

WESTERN Recorder

June 24, 2014

Shine Like Stars * Philippians 2:15

Volume 188, Issue 24

Annie Armstrong's church re-launches to reach, transform Baltimore's inner city

By Diana Chandler

Baltimore—Ryan Palmer admitted he was skeptical when he was called to lead a dying church in Baltimore's inner city, where storied missionary Annie Armstrong was once a member.

A theater major and attorney, Palmer had made other plans with wife, Leslie, both of them members of Seventh Baptist Church which had dwindled from a high of 2,000 members to only 17.

In 2003, "I was actually called and asked to pastor the remnant," Palmer recalled. "The previous pastor was burned out. He said, 'Brother this is where God wants you. He sent you and I believe you are the next pastor.'"

"And like Sarah, Abraham's wife, I laughed. My idea was to be bicoastal. I was going to have a home on the East Coast and two aircraft, a home in L.A., and work in the entertainment industry."

Palmer's idyllic picture differed from the Baltimore he ministers to today, where openly homosexual and transsexual pastors lead churches a stone's throw away from his. It is also where heroin addicts, the homeless, prostitutes, alcoholics, committed blue-collar workers, affluent professionals, artists and college students reside, all within a two-mile radius of the architecturally rich church founded in 1845 and rebuilt after a 1919 fire.

On June 8, Palmer relaunched the congregation as Seventh Metro Church. Fred Luter, who mentored Palmer in ministry, commissioned Palmer and the 15 or so Seventh Metro members in ministry, joined on the occasion by some 300 Southern Baptist supporters.

"Thank you for these committed and faithful members," Luter prayed. "God, we commission them. We send them out from this day forth to fulfill the Great Commission and the Great Commandment of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ."

"Give them the boldness and strength that they need to go throughout the

□ See Seventh Metro ... Page 7



YELLOW SHIRTS TO THE RESCUE

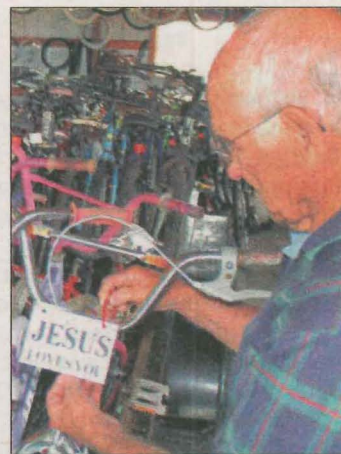


Kentucky Baptist Disaster Relief volunteers serve at Clear Creek Baptist Bible College last week helping the school cut up and haul away several unwanted trees at its Pineville campus.

Chainsaw teams were able to save the school an estimated \$20,000 in tree removal costs.

Coy Webb, the Kentucky Baptist Convention's disaster relief coordinator, said that savings will enable Clear Creek to stretch its resources and maximize its calling to train men and women to fulfill the Great Commission.

(Photos courtesy of Coy Webb)



Frank Riddick attaches a "Jesus Loves You" license plate to a bicycle he plans to give to a child. Riddick said not having a bike of his own as a kid was the catalyst that led to his bicycle ministry, refurbishing old bicycles and giving them to children whose parents cannot afford to buy new ones. (KBC photo)

The Bike Man

78-year-old Kentucky Baptist still delivering free bikes to children

By Roger Alford

Clinton—Nearly every inch of Frank Riddick's workshop is covered in bicycles—every color, every brand, every size.

Hundreds of them lean on kickstands or hang from rafters. And dozens that have been carefully refurbished have been loaded onto a trailer, ready to be delivered to needy children whose parents simply can't stretch their money far enough to buy one.

It is the toothy grins of these children and their shrieks of sheer delight when they get free bikes that keep the 78-year-old Kentucky Baptist motivated. He has been gathering used bicycles, making needed repairs, adorning them with "Jesus Loves You" license plates, and giving them away for nearly two decades.

□ See Bike Man ... Page 2



Seventh Metro Church Pastor Ryan Palmer carries his wife, Leslie, up the front steps of the Baltimore church June 8, when he and others re-launched the congregation where legendary Southern Baptist missionary Annie Armstrong was baptized. Leslie Palmer was diagnosed with multiple sclerosis two years after their marriage, is legally blind and uses a wheelchair. (Photo by Bob Carey)

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Western Recorder 6-24-2014

KBC exec in panel discussion: 'Don't abandon' giving to CP

Chitwood, other SBC leaders discuss Great Commission Resurgence progress & its effect on state conventions

By Drew Nichter

Baltimore—Despite being lauded as the best mechanism for funding Southern Baptists' worldwide missions efforts, Cooperative Program giving has declined steadily for the better part of three decades.

Acknowledging that many churches and pastors have chosen to circumvent the Cooperative Program in favor of contributing to specific causes, Kentucky Baptist Convention Executive Director Paul Chitwood urged pastors: "Don't abandon (CP) unless you've found a better way to do" missions.

When Southern Baptists find a better way than the Cooperative Program to fund missions and ministries, "I'll be the first to submit my resignation and serve in some other way," Chitwood said.

The KBC exec joined a panel discussion June 9 regarding the Great Commission Resurgence and its effect on state Baptist conventions. The session was one of dozens held at the Cooperative Program stage in the SBC exhibit hall prior to and during the SBC annual meeting.

Chitwood was joined by a fellow state executive director, Nate Adams, of Illinois; a pair of pastors, Jimmy Scroggins, from First Baptist Church of West Palm Beach, Fla., and the newly elected SBC President Ronnie Floyd, from Cross Church in northwest Arkansas; and a seminary president, Danny Akin, who leads Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary.

Akin and Floyd both served on the Great Commission Task Force in 2009-10, which Floyd chaired. SBC messengers in 2010 adopted the group's sweeping recommendations focused on "penetrating the lostness" around the world, which included allocating more CP funds to the International Mission Board.

To facilitate that goal, state conventions were challenged to split their Cooperative Program funds evenly between state and Southern Baptist missions and ministry causes, even in the midst of the Great Recession.

In response, the KBC formed its own Great Commission Task Force. It recommended in 2010 the convention achieve a 50/50 split of Cooperative Program funds between KBC and SBC causes by 2020, which messengers approved.

When Chitwood became executive director the following year, he told the panel he felt the initial 10-year plan to reach a 50/50 allocation needed to be accelerated.

Having served as IMB trustee chair when the Great Recession hit, thus witnessing a decline in resources and personnel, Chitwood said he focused his role as KBC exec on "making sacrifices at home to get as much resources as possible to the nations."

In 2012, KBC messengers fast-tracked the move to a 50/50 split of CP funds to happen by 2014-15. Doing so necessitated a 40 percent reduction in KBC Mission Board staff and the redistribution of millions of dollars from the budgets of the



Kentucky Baptist Convention Executive Director Paul Chitwood (right) answers a question from Jonathan Akin, pastor of Fairview Church in Lebanon, Tenn., during a panel discussion about the Great Commission Resurgence and state conventions in the Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting exhibit hall June 9. (Photo by Bill Bangham)

convention's agencies and institutions.

Adams said state conventions "have, perhaps, made the biggest adjustments" as a result of GCR. Nationally, state convention staff members have dropped from 1,750 to 1,350, he pointed out.

Chitwood told the panel the convention's two-year move to a 50/50 split has been well received by Kentucky Baptist pastors, citing a renewed focus on the Great Commission and getting more resources "to the nations."

That, however, has not translated into increased CP giving from the churches through the KBC, he noted.

"The reality is most churches are struggling themselves," Chitwood said. "So, it's not like we've seen a huge jump in Cooperative Program giving."

And it is not likely "we're going to see

that jump," he added.

Panel moderator, Jonathan Akin, pointed out that one of the criticisms leveled at the GCR Task Force's 50/50 challenge was state conventions would be crippled by such a move.

Chitwood disagreed, saying the KBC is still able to function and plays a crucial part in denominational work, just as all state conventions do.

"We're able to do our ministry," he said. "It looks different than it once did. But there's a vital role for state conventions in helping churches accomplish their tasks, and that's where we try to keep our focus."

"Our commitment is to be the best stewards of every penny that the Lord entrusts to us as long as He's entrusting those pennies to us," Chitwood said. (WR)

Bike Man

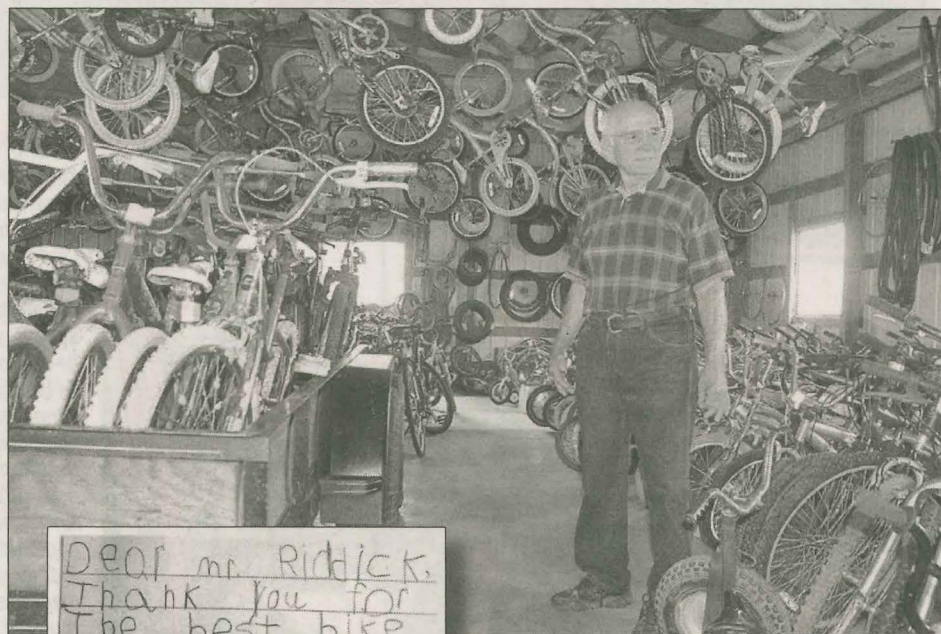
Continued from page 1

"I didn't have a bike growing up," Riddick said, a serious tone reflecting the void he felt as a child. "Because of that, I don't want any child who wants a bicycle to be without one."

