

WESTERN Recorder

October 14, 2014

Shine Like Stars * Philippians 2:15

Volume 188, Issue 38

Cockrum is next UC president; Taylor becomes chancellor in 2015

By Jennifer Wake-Floyd

Williamsburg—During the University of the Cumberlands' Oct. 16 Board of Trustees meeting, President Jim Taylor is expected to recommend election of Larry Cockrum as CEO and president-elect of the Kentucky Baptist university.

For the next year, President Taylor will live in Florida but will be assisting Cockrum in "friend-raising" and fund-raising by introducing Cockrum to potential donors and assisting in providing a smooth transition in leadership.

Cockrum will be awarded a seven-year contract from the board and assume the presidency on Oct. 16, 2015.

Taylor will then assume the title of chancellor with the responsibilities of assisting Cockrum as requested.

A native of Wichita, Kan., Cockrum holds a bachelor's degree in education from College of the Ozarks in Missouri; a master's degree in education from Missouri State University; a doctorate in higher education administration from Vanderbilt University; and a post-graduate certification from Harvard University. He has served as



Larry Cockrum



Jim Taylor

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Paducah church mourns youth pastor, wife and sons killed in car crash

By Whitney Jones
and Stephen Douglas Wilson

Paducah—A Paducah church is reeling from the tragic loss of its youth pastor and his family.

Michael Cruce, youth pastor at Rosebower Baptist Church for more than a decade, along with his wife Monica and teenage sons, Joshua and Caleb, were killed Oct. 3 in a six-car pileup near Nashville while traveling to Gatlinburg for a family getaway.

The funeral for the Cruce family was "the hardest thing I have ever done as the pastor of this church," Justin Mason said. "The church and the youth group are standing on their faith. This is what Mike and Monica had taught them."

Mason said Cruce now is "praising the Lord in heaven. Here he used to always use the word, 'awesome.' He would say, 'We serve an awesome God.' No doubt he is saying that now."

Cruce, who was pursuing a master of divinity degree through Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, also served as associate pastor, preaching on occasion for Mason.

Church spokesperson and deacon Chris Skates said Cruce often was one of the first at the hospital if a church member was ill or injured, and he recalled that after an ice storm in 2009, Cruce and his sons cleared tree limbs from people's yards.

But it wasn't just the youth pastor who was vital to the church. His wife led the girls in the youth group, and the whole family went on mission trips



Michael Cruce, youth pastor at Rosebower Baptist Church for more than a decade, along with his wife Monica and teenage sons, Joshua and Caleb, were killed Oct. 3 in a six-car pileup near Nashville, Tenn.

including one to Haiti.

"When you pull that away, four integral people," Skates said, "there's just going to be a huge hole in a church our size." The youth group has about 20 regular attenders at the church, which draws about 250 Sunday worshippers.

"This family served God with a passion—not just to be good before Him. They pointed you to Jesus," Mason said to the grieving congregation.

Raegan Archer, 15, said Monica Cruce was especially helpful in her development as a Christian. She made girls in the youth ministry feel at home and "spent a lot of time listening to us talk about nonsense."

"I might have been a Christian

without knowing them," Archer said, "but I don't think I'd be as devoted and caring and as much of a servant as I am. They just really taught being a servant more than anything and caring about others before ourselves."

Parker Wooley, one of the teens at the funeral, said of the Cruces, both 43: "He touched so many lives. Monica was like a second mother." Wooley said her life "would have been very different without them."

Shelby Webb, another youth group member, said Cruce "always messaged us (through social media). He would send us notes nearly every day including TAWGs

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Same-sex marriage left standing by U.S. Supreme Court

By Tom Strode

Washington—Same-sex marriage is on the verge of becoming a legal reality in 60 percent of America's states.

The U.S. Supreme Court paved the way Oct. 6 for marriages between people of the same sex to be legally recognized in 11 additional states. When that seemingly assured expansion takes effect, gay marriage will be legal in 30 states and the District of Columbia.

The justices set in motion the dramatic spread of same-sex marriage when they denied review of federal appeals court decisions overturning laws in five states that defined marriage as only between a man and a woman. The high court's orders in the cases, issued without comment, mean gay marriage will be legal in

those five states and, presumably by extension, in six other states located in the same federal appellate circuits.

The Supreme Court's refusal to accept the cases leaves open the question of the constitutionality of same-sex marriage nationally, but it appears highly unlikely the current court would invalidate homosexual unions.

Commenting on what he called an "immediate expansion of gay marriage," Southern Baptist ethicist Russell Moore said, "This is no time for retreat or for resentment. This is a time for mission."

Moore, president of the Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission, said the church must not respond by jettisoning "a Christian sexual ethic in order to acclimate to the cultural moment. We have no authority to revise what Jesus

handed down to us. And the church must not respond with a siege mentality. We live in an era in which marriage is redefined and confused. So did many of our forefathers and foremothers. The sexual revolution didn't start at Woodstock. It is always with us."

He said in a written statement, "Let's hold fast to what the gospel reveals about the meaning of marriage and the gospel behind it. Let's articulate a Christian vision of what marriage should be, and let's embody that vision in our churches. Let's love our gay and lesbian neighbors. Let's move forward with persuasion and with confidence."

The Supreme Court's refusal to hear the appeals came in spite of requests from both sides of the same-sex marriage debate that it rule soon on the question of constitutionality. The ERLC joined four other religious

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Owensboro pastor to be nominated to lead state pastors' meeting

Owensboro—Kenny Rager, pastor of Life Community Church in Owensboro, will be nominated as president of the Kentucky Baptist Pastors' Conference.

Mike O'Neal, senior pastor of Campbellsville Baptist Church, will nominate Rager during the conference, which meets Nov. 10—the day prior to the Annual Meeting of the Kentucky Baptist Convention—at Living Hope Baptist Church in Bowling Green.

Observing that the Owensboro pastor has "a heart for the lost, the local church, and for the Lord's work to grow in Kentucky," O'Neal said Rager would make an excellent president of the annual pastors' meeting.

"Kenny (Rager) has shown consistent and effective leadership for Kentucky Baptist pastors by his own example. His heart for church planting and revival is exhibited in his experience, having served as pastor of The Living Faith Baptist Church in Hartford and currently as pastor of Life Community Church in Owensboro," O'Neal said.

Rager was the church planting pastor for Life Community Church, a KBC High Impact church that recently was fully chartered and constituted.

"Kenny has also given leadership to Kentucky Baptists, having served as a member of the Kentucky Baptist State Evangelists and on the KBC Collegiate Ministry Task Force," O'Neal added. Rager serves on the executive committee of the Church Relations Council of Campbellsville University.

A native of Owensboro, Rager has been involved in Southern Baptist life from his earliest days. His grandfather, Evangelist L.C. Gray, was a major influence, exposing him to the gospel and to ministry. At age 7, Rager accepted Christ as His Lord and Savior, and at age 13, he accepted the call to preach.

Rager earned a B.S. degree in educational ministry from Campbellsville University and a M.Div. degree from Liberty University. He has served as a member of the Kentucky Baptist state evangelists, preaching revivals and crusades across the state.

Under the motherhood of Buck Creek Baptist Church of Daviess Mclean Association, Rager served as a church planter of Life Community Church, which officially launched Oct. 28, 2012. Life Community began giving 7 percent to the Cooperative Program and 3 percent to the association since its first day, and the church has baptized 48 to date.

Rager is also a past president of the Baptist Student Union (now BCM) at Campbellsville.

He is married to Taran Rager, and they have two daughters, Gracie, 4, and Hope, 2. (WR)



Kenny Rager

KBC committee severs tie with Louisville church

Louisville—A Kentucky Baptist Convention committee has voted to recommend severing ties with a Louisville congregation that voted to ordain people who identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender and to perform same-sex marriages.

The Committee on Credentials took the action Oct. 9 in regards to Crescent Hill Baptist Church.

"We're grieved by Crescent Hill's departure from biblical teaching and Baptist beliefs," KBC Executive Director Paul Chitwood said. "We're prayerful that they will return to the truth of Scripture on this issue and seek to be restored."

"We're thankful that Kentucky Baptists remain grounded in the Bible as our culture continues to rush headlong toward chaos with regard to human sexuality and gay marriage. Our love for all people, including those who practice homosexuality, requires us to speak the truth about sin even when we are speaking it to one another," Chitwood said.

KBC leaders were alerted to Crescent Hill's decision by the following statement

on the church's website:

"The congregation overwhelmingly voted to be open to grant ordination, hire, or perform wedding ceremonies for LGBT individuals. In other words, sexual identity or orientation will not be a factor in determining whether the church will ordain, hire or perform a wedding ceremony."

Chairman Kevin Smith said credentials committee members found Crescent Hill is no longer "in friendly cooperation" with Kentucky Baptists. That, he said, led to Thursday's action, which was taken only after a series of private discussions between leaders of the KBC and Crescent Hill.

Jason Crosby, minister of preaching, pastor care and administration at Crescent Hill, told Associated Baptist Press that he was saddened by the KBC committee's decision.



Jason Crosby

"However, I am glad to serve a Baptist church in Kentucky that is striving to communicate to all people, whether they be LGBT or KBC folks, that there is room for them at God's table where love and grace abound," Crosby said.

Crescent Hill, which was involved in organizing the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship in 1991, joined the Association of Welcoming and Affirming Baptists, a group of like-minded churches and organizations, last October, according to ABP.

KBC President Chip Hutcheson said the decision to disassociate Crescent Hill will be presented for discussion and a vote at the annual meeting in Bowling Green Nov. 11.

Hutcheson called it "incredibly sad" that Crescent Hill has abandoned scriptural guidance on sexuality.

