

WESTERN Recorder

September 9, 2014

Shine Like Stars * Philippians 2:15

Volume 188, Issue 33

After Platt vote, IMB funds Mideast refugee aid

By Don Graham

Richmond, Va.—To a rousing chorus of cheers and applause, International Mission Board trustees overwhelmingly elected “Radical” author and pastor David Platt as IMB’s 12th president during their Aug. 26-27 meeting near Richmond, Va.

Trustees also heard reports on a pilot program to fund greater numbers of short-term missionaries and the dire circumstances among refugees in Syria and Iraq.

Speaking at a press conference shortly after his election, Platt said he was “honored, humbled and overwhelmed” by his new role as head of the largest evangelical missionary-sending organization in America, but also equally “exhilarated” by the possibilities that lie ahead.

“What God has created in the International Mission Board is breathtaking. It’s really beyond words to marshal the force of 40,000-plus churches working together with about \$300 million dollars a year to go after unreached peoples with the gospel,” he said. “But there’s so much more that I believe can be done in the years to come, and the task is great.”

Platt, 36, is the youngest leader in IMB’s 169-year history. He takes the reins from president Tom Elliff, who earlier this year announced his plans to retire.

“I thank God for how Tom Elliff has led the IMB,” Platt said. “I love this brother and his wife and am really humbled to step into these shoes.”

A visibly moved Platt’s first words to the trustees as IMB president were from 1 Corinthians 1:26-31, the verse scheduled in his Bible-reading plan for the day.

“We were born into a part of the world where we have heard the gospel, and not just heard, but received it,” Platt said. “Why were we born that way and a



With his wife Heather and their four children by his side, David Platt addresses IMB trustees for the first time during the Aug. 26-27 board meeting near Richmond, Va. Platt, 36, said he is “exhilarated” by the possibilities ahead. (IMB photo by Chris Carter)

couple of billion other people were born into parts of the world where people live and die without ever even hearing the gospel? I don’t have an answer to that question, but I do know this: We have received grace for a goal, and that goal is to the spread the gospel to the ends of the earth.”

Platt has served for the past eight years as pastor of The Church at Brook Hills, a 4,500-member Southern Baptist congregation in Birmingham, Ala. He authored the best-selling books “Radical” and “Follow Me,” and he founded and leads Radical, a ministry that serves the church to make disciples to fulfill the global mission of Christ. Platt

also has traveled extensively to teach the Bible alongside church leaders and missionaries throughout the United States and around the world.

“Even amidst this large coalition of churches that we’re a part of—and we’ve got a variety of differences—we have one gospel that unites us,” Platt said. “It’s not acceptable for 6,500 of the world’s people groups not to give our God the glory He’s due, and so we’re going.

“We’re going to Africa where more than 3,000 animistic tribes are following deities that are not worthy of glory. We’re going to Southeast Asia where 350 million Buddhists are following Buddha’s rules and regulations and

□ See IMB business ... Page 3

Platt shares his IMB calling with church family

By Don Graham

Birmingham, Ala.—David Platt was in Nepal on the last day of a mission trip in February when he awoke to an email that would change his life: IMB’s president, Tom Elliff, was retiring.

Platt’s head fell back onto his pillow as the possibilities swirled. Four years ago, IMB had approached him about leading Southern Baptists’ international missions organization. God’s answer then was a clear “No.”

But things were much hazier now. The Lord had done an “unusual work” in Platt’s heart on this trip, exposing him to “massive” physical and spiritual poverty unlike anything he’d ever seen.

“You’d go for four or five days without meeting anybody who’d even heard the name of Jesus,” he remembered.

Platt was seriously wrestling with a potential call to move his family to Nepal to serve as church planters. That’s when the Holy Spirit hit him with a question: Why would he be willing to go half-way around the world to take the gospel to the lost and not at least consider a move that would enable him to mobilize thousands of others to do the same?

What Platt didn’t yet realize was that God had already started him on a journey that would end with his election. It’s a journey the 36-year-old pastor shared for the first time Aug. 31 with the congregation he’s led for eight years, The Church at Brook Hills, in Birmingham, Ala.

Brook Hills members welcomed Platt

□ See Platt’s calling ... Page 4

Supplies delivered to displaced in northern Iraq

By Mark Kelly

Nashville, Tenn.—Life-saving relief supplies are being delivered to Iraqi Christians and other minorities forcibly displaced in northern Iraq by radical ISIS Islamists.

Many of these families have gone for three weeks with little to eat, said Abraham [last name withheld], who leads work in the Middle East for Baptist Global Response.

Persecuted Christians believe they’re facing extinction and he worries that Christians in the West are unaware of the suffering, he said.

Abraham said as the team entered one camp, they met families who had been eating rice and watery tomato soup. They had eaten meat once.

“It touched my heart, to know we could provide some good healthy nutrition for these people,” he added. “It brought joy to their hearts for us to bring beans and other food. Just to make them feel they are normal and loved.”

Many of these families include urban professionals who run businesses and own homes.

□ See Supplies delivered ... Page 2



Amid the woes of onslaught by radical ISIS Islamists, an Iraqi woman from one of the country’s religious minorities watches as refugee children nap in a barren apartment in northern Iraq. (BGR photo by Joseph Rose)

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Western Recorder 9-09-2014

Baptist music conference to meet Sept. 18 in Hopkinsville

Hopkinsville—Worship leaders will gather at Second Baptist Church of Hopkinsville Sept. 18 for a time of fellowship and learning at the Kentucky Baptist Music Conference.

Paul Clark Jr., former president of the Southern Baptist Church Music Conference, will be guest speaker. Clark is the director of worship and music ministries at the Tennessee Baptist Convention and a graduate of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary.

"We are so blessed to have Dr. Clark with us this year," said Jason Stewart, the Kentucky Baptist Convention's

worship and music consultant. "He has served in worship ministry for more than 26 years and will truly be an inspiration for us all."

Stewart said the conference is designed to nourish music ministry leaders and champion the ministry in churches. Other speakers include Bob Blankenship of Edgewood Baptist Church in Nicholasville;

Steven Staggs of Muldraugh Hill Baptist Church in Lebanon; Matthew Bone of Parkland Baptist Church in Louisville;



Paul Clark Jr.

John Cashion of Beaver Dam Baptist Church; and Mark Swadley of Lone Oak First Baptist Church in Paducah.

KBC Ministry Transition Specialist Peggy Berry will lead a special session for women and ministers' wives only called, "Let's Talk." Berry has served at the KBC for 24 years. The conference will end with a concert by The Burchfield Brothers, a band of brothers who blend their East Tennessee Appalachian music with worship, jazz and classical.

Register for the music conference at www.kybaptist.org, or email Jeana Platt at Jeana.Platt@kybaptist.org. (KBC)

Supplies delivered

Continued from Page 1

When violence reached their majority-Christian neighborhood, about 60,000 people fled in a few hours, most with only the clothes on their backs.

Several families pooled their resources to rent an apartment, Abraham said. Eight families shared two floors of an unfinished house with concrete walls and floors.

"To look at these children, to look in the eyes of a defeated father who cannot provide for his family, the least we could do was we bought carpet so it can be a little more comfortable for them than sleeping on the floor," he said.

BGR has been providing relief to refugees and displaced families throughout the Middle East for years, Abraham said.

But the ISIS advance across northern Iraq has compounded one crisis with another.

"That makes it more tragic, in a sense, but at the same time it helps us because we already have work, we already have projects on the ground, to pool our efforts together, to pool our teams together," he said. "Now some of our national team members are forcibly displaced themselves."

BGR is drawing on resources provided by Global Hunger Relief to provide food, water, baby formula, propane burners and temporary shelter. They also have been helping families obtain cooling units to provide relief from scorching summer heat.

"The heat is suffocating. The temperature in the hundreds and it's a dusty environment. So you can see a baby, 25 days old, they cannot endure this," Abraham said.

Although their Christian community

is one of the most ancient in the world, families are wondering what will happen, Abraham said.

"I promised I would make their story known, that people would know these Christians exist, they are part of this land, they are an ancient people," he said.

Crucial resources for the relief effort are coming from GHR, the Southern Baptist channel for giving to hunger needs across North America and around the world. Donations to GHR will be emphasized when many churches observe World Hunger Sunday, Oct. 12.

"Global Hunger Relief helps us tremendously," Abraham said. "I encourage churches and whoever is listening to us to give to Global Hunger Relief because without it we will not be able to help a lot of these people. We need to advocate, we need to pray, but we also need to be generous." (BP)

Nancy pastor to be nominated for KBC 2nd VP

Nancy—Patrick Butcher, pastor of Okalona Missionary Baptist Church in Nancy, will be nominated for second vice president of the Kentucky Baptist Convention.

Donavon Burton, pastor of Beacon Hill Baptist Church in Somerset, has announced plans to nominate Butcher at the annual meeting in Bowling Green Nov. 11. He is the second announced candidate for the post. Larry Workman, however, withdrew his name from consideration in early August, citing his wife's health concerns as the reason.

In an email to the Western Recorder, Burton commended Patrick's faithful service as a pastor and as a strong proponent of cooperation in Pulaski Baptist Association.

"He (Butcher) has led his churches in prioritizing Cooperative Program giving, and he shepherds them from the word of God with a contagious evangelistic fervor," Burton said. "Patrick has established a reputation in our county and our state as being a dependable and diligent co-laborer for Christ."

"His passion, energy and enthusiasm for the gospel of Jesus Christ would be an asset to the leadership of our state convention," Burton added.

Butcher told the Western Recorder that, if elected, he hoped to encourage churches to "come together more to reach the people of Kentucky and the world with the gospel of Christ."

Asserting a strong belief in supporting missions through the Cooperative Program, Butcher said he also would like to see more Kentucky Baptist churches move toward increasing CP giving again, rather than pulling back as some did during leaner economic times.

A Kentucky Baptist pastor for five years, Butcher began his ministry at Northside Baptist Church in Science Hill, where he served four years. He led Northside to increase its Cooperative Program giving to 10 percent of its undesignated offering, and he baptized more than 50 people during his tenure, according to Burton.

