

WESTERN Recorder

September 2, 2014

Shine Like Stars * Philippians 2:15

Volume 188, Issue 32

'Radical' leader elected IMB president

By Erich Bridges

Rockville, Va.—David Platt was elected president of the International Mission Board Aug. 27 by board trustees, meeting at the IMB's International Learning Center in Rockville, Va.

Platt, 36, pastor of The Church at Brook Hills, a Southern Baptist congregation in Birmingham, Ala., will take office effective immediately as president of the 169-year-old organization, the largest denominational missionary-sending body among American evangelicals. More than 4,800 Southern Baptist international missionaries serve worldwide.

Platt succeeds former missionary, pastor and Southern Baptist Convention president



David Platt

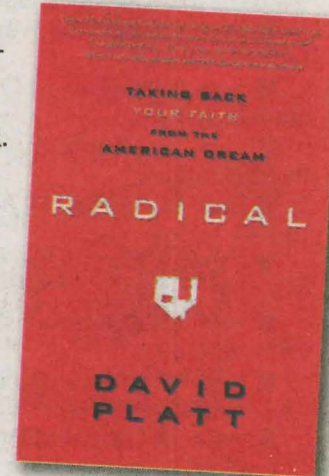
Tom Elliff, 70, who has served as IMB president since March 2011. Elliff asked the agency's trustees earlier this year to begin an active search for his successor. Elliff and his wife Jeannie plan to return to their home state, Oklahoma.

The author of the bestselling books "Radical" and "Follow Me," among others, Platt has been pastor of The Church at Brook Hills since 2006. He also founded and leads Radical, a ministry that provides resources that support discipling in local churches worldwide, organizing events and facilitating opportunities through multiple avenues, all aimed at encouraging followers of Christ in God's global purposes.

Platt has traveled extensively to teach the Bible alongside church leaders and missionaries throughout the United States and around the world. He and his wife Heather have four children: Caleb, Joshua, Mara Ruth and Isaiah.

"We talk all the time at Brook Hills about laying down a blank check with our lives before God, with no strings attached, willing to go wherever He leads, give whatever He asks and do whatever He commands in order to make His glory known among the nations," Platt said in a letter to his church, released Aug. 27. "Over these past months, God has made it abundantly clear to both Heather and me that He is filling in that blank check in our lives and family with a different assignment. Along the way, God

□ See IMB President ... Page 5



Artist carves praying hands from 100-year-old Oak **PAGE 2**



Above, an eight-foot wood carving of praying hands, created by Rob Peterson, of Louisville, now sits on the campus of Campbellsville University. The carving from a 100-year-old oak tree is the brainchild of CU's director of grounds and landscaping development and will adorn a pergola, below, near the school's administration building. (Photos by Drew Tucker)



Hodgenville VBS funds church in Dominican Republic

By Myriah Snyder

Hodgenville—Missions became a real experience for the Vacation Bible School children at First Baptist Church of Hodgenville.

The church began ministering in the San Pedro area of the Dominican Republic by going house-to-house with an iPod and projector and showing the "Jesus Film" to individual families in the area, senior pastor Paul Richey said.

After the initial contact was made,

the local church planter, Miguel, would set up weekly chronological Bible studies. "When this would happen, we started to see that people were really responding," Richey said. As the numbers grew to about 50 adult believers, the need arose for a place to meet.

However, the new group of believers didn't have the resources to build a church building, so First Baptist accepted the task to construct the structure. They estimated the cost would be about \$5,000.

First Baptist began to raise funds to

construct the building for these new believers by challenging their VBS kids to help raise the money.

"We didn't think they would get it at all," Richey said. "We thought they may bring in \$1,200 or \$1,400, so we decided to challenge them a little bit."

First Baptist built a miniature model of the church that was going to be built in the Dominican Republic. "With this model, we started to put a wall up for every \$750 they raised," Richey said. "Our thought was that we would get a wall or two up. Maybe the church would help us finish the structure, and the kids could watch the rest

□ See Raising Roof ... Page 2

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Western Recorder 9-2-2014

Training tour seeks to 'Equip' Ky. churches with eight stops

Louisville—The Kentucky Baptist Convention is hitting the road next month for a series of workshops designed to improve churches' overall health and better "equip" them for ministry.

The Equip 2014 tour will touch each region of the commonwealth, making eight different stops Sept. 8-30. The dates and locations are:

- Sept. 8, Heartland Worship Center in Paducah;
- Sept. 9, First Baptist Church of Madisonville;
- Sept. 15, Allen Baptist Church in Prestonsburg;
- Sept. 16, Beacon Hill Baptist Church in Somerset;
- Sept. 22, First Baptist Church of Grayson;
- Sept. 23, Williamstown Baptist Church;
- Sept. 29, Parkway Baptist Church in Bardstown;
- Sept. 30, Glasgow Baptist Church.

Steve Rice, KBC's church consulting and revitalization team leader, called Equip a "mini-Super Saturday" experience.

Each event offers training for pastors, staff, lay leaders and members in a variety of ministry areas.

"The CCR team is committed to helping each church reach its full potential and become all God has designed it to be," he said.

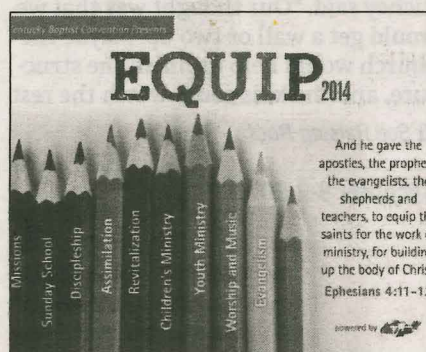
Equip will focus on such ministry areas as missions; Sunday School; discipleship; assimilation; revitalization; children's ministry; youth ministry; worship and music; and evangelism.

Seventeen topical sessions will be offered at each tour stop. Presenters include KBC Mission Board staff members, regional consultants, Crossings Ministries staffers and local church ministers.

