

# WESTERN Recorder

November 11, 2014

Shine Like Stars \* Philippians 2:15

Volume 188, Issue 42

## Appeals court upholds Ky. ban on gay marriage

**Cincinnati**—A three-judge panel from the 6th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in Cincinnati has upheld gay marriage bans in Kentucky, Michigan, Ohio and Tennessee.

The appeals court split 2-1 in a decision that could cause the U.S. Supreme Court to weigh in on the hot-button issue. Judge Jeffrey Sutton wrote the 42-page decision and Judge Deborah Cook concurred, delivering a ruling that counters appellate rulings from the 4th, 7th, 9th and 10th circuits. Judge Martha Craig Daughtrey dissented.

"Kentuckians who submit both to the Lord and to government, as God's word teaches, celebrate the court's ruling," said KBC Executive Director Paul Chitwood. "We are grateful to know that the constitution of our state has been affirmed and rejoice that the sanctity of marriage has been protected."

The judges concluded that individual states have the right to set rules for marriage, according to the Associated Press.

The issue will likely return to the U.S. Supreme Court to settle whether states can ban gay marriage or that gay and lesbian couples have a fundamental right to marry under the U.S. Constitution. (KBC)

## RISK impacts lostness in Bowling Green

**Bowling Green**—RISK: Bowling Green has drawn nearly 500 individuals into a relationship with Christ as Warren Baptist Association churches engage communities with personal testimonies, prayer-walking and other outreach events.

The Kentucky Baptist Convention will hold its 177th Annual Meeting at Living Hope Baptist Church in Bowling Green Nov. 11, and RISK: Bowling Green is a series of precursor events to engage the community with the gospel.

"We've surpassed the number of decisions made at last year's RISK: Paducah," said Chuck McAlister, KBC evangelism and church

□ See RISK impact ... Page 2

## Iraq veteran planting Washington church

By Tobin Perry

**Yakima, Wash.**—Michael Johnson learned many things in the U.S. Army. He learned to make his bed Army-style. He learned to march in the Army band. He learned to shoot an M-16 and throw a grenade.

But maybe the most important lessons he learned in nearly a decade as a soldier have nothing to do with combat. He learned how to lead and how to look at everyday life as a mission field. Those lessons continue to serve him well as a church planter in Moxee, Wash.

"The values that the Army espouses—loyalty, duty, respect, selfless service, integrity—are completely things that a Christian would affirm, that the church would affirm. But when you get into the military culture itself, you realize that most of the people are lost."

Johnson, who studied music in college, first considered the Army in 2004 to support his family. His part-time worship ministry job was fulfilling, but he longed to serve his country and provide financial stability for his growing family.

"God opened up doors," he said. "He used my time in the Army to develop me as a leader and incidentally to help me really understand God's calling on my life, as far as pastoral ministry."

After basic training and training in the Army's music program, Johnson's work included performances for public relations events and entertaining troops. 2006 was the highlight of his service. He spent seven months in Iraq, entertaining troops to give them a break from stress. He led a band

that toured Baghdad, playing modern rock and 90s alternative music for soldiers.

"It was a great opportunity," Johnson said. We were proud of what we did. It was the best job in the Army." As he traveled to bases, he had to be prepared for attack.

"There were a couple of times when we were in convoys, traveling from one small base to another," Johnson said. "We'd get reports that there was an IED on the route or we would stop and inspect a road between us if something looked suspicious. There were a few times like that when you get a little on edge."

Johnson planned to retire in the Army. But God had other plans. In 2008, while serving at Ft. Lewis, his pastor asked him to teach a young adult Sunday School class.

The opportunity awoke something in him. "I re-discovered my passion for teaching the Bible," Johnson, a Washington native, said. "I felt so compelled to teach God's word that my military ambitions started to pale in comparison."

Johnson said he had considered serving as a chaplain or pastor of an established church, but God was calling him to start a new one.

He found an opportunity to get funding through the North American Mission Board, he said, through a church planting residency through Hillcrest Baptist Church in Enterprise, Ala. He said the chance to



lead a mission trip and help start a new worship service at the church helped him significantly in his preparation to plant.

In January, the family moved to Moxee, a small, unincorporated community outside of Yakima, in a large desert in South Central Washington with the Yakima River running through it.

"As we really started to pray about coming here we were burdened by a city that has a lot of spiritual darkness, a lot of gang problems, a lot of struggling, desperate churches that need new life and need revitalization," said Johnson. "We grabbed hold of that image of the river giving life to everything around it. That gave us the name The River Church."

Though the church has yet to officially launch, the core group has been meeting at a community center on Sundays and reached others through a community block party. Before they've had an official worship service, they've started contributing to the Cooperative Program.

"I wouldn't be a part of the Southern Baptist Convention if I didn't believe in what we're doing through the Cooperative Program..." Johnson said. "We're excited to—from the get-go—have a healthy pattern of giving to the Cooperative Program, giving to missions." (BP)



## Mathis to receive state CP leadership award

By Ken Walker

**Bowling Green**—An evangelist who has preached in more Kentucky Baptist churches than anyone alive will receive the KBC's Cooperative Program Leadership Award at the Nov. 11 annual meeting in Bowling Green.

A longtime pastor, associational moderator and two-time president of the state convention, Don Mathis is staff evangelist at that

city's Eastwood Baptist Church. His pastor, Tom James, is this year's only announced presidential candidate.

"I'd be honored to receive it anywhere, but it's special to receive it in Bowling Green and my pastor be elected as president," said Mathis, who estimates he holds half of his evangelistic services in Kentucky.

"Eastwood has a tremendous number of mission teams who go out, but one reason we joined Eastwood was its support (12.5 percent of undesignated offerings) of the Cooperative Program," he said. A native of Christian County, Mathis accepted Jesus at the age of 15 at Pleasant Hill Baptist

Church near Hopkinsville.

Over the years, he pastored five Kentucky churches: Crofton Baptist, Green River Baptist in Cromwell, Southside Baptist in Princeton, Central Baptist in Corbin, and Central Baptist in Winchester. In addition, he has been an interim pastor at Central Corbin and five other KBC churches.

Mathis' only time living away from Kentucky was in the 1990s. From 1991-94 he was executive director of the West Virginia Convention of Southern Baptists. From 1996-99 he was director of pastor and staff leadership at Lifeway Christian Resources in Nashville, Tenn.

□ See CP award ... Page 2



Don Mathis

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## Ky. Baptist missionary hired for UofL campus

**Louisville**—A Kentucky Baptist with broad ministerial experience will be the new campus missionary at the University of Louisville.

The Kentucky Baptist Convention's administrative committee unanimously voted to hire Paul Sanchez, senior pastor at Willow Baptist Church in Brooksville, effective Nov. 1.

"Paul has a heart that longs for the advance of the gospel in salvation of sinners through faith in Christ and for the building up of Christ's church in righteousness and truth," said Gregory Wills, dean of Southern Seminary's School of Theology.

"He longs to see believers strengthened in the grace and knowledge of Christ Jesus."

Sanchez is a Garrett Fellow at the seminary, where he assists Wills. Sanchez, who has served as pastor of Victory Baptist Church in Estherwood, La., and youth pastor at First Baptist Church of Port Allen, La., is working on a doctorate in church history. He received a master of theology degree in church history from Southern Seminary, a master's degree in theology from New Orleans Seminary and an undergraduate degree from Evangel University.

"Paul has modeled devotion to the Lord and discipline in his pursuits," said his former pastor, James Law. "He has excelled academically and spiritually. He possesses a keen intellect and a contagious personality."

In his new role, Sanchez will be part of the KBC's evangelism and church planting team. (KBC)



Paul Sanchez

## RISK impact

*Continued from page 1*

planting team leader. Last month, 267 decisions took place during an evangelism event at Western Kentucky University featuring Marian Jordan Ellis, author of "Sex and the City Uncovered." More than 600 female students attended. (See page 9.)

Other outreach events include Hillvue Heights Church's two-day Godstock event, which resulted in 50 baptisms, and a block party held by State Street Baptist Church that drew 250 people and had 19 salvation decisions.

John Mark Toby, Warren Association's director of missions, said training has made a significant impact on the record number of salvation decisions.

In conjunction with the KBC Annual Meeting theme "Tell Your Story," Toby said churches provided testimony training for members.

Thousands of Warren Association Baptists have learned how to share the gospel through a personal testimony, and how crucial it is to use their skills.

Toby anticipates the Holy Spirit will continue moving as visiting Baptists help residents spread the gospel.

"We want to penetrate this city with prayer," Toby said. "May the Lord move mightily in their efforts." (KBC)

# Calvary honors 2 pastors for 50 years of ministry

By Ken Walker

**Bowling Green**—Nearly 50 years have passed since Bob Martin faced an intense ordination examination at Calvary Baptist Church, with the questioning lasting all afternoon.

