

WESTERN Recorder

June 10, 2014

Shine Like Stars * Philippians 2:15

Volume 188, Issue 22



Southern Baptists meet this week as membership, baptism decline continues

By Adele Banks

Baltimore—For Southern Baptists, it's happened again: Another annual report shows the denomination is losing members and baptizing fewer people.



"We have just not been very active in doing what we can to reach the lost and the unchurched in our nation."

Fred Luter

Fred Luter, outgoing president of the Southern Baptist Convention, thinks old-time methods to spread the gospel have met a culture that's younger, more diverse and doesn't necessarily see the pew—or even sin—as a priority.

"Our society is just not what it used to be," said Luter, who admitted he is discouraged by the reports. "When I grew up, there was a challenge by parents in the home that our sons and daughters would be in church. It was a given. ... That day and time is gone."

Luter said he and others will address the issue at this week's annual meeting in Baltimore. But beyond calls for reversing the trend, there is little sign of agreement on a way forward.

Though some have said the 15.7 million-member denomination needs to be more racially and ethnically inclusive, Luter, its first black president, thinks the main reason for decline is that all congregations need to take a role in evangelism.

"We have just not been very active in doing what we can to reach the lost and the unchurched in our nation," the 57-year-old pastor of New Orleans' Franklin Avenue Baptist Church said.

□ See Annual meeting ... Page 4

Lottie Moon offering hits all-time high

By Erich Bridges

Richmond, Va.—Southern Baptists gave an unprecedented \$154 million to the 2013 Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for International Missions, breaking the record for the largest total in the offering's 125-year history.

The 2013 offering, finalized June 5, reached \$154,057,85. The total represents an increase of nearly \$4.8 million over 2012 (3.2 percent). It tops the previous record, \$150.4 million given in 2007 and marks the fourth increase since 2008.

"This gives us an opportunity to reflect on the incredible generosity of Southern Baptists over many years,"

International Mission Board President Tom Elliff said.

"The Lottie Moon Christmas Offering represents well over half of our budget each year, so those who give sacrificially and out of concern for the lost can be assured that an enormous portion of all that happens overseas can be directly tied to their support.

"It's estimated that close to 1 billion people living now are very likely to go through life without ever hearing the gospel in such a fashion that they can understand it and respond to it in faith," Elliff said. "Our missionaries are 'chasers after darkness.' We're looking for those dark corners of the world where the light of the gospel has yet

□ See Lottie Moon ... Page 9



In Sweden, International Mission Board worker Anissa Haney (left) meets with Linda Hamfors for Bible study. Struggling with addiction and spiritual questions, Hamfors approached Haney after a musical performance and asked if they could talk more. Today, the young Swedish woman is a follower of Jesus. The 2013 Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for International Missions and gifts through the Cooperative Program enabled Haney to be there when Hamfors, searching for truth in a highly secularized society, was ready to hear it. (IMB photo)

From 'the hood' to the hills CP undergirds spiritual journey

By Ken Walker

Louisville—For God to use a young man raised in "the hood" on Chicago's South Side to cross racial and ethnic boundaries in Appalachia is amazing enough.

Add to that Lance Lofton changing denominations because of the impact of Baptist Campus Ministries; teaching Sunday School and going on a mission trip with an eastern Kentucky church; his involvement in a new multi-ethnic church in west Louisville; and his studies at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary.

When you sum it up, the result is a stirring story of Cooperative

Program dollars in action. Gifts from the unified giving program support such Southern Baptist initiatives as BCM, missions and seminaries.

"Lance spent his entire college career at a Southern Baptist church and learned biblical Christianity is bigger than ethnicity," said Curtis Woods, associate executive director for the Kentucky Baptist Convention. "Today he's living out a missional imperative."

Lofton's story starts in a lower middle-class neighborhood in Chicago. Raised by a single mother and his grandmother, his only exposure to church came when relatives took

□ See Lofton ... Page 2



Lance Lofton's life has been significantly impacted by the Cooperative Program, from the impact of BCM at Kentucky State University to his involvement in missions to his studies at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary. (KBC photo)

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Western Recorder 6-10-2014

Great Commission Advance beckons Baptists to 'do more'

By Rebecca Wolford

Baltimore—Southern Baptist Convention Executive Committee President Frank Page will issue a challenge to Southern Baptists at the SBC annual meeting to "do more" to reach the world with the gospel.

Page will set forth his vision for Great Commission Advance, an initiative to increase missions involvement among individuals and churches, during his report to the convention June 10 in Baltimore.

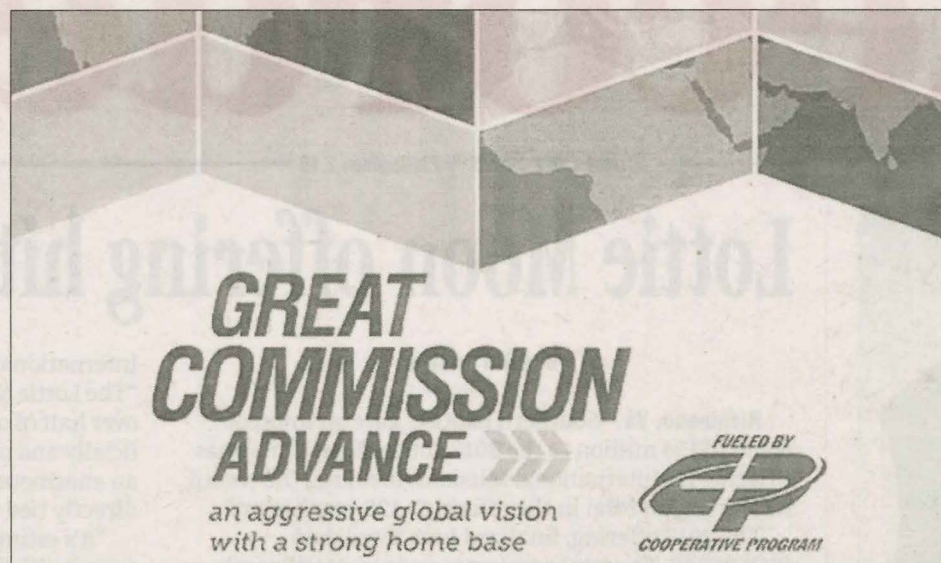
Ashley Clayton, Executive Committee vice president for Cooperative Program and stewardship, told SBC LIFE, "In its most condensed and basic form, Great Commission Advance calls for Southern Baptists to simply 'do more.'"

Page will call on all Southern Baptists—individuals, families and churches—to sacrificially do more to advance the Great Commission "so that every person has the opportunity to hear the gospel," Clayton said.

Page told SBC LIFE that "doing more" in the area of personal stewardship is essential to missions involvement. He will urge Southern Baptists to commit to establishing a biblical standard of giving and generosity.

Page also will encourage Southern Baptists to participate in missions at the local, state, national and international levels. For some, "doing more" may mean surrendering to God's call to vocational ministry as a pastor, chaplain, church planter or international missionary, he noted.

In addition, Page will challenge churches to increase their level of support through the Cooperative Program



for Southern Baptist missions and ministries.

Since being elected Executive Committee president in 2010, Page has emphasized that the Cooperative Program is about missions and ministries, not numbers and percentages, Clayton said.

Primary goals

One of the primary objectives of Great Commission Advance is to address the decline in Cooperative Program giving over the past two decades, Clayton said. In 1982, churches were giving an average of 10.7 percent of their undesignated receipts to cooperative missions and ministries through CP. That number has dropped to 5.4 percent, declining by an average of about 0.2 percent each year.

In 2012, the average percent of churches' Cooperative Program giving held steady for the first time since the

1990s and ticked slightly upward.

The previous year, Page announced the "1% CP Challenge," asking churches to increase their Cooperative Program giving of their undesignated receipts by one percentage point. If every church increased its CP giving by 1 percent, it would bring in an extra \$100 million for SBC missions and ministries, Page said.

If church Cooperative Program giving returned to an average of 10 percent as it was in the past, Cooperative Program receipts would reach nearly \$1 billion, providing a platform for the most aggressive missions enterprise in the history of Christendom, he explained.

The International Mission Board has estimated that it needs 7,000 missionaries on the field to initially reach every known unengaged, unreached people group in the world—but it currently has less than 5,000. The North American Mission Board has committed to planting

15,000 churches in 10 years. Increased Cooperative Program dollars also would keep the costs of seminary training at a minimum, making theological education more accessible.

Page has led the Executive Committee to reduce its Cooperative Program allocation percentage from 3.4 percent in the 2010-11 fiscal year, to 3.2 percent in 2011-12, to 2.99 percent in the current fiscal year. He plans to reduce it even further in 2015-16. Allocation percentages are adjusted every two years.

"We're lowering our Cooperative Program allocation. So, when you hear me beating the drum and asking for more, it's to go to these other entities to do that which God has called them to do," Page told the Executive Committee Feb. 17.

The SBC was founded on such shared values as missions, evangelism, stewardship and cooperation, Clayton said. On the basis of those values, Baptists were able to organize and develop a structure through which to accomplish their work.

Great Commission Advance is about refocusing on those values, Clayton said. "We want to elevate our values above mere background noise. When people align with and embrace the values, it will result in increased support for Cooperative Program."

The trouble comes, Clayton said, when an organization loses sight of its core values. "Knowing the 'why' of an organization is vital to its success," he said. Through Great Commission Advance, Page will remind the SBC of its core values, of why we do what we do.

"The long-held guiding principle of the SBC is as true today as when it was founded," Clayton said. "We can do more together than we can do alone." (BP)

Lofton

Continued from page 1

him on major holidays.

Ironically, a friend who liked gangs and other unhealthy activities invited Lofton to youth group. At age 16, he accepted Jesus as his Savior at a Presbyterian church.

That changed after Lofton enrolled two years later at Kentucky State University and encountered Woods, then the school's BCM director.