Riddick, known among children in government housing projects across Kentucky as "The Bike Man," has quietly pursued his mission from the tiny western Kentucky town of Clinton since he retired from farming in 1997. As a Christian ministry, the bicycles have been the catalyst that has allowed Riddick to share the gospel with multitudes of kids.

"He's an example of the impact Southern Baptists have in communities all over Kentucky, across the U.S. and around the world," said Paul Chitwood, executive director of the Kentucky Baptist Convention. "Our men and women are working behind the scenes in every community, town and city, loving their neighbors—and the world is a better place because of it."

Riddick's refurbished bikes, which typically are given to Kentucky children, have on occasion been shipped as far away as Africa. One shipment went to missionaries who needed them to ride from village to village in Ghana. Others have gone to central Appalachia, one of the poorest regions in the United States.



Above: Frank Riddick stands among hundreds of bicycles that cover nearly every inch of his workshop in the western Kentucky community of Clinton. For two decades, Riddick has been fixing up old bicycles and giving them away to needy children.

Left: One of the many thank-you notes Riddick has received through the years from children. (KBC photos)

Kevin Clark, pastor of First Baptist Church of Clinton, described Riddick as "a hardworking, humble man" who is "passionate about that bike ministry like you wouldn't believe." Clark said Riddick

lets every child know they are getting a bike because God loves them.

Riddick said he has not kept count of the bikes he has given away, though he is certain they number in the thousands.

"We don't just wait for the children to come and get a bike," he said. "We go to where they are. The Bible tells us to go. And if we didn't go, the really poor kids would never get one."

Scores of grateful children

Riddick's wife, Glenda, thumbs through a scrapbook filled with photos of grinning kids sitting atop bikes. Thank you notes, obviously penned by kids just learning to write, are displayed like treasures.

"We have been blessed more than the children have," Glenda said. "There's no greater joy than to give a bike to a kid."

Riddick said collecting bicycles to give away has not been difficult. "If you let people know you give bikes away, you'll get bikes. I get so many. If I didn't give so many away, they'd pile up here."

One of Riddick's top providers is a salvage company that pulls bikes aside. Sometimes, they need new tires or tubes or a simple sprocket chain repair. Sometimes they call for tape on torn seats. Sometimes they simply need a good scrubbing.

Riddick said God used his childhood yearning for a bicycle to start the ministry and to continue it into his senior years. He encouraged others not to use age as an excuse for not serving the Lord.

"If these people sitting at home bored to death knew what a joy this is, they'd be doing it," he said. (KBC)

WMU challenged to 'Go Forward' from Baltimore



Native Praise, a choir from 23 Native American churches and 15 tribes from Oklahoma, sing during the Woman's Missionary Union Missions Celebration June 8. (Photo by Bill Bangham)

By Shannon Baker & Meredith Flynn

Baltimore—Echoes of history with a continued challenge to "Go Forward" permeated the Woman's Missionary Union Missions Celebration and annual meeting, June 8-9 in Baltimore. The meeting culminated a yearlong celebration of WMU's 125th anniversary.

This year's theme, "Go Forward," was based on the personal motto of Annie Armstrong, WMU's first corresponding secretary, derived from Exodus 14:15.

"Go Forward," national WMU President Debby Akerman said, "is our legacy. These words represent our legacy of missions education, missions action and missions passion through the work of WMU."

Participants enjoyed a tour of Baltimore sites related to "Miss Annie," WMU's first executive director, heard re-enacted monologues of two other former WMU leaders, and were challenged to surrender, sacrifice and serve.

The tour included the first WMU headquarters, Armstrong's home church and its new location, her gravesite and a stop at Federal Hill Park, where participants could view where her original home was once located.

Rosalie Hunt, author of "We've a Story to Tell: 125 Years of WMU," and outgoing recording secretary, depicted two former Baltimoreans who served as WMU executive directors, Ann Baker Graves and Kathleen Moore Mallory.

Graves, known as the "Mother of Woman's Missionary Union," inspired and motivated Baptist women in the post-Civil War U.S. to organize, give, pray and go so that the gospel could be taken into all the world and, in particular, China.

Mallory was editor of "Our Mission Fields" magazine, which later became "Royal Service." Mallory was the first woman to speak before the Southern Baptist Convention.

Akerman, in her address, introduced the WMU Watchword emphasis for 2014-16: "All For You: Surrender, Sacrifice, Serve," based on Mark 8:34.

"When we think about the growing lostness and encroaching post-Christian culture across North America, it is time to

talk seriously" about surrender to God's empowering, Akerman said.

Continuing ministry in the dark world of human exploitation, this year WMU will address a new social issue through Project HELP: Post Traumatic Syndrome Disorder.

"PTSD is not just a military issue," Akerman said, noting that PTSD can potentially be the result of any kind of sudden or long-term trauma, including the effects of war, school and mall shootings, terrorist attacks, hurricanes and tsunamis, fires and car wrecks, home invasions and abductions.

"We cannot cure it, but we can go forward to light the way for understanding PTSD and bringing the Christ comfort to those whose lives have been short circuited by trauma," Akerman said.

A pair of missionary couples also shared about their ministries.

Taylor and Susan Field have served as missionaries on the Lower East Side of Manhattan for 28 years, "and WMU has been with us the whole time," Taylor said.

The Fields started their ministry at East 7th Street Baptist Church, later called Graffiti, and have helped it grow into a community-wide ministry and center for church planting.

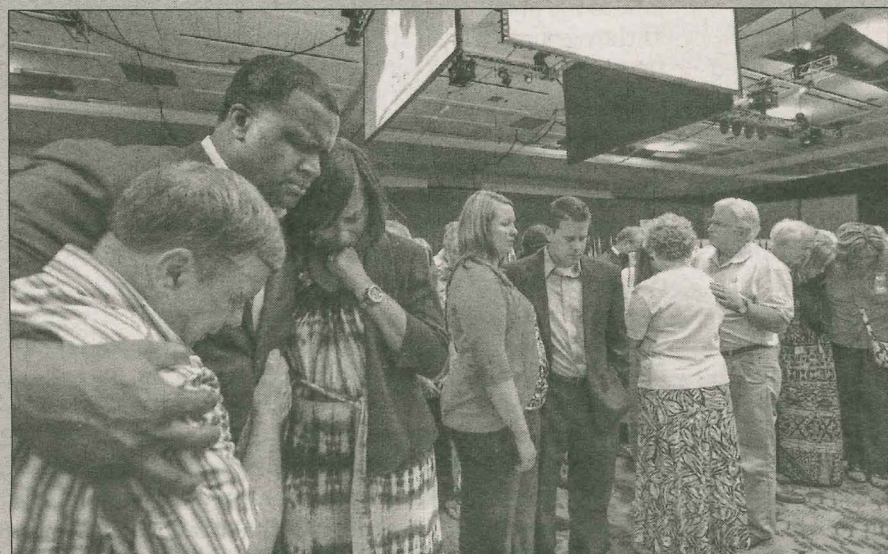
Field encouraged WMU to reach out to future Christian leaders. "There's a whole generation rising up now that wants that gospel, the whole gospel, so that the evangelical church won't be known just for what they say or what they're against, but for what they do."

An unidentified IMB missionary couple serving in a country with difficult access to the gospel said they seek to reach people through relationship building. "The reason we all go forward is because Jesus is worthy. He is worthy to be worshipped by all people in every language all over the world."

In other business:

■ Ginger Smith, director of Baptist Centers of Houston, received this year's Delanna West O'Brien Leadership Award.

■ Debby Akerman was re-elected WMU president, and former Kentucky WMU President Linda Cooper was elected recording secretary. (BP)



Roger Wall (left) embraces Dante and Schenita Randolph during a time of prayer for the 95 International and North American Mission Board missionaries commissioned during a Woman's Missionary Union Celebration June 8. Wall, pastor of Providence Baptist Church in Pageland, S.C., served in Durham, N.C., where the Randolphs serve as missionaries at Grace Park Church. (Photo by Bill Bangham)

New IMB & NAMB missionaries commissioned at rare joint service

By Shannon Baker

Baltimore—The International and the North American Mission boards commissioned 96 missionaries during a rare joint commissioning service sponsored by Woman's Missionary Union June 8.

In an emotional service marked by prayer and praise, many were commissioned to serve as church planters, evangelism catalysts, collegiate ministers, refugee workers, chaplains and ministers to people groups in difficult areas of the world.

A capacity crowd heard numerous testimonies of how God called individuals into His service.

Charles, 71, and Jan, 69, after years of serving in various countries, now will work with South Asian refugees.

"Why do we go? Why not retire and just take it easy?" Charles asked.

"Because God's called us, and we cannot say no," Jan answered. Charles agreed, "Missions is for life. Don't let your age keep you from doing what God wants you to do."

Through an interpreter, Gilmer and Ethel Mauricio, who had led several churches across South America, shared how they came to serve as church

planters in Iowa. Because they could not find a Spanish-language church, the couple visited Immanuel Baptist Church, a congregation that had prayed for four years for God to send a Hispanic church planter. Five days later, the Mauricios started a Spanish language church there with 24 people. The church now has around 60 worshippers.

Jose Nater, along with his wife Mayra, shared how he serves as a vocational pastor of three simultaneous church plants on the eastern shore of Maryland.

IMB President Tom Elliff challenged the missionaries to spread the gospel with urgency. Pointing to Acts 18, NAMB President Kevin Ezell encouraged the missionaries and their families not to be afraid of their assignments.

"It's a lot easier to talk about missions to your kids at VBS than it is at a commissioning service," he acknowledged, noting God's presence, protection and perspective would provide for each of them.

The last joint IMB-NAMB commissioning service is believed to have been held 25 years ago, according to WMU Executive Director Wanda Lee. (BP)



Hundreds of Woman's Missionary Union members boarded buses June 9 for a tour of Annie Armstrong's Baltimore. Sites included the first WMU headquarters, Armstrong's home church and gravesite. The tour was sponsored by the WMU as part of its annual Missions Celebration. (Photo by Paul Lee)

'The tangled web we weave'

This week's column was written by Curtis Woods, associate executive director of the Kentucky Baptist Convention.

Together We are the KBC



Paul Chitwood

In 2012, our Mission Board staff adopted five core values—trustworthy, encouraging, accountable, mature and sensitive—the first letters of which spell the word "TEAMS."

Every team member evaluates ministerial effectiveness according to these core values. They guide our conduct as we help churches reach Kentucky and the

world for Christ. While each value is indispensable, one lays the foundation for the rest—trustworthy.

