

WESTERN Recorder

November 18, 2014

Shine Like Stars * Philippians 2:15

Volume 188, Issue 43

'Tell your story' captures hearts

Ky. Baptists part with college, congregation

By Todd Deaton

Bowling Green—Through sharing inspiring stories of their salvation in convention addresses and ministry reports, keynote speakers and ministry leaders encouraged their fellow Kentucky Baptists to "Tell Your Story."

The 748 registered messengers had a busy agenda slated for their Nov. 11 annual meeting at Bowling Green's Living Hope Baptist Church, which included parting company with one of its universities and severing ties with a Louisville congregation over its stance on homosexuality.

They also approved a Cooperative Program budget goal of \$21.25 million, recognized Don Mathis, an evangelist from Bowling Green, with the Distinguished Cooperative Program Leadership Award for his lifelong devotion to Southern Baptists' missions and ministry offering, and elected a Bowling Green pastor as president.

The KBC's 2015-2016 operational budget represents a reduction of \$750,000 from last year's goal and splits CP receipts from churches between SBC and KBC causes. After setting aside 7 percent for shared expenses, \$9,881,250, or 46.5 percent, is projected to be forwarded to SBC missions and ministries.

More than a meeting theme, Tell Your Story is an initiative that the Kentucky Baptist Convention has embarked on to encourage every Kentucky Baptist to tell others about how they met Jesus



KBC Executive Director Paul Chitwood tells his salvation story during his annual report to convention messengers in Bowling Green. He will preach the convention sermon at next year's Annual Meeting in Elizabethtown. (Photo by Robin Cornet)

and how He has changed their lives.

"Our prayer," KBC Executive Director Paul Chitwood said, "is that hearing these stories will motivate each of us to more readily share the glorious story of what God has done in our lives to bring us to Himself and, as we share that story with those who aren't yet saved, God will use our story as one of His methods to convict them of their sin and convince them of their need for a savior."

The Tell Your Story initiative also took to the Internet in a move that allows Kentucky Baptists to share their salvation experiences with a broader audience through social media at www.tellyourstory.today.

Kentucky Baptists also will take to the airwaves with a series of TV and radio commercials promoting church attendance. Chitwood unveiled the new ads as part of his report. The convention will make these spots available free to Southern Baptist churches and organizations that want to buy air time on TV and radio markets.

Campbellsville departs

In approving a recommendation brought by KBC President Chip Hutcheson from the KBC Mission Board, messengers elected to "take no action" regarding Campbellsville University, except to remain "prayerful and hopeful."

□ See Annual Meeting ... Page 7

Campbellsville departs from convention fold

By Todd Deaton

Bowling Green—Calling Campbellsville University's recent election of 11 members to its trustee board without Kentucky Baptists' approval "a clear violation of its covenant agreement," Kentucky Baptist Convention President Chip Hutcheson announced to convention messengers in Bowling Green that the school had "clearly chosen to remove itself" from its partnership with the KBC.

Hutcheson brought a recommendation from the KBC Mission Board Nov. 11 to "take no action," except to remain "prayerful and hopeful that the university will someday return to its covenant (relationship) with the churches that nursed her along for nearly 100 years."

Recounting recent steps taken by Campbellsville leaders and trustees that have led to the severing of the longstanding covenant agreement, Hutcheson assured messengers, "We have done everything possible to discourage Campbellsville from moving away from her historic relationship with the KBC."

While KBC leaders expressed regret over the university's desire to step away from its covenant agreement, they respect the university's right to do so," Hutcheson said.

The university's report was moved up in the program to Tuesday morning.

□ See Campbellsville departs ... Page 7



Chip Hutcheson

KBC severs ties with Louisville church over homosexuality stance

By Todd Deaton

Bowling Green—The Kentucky Baptist Convention has withdrawn fellowship with Crescent Hill Baptist Church, following the Louisville congregation's decision to ordain people who identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender and to perform same-sex marriages.

Greg Faulls, vice chairman of the KBC's Committee on Credentials, made the motion during the KBC annual meeting in Bowling Green to disfellowship the

church, saying he did so with sadness and brokenness of heart.

KBC leaders were alerted to Crescent Hill's decision by a statement which appeared on the church's website.

"We're grieved by Crescent Hill's departure from biblical teaching and Baptist beliefs."

Paul Chitwood
KBC Executive Director

The recommendation to cut ties with Crescent Hill was made only after a series of discussions between leaders of the KBC and Crescent Hill, Faulls said.

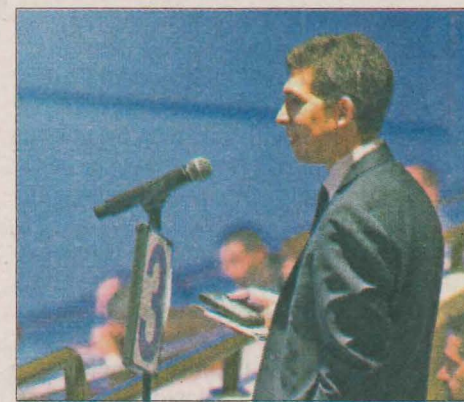
"To give approval to what the Bible clearly states is sin is not only an offense to the Scripture, it is an unloving act toward sinners, an act that

leaves them in danger of God's judgment," said Faulls, pastor of Bellevue Baptist Church in Owensboro. "And we love sinners, including those who practice homosexuality, too much to allow them to live in danger of God's judgment without even preaching the truth as is detailed in the Scripture."

Prior to an overwhelming vote by messengers to withdraw fellowship, Crescent Hill's pastor, Jason Crosby, made an appeal to KBC messengers not to cut ties with his congregation.

"We are a people at Crescent Hill Baptist who take the Bible seriously because we were taught to do so," Crosby said. "We

□ See Louisville church ... Page 3



Jason Crosby, Crescent Hill's pastor, appeals to KBC messengers not to cut ties with his congregation. (Photo by Robin Cornet)

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Western Recorder 11-18-2014

Bowling Green pastor elected KBC president

By Todd Deaton

Bowling Green—Tom James, pastor of Eastwood Baptist Church in Bowling Green, was elected as president of the Kentucky Baptist Convention by acclamation at the KBC annual meeting Nov. 11.

Jerry Tooley, director of missions for Daviess-McLean Baptist Association, and Mark Payton, pastor of Dry Ridge Baptist Church, were elected as first and second vice presidents, respectively.

In nominating James, Tim Colovos, pastor of Oakland Baptist Church, described him as a "proven leader" who Kentucky Baptists can depend on to move them forward.

For the past decade, James has led Eastwood Baptist Church, which was recognized during this meeting for being third in the state this past year in total amount contributed through the Cooperative Program.

The 1,430-member church gave more than \$248,000 to the Cooperative

Program—nearly 12.5 percent of its undesignated receipts. Colovos also noted that Eastwood has seven ongoing mission partnerships on five continents.

James was first vice president of the convention in 2012 and president of the Kentucky Baptist Pastors' Conference in 2009.

In addition to his state Baptist roles, James was selected to serve on the Southern Baptist Convention Executive Committee from 1999-2004.

Tooley defeated Erdie Carter, pastor of Glasgow Baptist Church, in a ballot vote, receiving 225 of 409 votes cast.

Tooley was nominated by Kenny Rager, pastor of Life Community Church in Owensboro; Carter was nominated by Bill Langley, pastor of Severns Valley Baptist Church in Elizabethtown.

A graduate of Southern Seminary,



Tom James

Tooley was named DOM of the Year for Kentucky in 2010.

He also has served on the Mission Board and on the KBC administrative and business & finance committees, and he was a member of the executive director search team that brought Paul Chitwood to the position, Rager noted.

A member of First Baptist Church of Owensboro, he has served Daviess-McLean Baptists for 15 years. Previously he served as pastor of four Kentucky churches.

Rager described Tooley as a leader with a "backbone," who has the conviction to stand up for hurting pastors and help struggling churches. Tooley also encourages the churches of his association to increase Cooperative Program giving, he said.

Payton, who was nominated by Greg



Jerry Tooley

Nimmo, director of missions for Crittenden Baptist Association, was elected as second vice president by acclamation.

He previously was pastor of Shively Heights Baptist Church in Louisville from 2001-2009, during its merger with St. Paul Missionary Baptist Church, a predominantly African-American congregation. The blended church drew national attention as Payton and Lincoln Bingham served as co-pastors.

Payton has served on the KBC Mission Board and as president of the state pastors' conference.

He also has been a trustee of Southwestern Seminary and a member of the SBC Committee on Nominations.

Wilma Simmons was re-elected to her 24th consecutive term as secretary, and Pat Reaves was re-elected as assistant secretary. (WR)



Mark Payton

Newly elected KBC president passionate about missions

By Roger Alford

Bowling Green—The Bowling Green pastor elected last Tuesday as president of the 750,000-member Kentucky Baptist Convention has long been known for his strong support of missions.

Tom James said that will remain his primary focus during his one-year term at the head of the state's largest religious organization.

"Every president has something they bring to the table that the Lord has groomed them for. For me, it's missions," said James, pastor of Eastwood Baptist Church. "So, in an age of declining Cooperative Program giving and more of our dollars being spent on ourselves, I would hope to challenge churches and leaders across the state to raise Cooperative Program giving, to commit to pray for missionaries, and to go."

James, 53, leads a 1,430-member church that gave more than \$248,000 to the Cooperative Program last year alone.

"Tom James is a servant leader who does more than talk about the Great Commission and cooperative missions," said KBC Executive Director Paul Chitwood. "He assumes this denominational leadership role with integrity because he has led the church he pastors to be very generous toward the ministries he will now lead."

"Eastwood is one of our top Cooperative Program churches in the state and a church joyfully engaged in hands-on mission work."

"Tom is a man of biblical conviction, a charitable spirit and a pastor's heart," Chitwood said. "Kentucky Baptists will again be served well by their choice for convention president."

James, son of Thomas and Pat James, grew up in a military family that allowed him to live in such diverse places as frigid Alaska and balmy Homestead, Fla.

His life changed on Christmas Eve 1978, when as a teen, he reluctantly went



to church in Homestead. The fill-in preacher that day, a local police officer, presented the Romans' road to salvation, and James accepted Christ as his Lord and Savior.

James, his wife Janet, and their three children, Leah, Andrew and Aaron, moved to Eastwood in 2004. He previously served churches in Anderson, S.C., and in Alcoa and Morristown, Tenn.

As if the job of pastor doesn't keep James busy enough, he also works as a sports official for the Kentucky High School Athletic Association. He officiates baseball, basketball, softball and volleyball.

"It's a lot of fun, and it's a way to meet people and stay active," he said.

James stays incredibly busy as a minister of a large church, as a referee, and as a leader within the KBC where, two years ago, he served as first vice president.

Besides his pastorates, James also has work experience as a pre-trial release officer at a Texas jail.

"Tom has a heart for God, a connection in the community, a concern for Kentucky and a passion for the world," said John Mark Toby, director of missions for the Warren Association of Baptists in

"When you hear [Tom James] preach, you have heard the Word of God. He is a leader with a kingdom view. Eastwood Baptist Church under Brother Tom's leadership is a model of mission giving and mission going."

Evangelist Don Mathis, member of Eastwood Baptist Church

Bowling Green.

