

WESTERN Recorder

July 15, 2014

Shine Like Stars * Philippians 2:15

Volume 188, Issue 26

Campbellsville Univ. announces plans to elect own trustees

Move could put school in breach of covenant agreement with KBC, threaten Cooperative Program funding



CU Board Chair **Joseph Owens** says the school has 'experienced a significant deterioration in our ongoing relations' with the leadership of the KBC.

KBC Executive Director **Paul Chitwood** says he hopes Campbellsville will honor its covenant agreement with the KBC and maintain their long-standing relationship.



By Todd Deaton

Louisville—Campbellsville University has served notice to Kentucky Baptist Convention leaders that the school intends to create a self-perpetuating board of trustees and welcome non-Baptist trustees on to its 52-member board.

In a called meeting at the Kentucky Baptist Building July 11, Campbellsville's attorney, Jim Straus, also presented a draft copy of significant changes to the university's bylaws and articles of incorporation that will be considered when its board meets July 15.

KBC Executive Director Paul Chitwood issued a letter to KBC Mission Board members following Friday's meeting, stating his hope that Campbellsville leaders will decide to honor its covenant agreement with the KBC and maintain its long-standing relationship with Kentucky

Baptists. The university has been affiliated with the convention since 1938.

Joseph Owens, chair of CU's board of trustees responded to Chitwood's letter Friday evening, saying the school is "disappointed by the decision of the Kentucky Baptist Convention leadership to issue the statement relative to decisions that may be under consideration" by CU's trustees.

"We are saddened by the decision of the current KBC leadership to move away from the traditional relationship that we have enjoyed with past KBC executive directors," said Owens, the pastor of Shiloh Baptist Church in Lexington. "Over the course of the past few weeks, we have experienced a significant deterioration in our ongoing relations with the

□ See Campbellsville ... Page 3

Ky. same-sex marriage ruling 'usurped the will' of voters

By Drew Nichter

Louisville—Traditional marriage advocates have condemned a federal judge's recent ruling that invalidates Kentucky's gay-marriage ban.

Leaders of the Kentucky Baptist Convention and The Family Foundation of Kentucky blasted U.S. District Judge John Heyburn II's July 1 decision to overturn a constitutional amendment that prohibits same-sex marriages in the commonwealth, although the ruling was immediately stayed until August.

KBC Executive Director Paul Chitwood called the decision "tragic and disappointing," saying Judge Heyburn has "once again usurped the will of Kentucky voters."

In February, Heyburn ruled that Kentucky must recognize same-sex marriages performed in other states.

"By declaring gay marriage legal in the commonwealth, Heyburn defied the essential, foundational governing document that ensures order and justice," the state constitution, Chitwood

□ See Gay marriage ... Page 2

By Don Graham

Rio De Janeiro—Locals know it as "Crack-land," a rundown, crime-ridden neighborhood in the heart of Rio de Janeiro where addicts come to get their fix. Many never leave. Crack cocaine is the star attraction, and its victims line Crack-land's streets. They have lost everything to the drug—jobs, homes, families, hope.

But on the outskirts of Crack-land sits a lone refuge inside an unassuming storefront that bears the name Cristolândia—"Christ-land" in Portuguese. It's a ministry created by Brazilian Baptists to offer Crack-land's residents one of the few things they can't buy on the streets: freedom.

Cristolândia provides free meals, clothes, showers and clean beds to addicts, prostitutes and the homeless. If they are ready, it also supplies them the practical help they need to escape their situations and start over. That transformation begins, according to Cristolândia Coordinator Exequias Cerqueira, with Jesus Christ. Every person who comes through Cristolândia's doors hears the gospel. More than 500 have left the streets during the ministry's three-year existence. Even more have

□ See Crack-land ... Page 5



Crack-land

Students share Jesus in the notorious Rio de Janeiro neighborhood

Brazilian Baptist Pastor Carlos Eduardo Mendes Alviso, translator Renata Nascimento Da Costa, Lee Dymond, a campus minister at Auburn University at Montgomery, and International Mission Board Missionary Eric Reese (background) pray over an HIV-positive couple living in Rio de Janeiro's infamous "Crack-land" neighborhood. (Photo by Wilson Hunter)

Judge approves settlement in Sunrise Children's Services case

By Adelle Banks

Louisville—A federal judge has approved a settlement in a 14-year legal battle over government funding for a Kentucky Baptist agency.

The lawsuit started in 2000 when Sunrise Children's Services fired a staffer, Alicia Pedreira, after discovering she was a lesbian. The agency, formerly known as Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children, also was sued by Pedreira and other taxpayers who claimed government money was being used for services "infused with the teachings of the Baptist faith."

□ See Sunrise case ... Page 2



Western Recorder 7-15-2014

James to be nominated for KBC presidency

By Drew Nichter

Bowling Green—Tom James, pastor of Eastwood Baptist Church in Bowling Green, will be nominated as Kentucky Baptist Convention president when the KBC annual meeting convenes Nov. 11 in Bowling Green.

James, a former KBC first vice president and Pastors' Conference president, will be nominated by John Mark Toby, director of missions for Warren Association of Baptists. James is the first announced candidate for the post.

Toby described James as an effective communicator of God's word and a "proven leader who Kentucky Baptists can rely on to move us forward by faith into the future."

"Tom has a heart for God, a connection in the community, a concern for Kentucky and a passion for the world," said Toby, a former KBC president.

James said he has been encouraged in recent years to consider serving as the state convention's top elected leader. It was only after "sensing the leadership of the Holy Spirit in my life," as well as the Lord's leadership that he agreed to be nominated, he said.

"I would like to come alongside to

encourage and support our state executive director and the leadership of our Mission Board," James told the Western Recorder. "I



Tom James

would like to work with our convention staff and churches in discerning ways we might reach more Kentuckians for Christ."

To that end, James said he wants to see a continued statewide emphasis placed on giving through the Cooperative Program. The church has cer-

tainly led by example, giving nearly 12.5 percent of its undesignated receipts through CP, according to records provided by the KBC's finance and business services team.

Eastwood Baptist Church was recognized by the convention last November for giving more than \$253,000 through the Cooperative Program in the 2012-13 fiscal year, the third-highest total among Kentucky Baptist churches.

James also pointed out that the Bowling Green church maintains seven missions

partnerships on five continents.

"Eastwood only had a partnership in Lynch (in eastern Kentucky) when I came to serve as pastor," he recalled.

"I'd like to help see churches revitalized and strengthened with an Acts 1:8 vision to reach people beginning in their Jerusalem and extending out to the ends of the earth," James added.

James has led Eastwood Baptist as pastor since 2004. Prior to that, he served churches in Tennessee and South Carolina.

James was elected the KBC's first vice president in 2012. He was chosen to preach the convention sermon at the 2011 annual meeting and presided over the 2009 Kentucky Baptist Pastors' Conference.

On the Southern Baptist Convention level, James was a member of the Executive Committee from 1999-2004.

James graduated from Stetson University in DeLand, Fla., and earned an M.Div. from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas.

In addition to the church's 12.5 percent giving through the Cooperative Program, the KBC's Annual Church Profile shows Eastwood Baptist reported 22 baptisms in 2013. (WR)

Ky. Baptists' Cooperative Program gifts on pace to match last year's

Louisville—Financial gifts through the Cooperative Program so far this fiscal year appear on track to match last year's total contributions.

Kentucky Baptist churches have given nearly \$17.8 million through the Cooperative Program over the past 10 months, and need to contribute \$4.7 million in the next two months to meet the budgeted goal of \$22.5 million for the fiscal year that ends Aug. 31.

"Our churches are showing their dedication to spreading the gospel around the world by giving to the Cooperative Program," said Paul Chitwood, executive director of the Kentucky Baptist Convention. "These gifts help support ministries in Kentucky, across the country and around the world. And I appreciate the commitment of our churches to join together to take the gospel to the lost."

Lowell Ashby, head of the KBC's finance and business services team, said contributions must remain strong in July and August. Contributions in June exceeded \$1.6 million.

As of now, Ashby said Cooperative Program contributions are less than 1 percent below where they were at the same point last year.

"We need two significant months of CP gifts to finish the course," Ashby said. "Last year, we received more than \$1.9 million per month in July and August. The last two months of this year could be critical in matching last year's total of \$21.8 million."

Ashby said churches also must be mindful that the 2014 fiscal year ends on a Sunday.

"That will most likely push some of this fiscal year's CP receipts into next year unless the churches make a diligent effort to send in their August contributions" before Aug. 28, he said. "We'll keep the books open until Sept. 3 to allow more August gifts to be counted in this fiscal year." (KBC)

Cobble, former Severns Valley pastor, KBC leader, dies

Carrollton, Ga.—John Howard Cobble, a former pastor of Severns Valley Baptist Church in Elizabethtown and president of the Kentucky Baptist Convention, died July 4. He was 78.



J. Howard Cobble

Cobble served as president of the Kentucky Baptist Pastor's Conference in 1987, just prior to serving as KBC president in 1988. He also was a member of the KBC Executive Board, serving on its administrative committee, and served on numerous Kentucky and

Southern Baptist Convention committees.

Severns Valley Baptist Church has a strong tradition for missions and Cooperative Program support, and during Cobble's tenure in the 1980s, the congregation continued to lead the state in total CP receipts. The year he was elected, the church was giving 22.5 percent of its total undesignated receipts through the Cooperative Program and 10.5 percent of all bequests. At the time, the church had begun a \$2 million addition and renovation of its Sunday School space.

Previously, Cobble had presided over the SBC's Executive Committee, serving as

chairman until 1981, when he was called to Severns Valley. He also had been vice president of the Georgia Baptist Convention and president of the Georgia Baptist Pastor's Conference.

A native of Andersonville, Tenn., Cobble earlier served churches in Birmingham, Ala., and Carrollton and Avondale Estates, Ga. A graduate of Carson-Newman College (now University) and Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, he also had been director of student activities and assistant president at Carson-Newman.

Survivors include his wife, Norma, and one daughter. (WR)

Sunrise case

Continued from page 1

Pedreira's employment discrimination claims were dismissed in the courts, but in 2009, the 6th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals permitted the portion of the suit alleging that state-funded activities advanced religion to continue.

"Importantly, the agreement does not indicate there were any Establishment Clause violations by the Commonwealth or Sunrise," said U.S. District Court Judge Charles Simpson III of Louisville, who called the case a "long and winding road."

Sunrise was not a party to the settlement but unsuccessfully tried to halt the agreement between the plaintiffs and the state. Under the agreement, Kentucky officials must commit to ensuring that religious preferences of children in their care are respected. The judge said the agreement, which changes the way the state works with child service providers, did not have to satisfy Sunrise.

Sunrise President Dale Suttles declined to comment, but John Sheller, an attorney for Sunrise, told The Associated Press that Sunrise intends to appeal Simpson's decision.

In a statement to the Western Recorder, Sheller said the appellate courts must now consider the "fatal flaws in the other parties' so-called settlement."

In the meantime, "Sunrise will love and serve Kentucky's most severely abused and neglected children—as it has for nearly 150 years—without abandoning its traditional values or fundamental commitments," Sheller wrote. (RNS)

With additional reporting by the Western Recorder.