We define trustworthy as: "can be relied upon as a resource to ease ministry pain, not create more." The axiom is simple: trustworthy people are truthful people. They embrace truth in order to reject duplicity's demonic lure.

Scripture illustrates how the master of duplicity convinced the first family to question—and reject—God's authoritative decree. In the garden, Eve, accompanied by Adam, acquiesced to the serpent's proposition to embrace intellectual freedom apart from the wisdom of God.

The serpent gleefully invited the first family to sip from his duplicitous chalice. Eve accepted the offer when the serpent piqued her interest, saying, "Has God indeed said ...?" (Genesis 3:1). Eve thus questioned God's sovereignty and His truthfulness. She was "deceived and fell into transgression," taking matters into her own hands (1 Timothy 2:14). Adam, not immune to culpability, failed on his watch. He allowed the serpent to wreak havoc within the family, then willingly participated in sin himself.

Michael James Williams, in "Deception in Genesis," describes a duplicitous personality thusly: "Deception (duplicity) takes place when an agent intentionally distorts, withholds or otherwise manipulates information reaching some person(s) in order to stimulate in the person(s) a belief that the agent does not believe in order to serve the agent's purpose."

That is to say, a duplicitous person expresses ideas contrary to personal belief in order to win followers. These leaders are extremely dangerous because their only commitment is to themselves, not God's kingdom. They have tattooed above their brows, "Oh, what a tangled web we weave, when first we practice to deceive."

Ironically, these leaders will eventually choke on the poison of their own venom when the Sovereign One says, "Enough." The very nature of duplicity destroys one's ability to discern good and evil.

Conversely, believers learn to discern good and evil by breathing in God's word (Hebrews 5:14). Without submitting to the authority of God's word in all of its parts, trustworthiness is an elusive dream. Time will be spent spinning tangled webs and victimizing those who follow.

As a Mission Board staff, we refuse to weave tangled webs because our churches deserve truth. We strive to be trustworthy as opposed to duplicitous.

Paul Chitwood is executive director of the Kentucky Baptist Convention.

The most memorable quote from Baltimore SBC

"Grab a hoe. Pick a row. It's that simple."

As a 14-year-old boy starting his first job on a peanut plantation outside the small town in Oklahoma where he lived, John Meador asked the foreman what he was supposed to do. His foreman's instructions that day provided what, to me, was the most memorable quote from the Southern Baptist Convention in Baltimore. In three simple sentences, Meador nailed it, challenging us to get started on our obvious task of sharing the gospel.

"It's about the fields," the Texas pastor explained, in case we somehow missed the point. "It's about getting into the fields where no one has heard the gospel before."

"We have fields," Meador observed in the convention sermon. "The fields we battle in are not fields of beans or barley, but fields of human lives. Fields where eternity is at stake," he said. "This is not about a season of crops; this is about a generation of people who need to be reached by our going to the fields."

Throughout the convention, speakers asserted the need for us to get back into the fields and start sharing the gospel, face to face. "Do it in the neighborhoods. Do it in the community. Do it in the apartment complexes, and in the coffee shop," Meador urged. "Never stop doing the work of an evangelist."

But while our task is obvious, some may be reluctant because they feel unprepared or unsure how to begin a gospel conversation with someone. So, during the North American Mission Board's presentation, Jimmy Scroggins shared a simple but effective way to share our faith in only a few minutes. "And it can be done on a napkin," noted NAMB President Kevin Ezell.

Scroggins, a former dean of Boyce College and teaching pastor at Highview Baptist Church in Louisville, where Ezell also had served, introduced messengers to the "3 Circles: Life Conversation Guide." Scroggins developed the witnessing tool at First Baptist Church of West Palm Beach, Fla., where he now is pastor, to share Christ with couples in



After Thought

By Todd Deaton

a marriage preparation class, regardless of their religious background.

"We wanted to come up with a way to talk to people who are far from God and don't have a biblical, Christian background," he explained. "Even people who don't believe in God know that they have problems. What we figured out is that we've got to be able to talk to people from a variety of cultural backgrounds and take conversations about problems and turn them into conversations about Jesus."

At West Palm Beach, Scroggins discovered that the couples in his class, regardless of whether or not they had a church background, understood brokenness and what it means to feel cheap, empty, used and lacking a sense of purpose. "They would talk to me about problems they were having in their relationships, in their home, and with their children, and with their finances. They would talk to me about the problems they were having internally as they grappled with spiritual questions," he said. "I knew that we had to find a way to turn conversations about problems into conversations about Jesus."

The key, Scroggins said, is helping them understand the concept of God's design for our lives. "What they needed to hear most is that they can recover and pursue God's design the best they can, from where they are, right now," he assessed. "They needed to hear the good news that Jesus can begin to heal and allow them to pursue God's design." Then God can direct them back toward a broken world, where they have the opportunity to share the good news in their homes, families, neighborhoods, workplaces and schools.

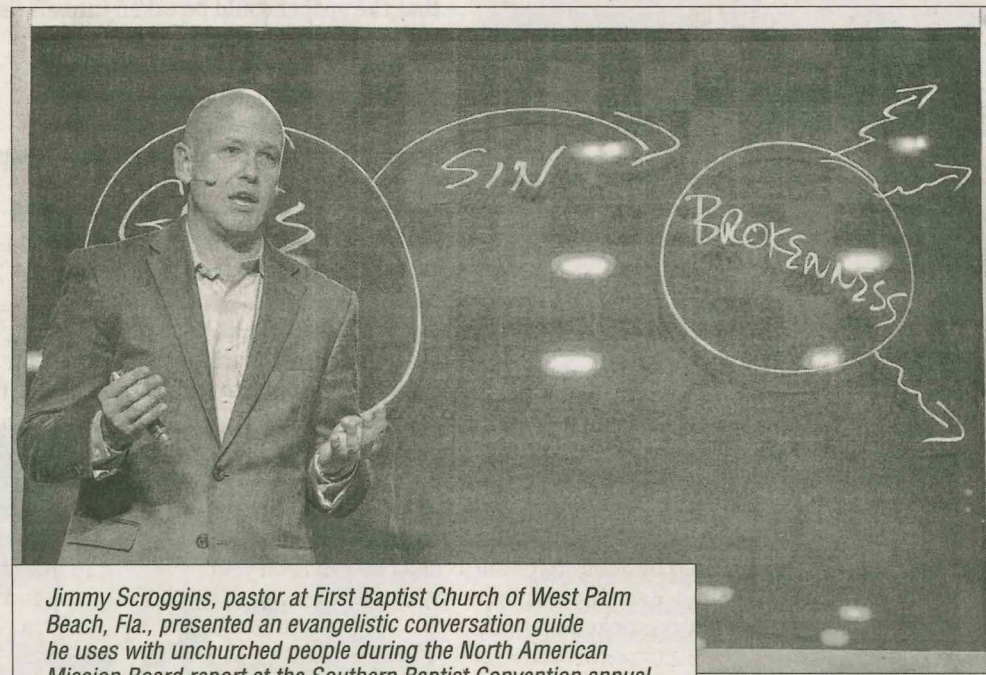
Ezell closed the presentation with a powerful, personal illustration about how simple gospel conversations can alter the course of someone's life—even generations later. "Bill Sullivan is not a pastor that you've heard preach at a conference; Bill Sullivan never wrote a book," he began. But what Bill did was share a gospel conversation with a young 26-year-old named Mike. Mike and his wife, Glenda,

became involved in a church, where he taught Sunday School and served as a deacon. They also had three children and 13 grandchildren.

"My life was changed because of that (gospel conversation), because that 26-year-old Mike was my dad," an emotional Ezell said. "My dad passed away Feb. 13 and, as I reflected at my dad's funeral, I am so grateful for a Southern Baptist layman I don't even know who took the time to have a gospel conversation with my father."

From our gospel conversations we initiate today, there's no end to what could happen, Ezell concluded. "We've got to be a people who are about sharing our faith."

The "3 Circles" guide is available free, both as an app and in print, at www.namb.net/video/3circlesguide. It provides an easy-to-use tool to share the gospel with your family, friends, neighbors and coworkers—on an iPhone or a napkin. So, "Grab a hoe. Pick a row. It's that simple."



Jimmy Scroggins, pastor at First Baptist Church of West Palm Beach, Fla., presented an evangelistic conversation guide he uses with unchurched people during the North American Mission Board report at the Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting June 10. The guide involves a drawing of three circles that illustrates the gospel. Ezell introduced a smartphone app that includes an interactive version of the diagram to use in evangelistic conversations. (Photo by Matt Miller)

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A call to Columbus in 2015 for great awakening

By Ronnie Floyd

As the newly elected president of the Southern Baptist Convention, I want to call every pastor, church leader and layperson from a Southern Baptist church to join me in Columbus, Ohio, June 16-17, 2015.

As I work with our Committee on Order of Business and other leaders, I will respectfully request that we dedicate as much time as possible during next year's convention to pray extraordinarily for the next great awakening. I want to call you to Columbus to what could be one of the most significant prayer gatherings in our history.

Yes, we have to conduct business at the annual meeting, and we will do it with great diligence. But we will also bring to fruition a year-long emphasis of praying in an extraordinary manner for the next great spiritual awakening in the U.S.

For the next year, I want to humbly request from each church, SBC entity and state convention that we begin to pray in an over-and-above way for God to move mightily in our lives, churches and nation.

Why is this important? Our convention has bemoaned our decline in baptisms, membership, attendance and giving for far too long. Now is the time for us to take action by calling out to God together in prayer.

At the same time, we must take the needed strategic actions to change our trajectory as a convention. While we face these critical times, we know God is doing some amazing things through Southern Baptists. As we celebrate those to the glory of God in Columbus, we will also call out to God in urgent desperation.

Why is revival in the church and awakening in the nation so important? I have been greatly convicted that one of the reasons God has placed me as president, for such a time as this, is to call His people to what Jonathan Edwards called "extraordinary prayer." We need such prayer for personal revival, church revival and spiritual awakening in America, so that we can see the Great Commission accelerated to its completion in our generation. I believe this should be our heart and goal.

First Person



Ronnie Floyd

I have been privileged to catch a glimpse of extraordinary prayer in the recent Praying Pastors gatherings. We have led more than 1,500 pastors in these four gatherings. God is doing something very unique right now, and I believe extraordinary prayer is our No. 1 need. In that,

we recognize that only God can do what is needed in us personally, congregationally, denominationally, nationally and internationally.

