

WESTERN Recorder

March 10, 2015

Shine Like Stars * Philippians 2:15

Volume 189, Issue 5

SBC presidents send open letter to Pres. Obama

By Shawn Hendricks

Nashville—In an open letter, Southern Baptist Convention President Ronnie Floyd, along with the support of 16 former SBC presidents, called on Pres. Obama to “take the necessary actions now” against ISIS terrorists.

“Since ISIS is a continuing threat to world peace in a way unknown to us since the Nazis of World War II, we humbly call upon you to use the influence and power of your distinguished office to take the

necessary actions now in this urgent hour to bring an end to these human atrocities,” he wrote March 1. “The abuse, brutalization, and murder of children, women, and men that is occurring before the world calls our country to lead forward to bring this to an end.”

The open letter comes in the wake of numerous reports of ISIS killings that include the beheading of 21 Egyptians—reportedly Coptic Christians—the death of an American aid worker, and a Jordanian pilot being burned alive. And ISIS

captured more than 200 Assyrian Christians Feb. 23, CNN reported. Women, children and elderly were among those taken captive during an ISIS attack on villages near Tal Tamer in northern Syria, according to the report.

SBC Executive Committee President Frank Page said he is often asked about ISIS. “People are frightened, people are concerned. We need (President Obama) to act and to act decisively,” he said. “I join with the other SBC presidents in supporting our current (SBC) president’s

call to action.”

Bryant Wright, former SBC president and pastor of Johnson Ferry Baptist Church, Marietta, Ga., described the letter as “a plea to the president to take a stronger leadership role” against ISIS.

“It will be important to join with Egypt and Jordan and others in that part of the world to show this is not just the defense of Christians but you’re talking about religious liberty for all,” said Wright, who was among some Christian ministers

□ See SBC presidents ... Page 12



SBC President Ronnie Floyd challenged Kentucky pastors during the state evangelism conference Feb. 23 in Louisville.

Turning point: Baptists see rise in baptisms, members, giving

By Robin Cornetel

Louisville—Southern Baptist churches in Kentucky baptized more than 14,000 people last year, a turning point for the state’s largest religious organization that had been in a gradual decline for the past decade.

The state’s 2,400 churches also reported an overall increase in membership, another sign that 2014 may have been a watershed year for the 750,000-member Kentucky Baptist Convention.

“We praise God for what he’s doing in Kentucky,” said KBC Executive Director Paul Chitwood. “And we’re thankful that our people are being obedient to the Great Commission by reaching out to a hurting world with the gospel.”

Under Chitwood’s leadership, the KBC has been focusing on reaching more people with the gospel through evangelism, by starting more churches, by revitalizing existing churches and by encouraging ethnic diversity.

Actual growth in baptisms and membership could have been significantly higher than reported, considering that nearly 20 percent of Kentucky’s Southern Baptist churches didn’t submit Annual Church Profiles, which contain the information used to calculate growth.

Churches that did submit paperwork reported a total of 14,223 baptisms. That’s up from 13,975 the previous year.

“We can’t help but be humbled by these reports from our churches,” Chitwood said. “It truly is a blessing to see God at work all around us. In one year, we saw enough people saved to populate a mid-sized Kentucky city.”

Hillvue Heights Church in Bowling Green led the state again last year with 511 baptisms. Hawk Creek Baptist Church in London was second with 252. Valley View in Louisville reported 234 baptisms. Immanuel Baptist Church in Corbin reported 152.

First Baptist in Somerset, Crossland Community in

□ See Turning point ... Page 6

Southern Baptist churches in Kentucky baptized more than
14,000
people in 2014

Floyd to Kentucky pastors: ‘Give it your all’

By Robin Cornetel

Louisville—Kentucky Baptist pastors need to be willing to “risk it all” if they want to fulfill the vision of the Great Commission, Southern Baptist Convention President Ronnie Floyd said.

“Since 85 percent of churches in Kentucky are plateaued or declining, don’t you think it’s time to risk it all?” Floyd asked pastors at a state evangelism conference Monday evening at Louisville’s Highview Baptist’s east campus.

“Something’s wrong with us when we do not want to own the vision of reaching the place where God has called us to serve,” he said at the annual conference known as RISK (Reaching Into the State of Kentucky).

“The reality is it’s up to you and

your church what you do about the fulfillment of the Great Commission,” he said. “We must own the Great Commission personally. You must recapture the vision of reaching your town, your community (and) your city for Jesus Christ.”

More than 300 church leaders attended the two-day conference designed to create a hunger among church leaders for leading people to encounter Christ.

“Let me tell you one of the greatest problems in the Southern Baptist Convention,” Floyd said. “We’re not desperate.”

Floyd challenged pastors—especially those looking to abandon one church for another—to return

to the reason why they first entered into ministry.

“Go back to the ‘why’ of your calling rather than the ‘what’ and the ‘where’ of your calling,” Floyd urged. “You may not need a new

place to serve; you may just need a new heart to serve.”

Floyd encouraged pastors to

endure adversity by realizing their agenda for the church is God-given and to stop letting negative people be a driving force.

“You got one shot, man. One.” Floyd said. “Give it your all. Get on fire for the Lord and get the job done to His glory.” (KBC)

More coverage of the RISK conference, Page 2



Find us on
Facebook
and on
twitter
as westernrecorder

In this issue:

Kentucky Notes



Western Recorder 3-10-2015

'Church is ... Challenging. I didn't sign up for this'

By Myriah Snyder

"We need to cultivate a new type of approach that allows us to move forward in our cities," Gabe Lyons, founder of Q Ideas and author of "The Next Christians," said at the KBC's RISK conference Feb. 24.

Lyons, described by Chuck McAlister as "one of the foremost experts on reaching millennials," addressed the topic of "questions, why they matter and how to engage culture." He was joined by Ed Stetzer and Albert Mohler on the platform of Louisville's



Highview Baptist Church.

"If anybody is going to care about your story, it's going to start with you having an understanding and an interest in the community you're in and how you're engaging it," Lyons said.

He presented four questions and proposed solutions for engaging the culture: 1) "What is wrong?" then "stop and confront," 2) "What is confused?" then "clarify and compel," 3) "What is good?" then "celebrate and cultivate," and 4) "What is missing?" then "create and catalyze."

"When we ask these questions and we



finally have a tone that's winsome and loving and kind, we will demonstrate in our communities what it means for the church to go forward in an age where the church in many cases has been condemned," Lyons concluded.

Stetzer, executive director of LifeWay Research and author of "Transformational Groups," said, "Part of the reason church is so challenging is because people have the perception that

church is dying, when no serious researcher believes that to be true."

Although mainline Protestantism is declining, the evangelical church has experienced a slight decline, but is now plateaued, Stetzer said, noting that some scholars refer to evangelicals as "battered and triumphant."

Stetzer continued, "I'm concerned about the trajectory, I'm concerned about the passion, I'm concerned about the lack of gospel engagement, and I'm concerned that in the midst of our society today we're finding ourselves in a more secular environment."

Culture, however, is experiencing a "rise of the nones" or college students who identify with no religious group. And, even though the majority of Americans still identify themselves as Christians, they tend to think, believe

□ See Challenging ... Page 11



'Culture is ... Resistant. I wasn't prepared for this'

By Todd Deaton

During the Feb. 24 RISK Conference in Louisville, TC Taylor, Russell Moore and Trillia Newbell tackled the issues of how the culture is invading the church, how the church should engage the culture, and what Jesus would do.

Taylor, who planted New Breed Church in Louisville's West End in 2013, cautioned pastors about the danger of culture invading the church when the style of the message is more important than its content.

"If you are more concerned about how do I get people in the door than making sure that you're clear on what the gospel of Jesus Christ is, then you are in danger of allowing worldliness into your church," Taylor warned.

"(W)orldly wisdom creates crowds, not congregations of people who are convicted by the gospel," he observed.

Churches are also in danger of being invaded by culture when "our ministry is about man's wisdom and not God's power," he said.

Noting that Paul did not speak with "a silvery tongue, flattery, or wow-you-kind-of-thing," but with the power of the Holy Spirit, Taylor affirmed, "The message of gospel has power in it."

"The same gospel (that changed your life) has the same power to save everybody in your community," he reminded the pastors.

Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission President Russell Moore asserted that the most dangerous cultural questions are the ones that aren't being asked by the church.

"Sometimes we assume that engaging culture ought to be driven by whatever is trending on Facebook, ... the ones that are the most controversial or the most talked about at the time," Moore observed.

Although those perils and dangers should be addressed, the most dangerous cultural questions are those which "we are either not asking because we've already surrendered a biblical understanding of those things, or because we do not see what is lying in front of us on the mission field in the next several years."

□ See Prepared ... Page 11

'Change is ... hard. I'm overwhelmed'

By Myriah Snyder

"If you ain't amongst 'em, you ain't reaching 'em," Brian Mills, ministries and teaching pastor at Englewood Baptist Church in Jackson, Tenn., told attendees at the KBC's RISK conference Feb. 24.

Mills, author of "Virtuosity," was one of four speakers at Louisville's Highview Baptist Church to address the topic "Change is ... hard. I'm overwhelmed."

Statistics show that one in four millennials are unchurched, and although millennials are "scary" to many, they must be reached, Mills said.

Mills presented three ways to reach millennials: 1) Create authentic community, 2) Have a missional movement to invest in and be a part of, and 3) "Get amongst 'em."

He stressed the importance of



getting out of one's office and being among the people. This is how Jesus did ministry, Mills noted.

Gabe Lyons, founder of Q Ideas and author of "The Next Christians," described what the millennial church looks like.

Establishing that millennials are college kids and those in their 20s and early 30s, Lyons observed, "Millennials have come into a moment where there are three huge, colliding ideas." The

colliding ideas are "a postmodern movement," "a post-Christian movement" and "a pluralistic setting," he explained.

These ideas correspond with new attitudes that many millennials

have adopted, in stark contrast to the attitudes held by the generation before them, Lyons noted. Additionally, millennials have their own rules of social engagement.

However, Lyons shared some timeless truths for reaching millennials: 1) Every human being needs a friend who will show up in a crisis, 2) to know there is hope and purpose beyond their personal pleasure and abilities, and 3) to know the truth about God's design for human flourishing.

"It's the kindness of God that leads the heart to repentance," Lyons said, encouraging Christians to show "kindness with conviction."

Frank Page, president and chief executive officer of the SBC Executive Committee, and author of "Melissa: A Father's Lesson," spoke on being relevant without compromising truth.

"I'm convinced that God is calling us to a new awareness of what the gospel is, and of how revolutionary Christ was at reaching across cultural boundaries," Page said.

Referencing Ephesians 4:15, Page suggested two ways in which the church can "cross boundaries and bridge barriers." First, speak the truth;

□ See Overwhelmed ... Page 11

Courage is ... Required. I'm determined!

By Todd Deaton

"What will it cost your church to change?" And, "What will it cost your church to reach the community?"

Paul Chitwood's and Victor Sholar's answer is the same: the courage to risk.

"Change in the church requires the courage to be changed ourselves," Chitwood observed, advising church leaders to begin with introspection.

During the final session of the Risk Conference in Louisville, the KBC's executive director suggested reflecting on seven questions:

- From what sin in my life is the Spirit of God calling me to repentance?
- What gifts am I stewarding poorly by not developing?
- Am I leaving out humility and brokenness, rather than pride and pretense?
- Am I doing the work of an evangelist?
- Am I confronting the brutal facts regarding the effectiveness of our ministry model?
- Am I willing to do the hard, but

necessary, work of pruning?

■ How can I better work with people? Chitwood exhorted pastors to love the church. "If you love her, you'll risk for her," Chitwood said. "If you love her, you will work for her. ... If you love her, you'll sacrifice for her."

Loving the church requires strong leadership to make necessary changes and willingness to work and love without reward, he noted.

"All over our state, there are

churches that are broken," Chitwood said. "And they are hurting; and they are in conflict; and they are dying. And God is looking for men of courage who will come alongside them and say, 'I will walk with you. I will hurt with you. I will weep with you. And I'll laugh with you. I'll love you for the sake of Christ.'"

Sholar, pastor of Main Street

Church, agreed, "When all is said and done, at the end of the day we need courage to reach our community."

Pointing to 2 Timothy, Sholar urged pastors to "preach the Word, that's where courage begins."

Courage is based on the reality that one day each of us will stand before Christ and give an account, he noted.

"The confidence to stand courageously comes from an understanding that God has equipped

me with everything I need to fulfill my calling," he said.

Courage is not based on gimmicks, charisma, ministry programs, nor on being an expert on culture, he emphasized. "If that were required, Jesus would not have called fishermen and tax collectors to preach the gospel."

□ See Determined ... Page 11



BWA general secretary to speak at Campbellsville

By Zatoria Leavell

Campbellsville—As part of Campbellsville University's Baptist Heritage Lecture Series, Neville George Callam, general secretary and chief executive officer of the Baptist World Alliance, will speak at Campbellsville University at 6:30 p.m., Tuesday, March 24, at the Banquet Hall in the Badgett Academic Support Center.

He will also be speaking at the university's chapel service at 10 a.m., Wednesday, March 25, at 401 N. Hoskins Ave., Campbellsville.

Callam has served as an educator and media manager, theologian and ecumenist, pastor and church administrator. He is making his second visit to Campbellsville University.

John Chowning, vice president for church and external relations and

executive assistant to the president, said Campbellsville is honored to host "one of the key global leaders in the larger Baptist movement around the world."

Callam will share an update on work of the BWA during the Tuesday evening program and deliver the chapel message Wednesday morning.

Callam was born in St. Ann, Jamaica. His training for the Christian ministry took him to the ecumenical United Theological College of the West Indies, the University of the West Indies and Harvard Divinity School.

Ordained to the Christian ministry by the Jamaica Baptist Union (JBU) in 1977,



Callam

Callam has served in pastorates in May Pen and Kingston, Jamaica. He has held leadership positions with JBU including vice president, president, treasurer and acting general secretary. He is also a former vice president of the Caribbean Baptist Fellowship, one of the six regional fellowships of the Baptist World Alliance.

In 2007, he became the first person from the Global South to be appointed as the general secretary and chief executive officer of the BWA.

He has lectured at the Jamaica Theological Seminary, United Theological College of the West Indies and the Jamaica Institute of Management. Callam was the founding director of the broadcasting company, National Religious Media Company of Jamaica. He has chaired the board of directors of the Public Broadcasting Corporation of Jamaica. (CU)

Church financial support events rescheduled after snow, ice

Louisville—Snow and ice has caused the Kentucky Baptist Convention to reschedule five church financial conferences, clearing the way for more people to attend.

"How to Structure Financial Support for Minister and Church Employees," a series of regional financial conferences, were cancelled last week after a blanket of snow across Kentucky caused hazardous travel conditions and closed schools for several days.

The new dates for the conferences are as follows (the locations are unchanged):

March 16—9:30 a.m., Louisville, Long Run Baptist Association office; 6:30 p.m., Somerset, Pleasant Hill Baptist Church.

March 17—9:30 a.m., Nicholasville, Crosswoods Baptist Church; 6:30 p.m., Madisonville, Grapevine Baptist Church.

March 23—6:30 p.m., Ashland, Greenup Baptist Association office.

