

WESTERN Recorder

October 21, 2014

Shine Like Stars * Philippians 2:15

Volume 188, Issue 39

KBC messengers to voice views on transgender identity

By Robin Cornetet

Louisville—Messengers to the Kentucky Baptist Convention's Annual Meeting in Bowling Green will consider a resolution that seeks to extend love to people who identify as transgender, while opposing efforts to normalize their lifestyle.

The Resolution on Transgender Identity is one of four to be recommended by the KBC Committee on Resolutions during the convention's 177th annual meeting at Living Hope Baptist Church Nov. 11.

Other resolutions to be voted on address worldwide persecution of Christians, encouraging congregations to participate in the Annual Church Profile, and extending appreciation to Living Hope for hosting the meeting.

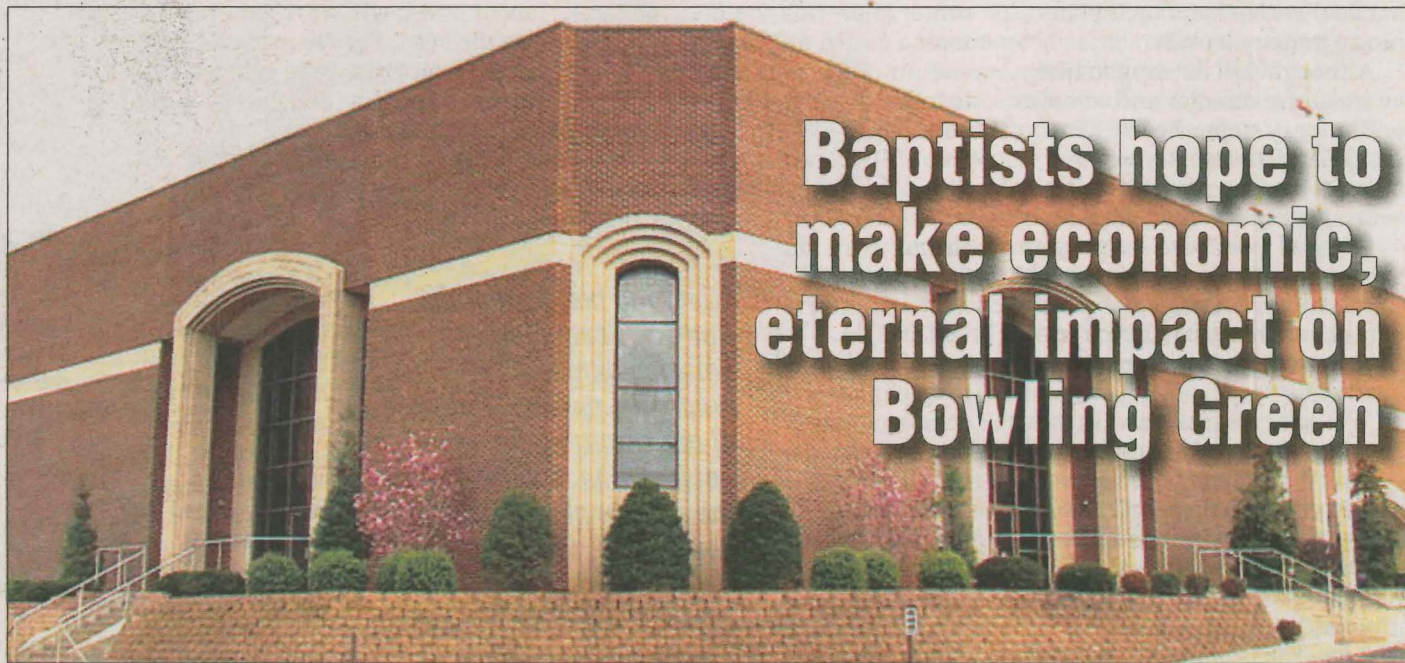
Curtis Woods, associate executive director for convention relations and communications, said the transgender resolution, a modified version of a resolution by the Southern Baptist Convention, addresses the issue with "convictional kindness."

"Our desire is to see the person who is lost and victimized become one with Christ," Woods said. "Transgender persons are not our enemies; they are the victims of our enemy."

The transgender resolution states that an estimated 700,000 people in the U.S. perceive their gender identity opposite their biological sex at birth.

The American Psychiatric Association calls this perception "gender dysphoria," which is defined as having a strong desire to be the other gender—even to the point of disgust with the way the body is made.

□ See Transgender identity ... Page 2



Living Hope Baptist Church will host the Kentucky Baptist Convention's Annual Meeting Nov. 11 in Bowling Green.

Baptists hope to make economic, eternal impact on Bowling Green

Bowling Green—More than 1,000 Kentucky Baptists are expected to convene in Bowling Green in early November for an annual meeting that's certain to have a positive impact on the south central Kentucky city both economically and eternally.

"We realize it's a boon for Bowling Green hotels, restaurants and other businesses to have so many people coming to town, and we're pleased to be helpful in that way," said Kentucky Baptist Convention Executive Director Paul Chitwood. "But the greatest impact we could hope to have on Bowling Green will come from sharing the gospel with the people who live there."

Southern Baptist messengers from churches across Kentucky gather once a year for a massive business meeting. Bowling Green was selected by Kentucky Baptist leaders nearly three years ago as the location for this year's

gathering, slated for Nov. 11 at Living Hope Baptist Church.

Other locations in recent years include Elizabethtown, Florence, Lexington, Louisville and Paducah. It'll be the first time since 2006 that Kentucky Baptists have met in Bowling Green.

More than 1,700 people attended the last meeting in Bowling Green.

Some of the matters up for discussion are raising interest in the upcoming meeting.

Those include a proposal by KBC's Committee on Credentials to sever ties with Crescent Hill Baptist Church in Louisville because the congregation has voted to ordain gay clergy and to perform same-sex weddings.

Chitwood said final preparations for the Bowling Green meeting have been underway for months.

Messengers from every Kentucky Baptist church are being encouraged to

live out the "Tell Your Story" theme of the meeting by sharing the gospel with Bowling Green area residents.

"With this much manpower converging on one city, there's no reason we'd conclude without seeing many souls saved and many lives transformed," Chitwood said. "The economic impact is important, but the eternal impact is more so."

John Mark Toby, the director of missions for the Warren Association of Baptists, said Bowling Green area churches are praying for salvation decisions and also training members in how to effectively tell their stories about how they came to Christ.

Toby said the outreach will be vitally important for Bowling Green and Warren County, because of the large number of people who don't go to church.

"There are over 90,000 lost people in Warren County," Toby said. (KBC)



Hawk Creek Church baptized 126 inmates with a small baptistry attached to the Laurel County Correctional Center. (Photo credit: Jeff Oliver)

126 inmates baptized by Hawk Creek ministry

By Lauren Snowden

London—Sept. 21, 2014 is a date more than 100 Laurel County Correctional Center inmates will remember. It's a new date that defines them; when they got a fresh start.

That Sunday afternoon, 126 inmates were baptized in the name of Christ, giving hope and a sense of belonging to those who have hit rock-bottom.

Jessica Napier said her time behind bars is God's work. She has served 18 months so far on

a drug charge. "For me, it has been a blessing to be in jail. It sounds odd, but I would just keep doing what I was doing if I wasn't here. If it wasn't for the church and me being in jail, I wouldn't be a follower."

Hawk Creek Baptist Church has an extensive jail ministry, bringing Bible studies and counseling services to the jail at least three days a week.

"You can just tell that they just have a love for people ... you got someone to talk to when you get out. They're friends," Napier said.

Hawk Creek started visiting the jail nearly three years ago. Debbie Gilbert, a church member and licensed clinical counselor, said that the jail has become a church satellite. Each Sunday, Hawk Creek Church broadcasts their services via satellite to the recreation room at the Laurel County Correctional Center.

"We are a very outward focused church. We will do whatever it takes," Gilbert said. "A lot of offenders are repeats. If

□ See Inmates baptized ... Page 2

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Western Recorder 10-21-2014

Glasgow churches offer benevolence in a 'new way' with New Steps

By Ken Walker

Glasgow—A new ministry in Glasgow that intends to replace a handout with a hand up is planning a January launch.

Although still needing to hire an executive director and complete preliminary steps, the five Kentucky Baptist pastors who conceived Next Step are excited it is nearing its operational phase.

"We had a desire to see people's lives changed through the gospel," said Brandon Porter, senior pastor of Immanuel Baptist Church in Glasgow and chairperson of the new ministry.

"We were all frustrated that our churches were perpetuating the cycle of dependency, even as we were trying to help people."

The pastors of Immanuel Baptist, Calvary Baptist, Coral Hill Baptist, Glasgow Baptist and Community for Christ (a mission of Glasgow Baptist) first met in May 2013 to look for new ways of approaching benevolence.

"This is not a matter of paying a bill one month and things will be okay," Porter said. "We learned that people are living in a pattern of crisis and we wanted to help them come out of that."

Porter said their concept for Next Steps originated from the book, "When Helping Hurts," which challenges Christians to help the poor empower themselves.

The pastors also found inspiration from Advance Memphis, a ministry that reaches out to one of the poorest parts of Memphis, Tenn.

During their visit, the pastors were encouraged to participate in mock interviews with participants in job training classes, said Ray Woodie, pastor of Coral Hill Baptist.

"The presence of prayer and biblical principles was very practical; it wasn't preachy," Woodie said. "But everyone who came in to the center knew this was first and foremost a gospel ministry."

Four of the five churches involved are investing \$15,000 annually to start the project. Next Step will operate at the old public library building downtown, which owner Glasgow Baptist is leasing to the ministry for \$1 a year.

"Each church will still do benevolence to people in their congregation, but we wanted to bring our resources together to funnel them into an area where we can get these people help," said Erdie Carter, senior pastor of Glasgow Baptist.

"We want to give them a hand up instead of a handout. We want to help them to learn to not live in those situations, find jobs, manage their money and counsel them," Carter said.

