

WESTERN Recorder

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Shine Like Stars • Philippians 2:15

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Lost in Louisville

EngageKY bus tour 'breaks' hearts for city's lostness

By Robin Cornetel

Louisville—Kentucky Baptists loaded a tour bus and took in the sites of Louisville Sept. 19, but instead of hitting tourist spots, they rode through rundown areas of West Louisville, past strip clubs, even a Sikh temple.

The tour was part of EngageKY and was designed to show the reality facing Southern Baptists in Louisville—that Christians no longer claim the majority.

Statistics presented by the Kentucky Baptist Convention and Long Run Baptist Association showed that of Louisville's 1.24 million population, about 53 percent—more than 650,000 souls—are religiously unaffiliated, or are part of another world religion or cult. Of those who do claim affiliation with a Protestant

denomination, a majority do not have a personal relationship with Christ.

"We think because we see a lot of church buildings, we assume a place is covered (by the gospel)," said Todd Robertson, pastor of Antioch Church in Louisville. "I want you to know this is a lost place. We have hundreds of thousands of our neighbors who are dying and are going to hell. I hope that breaks your heart like it does mine."

Through the two-day look at lostness in Louisville, EngageKY participants also learned about the numerous ministries waiting to partner with missions-minded churches throughout Kentucky that are searching for ways to reach "Judea and Samaria, and the ends of the world" (Acts 1:8).

Matthew Smyzer, executive director of



Above, Louisville missions leaders discussed the type of ministry work they do and how Kentucky Baptist churches can help in partnership. Panelists included Matthew Smyzer, executive director of Baptist Fellowship Center; Bill

West Louisville's Baptist Fellowship Center, told about meeting the needs of the city's low-income families.

Rachelle Starr, founder and executive director of Scarlet Hope, spoke about the joys of leading women out of Louisville's booming sex industry.

Refuge Louisville Executive Director Jonathan Braden opened participants'

eyes to the ever-growing number of people groups who now call the city home. To demonstrate how quickly Louisville's population has changed, he used the tour to point out numerous restaurants and grocery stores owned by immigrants from countries like Bosnia, India, Iraq and

See Louisville's Lost ... Page 2

State CP gifts decline 1.7%; EBO up, other offerings down

Louisville—Financial contributions to the Cooperative Program declined 1.7 percent last fiscal year, largely the result of an end-of-year time crunch for churches.

Lowell Ashby, leader of the Kentucky Baptist Convention's finance & business services team, said the time crunch was caused by the 2013-14 fiscal year ending on a Sunday. Even with the KBC business office accepting church contributions until Sept. 3 for gifts postmarked in August, many churches did not send in their final checks before the ledgers closed.

Contributions for the 2013-14 fiscal year totaled \$21,404,469. That's down \$375,000 from \$21,779,851 the previous fiscal year. Five of the last six years since the economic recession struck in 2008 have seen declining contributions to the Cooperative Program. Cooperative Program receipts in August were \$326,868 less than in August 2013.

Ashby said many churches will have their August contributions counted in the current 2014-2015 fiscal year,

See Gifts decline ... Page 3

Boston kicks off Send North America Experience tour

By Joe Conway

Boston, Mass.—The fall tour of the North American Mission Board's Send North America Experience debuted Sept. 8 at Tremont Temple Baptist Church.

More than 1,100 attenders lined up around the block, passing the final resting place of Paul Revere and dozens of other patriot's headstones on their way to hear a message from David Platt, worship with the Passion Band and learn more about living life on mission.

Aaron Coe, NAMB's vice president for mobilization and marketing, recounted that D.L. Moody, Billy Sunday and Billy Graham have preached in senior pastor Denton Lotz's pulpit in Boston, Mass. He is one in a line of prominent preachers who've led the nation's first integrated congregation.

Coe hinted that history is not finished with Tremont.

"A group of ordinary Baptist men felt called by God to build a church that did not charge for pews (a

custom common in colonial America)," Coe said. "They believed that every life on mission matters. We believe that every life on mission matters. It is time for the church to stop making excuses and take action."

Coe led the gathering, made up of many Bostonians, and scores of people from around the northeast, to pray for the city, its leaders and for Jesus to be known in the region.

One of those Bostonians was Drew Dolan, a mechanical engineering student at Northeastern University. He was there with fiancée Amada Bringhurst to hear Platt and "explore what God is doing here in Boston and see how we can be a part."

Platt, newly elected president of the International Mission Board, reminded the ethnically diverse gathering not to underestimate the power of God's Spirit.

"I want to encourage you and exhort you that God has placed you here for a reason," said Platt, who

See Boston tour ... Page 2



Aaron Coe

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Louisville's Lost

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Vietnam.

Braden, who founded Refuge, said his ministry seeks to form relationships and ultimately share the gospel by offering training opportunities that help immigrants become self-reliant. Louisville takes in about 1,500 resettlement refugees annually, he said, and along with their cultural tastes come their religions.

"We know about the existence of 21 mosques in the city," Braden said. Louisville has also become home to many Buddhists, Hindus, Unitarian Universalists, Jains and Sikhs, as well as atheists, humanists and pagans.

It can be difficult to keep track of the exact number of religious groups, Braden pointed out, because many meet in homes. As these groups grow, however, they need larger spaces. Some, like the Alzarah Islamic Center, have moved into former Baptist churches.

Robertson said the fact that Muslim groups are buying vacant church properties brings up another reality facing Southern Baptists—Louisville churches need revitalization.

"Long Run Baptist Association has 160 churches, and an overwhelming majority are on a plateau or are dying. That's just reality," he said. "There is an incredible need and an incredible population growth in the city that the churches cannot keep up with."

Director of Mission Wesley Pitts said Long Run Association has formulated a two-pronged approach that works to resuscitate and heal existing Baptist churches while also nurturing much-needed church plants.

There are many ways Baptist churches outside of Louisville can help, Pitts said, and the first is to "pray for us."

"We ask you to pray; that you go back to your home church and be an advocate for us, and that you come back and become partners with us so that, together, we can continue to reach this great city with the gospel."

KBC Missions Strategist
Doug Williams

Churches that are struggling to keep their doors open need long-term partners, Pitts said, other churches that can devote five to six years. Some need assistance with maintenance or construction. Other Louisville churches need workers during Vacation Bible School.

Most need help canvassing their neighborhoods so they can better reach their communities.

Pastor David Purichia, of Glasgow Baptist Church, said he was looking forward to praying

about and, if led by the Lord, presenting a plan for his church members to do missions work in Louisville.

"Growing up in Indianapolis, the city is definitely a part of my heart," Purichia said. "It would be a culture shock for some of the people in our fellowship. But many times God pushes us into the hard places especially when you've been a part of mission trips in Third World countries. You see the tension. You see the enemy,



Top, more than four dozen Kentucky Baptists participated in EngageKy Sept. 11-12, which included a bus tour of various sites in Louisville such as the Vietnamese Buddhist Temple on Sixth Street. Of the city's 1.24 million people, 53 percent claim affiliation with a religion other than Christianity, or hold no affiliation at all. At left, at several stops along the EngageKY Louisville tour route, participants were encouraged to pray for the ministries seeking to share the good news of Jesus with the city's lost.

but you also see the blessings that God can provide in those situations."

KBC Missions Strategist Doug Williams urged the more than four dozen participants to follow Purichia's lead.

"We ask you to do three things," Williams said. "We ask you to pray; that you go back to your home church and be an

advocate for us, and that you come back and become partners with us so that, together, we can continue to reach this great city with the gospel."

Williams said plans are to bring EngageKY to other parts of Kentucky and organize as many as six vision tours over the next 18 months. (KBC)

Boston tour

Continued from page 1

remarked that some eight out of 10 residents of the northeast do not have a relationship with Christ. "What will you do with your moment?"

"Don't underestimate what God can do with ordinary people. God uses ordinary people with extraordinary power from the Spirit of God to accomplish His purposes. Every Christian has been commissioned to preach the gospel and empowered to share the truth. And never dilute the essence of the gospel," Platt, who used the example of the church founded at Antioch by ordinary followers of Christ (Acts 19:11), said.

"Every major move of the Spirit of God is the result of prayer for the power of God," he noted. "Do not let prayer be a supplemental part of your life or your church. Prayer must be a fundamental part of your life and your church."

The event, one of more than 20 scheduled across the U.S. and Canada, is a prelude to NAMB's Send North America Conference, Aug. 3-4, 2015, in Nashville.



Northeastern University student Drew Dolan (right) receives assistance from fiancée Amanda Bringham with connecting his Boston Send North America Experience entry wristband. The couple came to the event to "explore what God is doing here in Boston and see how we can be a part," Dolan said. (Photo by John Swain/NAMB)

The Boston attendees also provided an offering of more than \$6,000 to help fund a Boston church plant. Boston is one of 32 Send North America cities where a concentrated focus on church

planting is part of the Send North America strategy. It is a strategy that resonates with Boston tour stop participant Cameron Liner.

"We all moved here from Oklahoma

to be a part of what God is doing in Boston," Liner, speaking of his wife and friends, said. "Tonight was a great reminder that we have to continue to follow God in obedience. If you know you need to do something, you need to do it."

