

WESTERN Recorder

July 29, 2014

Shine Like Stars * Philippians 2:15

Volume 188, Issue 27



STANDOFF CONTINUES



*Convention, school
each claim the other
has violated covenant
agreement, while
public debate heats
up in blogosphere &
on social media*

ON THAT SAME TOPIC

Why does Campbellsville's decision to elect its own trustees matter to the school or the KBC?

Editorial on page 4.

By Drew Nichter

Louisville—Campbellsville University's recent move to name its own trustees without consent from the Kentucky Baptist Convention is—and is not—a violation of the two parties' covenant agreement. It all depends on who is asked.

The convention and its longtime educational institution partner remain locked in a dispute over the future of their relationship. The clash even has Kentucky Baptist pastors and CU professors defending their chosen sides on blogs and social media.

In a recent KBC press release, attorney James Taylor said CU trustees' July 15 vote to revise the school's bylaws to create a self-perpetuating board is "clearly inconsistent with its covenant agreement with Kentucky Baptists."

KBC Executive Director Paul Chitwood cited language that states the agreement can only be terminated with four years' notice from one party to the other, and which must be made at a KBC annual meeting session.

However, on its website, Campbellsville University denies any such breach of the contract.

"We are assured by our legal counsel that changing the bylaws did not violate the covenant agreement," the website states.

The statement comes from a Q-and-A section of a recently launched page on the school's site dedicated to addressing "confusion" and "misstatements about the current disagreement between Campbellsville University and the Kentucky Baptist Convention."

In response to the CU board's vote, the

KBC's business and finance committee voted July 17 to escrow the school's anticipated share of Cooperative Program funds for the coming fiscal year. The school is projected to receive \$977,000 from the KBC in 2014-15.

Committee chair Don Mathis said the recommendation "will give us time to study the matter before we send more CP funds."

Despite withholding funds from the school, the B&F committee approved a recommendation to maintain scholarships for Kentucky Baptist students attending Campbellsville.

"We don't want (students) to suffer because of Campbellsville's decision," Mathis said. Scholarship funds are distributed independently of Cooperative Program monies.

□ See Campbellsville ... Page 2

Southern Baptist leaders witness hope, 'put human face' on U.S. border crisis

By Tom Strobe

San Antonio—Southern Baptist leaders recognized something when they toured federal government facilities for children who have fled to the United States without their parents: hope.

Southern Baptist Convention President Ronnie Floyd and Russell Moore, the SBC's lead ethicist, joined others in tours July 22 of two centers established to address the crisis of unaccompanied minors crossing the country's southern border.

The centers in McAllen and San Antonio, Texas, are part of the response to a wave that includes more than 57,000 underage children who have been apprehended at the border with Mexico in the last nine months. Most of the children—and sometimes children accompanied by a young parent or parents—have fled Honduras, El Salvador and Guatemala, which are plagued not only by poverty

but by violence among gangs involved in drug trafficking.

"I was struck as we were walking through the facility with two things: a sense of fear and a sense of hope," said Moore, president of the Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission, "a sense of fear when I asked the kids why they made the trek up to the United States; and a sense of hope. I saw many crosses and Bibles. Many people are desperately hoping for an end to the violence where they come from."

"These are real people who are looking for hope, Floyd said, "and we have the greatest hope that anyone can give them. ... We need to provide them that hope—hope that we love them, hope that we care for them, hope, most of all, in the gospel of Jesus Christ that will change

□ See Border crisis ... Page 6



Russell Moore, president of the Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission, speaks at a news conference in McAllen, Texas, after Southern Baptist and other religious leaders toured a detention center for unaccompanied children who have crossed the border with Mexico. (Photo by Guthrie Graves-Fitzsimmons)

ON THAT SAME TOPIC

Border crisis becomes a mission field for one Texas church.

Story on page 6.

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Prestonsburg pastor is 2nd VP nominee

Mount Washington—Jerry Workman, pastor at First Baptist Church of Prestonsburg, will be nominated as second vice president of the Kentucky Baptist Convention when its annual meeting convenes in Bowling Green Nov. 11.



Jerry Workman

Jim Castlen, a retired director of missions and now senior-adult minister at First Baptist Church of Mount Washington, said he plans to nominate Workman. He is the first announced candidate for the post.

In an email to the Western Recorder, Castlen described Workman as a "servant-hearted, warm-spirited experienced pastor."

"Jerry desires to serve our convention by any means to help advance the cause of Christ and His gospel," said

Castlen, who is the former DOM of Three Forks Baptist Association.

"He will also lend a strong voice in support of the biblical standards we are seeking to uphold and defend in our culture today," Castlen said of Workman.

In a statement regarding his nomination, Workman said "in a society that is continually drifting away from God and the truth of His word," churches and pastors are growing more reliant on resources provided through the KBC "to assist us in reaching the lost and defending our faith."

Workman said he wants to come alongside and mentor the next generation of pastors coming out of Southern Baptist seminaries, including his 26-year-old son, Chris.

"I am concerned about the escalating challenges that future pastors will face as our society continues to neglect the truth of the gospel," he noted.

As second vice president, "my desire would be to serve the KBC by helping it remain a godly, biblically faithful resource for future generations of pastor and churches," Workman said.

Workman has served as pastor of First Baptist, Prestonsburg, since 2006. Prior to that, he was pastor of Smithsboro Baptist Church in Vicco and served bivocationally at a church in Fort Gay, W.Va. Prior to becoming a pastor, he spent about 20 years as a business and financial professional with several companies in Ohio and West Virginia.

A member of the KBC Mission Board, Workman is chair of the Committee on the Annual Meeting. He also is a past moderator for Enterprise Baptist Association and a former executive board member for Three Forks Association.

According to the KBC's 2013 Annual Church Profile report, First Baptist, Prestonsburg, gave \$31,207 (9.6 percent) of its undesignated receipts to the Cooperative Program. It also reported five baptisms. (WR)

Holiday shifts deadline for year-end CP gifts

Louisville—The Kentucky Baptist Convention is urging churches to make special arrangements to get their August Cooperative Program gifts in on time to be counted toward the fiscal year totals.

The KBC's 2013-14 fiscal year ends Aug. 31. This year, that day falls on a Sunday and is followed by Labor Day, Sept. 1.

Typically, churches' August CP gifts, in order to be included in the fiscal year totals, must be postmarked by Aug. 31 and delivered to the KBC by the second business day in September.

With Labor Day falling on Sept. 1 this year, the deadline for CP gifts is Sept. 3. However, the receipts still must be mailed by the end of August.

The KBC's 2014-15 fiscal year begins Sept. 1, with a Cooperative Program budget total is \$22 million, a half-million dollar decrease from the current budget. (WR)

Campbellsville

Continued from page 1

Chitwood said the covenant agreement's four-year notice stipulation is meant to protect students.

"Thus, students who entered CU as a KBC institution and (are) presumably dependent upon KBC scholarships could complete their degrees without fear of the school's identity being altered or their scholarships being lost," he said.

However, on its website, CU claims that by holding the school's CP funds in escrow, the KBC is in violation of the covenant agreement.

In their July 16 letter to Kentucky Baptists, CU President Michael Carter and board chair Joseph Owens said they had proposed "good-faith discussions" to, among other things, "phase out direct Cooperative Program funding from the KBC over a four-year period."

"By punitively withholding its financial pledge immediately, the KBC is ignoring that process," the CU website claims.

Both Campbellsville and the KBC say requests for dialogue have gone unanswered.

2nd VP resigns from counsel

Meanwhile, the dispute has prompted a KBC officer to leave Campbellsville's church relations counsel.

KBC Second Vice President Ed Amundson resigned his position on the counsel July 17. In a letter to CU leadership, Amundson cited "divisive and offensive provocations and propaganda" against the KBC, as well as "shifting the approval of trustees from the KBC to insiders" and "away from accountable, transparent leadership."

Amundson, who is pastor of High Street Baptist Church in Somerset and a CU graduate, urged Campbellsville leaders to "reconsider your course of action" and renew discussions with the KBC to continue the longstanding partnership.

"Recognize the far-reaching damage your actions will have, not only upon the university and the state convention, but most of all to the body of Christ," Amundson wrote.

Online debate

Not unexpectedly, the public debate has spilled over into the blogosphere and social media.

CU's website has posted links to several blogs defending the school and its decision to break away from the KBC.

In a lengthy Facebook post, John Hurtgen, dean of CU's School of Theology, defended the school's mission, saying it produces "world changers for Christ."

"Students of Jesus come to us in response to the gospel of Jesus Christ," he wrote. "We receive them as a sacred trust. ... It is from this School of Theology that Kentucky Baptist churches and

Agreement's 'covenant term' in dispute

The Kentucky Baptist Convention contends that Campbellsville University trustees' July 15 vote to revise the school's bylaws to create a self-perpetuating board put it in violation of the covenant agreement between the two parties.

The university claims it is not in breach of the agreement because it proposed discussions that would phase out the KBC's Cooperative Program allocations to Campbellsville over four years.

At issue is interpretation of the agreement's "covenant term." The full covenant agreement was approved by Campbellsville trustees Sept. 23, 1986 and adopted by KBC messengers Nov. 11, 1986.

The article, as it appears in the covenant agreement, is stated in full below:

This Covenant Agreement is designed to clarify and make more permanent the relationship between the Kentucky Baptist Convention and Campbellsville College. This relationship is built upon many years of faithful commitment and trust by many individuals and by many millions of dollars contributed by Kentucky Baptists in support of Campbellsville College and by the support of many Campbellsville College graduates to the Kentucky Baptist Convention. It is designed to reflect the glorious heritage of our past and to provide a clear definition of our mutual purpose and relationship for the future.