Gay marriage

Continued from page 1

wrote in an op-ed article (see the full article on page 4).

In his ruling, Heyburn rebuffed the state's primary argument offered by Gov. Steve Beshear's legal team—that traditional marriages contribute to a stable birth rate which ensures the state's long-term economic stability.

"These arguments are not those of serious people," Heyburn wrote.

"While I agree with the state's argument," Chitwood noted, "it was presented weakly and ... was hardly persuasive."

Judge Heyburn also pointed to a "virtual tidal wave of pertinent doctrinal developments" that, since 1972, have "swept across the constitutional landscape" as justification for the reversal.

Martin Cothran, a senior policy analyst with The Family Foundation of Kentucky, criticized that reasoning, saying it "raises the 'everybody-else-is-doing-it' principle to a judicial doctrine."

"This decision is another indication that we are no longer a nation of laws, but a nation of judges," Cothran said.

Despite the decision, gay marriages are still not yet allowed in Kentucky. Heyburn immediately stayed the ruling until the 6th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals hears same-sex marriage cases from Kentucky, Indiana, Ohio and Tennessee, all of which are set for Aug. 6.

Cothran and Chitwood criticized Heyburn and other judges for forcing policies on citizens.

"Liberal judges have struck another blow against the separation of powers that is an underlying principle of our form of government," Cothran said.

Chitwood said the ruling represents a "departure from the entire scope of civilized human history."

"They turn a blind eye to the historic teachings of every major religion in the world," the KBC exec said. "Determined to alter our society, they have thrown nature, the needs of children and the rights of voters to the wind and cast marriage to the moral gutter." (WR)

Regional
SPOTLIGHTPaul Badgett
East

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."

"People don't care how much you know until they know how much you care."

The catchphrase is recited at almost every conference on church growth. It is not known if Pastor Tommy Reed or Fitzpatrick First Baptist Church of Prestonsburg has a slogan, but that expression would be a perfect fit.

As a result, Fitzpatrick has seen attendance grow from an average of 70 in worship a decade ago to an average of 330 today—that is an amazing 41 percent increase in worship attendance per year.

It should be noted that Fitzpatrick First Baptist is in Floyd County, one of Kentucky's coal-producing counties. In these counties, such church growth is rare.

What is the key to Fitzpatrick's success? It is members' great love for their community and church. A wonderful example of this comes from the pastor, affectionately known as Brother Tommy.

"Our church is a wonderful place to be," he said. "I love being here. I love the precious people. I love our community."

Fitzpatrick First Baptist began as a mission of First Baptist Church of Prestonsburg. It was constituted in 1978. The church was located on the Mountain Parkway until the state highway department widened the highway, forcing the church to move to its present location just up the hollow, right past the Muslim mosque. This would bother some Baptists, but not the folks at Fitzpatrick. They see worshipping next to the mosque as an opportunity to share the gospel with those who do not know the Lord.

Reed's wife, Dawn, has a ministry to the Muslim community she calls "vegetism." Dawn raises extra vegetables in her garden to share with her Muslim friends. In sharing the vegetables with them, she also shares the gospel. Dawn's act of intentional evangelism is her way of telling the Muslims in her neighborhood, "For God so loved the world" The Reeds and the congregation have consistently demonstrated a genuine love for one another, for their church and for their community. It is a church that incorporates the Great Commission with the Great Commandment.

A recent email from Brother Tommy offers an insightful peek into his heart: "Just wanted you to know that I am praying for you today. Most importantly, the Lord loves you so much."

The catalyst for growth at Fitzpatrick comes from Galatians 5:22, "But the fruit of the Spirit is love" John Maxwell said of the fruit of the Spirit, "Fruit represents outward visible behavior." The outward visible behavior of Fitzpatrick First Baptist

says loudly to the community: "We love you." In words familiar to Kentucky Baptists, Fitzpatrick "loves loud."

Reed also praised the church's deacons, calling them "biblical," meaning they love the church by serving it. "My deacons have no desire to rule over the church."

Reed described the deacons as "safe," meaning they can be trusted and are capable of keeping a confidence. "My deacons are interested in growing the church because they love the church and the community," he said.

Speaking about Floyd County, Brother Tommy said, "We not only love them and serve them, but we disciple them." When a new believer is baptized at Fitzpatrick, he or she receives a study Bible and a copy of Thom Rainer's book, "I Am a Church Member." Each new member is also given a service responsibility. That may be as simple as serving breakfast for Sunday school, but every new believer is given something to do in order that he or she might serve others in the body.



Tommy Reed

Fitzpatrick is also a giving church. It currently gives 6 percent of its undesignated receipts through the Cooperative Program. It is not just the gifts, but it is the spirit of giving, doing so as the Bible prescribes in 2 Corinthians 9:7—with a "cheerful heart."

Fitzpatrick cares, serves, disciples, and they are always willing to go. Church members have traveled to Haiti four times. They have been to Mississippi twice to serve victims of Hurricane Katrina. They not only love the people in their community, but they love people in North America, and around the world.

The people at Fitzpatrick First Baptist also proclaim. Pastor Reed will tell you he preaches not because he has to, but because he gets to. In his article, "What People Wish Their Pastors Knew About the Church," Mark Clement writes, "According to more than 85 percent of the people, ... the No. 1 most important thing was ... the preaching."

Reed preaches the Bible as the word of God, and the congregation receives it as such. He knows that preaching is important. Reed said he is excited about his sermon series on the Beatitudes and can hardly wait for Sunday to come. "I am once again humbled by His incredible word."

"In 10 years, we have seen the Lord do many marvelous things: the church has baptized 205 people; the Sunday School has grown from an average of 45 to now more than 175 in attendance; the nursery has seen the number of children double; and now the church has added its first full-time staff member," Reed said. "We're not smart, but we are willing. We don't want to live one day without His presence. ... Blessed be His name."

The church has plans to move forward in the future. Those plans include expanding the size of the current worship facility and planting a new work somewhere along the Mountain Parkway. "I can't wait to see what God is going to do with us," Brother Tommy said.

Campbellsville

Continued from page 1

current leadership of the Kentucky Baptist Convention. Today's statement is further evidence of this."

In addition to Chitwood and KBC President Chip Hutcheson, convention representatives at the meeting included First Vice President Kevin Milburn; Gannetta Smith, chair of the Mission Board's agencies and institutions committee; and members of the convention's executive staff, Curtis Woods and Jim Donnell. The KBC's attorney, James Taylor, also was in attendance.

Kentucky Baptists, through their Cooperative Program gifts, currently contribute around \$1 million to the university's budget annually, accounting for less than 2 percent of its \$57 million annual budget. Any action by the university's board violating its covenant agreement with the KBC would potentially jeopardize that funding, a KBC press release stated. Convention officers plan to meet July 17 to discuss the convention's response.

"In the opinion of our attorney, James Taylor, these (proposed) bylaws are clearly inconsistent with the covenant agreement that governs the relationship between the KBC and CU," Chitwood stated in his letter to Mission Board members.

According to the letter, Straus indicated that Campbellsville's leaders want to forge a new partnership agreement similar to one forged with Georgetown College in 2005 after that school requested to end its covenant agreement with the KBC in order to

establish a self-perpetuating board. KBC messengers, however, ended that partnership arrangement and severed ties with the college at last year's annual meeting.

Campbellsville's board is currently comprised of 44 full trustees and eight non-voting associate trustees.

"We have desired to have a dialogue with the KBC leadership that would help lead to a new partnership and relationship—one that would retain our proven commitment to Kentucky Baptists while protecting academic freedom and institutional integrity," Owens said. "We have requested a dialogue on a continuing partnership, and we stand by that position."

Chitwood urged members of the Mission Board to "pray for wisdom on the part of our KBC officers and leaders as they help us navigate these waters."

"While we grieve the decision of another school to distance itself from the churches that have long supported her," Chitwood wrote, "we know that we still have institutions who remain faithfully committed to their covenant with Kentucky Baptists and to the mission of reaching Kentucky and the world for Christ."

Campbellsville University, which currently boasts an enrollment of more than 3,600 students in its various undergraduate, master's and post-graduate programs, was established in 1906 as Russell Creek Academy by Russell Creek Baptist Association. The institution was instituted as Campbellsville Junior College in 1924 and, in 1957, the General Association of Baptists in Kentucky (now the KBC), authorized the school to become a four-year institution. (WR)

URGENT NEED:
Give \$10 to help a child in crisis

At Sunrise, our hearts go out to these children. Will you join us? We're asking a lot of people – like you – to do a little bit. Will you give \$10? Will you do it today? A gift of \$10 or more is a great start.

Donate today at sunrise.org/giveten



We hold ourselves to the highest accountability standard. We are the only non-profit private child care provider in Kentucky offering a full array of services that is accredited by the Joint Commission, the premiere health care accreditation organization in the country.

Owensboro – Elizabethtown – Mt. Washington – Somerset – Morehead – Pikeville
Paducah – Bowling Green – Louisville – Lexington – Danville – Florence

The wrongful death of marriage

News that U.S. District Judge John Heyburn once again usurped the will of Kentucky voters is tragic and disappointing. By declaring gay marriage legal in the commonwealth, Heyburn defied the essential, foundational governing document that ensures order and justice, The Constitution of the Commonwealth of Kentucky.

Together We are the KBC



Paul Chitwood

While the sin of homosexuality may be no more offensive to God than other sexual sins, for a society to be forced to endorse it through the sacred institution of marriage is both objectionable and dangerous, moving us further down the slippery slope toward moral chaos. Why is gay marriage wrong for Kentucky? First, as Gov. Beshear's legal counsel argued, gay marriage precludes one of the state's primary interests in marriage, i.e., procreation. While I agree with the state's argument, it was presented weakly and, left to stand alone, was hardly persuasive. Judge Heyburn remarked, "These arguments are not those of serious people." I must agree and am left to conclude that Beshear, like Attorney General Jack Conway, has no desire to mount a serious defense of our constitution.

Second, gay marriage is wrong because it denies the natural order. Whether one is a Bible-believing creationist or a secular evolutionist, any rational observer of our world must admit that the survival of any and every species on the planet depends upon a natural order that includes reproduction. Homosexuality perverts the natural order and homosexual marriage cheapens the institution of marriage by removing from it the essence of its purpose.

Third, state-endorsed homosexual marriage further legitimizes homosexual couples as parents. Thus, the state tragically endorses depriving children of their innate need of both a father and a mother. With regard to mommy and daddy, children raised by homosexual couples have either/or not both/and. Heyburn's decision not only thwarts nature, it robs children of an intrinsic need.

Fourth, in states all across the country homosexual marriage is being forced upon citizens by liberal judges, even though most states, like Kentucky, have overwhelmingly voted to refuse it. These judges are subverting the democratic process in tyrannical fashion. Simply put, that is wrong.

Fifth, homosexual marriage is a headlong leap down the slippery slope toward moral chaos. One of the sound bites from gay activists regarding Heyburn's ruling was, "Love wins." If the mere profession of an individual's love for someone or something else were to become the new standard for marriage, gay marriage clearly opens the doorway to bigamy and polygamy and at least cracks the doorway of state-sanctioned childhood brides and even bestiality. This type of government-sanctioned perversion has teenage girls in locker rooms at Louisville's Atherton High School being required to undress in front of teenage boys pretending to be girls. That kind of moral outrage denies the rights of children to be protected.

