

WESTERN Recorder

November 25, 2014

Shine Like Stars * Philippians 2:15

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Warren at Vatican: Be 'winsome under attack'

Vatican City—Christians must defend marriage by facing opponents winsomely and demonstrating that God's plan of one man and one woman for life promotes human flourishing, Rick Warren told international religious leaders at the Vatican.

Warren, pastor of Saddleback Church, a Southern Baptist congregation in the Los Angeles area, said he supports God's unchanging model for marriage and opposes gay marriage because "the only way to always be relevant is to be eternal. What is in style goes out of style. But no revolution lasts. Every lie eventually crumbles under its own deception. Cultures rise and fall. Cultures come and go. It isn't necessary to be on the right side of culture. It is necessary to be on the right side."

Along with Russell Moore, president of the Southern Baptist Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission, Warren provided an evangelical Protestant viewpoint on the complementarity of man and woman during the second day of a Vatican-sponsored colloquium on marriage.

About 350 religious, academic and civil society leaders



Rick Warren (bottom right) was among 350 international religious leaders gathered at the Vatican Nov. 17-19 to discuss the defense of traditional marriage.

"To redefine marriage would destroy the picture that God intends for marriage to portray. We cannot cave on this issue."

Pastor Rick Warren

from 23 countries and various world religions gathered at the headquarters of the Roman Catholic Church for the Nov. 17-19 event.

Warren said he planned to speak on "Why Marriage Matters" but changed

his topic to "What Must We Do?" after the

27 speakers on the program before him explained thoroughly the importance of traditional marriage. He outlined action steps for leaders to take in defense of marriage following the Vatican gathering. Among them:

■ **Believe what Jesus taught about marriage.**

Male-female marriage is God's idea, not man's, and sex was created for marriage, Warren said.

"Even if you disbelieve the Bible, every human body, every living person, is a witness and testimony to God's intended purpose for sex," Warren said, according to his manuscript. "Sex was not created for recreation, but for the connection of a husband and wife and the procreation of life."

■ **Celebrate healthy marriages.**

"We will convert more opponents by being winsome and positive about the beauty and joy of marriage than by being negative about immorality," Warren said.

Churches should encourage people with happy marriages to share their testimonies, he said. Highlighting the benefits of marriage is also important, including healthier children, increased safety for women and greater economic stability, Warren said.

■ **Engage every media to promote marriage.**

"Right now, the church is being out-marketed by opponents of marriage," Warren said. "The minority view is getting the majority of media attention. Right now, Christians are known more for what we are against than for what we are for. Whichever side tells the best stories wins."

To stem the cultural tide in favor of gay marriage, Christians should promote "tasteful" movies and television shows that celebrate marriage, Warren said.

□ See Warren at Vatican ... Page 2

IMB's Platt unfolds 5-point strategy for reaching lost

By Tess Rivers

Olive Branch, Miss.—International Mission Board President David Platt outlined his five-point strategic plan while presiding over his first trustee meeting as head of the mission agency. In a plan based on five biblical goals which have led to four practical steps and three initial recommendations, Platt offered two important reminders to reach one all-consuming goal: glorifying God.

Platt's five biblically based goals for IMB are: exalting Christ, mobilizing Christians, equipping the church, facilitating church planting and "playing our part in completing the Great Commission," he explained to trustees during their November meetings in Olive Branch, Miss.

"Missions is not our life. Christ is our life," Platt said. "I want to lead us to love Him, to enjoy Him ... and to exalt Him among all peoples."

These desires led Platt to identify four

practical steps to lead the organization, including shaping culture, streamlining strategy, simplifying structure and solidifying leadership.

"We're working and pleading for God to raise up multitudes of workers," Platt said. "And when He does—and I believe He's doing it now—we don't want to have a small funnel that people have to squeeze through to be involved with IMB in getting the gospel to the nations."

Instead, Platt said, "we want to simplify our structure to set the sails for the wind of God to blow His people to the world."

As a result, Platt brought three personnel recommendations to IMB trustees, describing the moves as "high-level, 40,000-foot decisions" designed to "set the stage" for subsequent decisions in the days to come.

First, IMB trustees approved Sebastian Traeger, an innovator and entrepreneur based in Washington, D.C., to serve as the agency's executive vice president.



Sebastian Traeger



IMB President David Platt's five biblically based goals for IMB are: exalting Christ, mobilizing Christians, equipping the church, facilitating church planting and "playing our part in completing the Great Commission."

Traeger, 40, is an elder at Capitol Hill Baptist Church in Washington, D.C., and author of the book, "The Gospel at Work." He will replace Clyde Meador, 69, who has served in the role since 2003. Meador will continue to serve on the IMB leadership team as executive advisor to the president.

Trustees also voted to approve Zane Pratt, 57, as vice president for global

training. Pratt, who currently serves with IMB as theological education strategist for Asia, has 21 years of IMB missions' experience. From 2011-13, Pratt also served as dean and associate professor of Christian missions at the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville.

Proven leaders

Traeger, who earned a bachelor's degree in politics from Princeton University, brings a variety of skills and experience to the position of executive vice president, including ministry awareness, leadership ability, organizational acumen, financial competence and strategic experience, Platt told trustees.

As an entrepreneur, business professional and management consultant, Traeger has co-founded, built and sold several companies, including Village Phone, which launched mobile services in rural developing communities in El Salvador; Christianity.com, a self-publishing platform for Christian organizations; Razoo.

□ See Platt's strategy ... Page 2

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Western Recorder 11-25-2014

James appoints chairpersons for 14 KBC committees

Louisville—Tom James, the newly elected president of the Kentucky Baptist Convention, has announced his selection of committee leaders.

James said the 14 appointed chairpersons will help guide the future of an organization that seeks to serve nearly 2,400 Southern Baptist churches in the state.

"I can think of no better group of people with whom to serve as we guide Kentucky Baptist churches in our mission of sharing the gospel," James said.

Of the committee chairpersons chosen by the KBC president, four were re-appointed. Andrew Dyer, Jerry Gifford, Adam Greenway and Garnetta Smith will again chair strategic Mission Board committees. Charles Frazier, who served as chairman of the placement committee last year, returns as chair of the business and finance committee.

The list of convention and mission board committee chairpersons include:

KBC standing committees

- Committee on the Annual Meeting—Scott Kerr, pastor, Valley Creek Baptist Church, Elizabethtown.
- Committee on Committees—David Stokes, director of missions, Elkhorn Baptist Association, Lexington.
- Committee on Constitution & Bylaws—Eric Stephens, pastor, Hill Grove Baptist Church, Radcliff.
- Committee on Credentials—Allen Bonnell, pastor, Immanuel Baptist Church, Corbin.
- Committee on Nominations—Mike Jones, pastor, Marion Baptist Church, Marion.
- Committee on Public Affairs—Rick Hardison, pastor, Great Crossing Baptist Church, Georgetown.
- Committee on Resolutions—Richard Black, member, The Baptist Church at Andover, Lexington.

KBC Mission Board committees

- Administrative committee—Adam Greenway, dean, Billy Graham School of Missions, Evangelism and Ministry, Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville.
- Agencies & institutions committee—Garnetta Smith, member, Highview Baptist Church, Louisville.
- Business & finance committee—Charles Frazier, pastor, Zion's Cause Baptist Church, Benton.
- Church consulting & revitalization committee—Jerry Gifford, pastor, First Baptist Church, Franklin.
- Evangelism & Church Planting Committee—Andrew Dyer, pastor, Corinth Baptist Church, London.
- Missions mobilization committee—Bryan Grigg, pastor, Macedonia Baptist Church, Kuttawa.
- Placement committee—Randy McPherson, director of missions, Rockcastle Baptist Association, Mount Vernon. (KBC)

Giving Tuesday an opportunity to support Mission: Dignity

By Roy Hayhurst

Dallas—Giving Tuesday, a global effort to support giving and generosity following shopping-focused days "Black Friday," "Small Business Saturday" and "Cyber Monday" after Thanksgiving, is an opportunity to support Mission: Dignity, Southern Baptists' ministry that provides financial assistance for retired Southern Baptist pastors and their widows. Giving Tuesday falls this year on Dec. 2.

The GuideStone ministry, which recently approved special \$250 Christmas gift checks for each recipient, also increased its monthly assistance amount by 12 percent, effective in October. Mission: Dignity accepts gifts of any amount, and every dollar given helps those in need. An endowment funds the operating expenses of Mission: Dignity.

"We appreciate so much the faithful giving of churches, Sunday school classes, individuals and other groups that help underwrite this ministry," said John Ambra, director of financial assistance at GuideStone.

"This ministry serves as Christ's hand to so many of these 'soldiers of the cross,' allowing them to live in vocational retirement with a much-deserved sense of dignity and well-being," he said.

Many of Mission: Dignity's almost 2,000 recipients report that their monthly assistance means the ability to pay an electric bill, buy medicine or groceries, or even the ability to continue to live independently.

"More than 60 percent of the people we serve are widows—with one in four being a pastor's widow over age 85," Ambra said. "The book of James talks

about serving orphans and widows as a sign of pure and undefiled religion. So many great ministries exist for orphans; Mission: Dignity is one of the few focused on the widows of pastors.

"It is more blessed to give than to receive, so after taking advantage of the sales on tinsel and trinkets, we're asking that our Southern Baptist family prayerfully consider remembering those pastors and their wives and widows who so often served in rural, out-of-the-way places, on Giving Tuesday and any other time the Lord may lead."

Gifts to Mission: Dignity are tax-deductible to the extent allowed by law and can be made online at www.MissionDignitySBC.org.

Roy Hayhurst is department head of denominational and public relations services for GuideStone Financial Resources.

Ezell calls on Ky. churches, students to help New Yorkers

Alpharetta, Ga.—North American Mission Board President Kevin Ezell is calling on Kentucky Baptist churches to assist with the ongoing rebuild efforts in and around New York City following Hurricane Sandy.

More than two years have passed since Hurricane Sandy slammed into the northeastern coastline, and while Southern Baptist Disaster Relief has been helping since day one, Ezell said thousands

of residents still desperately need help.

"We need you and the members of your church to consider giving some time to serve in the next few months," Ezell said. "College students might think about giving a week during Christmas break or spring break. We need people of all ages and with all kinds of skills as we help homeowners rebuild their homes and their lives."

NAMB recently extended the rebuild

effort until August 2015, opening the doors to summer mission projects next year.

