

WESTERN Recorder

April 21, 2015

Shine Like Stars * Philippians 2:15

Volume 189, Issue 8

New Kentucky missionaries 'chose to be obedient'



11 new missionaries commissioned at state WMU meeting

By Robin Cornet

Lawrenceburg—Joyce Flaughter felt God pulling her toward missions most of her married life, and she said that call only grew stronger after her husband died.

"I first said, 'No,' but God had other plans for me," Flaughter said, as stage lights bounced off her white hair at the Kentucky Woman's Missionary Union's annual meeting.

Flaughter and 10 others were commissioned by the Kentucky Baptist Convention to serve with a variety of ministries, many that build relationships by meeting needs for clothing and food.

"This group represents a wide range: young people, senior adults, single people and couples," said KBC Missions Mobilization leader Eric Allen, who led the commissioning service. "God calls all of us and I am thankful for these people who have stepped up."

"They chose to be obedient," Allen said, speaking to more than 700 people attending the ceremony at Sand Spring Baptist Church in Lawrenceburg and watching online via KBC's Livestream.

Greg and Alice Whitetree chose to follow God's call 32 years ago to the

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Surrender, sacrifice, serve: WMU urges a missions lifestyle

By Myriah Snyder

Lawrenceburg—"All for You: Surrender, Sacrifice, Serve" was the theme of the Kentucky Woman's Missionary Union annual meeting April 10-11 at Sand Spring Baptist Church in Lawrenceburg.

"This emphasis is causing women to weep and say they made a new commitment to WMU to live a missions lifestyle," Debbie Akerman, national Women's Missionary Union president, said during her reflections on Friday morning.

"This topic, surrender, the hardest topic that they have embraced in many years, is waking them up to missions," she said. "It's causing women to step back into WMU, to step up and do missions—meeting eye-to-eye the one who is lost and hurting, and saying to God, 'All for You.'"

Akerman attended Kentucky WMU's annual meeting her first term as president and now during her last, said Joy Bolton, executive director of



Debbie Akerman

Kentucky WMU.

"WMU has been purpose driven, and WMU has been radical long before there were books with those titles," Akerman asserted, tying the descriptions into WMU's mission statement: "WMU challenges Christian believers to understand and to be radically involved in the mission of God."

She also emphasized the importance of WMU's GA and RA

See Missions Lifestyle ... Page 2

Recent Cuba trip confirms SBC president's call to prayer

By Maria Elena Baseler

Bayamo, Cuba—Southern Baptist Convention President Ronnie Floyd believes the church-planting movement sweeping Cuba could happen in the United States if Southern Baptists and other U.S. believers commit themselves to "extraordinary prayer for the next Great Awakening."

"There has never been any great movement of God ... that was not first preceded by extraordinary prayer of God's people. And we need a mighty spiritual

awakening in our nation," said Floyd, who last year began an ongoing call to Southern Baptists to pray for a spiritual awakening that could have a global impact.

While visiting Cuba for the first time in late March, Floyd saw firsthand the fruits of a spiritual awakening that began in the island nation more than two decades ago. "It's obvious that there has been a mighty move of God here. ... And prayer preceded this movement," Floyd, pastor of Cross Church in Springdale,

See Cuba trip ... Page 9



During a missions congress of the Eastern Cuba Baptist Convention, a Cuban Baptist participant met SBC President Ronnie Floyd. Floyd said he wanted to see the spiritual awakening sweeping Cuba. (Photo by Chris Carter/IMB)

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Western Recorder 4-21-2015

Walnut St. Baptist kicks off 200th anniversary

By Myriah Snyder

Louisville—On Saturday, April 11, more than 500 people joined Walnut Street Baptist Church in Louisville for live music, hot dogs, inflatables and a host of block party activities to kickoff a series of events celebrating its 200th anniversary.

"We wanted to make sure to make a presence within this community and our neighborhood. We believe the Lord has planted us here on 3rd and St. Catherine, and we want to make a difference where He has planted us," Mark Williams, Walnut Street's pastor, said.

"Really, we just wanted to have a big kickoff and invite the neighborhood around us and get some excitement here to see what the Lord is doing," he added.

Live music for the block party was provided by Rascals of Ragtime and Jim Needler, and a magic show was presented by Walnut Street member Gene Sutherland. The afternoon included numerous games, activities and refreshments. Guests were entered in a drawing for door prizes.

Louisville Councilman David James donated to have the Rascals of Ragtime perform.

"Old Louisville has many unique landmarks and it is an honor to help the Walnut Street Baptist Church gather with the community to celebrate its founding as one of our city's most important faith based organizations," James said in a LouisvilleCity.gov press release.

Betty Kitchen, 60-year member of Walnut Street, was part of the planning committee for the event. "It's an outreach to the community to let them know we love them and are celebrating, and we want them to be a part of that," she said.

Although the church has events like this every year for Vacation Bible School, they "had a few more things out for this particular one since it's the 200th anniversary," member Jeff Ross added.



Bounce houses, slides and other activities were provided for the community April 11 in the first of several events planned to celebrate the 200th anniversary of Walnut Street Baptist Church.

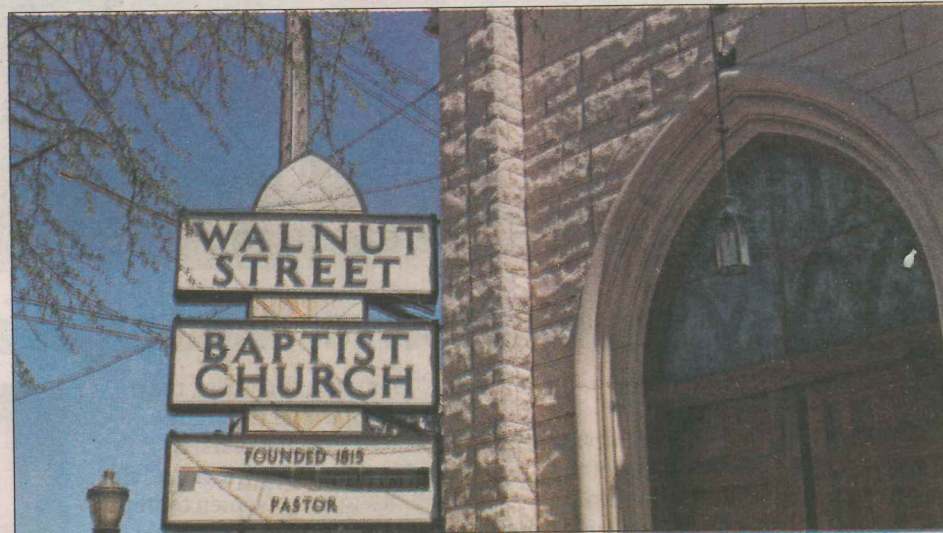
Below, Walnut Street Baptist has stood at its current location on 3rd and St. Catherine in downtown Louisville since the early 1900s.

This was the first of several events that will be held to celebrate the anniversary, including a celebration for the church's "daughter churches," a wedding celebration for anyone who was married at the church through the years, and the "big celebration" in October when Robert Smith will be preaching during a couple of worship opportunities throughout the weekend, Williams said.

Additionally, in the Sunday worship services, skits have been performed depicting historical events in the church's history.

Walnut Street was the result of the first (formed in 1815) and second Baptist churches of Louisville merging in the 1850s. Originally located on 4th and Walnut streets in Louisville, the church now meets on the corner of 3rd and St. Catherine, where it has met since the early 1900s.

"We wanted the community to know



that we're here and we love them, but more importantly God loves them. We want them to know that we can have fun and fellowship with one another and

celebrate what the Lord has done over the past 200 years and what He is going to continue to do in the future," Williams concluded. (WR)

Missions Lifestyle

Continued from page 1

programs and missions education and shared testimonies from students.

"I stand amazed that all God has allowed me in these years as your WMU president, and I hope the sample of my reflections has revealed Christ's light shone out through our WMU family through you," Akerman concluded.

Before she spoke, two missionaries shared their testimonies and experiences.

"We are very thankful to Kentucky Baptists; you laid a great foundation for us. Everything we have is because of you. Everything we can do is because of your giving," said Melva C., a missionary to Asia.

She and her husband's ministry began in Kentucky, and they chose to complete their stateside assignment in state.

Melva thanked Kentucky WMU for giving, going and praying.

"WMU is about prayer, and I thank God that I learned how to pray as a child for people around the world in GAs," she said, echoing the importance of missions education.

"Kid's today want to grow up and be Superman; all I ever wanted to do was grow up and be Lottie Moon," she continued. "I learned later that I was too tall to be Lottie Moon," she joked.



Dixie Major, a member of Mount Carmel Baptist Church in Fulton, shows the salvation doll she made during one of the sessions at the KyWMU annual meeting.

Joe Joe H., missionary to France with her husband and two children, was another Kentucky-bred missionary directly influenced by WMU. She grew up minutes from Jonathan Creek Baptist Camp, and as a result, a love for missions was planted in her heart.

"I get to stand before you today as a missionary because of the part that you lovely ladies had in that," Joe Joe said.

She shared her personal struggles with anxiety, connecting it to the conference's theme of surrender.

"I was inspired by your theme this year. That's pretty

intense," she said.

Joe Joe continued, "I listened to God for guidance. I heard Him say resoundingly, 'I have made you to follow Me. All I ask for is your devotion to where I called you. Remain faithful to the next step, and I will make your path sure.'"

"He shows us that in surrendering and remaining, He can bring healing to our lives, renew our passions and increase our ministry despite the difficulties," she shared.

When she returns to France, she will be leading support groups for women who face similar struggles. "God has shown that He makes beauty from the ashes," she said.

"I want to encourage you to continue to live your lives fully and vulnerably despite the pain, because there's joy and blessings when we follow," Joe Joe added. "When you live in surrender, you will bless and comfort others as well."

The afternoon business session included the executive director report by Joy Bolton and the Kentucky WMU staff in a rhyming alphabetical presentation, recognition of the retiring board members, and the nominating committee report and election of officers and executive board members.

Susan Bryant, of Grafenburg Baptist Church, was reelected president; Cathy Terrell, of First Baptist Church of Barlow, was elected vice president; and Cathy Mattingly, of West Broadway Baptist Church in Louisville, was reelected recording secretary. (WR)

Flooding forces Frankfort church to move Easter service

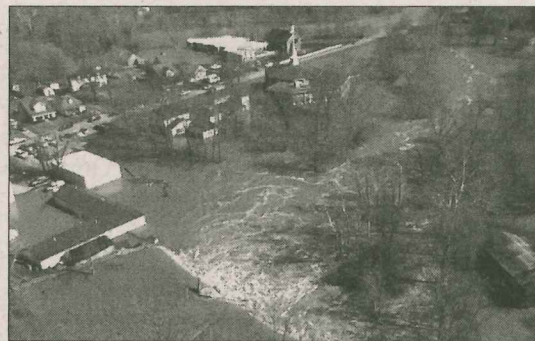
Frankfort—A Kentucky Baptist church scrambled to find a new site for Sunday's Easter service after muddy river water seeped into the foyer.

Hershael York, pastor of Buck Run Baptist Church in Frankfort, kept members updated with developments through social media and the church's website.

Members celebrated Easter in an auditorium at Kentucky State University.

"If media folks show up today, let's make sure they know it's about the resurrection of Jesus, not the flood!" tweeted York.

Water reached the church foyer before it began receding.



Selah offers fresh perspective to music ministers

By Myriah Snyder

Louisville—Music ministers and musicians from Kentucky Baptist churches gathered for a day of refreshment, reflection and instruction on April 9.

The five-hour conference held in the Kentucky Baptist Building featured Stan Lloyd, retired LifeWay Worship consultant and specialist and worship pastor.

"Understanding what our job actually entails is twofold: to bring people face to face with their creator every time we meet together corporately, and to minister to the entire church—especially to those in your ministry," Lloyd said.

"They're getting ideas from each other and a fresh perspective. Maybe they're getting a reminder of things that have been long forgotten," Lloyd said.

A worship pastor must have a divine calling on their life if they are to do what God wants them to do as a worship leader, he said in his presentation.

Lloyd also pointed out that there is a difference in being a worship choir and a performance choir. He asked, "Is the choir



Musicians from Kentucky Baptist churches gathered April 9 for the Selah conference.

ready for the change from being performance-based to leading in worship and the offering of sacrifice to their Creator?"

"This is not so much a musical change as it is a change in the spiritual aspect of the individual member," Lloyd added.

"I will be honest that the idea of there being a choir that leads in worship and a regular choir, that's new to me," Judy Thomas, of Valley View Baptist Church, said. "I like the idea of leading the church closer to God in a worship mindset. Any

way I can help do that, that's what I'm hoping to take back."

Terry Abbott, of Bethlehem Baptist Church, said that he has been trying to take his church's choir in the direction of a worship choir.

Abbott's wife, Bonnie, added, "These people have a passion to sing. For them to realize that God has called them to be worship leaders and not just performers is a process."

Lloyd also focused on using the music ministry to reach people.

Jason Stewart, the KBC's worship/music consultant and host of this event, identified the ultimate value of any such event as "connectivity."

"For the ministers of music to know that they are not alone is probably the most significant thing," Stewart said.

"I think that the ultimate value is connectivity and training—to be able to grab some tools, to grab some ideas that they can take home and use immediately with their music ministry," he noted.

This is the second year that the KBC has hosted the Selah conference. (WR)

IMB missionary journeys to begin in Louisville

By Robin Cornetel

Louisville—Phil and Laura Metcalf spent the day sorting their possessions, trying to decide what to put in storage, what to sell and what to take as new missionaries in southern Mexico.

The couple will join about 35 other Southern Baptist missionaries in a commissioning service conducted by the International Mission Board May 13 at Highview Baptist Church-East in Louisville. IMB President David Platt has invited Kentucky Baptist churches in the region to be a part of the worship service and experience what God is doing through the lives of these Christ-followers.

"The gathering will include an opportunity for people to hear testimonies of where these brothers and sisters will be going, and then to pray for them as they go," Platt said.

"I will also bring the Word to bear not only on what these brothers and sisters will be doing around the world," Platt noted, "but also on the responsibility and privilege we all have to be a part of this mission by praying, giving, and going however God leads in each of our lives and churches for the glory of His name among the nations."

The Metcalfs began their journey to becoming full-time IMB missionaries nearly two years ago. However, both said mission trips as young adults confirmed their callings.

They are members of Emmanuel Baptist in Louisville.

"Missions isn't just a side program of the church," said Phil. "Missions is the call for every believer."

Before the couple met at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, they had individually participated in more than 10 overseas missions experiences in Southeast Asia, Eastern Europe and Central America.

"This is what I love to do," said Laura, "I love working with international people, learning new cultures and sharing Jesus with people who have never heard His name."

Toddling alongside the Metcalfs to Oaxaca, Mexico, will be their two children ages 1 and 3. The couple has agreed to stay in the country for three years and the first half of their assignment will be spent immersed in language classes.

"We plan to stay for the foreseeable future," Phil said. "This is not something we just want to try out."

As the commissioning service draws near, Phil said his emotions get jumbled when he thinks about saying goodbye to the people he loves. But any melancholies quickly turn to joy when he considers the adventure laid out before him and his family.