We've had a conservative resurgence in the SBC, and we are in the midst of a Great Commission resurgence. In order for that resurgence to be elevated to the proper priority, we need a great spiritual movement and a mighty spiritual awakening which this nation has not seen in a long time. Yes, we need to pray now in an extraordinary manner for the next great awakening.

Make plans to join us in Columbus next year. Why? This may be the moment, God's time and place, to begin the next great awakening.

Consider coming in early for Crossover Columbus, the annual evangelistic outreach preceding each year's SBC annual meeting.

Also, consider these facts about Columbus:

- It is the 15th largest city in the U.S.;
- 139 languages are spoken in Columbus;
- There are 111 Southern Baptist churches in Metro Columbus Baptist Association;
- It is one of the focus cities in our Send North America national church planting strategy;
- It is the home of Ohio State University.

Our team is working on ways we can connect via technology. We will use email, Twitter and Instagram to help all of us be a part of a movement toward Columbus—but more than that, a movement of praying to see commitment to the Great Commission escalated and accelerated to its completion in our generation.

Please call on your church and others to pray for me. I want to represent our Lord and Southern Baptists in the best manner. I can't do that without your prayers. (BP)

Ronnie Floyd is the pastor of Cross Church in northwest Arkansas and president of the Southern Baptist Convention.

Falling out of love, part 2

By Valerie Vincent

God is continually willing to forgive and reconcile Himself to us. It is not second chances, but rather multiple chances. Scripture's message is one of hope, and yet God demands for us to be transformed into a new creation. In our broken world, we want our spouses to change.

When a marriage experiences brokenness, the world only offers giving up and moving on. Our God offers radical transformation. The world wishes you good luck and quick permission to end a marriage. Our God walks with us, and His Spirit works inside us to accomplish what only He can.

The Scriptures use the metaphor of marriage for God's relationship with His people. The commitment to His people is not based on feelings, but a deep desire to show us His love so that by living in the grace and knowledge, we can pour out that same love to others.

Have you and your spouse ever made a commitment to tithe? What about to each other? To tithe to God is to bring the best—the unblemished first fruits—of your labor to His storehouse for His use and purposes. It was God's instruction in the Old Testament to tithe 10 percent. In the New Testament, Jesus teaches about giving all you have. Either way, ask yourself, how often have I brought to my spouse even 10 percent of my best, the first fruits of my labor?

When we meet someone and want to impress, we tend to do better at bringing our best to those encounters. Yet we may think to continue that is too much to ask. Why would God require such a thing?

What would happen if we commit to consistently bring our very best to God and our spouses? If you do not know how to bring your best, then make a plan of serious work on yourself to do so. Seek out trusted and wise counsel.

Valerie Vincent is a Christian counselor to women and couples at Hardy Associates LLC in Louisville.

Is your plan coordinated?

By Laurie Valentine

Efficiently and effectively accomplishing God's plan for how what you own will pass at your death requires you to put together a "coordinated" plan for how your assets will pass.

Assets that are beneficiary-designated, such as life insurance and retirement accounts, will pass per the terms of the beneficiary designation document, not per the terms of your will or revocable living trust. Likewise, jointly owned assets will pass to the surviving joint owner at your death, no matter what your will or trust says.

Only assets in your name alone or designated to be paid to your estate, your executor or the trustee of your trust will pass as your will or trust directs.

Failure to coordinate how assets will pass may result in a beneficiary receiving assets in a way you did not intend.

Here's an example: Your intention is for anything coming to your son from your estate at your death to be held in trust for him until he reaches age 25. Your plan includes both a bequest to the trust for his benefit created in your will and a life insurance beneficiary designation naming your son as beneficiary. The bequest will be placed in trust, but the life insurance will be paid directly to your son, whether or not he has reached age 25 at the time of your death.

Make sure your plan is coordinated—and stays coordinated—by regularly reviewing how your assets are titled and how beneficiaries of life insurance, retirement accounts and other assets are designated. Then compare asset titling and beneficiary designations with the terms of your will or trust.

Laurie Valentine is trust counsel for the Kentucky Baptist Foundation.

Good news: Two years of Cooperative Program gains

By Ashley Clayton

Are you ready for some good news? The most recent Annual Church Profile data reveals a new and positive direction in Southern Baptist missions and ministries funding through the Cooperative Program.

Over the past three decades, the average CP gift per church—as a percentage of a church's undesignated receipts—had steadily declined.

For example, in 1982, across all Southern Baptist churches, the average CP gift per church was 10.7 percent of a church's undesignated receipts. Each year since—with the exception of three slight upticks—there was a predictable and steady decline of average Cooperative Program gifts. Since 1999, average percentage of undesignated gifts from cooperating churches has declined by about two-tenths of a percent each year.

But, we see signs of hope. In 2012, the average CP gift per church ticked up slightly to 5.414 percent.

Now, for some really good news: The 2013 CP reports and ACP data show the average CP gifts per church has again risen slightly to 5.5 percent. This is the first two-year growth in average percentage gifts through CP in more than 30 years.

What does this report mean? If CP were a publicly traded company, and analysts had projected a continued steady decline in business and market share, you can believe it would signal renewed confidence in the stock, driving up prices on the Dow Jones.

We routinely hear from some quarters that we are on a steady march to the edge of a cliff. Yes, many of our reported numbers give us cause for grave concern. But is it time to reframe the image? Could we, perhaps, be standing at a new starting line? Yes, this is only a two-year trend. But it is the last two years, it is two years in a row, and it breaks a 30-year decline.

Keep in mind that when we compute average percentage Cooperative Program gifts per church, we compute

all Southern Baptist churches: graying churches, growing churches, new churches, contemporary churches, ethnic churches, megachurches, small churches—even churches that gave nothing through CP.

Declaring this report to be a clear-cut winner may be a matter of opinion, and I know there is cause for caution. But regardless of the celebratory rhetoric in this article, this is good news and certainly worthy of our attention and celebration. Again, when people expect one thing and the exact opposite happens, you must take notice and find the best way forward.

So, consider this: It appears that Southern Baptist churches are making positive, cooperative choices. Not only did the average percentage of Cooperative Program gifts per church increase, total CP dollars went up, too, and did so during a time that many churches' undesignated and total receipts declined.

At the Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting, Executive Committee President Frank Page once again asked pastors and churches to prayerfully consider increasing their support of SBC missions and ministries through the Cooperative Program by giving an additional 1 percentage point of their undesignated receipts.

In 2012, more than 3,000 churches reported an increase in CP giving by 1 percent or more. Now that the ACP report has been published, we will begin analyzing the 2013 data to see if this trend, too, is continuing.

Usually CP giving and church plate offerings tend to move together—but not this time. The 2013 ACP data confirms our churches are giving more through CP, while church members are giving less to their churches.

On this cusp of something new, there has never been a better time for Southern Baptists to settle the lordship issue about money and honor the Lord through tithes and offerings. (BP)

Ashley Clayton is vice president for Cooperative Program and stewardship with the SBC Executive Committee.



COMMENTARY



Left: Eugene Russell offers narration and musicianship with his saxophone to a Baltimore-themed Send North America luncheon June 9 during the Southern Baptist Pastors' Conference.

Above: More than 3,000 people attended the luncheon, which immersed attendees in a story of the city's 200-year history.

(Photos by John Swain)

More than 3,000 pack NAMB's Send North America luncheon, theatrical 'tour' of Baltimore

By Tobin Perry

NAMB report: Gospel conversations emphasized

By Adam Miller

Baltimore—North American Mission Board President Kevin Ezell exhorted messengers at the recent Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting to join in reaching communities for Christ through "gospel conversations."

"We have much to celebrate, but there is still much to be done," Ezell said.

Among the most pressing of tasks for Southern Baptists is that of individual believers living a life on mission by sharing the gospel in their communities.

Ezell said he and other Southern Baptist leaders are grieved by the number of baptisms being reported among churches in North America. Despite some years of increase, overall population growth has dramatically outpaced baptism rates.

A decrease in baptisms is the impetus behind NAMB's introduction of the "3 Circles" evangelism tool developed at First Baptist Church of West Palm Beach, Fla., led by pastor Jimmy Scroggins. Scroggins joined Ezell during NAMB's presentation to share about the simplicity of gospel conversations.

Now incorporated into a mobile app and printed and distributed as the "3 Circles: Life Conversation Guide," NAMB's evangelism guide offers believers a simple and versatile tool for presenting and explaining the gospel in everyday conversation (see more in Todd Deaton's editorial on page 4).

Evangelistic church planting

An emphasis on evangelism and a focus on evangelistic church planting, Ezell said, is how Southern Baptists can hope to see a shift in North America's understanding of and response to the gospel. Thus far, the response has been encouraging.

Ezell reported that of 943 churches started in 2010, 856 (91 percent) are still thriving. In the most recent year of reporting, those churches baptized 3,394 people, grew in membership by 20 percent and gave \$2.9 million toward mission efforts.

In 2013, Ezell said Southern Baptists added 1,105 congregations in North America, including 936 church plants—more than half of which are non-Anglo congregations.

"If we're serious about reaching North America, we need to reflect the diversity and background of the people we hope to reach," Ezell said as he shared NAMB's appointment of church planting catalysts to help facilitate the practice among three of North America's largest ethnic groups—Hispanics, Chinese and Koreans.



Montreal Church Planter David Pothier (right) presents North American Mission Board President Kevin Ezell with a personalized Montreal Canadiens hockey jersey during his report to the Southern Baptist Convention.

Achieving the impossible

Among the stories of people reaching their own community is that of Montreal native David Pothier at La Chapelle church, a congregation of more than 700. Not only did the church reach hundreds of people, but last year they baptized 100—in a city many may consider to be decidedly secular.

"Montreal is by far the most challenging of all (Send North America) cities," Ezell said. "It's perhaps the most spiritually dark place in North America."

Joining Ezell onstage were La Chapelle Church Planter David Pothier, a native of Montreal, and new believer Cedric Dumoulin, who

visited the church for the first time at the invitation of a friend.

Dumoulin did not come as result of outreach methods at La Chapelle. He came because of a friend, and he stayed because of the church's welcoming and worshipful environment.

"From the first music notes, I felt the presence of God for the first time. And during the message all the deepness of my soul was touched. It led me to read Scriptures, find God and find life in God," Dumoulin said. "When God arrived in my life, everything changed. Now I want to live for God—not just with God but for God."

