

WESTERN Recorder

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Shine Like Stars * Philippians 2:15

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On the path to resolution?

Campbellsville University, KBC leaders meet, reach accord

By Todd Deaton

Louisville—Campbellsville University and the Kentucky Baptist Convention reached an accord Aug. 9 in the ongoing standoff over their future relationship following the university's announcement of its intention to form a self-perpetuating board.

"While the university's future relationship with Kentucky Baptists will probably look different than the past, I truly believe we can walk forward supportive of one another and engaging in a ministry partnership that will advance the kingdom in Kentucky and to the ends of the earth," KBC Executive Director Paul Chitwood wrote in an Aug. 10 blog post.

"We are hopeful that a new

agreement can be reached as partners in mission and ministry so that we are able to partner together for the cause of Christ," Campbellsville University President Michael Carter told the Western Recorder.

Another meeting between Campbellsville and KBC representatives is slated Aug. 13 at which both groups anticipate hammering out details of a new ministry partnership. CU's board of trustees has a regular quarterly meeting Aug. 12.

In a July 11 meeting with Chitwood and other KBC officials, the university's attorney, James Straus, presented changes to the university's bylaws that were to be voted on during the trustee meeting the next week. In stating the school's intention to name its own trustees, without consent of the KBC, Straus

reportedly proposed a four-year path for establishing a self-perpetuating board as the KBC incrementally steps down Cooperative Program support. The proposed bylaws were approved by CU trustees July 15.

In a July 16 letter addressed to Kentucky Baptists, Carter and Trustee Chairman Joseph Owens wrote that the CU board took steps at its board meeting "to protect the mission of the university and to avoid both undue influence and the imposition of theological and doctrinal control."

In response to the board's action, the KBC's business and finance committee voted July 17 to hold the school's remaining Cooperative Program funds in escrow, escalating tension between the

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"We are hopeful that a new agreement can be reached as partners in mission and ministry ..."

Michael Carter



"... I truly believe we can walk forward supportive of one another and engaging in a ministry partnership ..."

Paul Chitwood

Latonia Baptist secretary to take a well-deserved break after six decades at church

60 YEARS

By Whitney Jones

Covington—As a 19-year-old, Flora Roland inquired about a secretary opening at Latonia Baptist Church in Covington. Her relatives told her about the opportunity and soon she was answering phones and welcoming people in the church office.

The year was 1959.

Little did she know that 60 years later she would be retiring from that same job, finishing her work at the church that, over the years, had become

more like a family.

Roland met her husband at Latonia and they had three girls. But when he died at age 46 leaving her with their daughters to raise, the church and her friend, Ruby Lindner, were by her side.

"How I love them," Roland said. "The

people, they're my family."

Lindner would go on to be Roland's traveling buddy and helper. They have been to the Bahamas, Las Vegas and Branson, Mo., together.

And if Roland was out of work due to

□ See Roland retires ... Page 3

Flora Roland flashes the smile that is so familiar to generations of churchgoers at Latonia Baptist Church in Covington, where she has been secretary for 60 years. The church honored her last weekend upon announcement of her retirement. (Photo courtesy of Dan Francis)



Baptists urged to aid Christians, Kurds in Iraq

By Don Graham

Washington—As U.S. military forces launch airstrikes against Islamic militants in northern Iraq, the International Mission Board and Baptist Global Response are asking Southern Baptists to help provide humanitarian relief for tens of thousands of Iraqi Christians and Yazidi Kurds forced from their homes.

Most pressing is a situation the White

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At a demonstration in front of the White House, Rob Schenck (kneeling in front, red scarf), president of Faith in Action and the National Clergy Council, prays in for the Yezidis and Christians suffering in Iraq. (IMB photo)



Western Recorder 8-12-2014

Western Recorder's business manager Townsend to retire

Louisville—Tom Townsend, the Western Recorder's marketing and business manager, has announced his plans to retire. He will step aside at the end of October.

"It has been such a joy serving the Lord with our staff, convention and churches," Townsend said. "It can be a daunting task to communicate the activity of the Lord and our response to Him, but I have experienced our team working together for the glory of God and the enlightenment of our readers."

Townsend joined the Western Recorder in 2007 after serving as the executive director of Life International, a ministry to orphans in Ukraine.

During his seven-plus years with the Kentucky Baptist newspaper, Townsend has served a number of churches as interim pastor. He currently is helping Highland Baptist Church in Shelbyville transition to a new full-time pastor.

WR Editor Todd Deaton praised Townsend's tireless efforts as the paper's business manager and said his presence will be greatly missed—both in the office and out in the state.

"For many of our advertisers and the churches and associations that participate in our newsletter service, Tom is

the face of the Western Recorder's ministry," Deaton said. "The Kentucky Baptist newspaper is the successful ministry it is today because of his dedication and hard work."



Tom Townsend

Deaton, who became editor in 2009, said Townsend has been a "devoted friend, trusted advisor and encourager."

"I am grateful to God to have served Kentucky Baptists with him," Deaton said.

A native of Florida, Townsend graduated from the University of West Florida and earned an M.Div. and D.Min. from Southern Baptist Theological Seminary. He was as a full-time pastor for 28

years in Kentucky, Florida and Tennessee.

Townsend then became director of development and communication for Florida Baptist Children's Homes. He later served in a similar role with Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children (now Sunrise Children's Services).

Townsend and his wife, Mary Jo, plan to relocate to central Florida where three of their five children and five of their 10 grandchildren live.

"I look forward to the next chapter of life," Townsend said. "If the future is as fulfilling as the past, then the present can only be an adventure in the Lord." (WR)

Training aims to 'Embrace' Europeans at home, abroad

Louisville—With its lavish history and marble monuments, it would be easy to overlook that much of Europe is living in spiritual darkness. Yet, statistics from the International Mission Board note that 99 percent of the region's 800 million people do not know Christ.

The Kentucky Baptist Convention, in cooperation with the IMB, will offer training for Kentucky Baptists who want to answer the Great Commission call among one of nine affinity groups in Europe.

The Embrace European Affinity Training will be held Sept. 26-27 at the Kentucky Baptist Building in Louisville and will feature topics such as:

- "Your Church: Being a Part of a

Movement That Expands the Kingdom of God";

- "Nuts and Bolts of Partnership: How Often? Who Do We Send? What Do We Do?";

- "Core Missionary Principles for Thinking and Acting Like Missionaries."

"God commands us to go, and the only question we should ask is, 'Where?'" said Eric Allen, missions mobilization team leader for the KBC. "I believe many KBC churches will discover through Embrace that He wants them to go to Europeans with the gospel."

At the two-day training, participants will have the opportunity to learn

about engaging the nations bound by cultural barriers in their own Jerusalem, Judea and Samaria, as commanded in Acts 1:8, Allen said.

More than 6 million Europeans live in the United States, he pointed out, "and Embrace will equip churches to more effectively reach those living in our communities."

"The church has a responsibility to make disciples of all people and Embrace will help believers do that with Europeans across the pond or in our own neighborhoods."

The Embrace European Affinity Training is free, but registration is required. To learn more, visit www.KyBaptist.org/Embrace. (KBC)

Resolution

Continued from page 1

convention and university over whether or not the university or the KBC "breached" the covenant relationship.

Saturday's accord follows a pointed appeal by the KBC's three elected officers—Chip Hutcheson, Kevin Milburn and Ed Amundson—and the chairs of two Mission Board committees urging Campbellsville trustees not to withdraw from its longstanding covenant agreement with the state convention.

"Not only do we value the investment made by Kentucky Baptists, we value the great kingdom potential that our relationship yet holds. Let's not hastily throw away what we cannot get back," the five KBC leaders urged in their July 31 letter to university trustees.

On Friday evening, Chitwood said he received a "much-welcomed call" from Charles Barnes, a past president of the KBC, informing him that Campbellsville University leaders had agreed to meet. Six KBC representatives and six school representatives, including Carter, Owens and John Chowning, vice president for church relations, met the next day.

"From the outset, the meeting was conciliatory and redemptive," Chitwood acknowledged. "CU leaders offered their apologies for any disparaging or divisive remarks about the KBC over the past few weeks and requested we recommit ourselves to walking together in a way that is worthy of our Lord."

Citing Matthew 18:22, Chitwood said, "(O)ur willingness to forgive should be limitless. Since that is the kind of forgiveness we all need and have all received, it is the kind we must extend. And we all did."

"Moreover, each of us personally committed to doing what we can to help Campbellsville move forward," Chitwood added. He urged Kentucky Baptists to continue praying for the school's trustees as they make important decisions regarding the institution's future.

In addition to Chitwood and Barnes, KBC Mission Board representatives included Garnetta Smith, chair of the agencies & institutions committee; Adam Greenway, chair of the administrative committee; Roger Alford, the KBC's director of communications; and Attorney James Taylor. Campbellsville was represented by Carter, Chowning, Owens, the school's attorneys and a pair of board members, pastors Mike O'Neal and James Jones. (WR)

Floyd: Jesus Christ was an illegal immigrant

SBC president weighs in on U.S. border crisis

By Bob Allen

Springdale, Ark.—The president of the Southern Baptist Convention says Jesus would be sympathetic to the plight of undocumented children flocking to the southern U.S. border, because as a child he also lived as an immigrant.

