when he reportedly lost control of his vehicle—possibly due to a medical condition.



Bob Waldron

DR volunteer Butch Turley, a passenger in the automobile, was critically injured in the crash.

Both men were taken to Butterworth Hospital in Grand Rapids, Mich., where Waldron, 79, was pronounced dead. He is survived by his wife, Janice.

Turley, a member of Millville Baptist Church in Frankfort, was in stable but serious condition while on life support over the weekend.

"Our hearts are heavy," KBC Disaster Relief Director Coy Webb said. "We ask Kentucky Baptists to pray for the families affected by this accident and for our teams as they continue to serve while in Michigan."

Webb left Kentucky early Saturday morning to be with families at the hospital and offer his prayers and support for team members as they continue to press on with the ministry work of disaster relief.

"Our purpose is to show the love of Christ through this ministry," Webb

□ See Disaster relief ... Page 2

Church plant models 'sacrificial giving'

By Robin Cornet

Louisville—The small congregation at New City Church in Louisville is barely 1 year old and cannot afford to send its own missionaries to distant lands.

But by joining forces with sister churches across the country, New City is helping fund some 10,000 missionaries seeking to share the gospel in the United States and around the world.

The first check New City wrote after forming last May was to the Cooperative Program, the vehicle through which funding flows to missions in Kentucky and around the world. And on its first anniversary this month, the church will have given a total of nearly \$11,000 to missions through the Kentucky Baptist Convention.

"I am amazed with what this young

□ See New City Church ... Page 2

Find us on
Facebook
and on
twitter
as westernrecorder

Ditch
the
cord.

GO MOBILE

Kentucky Baptist news at your fingertips
WesternRecorder.org



Western Recorder 5-20-2014

Church history preserved through annual reports

By Roger Alford

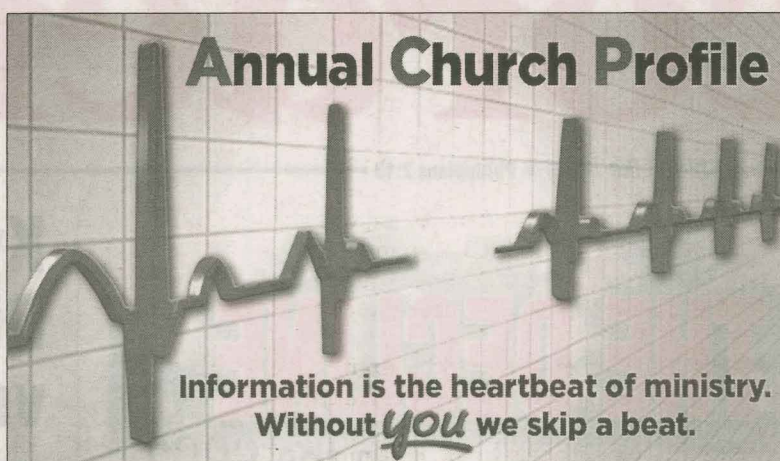
Louisville—Ever wonder how many baptisms a church performed in 1980, or how much membership grew in 1985, or what was the congregation's average worship attendance in 1990?

That information is readily available at the Kentucky Baptist Convention—at least for those congregations that complete an Annual Church Profile, a form mailed to churches nationwide.

"The Annual Church Profile can provide a historical record of the successes of every church in the state," said KBC statistician Rick Pryor. "But it only works if the churches participate."

Most Kentucky churches—more than 80 percent—return the reports sent to them each August. The nearly 20 percent that don't may be putting themselves at a disadvantage in several ways.

"Completing the profile each year means your church will



The Kentucky Baptist Convention uses a heart monitor graphic on its website to illustrate the importance of the Annual Church Profile and encourage the nearly 20 percent of non-reporting churches to do so.

always have backup files of important information at the KBC if your records were destroyed," Pryor said. "That happened when Hurricane Katrina struck the Gulf Coast, damaging and destroying many churches. It has happened in fires and floods

and other disasters, leaving local congregations with no historical records."

Measure of success

The report also helps the KBC gauge the overall success of churches by totaling the number

of baptisms.

Last year, that total was 13,970. However, the actual number may have been significantly higher, considering nearly 20 percent of KBC churches did not submit the annual report.

Pryor said the Annual Church Profile is helpful to local churches in other ways, as well.

"By reviewing the data, churches can determine the success of their ministry initiatives and use the information to develop new ministry strategies," he said. "Membership information included on the report helps determine how many messengers each church sends to KBC's annual meeting," Pryor pointed out. "And, often, pastoral candidates review the annual report when churches contact them about jobs. It's a ready source of information that speaks to a church's commitment to the Cooperative Program, to evangelism, to missions and more." (KBC)

Kentucky churches' Cooperative Program gifts rebound in April

Louisville—Financial contributions to the Cooperative Program rose by more than \$255,000 in April over the previous month, in part because churches that had canceled some worship services during the winter have been catching up on their giving.

Gifts in April totaled more than \$1.9 million.

"The generosity of Kentucky churches and their commitment to the many ministries and initiatives funded by the Cooperative Program is reflected in their giving," Kentucky Baptist Convention Executive Director Paul Chitwood said. "This money will allow committed Baptists to continue spreading the gospel message throughout Kentucky, across the U.S. and around the world."

Eight months into the KBC's fiscal year, giving to the Cooperative Program reached \$14,277,952. That's down \$67,682 from the same period last year.

Lowell Ashby, leader of the KBC's finance & business services team, said Cooperative Program giving is only 2.65 percent behind last year despite the wintery blasts of January and February that forced intermittent cancellations of worship services across the state.

"Still, we appear to be on track to meet our budget goal of \$22 million by the end of the fiscal year in August," he noted.

Ashby said Lottie Moon offerings are down \$341,852 compared to last year. "We were already over \$5 million at this point last year. So far this year, we've received \$4.67 million."

The Eliza Broadus offering, meanwhile, is up 1.3 percent over last year, at \$1,151,640. And Ashby said he expects a strong Annie Armstrong offering. (KBC)



Kentucky Baptist Disaster Relief volunteers join hands in prayer before departing for Michigan May 15. Two teams of volunteers are helping residents in Paris, Mich., remove mud and debris from their homes. (Photo by Robin Cornet/KBC)

Disaster relief

Continued from page 1

said, "to help the hurting and lift up the hopeless—and ultimately lead others to a saving knowledge of Jesus Christ. That is exactly what Bob and Butch were doing."

Wynn Williams, director of the Baptist Convention of Michigan's Disaster Relief, said moments before the accident Turley had prayed with a homeowner to receive Christ as Savior.

"We give God all the praise for this news in the midst of such a difficult time," Williams said.

Kentucky Baptists left May 15 for Paris, Mich., joining recovery and clean-up efforts along the Muskegon River.

Michigan Gov. Rick Snyder issued disaster declarations for a number of Michigan counties May 7—including Mecosta County where Paris is located. Heavy rainfall April 12, combined with existing snow, caused widespread flooding throughout Michigan's Lower Peninsula.

Webb said two teams of Kentucky Baptist volunteers are helping area residents remove mud and debris from their homes.

The Kentucky teams are based at Charity Baptist Church in Paris, Mich.

Williams said the Michigan Baptist convention is working in partnership with the Salvation Army to feed volunteers. Shower and laundry units also are on site. (KBC)

New City Church

Continued from page 1

church plant has accomplished in the name of missions and in the spirit of cooperation," KBC Executive Director Paul Chitwood said. "New City Church is a model of sacrificial giving worthy of being recognized by Kentucky Baptists."

That kind of sacrificial giving, according to New City Pastor T.J. Francis, is part of a greater purpose to answer the Great Commission call and reach more people in Kentucky and beyond for Christ. "It has to be about the kingdom with a big 'K,'" Francis said. "That's hard for church planters to grasp because every day you are thinking, 'Is this church going to be here next month?' We decided before we launched that if New City Church wasn't here next year, that's OK. But for the time we are here, we have to be focused on something bigger than New City."

Francis said without the Cooperative Program, "I don't believe any one church could scratch the surface of answering the call of the Great Commission. I think we take the greatness out when we try to do it as individuals."

Among the church plant's core values, Francis said, is to strive to be strategically missional, which explicitly states giving to the Cooperative Program.

"And, for us, that's a minimum of 10 percent," the church planter said.

New City is one of a growing number of church plants in the state that receives financial support from the Cooperative Program through the state convention. (KBC)



T.J. Francis (left), pastor of New City Church, a Louisville church plant that turns 1 year old this month, presents the congregation's first Cooperative Program gift check to Kentucky Baptist Convention Executive Director Paul Chitwood last May. In its first year, New City has given nearly \$11,000 through the Cooperative Program to fund missions and ministries in Kentucky, the United States and worldwide. (KBC photo)

'Miracle' restores one man's vision, refocuses another man's ministry

By Chip Hutcheson

A "miracle" moment came April 13 for Richard P'Pool. The story of the well-known Princetonian regaining his eyesight is, by no exaggeration, an amazing miracle.

Richard, well known in Princeton for his historical preservation efforts, suffered a stroke to his optic nerve in 2009. That took away his sight in that eye and resulted in him wearing a black eye patch over that eye most of the time since then.

But then last August, he had another optic nerve stroke, and this time he lost sight in his right eye. Now he was blind—he could see shapes, but no details. Wearing dark glasses was required all the time, and low light level was the norm in his home. "Everything was a blur—it was like you had Vaseline coated on your glasses."

Last Sunday, he followed his regular routine of going to church with family members at Lebanon Baptist Church in Princeton. During Sunday School, the topic of "hope" was discussed, and Richard shared how doctors (ophthalmologists and neurologists) had told him not to get his hopes up in regard to ever seeing again.

"I said there's always hope," he told those in the class. He added that one of the doctors told him he "didn't know of anyone who had a stroke to the optic nerve to ever regain their sight." But Richard realized "the Great Physician knows more than he (the doctor) does."