Churches interested in sending mission teams are encouraged to start the process by sending an email to sandy@namb.net or call (770) 410-6075.

"This is a great opportunity to carry the hope of the gospel as we meet tangible needs for people whose lives have been derailed," Ezell said. (KBC)

Platt's strategy

Continued from page 1

com, a crowd-funding site that leverages small acts of charity to support a variety of causes; and Five Street Inc., which provides lead management software to the residential real estate industry.

In addition, Platt said, Traeger "stands on strong biblical, theological foundations that inform a healthy understanding of the local church, global mission and every Christian's involvement in both."

Traeger, who accepted Christ as his personal Savior as a 6-year-old boy, also credits his Princeton involvement in Campus Crusade for Christ and Athletes in Action as significant milestones in his spiritual development.

Since 1996, he has been a member of Capitol Hill Baptist Church in Washington, D.C., where he currently serves as a Sunday School teacher and elder. He and his wife Nikki have three children, ages 6, 5 and 3.

"I am honored and privileged to be asked to serve in this role," Traeger said. "It's amazing how God has providentially given me the capabilities and the experiences to do this work."

Specifically, Traeger said he believes his experience with leading innovation and his focus on "doing all things with excellence as unto the Lord" will prove helpful as Platt seeks to bring new models to the 169-year-old organization.

"As David starts to lead the organization with a vision for raising up more missionaries, forming more teams

and incorporating more professionals, I can see how my experiences as an innovator will be helpful," Traeger said.

Focus on training

Platt recommended creating the new position of vice president of global training to oversee IMB training efforts. Platt endorsed Pratt to fill the role based on "a unique combination of extensive missions experience alongside deep theological acumen."

"I want to make sure that everything we are and everything we do is grounded in the rock solid foundations of God's word," Platt said.

"I want God's word to drive what we believe and how we operate, the message we proclaim and the methods we use to proclaim it." (BP)

Warren at Vatican

Continued from page 1

Media produced by marriage proponents should portray "the joys and benefits of healthy marriages and the hard work it takes to maintain a great marriage."

Social media should be used "to mentor the next generation" regarding marriage, he said. Warren personally uses nine social media channels, he said.

■ Face attackers with joy and winsomeness.

"Culture has accepted two lies: that if you disagree with someone's lifestyle, you must hate them or are afraid of them (and) that to love someone means that you must agree with everything they believe or do,"

Warren said. "Both are nonsense."

Citing the Bible's commands to "overcome evil with good" and "bless those who curse you," Warren said, "Attackers are not the enemy; they are the mission field. Jesus died for them."

To "stay winsome under attack" believers must be willing to face ridicule for the truth and remember that they "live for an audience of one," he said.

Traditional marriage advocates must also give people hope that a biblical marriage is attainable and teach the purposes of marriage, Warren said.

He listed among marriage's purposes eliminating loneliness, channeling sexual expression and multiplying the human race.

But the deepest purpose of marriage is to illustrate "the mystery of Christ's love

for His bride and body," the church, Warren said.

"No other relationship, including the parent-child relationship, can picture this intimate union," he said. "To redefine marriage would destroy the picture that God intends for marriage to portray. We cannot cave on this issue."

Warren concluded, "The church must never be captivated by culture, manipulated by critics, motivated by applause, frustrated by problems, debilitated by distractions or intimidated by evil. We must keep running the race with our eyes on the goal, not on those shouting from the sideline."

"We must be Spirit-led, purpose-driven and mission-focused so that we cannot be bought, will not be compromised and shall not quit until we finish the race." (BP)

In keeping with the Western Recorder's holiday publication schedule, the next issue will be distributed Dec. 9.

KBC Executive Director's annual report (Part 2)

The KBC communications team and Public Affairs Committee help churches engage pressing cultural and social issues. For example, their appeal to Kentucky Baptists to make their voices heard during the Kentucky General Assembly helped keep casinos out of Kentucky. We expect to confront the issue again next year as the gambling industry will not give up this fight while it has a sworn ally in the governor's mansion. We are fighting a good fight and, so far, have the upper hand. Let us not grow weary in well doing.

Together We are the KBC



Paul Chitwood

Another pressing matter may prove to be the defining cultural issue of our time. The gay-marriage and homosexual agenda is not a benign cause we can afford to ignore. In the name of equal rights, Christians are having their rights trampled. Christian business owners are being fined, forced out of business, and dragged into the courts. Houston's sermon subpoenas have been dropped for now, but government's intolerance of a biblical worldview continues to grow.

The KBC's Protecting Biblical Marriage Conference resulted in a collection of free resources now available on the KBC website. These resources include sample bylaws and building-use policies intended to protect the local church from frivolous lawsuits and baseless discrimination charges.

The KBC missions mobilization team, under the leadership of Eric Allen, encourages churches to adopt an Acts 1:8 missions strategy and helps connect them to missions opportunities. A record 106,687 Kentucky Baptists participated in missions projects and trips (according to ACP data) last year. Efforts of our 105 self-funded missionaries in Kentucky and the 23,314 short-term volunteers who came to serve alongside them yielded more than 2,000 professions of faith, resulting in 708 baptisms.

Working in places like flooded areas of Detroit and war-torn areas like Sudan, KBC Disaster Relief teams conducted nearly one-third of the national Southern Baptist Disaster Relief response ministry visits this year and recorded more than 20 percent of the total decisions for Christ.

Members of the KBC church consulting and revitalization team, under the leadership of Steve Rice, drove more than 300,000 ministry miles in Kentucky to carry out their assignment of helping churches. The team is currently working with 500 different churches and 1,100 different people each month, helping them reach Kentucky and the world for Christ.

The KBC evangelism, church planting and collegiate ministry team, through initiatives like "Tell Your Story" and "RISK: Bowling Green," is helping churches reach Kentucky. The team has reported an unprecedented number of professions of faith on university campuses and expects a record number of new church plants this year. These are just a few highlights from the cooperative work of our churches. Might God continue to use us to reach Kentucky and the world for Christ.

Paul Chitwood is executive director of the Kentucky Baptist Convention.

Telling our stories encourages others to share

A significant feature at this year's convention was the great stories told by the speakers in hopes of encouraging others to "tell your story." Last week we shared a few. Here are four more:

For **Corey Abney**, pastor of Florence Baptist Church and chair of the Committee on Resolutions, a youth minister helped answer his questions.

Raised in Dayton, Ohio, Abney said he was "in and out of church." At age 15, though, he called his student pastor with a question that any minister would love to hear.

"I'll come right over," the youth minister responded.

"That meant a lot to me," Abney said, and the following night he gave his life to Christ. Soon after, God began working in his family, and Abney shared his faith for the first time with his brother.

"It was so effective he was weeping at the dining room table—not in repentance, but anger," Abney recollected. "Well, I'm a failure," he thought. Yet, on the way to a ball game days later, his dad announced that his brother and grandfather had received Christ. They were all baptized on the same day.

For **Jeff Pennington**, a staff member of Buck Run Baptist Church and chair of the Committee on Committees, an unrelenting spirit kept him awake.

"I was blessed to grow up in a home where mom and dad both loved the Lord with all their hearts," Pennington began, adding that some Sunday School teachers and church training workers also had "poured their lives" into him.

As a 7 year old, one night he couldn't sleep. "I really think the Lord was calling out to me, sort of in the same way as Samuel was being called out to when he went to Eli," Pennington said. He told how his dad had shared the gospel with him the next day.

"I am so thankful for godly parents who set an example and who were there for me to clearly explain the gospel when I needed to hear it," he said.

For **Nick Sandefur**, a regional correspondent for the KBC and chair of the Committee on Nominations, an elderly couple brought him to church.

Though he was blessed with good parents and never

doubted he was loved, Sandefur sensed something was missing. "A spiritual foundation just wasn't there," he said, explaining that God was never talked about much at home.

"I know we went (to church) on Easter a couple of times because I've got the pictures to prove it," he said. "I heard Jesus' name a couple of times, but usually after I'd done something wrong."

Then an elderly couple reached out to "a young man who was more trouble than he was worth," and they started taking Sandefur to Cash Creek Baptist Church in Henderson. Two years later, as a 12-year old, the gospel took root. He had tried hard to fix things by making good grades, playing sports, and even obeying his parents, but knew something

was still amiss.

"One day, God grabbed hold of my heart and convinced me of my need for Him," Sandefur said. "What I didn't realize is, Christ did for me what I could not do for myself. He broke the chain of sin. He gave me new life."

The events of his life haven't been that much different from anyone else's, he acknowledged. "But since that day I trusted Christ, I've never doubted that He loved me, that He is with me, that He is going to take care of me when this life is over."

For **Steve Weaver**, pastor of Farmdale Baptist Church in Frankfort and chair of the Committee on Public Affairs, a message on hell scared him so bad as a 5 or 6 year old that it sent him to the altar, but he wasn't truly converted, he said.

Years later, as a teenager, after living with a sense of guilt and wondering if he was good enough to go to heaven, God opened his eyes, Weaver said. "He allowed me to see the truth that the righteousness that God requires, He freely gives to those who believe," he explained.

"I've never gotten over the wonder of salvation by grace alone through faith alone, because of the work of Jesus Christ alone," he said.

Now it's your turn! What's your story? The most significant story for someone will be the one you share about how Christ has changed your life.

Visit www.tellyourstory.today and share your story.



After Thought

By Todd Deaton

Plan for state and federal death taxes

By Laurie Valentine

Christian estate planning may be the single most important act of financial stewardship a Christian may take. Not planning to defer, reduce or eliminate your death tax liability is poor stewardship.

Assets that could have been preserved for family must be sold to raise funds to pay those taxes, and less estate value remains to pass to family and other beneficiaries.

There are two death taxes that may be owed at the death of a Kentucky resident: federal estate tax and Kentucky inheritance tax.

Federal estate tax is owed if the

total value of all of your assets at your death, whether individually-owned, jointly-owned, or beneficiary-designated and wherever situated, exceeds (for 2014) \$5.34 million.

Federal estate tax assets include life insurance, retirement accounts and assets in trusts. Gifts to a surviving spouse or charity at your death provide federal estate tax savings because their value reduces the portion of your

estate subject to such taxes.

Kentucky Inheritance Tax is a death tax owed by some beneficiaries, no

matter where they live, on the value of what they inherit from a Kentucky resident.

Your spouse, children, grandchildren, siblings and charitable beneficiaries are exempt from having to pay Kentucky Inheritance Tax, no matter how much they inherit from you.