"For those of us who consider biblical teaching quite clear on this issue, for any church to, in essence, declare that teaching null and void, it breaks your heart, as it would any doctrine of Scripture," he said. (KBC/ABP)

Ky. Baptist Disaster Relief training draws 70

Kentucky Baptist Disaster Relief hosted its annual State Leadership Meeting and Unit Leader Training on Oct. 3-4 at the Kentucky Baptist Building. The event included 70 disaster relief leaders. The weekend included ministry area break-out sessions, 2013-14 response debriefing, and training for unit leaders. The training enables leaders to understand their role in response, strengthens their ability to lead, and equips them in sharing Christ during a crisis. For information about disaster relief ministry, go to www.kybaptist.org/dr or contact the Disaster Relief Department at the Ky. Baptist Convention at (502) 489-3527 or 1-866-489-3527.



Paducah pastor

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(Time Alone With God) devotionals."

Skates' son Nathan, a student at Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Missouri who was active in the youth group and close friends with Cruce and his sons, spoke of his memories of the two Cruce boys—Caleb climbing in his lap as a child, Joshua accidentally putting a hole in a church wall while playing ping pong.

"I always thought it was cool that out

of my group of my friends, my youth pastor and his sons were some of my very best friends," the younger Skates said, "and they really were like brothers."

"It was just great to be around them as much as I got a chance to be."

Skates added that Cruce "was so passionate about the gospel and teaching youth about the Bible. If he doesn't get to teach for a week or so it drives him crazy."

Chris Skates said the church will have to heal before starting a search for a new youth pastor.

"We don't know for sure how we're

going to handle it. We're not in an emotional place that we can do a pastor search anytime soon," Skates said.

"So we're probably going to do just something with interim folks temporarily until we have a chance to get our head around what our long-term plan is." (BP/WR)

Whitney Jones, an employee for National Public Radio's affiliate station at Murray State University, is a freelance writer for Western Recorder; Stephen Douglas Wilson is a college professor there.

UC Leaders

Continued from page 1

vice president for academic affairs at Cumberlands since 2007. Previously, he has been a dean of administration, dean of students, and executive director of the Keeter Center for Character Education at College of the Ozarks.

Cockrum and his wife of 42 years, Dixie, have four children: Jason, Nicholas, Lindsey, Cassie and one grandchild, Cora. They are members of First Baptist Church of Williamsburg.

Taylor has the longest tenure as president of a college or university in Kentucky, with 35 years of service.

He is also believed to be one of the longest serving presidents of a U.S. college or university. During Taylor's tenure, some

\$300 million were raised and largely spent on Appalachian students and area families through funding for scholarships and workshops for Appalachian mountain students, for the construction of 145 homes, for the building of hundreds of handicap access ramps for the physically impaired, for the distribution of tons of clothing, for the purchase of food products and vouchers for area families, and for insulating hundreds of homes and repairing roofs.

Taylor credits the support and prayers of Kentucky Baptists and many other friends for assisting in raising the funds.

Enrollment has risen from 1,885 to more than 5,500, making University of the Cumberlands the largest private college or university in Kentucky.

According to Taylor this growth is largely because of Cockrum's expertise.

During his presidency, endowments have risen from \$6 million to \$79 million, and the university's net worth increased from \$14 million to \$140 million, after depreciation.

The high visibility from I-75 of the Williamsburg campus and of the Florence campus has vastly improved recognition and pride of affiliation.

President Taylor said after 51 years of association with the university and after 35 years as president, "I know I stand on the shoulders of our wonderful faculty, staff, students and other friends."

"I feel comfortable in knowing Dr. Cockrum will continue our work and take us to stellar heights never before possible," Taylor said.

"My wife and I are gratified for the opportunities we've had to serve and to live our dream." (UC)

Ebola kills 6 in Baptist woman's family

By Diana Chandler

Nashville—A Southern Baptist who emigrated from Liberia has lost six family members to the West African Ebola outbreak, she told Baptist Press. Medication, food and prayer, she says, are most needed to stem the epidemic.

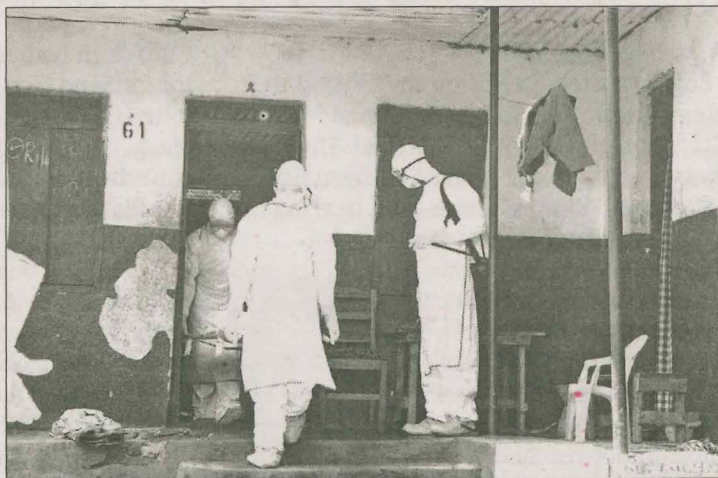
An aunt, uncle and four adult cousins of 55-year-old Juanita Logan, a longtime member of First Baptist Church in Nashville, died in mid-August from the disease. The six family members all lived in the same Liberian household, Logan said, and had spoken to her on the phone just two weeks before their deaths.

"It was shocking to us, everybody's well and then all of a sudden, it just, it starts with a fever, and then, no money to get medication, all those things. It's so quick. It happens quick," she said. "Once it enters a household, everybody will die. I have a girlfriend, it happened to her. Five people in her house died, all of them."

"Nothing you can do about it. You just ask God to give you strength," she said. She encouraged Southern Baptists to pray and fast for control of the virus.

"Pray and fast that they will have enough medication to help ... because with no medication, people just die," Logan said. Food, early medical intervention and hospital beds are needed, she noted, because the epidemic has strained an already poor economy.

Logan grew up in a Christian home in Liberia and came to the U.S. in 1993 during Liberia's civil war. She has attended First Baptist Nashville since moving to the



The district of Kailahun, an Ebola epicenter in eastern Sierra Leone bordering Guinea, was put under quarantine at the beginning of August. In Kailahun, only four in 10 Ebola sufferers recover from the lethal disease. (Photo by EC/ECHO/Cyprien Fabre)

city in 2003, and is a naturalized U.S. citizen. She sings in the First Baptist Nashville sanctuary choir.

In Texas, where the first U.S. Ebola case was found, Baptists are preparing to send food and supplies to Liberia and Sierra Leone, areas hit hardest by the epidemic.

Texas Baptist Disaster Recovery is sending two 40-foot containers filled with enough prepackaged meals of rice and soy to feed more than a half million people, the Baptist General Convention of Texas reported. Texas Baptists have the support of a \$20,000 grant from the Texas Baptist Hunger Offering and food donated by Convoy of Hope of Springfield, Mo.

Also in Texas, the Baptist ministry Restore Hope has secured a \$15,000 grant to send supplies to Sierra Leone. Southern Baptists are responding through an education campaign in Togo, West Africa, ahead of any reported cases there, accord-

ing to Baptist Global Response.

The Baptist Convention of Togo intends to distribute 15,000 Ebola brochures across Togo, utilizing local Baptist associations and pastors to get the information to church members. Outreach will also include televised PSAs.

The U.S. is equipped to stop the spread of the virus, but Bruce Johnson, president of the international Christian mission organization SIM USA, said West Africa has no such luxury.

"Unfortunately, the vast majority of people of West Africa have little or no option of a clinic or hospital to seek help," Johnson said in a press release. "... That's why we need more people and resources on the ground to care for them."

The virus has killed more than 3,300 in West Africa, according to the CDC, and if unabated, could infect up to 1.4 million people by January. (BP)

First U.S. Ebola patient dies in Dallas

Dallas—The first person diagnosed with Ebola on U.S. soil has died. Thomas Eric Duncan, 42, died at 7:51 a.m. CDT, Texas Health Presbyterian Hospital reported Oct. 8.

Duncan contracted the virus in Monrovia, Liberia, where he lived, days before flying to Dallas. About 48 people he had contact with during his illness are being monitored, some under quarantine, according to news reports.

A second patient who contracted the virus in Liberia, U.S. journalist Ashoka Mukpo, has been receiving treatment since Oct. 6 at Nebraska Medical Center as the virus spreads beyond West Africa where the current epidemic originated.

Duncan was visiting a friend and relatives in Dallas. At least five people who shared an apartment with him during his visit have been quarantined. He had been in isolation at the hospital since Sept. 28 and had been receiving antiviral drug brincidofovir, which received emergency FDA approval for his treatment. Mukpo is receiving the same drug, along with blood donated by Kent Brantly, a medical missionary who recovered from Ebola.

Brantly and Mukpo are among five Americans diagnosed with Ebola in Africa who received treatment in the U.S. A World Health Organization health worker arrived Sept. 9 in Atlanta for treatment and two others, Nancy Writebol and Rick Sacra have made full recoveries. (BP)

Same-sex marriage

Continued from page 1

organizations in a September friend-of-the-court brief urging the justices "to end the divisive national debate." The current legal ambiguity is burdening religious organizations and people of faith, they said.

The justices' new orders left standing appeals court opinions invalidating the marriage laws of Virginia (Fourth Circuit Court of Appeals), Indiana and Wisconsin (Seventh Circuit) and Oklahoma and Utah (10th Circuit). The orders should take effect in other states in those circuits—North Carolina, South Carolina and West Virginia in the Fourth Circuit, and Colorado, Kansas and Wyoming in the 10th Circuit, according to SCOTUSblog.com. Appeals courts in at least four other circuits are considering similar laws from other states. At least one of those appeals courts could uphold a law or laws limiting marriage to a male and a female. A Sixth Circuit panel seemed to indicate during recent oral arguments it may issue such a decision.

Gay marriage is legal already in 19 states and the District of Columbia. Among the states with legalized same-sex marriage are all those in the Northeast and on the West Coast.

The high court's latest action could mean it is waiting for a conflict between federal appeals courts before issuing an opinion on the constitutionality of gay marriage. So far, four circuit courts of appeals have ruled against state laws prohibiting same-sex marriage. No circuit courts have upheld such laws.