Heading off to college at Florida State University, James' goal was to one day be a U.S. senator. But God put a higher calling in his heart—to be a gospel preacher. Words from Scripture beckoned him, despite his initial reluctance.

From Jeremiah 1:7: "The Lord said unto me, say not, I am a child: for thou shalt go to all that I shall send thee, and whatsoever I command thee thou shalt speak."

And from 2 Timothy 4:2: "Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season, rebuke, exhort with all long suffering and doctrine."

The political aspirations, James said, evaporated once he surrendered to God, and he hasn't looked back. "It would be a step down from a higher calling," he explained. He transferred to Stetson University, which at the time was affiliated with the Florida Baptist Convention.

After graduation, he went to Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, where he received his master of divinity degree.

Besides his roles within the KBC, James served on the SBC Executive Committee from 1999-2004.

Evangelist Don Mathis, a member of Eastwood Baptist, said James is first and foremost a godly man.

"He believes the Bible in its entirety and preaches it in an expository, life application style," Mathis said. "When you hear him preach, you have heard the word of God. He is a leader with a

kingdom view. Eastwood Baptist Church under Brother Tom's leadership is a model of mission giving and mission going."

"Members of Eastwood following our pastor's model are continually participating in international mission trips, yet Eastwood has resisted the temptation to take monies from the Cooperative Program or special offerings to do this."

Eastwood, Mathis said, gives more than 12 percent through the Cooperative Program while also providing strong financial support to the Lottie Moon, Annie Armstrong and Eliza Broadus special offerings. The church typically gives about \$100,000 to the Lottie Moon offering alone.

"So Brother Tom is not only a cheerleader for mission support, but he walks the walk," Mathis said. "And, he leads our people to do the same. I am grateful for my good and godly pastor, Tom James. He will be one of our best KBC presidents."

Dan Summerlin, pastor of Lone Oak Baptist Church in Paducah, said he knows of no other person with a greater passion for missions.

"I remember the first time we met, we started talking about missions and Tom became excited about what Eastwood Baptist was doing to reach their community and the world for Christ," Summerlin said. "When he finished he asked me what we were doing at our church and it seemed he was as excited about what we were doing as he was about his church."

Summerlin called James "a model pastor."

"His humility makes him approachable to all, and he can connect with all types of people," Summerlin said. "I know he will bring that same humility to the presidency of the KBC and will be able to connect and to listen to all people regardless of the size or location of their church. He will promote the Great Commission and be a cheerleader to the Cooperative Program." (KBC)

Hutcheson urges Ky. Baptists to be 'all in' for Christ

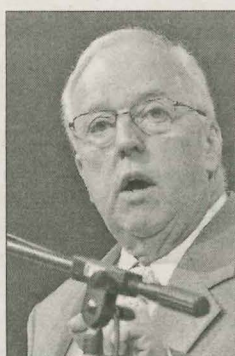
By Todd Deaton

Bowling Green—Convention President Chip Hutcheson urged Kentucky Baptists gathered at Bowling Green's Living Hope Baptist Church Nov. 11 to be "all in" for the cause of Christ.

"We, as Kentucky Baptists, must remind ourselves daily to be 'all in' when it comes to modeling our faith and obedience to the Lord in the midst of a world that is traveling at warp speed away from God," Hutcheson urged.

The publisher of the Princeton Times Leader recalled how New York Giants player Paul Gonzalez urged his peers during a 2012 chapel service to be "all in" spiritually, as husbands and fathers, and as team members both on and off the

field. Gonzalez's challenge, he said, ignited a Super Bowl championship run and made believers of the Giants team and the rest of the NFL.



Chip Hutcheson

"Are you willing to do whatever it takes?" Gonzalez challenged his teammates. "What is God calling you to be 'all in' about?" he asked, giving them a chip on which they were to write down their commitments in order to remind themselves daily.

"All in" was not to be just a mantra on game day, on Sundays, nor should it be for Christians, Hutcheson said. "It must be a 24-7 lifestyle," he said.

An "all in" mindset should apply to each pastor in Bowling Green as well as to those who sit in our pews every Sunday, Hutcheson urged.

"Are we going to step up and be 'all in' for the cause of Christ?" he asked Kentucky Baptists. "Are we going to be 'all in' to risk everything to address the loss that we see in all of our communities?"

Highlighting a great tragedy in the history of Israel recorded in Judges 12, he told, one tribe, the Ephraimites, picked a fight with the Gileadites, a branch of the tribe of Manasseh, and their leader Jephthah.

The tragedy, Hutcheson noted, was that brethren were fighting against brethren in a senseless fight that cost the lives of 42,000 people.

"The Ephraimites show us that it is easy to pick a fight among brethren, and when we do, there will be casualties," he explained.

Rather than being divisive like the Ephraimites, be "all in," Hutcheson urged, adding that there is no place for

elitism or divisiveness in the church.

Recalling Benjamin Franklin's advice to our nation's other Founding Fathers, "Men, we must hang together or we will hang separately," Hutcheson charged, "Let's be 'all in' and let's 'hang together.'"

Hutcheson encouraged Kentucky Baptist churches to be "all in" in their support of the Cooperative Program.

"It grieves me seeing CP revenues continuing to dwindle," he said. "If we are going to be 'all in' for reaching the lost, it's going to take sacrificial giving."

Sitting for an hour in a church on Sunday morning is not being "all in" either, he said. "Yet, that is the way far too many Baptist church members live their lives," Hutcheson said, lamenting that many think going to church on Sundays fulfills their Christian responsibility.

America needs "all in" Christians, he said. "Will you be willing to take the risk to be 'all in'?" (WR)

God wants to use your story to reach others, Woods says

By Rick Hardison

Bowling Green—Drawing on the "Tell Your Story" theme of the convention, Curtis Woods pointed to Jonah 1 in exhorting believers to "rethink mercy and tell your story."

Woods, associate executive director for convention relations & communications for the Kentucky Baptist Convention, preached the convention sermon at the Annual Meeting of the Kentucky Baptist Convention in Bowling Green.

One key to faithfully sharing one's testimony with others is to recall the extent of God's mercy shown to oneself, Woods said. And Jonah and his story as a reluctant prophet demonstrate the consequences of losing sight of God's lavish mercy, he said.

Selfish people "have forgotten that everything they have is because of mercy," Woods said. Perhaps Jonah was reluctant to offer God's mercy to the Ninevites because he had forgotten how merciful God had first been to him, he suggested.

Woods wedded unction with

exegetical care as he used his own spiritual biography to illustrate his point about recalling the Lord's mercy.

The fall of 1993 was one of the hardest periods of his life, he shared. He was a college dropout. His grandmother had died in September; then his parents divorced after 22 years of marriage.

"My heart was broken. I was spinning out of control trying to squelch my pain through riotous living and self-worship," Woods recalled. "My broken heart gave me license to break the hearts of others. I was an angry young man."

But then a fraternity brother, Moses Chism, invited Woods to join his family for Thanksgiving. Chism, a strong Christian, took an interest in Woods, despite the fact that Woods confessed to taking his anger out on Chism.

Woods, a Muslim at the time, observed Christian love and began studying Psalms. Under deep conviction, yet simultaneously filled with hope, Woods confessed his faith in Christ in January the following year.

"Moses in his life decided to show me this beautiful thing called 'mercy,'"

Woods reflected.

As Christians tell their stories of God's mercy, Woods reminded the congregation that God is in charge. Just as "the word of the Lord came to Jonah (1:1), 'Your story doesn't belong to you. In a very real sense, your story belongs to God,'" Woods stressed. But failure to tell the story of God's grace will invite God's judgment on believers, he warned, even as it did on Jonah.

Jonah 1 contains an embarrassing role reversal, he observed. After the sailors learn they were caught in a storm because Jonah was running from the Lord, Jonah offered to be thrown into the sea to appease God and save the rest of the crew. But the sailors initially tried to fight the storm and row to dry ground. They were trying to save Jonah, he explained.

"These unbelieving sailors are willing to do for Jonah what Jonah was unwilling to do for the Ninevites," Woods said. "We

cannot allow unbelievers who do not know God to outstrip us in showing mercy to the lost."

According to Woods, the story of Jonah offers a subtle corrective to those who argue that God is only concerned about those who are oppressed. The Assyrians in Nineveh were known for their evil deeds, but God's call on Jonah highlights that God is concerned about the oppressed and the oppressor.

The Lord's mercy is so expansive, as Woods noted in his conclusion, because there was another prophet who was in the belly of the earth for three days.

Prior to coming on staff with the KBC in 2006, Woods directed evangelism and missions at Oak Cliff Bible Fellowship in Dallas. Woods is a member of Watson Memorial Baptist Church and is a Ph.D. candidate at Southern Seminary, where he is studying biblical spirituality and church history. (WR)



Curtis Woods

Ky. Baptists unveil TV ads to promote attendance

By Robin Cornetel

Bowling Green—Kentucky Baptists will take to the airwaves soon with a series of gripping TV and radio commercials that promote church attendance.

Kentucky Baptist Convention Executive Director Paul Chitwood unveiled the ads during his report at the annual meeting in Bowling Green.

"If I had a nickel for every time I have heard someone say something like, 'Why don't we have any commercials like the Mormons?' I could probably pay for these commercials to run day and night for a full year," Chitwood said. "Well, I don't have those nickels, but now you can have the commercials, free of charge."

The professionally produced commercials are available to Kentucky Baptist churches, associations and other

ministries for use on their local television and radio stations.

The spots were produced by oneMission.tv, an Atlanta-based company that specializes in Christian advertising.

One of the spots begins with a boy playing with a toy airplane, then moves to adults whose faces foretell troubling thoughts.

"Your story may not have played out like you imagined as a kid," the narrator says. "Some of us have had twists and turns in our lives we never expected."

"There are some chapters we never want to relive, and some we can't stop thinking about. We all have a story. Kentucky Baptists want to hear yours. Maybe it's time to rethink church. A new chapter."

Another focuses on Kentucky Baptist Wayne Brown, who lived a rather tough

life before accepting Jesus.

"I used to be a guy who drank a lot—like every day," he says, speaking directly into the camera. "Broken marriages. Broken home... Today I'm a good husband, a good father. Today I've gotten rid of alcohol—seven and a half years clean."

"I tell you; it's amazing being in church. I have people who just love me unconditionally. I have a hope that I'm going in the right direction."

KBC paid the production costs for the ads and is making the spots available free to Southern Baptist organizations that want to buy air time to run them in their local TV and radio markets.

The TV and radio spots are available by contacting Larry Brannin in the KBC's Communications Department at larry.brannin@kybaptist.org or by calling (502) 489-3379. (KBC)

Louisville church

Continued from page 1

have studied and prayed over it. We are a people who take our Baptist history and its lessons seriously. And we also are a people who have seen our gay, lesbian, transgender and bisexual Christians faithfully serving Christ and being in life-giving mutual relationships with one another."

In an October news release, KBC Executive Director Paul Chitwood said, "We're grieved by Crescent Hill's departure from biblical teaching and Baptist beliefs."

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

KBC executive director's annual report (Part 1)

One of the highlights of our annual meeting this year was hearing the testimonies of God's saving work in the lives of those who lead Kentucky Baptists and our agencies and institutions.

Together We are the KBC



Paul Chitwood

I pray that hearing those stories will motivate each of us to share the glorious story of what God has done in our lives to bring us to Himself.