Liner is a member of Charles River Church, planted by Curtis Cook. Cook and his team were hosts for the Boston tour stop. Cook also serves as city coordinator for Send North America: Boston.

Coe told the gathering that one goal of the tour stop was to encourage believers and remind them they are not alone.

At the end of the night Drew Dolan said he knew he was in the place God intended him to be.

"I felt God speaking to me in the first worship set," he said. "It was to the point of becoming overcome with emotion, which doesn't come easily to me."

"It was also incredible worshipping next to my fiancée. We felt shaken by the mission we are given for this city and this region."

Explore being a part of Send North America: Boston at www.namb.net/boston. (BP)

Find next mission trip at 'On Mission Expo' in Corbin

By Robin Cornetel

Corbin—Searching for that next—or maybe, first—mission trip and not sure where to start?

Church leaders will find a buffet of missions opportunities at the Kentucky Baptist Convention's On Mission Expo Oct. 11 at Immanuel Baptist Church in Corbin.

The event is sure to awaken a passion for missions, said Eric Allen, the KBC's missions mobilization team leader—and he has encouraged church leaders to bring a van full of people.

"People go on missions because they want to make a change in other people's lives," Allen said.

"What happens is they come back, and their own lives have been changed. They come back excited about missions, excited about the gospel, and end up getting involved in ministry in their own church because of that excitement."

Expo participants will be able to make connections with Kentucky missionaries who are ready to guide church groups in finding a strategic place to serve.

Only have a time for a weekend project? No problem, Allen said. Missionaries will gladly coordinate service projects that last one day or several.

Thinking of making a more significant impact on a ministry? Take steps toward a long-term partnership with a missionary or a particular ministry and watch discipleship grow.



With the "iGO do you?" banner in the background, where Kentucky Baptists can tell their mission trip stories, Todd Robertson, pastor of Antioch Church in Louisville, spoke about Louisville's lostness during the recent EngageKY Bus Tour.

In addition to one-on-one encounters with Kentucky missionaries, participants will hear a challenging message from KBC Evangelism Strategist Doug Williams, witness powerful testimonies and enjoy worship music by Immanuel's church band.

On Missions Expo will run from 10:30 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Lunch will be provided. Participants are asked to register at www.kybaptist.org/missionexpo. Leaders accompanied by at least five church members will be entered into a drawing for a free tablet PC.

"We are given the mandate in Acts 1:8 to be missionaries in our local communities and in our own regions, as well as around the world," Allen said. "Not every group has the resources and the time to personally go overseas, but they might be able to drive across Kentucky and serve."

Afterward, be sure to share mission trip stories on the "iGO Do You" Facebook page and on Twitter using the hashtag #iGODOyou, Allen said, so that others will be encouraged to go and "the witness of Christ will be magnified." (KBC)

Gifts decline

Continued from page 1

so he anticipates a good start for Cooperative Program receipts in September.

KBC Executive Director-Treasurer Paul Chitwood said churches in Kentucky and across the country are dealing with shrinking budgets, the result of what has been referred to as "The Great Evangelical Recession," the title of a book by Christian author John S. Dickerson. Dickerson points out that the financial squeeze on churches is growing as some of the oldest and often most generous evangelical Christians pass away.

Chitwood said he appreciates the commitment of Kentucky churches to keep the Cooperative Program strong, despite that "recession," so that they can continue spreading the gospel message throughout Kentucky, across the U.S. and around the world.

Receipts last fiscal year, Chitwood said, seemed to reflect a stabilization in giving.

"We largely mirrored the previous year's receipts all the way to the end of the fiscal year in August," he said. "It would have been nice if we had mirrored them at the end."

Exceptions included February and March when congregations were dealing with some of the harshest winter weather in years. Churches across the state were forced to cancel services because of icy roads and bitterly cold temperatures, causing receipts to plummet.

Ashby said church contributions to the Eliza Broadus reached an all-time high in 2013-14 of \$1,212,198. The Lottie Moon offering hit \$5,281,319, down \$294,175 from the previous fiscal year. And the Annie Armstrong offering totaled \$2,298,812, down \$67,527 from the previous fiscal year. (KBC)

Tell Your Story

177th KBC

KENTUCKY BAPTIST CONVENTION

1 Courtyard by Marriott
1010 Wilkinson Trace
270/783.8569
\$89
Breakfast - \$5.95 p/person
Reservation by: Oct. 18

2 Drury Inn Bowling Green
3250 Scottsville Road
270/842.7100
\$84 flat rate
Includes breakfast
Reservation by: Oct. 13

3 Hilton Garden Inn
1020 Wilkinson Trace
270/781.6778
\$107
Full breakfast for 2 per day
Reservation by: Oct. 9

4 Holiday Inn University Plaza
1021 Wilkinson Trace
270/745.0088
Block Code: MB1
\$95-\$125
Includes breakfast
Reservation by: Oct. 20

5 La Quinta Inn & Suites
1953 Mel Browning Street
270/783.0083
\$84
Free breakfast
Reservation by: Oct. 20

Bowling Green
US 31W Bypass
Living Hope Baptist Church
1805 Western St.
Scottsville Road
Cemetery Road
Nashville Road
S. Campbell Ln.
William H. Natcher Pkwy.

Annual Meeting

Tuesday, November 11

Living Hope Baptist Church, Bowling Green

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

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

Bowling Green Accommodations for KBC Messengers – I-65, Exit 22
All blocked rooms are non-smoking. Each property includes free high speed Internet access and complimentary parking. Rates do not include the current Bowling Green 13.43% hotel tax. Messengers are responsible for making and paying for their own reservations. Kentucky Baptist Convention (Messenger Block) must be mentioned and reservation deadlines met to receive blocked room rates. Please note that a limited number of rooms are reserved on Tuesday evening.

Plenty to celebrate

The Kentucky Baptist Convention annual meeting, coming up on Nov. 11, is a time of celebration when the people

Together We are the KBC



Paul Chitwood

known as Kentucky Baptists will offer praise and thanksgiving for the ways God has chosen to use us this year—and we have plenty to celebrate!

This year we will celebrate record salvation decisions through Baptist Campus Ministries, Crossings camps, Disaster Relief, and affinity evangelism ministries and events. We will celebrate the best year on

record in church planting. We will celebrate a record number of consultations conducted by KBC team members to strengthen local churches in every aspect of ministry, missions and evangelism. We also will celebrate the second-highest Eliza Broadus Offering for State Missions on record. We will celebrate a record number (106,687) of Kentucky Baptists who participated in mission projects in 2013.

And that is just the beginning of all we have to celebrate!

The Apostle Peter called God's people a "chosen" people. Peter wrote:

"You are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light. Once you were not a people, but now you are God's people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy. Beloved, I urge you as sojourners and exiles to abstain from the passions of the flesh, which wage war against your soul" (1 Peter 1:9-11).

Peter then stated his counsel to the holy nation of God's people during their temporary sojourn on earth: "Keep your conduct among the Gentiles honorable, so that when they speak against you as evildoers, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day of visitation" (v. 12).

My prayer for Kentucky Baptists as we, God's chosen people, gather for our annual meeting, is that our time together will be not only a time of celebration; I also pray that we will renew our commitment to live and serve in such a way that we will display God's glory so others might be drawn to Him as the Spirit uses our good deeds and verbal witness of the gospel. I pray what should happen will happen, that through us the light of Christ will shine brighter as the world becomes darker.

Many opportunities for Kentucky Baptists to shine brightly the light of Christ will be afforded leading up to the annual meeting. In partnership with Warren Association of Baptists, every KBC church is invited to participate in evangelism and outreach efforts during RISK Bowling Green. For more information, visit www.warrenassociation.org.

Mark your calendars for the KBC annual meeting celebration on Nov. 11. I hope to see you there!

Paul Chitwood is executive director of the Kentucky Baptist Convention.

An unsettling vision of Louisville's lost lingers

Eye opener! Even before they climbed aboard a bus on Friday for the first EngageKY tour, arranged by KBC Missions Strategist Doug Williams, the three dozen Kentucky Baptists heard a startling statistic: Louisville, by some estimates, may be as much as 75 to 85 percent lost. How can that be with so many churches?

Todd Robertson, a pastor in Louisville's West End, told the group that in spite of about 160 Baptist churches in Long Run Association and many other Christian congregations, "This is a lost place."

Citing statistics now more than a decade old, Robertson began with an assumption that at least half of the population either has no religious affiliation or identifies with a faith group other than Christianity.

Then, delineating between religious adherents, church members and committed disciples, who exhibit an authentic relationship with Jesus, Robertson arrived at a shocking conclusion: "We have hundreds of thousands of our neighbors who are dying and going to hell, who have no connection with any group or are in groups that are lying to them and telling them they are going to heaven in another way other than Jesus."

The bus tour of approximately 25 sites the next day attested to the increasing religious pluralism, ethnic diversity and economic disparity of the Derby City. Before they grew comfortable in their seats, participants were confronted with a Muslim mosque and a Hindu temple, located almost in the shadow of the Kentucky Baptist Building. By early afternoon, I would be invited inside another mosque—this one, Islamic—meeting in a building

that had once been a Baptist church.