Also, Michelle Chitwood, wife of KBC Executive Director Paul Chitwood, and Terä Melber, wife of Crossings' Ministries President David Melber, will lead informational sessions on equipping Kentucky Baptists to become trained foster families.

The sessions are in conjunction with Sunrise Children's Services' "Be the One" campaign. Each Equip event runs from 6:30 to 9 p.m., local time. Registration begins at 6 p.m. The cost to attend is \$10 per person, with a maximum of \$50 per church team.

For more information or to register, visit www.kybaptist.org/equip or call the church consulting and revitalization team at (502) 489-3571 or (866) 489-3571 (toll free in Kentucky). (KBC)



Raising Roof

Continued from page 1

of it go up."

On the last night of VBS, they were about \$2,000 short of their goal. "The next thing we knew, we were counting money, and it was taking them almost an hour to count. I knew something wasn't quite right," Richey said.

By the end of the night, the children had raised \$6,700 for this church plant. "The kids got all excited because their motto all week was, 'We have to have a roof for the kids in the Dominican.' They really bought into that and began to build and push toward that," he said.

In July, a group of 14 men took the funds to build the new structure and evangelize in the evenings. In three days, they had erected the shell of the building and had done everything but the wiring and roof. In the evening, they continued the house-to-house missions.

The church plant held their first service without a roof. That service had 35 people in attendance. "That was just the start," Richey said. "Every night after that they had 35, 40, 50 people. ... They have been averaging over 100 people every single night to worship since then at this location."

The kids' contribution directly helped lead another young man to the Lord.

"We had a young man named Jeffrey who was a kid, probably about 12 years old, and he came out the first day and would just pick up wood and help us carry stuff. He was just a local who would hang out where we were working," Richey said.

"He would show up at night and walk with us when we would go home-to-home doing evangelism," Richey recalled. So, the mission team assumed that he was part of the core church plant group.

"Through translators that last day he asked if we would show the movie in his



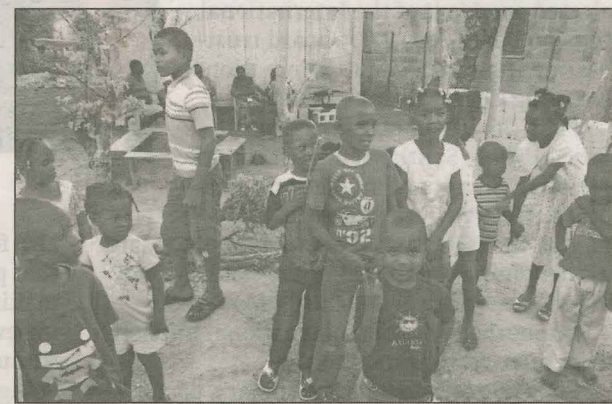
house. When we showed the movie, he accepted Christ. It was just an amazing story of how we invested all week long and the impact that had," Richey added.

Through the whole process, the church reminded the kids that they helped the mission team get there. Even Richey's 6-year-old daughter was interested and aware of what was taking place in the Dominican Republic.

"I would Skype with her from the Dominican, and she would constantly ask me if I had the roof on that church yet for those kids so they could worship God too," Richey said.

"Our kids are now asking about the kids in the Dominican—and about kids across the world—how we can make sure they know about Jesus. It has actually brought awareness to them beyond when we just teach them about international missions," he added.

"They see the pictures, they hear the reports, and they are personally invested in it. That has made a huge difference because it has opened up their minds



Above, members of FBC help construct a church building in Sante Fe Dominican Republic.

that people need to hear about Jesus," he continued.

"I think it has not only alerted them to missions per say, but I think it has alerted them just to the need of Christ even by people in our own community," he said.

"We challenged them to understand that we do this because Jesus' name must be known," Richey concluded. (WR)

Myriah Snyder, who recently completed a summer internship with Baptist Press, is a senior at the University of the Cumberlands in Williamsburg.

Chainsaw artist carves praying hands at Campbellsville

By Joan McKinney

Campbellsville—A 100-year-old oak tree on Campbellsville University's Stapp Lawn is now an eight-foot, 1,000 to 2,000-pound set of praying hands.

Rob Peterson, a Louisville chainsaw artist, carved the praying hands for the university. The carving will be placed outside the pergola between the administration building and Stapp Lawn.

Rob Roberts, CU's director of grounds and landscaping development, came up with the idea of the praying hands carving. The project has been in the works for several months.

The oak tree was inspected by the state forestry division this summer and later cut down. It was more than 70 percent dead, Roberts said.

Roberts found Peterson through a Google search. "Turns out he was the right artist, and I do mean 'artist' for our project," Roberts said.

Peterson has done other religious carvings such as angels and Jesus, and he has done some praying hands on a church mission trip in Honduras.

He collects carvings and other artwork, and decided to try chainsaw

carving with several stumps after the ice storm of 2009.

In Louisville, he carved a fish in front of Middletown Christian Church and an eagle in the St. John Lutheran Church courtyard. He is a juried artist in the Louisville Artisans Guild and received a second place award for his "Old World Globe," a scrimshaw map on an antique ivory cue ball.

Peterson has worked in residential construction since 1974 and has carved many pieces of art and jewelry. He has done scrimshaw on bone, antler, horn, ivory, fossilized mastodon, ostrich egg and tagua nuts. His artwork has been on display in many states from Texas to Minnesota to New Hampshire to Florida.

Roberts said that as he was looking at images he saw elsewhere around the country, he noticed two or three praying hands and thought that image would be perfect for a Christian university.

Roberts has another project in mind—a tiger, after the university's mascot—but that project, as is the praying hands, is waiting on a donor. Persons interested in helping with the projects should contact Benji Kelly, vice president for development, at (270) 789-5211. (CU)



Rob Peterson, a Louisville chainsaw artist, puts finishing touches on the praying hands carving. (Photo by Drew Tucker).

ACP: An invaluable tool

By now, every Kentucky Baptist Convention church should have received a blank Annual Church Profile report in the mail. The ACP report collects data in a variety of areas, including baptisms, church membership and attendance, all of which are important measures of our overall strength. Strong data lets the watching world know that God is working in and through

our 2,400 congregations.