During the morning worship service, Richard was seated on the fourth row from the front as Pastor Mike Boyd was preaching. Richard said Mike was standing by the attendance board posted on the wall, and suddenly Richard could see the numbers on the board. He could see Mike's image clearing up. "It was just as though I was looking through binoculars as they would come into focus." Then he saw Mike's tie and could tell that it had diagonal stripes, and he could see the colors in the tie.

"I began shaking all over and crying like a baby," Richard recalled.

Richard began to look around and recognized other church members and the colors in their clothing—something he had not been able to do for the past eight months.

Mike was still preaching as he noticed Richard take off his "Ray Charles glasses" and began crying, but he

kept preaching, thinking that Richard might be "under conviction."

"It was all I could do to keep from interrupting the service," Richard said.

When the sermon ended and invitation was about to begin, Richard raised his hand and exclaimed, "Mike, I can see you. For the first time since August, I can see you, and I can see your tie."

Needless to say, there was incredible excitement among the congregation. "People were crying and hugging me. I'm not a hugger. It's all I can do to shake hands, but I was hugging everybody. It's a miracle. Give God the glory."

Word of the miracle traveled fast. After church, he and family members headed to Majestic House for lunch, but his phone was already ringing with people wanting to talk to him about what had happened.

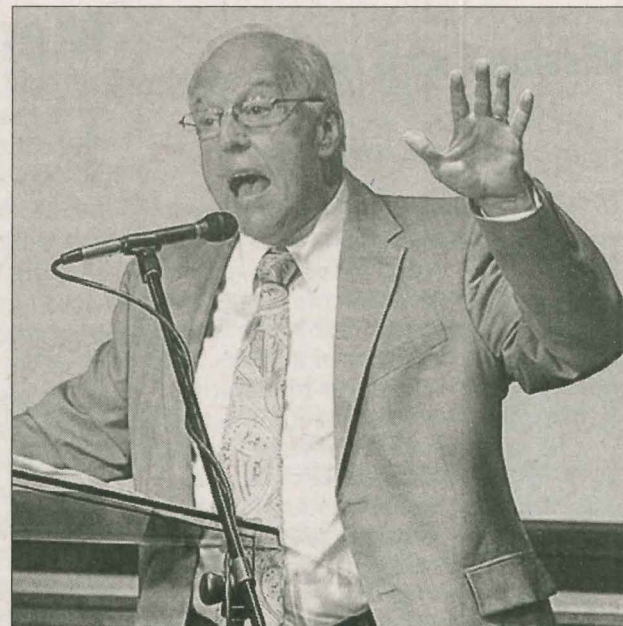
"I always believed in miracles for other people," Richard said, but now he revels in the miracle that came his way. That night he moved his membership to Lebanon, the church where he attended when he grew up, and where his mother is now the oldest member.

Richard noted that his eyesight is not perfect, but "I can see 100 percent better than I could. My sight is still not good enough to read the newspaper, but I do use an enlarger to read things like my Sunday School lesson. The enlarger doesn't work well with a newspaper because it tries to read both sides of the newsprint. One thing I really miss is reading the Wednesday and Saturday Times Leader."

Richard served as a specialist in the White House Communications Agency during Gerald Ford's tenure as both vice president under Richard Nixon and then as president. Richard was accepted into the agency in September 1973, and as a 19-year-old soldier just one year out of graduation from Caldwell County High School, he became a member of an elite group responsible for handling the private communications of the leader of the free world.

As remarkable as Richard's eyesight miracle is, there's even more to the story. The event has had a profound effect on the pastor, as well as the church body.

On March 16, Mike Boyd resigned as the church's pastor, saying he believed that even though things were going well at Lebanon Baptist, he believed God was through with him there. But in recent weeks, he had concerns about his decision and prayed, "God, if this is



Kentucky Baptist Convention President Chip Hutcheson shared the story of Richard P'Pool's miraculous experience during his opening devotion at the recent KBC Mission Board meeting.

not what you want me to do, if I'm not doing the right thing, show me a miracle."

That miracle came April 13. "How could you deny it was?" he asked.

"I've never seen a miracle like that before," Mike said, and had this advice for his congregation. "We are responsible to tell people what was done. I told some of our young guys, 'If you live to be 90, don't ever forget what happened here April 13, 2014. Tell your children and your grandchildren and their children about this.'"

That evening, a deacon at Lebanon told Mike that he didn't understand why he was leaving the church and asked if he would rescind his resignation and encouraged him by saying, "God's not through with you here."

But Mike still said no.

Then came the evening service, and a longtime pastor in this area, Wayne Glass, was in the service and said he would ask the church not to accept Mike's resignation, and he commended Mike for his work there.

Mike's decision came down to one requirement, which he voiced to the church. "Are you ready to make changes and commit to serving God? If you're not concerned with reaching the lost, then you don't need me. I'm not interested in the status quo."

The entire church stood up to show its support for that direction. And now Lebanon has its pastor back—without him ever really leaving.

Chip Hutcheson is president of the Kentucky Baptist Convention and publisher of the Princeton Times-Leader and The Eagle Post in Oak Grove.

Strachan named CBMW president

Louisville—Owen Strachan, the newly appointed president of the Council on Biblical Manhood and Womanhood, said CBMW will be "positive" and "transformation-driven" in the days ahead as it confronts issues of gender and sexuality.



Owen Strachan

The organization announced May 12 that Strachan would succeed Ligon Duncan, chancellor of Reformed Theological Seminary, as president. Serving as the organization's executive director since 2012, Strachan led the launch of a new CBMW website and helped double giving between 2012 and 2013, according to a CBMW news release.

In addition to his duties at CBMW, Strachan will continue to serve as assistant professor of Christian theology and church history at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary.

"As one who has learned a tremendous amount from the work of this outfit, I can scarcely believe that I'm in this role," Strachan said in a blog post. "God is kind to us unprofitable workers."

Founded in 1987 by John Piper and Wayne Grudem, CBMW advocates "complementarianism," the teaching that men and women are of equal worth but have different roles in the church and the home.

At 32, Strachan is the youngest president in the council's history.

"We're not sad and long-faced about being complementarians," Strachan said. "We think that we are living the most joyful existence one can live as a man or woman, because God has saved us and has transformed us and has allowed us to become once more who we were made to be." (BP)

Longtime Baptist professor Nettles retires

Louisville—Thomas Nettles, professor of historical theology at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary since 1997, is retiring from full-time teaching after 38 years in the classroom.

Nettles' teaching has involved "areas which I have thought are important and even critical for the health of Christianity and for the health of Baptist churches," he told Southern Seminary Magazine.

"I have sought to help students become better pastors by helping them to understand the critical truths that churches have been built upon in the past," Nettles added.

Before joining the faculty at Southern nearly 17 years ago, Nettles spent 21 years at Southwestern Baptist Theological

Seminary, Mid-America Baptist Theological Seminary in Cordova, Tenn., and Trinity Evangelical Divinity School in Deerfield, Ill.



Thomas Nettles

Professor & friend

Donald Whitney, now a fellow professor at Southern Seminary who was among Nettles' students at Southwestern, has since developed a decades-long relationship with him.

"Tom has shepherded me countless times, both when I was pastoring and during the past 19 years as a professor," Whitney said. "On so many occasions when I was burdened, I made my way to Tom's office, where he always welcomed me, listened as long as I needed to talk, offered counsel and prayed with me."

Nettles' students can attest that his classroom is a place of joy and song. A gifted singer, he often breaks spontaneously into a song or hymn.

He is renowned for a particular song, Whitney said, recalling, "No matter how many classes you have had with Tom Nettles, you've never really had him as a professor until he has sung in class 'Ya Got Trouble' from 'The Music Man,' a musical in which he played the lead when he was in college."

Nettles, however, never planned on being a seminary professor. He attended Mississippi College and then moved on to Southwestern Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas.

Nettles also has written important books on Baptist ecclesiology, catechisms and the place of Calvinism in Baptist history. (SBTS)

Mission Board report

Part 1 of my May 5 report to the Kentucky Baptist Convention Mission Board:

Together We are the KBC



Paul Chitwood

This meeting marks three years since you hired me as your executive director. Let me report that I am having the time of my life. Thank you for allowing me and all of the members of our team the privilege of coming to work every day to help churches reach Kentucky and the world for Christ.

My gratitude also goes to our board members for their service to the 2,400 churches of the Kentucky Baptist Convention. The gospel alliance you represent as you serve on the Mission Board is a mighty force for the kingdom of God.

You are part of a Baptist coalition that has existed for 177 years. We are thankful for the men and women of God who served and sacrificed in the past. And we are grateful to inherit the work from them for our sprint around the track.

Our rapidly changing culture and the new role being assumed by our government will likely cause the gospel work in front of us to be more difficult than what lies behind us. We live in a society and under a rule of government that is racing headlong into moral chaos and running away from the religious liberties sought by those who first made pilgrimage to this land.

In the midst of unprecedented cultural shift we are the stewards of the prophetic call to repentance from sin and faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. We are the Ezekiels of our time, whom the Lord instructs: "Say to them, 'As surely as I live, declares the Sovereign Lord, I take no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but rather that they turn from their ways and live. Turn! Turn from your evil ways!'" (Ezekiel 33:11). We are the John the Baptists of our generation, the voice of one crying out in the wilderness, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near" (Matthew 3:2).

Thankfully we have momentum in certain areas, like making our voice heard in Frankfort. In our state, 750,000 people identify themselves as Kentucky Baptist and 1 million people identify themselves as Southern Baptist.

A voting block of one-fourth of the population hasn't gone unnoticed on matters like gambling expansion, religious freedom or a traditional definition of marriage. So far, we have been able to hold the line on these issues, even as we beg God for the passage of legislation that would protect the lives of unborn children.

How grateful I am to the Lord for bringing Roger Alford and his team to lead our communications department into a new level of effectiveness and strategic impact regarding these and other critical issues.

Paul Chitwood is executive director of the Kentucky Baptist Convention.