Next Step plans to offer crisis relief, when people need emergency food and clothing. However, after addressing those needs, the next phase is offering rehabilitation through job training, financial planning and budgeting, and personal mentoring.

While the number of mentors will depend on how many people enroll, organizers foresee the need for 100 volunteers a month to handle initial screening, stocking of shelves, and other tasks.

"The reaction has been very favorable," Carter said of interest from Glasgow Baptist members. "There have been some questions about how it will work, but they see the need. They're ready for us to go faster than we're going. It's taking some time and energy to get some things ironed out."

Woodie said Coral Hill members have also greeted Next Step enthusiastically.

For him, one of this initiative's most exciting aspects is how it has brought pastors together.

"Over the last 18 months God has developed an amazing camaraderie among us pastors," Woodie said. "Because of our commitment we've been willing to work through the relational and logistical challenges. We want this (ministry) to outlast us. We've been willing to keep a kingdom vision before us."

Besides building relationships internally, Porter said the group has been networking with area factories and other business owners to identify future job opportunities for participants.

"They're enslaved by a system that makes them dependent," Porter said. "We have been part of that system making people dependent."

"Next Step is different. We want to help them realize the value of being created in the image of God. Work is one of the ways we express that." (KBC)

"Over the last 18 months God has developed an amazing camaraderie among us pastors. Because of our commitment we've been willing to work through the relational and logistical challenges. We want this (ministry) to outlast us. We've been willing to keep a kingdom vision before us."

Ray Woodie,
pastor of Coral Hill Baptist

Transgender identity

Continued from page 1

People who identify themselves as transgender have sought to alter their appearance with hormone therapy and gender reassignment surgery.

The resolution also mentions a recent media report in Kentucky where students at Louisville's Atherton High School who consider themselves transgender are allowed to use restrooms and locker rooms that align with their gender identity.

In Owenton, a seven-year-old child, born male and who goes by the name Ella, is being provided a unisex restroom at Owen County Elementary School.

"We extend love and compassion to those whose sexual self-understanding is shaped by a distressing conflict between their biological sex and their gender identity," states the resolution. "We love our transgender neighbors, seek their good always, welcome them to our churches and, as they repent and believe in Christ, receive them into church membership."

The resolution also:

- Condemns acts of violence or bullying committed against transgender persons.

- Opposes all efforts to refashion the body to conform with a person's perceived gender identity.

- Opposes all efforts to validate transgender identity or present it as "morally praiseworthy."

"Our love for the gospel and urgency for the Great Commission must include declaring the whole counsel of God, proclaiming what Scripture teaches about God's design for us as male and female persons created in His image and for His glory," the resolution states.

The Resolution on the Worldwide Persecution of Christians, which is in part a response to the persecutions of Christians by ISIS/ISIL, calls upon all Kentucky Baptists to unite in prayer for their brothers and sisters suffering for their belief in Christ.

The resolution also encourages Kentucky Baptists to create greater public awareness of Christian persecution through biblical education, petitioning elected officials and financially supporting evangelical organizations that support the persecuted church around the world.

The Resolution on the Historical Identity and Implementation of the Annual Church Profile provides a look back at the origins of this annual statistical report that gives pastors the tools to evaluate their church's progress and helps the KBC come alongside in a supportive role.

The resolution also calls on Kentucky Baptists to become champions of ACP on behalf of their respective churches. (KBC)

Inmates baptized

Continued from page 1

we can spend time with them, lives will change." All in all, Gilbert estimates that Hawk Creek Church spends 168 days a year, eight hours a day at the jail.

"Our time is measured in trust. A lot of people in jail don't trust very many people," she said. "For us to be there as much as we are, it builds hope. Hope changes people."

Napier said that this baptism and the influence of Hawk Creek Church has changed the attitudes of the inmates at the jail. "It's like its own little church!" she said.

Jayna Alexander is a member of Hawk Creek Church, and has a heart for those who have made poor choices, many of them drug related.

"One woman told me she knew how to cut and measure cocaine before she entered kindergarten. When I was a child, we had cereal on the breakfast table, not scales," Alexander said.

She said a lot of the people she has interacted with are second and third generation drug dealers, and it's no surprise that they have become inmates. But Hawk Creek Church is teaching these people that there is another and better way.



The Hawk Creek Church lead pastor, associate pastor and youth pastor baptized 126 inmates with a small baptistry attached to the Laurel County Correctional Center and two small pools. The jailer allowed church members to witness to inmates cell-to-cell. (Photo credit: Jeff Oliver)

The Laurel County Correctional Center alerted Hawk Creek Church to the baptismal service just 24 hours in advance. They wanted little controversy or protest of the event. The lead, associate and youth pastor baptized all 126 inmates with a small baptistry attached to the jail and two small pools.

So, why such a big turnout of 126 people? Gilbert

said it's because the jailer allowed the Hawk Creek Church to go cell to cell and witness to inmates.

"Talking to them one-on-one was key for us," Gilbert said.

"We aren't going to kid ourselves; some of these people just have 'inmate religion,'" Alexander said. "But some of these people are forever changed. They're living for the Lord and can't wait to begin the next chapter of their lives, to gain a fresh start."

After the baptism, the story doesn't end.

Hawk Creek Church makes a point to keep in touch with these inmates—no matter what their next step may be.

If they're released from jail, these inmates generally end up becoming members of Hawk Creek's congregation and outreach programs. If they move on to federal prison, a member of the church keeps in touch.

Hawk Creek isn't stopping their outreach at the jail. They're also looking to take on ministries at local homeless shelters.

"In the end we are just God-loving people, and you've got to love the people where they're at," Alexander said.

"Continue to remember those in prison as if you were together with them in prison, and those who are mistreated as if you yourselves were suffering" (Hebrews 13:3 NIV), she quoted. (WR)

Campton rebounds with help of partner churches

Campton Baptist Church had witnessed five years of sharp decline. Each measurable indicator forecasted a bleak future for the county-seat church. From 2008 to 2013, the average worship attendance declined from 86 to 45—nearly a 48 percent decrease. Baptisms in that same period totaled six. The future seemed bleak indeed.

Soon after Pastor Gary Conner became aware of revitalization consultation through the regional consulting services of the Kentucky Baptist Convention, he reached out for help. I met with him to gain understanding of the church's situation, then, a few weeks later, shared a revitalization strategy with church.

The strategy included a time of spiritual preparation followed by working with the pastor and vision team to answer three primary questions: Where are we? Where are we going? How will we get there?

To answer the first question, Campton Baptist members completed the "Healthy Church Survey" from Ministry Toolbox. This exercise helped the vision team clearly see the church's strengths and weaknesses. Additionally, we studied the church's community demographics, facilities, history, and statistics from the last decade's Annual Church Profiles.

After thoroughly understanding the current reality, the vision team was poised to prayerfully seek a fresh, Spirit-led vision.

They worked diligently and articulated a compelling vision statement. The second primary question was answered.

However, arriving at a clear vision path to answer the third question became very difficult. Given the church's weak position and absence of the needed workforce, simple restructuring and starting new initiatives seemed impossible.

While there are some things in common with revitalization strategies



The vision team planned three large events to provide quick wins for the demoralized church and help them discover young adult and children prospects. The three events were a heightened Easter weekend with a children's event on Saturday, Vacation Bible School and a Halloween alternative. To facilitate these events, Campton relied on partnering churches.

between churches, there is no "cookie cutter" approach. Campton Baptist Church was not yet ready to move on to the third question and implement a comprehensive new strategy.

The Holy Spirit revealed to Pastor Conner, the vision team and me that we needed to plan three big events for 2014 that could provide quick wins for the

demoralized church and help them discover young adult and children prospects. At the same time, the Holy Spirit was prompting two churches over 100 miles away to become partners for the revitaliza-

tion process at Campton.

The three events were a heightened Easter weekend with a children's event on Saturday, Vacation Bible School and a Halloween alternative. To facilitate these events, Campton would need help from partnering churches.

Rachel Riquelme, children's ministry director at High Street Baptist Church in Somerset, told me that she would like to help a church in a revitalization process by providing a team to assist in

a children's event. When I told her about the Easter weekend opportunity at Campton, she committed. The team from High Street provided needed assistance, and more than 250 children and parents attended the event.

Church members at Campton worked hard to execute a simple strategy for a high attendance drive on Easter Sunday. They set a goal of 75 in worship, and exceeded it by 11, as 86 people attended Easter worship.

Vacation Bible School was the next big event. As French Harmon, pastor of First Baptist Church in Somerset, was praying about partnering with a church needing revitalization, the Holy Spirit placed Campton on his heart. A team from his church provided needed assistance to conduct a tremendously successful VBS. As a result, Campton baptized 13 new believers.

At this point, the church is experiencing an influx of children on Sundays, and they are working hard to establish a small group for young couples.

Through the concern of a committed pastor, the hard work of a vision team, and the partnership of on-mission churches, Campton Baptist has entered a revitalization journey. Pray for them as they continue to seek God's direction.

Baptist leaders decry Houston's sermon subpoenas

By Tom Strode

Washington—The city of Houston has "no business" in issuing subpoenas for the sermons of pastors who oppose a new homosexual-transgender rights ordinance, says Southern Baptist Convention's lead ethicist Russell Moore.

Moore, president of the Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission, responded Oct. 14 to reports that Houston's government had subpoenaed sermons and other communications from several pastors as part of a lawsuit against the city. City lawyers targeted the pastors, even though they are not involved in the suit, because of their leadership in opposing the Houston Equal Rights Ordinance (HERO).

Opposition to the ordinance is based in part on concerns it will violate the religious freedom of business owners and others who disagree with the measure. Also, foes think it will make women and children vulnerable to sexual predators by permitting people to use public restrooms of the gender they identify with rather than their natural gender.

Moore said he is stunned.