Ronnie Floyd, pastor of Cross Church in northwest Arkansas, preached a sermon Aug. 3 on what the Bible says about immigration. In the message, picked up on the Ethics and Religious Liberty Commission's website, Floyd reminded listeners that in the second chapter of Matthew, baby Jesus' parents took him and fled during the night to Egypt after an angel told Joseph in a dream that Herod was trying to kill him.

Floyd—just back from a visit with faith leaders, including ERLC President Russell Moore to sites along the U.S. border housing immigrant children—repeated a quote that Moore wrote in a blog three years ago.

"Our Lord Jesus himself was a so-called 'illegal immigrant,'" Moore, at the time a professor and administrator at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, wrote in a blog titled "Immigration and the Gospel" dated June 17, 2011. "Fleeing, like many of those in our country right now, a brutal political

situation, our Lord's parents sojourned with Him in Egypt."

"Therefore, without any question at all, Jesus Christ is sympathetic with immigrants," Floyd added. "The immigrant is loved by Jesus Christ. I mean every person on the face of this earth is loved by Jesus Christ. And that's why Christ died for all of the world."

Floyd said following Christ should affect every area of life, including one's views about immigration.

"How we treat other people—all people, all ages of people and all generations of people, regardless of the color of their skin or the language they speak—it tells us a great deal about our personal walk and relationship with Jesus Christ," he noted.

Floyd said Christians "must extend compassionate action to all people, pointing them to the hope that is found only in the Lord Jesus Christ and His saving grace," and "as we treat the least of these, we had better remember, we are treating Jesus Christ."

Floyd said that means ministering to the needs of the immigrant when opportunities arise. He said Cross Church has been involved in immigrant transition ministry for about a year, teaching English as a second language with hopes of adding citizenship classes and resources to put immigrants in touch with legal aid.

The SBC president said regardless of

one's personal views on immigration policy, the crisis taking place at the border is not just a political issue, but also a moral issue.

"I want to remind you again, these are real people, made in the image of God, and people for whom Christ died," he said.

Floyd urged Christians to "diligently pray" for national leaders confronting the immigration issue.

"We need to humbly call upon the leaders of our country to fix the immigration system in our nation," he said. "Since we have elected them to lead us, we need to pray for them to come together and agree upon what needs to be done in reforming our immigration system."

"As we pray for them, we need to remember that these issues are very complex, and they don't have easy answers," he continued. "Yet I believe that we have a God who is able to bring people together and toward a common goal of demonstrating a commitment to both compassion and justice."

Floyd said the Christian's final responsibility for the immigrant is "we need to reach all people, including immigrants, for Jesus Christ."

"As God is bringing the world to the United States, we have a tremendous opportunity for reaching people for Christ," Floyd said. "God has brought them here to find Him. Therefore we must share Him." (ABP)



Ronnie Floyd

Reaching Appalachia

Former optometrist office could be just what doctor ordered for reaching lost in Elliott Co.

By Roger Alford

Sandy Hook—A building that once served as a doctor's office could be just the prescription for reaching the lost in Kentucky's Appalachian foothills.

Ronald Pearce, an Ashland-based optometrist, donated the building to First Baptist Church of Sandy Hook after he closed his satellite office.

"We're considering using it as a logistics center for Baptist outreach in the area," said Charles Johnson, pastor at First Baptist, Sandy Hook. "We're looking at making some upgrades that could include creating a conference room, a kitchen and a bunk room so that we can accommodate missionaries who come to help us reach the lost in this area."

The Kentucky Baptist Convention and the North American Mission Board, concerned about dwindling numbers of

church-goers in the mountains, have been pushing to help start new congregations and expand existing ones throughout the mountain region.

"Most people are aware of the poverty and physical needs in the region," said KBC Missions Mobilization Coordinator Teresa Parrett. "There's also a lot of spiritual needs that we need to meet."

Bill Barker, head of the Southern Baptist Convention's Appalachian Regional Ministries, said Elliott County, where Sandy Hook is located, is of special concern because surveys have shown that more than 80 percent of the residents are unchurched. Some surveys put the number of unchurched there at more than 90 percent.

Efforts already are underway to start a new Southern Baptist church in Elliott County, which now has fewer than 10 congregations, only two of which are



Charles Johnson, pastor at First Baptist Church of Sandy Hook, said he plans to create an outreach hub with the building donated by a local optometrist. (Photo by Roger Alford/KBC)

connected with the SBC.

A native of Carrollton, Johnson had served in central Kentucky until being called as pastor in Sandy Hook last year. He quickly became aware of the tremendous need to get the gospel into the rural expanse around the small town.

"The number of people who don't go to church has dropped so low that it's almost to the level of some Third World countries," Johnson said. "We want to do all we can to change that, and we're hopeful that this building might play a role in reaching the lost." (KBC)

Roland retires

Continued from page 1

illness or other factors, Lindner stepped in to do the work. She also helped her friend with bookkeeping and secretarial work regularly through the years.

Lindner said while Roland still plans to be involved she will be missed as the secretary, especially since she has been there through decades of church history.

"As long as she's been at the church, she has tons of knowledge in her brain that nobody else will ever know," Lindner said of Roland. "She will be missed. Someone said, 'Who am I going to call when I want something or when I want a phone number?'"

A significant moment for another church member also happened during Roland's tenure. As a teenager, Dan Francis came to Latonia Baptist with a high-school girlfriend. It was at the church he decided to follow Jesus Christ.

Many years later, Francis returned to Latonia. He is now the pastor there and has had the privilege of not just knowing Roland, but working with her.

"She pretty much carried the church through all the interims," Francis said. "She did the books up until just two years ago. Even though she fed the stuff into a computer, she did it by hand for a half-million dollar budget or so. She's been an amazing kind of glue for the church for a long, long time."

Francis said Roland was recently in a wreck that totaled her car. She could not



Flora Roland and Pastor Dan Francis pose for photo with the car Francis and Latonia Baptist Church members helped purchase for Roland following a wreck that totaled her previous car. The gift was in recognition of dedication to the church which she served as secretary for 60 years. (Photo courtesy of Dan Francis)

replace it with a new one and was looking at cars that had been driven more than 100,000 miles. But because of her long dedication to the church, Francis knew the congregation had to help her through the difficult situation.

So, several months ago, with the church's help, Francis gave Roland a car with less than 30,000 miles on it.

"I was very shocked," Roland said. "They called me up one Sunday morning and presented (the car to) me. Well, the pastor threw the keys to my son-in-law, told him to bring it up in front of the church, and I went out and saw it for the

first time—and that was wonderful."

But it is not surprising the church would bestow such a gift to Roland. She has been there for many in the church during their own time of need and grieving. Francis and Lindner said Roland is always there to help with bereavement services for church members.

Francis said Roland has been so dedicated to her church family that he does not think she has ever used her full vacation time. So, even though she will be missed as secretary, it is finally time for the hardworking 79-year-old to have the break she deserves, the pastor said. (WR)

Acts 29 Network removes Driscoll, Mars Hill Church

Flower Mound, Texas—Church planting network Acts 29 has removed Mars Hill Church and controversial Pastor Mark Driscoll from its membership.

Driscoll, who started the Seattle church in 1996 and helped found Acts 29, has long been a polarizing figure due to his direct leadership style and often crude speaking and writing manner. He has come under fire in recent days for inflammatory comments he made on the Internet 14 years ago under a pseudonym.

"It is with deep sorrow that the Acts 29 Network announces its decision to remove Mark Driscoll and Mars Hill Church from membership in the network," according to a board statement. "It is our conviction that the nature of the accusations against Mark, most of which have been confirmed by him, make it untenable and unhelpful to keep Mark and Mars Hill in our network."

Matt Chandler, pastor of The Village Church in Flower Mound, Texas, is president of Acts 29. The church also cooperates with the Southern Baptist Convention, and Chandler is a well-known speaker at Southern Baptist events. He assumed the presidency of Acts 29 in 2012, when Driscoll stepped down from the role.

Acts 29 counts 500 member churches worldwide. Many of them also cooperate with the SBC, though the two organizations have disagreed over issues ranging from alcohol to Calvinism to Driscoll's demeanor.

The board's brief statement concluded with, "In taking this action, our prayer is that it will encourage the leadership of Mars Hill to respond in a distinctive and godly manner so that the name of Christ will not continue to be dishonored." (BP)

Transitional interim pastors' workshop to be held in Paducah

Paducah—The Kentucky Baptist Convention will provide training in Paducah in October for experienced ministers who sense God's call to serve as transitional interim pastors.

The training will be Oct. 27-28 at the West Union Baptist Association offices.

The cost for the training session is \$100. The fee covers all training materi-

als and meals.

The two-day workshop will focus on the roles and responsibilities of a transitional interim pastor; the transition process; assessing the church's history and current realities; strategic preparation for the future; preaching and teaching during the interim; conflict management and congregational healing;

supporting the search committee; and preparing the congregation for its next pastor.