"It's not foolish to give up everything for the sake of Christ," Phil said. "Jesus doesn't call us to live a comfortable life. When He says come and follow me, it's a call to die. Obedience to Him is worth any sacrifice here in this life whether that is leaving comforts, leaving security." (KBC)

Engage KY: Vision Tour



Who? All pastors, DOMs and mission leaders who are interested in learning more about ways to engage their Judea with the gospel.

What? Engage KY is a series of lostness vision tours of certain cities/regions in Kentucky designed to develop strategic partnerships with new and existing churches and/or ministries for gospel advancement in our Judea. Get acquainted with areas of lostness in KY and how your church and/or association can engage that lostness through meaningful gospel partnerships.



When and Where?

• May 18-19, 2015 in Lexington

Engage KY: Vision Tours are free, but registration is required.

ACCOMMODATIONS: A complimentary hotel room (double occupancy) will be provided to the first 40 registrants.

TO FIND OUT MORE & REGISTER

www.kybaptist.org/engage

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Schools earn good grades

Kentucky Baptists have long believed in the value of a Baptist education. In fact, students today can begin with kindergarten and continue all the way to a terminal doctorate in a Kentucky Baptist Convention educational institution. Spring is the season for trustee meetings at our educational institutions and now is a time to highlight their ongoing ministries.

At Oneida Baptist Institute, construction for a new 200-resident boys' dormitory begins in June. This building will also include new classroom space for 120 students. OBI will reopen its doors to the public for kindergarten and elementary classes. In the early years, OBI was a K-12 school, but for many years, the K-5 classes have only been for OBI faculty and staff children.

These new K-5 local, commuting students will attend OBI tuition free.

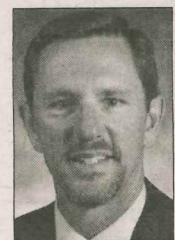
Even before the public announcement, students from the community are already registering. During their formative years, these students will have the advantage of spending every school day in a distinctly Christian environment where they will hear and see the gospel being lived out by their teachers and fellow students. Even before this anticipated influx of students, enrollment growth at OBI in the past two years has been staggering.

We can celebrate that Clear Creek Baptist Bible College is ranked fifth out of all Bible colleges in the U.S. and Canada as the most affordable and offers a complete bachelor's degree online. Having adopted the 2000 Baptist Faith and Message as a confessional statement, CCBBC is sold out to the KBC and SBC with students learning about the Cooperative Program and giving through the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering and Lottie Moon Christmas Offering. This year the student body gave the largest AAEO it has ever given!

The news coming out of my alma mater, the University of the Cumberlands, has never been better. UC now has the largest total enrollment of any private college or university in Kentucky. A recent emphasis on graduate degree programs at UC has enabled the university's graduate student headcount to fall behind only the University of Kentucky and University of Louisville among all public and private institutions in the state. UC has also recently taken steps to ensure faculty and staff do not reflect poorly on the Christian character of the institution. The university's handbook states, "In order to fulfill its purpose, the University may legally discriminate on the basis of religion in employment, and the University has sought and been granted exemption from certain regulations promulgated under Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 which conflict with the University's religious tenets." This language means that UC has been legally ensured the right to hire faculty and staff who are committed to our Christian faith.

Kentucky Baptists are grateful for our educational institutions. We pray God will continue to use and bless them to the end so that generations of Kentucky Baptists will continue to be equipped for gospel work until Christ's return.

Together We are the KBC



Paul Chitwood

Marijuana stance draws strong reaction

The article, "Baptists credited with beating marijuana push," which appeared on the front of the April 7 issue of the Western Recorder, has been met with very strong reaction from proponents. In our news story, Paul Chitwood, executive director of the Kentucky Baptist Convention, states, "It makes no sense to bypass the FDA and allow Kentuckians to smoke marijuana under the guise that it is somehow medically beneficial." While supporters insist medical marijuana can be used effectively to treat symptoms of various maladies, opponents argue that many FDA-approved drugs provide better treatments for these ailments without potential for adverse health effects or addictions.

After the news article was posted on the KBC's Facebook page, harsh criticism from other quarters began pouring in. "Two polar opposite views collided on the marijuana issue, Chitwood observed. "The Baptist view is rooted in common sense. The pro-marijuana view is rooted in a desire to have the right to legally smoke this gateway drug.

"We expected push back when the KBC Public Affairs Committee asked us to derail this legislation," Chitwood said. "Often we're criticized when we stand for right. That will not deter us."

Though we find ourselves in disagreement over legalizing marijuana, in an effort for greater understanding, here's a representative sample of some of the more civil Facebook voices that took exception to Baptists taking a stance:

Tj T. asked, "Why would you want to block something that God gave us to heal people with?"

Paul K. wrote, "I pity you & I pray God has mercy on your soul for condemning children to die from curable diseases. Cannabis cures, a plant in which God put here that bares fruit and produces seeds."

Paul J. objected, "You are wrong!"

Lesa H. stated, "I am ashamed to be called Baptist now.... Ignorance is rampant in your organization. Please get educated before you ruin more lives!"

Scott F. remarked, "This is shameful for religion that teaches compassion and tolerance."

Janice P. said, "Baptists better repent and change. Change their attitude to educate themselves in regard to medical marijuana. They have caused needless suffering and even death to those needing this medicine."

Angel E. wrote, "This deeply saddens me. My daughter could see benefit from this medicine. She has brain cancer. Keeping medical cannabis from people who need it because you don't understand the true medicinal value in it is

unacceptable."

Julie S. replied, "Who do you think you are to mess with people's lives? My boyfriend has cancer and may have had a chance to benefit from this bill. The chemicals that are given to cancer patients typically cause more damage than the cancer. If a plant is beneficial to sick children and loved ones, then you have no right to take that away from them."

Stephanie S. wrote, "What kind of people brag about something like this? You people are sick in the head... What would Jesus do? Probably let the sick and dying have access to a natural plant that could heal them or take away their pain."

After Thought

By Todd Deaton

Sheryl L. responded, "Honestly, I agree with most KY Baptist decisions, but for someone on chemo medical marijuana can have very real benefits. I think fighting this was a mistake. It is a plant and like anything else it can have benefits or be misused."

And Jacob K. jested, "Imagine the outrage if they were deprived of their fried chicken

and sweet tea."

Contacted by the Western Recorder for comment, Georgetown pastor Rick Hardison, chair of the KBC Committee on Public Affairs, said, "We have taken our stand against medical marijuana not because we lack compassion on those who are suffering, but precisely because we care about our neighbors. The most loving thing we know to do is to let the professional medical establishment determine what is the best care for patients—not preachers or politicians."

If derivatives of marijuana are ever approved by the FDA as safe and effective, then Kentucky Baptists would support their legalization, Chitwood added. "The reality is that over 7,000 kids belong to the state of Kentucky, most because of their parents' addictions, and most of those addictions began with marijuana use. This case isn't a simple matter of managing the pain of sick people who hope marijuana will give relief; we must be careful not to welcome pain into the lives of thousands more children by declaring marijuana safe and effective when it's neither."

While there's obviously a difference of opinion concerning marijuana, we're sensitive to the chronic pain and suffering of others. Though we remain unswayed in our stance that legalizing a gateway drug is both unwise and detrimental to society, the strong reactions to the KBC's stance serve as reminders that there may well be members of our congregations who are hurting and in desperate need of relief, and who need us to be advocates for discovering safer alternatives.

Much appreciated

I wanted to drop you a line to let you know how much I enjoy the Western Recorder. It's like being kept up-to-date on things going on in our state. One could glean more good news from the Western Recorder than from a dozen newspapers.

I especially look forward to your "After Thought" articles—and also Paul Chitwood's comments. It is so great that many people share

the belief that Father God is alive and in control.



Also, I have a friend who has no income, but is a Christian man. When I'm finished with my copies of the Western Recorder, I give them to him. He also enjoys them. It just seemed to be another little way to spread the gospel.

I look forward to my next copy!

Larry Busker
Danville

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Ohio pastor to be SBC 2nd VP nominee

Columbus, Ohio—Ohio pastor Chad Keck will be nominated for second vice president of the Southern Baptist Convention in June, a fellow Ohio pastor announced April 7.

Keck has been senior pastor of the Dayton-area First Baptist Church of Kettering since 2010, having earlier served churches in Florida, Texas and Tennessee during 14 years in the ministry. He is a former collegiate ministry event coordinator for LifeWay Christian Resources.

David Starry, senior pastor of First Baptist Church in Vandalia, Ohio, said Keck "has a deep love for the local church, a Great Commission mindset and a strong commitment to personal evangelism."

Keck is the first announced nominee for any of the SBC officer positions to be elected during the convention's June 16-17 annual meeting in Columbus, Ohio.

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.

'Be prepared' is also motto for youth ministry

As a boy, I learned the Boy Scout motto: Be prepared. Lord Baden Powell, the founder of Scouting, said, "A scout must prepare himself by previous thinking out and practicing how to act on an emergency so that he is never taken by surprise." I have spent 40-plus years trying to live that motto.

I have spent 30-plus years working with teens and the adults who work with them. I have tried to introduce them to Jesus and to prepare them, as it says in Ephesians 4:1, "to live a life worthy of the calling you have received" (NIV). We have been reading through "The Insanity of God" by Nik Ripken at work. It is a challenging read on stories of Christians in the frontlines of persecution. Nik (not his real name) tells of his family's adventures in Africa and stories of believers and their modern-day persecution.

When I read this passage as it related to his time in Somalia, it rocked my thinking. In fact, it has been about all I have thought about in the weeks since I read it.

"In our local church upbringing, we had never experienced anything that had prepared us for Somaliland. The way we learned and grew and matured in our faith would not have prepared anyone for Somaliland. It was no comfort for us to realize we

weren't the only ones so unprepared" (The Insanity of God, B & H Publishing 2013, p 139).

So, what follows are some thoughts that have been stirring around in my brain on how we may be able to better prepare our students to take the gospel to the ends of the earth, or just around the corner.

Youth Ministry Corner



Joe Ball

Bible study—We have to get serious about teaching students scripture—not in bite-sized snippets, but serious study in matters of apologetics and theology. We need to encourage them to memorize scriptures—not just random verses, but chapters and books.

Practical experience—Saturday morning the Jehovah Witnesses hit my street. I listened respectfully (like I would want anyone to do for me) as the trainee stumbled his way through his presentation. He did OK and should receive a good evaluation from a trainer who stood behind him. But I cannot remember the last time someone from one of the evangelical churches in my neighborhood came to my door, much less with a teenager. We have gotten good at classroom work in the church, but we lack heavily a practicum to do with it.

Location—It should be our goal to get every student in our ministry to experience life, if even for a short while, outside of their neighborhood context. We should take them to a different part of the city, the state and, if at all possible, to a different country. We need them to experience what it is like in a non-Christian culture. We can no longer settle for them to be "good kids" that graduate and move down the street. We need to prepare them to take the gospel to the hard to reach places.

Vocation—We need to encourage them as they are making preparations for life's vocation to consider something that they could use as an entry point into a closed country or an unreached section of the world. We have had some success with education and healthcare, but what else can we do? Villages in Alaska are in great need of small engine mechanics.

A man or woman who can repair snowmobiles can manage a living and have a platform to share the gospel. Google is using balloons to bring cheap Internet to the remotest regions on the planet, how are we equipping our students think outside the box to take the gospel to those places as well?

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

Spring cleaning for the soul

By James Stillwell

Q: My life is a burden of too much stuff, Internet, and life getting away from me. Any suggestions?

A: The burst of new life in nature gives new energy to change our daily routine. Here are some suggestions:

1. Organize your "stuff" with the intent of giving some away. Whether books, clothes, tools, furniture or even an excess car, ask God to help you see what you do not need. Have a weekly ritual to fill a box with "stuff" to be donated. Used book stores and public libraries take old books. Public radio stations sometimes take old cars that no longer run. Church clothing closets or missionaries can use clothes in good condition.

2. Determine to manage your social media life more effectively. Deal with "trolls" (people who only use Facebook or Twitter to be negative) by setting boundaries and intentionally walking away without comment. Delete accounts that are no longer in use. Clean out your email.

3. Use better weather for physical and mental health: walk the dog, lift weights, stretch, park far from the door, take stairs, and if your job makes you sit, take walking and stretching breaks.

Start each day with meditation and prayer. Quiet your mind, meditate on a few short verses of scripture, and open space for the Spirit, rather than being tied to the "tyranny of the urgent." Go to bed early, limit "screen time" (computer or TV) and practice "sleep hygiene" with an uncluttered space dedicated to sleep.

God will bless these new behaviors to make your steps lighter, and make you an energized vessel for His use. God bless you as you take the first step to "spring clean your life!"



Supplemental needs trust

By Laurie Valentine

Creating a plan to benefit a disabled child after your death, without causing the loss of vital government benefits the child is receiving, requires care.

Leaving a share of your estate outright to a disabled child could result in the child losing government benefits currently being received from Medicaid or other sources.

The inheritance becomes an "available resource" that must be spent down before the child will become eligible to re-apply for the government benefits.

Likewise, setting up a standard testamentary trust under which the trustee is directed to use income and/or principal for the disabled child's health, support and maintenance will also endanger governmental benefits.

The trust may also be subject to cost of care claims, Medicaid liens and Medicaid estate recovery at the child's death.

The better alternative is a "supplemental needs" or "special needs" trust.

Under this type of trust, the trustee has total discretion on whether to expend any of the trust funds for the disabled child's benefit.

And, expenditures are limited to non-necessities and supplemental services such as dental, medical and drug expenses not provided through governmental benefits; physical, speech and occupational therapy; special equipment not provided by other sources; vacation and travel activities; social, recreational and entertainment opportunities; and/or training and education activities.

The total discretion granted to the trustee means the beneficiary has no legal right to demand distributions.

As a result, the trust assets and income are not "available resources" and, therefore, don't effect the beneficiary's eligibility for governmental benefits.



2050's challenges—from risk to friendship

By Erich Bridges

The number of Muslims in the world will nearly match the number of Christians by 2050.

That's the main headline from "The Future of World Religions: Population Growth Projections, 2010-2050," a Pew Research Center study released this month (see page 10). If current population trends continue, the report says, Muslim ranks will increase by 73 percent (to 2.8 billion)—more than twice the growth rate of Christians, who will expand by 35 percent, to 2.9 billion. World population is projected to reach 9.3 billion by mid-century.

Other projections for 2050:

- Hindus will increase by 34 percent to nearly 1.4 billion.
- Four of every 10 Christians will live in sub-Saharan Africa.
- India, although remaining majority Hindu, will become home to more Muslims than any other country, topping Indonesia.
- Atheists, agnostics and others who affiliate with no particular religion will decline as a share of the world population, even as they increase in numbers and influence in North America and Europe.

It's important to keep two things in mind. First, it's more of a demographic survey than a religious one. Muslims are increasing because of fertility rates and young populations in regions where they predominate, not because non-Muslims are converting to Islam.

Second, terms such as "Muslim" and "Christian" are broadly defined.

"The projections are based on the number of people who self-identify with each religious group, regardless of their level of observance," the report said. What it means to be Christian, Muslim, Hindu, Buddhist, Jewish or a member of any faith varies by person, country and decade.

Projections highlight the global challenge for the next generation.