According to one list, the city now has 12 mosques or religious education centers for Islam, six each for Judaism and Buddhism, two for Hinduism, and one for Baha'i, Jainism and Sikhs. And we were told that meeting places for Wiccans existed.

From worship centers of other faith groups to strip malls with ethnic restaurants and businesses, the reality of a spiritually changing landscape became apparent, leaving participants with a growing uneasiness about the state of the Christian church.

Many left convicted of a need to partner with area churches to engage Louisville with the gospel.

Our bus passed along the backside of Churchill Downs, where chapel services are held for track workers and some churches provide meals; through large refugee communities, such as one where thousands of Somali immigrants have settled; near the University of Louisville, where campus ministries provide an opportunity to reach international students; and by a homeless shelter and a crisis pregnancy center. At many places, the bus stopped so participants could pray for the city's residents and for the ministries of Kentucky Baptists.

After the tour, I asked a pastor and a director of missions for their impressions. Initially, I expected perhaps five or six sentences from each, but these were not men of few words. So, rather than selecting excerpts from their essays, their impressions are presented below, so you can hear their passion and urgency for reaching Louisville's lost.

After Thought

By Todd Deaton



"It is no wonder that some estimate 85 to 90 percent of the population of Louisville is lost, without a personal relationship with Jesus Christ. ... Just how could a city so close and well known to all of us in Kentucky be in such a spiritual state of depravity?"

Choe Sergent, senior pastor of First Baptist Church of Junction City

If you are a Kentucky Baptist, when you think of Louisville the one thing that is sure to come to mind is the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary. It is a stronghold of Christian education that has faithfully equipped those with the call to ministry to be ready to lead the local church.

Or, perhaps the Kentucky Baptist Convention's headquarters in Louisville may come to mind. It is the command center for developing our Kentucky Baptist evangelism, church revitalization

and mission strategies.

However, when I went on the EngageKY tour, my eyes were opened to a much bigger picture of Louisville.

The focal point of the Engage Louisville journey was a bus tour that made its way around the city. As we went

on this journey through a city that had once been a Christian fortress, our trail now painted a very different picture of a city that is suffering the impact of a deep and

□ See Choe Sergent ... Page 5



"It breaks my heart to know hundreds of people come to these temples every week to pray and worship these man-made gods who cannot see or hear them, much less give them the beautiful gift of salvation, which can only be found in Jesus Christ."

Matthew Sickling, director of missions for Ohio County Baptist Association

I attended Southern Seminary in Louisville from 1985 until 1989. I lived, worked and worshiped in Louisville during that time.

Since graduating in 1989, I have only been back a few times for conferences or to visit someone in the hospital. One of the most obvious changes in the city is how it has expanded to the east. While attending seminary, there were not really many businesses or subdivisions out past the Kentucky Baptist building, which was located

in Middletown at the time.

A second obvious change in the city is its ethnic and religious makeup. While in seminary during the late 1980s, I remember hearing about Germantown, which

was where people who had emigrated from Germany lived and worked. But now, I lost count of the number of ethnic groups that are living in certain areas or communities.

According to Jonathan Braden, executive director of

□ See Matthew Sickling ... Page 5

WESTERN Recorder

Box 43969
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DR. TODD DEATON
Editor

THOMAS C. TOWNSEND
Marketing & Business Manager

Shine Like Stars * Philippians 2:15

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Choe Sergent

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dark spiritual war, which the church has seemingly failed to show up to fight.

The numerous, once-flourishing Christian churches that have now closed their doors or even converted to mosques made this clear. Christianity is no longer the only major religion in town.

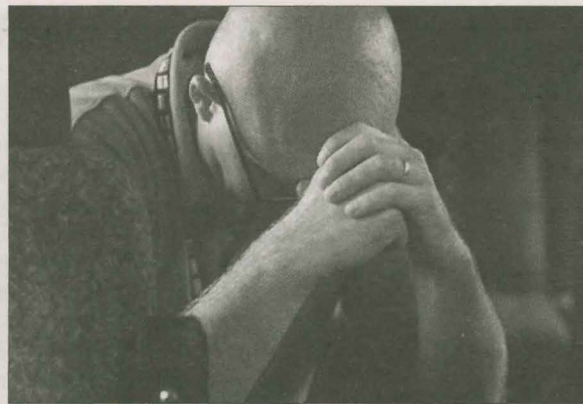
In addition to the many mosques, we also saw a Buddhist-Hindu temple, as well as the many Wiccan houses of worship that we were informed existed in the city.

While Christianity may no longer be the only major religion in town, it is still the only religion that has the answer to the problems that Louisville faces. Such as the answer that the Pregnancy Resource Center in downtown Louisville provides to the countless women who are seeking abortions from an adjoining building that offers the only remaining abortion clinic in Kentucky.

Or perhaps the hope and healing that the Louisville Refuge Ministry provides to the thousands of refugees who have made Louisville their home, and bring with them the wounds of their native country. Then, there is Scarlet Hope ministries, which is battling to set free the enslaved women of a very real and robust sex trade industry that exists in Louisville.

Yes, Louisville is a much darker picture than any of us dared to draw. It is no wonder that some estimate 85 to 90 percent of the population of Louisville is lost, without a personal relationship with Jesus Christ. For me, that was a very profound discovery on our journey through Louisville.

Just how could a city so close and well known to all of us in Kentucky be in such a spiritual state of depravity? That question rang through my mind throughout the journey and was as shocking as it was convicting.



Choe Sergent, of Junction City, joins fellow participants on the recent EngageKY tour in praying for Louisville's lost.

Nevertheless, the most impactful thing I saw on this journey was not the epidemic of sin, but the encouragement of the Saints who have taken up the task to win this beloved city back to the Lord.

Even though they have an obvious lack of resources and are short on manpower, their efforts inspired me. They inspired me to join them in this fight and partner with them.

We all know that whatever is happening in the city, it is just a matter of time until it trickles down to the smaller towns. That is why we cannot wait for the fight to come to us. It is too important; it is too urgent.

We must go to the front lines, and the front lines in the fight to win Kentucky for Christ is going on right now, in the city of Louisville.

Therefore, the question the Lord now asks us is one we must all answer for ourselves, but I pray we answer with the same voice of willingness that echoes from past times of trial. "Whom shall I send? And who will go for us?" And I said, 'Here am I. Send me!' (Isaiah 6:8).

Choe Sergent is senior pastor of First Baptist Church of Junction City.

Matthew Sickling

Continued from page 4

a ministry called Refuge who served as tour guide, 120-plus nations or ethnic groups call Louisville home.

The influx of refugees and immigrants has certainly changed the city's landscape. They have brought their culture, customs and religions to Louisville. As we drove around the city, we saw numerous ethnic grocery stores and restaurants. These businesses and restaurants not only provide us, as Kentucky Baptists, with a good option on where to go for lunch but, more importantly, provide us with great opportunities to meet and build relationships with people for the sake of the gospel.

We also saw several Islamic community centers or mosques. I was shocked and saddened to find out that one had once been a thriving Southern Baptist church. Now, at certain times of the year, as many as 500 people come to pray and worship at this mosque.

I was shocked to see Hindu and Buddhist temples filled with hundreds if not thousands of their so-called gods. It breaks my heart to know hundreds of people come to these temples every week to pray and worship these man-made gods who cannot see or hear them, much less give them the beautiful gift of salvation, which can only be found in Jesus Christ.

The vision tour was an eye-opening experience in that I honestly had no idea that our enemy has established such a stronghold over the city during the last 25 years. I appreciated hearing Bill Matlock of Gideon's International during a panel discussion. I was excited to hear that the Gideons are taking the battle to the streets and communities of Louisville. In late September, they will be initiating a program called "Take back your city," and will be sending teams into different areas around the city to distribute God's word.

Several men in our churches serve as Gideons, so



T.C. Taylor (center), pastor of New Breed Baptist Church in West Louisville, said Kentucky Baptists need to plant more churches in Louisville and revitalize those that are in decline, as fellow panelists, Todd Robertson, a Louisville pastor, and Director of Missions Wesley Pitts look on.

this is one of the things that I will be encouraging them and the churches of Ohio County Baptist Association to support.

I was excited to hear from T.C. Taylor, a church planter who leads New Breed Church in Louisville's West End. It was great to hear his enthusiasm as he spoke about what God is doing through this church plant. I had already scheduled T.C. to come speak in the On Mission Conference, which our association will hold in early November, and I look forward to learning more about his work and how our association can help him.

This tour was also a wake up call, and I hope it was for others as well. Satan has established a stronghold in the city, and if our churches don't start fighting back, then more of them will close their doors or be turned into mosques.

I am confident that my God is in control. He has given us a tremendous opportunity to impact not only the city of Louisville, but the world. By reaching the people who now call Louisville home, we can literally take the gospel to the ends of the earth. Matthew Sickling is director of missions for Ohio County Baptist Association.

