

WESTERN Recorder

September 30, 2014

Shine Like Stars * Philippians 2:15

Volume 188, Issue 36

Neighbors find hope as church meets hunger needs

EDITOR'S NOTE: On World Hunger Sunday, Oct. 12, Southern Baptists congregations will address the hunger crisis across North America and around the world by focusing on the theme "Hunger Happens Everywhere." Donations received are channeled through Global Hunger Relief, which uses 100 percent of each gift to meet hunger needs. For more information, visit www.globalhungerrelief.com.

By Kristen Camp

Alpharetta, Ga.—Victor is one of thousands of people left homeless and hungry after Hurricane Katrina stormed through New Orleans in 2005. The trauma drove Victor to become significantly dependent on alcohol. He began to seek help from a feeding ministry at Gentilly Lowe's, a neighborhood in Louisiana that was severely damaged by Katrina.

This feeding ministry falls under the umbrella of The Care Effect, one of a dozen community engagement ministries First Baptist Church of New Orleans (FBNO) uses to serve its neglected neighbors. Nearly 100 volunteers assist each week, some of which are church members while others are community residents.



Volunteer Dorothy Wargo dishes up food at Ozanam Inn, or "The Oz," as part of First Baptist Church of New Orleans' hunger ministry to its neglected neighbors. The church uses Southern Baptist Global Hunger Relief funds at the Oz and one other fixed feeding location.

"The Care Effect was born when our staff began to pray and brainstorm ways to rejuvenate our Wednesday night programming," said Christi Gibson, FBNO minister of missions and discipleship. "We began to wonder what would

happen if we invited people to 'come with us' instead of 'come to us.' How would our world, and we ourselves, change if we really began to care for our community?"

For Victor, the world changed around Christmastime.

"He decided that he was going to give himself a Christmas present, and that present was going to be Jesus," said Mike Edens, retired International Mission Board missionary and FBNO member. "He accepted Christ that night and then showed up a week later completely sober. He has not had a drink since."

Along with Victor's, many more lives have changed as a result of the hunger ministries that fall under The Care Effect. There are four specific programs that focus on hunger relief: a feeding ministry to the homeless at The Ozanam Inn, the hunger ministry at Gentilly Lowe's, the Fuel The Future backpack program that feeds hungry students and the Community Care program that feeds the homebound. All of these ministries are supported by the Southern Baptist initiative, Global Hunger Relief (GHR).

Formerly known as the World Hunger Fund, GHR was introduced at the Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting in Houston in 2013. Global Hunger Relief provides a channel that, unlike many other non-profits that keep as much as 70

□ See Neighbors' hope ... Page 9

Monroe receives directors' nod as next KBF president

By Todd Deaton

Louisville—Harold Monroe, vice president of investments of the Southern Baptist Foundation, was unanimously approved Sept. 25 by members of the Kentucky Baptist Foundation's Board of Directors as their nominee to become the foundation's next president and CEO.

"Our world needs Jesus now more than ever, and I look forward to coming back to Kentucky to help Kentucky Baptists tell the world about Jesus," Monroe told KBF directors in response to their unanimous recommendation.

Monroe, a native of west Kentucky, now awaits being presented to the Mission Board of the Kentucky Baptist



Harold Monroe

□ See KBF President ... Page 3

'Donate the Difference' to feed Ky.'s hungry

Southern Baptists to observe World Hunger Sunday on Oct. 12

By Ken Walker

Whitley City—With school back in session, Crossroads Community Baptist Church only serves free lunch three days a week, instead of daily as it did during the summer months.

Still, an average of 360 "customers" will visit The Lord's Café in Whitley City each week this fall. Many from the eastern Kentucky town will hear the gospel or pray with servers, who deliver their meals restaurant style.

Such outreaches across the commonwealth take place thanks to support from the Southern Baptist Convention's World Hunger Fund.

With continuing economic weakness, the annual offering that supports the fund is especially significant in Kentucky, where the 18.4 percent poverty rate is higher than the national average.

Such needs are a primary reason the Kentucky Baptist Convention recently launched its "Donate the Difference" campaign prior to World Hunger Sunday



Linda Watts, a member of First Baptist Church of Jackson, Ga., volunteers to serve food at the Lord's Café last year during its annual free Thanksgiving dinner. (KBC)

Oct. 12. The emphasis suggests ways of making small sacrifices to free up money for the offering. They include such things as a family choosing to watch a DVD at home instead of going to the movies. Or, drinking coffee at home instead of buying it at a high-priced coffee shop.

fee shop.

"Those are just some of the ways a church or individual can choose to raise support," said Eric Allen, leader of the KBC missions mobilization team. "There are a lot of traditional ways people use, such as bread banks or rice bowls. People can choose to donate online, too."

Last year, the state convention distributed about \$52,000 in World Hunger funds to Kentucky Baptist ministries or affiliated partners.

Qualifying for the grants includes following strict guidelines. A primary one is devoting 100 percent of the grant to food instead of paying such expenses as rent, utilities or salaries.

In addition, the KBC encourages feeding programs to include evangelism. That can be a devotional during a meal, a tract placed in a food box or—as with The Lord's Café—a gospel presentation over lunch.

Pastor Grant Hasty said soul-winning drives Crossroads Community, which opened The Lord's Café in June 2011. Since then, nearly 30 people have received Jesus as their Lord and Savior.

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Nelson County Baptists minister to Filipino brethren

By Debbie Davenport

Boston, Ky.—A team of Kentucky Baptists brought healing and hope to hundreds of Filipinos still recovering from Typhoon Pablo, a devastating storm that struck the island nation two years ago.

The six-member team, including members of Rolling Fork Baptist Church in Boston, provided medical exams and treatment to nearly 900 people in the Philippines between Aug. 24 and Sept. 2. They also held several worship services and led two pastors' conferences.

Rolling Fork pastor Bruce Nichols said much work remains for the people trying to rebuild.

"Some of the areas still are wiped out," he said. "It will take time. They'll just have to work at it a little at a time."

Typhoon Pablo was a Category 5 super typhoon with sustained winds reaching 175 mph.

Some 1,900 people died as the December 2012 storm wiped out bridges, caused mudslides, flattened entire villages, and left thousands homeless.

Despite the slow recovery, Nichols said Filipinos seemed resilient.

At the hard-hit Cateel Southern Baptist Church where only the tile floor remains where the pulpit once stood, local church members worship under a makeshift pavilion.

They hope to raise enough money for a new building soon.

Nichols, having completed his fourth trip to the region, said he again was struck by the faithfulness of the Baptist islanders.

"In Cateel, the congregation has next to nothing in terms of resources," he



Sue Fannin, a nurse from Rolling Fork Baptist Church in Boston, does a blood pressure check during a mission trip to the Philippines. She was part of a team of Kentucky Baptists who spent 10 days in the Philippines serving hundreds of Filipinos still recovering from Typhoon Pablo, a devastating storm that struck the island nation two years ago. The team provided medical exams and treatment to nearly 900 people in the Philippines between Aug. 24 and Sept. 2.

said, "but they have such energetic worship. Even in the areas where the persecution is, they're still standing firm in the faith."

Nichols said the ones serving on the mission trip, especially the first-timers, always return home forever changed by the experience.

"They realize all the things we take for granted (in the United States)," he said, and many come home with a different perspective after seeing how people

live in other parts of the world.

Eric Allen, missions mobilization team leader for the Kentucky Baptist Convention, said short-term missions always proves to be eye-opening for Americans.

"I can't encourage these kinds of short-term mission trips strongly enough," Allen said. "In every instance, they benefit our churches as much as they benefit the people they're reaching out to. I appreciate that Rolling Fork and

Redeemer Fellowship are so willing to reach out with the gospel in their local communities as well as to the uttermost part of the world."

Nichols said the mission trip has made him grateful as well. He expressed thanks for Kentucky Baptists' prayers and financial support.

"Most of all, I am very thankful that God would use people like us to carry out a mission as big as this one was," Nichols said. (KBC)

Mission trip turns tragic for recent Georgetown College grad

By Rick Hardison

Georgetown—A mission trip to South America turned tragic earlier this month when a Georgetown College graduate was killed.

Erica Faith Hagan, 22, of Murray, was apparently murdered in Temuco, Chile. Her body was found on Sept. 6 in her on-campus apartment.

Chilean authorities arrested a security guard Sept. 13 at the college where she was serving as a teaching assistant. Fox News reported that Hagan seemingly had been struck three times in the head with a blunt object. Police found partially burned blankets on the scene, and the investigation is on-going.

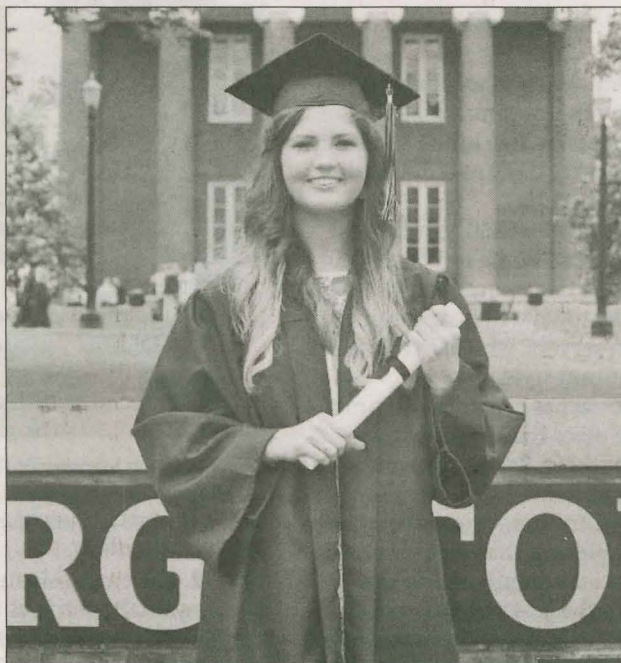
"Remember the joyous times you had with my daughter," her father, Chris Hagan, said on her Facebook page as he announced her death.