"The chief contenders for the hearts and souls of those living in the 21st century will be Muslims, evangelical Christians

and secularists," predicted Patrick Johnstone, British mission leader and former editor of "Operation World," in an interview from 2012 that bears repeating in light of the Pew data.

"Who is going to be the most successful?" Johnstone asked. "Islam is growing, largely by biological growth, not by conversion. Evangelicals are growing massively by conversion. Secularists are adding to their number every year but are dying as a breed because they are not having enough children to replace themselves."

Evangelical Christian faith, once based largely in the United States and Europe, spread far beyond its traditional strongholds in the second half of the 20th century. The expansion was fueled by the post-World War II missionary movement—which made Christian disciples among a myriad of peoples who are now taking the gospel to others—along with the spread of education

and communication. The end of Western colonial power in many countries, initially a challenge to churches born of missionary efforts, actually spurred the global Christian movement by forcing national Christian groups to depend on God and themselves—not outsiders.

"One day in eternity, I think we will look back and see God's hand in so many things," Johnstone observed. "(M)any people thought, with the missionaries and the colonial regimes gone, Christianity would be pushed out. It did the opposite... Churches became the source of stability and hope for the future."

To continue to advance, however, the evangelical movement must avoid pride and complacency, he said.

He urged U.S. and other Western churches and mission agencies to pursue "multi-polar global leadership" with their Asian, African and Latin American brothers and sisters. "Wherever you look in the Christian world in the 21st century, mission teams and strategies that remain mono-ethnic are not going to survive," Johnstone said. He jokes that a "perfect multicultural team would have a Brazilian evangelist, a Korean church planter, a Chinese to manage the accounts, an Australian to mend anything that's broken and an American to handle planning and goals."

The church needs to put away its fear of Muslims and share the gospel. In some places that will require life-and-death risk. In other places, notably America, it requires only a willingness to be a friend. (BP)

FIRST PERSON

A gospel-focused reenergizing of politics

By Russell Moore

American evangelicals are, sometimes frantically, trying to adjust to an increasingly post-Christian America. We can no longer pretend that we are a "moral majority," sharing "values" with the American mainstream. In a quest to differentiate themselves from the activism of previous generations, some younger evangelicals wish to retreat into a libertarian cultural isolationism, and some wish to adjust to the ambient culture.

Those who wish to retreat are wrong. Pulling back from cultural engagement is the wrong approach. What we need is a reenergizing of politics. Many have rightly grown cynical of movements that are willing to adopt allies that are gospel heretics as long as they are politically correct. They are disenchanted with movements that are content to vaporize

opponents with sound-bites, rather than engage in a long-term strategy of providing a theology of gospel-focused action in the public square.

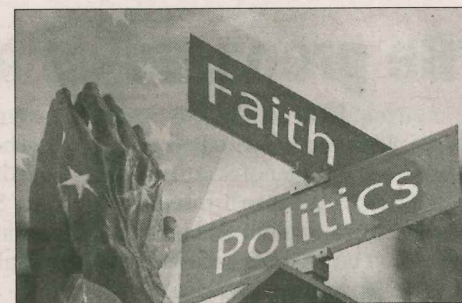
We must engage the culture. The question is why and how. We engage politically because we love our neighbors; we care about human flourishing. But we do so on multiple fronts. We engage on Capitol Hill on issues ranging from stopping the abortion industry, to protecting religious liberty, to speaking out for human rights for the persecuted overseas. We also cultivate churches that see the holistic nature of the kingdom of God and who shape the consciences of people. But we always do that with the mindset that we are ultimately seeking to point people to the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world.

That means that we speak and we vote and we mobilize, but we don't do so as gloomy pessimists, continually wringing

our hands or crying conspiracy. And we don't do it as naïve utopians, believing we can organize our way back to Mayberry. We do it as those who weep for those around us who are being sifted by the darkness. We do it as those who are cheerily marching to Zion, knowing that whatever the short-term setbacks, we are on the winning side of history.

We recognize that our vote for President of the United States is crucially important and we will be held accountable at Judgment for whomever we hand the Romans 13 sword to. But we know that our vote on the membership of our churches is even more important. A church that loses the gospel is a losing church, no matter how many political victories it wins. A church that is right on public convictions but wrong on the gospel is a powerless church.

That means modeling a Christian political engagement that doesn't start or



end with politics alone. It starts and ends with the gospel and the kingdom of God. In His public ministry, Jesus addressed everything, body and soul, public and private, political and personal, but did so with the cross in His vision at every point. That's what the church has done in every era, and that is what we must continue to do today. (WR)

Editor's Note: This article is part of a series on "How and why should Christians engage the public square?" for the Western Recorder provided by the Kentucky Baptist Committee on Public Affairs. Russell Moore is president of the Southern Baptist Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission.

Missionaries

Continued from page 1

mountains of Appalachia where they still serve as directors of the Freeda Harris Baptist Center in Elkhorn City.

After the couple accepted the award as Kentucky Baptist Missionaries of the Year, Alice offered a brief word of advice for newbies.

"Sometimes we get discouraged because we work and we work and we work," Alice said. "Don't give up."

Alice talked about ministering to a woman for three decades; faithfully sharing the gospel and inviting her to church. Three weeks ago the woman finally prayed to accept Christ as her Savior.

Below are Kentucky's newest missionaries and their ministry locations:

■ Frank and Judy Caulder, Kentucky Sacks of Love, Benham.

■ Lillian Cottingham, Crossroads Community Baptist Church, Whitley City.

■ Holly Decker, Cedaridge Ministries, Williamsburg.

■ Joyce Flaughter, Kentucky Baptist Convention, Louisville.

■ David and Susan Hampton, Kentucky Baptist Convention, Louisville.

■ Katheryn Pope, Rockcastle Baptist Association of Kentucky Baptists, Mount Vernon.

■ Paul and Mary Jo Radosevich, Calvary Campus, Blackey.



Kentucky WMU's 2015-16 board members.

■ Madison Sawyers, Kentucky Baptist Convention, Louisville.

■ Lorie Wells, Cedaridge Ministries, Williamsburg.

KBC President Tom James said that without Kentucky WMU's focus on missions through education and faithful giving, many would not hear the name Jesus.

"Last year, we were up in baptisms with 14,223 across the state and a lot of that has to do with you," James said. "You are letting Kentucky Baptists know what it means to be on mission."

At the two-day meeting, Kentucky WMU received more than \$7,400 for the Ministries to Missionaries offering. Last fall, the statewide Eliza Broadus Offering exceeded \$1.2 million, of which a large portion is channeled through the KBC for state missionaries, church planting, collegiate ministries and much more.

Because the women's organization has remained mission true, said national WMU President Debbie Akerman, it has "never drifted from God's founding purpose."

"WMU challenges Christian believers to understand and be radically involved in the mission of God. It is the place for every generation to connect the Greatest Commandment to the Great Commission," Akerman said. (KBC)

CP gifts continue slight upward trend

Louisville—Kentucky Baptist churches gave nearly \$1.5 million through the Cooperative Program in March, continuing an upward trend that has been underway since the start of the fiscal year.

"We rejoice to think of the many souls who will be won to Christ because of the generosity of our churches," said Kentucky Baptist Convention Executive Director Paul Chitwood. "Our impact is far greater when we partner together to spread the gospel, and that's exactly what the Cooperative Program allows us to do."

Total CP receipts through seven months of the 2014-15 fiscal year stood at about \$12.4 million. That's about \$95,000 ahead of the same period last year.

"This strong giving reflects the commitment Kentucky Baptists have to get the gospel to people within the state, across the United States and around the world," said Lowell Ashby, leader of the KBC's Finance and Business Services Team. "By participating in the Cooperative Program, Kentucky Baptists are able to do what scripture calls us to do, to spread the gospel to the uttermost part of the earth." (KBC)

Encounter WOW 'will touch people's lives'

By Ken Walker

Benton—Despite rains dampening the turnout at Benton's annual "Tater Day," members of the town's New Bethel Baptist Church still handed out 170 bottles of free water, gospel tracts and information about the upcoming Encounter WOW at a Kentucky Lake state park.

New Bethel organized the April 6 outreach as part of the Kentucky Baptist Convention's Project More: Women. The annual springtime event encourages women to use servant evangelism as a tool to spread the gospel.

In the past, Kentucky Baptists have hosted outreach dinners, community events and women's conferences designed to reach those outside the church.

"We know this is something that will touch people's lives," said Jackie Thweatt, coordinator of New Bethel's project. "It was a great opportunity to take advantage while people were here."

Across Kentucky, churches will employ a similar strategy leading up to mid-May's Encounter Women of Worth in the Park event.

Encounter WOW kicks off May 16, with a 5K run/walk at Kentucky Dam Village State Resort Park in Gilbertsville. On May 18, the KBC will host a conference featuring a health fair, dinner and a concert.

"Encounter WOW will encourage women in their faith walk and allow them to network with like-minded women striving to be healthy followers of Christ," said Shelly Johns, consultant for the KBC's women's department.

"We also want to reach women who might not come to a church building, but would come to a park for inspiration."

Initiated three years ago, Project More: Women is an evangelistic effort designed to equip Kentucky Baptists to share their faith personally and sponsor activities where that can occur.

Johns said living as healthy followers of Christ begins with awareness of the need for God and what He provides in and through Jesus Christ.

"The projects, the 5K and the conference will be stepping stones to show how Christian women can live out their faith," Johns said.

"They can also connect with other women who might be struggling with their identity in Christ, or with those who don't even know Christ. We want to show the way to Him and how to live victoriously in every area of life," she said.

The May 18 conference begins at 4:15 p.m. with a health fair. Dinner will be served from 5 to 6 p.m.

After dinner, leaders will present awards to 5K winners and recognize ongoing PMW projects that are sent to shelly.johns@kybaptist.org by May 1.

A program and concert will follow those presentations.

Speakers include MeMe Perdue of Eddyville, author of the "In His Image" Bible study, and children's book author, Rachel Kelley.

Entertainment will be provided by Michael Kelley, a vocal impersonator who uses humor and impressions to share a positive Christian message, and Nashville, Tenn.-based musician Timmy Perdue.

More information about Encounter WOW is available at www.kybaptist.org/ewow, on Facebook at Kentucky Women Connect, or by calling (866) 489-3390. (KBC)

Boyce graduate changing lives — one sandwich at a time

By Robert Chapman

Louisville—The restaurant walls are covered with Scripture verses, a Bible and calendar with devotions sit on each table.

The sign outside the building says Barry's Cheese Steaks—a restaurant in Louisville—but the employees and managers leaving their stations to pray with customers indicate that customers find more than a steaming hot sandwich at the West End eatery.

A middle-aged black man comes from the kitchen with a wide smile, and greets all the customers as he asks them about their food. Barry Washington, 51, introduces himself. He seems like a typical owner, but few people expected him to reach this point in his life.

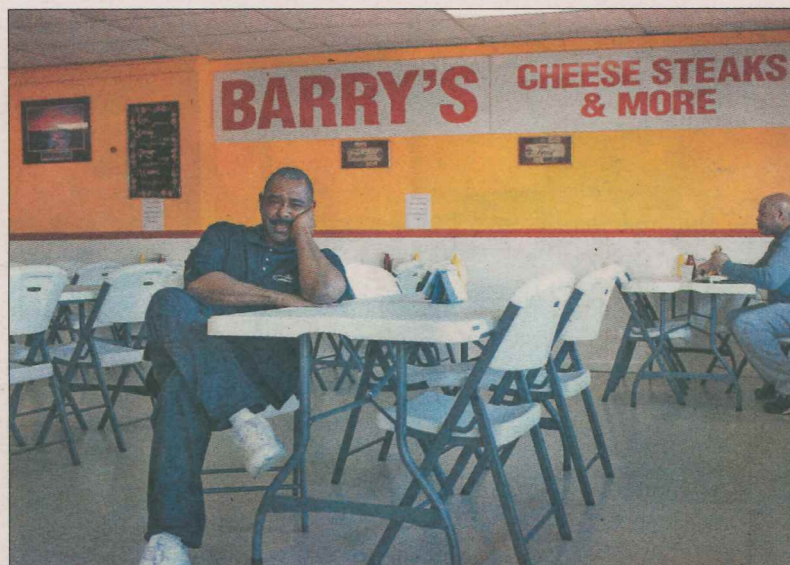
Born in Pittsburgh, Pa., he was adopted by Clyde and Anita Washington as a newborn. Washington's biological parents were a 16-year-old prostitute, and a pimp and drug dealer.

His adopted parents raised him to know the Lord, but as he grew, he rebelled. When he dropped out of school in the eighth grade, Washington began selling drugs and developed cocaine and heroin addictions by age 20. He grew tired of a life of crime, and attempted to improve his life.

"I moved up to Ypsilanti, Mich., to turn my life around," Washington said. "I did good for a while, but then I got back into the same things. In 1986, I was sticking up drug dealers and I got jumped, stabbed 41 times, and left for dead."

Still living a life of crime, Washington spent eight years traveling between Pennsylvania and Michigan. He continued to use and sell drugs, and his addictions worsened.

It was a week before Christmas 1995, when two men approached Washington.



Barry Washington sees his West End restaurant as a platform for ministry. Barry's Cheese Steaks began as a way to keep kids from his community off the streets.

"These two Nigerian men were witnessing to me and gave me \$2 to get something to eat," Washington said. "I went back and thanked them and they invited me to their fellowship, and that night I got saved. Then it was like the Lord literally walked me right up out of the drug addiction."

Washington became a Christian, but he struggled because the streets were the only world he knew. Washington also felt the call to return to Michigan, but did not want to go.

"I battled in my mind with the Lord, thinking that's where I almost got killed—why would I go back?" Washington asked. "But the Holy Spirit kept pressing that that's where I was going." So on Jan. 1, 1996, he moved back to Michigan.

While in Michigan, Washington began to learn how to read again and take his new faith seriously. He began to cook in restaurants and started attending the Tyndale Bible Institute, where he met Ron Horton and Ronald Author, both of

whom became his mentors.

It was through this mentorship that Washington first heard about Boyce College, the undergraduate school of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary. Author encouraged Washington to go to Boyce, despite his lack of education and age.

"The Lord blessed me to get my GED in 90 days," Washington said. "So I came to Louisville and the highest grade I had completed was the eighth grade, and I probably had the reading level of a fifth grader. But the Lord has been good to me, and I learned things quick."

Washington graduated from Boyce with an associate degree in 2000 before earning his bachelor's in 2011. In 2004, Washington planted Redeemed Christian Church in Louisville's West End, where he now pastors.

It was through the ministry of his church that Barry's Cheese Steaks began as a way to keep kids from his community off the streets.

"We opened this place to give some of

these young ones a chance to learn how to do something for themselves," Washington said. "People think that everyone who comes from the West End is acting crazy, but we are going to show people that that's not us."

Even though the restaurant is a business, which Washington eventually wants to franchise, it is ultimately a ministry that strives to impact people through God's word. Washington trains staff to be sensitive and willing to pray with people, and teaches the staff to serve God through serving other people. Other ministry opportunities come through the Scripture that decorates the restaurant.

The ministry also impacts the employees. Wayne Blakely Jr. met Washington when he was 11 years old and began attending his youth group.

"I started to go to Barry's church when my dad began to work on Sundays," Blakely said. "Then he opened a summer camp, and I worked there. I began as volunteer janitor and worked my way up to staff leader."