It also helps me do my job. How so? The KBC was created by churches to help churches. To effectively carry out our assignment, we need to know what is working and what is not. And the ACP is perhaps our best measure of that.

For example, we rejoiced after last year's numbers were totaled to find that KBC churches baptized 13,970 people. That number, while impressive, also raised concerns when we did a comparison that showed baptisms were down slightly from the previous year.

ACP reports can be completed in a matter of minutes. Even so, nearly 20 percent of KBC churches didn't submit them last year. If they had, I feel certain we'd have seen much higher numbers in every area of measurement.

Beyond Kentucky, each of the approximately 50,000 churches of the Southern Baptist Convention is asked to complete an ACP. As a whole, the information becomes an invaluable resource for understanding who we have been, who we are, and how we are doing as Southern Baptists.

Our great history and heritage as a people is best understood in light of the factual record made available to us via the ACP.

If you are a pastor, let me urge you or your designee to fill out this form and mail it back so that we can rejoice with you in what the Lord is doing across the state, and we can help our churches be as effective as possible at reaching Kentucky and the world for Christ. If you've already completed the task, then thank you!

Let me also express appreciation to our directors of missions. They are tremendous partners in the collection of ACP data. Many of our associations have a consistent track record of 100 percent of their churches completing the ACP.

While it may not be possible for me to follow up with 2,400 churches apart from a mass mailing or newspaper article, our DOMs are able to make personal contact with their affiliated churches. I am most grateful for their investment of time and energy.

Paul Chitwood is executive director of the Kentucky Baptist Convention.

Together We are the KBC



Paul Chitwood

Platt's election brings air of excitement to missions

Even before the vote was officially taken last Wednesday, social media was abuzz as Southern Baptists learned that David Platt was being nominated as the next president of the International Mission Board. Prominent SBC leaders from Frank Page and Ronnie Floyd to Kevin Ezell, Russell Moore and Fred Luter were also quick to chime in, expressing their confidence, elation and prayerful support.

Platt's name may be familiar to many Kentucky Baptists. He has delivered keynote addresses at an SBC annual meeting and pastors' conferences in recent years, and he has visited Kentucky on several occasions, speaking at a "Together for the Gospel" event, in Southern Seminary's chapel, and at KBC meetings.

Contacted by the Western Recorder after the IMB's election of the Birmingham pastor—who is best known for his best-seller, "Radical," his zeal for reaching the nations, and for increasing our awareness of the plight of persecuted Christians through "Secret Church" simulcasts, Kentuckians serving as IMB trustees and other state convention leaders shared in a growing enthusiasm for the future of missions.

Hershael York, pastor of Buck Run Church in Frankfort and former KBC president who serves as a trustee, said, "We did this for one very stark, simple reason: this man is anointed by God and has a passion for missions like no one else. ... No one I have ever known is more passionate or strategic about reaching the lost than he."

"I am convinced that no one will excite and energize a young generation for missions and, by extension, the Cooperative Program like David Platt," York wrote in a blog. "I say this carefully and reverently: I have never met anyone on whom the anointing of God rests as powerfully and comfortably as David Platt."

Susan Bryant, an IMB trustee who attends Graefenburg Church in Waddy, told the Western Recorder that she felt honored to have been a part of the board's endorsement of Platt as president.

"Dr. Platt is a missions mobilizer who will engage the younger generations to be involved in missions and to support the Cooperative Program ...," she agreed, predicting, "I believe we will see greater energy and involvement in our churches and denomination as he leads the IMB in the important and challenging days ahead."

Trustee Charlie Davis, pastor of Hunsinger Lane Church in Louisville, said he could not be more optimistic: "David Platt is a young transformational leader who has garnered the hearts and minds of a younger generation of Southern

Baptist pastors and churches.

"My hope is that God will move in such a way to unite all of us in one sacred effort in getting the gospel to those who have never heard," Davis added. "I intend to pray, give, go and use whatever influence God provides, in calling our state convention to do the same."

KBC President Chip Hutcheson, editor of Princeton's Times-Leader and member of Southside Church, said he, too, was excited thinking about the positives that Platt brings to the office. "Our commission as Christ-followers is to take the gospel to the ends of the earth, and no one can dispute that David Platt embraces that directive with immense passion," he said.

When the announcement was made, some expressed reservations, particularly in regards to Platt's Calvinistic views and his church's Cooperative Program track record, Hutcheson acknowledged.

After Thought

By Todd Deaton



"That is not the order of the day; but rather we must pray for him in this leadership role and pray that God will bless the efforts of Southern Baptists to proclaim the gospel," he said, "even in the midst of great opposition in so many parts of our world."

Dan Summerlin, former KBC president and pastor of Paducah's Lone Oak Church, concurred, "No one can deny David Platt's passion for missions or his desire to reach unreached people groups with the gospel. He has a strong following of young pastors throughout the nation who listen to him especially in the area of missions."

"I believe as he begins his new role as the IMB president he will develop even a greater understanding of the Cooperative Program's role in fulfilling the Great Commission, and with that understanding he will be able to communicate that vital message to the next generation probably more effectively than anyone else could," Summerlin said of his fellow New Orleans Seminary alumnus. "Our role now as Southern Baptists is to lift him up in prayer and ask the Lord to guide him and help him in this new challenge."

In a press conference, Platt told reporters he wanted to turn the missions paradigm of Southern Baptists upside down, changing a misperception that "the local church just exists to send money and send missionaries and then the IMB kind of takes care of it."

Rather, the local church should be the agent that sends and shepherds missionaries, he explained, emphasizing a need to convince scores of "totally disengaged churches" that their best opportunity to reach the nations for Christ involves cooperating with their fellow Baptists.

If he can, indeed, do that, Platt will make most Southern Baptists "radically happy."

Name all beneficiaries for effective distribution

By Laurie Valentine

Efficient and effective distribution of assets at death is a key goal of Christian estate planning. To accomplish that goal you must make provision for each and every beneficiary with whom you intend to share your estate.

