

WESTERN Recorder

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Shine Like Stars * Philippians 2:15

Volume 189, Issue 11

IRAQI BELIEVERS: 'Do churches in America know what is being done to us?'

By Coy Webb

In the spring of 2014, an organized militia set out to create a form of Islamic government known as a caliphate in the Middle East. As spring turned to summer, this Islamic State (ISIS) destroyed the lives of hundreds of thousands of Syrian Christians, Iraqi believers, Yazidis and various sects of Shia Muslims.

More than 1 million were driven from their homes, and thousands of others were slaughtered or enslaved as this ruthless caliphate swept across Syria and Iraq.

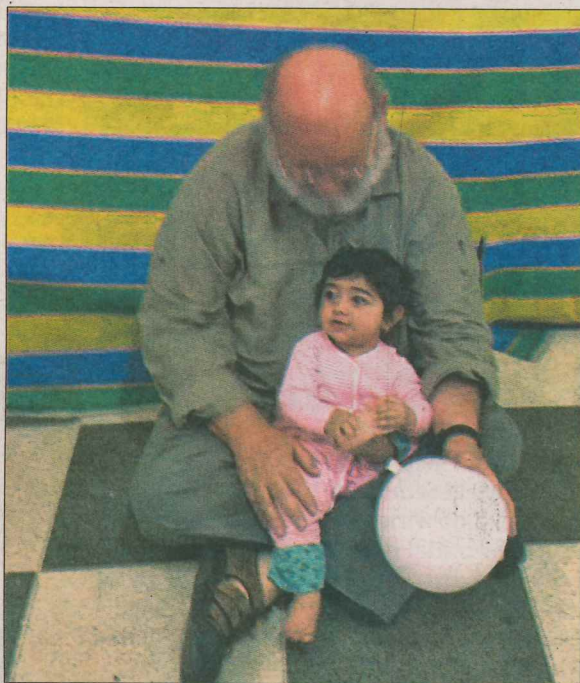
Thousands upon thousands fled into the Kurdistan region of northern Iraq to places called Erbil and Dohuk. They took refuge in parks, stadiums, abandoned buildings, parking garages, shelters and tents. Months later, many of them continue to live in camps and refugee centers with little hope of ever returning home.



Coy Webb

I have just returned from northern Iraq where I served with a Kentucky Baptist Disaster Relief medical and children's trauma team.

The team was comprised of Dr. Tom Ashburn of Barbourville, Glenn Hickey of Monticello, Stacy Nall of Shelbyville, Pat Callan of



A Kentucky Baptist Disaster Relief team served refugees in northern Iraq for nearly two weeks providing medical care and compassionate ministry. Left, Glenn Hickey of Monticello First Baptist holds a child as her mother and older siblings are treated in the medical clinic at a refugee center in a warehouse in Erbil, Iraq.

Sparta, Debra Kramer of Henderson, Karen Smith of Shepherdsville, and myself, Coy Webb, Kentucky Baptist DR director. We spent nine days in northern Iraq seeking to bring help, healing and hope to those displaced by war and violence.

As we ministered among the refugees, they only asked one thing of us, "Will you please tell our story to the world?"

Life as a refugee is difficult. In the winter, they endured snowstorms and cold temperatures. Now, in the summer, the heat can soar above 130 degrees Fahrenheit and the sun is scorching. Multiple

families are forced to share very limited water sources, bathrooms and kitchen areas. Every day is a battle to feed your family and survive.

The people we met were normal businessmen, professionals and middle-class folks in villages and towns. But when ISIS came, they literally had to run for their lives. The choice was convert to Islam, run or die. Most had to flee in the middle of the night, many with only an hour or so notice. They had to grab what they could and flee, only to be stopped at ISIS

□ See Iraqi believers ... Page 7

IMB to align missionary requirements with BF&M

By David Roach

Richmond, Va.—The International Mission Board's new policy on missionary qualifications—replacing previous restrictions related to baptism, speaking in tongues and divorce among other matters—represents an effort to keep basic requirements from going beyond the Baptist Faith and Message, IMB President David Platt told reporters May 14.