"Eric had a contagious personality that made her loved by everyone. She did not see differences in people, but instead made friends with everyone," said Kory Cunningham, associate pastor of Hardin Baptist Church, where Hagan had been a member since 2010.

Hagan graduated from Georgetown College in May 2014 with a major in psychology and minor in Spanish. She arrived in Chile on July 28 and worked as an English teaching assistant at Colegio Bautista of Temuco, and she intended to return in December to pursue graduate school.

Her friends and family remember Hagan as a vibrant and adventurous young woman who was strong in her love for Christ. "Her genuine smile could light up a room," her colleagues at Chick-Fil-A in Georgetown said.

Her infectious laugh and elegant demeanor were combined with a heart to serve others. She enjoyed working with kids, meeting new people, playing the clarinet, and



Erica Faith Hagan, 22, of Murray, died Sept. 6, in Chile. She graduated from Georgetown College in May 2014. She arrived in Chile on July 28 and worked as an English teaching assistant at Colegio Bautista of Temuco, and she intended to return in December to pursue graduate school.

she would donate her hair to locks of love. As valedictorian of Calloway High School in Murray in 2010, she was full of life, and was "terribly excited" to return to Chile, her aunt Charlene Martin recalled. Hagan previously spent three weeks in Chile on a mission trip in 2011.

A memorial service was held at Hardin Baptist

Church in Murray on Saturday. Georgetown College also plans to hold a memorial service for Hagan, but no dates have been set.

"We have certainly been affected (by her passing) and have set up counseling services for our campus community. We are working with the family to find the most fitting way to honor her memory," said Dean of Students Laura Wylie.

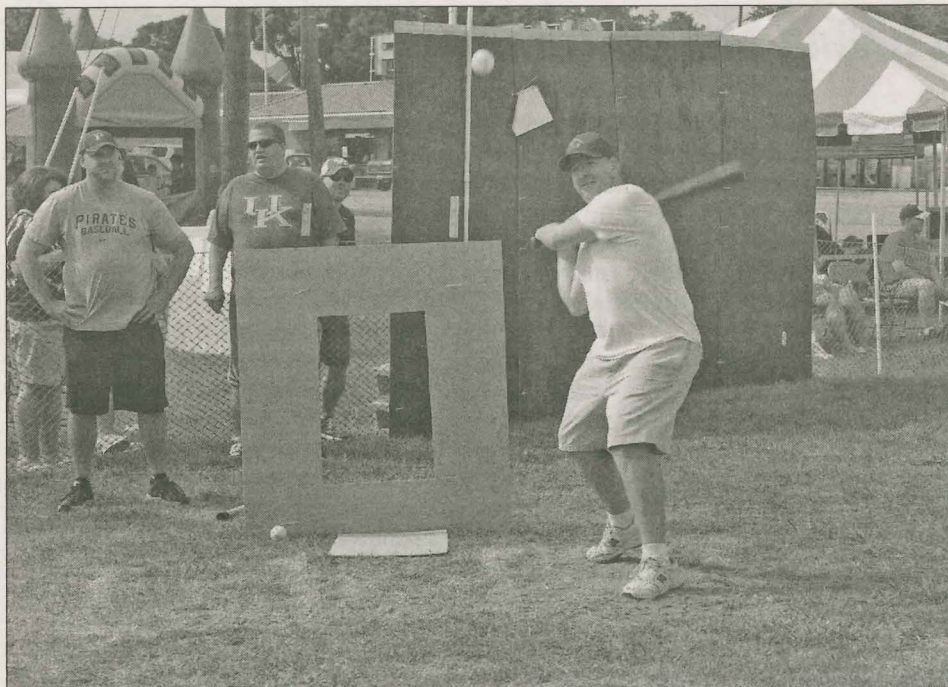
At least three separate fund raising efforts began online within days of Hagan's death. A gofundme.com account aims to raise \$100,000 to cover funeral expenses and to establish a scholarship in her name. Another gofundme.com account was established to pay for her body to return to the U.S. The effort raised more than \$6,800 in 14 days.

According to the Murray Ledger, the Colegio Bautista announced the college will pay the costs to transport Hagan's body back to the U.S. Some family members are also selling t-shirts in Erica's honor. The shirts have the text of 1 Corinthians 13:4, one of her favorite verses.

Georgetown College has had an ongoing relationship with Colegio Bautista of Temuco. Despite Hagan's death, Georgetown College will continue to partner with schools overseas.

"Every precaution is taken to assure the safety of students who study abroad. Our students have been involved in international study and mission work without incident for many years," campus minister Bryan Langlands said. "We do not expect students with a desire to experience other cultures and overseas study to be deterred. But we will always be mindful of their safety and advise them accordingly." (WR)

Rick Hardison is pastor of Great Crossing Baptist Church in Georgetown, and a freelance writer.



Whether a batter is 5 or 65, everyone enjoys trying to hit a home run during the Wiffle ball tournament at Unity Baptist Church in Ashland.

Wiffle ball tournament at Ashland church raises \$4,000 for missions

Ashland—The Amy for Africa organization of Ashland found a unique way to put “fun” in fundraiser.

How about a game of Wiffle ball?

The two-year-old mission organization used a pastime that almost everybody has played to raise \$4,000 through a one-day tournament in the side lot of Unity Baptist Church in Ashland.

Thirty-two teams played in the single-elimination tournament in August that was designed for having a good time and fellowship more than winning a championship.

Rules were set up so there was no running and any age could participate. Players from ages 5 to 65 competed in the daylong event that included nearly 200 home runs on two makeshift fields. One of the fields included a mini-Green Monster like the one in Boston. Signs on the outfield wall marked the distance from home plate.

The AFA organization, which raises money for missions in Moyo, Uganda, mostly through marathon runner Amy Compston's speaking engagements and her running, hit a home run with its second Wiffle ball tournament. The group raised \$2,000 in its inaugural tournament in 2013.

“What we found was that Wiffle ball is a common denominator with almost everybody,” said Mark Maynard, president of AFA and chairman of the deacons at Unity Church. “It’s a game that anybody can play, and anybody can hit a home run. It doesn’t matter if you are 5 or 65, hitting a home run is still pretty cool.”

As a matter of fact, the tournament had a home run by 5-year-old Landon VanKirk, who socked one out to centerfield.

Some of the unique rules included pitching to your own team. Rosters consisted of four players per team, with each team donating \$32 as an entry fee.

If the Wiffle ball was fielded cleanly after a hit—either on the ground or in the air—the batter was out. If it stopped in the infield, it was a double; in the outfield, a triple; and over the fence was a

Regional SPOTLIGHT



Paul Badgett
East

home run.

Teams could not score more than six runs in an inning.

“The rules leveled the playing field for everybody,” Maynard said. “The best thing was the games brought families out to watch and everybody had a good time fellowshiping with each other.”

The church, located on a busy intersection, also drew plenty of stares from those who drove past to see what was happening.

“They all wanted to come and play,” Maynard said.

Besides the games, they also brought in a dunking booth, inflatables and sold food as part of the fundraiser. There was also a silent auction.

It all added up to a successful afternoon for the Amy For Africa mission that has raised more than \$75,000 in the past two years. (WR)



Unity Baptist Church in Ashland raised \$4,000 for the Amy for Africa missions organization through a one-day Wiffle ball tournament.

Ky. Hungry

Continued from page 1

“When we started, one of our prayers was that God show us physical needs we could meet to share the gospel,” said the church planter, previously pastor of First Baptist Church of Whitley City.

“We’re one of the poorest counties in the state, so food is a huge need. And with discipleship, we have a ministry (that converts) can instantly plug into.”

Its effort to feed the poor extends beyond free lunches to such outreaches as its annual Thanksgiving dinner. The first dinner drew 300 guests, with attendance last year swelling to 950.

This is a fairly ambitious program for a church that averages a weekly attendance of 60. That makes the financial support it receives from the SBC a vital part of feeding impoverished residents.

Not only do the funds represent about 20 percent of its food budget, Hasty said they always show up just when they’re needed.

A similar program in the inner city of Owensboro relies on World Hunger funds to provide 30 percent of its food budget.

Refuge, an outreach launched eight years ago by New Life Baptist Church, typically serves 1,200 meals a month at its twice-a-week evening soup kitchen.

Pastor Todd Camp said the difference the World Hunger Fund makes in its community is huge.

“A lot of people depend on us to make ends meet,” Camp said. “For others, it’s not the hot meal as much as the fellowship and encouragement they get. For me, it’s as much a spiritual thing as a physical thing.”

It has taken a long time to build trust with people coming to the dinners, the pastor said, but now New Life is seeing benefits. Six years ago only a handful of members came from the surrounding neighborhood. Today, more than half of them do.

“In the past, our people came from all over Owensboro,” Camp said. “We’ve transitioned to become a community church.”

Being a “neighborhood church has been our goal all along,” he added. “Hunger ministry is a big part of that. That’s where relationships are formed.”

Such results are one reason Allen said he hopes to see more KBC churches capitalize on this year’s opportunity to support the World Hunger offering. There are feeding ministries outside the SBC that receive dollars from Kentucky Baptists who don’t realize Southern Baptists have such a ministry, he said.

