

WESTERN Recorder

May 27, 2014

Shine Like Stars * Philippians 2:15

Volume 188, Issue 20



Conference explores how Christians, churches should respond to same-sex marriage debate

By Drew Nichter

Crestwood—Historically, the Bible reveals that Christians have faced cultural adversities for centuries.

While the issue of same-sex marriage and how today's church should respond to it is a challenging one, the church's struggle with culture is nothing new.

"We need to recognize, with humility, the church has faced more challenging

times in the past," Southern Baptist Theological Seminary President Albert Mohler assured those attending the Protecting Biblical Marriage conference at Crestwood Baptist Church.

The first century church had to figure out how to remain faithful to God amidst a promiscuous, sexually confused culture in Rome. In 1 Corinthians 6:9, Paul explicitly states that those who

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The Protecting Biblical Marriage conference featured a panel discussion with (from left): Kentucky Baptist Convention Executive Director Paul Chitwood; Southern Baptist Theological Seminary President Albert Mohler; Andrew Walker, director of public policy for the Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission; KBC Associate Executive Director Curtis Woods; August Boto, general counsel for the Southern Baptist Convention Executive Committee; and Bill Langley, pastor of Severns Valley Baptist Church in Elizabethtown. (Photo by Robin Cornet/KBC)



Southern Baptist Convention President Fred Luter shares his personal story of redemption with nearly 100 students from Severns Valley Baptist Association churches. They gathered as part of an association-wide Evangelism Rally May 21 at which Luter was the keynote speaker. (Photo by Drew Nichter)

SBC President Luter rallies Severns Valley Association to persevere in 'ultimate battle'

By Drew Nichter

Elizabethtown—In what was likely his final visit to Kentucky before next month's annual meeting, Southern Baptist Convention President Fred Luter looked to fan the flames of revival in Elizabethtown.

The passionate pastor from New Orleans highlighted Severns Valley Baptist Association's Evangelism Rally May 21. Hundreds packed the worship center at Severns Valley Baptist Church to hear from the SBC's first African American president just days before he concludes his historic two years of service.

Luter said it has been a joy to serve as SBC president, despite the constant traveling that comes with the position. "I have literally been preaching somewhere across the country every week," he said.

Each Sunday morning, though, Luter still makes his way to the pulpit at Franklin Avenue Baptist

Church in New Orleans, where he has been pastor for 28 years.

During his time in Elizabethtown, Luter visited with Severns Valley Association pastors and church leaders. He even made time to chat with nearly 100 students from local churches, sharing his own story of redemption and urging teenagers to break free of peer pressure and "stand for God."

The eternal battle

In his rally sermon, Luter spoke of the "ultimate battle" that takes place "for your soul," as revealed in John 10:7-11.

Acknowledging that all have read about, seen or even experienced battles in their lives, Luter stated that none compare to the ultimate battle, which "will determine whether you spend eternity in heaven or spend eternity in hell."

Luter's own battles are well-documented. Hurricane Katrina did not

spare Franklin Avenue when it hammered New Orleans in 2005, filling the church with upwards of nine feet of water.

Many of the church's 7,000 members fled the city. Luter himself relocated to Birmingham, Ala., temporarily. By early 2006, with its congregation scattered, Franklin Avenue began holding worship services in New Orleans, Baton Rouge, La., and Houston, where it now has satellite campuses.

Luter advised Christ followers of three things to be aware of "if you're going to be able to stand."

First, is the "Shepherd's provision." In John 10:9, Jesus says, "I am the door," and all who enter the door are saved.

This, Luter said, is Jesus' reminder that no matter how heated believers' battles get, He will sustain them. But the provision "is only for those of us who come through the door."

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'On holy ground'

Crossings dedicates new worship center at Jonathan Creek camp

By Whitney Jones

Hardin—Nearly 20 years ago, Kentucky Baptists almost closed and sold the Jonathan Creek campground. But now thousands of students come every year for Crossings at the Creek, which is celebrating its 15th year in operation with a new facility.

The A.M. Johnson Worship Center sits near the camp's entrance, with golden light shining on the water and woods below as this summer's counselors gathered into the camp's newest addition. They sang with arms raised and hands clasped before Crossings President David Melber stepped to the stage to introduce a slew of Jonathan Creek leaders, all of whom share some of the camp's history and impact.

Melber said Jonathan Creek nearly closed when the Kentucky Baptist Convention found the camp could not survive financially due to off-season market demand and a large stack of unpaid bills.

But a group of people stood up to keep it open, many of them who had professed their faith in Christ at Jonathan Creek, forming the Kentucky Baptist Assemblies to run the camp.

One of the men leading that effort was Willis Henson, who became the Assemblies' board chairman. Henson



Jonathan Creek's new worship center built this year still has a few finishing touches that need completing, but summer counselors for Crossings at the Creek still met for the building's dedication. More than 12,000 students will pass through and worship in the building this summer. (Photo by Whitney Jones)

said he did not know what to do to keep the camp open and pay its many bills in the beginning. But through prayer and many meetings KBA kept Jonathan Creek and Cedarmore open, which has had an effect on the lives of many young people and more beyond the small Kentucky campground.

"I drove down here a moment ago, and tears rolled down my eyes," Henson said. "I hadn't been here in three or four

years. Unbelievable, unbelievable—I never dreamed it could be anything like this."

Like Henson, Jason Ellerbrook was also a founding board member. He told the counselors in the audience that camp is about making relationships, and that those relationships have changed thousands of lives.

Last year nearly 800 students made decisions for Christ at Jonathan Creek.

"When person after person accepts the Lord into their heart at a certain location, ... it really is holy ground," Ellerbrook said. "Something really happens in a physical place when God has met with so many people over and over and over again. You guys are serving on holy ground."

Students and counselors from Jonathan Creek have served around the world, making an impact for Christ on a journey that, for many of them, began at camp.

Jeff Eaton, who served as an assistant director in Crossings' early days, said his daughter is in pharmaceutical school so she can make sure international orphanages get the medications they need. That dream began when she was a camper at Jonathan Creek.

Scott Bidwell, who currently runs the camp, asked counselors and leaders to write scripture, thoughts and prayers on the stage and floors of the new center before it is carpeted.

Dozens of people knelt down, Sharpies in hand, to gird the center with scripture and prepare the worship center for the many lives that will soon be changed in it.

More than 12,000 campers will come to Crossings at the Creek this summer, with camp beginning May 31. (WR)

Marriage

Continued from page 1

engage in homosexual acts will not "inherit the kingdom of God."

But in today's society where that which was once condemned is now celebrated, Mohler said churches and Christ followers often find themselves asking: "What do we do now?"

It was the central question speakers sought to answer at the May 22 conference.

The Kentucky Baptist Convention-sponsored event convened a seminary president, a public policy expert, a lawyer and pastors to discuss just how local churches and individual Christians can protect themselves from the cultural "perfect storm" that threatens to encroach upon religious liberties.

In recent days, federal judges have overturned same-sex marriage bans in Oregon and Pennsylvania. Nineteen states now recognize gay marriages as legal. As recently as 10 years ago, not one state had legalized such unions, Mohler pointed out.

In addition to potential religious liberty implications, "there are massive pastoral challenges we now face," Mohler said.

Among the challenges: children who attend Vacation Bible School who have two parents of the same sex; a church member who begins living a transgender lifestyle; or a same-sex couple that wants to use a church's sanctuary for a same-sex marriage ceremony.

"We are living in one of the most incredibly challenging times the church has ever faced," Mohler said. "But we fool ourselves ... if we think that this is a time the church can't handle."

So, just what are churches to do? "Be proactive," Andrew Walker added.

The director of public policy for the Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission warned of several pending lawsuits that resulted from individuals or businesses refusing to accommodate same-sex couples and their marriage ceremonies based on a religiously held belief that marriage is between a man and a woman only.

By taking proactive measures, churches can

"keep the issues from ever getting to court in the first place," Walker said.

At the same time, "we don't need to work ourselves up into a frenzy," Walker added. The threat that pastors will soon be forced to conduct same-sex weddings are unfounded—for now.

"I think our First Amendment is very strong, and I find it very unlikely that a government official would coerce a pastor to stand up and perform a same-sex marriage ceremony," he said, adding that, over time, laws could change.

With that in mind, Walker suggested five immediate steps churches should take to protect themselves:

- Adopt a formal membership policy that explains what membership entails. "While the government does not intervene in doctrinal and membership matters, churches need to be clear to those who would desire membership on what membership requires."



Albert Mohler

- Adopt procedures for church discipline and revoking membership. "If an individual slips into unrepentant sin, there needs to be a clear policy on removing the individual from membership in order for churches to protect themselves."

- Adopt an employment statement that clarifies the criteria to apply for a job within the church. "It serves as a clear filter by offering a consistent employment criteria and protects the church from claims of discrimination."

- Adopt a statement of belief regarding the church's understanding of marriage and sexuality. "This is necessary for the sake of being clear about what constitutes a marriage and what does not constitute a marriage."

- Adopt a church facility use policy. "Right now, the law is unclear on what happens if you make your sanctuary available to the public, but then, if you would then deny a gay couple. ... But churches need to go the extra mile and put into their bylaws or adopt some type of policy that stipulates who can use their church facilities for wedding services and who cannot." (WR)

Evangelism Rally

Continued from page 1

Second, it is important to know about the "serpent's plan," Luter noted. In verse 10, Jesus refers to Satan as a "thief" who "comes only to steal and kill and destroy."