Also in his report, Ezell paid tribute to the leaders of Baptist state conventions in the South through whose leadership church planting funds have been allocated to locations such as Baltimore and other North American cities where churches are scarce.

Ezell said a new funding model these leaders adopted will put \$8 million annually into non-South regions.

"I'm grateful for the leadership of these men, I'm grateful for their friendship, and I'm grateful for their sacrifice," Ezell said. (BP)

Baltimore—More than 3,000 Southern Baptist pastors and leaders experienced the city of Baltimore without having to leave their seats during a sold-out Send North America luncheon, held in conjunction with the Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting.

The luncheon immersed participants in a sweeping 200-year story of this year's SBC host city through a theatrical narrative played out in the midst of a variety of iconic representations of Baltimore, such as Orioles Park at Camden Yards and Baltimore Harbor.

"Every month there are 'Catch the Vision' tours in cities all over North America, helping pastors and churches get a glimpse of what potentially could happen in those cities if they understand the needs in those cities," North American Mission Board President Kevin Ezell said. "That's the reason we thought we'd give you the opportunity to catch the vision for Baltimore."

The city's highlights begin in 1814 when Francis Scott Key who, after watching the defense of Fort McHenry during the War of 1812, penned what would become known as the "Star Spangled Banner." He later played a central role in starting churches in frontier areas. The story then followed the city's growth throughout the 19th and early 20th centuries—producing cultural, social and spiritual icons like Frederick Douglass, Annie Armstrong, Johns Hopkins and Babe Ruth.

But the city's upward trajectory dramatically switched gears after World War II, ultimately leading to multiple decades of economic, social and spiritual decline. Participants were introduced to the stories of several longtime Baltimore believers who had been praying for spiritual awakenings in their churches and city.

Finally participants were taken through the story of the city's rebirth, starting roughly a quarter century ago with the rebirth of the Inner Harbor. They also were introduced to the beginning of a spiritual rebirth in the city through the story of a church plant.

Luncheon participants were urged to find the story of where they live within the story of Baltimore.

"You have an opportunity," Narrator Eugene Russell said. "We pray that your story, just like our story, is to be continued. So go, write the next chapter in the story of your town."

Aaron Coe, NAMB's vice president for mobilization and marketing, connected the urbanization of Baltimore to the growing urbanization of North America.

"In North America, every square inch has been touched by density and diversity," he said. "More people live there and it's more diverse today. We, as churches, are now faced with a mission field that is very different than the one we faced 50 years ago. We believe the lessons we're learning in a place like this town can apply in places like your town."

"For the Send North America vision to move from just a few churches and a few people into a movement, we have to move the conversation forward to the people who sit in our churches," Coe added. "We have to communicate a vision that everybody's life on mission matters." (BP)

Seventh Metro

Continued from page 1

highways and the byways of Baltimore and compel lost men and women, boys and girls to come."

Palmer baptized a young woman during the service. She had accepted Jesus a day earlier during the Crossover Baltimore evangelism event that precedes the Southern Baptist Convention's annual meeting.

A pastor's struggle

The membership of the church rose to as high as 70 one month after Palmer became pastor, but with no leaders or staff to help, membership quickly waned. Palmer was overworked, leading the church as a staff of one bolstered by his wife who was diagnosed with multiple sclerosis in 2000 and is now legally blind.

"The problem that I ran into, I have no deacons, I have no trustees, I have no Sunday School teachers, no associate ministers—and these were all first-time believers" who needed to be discipled, Palmer said. "They were multi-ethnic and going in 70 different directions. ... I began to pull back a little bit."

At his lowest point, Palmer recalled, he felt defeated and powerless to continue.

"The reality is I fell on my face in the pastor's office and I cried out," he said. "And my honest response was, 'God, I can't do this.' I said, 'God, I've never seen so many needy people in my life, and I'm so ill-equipped to do anything about it.'"

God "took me to the Book of Haggai," which says, "Who is left among you who saw this temple in its former days? And just like in Haggai, the folks who were here, we weren't here in the days of (Southern Baptist leader) Richard Fuller and Annie Armstrong and (former pastor) Dr. John Henry Day.

"And (God) says, 'Well how does it look to you now?' And I paused right

there and began to make an assessment. And when you keep reading, it says, 'Does it seem like nothing?' I said, 'How did You know?'"

While Fuller was an SBC founder who championed slavery as a biblically sanctioned institution, the Seventh Metro of today serves a diverse and eclectic community.

"We are a city, and we are well past the day when the Sunday worship hour is going to be the most segregated hour," Palmer said. "There's not one ethnic group. There's not one particular economic situation or educational background. ... We also have heroin addicts, unemployed, homeless folk of all ethnicities. So, there's not one homogeneous kind of ethnics here. It's a city and Seventh Metro helps us to identify with that culture."

Financially limited, Seventh Metro remains fully engaged in the community through several ministries and initiatives. Sunday School is known as the Fulfillment Hour. R.E.A.L. Men is an open Bible study to equip men as leaders. Ethos is a Friday night ministry to teenagers, offering workshops, an open mic and reinforcing moral behavior through acting, writing, spoken word, dance and visual arts.

The Point is Seventh Metro's outreach on the campus of Morgan State University and includes worship, fellowship and Christian instruction. Palmer also serves as the advisor to the school's Baptist Student Ministry.

Palmer refers to the church as a "third place," envisioning it as a place people readily want to attend after caring for their families and working at their jobs.

"I believe your first place should be home," he said. "Second place, by virtue of culture, we spend 40 or more hours a week at work. Third place for us is when I'm not at home and I'm not at work, this is where I want to be. This is where I want to hang out. This is where I want to grow and connect and move and laugh and cry." (BP)



Three Forks Baptists walk 67 miles for shower trailer

Hazard—Imagine it: The house has been flooded. The walls and anything two feet off the floor are caked in mud and all manner of debris—including the homeowners, because for the last 18 hours they have been working to salvage what is left.

So, just how far would they walk for a hot shower?

According to Kentucky Baptist Disaster Relief volunteer Jamie Reynolds, he has known disaster victims who have trekked great distances to feel some shred of normalcy.

"Most of us just walk from the bedroom to the bathroom," he said, "but if you've been involved in a disaster situation and your house is destroyed and the water is cut off, you'd probably walk a mile or more to get a shower and put on some clean clothes."

Reynolds, interim director of missions for Three Forks Baptist Association, recently led an effort to raise awareness of Kentucky Baptist Disaster

Relief by walking 67 miles across four counties in only three days.

"I think responding to disasters is one of the best things we do as Southern Baptists in terms of meeting real needs in a way that gives the opportunity to present the gospel," Reynolds said.

Kentucky Baptist Disaster Relief is a ministry of the Kentucky Baptist Convention that trains and sends teams of volunteers to disasters around the world. Three Forks Association has more than 70 trained disaster relief volunteers and recently sent two teams to help homeowners in New York deal with the muddy mess after Hurricane Sandy.

Reynolds said the secondary purpose of the "I'd Walk a Mile ... for a Shower" event was to raise \$10,000 to build a portable shower unit that can be set up by volunteers at a disaster response.

"This shower trailer will also assist our Three Forks Baptist Association churches in being able to host mission teams,"

□ See Walk-a-thon ... Page 8



Leslie Palmer (second from right), wife of Seventh Metro Baptist Church Pastor Ryan Palmer, prays for community members June 7 outside the Baltimore church during the Crossover Baltimore evangelistic outreach in advance of the Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting. (Photo by Bob Carey)

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Memories of OBI

2014 graduate shares story of her experience on the Oneida campus

For the next two weeks, I will be running Oneida experiences as told by some of our 2014 graduates. This week's column features a young lady from New York who attended OBI for five years.

I didn't know I was coming to OBI until the day before I left my house to come. That is one of the saddest days of my life.

The main obstacles I had to overcome when I got to Oneida were my poor hygiene and bashfulness. I was always the outcast of everything until I came to Oneida, which helped me interact with people and make new friends.

It's been five years, but I chose to stay and graduate, because I knew this is where I had to be. OBI offered me the opportunity to meet people from all over the world, and I've made unforgettable friendships. When I first enrolled, I was just mainly looking for a new group of friends. I also got involved in activities I thought I'd never do. Here at Oneida I started getting involved in sports, which was a huge step for me. I had fun with them and my teammates.

I have worked every job on campus except for the farm. The one I enjoyed the most was being the second-floor hall monitor. A lot of girls used to talk to me about all kinds of things when I came to their rooms at night, and I loved the fact that they respected me. I learned how to be a good role model to the younger ones and how to be a good listener.

Chapel has taught me so many good worship songs that I'll never forget. The very first song I fell in love with in 2009 was "He Loves Us." That song gets to me every time. Oneida has helped my spiritual growth.

There are countless lessons I had to learn at OBI. I had to learn how to be independent and take certain responsibilities at a young age, and that was very hard for me. I learned there's not always someone who is going to be there. No matter what I went through, I learned to keep my head up and move forward, because everything happens for a reason.

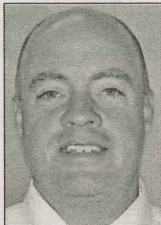
Coming here, I've gained knowledge on life itself and how it can just change up on you. I gained self-control and the ability to make someone else smile even when I'm down myself. I hope to continue that after I graduate.

I plan to go to Union College in the fall. I would like to be a high school counselor if that's what God has planned for me. I've decided to let Him lead the way from here on out. A part of me actually feels as if I'm ready for my future role in society.

I'm ready to see what God is going to do with me and how He's going to use me to touch people. I would like to help impact someone's life in the way Oneida has impacted mine. Oneida will be a great memory of when my life changed from the moment I got there.

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

This is Oneida



Larry Gritton

'Servant of the churches'

There are preachers available at Clear Creek, who would've thought?

Let me suggest one place Kentucky Baptist pastors may miss obvious solutions to common problems. Here are some examples:

■ It is the middle of May and you are making final plans for the Southern Baptist Convention. One detail remains untended: You don't have a pulpit supply plan. Who do you call when everyone you know is at the same convention?

■ You have had a hard day. You keep reminding yourself of the "golden rule" of the pastorate ("never resign on Monday"). To keep your sanity and perspective, you look longingly at your well-laid vacation plans. Then, all of a sudden, you are thrust mentally back into the pastorate: "Who is going to preach while I am away?"