Therefore, it is the intention of the Kentucky Baptist Convention and Campbellsville College that this shall be a covenant binding each to the other as set out herein. This Covenant Agreement shall not terminate except on notification of one party to the other at a meeting of the Kentucky Baptist Convention in annual session at least four (4) years prior to the date of said termination.

institutions, large and small, have welcomed so many of our graduates equipped for ministry."

In a blog post, Shane Garrison, a School of Theology professor and interim pastor at Hurstbourne Baptist Church in Louisville, said his Campbellsville University education presented "no problems whatsoever, theologically, biblically or practically." He said the school has always been well connected to the KBC and its churches.

"Some have said CU hasn't changed. I disagree," Garrison wrote. "If anything, CU is more KBC-connected now than ever before."

One Kentucky Baptist pastor, however, painted an altogether different picture of Campbellsville theology school.

Andrew Dyer, pastor of Corinth Baptist Church in London, who graduated from CU in 2000, said his "personal experience in the classroom introduced me to a theology that was far from the Baptist churches in which I was raised."

Dyer said he was told expository preaching "wouldn't work"; that in one class, complementarian views were not welcome; some School of Theology professors advocated pro-abortion and pro-homosexuality positions in class; and that students were consistently "steered away" from Southern Baptist seminaries in favor of Cooperative Baptist Fellowship-affiliated seminaries and divinity schools.

CU's leadership "differs theologically from those who have a high view of Scripture," Dyer wrote.

Another pastor lays the blame for the current situation directly at the feet of CU President Carter.

First Baptist Church of Hazard Pastor Daryl Cornett wrote in a July 22 blog post that "this whole ordeal has been initiated and driven by one man who became personally offended and has expressed unfounded fears (whether real or feigned) about the school's relationship with Kentucky Baptists through the covenant agreement."

As then-chair of the agencies and institutions committee of the KBC Mission Board, Cornett was part of a delegation that met with Campbellsville leaders last year. The meeting centered on the dismissal of Jarvis Williams, a professor who some believed was let go because of his theologically conservative views.

At that meeting, Cornett alleged President Carter was defensive and revealed "his more moderate views in regard to Scripture and his dislike for Calvinism."

Cornett claims Carter took the meeting personally and began charting a course of action that has led to the present dispute.

"But, in true form, he has to blame the KBC for the move," Cornett said, pointing to Carter's statement that the school wants to create a self-perpetuating board to prevent undue theological control from being placed on the school by the KBC.

"Instead of just owning his decision and explaining to all why he thinks it is a good move for the school, he is disseminating false information," Cornett wrote. (WR)

Family group urges prayer ahead of gay marriage hearing

Lexington—With the courts set to consider the constitutionality of Kentucky's same-sex marriage ban, a pro-family organization is urging Christians in the state to pray for the decision.

The Family Foundation of Kentucky kicked off its "Ten Days of Prayer for Marriage" campaign July 28. It runs through Aug. 6, the day a federal court of appeals will consider Kentucky's 2004 Marriage Protection Amendment, which defines marriage as between only one man and one woman.

The three-judge panel with the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit will hear arguments for and against same-sex marriage prohibitions in Kentucky, Michigan, Ohio and Tennessee on

Aug. 6. The Family Foundation said it has already submitted an amicus brief for the case and is preparing another.

"Attorneys can do that work, but we must pray," Family Foundation Executive Director Kent Ostrander wrote in a press release.

During the 10 days leading up to the hearings, "we hope to have more people praying together than have ever done so in the state," Ostrander said. The effort



could be "the largest daily prayer meeting in Kentucky history," he added.

If recent trends are any indication, Kentucky's same-sex marriage ban could be in jeopardy. A federal judge ruled July 1 that the state amendment is unconstitutional. That decision came just months after the same judge decided Kentucky must recognize gay marriages performed outside the state.

Ostrander said federal judges have been "jumping on the same-sex bandwagon." He pointed out that, to date, "no federal judge or federal court of appeals panel has sided with traditional marriage."

However, in a July 23 report, the Louisville Courier-Journal described the

three-judge panel that will hear Kentucky's case as "GOP-leaning."

The article identified Jeffrey Sutton as one of the judges on the panel. He wrote the opinion for the court's 2012 decision to reinstate a Christian graduate counseling student who had been expelled from Eastern Michigan University for refusing to work with same-sex couples.

Ostrander said The Family Foundation has contacted other pro-family groups in Michigan, Ohio and Tennessee to promote the prayer campaign as they defend their states' marriage laws.

"We will not all be in the same location," Ostrander said, "but we can lift up our need and extend our faith to the One who can set things straight." (WR)

Golden Gate Seminary finalizes sale of Mill Valley campus, seeks to relocate



Golden Gate Seminary President Jeff Iorg signs documents for the \$85 million sale of the San Francisco-area campus. The seminary will soon begin the process of relocating its main campus to southern California. (GGBS photo)

By Ben Skaug

Mill Valley, Calif.—Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary has finalized the sale of its property near Mill Valley, Calif., setting aside funds both to purchase a new campus in Southern California and add \$50 million to its endowment.

The sale agreement for Golden Gate's Mill Valley property included a base price of \$85 million, along with other terms financially advantageous to the seminary, including a favorable lease-back rate; the ability for the seminary to remain fully operational in the Mill Valley location for two years; and the retention of revenue earned through rentals and other uses of the property during the lease-back period.

President Jeff Iorg praised the seminary's trustees for their fiscal discipline in reserving significant proceeds from the sale for the seminary's endowment.

"We are delighted this first phase of our relocation is complete," Iorg said. "It took us 70 years to gather an endowment of \$21 million. Increasing our endowment by another \$50 million in such a short time is amazing."

The board also approved an allocation of resources for new facilities in southern California, Iorg reported.

"We are pleased with how circumstances are coming together related to

our future campus," he said. "Now that the sale has been finalized, we can conclude our agreements for the new campus and announce those in a few weeks. God is bringing this entire process together in ways we could have never imagined."

The seminary is finalizing plans for its new primary campus in southern California and a new regional campus in the San Francisco Bay area.

Discussing the sale agreement, Iorg said, "There's been much conjecture about the value of the Mill Valley property over the years. In reality, because of the development restrictions on the property, its value is less than some have speculated. We have tried for years to remove these entitlement restrictions, to no avail. We have watched with increased urgency as value has continued to erode because of these restrictions. This helps explain the necessity of our decision to sell the property."

Iorg said the seminary had received "multiple offers for the property over the past two years. All of them were for less than the offer we ultimately accepted."

"We had to build the relocation process around the needs of students," he said. "We could not sell the land and close the campus abruptly. We had to have a sale and relocation process that preserved our institutional commitment to current students." (BP)

SBC DR imparts hope in Washington

By Tobin Perry

Chelan, Wash.—An older gentleman labored on two crutches into an American Red Cross feeding station servicing fire survivors at a senior center in Washington state. He was partially paralyzed, but wasn't looking for food for himself. He wanted to take meals prepared by Southern Baptist disaster relief volunteers to others in the community after wildfires in eastern Washington destroyed more than 150 homes and caused the evacuation of another 1,200 residents.

"He came in on crutches, but he was there to help others," said Gerry Roe, a member of Trinity Baptist Church in Springfield, Ore., who was serving on the team that prepared the meals.

Roe and 20-plus Northwest Baptist Convention volunteers have been providing meals in Twisp, Wash.—about 1,200 a day—since July 18. More than 1,500 firefighters and support staff are now battling the blaze, called the Carlton Complex Fire, which started July 14 as four separate fires. Now the largest fire in Washington history, it has burned more than 400 square miles, according to news reports.

"Some of the people may not have had their homes destroyed, but they had their power and water go out," Roe pointed out.

Southern Baptist volunteers also prepared meals at a high school in Chelan, Wash. SBDR chaplains provided a listening ear for survivors and shared the hope of the gospel when given the opportunity.

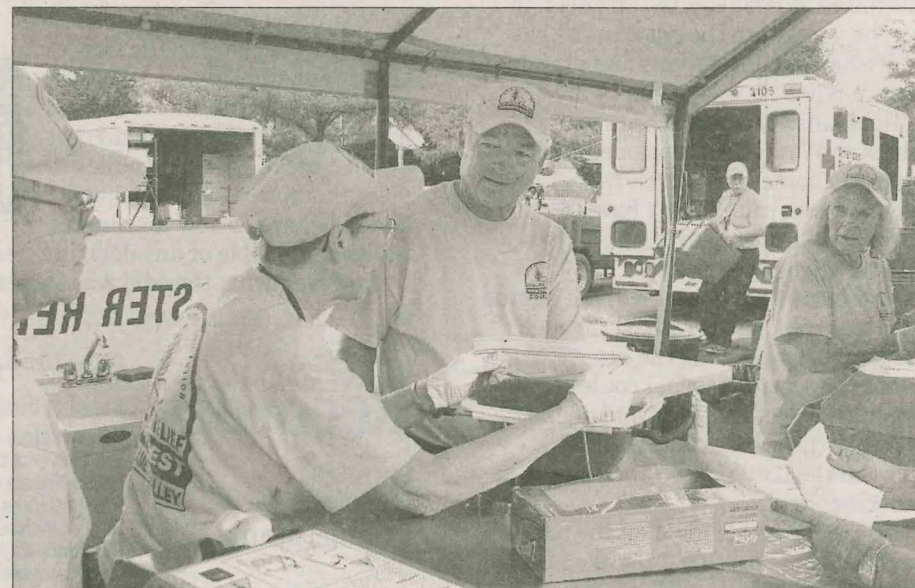
"They're scared," said James Vines, an SBDR chaplain from Richland (Wash.) Baptist Church. "They're uncertain about what's going to happen and anxious to get to their homes because not only have their homes been destroyed, but all the power and everything in the area is gone. ... But they just want someone to talk to, so we just listen to them."

Gary Floyd, Northwest Baptist Convention's disaster relief director, expects increased ministry opportunities in the days ahead as Southern Baptists help with clean-up work in the impacted area. At that point, he said, opportunities for help from other state conventions may arise.