All other beneficiaries will have to pay inheritance tax if what they inherit from you exceeds very modest exempt amounts—\$1,000 for nieces, nephews, children-in-law, aunts, uncles; \$500 for all other individuals and non-charitable organizations.

Laurie Valentine is trust counsel for the Kentucky Baptist Foundation.

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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.

This holiday, make a point to tell your story

By Joe Ball

The holidays are coming! The holidays are coming!

That is the message that is being sent loud and clear over every media site imaginable. It's as if retailers think that somehow the holidays are going to sneak up on us, and that somehow we are going to forget the Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Year's are just around the corner.

Lifetime TV has been showing Christmas movies for weeks, every other commercial is an ad for toys, and the black Friday circulars for several national chains have been "leaked" to the internet. We have gone holiday crazy. I even saw an ad today wishing me a Merry Christmah-anakwanzika! What in the world is that?

As crazy as this time of year drives me, it does offer us ample opportunities to tell our story—the story of our encounter with the gospel and how that has forever changed who I am.

The time between Thanksgiving and New Year's is a special time in the life of the church—a time I miss being on a church staff. Sunday School classes are having fellowships, choirs have been working hard on a cantata, children's programs bring grandparents, aunts and uncles to the church, and the school bands and choirs all have performances.

It is also the one time of year that it is O.K. to honor long standing traditions: Christmas Eve candlelight services, Christmas caroling to the home of the senior adults, the Hanging of the Greens, collecting the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering, and hosting a Grinch-themed Christmas Party, to name a few.

But this year, in the midst of all the tradition and rush this time of year brings, let's not forget to take time to tell the story of why Jesus came to earth. The apostle Paul, in 1 Timothy 1:15 writes, "This saying is

trustworthy and deserving of full acceptance: 'Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners'—and I am the worst of them" (HCSB). Tell that story, and tell your story of how and when the truth of that story became a reality for you.

This time of year also brings, for most of us, time with family that we may not see at any other time of the year. It's the busiest time of the year for travel. Plane flights are the most expensive because they are in the highest demand. Gas prices go up as families travel "over the river and through the woods to

Youth Ministry Corner



Joe Ball

grandma's house."

Take some time this holiday season to be intentional about sharing your gospel story. After the turkey has been put away and before the Cowboys or Lions game kicks off Thanksgiving afternoon, take some time to share about how you are thankful for a Savior who came and died in your place. Have placards at the table with Scripture verses for people to read around meal time. Place the gospel narrative in a picture frame on your wall so those visiting your house can see it.

While it is true that "Jesus is the reason for the Season," it is more true that Jesus is the reason for everything. We get so consumed at times with making sure we say Merry Christmas, instead of Happy Holidays, that I think we miss the point. The point isn't to get everyone to acknowledge that Christmas is about Jesus. The point should be to help people be confronted with the fact that we are all sinners in need of a Savior; that we are all hopeless without the gospel, and that the baby born in a manger was the greatest gift ever given to mankind.

The holiday season gives us a myriad of opportunities to share the gift of the gospel.

Joe Ball, a former youth minister at Edgewood Baptist Church in Hopkinsville, is youth ministry strategist for Crossings Ministries.

Taming the tongue

By Scott Wigginton

Q: How can I break this horrible habit of saying hurtful things to my spouse that she then has trouble forgetting?

A: Matthew 12:34 says that "out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks."

Unfortunately, an old saying related to this is also true, "What's down in the well comes up in the bucket!"

While it is certainly a good first step to be aware and remorseful about your hurtful comments, insight alone is not enough to sustain good intentions. You must attend to the well.

Since your well can be equated to your heart and mind, it is no wonder that one of the wisest men to ever live advised, "Above all else, guard your heart for it is the wellspring of life (Proverbs 4:23).

To break a habit, you must first allow God to break your heart. If you are truly serious about seeing real change, two things must happen. First, you must begin to saturate your mind and heart with truth from God's word.

Philippians 4:8 says that you must focus on those things that are "true, honorable, just, pure, lovely, gracious, excellent, and worthy of praise." You must begin to intentionally reflect on the lovely qualities about your spouse.

Ephesians 5:26 says that Christ desires to wash your mind by the word. Imagine Him taking an old, gray and blackened rag and washing the fibers with cleansing water until it is white and pure. Secondly, to control your tongue you must begin to monitor your physiology.

Research has shown that when you allow our heart rate to get above 100 beats per minute you will get stupid.

That means that you must find ways to calm down and not allow arguments to escalate. Stop and pray.

Call timeout and take a break.

Avoid difficult conversations if you are tired or it is late.

Pray the prayer of Psalm 141:3, "Lord, set up a guard for my mouth; keep watch at the door of my lips."

Scott Wigginton is professor of pastoral ministries and counseling at Campbellsville University and minister of counseling at Campbellsville Baptist Church.



Supporting Sunrise

Like turkey and cranberry sauce, make it a Thanksgiving tradition

Eight-year-old Marissa McCubbin gave \$300. This beautiful child from Muldraugh Hill Baptist Church in Lebanon gave all of her birthday cash to Sunrise.

Ellers Memorial Baptist Church gave \$2,145. For 26 years, members there have collected pennies every Sunday for this children's ministry. Their first check last month to Sunrise was for \$1,700, followed by a second for \$445. Since 1988, the generous Harrodsburg donors have given more than \$20,000 to Sunrise.

Sunrise has mailed posters, donation cards and envelopes to over 1,100 Kentucky Baptist churches, and sent letters from Sunrise President Dale Suttles to more than 2,000 other churches.

"There's always been a rush for posters, donation packets and speakers as Thanksgiving approaches," said Sharon C' de Baca, who has devoted 23 years of service to the ministry. "The offering is part of our Covenant Agreement."

Indeed, 28 years ago, Kentucky Baptists promised to give to the ministry at Thanksgiving. In December 1986, our ministry leaders signed a Covenant Agreement with the Kentucky Baptist Convention.

KBC leaders have definitely supported Sunrise this year. Last week at the Annual Meeting at Living Hope Baptist Church in Bowling Green, Paul Chitwood praised Sunrise's "Be the ONE"

initiative.

Michelle Chitwood, his wife, featured Sunrise during her Tuesday brunch, and the couple is enrolled in Sunrise Foster Care training. They "live out" the Covenant Agreement by the time, talents and donations they give to Sunrise.

Other churches quickly responded.

Leading the requests for additional Thanksgiving posters, donation cards and envelopes from Sunrise are Kings Baptist in Mt. Washington, Unity Baptist in Ashland, Crittenden Baptist in Northern

Kentucky, New Friendship Baptist in Auburn, and the Christian County Baptist Association in Hopkinsville. And orders keep coming in.

Today, I stopped at the display in the lobby of our headquarters, and I gazed at the yellow Thanksgiving Offering Dime Saver that dates back to my childhood.

I am not young—meaning this display item confirms: Kentucky Baptists have been giving to this ministry at Thanksgiving for decades, long before the 1986 Covenant Agreement.

Like stuffed turkey and cranberry sauce, therefore, Sunrise is a real Thanksgiving tradition. Won't you make your 2014 Thanksgiving Offering the best ever!

Nearly 600 children in our care depend on it.

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



Half empty or half full?

Seeing how God orchestrates grace through the people in our lives

The saying goes, "The glass is either half empty or half full." Well, when we look at the world in which we live these days, I dare say most would claim half empty.

The realities of the world's geopolitical landscape and the increasing hostility towards the gospel is anything but encouraging.

However, in the midst of all the turmoil, bright spots can be found.

One recent bright spot was the KBC annual meeting. Most who know me would be quick to say such events would not be my first choice of an activity, but reflection says otherwise.

It is in such events that we do a great deal of reflection on our past and the lives that have gone before us to lay the foundation on which we stand.

Crossings Ministries



David Melber

Each year I am more thankful for the countless people who have impacted my life and the ministry of which I have been a part for nearly 15 years.

The campaign of telling your story causes all of us to take pause and reflect on how God orchestrated His grace through people in our lives. I honestly enjoyed hearing the stories of people perhaps more than anything else. While one may look at today and think our glass is only half full, I think the other is true for Baptist life now.

I am so thankful for the great things that are going on nationally with Southern Baptist Convention causes, and I am thrilled about what is taking place in our state.

In my humble opinion our glass is certainly half full these days in Kentucky Baptist Convention life.

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

Your church newsletter and the Western Recorder

Mailed to every church family for about the price of a postcard! For information: (866) 489-3535.



A PERSONAL WORD

A special thanks...and a look ahead

Thank you, Kentucky Baptists! You have given faithfully this past year to the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering, Eliza Broadus Offering, and now you are giving for international missions through the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering. You have also given for missions in your association and many local ministries. And on top of that, you have given buckets - lots of buckets!

By the close of the Kentucky WMU Annual Meeting this past April we had 778 Hospice Care Buckets that had been brought or packed during the meeting to launch the project. Over the summer, more buckets were collected and over 1500 were picked up from collection points across Kentucky. At the KBC Annual Meeting, 1,458 buckets were brought to the meeting! This gives us a total of 3149 buckets this year from Kentucky. Each bucket will not only bless someone dying with AIDS, but a gospel witness will be shared with each bucket delivery.

It has been a busy year for Kentucky WMU and another busy year is



Joy Bolton

upon us. Kentucky WMU will continue to offer events that have grown in attendance and also provide new missions experiences for students and children in 2015 that are very exciting.

In the year ahead we will launch Creative Ministries 2.0 - Taking It to the Streets in March. We are taking CMF to a new level with opportunities for students to connect with missionaries and use their creative ministry skills in missions.

Also in March, Royal Ambassadors and leaders will gather for our third annual RAMCON event at Temple Missionary Baptist Church in Central City. Come find out what the Rain Gutter Regatta is all about!

We are gearing up for our second summer of Kentucky Changers in four locations: Mayfield, Richmond, Marshall County, and Henderson. We are expecting to top 1,000 student and adult participants this summer.

In June we are starting a new missions trip opportunity for children in grades 4-6 and their leaders. Mission Adventure for Kentucky Kids will allow children to go on a missions

trip and participate in community ministries in Princeton and Inez. Children will interact with missionaries, participate in Bible study, have fun recreation, and best of all, do hands-on missions appropriate for children.

In July, we will expand our camp overnights by offering overnights for girls at both Jonathan Creek and Cedar Crest. The boys will continue with Camp Courage at Laurel Lake.