The day's speaker (O.G. Lawless) cut his sermon short, saying, "If you haven't heard the gospel in the past three hours, I don't think I can add anything to it."

That is one of many memories that will fill the air Sunday, Nov. 16, when Calvary Baptist Church honors Martin and his brother-in-law, Bill Whitaker, on the eve of their golden anniversaries in ministry. Whitaker was ordained Nov. 29, 1964, and Martin on Dec. 27, 1964.

Though interim pastor at Edmonton Baptist Church, Whitaker's home church is Glasgow Baptist, where he served from 2007-10. Martin is once again a member of Calvary Baptist after returning to the area because of a family member's illness.

"I think seeing individuals who are faithful over an extended period of time is meaningful to any minister," said David Gifford, Calvary's pastor since 2002. "Recognizing they have faithfully filled many posts in church and denominational life is a challenge to stay with it."

The two men—who remain active as pulpit supply preachers and interim pastors—feel blessed to be honored at the church where their careers began.

"It hardly seems possible it's been 50 years," Whitaker said. "Our spouses have been great partners and pastor's wives. To celebrate together will be very special."

Martin, who is married to Whitaker's sister, Joyce, was part of the congregation when it was Barry Street Mission, sponsored by First Baptist Church of Bowling Green. The mission later relocated about seven blocks south of downtown, where attendance of about 75 eventually doubled.

Today attendance has doubled again following Calvary's 1995 move to a site

four miles south of town, just off the Natcher Parkway.

"Calvary has been the backbone of my ministry," said Martin, who will deliver the sermon at the 10:30 a.m. service, reception and Whitaker's sermon at the 6 p.m. service.

"It's a great thing," Martin added. "But my sermon will be from John 3:30: 'He must increase and I must decrease.' I feel like John. It's a pleasure to serve in ministry, and Calvary has backed me up."

Although eight years older than his brother-in-law, Martin, 79, wound up being ordained a month later because of a nine-year stint in the U.S. Air Force. While in the military, he and Joyce had the first two of their three children, followed by five grandchildren and a great-grandson.

After graduating from Western Kentucky University in 1966, Martin earned a master of divinity at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville in 1969. From 1964-93, Martin's pastorates included Plano Baptist, Graffenberg Baptist, Morganfield First Baptist and Pleasant Hill Baptist in Campbellsville.

He was director of missions for the Little River Baptist Association from 1993-2003.

The following year Martin became a part-time DOM for the Gasper River Association in Morgantown until stepping down in 2012.

Martin served as an architectural consultant for the Kentucky Baptist Convention from 1995-2003. That experience came in handy during Calvary's 2010 addition of a 13,000-square foot facility.

Ironically, when he did preliminary sketches Martin never expected that years later the building committee would accept most of his recommendations.

"Bob was invaluable with his

**"It's a pleasure to serve in ministry, and Calvary has backed me up."**

Bob Martin



**"It hardly seems possible it's been 50 years... To celebrate together will be very special."**

Bill Whitaker

background," Gifford commented. "As a church member, he and Joyce have both been a blessing."

Whitaker met his wife, Rebecca, then a

member of nearby Eastwood Baptist Church, were both attended Western Kentucky University.

They married in 1966, two years after Bill's call to pastor Jackson Grove Baptist Church in Bristow.

The first of their

three children would arrive after Whitaker moved to First Baptist Church of Sturgis in 1969. He later spent seven years at First Baptist Church of Murray, prior to serving as a missionary to the Philippines.

Though they only spent four years there, Whitaker calls his time in Manila the highlight of his career, particularly the opportunity to start a church in the north Manila community of Malabon.

"The church has since started three other churches and the pastor (Eduardo Caalim) was nurtured and ordained by the International Mission Board," Whitaker said. "He has called on my birthday ever year since we returned to the States."

After their return, Whitaker was pastor of Downtown Baptist Church in Orlando, Fla., for nearly two years before his call to become president of Clear Creek Baptist Bible College in 1988.

During 19 years at the school, he helped Calvary set up the O.G. Lawless Scholarship (named after Martin's ordination speaker), with members contributing \$18,650 to establish it.

Managed by the Kentucky Baptist Foundation, the annual stipend has ranged from \$775 to \$950, with the most recent grant going to John Morgan of Knott County.

While few members were there 50 years ago, its current pastor said Sunday's celebration will help newcomers appreciate the faithfulness that established Calvary.

"We had our 93rd anniversary as a church in August," Gifford said. "This Sunday will give us a glimpse of where we've been and where we can go." (WR)

## CP award

*Continued from page 1*

Mathis declares himself a Kentuckian from head to toe.

"I told 'em in West Virginia they were 'almost heaven' (the state's slogan) because they were next to Kentucky," he joked.

Executive Director Paul Chitwood called Mathis deserving of this award because he models a lifestyle of giving and cooperative missions.

"As a pastor he led his churches to give generously and sacrificially through the CP," Chitwood said. "He is a dear brother and friend to me, the Cooperative Program, and to Kentucky Baptists."

Associate Director Curtis Woods noted that in 2012—as chair of the mission board business and finance committee—Mathis "courageously" led the mission board to lighten personnel by streamlining job positions and rethinking mission strategies.

"Kentucky Baptists owe Don a great debt," Woods commented. "But I am certain he would respond, 'Owe nothing to anyone except to love one another; for the one who loves his neighbor has fulfilled the law' (Romans 13:8). I am personally thankful for his labor of love."

Adam Greenway, dean of the school of missions at Southern Seminary, calls Mathis a "consistent champion" of cooperative missions.

"His example and legacy is one that is worthy of emulation by current and future KBC pastors and leaders," Greenway said.

Mathis first learned about the Cooperative Program at Pleasant Hill, where he made the decision to follow Christ. He remembers fondly the missions education he received there as a Royal Ambassador.

"We probably gave 10 to 11 percent to CP," Mathis said. "I just assumed every church did what we did."

The evangelist calls the program "rock solid," noting that it enables Southern Baptist missionaries to lead hundreds of

thousands of people to Christ annually.

Noting modern communications and travel enable many churches to organize their own networks and mission trips, Mathis said it can be dangerous when such capabilities compete with CP offerings. That's because enthusiasm about short-term missions can prove short-lived, while the Cooperative Program and missions is consistent, Mathis said.

For that reason, he thinks Kentucky Baptists need to be more diligent about teaching young people about missions made possible by these unified offerings.

Mathis said the key to increased CP support comes from a pastor with a vision and key leaders, such as a deacon and Woman's Missionary Union director.

Such advocates on the finance committee will likely increase giving, said Mathis, who regularly led his churches to increase CP giving by one-half a percent annually.

"If you have a pastor and a couple people with vision, it's not difficult. It's all about leadership," Mathis said. (KBC)

# Tell Your Story

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

**Kentucky Baptist Convention**

**Annual Meeting**  
Living Hope Baptist Church  
**November 11, 2014**

## 2014 Report of the KBC Committee on Nominations

### SPRING REPORT

#### KBC MISSION BOARD:

**Daviess-McLean (Region 2):** 2014 Unexpired Term – Thomas Webb (Calhoun)  
**Green Valley (Region 2):** 2014 Unexpired Term – Nathan Whisnant (Henderson)  
**Irvine (Region 8):** 2014 Unexpired Term – Everett VanZant (Gray Hawk)

#### BOARDS OF AGENCIES & INSTITUTIONS:

**Kentucky Baptist Foundation (Director)**  
2016 Unexpired Term [1]: John Keith (Hodgenville)  
**Oneida Baptist Institute (Trustee)**  
2016 Unexpired Term [1]: Scott Shouse (Louisville)