To register, call Kandi Hayes at the West Union Baptist Association office at (270) 554-5717. For more information about the event, contact Peggy Berry at the KBC at (866) 489-3382 or by email at peggy.berry@kybaptist.org. (KBC)

KBC, CU move forward

On Friday evening, I received a welcomed call from Charles Barnes, one of our past Kentucky Baptist Convention

Together We are the KBC



Paul Chitwood

presidents and a well-known lay leader in the KBC. Barnes called to inform me that Campbellsville University had agreed to our requests for a meeting. Saturday at 3 p.m., that meeting took place.

KBC leaders present were Garnetta Smith, chairperson of the KBC Mission Board's agencies & institutions committee;

Adam Greenway, chairman of the Mission Board's administrative committee; Roger Alford, who is both a KBC pastor and the Mission Board's director of communications; KBC Attorney James Taylor; Barnes; and myself.

Campbellsville was represented by President Michael Carter; Vice President John Chowning; Kentucky Baptist pastor and CU Board Chairman Joseph Owens; board members Mike O'Neal, pastor of Campbellsville Baptist Church, and James Jones, pastor of Pleasant Hill Baptist Church in Campbellsville; and CU's attorneys.

From the outset the meeting was conciliatory and redemptive. CU leaders offered their apologies for any disparaging or divisive remarks about the KBC over the past few weeks and requested we recommit ourselves to walking together in a way that is worthy of our Lord. In Matthew 18:22, Jesus tells Peter that we should forgive "seventy times seven." That is to say, our willingness to forgive should be limitless. Since that is the kind of forgiveness we all need and have all received, it is the kind we must extend—and we all did.

Moreover, each of us personally committed to doing what we can to help Campbellsville move forward. While the university's future relationship with Kentucky Baptists will probably look different than it has in the past, I truly believe we can walk forward supportive of one another and engaging in a ministry partnership that will advance the kingdom in Kentucky and to the ends of the earth.

Pray for Campbellsville's trustees. They have important decisions to make regarding the future of the institution. Ask God to give them wisdom and the knowledge of His will. And ask God to help each of us walk humbly before Him and seek to honor one another above ourselves (Romans 12:10). In so doing, we honor Him.

'The problem of polarity' plagues the church

This past weekend, my son and I attended a round of the PGA Championship at Valhalla Golf Club in Louisville. It was my first PGA event since I was Caleb's age. I quickly observed two types of golf fans: Those who follow a favorite golfer—Tiger Woods, Phil Mickleson, Rory McIlroy, Bubba Watson, Jason Day—around the course; and those who, like us, pick a challenging hole or two and watch as each golfer, including their favorite, plays it. Yet, we were united by our love of the game and a desire to see some incredible golfers play.

David Garrard, long-time minister to children at St. Matthews Baptist Church and Western Recorder columnist, recently delivered an exceptional message on "The Problem of Polarity," addressing the social phenomenon of dividing into "us" and "them" groupings. We gravitate toward those who look, act and believe like us, he observed.

The problem of polarity isn't just visible in race or ethnicity, Garrard noted. People also may divide over sports rivalries, political parties, and even church. He pointed out preferences for contemporary or traditional worship styles; services with guitars, drums and praise bands or with choir robes, organs and hymnals; and wearing golf shirts and shorts or coats and ties. Denominationally, some also may divide into theological camps: Southern Baptist Convention or Cooperative Baptist Fellowship; conservatives, moderates or liberals; or Calvinists and non-Calvinists.

"Without really meaning to, we find ourselves distancing ourselves from other people," Garrard lamented. "But we need to understand it is a distinctly unChristian attitude. We've got to rise above it if we ever hope to be the people that God wants us to be."

Drawing from Romans 14-15, Garrard spotlighted some things Christians should do: accept others and work for peace and mutual edification. Judging others is not in the job description of a Christian, he said, warning that if we aren't careful, we may destroy what God is doing in someone's life, and may even destroy them. "An us/them attitude is not exactly what I would call a winsome witness," he observed. "You're not likely to win somebody over with judgment, contempt and ridicule." An us/them attitude

thus inhibits unity and our ability to partner and work together for the Kingdom.

After hearing his message, I read again a passage in Ephesians 4, where Paul encourages us to imitate Christ: "Therefore I, the prisoner for the Lord, urge you to walk worthy of the calling you have received, with all humility and gentleness, with patience, accepting one another in love, diligently keeping the unity of the Spirit with the peace that binds us." Our love is how others should recognize us, and love is seen in unity and peace—not disharmony and dissension.

While human tendency may be to rush to pick sides in a contest, LifeWay President Thom Rainer, in a recent blog, poetically captured what our hope, our goal, our prayer should be:

"I will be a unifying Christian.

"There are times when I must take a stand for God and His Word,

But I can do so in such a way that is charitable and non-combative.

My tone can be helpful,

And my demeanor can be Christ-like.

"I will be a unifying Christian.

"I will seek to build up before I tear down, To encourage before criticizing.

I will learn that my words can be a source of great harm,

Or they can be a source of encouragement and joy ...

"I will be a unifying Christian.

"I know many are watching me.

They know I am a believer in Christ, a Christian.

My words and actions are my witness.

The world will know we are Christians by our love."

In Colossians 3:14-15, Paul sums up the only attitude which should distinguish us from them: "Above all, put on love—the perfect bond of unity. And let the peace of the Messiah, to which you were also called in one body, control your hearts." Who will they say controls your heart? Here is Paul's challenge: "If it is possible, as much as it depends on you, live peaceably with all men" (Romans 12:18).

Sunday's top priority: Worship God

By Diana Davis

What is your priority when you arrive at church on Sunday? Is it to ensure your child has matching shoes? To lead a great small-group class? Greet guests? Enjoy friends? Those are all quite important, but our top priority must be to truly worship God. How can we do that? Try these simple tips:

Anticipate. Look forward to Sunday's worship service. Faithfully commit that time to God. Pray for God to bless each person there and to speak to you.

Arrive early. You have an appointment with the King of Kings, so don't allow anything or anyone to make you late.

Engage in the worship service. True

worship is not routine. It doesn't involve making a grocery list or checking emails. Keep your eyes and heart focused on worshipping God.

Fresh Ideas



Diana Davis

Participate in every part of the worship service with joy and enthusiasm. For a Christian, worship is not a spectator sport. Stand when it's time to stand. Worship by giving your tithe. Greet during greeting time. During the Scripture reading, open your Bible, iPad or app to follow along. Sing every word of every song with joy and enthusiasm to God. Listen to every word that's

spoken. As announcements are made, ask God's blessings on those events. During baptism, celebrate with the angels. Listen to every word of the sermon.

Apply God's word to your life. Take notes.

Eagerly anticipate life-changing decisions during the invitation time, praying fervently that God will change hearts and touch lives. Don't even think about gathering your belongings or slipping out early. Your pot roast must not distract your worship of God.

Leave slowly and joyfully. A race to the exit seems to state, "I've put in my check mark for God." Instead, linger a moment. Keep your mind on God. Meet a guest.

There's nothing humdrum about the priority of worship. That worshipful heart will carry over into our actions and service to God throughout the entire week. "You must worship God in spirit and in truth" (John 4:24).

Diana Davis is the author of "Fresh Ideas" and "Deacon Wives." She is the wife of Steve Davis, the North American Mission Board's vice president for the South region.

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Shine Like Stars * Philippians 2:15

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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.

Paul Chitwood is executive director of the Kentucky Baptist Convention.

Southern Baptists must reach young adults

By Ronnie Floyd

I am burdened by the fact that 80 percent of our 46,125 Southern Baptist churches reported reaching and baptizing zero or one young adult, according to the Pastors' Task Force on SBC Evangelistic Impact and Declining Baptisms report released in the spring. This means that 36,900 Southern Baptist churches baptized only one or no young adults in an entire year.

When I write these words, I am overwhelmed with the burden of how much we need a mighty move of God upon our pastors, church leaders, lay people and churches that comprise the Southern Baptist Convention. Yes, let a mighty move of God begin in me and with our church.

If this does not change, what does it mean for us?

On July 14, I released an article addressing another major problem, that 60 percent of our Southern Baptist churches did not baptize a single young person between the ages of 12-17 years old. When you combine the lack of effectiveness in reaching them with the lack of effectiveness in most of our SBC churches in reaching, baptizing and discipling young adults from ages 18-29, we must ask ourselves many serious questions. One of those questions is: If this does not change, what does it mean for us?"

Obviously, it means that if we continue in this mode, many of our churches are facing an aging problem that will one day threaten their long-term viability. When we are ineffectively reaching young adults between ages 18-29, we are showing our disconnectedness in the world today, but, additionally, our disconnectedness in days to come.

I believe the church has to reach every generation to impact its community in a great way. I see no evidence anywhere in Scripture where churches specialize in whom they reach generationally. All people are in need of a relationship with God through Jesus Christ; therefore, we must reach all people, including young adults 18-29 years of age.

Are we willing to do what it takes to become all things to all people? Yes, it is hard, uncomfortable, and it takes sacrifice. But compare it to seeing a generation come alive for Christ and a world impacted. Then, the cost is small.