Washington saved him from a life of crime.

"Barry changed my life because if he had not come around I would still be in the gangs," Blakely said.

Washington has seen the Lord bring him and his ministry through many hardships and provide during the darkest of circumstances. Now he is praying that this growth will continue to allow him to impact the West End, and all of Louisville with the gospel.

"The Lord has been good and faithful in providing an increase and seeing things grow," Washington said. "But we have a strong desire to cross zip codes. We must lose this West End mentality, and show people that there are Christian businesses all over Louisville." (SBTS)

11 'normal' ways missionaries share the gospel

By Susie Rain

Southeast Asia—Newsflash: Most International Mission Board missionaries are NOT preachers. After all, Jesus was a carpenter. John was a fisherman and Paul was a tentmaker. The IMB released a list of what missionaries are doing to share the gospel:

1. Hand washer

Clean hands save lives. Missionaries in many developing countries stave off death for many by teaching the proper technique for washing hands. Diarrhea is the second leading cause of death for children under 5, according to the World Health Organization. Traveling from village to village, missionaries demonstrate basic hygiene and clean water techniques.

2. Scientist

In the midst of beakers, Bunsen burners and chemicals, God makes Himself known. While one IMB Chemistry professor teaches the periodic table of elements, he explains his belief in the One who "created all things."

3. Cheese maker

Producing cheese is one of many jobs

for a farm missionary. While this farmer sells all kinds of dairy products in the local market, the goal is to live "life-on-life" with unengaged, unreached people groups. This micro-business gives the community an opportunity to respond to Christians daily.

4. Big game hunter

A hunting trip is one way to reach remote hunting farms in Africa. Local guides see a stark contrast between believers and regular visitors. Days spent tracking game bring opportunities to share stories from the Bible. Evenings end with showing the JESUS film back at camp.

5. Triathlete

Swimming, cycling, running—it's all in a day's work for one missionary. He meets with those who are passionate about this ultra-endurance sport and trains alongside them. During the hours and hours of exercise, the missionary talks about his real passion—God. Many are hearing the gospel for the very first time and are taking it home to their families.

6. Mechanic

Shade-tree mechanics attract an instant audience and abound all over the world. These short-term missionaries take

the "grease monkey" culture to new heights as they share the gospel with many who would never go to a church service.

7. Organic farmer

Missionary farmers raise everything from domestic animals to cash crops. Pastors come to learn sustainable organic farming techniques while also learning how to plant and maintain churches. Through community engagement, villages are open to organic farming and allow evangelists to share the gospel.

8. Parents

Being a parent is one of the most important "unofficial" jobs for a missionary family. One couple says so many people asked why their children acted differently than others that they decided to start a parenting classes. They focus on biblical ways of teaching character, ethics and morals to children. Parents hear about Jesus as they learn about growing respectful families.

9. Adventurer

Adventurous missionaries do whatever it takes to reach "the ends of the earth"—river rafting, rock climbing, and hiking

mountain passes (just to name a few options). Many people groups live in places so remote that scaling cliffs or hiking for days is the only way to get to them.

10. Crafter

Simple needlework patterns serve as a great conversation starter while riding public transportation. The moment a Christian worker pulls one out of her bag a crowd can gather. She uses patterns that depict Bible stories, from creation to Christ, and explains the meaning to onlookers. "People will stay to hear one, two or more stories," one worker says. "I like to refer to this as 'Sew and Sow.'"

11. Baker

Baking overseas can often involve a cauldron over an open fire. Some missionaries teach women to "bake" (or rather steam) cakes, cookies, bread and other delicacies.

As part of the lesson, classes are conducted with the Bible as the textbook. Missionaries report that 500 people have come to faith and 15 house churches have been started as a result.

To learn more about how you can be a part of "the norm" on the mission field, go to www.imb.org. (BP)

Once a fishing guide, now a CP-committed pastor

By Karen Willoughby

Water Valley—Jimmy Brown trusts the Lord whenever he goes fishing, whether the fishing hole is filled with lake water or the silt of an unredged life.

"I had never realized the similarities between fishing, soul-winning and pastoring," said Brown, a former professional fishing guide on Kentucky Lake who has been pastor of Pilot Oak Baptist Church in western Kentucky since 2007.

Fishing may be fun but it's also "hard work ... work you have to be persistent at," he said.

Brown, who often speaks on fishing at outdoorsmen's events and pastors' conferences, has come to see numerous parallels between fishing for fish and fishing for people.

Evangelism, discipleship & missions

Pilot Oak, a rural church that averages about 100 in Sunday morning worship, baptized 13 people in 2013, and 18 the year before that, although the baptism total for 2014 was a bit lower.

"We have to take time to disciple those we win," Brown said. "A lot of people like to fish, but don't want to clean them." Similarly, he said, "If I reach people but don't disciple them, what have I accomplished? ... When we win someone to the Lord, that's when the hard work begins. We need to get them established in the faith so they become productive, reproducing Christians."

Brown also challenged Graves County Baptist Association, of which Pilot Oak Baptist is a part, to greater missions efforts. Since Brown became captain of the association's missions and ministry team last year, they've gone on the first associational mission trip that he's aware of.

"I began to talk it up, and last year we went to Muskogee, Okla.," Brown said. "We did construction and a VBS at the Murrow Children's Home, led a backyard Bible club, surveyed for one church, and painted for another church," he said. The team also did cleaning and organizational work at Bacone College, a liberal arts college originally established by the American Baptist Home Mission Society in 1880 to provide Christian education for Native Americans.

"The more involved we get in doing missions," Brown said, "the stronger our churches here will become."

Take a look 'Through the Outcast's Eyes'

Louisville—The thousands of refugees who call Kentucky home may not make headlines, but their needs are similar to the more than 15 million displaced persons worldwide.

"Refugees need basic things like food, water and shelter, and in the U.S. that's easily taken care of, but what they really need is a sense of hope, they need community and ultimately they need the gospel," said Coy Webb, Disaster Relief director at the Kentucky Baptist Convention.

In 2012, nearly 2,000 refugees were relocated in Kentucky. According to Refugee Council USA, the four largest populations resettled in the state are from Bhutan, Burma, Democratic Republic of



Pastor Jimmy Brown takes a team from seven churches in western Kentucky on the first-ever mission trip by Graves County Baptist Association, venturing to Muskogee, Okla. (Photo courtesy of Pilot Oak Baptist Church)

Biblical stewardship

For several years prior to his arrival, Pilot Oak had reduced its Cooperative Program missions giving to \$1,000 per year. Brown began reminding the church that the Cooperative Program is how Southern Baptist churches work together to fulfill the Great Commission through their state conventions, across North America and around the world. The money they give to missions through the Cooperative Program, he noted, extends Pilot Oak's reach far beyond what the church could do on its own.

"The first meeting I had with the finance committee, I asked them if they thought people should tithe, and they all said yes," Brown recounted. "Then I asked them, 'Do you not think your church should tithe?'"

As the church prepared its 2009 budget, Brown led them to dedicate 3 percent of their undesignated offerings through the Cooperative Program, 2 percent to the Graves County Baptist Association and 5 percent for local benevolence "to minister to people in our community whether they're members or not," Brown said.

The CP percentage has increased a bit each year. Pilot Oak gave \$1,000 in 2008. Five years later—in 2013—it gave \$13,744 through CP and \$22,257 in total Great Commission Giving, according to the church's Annual Church Profile report. Brown reported the church gave 19.5

percent of its income to some type of cooperative ministry in 2014 and has raised its 2015 CP budget projection to 5.5 percent of undesignated receipts.

Members also began giving generously to Southern Baptists' seasonal missions offerings. Last year the church received a congratulatory letter from Kevin Ezell, president of the North American Mission Board.

"We were the top per capita giving church for the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering in the entire Southern Baptist

Convention," Brown said. "We read it over and over and, yep, that's what it says."

"I told (the church), 'You are to be commended, but don't stop,'" the pastor said. "They're beginning to catch on about being Kingdom-focused."

Local ministry

Last year, Pilot Oak bought a tool trailer to do construction missions, and has become known in its community as "the church that cares" because of its commitment to meeting local needs—whether it may be an unpaid electric bill, the need for a handicap ramp into someone's house or some other pressing need.

By identifying with the residents of its rural farming community and being ready to help, members of Pilot Oak have become alert to seeing where God is at work and joining Him, Brown said, citing Henry Blackaby's principle from "Experiencing God."

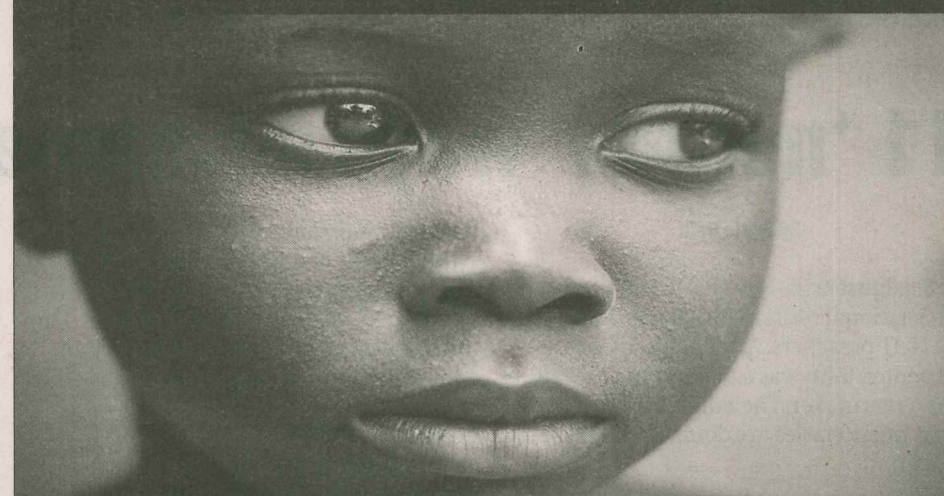
"You've got to be willing to do whatever it takes to earn the right to tell them about Jesus," Brown said. Just like in fishing, "it takes time, effort, energy ... (but) when you do it like the Lord wants you to do it, it's not hard...."

"You've got to go out with the intention that we're going to have fun; we're going to fish all day, and at some time during the day we're going to catch fish," he said.

"So just relax, fish, and enjoy it. God is going to give you fruits for your labor." (BP)

Through the Outcast's Eyes

Kentucky Baptist Refugee Ministry Workshop



Saturday, May 30, 9 am - 4 pm

Kentucky Baptist Building, 13420 Eastpoint Centre Drive, Louisville, KY

Led by Francis and Angie Horton,
Central & South Asia Area Directors for Baptist Global Response

Registration: \$15 (includes lunch)

Must sign up before May 15.

Register at:

www.kybaptist.org/refugeeworkshop

Or contact: 502/489-3527 or

866/489-3527 (toll free KY only)

kristen.drake@kybaptist.org

Workshop Topics Include:

The life of a refugee

Do's and don'ts of refugee ministry

Compassion and the Gospel

Making a difference for the displaced

Practical opportunities for
compassionate response

the Congo and Iraq.

A refugee ministry workshop called Through the Outcast's Eyes will be held May 30 at the KBC building in Louisville.

Workshop topics include:

■ The life of a refugee

■ Dos and don'ts of refugee ministry

■ Compassion and the gospel

■ Making a difference for the displaced

■ Practical opportunities for
compassionate response

The training will be led by Francis and Angie Horton, Central and South Asia area directors at Baptist Global Response.

Registration for the refugee workshop ends May 22.

For information, see www.kybaptist.org/refugeeworkshop. (KBC)



Make a difference.

Sponsored By Kentucky Baptist Disaster Relief



Ohio's rich Southern Baptist history has Ky. Baptist roots

By David Roach

Columbus, Ohio—"The ripest field for Southern Baptist work in the U.S.A."

That's how Ray Roberts, who would become the first executive secretary of the State Convention of Baptists in Ohio, described the Buckeye state in 1952.

Over the next six decades, Roberts and other Ohio Southern Baptists proved the ripeness of their field by planting hundreds of churches, establishing three other Baptist state conventions in pioneer areas, building a network of Baptist ministries and leading untold thousands to faith in Christ.

As Southern Baptists converge on Ohio this summer (June 16-17) for the Southern Baptist Convention's annual meeting in Columbus, current SCBO executive director Jack Kwok said they will find a mission field that's riper than ever.

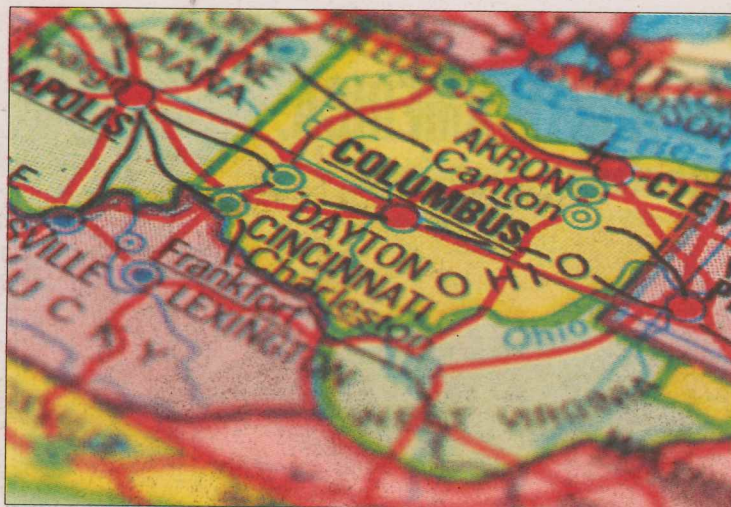
"We're not the only people here preaching the gospel, but Southern Baptists take the Great Commission seriously, that we're to go to every people group," Kwok told Baptist Press, noting that "well over 50 percent" of Ohio's 11.5 million residents do not regard themselves as affiliated with any faith group.

"People are lost here, and Southern Baptists are taking the gospel to everybody," Kwok said.

The history of Southern Baptists in Ohio dates to the 1930s, when Baptists from the South began to migrate north across the Ohio River. Many felt "ill at ease in the Ohio churches they attended" because "worship was not as 'warm,' the invitations as frequent and fervent, the sermons as simple in the presentation of the gospel as they were accustomed to back home," historian L.H. Moore wrote in "The History of Southern Baptists in Ohio."

So transplanted Southern Baptists began to establish churches.

In many cases, those churches cooperated with Baptist associations in Kentucky. Then in 1940, churches in



Indiana and Ohio founded the White Water Baptist Association. The association engaged in aggressive church planting in Ohio, erecting buildings in towns where no Baptist church existed and then finding workers to establish missions.

The association urged congregations to give 25 percent of their undesignated receipts to the Kentucky Baptist Convention for investment through the Cooperative Program, Southern Baptists' unified method of funding missions and ministries in North America and across the globe.

The number of Southern Baptists in Ohio increased through the early 1950s, but some worried that ministries funded by the SBC would violate so-called comity agreements of the late 1800s stipulating that only Northern Baptists could sponsor home missions in the Buckeye state.

In 1951, however, the SBC adopted a recommendation from its Committee on Relations with Other Religious Bodies that "the Home Mission Board and all other Southern Baptist boards and agencies be free to serve as a source of blessing to any community or any people anywhere in the United States."