Woods became a mentor, challenging Lofton to be certain of his biblical beliefs and comprehend the meaning of a Christian worldview.

In addition, the former BCM director emphasized choosing a church based on its theological convictions and Southern Baptist practices. That convinced Lofton to join the mostly-white Memorial Baptist Church in Frankfort.

"I wanted to get the most out of my college experience and felt it would be better to get plugged into a local church," Lofton said. "I was fine with Southern Baptist beliefs. Doctrine wasn't a stretch at all—faith, grace, a lot of that was the same."

'I wanted to serve'

Kentucky's Cabinet of Health and Human Services provided financial assistance with his college studies. So, after graduating in May of 2011, Lofton moved to Mount Sterling to fulfill a two-year



Lance Lofton (left) serves communion at New Breed Church in west Louisville alongside Mark Singleton (second from left). Lofton helps lead the church plant's small groups and is part of its hospitality committee. (KBC photo)

commitment to the state.

Soon after, Lofton joined the Baptist Worship Center. Although it only attracted 30 to 40 worshippers most Sundays, the social worker saw an opportunity to get involved.

"I wanted to serve," Lofton said. "I didn't want to go to a church and just sit in the pew. It was all about doing life with people. I built some solid relationships there. That's what kept me there."

George Drake, director of missions for Red River Baptist Association, is a member of BWC. Drake said Lofton's easygoing

manner made it easy for him to fit in as the church's first-ever African-American adult member.

"He's just an energetic young man and has a great personality," Drake said. "Our folks just connected with him. It wasn't a challenge at all."

Lofton taught the youth Sunday School class and Sunday evening Bible study. He joined a seven-member team on a mission trip to the Dominican Republic last September. In response to his final sermon, a Dominican resident accepted Jesus Christ as Savior.

The mission trip offered evidence of the calling God placed on Lofton's heart during college: to get more biblical training.

"I was hands on already," said Lofton, who after graduation plans to continue in social work while serving as a bivocational pastor. "I just wanted to back it up with solid theology, and Southern Seminary seemed to be the place to do it."

When Lofton enrolled last August, Red River association paid \$300 of his tuition, part of an ongoing practice to set aside money in its budget to help young men further their biblical education.

As soon as Lofton moved to Louisville, he got involved in the multi-ethnic New Breed Church which launched in January.

Lofton helps lead New Breed's small groups and serves on the hospitality committee. He is also chaplain for the track and baseball teams at nearby Shawnee High School.

Woods said his protégé has made a strong impact on the KBC.

"Everyone fell in love with him and his love for the local church, outreach and evangelism," Woods said of Lofton's college days, which included serving as BCM president.

As for the most meaningful thing he has seen God do in his life, Lofton quickly cited his BCM experience as a highlight.

"That was groundbreaking for me," he said. "Just the timing of BCM and the ministry opportunities and how it changed my heart and me as a person. That makes me what I am today." (KBC)

OBI: changing lives

I recently traveled out of Manchester on Hwy. 11 to Oneida Baptist Institute, a boarding school for students grades 6-12.

Together We are the KBC



Paul Chitwood

Founded in 1899, OBI has a rich history of ministry to children in the mountains that has grown into a school boasting graduates from around the world.

OBI's stated mission is "to provide a Christian living, learning and working environment in which each of its students, Christian or non-Christian, is diligently challenged to grow mentally, physi-

cally, socially and spiritually in order to acquire an education for time and eternity."

In 1946, OBI entered into a covenant agreement with the Kentucky Baptist Convention and became partially funded through the Cooperative Program. That agreement and funding remain in place today, with Kentucky Baptists providing close to \$350,000 in annual CP funds plus proceeds from the Barkley Moore Father's Day Offering and individual donations.

In addition to investing in a sound Christian education, funds given to OBI serve an evangelistic purpose since many of the students who enroll are not professing Christians. Before graduation, however, through daily chapel services, Sunday morning worship, and the testimonies of their teachers and peers, most have heard and believed the gospel.

On my visit I received a personal tour from OBI's new president, Larry Gritton. He began his work last fall, but Gritton is not unfamiliar with OBI. He and his lovely wife, Angie, are both OBI graduates and served on staff from 1997-2004.

For the past decade Larry had been working in Christian schools and pastoring a church in Fort Myers, Fla. Now, the Lord has brought the Grittons and their three children back home.

As we walked the campus, what I immediately noticed was Gritton's connection with the students. He called each by name and was able to tell his or her story as he introduced them to me.

One young man was from China, only a province away from where my daughter was living in an orphanage before our adoption. A young lady, soon to graduate, was from Thailand and is heading to my alma mater, the University of the Cumberland, in the fall.

I also met several students from Kentucky and surrounding states, as well as a young man from Ethiopia. Although I missed seeing a student from India whose father is one of my personal friends, Gritton assured me the boy is thriving in his studies.

What drew Gritton back to OBI? His deep love for the school, the students and for the Lord Jesus Christ. In short, he was called.

In addition to giving a gift to Oneida through the Barkley Moore Father's Day Offering emphasis, let me encourage you to share about this ministry with others. A life could be changed "for time and eternity."

Paul Chitwood is executive director of the Kentucky Baptist Convention.

Q&A with Tony Rose

La Grange pastor discusses role as SBC mental health council chair, importance of addressing such issues

By Todd Deaton

La Grange—Kentucky pastor Tony Rose of La Grange Baptist Church recently was named as chair of a 23-member Mental Health Advisory Council for the Southern Baptist Convention.

Frank Page, president of the SBC Executive Committee, announced in May the formation of a team of church leaders and professionals in the mental health field who will assist him in better communicating the needs of congregations and communities, as well as in identifying available ministry resources. The advisory group grew out of a resolution on "Mental Health Concerns and the Heart of God," approved by messengers to the 2013 SBC annual meeting.

Specifically, the council is tasked with 1) reviewing mental health ministries offered through SBC ministry entity, state convention and social and local church initiatives; 2) assessing the best practices of these ministry initiatives; and 3) suggesting ways to improve or formalize ministry initiatives. Their findings will assist Page in framing a presentation model concerning mental health needs for discussions with members of the SBC Great Commission Council and other church leaders, enabling development of a more comprehensive strategy for mental health ministry.

Rose has been in full-time ministry for more than 29 years, serving as pastor of La Grange Baptist Church since 1993. A graduate of Western Kentucky University and Mid-America Theological Seminary, he earned a doctor of ministry degree from Southern Baptist Theological Seminary. He and his wife, Joie, have four children and five grandchildren.

The Western Recorder interviewed Rose last week regarding his hopes as the council begins its work and his role in guiding its discussions. Below are Rose's responses to WR's questions:

Why do you believe Frank Page selected you to serve as chairman, and what ministry experiences regarding mental health issues do you bring to this important role?

ROSE: I was genuinely surprised when I was asked to chair the advisory group. I was also delighted. Issues of the mind and soul have been at the center of my pastoral ministry for years. Practically, there were some relationships that God orchestrated over many years that put

me in touch with people who have focused interests in helping the church serve people who are affected by the traumas of mental illness.

Through these relationships I came into contact with Dr. Page, got involved with the initial idea to bring greater awareness to the church concerning mental health issues, and was asked to be on the advisory group. While the group was being formed a co-worker of Dr. Page's, Dr. Sing Oldham, asked if I would chair the committee. When I regained my breath, I said yes.

One other reason that compels my interest in mental health is personal. Depression—that is, real depression—is a monster that is immensely difficult to face. I know this from experience. Because of this, I am blessed to help those who suffer from this type of mental and emotional malady.

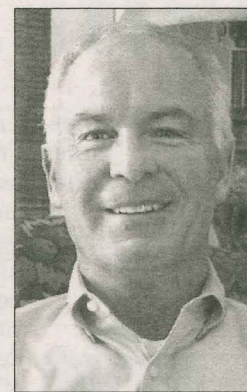
Depression is an abrasive and harsh teacher, but nothing equips a pastor to better help his hurting people than actually suffering as his people have suffered.

Why is mental health a growing concern for Southern Baptists? Is there an increasing need for churches to become more aware and involved?

ROSE: There are multiple reasons mental health is a growing concern for us. First, there are many families and individuals in our churches who suffer deeply from the ill effects of mental illness. Strangely, there is still a heavy stigma upon the Christian who struggles with severe mental or emotional problems. We Christians and our churches need to be educated to see that such difficulties are not an abnormal part of life. As long as we see people with mental or emotional problems as abnormal, we will treat them as abnormal—or more than likely as sub-normal—and increase the harsh stigma they live under.

The area of mental illness is one area we are having a hard time applying the gospel to. We would not tell someone with cancer to pray more and believe more and the cancer would go away. We wouldn't tell a poor person to believe more and God will make him rich.

But many times we tell people with mental disturbances to pray and believe more and they will be well. The gospel provides the grace for us to admit to such mental maladies and the



endurance to live through them and, sometimes, to live with them.

What specific mental health issues do you see emerging that should be addressed by our national and state conventions, associations and churches?

ROSE: From my 26 years of pastoral ministry, I have learned that Christians are not immune to mental illness. I have seen almost the entire spectrum of mental and emotional issues among the precious people of God whom I have been privileged to serve. Depression, eating disorders, suicidal tendencies and actual suicides, cutting—and the list could go on.

Sometimes Christians become mentally and emotionally disturbed because of personal sin. This kind of case is the easiest to deal with. Help the person confront the sin, confess the sin and repent. Forward movement can be made from there.

But if we make all mental and emotional maladies the product of personal sin, repentance is our only remedy. Telling someone who is mentally disturbed due to a biological, genetic or physiological cause to repent will not help him or her heal; it will only cause hurt.