We cannot ignore other questions worthy of answers:

- Why are we not reaching young adults effectively?
- Is our church's culture friendly to all generations?
- Is our message boldly biblical, delivered authentically in the power of the Holy Spirit and saturated in the love of Christ?
- Are we willing to die to self so His power may be experienced in the next generation?

These questions could be endless, but some time soon—preferably urgently—thousands of churches must give honest answers to these questions and make the needed changes immediately. I believe God is able to turn this situation around.

Here are four ways we can reach and baptize more young adults through our churches:

- Proclaim boldly the gospel of Jesus Christ to young adults, calling them to follow Jesus unashamedly, profess their faith and be baptized.

Young adults today are not looking for a "seeker-friendly" message; they are searching for a message that is built on truth and delivered in the right tone.

They are not afraid of a bold message; in fact, they are attracted to it.

When the message is delivered by someone who has their best interests in mind, especially a message that is backed up with a life and ministry that lives it out, they will respond positively. Therefore, do not think you have to dumb down the message to be relevant, as this turns them off immediately. Hold high the gospel of Jesus Christ and call them to live their lives by it, professing outwardly their faith and being baptized publicly.

- Target young adults through a small-group Bible study.

Young adults want to be part of something that is intimate, authentic and has a genuine sense of community. Beginning small groups in your church that can reach young adults through teaching the word of God in this kind of environment can prove to be a great way to see many reached for Christ.

Churches must determine they are going to reach young adults. We need to get them into the church, as well as create places to connect outside of it. Churches also need to have places to connect and avenues for ministry for the young adults who are coming into the doors of the church.

If they have children, take the greatest care of them. Prioritize meeting this need. Young adults with children will be attracted to a church that can care for their kids. When you couple that with an effective small-group Bible study, in time, you will reach, baptize and disciple more young adults.

Let's not forget: Young adults reach young adults. They can energize a church and provide life in every way.

- Churches and state conventions that have the capacity to help other churches in reaching young adults must rise up and provide assistance.

I am convinced that if we are going to see this turned around, we all need to own this problem. For example, what can our church do to help other churches in reaching young adults? While we do it well at times, other times we struggle. But together, we can help one another. This is not just about the growth of our own churches, but about penetrating the lostness of young adults with the gospel, and expanding the kingdom of God.

- Begin praying now for the next great awakening. This will turn it around quicker than anything else.

Evan Roberts was 26 years old when God raised him up to be the catalyst for the great Welsh Revival. Under the direction of the Spirit of God, he went to his home church uninvited. He told them, "I have a message for you from God." As God opened the door for

First Person



Ronnie Floyd

Are we willing to do what it takes to become all things to all people? Yes, it is hard, uncomfortable, and it takes sacrifice. But compare it to seeing a generation come alive for Christ and a world impacted. Then, the cost is small.

Common life insurance mistakes

By Don Spencer

Having adequate life insurance is a critical piece of a person's total financial planning. Without adequate insurance, you're betting your life savings that nothing bad will happen. With life insurance, there are several mistakes that are frequently made. Many of these can have serious consequences, and all of them could easily be avoided.



Having inadequate insurance. Life insurance agents can help you determine if your coverage would adequately provide for your survivors. Do you have enough to provide life's necessities for your family? What about education expenses for your children? What about burial expenses, medical expenses and other debts? Could your survivors continue living the same lifestyle if you died?

Naming your estate as beneficiary. Generally, you should name individuals. This avoids the delay of probate, can reduce expenses, and may avoid giving others access to some of those funds.

Naming only one beneficiary. If your beneficiary dies before you, even if only minutes before, the proceeds will be paid to your estate. Be sure secondary beneficiaries are named.

Failing to review policies regularly. Life insurance needs change. Beneficiary information often needs to be updated. At least every three or four years, check your policy. Does the policy still meet your needs? Is the coverage still adequate, or is it too much? Are the beneficiaries up to date?

Having the wrong kind of insurance product. Term life or whole life? Level term or decreasing term? Whole life or universal life? What about variable life? All of these are decisions to be determined by your needs. Make sure you have the right policy for your needs. Life insurance contracts, like agents, are not all alike. The lowest price or the highest possible projected return is not always the mark of the right policy for you.

Making a policy payable to minor children or grandchildren. A trust or other settlement option appropriate for minor children should be used.

Forgetting that term insurance "runs out" and/or becomes prohibitively expensive to carry. Remember that term insurance is by definition for a specific period of time. If it is designed to continue into your later years, it can become quite costly. Keep this in mind as you select the right policy for your needs.

Don Spencer is a certified financial planner and a consultant with the Kentucky Baptist Convention's church financial benefits department.

him to proclaim the message, he stated these things:

You must confess any known sin to God and put any wrong done to others right. Second, you must put away any doubtful habit. Third, you must obey the Spirit promptly. And, finally, you must embrace your faith in Christ publicly.

As J. Edwin Orr shared this great story through his message, "The Role of Prayer in Spiritual Awakening," my heart was moved as he said that within five months of this significant moment, more than 100,000 people were converted through the country. This great move of God swept even into various parts of the world.

Why? Because a young adult named Evan Roberts was saved as a coal miner, called to preach, trained in ministry and led by the Spirit of God to proclaim the message of God.

God can do more in a moment than we can do in a lifetime.

May He raise up another movement of God like this and, if He so desires, even led by a young adult who will call all generations to God. This is why we must reach, baptize and disciple young adults like never before. We need a mighty spiritual awakening in the land. This will turn this tide around quicker than anything I know, while we, at the same time, address our challenges strategically. (BP)

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



China earthquake

Southern Baptist relief teams working at quake's epicenter

By Mark Kelly

Yunnan, China—Some remote communities in southwest China still have not received relief supplies, more than a week after a 6.1 earthquake killed nearly 600 people and destroyed 80,000 homes.

One Baptist Global Response-trained relief team working in the area, reported Aug. 5 that two villages they managed to reach had received no relief supplies, including clean water, even though they were near the road. "The situation of other mountain villages is more serious, but we have not been able to get there," the team leader reported.

Efforts to reach the most isolated communities are being hampered by road collapses and landslides, as well as a steady stream of civilians trying to bring supplies into the disaster zone, said Pat Melancon, Baptist Global Response managing director of disaster response.

"It is not unusual in disaster response for well-meaning untrained volunteers to become a burden to the local communities already struggling to get back on their feet," Melancon said. "That is why BGR trains national partners to respond in a self-supporting fashion, so they are an asset during this difficult time, not a burden."

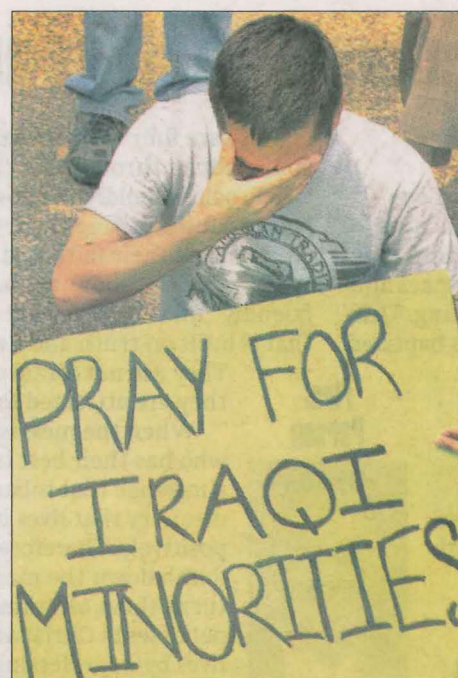
Chinese authorities have urged untrained volunteers to stay away from the quake zone, according to news reports. Many civilians have walked or hitchhiked to the area. Some drove their own vehicles into the worst-hit areas, further clogging already congested roads.

The BGR-trained teams are working in the epicenter of the earthquake, Melancon said. In outlying areas that still have not received any assistance, water continues to be a practical and urgent need, as well as tents, food and clothing. BGR teams are assessing survival needs related to water, sanitation, shelter, food and health issues, as well as helping people with supplies they bring with them.

The death toll jumped by nearly 200 on Aug. 6 as rescuers began searching previously unreachable mountain villages. The count of houses destroyed has about doubled.

Rescuers freed one woman from a pile of rubble where she had been trapped for almost three days, but hopes that others will be found alive are waning, according to news reports. Residents of some communities reported school dormitories had collapsed.

An estimated 230,000 people are living in evacuation centers throughout the region. (BP)



■ **Left:** A Yazidi man breaks down in tears during an Aug. 7 rally at the White House calling for American aid and military action in northern Iraq. More than 50,000 Yazidis are reported to be trapped on a mountaintop without food or water after escaping the city of Sinjar, which was seized by Islamic State militants. ■ **Right:** Raw emotion pours from a Yazidi man rallying at the White House. Many Yazidis who were born in Sinjar and have immediate or extended family members who are trapped in the Sinjar Mountains without food or water. (Photos by Chris Carter/IMB)



Iraqi aid

Continued from page 1

House calls a "looming humanitarian catastrophe" unfolding on a mountaintop near the Iraqi city of Sinjar, home to the country's Yazidi religious minority, where some 50,000 Yazidi refugees are trapped with limited food and water.