If an appeals court upholds a state's

marriage protection laws, the Supreme Court's Oct. 6 orders appear "to pre-ordain that the Court, if it grants review, would overturn such a ruling," Ed Whelan, president of the Ethics and Public Policy Center, wrote. "It is difficult to imagine that the Court would let the current judgments against marriage go permanently into effect in those states and then rule in cases from other states that there is no constitutional SSM right."

Same-sex marriage advocates lauded the high court's action and promised to press the justices to extend the right to such unions throughout all the states.

The National Gay and Lesbian Task Force is "ecstatic," said Rea Carey, the organization's executive director.

Evan Wolfson, president of Freedom to Marry, said, "As waves of freedom to marry litigation continue to surge, we will continue to press the urgency and make the case that America—all of America—is ready for the freedom to marry, and the Supreme Court should finish the job."

The expansion of same-sex marriage has resulted in a growing clash between the supposed rights of gay couples and the religious freedom of individuals and

organizations. Photographers, florists, bakers and other business owners who oppose serving in support of same-sex wedding ceremonies are facing penalties for their refusal.

The Supreme Court's Oct. 6 orders follow a nearly complete judicial sweep by gay marriage proponents.

Courts issued three dozen opinions in favor of gay marriage since the Supreme Court struck down a section of the federal Defense of Marriage Act in June 2013, saying it violated "equal protection" under the Constitution by refusing to recognize same-sex marriages. (BP)

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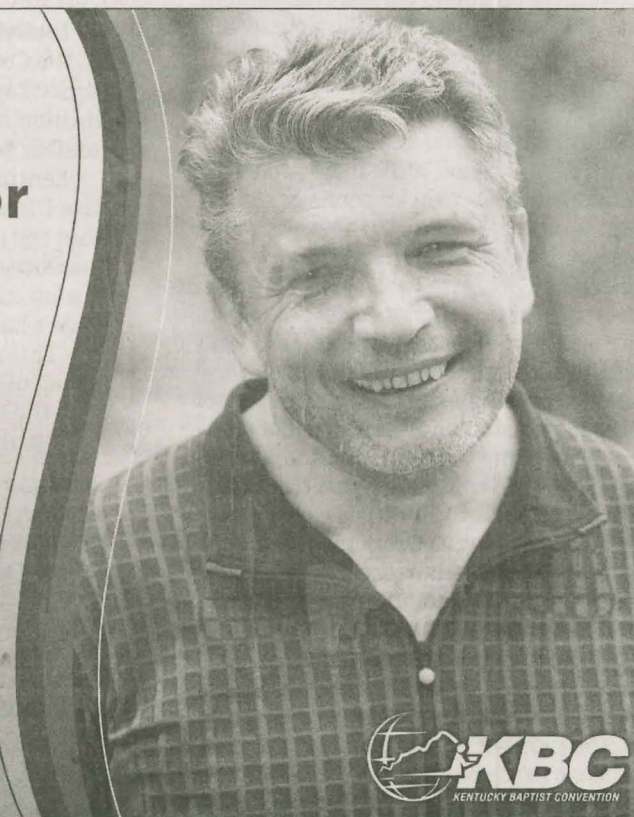
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Revisiting the reasons

Last week brought the disappointing news that the Supreme Court of the United States refused to hear appeals from states that have

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Paul Chitwood

had their constitutional definition of marriage undermined by federal judges. While the sin of homosexuality may be no more offensive to God than other sexual sins, for a society to be forced to endorse it through the sacred institution of marriage is objectionable and dangerous, moving us down the slippery slope toward moral chaos. Now is a good time to revisit some of the reasons gay marriage is wrong.

First, gay marriage is wrong because it defies the Bible's teaching. Biblical morality is not fuzzy when it comes to homosexuality. Both testaments unequivocally condemn it. For example, Leviticus 18:22 prohibits homosexual sin, calls it detestable. Romans 1 refers to it as shameful and debased and something that should never be done. As Jesus taught about marriage in Matthew 19, He defined it exclusively in heterosexual terms, perfectly consistent with Genesis 2.

Second, gay marriage denies the natural order. Whether one is a Bible-believing creationist or a secular evolutionist, any rational observer of our world must admit that the survival of any and every species on the planet depends upon a natural order that includes reproduction. Homosexuality perverts the natural order and homosexual marriage cheapens the institution of marriage by removing from it the essence of its purpose—producing and parenting children.

Third, state-endorsed homosexual marriage falsely legitimizes homosexual couples as parents. Thus, the state tragically endorses depriving children of the innate need of both a father and a mother. With regard to a mommy and a daddy, children raised by homosexual couples have either/or, not both/and. While many life circumstances other than gay marriage can result in children not having a mother and a father in their lives, gay marriage seems to celebrate the denial of this intrinsic need of children.

Fourth, in states all across the country, homosexual marriage is being forced upon the citizens by liberal judges, even though most states, like Kentucky, have overwhelmingly voted to refuse it. These judges are wrongly subverting the democratic process in tyrannical fashion.

Fifth, homosexual marriage is a leap toward moral chaos. If the mere profession of an individual's love for someone or something else were to become the new standard, gay marriage clearly opens the doorway to bigamy and polygamy and at least cracks the doorway of state-sanctioned childhood brides and even bestiality. This type of government-sanctioned perversion has teen girls in locker rooms at Louisville's Atherton High School being required to undress in front of teen boys pretending to be girls. That kind of moral outrage denies the rights of children to be protected.

Sixth, gay marriage rejects basic sexual morality and is a departure from the entire scope of civilized human history. It turns a blind eye to the historic teachings of every major religion in the world. Determined to alter our society, gay marriage proponents have thrown nature, the needs of children, and the rights of voters to the wind and cast marriage to the moral gutter.

Paul Chitwood is executive director of the Kentucky Baptist Convention.

Tour gives editors glimpse of Boston's lostness

Last week, state editors joined North American Mission Board trustees in Boston for a vision tour and strategy briefing on Southern Baptists' efforts to reach one of 32 "Send cities" with the gospel. The highlight, however, was meeting some of our Southern Baptists' "heroes"—11 church planters there—and hearing their stories, struggles and successes.

In speaking to editors, NAMB President Kevin Ezell issued a call for more churches to come alongside these and other Southern Baptist church planters to encourage and strengthen their work as they seek to take the gospel to some of the nation's most under-reached areas.

"Every church regardless of size can be a sending church," he urged. "It has everything to do with engagement, not money," he said, stressing the need for more partner churches to support the community ministries and outreach efforts of church planters in Boston and elsewhere.

Ezell countered a common misconception: "Some have said that the more (churches) are engaged in church planting or hands-on missions when you are connecting specifically to a missionary, that would decrease the amount of your Cooperative Program or Annie Armstrong Easter Offering giving."

NAMB's research, however, found the opposite is true. "Of all the sending churches we had last year, they gave \$1 million more to the Cooperative Program. With Annie Armstrong, the sending churches gave \$400,000 more," he said. "We believe it is more of an argument to get people to engage in church planting than to encourage them not to."

On the vision tour, editors and NAMB trustees were impressed by the passion of Boston's church planters for reaching their city.

Approximately 4.9 million people live in the metro area, yet there is only one Southern Baptist church for every 42,919 residents. Estimates are that less than 2 percent may be evangelical Christians, we were told. With 80 colleges and universities, the city's 250,000 students and internationals present a tremendous opportunity for spreading the gospel to our nation and the nations.

Among our "heroes" in Boston are some former Kentucky faces:

■ David Butler, former pastor of Springdale Baptist

Church in Louisville, recently took over as city coordinator for Send North America: Boston and hosted our vision tour. He has served as a church planter near Concord, Mass., for five years. "Our hope is to see a steady stream of churches planted in the city," he said.

■ Bland Mason, former pastor of Springfield Baptist Church, planted the City on a Hill congregation in Washington Square in 2010, which has grown to a worship attendance of 250. Mason is committed to reaching the Brookline community and also serves as chapel leader with Baseball Chapel for the Boston Red Sox. He is a graduate of Southern Seminary and was an adjunct faculty member at Campbellsville University.

■ Charlie Dunn, who started the Hub Church in South Boston in 2013, spent his childhood years in Louisville. A graduate of Southeastern Seminary, he previously was a church planting intern at Summit Church in Durham, N.C.

Aaron Coe, who also has ties to Louisville, is NAMB's vice president for mobilization. He served from 2003 to 2008 as a church planter in New York City, and in 2009 he initiated "SendNYC." His passion is helping churches see God didn't call a mission board to plant churches; He called churches to plant churches.

It all starts with mobilizing people, Coe said. The NAMB has a goal of planting 15,000 churches by 2022, and the bottom line, he said, is that it will require a lot of people. "We quickly realized that if we are just talking to pastors and potential church planters, we are never going to significantly impact darkness," he said. "We have a massive army of people in the pews, and if they are not a part of the conversation, then we aren't going to have as great of an impact on lostness."

That impetus gave rise to NAMB's "Send" Conference in Nashville next August.

Churches are encouraged to consider becoming a partnering church with our Boston-area church planters, and pastors are encouraged to take lay leaders to the upcoming "Send" conference.

More than 5,500 have already registered and NAMB leaders anticipate the Nashville event could be a momentous catalyst for church planting across the nation. The real significance, though, is the potential impact on our nation's lostness in the years ahead. See namb.net/overview-why-send for more.



After Thought

By Todd Deaton

Kentucky CP gifts exceed \$1.9m in September

Louisville—Financial contributions to the Cooperative Program from Kentucky Baptist churches surpassed \$1.9 million last month, the highest September receipts since 2009.

Kentucky Baptist Convention Executive Director-Treasurer Paul Chitwood said the near-record level of giving is encouraging because it provides a strong start to a new fiscal year for the state's largest religious organization.

"This puts us nearly 4 percent ahead of budget projections a month into the fiscal year," Chitwood said.

"I truly appreciate the dedicated

Baptists in our 2,400 Kentucky congregations who provide the financial backing necessary to blanket our state, our country and our world with the gospel."

Total receipts for September were \$1,905,535. That was \$490,772 more than September 2013 and \$72,202 ahead of budget projections.