"The preaching of sermons in the pulpits of churches is of no concern to any government bureaucrat at all," he said. "The country settled, a long time ago, with a First Amendment that the government would not supervise, license, or bully religious institutions."

Houston's pastors and churches should follow the New Testament example by defying the government, Moore said.

"A government has no business using subpoena power to intimidate or bully the preaching and instruction of any church, any synagogue, any mosque, or any other place of worship," he said.

Jason Allen, president of Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, wrote Oct. 15 that Christians' indignation must be displaced by passion and resolve.

"We are called to speak the truth in love; to preach the word in season and out," he wrote. "Ordinance or no ordinance ... God's word doesn't change—and our convictions must not change either."

The Alliance Defending Freedom (ADF) filed a motion Oct. 9 requesting a Harris County court to quash the subpoenas.

Issued in September, the subpoenas are broad-seeking "speeches, presentations, or sermons related to HERO, Mayor Annise Parker, homosexuality, or gender identity" prepared by, delivered by, revised by, or approved by or in the pastor's possession. The city threatened contempt of court charges.

Parker, a lesbian who fervently promoted passage of the ordinance, indicated Oct. 15 the city will change its approach.

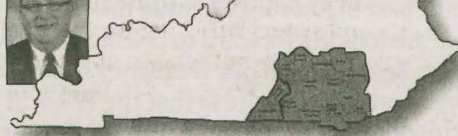
A spokeswoman told The Wall Street Journal: "Mayor Parker agrees with those who are concerned about the city legal department's subpoenas for pastors' sermons. ... The city will move to narrow the scope during an upcoming court hearing."

The controversial ordinance gained passage from the City Council in May by an 11-6 vote. Parker immediately signed it. HERO adds sexual orientation and gender identity to a list of protected classifications, such as race, religion, sex and disability. (BP)

Regional SPOTLIGHT



Alan Dodson
South



Tell
Your
Story



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



Bring your family to the 177th KBC Annual Meeting

Living Hope will provide child care for up to 20 children, age 2 to current 2nd graders.

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Our four tent pegs

Having spent many a night in a tent, I recognize that any tent needs corner stakes to keep from being blown away by the least gust of wind.

Together We are the KBC



Paul Chitwood

Likewise, to avoid being "blown here and there by every wind of teaching" (Ephesians 4:14), I believe the big tent of the Kentucky Baptist Convention must be anchored by our commitment to these four things: the truthfulness of God's word, our Lord's Great Commission, cooperation, and the beliefs summarized in our historic Baptist confessions of faith, namely the Baptist Faith and Message.

First and foremost is a high view of Scripture. Kentucky Baptists affirm that the Bible is authoritative for faith and practice, trustworthy in all that it teaches, and truth without any mixture of error. We submit ourselves to God's rule over our lives by submitting ourselves to the teachings of God's word. "The word of the Lord endures forever" (1 Peter 1:25).

Second, we are committed to the Great Commission (Matthew 28:18-20). Jesus says we must make disciples of all people groups. Thus, we believe that every church is responsible to share the gospel in its community and to the very ends of the earth. KBC churches share that belief.

Third, Kentucky Baptists are committed to cooperation. As is often said, we can do more together than apart. Could any one church care for 500 victimized children, start 18 new churches in Kentucky, 1,000 in North America, or 6,000 overseas? Could any one church support 4,800 missionaries in 150 countries or educate 16,000 seminary students? Could any one church host 12,000 children and teenagers for summer camp? Working together, every Kentucky Baptist church giving through the Cooperative Program can do all of these things and many, many more.

Fourth, the Baptist Faith and Message reflects our common confessional beliefs as Kentucky Baptists. The river of Baptist doctrine is fed by more than one theological stream. Some of our churches are passionate about a particular stream, while others maintain room for diversity. At the convention level, our churches choose to partner together for the sake of the gospel, focusing on the river rather than any certain stream.

To exclude any Kentucky Baptist church sharing these four commitments is, in my opinion, a grave mistake. Churches, however, that abandon the truthfulness of God's word, the Great Commission, a commitment to cooperation, or Baptist beliefs are a poor fit for the KBC, because they jeopardize the identity and the precious unity God has assigned to the Baptist family. While we grieve any church that departs, we rejoice over every church that remains steadfast in its commitments to God's word, the gospel, cooperation, and its Baptist doctrine. I thank God for Kentucky Baptists!

Paul Chitwood is executive director of the Kentucky Baptist Convention.

Western Recorder to print every other week in 2015

Don't you wish life came with warning signs like this "Rough Road" ahead one? That way we'd be more prepared for when life throws us a curve. 2014 has been something of a rough road for us.

The Western Recorder, the second-oldest state Baptist newspaper, will be assuming a biweekly publication schedule, beginning in January 2015. Our electronic edition and church newsletter editions will follow the same schedule. We are thankful for the many churches and associations who partner with us by publishing their newsletters on the newspaper's back page. We know churches face tight times, too, and rather than raising subscription prices significantly, we trust they will understand and be willing to make adjustments to move to publishing every other week with us.

Our decision to go biweekly is primarily due to increasing costs for printing and postage and recent reductions in the agency's Cooperative Program allocation. We regret that the move to become a biweekly publication is necessary, but these actions will help keep us ahead of the financial curve by cutting production expenses. We believe this is the right decision from an economic standpoint, and it reflects better stewardship of our CP resources.

To supplement the every-other-week schedule, breaking news stories and features will appear more frequently on our website, www.westernrecorder.org, and in email alerts. In November, we will launch a new WR website that will carry more Kentucky Baptist stories. Social media also will facilitate awareness of key issues impacting our churches.

Despite the change, our desire is to make available more Kentucky Baptist news, not less. We anticipate that biweekly issues will typically consist of 16 to 20 pages, compared to the current 12-page format, and they will contain more color photos and Kentucky Baptist content. These enhancements should make for a more attractive publication. With

these changes, the Western Recorder expects to deliver more news and still have a high quality print product, and its website will continue to provide a primary news source for Western Recorder subscribers.

The Western Recorder is not the first state Baptist paper to face reducing its publication frequency because of increasing production and mailing costs or a reduction in CP funding. Tennessee's Baptist & Reflector, our neighbor to the south, was the latest to make the move, adopting a biweekly schedule just this past June. Less than a handful of state Baptist papers still remain weeklies. Georgia, Florida, Arkansas, Ohio, Texas, Virginia and North Carolina, for example, are among those states who currently print twice a month.

In other related cost-saving steps, the Western Recorder's staff also has been reduced to mostly part-time positions or outsourcing. While we are sad that we will no longer be printing weekly, we are glad that new technologies provide ways to communicate more quickly and more easily with Kentucky Baptists.

We are very grateful for the thousands of Kentucky Baptists who continue to read the Western Recorder in print and online.

We especially appreciate the many churches who understand the tremendous value of our newsletter service and provide the newspaper for their members, enabling them to stay better connected not only with their church, but also with all of their Kentucky Baptist missions work and ministries.

Though we officially affiliated with the Kentucky Baptist Convention in 1919, the Western Recorder has been an integral part of Kentucky Baptist life for nearly 190 years, and we are looking forward to celebrating two centuries of service. Regardless of our frequency or format—print, digital or web—our chief desire is that the WR will remain relevant to kingdom work, helping Kentucky Baptists not only to "tell your story," but, more importantly, to tell His story.



After Thought

By Todd Deaton



What is the best kept secret in the SBC?

By Cherie Martin

Do you want to know a secret? I am going to let you in on what I have been hearing for the last 18 years is the best kept secret in the Southern Baptist Convention. That secret is about something many of your brothers and sisters in Christ are doing. What can it be?

They are serving in Southern Baptist Disaster Relief. Did you know that that Southern Baptist Disaster Relief is the second largest volunteer disaster relief organization in the world, behind only the American Red Cross? Yes, you read that correctly.

This year, Southern Baptist Disaster Relief did 7,115 ministry contacts, 18,246 volunteer days, prepared 94,109 meals, completed 821 chainsaw jobs, repair/roof 209 homes, 448 mud-out jobs, 69 fire cleanups, cared for 392 children,

provided 7,625 hot showers, did 1,270 loads of laundry, provided chaplaincy to 3,389 people, 282 professions of faith and 1,109 gospel presentations.

Did you see that 282 people became part of God's family because of the witness of Southern Baptist Disaster Relief? Hallelujah! The question becomes what part did Kentucky Disaster Relief play in those figures? This past year Kentucky Disaster Relief volunteers served in Colorado for wildfires, Colorado for flooding, Central Michigan for flooding, Detroit Metro for flooding, South Sudan refugee crisis, Madagascar for a water project, Mozambique for a well project, Hurricane Sandy Rebuild, Colorado rebuild and Cedar Creek for a tree project.

Kentucky Disaster Relief served 1,400 meals, 279 chainsaw, flood recovery and fire clean-ups completed. They provided 6,000 hot showers and did 120 loads of laundry for hurting people, more than 130 volunteers worked in New York and Colorado, chaplains made 1,012 visits (a

third of the national total), led 57 people to become part of God's family (over 20 percent of the national total), 3,454 ministry contacts, wells and safe drinking water were provided for 13 villages, and three additional wells were repaired.

Are you wondering how you can be part of this? I realize many cannot go because of life circumstances, however God has been providing a way for my husband and I to go for the last 18 years on a retirement income.

My question is, could your church provide \$10 a month to help us go? There are 2,400 Southern Baptist churches in Kentucky. Think what those \$10 donations could mean to the Lord's work! Send to <https://kybaptist.webconnex.com/kentuckydr>.

If you cannot be a part of the work in that way become our partners by being prayer warriors.

Cherie Martin and her husband, Dwayne, are leaders on the Kentucky Baptist Disaster Relief Chaplain Team.

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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.