On Aug. 3, Sunni extremists known as Islamic State or ISIS (Islamic State of Iraq and Syria) seized the city as Sinjar's Yazidi population fled fearing massacre. Many Iraqis without transportation escaped to the nearby Sinjar Mountains, a barren heap of rock where daytime temperatures can top 120 degrees.

While the U.S. has begun airdropping water, food and other supplies to Yazidi refugees in the mountains, BGR representatives are focusing efforts on helping the reportedly 200,000 internally displaced Iraqi refugees who have fled ISIS militants' rapid advance.

In June, ISIS took control of Mosul, Iraq's second largest city, ordering thousands of Iraqi Christians to leave, convert to Islam, or pay heavy taxes. Yazidi Kurds and other Iraqi minorities have been forced from Sinjar and surrounding villages under threat of death. Many of the refugees have fled to Duhok and Erbil in Iraqi Kurdistan, or south to Baghdad.

"The news coming out of Iraq is even more heart-breaking than usual," said Jeff Palmer, BGR's executive director. "We have been helping Iraqi families over the past few months, but must now intensify our efforts due to this heightened conflict. We are grateful to have so many friends who care about people in need. Suffering Iraqis will have an opportunity to know God's love firsthand as our partners bring desperately needed relief."

On Aug. 7, more than 150 Yazidi immigrants rallied in front of the north lawn of the White House to plead for American involvement in the growing crisis. The protestors came from across the country, with at least one group driving more than 30 hours from Phoenix. Holding signs and chanting slogans, the Yazidis' pain and sense of desperation was evident in the faces of demonstrators like 27-year-old Nayyaf Abdo.

Abdo grew up in Sinjar and came to

the U.S. in 2011 after serving as a translator with the U.S. Army. He traveled to Washington for the rally with a group of more than 50 Yazidis from Lincoln, Neb., and said his parents, six brothers, sister and grandmother are among those stranded in the Sinjar Mountains.

"I don't know if they are still alive or not," Abdo said. "The mountain is surrounded by ISIS. They cannot move."

He spoke to his sister by cell phone earlier that day, but acknowledged he is afraid she is trying to protect him from the truth about his family's situation.

"She's not going to tell me my brothers are dying. She's told me, 'We are OK,' but I know they are not OK," he said.

Yazidis at the rally also showed support for Iraq's Christian community by chanting "Save Christians in Iraq." Rob Schenck, president of the National Clergy Council and an ordained minister with the Evangelical Church Alliance, was among a handful of Christians in attendance to show solidarity with the Yazidis.

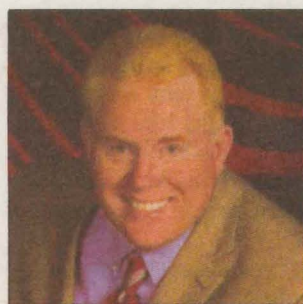
"Any time there is a human crisis on this scale, good people cannot be silent," Schenck said. "To be silent is to be a conspirator with the tragedy. This is as much a religious issue as it is anything else."

"We want to move this administration to act immediately and swiftly along with humanitarian and religious organizations that have resources to assist, and we want to urge all of them to take action now," he added.

"Let me 'bottom line' it for my Baptist friends: This is a wonderful way of being a witness for the gospel and showing the love of God in Jesus Christ." (BP)



An estimated 230,000 people are at evacuation centers in southwest China after a 6.1 earthquake destroyed 80,000 homes on Aug. 3. Baptist Global Response-trained volunteers are now working at the quake's epicenter, helping villagers who had not yet received relief supplies. (BGR photo)



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.

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En la misión de Dios

A missions team of 29 students and adults from Buck Creek Baptist Church in Calhoun recently traveled to Nicaragua to serve residents there and share the gospel.

Justin McClure, student and education pastor, said the team conducted missions projects in several communities. The church maintains ministry partners in the Central American country.

While there, the Buck Creek team:

- helped build a church for an existing congregation that previously met in a shelter made of sticks and plastic;
- passed out food and water to residents of the Chinandega community who spend their days scavenging at a local dump;
- trained teachers at a school;
- provided professional development and medical supplies to a hospital in Leon, Nicaragua;
- fed children in need through "On Eagles' Wings" ministry in Leon.

Through the Buck Creek team's efforts, McClure said 16 people professed faith in Jesus Christ. (WR)

Photos courtesy of Justin McClure



Tell Your Story

"As for us, we cannot help speaking about what we have seen and heard."
— Acts 4:20

177th KBC

KENTUCKY BAPTIST CONVENTION

Annual Meeting

Tuesday, November 11
Living Hope Baptist Church, Bowling Green

The KBC Mission Board, Pastors' Conference and other affiliated meetings convene on **Monday, November 10**. The KBC annual meeting on **Tuesday, November 11** has two (2) sessions – morning and afternoon – and will conclude shortly after 5:00 p.m. CST.

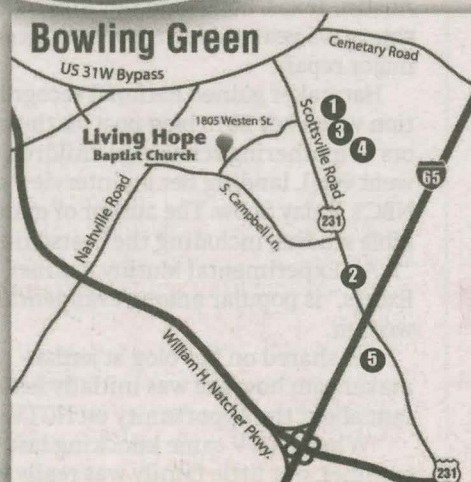
For more information contact **Denise.Withers@kybaptist.org** in the Events & Facility Management office or **www.kybaptist.org/annualmeeting**. Visit **www.visitbgky.com** to learn more about other hotels and area attractions.

Bowling Green Accommodations for KBC Messengers – I-65, Exit 22

All blocked rooms are non-smoking. Each property includes free high speed Internet access and complimentary parking. Rates do not include the current Bowling Green 13.43% hotel tax. Messengers are responsible for making and paying for their own reservations. Kentucky Baptist Convention (Messenger Block) must be mentioned and reservation deadlines met to receive blocked room rates. Please note that a limited number of rooms are reserved on Tuesday evening.



- 1 **Courtyard by Marriott**
1010 Wilkinson Trace
270/783.8569
\$89
Breakfast - \$5.95 p/person
Reservation by: Oct. 18
- 2 **Drury Inn Bowling Green**
3250 Scottsville Road
270/842.7100
\$84 flat rate
Includes breakfast
Reservation by: Oct. 13
- 3 **Hilton Garden Inn**
1020 Wilkinson Trace
270/781.6778
\$107
Full breakfast for 2 per day
Reservation by: Oct. 9
- 4 **Holiday Inn University Plaza**
1021 Wilkinson Trace
270/745.0088
Block Code: MB1
\$95-\$125
Includes breakfast
Reservation by: Oct. 10
- 5 **La Quinta Inn & Suites**
1953 Mel Browning Street
270/783.0083
\$84
Free breakfast
Reservation by: Oct. 20



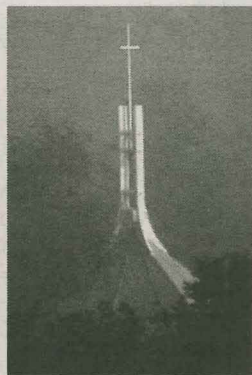
This is Oneida

"The Offering: Barkley Moore--A Life For Time and Eternity"
By Judy Ratliff Powell

I love to tell the Oneida story, and a large part of my job is to do just that. I believe the best way for me to tell the Oneida story is to tell the stories of the people of Oneida, the stories of students, staff members, volunteers, donors, and friends. I mentioned in a previous article that we had celebrated the life of Dr. Barkley Moore in a chapel service. *The Offering* is now available and it tells not only the Barkley Moore story, but the Oneida story! As I travel this state, many of you have told me your own Barkley stories.

Judy Ratliff Powell, a graduate of the Oneida Baptist Institute, and I invite you to learn about the life of Barkley Moore, the president of the Institute, in this new book. Experience the life of a man dedicated to serving mankind and God in *The Offering*. ~ Larry A. Gritton, Jr., OBI president

Step back in time...
along the misty
backroads and
hollows of Clay County,
Kentucky...where still
stands the Oneida
Baptist Institute of
legendary Barkley
Moore's days.



"I am praying the Lord
will use *The Offering*
to stir us to make of
our lives the kind of
fragrant offering that
surely was the life of
Barkley Moore."

~ Dr. Paul Chitwood
Executive Director,
Kentucky Baptist
Convention

Available: CrossBooks.com
LifeWayBooks.com
Preview: GoogleBooks.com

All proceeds benefit Oneida Baptist Institute

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SBC reflections: What attending the annual meeting taught me

By Myriah Snyder

I attended my first Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting in June, and I realized that there was (and still is) much that I never knew about Southern Baptists.

In addition to simply learning some of the ins and outs of the SBC and Southern Baptist life, I found multiple reasons to be glad I am a Southern Baptist.

Following are a few areas of the annual meeting that struck a chord in my heart.

