

WESTERN Recorder

August 19, 2014

Shine Like Stars * Philippians 2:15

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Campbellsville, KBC leaders to discuss new partnership

By Todd Deaton

Campbellsville—Representatives from Campbellsville University met with Kentucky Baptist Convention leaders Aug. 13 to report that the university's board of trustees has voted to remove the school from its covenant agreement with the KBC. Both groups, however, are involved in ongoing discussions for forming a new partnership arrangement.

Campbellsville's trustees voted July 15 to revise the school's bylaws to allow the possibility of seating its own board members. The action was seen by KBC leaders as a violation of a 28-year-old covenant agreement with the university that continued allowing the convention to approve individuals selected by the university to serve as trustees—a role it has shared in since about the 1930s.

In a July 16 letter addressed to Kentucky Baptists, Campbellsville University President Michael Carter and Trustee Chairman Joseph Owens wrote that the CU board had taken the steps toward forming a self-perpetuating board "to protect the mission of the university and to avoid both undue influence and the imposition of theological and doctrinal control."

After a recent weekend meeting where an accord was struck between Campbellsville and KBC representatives, according to a joint statement issued Aug. 13, the school and state convention will enter into discussions regarding a partnership arrangement that will allow the university and Kentucky Baptists to continue working together on shared ministry and missions ventures.

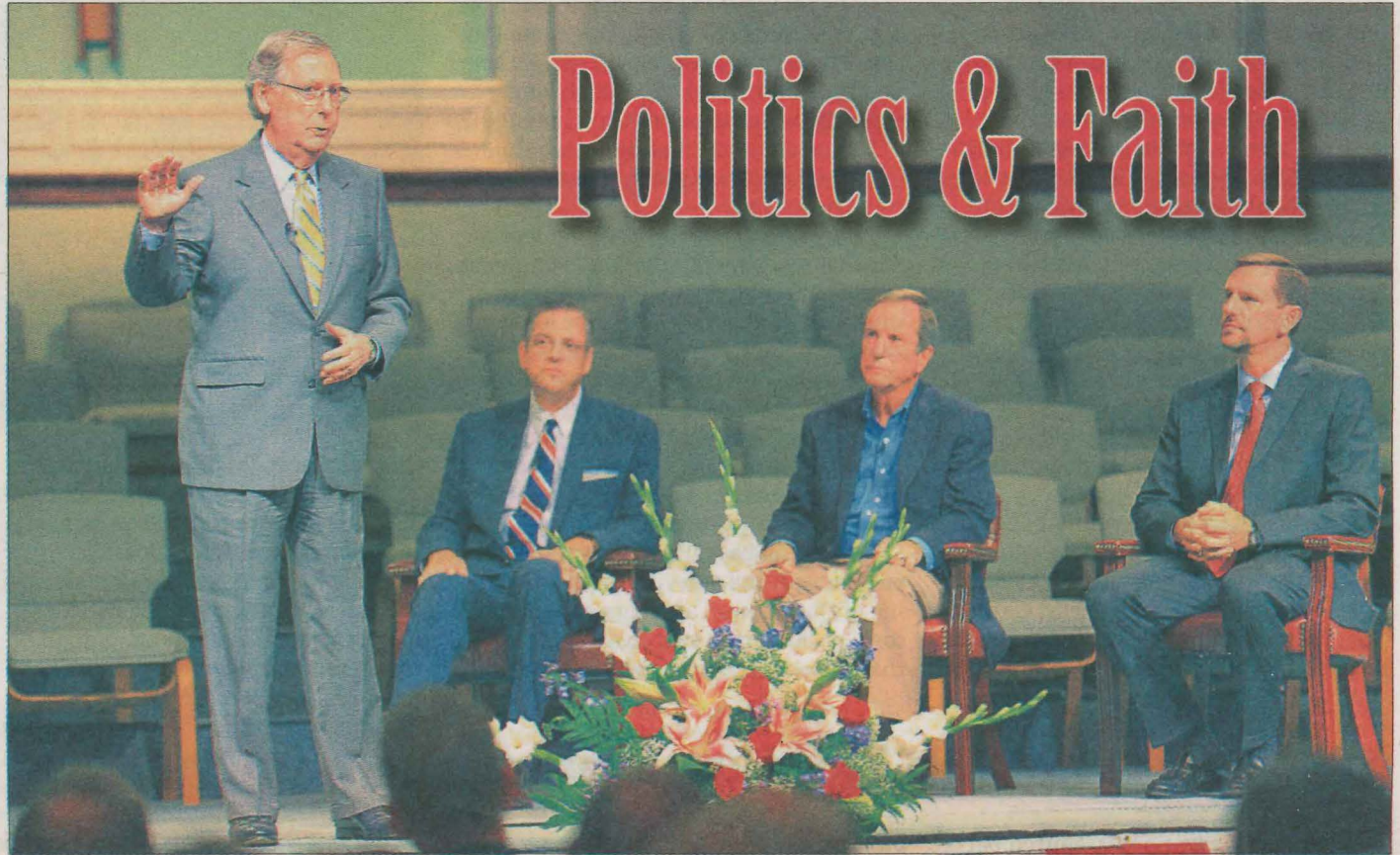
Campbellsville will opt out of the four-year process of dissolution as

□ See Partnership ... Page 2



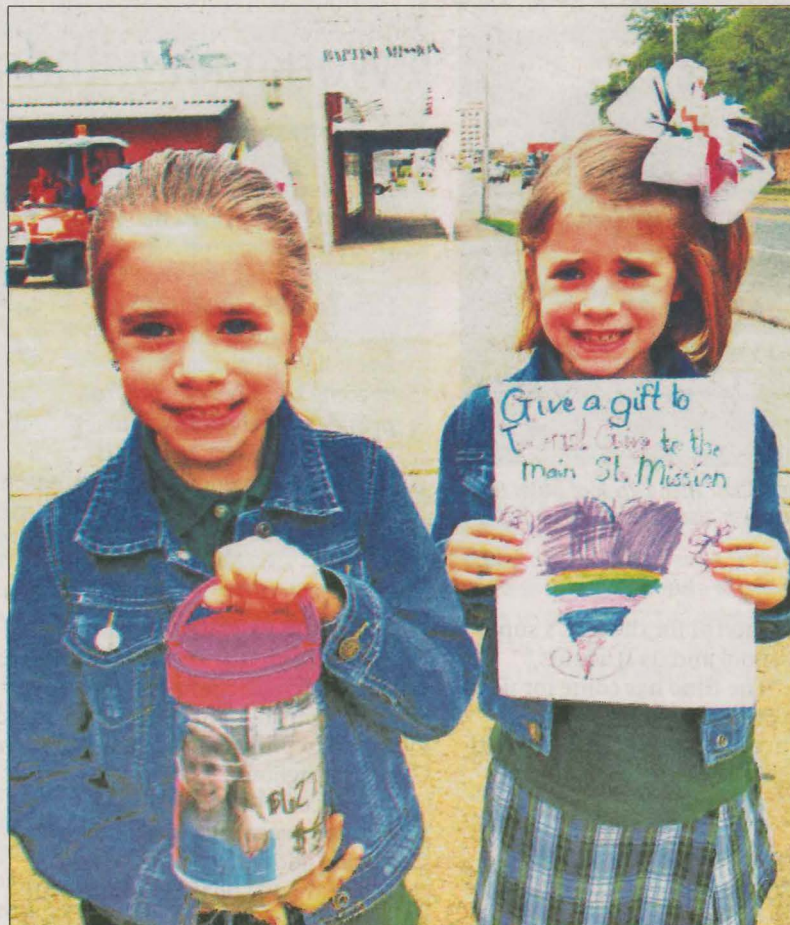
"We have enjoyed our association with the Kentucky Baptist Convention and remain grateful for the KBC's support to our school and its students."

Joseph Owens



Sen. Mitch McConnell (left) speaks to voters gathered at Eastwood Baptist Church in Bowling Green Aug. 14 for an "Issues Forum." The forum was moderated by Albert Mohler (second from left), president of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Bob Russell (second from right), former pastor of Southeast Christian Church in Louisville, and Paul Chitwood, executive director of the Kentucky Baptist Convention. McConnell, a long-serving Republican, is seeking re-election to the U.S. Senate. His Democratic opponent, Kentucky Secretary of State Alison Lundergan Grimes also was invited to attend the forum, but had a conflicting engagement. (Photo by Robin Cornet)

See full story on page 2.



A double dose of generosity

Twins choose to donate their birthday money to local ministry

By Hannah Boggs

Pineville, La.—Some young children may have trouble understanding the concept of donating money to a worthy cause, but not 7-year-old twins Chloe and Sidney Burlew.

For their birthday, instead of receiving gifts, the twins asked friends and family to bring donations for the Main Street Mission in Pineville, La. Because of their unselfish act, the two girls were able to

□ See Birthday money ... Page 3

Instead of presents for their seventh birthday, twins Chloe and Sidney Burlew asked friends and family to donate money for the Main Street Mission in Pineville, La. The two gathered more than \$640, which will be used to help repair the mission's roof. (Submitted photo)

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Western Recorder 8-19-2014

Evangelical leaders question McConnell on faith issues

By Roger Alford

Bowling Green—U.S. Sen. Mitch McConnell told Kentucky evangelicals Aug. 14 that he's "100 percent pro-life" and that he defines marriage as "between one man and one woman."

McConnell, queried by evangelical leaders during a forum at Eastwood Baptist Church in Bowling Green, shared details about his religious background, including his baptism as an 8-year-old in a Southern Baptist church, his current involvement at Southeast Christian Church in Louisville, and his heritage as the great grandson of a Presbyterian circuit-riding preacher.

The Republican senator is involved in a hotly contested re-election bid with Democratic challenger Alison Lundergan Grimes.

Kentucky Baptist Convention Executive Director Paul Chitwood, Southern Baptist Theological Seminary President Al Mohler and former Southeast Christian Pastor Bob Russell spent about an hour questioning McConnell on matters

of faith in the forum to which Grimes also was invited, but did not attend.

McConnell, who has the endorsement of National Right to Life, said re-electing him will ensure Kentucky has a senator who supports pro-life legislation. He also said he is positioned to become Senate majority leader, depending on how the GOP fares nationally, and that would mean legislation to protect the unborn could be passed.