### FALL REPORT

#### KBC MISSION BOARD:

**At Large (Region 2):** 2017 Term – Jo Pelham (Hopkinsville)  
**At Large (Region 3):** 2017 Term – Matt Pinkston (Lewisport)  
**At Large (Region 7):** 2017 Term – Joel Catron (Monticello)  
**Booneville (Region 8):** 2017 Term – Mark Back (Big Creek)  
**Bracken (Region 5):** 2017 Term – Lew Cook (Maysville)  
**Casey County (Region 7):** 2016 Unexpired Term – Jeric Devore (Liberty)  
**Christian County (Region 2):** 2017 Term – Jimmy Stewart (Pembroke)  
**Crittenden (Region 5):** 2017 Term – Dennis Jackson (Corinth)  
**Daviess-McLean (Region 2):** 2017 Term – Thomas Webb (Calhoun)  
**East Lynn (Region 7):** 2017 Term – Adam Whitlock (Campbellsville)  
**Elkhorn (Region 6):** 2017 Term – Steve Sholar (Nicholasville)  
**Elkhorn (Region 6):** 2017 Term – Rick Hardison (Georgetown)  
**Enterprise (Region 8):** 2017 Term – Tommy Reed (Prestonsburg)  
**Freedom (Region 7):** 2017 Term – Jeff Brown (Albany)  
**Gasper River (Region 3):** 2017 Term – Roger Taylor (Morgantown)  
**Green Valley (Region 2):** 2017 Term – Kenny Kidd (Henderson)  
**Greenup (Region 8):** 2017 Term – Doug Virgin (Worthington)  
**Henry County (Region 5):** 2017 Term – Daniel Lowry (New Castle)  
**Irvine (Region 8):** 2017 Term – Everett VanZant (Gray Hawk)  
**Laurel River (Region 8):** 2017 Term – Andrew Dyer (London)  
**Liberty (Region 7):** 2017 Term – Ray Woodie (Glasgow)  
**Little Bethel (Region 2):** 2017 Term – Bobby Sellers (Dawson Springs)  
**Little River (Region 1):** 2017 Term – Bob McIntosh (Cadiz)  
**Long Run (Region 4):** 2016 Unexpired Term – Jamaal Williams (Louisville)  
**Long Run (Region 4):** 2017 Term – Greg Smith (Louisville)  
**Long Run (Region 4):** 2017 Term – Geoff Lacefield (Louisville)  
**Lynn (Region 3):** 2017 Term – J. D. Shipp (Upton)  
**Mercer (Region 6):** 2017 Term – Chris Orr (Harrodsburg)  
**Muhlenberg (Region 2):** 2017 Term – Dan Yeager (Bremen)  
**Northern Kentucky (Region 5):** 2017 Term – James Woolums (Burlington)  
**Ohio River (Region 1):** 2017 Term – Mike Jones (Marion)  
**Ohio Valley (Region 1):** 2015 Unexpired Term – Barry Yates (Morganfield)  
**South District (Region 6):** 2015 Unexpired Term – John Lane (Perryville)  
**Taylor County (Region 7):** 2017 Term – James Collison (Campbellsville)  
**Upper Cumberland (Region 8):** 2017 Term – Jeff Wilson (Loyall)  
**Warren (Region 3):** 2017 Term – Steve Hussung (Bowling Green)  
**Wayne County (Region 7):** 2017 Term – Ron Andrew (Monticello)

### BOARDS OF AGENCIES & INSTITUTIONS

**Clear Creek Baptist Bible College (Trustees)**  
2015 Unexpired Term [1]: Jason Moore (Ferguson);  
2017 Unexpired Term [1]: Anthony Lovett (Manchester); 2018 Terms [8]: Max Cooper (Columbus), Ken Felty (Berea), John Moore (Arthur, TN), Daryl Mullins (Butler), Tim Roberts (Hawesville), Bo Ryser (East Bernstadt), Bobby Sellers (Dawson Springs), and James Wedding (Owensboro)

**Crossings Ministries (Trustees)**  
2018 Terms [3]: Bill Clark (Independence), Dennis Smith (Benton), and Cathy Stafford (Frankfort)

**Kentucky Baptist Foundation (Directors)**  
2018 Terms [4]: Willis Henson (Paducah), Leslie Sanders (Franklin), Sky Tudor (Lancaster), and Robin Webb (Grayson)

**Kentucky Ethics League (Trustees)**  
2017 Terms [5]: Ken Bolin (Manchester), Dennis Brewer (Richmond), Steve Delaney (Owenton), David Stokes (Lexington), and Stan Williams (Ashland)

**Oneida Baptist Institute (Trustees)**  
2018 Terms [6]: Jerry Bevil (Beaver Dam), Orville Birch (Lexington), Charles Goins (Manchester), Barbara Rogers (Elkton), Bettie Wright (Barlow), and Steve Young (Oneida)

**Sunrise Children's Services (Directors)**  
2018 Terms [3]: Corey Abney (Florence), Roberta Kiser (Lexington), and Billy Riley (Smithland)

**University of the Cumberlands (Trustees)**  
2018 Terms [7]: Phillip Armstrong (Stone Mountain, GA), Bill Gullett (Henderson, TN), Bill Hacker (Corbin), Maureen Henson (Manchester), Roland Mullins (Mount Vernon), John Stewart (Crestwood), and John Mark Toby (Bowling Green)

**Western Recorder (Directors)**  
2018 Terms [3]: Linda Cooper (Bowling Green), Floyd Price (Richmond), and Jim Woolums (Burlington)

#### Committee on Nominations:

**Committee Members:** Nick Sandefur (Chairperson), Harold Best, James Carroll, Dot Crace, Brian Croft, Barry Fields, Richard Gaines, Steve Hussung, Mike Jones, Kevin Milburn, Calvin Naylor, Shane Nickell, Kyle Noffsinger, Pat Reaves, Scott Rogers, Dale Rose, Wilton Shelton, Chris Short, Joshua Smith, Ronnie Stinson, David Tucker, Mark Webb, Matthew Williams, and Bill Wright

**Ex Officio Members:** Executive Director, Paul Chitwood and Convention President, Chip Hutcheson



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### Committee on Committees & Committee on Annual Meeting

### 2014 Report of the KBC Committee on Committees

- **Committee on the Annual Meeting:**  
2015 Unexpired Term – Howard Williams (Radcliff);  
2017 Terms – Joe Crider (Louisville) and Travis Kaiser (Florence)
- **Committee on Constitution & Bylaws:**  
2017 Terms – Brian Arnold (Smithland), Scott Kilgore (Bowling Green), and Mark Maynard (Ashland)
- **Committee on Credentials:**  
2017 Terms – Jeremy Atwood (Leitchfield), Mark Sickling (LaCenter), and P. J. Thompson (Lexington)
- **Committee on Nominations: 2017 Terms**  
Region 1: Darrick Holloman (Princeton)  
Region 2: Paul Strahan (Owensboro)  
Region 3: Tim Harris (Woodburn)  
Region 4: Stan Lowery (Mt. Washington)  
Region 5: Shawn Dobbins (Hebron)  
Region 6: Victor Sholar (Lexington)  
Region 7: Brandon Porter (Glasgow)  
Region 8: Brian Horton (Pikeville)
- **Committee on Public Affairs:**  
2015 Unexpired Term – Jason Price (Nicholasville);  
2017 Terms – Tom Rhoads (Madisonville), Neal Thornton (Mt. Vernon), and Hershael York (Frankfort)
- **Committee on Resolutions:**  
2017 Terms – Paul Sanchez (Brooksville) and Tommy Tapscott (London)

#### Committee on Committees:

**Committee Members:** Jeff Pennington (Chairperson), Norm Brock, Richard Carwile, George Drake, Wes Fowler, Bill Langley, Donnie Patrick, Andrew Sexton, and David Stokes

**Ex Officio Members:**  
Executive Director, Paul Chitwood and Convention President, Chip Hutcheson

### 2014 Report of the KBC Committee on Annual Meeting

#### Persons to Report – 2015

- **Preacher of the Annual Sermon:**  
Paul Chitwood (Louisville);  
Alternate – Chuck McAlister (Louisville)
- **Obituaries:**  
Geoff Lacefield (Louisville);  
Alternate – Jim Castlen (Busy)

#### Committee on Annual Meeting:

**Committee Members:**  
Brad Walker (Chairperson), Paul Atchison, Scott Kerr, Kevin Roberts, and Mark Swadley  
**Permanent Member:**  
Executive Director, Paul Chitwood  
**Ex Officio Members:**  
Convention President – Chip Hutcheson,  
First Vice-President – Kevin Milburn,  
Second Vice-President – Ed Amundson,  
President of Pastors' Conference – Steve Hill,  
President of KBMC – Bob Blankenship,  
President of KBREA – Jeff Smith

## A people called Kentucky Baptists

Four decades ago, in his foreword to a book titled, "Baptists in Kentucky,"

### Together We are the KBC



Paul Chitwood

Franklin Owen wrote, "We believe that the moral fiber of a nation is even more important than her fiscal and military, or any other strength. We further believe that ... the moral strength of a nation is rooted in her religious convictions—that a conviction of righteousness, of purpose under God, is as important to the making and keeping of a great nation as

any or all of the material needs that tend to be so regarded."

Owen penned those words while he served as the executive secretary-treasurer of the Kentucky Baptist Convention.

The job title has changed slightly, but I occupy the same seat today as Owen did in 1975. And I share his belief: The making and keeping of a great nation is inextricably connected to its moral fiber and religious conviction.