Satan "will convince you to sin and convince you to mess up," Luter said. The enemy will do this, the pastor warned, through sickness, sorrow, divorce, financial setbacks, pornography, gambling, drugs and alcohol—anything he can use to cause your downfall.

Third, Christ followers must remember the "Shepherd's promise" mentioned in John 10:11, "I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep," referring to Christ's death on the cross at Calvary, Luter pointed out.

"Many of us are going through battles," he said, "and we've got to realize the battle you're going through (is) not because of who you are, but because of whose you are."

The good news, Luter proclaimed, is "we can win the ultimate battle because of the victory that Jesus won at Calvary." (WR)

Correction

In the recent article, "Kentucky pastor to be nominated for SBC president" (WR, May 13), it should be noted that Jared Moore's nomination will be made by Bennie Smith, a deacon and member of New Salem Baptist Church in Hustonville, where Moore is pastor.

Mission Board report, part 2

The changing culture creates greater challenges in some areas of our work than others. The drama surrounding Sunrise Children's Services in 2013 is a perfect example.

Together We are the KBC



Paul Chitwood

While Sunrise still has the difficult job of navigating government contracts, be assured that the board and interim administration are clear on this: Sunrise will be distinctly Christian in its ministry, including its hiring practices.

With that commitment brings a greater opportunity and greater need for support from our churches. Thank you for approving the one-time "Shine!" offering. We look forward to seeing how God uses that offering to provide for the needs of this ministry to hurting kids as we move forward.

The recovery of Sunrise is a perfect example of why the details of our relationships with our agencies and institutions matter. KBC agencies and institutions owe their existence to the Cooperative Program of Kentucky Baptists, individual donors who are Kentucky Baptists, and/or a special offering from KBC churches.

The Western Recorder, Kentucky Baptist Foundation and Crossings have CP as their lifeblood. Though an auxiliary, the WMU we know today exists because of the Cooperative Program and because Kentucky Baptists give through the Eliza Broadus Offering.

Our institutions are also benefactors of their relationship with the KBC. For example, Campbellsville University and the University of the Cumberlands would be hard pressed to find a donor who, every decade, gives direct support and scholarship assistance to each of these institutions nearing \$15 million, not to mention the additional millions of dollars donated by individual Kentucky Baptists.

Some may point to the small percentage that those funds represent in annual budgets larger than \$40 million, but the wise leader understands that walking away from the kind of support given by Kentucky Baptists would be as foolish as running a marathon the day after having a leg amputated. You might still be in the race, but 26.2 miles is a long way to limp.

In exchange for throwing their support behind their agencies and institutions, KBC churches have the privilege of making board appointments—appointments designed to give direct accountability of the agency or institution to the churches. To quote the covenant agreements that govern each of these relationships: "The Kentucky Baptist Convention shall, in return for funding, be given the right and responsibility in the selection and orientation of trustees."

This "right and responsibility" is the only meaningful accountability that can be exercised by our churches. Since tens of millions of CP dollars from our churches have been invested in these organizations, the process of trustee selection must be approached very carefully by the KBC Committee on Nominations and convention messengers.

Paul Chitwood is executive director of the Kentucky Baptist Convention.

Summit guides churches in protecting biblical marriage

A swing in public opinion polls favoring same-sex marriages and a recent ruling by a Kentucky federal judge to recognize gay marriages performed in other states may soon lead to new challenges for churches. Unswerving adherence to biblical values regarding marriage is increasingly being met with cultural outcries charging bigotry and hatred of homosexuals. In an effort to encourage believers to look to scripture, rather than culture, as their guide, and to better equip churches in addressing issues related to gay marriage, the Kentucky Baptist Convention brought together a panel of Christian leaders for a timely summit on biblical marriage.

Russell Moore, of the SBC Ethics and Religious Liberty Commission, recently urged church leaders to prepare for a coming cultural revolution. "(W)hat we have to do is spend more time talking about why marriage isn't just a social issue; it's not a political issue; it's a gospel issue," he said. Church leaders need to be educating themselves, he advocated, on what the redefinition of marriage will mean for society, how churches can work to protect biblical marriage, and what legal issues they may soon face.

Hence, the conference in Crestwood: "This is such a serious issue facing our churches that I felt it important to bring in people who have the most to offer in terms of helping our churches navigate this complex issue," explained KBC Executive Director Paul Chitwood.

"Protecting biblical marriage is of utmost importance because biblical marriage is an institution that God designed for the sake of all humanity—whether those who enter marriage are Christians are not. Marriage is the basic social unit of civilization," stated Andrew Walker, the ERLC's director of policy studies, who was among the panelists. "When Christians proclaim the truth about marriage, Christians are promoting the common good because marriage is the one institution that sees sexuality and the interaction of the sexes channeled in appropriate ways."

Walker hoped to lay the groundwork for helping Baptists understand how social attitudes about sexuality are affecting public policy. Ultimately, Christians need to brace for a



After Thought

By Todd Deaton

Thus, Boto believes his "mission" is helping allay unwarranted fears, rather than issuing "a call to arms," and conveying the importance of strategizing how best to disciple the church and win the lost. "It would not be a good plan if a church were to merely hope that trouble or challenges will not come," he advised. "Praying and planning tactically how a godly goal can be achieved is a better course."

"Today, we live in a culture that is literally changing before our very eyes. Everything is up for grabs!" Severns Valley pastor Bill Langley observed. "However, 'contending earnestly for the faith' means the church must be resolute in letting the world know certain things are not for sale."

"As it pertains to marriage, God speaks clearly and plainly. In Scripture, the term 'marriage' has only one meaning," he said. "To a world where everything is constantly changing, Jesus said, 'Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will never pass away'" (Matthew 24:35).

Finally, Curtis Woods, KBC associate executive director, summed up the common goal: "As evangelical Christians, we believe that biblical marriages reflect a divine-human relationship centered on the gospel of Jesus Christ. As such, one man and one woman become one flesh in order to glorify the one true and living God," he said. "I pray that participants departed with a greater hunger to fearlessly pursue the joy of covenant-loyalty within their marriages according to Scripture."

Millennials and framing a new social witness

By Owen Strachan

They are born after 1980. They don't know much about Thatcher, but they do know about Bieber. They take "selfies." Much discussed, oft-misunderstood, they are the Millennials.

A December 2013 poll of this much-fretted-over demographic offered fresh light on their political views. Harvard University's Institute found that 35 percent of Millennials approve of Democratic congressmen and just 19 percent approve of Republican congressmen.

This data leads to rumination both sociological and theological. How, exactly, will Millennial Christians—in a jaded generation but not of it—engage with politics and with the public square? The way Millennials, of which I am one, answer this question will play a

vital role in the public prospects of Christianity in America and the West.

The last 30 years have left many Millennials with some baggage. The fire-breathing model of engagement practiced by some leaders of the Moral Majority left many Millennials with a bad taste. The disillusioned and confused Mil-

lennial masses include many young pastors and scholars who find their identity in the vibrant "big gospel" movement of the last decade. Young Christian leaders today often express a desire to distance themselves from the Moral Majority et al, adopting an "apolitical" or relatively indifferent political stance.

This is a partly helpful and partly unhelpful response to their heritage. It is helpful because it means that many young church planters, pastors and thinkers will avoid reducing the faith to

a policy position. They will focus on making friendships with people who are unlike them and living a "missional" way of life. The church will be the listening church, a spiritual body of believers that gathers to hear the lion of the Scripture roar from His word each week.

This response is unhelpful because young Christian leaders might forget that the church must also be the speaking church. Many Millennial leaders understand the dire need for evangelization of lost friends, but few grasp the importance of public-square witness.

Few of us Millennials will emulate the Moral Majority at its apex, but we also must recognize that, in their imperfect way, various figures of this group spoke courageously on behalf of the unborn, the natural family and the moral fabric of the nation. There was real bravery—and real sacrifice—in this witness. It came at a real cost in a culture and society that now reads any

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VIEWPOINT

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Praying for more 'Mana' from heaven

The Lord knows where students are who need what Oneida offers

Our middle school principal has told me more than once that administrators are paid for the tough days they must navigate. I was recently having one of those days during which I was probably earning my paycheck.

It had not been a particularly good morning, but as I sat in our chapel service, one of our students caught my eye. Tipmana, or "Mana," as we call her, was worshipping the Lord. I was immediately reminded of what Oneida is about. Watching Mana worship helped me forget what was behind me and press ahead toward the goal in Christ Jesus.

Mana is from Thailand. She just graduated from Oneida and will attend University of the Cumberlands this fall. Mana's parents are fine Christian people who are in the ministry.

Mana brightened my day each time I saw her on campus. She loves the Lord and people. She finished fifth in her class of 54 and received Oneida's highest award, the William A. Evans Award. She was voted "most talented" and "best school spirit" by her classmates. We will surely miss Mana on campus, and I have heard more than one of our staff members say we should not allow Mana to graduate so she has to stay with us. I know Mana will live a life after Oneida that will make us all proud.

One of my favorite biblical lessons is the story of the Lord's deliverance of the Israelites. Even though God used Moses to deliver the Israelites from bondage, they repeatedly grumbled against Moses

and God. When they were hungry, God sent the Israelites manna from heaven, yet they soon grew tired of God's provision and complained to Him.

I can't imagine ever having a finer young lady as a student at Oneida than Mana. We have been blessed to have her and are thankful the Lord allowed her to be here for three years.