Memorizing scripture helps put right fuel in tank

For several years, I was a Bible Drill leader at the churches where my family attended. I found it quite rewarding to hear young men and women reciting the 25 verses they had learned by heart during the year, knowing the great impact that God's Word could have in shaping the course of their lives. "Your word I have hidden in my heart that I might not sin against you," the Psalmist observes.

If they stick with the program for all three years, Bible Drill participants will memorize 75 verses and be able to locate 30 key passages in mere seconds. More than 10 years later, I still can recall most of those verses we covered, and I trust the verses were as formative in the youths' spiritual development as they have been in mine.

But memorizing 75 verses pales in comparison to a Durham, N.C., pastor's accomplishments: Andy Davis has memorized 35 books of the Bible—more than half—in an effort to know God's Word better. He is currently working on his 36th book, Zephaniah, according to a story recently published in another state Baptist newspaper, The Biblical Recorder.

During his senior year at Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Davis came to the realization that "it might be better to memorize an entire book of scripture," rather than single verses or chapters. Can you even imagine! He began by learning Ephesians while on a mission trip to Kenya in 1986. When he returned home, he took on Philippians and then Matthew.

He offers this very practical tip in the article to any who feel up to the challenge. "There are always 'dead spots' in your day where you don't have to do any verbal work," Davis said. "In those 'dead spots,' I suggest memorizing a few verses a day for 15 minutes a day." After all, he got started while waiting for a bus. You may also find his book, "An Approach to Extended Memorization of Scripture"—available online from Ambassador International—helpful along the way.

Although he doesn't claim to be able to recite all of the 35 books today, the real goal of studying scripture,



After Thought

By Todd Deaton

Davis maintains, is not to impress, but "life transformation." I believe the Apostle Paul would agree: "Therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, I urge you to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God; this is your spiritual worship. Do not be conformed to this age, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may discern what is the good, pleasing, and perfect will of God."

While Davis believes daily Bible intake and prayer are a must for spiritual health, he adds, "I would never say that about Bible memorization, that if you're not memorizing scripture you are sick spiritually or you're not a Christian, but it is very helpful ... in your marriage, in your parenting and in your evangelism." John Burton, an English Baptist and earnest Sunday School teacher of another era, penned, "Holy Bible, book divine, Precious treasure, thou art mine; Mine to tell me whence I came; Mine to teach me what I am; Mine to chide me when I rove; Mine to show a Saviour's love; Mine you are to guide and guard; Mine to punish or reward"

As the teenage son of a Baptist pastor, one of my first jobs was cutting the church yard. The church had a really big lawn, so that meant learning to drive a Ford tractor with a bush hog attached. One day, the tractor sputtered to a halt a few yards after it had cranked. I tried and tried to get it going again. It just wouldn't budge.

The church maintenance man, a deacon who had retired from the local Ford dealership, came to my aid. We both had a good laugh later when, to my embarrassment, the source of the problem was discovered. "You can't run an engine on water. You won't go far," he teased. (Both of the red refill cans looked alike, and I had mixed up the two.)

But how many of us are guilty of trying to run our spiritual engines on water? Whether you attempt to learn a verse, a chapter, or an entire book, it really does matter what kind of fuel you put into your engine. If you want to go far, I can tell you, tank up with the right fuel.

A panoramic summer challenge

By Diana Davis

Walk just outside your front door, and look slowly in every direction. You're viewing a mission field. God chose it for you when you moved in. It's easy to wave at neighbors as you drive by or say "hi" when you walk the dog, but will you make a plan to shine for Jesus with your actions and words this summer?

See each neighbor with the eyes of God, as people He loves and who need to know His love—even the neighbor who doesn't mow his grass. Loving our neighbor is the second commandment (Romans 13:9-10). Try this two-step panoramic summer challenge.

Fresh Ideas



Diana Davis

Prayer walk your mission field—your block, subdivision, apartment building or dorm hallway. If you live in a rural setting, you may need to prayer drive. Prayer walking simply means you pray silently and specifically as you stroll and observe. Do it often.

Make a list of addresses and add names as you meet people. Learn pets' names. Discover needs. Involve your entire family. Ask God to give you opportunities to show His love and share about Him.

Panoramic neighborhood grill-out. Host a neighborhood barbecue. Email or hand deliver an invitation to each home on your list. Ask them to bring something to grill, a side dish to share and a lawn chair. Create a relaxed, fun

atmosphere with Christian music and toys for kids. Use name tags and enjoy getting to know each person. Whether it's a small or large group, have a great time. In your conversation, invite each individual to your church if they don't have one.

A panoramic grill-out project could be a great church-wide project, too. Select a weekend and challenge church members to invite neighbors over with the intention of getting to know them and inviting them to church.

Our Southern Baptist Convention has about 10,000 awesome vocational missionaries across North America and in countries around the world, but you're the missionary God called to your neighborhood. Now get out the grill.

Diana Davis is an author, speaker and the wife of Steve Davis, the North American Mission Board's vice president for the south region.

WESTERN Recorder

Box 43969
Louisville, KY 40253

DR. TODD DEATON
Editor

DREW NICTER
Interim News Director

THOMAS C. TOWNSEND
Marketing & Business Manager

Shine Like Stars * Philippians 2:15

Board of Directors:

Wayne Spivey (chairman), Harrodsburg;
Bill Ellis (vice chair), Lexington;
Lanna Kilgore (secretary), Bowling Green;
Billy Bartleman, Paducah;
Billy Compton, Mount Washington;
Bill Edmonds, Louisville;
Chip Hutcheson, Princeton;
Paul Nunn, Prestonsburg;
Rick Robbins, Florence;
Larry Rowell, Campbellsburg;
Dan Summerlin, Paducah.

Western Recorder is published weekly 47 weeks a year by Western Recorder Inc., an agency of the Kentucky Baptist Convention, Box 43969, Louisville, KY 40253. It will not be published Jan. 7, July 8, July 22, Dec. 2 or Dec. 30. Periodicals postage paid at Louisville, Ky. (USPS 679-380)

For general information or to give news tips, call (502) 489-3535; or email: news@westernrecorder.org.

POSTMASTER: Send address corrections to: Western Recorder, Box 43969, Louisville, KY 40253.

To subscribe: Send \$17 for a one-year, individual subscription or visit our website and subscribe to our electronic-only edition at \$10 per year. Group subscriptions (church budget plan) are \$11 per year.

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.

Praying for the church's pastor is a privilege

By Redunda Noble

Our church recently completed a study based on Thom Rainer's book, "I Am a Church Member." In it, he shares practical insight for developing the right attitude about the parts we play as members of the church.

I breezed through the first few chapters with an air of superiority. As a pastor's wife, I was proud of myself for being a "model" church member. After all, I was already obeying most of the principles articulated in the book. I kept thinking, "It sure would be great if 'brother and sister so-and-so' read this book." I gleefully stood on my pedestal—until I got to chapter four.

The title, "I Will Pray for My Church Leaders," knocked me off my pedestal and down to my knees.

The moment I read the title, it struck me that I was the one who needed this book. I was not spending quality time daily in prayer for my pastor (also my husband) and the other leaders of our church.

I prayed daily, like most Christians. I prayed for my family, my health, my needs, my wants, my desires, my struggles—all about me. How selfish I was in my prayers. Nowhere in my prayers did I petition the Lord specifically for the needs of my pastor and leaders.

We mistakenly think our pastor doesn't need our prayers because when we see him, he is in the pulpit, often wearing a tailored suit and always with a smile. We never want to think that our pastors and leaders might be struggling and desperately need our prayers.

Rainer challenges us to pray five minutes a day for our pastor. Who doesn't have five minutes, right?

Jesus is the Son of God, yet He understood the

importance of prayer in ministry. In Luke 6:12, the Bible recounts Jesus going to a mountain to pray. He stayed there and prayed all night.

As Christians, we should follow Jesus' example by spending ample time in prayer. While most of us understand this, we have difficulty finding the time to pray. After looking at my own prayer life, I found that I struggled in three areas:

FIRST PERSON

Prioritize prayer. How often do we get up in the morning, get dressed, eat breakfast and rush out the door, certain we will have time to pray later? But later never comes. By 10:30 p.m., I was exhausted from the busyness of the day, managing to whisper only a few words to the Lord before drifting off to sleep. To prioritize prayer, I had to prioritize my morning and designate a specific time to pray.

Learn what your pastor's needs are. Pray for his needs the way you pray for your own. It does not matter when you pray, as long as you take the time to pray for your pastor.

Persevere in prayer. You will find that when you decide to pray regularly for your pastor and the leaders in your church, things will challenge your commitment. You may choose to start with prayer early in the morning, but on the day you begin, the baby wakes up crying at the same time. You may decide to pray on your lunch break at work, but find that others constantly interrupt. You may plan to pray in the evening, but your child's teacher sends extra homework.

Whatever the challenge, recognize that prayer honors God. Don't give up. You may struggle in the beginning to pray, but what joy you find when you persist.

Prayer is a privilege. What is your attitude toward prayer? Do you see prayer as just another chore? Attitudes are important to God. View prayer as a privilege. See it as an opportunity to spend time with the one who loves you most. Ask God to give you a desire to pray.

I have struggled to be consistent. But I find that as I continue to pray, my love for the Lord, His church and my spiritual leaders grows deeper. I hope you find this to be your experience as well.

Redunda Noble serves alongside her husband, James Noble, pastor of Grace Fellowship Baptist Church in Memphis, Tenn.

Make this summer a memorable one for youth

By Joe Ball

Memories are a powerful thing. Some of them remind us of times of great pain; others, times of great triumph; and some of life's milestones, special occasions or people from the past. Sometimes we're reminded of promises we made to ourselves. This past week was full of memories for me.

As I sat through the funeral for Tee Jay Thomas' dad a few days ago, I was reminded of our time in Hopkinsville. Tee Jay was one of our students. He was speaking at his dad's funeral, and Gina and I went down to offer our condolences to the family and to support Tee Jay.

