

WESTERN Recorder

September 16, 2014

Shine Like Stars * Philippians 2:15

Volume 188, Issue 34

Elliff's IMB tenure one of energy and prayer

By Tess Rivers

Richmond, Va.—There are three qualities that many would say characterize former IMB president Tom Elliff: boundless energy, a passion for prayer and a heart broken over lostness.

When IMB trustees unanimously elected Elliff to lead the missions agency in March 2011, the then 67-year-old former missionary, pastor, two-time Southern Baptist Convention president and IMB vice president made it clear that he had big plans.

"I'm coming with a vision," Elliff said at the time, "and I will serve as long as God gives me grace and energy."

On Aug. 27, IMB trustees elected David Platt, pastor of The Church at Brook Hills in Birmingham, Ala., to succeed Elliff as IMB president.

In February, Elliff asked IMB trustees to begin the search for his successor and promised to "run through the finish line, until such a successor is found."

Heart for ministry

Born in Texas, Elliff is a fourth-generation Oklahoman and third-generation



Tom Elliff, center, shares his testimony during a house church meeting in November 2013. The church is one of 30 house churches established by McCall Baptist Church in Havana, Cuba. (IMB Photo by Wilson Hunter)

pastor. He served with his wife Jeannie as an IMB missionary to Zimbabwe in the early 1980s. They resigned in 1983 after their daughter, Beth, was seriously injured in a car accident there.

He was twice elected president of the Southern Baptist Convention, in 1996 and 1997.

He shepherded several key churches in the denomination, including First

Southern Baptist Church of Del City, Okla., where he was pastor from 1985-2005.

Elliff then served as IMB senior vice president for spiritual nurture and church relations from 2005-09. In that role, he taught and counseled missionaries and helped mobilize churches throughout the convention for missions involvement.

From 2009-11, he led Living in The Word Publications, a writing and speaking ministry he founded in 2005.

He is the author of numerous books about prayer, spiritual awakening and family life. In his years as International Mission Board president, Elliff never seemed to slow down.

He introduced a number of initiatives at the missions agency, including Embrace, in which churches commit to make disciples among previously unengaged, unreached people groups; Ready Reserve, which allows former field personnel to volunteer for overseas missions; Marketplace Advance, where business leaders and other professionals

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Ky. Baptist disaster relief makes big impact in flooded Detroit

Detroit—Kentucky Baptist Disaster Relief teams returned last weekend from Michigan, where they have been helping residents with cleanup efforts after more than 4 1/2 inches fell on Aug. 11 causing massive flooding in Detroit and surrounding areas.

Coy Webb, disaster relief coordinator for the Kentucky Baptist Convention, said the volunteers had cleared mud and debris and soggy furnishings out of 79 homes, as of Sept. 15.

Webb said Kentucky Baptist volunteers have made more than 120 ministry contacts, resulting in at least 15 decisions for Christ. Chaplains reported making 92 contacts, sharing the gospel 25 times and distributing 35 Bibles and 30 children's blankets.

Kentucky Baptist teams initially responded Aug. 21, but returned the following day after learning that one of the state's beloved disaster relief team leaders, Harold Smith, a member of Pleasant Grove Baptist Church in Shepherdsville, had died.

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Mental health & the church: 'People are looking for mercy'

By David Roach

Nashville, Tenn.—Pastors must learn how to help troubled souls and remove the stigma associated with mental illness, Rick Warren and Tony Rose said in a discussion with Russell Moore, president of Southern Baptists' Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission.

"The phrase 'mental health' or 'mental illness' does not equal crazy," Warren, pastor of Saddleback Church in Lake Forest, Calif., said in the video posted at the SBC entity's erlc.com website. "A lot of people think that mental illness means people out of touch with reality. Ninety-nine percent of us—and I include all of us—struggle with mental health issues, and we're not out of touch with reality. Depression is a mental health issue. Worry is a mental health issue. Compulsion is a mental health issue.... Fear is a mental health issue."

Warren spoke of a brain disorder he has that causes him to get dizzy and experience partial blindness when he has an adrenaline rush.

The disorder once made him faint as he stood up to preach, leading to a



"The phrase 'mental health' or 'mental illness' does not equal crazy," Rick Warren (right), pastor of Saddleback Church, says in a video panel with Russell Moore (left) of the SBC Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission, and Kentucky pastor Tony Rose, chairman of a Mental Health Advisory Group formed by SBC Executive Committee president Frank Page. (Screen capture).

years-long struggle with fear and depression that included trips to Christian counselors, he said.

"When I start sharing stuff like that, then that causes my church to be able to open up about" their own mental health issues, Warren said.

Rose, chairman of the Mental Health Advisory Group formed by SBC Executive Committee President Frank Page, said pastors should learn to evaluate the causes of people's troubled souls so

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Mental Health

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they can provide spiritual help as needed and refer individuals for medical help when appropriate.

He referenced as a good model the pastoral procedure followed by Puritans, Christians who sought to reform the Church of England's doctrine and worship in the 1500s and 1600s.

First, Puritan pastors evaluated whether a person trusted Christ as their Lord and Savior, Rose, pastor of La Grange (Ky.) Baptist Church, said. Then they evaluated whether the troubled

individual suffered from "melancholy"—a broad label the Puritans used to describe conditions akin to what today's mental health professionals refer to as depression.

Puritan Richard Baxter represents a "classic" example of pastoral wisdom regarding mental illness, Rose said. Baxter once said according to Rose, "Preaching a man a sermon with a broken head and telling him to be right with God is equal to telling a man with a broken leg to get up and run a race."

Pastors also must evaluate whether a troubled person is experiencing the consequences of sin, an attack of Satan or a sense of the Holy Spirit's desertion, Rose said in the video, released in mid-July.

Pastors aren't the only ones who should be concerned with mental illness, Warren said. All relationships, minds and bodies are affected adversely by the Fall of man, and believers should try to alleviate that brokenness whenever they can, he said.

Warren, whose son Matthew committed suicide last year following a battle with mental illness since childhood, noted that one in five children struggle with mental illness. The average age for the onset of depression used to be in the 30s, Rose said, but now is 14.

Given the pervasiveness of mental illness, dealing with it compassionately is a challenge that churches must embrace, the pastors said.

"If the church could be a church of mercy, we would have no evangelism problem," Warren said, "because people are looking for mercy."

Rose urges believers to approach mental health with humility, acknowledging its intricacy.

"There are times when we in the church can get a bit dogmatic about what the Bible teaches concerning mental health," Rose said. "For myself and others, the greatest ingredient we need in addressing these difficult issues is humility. 'There are many things we just don't know, and there are times it is fully appropriate and helpful to work with professionals to help us with situations that are immensely complex.'" (BP)

Louisiana federal judge rules for traditional marriage

New Orleans—Traditional marriage gained a win in a federal court Sept. 3 after a string of losses at the federal level.

U.S. District Judge Martin Feldman in New Orleans ruled that Louisiana's ban on same-sex marriage can stand. The ruling is the first time a ban in a state on same-sex marriages has been upheld by a federal judge since the Supreme Court struck down key elements of the federal Defense of Marriage Act in 2013.

"The Court finds that Louisiana's definition of marriage as between one man and one woman and the limitation on recognition of same-sex marriages permitted by law in other states found in Article XII, Section 15 of the Louisiana Constitution and article 3520(B) of the Louisiana Civil Code do not infringe the guarantees of the Equal Protection and Due Process Clauses of the United States Constitution," Feldman wrote in his summary judgment.

"The record reveals no material dispute: the defendants have shown that Louisiana's decision to neither permit nor recognize same-sex marriage, formed in the arena of the democratic process, is supported by a rational basis," Feldman wrote. "The Court further finds that plaintiffs have failed to establish a genuine dispute regarding a First Amendment violation on this record."

In June, Shreveport attorney Mike Johnson and his legal

team presented oral arguments in the federal court on behalf of the state explaining why Louisiana's Defense of Marriage Amendment should be upheld.

Johnson, a member of First Baptist Church of Bossier City, La., who operates a legal ministry called Freedom Guard, successfully defended the amendment a decade ago against its original challenge at the state Supreme Court.

The day after Feldman's ruling, traditional marriage faced two more losses when the Seventh Circuit U.S. Court of Appeals in Chicago overturned same-sex marriage bans in Indiana and Wisconsin. Courts have ruled in favor of same-sex marriage more than three dozen times in the last 14 months. At the state level, the reasoning used by a circuit judge in Tennessee was hailed by traditional marriage proponents in an Aug. 5 ruling for the state's marriage statute.

In a 2004 Louisiana ballot, 78 percent of voters approved Louisiana's Defense of Marriage Constitutional Amendment. Louisiana is one of 31 states that has chosen not to recognize same-sex marriage.

"The decision today is precisely correct," Johnson said. "The court has merely affirmed that it is the people of each state who have the authority to define and regulate marriage within their borders, rather than a handful of unelected federal judges." (BP)

Disaster relief

Continued from page 1

The disaster relief teams, which were slated to work through last Saturday, were housed at Warren Woods Baptist Church in Warren, Mich. On the preceding Sunday, in connection with the work of disaster relief crews in the area, Warren Woods saw an overflow crowd for its morning service, in which six people were baptized and four professions of faith were made, Webb reported.

Other Baptist state conventions working in the Detroit area include Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Minnesota/Wisconsin, North Carolina, Oklahoma and Tennessee.

In other Kentucky disaster relief news, the final opportunity for Disaster Relief training sessions this year will be at Calvary Baptist Church in Glasgow Sept. 19-20. For more information about course fees or to register, visit www.kybaptist.org/dr. (WR/KBC)

Elliff's tenure

Continued from page 1

leverage their skills for the sake of the Great Commission; Global Connect, in which IMB partners with churches who are fully funding and sending out their church members as a part of their ongoing work among a people group, and the School of Prayer for All Nations, which equips churches in prayer for the nations.