We began the 2013-14 school year with 237 students and grew to 285. We closed the year with 277 students. With 55 graduates and at least another 25 kids who won't return to Oneida for various reasons, that takes us back to less than 200.

I have asked my staff—and I am asking you now—to join me in praying for 300 students when the 2014-15 school year begins Aug. 18. If we start with 300 students, we could easily grow to 350 by the year's end.

I pray the Lord will send us many more students like Mana. But I am also praying the Lord will send us those young people who aren't as wonderful. I know for every Mana in this world, there are 10 young people who are more difficult to teach, love and serve. The Lord knows who and where those kids are who need Oneida, and I ask that you join us in prayer that they find us or we find them.

There is a need now, more than ever, for a place like Oneida, and I know with our combined prayerful efforts, the Lord can send us those students. Stay tuned, because I plan to write an article in the fall letting you know we reached 300.

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

I know you will enjoy more senior memories that were shared at our recent graduation service. Thank you for your support in helping create these memories.

Jonathan David Carter: My fondest memories at Clear Creek are how God used the professors to grow me in faith and preparation for kingdom work. What an honor, privilege and humbling call God has placed on my life.

Brandon Scott Caudill: My fondest memories are marrying my beautiful wife, the births of my two children and the lifelong friendships I have made with many wonderful people at Clear Creek.

Cory Bryant Lowe: My fondest memories are traveling to Turkey, witnessing to the Muslim people and getting engaged to the love of my life.

James Edward McDonald: I have enjoyed the relationships made with students and staff at Clear Creek.

Edward Lee Barker: My fondest memory at Clear Creek is looking around and seeing all the family that God has added to my small family and knowing that there have been bonds made here that will last for eternity.

Clear Creek Chronicle



Donnie Fox

Tony Boswell: When I think of Clear Creek, my fondest memory is the incredible atmosphere on campus. God's presence is undeniable. Walking from Kelly Hall to class in the fall was some of the most refreshing times in my walk with Christ.

Jared Gibson: I am very appreciative of the great amount of knowledge Clear Creek has instilled in me, and I am forever thankful for the many friends I have made along the way.

Chris Stanley Jensen: One of my fondest memories is how happy my wife was when she completed her studies for her associate's degree.

James Matthew Collins: A few of my fondest memories were the campfire on Holly Hill where our children played together while we discussed what God was teaching us both inside and outside of class; late-night cram sessions in the Fox's Den preparing for tests with classmates; mentoring sessions with Dr. Hester where I received guidance, prayer and encouragement; and lastly, international mission opportunities offered by the college.

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.

KBF coordinator, former KBC staffer announces retirement

Louisville—John Lepper, the Kentucky Baptist Fellowship's first and only coordinator, has announced plans to retire June 30 after 16 years as head of the state affiliate of the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship.

"I have high hopes for the future viability of Kentucky Baptist Fellowship," Lepper said May 19 in a press release. "With a succession plan in place and with a staffing study group in the process of evaluating the overall staffing needs and financial abilities of KBF, I can move forward in my own life, confident that the One who began a good work in KBF, and in each of us, will continue that good work."

Among his last acts as coordinator will be to help oversee the KBF's ninth Extreme Build project, a partnership to build houses in McCreary County. He will also facilitate the KBF state meeting at the CBF General Assembly in June.



John Lepper

During Lepper's tenure at the KBF, the organization forged partnerships with ministries not only in Kentucky but also abroad. The KBF also helped found the Baptist Seminary of Kentucky in Georgetown in 1996, which it continues to support.

Before becoming KBF coordinator, Lepper served as a pastor and on the Kentucky Baptist Convention Mission Board staff for 12 years as director of family ministry. In retirement, he said he plans to remain in congregational life.

"I anticipate focusing on one of my passions which is helping churches in pastoral transitions. It remains to be seen how that will unfold but I do anticipate being involved in this aspect of church life."

Lepper and his wife, Connie, have two daughters, both of whom serve, along with their families, as international missionaries in Africa and Europe. (ABP)

'Ride & Shine!' motorcycle event to benefit Sunrise Children's Services

Junction City—Don the do-rags and get ready to cruise the twisties with fellow motorcycle enthusiasts June 8 at Ride & Shine!, a benefit to raise funds and awareness for Sunrise Children's Services and the 600 children under its care.

The cost to participate is \$20, which includes a commemorative T-shirt. Bikers can register online at RideandShine.org, or at First Baptist Church of Junction City—where the ride will kick off—beginning at 10 a.m. the day of the event.

"It will be a special time to enjoy the countryside and also give bikers the opportunity to see two of our facilities," said Randy Greene, Sunrise's vice president of marketing and advancement.

After a short worship services, riders will head south toward Pulaski County. Two planned stops—at the Cumberland Adventure Center near Bronston and the Woodlawn Center in Danville—will give bikers the opportunity to meet some of the boys under Sunrise's care and offer prayers.

Then it's back on the road for some "classic views of rural Kentucky countryside," Greene said, until the bikers reach First Baptist Church of Danville where a special ceremony will be held.

Greene said the idea for the event grew from pastors who were looking for



a way to help Sunrise financially. Their common interest in motorcycles has resulted in 14 central Kentucky churches working together to promote and sponsor the benefit ride.

"We'd love to replicate this event in other communities," Greene said, offering his assistance to help pastors organize rides in their regions.

Sunrise Children's Services operates eight residential facilities, three psychiatric residential treatment centers and six foster care regions with 12 offices and is the largest private child care agency in Kentucky, providing assistance to one out of every 10 children in state protective custody.

For more information about Sunrise, visit Sunrise.org. For more about Ride & Shine!, visit RideandShine.org. (KBC)

Strachan

Continued from page 1

attempt, however noble, to intervene in others' lives as hostile and injurious.

Unlike the Moral Majority, many Millennials are silent on public-square issues, save for a rejection of past tactics. But if your only significant act of public-square proclamation is a disavowal of Jerry Falwell, you're doing it wrong.

A church inspired by the gospel, aware of its claim on all of life and in tune with

a historic tradition of figures such as Augustine, Wilberforce and Colson, cannot content itself with exquisitely calibrated public neutrality. Neither can it accept the velvet muzzle its opponents offer. It cannot dance like a celebrity 'chacha'ing his way back to the C-list when a confused church member asks for guidance on cultural questions of grave import. It must speak. It must offer a new social witness. (BP)

Owen Strachan is an assistant professor at Boyce College and president of the Council on Biblical Manhood & Womanhood.

WMU Kentucky Notes

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A PERSONAL WORD

It's a busy summer, let KY WMU help you focus

The summer months are upon us and this will be a BUSY summer for Kentucky WMU. Please pray for each activity and the impact on students. Some will accept Christ this summer. Others will begin to sense God's call to serve Him. Many will grasp a larger vision of the world and how we take the gospel to those who have never heard.

Kentucky Changers is wonderful hands-on missions experience for students in grades 7-12 which goes beyond a typical summer camp experience as students live out their faith while getting their hands dirty doing exterior home repairs for low-income families. We will have 700 Changers working in Hopkinsville, Frankfort/Lawrenceburg, Richmond, and Louisville in June and July. Pray for Peggy Murphy, coordinator, and all of the adult volunteers as well as student participants.

Mission Adventure Camps & Overnights will be held in June at Cedar Crest. During three weeks of camp and Mother/Daughter and Father/Son Overnights, children will

go on a Missions Safari and learn about missions in Africa, including the Bucket Project. The camp staff is a 1:8 Leadership Team that will also travel to South Africa



Joy Bolton

in July to continue their work with children. Pray for Stacy Nall, camp director, and Jon Auten, assisting with the boys activities, as well as the 1:8 team camp staff and all the children and chaperones.

Overnights at the Creek, July 11-12 at Jonathan Creek Conference Center, include a Mother/Daughter event for girls in grades 1-3 and moms (or another adult), GA Overnight for girls in grades 4-6 and leaders, and Acteens Splash for girls in grades 7-12 and leaders. Pray for Stacy Nall and Maryann Lee as they direct the overnights and for those who attend.

The first of three **Excel WMU Training** conferences will get underway on Saturday, July 19 at First Baptist Church, Richmond. We will introduce the new WMU emphasis, "All for You," and emphasize PTSD (Post Traumatic Stress Disorder), the new Project HELP focus. Additional Excel

training opportunities will be offered on August 16 at First Baptist, Madisonville, and again on Sept. 13 at St. Matthews Baptist Church, Louisville. Pray for the WMU staff and others who will lead conferences.

Familyfest will bring over 100 missions volunteers of all ages to Boone's Creek Baptist Association (Winchester area), July 19-24. Ministries include Backyard Bible Clubs, light construction/repairs, servant evangelism, block parties, prayerwalking, eldercare, health and wellness ministries, and sports camps. Pray for Twyla Sheffield, John Ryder and others from Boone's Creek Association as they prepare for a week of missions outreach. Pray for Wanda Walker, coordinator for Kentucky WMU, and Suzanne Reece, coordinator from national WMU as they work with Familyfest.

Camp Courage, a statewide overnight camp for Royal Ambassadors, Challengers, leaders and dads will be August 1-2 at Laurel Lake Baptist Camp in Corbin. Featured activities include RA Racers Competition, Worship Rally, Pitstop Challenge, Crossbucks, Knot Tying, Archery, Horseback Riding, Rope Bridge, Fishing, Survi-

Eliza Broadus Offering Update

The 2013-14 goal is \$1.25 million.