"By rescheduling, it has opened a window of opportunity for ministers and church employees who were interested in attending, but couldn't because of scheduling issues," KBC Church Financial Benefits Consultant Don Spencer said.

At the conferences, participants will hear expert advice about complying with IRS regulations, how to handle Social Security, options for medical insurance for ministers and church employees, and much more.

Special attention will be given to what churches and ministers must do to comply with new rules and regulations in the Affordable Care Act.

To register for one of the five regional church financial conferences, go to <http://www.kybaptist.org/finsupportevents15/>.

Spencer said updated information and downloadable forms are newly available online for do-it-yourself researchers. A sample of topics includes:

- Basic tax concepts
- Retirement
- Southern Baptist Convention Compensation Study
- Housing allowance
- Ministry-related expense reimbursement
- Affordable Care Act
- Health care coverage options
- Best practices for handling money in the church

The more than 50 resource materials and forms are available at <http://www.kybaptist.org/homepage/church-revitalization/church-financial-benefits/>. (KBC)

Learn & earn at international mission trip training

Louisville—A successful international mission trip requires three elements: a heart for sharing the gospel, a strategic plan to connect with people in a foreign culture, and money to get everyone there.

The Kentucky Baptist Convention is offering to help mission trip leaders with at least two of those aspects. Mission Mobilization experts will be leading a free two-day Team Leader Training for international mission trips on March 13-14 in Louisville.

Leaders completing the training will receive a one-time \$500 scholarship toward heading up a short-term international

mission trip.

"Taking a church group overseas on mission is a privilege. It can be fun and exciting to witness God working through people, but it's also a serious responsibility," said Doug Williams, KBC missions strategist.

Williams said leaders will receive the tools they need to build an effective mission trip team that is ready to embrace the nations with the gospel. Participants also will be trained on safety precautions and coached on funding strategies.

"I want to encourage missions leaders to spread the word about this training

opportunity," Williams said. "There is an element of uncertainty with any mission trip, but through adequate preparation we can more confidently be prepared for those uncertainties and trust that God is at work in all things."

The Team Leader Training for International Missions is free for Kentucky Baptists planning to lead, or interested in learning more about leading, a mission trip. Registration ends March 10.

For more information, go to kybaptist.org, call (502) 489-3420 or (866) 489-3529 (toll free in Ky.) or email partnership@kybaptist.org. (KBC)

Monday, April 27

Consolidated Baptist Church | Lexington

Tuesday, April 28

Parkway Baptist Church | Bardstown

Thursday, April 30

Eddyville First Baptist Church | Eddyville

doors open 8:15 am |

program concludes 3pm | (local time)



"The Stephen Foster Story"
cast members | entertainment

Tim Purdue
| speaker



and Lyndia Fuller | dramatist

enlisted and Still in
TRAINING

Senior Living Celebrations 2015



to register: www.kybaptist.org/seniorcelebration

for info: 866.489.3390 | 866.489.3570



Church planting workshop in Lexington March 27-28

Lexington—Having a heart for evangelizing the lost is necessary when planting a church, but so is strategic planning, said expert Carlos De la Barra.

Persons interested in learning to start a church are invited to Basic Training Journey for Church Planters March 27-28 at Elkhorn Baptist Association in Lexington.

With nearly one in five people claiming no religious affiliation, said De la Barra, Kentucky Baptist Convention's church planting strategist, the culture is like fertile soil waiting for church planters to spread the seed of the gospel.

Basic Training Journey is free and open to any Kentucky Baptist in a church planting ministry or interested in learning about starting a new church. For information, email Dawn Cavanah at dawn.cavanah@kybaptist.org. (KBC)

Choir & Orchestra auditions extended

Louisville—Audition deadlines for the All State Youth Choir and Orchestra have been extended until March 23.

The extension would help many affected by recent snow cancellations, said Jason Stewart, worship and music consultant at the Kentucky Baptist Convention.

Auditions are to be recorded on DVDs by ministers of music or children's choir leaders and sent to: Kentucky Baptist Convention, Worship and Music Department, P.O. Box 43433, Louisville, KY 40253-0433.

Online registration and more information can be found at www.kybaptist.org/asyco.

Giving credit where credit is due

We have just completed the compilation of the Annual Church Profiles submitted by Kentucky Baptist Convention churches for the most recent reporting year, and we have good news to share!

Baptisms, church membership, and church financial receipts all increased over the prior reporting year.

Churches reported a total of 14,223 baptisms. That's up from 13,975 the previous year. Reported church membership is now up to more than 710,000, and undesignated receipts came in at more than \$300 million. Actual growth in these and other categories could have been significantly higher than reported, considering that nearly 20 percent of KBC churches didn't file reports or respond to requests for information.

Together We are the KBC



Paul Chitwood

On the baptism front, Hillvue Heights Church in Bowling Green led the state again last year with 511 baptisms. Hawk Creek Baptist Church in London was second with 252. Valley View in Louisville reported 234 baptisms. Immanuel Baptist Church in Corbin reported 152.

First Baptist in Somerset, Crossland Community in Bowling Green, His House Ministries in Mayfield and the Bell County Forest Camp Mission all reported more than 100 baptisms, some significantly more.

Churches in the largest association, Long Run, which serves the Louisville area, had 1,035 baptisms, the highest number reported by any association in 2014. Warren Baptist Association came in a very close second with 1,031 baptisms.

In celebrating these reports, we give credit to the Son of God who owns the church by right of His sacrificial payment upon the cross. We give credit to the Spirit of God who convicts and converts lost sinners, bringing us within the fold of church. And we give credit to God the Father, who "chose us in him before the foundation of the world" (Ephesians 1:4).

Acknowledging "salvation belongs to our God" (Revelation 7:10), we also know that it is appropriate to rejoice over the faithful testimonies of the saints of God who are sharing the good news of the gospel all across Kentucky. In the words of the Apostle Paul in Romans 10:14, "How are they to hear without someone preaching?" I thank God for those who preach the gospel in the commonwealth!

Let me also express appreciation to our directors of missions. They are tremendous partners in the collection of ACP data. Many of our associations have a consistent track record of 100 percent of their churches completing the ACP reports. I am grateful for their time and energy!

Lastly, I am grateful for our Mission Board staff. The KBC was created by churches, for churches, to help churches reach Kentucky and the world for Christ. Our KBC staff members are living out that mission statement, diligently working with churches across the state to help strengthen their ministries. And today we are celebrating what God is doing!

Paul Chitwood is executive director of the Kentucky Baptist Convention.

Powerful messages, prayer for missionary highlight conference

Although bracketed by heavy snow events a few days before and after, the Western Kentucky Evangelism Conference went on as scheduled last week, featuring some powerful preaching and gospel music by the Kingsmen that could melt even the coldest of hearts.

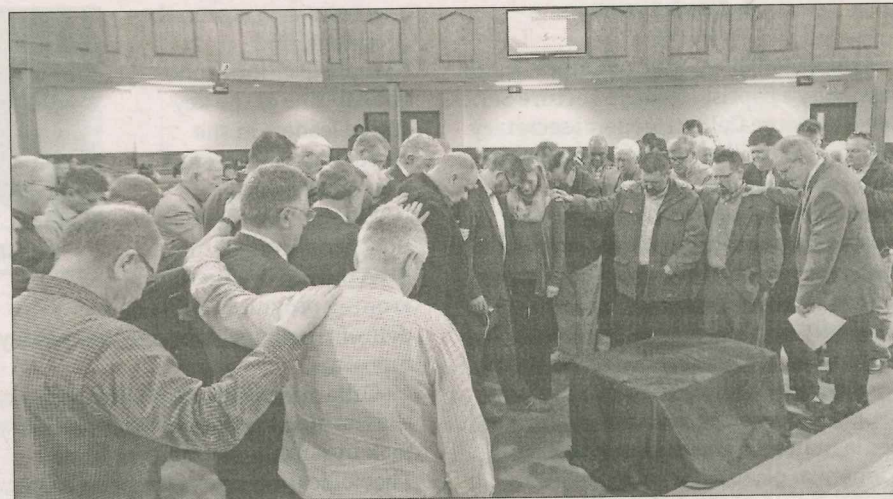
Headlining the conference, which adopted the KBC's theme, "Tell Your Story," was New Orleans pastor Fred Luter, immediate past president of the Southern Baptist Convention. Luter, using Romans 7 as a text on spiritual warfare, told the crowd gathered at Princeton's Southside Church that while the Super Bowl is a big event, it doesn't even compare to "the Super Bowl for your soul."

Luter identified the opposing players in the battle who seek to control our body, emotions, thoughts and actions: "Satan vs. the Savior; Lucifer vs. the Lord." As for the playbook, each opposing player has certain plays they want people to run. Satan wants us to do what society says, the ways of the world, but the Savior wants us to follow the word of God, he explained. "Our adversity, the devil is doing all he can, using every tactic he can, to get sons and daughters of God to mess up," Luter warned. "Do you not know what the national anthem in hell is? 'I did it my way,'" he quipped.

Sometimes the battle gets so intense, he continued, explaining how the enemy attacks one's ministry, marriage, home, family and finances. "Sometimes all we can do is cry out to our Heavenly Father." The battle for your soul is serious and hard, he admitted. "But I came all the way from New Orleans to tell you: It's a battle that we can win!"

Heralding the power of the person of Jesus, Luter affirmed, "The reason you can win this battle is because you're not fighting by yourself." The playbook says, "Greater is He that is in you!" Luter exclaimed. "In the name of Jesus, we have the victory, and because we have the victory, we have a story to tell."

Curtis Woods, KBC's associate executive, delivered two messages on Jonah, calling him the "profligate prophet," who ran away from God, and the "pouting prophet," who lamented when the people repented. "If you are going to tell your story, you must realize your story belongs to God," Woods said. If it belongs to you, you can decide when and



Western Kentucky Baptists gather around Chris Turpin, who along with his wife, Stephanie, will be serving as an NAMB church planter in Staten Island, N.Y.

where to share it; if it belongs to God, He decides how and where His story will be shared with a lost and dying world.

"A good many of us are like Jonah," he observed. "We think our story belongs to us." Warning that refusing to tell our story will result in atrophy and decline because of not obeying God, Woods charged, "Those who have received mercy must become conduits of mercy."

Hershael York, pastor of Buck Run Church in Frankfort, spotlighted Rahab the harlot. "Rahab doesn't come across as a mover and shaker," he acknowledged. "Yet, her story is so compelling," he said. "In a sense, it serves as a model for all of Scripture: A woman known for sin comes face to face with the God of the Bible."

Pointing to her simple declaration of faith, "Your God is God," York recounted how Rahab, along with her family, did not perish with those who were disobedient. Because she welcomed the Hebrew spies and chose to identify with the people of God, rather than her people, she was given a promise of hope. Observing that she is still called "Rahab the harlot," York said his guess was that even the memory of sin highlights His grace. "God is not glorified by our sin, but He is glorified by a grace that overwhelms our past sins," he explained.

"I can't read this verse without identifying with Rahab," he said, paraphrasing Hebrews 11:31: "Hershael, the sinner, did not die with the disobedient, because he gave a friendly welcome to Jesus, the Savior."

Tennessee evangelist Jerry Spencer recalled how Paul and Silas were miraculously set free from prison at midnight in order that a jailer and his family might be saved. "Don't underestimate what God can do!" he exclaimed. "Tell your story," he urged. "We are each evangelists. Don't shun that responsibility and privilege. By the power of the Holy Spirit, you'll see a soul saved and brought into the kingdom of God."

Yet, a highlight of the day was hearing from Chris Turpin, who along with his wife, Stephanie, will be serving as an NAMB church planter in Staten Island, N.Y. Turpin formerly was pastor of Donaldson Church in Caldwell-Lyon Association. As Western Kentucky Baptists gathered around the young couple to pray for their ministry, it was a clear reminder of the call to "tell your story."

Rick Reeder, director of missions for Caldwell-Lyon Association, and New Orleans pastor Fred Luter, immediate past president of the Southern Baptist Convention.

After Thought

By Todd Deaton



WESTERN Recorder

Box 43969
Louisville, KY 40253

DR. TODD DEATON
Editor

THOMAS C. TOWNSEND
Marketing & Business Consultant

Shine Like Stars * Philippians 2:15

Board of Directors:

Wayne Spivey (chair), Harrodsburg;
Floyd Price (vice chair), Richmond;
Linda Cooper (Secretary), Bowling Green;
Bill Bartleman, Paducah;
Billy Compton, Mount Washington;
Bill Edmonds, Louisville;
Bill Ellis, Lexington;
Paul Nunn, Prestonsburg;
Rick Robbins, Florence;
Larry Rowell, Campbellsville;
Dan Summerlin, Paducah;
Jim Woolums, Erlanger

Western Recorder is published bi-weekly by Western Recorder Inc., an agency of the Kentucky Baptist Convention, Box 43969, Louisville, KY 40253. Periodicals postage paid at Louisville, Ky.

(USPS 679-380)

For general information or to give news tips, call (502) 489-3535; or email: news@westernrecorder.org.

POSTMASTER: Send address corrections to: Western Recorder, Box 43969, Louisville, KY 40253.

To subscribe: Send \$17 for a one-year, individual subscription or visit our website and subscribe to our electronic-only edition at \$10.60 per year. Group subscriptions (church budget plan) are \$11 per year.

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.

What it means to 'run like a girl'

By Terri Stovall

I ran, and finished, my first full marathon a few weeks ago at age 50. Over the past year, I ran several half-marathons, but the full marathon at 26.2 miles seemed daunting. I trained. I prepared. And, like a girl, I planned my running outfit with care.

When race day came, I pushed through pain, kept moving forward, cried when I saw my husband cheering me on from the crowd and cried again when I crossed the finish line. I ran like a girl!

But what does that mean?

One of this year's Super Bowl ads showed teen boys and girls being asked what it means to do something (run, throw, fight) "like a girl." In every instance, the teens imitate a prissy, "girlie-girl" manner. But when younger girls were asked what it means, they showed a decidedly more confident, though still girlish, example.

Recognizing that many girls begin losing their confidence during their adolescent years, Procter & Gamble, the ad sponsor, began their "Like a Girl" campaign last fall. Boys accuse friends of throwing like a girl as a derogatory put-down, and girls use the phrase as a statement of being weak or silly, or someone not to be taken seriously. Since the rest of puberty's really no picnic either, it's easy to see what a huge impact it can have on a girl's self-confidence.

Even in Christian circles, we need to be careful about painting a strict picture or developing preconceived ideas of what the practical outworking of biblical womanhood

looks like in today's culture. For example:

■ Scripture tells us that we are to be women who have gentle and quiet spirits, but does that discount the woman to whom God has given a gregarious personality and an infectious laugh? How does she fit in our stereotypical box?

FIRST PERSON

■ Motherhood is the highest calling and a unique task. Is the woman with no children looked at with a question mark, asking, "What's wrong with her?"

■ Women are commanded to love their husbands, and marriage is high and lifted up in our churches. Where does that leave the middle-aged, never-married woman who is serving the Lord with all her heart?

■ And what about the woman who is gifted athletically, committed to keeping her body physically fit and striving to perform at the highest level possible? Does she fit the mold?