Northern Baptists likewise had expanded their ministries nationwide and

changed their name to the American Baptist Convention.

The SBC's shift in home missions strategy set the stage for 39 churches to establish the SCBO in 1954 with financial support from the HMB, a precursor organization to the North American Mission Board,

and the Baptist Sunday School Board, which later changed its name to LifeWay Christian Resources.

The Ohio convention's first president, John Kurtz, told BP Ohio Southern Baptists committed to "stand on the gospel and preach the Word."

Early Ohio Southern Baptists "just wanted to preach the gospel as it is and preach Christ as the Savior to all who would trust Him," Kurtz, 94, said from a retirement home in Nashville.

The SCBO's emphasis on church planting yielded 100 cooperating churches by 1957, 200 by 1960, 300 by 1964 and 400 by 1968. Some of those churches were in other states, and the SCBO helped found three sister state conventions—the West Virginia Convention of Southern Baptists, the Baptist Convention of Pennsylvania-South Jersey and the Baptist Convention of New York.

When Kwok began his tenure as the convention's fourth executive director in 1996, the SCBO had approximately 500 churches, a number that has swelled to more than 700 today.

The convention's "Mission Ohio" strategy calls for 2,020 congregations by 2020. NAMB has named Cleveland, Columbus and Cincinnati "Send Cities" as

part of its Send North America church planting emphasis.

Ohio's increasingly diverse population has affected both the SCBO's evangelistic strategy and the ethnic composition of its leadership. In the mid-1990s, 85 percent of the state's population was Anglo, 11 percent black and 4 percent other races, Kwok said. But demographics have shifted—particularly in urban areas. For example, Columbus residents were only 62 percent Anglo in 2013, according to the U.S. Census Bureau.

"Our outreach has been to all people," Kwok said. "Our logo reflects that. We have the SBC logo and red, brown, yellow, black and white figures around that to communicate that we're here to reach all people."

Two African Americans have served as SCBO president while Hispanics and Asians have also made significant contributions to the convention, Kwok said.

David Gray, an African American who served as SCBO president from 2006-08, called the state's diverse population a "microcosm of at least the Midwest if not the nation."

"The State Convention of Baptists in Ohio has a wide range of ethnicities that have done really wonderful things for God," Gray, pastor of First Baptist Church of Garrettsville, told BP. "They have been a part of the process of the state convention growing and have worked together with a broad spectrum of Southern Baptists to truly see growth in the Kingdom."

Ohio Southern Baptists have been pioneers in planting churches on college and university campuses and have a rich history of community ministries, Kwok said. The convention's support of SBC missions and ministries has increased from 20 percent of CP receipts in 1954 to 40.25 percent in 2014-15.

"Reaching the lost people of Ohio is a tremendous opportunity, and we're just thrilled to be a part of it," Kwok said. (BP)

Cuba trip

Continued from page 1

Ark., said while in Cuba.

At the invitation of the International Mission Board, Floyd traveled to Cuba with three other Southern Baptist pastors and a team of IMB leaders and missionaries to attend a missions congress of the Eastern Cuba Baptist Convention at First Baptist Church of Bayamo, Cuba.

Accompanying Floyd on the trip were Willy Rice, pastor of Calvary Baptist Church in Clearwater, Fla., and president of the Southern Baptist Pastors' Conference; Grant Ethridge, president of the Southern Baptist Conservatives of Virginia and senior pastor of Liberty Baptist Church, Hampton, Va.; and Jimmy Scroggins, lead pastor at Family Church, West Palm Beach, Fla.

Floyd said he was moved by the testimonies of several Cuban Baptists who soon will go out as international missionaries, the first to be sent by mission boards of the Eastern Convention and the Western Cuba Baptist Convention. Hearing them express their willingness to "forsake all" to answer God's call was "a powerful, engaging

experience for me—one that I will never forget," Floyd said.

The first Cuban Baptist missionaries expected to go—possibly as early as May—are two couples and a single woman who will work with unreached people groups (UPGs) in South America, pending the granting of visas from their host countries, said Kurt Urbanek, IMB strategy leader for Cuba. One of these couples will help take the gospel to Afro-Ecuadorians in Ecuador, working with IMB missionaries

Johnny and Donna Maust, who were featured in the 2014 Lottie Moon Christmas Offering emphasis.

"Cuban Baptists have prayed to be able to send their own international missionaries for 54 years," said Urbanek, author of "Cuba's Great Awakening: Church Planting Movement in Cuba."

Now, because of recent changes in Cuban law, Cubans are able to travel outside of the country for two years without an exit visa, Urbanek said.

During the missions congress, more than 200 additional Cuban Baptists committed their lives to global missions

service, he said. At least 150 of them made public commitments after Floyd preached on Acts 1:8 at the close of the conference.

Seeing that response was "one of the most powerful moments God has ever given me in ministry," Floyd said. "I give Him praise."

"It's obvious that there has been a mighty move of God here. ... And prayer preceded this movement."

Ronnie Floyd
SBC President

The believers who made commitments will join more than 200 other Cuban Baptist missionary candidates waiting to receive further training, make connections with

strategic overseas mission projects and find adequate finances to go, Urbanek said.

The missions congress focused not only on international missions but also on Cuban Baptists' efforts to reach their own nation for Christ.

Daniel Gonzalez—one of three Cuban Baptist pastors who spoke during the SBC annual meeting in Baltimore, Md., last June—reported on "Urban 20/20," a plan for "saturation church planting" in the 20 most populated cities in Cuba by the year 2020.

So far, most of Cuba's church-planting

movement has occurred in rural areas, but about 50 percent of the country's population lives in these urban centers, Urbanek noted.

Scroggins, one of the visiting U.S. pastors, said he was impressed by this and other innovative strategies Cubans use in evangelism and church planting.

"I have a lot to learn from them," Scroggins said. "I'm going to go home more inspired to pray, to think strategically and to worship passionately."

Ethridge said no words could prepare him to see Cuba's spiritual awakening up close.

"When we got into the (first worship service)," Ethridge said, "the energy, the joy, the presence of the Lord was in that place.... They want (missions) to happen in Cuba and from Cuba to the nations."

Rice said, "Those who truly treasure what they have in Christ are the most appreciative, the most full of love and passion for the things of God."

"I think in America we've lost that," he noted. "We take so much for granted. We've fallen in love with others things."

He added: "We are going to have to recover ... the things that matter most if we're going to see a church-planting movement take place in America.... We need to come here and learn." (BP)

Map of religions reveals world of change ahead

By Cathy Lynn Grossman

Muslims will overtake Christians by the end of this century.

India, now mostly Hindu, will become the world's largest Muslim country.

The numbers of people with no religious identity will soar in the United States and Europe, but the unaffiliated will lose worldwide market share as Christians maintain a steady growth.

All these changes are drawn from the Pew Research Center's new projections, released April 2, that map global faith traditions and how they're likely to shift by 2050.

The report says nothing about the transcendent message of any religion. It makes no claims about believers' level of devotion or practice.

Instead, it's a story of nitty-gritty statistics: Which group is having babies (lots of babies or just a few)? Which ones have many young people, and which are slowly graying out? Whose followers are on the move—from one nation to another, or switching religions?

"Demographics are an underappreciated force that is shifting the contours of faith," said Conrad Hackett, the Pew demographer who led the six-year study. Hackett analyzed projected changes for Christians, Muslims, Jews, Hindus, Buddhists, folk religions, other minority religions and the unaffiliated.

Those contours matter. The Pew Research Center doesn't delve into political forecasting, but readers of the

PROJECTING NORTH AMERICA: Christian growth slows, 'Nones' soar



report's projections from 2010 to 2050 might feel a thumb press down on many sore spots and raise questions beyond the scope of Pew's data:

■ Will prejudice against Muslims rise as the percentage of people in Europe who are Muslim climbs to 10.2 percent, up from today's 5.9 percent? "The projected growth rate is only about 1 percentage point a decade," said Hackett. "But it's a very visible change: More people wearing veils, more behaving in culturally distinct ways."

■ Who will assume the minority voice in the U.S. public square as Muslims outpace Jews as the country's third-largest group, after Christians and the unaffiliated?

■ Will religious tensions flare as India becomes the world's most populous

Muslim nation, supplanting Indonesia? "The quality of interfaith relations in such a country (about to pass China as the world's most populous) will be of global importance," said Alan Cooperman, Pew's director of religion research.

■ How will more secular regions such as Europe and the U.S. relate to deeply religious regions, such as sub-Saharan Africa, divided among Christians and Muslims?

"The question is: 'How will we understand each other?'" said Cooperman. "Sub-Saharan Africa is 12 percent of the world population now, and it will be 20 percent by 2050. That's huge growth for people to get their heads around."

The report, sponsored by the Pew-Templeton Global Religious Futures project, offers many more head-spinning numbers and a religion-by-religion, region-by-region analysis of data from 198 countries and territories, representing nearly all the world's population.

Among the major findings:

■ "As of 2010, Christianity was by far the world's largest religion, with an estimated 2.2 billion adherents, nearly a third of the Earth's 6.9 billion people. Islam came in second, with 1.6 billion adherents, or 23 percent of the global population." Four in 10 of all the world's Christians will live in sub-Saharan Africa by 2050.

■ While Christian numbers will continue to grow, Muslims, who are younger and have a higher birth rate, will outpace them. By 2050, "there will be near parity between Muslims (2.8 billion, or 30 percent of the population) and Christians (2.9 billion, or 31 percent), possibly for the first time in history." Barring unforeseen events—war, famine, disease, political upheaval and more—Muslim numbers will surpass Christians after 2070.

■ Worldwide, the unaffiliated will fall from 16 percent to 13 percent. Christians,

Muslims and Hindus live in areas with "bulging youth populations," high birthrates and falling levels of infant mortality, the report said. Even the global tally for Jews is expected to rise, based on the high birthrate of Orthodox Jews in Israel. Meanwhile, the unaffiliated are "heavily concentrated in places with low fertility and aging populations, such as Europe, North America, China and Japan," the report said.

■ Nearly two-thirds of all the unaffiliated worldwide live in China, the research found. "If Chinese authorities allow greater freedom of religion, the share of unaffiliated in the world population could shrink even more dramatically than the report predicts," said Ariela Keysar, associate director of the Institute for the Study of Secularism in Society and Culture, who consulted on the project.

■ While religious switching has a significant impact in North America and Europe, in many countries, changing one's religion is difficult—if not illegal. There's no data on religious switching among China's 1.3 billion people, with

nearly 50 percent of them in the unaffiliated ranks, for example.

But in the 70 countries where survey data was available, the report found that Buddhists and Jews are the primary losers on the switch-in/switch-out balance sheet, Hackett said. "In the USA, there are famous converts like Richard Gere, but there's a lot of disaffiliation among those who grew up Buddhist."

■ In the U.S., Christians will decline, from more than three-quarters of the population (78.3 percent) in 2010 to two-thirds (66.4 percent) in 2050. Religious "churn"—people leaving their childhood faith for a different faith or none at all—is the primary driver of change.

■ The Muslim share of the U.S. population is projected to climb to 2.1 percent, up from less than 1 percent today. Jews will fall from 1.8 percent to 1.4 percent.

■ In 2010, there were 159 countries with a Christian majority, but that will fall by eight countries, including France, the United Kingdom, Australia and New Zealand.

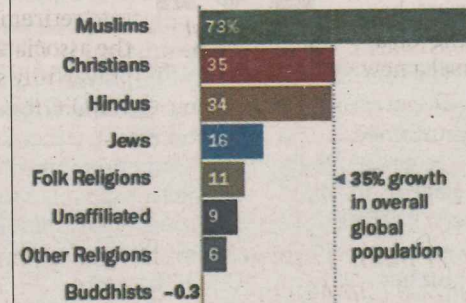
By 2050, Muslims will hold the majority in 51 countries, up by two from 2010, including Nigeria, which just elected a Muslim president, and the Republic of Macedonia.

"In many ways the value of projects like this is not to say what the world will look like in 2050. The world could change," said Cooperman. "But they tell us about the world today and the recent path. Peering into the future greatly illuminates what is happening today and its consequences." (RNS)

Islam Growing Fastest

Muslims are the only major religious group projected to increase faster than the world's population as a whole.

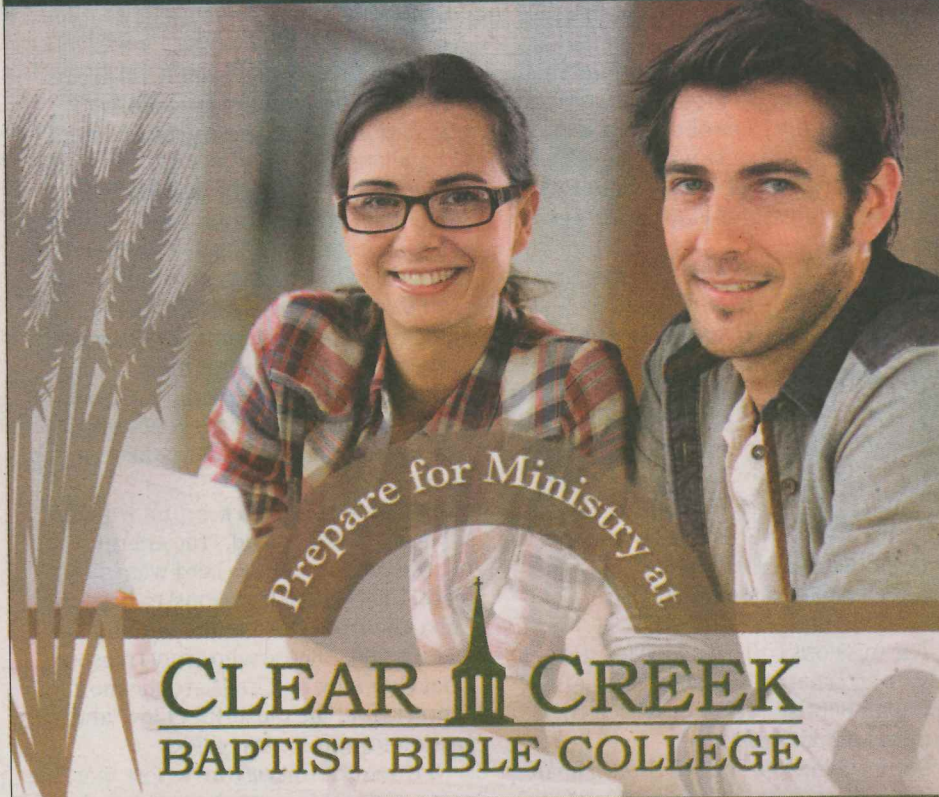
Estimated change in population size, 2010-2050



Source: The Future of World Religions: Population Growth Projections, 2010-2050

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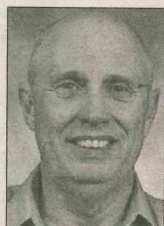
Babb retiring after 40 years of ministry

Louisville—Longtime Kentucky Baptist Convention staffer and international missionary Karl Babb, known for his sensitivity and integrity in working with pastors serving in difficult circumstances, will retire after 43 years in ministry.

A former missionary to the Philippines who also served a stint as president of the Philippine Baptist Theological Seminary, Babb spent the past 16 years working at the KBC in various roles.

He and his wife, Susan, plan to make their home in Florida in retirement.