Delay 1-on-1 dating for teenagers

By Scott Wigginton

Q: What are some guidelines we can use with our teenagers as they begin dating?

A: So much of the world of teens revolves around finding and establishing a sense of identity. Anchoring their early self-worth in their identity in Christ, rather than in relationships with the opposite sex, is foundational to having healthy and nutritive relationships. For this reason

among others, it is wise to delay one-on-one dating as long as possible.

Delaying dating allows teenagers time to discover who they are in Christ, where their gifts and talents lie, and to be reminded that prioritizing family and friendships will place them in a more solid position to begin dating and courtship.



Research has shown that in this sex-saturated society, the earlier teenagers begin one-on-one dating, the earlier they report becoming sexually active. The pressure is greater and greater on each succeeding generation. Encourage teenagers to spend the majority of time in groups, rather than one-on-one dating relationships. This is a time to work on friendship, not romance.

When one-on-one dating begins, make sure to assist your teen in making wise choices about whom to date and how to structure their time. Remind them that drama in dating is not evidence of divine direction.

Help them carefully think through how the choice of whom to date reflects their commitment to Christ and their priorities in life. Encourage them to be intentional about having persons they date in your home and around your family.

Discourage late hours and private places to be alone or watching television. As we've reminded our teens, nothing good tends to happen after midnight or in dark places.

Of 100 couples, about 50 will divorce. About half of the 50 left will report being in an unhappy or unfulfilling marriage. One quarter of couples report a happy, high satisfaction marriage. Remind your teen that this does not happen by accident. If they want to have what others don't, they have to be willing to do what others won't.

Scott Wigginton is professor of pastoral ministries and counseling at Campbellsville University and minister of counseling at Campbellsville Baptist Church. Send questions for Family Forum to Western Recorder, Box 43969, Louisville, KY 40253 or e-mail wesrec@kybaptist.org.

Name a guardian for minor children

By Laurie Valentine

Children under age 18 are "minors" under Kentucky law. As such, they cannot make decisions for themselves or manage assets. The law requires a guardian be named by a court to handle those things until a child reaches age 18, if there is not a natural or adoptive parent surviving.

Accomplishing God's plan for how you should provide for your family includes deciding who should be named to take on the important role of "guardian" for your children if both parents died before all children reach age 18.

The guardian will decide, among other things, where your children live, go to church, and go to school. And, if you have not set up a trust for each child's share of your estate in your will, the guardian will be the one managing each child's share of your estate until they reach 18.

Once parents have made a decision, they should discuss it with the person or couple they want to name as guardian to make sure the person or couple is willing and able to take on the responsibility.

Parents should share why they want to name the person/couple and also provide guidance as to how they would want their children raised.

And, once the decision has been made and your choice has agreed, each parent should put it "in writing" by including a provision in their will naming the person(s) so your family and the court will know who you want appointed as guardian if such a circumstance occurs.

Laurie Valentine is trust counsel for the Kentucky Baptist Foundation.

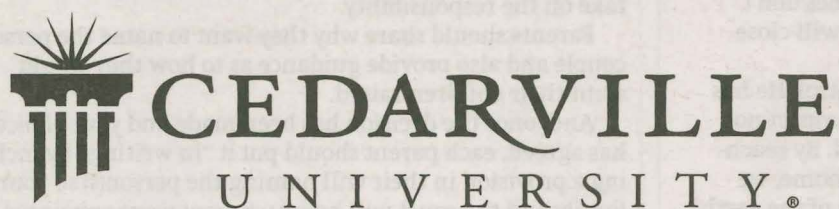


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Whitney updates spiritual disciplines book

By Craig Sanders

Louisville—"Discipline without direction is drudgery," Donald Whitney writes in the familiar opening to his classic NavPress book, "Spiritual Disciplines for the Christian Life," newly released in a revised and updated edition.

Whitney said the updated edition contains new material with more emphasis on the gospel as a help to first-time readers as well as others intent on grounding their disciplines soundly in Scripture.

The 1991 bestselling *Spiritual Disciplines for the Christian Life* is widely used in seminary classes across the country.

Whitney said NavPress approached him to revise the book for a 20th anniversary edition in keeping with a tradition established with the spirituality books of Dallas Willard and Richard Foster. "As it turns out, it is a 23rd anniversary edition, so it is just called revised and updated," said Whitney, professor of biblical spirituality and associate dean of the school of theology at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary.

Whitney improved on the 1991 edition of the book by adding 11 new methods of meditation on Scripture and including a more explicit Christocentric focus in each chapter. He bolstered the content with more Scripture references in order to distance himself from a



Whitney

mystical approach to spirituality and removed any cultural references that would fade with the passing of time.

"If you do not get justification right, you are not likely to get sanctification right," Whitney said. "In my revision, I removed some sources and statements that might be misconstrued or implied to support connections to mysticism," he said. "I want students to focus primarily on trusted sources as it relates to the gospel and living out the gospel," he said.

The expanded methods of meditation on Scripture carry on the legacy of the original edition, which introduced praying through the text as an enriching exercise for many Christians.

"That's the most instantaneously and permanently transformational thing I think I teach outside of the gospel," Whitney said.

"Detroit Tigers pitcher Max Scherzer said statistics show the most important pitch on which to throw a strike is the one-and-one count—that's the most determinative in getting the batter out," he said. "For me, the one-and-one count in the devotional life is meditation on Scripture. That tends to make all the other disciplines fall into place."

Whitney also revised the companion study guide for the book, a 140-page resource for small group discussion and personal study.

"I hope it continues the impact on Christian spirituality a biblically based, theologically driven spirituality but that is clear, plain and workable," Whitney said. "Anything God expects of all of His children like spiritual disciplines has to be fundamentally simple." (SBTS)

Religious liberty promotes political freedom

By Tom Strode

Washington, D.C.—Conservative Christians should recover the proper use of the term "separation of church and state" in defending religious liberty against government interference, Russell Moore said at an evangelical conference in the country's capital.

Evangelical Christians also should advocate for the freedom of Muslims and adherents of other religions in order to limit state power, said the president of the Southern Baptist Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission.

Moore made his comments Sept. 10 at the Evangelical Leadership Summit, the first such conference sponsored by the American Enterprise Institute, a Washington-based think tank. He spoke as part of a panel discussing the impact of religious liberty on economic and political freedoms. One of the reasons religious liberty for all people is important is because of its value in limiting government authority, Moore said.

When Americans have the kind of freedom that enables them "to argue with one another, that signals not only to the government Caesar is not God, it also signals" the same message to citizens, he said. That is why conservatives "need to reclaim ... a term that we long ago tossed overboard—the 'separation of church and state,'" Moore told the audience. That term "does not mean secularization," he added. "It means that the state is limited and does not have lordship over the conscience ..."

Conservative evangelicals have largely abandoned the use of "separation of church and state" in recent decades as strict separationists championed it in advocating for a public square largely bereft of religious presence and influence.

To defend religious freedom, evangelicals need to advocate "as loudly for those issues that are irrelevant to our own as we are for those that are relevant," he said.

"There is no reason why a conservative evangelical ought ever to ignore a situation where a city council is zoning a mosque out of existence," he said. "Objecting to this does not mean that one is agreeing with Islam. It means that one does not believe in giving the power to the mayor and the city council to hand down theological edicts and also recognizing that those who have that power to drive people out of town on the basis of what they believe will in the fullness of time drive us all out."

A lack of religious freedom does not result in a "purely secular state," Moore said. "It means that we have a more religious state and a state that is dictating religious terms."

"If you give to the government the ability to differentiate between what religious convictions are really and truly important or not, then we will wind up with a state-established religion in which the government says a vague concept of the divine is all that really matters and all of your particularities can simply be wiped away like a building being plowed away by eminent domain in order to build a new business." (BP)

Bivocational church model best, Page says

Atlanta—The bivocational church model is the best way to make disciples in the 21st Century, Southern Baptist Convention Executive Committee President Frank Page told bivocational and small-membership church pastors he assembled in Atlanta.

"I'm convinced that in the 21st Century, the best stewardship model is bivocational," Page said at the first meeting of the Bivocational and Small Church Advisory Council Sept. 11–12. "We've got a lot of students coming out of seminary now who have no intention of being full support."

Giving small-membership churches and bivocational pastors their proper focus, respect and participation in the SBC is one of his main leadership goals, Page told the 21 pastors he appointed to advise him on meeting this population's unique needs.

"I will not allow the Southern Baptist Convention to forget who we are," he said. "Part of my goal in this is to elevate the role of the small-church pastor and the bivocational pastor, period. And that's going to happen."

"The majority of our boards and agencies are run by small-church trustees. And I assure you that's true. ... You are represented in every level of the Southern Baptist Convention," Page said, calling the leaders true heroes. "Some would say 35,000 of our 46,000 churches, maybe more than that, are in the two categories of small church or bivocational."

"I appreciate each one of you," he told the council. "Each of you brings a different perspective to this table, and ... I thank God for you."