Leaving everything to one beneficiary with the hope and/or expectation he or

she knows what you want and will share your estate with the persons to whom you actually want your estate to pass is not a good idea.

Legally, the named beneficiary has exclusive rights and full ownership over anything left to him or her by will or beneficiary designation at your death. Even if your named beneficiary has every intention of carrying out your wishes, he or she could be in a situation at your death that prevents them from giving away what they

inherit from you.

Unintended gift tax liability can also result from the "inheritor" giving away too much, all at once, to the others with whom you wanted your assets shared when you die. Assure what you own at death will pass to the beneficiaries you intend by naming and including them specifically in your estate planning documents.

Laurie Valentine is trust counsel for the Kentucky Baptist Foundation.



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DR. TODD DEATON
Editor

THOMAS C. TOWNSEND
Marketing & Business Manager

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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.

Ask and ye shall receive!

School sets, reaches goal of enrolling 300 students this fall

In May, I wrote an article entitled "Praying for More 'Mana' from Heaven." I shared about one of our finest, Mana, now at the University of the Cumberland. I asked you to pray that God would send us more students like Mana, but also more kids who might be struggling.

My prayer was for 300 students at the beginning of this school year. We began last school year with 234 and closed with 277.

Three hundred students represent a 26 percent growth from last year and means we would likely be over 350 by next May. Oneida is made up of a particular number of young people whom the Lord planned from the time He created them to one day find their way to this special place.

In that spring column, I told you I would write this fall to let you know we did indeed reach 300 students. I am thrilled that the Lord has answered our prayers, and we now have 301 students. God is good and deserving of our praise!

New and returning students from the hollows of Clay County, all over Kentucky, across our nation and around the world have safely arrived on our campus. Our two domestic admissions counselors and our international admissions counselor have worked tirelessly all spring and summer to enroll new students.

Our "Minister to the Community"—or, for lack of a better way to put it, the

guy who is running the local "hollers"—has also worked diligently to reach out to teenagers surrounding our school.

Every family is unique and each takes special care. These women and one man often worked past the time that I left the office this summer, and I am grateful for their willing spirits.

Perhaps a 300-penny certificate to our grill is in order!

Our academic, maintenance, dorm and facilities staff also worked tirelessly this summer to prepare for the arrival of these young people.

Although our Oneida summer is a full three months because we don't take long weekends and snow days during the school year, we still seemed to run short of time as we prepared.

The work for our admissions counselors will carry on as we enroll more students, but for many—particularly teachers and academic personnel—the work has just begun.

More kids mean more challenges, which means more opportunities to minister. Please pray for our faculty and staff as we serve these teens. God brought them to us for a reason, and it is our duty to learn what they need and provide it.

This school year will have peaks and valleys, but the Lord will provide what we need to continue to educate young people "for time and eternity."

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

From the country to the city

Mission trip opens student to new areas of ministry

Senior Michael Schoenherr will be the first one to tell you that he does not like crowds. I guess that is why God sent him on a mission trip to New York City this summer.

"This was my first time to go to New York City," Michael said. "We stayed at a mission house near Central Park. It was nice to be able to visit some areas around the city while we were doing some mission work throughout the week."

"We had the opportunity to help with several projects while we were there, and we got to meet a lot of interesting people."

"One of our projects partnered us with the New York Divinity School," Michael said. "We helped them to make phone calls and send out literature to prospects. We also spent some time in Brooklyn at a children's ministry. We helped them clean up their offices and then went out witnessing with them to a school in the area."

"We also went to a local park to help a church hand out literature and do some witnessing," he said. "When people found out that we were with a

church, many told us that they did not believe in religion or church."

"It was interesting being from the Bible belt and from a Bible college; it's

not something you see every day with people just brushing you off and not wanting to have anything to do with you."

"It was like you were their worst enemy when they found out you were with a church."

"We spent a lot of time on the streets talking to people and handing out flyers," Michael said. "It was amazing to see how God would bring

people in our pathway and enable us to talk to them."

"I am a very isolated kind of guy, and God definitely opened me to a lot of things that week as far as dealing with people."

"I am thankful for a place like Clear Creek that provides opportunities for students to go on mission trips like this," he said. "It was a great experience to take what I learned in my missions classes and put it into practice."

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

Clear Creek Chronicle



Donnie Fox

Regional SPOTLIGHT



Alan Witham
Central Region

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."

Clear vision is important. Periodic eye and vision exams are an essential part of preventive health care. Most of us have visited an optometrist for a vision exam, and we have seen an instrument called a phoropter, which was placed in front of our eyes to determine the lenses that allowed the clearest vision.

Clear vision is also essential for a healthy church. Pastor Paul Richey recently led First Baptist Church of Hodgenville to clarify and refine its vision. They are calling it "Vision 2020."

Vision 2020 is based on the biblical model of Nehemiah and is composed of three critical E's: Explore, Engage and Experience.

The congregation is being challenged to "explore" where the Lord is working, where He is leading and where He is showing potential, much like Nehemiah did when he arrived in Jerusalem and began to view the city's broken walls and burned gates.

The congregation is being challenged to "engage" or work in unity where the Lord is working.

Just as Nehemiah assembled of unified teams to rebuild the wall of Jerusalem, the people of First Baptist are engaging the ripe fields of Hodgenville and beyond.

The congregation is being challenged to "experience" or stay on task amid challenges and trust the Lord's provision, just as Nehemiah did.

Pastor Richey utilized the visual image of a house to cast and clarify Vision 2020. The foundation for the church's vision is the Great Commission and in particular the commands to "go" and "make disciples."

Upon this foundation, the missional objective of FBCH has four divisions or "rooms in the house."

The basis of these four rooms is Acts 1:8 where Jesus challenged his followers to be witnesses in Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria and to the ends of the earth.

For Hodgenville, their Jerusalem is Larue County. So they call this focus (or room in the house), "I love Larue."