"We want it to be simple and clear that what's driving us doctrinally is what all these churches (of the Southern Baptist Convention) have agreed on in the Baptist Faith and Message," Platt said during an hour-long telephone press conference. "... We're tethering ourselves to the Baptist Faith and Message, and we tethered ourselves to it in such a way that if the Southern Baptist Convention were to edit or adjust the Baptist Faith and Message a year from now or two years from now or whenever, then that would adjust the way we work."

During the recent missionary appointment service at Louisville's Highview Church, IMB President David Platt challenges the congregation to go to unreached people living in hard places because we have an "incomprehensibly glorious God." (IMB photo by Paul Lee)

Approved during a May 12-13 IMB trustee meeting in Louisville, the new policy is one component of an effort to open "new pathways" of missionary service overseas for students, professionals, retirees and others and establish a single set of preliminary qualifications for all categories of missionaries, Platt said.

Trustees and staff will establish additional requirements for specific categories of IMB overseas personnel, he said.

New pathways of missionary service have not been established yet but are expected to be announced in the months ahead, Platt said.

Subsequent to the press conference, IMB spokeswoman Wendy Norvelle told Baptist Press trustees have yet to determine the preferred funding mechanism for new pathways of missionary service. She added, however, that the IMB encourages churches to give through the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for International Missions and the Cooperative Program. The

□ See IMB requirements... Page 6



Students launch out to 'make Jesus famous'

By Myriah Snyder

Louisville—"The Great Commission is to go and make disciples. ... Our obligation is to take the gospel and make Jesus famous—to make Him known. I am hoping to grow personally, to see fruit, and to plant seeds," Alexander Duvall, a sophomore at Western Kentucky University in Bowling Green, said.

Duvall is one of about 40 college students giving their summer to

missions through the Baptist Collegiate Ministries Experience 1:8 program. The teams were commissioned May 31 at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville.

"Launch week," a week of missions training at Southern Seminary will be followed by four to eight weeks of serving on a mission field in Kentucky and beyond.

Bowling Green, Corbin and

□ See Ky. Students ... Page 2

Summer missionaries and family members pray together during a May 31 commissioning service at Southern Seminary in Louisville. (KBC photo by Robin Cornet)



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Western Recorder 6-02-2015

Pike Association DOM named Kentucky's NAMB Ambassador

By Robin Cornetel

Pikeville—Pike Baptist Association Director of Missions Jason Lowe has been tapped to serve as the next North American Mission Board ambassador to Kentucky Baptist churches.

Lowe said he is "very excited about the opportunity to help Kentucky Baptist pastors and churches more effectively engage the mission field in the United States, Canada and beyond."

Lowe assumed the ambassador role on June 1, but will continue to serve as Pike's DOM.

"The two roles will be very similar in

that they both involve encouraging, equipping and engaging churches in the work of the Great Commission," Lowe said.

"As DOM, I strive to accomplish this at the local level. As NAMB ambassador, I will work with churches across the state by connecting them with the appropriate resources at NAMB."

Lowe fills a position left by Paul Badgett, now a KBC consultant for the east region.

"Jason has a passion for missions and a



Jason Lowe

love for pastors, the perfect combination for this position," said NAMB President Kevin Ezell.

Part of the ambassador's role is to relay the gratitude NAMB missionaries have toward churches that give sacrificially to the Cooperative Program and the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering.

"In an effort to do this with greater excellence, we have asked a pastor from each state to be NAMB ambassador," Ezell said. "We are thankful that Jason Lowe has agreed to serve in this role for Kentucky."

Ezell also thanked KBC Executive Director Paul Chitwood for his

partnership in reaching North America for Christ.

Chitwood nominated Lowe, one of the state's youngest DOMs, for the ambassador position.

Lowe said he plans to coordinate several NAMB Pastor Appreciation lunches across the state each year as a means of encouraging Kentucky pastors, particularly those working second jobs.

"Bivocational pastors are my heroes," he said. "Because of their busy schedules, I believe that one of my biggest challenges will be to discover how best to connect these brothers to the resources that NAMB provides." (KBC)



Sunrise sells Dixon facility

Mount Washington—Sunrise Children's Services has sold its former residential treatment facility in Webster County. The 3,030-square-foot building sits on 1.8 acres in a private wooded area.