And we are praying God will use our stories

to convict the lost of their sin and convince them of their need for a Savior.

We have also created a web tool to help you share your story with the website www.TellYourStory.today.

As an example of how it works, you can listen to my story at www.tellyourstory.today/stories/paul-c-from-shelbyville-kentucky.

Another very exciting way God is using Kentucky Baptists to take the gospel to the lost is through the Bucket Project with Baptist Global Response.

To those who have been helping on this project, THANK YOU!

Our goal for collecting buckets at the annual meeting was 800. Kentucky Baptists responded with 1,458 buckets! At an estimated value of \$85 each, that is \$124,000 for missions.

Let me encourage you to help spread the word about BGR to every Kentucky Baptist.

When you are compelled to give a financial gift to help relieve suffering during natural disasters like hurricanes, tsunamis, or famines, or to help those who are living in refugee camps due to war or dying from the AIDS virus, make your donation to BGR.

You can do that at goBGR.org, or simply send the gifts to the KBC and mark them for BGR.

While there are a lot of relief agencies out there, BGR is ours and the work of BGR is carried on with this goal: not just to do good to those who are suffering, but to also share the good news of eternal life.

With regard to spreading the word, when it comes to the words of the gospel, our KBC Communications Team, under the leadership of Roger Alford, has created another tool for you.

We have TV ads that can be customized to provide an invitation to worship at your church or the churches of your association.

If I had a nickel for every time I have heard someone say something like, "Why don't we have any TV commercials like the Mormons?" I could probably pay for these commercials to run day and night for a full year. I don't have those nickels, but now you can have the commercials free of charge.

All you will need to do is pay for the airtime with your local cable provider. Contact Roger at roger.alford@kybaptist.org if you would like to use this resource.

Paul Chitwood is executive director of the Kentucky Baptist Convention.

Telling our stories encourages, inspires others

The Crescent Hill and Campbellsville decisions dominated headlines. A significant feature of this year's convention, though, was the great stories told.

Speakers were encouraged to "tell your story" in order to inspire other Kentucky Baptists to share their's.

For **KBC President Chip Hutcheson**, editor of Princeton's newspaper, almost being in a car accident brought him to his knees.

When he was 24 and sports editor for the Kentucky New Era in Hopkinsville, Hutcheson recalled that his future wife's father, a minister, had asked him if he were to die, where he would go.

"I lied to him," Hutcheson confessed. "I said I would go to heaven because I was a good person. No. 1, I wasn't a good person; No. 2, I didn't know how to be saved."

The minister kindly explained that to go to heaven, he needed to ask for God's forgiveness and to allow Jesus to come into his life.

Not long afterward, a car ran a stop sign right in front of Hutcheson. "Man, it hit me! If I had been a couple of seconds ahead of that, I would have died, and I'd have been in hell," he said.

At that moment, he asked Jesus into his heart. "I'm thankful we can come to Him with broken hearts, and He will accept us just as we are," Hutcheson said.

For **Brad Walker**, pastor of Carlisle Avenue Church in Louisville and chair of the Committee on Annual Meeting, a drawing captured his attention.

Growing up in a Christian home, Walker accepted Christ as a boy during a revival. During his teen years, though, he was "playing a game," he confided. "I was living for myself, living a double life."

In college, at a Fellowship of Christian Athletes meeting, a layman drew a long line and placed a dot on it. Imagine the line represents eternity, and this dot is your life, he

instructed.

"Are you living for the dot, or are you living for the line?" he asked, quoting Luke 9:23-25. Walker gave his life to Christ and found a new desire to share God's love. "I began to go from friend to friend to tell them about Jesus," he said.

For **Greg Faulks**, pastor of Bellevue Church in Owensboro and vice chair of the Committee on Credentials, a Gideon Bible opened his heart.

At a young age, Faulks fancied himself to be an atheist. Gradually, he came to a realization that there had to be a God, and "I figured if God made me, then He made me for a purpose," he recalled. Faulks had no idea where to start, but "God knew where to lead me," he said.

In 1984, he picked up a Bible in a hotel room. He discovered two things: 1) the people in the Bible had the same hurts, fears and questions he did; 2) the God of that Bible was their answer.

Thanking God for the Gideons, Faulks quoted a Beatles' lyric: "And now Rocky Raccoon he fell back in his room only to find Gideon's Bible. Gideon checked out and he left it no doubt to help with good Rocky's revival."

For **Josh Landrum**, pastor of Bullitt Lick Church in Shepherdsville and chair of the Constitution & Bylaws Committee, a fishing trip provided the setting.

At age 5, while catfishing on the back of his grandfather's houseboat one night, they began talking about the conversation between Jesus and Peter in which Jesus asks, "Who do people say that I am, and who do you say I am?"

His grandfather then explained to young Josh what it means for Jesus to be the Christ, the Messiah.

"On a Friday night, sitting on the messiah of houseboat on the Ohio River, God opened my eyes to His mercy and His grace, and that I needed a Savior," Landrum rejoiced.

To be continued ...

After Thought

By Todd Deaton



'#Thanksgiving' can keep focus on God's blessings

Try this simple, fun way to inspire church members to give thanks to God this Thanksgiving season. Use it for your entire church, or adapt it to fit a Bible study group or family Thanksgiving celebration.

Step 1: Use white, legal-size cardstock paper to print a sign with huge black letters reading "#ThankYouGod."

Step 2: On the backs of the sign, print these instructions:

A Church-wide Thanksgiving Project

You are invited to participate in this unique way to express thanks to God for His blessings.

It's for all church members and guests, teens and kids and grandpa's and single adults—everyone! We want every person who attends this church to submit at least one photo. Here's how:

■ Take a few digital photos to show

things that you thank God for. The "#ThankYouGod" sign must be visible in each photo.

Fresh Ideas



Diana Davis

■ Be creative. An artsy shot of your refrigerator's interior could show thankfulness for food.

Consider how to use a photo to show thankfulness for salvation, creation, your allowance, friendship, peace, etc. Use the ThankYouGod hashtag thoughtfully.

■ Be creative with angle and pose. Examples: grandpa nap-

ping, a profile of dad's smile, a child at play, a silhouette, your Bible class praying.

■ Submit your favorite two photos to (your church office email address.) Submissions begin today.

■ Bonus: If you use social media sites, please upload your photos using #ThankYouGod and #FirstBaptistLake-side (your church name/current

hashtag.)

■ Photos will be used in our worship services this month as a special thanks to God for His blessings, so don't miss a Sunday.

Step 3: Distribute a copy of the #ThankYouGod sign and instructions to every person in your church.

Step 4: As photos are submitted, create a looping slideshow or Powerpoint.

Step 5: Use the slideshow for pre-service or post-service visuals, as a backdrop for a song or offertory, or sermon illustration.

If your church celebrates with a Thanksgiving dinner, play the slideshow during the meal.

A church may also make prints to create a #ThankYouGod photo wall in the church foyer.

This Thanksgiving, keep your entire church family thinking about God's innumerable blessings.

Diana Davis, author and columnist, lives in Pensacola, Fla.

WESTERN Recorder

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Louisville, KY 40253

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Shine Like Stars * Philippians 2:15

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Letters to the editor:

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

Ky. Baptists called to be strong witnesses for Christ

By Roger Alford

Bowling Green—Preachers took turns challenging Kentucky Baptists to be witnesses for Jesus Christ in their local communities, across the country and around the world.

"You have already been a witness for Christ today," Eastwood Baptist Church Pastor Tom James told hundreds of church leaders gathered at Living Hope Baptist Church for the Kentucky Baptist Pastors' Conference. "The question is what kind of a witness."

James, who was elected as convention president the following day, reminded Kentucky Baptists that witnesses in a court of law tell what they have seen and heard, and that's precisely what Christians are to do as well.

"God is saying: 'Look, you don't want to go there? Great, I'm bringing them to your neighborhood.'"

A former Muslim-turned-Christian missionary

Between the preaching, the pastors elected Bill Langley, pastor of Severns Valley Baptist Church in Elizabethtown, to serve as their president in 2016. He was nominated for the post by Paducah pastor Dan Summerlin.

"If you have a job to do, get a leader," Summerlin said in his nomination speech. "If you have an important job to do, get an experienced leader. Bill is a leader."

Langley joined Severns Valley in March 2009. Since his arrival, Summerlin said Langley has led the church to increase its Cooperative Program giving—from 8 percent of its undesignated receipts to 10 percent. Total CP contributions for 2013-14 were \$303,484.

A former Muslim-turned-Christian missionary, whose identity was concealed for security reasons, urged Kentucky church leaders to always be ready to offer an explanation for their hope in Christ, wherever that explanation is needed.

"Are we willing to go where the need is the greatest?" he asked Kentucky

Baptists before telling them there is only one missionary for every 500,000 Muslims.

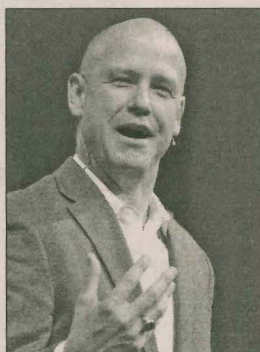
"And God is saying: 'Look, you don't want to go there? Great, I'm bringing them to your neighborhood,'" he said.

The unidentified missionary called for Kentucky Baptists to see Muslims as people in need of salvation, and people for whom Jesus died.

Thomas White, president of Cedarville University in Ohio, called pastors his "heroes" and challenged them to preach the Bible.

"We believe in an inerrant, infallible Bible, an exclusive gospel, and we're not going to compromise on either one," White said. "We believe in a six-day, literal creation. We believe that Adam and Eve were literal people. We believe that Noah really did get on an ark, and there was a flood. ... We believe it just like the Bible says it."

Florida pastor Jimmy Scroggins, a former dean of Boyce College who is



Jimmy Scroggins

now leading First Baptist Church of West Palm Beach, Fla., called on church leaders to be tenacious in sharing the gospel.

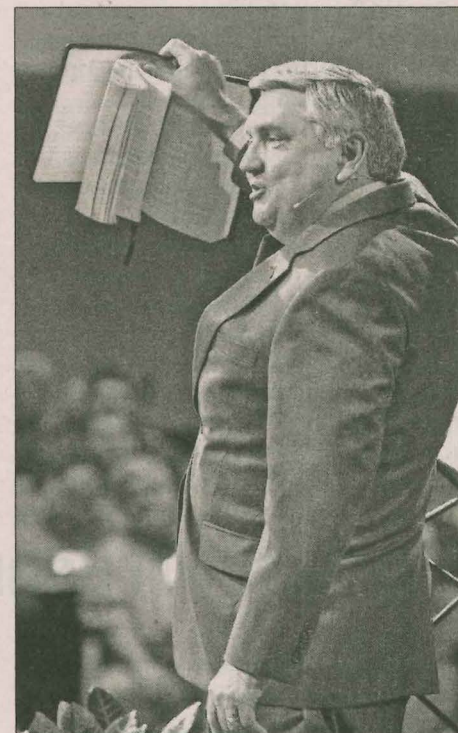
"If we're going to actually make a difference, the way the culture is changing, we're going to have to start fighting from the bottom of the pile," Scroggins said. "And we're going to have to think bigger and better and differently and more aggressively than we

ever have before."

David Allen, dean of theology at Southwestern Seminary, urged church leaders to love more intensely.