Okalona, where Butcher has served for approximately eight months, also gives 10 percent of its undesignated offerings to the Cooperative Program. He has baptized 12 people there in seven months, Burton noted.

Butcher is 2008 graduate of Clear Creek Baptist Bible College. He and his wife, Jessica, helped start a women's campus ministry on Clear Creek's campus. They have been married for 13 years and have three children: Kobe, Kaelyn and Kyndal.



Patrick Butcher

CALL FOR RESOLUTIONS

KBC's Committee on Resolutions will receive resolutions for consideration at this year's annual meeting until October 10. This year's meeting is on November 11 at Living Hope Baptist Church in Bowling Green.

Resolutions Must:

- Be typewritten, titled & dated.
- Be accompanied by a letter or e-mail from a church qualified to send a messenger to the annual meeting of the Kentucky Baptist Convention certifying that the person submitting the resolution is a member in good standing.
- Include complete contact information for the person submitting the resolution and his or her church. No person may submit more than three resolutions in a single year.
- If you have a resolution to be considered:

E-mail to: communications@kybaptist.org (preferred)

Mail to: Committee on Resolutions, c/o KBC Executive Office
P.O. Box 43433, Louisville, KY 40253

Tell Your Story

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

KBC
KENTUCKY BAPTIST CONVENTION

Executive Office
502-489-3374 or 866-489-3374
www.kybaptist.org/annualmeeting

Deadline Oct. 10

EBO: Vital to missions

The partnership between the Kentucky Baptist Convention and Kentucky Woman's Missionary Union is a wonderful example of impacting lostness through cooperation. In addition to mission camps, missions education and hands-on mission work, the WMU labors intensely to promote and ensure the success of the Eliza Broadus Offering for State Missions that now totals more than \$1 million each year. The offering funds KBC Mission Board ministries, local associations, state missionaries, and a host of evangelistic initiatives to resource vital kingdom ministries.

More than 100 years ago, Eliza Broadus led Kentucky WMU to promote taking an annual offering for state missions in KBC churches. At that time, Baptist churches in Kentucky had already been working cooperatively for more than 75 years but had not been collecting a special offering to be used exclusively to do mission work within the state.

Eliza moved to Kentucky with her father, John A. Broadus, when she was 26 years old. Her father not only baptized Lottie Moon during his years as a pastor, but also became a member of the founding faculty of the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary and served as the seminary's second president. He is counted among Southern Baptists' most esteemed preachers, theologians and leaders.

Eliza's mother, Maria, died at the young age of 26. Eliza, at the time a child only 6 years old with two sisters, formed an especially close relationship with her father. She later followed him to Kentucky upon the relocation of the seminary from Greenville, S.C., to Louisville. She never married.

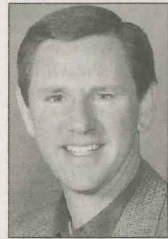
Eliza served in many roles with Woman's Missionary Union at the state and national levels. She was widely known to have a heart that burned for the cause of worldwide missions but also understood the need for her neighbors to hear the gospel. Thus, Kentucky Baptists are proud to have our state missions offering named in her honor.

Today, the Eliza Broadus Offering provides vital support for church planting, evangelism, and mission work in Kentucky. The lives of unborn children are being saved by crisis pregnancy centers funded by EBO. Inmates are hearing the gospel, trusting Christ, and being baptized by local churches through ministries funded by EBO. Women in the "adult entertainment industry" are being shown a pathway to freedom and salvation by ministries funded by EBO. Extra support is being provided to local associations, church plants, collegiate ministries, Disaster Relief ministries, and a host of other gospel-centered works in our state.

The Eliza Broadus Offering is an opportunity for Great Commission and Great Commandment giving. Will you join my family and be a part of what God is doing through these ministries by giving through EBO this year?

Paul Chitwood is executive director of the Kentucky Baptist Convention.

Together We are the KBC



Paul Chitwood

IMB business

Continued from page 1

Buddha's not worthy of any of their glory. We're going to South Asia where 950 million Hindus are following more gods than you or I can even fathom—but there's only one God, and His name is Jesus, and He's worthy of all the glory."

Changes to short-term funding

IMB leaders briefed trustees on a pilot funding program to allow for greater numbers of short-term missionaries (who serve two- to three-year terms) while forging deeper partnerships with churches. Under the initiative, based on the model established in 1977 by the Southern Baptist Convention's Mission Service Corps, more than 50 percent of short-term missionaries' financial support will continue to be provided by Southern Baptists through the Cooperative Program and Lottie Moon Christmas Offering. The remainder, set at \$15,000 per person per year, will be raised by missionaries.

Jay Wolf, chair of the trustees' administration committee and pastor of First Baptist Church in Montgomery, Ala., noted, "The objective is simple: We want to put more people on the field. We want to attack lostness, and right now we don't have the financial resources to do that. So we need to be creative and do more with less."

The IMB will provide short-term candidates and their churches the coaching and tools they need to raise this partial support, Wolf added. The pilot project will begin with candidates attending a March expo in 2015.

Iraq/Syria relief

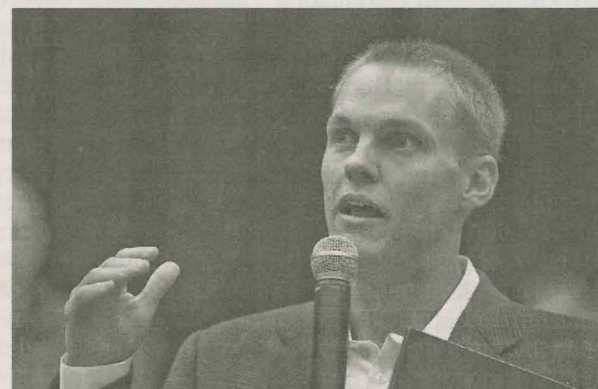
John Brady, IMB vice president of global strategy, told trustees of what he called a single, clear opportunity: the crisis in Syria and Iraq. Displaying



satellite images of the growth of refugee camps in places such as Duhok, a city in Iraqi Kurdistan, Brady highlighted the need for relief for the region's estimated 9 million forcibly displaced people. He added that IMB's primary human needs partner, Baptist Global Response (BGR), is leading Southern Baptists' efforts to help these refugees. But, he said, the relief work is hampered by a lack of support.

"Southern Baptists' hearts have not been moved," Brady lamented. "Only \$300,000 has been given to BGR for relief in Syria and Iraq. Christians, Yazidis and many others have been swept out of their villages and are clinging to life in these camps. And in every hovel, we have a chance to make a difference—not tomorrow, today."

Brady begged trustees to give to relief efforts online and to use their influence to encourage churches and



Top, IMB trustees and staff pray for healing for Jeannie Elliff, the wife of outgoing IMB president Tom Elliff, during Aug. 26-27 board meeting near Richmond, Va. Jeannie is facing a recurrence of cancer that has spread to her liver. Above, David Platt begins his journey from pastor of the Church at Brook Hills to leader of Southern Baptists' international missions agency, one of the largest evangelical missions organizations in the world. (IMB photos by Chris Carter)

other Southern Baptists to get involved.

"There are local brothers and sisters that I personally know on the ground there who have chosen not to leave, and they just want to know that we're going to stand with them," Brady said. "One of my friends told me, 'Ask the Christians of the West, have they forgotten us?' I want to answer, 'No, we have not.'" (IMB)

Coaches share sports advice for parents

By David Garrard

Candace Clifft, co-anchor of WDRB-41's morning newscast here in Louisville, recently featured three University of Louisville coaches talking about how to encourage kids in sports. As fall sports begin, it might be good for parents to hear what these coaches recommend.

Soccer coach Ken Lolla says that reinforcing good plays and good decisions is more helpful than constant correction. Lolla also says parents and coaches should let kids make their own decisions during a game—even if they make mistakes.



"When we shout from the sidelines or bleachers we are in reality making all of the decisions for them," he said. As a result, children are hesitant on the field and look to us for direction.

Baseball coach Dan McDonnell encourages parents to focus on the real point of playing—having fun, learning to work on a team and gaining confidence.

"Remember that it's about them—it is their opportunity to grow physically, spiritually, mentally," he said.

"... Look at the big picture. These are (kids) who are more worried about where we are going to eat!"

Women's basketball coach Jeff Walz says he often sees young athletes under pressure from their parents to participate and succeed. Allow a child to

decide whether they want to play or not ... even if they are good. He also says to start with encouragement after the game, rather than drilling their mistakes.

All three coaches encourage parents to let children try as many sports as they like. They add that if a child is willing to work, it is never too late to improve skills.

Don't make the focus about winning a scholarship or competing at the professional level.

"The important thing is what life lessons are they learning in order to be successful husbands and wives, parents, people in the community or in their profession," Lolla said.

David Garrard is minister to children at St. Matthews Baptist Church in Louisville. Send questions for Family Forum to Western Recorder, Box 43969, Louisville, KY 40253 or e-mail wesrec@kybaptist.org.

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Shine Like Stars * Philippians 2:15

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Letters to the editor:

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

Ten minutes at Ten Mile

Finding Oneida connections and an unexpected blessing

I recently took a trip that took me several places. The first stop was Berea to see an alumnus who is also a former, longtime Oneida Baptist Institute teacher. He and his wife just had their first child, and I am so happy for my friend and his wife. I then made my way to Lawrenceburg to drop Angie and the kids off to see my mother and grandmother, who were visiting from Florida for a few days.

After dropping Angie and the kids off, I headed up Highway 127 to Ten Mile Baptist Church in Gallatin County. I had been asked to come to the Ten Mile Baptist Association's 184th annual meeting. It was great to hear some of the history of that association and church. It was also great to meet many new folks and to also see some longtime Oneida friends.

As any good Baptist meeting should, we started with a great meal, which of course included fried chicken. While enjoying the meal, I met the parents of a 1988 OBI graduate and found out their son had gone on to become mayor of one of the Gallatin County towns.