Page, who for the past year has used the theme of an earthquake fault line to pinpoint volatile areas of friction within the SBC, identified a fault line based on church membership size, and pledged to address the tension. Page defined small



Bob Sena (second from right), Hispanic relations consultant to the Southern Baptist Convention Executive Committee, leads devotion at the Sept. 12 session of the Bivocational and Small Church Advisory Council meeting in Atlanta. (Photo by Diana Chandler)

churches as those with 125 or less in Sunday School attendance.

A "methodological" fault line also exists, he said, based on the question of "How does one do church in the 21st Century?" "That's probably one of the biggest issues facing us in our convention today. 'How do you do church?' When you go plant a church, are you using a more traditional model or a more contemporary model?" Page said. "That's a big question out there now, and it's going to be a huge question in the future."

"Because whether you know it or not, bivocational ministry is the wave of the future. People are beginning even to realize that the best way to be a church planter is through a bivocational model," Page said. "Some of our Christian universities are actually realizing that and training pharmacists how to be a pharmacist and a pastor at the same time.... There is a new receptivity to a model that I think you represent. But how does one do church, that's going to continue to be a huge issue."

Gathering statistics and information to define the characteristics of Southern

Baptist churches will be a main function of the council, said Ken Weathersby, SBC vice president for convention advancement. The council's goal is to use that data to compile a report at the end of the group's three-year term in 2017.

"Hopefully we'll come out with a report that will be used to help pastors, that will be used to help associational missionaries, state convention leaders, and of course all of our entities who are responsible to assist the church," Weathersby said. "In every ministry assignment that the Southern Baptist Convention has given all of our entities, it all begins with, 'To assist the local church.'"

Page named the council to help the Executive Committee and SBC entity leaders gain greater understanding of and appreciation for the perspectives of churches and pastors in the categories the council represents.

Ray Gilder, pastor of Gath Baptist Church in McMinnville, Tenn., and national coordinator of the Bivocational Small Church Leadership Network, will serve as council chairperson. (BP)

Tebow joins 'Good Morning America'

Tim Tebow, the popular former college and pro quarterback revered and criticized for his Christian faith and his on-the-field prayers that coined the word "Tebowing," continues to make headlines this year as a football commentator—and now as a morning show contributor.



Tebow

Tebow, an analyst for the SEC Network and ESPN, has signed on with "Good Morning America," ABC

News announced Sept. 11. A member of First Baptist Church in Jacksonville, Fla., Tebow will be a part of the show's "Motivate Me Monday," a non-football series. "Tebow will appear in studio and live on location in towns across America with a wide-range of reports that motivate and inspire," the ABC release said.

The Heisman-winner who played for the University of Florida has garnered positive reviews from the media as a college football commentator for his warm personality and knowledge of the game. (BP)

Spurgeon seminar free for Ky. Baptist pastors

Kentucky Baptist pastors have an opportunity to learn more about renowned preacher Charles Haddon Spurgeon in a seminar next month at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville.

Tom Nettles, a Baptist historian and professor of historical theology at Southern who has written a book about Spurgeon, is the keynote speaker for the Oct. 9-10 event.

Kentucky Baptist pastors and ministry leaders are invited to attend for free. The deadline to sign up is Oct. 7. Register at SBTS.edu/bts.edu/alumni-academyfall/registration. (SBTS)

SEBTS creates spiritual formation center

Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary has announced the new Center for Spiritual Formation and Evangelical Spirituality. Nathan Finn, associate professor of historical theology and Baptist studies at the campus in Wake Forest, N.C., will direct the center. Finn has written and published material on topics related to Baptist studies, Christian spirituality, ecclesiology and the history of missions.

The mission of the center, Finn noted on its webpage, is to "promote spiritual maturity and the cultivation of a robust evangelical spirituality for the Glory of God, the health of the church and the advancement of Christian mission."

The center plans to provide a resource guide for Southern Baptist churches, host seminars for the campus community, area pastors and ministry leaders, and every two or three years hold major academic conferences for scholars. (BP)

Volunteers pour pad for DR warehouse in Lincoln County

By Whitney Jones

Lincoln County—The only disaster relief warehouse in Kentucky is now easier to operate, thanks to a new concrete pad put in by volunteers.

The large pad allows a forklift to get from one holding bay to the next, loading and unloading equipment and supplies. Keith Stinson, disaster relief committee chair at First Baptist Church of Richmond, said, Before, trucks had to pull right up to the building to unload, or people had to carry equipment.

"The tall forklift that we have is basically a smooth-floor forklift. It will not run on gravel," Stinson said. "So that's why the concrete pad was needed."

"Now the warehouse forklift, one with an extended lift on it to get to the higher shelves, will be able to run outside in front of the bay doors and come inside one of the other bays."

The Lincoln County facility holds kitchen units, blankets made by Women's Missionary Union for children, and many other essential supplies. It is also where equipment goes post-disaster for maintenance and cleaning, which Stinson said will now be much easier.

The volunteers who poured the concrete pad are also many of the same



people who go out to help others during natural disasters. In fact, many who were going to help with the pad were unable to do so at the last minute because they were serving those affected by flooding in Michigan, where Kentucky Baptists teams witnessed 14 professions of faith.

This year disaster relief volunteers have used equipment from the warehouse three times for flooding in various areas. But the last major disaster in which the kitchen units and other equipment were needed was Hurricane Sandy in New York in 2012.

Stinson said serving people in need and showing Christ's love is the top priority. By making the warehouse more accessible, the volunteers can better use

their time to get to those in need.

"All that we do behind the scenes, the maintenance and preparation to go, is to support the mission of disaster relief, which is to get that contact with people who may never walk in the church door and who may not be receptive to somebody knocking on a door and inviting them to church or sharing the gospel," Stinson said.

"But if they're in a hurting situation, you can come in and say, 'We're here to help you get your house cleaned up; we're going to do that.' And if we have an opportunity... we're going to sit down and share the gospel. That's the primary goal of disaster relief."

Although the Lincoln County warehouse is the only one in the state for Baptist disaster relief, Kentucky Baptist Convention Disaster Relief Director Coy Webb said many churches and associations across the state have kitchen or other disaster relief units to help those hurting from natural disasters, like winter storms, floods and tornadoes.

The disaster relief facility has been in Lincoln County since the 1990s, and it continues to hold supplies that have helped hundreds of thousands of people, whether it is clearing out a path to their home or feeding their family. (WR)

A life of service

At 85, Pattie Midkiff, continues to be a blessing to Oneida, others

In addition to the thousands upon thousands of young people who have passed through Oneida, there have been thousands of adult faculty and staff members whose lives have been touched by this ministry.

Many, including myself, have had the privilege of being both a student and a staff member. About 20 percent of our current faculty and staff were also students at Oneida. Many staff members have had a great impact on the people of this campus.

I was recently privileged one Saturday afternoon to attend a birthday party for one of our longtime staff members who is now retired. Even in her retirement, this dear lady volunteers to work in our main office whenever needed.

The party was held in a beautiful setting in Beattyville. The venue was filled with lots of people who had come to show their love for this lady.

If one's life and ministry can be measured by admirers and friends, then it was confirmed this longtime friend of Oneida has lived a tremendous life.

It was a great day that included food, fellowship, and fun.

On the way to the event, Angie told me this lady was one of the most respected and loved people she has ever known. She has such a sweet, Christ-like spirit, and brightens my day each and every time I see her.

I want to encourage you to come and

meet our faculty and staff. It is the people—students and staff—who make Oneida so special, and I would love for you to meet some of them. I can write about them each week, but come and see for yourself.

This ministry is most definitely a calling, and if you are not called here you will not make it here.

Many of our staff leave everything behind and come to this place to serve their Lord and others.

The calling of our faculty and staff reminds me of Jesus' calling of the first disciples in Luke 5. Jesus took some ordi-

nary fishermen and called them into obedience.

Simon Peter and the others were obedient and dropped their nets on the other side of their boat. They did this not because they hadn't already tried it that night, but because He said so.

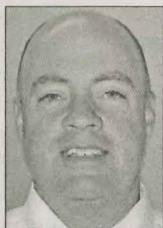
The Lord rewarded their obedience with a miraculous catch of fish. It was so large their nets began to break and their boat began to sink.

Jesus called those first disciples to be fishers of men, and those men left everything, including the massive catch of fish, and followed Him.

Even at 85 years of age, this wonderful friend of Oneida continues to bless others. It is my heart's desire that all of our current 313 young people will one day touch the lives of so many in the same way Pattie Midkiff has.

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

Practical ministry opportunities

Local evangelistic crusade involves college's students and staff

Our tri-state area has just completed an evangelistic crusade with Rick Gage and his Go Tell Ministries team. This ministry effort began last year when a local group of people became concerned about problems in our area and about those who do not have a personal relationship with Jesus Christ. They wanted to do something about it by bringing the message of the gospel to our entire tri-state area on a large scale. The crusade has been a great success. Hundreds of lives have been changed as they have responded to God's call on their lives to salvation and commitment.

Our college was fortunate to be in the center of all the activities leading up to the crusade, and we were also involved with many of the activities during the week of the crusade. We had many of our staff, faculty and trustees who provided leadership roles in the preparation of the crusade by serving on committees that made many preparations for the event. It was great to see many of our faculty and staff serving as counselors to those who made decisions during the crusade.