"Love is the evidence and essence of the Christian life," he said.

Evangelist and former Southern Baptist Convention President Jerry Vines closed out the Pastors' Conference by challenging Kentucky pastors through his life verse, Psalm 126:6, "Those who go out weeping, carrying seed to sow, will return with songs of joy, carrying sheaves with them." (KBC)



David Allen, dean of theology at Southwestern Seminary, urged church leaders to love more intensely. (Photo by Robin Cornet/KBC)

Vines urges pastors to go, weep, sow, reap

By Rick Hardison

Bowling Green—Jerry Vines urged Kentucky Baptist ministers to share the gospel with persistence and tears in his sermon at the 2014 Pastors' Conference.

Vines, pastor-emeritus of First Baptist Church of Jacksonville, Fla., was the final of six speakers at the event held at Living Hope Baptist Church in Bowling Green.

In his message, Vines lived up to his reputation for combining expositional preaching with deft humor. His primary text was his life verse, Psalm 126:6: "He that goeth forth and weepeth, bearing precious seed, shall doubtless come again with rejoicing, bringing his sheaves with him."

Vines drew a comparison between the farmer of Psalm 126 and the Christian of today, believing that the "picture of a farmer sowing seed in the field is a perfect picture of an evangelist." His message centered on four similarities between the two: going, weeping, sowing and reaping.

Believers need to go after the lost, he

said. "Somewhere along the way, we got the idea that we just need to put up a sign (that reads) 'come on in, you lucky sinners,'" the 77-year-old Baptist statesman reminded.

Instead, Christians are to go and share the message of Christ through tears—an underemphasized but necessary part of the evangelism process. As the farmer of Psalm 126:6 was "dropping the seed from his hand, a tear is dropping from his eye," Vines pictured.

"Here is a man who is so consumed in what he is doing and it is moving him to tears."

Similarly, believers should weep for the lost, he said. Vines recalled that Jesus wept before Lazarus' tomb, outside the city of Jerusalem, and over sin in Gethsemane.

"If Jesus shed his tears ... don't you think maybe we could shed a little tear for somebody? It's been a

long time since I saw people get on their faces and weep over the lost," Vines lamented.

"May God give us tears again!" he pleaded. Quoting Charles Spurgeon,



Jerry Vines

Vines added, "Those who would be winners of souls must first be weepers of souls."

Vines encouraged attenders to sow with an increasing awareness of the power of the gospel. He compared the gospel message to a small seed which can be easily disregarded by some. But this same seed, when it falls into a crack in a sidewalk, has strength to break concrete.

That is when sowing leads to reaping and rejoicing, Vines said, observing that churches that are filled with joy are the ones that are seeing conversions.

Vines concluded his message by inviting the pastors to recommit themselves to being the kind of witnesses Scripture calls them to be.

Vines has been a leading figure in the Southern Baptist Convention during his pastoral ministry, which spanned over 50 years. He served as president of the SBC from 1988 to 1989. He now oversees Jerry Vines Ministries, which seeks to provide biblically-focused teaching and preaching materials. (WR)

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

Chitwood appeals for Baptists to become foster parents through Sunrise

Bowling Green—Kentucky Baptist Convention Executive Director Paul Chitwood in his report to convention messengers appealed to families to provide foster care for abused and neglected children who have ended up in the care of the state through no fault of their own.

Chitwood also called on every KBC church to find at least one family in the church to commit to becoming foster

parents through Sunrise, then, as a congregation, to support that family.

"Foster parenting is tough," Chitwood said in a video recently sent to all Kentucky Baptist churches. "Every year, half of the total number of trained and certified foster parents quit. The average foster family doesn't make it two full years."

Chitwood pointed out that foster

children have been through a lot and need loving foster families.

"They come from broken homes, abusive families, drug-infested neighborhoods ... and yet they are children; little boys and little girls who want to play and watch cartoons and be safe and loved," Chitwood says in the video. "But all they have seen and heard and endured is still ringing in their ears, haunting their

dreams and affecting their behavior.

"Getting involved with a broken family in a broken system to care for a broken child is risky, but no more risky than stopping on the road from Jerusalem to Jericho to bind the wounds of man who has been stripped, beaten and robbed. And, according to Jesus, that's what a good Samaritan does for his neighbor. Jesus said, 'Go and do likewise.'" (KBC)

KBC messengers approve transgender resolution

Bowling Green—Messengers approved a resolution that takes a stand on transgender identity during the annual meeting of the Kentucky Baptist Convention.

During the meeting at Living Hope Baptist Church in Bowling Green, messengers also passed a resolution condemning Christian persecution.

The "Transgender Identity" resolution serves to extend convictional kindness to the estimated 700,000 people in the United States who perceive their gender identity opposite their biological sex at birth. The American Psychiatric Association calls this perception "gender dysphoria," which is defined as having a strong desire to be the other gender—even to the

point of disgust with the way the body is made. People who identify themselves as transgender have sought to alter their appearance with hormone therapy and gender-reassignment surgery.

"Our desire is to see the person who is lost and victimized become one with Christ," said Curtis Woods, associate executive director for convention relations & communications. "Transgender persons are not our enemies; they are the victims of our enemy." The resolution



"Transgender persons are not our enemies; they are the victims of our enemy."

Curtis Woods

affirms that Kentucky Baptists "love our transgender neighbors, seek their good always, welcome them to our churches and, as they repent and believe in Christ, receive them into church membership."

The resolution also:

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

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

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

In passing the "Resolution on the Worldwide Persecution of Christians," Kentucky Baptists pledged to unite in prayer as their Christian brothers and sisters around the world suffer for their beliefs. In part a response to the persecution of Christians by ISIS/ISIL, the resolution also encourages Kentucky Baptists to create greater public awareness of Christian persecution through biblical education, petitioning elected officials and financially supporting evangelical organizations that support the persecuted church around the world. (KBC)

Maynard, Wilson receive KBC award for religion coverage

Bowling Green—An Ashland newspaper editor and a Bowling Green religion writer were the inaugural recipients of a journalism award for religion coverage bestowed by the Kentucky Baptist Convention.

Veteran journalist Mark Maynard, editor of *The Independent*, and Laurel Wilson, a reporter for *The Daily News*, were recognized Nov. 10 with the Integrity Award for Coverage of Faith Issues during the KBC annual meeting at Living Hope Baptist Church in Bowling Green.

In presenting the award, KBC Executive Director Paul Chitwood said the selection committee was impressed with the quality and quantity of stories published under Maynard's direction.

"No other newspaper in the state has provided the same volume of coverage."

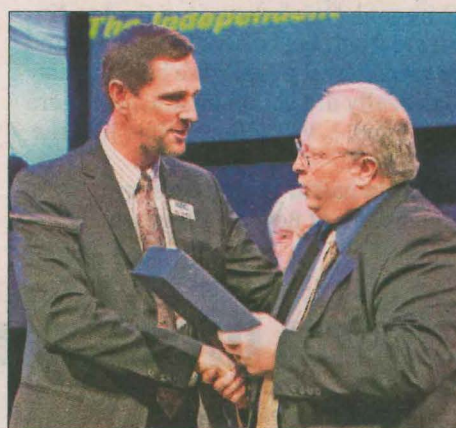
KBC Communications Director Roger Alford nominated Maynard for the award.

"The selection committee especially appreciated that, without exception, all of *The Independent's* religion stories were fair, balanced and accurate," he said.

Wilson was commended for thorough coverage of religion.

"The selection committee was impressed by the thorough, thoughtful coverage you have provided over the past year," Chitwood said.

Alford said Wilson has proven herself as a topnotch journalist. "She's an easy choice for the Integrity Award," he said. (WR)



Left: Mark Maynard, of *The Independent*, receives an Integrity Award for Religious Journalism from KBC Executive Director Paul Chitwood. Right: KBC Communications Director Roger Alford presents the award to Laurel Wilson, of *The Daily News*. (Photos by Robin Cornet)



Bylaws change eliminates ACP language

Bowling Green—Messengers learned of a proposed change to the Kentucky Baptist Convention constitution that would eliminate Annual Church Profile language and elaborate what it means to be "in cooperation with the convention."

The Committee on Constitution and Bylaws presented the recommended changes during the annual meeting in Bowling Green.

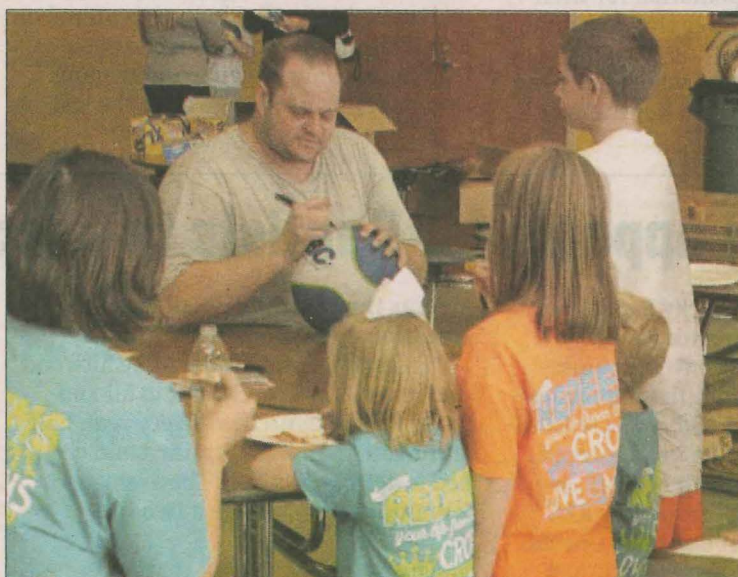
According to the convention constitution, churches exemplifying friendly cooperation "voluntarily prepare and submit" ACP reports. The phrase would be eliminated if messengers approved the change next year. Adoption would require a two-thirds majority.

Committee Chairman Josh Landrum,

pastor of Knoxville Baptist Church in Williamstown, said the committee's desire was to "recognize, reaffirm and encourage" churches to participate in submitting yearly church statistics, but these reports were in no way a requirement for messengers to attend the annual meeting.

In addition, the committee proposed clarifying what it means to be a cooperating church with the following example: "Churches that act to affirm, approve or endorse homosexual behavior would be deemed not to be in cooperation with the convention."

Landrum said the example is meant to add clarity for churches desiring to be "in general agreement with any of the historic Baptist confessions of faith." (KBC)



Basketball camp brings 19 decisions

Cameron Mills, evangelist and former University of Kentucky basketball player, signs autographs during RISK: Bowling Green basketball camp at Warren East Middle School. The event, Nov. 6-8, drew 32 campers and reported 19 spiritual decisions. (Photo by Mike Terry)

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Annual Meeting

Continued from page 1

Stating that Campbellsville had "clearly chosen to remove itself from our convention" through its recent election of 11 trustees without KBC approval, Hutcheson announced that the school is no longer affiliated with the convention.

Campbellsville's trustees voted earlier this year to unilaterally terminate its covenant agreement with the KBC and surrendered its Cooperative Program allocations of nearly \$1 million.

Hutcheson assured messengers that the KBC has made every effort to salvage the relationship, but was unable to persuade CU President Michael Carter and trustees to re-establish a connection with Kentucky Baptist churches.