I later encountered the sister of one of our current staff members. I chatted with a couple who had served six years at Oneida and were now serving at a church in that association. I also met a man who knew one of my cousins.

This meeting fell just before the

start of our school year, and served as great motivation for me. I heard some fine preaching, but was also privileged to share about Oneida. I was given 10 minutes, and although I can't say I stayed within that time limit I came pretty close. I was also presented a WMU check in honor of a wonderful 94-year-old woman who has served in that association for many years.

When the time came to take the offering, there was a motion made, a second, and a hearty show of hands to give the offering to Oneida. What a blessing that evening was!

This is Oneida



Larry Gritton

After chatting with a few folks after the meeting, I hopped into the car around 10 p.m. to head back to Lawrenceburg. After a decent night's sleep, I spent the morning visiting with my mother and grandmother. Around lunchtime we headed for Somerset, where we attended the wedding of the daughter of some great Oneida friends and were back in Oneida around 8 p.m.

I look forward to more trips on behalf of Oneida, and want you to know I am nearly always available to attend an associational meeting or simply visit your church.

Give me a shout any time to let me know the time and place, and I will come and share some of the Oneida story with you.

Larry Gritton Jr. is president of Oneida Baptist Institute, a Christian boarding and day school. Website: oneidaschool.org. Phone: (606) 847-4111

'Tis the season' for annual meetings

President enjoys times of sharing about college with associations

I know fall is just around the corner because it is associational annual meeting time. This is my favorite time of the year. I always enjoy traveling across the state and visiting annual meetings.

My first this year was with the Muhlenberg County Baptist Association. It was good to be able to fellowship with Director of Missions Jerry Eades, who made me feel welcome.

I enjoyed fellowship once again with Todd Grey, who is our West Region consultant for the Kentucky Baptist Convention. He was the KBC representative who spoke to the messengers about our state convention and how Cooperative Program support provides for all the ministries throughout the Kentucky Baptist and Southern Baptist conventions.

I'm always excited when I get to visit annual meetings as a Joint Approach speaker, which was my assignment for this meeting.

The Joint Approach assignments allow me to speak to many members of our Kentucky Baptist churches about how important their Cooperative Program giving is to the KBC.

I always enjoy sharing about all of our agencies and institutions and giving KBC church members information about what their cooperative giving can do to impact kingdom work throughout Kentucky.

It always amazes me when I speak to messengers at annual meetings that someone will approach me who was not aware that their Cooperative Program gifts went to support so many ministries.

It is really exciting to see people become aware of the fact that their Cooperative Program giving goes to support so

many important ministries throughout our convention.

I'm so thankful for the work of all KBC agencies and institutions. It is always a privilege to stand before Kentucky Baptists and share about the work of our agencies and institutions.

Thank you, Kentucky Baptists, for your support of the Cooperative Program. Your Cooperative Program support enables us to do so much more together than we can alone.

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

Clear Creek Chronicle



Donnie Fox



Newly appointed missionaries gather around IMB President David Platt and his wife, Heather, to pray for them as they step into their new role at IMB. (IMB photo by Chris Carter)

Platt's calling

Continued from page 1

with a thunderous standing ovation as he walked on stage to preach during the 9 a.m. service, his first Sunday "back home" since the announcement of his new role at IMB. Visibly touched by the show of support, Platt's voice cracked as he announced that Sept. 14 will be his last Sunday as Brook Hills' senior pastor.

"So, how in the world did we get here?" he asked, framing his sermon to answer the question likely lingering in the minds of the church's 4,500-plus members. Platt said the answer boils down to a question he's been asking the Holy Spirit: What's the best use of my life for the spread of the gospel?

"I hope it's the question you're asking in your life," Platt told the nearly packed sanctuary. He compared his calling to IMB to that of Paul's determination to visit Jerusalem in Acts 20:22—"constrained" (or bound) by the Holy Spirit.

"I want you to have confidence ... that the Spirit has indeed said, 'Set apart for me David for this work to which I have called him,'" Platt said, referencing the Holy Spirit's consecration of Paul and Barnabas in Acts 13.

Laying the groundwork

Even before the Nepal trip, Platt said God had been laying the groundwork for his transition to IMB for more than a year. A series of international trips, many to connect with IMB missionaries, showed Platt the power of Southern Baptist churches working together and gave him a "fresh vision" for mobilizing thousands of new missionaries to go and make disciples.

Platt understood the vision but not the details. He knew he had to be open to whatever God asked—to offer his life as a "blank check," as he often encouraged

Brook Hills members to view their lives in terms of total surrender to Christ.

"I fell on my face and said, 'God I just want to do my duty,'" Platt said. In his journal he wrote, "One thing is clear: something is about to change in my life."

Unlike many short-term mission trips where the intensity of the experience quickly fades after returning home, Platt experienced the opposite; his desire to attack lostness only grew deeper.

He was soon contacted by IMB's trustee search committee and formally began the process of exploring a call to serve as the organization's next president. Platt said his consideration reached a crucial point in July while he was preaching at a meeting in the Dominican Republic for hundreds of IMB missionaries who serve in the Americas.

"I'm as sure of this as I've been anything in my life," he told his wife Heather, comparing it to God-directed certainty he felt when he asked her to marry him. Little more than a month later, IMB trustees elected Platt.

Mixed emotions

"It's a good day for Southern Baptists, it's a good day for the nations who need the gospel, and it's a good day for Brook Hills because we have the privilege of sending David out to this great task," Brook Hills' teaching and training pastor, Jim Shaddix, told the congregation before leading prayer for Platt's transition.

Dennis Blythe, Brook Hills' executive pastor, said the church's reaction has been a mix of sorrow and excitement.

"I know of no one with greater passion and zeal for seeing Christ preached where He has not been named," he said. "While our faith family is saddened that David will no longer be our senior pastor, the overwhelming majority of our faith family see this as an ideal fit for him. Most who know David's heart were not surprised to see God lead in this way." (BP)



David Platt addresses IMB trustees for the first time as president during a board meeting. (IMB photo by Chris Carter)

State Missions Special Edition

By Kristen White

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The 'Power to Serve' comes from the Holy Spirit

Acts 1:8 reveals both a call to serve and the power to serve. Jesus said to his disciples, "But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come on you, and you will be My witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth" (Acts 1:8 HCSB).

The call and the power are at work through Kentucky Baptist missionaries and missions volunteers. This year there are people in eastern Kentucky who heard the name and story of Jesus for the very first time. There are children in western Kentucky who received their first bikes—with the message that Jesus loves them.

Across Kentucky, prisoners and their families heard that Jesus can save and set them free. Hungry people were fed by members of church plants who want to build lives more than buildings. Dozens of self-funded missionaries, hundreds of short-term volunteers, and

thousands of givers are working together, obeying God's commission to go and tell. Through Him, they find their Power to Serve!

The ministries featured in this State Missions Special Edition and many more across Kentucky share Christ with the lost. Your giving through the Eliza Broadus Offering provides needed resources for state missions.

This year's emphasis is on service. We serve as we pray for Kentucky missions. We serve as we give sacrificially. We serve as we personally share the gospel with others. We serve as we go and minister in the Name of Jesus. And in every avenue, the Power to Serve comes from the Holy Spirit.

power to
SERVE

power to
SERVE

State Missions Emphasis
and
Eliza Broadus Offering

"But you will receive
power
when the Holy
Spirit has come on you,
and you will be My
witnesses in Jerusalem,
in all Judea and
Samaria, and to the
ends of the earth."
Acts 1:8 HCSB

Kentucky Goal
\$1,250,000

Kentucky WMU KBC

State missions materials are made possible by gifts from your church through the Eliza Broadus Offering and the Cooperative Program, and are made available by Kentucky Woman's Missionary Union and the Kentucky Baptist Convention.

ELIZA BROADUS OFFERING 2014-15 Allocations

Kentucky Baptist Convention	\$860,000
Missions Mobilization	\$434,000
Evangelism & Church Planting	\$402,000
Church Consulting & Revitalization	\$24,000

Kentucky Baptist Associations & Special Ministries. \$135,000

All Kentucky Baptist Associations will be given a ministry grant of \$500 provided the association meets EBO grant guidelines.

Additional requests for Special Ministries funds may be made through an application process. Kentucky Baptist affiliated ministries may apply, including ministries of associations, MSC missionaries, etc.

The deadline for submitting an EBO allocation request from the 2014-15 offering is December 15, 2014. The allocation request form is posted online: www.kywmu.org/eboapplication.

Kentucky WMU \$255,000

Missions Education, Leader Development, Resource Materials	\$111,840
Missions Events, Camps & Overnights	\$83,100
Missions Promotion & Season of Prayer	\$60,060

**Eliza Broadus Offering
2014 Goal
\$1,250,000**

Experience 1:8 helps Kentucky students learn the meaning of Acts 1:8

All over Kentucky, children, international college students, people living in low-income housing, fair workers, and camp-goers have been influenced by the enthusiasm and clear passion Experience 1:8 team members have for Jesus Christ. Every summer through the ministry of 1:8 teams, salvation and life change results in many lives.

This past summer, 29 students from nine Kentucky colleges and universities served through Experience 1:8. Anticipation and excitement were evident at their commissioning on June 2. When the teams reported on July life transformation was demonstrated in the stories, songs, and media shared by the teams. "I am not the same person I was at the beginning of the summer," said Jonah Pack, now a student at Eastern Kentucky University.

To be selected for Experience 1:8, students apply to serve in the fall semester. They receive training paid for in part by EBO funding through the spring semester and land on the field to serve for eight weeks in the summer.

Each Experience 1:8 team is unique and provides a local missions opportunity and an international experience. Students have partnered with Kentucky WMU to lead summer camps and with local churches for area ministries. WMU staff and church members have the opportunity to work alongside the college students and mutually beneficial, lifelong friendships naturally happen.

The 2014 teams served in Murray, Shelbyville, and at Cedar Crest Camp. Then they headed to Dominican

Republic, Guatemala and South Africa.