The Psalmist wrote, "Unless the Lord watches over the city, the watchman stays awake in vain." Proverbs 14:34 declares, "Righteousness exalts a nation."

The moral condition of our nation is justifiably a cause for concern. Americans kill more unborn children each year than any other country, with the exception of China and Russia.

In America, approximately 1 million children—or one in five—are aborted. America leads the world with a multi-billion dollar pornographic industry, with profits recently shrinking only because of the growing amount of porn that is now free online.

We have the largest prison population in the world. And we spend roughly \$100 billion on illegal drugs each year.

These are but a few of the symptoms of America's moral and religious decay.

What has any of that to do with you and me? We are Americans. More importantly, we are followers of Jesus Christ. And we are Baptists in Kentucky.

These facts, taken together, lead me to conclude that we help make up the moral fiber and strength of our state and nation. Let us accept that role.

Jesus said, "Let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven" (Matthew 5:16).

Peter wrote, "Keep your conduct among the Gentiles honorable, so that when they speak against you as evildoers, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day of visitation" (1 Peter 2:12).

Kentucky Baptists, how we live, love, serve, talk to and about one another, and share Christ with the world, has a bearing both on this earthly kingdom and God's eternal kingdom.

As our country and its culture continue to decay, might we, as God's people, conduct ourselves in a manner that the world will see and hear the gospel, for, in so doing, God will surely be glorified.

Paul Chitwood is executive director of the Kentucky Baptist Convention.

## My story: Grace in a stained glass window

Tell your story" is the theme for the annual meeting in Bowling Green this year. Convention leaders are encouraging KBC agency and institution leaders to share short testimonies as part of their reports in encouraging messengers to share their own stories with friends, neighbors and coworkers.

My story centers around church revivals. As a boy, I accepted Christ as my Savior during a revival service at a church in Lexington, S.C., where my father served as pastor. But it was through a broken, stained glass window during a revival when I was a teenager that some powerful theological truths really became meaningful.

First Baptist Church of Denmark, S.C., has eight gorgeous, stained glass windows surrounding its sanctuary. Each window depicts a scene from the life of Christ.

The parsonage is next door to the church building, and on many Sunday afternoons, my friends would gather to play football, basketball, baseball and volleyball. On this particular day, some of us were playing baseball. We had been asked not to play so close to the church. Like most teenagers, though, I didn't listen.

CRASH!

I pitched a fastball and one of my friends hit it well. It was a homer—in more ways than one. (It sent us running for home.) I sank to my knees and let out a yell so loud they had to have heard it all the way in North, S.C., and perhaps even in Due West (both real places, by the way). My dad came barreling out of his study to see what was the matter.

This was the last thing I wanted: for my dad to know what had happened. But, as revival services were being held that evening, he would know it sooner or later. I'd have picked later!

### After Thought

By Todd Deaton



find grace. No matter what we've done, we can be forgiven by the heavenly Father, redeemed by the Savior's blood, and restored by His church.

Yet, what happened next surprised me. My father didn't get upset. Disappointed, yes; angry, no. He tried to console me, assuring me that everything would be all right. All right? I couldn't pay for that window in a million years. I'd be mowing lawns until I was 80!

That night, there was a special called deacon's meeting. Word was out, though, long before then. As people gathered for the service that evening, they gawked at the broken window, which my mom temporarily patched with a green cover from one of my spiral notebooks.

My dad stood by my side as I told the deacons what had transpired that afternoon. No one fussed! No one scowled! No one insisted that I pay for the window. All was forgiven! They even voted to place plexiglass over all of the stained glass windows to protect them in the future. That night, I felt truly loved by God's people—my church! I learned the meaning of grace.

"Though your sins are like scarlet, they will be as white as snow; though they are as red as crimson, they will be like wool" (Isaiah 1:18).

Like that stained glass window, our lives can be shattered by sin. But we can find grace. No matter what we've done, we can be forgiven by the heavenly Father, redeemed by the Savior's blood, and restored by His church.

## For your child, is it about "me and the moment?"

By David Garrard

The story of Jameis Winston has dominated the landscape of college football for the past year and a half. Without question, he is an incredible athlete. In 2013 Winston led Florida State to an undefeated season and a National Championship. In the process he won the Heisman Trophy—one of sport's most prestigious awards.

Yet, despite all of his success, a dark cloud has hovered over Winston and as a result, the entire university. It is the feeling of many that this young man has been, and continues to be allowed to get away with questionable behavior because he is a tremendous football player.

Other college football players have also become involved in controversy by doing things that are explicitly forbidden by NCAA rules.

Questions abound. Why would a

player do something that could affect his own future and reputation in such negative ways? Why would a player do something that would hurt his teammates

and affect their chance for success and achievement? Why would a player do something that is just plain wrong?

One ESPN commentator explains, "For these players, it's simply about 'me and the moment.' Nothing else matters. They don't think about consequences, intended or

unintended. They don't think about those around them. It's simply about me and the moment." He went on to say that in his opinion this kind of behavior began when these athletes were young. They were allowed to get away with this way of thinking and acting from a very young age because they were gifted athletes.

No one ever challenged them or confronted them or helped them understand that the decisions they make affect others as well as themselves.

No one was willing to do anything that would take them off the playing field—a decision that might cost the

team wins and the school prestige. Instead, parents, coaches, teachers and friends became enablers—actually encouraging this kind of behavior by giving the player a pass and refusing to hold him responsible.

In his book, "The Strong Willed Child," James Dobson writes about how important it is for parents to win the battle of wills early. The sooner children learn that they are not the center of the universe the better life will be for everyone—their family, their friends—everyone!

The sooner children learn that they are accountable for their behavior, the better. The stakes get higher and the consequences of irresponsible behavior get greater as kids get older.

Parents can protect children from all of this by holding them accountable. Help your children see how their behavior affects others as well as themselves. Teach them about the self-control that God gives when we put Him and others ahead of ourselves.

Don't wait. Do it now!

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



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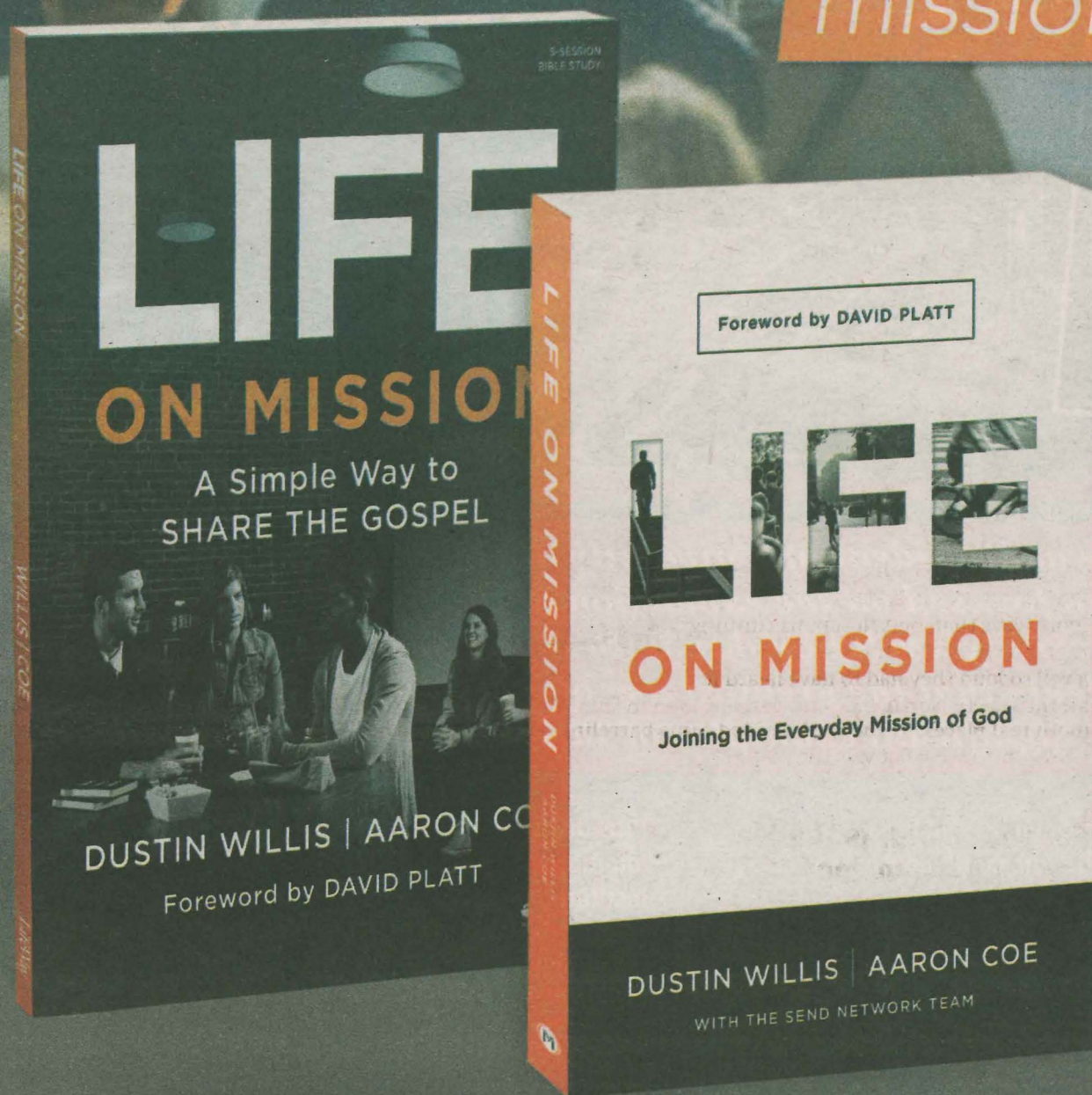
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*Jim Taylor's tenure as President of University of the Cumberlands reveals a legacy which has been focused on the expansion of quality academic programs, strengthening the university's relationship with the Kentucky Baptist Convention and teaching our students that the greatest use of one's life is in service to others. Significant examples of this include:*