Sixth, and not inconsequential for those who adhere to the teachings of Scripture or who at least concede that the success of any democratic government depends upon a society's willingness to embrace certain values and moral norms, is the matter of morality. Biblical morality is not fuzzy when it comes to homosexuality. Both testaments unequivocally condemn it, and in Matthew 19, Jesus clearly defines marriage in heterosexual terms, being perfectly consistent with Genesis 2.

John Heyburn and judges who share his views represent a departure from the entire scope of civilized human history. They turn a blind eye to the historic teachings of every major religion in the world. Determined to alter our society, they have thrown nature, the needs of children and the rights of voters to the wind and cast marriage to the moral gutter.

Paul Chitwood is executive director of the Kentucky Baptist Convention.

The Hobby Lobby decision & going forward

The U.S. Supreme Court has given the Obama administration—and hopefully the world—a lesson in the first freedom: The government cannot, and must not, require people of faith to violate their sincerely held beliefs.

The June 30 ruling in favor of Hobby Lobby and Conestoga Wood Specialties underscores religious liberty as our "first freedom." The freedom to exercise religion, enshrined in our Constitution's Bill of Rights, is the freedom from which all of our other freedoms flow.

This decision concerns only the contraceptive mandate in the Affordable Care Act and should not be understood to mean that all insurance mandates, such as blood transfusions or vaccinations, necessarily fail if they conflict with an employer's religious beliefs.

A LifeWay Research study in November 2012, however, showed that most Americans supported mandatory contraception coverage through the Affordable Care Act. In other words, the Supreme Court has seen a religious freedom issue where Americans do not; the majority of Americans are on the other side of the Hobby Lobby ruling.

Perhaps it is helpful to note that this is not simply a "freedom to worship" issue; it is a "freedom of religion" issue. It has become quite common to hear the debate framed in terms of "freedom to worship," a subtle but not inconsequential change in the DNA of "freedom of religion" protected in our Constitution. Religion (faith) belongs to every sphere of life, rather than a singular identifiable activity engaged or performed in a limited portion of life.

Earlier this year, a Pew Research study showed the U.S. government is increasingly hostile to religious liberty in this country. It is not persecution, but it is an encroachment of religious freedom. And, in spite of the media's (and some progressive Christians') dismissal of the issue, our LifeWay Research study showed the majority of Americans and the vast majority of its Protestant pastors believe religious liberty is on the decline.

So, where do we go from here? I suggest four things to consider:



Understand the shift in our culture

The subtle loss of religious liberty in this country is connected to a broader, deeper issue in our society. If there is anything we should take away from the Supreme Court ruling it is this: The ruling simply does not match the will of the people in the United States.

Most Americans are not as passionate about the religious liberty issue (when connected to contraception, even abortifacient contraception) as most evangelicals and conservative Catholics. Thankfully, the Supreme Court is showing more concern about the potential loss of religious freedom than the average American (and some evangelicals).

Guest Viewpoint



Ed Stetzer

Pray for rulers and those in authority

Did you pray for the Supreme Court in this case? Did you pray for the president? Or did you just post your opinion on Facebook? The Bible commands the former and does not mention the latter.

Let's pray for our Supreme Court members as they continue to wrestle through complicated issues of ethics and morality. Let's pray they continue to defend our freedoms enshrined in the Constitution. Let's pray for President Obama and his administration that they will embrace the cause of religious liberty for all Americans, including evangelicals like the Green family, Hobby Lobby's founders. Let's pray for our neighbors and friends who do not yet know Jesus, that the ruling will prompt discussion about morality and its source, the Jesus of the Bible.

Engage in mission

We continue to have the opportunity to impact our culture as agents of God's kingdom. Even though we don't have the cultural influence we once enjoyed, we are free to influence through the proclamation and power of the gospel.

The answer to the decline of religious freedom and the change in the moral climate is not found in waging incessant cultural wars filled with rage at our changing culture. Simply put, you can't hate a people and reach a people at the same time.

The biggest problem with our secular neighbors and coworkers isn't that they do not share our biblically grounded morality; it's that they have not yet experienced the grace and love of Jesus in saving faith.

Let us live on mission so they might.

Use the freedom we have

It is easy to lose sight of the big picture: We still have great freedom here while Christians around the world are being killed for converting. Our freedom is eroding, but it's still enormous. Let's live like it.

Let's live like resurrection people, adorning the gospel with lives of grace. Even in our passion to defend freedoms increasingly at risk, let us remind ourselves this generation is desperately in need of the love of Christ, lived and shared.

Ed Stetzer is the executive director of LifeWay Research.

WESTERN Recorder

Box 43969
Louisville, KY 40253

DR. TODD DEATON
Editor

DREW NICTER
Interim News Director

THOMAS C. TOWNSEND
Marketing & Business Manager

Shine Like Stars * Philippians 2:15

Board of Directors:

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

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

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

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

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

Letters to the editor:

The Baptist Forum section of the Western Recorder provides an opportunity for Kentucky Baptists to express their viewpoints. Opinions expressed do not necessarily reflect those of the Western Recorder's editorial staff, its Board of Directors, or the Kentucky Baptist Convention. Letters should be no more than 300 words in length and will be edited for style, clarity and space. Letters must reflect a spirit of Christian charity and civility.

Southern Baptists and the future of America

By Ronnie Floyd

Years ago, the Southern Baptist Convention was looked upon as having a significant influence on the U.S. When I was a very young pastor attending our annual meetings, I remember how our leaders would talk about the impact our convention had upon American life, even in determining our nation's future.

If this is true, what happened? I remain very concerned for the present state of the United States and for our nation's future. At the same time, my confidence in the Lord, His word, His gospel, His church and His kingdom gives me overwhelming hope.

Can the 50,000 churches and missions that comprise the Southern Baptist Convention influence the future of America? YES!

Here are four ways I believe we can influence our nation and its future:

We will always be faithful to lift up the authority, truthfulness and infallibility of the word of God.

While some denominations may be drifting away from the truth that the Bible is the authoritative word of God on all matters, Southern Baptists will continue to stand on the Scriptures. As stated in our Baptist Faith and Message 2000, we believe:

"The Holy Bible was written by men divinely inspired and is God's revelation of Himself to man. It is a perfect treasure of divine instruction. It has God for its author, salvation for its end, and truth, without any mixture of error, for its matter. Therefore, all Scripture is totally true and trustworthy. It reveals the principles by which God judges us, and therefore is, and will remain to the end of the world, the true center of Christian union, and the supreme standard by which all human conduct, creeds, and religious opinions should be tried. All Scripture is a testimony to Christ, who is Himself the focus of divine revelation."

Read again what we agreed upon as our commitment to the Scriptures. Yes, we will be there as a convention of churches, reminding ourselves personally, our churches and our nation what God says about everything. He is our authority. When He speaks, He speaks the final word.

We will always be faithful to proclaim that Jesus Christ is the only way to know God and to go to heaven.

While religions and cultures state there are many paths to God, we believe there is only one path to God. This authoritative word proclaims clearly in John 14:6,

Jesus told him, "I am the way, the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me."

Knowing this, when we believe in the gospel as defined by the Apostle Paul in 1 Corinthians 15:3-4, it changes everything:

"For I passed on to you as most important what I also received: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, that He was buried, that He was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures."

Unquestionably, we will proclaim the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus Christ, and that He is the only way to God and eternal life in heaven. The greatest thing we can do to influence our nation is to present the gospel to every person and make disciples of all the nations. Gospel churches must be faithful to present the gospel and live it out in every way possible.

We will always be faithful to stand for the religious liberty of every person and every church.

This is our heritage and our conviction as Southern Baptists. While the government is challenging this conviction upon which our nation was founded, we will unashamedly live out what we confess through our Baptist Faith and Message 2000:

"The state owes to every church protection and full freedom in the pursuit of its spiritual ends. In providing for such freedom no ecclesiastical group or denomination should be favored by the state more than others. ... The state has no right to impose penalties for religious opinions of any kind."

As we know, this is being tested now as much as in any time since our nation's founding. Yet, I know where Southern Baptists will be: always standing for religious liberty, not just for ourselves, but for all.

We will always be faithful to pray for the next spiritual awakening in America.

While we go through various highs and lows in our convention and in the United States, I am convinced and convicted that we are in a unique season when our desperation is rising in an unprecedented way. How should we respond?

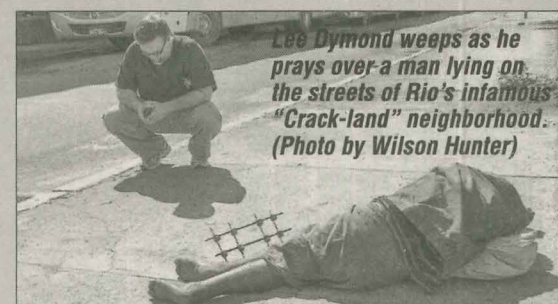
In God's time, in accordance with His will and purpose, I believe we should cry out to Him in extraordinary prayer, asking Him for the next Great Awakening. Join me in asking for it. (BP)

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

First Person



Ronnie Floyd



Lee Dymond weeps as he prays over a man lying on the streets of Rio's infamous "Crack-land" neighborhood. (Photo by Wilson Hunter)

Crack-land

Continued from page 1

put their faith in Christ.

On this day, Cristolândia's small staff—many of them former addicts—is getting extra help. A team of 11 Southern Baptist college students and two student ministry leaders has come to Rio to share the gospel during the FIFA World Cup. On days between games when Rio's Maracanã soccer stadium is empty, the students turn their evangelistic energies to local churches and ministries like Cristolândia.

The students split into teams and prepare to search Crack-land's streets for others who need Cristolândia's help. Each team is paired with a Brazilian Baptist partner who serves as a guide, translator and coworker. Before the teams depart, International Mission Board missionary Eric Reese briefs them on what to expect. With active drug deals and prostitution going on around them, there is real danger involved.

But those risks do not seem to faze the students like Nick Smirniotopoulos, 21, a recent graduate of Virginia Tech University and Alison Myers, 22, a senior at University of Alabama-Birmingham.

After a few minutes' walk, the pair approaches a young woman with huge scabs covering her shoulders and pink scars on her face. It's obvious she's been in some of kind of accident, or possibly is the victim of violence. Smirniotopoulos motions to his Brazilian Baptist partner, João Maciez, and they begin to share their faith.

"Jesus tells you that if you hear His voice and open the door, He will come in and dine with you," Smirniotopoulos explained.

The woman listens for a few minutes, then turns suddenly and walks off. She is not interested.

The student then approaches an older woman sitting on a metal vent less than 100 yards away. She is homeless. Her cardboard "mattress" sits at her feet; her toilet is a concrete wall adjacent to the vent. But as the team tells her about Cristolândia, she begins to yell. They patiently listen to her rant for more than 10 minutes, but it is obvious she will not listen to them. Smirniotopoulos is discouraged, but the team moves on.

Several blocks away, things look brighter. Myers and Smirniotopoulos share the gospel with a young man named Gabriel who they found sleeping at a bus station. As Smirniotopoulos explains Jesus' sacrifice on the cross, Myers prays silently.