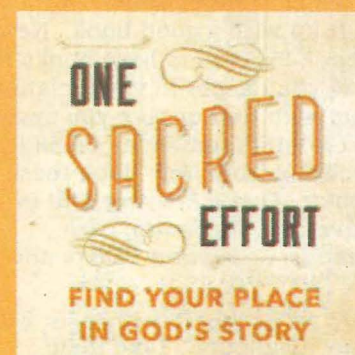
In addition to all of these events, Annual Meeting and WMU Retreats will be held in the spring. Later in the year CABOOM and GA JAM will be offered once again.

The theme for this year's International Missions Emphasis is One Sacred Effort. The IMB website says "Now it is our call and privilege to join the Author of all history in His magnificent story of redemption as we advance His Gospel among all nations - together, in one sacred effort!" The missions experiences sponsored by Kentucky WMU are not for entertainment. The ultimate purpose is to keep preparing the next generation to understand and be radically involved in the mission of God. Join us!

Week of Prayer for International Missions

November 30 -

December 7, 2014



Lottie Moon Christmas

Offering Goal:

\$175 million

Kentucky churches gave \$4,987,144 during 2013-14.

Let's give generously again this year!

ALL FOR YOU

Surrender • Sacrifice • Serve



KENTUCKY WMU MISSIONS CELEBRATION

and
112th ANNUAL MEETING

April 10-11, 2015 • Sand Spring Baptist Church • Lawrenceburg

Program Guests Include:



- Debby Akerman, President, National WMU



- Sisterhood Christian Drama Team
- Sister Musicians - Edwina Rowell, Ruth Ann Mills-Moore, and Eleanor Spry
- International Missionaries: Jeff & Melva C., East Asia; JJH, Europe; Ryan and Christy Campbell, Ghana

Special Features:

- Prayer Rally at the State Capitol
- Sewing Project making Salvation Dolls
- Kentucky Changers Celebration
- Kentucky Missionary Commissioning Service
- Missions Block Party

WMU Directors Get Ready for Missions

By Wanda Walker

As winter approaches, there are things that can be done to plan and prepare for the months ahead as we lead our church family in missions and missions education.

We are in the **Week of Prayer for International Missions**. If you have not done a missions study in your church, it is not too late! Lead your church in learning more about the Ivory Coast and how our Southern Baptist missionaries are working amidst the struggles and turmoil after the civil unrest in 2001. Lead your church in understanding how our missionaries are making a difference and how we make a difference by giving through the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering.

Focus on WMU is February 9-15. This is your chance to showcase WMU. Let your church family know what WMU is all about.

Your GA, RA or CA groups can be involved in **Children's Ministry Day** on February 14. What more wonderful way to spend *Valentine's Day* than to be sharing God's love with someone. The children in your church will thank you for getting them involved in missions.

And it's not at all too early to begin praying about the fall and the direction to lead your church as we continue to celebrate **All For You: Surrender. Sacrifice. Serve.**

Adults

Beat winter blues with missions

By Wanda Walker

The predictions are for a cold, snowy winter. Are you already shivering and wondering how to spend your time? There are a few things you can do as adults to help with those winter time blues.

- Write notes of encouragement to women in your church. Ask them to pray with you daily as you pray for the missionaries on their birthdays. Perhaps include a copy of the prayer patterns for the day you anticipate the card arriving to their home.
- Curl up with a good book. New Hope® Publishers have books to take you deeper in your relationship with God or take you away in Christian romance. Consider ordering from New Hope these books: *Live a Praying Life in Adversity*; *Authentic Girl-friends*; or *Beyond I Do* (a novel).
- Bake some goodies to share with your neighbors. Take them some hot chocolate as well. Yum! Fellowship always warms the soul.
- Is there some work you can do at home to help your local church? Perhaps make some

phone calls or stuff envelopes.

- Work on a plan for leading adults into missions learning, giving and going. That can change a life forever.
- Read the *Missions Mosaic* all the way through, if you don't already. It is filled with stories of what God is doing around our country and world.

What would you give up in the name of love? Women often give freely of themselves. It's a part of who women are to be giving and generous. They sacrifice time to help a friend. Trade a career to be a stay-home mom. They provide for the needs of their families. And it's all in the name of love. Now, imagine a love far greater than the love of any mother or spouse. A love that is infinite and never marred by anger, jealousy or busyness. We are *Loved Beyond Measure!* Join us at Laurel Lake or Camp Schafer for the spring retreats. Laura McCubbins from Parkland Baptist Church in Louisville will be leading the music and Wanda Walker will be leading the sessions. Information will be mailed to church WMU Directors and Adult leaders in January.

Students
Ministry gets creative

By Maryann Lee

The Creative Ministries Festival is back! After a one year hiatus Kentucky WMU is reviving the popular event with many new and exciting opportunities. CMF 2.0 "Taking it to the Streets" will contain all of the traditional breakout conferences where teens will learn creative ministries such as clowning, puppets, face painting, and drama.

One new opportunity will come in the form of a missions fair where students and leaders can meet with ministries from around the state and learn about the needs they have and how their creative ministries could be used. This will be a strategic networking opportunity that will allow for students to have opportunities to use the skills they are learning through-

out the weekend in an actual ministry setting.

Another new portion of this event will be on Saturday when students will go out into the community of Bowling Green and participate in activities such as block parties with local churches and ministries. Students will be able to perform and help members of the community share Christ with their neighbors. Plan now to attend Creative Ministries Festival 2.0, March 6-7, 2015 at Living Hope Baptist Church, Bowling Green, KY.

It is my sad duty to inform you that while I am excited about what God is doing through this ministry, I will not be with you at CMF. I have resigned my position as Youth and College Consultant with Kentucky WMU. After much prayer I feel God is leading me on to other areas of ministry. I will continue to support and pray for the work of Kentucky WMU and hope that you will do the same for me.



March 6-7, 2015

Living Hope Baptist Church, Bowling Green, KY

For more information and to register visit kywmu.org/cmfKentucky Changers
Answering
the call

By Peggy Murphy

That was the theme for 2014 Kentucky Changers. Kentucky Changers had a very successful summer!

We started the year off in Hopkinsville June 7-14. We were scheduled to be lodged in one of the Middle Schools but that fell through. God had the project totally under His control. We were able to stay at two local churches instead. We housed our adult volunteers and fed everyone at Second Baptist Church and made that our hub for the week. We housed the youth groups at Edgewood Baptist Church. Both churches were very

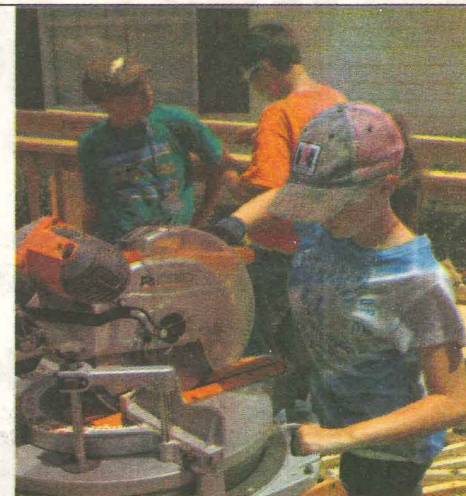


gracious. They went out of their way to accommodate the participants and volunteers. We had a total of 234 participants and volunteers for the week. We saw 2 salvations, 16 rededications and 9 students feel the call to ministry throughout the week. The homeowners were so appreciative to receive the help and to have the crews with them all week.

We moved on to Lawrenceburg & Frankfort June 21-27. The first day started off with a few hurdles to climb but once again God was in control. We saw 17 students and 1 homeowner come to know Jesus, 9 students to rededicate their lives to God and, 7 students feel God's call to ministry. There were a total of 251 participants and volunteers that worked hard all week sharing the love of Jesus in a tangible way.

From there we moved on to Richmond July 5-11. This was our largest attended project with 304 total participants and volunteers. Once again the worship each evening was powerful. There were 4 students saved, 23 rededications and 13 students felt the call to ministry. Most of the homeowners came to the celebration on Thursday evening to share their gratitude to all of the Changers for their help and their loving servant hearts.

Changers ended up in Louisville July 13-18. This was a unique project because we didn't have homeowners living in the residences at that time. These homes were in need of repairs before people would be able to purchase them. Without the repairs they would not have the opportunity to own a home at an affordable cost.



Changers crews were able to work both on the inside and the outside of the homes. We had 75 total participants and volunteers for the week. There was one special salvation. Some members of one crew had the opportunity to share the Gospel with a neighbor in the area they were working and she prayed and asked Jesus into her heart on the jobsite! There were also 4 students to rededicate their lives and 2 who felt the call to ministry during the week.

Starting off last November without any project locations, volunteers, any leadership nor a starting budget, 2014 Changers was a major success! Why? Because God was in total control before we even thought about it. He had every detail worked out and was just waiting for us to say "Yes Lord".

Why do students and adults come to Changers and pay hard earned money to come and sleep on the floor, work out in the hot sun and, smile the whole time? If you ask a student that question, they will be quick to let you know that they receive a lot more than they give. Serving the Lord is the greatest blessing we will ever receive. You just can't out give God.



The theme for 2015 is More of Him - Less of Me. We will be in Richmond (Madison County), Marshall County, Maysville and Henderson. We need lots of participants and volunteers to complete the task that God has put before us. You can register your group or sign up to be a volunteer now by going to our website www.kywmu.org/changers Is God inviting you to be a part of 2015 Changers? Get involved with Changers and experience first-hand how God can use you to spread the Good News!

President's Perspective An honor to serve

By Susan Bryant

In addition to serving as your State WMU President, I have the privilege to also serve as one of three trustees representing Kentucky on the International Mission Board, SBC. I have found that these two responsibilities complement one another and help me to cast a vision for missions education and support as I speak in churches across our state.

As a trustee, one of my responsibilities - and privileges - is to approve those applying for missionary service for deployment to the field. I read reams of paper with background information on each applicant, including their testimonies relating to how they are obediently following God's will for their lives. Once approved, the trustees have the opportunity to meet these appointees during each of our four meetings held across the United States each year. Held in conjunction with every trustee



Susan Bryant

meeting is an IMB appointment service hosted at a local church where the congregation, family, and friends are introduced to their new missionaries and hear their personal stories.