Charles Spurgeon once said, "I am privileged to be the pastor of a large church. During this time, I have noted that some of God's finest servants travel most of the way to heaven in the dark." It is the responsibility of the more healthy among us to bring the light of the gospel into the lives of God's suffering people.

There are times when we in the church can get a bit dogmatic about what the Bible teaches concerning mental health. For myself and others, the greatest ingredient we need in addressing these difficult issues is humility. There are many things we just don't know, and there are times it is fully appropriate and helpful to work with professionals to help us with situations that are immensely complex.

What do you anticipate being the nature of your advisory council's discussions, and what outcomes would you hope to see from its work?

ROSE: We are working under a clear assignment to advise Dr. Page in these matters related to the church and helping people with mental illness. The chief outcome will be a detailed report that will inform Dr. Page about current best practices within our convention and our churches.

The report will also contain data and suggestions as to how we might improve our efforts in serving this needy segment of our society that is so often ignored. We do hope our work will help

□ See Rose Q&A ... Page 9

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Father to the fatherless

Father's Day offering goes to help those students who need it most

About three years ago, an athlete's parent at my school in Florida sent an email telling me the Lord had a job for me that involved being a father to the fatherless. I can't say I totally dismissed it, but I was a little confused.

I barely knew this parent and was content doing what I was already doing. Her child had transferred to our school during her senior year and was ruled ineligible for athletic participation. Our trip that day took us to an appeals meeting to try to gain the student's eligibility. We lost, but I did learn the lady and her family walked closely with the Lord.

Some three years later, I find myself doing what I can to lead a ministry that thrives on reaching young people who sometimes have no hope. I often think about my friend's email and am reminded of what Oneida means to so many hurting young people.

My father is my hero. He is the kind of father every kid or adult would want. He taught me to love the Lord and others and to do my best to live a life of Christian service.

When the time came to decide on a best man for my wedding, it was a no-brainer. My dad was my best man 18 years ago, and he is my best friend today.

I have great memories of baseball games in Cincinnati and Atlanta, family vacations, life lessons and so much more. I am blessed to still have my dad around to make new memories. I

strive every day to be the type of father to my three children that my father has been to me.

On June 15, I will call my dad to tell him Happy Father's Day and that I love him. That same day, you will hopefully hear something in your church about the special Kentucky Baptist Convention offering for Oneida. I humbly ask that you continue to show your love and support for Oneida so that many of our students can continue their educations at OBI and one day be the Christian parent my father is to me.

The Barkley Moore Father's Day Offering for Oneida Baptist Institute is named for the man who served as OBI president from 1972-94. Dr. Moore was a father to thousands of fatherless young men and women. He loved Oneida, but he loved the school's young people even more. He gave his life for the kingdom, and we honor his memory by serving our young people with a small portion of the passion he so faithfully exhibited.

This Father's Day offering is such an important part of our ministry. Many of our young people cannot afford to pay for the education they receive here. Support from your church is what enables us to provide hope for our young people.

Please consider helping your church help Oneida this Father's Day by giving to this special offering. May God bless you all for your faithful support.

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

Sitting on the other side

Graduate turns the mic around for final interview before departing

Brandon Caudill is usually on the other side of the microphone when it comes to doing interviews. For the last few years he has been in charge of our "Clear Creek Chimes" radio program that airs on several radio stations.

Now, as Brandon and his wife, Candace, prepare to leave Clear Creek, he grants one more interview, this time from the other side of the microphone.

"When I first came to Clear Creek, I knew God was calling me to prepare for something in the area of missions and evangelism," Brandon said. "One of my first classes here was a church planting course, and God used that course—along with the study of His word—to begin to direct me specifically toward the area of church planting.

"Not long after that class, I went on a mission trip to New York City," he continued, "and God used that trip to show us we needed to be doing something in urban ministry.

"Not long after the mission trip, I attended a SEND North America conference where the North American Mission Board unveiled its plan for city church planting," Brandon recalled. "They chose

32 specific cities that were to be targeted for church planting.

"I remember sitting there at the conference and just telling God that it all really makes sense for my life," he said. "My wife and I came away from that conference with God leading us to be church planting missionaries. We are so excited about joining God on mission with NAMB in Cincinnati to serve as missionary church planters.

"God has used Clear Creek Baptist Bible College in a mighty way to thoroughly prepare me for this next season of ministry," Brandon said. "He has provided financially for every need we have had while here. I have gleaned practical knowledge from professors and staff who not only teach in a classroom, but who have lived it on the mission field or behind the pulpit.

"Clear Creek has taught me what it means to be a godly leader by sitting under men who have modeled that before me. Clear Creek has been outstanding in preparing me for the calling God has placed on my life."

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

Legendary church relaunches

Baltimore—Seventh Metro Church in Baltimore, where legendary Southern Baptist missionary Annie Armstrong was raised and baptized, relaunched June 8, with help from Southern Baptist Convention President Fred Luter.

The 169-year-old church, which once

had more than 2,000 members, dwindled to 17 in 2003.

Pastor Ryan Palmer has led the church to redevelop its facilities and ministry, challenging members to change the "heart of Baltimore" by "impacting the culture." (WR)



Southern Baptist Convention President Fred Luter prays for members of Seventh Metro Church in Baltimore. Legendary Southern Baptist missionary Annie Armstrong was raised and baptized in the church near her home. The church relaunched June 8 after languishing in recent years. (Photo by Bob Carey/BP)

Annual meeting

Continued from page 1

Weeks before the SBC annual meeting, a task force charged with helping Southern Baptists "own the problem" released a report that noted these recent signs of trouble:

- one-quarter of Southern Baptist churches reported zero baptisms;
- 60 percent said they had baptized no youth (ages 12-17);
- 80 percent reported one or fewer young adult baptisms (ages 18-29).

Task force member Dennis Kim is one of the three men who hope to succeed Luter as president.

"When about 1,000 churches close their doors every year, I believe that the need of the hour is an evangelistic tool that is simple enough to train all church members, effective enough to ignite believers' passion for evangelism, and engaging enough to captivate the hearts of the present generation," said Kim, 64, pastor of a predominantly Korean-American megachurch in the Washington suburb of Silver Spring, Md.

Jared Moore, pastor of a small church in Hustonville, is not convinced that a special method or a new way of training is the answer.

"It's not something that any president or any individual can reverse," he said of the trends that show seven straight years of declining membership. "It's something that God must bring about."

He added that "it takes a lot more time, a lot more conversations than it did 50 years ago" to succeed in evangelism when some people don't consider themselves sinners.

"I think we've got to stay the course, continue preaching the gospel, even when the ears of our community (are) closed," Moore said.

Ronnie Floyd, a former SBC Executive Committee chairman who is considered to be a front-runner for the presidency, said there's a need for "extraordinary prayer" for another "major spiritual awakening" in the United States. He said Baptists have determined that the Great Commission is the path they are committed to follow.

"Our problem is the pace," said Floyd, 58, pastor of a multi-site megachurch in northwest Arkansas. "We need to return to a commitment of personal evangelism."

David Roozen, director of the Hartford Institute for Religion Research, said Southern Baptists are facing challenges, both theological—some people don't see themselves in need of a conversion—and sociological—waning agreement with traditional conservative worldviews.

"It's a tough world out there at this particular time and there's not a lot of easy answers," Roozen said, adding that Southern Baptists are joining mainline Protestants in the hand wringing about declines.

"There's little fixes but they probably don't address the root challenges." (RNS)

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Education for Time
and Eternity

What is OBI?

Oneida Baptist Institute is a fully accredited Christian boarding school for grades 6-12.

OBI was founded in 1899 by James Anderson Burns.

Oneida is a mission field

OBI began as a school for children of the Eastern Kentucky mountains. We still welcome commuting students, many of whom carry on a family tradition by coming to Oneida.

Approximately one-third of our students are from Kentucky. About 47% come from other states and another 20% are internationals.

Oneida is a place where local, state, North American and international missions are happening—all at the same time.

Annual offering

This is the 19th year for Kentucky Baptist churches to observe the Father's Day Offering for Oneida Baptist Institute.

Would you like to contact us?

Oneida Baptist Institute
P.O. Box 67
Oneida, KY 40972

(606) 847-4111
Tours available; call to schedule a visit.

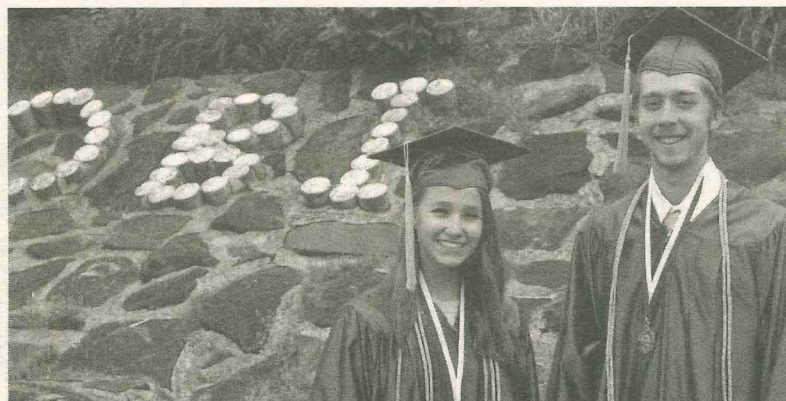
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2014 Father's Day Offering for...

Oneida Baptist Institute

Meet some of OBI's graduating Class of 2014

OBI provided opportunities to develop talents and excel academically for Jacob and Taylor



Jacob (right) is the Class of 2014 valedictorian and Taylor is the salutatorian. Both are 2013 Kentucky Governor's Scholars.

Jacob was born in Florida and was four years old when his father took a job on the OBI staff. "I have been here ever since," Jacob said.

When he got older, Jacob said, "I thought about going to live with my mom in Massachusetts, but it seemed like too big of a change. I was being successful at OBI. I had friends here, and I was doing well in cocurriculars and academics."