Author Mary Kassian reminds us women were unhappy in the "Leave to Beaver, happy housewife, vacuuming in pearls" model during the '50s. Feminists fought for a new model of what it meant to be woman, but today, women are still unhappy. Women traded one model, or stereotype, for another—and neither is satisfying. Where does that leave us?

Kassian offers a solution. "The solution—the biblical solution—is to embrace the Word of God, and ask Him to help us figure out how to live out His divine design in this culture," she writes in "True Woman 101: Divine Design."

In other words, it's time to teach

the principles of biblical womanhood and let the Lord guide the practical outworking of those principles in a woman's life.

I do not fit in a lot of the extra-biblical stereotypes that are constructed on the shoulders of the truth of biblical womanhood.

I am a girl ... who rides her own Harley-Davidson. I am a girl ... who is strong-willed, driven and focused. I am a girl ... who is married with no children. But I am also a girl who loves Jesus with all her heart, daily seeks to live a life for His pleasure and embraces the truth of Scripture for women. Every day I wake up and set out to live my life like the girl God created me to be.

I clothe myself "like a girl"—"She is clothed with strength and dignity; she can laugh at the days to come" (Proverbs 31:25).

I work "like a girl"—"She sets about her work vigorously; her arms are strong for her tasks" (Proverbs 31:17).

I speak "like a girl"—"She speaks with wisdom, and faithful instruction is on her tongue" (Proverbs 31:15).

At the end of the commercial, a little girl was asked to describe what it means to run like a girl. Her answer? "To run as fast as you can."

When I hear "like a girl," I want to see a picture of a woman who is running the best she can, the hardest she can, using every ounce of her being, keeping her eye on the prize and her heart focused on finishing the race well. This is the true biblical ideal! (BP)

Terri Stovall is dean of women's programs at Southwestern Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas.

What is cognitive conceit?

By David Garrard

The premise of David Elkind's classic book, "The Hurried Child," is that growth into personhood is a process that takes time and should not be hurried. This idea is reflected in Chapter 5: Growing Up Slowly.

Reviewing the work of Swiss psychologist Jean Piaget, Elkind emphasizes how children progress gradually

through four basic stages of development. Each stage consists of physical, intellectual and emotional bases that must be touched if a child is to develop properly. "When children are pressured to grow up fast, important achievements are skipped or bypassed, which can give rise to serious problems later." A somewhat

humorous example can be seen in "cognitive conceit."

Cognitive conceit results when we think we know more than we really do. Children begin to realize that their parents are not perfect and "dethrone" them from the realm of infallibility. In short, children decide that they must be smarter than their parents. It is a normal part of development and typically provides more amusement than harm.

"Hurrying children into decision making that is more appropriate for adults plays into the child's cognitive conceit," Elkind states. When adults consult children on critical decisions—moving, changing jobs, marriage—the child is asked to deal with circumstances that they are not equipped to handle. The idea that they are wiser than adults is reinforced. The end result can be an inflated sense of their own wisdom and power.

Media and culture often contribute to cognitive conceit. TV shows, books and movies often depict parents as completely helpless, clueless and even foolish, needing to be rescued by their children.

What to do? Remember that cognitive conceit is a normal part of growing up—a stage children eventually move through. As Mark Twain said, "It was amazing how much smarter my father got as I got older!" Don't ask your children to make decisions that are beyond their developmental ability. Respect your children, but remember: You are the adult! God has given you the responsibility of raising your children, and God will help you guide them in the way they should go.



Should you invest in Mutual Funds?

By Don Spencer

Trillions of U.S. dollars are invested through Mutual Funds. Are mutual funds the right choice for your personal investments?

Diversification is at the heart of mutual fund investing.

Diversification greatly reduces the risks that come with owning just a few stocks or bonds. The average investor cannot typically own enough stocks to be adequately diversified. By investing in a single mutual fund, the investor is generally investing in many different companies.

Professional Management is another benefit. Few investors have time or experience to regularly manage personal investments.

Liquidity is the ease with which an asset can be bought or sold quickly with relatively small price changes. Mutual fund shares may be acquired or liquidated at a moment's notice at a fund's next determined net asset value.

Mutual funds provide convenience and many other features that make the investment process an easy one.

Disadvantages

Cost—The median expense ratio for domestic equity funds is around 1 percent. Many times it is higher. That's money deducted from your investment every year, regardless of fund performance.

Professional management—You may feel the cost is justified for experienced management. However, a large number of fund managers have limited experience. Very few funds consistently beat market averages.

Long-term investing—Every text on investing teaches, "invest for the long term." However, many popular funds turn over most of their portfolio during a year.

Taxes—You have no control over mutual fund distributions. When the fund sells a stock, gains become taxable in that year.

Before you invest, do some more research. There are many other factors to be considered. Weigh all the pros and cons. After all, it's your money.



Homebound millennials and family togetherness

By Penna Dexter

Dallas—Three in 10 millennials, young adults ages 18-34, are still living with their parents, according to a new study of U.S. Census data.

The report is called "Young Adults: Then and Now." It pulls together census numbers showing that, since 1980, the slice of the population in this age group who still lived with their parents hovered around 22 to 24 percent.

But between 2009 and 2013 the percentage of millennials living at home climbed to 30.3 percent.

This is widely seen as a negative trend and is blamed on the slow recovery from the recession that began in 2008.

I shared this information with the students in an ESL conversation class I help teach. The students are from India and Turkey. They understood the economic hit this demographic group is taking. But this particular effect of it would not be of such concern in

their countries.

In Turkey, girls don't leave their parents' home until they marry. In India, young people live with parents even after marriage at which point the young couple lives with the husband's family.

This recovery has been rough on American millennials. Many finish college and head into unemployment or underemployment.

Compounding the problem, older workers and others who, in a better economy, might have left their jobs for new opportunities, making room for millennials, have been staying put, opting for the security of the jobs they have.

Millennials & their parents

In our society, where independence is valued, this situation is challenging for both young people and for parents.

Could there be a silver lining? Perhaps, family togetherness?

There's another new study out. It comes from the Family

Research Council's Marriage and Religion Research Institute (MARRI) which recently released its annual "Index of Family Belonging and Rejection."

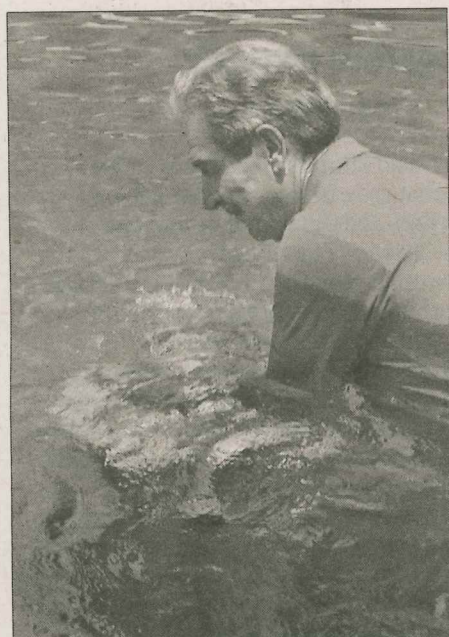
Combing through U.S. Census data, MARRI found that, overall, 46 percent of 15- to 17-year-olds, the youngest millennials, grew up in intact married families.

MARRI made note of the positive impact of the intact family—especially those who attend worship regularly—on so many outcomes for kids. And certainly good outcomes for teens are possible in single-parent homes, especially where faith is taught and lived out.

So, if you're millennial, whether in your 20s, 30s or late teens, if your job situation keeps you at home longer, take advantage of the family togetherness that some other cultures take for granted.

Contribute with tangible work around the house. And parents, you can practice your role as friend, counselor and example from close proximity. There are blessings here. (BP)

FIRST PERSON



Terry Holt, pastor of Polly Ann Baptist in Eubank, baptizes a new believer. (Photo courtesy of Polly Ann Baptist Church)

Turning point

Continued from page 1

Bowling Green, His House Ministries in Mayfield and the Bell County Forest Camp Mission all reported more than 100 baptisms, some significantly more.

Churches in the largest association, Long Run Association, which serves the Louisville area, had 1,035 baptisms, the highest number reported by any association in 2014. The Warren Baptist Association, based in Bowling Green, was a close second with 1,031 baptisms.

The annual reports also showed undesignated financial contributions to churches were up substantially from \$309.8 million to \$314.3 million last year.

The growth not only strengthens Kentucky Baptist churches spiritually and financially, but gives them more influence on moral and political issues important to Christians.

"While we celebrate this growth, we need to be mindful that our ministry is not about numbers," Chitwood said. "It's about sharing the gospel at a crucial time in history when so many people are without hope and have no understanding of how much God loves them and wants them to be saved." (KBC)

Platt unveils 'reset' of IMB strategy, structure

By Anne Harman

Houston—International Mission Board President David Platt proposed streamlining the mission agency's strategy and structure—in keeping with his desire for IMB to exalt Christ and work more effectively toward accomplishing the Great Commission—during IMB's Feb. 24-25 trustee meeting in Houston.

"We want to empower limitless missionary teams to make disciples and multiply churches among unreached people," Platt said. "We need a strategy that doesn't cap our number of missionaries merely based upon how much money we have."

Platt noted the IMB operated "in the red" last year, with the agency's operating expenses exceeding income by nearly \$21 million.

"Right now our funnel is really small ... such that we're turning people away," Platt said. "And what I'm saying, what we know, is that we need to blow open this funnel and create as many pathways as possible for Christians and churches to get the gospel to unreached people."

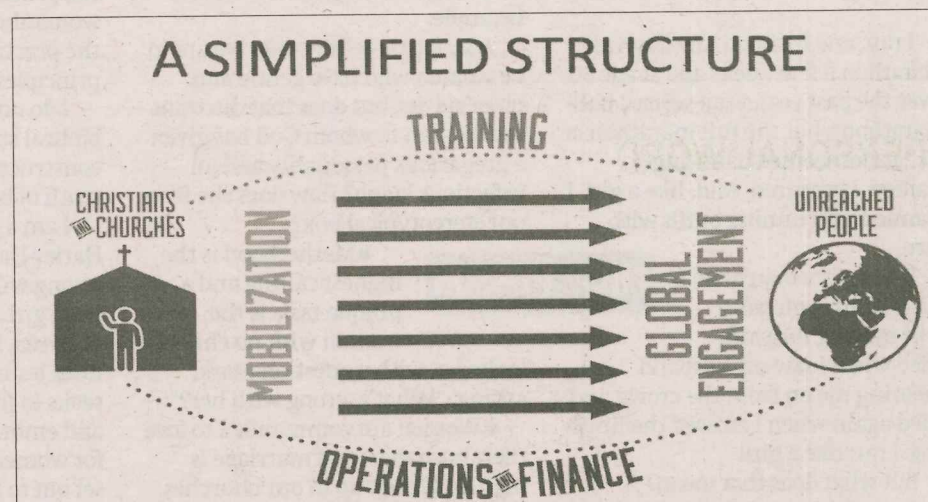
IMB must creatively consider how to leverage the avenues God has given for limitless men, women and families to join together on missionary teams to make disciples and multiply churches among unreached people groups, Platt said.

Since his election in August 2014, Platt has stated his five biblically based desires for IMB are to exalt Christ, mobilize Christians, equip the church, facilitate church planting and play its part in completing the Great Commission.

As a result of these desires, Platt recommended to IMB trustees a "reset" of the agency's strategy, and realignment of its structure, to focus on five main areas:

- Global Training, led by Zane Pratt, who was named vice president of global training during the November 2014 trustee meeting.

- Global Engagement, which entails work formerly called "global strategy," to be led by John Brady. Trustees elected Brady, current vice president for global strategy, as vice president of global



engagement.

- Operations and Finance, which consolidates the current offices of personnel, logistics and finance into one team.

Trustees affirmed the search for a person to lead the newly formed operations and finance work.

Randy Pegues, vice president of global logistics support; Tom Williams, vice president of global personnel; and David Stevenson, vice president of finance; will step out of their current positions and into other assignments to be determined.

"In the meantime, they will continue to function in their current roles," Platt said, and Stevenson will continue his chief financial officer responsibility.

- Mobilization, which "re-envision" the current Church and Partner Services team to more effectively mobilize Christians and churches for global mission, to be led by a to-be-named vice president of mobilization. Ken Winter, vice president of church and partner services, plans to return to work in a local church.

- Strategy, which overarches all the areas with a "relentless" focus to unify IMB culture. As a result, the current Office of Global Strategic Mobilization, currently led by Scott Holste, will fold into the new strategy in various ways.

Some areas will move under Global Engagement; other areas will report directly to Platt and Sebastian Traeger,

IMB executive vice president. Holste will work in one of these areas.

The current Office of Prayer, led by Gordon Fort, will be "infused across this entire strategy," Platt said.

Fort, who has served as senior vice president of prayer mobilization and training, will work alongside Platt and Traeger to help fuel the overall strategy with a focus on relating to key IMB partners and constituents.

Clyde Meador, executive advisor to the president, noted IMB has gone through many minor and major "resets" in its history to adjust to changing needs.

Each "recalibration" of the organization "has been used by God" to advance His church, Meador said.

While changes can be difficult and painful, they are necessary for the survival of any organization, he added.

Platt said the changes are intended to be reproducible through the IMB's national partners around the world: making disciples among unreached people and seeing churches established, then seeing those churches, in turn, send Christians to unreached people, training them and supporting them as they engage the world with the gospel.

"We want to fuel movement like this all over the world!" Platt said. "But let me be clear. Strategy and structure are not the ultimate answer to seeing Christians and churches engaging unreached people with the gospel...."

"What that means is that more than we need a streamlined strategy or a simplified structure, we need the power of God to do what only He can do.

"This is why I am calling everyone across our IMB family—from trustees to personnel or otherwise—to fast and pray, because only God can do this work...."

"Let's get down on our knees, then get up from our knees and do whatever it takes, no matter what that means, to set the sails for God to empower limitless missionary teams who are making disciples and multiplying churches among unreached people for the glory of His name."

During the meeting, IMB trustees also appointed 25 new missionaries to serve around the world, joining a total missionary force of approximately 4,800.

The missionaries were commissioned during an appointment service at Sagemont Baptist Church of Houston.

The next IMB trustee meeting is May 12-13 in Louisville.

The next missionary appointment service is May 13 at Highview Baptist Church in Louisville. (BP)

MISSION: ONE DAY

ONE EVENT • TWO LOCATIONS:

APRIL 16TH - ELKTON BAPTIST CHURCH • ELKTON, KY

APRIL 17TH - WESTSIDE BAPTIST CHURCH • BEREA, KY



MISSION: ONE DAY is a training event for pastors, mission leaders and DOMs that is designed to help you to think biblically, strategically, and practically about mobilizing the church for Great Commission impact. From an opening session to breakout sessions, this one-day event is designed to equip you to develop an overall missions strategy for your church and association.

www.kybaptist.org/missiononeday | 502-489-3420 • 866-489-3529 (toll free in KY) | partnership@kybaptist.org

A PERSONAL WORD

WMU missions opportunities include new events and popular favorites

I recently saw a humorous video about building a plane while it was flying. We feel that way sometimes in our office as we are planning events while leading others. But building the plane while flying is exciting and this is an exciting time to be part of Kentucky WMU.

