

# WESTERN Recorder

June 17, 2014

Shine Like Stars \* Philippians 2:15

Volume 188, Issue 23

# SBC 2014



Fred Luter, the first African-American ever to serve as Southern Baptist Convention president, acknowledges a standing ovation at the end of his address to SBC messengers in Baltimore June 10.  
(Photo by Matt Miller)

**Luter's parting sermon, page 6.**

## ERLC's Moore: Religious liberty 'imperiled'

By Tom Strode

**Baltimore**—Members of two families standing for the Christian faith received awards from the Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission and grateful affirmation from Southern Baptists.

The ERLC honored the Greens, who own Hobby Lobby, and Saeed Abedini, a prisoner in Iran, June 11 during the SBC's annual meeting.

President Russell Moore presented the John Leland Religious Liberty Award to Steve and Jackie Green for their family's refusal to abide by the Obama administration's contraception mandate, which requires employers to provide abortion-causing drugs to their workers.

Moore gave the Richard Land Distinguished Service Award to Naghmeh Abedini on behalf of her husband, Saeed, an American citizen imprisoned since 2012 in Iran for his Christian service in that country.

□ See Religious liberty ... Page 3



During the ERLC presentation, President Russell Moore presents an award to the wife of Saeed Abedini, an American pastor who is imprisoned for his Christian faith in Iran. Abedini received the Richard Land Award for Distinguished Service for "faithfully serving the Lord Jesus Christ," despite the risks involved. His wife, Naghmeh, received the award on his behalf. (Photo by Van Payne)

## Floyd elected SBC president

*Arkansas pastor to focus on spiritual awakening*



Ronnie Floyd addresses the media at a press conference following his election as Southern Baptist Convention president June 10. (Photo by Matt Miller)

By Tammi Reed Ledbetter

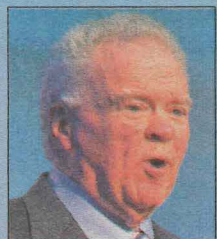
**Baltimore**—Ronnie Floyd has his heart set on seeing Southern Baptists come together in "explicit agreement, visible union and extraordinary prayer" for the next great awakening in the United States.

As the newly elected president of the Southern Baptist Convention, Floyd voiced his conviction June 10 that the nation is overdue for "a great movement of the Lord."

□ See Floyd elected ... Page 2

**Patterson apologizes**

Page 3



**Tom Elliff says goodbye**

Page 7



## Messenger qualification updated

By Shawn Hendricks

**Baltimore**—An update to the Southern Baptist Convention constitution regarding qualifications for churches to send messengers to the annual meeting was adopted during the Executive Committee's report June 10 in Baltimore.

Describing the recommendation as "small church friendly," Executive Committee Chairman Ernest Easley said the proposal to revise Article III is a response to a motion

□ See Qualifications ... Page 5

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Western Recorder 6-17-2014



# Floyd heads 2014-15 SBC officers' slate

The newly elected officers of the Southern Baptist Convention for 2014-15 are (from left):

**Jim Wells**, strategic partners team leader for the Missouri Baptist Convention, registration secretary;

**John Yeats**, Missouri Baptist Convention executive director, recording secretary;

**Ronnie Floyd**, pastor of Cross Church in northwest Arkansas, president;

**Clint Pressley**, pastor of Hickory Grove Baptist Church in Charlotte, N.C., first vice president;

**Hance Dilbeck**, pastor of Quail Springs Baptist Church in Oklahoma City, second vice president.

Aside from Floyd, all of this year's elected officers ran unopposed and were thereby elected by acclamation. Wells and Yeats were both re-elected; Wells to a 13th term, Yeats to an 18th term. (WR)



## Floyd elected

*Continued from page 1*

Floyd, pastor of the multi-campus Cross Church in northwest Arkansas for 27 years, topped Maryland pastor Dennis Manpoong Kim and Kentucky pastor Jared Moore to win the SBC post at last week's annual meeting in Baltimore.

The megachurch pastor succeeds Fred Luter, pastor of Franklin Avenue Baptist Church in New Orleans, who, in 2012, became the first African-American to lead the convention.

Of the 3,553 ballots cast, Floyd received 1,834 votes (51.62 percent). Kim, pastor of Global Mission Church in Silver Spring, Md., received 1,446 votes (40.7 percent) while Moore, pastor of New Salem Baptist Church in Hustonville, garnered 210 votes (5.91 percent).

A key focus for Floyd in the past year has been to lead gatherings of pastors to pray

for spiritual awakening.

"I want to see revival come to the church of Jesus Christ," he said, "so that America would be awakened with a powerful God consciousness where great numbers come to faith and trust in Jesus Christ as Savior."

Floyd said he will communicate with Southern Baptists through a weekly blog and detail his travels on Twitter and Instagram.

"Wherever I go, I want to help tell the story of what God is doing across North America and the world," Floyd said. Through a Web-based relationship, he explained, he will call the entire denomination to pray for spiritual awakening. More than 100 years have passed since the country has had such an experience, Floyd reminded.

In addition to praying for thousands to come to faith in Christ, Floyd said he believes the Great Commission in Matthew 28:19-20 will be "accelerated to completion in this generation."

"One of the things that literally placed me on a different trajectory of my life was the extreme lostness of the United States and the world," Floyd said, reflecting on the impact of chairing the SBC's Great Commission Resurgence Task Force from 2009-10.

Regarding younger Southern Baptists' participation at the annual meeting, Floyd said he sees "an excitement in that generation like I haven't seen in a long time and am grateful to God for it." He said he hopes to encourage the committee planning next year's SBC sessions in Columbus, Ohio, to make it "a little more fluid" across generations.

"We need to do everything we can to be able to hand off the great mantle of the gospel through the work of the Southern Baptist Convention," he said.

Asked whether he foresees a time when Southern Baptists may have to exercise civil disobedience in the face of religious oppression, Floyd said only God knows. He recalled the historic commitment of Southern Baptists to religious liberty not only for themselves but for all people.

Praising the "convictional kindness" of Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission President Russell Moore in speaking to difficult issues, Floyd said he will seek Moore's counsel when asked to be that voice for Southern Baptists.

Floyd has been a key organizer of two pastor prayer gatherings in recent months that each drew nearly 600 participants. He also has served as general editor for the updated version of Bible Studies for Life, the Bible study curriculum produced by LifeWay Christian Resources. He led an advisory team of pastors and ministry leaders to help design the new material from a church perspective.

Floyd serves as lead pastor and strategist with the North American Mission Board's Send North America church planting strategy and is the author of 10 books.

As the pastor of Cross Church, Floyd has led the congregation to start campuses in Springdale, Rogers and Fayetteville, Ark. He holds doctor of ministry and master of divinity degrees from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas.

Floyd and his wife, Jeana, have been married 37 years. They have two sons and six grandchildren. (BP)

*With additional reporting by Barbara Denman*

## Now home, volunteer's recovery 'amazing'

**Grand Rapids, Mich.**—Butch Turley's recovery has been described as nothing short of "amazing."

The Kentucky Baptist Disaster Relief volunteer was critically injured in Michigan last month during an automobile crash that took the life of Bob Waldron, a fellow volunteer. Turley's condition has significantly improved over several weeks and he returned home last Thursday.

"It is an amazing answer to prayer," said Coy Webb, the Kentucky Baptist Convention's disaster relief director. "Doctors early on were less than optimistic about his chance for recovery."

Calls for prayer circulated across phone lines and social media as members of Kentucky's disaster relief family rallied behind their injured brother in Christ. Webb said Turley's wife, Wanda, has expressed a deep appreciation for the love and support shown by Kentucky Baptists.

"This is a great testimony to the power of prayer, and we give thanks to God for Butch's miraculous recovery from a terrible accident," Webb said.

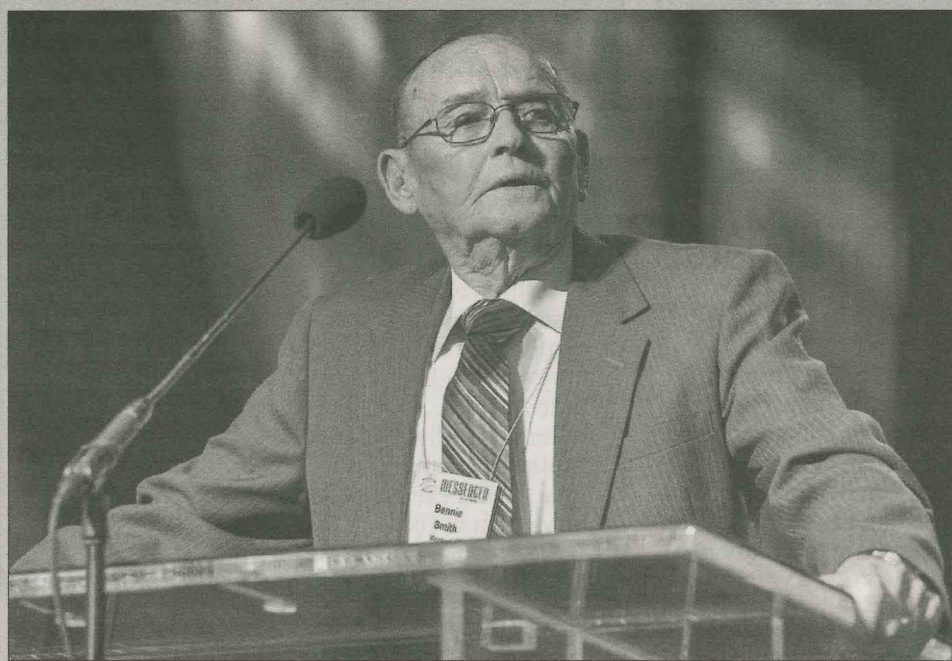
"It also has reminded me again of the strength and unity of our DR family," he added. "There is something about believers sharing together in servant ministry that binds and connects them together as a family of faith. I thank God for the spirit of oneness and willingness to help that defines" Kentucky Baptist Disaster Relief volunteers.

Turley and Waldron were part of a team of volunteers who responded to flooding in Michigan. The two men were driving from an assignment May 16 when Waldron reportedly lost control of his vehicle, struck an oncoming car and veered off the roadway.

Waldron was pronounced dead upon arrival at Butterworth Hospital in Grand Rapids, Mich. His funeral was held last month in Louisville.

Turley, a member of Millville Baptist Church in Frankfort, was initially listed in critical condition. He gradually improved enough to be moved to a rehabilitation facility in Grand Rapids. (KBC)

## Nomination speech



Bennie Smith, a deacon at New Salem Baptist Church in Hustonville, where Jared Moore is pastor, nominated Moore for president of the Southern Baptist Convention June 10 in Baltimore. "We are a small Baptist church, but I'm trying to speak for smaller churches," Smith said. Moore "is an intelligent and loving person. He is dedicated to serving Jesus Christ, and he believes the Bible is the inerrant word of God," Smith said of his pastor. (Photo by Van Payne)



# Southwestern's Patterson apologizes for Muslim student

By Adelle Banks

**Baltimore**—The head of Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary offered an emotional apology to Southern Baptists for accepting a Muslim student into the school's Ph.D. program—an unusual step for an evangelical seminary, but one other schools have taken for years.