An appointment service was last held in Kentucky in 2003 at Rupp Arena when 69 missionaries were affirmed and sent into the world to carry out the Great Commission. In 2015, Kentucky will once again be the site of a missionary appointment service. Highview Baptist Church, Fegenbush Campus, in Louisville will host an appointment service on Wednesday, May 13. Mark your calendars, reserve your church vans, and relocate your Wednesday evening services to Louisville for that evening. Having the opportunity to participate in sending these out into the mission field will invigorate your church and its support of "our" missionaries. Your congregation will have the opportunity that evening to pray specifically for

individual missionaries and speak to each one during a reception at the conclusion of the service.

Begin now to pray for these applicants as they are in the process of intensive interviews, undergoing medical tests, completing their in-depth testimonies, disposing of their homes and much personal property all of which will allow them to reach the all important part of the process - deployment approval and the designation as an appointee. Pray for their families who may or may not support this calling on their lives. Pray for the job to which they will be assigned, the language they will need to learn when they reach the field, and for a person of peace who can assist them in beginning their ministry in the affinity to which they will be assigned. Your intercession is vital to their work.

My calendar is already marked! I look forward to seeing you on May 13 in Louisville.

Preschool/Children So many adventures for KY kids

By Stacy Nall

As you read this, you may be watching the snowflakes fall, but summer will be here soon! Start making your plans to attend a new missions event for children next June. Kentucky WMU is offering a **Mission Adventure for Kentucky Kids** in Inez and Princeton Kentucky. Children in grades 4-6 and their leaders will be involved in hands-on ministry projects appropriate for children. Ministry projects will include activities such as working at a thrift store, leading Bible stories in the park, and singing at nursing homes. Kids and adults will also enjoy worship, Bible study, track time and recreation. Don't miss this exciting new adventure for kids in Kentucky!



The new **Project HELP**™ focuses on PTSD (Post Traumatic Stress Disorder). This past September, Mission Friends groups were invited to participate in "Thank You Day!" Mission Friends from around the state delivered goodies to fire and police stations. Watch for more mission projects ideas for you preschoolers upcoming editions of *Kentucky Notes*.

Winter can be an exciting time for missions education with preschoolers and children!

The International Mission Study in December focuses on the Ivory Coast. Preschoolers and children will meet the McAfee and Jennifer Kelly, missionaries to the Ivory Coast. The McAffes are church planters. Jennifer shares the Gospel through a women's soccer ministry. This study corresponds with the December units for Mission Friends, Girls in Action, Children in Action and Royal Ambassadors. Teaching guides for preschoolers and children are available from Woman's Missionary Union and the International Mission Board.

Focus on WMU, February 9-15, is a wonderful opportunity to spotlight the importance of Mission Friends, Girls in Action, Children in Action, and Royal Ambassadors.

On **February 14, 2015**, children and adults across America will be participating in **Children's Ministry Day**. The theme for 2015 is **Give Us a Hand!**. You and your children can show God's love in many ways this Valentine's Day!

- Make and take valentine goodies to the proprietors of small businesses near your church. Take prayer requests from the business owners.
- Sponsor a Valentine's Day Party for a local nursing home.
- Make homemade Valentine's Day cards for residents of a women's shelter.



Kentucky WMU would like to know your plans for Children's Ministry Day. You can post your plans on the Kentucky WMU Facebook page: [facebook.com/kywmu](https://www.facebook.com/kywmu). Visit wmu.com/children to learn more about Children's Ministry Day and the resources available.

RA/Challengers Events for boys and teens

By Jon Auten

Royal Ambassadors

When I think back to March and RAMCON 2014, I am reminded of a great event where Kentucky RAs had a fantastic time while learning about missions. In my mind, I can see images of boys racing their cars, participating in a missions project, listening intently to the missionary speakers, and testing their abilities in the Missions Sports Challenge. As I reflect on these mental pictures, I find myself wondering, "What can we do in 2015 to make it even better?"

Well, what if we pulled out an old event that has been an RA elective activity for a long time, but that most new RAs and their leaders have never done? What if we held a Rain Gutter Regatta as a part of RAMCON 2015? Now that would be fun!

And that is just what is going to happen. Jim Baxter, the long-time RA leader at FBC Central City, is going to help me direct the event, and Temple Missionary Baptist Church in Central City, is going to be our host church. With their help, Royal Ambassadors from across Kentucky will get to participate in a Rain Gutter Regatta at RAMCON this coming year.

For those who are unfamiliar with a Regatta, it is a racing event where boys build wooden sailboats and race them in rain gutters that have been filled with water. The boats are propelled through the water by blowing on the sail through a straw or by fanning them with a Ping-Pong paddle or something similar. The boats are timed during two or three heats with medals handed out to the three fastest boats in both the Lad and Crusader divisions.

RAs will still hear two great missionary speakers. They will still bring their cars and compete in Royal Racers. And they will still participate in a mission project. We are simply adding the Rain Gutter Regatta and making it a great day of racing! Since many RA groups have never done a Regatta, the sail boat kits will be provided as a part of the registration fee, and boys will have time to decorate and assemble the boats before racing.

As mentioned above, RAMCON 2015 will be held at Temple Missionary Baptist Church in Central City. The date is March 21, 2015. Please note that this date has been changed from the one that was listed in the Kentucky WMU Calendar and at the back of the Courage 2014 program.

Please mark your calendars, watch the mail and website (www.kywmu.org/ramcon) for more info, and make plans now to attend RAMCON 2015!

Challengers

2015 will see two great opportunities for Challengers and other teen boys to learn about and do missions. Kentucky Changers will strive to reveal "More of Him" and "Less of Me" as they repair homes and share the Gospel in four Kentucky cities next year. Please see Peggy Murphy's article to learn more about Changers and the great missions opportunity it provides to Challengers and their leaders. You can also get more info at www.kywmu.org/changers.

Challengers can also serve God through creative arts at the redesigned Creative Ministries Festival 2.0. Kentucky WMU has taken 4:GO (a missions event for teen guys only), Exalt (a missions event for teen girls only), and the Creative Ministries Festival and rolled them into one, great missions event for Challengers, Acteens, and other mission-minded youth groups. You can learn more about CMF 2.0 in Maryann's article or by going to www.kywmu.org/cmf.

Do you Feel Called to Fulltime Missions or Ministry?

Kentucky WMU has a variety of scholarships available for men and women who are preparing for full time Christian ministry. Teenage girls who have been involved in Acteens may also qualify. Please visit our website, kywmu.org/scholarships or call 502-489-3534.

The deadline is February 15.



Kentucky WMU Heritage Fund

July 1-September 30, 2014

Thanks to all current and past donors for your support of Kentucky WMU through the Heritage Fund. The following gifts were received during the third quarter of 2014.



In Honor of:

Jonathan Carl
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Joy Bolton
Susan Bryant
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Linda Cooper
Susan Bryant
Cheryl Hatfield
Wendy Stout
Joy Bolton
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Susan Bryant
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Tina Broadus
Pat & Dudley Reaves
Rose Hill Baptist Church WMU

In Memory Of:

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Jean Hawkins
Jacob Faw
Opal Grider
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Jacob Faw
Johnnie Lunsford
Jacob Faw
Sue Meuth
Utha "Sally" Deen
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Joy Bolton—15th Anniversary with Kentucky WMU

Wendy Stout
Lori Sharp
Wanda Walker
Jay & Cheryl Hatfield
Lenna Walton
Claudia Greenwood
Kim Duvall
Melissa Logsdon-Young

RAMCON 2015

Kentucky Royal Ambassador Missions Congress



Featuring Royal Racers and Rain Gutter Regatta!

Temple Missionary Baptist Church
Central City, KY

New Date!

Saturday, March 21, 2015

10:00 am - 2:30 pm (Central Time)

Early Bird Rate - \$15 per person
(lunch and sailboat kit included)

After February 28 - \$20 per person

Royal Racers - \$5 per person, onsite registration

Participants must bring their own race car

Registration opens at 8:00 am

Learn more at www.kywmu.org/ramcon

Kentucky Notes

Spring Women's Retreats

for developing spiritually
toward a missions lifestyle

*Loved beyond
Measure*



April 24 - 25, 2015
Laurel Lake Baptist Camp, Corbin

May 1-2, 2015
Camp Schafer, Hawesville

www.kywmu.org/retreats

Calendar 2014-15

February

9-15 Focus on WMU
14 Children's Ministry Day
28 Leadership Network Meeting

March

1-8 Week of Prayer for
North American
Missions & Annie
Armstrong Easter
Offering
6-7 Creative Ministries
Festival 2.0, Living Hope
Baptist, Bowling Green
21 RAMCON, Temple
Missionary Baptist,
Central City

April

9 Kentucky WMU
Executive Board
Meeting, Frankfort
10-11 Kentucky WMU Annual
Meeting, Sand Spring
Baptist, Lawrenceburg
24-25 Regional Women on
Mission Retreat, Laurel
Lake Baptist Camp,
Corbin

May

1-2 Regional Women on
Mission Retreat, Camp
Schafer, Hawesville
16 SALT - Kentucky Bap-
tist Building, Louisville

KENTUCKY CHANGERS

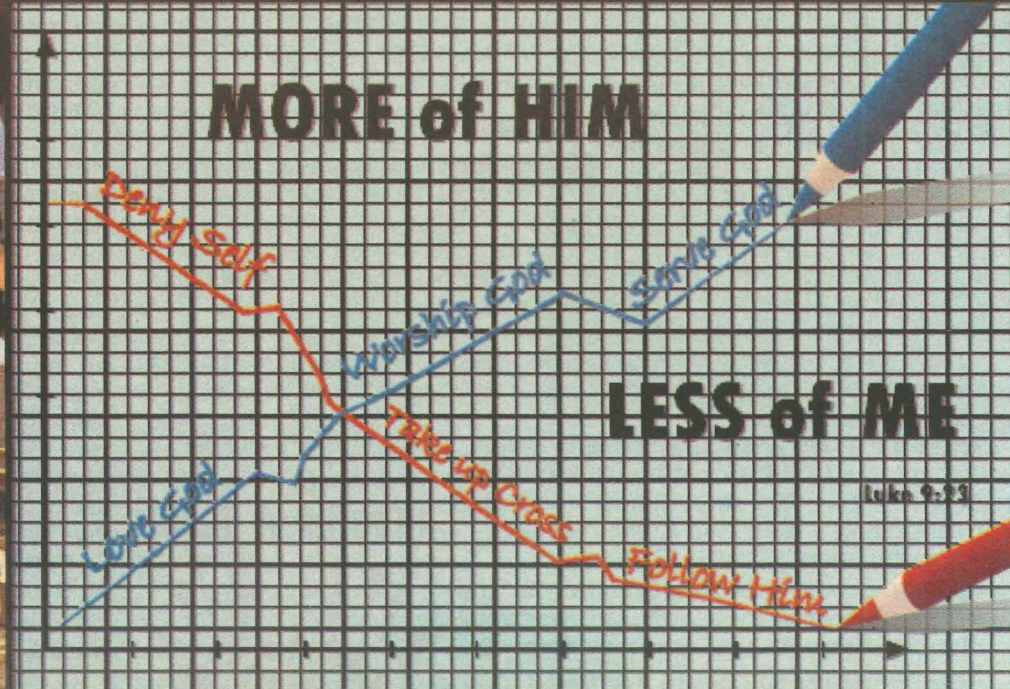
www.kywmu.org/changers



MORE of HIM

LESS of ME

Luke 9:23



2015 Kentucky Changers Projects

Project Richmond - June 13-19

Project Marshall County - June 20-26

Project Maysville - June 27- July 3

Project Henderson - July 11-18

Drama gives 'alien' perspective

'No signs of intelligent life,' but God loves us anyway

Twice a year, our drama department puts on a play. It has typically involved three performances on Thursday, Friday and Saturday evening at 7 p.m.