Chasers of darkness

"We are chasers of darkness," Elliff often said, "looking for the black holes of sin in our world and thrusting into that darkness the Light of the glorious gospel of Christ."

Elliff's urgency and passion for the lost grew from an experience he had as a young pastor and swim coach.

After a particularly grueling practice with his swimmers, Elliff jumped into the pool to relax.

Floating on his back, he heard a voice: "I hear you're a preacher."

Elliff opened his eyes and saw one of his swimmers standing on the edge of the pool. The boy had questions about God, Elliff recalled, and asked if they could talk.

"I didn't take the time to talk with him then," Elliff said. "Instead, I told him that we would set up a time."

That meeting never happened, and

later Elliff learned the boy took his own life. That experience instilled in the young Elliff a deep sense of urgency to make Christ known at every opportunity. It also drove him to his knees in prayer.

Passionate in prayer

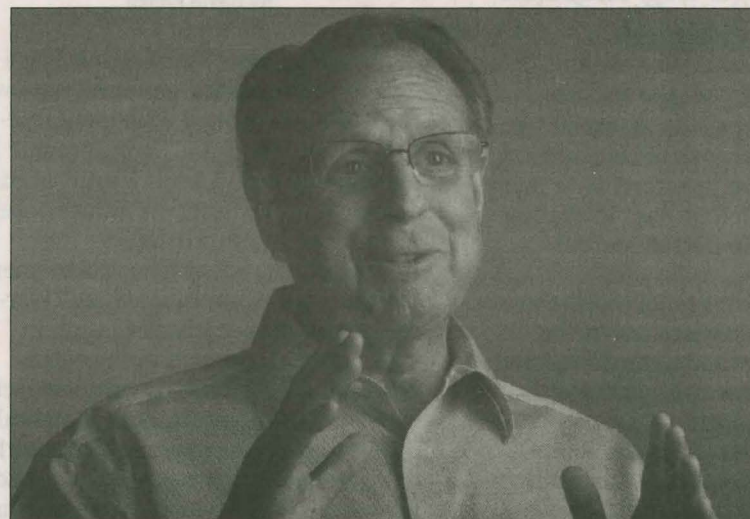
In remarks at a farewell luncheon for the Elliffs on Aug. 27, IMB executive vice president Clyde Meador noted Elliff's passion for prayer.

Shortly after arriving at IMB as president, Elliff asked that a portion of his office suite be converted into a prayer room. Outfitted with a kneeling bench and a map of the nations on the wall, he spent time on his knees every day interceding for a lost world and those working to share the gospel of Jesus with them.

"You prayed for 10 IMB staff members every day and devoted so much of our meeting times to prayer," Meador told Elliff during the luncheon. "Thank you for praying."

David Uth, senior pastor of First Baptist Church in Orlando, Fla., and former IMB trustee board chair who led the search for Elliff's successor, also noted Elliff's passion.

"I'll never forget the day we sat together ... and I watched as you wept for the nations," Uth said. "Your passion for the lost is greater than any I've ever seen in anyone."



Tom Elliff, who served as IMB's 11th president, often described himself and other Christians as "chasers of darkness" who are "looking for the black holes of sin in our world and thrusting into that darkness the Light of the glorious gospel of Christ."

Humble cheerleader

At his final SBC annual meeting as IMB president, in Baltimore, Md., in June, Elliff thanked Southern Baptists for the opportunity to serve but acknowledged that God was leading him to step aside.

"We believe people support what they help create," Elliff said. "And it seems we have an entire generation of Southern Baptists who've yet to have an opportunity to help us create who we are. There comes a time when leaders need to be cheerleaders."

During the Aug. 27 IMB trustee meeting, amid cheers and applause, Elliff, 70, handed the reins of Southern Baptists' international missions organization to Platt who, at 36, is the youngest president

in the history of the 169-year-old institution.

Fighting back tears, Elliff called Platt's election one of the most exciting moments of his life, adding that he and his wife Jeannie have been praying for Platt and his wife, Heather, since before Elliff became IMB's president in 2011.

The next day, Elliff sent a parting email to IMB personnel.

"I've never been a fan of long good-byes," Elliff wrote, as he welcomed Platt to his role.

"There is a world of darkness awaiting the arrival of folks like us who chase darkness away with THE Light ... Let's all join him in his fervent determination to take the Light to the ends of the earth." (IMB)

Ringling school bells begin Junction City First's ministry

Children all around our state have headed back to school. Early mornings, packed lunches, locker combinations and homework are on the minds of many children once again. Ministry, however, is on the minds of churches, and a growing number are seeing opportunities to help their communities and engage the culture through investing in local schools. One of those churches is First Baptist Church of Junction City.

First Baptist, Junction City, has a deep love for their local school and is very invested in helping meet the needs of area children.

You can see the eyes of Pastor Choe Sergent brighten as he talks about the connection they have made with Junction City Elementary.

The partnership with the school was initiated by the church's youth leader, Donna Kidd.

The leaders prayed about how they could engage and then they asked school officials. Sergent said, "To our surprise, they were eager and willing for our help."

The school suggested that the church send mentors for one hour each week. They used a model developed by Kids Hope (www.kidshopeusa.com). Through Kids Hope program, adults meet with a child in need and become a positive influence. They listen, share and encourage students who are at risk.

The church had a goal of finding 10 people who would commit to being either a mentor or prayer partner.

When school started, they had 16 mentors trained and 16 prayer partners ready.

Regional SPOTLIGHT



Nick Sandefur
North Central

"We were welcomed into the school with open arms and have had success from the get go," Kidd said. "Our school has seen test scores increase as well as attendance improve."

The greatest testimony of the program's success, however, is that "students will not miss their Kids Hope days," she added.

Not only has the school seen changes, but the church has, too.

Involvement in the program ranges from college students to senior adults. They have people who serve as a mentor or prayer partner who have not served in other mission opportunities.

Now some members are stepping out and serving in other places as well.

In public school ministries, one concern is for church/state separation.

Through KidsHope, training is provided and volunteers are taught that evangelism, or proselytizing, is not allowed during school hours.

However, through mentoring, relationships are established and these relationships often do not end when the bell rings.



Above, members of First Baptist, Junction City, have a deep love for their local school and are very invested in helping meet the needs of area children.

Pastor Sergent is very clear about the churches strategy: Participate in loved-based ministries in order to build relationships that provide opportunities for the gospel to be shared.

The strategy must be working. Many of the parents of young children see the love of these mentors, and they allow their children to plug into other ministries provided by First Baptist, Junction City.

From back-to-school bashes to trunk or treat to regular meals provided during the summer, many students have connected to First Baptist. And so have their families.

When asked if these ministries have brought in new attenders, without hesitation Pastor Sergent replied, "Absolutely!" Over the past two years, the church has grown by 30 percent.

In August, not only did the children go back to school, but First Baptist Church of



Junction City celebrated its 140th year as a congregation.

What a blessing to be able look back on what God has done through the church, but the real blessing is to think about what God is going to do in the future. (WR)

KBC's A&I committee frames request for Campbellsville to restore relationship

By Todd Deaton

Louisville—The agency & institutions committee of the Kentucky Baptist Mission Board has sent another appeal for the administration and trustees of Campbellsville University to restore its long-standing covenant agreement with the Kentucky Baptist Convention.

Should Campbellsville's board choose to overturn its decision to terminate the covenant agreement, the action will "open the pathway for the KBC to explore a partnership agreement with the university," the A&I committee members said, in conjunction with the KBC's elected officers and the Mission Board's administrative committee.

The A&I committee's letter, addressed to Chairman Joseph Owens, was adopted during its Sept. 5 meeting, and approved the following week by the members of the KBC's Mission Board in an electronic poll.

"The KBC entering into a new partnership agreement with Campbellsville is obviously problematic given the university's indifference toward the covenant agreement, evidenced by CU's vote to disregard its commitment to the covenant's termination requirements," the letter stated.

"We remain optimistic that Campbellsville's trustees will choose to

honor the termination terms of its historic covenant relationship with Kentucky Baptist churches," the A&I committee wrote.

In reminding the university of the covenant's terms, which call for notification at an annual session of the state convention at least four years prior to the date of termination, KBC Attorney James Taylor proposed that the university, instead, amend the existing covenant agreement and work with the KBC to accomplish the university's goal of creating a self-perpetuating board.

"Moreover, should the university choose to maintain its historic covenant relationship with the KBC rather than terminate the covenant, the convention stands ready to continue the relationship and restore funding, including those funds currently held in escrow," the letter concluded.

The Kentucky Baptist Convention's three elected officers and chairs of two Mission Board committees also made an appeal in a July 31 letter to Campbellsville trustees not to withdraw from its covenant relationship with the state convention.