Church 'disfellowshipped'

Messengers also voted overwhelmingly to sever ties with Crescent Hill Baptist Church in Louisville, which announced recently on its website that it would be open to granting ordination, hiring or performing wedding ceremonies for gay, lesbian and transgendered individuals.

The KBC credentials committee voted in October to recommend the action against Crescent Hill, determining the congregation was no longer "in friendly cooperation" with Kentucky Baptists.

Greg Fauls, vice chairman of the committee, made the motion to "disfellowship" the church during the convention, saying he did so "with great sadness and brokenness of heart."

"Our churches are clear on this: We call sin 'sin' rather than choosing to affirm it," said Fauls, pastor of Bellevue



Messengers raise their ballots in support of a resolution taking a stand on transgender identity at the KBC Annual Meeting in Bowling Green. (Photo by Robin Cornet)

Baptist Church in Owensboro.

Prior to the vote, Crescent Hill's pastor, Jason Crosby, appealed to messengers not to sever ties with his congregation.

Transgender resolution

In other action, messengers approved a resolution that takes a stand on transgender identity. The resolution seeks to extend convictional kindness to an estimated 700,000 Americans who perceive their gender identity opposite their biological sex at birth.

The resolution affirms that Kentucky Baptists "love our transgender neighbors, seek their good always, welcome them to our churches and, as they repent and believe in Christ, receive them into church membership."

While condemning acts of violence or bullying committed against transgender persons, the resolution opposes all efforts to validate transgender identity or present it as "morally praiseworthy."

New KBC officers

Bowling Green pastor Tom James was elected as KBC president by acclamation.

James, pastor of Eastwood Baptist Church, was first vice president in 2012 and president of the state Pastors' Conference in 2009. On the national level, he was a member of the KBC Executive Committee from 1999-2004.

Serving with James as vice presidents are Jerry Tooley, director of missions for Daviess-McLean Baptist Association, and Mark Payton, pastor of Dry Ridge Baptist Church.

Payton previously served as pastor of Shively Heights Baptist Church in Louisville, which drew national media attention when it merged in 2009 with a

predominantly black congregation to become St. Paul Baptist Church at Shively Heights, where he and Lincoln Bingham served as co-pastors.

Princeton editor Chip Hutcheson, a member of Southside Church, challenged messengers to be "all in" for the cause of Christ in his address as KBC president.

"We, as Kentucky Baptists, must remind ourselves daily to be 'all in' when it comes to modeling our faith and obedience to the Lord in the midst of a world that is traveling at warp speed away from God," urged Hutcheson, a trustee of the Western Recorder.

"We see the statistics; we read the stories about many churches declining in membership," he said. "We are troubled over the fact that many churches go lengthy periods of time without any baptisms. We are perplexed that Cooperative Program giving struggles to keep pace with what was given the previous year. We grieve about disagreements within churches and among churches. All of these factors help us realize that being 'all in' is sorely needed in 2014."

In the convention sermon, KBC Associate Executive Director Curtis Woods weaved his salvation story into a message on Jonah's mistake in being unwilling to speak up for God.

Woods told Kentucky Baptists that God wants to use their salvation stories to reach unbelievers, and that they must be willing to speak up for God. Sharing salvation stories, he said, is an act of Christian love.

Chitwood, executive director of the KBC since 2011, was selected to preach the annual sermon at next year's convention in Elizabethtown. (WR)

Campbellsville departs

Continued from page 1

Hutcheson brought the convention report, in lieu of Campbellsville President Michael Carter, who was not in attendance.

Campbellsville's trustees voted earlier this year to unilaterally terminate the covenant agreement and voluntarily surrender Cooperative Program allocations. Hutcheson recounted how in meetings with university representatives, KBC leaders had urged school officials to re-establish its connection to the convention and its churches.

Campbellsville, however, elected 11 trustees to its board Oct. 28, disregarding a process spelled out in its covenant agreement with the Kentucky Baptist Convention, which calls for the school's president to recommend trustees to be presented for approval by KBC messen-

gers at annual meetings.

"We're grieved that Campbellsville University has walked away from the agreement with Kentucky Baptists," Hutcheson said. "We've done all we know to do to try to salvage the relationship. This latest action, unfortunately, is a blatant breach of the covenant."

In an earlier statement to the Western

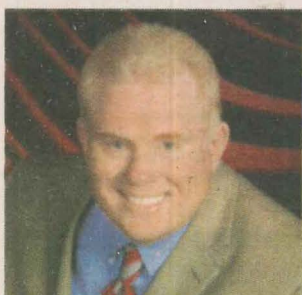
Recorder, Campbellsville's trustee chairman, Joseph Owens, and Carter said, "The slate of 11 trustees was elected by the Campbellsville University Board of Trustees on Tuesday, Oct. 28, 2014. Each elected trustee is either

serving currently, or has served in the past, on the CU Board of Trustees and meets service requirements set by the board."

The slate included Steve Branscum, Jana Gore, Cordell Maddox, Mary Frances May, David Morris, Ron Rafferty, Malinda Smith, Matthew Smyzer, Tommy Turner, Jane Wheatley and Leon Wilson. (WR)

"We have done everything possible to discourage Campbellsville from moving away from her historic relationship with the KBC."

Chip Hutcheson
Kentucky Baptist Convention President



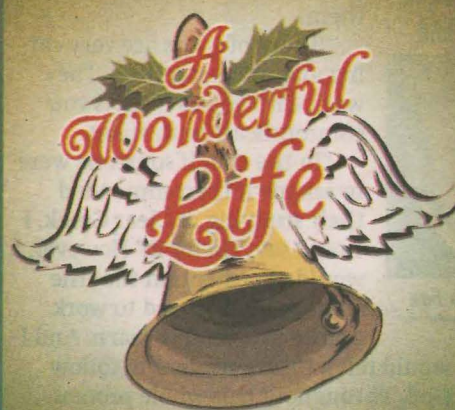
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This is Oneida

'Sir, we would see Jesus' sets goal for chapel speakers

There is a wood carving that is displayed in the back of our chapel in plain sight for the speaker. It reads, "Sir, we would see Jesus." I often tell our chapel speakers that speaking to our students is no small task.

In addition to announcements and special awards presentations, I typically speak in chapel once a month.

Most of the time when I am set to speak in chapel, I have a pretty good idea of the message that the Lord wants me to bring well before the actual day on which I will speak.

It is a real temptation to be more concerned with finding a video, picture or illustration that will entertain our students, rather than finding the message the Lord desires. I hate to admit it, but I have been guilty of this myself.

For my most recent opportunity to speak in chapel, it took me longer than normal to feel as if I knew the direction the Lord wanted me to go.

I even told our students and staff that it is easier for me to speak to churches all across Kentucky than it is to speak in chapel.

After much struggle and prayer, I ultimately felt led to give the plan of salvation.

We are a school, and our goal is for students to one day walk across our stage and receive their diploma. However, in preparing the message I was reminded of our ultimate objective,

which is to bring our kids to Christ.

It is easy in the day-to-day tasks and responsibilities to forget what is most important.

I challenged our faculty and staff to witness to someone on our campus that day. I also invited kids who wanted to speak with someone about receiving Jesus as their Savior to stay after chapel.

Two young men stayed after the service. I hovered nearby and was blessed to hear one of our staff members who is an Oneida graduate lead a middle school boy to Christ, and another counsel a high school

boy about what it means to follow Jesus.

I often receive blessings and encouragement, both small and large, on a daily basis as I do my best to lead Oneida the way the Lord wants.

This day and its blessings is now one of my fondest memories. Another soul was reached and saved for the cause of Christ here at Oneida.

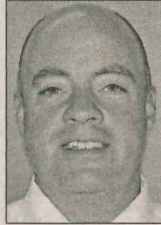
If we could only lead one young person to Christ each day, what a year we would have!

One day each of you will have the opportunity to walk the streets of gold with many Oneida young people who found the Lord here.

Thank you, Kentucky Baptists, for all you do to help put our staff in a position each and every day to educate young people for time and eternity.

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 for me - Part 2

Online student tells the story of submitting to God's plan for life

Online student Landon Copley continues to share about his calling and experience with online classes at Clear Creek:

"My goal is to continue to work toward completing my degree online at Clear Creek," said Copley. "The experience, thus far, has been exceptional. Most people, when they hear online classes, are quick to assume that there is an easiness attached to them. That is one of the most incorrect things anyone could assume."

"Online classes are just as difficult as on-campus college level courses at any university. Having experienced both of those in the past few years, I can attest to that."

"There is one attribute that online courses require much of, that is discipline. When a student is not tied to a set schedule for lectures, classes and homework assignments, it is up to that student to make sure that those assignments and such are done properly and in a timely manner. I have found that putting online work off until the last moment only hurts you in the end."

"What is so great about online studies, is the simple fact that you do have that convenience to study at your own

time," Copley said. "Individuals like myself who have a full-time job, are involved in weekly ministry, and also have a family, will find that online

studies at Clear Creek Baptist Bible College is perfect for them."

"The professors are very caring and understanding. They work with you as long as you communicate with them."

"In the end, if someone were to ask me if I recommended their studying at Clear Creek, I would say, 'Go for it!' However, I would also mention that the student be prepared to work and be prepared to learn. And I

would tell a future student to follow God. Throughout this whole process, He has been my best friend."

"Classes I have been able to take, like spiritual formation, forced me to self-evaluate my relationship with God," said Copley. "It really provided me with information about how I can discipline myself to experience a wonderful relationship with God."

"If I had to choose one class at Clear Creek that has deepened my spiritual walk with Christ, spiritual formation is definitely it."

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

Clear Creek Chronicle



Donnie Fox



Bowling Green evangelist Don Mathis accepts this year's Cooperative Program Leadership Award. With him are the KBC's Paul Chitwood and Curtis Woods. (Photo by Robin Cornet)

KBC honors Mathis, 15 churches as Cooperative Program models

Bowling Green—A Kentucky Baptist evangelist and 15 churches were singled out as models of unwavering faithfulness to cooperative missions giving during the annual meeting of the Kentucky Baptist Convention.

Don Mathis, staff evangelist at Eastwood Baptist Church in Bowling Green, received the Distinguished Cooperative Program Leadership Award for his life-long devotion to CP.

"Kentucky Baptists owe Don a great debt," KBC Associate Executive Director Curtis Woods said. "I am personally thankful for his labor of love."

Woods noted that Mathis "courageously" led the Mission Board in restructuring the KBC in 2012—a streamlining process that resulted in reimagining mission strategies in order to better serve Baptist churches in Kentucky.

On behalf of all Kentucky Baptists, Woods thanked the top CP-giving churches for believing that "together, we can do more" to spread the news of Jesus Christ throughout Kentucky and the world.

Top contributors in total giving through the Cooperative Program in the fiscal year 2013-14 were:

■ Lone Oak First Baptist Church, Paducah, \$314,000;

■ Severns Valley Baptist Church, Elizabethtown, \$303,484;

■ Eastwood Baptist Church, Bowling Green, \$248,312.

Top CP supporters in per capita giving for the year were:

■ Countryside Baptist Church, Morganfield, \$311;

■ Mexico Baptist Church, Marion, \$268;

■ Good Hope Baptist Church, Campbellsville, \$238.

Ten congregations reached million-dollar milestones through CP giving in the past year:

■ Lone Oak First Baptist Church of Paducah reached \$5 million;

■ Hillcrest Baptist Church in Hopkinsville reached \$3 million.