Missional opportunities that the

congregation has engaged in have included community block parties, providing supplies for returning students at a school, and connecting with people through affinity groups.

To fulfill the command of Jesus to be witnesses in "all Judea," Hodgenville seeks to make an impact through an emphasis they call "I love Kentucky." Missional opportunities they have engaged in have included becoming a distribution facility for Feeding America, helping provide food for senior adults and students, and working with Oneida Baptist Institute.

They are exploring how they can partner with the Kentucky Baptist Convention and the work being planned to impact Louisville.

The church strategically sees "Samaria" as being represented as North America and its emphasis is "I love North America."

The missional opportunities they have engaged in have included giving through the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering and helping a church plant in East St. Louis through the SEND cites initiative.

"I love the Nations" is the title given to the portion of their mission that targets "the ends of the earth." They have partnered with a church plant in

the Philippines and have constructed a church building in the Dominican Republic as a part of impacting the nations. They have also sought to give generously to international missions through the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering as well as by providing Bibles worldwide through

the ministry of Gideons International. A part of Vision 2020 also is to increase Cooperative Program giving incrementally over the next five years.

Richey is careful to remind his congregation that Acts 1:8 contains the word "and" between each of the geographical missional assignments. Work in all of these areas must be going on at all times. He also emphasizes the importance of making disciples, instead of just making converts. This led to a strong emphasis on discipleship that is teamed with the mission emphasis.

When deciding on which mission opportunities to engage in, the church asks five questions: Is it gospel centered? Is it Christ centered? Is it Holy Spirit led? Is it kingdom focused? Is it glorifying God?

As a part of Vision 2020, the church has a focus called "GLOW—Go Light Our World." The concept is to go beyond just supporting missions and take on an attitude of being on mission strategically in these locations, while being on mission every single day.

Richey stated, "As people in the congregation are engaging in being on mission, they are finding that Christ is growing in their lives and there is a growing passion to reach the community and the world for Christ." (WR)



IMB President

Continued from page 1

has used the elders of our church to affirm His call, and today He used the leadership of the IMB to confirm it."

In an interview, Platt said God had done a unique work in his life in the past 12 to 18 months—particularly since an overseas journey during which he saw a stark representation of how many people have never heard the name of Jesus.

"This is not something I saw coming," he said. "I love pastoring The Church at Brook Hills. I love shepherding this local church on mission for the glory of God among the nations and could picture myself doing that for decades to come.

"At the same time, God has been doing an unusual work in my heart and life. The only way I can describe it is that He's been instilling in me a deeper, narrowing, Romans 15 kind of ambition, where (the Apostle) Paul said, 'I want to see Christ preached where He has not been named.' ... The concept of unreached peoples—of nearly 2 billion people who have never heard the gospel—is just totally intolerable."

During a February trip to Nepal, Platt



David Platt, new president of the Southern Baptist International Mission Board, is seen interacting with schoolchildren in Indonesia in this file photo. Platt, 36, was elected Aug. 27 by IMB trustees. The influential author of "Radical" and pastor of The Church at Brook Hills in Birmingham, Ala., will take office effective immediately as president of the largest denominational missionary-sending body among American evangelicals. (IMB photo)

recounted, his team trekked for five days before they encountered a single follower of Christ. He also witnessed Hindu families burning the bodies of newly deceased loved ones and scattering their ashes over a sacred river in hopes that they would be reincarnated. Most if not

all of them presumably had died without ever hearing of Christ.

"It just gripped me in a deeper way," Platt said. "I came back with a desire to say, 'How can my life more intentionally be used to get the gospel to unreached peoples? Maybe I need to move overseas.' Then the (trustee) search team contacted me and said, 'Would you be willing to consider (becoming IMB president)?' ... The Lord has made it so clear, clearer than just about anything else I've ever done in my life. I told my wife the only thing I can compare it to is asking her to marry me."

Passion for lostness, new generation

Platt's passion for people lost without Christ—and his calling to reach them—inspired members of the IMB trustee search committee, according to trustee and search committee chairman David

Uth, pastor of First Baptist Church of Orlando.

"When we realized his sense of call, whether that meant serving as IMB president or going himself ... we realized how passionate, how deeply committed and called he was to the nations," Uth said. "... One more thing that really was consuming for us: his passion for lostness. To bring back passion for lostness within the context of Southern Baptist life would be so refreshing. I think it would be a (denominational) rebirth."

Uth said trustees are excited about Platt's influence among Southern Baptists and other evangelical leaders.

"When we considered what Brook Hills was doing to send couples (to the mission field) and to engage people in the pew in kingdom work, we felt like those were clues to how effective he was at mobilizing and getting people to follow the vision that God had given him," Uth said.

The ongoing crisis in financial support for missionaries is a major issue for Southern Baptists and IMB leadership, Uth acknowledged, and will challenge Platt as it has challenged Elliff during his tenure. But the potential of young, God-called missionaries in an emerging generation is far greater.

"While the world is becoming more hostile and anti-Christian in some places, it's as if (young missionaries') passion is growing equally to go to those hard places," Uth said. "That's where we hear young couples saying they want to go, that they want to be radically obedient to what God has called us to do for the nations. The passion is there."