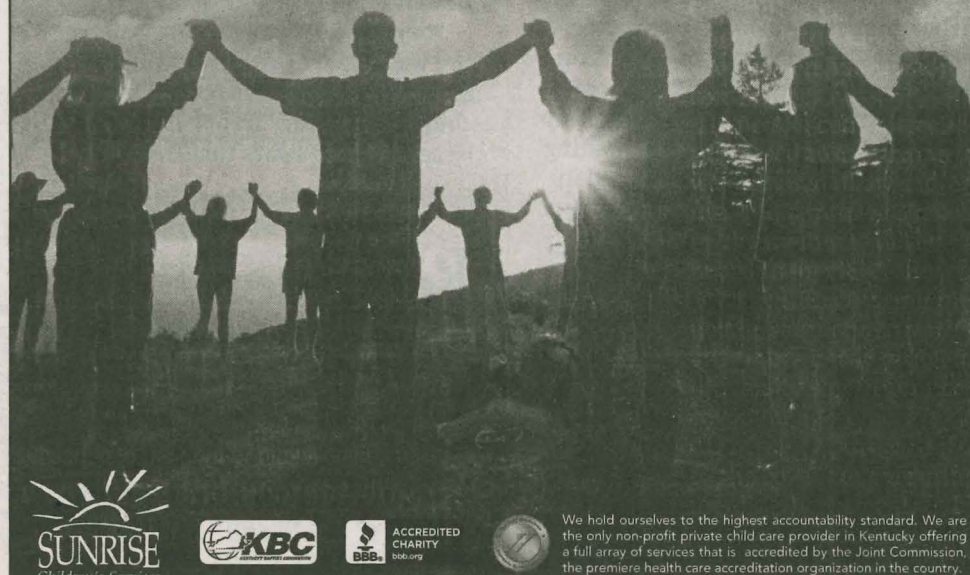
The university and convention remain in a standoff after trustees voted to change the school's bylaws, setting in motion the potential formation of a self-perpetuating board. (WR)



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'The Offering' book challenges and inspires

Several months ago, Judy Powell, a graduate of Oneida Baptist Institute, contacted me, requesting that I offer edits to her forthcoming book on the life of Barkley Moore. When I

Together We are the KBC



Paul Chitwood

agreed to do so and later shared my delight over "The Offering," she invited me to write an endorsement for the book cover. I am sharing that endorsement with you, along with my recommendation that you pick up a copy of "The Offering" and learn more about the history of one of Kentucky Baptists' fine

institutions and esteemed leaders. The book is available from Barnes & Noble, Amazon, and other retailers.

My endorsement follows:

In "The Offering," Judy Powell tells the story of Barkley Moore, one of God's choice servants. In so doing, she records the remarkable history of Oneida Baptist Institute and a significant part of the mission work of the people known as Kentucky Baptists.

Barkley Moore was a father-figure to thousands of children, many of whom had no father. One paragraph from Powell's book, lifted from Moore's recounting of a conversation with one of his students, sufficiently illustrates what Moore meant to many of the children he served:

"Mr. Moore, you are the nearest to a father I've had." I am a little startled. The boy goes on to relate to me a conversation that he had with me once in the laundry room as he washed his clothes. I don't remember that particular conversation, but the boy said, "You'll never know just how much that meant to me." I don't tell him that I don't remember. He cries some more. We never know when we are saying something that sticks with someone a lifetime."

Thanks to Judy Powell, many of Moore's words will now stick with me for a lifetime. More importantly, Moore's life dedicated to humbly serving Christ and preparing the next generation to serve Christ, can challenge and inspire generations to come.

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

Though Barkley Moore passed away two decades ago, the work of OBI continues to flourish under the leadership of President Larry Gritton. Enrollment is up and plans are in the works for upgrading and expanding the campus. Founded in 1899, OBI has a rich history of ministry to children in the mountains that has grown into a school boasting students and graduates from around the world.

My prayer is that this ministry of Kentucky Baptists will continue to shape the lives of children to the glory of God and those children will, like Judy Powell, tell us the story of what God is doing at OBI.

Paul Chitwood is executive director of the Kentucky Baptist Convention.

Offering healing, restoration for hurting pastors

Karl Babb and Peggy Berry wish fewer and fewer Kentucky Baptist ministers would need their services. They lead the transition and conflict management work of the Kentucky Baptist Convention. In short, they work with ministers who are facing termination and who often feel as though their ministries, and perhaps even their families, are falling apart. It is a heartbreaking task—at first. But for those who attend one of their Ministers in Transition retreats, it can become a journey that is joy-filled as couples experience healing and rediscover hope.

With an estimated 50 Kentucky Baptist ministers being terminated every year, there is plenty of work to do. "Unfortunately, we are always full," Babb said of the MIT retreat. If fact, the retreat has only been canceled once in 23 years.

"We used to call it 'involuntary termination,' but now we use the word 'transition,'" Babb said. The change speaks volumes. The retreat's intent is not to be just a time of grieving over an ending, but for guiding ministers and spouses through the "wilderness" experience toward anticipating a fresh beginning in ministry. "Under such pressure, they may even question their calling," he explained. "We want to help them refresh and figure out through one another's stories what happened and how to best move forward."

The retreats are offered twice each year and typically average between six and eight couples. That is by design. A small group setting allows couples to engage in deeper conversations and form stronger bonds. As couples share their stories, they not only learn to trust again, but they also gain perspective on how they may have contributed to their circumstances and develop insights into areas where they need to grow as ministers and as couples, Babb explained. "We love on them, give them a sense of worth, help them know that God sees their pain; and we give them some relational skills," he said. "They discover how relationships can come together—and fall apart—easily, particularly in a church setting."

The approach works. MIT retreats have a 75 percent retention rate in ministry. The KBC covers the cost—even the mileage to attend. It's a worthwhile investment in God's servants and their families. "We work with pastors, but it (termination) doesn't happen to just the person in the pulpit," Berry

added. "It happens to the minister's spouse and family. The kids wonder why mom and dad aren't happy anymore, and why they have to give up their friends," she noted. "It's a very lonely place for the minister's family to be."

So Berry leads a session for spouses only to "love on them" and, hopefully, bring a sense of restoration and healing. "The women often are so thankful to have someone to talk with who understands and whom they can trust," she said. They pray, read Scripture together, and pour out their hearts. "Before it's over, there is a feeling of being empty and happy once again. They come out with a renewed hope and a strong bond. They discover they aren't alone and the feeling of isolation is broken," Berry said. "It's so beautiful!"

The retreat provides some with a crucial support network. "Once together, they can become each other's prayer supporters and cheerleaders. They find someone they can trust with their feelings because that person has been through the trenches, too, and understands the pain," she said.

The goal is to help couples recapture a sense of hope in their future ministry, in their marriage relationships and, most importantly, in their relationship with God. "We want them to leave with a better insight into whom God has created them to be and help them to express what God may be teaching them in regards to my ministry, my family and my church relationships," Babb said.

One of his favorite sayings is, "Don't waste the pain." And, if couples come out with a better understanding of how God is at work, even through the painful and difficult times, and of who God has called them to be as ministers, then "we've done a big work in three days," Babb said. Yet he and Berry realize that they are not the healers—God is. "It's not my prayer, my presence, or my pity, that will help them, but it is through God's power and mercy," Berry said. "That power is at work in their lives, and what a joy it is to see ministries, marriages and families that are about to come apart find hope and healing."

The next MIT retreat will be held Oct. 9-11. And, while we hope you or your church does not ever need their services, to learn more about MIT or other conflict management assistance provided by the KBC, contact Babb at karl.babb@kybaptist.org or call (866) 489-3381 (toll free in Kentucky).



After Thought

By Todd Deaton

Finding grace for a terminated pastor

By Matthew Fowler

I was in the first year of my first pastorate when things unraveled. I had experienced a few rough patches in previous ministry roles, but nothing to kill my dreams and make me question my calling.

I was familiar with stories of petty pastoral terminations and "difficult deacons," but I was convinced that it wouldn't happen to me, at least not at this church.

A phone call changed all of that.

I was out of town performing a friend's wedding when a man from my church called very troubled about an issue. "Are you aware that there is a

man in leadership at our church who has been sexually abusing his step-daughter for 16 years?" he asked. I was shocked at the question and informed him that I knew nothing about it.

Evidently, the long kept secret had been shared by the victim in a college essay about what sexual abuse had done to her. The man calling me had somehow learned of this essay and had begun his own investigation. He told me that he expected me to accompany him to the police station upon my return home to make a report. I shared with my deacons what I had been told and later told the police. My deacons told me to "leave it alone" and the police

said, "We will look into it."

As quickly as I could, I met with the alleged perpetrator, his wife and a deacon. I shared with them what I had been told and that I hoped this was just

some gross misunderstanding. The wife spoke up and said, "It's true and if you want to know why I've stayed with him, I don't know." After a few moments of being speechless, I informed them of the need for thorough repentance and that he would have to step down from his leadership roles at the very least. I also stated that I was going to do everything I could to get their family help, particularly their daughter.

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FIRST PERSON

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10 things to do for your kids

By Don Spencer

Some of the most important financial moves you can make on your kids behalf may affect them well beyond childhood. Many of these cost little or nothing in cash, just some time and thought.

1. Get your child a Social Security number.—You don't have much choice these days. But you can add meaning to it by considering it a time to address opening an account for the child.

2. Make a will and name a guardian. In case of your early death, make sure your children are protected by naming a guardian of your choice, rather than relying on a court-appointed guardian.



3. Buy adequate insurance. This is critical to protect your family and includes life and disability insurance.

4. Start saving for college. College costs keep rising faster than inflation. Start early saving at least a little toward those expenses.

5. Talk about money. When the children are young, look for ways to help them learn with hands-on experience how to manage money. This may include how you use an allowance. It also may include helping the child to have a bank account of their own.

6. Revise your will and other beneficiary arrangements. This should be done periodically, but as children mature, they'll likely impact these documents in various ways.

7. Save for retirement. Being financially independent in retirement is one of the greatest gifts you can give your kids.

8. Give some money to your kids. If you eventually plan to give significant assets to your children, consider giving some while you are still living. Assets may provide help for things like a home, college costs for grandchildren, etc.

9. Spend some on yourself. Most children are pleased to know their parents are financially able to buy and do things in their senior years.

10. Teach charitable giving. These lessons by example and through encouragement should be woven into all of the items listed above.

Did you choose the right vocation?

By David Crosby

We can all imagine a different life on a parallel track, but we can only live one track at a time.

I was reading an article by a physician who was disappointed by his profession. He would not recommend a medical career for his own children and felt that his ideals were betrayed by the system of which he was a part.

My thought: These feelings affect all of us no matter our profession. Lawyers become disillusioned with the practice of law. Politicians are disappointed by politics. Members of the clergy suffer from the loss of ideals.

We expect our vocation, our calling, to be more than an occupation, a job. We want to be significant, and most of us expect to achieve significance through our work.