Take the challenge: Learn, pray, give

Nashville, Tenn.—During October's Cooperative Program Emphasis Month on the Southern Baptist Convention's calendar, churches are encouraged to use the "1% Challenge" video as an educational and motivational tool.

The 1% CP Challenge "is a succinct way to do something more—an understandable way to say, 'Yeah, we can do that,'" said Frank Page, SBC Executive Committee president. "It is understandable, is easily acted upon, and can be done without shifting major sections of a church's finances."

The month-long emphasis spurs churches to learn about the Cooperative Program and prayerfully consider increasing their contributions to its work.

In 2012, 7 percent of cooperating Southern Baptist churches reported they had accepted the 1% CP Challenge in support of missions and ministries led by their state conventions and the SBC, according to a study by LifeWay Research for the Executive Committee, called the 2012 Cooperative Program Omnibus Survey.

One tangible result of this is that the average percentage of undesignated gifts given through the Cooperative Program by Southern Baptists moved up by an encouraging one-tenth of 1 percent from the previous year (5.41 to 5.50 percent).

After many years of decline in average CP gifts from churches of about 0.20 percentage points per year, the decline leveled off in 2011 and 2012 (5.407 percent and 5.414 percent, respectively), rising slightly to last year's 5.50 percent.

The Executive Committee



commissioned another survey this spring, asking church leaders the same set of questions they were asked in 2012.

An additional 8 percent of pastors indicated they plan to lead their churches to accept the 1% CP Challenge in the coming year. If this trend continues, millions of additional dollars will become available for missions and ministry entities to fulfill the tasks Southern Baptists have assigned to them.

"The Cooperative Program is not a reservoir that we hold; it's money that we send through the CP to missions and ministries," Page said. "It's exciting to see new pastors, younger pastors, older pastors, ethnic pastors, Anglo pastors, say, 'You know, it's time to put more emphasis on the Cooperative Program.'"

The Cooperative Program fuels Southern Baptists' global vision for reaching the nations with the gospel while sustaining a strong home base of ministry, reflecting the driving passion of Southern Baptists since the SBC was formed.

If every cooperating Southern Baptist church raised its contributions through the Cooperative Program by 1 percent, the resultant CP

gifts would increase by nearly \$100 million.

This would unleash the state conventions to make a greater impact on lostness in their respective states. It would give the North American Mission Board greater flexibility in its Send North America church planting and evangelism initiatives. It would allow the International Mission Board to send and maintain a larger number of missionaries on the field.

It would allow SBC seminaries to explore new delivery systems for ministerial training and graduate-level theological education to make an even greater impact on training pastors and church leaders for effective service. It would assist the Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission in its continuing mission to engage the broader culture with the claims of Christ and a biblical worldview.

Simply put, the 1% CP Challenge has the potential to be the rising tide that raises all the causes that Southern Baptist cooperating churches support. The Cooperative Program, as Southern Baptists' unified plan of giving, remains the fuel that drives the missions and ministries of the convention. (BP)

Help teens grow in faith

By Scott Wigginton

Q: How can we tell if our teenage son is growing in his faith?

A. Yardsticks that assess spiritual growth are often well intentioned, but poorly thought through and executed. Too often our tendency in the church and in the family is to measure the wrong things. When one measures the wrong things, the results are often misleading and even ultimately disillusioning.

For example, one might assess the spirituality of a teenager by whether they attend worship, Sunday School and church activities. While these are good things, they might be less a measure of faith and more of a teenager's need to please parents and avoid conflict. Similarly, a teenager who rigidly adheres to a daily quiet time might be one who is compulsively dealing with their anxiety about not being good enough and trying to earn God's approval. Simply put, a "check the box" assessment of spiritual disciplines and behaviors may measure the shell of faith without ever getting to the heart of the matter.

When the Lord was guiding the prophet Samuel to anoint young David as king of Israel, he reminded him as he first considered Eliab in 1 Samuel 16:6-7: "Do not look on his appearance or on the height of his stature, because I have rejected him; for the Lord sees not as man sees; man looks on the outward appearance, but the Lord looks on the heart." Even as we pay attention to externals, we must be reminded that it is the heart that is central.

Here are a few questions that may be helpful. Is your teenager becoming more loving towards God and others as he follows Christ? Do you see evidence of the fruit of the Spirit that Paul references in Galatians 5:22-23? Does he give of himself in service? Is he prioritizing time with other committed Christian teens? Is he "growing small" in his desire to be at the center of the universe and making Christ large by sharing Him with others? Does he approach the Bible, prayer and spiritual disciplines for the right reasons?



Breast cancer: What happens when the body betrays?

By Terri Stovall

Walking back from the mailbox last week, I stopped cold in my tracks as I eyed the last envelope in the stack of magazines, junk mail and bills. I knew what it was before I even opened it—a letter informing me it was time for a mammogram.

Instantly my mind raced back exactly two years earlier. Oct. 9 was a Tuesday. What I assumed would be a simple screening mammogram a week earlier led to a more detailed mammogram that led to a biopsy. The phone rang in my office as I was rushing out to chapel and I stopped to answer.

I still remember the first words the radiologist on the line said. "Mrs. Stovall, it's for women like you that I do what I do."

I am one of the lucky ones. They found the cancer in its very early stages.

The next six months involved a partial mastectomy, followed by a second surgery to get clean margins (i.e., they didn't get it all the first time), six weeks of radiation, trying to tolerate cancer prevention drugs and, since my cancer feeds on estrogen, capping it off with a full hysterectomy.

In the midst of all the medical

procedures and appointments, one question kept nagging in the back of my mind: What happens when the body betrays? That is, what if everything that culture and society claims defines me as a woman is either mutilated, diseased or removed—what then for a woman?

I have friends whose cancer was found at later stages, have undergone complete mastectomies, have bald heads, losing more of the outer appearance that screams woman than even I. And the question still hangs in the air: What does it mean to a woman when her body betrays?

Betrayal seems like a strong word, but that is what it felt like.

In the midst of my breast cancer journey along with reproductive issues, I felt like my body's betrayal was chipping away at who I was, making me question whether I was less of a woman than ever before.

I began to let feelings and emotions replace with lies what I knew to be truth. With focused intention, I had to take those thoughts, feelings and lies captive, countering them with the truth once again.

Society communicates and almost worships the physical aspects that

defines one as feminine. The truth is, femininity is not just about body parts. God created me female, and being created as a woman is an essential aspect of my identity.

FIRST PERSON



Terri Stovall

My femininity, my womanliness, is not just what I am, but also who I am. It is all the characteristics, nuances, crazy emotions, soft touches and nurturing heart that make me feminine. Neither surgeon's knife, nor disease, can change what God knitted together from the beginning.

For it was You who created my inward parts; You knit me together in my mother's womb. (Psalm 139:13)

A side effect and lingering

consequence of the battle my body fought is less stamina, energy that wanes quicker and a brain that does not think quite as fast on its feet as it once did.

For one who always tried to go extra miles and do all with excellence (think overachiever), I felt like I was losing my edge, which made me question my competency. I felt weak.

The truth is, I am weak, and whether I live a life of perfect health or not, there will come a time my body will fail me. But God does His best work when I am at

His mercy.

My flesh and my heart may fail, but God is the strength of my heart, my portion forever. (Psalm 73:26)

When I hung up the phone that October morning and walked on to chapel two years ago, my conversation with God ended something like this: "I don't know what journey we are about to take, but Lord, help me to walk worthy."

It isn't always easy. Every day I am reminded of the toll my body has paid. There are days those questions, doubts, fear and pity begin to creep back in. And then there are days like last week, standing outside, holding the letter.

I try not to live in the "what ifs" or worrying whether the next mammogram will show that this monster has reared its head again. I do know that I am still a frail, weak woman who will face an anxious day with each trip to the radiologist.

But I am determined, with focused intention, to hold on to the truths that God created me; He is my strength; I am His girl; and my Father has me tightly wrapped in His arms. (BP)

Terri Stovall is dean of women's programs and associate professor of women's ministries at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas.

Mental illness remains taboo topic for pastors

By Bob Smietana

Nashville, Tenn.—One in four Americans has suffered from some kind of mental illness. Many look to their church for spiritual guidance in times of distress. But a new LifeWay study shows they are unlikely to find much help on Sunday mornings.

Most Protestant senior pastors (66 percent) seldom speak to their congregation about mental illness.

That includes nearly half (49 percent) who rarely (39 percent) or never (10 percent), speak about mental illness. About 1 in 6 pastors (16 percent) speak about mental illness once a year. And about a quarter of pastors (22 percent) are reluctant to help those who suffer from acute mental illness because it takes too much time.

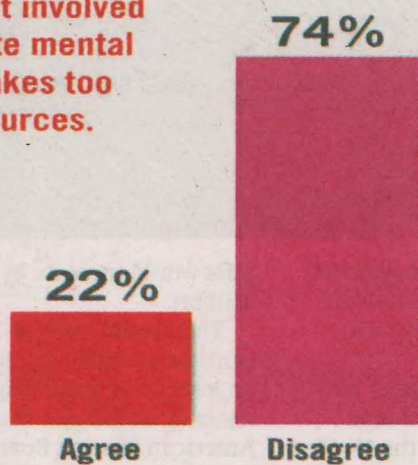
Those are among the findings of a recent study of faith and mental illness by Nashville-based LifeWay Research. The study, co-sponsored by Focus on the Family, was designed to help churches better assist those affected by mental illness.

Researchers looked at three groups for the study.

They surveyed 1,000 senior Protestant pastors about how their churches approach mental illness. Researchers then surveyed 355 Protestant Americans diagnosed with an acute mental illness—either moderate or severe depression, bipolar, or schizophrenia. Among them were 200 church-goers.

A third survey polled 207 Protestant

**Among pastors:
I am reluctant to get involved with those with acute mental illness because it takes too much time and resources.**



Notes: 4% Don't know.

LifeWay
RESEARCH

family members of people with acute mental illness. Researchers also conducted in-depth interviews with 15 experts on spirituality and mental illness.