"I made an exception to a rule that I assumed, probably wrongly, the president has the right to make if he feels that it is that important," Paige Patterson told Southern Baptist delegates June 11. "He was admitted as a special student in the Ph.D. program."

Patterson faced heavy criticism from some Baptists who accused him of violating the standards of the school in Fort Worth, Texas.

Some were worried the student, Ghasan Nagagreh, was receiving money from the Cooperative Program. Patterson insisted that Nagagreh, a Palestinian Muslim student who initially worked as a volunteer on a Southwestern Seminary archaeological dig in Israel, received no financial support.

Some Southern Baptist seminaries—including Southwestern—have offered courses to people of all faiths, but they have been specifically for prisoners. Southwestern's program with the maximum-security Darrington Unit in Texas

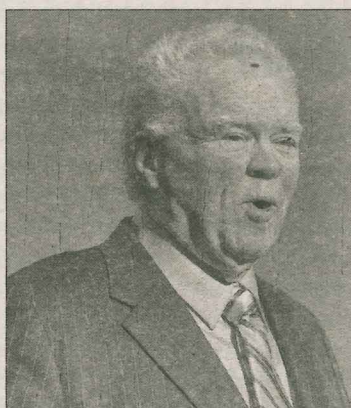
is modeled after one offered by New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary.

Patterson found himself last week answering not only questions about admitting Nagagreh but also about the range of students in the Darrington program, which he said includes Muslim and atheist inmates.

"Unfortunately, it is the case that you cannot discriminate and have a program in prison," Patterson said. "We have no choice. We have to admit them to class, but the wonderful thing, of course, as you would guess, is that as they are studying in class, they are coming to know the Lord."

That's why Patterson supported admitting the Sunni Muslim student, who he described as "very open, at this point, to the gospel of Jesus Christ."

Paige Patterson



## Akin: No apology necessary

Danny Akin, president of Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary in Wake Forest, N.C., who spoke to delegates right after Patterson, said, "Dr. Patterson did not have to apologize to me for his love for lost people."

In an interview, Akin said his school has not admitted any Muslim students but is considering a prison program that could.

All six Southern Baptist seminaries require students to meet strict standards

that demonstrate their evangelical belief: a profession of faith, a testimony that gives evidence of that faith, a church endorsement and three references that affirm their Christian character.

"We will not be changing ours," Akin said of the policy on faith requirements. "I suspect the others won't, either."

Patterson, a veteran of 63 consecutive Southern Baptist Convention annual meetings, apologized profusely to messengers, his family, faculty and board of

trustees, which he noted was not responsible for the decision about the student.

"It was my decision and my decision alone," he said.

But he added that he already had an answer prepared for God.

"I believe when I stand before the Lord God, I'm going to say, 'Dear God, I violated a policy, but I didn't want to stand before you with blood on my hands,'" a choked-up Patterson said. "'Dear God, I did the best I knew how.'" (RNS)



The Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission panel on religious liberty with (from left): Phillip Bethancourt, the ERLC's director of strategic initiatives; Samuel Rodriguez, president of the National Hispanic Christian Leadership Conference; Rick Warren, pastor of Saddleback Church in Lake Forest, Calif.; David Platt, pastor of The Church at Brook Hills in Birmingham, Ala.; and ERLC President Russell Moore. (Photo by Paul Lee)

## ERLC panelists to Christians: Do not 'shrug off' religious liberty issue

By Tom Strobe

**Baltimore**—American Christians' recognition of the threat to religious freedom means they not only may be persecuted, but "they may be culpable as persecutors," Russell Moore said in a panel session sponsored by the Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission on the eve of the Southern Baptist Convention.

Rick Warren, David Platt and Samuel Rodriguez joined the ERLC President in addressing the present status and future of religious freedom in the United States.

"Many Christians shrug off the issue because they don't understand they are accountable for religious liberty in the American form of government," Moore said.

"The question," he noted, "is not only, 'Are we going to be persecuted?' The question is, 'Are we going to be persecutors?' And so if we shrug this off, what we're doing is we're consigning future generations—we're consigning people's consciences—to a tyranny that we are going to be held accountable for."

Rodriguez, president of the National Hispanic Christian Leadership Conference, said that religious freedom "will be the civil rights issue of the 21st century."

"Today's complacency is tomorrow's captivity," he said, adding that the "fire-wall against secular totalitarianism is religious liberty and religious pluralism."

Christians "need to fight for religious pluralism (and) religious liberty across the board," Rodriguez urged. "If not, the voice of religious liberty, religious freedom, conscience will be silenced in the 21st century."

Warren, the best-selling author and

pastor of Saddleback Church in Lake Forest, Calif., said he does not fear freedom in a pluralistic society. He believes in pluralism, not relativism.

"In other words, I believe in a free-market world," Warren said. "The gospel is going to win because it's got the better story to tell. So, I'm not afraid of a free market."

"I do not believe in religious coercion. I do believe in religious persuasion."

The discussion, titled "Hobby Lobby and the Future of Religious Liberty," is named for a case currently before the U.S. Supreme Court. Hobby Lobby, which is owned by the Greens, a family of evangelical Christians, has refused to abide by the federal government's contraception mandate, which requires employers to provide abortion-causing drugs to their employees. The challenge to the requirement awaits a decision by the high court, which is expected to announce its ruling before it adjourns in late June or early July.

"The justices will decide whether 'there is the freedom to dissent and the freedom to accommodate these conscientious objections in the governing of people's lives and the running of their businesses,'" Moore said. "This will have everything to do with everything that your church does for the next 100 years."

Moore and Warren predicted Hobby Lobby and another family-owned business, Conestoga Wood Specialties, will win the case. At the same time, Moore provided encouragement if religious liberty does not prevail.

"If we lose this case, the gospel is not lost," Moore said. "If the United States of America crumbles away, the gospel is not lost." (BP)

## Religious liberty

Continued from page 1

Messengers gave extended standing ovations to both award recipients, and many messengers knelt on the floor as newly elected SBC President Ronnie Floyd prayed for both families.

In presenting the awards, Moore reminded messengers of the Baptist heritage of standing for religious freedom, sometimes at great cost.

"We're living in a time right now in which religious liberty is imperiled at home and around the world, and it is time for us to remember that we have been here before," Moore said. "The gospel came to us in letters being written out by apostles from jail cells. The gospel came to us through the centuries from people who were constantly under threat of their liberty to preach."

Southern Baptists "should say to the world around us, 'Don't call it a comeback. We have been here for centuries,' and we will continue to stand here for religious liberty for everyone," he said.

Hobby Lobby's legal challenge to the contraception mandate is expected to be resolved in a decision by the U.S. Supreme Court before it adjourns in late June or early July. The justices' opinion "probably will determine the next 100 years of what it means for us to be a free people in this country," Moore told messengers.

The Green family's refusal to comply with the mandate, which is a

regulation helping implement the 2010 health care law, has placed the more than 570 arts-and-crafts stores at risk. A court loss could result in fines totaling \$1.3 million per day.

"It would be really easy for the Green family simply to say, 'Let's just submit to that,'" Moore said. "But because of their strong faith in Jesus Christ and because of their courage, the Greens have refused to comply" with the requirement, Moore said.

Saeed Abedini, an ordained minister of Iranian descent, was arrested nearly two years ago while visiting Iran to complete work on a government-approved orphanage. He was given an eight-year prison sentence.

Saeed and Naghmeh, both Muslim converts to faith in Christ, helped in the growth of the Iranian house church movement before moving to the U.S. in 2005. Reports of Saeed's condition indicate Iranian authorities have tortured him, placed him in solitary confinement and pressured him to deny Christ. Iranian prison officials have threatened to lengthen his sentence because he is leading fellow prisoners to faith in Jesus.

"And at every point, the Iranian government seems to think that Saeed Abedini will get tired of all of this treatment and renounce his faith in Jesus Christ," Moore told messengers, "and at every step no matter the beatings, no matter the imprisonment, no matter the exile, Saeed Abedini has confessed with that great cloud of witnesses that Jesus Christ is Lord." (BP)



## Cornbread anyone?

This week's column was written by Ed Amundson, pastor of High Street Baptist Church in Somerset and second vice president of the Kentucky Baptist Convention.

Together  
We are the KBC

Paul Chitwood

The mere mention of the word "cornbread" gets my attention. I love the smell, taste, texture and touch. I don't care if it's white or yellow, sweet or straight-up, baked in a pone or fried into a fritter. I like cornbread. In fact, the only kind of cornbread I don't like is cornbread that is perfectly round and doesn't crumble. My wife Shannon's late Poppa used to say, "If it doesn't crumble all to pieces, it's no good."

My life verse this year is Luke 15:2, "The Pharisees and scribes murmured, saying, 'This man receiveth sinners, and eateth with them.'" In John 14:12, Jesus said, "Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on me, the works that I do shall he do also; and greater works than these shall he do; because I go unto my Father."

If I say I am a disciple of Jesus Christ, but I'm not doing what Jesus did, who is lying—me or Jesus?

To be clear, I don't think Jesus meant that just because He walked upon the water that you and I have to walk an inch above it. But when it comes to Jesus modeling what He obviously wanted His disciples to emulate during New Testament times, I believe His disciples should still be emulating it in our time. Above all else, Jesus came to make disciples, modeled disciple making, and called on all of his disciples to make disciples.

The disciple-making process begins with sinners. That's where the cornbread comes in. I don't know what part of the state of Kentucky you minister in, but down in Somerset, cornbread makes friends of sinners. I call it "eating evangelism." You see where I'm going.

Again, Luke 15:2 says, "This man (Jesus) receiveth sinners (He doesn't accept sin but He makes Himself presently available to sinners) and eateth with them."

Everyone needs physical food and everyone needs spiritual food. For physical food, cornbread is just about as good as it gets—at least in my opinion.

For spiritual food, Jesus called Himself "the Bread of Life." Everyone needs Jesus. To introduce Himself to sinners as the Bread of Life, Jesus often shared a meal with them. Note, He didn't take food and drop it off to them; He ate the same food, in the same place with the same people He was trying to reach.

Conclusion: Do eating evangelism. Go and break bread with sinners. Bring fresh bread from both the bakery and Jesus Christ. And remember, a pone of cornbread is made up of thousands of granules of ground-up corn kernels, but good cornbread granules don't stay together long. They break away from the group and get all over people. Catch my drift?

Paul Chitwood is executive director of the Kentucky Baptist Convention.