Prayer and resources needed

Floyd said the most important things Southern Baptists can do currently is pray and contribute resources to Southern Baptist Disaster Relief.

"I hope people will see that there is a God who loves them and cares about them," Floyd said. "I hope they can see that God's love can reach them even in the midst of crisis." (BP)

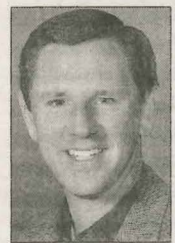


Southern Baptist Disaster Relief volunteers from Washington, June Rezentes (left) of New Hope Baptist Church in Cresswell talks with fellow volunteers Cliff and Sherry Larson of Eastmont Baptist Church in East Wenatchee as they clean up from dinner preparation for survivors of the largest wildfire in Washington state history. (Photo by Tobin Perry/NAMB)

Visiting FBC Mayfield

I was privileged recently to join Pastor Wes Fowler and First Baptist Church of Mayfield for their Founder's Day celebration, marking 170 years of faithful ministry in their west Kentucky town. Although 170 years old, First Baptist, Mayfield, is still reaching people with the gospel of Jesus Christ.

Together We are the KBC



Paul Chitwood

A strong commitment to community ministry is evidently helping their evangelistic endeavors. As an example, Pastor Fowler explained to me that when the local YMCA inquired about using FBC's facilities for their child care programs, he took that request to church leaders with a desire to use the opportunity to bless the community and share Christ with the families who utilize the program. The resulting decision was for the YMCA to use the facility free of charge throughout the year.

In exchange, the church only asked that the YMCA kids attend the church's Vacation Bible School program. Pastor Fowler remarked to me, "We decided that generosity was a great way for us to connect with any unchurched families who were using the YMCA program—and it has worked. We are reaching families because of it."

Not only is FBC reaching families in its community, it is committed to taking the gospel across Kentucky, North America and to the ends of the earth. They are living out that commitment through volunteer missions work, but also through their faithful giving to the missions and ministries supported by the Cooperative Program.

Pastor Fowler told me the church has embraced a commitment to give 10 percent of its offerings through CP. They are increasing their level of giving by one-half percent each year until they have achieved their goal. The Kentucky and Southern Baptist conventions we know today would not exist were it not for the CP generosity of churches like First Baptist, Mayfield.

One of the unique things I observed about FBC is the relationship between the church and her pastor. Wes Fowler was raised at First Baptist, Mayfield. In fact, he pointed to the place in the balcony where he, his parents and grandparents sat when he was child.

Upon answering the Lord's call to ministry, Wes never envisioned returning to his home church. His wife, Tara, told me, "Wes said I didn't have to ever worry about moving to Mayfield, but here we are and we love it."

And from what I observed, the church loves it as well. As we walked through the sanctuary greeting the congregation before the service began, I could see that love in the hugs and handshakes and hear it in the gentle conversations between the Lord's sheep and their undershepherd.

Driving from Mayfield on the parkways back to Louisville, I thanked God for the beauty of the bride of Christ.

Paul Chitwood is executive director of the Kentucky Baptist Convention.

Electing Campbellsville's trustees: Why does it matter?

Why has it come to this? That's the question Kentucky Baptists should ask themselves in regards to another of its academic institutions desiring to leave the fold, even at the sacrifice of nearly \$1 million in annual financial support.

While \$1 million sounds like a lot, to a university like Campbellsville, it is only a small fraction of its budget. With a few new donors, endowment earnings or increased alumni support, the loss quickly can be recouped. Furthermore, the \$1 million Cooperative Program allocation, while significant in Kentucky Baptist eyes, isn't what it used to be even a few years ago, when the amount surpassed \$1.5 million.

True, there is more behind the allocation than meets the eye. For starters, it represents an historic relationship with Kentucky Baptists, whose churches have lovingly given tens of millions over the past decades to support the school, and who have encouraged their young people to receive a quality Christian education there. Many pastors have prepared for ministry under the school's capable faculty. From the convention's standpoint, the amount still constitutes one of its largest allocations for an institution or agency.

In exchange for CP monies, Kentucky Baptists have asked for a say in electing the institution's trustees, requesting that each be a member of a church in good standing with the state convention (eight may be Baptists from other states). Until now, Campbellsville has obliged. Under the terms of a Covenant Agreement signed in the 1980s, CU's president brings nominations for trustees to the KBC's Committee on Nominations, which gives a thumbs-up (or thumbs-down) before names are presented at annual meetings.

No longer. Campbellsville's board has moved to elect its own trustees, though it still says they will be Baptists—just not necessarily Kentucky Baptists. Why does this matter? For the university, it allows a possibility of enlisting more alumni from other states to serve as trustees. Some may make significant contributions to the school's future expansion, if welcomed to its board. For Kentucky Baptists, though, it obviously means lessening influence on the board, which controls the university's overall direction and approval of faculty.

Moreover, Campbellsville officials, rightly or wrongly, feel the university's relationship with convention leadership has become strained. From their vantage point, the relationship is "deteriorating." Chairman Joseph Owens stated that the CU board took steps "to protect the mission of the university and to avoid both undue influence and the imposition of theological and doctrinal control." Whoa! Could there be deeper, underlying issues at work?

On the university's website, Owens and CU President Michael Carter offer further explanation: "Campbellsville would not be changing the nature of our relationship were it not for the fact the KBC desires to exercise greater influence

over the university, including the process for selecting our Board of Trustees and requiring that the KBC executive director sit as a trustee. This is an unacceptable intrusion on the university's independence. It is important to note that CU is not changing in any way its mission or its commitment to providing Baptist higher education."

Back in April 2013, several KBC leaders—including Executive Director Paul Chitwood—made a hasty trip to Campbellsville for a dialogue after allegations surfaced in the wake of a decision not to grant tenure to one of its professors. At the time, KBC officials sought to reassure Kentucky Baptists that the school would employ theologically conservative faculty members, and the

professor since has been picked up by Southern Seminary. But was this recent flashpoint extinguished—or are embers still smoldering?

KBC President Chip Hutcheson objected that the convention exerts no "influence or control over the university except that of approving trustees the university selects." Yet that seemingly is a big bone of contention: How much control should the convention have over Campbellsville? Perhaps we should note here that, according to CU's website, while the university declares it "will always be a Baptist institution run by Baptists and based on Baptist ideals," the KBC does not own the school, which since its founding has operated as an independent nonprofit institution—with Baptist support.

Some, no doubt, will insist the KBC should be allowed to continue selecting all of the university's trustees, or it should begin withholding CP support promptly. But hold on, the issue is more complex. There are students from Kentucky Baptist families, who support the Cooperative Program through their offerings, who receive financial assistance from scholarships provided through KBC channels. To cut off those funds sharply would unfairly punish them. So, KBC officials commendably chose a higher road by maintaining scholarships for these Kentucky Baptist students.

Still, is there some mutually acceptable compromise that can be reached that would allow us to maintain our historic relationship with a school so many of us have grown to love? Campbellsville has expressed an interest in forging a new partnership, but its leaders have yet to sit down across the table from KBC leaders to hammer out agreeable details. For now, they have unilaterally proposed embarking on a four-year severance arrangement which steps down CP support.

"Terribly saddening," isn't it? Hutcheson aptly described it. As Kentucky Baptists, we shudder to think it has come down again to possibly losing one of our beloved institutions. Kentucky Baptists must make our relationship with Campbellsville an urgent matter of prayer, seeking an amicable resolution—mindful that a lost world most needs to see how a spirit of Christian charity can prevail, especially in most difficult circumstances.



After Thought

By Todd Deaton

Supports Campbellsville

As I reflect on the current events regarding Campbellsville University and the Kentucky Baptist Convention, I have this to say of my alma mater: I am so glad that God led me to Campbellsville—a place that never told me what I had to believe or how to think in terms of the Bible or any doctrine.

However, what they did was show me

what others across the board believe—those both still with us and those who have gone ahead. The professors let me ask any questions that arose no matter what they might be, and they never judged me for those questions but encouraged me to think them out.

They allowed my love, understanding and appreciation of the Bible to grow as my faith grew and as I began to understand what my call is.



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Shine Like Stars * Philippians 2:15

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Campbellsville University's School of Theology professors never said I had to believe a certain teaching. They presented teachings to us and helped us come to our own understanding.

I see the current move as CU's way to ensure she can still do this for her students, and that is something I support and appreciate.

Curtis Clemons, pastor
Mount Zion Christian Church, Carlisle
CU Class of 2012

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.

Social networking & communicating the gospel

By David Jeremiah

A century ago, the average person's social network probably consisted of less than 50 people. Today, your social network can consist of hundreds, even thousands, of people. They can live anywhere in the world, speak another language and be of a different religion. The only thread that ties you together is a similar interest in, well, anything. Your network might consist of "friends"—a friend of a friend of a friend, as well as people who actually are your close friends. You rarely communicate face to face; you do it all digitally via social-networking sites.

The need to connect socially

I believe online social networks were a phenomenon waiting to happen. In the first decade of widespread personal computer use (the 1990s), relationships suffered as people isolated themselves in front of computer screens and surfed the Web. Just in time, social networking turned an inherently isolating tool into a vehicle for re-establishing and widening our relationships.

We've come out of our digital shells and are manifesting our God-given social capacities in a new, networking sort of way. To that end, networks are good things.

The need to communicate seriously

Much of what gets shared on some social-networking sites can be less than profound. With the wheat comes the chaff in any new endeavor. As Christians, our goal is to recognize the potential for good that social-networking technology presents—new opportunities for serious communication about spiritually important matters.