In addition, the World Hunger Fund’s emphasis is on eternal food.

“We want to feed people physically,” Allen said. “But it’s more important that they know about Jesus Christ, who is the Bread of Life.”

For more resources about Donate the Difference and the World Hunger Fund, visit www.kybaptist.org/hunger. (KBC)



Kentucky Baptist Foundation directors approved Harold Monroe (left) as their nominee for the agency’s next president. With him are his wife Ruth and retiring KBF president Barry Allen.

KBF President

Continued from page 1

Convention. And, with their nod, he would begin his new duties in November.

In observing that Monroe will be instrumental in forging relationships to encourage legacy giving, KBF Board Chairman Willis Henson added, “He has the financial knowledge to do what needs to be done as the foundation’s president and CEO and the type of personality that can relate to pastors and people in the churches.”

Monroe will succeed Barry Allen, who has announced his intention to retire, effective Feb. 1, 2015, completing 44 years of denominational service to Kentucky Baptists.

Allen served 19 years as the KBF’s president and earlier was assistant manager and business manager of the KBC Executive Board (now Mission Board). He and Monroe will work together to ensure a smooth transition in leadership.

“I am looking forward to orienting Harold to the systems and services of the Kentucky Baptist Foundation, and to introducing him to all of its various

constituencies,” Allen said in offering his congratulations to Monroe.

“We will do everything we can to get him ready to really start a new era of service to Kentucky Baptists.”

Monroe has extensive experience in financial service with responsibility in financial and investment management, trust administration and financial and estate planning.

He has been employed at the Nashville-based Southern Baptist Foundation, which provides investment services to the Southern Baptist entities and fiduciary services for individuals, since 2011.

Previously, Monroe was a human resources consultant and a senior financial consultant for Caterpillar, a Peoria, Ill. manufacturing company, for nine years. He also has been a vice president and trust officer for First Security Bank in Owensboro and Old National Trust Company in Owensboro and Madisonville.

A graduate of Murray State and Western Kentucky universities, he also has been an adjunctive professor of communications at Belmont University in Nashville and for several community and technical colleges in Tennessee and Kentucky. (WR)

In foster training

Michelle and I are nearing the halfway mark in our training to become foster parents through Sunrise Children's Services, a Kentucky Baptist Convention agency. We

Together We are the KBC



Paul Chitwood

are also encouraging other families to join us in this journey as a part of the "Be the One" campaign. At any given time, about 300 children who are victims of abuse and neglect don't have a family willing to take them in. I believe 2,400 churches and 750,000 Kentucky Baptists can solve that problem! Call Sunrise today at (800) 456-1386, or visit www.sunrise.org/surroundtheone to learn more.

Reflecting upon Sunrise's recent history, I stand in awe of what God has done. One year ago, the ministry was embroiled in controversy over hiring persons with alternative lifestyles as caregivers for children. In a dramatic turn of events, new trustees appointed by messengers during the 2013 KBC Annual Meeting immediately charted a new course for Sunrise. Leadership changes and a clear affirmation of biblical values quickly restored Kentucky Baptists' confidence in Sunrise.

The Sunrise controversy was a great reminder of the vital importance of the theological convictions of those who lead. The intense social and political pressures to abandon biblical morals can only be withstood by those who not only sing the words of Rhea Miller's old gospel hymn, "I'd Rather Have Jesus," but those who really had rather have Jesus "than men's applause ... rather be faithful to His dear cause ... rather have Jesus than worldwide fame ... rather be true to His holy name."

We were also reminded of the importance of trusting in God's sovereignty. Domsday scenarios and conspiracy theories don't require much imagination for the leader of a Christian ministry or institution these days. We don't have to look far into the future to see genuine threats to the very existence of a ministry like Sunrise, a Baptist college, or even a local church. Thus, leadership is daily faced with a choice: Will we abandon our Christian distinctives to preserve our livelihood and our institution, or will we stand on the Word of God, trust in the God of the Word, and accept whatever fate He has willed?

Finally, we were reminded of the importance of Baptist polity and process. Over the years, Kentucky Baptists chose to elect leaders who were men and women of conviction. Those leaders appointed committees that acted with conviction. And Kentucky Baptists showed up at the Annual Meeting to vote with conviction.

The end result of a long process was that a historic ministry began by a group of laywomen from Walnut Street Baptist Church in Louisville in 1869 and supported by countless millions of dollars given by Kentucky Baptists over a century and a half was not left to become just another secular foster care agency. Rather, Sunrise remains a ministry through which Kentucky Baptists provide excellent care to hurting kids in the name of Jesus.

Paul Chitwood is executive director of the Kentucky Baptist Convention.

Cooperative Program giving and unintended consequences

The longer we live, the more we realize that actions or decisions have consequences—sometimes unintended consequences that are absolutely un-foretell-able or un-seeable. But more often they are foreseeable. Scripture instructs the wise person to "count the cost." This exhortation aptly applies to conversations concerning the continuing value of the Cooperative Program within the Southern Baptist Convention.

In recent years, some within our convention have suggested new funding modalities for our mission work. I understand why they do so. Support for our current methods of cooperative giving and special mission offerings has failed to raise the kind of dollars needed to propel an aggressive global vision while simultaneously maintaining a strong home base of ministry.

Even when dollars increase annually, they have not kept up with inflation and certainly not with population growth. Therefore, we find ourselves in a day and time when people are looking for new ways to raise mission dollars to distribute for global missions and North American evangelism and church planting.

This question is: Do we give up on a cooperative model which has brought us to this point? It's a question that is being discussed at many levels and among many generational and theological groups. Let's look, then, at some issues that may well have unintended consequences.

First of all, no one alive today has lived through the anarchy that existed prior to the Cooperative Program. Churches were literally bombarded with funding requests from entities, agencies and individuals so much that they cried out for relief.

Virtually every Sunday, some worthy cause asked local churches to receive special offerings for its ministry. Inevitably, the most persuasive entities and individuals raised the most money. Also inevitably, entities jockeyed to speak to the church during peak attendance seasons. I doubt seriously that churches in the 21st century will tolerate this kind of "free-for-all" for very long.

Another consequence of direct giving or "societal methodology" flies under many people's radar. According to a 2011 study by the Pew Research Center, the overall wealth of Anglo households is approximately 20 times that of African American households and 18 times that of Latino or Hispanic households.

How does this connect? When individuals are required to raise their own support they do so by going to friends, family

and fellow church members. When people in that sphere of influence have fewer resources, mission volunteers have to work that much harder to raise their support.

The unintended consequence of such a modality is a diminishing of ethnic representation in our mission force over time, a consequence no one would wish for. This is a serious question that must be answered.

Yet another unintended consequence of a direct giving model is its impact on the small church. While there is no intentional "war" on small churches, as some feel, many who are discussing changing our methodology do so from a large or mega-church perspective.

A direct funding modality may not be problematic in a large or mega-church situation. Individuals from those settings can go to the church and quickly receive funding for their calling to missions and ministry. This has been occurring for years and is done without great effort.

However, when a mission volunteer comes from a small church, which most of our mission volunteers do, it becomes increasingly difficult for that person to

raise funds within that setting. Southern Baptists are primarily a small church network; a small church would have to make hard decisions about supporting its mission volunteers. Where would that money come from? In my opinion, it would come from the church's Cooperative Program giving to which it has been committed perhaps for many years.

These unintended consequences have the potential for great impact upon our overall missions program. If they come to fruition, the overall result will be a dramatic lessening of support for the world's largest fully-funded missions-sending organization and all of the convention's related missions and ministries.

When the pool of CP money lowers, convention entities will, of necessity, have to find alternate means of support. This will likely set off a "turf war" within our convention, with each entity fighting for any remaining resources. This leads not to unity but to disunity.

I pray that we will all think carefully about these new methods and their long-term impact. They may raise more missions support in the short term, but could have long-term consequences that would negatively impact our convention's missions and ministries throughout North America and the world.

Frank Page is president of the SBC Executive Committee.

Guest Viewpoint



Frank Page

Just add water: Celebrating baptisms

It was an awesome day. Water was involved.

For weeks, our pastor at Olive Baptist Church in Pensacola, Fla., had announced the plan. New believers, and even long-time Christians who'd not yet been baptized, would be invited to make a public decision for Christ, and would be baptized during the same worship service. More than 40 people, mostly adults, were baptized. It was a joyful, tearful, thrilling celebration.

That same afternoon, I was at Pensacola Beach with my family. A nearby crowd was cheering and clapping, so I strolled down the beach to see what was

happening. It was a baptism. Pensacola's Hillcrest Baptist baptized more than 30 youth and adults right there in the Gulf

(plus 21 more in their morning service.) What a glorious day!

So what is the correct time and place for the baptism of new believers? It depends on the church.

Some churches pre-schedule weekly, monthly or quarterly baptisms; others baptize whenever a person accepts Christ. Many plan baptisms after youth camp or outreach events. Some

churches have a recurring class for those interested in baptism, with online registration for the class and baptism. They may baptize Sunday mornings,

Sunday evenings, at the beginning or end of worship, or as an entire worship service. Any time is a great time for baptism.

A church's baptismal service may be reverently quiet, or joyfully celebratory. Some baptize in robes; others print special t-shirts for the occasion.