"The beauty of Experience 1:8 is that it gives the opportunity for students to *do* one-on-one sharing of the gospel and to *receive* one-on-one mentoring from campus ministers and church leaders," says Brian Combs, Collegiate Evangelism Strategist for the Kentucky Baptist Convention. "We prioritize helping students develop a biblical foundation of missions in an environment appropriate for effective spiritual and personal development. This positions students to learn what it means to be an active Christ-follower and to help more people encounter Jesus."

"A holistic discipleship emphasis," explains Combs, "provides each team with study plans that touch on everything from conflict resolution, how to plan ministry events, how to share your faith, to how to make good choices now that will lead to the best future later. Thank you, Kentucky Baptists, for continuing to support college students. Because of your gifts to EBO, college students are learning that they have power to serve. And given that 67% of our BCM students end up in leadership positions within the local church, your investment in college students is an investment in the local church that changes lives for eternity. That makes EBO a worthy investment."

Combs is also excited about expanding Experience 1:8 through Mission 1:8. "Starting this year, we are challenging former 1:8ers to step up to



Above: 1:8 students delivered BGR Hospice Care Buckets in South Africa in July.

Below: Students served as camp staff at Mission Adventure Camp.



Mission 1:8 (M18). Each Kentucky BCM will have at least one or two M18 collegiate mobilizers that will assist in recruiting, developing and leading mission teams in Kentucky, the U.S., and around the world. M18 will increase the number of college students mobilized by more than six times to close to 200!"

College campuses today are some of the darkest places in the world. The party culture and rejection of God taught in many classrooms brings doubt and destruction to huge numbers of young people. BCM reaches into this darkness and literally rescues lives, then teaches students how to give their lives away in Christ's name through missions.

power to SERVE

"But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come on you, and you will be My witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth"
(Acts 1:8 HCSB)

Affinity Evangelism is a strategy churches can use to reach the lost

Can a fresh-baked cookie change a life? Can a wild game dinner recharge a church? What do these have in common? They are tools used by churches to reach people for Christ through Affinity Evangelism. "Through Kentucky Baptists' evangelism strategy, Affinity Evangelism, we are seeing lives, churches, and communities utterly transformed," says Chuck McAlister, Team Leader for Evangelism, Church Planting, and Collegiate Ministries for the Kentucky Baptist Convention.

When Randy Boyd of Grapevine Baptist Church in Madisonville contacted Chuck about hosting a wild game dinner in March 2013, he had no idea what God was about to do. The church worked hard to gather door prizes, prepare food, and invite the community. Chuck had the men who came to the dinner on the edge of their seats with stories of hunting expeditions. Then it was time for an explanation of the One who created the great outdoors, the God who loved these men enough to send His Son for them. During the response 128 men gave their hearts to Christ.

Late last year, Chuck stopped in Madisonville to meet with Grapevine about this year's wild game dinner. The room was filled with men ready to work toward giving more people the opportunity to hear about Jesus Christ. "The unique thing about this planning meeting," Chuck explains, "was that I was greeted by men who became Christians at the first wild game dinner. These men had plugged into the church. They didn't just mark a card. Their lives were changed."

Affinity Evangelism is a nonthreatening strategy churches can use to reach their communities for Christ. Using the surveys and advice given in the Affinity Evangelism Workbook, churches can assess the interests of families and individuals in their community, then select an evangelistic approach that will appeal to people who may never feel comfortable attending a traditional church service or revival. Since its duction at RISK in 2013, this workbook has been used in hundreds of churches in Kentucky, other states, and even other nations. It is provided free to

Top: Wild game dinners have proven to be an effective tool for sharing the gospel with men.

Bottom: "Power Lunches" at the KBC reach out to business leaders.



churches online or in print thanks to EBO funding.

"By meeting people where they are and showing you care about their needs, they will be more receptive to hearing the message you share about Christ - and they may come plant their lives in your church," says Andy McDonald, Affinity Evangelism Strategist for the KBC. "Some churches have found that kids in their community want to learn archery skills. Some churches have hosted other kinds of sports leagues, motorcycle rides, wild game dinners, or women's events. There is no limit to the type of emphasis a church could have, but the uniting factor is a clear Gospel presentation."

Employees at the KBC have started their own Affinity Evangel-

ism outreach this year. With help from Kentucky WMU, KBC employees took cookies to more than 200 business people in Louisville and invited them to leadership lunches held once a month. As KBC employees reach out to business people through this affinity, friendships will be built and lives will change.

What do families in your community care about? Find out—and start there to reach them with the Good News that Jesus loves them. For help determining your Affinity Evangelism strategy, contact Andy McDonald at the KBC.

Haven of Rest provides ministry to the families of inmates and more!

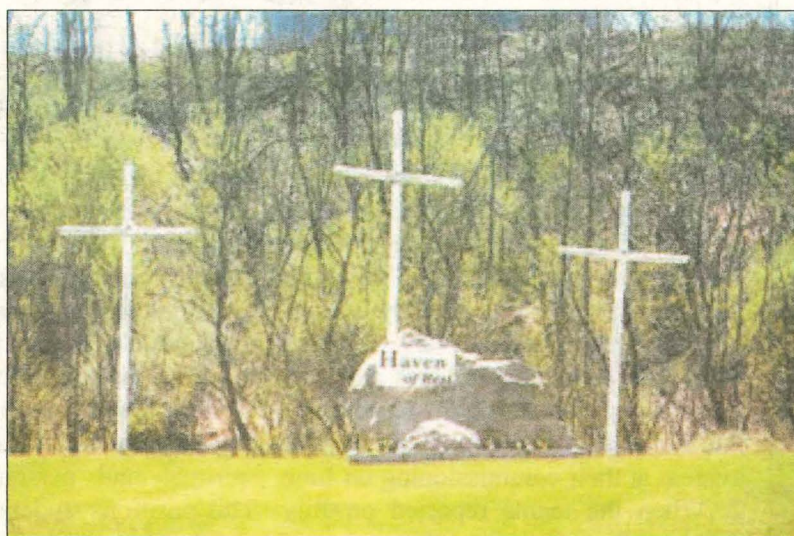
When Jenny's (name changed) husband was arrested and sent the Big Sandy Federal Penitentiary, she felt scared and helpless. Without her husband's income, she lost her home and had to sell most of her belongings to make ends meet. On the weekends, she wanted to go for visitation at the prison, but how could she afford to travel and pay for lodging?

Through the work of Haven of Rest Family Ministries in Inez (east of Paintsville), supported by EBO and churches around Kentucky, Jenny found hope and met Jesus. Now she looks forward to what she calls her "weekend retreats." Although the prison is still a stressful place, she knows she is loved at Haven of Rest.

For 10 years, Haven of Rest has provided free food and lodging for families who are visiting inmates at Big Sandy. **Harold and Joyce Scroggs** accepted the directorship two years ago and share God's love through meeting physical needs, providing a safe place of encouragement, and holding a chapel service on Saturday evenings.



The Haven of Rest is also used during the week to house teams providing VBS, Backyard Bible Clubs, block parties, nursing home, home repair, and Christmas on the Mountain ministries. Through various types of outreach, people's needs are met and lives are literally changed for an



The Haven of Rest sign and crosses welcome guests to the facility which includes a building for meetings, dining and worship; and two buildings with guest rooms.



eternity. Those who have never heard the name of Jesus or a clear explanation of the Gospel come face-to-face with truth.

Laundrying linens, shopping for food, making meals, assigning rooms, loving people in desperate circumstances—the adventures at Haven of Rest never end. "There's never a dull moment!" says Joyce. When she and Harold could be spending their retirement years focusing on their own happiness, they are committed to focus on others. How do they find their energy to serve?

"We remember where our source of power comes from. During a lengthy battle with health issues, we wondered if our ministry was coming to an end, but God had other plans. Even during that difficult period of our lives, God was preparing us for ministry at Haven

of Rest. We find power to serve as long as God is leading the way," Joyce explains.

Jenny is one of many who travel to Inez to visit family members in prison. Some come from as far as California. Some drive all night after getting off work on Friday to have time with their loved one on Saturday. Haven of Rest is a crucial step in the journey of these families toward restoration and wholeness, but it takes money and people to maintain the buildings, purchase food, and reach out into the community in other ways.

"Pray for the fruits of our labor," Joyce says. "We are doing this to intervene in families who have no hope outside of Christ. He gives us power to serve and He has power to transform lives."

Grants from the Eliza Broadus Offering have assisted Haven of Rest with the purchase of food and supplies.

Haven of Rest will celebrate 10 years of ministry on Saturday, October 18. Friends of Haven of Rest are invited to visit the facility and join in a day of celebration. Eileen Mullins, founder, will be on hand to share the inspiring story of how the ministry began after tragedy in her own life.

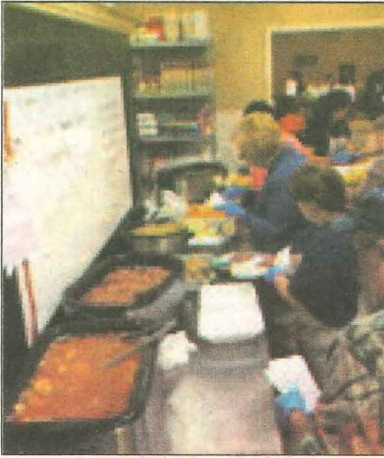
June Rice, a member of the original board for Haven of Rest, will also be on hand along with the journal she kept during the beginning years. Other original board members will share how God has answered prayers to create a place of solace for the families of inmates.

Haven of Rest
Family Ministries, Inc.

This insert made possible by the gifts of your church through the **Cooperative Program** and the **Eliza Broadus Offering**. It was adapted from the Master Article included on the 2014 *Power to Serve DVD* (pdf file).

The Writer: Kristen White is a freelance writer from Shelbyville, Kentucky. She writes for Missions Leader and other WMU publications as well as for various KBC projects.

Please note: The 2014 *Power to Serve DVD* complements this article. A copy of the DVD has been sent to each pastor and WMU director. All materials are also posted on line: kywmu.org/ebo.