The most important, of course, is the gospel of Jesus Christ. Think about what a difference 2,000 years has made. Jesus and John the Baptist proclaimed the good news of the kingdom of God first by voice, and the early apostles and evangelists did the same, one sermon at a time. By the end of the first century, the four Gospels, Acts, Revelation and the Epistles had been written and

were being copied and distributed by hand. By the fourth century, the Old and New Testaments had been codified and bound together as "Bibles"; they were hand copied and painstakingly distributed for the next 1,000 years.

Then came a revolution as world changing as the Internet. Around 1440, Johannes Gutenberg invented the printing press in Germany and produced copies of the Bible. For the last 500 years, the Bible has been the most printed and widely distributed book in history. With modern media, ways of spreading the gospel and Bible teaching have multiplied. But the barrier to further expansion has always been the cost. Social networking has presented a new opportunity for organizations and individuals alike to inexpensively extend the kingdom of God.

COMMENTARY

The network for communicating spiritually

There are many ways for individuals to make an impact for Christ through social networking. Using sites like Facebook and Twitter, you can let your social network know about answers to prayer, Bible study insights or a book that has impacted your life. It's like having a digital conversation with your closest friends.

A word of caution, though: The Internet is the world. You must be careful to protect your privacy—and especially that of your children—when networking. But with appropriate boundaries and screening, your social network can become a source of information, encouragement and spiritual discernment.

Social networking has exploded because people are longing for ways to connect. If your life is centered on Jesus Christ and the word of God, every person you touch, whether in person or via a digital social network, will be changed for the better. We should be building the strongest social networks we can—both the traditional, face-to-face variety and the newfangled digital variety.

The apostle Paul said in 1 Corinthians 9:22, "I have become all things to all men that I might by all means save some." Let us use every means possible to share Jesus Christ in our needy world. (BP)

David Jeremiah is the founder and host of Turning Point for God and pastor of Shadow Mountain Community Church in El Cajon, Calif.

Is your family 'devout'?

By David Garrard

Acts 10:2 tells us that the Roman centurion, Cornelius, and all his family were devout and God-fearing. They gave generously to those in need and prayed to God regularly. Could the same be said of you and your family?



These days it seems the word "devout" gets used less and less to describe folks. When it comes to faith and the spiritual dimension of life, everything else often comes first. People's priorities are elsewhere. And so ...

- We come to church if we have nothing better to do.
- We give if we have money left over.
- We go on a mission trip if we don't have any schedule conflicts.
- Our kids go on the retreat if they don't have ball games.
- We maybe pray at meal times or when we are in trouble.
- We read the Bible occasionally during worship—if we remember to bring it.

The Bible tells us that devout people were and are used by God. This was certainly true for Cornelius. God revealed Himself to Cornelius and his family in a powerful way that ended up changing not only their lives but also Peter's understanding of Christianity.

Sign me up for that. I want to be used by God. I want my family to know and follow God. I want the Garrards to be considered a devout family, and my guess is you want the same for your family. The question is: What are we willing to do to help make that happen?

Several years ago, Charles Stanley wrote a book called "Confronting Casual Christianity." It might be time to re-read it.

David Garrard is minister to children at St. Matthews Baptist Church in Louisville.

Plan your use of joint tenancy

By Laurie Valentine

Many people put everything they own in joint ownership with others so that, at death, no probate court proceedings are required for the other joint owner to have full ownership and control of the assets. "Joint tenancy with rights of survivorship" titling does avoid probate as ownership passes by operation of law to the surviving joint owner, but it should be used carefully.

Your will does not control who will own joint-owned assets following your death. That means that even with a carefully thought out "written plan" (a will) directing how you want what you own at death to pass, any assets in joint names will not be governed by that plan.

Another reason people put someone else's name on their assets as joint owner is to give them access to those assets in case of incapacity of the original owner. A better plan may be to give them a power of attorney which gives them access to your assets and the ability to use them for your benefit if you become incapacitated without making them a joint owner.

Putting others' names on your assets as joint owner makes them just that, an owner with rights in those assets. That could result in those assets being subject to the claims of that other joint owner's creditors, if he or she gets into some kind of legal or financial difficulty.

And, if the other joint owner dies first you might be taxed on receiving your own assets back from the other joint owner at his or her death, depending on his or her relationship to you.

As with all other aspects of estate stewardship, use of joint tenancy should be planned.

Laurie Valentine is trust counsel for the Kentucky Baptist Foundation.

Lessons from an entire summer spent at camp

By Joe Ball

I have had the privilege to spend all summer at Cedarmore Camp. I moved in June 1, and I will leave in August after the last camper is gone and we have had our final time with our summer staff. As camp draws to a close, here are a few observations from this summer:

Churches are serious about reaching students. Week after week, I hear stories of churches that have worked all year to raise support, enlist students and pay for lost or unchurched students to come to camp so they can hear the gospel.

Churches see the value in students getting away from the distractions of everyday life to hear a fresh word from the Spirit. Adults take a vacation week to be chaperones and willingly survive on little or no sleep so students can attend. They value building relationships with students and see them not as a distraction, but as a fellow pilgrim on the journey.

We are a technology-dependent society. It is not just our students; it is rare that an adult shows up here without a cell phone and, depending on the service provider, some become instant paperweights. The line of people on "AT&T Ridge" is mostly adults trying to reconnect with life at home.

When the wireless networks go out or the Internet service bogs down, it is a cause for great consternation for all of us. This change in society is one churches need to embrace in order to engage the culture around them. The night we lost power for four hours was a reminder to me how, even as churches and camps, we have become dependent upon lights, sound, video and air conditioning.

Youth ministry is a lonely profession. This isn't news

to me, but it has been reinforced time and time again as I have golf-cart conversations with youth workers.

We need to involve ourselves with other youth ministers in our communities. The adage, "No one understands youth ministry like another youth minister," is as true today as it has ever been. We need each other. And if youth ministers are lonely, their spouses are even lonelier.

Students need someone to cheer them on.

That can be from the edge of the lake as they attempt to jump from the tower to the blob, or helping them deal with everyday life situations, students need someone whom they know is there for them.

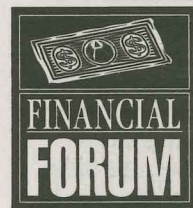
Students come to camp with lots of pain and hurt. From the stories we hear week after week, it is amazing they can function in society at all. None of what they are going through is new to us: dysfunctional families, emotional scars, pornography addiction, body-image problems, low self-esteem, absentee parents, and being

forced to deal with adult issues way too soon—the list could go on and on. And adult workers are hurting, too; we have just learned to mask it better.

Adults want to have fun, too. Every week we play bazoorka ball with the adults. It has become one of my favorite parts of the week. Adults of all ages run around the arena screaming and laughing like middle schoolers. For a brief time, they find that inner child that is buried underneath adult responsibilities.

There are countless other lessons we have learned at camp this summer, most of which pertain to me and my walk with Christ. I hope I remember them for a long time.

Joe Ball, a former youth minister and director of the Kentucky Baptist Convention's youth ministry department, is the ministry resources and mobilization director with Crossings Ministries.



Youth Ministry Corner



Joe Ball

'More like Christ'

Church near heart of U.S. border crisis 'stretched' to help child refugees

By Myriah Snyder

McAllen, Texas—While many Americans watch the border crisis on the nightly news, leaders at Calvary Baptist Church in McAllen, Texas, recognize it as a mission field in their own backyard.

Chad Mason, Calvary's pastor for mobilization and global impact, recalled a meeting where church leaders agreed, "We have to do something. We have to be involved in this. These people are here, and it's incumbent on us to be the hands and feet of Christ with our actions."

"I just love this church's heart," Mason said of Calvary's response to the crisis. "Even the people who had practical concerns, their heart was totally right. There was not one time that someone said we shouldn't do it based on political agenda. I was very proud to be a part of this church where their faith is influencing their stance."

In facing what he described as a "massive humanitarian need right here in our community," Mason said church leaders have had conversations with White House staff members and Border Patrol at many levels trying to get access to unaccompanied minors.

"As of the moment, we have no access to them," he said. "That's probably the biggest piece of information that is misunderstood nationwide. We keep being told that any day that might change, and we have hope that we will have access to the minors."

Thus, Calvary Baptist is focusing on other aspects of relief work and ministry amid the chaos at the border, despite



Calvary Baptist Church coordinates with Catholic Charities at a child refugee relief center in McAllen, Texas, to provide food, showers and laundry service. (Photo courtesy of Calvary Baptist Church)

limited access to the unaccompanied refugees.

The church has also discussed responding to the needs of Border Patrol personnel, Mason noted. In August, he said the church hopes to host between 200 and 300 Border Patrol agents in an event partnering several organizations to say "thank you" and to show the church's concern for the agents' work.

Through cooperation with various organizations, Calvary leaders have had opportunities to communicate to government officials what the workers and refugees are experiencing at the border.

"We had three senators and seven congressmen who were in town, and they wanted to hear from the volunteer

faith community," he recalled. "I was blessed to go and sit in this meeting and speak and share as an equal voice. ... We got to tell them what we were doing. We got to ask for their help."

With the influx of refugees, the need for showers, laundry services and other basic needs was so high that Catholic Charities was asked by the government to open a relief center. Days later, Calvary began assisting, along with the Salvation Army and other organizations. Calvary's volunteers focus on laundry service by using mobile laundry units provided by Texas Baptist Men.

Calvary also has launched a website, SouthTexasRefugees.org, to facilitate communication among those who are

interested in helping.

"We feel that we are being stretched, to become more like Christ," Mason said. "God is using this opportunity tremendously."

"All of the facilities that are hosting these unaccompanied minors nationwide are looking for foster homes to place children whose families aren't in the United States," Mason noted.

If not placed in a foster home, the refugee children face being housed in a government facility, for years in many cases, while awaiting their hearings.

Foster care, Mason said, is "where transformation can happen. ... I think that's a massive opportunity that needs to be embraced nationwide." (BP)

Border crisis

Continued from page 1

their life and give them hope forever, whether they remain in the United States or they go back to their homeland.