"The prerogative the majority leader has that no other senator has is to set the agenda," McConnell said. "If I were setting the agenda, ... we would be having votes on a number of issues, including abortion-related issues that have been blocked from votes in the Senate."

McConnell, in the broad-ranging discussion, also said he supports religious liberty and that he favors tax breaks to encourage adoption and foster care.

Grimes had a conflicting campaign engagement in Louisville on the morning of the forum. Campaign spokesperson Charly Norton said in a statement that Grimes is committed to ensuring



U.S. Sen. Mitch McConnell (foreground) participates in an "Issues Forum" at Eastwood Baptist Church in Bowling Green. The long-serving Republican senator fielded questions from state evangelical leaders, including Bob Russell (background left), former pastor of Southeast Christian Church in Louisville, and Paul Chitwood, executive director of the Kentucky Baptist Convention. Southern Baptist Theological Seminary President Al Mohler also moderated the forum. (Photo by Robin Cornet)

that "all Kentuckians have a voice."

"Her faith is deeply important to her daily life and grounds her work to serve the greater good," Norton said.

Speaking on issues of religious liberty abroad, McConnell blamed President Barack Obama's decision to pull all troops out of Iraq for the persecution

that has led to 40,000 religious minorities, including Christians, being trapped on a mountaintop there.

"This is the inevitable consequence of having no residual presence," he said. "I don't think any of this would have happened if we had some kind of presence." (KBC)

Ky. Baptist church building, parsonage damaged by toppled water tower

Waddy—A Shelby County church parsonage will soon be demolished after it was severely damaged by a falling water tower.

The tower collapsed Aug. 9, spilling 100,000 gallons of water. No one was injured, but the water flooded the

basement of nearby Waddy Baptist Church and the town's post office building.

The toppled tower also struck the Waddy Baptist parsonage, causing significant damage. Investigators condemned the residence, meaning it will need to be

torn down. There was no word on if the parsonage will be rebuilt.

The basement of the church sustained considerable water damage from the flooding, but church members were expected to be able to gather in the sanctuary for worship last Sunday.

According to an Aug. 10 report in the

Lexington Herald-Leader, Shelby County Emergency Management Director Paul Whitman said it is not yet known what caused the 75-foot "silo-type" water tower to fall.

"My daughter thought it was an earthquake," Waddy Baptist Pastor Tex Selph told WAVE 3 News. (WR)



The now-condemned Waddy Baptist Church parsonage awaits demolition after a 75-foot water tower struck it when it fell Aug. 9. The 100,000 gallons of water in the tower also flooded the church's basement and the nearby post office. (Photo by Todd Deaton)

Workman withdraws KBC nomination

Prestonsburg—The lone nominee for the Kentucky Baptist Convention's second vice president post has withdrawn his name from consideration.

Jerry Workman, pastor at First Baptist Church of Prestonsburg, announced last week he will not seek to become the KBC's second vice president at the annual meeting in November, citing his wife's health concerns as the reason.

Former Director of Missions Jim

Castlen announced his intention last month to nominate Workman for the post at the Nov. 11 meeting in Bowling Green.

Workman's withdrawal leaves no announced candidates for the KBC second VP slot. Tom James, pastor of Eastwood Baptist Church in Bowling Green, is the lone nominee for president; Glasgow Baptist Church Pastor Erdie Carter is the only candidate for first vice president. (WR)



Jerry Workman

Partnership

Continued from page 1

outlined in the current partnership agreement and will voluntarily surrender its Cooperative Program allocation. The school was projected to receive \$977,000 in CP funds from the state convention in the 2014-15 fiscal year. The KBC's business and finance committee, however, voted on July 17 to hold the school's remaining CP funds in escrow.

Campbellsville trustees held a regular quarterly meeting Aug. 12, at which they voted to end the covenant agreement with the KBC.

"We have enjoyed our association with the Kentucky Baptist Convention

and remain grateful for the KBC's support to our school and its students," Owens said. "The time has come for us to re-affirm Campbellsville University's historic nature as a Christ-centered institution of higher learning with a strong Baptist affiliation and identity."

KBC: Regret, but respect for decision

While KBC leaders expressed regret over the university's desire to step away from its covenant agreement, they also said in a statement that they respect the right of the university and recognized the fundraising and governance challenges that led to the decision.

"Campbellsville has a tremendous heritage and a unique role in Christian education in south-central Kentucky and

beyond," KBC Executive Director Paul Chitwood said. "CU President Dr. Michael Carter pledges to maintain the university's commitment to a Christian worldview and to preparing students to serve Christ's kingdom."

"I rejoice in that commitment and pray much success for the university," Chitwood added.

While the CU board's actions will allow the university to select its own trustees, Owens said the decision in no way changes the mission or the character of Campbellsville University.

"We look forward to discussing the new proposed agreement that will continue CU working with the KBC and its churches in areas of joint mission and ministry in the spirit of the Great

Commandment and in following the command of the Great Commission," Owens said.

The Aug. 13 meeting of KBC and CU representatives followed a "much-welcomed" phone call that led to a meeting of the two groups Aug. 9, which was described by Chitwood as "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 re-commit ourselves to walking together in a way that is worthy of our Lord."

KBC and CU representatives plan to meet again Sept. 18 to further discuss the terms of a new partnership agreement. (WR)

Regional SPOTLIGHT



Alan Dodson
South

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



If I announced to a group of Kentucky Baptists that I know of a church that currently averages 65 in worship, it would not elicit much reaction. Most of our churches average less than 100 in worship.

However, if I said I know a church in southeast Kentucky that has experienced a 250 percent increase in worship in less than two years, the "who" and "how" questions would likely flow.

There is a church averaging 65 in worship, representing a 250 percent attendance increase in less than two years. It is First Baptist Church of Wooten in Leslie County.

First Baptist, Wooten, had been a stable congregation since its establishment in the 1950s. Triggered by a declining coal industry, the deaths of key lay leaders and pastoral transitions with long interim periods, from 2004-11, worship attendance declined from 78 to 18. Its undesignated receipts plummeted by 30 percent.

Former director of missions of Three Forks Baptist Association, Jim Castlen, commented that "long interims, very little vision, challenge and outreach led to the church's drastic decline."

On June 8, 2012, the winds of revitalization began to blow when God sent the church a first-time pastor, Tim Reynolds. Since then, it has experienced an amazing comeback.

In the five years prior to Reynolds' arrival, the church baptized five people. In the last two years, it has baptized 15. Meanwhile, undesignated receipts have grown by nearly \$14,000.

Pastor Reynolds' ministry at Wooten is an example of what Kentucky Baptist regional consultants are observing on a consistent basis. In addition to a move of the Holy Spirit precipitated by earnest prayer, pastoral leadership is critical to church revitalization.

"Tim is out front leading his people," Castlen said, "encouraging, rallying and leading them by example."

Three Forks' new DOM Jamie Reynolds said, "Tim Reynolds is an enthusiastic, passionate, contagious leader who has a strong desire to please God and serve His people. He has a passion for young people and an unwillingness to maintain the status quo."

When Reynolds began his pastoral ministry, he felt unprepared. Although he had served as a leader at the U.S. Postal Service, the church at Wooten was his first pastorate. His lack of experience and the church's dire situation triggered feelings of inadequacy.

To compensate, Reynolds has taken advantage of training opportunities and assistance offered by the local association and the Kentucky Baptist Convention. From "Seminary for a Day" to "Super Saturday" to associational VBS clinics, Reynolds has been a faithful attendee and eager learner. These events, he said, have shown him "that church turnaround is possible."

He has learned the importance of a small-group ministry and how to develop it. He has also benefitted from a church-wide assessment available through the KBC's regional consulting services. "Knowing that support is

there is so encouraging," Reynolds said.

Reynolds has led three primary emphases to help First Baptist, Wooten, experience revitalization.

First, he has emphasized a ministry of encouragement. A demoralized church with a bleak future had to hear a consistent message of hope. And being a retired postal employee, it comes as no surprise that Reynolds took his messages of encouragement to the mail. Each month he mails a pastoral letter to each active household. On each, he places a handwritten note of encouragement.

Second, he challenged the church to be more outreach-oriented. A simple strategy he employed was producing a card that asked members to write down the names and addresses of five unreached individuals for whom they would pray. Reynolds led the church by example in reaching out to them. Emphasizing outreach has led to a 200 percent increase in baptisms from the previous five years.

Third, Reynolds led the congregation to focus on children. He understands that reaching children gives the church a strategic opportunity to reach young families.

With the help of missions teams, on July 7, the church launched a three-week summer ministry for children that culminated with VBS. In Reynolds' first summer, the church averaged 10 children. In his second, it averaged 50. This year, they worked toward and prayed for 75.

Looking forward, Reynolds plans to focus on developing side-door (affinity) outreach strategies and discipleship processes with a goal of leadership development. He is particularly concerned with developing young leaders.

"It is critical for us to empower young leaders who can influence their friends," he said. "My influence is limited, but when a friend reaches out to a friend it means more." (WR)

LifeWay explores sale of downtown Nashville property

Nashville, Tenn.—LifeWay Christian Resources is exploring opportunities to better utilize its downtown Nashville, Tenn., corporate offices, which could mean the sale of some or all of the 14.5-acre property, President Thom Rainer said in a letter to the organization's staff.

LifeWay is working with a consulting firm to study the advantages and disadvantages of a possible sale, Rainer said. About 1,100 of LifeWay's employees work in the downtown corporate offices. The organization also oversees 186 stores and 4,300 employees in 29 states.

Acknowledging that LifeWay has been located in Nashville for more than 120 years, Rainer cited demand for property in the downtown area and fewer employees now working at the corporate offices as reasons for studying a possible sale.

"It would be poor stewardship for the organization not to explore the possibilities this situation could present for our ministry," he wrote in the Aug. 1 letter.

LifeWay, he said, could sell only a portion of its property. Or, it could sell all of its downtown campus and move outside the city, either into existing facilities or begin new construction. Rainer described the possibility of moving outside of middle Tennessee as "remote."

"My preference is that we stay in downtown Nashville," Rainer said.