At our evening productions, we normally have a crowd of students, staff members, family and visiting church groups. This fall we had two church groups who came at 5:30 p.m. for dinner, a tour and the play.

Get a group together and come do the same on April 9, 10 or 11, 2015. We'd love to have you here.

Last spring and then again this fall, we added a morning performance for some of our local elementary schools.

For the morning performance this fall, we had 300 local Clay County students attend "No Signs of Intelligent Life." In this comedy, the students laughed as our drama team acted out the experiences that a visitor to our planet might have. These alien characters could not seem to get a handle on how the people of planet earth do things.

We believe that God is omniscient, so we know that He knows exactly what goes on in this crazy world.

However, I do wonder if Jesus walked this earth as a man today—versus 2,000 years ago—what He might see, feel and experience. I doubt he would feel that we, His creation, have things figured out and would deem us to be "intelligent life." Thank the Lord, He loves us and has forgiven us of our

shortcomings.

As I watched the performance, which our team executed almost without a flaw, I couldn't help but think about what many of our new students

must feel as they first arrive and begin their Oneida experiences.

Leaving home for a boarding school can be overwhelming.

Our new students face challenges such as having a daily job, attending study hall, adjusting to two or three roommates, learning many rules, figuring out where classes are located in many buildings, and homesickness. It takes most all

of our students a while to settle in and grow comfortable, and our other students and staff are pretty good at helping new students overcome these challenges.

Jesus died and rose again for every young person who would ever walk this little campus at Oneida.

Your love, prayer and support enable us to have a small part in taking the beautiful creation made in His image and restoring it. Won't you come and see the young people the Lord has sent to one of our state's great ministries?

I promise we will feed you and show you around. Don't let the colder weather stop you.

The Lord's work will carry on right through the cold, snow and ice. I hope to see you at our spring production on April 9, 10 or 11.

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

Following God's call

Online student can study around the world

Online student Michael Doty and his family have been able to follow God's call to the other side of the world to serve as missionaries while also receiving training for ministry—all through the online program at Clear Creek Baptist Bible College.

"After years of running from the Lord, I met the girl of my dreams," Doty said. "The problem was she was a pastor's kid, and while I wanted to impress her parents, I didn't want to change my lifestyle.

"Over time, the Holy Spirit worked on me, and at 21 I came to know Jesus Christ as my Savior. It's been an amazing journey since then. Every time I think I know what God has planned for my life, He shows me that He has more planned for me."

"I was married with one child, another on the way, and working a job as a cabinet and furniture maker," Doty said. "I decided to go back to school, but this time wanted to do something where I could serve the Lord in my work. I began work on my graphic design degree.

After three semesters of school, I was offered a full-time position on staff

at my church as their communications director. I thought I was exactly where God wanted me."

"After about three years, I was sent to another country to film and document a short-term trip my church was organizing," Doty said. "Six months after that trip, my wife and I felt the calling to serve full time in that country.

"Five months after that ... we and our four children had sold everything and were in the country to serve as missionaries to an unreached people group."

"The online program at Clear Creek is important, being that I'm in another country," Doty said. "The accessible classes have given me the confidence I lack as I teach and equip new believers here. It's been really good to have been forced to articulate my beliefs in a way that communicates to others."

"Clear Creek is a great school. Even online, you can tell there is a real sense of community.

"The professors care about you as a person as well as your education."

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

Hawk Creek missions team works among Haiti's poorest

By Rick Hardison

London—A missions team from London saw firsthand the plight of Haitians who lack access to basic medical care—but only after doing their part to bring hope and healing to the sick.

"I was more than a little shocked at the differences we saw in U.S. healthcare and that of Haiti," said Rebecca Rollins, a registered nurse who recently returned from a trip to the impoverished Caribbean nation. "The chart was a piece of white printer paper with their name, age and physical complaints written out—no computer, no privacy, no cleaning between patients, and certainly no government agencies regulating the practices."

Rollins was one of seven members of Hawk Creek Baptist Church of London who served on a mission trip to Le Digue, Haiti, in late September. The trip was the third annual trip that Hawk Creek has taken to Haiti since 2012.

The goal of the trip was to work in a clinic during the day and at an orphanage in the evening. The team brought 550 lbs. of medical supplies for the clinic, and the team taught Bible stories in the orphanages and provided outpatient medical care to the children. Haiti received international attention in January 2010 when a 7.0 magnitude earthquake struck about 16 miles west of Port-au-Prince. The death tolls from the earthquake and its aftershocks range from 100,000 to 360,000, and some 280,000 residential and commercial buildings collapsed.

The tragedy has strained an already struggling healthcare system in Haiti. Rollins cared for a woman who was 5-months pregnant and rode three hours on a motorcycle to receive treatment. Rollins immediately noticed the woman's high fever and rapid heartbeat.

She was extremely ill, and a sonogram did not detect a heartbeat for the baby. Her child had died, resulting in a severe infection. Rollins and the doctor told the

18-year-old woman that she had to go to a hospital in Port-au-Prince to receive additional care.

"She said that she didn't have the money to go to the hospital and that she had to go back to tell her mother where she was," Rollins recalled. The doctor urged her to go, and offered to pay her way. The woman said she would go later.

"Later never came," Rollins continued. "We went home the following day and she stayed on my mind. I texted the mission director about two weeks later to ask about her, and she said that she had died from the infection—a needless, senseless death of a beautiful young woman because she had no money, no ride and no support. I can still see the fear in her face."

Despite such heartbreaking stories, Rollins was struck by the joy of many Haitian believers. "In the direst conditions I have ever seen, I met the most God-loving, thankful, spirit-filled people," she remembered.

Hawk Creek partnered with the Kentucky-based Children's Lifeline, a Christian ministry that provides biblical teaching, medication, food, clothing and education in the poorer parts of Haiti.

The church was drawn to Haiti because they wanted to work among the poorest nations in the Western Hemisphere. Other churches are invited to join Hawk Creek for future trips to Haiti.

"I encourage churches that feel 'too small' to do an international mission to come join our team at Hawk Creek," said Hawk Creek's team leader Debbie Gilbert. "I will certainly be more than happy to travel to churches who are thinking about planning a trip and share our experiences as a team working with Children's Lifeline," she added.

The next trip will be Sept. 22-29, 2015. For more information, contact Gilbert at debbie@hawkcreekchurch.com. (WR)

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

Owenton teen urges peers to embrace Bible drill

Louisville—A Kentucky teen who was runner-up in the National High School Bible Drill earlier this year is encouraging others to get involved in the Christian competitions.

Autumn Adkins, the 18-year-old daughter of Robby and Kristi Adkins of Owenton, said preparing for Bible drill competitions helped expand her knowledge of the Scripture.

"The Lord has revealed so much to me through Bible drill," she said. "He's strengthened my faith and given me verses to hide in my heart so that I can better serve and defend Him."

Adkins fell shy of overall victory at the national competition in Georgia earlier this year. In previous national competitions, she was named runner-up in both the speakers' tournament in 2012 and the Youth Bible Drill in 2011.

Adkins also has won at the state level in every category of the Bible drills and speakers' tournaments sanctioned by the Kentucky Baptist Convention.

"I strongly encourage youth of all ages

to be a part of Bible drill and speaker's tournament," she said. "Bible drill can help increase one's knowledge of the Bible and gives youth preparation to stand firm in

their faith at high school, college, jobs and witnessing. Speaker's tournament challenges youth to be speak on a subject that they are passionate about and can often be the first step for a youth's future involvement in ministry."

Adkins is a home-schooled student and a member of Pleasant Ridge Baptist Church in Owenton.

"No one will be sorry for having been a part of this program," she said. "This program challenges teens, deepens their relationships with those whom they practice with, and strengthens their ability to defend their Savior as they go out to be salt and light in this dark world."

"If Baptist youth want to be a part of a competition that is certain to have a lasting impact on their lives, this is it," Adkins said.

For more information on Bible drills, go to www.kybaptist.org/bibledrills. (KBC)



Autumn Adkins

MOUNTAINS TO THE MISSISSIPPI

COMPILED BY STAFF

EDDYVILLE—First Baptist Church of Eddyville will show the film, "The Case for a Creator," during evening worship Dec. 7 at 6 p.m. **Tim Perdue** is pastor.

LOUISVILLE—Bethlehem Baptist Church has called **Mike Towler** as senior pastor. He and his wife, **Deena**, have three children, Christian, Noah and Holly. The church expressed appreciation to its interim pastor, **Steve Thompson**, at a reception Nov. 23.

Cloverleaf Baptist Church with host the Mark Trammell Quartet from Gadsden, Ala., on Dec. 7 at 7 p.m. For more information, call 502-367-0218. **Geoffrey Lacefield** is pastor.

VERSAILLES—Versailles Baptist Church will hold Missions Emphasis Sunday Nov. 30 with guest speaker **Drew Baldwin**. Baldwin is head of the Stables at Creekside Glen, part of Meridzo Ministries in Lynch. He is also pastor of Eolia Baptist Church. A missions fundraiser luncheon will immediately follow morning worship. Girls in Action will host a bake sale to support international missionaries through the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering.