"It was really eye opening to see his hopelessness and how little he had," she said. "I was just praying that the Lord would soften his heart and that we would be bold in our witness."

When Smirniotopoulos finishes presenting the gospel, it is clear God has answered Myers' prayer. Before the team can even ask, Gabriel tells them he wants Jesus in his life. Smirniotopoulos leads him through the sinner's prayer, then offers to take him to Cristolândia. But Gabriel refuses, telling the team he isn't ready to leave the streets.

Still, Smirniotopoulos feels hopeful.

"As Gabriel accepted Christ, the Holy Spirit came in him," Smirniotopoulos said. "He looked changed. He had tears in his eyes. I got to tell him, 'You are a different person; 2 Corinthians 5:17 says the old has passed away and the new has come. ... You're my brother in Christ now.'" (BP)

Summer retreats: Refresh and follow Him

By Erich Bridges

No matter how long the school year dragged on, I knew that once summer came, I'd get to go to my grandmother's beach house. Once there, I could count on her good cooking and unconditional love.

We would fish in the surf or from the boardwalk and watch the sun go down beyond the horizon as the ocean wind cooled our faces. We sometimes talked, but silence was just as good. Being together sufficed.

I think about those summers as the July heat begins to bake. Grandma is long gone, and I miss her. But my spirit still yearns for beaches, rivers, mountains and other places that offer respite from the daily routine.

It's a desire common to humanity. It predates by millennia the idea of vacation, which is a modern phenomenon. We long for a break, however brief, from the daily grind, a pause from the familiar. We crave rest and renewal. A "separation from the world, a penetration to some source of power and a life-enhancing return," the folklorist Arnold van Gennep described it.

Church folks call it a retreat. Modern-day retreats have become scheduled events with programs, speakers, themes and such. But the older concept of Christian spiritual retreat harks back to the holy men and women of the early church who went into the desert to seek the Lord. They followed the example of Christ, who sought out the wilderness to pray and be alone with His Father before returning to minister to the needy crowds.

The craving for retreat is never stronger than when the world seems to be falling apart. Wars that were supposed to be over are not. Old enemies remain and new ones emerge. Political and cultural disputes become

more hateful by the day. People refuse to make peace with God or each other, holding on to their evil ways. Those closest to us let us down. We let them down. We disappoint the Lord. It's time for a rest and a fresh start.

These are times for a retreat in the old sense. Jesus beckons us to come away with Him to a quiet place, there to rest with Him and renew our spirits. Vacationing is OK, but it's a poor imitation of walking with Jesus in the wilderness.

The other great thing about true retreat is returning to the world. Vacations these days tend to be rushed, expensive, over-planned and more tiring than the demands they're supposed to relieve. When you get home, you're ready for a vacation from your vacation. But you return from a retreat with the Lord refreshed, renewed and ready to follow Him back into the fray.

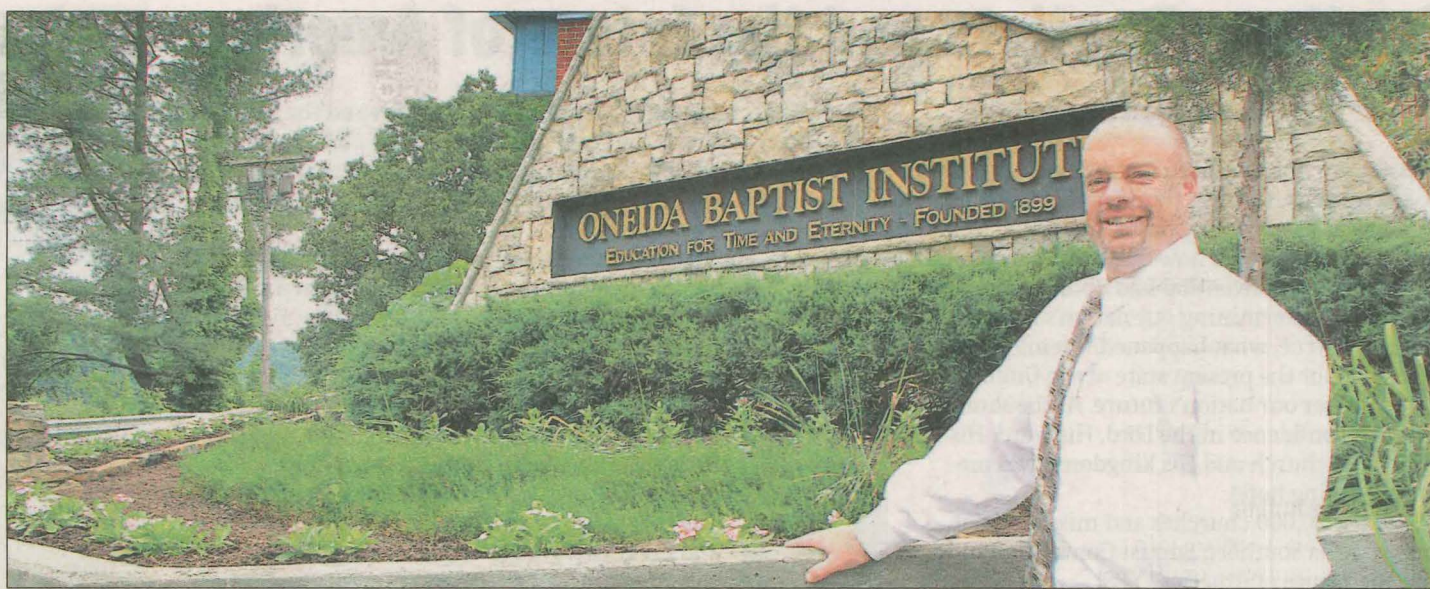
That's the real point of retreat—being with God, then returning to the world. He needs servants who have met with Him before they enter the global struggle for souls. If we try to serve Him in our own puny power, we'll make no impact.

Seek Him in the wilderness and quiet, and renew yourself in His Spirit. Return to the world to shine His light into darkness. (BP)

Erich Bridges is a global correspondent for the International Mission Board.

FIRST PERSON

Report Card



By Roger Alford

Gritton earns high marks in first year as Oneida Baptist Institute president

Oneida—Larry Gritton Jr. has a long history with Oneida Baptist Institute, as a student, teacher, coach and athletic director.

Those experiences have given him a unique perspective in his current role as president of the Christian boarding school nestled in the mountains of southeastern Kentucky.

Gritton and his wife, Angie, were working in a similar school in Florida when they got a call asking them to consider returning to Oneida to fill a vacancy left by former President Paul Davidson.

They started praying about it, and soon had the answer. They would be leaving the sunny shores of Florida for the Appalachian foothills.

"We ultimately felt like the Lord said, 'Yes, it's time to return to Oneida,'" Gritton said. "We know Oneida. We were students here. We were staff members here. We know the school's history. We know its mission. Oneida is in our blood."

Oneida serves children in grades 6 through 12, with a mission of providing a structured living, learning and working environment. The goal is to see students grow mentally, physically, socially and spiritually. That includes the Grittons' three school-age children.

"We feel strongly about the quality of education kids get here," Gritton said. "There's no school anywhere that can match our faculty and staff. They love these students and want the very best for them. If it's good enough for our own three children, I'd like to think it's good enough for anyone."

Kentucky Baptist Convention Executive Director Paul Chitwood said Oneida is prospering under Gritton's leadership.

"He's a man of high energy, fresh ideas, great character and godly wisdom, and that bodes well for Oneida," Chitwood said. "It appears to me that he's been prepared by God for this role. He has a heart for Oneida, and he's made great strides in his first year. I anticipate greater things yet to come."

The 115-year-old campus in rural Clay County offers an ethnically diverse environment, an anomaly in Kentucky's Appalachian region. Of the 277 students enrolled last school year, 50 were from other countries.

"Every student has a different story about why they're at Oneida," Gritton said. "For some, it's because their parents serve on the faculty and staff. Others come because their parents feel they can get a better education here than in local public schools. Yet others are here because of broken homes or because their parents don't want them in inner-city schools. Some have academic challenges or behavioral issues that require closer attention than they could get elsewhere. Most international students come because they see Oneida as a springboard into U.S. colleges and universities."

Gritton has big plans for Oneida, including building renovations to accommodate the anticipated growth in enrollment at what is one of the least expensive

boarding schools in the country.

Besides the affordable tuition, one of the top selling points for Oneida is the opportunity for students to interact with their counterparts from all over the country and the world. Students learn about different countries simply by chatting with their peers around campus.

Students also are introduced to the working world. Everyone has a job on campus. Some help tend to the pigs and cattle on the campus farm. Others do office chores. Some help keep the campus looking neat and clean. But there is also plenty of time for fun.

"I believe the Lord has used my first year as Oneida president to make everyday life a little bit better for students," Gritton said. "I added the position of events coordinator this year, which is a position Oneida has never had. This person has gone far beyond what I ever envisioned as far as events and activities for students. If showing a movie and popping popcorn makes weekend life better for our kids, or if additional co-curricular programs make student life better, then I am all for it."

Gritton encourages a warm Christian atmosphere on campus, and students like Aaron Grinnell of Elizabethtown have taken notice.

"What I like about Oneida is just the love shown to students by the staff," Grinnell said.

Gritton, 39, graduated from Oneida in 1993. From there, he went to Montreat College in North Carolina where he received a bachelor's degree in history. He followed that with a master's degree in educational leadership from Eastern Kentucky University.

He worked seven years at Oneida before moving to Florida, where he worked nine years in two different Christian schools as athletic director and dean of boys, as well as serving two years as pastor of New Hope Baptist Church at Fort Myers, Fla.

"For the nine years we were in Florida, if Oneida wasn't always on our minds, it was always in our hearts," Gritton said. "Oneida's meant a lot to us. We can look back now and see how the Lord was at work preparing us to lead such a unique ministry."

In August, Gritton will have completed his first year as Oneida president and is now even more convinced of the value of the school's mission.