Missions & outreach

■ The way Southern Baptists do missions through the Cooperative Program is effective.

Before the annual meeting, I understood what the Cooperative Program was and tithed to a church that gives through CP. But at the convention I witnessed the effects of CP.

Whether it was through the testimony of a missionary or a video shared during the reports of the International Mission and North American Mission boards, it was apparent the gospel is being carried forth by Southern Baptist missionaries. CP mobilizes them—and us—to do just that.

■ Southern Baptists realize that being attentive to the world's needs is a key step in sharing the gospel.

From disaster relief teams to individual missionaries' ministries, Southern Baptists are meeting needs and opening doors for the gospel.

During the pre-convention Crossover outreach in Baltimore, I spoke with a few disaster relief groups that were testing some new equipment. They noted that people are more receptive to the gospel when their needs are met. I believe this is the pattern Jesus set for all Christians to follow. Often, the Savior stopped to help the hurting before calling them to follow Him.

First Person



Myriah Snyder

■ Crossover taught me the value of "combining forces" within the convention.

The event was a large-scale evangelism initiative. However, if one or even a few churches had attempted to accomplish for Christ what Crossover did, they would have been severely short-handed. The efficiency of Crossover was in the collaboration of time, resources, prayers and manpower.

Diversity

■ The beauty (and effectiveness) of Southern Baptists is their diversity.

I find it amazing that Southern Baptists, although united by the gospel, encompass many cultures and generations. This was apparent from the music selected at the convention to the range of individuals who appeared on the stage.

■ The convention does not have to have one specific set of individual characteristics in order to be effective for the kingdom.

Diversity was reflected in speakers, institutional representatives and even publishing companies represented at the exhibits. Inconsequential differences and generational barriers do not seem to hinder the efforts of Southern Baptists to spread the word. When a denomination can move past small differences, much can be accomplished for the kingdom.

The SBC annual meeting and Crossover Baltimore refreshed my outlook on missions, evangelism and giving. I challenge everyone to take time to appreciate the work Southern Baptists do and remind yourself why you are one. If you can do so by attending an annual meeting, it is well worth your time. If you cannot, look at the SBC website. You, too, may learn something new about what it means to be a Southern Baptist. (BP)

Myriah Snyder is a student at University of the Cumberlands and a summer intern with Baptist Press.

Popular author's show debuts on HGTV

Austin, Texas—A new reality home renovation show featuring Jen Hatmaker, Christian author, speaker and self-proclaimed "worst end-of-school-year mom ever," along with her husband, Brandon, debuted Aug. 7 on HGTV.

"My Big Family Renovation" follows the Hatmaker family as they sell their Austin, Texas, home and buy and renovate a 105-year-old farm house in need of major repair.

Hatmaker gained national recognition when her 2013 blog post on the rigors of mothering school-age children went viral, landing her an interview on NBC's Today Show. The author of many Bible studies, including the bestselling "7: An Experimental Mutiny Against Excess," is popular among evangelical women.

She shared on her blog at jenhatmaker.com how she was initially hesitant about the opportunity on HGTV.

"When HGTV came knocking last summer, our little family was really wobbly," the mother of five wrote. "As I've



told you, my travel schedule had taken a real toll on our marriage and kids. We were super, super shaky. I, personally, was on the verge of disintegrating.

"At the close of (filming the) show, Brandon and I sat down to evaluate the experience, and he looked me dead in the eyes and said, 'This show saved us.'"

Hatmaker's latest Bible study, "Interrupted: An Adventure in Relearning the Essentials of Faith," is available. Her husband founded and leads Austin New Church, and is the author of "Barefoot Church: Serving the Least in a Consumer Culture." (BP)

Reaching out to the community

Clear Creek students organize youth evangelism event for tri-state area

When students come to Clear Creek Baptist Bible College to study for their ministry calling, they don't just sit in a classroom for four years and never leave our campus. All of our students are required to be actively involved in a local church during their time here to serve and gain some practical ministry training in a local-church setting.

There are times, though, when some of our students go even further than that.

Student Spencer Conner and a group of his classmates have organized a local evangelistic event totally on their own, with the purpose of reaching the young people of our tri-state area with the gospel message.

"The event will be called 'Linked,'" Conner said. "The service will be held Aug. 23 at 7:30 p.m. at Pine Mountain State Resort Park Laurel Cove Amphitheater. It will be a conference-style event with a band and a speaker to present the gospel message. The whole purpose of the event is just to spread the gospel to the young people of the tri-state area. We really just want to reach people with the gospel."

Clear Creek Chronicle



Donnie Fox

"The band that I play in, out of Powder Springs, Ga., will be providing the music for the event," Conner said. "We have experience playing summer camps for churches along with D-Now events for youth groups and other types of events. We play contemporary Christian music, along with bluegrass Christian and traditional hymns. I will also be bringing a message at the event."

"My time here at Clear Creek has really helped me in my preparations for putting on an event like this," he said. "Our church administration classes emphasize organization skills

that are applicable to putting together events like this. My Bible classes have helped me focus on what it means to really study God's word and being prepared to share God's word in a message. I am thankful for the preparation I have already received as a student here that has helped me to be involved in events like this."

"The event is free to the public. We want to make sure that anyone who wants to attend will be able to come."

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

Campbellsville among country's 'most affordable' Christian colleges

Campbellsville—Campbellsville University has been ranked among the most affordable Christian colleges in the United States by an independent research group.

Christian Universities Online researches and ranks Christian higher education in the United States, providing reviews, information about Christian scholarships and financial aid, as well as other student resources.

The website listed Campbellsville's average net price per year at \$14,187, fourth among the schools ranked. Only Lee University in Tennessee, College of the Ozarks in Missouri and Louisiana College cost less per year to attend.

All of the schools ranked in the website's top 50 are all accredited by the Transnational Association of Christian Colleges and Schools or an affiliate member of the Council for Christian Colleges and Universities, which Campbellsville University is.

"We are very excited about this ranking," Campbellsville President Michael

Carter said. "Coupled with Campbellsville University graduates having the lowest student debt among Kentucky colleges—except for Alice Lloyd and Berea—this validates the dedication of CU faculty, staff and coaches who put students first every day.

"We strive for innovative programs in small class sizes at the most competitive prices," he added.

Other rankings

The College Universities Online ranking is only the latest recognition for Campbellsville. U.S. News & World Report recently ranked CU 69th among universities in the South; 70th nationally of the best online graduate education programs; and 79th in the nation in its list of best online graduate business programs.

CU's Master of Theology and criminal justice associate's degrees, both online, are ranked eighth and fourth in the nation, respectively, by TheBestSchools.org. (CU)

Crossings & the KBC

Relationship between Crossings, convention has never been better

During the summer, our staff relates well to an analogy—specifically "plowing." We all feel like we are hooked up to a plow, our heads are down, the blinders are on our eyes, and we are "plowing" while actually doing camp—and we don't realize much of what is happening in the outside world.

Over the past month, I have been periodically observing the news about the Kentucky Baptist Convention-Campbellsville University relationship. Due to our Baptist identity, people are asking me what I think? While reading various blogs and letters and hearing comments is helpful, this does not qualify me to speak in detail to all the intricacies of the situation.

What I can do is speak about my relationship with the KBC and what I have experienced from 14 years of serving in an agency of the KBC. For nearly 12 years, I have served as the president & CEO of Crossings Ministries, so my observations are from that perspective.

At my recommendation to our board of trustees last year, we chose to invite the KBC executive director to be a member of Crossings' board. This was in response to the KBC Mission Board's offer—not mandate—to invite the executive director. This was done without

any pressure and, honestly, done out of two motives from Crossings' perspective.

First, we know that as cooperating Baptists, we can do much more

together than apart. Secondly, our ministry exists to serve our churches. We are the benefactors of their support through Cooperative Program giving and by their participation in our programs. Therefore, we are subject to and accountable to the churches. The KBC is the conduit of that financial support and, therefore, has a fiduciary responsibility to the churches across this state to

steward well the support they extend to us or any other beneficiary. This seemed wise, logical and non-threatening to me.

I can say, without any reservation, that our relationship with the KBC has never been better, due in large part to the increased involvement, participation and support from Paul Chitwood, who is now an active trustee of Crossings. While our decisions are subject to speculation and critique, I argue we are most blessed for this new and strengthened relationship with the KBC and the churches that comprise our convention.