He also noted the study is in its earliest stages. "I assure you absolutely no decisions have been made, other than our commitment to use all the resources the Lord has provided us to make the maximum impact on churches and the kingdom, now and in the future," he said.

In the letter, Rainer addressed changes in the publishing industry and why more of LifeWay's employees now work outside of Nashville than at its corporate offices. "Our needs have changed," he said.

LifeWay spokesman Marty King estimated nearly one-third of the facility is vacant or leased.

"We have a lot of history here, and a lot invested in our property," King said. "But, times change. The needs of our customers change. So, LifeWay changes."

Rainer said it could take several months or longer before a recommendation is made to LifeWay trustees.

"But, we might decide not to do anything at this time," he noted.

King declined to speculate about the property's value. A local newspaper estimated the value at "more than \$80 million." King said one Nashville developer called the property "a home-run site." (BP)

Birthday money

Continued from page 1

gather more than \$640 for the mission, which is a ministry of First Baptist Church of Pineville. The twins and their family are members of Philadelphia Baptist Church in nearby Deville, La.

The girls said they got the idea from watching a movie about a little girl who asked friends to bring kids' shoes instead of toys for her birthday party. Instead of asking for shoes, the Burlew twins decided to ask for money to give to the mission.

The girls knew about Main Street Mission from their grandmother, who volunteers there.

One day after the twins had cleaned their room, they brought toys and clothes to the mission. They ended up staying and helping hang up clothes and organize toys.

"People usually spend money on toys for gifts for their birthdays, and then a week later, they are all broken and it just seems like such a waste," Chloe and Sidney's mother, Amanda Burlew, said. "The girls were taught the way to share the love of God is by loving others, and so they thought it would be a good idea to give back."

"My kids aren't perfect. They make mistakes. But we are raising our kids to love Christ and we are also teaching them to learn how to share," she added.

When the girls went to the mission to deliver the money they had raised, they were told the money would be used to help fix the building's roof.

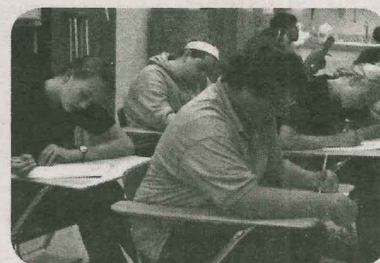
"They knew what they had done wasn't a small deal," Burlew said. "The girls were so happy, they had tears in their eyes."

Burlew encouraged more parents to get involved in giving to similar ministries. She said they should especially look

for ways to get their kids involved so they can experience charitable giving firsthand.

"As children grow, so do their opportunities for making a difference," Burlew said. "Teach them that God can use them no matter their age." (BP)

Any time is back-to-school time at Oneida



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Strengthened churches

Two years ago, the Kentucky Baptist Convention adopted a new mission statement: "The Kentucky Baptist Convention—created for churches, by churches, to help churches reach Kentucky and the world for Christ." We also adopted a new, streamlined organizational staffing structure of five teams to facilitate our focus on helping the local church.

Together We are the KBC



Paul Chitwood

The largest among these teams is the church consulting and revitalization team. This group exists to equip and strengthen churches in every ministry area.

In addition to individual consultants who specialize in areas like worship ministry, women's ministry, discipleship, etc., we have six regional consultants who serve in a designated geographical area. Our consultants are Alan Witham, Todd Gray, Paul Badgett, Nick Sandefur, Alan Dodson and Jeff Crabtree. These men are daily about the business of calling on pastors, planters, church leaders and directors of missions to encourage and equip them in their ministry.

The following excerpt from an email I recently received from Pastor Jeremy Atwood typifies the feedback I consistently hear regarding our consultants: "On Sunday, I celebrated two years as the pastor of New Harvest Baptist Church in Caneyville, as well as the start of a new fiscal church year. The church had been in significant decline but truly wanted to grow. Not long after I was called to New Harvest, I began meeting with Jeff Crabtree. Jeff has become a great resource and friend. New Harvest had great potential, and I had a vision for what we could become. Jeff helped me map out that vision and, on Sunday, we celebrated what God has done at NHBC over the past two years. Here are some of those statistics:

- In two years, worship attendance has increased 55 percent, from 45 to 70.
- After doing away with Sunday evening worship and moving to a small-group model, our total discipleship participation increased from 24 to 75 (total enrollment).
- VBS enrollment increased by 88 percent as we had 111 enrolled this summer.
- Offerings increased by 22 percent.
- We increased our missions giving (Cooperative Program, local missions, etc.) from 1.5 to 8.5 percent and will move to 10 percent this church year.
- Our new church year began July/August, and we have already surpassed total baptisms from last year.

"While God has brought the increase, He has used the KBC, the church revitalization team and especially Jeff Crabtree to help us in our journey. I wanted to share these numbers with you to say thank you for helping small rural churches and for leading a convention and a team of servants who care so much about the local church."

I thank God for all of the churches giving through the Cooperative Program that resulted in churches like New Harvest being strengthened.

Paul Chitwood is executive director of the Kentucky Baptist Convention.

Passing the test of a good education

Bells, books, backpacks and lunchboxes. Yes, a new school year has begun. But, there is much more to a good education than these.

From almost the time we first sit down at a desk with 64 crayons and a math or spelling workbook, we begin learning that a good education is a ticket to the future of our choosing. With the right knowledge, we can go far in life. We'll be successful ... and profitable. We can go anywhere our imaginations can soar if we work hard.

But even if that were true, should that really be our ultimate goal for obtaining a good education? Perhaps a more desirable outcome of learning isn't the mastery of a particular subject in an approved curriculum. Rather, it should be to make us better people, helping us to work better together for the greater good, not for individual ambitions or financial gain. The best teachers would be those who model a better way of living, who show us the value of a life well-lived, who excel at giving of themselves. Yes, they would still teach specific disciplines, but the mastery of these subjects becomes secondary to instilling a love for learning truth and serving others.

If this sounds idyllic, consider these stories of teachers who have left a lasting impact—as told by their students. From a recent issue of the Baptist Courier, the newsjournal of South Carolina Baptists, here are excerpts of what readers shared about the teachers who shaped their lives for the better:

One recalled a fifth-grade teacher who provided a shoulder to cry on after she had moved across the country to a place where she had no friends. What made this teacher special? "She taught me to think on my own and to rely on God. She showed me that no matter how bad a situation was, God was good. These are values I taught my own children." While she didn't have a dependable father, she said the teacher taught her that she had a wonderful Heavenly Father who loved her.



Another recalled going through a tough time in college and a special professor who rallied others to support and encourage her when she felt defeated and was on the verge of giving up. "Things were going well when tragedy came knocking on my door," she recounted. "Halfway into my journey, my grandfather died suddenly. A week later, my mother was lying on an operation table fighting for her life, while my brother's drug addiction was maiming our family and my son was presenting (us) with new medical concerns." With an aching heart, she placed a call that would change her life—"but not in the way I was expecting." Life, too, has "seasons," the teacher helped her understand, and even though she was going through a tumultuous time, a new season was coming. "My professors rallied around me..." she recalled. "They became my advocates."

After Thought

By Todd Deaton

Describing her teacher as "a kind, gentle and loving woman," yet another told of how she had been nurtured through one of the most difficult times in her life. Although she was in the teacher's class for only half of a school year, she still considers her to be "the greatest school teacher of my life." Why? "She made life and learning for one young, shy, hurting girl a little easier because she showed such love and compassion." She has often thought of her, the reader confided, adding, "I pray that God blesses her for her kindness."

Do you see a common denominator in their stories? Note there wasn't a mention of a particular subject that was being taught, though I'm sure each was a remarkable teacher. The difference appears to be in how they were able to instill a love for learning truth and serving others. So, while the goal of a good education may be to teach knowledge and how to use it effectively, as fellow editor Rudy Gray observes in his column, "The Last Word," the true test of a good education is not "simply knowing how to make a better living, but how to live better." And, that's where Christian character and values shines brightest.

On first day of school, encourage moms to pray

By Diana Davis

Begin a new first-day-of-school tradition at your church. Plan a community-wide coffee for moms after they drop kids off at school. It begins right after the school bell. If your district's elementary, middle and high schools start at different times, plan three events. There's no formal program—simply fellowship and a sincere, encouraging time of prayer for children.

Advertise with an exterior sign, and create Facebook and email invitations for members to forward to friends. Create a half-hour schedule, such as 8-8:30 a.m., so working moms may be enticed to come.

Your planning team—a mom from

each grade level, a minister's or deacon's wife and a senior-adult woman—plans advertising and schedule, and they delegate responsibilities for the details.

Since moms will be wildly busy getting kids ready for school, a senior-adult ladies' class could prepare and serve drinks and light snacks.

Create a celebrative mood as guests arrive, and use the first 15 minutes for snacks, informal conversation and making friends. Ensure a welcoming atmosphere by assigning friendly moms to intentionally meet and include newcomers and members. Invite the pastor's wife.

Divide moms by grade levels or schools for prayer groups. The leader

invites ladies to introduce themselves and tell their child's name and grade level. She leads a time of prayer, assuring that each mother and child is mentioned by name and praying for their teachers, friends and school leaders.

Conclude by inviting those who don't have a church to worship with you on Sunday, and give printed invitations to upcoming events and Bible classes for parents and school-age kids. Then serve more coffee for those who'd like to fellowship longer.

One more idea: Offer a similar event for teachers and administrators. They stop by the church right after school for a "pray for your new students" cookie fellowship.

As a new school year begins, "make the most of every opportunity" (Colossians 4:5). Diana Davis is an author, columnist and ministry wife based in Pensacola, Fla.

Fresh Ideas



Diana Davis

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Letters to the editor:

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Robin Williams & depression: A tragic reminder

By Heath Lambert

I grew up loving Robin Williams. My favorite performance was his work portraying the magical genie in "Aladdin." Surely Williams is one of the finest actors ever to appear on the silver screen. He moved millions to the extremes of laughter and tears. I was stunned when I learned of his death.

Robin Williams' death is a demonstration that amazing talent and a profound sense of humor can mask tremendous personal pain. I don't know Williams and am unfamiliar with the circumstances that led to his



apparent suicide. News reports have depicted a struggle with deep depression and addiction. What is clear is that beneath his hilarious persona, Williams was a deeply troubled man.