The study found pastors and churches want to help those who experience mental illness. But those good intentions don't always lead to action.

"Our research found people who suffer from mental illness often turn to pastors for help," Ed Stetzer, executive director of LifeWay Research, said. "But pastors need more guidance and

preparation for dealing with mental health crises. They often don't have a plan to help individuals or families affected by mental illness, and miss opportunities to be the church."

A summary of findings includes a number of what researchers call "key disconnects" including:

■ Only a quarter of churches (27 percent) have a plan to assist families affected by mental illness according to pastors. And only 21 percent of family members are aware of a plan in their church.

■ Few churches (14 percent) have a counselor skilled in mental illness on staff, or train leaders how to recognize mental illness (13 percent) according to pastors.

■ Two-thirds of pastors (68 percent) say their church maintains a list of local mental health resources for church members. But few families (28 percent) are aware those resources exist.

■ Family members (65 percent) and those with mental illness (59 percent) want their church to talk openly about mental illness, so the topic will not be a taboo. But 66 percent of pastors speak to their church once a year or less on the subject.

That silence can leave people feeling ashamed about mental illness, said Jared Pingleton, director of counseling services at Focus on the Family. Those with mental illness can feel left out, as if the church doesn't care. Or worse, they can feel mental illness is a sign of spiritual failure.

"We can talk about diabetes and Aunt Mable's lumbago in church—those are seen as medical conditions," he said. "But mental illness—that's somehow seen as a lack of faith."

"We can talk about diabetes and Aunt Mable's lumbago in church—those are seen as medical conditions. But mental illness—that's somehow seen as a lack of faith."

Jared Pingleton, director of counseling services at Focus on the Family

Most pastors say they know people who have been diagnosed with mental illness. Nearly 6 in 10 (59 percent) have counseled people who were later diagnosed.

And pastors themselves aren't immune from mental illness. About a quarter of pastors (23 percent), say they've experienced some kind of mental illness, while 12 percent say they received a diagnosis for a mental health condition.

But those pastors are often reluctant to share their struggles, said Chuck Hannaford, a clinical psychologist and president of HeartLife Professional Soul-Care in Germantown, Tenn. He was one of the experts interviewed for the project.

Hannaford counsels pastors in his practice and said many—if they have a mental illness like depression or anxiety—won't share that information with the congregation.

He doesn't think pastors should share all the details of their diagnosis. But they could acknowledge they struggle with mental illness.

"You know it's a shame that we can't be more open about it," he told researchers. "But what I'm talking about is just an openness from the pulpit that people struggle with these issues and it's not an easy answer."

Michael Lyles, an Atlanta-based psychiatrist, says more than half his patients come from an evangelical Christian background. He found that most of

them were hesitant to share their diagnosis at church.

"The vast majority of them have not told anybody in their church what they were going through, including their pastors, including small group leaders, everybody," Lyles said.

Stetzer said what appears to be missing in most church responses is "an open forum for discussion and intervention that could help remove the stigma associated with mental illness."

"Churches talk openly about cancer, diabetes, heart attacks and other health conditions—they should do the same for mental illness, in order to reduce the sense of stigma," Stetzer said.

Researchers asked those with mental illness about their experience in church.

■ A few (10 percent) say they've changed churches because of how a particular church responded to their mental illness. Another 13 percent either

□ See Mental illness ... Page 7

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Mental illness

Continued from page 6

stopped attending church (8 percent) or could not find a church (5 percent). More than a third (37 percent) answered, "don't know," when asked how their church's reaction to their illness affected them.

■ Among regular churchgoers with mental illness, about half (52 percent) say they have stayed at the same church. Fifteen percent changed churches, while 8 percent stopped going to church, and 26 percent said, "Don't know."

■ More than half (53 percent) say their church has been supportive. About 13 percent say their church was not supportive. A third (33 percent) answered, "don't know" when asked if their church was supportive.

LifeWay Research also asked open-ended questions about how mental illness has affected people's faith. Those without support from the church said they struggled.

■ "My faith has gone to pot and I have so little trust in others," one respondent told researchers.

■ "I have no help from anyone," another respondent said. But others found support when they told their church about their mental illness.

■ "Several people at my church (including my pastor) have confided that they too suffer from mental illness," one respondent said.

■ "Reminding me that God will get me through and to take my meds," another said.

Mental illness, like other chronic conditions, can feel overwhelming at times, Pingleton said. Patients can feel as if

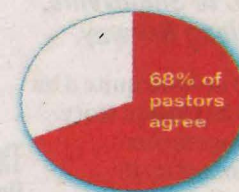
their diagnosis defines their life. But that's not how the Bible sees those with mental illness, he said.

Pingleton pointed out that many biblical characters suffered from emotional struggles. And some, were they alive today, would likely be diagnosed with mental illness.

"The Bible is filled with people who struggled with suicide, or were majorly depressed or bi-polar, he said. "David was totally bi-polar. Elijah probably was as well. They are not remembered for those things. They are remembered for their faith."

LifeWay Research's study was featured in a two-day radio broadcast from Focus on the Family. The study, along with a guide for pastors on how to assist those with mental illness and other downloadable resources, will be posted at Family.org. (BP)

Mental health resources need to be communicated and made available.



Church maintains a list of local mental health resources for church members



Families are aware of resources for mentally ill exist in their church

LifeWayResearch.com

Southern marks Graham school's 20th anniversary

By James Smith Sr. and RuthAnne Irvin

Louisville—Trustees of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary celebrated the 20th anniversary of the Billy Graham School of Missions, Evangelism and Ministry during the Oct. 13-14 fall trustee meeting at the Louisville campus.

During a special chapel service marking the occasion, Thom Rainer, the Billy Graham School's founding dean, preached a sermon on evangelism and President Albert Mohler Jr. read a congratulatory letter from the Graham family.

Mohler read the letter from Will Graham, grandson of Billy Graham and vice president of the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association describing the nearly 96-year-old evangelist as "homebound, frail and weak, but confident in heart about the promises of eternity and the truth of the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ."

Will Graham noted that his grandfather had been reluctant to grant his name's use for the seminary's new graduate school—"Not because he was reticent about the vision and promise of the school, but he was cognizant of his own inadequacies and purposed then to be certain that God would be glorified and that the gospel would be the main focus of the school. That has been more than realized through these 20 years" lived through the lives of BGS alumni.

"Beyond my grandfather's trust in the originating vision and purpose of the school, there was another reason for his willingness to lend his name to Southern—and that was you," Will Graham wrote, addressing Mohler.

Noting that his grandfather spoke during inauguration activities for Mohler in 1993, he recalled Billy Graham's praise of Mohler's vision, theological convictions and devotion to evangelism and missions, "which he believed would be the passion of Southern for decades to come. We see that reality today through the work of the seminary."

Rainer, prior to his message, received the E.Y. Mullins Distinguished Denominational Service Award, which Mohler noted is one of the seminary's highest honors. Rainer was recognized for his "remarkable legacy of leadership" as pastor, scholar, teacher and founding dean of the Billy Graham School as well as for his

role as author, speaker and president of LifeWay Christian Resources of the Southern Baptist Convention.

Mohler said Rainer is "one of the great denominational statesmen of our age" and said "the story of the Billy Graham School is inseparable from the story of Dr. Thom Rainer and his leadership of the Graham School for many years."

Surprised and "really humbled" by the honor, Rainer said, "The legacy of the Graham School, is not the dean, not an organization or an institution, but the men and women who have come and gone and are making a Great Commission, Gospel difference around the world." Rainer served as BGS dean from 1994-2005.

In a sermon titled "We Are Unable to Stop Speaking," Rainer preached on the imperative of evangelism from the Acts 4:13-22 account of Peter and John addressing Jewish leaders after healing a lame man. When Peter and John were ordered to stop witnessing to people, they refused and said, "Whether it is right in the sight of God to listen to you rather than to God, you must judge, for we cannot but speak of what we have seen and heard" (Acts 4:19-20).

Gospel-powered evangelism cannot help but speak. "Don't just talk evangelism, don't just program evangelism," Rainer said. "Let it be so much of who you are that you cannot help but speak about what you have seen and heard."

Adam Greenway, dean of the Billy Graham School since 2013, told the Oct. 14 chapel audience, "The Billy Graham School matters because it testifies publicly, before a watching world of Southern Baptists, broader evangelicals and to the culture at large, that Southern Seminary is not just serious about theological recovery but about Great Commission passion. That is who we are as Southern Seminary."

The seminary also marked the BGS anniversary during a reception in which a portrait of Graham was unveiled. The portrait by Aileen Ortlip Shea, sister-in-law of longtime Graham associate George Beverly Shea, is a replica of the one that was presented in 1962 at the dedication of the Billy Graham Room in the seminary's James P. Boyce Centennial Library. The portrait will be permanently displayed in Cooke Hall, the home of the BGS. (BP)



Albert Mohler Jr., president of Southern Seminary, congratulates Thom Rainer, president of LifeWay Christian Resources, as the recipient of the seminary's E.Y. Mullins Distinguished Denominational Service Award during a special chapel service celebrating the 20th anniversary of the Billy Graham School of Missions, Evangelism and Ministry. (SBTS photo)

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Traveling and telling the Oneida story

From Jackson Co. to Shelbyville, visiting friends along the way

I find myself on the road quite a bit these days, telling the Oneida story. These speaking engagements range from two minutes to 40 minutes. I can talk all day about what the Lord is doing at Oneida. I recently made a three-day, two-night trip I would like to tell you about.

I left home on a Sunday morning and headed north to Jackson County. I visited Second Blackwater Baptist Church, which I had served as pastor in 2003-2004.

A sweet friend in that church—who had spoiled and loved on my family in our previous time there—knew I was coming.