As part of the funeral, the family had the song "I Can Only Imagine" by MercyMe played. Immediately my mind went back to the days of working hard to put an interpretive movement piece together for that song. I could see it in my head, but nothing in me is a dancer, so I wasn't sure if it was possible.

Emily was a member of our student ministry and a dancer, and it would be a great way to feature her talents. I could see Karen, Melinda, Julia, Misty and Emily on stage performing, and then when the line, "will I dance for you Jesus," came, Emily was to dance through and around them in worship. Emily choreographed the dance movements herself, and when she took off and began to dance, it was breathtaking.

As I sat in that funeral at Kelly Baptist Church, all those memories came flooding back. I could see all of them on stage again, leading us to worship through the interpretation of that song, and I could see Emily dancing. I was reminded of how God used that song in our youth group. We later had an opportunity to teach our interpretation at the Creations creative ministries

Getting ready for college

By Scott Wigginton

Q: As our teen graduates high school and leaves for college this fall, how can we best use this summer to help him prepare?

A: Let me urge you to take a head, heart and hands approach to helping your son prepare for college. What does he need to know? What does he need to do? What feelings can you help him anticipate?



Perhaps the best thing you can do this summer is to make sure you contribute to fostering a healthy relationship with your son. Be willing to talk about your feelings about his leaving. Bless him by communicating directly about your love for him and your high regard for his character, abilities and gifts.

Encourage him to pay special attention during this time to what God might want him to know. Help him think about and identify options regarding churches and Christian organizations on campus before he leaves. Encourage him to make his relationship with Christ a priority from the very beginning.

Remind your son that, apart from his relationship with Christ, he will very likely make the two biggest decisions of his life over these next few years as he attempts to answer the two following questions:

"Where am I going?" and "Who will go with me?" The decisions about mission and mate are so important that you will want him to know that you are ready to pray for him and talk with him about these decisions.

This summer would be a great time to think and talk together about standards for young women he might date and ultimately marry. As you do this, help him keep in mind that it is best to answer the mission question before the mate question. Too many young people have discovered too late the person they chose to marry did not want to be engaged in the mission to which God was calling them.

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

Documenting your plan

By Laurie Valentine

Christian estate planning is about stewardship—making decisions and putting documents in place that most effectively and efficiently accomplish God's plans for your possessions.

When it comes to planning for passing assets at death, good estate stewardship requires you put in place a written plan—a will or will and revocable living trust.

If you have not made a will, state law determines how your individually owned assets will pass at your death. The state's "will" may direct distribution of your assets in a way that doesn't meet your family's needs or to persons with whom you would not want to share your estate. And, all distributions under the state's plan will be outright to the designated beneficiaries—no matter their age and/or capacity to manage what is coming to them.

Also, using the state's "will" rather than writing your own may result in more cost to administer and pass your assets at your death, thereby leaving less for your family.

Planning for possible future incapacity requires giving those you want to act for you written authorization to do so. Powers of attorney and health care advanced directives are the "written plans" you can use to accomplish that part of your planning.

A power of attorney can include financial management authority such as the power to use your cash, investments, real estate and business interests for your benefit and sign tax returns and deal with tax matters. Personal decision-making authority, such as the power to obtain private health information and make health care decisions for you, can also be included.

A living will directive allows you to put down in writing your wishes regarding when or if you want life-prolonging medical treatment withheld or withdrawn.

And to assure your plan will continue to accomplish God's purposes for your possessions make sure to keep it up to date by reviewing it every few years and any time there are changes in your or your family's situation (marriages, births, deaths, etc.).

Laurie Valentine is trust counsel for the Kentucky Baptist Foundation.



Youth Ministry Corner



Joe Ball

festival in Gatlinburg, and a group that learned it there used it as part of its mission trip to Europe that summer.

A few days later, I was sitting in a Cessna plane about 10,000 feet in the air, preparing to parachute from "a perfectly good airplane." I had promised myself at around age 15, after seeing a parachutist for the first time, that one day I would do it. It took more than 35 years to pull it off, but I did. In my memory, I can still see that 15-year-old boy staring in amazement as the parachutes came floating to the ground around him.

There are tons of other things of which I am often reminded. There is the living room at my parents' house where I was led to the Lord; the spot at Camp Joy where God called me to preach; the front of Stapp Hall at Campbellsville College where Gina agreed to marry me; the birth of our children; the day we buried my grandfather; and conducting the funeral for my father-in-law. Life is filled with memories.

This summer, as we get quality time with students, let's make it a summer full of memories, one they can look back on and remember when adults who were important to them invested in them. They may never remember a Bible study we taught or a prayer we prayed, but they will remember the fun, the stupid, out-of-the-ordinary events when we were there with them.

Let's also commit to a summer where we are serious about the gospel and making sure we have meaningful conversations about Jesus and about their discipleship journey. Let's make it our goal and prayer that when our students look back on the summer of 2014 in 10, 20 or even 50 years, they will remember it as the summer Jesus became real to them and it forever changed them.

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



IMB appointment: 59 answer God's call

By Erich Bridges

Spartanburg, S.C.—Jessica Wolfe's life changed forever on her first international mission trip nearly a decade ago.

"I had the opportunity to share Jesus with a college student in Asia who asked me, 'Who is Jesus?'" Wolfe recalled. "After being asked that question, the Lord began to tug on my heart to reach out to those in the world who had never heard His name. It broke my heart, and continues to do so after all these years."

But at 28, Wolfe is not just shedding tears over the world's lostness—she's doing something about it. Along with her husband, Taylor, she's going to sub-Saharan Africa to share with others who haven't heard the name of Jesus.

The Wolfes were among 59 new international missionaries appointed May 14 by International Mission Board trustees at First Baptist Church of Spartanburg, S.C.

The new workers come from a dizzying variety of personal and professional backgrounds: a firefighter, a state trooper, a financial planner, a surgeon, a scientist, a senior pastor, a photographer, a writer, a petroleum engineer, a pediatric nurse, a college teacher, a software developer—even a would-be comedian.

"We're here before you tonight because God called an atheist and a Buddhist to be his missionaries to East Asia," one new missionary couple announced together.

"I went from someone who did not know God to someone whose life is telling others about God," he said. "I left a life of wealth to store up treasures in heaven."

His wife added: "I went from someone who worshipped many gods to someone who teaches others about the one true God. I left Eastern religion to follow the Savior of the world."

What unites them all? A desire to



Above: New International Mission Board missionaries Mike and Tisha Jones (right & center), seen visiting with a friend after their appointment May 14, both sensed God's call to missions while on a mountaintop. "I was in tears as I was leaving a city high in the Andes Mountains" (during her first overseas mission trip), Tisha said. "God whispered, 'It's OK. You'll be back.'"
Top: Many came forward to pray for 59 new international missionaries during an IMB missionary appointment service May 14 at First Baptist Church of Spartanburg, S.C. (Photos by Thomas Graham/IMB)

obey Jesus Christ and a deep burden for peoples across the world searching for Him.

"As a 10-year-old girl, I thought missionaries must be superhuman to go across the world and leave their families," said a new worker—one of several who cannot be identified for their safety. "But now I stand before you as a single lady who simply desires to obediently follow God's call to serve among Muslim women in Asia. I'm not superhuman."

Another new missionary headed to Asia with his wife and children put it this way: "We're humbled that our extraordinary God has called our very ordinary family to fall in love with (lost people) so that they might come to know Him."

For some, God's call has been bubbling below the surface for a long time.

"When I was in high school, God instilled in me two desires: to preach His word where it has never been heard and to pursue a career in medicine," said a 39-year-old physician headed for North Africa. "After many years of training and preparation, now is the time. I'm excited to be 'His hands,' bringing physical healing and spreading seeds of the gospel."

For others, the Lord's leading overseas seemingly came out of nowhere.

"Most of my life, missions was not even on my radar," another new missionary going to Asia said. "But as God opened doors and we began going on short-term trips, the seed was planted." (BP)

Elliff: New paths for missionary sending must be considered

By Don Graham

Spartanburg, S.C.—Sparked by the disconnect between burgeoning spiritual lostness and flatlined missions giving, the International Mission Board's president is urging Southern Baptists to break from tradition and embrace new opportunities to send and support their global missionary force.



Tom Elliff

Speaking to trustees last week, Tom Elliff warned the IMB "must come to grips" with the unsustainable demand placed on the organization's resources from years of declining Cooperative Program receipts and sluggish Lottie Moon giving—revenue streams that provide the bulk of the IMB's budget.

But even if CP and Lottie Moon giving remained steady or saw modest gains, Elliff said, the IMB would still be hard-pressed to continue supporting the 4,900 missionaries serving today, much less meet multiple field requests for hundreds of new personnel.

"We have not substantively addressed the issue of missionary support for 89 years. For all practical purposes, IMB's only answer has been to encourage Southern Baptists to increase their giving. (It has been) the same message—only louder—again and again," he said.

Elliff said that's why he believes the IMB must make significant changes—and soon. The issue isn't about money, he told trustees, but about the billions of people who do not know Jesus.

"The world is not waiting for Southern Baptists to 'catch on and catch up,'" Elliff stressed. "The world is moving on while the ranks of hell are rapidly swelling with men and women, boys and girls, and their only hope is that their lives might be intercepted by people who are chasing the darkness."

While Elliff stopped short of suggesting specific changes, deferring that responsibility to the next president, he chose instead to highlight areas where change is most critical.

"I have heard individuals say that the beauty of working with IMB is that our missionaries don't have to raise their own financial support, ... (allowing them) to fully focus on the tasks of evangelism, discipleship and the planting of healthy, reproducing churches," Elliff said. "But our strength will become our weakness if, at any time, our support is taken for granted, or when it breeds an air of ingratitude." (BP)

Pastor Reggie Robbins baptizes Senika Strong at a service in Atlanta. The number of baptisms in Southern Baptist churches fell to a 65-year low in 2012, according to Annual Church Profile reporting. The North American Mission Board formed an evangelism task force to address the trend of declining baptisms among SBC churches. The group released its report last week. (NAMB file photo)



Baptisms

Continued from page 1

Celebration: "As pastors, we must celebrate new life in Christ as people publicly profess their faith through baptism. We must establish an ethos of joy that celebrates the practice of personal evangelism and its fruit."