\$1,161,338.54

given as of 5/16/2014
(and still counting thru 8/31/14!).

Check the graph at kywmu.org/ebo for a running total given to date!

vor Bracelets, Bible Telling Pow-wow, and more. Using the theme Team Work, participants will learn the value of team work in missions and life. Pray for Jon Auten as he plans and directs this overnight event.

It's a busy summer. WMU is your partner as you seek to be "be radically involved in the mission of God" and instill a heart for missions in children and youth. Our events will help you focus on the Great Commission and what it means to "go ye therefore." Join us!

Joy Bolton is the executive director of KY WMU.

Excel 2014

Leadership development dates and locations:

July 19 - First Baptist, Richmond

August 16 - First Baptist, Madisonville

September 13 - St. Matthews Baptist, Louisville

ALL FOR YOU
Surrender • Sacrifice • Serve

www.kywmu.org/excel



ADULTS

Accepting the challenge

By Wanda Walker

In 2007, former Southern Baptist Convention President Jack Graham told the Executive Committee of the SBC: "We must be willing to get out of our comfort zones and out of our own neighborhoods and start living the Gospel and serving our communities and being salt and light."

"And guess what?"

We've got a young generation coming up that is willing to do that, but we must be willing to pray for them and unleash them in the world," he said.

We do have a generation of adults that want to do, go and be involved and we need to accept the responsibility of preparing them to do just that. We can't be certain that the tried and true ways of mission education for adults will prepare them to be unleashed. They just want to be let go and do it.

Are you willing to accept the challenge and lead adults with a new means of learning? Are you willing to endorse their efforts?

Here are suggestions for working with young adults.

■ Enlist adults to get involved in a mission project.

As the project comes to completion and you are evaluating, include how this situation is like the one that missionaries face. Include the names of those missionaries.

If you are receiving the Mission Mosaic (and I know that all our leaders and readers of this article do) then you have the resource to give that information to them. People relate to people with similar experiences. So, you may have to refer to an issue that is old, you are still doing mission education.

■ Order Fulfilled from national WMU and place in strategic locations you find young adults.

These are available once a year in the fall. People will pick them up and read them.

■ Encourage young adult women to engage in myMISSION Bible studies and topical studies. These are designed for young adult women as they are still growing in their relationship

with Christ and finding their own identity.

No, these may not be meetings, but women will be learning about missions. Who knows, maybe she will be another woman like Lottie, Annie or Eliza.

Look at the opportunities coming up for adults such as BNF Summer Luncheon (open to everyone) June 29 in Elizabethtown. Our emphasis will be on Post Traumatic Stress Disorder. Those needing continuing education credits will receive them.

There are leadership development opportunities for church leaders. Hope to see you there.

"We must be willing to get out of our comfort zones ... start living the Gospel ... being salt and light."

Jack Graham

RAs/CHALLENGERS

Hundreds inspired, motivated toward missional living at spring events



By John Auten

RAMCON 2014

On March 15, Royal Ambassadors from across the state gathered for the second installment of our state Royal Ambassador Missions Congress (RAMCON). Nineteen churches sent 197 RA boys and leaders to attend the congress at Beaver Dam Baptist Church. Volunteers from the church and guest speakers brought the total to over 230 individuals. The weather was beautiful and God blessed the assembly with a wonderful day of missions

learning and doing.

Phil Schultz spoke during the morning sessions, sharing with the boys about the important work he does among the homeless population of Louisville. He talked about how people become homeless and how Jefferson Street Baptist Center can help them stop being homeless. Phil also set before the boys the four traits of a Godly man and challenged them to be a "modern-day knight." Larry and Peggy Wakefield, IMB missionaries on state-side assignment, talked with the RAs during the afternoon ses-

sions. The boys listened eagerly as Larry told how God was at work among the people groups in Mexico.

In addition to learning about missions, doing missions was also on the schedule for the day. With the help of several patient volunteers, Lads and Crusaders applied labels to New Testament Bibles, inserted batteries into mini LED flashlights, and place the items together into plastic zip lock bags. Pastor Rodney Albin of Centertown Baptist Church will distribute these packages to miners in western Kentucky, helping them to know that God's Word is a light unto their path.

RA boys tried their hand at several sports skills challenge stations. Shooting a BB gun, pitching a baseball, hitting a free throw, kicking a soccer ball, and dropping a short putt helped the boys earn points and win ribbons during the morning. After lunch, it was time to race for the checkered flag as Lads and Crusaders competed for first, second, and third medals in RA Racers.

It truly was a fantastic day made even more so by the won-

derful volunteers at Beaver Dam Baptist Church. Kentucky Royal Ambassadors says "Thank You!" to Pastor Joel Wayne and the church for hosting RAMCON 2014. Special thanks go out to Kari Keith, Children's Minister, for her marvelous organization at the church, and to John Cashion, Music Minister, for his gracious help in the tech area.

Be sure to check out kywmu.org/mac and www.kywmu.org/ for the latest information about Mission Adventure Camp and Camp Courage.

4:GO

On March 21-22, Refuge Louisville, Inc. welcomed 129 teenagers and leaders for a combined Exalt/4:GO event that was truly unique.

During the Friday evening worship time, Trent DeLoach, Jonathan Braden, and Samuel Rai shared with Challengers, Acteens, and other youth about the many different people groups that are coming as refugees to live in Louisville and in other cities across Kentucky. Trent and Jonathan talked about the work that goes

on at Refuge as they seek to help refugees with the challenges of living in a new country. They also told about how ministry among these people opens doors for the Gospel to be shared. Samuel's testimony of being a refugee who came from Nepal to our state was enlightening and challenging.

Saturday was a day of learning out in the community. Several groups went prayer walking through the neighborhood around Refuge. A few more were able to make a visit in the home of a refugee family or a family that is ministering among refugees. Other groups went on a guided van tour of the area which resulted in a broader understanding of the people groups in Louisville and how God is at work among them.

God is really doing some amazing things among the nations of the world and it was a blessing to see missions in action at Refuge Louisville. WMU is thankful for Trent and all the caring folks at Refuge. Their hospitality was great and the cross-cultural missions experience was even better.

CALENDAR

June

- 7-13 Kentucky Changers, Hopkinsville
- 8-9 WMU, SBC Annual Meeting and Missions Celebration, Baltimore, Md.
- 9-13 Mission Adventure Camp, Cedar Crest, Bagdad
- 13-14 Mother/Daughter; Father/Son Overnight, Cedar Crest, Bagdad
- 16-20 Mission Adventure Camp, Cedar Crest, Bagdad
- 20-21 Mother/Daughter; Father/Son Overnight, Cedar Crest, Bagdad
- 21-27 Kentucky Changers, Frankfort/Lawrenceburg
- 23-27 Mission Adventure Camp, Cedar Crest, Bagdad
- 28 Kentucky BNF Summer Meeting, Elizabethtown

July

- 5-11 Kentucky Changers, Richmond
- 11-12 Overnights at the Creek and Acteens Splash, Jonathan Creek, Hardin
- 13-18 Kentucky Changers, Louisville
- 19-24 Familyfest, Boones Creek Baptist Association
- 19 Excel, First Baptist Church, Richmond

August

- 1-2 Camp Courage, Laurel Lake Baptist Camp, Corbin
- 8-9 GA Leaders Retreat, Cedarmore Camp and Conference Center, Bagdad
- 16 Excel, First Baptist Church, Madisonville

September

- 7-14 Season of Prayer for State Missions and the Eliza Broadus Offering
- 13 Excel, St. Matthews Baptist Church, Louisville
- 20 CA-BOOM (formerly CIA Camp), Central Baptist Church, Lawrenceburg

STUDENTS

Opportunities for students to be challenged this summer

By Maryann Lee

The United States has always been a country that welcomes foreigners. As Christians we don't just have to go to other countries to share the gospel with those of other faiths or cultures.

Teens from Kentucky had the opportunity to make a difference in the lives of international refugees and immigrants in Louisville as they participated in Exalt/4:GO March 21-22. In partnership with Refuge, INC, a ministry to the international community in Louisville, students were able to understand what it is like to be a refugee in this community of internationals by visiting in stores, coffee shops, and local homes.

Students were also challenged to give every aspect of their lives, whether attending school, going on mission trips or playing sports to God. The weekend ended with a challenge to find internationals in their own communities and use the information they learned during the weekend to share with them.

Summer is upon us and Kentucky WMU would love to have your students participate in some of the events that we have available. Acteens Splash is July 11-12 at Jonathan Creek in Hardin. This is event is for teen girls and their leaders. The weekend begins on Friday afternoon with swimming and moves into a time a Bible study where the girls will grow in their walk with Christ.

On Saturday there will be time for crafts, learning from missionaries, spending time in bible and many other activities. Acteens Splash is always a fun get away time for girls and their leaders where they can kick back and relax and just be themselves.

For more information on cost and how to register please visit our website kywmu.org/splash.



Exalt/4:GO 2014 participants pose for a group photograph.



Students pray before heading out to visit in local refugee homes.



Worship led by a local church member from Nepal

PRESIDENT'S PERSPECTIVE

Humbled to serve, ready to share your passion for missions

By Susan Bryant

What a wonderful 2014 KY WMU Annual meeting held recently at Central Baptist Church in Winchester. Central Baptist Church has been the location for some of the seminal moments in my growth as a missions leader. It was there 20 years ago that I was first elected to the KY WMU Executive Board, my daughter addressed the Annual Meeting there as a National Acteens Panelist, and in April as I was elected the 39th president of KY WMU.