"In my opinion, there's a need now more than there's ever been for a place like this for kids who need the Lord, need a great education, need a fresh start," Gritton said. "This is a great place to do that." (KBC)

LIMITED SPACE REMAINS OVER 80% FILLED

CALL 800-616-8863 **CALL TODAY FOR A FREE BROCHURE!** JUBILEECONFERENCES.COM **LIMITED SPACE**

FALL | Sept. 29 > Oct. 1 | 2014

18th ANNUAL **JUBILEE** **FILLING FAST!**

GATLINBURG CONVENTION CENTER

THE OLD TIME GOSPEL SINGIN'/LAUGHIN'/PREACHIN' CONFERENCE FOR MATURE & SENIOR ADULTS

Ricky Skaggs

JOHNNY HUNT

DR. CHARLES STANLEY

Jason Crabb

Gold City

THE KINGSMEN

DINO

LYNDA RANDLE

DENNIS SWANBERG

IN THE SCENIC SMOKY MOUNTAINS
GATLINBURG, TENNESSEE

JUBILEECONFERENCES.COM

3 DAYS 2 NIGHTS

AS LOW AS \$129 PER PERSON

THE TOP GOSPEL ARTISTS

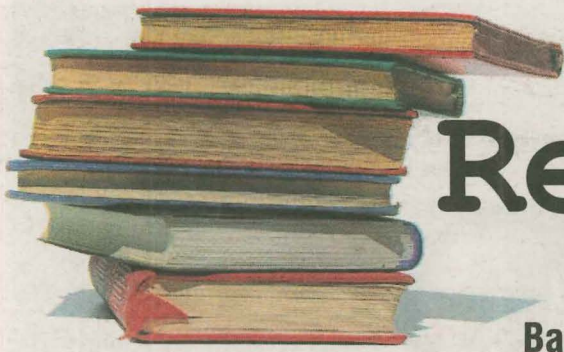


Sam Moore, Evangelistic Ministries

479-381-1170, sam@evangelistsammoore.com

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

www.evangelistsammoore.com



Book Review

By Steve May

The Offering: Barkley Moore – A Life for Time And Eternity

Judy Ratliff Powell, author
CrossBooks, 2014
381 pages

About the author

The author writes with a distinctive flair that captures, in minute detail, the life and legacy of Barkley Moore, former president of Oneida Baptist Institute. Yet, in those details there is part of her persona that speaks with a voice that connects her with the culture of southeast Kentucky. The reader might ask, "How does this woman know of the sweet smell of honeysuckle, the rustic needs of the mountain home, the impact on the community of coal mining and the need for an education that releases one from cultural and economic poverty?"

Judy Powell has deep roots that rest in the mountain culture. Born in the Cumberland Mountains in east Tennessee, the childhood memories help move the reader forward in a compelling and artistic fashion to the point in her life where she first arrives at OBI. There, a life is formed and fashioned through the many teachers and students who would later become lifelong friends.

However, amid those towering mentors stands one that rises above all others: Barkley Moore. Her book chronicles his 23-year tenure in a personally wonderful display of private letters and documents loaned to her by the Moore family, Oneida Baptist Institute and many of the thousands of colleagues, friends and former students.

Review

The 381-page journey of "The Offering" takes the reader beyond the life of Moore. The detailed, almost step-by-step progression delves into the "mind" of a man who has been equaled to many notable Kentucky leaders as Lincoln, Boone and Henry Clay. "The Offering" defends this statement and leaves the reader stunned, asking the question: "How can one man accomplish so much in such a relatively short amount of time?"

Powell has been afforded the privilege to survey a variety of documents and resources heretofore unknown to the public. Her labors of gleaning the most fruitful materials have resulted in a rich cornucopia of information that moves the historical narrative forward with inspiration and entertainment.

The text introduces the reader to many other personalities that Moore saw as essential to the completion of the God-given task set before him. It is evident the author captures Moore's insight into human ability. He often saw and thought of people more than they believed themselves able to accomplish. In accepting student and faculty members, friends or colleagues, Powell's documentation makes evident Barkley's brilliance in selection of the right person for the right job, as well as giving that person the

opportunity to excel.

Powell captures for the reader and makes it crystal clear that Moore was a man of monumental faith, dedication and sacrifice. Letter after letter, conversation after conversation, speech after speech recall Moore's own testimony that God has and will always provide, or that those speaking of Moore or on his behalf recognized his dependence on God.

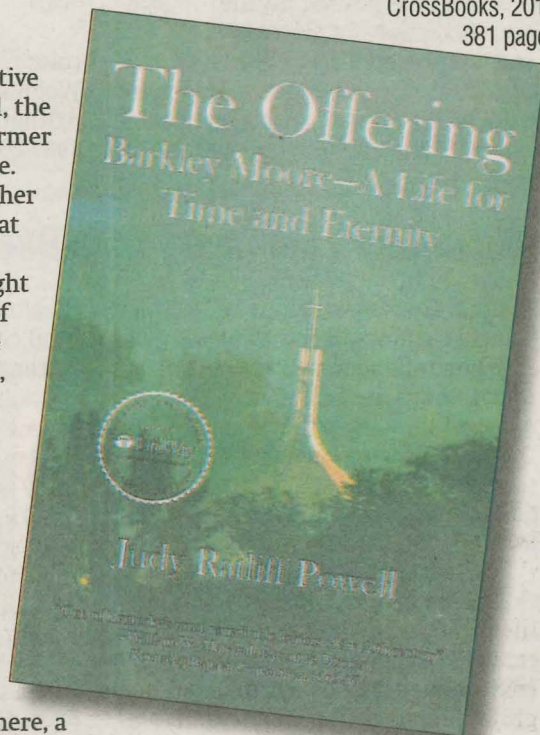
It is obvious that many would benefit from reading this book.

Those who want to do research of educational history in southeast Kentucky would find this book valuable in answering the question: "Why has Oneida survived while the majority of faith-based boarding schools have closed?" The answer is to be found in the question, faith-based, as well as the primary subject of the text, Barkley Moore. His means and methods, attitudes and actions constantly reflected his belief in the sufficiency of God's provision for his school and his children.

Those who have heard of Barkley Moore or Oneida Baptist Institute would have their knowledge base broadened. Powell has compressed volumes of documentation and distilled them into a coherent picture of a man that effected an institution indeed, but also hundreds upon hundreds of adults and students who range from the most impoverished to the very wealthy, as well as people from an array of cultures.

Those who have attended or were employed by Oneida and were not necessarily connected during the era when Moore was there would be introduced not in legendary fashion but rather, Moore "comes to life." Powell demonstrates extreme skill in not merely

□ See Book review ... Page 9



2014 - 2015
MYRE SERIES
A FAITH-BASED PERFORMANCE SERIES

RHONDA VINCENT & THE RAGE
NOVEMBER 2, 2014

The Queen of Bluegrass!
SANDI PATTY
NOVEMBER 30, 2014

VERITAS
MARCH 8, 2015

GUY PENROD
MAY 17, 2015

GUY PENROD HYMNS

ADD ON

VeggieTales Live!
OCTOBER 17, 2014

SILLY SONGS SING-ALONG!

Underwriting from
Carson-Myre Charitable Foundation

Sponsored by
HILLIARD LYONS THE HOUSMAN FINANCIAL GROUP
LOURDES

SUBSCRIBE TODAY!
Subscription Group Discounts Available
Carson Center
270-450-4444
160 Kentucky Ave
Paducah, Kentucky

the carson center.org

The value of work

OBI's student work program instills genuine work ethic in its students

My father loved to raise a large garden every summer. In reality, I probably did very little work in my dad's garden, but as a kid it seemed like I worked many long, hot days picking beans, hoeing weeds, etc. I hated working in that garden, but sure didn't mind eating all the fresh vegetables it produced. I remember my grandmother coming down from Lawrenceburg every year about the time school started to can beans and other items. She worked all of us to death—or so I thought.

I would like to think I was a pretty good kid growing up and didn't get into much trouble, but I recall one particular time when my father was not too pleased with me.

My dad left town for a day or two and instructed me to hoe the entire garden while he was gone. I did a little of the work, but not anywhere near what my father expected of me. To this day, I hate for any task to be left undone. Perhaps that stems from my experience of not hoeing the garden.

Things at Oneida slow down somewhat in the summer, but in the four weeks following the end of the school year, we had 74 students on campus taking part in our work program. We then have a six-week summer school. Those work program students are on scholarship and worked to help earn those scholarships. I watched the students clean buildings, strip and wax floors, paint dormitories, mow grass, work on the farm and in our kitchen—and much more.

I am sure most of them would have preferred to be back at home with family and friends enjoying the first part of summer break, but most of them performed their job duties with good attitudes.

There are many parts of my job that I enjoy tremendously, but there are also tasks I wish I didn't have to do. We had to have conversations with some kids who did not want to do the jobs assigned to them. When we did, we took the opportunity to explain to them their jobs after they finish school may also require tasks they don't particularly like.

Even during the school year, our students are required to work. Students must have a job at which they work an hour a day after school, or they must be part of a varsity sport. Oneida employs no custodians. Our young people handle the cleaning of our buildings and care for our grounds.

Perhaps one of the most underrated skills our students learn is the value of honest, hard work. Our students are taught to be on time for work, to get along well with their co-workers, and to do jobs to the best of their ability, even when it is not something they enjoy doing.

There is no substitute for a good work ethic. Those hot summer days in my dad's garden taught me something about hard work. I don't know when I would find the time to do it, but perhaps I should raise a garden and put my three children to work picking beans and hoeing weeds.

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

Relief before a disaster

Kentucky Baptist Disaster Relief crew helps remove trees on campus

Usually when one hears "disaster relief," one probably thinks something bad has happened. Recently, our Kentucky Baptist Convention Disaster Relief team answered a call for help from Clear Creek, but this time it was before a disaster had time to happen.

Our campus had many pine trees infected with a disease that made them very unstable. To make the situation worse, these trees were right next to the main highway that runs through our campus where hundreds of vehicles travel each day.

Through a long-standing connection to First Baptist Church of Richmond, which sends volunteer groups to our campus on a regular basis, a request for help with the damaged trees was relayed to the KBC's disaster relief office. That request resulted in 20 DR-trained volunteers responding to our campus, 13 of whom were trained chainsaw operators.

The total disaster relief volunteer hours worked during the week was 456. More than 30 trees were chopped

down; two were leaning over buildings and one over a power line. All were rigged and directed to fall with no damage to property. Four trees were approximately 10 inches in diameter. The others ranged from 20-36 inches around and 60-90 feet tall.

One downed tree from a previous storm, 40 inches at the base and approximately 100 feet tall, was cut up and removed, as were all the other trees. Also, a tree with limbs rubbing up against a house's roof was pruned.

The estimate for this project, if completed by a commercial tree service, has been projected in the tens of thousands of dollars. We are so thankful for the Kentucky Baptist Disaster Relief volunteers who probably saved Clear Creek between \$15,000-30,000 through their volunteer efforts on this project.

Thank you, Kentucky Baptists, for your Cooperative Program gifts and volunteer efforts that help make disaster relief possible.

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

Criswell College names Creamer as president

Barry Creamer was elected as Criswell College's seventh president in a unanimous trustee vote July 7.

Creamer, 51, has served as Criswell's vice president of academic affairs since 2011 and as a professor of humanities since 2004. He will begin his presidency at the Dallas college Aug. 1.

Jimmy Draper, the school's interim president, said Creamer "has poured his life into this school for 10 years and has proven his ability as a scholar, administrator and effective leader. He has a brilliant mind with a compassionate heart. He values people and

will lead by his example and with wisdom and grace. No better choice could have been made."

Creamer has been Criswell's chief operating officer and has managed the college's day-to-day operations since last November when former President Jerry Johnson became president of the National Religious Broadcasters.

Creamer has served numerous churches in a variety of roles since 1982. He served as pastor of Woodland West Baptist Church in Arlington, Texas, his hometown, from 1987-2004. (BP)



Barry Creamer

Midwestern Seminary taps Duesing as provost

Jason Duesing will join Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary's administration as provost beginning Aug. 1, MBTS President Jason Allen announced July 2.

Duesing will also bring his scholarship in church history and theology to Midwestern's faculty.