The Lord's Café serves more than meals at Crossroads Community Baptist Church

The Lord's Café is just one of the many social ministries of Crossroads Community Baptist Church, a church plant started in 2010. They provide baby care items for a local pregnancy center, hygiene items, cleaning supplies, and adult care items for three adult care organizations. They also have clothing, tutoring, day camps, recovery programs, and a laundry ministry. In addition, Crossroads matches mission teams with construction/home repair projects. God called Grant to plant this care-focused church in 2010, and he has seen the best and worst that ministry can bring.

It is a beautiful afternoon in Stearns. In the café, you can hear the tinkling of water glasses see people laughing and eating a full meal, including fresh yeast rolls, just like they would in any other restaurant across the United States. Except this one is free. Run solely by volunteers, who greet customers, pray with them, and cook food that is donated, The Lord's Café exists to meet the physical and spiritual hunger of people in Eastern Kentucky.

Henry T. serves as one of The Lord's Café hosts. A couple of years ago, Henry's house was extensively damaged by fire. He began eating lunch at The Lord's Café because of his limited resources. He got acquainted with Grant and Gina Hasty, who oversee The Lord's Café, and soon told them about his need. Through this friendship, Henry has met Christ, made connections to get the help he needed for his home, and has experienced the joy of service.

Sometimes when we close the door to The Lord's Café on Friday, we are completely out of food. We have no idea where Monday's meal will come from, but it comes. We have never had to close because of a lack of food. I call it a modern day loaves and fishes. God does miraculous things when we lean forward and trust Him. Mission teams flood in to meet needs and change lives in the summer. But there are days of great discouragement, too. We need more churches that understand our calling to encourage and help us on a regular basis," Grant says.

Crossroads Community reaches out to what Grant calls "de-churched" people. These are people who once attended church, but

cause of life issues, the way they dressed, or other reasons. Some people served by The Lord's Café and other Crossroads ministries have overwhelming needs and are deeply troubled. Grant admits it is hard to know how to respond. The goal, however, is showing people the hope of Christ in practical ways. "We can't fix every problem, but I believe when people see us meeting their physical needs, then addressing their spiritual needs with Scripture, people experience what life in Christ looks like and fall in love with Him," Grant says.

The challenge to reach people in Stearns is great. EBO makes a

difference by assisting with church planting, but with hundreds of people served through Crossroads' ministries each week, resources, supplies, and mission teams are always welcome.

Chuck McAlister, KBC Evangelism and Church Planting Team leader reports, "This year we have seen the birth of several new churches, including new ethnic works. Many people are experiencing the transforming power of Jesus Christ through these church plants. We continue to thank God for the partnership we share with WMU and faithful support through the Eliza Broadus Offering."



The Lord's Café began when Crossroads Church acquired an old restaurant in February 2011 and prayed that God would use them to reach the community. The first meal was served on June 6.



We can't fix every problem, but I believe when people see us meeting their physical needs, then addressing their spiritual needs with Scripture, people experience what life in Christ looks like and fall in love with Him.
- Grant Hasty

Prayer of Crossroads Community Baptist Church when they began in Sept., 2010: Open our eyes, show us the needs around us and bless us to help others for your glory. Make us a different church.

IICE is intentional, innovative, creative evangelism

Wood chips fly in Van Yandell's shop. He is making another game to be used by churches and ministries across Kentucky in block parties and other evangelistic outreach. While Van's hands craft wood, his heart for the lost crafts broken lives into ones that know about the Redeemer and Rebuilder.

For 12 years, Van Yandell of Fredonia has served as an evangelist, preaching revivals and evangelistic messages at events. His wife Marjorie presents creative monologues about women in the Bible. As they were preparing to retire from teaching careers, they asked God how He wanted to use them. God kept saying, "Go. Reach the lost."

Through their self-supported ministry, Intentional Innovative Community Evangelism (IICE), Van and Marjorie have gotten their hands in all kinds of projects and lives. They lead a worship service

and support ministry to homeless people at River City Mission in Paducah, providing the residents with inspiring teaching and a clear explanation of the plan of salvation, as well as Bibles, reading glasses, gift bags of hygiene items, and crucial encouragement. One man who came to Christ through this ministry told Van that when he asked God to save him, "I felt a rush go through me like nothing I ever felt. This is real, man."

Homeless ministry is just one small aspect of their work, however. Their work reaches people in disaster situations, prisons, convalescent centers, in other countries, and at festivals nearby. In 2013, at "Kid's Fest" in Muhlenburg County, where Van preached and provided fair games, 108 people gave their lives to Christ. Local pastors and the Muhlenburg Association Director of Missions followed up with those who made decisions, and many were baptized and are now connected to churches.

A new ministry, "West Kentucky Kingdom Riders," is impacting lives, too. As participation in each ride grows, Christian motorcyclists are able to answer the curiosity of onlookers and fellow bikers about their purpose. "Questions are like an invitation to tell people about Jesus," Van says.



Left: Hand crafted games created by Van Yandell. **Right:** Games draw children at Muhlenburg County Kid's Fest.

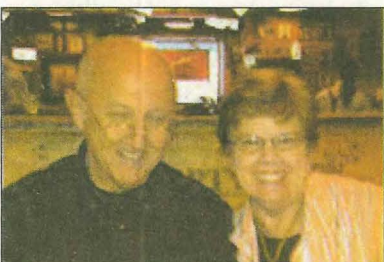
One of Van's loves is training people to share their faith, and he believes that common interests are a great starting point to share the Gospel. "Quit putting off living out your calling!" Van encourages, "The mission field is not getting any smaller. We can hold onto our insecurity and fear of getting involved and ignore the spiritual needs around us, or we can get out of our comfort zone and let God use us as vessels to literally hold someone's hand and lead them to Jesus. We can be the one who tells someone about Jesus. We can give and we can go."

Van and Marjorie also oversee the care of a mission house in Fredonia, available for missionaries on

furlough or in need of rest.

Through EBO funding, IICE distributes more than \$1,000 worth of Bibles and New Testaments yearly to adults and children. "We cannot tell you how encouraging it is to receive that grant each year," Marjorie says. "Local friends and supporters of the ministry are essential in self-supported ministry, but knowing that financial support will come from Kentucky Baptists is such a relief. Please keep giving!"

Van and Marjorie demonstrate that when God calls—at whatever age and to whatever task—He will grant the power to serve.



Van and Marjorie Yandell

power to
SERVE

The 2014 Power to Serve DVD includes short videos designed to be shown in worship services throughout September.

Materials are also available online kywmu.org/ebo

Poverty a common denominator in many MRM ministries

Do your children's old bicycles stay propped in the corner of your garage collecting dust? Did you know old bikes can change lives? Frank Riddick never had a bike as a child. Now, as a retired farmer, Frank's mission is to take bicycles that he has restored - 400 to 600 bikes a year - into low-income areas along the Mississippi River, both rural and inner city, to give kids the gift he never had and a chance to hear about a Heavenly Father who will never leave them.

Frank is just one of dozens of men and women who work to spread the gospel and alleviate poverty in western Kentucky. Many of these ministries are run by self-funded volunteers.

Providing coordination for this regional network are **George and Cathy Chinn**, directors of Mississippi River Ministry (MRM), a ministry that impacts eight states, including Kentucky. "I see one of my biggest jobs as that of encourager. Many of those ministering to people in poverty live humbly themselves. Some don't take a vacation for years. I want them to know they are not alone, that people want to partner with them, that they make a difference for the Lord every day. I love telling their stories and winning support for these unsung heroes," says George.

At missions conferences, WMU events, churches, associations, and everywhere they can, George and Cathy tell the stories of MRM. They tell of those who are leading restoration ministries for homeless and jobless persons, distributing food and clothes, teaching GED or ESL

classes, leading VBS or block parties for children, and helping men and women in the state penitentiaries know that freedom is found in Jesus Christ. The Chinn's help connect churches and individuals who want to help by providing short-term volunteers, or supplies to the ministry that best suits their goals.

Poverty is a common denominator in many MRM ministries. Various church plants, with training, encouragement, and resources provided in part through MRM, are giving away school supplies, backpacks with nonperishable food, and other practical helps.

Short-term teams coordinated through MRM often provide Vacation Bible School. George remembers on one trip, an 18-month-old walked by herself to the center where they were meeting. "The volunteers on this trip lived in places where they had seen need, but never this level of hopelessness."



George & Cathy Chinn
MRM Coordinators

At a newly formed Christian Women Job Corps (CWJC), volunteers celebrated their first graduating class with a 100% graduation rate. CWJC is a job-training, literacy, and life coaching program. From this class, one woman enrolled in college and all heard that Jesus can change their lives even more than a degree.

Why reach people in poverty with ministries that require a steady stream of volunteers and funds? "Poverty is a different culture," George explains. "It takes a long time to build trust, to prove that you don't want anything in return. It also takes a long time to walk alongside people who need job training or literacy training. But this is a principle that Jesus used over and over—He met people where they were, gave them healing, food, and friendship. That's how people came to know Him when He walked on earth. It's still a great way to help people understand His love."

NAMB Loveloud Backpacks will reach children in Ky. through ARM & MRM

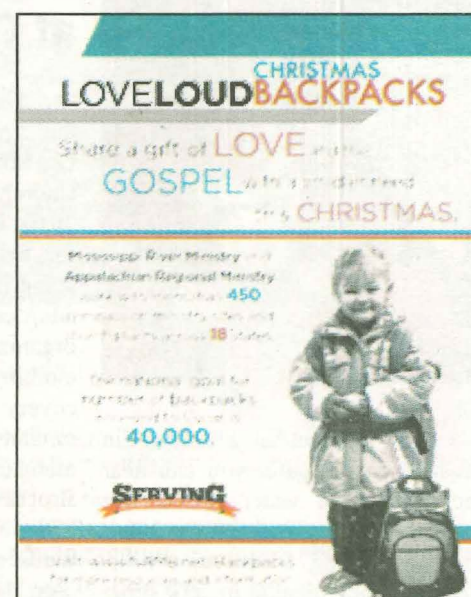
This year, the North American Mission Board (NAMB) is sponsoring a national project to provide Christmas Backpacks for impoverished children and youth in the Appalachian Regional Ministry and Mississippi River Ministry (MRM) regions of the United States. ARM and MRM work with more than 450 compassion ministry sites and church across 18 states, including Kentucky. With the help of Kentucky Baptists and other state conventions, NAMB hopes to distribute more than 40,000 backpacks.