As Linda Cooper presented me with the gavel, I began to reflect on those who have held the reigns as president of Kentucky WMU throughout the years. I have been privileged to know many of these former presidents personally. I have served with them on the WMU Executive Board, led conferences and gone on mission trips with them and otherwise benefited from their knowledge and love for missions. Their years of dedication and efforts on behalf



Susan Bryant

of KY WMU are a challenge and encouragement to me, and I look forward to my term of service. Just as other former presidents continue to serve in a variety of ways, we

will see Linda continue to live out her passion for missions. WMU leaders never retire!

I was blessed to be mentored by several women during my early years in Baptist Women (forerunner of Women on Mission). They encouraged me, pushed me, and pulled me as I developed the passion I now have for missions. Would I be president of Kentucky WMU without their influence?

Somehow I doubt it. Does it take someone with particular qualifications to mentor? Those who mentored me would not think they were endowed with any special abilities. They just believed in the need to train others to follow in their footsteps and beyond. Who could you mentor - your young pastor's wife, an Acteen preparing for college or someone new to your church or in your Woman on Mission group? You

don't have to have special abilities; you just need to be willing to bring along the next generation of mission supporters, leaders and perhaps a missionary or two!

As a GA leader for 30 years, I have been privileged to lead dozens of young girls through their elementary school years and help them to develop a missional lifestyle. Last year on a mission trip to Belize I was privileged to work along side two of my former GAs and observe how they ministered during their first, but I'm sure not last, overseas mission trip. Later this year another former GA will be following in my footsteps as she works with Tabitha Ministries in Pietermaritzburg, South Africa. One of my current GAs already feels called to serve as a missionary to central Asia. She has determined the platform that will allow her to reside in the country will be to work with pandas. As a reminder to her GA group, she brings her two foot tall stuffed panda bear to GAs each week, and it has its own chair. Last Halloween, she went trick or treating dressed as a missionary to central Asia. When asked how she dressed

to represent a missionary, I said, "In blue jeans and a T-shirt, of course!"

I firmly believe in missions education for all ages. As you read through this issue of Kentucky Notes, you will discover opportunities for every age level organization in your church. Our staff works tirelessly and creatively to provide missions education and mission opportunities for the youngest Mission Friend through the most experienced Woman or Adult on Mission. Don't miss any article, check out the ads and check out the calendar. There are lots of things going on that will interest you, excite you and educate you—and all WMU members in your church/association.

I look forward to getting to know you during my term as president. I want to visit in your association/church, see you at SALT or Excel, ride the bus to Baltimore with you, fellowship with you at retreats and camp, and share with you my passion for missions. I am excited and humbled to serve through KY WMU. Your prayers are needed and appreciated.

CHILDREN & PRESCHOOL

Get ready for 'All for You: Surrender, Sacrifice, Serve'

By Stacy Nall

During 2014-2015, Mission Friends, Children in Action, Girls in Action and Royal Ambassadors will experience the theme "All for You: Surrender, Sacrifice, Serve" through Bible stories, mission stories, activities and outreach events. They will see how

missionaries on the field surrender, sacrifice and serve so that people around the world know about God's love. These ideas can be used to support the theme:

Surrender: Invite a missionary or missions volunteer to give a testimony about following Christ.

Sacrifice: Challenge preschool-

ers and children to earn money for missions offerings by doing chores or making crafts to sell.

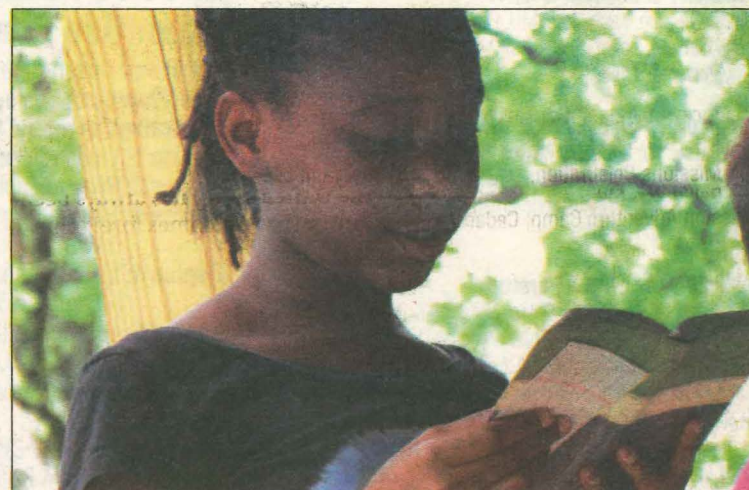
Serve: In addition to Children's Ministry Day, set aside a day for your children to help in a soup kitchen or clothes closet. Prayerwalk the community where you serve.

ProjectHELP

The new emphasis for ProjectHELP is Post Traumatic Stress Disorder or PTSD. Children will be learning how to help those who are going through crisis. Crisis situations include divorce, natural disasters, parents diagnosed with PTSD, death of a loved one and more. Mission Friends will be learning about fear and showing kindness to those who minister to victims of PTSD. Mission Friends Leaders will soon be receiving information about "Thank You Day!" Mission Friends groups are encouraged to deliver cookies and cards to their local fire or police department in September.

State Missions

In September, preschoolers will be learning about Appalachian Ministries during the State Missions Emphasis. Children in grades 1-6 will learn about the many ministries of I.I.C.E. (International Innovative Community



Evangelism) in western Kentucky.

Excel

Would you like to Excel at leading Mission Friends, Girls in Action, Royal Ambassadors or Children in Action? Attend Kentucky WMU's leadership development this summer, at three locations: July 19 at First Baptist Church in Richmond, August 16 at First Baptist Church in Madisonville, and September 13 at St. Matthews Baptist Church in Louisville. You'll learn about the basics of mission education for preschoolers and children as well as information about 2014-2015 curriculum. Special conferences are

planned to meet the needs of preschool and children's leaders.

GA Leaders' Retreat

GA leaders won't want to miss the GA Leaders' Retreat August 8-9 at Cedarmore Camp and Conference Center! GA Leaders will enjoy fellowship with other leaders and share ideas. Register online at www.kywmu.org/GALeadersRetreat.

CA-BOOM!

Children in Action Day Camp has a new name! CA-BOOM! stands for Children in Action-Blast Off On Mission! See the ad for more details.



CA-BOOM!
Children in Action-
Blast Off on Mission!

For girls and boys in grades 1-6 and their leaders

September 20, 2014
10:00 am-2:15 pm (Eastern Time)

Central Baptist Church
Lawrenceburg, Kentucky

Early bird rate-\$10 per person
Registration after Sept. 8 through Sept. 12- \$15 per person

www.kywmu.org/caboom

Missions Safari

You may still be able to register for Mission Adventure Camp and join the Safari! Registrations must be made at least two weeks before camp starts.

Weeklong Camps, girls and boys in grades 3-6
June 9-13
June 16-20
June 23-27

Mother/Daughter, Father/Son Overnights, grades 1-3
June 13-14
June 20-21

Overnights at the Creek

Missions Safari continues with Mother/Daughter Overnight, GA Overnight and Acteens Splash at Jonathan Creek. Register before June 1 to receive the early bird rate.

July 11-12

Register online: www.kywmu.org/MAC

Baptist Nursing Fellowship is pleased to offer its annual Summer Luncheon and Continuing Education Session

Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder

Severns Valley Association Office in Elizabethtown, KY
Saturday, June 28, 10 a.m.-2 p.m.
\$20.00 for BNF Members
\$25.00 for non-members
Join BNF (\$15) and receive the member rate!
Lunch is included in fee.

- Education Session is open for anyone to attend.
- Continuing Education Units will be given.
- Call the WMU office for a registration form.

KENTUCKY WMU HERITAGE FUND

January 1 – March 31, 2014

The following persons were honored or remembered through gifts to the Kentucky WMU Heritage Fund during the first quarter of 2014.

In Honor of:

Melissa Logsdon-Young
Wanda Walker
Wanda Walker
Twyla Sheffield
Darlene Schadler

Nancy Whitaker
Ruth McConnell

Donor:

Sherryl Young
Joy Bolton
Deitra King
Linda Alexander
Pat Reaves, Laura Morris
& Kristin Hager
Joan Strickland
Joan Strickland

In Memory Of:

Hazel Hampton
Hazel Hampton
Hazel Hampton
Edwin Waldrop
Edwin Waldrop
Bill Spears
Bill Spears
Ruth Nuckols
Flora Foster
Flora Foster
Velma Smith
Nellie Meredith
Blanche Evans
Katherine Tuggle
Mary Ann Terrell
Gary Bush
Ronnie Mitchell

Mary Elkins

Donor:

Kentucky WMU
Cheryl Hatfield
Long Run WMU Team
Kentucky WMU
Cheryl Hatfield
Kentucky WMU
Cheryl Hatfield
Diane Thacker
Pam Saltsman & family
Willisburg Baptist Church
Carolyn Simpson
Liz Sadler
Liz Sadler
Liz Sadler
Cheryl Hatfield
A friend
Burks Branch Women
on Mission
Anna White

In Memory of Stephen Walker:

Dolores Gilmore, Kentucky WMU, Beth Wyatt, Susan Bryant
Cheryl Hatfield, Deitra King, Linda Alexander, Peggy Leach,
Cathy & George Chinn