She introduced me to the pastor. He asked if I wanted to preach, and I told him I could speak about the Lord and Oneida for as long or little as he desired. I spoke for nearly 40 minutes, and then visited my friend's house for a wonderful home-cooked meal.

I then headed for Shelbyville, where I attended the annual Shelby Baptist Association meeting. I was given 10 minutes to share about Oneida. At that meeting, I learned that the director of missions had a daughter who had attended Oneida.

I then headed for Georgetown to take advantage of some free lodging with friends and a hot bowl of chili. The following day I visited several churches and met several great men who lead those churches.

They were very gracious to sit and

listen to the Oneida story, especially considering my visit was unannounced.

I then headed for Frankfort to visit a surplus store to check out some used items we might possibly need. Their prices were a bit hefty for my liking, so I returned to Georgetown and tried to visit Toyota. I was unsuccessful in securing a meeting, but will continue to work on this possibility. I then returned to my lodging and had another bowl of chili, which, by the way, was just as good as it was the night before.

The following morning I headed into Louisville, where I attended chapel at the seminary. The speaker gave a powerful message about adultery, warning against the perils that ministers of the gospel face.

After grabbing some "Christian chicken" for lunch at Chick-fil-A, it was over to the KBC for a meeting. There I was able to chat with my good friends, Dr. Jim Taylor and Dr. Donnie Fox. It was good to be encouraged by two men of God.

I also was able to chat for a bit with Dr. Paul Chitwood, and I am appreciative of his support and care for Oneida.

After returning to campus, I played a little catch up in my office and then attended our girls' soccer game, which we won 10-0.

It is a privilege to tell the Oneida story, and I may one day soon be coming your way.

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

You can only run for a while

Family surrenders to God's call after 16 years, 7 children later

I often joke with people when I talk about Clear Creek Baptist Bible College that the average age of our student body is around 30 years old for a reason. Most of our students that come to us are in their later years because many of them have usually been running from the Lord's call on their lives for many years; and any of us who have surrendered to God's call on our lives know from experience that you can only run from God's call for a while. Eventually you just have to surrender your life.

We recently had a student and his family accepted to Clear Creek who shared with us their unique testimony about how God just wouldn't let them get away from His call even after 16 years.

The student and his wife initially visited Clear Creek 16 years ago before they had any children. He felt God's call on his life to ministry and was ready to come, but at the time she just wasn't surrendered to that call. Unbeknownst to the husband, after that initial visit to the college, the wife would hide any future correspondence from Clear Creek from the husband.

Fast forward 16 years and seven children later when the husband, wife and family were at a family missions week celebration and met one of our current students who was attending.

They started talking about Clear Creek and sharing their story with our current student, telling how they had visited the college 16 years earlier and how the wife hid all correspondence sent to the husband.

The current student encouraged them to continue to follow up on what God started in their lives 16 years earlier.

The family contacted our admissions department and talked with them about coming to Clear Creek. They began to work through the admissions process, and now they are fully accepted to start classes at Clear Creek in the spring of 2015.

Admissions Director Shannon Benefiel recently spoke at an annual association meeting in the very church where the student preached just the Sunday before. The family was so excited about getting started at Clear Creek and being in the center of God's will.

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

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Hillsong big winner at Dove Awards

Nashville, Tenn.—Hillsong UNITED, a worship band at Australia's Hillsong Church, was the big winner at the Gospel Music Association's 45th annual Dove Awards Oct. 7.

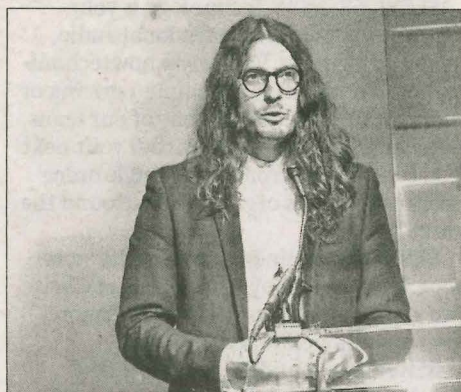
The band was named Artist of the Year and their song "Oceans (Where Feet May Fail)" received awards for Song of the Year, Contemporary Christian Performance of the Year, Pop/Contemporary Song of the Year and Worship Song of the Year. The song has been at or near the top of the Christian charts for more than a year.

Switchfoot received awards for Rock/Contemporary Song of the Year and Rock/Contemporary Album of the Year, and Skillet took home Doves for Rock Song of the Year and Rock Album of the Year. Worship artist Chris Tomlin was named Songwriter of the Year and popular independent artist Ellie Holcomb was named New Artist of the Year.

For the second year in a row, the awards were held at Lipscomb University's Allen Arena in Nashville. The show, featuring performances by Mercy Me, Natalie Grant, For King & Country, Karen Peck & New River, Mandisa and many others, was recorded and broadcast worldwide Oct. 12.

Hosted by Mercy Me front man Bart Millard and Billboard chart topper Lecrae, the show opened with a bang as Newsboys lead singer Michael Tait dropped from the ceiling in the center of the arena singing the band's hit "God's Not Dead." The movie of the same name, in which the song is featured, received the award for Inspirational Film of the Year.

In a surprise presentation, Mercy Me was recognized for the certified double platinum status of their song "I Can Only Imagine." It is the first gospel song ever



JD of Hillsong UNITED accepts one of the five trophies the group received during the 45th annual Dove Awards. The band was named Artist of the Year, and their song "Oceans (Where Feet May Fail)" was voted Song of the Year. (Photo by Rick Diamond/Getty Images)

to reach 2 million digital downloads.

Hillsong UNITED band member Jonathan Douglass (known as JD) made several trips to the microphone to accept each of the band's awards.

"We started writing songs for our high school friends in our suburbs," Douglass said, according to AP, "songs that were our expressions to glorify Jesus."

Hillsong Church also received the GMA's annual Lifetime Achievement Award for its 20-year contribution to church music and the gospel music industry. The Sydney megachurch was founded in 1983 and has grown to include campuses across Australia and on several continents.

Recordings produced by the church's various praise bands have sold millions of copies, and many of the church's original songs have become staples in churches around the world such as "Shout to the Lord," "The Power of Your Love," "Mighty to Save" and "Oceans," to name just a few. (BP)

A hybrid giving idea

Flexible endowment fund is an option worth considering

You may desire to provide a perpetual stream of contributions for the benefit of your church, a favorite Baptist cause and/or other Christian ministries, but you are unable at this time to fully fund the perpetual endowment fund to make that happen.

A flexible endowment fund, administered by the Kentucky Baptist Foundation, is an option worthy of your consideration.

It allows you to have a plan that establishes a permanent endowment fund over a defined, but flexible time period. During this flexible funding period, you also make on-going contributions directly to the cause(s) you intend to benefit.

A simple example would be to establish a flexible endowment to provide scholarship assistance for students to attend one of our Kentucky Baptist Christian education institutions. To provide \$1,000 of annual assistance the endowment fund would need to be \$25,000 assuming a 4 percent annual distribution rate. The distribution rate is not the same as the investment earnings rate. The distribution rate takes into consideration the rate of inflation and the investment costs so the fund will have an inflation-adjusted growth

to the principal over time.

Let's assume you could establish the flexible endowment fund with a \$10,000 gift, and you would agree to contribute the remaining \$15,000 over the next five years.

Alongside your \$15,000 pledge to fund fully the endowment, you also pledge to contribute directly to the institution during the funding period the difference in the \$1,000 scholarship assistance and the distributable earnings from the invested principal in the endowment fund. As you fund the principal of the endowment, the principal should

grow in value to produce an increasing amount of distributable earnings, and therefore, your direct annual contribution to the institution should decrease. Once the endowment has been funded fully with the \$25,000, you would have no more responsibility to make contributions related to this flexible endowment.

Scholarship assistance is just one of many ideas that lend themselves to this hybrid giving idea. Call Laurie Valentine or me toll-free for more information about how you can make a lasting difference with a flexible endowment fund.

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

Thank you Ky. Baptists!

More than \$1.2 million given for second time in 100 years

Thank you, Kentucky Baptists, for your faithful giving of \$1,212,200 to the 2013-14, an increase of more than \$22,000 from the prior year. This is only the second time in the 100-year history of the offering that we have exceeded \$1.2 million.

Now we are underway with the 2014-15 Eliza Broadus Offering. As I have been out in the state this fall for various associational meetings, I have been excited to see "Power to Serve" posters up in churches. Thank you for helping us to tell the story of Kentucky missions and EBO.

The largest portion of EBO is channeled through the Kentucky Baptist Convention for state missionaries, church planting, evangelism, collegiate ministry, church and community ministries, language missions, and much more. For 2014-15, that will be \$860,000.

The offering also includes \$135,000 for Kentucky Baptist associations and special ministries. We provide a \$500 grant to every Kentucky Baptist association (70) to be used for missions outreach by the association. We also receive grant requests from ministries across Kentucky, which apply directly to Kentucky WMU. The application form for grants from this year's offering is included on our state missions web page: kywmu.org/ebo. The Kentucky WMU Executive

Board seeks to stretch these funds as far as they will go and provide as many grants as possible for Kentucky Baptist ministries.

Reports of how association and ministry grants were used have included evangelism efforts, special ministries in the association, purchase of needed equipment for disaster relief, and other projects. Associations and other ministries that receive EBO grants are required to complete an accountability form reporting on the use of funds received. This is important not only for accountability to Kentucky Baptists, but also to help

us tell the story of how the offering is used and its impact on missions in Kentucky.

A portion of the Eliza Broadus Offering is used by Kentucky WMU to provide missions education and events which inspire people to greater involvement. In the coming year, students and children will have hands on missions opportunities through Kentucky Changers, Creative Ministries Festival, Children's Ministry Day, and Mission Adventure for Kentucky Kids.

The theme and challenge of the upcoming Kentucky Baptist Convention Annual Meeting is "Tell Your Story." We have a great story to tell—of our Savior and of missions in Kentucky!