Let's face it. Even though the Jeremiah "fire in the bones" thing is still true, sometimes it is hard to find a supply preacher for the exact Sunday you need to be away. Could I suggest one possible solution? There are preachers at Clear Creek who don't have a weekly preaching assignment.

We have two great options for pulpit supply. First, our Christian service office keeps a list of students who are available for pulpit supply.

When students go out for pulpit supply, several wonderful things happen. A pastor gets a much-deserved break; a church gets to hear a new voice in the pulpit; a student gets experience, encouragement and an opportunity to serve the King. A few years later, after several similar experiences, a church gets a pastor who may have never served as pastor before, but still has confidence in the pulpit that comes from being used before by the Lord.

Another option is faculty and staff availability. Not all of our faculty or staff members are currently serving a church as pastor. One of our core values just happens to be "servant of the churches." We have faculty, staff members and administrators who are willing to fill the pulpit while you are away.

Then you might ask: "What about the president?" I was hoping you would ask. If you call, and I am not otherwise already obligated, I would be honored to preach at your station of service.

Donnie Fox is president of Clear Creek Baptist Bible College, 300 Clear Creek Road, Pineville, KY 40977; toll-free: (866) 340-3196; ccbbc.edu; email: dfox@ccbbc.edu.

Clear Creek Chronicle



Donnie Fox

Regional SPOTLIGHT



Todd Gray
West

Editor's note: The Western Recorder has enlisted the Kentucky Baptist Convention's six regional consultants to periodically highlight an individual, church or ministry that is doing exceptional things for God's kingdom in the regions in which the consultants serve. As they share the stories with us, we will share them with you in the "Regional Spotlight."

If Hopkinsville, pop. 32,966, had an inner city, then Means Avenue Baptist Church would be at the heart of it.

The church was started as a mission of Hopkinsville's Second Baptist Church in 1979 as Pennyrite Baptist Mission. In 1995, the mission constituted as Means Avenue Baptist Church. By the time the church called Buddy Slaughter as pastor, it had only seven people in attendance and offered no intentional ministry to the multiplied needs of its community.

Today, the church averages more than 170 Sunday morning worshippers and has baptized more than 90 people in the eight years Buddy has served as pastor. When asked what God has used to reach people and grow the church, Buddy notes quickly and clearly that the church's evangelism strategy is "loving people through relationships; that's the main outreach."

While his answer is true, there is more to how the church builds these relationships. Buddy uses the word "intentional" to describe the church's approach to ministry. From the church's food pantry and clothing ministry to its mentoring and tutoring programs, intentional evangelism is at the center of all that Means Avenue does in its community ministry.

One of its ministries is a tutoring program for school-aged children. From Tuesday through Friday, the church opens its doors to 40-60 children who walk to the building, are dropped off by a school bus or brought by their parents. When they arrive in the afternoon, they are greeted by church members who sign them in and direct them to the appropriate classrooms. In each room is an instructor—a church member—who helps the kids complete their homework assignments.

After homework, the students then have devotionals and Bible study. They then enjoy snacks and free time, playing basketball, cornhole or work in the

computer lab, before being dismissed at 5:30 p.m.

The tutoring ministry has allowed Buddy and members of Means Avenue to build relationships with the children and their parents. Those involved in the ministry love the children, pray for them and minister beyond the church building. Buddy says that ministries like these are key to the church rubbing elbows with the unchurched and de-churched in the community.

Another ministry offered by the church that focuses on children and families is the summer Boys Boot Camp, held each Saturday in June and July. From 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., about 15 boys, ages 8 to 17, enter into a structured program where they learn life skills and experience caring relationships.

The day starts with a breakfast that the boys help cook. They learn how to boil rice, make oats and clean up after themselves. When the breakfast dishes are put away, it is time for exercise. The routine includes walking, running and basic calisthenics.

The young men then complete a hands-on project, learning to use hand tools in order to build a cornhole set, change the oil in a car or change a tire.

"Rap Session" is next in which the boys and their adult male leaders talk about real-life issues. The discussions include talks on sex, relationships, fear, bullying, etc. In one discussion Pastor Buddy reveals the behind-the-scenes reality of rap music and its artists. Buddy lets the kids know these performers are not living as large as they may appear.

Lunch follows, where, again, the boys help cook and clean up. They then boys have Bible study followed by free time for basketball and other games.

Through interacting with the boys, the men build relationships that become a platform for the gospel. With Pastor Buddy, it is all about loving people and getting them to Jesus. He believes in meeting needs, but understands every person's greatest need is to know Christ.

The church also has a duplicate program for girls called Young Women of God, led by the women of the church. It hosts 23 female participants and meets on the second and fourth Saturdays during the year.

These are only a few of the ministries at Means Avenue Baptist Church. Regardless of what type of ministry the church introduces, the goal for each is to foster intentional connections that develop into real relationships and become a platform for the gospel. Pastor Buddy and the Means Avenue congregation are being used of God to make a difference in the Hopkinsville community where God has placed them.



Buddy Slaughter

Walk-a-thon

Continued from page 7

Reynolds said. "All of our churches have floor space and kitchens, but hardly any of them have showers. This will enable our local churches to host mission teams in our area, which we get a lot of."

The average cost to build the portable unit with four separate shower rooms and a small laundry area is \$25,000 and, so far, Three Forks has received about half that amount from local Baptist churches

and private donations. Reynolds said participants collected sponsors to make a pledges for each mile walked.

Coy Webb, the KBC's disaster relief director, said the event "captures the heart of the disaster ministry and not only raises awareness, but also will provide them with an evangelism tool that can be used to fulfill the Great Commission through servant ministry."

The walk-a-thons were held June 17, 19 and 21. Reynolds said participants walked an average of 22 miles a day as they made their way from Jenkins to Hyden. (KBC)

OBITUARIES

Lonnie Sheets

Longtime pastor and director of missions Lonnie Sheets died June 11. He was 74 years old.

Sheets spent 39 years in ministry. Sandwiched between time as a pastor in a number of Kentucky Baptist churches, he led Lynn Baptist Association as its DOM for 17 years until his retirement in 2006.

Most recently, Sheets had served as pastor of Mount Olivet Baptist Church in Munfordville. His other pastorates included Three Forks Bacon Creek Baptist Church in Magnolia and Rowletts

Baptist Church in Munfordville.

Born in Harlan County, Sheets was raised in the West Virginia mountains. After serving six years in the U.S. Army, he worked in the electronics industry before accepting a call to the ministry in 1975 and heading to Clear Creek Baptist Bible College.

Sheets is survived by his wife, Pat, two children and four grandchildren.

Funeral services were held June 14 at Mount Olivet Baptist Church. Memorials can be made to The Gideons International or the hospice care at T.J. Samson Hospital in Glasgow.



The Conference of Southern Baptist Evangelists elected a new slate of officers during its annual meeting June 6-8 in Baltimore, prior to the Southern Baptist Convention.

The new officers are (from left): David Stockwell, secretary-treasurer; Kay Cox, recording secretary; Amy Stockwell, music director; Richard Hamlet, president; Phil Glisson, vice president; Gaye Ramsey, assistant music director.

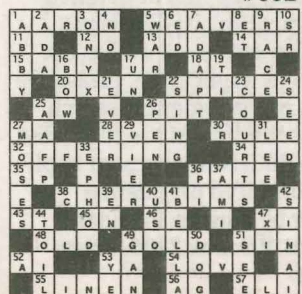
(Photo by Joni Hannigan)

Bible Crosswords

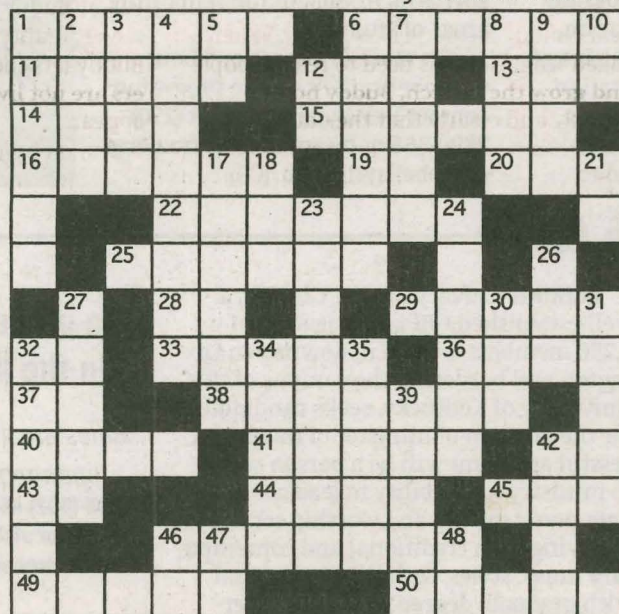
Across

- 1 Biblical river
- 6 Longest book in the Bible
- 11 Female friends, Fr.
- 12 "There is death in the ____" (2 Kings 4:40)
- 13 Where those who are alive will meet the Lord when He comes again (1 Thessalonians 4:17)
- 14 "He esteemeth ____ as straw" (Job 41:27)
- 15 "She hid them with the ____ of flax" (Joshua 2:6)
- 16 Ceremonial form of prayer
- 19 Asian tree
- 20 When you'll get there, more or less, abbr.
- 22 John the Baptist's was made of camel hair (Matthew 3:4)
- 25 What a baby needs changed
- 28 Hesitant syllable
- 29 Jonathan shot this to warn David not to return to Saul's house
- 32 Route, abbr.
- 33 Joseph's brothers had these searched to find his silver cup
- 36 The eleventh letter of the Hebrew alphabet
- 37 Exclamation of surprise and triumph
- 38 God sent Jonah to warn this city
- 40 The wise men
- 41 Put off till a later time
- 42 Exist
- 43 Article that precedes a vowel

#002



By Elizabeth Smith



#003

- 44 Firstborn son of Isaac and Rebecca
- 45 Chum
- 46 Severely
- 49 Bitter water was turned to this at Marah
- 50 Abraham's father
- 12 Addendum at the end of the letter, abbr.
- 17 Told by Elisha to wash himself seven times in the River Jordan
- 18 Yelp
- 21 Albert's nickname
- 23 One of the Spirit's fruit, a lowly spirit
- 24 Modern-day country where Noah's Ark is rumored to be
- 26 Spinning toy
- 27 Son of Kishi (1 Chronicles 6:44)
- 30 Cheer
- 31 Ezekiel saw this in his visions
- 32 Sixth book of the New Testament
- 34 Apple drink
- 35 Psalm word
- 39 Burial chamber
- 42 "Valley of ____" (Psalms 84:6)
- 46 Masculine pronoun
- 47 Preposition indicating location
- 48 King James Version of you

Crossings' eternal impact

Lives have been forever changed through decades of camp ministry

Why do I love camp ministry? There are literally numerous reasons, many more than would fit in this article or even on this full page, honestly.