Last weekend we were snowed out of Creative Ministries Festival 2.0 – Taking It to the Streets. We will try to reschedule later in the year. We believe that the new missions elements added to this popular event will take it to a new level of impact. The addition of a missions fair will help churches connect with missionaries who want them to come and use creative ministries to share the gospel. Block parties will provide a practical experience for all participants.

At this time a year ago we were just a few months from our first summer with Kentucky Changers. We were nervous about all the details yet to be worked out.



Joy Bolton

But we had a great summer and are excited about the 2015 projects in Richmond, Marshall County, Maysville, and Henderson. Registration is open and we invite you to bring students for a week of ministry to people in need.

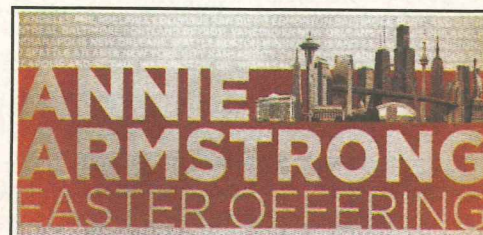
This year our new ministries also include two mission trips for children in grades 4-6 and their leaders. Mission Adventure for Kentucky Kids will combine elements of camp with hands on missions. Trips are planned for Princeton and Inez in June. Kids and adults will enjoy worship, Bible study, track time, and recreation. An international missionary will join the fun at each site. Don't miss this wonderful new adventure for children in Kentucky.

Familiar favorites are also in the spring and summer line up. Our Annual Meeting will be a phenomenal experience including a prayer rally at the state capitol and a missions block party. We have two Spring Retreats for women later in April and in May. There will be Mother/Daughter and GA Overnights in July at

both Jonathan Creek and Cedar Crest. The boys will gather for Camp Courage at Laurel Lake Baptist Camp.

We are also looking forward to the national WMU Annual Meeting in Columbus, Ohio in June. Our own Linda Cooper was elected last year as the Recording Secretary, our first national officer in many years. We want to have a great contingent from Kentucky at the WMU meeting this year in support of Linda. The meeting will be at First Baptist Church, Grove City which is a short drive from downtown Columbus. Hotels near the church are available. Get a carload from your church and join us!

We also welcome the International Mission Board to Kentucky in May for their trustee meeting and Missionary Appointment Service on Wednesday evening, May 13 at Highview Baptist Church, East Campus. Susan Bryant, our Kentucky WMU president, is an IMB trustee and in that role is part of the approval process for new missionaries. Susan is chairman of the South Asia Affinity Group on the IMB



2015 National Offering Goal:
\$60 million

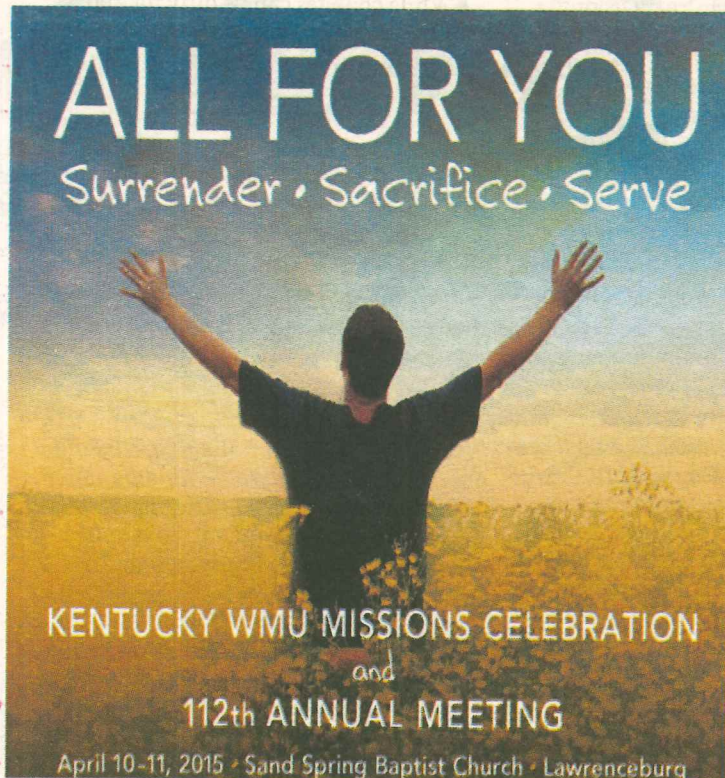
Kentucky churches gave \$2,231,200 to AAEO in 2014.
Can we exceed this in 2015?

SEND NORTH AMERICA

trustee board.

Out of all these wonderful opportunities, the most important are the ones you provide week after week for preschoolers, children, youth, and adults to understand and be radically involved in the mission of God. It is an exciting ministry and touches the whole world.

WMU. Missions for life!



All times listed are in Eastern Time
Friday, April 10

8:30 a.m. Registration, Bookstore, Displays, Conferences & Activities

9:30 a.m. All for You Around the World

Theme Interpretation – Sisterhood
Missionary Recognition
All for You in Asia – Jeff & Melva C.
All for You in Europe – JJH
Reflections – Debby Akerman

12:00 p.m. Boxed lunch by prereservation

1:00 p.m. All for You - Surrender
Theme Interpretation – Sisterhood
Heritage Fund 25th Anniversary
Business Session & Election of Officers

2:00 p.m. Afternoon Activities (2-4 p.m.)
Load Buses for Prayer Rally (Rally - 3 p.m.)
Ministry Projects at the Church
Conferences (2:15-3:00 p.m.)

6:30 p.m. All for You – Sacrifice
Theme Interpretation – Sisterhood
KBC Greetings – Tom James, President
Kentucky Changers Celebration
Kentucky Missionary of the Year Award
Kentucky Missionaries Commissioning
Missionary Panel – Debby Akerman & IMB missionaries

Saturday, April 11

8:30 a.m. All for You – Serve
Reflections – Debby Akerman
Ministry at KY State University – Brian Hinton
All for You in Ghana – Ryan & Christy Campbell
Closing Theme Interpretation – Sisterhood

10:30 a.m. Missions Block Party
Join us for a missions experience including creative ministries performances, missionaries, missions learning activities, great food, and more! Special exhibits by Kentucky Raceway Ministries, Pit Stop Challenge, and BREAK Time Ministry.

Sand Spring Baptist Church,
1616 Harrodsburg Road, Lawrenceburg
Collection Projects: Items for Veterans
Administration Medical Centers;
Miniature race cars for Kentucky Raceway Ministries work with children

Complete Annual Meeting information and registration:
www.kywmu.org/annualmeeting

Kentucky Changers

More of Him, Less of Me in 2015

Kentucky Changers 2015 will be here in a few short months!

Our 2015 theme, More of Him, Less of Me, reminds us that He must increase and we must decrease. Students and adults will have the opportunity to live this out during Changers.

Changers makes an impact on students. Ben Fitzgerald, Northside Baptist Church, Princeton, shared this testimony last summer. "As I began promoting KY Changers, I had very little

interest. As we got closer, I lost several students ... I was very discouraged with this and wondered why my students hadn't responded to the opportunity to go and serve God. I knew that we would still go to Changers, but just wasn't excited about it.

"Two days into the week, however, changed all of that. My students responded positively and I could see how incredible Changers was. God worked in mighty ways in my group. Out of

eight students, two gave their life to Christ, two rededicated their lives and the others were encouraged greatly in their faith. God convicted me of my lack of trust and faith in Him... My students are excited about doing KY Changers again, already expecting great things. Thanks for your hard work with Changers. It's making a difference."

We have four great locations this summer: June 13-19, Madison County (Richmond); June 20-26, Marshall County; June 27-July 3, Maysville; and July 11-18, Henderson.

Also, Adult Changers will precede the WMU Annual Meeting in Lawrenceburg. Adult Changers will work April 7-9 and have the opportunity to repair three homes and a Ministry Center. The final celebration will be Friday evening of Annual Meeting. If you have never been a part of Changers this will be a great way to plug in and see first-hand how God will bless your efforts!



www.kywmu.org/changers

Churchwide

Leadership Development Options

By Wanda Walker

"There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under the heavens..."

2015 begins the transition of having a summer leadership development event available only in the even number years. This means that EXCEL will not take place in 2015, but will return in 2016. There are still several options for you as you plan and make preparations for the new church year.

Attend Super Saturday at a location close to you. Super Saturday will offer an overview of WMU for the general office and an afternoon class related to WMU.

Contact a member of the Kentucky WMU Leadership Network for any questions and assistance.

Ask your association to provide associational leadership development opportunities or attend ones that are already scheduled. Associational leaders will still attend their annual leadership event and be equipped to help the local churches.

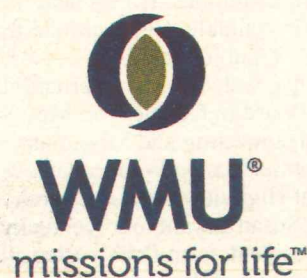
WMU state staff members are available to assist you, however don't overlook local resources.

Let us hear about how WMU is growing in your church or association. We received great reports on Focus this year.

Here is one from Linda Devine at Bruners Chapel. "We at Bruners Chapel did Focus on WMU yesterday (February 8) and I just want to share with you that it was a GREAT service!!

"It was obvious the LORD took over and planned the service!!! I had reminded our new pastor of our emphasis, watchword and such and asked him to speak on that scripture. I decided not to share our objectives this year and he even ended his message with them!! He put our logo and WMU at the start of his PowerPoint and gave a wonderful, terrific message on SURRENDER, SACRIFICE, AND SERVE!!

"The LORD gave me words and strength to give them!! A friend sang 'People Need the Lord.' We did the Choral Reading from our Year Book. It was a GREAT service!!! THANK YOU LORD!!!!!!!"



Adults

Missions on the go

By Wanda Walker

"God will make a way, when there seems to be no way. He works in ways we cannot see..."

I struggle often with my schedule. I don't have time to add another thing. But I love what I do, everything I do.

Almost everywhere I go I hear from WMU directors that they don't know how to get women and adults in their church to engage in missions education. This is a common thread of conversation throughout our state. I do not want to appear critical; I am merely acknowledging our frustration and concern. This has been an ongoing issue for several years as time, commitments, and life experiences have changed. Adults that have retired, homemakers, moms that homeschool and others are finding opportunities to do and go and

be involved in so many things. I don't believe people do not want to be involved. I believe they have opportunities that keep them busy and missions EDUCATION, not missions experiences, becomes less priority.

So, how do we reach out and get them engaged? If you find the answer let me know. (I do not have the answers that will find the cure all.) However, I believe we need to engage women in missions through what they are most involved in. Upward practice or local sports commitments? Use this as an opportunity to engage the adults to gather together to pray for missions and incorporate what God is doing around the world. Get your information from *Missions Mosaic* and tell them. Use it as an opportunity to minister to families during games. New baby or first time mom? Include missions prayer and encouragement during Play Dates. What about a moms of teenagers group?

Many churches have incorporated new names for their groups that focus on a number of things such as Crafters on Mission (They meet to crochet and get involved in missions with their craft); Missions on Monday; Upward Moms. Anyone can pray for missions and missionaries anywhere and anytime. It is when we limit our opportunities we allow mission education to fade away. Missions education does not have to be a meeting and just doing whatever is in the *Missions Mosaic*. Expand your imagination. myMISSION has wonderful resources for younger women. Have you even looked at it or given it a try?

Meeting regularly still has its place and importance. Sometimes I don't feel I have enough time. We individually and collectively have to decide how we will serve God and live our commitment for missions and mission education. God will make a way even when we don't seem to think there is one.

Spring Women's Retreats
for developing spiritually
toward a missions lifestyle



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

May 1-2, 2015
Camp Schafer, Hawesville

www.kywmu.org/retreats

RA/Challengers

Royal Ambassadors will gather at RAMCON

By Jon Auten

Royal Ambassadors

RAMCON 2015 is almost here! On March 21, Royal Ambassadors and leaders from around the state will be gathering at Temple Missionary Baptist Church in Central City for a great day of missions learning and missions action. Aaron Harvie, a church planting strategist with NAMB, will talk with the boys during the morning sessions. In the afternoon, Robbie Gray, a member of the Experience 1:8 Collegiate team 2014, will share about his time at Mission Adventure Camp and in South Africa.

Throughout the day, the boys will compete for medals in Royal Racers and the Rain Gutter Regatta. Many of these Royal Ambassadors are veterans at the car races, but the sail boat race will be brand new to many of the youngsters on hand. The boat building session and the boat races themselves promise to be a blast for participants and observers alike.

Because RAs do missions as well as learn about missions, all of the groups will be bringing with them new socks and underwear for adolescent boys. RAMCON is partnering with Muhlenberg County Baptist Association to collect these items for the association's Crisis Closet. Through this project, Kentucky Royal Ambassadors will be helping local Baptists reach out with the love of Christ in a very practical way.

Leaders still thinking about a last minute decision to attend may still have time. The registration deadline is Friday, March 13. Don't delay! Go to

kywmu.org/ramcon for more information and to register online today.

P.S. Camp Courage will be July 31 through August 1 at Laurel Lake Baptist Camp. Save the date and get the latest information about this great overnight event at kywmu.org/courage.

Challengers

We were snowed out of the first installment of Creative Ministries Festival 2.0. This was a great disappointment to the 414 participants from 43 churches, plus the 26 instructors and WMU staff that were planning to be in Bowling Green. We hope to reschedule this event later this year. If your church is involved in creative arts or block parties, we would like to know about what you are doing. Go to facebook.com/kychallengers, like the page, and then share your pictures of telling others about the good news of Jesus in creative ways.

Another opportunity for Challengers and other youth boys is fast approaching. Kentucky Changers will be held at four different locations this summer. Each location and each project site will be unique, but every location will feature young people making a difference through home repairs and the sharing of the Gospel. Check out Peggy Murphy's article and then go to kywmu.org/changers to learn more.



Students

Student missions opportunities available all summer

By Joy Bolton

The gathering last weekend for **Creative Ministries 2.0 - Taking It to the Streets** was snowed out much to our disappointment. We hope to reschedule because we believe that CMF 2.0 will be a great time for students to learn new skills and discover opportunities in missions. This popular event is now sponsored by Kentucky WMU and is planned as an annual event the first weekend in March.

Acteens, Youth on Mission, Challengers, and other student groups are encouraged to sign up for **Kentucky Changers** this summer. This is your opportunity to go on a mission trip right here in Kentucky. Learn new skills while helping others. For many students, Kentucky Changers offers first time experiences in construction and home repairs. The skills learned will be useful for years to come.

Leaders, please note that **Teresa Parrett**, Missions Mobilization Consultant for the Kentucky Baptist Convention, can help you connect with missions needs in our state. Students are wanted to come along side our Kentucky missionaries to help with summer ministries. There are also opportunities for students with Appalachian Regional Ministries and Mississippi River Ministries. Learn more at namb.net/arm or riverministry.com

Familyfest will be held July 18-22 in Indianapolis. This is a wonderful opportunity for students to go on a mission trip with their families or for your missions group to sign up as a team. Missions is something we do! Join in and make a difference. Learn more at wmu.com/trips.