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

Crossings Ministries



David Melber

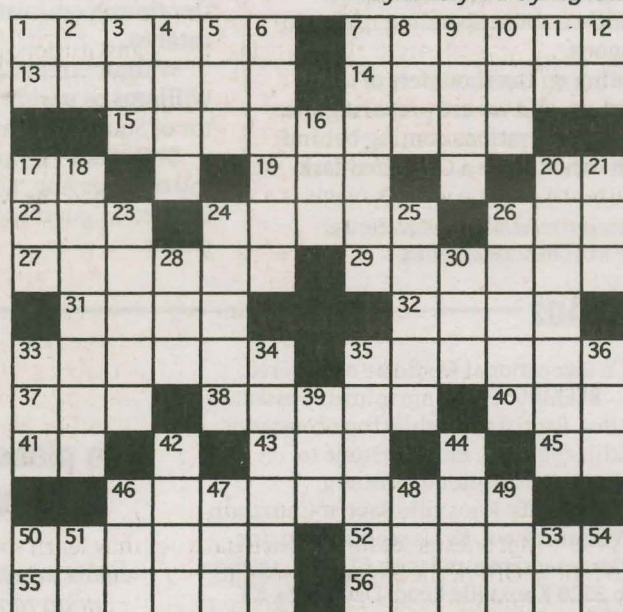
Bible Crosswords

Across

- 1 Cut
- 7 "He fell into a ____" (Acts 10:10)
- 13 Declares
- 14 "The son of Geber, in ____-gilead" (1 Kings 4:13)
- 15 Jesus' birthplace
- 17 Exist
- 19 The number of commandments God gave Moses
- 20 "____, every one that thirsteth" (Isaiah 55:1)
- 22 Animal that Christ rode on Palm Sunday
- 24 Depend on others' money
- 26 "Whether it be good or ____" (2 Corinthians 5:10)
- 27 Activity
- 29 "Then an ____ cried aloud" (Daniel 3:4)
- 31 Pertaining to air, prefix
- 32 "God hath given ____ unto your brethren" (Joshua 22:4)
- 33 Hastens
- 35 "The seed is ____ under their clods" (Joel 1:17)
- 37 Vigor
- 38 "____ died without children" (1 Chronicles 2:30)
- 40 When you think you'll get there, abbr.
- 41 Three feet, abbr.
- 43 Relative, abbr.
- 45 Part of the blood that carries iron, abbr.
- 46 "The Lord fulfil all thy ____" (Psalms 20:5)
- 50 "This Agar is Mount Sinai in ____" (Galatians 4:25)
- 52 "We have had ____ to eat" (2 Chronicles 31:10)
- 55 "The ____ is not dead, but



By Evelyn Boyington



#007

- sleepeth" (Mark 5:39)
- 56 "Thou shalt utterly ____ it" (Deuteronomy 7:26)
- 25 "They should not return to ____" (Matthew 2:12)
- 26 Sew quickly
- 28 Anger
- 30 Return, abbr.
- 33 "Who came in privily to ____ out our liberty" (Galatians 2:4)
- 34 Appearing in consecutive parts
- 35 "They ____ upon the Lord God of their fathers" (2 Chronicles 13:18)
- 36 Seize for arrest
- 39 "I will ____ you go" (Exodus 8:28)
- 42 "Their ____ shall not become garments" (Isaiah 59:6)
- 44 Nautical mile
- 46 Girl's nickname
- 47 "____ them about thy neck" (Proverbs 6:21)
- 48 "The Lord our God is ____ Lord" (Mark 12:29)
- 49 "If any man will ____ thee at the law" (Matthew 5:40)
- 50 Commercial, abbr.
- 51 Radium, chem. symbol
- 53 Organization for young females, abbr.
- 54 Altitude, abbr.

Down

- 1 Verb of being
- 2 The Bible's new covenant, abbr.
- 3 Taxi
- 4 Article
- 5 Place
- 6 Mehir was the father of ____ (1 Chronicles 4:11)
- 7 "He made a ____ about the altar" (1 Kings 18:32)
- 8 Cheer
- 9 "Surely I come quickly ____" (Revelation 22:20)
- 10 Name, Fr.
- 11 Massachusetts' neighbor
- 12 Questioning noise
- 16 Man's name
- 17 Sheep noise
- 18 "There ____ not a man of them" (1 Samuel 30:17)
- 20 "I will save her that ____" (Ephesians 3:19)
- 21 "The ____ number of them is to be redeemed" (Numbers 3:48)
- 23 Sharply inclined
- 24 Emotions

Online, print resources offer better understanding of Southern Baptists

Nashville, Tenn.—Southern Baptists seem to show up when people are searching for answers, often amid times of upheaval and emptiness.

Southern Baptist Disaster Relief volunteers clad in yellow shirts and hats are quickly amid the debris and anguish from hurricanes on the East Coast, flooding in middle America or wildfires in the West. Southern Baptist missionaries carry the gospel to both remote and urban areas worldwide. Southern Baptist church members volunteer at crisis pregnancy centers and food pantries across the United States.

But who are these people?

An array of print and online resources available through the Southern Baptist Convention's Executive Committee demonstrate Southern Baptists' heart and numerous ways of sharing new birth in Christ in their communities and states, across the nation and throughout the world.

Two brochures, "Meet Southern Baptists" and "A Closer Look," that provide basic information about Southern Baptists are available as free downloads, as well as full-color print pieces that can be ordered at a very minimal cost-recovery price at SBC.net. In addition to PDF formats, the brochures also can be read online.

Many Southern Baptist churches and other congregations interested in cooperating with the SBC request these resources, said Roger Oldham,



the Executive Committee's vice president for convention communications and relations.

"I have been in numerous meetings where pastors and members of various groups have been complimentary of the brochures and have asked how to order the brochures," Oldham said.

Some churches place the brochures alongside other materials where visitors can pick them up, Oldham noted.

"We are aware of a number of churches that routinely order the brochure for use in their new-member training classes," he added.

"Meet Southern Baptists" is a practical explanation of the SBC and its entities. "A Closer Look" delves into various facts and common misconceptions about the convention. It offers an in-depth look at the annual meeting, entities, the Executive Committee and the Cooperative Program. (BP)



August

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.
- 13 Excel, St. Matthews Baptist Church, Louisville.
- 15 EQUIP Tour, Allen Baptist Church, Prestonsburg.
- 16 EQUIP Tour, Beacon Hill Baptist Church, Somerset.
- 17-19 Annual Missionary Retreat, Rough River Dam State Resort Park, Falls of Rough.

More lessons from a summer at camp

I had the privilege to spend my summer at Cedarmore. I moved in June 1 and left earlier this month.

It is amazing the journey God takes us on in life. I would have given my right arm to be in camp ministry when I started out in ministry. Now, here I am almost 30 years later, right in the thick of it.

After a full summer at camp, here are some things I observed:

Students love to worship. Every night I got the honor of watching students worship. If you have never been in a room with hundreds of teenagers worshipping, you are missing out. They are honest; they sing (loudly); they raise their hands; they cry; they open their Bibles and take notes; some may even dance. They rarely hold anything back.

What's puzzling is why we don't see this back home. Somewhere there is a disconnect—a reason they don't feel comfortable worshipping like that at their churches. We have to do a better job of understanding our concept of worship and include elements with which we might not be comfortable, but are the heart language of those we are trying to engage.

College students can do a lot more than we give them credit or the opportunity to do. As I saw our summer staff lead Bible studies, recreation activities, work in the kitchen, do maintenance, have their own quiet time and lead in worship, it amazed me—they are tireless, have a passion for Christ and want to see teenagers come to know Jesus and grow deeper in their own walks. We are missing out when we don't engage young adults in our churches and community in the greater work of the kingdom.

We aren't as serious about reaching

students as we say we are. Let's not fool ourselves. Most every church would say it would love to have more youth in the church. But I am not sure our actions back that up.

When I see the vans and buses students arrive in and hear, "It wouldn't be a youth trip if the van didn't break down," I don't see a passion for students—I see, "Let's do just enough to get by."

Youth Ministry Corner



Joe Ball

The same is true about how much time and energy youth ministers must invest in raising funds for students to come to camp, time they could spend developing relationships. Or how they have to beg for chaperones. There was even one youth pastor's wife, at eight months pregnant, who had to chaperone because no lady in the church would do so. When I hear this, I know we are, at best, giving lip service to reaching students.

We stand on the shoulders of those who came before us. Every week, I saw former Son Team members come back as church staff members or chaperones because of the importance this place holds in their spiritual journeys. They each went to Byrdwell to see if their names were still on the wall where they signed it the summer they were here. I see in them the groundwork that was laid by men like Tom Smoot and Ralph Hopkins. And there was usually someone who would ask about Rabro and reminisce about spending nights in the covered wagons.

We are standing on the shoulders of those who came before us, and we are preparing the shoulders that the generations coming behind us will stand on—and that is a God-sized task.

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

MOUNTAINS TO THE MISSISSIPPI

COMPILED BY STAFF

CADIZ—Cadiz Church's Edna Lindholm Baptist Women's group will hold an informational meeting and luncheon for its Bible study/missions group Aug. 17, 12:15 p.m., with **Brenda Scott** as guest speaker. **Kyle Noffsinger** is pastor.

CALHOUN—Buck Creek Church will host a chartering service for Life Community Church in Owensboro Aug. 17, 3 p.m. **Thomas Webb** is pastor of Buck Creek Church. **Kenny Rager** is pastor of Life Community Church.

CLAY CITY—Clay City Church will hold revival services Aug. 17, 11 a.m. & 6 p.m.; Aug. 18-20, 7 p.m., with **Dale Rose**, from Grace Evangelistic Ministries, as evangelist. **Grider Denney** is pastor.

COVINGTON—Latonia Church recently celebrated the retirement of **Flora Roland**, who has served as the church's secretary for 60 years. **Dan Francis** is pastor.