One of the great opportunities the

crusade offered was a great time of participation for our students as well. We had many of our students who served on the committees making preparations

before the crusade, and even more of our students served as counselors during the crusade to help those who made decisions. This was another opportunity for our students to put into practice what they are learning in the classroom. Many of our students were able to learn about things involved in leadership roles as they served and led on committees making preparations for the crusade. Many were involved in evangelistic efforts during times of outreach in the local community as they worked with others to invite people to the crusade.

One of the great things about Clear Creek Baptist Bible College is our focus on practical ministry training. When students come to Clear Creek to be equipped for God's calling on their lives, that equipping doesn't just take place in the classroom. They are able to take advantage of many opportunities, just like this area crusade, that give them practical ministry experience.

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

Clear Creek
Chronicle



Donnie Fox



Bob Hardison displays a map of where cyclists were from who have stopped at First Baptist Church of Sebree for a homecooked meal and shower and heard the gospel as well.

'Because they came'

Sebree church welcomes cross-country cyclists for hot meal, rest

By Todd Gray

If Lydia, of Acts 16, has disciples who follow her practice of opening their home for the glory of God and the good of others, then Bob Hardison, pastor of First Baptist Church of Sebree, and his wife, Violet, are certainly among them.

For the past 35 years, the Hardisons have led First Baptist to provide basic Christian hospitality to more than 8,000 cyclists traveling cross country on a 4,340-mile trek from Yorktown, Va., to Astoria, Ore.

According to Pastor Hardison, "The cyclist ministry seeks to show Christ's love to cyclists from the U.S. and around the world who stop in Sebree. The church provides rooms to stay in, a hot shower, a mattress to lay their head on, and a Christian witness through gospel tracts, prayers and testimonies."

The ministry started out of a desire to meet some of the practical and spiritual needs of a particular group of people.

On July 4, 1976, as part of the country's bi-centennial celebration, the Trans-America bicycle route was created to allow cyclists to see much of the vast beauty of the country. Sebree is a pass-through spot on the route. In the early years, cyclists would stop and spend the night in Sebree Park, which provided a swimming pool and a shower.

Word spread quickly among the riders that Sebree was a good place to get cleaned up and get some rest. After a few years, the park was no longer a good option, and the Hardisons began providing a ministry through the church.

When cyclists arrive after 100 miles or more on the road, they connect with Bob, Violet, or another member of the church by way of a printed sign on the church door, which includes names and phone numbers of participating church members.



They are given access to the church building, where they will be provided a place to sleep, a clothes washer and dryer, and a hot shower.

But the best is yet to come. If they arrive early enough, they will

be invited into the church parsonage for a home cooked meal, iced tea and dessert.

Violet provides the meal, and Bob does the dishes. While Bob is cleaning up, Violet shares her testimony.

While the ministry is primarily a gospel-seed-sowing ministry, they have seen some cyclists receive Christ, including a Russian security agent.

The Hardisons have shared food and the gospel with thousands of cyclists from around the world. Bob describes the average cyclist as "highly educated, highly motivated, usually quite prosperous, and unchurched with very little church background."

First Baptist, Sebree, and the Hardisons have provided hospitality to people from nearly every state and every continent except Antarctica.

In 2014, they ministered to riders from Australia, China, Israel and other countries.

Approximately 90 percent of those who come to the church are from America, with the other 10 percent coming from other countries.

The cyclists' ministry at Sebree is just one more example of how Kentucky Baptists are taking the gospel to the nations. Very few people are reaching out to this unreached affinity group.

When asked why the church is ministering to cyclists Pastor Hardison replies, "Because they came." (WR)

Regional SPOTLIGHT



Todd Gray
West



Prayer webcast slates Ezell, Platt, Floyd

Alpharetta, Ga.—On Oct. 2, Southern Baptists are encouraged to take time to pray for pastors and missionaries engaged in spreading the gospel worldwide.

The special day, including a webcast, is part of the North American Mission Board's TenTwo prayer emphasis based on Jesus' call in Luke 10:2 to pray for more workers in the harvest field.

NAMB President Kevin Ezell, International Mission Board President David Platt and Southern Baptist Convention President Ronnie Floyd will lead the TenTwo webcast. The half-hour prayer webcast—to begin at 10:02 a.m. Eastern time on Thursday, Oct. 2—can be viewed at www.namb.net/tentwo and will be archived for future viewing at the same site.

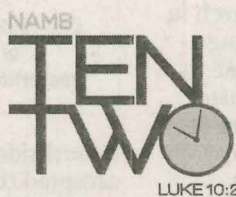
"There is absolutely no substitute for prayer in any facet of life," Ezell said. "Prayer is the primary, fundamental need in any mission endeavor. I would not think of taking any action without God's counsel. And TenTwo is a daily

reminder that living life on mission includes praying for others as God sends them to the mission field."

Floyd, pastor of Cross Church in northwest Arkansas, said prayer is "the greatest action we can take to mobilize our churches and raise up next-generation missionaries to reach the world for Christ."

"God can do more in a moment than we can do in a lifetime," Floyd said. "This is why each of us should participate with the TenTwo webcast where we gather to pray online from across the world. No great movement of God ever occurs without first being preceded by the extraordinary prayer of God's people," Floyd noted. "This webcast is an expression of God's people praying in an extraordinary way. I hope many will join us as we call out to God together for the world to be reached for Christ."

To learn more about prayer support for Southern Baptists, visit www.namb.net/tentwo or www.imb.org/main/pray. (BP)

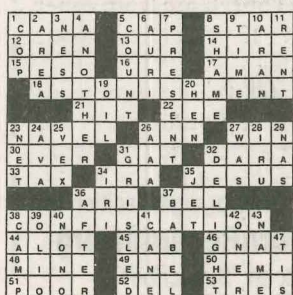


Bible Crosswords

Across

- 1 Christian disciple from Joppa who was known for her charity (Acts 9:36-43)
- 6 Resurrection day
- 10 Sixth Jewish month (Nehemiah 6:15)
- 11 Jesus did not give this to Pilate (John 19:9)
- 12 In the direction of
- 13 Derisive wit that attacks evil
- 15 A priest placed blood on the tips of these (Leviticus 14:14)
- 18 Dog noise
- 19 Laughter noise
- 20 "The valley of the shadow of _____" (Psalms 23:4)
- 21 Live
- 22 Noah's boat
- 24 What John did to the little book given to him by the angel (Revelation 10:10)
- 25 Eagle (Leviticus 11:18)
- 27 The son of Ikkes (2 Samuel 23:26)
- 28 Expressing gratitude
- 31 Ceremonial act
- 32 "Wilt thou break a _____ driven to and fro?" (Job 13:25)
- 33 In order that
- 35 Up to now
- 36 "May be able to comprehend with all saints what is the _____, and length, and depth, and height" (Ephesians 3:18)
- 39 "This is the _____ which the Lord hath made" (Psalms 118:24)
- 41 Absence or closure of a natural body passage
- 44 "I shall _____ thee wisdom" (Job 33:33)

#011



By Janet W. Adkins



#012

- 46 The Lord makes us do this in green pastures
- 48 To act properly
- 50 "_____ Lord God! behold, thou hast made the heaven and earth" (Jeremiah 32:17)
- 51 "They sought to _____ hold on him" (Mark 12:12)
- 52 Edward, for short
- 53 One does this on the seventh day of the week
- 54 Feminine pronoun

Down

- 1 Dover is the capital of this state, abbr.
- 2 Old Latin, abbr.
- 3 Moabite woman from whom Christ was descended
- 4 Jesus ascended up to heaven in one of these
- 5 A day of rest and worship
- 6 Curved shape
- 7 Gone
- 8 Animal or plant bristle
- 9 Voyage
- 14 Son of Salah and grandson of Shem (Genesis 10:24)
- 15 "The child Jesus _____ behind in Jerusalem" (Luke 2:43)
- 16 "His _____ was locusts" (Matthew 3:4)
- 17 "For every one that _____ shall be cut off" (Zechariah 5:3)
- 19 Esau was, but Jacob wasn't
- 21 Pleads
- 23 Part of the children of Zebulun's inheritance (Joshua 19:15-16)
- 25 "Covet earnestly the best _____" (1 Corinthians 12:31)
- 26 Opposite of out
- 29 "The day of the Lord is _____" (Obadiah 1:15)
- 30 Location of the water of Meribah (Numbers 27:14)
- 34 Amorite king (Deuteronomy 31:4)
- 37 Contests of speed
- 38 "The mountains and the _____ shall break forth before you into singing" (Isaiah 55:12)
- 40 Paul continued a _____ and a half at Corinth (Acts 18:11)
- 42 The father of Rizpah, Saul's concubine (2 Samuel 3:7)
- 43 President Lincoln, for short
- 45 Address abbreviation
- 47 "Mine _____ affecteth mine heart" (Lamentations 3:51)
- 49 Edwin for short
- 50 In this way

'Be the one' initiative

Sunrise foster care provides James 1:27 ministry opportunity

Most of us know the James 1:27 instruction: "Look after orphans and widows in their distress and ... keep oneself from being polluted by the world." Now, Sunrise's "Be the ONE" initiative gives Kentucky Baptists a means for following that instruction. Will you be the ONE?

