

WESTERN Recorder

October 28, 2014

Shine Like Stars * Philippians 2:15

Volume 188, Issue 40

Kentuckian new chair of SBC Committee on Nominations

Nashville, Tenn.—Princeton editor Chip Hutcheson has been elected to serve as chairman of the Southern Baptist Convention's Committee on Nominations.

In the new role, Hutcheson, president of the Kentucky Baptist Convention, will lead the panel that nominates individuals to serve on the SBC boards, commissions and committees. Hutcheson will present those nominees at the SBC's annual meeting in Columbus, Ohio, next year.

"I am very honored and humbled to be chosen to chair this committee, which makes decisions that impact Southern Baptists and kingdom work for years to come," Hutcheson said.

"The opportunity to serve with so many godly leaders in Kentucky has been an incredible blessing," he said.

"The privilege now of serving in a convention-wide position is quite exciting. Just as people have prayed for me in my position with KBC, I ask they continue to do so related to this work."

Hutcheson, publisher of the Princeton Times Leader and The Eagle Post in Oak Grove, concludes his one-year term as KBC president next month with the annual meeting of the Kentucky Baptist Convention in Bowling Green.

A member of Southside Baptist Church in Princeton, Hutcheson has been active in Baptist life for many years, serving multiple terms on the Public Affairs Committee and as a trustee for the Western Recorder.

"I'm thrilled that a Kentucky Baptist layman will be leading what is arguably the most important committee in the Southern Baptist Convention," KBC Executive Director Paul Chitwood said.

"In his role as KBC president, Chip has proven to be a man of godly wisdom and biblical conviction.

"I'm confident he will serve Southern Baptists as effectively as he is serving Kentucky Baptists." (KBC)



Hutcheson

Kentucky Baptist churches aim to fill 2,800 buckets for BGR relief projects

By Robin Cornetet

Bowling Green—Kentucky Baptists have packed more than 2,000 Baptist Global Response buckets this year, and they are encouraged to continue their efforts by bringing at least 800 more to the Kentucky Baptist Convention Annual Meeting in Bowling Green Nov. 11.

More than 1 million people in sub-Saharan Africa die each year as a result of the AIDS virus, and most leave this world having never heard of Jesus. Each bucket shipped through BGR carries with it a promise that along with much-needed hospice supplies, the terminally ill recipient will be presented with the gospel.

"These simple, plastic buckets—filled with items most of us take for granted—have the opportunity to show love to a dying person," KBC Executive Director Paul Chitwood said, "but more importantly, they are being used to introduce the lost to Christ as the greatest act of love."

Wanda Edminster, who volunteers with her husband as Kentucky's BGR bucket coordinators, said each shipping container bound for South Africa can hold about 800 five-gallon buckets. Two containers have already been sent from Kentucky—one was shipped in April, the other in late August.

With hospice supplies in each bucket totaling about \$85, Edminster said taking on this ministry can be a "big commitment," especially for a small church or an individual. Some churches, like First Baptist Church of Junction City, have held dessert auctions and used the proceeds from jewelry party sales to raise the needed funds, she said.

"We really felt it pressed upon our hearts to do the Bucket Project, but financially we had no idea how it was going to come about," Junction City Pastor Choe Sergeant said. "Once we made the decision to be obedient and just do it, that's when everything started coming together."

Through fundraisers and contributions from members and local business owners, First Baptist, Junction City was able to fill 40 hospice buckets. Before they were shipped, Sergeant said he led his church in praying over the containers.

"The Bucket Project did an amazing thing for our people," the pastor said. "It inflamed our passion for international missions and has furthered our desire toward cooperative missions partnerships and Cooperative Program giving because we've seen what is being done."

The Bucket Project is having a positive effect on other churches as well, said BGR Hospice Kit Project Director Lori Funderbunk, who has received letters and emails from ministry leaders excited about how the buckets are bringing people together for a common purpose.

Since last year, more than 6,000 hospice buckets have been shipped

to Africa. Funderbunk said she anticipates Kentucky Baptists will add another 2,000 to that total this November—and missionaries have told her each bucket counts.

"Know that when you snap those lids on the buckets and when you pray over them, the next time they are opened will be in the presence of somebody in need of those items," Funderbunk said—and likely in need of salvation through Jesus Christ. (KBC)



Collegiates embrace Engage24 evangelism challenge

By Kristen Camp

Alpharetta, Ga.—College students across the United States were joined by believers of all ages as they participated in Engage24, a one-on-one evangelism initiative that challenged Christians to share the gospel with at least one person in a 24-hour time period.

When the development of Engage24 began in 2011, Brian Frye, the national collegiate strategist for the North American Mission Board, and

his team believed that encouraging college students to share their faith required a creative approach.

"Instead of focusing on the end result, we decided to, first, focus on the process," Frye said of the Oct. 14 effort. "Instead of only concentrating on how many people came to Christ on one particular day, we wanted to see how many college students would share their faith on that particular day. And if we did that first, then we could ultimately accomplish the goal of

seeing people come to Christ."

One-on-one evangelism has had a personal, life-changing impact on one particular student at the University of Texas at Arlington. A Cambodian with Buddhist roots, Putti Sok came to Christ after a fellow student shared the gospel with her. Seeing how one-on-one evangelism changed her life, she is now on staff with Baptist Campus Ministry at the university and leads their campus' Engage24 movement.

Kevin Stacy, collegiate projects specialist for NAMB, noted it can be difficult to

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Western Recorder 10-28-2014

Bowling Green pastor states goals as KBC presidential nominee

Tom James, pastor of Eastwood Baptist Church in Bowling Green, will be nominated as Kentucky Baptist Convention president when the KBC annual meeting convenes Nov. 11 in Bowling Green. He is currently the only announced candidate.

James has led Eastwood Baptist as pastor since 2004. Prior to that, he served churches in Tennessee and South Carolina. He was elected the KBC's first vice president in 2012, and was chosen to preach the convention sermon at the 2011 annual meeting. He presided over the 2009 Kentucky Baptist Pastors' Conference.

A graduate of Stetson University and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, he also has served as a member of the SBC Executive Committee from 1999-2004.

WR: If you are elected KBC president, what would be your primary hopes and goals for the coming year?

James: I would like to come alongside to encourage and support our state executive director and the leadership of our Mission Board. I would like to work with our convention staff and churches in an effort to discern how we might reach more Kentuckians for Christ. I'd like to help see churches revitalized and strengthened with an Acts 1:8 vision to reach people beginning in their 'Jerusalem' and extending out to the

ends of the earth.

WR: Do you have a particular theme or issue you would like to champion?

James: I would like to champion the Cooperative Program and missions. I have led the four churches I have had the privilege to pastor to increase their giving to the Cooperative Program. We have increased CP giving by 3 percent over the 10 years I have served at Eastwood (we now give 12.25 percent). We have also increased giving to Warren Association by 1 percent during that time.

I personally have benefited, as have a large majority of our pastors and ministers who attended one of our six SBC seminaries, by having a large portion of my seminary education paid for with Cooperative Program dollars. I like to tell Eastwood that they were helping pay for my education long before they even knew I existed.

"Having served in churches that were experiencing transitions and difficulties as well as churches that were experiencing great favor will help me relate to churches and pastors across our commonwealth."

Tom James,
pastor of Eastwood Baptist Church

Cooperative Program dollars are also incredibly important to the work of our two mission boards in supporting the work of thousands of missionaries here and abroad. CP dollars support the work of the Ethics and Religious Liberty Commission in addressing the social, moral and

ethical concerns; giving attention to how those issues impact American families and their faith.

Here in Kentucky, I have witnessed firsthand the impact our Baptist college and universities are having on the students we send there.

Through the KBC Crossings Ministries, Eastwood has had kids saved at one of their camps, while others have answered calls to full-time ministry. The mission's mobilization and evangelism departments of our state convention are wisely utilizing CP dollars to activate Kentucky Baptists to be on mission and

reach more Kentuckians with the gospel. Serving on the board of Sunrise Children's Homes this year, I have listened and learned of the incredible impact Sunrise is having in the lives of hurting children across our commonwealth.

The church consulting and revitalization ministry of the state convention has been huge for churches. I am confident the great impact of our regional consultant, Jeff Crabtree, on the churches in this region is being duplicated through other consultants serving around the state.

There are other ministries I could mention that are doing a great job in serving Christ and His churches; these are but a few of the ways our CP dollars are being put to use here in Kentucky.

I am a strong supporter of the Cooperative Program and would hope to help churches see the need to continue to

support and even increase giving to the Cooperative Program. When it comes to missions I would hope to help churches embrace an Acts 1:8 mindset.

We must start by reaching those in the 'Jerusalem's' we live and serve in. But we must also understand and embrace the call to take the gospel to the ends of the earth. I would hope to challenge our churches to pray for our missionaries, give to our missions offerings, and to go on mission with God.

WR: What unique experiences or knowledge do you bring to the role?

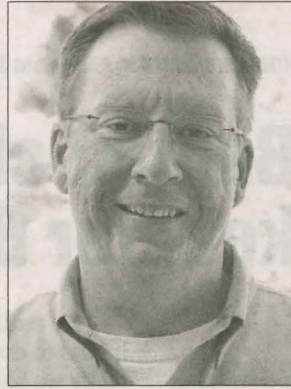
James: I have been active in the work of each local association where I have served, active in the work of those state conventions, and have led teams to four continents, working with our missionaries on the field for the cause of Christ. I think having actively served in all three levels of Baptist life will serve me well in this position.