As Christians, our hearts break when we learn that a man, made in the image of God and blessed with amazing gifts, was so overcome with despair that death seemed the

only comfort. We also grieve with those in his family who knew him not merely as an entertainer, but as a husband and father.

Robin Williams' passing serves as a tragic reminder of the urgent need to help troubled people overwhelmed with sorrow. Christians must respond to the

comedian's death with grief over the loss of a precious life. We must also respond with resolve. People with depression need many things. They need medical care. They need relationships full of love and accountability.

As Christians, we know these desperate people also need hope. They need a Savior.

As I have reflected on Robin Williams' death my mind has been drawn to Jesus' words in Matthew 11:28-30, "Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light."

I don't know if Robin Williams ever heard these words from Jesus summoning from despair to hope all those who would trust in Him. Now that Williams has died, I find myself praying for a church that will stand up with strong resolve to point people laboring under the burden of depression to Jesus Christ, who alone gives rest.

Oh how the church of Jesus Christ needs to be light in this dark age where some studies indicate that as many as 20 percent of people will wrestle with depression.

For centuries, the church has worked harder than anyone else to bring meaningful help to depressed people. In the last 100 years, Christians have not been as devoted to this work as in the past. Williams' death reminds us of the preciousness of life and the pain when a life is lost. It reminds us of how greatly we need to take the hope-filled gospel of Jesus Christ to a world overwhelmed with despair. (BP)

Heath Lambert is assistant professor of biblical counseling at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary and executive director of the Association of Certified Biblical Counselors.

FIRST PERSON

Pastors' wives, lean on His everlasting arms

By Elizabeth Luter

Revival and restoration will begin when we lean on the everlasting arms of Jesus. Most of us ministry leaders, if not all of us, are exhausted from providing our finite arms to hold up the flock. Destruction, devastation and disasters are all around. The load of ministry responsibility is getting heavy. We are sacrificed beyond our means.

With strategies, gimmicks and games as their focus, ministry leaders have neglected to disciple the flock to withstand this level of warfare. Yes, this is warfare, greater than anything we could have imagined. We invariably arrive at a place called "wit's end." It is at this dark place where the Lord Jesus starts His greatest works.

Nothing new under the sun (Ecclesiastes 1:9)

We know that times past were darker than the ones we're living in today. Consider the plights of Abraham, Noah, Lot, Joseph, Esther, Peter, James and John.

Dark times always require deliberate, focused and sincere praying. We have been trained in the church to fight on our feet and in our seats more than on our knees. The word of God states: My house shall be called a house of prayer for all nations (Isaiah 56:7; Mark 11:17). Go to any church in the U.S. today, no matter the size or budget, and you will find a small number of saints in organized prayer meetings.

Many saints are trained in the school of disaster on how to bend their knees in times of crisis. Few know the value of maintaining this posture, whether prostrate or just in heart, due to physical limitations.

He leads and restores (Psalm 23)

The 23rd Psalm has nestled within it the stanzas: He leads me beside still waters (during times of troubled waters); He restores my soul (after times of destruction); He leads me in the paths of righteousness (when I lose my way). Our personal disasters occur

when we, as saints, go outside of the will of God.

I am so thankful for the infinite everlasting arms, which are referred to in Deuteronomy 33:27—The God of old is your dwelling place, and underneath are the everlasting arms. Although as ministry leaders we know our limitations, many times our bodies will overrule our minds to stretch us beyond human capacity. We experience exhaustion beyond measure, which sometimes tempts us to quit.

First Person



Elizabeth Luter

As leaders, if we choose to make prayer our priority before we launch out into the deep, we would require little or no need for physical or spiritual revival. All of the aforementioned heroes of the faith know very well of our present plight. Their stories of how they triumphed and were restored through the power of prayer remain forever etched in our minds.

As leaders, when we are restored in our fellowship with God through prayer, revival takes place within us. It will spill over on those around us.

Make disciples of all nations (Matthew 28:19)

Matthew 28:19 will come alive in our congregations: Go therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Just as it is written in Jeremiah 20:9, His message becomes a fire burning in my heart, shut up in my bones. We are like rockets headed for a specific target. The smoke trails we leave behind are for those who see us launched. It serves as an invitation, which says, "Come follow me to the promised place of still waters, restored souls and righteous paths, even in this valley of death."

A special commendation goes to all the pastors' wives for persevering in one of the darkest moments of this present generation. My travels have revealed all the pain, depression, wickedness and disaster noised in the atmosphere. The good news is there is not only "a light at the end of the tunnel," but I have witnessed the eternal light throughout the land.

Back to school ... & maybe church?

By David Garrard

I have been watching, studying and performing magic for almost 50 years. I know my way around the art form fairly well, and yet I make every effort to regularly attend Louisville Magic Club meetings.



When I go, one or all of three things happen:

■ I learn something I never knew before—and I become a better magician.

■ I am reminded of something I already knew but had forgotten—and I become a better magician.

■ Someone shows me a better way to do something I am already doing—and I become a better magician.

Simply going to the magic club won't make me a magician, but because I have decided to be a magician, it sure does help me be one.

Think about that for a minute, and as you do, think about church.

There are voices in your life that will try to trick you into thinking that you and your kids don't need the church. They will tell you church is not important, that there are better things to do on Sunday, better ways to spend your time, energy and money. The truth is you do need church. While going to church won't make you a Christian, it sure will help you be one.

When I go to church, the same three things always happen that happen when I go to the magic club:

■ I learn something I never knew before—and I become a better Christian.

■ I am reminded of something I already knew but had forgotten—and I become a better Christian.

■ Someone shows me a better way to do something I am already doing—and I become a better Christian.

Hebrews 10:25 reminds us how important it is for us to meet together with others who love God. When we do, we are able to encourage and help each other and grow stronger in our faith.

As the new school year gets underway, take these words to heart. Don't give up meeting together with other believers even though folks all around you may have. Make sure you and your kids get to church.

David Garrard is minister to children at St. Matthews Baptist Church in Louisville—and a professional magician.

Then I will hear from heaven (2 Chronicles 7:14)

Although our churches are darkening, with fewer baptisms, less attendance, more divisions and divisiveness, and threats from inside and out, the kingdom is not compromised and the saints of God are thriving and doing well. Like Joshua and Caleb, I have surveyed the land, and I know as saints we can take the land for Jesus.

As pastors' wives, let us join the Southern Baptist Convention's focus to return our flock to a posture of prayer. And if My people who are called by My name shall humble themselves, pray and seek My face, and turn from their evil ways, then I will hear from heaven, forgive their sin, and heal their land (2 Chronicles 7:14).

As pastors' wives, you help your husbands weekly lead and guide the flock. Your efforts can sometimes go unnoticed by the saints. While serving the SBC in the capacity of the president's wife, I witnessed your struggles and successes. I encourage you to relax and fall into the arms of Jesus. A grand reward awaits you now and throughout eternity for your untiring service to the Lord.

Thank you for encouraging my husband and me as your servants for the past two years. Our journey consisted of many highs and a few lows. God's hand was both evident and obvious. I can almost feel the coolness of "the still waters." My soul has new life. The righteous path is ever so clear. We were revived, on our knees, leaning on the everlasting arms. (BP)

Elizabeth Luter is the wife of Fred Luter, pastor of Franklin Avenue Baptist Church in New Orleans and immediate past president of the Southern Baptist Convention.

Golden Gate Seminary buys new So. California campus

School plans to present request for a name change to convention

Mill Valley, Calif.—Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary has signed a purchase agreement for a new primary campus site in Southern California east of Los Angeles.

In announcing the formal purchase and sale agreement to the seminary community, Golden Gate President Jeff Iorg said, "We have chosen a facility to meet the needs of students in the 21st century. We will soon have a high-quality educational delivery center with excellent facilities for fulfilling our mission of shaping leaders in the future."

Iorg also announced that the seminary will ask that a new name—Gateway Seminary of the Southern Baptist Convention—be approved by the convention.

The new site includes a six-story building, an adjacent ready-to-build lot and more than 700 parking spots in the city of Ontario, part of southern California's Inland Empire region. The building was constructed in 2009 and has sat vacant due to the economic downturn. It encompasses approximately 153,000 square feet, while a future building, at 75,000 square feet, can be constructed for such uses as a chapel, library, offices or classrooms.

"Our new campus will be very

different than our former campus. It is a much more efficient use of space and resources," Iorg said.

The seminary is finalizing plans to finish the building's interior and prepare for relocation by June 2016.

Regarding the name change, Iorg acknowledged the strength of the current name, but said the board of trustees determined that requesting a new name is the best course of action.

"The name Golden Gate Seminary connects us with a beautiful bridge and rich heritage in the San Francisco Bay Area," Iorg said. "We have a growing sense, however, that bearing a name so closely associated with an iconic landmark won't serve us as well when our primary campus is ... east of Los Angeles."

"The new name connects to our heritage, frees us from geographic designations, allows for developing a more global identity, and acknowledges our Baptist distinctive," he added. (BP)



Joe Costephens, pastor of The Passage in suburban St. Louis, talks to Ferguson, Mo., residents during a clean-up project he organized along with other Send North America: St. Louis church planters. (Photo courtesy of The Passage)

Church planters organize clean-up efforts in embattled Ferguson, Mo.

By Tobin Perry

Ferguson, Mo.—When The Passage Church partnered with local church plants to clean up a St. Louis suburb following rioting, looting and heated protests that erupted there last week, they were not doing anything new.

"We bring in anywhere between eight to 15 mission teams every summer to serve the cities of Florissant and Ferguson—putting on block parties and reaching out to the community," said Joe Costephens, who replanted The Passage five years ago on the border of the two St. Louis area suburbs. "So, when this came up, I called some church-planting buddies, and said, 'Hey we want to bless our city? Let's do a clean-up day.'"

Thanks to social media and a growing brotherhood among Southern Baptist church planters in metro St. Louis, Costephens and his colleagues mobilized between 100 and 200 people to clean up embattled Ferguson before participating in a prayer service Aug. 13 at the city's First Baptist Church.