At mid-career, we are often disappointed. All work turns out to be routine to some extent. All human systems are oppressive in some ways. Serving as a minister and pastor, I sometimes wonder if anyone is listening. Some days I watch the clock, put in my hours and hurry home to yard work and a good book.

Such feelings about the shortcomings of our vocations and professions are based on truth. The fact is, we cannot routinely achieve at life-changing, world-changing levels. A sense of ordinariness sets in for us all.

We all question our chosen professions. We wonder if our specific work really makes a difference in the lives of people. We second-guess our career path, our choice of training and vocation, and we wonder if life would have been more significant had we gone another way.

Some people do need to change careers, some of them immediately. If our work is not honorable—honest and helpful—then we must consider something else. If we are a poor fit for our current vocation, then a change may be necessary.

Most of us, though, are deeply invested in our current track. Rather than jumping ship, we work through the sense of futility. We come to terms with the system of which we are a part.

We learn to manage the tedious tasks—paperwork will never seem earth-shaking—and emphasize in our minds the rewarding interactions with co-workers and clients.

The suicide of Robin Williams reminds me that even people who seem to “have it all” may be desperate, may feel trapped and may even wonder if their life is worth living. At least some of the frustration and despair that creeps over me concerning my work is more about my inner condition than about my occupation.

I remind myself that work in itself is a good thing. I am glad to get up in the

morning knowing I have a job that supports me and my family. Honest work—gainful employment—is a positive aspect of life on this planet.

Every occupation affords moments of delightful interchange and interesting challenge. While these may be rarer than we wish, they are still “part of the job” and a reason for celebration and gratitude.

My job occupies a substantial part of my time and attention, but not all.

Having paid the bills through my work, I am now liberated some evenings and weekends to invest resources in other pursuits that bring their own rewards and delights.

Work is not everything, but it is vitally important to most of us. We should give thanks for the paycheck, the important relationships that work provides and the sense of significance that any honest work rightly affords.

We also give thanks for all the people who faithfully do their jobs, invisible though they may be. Practically everything we do is predicated on the work of others.

A constant sense of gratitude for the work of those who support us is an honest and fair response to their labors. And it will counter feelings of futility about the part we play in keeping the wheels turning, the water running and the children safely playing in the place where we live. (BP)

FIRST PERSON

Acknowledging one another builds relationship

By Valerie Vincent

“Lately, I have not even wanted to go out and eat with my husband. When we do, he stares at the televisions posted around the room, and I feel invisible. Sometimes when we are at home, he stares at the television or his book, and he doesn't acknowledge anything I have said to him. I do know he loves me, but this has gotten really old.”

Yes, that can be very frustrating. To acknowledge another person is to recognize that person for his or her value, position or contribution. If a person is not acknowledged, it can seem that her

or his value, position or contribution is ignored, dismissed. Jesus indicates acknowledgement has a reciprocal nature when He describes those who acknowledge Him before others will be acknowledged.

There is an expectation that when a spouse speaks or shares information with the person who has made a life-long commitment to Him, she will acknowledge that sharing with a response. In our culture of social cues and nonverbal gestures, a blank stare does not indicate acknowledgement or recognition.

The gestures that do are simple, but need to be focused and sincere. First,

remove distractions. Learn what distracts you and remove those distractions. Acknowledgment may include nodding your head while maintaining eye contact, saying “yes” or “uh huh.” A verbal phrase, such as “I hear you” or “I see” or some other short phrase, also demonstrates focused attention on your spouse. Eye contact is very important in our culture and valued in romantic relationships.

Try talking with your spouse about the ways you would like to be acknowledged by him when you are out in public and when you are at home. Choose a place with few distractions and a time when you both are rested and can focus. Then set some goals together for acknowledging one another.



Terminated pastor

Continued from page 4

I updated the police, and though they had opened an investigation, there was nothing they could do because the daughter was now an adult and wouldn't press charges. I updated the deacons, but they persisted in their position that I should “leave it alone.” Eventually, the deacons told me that I was on “thin ice” and that I would likely be the one getting voted out.

Shortly after these events unfolded, I arrived at church one Sunday to find the perpetrator carrying out his leadership roles and acting like nothing had happened. I confronted him with my dad as a witness (my dad was attending our church) and the man became combative,

which led to an altercation between him and my dad. We all went into a meeting with the deacons, where the deacon chairman said I was fired and told me to get out.

A business meeting followed the next week and I walked into a firestorm. The abuser had visited members and convinced them of his innocence. They had all turned against me, save a couple of families, and were hurling insults. Even after the daughter who had been victimized testified against her dad, he was only voted out of leadership by two votes. Then a motion was made to fire me. The motion was tabled and I resigned the following week. I was in shock.

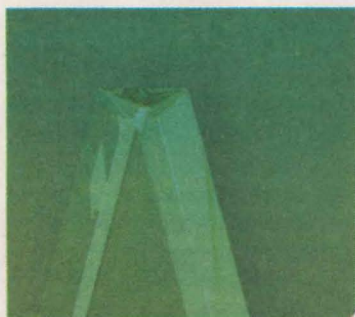
Adding insult to injury, I was blacklisted in my association for being one of those “discipline people” and “church destroyers.” I couldn't find a ministry

position to save my life. I worked construction and then eventually in the coal mines to provide for my family. The more time passed, the more disillusioned I got. I eventually decided that I couldn't make it in the ministry and quite frankly, I wasn't sure I wanted to anyway.

As a last resort, I emailed one of my seminary professors, Hershael York, pastor of Buck Run Baptist Church in Frankfort. I shared my story and asked for advice. Amazingly, he responded with encouragement and eventually invited me to do an internship under him at his church in partnership with the North American Mission Board. The time I spent with him and the amazing people of Buck Run was one of the greatest and most restorative seasons of my life. For nearly a year, I lived in the midst of a

pastor who deeply loved his people and a people who deeply loved their pastor. It changed me.

Eventually I found a pastorate, where I have now served for 16 months. A text message I sent to Dr. York shortly after assuming this position remains true: “I've fallen in love with pastoring all over again.” Incredibly, I wouldn't trade my experience if I could. God has graciously restored all that was lost and more. He revealed things to me about Himself that I wouldn't have learned otherwise. The final words of the famous poem by Martha Snell Nicholson have proven true: “Though at first the cruel thorn hurt sore, as long years passed I learned at last to love it more and more. I learned He never gives a thorn without this added grace, He takes the thorn to pin aside the veil which hides His face.” (BP)



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Clergy terminations: 'a picture of catastrophe'

By Michael Brooks

Birmingham, Ala.—Jim served as pastor in a growing suburb for 14 years. One day a committee of leaders came to him with a document of resignation and a promised severance if he quietly complied.

"What's your biblical grounds for this?" he asked.

The men looked a bit sheepish, admitting there was none.

"You're a loving pastor, but the church isn't growing," they said. "We're convinced we need a stronger leader."

■ Bill served as associate minister at a church in a large city and was de facto pastor for several years while the church searched for a new pastor. His work included overseeing the construction of a multimillion dollar facility. The new pastor arrived in the fall and told Bill in January to look for a new position so the pastor could hire a friend in Bill's place. The pastor told Bill in April that his time was up and he must resign immediately.

■ Harry was accused of having an improper relationship with a woman in the neighborhood. His elders asked for an immediate resignation. Though the denomination he was part of conducted a thorough inquiry and gave him complete exoneration, Harry's job was gone.

What happens to ministers when they're terminated? Studies show it often takes six months or more to find a new ministry position. Ministers may find themselves without income while conducting their job search. Often the terminated minister is not at his best and doesn't interview well. He may become despondent at having lost his job as well as losing his circle of Christian friends in the church.

Jim, Bill and Harry (not their real names) found hope when they attended a retreat hosted by Samford University's Resource Center for Pastoral Excellence.

Ten participants representing five states and four denominations shared their crisis stories and engaged in intensive individual and group therapy. They also heard from numerous experts including an attorney, a job counselor, a physical fitness instructor and spiritual leaders. Clinical psychologist Beverly Bustin of Richmond, Va., served as resident therapist for the week.

"We can't do everything in one week, but we can do several things that help a minister reorient himself and begin to heal," MTM founder and director Charles Chandler said.

Chandler, an Alabama native now living in Richmond, Va., formed MTM in 1994 after his own involuntary termination as senior pastor. He found few resources for help and determined to use the insight he gained to help others.

Chandler often advises participants, "All our experiences, no matter how painful, when given to God can bring good. But this doesn't mean that bad things are good. Shabby treatment of ministers is still a bad thing."

Chandler cited research by Kevin Leicht of the University of Iowa who wrote in his book, "Professional Work," that the rate of clergy terminations is higher than the rate of coach terminations in the

NFL—what Leicht called "a notoriously unstable profession." Leicht postulated that the annual termination rate in the general workforce is a little more than 1 percent while the clergy termination rate is closer to 5 percent.

Dale Huff, director of the office of LeaderCare and church administration at the Alabama Baptist State Board of Missions, estimates 80 Alabama Baptist ministers are terminated annually but added there are probably more whose circumstances are unreported.

"The reality is that every one of the terminations is a picture of catastrophe," said Huff, who taught a leadership session at the MTM retreat. "The terminated minister and family is affected in so many ways: loss of income, loss of friends and support, loss of a church, which especially affects children who don't understand why they can't go to church with their friends anymore. A termination fractures trust in church leadership. It is a grief experience with the losses being multiple."

Huff said the Board of Missions offers several resources to ministers in crisis including emergency financial assistance, counseling and career guidance. It also sponsors an annual retreat for terminated ministers at Shocco Springs Baptist Conference Center in Talledega and lends support to MTM's annual Alabama retreat

at Beeson. Retreat participants learn about transferrable skills enabling them to make a living for their families.

Several state Baptist conventions around the country host similar events

annually for terminated or embattled pastors in their regions.