The impact God has brought about on my and my family's life is beyond words. I firmly believe the salvation experiences of each of our kids are all, in part, due to their witness of countless preachers and staff proclaiming the gospel at camp.

Beyond my family, seeing God's grace worked out in the lives of all the staff who have served with the ministry is an incredible blessing. Even beyond our current staff, getting to meet the people from the past 60 years who have been forever changed because of God's impact on them while at Cedarmore or Jonathan Creek helps us understand that we are part of something much larger than people or a simple camp or retreat experience.

I must also confess I love the variety of what we get to do throughout any given year. While not everyone enjoys the unknown and variety, I am so blessed that God allows me to be a part

of this ministry.

Throughout the past 14 years, we at Crossings have partnered with numerous international missions groups and the impact, again, is beyond words.

This summer, the offerings given by campers will surpass the \$1 million mark. Think about that, campers have given more than \$1 million for missions all around the world. That is amazing.

Finally, beyond all that I have listed, what I love most is what I witnessed last night. In worship, with the lights on and eyes open, the invitation was to stand if you needed Christ as

Lord and Savior of your life—more than 30 students stood. Their eternity is forever changed, and that is just one night of camp.

There is nothing better to witness than Christ exchanging our sin for His righteousness. In 2 Corinthians 5:21 it says, "For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God." That is the news we get to proclaim each day at Crossings. The gospel is why I love this ministry.

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

Crossings Ministries



David Melber

OBITUARIES
SUNRISE
Children's Services

Helping children in crisis shine.



"THE HARVEST IS PLENTIFUL, BUT THE WORKERS ARE FEW." Matthew 9:37

There are a lot of ways to help rescue these children who find themselves in troubled homes. Please thoughtfully consider bringing in a child and sheltering them from their storm. Or perhaps you can be generous with your support of those who do. Visit sunrise.org or call 1.855.33.iCARE.

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Paducah - Bowling Green - Louisville - Lexington - Danville - Florence

WESTERN Recorder + Your church newsletter
TWO GREAT PUBLICATIONS, ONE LESS POST OFFICE HEADACHE



June

- 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.

MOUNTAINS TO THE MISSISSIPPI

COMPILED BY STAFF

EDDYVILLE—First Church hosted a Revive Prayer Walk at Lyon County High School's Jason White Gymnasium June 22. **Tim Perdue** is pastor.

LOUISVILLE—Carlisle Avenue Church will hold an Independence Day Celebration July 2, 6:30 p.m., with music, videos and a prayer for the nation. **Brad Walker** is pastor.

Fern Creek Church will hold a luncheon and patriotic concert June 29, 12:15 p.m. **Linda Barnes**

Popham is pastor.

Ralph Avenue Church will hold a Fifth Sunday Singing June 29, 6 p.m. An ice cream fellowship will follow the music. **Samuel Vance** is pastor.

St. Matthews Church will host Grammy-winning singer **Larnelle Harris** in concert in honor of Independence Day July 1, 7 p.m. The church's choir and orchestra will also perform. Tickets are \$10 per person and are available by calling (855) 223-1008, visiting

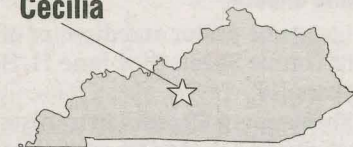
www.AttendStar.com, or at any Louisville-area LifeWay Christian Store. **Greg Barr** is pastor.

RUSSELLVILLE—First Church will host **Lakeside** in concert June 29, 6 p.m. For more information, call (270) 726-2468. **Buddy Crabtree** is pastor.

VERSAILLES—Versailles Church recently called **Jonathan Berry** as minister to adults. He previously was associate pastor at First Church of Whitesburg. **Michael Cabell** is pastor.

Spotlight on ...

Cecilia



Cecilia Church will celebrate its 195th anniversary June 29 with a special service with **Erdie Carter Jr.**, pastor of Glasgow Church, and **Arnold Moon**, director of missions for Grayson County Association, as guest speakers. **Eric Oliver** is pastor.

Campbellsville online theology master's program ranked among country's best

Chicago—Campbellsville University's online theology master's degree program has been ranked among the country's best by the website, TheBestSchools.org.

"The School of Theology's programs are at the heart of what we seek to do at CU in providing academic excellence in a Christ-centered environment," said John Chowning, Campbellsville's vice president of church & external relations.

"This recognition of our online graduate theology program reflects that commitment to excellence and providing our students with life-changing academic training, whether in the traditional classroom setting, online or in a blended format."

"For Campbellsville University to be recognized with the likes of Liberty Online, sister SBC institutions (Southwestern and Golden Gate Baptist Theological seminaries), as well as other great evangelical and Roman Catholic institutions puts us in great company," said John Hurtgen, dean of the School of Theology. (See list at right for the website's top 10-ranked online theology master's degree programs.)

The website ranked institutions based on academic and program quality, the school's reputation, courses offered, awards, rankings, faculty strength and reputation for providing online programs.

"We have a team of scholar practitioners that is second to

none," Hurtgen said. "'Producing world changers for Christ' is our goal, and the master of theology has enabled us to invest in the lives of Christian ministers who are serving Christ and God's kingdom across the United States."

The 30 credit-hour program of graduate theological and ministerial training provides an 18-hour emphasis in one of three areas—pastoral leadership, biblical studies or theological studies. The final 12 hours are completed by taking six hours in each of the remaining areas of study.

For more information about Campbellsville's online programs, contact DeWayne Frazier at (270) 789-5368 or by email at dpfrazier@campbellsville.edu. (CU)

Top 10 Online Theology Master's Degree Programs

1. University of Dallas
2. Calvin Theological Seminary, Grand Rapids, Mich.
3. Iliff School of Theology, Denver
4. Liberty University Online, Lynchburg, Va.
5. Saint Leo University, St. Leo, Fla.
6. Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, Texas
7. Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary, Mill Valley, Calif.
8. Campbellsville University
9. Columbia International University, Columbia, S.C.
10. Saint Joseph's College, Rensselaer, Ind.

Source: TheBestSchools.org

CLASSIFIED ADS

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

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

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

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

SEEKING: 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 or Gracey West Union Baptist Church, P.O. Box 154, Gracey, KY 42232.

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

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

SEEKING: Emmanuel Baptist Church in Shelbyville, Ky., is looking for a part-time music leader. Please send resumé to [k bkimes@gmail.com](mailto:kbkimes@gmail.com).

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

SEEKING: Calvary Baptist Church, a well-established CBF congregation of 1,750 members located in downtown Lexington and bordering the campus of the University of Kentucky, seeks candidates for the position of minister of music. Successful applicant will be a person called to ministry with ability to lead/coordinate music groups and worship services involving both traditional and contemporary music styles. Ordained individual with graduate degree preferred. Interested individuals are invited to view further information at www.calvarybaptistchurch.com. Resumés may be sent to musicprogram@calvarybaptistchurch.com or mailed to Calvary Baptist Church, 150 E. High St., Lexington, KY 40507 to the attention of the Minister of Music Search Committee. Applications are welcomed until the position is filled.

SEEKING: Brownsville Missionary Baptist Church in Brownsville, Ky., is prayerfully accepting resumés for the full-time position of pastor. Please send resumé with references and a CD/DVD/Internet link of a sermon to: Pulpit Committee, Attn: Scottie Woodcock, P.O. Box 310, Brownsville, KY 42210.

SEEKING: Campground Baptist in Somerset, Ky., is prayerfully seeking a full-time pastor. Please send resumé (references, tape/CD/VHS/DVD or Internet link of sermons, if available) to: Campground Baptist, Attn: Pulpit Committee, 3500 N. Hwy. 1247, Somerset, KY 42503. Resumés may also be sent to sksatravis@gmail.com.

SEEKING: The board of trustees of the Tennessee Baptist Children's Homes, Inc. announce the formation of a committee to select the ministry president/treasurer

To place an advertisement in the Western Recorder:

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



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elect. The Tennessee Baptist Children's Homes, Inc. cares for children in crisis in residential care at five locations across Tennessee and a statewide foster care program. The president/treasurer provides leadership and general supervision to this 123-year-old ministry as approved and directed by the board of trustees. Applications and nominations are being accepted during June and July 2014. To be considered, all applications and nominations must be received by the close of business Thursday, July 31. For detailed information regarding qualifications, skills and position duties, as well as the TBCH employment application, please see www.tbch4kids.org/presidentialsearch.html. Interested candidates are requested to complete the TBCH employment application and forward it to president@tbch4kids.org or by mail to: President/Treasurer Search, P.O. Box 2206, Brentwood, TN 37024.

Ky. Baptist all-state youth choir & orchestra kick off tour

Campbellsville—The Kentucky Baptist All-State Youth Choir kicks off its 25th season June 25, at Campbellsville Baptist Church with more than 70 young vocalists from across the state—29 of whom are also musicians who will perform as the All-State Youth Orchestra.

The six-stop tour will be led by guest conductors Mickey Ballard, the minister of music and worship at Central Baptist Church in Paris, and David McCullough, a former director of bands at Campbellsville University.

Ballard has conducted both the KBC Men's Chorale and the youth choir in recent years. His wife, Sue Ellen, will serve as the choir's accompanist. McCullough, music department chair at University of North Alabama, returns for a fourth year as orchestra conductor.

Performances will be held:

- June 25, 6:30 p.m., at Campbellsville Baptist Church.
- June 26, 7 p.m., at Springfield (Tenn.) Baptist Church.
- June 27, 11 a.m., at Lifeway Christian Resources Plaza, Nashville, Tenn.
- June 28, 10:30 a.m., Western Kentucky Veterans Center, Hanson.
- June 28, 7 p.m., Lone Oak First Baptist Church, Paducah.
- June 29, 10:45 a.m. & 3 p.m., First Baptist Church, Hopkinsville.