"Karl Babb personifies the core values of the Kentucky Baptist Convention," said Steve Rice, KBC's Church Consulting and Revitalization team leader. "He is trustworthy in every way. Pastors across Kentucky have shared private thoughts and struggles with him, and he is above



Karl Babb

reproach in keeping them to himself."

Babb's role at KBC has grown more specialized through the years, moving from an all-encompassing family ministry role to becoming a pastor to pastors. He has served as transition and conflict management consultant since 2012. Babb has a doctor of ministry

degree from Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, a master of education degree from the University of Florida and a master of divinity degree from Southern Seminary, as well as a bachelor's degree from Florida State University.

"He is one of the most encouraging men I know," Rice said. "But possibly Karl's

strongest core value is his godly sensitivity. He cares deeply for people, congregations and his fellow employees."

Babb served as a missionary, primarily in the Philippines, with the International Mission Board from 1975-91. He began his work in ministry as the pastor of Poplar Grove Baptist Church in Owenton in 1972. (KBC)

Rust to retire as Little River DOM

Cadiz—Director of Missions Mike Rust has announced his plans to retire, effective May 10, from Little River Baptist Association in western Kentucky.

Rust, who has served Little River for the past 12 years, has agreed to remain on the job a couple days a week until a new DOM is selected.



Mike Rust

"Mike has been a leader with the western Kentucky DOM network and will be missed," said Eric Allen, leader of the Kentucky Baptist Convention's Missions Mobilization team. "I appreciate the passion Mike shows in everything he does."

Allen called on Kentucky Baptists to pray for Rust and his wife, Debbie, as they transition into retirement, and to pray for the associational leaders as they prayerfully seek the Lord for

their next DOM. (KBC)

Creation Museum discount for Ohio convention goers

Petersburg—Only a two-hour drive from the 2015 meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention in Columbus, Ohio, is the Creation Museum.

The popular museum, located in northern Kentucky near the Cincinnati Airport, is offering a discount of only \$10 per person for SBC attendees and accompanying family members touring the museum the same day. The discount is available June 13-21.

The one-of-a-kind Creation Museum, a part of the Answers in Genesis ministry, has attracted over 2.3 million guests since it opened in 2007.

The museum features world-class exhibits, including a \$1 million allosaur skeleton with an almost complete skull, high-tech planetarium, special FX theatre, mineral and fossil collections, and animatronic dinosaurs inside a 75,000-square-foot center that brings the pages of the Bible to life.

In addition, families can enjoy the museum's gardens with walking trails and a petting zoo, along with the largest zip-line course in the Midwest.

Johnny Hunt, former president of the Southern Baptist Convention and senior pastor of First Baptist Church of Woodstock, Ga., urges all Christian leaders to tour the Bible-upholding museum.

"I encourage every pastor to visit the Creation Museum and be blessed by this wonderful apologetic and evangelistic center. It's the best looking and most

high tech museum I have ever visited," Hunt said.

"More important, it shares the truths of God's Word from Genesis to Revelation with great emphasis on the gospel," he added. "Ken Ham and Answers in Genesis have provided us with yet another wonderful resource."

Ham, AiG president and visionary behind the museum and the future Ark Encounter—a life-size Ark under construction in northern Kentucky—extends a welcome to SBC leaders: "I invite pastors and other SBC leaders to make the drive south from Columbus to visit our museum. They will become better equipped to reach their youth and adults during these challenging times with the truths of the Bible from its very first verse."

On June 16 in the SBC exhibition hall, Ham will be signing complimentary copies of his best-selling book "The Lie: Evolution." The signing session will occur at the Creation Museum/Ark Encounter booth.

To receive special admission price, SBC attendees will need to present some form of evidence of attending the SBC when they arrive at the museum ticket counter, June 13-21. Family members accompanying the SBC leader must be present when purchasing tickets.

The museum is open 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Monday-Friday; 9 a.m.-6 p.m. Saturday; noon-6 p.m. Sunday. Visit www.CreationMuseum.org.

Shine again!

Appreciation for \$1 million raised through 2014 Sunrise campaign

"Don't hide your light! Let it shine for all." That's how Matthew's Gospel in "The Living Bible" (5:15-16) describes the power of Christ. Yes, like the glowing nature of light in our physical world, the nature of Christ's spiritual "light" in us seems to glow. That's why the gospel urges us to let it shine for all. "Shine!" was the theme of last year's Sunrise's special fundraising

campaign. From February 2014 thru December 2014, Shine! gifts added \$1,014,260 to our statewide nonprofit.

For that extraordinary generosity, our KBC affiliate says thank you. More than 680 Kentucky Baptist churches and 1,200-plus corporations, businesses and individuals made \$1 million shine!

But what does \$1 million mean to Sunrise? It represents \$686.24 toward the care of each of the 1,478 children and youth who slept in a Sunrise bed, sometime in 2014. Of course, caring for kids is what we do. It also represents 26 percent of the \$3.9 million (or one in four dollars) among the donations that Sunrise received in fiscal year 2014. And raising funds to help Sunrise care for kids is also what we do.

Your dollars touched hundreds last year. One of those young people was Chris from Spring Meadows, our

residential treatment center in Mt. Washington. President Dale Suttles explains, "After successfully graduating our program, Chris went to the Bluegrass Challenge Academy, then joined the Marines. At the end of last

year, Chris returned to Spring Meadows to share his personal story of redemption. One child, one contribution, one life redeemed—that's how we do math at Sunrise."

News like this, we can't hide, can we?

So if you were a Shine! donor last year, or if your church contributed to our Shine! 2014 campaign, will you do it again? We're counting on you! Just visit our website at www.sunrise.org. There you'll find everything you need to make 2015 your year to shine again: Posters, donation cards, business reply envelopes, offering/pew envelopes.

Or check your mail. We have mailed a letter from President Suttles. Look for an envelope that bears the "Shine! Again" photo accompanied by an excerpt from Matthew 5. Please open, pray for Sunrise and give as the Lord leads you to give. With your help, more Sunrise kids than ever can "shine for all" to see.

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



Register now for summer opportunities

From missions and camp to Ky. Changers and creative ministries

The Eliza Broadus Offering will be at work all summer during leadership development opportunities, mission trips for children, camp overnights, Kentucky Changers, and the rescheduled Creative Ministries Festival 2.0. EBO allows us to keep participant fees lower by covering some of the expenses of these ministries.

State Association Leader Training (SALT): All associational WMU leaders, including directors of missions, are invited to join us at the Kentucky Baptist Building on May 16. Come learn about the year ahead in WMU and new ideas for ministry. kywmu.org/salt

Mission Adventure for Kentucky Kids is a new mission trip opportunity for children in grades 4-6 and their leaders. Two mission trips are planned and will include Bible study, recreation, crafts, missionary speaker, and local mission projects. Join us in Princeton, June 11-13, or in Inez, June 25-27. Register by May 1 and receive the early registration rate of \$55. kywmu.org/missionadventure

Kentucky Changers are ready for four packed weeks of ministry projects. Changers will be working in June and July in Richmond, Marshall County, Maysville and Henderson. There are still openings for Marshall County, June 20-26, and Henderson, July 11-18. Bring some students and find out how

rewarding hands on missions can be. kywmu.org/changers

Overnights at Jonathan Creek and

Cedar Crest are a great opportunity for girls and their mothers or GA leaders to spend a night at camp. Come participate in outdoor activities, Bible study, crafts, and meet a missionary. Join us at Jonathan Creek, July 10-11, and at Cedar Crest, July 17-18. Early registration rate of \$55 per person through June 12.

kywmu.org/overnights

Camp Courage will bring boys, dads, and leaders together July 31-August 1 at Laurel Lake Baptist Camp in Corbin. A variety of outdoor activities as well as the ever popular RA Racers will be part of the fun and missions learning. The theme is "We Are Faithful Messengers" drawn from 2 Cor. 4:13. kywmu.org/courage

Creative Ministries Festival 2.0 has been rescheduled for August 14-15 at Living Hope Baptist Church in Bowling Green. Register now for a great missions experience of both learning and doing creative ministries. kywmu.org/cmf

Remember that the Eliza Broadus Offering is received all year long! Help us reach our goal of \$1,250,000 to support these and other ministries across Kentucky. kywmu.org/ebo

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

EBO at Work



Joy Bolton

Reaching their full potential

From all F's and potential drop-out student to OBI first lady

I was recently away from campus for a couple of days and received a phone call from Angie. She told me our youngest son, Alex, asked her if she was the president when dad is away. She told him she helped out when I was away, and Alex promptly responded by saying she should cancel school the following day. Alex often amuses and sometimes even bewilders us with the things he says and does.

Were it not for Oneida, this amusing little boy would not exist today. The Lord used the people of Oneida to save Angie's life, and now He is using Angie to save the lives of others. Angie obviously did not cancel school, but we both had a good chuckle about what Alex had requested.

When Angie arrived at Oneida as a sixth-grade student, she had all F's on her report card. Challenges at home led to absences which led to poor grades. Angie went on to be valedictorian of Oneida and her college. That college, by the way, was the one she followed me to.

Our principal recently told our student body he knew they were glad to be back in school at Oneida after Spring Break. The students grumbled, but I believe they understood his point about enjoying being with their friends. Many, if not most, kids grumble and complain about school.

Even though kids complain about school, they enjoy the socialization involved with school. The high school dropout rate in the United States has fallen to an all-time low at 7 percent. In 2000 there was a 12 percent drop-out

rate, but today's 7 percent still represents 2.2 million young people dropping out.

I have wondered how many more kids would have dropped out had they not found Oneida. Many of our kids come with academic challenges. Most are very capable, but need extra direction and attention to fulfill their potential. Many come with other challenges, some of which are social. Being educated at Oneida is a spiritual, academic, social experience. This all

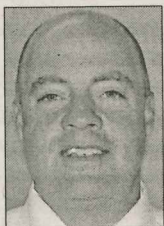
amounts to an education for time and eternity.

Come and meet Angie, OBI's first lady; Alex, my 9-year-old, and all the other students who are living and learning in this little place called Oneida.

Perhaps you know of a young man or young lady who needs to be told about our school, so that they, too, can come and reach their full potential. Maybe your advice could save them from dropping out and a life of unnecessary difficulties. I promise if you send someone here, Angie or I won't cancel school on a whim or at the request of Alex.

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

This is Oneida



Larry Gritton

More than a music professor

By Jennifer Floyd

Williamsburg—Jeff Smoak, a music professor at University of the Cumberlands, has had many other roles at the Kentucky Baptist university and in the community during the 21 years that he and his family have lived in Williamsburg.

"I've been on the campuses of many other larger institutions and the fact is that I, even in my position, can feel lost at an institution like a state school," said Smoak. "Being in a smaller university that's also founded in Baptist tradition gives me the security that I need to speak my faith openly and to be an example on campus to my students, family and peers.

"That freedom in this atmosphere is probably the ultimate reason why I stay at Cumberlands."

Smoak is a professor of music with an emphasis in voice and in 1998 he became the department chair.

He also teaches music education courses and voice lessons and directs Cumberlands Singers and the Chamber Choir.

On Friday mornings on the UC radio station WCCR 94.5 LPFM, Smoak hosts a show called "The Doctor J Show" with music from the 70s, 80s and today. His musical tastes are very eclectic so he enjoys this outlet to express it.

In music appreciation classes, he likes to be able to explore all kinds of music. Smoak has also been a guest judge on Spotlight as well as a regular judge on the previously known Cumberland Idol, which were hosted by UC's Campus Activities Board as a talent show for UC students. Smoak also is a teacher of the freshman orientation Insights class.

"One of the things that I like about doing Insights is also the reason that I like teaching Cumberland Singers, both of those particular groups are primarily not music majors," said Smoak.

"I'm a people person. I like being involved with students from all over campus. I like the interactive involvement with students who are from different majors and different backgrounds."

Not only is Smoak involved at UC, he is also the worship leader at Main Street Baptist Church in Williamsburg. He enjoys meeting new people in this aspect of his life as well.

Although, when he and his family first moved to Williamsburg, they didn't plan to do church work while he taught fulltime. After serving nine years at Greenland Baptist Church in Corbin,

where he started out to just lead a revival and then soon became their music minister, he began serving at Main Street Baptist Church.

He was willing to learn something new as he took on the challenge of a worship service that blended traditional hymns with contemporary praise songs. Smoak emphasizes that he and the praise team lead worship and are not performing.

"(With) the church location being so close to the college, we needed to be more open to changing worship styles," he said.

The music department also wants to find what is best for UC students. Smoak



Smoak with his wife Cheryl and their son Cameron.

and the other staff are updating the church music degree to a church music and worship degree.

After approval, the updated program should be ready this fall. Smoak enjoys the administrative part of the job, but his favorite part is interacting with students.

"If I can impart a little bit of knowledge, guidance and mentorship, then I'm doing my job," said Smoak. "The fact that a student can say, 'Hey, Dr. Smoak, this is what we're doing now' and it's what they've always wanted to do.

"To be able to lead students to find their calling and achieve their goals in life is what I think most of this is all about."

From the very first day for a new student, Smoak wants to ensure trust between the students, parents and teachers. He wants them to know that it's not only about teaching, but also about mentorship. "In a place like Cumberlands it's not all about teaching," said Smoak. "It's about nurturing and being a counselor, psychologist and a good listener.

"That helps to establish the foundation for becoming a good teacher and eventually becoming a mentor, someone that can guide the student not just in what courses they need to take, but in helping them make some decisions about their future. I like Cumberlands and the atmosphere of family that the faculty and students have with each other."

Smoak, originally from Savannah, Ga, was raised in Hardeeville, S.C.

After graduating with a bachelor of arts degree in music education from Charleston Southern University, he taught high school. He did his masters and doctoral work at Southern Theological Baptist Seminary in Louisville, where he was involved in church work.

In 1988, he married his wife Cheryl and they have a son, Cameron, who is in his junior year at UC. (UC)

encounter: women of worth in the park 2015



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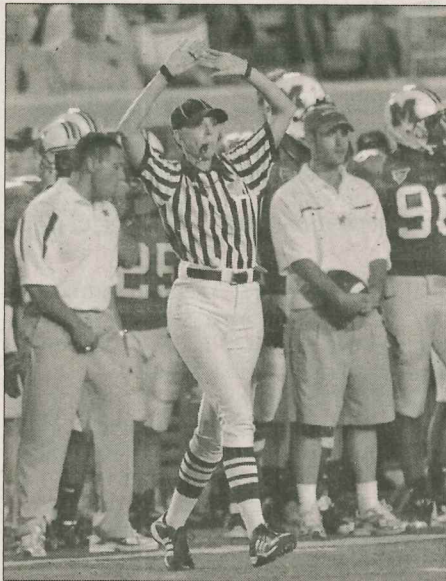
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NFL's first female official is graduate of Baptist university



Mobile, Ala.—The NFL's first full-time female game official, Sarah Thomas, is a former athlete of an Alabama Baptist university.

Thomas, who played basketball at the University of Mobile from 1992-95, will be a line judge for the 2015 season.

Based on performance, she will have the opportunity to move into other roles, including the highest position of referee. The NFL made the formal announcement April 8, capping days of speculation by sports media outlets.

UMobile athletics officials said Thomas, a 1995 graduate, had always performed at the highest levels and

Sarah Thomas, the NFL's first full-time female game official, is a former University of Mobile athlete.

shown the determination to succeed at anything she undertook.