Problems in Ferguson, Mo., began Aug. 9 when an unarmed 18-year-old black man was shot and killed by a police officer. After a day of relative peace, a crowd grew unruly the next evening and the situation turned violent with businesses looted, vehicles vandalized and confrontations with police.

As tensions increased in Ferguson, Costephens connected with four other church planters he had developed friendships with through Send North America: St. Louis and Plant Midwest events. They mobilized their congregations to help clean up Ferguson and look for other ways to serve the community. A few tweets by one of The Passage's members led to local news coverage and more than 100 people pitching in to help in the clean-up effort.

"What started out as a couple of church plants trying to get together to clean up the streets turned into a great turnout ... from all over St. Louis," Costephens said. "We walked the major streets of Ferguson with trash bags."

The Passage is also collecting school supplies for local residents, particularly

those in the Canfield Green apartment complex, where the shooting took place.

Todd Genteman, a North American Mission Board church-planting apprentice who is starting Apostles Church on St. Louis' north side, participated in the clean-up project. He said the Ferguson residents he met were appreciative of the group's efforts. Residents urged visitors not to get the wrong idea of their community, saying outsiders had initiated much of the violence.

"Honestly, the response we got was overwhelmingly positive," Genteman said. "We were walking up the streets of West Florissant where a lot of the activities happened, picking up trash on the side of the street, helping the businesses that had been looted. And the whole day we were out there, people were driving by and honking. At bus stops, people were giving us high-fives and hugs."

Kenny Petty, a black pastor who started The Gate in St. Louis in 2012, shared his story with Ferguson pastors before the prayer service at First Baptist Church. Petty grew up 10 minutes from Ferguson and, at age 19, watched a police officer shoot a friend multiple times. He said, from that incident, anger and hate grew in him. Eventually Petty served time in jail, but, in retrospect, he said he is grateful because being incarcerated kept him from seriously hurting someone.

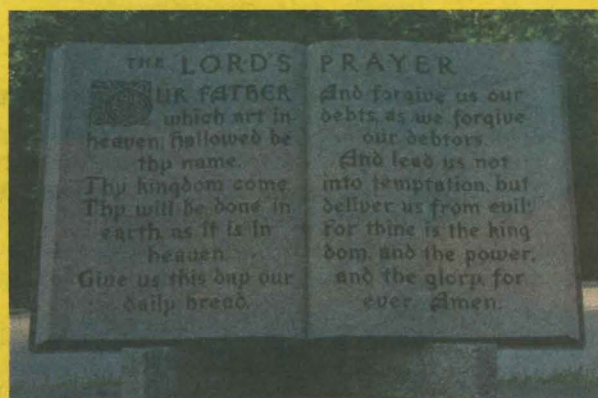
"I understand the anger, the hate and the violence that can come from an unredeemed heart," Petty said. "While I was incarcerated, the gospel was presented to me. I had been antagonistic about the gospel and the Bible. But the gospel was presented to me, and my life was radically changed. That heart of hate and violence turned into a heart of love."

Noting the lack of racial diversity in many of Ferguson's churches, Petty offered pastors his help in engaging the community's majority black population.

"I want to come alongside of them," Petty said. "I want to bring some of my guys. We have plenty of young men—African American young men—who are being raised up with part of their DNA to be on mission and engage the community. We'll come out there, and we'll help you bridge the gap." (BP)

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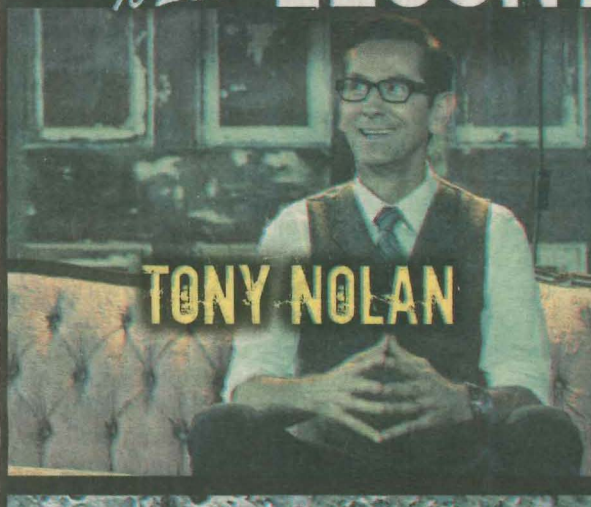
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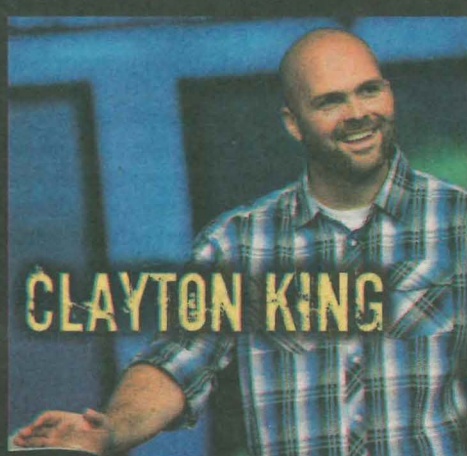
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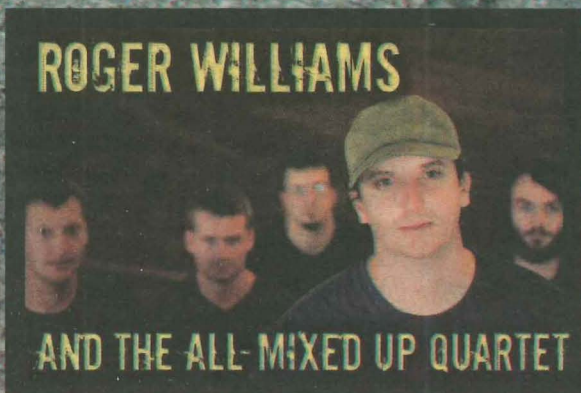
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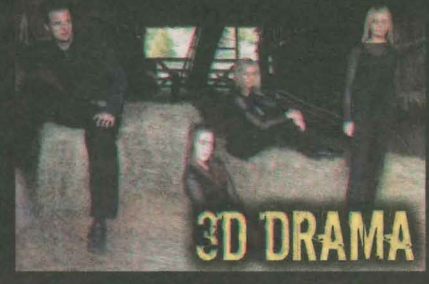


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Oneida & the KBC, since 1946

Oneida values its relationship with the state convention, its churches

There are many facets to my job, some of which I anticipated and some I did not. I did expect to spend much of my time telling the Oneida story, and I enjoy that part of my job tremendously.

I was also aware that Oneida has a longstanding relationship with the Kentucky Baptist Convention—since 1946, as a matter of fact. My first visit to the KBC was about six weeks into the job. I had lunch with Barry Allen, then met with the nominating committee to get approval for new trustees.

Later, I attended the annual meeting in Paducah, exchanged phone calls and emails with KBC staff members, and attended three educational and motivational Mission Board meetings.

I have found Paul Chitwood and his staff to be great supporters and fellow laborers for the cause of Christ. Dr. Chitwood visited our campus in May and offered his continued support and assistance. After his visit, two more staff members visited. They are now better equipped to help us tell Oneida's story.

I have spent time with the heads of other KBC agencies and institutions, and I have received great support and encouragement from these men. Jim Taylor and Donnie Fox both took time out of their busy schedules to meet with me. They both bought lunch, so perhaps I should visit more often. Next time lunch will be on me.

I consider the 2,400 Kentucky Baptist churches to be partners in our ongoing

mission of educating young people for time and eternity. You are our family. You are family to young people you have never met, and the Lord smiles when He sees what you do for those lost and hurt-

ing young people. The love, support, encouragement and prayers from our Kentucky Baptist churches helps us reach the world for Christ.

I recently read statements from Dr. Taylor and Dr. Fox about their institutions' commitment to their relationship with the KBC. I also want the great Baptist folks in this state to know Oneida is totally committed to our relationship and

covenant agreement with the KBC. We know how important your love and support is, and we are grateful for it.

Oneida's doors are always open to our friends and family. Come and meet some of the young people whose lives you are helping change for the better. I would love to have you as our guest for a chapel service, lunch and a tour. Come see how we focus on "Him and them."

Kids come to Oneida from across the street and across the sea with needs large and small. Our Kentucky Baptist family helps us meet those needs. Many of our students need Jesus, a great education, love, a home, family, structure—and they need direction. They often find all of these things here, and you are to be commended for your role in helping meet those needs. May God bless the KBC, its churches and the wonderful people across this state.

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

Where did the summer go?

50 students will begin their ministry training at Clear Creek this fall

As I write this article, our fall semester is getting ready to start. Usually I can think back over the summer and recall some of the slow times when there wasn't much going on around our campus and start to get excited thinking about the activity when new students begin to arrive on campus.

This year the summer went by so fast, it seems as though we never even had a summer. It seems like only last week I was standing on the commencement stage shaking hands with all of our graduates. Now I am already welcoming 50 new students to our campus to begin preparations for the calling God has placed on their lives.

As I talk with these students, I am reminded once again that God is still calling men and women to the ministry. I am proud to serve at a place like Clear Creek Baptist Bible College where we do one thing and we do it well: We train people for ministry. These 50 new students, and many others like them, have come and continue to come to Clear Creek, because our training is fully accredited, affordable and accessible.

Clear Creek holds the same regional

accreditation as our other Kentucky Baptist educational institutions. We also have affordable tuition rates that are consistently among the least expensive rates for an accredited undergraduate degree like we offer.

Although our focus remains only on ministry training, we have positioned ourselves to deliver that training in ways that make it accessible. A student can now attend Clear Creek from anywhere in the world and receive a degree completely online without ever having to come to campus. One of our new students is actually studying with us from the other

side of the world this semester.

We want to thank you, Kentucky Baptists, for your Cooperative Program giving that enables us to fulfill the mission God has given us to equip these students. We could not do what we do without your Cooperative Program support. It enables us to provide quality, practical ministry training to those whom God calls to do ministry. Thank you for investing in kingdom work through Clear Creek.

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

Clear Creek Chronicle



Donnie Fox

Culture report

Millennial marriage rates declining

By Myriah Snyder

Washington—Millennials are less likely to marry by age 40 than any previous generation, the Urban Institute concluded in an assessment of data from the American Community Survey.