Task force member Dennis Kim, pastor of Global Mission Church in Silver Spring, Md., said, "I am grateful for this endeavor's commitment to renew the passion for evangelism that ultimately begs the question, 'How then should we proceed?'"

Task force member Roger Spradlin, pastor of Valley Baptist Church in Bakersfield, Calif., summed up the group's conviction.

"I think all Southern Baptists were aware that our baptisms were declining, but seeing the actual stats was both shocking and heartbreaking," he said. "Continuing as we are, yet expecting a different result, is not an option. We must address this issue now."

From 1950-2011 Southern Baptists baptized an average of 379,711 people

annually. Only twice during that time did the numbers dip more than 10 percent below that average. But in 2012, the decline was 13 percent off the average, the worst drop in 62 years.

The task force's report itself takes an even more sobering view of the issue. It states: "SBC baptisms reached a plateau in the 1950s, peaked in the 1970s, and have stayed fairly constant since that time. ... The problem is even greater than these numbers indicate. Considering how the North American population has increased substantially between the 1950s' baptism peak and today, these figures indicate how much ground we have lost and are losing."

"The recommendations are unanimous," Gilbert said, "but more than that, these men have made this a personal statement of action, and they are hopeful that every pastor will review the list and see if they can identify with it. Our hope is that pastors will join us to make these recommendations personal and take action to effect change."

To see the full report, a summary of recommendations, a video challenge and more information, visit www.NAMB.net. (BP)

A summary report from the Pastors' Task Force on Evangelistic Impact and Declining Baptisms

OWNING THE PROBLEM AND SEIZING THE OPPORTUNITY

We pastors, members of this Task Force, encourage our fellow SBC pastors to join us in owning this problem. Together, we can lead our churches to be part of the solution.

As we each search our own hearts, reflect on our own leadership, and evaluate our congregations, we must acknowledge these problems through repentance and prayer.

We have a Spiritual Problem

ACTION: With urgency, we must join together in fervent and effective prayer for spiritual awakening in our churches and our nation.

We have a Leadership Problem

ACTION: As pastors we must intentionally model and prioritize personal evangelism while providing clear pathways for our congregations to follow.

We have a Disciple-Making Problem

ACTION: As pastors we must create a disciple-making culture—focusing on multiplying disciples who know how to grow in Christ and lead others to Christ.

We have a Next Generation Problem

ACTION: As pastors we must leverage our influence, activity and resources to reach and make disciples of the Next Generation. We must renew our focus on equipping parents and leaders—challenging them to make the claims of Christ clear to the Next Generation.

We have a Celebration Problem

ACTION: As pastors we must celebrate new life in Christ as people publicly profess their faith through baptism. We must establish an ethos of joy that celebrates the practice of personal evangelism and its fruit."

Reintroducing Magog to God



Church planter, Dominic Chaussé (left), and launch team member Timothée Guillemette meet regularly to discuss progress on the renovated space that will house worship services for the soon-to-launch church Axe 21 Magog. (Photo by Claudine Chaussé/NAMB)

By Adam Miller

Magog, Quebec—Magog: This city an hour east of Montreal is not as apocalyptic as it sounds. Though a growing group of committed Christians hopes the name might someday be known for ushering in the end times for Quebec's spiritual destitution.

With 53,000 people living in Magog most months and an additional 20,000 vacationing there in the summer, Magog is Quebec's premier destination for the province's vacationers.

But church planter Dominic Chaussé didn't come to the city for a permanent holiday. He came here to start Axe21 Magog as a planter sent by a church of the same name in the neighboring town of Sherbrooke.

Though it has "a huge lake that goes all the way to Vermont; four ski hills less than an hour away; miles of cycling paths; lots of outdoor sports—fishing, hunting—and so many restaurants, it has only one evangelical church," Chaussé said.

Many of the rising adults in Magog, as with most Quebecois, have parents who left the Catholic Church, leaving their children disinterested and without any knowledge of Jesus.

"I grew up in Montreal, and I never really prayed for my friends to get saved, because I never really believed it was possible," Chaussé said. "My parents' generation left the Catholic Church, and so my friends are the sons and daughters of people who have left the Catholic Church. We have one of the highest rates of suicide and divorce, and it's because people are so directionless and lack meaning or contentment in their lives."

"But there's a movement of the spirit," he noted. "People are praying for the lost, and we're seeing those same lost people come to Christ."

Axe21 Magog plans to launch later this year in a theater that, at one time, had become the city's most notorious bar before being vacated. Chaussé said

he sees this as an opportunity to redeem a dark part of the city, one which has been surprisingly receptive.

"I thought it was going to be super hard to start because the faith was so not present," Chaussé said. "They're not opposed, just unaware. 'What's going to happen when you die?' Many couldn't care less. They don't really believe there's something after death. Talk to them about hell and they laugh and say, 'That's something for kids.' If you talk to them about going to church, they just think it's something weird. But they're excited to speak about Jesus."

Chaussé said living in a way that displays Christ has had the greatest effect on Magog residents.

"Our babysitter is an example: Her mother died. When we heard of this, we didn't just tell her we would pray for her. That would have not had much impact," he said. "We cooked meals for her and cared for her. She said, 'You're living it out.' She came to church one Sunday, and then she started bringing her husband."

Axe21's core group also spent 400 hours the summer before the launch serving on The Green Brigade, which meant picking up trash after the city's many festivals.

"The city was actually excited about us launching," Chaussé recalled.

The famous church-turned-bar and music venue that will become Axe21's new address has served the double duty of drawing attention from radio stations and three local newspapers, one of which praised the church for its volunteer work in the city.

Months before launching, the church has already drawn the attention of many in the city. The congregation currently has 85 people meeting on a weekly and monthly basis—and they've baptized 18 of them.

"There's really no explanation for what's happening except that this is a movement of God's Spirit," Chaussé said. (NAMB)



Sam Moore, Evangelistic Ministries

479-381-1170, sam@evangelistsammoore.com

Sam Moore has the gift of an evangelist and the heart of a pastor. He is available for Revivals, Crusades, Harvest Days and Witness Training. Now scheduling for 2014-15.

www.evangelistsammoore.com

Being and looking presidential

Dressing a certain way does not make one any more presidential

After arriving at Oneida to serve as the school's president, I spent quite a bit of time with Bud Underwood. He shared a lot of helpful and insightful information with me regarding his experience in leading this ministry. Since that time, I have also sought counsel and advice from gentlemen who lead other Christian institutions. Each person I have talked with has shared some helpful information.

Not long after becoming president of OBI, someone asked me if I was now going to grow my hair out. I said if I had any hair, I would gladly grow it out for the world to see. I later reflected upon that question and thought perhaps that person was implying I should seek a more presidential look.

Some years ago, after watching a presidential debate, I made a comment about one of the candidates not really appearing very presidential. Recollection of those conversations made me think perhaps I should soften my look a bit. I have had a goatee for nearly 12 years. As a matter of fact, I can hardly remember not having some chin whiskers.

You may notice the picture that accompanies this article includes a clean-shaven face. During our fall break back in September, I decided to shave my goatee and took a new picture for the Western Recorder. When our students and staff returned, many of them made comments about my new look. The overwhelming majority of the comments suggested I bring the goatee back.

They didn't convince me, but when my wife suggested I grow my beard back, I decided to do so.

As a former coach and athletic director in Florida, I routinely wore shorts and a polo shirt. Whenever I did dress up for an event, many of my peers gave me a hard time about it.

I now wear a tie to work every day, but typically I don't wear a suit coat on campus unless we are having a special event. When representing the school off campus, I usually wear a suit coat.

On our last choir trip, we stopped at a state park on the way home for some fun. When I changed out of my suit to shorts and a T-shirt, many of our students gave me funny looks or said they had never seen me dressed that way before.

I recently visited Jim Taylor at University of the Cumberlands. He graciously took the time to share some of his knowledge with me as I seek to lead Oneida in the way the Lord wants.

Perhaps the thing I picked up quickest from Dr. Taylor—without him having to say it—was simply to be myself. As I watched him interact with others, it was clear he is comfortable being himself.

The way we are dressed does not make us who we are. Trying to look presidential doesn't make me any more presidential, just as trying to act Christian does not make me a Christian. We are striving at Oneida to teach our kids to be themselves, but, more importantly, to be who they are in Christ.

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

Senior memories

Graduates reflect on their favorite moments during time on campus

A Clear Creek graduation service has a tradition of allowing graduates to share favorite memories of their time at Clear Creek.

Your support of Clear Creek is an investment in kingdom work through the ministry of these students. Thank you for helping create lifelong memories for them. I know you will enjoy some of the stories that were shared at our recent graduation service.

Jackie Jean Jensen: "My fondest memory while at Clear Creek is

of Roberta Lucas, who was my supervisor at the switchboard and my mentor for a semester. I am also grateful that I have a greater understanding of God's word and how its content and context apply to today's world."

Kevin Griffin: "My fondest memories at Clear Creek include Mrs. Carmela Bartels praying with me during my first time on campus and being in the company of professors, Mr. and Mrs. McGibney. I learned self-confidence while here and formed a closer walk with the Lord."

C. Bruce Fisher: "My fondest memories will be of the handful of close friends I take away for accountability and future events. The hardships of

college: my studies, my tests, facing unknown challenges, finances and of being homesick; none of these things allowed me to get comfortable, lazy or disrespectful. I'm glad Clear Creek challenged me."

Amie Nicole Lake: "I am blessed to be leaving Clear Creek with tons of wonderful memories and knowledge. I have made many friends, and it is where my marriage was strengthened significantly. I also met my best friend for life here. I really enjoyed learning new things about missions and evangelism in cross-cultural

communication class with Dr. Hughes."