Beginning in middle school, Jacob joined activities to fill his time and stretch his interests. He noted, "OBI never required me to work, but I cleaned bathrooms for two years, because I was bored after school." He played baseball in grades 6-8 and later joined tennis, soccer and swimming.

Jacob never guessed that taking a small role in a play as an eighth grader would lead to his acceptance in the Governor's School for the Arts (GSA) in 2012. "After my first play, I loved drama so much, because I had never had so much fun in all my life! Unlike the physical and mental stress of competitive sports, drama is relaxing. ... There's no

worrying over trying to be better than someone else. We all have our places, and we work together to create a story that makes people laugh or think about the world or themselves in a different way," he said. Jacob was the leading male actor in eight OBI productions and received the Best Actor and Director's Awards.

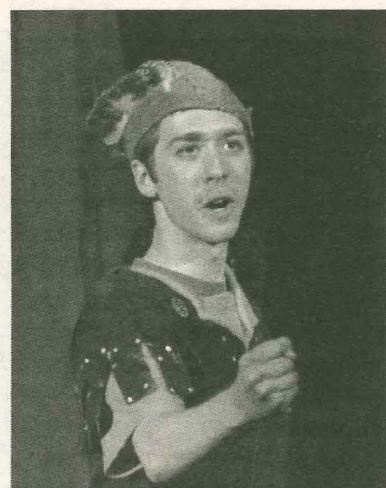
"I made all my friends through the programs and activities at OBI. Because of theater at OBI, I went to GSA, where I grew profoundly through the friendships, knowledge and excellence I saw there," Jacob said.

Jacob explored his musical interest by taking guitar and piano classes. He performed guitar solos in talent shows, and he joined the student praise band.

In the Field Placement program this year, Jacob worked for two quarters as an assistant to the guitar teacher, tutoring beginning guitar students. Later, he worked for the choir and band teacher and noted, "I got to create a database for the music inventory. I would spend every day with my laptop and the music files. I like using what I know to make my work easier."

Jacob became a Christian at the age of six. He estimates that he attended 1,200 chapel services over the last seven years. While he is ready for a more "normal" church routine, he noted, "Chapel helped to shape my understanding of Christianity and what I believe."

Graduating as the valedictorian and a 2013 Kentucky Governor's Scholar, Jacob took advanced placement classes at OBI, including two years of calculus. He said, "I feel like my math classes prepared me for college, and the English teachers taught us to think, read and write critically."



Jacob became the "leading man" in drama at OBI.

Combining his talents in math and the arts, Jacob's college of choice offers programs like game development, robotics and music technology. He said, "For me, problem-solving itself is not as enjoyable as the application of math and science to create something new, useful, or helpful. I'm looking for a creative combination between imagination and intellect."

Reflecting on his years at Oneida, Jacob said, "The best part about OBI is the teachers and staff, their kids, small classes and the theater program. Many good people are here, and that's what I'll miss—the people."



Taylor, a 2014 All State vocalist, logged over 20,000 miles in five years of traveling to Kentucky Baptist churches with the OBI choir.

Shortly before Taylor was born, her parents moved from Colorado to join the faculty/staff of Oneida Baptist Institute. Taylor said, "As a 'staff kid,' I lived in modest staff housing with limited access to many things some teenagers take for granted, but growing up at a boarding school with students from all over was extremely rewarding because of the diversity. I had the opportunity to be friends with students from Korea, India, Ethiopia, China, Ghana and Cyprus!"

Oneida's rural location made it easier for Taylor to participate in a wide variety of after-school activities beginning in middle school. She competed at the state level in two of her three seasons in cross country and in her second year of tennis. She played basketball for two seasons and was a member of the track and field team for four seasons. (Taylor continued p. 2)

Jessie finished high school with stability at OBI



Jessie was crowned OBI's 2013-2014 Yearbook Queen.

Graduating in the top ten of OBI's class of 2014, Jessie came to Oneida from Ghana as a junior in 2012. Jessie's aunt and uncle live in Texas, but she had moved several times around the world because of her father's job. Finishing the last two years of high school at a boarding school brought consistency to her life. She recalled, "We were about to move again, and my father wanted me to settle down. I was kind of scared. I had never been to a boarding school before. ... It was difficult, because I was constantly homesick."

At first, Jessie did not enjoy working after school in the kitchen, but she quickly learned that she could join sports and other activities to fulfill the work requirement. "I liked it a lot more! ... Being in activities helped me make friends," Jessie observed.

She participated in a wide variety of cocurriculars including sports (soccer and swimming) as well as drama and academic team. She earned a Good Worker award, a Mountaineer of Noble Distinction award and the Director's Award in drama. Jessie won the 2013-14 Oneidian Yearbook Queen pageant.

As a Christian, Jessie enjoyed plugging into organizations like the Fellowship of Christian Athletes, Baptist Campus Ministry and the girls' dorm devotion group.

Looking forward to college where she will major in computer engineering, Jessie has enjoyed the advanced placement classes she was able to take at Oneida. She said, "They made me think more. It was a challenge, and I liked it."

The best part about OBI? "The memories you make with friends," Jessie said.

Oneida Baptist Institute

(Taylor continued)

seasons. Taylor became a certified lifeguard as a senior.

As a member of the choir for three years and the vocal ensemble for the last two years, Taylor represented OBI in Kentucky Baptist churches on most Sundays from October to May. She sang with the All Festival regional honor choir for two years and the 2014 All-State Women's Chorus.

Two years of piano class and playing the drums in the pep band rounded out her musical experience. Taylor also sang and played the piano with the student chapel worship team and served on the chapel sound crew.

Acting in eight school plays, Taylor received the Best Actress award, the Best Supporting Actress award and the Director's Award. "Opportunities in fine arts at OBI really helped me to develop my talents," she said.

Taylor started out as a page designer on the yearbook staff and was the head photographer and editor her senior year. She was also a writer and editor of the student newspaper.

As the vice president of the Student Council in grades 10-11, she helped to plan campus events like the Spring Fling. Working with the Student Council, she initiated and managed an aluminum recycling program.

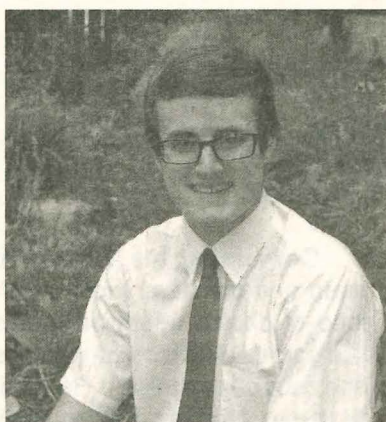
In 2012, Taylor was named to the University of Kentucky's "Class of Kentucky." She also attended the Hugh O'Brian Youth Leadership (HOBY) conference and later received the President's Volunteer Service award and was named a semi-finalist for HOBY's national Alumni Leadership for Service award.

Graduating as salutatorian and a 2013 Kentucky Governor's Scholar, Taylor stated, "Oneida has an average of 11 students in each class which I think has definitely helped me to stay focused and really excel. In addition, our school provides many different AP courses which I took in order to study with like-minded people. These classes really helped prepare me for college."

Inspired by her AP government and music classes at OBI, Taylor plans to major in political science and music education.

Taylor accepted Christ at age seven and noted, "I did not really appreciate the benefits of growing up at a Baptist school until [recently]. I see now that chapel and the Christian influence on campus have drastically enhanced my trust and love for God. ... Even if I did not enjoy a particular day of chapel, I could always find some act of worship in the service to bring me closer to Christ."

Hunter became a leader in the work program



Hunter improved his grades and prepared for college.

Hunter enrolled at OBI as a junior from central Kentucky. His dad heard about OBI from a co-worker and thought it would be a good fit for Hunter. "My parents are divorced, and my brother and I don't usually get along too

well. My dad wanted to make sure nothing would happen while he was at work. ... My grades weren't up to par, and the environment [at school] wasn't great. I didn't have too many actual friends. I needed a chance to start over."

When he came for a campus tour in the summer, Hunter said, "It seemed a little strange and a little too strict about some things, but I had more reasons to give it a try."

Hunter's grades were straight A's from the first day in class at OBI. He enjoyed the discussions in his advanced placement classes and noticed that smaller classes meant fewer distractions to learning. He added, "I didn't feel intimidated by the teachers; they were easier to approach. It was easier to ask a question in class, [because] you don't ex-

perience criticism from 30 other students if you don't understand something and they do."

OBI's work program was another benefit Hunter's dad wanted for him. Hunter said, "I knew that was something that needed to improve, and I wanted to make him proud about that." He started out on the trash crew, joined the soccer team and then worked on a dorm cleaning crew. He took pride in making sure his cleaning jobs were done correctly. "Last year, I was the only non-supervisor to get an Outstanding Worker award," he said.

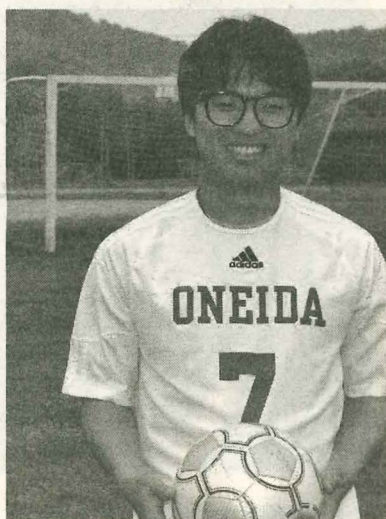
This year, in addition to participating in soccer and swimming, Hunter worked as a supervisor in the dorm. Brand new students were assigned to Hunter's cleaning crew for training. "Some people caught on quickly, and with some people, you had

to sit on top of them and make sure they did the job right," Hunter said.

Hunter became good friends with some of his roommates and believes his dorm experience will benefit him in college. "I learned to be more patient with people and more tolerant of certain things like noise," he said.