Kentucky has at least 50 ministers who are terminated or resign under pressure each year, according to Karl Babb, transition and conflict management consultant for the Kentucky Baptist Convention's church revitalization team. In addition to the possibility of one-time financial assistance, the KBC hosts two annual Ministers in Transition conferences, Babb said.

"These three-day conferences are designed for ministers and spouses who resigned under pressure, were terminated or are currently serving in an intensely pressured context," he said, adding that the KBC covers all costs for participants.

Chandler said healing comes when ministers begin to forgive themselves and others and see themselves as persons of worth with marketable skills. Sometimes the minister is victimized by forces outside his control, Chandler said. At other times ministers make bad choices leading to crisis, but either way, don't waste your pain—grow from it. "Wounded ministers can have a new dimension of ministry since we can grow strong at the broken places."

MTM finds that about two-thirds of retreat participants go back into full-time ministry. The remainder enter another vocation, work for para-church organizations or retire. (BP)

Michael Brooks is a correspondent for The Alabama Baptist, where this article first appeared. Additional reporting by WR staff.

Pastoral termination common but often avoidable, experts say

By David Roach

Nashville—As many as four in 10 pastors will be forced to leave a church—either by firing or pressured resignation—at least once during their ministry careers, according to researchers.

But experts in pastoral ministry say many forced terminations can be prevented by wise leadership, and very few terminations disqualify a pastor from future ministry.

"Sometimes the best pastors are still going to be in bad situations, and they have to know how to handle it when it comes and still walk with the Lord," Hershael York, a preaching professor at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary and pastor of Buck Run Baptist Church in Frankfort, told Baptist Press. "The main thing a guy has to realize is that even when we go through this, it just cannot affect our faith and trust in Christ."

Preventing terminations

Between 23 and 41 percent of pastors experience "forced termination" at least once, according to an article published last year in the Journal of Religion and Health. Some 452 Southern Baptist pastors and staff were forcibly terminated in 2012, according to a report compiled by state Baptist convention workers who deal with church conflict.

Common causes of forced termination among Southern Baptists are "control issues," "pastor's leadership style" and "poor people skills on the part of the pastor," according to the report. Among the top 15 causes of forced terminations, only two are related to sin by the pastor—"ethical misconduct" ranks eighth and "sexual misconduct" ranks 10th.

The main cause of terminations "is almost always personality conflict," York said. Church members "buy on emotion and justify with facts. If a pastor does something that emotionally ticks someone off, what they'll often do is start looking for a justification of why they don't like that guy." If they can't say the trivial thing that upsets them, they'll "look for the thing they can use" to force the pastor out, he said.

Developing good people skills is a key facet of establishing a pastor's ministry and guarding against forced termination, York said, noting that ministers must "think on the perceptual level" and determine how they can speak the truth without being "unnecessarily offensive."

Among the most self-defeating statements a pastor can make are possessive references like "my church" and "my pulpit," York said. He advises pastors to express love for the church frequently.

"A pastor really needs to tell his church he's grateful to be there, he's thankful to be their pastor, he loves them," York said. "It's just hard for people to dislike somebody who's always being grateful and expressing his affection for them."

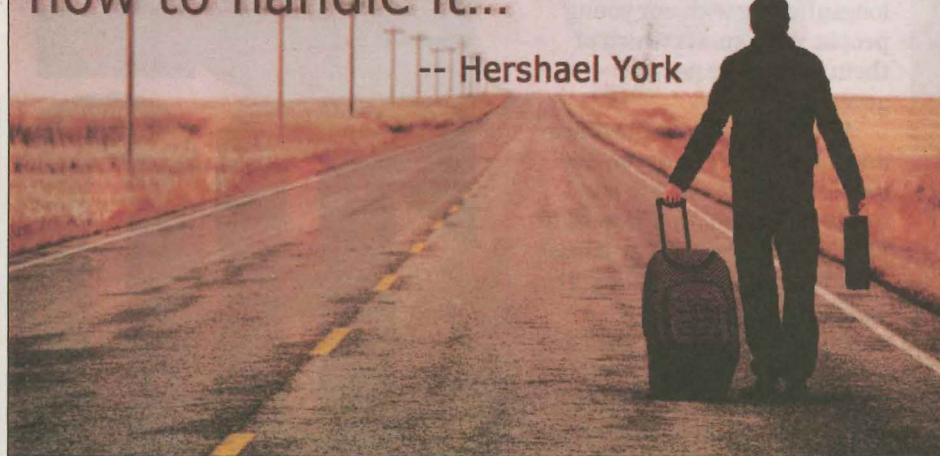
Social media and text messages make it easier than ever to stay in touch with church members and express affection, York said, though he cautioned pastors to use social media appropriately.

When conflict comes

Even when a pastor has good people skills, a faction in the church may pressure him to resign. In such instances, Jeff Iorg urged the pastor to seek outside help

"Sometimes the best pastors are still going to be in bad situations, and they have to know how to handle it..."

-- Hershael York



and pursue dialogue rather than conflict.

Baptist associations, state conventions and independent mediation ministries all offer assistance to pastors and congregations experiencing conflict, Iorg, president of Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary, told BP.

Sometimes it's hard for pastors to admit that they're wrong, that they need to adjust or that church members are perhaps correct in their perception of problems, Iorg said.

An outsider can help pastors see their mistakes and adjust, Iorg said. "There are people who are so entrenched in their opposition or so angry or so bitter or so difficult that won't solve the problem," he said. Confrontational meetings and votes are rarely the best forum to settle disputes between congregation and pastor, Iorg said.

"Pastors—unless there's a clear doctrinal or moral issue in play—don't need to force division into a church, if at all possible," he said. "So they need to be as patient as possible to bring about a solution that doesn't involve that kind of public confrontation."

Roger Oldham, vice president for convention communications and relations with the Southern Baptist Convention Executive Committee, said a 1986 article in The Quarterly Review publication proved helpful to him in counseling pastors facing pressure. The article advised pastors not to be intimidated into a resignation at the first signs of conflict.

"Differences of opinion about vision and leadership within a local church are inevitable," Oldham, a longtime pastor before assuming his current role at the EC, told BP. "Though powerful personalities can make it seem the easier way out, uprooting one's family, with all the upheaval that entails, is seldom the best way to deal with those differences."

The article, "Forced Termination?" by Howard V. Pendley III, summarized common arguments for a pastor's resignation, including "it's better for your family."

"It is seldom 'better' for one's family to abruptly sever their friendship networks, move to a new location and face economic uncertainty merely because a few members may be dissatisfied with the pastor's vision for the church," Oldham said. Church members who use this line of

reasoning "hope the pastor will meekly acquiesce to their wishes," he said.

Other arguments discussed include:

■ "A large number of the members are dissatisfied with your ministry."

Is the supposedly dissatisfied group "a fringe group of perennial malcontents; or does it represent the most highly respected, mainstream leadership of the church?" Pendley wrote. "As long as he maintains the support of the latter group, it's not going to be easy to terminate him forcibly."

■ "Please don't force us to take this to the church. If you do ... the congregation will probably split."

Pendley said churches do split; sometimes it's better for everyone concerned if they do. But a church rarely splits over a dispute concerning its pastor. Unless the minister leaves, taking with him a substantial number of the church members, it's not likely that the church will split. When the smoke clears, however the vote comes out, the composition of the church will usually be almost exactly what it was before the vote was taken.

■ "Pastor, everyone knows that it's easier to find a job when you've got a job. ... We'll give you up to 30 days (or more) to relocate. Your next church doesn't have to know about all this trouble."

While it's true that finding a job is easier when a person is employed, it's unrealistic to believe a prospective church won't investigate the circumstances under which a pastor left, Pendley wrote.

Pendley also recommends to pastors:

■ Don't panic. You rarely need to make an instant decision. Don't let your critics force you to do so.

■ Don't be intimidated.

■ Don't let the matter come to the

church for a vote unless you're reasonably sure you will be sustained.

■ Do conduct a discreet poll of as many of the significant congregational leaders as you can identify.

When a ministry ends

A pastor who is forced to resign or voted out is not necessarily disqualified from future ministry unless he leaves because of personal immorality, Iorg said. After a period of emotional and spiritual healing, a terminated minister may serve fruitfully once again.

"There are two classes of mistakes that leaders make," Iorg said. "One is the mistakes that disqualify us from future service. But the other one is the mistakes that only disqualify us from our current position, and those happen to many people in life, where you simply for whatever reason are no longer suited for a position and it's time to move on to another one and to learn from the past and be better in the future."

Sylvan Knobloch, director of church health and staff development at the Illinois Baptist State Association, said terminated pastors should tend quickly to their families' emotional health.

"Recognize the emotional trauma and its effects on the family," Knobloch told BP in written comments. "Inquire of your insurance carrier if your health insurance policy includes mental health services. Ask your state convention what services are available to help the family through this time."

"Often we assume termination only affects the pastor. However, in reality the wife loses her friends both inside and outside the church. She may be forced to leave a job or career she finds fulfilling. The children leave their friends through no fault of their own. It is imperative that churches, pastors and denominational leaders understand this emotional stress and provide counseling services to the pastor and his family," Knobloch said.

Terminated pastors should participate in retreats hosted by independent ministries and state conventions, Knobloch said, noting that the Illinois state association hosts such a retreat twice a year.

Knobloch cautioned against hurrying into a new ministry assignment. He advises terminated pastors to consider: "What are my gifts, talents, experiences and abilities? In what ministry or church has God used my gifts and abilities, allowing me to flourish? Where have I been most successful in ministry? Why?"