Baptistery facilities vary from simple to ornate. I've seen baptisteries located at the front, the side, and in the back of the worship center. In Germany, we watched as a trap door on the platform was removed to reveal the baptistery. Some churches in the South have outdoor baptisteries, and Southwestern Seminary's new worship center has a gorgeous baptistery in its spacious

□ See Add Water ... Page 5

Fresh Ideas



Diana Davis

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Shine Like Stars * Philippians 2:15

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Letters to the editor:

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

Engaging youth in worship is key to retention

It has been a couple of months since churches have returned from camp, and by now the camp high is gone—and honestly, that is a good thing. Camp is a great experience for students. Bible study leaders are spending quality time with students, challenging them in their faith; worship is loud and geared specifically toward students; recreation activities are over the top, and the uniqueness of each day makes it conducive for students to hear a fresh word from the Lord.

Our job as adult leaders who have a significant role in the spiritual development of students is to now do the hard work of helping students figure out how to experience God in real and tangible ways in the world that they live in on a daily basis.

One of the ways we can do this is by incorporating students into our worship services. Students have multiple talents, skills and passions that we need as a greater church family to encourage them

to exercise as a member of the church family. It is our responsibility to help them see how to use their God-given talents to worship God.

Churches are incorporating students into worship in a variety of ways. One is by having a couple of students serve in the rotation of ushers. They take up the offering with other men from the church and even on occasion lead in the offertory prayer. They can hand out bulletins and greet visitors.

Praise band members. I know that not every church is ready for teens on the drum set or playing their guitars in worship, but it has worked for several churches across the convention.

It has been good to see these students feel like they are a part of worship, instead of spectators. They may not be the best musicians yet, but at this age we can help them to develop a heart for worship. We can also help them learn that there is a distinct difference in leading worship and playing in a band.

Prayer and Scripture reading. Not every student will pray out loud or will read in public, and neither will some adults, but these are two very simple ways to let our students be a part of the worship

experience. Some of the most open and honest prayers I have ever heard were prayed by students who haven't learned the proper way to pray yet.

Use current illustrations. George Washington, Martin Luther, Ronald Reagan, Disco, VHS tapes, Joe Montana, "Jaws", the first space shuttle explosion, the Chicago Bears being in the Super Bowl, and the original "Star Wars" are all historic references to students today. There has always been MTV, cable television, computers in the home, digital phones, the Giants have always been in San Francisco, and Arizona has always had three professional sports teams. It is imperative that if we are going to engage this generation in worship, we use at least some illustrations with which they can relate. This is not to say that we cannot use illustrations from the past, but it should not be all we use.

Technology is the language of today. From iPods to picture phones and text messaging, today's students are more technology exposed and literate than any generation before them. They build their own websites, post their own blogs and instant message for hours. They are doing PowerPoint presentations for school projects. With all this knowledge they can

be a tremendous asset in running sound systems, helping with technology for the worship service and building and maintaining the church's website.

Children's church and nursery workers. Years ago when I was a child, some teens were teaching Sunday School at age 15. It wasn't because they asked to or it was "youth Sunday." It was because they were needed as teachers. Today, our students are as capable, but are seldom afforded the opportunity.

Soloist, choir members, creative ministries are all opportunities for students to be engaged in the worship experience. Is your sanctuary choir open to students? Are they invited to participate, or is it "adult choir"? What about your praise team? Are students trained in interpretive movement, puppets, drama, and other creative worship expressions? Do they get an opportunity to lead in worship through these creative expressions? It is not as important how we engage students in worship, but it is important that we do. We are about to lose a generation.

Joe Ball, a former youth minister at Edgewood Baptist Church in Hopkinsville, is youth ministry strategist for Crossings Ministries.

Youth Ministry Corner



Joe Ball

Hunger is everyone's problem

For many in North America, hunger is someone else's problem. It's the emaciated children halfway around the world. It's people who live on the other side of the tracks. And, occasionally, it's the person holding a cardboard sign at a freeway exit.

But as a follower of Jesus, hunger is your problem and it's my problem. Jesus showed us, over and over again in the gospels, that the physical needs of those around us matter to God—and should matter to us as well.

Because Jesus didn't ignore hunger (read the stories of Jesus multiplying the fish and the loaves in the gospels), we can't ignore it either. Hunger impacts one in six Americans. No matter where you live, you know someone who is hungry. And no matter how it appears on the outside, that hunger impacts every area of life—including physical health, mental processing ability and social relationships.

In the wealthiest country in the history of the world, more than a third of poor families in the United States have to choose whether to eat or pay for a roof over their heads. That's why Southern Baptists have worked together for decades to push back hunger in North America. Through your gifts to Southern Baptist Global Hunger Relief—more than \$1.1 million in 2013—local church-based ministries in big cities and small towns provide food for hungry people throughout the U.S. and Canada.

More important, these ministries provide hope, by connecting the hungry to gospel-preaching churches where they can hear about Jesus and learn to follow Him. Your gifts to Global Hunger

Relief last year led to more than 22,000 professions of faith reported through Southern Baptist hunger ministries in North America.

Lynn Gardens Baptist Church in Pueblo, Colo., is a great example of this. The small church averages around 35 in attendance each week, but its food ministry—called God's Food Pantry—has grown to become one of the largest in the community. Every week the church helps 180 to 190 families put food on their tables.

As the church has provided food for the community—which had been ravaged by unemployment in recent years—it has reversed the perception of Southern Baptists in Pueblo.

Pastor Lonnie Hartke says when he first arrived at the church and would go door to door no one wanted to listen to a Baptist preacher. But as his small church has loved its community unselfishly by providing much-needed food, perceptions have shifted. Residents are more open to hearing him share the gospel.

One lady had attended the church years earlier but had been hurt by someone there and left. Through God's Food Pantry, she re-connected to the church, became a follower of Jesus and was baptized. She now helps others as a volunteer in the food pantry.

Your support of Global Hunger Relief helps us push back hunger and lostness in Pueblo, Colo., and throughout North America. Hunger is our problem as Southern Baptists. Thank you for working together to do something tangible to help our neglected neighbors. (BP)

Kevin Ezell is president of the North American Mission Board. For more information on Southern Baptist efforts to confront hunger in North America, visit namb.net/hunger-relief.

First Person



Kevin Ezell

How can I move beyond anger?

By James Stillwell

Q: My former spouse has been so difficult. Our co-parenting issues are on my mind. I'm also upset about how the divorce happened. His unfaithfulness still gets to me. How do I move beyond this anger?

■ See a counselor or be a part of a divorce recovery group to work on issues of forgiveness. The self-care you will achieve from a wise therapist or being a part of a faith-based support group will give you the strength to turn negative emotions to positive. "In the midst of counselors there is safety" (Proverbs 11:14, 15:22)

■ See a counselor or mediator together who is skilled at mediation and family therapy. This is often effective in getting a couple past their "stuck places"

■ Cultivate an ongoing awareness of your emotions. Where do you feel it in your body? Notice the anxious thoughts and question them. See Romans 12:16-20.

■ Get up and move. Regular exercise will lower the "set point" for your anger,

and give you more positive endorphins that will make your moods more upbeat. See 1 Timothy 4:8.

■ Breathe. Thomas Jefferson had this on the wall of Monticello: "When angry, count to 10. When very angry, count to 100." Give your body and mind a chance to get back into balance. See 1 Kings 19:11-12.

■ Hang around encouragers. There are people in your life who can be a "Barnabas" for you. These people will give you uplifting thoughts and positive energy. You are a unique, unrepeatable miracle of God. See Psalm 139, Genesis 1:27.

■ Laugh. Laughter is a great distraction and will help the body relax and the mind to get things into perspective. See Proverbs 15:3.

■ Take the long view. 200 years from now, how much will this momentary annoyance matter? (Revelation 21:3)

■ Realize that your former spouse may be upset and acting out of frustrations that have nothing to do with you.

If you are able to frame their situation in any way that engenders empathy and compassion you will be well on your way to letting go of hurts.

Ask God for the grace to take these steps toward freedom. (Luke 23:34, Matthew 6:25-34)

Add water

Continued from page 4
entry foyer.

An Indiana church gathers for summer baptisms at the river next to the church. A church plant baptizes in a nearby swimming pool. An apartment church baptizes in a hot tub. During our former church's worship center renovation, we used a horse trough in the middle of the gym. In that unique setting, God blessed with a record number of baptisms.

I worshipped with a Michigan church plant whose rented site was in a public park. As they baptized in a small lake there, many curious passersby stopped to watch, including a little dog that paddled out, circling the baptismal party!

Whether your church baptizes in the baptistery or the ocean, in robes or t-shirts, there's nothing more thrilling than seeing new believers follow Christ. "Look, there's water! What would keep me from being baptized?" (Acts 8:36). (BP)

Diana Davis is an author, speaker and the wife of Steve Davis, the North American Mission Board's vice president for the South region.

Somerset First cuts ribbon on 'The Village' for children

By Lauren Snowden

Somerset—It's an explosion of color. The envy of the church community. First Baptist Church, Somerset, has taken their children's wing and turned it into something bigger, brighter and better. They are calling it "The Village," and it just opened this month.

The new space is equipped with a gym, brand new classrooms and electronics—built into the walls. It is kid-friendly with a yellow brick road lining the hallways and Sesame Street style signs marking classrooms and stations. Each room is decorated to be bright and lively, with a Bible verse on every wall.

"He is super pumped about it. We've been sneaking downstairs to see every step of progress," said Sarah Robinson, speaking of her 10-year-old son. "It's a really inviting place to learn about Jesus. It makes it a fun place to play with friends. It's bright and inviting."

Plus, Robinson said it gets her son ready for worship. He can't wait get out the door on Sunday mornings to get to church, she said.

Pastor French Harmon was brimming with enthusiasm when he talked about the new space for children. Not only is The Village a place that will visually hold a child's attention, it provides a level of functionality, too.