Reluctant at first about enrolling at OBI, Hunter said, "If you compare me now to myself back then, you wouldn't even recognize me. ... I just realized that Oneida was the best decision I made in my life."

Barnabas enjoyed a well-rounded education at OBI



In America, Barnabas could play sports and study music.

From South Korea, Barnabas and his younger sister, Grace, enrolled at OBI in 2010. "My parents were always praying that we could study in America. The education system in Korea is so strict. ... I was in America when I

was younger, and I dreamed of coming back," he said.

Barnabas and Grace were born in Texas, where their father attended seminary. Barnabas was seven years old when the family returned to Korea.

During middle school, Barnabas struggled with his grades. "To get good grades in Korea, you have to study all the time," he said. OBI became an affordable alternative. "My dad liked the smaller classes, the environment and the Christianity-based school," he added.

Barnabas had no qualms about leaving home and said, "At home, I could not enjoy sports or hang out with friends. In Korean education, people don't get to find what they're really good at like music or sports. My parents sent me here so I could enjoy both studying and extracurricular activities. I really liked the freedom I had at OBI."

In two seasons of soccer,

Barnabas was named to the All District Team and received the Offensive and Defensive Player of the Year award. During his four years with tennis, he earned the Coach's Award, the MVP Award and advanced to state.

"Sports give me time to release my stress and concern. It's the only time I can relax!" Barnabas said.

Between the soccer and tennis seasons, Barnabas played the clarinet with the OBI pep band. He received the Director's Award two years in a row.

Graduating third in his class, Barnabas did not slack on his studies at OBI. His top grades and ACT score earned him a scholarship at a college in Kentucky, where he plans to major in pre-medicine or pre-dentistry.

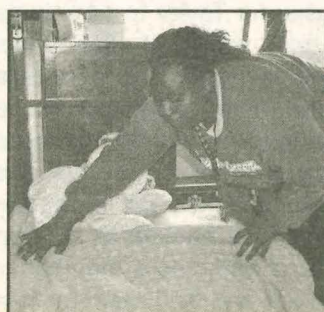
Studying math at OBI renewed his interest in the subject. He explained, "When I was in Korea, I was bad at math; I loathed it. Here, I became one of the

best math students. They recognized me as a 'star student,' and I got this confidence and pride and I started to really work on math. Mr. Grant's a great teacher!"

Being away from home benefited his spiritual life as well. He said, "Before I came to OBI, I thought I was a Christian because I was in a Christian family and because I was the pastor's son. I really changed here. I started to think about God more seriously and realize that He really did send His Son to die for our sins. ... I wanted to start a new life with this Christian identity."

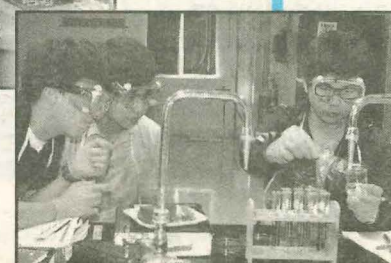
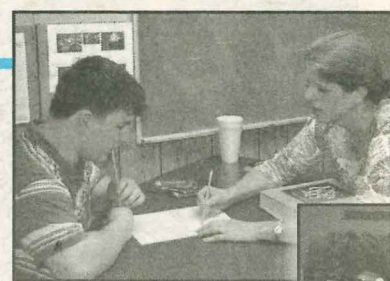
A day in the life of an Oneida student . . .

Before going to school, beds must be made and dormitory rooms cleaned. Breakfast is served in the dining hall at 7:00 AM.



Classes begin at 7:50 AM. Students attend seven, 50-minute periods.

Our fully-accredited **academic program** has a wide range of classes and electives to meet the needs and interests of our diverse student body. We offer advanced placement and honors courses, one-on-one tutoring and English as a Second Language class.



Oneida Baptist Institute

Christian cousins Mana & Praew wanted a better education for a better future



Praew (left) and Mana found many opportunities to lead worship on campus.

This pair of cousins from Thailand are in the same class but enrolled at OBI one year apart. Tipmana, nicknamed "Mana," was the first to enroll at OBI as a sophomore. "I always had a passion to study abroad, because it will benefit my future if I get a chance to study in the U.S.," Mana said.

Praewthida, known as "Praew" (pronounced "prow") also came to the U.S. her sophomore year, though she attended a school in Kansas. "I came to

America so I can improve my English, so I can communicate with people better. I think English is an important language in the world now," Praew said.

After learning more about OBI from Mana, Praew decided to transfer to OBI her junior year. Mana was excited for Praew to arrive. She recalled, "I was happy! I was not homesick at all since she came."

Both Mana and Praew are Christians whose parents serve in ministry at their home church. They have shared their musical talent and love for Jesus in various ways at OBI. Last year, they volunteered to travel with the choir on Sundays. They sang, acted in a skit and turned pages for the accompanist. They enjoyed the chance to travel and to meet new people in Baptist churches across Kentucky. Praew said, "They were nice and kind. It was fun to go with the choir [and] to communicate with more people."

On campus, the girls led worship in several chapel services and events like the annual Senior Girls Praise Night. Mana said, "I like to lead worship, be-

cause I like to represent Jesus.

Praew regarded daily chapel as a time to pray and focus on God. "It helps us a lot to get closer to God. ... I enjoy it, because there's always something new and interesting any time I go," she said.

For her after-school job, Mana started out in the kitchen, followed by a cleaning job in the dorm. As a junior, she joined sports—volleyball, swimming and tennis. She had not played team sports at home and enjoyed the chance to explore this interest. She said, "If you don't try, you won't know. At OBI, I got an opportunity to play sports." Mana was surprised when her coaches asked her to be a team captain of volleyball and swimming. "I was honored to be a captain of both teams," she said.

Mana earned sports letters and awards including the Coach's Award in tennis. She was named to the All District volleyball team her junior year.

Between sports practices and games, Mana found time to play the bass guitar in the pep band. "I wanted to do pep band to challenge myself musically,"

she said. She also served on the yearbook staff.

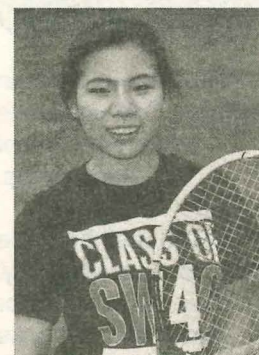
Praew values the work experience she gained in the Field Placement program this year. She worked as a secretary in the main office, sorted clothing in the Friendship House and was a teacher's assistant. Praew was also active in volleyball.

Both Mana and Praew received the faculty-voted Mountaineer of Noble Distinction award last year and are graduating in the top ten of their class. Mana was named the senior who is Most Likely to Succeed.

During her visit at home last



Praew worked after school as a secretary in the main office.

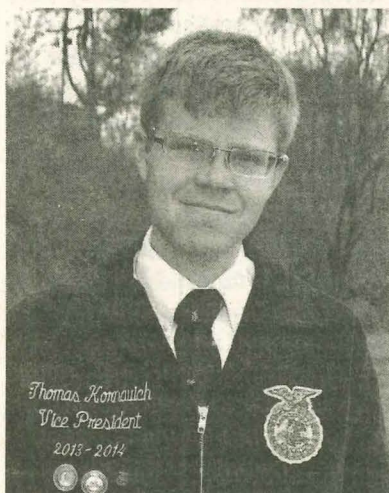


Mana was active in a variety of sports.

summer, Mana recalled, "People told me that the way I speak and the way I act, I've grown up." Undecided in her college major, she said, "I know at one point in my life I want to be a missionary."

Praew believes that OBI helped her to make better grades and learn independence. She would like to study architecture and business management in college.

Thomas received academic help and gained marketable work skills



Thomas became a leader in the OBI FFA chapter.

Thomas came to Oneida from northern Kentucky as a sixth grader. His parents learned about Oneida when the OBI president spoke at their church. "My mom and dad thought this was the best place for my education," he said.

Thomas looked at the OBI website to familiarize himself with his new school and home-away-from-home. "I thought OBI looked really great! They have the farm and all this stuff for students to do," he recalled. "When I read that the teachers at OBI cared about helping students grow academically as well as spiritually, I knew this was the

place for me," he added.

Thomas had struggled in school at home and needed the one-on-one help we offer in the Tutoring Lab. "I don't know why, but nothing came easy to me in school. The Tutoring Lab helped me a lot. They worked with me until I actually got it," he said. He made the honor roll his second year at Oneida.

The farm was the perfect job for Thomas, who enjoys being outside. "The farm taught me valuable skills that I will use in the future. ... This year, they trusted me to do more independent things like driving a tractor, doing welding projects and feeding

the animals," he said. He earned Outstanding Worker awards each year and plans to attend a technical school to study welding and mechanics after graduation.

Thomas joined the FFA as a seventh grader and held officer positions in grades 9-12. He received his FFA Greenhand, Discovery and Chapter Degrees and other certificates.

Over the years, Thomas tried other activities including baseball, track, choir and drama. He earned the Most Improved and Director's Awards in choir, the Coach's Award in baseball and his athletic letter jacket.

As a Christian, Thomas said,

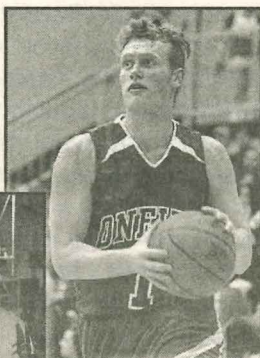
"I've learned a lot at OBI. I think it's taught me to be more dependent on God and not myself. Daily chapel is great, because that's the place where God can open our hearts to His word."

Thomas explained that what kept him at OBI was "the care and the love that each faculty and staff member has shown me. I feel very glad to be a part of this great school."