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

98-year-old messenger attends annual meeting

By Myriah Snyder

Cadiz—At 98 years old, Rozell Burgess is one of the oldest messengers at Little River Baptist Association in Cadiz. She attended the annual meeting on Oct. 6.

She is a longtime member of Cerulean Baptist Church, where Greg Giltner serves as interim pastor. Her membership has been there since she was baptized in the 1940s.

Burgess "rarely misses a service," according to a deacon at Cerulean, Wilburn Wilson. For about 30 years she served as a Sunday School teacher. She still attends Sunday School as a member of Wilson's senior citizens' class.

This year, for her 98th birthday, she received an award for her continued service to the church.

"She is a great encourager and a witness, and is always willing to help others," Wilson said. "I'm so thankful she has the health to continue doing all of this. In fact, just yesterday (Oct. 12) she was there for both the morning and the evening worship services."

Mike Rust has been Little River's director of missions for 12 years. "Last year we had our 200th anniversary, and we asked everyone to dress up in the era attire of the 1813s, and she did," he said.

"She was the oldest messenger at the association, but we did have some others



Rozell Burgess and Wilburn Wilson at last year's 200th anniversary annual meeting. Burgess dressed up in 1813-period costume.

that were in their 90s." Rust continued, "We also had some folks that were teens and under 30."

"I just enjoy them. I haven't missed one in I don't know when," Burgess said about the annual meetings.

She and her late husband, Earl, received Christ at the same time in the 1940s. Burgess was baptized in 1945 at Muddy Fork Creek at Cerulean. Burgess was born and raised around Cerulean. She and Earl had two daughters, Joyce and Carolyn. She retired in 1981. (WR)



October

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

November

- 4** November Power Lunch, Kentucky Baptist Building, Louisville.
- 8** Girls in Action Jam 2014, First Baptist Church, Shelbyville.

MOUNTAINS TO THE MISSISSIPPI

COMPILED BY STAFF

CAMPBELLSVILLE—Saloma Baptist Church will hold its fall Sunday revival Oct. 26 at 5 p.m. **Jeff Eaton** will be preaching. His wife, **Julie**, will provide special music. **John Chowning** is pastor.

CLINTON—Moscow Baptist Church will hold its fall revival Nov. 2-5, with **Glen Holderfield** as the evangelist. Services are Sunday at 6 p.m., and Monday-Wednesday at 7 p.m. **Tim Stinson** is pastor.

EDDYVILLE—New Bethel Baptist Church has called **Jerrell White** as pastor.

LEXINGTON—Grace Baptist Church will host Van Berry and Friends in concert on Sunday, Oct. 26 at 6 p.m. **Steve Price** is pastor.

LOUISVILLE—Bethlehem Baptist Church will host a concert featuring the Commonwealth Quartet from Gallatin, Tenn., on Sunday, Oct. 26 at 5 p.m.

Fern Creek Baptist Church will hold its homecoming celebration on Sunday, Oct. 26, celebrating 60 years. A luncheon will follow morning worship, and a concert and celebration will begin at 2 p.m. **Linda Barnes Popham** is pastor.

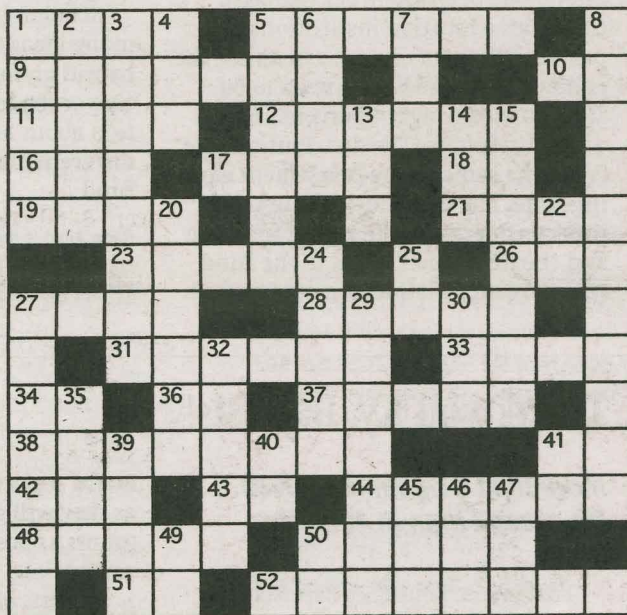
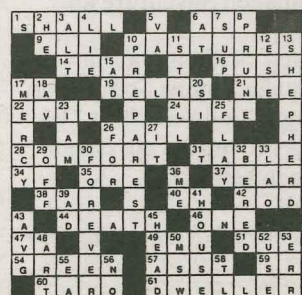
SCOTTSVILLE—Scottsville Baptist Church will host the Allen Baptist Association Family Focus on Oct. 26 at 6:30 p.m. **Dale Darley** is pastor.

Bible Crosswords

Across

- 1 "Ye are the _____ of the earth" (Matthew 5:13)
- 5 Peter healed this man who had been bedridden with palsy for eight years (Acts 9:33-34)
- 9 "I am _____ your pillows" (Ezekiel 13:20)
- 10 "_____, I am with you alway" (Matthew 28:20)
- 11 Og's bed was made of this (Deuteronomy 3:11)
- 12 Set apart for worship
- 16 Edward's nickname
- 17 A camel has one
- 18 Quality, suffix
- 19 "It shall return, and shall be eaten: as a _____ tree" (Isaiah 6:13)
- 21 Presently
- 23 "Strain at a gnat, and swallow a _____" (Matthew 23:24)
- 26 "Go to the _____, thou sluggard" (Proverbs 6:6)
- 27 Noah's son
- 28 "Listen, O _____, unto me" (Isaiah 49:1)
- 31 A magistrate of ancient Rome
- 33 A case for holding small articles
- 34 The second note of the musical scale
- 36 Nickel, chem. symbol
- 37 "That we may _____ our hearts, unto wisdom" (Psalms 90:12)
- 38 "I will _____ thee and teach thee" (Psalms 32:8)
- 41 Not off
- 42 Winged mammal
- 43 Kentucky's neighbor, abbr.
- 44 "The twenty-four _____ fall down before him"

#014



#015

- (Revelation 4:10 NIV)
- 48 "Rejoice not against me, O mine _____" (Micah 7:8)
- 50 Step
- 51 I
- 52 "Lips of wise _____ knowledge" (Proverbs 15:7)
- Down**
- 1 "Salute every _____ in Christ" (Philippians 4:21)
- 2 "_____ with thine adversary" (Matthew 5:25)
- 3 John sent his Revelation to this church in Asia Minor (Revelation 1:11)
- 4 "_____ that may abide the fire" (Numbers 31:22-23)
- 5 "And hereby we know that we are of the truth, and shall _____ our hearts before him" (1 John 3:19)
- 6 Where Samson lived after he slaughtered the Philistines (Judges 15:8, 11)
- 7 "He that hath an _____, let him hear" (Revelation 2:7)
- 8 Paul wrote one of his epistles to these people
- 13 Compound, abbr.
- 14 Seventh letter of the Greek alphabet
- 15 Succession of rulers from the same descent
- 20 "Kings of the earth shall _____" (Revelation 18:9)
- 22 Activated
- 24 Spring-flowering bush with fragrant blossoms
- 25 Twelfth letter of the alphabet
- 27 "The Son of man shall be betrayed unto the chief priests and unto the _____" (Matthew 20:18)
- 29 Groups of seven
- 30 Elongated fish
- 32 Soiled
- 35 The father of Ahira (Numbers 1:15)
- 39 "And there shall come forth a rod out of the _____ of Jesse" (Isaiah 11:1)
- 40 Not, prefix
- 41 Either
- 45 "One went out into the field to gather herbs, ... and gathered thereof wild gourds his _____ full" (2 Kings 4:39)
- 46 What would happen to Adam and Eve if they ate the forbidden fruit
- 47 "The wayfaring men ... shall not _____" (Isaiah 35:8)
- 49 "Come unto _____, all ye that labour" (Matthew 11:28)
- 50 Silicon, chem. symbol

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

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. Resumes accepted through Nov. 30.

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.

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

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. Resumes 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 resumé may be viewed on the church website at www.n-side.org. Resumes will be accepted until the position is filled.

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 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: Bethlehem Baptist Church is seeking a part-time office manager proficient in Microsoft Office products. Applicant must be able to effectively communicate verbally and in writing. Recent experience is preferred. Salary will be commensurate with experience. Send resumé to Vic Peek at vicpeek@gmail.com.

SEEKING: Beacon Hill Baptist Church of Somerset, Ky., is seeking a worship pastor to lead our congregation of 500 in blended worship. Weekly responsibilities include arrangement, practice and oversight of adult, student and children's choirs, orchestra, praise band and soloists. Compensation to be negotiated by education and experience, using SBC and Richard Hammar compensation-surveys. Formal music education and training required. Please send resumé (no electronic submissions) and DVD to Beacon Hill Baptist Church, P.O. Box 3061, West Somerset, KY 42564. Questions may be addressed to pastor@beaconhillbaptist.com.

SEEKING: A God called pastor to lead His flock at a Southern Baptist church in Bowling Green, Ky. Send resumé to P.O. Box 129, Rockfield, KY, 42274.

SEEKING: The Nashville Baptist Association in Nashville, Tenn., is seeking a full-time church equipping specialist. Applicant must have a passion for assisting churches, experience working with different people groups, and knowledge of associational workings. Seminary degree and previous ministerial experience preferred. For inquiries on the job description or to submit a resumé, email cdufresne@nashvillebaptists.com or call 615-259-3034.