Signed the Covenant Agreement between UC and the Kentucky Baptist Convention in 1986 and continuously sought to strengthen this relationship.

Initiated the partnership with LifeWay Christian Resources to host thousands of students involved in Mission Fuge (M-Fuge) summer camps on Cumberlands campus.

Expanded UC's Pastor's Recommendation and Christian Leadership Scholarship programs to recognize students for their active participation in school based Christian clubs and in their local churches.

Encouraged the development of the Master of Arts in Christian Studies Program to provide a convenient and affordable graduate program for students called to ministry.

Initiated a partnership with Clear Creek Baptist Bible College to offer a special scholarship opportunity for Clear Creek grads to enroll in UC's Master of Arts in Christian Studies program.

Provided scholarship opportunities for a large number of international and domestic students from Oneida Baptist Institute.

Supported the vision of the two students who began the Mountain Outreach (MO) program in 1982.

Through the MO program, raised the funds to build 145 homes in the communities surrounding Williamsburg; to construct handicap access ramps; to provide wells for clean, safe, drinking water; to repair leaky roofs; to replace drafty windows; to insulate homes; and to provide shoes, clothing, food and Christmas gifts for hundreds of area residents.

Promoted the expansion of the Appalachian Ministries Program which has ministered to an average of 60 children in local communities on a weekly basis for more than 35 years.

Provided hundreds of area children with new socks and shoes through partnership with Samaritan's Feet.

*Thank you, Dr. Taylor, for your tireless commitment to fulfilling God's call on your life through serving the faculty, staff and students of University of the Cumberlands for the past 36 years.*

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# Protestant churches show economic improvement

By Jim Burton

**Nashville, Tenn.**—The nation's slow economic recovery from a deep recession is showing up in the offering plates of Protestant churches in the U.S., according to a recent survey by LifeWay Research.

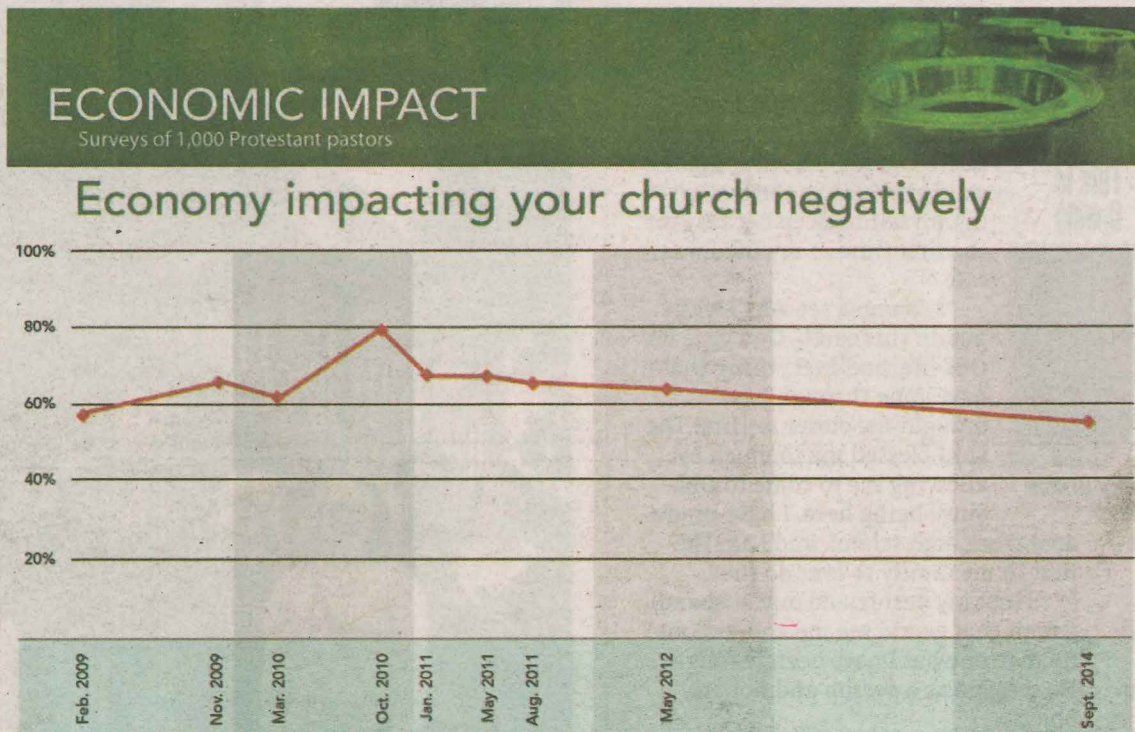
Although 56 percent of churches still report negative impact from the economy, 13 percent report a positive impact—a jump of 4 percentage points from May 2012.

When compared to the previous three years, churches are reporting less negative and more positive economic impact.

"The most recent recession revealed poor habits among Americans in terms of spending and lending," Scott McConnell, LifeWay Research director, said. "Surely churches have had to learn some of these same lessons."

Two-thirds of the churches surveyed report meeting or exceeding their 2014 budget. Nearly half (46 percent) are matching their budget, while 22 percent say receipts exceed their budget. Meanwhile, 29 percent of churches report receipts below budget.

When compared to 2013 giving, 74 percent of Protestant churches report offerings are at



or above 2013, while 21 percent say receipts are lower than 2013.

The LifeWay survey also asked pastors about church size, region, pastor's age, educational level, ethnicity and evangelical/mainline affiliation.

This information reveals where challenges still exist.

Pastors of churches with up to 99 regular attenders are more likely to report the economy continues to have a very

negative impact on their churches (9 percent). For churches with at least 100 attenders, that response drops to about 3 percent.

Pastors in the Northeast report very negatively about the economy (10 percent), as do pastors nationwide who are 55 years or older (16 percent), and African-American pastors (12 percent).

The pastor's education level

also gave some indication of financial health. Pastors with a master's degree (5 percent) are less likely to select "very negatively" compared to pastors with no college degree (10 percent).

"The current slow-growth economy does not allow individuals, businesses, or churches to slip into poor financial habits that may have been present seven or eight years ago," McConnell said.

"Everyone must be innovative in how efficient and productive each of their activities is," he said.

The slow-growth economy continues to influence church hiring decisions.

"For a couple decades, new and increased church activity could rely on additional staff and resource purchases financed by strong growth in giving," McConnell said. "Those decades are over."

McConnell cites the following factors that ease economic pressure:

- Unemployment has improved five straight years;
- Social Security recipients have received cost-of-living adjustments for three straight years; and
- Real disposable personal income has grown in 2014.

"However, the employment cost index indicates that total compensation has been growing at about 2 percent a year for six years, but when adjusted for inflation total compensation is very similar to national levels five years ago," McConnell said.

LifeWay Research has conducted this survey seven times since 2009.

The most recent survey in 2012 indicated stabilized giving in many churches. (BP)

## Moore to speak at Vatican conference

By Tom Strode

**Nashville**—Lead Southern Baptist ethicist Russell Moore will speak at a Vatican-sponsored, inter-religious conference on strengthening marriage and family life, it was announced Nov. 3.

Moore, president of the Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission, will present an evangelical Christian perspective during the international colloquium, which is about the "complementarity of man and woman" in marriage. The event will be Nov. 17-19 at Vatican City, which is located within Rome and is home to the Roman Catholic pope.