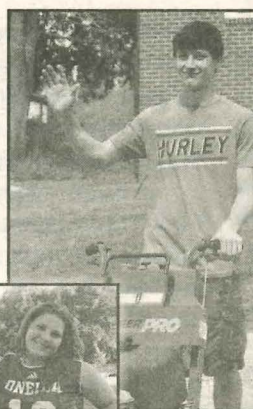
Each school day, students attend a 25-minute **chapel service** which often includes guest speakers, special music and skits.



In the afternoon and evening, most students are busy at their **daily jobs** and **cocurriculars**.



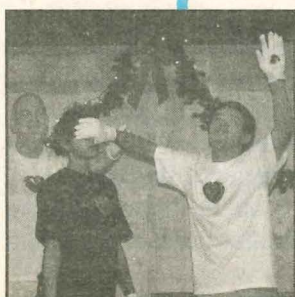
There are a wide variety of activities to choose from including sports, the campus grill, pep band, the farm, lawn mowing and many cleaning jobs!



During evening **free time**, students attend campus events or club meetings, catch up on homework or hang out with friends.



Teens may pick up mail, prepare a snack or make a phone call at the dorm office before "**lights out**" at 10:00 PM on school nights and 11:00 PM on weekends.



Oneida Baptist Institute

For Time and Eternity

Unlike many Christian schools, OBI welcomes teens who do not know Jesus.

At OBI they hear the Gospel message daily. If we reach them for Christ, they can take the good news around the world.

Our funding

Approximately 7% of Oneida's funding comes from the KBC Cooperative Program.

Another 33% comes from student fees.

The remaining 60% of our support comes from churches and individuals as well as income from our modest investments.

Our ongoing tradition of affordable student fees and need-based scholarships keeps the door open to any young person who needs to be at Oneida.

More about Oneida

OBI's average enrollment is 260-275.

Approximately 125 Ministry Team members serve for a modest salary or are full-time volunteers.

OBI's 850-acre campus includes a 200-acre farm.

Students may apply throughout the year.

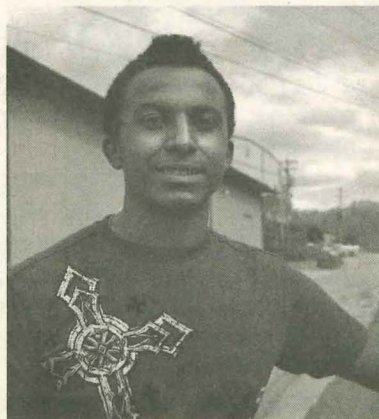
Our curriculum is designed to serve students at all academic levels.

OBI has an 11:1 student/teacher ratio.

We offer a wide variety of cocurricular activities plus a unique student work program.

Meet some of the Class of 2014

Yohannes attended OBI with 'great zeal'



Yohannes earned awards in work and sports.

Yohannes is an international student from Ethiopia whose cousins graduated from OBI. "My [older] sister and brother came to OBI, and they both said it was a very good Christian school, so I decided to come," he said. He enrolled as a junior.

Though it was the first time he had ever changed schools, Yohannes recalled, "I felt excited when I heard [about OBI], and I'm still happy to be here. It felt great!"

Arriving on campus, his enthusiasm was dampened somewhat when he learned about OBI's work requirement. "I was really unhappy about it, because I've never worked like that before. As time went on, I was OK with it," he said.

Yohannes started out working on a classroom cleaning crew, was promoted to a crew supervisor and earned an Outstanding Worker award. He was named the Manager of the Year in softball and earned an Academic All State Honorable Mention Award in soccer. He was voted by the faculty a Mountaineer of Noble Distinction and Most Likely to Succeed.

Yohannes said that he now understands Oneida's work requirement. "I have benefited from work and sports. It gave me good experience in working. In sports, I became more talented, fit and strong, and it helped me to earn awards," he said.

Yohannes plans to study computer engineering. He said, "I have benefited from the good teaching and learning process at Oneida. In my old school, everything was boring, but here, I came to school excited to learn with great zeal!"

The best part about OBI according to Yohannes? "The teachers, students and staff!"

Savannah enjoyed fine arts opportunities, friends from all over the world at Oneida



An All-State vocalist, Savannah represented OBI in some 60 Kentucky Baptist churches in her four years of choir and ensemble travel.

From a community less than two hours away from OBI, Savannah enrolled at OBI in 2010 as an eighth grader. She comes from a blended family and said, "We were having some trouble at home." When presented with the option of attending boarding school, Savannah recalled, "At first I was apprehensive and angry that my parents would uproot me from my home. ... Then, I wanted to embrace my independence and have a new start with different people."

When she arrived at OBI, she adapted easily to dorm life. "I was used to sharing a room with my sister. I made friends as quickly as possible and just adjusted," she said. She has enjoyed getting to know people

from all over the world at Oneida. "I love my best friend and all the other wonderful people at OBI. The diversity at Oneida is so much different than the small town from which I originate ... There aren't the stereotypical cliques; anyone can be friends with anyone," she said.

Savannah liked her classes at OBI because they were small and because it seemed that the students were grouped by academic ability. "I liked the way they break up the students. The advanced students were together in my eighth grade algebra class. We got a lot more done," she explained.

Graduating fourth in her class at OBI, Savannah received academic awards and took advanced placement courses. "I have had more time to study by not having to commute to school. Also, having people to study with in the dorm was quite helpful," she said.

Savannah appreciates OBI's "required job" rule, because she said it makes it easier for students to get involved and to make friends. She explored her interest in sports her first few years at OBI by joining track, cross country, cheerleading and swimming. She earned varsity letters in each sport.

During high school, fine arts became her forte beginning with drama and choir her freshman year and adding pep band as a sophomore. She made the auditioned vocal ensemble her junior and senior years and also

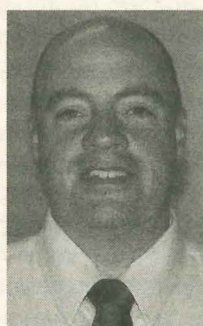
studied art and piano. She made the 2014 KMEA All State Chorus and participated in the regional All Festival Choir for four years.

In drama, Savannah was named the Best Newcomer and the Best Actress. She received the Best Artist and Most Valuable Singer awards as well as earning an Outstanding Piano Student award and the Bach Award in piano.

Her musical experience at Oneida contributed to Savannah's decision to major in music education in college. "Choir was something that I had always wanted to try but was never able to do at home due to schedule problems. Choir and ensemble at OBI have helped me so many ways; physically, mentally and emotionally. I found an outlet to express myself and to be around my closest friends. I learned about an unknown potential to be a leader, honed by my choir director who gave me opportunities to conduct," she said.

Savannah accepted Christ when she was younger. She noted one area in which she has benefited spiritually by attending OBI: "You're away from a lot of the pressures you get in a normal community. It seemed easier for me to live the way I'm supposed to," she said. Daily chapel services were "a nice break in the school day."

Looking back on her years at Oneida, Savannah said, "I am so thankful for Oneida and what I have gained from attending school here."



Dear Kentucky Baptists,

Your church recently received a box of materials from us. While it may simply look like any old U. S. Postal Service box, please know that it is a box that is vitally important to the Lord's ongoing work here at Oneida. That box contains several items about the KBC's Father's Day Offering for Oneida Baptist Institute. It includes a letter, a poster, a flyer, a short DVD and return envelopes. If you love Oneida, and I know so many of you do, please help make sure these materials are made available to your church family. Our ministry relies heavily upon giving from Kentucky Baptist churches and we are forever grateful to each of you.

One of my favorite parts of the job this year has been traveling with our choir to visit you, the Kentucky Baptist churches that partner with our ministry. On the

Sundays when our choir is not scheduled to be somewhere, I have visited some of you folks on my own, and I have enjoyed each and every visit. I have loved meeting many of you who love and support us in so many different ways. At times, I am overwhelmed when I think of the daunting task of trying to visit some 2,400 churches, but I know those of you who love and support Oneida will continue to do that whether or not our choir or I ever make it to see you in person.

In every church I have visited I have spoken about hope, the hope that is found in Jesus Christ. First Thessalonians 1:3 says, "Remembering without ceasing your work of faith and labor of love and patience of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ." The theme of the materials in that box is hope, and the driving force behind our ministry is providing young people with the hope that is built on nothing less than Jesus' blood and righteousness. Your generosity helps us educate students for time and eternity. If each church could give \$500, that would generate over \$1,000,000 to help us in our continued quest to provide hope to so many lost and hurting teenagers. Thank you for helping us offer hope and a future to young people across our state, country and world.

— Larry Allen Gritton, Jr., OBI President

BCM students commissioned as Experience 1:8 summer missionaries

By Robin Cornetet

Shelbyville—Students from nine Kentucky colleges and universities have committed to be the feet of Jesus this summer and share the gospel in the commonwealth and “to the ends of the earth.”

Baptist Collegiate Ministries celebrated the faithfulness of the 29 students participating in Experience 1:8 with a commissioning service June 2 at First Baptist Church of Shelbyville.

After several days of training, students will be divided into three teams and sent to their assigned mission fields at Cedarcrest, Murray and Shelbyville. Toward the end of the summer, the teams will leave to serve in the Dominican Republic, Guatemala and South Africa.

“We are excited about what God is going to do in them and through them this summer as they help people encounter Jesus,” said Brian Combs, the Kentucky Baptist Convention’s collegiate evangelism strategist.

Before the commissioning prayer, Kentucky Baptist Convention Executive Director Paul Chitwood cited Romans 10:14-15 to emphasize the gravity of their task: “How then will they call on him in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in him of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone preaching? And how are they to preach unless they are sent? As it is written, ‘How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the good news.’”

Experience 1:8 is modeled after Acts 1:8, according to Cedarcrest/South Africa team coordinator Noah Polk. “The great

thing about this summer is we are literally living out this verse,” he said.