In Memory of Bryant Hicks

Sara Murray, Pat & Dudley Reaves, Kentucky WMU,
Maribeth & Horace Hambrick, Cathy & George Chinn
Lee & Joy Bolton, Friendship International, Liz Sadler,
Colleagues and Friends

In Memory of Lodema Parsons

Jack & Carol Diamon, Lori Sharp, Margaret & Bill Trusty,
Carolyn Harlow, Reva Cline, Irma Woodrow, Kentucky WMU,
Kiddville Baptist Church, Wanda Walker, Pat & Dudley Reaves,
Cheryl Hatfield, Cathy & George Chinn, Mozelle Combs,
Bill & Dorothy Cline & Family, Peggy Leach, Tina Nicely

Other Gifts:

Cecil & Twyla Sheffield
Corinth Baptist Church
Linda Cooper
Kentucky WMU Staff
Barry & Larie Allen

KENTUCKY CHANGERS

Time to answer 'the call'

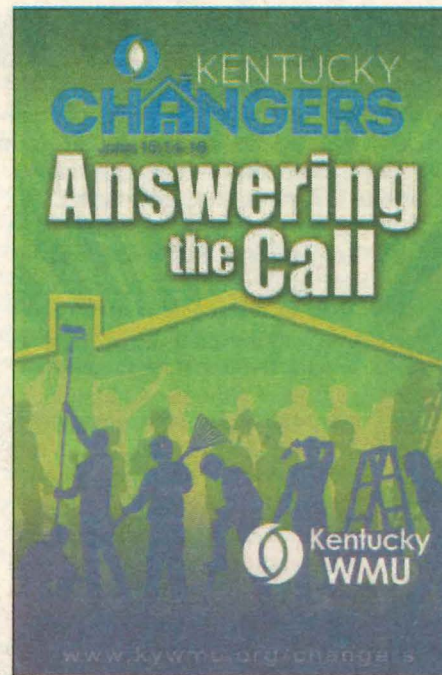
By Peggy Murphy

A few short months ago Kentucky Changers was rebirthed under the leadership of the Kentucky Woman's Missionary Union. We started out months behind and with lots of work to do in a short period of time.

Since that time God has blessed us with four project locations across the state, great leadership for these projects and participants who have committed to come to one of the projects. Connecting all of these pieces of this puzzle together is something that only God can accomplish.

What is Kentucky Changers? It is a pre-packaged mission trip that gives students the opportunity to be "On-Mission" throughout Kentucky. Jesus says to "GO and make disciples." At times that means to go into your own neighborhood. Other times that involves your own state. It can even involve you going across the world.

Students entering 8th grade through college from all across the state of Kentucky and beyond can still participate in



Kentucky Changers this summer.

This year youth groups will be sharing the love of Jesus in tangible way in four locations across Kentucky. Changers will start off in Hopkinsville, June 7-14. Then they will be moving on to Lawrenceburg & Frankfort, June 21-27. From there they will move to Richmond July

5-11 and end up in Louisville, July 13-18.

At each of these projects students will learn how to complete skills such as roofing, siding, building handicap ramps and decks, painting, landscaping and replacing windows and doors on homes. While completing these tasks they will be sharing the love Jesus with everyone that they come into contact with.

Why not just go out and tell people about Jesus? Sometimes it is hard to see God's love when your roof is leaking or you can't get your wheelchair outside of your home because you do not have a handicap ramp. People need the Lord and they also need physical needs met from time to time. Kentucky Changers gives students the opportunity to meet both needs.

Is God inviting you to answer His call? Say YES Lord and come to Changers. God will change your life as you help to change the lives of others. If you would like to bring a group please go to our website and register.

If you can't be involved this summer, please make plans to be a part of Changers in 2015. The theme for 2015 is MORE of Him and LESS of Me. Plan on giving God your all in the summer of 2015.

You can go to our website www.kywmu.org/changers and register today.

2014-15 Kentucky WMU Executive Board

President: Susan Bryant

Vice-President: Shelby Castlen

Recording Secretary: Cathy Mattingly

Region 1: Linda Alexander, Cindy Hurley, Pat Bush

Region 2: Peggy Leach, Jan Powell, Diane Thacker

Region 3: Sharon Givens, Julia Devore, Lauri Warden

Region 4: Lisa Crenshaw, Suzanne Barrett, Melissa Logsdon-Young

Region 5: Patricia Callan, Kim Duvall, Linda Netherly

Region 6: Linda Lee, Lenna Walton, Fay Royalty

Region 7: Cheryl Hatfield, Connie Wise, Georgia Burton

Region 8: Kimberly Blanton, Claudia Greenwood, Alison Holbrook

BNF President: Donna Mitchell

Development Specialist: Cheryl Hatfield

Royal Ambassadors/Challengers Representative: Rick Gastineau

Watch for it!

Coming this summer to every church WMU director is a database report. Kentucky WMU will be sending you a report of church WMU positions in your church and the contact information we have for those leaders. Help us update the information. Is the report correct? Do we have the correct home address, phone numbers, email address? Do you have other leaders?

Making a change is easy!
Just give us a call:
Denise Gardner at 502/489-3427 or
Amanda Grace at 502/489-3458 or
Email us:
Denise.Gardner@kybaptist.org or
Amanda.Richey@kybaptist.org or
Drop it in the mail:
Kentucky WMU, P. O. Box 436569,
Louisville, KY 40253-6569.

power to
SERVE

Season of Prayer
for State Missions
and

Eliza Broadus Offering

September 2014
Offering Goal: \$1,250,000

- The Holy Spirit give us the power to serve! The 2014 materials feature eight ministries in Kentucky that serve others and share the gospel.
- A promotional booklet and DVD will be mailed to WMU directors and pastors in July.
- The DVD includes short videos to show in worship services or mission study and computer files of all print materials and graphics.
- Get involved through praying, giving, and a special project, LoveLoud Christmas Backpacks.
- All state missions materials are provided free of charge.
- The material is undated and may be used any time during September or throughout the year.
- Suggested date: September 7-14.
- Orders for posters, prayer guides, and envelopes will be filled in July and August based on the annual order form for missions offerings. Contact Kentucky WMU if you need to place a new order or make changes to your standing order.

WMU DIRECTORS

EXCEL: Catch the vision

By Wanda Walker

It begins with a dream.

The pastor of Dawson Springs Baptist Church, Jackie Perkins, wanted more for his church with missions education. He has a passion for his church family to learn, pray, give and go.

It initially began with an opportunity to speak with a Wednesday morning prayer/worship time (love this idea for those who can't attend in the evening for whatever reason.) This was primarily an older group of people and I personally wasn't sure the vision was going to catch on.

Less than six weeks later, Pastor Perkins called and they wanted to begin RA and Mission Friends. This is where it gets exciting! They started out with about 12 persons attending their Wednesday night services. When they began missions education

for the boys and preschoolers—well, let's just say that Kentucky WMU got a call asking about starting a new GA group at the church and for additional RA materials because their numbers had increased to 85. WOW!

It began with the dream of one person. You know, every church can have that story.

As a WMU director, you have the incredible opportunity to lead your church family into an exciting adventure to learn, pray, give and go just as Pastor Perkins did. And I challenge you to pray for Dawson Springs as they grow, lead the family into a missional lifestyle, and pray for each other.

Kentucky WMU can assist you as you lead your church. Begin by attending Excel this summer. Check the ad on the front page of Kentucky Notes for dates and locations.



Courage 2014

A Statewide Missions Experience for Royal Ambassadors, Changers, Dads and Leaders

The Power of Teamwork

Eccl. 4:9 - Two people are better than one.
They can help each other in everything they do.

August 1-2, 2014

Laurel Lake Baptist Camp, Corbin, KY



Registration begins at 4:00 p.m. on Friday;
the event ends at 2:00 p.m. on Saturday

Cost: \$40 for lodging, 3 meals and program fee;
Tent camping and non-lodging rates also available

www.kywmu.org/courage

Campbellsville UNIVERSITY

SUMMER SERVANTS 2014



A total of 144 students, faculty and staff from Campbellsville University are serving in missions and ministry projects this summer!

The CU Baptist Campus Ministry and School of Theology Ministry and missions projects include 95 members.

Students will serve at Springhill Camps, Crossings Camps, Go Tell Camps, LifeWay Centrikid, Week Hope, Camp Schafer, Center for Courageous Kids, LifeWay CentriFuge Camp, Christ in Youth, North American Mission Board, CU Crew, Ghana, Northern Ireland, LifeWay's Mission Fuge, mission trips to Thailand, Haiti Dallas KBC Acts 1:8, and others.

Dr. Twyla Hernandez, associate professor of Christian missions, will lead a trip to Cuba June 17-24. She will also visit Chiapas, Mexico July 19-28 with 12 others. Jim Hardy, assistant director of athletics and fields manager, and 31 others will tour Costa Rica July 18-24.



Tammy Snyder, secretary to Early Childhood Education Department, and others from CU took a trip during Spring Break to Belize to help teach local schoolchildren.



Nakita Gavre prays with preschoolers.

CU coaches are heading to a Costa Rica mission trip with 32 members included.



< The joy of serving others is reflected in the expressions of the recipients.

280 Professions of Faith among CU students this year!

< Nigerian children follow CU students on mission trip there.

Summer Camps and Conferences 2013 resulted in 256 Decisions for Christ and 192 Salvation Decisions with 7,164 participants!



CU students at the Xunantunich, an Ancient Mayan archaeological site in western Belize.