"The findings do not represent trivial facts, but rather a massive moral reorientation of our culture," said Heath Lambert, assistant professor of biblical counseling at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary. "Couples that delay marriage will not also delay intimate relationships and sexual gratification; that means that this study portends increased rates of sex outside marriage, cohabitation, illegitimacy and pornography usage."

The marriage rate has decreased from 91 percent of women age 40 being married in 1990 to a current 69.3 percent, according to the report. The rate for men is approximately 4 percent lower.

Marriage not necessary?

Evan Lenow, assistant professor of ethics at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, said the data reflect a decline in the "perceived value of marriage" over the last several decades.

"Marriage is no longer viewed as necessary for having children, attaining a particular social status or for career advancement," Lenow said. "In addition, more young people are cohabiting prior to marriage—60 percent of first marriages in the U.S. are preceded by cohabitation."

Although some Millennials—those born between 1980 and 2000—perceive marriage to have little value, in reality, it is important for human flourishing, Lenow said.

"Marriage is important to society for avoiding poverty, rearing children who are more likely to get an education and advancing in a career," Lenow said.

The Urban Institute attributed the decline in marriage rates in part to America's recent economic recession. Lenow identified a deeper root.

"The cause of the decline in marriage is manifold, but one significant factor among

Millennials is that so many of them grew up in homes impacted by divorce," he said. "In an attempt to avoid the mistakes they saw in their parents' marriages, many have swung the pendulum all the way over to avoid marriage entirely."

David Jones, associate professor of Christian ethics at Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary, said "Christians need to be ready to meet the needs of what were called, prior to the age of political correctness, 'broken families.'"

"Indeed, a child growing up without a married, committed and present mother and father is living in an arrangement that is broken from the biblical norm and creational design," he said. "Such children will suffer emotionally, educationally and financially. Ministering to individuals will require more than fiscal policy changes and program adjustments." (BP)



Sunrise: Standing in the gap for children

By Randy Greene

It is my joy to witness the seamless flow of Christ's love through donors and caregivers to children in the care of Sunrise Children's Services. I love my job.

Our marketing and advancement team literally stands in the gap between what it costs to operate this statewide ministry (about \$70,000 a day) and what governmental or institutional sources provide as reimbursements for Sunrise (about \$56,000 a day).

That leaves a gap of \$14,000 a day, or about \$5 million a year.

To keep Sunrise operational, we must be fundraisers—every day.

As motivation for our team, Sunrise's President Dale Suttles challenges us "to dream God-sized dreams"—every day.

So, we send direct-mail appeals. You may have received one in the mail recently that said, "URGENT NEED: Give \$10 to help a child in crisis." It had an ambulance photo below that headline. Will you give \$10?

Or you may have read the July 2014 Messenger, which lists the top 40 Kentucky Baptist churches that have donated to Sunrise's "Shine!" campaign.

There's still time. Will your church join in?

The same Messenger features two recent golf fundraisers, the A&K/Sunrise Children's Services Golf Tournament in Paducah and The Sunrise Classic at Valhalla in Louisville, which generated

more than \$100,000 to help close our funding gap. Is golf the way you want to donate?

If so, Sunrise has two more golf events from which to choose: The second-annual Northern Kentucky Golf Outing to be held Sept. 26 at Eagle Creek

Country Club in Crittenden, or the Golf Challenge presented Oct. 3 by Tim Horton's and Raven Crest/Hawkeye/Eagle Creek at StoneCrest in Prestonsburg. Will you participate?

These are a few of the many ways we try to raise \$14,000 a day. And we have about 600 reasons to keep us motivated. That's the average number of children who will sleep tonight in a Sunrise facility or in a Sunrise foster home.

Is one Sunrise child motivation enough for you to stand in the gap with us? If so, let me hear from you today at rgreene@sunrise.org.

Randy Greene is vice president for marketing and advancement with Sunrise Children's Services.



Tenn. judge rules against gay marriage

Kingston, Tenn.—For the first time in more than a year, a judge in Tennessee has ruled that a state does not have to accept as valid a same-sex marriage performed legally in another state.

The Aug. 5 ruling in Roan County Circuit Court in Kingston, Tenn., breaks a string of more than two dozen state and federal rulings declaring marriage a civil right that cannot be denied same-sex couples since the U.S. Supreme Court struck down the federal Defense of Marriage Act in June 2013.

Judge Russell Simmons Jr. of the Ninth

Judicial District in east Tennessee agreed that "marriage is a fundamental right," but he said neither the Tennessee nor U.S. Supreme Court has ever decided whether that right extends beyond the traditional definition of marriage as a union between a man and a woman.

Until that happens, the judge determined, Tennessee's ban on same-sex marriage and state recognition of already-existing marriages does not violate the Equal Protection Clause of the 14th Amendment or Article 4 of the United States Constitution. (ABP)

ERLC's Moore urges action to stop genocide

Washington—Russell Moore, president of the Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission, signed on to an open letter with other leaders urging the U.S. and other countries to act immediately to stop the genocide of religious minorities in Iraq.

"I stand in solidarity with men and women across the political spectrum to urge the U.S. government to help put an

end to this grievous injustice in Iraq," Moore wrote. "Our authorities should use the sword of the state to promote justice and the protection of innocent people."

Those who signed the letter expressed appreciation to President Obama for ordering airstrikes against the ISIS militia to stop its advancement on key cities, but said more needs to be done. (BP)

Giving to religion in the U.S.

With religious giving in decline, congregations must learn to adapt

Charitable giving in the United States attained an all-time high in 2007 at \$349 billion. Giving in 2013 marked the fourth consecutive year of increased giving, but was still \$14 billion short of the pre-recession high. Individuals gave 72 percent of the total; corporations, foundation and bequests constituted the other 28 percent. For the year, giving to education increased the most, 7.4 percent adjusted for inflation, and giving to religion declined 1.6 percent.

Giving to the religion subsector comprised 31 percent—the largest share—of all giving in 2013. Compared to most of the subsectors that have seen positive growth since the Great Recession, giving to religion has declined. In the 1980s, religion received more than one-half of all giving; now it's less than one-third.

According to Giving USA, the primary reasons for the decline are: changing preferences for religious giving, changes in American religious life and economic factors. The three primary factors that have impacted household giving are: congregational attendance, congregational affiliation and household income.

More and more adults are reporting they seldom or never attend religious services. Young people are less likely to attend than older generations, and

fewer adults are affiliated with religion than in the past. Among those 30 and younger, one-third are unaffiliated. Decline in household income has had an impact, but lower-income households

still give a greater portion of income than higher-income households.

Congregations of all types and sizes are recognizing that building endowments has become absolutely critical for financial strength and future viability. Best practice today dictates endowments, restricted and unrestricted, should be three to five times the annual church budget and feature giving opportunities similar to colleges and universities.

In its first-ever stewardship survey, the Evangelical Council for Financial Accountability reported more than two-thirds of religious leaders said their congregations had no written statement on the Bible's teachings of generosity. No wonder 48 percent of them stated "spiritual complacency" as their greatest challenge, and a high percentage stated that "inadequate understanding of biblical generosity" made fundraising difficult.

The Kentucky Baptist Foundation stands ready to equip your church to understand and adapt to these frightening trends in giving. Call us toll free today.

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

Ky. Baptist Foundation



Barry Allen

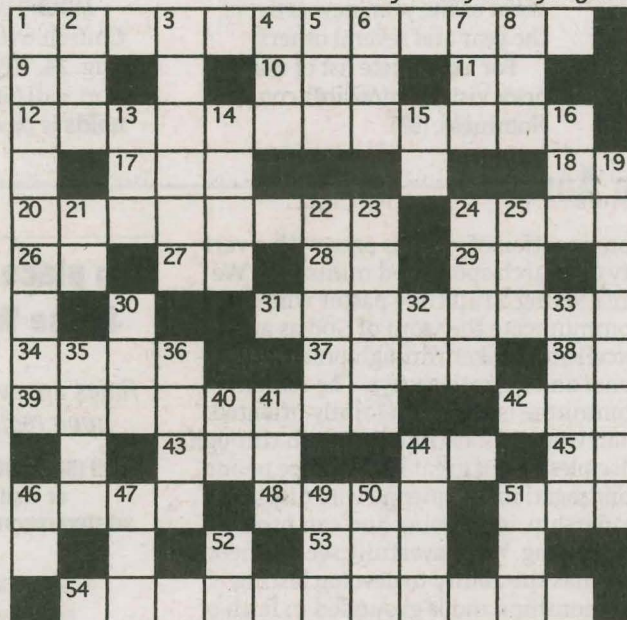
Bible Crosswords

Across

- 1 "I am the _____, and the lily of the valleys" (Song of Solomon 2:1) (3 words)
- 9 Not out
- 10 Timid
- 11 On or about, abbr.
- 12 "I am the _____, and know my sheep" (John 10:14) (2 words)
- 17 Immerse briefly in water
- 18 Central state, Des Moines is the capital, abbr.
- 20 "I am the way, _____, and the life" (John 14:6) (2 words)
- 24 "Behold the _____ of God" (John 1:29)
- 26 Extraterrestrial, abbr.
- 27 Suffix
- 28 "_____, every one that thirsteth" (Isaiah 55:1)
- 29 Two, Roman numeral
- 31 "The _____ is Lord even of the sabbath" (Matthew 12:8; 3 words)
- 34 "We have not _____ this power" (1 Corinthians 9:12)
- 37 Network, especially of blood vessels
- 38 Learning disabled, abbr.
- 39 "Jesus Christ, the _____" (Mark 1:1) (3 words)
- 42 Certified Public Accountant, abbr.
- 43 Containing oxygen, prefix
- 44 Dorothy's state, abbr.
- 45 Head nurse, abbr.
- 46 "Lest I _____ you in pieces" (Psalms 50:22)
- 48 "The Spirit of God descending



By Evelyn Boyington



#008

- like a _____" (Matthew 3:16)
- 51 Took a chair
- 53 "I am the _____" (John 14:6)
- 54 "I am ... the bright and _____" (Revelation 22:16) (2 words)
- 1 spelling
- 23 Sharpened
- 24 "I am the bread of _____" (John 6:35)
- 25 Direct toward a target
- 30 Understanding
- 32 Writings that contain the old covenant, abbr.
- 33 "I am _____ and Omega" (Revelation 1:8)
- 35 "They were _____ afraid" (Mark 9:6)
- 36 "I am the _____: ... if any man enter in, he shall be saved" (John 10:9)
- 40 Effects, abbr.
- 41 "Emmanuel, which being interpreted is, _____ with us" (Matthew 1:23)
- 44 "I will give unto thee the _____ of the kingdom" (Matthew 16:19)
- 46 Nashville's state, abbr.
- 47 "Why make ye this _____, and weep" (Mark 5:39)
- 49 "I seek not mine _____ will, but the will of the Father" (John 5:30)
- 50 Vagrancy, abbr.
- 51 Large body of water
- 52 Nurse, abbr.