"People will go a long way and tackle obstacles when they feel that hope is possible. They are hoping for a better life," Floyd said.

Floyd and Moore were among a contingent of pastors and other religious leaders who walked through a U.S. Customs and Border Protection detention center in McAllen and a Department of Health and Human Services shelter in San Antonio. Among those participating in one or both of the tours hosted by the Southern Baptists of Texas Convention were Jim Richards, the SBTC's executive director and Daniel Flores, the Roman Catholic bishop of Brownsville, Texas.

About 65 children are in the detention center in McAllen, a major border crossing point near the southern tip of Texas. But that number is expected to swell.

The center, opened only a few days earlier to alleviate overcrowding in other McAllen detention centers, can house 1,000 children. The shelter at Lackland Air Force Base in San Antonio has more

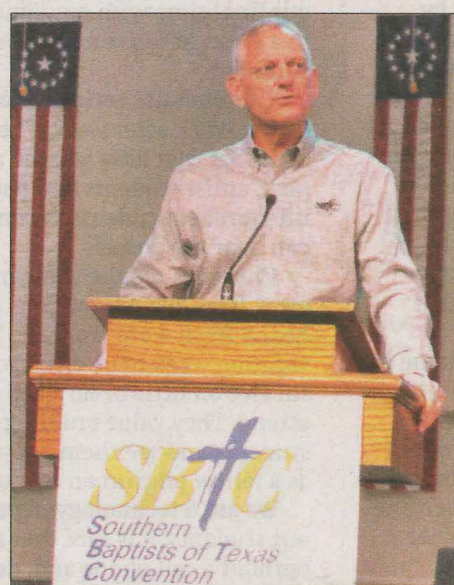
than 1,100 children. The McAllen center had children ranging in age from about 5 to 17, while the San Antonio shelter is for 12- to 17-year-olds.

Floyd and Moore had expressed concern for the children before going to Texas but they said touring the facilities personalized the issue for them.

"It makes it really real to me," Floyd told Baptist Press. "It's no longer about something ... that I hear on the news or stories that I read. But now I've seen real people who have real moms and dads, who have real grandparents, who have taken long treks across the country ... all looking for a better life, all looking for hope, all looking for safety. They want safety because many of their lives have not been safe."

Moore said the visit "put a human face on a moral crisis for me. These children are not issues to be resolved but persons bearing dignity and needing care. The issues involved in this crisis are complex, but our first response should be one of compassion and justice, not fear or disgust."

After touring the San Antonio shelter, Richards said, "We as a state convention are compassionate to these children. It is our obligation under the gospel to minister to them and help them, regardless of



Jim Richards, executive director of the Southern Baptists of Texas Convention, speaks at a San Antonio news conference June 22, noting the obligation of Christians "under the gospel to minister to (the influx of children at the Texas border), regardless of the circumstances in which they came or their future." (Photo by Phillip Bethancourt)

the circumstances in which they came or their future. Our main concern is to care for the children."

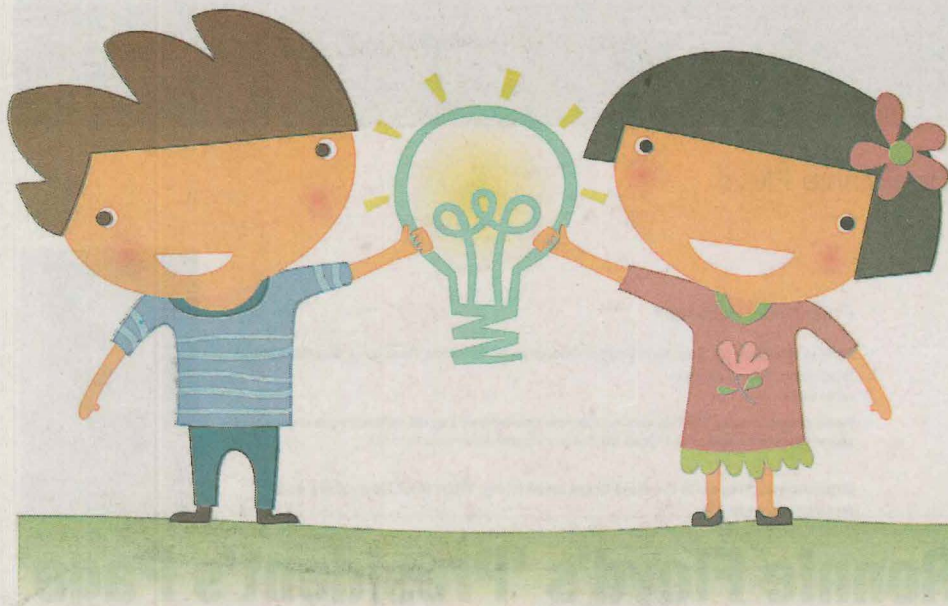
Baptists in Texas with both the SBTC

and the Baptist General Convention of Texas have been ministering as they are able, but the federal government has strictly limited access to unaccompanied children. HHS is responsible for custody of such children once they are moved from detention centers. It permits only federal authorities and contractors to be in contact with the minors, according to the North American Mission Board.

For now, Baptist churches are primarily working to help children and adults crossing the border together by serving them at a processing center; providing food, clothing and showers; and doing laundry. A Hispanic pastor affiliated with the BGCT is conducting worship services for unaccompanied children in one shelter.

Moore said he is "deeply encouraged by the response of Christians to this crisis. We need to be praying for a just resolution, and quickly."

Floyd expressed gratitude "for the churches that have helped along the way, and I want to encourage all of our Southern Baptist churches to see what's happening and think about what you can do to help as a church. Do what Jesus would do: He would care for the children and show them compassion while we have them in our nation." (BP)



Study suggests children's religious beliefs form by age 6

By David Roach

Austin, Texas—As early as kindergarten, individuals have decided whether they believe God intervenes in the world or whether the universe is a closed system of natural causes, a new study suggests.

Published in the July issue of *Cognitive Science*, the study asked 5- and 6-year-olds to identify whether the protagonists in various stories rendered in several sentences were real or fictional people and provide a reason for their answers.

Some of the stories were adapted from the Bible and included miraculous events brought about through divine intervention. Other stories, labelled "fantastical," were modifications of the same Bible stories with all references to divine intervention removed and the supernatural events presented as magic. A third group of stories, labelled "realistic," modified the stories further to exclude supernatural events and replace them with events "plausible due to human intervention."

For example, the study included an adaptation of the David and Goliath story, a fantastical version in which David kills Goliath with a magic stone and a realistic version in which David notices there is no armor protecting the giant's head and attacks the vulnerable region.

Not surprisingly, children who attended church, parochial school or both identified the biblical protagonists as real more often than children who attended neither church nor parochial school.

However, children receiving religious

education at church or school also identified the fantastical protagonists as real more often than their secular counterparts. All the children tended to characterize realistic protagonists as real.

In a second facet of the experiment, researchers tried to determine why children with Christian training were more likely to identify religious and fantastical stories as real. This time they presented a series of supernatural stories, changing all the characters' names so that they were not recognizable as people in the Bible and including stories of some supernatural events not in Scripture.

Again, religious children were more likely than secular kids to classify characters from supernatural accounts as real—regardless of whether the supernatural events were described as magic or recounted without reference to magic or divinity. The secular children, researchers said, "systematically treated the characters as 'pretend.'"

The study's authors concluded that the divergent responses were not due to the religious children's familiarity with Bible stories or their propensity to believe in magic. Rather, "religious children have a broader conception of what events can actually happen" because they are taught that divine interaction can "override ordinary causal regularities." In other words, by age 6, children have already established a belief about whether God does or does not intervene in the world, and they interpret what they observe based on that belief. (BP)



University of the Cumberlands football players Iquan Deed (left) and Chad Bond (center) join former Patriot Justin Dyer in hanging drywall at one of two homes that the university's Mountain Outreach program are building this summer. (UC photo)

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Homecoming 2014

Special moments marked Oneida's annual Homecoming festivities

We recently celebrated Homecoming with two days full of festivities and fun.

On June 27, we had our first annual OBI alumni and friends golf tournament fundraiser at Crooked Creek Golf Club in London. We had 56 golfers that day and raised some much-needed funds to restart our golf team. We had many sponsors, friends and volunteers who took part, and we plan to make this an annual event the day before our Homecoming.

The winning team shot a 51 (21-under par) in the scramble format. My team finished tied for third with a score of 60. In order to win, perhaps I will need to find some ringers to play for my team next year.

On June 28, we had more than 400 folks return to their alma mater—more than 100 more than attended last year. Included in that number was 100-year-old Ruby Baker, who has known all 12 OBI presidents. We also had one alumnus who came all the way from Germany for his 40-year class reunion.

Our alumni director and activities coordinator worked tirelessly to organize a wonderful day of activities for our guests. There was a petting zoo; beautiful Shire horses provided by the Dan Midkiff family and the Kentucky Horse Park; garden tours; a hymn sing at Oneida Baptist Church; a contemporary worship service in our chapel; a tasty lunch and dinner; swimming pool time for the kids; and old pictures and articles to view.

There were also Athletic Hall of Fame recognitions for Rick Coffey, who was a

coach at OBI from 1978-93, and the state championship women's fencing teams of 1979 and 1984.

Anniversary classes were recognized and "The Offering," a book written by

Judy Ratliff Powell about Barkley Moore and his time at Oneida, was unveiled. In general, it was a great time of visiting and reminiscing.

One of my favorite parts of the day was the re-dedication and reopening of Anderson Hall. The building was built in 1911 and is the oldest structure on campus. It is named for Elizabeth Milbank Anderson, who donated \$5,300 in 1909 after

hearing James Burns speak at Madison Avenue Baptist Church in New York. She followed him to the elevator and asked, "Mr. Burns, what is it you want?" He replied, "I want a farm for our boys." The following day, Burns received a check for \$5,300 from Mrs. Anderson with a note saying, "Here is your farm."