Reaching \$2 million milestones were:

■ First Baptist Church, Russell;

■ Buck Run Baptist Church, Frankfort;

■ Southside Baptist Church, Princeton;

■ First Baptist Church, Owenton.

Reaching \$1 million milestones were:

■ Oak Ridge Baptist Church, Covington;

■ Bardwell Baptist Church, Bardwell;

■ Paintsville Baptist Church, Paintsville;

■ Gethsemane Baptist Church, Danville. (KBC)

7 new churches align with convention

Bowling Green—Seven congregations were welcomed into the Kentucky Baptist Convention, joining a family of nearly 2,400 Baptist churches across the commonwealth.

KBC messengers approved the seven churches for affiliation, along with three that were placed under watchcare.

Greg Faulls, vice chairman of the KBC's Committee on Credentials, presented the churches for affiliation.

The newly affiliated churches are:

■ Center Point Church, Lexington

■ Life Community Church, Owensboro

■ The Lighthouse at Nolin Lake, Mammoth Cave

■ Oak Level Missionary Baptist Church, Symsonia

■ Primera Iglesia Bautista Hispana, Mayfield

■ Somerset Baptist Temple, Somerset

■ Steadfast Baptist Church, Hodgenville

Congregations joining under watchcare status are:

■ Bluegrass Cowboy Church, Carlisle

■ Riverwoods Church, Benton

■ Yahweh Baptist Church, Mayfield

Churches under watchcare are typically beginning their acquaintance with the mission and ministry of the convention. (KBC)

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'The Lord always multiplies'

Ky. Baptists' bucket project surpasses all expectations

By Robin Cornetel

Bowling Green—Kentucky Baptists will be helping AIDS victims by sending nearly \$125,000 in hospice supplies to Sub-Saharan Africa, an area more heavily affected by the virus than any other part of the world.

Paul Chitwood, executive director of the Kentucky Baptist Convention, challenged churches earlier this fall to pack 800 buckets with hospice supplies as part of a Baptist Global Response initiative. Each five-gallon bucket is tightly packed with clean sheets, vitamins and personal hygiene items worth about \$85.

"These buckets have the opportunity to show love to a dying person," Chitwood said, "but more importantly, they are being used to introduce the lost to Christ."

Kentucky Baptist churches packed and shipped more than 2,000 Buckets of Hope earlier this year. This week, they delivered another 1,458 buckets to the KBC Annual Meeting at Living Hope Baptist Church in Bowling Green.

Wanda Edminster, one of Kentucky's BGR bucket coordinators, said so many buckets arrived Monday, the 30 volunteers were forced rethink their packing strategy in the semi-tractor trailer.

"Whenever you do a project like this, the Lord always multiplies," Edminster said.

The 30 Kentucky Baptist Disaster Relief volunteers who helped unload cars and SUVs filled with buckets literally went the extra mile, Edminster said. Some met a group from First Baptist Church of Cannonsburg halfway between Ashland and Bowling Green to make sure their buckets arrived at the convention.

When a van showed up Monday with about 100 buckets, Edminster said the mostly silver-haired volunteers were pleasantly relieved to hear that University of the Cumberlands students would unload the heavy buckets the next day.



Churches were challenged to bring 800 packed buckets to this year's annual meeting, but Kentucky Baptists exceeded expectations by delivering 1,458 buckets.

Eddie Talley, collection coordinator and member of Living Hope Baptist, said he was not surprised by the overwhelming response.

"If you think about what Jesus did with the loaves and the fish, it's not about being surprised. It's about showing up and expecting miracles to happen," Talley said. "He does it every day."

According to BGR, nearly 23 million people are living with HIV in South Africa. As parents get sick and eventually die from AIDS, children as young as 8 are left to care for their younger siblings. In 2012 alone, about 1.2 million South African people died from AIDS.

BGR's intent is that the buckets will not only bring comfort to AIDS victims, but will open the door to sharing the gospel with the dying and their caretakers.

"I have witnessed the impact of these buckets firsthand," said Coy Webb, director of Kentucky Baptist Disaster Relief. When Kentucky Baptists participate in this ministry, they are "truly being the hands and feet of Christ," he said.

Kentucky churches can learn how to get involved by visiting the BGR website at gobgr.org and look for "Buckets" under the "Projects" menu. (KBC)



Larry Koch, of Redemption Hill Baptist Church in Fisherville, secures buckets headed for Sub-Saharan Africa with clear plastic sheeting at Living Hope Baptist Church in Bowling Green. The buckets, part of Baptist Global Response's hospice care ministry, will be used to bring comfort to people suffering from AIDS while opening doors to share the gospel.

Thankful for 44 years with KBC

Foundation director shares 'My story' with Ky. Baptists

I made my profession of faith in Jesus Christ during the spring revival of my home church, First Baptist Church of Grenada, Miss., on March 10, 1958. I was 9½ years old. I was baptized on April 27.

I had the blessing of having been born and reared in a Christian home by devout Christian parents, who were my role models in life and who demonstrated by their lives and their lips what it meant to be a disciple of Jesus Christ and live one's life according to the Scriptures.

Our church was what I would characterize as a full-service Southern Baptist church and understood its mission to be: exalt the Savior, equip the saints and evangelize the sinner.

Both of my parents were church leaders and involved my three sisters and me in every aspect of the Bible study, discipleship, music and missions ministries of the church.

Our family was involved in pioneer missions to the western part of the United States in cooperation with the Mississippi Baptist Convention and the Home Mission Board in the early 1960's, long before it was called "partnership missions."

There has never been a time in my

life I did not know about Jesus.

Even though I had received this accumulation of spiritual nourishment from my parents and my church, I still had to come to that point to

which every person has to come; that is, the realization and confession of my sinful and self-centered nature.

It was on the night of March 10, 1958 during that revival I confessed and repented of my sin, asked Jesus to forgive me and to come into my life to save and mold me into the person He wanted me to be.

And from that time until now there has never been a time I have not felt the Lord's presence watching over and guiding me in everything I do.

My life verse became Proverbs 3:6: "In all thy ways acknowledge him and he shall direct thy paths."

My favorite hymn became "Our Best." Do you remember the words: "Give of your best to the Master ...?"

Another part of my story is the good fortune and blessing of having discovered early in my life not only God's vocational call, but also the field of service in which He wanted me to fulfill that call.

I give Him thanks for the 44 years of service to Kentucky Baptists.

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

Ky. Baptist Foundation



Barry Allen

EBO at work

Small grants help associations make big impact for kingdom

Almost every day during November and December, we receive EBO grant applications in the mail. These applications come from across Kentucky and represent a variety of ministries.

Applications are due by Dec. 15 and include information about the ministry and how the funds will be used. Always there are more requests than funds available.

Last year, we were able to give 90 grants in addition to the 70 provided to associations, plus the funds provided for missions through the KBC.

Your faithful giving to the Eliza Broadus Offering this year will allow us to provide a \$500 grant to each of our Kentucky Baptists Associations (\$35,000). An additional \$100,000 will be stretched as far as we can make it go to provide grants to all qualifying applicants. These grants will be approved in late January.

We always step out in faith when the grants are awarded because the offering is still coming in. Please keep the grant process and the offering in your prayers.

Reports from the associations make me smile as I read of how they used \$500 in ministry. Here are a few:

Greenup used their grant to help provide camp for boys and girls in

grades 4-6. Little Bethel has started counseling ministry for children and used their grant to furnish a special room for children in counseling.

Long Run used part of their grant to provide Bibles for Scarlet Hope. This

EBO at Work



Joy Bolton

ministry reaches out to workers in adult entertainment and assists them in leaving this lifestyle. Mercer had an outdoor outreach event at a park where the movie "God's Not Dead" was shown. Forty unchurched people attended and one student prayed with his youth leader following the movie and trusted Christ as his Savior.

Muhlenburg distributed evangelistic literature to over 800 children and families at their spring Kid Fest event. Pike bought materials for Youth on Mission to do home repairs and share God's word.

Ten Mile used their grant to buy Bibles for distribution through Kentucky Raceway Ministries and to fair workers at the Gallatin County Fair. West Union Association purchased chairs for a new church plant in Paducah.

There is a song which says "Little is much when God is in it." These are small grants to our Baptist associations, but obviously God is blessing each one to make an impact for the kingdom!

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



November

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

December

8 KBC Mission Board,
Kentucky Baptist
Building, Louisville.

MOUNTAINS TO THE MISSISSIPPI

COMPILED BY STAFF

LEXINGTON—Ronald & Julia Wilburn celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary at Porter Memorial Church Oct. 18. They were married on Oct. 17, 1964 in Owensboro. He is a retired minister having served more than 50 years, and she is a retired nurse.

PRINCETON—Southside Church has called **Baxter Boyd** to serve as minister to students and children.

OBITUARIES

Mauri Smith, Louisville

Mauri Jane Smith, 61, a former business manager of Western Recorder, died Nov. 3.

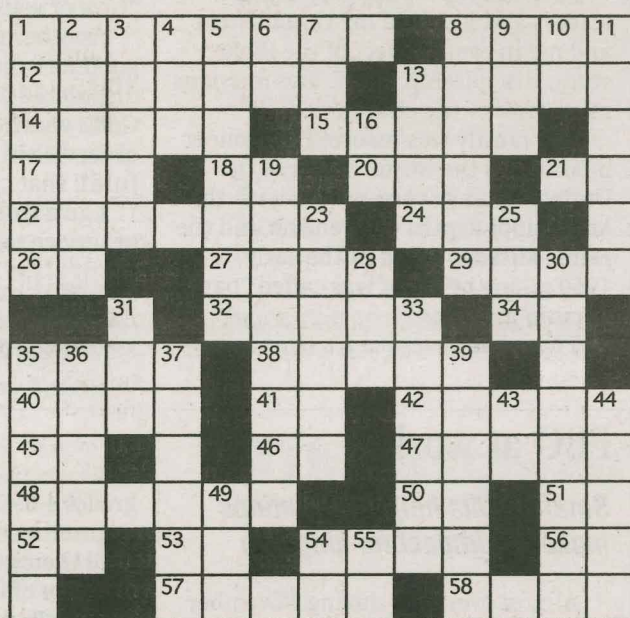
A native of Louisville and a graduate of Waggoner High School, she attended the University of Louisville. Smith was an advertising sales representative for WHAS Radio, worked for a Louisville advertising agency, and for many years served as marketing director and business manager for the Western Recorder.

She was a long-time member of Broadway Baptist Church and is survived by her husband, Curtiss Smith.