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.
- 21-27 Kentucky Changers 2014, Frankfort & Lawrenceburg.
- 22-29 All-State Youth Choir and Orchestra, Campbellsville University.
- 23-27 Mission Adventure Camp for Girls and Boys, Cedar Crest Camp, Bagdad.
- 28 Kentucky Baptist Nurses Fellowship Summer Meeting, Elizabethtown.

MOUNTAINS TO THE MISSISSIPPI

COMPILED BY STAFF

ELIZABETHTOWN—Youngers Creek Church will hold revival services June 1-3, 7 p.m., with **Gary Ervin**, pastor of Bethlehem Church in Greensburg, as evangelist. Special music each night will be led by the **New Hope Praise Team, Chris Nall & Truth Trio** and **Ronnie Benningfield**. Ron Lewis is pastor.

LOUISVILLE—Fern Creek Church will hold an outdoor yard sale May 31, 9 a.m. **Linda Barnes Popham** is pastor.

OWENSBORO—First Church recently called **Derry Billingsley** as its minister of music. He previously was minister of music at First Church of Alabaster, Ala. **Paul Strahan** is pastor.

PADUCAH—East Church recently called **Kenneth Puckett** as pastor. He had served as the church's interim pastor since October 2013.

West End Church recently called **E. Lee James** as interim pastor.

WILLIAMSBURG—First Church will hold a Trailblazer Outdoor Adventures event May 31, 10 a.m. **Ande Myers** is pastor.

Williamsburg native given missions & ministry award

Williamsburg—University of the Cumberlands presented Kayla Smith with the 2014 Honored Graduate in Missions and Ministry Award during the university's recent Honors Day.

Presented by the missions and ministry department, the award recognizes a graduate student who has displayed excellence in missions and ministry work and exemplifies a true advocate for Christ.

Smith serves as Baptist Campus Ministry president and has worked extensively with Cumberlands' Appalachian Ministries.

She has been involved in missions, serving on mission trips to Denver, New York, San Francisco and throughout Kentucky. She has also served abroad in Northern Ireland and Haiti.

This summer, she will serve with M-Fuge in Nashville, Tenn. In the fall, she will be a campus ministry intern for UC. Her long-term plans are to work with at-risk students.

Smith is a member of Faith Baptist Church in Corbin, and she holds a double major in youth and family ministry and human services. (UC)

'Greater' than all

Believers must choose to die for what they desire & live for Christ

"You yourselves can testify that I said, 'I am not the Messiah but am sent ahead of him.' The bride belongs to the bridegroom. The friend who attends the bridegroom waits and listens for him, and is full of joy when he hears the bridegroom's voice. That joy is mine, and it is now complete. He must become greater; I must become less" (John 3:28-30).

Summer 2014 at Crossings is about to begin. We are in full swing preparing for camp. Our theme this year is "GREATER."

"Greater" is a word that means important, illustrious, celebrated, honored, admired, esteemed, famous and well-known. All of us, if we're honest, would love to be described as any one of these words. Our egos, pride and flesh hungers for this kind of honor from basically anyone we know.

In John 3:28-30, we find John the Baptist telling his followers that he is not the Christ, but is simply His messenger. John uses the illustration of a wedding party and calls himself one of the groomsmen.

The groomsmen is at the wedding to

stand with the Bridegroom and is excited to hear His voice as the Bridegroom proclaims His love for His bride. Then John declares, "He must become greater; I must become less."

We, as believers, are here as living testimonies of who Christ is. We must choose to die, moment by moment, to what our flesh hungers for and live our lives for Christ, to proclaim Him and honor Him in all we do, say and think.

We know that Christ, through His Holy Spirit, lives in every believer. We know we have all we need to live for Him. We know all of His fruit dwells

in us, and it is His fruit that we are to bear.

The question we need to answer is this: "When someone crosses my path, does he or she walk away knowing Christ or simply knowing me?"

For Christ to become "GREATER" and for us to become "less" means we choose to die to our flesh and live by His Spirit through our actions, words and thoughts. Let's make the right choice.

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

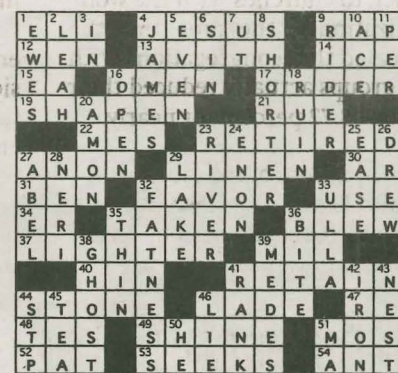
Crossings Ministries



David Melber

Puzzle returns next week

The crossword puzzle has been suspended this week, but will return June 3. At right are the answers to the puzzle that appeared May 20.



#200

CLASSIFIED ADS

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

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

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

SEEKING: 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: 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: 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: 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: 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: 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

bpccpastorsearch@windstream.net.

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

SEEKING: Stanford Baptist Church in Stanford, Ky., is seeking a full-time pastor. See our website, www.stanfordbaptist.com, for job description. Please email resumés and DVDs to 204 Church St., Stanford, KY 40484.

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

SEEKING: Minister of 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.

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: Cecilia Baptist Church is seeking a children's minister intern. The position will last through the end of July 2015.

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.

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: Emmanuel Baptist Church in Shelbyville, Ky., is looking for a part-time music leader. Please send resumés to kbkimes@gmail.com.

SEEKING: An advancing ministry in a strong, growing church in suburban Cincinnati seeks a full-time minister to preschoolers and children. Resumés to mountcarmelbc@fuse.net. Visit us at mtcarmelbaptist.org.

In Georgia, WMU is backbone of strong missions giving

By Joe Westbury

Duluth, Ga.—Missions support is a primary focus of many Georgia Baptist congregations. And because of that strong view of missions beginning first in Georgia and leading to the uttermost part of the earth, inroads are being made in reducing lostness in the Peach State.

The common denominator, according to a research report just released by the Georgia Baptist Convention, is the presence of a strong Woman's Missionary Union in those churches.

State missionary Tom Crites, who oversees the GBC's Research Services, said the document affirms the long-held belief that WMU is the lifeline to missions support, both prayerfully and financially. What is surprising, he said, is just how strong that connection is.

"The research reveals that churches with WMU groups give nearly 80 percent of all gifts to the Cooperative Program. That is a staggering amount," he concluded.

The report, which studied missions giving during the past five years, traced \$33 million of the state budget's \$41.8 million back to churches with the woman's organization. At the same time, the report revealed that congregations without WMU groups actually reduced their CP giving by 48.72 percent, or nearly half.

"The economy has admittedly been hard on churches during the past five years due to the Great Recession," Crites



Tom Crites

noted. "But the report shows that even in the hardest of times, churches with a strong missions support group maintained that commitment.

"The bottom line is that, with some exceptions, a strong WMU presence equates to strong Cooperative Program support," Crites added.

And that means more funds for first reaching Georgia for Christ and then North America and the world.

Georgia currently numbers 10 million residents. And about 70 percent of those are believed to be lost without a saving knowledge of Jesus Christ.

That's where Cooperative Program giving and related offerings is making inroads to reach the lost within the state's borders. Without a strong base of believers at home, resources wane—monetarily, as well as individuals being led to Christ who eventually surrender to full-time mission service through the North American and International mission boards, Crites added.

GBC Executive Director Robert White said he appreciates the healthy relationship between church WMUs and their pastors.

"There is no doubt in my mind that WMU in the local church helps to strengthen commitment to giving to missions through the Cooperative Program and the various missions offerings.

"I am confident that the reason the churches I have served as pastor were so willing to make increased commitment to the Cooperative Program and to our missions offerings was the good work



Robert White

"It does not surprise me that those who studied missions giving in Georgia found that Woman's Missionary Union was the common denominator among churches that are strong missions givers.

"We did a similar analysis in 2007 of Kentucky giving and found that churches with WMU gave 83 percent of that year's Cooperative Program receipts.

"The work of WMU to educate our churches about missions and then to get them involved in doing missions has a definite impact, and one way to measure that impact is through CP and missions offering gifts. Simply stated, churches with WMU give more than those without.

"In the 2007 analysis, only 62 percent of churches reported having WMU enrollment. That means 83 percent of CP funds that year were given by 62 percent of the churches. Thus, a word to the wise in our denomination would be to help us strengthen WMU in all of our churches. Encourage the work of WMU in churches. Encourage pastors to be WMU supporters. Not only will missions giving be stronger, but since CP giving is generally based on a percentage of undesignated receipts, strengthening WMU will strengthen the church as a whole, including church finances.

"What would happen if more churches had active WMU work? I believe the results would be 'staggering.'



Joy Bolton

Kentucky WMU
Executive Director

and ministry of the Woman's Missionary Union in our church," White added. "The WMU director was always one of my best cheerleaders and anxious to assist in blessing my ministry in our church and in the community.

State missionary Beth Ann Williams, who serves as executive director for Georgia WMU, works closely with the state convention in setting missions giving goals. From her statewide perspective, she sees firsthand the value the women's group brings to missionary support.

"WMU began in 1888 to stir the

missionary spirit in the hearts of Southern Baptists and to help collect the funds necessary for the work," she said. "It is no surprise that WMU was instrumental in the recommendation of the Cooperative Program to the convention in 1925.