Through September, Michelle Chitwood and Tera Melber are leading breakout sessions during the KBC's 2014 EQUIP Tour.

These mothers encourage parents to be trained by Sunrise Foster Care in order to look after children placed in foster care.

When these women speak, the Holy Spirit is present. The "pure and faultless" nature of their passion for children in need fills the room.

Will you be ONE who attends a Sunrise session during the EQUIP Tour?

Our Sunrise website, www.sunrise.org, features this new initiative as soon as your web browser takes you to our landing page. Click on the "Be the ONE" photo or on the "Surround the One" link, and you'll be taken to a resource-rich section solely devoted to foster care.

Or, phone 855.33iCare. Well-trained Sunrise representatives like Lani Crume, Bruce Treon and Aaron White are available to answer questions, to

direct you to online resources, or to upcoming training sessions or to a Sunrise foster care specialist in your region of Kentucky. These caring Christians view Sunrise foster care as a James 1:27 ministry.

So will you be the ONE who contacts Sunrise today?



"There is only one you," explains Kenny Williams, Sunrise's vice president in charge of Foster Care. "You're the only person with your exact history, your precise series of events in the pilgrimage

and sufferings of life that have brought you to this place.

You're the only one with your personal convictions, your skills, your compassion, your touch, your voice, your style, your sphere of influence—you're the only one."

Your specialness is what God can use in helping children in crisis.

Not every Kentucky Baptist can be a foster parent. But every Kentucky Baptist church can surround a foster family, trained by Sunrise. That's the importance of our "Be the ONE" initiative.

Think about it. If you can pray for a foster family in your church, or provide respite support for a foster family, or be a blessing in a myriad of other ways, you can be the ONE. Will you?

Randy Greene is vice president for marketing and advancement at Sunrise Children's Services, P.O. Box 1429, Mount Washington, KY 40047-1429; (502) 538-1000; www.sunrise.org.

Missions and camp

A confusing mix that now, through faith, seems right

Missions and camp. You may not think they go together and, honestly, I did not think so back in 2001.

While the Melber family served at Cedarmore in 1999 the camps were not directly connected to missions.

During the fall of 1999, I left to begin seminary and while at seminary, we felt a clear calling to international missions. This calling led us to begin the process with the IMB.

Without going into great detail, during 2001 the option of coming back to serve in camp ministry was presented to us, and we could not imagine doing that since God had created such a burden for missions in our family.

I can remember the day I called Rusty Ellison to say we would accept the position to go to Jonathan Creek. That day was filled with excitement, relief and sadness.

The sadness was related to the confusion we had as to why God would open our eyes to missions and then put us into camp ministry.

In reflecting back 13 years ago, the hindsight makes much more sense. Since that time, Crossings has been involved in mission projects in the Philippines, Trinidad, Moldova, Ukraine,

Zambia, India and Haiti.

We have witnessed churches from all over our state take first-time mission trips.

We have witnessed many accept

God's call to serve in other countries. We have been amazed as camp attendees at Crossings have given over 1.1 million to missions.

Most importantly, we have seen thousands in other countries confess Christ as Lord and Savior.

On a personal side, we have seen our family impacted powerfully by their exposure to what God is doing through missions at Crossings.

We have seen our four oldest all serve out of the country and the life-altering impact that has made on their lives. Our family has been changed by international adoption with the addition of three kids over the last 10 years.

What I thought was a confusing and at times a mistake some 13 years ago, was meant for a different purpose than I could see.

God always knows best and the steps He leads us to take require faith that He is accomplishing more than we could ever imagine.

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

Crossings Ministries



David Melber



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

September

- 24 Fort Sherman Training Academy, Kentucky Baptist Building, Louisville.
- 26 BCM Collegiate Disaster Relief Training, Eastern Kentucky University BCM Building, Richmond.
- 29 EQUIP Tour, Parkway Baptist Church, Bardstown.
- 30 EQUIP Tour, Glasgow Baptist Church.

October

- 3-4 KBC Disaster Relief State Leadership Meeting, Kentucky Baptist Building, Louisville.
- 7 October Power Lunch, Kentucky Baptist Building, Louisville.
- 11 On Mission Expo, Immanuel Baptist Church, Corbin.
- 24 KBC/Baptist Campus Ministries Collegiate Disaster Relief Training, Morehead State University BCM Building.

MOUNTAINS TO THE MISSISSIPPI

COMPILED BY STAFF

CAMPBELLSVILLE—Saloma Baptist Church will host the Lindsey Family in concert on Sunday, Sept. 28, at 11 a.m. A potluck meal and fellowship hour will follow service. **John Chowning** is senior pastor.

ELIZABETHTOWN—Central Avenue Baptist Church will present a stage play, "Glad it's not me," on Saturday, Sept. 27, at 6 p.m. **Thomas Wicker** is senior pastor.

HODGENVILLE—First Baptist Church will host Ladies Craft Night on Saturday, Sept. 27 at 6 p.m. For more information, call the church at 270-358-3193. **Paul Richey** is senior pastor.

RICHMOND—Tates Creek Baptist Association will host the Men's Fish Fry on Saturday, Sept. 27, at 5:30 p.m. The event will be held at Kirksville Baptist Church, 542 Kirksville Road.



Kentucky Baptist Disaster Relief partnered with the Blood River Baptist Association in purchasing a new feeding trailer for BRBA's mobile kitchen. The new trailer will replace its old trailers and enable Blood River Baptists to be more efficient and effective in response, said Coy Webb, state disaster relief director.



Architect's drawing of the finished Health & Wellness Center.

Cumberlands breaks ground for health center

Williamsburg—The health needs of Kentucky's Appalachian region are at a critical level, according to state officials.

As part of a strategy to help meet those critical needs and educate the public on health risk behaviors that lead to chronic diseases—such as heart disease, stroke, cancer, diabetes and arthritis—the University of Cumberlands has begun construction of a 15,000-square-foot addition to its Campus Center.

At its new health and wellness center, students, faculty, staff and community residents will receive critical health education, medical screenings and doctor referrals. A host of exercise equipment also will be available.

In addition, Cumberlands will be providing multiple classes on health

topics such as smoking cessation, proper diet and nutrition and alcohol education, as well as providing personalized approaches for addressing health concerns.

The university already provides two doctors on campus, one full-time and one part-time, who teach in the physician assistant program, and they will assist in conducting the health workshops and wellness seminars.

By expanding the campus center facility, university officials said they will be making maximum use of space at a minimum cost. Plus the location for this health and wellness addition is ideal because it has adequate parking for visitors, officials said.

Construction began Sept. 15 and is expected to take 12 to 18 months to complete. (UC)

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: 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: 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: Northside Baptist Church in Princeton, Ky., is searching for a dynamic pastor. All interested persons send resumes 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: 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: 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 gbpulpitcommittee@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: Senior pastor for Southside Baptist Church, Princeton, Ky., Candidates should have strong preaching skills, passion for pastoral care, demonstrated administrative ability, a heart for missions and evangelism. Some seminary education is desirable. Church has two staff members and averages 268 in Sunday School. Send resume to: Pastor Search Committee, P.O. Box 684, Princeton, KY 42445; or email to: pastorsearch

To place an advertisement in the Western Recorder:

Rates are available upon request

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



@southsidebaptist.com. Resumes accepted through Nov. 30, 2014.

SEEKING: Gracey West Union Baptist Church is accepting resumes for a full-time pastor. Please submit resumes via email: gwubcinto@yahoo.com or mail: Pastor Search Committee, Box 154, Gracey, KY 42232.

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: 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.

FOR RENT: Two condos for rent in Destin, Fla., completely furnished. Last minute deals possible. Email lbrammer@charter.net.

SERVICES: HOW Technology is your ministry's source for professional audio, video and lighting. Visit www.howtechnology.com for ministry discounted pricing or call (800) 521-4321 to have one of our team members help design and install your next project. Proceeds from every single order resource missions organization around the world.

SERVICES: Sound/Projection/Video/Lighting/Acoustical. JCA Media, LLC, well known in KBC. 20+ years experience installing equipment at reasonable pricing. Let us help you enhance your worship experience. For information/references, please visit www.jcamediaky.com or contact Jim Cottrell at 270-862-9586 or 270-312-7492.

RESOURCES: "Members Matter," by James Siler, is a Bible study for new church members, and it is available at LifeWay.com and Amazon.com.

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Busy moms discover how God uses everyday life for ministry

By Adam Miller

Alpharetta, Ga.—Stephanie Copenhaver is not entirely sure why they keep coming back or why they showed up in the first place. Apart from an invitation through her kids and their friends, there didn't appear to be anything else that drew six students two years ago—midsummer, no less—to “learn about Jesus” in a four-week study in July.

The second week, 12 students showed up, and by the end of the study, more than 30 students had been introduced to the Good Samaritan, the Armor of God, biblical values and Jesus, about whom most knew little to nothing.