Jay Edward Guinn Jr.: "My fondest memories are the great experiences that I have enjoyed during the challenges to do community outreach in volunteer service, pulpit supply and internship. I have also enjoyed the chapel services as they became available online. A comical experience was watching me preach on TV for the first time in sermon delivery class. Last, but not least, even though I did all of my coursework online, I still feel like part of the Clear Creek family."

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

Campbellsville Univ. honors Ky.'s best school teachers

By Joan McKinney

Campbellsville—More than 160 teachers from 58 school districts throughout Kentucky were recognized May 10 with Campbellsville University's Excellence in Teaching awards during a ceremony at the Ransdell Chapel on the university's campus.

Bill Goodman, host of KET's "Kentucky Tonight" and "One to One," addressed the approximately 400 teachers and their guests, asking, "What is a teacher for?"

Goodman shared stories of Jesse Stuart, Pearl Arredondo, Ramsey Musallam, Adam Braun and Marina Keegan, all of whom used their talents to make the world a better place.

Goodman said each of the individuals had inspiring teachers in their lives who taught them to write, to "get it right" instead of "getting it wrong," were driven and had passion, had curiosity, life-changing experiences and intense reflection.

Goodman said Braun made the world his classroom by going throughout the world asking a child in each country he visited: "If you could have anything in the world, what would you want most?" Children from Hawaii to Beijing and Vietnam all said they wanted to dance, to have a book and to have their mothers be healthy.

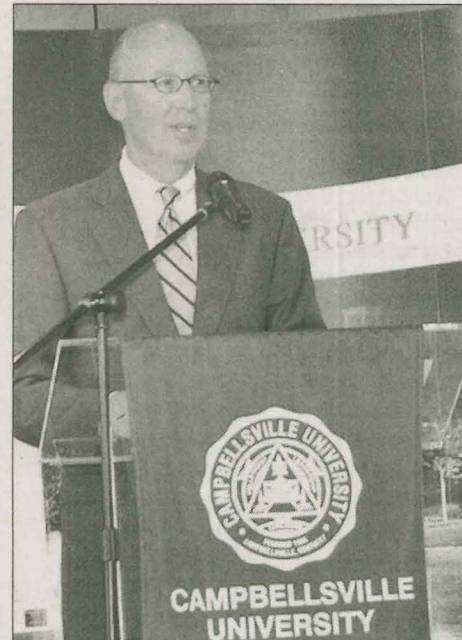
But one little boy, a street beggar in India, Goodman recalled, wanted a pencil. Braun gave him a yellow pencil and thought, "Could something as small as a pencil—the foundation of an education—unlock a child's potential?"

Today, Braun's organization has built schools in Africa, Asia and Latin America and offered more than 5 million educational hours to children in poverty. In 2012, he was named to Forbes magazine's "30 Under 30" list.

Goodman echoed Jesse Stuart, who said, "We are fortunate to be born in America. Teaching is a calling in the old-fashioned pulpit sense. ... Teaching is spiritual and has to do with values, with how we choose to live our lives."

"As a teacher, I have tried to go beyond the textbooks into the character—stressing honesty, goodness, and make each life count for something."

Goodman told the teachers gathered



KET host Bill Goodman honors teachers at the 28th annual Campbellsville University Excellence in Teaching awards ceremony May 10 at the school's Ransdell Chapel. (Photo by Linda Waggener/CU)

that children and grandchildren depend on them every day and, "You are to be honored and congratulated much more than you are."

In conclusion, Goodman asked all teachers to stand and recite: "I am a teacher. I am to be honored and lifted up every day. I am to be celebrated. I am a teacher."

Campbellsville University President Michael Carter told the teachers he was proud of them, calling education the "most powerful force on the planet."

"Teaching is the first of all disciplines," he said. "Thank you for the outstanding job you do for us."

Carter said teachers embody the traits mentioned in Titus 2:7, "Show yourself in all respects to be a model of good works, and in your teaching show integrity, dignity, and sound speech."

Campbellsville University started the Excellence in Teaching Awards program in 1987. Through it, the university honors teachers in all grade levels, as selected by their school districts. Since its inception, more than 3,000 teachers have been recognized. (CU)

For a complete list of this year's recipients of Excellence in Teaching Awards, visit www.WesternRecorder.org.

Canceled show's stars feel HGTV 'got bullied'

Knoxville, Tenn.—The Home & Garden Television network has cancelled an upcoming reality show, and the program's stars believe the move came in response to a firestorm of controversy surrounding their traditional Christian views on abortion and gay marriage.

HGTV had slated for its fall lineup a show called "Flip It Forward," starring twin brothers David and Jason Benham. Each episode was to feature the brothers finding a "fixer-upper" house and remodeling it for a family with limited financial resources.

But following a report by the website RightWingWatch.org that quoted one of the Benhams as opposing gay marriage

and abortion and saying Christianity is superior to Islam, HGTV tweeted May 7, "HGTV has decided not to move forward with the Benham Brothers' series."

The brothers told CNN they believe HGTV was pressured into its decision.

"I feel they got bullied," David Benham said of HGTV May 9. "There's an agenda that's out in America right now that demands silence, especially from men and women who profess Jesus Christ and hold to His standards."

Both Benham brothers are graduates of Liberty University in Lynchburg, Va., former minor league baseball players and owners of a business that flipped houses for profit for a decade. (BP)

YOUR PRIORITY IS MINISTRY...OURS IS GETTING YOU THERE



Search our Huge
Inventory of New &
Used Buses

- Nationwide Delivery
- Online Pricing
- Onsite Bus Graphics
- Quick & Easy Leasing or Financing

800-322-4024

KENTUCKY'S PREMIER BUS DEALER
A DIVISION OF MID-SOUTH BUS CENTER

Your church newsletter
and the
Western Recorder

Mailed to every church family
for about the price of a postcard!
For more information, call (866) 489-3535.

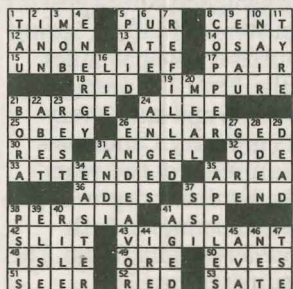


Bible Crosswords

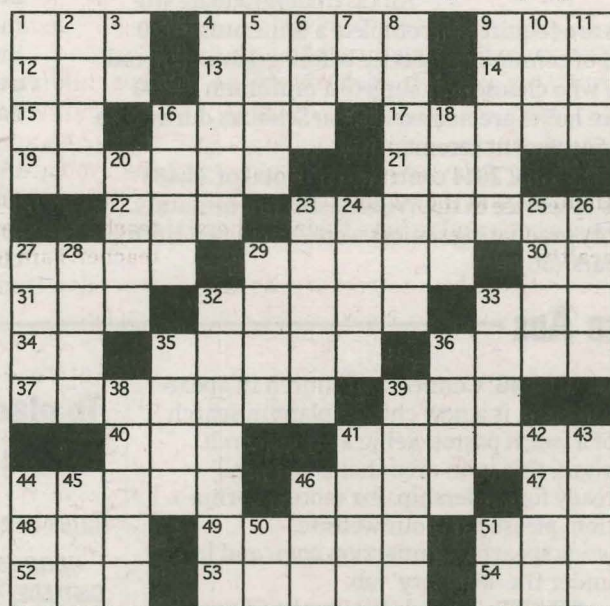
Across

- 1 Mentor to Samuel
4 "Sir, we would see ____"
(John 12:21)
9 Judicial sentence
12 Benign skin tumor
13 City of Hadad
(Genesis 36:35)
14 "Out of whose womb came
the ____?" (Job 38:29)
15 Apiece (abbr.)
16 Sign
17 ____ of Melchisedec
(Hebrews 7:11)
19 "I was ____ in iniquity"
(Psalm 51:5)
21 Ask what might have been
22 French possessive pronoun
23 Said goodnight
27 Without a nom or a nom de
plume (abbr.)
29 "Simon Peter ... went into
the sepulchre, and seeth the
____ clothes" (John 20:6)
30 Bible language (abbr.)
31 ____-oni (Rachel's son)
32 Grace
33 Function
34 Son of Judah (Genesis 38:6)
35 Already sold
36 Played a tuba?
37 "Men of low degree ... and
men of high degree ... are
altogether ____ than vanity"
(Psalm 62:9)
39 One one-thousandth of an
inch
40 Ancient Hebrew liquid
measure
41 "Dost thou still ____ thine
integrity?" (Job 2:9)
44 "I lay in Sion a chief corner
____" (1 Peter 2:6)

#199



By Evelyn Boyington



#200

- 46 "Ye ____ men with burdens
grievous" (Luke 11:46)
47 Concerning
48 French possessive pronoun
49 "A man's wisdom maketh his
face to ____" (Ecclesiastes 8:1)
51 Parts of a yr.
52 Actor Morita
53 Pursues, as the truth
54 "Go to the ____, thou
sluggard" (Proverbs 6:6)
- Down**
1 Jacob gave Esau 200 ____
and 20 rams
(Genesis 32:13-14)
2 Mother of Dinah
3 Hoosier state (abbr.)
4 Son of Zebedee, and disciple
of Jesus
5 Tied
6 "Be ye angry, and ____ not"
(Ephesians 4:26)
7 State of Salt Lake (abbr.)
8 "For the bed is ____ than that
a man can stretch himself
on it" (Isaiah 28:20)
9 New Jersey college
10 Fast point, in tennis
11 ____ your instructions
16 ____ sesame
18 "The ____ of that house was
great" (Luke 6:49)
- 20 Son of Manasseh, king of
Judah (2 Kings 21:18)
23 Ohio, for one
24 "John also was baptizing in
____" (John 3:23)
25 "Woe to them that are at
____ in Zion" (Amos 6:1)
26 Popular female fictional
detective
27 Brother of Seth
28 Father of Salathiel
(Luke 3:27)
29 Gennesaret, for one
32 "Let your soul delight itself
in ____" (Isaiah 55:2)
33 Father of Arah
(1 Chronicles 7:39)
35 Willowy
36 "If ye ____ and devour
one another, take heed"
(Galatians 5:15)
38 Holy ____
39 Overtakers of Babylon
41 Sergeant, for example
42 ____ horse
43 Aerie
44 Brand of automobile oil
45 Orange Pekoe, for example
46 "The highways ____
waste, the wayfaring man
ceaseth" (Isaiah 33:8)
50 Pronoun
51 Sturbridge state (abbr.)