The first church I pastored averaged 48 in Sunday School. The second church I served had split six months prior to my arrival, and I was called to help them "pick up the pieces" and reestablish an effective witness in that community. I think the fact I have led churches of all sizes will help me relate to the work churches across our convention.

Having served in churches that were experiencing transitions and difficulties as well as churches that were experiencing great favor will help me relate to churches and pastors across our commonwealth.

WR: How have your previous

□ See KBC Nominee ... Page 8



Tom James

Elizabethtown pastor to be nominated to lead state pastors' conference

Elizabethtown—Bill Langley, pastor of Severns Valley Baptist Church in Elizabethtown, will be nominated as president of the Kentucky Baptist Pastors' Conference.

Dan Summerlin, senior pastor of Lone Oak First Baptist Church in Paducah and a former president of the Kentucky Baptist Convention, will nominate Langley when the pastors gather at Living Hope Baptist Church in Bowling Green Nov. 10.

Langley is the second announced candidate. Kenny Rager, pastor of Life Community Church in Owensboro, also is expected to be nominated.

In announcing the nomination, Summerlin said he believed Langley, who preached the convention sermon at last year's annual meeting in Paducah, would make "an outstanding choice" for many reasons.

"I know Bill (Langley) will do a great job in not only preparing a great conference in 2015, but he will represent Kentucky Baptists well during the year," he said.

"Bill is well known throughout the state because of his commitment to the Kentucky Baptist Convention, serving on various committees and boards," Summerlin added. "He is a pastor's



Bill Langley

pastor and is known as a pastor who will help others, especially young pastors."

Langley, a graduate of the University of Kentucky and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Ft. Worth, Texas, received a doctorate in biblical studies from Louisiana Baptist University. He and his wife, Sheri, have two adult children and are expecting a grandchild.

In addition to Severns Valley, he has been the senior pastor of three churches; two in Oklahoma, and one in Texas.

"Bill trusted Jesus Christ as his personal Lord and Savior as a result of the ministries of Severns Valley Baptist when he was 8 years old and now is honored to be the pastor there," Summerlin said. "Very few men are the pastor where they grew up, but Bill holds that distinction."

For many years, the Severns Valley congregation has been among the top givers to the Cooperative Program in the state, Summerlin noted, adding that when Langley arrived in 2009, the church was giving 8 percent of its undesignated receipts and has since raised it to 10 percent.

Total CP contributions in fiscal year 2013-14 were \$303,484.47. (WR)

Dry Ridge pastor to run for 2nd VP of state convention in Bowling Green

Dry Ridge—Mark Payton, pastor of Dry Ridge Baptist Church, will be nominated as second vice president of the Kentucky Baptist Convention.

Payton will be nominated by Greg Nimmo, director of missions for Crittenden Baptist Association, during the KBC annual meeting in Bowling Green Nov. 11. He is currently the only candidate for the office after two earlier nominees, Patrick Butcher and Larry Workman, have withdrawn.

In an email to the Western Recorder, Nimmo commended Payton as having "a heart for the pastors and churches" of Kentucky. Noting that he has served four churches in the commonwealth, Nimmo said Payton has "not only geographic knowledge of our churches, but is also acquainted with the diversity of culture in each area."

A firm believer in missions at home and around the world, Payton has traveled to Haiti on several missions trips, Nimmo noted, observing that Payton has encouraged his church in giving 10 percent of its undesignated receipts through the CP.

Previously, Payton served as pastor of Shively Heights Baptist Church in Louisville from 2001-2009, when it merged



Mark Payton

with St. Paul Missionary Baptist Church, a predominantly black congregation, to become St. Paul Baptist Church as Shively Heights. Payton and Lincoln Bingham then served as co-pastors of the blended congregation, which drew national media attention.

Payton has been pastor of two other Kentucky congregations: Gethsemane Baptist in Danville and Concord Baptist in

Hartford. He also served in Columbus, Ohio. In Kentucky, Payton has been a member of the state Mission Board and served twice as vice president and once as president of the state pastors' conference.

On the national level, he has been a trustee of Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary and a member of the SBC Committee on Nominations.

Payton is a graduate of Trinity College in Newburgh, Ind. He and his wife, Tammie, have three children, Joseph, who also is a pastor; Caleb and Mary.

The other announced candidates for KBC office include Tom James, pastor of Eastwood Baptist Church in Bowling Green, who is expected to be nominated for president, and Erdie Carter, pastor of Glasgow Baptist Church, who is running for first vice president. (WR)

Bethany members discover 'power in the story' through Experiencing God weekend event

God is always at work! This is one of the Experiencing God Bible study's seven elements—one we understand, but so easily forget in our day-to-day lives.

Bethany Baptist Church in Alvaton hosted an Experiencing God weekend in late September. Bethany Baptist is a great church with a heart for missions, but like many churches dotted across Kentucky, it is a church without a lot of physical movement at invitation time.

Pastor Nick Stamps was called to the church more than two years ago, after a loved, long-term pastor, Carrol Mosley, retired after 46 years. Stamps had scheduled a revival in the summer that was well attended, but he had a desire to help his congregation find a deeper freshness with the Lord.

"God was at work in the details to enrich different things," Stamps shared. As they began to talk about having an Experiencing God weekend, God truly was orchestrating the event.

The first way in which God was at work was He had already placed in the church a couple who had previous experience with an Experiencing God weekend, and they agreed to serve as the coordinators.

God also was at work in the leadership team that came to Bethany.

The team provided their own transportation, and many stayed with host families. God placed families in homes

with similar experiences, which enabled each group to have common ground.

The Experiencing God weekend began with a 24-hour prayer vigil, in which

folks from the church came to be "prayed up." Friday night was set aside for unpacking a couple of the seven realities and for small group discussions. In the small groups, participants began telling the stories of how each had experienced God.

Saturday morning was much the same with large and small group times and more testimonies. By the end of the small group time on Saturday night, each person had an opportunity to pray for another in their small group.

Sunday morning was a time of worship, and a blessed time for those who attended and led the weekend. However, Sunday night was when God really blessed the church.

From the beginning, Pastor Stamps said he had been a little nervous about the weekend and how his congregation would respond. He opened the evening

service by asking people to share. The time of sharing started slow, but as the accounts grew and each person told how they had experienced God, a freedom

fell over the group.

Bethany is a church that averages 100 in worship attendance, but this weekend event hosted 55 people and offered experiences for children, youth and adults. As the groups

shared their experiences, something happened and people better understood the power of a testimony.

Pastor Stamps said the "power in the story" was key to everyone seeing how God was at work in the lives of the people at Bethany.

One story that he shared was of a young lady who had come on Sunday night for the celebration event.

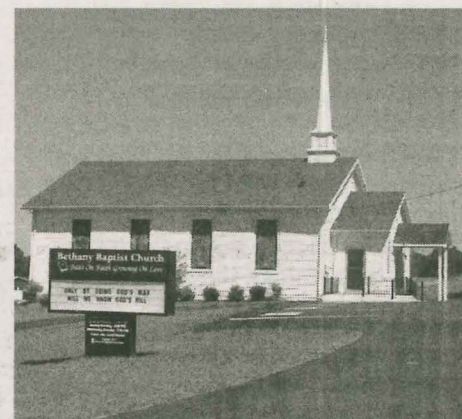
This youth shared how she had missed something because she had not been there for other services. As Stamps shared, she was "caught by the overspray of the weekend."

For Bethany, there are many outcomes of the Experiencing God weekend. It

Regional SPOTLIGHT



Jeff Crabtree
South Central



reminded the members that every believer has a testimony about God, and they need to share their story.

Stamps reminds us that with the Kentucky Baptist Convention focus, "Tell Your Story," we need to recognize the power of the testimony is that God is at work.

Bethany will be engaging its people in the 13-week Experiencing God Bible study this fall. And, there are many people across our state who are trained to help churches host an Experiencing God weekend.

Recalling the old-revival meeting where they had sawdust under the tents, Stamps said, "We did not stir the sawdust, but we felt something that has changed us"—and that something was experiencing God. (WR)

Floyd to seminary students: Complete the Great Commission

By RuthAnne Irvin

Louisville—Christians in this generation need to complete the Great Commission, Ronnie Floyd urged in an Oct. 16 chapel service at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary.

"Let us go to places where the gospel has never been," he said at Southern's campus in Louisville. "We must complete the Great Commission in our generation, and we need to make a commitment together that their spiritual death will not happen on our watch."

Floyd, president of the Southern Baptist Convention, urged students to fulfill the Great Commission and take the gospel to unreached people

overseas and across the street. He cites New Testament passages that emphasize Jesus' command for Christians to make disciples, asking students to consider plans to obey Jesus' command.

Floyd, senior pastor of Cross Church in northwest Arkansas, asked students to think about their lives and ministries in conjunction with the Great Commission. He told students to think about their part in the Great Commission, whether they're overseas or in the United States. One way students can think about the Great Commission, he said, is to attend the Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting in

Columbus, Ohio.

"We need life, youth, vitality. So please come," he said, noting that the convention is an opportunity to practice what students are learning in the classroom.

Preaching primarily from Matthew 28:18-20, Floyd noted several undeniable realities of the Great Commission. First, Christians have the authority and presence of Jesus to help them in the mission.