Tanzon Asset Advisors handled the online auction on Sunrise's behalf. The buyer intends to lease the building to a party that will continue to serve the community. The building and land are located near Dixon.

Some months ago, Sunrise ceased using Dixon as a treatment center because the statewide nonprofit is expanding its foster care and community-based services.

"During fiscal year 2014, Sunrise cared for 1,618 children and youth across Kentucky," said Sunrise CFO Guy Goodner. "But we want to serve even more as the need has increased."

"Dixon has been an important part of our ministry over the years," said Sunrise President Dale Suttles. "Dixon caregivers made a real difference in the lives of several thousand children. We are truly grateful to them. But this sale allows Sunrise to serve many more children and their families in Western Kentucky."

Southern student leads relief in native Nepal

By Andrew Smith

Louisville—When N.D. Lama first heard about the earthquake that struck his home country of Nepal in April, he immediately started thinking of ways he could help.

Lama, a student at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary and pastor of Asha Church in Louisville, teamed up with some of his friends in Nepal to raise \$50,000 for initial relief work—more than half of which has already been distributed to provide food, clothes and other basic needs.

But that has only given Lama bigger aspirations. He soon learned that the April 25 earthquake, which killed more than 8,000 people, had left Nepal's capital of Kathmandu and many surrounding cities without running water.

Most of the water in Kathmandu comes into the capital through pipes from outside the city, but those pipes broke during the earthquake.

Finding clean, drinkable water has become a major problem throughout Nepal, something Lama's friends told him needed to be resolved quickly.

"We are fearful that when they drink infected water, an epidemic may hit," he said.

His mentor, Todd Robertson, pastor of Louisville's Antioch Church, encouraged Lama to look into WaterStep, which provides clean water to communities worldwide.

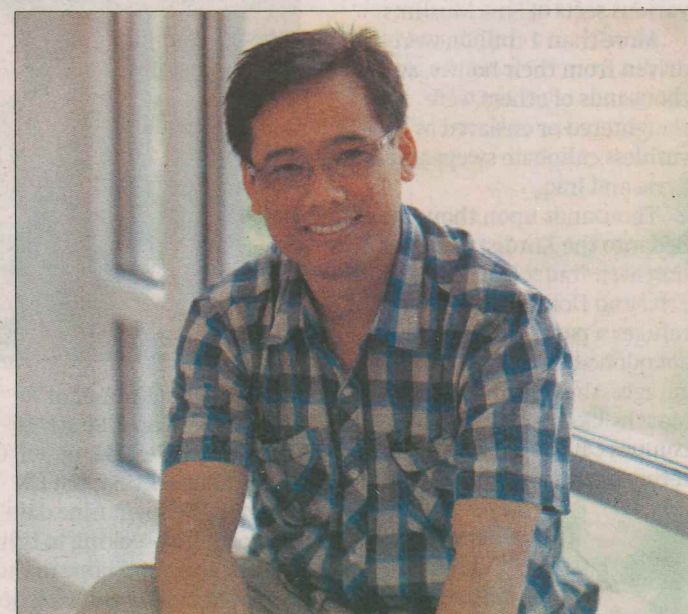
WaterStep agreed to help, arranging for 100 purifiers to be delivered to villages in seven different regions of Nepal.

WaterStep will soon send volunteers to train people from each community to use the purifying units, in the hope that each village will be able to run the machine for itself. The units can provide as much as 38,000 liters of water per day.

Lama is arranging for his friends to accommodate the WaterStep volunteers in Nepal, and believes that providing safe water will have the secondary effect of allowing health workers to focus on other pressing issues.

"When you are able to prevent people from getting sick that means you are saving more energy to serve other victims," he said. "When these people get sick, the situation gets worse."

Since many Nepali people are without homes, Lama plans



N.D. Lama, a student at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary and pastor of Asha Church in Louisville, teamed up with friends in Nepal to raise \$50,000 for relief work following the April earthquake.

to help build at least 100 houses before the country's summer monsoon season begins.