Bill Barker, ARM director, explains the need for this project with the story of a little boy at a Christmas for Children event in eastern Kentucky. The boy received a backpack full of nonperishable food, hygiene items, school supplies, clothes, a toy, and a pamphlet with a gospel presentation using the Christmas story. He smiled and said, "I don't know who Jesus is, but I sure like Him." The backpack became the gateway to tell about Jesus.

At another Christmas for Children backpack distribution, as a Baptist volunteer read the Christmas story and told about the love God showed to us through Jesus, one mother stopped the presenter and asked sincerely, "You are talking about Jesus. I don't know much about Him. Can you explain who He is?"

In 2013, Appalachian Regional Ministries (ARM) and partnering churches, state conventions, ministry centers, missionaries, church planters, and volunteer teams gave 23,808 backpacks to needy children in dozens of counties in Kentucky and several other states. Again and again, recipients of backpacks asked to know more about Jesus. "There is a spiritual hunger out there that we Baptists haven't even touched," says Bill. "People who have never heard who Jesus is want to know. They want to be saved." Hundreds of salvation decisions were made as a direct result of backpack distributions.

At many Christmas for Children events, families received more than backpacks. At some sites, people also received coats, shoes, and socks. At other sites,



families received boxes of food or blankets. In 2013 backpacks were delivered to sites using NAMB Disaster Relief semis. One delivery was trickier than expected. As the truck crawled up the steep, narrow mountain road to the Freeda Harris Baptist Center in Elkhorn City, Ky., the entire community looked on and held its breath. "Nothing has impacted this community more than seeing that 18-wheeler come up the mountain," says Greg Whitetree, director of the center.

Complete information about the project and instructions for participation are found on the NAMB website: www.namb.net/backpacks. The web site includes links to posters, bulletin inserts, gift suggestions and other information.

This year, churches are being asked to deliver or ship backpacks to their assigned/selected ministry sites. Churches who wish to participate are asked to complete a Partnership Agreement found on the web site. The collecting and delivering date will need to be coordinated with the ministry site. All backpacks need to be collected by and delivered to the site no later than December 10, 2014. If you have questions, email bbarker@namb.net or call 606-316-4298.



Teresa Parrett connects needs and volunteers

From dolls to construction projects, from sending supplies to showing up and serving on the ground, from the Mississippi River basin in the west to the mountains in the east, more than 100 self-funded missionaries and 30,000 short-term volunteers are working to impact lostness in Kentucky in 2014.

How do churches find out about projects? Who helps partnerships get started, projects get organized and promoted, and educates ministries how to do evangelism and personal follow-up? For 15 years, Teresa Parrett has worked tirelessly to connect churches and individuals to ministry opportunities that fit their interests, budgets, and timeline. She receives requests daily from pastors and ministry directors on the field, promotes the needs, and finds people to help. Teresa also helps self-funded missionaries get the help, supplies, and training they need.

"Some days I discover a need and have no idea how to meet that need, then later that day a team calls that is a perfect match or a gift comes in that far outreaches what I imagine," says Teresa. "God wants to call the unreached in Kentucky to Himself. He is using those with a heart to go and give to bring salvation to people who don't even know who Jesus is. Missions doesn't happen only across the world. It is happening right here in our communities every day in the most creative ways."

Another important part of Teresa's work is to encourage prayer support for Kentucky missionaries. Through interSEED, a monthly prayer calendar listing Kentucky missionaries on their birthdays, Teresa involves Kentucky Baptists in praying. This prayer calendar is posted monthly on the KBC web site.



Teresa Parrett is a connection point for countless ministries and resources. Gifts to the Eliza Broadus Offering help to make her position possible.



A promotional booklet/DVD has been sent to the WMU director and pastor in every KBC church. The DVD includes videos as well as teaching plans for all ages and suggestions for churchwide promotion of the Season of Prayer for State Missions and the Eliza Broadus Offering.

Orders for posters, prayer guides and offering envelopes were filled according to the standing order of each church. Request additional copies by calling Kentucky WMU at 502-489-3534 or toll free: 866-489-3534; or email: kywmu@kybaptist.org. All materials are posted online: www.org/ebo. These materials are provided by the gifts of your church to the Eliza Broadus Offering and the Cooperative Program.

Church contributions to the Eliza Broadus Offering should be mailed to: Eliza Broadus Offering for State Missions, Kentucky Baptist Convention, PO Box 43433, Louisville, KY 40253. Checks should be payable to the Kentucky Baptist Convention and designated "EBO."

Church treasurers may also include EBO contributions with other contributions through the Kentucky Baptist Convention using the KBC church contribution form and designating the amount for the Eliza Broadus Offering.

Individuals or groups may contribute directly to the Eliza Broadus Offering. Please make checks payable to the Kentucky Baptist Convention and notate "EBO" on the check memo line. Mail these checks to: Eliza Broadus Offering, Kentucky WMU, PO Box 436569, Louisville, KY 40253-6569. Please enclosed name and address for an acknowledgement of your gift.

Contributions for the 2014-15 Eliza Broadus Offering will be received from September 1, 2014 through August 31, 2015.



September

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

MOUNTAINS TO THE MISSISSIPPI

COMPILED BY STAFF

CADIZ—Rock Front Baptist Church will hold revival services Sept. 12-13 with **Tony Evans** and will celebrate homecoming on Sept. 14.

SHEPHERDSVILLE—"Shepherdsfest" Family Fun Festival will be held Saturday, Sept. 13, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. at the Bullitt County Fairgrounds. The free event is organized by several churches in the area.

FRANKFORT—Pleasant Ridge Baptist Church will celebrate its homecoming Sept. 14 at 11 a.m. **Marshall Phillips**, former pastor, foreign missionary and director of Cedar-more Camp will deliver the message. Dinner to follow.

LOUISVILLE—Cloverleaf Baptist Church will host the Blackwood Brothers Quartet on Sept. 14 at 7 p.m. For information, call 502-367-0218. **Geoffrey Lacefield** is pastor.

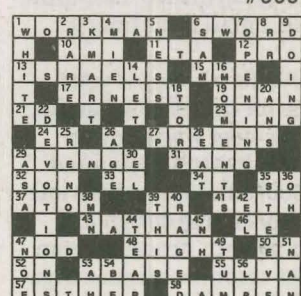
INDEPENDENCE—Beechgrove Baptist Church will hold its 7th Annual Feed the Need Ride and Songfest on Sept. 14. Ride leaves at 1:30 p.m. from Beechgrove and returns around 5 p.m. For more information, call 859-466-3758. **Dan Hillard** is pastor.

ROCKCASTLE COUNTY—Rockcastle Association of Kentucky Baptists is sponsoring a "Revival Meeting" Sept. 7-27—3 weeks! 3 locations! 21 churches! 21 Days! For more information, call 606-256-4571.

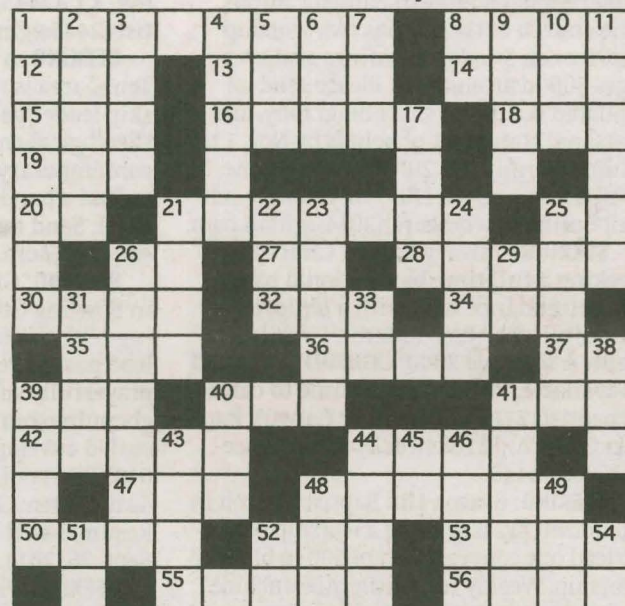
Bible Crosswords

Across

- 1 "Divided the light from the _____" (Genesis 1:4)
- 8 "He causeth his wind to _____" (Psalms 147:18)
- 12 Indiana State University, abbr.
- 13 Angers
- 14 "Sat upon _____ of them" (Acts 2:3)
- 15 Village, abbr.
- 16 "The earth brought forth _____" (Genesis 1:12)
- 18 Nazareth College and Academy, abbr.
- 19 Chemical suffix
- 20 Eastern seaboard state
- 21 "Being understood by the things that are made, even his _____ power" (Romans 1:20)
- 25 Iron, chemical symbol
- 26 9th through 12th grades, abbr.
- 27 "Let my people _____" (Exodus 5:1)
- 28 "Voice _____ like the sea" (Jeremiah 6:23 nas)
- 30 "And darkness was upon the face of the _____" (Genesis 1:2)
- 32 "In the beginning _____" (Genesis 1:1)
- 34 Son of Peleg (Genesis 11:18)
- 35 "God called the light _____" (Genesis 1:5)
- 36 "Yielding _____ after his kind" (Genesis 1:12)
- 37 "_____ I have done this" (Psalms 7:3)
- 39 Fifty-four, Romans number
- 40 "Thou mayest freely _____" (Genesis 2:16)
- 41 "She took some and _____ it" (Genesis 3:6 NIV)
- 42 Articles
- 44 "_____ that may fly above the earth" (Genesis 1:20)
- 47 "Thou shalt _____ eat of it" (Genesis 2:17)
- 48 "Let there be _____ in the _____" (Genesis 1:4)