SEEKING: Elk Horn Baptist Church, a soul winning-life changing church, is seeking an enthusiastic and creative children's minister to provide vision, development, direction, and management of all aspects of the children's ministry from newborn through fifth grade (approximately 150 to 175 children). The children's minister will be responsible for planning, coordinating and overseeing all areas of our growing children's ministry. The applicant must be a devoted follower of Jesus Christ and have a heart, passion and calling for children's ministry. A college degree is preferred but not required; experience is a plus. Base salary begins at \$25,000. To apply, please email a resumé, along with a statement of beliefs and preferably a photo to office@elkhornbc.org. Paper resumes can be mailed to Elk Horn Baptist Church, 3145 E. Elkhorn Rd., Campbellsville, KY 42218. A full job description can be found on the church website at www.elkhornbc.11org. Resumes will be accepted through Oct. 25.

Wisconsin campus gifted to Southern Seminary

By James Smith Sr.

Louisville—Trustees of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary unanimously accepted the gift of a Christian university campus in Wisconsin as a new extension campus of the seminary and its undergraduate Boyce College during their Oct. 13-14 fall meeting in Louisville.

Trustees also celebrated the 20th anniversary of the Billy Graham School of Missions, Evangelism and Ministry, and elected three faculty members.

The gifting of Northland International University, an evangelical school in Dunbar, Wis., to Southern Seminary has been approved by Northland's trustees effective Aug. 1, 2015. For Boyce College, it will provide its first campus outside of Louisville.

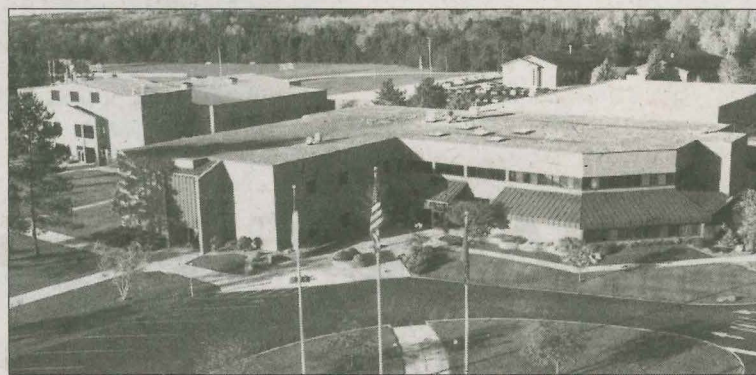
"The fact that there will be a Boyce College and Southern Seminary campus located in Wisconsin on a campus of this stature is an enormous step forward for Southern Baptists," SBT's President Albert Mohler Jr. said. "I can only imagine what the founders of the Southern Baptist Convention would think to know that the

reach of the SBC and its mother seminary is now of this magnitude in the upper Midwest."

Daniel Patz, president of Northland since 2013, attended the meeting and told trustees that the campus is not just a gift to Southern Seminary. "... (E)ven more so, it is a gift to us in order for this legacy and this mission to continue; it is the greatest mission in the world, to bring the gospel to the ends of the earth," Patz said.

Patz's grandfather, Daniel Patz, founded Northland in 1958 as a camp and expanded it in 1976 to become Northland Baptist Bible Institute. A year later, Northland became an undergraduate college, adding a graduate program in 1988. Northland has sent 2,900 alumni in ministry across the world.

In addition to the academic expansion for Southern and Boyce, the Northland campus will provide a location for youth camps, church planting training and faculty retreats on its 660-acre campus. Southern Seminary trustees previously approved a strategic partnership with Northland, and administrators evaluated



The 660-acre Wisconsin campus of Northland International University has been gifted to Southern Seminary as an extension center for the seminary and its undergraduate Boyce College. (SBTS photo)

the school's potential as a future campus.

Dennis Hansen, Bay Lakes Baptist Association director of missions in Appleton, Wis., said the action will help train "indigenous" leaders.

"I see a bright future for planting churches and continuing beyond Wisconsin and the upper peninsula of Michigan," Hansen said.

Mohler said, "This is important not just for Southern Seminary and not just for the cause of Christian higher education, but for the cause of Christ and the future of the Southern Baptist

Convention. This is exactly the kind of development that Southern Baptists should celebrate."

Also during the trustee meeting, three professors were elected to the faculty. Elected, effective Jan. 1, 2015, were Adam Greenway, dean of the Billy Graham School and William Walker Brookes Associate Professor of Evangelism and Applied Apologetics; Denny Burk, professor of biblical studies; and Donald Whitney, professor of biblical spirituality.

All three previously taught under presidential appointment. (BP)

South Asia flood and landslide relief focuses on massive need

By Susie Rain

South Asia—It was just a pile of rubble. The clumps of rocks, bricks and splintered wood melded together with mud dotted the mountainous landscape, each topped with twisted and crumpled tin.

The two 20-something Americans couldn't believe their eyes. It had been nearly one month since an unusually late monsoon season triggered the worst floods and landslides in 50 years across the South Asia region and no one had reached this village yet to help.

Wolfgang Sebastian* and Mason Buell*, both Christian workers in South Asia, hiked beyond the flooded valleys and up into the mountains where landslides wreaked havoc to assess damage for relief projects.

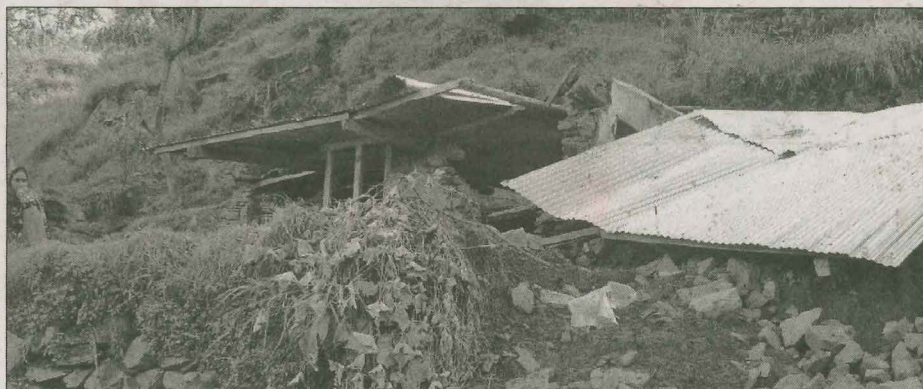
Help couldn't reach many villages like this one because roads were taken out, right along with their homes. The duo found most residents of the rural village digging in the mud trying to find remnants of their lives.

"This is 20-plus days after the initial collapse of their homes and they're still digging and looking for useful utensils and food," Sebastian said about their assessment trip. "That really stuck out to me—20-plus days after and help is still needed on such a basic level! We were among the first to bring in supplies and that was only what we could carry. It wasn't enough."

Flooding and landslides, along with the devastating aftermath, are not new to this region of the world. It happens nearly every year but this year's late monsoon season is being called one of the worst in 50 years, possibly even a century.

An estimated 20 million people throughout Bangladesh, Nepal, India and Pakistan have been affected.

Tens of thousands of villages have been wiped out. Hundreds of thousands have been displaced. Millions will have to refurbish or totally rebuild. And in this Himalaya region, winter is right around



Heavy monsoon rains in South Asia reduced this family home to a pile of rubble in this mountainous village. The rains triggered flooding and mudslides that wiped out entire villages. (BGR photo)

the corner. Baptists are responding to this natural disaster through Global Hunger Relief and Baptist Global Response's field partners. Initial funds helped Sebastian and Buell to hike in food.

But as the two workers noted, there's a lot to be done across the four countries. Francis Horton, BGR South Asia area director, explained that there are 10 ongoing projects to help with the aftermath of this year's flood season.

"We are responding to ongoing needs from Pakistan, Bangladesh, India and Nepal," Horton said. "Srinagar (India) is probably the single worst area but there will end up being more displaced people in Pakistan as the flood is still moving south with the swollen rivers."

The flooding began in late August with torrential rain in Nepal. Workers there say most people could not plant rice in their fields, lost livestock and homes were damaged. The rains continued that month, resulting in heavy flooding in Bangladesh. This forced thousands to flee their homes. The fate of their livestock and fields were the same as Nepal.

Then, September came with more rain and the rivers in India and Pakistan flooded their banks and spilled out into the towns. The heavy rainfall caused numerous mudslides.

The 10 relief projects will impact about

18,000 people in 6,700 villages throughout this affected region and will need about \$170,000 in funding to complete the plans. It's just a drop in the bucket when compared to the massive numbers governments say are in need.

But Sebastian and Buell point out, they are trying to find the "forgotten" communities to help ... those that have not been reached because they are off the main road. The projects will also focus on niche items that may not be provided through general relief such as, clean drinking water, tin roofs and proper sanitation.

"We're trying to get into places that no one has really gotten into or has passed over," Buell said, after describing scenes of dejected people who were so drained from a month of trying to survive that they just sat on the side of the road—too tired to voice their needs.

Relief packets were distributed to displaced in Nepal who lived on the side of an elevated street after their homes were destroyed. Masses of people in India and Pakistan received hygiene kits to help prevent rampant diseases spread during natural disasters. In some areas, they moved on to the rehabilitation stage and funds help to buy tin sheets and tents to serve as roofs for new homes.

There are still those that need the basics, though. A group of men hiked all day down a mountain trail to get to Buell and Sebastian. They loaded the men up with as much rice, beans and tarps as they could carry back up the mountain.

"I feel really inadequate in explaining why I'm there," Buell said. "I want them to know the Name that has brought this help to them. There is so much need that all we can do is pray."

To learn how you can help with the needs from the South Asia floods 2014, visit www.gobgr.org. (BP)

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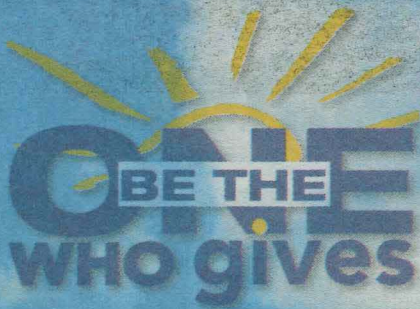
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2 Corinthians 9:11

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