Platt previously served as an assistant professor of expository preaching and apologetics at New Orleans seminary and as staff evangelist at Edgewater Baptist Church in New Orleans. (BP)

Bible Crosswords

Across

- 1 "A ____ that needeth not to be ashamed" (2 Timothy 2:15)
- 6 "The word of God ... is sharper than any two edged ____" (Hebrews 4:12)
- 10 Friend, Fr.
- 11 When you will arrive, approximately, abbr.
- 12 In favor of
- 13 Belonging to God's chose nation
- 15 Young lady, Fr., abbr.
- 17 Man's name
- 19 Sons of Judah, Er and ____ (Genesis 46:12)
- 21 Edward, for short
- 23 Chinese dynasty
- 24 Firstborn son of Judah (Genesis 38:2-3)
- 27 Primps
- 29 "____ not yourselves" (Romans 12:19)
- 31 "When the morning stars ____" (Job 38:7)
- 32 "Jesus thou ____ of God" (Matthew 8:29)
- 33 Letter before "em"
- 34 Teletypewriter, abbr.
- 35 In order that
- 37 Small particle
- 39 Translation, abbr.
- 41 Son of Adam
- 43 Prophet during David's reign
- 46 Masculine article, Fr.
- 47 Indicate agreement with a movement of the head
- 48 "These ____ Milcah did bear" (Genesis 22:23)
- 50 Letter after "em"
- 52 Preposition

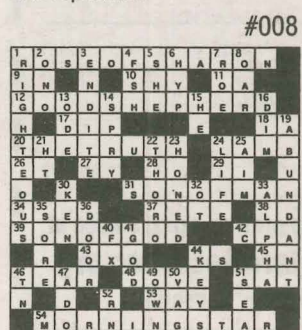


#009

- 53 "Lion will not ____ himself" (Isaiah 31:4)
- 55 Sea lettuce
- 57 "____ obtained favor" (Esther 2:15)
- 58 Moisture
- 25 City in Nevada
- 26 "Delivered when she was past ____" (Hebrews 11:11)
- 28 "Take it, and ____ it up" (Revelation 10:9)
- 29 Josaphat's father (Matthew 1:8)
- 30 Building wing
- 35 To stow, especially in a ship's hold
- 36 Exclamation
- 38 St. Paul is the capital of this state, abbr.
- 39 Not that
- 40 "The heathen ____" (Psalms 46:6)
- 42 Masculine article, Sp.
- 44 "Lest he ____ my soul like a lion" (Psalms 7:2)
- 45 New England state, abbr.
- 47 "As it was in the days of ____," so shall it be also in the days of the Son of man" (Luke 17:26)
- 49 Stomach, for short
- 51 Girl's name
- 53 Syllable of satisfaction
- 54 Exist
- 56 Low pressure, abbr.

Down

- 1 "As ____ as snow" (Revelation 1:14)
- 2 "A ____ thing" (Daniel 2:11)
- 3 Department store chain
- 4 Appearance
- 5 Sea monster of loch
- 6 America's uncle
- 7 "____ the ears, but he heareth not" (Isaiah 42:20)
- 8 Transportation on tracks, abbr.
- 9 "Let us not be weary in well ____" (Gal 6:9)
- 14 "____ my people go" (Exodus 5:1)
- 16 Brief periods of time
- 18 Hills
- 20 Response, abbr.
- 22 "I ... beheld your ____, I found an altar with this inscription, To The Unknown God" (Acts 17:23)



#008

State missions: Now more than ever!

As I reflect upon my 44 years of vocational involvement in state missions in Kentucky, I am struck by the dramatic changes that have occurred in the population, especially from the immigration of the many and varied people groups who have come to Kentucky, the impact of the secular culture on all Kentuckians and the exponential power of technology that spreads instantaneously the negative impact of the secular culture. As a result, the challenge of the Acts 1:8 challenge has become more formidable than ever, and "state missions" now has an "international missions" element inherent in it.

Since 1913 Kentucky WMU has taken an annual offering through the churches for state missions. In 1976 the offering was named for Eliza Broadus, who was a contemporary of Lottie Moon and Annie Armstrong, and who led Kentucky WMU in 1913 to begin a state missions offering. And now, more than 100 years later, this offering is more important than it has ever been because of the growing number of lost, unchurched and de-churched people of the commonwealth as well as the impact of secularization.

This offering undergirds, enhances and supplements on-going ministries as

well as special projects focused on reaching the lost and making disciples in Kentucky. You may live in or near a community that is impacted directly by ministries that receive funding from this offering.

Because of the added importance of this offering in the future for reaching Kentucky for Christ, let me encourage you not only to continue to give generously to and through the annual offering, but also to consider making a legacy gift now and/or through your estate plan

for the benefit of state missions through the Eliza Broadus Offering. In this way you could continue to contribute to this vital effort beyond your lifetime. What a legacy that would leave of your love for Christ and His mission in Kentucky!

You could begin now to contribute to an existing perpetual endowment administered by the KBF from which the earnings are added annually to the offering. Or, you may prefer to establish an endowment yourself. This is the season of prayer for state missions and the EBO offering. What a wonderful time to give Laurie Valentine or me a call to assist you.

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



September

- 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.
- 19-20 Disaster Relief Chaplaincy Training, Calvary Baptist Church, Glasgow.
- 20 CA-Boom! Children in Action Day Camp, Central Baptist Church, Lawrenceburg.

Hellams named chief of staff at Southern Seminary

Louisville—Tom Hellams has been named vice president for denominational relations and chief of staff, Office of the President, at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, President Albert Mohler Jr. announced Aug. 19.

"I'm very pleased that Tom Hellams is re-joining the Southern Seminary executive team," Mohler said. "He is a man of rare gifts, deep commitment and an incredibly warm heart. He is also a man of incredible experience."

"This a welcome home to a friend and fellow servant," Mohler said. "We are thrilled to have him return to Southern Seminary."

Hellams, who began Sept. 1, is returning to Southern Seminary to a similar role he served previously, 1997-2006.

As vice president of denominational relations, Hellams' responsibilities will include "assisting the institution to relate to the whole Southern Baptist Convention, including state conventions, in a way that would be most helpful to Southern Baptists in accomplishing all the Lord has assigned to us," Mohler added.

Since 2006, Hellams has served as vice

president of corporate relations at LifeWay Christian Resources of the Southern Baptist Convention.

In that capacity, Hellams represented LifeWay's president in a variety of capacities to the LifeWay board of trustees, Southern Baptist Convention, state Baptist conventions and the Nashville business community.

"Southern Seminary holds a very special place in my heart," Hellams said. "Since my time at the school as a student, I have affirmed the mission of the seminary."

"I am grateful for the opportunity to return to Louisville to serve our Lord through an institution that is effectively training ministers of the gospel for more faithful service, and look forward to serving alongside Dr. Mohler and the entire seminary community."