"When you're a Great Commission Christian living in a Great Commission church, you can be assured that you have been authorized by the authority of Jesus and the presence of Jesus to do what you do every time you preach the gospel, every time you share the gospel, every time you go somewhere the gospel is not known. You're there with authority."

The Great Commission is also anchored in the word of God and centered on the mission of God, he said. Christians need to advance the Great Commission, personally, strategically, collectively, cooperatively, progressively, innovatively and urgently. The Great Commission "is the final will and testament of the Lord Jesus Christ," he said.

"The vast majority of the world needs to hear the gospel of Jesus Christ and how He died to save them. We must complete the Great Commission in our generation," he urged. "And it's time now for all of us to shift our lives, to shift our dreams, to shift our futures, to take the hope and the message of the gospel to the places where the gospel's never been before." (BP)



Ronnie Floyd

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ALUMNI & FRIENDS LUNCHEON

Tuesday, November 11th
12:15 PM – 1:30 PM

Warren Association of Baptists Office
6448 Scottsville Road
Bowling Green, Ky.

Luncheon is free, but reservations are required.
For reservations and more information call:
800-343-1609, ext. 4462
by Thursday, November 6th

Our name is pastor's wife

This week's article is a guest post by Michelle Chitwood and includes an invitation the open house for ministers' wives during the Annual Meeting of the Kentucky Baptist Convention. Michelle is the wife of KBC Executive Director Paul Chitwood.

By Michelle Chitwood

Our name has traveled from town to town, from city to city, and from state to state.

Our name is the worship songs sung on Sunday mornings, songs like "I Surrender All," because we have.

It is accomplishment.

It is forgiven.

It is the silent strength our husbands need.

It is the friend who will not compromise.

Being alone at times, but always surrounded.

Grace follows it around.

Our name wonders what life would be like not to be in this role. I mean of all the names, for me, pastor's wife was the most surprising, but for others it was no surprise at all.

We are called by other names, too: mommy, daughter,

teacher, nurse, the list goes on and on. But the name that makes it the happiest is Christian. This name makes our paths straight.

We would not like to be called by any other name. It is who we are supposed to be. It is what we were created for.

Our name has been many places, and we know it has much more road to travel. We will look forward to what lies ahead. We will enjoy the journey, and we will never forget how we got here.

Our stories are different, but the name we share makes us one.

Join us

Ministers' wives, please join me during the Kentucky Baptist Convention Annual Meeting for an open house in your honor, and connect with other wives of Kentucky Baptist ministers. The Ministers' Wives Open House will be Nov. 11 from 10 a.m. until noon, and again from 1:30 p.m. until 3 p.m. No advance reservations are necessary. Be sure, however, to pick up your minister's wife ribbon at the convention information table located near the KBC registration area. The ribbon is your admission to the open house.

Come and tell us your name and your story.

Paul Chitwood is executive director of the Kentucky Baptist Convention.

Take us with you
westernrecorder.org



Christian presence, but no passionate witness

Here is an impossible dream: to think we can change our nation and our world simply by being present without being passionate and evangelistic in our faith and actions.

The mere presence of Christian institutions has never been a deterrent to the downfall of nations. In fact, the opposite is true. Consider:

■ Muhammad, the father of Islam, grew up in the sixth century, untouched by the Christian churches that surrounded him. Abdiyal Akbar Abdul-Haqq, author of "Sharing Your Faith with a Muslim," wrote, "The evangelistic fervor and missionary fire of the church of the earliest centuries began to cool off gradually as she started on a course of increasing secularization."

When the church was confronted with the growing influence of Islam, it believed its presence was enough to make a difference.

As Samuel Moffett, professor at Presbyterian Theological Seminary in Seoul, Korea, noted: "Faced with a choice between survival and witness, the church chose survival. It turned in upon itself. It ceased to evangelize. It survived, but what survived was no longer a whole church. It was a sick, ingrown community" (quoted at findthepower.net).

■ Communism arose at a time when the institutional church in Russia was preoccupied with the color of vestments for priests to wear when conducting worship and discussing how many fingers should be extended in giving the benediction.

■ Hitler appeared on the scene when Germany was thoroughly represented by Christian churches and leaders.

■ Ghandi was trained in the United States in the midst of Christian churches. His own testimony is that the apathy of professing Christians is the reason he did not embrace Christianity.

■ Many modern-day churches are like social gatherings with little sense of urgency in reaching our nation with the gospel of redemption.

They are preoccupied with personal preferences, church leadership conflicts and other issues that rarely have eternal implications. We languish in a climate of conflict or complacency while our world rapidly unravels.

■ America has more churches, more Christian books and literature, more Christian preachers, more Christian radio and TV stations, more Christian seminaries and Christian colleges, and more ready access to the gospel than any nation in the world. Yet our culture is virtually pagan and decidedly corrupt. Each generation is seeing fewer and fewer believers. Many churches are dying. Few are growing.

We retreat into our sanctuaries and live in our own little worlds, while the world we have been commissioned to reach does not even know we are here. A slumbering church will never meet the challenge of an aggressive secular agenda.

In all these cases, there was a Christian presence, but no witness. Are Southern Baptists becoming a sick and ingrown community? Have we become so used to the gospel that it no longer thrills us, that it no longer has a grip upon our hearts to share it everywhere? Have we opted for survival instead of passionate witness?

One thing is for sure—the world needs more than our presence. It needs our witness. The only hope of our nation and world is the change that comes

through the redeemed lives of those who have been transformed by the power of the gospel message. How do we move forward? What is our next step toward becoming the powerful, culture-changing force we were born again to be?

It begins with passion in the hearts of our leaders. Our churches will never be Great Commission churches until our pastors are Great Commission pastors, and church leaders, whether church staff or deacons or other lay leaders, are consumed with the command given to us by our Lord Jesus Christ to take the gospel to the ends of the earth. And He promised to go before us and with us on that journey.

Every facet of Southern Baptist life, beginning with the local church, must be saturated with a hunger to see our nation and world revived by the power that can only come from God. One thing is for sure: it truly is an impossible dream to think that we can turn the tide of godlessness and heresy that is looming on the horizon just by being here!

Our world needs our presence... but it desperately needs our consistent witness!

Jimmy Draper is president emeritus of LifeWay Christian Resources.

GUEST VIEWPOINT



Jimmy Draper

Is your church leaving out single adults?

By James Stillwell

Q: I have had enough! I have sat through my last "sermon series" on marriage and parenting. As a single adult living in community other single adults, I feel as if the typical church is just for married people. I'm tired of being invisible and silent. Does the Bible say anything to those of us who are not married?

A: Much sympathies to what you are saying. Far too often, sermons, worship services and attitudes of those on worship leadership teams are about marriage being the ideal state.

The Apostle Paul, Jesus, and most of the Apostles would feel alienated in much of today's evangelical Christendom. 1 Corinthians 7 is replete with references to those who are unmarried. It is one of the least preached-from passages

in church. See especially verses 32-35, where Paul upholds the single state as the preferred state in a person being available for ministry in God's kingdom.

How to get beyond the impasse? Kate Wallace, a writer for the website, The Junia Project, offers these guidelines for churches to be more inclusive, to be able

to minister as effectively to single people as to married couples:

- 1) Stop treating singleness as a "pre-married state," and affirm the positive state of singleness.
- 2) Think through the language used in sermons. Don't make assumptions that everyone in the congregation is (or should be) married.
- 3) Don't assume that marriage and childbearing are goals to be met and fulfilled for everyone.
- 4) Remember that there is a wide

diversity among single adults in every area of categorization.

5) Watch your language from the pulpit. If you're not careful you may find yourself gearing announcements about church activities and even church membership toward couples and families to the exclusion of single adults.

Church is difficult to navigate without adding a barrier of words and attitudes that elevate marriage as a higher calling than singleness. That certainly wasn't the attitude of Paul. Or Jesus. So let Scripture speak.

Marketing your church to the "married with children" demographic may mean you are leaving out as much as half the adult population. This cannot be pleasing to God or be in the cause of opening the doors of the church for the sake of the unhindered gospel of Christ.

James Stillwell is a licensed pastoral counselor.



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Shine Like Stars * Philippians 2:15

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Taking prayer seriously in your youth group

We talk a lot about the importance of prayer. We even have specific weeks of prayers for missions and take prayer requests from our students at most meetings, but it has been my observation over the years that most of our student ministries don't take the matter of prayer seriously.

There is very little time in the typical youth meeting for prayer, and when it is there, it seems to be used as a transition from one scene to the next. The praise team is done, and we need to get them off the stage before the sermon, throw in a prayer.

We need to get the screen in place after a skit, pray. We need time to transition from singing to offering collection, pray. We need to dismiss students for the day, pray.

While I never want to underestimate the power of even simple, quick prayers, for much of what I have observed, we pay lip service to the matter of prayer. We know we need to do it, but let's not take too long with it.

Part of our job, as adults who are helping students further down the road in their journey of discipleship, is to teach them about prayer, serious prayer. Leroy Mims, in his book, "The Lost Art of Disciple Making", says it this way: "There were four basic elements in developing

disciples and churches: prayer, prayer, prayer, and the word of God. In thinking through on this, it

seems the thing which does the most good we do the least of. It is much easier to talk to men about God than to talk to God about men."

Some of the sweetest prayers I have ever heard have come from students who "don't know how to pray".