Lowell Ashby, leader of the KBC's finance and business services team, said September receipts rose sharply in part because churches had been under a time crunch to make contributions in August.

Because August ended on a Sunday, some churches had been unable to meet the deadline. That meant many of them sent their August contributions in September.

That time crunch had caused a decline in August receipts and fueled a \$375,000 overall decline in Cooperative Program giving last fiscal year.

"CP gifts fuel 90 percent of the ministries and missions of the Kentucky Baptist Convention," Ashby said. "And half of those gifts support national and international work of the Southern Baptist Convention." (KBC)

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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.

Despite Ebola, find confidence in Christ

By Denny Burk

My heart sank when I heard the news about Thomas Eric Duncan, the first Ebola victim discovered in the United States who passed away Oct. 8. I don't know much about him, but I do know this: He traveled to the United States late last month after having contact with Ebola in Liberia. The disease overcame him after he arrived in Dallas.

Mr. Duncan's condition became so desperate that his family members could no longer have video conferences with him. The sight of him was too unsettling for them. He died alone in an isolation ward.

Some people have suggested that Western indifference to the Ebola epidemic in Africa is a racial thing.

I wonder if the lack of urgency doesn't have more to do with the remoteness of Liberia from the everyday lives of average Americans. Mr. Duncan's arrival in Dallas erased the distance that many Americans may have felt before. For me, anyway, Dallas was once my home. I still have many friends there. I used to live near Presbyterian Hospital.

I can imagine where he was. I can imagine him suffering there. I can imagine the horror of experiencing writhing pain and having to endure it all alone, with only the occasional stranger approaching in a Hazmat suit. His suffering—and that of his family—seems stark, real and very close to home.

I think it is fair to ask, "Why should you let yourself think about such things? It seems kind of morose and unproductive." I suppose it could be that. But it also may be something else.

The Bible teaches us to put on a heart of compassion and to weep with those who weep (Colossians 3:12; Romans 12:15). Love teaches us not to stand aloof from the heartbreak of our neighbors. It means that sometimes we are going to have to let our neighbor's pain in. And that means we are going to have to let ourselves think about it. That's one of the ways that we love them.

Occasions like this also present us with another opportunity. The psalmist teaches us to pray:

LORD, make me to know my end,
And what is the extent of my days,
Let me know how transient I am.
Behold, Thou hast made my days as handbreadths,
And my lifetime as nothing in Thy

sight,

Surely every man at his best is a mere breath. Selah.

Surely every man walks about as a phantom;

Surely they make an uproar for nothing;

He amasses riches, and does not know who will gather them.

And now, Lord, for what do I wait? My hope is in Thee.

(Psalm 39:4-7)

"I'm thinking about a man in Dallas who took his last breath last week. But I am also thinking about a man today

whose final breath may come sooner than he expects here in Louisville. And I am praying for the Lord to have mercy on him and his family and to make him ready to exalt Him either by life or by death."

Denny Burk

posed to bring before us the prospect of what is beyond. Our days are short but our hope is not in length of days but in the Lord: "My hope is in Thee."

I do not mean to suggest that we are facing an Ebola epidemic anytime soon. I would like to think that assurances from President Obama and the CDC are correct—that our health system can contain Ebola. Having said that, we shouldn't put our faith in how many chariots and horses we can marshal for the fight (Psalm 20:7).

Nor should we be afraid to ask ourselves now how we should respond if the worst were to become reality—if Ebola were to overtake our own body or that of a loved one. If the worst were to come to pass, do you have a confidence in Christ that can handle Ebola? Do you have a confidence in Christ to know that He can glorify Himself by your life or by your death (Philippians 1:20)? Can you trust now that no matter what happens—even if you are alone in an isolation ward with a family who can't bear the sight of your suffering—He will never leave you or forsake you (Hebrews 13:5)?

I often think about Habakkuk and how he asked God not to stand by while the culture in Israel descended into godlessness. When God answered the prophet's complaint, Habakkuk was surprised to learn that God's judgments would be more devastating to the land than Habakkuk really wanted. It took some convincing for Habakkuk to see the goodness of the Lord in this, but he finally did see it. And facing the prospect of great

suffering to come among God's people, Habakkuk prays and expresses two things: 1) a request for mercy for God's people and 2) confidence that God will be faithful to bring them through to the other side.

LORD, I have heard the report about Thee and I fear.

O LORD, revive Thy work in the midst of the years,

In the midst of the years make it known;

In wrath remember mercy ...

I heard and my inward parts trembled,

At the sound my lips quivered.

Decay enters my bones,

And in my place I tremble.

Because I must wait quietly for the day of distress,

for the people to arise who will invade us.

Though the fig tree should not blossom,

And there be no fruit on the vines,

Though the yield of the olive should fail,

And the fields produce no food,

Though the flock should be cut off from the fold,

And there be no cattle in the stalls,

Yet I will exult in the LORD,

I will rejoice in the God of my salvation.

(Habakkuk 3:2,16-18)

This is not a pie-in-the-sky, praise-God-anyhow kind of faith. This is real, solid joy in the midst of real suffering. It's the confidence that says, "Though He slay me, yet will I hope in Him" (Job 13:15). It's the kind of testimony that says that even if I lose everything—including my life—I still have everything if I have Him. It's the kind of witness to the goodness of God that can only come about when God's people experience pain.

We should not seek for suffering or wish it to come our way. God will bring our measure in due time (Philippians 1:29). We don't have to go looking for it. But neither should we be surprised or unprepared when it comes (1 Peter 4:12). He has given us everything that we need for life and godliness, and grace will enable us to stand when the time comes (2 Peter 1:3).

So I'm thinking about a man in Dallas who took his last breath last week.

But I am also thinking about a man today whose final breath may come sooner than he expects here in Louisville. And I am praying for the Lord to have mercy on him and his family and to make him ready to exalt Him either by life or by death.

And now, Lord, for what do I wait?

My hope is in Thee. (BP)

Denny Burk is professor of biblical studies and director of the Center for Gospel and Culture at Boyce College, the undergraduate school at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville.

Do your kids worry?

By David Garrard

Several weeks ago, we did an informal survey in our children's worship service in which I asked the kids to tell me what worried them. I put 12 statements on the wall and gave each child five stickers. They got to put a sticker on the five things that worried them the most:

- Failing a test
- Having to read aloud
- Being punished for something
- Becoming sick
- Not being able to watch a favorite TV show
- My parents getting a divorce
- A family member or friend dying

- Forgetting my homework
- Missing the bus
- Not making a sports team
- Not having enough food to eat
- Arguing with my brother/sister

Which statements would your kids put stickers by? No. 1 in a runaway with our kids was "a family member or friend dying." Interestingly enough, No. 2 was "not having enough food to eat." This was followed by "being punished for something," "becoming sick," and "forgetting my homework."

It might be interesting and informative to try the above exercise with your children. You will have new insight into things that worry your kids. You will also have an opportunity to teach them what Jesus and the Bible have to say about worry: Don't do it! Instead, depend on God and put your trust in Him no matter what happens. Helpful Scriptures to guide discussion include Philippians 4:6-7 and 1 Peter 5:7.

David Garrard is minister to children at St. Matthews Baptist Church in Louisville.



Retirement planning mistakes

By Don Spencer

A wise teacher once said, "The difference between an old man and an elderly gentleman is adequate income." Most people have a goal of adequate retirement income. Tragically, so many fail to reach that goal. Here's some common mistakes:

1. **You depend on someone else to do it.** Many assume social security and possibly a company retirement plan will provide for comfortable retirement. This is rarely the case. You must be the one planning.
2. **You have a dream rather than a goal.** A dream is easy. But it will never happen without quantified goals. Have dollar goals at specific dates using reasonable rates of return, inflation and longevity assumptions.
3. **You start too late.** The longer money is invested the more likely it will grow. The longer you wait to start, the more it will take.
4. **You don't know how to save.** Too many focus on consumption and immediate satisfaction. So many want everything now and will run up encumbering debt to have it, instead of saving.

5. **You expect someone to think for you.** Most people have limited education and experience in managing money. Learn the basics. Seek appropriate help, but make the final decisions.

6. **You micromanage your retirement investment.** Aggressive management of a retirement portfolio is often counterproductive. Develop an appropriate strategy and stick with it—and be patient.

7. **Your planning ends too soon.** Retirement day does not mark the end of retirement planning. The need for planning continues well beyond the day you retire. Find out your options and evaluate carefully.

8. **You fail to consider the twin terrors: taxes and inflation.** If someone retires at 65, it's not unusual for them to find in their mid-80's the buying power of their retirement income is half—due to inflation.

Don Spencer is a certified financial planner and a consultant with the Kentucky Baptist Convention's church financial benefits department.





Old-time tent revival brings two churches together

By Myriah Snyder

Cecilia—Two Elizabethtown-area churches came together as one body of believers to host an old-fashioned tent revival.

The revival, hosted by Franklin Crossroads Baptist and Cecilia Baptist churches along with Alabama evangelist Edward Johnson, took place Sept. 21-26.

The first four nights were held in a tent provided by Johnson's ministry at Cecilia's property. The last night—to accommodate the crowds that were drawn for the "Main Event"—was held at Franklin Crossroads.

"We're not about a building; we're about a kingdom," Cecilia's pastor Eric Oliver said. "It was beautiful seeing those people come together, not worrying about where they attend on a Sunday, but worried about reaching the lost and growing in faith."

Each night had a theme. A meal was provided, prizes were given out, and Sunday-Wednesday saw an average of 300-350 in attendance. For the Main Event, about 500 were in attendance. Overall, the revival recorded six professions of faith.

"What I think was accomplished more than anything was we've showed our people how important it is to share their faith," Oliver said.

"In addition, I saw some members who

I haven't met yet. They came to the tent revival," added Williams, who has been at Franklin Crossroads about nine months. "This past Sunday some of those same individuals showed up at our services. There's been some of that reclaiming and seeing some people come to Christ."

Sunday was kid's night. The churches prepared carnival food, games, and a boy and girl's bikes were given out. Sixty children attended, and one received Christ that night.