While evangelicals and Catholics have "real and ongoing differences" on salvation and the church that will remain after the conference, Moore said he is privileged to present the biblical view that marriage is a picture of Christ and His church to a diverse group of religious leaders at the event.

"Even though we disagree on many things, I hope to speak to God's design for human flourishing as rooted in the gospel of Jesus Christ," he said.

Moore said he is grateful the Vatican's Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith "decided to convene this gathering on such an important issue."

"I hope that the conversation that we have together will underscore the significance of the complementarity of man and woman for marriage and for the common good," he said.

Moore's hope for the colloquium is that its participants will "stand in

solidarity on the common grace, creational mandate of marriage and family as necessary for human flourishing and social good," he said in a Nov. 3 blog post. "And I hope that those of us from the believers' church tradition can represent well our views of how marriage is more than just a natural good (although it is never less than that), but is a picture of the gospel one-flesh union of Christ and His church."

Author and pastor Rick Warren will also speak at the conference. Pope Francis will speak during the opening session.

Other scheduled speakers include:

- N.T. Wright, popular Christian author and professor;
- Charles Chaput, Catholic archbishop of Philadelphia; and
- Jonathan Sacks, professor at both New York University and Yeshiva University and former chief rabbi of the United Hebrew Congregations of the UK. Other scheduled speakers include representatives of Islam, Buddhism, Hinduism, Mormonism and the Sikh religion.

The colloquium comes at a time when marriage is threatened, especially in the United States: Judicial rulings have set the stage for same-sex marriage to be legal in 35 states; the percentage of American adults who have never married is at an all-time high; and cohabitation and divorce are problems in the culture and the church. In addition, the religious freedom of Americans who decline to provide their services for same-sex weddings based on their convictions increasingly is imperiled. (BP)

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## Oneida is a 'piece of heaven'

### Former student, current staff member tells her Oneida story

In a recent chapel service, one of our staff members shared her story. The Lord rescued "Susie," and after the chapel service He rescued a current student who gave her life to Christ. The remainder of this article is Susie's account of her Oneida story.

"I came to Oneida when I was 17 years old. My life was heading down the wrong path. I have always wondered why I was ever born.

"From the time I came into this world, I have had to deal with torment, pain and suffering. My home was not a happy one. I have been beaten, bullied, starved, molested, kidnapped, raped, drugged and almost sold. My mother had me stand next to the road holding a sign that said 'For Sale.'

"When someone stopped by to ask if this was true, my mother had me go back inside, and then I was beaten.

"I was abused from ages 6 through 16. When I was 17, my friend's uncle kidnapped a friend of mine and me. He took us to another state and they drugged, beat and raped us for days. They eventually brought us back and dropped us off at a gas station. I was then taken to the hospital and put in ICU.

"Once I was released from the hospital, I was sent to Illinois to stay with family. It took my Sunday School

teacher and her husband to know that if something did not change, I was going to die.

"It is because of them that I was given the chance to live. They brought me to Oneida. The first night I was here, I lay in the bed crying myself to sleep because for the first time in my life I was safe.

"I can now see why I was put on this earth. God gave me this life, and everything that I have gone through has brought me closer to Him. The Lord blessed me so much by allowing me to come to OBI. Since being here, I have graduated from high school, and I am the first in my family to ever do that.

"I met my best friend (my husband), a man that would see me and love me, no matter what I have been through. He sees me as a person and not an object.

"We have two beautiful children. Even though doctors said it was not possible, the Lord saw otherwise.

"Oneida Baptist Institute is my little piece of heaven right here on earth. If it were not for Oneida, I don't believe I would be here today.

"Every day I thank the Lord for giving me this life. I have been asked many times if I would go back and change my life if I could, and my answer is always "No." Oneida is my home and always will be.

*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

## 'It was not God's plan'

### Online student, Copley, submits to God's plan for his life

Online student Landon Copley, from Cannonsburg, Ky., thought he had his life all planned out, until God showed him otherwise.

"I graduated from high school with the intent to head to the University of Kentucky to study landscape architecture," Copley said.

"I had big dreams for myself. My idea was to finish college, find a really great paying job somewhere south (where landscape architecture is huge), and eventually settle down, get married and have a family.

"There was one simple thing wrong with that picture though: It was not God's plan for me," he said.

"Near the end of my first semester at UK, I began dating my (future) wife, Lori. Her family was very faithful to Christ and attended church regularly. She invited me to church with her one evening, and I was a little hesitant about going.

"I had accepted Christ as my Savior as a young individual.

"But as I grew and I learned that there are many enticing things within this world, I quickly found that my belief in God, my belief in Jesus Christ, had diminished.

"I will never forget my wife's response to my hesitancy to attend church. Lori said, 'Well that isn't going to work,'" Copley recalled.

"So I began going back to church simply to please Lori," he said. "What I did not know was that in the background of this process, God was working on me.

"The whole time I thought I was deceiving Lori and her family; God was pulling one over me!

"It was not long after I began going to church that I rededicated my life to the Lord," Copley continued. "Then

I began singing in church, playing music, and I found a thirst for Scripture like never before in my life.

"I decided that landscape architecture was not for me," Copley said. "I felt that God had more out there for me. He let me know that my calling was to preach His word.

"I enrolled at Clear Creek to take online classes even though I had no idea how it would work. I attempt to walk with Christ on a daily basis, and it is a blessing to serve God every day."

*To be continued ...*

Clear Creek Chronicle



Donnie Fox

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



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# Cumberlands alumna works with NY church plant

By Jennifer Wake-Floyd

**Williamsburg**—In 2012, University of the Cumberlands alumna April Smith, of Corbin, faced the question that plagues every graduating senior: Now what?

As a student, she studied human services and religion. She was involved with international ministries—from coordinating events to participating as a conversation partner—and knew she wanted to reach people with a heart of Jesus. She didn't know how it would take place but she was confident in the hands that would guide her future.

"Campus Minister Dean Whitaker encouraged me that in every season it is important to be present, and the future will take care of itself," Smith said.

It was those words that have resonated with Smith in the past two years as she served with the North American Mission Board. In the summer of 2013, Smith began working with NAMB, doing youth and children's ministry with Oh Be Joyful Baptist Church of Colorado. She felt God pointing her back to New York City.

"I went to NYC with Acts1:8 ministries as a student at UC, but I had no intentions of ever going back. God obviously had different plans," Smith said.

As her short stint in Colorado ended, she still had a longing to be on the mission field. As Smith sought out the next destination, God was planting road signs directing her pathway. Her home church, Immanuel Baptist in Corbin, had connections with Pastor Nathan Tubbs of Cornerstone Church in Brooklyn, N.Y. After long conversations with Tubbs and others connected with both churches, Smith knew

this was the confirmation she needed.

"It wasn't until the summer as I was finishing up with Oh Be Joyful in Colorado that God started pressing Cornerstone on my heart," she said. "Through prayer and connection, God brought me here."

In the past year, Smith served with Cornerstone through NAMB as a church plant intern.

From teaching children to administrative duties to coordinating women's ministry, Smith has learned what it means to

truly serve and trust in God.

"Coming here taught me that we have to go deeper than spelling out sacrifice," she said. "It was hard to leave everything, but I knew it was worth it."

Smith finished up her adventure as a church plant intern with Cornerstone on Nov. 1. Smith has returned home to Corbin, where she will continue seeking what God has in store for her.

With a willing heart that is seeking to serve God, she can rest assured that God will use her yet again. (UC)



April Smith of Corbin recently completed a year-long NAMB internship at Cornerstone Church in Brooklyn, N.Y.

## 267 WKU women make 'commitment for Christ'

By Robin Cornetel

**Bowling Green**—Western Kentucky University students witnessed God at work, according to a campus missionary, when 267 college women committed their lives to Christ at a recent outreach event.

"Girls' Night Out," a RISK: Bowling Green event organized by WKU's Baptist Campus Ministry, drew more than 600 young women. They filled every seat in the Downing Student Union auditorium and many spilled out into the lobby.

On stage, Christian speaker Marian Jordan Ellis shared intimate stories of her life before Christ.

She talked frankly about searching for love and acceptance through sex and alcohol, and how it only made the hole in her heart bigger.

"She really connected with them," WKU Campus Missionary Tommy Johnson said.

Ellis, founder of Redeemed Girl Ministries, is author of "Sex and the City Uncovered," which contrasts her stories of "hookups, hangovers and heartbreaks" with the unfailing love of Jesus Christ. Ellis has authored six books aimed at young women.

"She spoke truth into their lives, and you could tell they could identify with her story. She shared the truth of the gospel plainly and clearly and called for a response of commitment," Johnson recalled.

He said "God moved" as nearly half of the women in attendance made decisions for Christ. Johnson said female ministry leaders with BCM have been following up with students by phone and email. The hope is to plug the young women in to local churches and Bible studies.