2014 ALL-STATE YOUTH CHOIR:

Soprano

Olivia Baird, Hartford Baptist
Cierra Bowman, Parkland Baptist, Louisville
Molly Carnall, First Baptist, Shepherdsville

Ashley Chandler, Lone Oak First Baptist, Paducah
Callie Copeland, Albany Baptist
Reilly McDonald, First Baptist, Hopkinsville
Brooklynn Moore, Beaver Dam Baptist
Hannah Robb, Parkland Baptist, Louisville
Kaitlyn Taylor, Main Street Baptist, Williamsburg
Courtney Thompson, First Baptist, Frankfort
Chelsea Arnold, Hartford Baptist
Leah Beach, Lone Oak First Baptist, Paducah
Sarahbeth Cox, First Baptist, Brandenburg
Hadley George, First Baptist, Shelbyville
Abby Pickett, First Baptist, Shepherdsville
Paige Ruddel, First Baptist, Fisherville
Rebecca Sams, Millville Baptist, Frankfort
Olivia Swadley, Lone Oak First Baptist, Paducah
Hannah Vinson, Scottsville Baptist

Alto

Kylee Auten, Highland Park First Baptist, Louisville
Arianna Baird, Horse Cave Baptist
Michaela Bowman, First Baptist, London
Shelby Caudel, Horse Cave Baptist
Emily Couch, First Baptist, Lawrenceburg
Hannah Deaton, Hurstbourne Baptist, Louisville
Mildred Dominguez, First Baptist, Albany
Abigail Etherton, New Horizon Baptist, Elizabethtown
Jenny Fackler, First Baptist, Brandenburg
Morgan Fathergill, Immanuel Baptist, Lexington
Ragan Glover, First Baptist, Madisonville
Rhea Goodman, Rineyville Baptist
Sydney Jessee, Lawrenceburg Baptist
Olivia Kessinger, First Baptist, Brandenburg
Paige Kinman, Versailles Baptist

Rachel Kinman, Versailles Baptist
McKenna Lewis, First Baptist, Lawrenceburg
Anna McKinley, Immanuel Baptist, Elizabethtown
Liah McKinley, Immanuel Baptist, Elizabethtown
Malika McKinley, Immanuel Baptist, Elizabethtown
Rebekah McKinley, Immanuel Baptist, Elizabethtown
Kasey Miracle, First Baptist, Madisonville
Stephanie Morgan, Hartford Baptist
Caitlyn Neal, Rock Haven Baptist, Brandenburg
Kailey Phelps, Burkesville Baptist
Chelsey Pomeroy, First Baptist, Fairdale
Sonya Rodriguez, First Baptist, Hopkinsville
Sara Rolstad, First Baptist, Hopkinsville
Millie Wade, Lone Oak First Baptist, Paducah
Kathryn Weeks, Hurstbourne Baptist, Louisville

Tenor

Matthew Bain, Sovereign Grace Baptist, Lawrenceburg
Jake Ballard, Central Baptist, Paris
Zane Birdsong, Immanuel Baptist, Paducah
Bennett Cobban, First Baptist, Middletown
Tyler Dorris, Highview Baptist, Louisville
Devin Farley, Buck Run Baptist, Frankfort
Nathan King, Lone Oak First Baptist, Paducah
Nathaniel Richey, Burks Branch Baptist, Shelbyville
Robbie Sams, Millville Baptist, Frankfort
Nathanael Sears, First Baptist, Somerset
Evan Stewart, Highview Baptist, Louisville

Bass

Jake Breeding, Rineyville Baptist
Lucas Butler, First Baptist, Brandenburg

Alex Cobb, First Baptist, Owenton
Chase Harberson, Broadway Baptist, Lexington
Glen Hooper, First Baptist, Shepherdsville
Matthew Howerton, Madisonville Baptist
Caelan McDonald, First Baptist, Hopkinsville
Trase Milburn, Highland Park First Baptist, Louisville
Peyton Taylor, Canton Baptist, Cadiz
Ezra Vibbert, Burksville Baptist
Neill Young, Parkway Baptist, Bardstown.

2014 ALL-STATE YOUTH ORCHESTRA:

Flute: Shelby Caudel, Malika McKinley, Caitlyn Neal, Sonya Rodriguez & Millie Wade.

Oboe: Ashley Chandler & Rhea Goodman.

Clarinet: Olivia Baird, Leah Beach, Michaela Bowman, Kailey Phelps, Nathaniel Richey & Paige Ruddell.

Bass Clarinet: Stephanie Morgan.

Bassoon: Rebekah McKinley.

Alto Saxophone: Jake Ballard & Chase Harberson.

French Horn: Glen Hooper, Tyler Dorris, Caelan McDonald, Sara Rolstad, Olivia Swadley & Hannah Vinson.

Trumpet: Liah McKinley.

Euphonium: Morgan Fathergill.

Tuba: Nathan King & Bennett Cobban.

Percussion: Reilly McDonald & Anna McKinley.

The Kentucky Baptist All-State Youth Choir began in 1989 and the Kentucky Baptist All-State Orchestra began in 1995. Each winter and spring, students in grades 9-12 audition for the choir and orchestra. This year's choir consists of 71 high school vocalists, 29 of whom were selected to play in the orchestra. (KBC)

Billy Graham's grandson discusses leadership, military service at COSBE meeting

By Karen Willoughby & Joni Hannigan

Baltimore—U.S. Army Maj. Edward Graham, the youngest son of Franklin Graham, fielded questions about his military service and his grandfather, Billy Graham, during the annual worship service held by the Conference of Southern Baptist Evangelists.

"The last time my grandfather ever spoke publicly was here in Baltimore," Edward Graham said in a Q&A with outgoing COSBE Eric Ramsey. "He's a loving grandfather—generous."

The Army Ranger said his father, Franklin, "is a very shy man," but one who is patient, exhibiting one of the marks of a great leader.

"Leaders take risks and never make the same mistake again," Graham added. "That's the kind of leader I want to be."

As a child, Edward Graham told Baptist Press, he was given military toys by his father. This led to a fascination with military history and, in time, to his appointment at West Point. He recently left the leadership of a company of 150 Army Rangers—and several tours of duty in the Middle East—for additional schooling in Kansas.

"God sent His Son to be the leader of His church," Graham said in what became a protracted Q&A on leadership. "He's the greatest leader. He was a servant leader."

"If you're going to be a leader, don't be a zero-defect leader," Graham continued. "People make mistakes. Don't belittle



Eric Ramsey, outgoing president of the Conference of Southern Baptist Evangelists, discusses the role of evangelists in the 21st-century United States during the recent COSBE meeting.

them. ... Don't give up on them."

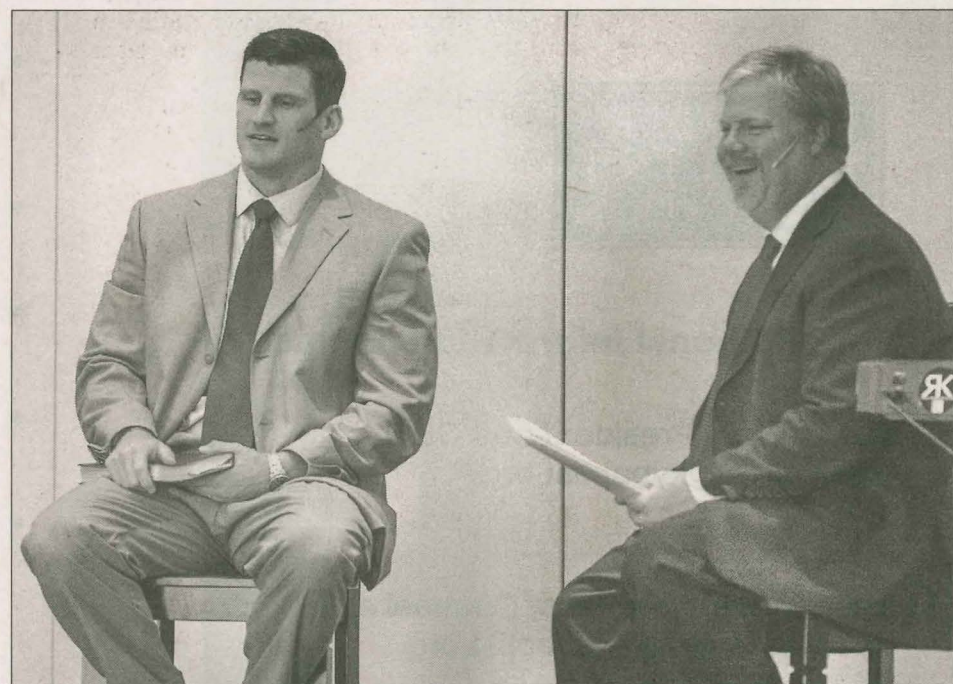
Graham said he votes in elections, except national elections, because his job is to serve whomever is in office. "I vote through prayer," he explained. "Remember why we're here: to win souls for Jesus Christ. We're here as soldiers for Jesus Christ."

Billy Graham rallied for his 95th birthday last November, Edward Graham said, but it took a toll on his body. In these waning days of his life, Graham said his grandfather misses his late wife, Ruth, whom he calls by a Chinese word that means "old woman," and looks forward to spending eternity with Jesus Christ.

Keith Fordham, of Georgia, who opened the worship service, spoke of time-tested evangelistic methodology, which he recapped to BP following the worship service.

"It always works," Fordham said, when people from the church go out, knock on doors and invite people to the evangelistic services.

"We've got fewer door-knockers today," he said. "People would be saved if



U.S. Army Maj. Edward Graham (left), son of Franklin Graham and grandson of evangelist Billy Graham, accepts the Hall of Faith Award on behalf of his father June 8 from Eric Ramsey, president of the Conference of Southern Baptist Evangelists. The award was given during the June 6-8 COSBE meeting in Baltimore. (Photos by Matt Miller)

people talk with them." Fordham then urged the audience to lead one person to Jesus by the end of the year.

Ramsey, ending his second term as COSBE president, wrapped up the service by focusing on the theme, "Answering His Call." In his president's message, he preached from Ephesians 4:11-12.

"God, the creator of the universe, set you apart," said Ramsey, president of

Tom Cox World Ministries in Arkansas. "That's not bragging rights; that gets me on my knees. God called. He gave us a choice."

"Through His church, God provides the means for Him to be made known," Ramsey continued. "God has chosen the church to make manifest the word of God. ... Remember your call when all seems bleak." (BP)

BRIDGING THE GAP

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The Legacy Giving Services of the Kentucky Baptist Foundation are effective tools for churches to utilize to help in **bridging the financial gap**.

Here are some ways the Kentucky Baptist Foundation
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