On Monday, first responder's were honored. They conducted a special memorial for local fire-fighter, Jonathan French, who was killed while responding to an auto accident. The Elizabethtown fire

chief also shared his testimony.

"Frangelism"—a term adopted from a former SBC president—was the theme of Tuesday night. "The 'fran' stood for friends, relatives, associates and neighbors," Oliver explained.

"Our whole goal was to contact your friends, your relatives, your associates and your neighbors and invite them," he said.

Youth night was on Wednesday, and Franklin Crossroads' youth presented an interpretative movement.

"It was a great night of worship. We did praise and worship, and we had a band," Williams said. That night, an iPad and gift cards were given away.

"What I think was accomplished more than anything was we've showed our people how important it is to share their faith."

Cecilia's pastor Eric Oliver



Tent revival pastors: (l to r) Louie Williams, Evangelist Edward Johnson and Eric Oliver. (Photos provided by Cecilia Baptist Church)

The Main Event was a steak dinner on Thursday. "Two weeks out, we encouraged everybody to buy a ticket for \$6 and invite somebody that they knew who wasn't going to church to come and have a steak dinner," Oliver said. "So it was kind of like inviting people to eat on your behalf."

"That was amazing. Both of the churches came together and cooked and prepared and served that meal," Williams added. The volunteers served more than 450 people in seven minutes, he noted.

"We can't say enough—if it were not for our church members and volunteers—that's what made it," Oliver said.

Daryl Thurman of Cecilia and a member of Franklin Crossroads led a committee of 15 who oversaw the parking situation. "Everything went smoothly," he reported.

"I'll be 68 in January, and this is the first tent revival I've been to since I was about 12 years old. You just don't see these much anymore. It was excellent," Thur-

man added.

Before the service concluded on Thursday night, both Oliver and Williams prayed for each other's churches.

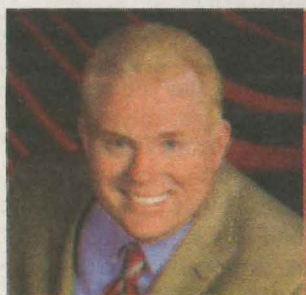
"Once again, we're not about a church name; we're just about a kingdom. I think that's something that the lost need to see," Oliver said.

"I've heard this around our community: 'Let me get this right, two churches are becoming one together for the purpose of Christ?' And we are like, 'Yes, for the unity of the body,'" he said.

This was not the first time the churches have worked together. In March, the congregations co-hosted a series of Monday night revivals.

"I just see us working together on some greater things to reach people for the Lord," Williams said. (WR)

Myriah Snyder, a senior at the University of the Cumberland in Williamsburg, is a freelance writer for Western Recorder

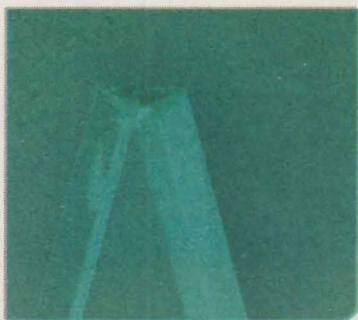


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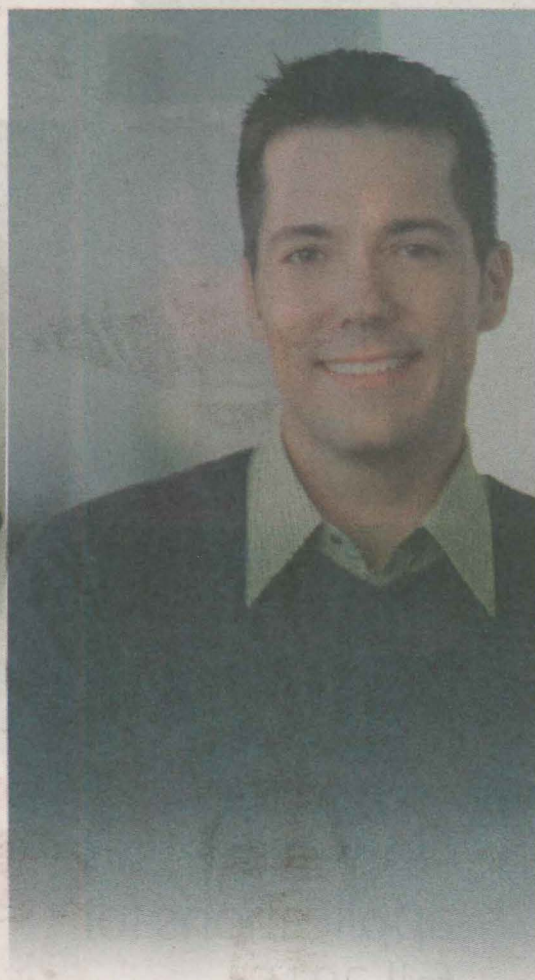
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Prayer used as a 'red phone' for help

By Bob Smietana

Nashville—Many Americans pray for divine help, their friends, families, and sometimes their enemies. But few of them offer praises to God or pray for politicians and nonbelievers, according to a new LifeWay Research survey.

"Most people pray when they need the red phone for help," said Ed Stetzer, executive director of LifeWay Research, adding that many of them may not have a prayer life "rooted in a relationship with God."

The online survey, conducted Aug. 7, 2014, asked 1,137 Americans about the frequency and content of their prayers. Among the findings:

Most prayers are personal

When they pray, most Americans (82 percent) typically focus on their friends and family or their own problems (74 percent). A little more than half (54 percent) pray about good things happening in their life, while more than a third pray for their future prosperity (36 percent).

Prayer works for almost everybody

Most Americans who pray (83 percent) think at least some of their prayers are answered. That includes one in four (25 percent) who say all their prayers are answered, one in five (21 percent) who say most of their prayers are answered, and more than one in three (37 percent) who say some of their prayers are answered.

Few (3 percent) say none of their prayers are answered. One in seven (14 percent) "don't know" if prayers are answered.

Most people don't pray for politicians

Only about 12 percent of Americans who pray say they pray for government

officials, and few (5 percent) pray for celebrities. Among other things people have ever prayed for are parking spots (7 percent), other people to be fired (5 percent), or to avoid being caught speeding (7 percent).

Sports teams have received a bit more prayer support (13 percent) while about one in five (21 percent) Americans who pray say they have prayed to win the lottery. Fifteen percent have prayed something bad they did will not be discovered.

Prayers are not always biblical

More than a third of Americans (37 percent) who pray say they have prayed for their enemies, and four in 10 (41 percent) have prayed for people who have mistreated them, which the New Testament instructs people to do. More than a third (38 percent) typically pray for people affected by natural disasters. But only one in five pray for people of other faiths or people of no faith.

Americans are persistent in prayers

About half of Americans (48 percent) say they pray at least every day, while a third (31 percent) say they pray several times a day. Overall, about two-thirds (65 percent) of Americans say they pray at least once a month.

That's a good start, says Max Lucado, author of "Before Amen: The Power of a Simple Prayer," published last month from Thomas Nelson.

Lucado, who partnered with LifeWay Research on the prayer survey, says the survey shows that prayer still has widespread appeal in American life.

"Prayer is not a privilege just for the pious or an opportunity for a chosen few," he said. "Prayer is God's open invitation to talk: simply, openly and powerfully." (BP)

Despite ISIS, BGR serving in tough places

By Mark Kelly

Kurdistan—When ISIS began shelling this family's northern Iraq neighborhood, they had to flee into the night like everyone else. But with four children with disabilities, their escape was more difficult than most.

A daughter who is blind, another with epilepsy and two sons with muscular dystrophy distinguished the family from others. They left their cattle and chicken farm and walked three hours to the relative safety of a nearby city. Meanwhile, 70 townspeople were kidnapped by ISIS and their fate remained unknown.

Baptist Global Response is onsite to help families displaced by the terrorists.

"When I met this family, they had taken shelter with seven other families, 30 people in total," said Abraham Shepherd, who directs BGR work in the Middle East. "When you visit with these forcibly displaced families, you are struck that they come from different segments of society—a policeman, a working mother, a nun—yet they all shared the same story of pain and suffering.

"Escaping through the night, they left with nothing. When we met them, they had been displaced for one month, and only one food basket had been given to them."

BGR relief teams have found many families like these, pooling resources to

rent a house or apartment, Shepherd said. At times as many as 90 people are crammed into one space, and they generally have gone unnoticed by relief groups who focus aid on big refugee camps. Yet even in camps, conditions are difficult.

"We ended one day with a visit to a Syrian refugee camp," Shepherd said. "It has become a small city. You can smell the stench of the sewage, running from the many public toilets scattered throughout the camp."

Some of those families have been stuck in camp for three years while the crisis grinds on, Shepherd said.

"They are tired of waiting for a country to accept them," Shepherd said. "They are depressed. Their kids are undernourished. They just want to go home."

Using resources provided by Global Hunger Relief, the Southern Baptist channel for tackling the global hunger crisis, BGR teams are bringing hope and the Good News of God's love to despairing families, Shepherd said.

"It's a privilege to serve here in tough places, touching people's lives in a way that will have lasting impact," Shepherd said. "We are able to do this because of God's love and your prayers—and the generous giving of Southern Baptists."

Donations at www.globalhungerrelief.org will replenish resources used in this relief effort. Donations are also possible by texting BGR to 80888. (BP)

The staff kids of Oneida

Pool party serves as a reminder of unique bond between kids

I often speak of the challenges and sacrifices associated with serving in the Oneida ministry.

Our staff members not only change employment and careers when they come here, they uproot their entire lives and families.

Often this change or move is most difficult for the children of our staff members. I grew up as an Oneida staff kid, but my parents were working here before I came along. I never knew anything except life at Oneida.

When I returned to Oneida with my family last year, it wasn't especially difficult for my children because they are pretty young. Many of our staff members have middle and high school age children when they come here to serve. This can be very challenging for the parents and children.

I caution the folks I hire about making sure their own kids come first. Oneida can be an all-consuming ministry. It could be easy to unintentionally neglect your own children while ministering to our other students.