That’s something for which Allison Whaley is anticipating. “I’m looking forward to putting my faith into action,” she said, using knowledge gained through Morehead State’s BCM.

For Northern Kentucky University student Brandi Cunningham, Experience 1:8 may prove to be the first steps of a lifelong commitment to Christian service.

“My prayer is that she will get more of a direction from God this summer,” Brandi’s mother Elaine Cunningham said. “She already feels His call.”

The three Experience 1:8 team members and leaders are:

Cedarcrest/South Africa team

M.J. Fleming (Eastern Kentucky University), Brodhead, Wisc.; Lydia Hall (Western Kentucky University), Lexington; Robbie Gray (WKU), Vine Grove; Zachary Hudspeth (University of Kentucky), Paducah; Molly Lydick (Morehead), Huntington, W.Va.; Lucas Taylor (Morehead), Meta; Kianna Collins (Kentucky State University), Lima, Ohio; Faith Williams (Morehead), New Richmond, Ohio; Caitlin Ellis (NKU), Lexington; and Jessica Stacy (Morehead), Hager Hill.

Team director: Gene Parr.

Team coordinators: Noah & Robin Polk.

Murray/Dominican Republic team

Ali Rich (Morehead), Williamstown; Allison Goodlett (EKU), Lawrenceburg; Brandi Cunningham (NKU), Henderson; Brittany Couch (Morehead), Lawrenceburg; Brad Clardy (WKU), Bowling Green;



The 29 college students of the Experience 1:8 summer mission teams bow their heads as Kentucky Baptist Convention Executive Director Paul Chitwood leads them in a prayer at a June 2 commissioning service June 2 at First Baptist Church of Shelbyville. (Photos by Robin Cornetet/KBC)

Darian Ditto (UK), Elizabethtown; Dylan Jones (UK), Whitley City; Emily Sherlock (EKU), Richmond; Matt Wallin (NKU); Harrison, Ohio; Sidney Tencza (UK), Florence; Lauren Barr (Campbellsville University), Ekron.

Team director: Susan Harris.

Team coordinator: Hannah Parker.

Shelbyville/Guatemala team

Hayley Davis (University of the Cumberland), Berea; Jonah Pack (NKU), Cold

Spring; Chelsea Turner (Morehead), Ashland; Megan Gabbard (EKU), Richmond; Jonny Thiede (UK), Murray; Hannah Sadler (CU), Campbellsville; Allison Whaley (Morehead), DeMossville; Matt McKirahan (EKU), Bellefontaine, Ohio; and Taylor Jones (University of Louisville), Fort Thomas.

Team director: Paul Gibson.

Team coordinator: Rachel Shannon.

To learn more about Experience 1:8, visit KyBCM.org/Experience18. (KBC)

Rose Q&A

Continued from page 3

remove the undeserved stigma that accompanies mental illness, and that it becomes a catalyst for many ministry efforts that offer effective help to those who need it.

From your ministry experiences, what are some effective ways that our churches are responding to mental health issues? Specifically, how can Kentucky Baptists address these needs?

ROSE: This question will actually be better answered from the council’s work. We hope to gain a clearer understanding of what we Southern Baptists are doing so we can promote it or improve it. What an opportunity.

Thank God for putting this in Frank Page’s heart and for the people who have volunteered to serve on the advisory council. Pray for us and our work. My hope is that we will be able to provide you with a good answer, as well as suggestions to help us here in Kentucky reach out to and serve folks who are suffering deeply from such issues. (WR)

Lottie Moon

Continued from page 1

to be shed, so we can get the message of Christ into the hearts of people who need so desperately to hear about it.”

Wanda Lee, executive director/treasurer of Woman’s Missionary Union, which promotes the offering in partnership with the IMB, also expressed gratitude:

“How exciting that Southern Baptists would give the largest amount ever to the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering on the 125th anniversary of both the first offering for international missions and WMU,” Lee said.

“In 1888, when WMU was founded, it was for the purpose of ‘stimulating the missionary spirit’ and ‘collecting funds’ to support the work of missionaries around the globe,” she noted. “We are grateful for the response of our churches as they embrace both personal missions involvement and sacrificial giving so the story of Jesus may be shared with all who have yet to hear.”

While the total fell short of the \$175 million goal, the new record is good news for more than 4,800 Southern Baptist

missionaries worldwide who depend on the offering to fund their efforts.

Named for the famous Southern Baptist missionary, the Lottie Moon offering—and Southern Baptists’ regular giving through the Cooperative Program—funds missionary salaries, housing, medical care, children’s education, field transportation and other expenses. Supporting one missionary overseas costs an average of \$140 per day. Every penny of the Lottie Moon offering goes to the IMB overseas budget, which directly supports missionaries and their work.

The offering does far more than pay for basic needs, however. It provides the “resources that enable us to chase the darkness,” Elliff said.

That means helping missionaries and their national partners go into areas untouched by the gospel, engage people groups with no believers or Scriptures, start churches and make disciples. Missionaries and their ministry partners communicated the gospel to more than 1.6 million people, led more than 235,000 people to faith in Christ, baptized more than 114,000 new believers and started thousands of churches and groups that will become churches, according to the IMB’s 2013 annual report. (BP)

Everyone Invited

SUMMER OPEN HOUSE

Pre-Register by July 1st for Breakfast, Lunch, & Dinner

FRIDAY, JULY 11TH

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www.ccbbc.edu or 606-337-3196

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KBC KENTUCKY BAPTIST CONVENTION CALENDAR OF EVENTS

June

- 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

HODGENVILLE—First Church will hold a church-wide yard sale June 14, the proceeds from which will go to support the church's missions ministry. Paul Richey is pastor.

LOUISVILLE—Gilda's Club Louisville will hold a "Cancer as a Journey of Faith" seminar June 16, 7 p.m., moderated by Rebecca Church, director of pastoral services for the Wesley Manor Retirement Community in Louisville. The meeting's theme is "forgiveness." For more information or to register, visit www.GildasClubLouisville.org/Events or call (502) 583-0075.

PRESTONSBURG—Allen Church will host The Sacred Winds Ensemble in concert June 15, 3 p.m. For more information, (606) 874-9468.

What's happening?

Send your church news and association events to:
Mountains to the Mississippi
karen.martin@westernrecorder.org

Pair of associations call new DOMs

Mays Lick—A pastor and a missionary are returning to their hometowns to serve as directors of missions for two Kentucky Baptist associations.

Bracken Baptist Association named Dewayne Slusher its new DOM, while Little Bethel Baptist Association has called Bill Egbert to oversee its ministry.

Slusher, a Maysville native, previously was pastor at First Baptist Church of Pinellas Park, Fla. He is a graduate of Boyce College and New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary. He and his wife, Emily, have two children.

Slusher succeeds Bill Boldt, who left in

March to become pastor of Southern Heights Baptist Church in Lexington.

A Madisonville native, Egbert returns home after 20 years as an International Mission Board missionary, most of those in Colombia. He has also served as a pastor and staff member at several western Kentucky churches.

Egbert is a Campbellsville University and Southern Baptist Theological Seminary graduate. He and his wife, Linda, have two children.

Egbert succeeds Bob Morrison, who joined Grapevine Baptist Church in Madisonville as its pastor in January. (WR)

When things hit closer to home

Some days are busier than others, but all of it is a blessing from God

As I write this, within the next 36 hours, a few significant events will take place. First, as you would assume, camp begins. This year will again, by God's grace, be another record year of attendance, and our prayers are for another record year of students and adults crossing from death into life.

Second, our 18-year-old daughter, Kelly, will be leaving to serve in Haiti for the next 10 weeks. Third, my wife, Tera, and our 16-year-old daughter, Maritess, will leave for a seven-day mission trip in New York.

I must admit: I have thought to myself, "Who thought all of these things going on at once would be a good idea?" The fact is, all these significant events are incredible blessings. I am so proud that Kelly would take the step of faith to leave the country for such a long time and be a part of a summer ministry that is vastly different than the camp life she has known since she was 4 years old. I am proud for Maritess, who wanted to serve in a large urban area as she considers where the Lord might

Crossings Ministries



David Melber

place her in the years to come.

Finally, I am humbled more than ever that God allows me to be a part of a ministry that words simply cannot describe. I serve with a staff that demonstrates

incredible commitment to do whatever it takes to make camp possible. Long hours, hard work and mental and physical struggle are common with this ministry, and our staff continues to be resolved to complete the tasks.

This year we will see students from nearly 20 different states coming from every family background you can imagine. We have the blessing to be God's ambassadors to thousands of

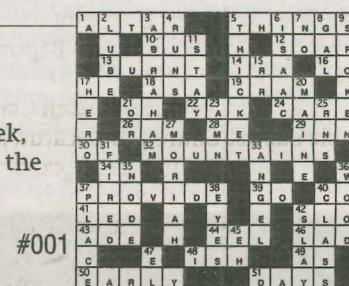
people. Eternity is hanging in the balance, and we pray that God is glorified in all that we do.

As with other periods of time, for the next 36 hours, much is taking place. And again, circumstances demonstrate that all of life is beyond our control. These times—in our weakness, God's strength shines brightest. I am thankful for His sovereign activity in the Melbers' lives and the ministry of Crossings.

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

Puzzle returns next week

The crossword puzzle has been suspended this week, but will return June 17. At right are the answers to the puzzle that appeared June 3.



#001

CLASSIFIED ADS

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

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

SEEKING: Second Twelve Mile Baptist Church is seeking a full-time pastor. Send resumé with references or DVD to Scott Horn, 14007 Hwy. 10 N., Butler, KY 41006.

SEEKING: Full-time youth minister; seminary education is preferred but not required. Send resumé to graceywestunionb@bellsouth.net or Gracey West Union Baptist Church, P.O. Box 154, Gracey, KY 42232.