■ Start where they are. Not every student is comfortable speaking in public, much less praying in

public. Give them opportunities to pray in silence.

■ Encourage students to write their prayers out and keep a prayer journal. One of the most treasured possessions I have from my days in the youth group at Little Flock is a binder, probably from the Navigators that I wrote prayer requests in.

I don't get it out often, realistically I stumble over it every now and again as I am searching for something else.

Every time I flip through it, I am reminded of a time in my life when I was really growing in my faith. Some of the prayers recorded are selfish; others are honest times of intercession for those that were the closest to me. Most have been answered; others we are still waiting to see how God will choose to

answer them.

■ Incorporate prayer experiences into the youth meetings. Guided prayer times, labyrinths, and other experiences help students to see prayer as more than just a rote exercise.

■ One word or sentence prayers, while not always spiritually deep or taken seriously, can at times help students cut through the "performance" part of prayer and focus on what is most important.

■ Help them understand that we don't have to get the words right, for when we pray, the Spirit intercedes on our behalf.

"Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness. For we do not know what to pray for as we ought, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words.

And he who searches hearts knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God" (Romans 8:26-27).

■ Enlist youth to begin and end your time together in prayer. It models for other youth the expectation of something everyone can do.

■ Involve youth in praying in corporate worship gatherings with the church family as a whole.

Joe Ball, a former youth minister and director of the Kentucky Baptist Convention's youth ministry department, is the ministry resources and mobilization director with Crossings Ministries.

Youth Ministry Corner



Joe Ball

Trusts help beneficiary

By Laurie Valentine

Leaving an inheritance outright to a young or incapacitated beneficiary is not good estate stewardship.

An outright bequest or beneficiary designation to an under age 18 beneficiary will require a guardian be appointed to manage the young beneficiary's share until he/she reaches age 18. This is the case even if there is a surviving parent.

At 18, the young beneficiary will receive full ownership and control of the outright inheritance, no matter its size.

A better alternative may be to use a "testamentary trust" as part of your plan.

A testamentary trust is a bequest in your Will to a third party designated as "trustee."

The trustee you name manages the young beneficiary's share of your estate until the beneficiary reaches the age (or ages) at which you have directed the trustee terminate the trust and distribute his/her share out to the beneficiary.

During the period the trustee is managing the trust the trustee can be authorized to use income and principal of the young beneficiary's trust for his/her education and other needs. And, by using a testamentary trust, you can delay when a young beneficiary will get full ownership and control until an age older than 18.

Testamentary trusts may also be used to provide for an elderly or incapacitated beneficiary.

The trust can direct all income (and possibly some principal) be used for the beneficiary for the rest of his/her life; with the remainder designated for an "ultimate beneficiary" of your choosing after the elderly or incapacitated beneficiary dies.

Laurie Valentine is trust counsel for the Kentucky Baptist Foundation.



Peace that passes understanding

By David Jeremiah

Reading the headlines of any newspaper today can produce anxiety and uncertainty; there's no end to what we can worry about in our world.

But in Philippians 4:9, the Bible gives us a 24-word solution to 24-hour anxiety: "The things which you learned and received and heard and saw in me, these do, and the God of peace will be with you." Note the progress of the verbs. The apostle Paul had come to the city of Philippi teaching the truths of the gospel, and the Philippians had learned the message, received it into their lives, heard it proclaimed and explained, and saw it demonstrated. Now, Paul said, "Put it into practice. Do it." The promised result was that the God of peace would be with them. Here's the process Paul set forth:

Learn the message

First, we must learn the message. Without Christ, our world is a culture of fear. Without His forgiveness, we're in danger of guilt. Without His pardon, we're in danger of judgment.

Without His life, we're in danger of death. Without His promises, we're in danger of chaos. Without His presence, we're in danger of loneliness. Without His gospel, we're in danger of despair.

"But God demonstrates His own love for us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us" (Romans 5:8). The truth of this message is the greatest weapon against inner fear ever devised.

Receive it

Hearing this message, however, is useless unless it is received into our lives.

Evangelist John Carrara grew up in an Italian-American home in New York amid the rituals of the church but without a personal relationship with Jesus Christ. One day a friend shared the gospel and his need to be born again. John decided to attend services at a nearby church where his eyes were drawn to a verse over the

baptistry: "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life" (John 3:16). The words "should not perish" struck at John like bolts out of the blue. He called on Christ to be His personal Savior. It's not a matter of hearing the message; once we receive the message, we are recipients of the peace of God.

Hear it proclaimed

Though our new birth gives a spiritual foundation for peace, it's wonderful to grow in the peace of God that passes understanding. That happens as we hear the word of God preached, as we listen to it read, and as we study it ourselves.

Did you know that the word "peace" occurs 401 times in the Bible? Here are four of my favorite passages:

"I will both lie down in peace, and sleep; for You alone, O Lord, make me dwell in safety" (Psalm 4:8).

"You will keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on You, because he trusts in You" (Isaiah 26:3)

"Peace I leave with you, My peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid" (John 14:27)

"Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, shall guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus" (Philippians 4:6-7)

See it demonstrated

We also learn about God's peace by seeing it demonstrated in the lives of others.

Paul told the Philippians to observe his life and put into practice the patterns they observed in him, and the God of

peace would be with them. Through the years, I've learned a lot about God's peace by watching others who knew Him. How wonderful when we ourselves become a strength to others. Does your calmness, joy and inner peace overflow to others?

Do it

The last step is sheer obedience. Choose to trust God during difficult times, and learn to cast all your cares on Him. Paul told the Philippians, "The things which you learned ... these do, and the God of peace will be with you."

We have that assurance, rest in it! (BP)

David Jeremiah is host of Turning Point for God and pastor of Shadow Mountain Community Church in El Cajon, Calif.

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MISSION EXPO

About 300 church leaders and members discovered how they could be involved in a bevy of missions opportunities at an "On Mission Expo" in Corbin Oct. 11. The event at Immanuel Baptist Church featured more than two dozen exhibitors and a challenge by KBC Missions Strategist Doug Williams.

People who go on mission trips often discover that their own lives have been changed through the experience, according to Eric Allen, leader of the KBC's mission mobilization team.

"They come back excited about missions, excited about the gospel and end up getting involved in ministry in their own church because of that excitement," he explained.



Collegiates Engage24

Continued from page 1

track the results of Engage24 and see how many college students shared the gospel during that day.

"Hearing success stories like Putti's is so encouraging because we get a glimpse of the impact that this movement is having on campuses across the country," he said.

Stacy, who also serves on the Baptist College Network Committee that helps lead Engage24, said they rely heavily on Twitter to track results and read reports from students who had the opportunity to share the gospel during the day.

Along with the University of Texas at Arlington, schools such as the University of South Florida, the University of Arkansas, the University of Georgia, Texas Christian University, Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, the University of California Riverside and others partnered with their Baptist Campus Ministry groups and accepted the Engage24 challenge.

However, the movement did not stop

with college campuses.

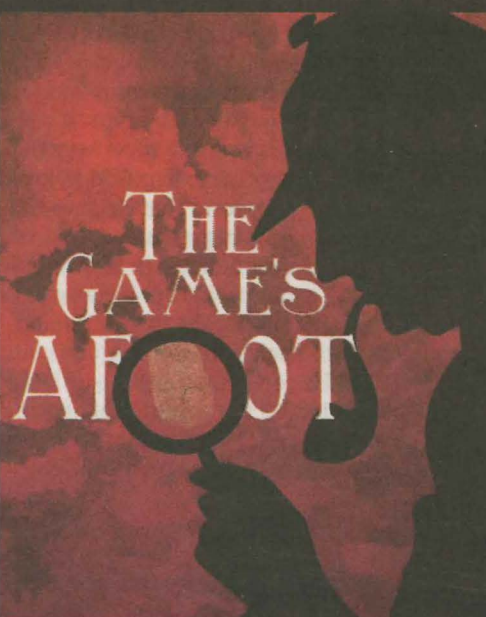
"Basically what has happened is that there's kind of a snowball rolling down a hill. We've gained momentum and things are growing and expanding quickly," Frye, NAMB's national collegiate strategist, said.

Pastors nationwide also challenged their church members to share the gospel for Engage24. Churches involved in college ministry in Ohio as well as Cross Church in Springdale, Ark., are two examples of churches that chose to participate in the movement.

"We are just telling people to make it what you want. This movement will look different depending on the context you're in. It doesn't matter if you share the gospel on Oct. 14, or any other day. We just want every college student and every church member to share the gospel with another person," Frye said.

NAMB's Stacy said the Engage24 team hopes to have more "success stories" coming in during the next several weeks. Visit www.engage24.org or find Engage24 on Twitter with twitter.com/Engage24 or #Engage24 to read different reports and stories from students who took part in this movement and shared the gospel. (BP)

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'23 blast' portrays life of Southern alumnus

By RuthAnne Irvin

Louisville—When Travis Freeman lost his eyesight in high school, his chances of playing football were destroyed. But his battle with adversity and illness birthed a ministry and the focus of a new movie.

The film, "23 Blast," based on Freeman's journey after contracting bacterial meningitis, was released Oct. 24 in 600 theaters across the country.

"The movie isn't the Travis Freeman story," Freeman, a two-time Southern Baptist Theological Seminary graduate, said. "It does a really good job capturing the spirit of my story. I want people to be encouraged whether by watching the movie, 23 Blast, or reading the book, or following me on Twitter or hearing me speak."