EDMONTON—Grace Union Church will host **Driven** in concert Aug. 17, 5:30 p.m. For more information, call (270) 678-5701. **Stoney McKinney** is pastor.

LOUISVILLE—Bethany Church will hold a Back to School Bash Aug. 16, 4 p.m., featuring food, games and special music from the **Misty Mountain String Band**. **Ken Vickery** is pastor.

Hurstbourne Church recently called **Camaron Debity** as pastor. He previously served as the church's minister to students and missions catalyst.

Walnut Street Church recently called **Mark Williams** as pastor. He previously served as pastor of Southside Church in Princeton.

SYMSONIA—Elva Church will hold homecoming services Aug. 17, 10:45 a.m., with **Jimmy Seaford** as guest speaker. **Michael Littrell** is pastor.

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@sbt.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: 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: 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: McDowell First Baptist Church, McDowell, Ky., is seeking resumés for a full-time position of pastor. Please

send resumés with references, CD/DVD or Internet link for sermons to: McDowell First Baptist Church, P.O. Box 241, McDowell, KY 41646.

SEEKING: Meadow Land Baptist Church is seeking a bivocational pastor to "grow with us." Great facilities, great people, great opportunity. Send cover letter, resumé and CD/DVD to: Pastor Search Committee, MLBC, 1188 Detour Road, Bowling Green, KY 42101. Resumés accepted until Sept. 6.

SEEKING: Senior pastor: Kings Baptist Church, a growing congregation of approximately 300-plus attendees is seeking a senior pastor to shepherd our congregation through expositional preaching, prayer, theological teaching and Bible study. Minimum requirements: Demonstrate the biblical qualifications of a pastor (1 Timothy 3:1-7, Titus 1:5-9); affirm the Baptist Faith and Message 2000; hold a degree from a Southern Baptist seminary; have a minimum of five years' experience as a senior pastor; oversee existing full-time pastoral and administrative staff. More information can be obtained by going to our church website at www.kingsbaptist.net. Please submit resumés to the Kings Baptist Pastor Search Committee via email: kingsbaptistpsc@gmail.com.

SEEKING: Columbia Baptist Church in Columbia, Ky., is prayerfully seeking a full-time pastor. Please send resumé to: Columbia Baptist Church, Attn: Pastor Search Committee, 201 Greensburg St., Columbia, KY 42728.

SEEKING: Reidland Baptist Church in Reidland, Ky., is accepting resumés for the full-time position of senior pastor. Please send resumé with references and CD or DVD to: Reidland Baptist Church, Attn: John Wood, 5559 Benton Road, Paducah,

KY. Bivocational would be considered.

SEEKING: Part-time ministry assistant at Alton Baptist Church. Strong computer skills required. Email resumé to altonbaptist@altonbaptist.org.

SEEKING: Knoxville Baptist Church in Williamstown, Ky., is seeking a pastor. Please send resumé with CD/DVD sermon to 2520 Knoxville Road, Dry Ridge, KY 41035, or email to knoxvillebaptistsearch@gmail.com.

SEEKING: ERP project manager; Louisville; bachelor's in computer science plus five years in-job experience or in a closely related field or master's in computer science plus three years of in-job experience or in a closely related field. Will accept equivalent foreign degree. Resumés: HR, SRVR, 1607 E. Big Beaver Road, Suite 300, Troy, MI 48083.

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'A passion for Christ'

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19,000 crosses and the Cooperative Program extend Colorado church's ministry reach

By Karen Willoughby

Bayfield, Colo.—An exhibit of 19,000 white crosses rotates among various locations in Bayfield, Colo. The crosses are an outreach of the town's First Baptist Church.

The Crosses Project, seen only in the town of about 2,500 people, vividly illustrates the 19,000 children worldwide who die each day from hunger and poverty. The Southern Baptist Convention's Cooperative Program helps the church respond to the global need.

Randy Ash has served as pastor of First Baptist in Bayfield the past eight years. The church attracts 120 to Sunday worship. Ash said 10 percent of the church's undesignated offerings go to the Cooperative Program. He added that it illustrates a commitment to fulfill the Great Commission.

"God's hand has been on this church because this church has always seen beyond itself," Ash said. "It's the opposite of a fortress mentality. The Cooperative Program helps us be external in its view of ministry."



The Crosses Project is a travelling exhibit of First Baptist Church of Bayfield, Colo. The white crosses represent the 19,000 children worldwide who die each day from hunger and poverty. (Photos courtesy of First Baptist Church, Bayfield)

"We are a small church, and we understand the concept that we can do more together than we can alone," Ash said. "Our bottom line is a passion for Christ."

For Ash, the Cooperative Program is even more about discipleship than evangelism. Ash disciples four to six men at a time, grooming them to disciple others in turn, and thus fulfill the Great Commission.

"It's a passion for Christ; that's the bottom line," he said. "It's being Christ in the community. It's an external view to be the hands and feet of Christ in our community and the world. It's about pursuing, promoting and protecting the passion for Christ, because all ministry action stems from a passion for Christ."

"We're looking beyond ourselves. We give God all the glory and praise for what He accomplishes through His obedient and humble servants."

First Baptist Bayfield ministers locally in a variety of ways, but never loses sight of global needs. The Crosses Project is the brainchild of First Baptist member Gordon Herrick, who teaches math at Fort Lewis College in nearby Durango. Herrick recommended planting the crosses for a month at a time in various locations around southwestern Colorado for maximum impact and visibility.

The visual display is intended to help people understand the reality of poverty and encourage their financial support of such program as the Southern Baptists'

Global Hunger Relief.

"It only takes \$1 to feed a child for a day," Herrick wrote on Facebook.com/CrossesProject. "It is estimated that if the contributions to combat world poverty were to increase by just 10 percent of their present levels, the problem could be eradicated in 10 years."

First Baptist Bayfield has a long-held reputation in its community for being a help in time of need. An offering for local benevolence is collected the first Sunday of each month for various needs, Ash said.

"Electric bills, rent, food, tires, car repairs ... You can almost name it and we've helped with it," Ash said. "A foreign exchange stu-

Pastor Randy Ash

dent came to us for help with a \$3,000 dental bill. We built a ramp for a lady with a disabled child."

A noon meal is a new church outreach, offered to the public weekdays in the church's fellowship hall. About 350 people participate each week; the church allocated \$12,000 for the 2014 summer-long program.

"It was Amy Peterson's heart to do this," Ash said. "With the economy like it is, there's a lot of need. It's a full meal; we pray with people, give out Bibles and tracts. And several points of benevolence have opened up as people coming to the lunch have talked with us."

The church also conducts a prayer ministry in the public square. Several times a year in various locations, the church erects a beach-type canopy with

the sign "Need prayer? We will faithfully pray for you." The church last utilized the prayer station at July 4th activities.

"There's nobody standing in line (to be prayed for) but you get a lot of looks," Ash said. "The only grocery store in Bayfield is very open to us putting it up on their parking lot. I'll sit there three, four hours, playing my guitar while waiting for people to stop."

"The ones who do stop are desperate, hurting, and when no one is there, it's a good time for me to spend quality time with God."

Other local efforts include prison and jail ministries, seasonal recreational ministries and, during the school year for the last 20 years, the Bible memorization program Awana, which has drawn as many as 95 students at a time.

"Our church turns out in a big way to do Awana," the pastor said. "We have a lot of adults who turn out because it's such a great blessing."

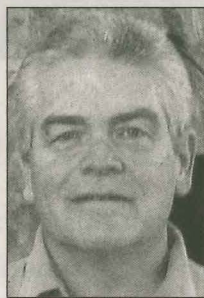
The church has planned an August disaster relief outreach in northern Colorado to remove mud from peoples' homes that accumulated after spring flooding.

A former First Baptist Bayfield youth pastor is serving at orphanages in Ukraine. The church helps him financially and sends missions teams to support his work, though a trip there this summer was cancelled because of political unrest with Russia.

The legalization of marijuana has created new ministry concerns, Ash said.

"Colorado has become the number one tourist destination in the United States because of legalized marijuana," he said. "This summer is different from any previous year because of it. I'm just asking God, 'What do we do?' People are moving here for the same reason."

Ash continues to ask the question, "How does this church minister to this new culture?" (BP)



"God's hand has been on this church because this church has always seen beyond itself. It's the opposite of a fortress mentality. The Cooperative Program helps us be external in its view of ministry."

COMING SOON



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SCHEDULE OF EQUIP TOUR

Sept. 8 Heartland Worship Center, 4777 Alben Barkley Drive, Paducah, KY | **Sept. 9** First Baptist Church, 248 N. Main Street, Madisonville, KY
Sept. 15 Allen Baptist Church, 354 US Hwy 23 South, Prestonsburg, KY | **Sept. 16** Beacon Hill Baptist Church, 4705 S. Hwy 27, Somerset, KY
Sept. 22 First Baptist Church Grayson, 162 N. Court St., Ashland, KY | **Sept. 23** Williamstown Baptist Church, 214 N. Main St., Williamstown, KY
Sept. 29 Parkway Baptist Church, 2580 Springfield Rd., Bardstown, KY | **Sept. 30** Glasgow Baptist Church, 401 S. Green Street, Glasgow, KY



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