Based on this knowledge, Knobloch said, "you will be able to determine the kind of church environment where you will be able to flourish in the ministry." (BP)



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A fabulous Friday at Oneida

Future doctors, missionaries and perhaps a governor in our midst

On a recent Friday, my calendar was full of events. It was not a typical office day, but it turned out to be a great Oneida day. After first period that morning, I traveled with Angie, our principal, our development director, and one of our very best students to the ninth annual Bert T. Combs Symposium in Manchester. At that symposium, I was given the opportunity to share some about Oneida and Bert T. Combs' time as a student at OBI. Mr. Combs attended Oneida as a middle school student in the 1920s, and, of course, went on to serve as governor of our great state from 1959-63.

Governor Combs wrote about his Oneida experience in the foreword of "Dawn Comes to the Mountains," a pictorial history of Oneida published in 1981. He talked of his teachers and what he learned from them. He also shared about the work ethic and life lessons he learned at OBI, which he would carry with him throughout his life.

Although the world around us has changed, Oneida is still in the business of teaching young people life lessons that they can carry with them into this wide world.

I often wonder what our current students will one day do with their lives. I know there are future doctors, missionaries, pastors, and perhaps even a governor walking our hallways today. It is our staff's job to introduce Jesus to our

students and educate them "for time and eternity" so they can go on to become what God would have them be. At the symposium I learned that Bert T. Combs did not have the easiest of transi-

tions as an Oneida student, and even ran away on more than one occasion. Hearing this, I was reminded that we must be longsuffering with our young people. Who knows which of them will be the next governor?

After returning to the office and handling a few day-to-day items, I made my way to our newly renovated Anderson Hall for a new staff reception. It was

a great opportunity to spend time with our new staff and hear how their Oneida transitions were going. The Lord has blessed us with some great new staff members this year, and I want to be sure we help them as they settle in and begin ministering to our kids.

Shortly after the new staff reception, we held a new student reception. Most of our 104 new students made their way to Anderson Hall for food and fellowship. As I stood in the doorway and greeted each young person, I was amazed as I heard each one tell me where they were from. Our kids come from all over Kentucky, the United States, and the world. Please come and meet some of these new staff and students when you can.

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

Pastor appreciation week

Support your pastor by giving an online Bible class at Clear Creek

October has been designated as pastor appreciation month reminding us to show our appreciation to those who lead. Into Thy Word research indicates that 71 percent of pastors battle depression beyond fatigue on a weekly, even daily, basis.

This is not new, in fact, in Exodus 17:8-16 the leader of Israel, Moses, was faced with a new challenge. The Amalekites were the next hurdle to overcome in their journey toward the Promised Land. Verse 8 says, "Then came Amalek" This biblical account is an excellent snapshot of how a pastor's day may change. In a world with growing demands, a pastor can be willingly pulled in many different directions, facing new challenges and ministry needs every day. In the exodus account, Moses grew tired and was in need of encouragement. However, Moses was supported by two men, and consequently the hurdle to overcome became a place to herald as overcomers; everyone benefits from a little support.

At Clear Creek Baptist Bible College, we recognize the need for supporting pastors as they lead. We feel it would be a great support to your pastor to give him the chance to dig deep into the word of God with other pastors across

Kentucky and around the world. In an initiative to undergird our fellow pastors, we would like to offer your church the opportunity to show your appreciation to him by providing an online experience in a Bible class here at Clear Creek. We can assure you that your pastor will receive sound doctrine and solid biblical principles from our professors, whom many are pastors themselves.

For Pastor Appreciation, Clear Creek we will provide one online class of your pastor's choice for the total cost of \$200. We will send you a certificate to

present him from the congregation, along with a schedule for the classes that are available for the spring semester. Lifeway research tells us that 94 percent of pastors strongly agree that ministry training was worth the investment. October, pastor appreciation month, is quickly approaching, so call our admissions director, Shannon Benefiel, today at 606-337-3196 or email at shannon.benefiel@cbbc.edu for more details.

Let us be the one that stands with your church leaders to support them in kingdom work, to wave with you the banner that proclaims Christ as Lord.

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

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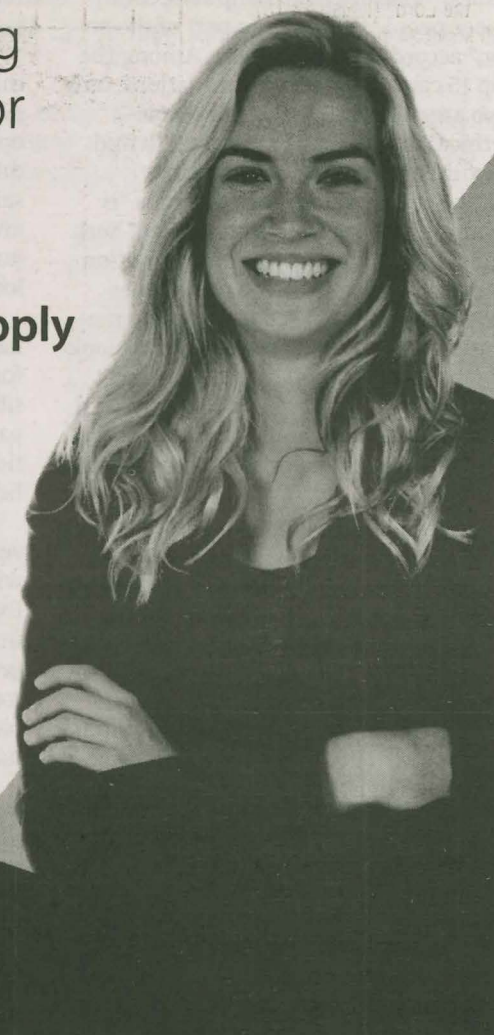
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FEMA council adds Baptist DR leader

Alpharetta, Ga.—Fritz Wilson, executive director of Southern Baptist Disaster Relief, is one of 12 new appointees to the Federal Emergency Management Agency's National Advisory Council.

Wilson was selected for a three-year term from among 200 leaders recommended from across the U.S., including elected officials, scientists, emergency management specialists and cyber security professionals.

The 35-member advisory council, established following Hurricane Katrina, studies service gaps and recommends solutions for preparedness, response and recovery.

"It's a high honor to represent Southern Baptists and Southern Baptist Disaster Relief," Wilson said. "Southern Baptists are willing to do whatever it takes to bring help, healing and hope to communities in need."

Wilson, a staff member of the North

American Mission Board, said he believes FEMA officials chose him to bring experience and expertise in "standards setting" and accrediting" for response groups.

He follows Mickey Caison, NAMB's previous disaster relief team leader, who served on the council in a dual role.

An Alabama native, Wilson has led SBDP at NAMB since 2012. He had been with the Florida Baptist Convention since 1996 leading disaster relief. He has led in more than 150 disaster responses, including the 2011 tornado out-

break in Alabama.

NAMB President Kevin Ezell said Wilson will be a great resource.

"He will also be a voice for faith groups who have so much to offer in times of need. His appointment demonstrates the level of credibility Southern Baptist volunteers have earned over the years by serving so tirelessly and so effectively." (BP)



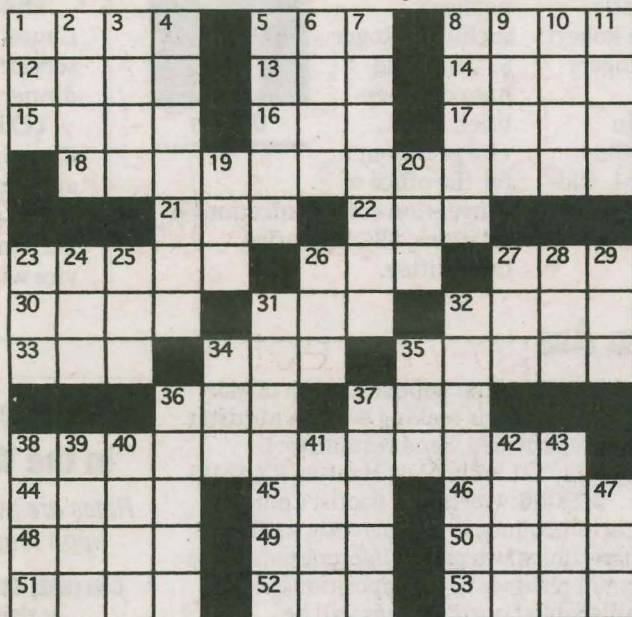
Fritz Wilson

Bible Crosswords

By Janet W. Adkins

Across

- 1 "There was a marriage in _____ of Galilee" (John 2:1)
- 5 Headwear
- 8 "When they saw the _____, they rejoiced" (Matthew 2:10)
- 12 Son of Jerameel (1 Chronicles 2:25)
- 13 "If we confess _____ sins" (1 John 1:9)
- 14 "Her _____ shall be holiness to the Lord" (Isaiah 23:18)
- 15 Mexican money
- 16 Suffix meaning "process or function"
- 17 "For I have slain _____" (Genesis 4:23) (2 words)
- 18 "Thou hast made us to drink the wine of _____" (Psalms 60:3)
- 21 "The archers _____ him" (1 Samuel 31:3)
- 22 Shoe width
- 23 "It shall be health to thy _____" (Proverbs 3:8)
- 26 Girl's name
- 27 "That I may _____ Christ" (Philippians 3:8)
- 30 "It shall be a statute for _____" (Leviticus 23:31)
- 31 "Samuel arose, and _____ him up from Gilgal" (1 Samuel 13:15)
- 32 Son of Zerah (1 Chronicles 2:6)
- 33 Money owed the government
- 34 "_____ also the Jairite was a chief ruler about David" (2 Samuel 20:26)
- 35 "Thou shalt call his name _____: for he shall save his people from their sins" (Matthew 1:21)
- 36 Onassis
- 37 "Babylon is taken, _____ is confounded" (Jeremiah 50:2)
- 38 "To _____ of goods, or to imprisonment" (Ezra 7:26)
- 44 "There was also _____ for the tribe of Manasseh"



#011

(Joshua 17:1) (2 words)

- 45 Place for experiments
- 46 "Strain at a _____" (Matthew 23:24)
- 48 Belonging to me
- 49 Compass point
- 50 Prefix for half
- 51 Not rich
- 52 Of the, Sp.
- 53 Very, Fr.