The movie chronicles Freeman as he went from a healthy teenager and football player to a hospital patient with an illness that left him blind in 1993. Freeman has also published the autobiography "Lights Out," available online.

His story gained national attention as news outlets like USA Today, The New York Times, and NBC's Today Show

covered Freeman's journey as a football player who lost his sight. But he didn't expect Tonni Hoover, a family friend from Corbin, Ky., where Freeman grew up, to bring his story to movie theaters. Hoover and her son Bram, Freeman's high school football teammate, co-wrote the screenplay for 23 Blast, according to the Lexington Herald-Leader.

Freeman graduated from Southern Seminary in 2007 with a master of divinity degree and again in 2012 with a doctor of philosophy.

He said his time at Southern prepared him well for this season of life and ministry. He also believes his education equipped him to better serve others, as he established the Freeman Foundation, a parachurch ministry to train and educate people about disabilities. The foundation's mission statement is to "inspire people to overcome the disabilities they face in their life."

"The mission statement is to promote the truth that disability does not equal inability," he said. "My education at Southern began to help me think in these ways about the church and social justice and the gospel and theology."



Hershael York, Southern Seminary's Victor and Louise Lester professor of Christian preaching, praised his former student's determination and love for unbelievers.

"Travis is an unusually gifted man with a resolve and a grit like few others. The determination that motivated him to play football and inspired the movie has multiplied many times over and

now compels him to preach the gospel," York said. "Travis may not have physical sight, but he clearly sees the lostness of the world and has a burden for evangelism. No one who meets him comes away unimpressed, but no one who hears him preach can leave unchallenged."

Freeman tells his story to churches and ministry groups, and is an adjunct professor in the missions and ministry department at The University of Cumberland in Williamsburg.

He teaches New Testament, Old Testament, preaching apologetics and other subjects.

He expresses confidence that blindness or any other disability does not equate to inability or the end of life, but believes God's sovereignty becomes more real when tragedy occurs.

"Life does not end when tragedy comes into your life," he said. "When we look at the gospel, we see, I think, God has a plan, that God loves and cares for us no matter what our present circumstances might be."

More information about Freeman, 23 Blast, or Lights Out is available at travisfreeman.org.

Graham named honorary prayer chairman for 2015

By Berta Delgado-Young

Plano, Texas—The National Day of Prayer Task Force has named Jack Graham, who served two terms as president of the Southern Baptist Convention, as honorary chairman for the 2015 National Day of Prayer.

Graham leads the 37,000-member Prestonwood Baptist Church, which includes three Dallas locations. He is also the voice of PowerPoint Ministries, a radio and television broadcast ministry from the Prestonwood pulpit that shares the gospel throughout the world.

The 64th annual National Day of Prayer will be held on Thursday, May 7, in Washington, D.C. Graham will lead the members of Congress in prayer. The theme for 2015 will be "Lord, Hear Our Cry."

"It is a privilege to lead the National Day of Prayer," Graham said. "More than anything, in this desperate hour, may our hearts cry out to God for the healing of our nation's spiritual brokenness."



Graham

"May Jesus be exalted and may God's people be awakened to a new obedience to fulfill the Great Commission."

Written by Graham, a prayer will be read simultaneously throughout the country at noon (EDT) where prayer observances are held.

The National Day of Prayer was established in 1952 when Congress approved a resolution calling on the president to establish such an annual event.

It was first observed by President Harry S. Truman. The resolution was amended in 1988 to establish the first Thursday of May for the annual

observance.

"The president shall issue each year a proclamation designating the first Thursday in May as a National Day of Prayer," the resolution states, "on which the people of the United States may turn to God in prayer and meditation at churches, in groups and as individuals."

Graham, who has led Prestonwood since 1989, is the author of numerous books, including "Unseen: Angels, Satan, Heaven, Hell and Winning the Battle for Eternity," "A Man of God," "Powering Up" and, with his wife Deb, "Courageous Parenting." (BP)

IMB's new president, Platt, reflects on listening, learning

ASIA—A gathering of Southern Baptist missionaries grappling with what's working in missions—and what isn't—welcomed a new colleague to the strategic discussion: IMB President David Platt.

The long-planned conference, held this fall in Asia, came at an ideal time for Platt, 36. The influential pastor, mission mobilizer and "Radical" author was elected a few weeks earlier by IMB trustees to lead Southern Baptists' international mission enterprise.

Now he's focused on absorbing the huge amount of knowledge required for his new job. The five-day gathering enabled him to meet face to face with missionaries working in Asia, Africa, Latin America and Europe—something that might have taken him months or years to do otherwise.

"I was encouraged that the Lord orchestrated all of this, that He brought



Platt

all these leaders together at this time of transition to be on the same page together, to study the word together, to pray together, to worship together, to plan and work together," Platt said. "I walked away totally energized that God's doing something unique here—and just overwhelmed that I get to be a part of it."

Platt went to the five-day conference primarily to "listen" and "learn," he said. He took full advantage of the opportunity, meeting from dawn until after midnight each day with a wide variety of missionaries, from region-wide strategy leaders to front-line workers. He also spoke to the full gathering several times, laying out his initial priorities as IMB leader. His messages received a warm response from missionaries.

"We've got great days ahead of us," one missionary predicted of Platt's leadership. "David has a passion for the lost that is contagious. It will spread out to other pastors, to churches, to missionaries. Our job is to lead, to mobilize and get out of the way."

"Let the church do what it was created

to do: make disciples among all nations."

During TED-type "up talks," breakout sessions and small-group circles analyzing specific case studies, Platt joined other conference participants learning about mission breakthroughs that can be applied worldwide—and persistent barriers, or "stuckages," preventing the advance of the gospel.

The goal was to share effective approaches and spread fruitful practices as widely as possible.

"As I had this time with brothers and sisters who are serving on the front lines of unreached peoples, it was so encouraging to hear different stories—whether it was training church leaders in East Asia and seeing the gospel spreading through a burgeoning movement of churches there, or hearing from brothers and sisters in South Asia who are seeing a mighty move of God in one of the spiritually darkest places on the planet, or moving down to South America and hearing about what God's doing in the middle of the Amazon," Platt said.

"Not every place in the world is seeing

this mighty move," he added. "There are other brothers and sisters who are sharing in different places of struggles and hardship. They're facing walls and barriers."

"But the gospel is spreading through them and it's pressing through barriers as we persevere in our praying for them and going alongside them."

An urgency to unleash local churches in missions permeated Platt's messages during the conference.

He outlined the "five desires" he has for mission strategy, a list he also is sharing with International Mission Board staff, Southern Baptists and the wider evangelical Christian community: to exalt Christ globally, the supreme purpose of missions; to mobilize Christians for God's mission; to serve and equip churches for their biblical purpose of making disciples among all nations; to enable churches to reach every unreached people with the gospel and plant churches among them; and, ultimately, to complete God's commission to the church. (BP)

Telling the Oneida story poolside

You never know where you might make an OBI connection

I have often chronicled some of my experiences in telling the Oneida story, but most of those have been stories from my adventures in Kentucky. I recently had a great out-of-state experience.

Oneida has long had a week-long fall break that typically falls in late September or early October.

On this year's fall break, I sandwiched a vacation for my family at Myrtle Beach, S.C., between some school duties.

After attending a wedding and a state tournament soccer game and speaking in a local church, my family headed for the beach.

During our visit to Myrtle Beach, my family enjoyed some pool time, beach time, and valuable time together.

Since I was "off the clock," I didn't shave for a few days. I wore my swim trunks and OBI T-shirt, and kicked my feet up. On our last day there, a guy floating around the lazy river noticed the OBI T-shirt I was wearing.

He asked me if I attended school there and if I would tell him about my experience at Oneida. I told him I had attended school at OBI and would be glad to tell him about my experience.

I also told him that my take would be pretty biased because I was also the president of the school. After we chatted for a bit, he called his wife over and I called Angie over.

This couple shared that they had recently looked at Oneida online and that they were considering the school

for their child.

As we walked away the wife said, "This must have been a God thing!"

We left Myrtle Beach the next morning and headed for Alabama, where I would be speaking in a church. During our hotel stay in Alabama, I noticed quite a few folks with Kentucky shirts on. As I passed by one breakfast table, I said, "Go, Cats."

As we talked, I shared that I was the president at Oneida and one of the gentlemen at the table said, "I knew I recognized you. I met you at the WMU annual conference in Winchester last year."

As we talked about Oneida, another lady mentioned that her church loves and supports Oneida.

I am amazed, no matter where my travels take me, at how often I encounter people who know of this little place called Oneida.

So many folks have been connected to Oneida in so many different ways. Whether the connection is having been a student, staff member, volunteer, donor, friend, etc., this place becomes a part of you. It hooks you. It finds its way into your heart.

If you want to become a part of the Oneida family, please call me or visit soon.

I promise you won't regret it, and I might even see you at the beach or pool somewhere far away.

This is Oneida



Larry Gritton

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

Finding his way (Part 1)

An online student shares testimony of God's work through high school

With our bachelor's degree completely available online now, Clear Creek is able to equip students anywhere in the world. Online student Lawrence Parker has a wonderful testimony about how God has worked in his life to show him the importance of a relationship over religion, and then to equip him for ministry at Clear Creek.