"They really enjoy all the colors," Harmon said.

"There is a Bible verse on every wall. We're really trying to teach a new generation of children about the word of God."

The Village also provides an added level of safety. Previously, children's classrooms were on different floors. Now all of the kids are



on the same floor, adding a level of security for the church and members.

The children's area isn't the only spot getting a sprucing. First Baptist has new entrance for families and will move their library.

It's part of what the church is calling their 20/20 Vision campaign, Harmon explained.

Pastor Harmon said that the total

price tag for the renovations comes in at around \$1 million. Those funds came from church donations, and there is still plenty of work to be done.

No doubt, there was a lot of money, hard work, sweat and prayer that went into the vision and construction of The Village. Pastor Harmon credits a very creative committee to overseeing the renovation of its entire children's ministry.

The committee took cues from LifeWay Architecture and got artistic expressions from World of Wow ... and they are getting just that: "wows" from just about everyone who has seen it.

Somerset First is putting the finishing touches on the facility, and hopes to host a community open house by the end of October.

As for the grownups, Pastor Harmon said the adults in his congregation are a little jealous of the new kid's area. But, there is a compromise: "Adults are allowed on the trampolines when the kids aren't down there," he said.

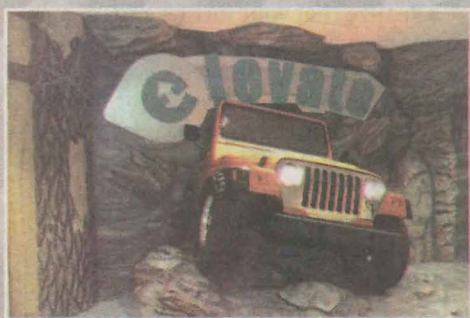
Seems like a good deal. (WR)

For more information about The Village, visit: <https://www.facebook.com/firstbaptistsomerset> or fbcsomerset.org

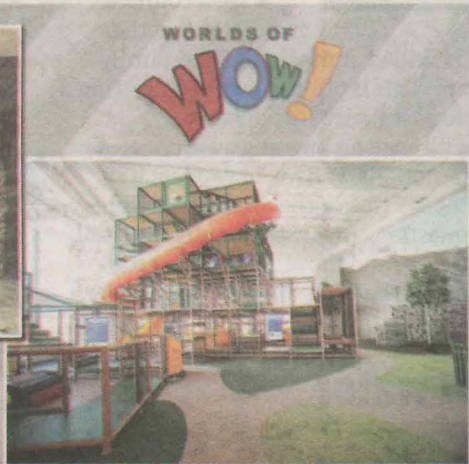


"It's a really inviting place to learn about Jesus. It makes it a fun place to play with friends."

Sarah Robinson



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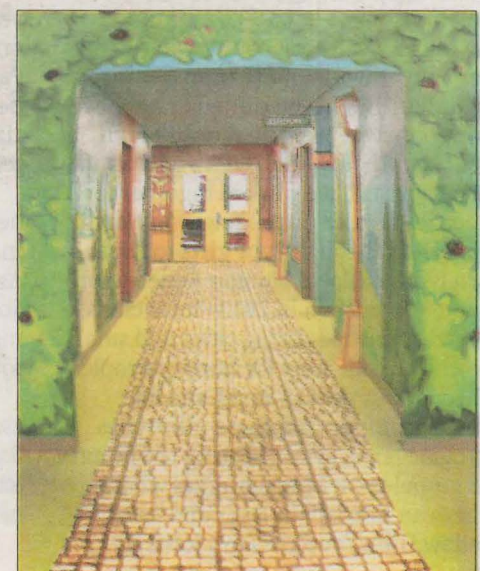


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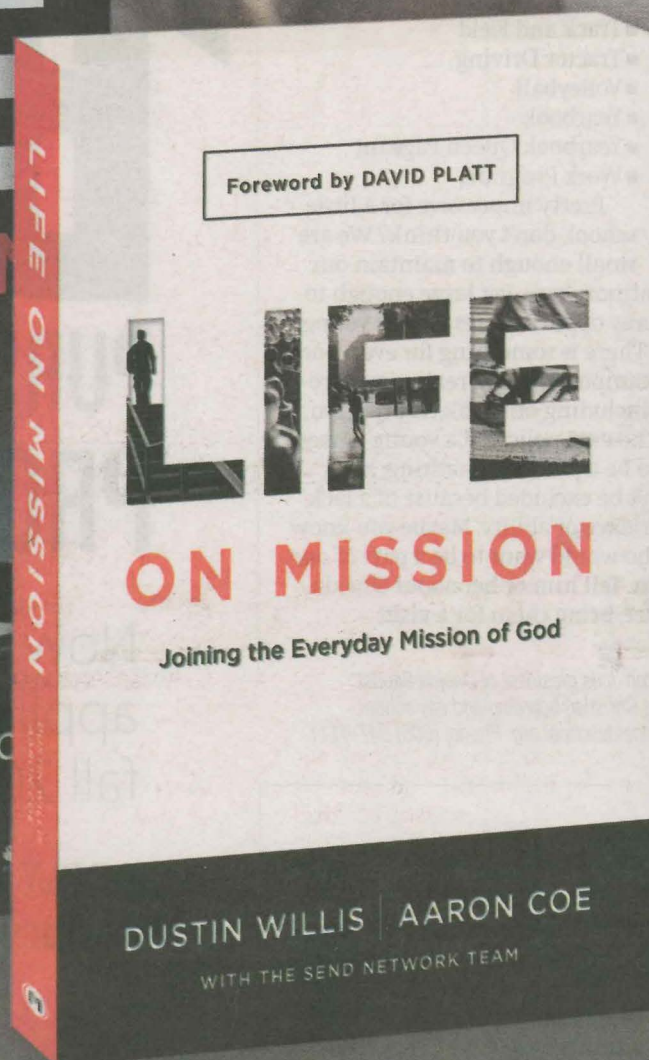
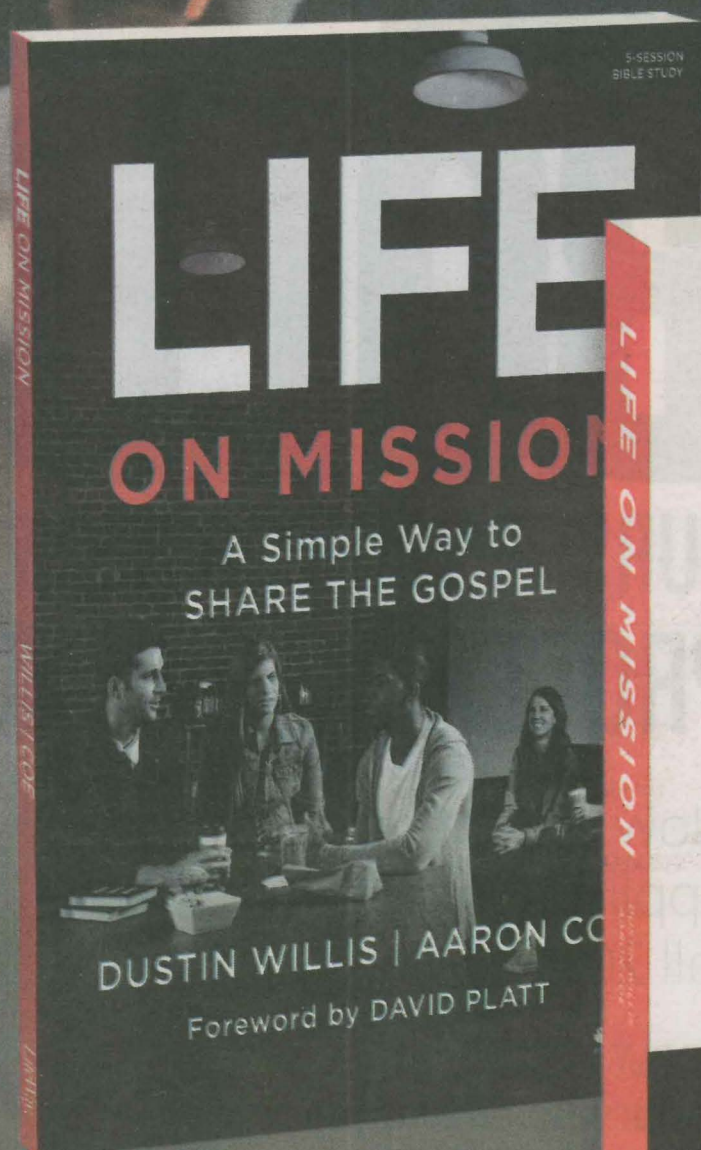
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As a part of its 20/20 Vision campaign, First Baptist Church of Somerset recently completed a colorful renovation of its children's area that has children eager to come learn about Jesus and play with friends.



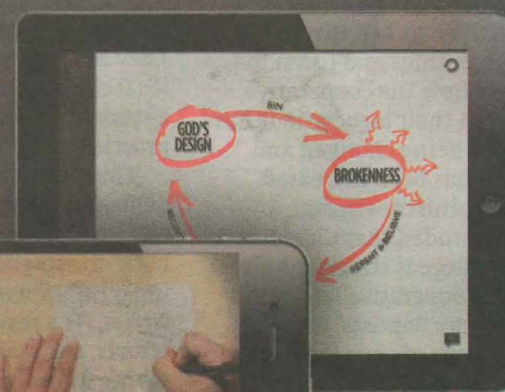
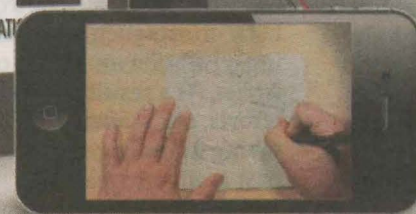
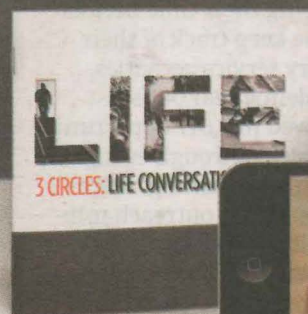
Are you ready to
join the everyday
mission of God?