“These weren't church kids, and yet most of them totally hung on every word,” said Copenhaver, a member of Northside Baptist Church in Roswell, Ga.

This all started the summer before her youngest son John's fifth-grade year.

Copenhaver said she had been considering how privileged her kids were to know about the Bible and about Jesus. She wanted other kids to experience the life God intended for them.

“I called two other mothers and asked if they wanted to get kids together to study the Bible,” she said. “They said ‘sure’ and we told our kids to invite their friends.”

After a few planning meetings over lunch, the mothers had developed a few short lessons that would introduce unchurched, soon-to-be middle schoolers to the Bible, God and God's plan for the people He created.

Last year the same kids returned, this time bringing some of their friends to learn about Jesus' miracles in the gospel of John. As a result of the study, one student—Phillip Bruce—became a Christian and was baptized. “We got a cool-looking cross made for him. He wears it all the time,” Copenhaver said.

Two years into being with the group, Bruce says he is noticing a change in the way he thinks about life.

“I think twice about things now,” Bruce said. “I forgive more quickly, and now I go back and change my mind when I think about doing something foolish.”

Copenhaver's evaluation of these experiences: “I stand at these meetings and I think, ‘I can't believe He chose me to be a part of this.’”

Growing influence

Copenhaver is quick to point out that she and the two other moms involved in this ministry—Pam Troutman and Jiska Van Ede—aren't doing anything special, other than simply remaining open to God's leading.

“I think if you're open to God, He will give you opportunities,” she said. “A lot of people say they don't feel like they know enough. Well, I don't either. I'm not a pastor. I've never read through the entire Bible. But I think that if you love God and make yourself available then that's all it takes. And honestly I'd be blown away if just five unchurched kids showed up.”

Troutman said observing what God is doing through the kids has surprised her.

“What strikes me most is how these kids, many who go to different schools, actually are praying and caring for each other,” Troutman said. “I don't think any of us ever could have expected it to go like this.”

Van Ede says the group is able to give her boys and the others something she didn't experience in her native Holland.

“I was the only one on my street to go to church,” she said. “(Biblical community) is the thing I never had as a kid growing up in Europe.”

Living on mission

“Life On Mission,” a new resource offered by the North American Mission Board, challenges Christians to live on mission in their everyday lives. In the book, authors Dustin Willis and Aaron Coe share stories of laypeople impacting their spheres of influence with the gospel.

“The Christian life is a life on mission,” said Dustin Willis, a former church planter whose experiences are chronicled in “Life On Mission,” which has been

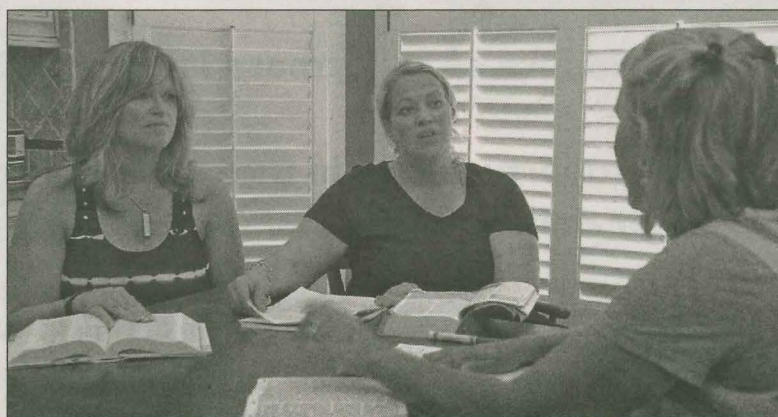


Top, Stephanie Copenhaver, a busy mom of four, often spends as much time discipling her children and their friends on the way to soccer matches as she does in formal settings. (Photos by Susan Whitley/NAMB)



Left, as many as 30 middle school boys gathered in Stephanie Copenhaver's home over the summer to attend a discipleship Bible study in four weekly sessions exploring what it means to follow Jesus.

Below, Copenhaver discusses the summer Bible study she hosts for middle school boys with fellow leaders Pam Troutman and Jiska Van Ede (right).



“I think if you're open to God, He will give you opportunities. A lot of people say they don't feel like they know enough. Well, ... I'm not a pastor. I've never read through the entire Bible. But I think that if you love God and make yourself available then that's all it takes.”

Stephanie Copenhaver

released through Moody Publishers. Willis works with Coe at NAMB as a mobilization and equipping coordinator.

Before becoming NAMB's vice president of mobilization and marketing, Coe spent seven years planting Gallery Church in New York City.

He wrote of how believers living out the everyday mission of God led to his and his wife's salvation and ultimately to their call to ministry. Coe's great-grandmother, as a layperson, actually helped start the church where Coe's wife, Carmen, accepted Christ.

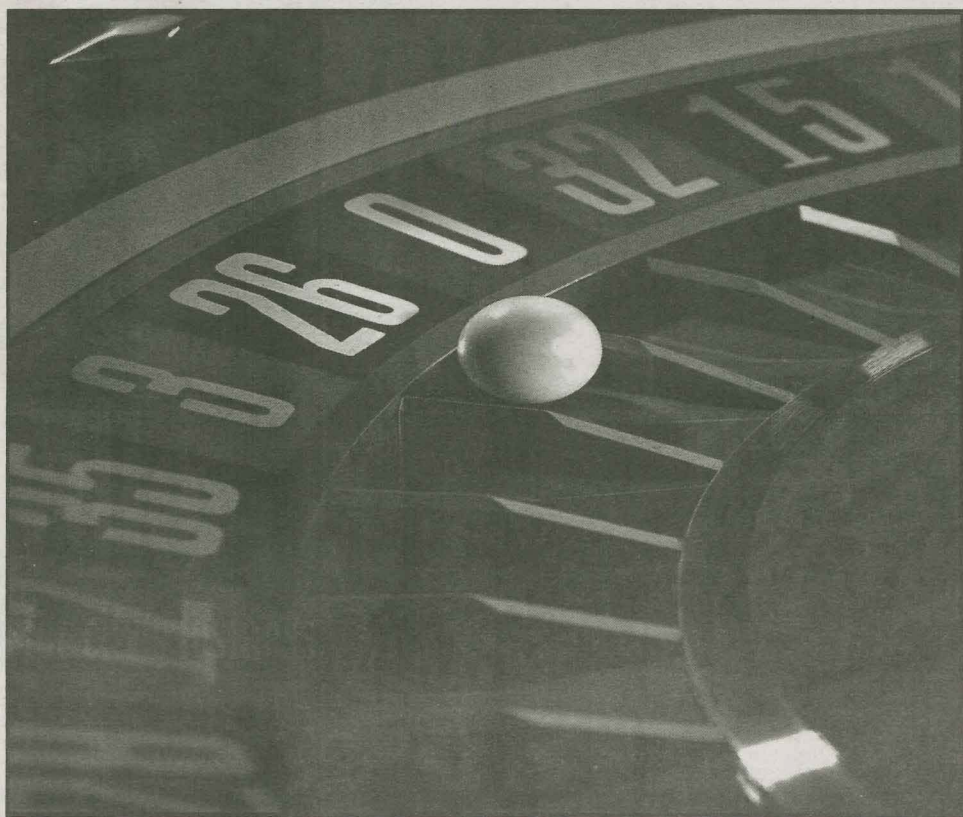
For the future

Similarly, believers like Copenhaver who are living their lives on mission are recognizing that they are working for future generations as well.

“I feel like these kids are still open and unjaded, but I also know they are exposed to so much at a very young age that will shape how they see the world,” Copenhaver said. “I feel like if we get them at a young age we can help shape future generations. And while I may not know all of them really well, I have a personal interest in where they spend eternity.” (BP)

THE POLITICAL SPIN ON CASINOS

Good for Kentucky? ✧ Do No Harm? ✧ Solve Government Budget Problems? ✧ Save the Horse Industry and Race Tracks? ✧ Provide Dollars for Education? ✧ Create Good Jobs? ✧ Economic Boon? ✧ Provide Vast Source of State Revenue? ✧ Keep Kentucky Money in Kentucky?



CASINOS ARE NOT THE ANSWER

THE RESEARCH ON CASINOS

- Racing gamblers frequently cross over to play slots and other casino games, but casino gamers tend to stay in casinos.
- Casino gambling revenue typically supplies no more than 3% of state budgeting needs and state education needs.
- Most casino jobs are minimum wage positions, and the employed are at an increased risk for gambling addiction.
- Casinos contribute to increased social problems such as divorce, spouse and child abuse, and neglect.
- Proximity to a casino shows evidence of an increase in burglary, larceny, vandalism, and violence.
- Casinos typically drive down property values in their host communities.
- Local businesses lose consumer dollars to the casino, causing many of them to go out of business.
- The profit realized from operating a casino goes to the casino owners, who overwhelmingly are not Kentucky residents.

Kentucky League on Alcohol and Gambling Problems
Kentucky Ethics League, Inc.

2722 Crittenden Drive ♦ Louisville, KY 40209-1114

Phone (502) 635-0002 ♦ <http://www.kentuckyleague.org>