"I was raised as a Catholic and felt the call to be a priest," said Parker. "I travelled to Europe to pursue that calling. While there I read in my daily devotion Matthew 3:17, where it said, 'And lo a voice from heaven, saying, 'This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.'"

"I thought that I had already dealt with the fact that as a priest I would not have children, but this verse would not leave me alone about the subject. I kept thinking that even God has a Son, and if I continue this course I will not have the feeling of 'being well pleased.' I left Europe angry at God because I felt He had led me halfway around the world only to reject my wanting to serve Him.

"My wife, Kari, already knew Jesus as

her Savior, but the new church she attended when we returned to the States encouraged her to be a bold witness," Parker said. "We had many arguments about religion during this time. One Sunday night I decided out of the blue to attend a service at the church where she attended. The pastor was doing a verse-by-verse study over the book of Revelation and happened to be in chapter 17. The topic was 'The Great Whore of Babylon,' which he compared to the Catholic Church.

"The pastor, knowing that I would have been offended, came to me and wanted to meet sometime and talk about what he said. He told me to go and study and when we met to tell him why he was wrong in what he preached. This challenge proved to be very fruitful. I realized that I had wanted to serve Jesus as a Catholic, but I didn't know Jesus as my Savior. I surrendered my life to Christ and repented that I tried to work my way to salvation, rather than believing on Him."

To be continued ...

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

Clear Creek Chronicle



Donnie Fox

KBC Nominee

Continued from page 2

leadership positions as 1st VP, president of the pastors' conference, on the KBC Mission Board and other KBC committees, and as a member of the SBC Executive Committee helped prepare you for this opportunity?

James: As president of the pastors' conference, I took over after the man in that office left the state to go to work for a sister state convention.

Building on the foundation he had already laid will be helpful as my desire is not necessarily to do anything new, but rather come alongside and help build on the foundation that those who served before me have helped build. As 1st vice president, I had the opportunity to sit under the wise and godly leadership of Dan Summerlin as he served as our KBC president. I was able to witness the work, prayers for, support of convention staff, churches, and pastors that he gave. In this position I also was afforded the opportunity to get to know many of our convention staff and entity leaders, hearing their hearts for Baptists across our commonwealth as well as for the lost.

Serving on the SBC Executive Committee for four years afforded me the opportunity to see the big picture of the work of our Southern Baptist Convention.

Hearing the various entity leaders and state convention executive-directors give reports twice a year helped me to understand the contribution and value that each church and state convention makes to the work of the SBC.

I think this position also helped me to understand the great importance of the Cooperative Program.

WR: How have you encouraged Eastwood to support the Cooperative Program, and how would you encourage Kentucky Baptist churches to give more?

James: By helping Eastwood understand all of the ways their CP dollars were used and the impact they were having, it was easy to get them to understand the need to give more.

I have helped our people put a face to how these dollars have been used. We have celebrated when one of our students makes a commitment to Christ at camp.

We have skyped or conference-called missionaries on the day we sought to raise our special mission's offerings, (AAEO and LMCO). We have invited our director of missions, dean at Southern Seminary, and some of the KBC convention staff to preach at Eastwood as a way of exposing this church to the great leaders God has blessed us with.

This has allowed Eastwood to hear firsthand the vision God has given these men as they lead us.

As president, I would seek to help churches understand the value of the dollars they give and the eternal return on their investment.

If more churches had a better

understanding of the various ways their dollars were having an impact in Kentucky and beyond, I am confident that rather than seeing churches cutback on CP giving, I would hope we would see an uptick in giving.

WR: What do you consider to be Kentucky Baptists greatest strengths and why?

James: I believe Kentucky Baptists have many strengths but I'd like to point out two.

First I believe the way pastors and churches that are diverse in many ways work together for the sake of the gospel is huge. I am mindful of David's words in Psalm 133:1 where he states, "Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity." The unity around the gospel in light of our

great diversity is a huge strength.

The other strength I'd like to highlight is the visionary and godly leaders that our state has been blessed with. While I think this is certainly true of our state convention staff I am not speaking solely of them. I think of directors of missions I have met across the state as well as pastors and lay leaders.

The Kentucky Great Commission

Task Force made up of convention staffers, directors of missions, pastors, and lay people showed great vision in presenting at our 2010 annual meeting the challenge of moving toward a 50/50 split of CP dollars.

Then just two years later, well ahead of the schedule that had been proposed, at our 2012 annual meeting, our convention voted with little dissent to move immediately to a 50/50 split of CP dollars.

I believe this has served as a great example to other state conventions as well as demonstrated to our missionaries our belief in them and support of the work they are doing.

WR: What are the key issues or greatest challenges or opportunities facing Kentucky Baptists?

James: At Eastwood we like to say we don't have "problems," we have "opportunities"; opportunities for God to work in the midst of difficulty. With that in mind one of the 'opportunities I believe we face as Kentucky Baptists is spiritual apathy.

As the world seemingly becomes darker and more decadent we as believers must demonstrate through godly living and faithfulness the power and hope found in the gospel of Christ.

Another opportunity would be the pressure society is placing on Christians and churches to conform to the world's standards.

As Christians we must—as we personally are conformed to the image of Christ in our character, conduct and speech—lovingly stand on convictions based upon the truth of God's word. As Kentuckians we must remember that our hope is not found in the ballot box, but rather in seeing the gospel change the hearts of people one life at a time. (WR)

Georgetown College holds inauguration for Greene

Georgetown—Dwayne Greene was officially inaugurated Oct. 17 as the 24th president of Georgetown College.

Pledging that the institution will continue its legacy as a community of learning and faith, Greene said Georgetown, which until recently had ties with Kentucky Baptists, would uphold its Christian heritage. "This is an abiding conviction and 'the beacon guide' of this college as it moves forward," he said.

"As an institution of higher education, Georgetown is to glow as a sacred flame kindled almost two centuries ago," Greene said in his inaugural address, according to the Georgetown News-Graphic. "It is a light which has inspired

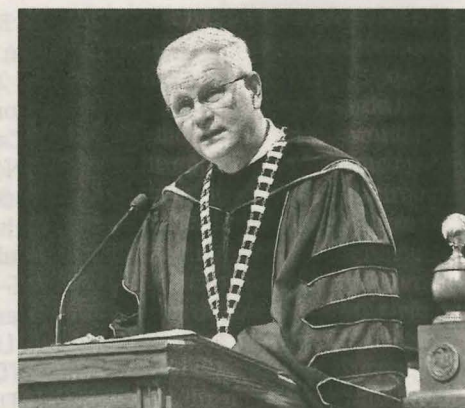
thousands who have come this way and then stepped forward as radiance to the world."

Georgetown College announced Greene's selection as president in August 2013, and he assumed the office in late October, succeeding Bill Crouch who retired after 22 years as Georgetown's president. Greene most recently served as Campbell University's academic vice president in Buies Creek, N.C. Originally from Watauga County in North Carolina, Greene is an alumnus of Campbell, Wake Forest University and the University of Virginia.

Messengers to last year's annual meeting of the Kentucky Baptist Convention in

Paducah voted overwhelmingly to end the KBC's partnership with Georgetown. The partnership agreement was formed after Georgetown requested to end its covenant agreement in 2005 to establish a self-perpetuating board of trustees and purportedly to meet Phi Beta Kappa academic standards.

In 2010, a special KBC committee formed to review the partnership with Georgetown recommended that the convention forego the partnership to place greater focus on affiliated agencies and institutions in covenant agreements with the convention. Georgetown has not received Cooperative Program funds since 2009. (WR)



Dwayne Greene was officially inaugurated Oct. 17 as the 24th president of Georgetown College.

More churches use background checks via LifeWay

By Aaron Earls

Nashville, Tenn.—An estimated 1-in-5 background checks processed through LifeWay Christian Resources' program with backgroundchecks.com reveals a conviction of a felony or other serious offense.

This may be part of the reason why a growing number of churches use background checks as a way to better protect children and others involved in ministry. After a six-year partnership between LifeWay and backgroundchecks.com, the number of churches that say they are benefiting from the screenings continues to grow. Since last year, 50 percent more churches and organizations have used the service.

Since 2008, approximately 7,700 churches and religious organizations

have conducted more than 142,000 background checks by using backgroundchecks.com (www.LifeWay.com/backgroundchecks). Of those checks, nearly half (47 percent) contained some type of criminal offense, according to Jennie Taylor, a LifeWay coordinator who helps manage the service.

Taylor said the majority of those were for minor incidents, such as speeding tickets or seatbelt violations. But more than 21 percent of the checks discovered misdemeanors or more serious crimes, including more than 9,000 felonies.

Prior to sending his children and youth to summer camp this year, Tim Hubbard, pastor of Seminary Baptist Church in Seminary, Miss., discovered he needed background checks for all the volunteers who would be serving as

chaperones. He turned to LifeWay and backgroundchecks.com.

For Hubbard, the ability to obtain immediate access to run the necessary background checks proved to be a significant benefit. He also appreciated the trust that was built between the parents and church leadership through performing checks on all the chaperones.

Taylor said the relationship between LifeWay and backgroundchecks.com "gives us the opportunity to provide a product that protects children and church assets at a reasonable cost."

The cost, with screenings that start at \$10, has helped eliminate a barrier many churches face with background checks. For information on background checks, visit LifeWay.com/backgroundchecks or call (800) 464-2799. (BP)

La Grange minister arrested on child sex charges

La Grange—An Oldham County music minister has been arrested by the FBI on charges related to sexual exploitation of children.