We currently have 54 faculty and staff children. They are as much a part of Oneida as any kid who comes to us from around the country or world. On a recent Saturday, Angie held a birthday party for our daughter.

We had 13 staff kids at our house for cake and ice cream, and then shuttled them to the school's indoor swimming

pool for some fun in the water. Although I hadn't planned to do the swimming portion of the party, I was informed by Angie that I would be needed to help supervise.

I figured I could better supervise from the water than on the sidelines, so I jumped right in. I had little guys hanging all over me, and quickly retreated to the deep end of the pool.

As I viewed the fun and chaos from the far end of the pool, I began to think about my time as a staff kid and what it must be like for our staff kids now.

There weren't nearly as many staff kids here when I was a student, but Oneida was a great place to grow up. I didn't ever really wonder about having to drive a long distance to eat out or see a movie. I simply had fun fishing, playing ball, and hanging out with my friends.

There is a unique bond among our staff kids. They seem to genuinely like each other and enjoy each other's company. When we have staff outings, they bring life to the gathering.

This past summer, a friend of the school gave some money and asked me to use it on our staff children. I haven't yet spent that money, but plan to provide a little surprise for our staff kids at Christmas time.

Thank you for investing in the lives of our faculty and staff children.

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

Thankful for the help

Student expresses thanks for school's scholarship support

When God leads a student to Clear Creek Baptist Bible College to be equipped for the call He has placed on their life, there is a lot that happens to bring the process of their training to a reality. There are many people whom God uses to bring about financial support for our students that make the Clear Creek experience possible for them.

Of course, we are blessed to have the Cooperative Program support through all the Kentucky Baptist Convention churches, which is a major part of making all our students' training possible at Clear Creek. We are so thankful for that major support.

We also have many individuals and families who have established endowed scholarships that we have available to our students and are a big part of the financial assistance we are able to give to them each year. Our Kentucky Baptist Foundation does an excellent job in managing these scholarship investments for us.

Through their help, we are able to invest the principle of the scholarship and distribute only a percentage of the interest earned, keeping the principle amount always intact.

I recently heard from one of our

students thanking us for the support they received from one of the scholarships.

"Thank you so much for giving me this great news about the scholarship I received. I have received such remarkable encouragement through the offerings that are given to the college and which the college has appropriated for the purpose of helping its students in this time of need in meeting our financial obligations.

"I am so thankful and amazed at the support and help that I have been given and I really want you and the staff to

know how much it means to me and I'm sure to the other students who are also awarded and privileged by your efforts and standards."

An endowed scholarship is a great way to provide continuous support for Clear Creek students as they seek their training here at Clear Creek.

Just like this student, we are so thankful for the many individuals and families who provide for our students through these scholarships. Feel free to contact me if you would like information about establishing a scholarship at Clear Creek.

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

Clear Creek Chronicle



Donnie Fox

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Cumberlands alumna goes on 11-month 'World Race'

By Jennifer Wake-Floyd

Williamsburg—University of the Cumberlands alumna LeAnn Wright has had a daring experience the past few months, but she was persistent and diligent in her work for the Lord.

She has nearly fallen from a mountain-side, waded rivers waist-deep, and partaken in cultural traditions such as eating unidentified foods.

Wright would never have imagined that this is what God's calling on her life would entail, but she knows that she is exactly where God wants her.

The 2012 graduate of Cumberlands who attends Double Springs Baptist Church in Waynesburg is serving on a very unusual missions field: The World Race, an 11-month journey to 11 nations all over the world with the slogan "to serve the least of these." During Wright's time at UC, God was preparing her for this race of faith.

"From the time LeAnn came to UC, I have seen such a transformation," said Campus Minister Dean Whitaker. "She has matured and developed as a person and that has greatly impacted her spiritual growth as well. She has grown to become such a dynamic leader, and that



LeAnn Wright is serving on The World Race, an 11-month journey to 11 nations all over the world with the slogan "to serve the least of these."

shows in God using her now on the mission field."

During her undergrad years, Wright made a great impact for the kingdom by serving in campus ministries and ministries in the Whitley County area.

She led small groups and Bible studies with UC's Baptist Campus Ministries, traveled to various churches to help lead discipleship projects, and served as a site leader with Appalachian Ministries.

Wright felt God tugging at her heartstrings to lead a life of missionary work at

age 19, but it was in her year-long stint as a North American Mission Board semester missionary with UC Campus Ministries that she knew the race of faith would take her around the world.

The World Race took off with hiking the Himalayan foothills of Nepal.

"We hiked two-to-five hours a day, sometimes straight up or down mountainsides, sometimes along or in the river. It was one of the most physically taxing things I've ever done," she said.

However, it was on a seven-day hike

that God began to reveal where her strength and persistence comes from.

While going through the foothills to minister with the Chepang people, one person that crossed Wright's path was Sham. The 24-year-old man made the hike with her six-person team. He was always there to offer a helping hand.

When her backpack got too heavy, he lightened the load. He offered to help while crossing rough terrain and rivers.

"The Chepang people—especially the men who joined the trek—were extremely attentive. They sacrificed their own physical comfort, money and time. They left their families to serve alongside us for a week," Wright noted.

"We did nothing to deserve their love and kindness, but they gave it to us anyway. That is a huge reflection of the way God loves us and how Christ gave His all for us," she said. As Wright continues on her journey, she has encountered countless individuals like Sham, who are a light of encouragement to her.

"Light has been a theme for me so far on the race. Seeing how God's light dispels the darkness of man and how He uses us as lights for Him," she said. "We are His physical presence on the earth right now—the light of the world." (UC)

Former Ky. basketball star speaks at Cumberlands' Fall Awakening

By Myriah Snyder

Williamsburg—Former University of Kentucky basketball player, Cameron Mills, turned his basketball career into an evangelistic calling.

Mills graduated from UK in 1998 after a four-year career wearing number 21 for the Wildcats. His lifelong dream was to follow in the footsteps of his father and play for the "Cats."

Turning down a full scholarship to the University of Georgia, Mills became a walk-on for the Wildcats. Earning two national championship rings, he exceeded his dreams. When his career ended, Mills had netted 4.3 points, 1.1 rebounds, .6 assists and .3 steals per game. His career shooting percentages were better than 47 percent from both the field and the 3-point line.

Mills has since exchanged his basketball career for one in ministry.

"I travel; I preach. I always say, I preach messages that I need to hear. A lot of times it is the same messages. But every night, I tend to need to hear it," Mills said. "I do this," he said referring to being the guest speaker for the University of the Cumberlands' Fall Awakening in September.

He is a member of Binghamtown Baptist Church in Middlesboro. When not preaching on Sundays, Mills divides his time between two area churches. With his ministry based out of Lexington, Mills preaches across the country, and is involved with Fellowship of Christian

Athletes. Mills first felt the call to ministry at age 12.

"Other than my parents and Christ, the two most influential people in my life were my youth pastors," Mills said. Mills said due to his relationship with his youth pastor, he initially wanted to be one because he loved "the idea of going on mission trips to Panama City Beach."

"How could ministry get any greater than this?" 12-year-old Mills thought.

"Of course, that's what you see as a kid. What you don't see is that the youth pastor never sleeps because he is worried about his kids."

"You never see the administrative stuff going on months before the trip. And then add to all the administrative stuff, he has to prepare for all his lessons; he has to prepare himself," Mills said.

"I didn't even know you could do what I do now. I didn't know this was a job," he added.

"But I was 12 years old when I thought, 'OK, I'm going into

ministry. I don't know what it's going to look like. But I can't not spend my time sharing who Jesus Christ is,'" Mills said.

His ministry began while he was playing basketball. "I had so many opportunities at UK to share my testimony. When I shared my faith, I got asked to share my faith more," Mills said.

The first time he realized that he could share the gospel on a large scale was during his freshman year on a Fellowship of Christian Athletes trip to Maysville.

"On the way up there we planned this rally for 200 high school students," Mills

shared. "Max (the leader) looked at me completely out of the blue and said, 'Cameron, do you want to share about 20 minutes; do you want to preach?'"

He continued, "I don't remember being shocked," although he looks back and wonders why he wasn't.

On the way to the rally, he scribbled

down notes on a napkin and preached his first sermon on sexual purity.

"And 20 minutes after that, I had about 15 kids come up to thank me," he said.

After talking with a young lady who expressed how much she needed that message, Mills knew that was what he was going to do with his life. (WR)



Former UK basketball player, Cameron Mills, spoke at Cumberlands' Fall Awakening. The Baptist Campus Ministries' team handed out decision cards at the event, and 80 cards were turned in, with 14 people receiving Christ.

Taking the gospel to Haiti

Turnbulls' ministry spans 7 decades in Caribbean country

I have just finished meeting with some people I would consider dear friends, great supporters, incredible historians and faithful missionaries.

The Lord uniquely intertwined my path with Wallace and Eleanor Turnbull when Crossings became involved with Haiti. Wallace and Eleanor were the founders of what has been Baptist Haiti Mission and it has been in existence for more than 70 years.

One can do some math and realize the Lord has granted long life to the Turnbulls. From the first time I met them, I have been blessed as they have retold the story of their lives and the treasure of experience that has taken place in their lives.

Recently, Baptist Haiti Mission turned the page in the history book for the next phase of ministry.

This new chapter will have distinctly Southern Baptist identity and will no doubt begin an exciting time as we seek to see the entire country of Haiti changed by the power of the gospel.

The stories of Haiti through the eyes of Wallace and Eleanor would no doubt

fill a library. To hear of what has changed there from 70 years ago can only be explained by God's power and grace. Wallace says, "We are simply like chess pieces on a board as God moves us here and there."

I simply am not able to adequately proclaim my thanks and admiration for the Turnbull family and their lifelong commitment to taking the gospel to Haiti.

Their example is encouraging and challenging to us as we seek to begin this next phase with the same clear and defined goal from Matthew 28:19-20. Please join us in prayer

and perhaps even in action as we seek to see the name of Jesus lifted high in Haiti.