"Dr. Duesing is well known throughout Southern Baptist life—and the broader evangelical world—as a man with sterling character; as an accomplished theologian and church historian; and as one deeply committed to the local church and the Great Commission," Allen said. "Moreover, he rightly understands the role of

theological education is to serve the local church. He comes as one who understands that Midwestern Seminary exists for the church and is eager to extend that vision."

Allen said the provost position carries significant internal and external responsibilities, including oversight of the institution's four deans.

Duesing comes to the Midwestern Seminary after serving for more than a decade on the administrative leadership team and faculty at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas. He previously served as assistant to the president at Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary. (BP)



Jason Duesing

Camp trends in the U.S.

With camps nationwide closing, Crossings remains gospel-focused

Recently, a friend sent me an article that spoke of the declining trends and a lessening need for camps and conference centers. He sent that to me not as a discouragement, but simply to probe my thoughts in regard to the trends in our country.

First, I am obviously not objective, as I have many biases in regard to camp, given this is my 14th summer being involved in camping—namely, being a part of Crossings. That being said, I do, however, see and would agree that certain trends exist and these trends are statistically undeniable.

It is true: Across this country camps are closing at an alarming rate. Reasons for this are many and beyond what can be described in this column. We in Kentucky witness the closures of camps or trends in regard to declining interest and participation.

What about Cedarvale and Jonathan Creek? Well, as you can imagine, I have many thoughts about what takes place at each of these properties.

Since Crossings began in 2000, every single year the camps have set new records. Yes, 15 years in a row of continued growth. To be clear, that makes no

human sense, and we cannot claim it was because of human ability. It has been solely the blessing and grace from the Lord.

But back to the article on camp

trends: Yes, they are true and, yes, those trends likely do impact us in some way. However, the world is in desperate need of the gospel.

Our mission has been—and remains—to be a ministry that proclaims the gospel. We just happen to do that in a camp/conference/retreat setting. Our primary purpose is not to build a camp ministry. With that being said, who knows what the

next 15 years may hold in the life of Crossings. But of one thing I am certain: The Great Commission will always be needed and, by God's grace, if we keep that central to our mission, I firmly believe the Lord will continue to use Crossings.

He has done more than perhaps anyone would have imagined through these camps over the last 15 years—to keep things properly ordered. The gospel continues to work; it just happens to take place in locations that are camps.

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

Crossings Ministries



David Melber

Book review

Continued from page 7

reporting information but revisiting Moore's enthusiasm, dedication, compassion and skill as an administrator.

Those who knew Moore, those who served with him and those who were affected by his relationship with them are returned to a former time in history where fond memories, struggles, success and disappointments resurface. The events recall voices, aromas of the dining hall, the bracing wind of winter and the warmth of the springtime sun, as each memory is carried between Anderson Hall, Carnahan Hall, the girls' dorm, the farm and classrooms.

In short, "The Offering" is a much-needed book. It is needed because Moore's life must be remembered for the sake of recording an accurate history of Kentucky. It is needed to aid students of educational history in learning what is required to truly make a difference in the life of a student. It is a needed piece of literature because it captures the life of a man who, without the book, would only be known to the students, faculty and colleagues, but, in reality, needs to be

introduced to each and every school personnel and student in Kentucky.

Yes, "The Offering" is a needed book for many reasons. The most important of which is to remember Moore's seminal faith and sacrifice. His faith shaped his way of life, and it was his determination that the God in Whom he placed his faith would shape, even transform, the lives of those who crossed the threshold of Oneida Baptist Institute.

Personally, I am deeply indebted to Moore. He was my "boss," friend, mentor and a man who illustrated to me a living faith like I had not observed before. "The Offering" swept me back to a more rebellious time in my life. Were it not for God's using Barkley Moore, I would not be the man, husband, father or pastor I am today.

During the conversation where I informed Moore of my leaving for full-time ministry, I sincerely thanked him for hiring me and his patience with me. I said, "Mr. Moore, if I had been in your position, I would have fired me at least once a year." His response was typical: "You let me worry about the hiring and firing, and I will leave it up to God."

Steve May is pastor of Hopewell Missionary Baptist Church in Manchester.

Stewardship is more than fundraising

Responsible stewardship means to put God, not money, first in life

I have the privilege of assisting people from every financial station in life:

those with modest amounts of material possessions, those with vast amounts—and everything in between.

I do not recall any of those for whom money did not present some kind of difficulty. For some, the difficulty was in not having enough of it. Interestingly enough, an increase in quantity does not necessarily eliminate all of the difficulties. Money continues to be a difficulty even when it is plentiful. For then the challenge becomes how to preserve, invest and use it wisely. Money is an aspect of life where the struggle is universal.

Churches have a real responsibility at this point, but I am concerned churches are not fulfilling this responsibility as effectively as they should. Too often, financial stewardship is relegated to institutional fundraising focusing on financing the local budget to the neglect of the broader perspective of the meaning of money in the life of a Christian.

The call to responsible stewardship is to let God, not money, be the one

and only God in our lives. It is a call to shift our priorities and to change the way we relate to money. The Bible is clear, if we ascribe to money the highest possible value for total satisfaction

in life, we shall go through life dissatisfied and unfulfilled. One cannot find in money what can only be found in God. Money is the means by which we live, but not the end for which we live.

My prayer is our churches will become more intentional in teaching men, women, boys and girls how to stop worshipping money and how to start investing it for eternal gains in

the lives of people through the missions and ministries of our churches and our Kentucky Baptist Convention-related Great Commission service organizations. Through your church and these organizations, money is transformed into ministry.

Call Laurie Valentine or me toll free to arrange a stewardship education seminar in your church before the end of this year.

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



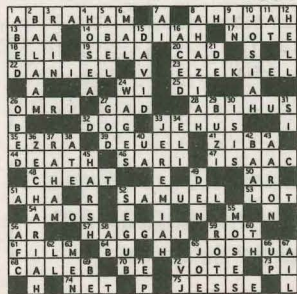
Barry Allen

Bible Crosswords

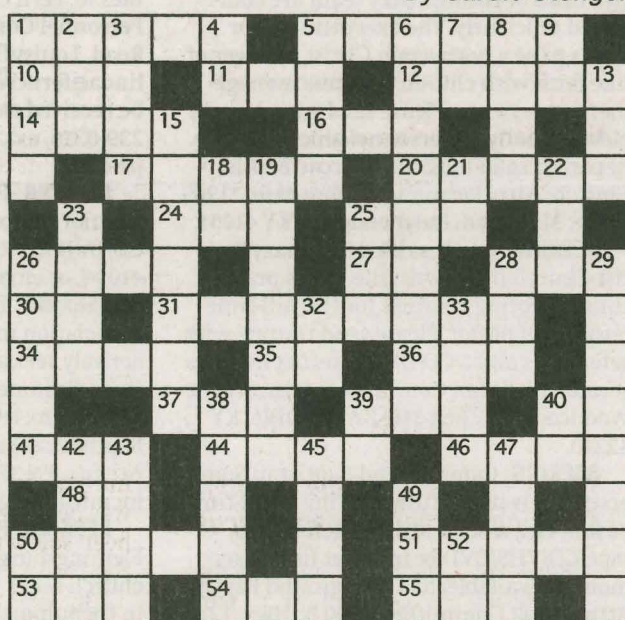
Across

- 1 "Give me this ____" (John 4:15)
- 5 "____ of false prophets" (Matthew 7:15)
- 10 Jacque's friend
- 11 Noncommissioned officer, abbr.
- 12 Angry
- 14 "Behold the ____ of God" (John 1:29)
- 16 Small child
- 17 "Set your affection on things above, not on things on the ____" (Colossians 3:2)
- 20 "Cleanse your ____" (James 4:8)
- 24 Dessert
- 25 "Ye have not because ye ____ not" (James 4:2)
- 26 "Set thy ____ among the stars" (Obadiah 1:4)
- 27 New England state, abbr.
- 28 Abram's nephew
- 30 The son of Peleth (Numbers 16:1)
- 31 "God gave the ____" (1 Corinthians 3:6)
- 34 Ruth's second husband (Ruth 4:13)
- 35 Masculine pronoun
- 36 "At thy word I will let down the ____" (Luke 5:5)
- 37 "Every ____ shall see him" (Revelation 1:7)
- 39 Summer beverage
- 40 Alternating current, abbr.
- 41 "The ____ of those things is death" (Romans 6:21)
- 44 Spoken
- 46 "____ thy foot against a stone" (Matthew 4:6)

#004



By Carole Stengel



#005

- 48 God gave Joshua the victory over ____ (Joshua 8:1)
- 50 "Clothed in pure and white ____" (Revelation 15:6)
- 51 Nicodemus was a ____ of the Jews (John 3:1)
- 53 Alcoholic beverage
- 54 The Creator
- 55 "There is none good but ____" (Mark 10:18)
- 21 Largest state, abbr.
- 22 Dead letter office, abbr.
- 23 Genus, comb form
- 25 Score an A
- 26 "These were more ____ than those in Thessalonica" (Acts 17:11)
- 28 "If thou ____ this man go" (John 19:12)
- 29 "False ____ among you" (2 Peter 2:1)
- 32 Regarding, abbr.
- 33 The ____ is the word of God (Luke 8:11)
- 38 "Teach the ____ women" (Titus 2:4)
- 39 Louisiana's neighbor, abbr.
- 40 Preposition
- 42 "She put her hand to the ____" (Judges 5:26)
- 43 "Jesus saith unto them, Come and ____" (John 21:12)
- 45 "Paul the ____" (Philemon 9)
- 47 "____ to keep you from falling" (Jude 24)
- 49 Male sibling, for short
- 50 City in California, abbr.
- 52 International peace-keeping organization, abbr.

Busy summer continues

WMU, EBO hard at work in June & July through number of activities

This is a busy summer for Kentucky Woman's Missionary Union and the

Eliza Broadus Offering. Through the activities of this summer, students are encountering Christ in a new way. Some are making first-time commitments, while others sense God's call to serve Him. Many are grasping a larger vision of the world and how we take the gospel to those who have never heard it.

Kentucky Changers goes beyond a typical summer-camp experience, as students live out their faith while getting their hands dirty doing exterior home repairs for low-income families. In four project locations in June and July, nearly 700 students and a host of adult volunteers have been making a difference and sharing Jesus.

Mission Adventure Camps and Overnights were held in June at Cedar Crest. During three weeks of camp and mother/daughter and father/son overnights, children experienced a "missions safari" to learn about missions in Africa. The Experience 1:8 team that served as our camp staff are now in South Africa to continue their work with children.

Overnights at the Creek were held last weekend at Jonathan Creek Camp and Conference Center. Three simultaneous events provided a missions camp experience for girls in western Kentucky.

The first of three Excel WMU Training conferences will get underway July

19 at First Baptist Church of Richmond. We will introduce the new WMU emphasis, "All for You," and emphasize Post Traumatic Stress Disorder, the new Project HELP focus. Additional Excel training opportunities will be offered Aug. 16 at First Baptist Church of Madisonville, and again Sept. 13 at St. Matthews Baptist Church in Louisville.

FamilyFest will bring 232 missions volunteers of all ages to Boone's Creek Baptist Association in the Winchester area July 19-24. Ministries include backyard Bible clubs, light con-

struction and repairs, servant evangelism, block parties, prayerwalking, elder care, health-and-wellness ministries and sports camps.