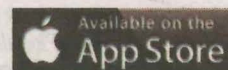
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Something for everyone at OBI

School offers sizable array of activities for students

I often tell you about some of our programs, but thought it might be good if I listed some of our extensive program for you. We have a sizable array of co-curricular offerings. Notice I said "co-curricular" and not "extra-curricular." Everything we do on campus is part of our curriculum, thus co-curricular. Each activity and program is a tool we use to reach and teach our young people. Many of our students find their niche in something they never dreamed of being a part of before coming here. Our co-curricular offerings extend beyond our core classroom curriculum:

- Academic Team
- Art Show
- Band
- Baptist Campus Ministry
- Baseball
- Basketball
- Cheerleading
- Choir
- Coffee Houses
- Commercial Art
- Crafts
- Creative Ministries
- Cross Country
- Dorm Devotions
- Drafting
- Drama
- Fellowship of Christian Athletes
- Fashion
- Field Placement
- 4-H
- FFA

- Golf
- Guitar
- Instrumental Music
- Lifeguarding
- National Honor Society
- Piano
- Ping Pong Club
- Presidential Advisory Committee
- Soccer
- Softball
- Stagecraft

This is Oneida



Larry Gritton

- Student Council
- Student Praise Team
- Sunday School
- Swimming
- Tennis
- Track and Field
- Tractor Driving
- Volleyball
- Yearbook
- Yearbook Queen Pageant
- Work Program

Pretty impressive for a little school, don't you think? We are small enough to maintain our family atmosphere, yet large enough to offer many opportunities for our young people. There is something for everyone on our campus. Did you realize our programs, including our athletic program, have a "no cut" policy? If a young person wants to be a part of something, he or she won't be excluded because of a lack of experience or ability. Maybe you know a kid who would want to be a part of our program. Tell him or her about Oneida. Better yet, bring them for a visit!

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

Together we are stronger

President reflects on annual meetings and kingdom work

This is a favorite time of mine when I get to travel around the state and visit with many of our associations during annual meetings and with the wonderful people who are excited about Kingdom work.

As I reflect on a series of annual meetings that I have just attended, I am reminded of how much stronger we are together as Kentucky Baptists than when we are trying to do things alone. My heart is thrilled as I sit through these annual meetings and listen to people speak of how the cooperative work together in their associations has resulted in lives being changed and God's kingdom has been increased through these ministry efforts.

I am also reminded that Clear Creek Baptist Bible College is stronger today because of the Cooperative Program giving of Kentucky Baptists. Clear Creek has been one of your Kentucky Baptist Convention educational institutions since 1946. We are stronger because of your cooperative efforts to partner with us to do kingdom work.

Since its establishment in 1920, Clear Creek was founded on three simple truths that still hold true today. First, the Lord alone calls someone into His service. Every student that comes to

Clear Creek Chronicle



Donnie Fox

Clear Creek has expressed to us that God has placed a divine call on their lives to do ministry. Every student has

to have a recommendation from their local church to be admitted to Clear Creek. Second, we believe that the Bible is absolute truth. We believe that the Bible is the inspired, inerrant, infallible word of God. Everything we do at Clear Creek centers around the Christ and His holy word. Third, we teach our students to believe the Bible and live by its teachings. The focus for our students is practical ministry training. They are required to be involved in a local church during their time here as a student, and we keep track of their practical ministry service activities.

This past academic year our students were involved in 1,617 opportunities to tell their story through evangelistic efforts such as preaching, teaching, visitation and other outreach ministries. As a result of these ministry efforts, our students led 365 people to a saving knowledge of Jesus Christ this past academic year.

Clear Creek is stronger today because of your partnership with us. Thanks for all you do for us.

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

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Page: CP rebounding despite challenges

By David Roach

Nashville—The average Cooperative Program gift from churches has rebounded from a low of 5.41 percent of undesignated receipts, and there are indications that Southern Baptists feel renewed interest in cooperative ministry endeavors, Frank Page said in his report to the Southern Baptist Convention Executive Committee Sept. 22.

"The good news is I think we've seen, I pray we've seen that low point and are on the way to seeing a robust appreciation of and understanding of cooperative ministry," Page, the EC's president, said.

The Cooperative Program is Southern Baptists' unified program of funding missions and ministries in North America and around the world.

Page also updated the EC on the work of five advisory councils he appointed to help SBC leaders appreciate the perspectives of various subgroups.

Regarding CP, Page listed three challenges that Southern Baptists face:

- Their belief in local church autonomy precludes the SBC from insisting that congregations give through CP.

- SBC missions and ministries are competing for churches' gifts against a broad array of non-denominational ministries.

- There are misunderstandings of CP such as, "There's got to be a better way" to fund missions.

Page said he is open to other models of funding ministry but noted that CP has been effective in several important ways. Any alternative funding plan must at

least match CP in:

- Long-term sustainability

"People say, 'Well, we can do better through direct giving or self-funded modalities of mission giving. Is that long-term effective? I don't think so,' he said.

- Eliminating competition

"We don't need to be in a place where our entities are competing one with another," he said. "We need to be cooperating together."

- Alignment with Southern Baptists' guiding principle, "We can do more together than we can do alone."

- Fostering and appreciating the involvement of smaller churches and ethnic churches. Some 45,000 of the SBC's 46,125 churches qualify as small congregations. A direct funding model, in which churches fund their missionaries

and global ministries rather than pooling money with other congregations prevents some smaller churches from engaging deeply in missions, Page said.

"I am passionate about the fact that Southern Baptists are made up primarily of smaller churches," Page said. "And I will not ever forget who we really are. And when we go toward direct funding models and self-funded models, it is a direct slap at the smaller church."

Direct funding also hinders involvement of ethnic churches, Page said. He explained that on average, Hispanics and African Americans have smaller incomes than Anglos. When missionaries are required to raise support, those from ethnic minority communities often are unable to generate sufficient funding, he said. (BP)

Neighbors' hope

Continued from page 1

percent of funds for administrative overhead, directs 100 percent of donations directly to hunger relief.

A resolution passed at the 2014 SBC in Baltimore designated 80 percent of GHR receipts to be used for international hunger relief through IMB, and 20 percent to be used for domestic hunger relief through the North American Mission Board.

Through the GHR, Southern Baptist churches are now able to take advantage of more opportunities to aid and minister to the 870 million people worldwide who do not have enough to eat.

In 2013, Southern Baptist hunger ministries fed over 5 million meals to the hungry in North America. The number of hunger ministry volunteers increased from 170,000 in 2012 to 200,000 in 2013.

The number of new hunger ministry volunteers who were trained in evangelism also increased from 19,500 in 2012 to 26,500 in 2013. The contributions to GHR led to more than 22,000 professions of faith and 4,400 baptisms in 2013, as a result of church members sharing the gospel with their neglected neighbors.

"These are real people with real needs. They don't just need money. They need family, redemption, and community," said Edens. "Because of Global Hunger Relief and the ministries it funds, we are not just able to give these people food, but to give them a verbal witness, which is the most important thing."

The verbal witness that Victor was given has proven to be the most important thing in his life as he continues to serve The Lord through the ministry that brought him to faith in Christ.

He still comes on a regular basis to volunteer with the feeding ministries through The Care Effect and to help those who are dealing with the same struggles he faced.

"One of the most encouraging things we have seen happen in this ministry (at Gentilly Lowe's) is as people get on their feet, they return to share with the others we feed," Gibson said.

Southern Baptist entities are hoping the GHR resolution will encourage more local churches to focus resources on helping their community and hopefully see more lives changed the way Victor's was transformed.

The ministry goal is the core of LoveLoud, a movement of churches

demonstrating God's love by meeting significant human needs while sharing Christ.

"Look where you live for the needs where you live," Gibson said. "If we're driving past hungry people on our way to the airport to go feed hungry people somewhere else, there's something wrong. Believe me, there is someone hungry in your city, and we are called to care for our neglected neighbors." (BP)



First Baptist Church of New Orleans volunteers Denver Mitchell and Edwin Lavagnino serve meals at Gentilly Lowe's, a hunger ministry the church provides with GHR funds.

Kristen Camp writes for the North American Mission Board. For more information on LoveLoud, visit www.namb.net/loveloud.

Somebody's gonna get your stuff

Fulfill your duty by making your last will and testament

Laurie Valentine uses this Jane Bryant Quinn quote in our Christian Estate Planning seminars, which we conduct in churches throughout the year. "You own stuff, you will die, someone will get your stuff."

We all have stuff of various kinds with varying values, but lots of stuff. Our stuff can be in the form of furniture, clothing, jewelry, automobiles, collections and the like, and in the form of cash, stocks, bonds, mutual fund shares, ETFs, real estate, life insurance and retirement accounts.

Whatever stuff we have, and regardless of its value, it all belongs to God, and He has entrusted it to us to manage and to use (a) for our enjoyment, (b) to help others and (c) to invest in eternal things (I Timothy 6:17-19).

We all shall die. Some of us are concerned about dying too soon while others of us are concerned about living too long. We human beings are the only ones of God's creatures who tend to hold on to our stuff to the end.