"Through the years, WMU has remained a committed advocate for cooperative missions giving," Williams added. "Our relentless focus on personalizing missions continues to connect all ages to the vital role the Cooperative Program plays in transforming lives for Christ at home and around the world." (Georgia Christian Index)

Tennessee church reaches 1,000 baptisms in 2013, expects even more in 2014

Church leaders credit reaching children for baptism boom across four campuses statewide

By Lonnie Wilkey

Hendersonville, Tenn.—In 2013, Long Hollow Baptist Church became the first church in the Tennessee Baptist Convention to baptize at least 1,000 people in a single year.

Last year, 1,051 were baptized at Long Hollow as a result of their outreach efforts, said Jeff Lovingood, next generation pastor at the church.

What's more, he added, the church is on target to exceed 1,000 baptisms again in 2014, he added.

Lovingood noted 2013 was a challenging year for the congregation as they watched Pastor David Landrith battle cancer.

Yet, even with all that, the church experienced its best year ever in not only baptisms, but giving and attendance as well, Lovingood said.

In the midst of a tough situation with the pastor's health issues, "the Lord used it for His glory," Lovingood said.

In addition to the main campus, the church has four satellite locations in Springfield, Gallatin, Nashville and

Madison, Tenn.

Each location has a campus pastor but hears Landrith's message. He estimated about two-thirds of last year's baptisms took place at the main campus.

Reaching the next generation

Lovingood said he believes the surge in baptisms is the result of an intentional effort by the church to reach the next generation with the gospel and stressing the need for their members "just to live life with folks in their neighborhoods, their businesses and their schools."

"If each person does that, hopefully people will see the difference in your life and you can tell them about what God is doing in your life," he said.

As for reaching the next generation, Lovingood cited statistics noting that most people accept Christ before the age of 15 and that more than half of the world's population is younger than 20.

"How crucial is that to the children's, middle school and high school ministries?" he asked.

With so many people 20 or younger



Even in the midst of his battle with cancer, Pastor David Landrith, with his wife, Jennifer, led Long Hollow Baptist Church in Hendersonville, Tenn., to surpass 1,000 baptisms in 2013. The church expects to baptize more than 1,000 new believers again in 2014. (BP file photo)

in the world, it makes sense to target them, he said. "Do you want to fish in a pond with a lot of fish or just a few fish?"

Lovingood said Long Hollow has a strategy to reach children and youth. By

reaching kids for Christ, they will become young adults who are Christians, he explained.

He observed that many churches focus on reaching adults. While there is nothing wrong with that, he said he is convinced children should be the first target.

"If you can reach the kids, you can reach the parents."

Baptizing children

The strategy has worked because Lovingood estimated that of the church's 1,000-plus baptisms in 2013, 75 percent of them were children and youth.

Lovingood noted that when a student accepts Christ, he or she is given a booklet to complete with his or her parents before the baptism.

That process has had a ripple effect, Lovingood said. "It's amazing how many parents come to know Christ after going through the booklet with their kids," he said.

Despite recent successes in reaching people for Christ, Lovingood said he is well aware that "there are still a lot of people to reach."

"There is a great opportunity to make an impact on the next generation by reaching them for Christ." (Tennessee Baptist & Reflector)

50 years of multiethnic cooperation

Civil Rights Act tore down walls, expanded racial reconciliation efforts in SBC

By David Roach

Washington—When President Lyndon Johnson signed the landmark Civil Rights Act in 1964, it codified into law provisions that many Southern Baptists had a reputation for opposing—bans on racial discrimination in public accommodations and government programs.

But amid the opposition, there were pockets of Southern Baptists working for racial justice and equality. On the legislation's 50th anniversary, Baptist leaders are celebrating the fact that those pockets of activism blossomed into a convention-wide multiethnic cooperation emphasis.

"The Civil Rights Act helped tear down so many walls that racial prejudice had constructed between members of the human family," said Frank Page, president of the Southern Baptist Convention's Executive Committee. "My passion is to see every man, woman, boy and girl trust in Jesus Christ and become active members of one of our churches, ... not because it is politically correct, but because every person matters to the Lord."

Today more than 10,000 of the SBC's 46,000 churches are non-Anglo, comprised of a broad diversity of racial and ethnic members. About 15 percent of presidential appointments to committees were from non-Anglo ethnic and racial groups over the past two years, and nearly 100 members of racial and ethnic minority groups have served in SBC leadership positions. About 400 North American Mission Board missionaries identify themselves as non-Anglo and approximately half of SBC church plants are classified as non-Anglo.

All this led Page to call the SBC "one of the most ethnically diverse denominations in America."

A divided convention

Fifty years ago that wasn't the case. The SBC met in Atlantic City, N.J., in May, ahead of President Johnson's July 2 signing of the Civil Rights Act. At the annual meeting, the SBC's Christian Life Commission—precursor to the Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission—presented a recommendation that the convention pledge its support for civil rights legislation. When time came to vote on the recommendation, a pastor from Louisiana offered a substitute motion that didn't say anything about legislation.

On a ballot vote, the substitute motion was adopted and the CLC's motion to support civil rights legislation was set aside. When the Civil Rights Act became law, at least three Baptist colleges refused to sign "assurances of compliance."

But not all Southern Baptists were



Martin Luther King Jr. meets with Southern Baptist Theological Seminary professors (from left to right) Henlee Barnette, Nolan Howington and Allen Graves. King preached at the Southern Seminary chapel in 1961 to a warm reception from faculty and students. (SBTS photo)

opposed to the new legislation.

A month after the Civil Rights Act became law, the CLC held two "Christianity and Race Relations" conferences. Speakers were bold in their advocacy of integration, and attendance outnumbered that of previous CLC conferences.

Pockets of change

And some pastors and churches were beginning to embrace integration.

In Louisville, an adjunct professor and a student at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary—one white and one black—formed an interracial ministry conference to meet monthly and discuss race relations in the city. The black student, Emmanuel McCall, and the white adjunct professor, John Claypool, each convened six pastors of his own race. McCall and Claypool then helped form the Louisville Baptist Interracial Pastors Conference, which met from 1962 to 1968 and included 800 ministers at its zenith.

McCall said the group's efforts contributed to the relative calm in Louisville regarding race issues.

"Louisville went through that time without any racial conflict," McCall said. "Except there was one night when some guy who said he represented Stokely Carmichael gathered a group of people in the West End. From somewhere they came up with bricks, and they started a little bit of a riot. But it was the ministers' conference that said to the chief of police, 'We don't know this guy. Get him out of town. Arrest him or whatever.' And they did."

McCall went on to become the first African American on staff at any SBC entity, when he went to work for the Home Mission Board in 1968. Claypool served as pastor of churches in Kentucky, Tennessee, Texas and Mississippi.

Another member of the interracial pastors group, Carlisle Driggers, was at Louisville's 23rd and Broadway Baptist Church in 1964. The congregation was ahead of its time in terms of racial inclusiveness and felt the Civil Rights Act "supported what we were attempting to do at

that time as a church," Driggers said.

A white congregation, 23rd and Broadway decided to stay in its longtime location, even though the community around it was changing racially and culturally. The decision to stay included a commitment to reach everyone regardless of race.

The congregation ministered to hundreds of blacks through community programs, and eventually 10 to 20 percent of its Sunday worshippers were African Americans. The church's outreach was so successful, the HMB appointed a missionary to work specifically with the church—the first time the board appointed a missionary to an individual congregation.

Still, when a black worshipper presented herself for membership in 1966, Driggers was nervous, not knowing how the congregation would react. He received her during the invitation and called for a vote on whether to accept her as a member. After a vote without opposition, Driggers bowed his head to lead the closing prayer. He said he'll never forget what he saw when he opened his eyes.

"Our people ... were getting up out of

their seats, and they were lined up all the way from the front of the church to the back door—lined up to come forward and speak to Brenda. It was a precious, precious moment," Driggers recalled.

Driggers gained a reputation for his work in interracial ministry, so much so that First Baptist Church of Birmingham, Ala., brought him on staff in 1969 to help with a tumultuous integration process. He later became executive director of the South Carolina Baptist Convention.

A changing convention

As a result, Southern Baptists broadly began to integrate and embrace interracial cooperation.

In 1968, the SBC adopted, by a more than 2 to 1 margin, a "Statement Concerning the Crisis in Our Nation," with messengers vowing to "personally accept every Christian as a brother beloved in the Lord and welcome to the fellowship of faith and worship every person irrespective of race or class."

Many churches integrated in the 1960s and '70s, and ethnic churches began to join the convention.

Racist elements persisted, but they dwindled to a minority. In 1995, the convention adopted a resolution apologizing for its racist past, asking African Americans for forgiveness.

In 2012, the SBC elected Fred Luter as its first black president. The vote "was a genuine, authentic move by this convention that says our doors are open," Luter said following his election.

Preserving the gains

Kelly Miller Smith, the black pastor of First Baptist Church, Capitol Hill, in Nashville, Tenn., said he believes Southern Baptists began cooperating with blacks, in part, because they realized how much Baptists of both races have in common.

Smith said that despite their theological commonalities, white and black Baptists often differ in their social applications of the gospel. Cooperative ministry in the future will depend on their ability to understand one another's perspectives on certain issues, he noted.

Thankfully, black and white Baptists have already begun to cooperate in missions, evangelism, theological education and other areas.

On the 50th anniversary of the Civil Rights Act, Smith said it is important for Baptists to preserve the legacy of that legislation in the U.S. and continue to break down racial prejudice in the church. (BP)



Emmanuel McCall, pictured with Coretta Scott King, was the first African American to serve on staff at any Southern Baptist Convention entity. (SBHLA photo)