Several years later, when the school needed a new building to house single female teachers and a domestic science classroom, Mrs. Anderson gave the \$11,000 needed for the building. The remodel began in 2007, and thousands of volunteer labor hours went into the work on the beautiful home. It has seven bedrooms and bathrooms and can sleep up to 19 guests.

Pat Hignite, a longtime OBI employee who served as the hostess at Anderson Hall for many years, cut the ribbon and our guests toured the house.

Make plans to attend our next Homecoming, Oct. 24, 2015.

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

Lessons learned

Clear Creek student reflects on those things God has taught him

Fourth-year student Kyle Stachewitz has enjoyed the learning process he has experienced during his time at Clear Creek Baptist Bible College. He will graduate next May and will take the lessons learned with him to the ministry field.

"God has really clarified my call to be a pastor during my time here at Clear Creek," Kyle said. "I have enjoyed some things that God has shown me about doing ministry at the local-church level. I am excited to get on the field and put them into practice."

"One of the greatest lessons God has taught me during my time at Clear Creek is how He is always faithful to provide for our needs," Kyle continued. "I can remember many times when God has shown His faithfulness to provide for my educational costs. I remember one time in particular during my first year here when I was working a job and trying to make sure my account was paid off for the semester. God worked it out through some other circumstances where I received just what I needed to clear my account."

"I believe the biggest lesson God has taught me during my time here is how to love people," Kyle said. "As you interact and live with people for four years, there will be times when you disagree on things. During those times, you have to be able to love people and not let differences come between you. That's really what ministry in the local church is all about. God has really taught me a great lesson in that area."

"I have enjoyed my classes," Kyle noted. "The Greek classes have helped me to dig in to the original language and apply that to my sermon preparation."

My small church ministry class helped me see the setting that a small-church pastor functions in. It was good for me to see what the average church is like, because that is what most Clear Creek graduates transition to after we graduate.

"Clear Creek is a great school to receive ministry training. Find out where God wants you to be and follow His call."

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

Clear Creek Chronicle



Donnie Fox

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Dr. Ronnie Floyd

Presidential Postings

Now is the Time for Southern Baptist Churches to Prioritize Reaching, Baptizing, and Discipling Young People
posted Monday, July 14, 2014

Please grasp this reality: 27,675 Southern Baptist churches reported they did not baptize one single young person between the ages of 12-17 years old. This is unacceptable and must change.

Extraordinary Prayer for the Next Great Awakening: What is it? How do we do it?
posted Monday, June 30, 2014

Ronnie Floyd's 'President's Page' goes live at SBC.net website

Nashville, Tenn.—Ronnie Floyd, the Southern Baptist Convention's new president, is now online at the convention's website, www.SBC.net, in addition to his ongoing blog at www.RonnieFloyd.com.

The "President's Page" includes a number of features, including:

- Floyd's blog each Monday addressed to Southern Baptists, as well as other columns since his June 10 election;

- information about the new SBC president in which he recalls his spiritual journey;

- a link to Floyd's personal blog, at which he has written about a range of ministry-related topics such as church membership, nurturing the next generation of leaders and God's creation of the universe;

- a link to other articles Floyd has written. (BP)

Baptists on young evangelicals list

Four Southern Baptists are among Christianity Today's "33 Under 33," a list of millennial Christians who are shaping the church and culture.

Trevin Wax, Trip Lee, Saira Blair and D.A. Horton were featured.

- Wax, 33, is managing editor of The Gospel Project.

- Lee, 26, is a senior pastoral assistant at Capitol Hill Baptist Church in Washington.

- Blair, 17, won a primary to become her district's Republican candidate for the West Virginia House of Delegates.

- Horton, 33, is the North American Mission Board's national coordinator for urban student missions. (BP)

Walking in someone else's shoes

Understanding others' burdens allows us to extend compassion

Have you ever walked in someone else's shoes? It's likely you have not, so be cautious and considerate when it comes to how you deal with people.

Recently I was convicted and reminded of the need we have to be extra patient with others and to always extend grace. I know that statement may be a given, but we, as sinful humans, do have a tendency to be impatient when we are treated poorly by others or even when others just don't meet our expectations.

I know at any given point in our lives, we all are dealing with numerous difficulties—family sickness, personal illness, emotional weight of relationships and just the normal challenges of living in a fallen world.

Several years ago, we began asking for details about the lives of our campers before getting to camp. This was to help prepare our small-group leaders to handle the fact that students come to camp with many burdens that affect their behavior. By giving our staff that information, they were much better prepared to be gracious to students' behavior when they knew of the pain

and challenges those students were living with prior to coming to camp.

Today, I am reminded that I do not have the benefit of knowing beforehand what people are going through and given that fact, I should be extra cautious and gracious with all people, as I just do not realize what they may be going through.

Consider all of that which is on your mind. Perhaps nobody else knows all of their burdens and trials, and since others don't know yours, we likely are not aware of our neighbors' either.

Have you ever stated, "If they only knew how I feel, what I am going through, the weight of emotion I have"? The list could go on and on. Likely every person on this planet has been in that position.

In short, we should be gracious and compassionate to bear one another's burdens, regardless if we know of those burdens or not. For us as believers, we know Christ is our perfect high priest and bears all of our burdens. That should empower us to extend grace and patience.

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

Crossings Ministries



David Melber

Campbellsville
UNIVERSITY School of Theology

January Bible Study Preview

Deuteronomy: "A Challenge to a New Generation"

Thursday, August 7 from 1 p.m. - 8 p.m.

Banquet Hall in the Badgett Academic Support Center
110 University Drive, Campbellsville, Ky.The study is free.
Registration/fellowship begin at 12:30 p.m.
The catered dinner at 6 p.m. is \$10, payable at the event.

Dr. Mike O'Neal will lead the study

Dr. O'Neal, senior pastor at
Campbellsville Baptist Church, chair of
the CU Church Relations Council and a member
of the CU Board of Trustees, will lead the study.

Dr. O'Neal

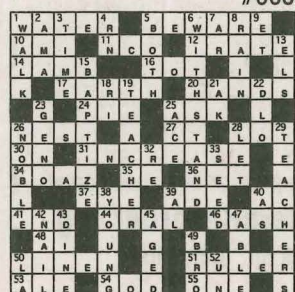
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Bible Crosswords

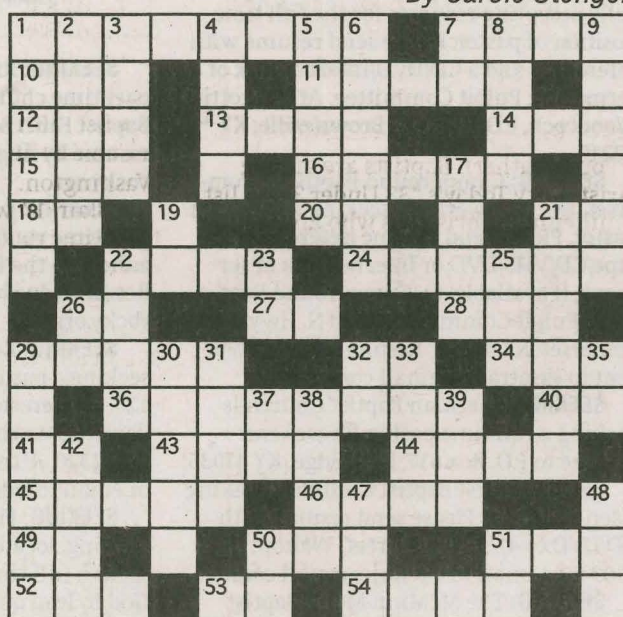
Across

- 1 "Receive his mark in his _____
or in his hand"
(Revelation 14:9)
- 7 "If the foot shall say, Because
I am not the _____, I am not
of the body"
(1 Corinthians 12:15)
- 10 Imperial Chemical
Industries, abbr.
- 11 "In the day thou wast born
thy _____ was not cut"
(Ezekiel 16:4)
- 12 Bird's beak
- 13 "Let _____ esteem other
better than themselves"
(Philippians 2:3)
- 14 Speed measurement, abbr.
- 15 Car fuel
- 16 Peruvian beast of burden
- 18 The letter that follows "em"
- 20 East Indies, abbr.
- 21 Either
- 22 "Fall by the _____ of the
sword" (Luke 21:24)
- 24 Activity or movement
- 26 Preposition
- 27 Fifteen, Romans num.
- 28 Wing of a building
- 29 "I am escaped with the skin
of my _____" (Job 19:20)
- 32 The letter that precedes "em"
- 34 "A man's pride shall bring
him _____" (Proverbs 29:23)
- 36 "The government shall be
upon his _____" (Isaiah 9:6)
- 40 Midwest state, abbr.
- 41 Negative
- 43 Last, prefix
- 44 Violent group
- 45 Sticky
- 46 "God ... spake in time _____"

#005



By Carole Stengel



#006

- unto the fathers by the
prophets" (Hebrews 1:1)
- 49 First person plural pronoun
- 50 Female, suffix
- 51 Sheep's noise
- 52 And so on, Lat. abbr.
- 53 Verb of being
- 54 "The _____ of every man is
Christ" (1 Corinthians 11:3)
- Down**
- 1 "Jesus ... with his _____ wrote
on the ground" (John 8:6)
- 2 The Atlantic or Pacific
- 3 "The Lord God ... took one of
his _____, and closed up the
flesh" (Genesis 2:21)
- 4 "Thou shalt bruise his _____"
(Genesis 3:15)
- 5 "Immediately his feet and _____
bones received strength"
(Acts 3:7 O.E. spelling)
- 6 Flower
- 7 Fifth letter of Hebrew alphabet
- 8 Soul, Lat.
- 9 Remove horns
- 17 The widow's _____
- 19 Edward, for short
- 21 Kind of tea
- 22 "Having _____, see ye not?"
(Mark 8:18)
- 23 Used-to-be, prefix
- 25 "Love worketh no _____ to
his neighbour" (Romans
13:10)
- 26 Exist
- 29 "The _____ is a little
member" (James 3:5)
- 30 "Take of his blood ... upon
the _____ of their right
hand" (Exodus 29:20)
- 31 "_____ is the Lord of
Hosts" (Isaiah 6:3)
- 32 Word reviser, abbr.
- 33 "They brake not his _____"
(John 19:33)
- 35 First person plural pronoun
- 37 Arizona's neighbor, abbr.
- 38 "Only her _____ moved, but
her voice was not heard"
(1 Samuel 1:13)
- 39 Rodent
- 42 To drive out
- 47 The remains of burned
wood
- 48 "With the _____ bone of
an ass ... have I slain a
thousand men" (Judges
15:16)
- 50 Printer's measure
- 51 Minister's undergraduate
degree, abbr.