May's Lick celebrating 225 years of ministry

By Myriah Snyder

Maysville—May's Lick Baptist Church is celebrating its 225th anniversary Nov. 29-30.

"It's a little bit about the past, but really we don't want to live in the past. We want to move forward," said Jim Grunke, chairman of the deacons at May's Lick.

The anniversary celebration will begin on Saturday with tours, historical displays and a luncheon. Music for the service will be provided by the Birdsongs, and the sermon will be brought by Chaz Hutchinson, pastor of Scotch Plains Baptist Church, which was May's Lick's founding church.

Sunday's speaker will be a former pastor of May's Lick, David Cheek, who served from 1989-2000. Lunch will be served and a singspiration will follow.

Paul Badgett, a regional consultant for the Kentucky Baptist Convention; Dwayne Slusher, director of missions for Bracken Association; and other state representatives will make a special presentation.

In addition, the church has produced a book to commemorate its 225th anniversary.



Pastor Kevin Cornette, Faye Barbour and Jim Gruenke welcome the community to join a celebration on Nov. 28 marking 225 years of May's Lick Baptist Church. (Photo by Terry Prather/The Ledger-Independent)

The church was founded in 1789, the same year that George Washington became president, right outside of Maysville near the Ohio River.

It was planted by five families who were all previously members of Scotch Plains Baptist Church in New Jersey.

The original church met in a barn on the property of the church's graveyard today. In 1830, the current building that May's Lick uses was built.

Many additions were added to the property and structure, such as a parsonage, fellowship hall, classrooms,

educational building, sanctuary expansion and family life center.

During "the great revival" of 1828, the church grew to more than 700 members. From its membership, 10 churches have been organized.

May's Lick has been a supporter of Bracken Association since it was organized in 1798. They joined their first organized missionary society in 1828.

Throughout the church's history, it has implemented some unique ministries. In 1953, May's Lick began "drive-in services," which lasted each summer for 11 years. The church began hosting three "Big Tent Revivals" in 2007, and each lasted for a week.

Today, May's Lick's has approximately 350 members with around 120 attending each Sunday.

Pastor Kevin Cornette has served the congregation since May.

"As we look back upon the blessings of the church and the ministries that have been there for the past 225 years, I think that the Lord will bless us and renew a spirit within us to continue moving forward as God leads," Cornette said.

"I pray He blesses us to continue to be a lighthouse not only to our community but to the entire world," he said. (WR)

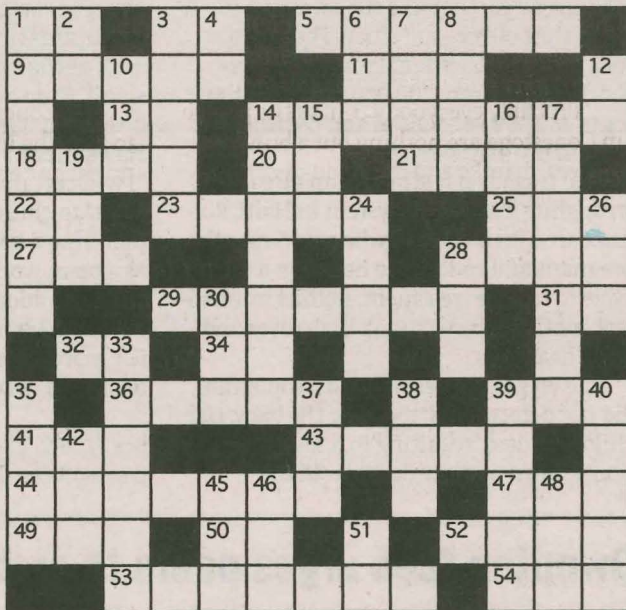
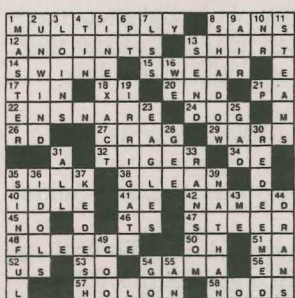
Bible Crosswords

By Elizabeth B. Smith

Across

- 1 Greek letter used for the ratio of a circle's circumference to its diameter
- 3 Undergraduate degree, abbr.
- 5 David was king in ____ (2 Samuel 2:11)
- 9 Raises up
- 11 Organization for African Unity, abbr.
- 13 In regards to, abbr.
- 14 He made a vow with David (1 Samuel 18:3)
- 18 Girl's name
- 20 Stomach muscle, for short
- 21 A small building
- 22 Compass point
- 23 Jesse's youngest son (1 Samuel 16:11)
- 25 Regret
- 27 "If the Syrians be ____ strong for me" (2 Samuel 10:11)
- 28 Sense of who you are
- 29 Champion of the Philistines (1 Samuel 17:4)
- 31 Lieutenant, abbr.
- 32 The opposite of down
- 34 Six, Romans num.
- 36 David used this to kill Goliath (1 Samuel 17:50)
- 39 Amount, abbr.
- 41 Woman's name
- 43 David's elder brother (1 Samuel 17:28)
- 44 A characteristic of David (1 Samuel 16:18)
- 47 "Drunk neither wine ____ strong drink" (1 Samuel 1:15)

#020



#021

- 49 A type of tree
- 50 Masculine article, Fr.
- 52 "Are not his sisters ____ with us?" (Mark 6:3)
- 53 His mother was Bathsheba (2 Samuel 12:24)
- 54 Resident, abbr.
- 1 Nob was their city (1 Samuel 22:11)
- 2 That is, Lat. abbr.
- 3 Priests gave David hallowed ____ (1 Samuel 21:4)
- 4 Simile preposition
- 6 Period of time
- 7 Sheep's cries
- 8 A Moabite woman who was an ancestress of David and Jesus
- 10 "Thou ____ a virtuous woman" (Ruth 3:11)
- 12 The opposite of out
- 14 Saul threw it at David (1 Samuel 18:11)
- 15 Japanese sash
- 16 Not there
- 17 David escaped to this man's cave (1 Samuel 22:1)
- 19 "Herod ... slew all the children ... from ____ years old and under" (Matthew 2:16)
- 24 Wheelless vehicle
- 26 Electronic funds transfer, abbr.
- 28 That woman
- 30 Egg, prefix
- 33 David wrote many of these
- 35 David was in a ____ with Saul (1 Samuel 24:3)
- 37 "David made haste to ____ away" (1 Samuel 23:26)
- 38 "It was impossible for God to ____" (Hebrews 6:18)
- 39 The captain of Saul's host (1 Samuel 14:50)
- 40 Sown among the wheat (Matthew 13:25)
- 42 Dekaliter, abbr.
- 45 "By him were ____ things created" (Colossians 1:16)
- 46 New, recent, comb. form
- 48 Precious metal
- 51 "My word hath ____ place in you" (John 8:37)

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

SEEKING: Christ Baptist Church in Cold Spring, Ky., is prayerfully accepting resumes for the position of full-time senior pastor. Minimum of 5 years experience and seminary degree or equivalent preferred. Please send resume 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 resume to the church at 2698 Evergreen Rd, Frankfort, KY 40601 or email resume to ebcpastorsearch2014@gmail.com.

SEEKING: Gano Baptist Church, Georgetown, Ky., is seeking a pastor, called by God, to lead our congregation. Resumes 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: Bellfield Baptist Church is seeking a full-time pastor. Please send

To place an advertisement in the Western Recorder:

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resumé to Bellfield Baptist Church, Pastor Search Committee, 9980 Hwy 136 E, Henderson, KY 42420.

SEEKING: Salvisa Baptist Church in Salvisa, Ky., is prayerfully accepting resumes for the position of senior pastor. A minimum of 10 years experience and seminary degree is preferred. Please send resume 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@bellsouth.net.

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

SEEKING: Minister of music and children by Berea Baptist Church in Berea, Ky. Current membership is 576, with approximately 360 in worship and 225 in Life groups. Qualified men, or women, are encouraged to apply. For additional information email, and/or send resume to: personnelcommittee@bereabaptistonline.com.

SEEKING: McDowell First Baptist Church of McDowell, Ky. is seeking resumes for a full-time position of pastor. Please send resumes with references, CD/DVD, or internet link for sermons to: McDowell First Baptist Church, P.O. Box 241, McDowell, KY 41646.

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.

Believers in trailer park 'give everything they have'

By Margaret Colson

Monroe, Ga.—They are the forgotten people. The individuals you might not even notice if you passed them on the street.

They are in every community. On the fringes of neighborhoods dotted with white picket fences. At the end of gravel roads that seem to go nowhere.

The people who wash your dishes at the chain restaurant. Change your car's oil. Scramble your eggs at the local diner.

They are the forgotten people to almost everyone except Pam Whitehead, who affectionately refers to them as "my people."

Her people live in Conestoga Mobile Home Park in Monroe, Ga., where a single-wide trailer serves as home base for the Southern Baptist missionary to minister to the real needs of her people as she shares about Jesus.

Desperation and darkness

When it comes to housing options, Conestoga, for many, is the last step before homelessness.

There, the potholed community road, knee-high weeds and household belongings tossed aside with every eviction seem to reflect the desperation and darkness that most park residents have known.

Just a few years ago, the mobile home community—sitting just a few miles from a charming and picturesque downtown—was notorious for violence, drug trafficking, transience, even satanic rituals.

Still, Pam, a preschool teacher, and her husband John, a juvenile probation officer, were unexpectedly drawn to the park.

The couple, along with prayer teams, began praying over the park and its residents in 2002.

"The Father opened the doors wide through two-and-a-half years of prayer-walking," Pam said.

The Whiteheads began slowly building relationships with the residents and by 2004 were planning a yard sale, block party, drug program, Easter egg hunt and



With children playing noisily at her feet, Pam Whitehead leads a Bible study for teens and adults, many of whom cannot read. As a life-sized cardboard cutout of renowned missionary Lottie Moon looks on, Pam urges the Conestoga residents to look beyond their own circumstances to pray and give sacrificially so that others throughout the world may hear about Jesus. (Photo by Mark Sandlin)

family fall festival.

It didn't take long for John, who had once described the park as the "doorstep to hell," to say he was in over his heart with the ministry. The couple continued to min-

ister to the people in the park, offering church services for the first time in April 2005.

Everything seemed to be going smoothly until five days before Christ-

mas in 2010, when John Whitehead unexpectedly passed away.