Lama moved to the United States in 2008 to receive Bible training. After he finishes his degree at Southern, Lama will return to his home country with the ambition to start 1,500 Christian elementary schools and 400 churches before 2045.

Lama's family lives in Nepal's northeast region, where they felt the earthquake but without the devastating effects as in the capital of Kathmandu, he said. His friends in Kathmandu, however, have seen houses completely destroyed and members of their churches killed.

"I feel a lot of pain. It doesn't make sense sometimes, but still I believe in God," Lama said. "Even though I don't understand, I believe God is in charge. Even though I don't feel it, I believe it and trust in it." (SBTS)

Ky. Students

Continued from page 1

Shelbyville are the first destinations for many of the students as they experience what it means to be servant evangelists. They will help Kentucky churches reach out to their communities through backyard Bible clubs, sports camps and home-repair ministries.

After launch week, teams will split up on their assignments. The team from WKU will go to Columbus, Ohio, and work with church plants. They will return to Bowling Green, where they will work with international students.

University of the Cumberlands' group will be based out of Immanuel Baptist

Church in Corbin. Campus Missionary Dean Whitaker said that UC students will be serving all the way from Alaska to Panama City Beach, Fla.

Duvall is excited about the opportunity to reach Saudi Arabian students who are staying on campus this summer. Saudi Arabia is "so close to the gospel," he said, and "this is just an amazing opportunity to reach a people group that is really hard to reach otherwise."

"Giving my summer to the Lord is something I have wanted to do for years," said WKU junior Clay Watkins. "I long for the inward growth that comes along with it."

Doug Williams, KBC Missions Mobilization strategist, delivered the

challenge to the summer missionaries.

"Kentucky Baptists, we have over 2,400 churches in the state convention. Our issue is not resources; our issue is not manpower. Our issue is obedience. Let's take this gospel; let's go this summer; and let's make Jesus famous in Kentucky, North America and all over this globe," Williams said.

Williams added, "We are called to continue the mission that Jesus began." Drawing from Acts 1:8, he identified the subject of missions as Jesus, the power of

missions as the Holy Spirit, the goal of missions as the world, and the

expectation of missions as Christ's return.

"Serve the needs of the hurting, but not to the neglect of serving them the greatest need of all, and that's the gospel of Jesus Christ," Williams said. "This mission is about Jesus' death, burial and resurrection."

"Know that my prayers are with you. I'm excited to see what God is going to do not only through you, but in you," he said. (WR)

"Giving my summer to the Lord is something I have wanted to do for years. I long for the inward growth that comes along with it."

WKU junior Clay Watkins

Old Panther Creek Baptist celebrates 200 years

By Myriah Snyder

Whitesville—A church that typically may have 25 in attendance on a Sunday morning estimates having around 200 celebrating its 200th anniversary on the weekend of May 15-17.

Old Panther Creek Baptist Church in Whitesville (Daviess County), a town boasting a population of 600, was established in 1815 by Benjamin Kelley, an elder in the church.

"When he was a kid, he actually ran with Daniel Boone and was captured by the Indians and had to escape," according to Mark Adkins, pastor of Old Panther Creek for the last nine years, who shared the story with Nexstar Broadcasting.



Mark Adkins

"The first pastor of the church, Ansel Hall, lived 15 miles from the church back in 1815," Adkins said. "He actually had to walk a two-day circuit to get to church on Sunday, and he did that faithfully for 25 years."

"I think that is an incredible story of him being faithful to the church and faithful to the community," he added. "I think it set the tone for everything that has happened since then."

Velva Baker, the church's oldest member, started attending Old Panther Creek when it just had one room.