In addition to his service at LifeWay and Southern Seminary, Hellams has served in various pastoral roles at churches in South Carolina and Kentucky. Hellams and his wife, Tena, are parents of two adult children. They are currently members of First Baptist Church of Nashville, Tenn. (SBTS)



Tom Hellams

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CAMPBELLSVILLE—Pitman Valley Church will host **Driven** in concert Sept. 14, 11 a.m.. For more information, call (270) 932-5494. **Stoney McKinney** is pastor.

DENVER—Liberty Baptist Church called **Clay Wheeler** as full-time pastor.

LOUISVILLE—Fern Creek Baptist Church will hold the "Young at Heart" Piano Duo Concert by **Kay Rowe** and **Linda Barnes Popham** Thursday, Sept. 11, at 11:30 a.m.

PRESTONSBURG—**Jan Joseph** and the Sew-in-Love ministry of Fitzpatrick Baptist Church will be hosting a "Sit-n-Sew" event on Saturday, Sept. 6, 9 a.m.-3 p.m. For more information or registration, contact Tanya Parker at 606-886-6294 or Jan Joseph at 606-226-2998.

SHELBYVILLE—**Chris Platt** accepted the call as pastor of Highland Baptist Church. His first Sunday will be Sept. 7. Platt formerly served as associate pastor of Crestwood Baptist Church.

SOMERSET—The Hal Rogers Fire Training Center will be hosting the Basket Auction & Chili Supper on Thursday, Sept. 4, at 6:30 p.m. to help raise money for the Clear Creek Baptist College scholarship in honor of **Greg Farmer**.

CLASSIFIED ADS

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

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 resúmes 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 Rd., Paducah, KY 42003. Bivocational would be considered.

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 knoxvillebaptist-search@gmail.com.

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 resumé. 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 resumé to psc.bdbc@bellsouth.net or PSC, P.O. Box 6, Beaver Dam, KY 42320.

SEEKING: Radcliff Baptist Church is seeking a bi-vocational pastor. Please send resumé to: 673G Knox Blvd., Radcliff, KY 40160 or email to ericandpattie@gmail.com.

SEEKING: Williamstown Baptist Church, Williamstown, Ky., is prayerfully seeking a full-time pastor for our multi-generational Southern Baptist Church. The church currently has two worship services on Sunday mornings and averages 300 in attendance. Please send an updated resumé, a short biography, and a personal statement of beliefs by Nov. 1 to: Pulpit Committee, 207 Crestview Lane, Williamstown, KY 41097 or you may submit online to wbcsearch2014@gmail.com.

SEEKING: Calvary Baptist Church is seeking a full-time/bi-vocational pastor. Avg. attendance is 75 with a children's bus ministry. Must adhere to Baptist Faith & Message 2000. CD/DVD requested if available. Please send resumé to calvarybaptist121@gmail.com or Calvary Baptist Church, 121 Kentucky Ave., Princeton, KY 42445.

SEEKING: First Baptist Church of Morton's Gap, Ky., is seeking a youth minister. House provided. Send resumé to: J. Vaught, 121 Walter Ln., Hanson, KY 42413.

SEEKING: Beacon Hill Baptist Church in Somerset, Ky., is seeking a worship pastor to lead our congregation of 500 in blended worship. Weekly responsibilities include arrangement, practice and

oversite of adult, student and children's choirs, orchestra, praise band and soloists. Compensation to be negotiated by education and experience using SBC and Richard Hammar surveys. Formal music education and training is required. Please send resumé (no electronic submissions) and DVD by Oct. 15 to Beacon Hill Baptist Church, P.O. Box 3061, West Somerset, KY 42564.

SEEKING: Teachers needed for January 2015. Lighthouse Primary School is seeking elementary and secondary teachers for the 2015 school year. Lighthouse is a Christian school located in tropical paradise. If you are interested in learning more about the school, please contact Jeff Gray at headmaster@lighthouseprimaryschool.org. The school's website is www.lighthouseprimaryschool.org.

SEEKING: Dione Baptist Church in Harlan County, Ky., is seeking their next

pastor. This is a bivocational position. If you feel led please email a resumé to dionebaptist@yahoo.com or by mail at P.O. Box 131, Benham, KY 40807, Attn.: Pastor Search Committee.

SEEKING: Rich Pond Baptist Church in Bowling Green, Ky., is seeking a full-time pastor to students and families. For more information or to submit a resumé, email Herb Case at herb@richpoing.org.

SEEKING: Evergreen Baptist Church, Frankfort, Ky., is seeking a part-time (20 hours per week) children's minister who has a deep passion for working with children. Submit resumé to the church, 2698 Evergreen Rd., Frankfort, KY 40601 or 502-223-8364.

SEEKING: Canton Baptist Church in western Kentucky is seeking resúmes for the position of full-time pastor. Send resumé and CD/DVD sermon to Attn.: Don Cole, P.O. Box 1624, Cadiz, KY 42211.

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More than the American dream



Left, Lankford family overlook their new hometown in South Africa. Below, Joey Lankford, right, speaks with workers at one of the hydroponic greenhouse tunnels built by Living Hope Ministry to train locals how to grow vegetables and start their own businesses.

By Carol Pipes

Nashville—Joey Lankford's life was almost too perfect.

He and his wife Courtney had a successful business near Nashville, Tenn., a big house, cars, money, two vacation homes, everything you could imagine.

"Life was good. I was making a great salary running the family business; we bought a farm on the south side of town and built a 5,000-square-foot dream house; we were living the epitome of the American dream."

Every few months, Lankford bought "a new toy"—4-wheelers, horses, hunting gear, motorcycles, boats. If he saw something he wanted, he bought it. "I was accumulating stuff," he said.

"At the time, I was content with our lifestyle," Lankford said. But if you asked him where God ranked in his life, he'd say somewhere at the bottom of the list.

"I'd compartmentalized my life into work, family, friends, church and faith," Lankford said. "The cogs weren't even touching each other."