Many would say that Haiti is reached but I would contend many have heard the name of Jesus, but not so many know Him as Lord.

Pray and partner with us as we have been entrusted with a massive ministry with a nationwide platform. A country that has a history of belonging to Satan needs the freeing power of the gospel.

Crossings Ministries



David Melber

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



October

- 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

CAMPBELLSVILLE—Campbellsville Church has called **Will Burgess** to serve as youth pastor. **Mike O'Neal** is pastor.

FANCY FARM—Beulah Church will hold homecoming on Sunday, Oct. 19. Singing, with the Bowling family, will start at 10 a.m. **Robbie Courtney**, pastor of Baltimore Church, will be guest speaker. **Ian Carrico** is pastor.

FULTON—Cayce Church will hold its fall revival Oct. 19-22. Evangelist **Leonard Ballenger**, from Dyersburg, will lead the service. Dale True is pastor.

GEORGETOWN—Georgetown Church will host a Service of Commitment and Blessing on Oct. 15 for President **Dwaine Greene** of Georgetown College, on the occasion of his Inauguration week. **Alan Redditt** is pastor.

HARRODSBURG—Bruners Chapel Church has called **Tony Smith** as pastor. Smith goes to Harrodsburg from Bowling Green.

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Bible Crosswords

Across

- 1 "I ____ not want" (Psalms 23:1)
- 6 "The sucking child shall play on the hole of the ____" (Isaiah 11:8)
- 9 Father of Hophni and Phinehas (1 Samuel 2:27, 34)
- 10 "Lie down in green ____" (Psalms 23:2)
- 14 "Then I will ____ your flesh" (Judges 8:7)
- 16 "____ the people together" (Deuteronomy 33:17)
- 17 Mother, for short
- 19 Sandwich shops
- 21 Maiden name
- 22 "I will fear no ____" (Psalms 23:4)
- 24 "All the days of my ____" (Psalms 23:6)
- 26 "He will not ____ thee" (Deuteronomy 31:8)
- 28 "Thy rod and thy staff they ____ me" (Psalms 23:4)
- 31 "Thou preparest a ____ before me" (Psalms 23:5)
- 34 Yukon Front, abbr.
- 35 Mined matter
- 37 "Even unto the ____ of the jubile" (Leviticus 27:18)
- 38 "Lord, be not ____ from me" (Psalms 35:22)
- 40 What?
- 42 "Thy ____ and thy staff" (Psalms 23:4)
- 44 "Valley of the shadow of ____" (Psalms 23:4)
- 46 "None that doeth good, no not ____" (Psalms 14:3)
- 47 Maryland's neighbor to the south, abbr.
- 49 Flightless bird
- 51 "In ____ time Christ died for the ungodly" (Romans 5:6)



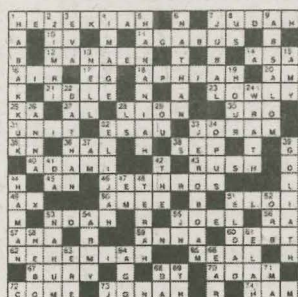
#014

- 54 "To lie down in ____ pastures" (Psalms 23:2)
- 57 Assistant, abbr.
- 59 Not Jr.
- 60 Edible root
- 61 Inhabitant

Down

- 2 "____ maketh me to lie down" (Psalms 23:2)
- 3 Height, abbr.
- 4 "____ down in green pastures" (Psalms 23:2)
- 5 Organization for veterans, abbr.
- 6 Preposition indicating when or where
- 7 "I ... will ____ with him, and he with me" (Revelation 3:20)
- 8 Fruit
- 10 "Thou ____ a table before me" (Psalms 23:5)
- 11 "Beside the ____ waters" (Psalms 23:2)
- 12 Wind direction
- 13 "The Lord is my ____" (Psalms 23:1)
- 15 In the year of our Lord, Lat. abbr.
- 17 "____ shall follow me" (Psalms 23:6)
- 18 Audio-visual, abbr.
- 20 Yes, Sp.
- 23 "____ hath sent me unto you" (Exodus 3:14) (2 words)
- 25 "____ their skin from off them" (Micah 3:3)
- 26 "Fear no evil: ____ thou art with me" (Psalms 23:4)
- 27 "God saw that ____ was good" (Genesis 1:10)
- 29 Not on
- 30 "Dwell in the house of the Lord ____" (Psalms 23:6) (2 words)
- 32 "The well ... is between Kadesh and ____" (Genesis 16:14)
- 33 Southeast Asian
- 36 Myself
- 39 Paid announcement
- 41 "I will dwell in the ____ of the Lord" (Psalms 23:6)
- 43 Medium, abbr.
- 45 "Anointest my ____ with oil" (Psalms 23:5)
- 48 "Thou ____ with me" (Psalms 23:4)
- 50 Social worker's graduate degree
- 52 "____ not vain repetitions" (Matthew 6:7)
- 53 "Do not ____ my beloved brethren" (James 1:16)
- 55 Apiece, abbr.
- 56 "I will fear ____ evil" (Psalms 23:4)
- 58 Thallium, chem. symbol

#013



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: 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. Resumés accepted through Nov. 30, 2014.

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

SEEKING: New Harmony Missionary Baptist Church in Benton, Ky., is currently looking for a full-time associate pastor who feels called to lead the children and youth ministries. If interested, please email your resumé to nhmbc@newharmonybaptist.net.

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

SEEKING: Edgewood Baptist in Hopkinsville is seeking senior pastor. Located in western Ky., Edgewood averages 530 in Sunday School and a combined attendance of 735 in three Sunday morning worship services. The recurring theme of this mission-minded church is "Love God, Love People, Make Disciples." Visit the website to learn more about Edgewood, edgewoodbaptistchurch.org. Resumés may be submitted by email: pastorsearch@edgewoodbaptistchurch.org or mail: Pastor Search, 2300 Cadiz Rd., Hopkinsville, KY 42240.

SEEKING: Northside Baptist Church located in Elizabethtown, Ky., is seeking candidates for the full-time position of minister of worship. Job description and instructions for submitting inquiries and resumés may be viewed on the church website at www.n-side.org. Resumés will be accepted until the position is filled.

SEEKING: Walnut Street Baptist Church, located in Louisville, Ky., seeks an associate pastor of music and worship whose primary responsibility is to work with the pastor to plan, promote, lead and further develop Walnut Street's music ministries. The position will also lead in secondary areas of responsibility in keeping with his God-given gifts. Send resumé by Oct. 15, 2014, to musicsearch@walnutstreet.org.

SEEKING: First Baptist Church, Mt. Washington, Ky., is seeking a minister of music to lead in planning, conducting, evaluating and providing oversight of music ministry. Weekly responsibilities involve direction of a celebration choir, orchestra, praise band, instrumentalists

To place an advertisement

Call (502) 489-3428
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and soloists. Supervision will include children's choir and associate worship leader. Music education and experience required. Send resumé to the following: First Baptist Church, Mt. Washington, P.O. Box 315, 320 North Bardstown Rd., Mt. Washington, KY 40047, Attention: Personnel Committee.

SEEKING: Pleasant Grove Baptist Church in Shepherdsville, Ky., is prayerfully seeking a senior pastor for our SBC church. The Sunday morning service averages 160. Please send an updated resumé, short biography, and personal statement of faith of beliefs by Nov. 4 to Pastor Search Team at 5285 Ky. HWY 44, Shepherdsville, KY 40165 or by email at pleasantgrove.pastorsearch@gmail.com.

SEEKING: White Stone Quarry Baptist church is now accepting resumés for senior pastor. Applicants must proclaim the gospel of Jesus Christ and must uphold the doctrines of the Baptist Faith & Message 2000. A minimum of 5 years' experience required. We need an energetic pastor to lead as we work to reach the unchurched in a growing community. Please send resumé along with a CD/DVD or internet link for sermons to: whitestoneapplicant@gmail.com, or mail to: White Stone Quarry Baptist Church, Attn: Search Committee, 2764 Blue Level Rd., Bowling Green, KY 42101. The deadline for resumés is Nov. 1.

SEEKING: Part-time minister of youth for Fern Creek Baptist Church. According to applicant's gifts and skills, this position could also include the position of children's minister or associate pastor. Applicant must exemplify a growing relationship with God, spiritual maturity, responsible authority, fervent evangelism, and effective communication skills. Send resumé to: Fern Creek Baptist Church, Attn.: Personnel Committee, 5920 Bardstown Rd., Louisville KY 40291, or email to linda@ferncreekbaptist.org. Resumés will be received through Oct. 27, 2014 Questions? Call 239-0316, ext. 103.

WANTED: Pastor with over 20 years experience looking for a part-time preaching and/or teaching position in a church in the general vicinity of Lexington, Ky. Would also be interested in serving as an interim. Has accredited doctor of ministry degree and is in agreement with the Baptist Faith & Message. Please contact Barry Davis at bd@barrydavis.org.

NEEDED: Urgent need for cleats for 37 kids. Used are OK. Ages 7-15. Contact garnettbjones@gmail.com, 859-361-3169.

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'Left Behind' stirs end-times discussion

By David Roach

Nashville—Despite negative reviews by some secular and Christian film critics, the end-times thriller "Left Behind" starring Nicolas Cage grossed nearly \$7 million at the box office during its opening weekend and helped renew focus on the doctrine of Christ's second coming.

"It's a good film, one that doesn't preach, but does remind moviegoers that there is a time when life will end on earth, one way or another," Christian film critic Phil Boatwright told Baptist Press in written comments. "And, it subtly asks us if we are preparing for it."

"Left Behind," released Oct. 3, finished sixth in weekend earnings for Oct. 5-7, finishing behind "Gone Girl" and "Anna-belle," but ahead of "Bang Bang" and "The Good Lie"—all in opening weekends as well. While "Left Behind" was shown in just 1,825 theaters, each of the five films that finished ahead of it in gross earnings was shown in at least 3,000 theaters, according to the website Box Office Mojo.