## Impressions from the city of crab cakes &amp; Orioles

Between taking leisurely strolls along the scenic Inner Harbor, enjoying bites of the state's acclaimed crab cakes and watching innings of Orioles baseball at Camden Yards—conveniently located directly behind the convention hall—the nearly 5,300 messengers at this year's Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting in Baltimore conducted their business, seemingly with little rancor. Though messengers brought a flurry of motions, they passed nine resolutions aimed at popular books and movies about the afterlife to transgender identities to commemorating the 50th anniversary of the Civil Rights Act, all with little discourse. Here are some other post-convention observations:

**New president.** Ronnie Floyd, a megachurch pastor from Arkansas with the backing of influential SBC leadership, took the title, but the vote was closer than some may have thought. Dennis Kim put up a strong showing, perhaps revealing a lingering desire to extend the denomination's progress toward multi-ethnic diversity and inclusiveness, following Fred Luter's tenure. Disappointing, however, was the meager support for a Kentucky pastor, Jared Moore, who touted a voice for smaller congregations. Floyd, in his press conference, revealed his heart in calling us to greater unity and fervent prayer for a national awakening.

**Messenger qualifications revamped.** Going into the SBC, some felt this proposal could be a lightning rod. In a wise move immediately prior to the convention, members of the Executive Committee tweaked the article's wording, somewhat lessening its appearance of tying messenger participation to rigid conformity to the Baptist Faith & Message. And, since allowing two messengers for every church as a minimum meant pastors and spouses of smaller churches would still be able to attend meetings, the anticipated sparks never materialized—at least not on the convention floor.

**Strong focus on religious liberty.** Russell Moore, president of the Ethics and Religious Liberty Commission, presented awards to the Green family, which owns Hobby Lobby, and Saeed Abedini, an American pastor who is imprisoned for his Christian faith in Iran. The Green family believes "every human life from the moment of conception is sacred, and they believe that the government is not the Lord of their

consciences," Moore said. Abedini's wife, Naghmeh, accepted the Richard Land Award for Distinguished Service on his behalf for "faithfully serving the Lord Jesus Christ ... despite the risk that was involved." Of the 17 motions brought, the only one acted upon by messengers was a call for churches to "pray passionately and regularly for persecuted Christians."

**Appreciation for Elliff's leadership.** Many were struck by Tom Elliff's tears as he spoke of the lostness of the world's unreached people groups and of impacting Cuba with the gospel. His presentation spotlighted the International Mission Board's new theme, "One Sacred Effort," encouraging every Southern Baptist to

"find your place in God's story." During the IMB report, David Uth, chair of the presidential search team, said his committee would be looking for another man like Elliff with a passion for reaching the nations for Christ. When a messenger asked whether the IMB would receive the funds if seminaries chose to take a 1 percent reduction in their CP allocations and send more to IMB, Elliff showed tremendous statemanship in respectfully declining, "because we're a team." To fulfill the Great Commission, "it takes all of us."

**Patterson offers apology.** Questioned about Southwestern Seminary's admission of a Muslim student to its doctoral program, President Paige Patterson showed great humility and enthusiasm for evangelism. "I owe the convention an apology, particularly to all of you that I have caused sorrow, heartache, disillusionment or any other kind of sorrow," he said, acknowledging that he had "probably wrongly" assumed his right to make an exception to the school policy. With his explanation that the student did not receive any Cooperative Program assistance and the seminary's zeal for spreading the gospel, Patterson's apology, according to tweets I saw, was unnecessary and apparently enough to appease any upset messengers.

Baltimore lived up to its moniker as "Charm City," and with its relaxing harbor atmosphere, cordial people and easy access to light rail and buses, it quickly found its place among my favorite host cities. Although the next five convention sites have already been set, my prediction is Baptists will be back. Next stop: Columbus, Ohio.

After  
Thought

By Todd Deaton



## Responding to a spouse who has fallen out of love, part 1

By Valerie Vincent

What happens when your spouse says he or she doesn't love you anymore?

First you may experience feelings of panic, confusion and shock. Try to hang in and listen to what your spouse is saying. Gaining as much information as you can may help you make sense out of what is happening. If you are unable to do this, ask for some time to process the information. Then later, try to listen again.

After fully listening (which will be an incredible challenge, but is possible), make a request that your spouse accompany you to talk with someone whom you both respect. A third party can help sort through various thoughts, feelings

and desires.

The most natural response is to become reactive and defensive, explain or accuse. This will not be helpful to the relationship, though it may help you feel better temporarily.

Without having some understanding of why your spouse has come to this current state, there will be little you can do to make any progress to move the relationship out of this difficult position. To say, "I don't love you anymore," implies there was a time when there was love. Think about what behaviors and attitudes began to put that love at risk.

Explore the following questions:

■ How do you define love—as happiness, romance, sex, respect, attention, time together, common interests, kind-

ness, caring or commitment?

■ What made you start loving each other when you began dating?

■ What have you learned about yourself in your marriage?

■ Why does Scripture compare the relationship God has with His people to the marriage relationship?

■ Do you bring your best self to your marriage?

Feelings of love can be recreated, but it is the commitment to love that allows the time for such feelings to be recreated. Recognize and own the attitude and behaviors that put your marriage at risk. This takes help. It is not an individual endeavor. Often leaving one relationship for another means the same process of creating loving feelings, attitudes and behaviors. Seriously consider engaging in the process of recreation.

Valerie Vincent is a Christian counselor with Hardy Associates in Louisville.



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Shine Like Stars \* Philippians 2:15

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# First-ever resolution on transgender issue necessary, 'wise'

By Tom Strode

**Baltimore**—Questions from churches about the transgender issue and the tide of culture pointed to the need for Southern Baptists to address the topic during their annual meeting, the convention's lead ethicist said.

Messengers to last week's Southern Baptist Convention approved a resolution on transgender identity, marking the first time the SBC has addressed the issue in a stand-alone measure. After what appeared to be a unanimous vote on the convention floor, Russell Moore explained to reporters reasons for the resolution.

On a recent day, he received three phone calls from pastors or church leaders who were dealing with the issue, the president of the Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission said.

Meanwhile, the transgender movement has made progress in the wider culture.

"The cultural mindset is that gender is something that is constructed by the individual," Moore said after the vote. "So, it's disconnected from how the person is created."

"And that's one of the reasons why I think this resolution ... was so wise, because it spoke to what the Bible teaches about what gender means in the first place—about how God's design is good," Moore said, "and then talked about the fact that we're living in a world that is

fallen, in which there is a great deal of confusion in what it means to address that."

David Dykes, chairman of the resolutions committee and pastor of Green Acres Baptist Church in Tyler, Texas, pointed to a clause in the resolution highlighting a 2011 survey that showed about 700,000 Americans consider their gender to be different than their biological sex.

"To this point, we had not spoken on this issue," Dykes said, "so there was a need for clarity" on the SBC's position.

The resolution affirms "God's good design that gender identity is determined by biological sex and not by one's self-perception."

It expresses "love and compassion" to people who deal with conflict between their biology and their gender identity. The statement invites all transgender people to put their faith in Jesus and welcomed them "to our churches and, as they repent and believe in Christ, receive them into church membership." It also recognizes transgender people as image-bearers of God and denounces abuse and bullying toward them.

In addition, the resolution opposes attempts to change a person's "bodily identity" through such treatments as gender reassignment surgery.

Moore said the resolution "spoke with conviction about the issue—very clear biblically about God's design for gender, for sexuality—but also didn't just speak about transgender persons. It spoke to

transgender persons with the message of the redeeming power of the gospel of Jesus Christ."

Bob Stith, founder of Family and Gender Issues Ministries in Southlake, Texas,

described the resolution as "thorough, straightforward and redemptive."

"It stresses God's design and intent as well as hope and compassion," he said. (BP)

## Messengers adopt nine resolutions

**Baltimore**—Messengers to the Southern Baptist Convention adopted resolutions June 10 on civil rights, gambling and world hunger. All nine proposals gained approval by unanimous or overwhelming votes.

In addition to addressing the issue of transgender identity for the first time, messengers returned to other concerns they had spoken to at times in the past.

Among the resolutions, messengers:

- commemorated the 50th anniversary of the enactment of the Civil Rights Act and reaffirmed the SBC's 1965 call for "peaceful compliance with laws assuring equal rights for all";

- reaffirmed its "long-standing opposition to government sponsorship of gambling";

- urged Southern Baptists to support the newly rebranded Global Hunger Relief initiative.

In approving the civil rights resolution, the convention again acknowledged its grievous past. Messengers, the resolution said, "lament and repudiate this nation's long history of racial segregation, as well as the complicity of Southern Baptists who resisted or opposed the dismantling of the evil or racial hierarchy in our churches or society." The measure also expressed gratitude for the increase in racial and ethnic diversity among Southern Baptists in the last 50 years.

The hunger resolution stemmed

from the rebranding of the World Hunger Fund as Global Hunger Relief. The SBC-approved division of funds remains at 80 percent for overseas use and 20 percent for domestic use.

The resolution urged Southern Baptist entities, the Woman's Missionary Union and other partners to act aggressively to increase awareness of the need of the hungry and encouraged churches to promote giving to Global Hunger Relief.

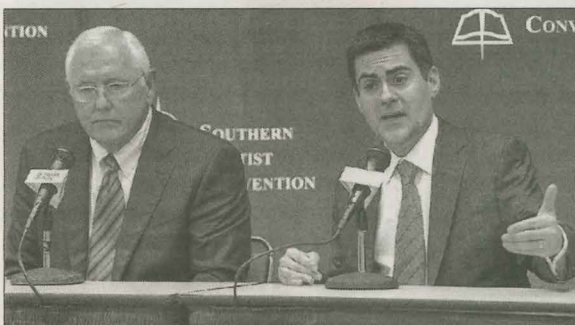
Other resolutions:

- condemned "predatory payday lending" and urged churches to offer financial stewardship instruction and skills training for people inside and outside their congregations;

- reaffirmed "the sufficiency of biblical revelation over subjective experiential explanations to guide one's understanding of the truth about heaven and hell" in an apparent response to the recently released movie "Heaven Is for Real" and similar books and films;

- encouraged Southern Baptists to back the creation of Christ-centered elementary and secondary schools and Christian homeschooling systems, supported those who follow God's direction by taking part in public schools, and urged policies that "maximize parental choice";

- affirmed "the calling of pastors who revitalize churches as needful as the calling of pastors to plant churches." (BP)



David Dykes (left), chairman of the Committee on Resolutions, and Russell Moore, president of the Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission, discuss resolutions approved by messengers to the Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting, including a resolution on transgender identity. The resolution approved June 10 marked the first time the SBC has addressed the issue in a stand-alone measure. (Photo by Matt Miller)

## Qualifications

Continued from page 1

from last year's annual meeting that requested updating messenger qualifications. It was the 16th motion in the past 35 years to call for a re-evaluation of Article III.