Congratulations to members of the **2014-15 Kentucky Teen Panel**. These are outstanding students who have been selected for their commitment and involvement in missions. Members of the panel are Dixie Major, Mt. Carmel Baptist Church, Fulton; and Tanisha Bruce, Patty McFarland, and Cali Wooldridge, Gethsemane Baptist Church, Danville. These students will participate with us at Annual Meeting and student events.

Congratulations to Hydiatu Konneh who was selected as a **2015 National Acteens Panelist**. Hydiatu is from Fern Creek Baptist Church in Louisville and will serve at the national WMU Annual Meeting in Columbus, Ohio in June.

Due to the resignation of Maryann Lee from the Kentucky WMU staff, we are in a time of transition for student missions education and will not hold Acteens Splash in 2015. We encourage you to continue involving students in local missions as well as opportunities across our state and beyond.

President's Perspective

New and meaningful activities in the Annual Meeting line-up

The weeks are drawing closer to the **112th Kentucky WMU Annual Meeting and Missions Celebration**. We will be gathering at Sand Spring Baptist Church in Lawrenceburg on Friday and Saturday, April 10-11. Our meeting will be filled with many of the same elements that we look forward to each year and yet there will be several new and meaningful activities in which you will want to participate.

On Friday afternoon at the close of the business session, we will travel to Frankfort and assemble in the rotunda of the State Capitol for the sole purpose of praying for our government leaders. We will be visiting the Capitol just after the conclusion of the 2015 Legislative Session, and although the legislative session will be over, our legislators regularly return to Frankfort for committee meetings and other business of state. Our Governor, Lt. Governor and the Secretary of State and Attorney General offices are located in the Capitol as well as the Ken-



Susan Bryant

tucky Supreme Court. Each of these elected or appointed officials make important decisions each day that impact the lives of all Kentuckians. Our prayers for their wisdom, Godly influence and leadership are vital to the future of Kentucky. As a retiree with 30 years experience working in state government (with several years in the State Capitol), I understand very well the need for prayer for those guiding our Commonwealth.

Friday evening will be an evening of many specials. Not only will we participate in a commissioning service for our new Kentucky missionaries, but we will also join in an Adult Kentucky Changers Celebration. Volunteers will be working that week on homes and a ministry site in Lawrenceburg. On Friday evening the homeowners will join us as we celebrate the work done that week and the special way in which Jesus was shared amid hammers, saws, and shingles!

At the conclusion of the Saturday morning ses-

sion, we are in for a treat as we head outside for a missions block party set up just for this meeting. You will be entertained by clowns, visit ministry booths, talk with our missionaries, and of course, eat fair food. You will want to go home and create a block party of your own!

Plan now to attend. Information has been sent to each church WMU Director or you can go to kywmu.org/annualmeeting for more information. I am looking forward to seeing you on April 10-11 as we celebrate what God is doing in Kentucky, nationally, and around the world.

P.S. Don't forget to make plans to attend the **IMB Missionary Appointment Service** on Wednesday, May 13. It has been 11½ years since the last appointment service was held in Kentucky. This service will be held at 6:30 p.m. at Highview Baptist Church, 15201 Shelbyville Road, Louisville. Relocate your Wednesday evening church service to Louisville that evening. It will be a very special time in the life of your church.

Preschool / Children

Give it your Best!

By Stacy Nall

As preschool and children's leaders of missions education, we want to see kids learn and grow in their understanding of missions and the ways of God. Sometimes we struggle finding the best way to do that. *Missions Friends Leader, Children in Action Leader, GA Leader and RA Leader* can help you implement "**Best Practices**." "Best practices" in education are defined as what works best in a particular situation or environment. WMU missions curricula uses research on best practices in education to guide leaders in preparing effective missions lessons. In the coming issues of Kentucky Notes, we will explore some of these "Best Practices."

Preschool

Children learn through play. While this is true for all children, it is especially true for preschoolers. Playing expands a child's background knowledge for future reading and writing. Exploring with "real live" objects helps a child develop math and science skills. Playing "make believe" encourages social skills, such as cooperation and caring. Each session of Mission Friends Leader provides a variety of activities. These activities help preschoolers learn about the mission study through play. Kindergarteners can learn about a missionary's cold climate by playing with water and ice cubes. Three and four year olds can role play a missionary in the homeliving area. Babies, especially, learn through discovering. Mission Friends leaders of babies can provide manipulatives, such as a ball, as they talk about soccer camps. (See www.allianceforchildhood.org)

Children

As children get older, they are capable of more "thought-provoking" questions and activities. After children have answered the question, "Who is our missionary?" ask, "What are some problems a person living in this part of the world might face?" Or, after asking, "What does the missionary do?" ask, "Why do you think the missionary chose this method to reach others?" In *GA Leader* and *RA Leader*, leaders will find suggestions under "**Step It Up!**" on how to ask more thought-provoking questions. "Step It Up!" entries also offer suggestions on higher level thinking activities.



New Resources:

- Mission Friends Promotion Pack, \$9.99, available in April
- Promotion Packs for GA, CA, and RA, \$9.99 each, available in July
- e4 (downloadable lessons to Engage, Explore, Expand, and Experience missions), \$3.99 per download
- New badges: Global Hunger Relief and Tea Party, \$2.99



Order online at www.wmystore.com or by calling 1-800-968-7301



Mission Adventure for Kentucky Kids 2015

Mission Adventure for Kentucky Kids, Princeton: June 11-13

Mission Adventure for Kentucky Kids: Inez, June 25-27

This summer, kids from across Kentucky are invited to experience a hands-on missions opportunity at two locations! Children in grades 4-6 and their leaders will do ministry projects, such as sorting clothes at a thrift store, entertaining at nursing homes, and conducting backyard Bible clubs. Kids and adults will also enjoy worship, track time, and recreation specific to the location in Kentucky. Don't miss this exciting opportunity to learn about and do missions!

The early bird rate (by May 1) for both locations is \$55 per person.

For more information, contact Stacy Nall at 502-489-3454 or Stacy.Nall@kybaptist.org.

Register at kywmu.org/missionadventure



Asian Adventure

GA & Mother Daughter Overnights

Overnight at Jonathan Creek: July 10-11

Overnight at Cedar Crest: July 17-18

The early bird rate (by June 12) is \$55 per person.

Mothers and daughters in grades 1-3 and girls in grades 4-6 and their adult leaders are invited to an Asian Adventure! This summer, GA and Mother/Daughter Overnights will be held at Jonathan Creek in Hardin, KY and at Cedar Crest in Bagdad, KY. Girls will learn about missions in Asia as well as how to do missions in their own communities. They will also enjoy worship, Bible study, crafts, swimming and recreation. Both locations will host a missionary couple from Japan. Make your plans now to experience an Asian Adventure at Jonathan Creek or Cedar Crest!

For more information, contact Stacy Nall at 502-489-3454 or Stacy.Nall@kybaptist.org

Register at kywmu.org/overnights

Kentucky WMU Heritage Fund

October 1-December 31, 2014

The following persons were honored or remembered through gifts to the Kentucky WMU Heritage Fund during the final months of 2014. Our thanks to each person who gave to the Heritage Fund this year. Heritage Fund gifts are a great way to support Kentucky WMU and honor or remember someone significant to you and WMU.



In Honor of:

Pat Key
Travis Caudill
Jon Auten
Bro. Bell & Ellie Summers
Dottie McCormick
Cheryl Hatfield
Louise Waldrip
Elaine Burton
Jon Auten
Linda Cooper
KY WMU Staff
June Rice
Denise Gardner
Sally Schmuck
Peggy Murphy
Pat Key
Laverne Sublett
Maryann Lee
Maryann Lee
Martha Cessna
WMU Coworkers
Steve Thompson
Denise Gardner
Amanda-Grace Richey
Horace & Maribeth Hambrick
Carter & Jackson Cooper
Sandy Amburn
Kentucky WMU Staff

Donor:

Jay & Cheryl Hatfield
Linda Netherly
Jay & Cheryl Hatfield
Cindy Hurley
Pat Bush
Joy Bolton
Rebecca Carnell
Georgia Burton
Linda Lee
Claudia Greenwood
KY WMU Exec. Bd.
Cathy Mattingly
Melissa Logsdon-Young
Diane Thacker
Joy Bolton
Maritza Grant
Gleaners Class, FBC Fulton
Jay & Cheryl Hatfield
Marcia Ballard
FBC Central City WMU
Wanda Walker
Laura Morris
Joy Bolton
Joy Bolton
Chuck & Frankie Johnson
Linda Cooper
Marilyn Lamkin
Irma Woodrow

In Memory Of:

Stephen Walker
Mildred Ray
Rodney Travis
Olivene Hasley
Edna Dunaway
Reginia Richards
Evelyn Lecompte
Jane Kent
Mary Pat Price

Donor:

KY WMU Exec Bd.
Friends Prayer Group,
Friends Prayer Group
Grober-Parrish Bapt. Women
Beth Wyatt
Liz Sadler
Burks Branch Baptist Women
Maribeth Hambrick
Maribeth Hambrick

In Memory of Bob Key

Wanda Walker, Linda Alexander, Stacy Nall,
Jay & Cheryl Hatfield, KY WMU Executive Board

In Honor of Joy Bolton

Linda Alexander, Peggy Leach, Linda Lee

In Honor of these churches by Susan Bryant:

Sand Spring, Barlow, Fern Creek, Bethlehem, Willisburg

In Honor of these associations by Susan Bryant

Crittenden, Lincoln, Monroe

Other Gifts:

Lenna Walton
Alison Holbrook
Peggy Leach
Kentucky WMU Staff

**Get a carload and join us in Columbus, Ohio
for the WMU Missions Celebration
and Annual Meeting!**

**Be there to support Linda Cooper,
National WMU Recording Secretary!**

**Meet the missionaries!
Fellowship with WMU friends from other states!**

Kentucky Notes

Baptist Nursing Fellowship Summer Meeting

June 27, 2015
10:00 AM

Severns Valley Baptist Association Office
500 College Street Road, Elizabethtown

Beginning Wellness Ministry in the Church

Presented by Walnut Street Baptist Church
Wellness Team



\$20.00 BNF members
\$25.00 others

For registration information,
contact Wanda Walker
Wanda.Walker@kybaptist.org

FamilyfestSM is a ministry driven,
pre-packaged mission trip and
is recommended for anyone first grade and older . . .
perfect for families, adult teams, and student teams!

Ministry opportunities may include,
and are not limited to:

- Light construction/repairs
- Servant ministries
- Block Parties
- Prayerwalking
- Backyard Bible Clubs/VBS

Visit wmu.com/trips for updated information
and registration.



JUNE 14-15, 2015 | First Baptist Church of Grove City
3301 Orders Road | Grove City, Ohio 43123

Save the date for an amazing celebration of what God is doing
around the world through missions! Come early to the SBC annual
meeting in Columbus . . . First Baptist Church of
Grove City is just a 10- to 15-minute drive from the
Greater Columbus Convention Center.

Visit wmu.com/columbus for more information.



Calendar 2015

March

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
13 IMB Appointment Service,
Highview Baptist Church East,
Louisville
16 SALT - Kentucky Baptist
Building, Louisville

June

11-13 Mission Adventure for
Kentucky Kids, Princeton
13-19 Kentucky Changers,
Richmond
14-15 WMU, SBC Missions
Celebration/Annual
Meeting, Columbus, OH
16-17 SBC, Columbus, OH
20-26 Kentucky Changers,
Marshall County
25-27 Mission Adventure for
Kentucky Kids, Inez
27 Summer BNF Meeting,
Severns Valley Baptist
Assoc. Office, Elizabethtown
27-7/3 Kentucky Changers,
Maysville

July

10-11 Overnight at Jonathan Creek
(GA and Mother/ Daughter)
11-18 Kentucky Changers,
Henderson
17-18 Overnight at Cedar Crest
(GA and Mother/Daughter)
31-8/1 Camp Courage, Laurel Lake
Baptist Camp, Corbin
GA Leader Retreat,
Greenup Assoc., Ashland

August

7-8 GA Leader Retreat,
Southland Ranch, Paducah

**ONE
SACRED
EFFORT**
**FIND YOUR PLACE
IN GOD'S STORY**

**International Mission Board
Missionary Appointment Service
Wednesday, May 13, 2015
6:30 p.m.**

**Highview Baptist Church
15201 Shelbyville Road
Louisville, KY 40245**

Challenging

Continued from page 1

and want to order society more around secular values, he explained.

"We see future before us," he said. "The mission field is changing; the mission force has to be engaging."

Albert Mohler, president of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary and author of "The Conviction to Lead," addressed, "Where is the church headed?"

"Those who are my age and older need to fess up; we didn't see this coming," he said regarding the current state of culture.

"The future wasn't headed towards us; the future was headed away from us."

Drawn from timeless themes of the New Testament, Mohler suggested some places the church is headed. They included "into the world to make disciples," "into trouble," and "for a glory yet to be revealed." Some of his immediate thoughts about where the church is heading are "into a post-Christian age," "into a revolution of morality," "into hostility," and "into radical diversity."

"We're going to find out who merely has (Scripture) verses and who has a biblical theology. The only way we're going to survive is to love in and live out Scripture," Mohler added.

"Wherever the church is headed, Jesus Christ is Lord; that's enough," he said. (WR)

Richard Luebbert, father of WMU exec.

Richard Wesley Luebbert, 91, of Shelbyville, father of Kentucky Woman's Missionary Union Executive Director Joy Bolton, died March 4. Born July 20, 1923, in St. Louis, Mo, Luebbert, was a Baptist pastor, Bible teacher, and author.

Luebbert graduated from Hannibal-LaGrange College, Missouri Valley College and New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary. He served as pastor of churches in Missouri, Mississippi, Alabama, and Louisiana, serving just three churches following seminary. His final staff position was as associate pastor for senior adults at First Baptist Church of New Orleans. He retired in 2000.

OBITUARIES

Luebbert served numerous boards and committees in Baptist work. He wrote for Baptist newspapers and for Baptist Sunday School Board periodicals. He served a term as moderator of the Baptist Association of New Orleans and as vice-president of the Louisiana Baptist Convention. He was also a special consultant in senior adult ministry with the former Baptist Sunday School Board (now LifeWay).

After his retirement, Luebbert, and his wife, Dorothy, were instrumental in the start of Faith Baptist Church in New Orleans in 2001. They moved to Shelbyville in 2002, where they merged households with their daughter, Joy, and son-in-law.

Luebbert continued his ministry by teaching Sunday School at First Baptist

Church of Shelbyville and began work on the completion of "Jesus for the 21st Century," a unified version of the four gospels. His book was published in 2011.

He was preceded in death by his wife of 67 years, Dorothy Embree. He is survived by his children, Joy Bolton, Wesley Luebbert; grandchildren, Carol Bolton and Roscoe Bolton; nephews, Morton Luebbert III, Scott Luebbert, Michael Luebbert; and niece, Maria Luebbert.

Expressions of sympathy may be made to: Kentucky WMU Heritage Fund, Kentucky Baptist Foundation, PO Box 436389, Louisville, KY 40253-6389, or Kentucky Touch Tomorrow Today Endowment Fund, WMU Foundation, 100 Missionary Ridge, Birmingham, AL 35242.