Memorial gifts

Honor the memory of a loved one
by giving to a charitable cause

Gifts made in memory of someone are among the most personal of expressions and ones that occur most often in the context of very emotional circumstances.

Those who make memorial gifts are people who have given considerable thought to their decisions to make those gifts. They are sensitive, thoughtful, caring people who want to make a meaningful donation in honor of someone special, like a spouse, child, sibling, parent, friend, teacher, minister or other loved ones who have predeceased them.

A memorial gift is a way for you to establish a legacy in memory of that special one, and, at the same time, provide financial resources to one or more charitable organizations for the effective fulfillment of their missions.

As you approach Memorial Day, I encourage you prayerfully to consider making a memorial gift in honor of someone who was special in your life. Consider the focus of your gift to be a living memorial to further the mission

of Christ through their church and one or more of the organizations with which that special person was affiliated. Give Laurie Valentine and me the privilege of assisting you in your consideration.

There are a variety of tax-wise giving methods available to you. In addition to cash gifts, gifts of appreciated securities and real estate have specific tax advantages. You may have a cash-value life insurance policy, the original purpose for which you purchased it no longer exists. Gifts of life insurance provide an excellent way to make a memorial gift and to receive a

tax benefit.

A beneficiary designation of a retirement account also offers some important tax advantages. A charitable gift annuity, charitable remainder trust and a bequest in your will also are ways to accomplish memorial gifts at your death.

Call Laurie toll free for the details.
Happy Memorial Day!

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

Achieving the WMU objectives

Missions is at the heart of WMU's
role in Kentucky, around the world

As an auxiliary to the Kentucky Baptist Convention, our role has always been that of "helper" to the convention and to Kentucky Baptist churches. Six objectives guide our work and, while they are familiar, it is vital that we revisit them often.

- Pray for missions.
- Engage in missions action and witnessing.
- Learn about missions.
- Support missions.
- Develop spiritually toward a missions lifestyle.

■ Participate in the work of the church and denomination.

Kentucky Woman's Missionary Union plans events, training and ministry opportunities, and it distributes funds to achieve these objectives. As we do this, we come alongside the KBC to "help churches reach Kentucky and the world for Christ."

At the same time, we are grateful for Cooperative Program support that allows us to have a top-notch missions education staff and for the Eliza Broadus Offering, which is used for Kentucky Baptist missions and ministries, including missions education materials, events and resources.

While we are still receiving gifts to the 2013-14 Eliza Broadus Offering, allocations for 2014-15 have been set. In the coming year, EBO will assist Kentucky Baptists through \$995,000 distributed for the work of the KBC (\$860,000), associations (\$35,000), and ministries across our state (\$100,000). This is more than twice the CP funding of \$430,000 designated for Kentucky WMU in 2014-15.

Of the Cooperative Program funds designated for the work of Kentucky

WMU in the coming year, nearly half has been designated by the KBC as "Cooperative Program Resourcing."

This designation recognizes the important role of WMU in educating and supporting the total work of Kentucky and Southern Baptists

EBO at Work



Joy Bolton

EBO was at work last weekend through SALT (State Association Leadership Training). It will be at work this summer through camps, overnights, Kentucky Changers, Excel, Familyfest, the Baptist Nursing Fellowship and

much more. Your EBO gifts help provide many missions opportunities, inspiring participants to achieve WMU's objectives. And when the WMU objectives are carried out, the results are felt across Kentucky and around the world.

The 2013 state missions theme was "More than Ever, Make a Difference." The closing challenge was: "How about it? Are you ready to pray, give and go? Are you ready to make a difference?"

Remember:

- You can make a difference.
 - Your prayers make a difference.
 - Your gifts make a difference.
 - Your church can make a difference.
 - Your association can make a difference.
 - Kids can make a difference.
 - Youth can make a difference.
 - Learning makes a difference.
- More than ever, let's make a difference.

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



May

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.
- 20-21 Mother/Daughter and Father/Son Overnight Camps, Cedar Crest Camp, Bagdad.

MOUNTAINS TO THE MISSISSIPPI

COMPILED BY STAFF

CAMPBELLVILLE—Saloma Church will hold revival services May 25, 11 a.m. & 6 p.m., with Associate Pastor **Jason England** as evangelist. **John Chowning** is pastor.

EDDYVILLE—Second Church

recently called **Ronnie Fox** as associate pastor. **Mac Walls** is pastor.

GEORGETOWN—Dry Run Church honored Pastor **Tony Shouse** May 18 for his 10 years of service to the church.

LEXINGTON—Porter Memorial

Church will host a **Priscilla Shirer Live** event July 18, 7 p.m.; July 19, 9 a.m. **Anthony Evans** will serve as worship leader. The cost is \$49 per person. Register online at www.lifeway.com, or by phone at (800) 254-2022. **Bill Henard** is pastor.

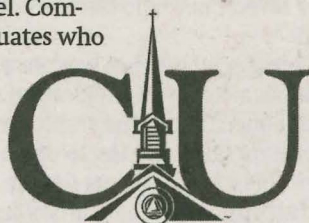
Campbellsville, Cumberlands confer degrees

Campbellsville—United States Rep. Ed Whitfield (R-Ky.) urged Campbellsville University undergraduates to "work well and faithfully" as he addressed graduates May 3 at the Powell Athletic Center.

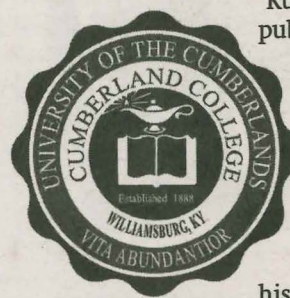
CU graduated 152 master's degree students a day earlier at Ransdell Chapel. Combined with the 264 graduates who graduated May 3, a total of 416 students received their diplomas upon completion of all academic requirements. During CU's December commencement, 196 received their diplomas for a total of 612 students in the 2013-14 graduating class.

Whitfield, who was awarded an honorary doctorate of public service degree, urged the graduates to use their talents, imagination and hard work to be successful and help the world by lending their hands to others.

Co-valedictorians of the May undergraduate graduating class were Karen Lynn Bland of Campbellsville, Trevor Douglas Greenwell of Bardstown, Miwa Matsuo of Japan, and Emilee Katherine O'Brien of Louisville. (CU)



Williamsburg—On May 10, University of the Cumberlands conferred 649 degrees during their annual commencement ceremony. Of those, 242 were baccalaureate degrees, 148 master's degrees, one education specialist and 14 doctorate degrees.



Rufus Friday, president and publisher of the Lexington Herald-Leader, gave the commencement speech.

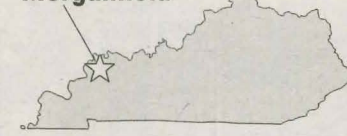
During the 2013-14 academic year, the university has conferred a total of 1,298 degrees, making it the largest class in Cumberlands' history.

All UC undergraduate students are required to complete a minimum of 40 hours of community service before graduation, and those who choose to complete a minimum of 200 service hours are named Hutton Scholars during the commencement ceremony.

The class of 2014 contributed a total of 34,483 hours of service to the Williamsburg community. Seventy graduating seniors were designated Hutton Scholars. (UC)

Spotlight on ...

Morganfield



First Church's children's ministry will present the musical, "The Agape League," May 25, 9 a.m. **Tim Leadingham** is pastor.

Koogler awarded Ruth scholarship

Williamsburg—Joseph Koogler, of Hebron, is the recipient of the Fred Roth Memorial Half-Tuition Scholarship for 2014-15.

Each year, a rising senior at University of the Cumberlands majoring in missions and ministry receives the scholarship. It is named for the late Fred Roth who taught at Cumberlands for many years.

Koogler majors in youth and family ministry, with a minor in missions. He is actively involved with UC's Baptist Campus Ministry and at Immanuel Baptist Church in Corbin.

Koogler has applied to the International Mission Board's Journeyman program. He plans to attend seminary and serve in children's ministry. (UC)

CLASSIFIED ADS

CAMP OPPORTUNITY: First Southern Baptist Church, Pikeville, Tenn., has room for more youth in grades 6-12 to participate in its Fall Creek Falls Baptist Youth Camp June 15-21. It will be held at Fall Creek Falls State Park, Pikeville, Tenn. The cost is \$135. Aaron Loy of The Fellowship at Two Rivers in Nashville will lead worship and Maclane Forbus of North Metro First Baptist Church, Atlanta, will be camp pastor. For more information, contact Wade Dodson at (423) 447-8520 or (423) 447-2931.

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.

RESOURCES: Need your piano tuned/repared? 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 resumés to nhmbc@newharmonybaptist.net, or mail to New Harmony Missionary Baptist Church, P.O. Box 627, Benton, KY 42025; phone: (270) 527-3811.

SEEKING: Crofton Baptist Church is prayerfully accepting resumés 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 resumés for a full-time student and children's minister. Seminary training and experience is preferred. Please email resumés 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: 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: Sunrise Children's Services is seeking a donor database administrator. This position serves as database administrator of Sunrise's donor database (Raiser's Edge); manages day-to-day operations of the Raiser's Edge fundraising database. Related college, business and/or technical experience; minimum of three-plus years of experience in data/information management and report generation.

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

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 pbpcpastorsearch@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. Resumés to Crittenden Baptist Church, P.O. Box 132, Crittenden, KY 41030, Attn: Personnel Team.

SEEKING: Part-time music director; send resumé to Pleasant Valley Baptist Church, 6070 Lonoke Road, Horse Cave, KY 42749, or email to neila.combs@me.com; (270) 786-1475.