Messengers adopted the recommendation without debate or questions from the floor. In order to officially revise Article III, the recommendation will need to be approved by messengers a second time at next year's meeting in Columbus, Ohio.

"The Executive Committee floated the recommendation out across the convention the last several months in order to build consensus which has really proved beneficial in the current recommendation that we have today," Easley said just

before messengers voted to adopt the revision.

Easley addressed initial concerns with the recommendation that involved the perception that it negatively impacted smaller churches. He noted that most of these congregations "give proportionately to the Cooperative Program" and the recommendation now includes a reference to CP support.

The recommendation also addressed concerns that earlier proposed Article III revisions could have been interpreted to "impose a confession of faith upon a church," said Easley, pastor of Roswell Street Baptist Church in Marietta, Ga. That perception "was never our intent," he explained.

Easley said the wording in the first part of the recommendation was adjusted. It now reads: "Has a faith in

practice which closely identifies with the churches' adopted statement of faith." Easley said the words, "closely identifies," were taken directly from the 2000 Baptist Faith and Message.

### Article III language

Article III currently states that all churches in friendly cooperation with the convention can send one additional messenger for every 250 members or for each \$250 per year "paid to the work of the convention." The \$250 amount dates back to 1888.

Under the new stipulations approved by messengers, each cooperating church that contributed to convention causes during the preceding fiscal year would automatically qualify for two messengers.

A cooperating church would be able to send additional messengers by one of two

options, whichever allows the greater number of messengers:

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

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

The \$6,000 figure was arrived at by adjusting for inflation and other factors since 1888, the Executive Committee has stated. The amount is meant to be comparable to the \$250 figure adopted 126 years ago. (BP)



# 'Hallelujah': Luter ends presidency on a rousing note



**"As your president for the past two years, my heart's desire has been that God would make us one and that God would send revival and renewal through the churches of the Southern Baptist Convention."**

**Brothers and sisters, the only way that will happen ... is if the people of God cry out to God in prayer, if there is genuine repentance, if there is genuine remorse, and if we call on the name which is above every name."**

— Fred Luter

By Diana Chandler

**Baltimore**—The gospel found only in the name of Jesus will change a nation that has blown it with God and is quickly becoming more pagan than Christian, Fred Luter told messengers on the eve of his last day as Southern Baptist Convention president.

Luter drew an enthusiastic response from worshippers at an evening revival service June 10 during the SBC annual meeting in Baltimore as he preached from Psalm 80:18-19.

"As your president for the past two years, my heart's desire has been that God would make us one and that God would send revival and renewal through the churches of the Southern Baptist Convention," Luter said.

"Brothers and sisters, the only way that will happen in this nation, the only way that will happen in this convention, the only way that will happen in our churches is if the people of God cry out to God in prayer, if there is genuine repentance, if there is genuine remorse, and if we call on the name which is above every name."

The United States has stumbled as the biblical Israelites and will only enjoy a harvest of revival by repenting with remorse and submitting to God's leadership as He revives the

nation, Luter said.

"It's a painful time in the life of America," Luter said, "because, just like Israel in Psalm 80, America has messed up with God."

The country has lowered its standards, Luter said, with sinful morals evident in sitcoms, movies, videos and video games, leading to crime, adultery, fornication, child molestation, racism, pornography and the abuse of drugs, alcohol and sex.

"America is rapidly becoming and turning into a pagan nation," Luter lamented.

The cure, however, is in the name of Jesus, Luter explained, a name that the nation must call on in prayer.

In Jesus, we have "that name that can change the heart of a racist, that name that can change the mind of a murderer, that name that can change the desire of a child molester," Luter declared.

Jesus is a name "that can change the crowd of a gang member, the habit of a prostitute, the desire of a drug addict, the taste buds of an alcoholic, the heart of a hypocrite, the lifestyle of a homosexual, the actions of an adulterer, the thoughts of a thief, and the desire of a lost sinner."

"Somebody know what I'm talking about, shout Hallelujah."

And all SBC messengers said: "Hallelujah." (BP)

## Convention sermon

### Meador: 'Get in the field' & evangelize by example

By Jerry Pierce

**Baltimore**—It begins with a man, and pastors must be those men who will "get in the field" and evangelize by example among hurting people who need the gospel, Texas pastor John Meador urged in the convention sermon during the Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting.

Noting the poverty of pastors he met last year in India who were being faithful amid persecution, Meador pleaded with pastors not to squander their usefulness in God's kingdom amid a culture where Christian influence has waned with a lack of gospel proclamation.

Meador, the pastor of First Baptist Church of Euless, Texas, cited the 1 Chronicles 11:11-14 account of David's three mighty men who were peerless in their courage against the Philistines. Meador said their faithfulness came in a "small, obscure field."

"The field was of little value materially. This was more a matter of principle for these men, because this was God's field and the enemy was encroaching upon it," Meador recalled. "To abandon this field was to abandon more than a field; it was to abandon a nation and a kingdom."

The Old Testament battlefields parallel the New Testament fields of harvest that

inspired the apostles to "turn the world upside-down," Meador said, noting "there is a high-stakes battle" for souls.

The men recognized three things: their responsibility, the encroachment of evil by the Philistines, and that God was on their side, Meador pointed out.

"It's not unlike the storyline that we read all the way through the Bible," he said. "This is the story of Abraham, Moses and Joshua. It's the story of Gideon and Joseph and Daniel, David as he faced Goliath. ... In Hebrews chapter 11 it is those few who have recognized their responsibility."

The three men knew that if they left, the battle was lost, Meador said. "The application for the present day is going to be about the gospel, because that's the war we're in, that's the battle we face."

Meador recalled how his dad got him a job working on a peanut farm in Oklahoma as a teenager. Looking over the long rows of overturned dirt and a pile of hoes on his first day, Meador asked the foreman what he should do.

"Grab a hoe. Pick a row. It's that simple," the foreman told him. "It's about the fields," Meador said.

Yet some fail to share the gospel because they simply don't want to or they don't really believe it is the cure for sin, Meador said. Others are ashamed of

Christ in an unfriendly culture. Some church members simply have never been taught how.

As gospel-sharing churches have waned, sin has become unrestrained in the culture, Meador said, noting, "When the gospel is absent from society, God-consciousness is diminished and depravity runs bold and free—and it is today."

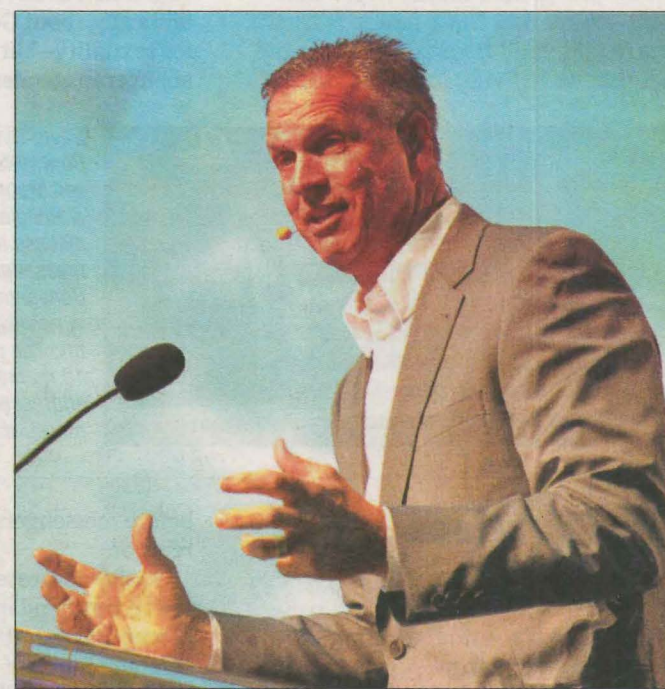
People are asking, "What will change this?" But the right question is: "Who will change this?" Meador noted.

The Texas pastor emphasized that his sermon was not primarily about a convention of 45,000 churches or an organization, but about pastoral leadership.

"It's about the man. And not just any man, but the specific man God has called to be a strong soldier."

If pastors won't speak for those headed to hell, who will? Meador asked.

"If I won't share the gospel with my



John Meador, pastor at First Baptist Church of Euless, Texas, preaches the convention sermon during the SBC annual meeting at the Baltimore Convention Center. Meador said Southern Baptists must fulfill "the impossible quest" to win lost people to faith in Christ. (Photo by Van Payne)

unreached neighbors, no one will," he stressed. "You and I have to come to a place where we just can't take it anymore," to be moved enough "to apply the solution. And the solution is to sow the gospel into the fields."

Meador closed by calling pastors to "die on that hill now, get in that field now." (BP)





## IMB: Elliff calls SBC to 'one sacred effort'

By Don Graham

**Baltimore**—Touting the explosive growth of evangelical Christianity in Cuba as inspiration for Southern Baptists' global missions effort, the International Mission Board's president challenged Southern Baptist Convention messengers to unite in "one sacred effort" to carry the gospel to the ends of the earth.

Speaking to Southern Baptist messengers gathered in Baltimore June 10, Tom Elliff said God used a trip to Cuba in late 2013 to radically touch his heart.

Elliff traveled to the small island nation, just 90 miles off Florida's coast, to survey the church planting movement which has swept the country during the past 20 years. After conversations with many Cuban pastors, Elliff discovered the simple elements behind Cuba's spiritual transformation included prayer, hard work and the power of the Holy Spirit.

Elliff invited some of the Cuban pastors he met, such as Jose Enrique Perez, to speak to messengers. At times, Elliff was brought to tears while acknowledging the sacrifices many Cuban believers have made to remain faithful to Christ during difficult periods in Cuba's recent history. He compared Cuban Baptists' resilience to the country's national tree, the royal palm, which can bend nearly horizontal during a hurricane and quickly shed all of its fronds to survive a storm.

"And when the storm is over, after a period of silence, that trunk of that tree begins to stand upright, and buds in the

top of that tree begin to spring forth again," an emotional Elliff said. "And the tree is more beautiful after the storm than it ever was before. That is exactly what has happened in Cuba."

During such challenging times, Perez said prayer was the church's one sustaining effort.

"When these things happen, God takes control, and He makes the changes," Perez said. "It was like in the Book of Acts, before Pentecost, the church only had one program—praying together."

By the early 1990s, Cuban Baptists began to see the results of that prayer. Through a spontaneous spiritual awakening that Perez said he believes can only be attributed to the movement of the Holy Spirit, new believers began flooding Cuba's remaining traditional churches, which quickly reached capacity. Unable to get permission to construct new church buildings, Cuban Baptists remembered the house churches that sheltered them during the darkest days of the revolution. Soon, Perez said, house churches began to spring up across the country by the hundreds and thousands.

"Many have come to faith in Christ," Perez said. "Many churches are being formed. Today we're seeing the glory of God in Cuba. Our fathers prayed for that."

### Hard work & unflinching obedience

But as the Holy Spirit stirred Cubans' hearts, Elliff said gathering the spiritual harvest meant hard work and unflinching obedience for Cuban Christians who evangelized and disciplined new believers.