Overwhelmed

Continued from page 1

second, act and relate in love, he advocated.

He stressed the importance of love "without end, limit, or condition."

"We need people who will say, 'This is true whether I like it or you like it. But let me tell you about it in a loving way,'" he concluded.

Alex Himaya, senior pastor of theChurch.at in Tulsa, Okla., and author

of "Jesus Hates Religion"—in answering the question, "How would Jesus engage our culture?"—replied, "A better question to ask would be, what is Jesus doing, what does He want to do in us, and what does He want to do through us? The answer goes back to 'seek and save the lost.'"

He used the story of Zacchaeus to demonstrate that Jesus was never in a hurry and never afraid of being "guilty by association."

"How would Jesus engage people? He just did," Himaya concluded. (WR)

Determined

Continued from page 1

"Fear in ministry is a mind overwhelmed by the risk of failure, because we are all painfully aware of own inadequacies and insecurities," Sholar concluded. "Courage," however, "is submitting in confidence that King Jesus reigns over His church, and all I want to do is God's will, and leave the results up to Him." (WR)

Prepared

Continued from page 1

The church cannot engage the culture with just a superior form of morality, Moore advised. "We must engage the culture with Christ."

The church, however, should not see lost people as enemies, he added. Rather,

"we should see lost people as we were and exactly as we would be apart from the Spirit of the living God."

Newbell, a consultant on women's initiatives for the ERLC, urged church leaders to first "make sure our motivation is love."

The question is not, "What would Jesus do?" But rather, "What did Jesus do?" Jesus acted with authority, boldness,

bravery and courage, she observed.

She noted that Jesus wasn't just bold, but also deeply compassionate.

"His heart was moved with compassion for the weak, the helpless, the needy, for those who ultimately needed Him, for you and for me," she said.

"What Jesus calls us to is a life of conviction, kindness, love and sacrifice," she concluded. (WR)

This sacred trust

Foundation worthy of Ky. Baptist family's trust for 70 years

Oliver Wendell Holmes advised this: "Put not your trust in money; rather put your money in trust."

What better trust than one that honors Christ and provides a perpetual benefit for the advancement of His kingdom through the mission of one or more of your favorite Baptist organizations, including your church?

Your Kentucky Baptist Foundation is Kentucky Baptists' one and only "trust agency." It is a "sacred trust" in that it is set apart and dedicated to receiving and administering endowment and trust funds for the perpetual benefit of kingdom advance through the support of the missionary, educational and benevolent ministries of your larger Baptist family in Kentucky and to the ends of the earth, which include churches, associations, KBC related institutions, agencies, auxiliary and partnering organizations, the KBC Mission Board and SBC related entities.

In the realms of estate stewardship consultation and perpetual funds management, everyone needs someone they can trust to provide solutions to the philanthropic goals the Lord has laid

upon their hearts.

For 70 years, your Kentucky Baptist Foundation has remained worthy of the trust of its Baptist family.

It's trustworthy because it brings the very highest business and ethical standards in fulfilling its mission as a "sacred trust." It is trustworthy in the fact it does not exist for itself but for the rest of its Baptist family.

It is trustworthy because of the proven quality, integrity and prudence in the management and methods by which it is led and governed.

It is trustworthy because of hundreds of Kentucky Baptists who have utilized it to accomplish the Christian stewardship purposes they understood God was calling them to accomplish with financial resources He entrusted to them.

We want to extend to you the services of this "sacred trust," called the Kentucky Baptist Foundation, to facilitate the stewardship of that which the Lord has entrusted to you to use for His purposes.

Laurie Valentine, our trust counsel, is awaiting your toll-free call.

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

Ky. Baptist Foundation



Barry Allen

Physical therapy and atrophy

Avoiding spiritual atrophy requires daily discipline

Right after Christmas, I had surgery to repair a torn rotator cuff and torn bicep tendon.

The next six weeks included the wearing of an arm immobilizer—all taking place on my right arm and, yes, I am right handed.

Recently after I was able to remove the immobilizer, it became painfully obvious that atrophy had set in my right arm, shoulder and much of the right side of my body.

As physical therapy has begun, the realization of how weak this part of my body is was best illustrated when I had to use a 1 lb. dumbbell (it was even pink) to do certain exercises to rotate the shoulder.

It gets even worse, as I could not even do 10 reps with a 1 lb. dumbbell.

The plans are to daily continue to do the exercises, be disciplined over the next eight months to see my mobility and strength return to normal—honestly, I would like to be better than new. Why not set goals beyond what you think is realistic?

A much more significant atrophy is what can happen to us spiritually. This is much harder to detect by human

standards, not like a shoulder that is visibly changed.

We are all in danger of this spiritual kind and the consequences are much more significant.

When we are spiritually weak, we lose sight of who God is, His purposes, and we focus our hearts on the temporal in this world.

Just as physical therapy requires daily discipline, so does spiritual therapy.

Our walk with the Lord implies being a daily sacrifice and also the ongoing continual transformation of the mind so we can discern the will of God—Romans 12:1-2. We each certainly "miss" days, but we must avoid the habit of missing days. Just as six weeks really rendered my shoulder

functionless, it would not take long to do the same to our spiritual muscle.

Today you might not need physical therapy, but I am certain we all need spiritual therapy.

Avoid atrophy—stop and pray, read the Bible and worship the Lord—for there you will find true strength that will lead to steadfastness of faith.

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

Crossings Ministries



David Melber

President for a day

Student of faculty member tells his story, dreams to classmates

Our National Junior Honor Society recently did a fundraiser for the Heart & Soul Life Center in Manchester. Students were given the opportunity to become school administrators for a day.

The young man who earned the "President for a Day" title is a faculty student who has been at Oneida for his entire life. For one of his duties, I had him write a column for me. The following is his article:

"When I was first asked by the president of the school, Mr. Gritton, to write a Western Recorder article for him, I was shocked. I thought, I can't possibly write a Western Recorder article. What in the world can I write about?"

"Then I asked a few questions of Mr. Gritton, and he told me I could write about my story here at OBI. So what follows ought to be a neat summary of all the 17 years of my life here at OBI.

"My parents came to work here at OBI in the summer of 1995. My dad was newly hired on as the band director, and my mom first worked in the tutoring lab. My older sister was born that December, and then one and a half years later, I was born.

"My dad was asked to be choir director during those first couple of years, and my mom moved over to the print shop and later also became the drama director.

"In 2003, I moved into the elementary school. Six years later, I

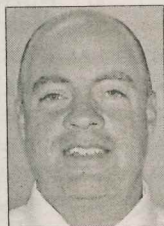
moved to the middle school. From 1998 to 2009, I moved along through preschool and into middle school's first year with my four closest friends. Their parents served and worked at the school as teachers and staff members alongside mine.

"I made good grades from the beginning of school all the way to about the fourth or fifth grade, when I had a little trouble with spelling. Beyond that, I have always maintained an above average GPA. In the fall of 2012, I entered high school; and in the past three years, I have improved a lot in my physical, mental, social, and spiritual life.

"Moving forward, I hope to go to the Governor's Scholars Program this upcoming summer of 2015; and if I make it, I hope to gain a scholarship to go to Eastern Kentucky University.

"In writing this article, I look back on what and who I've been and realize that I still have plenty of room for improvement in my life before I leave OBI after next year. Oneida Baptist Institute is an incredibly unique place to grow, learn, and find out that there is one and only one God who loves you and never will forsake you."

This is
Oneida



Larry Gritton

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

SBC Presidents

Continued from page 1

invited to Washington D.C. to hear Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu speak at the American Israel Public Affairs Committee conference March 2. "... The government has been ordained by God to use its might, be it military might, police power, whatever it is to defend the citizens and to uphold justice and punish evil."

James Draper Jr., a former SBC president, said decent nations all over the world should be outraged at ISIS' barbaric actions that are a threat to everyone.

"I don't think America can avoid taking leadership in it," he said. "It's who we are, and it's an opportunity for us to take the lead in something that should be widely embraced by other nations."

Former SBC President Bobby Welch noted, "While we do pray for an attempt to win the world to Christ, it is also our God-given responsibility to speak out and take actions in opposition to the barbaric assaults of ISIS and all its ungodly like-minded counterparts."

During a Feb. 16 report at the semi-annual SBC Executive Committee meeting

in Nashville, Floyd told Southern Baptist leaders they "must speak for those who are unable to speak up for themselves."

Southern Baptists "need to stand for the children, the women and the men who are being brutalized and abused and murdered globally, all in the name of religion," Floyd said during his EC report. "We need to champion, as Southern Baptists, religious liberty globally."

He noted Southern Baptists also must never compromise their No. 1 goal to "penetrate and push back the lostness in this world." Floyd urged EC members to call on their churches "to join in this valiant effort of deep prayer for men and women and children who are being abused and murdered in all kinds of ways."

In the letter, Floyd told Obama that Southern Baptists are praying for him.

"Mr. President, just as Esther led forward for the deliverance of the Jews in her day, we believe you also 'have come to the kingdom for such a time as this,'" he wrote. "You have been given an historical moment to lead in protecting the people and the principle of religious freedom in the world. We are praying for you to have wisdom and courage in this hour."

Other past SBC presidents who signed the letter include Bailey Smith, Charles Stanley, Jerry Vines, Morris Chapman, Edwin Young Sr., James Henry, Tom Elliff, Paige Patterson, James Merritt, Jack Graham, Johnny Hunt and Fred Luter. (BP)

Download Our Free Church Bus Buyers Guide.



Would you or someone you know be concerned about beginning a mission to Jewish people in Louisville?

Call: Jim Hendricks (540) 525-4116

Born for Missions

Student experiences missions at early age, stirs heart

First year student Joshua Kerr, from Kingsport, Tenn., knew from an early age that missions experience was going to be a big part of his life.

"I grew up in church," said Kerr. "From a very early age I was taught the Bible and taught about Jesus. I began to ask questions about Jesus when I was 7 years old.

"That summer during Vacation Bible School in a little back room I prayed for forgiveness, repented of my sins, placed my faith in Jesus, and asked Him into my heart.

"When I was 8 years old, I went on my first mission trip to Nicaragua," continued Kerr. "The calling on my life began here and started as a whisper that grew into something deep within my heart. Throughout the next years, I would go to Nicaragua seven times.

"On the seventh time, I interned with Crosspoint International Ministries and was in Nicaragua for six weeks. During my internship, I was asked to preach for the first time. I got to preach several times in Nicaragua and also lead Bible studies.

"Throughout all the trips to Nicaragua, I got to see the Holy Spirit

move in power and hundreds of lives changed because of the work of several teams evangelizing and discipling the churches.

"I graduated high school and was going to college, but I made a mistake," said Kerr. "I tried to do God's calling but also have a personal backup plan. I tried to major in ministry and in something else.

"I tried biology and business management, but I had no passion for them and I didn't do very well in school. I took a semester off and finished a general education associate's degree.

"I knew that my calling was to trust God and not to have a backup plan," said Kerr. "When I trusted Him and gave up my own plans, the door opened for me to come to Clear Creek.

"I feel the Lord leading me into ministry within the church. I have a heart for my country. America is lost and needs Jesus. I love international missions and still plan on short-term work, but we have work left to do in the states."

To be continued ...

Clear Creek
Chronicle



Donnie Fox

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

Register for Boyce College Preview Day

Called to ministry? Join us for Boyce Preview Day on April 17 to see how Boyce College can help you build a firm theological foundation and equip you with tools for the workplace. We not only carry degrees to equip students for vocational ministry but are excited to offer bachelor's degrees in business administration and teacher education as well.

PREVIEW DAY
Friday, April 17
8 a.m. - 10 p.m.

Meet faculty, tour campus, hang out with current students, and visit with R. Albert Mohler Jr. in his home.

Register at boycecollege.com/preview.

#BoycePreview



BOYCE
THE COLLEGE OF SOUTHERN

Floyd on CNN: 'We can't be silent amid ISIS'

By Diana Chandler

Springdale, Ark.—Southern Baptist leaders are imploring President Obama to act against ISIS not only for global security, but to enable themselves to give a proper account before the Lord on Judgment Day, Southern Baptist President Ronnie Floyd said March 4 on CNN.

"We need to understand that each one of us, we believe, as Christians and followers of Christ who believe in God's Word, will one day stand in front of God Himself. And we will give an account of ourselves before God," Floyd said on the Carol Costello show. "And I along with these other (SBC) presidents do not want to say that we were silent, but we had simply the heartbeat and the goal to say, 'Mr. President, we're behind you. Let's go and do whatever is necessary to bring an end to this crisis globally.'"

Floyd spoke on the show after he and 16 former SBC presidents signed a March 1 letter "humbly" urging President Obama

"to take the necessary actions now in this urgent hour" to end the human atrocities the terrorists have committed, including brutal murders people of all ages.

Southern Baptist leaders are not telling Obama how to fight the terrorists, Floyd said, but are respectfully urging Obama to act within his power to get the job done, whether by diplomacy, economic sanctions or war.

"Our decision is not the how. That's the role of the president and the leaders of our country. He can use diplomacy; he can use economic sanctions; and if need be, he can use war," Floyd said on the broadcast.

"The president is empowered by the people and empowered by the powers that be in this nation to bring action. And we need to do everything we can to always preserve nationally and globally, for every person in the world, to have the freedom to believe..."

"We are simply humbly requesting of the President of the United States to take strong, clear, firm leadership in

relationship to doing everything he can do in today's world to put an end to the crisis of ISIS."

ISIS, thought to have grown out of al-Qaeda in Iraq, has worked since April 2013 to establish an Islamic emirate in Syria and Iraq. They claim to have fighters from around the world and have worked to recruit fighters and teen girls from the U.S., according to news reports.

"ISIS is still growing, obviously there are people joining the movement, according to news accounts, and obviously people are still being brutalized and murdered across the world, which we believe that due to the tragedy of this, that these human atrocities must come to an end," Floyd said, "and whatever role the president would so choose to do that, it is our heart and our goal is to support him and say, 'Mr. President, we're behind you. Take the needed action to do what needs to be done to bring an end to this global crisis.'"

ISIS recently beheaded 21 Egyptians,

killed an American aid worker, and burned alive a Jordanian pilot. ISIS captured more than 200 Assyrian Christians in a Feb. 23 attack on villages in northern Syria, CNN reported. Women, children and the elderly were among those taken captive, according to the report. About 20 hostages have been released, according to media reports, but the rest remain captive.

"The purpose of the government is to award those who do good in living right and good. And the purpose of government as well—according to Scripture—would be to punish those who are doing evil," Floyd said. "... The United Nations believes that every person in the world has the freedom to believe and that in and of itself is a human right, and that human right is being violated right now, not simply behind the scenes, but it's being violated for all of the world to see."

Floyd appeared on CNN from his office at Cross Church in northwest Arkansas, where he is pastor. (BP)

Survey: 81% of Americans favor religious freedom on marriage views

Nashville—Contrary to the "inevitability" narrative most Americans have accepted of same-sex marriage, a new survey released Feb. 24 finds broad support for traditional marriage and protection of those who hold such views.

The survey, commissioned by Family Research Council in partnership with National Religious Broadcasters, found that 81 percent of Americans agree that government should "leave people free to follow their beliefs about marriage as they live their daily lives at work and in the way they run their businesses."