By Rebecca Souder



#010

- firmament" (Genesis 1:14)
- 50 "Planted a garden in the _____" (Genesis 2:8NIV)
- 52 Fellow of Entomology Society, abbr.
- 53 American Association of University Professors, abbr.
- 55 "The _____ was without form" (Genesis 1:2)
- 56 "And the _____ yielding fruit" (Genesis 1:12)
- Down**
- 1 "God _____ the light from the darkness" (Genesis 1:4)
- 2 "I will now turn _____, and see" (Exodus 3:3)
- 3 "The greater light to _____ the day" (Genesis 1:16)
- 4 "And the darkness he called _____" (Genesis 1:5)
- 5 "A people that do _____ in their heart" (Psalms 95:10)
- 6 "Have dominion over the fish of the _____" (Genesis 1:26)
- 7 Selective Service System, abbr.
- 8 "Let there _____ light" (Genesis 1:3)
- 9 "Let the dry _____ appear" (Genesis 1:9)
- 10 Ozark Christian College, abbr.
- 11 "God created great _____" (Genesis 1:21)
- 17 "I saw a _____ fall from heaven" (Revelation 9:1)
- 21 Catch sight of
- 22 "Any taste in the white of an _____" (Job 6:6)
- 23 Rest, as a bird
- 24 "And the _____ God planted" (Genesis 2:8)
- 25 "And the _____ of righteousness is sown in peace" (James 3:18)
- 26 "Thus the _____ and the earth were finished" (Genesis 2:1)
- 29 Of age, Latin abbr.
- 31 Revise
- 33 Dover's state, abbr.
- 38 "The God which _____ me all my life" (Genesis 48:15)
- 39 "The moving creature that hath _____" (Genesis 1:20)
- 40 Suffix meaning to the utmost degree
- 41 "Thou shalt make an _____" (Exodus 30:1)
- 43 "Why beholdest thou the _____" (Matthew 7:3)
- 44 "_____ which we did eat in Egypt" (Numbers 11:5)
- 45 King of Bashan (Numbers 21:33)
- 46 "Said unto the woman, _____ is this?" (Genesis 3:13)
- 48 "_____ there be light" (Genesis 1:3)
- 49 "If any man will _____ thee" (Matthew 5:40)
- 51 Preposition
- 52 Romance language, abbr.
- 54 Sweaty class

Unexpected events and planned occasions

Emotions can drain us, but God's word, prayer restore vitality

The month of August was filled with many unexpected events as well as planned occasions that took lengthy preparation.

This year August marked the marriage of our oldest son and his subsequent moving to Alpharetta, Ga., to serve with the North American Mission Board. August also marked another key life event—our oldest daughter moved away from home to continue her college education.

Along with these planned occasions, we also experienced some unexpected health related issues with our family. Needless to say, we are greatly relieved to begin September.

Times that emotions are high have a tendency to drain us and lovingly the Lord uses these circumstances to draw us to Himself. During some of the "waiting" times at the hospital, reading and praying certainly seems to be one of the only things you can do. It seems strange to even write that statement: "the only thing you can do?" As believers, prayer and reading His Word is the source of all we need. It is through the

Bible that God reveals Himself to us, and through prayer He aligns us to His purposes.

I am thankful to say August, while difficult, was a highlight of our lives. I think we all felt that God brought us near to Him, and helped us to see His purposes even in painful situations from a human perspective.

Our thankfulness for how God has directed and launched our two oldest is beyond what words can describe.

As we reflect on the past years leading up to this point, the impact that Crossings has had upon our family is indescribable. Our son met his wife through this ministry, and our daughter came to Christ during camp about 11 years ago.

We are indebted to this ministry in numerous ways and sometimes it takes some forced slowdown in life to reflect back and count our blessings.

Today if you have had your plans altered, stop read His Word and pray—He will surely open your eyes to His grace and peace.

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

Crossings Ministries



David Melber

What's happening?

Send your church news and association events to:
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karen.martin@westernrecorder.org

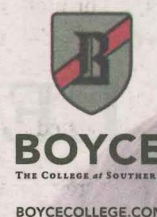
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Called to ministry? Join us for Boyce Preview Day on October 31 to see how Boyce College can help you build a firm theological foundation and equip you with tools for the workplace. We not only carry degrees to equip students for vocational ministry but are excited to offer bachelor's degrees in business administration and teacher education as well.

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Friday, October 31
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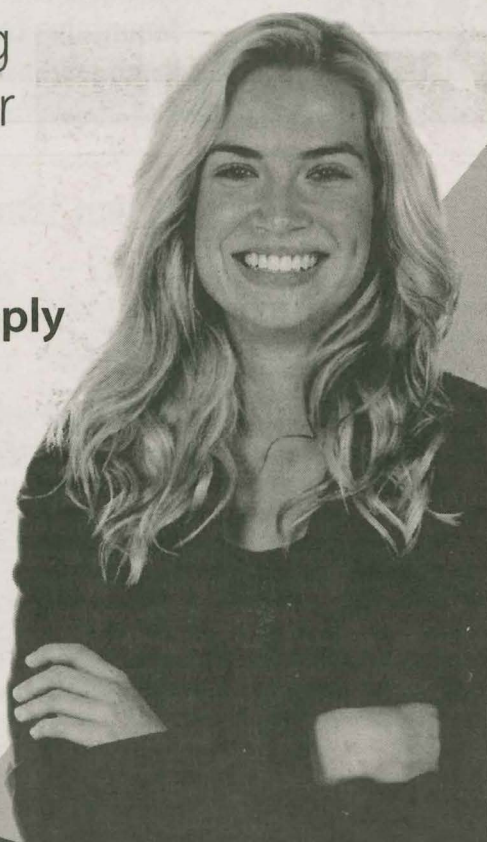
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SEEKING: McDowell First Baptist Church, McDowell, Ky., is seeking resumé for a full-time position of pastor. Please send resumé with references, CD/DVD or Internet link for sermons to: McDowell First Baptist Church, P.O. Box 241, McDowell, KY 41646.

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: 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: 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 oversight 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 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: 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: 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

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

SEEKING: Northside Baptist Church in Princeton, Ky., is searching for a dynamic pastor. All interested persons send resumé no later than Oct. 26, 2014, to: Northside Baptist Church, c/o Pastor Search Committee, P.O. Box 463, Princeton, KY 42445, or email to northsidebaptist42445@gmail.com

SEEKING: A large church in Knoxville, Tenn.-area is taking resumé for a worship leader/pastor. The candidate must be theological conservative, familiar with contemporary Christian music, and able to lead a band and praise team with a choir. Send resumé to looking4worship@aol.com.

SEEKING: Greenwood Baptist Church in Bowling Green, Ky., is prayerfully seeking resumé for the position of full-time lead pastor. Potential candidates should prayerfully submit their resumé to gbcpulpitcommittee@gmail.com or in a sealed envelope to the church office at 5165 Scottsville Rd., Bowling Green, KY 42104, Attn: GBC Pulpit Committee. Resumé will be accepted until Friday, Sept. 26, 2014.

SEEKING: Pleasant Grove Baptist Church in Shepherdsville is prayerfully seeking a part-time young adult minister. Applicants would be motivated in working with and have fervent calling with this age group, have excellent communication skills, and be good team player. For more information, or to send resumé, email dawn@pgbc.net.

SEEKING: Northside Baptist Church is seeking interim worship pastor. Northside is located in Elizabethtown, Ky., with a combined attendance in two morning worship services of 250-300. Interim would assist the senior pastor in planning worship. Duties include leading choir and praise team, leading the congregation in worship, and working with audiovisual & media team. Interim must be a Christian. A degree in music education or performance is preferred. Submit resumé with salary expectations (salary negotiable dependent upon qualifications): Northside Baptist Church, Attn.: Jane Hunt, 1800 Pear Orchard Rd., Elizabethtown, KY 42701.

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Human trafficking targeted by WMU's WorldCrafts ministry

Birmingham, Ala.—The Woman's Missionary Union's WorldCrafts ministry has launched the Support Freedom campaign to help deliver women from human trafficking and sexual exploitation, and has partnered with seven new people groups to expand its craft items for sale.

Each year, by force, fraud, or coercion, millions of people find themselves trapped in bonded labor and sexual exploitation. WorldCrafts artisan groups are working to end these evils by providing a sustainable income to people in poverty.

When earning a living wage, parents are less likely to be seduced by a sex trafficker's promises, and young women hoping for a better life are less likely to fall prey to criminals seeking to use and abuse the most vulnerable, said WorldCrafts director Andrea Mullins.

"While it can seem difficult to find an entry point in the fight against human trafficking, it is important that we keep working in every manner possible," Mullins said. "WorldCrafts provides quality products created by people around the world attempting to escape poverty."

"Through our Support Freedom initiative, we are specifically working to



Artists in Myanmar were already making clay nativity sets, but they had not heard the story of Jesus until the Inle Clay artisan group was organized to help artisans there learn the Truth behind the figurines. The crafts are now available at the Women's Missionary Union's WorldCrafts ministry to help women trapped in sex trafficking.

aid women who have been rescued from trafficking and the organizations that work to rescue them," she said. "Purchasing gifts and goods from WorldCrafts is another great inroad to combating this exploitation of millions of women and children."

WorldCrafts has partnered with seven new impoverished artisan groups to offer more than 80 new products this year, included among more than 200 products featured in the fall/winter catalog released Aug. 1, said Emily Swader,

WorldCrafts representative.

"Adding new WorldCrafts products is so exciting when you know each one represents lives changed by the opportunity to earn an income with dignity and to hear the offer of everlasting life," Swader said.

New artisan groups include the Anadou in Turkey, which provides opportunities for impoverished women to learn skills in handmade cultural crafts; Inle Clay in Myanmar, teaching artisans to make clay nativities to earn

money for health care and other needs, and Kenya Vision, employing Maasai women who make traditional crafts from seed beads.

Maasai women are in arranged marriages performed when they were between ages 10 and 14, and have three to five children each. Their wages are used to cover school fees, food and medical care.