Bible Crosswords

Across

- 1 God told Adam and Eve to be fruitful and ____ (Genesis 1:22)
- 8 Without, Fr.
- 12 What Samuel does to Saul to show he'll be Israel's king
- 13 Clothing that covers the back
- 14 The prodigal son almost ate their food (Luke 15:16)
- 15 "____ not at all; neither by heaven; for it is God's throne" (Matthew 5:34)
- 17 A metal burned by fire (Numbers 31:22-23)
- 18 Eleven, Romans num.
- 20 "I am Alpha and the Omega, beginning and the ____" (Revelation 22:13)
- 21 Ma's husband
- 22 To trap
- 24 Gideon saw men lapping water like this animal (Judges 7:5)
- 26 Address abbreviation
- 27 A rough rock where the eagle dwells (Job 39:27-28)
- 29 At the end of the world we will hear about these and rumors of these (Matthew 24:6)
- 32 Large feline
- 34 Dover is the capital of this state, abbr.
- 35 A soft, lustrous fabric made by worms
- 38 Hebrew custom of allowing the poor to follow the reapers and gather grain
- 40 Jesus said not to speak these kind of words (Matthew 12:36)
- 41 The initials of the man who came up with the theory of relativity
- 42 After eight days, Jesus



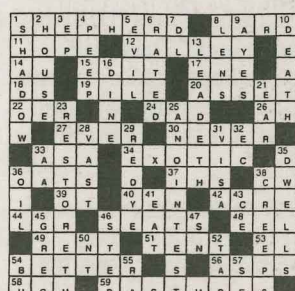
#020

- was circumcised and ____ (Luke 2:21)
- 45 Negative
- 46 Tensile strength, abbr.
- 47 To direct the course
- 48 Gideon hoped this would be wet, then dry
- 50 Exclamation of surprise
- 51 A name for Mother
- 52 Ourselves
- 53 Homonym of sew
- 54 A tall pasture grass
- 56 A printer's measure
- 57 A Levitical city in the hill country of Judah (Joshua 15:51)
- 58 Briefly lowers the head
- 11 Produces hot, moist air
- 13 "God ... shall ____ his angel" (Genesis 24:7)
- 16 Us
- 19 Supply with water by artificial means
- 23 If we wait upon the Lord, we will mount up with wings like these birds
- 25 Seventh son of Jacob, firstborn of Zilpah (Genesis 30:11)
- 28 Word to make a horse turn to the right
- 30 What Christ did for us
- 31 Everything
- 33 "The Son of man came ... to give his life a ____" (Matthew 20:28)
- 35 Marked by sin
- 36 "Little children, keep yourselves from ____" (1 John 5:21)
- 37 City in south Judah, conquered by Joshua in the northern campaign (Joshua 12:22)
- 39 Prophet during the reigns of David and Solomon
- 43 Myself
- 44 Persian coins (Ezra 2:69)
- 49 The sound of a dove
- 54 The opposite of stop
- 55 The article that precedes words beginning with a vowel

Down

- 1 Ruler, lord, teacher (Matthew 8:19)
- 2 To reverse the winding
- 3 When you wear the armor of God, you should have your ____ girt with truth (Ephesians 6:14)
- 4 A soft metal
- 5 Not exact
- 6 Two cups, abbr.
- 7 Life support system, abbr.
- 8 "Yea, though I walk through the valley of the ____ of death" (Psalms 23:4)
- 9 Jesus spoke of the fowls of the ____ (Matthew 6:26)
- 10 Not rated, abbr.

#018



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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 resumés to the following: Buck Creek Baptist Church, Attn.: Personnel Comm., 3788 US 431, Calhoun, KY 42327. Resumés will be accepted until Nov. 28.

SEEKING: Christ Baptist Church in Cold Spring, Ky., is prayerfully accepting resumés 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 resume' to 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.

SEEKING: Gano Baptist Church, Georgetown, Ky., is seeking a pastor, called by God, to lead our congregation. Resumés may be submitted by mail to Gloria Prater, Secretary, Gano Pastor Search Committee, P.O. Box 1778, Georgetown, KY 40324 or by email to gbcresumes@bellsouth.net.

SEEKING: South Elkhorn Baptist Church is seeking a full-time or bivocational

pastor to lead and shepherd a congregation of approximately 52 families. The pastor's main focus should be to worship in reverence to the greatest commandment, "love the Lord your God with all your heart, mind, soul, and strengt." The next focus should be to equip the saints with sound teaching derived from Scripture in order to carry out the second commandment, "to love our neighbor as ourselves." We desire a pastor who will lead us in one accord and protect the body from unsound worldly doctrine. He should provide the deacons with Scriptural roles and teaching, so they can minister and encourage members of the body to be witnesses wherever they go. The pastor must meet the Bible qualifications outlined in Titus and 1 Timothy. If interested, please send resumé to the following address: South Elkhorn Baptist Church, Attn.: Pastoral Search Committee, 4867 Versailles Rd., Lexington, KY 40510.

SEEKING: Salvisa Baptist Church in Salvisa, Ky., is prayerfully accepting resumés for the position of senior pastor. A minimum of 10 years experience and seminary degree is preferred. Please send resumé and CD/DVD or internet link for sermons to: Salvisa Baptist Church, P.O. Box 75, Salvisa, KY 40372, Attn.: Pastor Search Committee or email salvisa@bell-south.net.

SEEKING: First Baptist Church of Forest Hills, Ky., is prayerfully seeking candidates for the position of senior pastor. Experience and education preferred but not required. Resumés and/or CD/DVD may be sent to First Baptist Church, P.O. Box 157, Forest Hills, KY 41527 Atten.: Search Committee or 1stbaptistforesthills@gmail.com.

SEEKING: Hillview Baptist Church is seeking a part-time, multi-generational senior pastor. Send resumés to hillview-baptist@outlook.com or mail to 5319 Dixie Highway, Louisville, KY 40216.

FOR SALE: 1996 International School/Church Bus. 52 passenger. Low mileage, and in great condition. \$5,500. Call Mike at 606-437-7642. Located in Pikeville, Ky.

ENTERTAINMENT: Renfo Valley Christmas and Dinner Show, Dec. 13. Call Lane Tours at 859-806-2107 or e-mail: lanetours@hotmail.com to reserve your motor coach seat by 12/5/14. Cost is \$79/per person.

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John Perkins: Historic time for race relations

By Craig Sanders

Louisville—John Perkins, an 84-year-old evangelical pioneer in race relations, sees “a pivot place in history” among churches in racial reconciliation and economic justice.

“This is the first generation of people who are beginning to understand that.” It’s a generation that “values diversity,” Perkins said at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in this year’s Julius Brown Gay Lecture on Christian Ethics.

“There’s an underlying movement today that now people are wanting to do missions with people, and they want to learn from people,” Perkins said, and they see the diversity of human beings as “a value in life.”

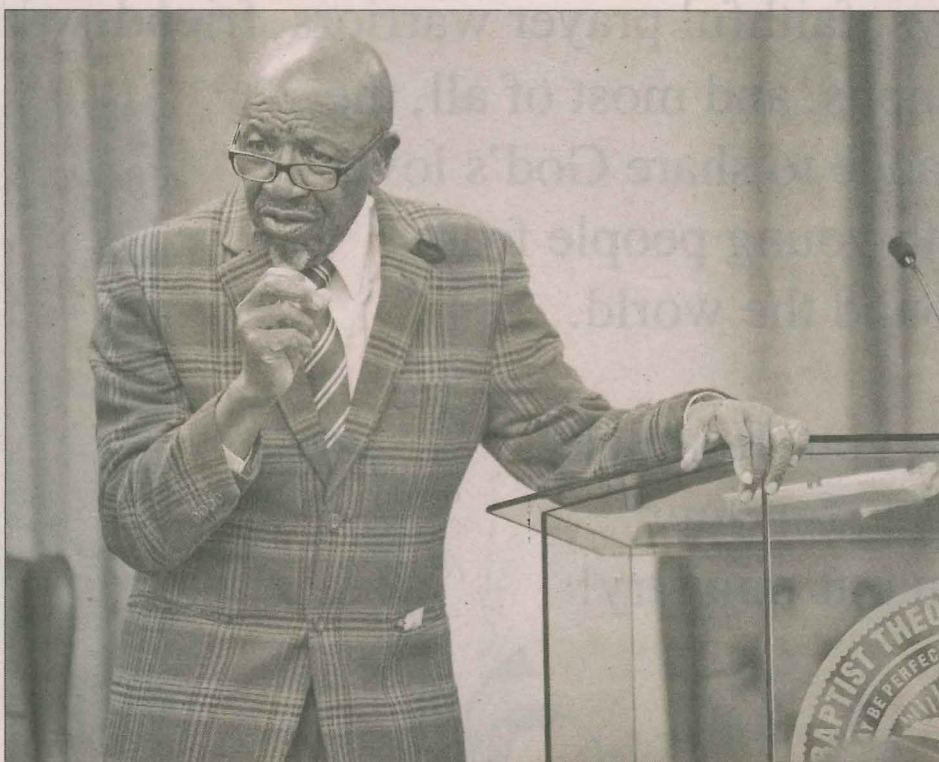
Perkins, a Mississippi native, fled to California as a teenager when his brother was murdered by a town marshal. After he professed faith in Christ in 1957, Perkins returned with his wife and children to Mendenhall, Miss., where he established a ministry to provide both Bible training and community development programs such as health clinics, thrift stores and housing cooperatives. He is the founder and president of the John and Vera Mae Perkins Foundation.

In 1989, Perkins was among the founders of the Christian Community Development Association to spread this philosophy of rebuilding poor neighborhoods with biblical principles. He also is the author of several books, including “Let Justice Roll Down” and “A Quiet Revolution.”

Southern Seminary’s Julius Brown Gay Lectures are among its most prestigious lectureships, dating back to 1895. The lectures have brought some of Christianity’s most significant figures to the seminary campus, most notably Martin Luther King Jr. in 1961.

The opportunity to deliver the lecture at Southern Seminary, Perkins said, was “one of the honors of my life” in his long-standing work in biblical reconciliation.

Perkins lectured on “Theology and Race in American Christianity” to a standing room-only crowd of Southern Seminary students and African



Civil rights leader John Perkins delivers the Julius Brown Gay Lecture on Christian Ethics at Southern Seminary Oct. 27. (SBTS photo)

American pastors with the Kentucky Baptist Convention who attended an afternoon pastors’ conference. (See related story.)

Racial reconciliation and justice are fundamental aspects of Christ’s redemptive work, Perkins said in his lecture.

Anything outside of developing a church that is intentionally multicultural is “a disgrace to the gospel,” Perkins said. “It belittles the gospel to have a church based on race. It’s a slap in the face of a God who created from one human being all the nations that reside upon this earth and a gospel that its intention was to reconcile people to God and to each other.”

The solution to racial divisions, Perkins suggested, is to “come back to the Bible and totally believe it.”

He emphasized the need to understand the reconciling work of Christ in the incarnation with a sense of economic justice rooted in the creation account.

“The big issue is an economic issue.

Justice is how we manage the earth’s resources,” Perkins said. “There is no biblical trace that God gives us ownership. The earth is the Lord’s, and He gives it to us as a stewardship.”

In a panel discussion, Perkins added to his comments that racial justice is an economic issue, noting that “all resources come from God” in creation, with mankind called to steward those resources.

“Work is the best welfare program in the world,” Perkins said. “People need more than charity. What do they need? They need a job. It provides you the greatest affirmation—you earned it.”

Perkins also shared insight into the “three R’s” of his philosophy for community development: relocation (into communities of need), reconciliation and redistribution, which he said is not spreading the wealth but in calling to biblical action those who control the means of production.

“God’s love for humanity is the

motivation for redemption,” Perkins said. “It’s His love, it’s His justice, His tender care, His land from which we get the food to live.”

Joining Perkins in the panel discussion on racial reconciliation were Vaughn Walker, WMU Professor of Christian Ministries and professor of black church studies; Jarvis Williams, associate professor of New Testament interpretation; and Curtis Woods, the Kentucky Baptist Convention’s associate executive director for convention relations.