Howard Key Chambers, minister of music at DeHaven Baptist Church in La Grange, is charged by the U.S. Attorney for child enticement after he allegedly placed a sexually explicit ad on Craigslist, according to The Oldham Era. Court records indicate Chambers sought to fulfill a sexual fantasy as a "granddaddy" figure with a woman posing as a "teen asked to look after granddaddy."

Chambers told the FBI that he initially thought the arrangement was to have sexual contact with the man's wife but when he arrived it was actually with the man's 10-year-old daughter. He reportedly paid the girl's father for sexual acts. (KPA)

You can help me!

Sunrise kid reminds churches, donors this Thanksgiving

Posters, donation cards and ads for Sunrise's 2014 Thanksgiving Offering feature one boy wearing a Sunrise T-shirt. A single headline above his smiling face proclaims: "YOU can help ME!"

Will you?

For decades, Kentucky Baptists have designated this offering for children's ministries like Sunrise.

Our Ministry Support Center in Mt. Washington, Ky., displays framed Thanksgiving Offering posters used in the 1950s and 1960s. Southern Baptists in many states also support children's homes with annual Thanksgiving offerings.

Will your church give to Sunrise in November?

If you do, "You will be enriched in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion, and through us your generosity will result in thanksgiving to God."

That's a promise from 2 Corinthians 9:11, which Sunrise features this year on every poster and donation card we distribute for the offering. We are mailing those packets to churches Oct. 28.

Will your church use its packet this year?

Over the last 12 months, 1,120



Kentucky Baptist churches have contributed to Sunrise.

We are grateful for your support. That's nearly half of the Baptists in the commonwealth! And your gifts helped Sunrise collect one in every five dollars needed during fiscal year 2014 to sustain operations statewide.

Yet 81 percent of our \$23.9 million budget still came from governmental sources in FY 2014.

Will you help us lower that percentage?

Dale Suttles, our president, earnestly affirms:

"We need your support. We need your church's support."

Will you be the ONE who makes that happen?

"Be the ONE" is our theme for encouraging churches to surround foster families in their congregation. "Be the ONE" is also our theme for asking churches to sponsor a Sunrise child this Christmas, giving gifts that they request. And "Be the ONE" is our theme for seeking your donations at Thanksgiving.

Sunrise's goal this year is to recruit Kentucky Baptists, one by one, to support this vital ministry.

So will YOU be the ONE? Then contact me at rgreene@sunrise.org

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

No phone, no problem

Being removed and unplugged can be a good thing

Is there value from being away from the phone these days? The answer is a resounding "yes!"

Something that I value in words for others, but usually not in practice personally.

I am writing this from a family vacation in which I have been away from the phone more so than any other trip in my adult life.

One of the most valuable aspects of coming to camp or a retreat is the "removal" that our guests enjoy as they are away from the world.

Being removed and unplugged from email, phone service, and other daily patterns that keep us in touch with the world is a good thing.

Our staff always states to our guests that the practice of removing these modern day devices is key to slowing down and hearing from God.

We hear over and over from our guests that what they needed was to be removed from their daily routines and set in an environment where they are more likely to focus on God's glory in creation.

Well over the past six days I have been unplugged unlike any other week in my adult life.

I must admit it has seemed very

strange. I still feel some guilt that the rest of our staff are hard at work and I have been relaxed and removed from work.

This time has allowed me to enjoy our family, get some rest, and consider God in new ways.

We have been staying in Duck, N.C., on the Outer Banks. Seeing creation helps us to have proper perspective on the Glory of God, as it is on display for all to see.

The ocean and the waves declare His power and certainly reveals how weak and powerless we are against creation.

If you have not "removed" yourself from the normal grind of life lately, I would encourage you to do it soon.

Another recommendation would be to spend the time outside and seeing God's creation on display.

The miles I have walked on the beach have reminded me of the fact that He knows the number of the grains of sand and He knows me and loves me.

Very comforting in the world we see today!

Crossings Ministries



David Melber

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



November

- 4** November Power Lunch, Kentucky Baptist Building, Louisville.
- 8** Girls in Action Jam 2014, First Baptist Church, Shelbyville.
- 10** KBC Mission Board Meeting, Living Hope Baptist Church, Bowling Green.

MOUNTAINS TO THE MISSISSIPPI

COMPILED BY STAFF

SEBREE—First Baptist Church will hold a retirement reception roast in honor of **Bob and Violet Hardison** Sunday, Nov. 2, from 2 to 4 p.m. RSVP by calling 270-835-7811 or 270-635-0858 or email markandfran@bellsouth.net.

LOUISVILLE—Carlisle Avenue Baptist Church will hold revival services Nov. 2-4. Speaker will be Therron Cunningham. He works in the Jefferson County Public School system and is a church planter in Louisville. Worship will be led by **Matt and Courtney Powell**.

HOPKINSVILLE—First Baptist Church will be hosting Omega Force Strength Team on Sunday, Nov. 16 at 6 p.m. in the Christian Life Center. The event is free.

MT. WASHINGTON—Annie Moses Band returns to First Baptist Church. The acclaimed family musical ensemble, Annie Moses Band, will bring a blend of Classical, Christian, Folk and Pop music to First Baptist on Nov. 16 in concert at 6 p.m. A love offering will be taken.

Bible Crosswords

By Evelyn M. Boyington

Across

- 1 "A stormy wind shall ____ it" (Ezekiel 13:11)
- 5 "Jonah was gone down ____ the sides of the ship" (Jonah 1:5)
- 9 Ration
- 12 "My cup runneth ____" (Psalms 23:5)
- 13 "Every one had ____ faces" (Ezekiel 1:6)
- 14 "A vineyard of ____ wine" (Isaiah 27:2)
- 15 Prevent
- 17 To be announced, abbr.
- 18 "Nathan the prophet and Shimei, and ____" (1 Kings 1:8)
- 19 "Prince of the power of the ____" (Ephesians 2:2)
- 21 "Neither will I ____ an offering at your hand" (Malachi 1:10)
- 23 "Those virgins arose, and ____ their lamps" (Matthew 25:7)
- 27 "The ____ was come to the place of the arrow" (1 Samuel 20:37)
- 28 Charged particles
- 29 The disciple who denied Christ
- 31 Interrogatory syllable
- 33 "I have stretched out my hand, and no ____ regarded" (Proverbs 1:24)
- 34 "Number all the firstborn of the ____" (Numbers 3:40)
- 35 Fruit drink
- 36 "The children of Gad called the altar ____" (Joshua 22:34)
- 37 "But ye are a chosen generation, a ____ priesthood" (1 Peter 2:9)
- 38 Colored layer of the eye
- 39 "A third part shall be at the gate of ____" (2 Kings 11:6)
- 40 December 31
- 42 "They shall take up a lamentation for thee, and ____ over thee" (Ezekiel 27:32)
- 45 Cup
- 46 "____, even the ancient high places are our's in



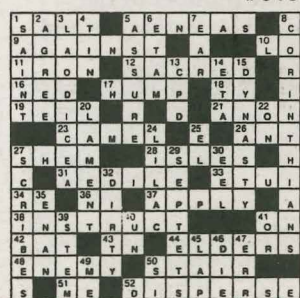
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- possession" (Ezekiel 36:2)
- 47 Anger
- 49 "____, Mahalaleel, Jered" (1 Chronicles 1:2)
- 53 "Bring unto thee pure ____ olive beaten for the light" (Leviticus 24:2)
- 54 "I went down into the garden of ____ to see the fruits of the valley" (Song of Solomon 6:11)
- 56 "He went into a city called ____" (Luke 7:11)
- 57 Sun, Sp.
- 58 Equipment
- 59 "And came to the strong hold of ____" (2 Samuel 24:7)
- 20 "I will ____ it" (Philemon 19)
- 22 Auto
- 23 "I set him a ____" (Nehemiah 2:6)
- 24 "Whither have ye made a ____ to day" (1 Samuel 27:10)
- 25 "There was no room for them in the ____" (Luke 2:7)
- 26 "Thou shalt no ____ to offer the first of thy ripe fruits" (Exodus 22:29)
- 30 "Ziph, and ____ and Bealoth" (Joshua 15:24)
- 31 First garden
- 32 "Hairs of your ____ are all numbered" (Luke 12:7)
- 34 "Thou shalt seek me in the ____" (Job 7:21)
- 35 Latin expression of greeting
- 37 "Ye tithe mint and ____ and all manner of herbs" (Luke 11:42)
- 38 "The king's commandment was ____" (Daniel 3:22)
- 39 "I am ____ and despised" (Psalms 119:141)
- 41 Diving bird
- 42 East Asian country
- 43 "Uzzah and ____ the sons of Abinadab" (2 Samuel 6:3)
- 44 "That was the ____ Light" (John 1:9)
- 48 Approximate time of arrival, abbr.
- 50 "I tell you ____; but rather division" (Luke 12:51)
- 51 "Meet the Lord in the ____" (1 Thessalonians 4:17)
- 52 Compass point
- 55 Twelfth-grader, abbr.