Down

- 1 "An advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the _____" (1 John 2:1)
- 2 "Who built _____, and Lod" (1 Chronicles 8:12)
- 3 Compose, variant form
- 4 Follicle stimulating hormone, abbr.
- 5 Feminine pronoun
- 6 Hypothesis, abbr.
- 7 "Let her be as the loving hind and pleasant _____" (Proverbs 5:19)

- 8 Paddle
- 13 Poem
- 14 Nimble
- 15 Masculine pronoun
- 16 "His eyes were _____, so that he could not see" (Genesis 27:1)
- 19 "According to his _____ mercy" (1 Peter 1:3)
- 21 Altitude, abbr.
- 22 Thorough, nonstandard

EBO helps Kentucky ministries

Offering closes in on annual goal, funds many state missions efforts

Thank you, Kentucky Baptists. We close out the 2013-14 Eliza Broadus Offering Aug. 31—and we have exceeded \$1.2 million. In the final two weeks of the offering year, we are closing in on our goal of \$1.25 million, the second-highest amount ever. Thank you for your faithful giving.

EBO touches much of what we do in Kentucky. From supporting our state missionaries, to church planting and evangelism, to language missions and collegiate ministry, EBO makes a difference.

This year Kentucky Woman's Missionary Union accepted responsibility for Kentucky Changers, a ministry that witnesses in communities through repairs for low-income homeowners. Changers also touches the lives of student participants, and many come to know Christ as Savior during a week at Changers.

Coordinator Peggy Murphy received this note from a youth minister: "As I began promoting Kentucky Changers, I had very little interest. As we got closer to camp, I ... had about 10 signed up. I was very discouraged and wondered why my students hadn't responded. I knew that we would still go, but just wasn't excited about it. Two days into camp, however, changed all of that. My students responded positively, and I could see how incredible Changers was. God worked in mighty ways. Out of

eight students, two gave their lives to Christ, two re-dedicated their lives and the others were encouraged greatly in their faith. God convicted me of my lack of trust and faith in Him. He knew we

needed to take a small group to camp. My students are excited about doing Kentucky Changers next year."

Camp Courage is the overnight summer camp for Royal Ambassadors, Challengers, leaders and dads. One dad wrote to thank Jon Auten, RA missions consultant, and shared of his son's commitment to Christ. His son had attended Camp Courage and Mission Adventure Camp.

This dad wanted to say thank you for the experiences that contributed to his son making a profession of faith. It was not a quick decision, but one that came from teaching at his church, as well as gospel-centered camp experiences.

So, thank you, Kentucky Baptists, for faithful giving that allows WMU, the KBC, our associations and a host of ministries to touch lives. Thank you missions leaders and all who have been a part of faithfully sharing the gospel.

We now begin "Power to Serve," the state missions emphasis for 2014. Videos and print materials are posted at www.KyWMU.org/EBO. Our offering goal is \$1.25 million. Join us as we focus on the source of our "Power to Serve" and the outcomes that take place.

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

EBO at Work



Joy Bolton



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.

Hillsong Church leads Dove nominees

Nashville, Tenn.—Music originating from Australia's Hillsong Church leads the list of nominees for the 45th annual Dove Awards. Other top contenders—with five nominations each—include Lecrae, Mandisa and Matt Maher.

The Dove Awards are sponsored by the Gospel Music Association to honor the best in Christian music and are decided by the votes of GMA members.

The awards show is scheduled for Oct. 17 at Allen Arena on the campus of Lipscomb University in Nashville, Tenn. It will be broadcast live on the Trinity Broadcasting Network.

"The Doves celebrate the impact of all genres of Gospel music, recognizing talent, ministry and outstanding performances," GMA Executive Director Jackie Patillo said. "It is an honor and a privilege to once again have Lipscomb University as our host for Gospel music's



Hillsong United, a praise band born out of the youth ministry of Australia's Hillsong Church, is nominated in several categories in this year's GMA Dove Awards. (BP photo)

biggest event of the year."

In announcing a new partnership with TBN, Patillo expressed excitement about the show's live broadcast—something that has not happened in several years.

"Not only do our organizations align in mission, but TBN will get the show and our music out to a greater audience than ever before," she said. "With their global and multi-platform enabled technology, virtually everyone, anywhere will be able to watch this year's show."

Mandisa was nominated for song of the year ("Overcomer"), artist of the year and in three

additional categories. Lecrae was nominated for artist of the year and in four other categories. Matt Maher was recognized for the song "Lord, I Need You" (nominated for song of the year) and in four other categories for his writing and performing.

Music and artists from Hillsong Church, a megachurch based in Sydney, Australia, led the nominations, including nods for song of the year ("Oceans"), artist of the year, new artist of the year and several others.

For a complete list of nominees, visit DoveAwards.com/Nominees. (BP)

Mountains to the Mississippi

COMPILED BY STAFF

BOWLING GREEN—Jackson Grove Church will host a Southern gospel music concert Aug. 23, 6 p.m., at Edmonson County High School in Brownsville. The concert will feature the **Allegiance Quartet**, **Music City Boys** and **Jerry Hatcher**. All proceeds from the concert go to benefit Camp Joy Baptist Assembly in Brownsville. For more information, call (270) 991-7554, (270) 782-1502 or (270) 991-5103. **Don Rogers** is pastor.

CADIZ—Rocky Ridge Church recently called **Bob McIntosh** as pastor.

CAMPBELLSVILLE—Saloma Church will hold homecoming services Aug. 24, 11 a.m., with a potluck meal and a concert featuring **Friends in Jesus** to follow. **John Chowning** is pastor.

HARRODSBURG—Mount Freedom Church will hold revival services Aug. 22-23, 7 p.m.; Aug. 24, 11 a.m. & 6 p.m., with **Cal Adams**, pastor of Temple Church in Springfield, as evangelist. **Jamie Chesser** is pastor.

LOUISVILLE—St. Matthews Church recently honored **Loretta Cox** on her 47 years of serving as the church's financial administrator. **Greg Barr** is pastor.

MOUNT VERNON—Roundstone Church will host **Driven** in concert Aug. 24, 10:30 a.m. For more information, call (606) 256-0306. **Rick Reynolds** is pastor.

CLASSIFIED ADS

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: McDowell First Baptist Church, McDowell, Ky., is seeking resumes for a full-time position of pastor. Please send resumes with references, CD/DVD or Internet link for sermons to: McDowell First Baptist Church, P.O. Box 241, McDowell, KY 41646.

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 resumes 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 resume to: Columbia Baptist Church, Attn: Pastor Search Committee, 201 Greensburg St., Columbia, KY 42728.

SEEKING: Reidland Baptist Church in Reidland, Ky., is accepting resumes for the full-time position of senior pastor. Please

send resume 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 resume to altonbaptist@altonbaptist.org.

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

SEEKING: First Baptist Church of Lawrenceburg, Ky., is seeking a part-time worship leader who can work with our praise team and lead our contemporary service. For more information, call (502) 517-1426.

SEEKING: Full-time next generation pastor to serve in the fast-growing northern Kentucky area at Hickory Grove Baptist Church, a church that is driven to serve its community and impact the world with the gospel of Jesus Christ. The next generation pastor will do whatever it takes to reach youth (grades 6-12) and beyond (young singles) with this life-changing gospel, and equip them to worship, serve, grow and reach others. To apply, please visit j.mp/hgbcngp to complete a short form and upload a resume. Please direct any questions to ngp@hickorygrove.net.

SEEKING: Beaver Dam Baptist Church, located in western Kentucky, seeks a full-time pastor for its 300-350-member congregation. Seminary degree and experience preferred. Please prayerfully submit resume to psc.bdbc@bellsouth.net or PSC, P.O. Box 6, Beaver Dam, KY 42320.

SEEKING: First Baptist Church of Central City, Ky., is seeking resumes for the position of full-time pastor. Founded in 1878, FBC Central City consists of a large

congregation of various ages with a variety of church-sponsored ministries. We are seeking a full-time pastor who can communicate the word of God as an excellent speaker through practical, personal and narrative ways. The search committee is seeking a family-oriented man who demonstrates his faith through discipleship. Of great importance to our congregation is someone who displays leadership, is outgoing and can provide counseling. We prayerfully seek someone who has the ability to develop lasting relationships and is grounded in faith of biblical principles, knowing that the Bible is the word of God. The search committee prefers that all applicants have some seminary or higher education with experience in church pastoral leadership. Experience in serving at a church with multiple staff members and church committees is expected. Please send a cover letter, resume and CD/DVD of a recent sermon (within the past six months) to

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First Baptist Church Search Committee, P.O. Box 95, Central City, KY 42330. Review begins Aug. 29 and continues until position is filled. The committee prefers that any additional communication or questions be asked through email at racer_1@comcast.net.

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Sturgis

By Karen Willoughby

Sturgis, S.D.—Closer to the Sturgis Motorcycle Rally's bar scene and with an extra three-hour nightly shift, Baptist volunteers nearly tripled the professions of faith recorded last year.

The Dakota Baptist Convention-led outreach—with its popular giveaway of a Harley-Davidson motorcycle—gave 120 volunteers from at least 20 states and Canada 3,654 opportunities to share three-minute testimonies, up from 2,141 last year, leading to professions of faith by 513 people, up from 178 in 2013.