Based on the bestselling novel of the same title, "Left Behind" depicts a future rapture of the church preceding Jesus' second coming. The plot focuses on airline pilot Rayford Steele (played by Cage) and journalist Buck Williams (Chad Michael Murray) as they respond to the rapture of several passengers and crew members on a transatlantic airline flight.

Boatwright called "Left Behind," rated PG-13 for violence and some references to drugs and sexual immorality, "well-made, well-acted and intense."

"It could be said that the production is as much about appreciating family as it is about the rapture," Boatwright said. "One reviewer assessed Nicolas Cage as looking tired throughout. I found the performance steady and authoritative, like Dean Martin's airline pilot in Airport (many years ago). And the special effects are definitely a step up from the 2000 version with Kirk Cameron. This Left Behind may not be the best film of all time, but I don't think it deserves the antagonism I've read in other reviews."

A more negative review published in Christianity Today called the film "just a disaster flick injected with the slightest, most infinitesimal amount of Christianity possible."

"Most Christians within the world of the movie—whether the street-preacher lady at the airport or Rayford Steele's wife—are portrayed as insistent, crazy, delusional, or at the very least just really annoying," Jackson Cuidon wrote in CT. "Steele's wife's conversion to Christianity is shown to have pushed her and her husband apart; we see that she's decorated her house with crosses, throw-pillows that say 'Pray' across the front, and encouraging posters."

"That is the deepest conception of Christianity that his movie has: posters, pillows, and crucifixes," Cuidon wrote.

The movie depicts an interpretation of

Bible prophecy known as dispensational premillennialism, which teaches that Jesus will return to earth twice, once secretly to remove the church in a "rapture" preceding a period of tribulation, and once openly to defeat His enemies and end history as we know it.

The provost at one Southern Baptist seminary said it coincides with "a genuine renewed interest in the end times."

"Broadly speaking, I suspect the dispensational premillennial view of the end times finds quite common adherence throughout Southern Baptist churches as has been deeply held by many for the last century," Jason Duesing, provost of Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, told BP in written comments. He added that many Southern Baptists are "comfortably 'agnostic' when it comes to the end times."

While "Left Behind" may spur discussion, "the film tells a fictional story and uses theology to do so," Duesing said. "... It is not primarily a theological presentation. So when I am talking about dispensational premillennialism, I have in mind the historical and theological presentation of that view, not the Hollywood version."

Various Christian viewpoints on the end times differ largely in their interpretation of the "millennium," the "thousand years" referenced six times in Revelation 20:2-7. The term "millennium" derives from the Latin words "mille anni" meaning "thousand years."

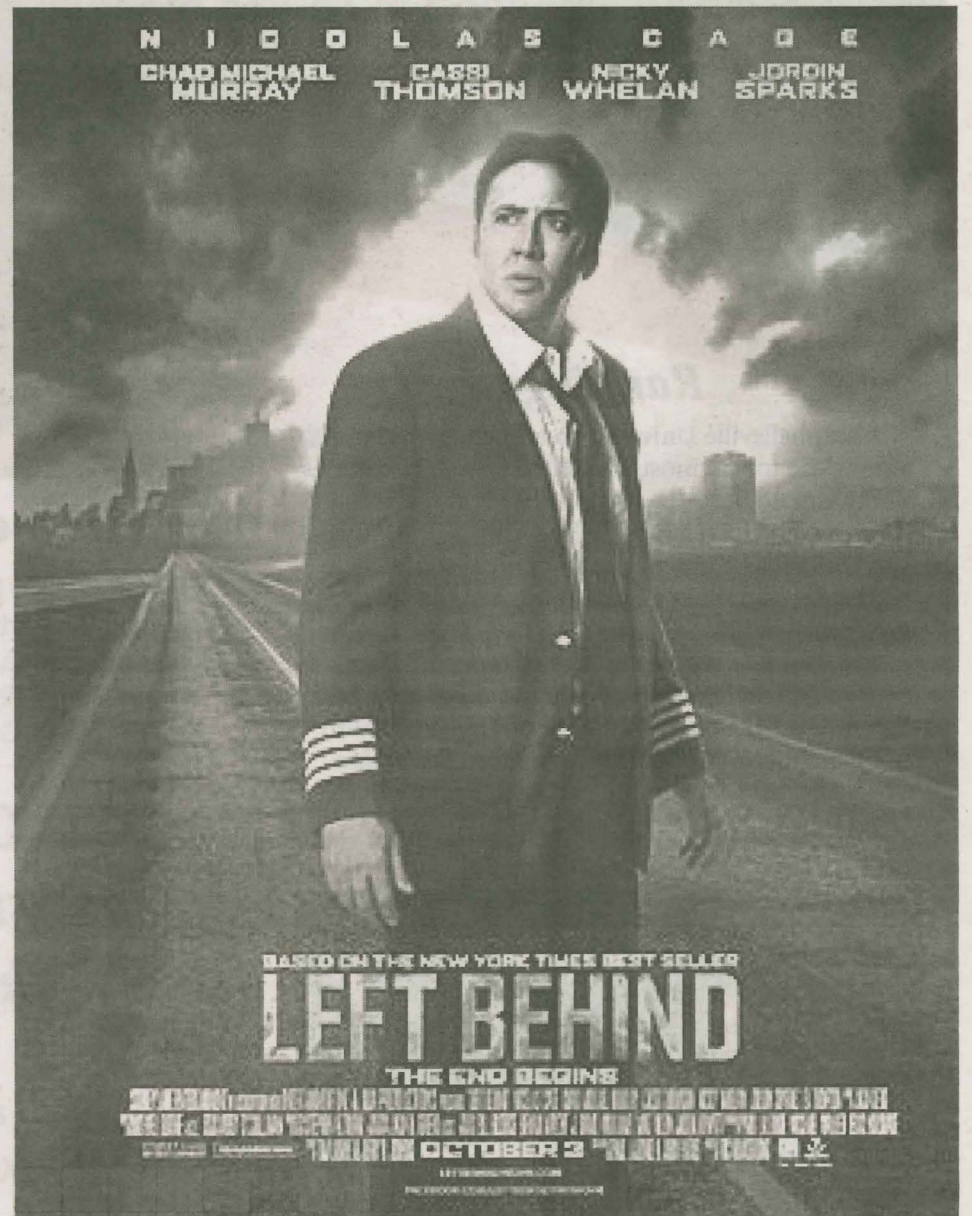
In addition to dispensational premillennialism, there are at least three other major views on the timing of Christ's second coming relative to the millennium:

- Historic premillennialism teaches that Christ will return before a thousand-year period of His reign on earth—but only once, with no secret rapture of the church. Historic premillennialism was popular among second- and third-century church fathers, and has had proponents in every era of church history.

- Postmillennialism teaches that there will be a thousand-year period of peace and righteousness on earth preceding Christ's return. This position was popular among Baptists at the Southern Baptist Convention's founding in 1845 but became obsolete in the 20th century, when the horrors of two world wars left few Christians believing the world would transition seamlessly into a period of harmony and peace.

- Amillennialism teaches that Revelation's "thousand years" is not a future era of earth's history, but a figurative designation for either Christ's present reign in the church or His eternal reign in the new heavens and new earth. Though not popular among Southern Baptist conservatives in the late 20th century, amillennialism originated in the second and third centuries, like premillennialism, and has been held by believers throughout church history.

The idea of two separate returns of



Christ, as portrayed in "Left Behind," is a relatively recent innovation, arising in the early 1900s with the Brethren Movement in Britain. The idea was popularized by C.I. Scofield through his Scofield Reference Bible. Dispensational premillennialism was revised in later editions of the Scofield Bible and by various theologians of the 20th century, including Southern Baptists. The Baptist Faith and Message does not address the millennium, stating simply, "Jesus will return personally and visibly in glory to the earth" (Article X).

Amillennialists and premillennialists of every variety coexist in all realms of Baptist life, with proponents of each position affirming the inerrancy of Scripture. Hardly any Baptists regard differing positions on the millennium as an obstacle to cooperation in missions, theological education, evangelism and cultural engagement.

Duesing noted that today, "many younger Southern Baptists are likely to denounce dispensationalism because they

feel they should" or "due to deeply held convictions. However, while I do hear of some enthusiasts embracing amillennialism, mostly I find students defaulting to historic premillennialism."

While Left Behind may provoke end-times reflection, Duesing cautioned moviegoers to view it as entertainment and not theological instruction.

"As with all films, much is made of their potential impact at the time of their release and often controversy ensues (for better or worse), but as with even the most memorable and life changing of films, the impact fades and one recalls that these are more cultural artifacts of entertainment than anything else," Duesing said.

"My understanding is that the Left Behind film aims more to be wholesome entertainment for families rather than catechism. Christians who watch the film thus should view it as such and not expect it to serve as a vehicle first for apologetic or sanctifying impact." (BP)

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U.S. News & World Report has ranked CU in the **top 100 regional universities in the south** again this month. The organization also ranked CU 70th in the nation in **Best Online Graduate Education Programs**, and 79th in the nation in **Best Online Graduate Business Programs**.



The fall semester began with thousands of prayers for two local firefighters who were injured in an electrical accident on campus in August. CU students, faculty, staff and coaches continue to pray for Alex Quinn who is recovering at home and for the grieving loved ones of Captain Tony Grider who succumbed to his injuries Sept. 20.



Praying hands carved from old oak tree

Rob Peterson carved a set of "praying hands" out of the old oak tree on Stapp Lawn. Peterson has carved all kinds

of items with a chainsaw through his Louisville Chainsaw Carving business.

"CU is committed to its mission of providing a strong academic experience while maintaining its Christ-centered commitment, church connectedness, and overall goal of changing the lives of the men and women who attend."

- CU President Michael V. Carter

Welcome to Campbellsville University Fall 2014

Campbellsville University students above helped families get their new students off to successful starts in the fall semester. They are some of the voices you'll hear when you call Admissions at (270) 789-5220. From left are: Will Pearson, Dothan, Ala.; Mary Kate Young, Paris, Ky.; William Lopez, Caracas, Venezuela; Brittney Casey, Lawrenceburg, Ky.; and Wes Cain, Alachua, Fla.

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