Camp Courage, a statewide overnight camp for Royal Ambassadors, Challengers, leaders and fathers will be held Aug. 1-2 at Laurel Lake Baptist Camp in Corbin. Using the theme "Teamwork," participants will learn the value of teamwork in missions and life.

It is a full summer for Kentucky WMU. Our events focus on the Great Commission and what it means to "go ye therefore." EBO is at work and the results will multiply the impact. Learn more at www.KyWMU.org.

EBO at Work



Joy Bolton

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

KBC KENTUCKY BAPTIST CONVENTION CALENDAR OF EVENTS

July

- 13-18** Kentucky Changers 2014, Louisville.
19 Excel, First Baptist Church, Richmond.
19-24 Eastern Kentucky FamilyFest 2014, Boone's Creek Baptist Association, Winchester.
19-25 Kentucky Changers 2014, Henderson.

August

- 1-2** Camp Courage, Laurel Lake Baptist Camp, Corbin.
5 August Power Lunch, Kentucky Baptist Building, Louisville.
8-9 Girls in Action Leaders' Retreat, Cedarmore Camp and Conference Center, Bagdad.
16 Excel, First Baptist Church, Madisonville.

September

- 2** September Power Lunch, Kentucky Baptist Building, Louisville.
8 EQUIP Tour, Heartland Worship Center, Paducah.
9 EQUIP Tour, First Baptist Church, Madisonville.

MOUNTAINS TO THE MISSISSIPPI COMPILED BY STAFF

CADIZ—Little River Association will hold a Revive Prayer Walk at Trigg County High School July 26, 10 a.m. **Mike Rust** is director of missions.

CAMPBELLVILLE—Campbellsville Church will hold an Upward Basketball camp July 28-31, 9 a.m. For more information, call (270) 465-8115. **Mike O'Neal** is pastor.

LOUISVILLE—Cloverleaf Church will host **The Rebels** in concert July 19, 7 p.m. For more information, call (502) 367-0218. **Geoffrey Laceyfield** is pastor.

Gilda's Club Louisville will hold a "Cancer as a Journey of Faith" seminar July 21, 7 p.m., moderated by **Rebecca Church**, director of pastoral services for the Wesley Manor Retirement Community in Louisville. The meeting's theme is "hope." For more information or to register, visit www.GildasClubLouisville.org/Events or call (502) 583-0075.

Maple Grove Church will hold a ladies' afternoon tea July 19, noon. **Ray Hayes** is pastor.

Spotlight on ...

Glendale



New Horizon Fellowship will host **Chris Golden & Family** in concert July 20, 6 p.m. The event is free. For more information, call (270) 737-4386. **Steven Hill** is pastor.

PRINCETON—HR Ministries will host its fifth annual Summer Slam concert July 26, 5 p.m., at the Caldwell County Butler Lawn featuring the **Rhett Walker Band**, the **J.J. Weeks Band**, **Rapture Ruckus** and **No Other Name**. The event is free and open to the public.

WACO—Bethlehem Church will hold a community block party July 26 with food, games, puppet shows and free school supplies. **Mark McGuire** is pastor.

WILLIAMSBURG—Jellico Creek Church will host **Driven** in concert July 27, 11 a.m. For more information, call (606) 549-3070. **Max Cox** is pastor.

Campbellsville's January Bible Study Preview to focus on Deuteronomy

Campbellsville—The Campbellsville University School of Theology's January Bible Study Preview will focus on the book of Deuteronomy, at a session titled, "A Challenge to a New Generation," Aug. 7 from 1-8 p.m. at the banquet hall of the Badgett Academic Support Center on campus.

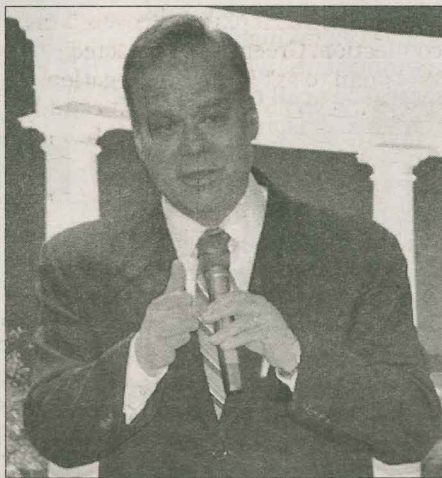
Campbellsville Baptist Church Pastor **Mike O'Neal**, who is chair of the school's church relations council and a member of the CU board of trustees, will lead the study. O'Neal also is an adjunct Old Testament instructor with the School of Theology.

John Hurtgen, dean of theology school, said the January Bible Study is "observed in many Kentucky Baptist churches as a way to devote several days or weeks to concentrated study of the word of God."

"The preview has been a way for the School of Theology—for some 30 years—to provide an overview, as well as teaching helps, for those who may plan on teaching the book at some point," he noted.

He said the preview is also an opportunity for Bible study and Sunday School teachers and dedicated laypersons to "sit under powerful teaching of the word of God."

O'Neal has served at Campbellsville Baptist since August 2013. He has led churches in Texas and Tennessee and



Mike O'Neal

most recently was pastor of Hurstbourne Baptist Church in Louisville. He has also served as an adjunct faculty member at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary and Boyce College. His book, "Interpreting Habakkuk as Scripture," was published in 2007.

Registration and a time of fellowship begin at 12:30 p.m. There is no charge for the study, but the cost for the 6 p.m. catered dinner is \$10, payable on the day of the study.

For more information about the January Bible Study, contact the School of Theology at (270) 789-5029 or email Sherry Bowen at slbowen@campbellsville.edu. (CU)

CLASSIFIED ADS

FOR RENT: Two condos for rent in Destin, Fla.; now booking for August to December; lbrammer@charter.net; (423) 309-4422.

LESSONS: SBTS' Seminary School for the Arts is registering students (ages 4+) for music lessons. Highly qualified Christian teachers provide personalized private instruction in piano, voice, strings, guitar, flute, drums, string ensemble, piano ensemble and children's choir (grades 2-6). Lessons taught on the SBTS campus begin the week of Aug. 18. For more information, (502) 897-4810 or ssa@sbts.edu.

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: Brownsville Missionary Baptist Church in Brownsville, Ky., is prayerfully accepting resumé 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. Resumé may also be sent to sksatravis@gmail.com.

SEEKING: Sherman Baptist Church is seeking a full-time pastor. Please send resumé to P.O. Box 617, Dry Ridge, KY 41035.

SEEKING: FBC, Cookeville, Tenn., is seeking a senior pastor; a multi-generational Southern Baptist church with an average attendance of 650. Position requires an experienced pastor with at least a master's

To place an advertisement in the Western Recorder:

Rates are available upon request.

Call (502) 489-3428 or visit westernrecorder.org



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

degree from an accredited Southern Baptist seminary. Please submit resumé before July 31 to: FBC Cookeville, 18 S. Walnut Ave., Cookeville, TN 38501; email: searchcommittee@fbccookeville.org; website: www.fbccookeville.org.

SEEKING: Part-time minister of youth for Fern Creek Baptist Church. According to the applicant's gifts and skills, this position could include the position of children's minister or associate pastor. Applicant must exemplify a growing relationship with God, spiritual maturity, responsible authority, fervent evangelism and effective communication skills. Send resumé to: Fern Creek Baptist Church, Attn: Personnel Committee, 5920 Bardstown Road, Louisville, KY 40291, or by email to linda@ferncreekbaptist.org. Resumé will be received through Aug. 7. Questions? Call 239-0316, ext. 103 (Linda Barnes Popham, pastor).

SEEKING: First Baptist Church is seeking a senior pastor. Please send resumé with CD/DVD to 47 S. Main Street, Walton, KY 41094, or email to cncforjrc@gmail.com.

SEEKING: The McMinn-Meigs Baptist Association in southeast Tennessee is actively seeking our next director of missions. Resumé will be accepted until Aug. 15. Send to: DOM Search, McMinn-Meigs Baptist Association, 350 N. Congress Pkwy., Athens, TN 37303, or mcminnmeigsbaptist@gmail.com.

SEEKING: Flemingsburg Baptist Church, Flemingsburg, Ky., 41041. Traditional church seeks full-time pastor. Send resumé to fbcpulpit@hotmail.com.

SEEKING: Rineyville Baptist Church, part-time church secretary; adhere to the Baptist Faith & Message 2000. Submit resumé by Aug. 10 to secretaryresume@rbcky.org.

SEEKING: Rineyville Baptist Church, part-time youth minister; grades 6-12; adhere to the Baptist Faith & Message 2000. Resumé due by Aug. 10 to youthresume@rbcky.org.

Yes, I would like to receive the

One year for only \$17

WESTERN Recorder

NAME _____ EMAIL _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

AMOUNT ENCLOSED \$ _____

Send this form with a check for payment to:

Western Recorder

P.O. Box 43969

Louisville, KY 40253

(make checks payable to Western Recorder)

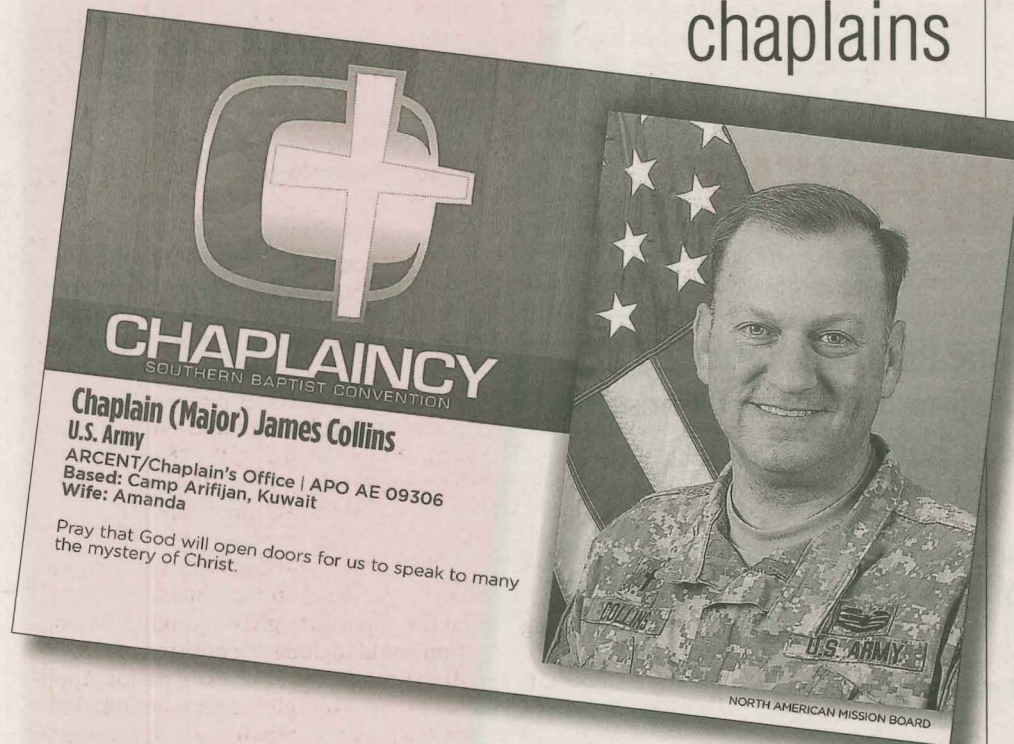
Subscribe to the print or digital edition at

www.WesternRecorder.org

Just click on "Subscribe"

PRAYER CARDS

Connecting churches & chaplains



By Joe Conway

Alpharetta, Ga.—As he developed his children's sermon, Mark Standridge planned to hold back one card from his young audience. The pastor of Placer Heights Baptist Church in Placerville, Calif., opened his brief message with a question for the children.