"It was a wise decision that Garvon (Golden, DBC executive director) had, to move locations," said Buck Hill, the convention's missions director. "It put us deeper into the jungle, into the devil's playground."

This was the ninth year for the intentional evangelism ministry in which "catchers" encourage passers-by to enter an oversized venue to listen to one of the "witnesses" tell about how life changed since the volunteer came to know Jesus Christ personally. The pivotal question: "Has anything like this ever happened to you?"

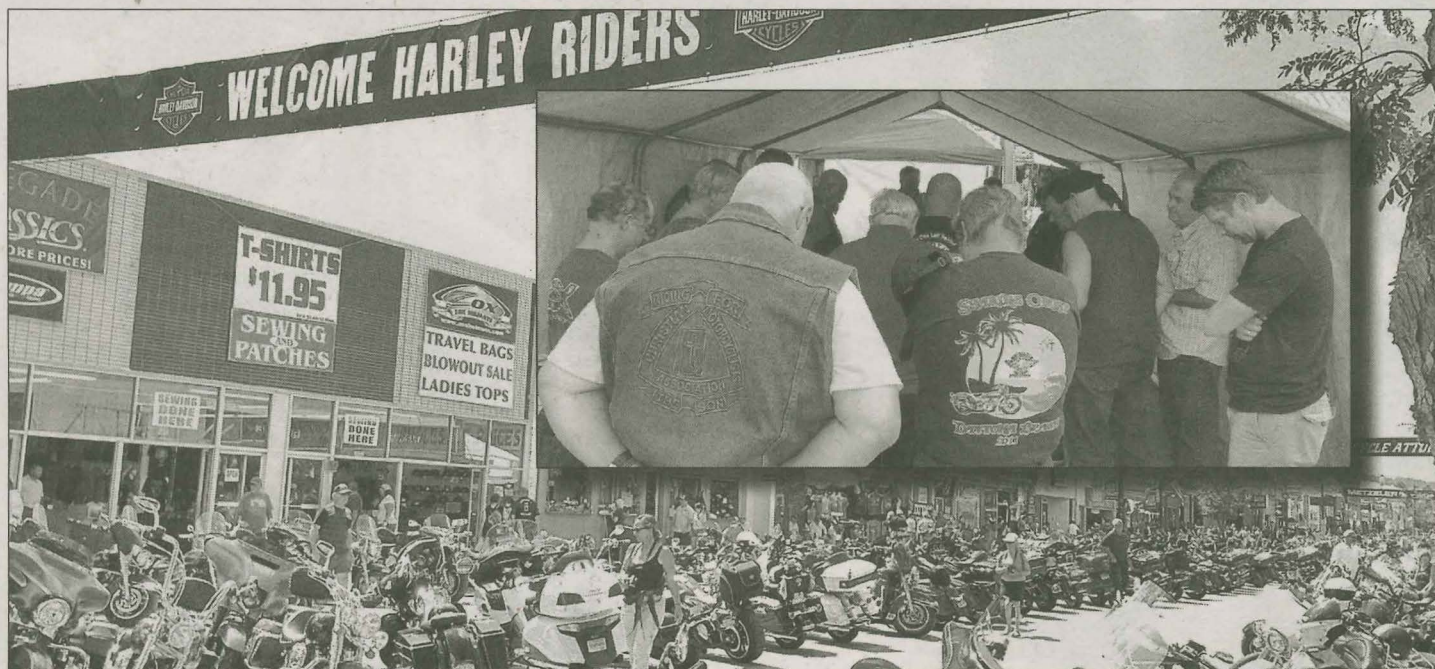
The reward for listening: a chance to win a new Harley-Davidson motorcycle.

In previous years, the DBC's evangelism tent was on a corner lot on Main Street across from the Sturgis Motorcycle Museum and about four blocks from the center of the bar scene. This year it was indoors, one of several "vendors" under one roof. The others: a tattoo parlor, leather goods sales and the like.

Its location was strategic—across the street from a liquor store and adjacent to a bowling alley that becomes a party hub when the small town of about 6,600 residents hosts nearly a half-million bikers, wannabes and gawkers for what this year was the 74th annual Sturgis Motorcycle Rally. Less than two blocks from the evangelism venue were two of the biggest drinking establishments in Sturgis.

The majority of the rally activity

Bike rally volunteers move into 'devil's playground'



A Dakota Baptist Convention-led intentional evangelism venue was nestled among the raucous venues at the Sturgis Motorcycle Rally in South Dakota in early August. ■ Inset photo: At the Sturgis Motorcycle Rally, evangelism volunteers join in prayer at the start of a three-hour shift before venturing into their outreach of three-minute testimonies among nearly a half-million bikers, wannabes and gawkers.

extends about six blocks down each of three streets in the center of Sturgis.

"Just to show the impact we have, one guy came to us showing a faded and wrinkled playing card that we hand out, with the plan of salvation on one side and a prayer asking Jesus to be the boss of their life," Hill said. "He asked for a new card, saying he prayed that prayer every day, and one of the volunteers asked him if he had ever made the decision to put his life in Jesus' hands. This year he didn't just pray the prayer; he prayed to receive Christ."

"Another guy came in with a worn-out token," Hill continued, referring to a round token about the size of a half-dollar that had Sturgis Motorcycle Rally 2011 on one side and two websites on the other for follow up, www.sturgisbikergiveaway.com and www.whatsnext.com. We haven't given them out for a couple of years. It was so faded from him rubbing it that you could hardly read the words on it anymore. That token was so important to him that he found us in the new location, just to get a fresh one."

The stories ticked off Hill's tongue.

"A guy who got saved early in the week brought his brother back later in the week," the DBC missions leader recounted. "But the best story happened three times. We did a 7-10 p.m. shift this year because we knew we'd be more in the bar scene. One night nothing was

happening, and about 10 minutes to 10 I said to Morgan (Medford, Dakota's church planting catalyst), 'Let's wrap it up.' But Morgan said, 'Let's wait a few minutes.'

"At straight-up 10 p.m., three people prayed to receive Christ," Hill said. "The next night, the situation was reversed. It was raining and no one was out at 9 p.m., and Morgan said, 'Let's go.' We were exhausted. We (Hill, Medford and volunteer Bob Clardy of South Carolina) hadn't had more than six hours' sleep for 10 nights in a row, and most nights it was four or five."

"But I said, 'No, let's wait a few minutes,' and literally we were shutting up the tent and people were still coming in. One got saved at 5 after 10. Each night it seemed like right at 10 p.m., people were getting saved," Hill said. "Friday night, it was 10 after 10. The catcher had told the guy we were closed but Bob (Clardy) said, 'Let him come in.' After he prayed to receive Christ, Bob was in tears. 'What if I'd said no, that we were closed,' Bob said."

"Ultimately we realized we were trying to dictate the time God could work, instead of letting God dictate it," Hill reflected. "It was more of a spiritual battle this year than I've experienced the last couple of years."

In addition to the "catchers" and "witnesses," other volunteers assist in a variety of related tasks, including chaplains who minister to the nearly 1,000 vendors, city employees who handle the daily 55 tons of trash collected, police and fire personnel; shuttle bus drivers who transport volunteers to and from area churches where they bunk for the week and; church site workers who minister to the volunteers; and those who keep ice on hand to keep water cold for the volunteers.

Chris Riddick of the Southern Baptist Conservatives of Virginia convention, which partners with the Dakota Baptist Convention was one who served in a support role, writing a database program that will enable Southern Baptists across the nation to follow up with the names of those who made professions of faith in Sturgis.

"Each evening I was logging in around 65 names—names that were forever changed; names that would go back to their friends and family and share how

God's love was changing them," Riddick wrote on his personal blog. "Some names would bring back their children and others to the tent so that they could hear the stories of how Christ changes lives and gives purpose."

"I heard that one stopped caring about the bike giveaway altogether and walked away saying he had received so much more than the value of a free Harley," Riddick continued. "We made sure he was still entered."

"The stories I heard each day of people being connected to a volunteer who had been through very similar tragedies were nothing short of miraculous," Riddick blogged. "Cancer survivors. Substance abusers. Broken homes. The abused. Military veterans who'd served in the same regiments. I sat back and watched a beautiful puzzle being assembled with pieces that were created and distributed around the globe decades ago."

Among those who made professions of faith were people from 41 states, five provinces in Canada and one from Australia.

Two volunteers returning to Virginia—Dallas Mills and Norman Booze—were in the midst of a pack of motorcycles in West Virginia when Mills' bike went down and Booze's bike hit it. Mills had torn rib cartilage, broken bones and a totaled motorcycle. Booze, meanwhile, was uninjured and his bike was not seriously damaged.

It was only the second accident involving volunteers over the nine years of the evangelism ministry at the Sturgis Motorcycle Rally. Larry Gibson of Wilsonville, Ala., was killed on a road trip in Wyoming on his way home from the rally in 2011.

Plans are already being made for the 75th annual Sturgis Motorcycle Rally during the first week of August 2015 and the 10th annual intentional evangelism ministry.

A million or more attendees are anticipated, according to various news reports. At least 200 volunteers will be needed for the evangelism outreach, Hill said. Registration forms are available on the ministry's website: www.sturgisbikergiveaway.com after January 2015, but check out the Sturgis Bike Giveaway Facebook page for updates during the rest of this year. (BP)

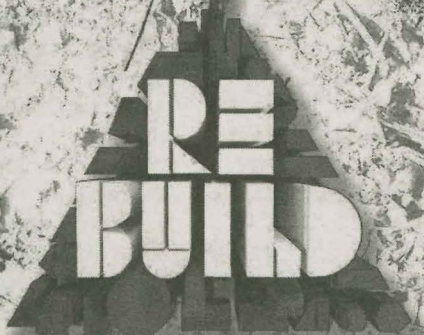


Listening to a three-minute testimony qualified Sturgis bikers for a chance to win a new Harley.



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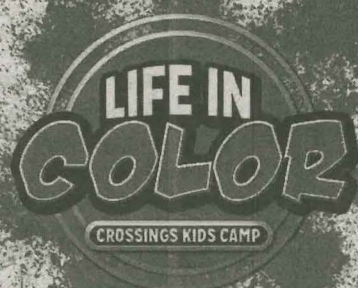


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