A personal testimony

Family endowment fund continues
to benefit much-loved ministries

In 1985, 11 years before my service
as Kentucky Baptist Foundation presi-
dent began, my wife and I
established the Barry G. and
Larie G. Endowment Fund with
the KBF.

We established the account
with a modest gift of appreci-
ated stock and directed the
Foundation to reinvest the
earnings until the market
value of the account attained a
specific target balance. Upon
the attainment of that target
balance, the earnings would
begin to be distributed, until the Lord
returns, among several Baptist causes
which are near and dear to our hearts.

In addition to the initial gift, my
wife and I have continued to make
contributions to the fund over the
years. Our gifts have been in the form
of cash, appreciated stock and life-
insurance policies. And, we have a pro-
vision in our estate plan to contribute
to it as well.

As a result of our continued contri-
butions and the KBF's excellent invest-
ment performance, the fund attained
its target balance in 1997, and the Ken-
tucky Baptist Foundation began mak-
ing distributions at that time. The dis-
tributions grow as the fund continues
to grow.

I am sharing this word of steward-

ship testimony for these reasons:

Integrity. I would not ask you to do
what I had not already done.**Trust.** We believe the Kentucky Bap-
tist Foundation board and staff are
steadfast and solid and will do,
until the Lord returns, what we
directed them to do—and they
will do it with excellence.**Simplicity.** Most of you, like
us, have more than one favorite
Christian cause. The Founda-
tion can simplify the giving
process by establishing one
account but distributing the
earnings to multiple causes.**Joy.** I wanted to share with
you the joy we are experienc-
ing by (a) seeing while we are alive
how these Great Commission minis-
tries are changing peoples' lives in the
name of Jesus Christ and by (b) having
the assurance we shall be involved in
these ministries as they continue to
impact the world for Christ beyond
our lifetimes.

Please give me or KBF Trust Counsel
Laurie Valentine the privilege of assist-
ing you in experiencing the joy that
comes by giving to connect all people
to Jesus Christ, "for God loves a cheer-
ful giver." Call us toll free.

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

The Sunrise-KBC partnership

Through Sunrise, Ky. Baptists have
shown compassion to kids in need

By Randy Greene

Thirty-five years ago, the Kentucky
Baptist Convention
endorsed partnerships
that, today, Sunrise Chil-
dren's Services maintains
with the Commonwealth
of Kentucky.

According to the KBC
annual meeting minutes
from 1979, the conven-
tion "unanimously approved the right
of our agencies," including Kentucky
Baptist Homes for Children, "to receive
customary fee reimbursements for
services rendered" to children and
youth who are in state custody.

Similar statements exist in minutes
of the KBHC from 1979. And since
2000, KBHC has been known as
Sunrise.

When I first read these documents,
I whispered a prayer of gratitude to
God. Why? Because public commit-
ments like these underscored the com-
passion and vision that Kentucky Bap-
tists have consistently maintained
toward the neediest of abandoned or
neglected children across this
commonwealth.

That compassionate spirit extends
even further back to 1869, when Louis-
ville's Walnut Street Baptist Church
served its first group of orphans from
the Civil War.

No, children have not always been

treated well, even in the United States.
The Sunrise legacy, however, confirms
that for 145 years, Kentucky Baptists
have been part of the solution. Glen
Dale, Spring Meadows, KBHC, Sun-
rise—the KBC list is long and
distinguished.

For those of us who
work for Sunrise, we take
great pride in these mile-
stones and partnerships—
in the seamless flow of
Christ's love from donors
and caregivers to
children.

That flow is revitalizing to me as I
lead Sunrise's team of marketing and
fundraising professionals who reach
out to you through direct mail, the
Internet, videos, Hoppers concerts,
golf tournaments and Ride & Shine
motorcycle rallies. We stand in the
gap—literally.

And that gap amounts to \$14,000
every day of the year.

Reimbursements from the state and
other sources account for an average
of \$56,000 every day in which Sunrise
ministers across the commonwealth.
The total cost of this ministry averages
\$70,000 a day. Hence, our funding gap
is \$14,000 a day, or about \$5 million a
year.

Will you help us stand in that gap?
If so, let me hear from you today at
rgreene@sunrise.org.

Randy Greene is vice president for marketing and
advancement at Sunrise Children's Services,
P.O. Box 1429, Mount Washington, KY 40047-1429;
(502) 538-1000; www.sunrise.org.



KBC KENTUCKY BAPTIST CONVENTION CALENDAR OF EVENTS

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.
11 Retired Kentucky Director of Missions Luncheon, Severns Valley Baptist Association, Elizabethtown.
11-12 Engage KY: Louisville Vision Journey, Kentucky Baptist Building, Louisville.

Longtime Kentucky Baptist servant Aker to retire as DOM

Williamsburg—A Kentucky Baptist who has served in a variety of roles over a long career has announced his retirement.

David Aker, director of missions for South Union Mount Zion Baptist Association, will still make himself available for church ministry on a short-term basis upon his retirement Oct. 15.

Colleagues say Aker has been a man of impact in the areas he has served.

"During the many years that David and I have known each other, I have valued his expertise, love for missions and ministries and his personal friendship," said Randy Jones, director of missions for Oldham-Trimble Baptist Association. "He has maintained a deep love for the mountain folks in eastern Kentucky and a strong desire to see them come to faith in Jesus Christ."

Aker and Jones once worked together at the Kentucky Baptist Convention.

KBC Missions Mobilization Team Leader Eric Allen said Aker will be missed.

"David encouraged many Kentucky pastors and missionaries over the years through his passionate leadership of the Mountain Missions Conference at Oneida," Allen said. "As an eastern Kentucky native himself, David provided insight and understanding for effective ministry in that region."

"I'm grateful for the opportunity given to me by the KBC to have worked with and learned from David during his service as mountain missions director and director of missions," Allen added.

Aker said he plans to relocate closer to central Kentucky so that he and his wife, Wanda, will be close to their two children. (KBC)



David Aker

MOUNTAINS TO THE MISSISSIPPI

COMPILED BY STAFF

LOUISVILLE—Hurstbourne Church will hold its annual summer picnic Aug. 3,

4 p.m., at Douglass Hills Park. Shane Garrison is interim pastor.

SCOTTSVILLE—Scottsville Church will hold a Summer Sing-a-bration Aug. 3, 6 p.m., featuring gospel music by the church's adult choir and instrumental ensemble. Dale Darley is pastor.

SOMERSET—First Church will hold screenings of the movie "God's Not Dead" Aug. 2-3, 7 p.m. The event is free and open to the public. French Harmon is pastor.

What's happening?

Send your church news and association events to:

Mountains to the Mississippi
karen.martin@westernrecorder.org

CLASSIFIED ADS

FOR RENT: Two condos for rent in Destin, Fla.; now booking for August-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: Brownsville Missionary Baptist Church in Brownsville, Ky., is prayerfully accepting resumés for the full-time position of pastor. Please send resumé with references and a CD/DVD/Internet link of a sermon to: Pulpit Committee, Attn: Scottie Woodcock, P.O. Box 310, Brownsville, KY 42210.

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

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

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 cncforjc@gmail.com.

SEEKING: The McMinn-Meigs Baptist Association in southeast Tennessee is actively seeking our next director of missions. Resumés 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.

To place an advertisement in the Western Recorder:

Rates are available upon request.

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



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SEEKING: 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. Resumés due by Aug. 10 to youthresume@rbcky.org.

SEEKING: Ridgecrest Baptist Church is seeking a pastor. Average congregation is 125. If interested, send resumé to Ridgecrest Baptist Church, P.O. Box 177, Beaver Dam, KY 42320, Attn: Pastor Search Committee; or email to ridgecrest1964@att.net.

SEEKING: First Baptist Church, Mount Sterling, located in east central Kentucky, seeks a full-time senior pastor called by God to lead our congregation. Please prayerfully submit resumé and references by Aug. 6 to fbcpastorsearch@roadrunner.com. Seminary degree and experience preferred.

SEEKING: Conservative Southern missionary Baptist church in search of a minister of youth; part-time position. Send resumé to: Grace Baptist Church, 617 S. 9th St., Murray, KY 42071, Attn: YM Search Committee. Resumés will be received through Aug. 15.

Three Forks Association calls new DOM



Jamie Reynolds

Hazard—Three Forks Baptist Association has a new director of missions.

Jamie Reynolds, who has served as the association's interim DOM since January, was recently called to serve in the role permanently.

For the past decade, Reynolds and his wife, Rachael, have been Mission Service Corps missionaries, serving Three Forks Association as missions and ministry catalysts. The Reynoldses are also retired police officers.

Reynolds succeeds Jim Castlen, who retired as Three Forks' DOM at the end of 2013 after 11 years of service.

The Reynoldses are Alabama natives. They have two children. (WR)

OBITUARIES

Stephen Alford

Kentucky Baptist pastor Stephen Alford died July 10. He was 58 years old.