Down

- 1 Police officer (slang)
- 2 Vicinity
- 3 Scottish lake
- 4 "There arose _____ generation after them" (Judges 2:10)
- 5 "_____ it all joy" (James 1:2)
- 6 Comb. form for ear
- 7 "Now therefore _____ yourselves before the Lord" (1 Samuel 10:19)
- 8 "How long will you turn my glory into _____?" (Psalms 4:2)
- 9 "My _____ is at hand" (Mt. 26:18)
- 10 Brother of Uz (1 Chronicles 1:42)
- 11 "A great and strong wind _____ the mountains" (1 Kings 19:11)
- 19 "They _____ their lamps, and took no _____ with them" (Matthew 25:3)
- 20 "Even as a _____ gathereth her chickens" (Matthew 23:37)
- 23 "For he shall pluck my feet out

- of the _____" (Psalms 25:15)
- 24 "And the king of Assyria brought men from Babylon ... and from _____" (2 Kings 17:24)
- 25 "For they _____ you with their wives" (Numbers 25:18)
- 26 Auto club, abbr.
- 27 "And the child _____ cured" (Matthew 17:18)
- 28 First son of Caleb (1 Chronicles 4:15)
- 29 Naval Air Station, abbr.
- 31 "The rams ... are ringstraked ... and _____" (Genesis 31:12)
- 32 "But his _____ is in the law of the Lord" (Psalms 1:2)
- 34 A son of Bela (1 Chronicles 7:7)
- 35 Type of airplane
- 36 "They returned from searching of the land _____ forty days" (Numbers 13:25)
- 37 "And the beginning of his (Nimrod's) kingdom was _____" (Genesis 10:10)
- 38 "I will _____ against thee" (Isaiah 29:3)
- 39 Miscellaneous mixture
- 40 Something forbidden
- 41 "Sweet _____ from a far country" (Jeremiah 6:20)
- 42 Latin prefix meaning "burden"
- 43 "Ye might have life through his _____" (John 20:31)
- 47 Poetic contraction for "it is"



Our time has arrived!

Future role of foundation will be even more critical

The Kentucky Baptist Foundation was formally conceived by a motion from the floor of the 1943 annual meeting of the General Association of Baptists in Kentucky, now the Kentucky Baptist Convention, meeting in Bowling Green.

It was created in 1944 when the GABK approved its charter. It was incorporated under the laws of the Commonwealth of Kentucky on March 8, 1945, almost 70 years ago.

The first meeting of its board of directors was held June 19, 1945. Dr. J. W. Black, the general secretary of the GABK, convened the meeting and agreed to serve as the secretary-treasurer of the KBF until other staff arrangements could be made.

The late A.M. Vollmer was elected the first full-time executive leader of the KBF, effective July 1, 1946. Previously he had served as the superintendent of the Louisville Orphan's Home. Dr. Vollmer retired Aug. 31, 1964.

In his final report to the KBF board of directors, Dr. Vollmer said, "The Foundation has been in the past and will continue to be in the future my

first love among all of our Kentucky Baptist projects. This is true because it lives to strengthen all the rest."

No one has said it any better than Dr. Vollmer. Today, the KBF still exists not for itself, but for the rest of our larger Kentucky Baptist family of churches, associations, educational institutions, children's homes, hospitals, camps and conference centers, mission boards and missions support organizations.

Although the KBF has been serving Kentucky Baptists for almost 70 years, its time has just arrived!

Given the significant challenges of financing in the future the missions and ministries of every component of our Kentucky Baptist family, and given the demographic, economic, social, cultural, technological and denominational trends, and their collective impact on charitable giving, the role of the KBF in the future of Kentucky Baptist life will be ever more critical.

Please give Laurie Valentine and me the privilege of facilitating your desire to make a lasting difference in the world for the cause of Christ through

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

Ky. Baptist Foundation



Barry Allen

Power to serve

EBO offering supports Green Valley, Crestwood ministry centers

It does not take being in ministry very long to realize that we do not have the wisdom or energy to do all the needs to be done. There are demands that are far greater than our knowledge or skill can handle. There are situations that require greater expertise than we can offer. There are needs to meet that require longer hours than we have stamina. Yet, over and over, ministry leaders go above and beyond to serve and share Jesus.

The power to serve comes from the Holy Spirit who grants ability and strength far beyond what we could ask or imagine.

In Green Valley Association, Kathy Strange and other volunteers, minister to people in need through THE ANSWER Center in Henderson. The center provides food, clothes and household items and the gospel is presented to participants during exit interviews.

Kathy said, "Our objective is to meet physical needs of people while sharing Jesus as the only ANSWER to heaven."

The ANSWER Center also holds a variety of outreach activities such as an Easter ministry and Kids' Korner Back-to-School Ministry.

Last year 176 children received back-to-school kits with Bibles.

Kay Hammond, director of Appalachian Pregnancy Care Center in Pikeville, is passionate about ministry to women experiencing unplanned pregnancies. APCC provides education, resources, and helps new mothers avoid

the pitfalls that often accompany an unplanned or unwanted pregnancy.

This past year APCC served 772 women and their families and all clients were presented the gospel of Jesus Christ. There is rejoicing in the six professions of faith and 12 rededications APCC saw this year.

In addition, two abortion-minded clients decided to keep their babies, meaning two lives were saved! And 84 babies were born under the blanket of APCC this year.

The Closet of Mission Crestwood provides clothing for families in need. But Rusti Morrison, director, said that "many times families come to The Closet, not because they need the clothing, but to talk and pray with advocates and to receive diapers and laundry detergent." Rusti added, "Any family with children needs additional detergent!"

One unwed mother came who had been asked to leave her parents' home. When she came to The Closet she was visibly shaken, cold, and had only the clothing on her back. Mission Crestwood was able to help her, continue praying with her, help her get a job, and help with child care for her baby. Discipling this new mother and many others is cause for rejoicing at Mission Crestwood.

Grants from the Eliza Broadus Offering have helped each of these ministries in the past year. Your gifts make a difference!

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



Joy Bolton



September

- 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.
- 20** Disaster Relief Training: Phases I & II, Calvary Baptist Church, Glasgow.
- 22** EQUIP Tour, First Baptist Church, Grayson.
- 23** EQUIP Tour, Williamstown Baptist Church.
- 24** Fort Sherman Training Academy, Ky. Baptist Building, Louisville.
- 26** BCM Collegiate Disaster Relief Training, Eastern Kentucky University BCM Building, Richmond.
- 29** EQUIP Tour, Parkway Baptist Church, Bardonia.
- 30** EQUIP Tour, Glasgow Baptist Church.

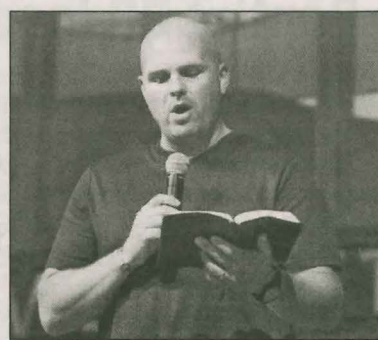
128 lives changed as King speaks at UC

Williamsburg—At least 128 students responded to the gospel—and even more were inspired—during a Sept. 2 opening convocation at the University of the Cumberland led by Evangelist Clayton King, of Anderson, S.C.

In a message centered on Luke 24, King told the UC students, "Sometimes we can be blind to the Lord's presence until later in our lives and experiences, just like the men on the road from Jerusalem to Emmaus. Regardless of anything you have ever done or have ever had done to you, Jesus will always be there for you if you invite him in."

Sophomore Lydia Huggins, of Erwin, Tenn., said, "The story King told of the two disciples on the road to Emmaus was a wonderful message to those who don't know Jesus personally, but knew of Him. I think it helped people to realize the difference of knowing about Jesus and knowing Him personally."

"I was encouraged by the disciples' dedication to the Lord because they walked all the way back to Jerusalem to tell people of their encounter with Him," Huggins added. "I hope the 88 people who became believers tonight will be just as bold in their faith



Evangelist Clayton King visited University of the Cumberland Sept. 2.

and tell others about their encounter with God."

King also spoke at a UC football practice earlier that day, where 40 young men made a decision to follow the Lord. (UC)

Longtime Bowling Green pastor Richard Oldham dies at 84

Richard P. Oldham, 84, of Bowling Green died Sept. 8, 2014.

The Louisville native served as pastor of Glendale Baptist in Bowling Green for 57 years.

Oldham founded "Teentime," a youth radio broadcast that has aired continuously for more than 50 years in Bowling Green; Camp Joy Youth Bible Conference that met in Brownsville for more than 40 years; and Anchored Christian School in Bowling Green.

During his ministry, he bap-

tized more than 6,000 people.

Funeral services were Sept. 11, at Glendale Baptist Church.

Burial took place at the New-castle Cemetery in Newcastle.

He was a son of the late Robert B. Oldham Sr. and Lessie Rogers Oldham of Louisville.

Oldham was preceded in death by a sister, Edith G. Oldham; and a brother, Roger L. Oldham. Survivors include a brother, Robert B. Oldham Jr. of Campbellsville; a sister, Jeanne

Carothers of Central Point, Oregon; and nine nieces and nephews, including Roger S. "Sing" Oldham of Greenbrier, Tenn., vice president for the office of convention communications & relations, SBC Executive Committee.



Oldham

CLASSIFIED ADS

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

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

SEEKING: Radcliff Baptist Church is seeking a bi-vocational pastor. Please send resume 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 resume, 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: 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 resume (no electronic submissions) and DVD by Oct. 15 to Beacon Hill Baptist Church, P.O. Box 3061, West Somerset, KY 42564.