In 2008, Lankford turned 30. He took a good long look at his life—and his bank account. Materially, nothing was lacking. But deep down he knew something was missing.

"I remember asking myself, why do I feel like there's supposed to be more to life than this?"

That same year Lankford's brother invited him to go on a mission trip to Nicaragua with his church. He said yes.

"That trip was a squirt of fuel on a fire that was already burning inside of me," Lankford said. "I knew something was extremely wrong with the way I was living my life. I had problems with my wife, problems with my kids, and I felt like faith had zero teeth in what I did daily."

But Lankford suppressed his feelings and went back to his normal life. He made it through the holidays that year, but in January 2009, those feelings came bubbling back up. "I had everything culture said was important, and I was absolutely miserable."

It was then that Joey had what he calls his "barn moment." One Friday after work, he told Courtney he was heading down to their barn. It wasn't unusual for him to spend a day down there working. But this time was different. He took his Bible and his journal, settled in and began to pour out his heart to God.

"By Saturday afternoon, it was cold and I was broken," Lankford said. "I was pleading with God to come to me in that place if He was real."

God showed up, Lankford recalled. "God began to reveal to me that He could be the 'more' of my life if I would get down off the throne of my life and put Him there," he said.

"I went back to the house, grabbed Courtney, looked her in the eyes and told her things were going to be different, that I had surrendered my life to the Lord."

Together they began to pray and seek God for what was next in their lives.

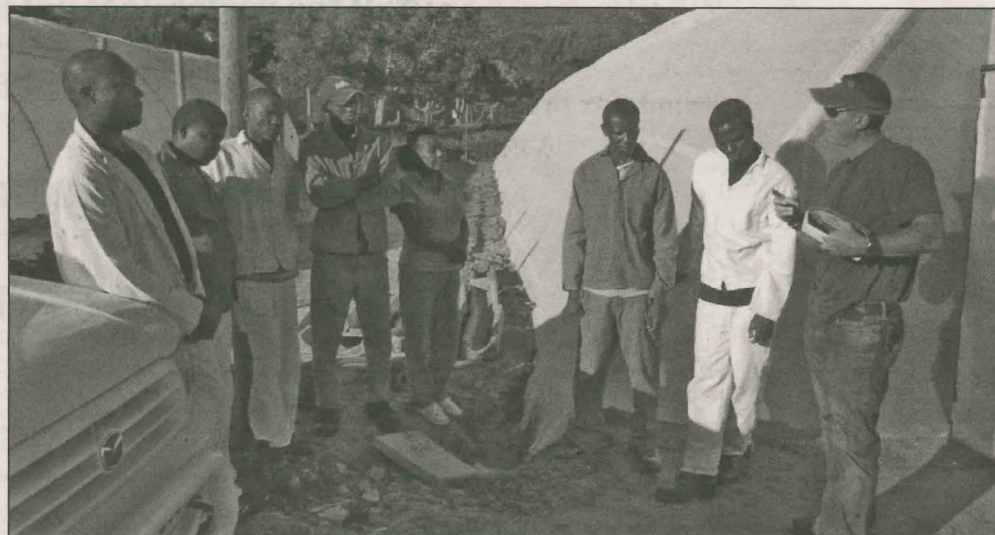
Joey and Courtney began to see God's provision. He placed a desire in them to serve on the international mission field.

With no college degree, much less a seminary degree, this camo-wearing, Tennessee boy couldn't imagine how God would use him on the mission field.

Through his church, Brentwood Baptist, in Brentwood, Tenn., Lankford learned of Living Hope, a ministry in South Africa. The 14-year-old non-profit had begun a job creation and empowerment arm of the organization. That got Joey's attention.

"God said to me, 'I'm going to use you in the way I've wired you—to do business and to love people. I'm going to allow you to develop relationships and connect with as many people as you can get in front of. I'm going to give you something you're more passionate about....'"

God confirmed to the Lankfords that He was calling them to South Africa. They sold everything and moved the family to a town 30 minutes outside Cape Town,



where Joey is leading people out of poverty through agricultural business.

Lankford is teaching his students to grow quality produce and how to market and sell their product. Lankford has watched several of his graduates go on to start their own businesses and others find employment at other cooperative farms.

"I haven't done anything for the South African people that God couldn't have done with someone else," Lankford said. "God moved me to South Africa, because He wanted me to know Him more fully and deeply. He wanted the power of that to flow through me and spill out on other people. Because it is God's love that changes lives."

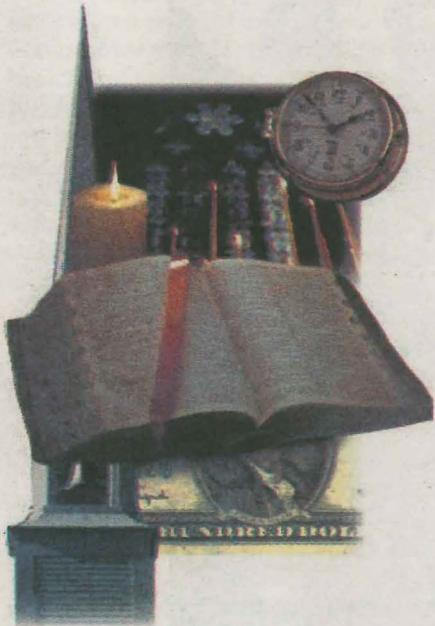
Lankford spends his days working alongside the students, digging in the dirt and discipling them. And he loves it. Joey and Courtney say they love the life they've carved out with their five children.

To tell others of their journey, Lankford wrote the "Fulfilled: The Refreshing Alternative to the Half-Empty Life," published this summer by B&H Publishing Group.

The book is not about international missions, he said, but rather about surrendering everything to God.

"I want people to know true fulfillment is waiting on the other side of surrender," he says. "I hope people will come away from reading this book inspired and encouraged to inquire more seriously of God about what He wants of their lives so they can step into that fulfillment." (BP)

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Barry G. Allen, President and CEO

Laurie W. Valentine, Trust Counsel and COO

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