SEEKING: Bivocational pastor for a small, rural church located in Trimble/Carroll County, Ky. Beautiful building and facility; congregation desires to grow, needs leadership. Send resumé to rdstan1959@gmail.com.

SEEKING: Full-time executive pastor to serve in the fast-growing northern Kentucky area at Hickory Grove Baptist Church, a church that is driven to serve its community and impact the world with the gospel of Jesus Christ. The executive pastor will report directly to the senior pastor and be responsible for executing the day-to-day operations of the church. This would include ensuring the management and upkeep of the campus plant, as well as researching and planning for future improvements and expansion; managing the budget and cash flow of the church; overseeing administrative and custodial staff; working directly with the ministry team to discover talents and spiritual gifts of members to properly place volunteers in needed roles; and ensuring all administrative tasks of the ministry team are completed efficiently. The executive pastor needs to be a born-again Christ follower of like faith with church/business management experience. Please send your resumé electronically to personnel@hickorygrove.net or via mail to Hickory Grove Baptist Church, Attn: Personnel Committee, 11969 Taylor Mill Road, Independence, KY 41051.

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: Horse Cave Baptist Church is seeking a full-time minister of education. Responsibilities include leading Sunday School, discipleship training, leadership development and missions. Send resumé to kdenton.hcbc@gmail.com or 301 E. Main St., Horse Cave, KY 42749.

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: 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: 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: Bruner's Chapel Baptist Church in Harrodsburg, Ky., is prayerfully accepting resumés for the full-time position of pastor. Sunday morning attendance between 180-200. Candidate will have previous pastoral experience, and education is preferred but not required. Please send resumé (with references) and CD/DVD/Internet link of three sermons to: Bruner's Chapel Baptist Church, Attn: Pulpit Committee, 2672 Mackville Road, Harrodsburg, KY 40330.

To place an advertisement in the Western Recorder:

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



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SEEKING: Full-time pastor for Bethel Baptist Church of Gilbertsville, Ky. Please send a resumé to Search Committee, 2603 Tatumsville Hwy., Gilbertsville, KY 42044.

SEEKING: Bloomfield Baptist Church in Bloomfield, Ky., is seeking a full-time associate pastor of worship and family ministry. A job description is available at www.bloomfieldbaptist.org. Resumés should be submitted by July 15 to: Associate Pastor Search Committee, Bloomfield Baptist Church, P.O. Box 217, Bloomfield, KY 40008, or emailed to bfbdc@bardstown.com.

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.

Crossover Baltimore

Event leaves long-term ripple effect for Christ

By Adam Miller, Tobin Perry & Joe Conway

Baltimore—Dante Carter wanted Crossover Baltimore to communicate compassion to the hurting people he often encounters in the city.

"There's a lot of hurt and pain," said Carter, youth pastor at Northeast Baptist Church in the heart of the Armistead Gardens community. "We want to give people an opportunity to hear the gospel preached and to experience the love of Christ through the people of our church."

Northeast Baptist was one of 36 Baltimore-area Baptist churches that joined arms with nearly 2,000 volunteers from 18 states and Canada to serve the community and share Christ with residents during Crossover. The event preceded the this week's 2014 Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting.

Joined by volunteers from Clark Venable Baptist Church in Decatur, Miss., First Baptist Church of Alexandria, Va., and Baltimore's Towne Baptist Church and Canton Baptist Church, Northeast Baptist hosted a block party. The event included a presentation by a group of professional Christian athletes called the Strength Team and drew residents from the surrounding row houses.

One Strength Team audience member had more than a passing interest. Cindy Irizarry, Crossover Baltimore's mobilization and logistics director, was seated next to a mother and her young son.

"When he finished his testimony and gospel presentation, the Strength Team member asked anyone who wanted to receive Christ to raise a hand," she said. "The mom raised her hand. I leaned over and said, 'Are you asking Jesus to be your Savior?' She said, 'Yes.' She looked down at her son and he raised his hand, too."

Mother and son joined six other people

from the audience who came forward as Northeast Baptist Pastor Bill Higgins led the group in prayer. During the church's week of community outreach another nine people came to faith in Christ.

"It was glorious to see so many of our church members and pastors so enthusiastic," Irizarry said. "You could see the hope and the excitement in their faces. To see volunteers, both local and from everywhere, come to serve. It was exciting."

Where area where many seminary students served was the Baptist Convention of Maryland/Delaware's Collegiate Ministry beach volleyball tournament held at Baltimore's Inner Harbor.

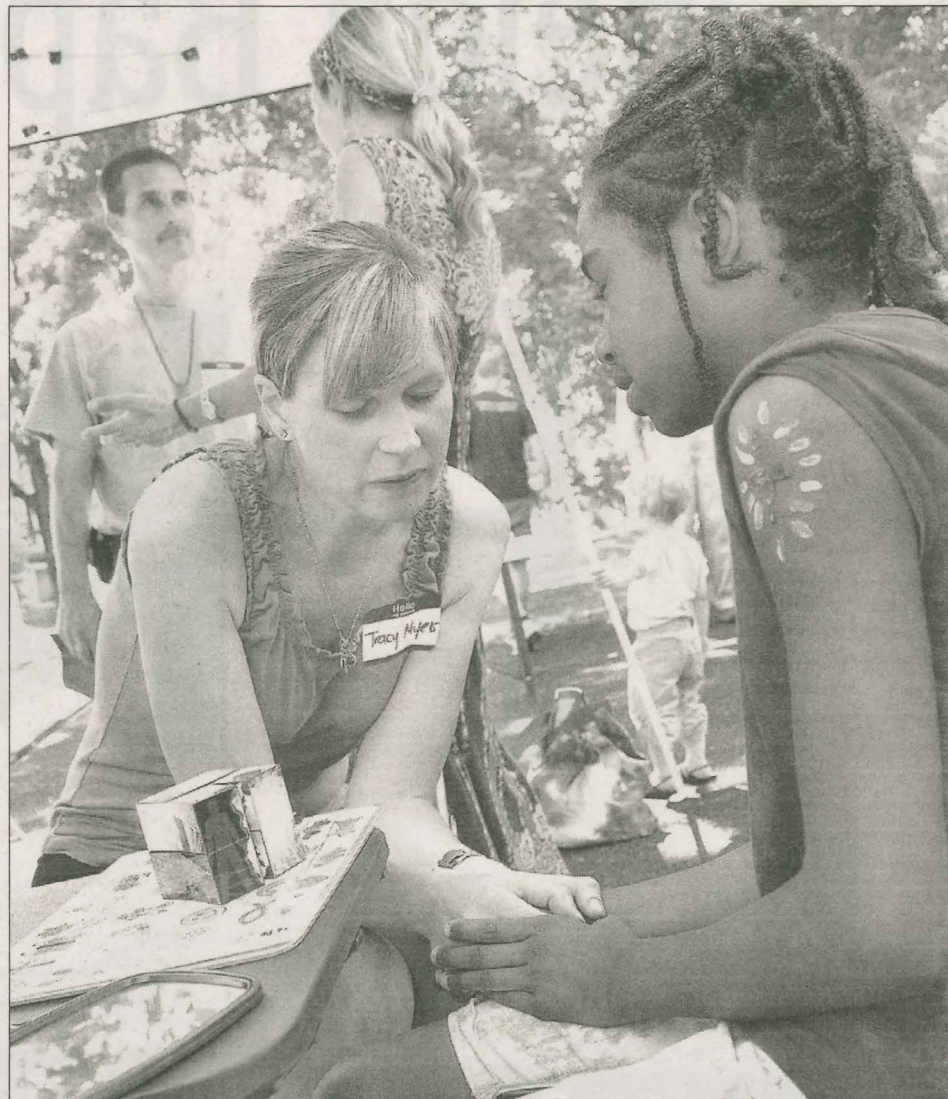
John Kovacs, who leads the The Light Church in Baltimore, said he hopes Crossover events like the tournament provide visibility for local churches.

"I think the most significant thing this kind of ministry provides for us is presence," Kovacs said. "I just got to connect with two guys today who didn't know about our church."

Jeanine Carter, a member of First Baptist Church of Dallas, had an opportunity to lead someone to Christ while helping at the volleyball event. A woman from Spain and her boyfriend inquired about a local church. As Carter was talking to the couple, she discovered the woman was a Christian but her boyfriend was not. Carter shared the gospel and he prayed to receive Christ.

"We, as Christians, should be witnessing to those who are not," Carter said.

Captivate Christian Church hosted a Community Day in Patterson Park drawing about 8,000 neighbors and netting 1,700 new perspective families. After being provided with everything from free groceries to free clothing, lunch and more, one man asked the common



question: "Why?" Pastor Hal Kitchings, from The Bridge Church in Memphis, Tenn., was ready with an answer.

"He was ready to listen," Kitchings said. "He had come from a difficult background."

Kitchings then prayed with the man and connected him to Captivate. (BP)

Above: Tracy Myers, a member of Long Green Baptist Church in Glen Arm, Md., leads Anyia, 9, in a prayer to put her trust in Jesus Christ at a block party June 7 at Cockeysville Baptist Church in Cockeysville, Md. (Photo by Adam Covington)



Right: A member of the Clarke Venable Baptist Church youth choir from Decatur, Miss., volunteers at a Crossover block party June 7 at Northeast Baptist Chapel in Baltimore. (Photo by Matt Miller)



Eight-year-old Jeffrie tries to make a shot at Community Day, hosted by Captivate Christian Church in Baltimore June 7. The event was part of numerous evangelistic outreaches at this year's Crossover Baltimore. More than 150 volunteers from several churches in Valdosta, Ga., traveled to the church for the event. (Photo by Paul Lee)



Baptist Collegiate Ministries hosts a sand volleyball tournament as part of the annual Crossover evangelistic outreach. The tournament was held at Rash Field at Baltimore's Inner Harbor. (Photo by Bob Carey)

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-1 Thessalonians 1:3