SEEKING: Cecilia Baptist Church is seeking a children's minister intern. The position will last through the end of July 2015. Anyone interested should email a resumé to travis@ceciliabaptistchurch.com or by mail to Travis Vaughan, 416 E. Main St., Cecilia, KY 42724. For more information, call Travis at (270) 862-4228.

SEEKING: Crofton Baptist Church is seeking a part-time youth director. Please submit resumés to: 155 College St., Crofton, KY 42217; croftonbaptist@bellsouth.net.

To place an advertisement in the Western Recorder:

Rates are available upon request. Call (502) 489-3428; or visit westernrecorder.org



Claims made by advertisers are not necessarily those of the Western Recorder's staff or directors.

SEEKING: Versailles Baptist, a dynamic fellowship 10 miles west of Lexington, is seeking a minister to children. We average more than 400 weekly worshippers and serve nearly 100 children per week through multiple ministries. Part-time and full-time candidates will be considered. Resumés should be sent to glyn@versaillesbaptist.org.

SEEKING: Versailles Baptist, a dynamic fellowship 10 miles west of Lexington, is seeking a part-time minister of worship to lead our blended service of more than 400 Sunday morning worshippers. Resumés should be sent to glyn@versaillesbaptist.org.

SEEKING: Minister to children, Springfield Baptist Church is about 30 miles north of Nashville, Tenn. We average about 400 in worship and have a very active children's ministry. Candidates should have a minimum of two years' experience and a seminary degree is preferred. Please send resumés to Beth Bohler at bethbohler05@gmail.com. The deadline for resumés is June 30.

Deaf Theological Center launches for missions task

By Erin Roach

Brentwood, Tenn.—An estimated 35 million people in the world are deaf, and each day 750 of them die without knowing Jesus.

With no deaf-centric theological education available, some deaf Southern Baptists called to reach those who share their heart language have been unable to meet International Mission Board requirements for career missionary status.

The launch of a Deaf Theological Center near Nashville, Tenn., earlier this spring marked a historic moment for reaching the deaf globally.

Through a partnership between IMB, Union University in Jackson, Tenn., the Southern Baptist Conference for the Deaf, Brentwood (Tenn.) Baptist Church and Brentwood Baptist Deaf Church, deaf believers can receive customized seminary-level training for missions and ministry.

From April to August, three IMB couples who already have been working with the deaf in Southeast and South Asia will receive the training they need to meet IMB requirements and continue their service.

Through the partnership, the IMB provides instructors, customized course delivery and financial support for missionaries and their families; Union provides a customized academic program, academic oversight and credit hours at a special rate; and Brentwood Baptist and its deaf church provide meeting space, instructors, housing and other services.

The six students are enrolled in five classes taught in American Sign



Members of Brentwood (Tenn.) Baptist Church use the American Sign Language sign for applause—waving both hands—to celebrate the launch a deaf-centric theological training center. The International Mission Board, Union University and Brentwood Baptist are among the partners making the center possible. (Photos by Morris Abernathy)

Language by fluent ASL signers: Old Testament, New Testament, biblical doctrine, biblical hermeneutics and missions and church planting.

For years, Brentwood Baptist's vision

has been to become a global equipping hub for deaf missionaries, church planters, pastors and other men and women who want to receive deaf-centric theological training for missions and ministry.

During a special service at Brentwood Baptist Deaf Church April 13, representatives of the partnering institutions gathered to sign a formal agreement and celebrate the launch of the center.

Mark Sauter, who with his wife, Vesta, serves with the IMB as an affinity global strategy leader among deaf peoples, said the center is not just about helping deaf believers meet the requirements IMB trustees have set for theological education among missionaries.

"This is an opportunity, I believe, to prepare personnel for effective, practical church planting, evangelism and the reproduction of indigenous leaders," Sauter said. "I really don't know how much better it gets than where we are today, and I'm very excited about the opportunity to help launch this."

Vesta Sauter said she had waited for the day for 47 years. She recalled how, as a teenager, she watched her deaf father go forward after a worship service to tell the pastor he felt called to full-time ministry. The family returned home dejected after the pastor told him deaf people could not serve in formal roles because there was no theological training available to them. Vesta decided then that she would stand in the gap between the hearing and the deaf and work toward

solving the problem.

The Sauters helped IMB staff "realize that deaf people are part of a deaf culture that is unique and distinctive," said Grant Lovejoy, IMB's director of storying strategies.

"You really need teachers who understand deaf culture well (and) teach in the way that deaf people learn best: through stories and through lots of interaction and dialogue, through role play and through active learning—learning by doing," Lovejoy said.

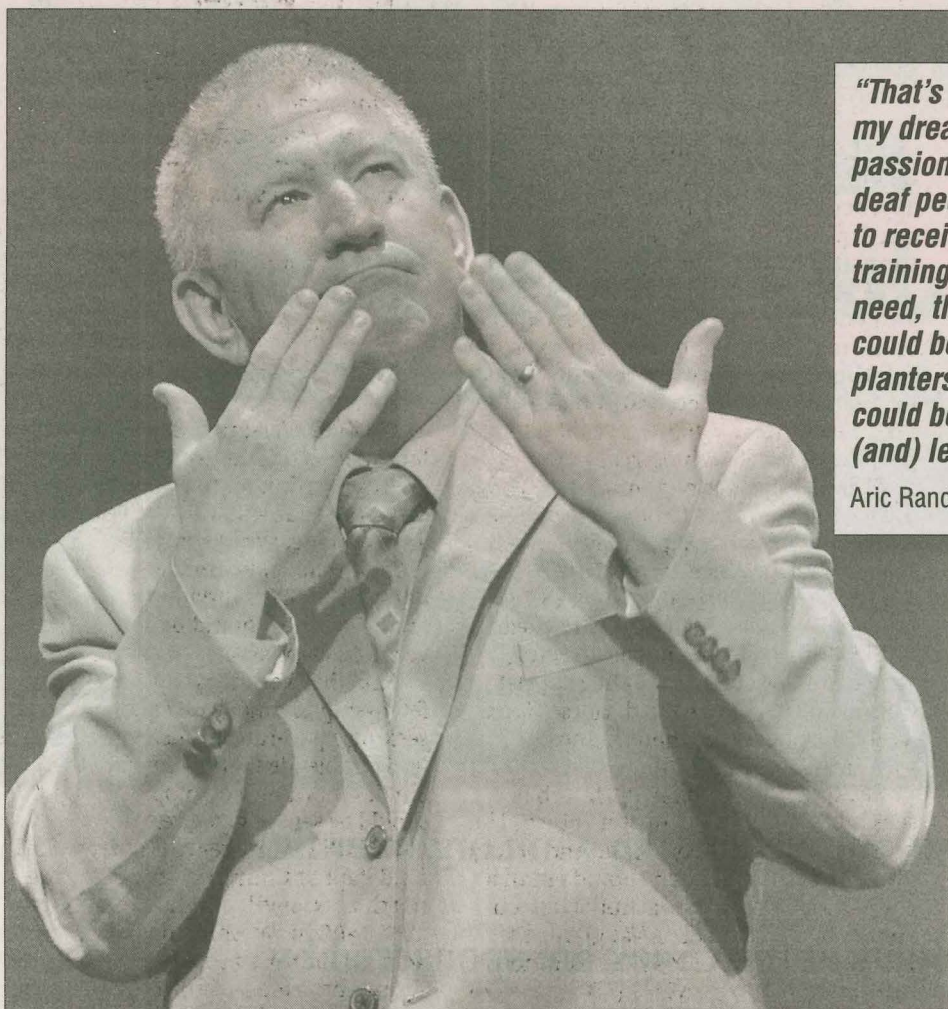
Carla Sanderson, Union University's provost and executive vice president for strategic initiatives, said she believes God will use the center "to reach those millions of people that we've heard about today who need to hear the gospel story."

Aric Randolph, pastor of Brentwood Baptist Deaf Church, said through an interpreter, "To be totally honest, we're starting with five classes, but my vision is that we could become a four-year college."

"That's my goal, my dream, my passion, for deaf people to have the opportunity to receive the training they need, that they could be church planters. They could be pastors (and) leaders," Randolph said.

Conversations are underway with the North American Mission Board to add a deaf church planting residency next year so that deaf church planters can receive training at the center and then extend their time at Brentwood Baptist for additional church planting instruction.

Visit DeafPeoples.IMB.org for more information. The website encourages and empowers deaf Christians to participate in deaf missions efforts. (BP)



"That's my goal, my dream, my passion, for deaf people to receive the training they need, that they could be church planters. They could be pastors (and) leaders"

Aric Randolph

Aric Randolph, pastor of Brentwood Baptist Deaf Church near Nashville, Tenn., gives a testimony about God leading him to the church with a vision for training deaf believers as pastors, church planters and missionaries. Brentwood Baptist Deaf Church is hosting three IMB couples who will receive the training they need to continue serving.

MISSION ADVENTURE CAMP MISSIONS SAFARI



Weeklong camps for girls and boys

**Mother/Daughter &
Father/Son Overnights**

June 2014

Cedar Crest, Bagdad, KY

This summer at Mission Adventure Camp kids will set out on a Missions Safari to Africa! Campers will learn about the culture and missions in African countries.

All weeklong and overnight camps will host a camp missionary!

Weeklong Camp for boys and girls grades 3-6 and their leaders
June 9-13, June 16-20 and June 23-27



Mother/Daughter and Father/Son Overnights
June 13-14 and June 20-21

For more information and to register visit our website
kywmu.org/mac

Enjoy missionary speakers,
worship, bible study, swimming,
recreation and more!

Mother/Daughter Overnight
For girls who have completed
grades 1-3 and their moms

GA Overnight
For girls in grades 4-6
and their leaders

Acteens Splash
For teen girls in grades 7-12
and their leaders



For more information and to register visit our website kywmu.org/overnights

Mission Adventure Camp and Overnights at the Creek are sponsored by