Cuban Pastor Daniel Gonzalez was a young man when God called him to share Christ on the Isle of Youth, off Cuba's southern coast. For five months Gonzalez slept on a park bench during weekend visits to the island as he began his ministry, sharing the gospel door to door.

Today, as a result of the 10 years he labored there, more than 10 government-recognized churches and a network of more than 200 house churches are thriving, including a small seminary. The island is regarded as the most evangelized area in the country, and churches there have sent Cuban missionaries to Mexico, Nicaragua and Vietnam.

"A person who is called to plant churches doesn't see it as a sacrifice but as a privilege," Gonzalez told messengers.

Now working as a pastor in Havana, Gonzalez is part of Cuban Baptists' Urban 20-20 Project, aimed at mobilizing

traditional Baptist churches to start house church networks in Cuba's 20 largest cities.

"Our heart is that by the year 2020, there won't be one neighborhood in any of these 20 cities in Cuba that does not have Baptist churches," he said.

SBC messengers also heard from Juan Carlos Rojas, president of the Western Cuban Baptist Convention. Though Rojas leads Cuba's largest Baptist church in Havana, he cautioned Southern Baptists not to depend on buildings.

"Let's not limit ourselves to our temples," Rojas urged. "Please, offer your homes that there might be in your home a place where you worship, where you teach God's word, where you share God's word."

Elliff strongly affirmed Rojas' sentiments, targeting a key word he would like to see deleted from Southern Baptists' church planting vocabulary: building.

"With the power of God, with prayer and with hard work, we could see a movement of God in our nation," Elliff said. That's all that's necessary to "bring the lost to Him and then to catapult them around the world."

### Elliff's report

In his report to the convention, Elliff unveiled the IMB's theme for 2014, "One Sacred Effort," encouraging every Southern Baptist to "find your place in God's story."

Elliff's report detailed the activities of Southern Baptist missionaries in 2013, focusing on the efforts of the roughly 4,800 individual missionaries.

He divided the results by the number of missionaries to reflect the work of a single missionary, an individual whom Elliff said participated in leading 49 people to faith in Jesus, walking with 24 of those believers as they expressed their faith through baptism.

In 2013, an "average" IMB missionary:

- assisted in systematic, ongoing Bible training for 90 people and personally

**Left:** Juan Carlos Rojas (center), pastor of Calvary Baptist in Havana, Cuba, and president of the Western Baptist Convention, is flanked by International Mission Board President Tom Elliff (left) and IMB Missionary Roy Cooper, who translated for Rojas.

**Right:** Tom Elliff delivers what is likely his final report to Southern Baptist Convention messengers. He said, on average, each IMB missionary helped lead 49 people to faith in Christ last year, led 24 new converts to be baptized, helped mentor at least five potential leaders, and was involved in discipleship with 90 people. (Photos by Paul Lee)

mentored five more potential leaders;

- participated in training and encouraging six different churches and personally led in the planting and establishment of at least one new church;

- joined others in pointing 3,861 believers toward extended, formal theological training;

- welcomed to the field the 1,918 Southern Baptist churches and entities that have committed to embrace unengaged, unreached people groups across the globe;

- witnessed the engagement of 120 UUPGs by Southern Baptists in the past three years and participated with other groups in engaging 919 previously unengaged, unreached people groups.

Recognizing this likely would be his last SBC annual meeting as IMB president, Elliff thanked Southern Baptists for the opportunity to serve. In February, Elliff announced he would leave IMB once a successor could be found.

"We believe people support what they help create," he said. "And it seems we have an entire generation of Southern Baptists who've yet to have an opportunity to help us create who we are. There comes a time when leaders need to be cheerleaders."

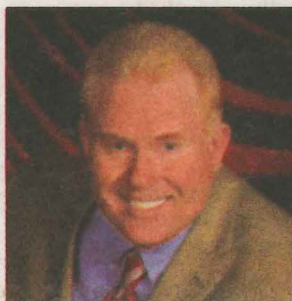
"Jeannie and I have been so privileged to serve in this role for the past three and half years," Elliff added. "This has been one of the most incredible blessings of our life; the joy of serving you, of serving our personnel, of serving with our board of trustees." (BP)



Linda Cooper, immediate past president of Kentucky Woman's Missionary Union, was elected recording secretary for the national WMU on June 9, during

the organization's annual meeting in Baltimore. Cooper, of Bowling Green, serves as WMU director for Warren Association of Baptists. She is only the second Kentuckian to serve as a national WMU officer.

**Look for full coverage of WMU's annual meeting in next week's issue**



### Sam Moore, Evangelistic Ministries

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## Home is where the heart is

### Oneida's homecoming festivities offer time to celebrate, reminisce

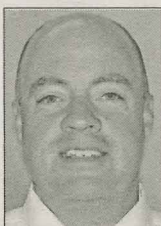
I am sure you have heard the old adage, "Home is where the heart is."

In the last 115 years, so many people, both young and old, have called Oneida their home. For most, it started out as a temporary home away from home. But for many, Oneida became a place they loved and cherished.

In the nine years Angie and I were in Florida, I can't say Oneida was always on our minds, but I can say it was always in our hearts. In those years, we did not attend any OBI homecomings. We lived 1,000 miles away and, just like all of you, we led busy lives. Perhaps that was a poor excuse for not attending, but now that we're back, we're looking forward to being a part of homecoming June 28. If Oneida is in your heart, please find a way to join us.

We are diligently working to prepare. The day will include a hymn sing; free lunch and dinner; anniversary class recognitions, including the class of 1964 on its 50th anniversary; OBI Athletic Hall of Fame inductions; the grand reopening of Anderson Hall, the campus' oldest structure which has undergone major remodeling; time for looking through old yearbooks and pictures; a Shire horse team from the Kentucky Horse Park; a petting zoo; swimming; an alumni basketball game; a garden tour; an outdoor movie—and much more.

### This is Oneida



Larry Gritton

Best of all, you will get to reconnect with folks maybe you haven't seen or heard from in years. Perhaps you will reminisce about Oneida days past. It will be a great day on our campus.

A new feature this year is a golf tournament fundraiser the day before homecoming. On June 27, there will be a golf scramble at Crooked Creek Golf Club in London. I will be out there hacking up the course, and I would love to see some golfers just as bad as me swinging their clubs.

The four-person scramble is \$55 per person and \$200 per team, which includes lunch and door prizes. Tee sponsorship are also available, featuring 2-by-2 vinyl signs with your choice of text placed at tees throughout the course. They are \$35 for one sign, \$60 for two and \$75 for three. All proceeds go to purchase equipment for the brand-new OBI golf team.

For more information, contact Alumni Director Amanda Roberts at (606) 847-4111, ext. 268, or amanda.roberts@oneidaschool.org.

The golf tournament and homecoming are not just for alumni; they are for former faculty, staff, friends, family or anyone who loves Oneida.

If Oneida has meant something to your life, we want you here. Please join us for this wonderful day June 28.

Larry Gritton Jr. is president of Oneida Baptist Institute, a Christian boarding and day school. Website: oneidaschool.org. Phone: (606) 847-4111

## Page: Cooperative Program advancing, not retreating

By Erin Roach

**Baltimore**—Southern Baptists are advancing, not retreating, as they rally to give more through the Cooperative Program to fuel the Great Commission task, Executive Committee President Frank Page told Southern Baptist Convention messengers in Baltimore June 10.

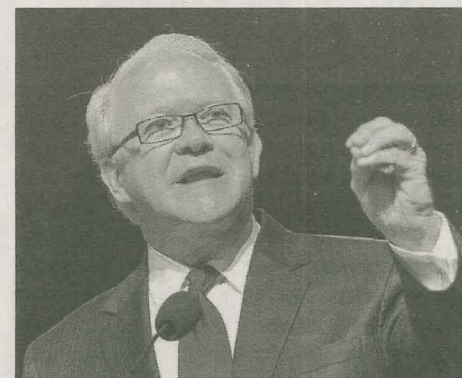
"We thank God that two years ago the Cooperative Program stopped its decline at 5.41 percent, and last year rose for the first time in two decades to 5.5 percent," Page said.

"I like to say to pastors young and old, 'If you know a better way, let me know. I'll support it. I'll drop the Cooperative Program if you can show me something else that, long term, is effective and engages every church concurrently and consistently in an Acts 1:8 strategy. Show it to me, and I'll support it. I'll drop Cooperative Program,'" Page said. "But I haven't found it yet."

Page showed a Pulitzer Prize-winning photo of a vulture stalking a Sudanese girl as she struggled to find food and water at an aid station in 1994. When critics asked the photographer if he helped save the girl, he disclosed that he did not. Page said the photo has gripped him ever since he first saw it.

"Friends, I say to you today that I don't really think we've done much better for that little girl," he lamented. "Have we done any better with our world? Have we helped the girl spiritually? Have we helped the countless millions to die without hearing the good news of our Lord Jesus?"

Southern Baptists must reach the girl and those like her who are perishing without Christ, he said. The church has received a call from Jesus in the Great



Frank Page

Commission, and believers share the love of Jesus that is demonstrated as a powerful force throughout Scripture.

Page commended state convention partners that have joined national entities in streamlining their operations to devote more resources to reaching the nations for Christ. Ten years ago, state convention employees numbered 1,750. Now the figure is 1,350, he pointed out.

"But you see, regardless of what happens at the national level or even the state level, what really matters is whether or not local churches understand what the Cooperative Program is and re-engage in those ministries," Page said.

A diverse group of pastors appeared in a video called "Count Me In," expressing their support for CP as a key component in the missions task.

"We have a God who can make all this happen," Page said. "I say this to you because I ask you to join me in begging God like never before. Would you join me and pray for God to show up like never before? I'm asking that across this convention we join in prayer like we've never prayed before." (BP)

## Clear Creek in Baltimore

### President reflects on time spent at last week's SBC annual meeting

In past columns, in our advertising, and in the conversations of our admissions and college relations departments, four words keep coming up: "Clear Creek is different."

I submitted this article from Baltimore where we have carried that message to the Southern Baptist Convention. That distinction is evident even at the SBC. While we have very much in common with other agencies, institutions and entities represented at the annual meeting, the difference of Clear Creek still shines through.

I naturally look at other schools when we participate at events such as the annual meeting. The first thing I notice is that some of the other institutions are just bigger. They seem to be training everyone for everything. If I think in worldly terms, I could feel like we are standing in the shadows of towers.

But then I realize that it is vitally important that Clear Creek remain what God built this school to be. As long as He chooses to use Clear Creek to train ministers, ministry training is all we need to concern ourselves with. Training ministers is a big enough task; we can only accomplish that by allow-

ing God to work through us.

The next difference I notice is that other schools have a different specific motive for displaying at the convention. Ultimately, every display here is intended to bring awareness of the institution represented. Most other schools approach that goal differently than we do. All the colleges and universities represented would hope to gain students from the endeavor.