Additionally, 61 percent support the right of states and citizens to uphold traditional marriage, affirming the statement:

"Supreme Court should not force all 50 states to redefine marriage." The survey also found 53 percent of Americans

agree marriage should be defined only as the union of one man and one woman.

The survey of 800 registered voters conducted by WPA Opinion Research was released at a news conference in conjunction with the NRB International Christian Media Convention in Nashville.

With the Supreme Court poised to rule this year on the constitutionality of same-sex marriage, FRC President Tony Perkins said the court "will be at a point of overreach if they impose a one-size-fits-all definition of marriage on the nation by redefining it."

Major policy decisions should not be made without broad social consensus, Perkins said, noting the continuing cultural debate about abortion more than 40 years after Roe v. Wade.

"It's clear, based on (this) polling, that Americans have not reached a broad social consensus that marriage should be redefined," Perkins said.

Calling the findings "incredible," NRB President Jerry Johnson said it is a "slam dunk" that more than 80 percent of Americans agree that citizens should be free to practice their faith—including in their businesses. Even 80 percent of those who never attend church agree, he noted.

"Government has no right establishing speech codes or business codes on marriage and 81 percent of Americans agree entirely," Johnson said.

Johnson noted that NRB is an organization concerned with First Amendment rights of religion, speech and press.

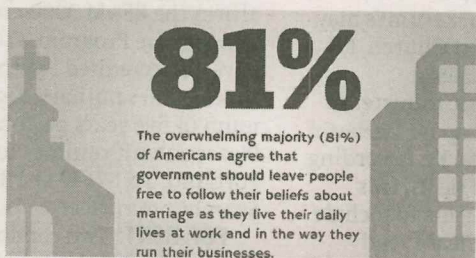
Joining Perkins and Johnson at the news conference were the former owners of an Oregon bakery and a broadcaster who have been discriminated against for their support of traditional marriage.

Aaron and Melissa Klein, former owners of Sweet Cakes by Melissa in Gresham, Ore., could face \$150,000 in fines because they declined to bake a same-sex wedding cake. In the wake of controversy, they closed their business.

Aaron Klein, who now drives a garbage truck, underscored "an obligation to the next generation to stand up for our constitutional freedoms, not given by man, but given by God," whatever the cost resulting from such a stand.

Craig James, a former Fox Sports football analyst, was fired by the network in 2013—24 hours after being hired—when the network learned he supported traditional marriage as a 2012 U.S. Senate candidate in Texas.

"We have to be as bold and tenacious as those who are trying to trample" religious freedom, James said. "If we don't, we will lose it." (BP)



Carson-Newman honors Baldridges for lifetime of service to Appalachia

Jefferson City, Tenn.—

Carson-Newman University's Appalachian Cultural Center has announced that Lawrence and Martha Baldridge, of Pippa Passes, Ky., are the recipients of the 26th Annual Outstanding Educational Service to Appalachia Award.

Sponsored by the University's Appalachian Cultural Center, the honor will be presented to the couple March 17 during a 7:30 p.m. event in the Appalachian Cultural Center on campus.

"Rev. and Mrs. Baldridge's lifetime of service to the people of Pippa Passes and to Appalachia is inspiring," said Jennifer Hall, director of the University's Appalachian Cultural Center.

"Whether serving in the capacity of minister, teacher, poet, nutritionist, or environmental steward, the Baldridges teach us to celebrate Appalachia's strength, wisdom, sense of community and true beauty. The Appalachian Cultural Center is honored to recognize their servant leadership and their love for the people and land of Appalachia."

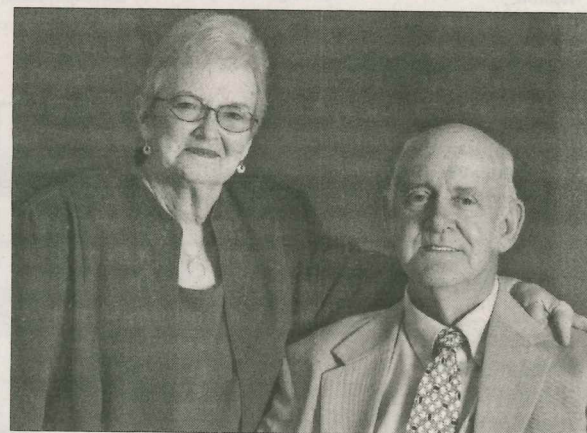
The Baldridges were appointed Southern Baptist home missionaries to Pippa Passes in 1974.

Under their leadership, they brought a Headstart Program to Pippa Passes on two different occasions, and they also started a Senior Citizens Nutrition Program in the basement of Caney Baptist Church, where Lawrence has served as pastor since 1964.

Martha served as primary cook/dietician for the program, which served the needs of the elderly for 15 years.

The couple has been involved with the North American Mission Board for more than 30 years, and this mission work has also taken them to Brazil, Mexico and Romania.

A native of Garrett, Ky., Lawrence has been a servant-leader in his community,



Lawrence and Martha Baldridge, of Pippa Passes, Ky., are the recipients of the 26th Annual Outstanding Educational Service to Appalachia Award.

Lawrence helped establish a community Kiwanis Club, Head Start Program, Senior Citizens Program and the first Baptist Student Union at Alice Lloyd College.

Warning about the dangers of strip mining and mountain top removal, he was also an early advocate for environmental preservation and stewardship of the Appalachian landscape, hills and mountains.

A respected educator and poet, Lawrence also coordinates summer activities for Baptist and Leader Trek groups who donate their time to construct and repair area housing and church facilities and to provide summer programs for youth.

Martha Baldridge was born in Jaguaquara, Brazil, a daughter of Southern Baptist missionaries.

Along with a lifetime of service work with her husband, she is the primary pianist for Caney Baptist Church, where she also teaches Sunday school and gives piano lessons.

She has served as a 4H leader, teaching such skills as cooking and sewing, and as a substitute teacher.

Most recently, she retired from her position as head dietician at a local nursing home. (CNU)

MOUNTAINS TO THE MISSISSIPPI

COMPILED BY STAFF

CADIZ – The 2015 Associational Youth Bible Drill will be held Sunday, March 22, at New Hope Church.

New Jerusalem Church will have revival services April 5-8 with **Jerry Burgess** as evangelist.

IRVINE – Beech Grove Church has called Jason Brooks as pastor.

LOUISVILLE – Walnut Street Church will host the 40th anniversary celebration of Friendship International ministry, March 11.

MAYFIELD – Sharon Church has called **Mike Baker** as pastor.



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

March

13-14 International Team Leader Training, Kentucky Baptist Building, Louisville.

17 Men's & Women's Chorales Combined Concert, First Baptist Church, Walton.

20-21 Engage KY Vision Tour, Northern Kentucky.

21 RAMCON 2015, Temple Baptist Church, Central City.

23-24 Church Revitalization Summit, Kentucky Baptist Building, Louisville.

SEEKING: Clarkson Baptist Church in Clarkson, Ky., is searching for a part-time youth pastor with additional opportunities to work with AWANA children's ministry. Send resumé to: flfeezorj@hotmail.com. For more information call (270) 242-4567 or go to: www.clarksonbaptist.org

SEEKING: Calvary Baptist Church in Danville, Ky., is seeking a part-time minister of music to lead our congregation in blended worship. Send resumé to ashley@calvaryindanville.com.

SEEKING: First Baptist Church of Farmington is seeking a full-time associate pastor with an emphasis in worship. Please email inquiries or resumé to sbcglobal.net, Attn.: Personnel Committee, or mail to Personnel Committee, 210 North A. Street, Farmington, MO 63640.

SEEKING: Trenton Baptist Church, Trenton, Ky., seeks a part-time minister to students, grades 5 - 12. Trenton is located in the Hopkinsville-Clarksville, Tenn., area. For further information or to submit a resumé, email trentonbaptist@bellsouth.net or phone (270) 466-5429.

SEEKING: High Street Baptist Church of Somerset, Ky., is seeking a FT minister of music/education and assimilation. Job description available on the website homepage www.highstreetsomerset.org. Resumés may be submitted to resumes@highstreetsomerset.org through Feb. 28.

SEEKING: Plano Baptist Church, an established, family-oriented church in a

To place an advertisement in the Western Recorder:

Rates available upon request

Call (502) 489-3428 or visit westernrecorder.org



growing community seeking our new leader. May be bivocational. Must be theologically conservative and willing to participate in community outreach. Able to partner with deacons, trustees, and other church leaders and represent the church in associational and civic matters. Parsonage, favorable compensation and benefit package included. Send resumé to planosearchcommittee@gmail.com or mail to P.O. Box 51712 Bowling Green, KY 42102. No resumé accepted after March 31.

SEEKING: Seeking a pastor of children and families. Should have a seminary degree, a minimum of 5-7 yrs. experience working with children and successfully leading children's ministries, must have a vision and passion for children, helping to equip and mobilize families in ministry. Send resumé to Children's Pastor Search Committee, Zion Baptist Church, 8158 Hwy. 351, Henderson, KY 42420 or email Mark Galloway, Pastor, at mgalloway@zionbaptist.org. Website: zionbaptist.org.

SEEKING: Adairville Baptist Church in Adairville, Ky., accepting resumé for full-time pastor upon the retirement of our pastor due to health concerns. Prayerfully seeking a shepherd for our 100-year-old church moving toward blended worship. Experience and seminary degree preferred, but not required. Please send resumé to ABC Pastor Search, PO Box 36, Adairville, KY 42202 or email to abc@logantele.com.

SEEKING: Northside Baptist Church in Science Hill, Ky., is searching for a full-time pastor. We average around 120-150 in worship service and 80-85 in Sunday School. We have varying numbers in our youth and children's groups ... maybe around 20-25 total. We are part of the Pulaski Baptist Association. Resumé may be sent to: Northside Baptist Church, PO Box 129, Science Hill, KY 42553.

SEEKING: Part-time music minister to lead traditional style worship for DeHaven Baptist Church in LaGrange, Ky. According to the applicant's gifts and skills, this position could also be full-time to include duties of associate pastor. Please send resumé via email to: dbcsearchteam@gmail.com or mail to DeHaven Baptist Church, ATTN: Search Team, P.O. Box 349, La Grange KY 40031.

SEEKING: Bethlehem Baptist Church located in Louisville, Ky., is seeking a part-time minister of music/worship pastor. The successful candidate will lead a blended style of music worship, working with the sanctuary adult choir, praise team and instrumentalists. If interested submit a resumé to Vic Peek at vicpeek@gmail.com or contact him at (502) 777-1751 if you have questions.

SEEKING: Beacon Hill Baptist Church of Somerset, Ky., is seeking an associate pastor of youth and discipleship. M.Div. minimally required. Full description and compensation information is available at www.beaconhillbaptist.com. Resumé accepted via pastor@beaconhillbaptist.com.

SEEKING: Highland Ave. Baptist Tabernacle Church in Fort Thomas, Ky., is prayerfully accepting resumé for the position of full-time pastor to lead a congregation with average worship attendance

of 100. Experience and seminary degree preferred, but not required. Please send resumé and CD/DVD/Internet Link for sermons to: Highland Ave Baptist Tabernacle Attn: Pastor Search Committee, 1080 Highland Ave, Ft. Thomas, KY 41075 or email to pastorsearchhabtc@fuse.net.

SEEKING: Executive Director Baptist Fellowship Center/Superintendent of Missions Central District Baptist Association. Direct BFC an urban ministry center. Supervise personnel, programs and finances. Serve as Missions Superintendent for CDBA, promoting mission objectives of association. Masters degree preferred. Must be ordained. Deadline March 1; Search Committee, 1351 Catalpa St. Louisville, KY 40211 or email m.zielberg@twc.com.

SEEKING: Senior pastor full-time (Salary: Negotiable based on education and experience.) Location: Jacksonville, Ill. Lincoln Avenue Baptist Church in Jacksonville, Ill., is seeking a full-time senior pastor who exhibits strong leadership, preaching and Bible teaching skills. Requirements: Seminary training with a preferred masters of divinity. Preferred experience of at least five years as a senior pastor in a Southern Baptist Church. For more information about our church, please visit our website at labcjacksonville.org/pastorsearch. Accepting resumé until April 1.

SEEKING: First Baptist Church of Barlow, Ky., is seeking a full-time youth pastor. Job description is available on our church website, www.fbcbarrow.com. Please send resumé to youthpastorsearch@fbcbarrow.com.

SEEKING: Is God calling you to rural Missouri? First Baptist Church of Gainesville is seeking a full-time pastor. Send resumé and internet link /cd/dvd to bjnn.kiger@gmail.com or to P.O. Box 627 Gainesville, Mo., in care of Pastor Search Committee.

SEEKING: The pastoral search committee, representing the membership of First Baptist Church of Portland, Tenn., is prayerfully seeking a pastor called by God to serve as the spiritual leader of the local body of Christ. FBC has been gathering together since 1890 and currently has an average worship attendance of 500. We affirm the BF&M 2000 and support the Cooperative Program. Candidates must have an accredited Southern Baptist theological seminary degree and a minimum of five years pastoral experience. Please submit resumé to P.O. Box 7672, Portland, TN 37148 or FBCPortlandTN-SearchCommittee@comcast.net.

FOR RENT: Two condos for rent in Destin, Fla. 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms. Book now for 2015. lbrammer@charter.net (423) 309-4422.

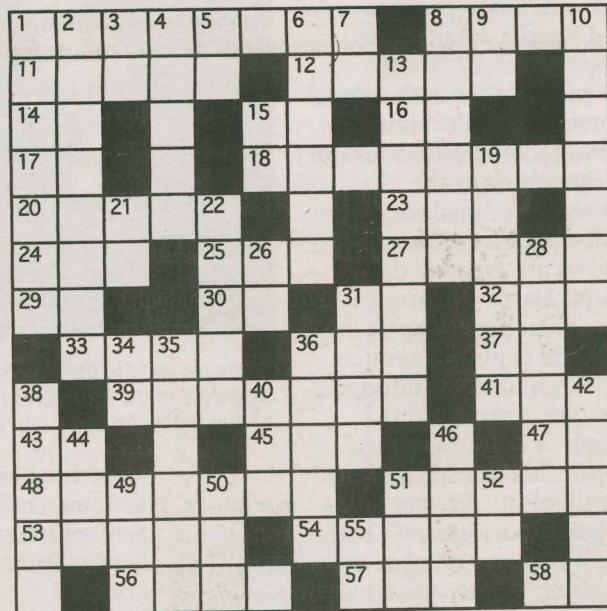
TRAVEL: Make plans now to join Dr. Roy Lucas and Dr. John Ditty on an inspiring, heart-changing tour of the Holy Land. Dr. Lucas is chair of New Testament, and Dr. Ditty is chair of Old Testament at Clear Creek Baptist Bible College in Pineville, Ky. Both professors have dug at Tel Gezer, Israel. Dr. Lucas has hosted 6 tours and been to Israel 8 other times. Dates: June 4-12. For more information call (606) 337-1355 or (606) 337-1340; or email roy.lucas@ccbbc.edu or john.ditty@ccbbc.edu. Space is limited so call or email soon. Presented through Maranatha Tours.