"We are honored that one of our former athletes is achieving the highest level in her profession," UMobile athletics director Joe Niland said.

During Thomas' three seasons with the Lady Rams, the team won 61 games, including two seasons with a 13-3 record in the Gulf Coast Athletic Conference.

Thomas helped guide the 1992-93 team to a GCAC district championship and a berth in the NAIA National Championship tournament. She also was a two-time GCAC All-Academic selection.

For her career, Thomas totaled 779 points, 411 rebounds, 108 assists and 192 steals, the latter stat ranking fifth all-time at UMobile.

Martha Gore-Algernon, an assistant women's basketball coach during Thomas' UMobile playing career, praised her former player's work ethic.

"I'm not surprised she's made it this far," Gore-Algernon said. "She didn't set out to do this, but she just worked hard at it and they took notice of her. It couldn't happen to a nicer person. She was a great player to coach."

Thomas became the first female to officiate college football games in 2007 and the first female to officiate a bowl game in 2009.

Thomas decided to become an official in the 1990s after attending a coaching meeting with her brother. She became the first female to officiate a Division 1-A high school football game in Mississippi in 1996. (BP)

Floyd, 11 pastors to lead convention's 'Call to Prayer'

By Art Toalston

Columbus, Ohio—For an "epic night of prayer" during the Southern Baptist Convention, 11 pastors have been named by SBC President Ronnie Floyd to help lead the Tuesday evening session, June 16, at the Greater Columbus Convention Center.

Floyd has titled the session, "A National Call for Prayer to All Southern Baptists for the Next Great Awakening and to Reach the World for Christ" on the opening night of the June 16-17 SBC annual meeting.

"We will join together in the same room and around the world via technology for this one epic night of

prayer," Floyd wrote April 13 in his SBC column.

Two former SBC presidents, Jack Graham and James Merritt, will be among the evening's leaders. Graham is senior pastor of the Dallas-area Prestonwood Baptist Church; Merritt is lead pastor of the Atlanta-area Cross Pointe Church.

"It is time to call out to God for the next Great Awakening and to reach the world for Christ," Floyd, pastor of the multi-campus Cross Church in northwest Arkansas, wrote. "On Tuesday night, June 16, we will give the entire evening session of the SBC Annual Meeting to this national prayer gathering.

"We will gather to experience the

presence of God based upon the Word of God. We will be challenged briefly by some of America's great pastors, then launch into prayer sessions in response to God and His Word. We will also express our worship and praise to God together through music and singing."

Floyd also noted, "One of the unique moments of the evening will be when we embrace and celebrate our ethnic diversity, which may also involve moments of repentance and reconciliation. Each of us needs to be in this experience together, letting God do a powerful work in each of our lives and churches. Southern Baptists must lead the way in embracing and celebrating our ethnic diversity."

The overall theme for the two-day annual meeting in Columbus is "Great Awakening: Clear Agreement, Visible Union, Extraordinary Prayer."

In addition to Graham and Merritt, other leaders scheduled for the session are Timmy Chavis, senior pastor of Bear Swamp Baptist Church in Pembroke, N.C., and chairman of the SBC Multi-Ethnic Advisory Council; Steve Gaines, senior pastor of the Memphis-area Bellevue Baptist Church; David Galvan, lead pastor of Primera Iglesia Bautista-Nueva Vida in Dallas; J.D. Greear, pastor of The Summit Church in Durham, N.C.;

Paul Kim, pastor emeritus of Antioch Baptist Church in Cambridge, Mass.; Vance Pittman, senior pastor of Hope Baptist Church in Las Vegas; Ted Traylor, pastor of Olive Baptist Church in Pensacola, Fla.; Ken Whitten, senior pastor of Idlewild Baptist Church in Lutz, Fla.; and Marshall Williams, pastor of Nazarene Baptist Church in Philadelphia and president of the National African American Fellowship. (BP)

Why are churches overlooked?

Churches most overlooked charities in estate stewardship

Why do church members overlook their churches when making planned gifts? Planned gifts are gifts church members can't put in the offering plate; they are gifts out of assets, not income; gifts made in light of the church member's overall estate and financial plans; gifts that use tax-advantaged methods to accomplish the church member's philanthropic objectives; and gifts that may require professional adviser assistance to complete.

Churches are the most overlooked charities in estate stewardship and planned giving. Church members are more likely to include in their estate plans or make a planned gift to a college, children's ministry, human need ministry, the arts or a museum, but not a church.

We have discovered through assisting individuals and families the most likely reasons church members overlook their churches are these. First, they are never asked by their church leadership even to consider including the church in their estate plan or to make a planned gift during life. Second, most church members, even those who tithe out of their incomes,

understand tithing as something one does during life, but not at death. Third, they lack confidence the church has the ability to administer such a gift. Fourth, they were unsatisfied with the effectiveness on the church's ministry. Fifth, they did not have the level of esteem for the church's leadership required to make such a gift.

Ky. Baptist Foundation



Barry Allen

Let me encourage you not to overlook your church in your estate stewardship. To the extent Laurie Valentine, our trust counsel, can be of assistance to you, please give her that privilege. Call her toll-free. There is no cost or obligation for this consultation service. Furthermore, she can suggest proven solutions for consideration in overcoming the obstacles others have mentioned as reasons they did not include their church in

their plans.

Also, let me encourage you to visit our website at www.kybaptistfoundation.org for valuable charitable gift planning information, including an interactive estate plan organizer, which is a terrific secure and private data gathering, tutorial, decision-making tool.

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

Baptist Press launches app with SBC versatility

Nashville—Baptist Press, the Southern Baptist Convention's news service, has officially launched a free app connecting to its daily content and to key entities across SBC life.

The app is available in both Android and iPhone formats through Google Play and the Apple Store. Enter a search for "Baptist Press," using quote marks, for best access to the app.

The app replaces Baptist Press' mobile site by which smartphone users accessed the news service prior to the redesign of its website last September.

Art Toalston, now in his 24th year as editor of Baptist Press, said the app broadens BP's media spectrum, including its www.BaptistPress.com website and the news service's ongoing presence on Twitter and Facebook.

"The app also will offer a versatile connection to all of Southern Baptist life, connecting to entity websites that are at the forefront of missions, evangelism, service, discipleship, stewardship and biblical theology," Toalston said.

"We are not through yet," he added, noting that the app will remain under ongoing development.

Key features of the app include:

■ A "News" tab connecting to both BaptistPress.com and to BP en Español, the news service's Spanish-language weekly edition. The SBC Annual Meeting site also will be displayed from May through July in conjunction with this year's June 16-17 meeting in Columbus, Ohio.

■ A "Media" tab connecting to BP featured videos, photos and comics and to SBC.net, the convention's website; SBCLIFE, the journal of the SBC Executive Committee; the International Mission Board and North American Mission Board's news and feature sites; LifeWay Christian Resources' Facts & Trends magazine; the online newsrooms of the Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission and GuideStone Financial Resources; the six SBC seminary websites; and Woman's Missionary Union.

■ An "Info" tab that connects to Baptist Press on Twitter and Facebook and to information about faith in Christ for salvation.

■ An "HCSB Bible" tab that offers full audio content of the Bible. The HCSB—Holman Christian Standard Bible—is the translation utilized in resources published by LifeWay. (BP)



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

April

24-25 All-State Children's Choir Retreat, Cedarmore Camp & Conference Center, Bagdad

24-25 Women's Regional Retreat, Camp Schaefer, Hawesville. Laurel Lake Baptist Camp, Corbin

26 All-State Children's Choir Concert, First Church, Bowling Green; First Church, Hodgenville

27 Senior Living Celebration, Consolidated Baptist Church, Lexington

28 Senior Living Celebration, Parkway Baptist Church, Bardstown

30 Senior Living Celebration, First Baptist Church, Eddyville

May

1-2 Women's Regional Retreat, Camp Schaefer, Hawesville.

4-5 KBC Mission Board, Kentucky Baptist Building, Louisville.

5 May Power Lunch, Kentucky Baptist Building, Louisville.

6-8 FSA Crisis Team Training, Kentucky Baptist Building, Louisville.

13 International Mission Board Commissioning Service, Highview Baptist Church, Louisville.

MOUNTAINS TO THE MISSISSIPPI

COMPILED BY STAFF

CAMPBELLVILLE—Ted Taylor, director of church outreach at Campbellsville University, is serving as transitional pastor at First Church of Bowling Green.

LOUISVILLE—Carlisle Avenue Church will host Long Run Association's Revival & Spiritual Awakening Meeting on May 5 at 7 p.m. Guest speaker will be Richard Blackaby.

MARION—Second Church will be celebrating homecoming May 3. The Believers will be in concert. **Elvis Harrison** will bring the message.

SUMMERSVILLE—Summersville Church will host the gospel group, "Driven," on May 3 at 11 a.m.

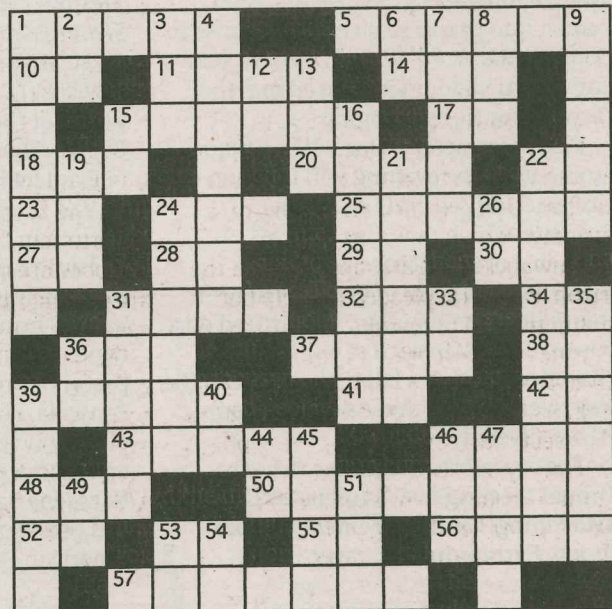
WHITESVILLE—Old Panther Creek Church will hold its 200th Anniversary celebration May 17. Nashville recording artist, **John Berry**, will be in concert at 1:30 p.m. Worship begins at noon.

Bible Crosswords

By Carole Stengel

Across

- 1 "We should be made ____" (Titus 3:7)
- 5 "Now I have prepared ... for the house of my God ... all manner of precious stones, and ____ stones in abundance" (1 Chronicles 29:2)
- 10 Each, abbr.
- 11 "I entreat thee also, true ____ fellow, help those women" (Philippians 4:3)
- 14 Federal Aviation Agency, abbr.
- 15 "This ____ said, I am able" (Matthew 26:61)
- 17 Laughter sound
- 18 "A meat offering baken in a ____" (Leviticus 2:5)
- 20 Unit of verse measurement
- 22 District of Colombia, abbr.
- 23 Letter after em
- 24 Timothy, for short
- 25 Hare
- 27 Railway, abbr.
- 28 Do, ____ mi
- 29 Kilogram, abbr.
- 30 "This ____ the day which the Lord hath made" (Psalms 118:24)
- 31 "All things ____ together for good to them that love God" (Romans 8:28)
- 32 The self, according to Freud
- 34 Common Era, abbr.
- 36 Louise, for short
- 37 Matured
- 38 Springfield's state, abbr.
- 39 "A time to weep, and a time to ____" (Ecclesiastes 3:4)
- 41 Pierre's state
- 42 Paid, abbr.
- 43 Capital of Tibet
- 46 "I, John ... was in the ____ that is called Patmos" (Revelation 1:9)



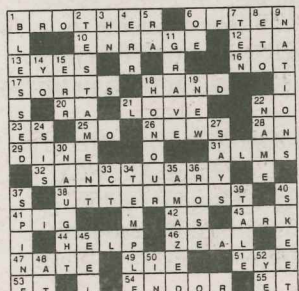
#035

- 48 "As many as they found, both ____ and good" (Matthew 22:10)
- 50 "My fellow ____ in Christ Jesus" (Philemon 23)
- 52 "Thou shalt not muzzle the ____ when he treadeth out the corn" (Deuteronomy 25:4)
- 53 Gym class, abbr.
- 55 Iridium, chemical symbol
- 56 To-do
- 57 Joined himself to a ____ of that country (Luke 15:15)

Down

- 1 "But are ____ of your joy" (2 Corinthians 1:24)
- 2 10 across
- 3 A type of grain
- 4 "Send to you Epaphroditus, my brother ... and fellow ____" (Philippians 2:25)
- 6 Air Force, abbr.
- 7 "Joshua saved ____ the harlot alive" (Joshua 6:25)
- 8 Sheep's sound
- 9 Command
- 12 Kiloliter, abbr.
- 13 End of month, abbr.
- 15 Footnote, abbr.
- 16 "These only are my fellow ____ unto the kingdom of God" (Colossians 4:11)
- 19 "Lest at ____ time thou dash
- 21 Tattered
- 22 "And the ____ were called Christians first in Antioch" (Acts 11:26)
- 24 "Emptied her pitcher into the ____" (Genesis 24:20)
- 26 Two, prefix
- 31 "They ____ have repented long ago" (Matthew 11:21)
- 33 Exclamation of pain
- 35 "The four and twenty ____ ... fell down and worshiped God" (Revelation 19:4)
- 36 Californian city, abbr.
- 39 Work
- 40 Sound of laughter
- 44 South America's language, abbr.
- 45 Western state, abbr.
- 46 Independent Order of Foresters, abbr.
- 47 A blunt nose
- 49 "Now also the ____ is laid unto the root of the trees" (Matthew 3:10)
- 51 Anger
- 53 Greek letter used for the ratio of a circle's circumference to its diameter
- 54 And, Lat.

#033



CLASSIFIED ADS

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. Resumes accepted via pastor@beaconhillbaptist.com.

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

SEEKING: Highland Ave. Baptist Tabernacle Church in Fort Thomas, Ky., is prayerfully accepting resumes 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 resume 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 pastorsearchhbtcfuse.net.

SEEKING: Friendship Baptist Church, Oakland, Ky., is seeking a bi-vocational pastor to lead our congregation. Resumes may be submitted by mail: Bobby Williams, 2117 Smiths Grove Scottsville Rd., Smiths Grove, KY 42171, or by email to friendshippastorsearch@gmail.com.

SEEKING: First Baptist Church of Somerset, Ky., is searching for a full-time middle school youth pastor with experience and passion. Grades 5th-8th. Send resume to Attn: Middle School Pastor Search Committee—fcoleman@fbcsonerset.org.

SEEKING: Full-time pastor for Rose Hill Baptist Church in Ashland, Ky. Active attendance 300 with a Christian school and day care. See our website at www.rosehillashland.com to submit a resume.

SEEKING: Horse Cave Baptist Church is accepting resumes for a full-time associate pastor with an emphasis in worship and administration. Primary qualities are to have a pastor's heart, called to the music ministry, and gifted in administration. Go to horsecavebc.org for complete job description. Send resume to kdenton.hcbc@gmail.com or mail to 301 E Main St., Horse Cave, KY 42749.

SEEKING: Pianist position available, Lexington Avenue Baptist Church, Danville, Ky. One service & one practice for \$100 weekly. Experience necessary. Call Philip Quinn at (859) 329-7056.