Clear Creek is no different, except in the road we take to get there. The SBC is primarily an alumni event for us. We may or may not meet someone in Baltimore who will end up enrolling in classes, but we know we will renew our relationships with alumni while we are here. Three-fourths of our new students come to us looking for something a Clear Creek graduate told them they could find here.

I have learned to thank God for the fact that Clear Creek is different. How else could we proudly raise the banner that reads "the Bible College of the Kentucky Baptist Convention"?

### Clear Creek Chronicle



Donnie Fox

Donnie Fox is president of Clear Creek Baptist Bible College, 300 Clear Creek Road, Pineville, KY 40377; toll-free: (866) 340-3196; cccb.edu; email: dfox@ccb.edu.

## Motion for persecuted church gets prayer on convention floor

**Baltimore**—Messengers proposed 17 motions during the Southern Baptist Convention's annual meeting, six of which were referred to SBC entities for consideration.

The only motion acted on by the convention, adopted by unanimous consent, challenged churches to "pray passionately and regularly for persecuted Christians."

The motion also urged churches to remember the hundreds of Nigerian girls kidnapped by the terrorist group Boko Haram. Vaughn moved "that we pray for them as our sisters, and that we also remember their persecutors to see the light."

In the spirit of the motion, David Smith, chairman of the SBC's Committee on Order of Business, led the convention in prayer.

Two motions were referred to the six Southern Baptist seminaries:

- That fees associated with online seminary classes be removed for students enrolled online.

- That seminaries survey the views of their faculties and students on tithing and "ensure that our future leaders are

taught that the tithe belongs to the Lord."

One motion was referred to the North American Mission Board for study:

- That the SBC Executive Committee and Southern Baptist entities study how churches can be revitalized from plateau or decline.

One motion was referred to LifeWay Christian Resources:

- That LifeWay reconsider its decision to use the 2011 NIV translation of the Bible in its Sunday School curriculum.

One motion was referred to the SBC's Committee on Order of Business:

- That music leadership, style and song selection at future SBC annual meetings express the convention's ethnic diversity.

One motion was referred to the SBC Executive Committee:

- That the SBC president appoint a task force to report on the convention's progress in pursuing biblical racial reconciliation, and recommend how Southern Baptists "may better reach, make disciples and raise up leadership from and among diverse racial and ethnic groups in North America."

Ten motions submitted by messengers were ruled out of order. (BP)



## SBC Extras

## SBC messenger count tops last year's

The Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting unofficially drew 5,294 messengers to Baltimore from the nation's 45,000 Southern Baptist churches, including more than 250 from Kentucky. The total is a 3 percent bump from last year's meeting in Houston, which drew 5,103 people. Official numbers will be released later this month. Kentucky's 251 messengers was good for eighth among the states and territories represented. Virginia topped the list with 497 delegates. The host state of Maryland was second with 429. Rounding out the top five was: North Carolina, 427; Tennessee, 423; and Georgia, 379.

## Ky. Baptists on nominating committee

A pair of Kentucky Baptists are among 68 people named to serve on the SBC's 2014-15 Committee on Nominations. The group will nominate individuals to serve on the convention's boards, commissions and committees.

Kentucky Baptist Convention President Chip Hutcheson, a member of Southside Baptist Church in Princeton, and Steve Weaver, pastor of Farmdale Baptist Church in Frankfort, are Kentucky's representatives.

## Future sites, 2015 preacher approved

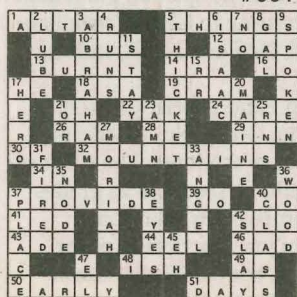
SBC messengers last week approved Birmingham, Ala., as the host city for their 2019 annual meeting. It will be the fourth time in its history the convention has met there, the first since 1941. It will only be a decade-long gap between visits to Orlando, Fla., as messengers voted to return there in 2020. The 2015 meeting will be held June 16-17 in Columbus, Ohio, where the convention sermon will be delivered by Eddie Bumpers, pastor of Crossway Baptist Church in Springfield, Mo. Michael Allen, from Uptown Baptist Church in Chicago, is the alternate. Julio Arriola, worship pastor at Cross Church in northwest Arkansas, will direct the music.

## Bible Crosswords

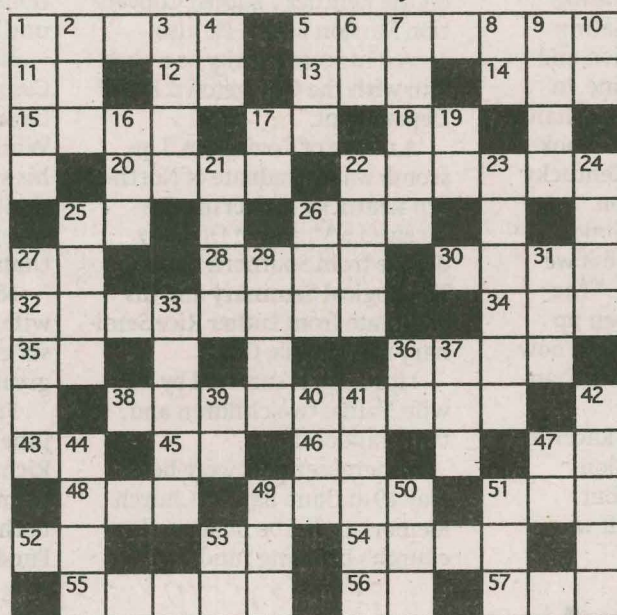
## Across

- 1 Moses's brother
- 5 People who make cloth by interlacing threads
- 11 Possible undergraduate degree for a minister, abbr.
- 12 Not yes
- 13 Do not \_\_\_\_\_ to the words of the prophecy (Revelation 22:18)
- 14 Black sticky substance
- 15 Infant
- 17 \_\_\_\_\_ of the Chaldees
- 18 Preposition that indicates location
- 20 Burnt offering for peace to the Lord (Exodus 24:5)
- 22 Aromatic substances (Exodus 25:6)
- 25 Sympathetic noise
- 26 Hole
- 27 Name for Mother
- 28 "\_\_\_\_\_ a child is known by his doings" (Proverbs 20:11)
- 30 Control
- 32 Something given to God
- 34 The color of the Tabernacle's ram skins (Exodus 25:5)
- 35 The language of Cervantes, abbr.
- 36 Head
- 38 The beings whose wings cover the mercy seat (Exodus 25:20)
- 43 Address abbreviation
- 45 Opposite of off
- 46 Selenium, chem symbol
- 47 Eleven, Romans numeral
- 48 Ancient
- 49 Metal taken as a Tabernacle offering (Exodus 25:3)
- 51 Why Jesus died

#001



By Elizabeth Smith



#002

- 52 Place near Bethel (Genesis 13:3 NIV)
- 53 Young adult, abbr.
- 54 Greatest Christian virtue
- 55 Fabric dyed blue, purple, and scarlet for the Tabernacle (Exodus 25:4)
- 56 Silver, chem symbol
- 57 The priest who took care of Hannah's son Samuel
- 58 Praise" (Psalms 100:4)
- 24 "Thy \_\_\_\_\_ will I establish" (Psalms 89:4)
- 25 American Academy of Family Physicians, abbr.
- 26 Writing instrument
- 27 The man God sent to deliver the Israelites from the Egyptians
- 29 Contender
- 31 Shelter from the wind
- 33 Jewish priest's outer vestment
- 36 Greek letter
- 37 Friend, Fr
- 39 Printer's measure, approximately half of an em
- 40 United Service Organizations, abbr.
- 41 Beautiful, Ital.
- 42 Mountain where Moses talked with God
- 44 "They \_\_\_\_\_ not, neither do they spin" (Matthew 6:28)
- 47 Greek letter
- 49 Past tense of gin
- 50 "A \_\_\_\_\_ returneth to his vomit" (Proverbs 26:11)
- 51 "That we may \_\_\_\_\_ and believe" (Mark 15:32)
- 53 Old-fashioned you

## Do you need more income?

## CGA allows opportunity for extra income, gifts to charitable causes

Like many people, you may depend on income from certificates of deposit and other fixed-income investments. If so, I am confident you wish interest rates were a lot higher than they are.

Also, you may have been thinking about how to provide some kind of financial benefit to your church and other charitable causes, but did not feel you could give up that income-producing CD.

I am delighted to inform you the Kentucky Baptist Foundation offers you a simple solution to your need for more income and your charitable intentions. That solution is a charitable gift annuity, or CGA.

A CGA is an agreement between you and the Foundation under which, in exchange for your gift to the KBF of cash or appreciated securities with a value of at least \$5,000, the Foundation agrees to pay you a fixed amount each quarter for the rest of your life. The payout rate depends upon your age—the older you are, the higher the payout rate. Also, a CGA can be on one or two lives. For example, it can be on

the lives of a husband and wife.

Not only is the payout partially tax free, but the gift portion of the plan is also tax deductible. If you give appreciated assets, there likely will be capital gains tax savings as well.

The portion of your gift not needed to make the lifetime annuity payments to you will be available at your death for the charitable cause(s) you designate in advance.

You can specify for the remaining portion to be available to the charitable cause(s) outright, or to be held by the KBF in a permanent endowment fund with only the earnings, not the principal, being paid in perpetuity to the cause(s).

Anyone age 50 or older is eligible. Examples of the current single life payout rates are: 5.1 percent at age 70; 5.8 percent at age 75; 6.8 percent at age 80; 7.8 percent at age 85; and 9 percent at age 90 and older.

As you anticipate the maturity of your next CD, consider using it for a CGA. Laurie Valentine and I are awaiting your toll-free call to assist you.

Barry Allen is president of the Kentucky Baptist Foundation, PO Box 436389, Louisville, KY 40253; toll-free (866) 489-3533; KyBaptistFoundation.org

## Ky. Baptist Foundation



Barry Allen

## Busy summer for EBO

## Eliza Broadus dollars are hard at work in several state ministries

The Eliza Broadus Offering is hard at work this summer.

We have just finished our first week of Kentucky Changers with 220 participants working in Hopkinsville on 18 projects, which included roofing siding and deck repairs, painting and building handicap ramps.

Three more Kentucky Changers projects will take place in Frankfort and Lawrenceburg, Richmond and Louisville. Pray for Peggy Murphy, all of the adult volunteers, student participants and the homeowners who will be helped this summer. Pray for the witness of students and all participants during each week of Kentucky Changers.

We are in our second week of camp at Cedar Crest where campers are experiencing a "Missions Safari" as they learn about missions in Africa. Stacy Nall, Jon Auten and a 1:8 Leadership team are working with our children to provide a wonderful time of learning, Bible study, missionary interaction, fun in the outdoors and all of the special things about camp (like a campfire and S'mores).