Down

- 1 "Thy ____ and thy staff they comfort me" (Psalms 23:4)
- 2 "The serpent beguiled ____" (2 Corinthians 11:3)
- 3 "The fishes that are taken in an evil ____" (Ecclesiastes 9:12)
- 4 "The diviners ... have told false ____" (Zechariah 10:2)
- 5 "____ they shall enter into my rest" (Hebrews 4:3)
- 6 "____ by might, nor by power" (Zechariah 4:6)
- 7 Large wind instrument
- 8 "Unto them were committed the ____ of God" (Romans 3:2)
- 9 "Cause me to understand wherein I have ____" (Job 6:24)
- 10 "____ thou not silence" (Psalms 83:1)
- 11 Blue-pencil
- 16 Edge

#015



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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: 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 resumes 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: 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: Minister to children. Walnut Street Baptist Church, Louisville, Ky., seeks a part-time minister to children to work with a committed group of children's workers in a growing preschool/children's ministry. The deadline to apply is Nov. 2. Send resumé to scsearch@walnutstreet.org.

SEEKING: Buck Creek Baptist Church located in Calhoun, Ky., is seeking candidates for a full-time worship leader/children's minister (with IT experience), whose primary responsibility is to lead worship. A job description may be viewed on the church website at www.buckcreekbaptist.com. Send resumes to the following: Buck Creek Baptist Church, Attn.: Personnel Comm., 3788 US 431, Calhoun, KY 42327. Resumes will be accepted until Nov. 28.

SEEKING: The West Virginia Convention of Southern Baptists is seeking a new executive director/treasurer. For more information and a job description, go to www.wvcsb.org. Resumes may be submitted to wvcsbsearch@mail.com, to the Search Committee Chair, Dr. Seth Polk, through Nov. 30.

SEEKING: Woodlawn Baptist Church, a small Southern Baptist Church in central Ky. is seeking a full-time pastor. Experience preferred, but not required. Send resumé to home@woodlawnbaptist2serve.org.

SEEKING: Christ Baptist Church in Cold Spring, Ky., is prayerfully accepting resumes for the position of full-time senior pastor. A minimum of 5 years experience and seminary degree is preferred. Please send resumé, and CD/DVD or internet link for sermons to: Christ Baptist Church, 3810 Alexandria Pike, Cold Spring, KY 41076, Attn.: Pastor Search Committee.

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Singing on the same page: choir or praise band?

Churches are opting for the latter, but some Christian musicians say abandoning choirs is a bad idea

By Jeff Brumley

Recognition that church choirs are in rapid decline has been a feature of the decades-long debate over worship in American Christianity. But the trend troubles some Baptists, a number of whom took to Facebook recently to post evidence that choral music has—or at least should have—a continuing place in American congregations.

One was Kevin Glenn, senior pastor at Memorial Baptist Church in Columbia, Mo., who says his main objection to a recent Religion News Service article was a source's claim that churches must choose between keeping their choirs or appealing to younger generations.

"I always get antsy when presented with either-or options," says Glenn, who served several years as a music minister. "I fear that some will read that and some small church ... will say 'it's vanishing, so let's not try.'"

The source is James Merritt, a former Georgia megachurch pastor who went on to plant a smaller congregation intentionally devoid of a choir. As the RNS story pointed out, that put Merritt's church right in the middle of a trend away from choral music in churches.

"The bottom line is that choirs can still draw people to Christ through their leadership in worship—though praise and worship bands and other contemporary forms of music clearly do that, too."

Citing statistics from a National Congregations Study, the article reported that choirs are declining among white Protestant churches. Only 40 percent of white conservative evangelicals report choirs

in their worship services—a 63 percent decrease in the last 14 years. The only groups seeming to withstand the trend are African American Protestants and Catholics. About 90 percent of blacks report choirs in their churches, as do 76 percent of Catholics. Music leaders and church consultants who track the issue say Baptist congregations are no exception to the trends. But they diverge over the severity of the movement or whether it's good or bad news.

They also disagree on whether anything can be done to stem the tide—especially since choral music has become less popular in American culture as a whole, says David Keith, dean of the Townsend School of Music at Mercer University. "You've seen a change in the school systems—in

arts education—and a somewhat dumbing down of that curriculum."

While there are exceptions, Keith said many more are succumbing to the tug they are feeling to cater their music to appeal exclusively to younger Christians. Sometimes that might be the right thing to do—but it's the wrong way to go if the elimination of a choir is an attempt to be hip, Keith says.

"The trouble comes when we try to change the DNA of the church, when we're trying to make a church something that it's not."

It's also understandable if churches don't want to shoot for the "top shelf" of music, which can be represented by choirs and the extra practice and skill they require, Keith says.

"It's easier to have a bass player and a drummer and a keyboard player. My question is, am I doing it because it's easier? Whoever said the Christian life is easy?"

The bottom line is that choirs can still draw people to Christ through their leadership in worship—though praise and worship bands and other contemporary forms of music clearly do that, too.

"You have to be happy that there is a multiplicity of styles available," Keith says.

But the worship blog site Ponder Anew posted a response to the RNS article saying it failed to tell "the whole story."

While many churches have ditched choir, the post overlooks that "there are many churches in which the choral art still grows and flourishes."

Churches should keep their choirs, according to the post, because, among other reasons, they encourage good singing throughout congregations and can be avenues into the faith for some outsiders who participate. They can also enhance the experience of worship. "When we look up and see a mini-congregation of faces looking back at us, we're reminded that we're not alone, that we're there to be part of a very special communion."

Despite benefits, many churches wonder if choirs are still relevant, notes Eddie Hammett0, author, consultant and president of Transforming Solutions.

Whether through Skype or face-to-face meetings, Hammett says he interacts with at least 15 different churches around the nation every month. The choir question "comes up just about everywhere I go."

Hammett advises churches to consider their reluctance to let go of choir.

"It's almost like some of them worship the form and the traditions and the rituals more than they do Jesus," Hammett reminds them that "choirs are man-made, not God-ordained."

He reminds them also that ministry has become so contextualized today that it forces congregations to determine how best to reach the communities living around them. And in some cases, the answer may be choral music as the core of worship, he says. "Some can do the choir and do very well; then there are other contexts where the demographics have shifted and preferences have changed."

One context where choirs continue to thrive is multisite churches, Hammett says. In those situations, the church can designate one location for praise and worship and another for choral or other musical styles.

"Or it might be different styles at different times, on a different day or in a different building."

Hammett thinks the debate over the relevancy and future of church-based choral music is mostly an American issue. But it's an intense one that has many congregations scratching their heads.

"They want to preserve it and they like choral music," says Hammett. "But they're also trying to reach the younger generation—and they are really struggling with 'how do we do both?'"

A better answer

Glenn said he's witnessing that same debate around the nation and concedes that most are choosing to jettison the choir. But a better answer for many of them may be to pursue multiple musical forms instead of just one.

At Memorial, choir, praise band and orchestra now provide outreach opportunities for young and old worshippers interested in varied different musical forms.

"We do a both-and approach where the choir will do a classical piece in a service where we also sing (contemporary) numbers, and mix it in with hymns and spirituals." The approach at Memorial, where attendance ranges from 400 to 500 on Sundays, may not be feasible for smaller congregations. But Glenn says he served as the music minister at several smaller churches where he discovered low-cost ways to fill a choir loft on Sundays.

He has seen churches with less than 300 in attendance reliably field choirs of 12 to 15 people.

"I have been in megachurches, too, that have a good choral ministry, and small churches will not hold a candle to that," Glenn says. But with the right music and direction the smaller choirs can still lead worship—and still thrill the family members and friends of those singing.

"You just have to adjust your expectations based on your context." (BNG)

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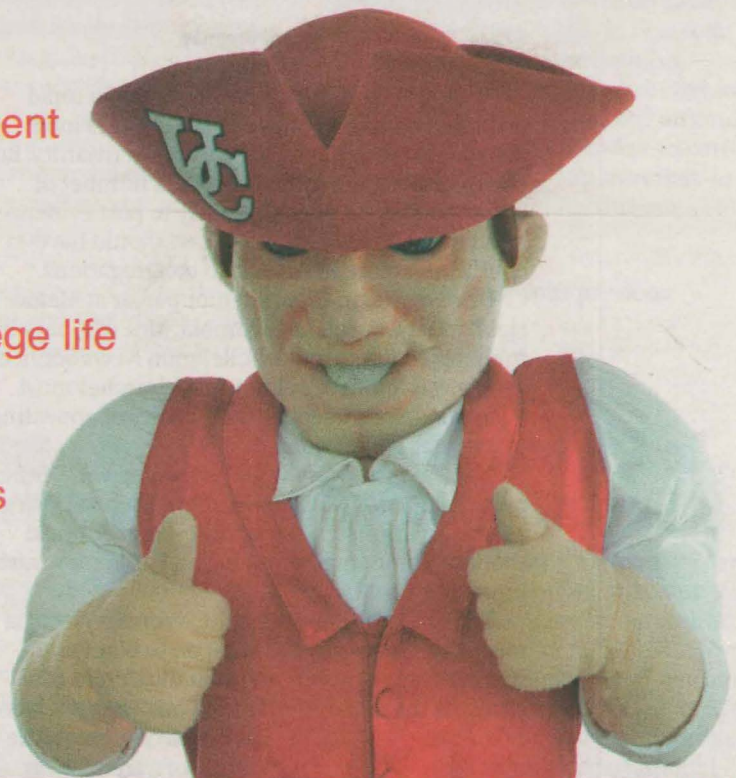
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