Alford served a number of churches as pastor, most of them in his home region of northern Kentucky. He most recently led Gumlick Baptist Church in Falmouth.

His ministry also included pastorates at Bellevue Baptist Church; Clover Bottom Baptist Church in Versailles; East Bend Baptist Church in Union; and Mount Zion Baptist Church in Dry Ridge.

Born in Fort Thomas, Alford was a graduate of Cumberland College (now University of the Cumberlands) and Southern Baptist Theological Seminary.

He is survived by his wife, Judy, two children and six grandchildren.

Funeral services were held July 14 at New Bethel Baptist Church in Verona. Memorials can be made to the backpack meal program of the South Family Resource/Youth Services Center in Falmouth.

DOM claims \$200 prize

Greg Nimmo, director of missions for Crittenden Baptist Association in northern Kentucky, will receive a \$200 check from the Kentucky Baptist Convention.

Every church in the Crittenden Association has completed and returned its Annual Church Profile reports, which contains vital information about trends in church attendance, baptisms and giving.

The Annual Church Profile reports are due to the Kentucky Baptist Convention by Dec. 1.

In addition to honoring the first association that returns completed ACP reports, every association that returns its packets by Nov. 1 will be entered in a drawing for another \$200 gift.

And the association with the greatest improvement in the number of churches turning in the reports also will receive a \$200 gift. (KBC)

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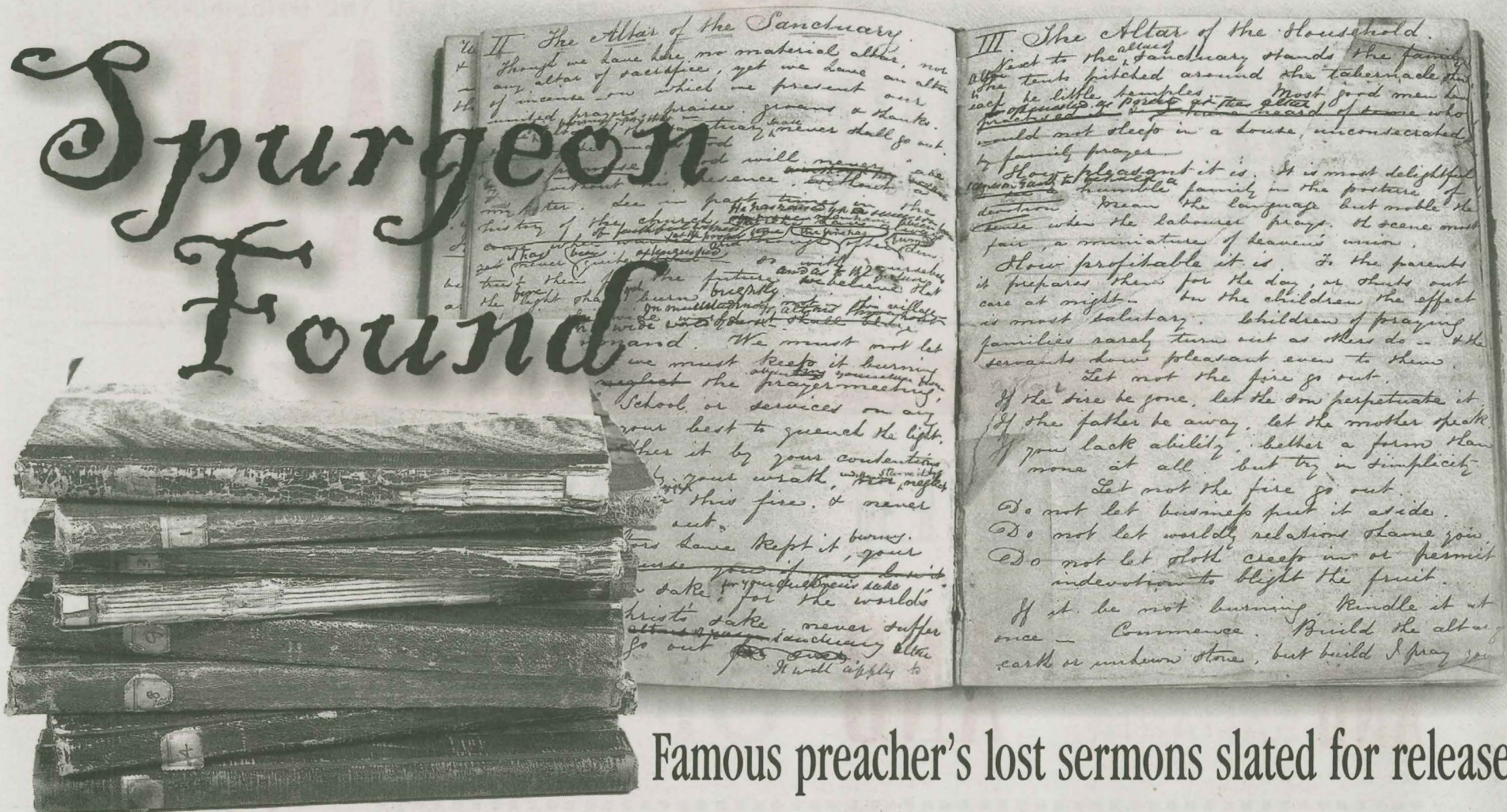
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Famous preacher's lost sermons slated for release

By Bob Smietana

Nashville, Tenn.—Charles Spurgeon, the 19th-century legendary London pastor, was a publishing and preaching juggernaut.

He preached to more than 10 million people and baptized more than 14,000 believers. More than 50 million copies of his sermons were sold. Spurgeon's fans nicknamed him "the Prince of Preachers."

More than 3,500 Spurgeon sermons were eventually published, but none date from his early ministry, a leading Spurgeon scholar, Christian George, noted.

That will change next year.

B&H Publishing will release "The Lost Sermons of Charles Spurgeon," a multi-volume edition of early Spurgeon sermons and sermon outlines.

"I have been involved in Christian publishing for over 20 years," said Jim Baird, publisher of B&H Academic. "A project like this comes to you once in your lifetime, if you are fortunate."

The collection of 400-plus sermons and outlines dates from Spurgeon's days as a young pastor outside of Cambridge. The son of a minister, Spurgeon came to faith in 1850 during a service at a Primitive Methodist church. That encounter with God set him on a path to become one of Christendom's most prolific and most quoted preachers.

"It is sometimes overlooked that Charles Spurgeon published more words in the English language than any other Christian in history," said George, curator of the Spurgeon library at Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Kansas City, Mo.

Spurgeon began preaching not long after his conversion. At 17, he became

pastor of a Baptist church in Waterbeach, not far from Cambridge. He kept his sermon outlines, which he called "skeletons," along with some full-text sermons in a series of handwritten journals.

Journals reveal struggles

The first of the 13 newly discovered journals is dated October 1849, a few months before Spurgeon's conversion.

The last is dated from 1854, just before he became pastor of London's New Park Street Chapel. The journals reveal how Spurgeon developed his theology, as well as his skill in preaching.

"They give us a rare and remarkable glimpse into Spurgeon's pre-London life and ministry," George said.

Some of the journals show Spurgeon's spiritual struggles. Many of the sermons end with simple and sometimes blunt prayers.

"Lord, revive my stupid soul," Spurgeon wrote after finishing one sermon.

Another ended with, "Oh my God. Do help. For Jesus' sake."

After becoming a pastor in London, Spurgeon had planned to publish those early sermons. But that never came to pass. They were stored in the archives of Spurgeon's College in London and forgotten.

George discovered the journals three years ago while doing research at the college. A librarian there brought him a stack of Spurgeon's journals to look through.

"Only when I began flipping through their pages did I realize the significance," George said. "These were the lost sermons Spurgeon tried so long ago to publish."

The multi-volume set from B&H Academic will include sermons from those journals along with critical commentary

from George in what will be the first critical edition of Spurgeon's work ever published.

Most other works about Spurgeon either reprint his sermons without analysis, or only focus on his "celebrity-like reputation, uncanny oratorical abilities and worldwide influence," George said. That leaves many people with a one-dimensional view of the great preacher.

"But there is a growing interest in Spurgeon scholarship in recovering his humanity—his inconsistencies, his weaknesses, his doubts, struggles and sufferings," George said. "In this way, we discover a Spurgeon who does not arrive on the theological landscape of 19th-century Britain in perfect, polished form but, instead, a preacher in progress whose exegesis, rhetorical tendencies and homiletic method evolve over the first five years of his preaching ministry."

Midwestern Seminary President Jason Allen said he is "proud to support Dr. George and to partner with B&H and LifeWay Christian Resources in this

historic undertaking. The Christian tradition as a whole will prove the true beneficiary of this monumental work."

LifeWay President Thom Rainer said he is excited to make the sermons available to pastors and scholars alike.

"This project is the most recent example of the tremendous impact B&H is having on evangelical publishing," Rainer said. "As we constantly endeavor to faithfully serve the church, we believe the Lord will bless our efforts."

George said he hopes the new edition of early Spurgeon sermons will lead to more scholarly interest in the great preacher. Pastors, he said, also will benefit.

"He models for us an unwavering commitment to Christ-centered preaching, fervent prayer and discipleship, local and world evangelism, and incarnational urban ministries," George said.

When the books are published next year, exclusive digital versions will be made available through WORDsearch. (BP)



Journals of Charles Spurgeon's early sermons will be featured in a multi-volume series by scholar Christian George (left), published by B&H Academic, which is led by Jim Baird (right).



THE POWER OF 'AND'

IN ACTS 1:8, JESUS SAYS,

YOU WILL BE MY WITNESSES

IN JERUSALEM,
AND IN ALL JUDEA
SAMARIA,

AND

TO THE ENDS
OF THE



JESUS DIDN'T SAY 'OR.' HE SAID 'AND.'

HOW CAN
YOU



AS

1

BELIEVER

bear witness here, there **AND** everywhere?

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