Associate Campus Missionary Jessie Morgan Nickell said she sees Girls' Night Out as moving the BCM one step closer to

developing a relationship with sorority students.

"One of our goals is to have a better, loving and respected connection with our Greek community on our campus," Nickell said. "I think we've achieved that with these girls."

The event was open to all female students, but was targeted toward sororities that must accumulate a certain number of extracurricular educational requirements.

Nickell said only 50 women who attended were not members of a campus sorority. Both Nickell and Johnson thanked Kentucky Baptists for supporting Girls' Night Out through their gifts to the Cooperative Program.

"We are grateful to the Kentucky Baptist Convention and Kentucky Baptist churches for making this possible and seeing university campuses as a mission field," Johnson said. (KBC)

## 'Pastor Bob' retires from Sebree after 35 years

By Lauren Snowden

**Sebree**—For Bob Hardison, it's time to relax, but not if the Lord has other plans.

Hardison has served as pastor of First Baptist Church of Sebree for 35 years, beginning his ministry in 1979. He stepped down this past Sunday. It was a decision that Hardison and his wife, Violet, came to together.

"I had read a book by Henry Blackaby, 'Experiencing God.' It talked about how God speaks through the church, through friends, through the community, and so on," Hardison said. "I feel like God said to step aside; Violet thought so, too."

The church honored the Hardisons on his last day of preaching, awarding him with the title of pastor emeritus, which Hardison said was "the greatest compliment."

Although the title is an honor, it doesn't compare with the family, friends, memories and community they've gained through the years.

"At the party, there was a roast. Members reminded me of the time I served garlic bread at communion. They gave me a hard time for being a bad singer," he recalled.

"The church people have been loving and good to us. They've provided for us; they're family," he said.

"The secret: Everyone likes my wife,"

Hardison added. "They decided to keep her, and I decided to keep her, so they decided to keep me."

The Greenville native is a graduate of Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary in California. Hardison began his ministry in California, then headed east to Nashville. All in all, he has been a pastor for 43 years.

When asked if he ever thought he'd end up living in Kentucky for so long, Hardison said, "The Lord never called us any place else. Why go anywhere else?"

The Hardisons like the life they've made in Sebree so much, they've decided to stick around. They recently moved out of the parsonage to a house across the street, and they plan on being active members of Sebree First for as long as the Lord allows.

"We want to continue the ministry. We want to help the church," Hardison said. "Violet and I plan on being at church every Sunday, even when the young folks have to wheel us through the doors."

When asked to give advice to the next pastor, Hardison offered this: "Take daily spiritual time for yourself. Never say, 'It's my way or the highway.' Lead as a shepherd, not as a tyrant."

Hardison also plans on staying active in the Green Valley Baptist Association Foundation, where he serves as a chairman. (WR)



Bob Hardison

## Crossings intertwines missions & camp

### A heart for reaching those who have never heard the gospel

In 1999, God began creating a burden in our hearts for international missions.

This burden, Tera and I thought, would lead us to the mission field, but God had different plans on how missions would be intertwined with our lives.

As many of you know, missions has been a key part of Crossings since 2001. In summary, Crossings camp attendees have given over 1.1 million since then to take the gospel to other parts of the world.

Along with these gifts, hundreds have taken mission trips as a result of God's leading in their respective lives.

Over the past year, God is again calling us to a greater commitment to Himself that will have an impact on how we see missions personally and corporately in the life of this ministry.

God is using various circumstances to burden us again, but this time, more specifically, for those that have never heard the gospel and likely have no gospel witness in their people group.

These such groups can spark great debate in that, since they have no witness, are they justly condemned since they cannot call on the name of Jesus?

I contend that the Bible speaks clearly on this that we are all justly condemned by our actions, according to Romans 1.

Also, Romans 10:14-16 confirms that

the message must be sent to those who have not heard, for apart from that they cannot "believe in whom they have never heard."

As we continue to seek after the Lord to hear clearly His direction, I am certain that as believers we must be burdened for those who have no gospel witness.

A great resource that I am using is the Joshua Project. I receive an email each day of an unreached people group that requests for specific prayers about the strategy to reach them.

I pray we all will become more burdened each day to take action to see the gospel proclaimed to these unreached groups all over this world.

We are all called to this task, some may go, some may give, and surely we all must pray to this end.

### Crossings Ministries



David Melber

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



## November

**14** KBC/Baptist Campus Ministries Collegiate DR Training, University of Kentucky BCM Building, Lexington.

**14-16** All-State Junior High Choir Retreat, Campbellsville Baptist Church.

**20** Kentucky Woman's Missionary Union Volunteer Luncheon, Kentucky Baptist Building, Louisville.

## December

**8** KBC Mission Board, Kentucky Baptist Building, Louisville.

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**LOUISVILLE**—Highview Church, Shelbyville Road campus, will host The Hoppers, America's First Family of Gospel Music, on Friday, Nov. 14, at 7 pm. The concert is sponsored by Sunrise Children's Services and a love offering will be taken. Tickets are available by calling 502-583-1000, or visit [www.sunrise.org](http://www.sunrise.org).

**MOUNT WASHINGTON**—First Church will host the acclaimed family musical ensemble, Annie Moses Band, on Nov. 16 at 6 p.m. A love offering will be taken. For more information, visit the church's website at [www.fbcmw.org](http://www.fbcmw.org).

**PENDLETON**—Antioch Church has called **Tim Liechty** as pastor.

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**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:** 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](http://www.buckcreekbaptist.com). Send resumé to the following: Buck Creek Baptist Church, Attn.: Personnel Comm., 3788 US 431, Calhoun, KY 42327. Resumé will be accepted until Nov. 28.

**SEEKING:** Woodlawn Baptist Church, a small Southern Baptist Church in central

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Ky. is seeking a full-time pastor. Experience preferred, but not required. Send resumé to [home@woodlawnbaptist2serve.org](mailto:home@woodlawnbaptist2serve.org).

**SEEKING:** Christ Baptist Church in Cold Spring, Ky., is prayerfully accepting resumé for the position of full-time senior pastor. Minimum of 5 years experience and seminary degree or equivalent 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.

**SEEKING:** Evergreen Baptist Church in Frankfort, Ky., is seeking a full-time pastor to lead a congregation with average worship attendance of 130. Experience and

seminary degree preferred, but not required. Send resumé to the church at 2698 Evergreen Rd, Frankfort, KY 40601 or email resumé to [ebcpastorsearch2014@gmail.com](mailto:ebcpastorsearch2014@gmail.com).

**SEEKING:** Bellfield Baptist Church is seeking a full-time pastor. Please send resumé to Bellfield Baptist Church, Pastor Search Committee, 9980 Hwy 136 E, Henderson, KY 42420

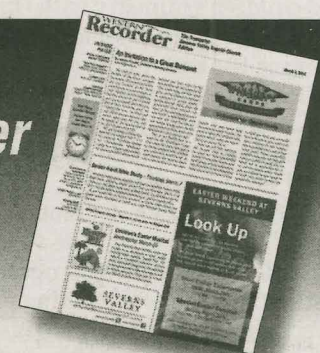
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# Lone Star biker rally draws gospel outreach

By Karen Willoughby

**Galveston, Texas**—Now in its 13th year, the Lone Star Rally is touted as the largest weekend motorcycle rally in North America. At least 400,000 bikers, wannabes and gawkers were expected to roar into Galveston, Texas—population 48,000—for the weekend event.

Southern Baptists were among the mass of people rolling onto the 28-mile-long Galveston Island Nov. 6-9. Their purpose through Mission Lone Star: evangelize as many as possible.

Mission Lone Star is a partnership of eight Baptist associations in Texas, who together want to reach bikers in Galveston with intentional evangelism, the way Southern Baptists do for events in Sturgis, S.D., Daytona Beach and Myrtle Beach.

Many volunteers are needed for the evangelistic thrust for the bikers and others at the Lone Star Rally, said Jim Hamilton, executive director of the Golden Triangle Baptist Network and overall coordi-



Mission Lone Star volunteers will receive a bracelet to wear during and after Lone Star Rally.

nator for Mission Lone Star.

"We need chaplains to minister to the more than 2,000 vendors, plus city workers and law enforcement personnel," Hamilton said. "We need people to work the booth, catchers to draw the people in, and people to share their personal story in three minutes or less."

Hamilton was executive director of the Dakota Baptist Convention when he drew together a group of people to start the intentional evangelism ministry in 2006 at the Sturgis Motorcycle Rally. It expanded over time not just to Florida and South Carolina rallies, but also to churches and associations as people trained to use what has become known as the "Sturgis method" in local ministries.