SEEKING: Dione Baptist Church in Harlan County, Ky., is seeking a bi-vocational pastor to lead a growing congregation with a dynamic student ministry. All applicants may send a resume to dionebaptist@yahoo.com.

SEEKING: McDowell First Baptist Church is seeking a full-time pastor to lead and shepherd a congregation of 150 active members in reaching community for Christ; blended worship service with worship leader, choir and audio visual media assistance; volunteer staff leading in established vibrant and growing ministries in Sunday School, outreach and mission groups for children, women and men; a caring, friendly family-oriented church in rural area of approximately 2,500 people with many unchurched; modern three-bedroom parsonage on church lot. Mail resume and sermon DVD or CD to Paul Little, First Baptist Church, P.O. Box 241, McDowell, KY 41647.

SEEKING: The Bates Creek Baptist Association, located in Madison and Garrard Counties in Kentucky, is seeking a DOM.

Would you or someone you know be concerned about beginning a mission to Jewish people in Louisville?
Call: Jim Hendricks (540) 525-4116

To place an advertisement in the Western Recorder:

Rates available upon request

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



Qualifications include 5 years of significant experience and preferred seminary degree. Resumes can be sent to TCBA, DOM Search Team, P.O. Box 69, Berea, KY 40403.

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 extended to April 30; Search Committee, 1351 Catalpa St., Louisville, KY 40211 or email m.zielberg@twc.com.

SEEKING: Winnwood Baptist Church seeks a senior pastor. For further information check web page, www.winnwood.org.

SEEKING: Olivet Baptist Church (Avg. 70 S.S. and 100 W.S.) in Paducah, Ky., is prayerfully accepting resumes for the position of full-time pastor to lead our congregation. Experience and seminary degree preferred, but not required. Please send resume and CD/DVD/Internet Link for sermons to: Olivet Baptist Church, Attn: Pastor Search Committee, 5186 Hinkleville Road, Paducah, KY 42001 or email to office@obcpaducah.org.

SEEKING: Evergreen Baptist Church in Frankfort, Ky., is accepting resumes for an interim part-time music minister. Please submit to Evergreen Baptist Church, Attn: Personnel Committee, 2698 Evergreen Road, Frankfort, KY 40601.

SEEKING: Pleasant Hill Baptist Church in Somerset, Ky., is currently taking resumes for the position of administrative assistant. If you are interested in applying for this position, please mail or email your resume to Gordon Bocock at 101 Owens Ferry Rd, Somerset, KY 42503 or coachbo@twc. The last day to submit will be May 1.

SEEKING: Fairview Baptist Church, Lincoln County: Our church is seeking a part-time associate pastor with duties including fill-in for pastor, home & hospital visits, and outreach. Please call the search committee at 606-669-8771 or church office at 606-365-2116.

SEEKING: FBC Cold Spring, Ky., is currently hiring a full-time minister of children, youth, and their families. This position will oversee the strategic vision for children's and youth ministries (nursery through high school), work with pastor to integrate family-oriented discipleship and parenting initiatives throughout the church, and help to cultivate community development across generational lines. Applicants should send resumes or questions to Angie Davis, Search Team Committee Chair at First Baptist Church, Cold Spring, Ky., via email: YouthSearchTeam@fbccs.com by May 15.

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

SERVICES: D K Insurance Services LLC. Experienced in church business insurance. Christian agency that understands the needs of the modern church and the exposures that exist. Can write business anywhere in the state of Kentucky and Indiana. Call Douglas Slaughter at (502) 533-4423(c) or (502) 968-9874(o).

TRAVEL: SBC Hotel Accommodations. Convenient walking-distance, complimentary breakfast. Good hotels. Christiantravelers.net or 1-800-972-8952.

Vietnam orphans make 'miracle' journey in 1975

By Gregory Tomlin

Garland, Texas—Pastor Nguyen Xuan Ha relayed the message to the children and workers of the Cam Ranh City Orphanage that the South Vietnamese army could not stop the communist juggernaut.

The last Americans had been evacuated from Saigon, and North Vietnamese tanks had crashed the gates of the presidential palace. The iron curtain had descended over Vietnam. It was April 30, 1975.

It was time to set sail. A once-sunken boat that Ha and some of the older orphan boys had patched hardly seemed seaworthy. They had been on the run since April 2. They fled south from Cam Ranh Bay to Phan Thiet, dodging firefights along the way. From Phan Thiet, they made their way to Saigon, and from Saigon to Rach Gia on the southern coast.

"When I look back on my journey, it reminds me of the movie 'The 10 Commandments' when Moses led the people of Israel out of Egypt," said Thomas Ho, who was one of the oldest children in the orphanage, built in 1967 by American servicemen, Vietnamese Christians and Southern Baptist missionaries.

"In the modern world, God is still in control. He still performs miracles around us every day," Ho said. "In 1975, pastor Nguyen Xuan Ha led 69 orphans and more out of Vietnam to the U.S., the land of opportunity, safely. I believe God took great care of us." Also on the 35-foot boat were 13 workers from the orphanage and 13 of their children.

Ho, now an air conditioning repairman and member of the Vietnamese Baptist Church of Garland, Texas, can close his eyes and smell the sea, hear the sound of children singing on the boat, and remember the prayers he and others prayed for deliverance.

A journey begins

Ho's journey to America began with his arrival at the Cam Ranh City Orphanage after the death of his parents. His mother died when he was two months old. His father, who fought in the South Vietnamese army, was killed in 1967. Ho's aunt was killed when their town was shelled in the middle of the night. He still remembers the sight.

When an artillery shell landed near their shelter, Ho's aunt told him to go next door while his uncle treated a cousin's leg wound. His aunt pledged to follow but was cut down by an explosion.

"I looked back and saw my aunt with her right hand holding her stomach. Every organ was exposed, but she still called out to me asking if I was safe. She died a few hours later," Ho recounted.

Ho made his way to Cam Ranh city, where he saw a bus full of orphan children handing out toys. He knew an orphanage would offer him clothes, food and an education, so he asked to be placed under the care of the new facility.

At the orphanage, Ho met Southern Baptist missionaries Walter Routh Jr. and Jim and Margaret Gayle. Routh and the Gayles had seen the horrors of war. They did what they could to make life bearable



Nearly 70 orphans boarded a patched-up boat on the southern coast of Vietnam on April 30, 1975, to begin a journey to freedom that brought them to the U.S. (Photo courtesy of Cam Rahn Orphans)

for the children.

"The earliest memory that I have of the orphanage is that the place was full of life, happiness, and everyone cared for each other," Ho said. Twice a week, they'd receive gifts, toys, go on picnics, and play with U.S. Marines at a nearby base.

Routh left Vietnam, but the Gayles stayed until they were furloughed in 1974. They planned to return, but the collapse of the South Vietnamese government removed that possibility. It also left the Gayles wondering what happened to the orphans.

Rescue at sea

Two days into the escape in 1975, the orphans' boat ran out of fuel, leaving them adrift far off the coast of South Vietnam with no food and little water. And then, God provided an answer to their prayers.

A Taiwanese freighter appeared on the horizon. Pastor Ha pleaded for help but the ship refused to tow the orphans' boat. Everyone on board prayed again for deliverance. Ho, then a teenager, said the freighter slowly turned around. The ship's sailors secured a tow line and the orphans were towed toward Singapore.

Southern Baptist missionaries in Singapore worked with the U.S. State

Department to transfer the orphans to America. When their plane landed at Fort Chaffee in Arkansas a month later, missionary Jim Gayle was the first person to walk into the plane to greet them.

"We were so happy. I thought I would never see him again after he left Vietnam," Ho said. "But seeing him again, all my worry left.... I felt like I was witnessing a miracle."

The Cam Ranh orphans eventually were taken in by the Buckner Children's Home in Dallas. After being assessed for their needs, the children were placed in adoptive homes. Today, they are doctors and businessmen, fathers and mothers—and U.S. citizens. But Vietnam still tugs at their hearts, Ho said.

"I miss Vietnam. It's the country of my birth and where I was raised. I do pray for both the people of Vietnam and the government," he said. "In Vietnam today, the poor are getting poorer and the rich are getting richer. There is no freedom of speech or religion."

Many of the Cam Ranh orphans returned to Vietnam in 2010 for the first time with Jim and Margaret Gayle. The group plans to return again later this year, but this time without Jim Gayle. After suffering through a long battle with cancer, Gayle died in 2014. (BP)

150 years after Appomattox: A redemptive surrender

By Stephen Douglas Wilson

Paducah—Gen. Robert E. Lee arrived at the McLean House near Appomattox, Va., on April 9, 1865, to meet with Union commander Gen. Ulysses S. Grant.

Nearly surrounded and with an undernourished army, Lee sought generous surrender terms from the Union army leader whose wartime nickname was "Unconditional Surrender Grant." Both men knew that what they decided on here would set the tone for the nation after the grueling four-year Civil War. The two men grew up in a United States that embraced a strong Christian worldview.

General Lee was a practicing Christian for most of his life and was confirmed in his Episcopal faith. He carried around a worn-out prayer book during the Civil War that was only replaced when he could no longer read the small print. He had freed his own slaves long before the war, retaining one of his freed slaves as his paid servant and confidant. Lee's personal compassion for others as both a private citizen and an army commander was legendary. In addition, he later confessed to other Southerners after the war that he had prayed for his enemies during the conflict.

The faith of General Grant is harder to

discern. At West Point, a youthful Grant revealed to others that he disliked attending chapel services. He was not a regular churchgoer, but did so occasionally at the request of his devout wife. Grant never publicly made his faith convictions known, although the Methodist pastor of his wife said that Grant had confessed Christ before his death.

Grant eventually confessed to resigning his military commission prior to the Civil War in part because of drinking too much. After returning to the Army, his wartime record never included incidents of alcohol impacting his military performance, although the pre-war charge of insobriety resurfaced among critics. His memoirs reveal his Christian worldview and desire to live a moral life. After the war when Grant was president, he signed the bill that made Christmas an official federal holiday.

Lee, dressed in his best uniform, arrived at the McLean residence first and waited for Grant to arrive. In a previous correspondence, Grant magnanimously told Lee to pick the meeting place and that he would meet him there. Grant entered the house in a mud-spattered field uniform that revealed his haste to get there. The two men exchanged pleasantries and discussed their common

military service in the Mexican War.

Surprisingly, Grant could not bear to bring up the subject of surrender. He later related he was genuinely saddened by the plight of his Confederate enemies. It was Lee who gently nudged the Union general into that discussion.

In one of the most Christ-like moments in American history, Grant proposed a gentle settlement for his enemies of four years. Grant offered to parole Lee's enlisted men only on their word not to take up arms against the United States again. Officers would sign a written parole vouching for their men. Enlisted men would give up arms, but officers could keep sidearms, horses and property. The Union commander said each man could return home without fear of being imprisoned or prosecuted.

Lee convinced Grant to let enlisted men keep horses and mules they possessed to assist planting crops for that spring. Arrangements were made for the hungry Confederates to be fed from Union storehouses. Lee conveyed his gratitude by saying, "This will have a very happy effect among the men and do much toward reconciling the country."

They shook hands and left. Lee rode back to Confederate lines; when Grant emerged from the McLean residence, Union troops began cheering, but the

general rebuked them. "The Confederates are now our countrymen, and we do not want to exult over their downfall."

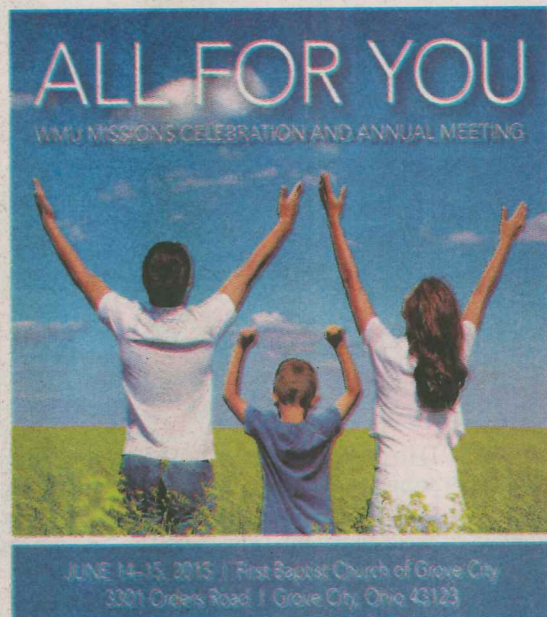
Three days later, Lee's entire army formally surrendered without incident. Each army showed the proper respect to each other; there is no record of a single Union soldier cheering for their victory or jeering their Confederate counterparts. Within two-and-a-half months, all other Confederate armies would surrender in like fashion. The Civil War was over.

For the rest of their lives, Lee and Grant possessed great respect for each other. Grant never spoke ill of Lee and later prevented authorities from charging Lee with treason as that would have violated spirit of the Appomattox peace.

Lee long remembered Grant's generosity. Years later when a faculty member at Washington College where Lee was president spoke ill of Grant, Lee interjected, "Sir, if you dare presume to speak anything disrespectful of General Grant in my presence again, either you or I will sever your connection with this university."

The spirit of Christ certainly had prevailed on that April day at Appomattox. It was on a Palm Sunday. As noted by an American historian, the men of both armies would all live to see Easter. (BP)

2015 National WMU Missions Celebration and Annual Meeting



Celebrate what God is doing around the world through missions! Come early to the SBC annual meeting in Columbus ... FBC of Grove City is just a 10-15 minute drive from the Greater Columbus Convention Center.

June 14-15, 2015

First Baptist Church of Grove City

wmu.com/columbus



There is still room for your group to get on board!

Open Projects :

Project Marshall County June 20-26, 2015

Project Henderson July 11-18, 2015

MORE of HIM

LESS of ME

kywmu.org/changers

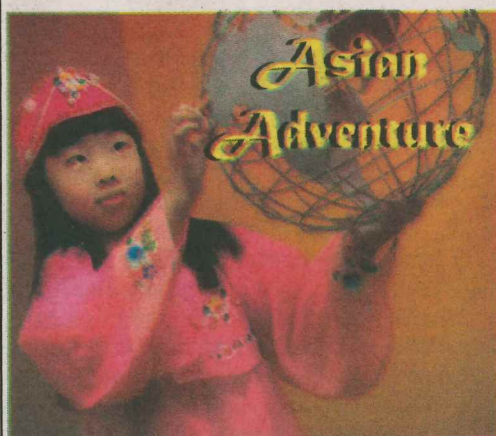
Overnights for GAs!

Overnight at Jonathan Creek

July 10-11, 2015

Overnight at Cedar Crest

July 17-18, 2015



Two options at each location

Mother - Daughter Overnight for girls who have completed grades 1-3 and their moms.

GA Overnight for girls who have completed grades 4-6 and their leaders.

kywmu.org/overnights

Camp Courage

We are Faithful Messengers!

2 Corinthians 4:13

July 31-Aug 1, 2015

Laurel Lake Baptist Camp, Corbin

Camp Courage is a statewide missions education event for Royal Ambassadors, Challengers, Dads, and Leaders.



kywmu.org/courage

2015 Creative Ministries Festival 2.0

RESCHEDULED

August 14-15, 2015

Living Hope Baptist Church, Bowling Green

kywmu.org/cmf