Because of your generous gifts to the Eliza Broadus Offering, we receive many thank-you notes from ministries across Kentucky that receive grants provided by the offering. Robin Reeves, a Mission Service Corps missionary in Corbin, wrote:

"Dear friends: Just wanted to say thank you for the recent Eliza Broadus grant (\$1,100) that I received this year. We've used some of it to purchase some Gospel of John and Romans booklets (300+), mailed over 500 witnessing dolls

since the middle of January, and a portion was used for that. Some will be used for Bible club supplies and also for our evangelistic back-to-school block party in July. It was such a blessing to again be an Eliza recipient this year."

Robin's note does not begin to tell the story of her ministry which is called Christians By Choice Clown and Creative Ministries. In addition to the witnessing dolls that Robin and ladies from her church make, they enlisted children in making "Dolls on Mission" at a Kingdom Kids event with MSC mis-

sionary Stacey Burton. Robin had her first Bible club of the summer at her house during the first week of June.

Not only does she work with volunteer teams that come to help, but Robin involves others in a sewing and quilting ministry. This group now meets up to three times a week for prayer and to make witnessing dolls and lap quilts for the cancer center at a local hospital. The sewing ministry has also expanded to include ladies from the community who are invited to come for Quilt Club Day on the second Tuesday of each month where they can learn to sew and quilt. The Quilt Club gathering includes a monthly lunch and "Biblical Quilt Block" series with a supporting Bible study.

Many other ministries are at work this summer putting EBO dollars to use in order to share the gospel. Pray for these ministries and for all of our efforts as Kentucky Baptists reach out to children and families this summer.

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

## EBO at Work



Joy Bolton





## June

- 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.

## July

- 1** July Power Lunch, Kentucky Baptist Building, Louisville.
- 5-11** Kentucky Changers 2014, Richmond.
- 11-12** Acteens Splash, Jonathan Creek Camp and Conference Center, Hardin.
- 11-12** Girls in Action Camp, Jonathan Creek Camp and Conference Center, Hardin.
- 11-12** Mother/Daughter Overnight Camp, Jonathan Creek Camp and Conference Center, Hardin.
- 13-18** Kentucky Changers 2014, Louisville.
- 19** Excel, First Baptist Church, Richmond.

## Racing ministry shares gospel through Bibles, volunteers

By Robin Cornetel

**Sparta**—NASCAR fans will be flat-out racing to Kentucky Speedway this month and ministry volunteers promise to be there with welcoming smiles, a cold bottle of water and maybe one of 8,000 commemorative Bibles—with the generous support of Kentucky Baptist churches.

"We've done a variety of different things, but three years ago we decided the most important thing we could do was to put Bibles in people's hands," said J.T. Marsh, executive director of Kentucky Raceway Ministries and lay leader at Mount Hebron Baptist Church in Milton.

Kentucky Raceway Ministries, which utilizes servant evangelism to point people to Christ, is looking to rev up its Bible distribution from 6,500 to 8,000 as race fans flock to Sparta June 23-28. More than 100,000 visitors are expected in the northern Kentucky town, drawn by the high-octane, rubber-burning thrill of three NASCAR races—Sprint Cup Series, Nationwide Series and Camping World Truck Series.

"We kind of rationed them a bit," Marsh said about handing out Bibles to race fans. "We never have enough to take care of everybody who wants one."

The New Testament Bibles feature a photograph on the cover of cars racing through turn four at the Sparta speedway. Six testimonies by NASCAR drivers and own-

ers are printed on the inside.

Marsh said the raceway ministry is halfway to raising the \$12,800 needed, largely thanks to church partners and individuals.

"We had one church that

instead of buying flowers on Mother's Day honored moms by buying Bibles," he said.

But no matter how many Bibles the ministry gives away, Marsh said there always seems to be a need for more.

"A lot of them are just hungry for something" and

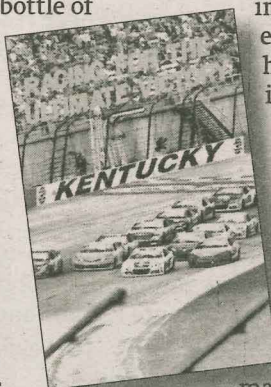
many do not realize

Christ is the answer, he said.

With as many as 260 volunteers, Marsh said KRM manages to cross paths with approximately 80 percent of race fans. The "full-scale ministry" includes manning guest service booths, providing trauma response, coordinating handicapped transportation and running the onsite Kid Zone. In addition to Bibles, volunteers hand out gospel cards, water and cookies made by members of Kentucky Woman's Missionary Union.

"We're in five campgrounds now and could get in more if we had more people," he said. "The speedway continues to open up opportunities to us, and right now we have more opportunities than we have people to work."

To donate to Kentucky Raceway Ministries' Bible distribution effort or to learn more about becoming a volunteer, visit [www.Go2KRM.com](http://www.Go2KRM.com). (KBC)



## MOUNTAINS TO THE MISSISSIPPI

COMPILED BY STAFF

**MELBER**—New Concord Church will host **Driven** in concert June 22, 1:30 p.m. For more information, call (270) 674-5716.

**SOMERSET**—First Church will host the **Booth Brothers** in concert June 22, 6 p.m. For more information, call (606) 678-5106. **French Harmon** is pastor.

### What's happening?

Send your church news and association events to:

**Mountains to the Mississippi**

[karen.martin@westernrecorder.org](mailto:karen.martin@westernrecorder.org)

### OBITUARIES

#### Wayne Lipscomb

Wayne Lipscomb, pastor of Gano Baptist Church in Georgetown, died May 15. He was 54.

Lipscomb had led Gano Baptist since 2008. Previously he was pastor of Union Baptist Church and Stithton Baptist Church in Radcliff and served a pair of terms on the Kentucky Baptist Convention Mission Board. He also served his community as a chaplain with the Georgetown Police Department.

A native of Covington, Lipscomb was a graduate of Northern Kentucky University. He received a Master of Divinity degree from Southern Baptist Theological Seminary and his doctorate from Luther Rice Seminary in Lithonia, Ga.

Lipscomb is survived by his wife, Paula, two children and two grandchildren.

Funeral services were held May 19 at Gano Baptist Church. Memorials can be made to the church's building fund.

#### Bill Nichols

Longtime director of missions and pastor Bill Nichols died June 1 at the age of 74.

After serving as a pastor in Kentucky, Ohio and West Virginia for 30 years, Nichols became DOM for both the Booneville and Irvine Baptist associations in 1991, where he served until his retirement in 2007.

Nichols is an alumnus of Campbellsville College (now Campbellsville University). While a student there, he spent his summers serving as a missionary to American Indian reservations in Oklahoma and Utah.

Nichols is survived by his wife, Charmaine, three children, six grandchildren and six great-grandchildren.

Funeral services were held June 3 at First Baptist Church of Richmond, where Nichols was a member. Memorials can be made to the church's Lackey Mission Fund.

### CLASSIFIED ADS

**AVAILABLE:** Dean Stork, speaking on "Fifteen Clues: Verses in Revelation Chapters 10 & 11 Pointing to the Rapture at the 7th Trumpet." This provides "chapter and verse" for the time of the Rapture, not "day and hour." The presentation takes one hour with 70 percent being Scripture quotations. Please contact [dean.stork@gmail.com](mailto:dean.stork@gmail.com) or by phone, (859) 494-1172. The presentation is available for review prior to a speaking commitment.

**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](mailto:searchcommittee@cbcwinchester.com) by June 15. For additional church information and a job description, see our website at [www.CBCWinchester.com](http://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](mailto:pbcpastorsearch@windstream.net).

**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:** Stanford Baptist Church in Stanford, Ky., is seeking a full-time pastor. See our website, [www.stanfordbaptist.com](http://www.stanfordbaptist.com), for job description. Please email resumé and DVDs to 204 Church St., Stanford, KY 40484.

**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.hcbbc@gmail.com](mailto:kdenton.hcbbc@gmail.com) or 301 E. Main St., Horse Cave, KY 42749.

**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 [gracewestunionb@bellsouth.net](mailto:gracewestunionb@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/Carrroll County, Ky. Beautiful building and facility; congregation desires to grow, needs leadership. Send resumé to [rdstan1959@gmail.com](mailto:rdstan1959@gmail.com).

**SEEKING:** Emmanuel Baptist Church in Shelbyville, Ky., is looking for a part-time music leader. Please send resumé to [kbkimes@gmail.com](mailto:kbkimes@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](mailto:personnel@hickorygrove.net) or via mail to Hickory Grove Baptist Church, Attn: Personnel Committee, 11969 Taylor Mill Road, Independence, KY 41051.

**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](http://www.bloomfieldbaptist.org). Resumé should be

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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](mailto:bfbdc@bardstown.com).

**SEEKING:** Bivocational pastor, parsonage available. Send resumé to Glens Creek Baptist Church, 4678 Steele Road, Versailles, KY 40383.

**SEEKING:** Rich Pond Baptist Church, located in Bowling Green, Ky., is seeking a full-time minister to students. The focus of this position would be students in grades 6-12 and their families. To submit a resumé, request a job description or for more information, contact Herb Case at [herb@richpond.org](mailto:herb@richpond.org).



# Pastors' Conference 2014: 'Show Us Your Glory'

**Baltimore**—Pastors, churches and the convention must catch a glimpse of God's glory to fuel their mission, speakers urged at the 2014 Southern Baptist Pastors' Conference June 8-9.

The annual conference preceding the Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting focused on the theme "Show Us Your Glory" from Moses' prayer in Exodus 33.

Among the speakers were:

## Ronnie Floyd

Southern Baptists must be known for the power and glory of God in their midst in order to fulfill their mission, Arkansas pastor Ronnie Floyd urged during the conference's opening session.

Floyd, pastor of Cross Church in northwest Arkansas and the newly elected SBC president, used Moses' frequent communication with God on Mount Sinai, "as a man talks to his friend," to show how pastors must seek the glory of God on their lives.

"Moses wanted nothing more than to ensure that the presence of God would come upon the people and that that would become the distinctive mark in their culture," Floyd said.

"Jesus is the glory of God, and any time we want the gospel to be sent to the ends of the earth, we are saying we want the Lord Jesus and His glory to be absolutely felt by all the nations of the world."

Exodus, with its record of Moses' interactions with God, could rightly be viewed as a chronicle of Moses' prayer life, Floyd noted, adding that three things Moses consistently did are instructive for today's preachers.

■ Moses regularly practiced going up to talk with God, even begging God not to cut off the people after Aaron demonstrated poor leadership in the worship of the golden calf. "With great conviction he cried out to God in the midst of his prayer, 'Lord, show us Your glory,'" Floyd said. "There is only one thing that distinguishes you from other people: the presence and the glory of God being all over you."