Tears of sorrow would flow, only to be replaced with tears of joy, as the now-widowed mother of four young adults, including her youngest son with Asperger's syndrome, sensed God's call to continue the ministry.

Local pastors began taking turns preaching at the mission on Sunday mornings; when they're unavailable, Pam leads a group Bible study.

"Pam is a person of vision and a person of commitment," said Allen Hill, interim

director of missions for Appalachian Baptist Association and a former International Mission Board missionary to the Philippines.

Not for the faint of heart

Slowly, with the ministry presence in the park, conditions began improving.

"Probably everybody thinks the people in Conestoga are nothing but a bunch of thieves, drunks and drug addicts," Barbara, who lived in the park for several months with her husband, said.

"And they're not. There are a lot of good Christian people that live there who are trying their best just to pay their bills and put food on the table, just like everybody else."

Still, this ministry is not for the faint of heart. Since her husband died, Pam has faced many challenges and frustrations. Undaunted, she smiles and calls each experience "another adventure."

When the roof collapsed on the double-wide trailer where the ministry was housed, Pam simply moved the congregation elsewhere.

For seven months, the Conestoga believers intermittently met either outside or in the home of a member, before being given a fixer-upper singlewide for the ministry—dubbed The Lighthouse at Conestoga Mission.

The day Pam was bitten by a resident's pit bull, she seized the opportunity to share God's word with the dog's owner, Linda. It was a small open window for the intrepid missionary because Linda moved a few weeks later, with no forwarding address.

That's the way it is in the park. People come. People go. No explanations. No forwarding addresses.

"I never get to tell my people, 'Bye.' They are just gone," Pam said.

This year's Week of Prayer for International Missions in the Southern Baptist Convention is Nov. 30-Dec. 7 with the theme of "One Sacred Effort—Find your place in God's story" from Matthew 28:19-20 (HCSB). The Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for International Missions in tandem with Cooperative Program gifts from Southern Baptist churches support approximately 4,800 international missionaries in seeking to fulfill the Great Commission. Gifts to the Lottie Moon offering are received through local Southern Baptist churches or online at imb.org/offering. This year's goal is \$175 million.



She has learned to make the most of any time she has with the residents.

In the past 10 years of the mission's existence, many Conestoga residents have become Christians. Still others have recommitted to a faith that had grown cold through too many of life's harsh winters.

The Conestoga Christians are learning to take the little that they have—what might be considered nothing by many standards—and do something for God.

With Pam's encouragement, the believers have "adopted" a family serving in South Asia with IMB. They pray specifically for each family member as well as the people group the family is trying to reach with the gospel.

Giving from nothing

"It doesn't matter what your circumstances are," Pam said. "You can still have a heart for the lost and the nations, and you can act on that, following the Father."

Since 2007, The Lighthouse at Conestoga Mission, through Pam's persistent leadership, has set an annual goal of raising \$100 for the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for International Missions. For these residents, that's huge, Pam says.

"I wanted the goal to be one they could reach, but challenging at the same time," she explained.

Although it usually takes the group six months to meet the goal, in 2014 they collected \$100 in about two-and-a-half months; and the sacrificial gifts, usually given in the form of loose coins, continued rolling in for a few more weeks.

"One of the little boys in the park came running in one day, screaming and hollering and waving his hand, saying, 'Miss Pam, I have 50 cents! I have 50 cents, and the people over the ocean can hear about Jesus!'" recalled the missionary.

"Little is much in the Father's hands," she said.

By the end of April, the pennies, nickels, dimes and quarters given by the Conestoga Christians totaled \$128, an all-time high. Hill, who now serves as an IMB trustee, compared the sacrificial gifts to "the widow's mite in the New Testament."

"So often we just give what is 'left over,' but these people give everything they have," he said. (BP)

What can \$128 do?

The Lighthouse at Conestoga Mission in Monroe, Georgia, recently collected \$128 for the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for International Missions, which may seem like a drop in the bucket to many.

But in God's economy, a "little" can be a "lot." All gifts to the offering are used to support missionaries overseas. On average, the cost to support a missionary for one day is \$139, which includes housing, salary, children's education, medical expenses, retirement and more.

Walk with Southern Baptist missionaries throughout the world and discover what \$128 can do.

■ **In London:** pays for one person's transportation for five days to prayerwalk and minister among internationals in London's Southwark borough.

■ **In Uganda:** provides almost two months' worth of medical supplies, including malaria treatments for IMB missionaries and nationals living in a remote Karamoja village in northern Uganda.

■ **In South Asia:** purchases 50 micro SD cards for use in mobile phones. With these cards, national believers can carry in their pockets multiple evangelism and discipleship materials in many of the local languages of Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka.

■ **In Nairobi:** covers two weeks' rent in downtown Nairobi, where missionaries can offer hospitality to street boys in the form of meals, medical care and Bible studies.

■ **In Lesotho:** rents one Basotho pony for a missionary to travel 18 days taking the Gospel to 18 villages that have never heard the name of Jesus.

■ **In sub-Saharan Africa:** provides supplies for 320 henna patterns to be drawn on the arms of Muslim women. These patterns contain illustrations that help the women remember Bible stories they've been told.

■ **In South Africa:** buys 18 meals for human-trafficking victims on the streets of South Africa, providing an opportunity to demonstrate love in action and share the Gospel of Jesus with prostitutes.

■ Also, \$128 purchases 38 Zulu Bibles to give to women who visit a crisis pregnancy center in Johannesburg.

Pilgrims & Baptists: A little-known connection

By David Roach

Nashville, Tenn.—If not for a Baptist church split, the Pilgrims might never have come to America.

Sort of.

John Smyth, who often is credited with being the first Baptist, pastored a church where many of the Christians who later came to be known as Pilgrims were members. But when Smyth began to argue with the future Pilgrims over church government, they formed another church under the leadership of John Robinson. In 1620, a portion of Robinson's congregation sailed to Plymouth, Mass., aboard the Mayflower.

Following the split, Smyth became convinced that the Bible teaches believer's baptism and launched the Baptist movement.

"Most people don't realize how closely the Pilgrims and the first Baptists were related. John Smyth and (Plymouth Colony governor) William Bradford knew each other, and in fact Smyth pastored the church where many of the Pilgrims were members before they left England for Holland and then sailed to America," Jason Duesing, provost at Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, told Baptist Press. "The world of English Separatism was very intertwined. Those that became Baptists were a formative part of the story that led to the first Thanksgiving."

Smyth and the Pilgrims both emerged from a movement in England known as Separatism.

In the late 1500s and early 1600s, the Church of England, which was controlled by the British monarch, was Protestant in its doctrine but largely followed Catholic worship practice.

A group of Christians known as Puritans objected to Catholic rituals and thought worship should only include elements taught in the Bible. Many Puritans tried to reform the Church of England without leaving its membership, but some radical Puritans separated from the state church altogether and formed what historians call Separatist congregations.

Being a Separatist could be trying. Many were imprisoned and some were even executed for their beliefs.

A forthcoming Baptist history textbook from B&H Academic titled "The Baptist Story" explains, "In an effort to curb the growth of Separatists, a law was passed in April 1593 requiring everyone over the age of 16 to attend the church of their local parish, which comprised all who lived within a certain geographic boundary."

Failure to obey the law "for an entire month meant imprisonment," B&H authors Anthony Chute, Nathan Finn and Michael Haykin wrote. "If, three months following an individual's release from prison, he or she still refused to conform, the person was to be given a choice of exile or death. In other words, the established church and the state were hoping to be rid of the Separatist problem by sending those who were recalcitrant into exile."

Faced with the choice of exile or death, most Separatists opted for exile,



including about 40 who ended up in Amsterdam with their pastor, Francis Johnson.

In 1608 a second Separatist church traveled to Amsterdam pastored by Smyth. At first the two congregations fellowshiped with each other. Their pastors had known each other since Johnson served as one of Smyth's tutors at the University of Cambridge, according to The Baptist Story.

But conflict emerged when Smyth took issue with the Johnson congregation's distinction between pastors, teachers and ruling elders among its leadership.

Smyth believed Scripture combined the three positions into one office, the pastor/elder, and he said every church should have multiple elders or pastors. This and other differences led to a break of fellowship between the two churches.

The doctrinal conflict also contributed to a split in the church led by Smyth—though historians disagree about whether the church split occurred in England or the Netherlands.

John Robinson led a faction of about 100 members from the Smyth church who eventually relocated to the city of Leiden and became known as Pilgrims, famously moving to America and landing on Plymouth Rock in 1620.

Smyth soon came to believe that only followers of Jesus should be baptized and administered baptism to himself and his congregation by pouring. Later Thomas Helwys assumed leadership of the congregation, which some regard as the first English Baptist church, when Smyth sought to join a Mennonite church in the Netherlands.

Years later, when Bradford recounted the Pilgrims' journey to America as well as their celebration of the first Thanksgiving in 1621, he noted their interaction with the Baptists.

Among the members of an early Separatist church, Bradford wrote in "Of Plymouth Plantation," was "Mr. John Smyth, a man of able gifts and a good preacher, who afterwards was chosen their pastor. But these afterwards falling into some errors in the Low Countries"—a reference to the congregation's adoption of Baptist views in the Netherlands—"there (for the most part) buried themselves and their names."

Despite the Pilgrims' unfavorable view of Baptists, Duesing said they should be remembered with thankfulness this Thanksgiving.

"This congregation of 'pilgrims' had already endured the arduous journey of leaving England due to ... persecution from the established church, yet, a section of them desired still to travel further," Duesing said. "Life in Holland was difficult for English expatriates, and for

some a prosperous future both for the church and in terms of economic and social survival, seemed dim. The Mayflower group determined to leave ... for New England, then, in part to continue to have the freedom to establish their church separate from the state, but also to do so in an environment that gave more potential for long-term survival. The idea of America seemed worth another arduous and costly journey for these reasons."

As Bradford wrote, the Pilgrims also hoped to be a part of "propagating and advancing the Gospel of the Kingdom of Christ in those remote parts of the world."

In another connection to Baptists, many of the Pilgrims' descendants—the New England Congregationalists—became Baptists during the First Great Awakening of the 1730s and 40s.

All Christians, including Baptists, should study the Pilgrims, Duesing said, because they were "a heroic group who sought a better life for their children and grandchildren centered around a church faithful to the New Testament and positioned for seeking the advance of the Gospel." (BP)

David Roach is chief national correspondent for Baptist Press.

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