"Have any of you ever collected baseball cards?" Standridge asked. "When I was a boy, I had a lot of baseball cards. Those players were my heroes. But today I want to share some cards with you that have real heroes on them."

Standridge then handed North American Mission Board Military Chaplaincy Prayer Cards to the group. He gave one chaplain prayer card to every child except one, 7-year-old Timothy Collins. The young boy was a bit disappointed to be overlooked. Then Standridge played his last card.

"Does anybody recognize this chaplain?" Standridge asked as he held up the card. Timothy screamed, "That's my dad!" Standridge said, "Timothy, this card is for you."

The card, of course, was that of Chaplain Major James Collins, serving with the Army National Guard in Kuwait. Timothy was able to recall the story to his dad via Skype that evening.

"Timothy was in tears at church, and so was I when he told me this story," Collins said. "Our church has ordered more cards. Everyone is praying for their chaplain, especially the children."

The chaplain prayer cards are one of the resources produced by the NAMB to help churches support their chaplains. It sent a 50-card set to every Southern Baptist church back in May.

"There has been an absolutely positive response from both chaplains who have received support and from Southern Baptists who have expressed gratitude for gaining a greater appreciation for their chaplains and the roles they fulfill, especially their evangelistic ministries," said Doug Carver, NAMB's executive director for chaplaincy and a retired U.S. Army major general. "The prayer cards certainly met the intent of our goal to

create a vehicle for communication between chaplains and churches and to keep chaplains connected with churches."

Carver and his team receive continual confirmation of that communication and support from chaplains.

"I am humbled by the tremendous and overwhelming response I have received via emails from people all over the country in response to the chaplain cards," Lt. Col. Oliver Bergeron reported. "It has truly been a treasure to know that I have people who don't know me praying for me."

Bergeron serves as a chaplain with the Kansas Air National Guard at McConnell Air Force Base. He said the prayer support has encouraged him.

"I am grateful and blessed because of Southern Baptists' prayers, and I feel their prayers," Bergeron said. "Through those prayers, God is using me in wonderful ways to reach people and to minister to their needs. Two Sundays ago, (my pastor) approached me and said, 'Guess what I got from NAMB and guess whose picture was on top?' He was about as excited as I was embarrassed. But the response and personalized emails from all over have meant a lot and have made me stronger through the Spirit in ministering to the troops."

Collins shares Bergeron's excitement. But he has a prayer team he knows well.

"When I talk to my kids on Skype, they tell me about praying for their chaplain," said Collins, who is scheduled to return home in December. "My children are trading the cards with other kids from the church to pray for more chaplains."

"The most difficult thing about being deployed is being away from my wife and my children," Collins said. "But it is such a blessing to know that they are praying for me and other chaplains because of the prayer cards."

Additional chaplain prayer cards can be obtained by calling (866) 407-6262 or visiting www.NAMBStore.com. Digital versions of the cards are available at www.NAMB.net/Honoring-Military-Chaplains. (NAMB)

At 275th anniversary, Baptist church receives founder's book

By Erin Roach

Baltimore—At a celebration marking its 275th anniversary, Greenville Baptist Church in Rochdale, Mass., received a rare gift: a book from 1764 containing a handwritten note from the church's founding pastor.

The book, a pharmaceutical manual, was uncovered in 1968 when Ira Greenstein was serving as a summer camp counselor and, in his free time, visited a used bookstore in Springfield, Mass. He picked up the manual from a box of old books and bought it.

Greenstein, now a cantor at Beth Am Synagogue in Baltimore, said he knew someone must have a connection to the original owner of the book. Written in ink in the front of the book was a note from Thomas Green, presumably a physician, to Thomas Wallis, possibly his apprentice.

Greenstein searched on and off for years for someone connected to Green or Wallis, but was unsuccessful until this year when a medical archivist at Johns Hopkins University discovered that Green also was a minister who founded Greenville Baptist Society in Leicester, Mass., the sixth Baptist church in Massachusetts.

"It was founded as the Greenville Baptist Society," said Jim Wideman, executive director of the Baptist Convention of New England.

It was clear from the inscription, Greenstein said, that Green "had a very strong attachment to some church and was passing that on as a responsibility to his apprentice, that God would hold him to account for the work he did in medicine, which seemed consistent with colonial America."

Green was a pioneer in central Massachusetts, Wideman said, serving as a legislator, physician and a pastor.

Once Johns Hopkins uncovered the connection, Greenstein contacted Wideman to ask if the congregation would like to have the book. It would be the first original document from the founder, Wideman said.

Greenstein and Wideman met to exchange the book June 10 in

Baltimore where Greenstein lives and Wideman was attending the Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting.

The timing, the two agreed, was providential because Greenville Baptist Church, the congregation that began as the society founded by Green, celebrated its 275th anniversary June 22.

Greenville Baptist Church was affiliated with American Baptist Churches USA for much of its history but joined the Southern Baptist Convention in 2011, Wideman said.

"The church has always stood strong on the word of God and has always been biblically conservative," Wideman said. "In the late '80s and '90s especially, as the convention that they were a part of began to change, they felt more and more isolated."

Greenville Baptist also had been for decades an integral part of a local ministerial association, but about 10 years ago, the church "took a stand against the installation of a homosexual clergy person in one of the local churches and felt like they had to leave the ecumenical clergy association, which isolated them even more," Wideman said.

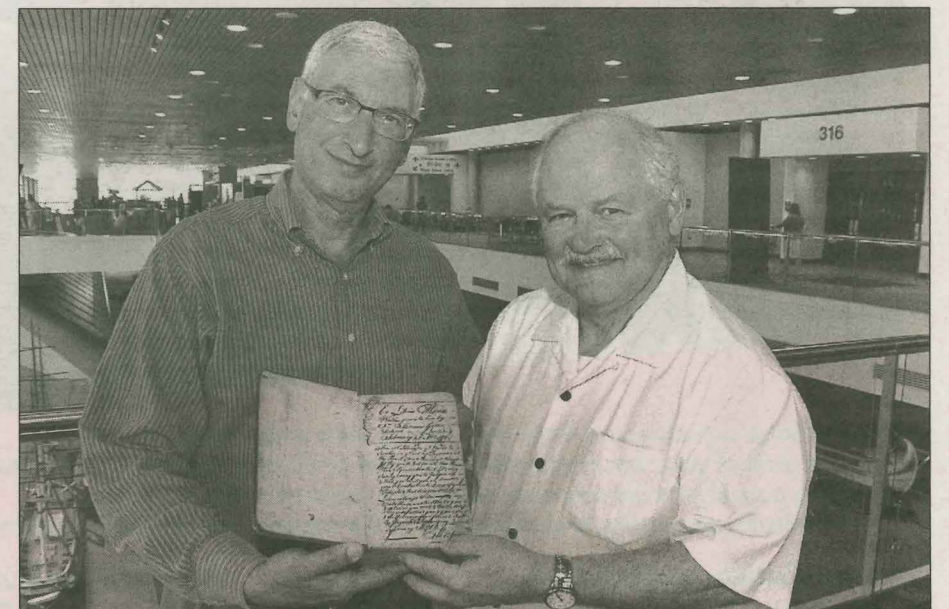
"As they continued to stay strong on Scripture, it just distanced them further and further from ABC."

When the church's pastor retired a few years ago, Greenville Baptist considered five different Baptist groups and chose to affiliate with the SBC "mainly for our biblical, conservative stand and the importance that we placed on Scripture," Wideman said.

Having led the church through an intentional interim pastorate for more than two years, Wideman stepped aside June 22 as the church installed a new pastor, Stephen Derrick, at its 275th anniversary celebration.

Green's pharmaceutical book was presented to the church during a dinner following the celebration, and former pastors and longtime members shared memories of God's faithfulness through the years.

"They were very excited that we had something now in our possession that the founder of the church had actually possessed," Wideman said. (BP)



Ira Greenstein, a cantor at Beth Am Synagogue in Baltimore, gives a pharmaceutical manual from 1764 to Jim Wideman, executive director of the Baptist Convention of New England. Greenstein found the manual at a used bookstore and returned it to Greenville Baptist Church in Rochdale, Mass., which was founded by the book's original owner, Thomas Green. (Photo by Morris Abernathy)

UNIVERSITY of the CUMBERLANDS

Advance your career

**HIGHER LEARNING.
ONLINE CONVENIENCE.**

University of the Cumberland's Graduate & Online Programs Offer
Bachelors, Masters & Doctoral Degrees in Education, Business, Counseling,
Christian Studies, Psychology, Criminal Justice & Human Services.

For over 125 years University of the Cumberland has provided quality education at the most
affordable cost. Our online courses allow you to customize your coursework according to your
busy schedule.

Terms start every two months. Log on to find out how to get started today.

(606) 539-4390 | gradweb.ucumberlands.edu



UNIVERSITY of the
CUMBERLANDS

GRADUATE and
ONLINE PROGRAMS



The college experience is more than taking tests and writing papers.
It's the thrill of your first major dissection, the pride of a national championship
and the pursuit of a life more abundant. It's the time to be challenged
academically, physically, and spiritually. A life beyond the ordinary is waiting.

Experience UnCommon.

Visit University of the Cumberland this summer
or during one of our Patriot Preview Days this fall.

Patriot Preview Dates:

Oct. 11, 2014
Nov. 15, 2014

UNIVERSITY of the
CUMBERLANDS

Williamsburg, KY Est. 1889 www.ucumberlands.edu

Majors

ACCOUNTING
APPLIED PHYSICS
ART*
BIOLOGICAL SCIENCE*
BIOLOGY
BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION
CHEMISTRY*
CHURCH MUSIC
COMMUNICATION ARTS
CRIMINAL JUSTICE
EARLY ELEMENTARY EDUCATION*
ENGLISH*
EXERCISE AND SPORT SCIENCE
FITNESS AND SPORT MANAGEMENT
HEALTH EDUCATION
HISTORY
HISTORY AND POLITICAL SCIENCE
HUMAN SERVICES
JOURNALISM AND PUBLIC RELATIONS
MANAGEMENT INFORMATION SYSTEMS
MATHEMATICS*
MIDDLE SCHOOL EDUCATION*
MUSIC*
PHYSICAL EDUCATION*
PHYSICS*
POLITICAL SCIENCE
PSYCHOLOGY
PUBLIC HEALTH
MISSIONS AND MINISTRY
SOCIAL STUDIES*
SPANISH*
SPECIAL EDUCATION*
SPEECH/MEDIA COMMUNICATIONS*
THEATRE ARTS

*Teaching Certification Available

Williamsburg, KY • 1.800.343.1609 • www.ucumberlands.edu