The Sturgis

method involves a big prize—a motorcycle in Sturgis; \$1,000/day in Galveston—that people can register for, if they will listen to someone share a 3-minute testimony.

Evangelist Ronnie Hill of Fort Worth, whose ministry gave Hamilton the idea for the Sturgis intentional evangelism thrust, trained Dakota volunteers in giving their testimony in three minutes. He was in Galveston for Mission Lone Star, again training people to share their faith in Jesus.

Don Hunter, a chaplain with the Oklahoma Baptist Convention's Disaster Relief, trained chaplains during Sturgis. He, too, was in Galveston to train chaplains.

"We have the original crew to pull the organization together," Hamilton said. "With the partnership of the now eight associations in Texas, we're putting together something real solid for this year and for the future."

The associations are Galveston, Gulf Coast, Trinity River, and Bell, plus three associations that together comprise the Sabine Neches Baptist Area, plus the Golden Triangle Baptist Network and the Baptist General Convention of Texas.

Booth space was retained on one of the three main streets of the rally. "Catchers" invite passers-by to talk with one of the volunteers, who share their testimony.

About one out of every six people who listen make a profession of faith, according to statistics from the Sturgis Motorcycle Rally, where this intentional evangelism method has been used for the last nine years. Sturgis 9-year totals: 6,430 professions of faith out of 38,189 who listened to a 3-minute testimony.

People who listen to a testimony are then invited to enter their name and contact info in a \$1,000 daily drawing.

The information of those who make professions of faith will be sent to local Southern Baptist churches.

The Mission Lone Star intentional evangelism ministry has a \$26,000 budget, all of which has already been given, including a sizable grant from BGCT.

"I prayerwalked and prayer rode in Galveston last year, about what to do," Hamilton said. "We're (using) 150 to 200 volunteers at the booth itself and 30 to 40 two-person teams of chaplains."

"This is (geographically) much bigger than Sturgis," Hamilton continued. "It's 16 to 20 blocks; Sturgis is six to eight. We're hoping to win several hundred people to Christ. With the training and experience volunteers will get in evangelism, we anticipate much

more one-on-one evangelism and decisions for Christ will be taking place in the future in our churches."

The Sturgis method is used at the Lone Star Rally for two reasons, Hamilton said.

"It's a technique that works," Hamilton said. "And after these people are trained and have done it hundreds of time, they're not afraid to share anymore. It's something they'll take back to their home church."

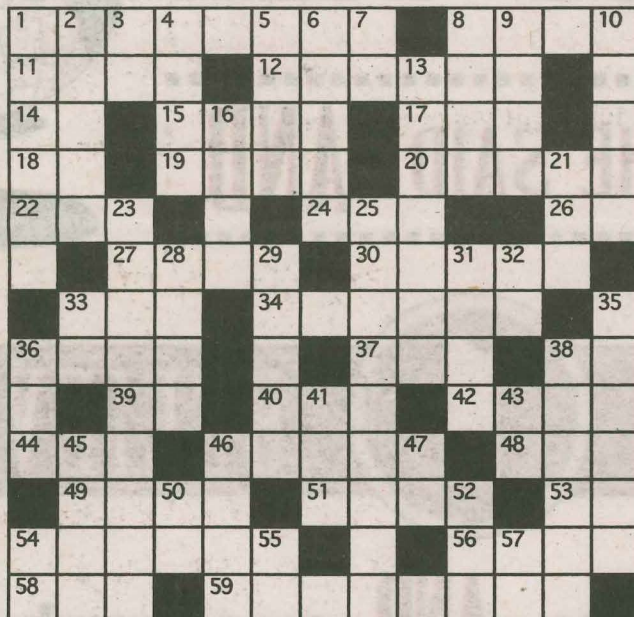
Souvenirs are a tangible part of Mission Lone Star, with commemorative poker chips and a King of Hearts playing card serving as reminders to take home of the gospel message recipients heard from the witnesses.

Hill said, "People are hurting, searching, looking for answers, even big, burly bikers. ... The gospel works. It still works. It's still powerful. It still changes people's lives." (BP)

## Bible Crosswords

### Across

- 1 "Give ear, O \_\_\_\_ of Israel" (Psalms 80:1)
- 8 Animal fat
- 11 "And now abideth faith, \_\_\_\_ charity" (1 Corinthians 13:13)
- 12 "Every \_\_\_\_ shall be filled, and every mountain and hill shall be brought low" (Luke 3:5)
- 14 Gold, chem. symbol
- 15 Revise
- 17 Direction
- 18 Dental surgeon, abbr.
- 19 "Make the \_\_\_\_ for fire" (Ezekiel 24:9)
- 20 Advantage, resource
- 22 Over (poetic)
- 24 Father
- 26 What the doctor wants you to say when you open your mouth
- 27 "To him ... who liveth for \_\_\_\_" (Revelation 4:9)
- 30 "They shall fall, and \_\_\_\_ rise" (Amos 8:14)
- 33 Abijah's son (1 Kings 15:8)
- 34 Foreign
- 36 A cereal grain
- 37 Three letters of Latin anagram for Christ
- 38 Chemical warfare, abbr.
- 39 Old Testament, abbr.
- 40 Longing
- 42 Land measurement
- 44 Larger, abbr.
- 46 "The four and twenty elders, which sat before God on their \_\_\_\_" (Revelation 11:16)
- 48 A snake-shaped fish
- 49 "The veil of the temple was



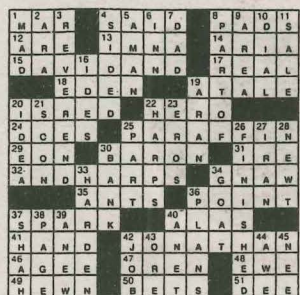
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\_\_\_\_ in the midst" (Luke 23:45)

- 51 Paul was a \_\_\_\_-maker
- 53 Building wing
- 54 "What then? are we \_\_\_\_ than they?" (Romans 3:9)
- 56 "He shall suck the poison of \_\_\_\_" (Job 20:16)
- 58 Exclamation of disgust
- 59 "Cattle shall feed in large \_\_\_\_" (Isaiah 30:23)

### Down

- 1 "Put your trust in my \_\_\_\_" (Judges 9:15)
- 2 "Peace be to thine \_\_\_\_" (1 Samuel 25:6)
- 3 Estimated position, abbr.
- 4 Chick's sound
- 5 "Turn ye from your \_\_\_\_ ways" (Ezekiel 33:11)
- 6 Scored
- 7 550, Romans num.
- 8 Part of an eye or a camera
- 9 Affirmative votes
- 10 "Deliver our lives from \_\_\_\_" (Joshua 2:13)
- 13 "Narrow is the way, which \_\_\_\_ unto life" (Matthew 7:14)
- 16 "Pharisee besought him to \_\_\_\_" (Luke 11:37)
- 21 "He that hath an \_\_\_\_ let him hear" (Revelation 2:7)
- 23 "Elias verily cometh first, and \_\_\_\_ all things" (Mark 9:12)
- 25 "I am the God of Bethel, where thou \_\_\_\_ the pillar" (Genesis 31:13)
- 28 Very large
- 29 Color again
- 31 Passport
- 32 European Community, abbr.
- 33 Alcoholics Anonymous, abbr.
- 35 Inhabits
- 36 "Hurt not the wine and the \_\_\_\_" (Revelation 6:6)
- 38 Crawls
- 41 "Take, \_\_\_\_; this is my body" (Matthew 26:26)
- 43 Common Era, abbr.
- 45 Gregory, for short
- 46 "There is but a \_\_\_\_ between me and death" (1 Samuel 20:3)
- 47 Tin, chem. symbol
- 50 New Testament, abbr.
- 52 Black sticky material
- 54 Abbreviation for a dry measure
- 55 Royal Academy, abbr.
- 57 Direction



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IN ACTS 1:8, JESUS SAYS,

YOU WILL BE MY WITNESSES

IN JERUSALEM,  
**AND** IN ALL JUDEA  
SAMARIA,

**AND**

TO THE ENDS  
**OF THE**



JESUS DIDN'T SAY 'OR.' HE SAID 'AND.'

HOW CAN  
**YOU**



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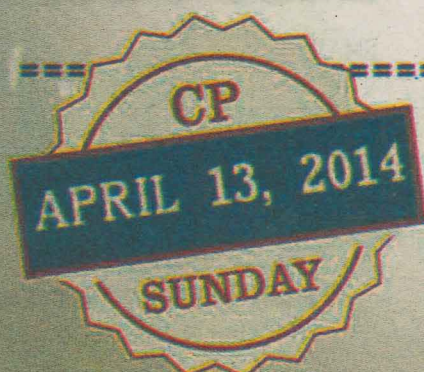
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