When we die, someone will get our stuff. In the disposition of our stuff, we Christians have a duty to God, the

owner of our stuff, to our families and to those who are in need.

To fulfill that duty responsibly, each of us needs a plan. The plan we need will depend upon what kind and how much stuff we have to manage.

As citizens of the Commonwealth of Kentucky, the Commonwealth has a plan for the disposition of your stuff if you have not taken responsibility to have your own plan.

Let me assure you the Commonwealth's plan does not include any provisions for any of your stuff to benefit the "Commonwealth of our Lord."

To fulfill our duty to the One who entrusted our stuff to us, we must take the initiative to have a plan.

The basic document in that plan is a last will and testament. With it you can ensure not only who will get your stuff but also who will be in charge of its disposition.

Call Laurie Valentine toll-free for assistance.

She is available to give you ideas on how to make a plan that disposes of your **stuff** in a way that gets it to the **someone** you want to receive it and in a manner that honors our Lord.

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

Ky. Baptist Foundation



Barry Allen

CALL FOR RESOLUTIONS

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

Resolutions Must:

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

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

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

Tell Your Story

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

Deadline Oct. 10



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.
- 30** Directors of Missions Coaching Training, Kentucky Baptist Building, Louisville.
- 30** Louisville Area Pastors' Luncheon, Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville.

MOUNTAINS TO THE MISSISSIPPI

COMPILED BY STAFF

Alexandria—East Dayton Church has called **John Haller** as pastor.

LaCenter—First Church will present Judgment House Oct. 19-29. Free walk through drama for youth and adults portrays the lives of four individuals and how the choices they make affect their eternity. For reservations or more information, call (270) 665-5408.

Marion—Second Church will hold revival services on Oct. 12 at 11 a.m. and 6 p.m., and Oct. 13-15 at 7 p.m. **Ronnie Sivells** is evangelist, and **Bill Allen** is worship leader. **Chris Lowery** is the pastor.

Russellville—First Church will host the Dixie Melody Boys in concert on Sunday, Oct. 12, at 6:00 p.m. **George Crabtree** is pastor.

Workshop slated for transitional pastors

Paducah—The Kentucky Baptist Convention will provide training in October for experienced ministers who sense God's call to serve as transitional interim pastors.

The training will be Oct. 27-28 at the West Union Baptist Association office at 2541 Olivet Church Road. The cost will be \$100, which covers materials and meals. The workshop will focus on the role of an interim pastor, the transition process, assessing the church's history and current realities, preparation for the future, preaching and teaching, conflict management and congregational healing and supporting the search committee.

To register, contact Kandi Hayes at 270-554-5717.

CLASSIFIED ADS

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

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

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

SEEKING: 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 resumé to: Pastor Search Committee, P.O. Box 684, Princeton, KY 42445; or email to: pastorsearch@southsidebaptist.com. Resumé accepted through Nov. 30, 2014.

SEEKING: New Harmony Missionary Baptist Church in Benton, Ky., is currently looking for a full-time associate

To place an advertisement in the Western Recorder:

Rates are available upon request

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



pastor who feels called to lead the children and youth ministries. If interested, please email your resumé to nhmbc@newharmonybaptist.net.

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

SEEKING: Farmdale Baptist Church, 1238 Durrett Lane, Louisville, KY 40213. Seeking part-time music minister. Resumé must be received by Friday, Oct. 31, 2014.

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

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

Bible Crosswords

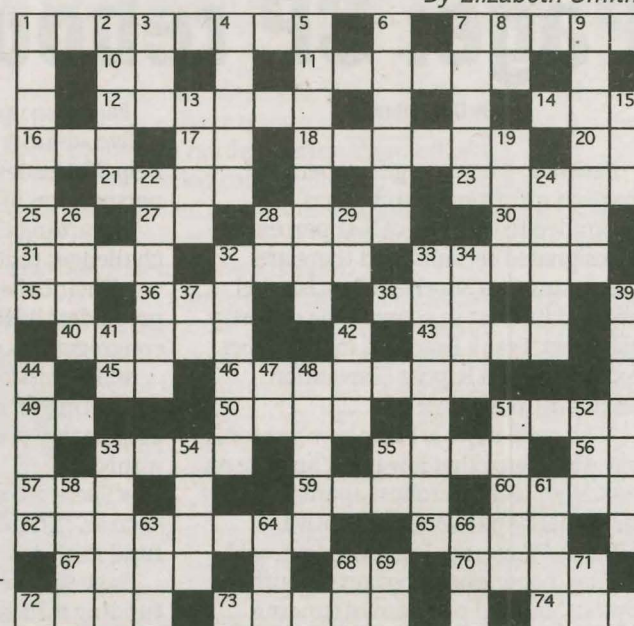
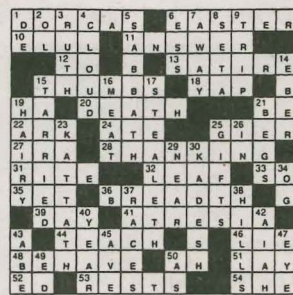
By Elizabeth Smith

Across

- 1 King of Judah (Isaiah 38:1)
7 Son of Jacob
10 Four, Romans num.
11 While in Antioch, this man predicted a famine (Acts 11:27-28)
12 "At Antioch there were prophets and teachers: ... , Lucius of Cyrene, ____ and Saul" (Acts 13:1NIV)
14 This king destroyed and burned an idol his mother had made (1 Kings 15:13)
16 Don't fight like a man beating this (1 Corinthians 9:26)
17 For example, Lat. abbr.
18 Ancestor of Saul and the son of Benjamin (1 Samuel 9:1)
20 God's name for Himself, I ____
21 "Will your ____ talk reduce men to silence?" (Job 11:3 NIV)

- 23 "A man of ____ spirit gains honor" (Proverbs 29:23 NIV)
25 Cathode, abbr.
27 Southern state, abbr.
28 "The ____ shall eat straw like the ox" (Isaiah 11:7)
30 Pertaining to urinary tract, prefix
31 "The body is a ____, though it is made up of many parts" (1 Corinthians 12:12 NIV)
32 Person who lost his inheritance and blessing to his brother (Genesis 27:30-40)
33 Succeeded Ahaziah as king (2 Kings 1:17 NIV)
35 Nautical measure of speed, abbr.
36 Harry's nickname
38 First month of autumn, abbr.
40 One of the border towns of the children of Naphtali (Joshua 19:32-33)
43 "Their feet ____ into sin" (Isaiah 59:7 NIV)
45 Article
46 Belonging to a priest in Midian who had seven daughters (Exodus 2:11-3:1)
49 "The ____ is already at the root" (Matthew 3:10 NIV)
50 Alternate spelling for 15 down
51 Greek word for "my God" (Matthew 27:46 NIV)
53 Shipbuilder and zookeeper

#012



#013

- 55 An OT prophet and book
56 Dorm helper, abbr.
57 Collection of sayings
59 New Testament prophetess (Luke 2:36)
60 "Cancel any ____ your brother owes" (Deuteronomy 15:3 NIV)
62 Old Testament book that follows Ezra
65 "Better a ____ of vegetables where there is love" (Proverbs 15:17 NIV)
67 "Let the dead ____ their dead" (Luke 9:60)
68 A book of the Pentateuch, abbr.
70 This man lived and died, but he was never born
72 "____, follow me" (Matthew 4:19 NIV)
73 This man disagreed with a great fish
74 A son of Noah (Genesis 5:32)

Down

- 1 Prophet of Judah and book of the Old Testament
2 King who set the citadel on fire, dying there (1 Kings 16:18)
3 Peron's first name
4 "Let us make man in our ____" (Genesis 1:26)
5 False prophet who took the yoke off Jeremiah's neck and broke it (Jeremiah 28:10)
6 Sent to David to rebuke him and expose his sin (2 Samuel 12:1-10)
7 Father of all who play the harp or the flute (Genesis 4:21)
8 America, abbr.
9 Amnon was killed by him for raping Tamar (2 Samuel 13:1-29)
13 Girl's name
15 Youngest of the Little Women

- 19 "Ye know neither the day nor the ____" (Matthew 25:13)
22 A Reubenite who was swallowed up by the earth (Numbers 16:27-32)
24 A gentle answer turns this away (Proverbs 15:1)
26 The daughter of Phanuel (Luke 2:36)
28 Library science, abbr.
29 Old uncial, abbr.
32 The man who went to heaven in a fiery chariot
33 Nebat's son (2 Chronicles 10:15)
34 Great work
37 Be, first person singular, present tense
39 Giant killed by David
41 Defendant's adversary, abbr.
42 Article
44 Esther and Mordecai's enemy
47 Printer's measure
48 Father of Abraham (Genesis 11:27)
51 An elder who prophesied with Medad (Numbers 11:26)
52 Globe
53 Book of the Old Testament that follows Micah
54 "Give bread unto thine ____" (Judges 8:6)
55 One of the Gospels, abbr.
58 Mountain where Moses died
61 Son of Baasha (1 Kings 16:8)
63 Before, poetic
64 Past
66 "Take him to the ____ doorpost and pierce his ____ with an awl" (Exodus 21:6NIV)
68 Father, dial Brit
69 Used to indicate ordinal numbers
71 Common graduate degree, abbr.

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A.T. Robertson & his monumental achievement

By Craig Sanders

LOUISVILLE—On the afternoon of Sept. 24, 1934, A.T. Robertson pondered over a difficult text in his Greek New Testament. Leaving a mark on Matthew 6:11, Robertson walked out of his office in Norton Hall at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary to teach his Greek class.