TRAVEL: Join our senior adults for a tour to Branson, Mo. We have motor coach seats available for May 11-15. In addition to several music shows, our group will see the JONAH show at the Sight 'N Sound Theater. For pricing, to make a reservation, or to get a flyer about the tour, please contact David Dale at Broadway Baptist Church in Lexington. Call 859-276-2592.

Bible Crosswords

Across

- 1 Thrives
- 8 Boy's name, var. form
- 11 Played again
- 12 Set in
- 14 Two, Romans number
- 15 God told Moses His name was I _____
- 16 Overdose, abbr.
- 17 Milligram, abbr.
- 18 "Destroy ... the _____" (Deuteronomy 20:17)
- 20 Carrot family herb
- 23 Public transportation
- 24 Number of lepers that Christ healed
- 25 Charged particle
- 27 Christ is the Alpha and _____
- 29 And, Lat.
- 30 By the grace of God, Lat. abbr.
- 31 Preposition
- 32 Pull
- 33 Long walk
- 36 Tin container
- 37 Mr., Sp. abbr.
- 39 "The Lord will not _____ his people" (1 Samuel 12:22)
- 41 The self, according to Freud
- 43 "_____, every one that thirsteth" (Isaiah 55:1)
- 45 Sixteenth letter of Greek alphabet (plural)
- 47 Preposition
- 48 Aaron's son (Exodus 6:25)
- 51 Childrens Bible club
- 53 Potato state



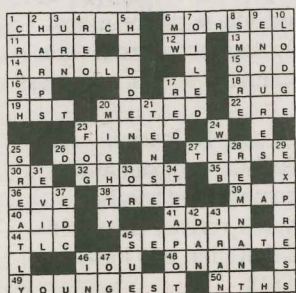
#031

- 54 "_____ my steps in thy word" (Psalms 119:133)
- 56 Russian ruler
- 57 "Take up thy _____, and go" (Matthew 9:6)
- 58 Church education, abbr.

Down

- 1 Monkey, for example
- 2 "Thy God _____!" (Isaiah 52:7)
- 3 Either
- 4 Bags
- 5 IOU, in other words, abbr.
- 6 City in Zebulun (1 Chronicles 6:77)
- 7 Tin, chemical symbol
- 8 Middle
- 9 Preposition
- 10 Feline's foot (2 words)
- 13 Paris university
- 15 Support organization for addicts, abbr.
- 19 African fly that spreads disease
- 21 Not out
- 22 Sea duck with soft feathers
- 26 King of Bashan (1 Kings 4:19)
- 28 Mythological snake-haired woman
- 31 "Howl, O ye _____ of Bashan" (Zechariah 11:2)
- 34 "_____ it be thou, bid me come" (Matthew 14:28)
- 35 Belonging to the leader of a rebellion against Moses (Numbers 16)
- 36 Egyptian city
- 38 Arab chief
- 40 Fashionable resort
- 42 Belonging to one of the sons of Judah (Numbers 26:19)
- 44 "The dragon, that _____ serpent" (Revelation 20:2)
- 46 Filled with wonder
- 49 "Let us _____, and be merry" (Luke 15:23)
- 50 Animals, scientific suffix
- 51 Lemon beverage
- 52 Clinton's state, abbr.
- 55 Rubidium, chem. symbol

#030



Church plant, NAMB farm system prepare future leaders

By Tobin Perry

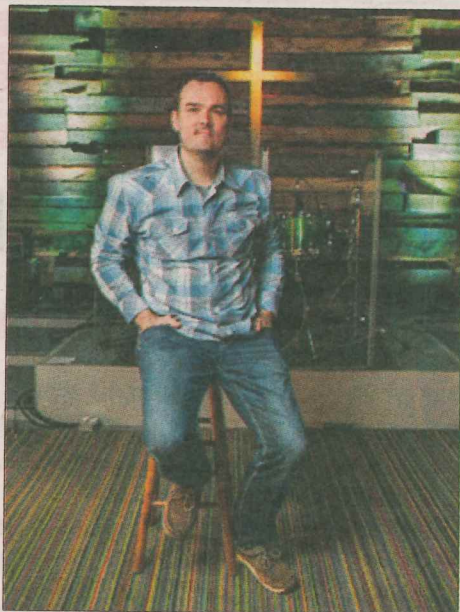
Cincinnati—Eric Tuffendsam had a problem. Though he believed God had called him to be a pastor, he knew he wasn't ready. With a growing family, a new business and tight resources, the Cincinnati resident didn't know where he'd find the additional hands-on training he needed.

But over the past six months, with the help of a 5-year-old church plant in Cincinnati and support of the North American Mission Board, Tuffendsam has found practical pastoral training without moving his family or closing his business.

"Ministry isn't all flowers and birds chirping," said Tuffendsam, who is a NAMB church planting intern. "The way people see a life of ministry from the outside—even those who have gone to seminary—is very romanticized. I had never seen how real the job of ministry is until this residency, and I've been doing ministry for years within the local church.

Christ the King, a multi-campus Southern Baptist church plant that started in downtown Cincinnati, is in the middle of its second year of a residency program at the church. The North American Mission Board provides funding for three of the eight residents in the program. One of them is a lead planter and the other two are church planting interns. Most of the current crop of residents came from within the church.

Through its Missionary Development



Michael Clary planted Christ the King Church in Cincinnati, five years ago. Christ the King now has more than 400 people in attendance most weekends.

Farm System, NAMB funds four levels of church planting engagement—student missionaries, interns, apprentices and church planters. The farm system is expected to prepare future generations of church planters and help the missions agency reach its goal of partnering with local churches to start 15,000 Southern Baptist churches before 2022.

Michael Clary, Christ the King's pastor, describes the church's residency program

as a mix between the theological and the practical.

Residents spend the first half of their year focused mostly on studying Scripture and books on theological and ministry development. Residents discuss what they are learning with one another in a group setting and with one of the church's pastors. Each resident is assigned a pastor as a mentor.

The second half of the residency is devoted to providing opportunities for ministry development. Residents participate in ministry leadership at the church and receive input from their coach and the other interns along the way.

"If it were not for the NAMB internships, this would be much more difficult to get off the ground," Clary said. "It has been a huge blessing."

Tuffendsam says the residency has impacted on his future ministry capacity.

"It's like looking into a huge mirror of God's glory and His church that He has established and seeing this is exactly what I need to be prepared and until I get that I'm not ready," Tuffendsam said. "Then they give you what you need to get there."

As Tuffendsam transitioned into the ministry development portion of the residency, he was given the responsibility of coordinating the church assimilation process—including everything from designing the process to leading volunteers in the effort.

Along the way, his pastoral mentor and his residency peers get opportunities to

speak into what he's doing. As an intern he has also helped to lead a person to faith in Christ and has also been discipling a couple of college students.

Clary has spent the past year developing a discipleship plan that mirrors the residency program but seeks to disciple the church's lay people. The church began the program, called Element, last fall.

Just like the residency program, the discipleship plan included required readings and ministry development. The five-month plan (which will likely be stretched to eight months next time) centered on five core identities of a disciple—worshiper, family, learner, servant and missionary.

"The Great Commission says it's our job to make disciples," Clary said. "But I felt like we needed to define what it means to be a disciple. What does it mean for a new Christian to become a fully functioning disciple? That's where the core identities language comes from. A disciple will worship Jesus from the heart, they'll learn what it means to be a part of a church family, they will learn about the Bible and basic theology, they will learn to serve in the community and they will learn to share their faith with others."

Clary and Christ the King have played an active role in NAMB's Send North America efforts in Cincinnati. Send North America is NAMB's effort to help local Southern Baptist churches plant new churches in 32 of the largest and most influential cities in North America. (BP)

GenSender intersects with world in New York City

By Jim Burton

Brooklyn, N.Y.—Austin Coleman has spent each of the last two summers in New York City looking for intersections.

If ever there was a city where finding an intersection would be inevitable, America's largest city would be that place with its blur of 24-hour activity, endless maze of intersections populated by yellow taxicabs, limousines, delivery trucks and personal vehicles. But through a special internship opportunity, Coleman has navigated the city he loves in hopes of intersecting with people to tell them about Jesus. And he has a desire eventually to return there to live and plant churches.

Coleman's father is a pastor and a church planter, and the family made frequent moves during his childhood. For most of his formative years, his father served First Baptist Church in Trenton, Tenn., in the western part of the state. While there are far fewer intersections there, it served as a launching pad nonetheless for engagement in New York.

When he was in the eighth grade, his family volunteered to help with a Billy Graham crusade. His home church started a series of block parties and food and clothing drives, called "To Trenton With Love," meant to give back to the community. When Hurricane Katrina struck the Gulf Coast in 2005, Coleman volunteered through the North American Mission Board's Project NOAH Rebuild initiative that worked to restore 1,000 homes. More recently while studying at Liberty University in Lynchburg, Va., he spent two summers as an intern with a ministry that sponsors youth camps in

Georgia, Texas and Costa Rica.

GenSend Brooklyn

Then came Generation Send (GenSend), NAMB's collegiate summer missions initiative tied to the Send North America church planting effort. See related story. There was no mass crusade, construction or camp management. Instead, the assignment this past summer for Coleman as a mobilizer, and the 10 fellow students he recruited, was to walk the streets of District 2 in Brooklyn, a New York City borough, and connect (or intersect) with every person possible.

"With GenSend there's not going to be a lot of structure," Coleman said. "We're going to show you what it really is for you to drop into a city and plant the gospel to see a church come from that, and to see how difficult that can be."

GenSend is part of the NAMB Farm System, aimed at assisting churches in discovering, developing and deploying the next generations of missionaries. "We are pushing forward the Great Commission," Coleman said. "It fit better with my personality. I wanted to pioneer something."

There are no church plants in District 2 of Brooklyn, Coleman says.



Austin Coleman, youth pastor at Second Baptist Church in Clinton, Tenn., is a 2015 Week of Prayer missionary for The North American Mission Board's Send North America effort. (Photo by Gibbs Frazee/NAMB)

"It's like a dot on the map where they want to plant a church," Coleman said of a NAMB map with dots covering the major metropolitan areas, indicating communities needing new churches. Through "gospel conversations," Coleman and his team were able to gain a greater understanding of the people inhabiting District 2. This will help inform future church planters.

Coleman discovered people were more willing to talk than he imagined. As with most inner cities, Coleman has not found hostility toward the gospel as much as ambivalence or self-determined spirituality.

There is a young man from Belize, who regularly joined the team for cookouts. While walking back to Long Island University where the team stayed, Coleman asked about his story.

He had been raised in a Christian home

and had a grandmother who was particularly committed to her faith. But his mother and grandmother died, and he walked away from the faith. Coleman said he steered the conversation back to Jesus. "We can have spiritual beliefs," he said. "But if they aren't pointed back to a true hope, they mean nothing."

Having a "gospel conversation" with people is an art, Coleman said.

"If you are listening well and being intentional, people bring up things that parallel who Jesus is and what the gospel means," he said. "It looks different every single time. I've never had a gospel conversation in New York that looked the same as the next."

Hoping to return

Now with a master's degree in church planting and evangelism from Liberty University, Coleman foresees returning to New York City someday to start a church.

Coleman and his fiancé, Sara Wallman, were married in October. She was among his first recruits for the Brooklyn GenSend team. He accepted a position as youth pastor with Second Baptist Church near Knoxville, Tenn. That church is interested in possibly starting a church in an urban area. After spending several years in Clinton, the Colemans hope God will take them back to New York.

"One of my greatest prayers for this summer is that God would make both of us fall in love with New York," Coleman said. "If God called us back to New York to be part of a church plant, then we'd both have that urge and that urgency."

"I do believe God is changing the world from New York." (NAMB)

UNIVERSITY of the CUMBERLANDS

UNIVERSITY OF THE CUMBERLANDS AND FORCHT GROUP OF KENTUCKY
CENTER FOR EXCELLENCE IN LEADERSHIP PRESENT

FRED THOMPSON

"Inspirational Leadership"

Fred Thompson is one of the most respected and visible figures speaking out on challenges facing America today. He was elected to the United States Senate in 1994 from Tennessee where he served until 2003.

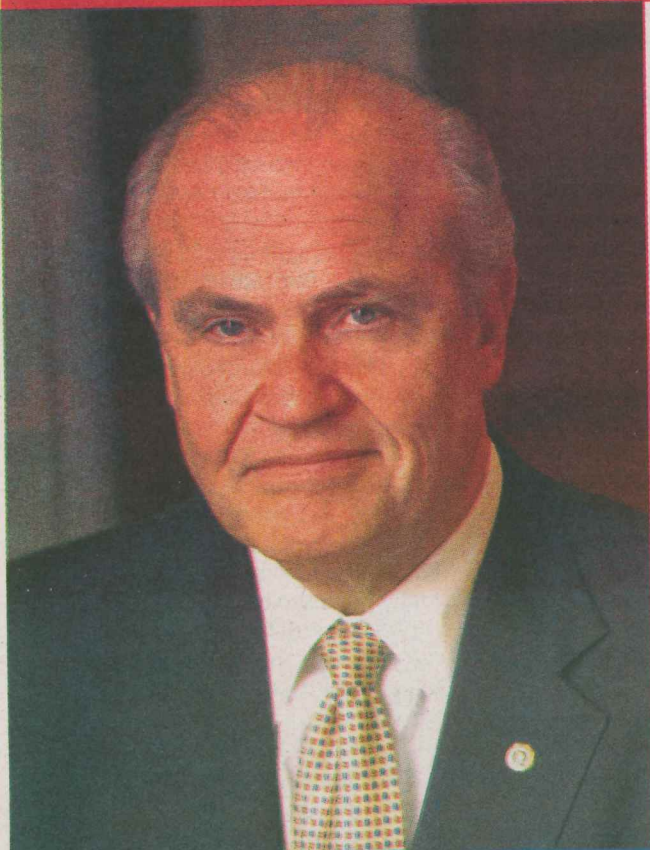
Prior to his election, he maintained law offices in both Nashville and Washington. Among other legal accomplishments, he served as Minority Counsel to the Senate Watergate Committee where he gained national attention.

In addition to his political activities he has starred in many movies and television series. Perhaps his most well-known role was on the NBC drama, *Law and Order*.

Tuesday, April 7, 2015 at 7:00 PM

O. Wayne Rollins Center • Williamsburg, Kentucky

Reserve your ticket(s) by calling the University of the Cumberland's ticket line at (606) 539-4432 or visit www.ucumberlands.edu/tickets



Earn a living, by making a difference.

Master of Arts in Professional Counseling

If you've been looking for a way to cultivate a career by serving others, University of the Cumberland has your solution! UC now offers a counseling degree online that can help you become a licensed professional counselor. The online Master of Arts in Professional Counseling program is both flexible and affordable, allowing you to fit a rewarding education into your busy schedule.

The MAPC program also offers two track options – Clinical Mental Health Counseling and Addiction Counseling. Customize your curriculum based on your desired area of specialization.

University of the Cumberland reviews and accepts applications for the MAPC program year-round. APPLY TODAY!

gradweb.ucumberlands.edu/counseling



UNIVERSITY of the
CUMBERLANDS

Williamsburg, KY

www.ucumberlands.edu

1-800-343-1609