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 resume to the church, 2698 Evergreen Rd., Frankfort, KY 40601 or 502-223-8364.

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

SEEKING: A large church in Knoxville, Tenn.-area is taking resumes 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 resumes to looking4worship@aol.com.

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

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 resume with salary expectations (salary negotiable dependent upon qualifications): Northside Baptist Church, Attn.: Jane Hunt, 1800 Pear Orchard Rd., Elizabethtown, KY 42701.

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

SEEKING: Worthville Baptist Church in Carroll County, Ky., is currently seeking a part-time youth pastor. If interested, please email resumes to youthposition@worthvillebaptist.org. Resumes will be accepted through Sunday 9/21.

SEEKING: Associate pastor of education ministry: South Campbellsville Baptist Church is seeking a full-time associate pastor of education ministries who will work in conjunction with lead pastor and church leadership team. We are seeking a pastor who has a strong heartbeat for discipleship and teaching ministry; and to help implement our fresh church vision: Serve God, bring Glory to Jesus, Commit to equipping the saints. This position will involve building a healthy structure inside the church through small groups, programs, classes and pastoral care. Please take time to visit our church website at www.southchurch.us to review the full job description. Resumes

To place an advertisement in the Western Recorder:

Rates are available upon request.

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



should be emailed by Oct. 8, 2014, to resume@southchurch.us.

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Truett Cathy, faith-rooted business entrepreneur, dies at 93

By Art Toalston

Atlanta—S. Truett Cathy, founder of the Chick-fil-A restaurant chain famous for closing on Sundays, died Sept. 8. He was 93.

"I was not so committed to financial success that I was willing to abandon my principles and priorities," Cathy once said. "Our decision to close on Sunday was our way of honoring God and of directing our attention to things that mattered more than our business."

Cathy, one of Southern Baptists' most respected businessmen, was surrounded by loved ones when died at his home at 1:35 a.m., according to an announcement from the Atlanta-based company.

Mel Blackaby, senior pastor of the Atlanta-area First Baptist Church in Jonesboro, described Cathy as "perhaps the most gracious Christian man I have ever known, and it was a privilege to be his pastor."

"Having taught eighth-grade boys Sunday School class for 52 years, he chose to invest his life in the next generation of leaders," Blackaby said in a statement to The Christian Index of the Georgia Baptist Convention. "Everywhere I go, I meet leaders with a smile on their face who say, 'I am one of Truett's boys!'"

"His winsome personality left a positive impression on every person he met, and his deep love for the Lord was undeniable," Blackaby said. "In the marketplace he may be known as 'the inventor of the chicken sandwich,' but his success in business simply gave him the opportunity to serve people and point them to Christ. Truett's life is the story of a man and his God. He leaves an example for all to follow."

More than 1,800 Chick-fil-A restaurants operate in 40 states and Washington, D.C., recording \$5 billion in annual sales in 2013 and 47 consecutive years of annual sales increases. Chick-fil-A was listed among the "Top 20 Brands with the Most Loyal Fans on Facebook" in a report by market research firm LoudDoor released in August.

Cathy, a native of Eatonton, Ga., who moved to Atlanta with his family at age 4, has received more than 100 national, state and community awards since 1984 and 18 honorary doctorates since 1991.

His key Bible verse was Proverbs 22:1: "A good name is rather to be chosen than great riches, and loving favor rather than silver and gold."

After serving in the Army from 1939-45, Cathy and his brother Ben opened their first restaurant in 1946, a venue so small they named it The Dwarf Grill (later, The Dwarf House). A second suburban Atlanta location opened in 1951 but burned in 1960. In reopening and repurposing the restaurant, Cathy became one of the pioneers of fast-food restaurants in greater Atlanta.

In 1967 Cathy continued to chart new ground, opening his first Chick-fil-A venue in a mall followed in 1986 by the first free-standing Chick-fil-A.

Ethical and biblical principles were central to each of Cathy's steps forward.

"We live in a changing world, but we need to be reminded that the important things have not changed," he said.

"I have always encouraged my restaurant operators and team members to give back to the local community. We should be about more than just selling chicken; we should be a part of our customers' lives and the communities in which we serve."

Robert White, executive director of the Georgia Baptist Convention, said Cathy "will long be remembered for taking strong Christian stands in the marketplace including keep the Lord's day as a day of rest and worship for all Chick-fil-A employees and influencing his company's more recent stand honoring the sanctity of marriage between one man and one woman."

"It would be difficult to measure the positive impact that Truett Cathy has had upon young people



Influential business entrepreneur S. Truett Cathy, founder of the Chick-fil-A restaurants. (Chick-fil-A photo.)

through his generous scholarship programs that have assisted many in their desire to complete their college education," White said. "Georgia Baptists extend our prayers to the Cathy family as well as to all the Chick-fil-A family for the comfort and peace of the Lord."

Ronnie Floyd, president of the Southern Baptist Convention, said Cathy "lived before the entire world a strong commitment to faith, family and work. His convictional leadership not only built a great family, but also one of America's most phenomenal companies."

Floyd, pastor of Cross Church in northwest Arkansas, said he will never forget Cathy's address at a regional business summit several years ago.

"To this day, it remains the largest crowd we have had in our 12-year history. His life, legacy and personality captivated the audience."

Frank Page, president of the SBC Executive Committee, said he was "privileged to meet with Truett Cathy on several occasions."

"I deeply appreciated his stand on Christian convictions. Most of all, I admired his tenacity and faithfulness, especially exhibited in teaching young boys at First Baptist Jonesboro, Ga."

His example of steadfastness and commitment to teaching the Word of God is an example to us all."

The president of the SBC's Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission, Russell Moore, said Cathy "demonstrated that the lordship of Christ is about the whole of life. He modeled integrity, hard work and compassion."

"The 'closed on Sundays' sign on his stores is a countercultural statement that man does not live by bread alone, and there is more to life than a bottom line. He is now in that eternal Sabbath rest, where the banquet is never closed. On earth, he will be missed and, I pray, emulated."

Cathy is survived by his wife of 65 years, Jeannette McNeil Cathy; sons Dan T. and Don "Bubba" Cathy; daughter Trudy Cathy White; 19 grandchildren and 18 great-grandchildren. Dan Cathy became president of Chick-fil-A in 2001, and chairman and chief executive officer in 2013 while Truett Cathy continued in the role of chairman emeritus until his death.

"Bubba" Cathy leads a retreat center founded by the

company, while his daughter, Trudy Cathy White, is involved with a summer girls' camp, also stemming from her father's charitable work.

She and her husband John served 12 years as Southern Baptist missionaries in Brazil.

John White subsequently was the International Mission Board's associate vice president for overseas operations from 1995-2001 and executive vice president from 2001-03.

Truett Cathy established his WinShape Foundation in 1984, reflecting his desire to "shape winners" by helping young people succeed in life through scholarships and other youth-support programs.

In addition, through its Leadership Scholarship Program, the Chick-fil-A chain has given more than \$32 million in financial assistance to Chick-fil-A restaurant employees since 1973.

As part of Cathy's WinShape Homes program, 13 foster care homes were launched and operated by Cathy and the WinShape Foundation to provide long-term care for foster children within a positive family environment.

WinShape Homes has provided a safe and secure home to more than 450 children in which they could grow physically, spiritually and emotionally.

WinShape Camps was founded in 1985 as a residential two-week summer camp to impact young people through experiences that enhance their Christian faith, character and relationships. Each summer, more than 18,000 campers attend WinShape Camps.

In 2003, Cathy's son Bubba and daughter-in-law Cindy opened WinShape Retreat, a retreat and conference facility on the campus of Berry College in Rome, Ga. The multi-use facility hosts marriage-enrichment retreats along with business and church-related conferences.

In the summer months, it also houses WinShape Camp for girls, directed by Trudy Cathy White.

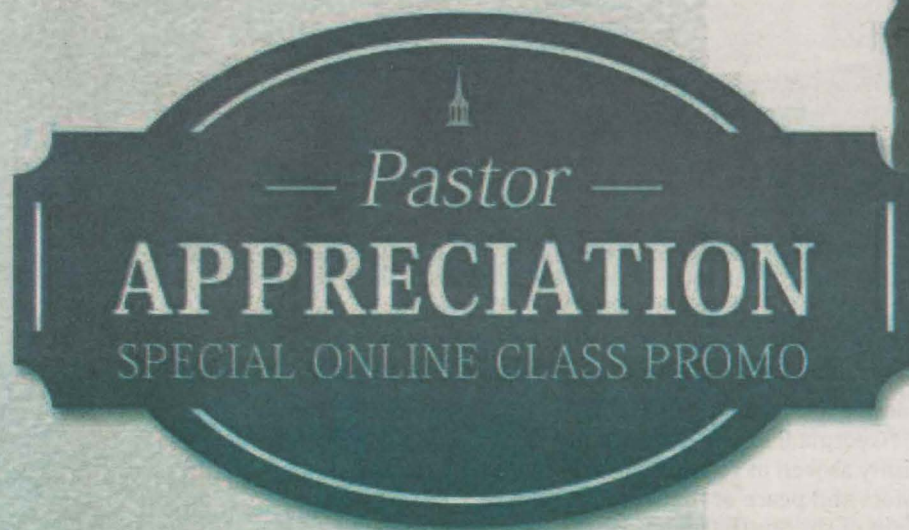
Cathy was the author of "It's Easier to Succeed Than to Fail" (Thomas Nelson Publishing, 1989); "Eat Mor Chikin: Inspire More People" (Looking Glass Books, 2002); "It's Better to Build Boys Than Mend Men" (Looking Glass Books, 2004); "How Did You Do It, Truett?" (Looking Glass Books, 2007); and "Wealth, Is It Worth It?" (Looking Glass Books, 2011).

He also was co-author of "The Generosity Factor" with Ken Blanchard (Zondervan Publishing, 2002). (BP)

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