Other new artisan groups are Light of Hope Learning Center in Bangladesh, a day shelter educating girls and training them in life skills, health care and morality based on their relationship to God; Wandee in Thailand, ministering to women who have escaped the sex industry; White Rainbow Project in India, ministering to women shunned and exploited because they are widows; and Tabitha Ministries in Guatemala.

WMU suggests several avenues of involvement through the Support Freedom campaign.

Among them, visiting the website WorldCrafts.org/SupportFreedom.asp for stories on artisan groups tackling spiritual, emotional and physical problems at a grassroots level.

WorldCrafts catalogs are available at 1-800-968-7301 and downloadable at WorldCrafts.org. (WMU)

Volunteers from 13 states serve through WMU's Familyfest in Eastern Kentucky

By Julie Walters

Birmingham, Ala.—More than 220 missions volunteers from children to senior adults gathered to serve in eastern Kentucky during WMU's Familyfest.

Participants represented churches, groups, and families from Alabama, Arkansas, Colorado, Florida, Georgia, Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, Mississippi, Ohio, South Carolina, Tennessee and Texas.

"Familyfest is a wonderful opportunity for individuals, churches, and associations to be directly involved in hands-on ministry opportunities that will impact communities for Christ," explained Todd Rader, pastor of Ephesus Baptist Church in Winchester. Rader is chairman for the missions development committee of Boone's Creek Baptist Association.

"As families serve together during Familyfest, the experience away from home and from other distractions allows for special bonding time," shared Joy Bolton, executive director for Kentucky WMU. "Both parents and children see one another in a new light as they serve side-by-side."

In eastern Kentucky, volunteers were able to relate to those they met through block parties, door-to-door evangelism, or backyard Bible clubs.

"I was blessed to watch so many of our children loving on the Kentucky community at Choo Choo Park," said Tammy Glad of Turning Point at Calvary Church in St. Augustine, Fla., who served with her husband and daughter. "Watching our children living out God's word was amazing."

Debbie Woolsey, a missions volunteer from First Southern Baptist Church of Clarksville, Ind., agreed. "Familyfest was



Above, members of Hillcrest Baptist Church in Byram, Miss., led Backyard Bible Club during Familyfest. Right, Pastor Todd Rader of Ephesus Baptist Church in Winchester partnered with Matt Dungan, youth minister of Woodland Baptist Church in Brownsville, Tenn.

a wonderful experience for our family. It was great to serve alongside our teen daughter and others from our church. It was an eye-opening experience for all of us. It was a privilege to lead a woman to Jesus, and share His love with others."

David Allen, a 14-year-old volunteer from Graceview Baptist Church in Tomball, Texas, served with his grandparents during Familyfest.

"Age should have no limit in serving, helping, and sharing God with others," he said. "This might be my first but not my last mission trip. And sharing it with my grandparents is the best!"

Reaching Appalachia

This Familyfest was a partnership between national WMU, Kentucky



WMU, Boone's Creek Baptist Association, and Appalachian Regional Ministry.

Appalachia, a cultural region that stretches from New York to Mississippi, is one of extreme poverty having 37 of the 100 poorest counties in the United States. According to the North American Mission Board's website, while religion is important in Appalachia, more than 70 percent of the region is unchurched with some counties as high as 90 percent unchurched.

Familyfest volunteers worked in

Appalachian communities in eastern Kentucky in partnership with a variety of churches, schools, local ministries, and non-profits.

They led backyard Bible clubs and evangelism ministries, prayerwalked, prepared classrooms for the new school year, made blankets for senior adult shut-ins, and light construction and painting.

Suzanne Reece, national WMU ministry consultant and onsite coordinator of Familyfest, said when the volunteers were serving at a local school, the principal continued to thank her for bringing volunteers. "People just don't do this," they told her.

Bringing it home

"This is our prayer," shared Bolton, "that people will go home and see their own communities in a new way by seeing needs and opportunities they've never taken note of before."

Reece agreed and said it was exciting to hear many participants say during a time of sharing, "There is nothing we've done here that we can't do at home."

"As a participant in Familyfest from both the volunteer and host points of view," Rader said, "I would highly recommend it. I have returned amazed at what God can do when we place ourselves in positions of service for His kingdom."

"Familyfest may just be the spark that you are searching for to personally become more involved in missions and to jumpstart your church to engage your community with the gospel of Jesus Christ."

National WMU offers Familyfest opportunities for all volunteers age 6 and up and Missionsfest for volunteers age 18 and up. Future opportunities include Missionsfest in Toledo, Ohio, Oct. 1-5, 2014; and Familyfest in Indianapolis, July 18-22, 2015. (WMU)

Platt assures missionaries, 'This mission will succeed!'

By Tess Rivers

RICHMOND, Va. - Nathan and Aimee Pressley* are not easily deterred. After the International Service Corps program was suspended by the IMB in 2010, the husband-wife applicants relocated from their home in Kentucky to a city in the Midwest.

Their goal: to live in the United States among the unreached people group they wanted to serve overseas.

The Pressleys are two of 50 new missionaries appointed Aug. 27 at The Heights Baptist Church in Colonial Heights, Va.

They join 4,842 IMB missionaries now serving around the world.

The appointment service capped several days of meetings near Richmond, Va., when IMB trustees elected David Platt, 36, pastor of The Church at Brook Hills in Birmingham, Ala., as president of the 169-year-old mission board.

Platt succeeds former pastor and Southern Baptist Convention president Tom Elliff, 70, who has served as IMB president since 2011. Elliff asked IMB's trustees earlier this year to begin an active search for his successor.

Platt preached from Romans 9 before a nearly packed auditorium, including two new missionaries from his church. "Every saved person this side of heaven," he said, "owes the gospel to every lost person this side of hell."

"What else can we give our lives to that is more important than this?" Platt asked. "We've been invited by God to be part of making His salvation known among people that He loves, and we know that when we share this gospel, people are going to be saved ... somebody from every tribe, nation and people group."

"They are going to be around the throne that day, which means if we go to the hardest, most resistant, most rebellious people group and preach this gospel, somebody is coming out!"

God promises such an outcome, Platt asserted, "for their salvation, His glorification and our satisfaction."

Dependent, determined, undeterred

Nathan Pressley, as a seminary student at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Kentucky, began researching where he and his wife might serve internationally.

"We identified an African unreached people group with whom we wanted to share the gospel," Pressley said. "Then we moved our family to a city in the United States that has tens of thousands of refugees from this people group."

For the past four years, the Pressleys have visited with refugees, eaten their food and learned their language. In the process, they also taught English, tutored and shared the gospel.

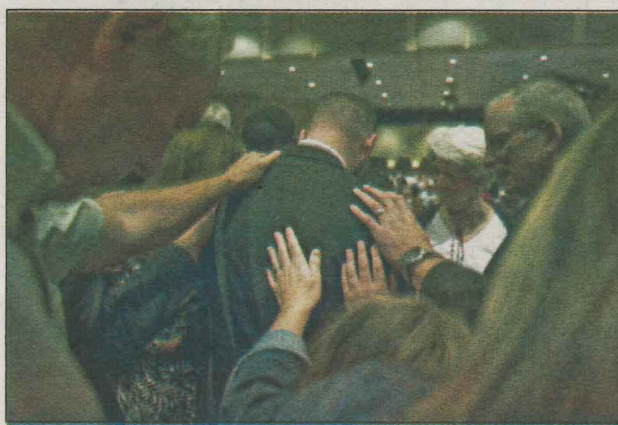
"We decided to move to the Midwest because we were unable to move overseas," Aimee Pressley said. "During the past four years, God has confirmed our calling to spend our lives working among this unreached people group."



Above, the beauty of the gospel and the burden for missions go together, said new IMB President David Platt during the appointment service at The Heights Baptist Church.



Left, 50 new IMB missionaries proceed into the sanctuary Aug. 27 for their appointment service in Colonial Heights, Va.



Below, family and friends gather around a new missionary couple who will serve in South Asia. (IMB photos by Paul W. Lee)

Overcoming her fear, Oatley thrived and built relationships with a few Muslim women. One of them became a follower of Jesus. Oatley extended her assignment to serve an additional year to continue discipling the new believer.

'Worth dying for'

As new missionaries shared testimonies of their willingness to leave jobs, families and comforts to go to the nations, Platt reminded them that, ultimately, "this mission will succeed."

Quoting Romans 15:21, he said, "Those who have never been told of Him will see and those who have never heard will understand. ... Those are promises."

Platt also shared Matthew 24:14, which says, "This message will be preached as a testimony to all nations and then the end will come."

While Platt acknowledged that many people debate the meaning of Matthew 24:14, he quoted George Ladd, a New Testament theologian: "God alone knows the definition of terms. I cannot precisely define who 'all the nations' are. But I do not need to know. I know only one thing: Christ has not yet returned. Therefore the task is not yet done. When it is done, Christ will come. Our responsibility is not to insist on defining the terms; our responsibility is to complete the task. So long as Christ does not return, our work is undone: Let us get busy and complete our mission."

"It's going to happen one day!" Platt asserted, as the audience responded with applause and cheers. "This is what we work for and strive for! This is the vision worth dying for!"

The next IMB appointment service will be Nov. 9 at First Baptist Church, Olive Branch, Miss. (BP)

The Pressleys' story echoes the experience of other new missionaries who could have chosen not to respond to God's call to share the gospel with people overseas. In 2007, Jillian Oatley* was thrilled with the possibility of serving as an IMB journeyman among an Islamic people group. But three weeks before the IMB conference when she could formally request the position, fear gripped her.

"I had constant nightmares related to serving in this context," Oatley said. "It was something I had never experienced."

Because of the nightmares, Oatley attended the conference looking for a job in a different context. But on the second day, God's word redirected her.

"The Lord brought me to Jeremiah 1:7-8," Oatley recalled. "Paraphrased, it says, 'Go to the people that I have sent you to and do not fear them.'"

Instantly, "a peace washed over me and I knew the Spirit was telling me to go to Central Asia," Oatley said. "The nightmares stopped, and I listed that location as my first choice for places to serve."