■ Moses demonstrated extraordinary prayer. "There is no extraordinary move of God that ever occurs that is not first preceded by the extraordinary prayer of God's people," Floyd said. "Whatever your ordinary prayer life is, Floyd urged, pray more, and don't rely on coolness or personality or even preaching ability to do ministry."

■ By going up and by extraordinary prayer, only then was Moses able to lead forward, Floyd said. "Moses determined in his heart, 'I am not going forward without Your presence.' Forward leaders, they understand something: They are distinguished by the power (and) presence of God and the glory of God in their lives and their ministry."

The only thing Southern Baptists should be known for is the "power and the glory of God," Floyd said, urging preachers to make a commitment not to

preach unless God's glory is on them and they have heard from Him.

## David Platt

David Platt, pastor of The Church at Brook Hills in Birmingham, Ala., outlined 25 names, titles, attributes and activities of God found in Psalm 68 in order for pastors to "get a glimpse of God's glory" and be compelled to display it in their churches and the world.

"Once you get a taste of the glory of God, you find yourself possessed by an insatiable passion for more and more and more," Platt said.

"You want God more than anything else. You long for God over and above everything else. You plead to see and know and experience more and more and more of His glory."

"I want that to be true in my life. I want it to be true in the church that I lead."

As Platt described the character and activity of God found in the psalm, he noted that God is active, cares for the weak, holds sovereignty over nature and nations, carries burdens, saves His people and deserves praise throughout the earth.

Beholding the glory of God, Platt said, should drive Christians to stand in awe of Him and to give their lives to His mission.

"Give glory to this God," Platt concluded. "Do not be casual with this God. Do not be complacent with this God. ... Stand in awe of this God. He has not saved us from our sins and filled us with His power so that we can sit back on the sidelines of what He is doing in the world."

## Johnny Hunt

Johnny Hunt, pastor of First Baptist Church of Woodstock, Ga., and a former SBC president, delivered a message on personal evangelism drawn from Psalm 126, contrasting that with statistics and frank statements regarding the state of evangelism in the convention.

"Twenty-seven thousand of our 46,000 Southern Baptist churches baptized no teenagers last year," Hunt said. "Another 9,000 baptized one."

That means 36,000 churches baptized no teenagers, Hunt pointed out. "Let that continue, and we'll see where the next generation lands. We've got to make much of the gospel."

Hunt challenged ministers to recommit themselves to intentional personal evangelism. As an example, Hunt said one thing he did as a young minister as a reminder to pray for and witness to specific people in his life was to carry with him the names of people to whom he was actively witnessing.

"I've gone back to this and carry them in my Bible," Hunt said. "Who are

you planting the gospel in their life?"

Turning to Psalm 126, Hunt described the Israelites rejoicing as God delivered them from a period of captivity. But in their rejoicing, Hunt said, they were careful to remember the captivity from which God freed them and remember those who had not yet been set free.

In modern terms, Hunt said, they went from "the blessing of being saved to the burden of being saved." Contrasting that with the present day, Christians have little burden for the lost and have, instead, forgotten their lives prior to knowing Jesus Christ.

"God help us. God help us," Hunt prayed.

## Rick Warren

Rick Warren, pastor of Saddleback Church in Lake Forest, Calif., spoke about suffering, just a little more than a year after his son, Matthew, committed suicide.

Warren said that though he had prepared a full message on suffering, a whisper from the Holy Spirit guided him in another direction during his flight to Baltimore.

"The Holy Spirit whispered to me, 'The people and the pastors need your prayers more than they need your sermon,'" Warren said.

After speaking briefly about suffering, Warren called those in the midst of grief to come to the front, where he knelt and prayed for them. Warren asked the Lord to use the suffering in their lives to make them more like Christ and to enable them to minister and witness more effectively.

Before the prayer, Warren said suffering, though intertwined with sorrow and grief, can be—and is—used by God to accomplish His purposes. He said he has learned from his own experience that, after asking the "why questions"—those which even Jesus asked—Christians must realize God allows suffering to direct, inspect, correct, protect and perfect them.

"If you study church history, you will discover that behind every publicly successful ministry, there is private pain," Warren said.

"Pain is God's megaphone," he added. "There is no testimony without a test. There is no message without a mess. There is no impact without criticism. It is not by accident that the most blessed ministries are also the most attacked ministries."

Warren also offered five specific ways individuals can use suffering, urging them to use it to draw closer to God, draw closer to people, become more like Jesus, help others and witness to the world.

"God's No. 1 purpose in your life is to make you more like Christ," Warren said. "If God's going to make you like Jesus, He's going to take you through the things that Jesus went through."

## Francis Chan

Francis Chan, author, speaker and

former pastor of Cornerstone Community Church in Simi Valley, Calif., passionately called attendees to "not be content to hear Moses" instead of going up the mountaintop themselves.

His plea refers to Exodus 32-33, which describes Moses going up to meet with God on the mountain.

Chan urged pastors to develop a hunger to really know and love God, rather

than "taking selfies with Moses and writing about it."

"Movements start when founders really know God," Chan said, "but movements die when the followers only know the founder."

Referencing Mark 14—which tells of Jesus, in the depths of His sorrow, falling to the ground and asking for the cup to be passed from Him—Chan urged pastors to keep their eyes on the cross where Christ gave His all.

"Are you resting in the cross right now? Is your joy and salvation coming from Jesus?" he asked.

Chan concluded by saying he feels many believers are bound by rituals and patterns instead of "dying in their hearts to really know God." In the midst of their devotion to those rituals, "people groups and people are going to hell" without Christ, he said.

## Other speakers

Other Pastors' Conference speakers included:

■ H.B. Charles, pastor of Shiloh Metropolitan Baptist Church in Jacksonville, Fla.

■ J.D. Greear, pastor of The Summit Church in Durham, N.C.

■ Alex Himaya, pastor of the Church at in Tulsa, Okla.

■ Clayton King, founder and president of Crossroads Camps and Clayton King Ministries.

■ James MacDonald, pastor of Harvest Bible Church in Chicago.

■ Eric Mason, pastor of Epiphany Fellowship in Philadelphia and president of Thriving, an urban outreach ministry.

Tony Evans, pastor of Oak Cliff Bible Fellowship in Dallas, was scheduled to speak, but could not travel due to inclement weather. Himaya, Pastors' Conference, treasurer, filled in.

## 2015 officers

Attendees elected the following slate of officers to lead the 2015 Pastors' Conference in Columbus, Ohio:

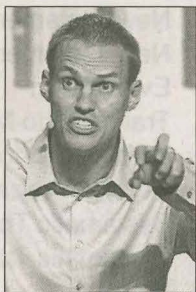
■ Willy Rice, pastor of Calvary Baptist Church in Clearwater, Fla., president.

■ Jeremy Westbrook, pastor of Living Hope Church in Marysville, Ohio, vice president.

■ Drew Landry, pastor of Spotswood Baptist Church in Fredericksburg, Va., treasurer. (BP)



Ronnie Floyd



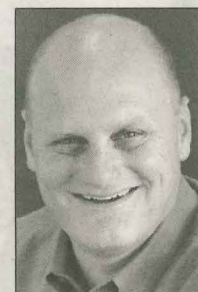
David Platt



Rick Warren



Johnny Hunt



Willy Rice



# Clear Creek Baptist Bible College

## Fall 2014 Classes

### On Campus Classes

(begin on Aug. 14, 2014)

| Course Title                     | Day(s) | Time           |
|----------------------------------|--------|----------------|
| Old Testament 1                  | T,W    | 8:00-8:50 am   |
| New Testament 5                  | T,W    | 8:00-8:50 am   |
| New Testament 7                  | T,W    | 8:00-8:50 am   |
| Old Testament 3                  | Th,F   | 8:00-8:50 am   |
| Greek I                          | Th,F   | 8:00-8:50 am   |
| New Testament 1                  | T,W    | 9:00-9:50 am   |
| Hebrew 1                         | T,W    | 9:00-9:50 am   |
| Old Testament 5                  | Th,F   | 9:00-9:50 am   |
| New Testament 3                  | Th, F  | 9:00-9:50 am   |
| Religious Cults & New Age        | Th, F  | 9:00-9:50 am   |
| Old Testament 7                  | T,W    | 10:00-10:50 am |
| Biblical Geography               | T,W    | 10:00-10:50 am |
| Apologetics in a Pluralistic Age | T,W    | 10:00-10:50 am |
| Introduction to Missions         | Th,F   | 10:00-10:50 am |
| Clinical Pastoral Education      | Th,F   | 10:00-10:50 am |
| Introduction to Youth Ministry   | Th,F   | 10:00-10:50 am |
| Senior Seminar                   | T      | 11:00-11:50 am |
| Internship I                     | F      | 11:00-11:50 am |
| POWER to Succeed                 | F      | 11:00-11:50 am |
| Transition to Ministry           | T,W    | 1:00-2:15 pm   |
| Evangelism                       | T,W    | 1:00-2:15 pm   |
| Computers in Research            | T,W    | 1:00-2:15 pm   |
| Systematic Theology III          | Th,F   | 1:00-2:15 pm   |
| Philosophy                       | Th,F   | 1:00-2:15 pm   |
| English Composition I            | Th,F   | 1:00-2:15 pm   |
| General Science                  | Th,F   | 1:00-2:15 pm   |
| Sermon Preparation               | T,W    | 2:30-3:45 pm   |
| Principles of Teaching           | T,W    | 2:30-3:45 pm   |
| Systematic Theology I            | Th,F   | 2:30-3:45 pm   |
| Fine Arts/Humanities             | Th,F   | 2:30-3:45 pm   |
| Public Speaking in Ministry      | Th,F   | 2:30-3:45 pm   |
| General Science Lab              | Th     | 2:30-3:20 pm   |
| Clear Creek Singers              | T      | 4:00-4:50 pm   |
| General Psychology               | T      | 5:30-8:00 pm   |
| American History I               | Th     | 5:30-8:00 pm   |

(T) - Tuesday; (W) - Wednesday; (Th) - Thursday; (F) - Friday

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(begin on Aug. 18, 2014)

|                          |                                         |
|--------------------------|-----------------------------------------|
| Old Testament 1          | Biblical Geography                      |
| Old Testament 3          | Internship I                            |
| Old Testament 5          | American History I                      |
| Old Testament 7          | English Composition I                   |
| New Testament 1          | Fine Arts/Humanities                    |
| New Testament 3          | General Psychology                      |
| New Testament 5          | Computers in Research                   |
| New Testament 7          | Educational Administration & Leadership |
| Evangelism               | Philosophy                              |
| Transition to Ministry   | Clinical Pastoral Education             |
| Introduction to Missions | General Science                         |
| Sermon Preparation       | General Science Lab                     |
| Systematic Theology I    | Public Speaking in Ministry             |
| Systematic Theology III  | Hebrew 1                                |
| Greek 1                  | POWER to Succeed                        |
| Senior Seminar           |                                         |

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