He would never return.

As students recited their translations of New Testament passages, sweat poured down Robertson's discolored face. The scholar dismissed class early, an occurrence so rare that a junior professor rushed to Robertson's aid and took him home.

Shortly after, with his wife Ella at his side, the 70-year-old Robertson died of a stroke.

According to his biographer, Robertson's sudden death left the seminary campus in a state of shock. "If a storm had blown away the buildings and left Doctor Robertson," a student is recorded as saying, "the seminary would have been more real than it was with him gone."

Eighty years later, Robertson's grave lies in the shadow of his father-in-law, Southern Baptist statesman John A. Broadus, at Louisville's Cave Hill Cemetery.

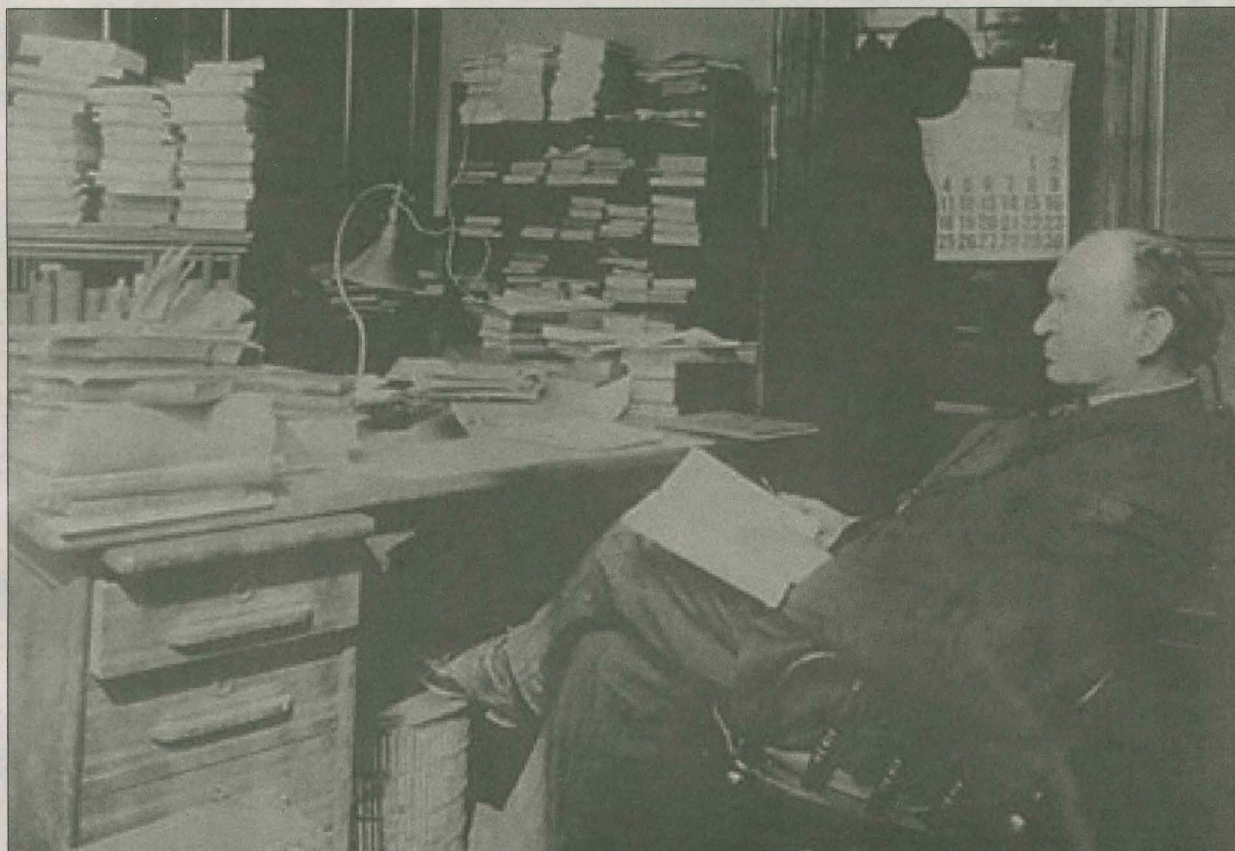
Despite requesting this humble resting place, Robertson's towering genius arguably surpasses that of Broadus, one of the founders of Southern Seminary.

"Robertson's life and his work stand as a monumental achievement pointing to the true essence of evangelical scholarship," Albert Mohler Jr., president of Southern Seminary, said of the famed Greek New Testament scholar. "The very fact that we are having this discussion 80 years after his death is an indication of the power of a teacher and, in particular, the power of a teacher in the service of the Christian church."

Born Nov. 6, 1863, Archibald Thomas Robertson professed faith in Christ at the age of 12 and was licensed to preach four years later. He attended Wake Forest College, where he earned his M.A. (1885) before enrolling at Southern Seminary. Broadus, his Greek professor, quickly recognized Robertson's aptitude for the biblical language and selected him as a teaching aide.

In 1890, Robertson was elected assistant professor of New Testament interpretation and would teach at Southern for 44 years until his death in 1934.

Recognized as the premier New Testament scholar of his generation, Robertson published 45 books, including the six-volume "Word Pictures in the New Testament" and 1,454-page "A Grammar of the Greek New Testament in the Light of Historical Research," which is still



A.T. Robertson at his Norton Hall desk on the campus of Southern Seminary in Louisville. Now 80 years after his death, the famed Greek New Testament scholar is remembered for the "monumental achievement" of his life and work and his many colorful quotes.

consulted by leading Greek scholars a century after it first appeared in print.

When Robertson completed the 3-foot-tall handwritten manuscript of his Greek grammar, the publisher required him to pay for typesetting fees on account of his nearly illegible writing.

As the price continued to soar, Robertson borrowed on his life insurance policy and took out a second mortgage on his home to finance the project. Southern Seminary President E.Y. Mullins and trustee George W. Norton established a \$10,000

endowment fund to cover the remaining costs.

Amid the financial crisis, Robertson confided in fellow faculty member W.O. Carver, lamenting the possibility of bankruptcy and questioning the value of the project.

Carver consoled

him, saying, "You are our window to the world. Nobody knows anyone at this seminary except you."

In 1914, the first edition of the grammar received widespread praise from Greek scholars. Harvard scholar Henry Cadbury said it is "not only the most modern of such grammars; it is much the completest." By 1923, the book appeared in a fourth edition, bringing the 26-year project to completion.

When Lutheran theologian Oscar Cullmann visited Southern Seminary in 1966, he told a group of graduate students about a personal audience he had with Pope John XXIII.

Upon noticing a copy of Robertson's grammar next to the pontiff's Greek New Testament, Cullmann asked why he was using an English grammar. "It's the best one available," the pope responded.

"A.T. Robertson was one of the greatest scholars in the seminary's rich history, perhaps the greatest of all," said seminary historian Gregory A. Wills, who is also dean of the school of theology. "He did more than any other to establish the seminary's reputation for scholarship."

Robertson delivered his initial address at Southern Seminary, titled "Preaching and Scholarship," on Oct. 3, 1890, rejecting the idea that theological education was a waste of time.

"If theological education will increase your power for Christ, is it not your duty to gain that added power?" Robertson said.

"Never say you are losing time by going to school. You are saving time, buying it up for the future and storing it away. Time used in storing power is not lost."

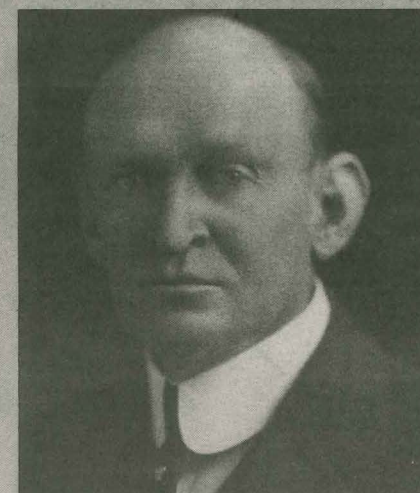
For Robertson, scholarship was not the goal of seminary education but rather a means. "If our system of theological training fails to make preachers, it falls short of the object for which it was established," Robertson said in his address. "My plea is for scholarship that helps men to preach."

Robertson himself gained renown as a preacher, frequenting the pulpits of churches across the nation and delivering lectures at conferences and colleges.

He refrained from denominational leadership during the Mullins presidency but pursued broader activities through the establishment of the Baptist World Alliance in 1900.

"His scholarship was not in order to advance his reputation or career, but to serve the Kingdom of the Savior," Wills said. "His 45 published books, countless articles and many addresses throughout the nation advanced sound Bible teaching, defended the Bible's inspiration and inerrancy, and opposed the aggressive errors of his day," he said.

"He gave his life in defense of the faith that was once for all delivered to the saints." (BP)



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"The Greek New Testament is the New Testament. All else is translation."

"The Lord won't hear your prayers if you don't treat your wives right. Don't look at me, Brother! It's a dangerous thing to get married if you still mean to pray."

"There are so many young Spurgeons, but so few of them grow up."

"A minister ought to be a gentleman even though he is a minister."

"If a numbskull comes to the seminary and goes away a numbskull, do not blame the seminary. For some men are hard to teach."



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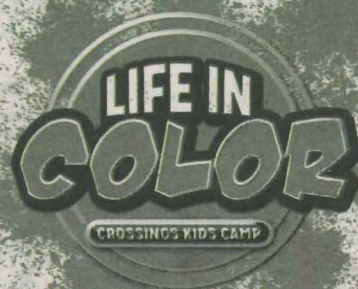


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