Walker, who became the first African American faculty member at any of the six SBC seminaries in 1986, said racial reconciliation in Southern Baptist churches today remains a difficult issue because of the changing cultural landscape.

“This is a multicultural world. If we’re still playing the black-and-white game, we’re going to be far behind where the real game is,” Walker said.

Williams, whose research in the New Testament includes a focus on gospel-centered racial reconciliation, emphasized the importance of defining terms when discussing the issue.

“When we start talking about what’s the foundation underneath the problem of injustice, the problem of racism, I think it’s Adam’s transgression,” Williams said regarding the universal power of sin.

“The greatest hope I think every single human being needs is to be transformed by the supernatural power of the bloody gospel that focuses on a Jewish Messiah who died and resurrected for Jews and Gentiles to make them one new man in Christ.”

Woods spoke on behalf of the Kentucky Baptist Convention, which organized a conference for African American pastors following the lecture and panel discussion. He noted the efforts of KBC leaders to preach in a diversity of churches if they are invited to preach God’s word.

“We believe in gospel-centered racial reconciliation,” Woods said. “We are sincerely wanting to see the church to look like heaven before we get there.” (BP)

Expository preaching commended to African American pastors

Louisville—Christ-centered expository preaching is cross-cultural, speakers Thabiti Anyabwile, Victor Sholar, H.B. Charles and Curtis Woods noted at an African American pastors’ conference sponsored by Southern Baptist Theological Seminary.

“We want to preach in such a way that opens the understanding of our people so that their rejoicing is really in the truth,” said Anyabwile, church planting pastor at Capitol Hill Baptist Church in Washington, D.C.

Anyabwile, opening the conference with a cultural and biblical defense for expository preaching, addressed four topics: popular objections to expository preaching in many cultural contexts; Nehemiah 8 as a biblical text that models and calls pastors to expository preaching; the result of the ministry of expository preaching; and how

expository preaching answers objections that are often raised.

Objections, Anyabwile said, include the idea that expository preaching is culturally inappropriate or too intellectual. But expository preaching engages culture, and “all of God’s word is for all of God’s people. And we may only enjoy God rightly when we understand His word rightly,” he said.

Expository preaching, or true biblical preaching, is book-centered, for the people, and “true biblical preaching has not happened until the people understand the Bible,” he said.

Expository preaching means a pastor explains the text until the congregation understands it, he said.

“We get to celebrate from every text the work of Jesus Christ on our behalf in ways that are natural to the text,” he said. “So we haven’t actually ... done

expository preaching until we have understood and helped our people understand how that text relates to Jesus Christ and His finished work on our behalf, because that’s how we go from weeping over our sins to rejoicing in our Savior.”

Victor Sholar, senior pastor of Main Street Baptist Church in Lexington, spoke about various elements of expository preaching and pastoral ministry. Preaching from James 3, he urged pastors to remember they are judged with a stricter judgment as teachers. He noted that “the instrument of our vocation is our tongue” as pastors. The ability or lack thereof to control one’s tongue, he said, is a good way to determine a pastoral calling.

Sholar also discussed how preaching is both doctrinal and devotional, and expository preaching challenges how pastors preach because “Christ has a holy passion about how your sermon

affects people.” He said that most people want to gain more self-esteem through sermons, but the pastor’s job is to esteem his sheep in Christ.

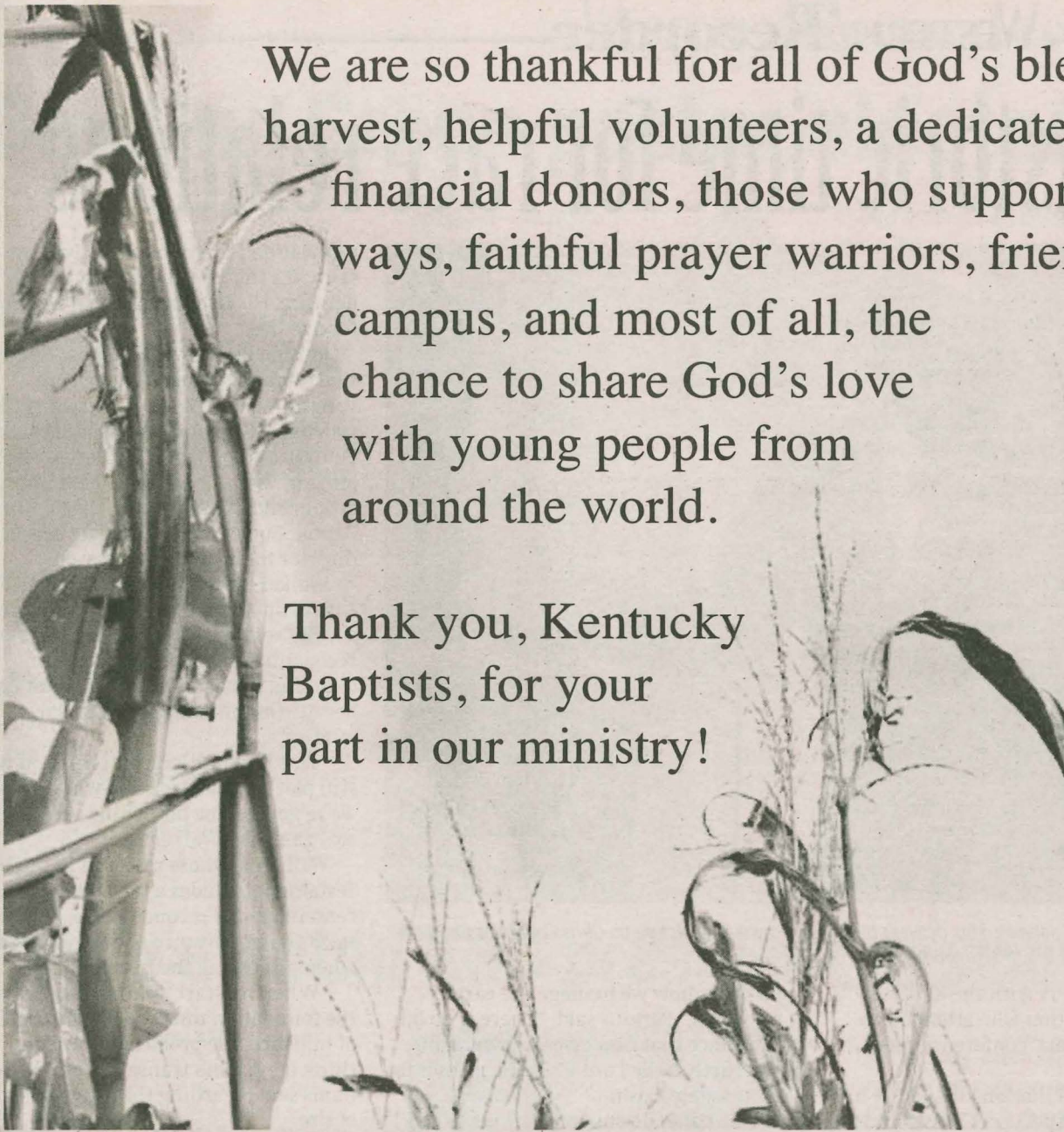
H.B. Charles, pastor of Shiloh Metropolitan Baptist Church in Jacksonville, Fla., preached an expository sermon on Psalm 113.

True worship, like what the psalmist exhorts God’s people, inevitably involves praise and is always about God.

In the psalm, Charles pointed out that the call to worship appears three times in the first verse. He offered three points about worship: worship is a universal call, Christians should worship God at all times and they should worship Him in all places.

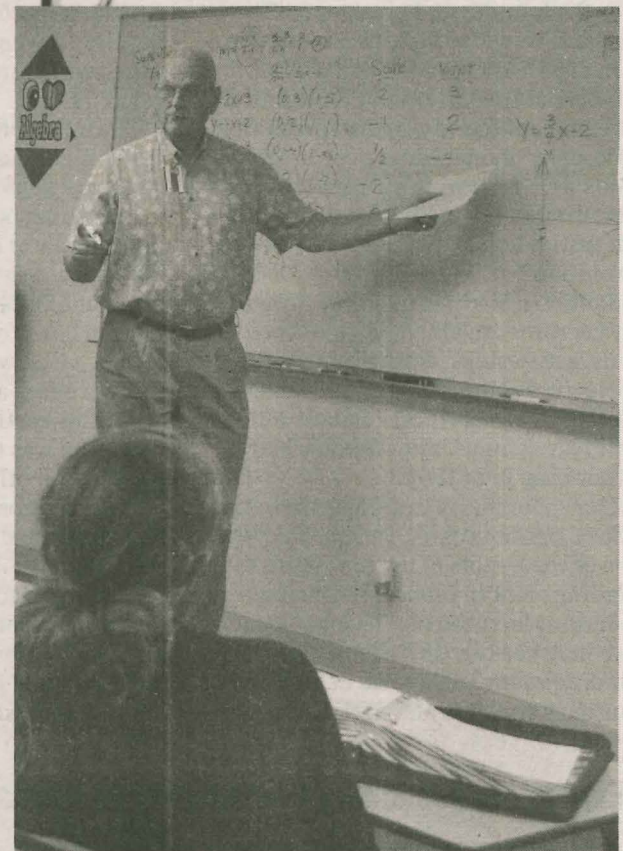
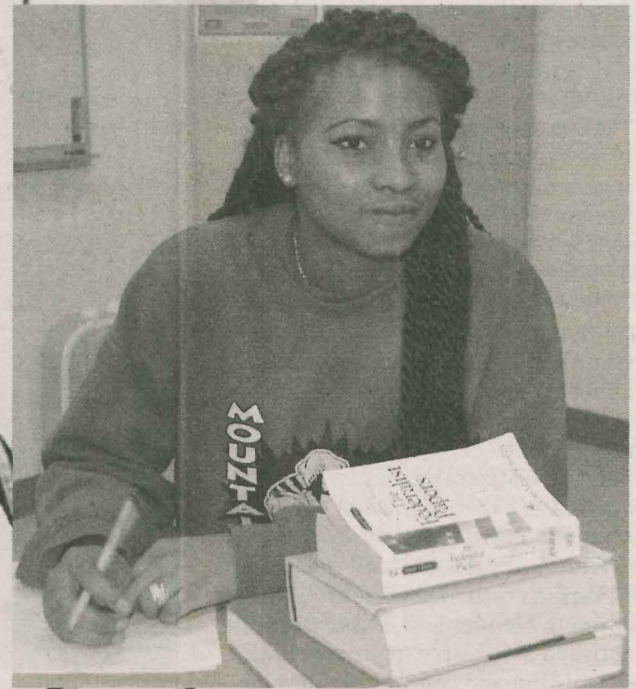
“The believing heart finds many reasons to praise the Lord,” Charles said.

The pastors’ conference also featured a panel discussion of sermon preparation, influential pastors and authors, and other areas of pastoral ministry. (BP)



We are so thankful for all of God's blessings -- a bountiful harvest, helpful volunteers, a dedicated faculty and staff, financial donors, those who support us in so many other ways, faithful prayer warriors, friends who visit our campus, and most of all, the chance to share God's love with young people from around the world.

Thank you, Kentucky Baptists, for your part in our ministry!



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