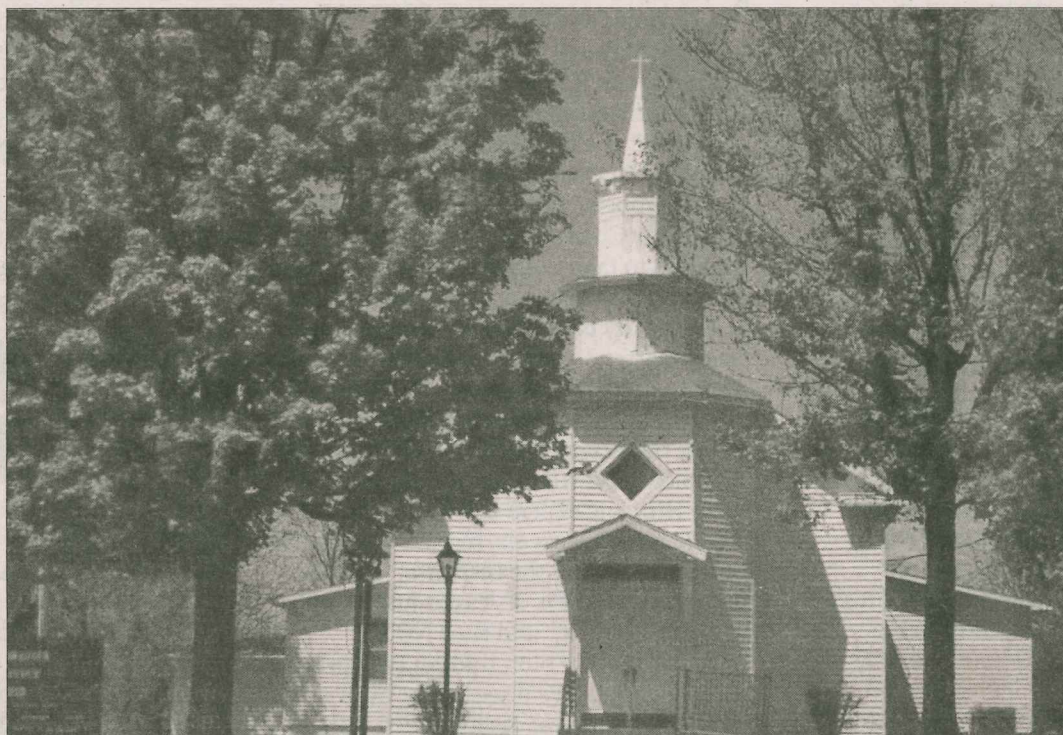
Baker told Nexstar, "It's just been a great church, and I've had a great life coming to this church."

Her daughter, Deloris Kindred, who also spoke with Nexstar, claimed the reason for the church's longevity is "no secret."

"No matter what went on in your life, they (members) were there to love and support you," she said.

Pastor Adkins added, "I remember the very first Sunday that I came to the church back in 2005, I was doing pulpit supply. One of the elders of the church said, 'When you come to Old Panther, you're not a visitor, you're family.'"

"That has always been true since I have been at the church," he continued. "We don't know a stranger. We



Old Panther Creek Baptist Church in Whitesville (Daviess County), a town boasting a population of 600, was established in 1815 by Benjamin Kelley, an elder in the church.

believe anybody who comes through those doors is here by the invitation of God. We're glad to fellowship with them, and we treat them like family."

The homecoming festivities lasted three days and included a revival preached by Roy Finley and Jeff Draper, both of whom grew up at Old Panther Creek. Several gospel groups provided music throughout the weekend, including the Glory Bound Singers, Strings and Ivory, E2 and John Barry. Adkins told Wave3 News that although the church has shrunk in numbers over the years, the member's faith is still going strong.

"Really for me as a pastor, my goal and my vision is just to help the members of the church see that they do have talents and they do have gifts, and though we're a small church, God can use us in a powerful way," he said. (WR)



Crossings, IMB partner in renewed 'mission focus'; expecting a banner year

By Myriah Snyder

Louisville—More than \$200,000 is the goal set for campers attending Crossing Camps this year to raise for missions. And, Crossings Ministries will double what the kids raise, said David Melber, president of Crossings Ministries.

This is part of a "unique partnership" that Crossings has started with the International Mission Board, according to Melber.

Crossings Ministries is projecting another record year in attendance with more than 13,000 students registered for summer camps.

"That's 1,000 more than last year, and we're still adding," Melber said.

"The biggest thing for us this year is the mission focus," Melber said. "Not that we haven't had that in years past, but this is a goal unlike anything we've ever done."

He continued, "We're hoping to raise between \$400,000 and \$500,000 this summer to help facilitate non-American missionaries to go into restricted areas where the gospel has not been taken."

"We hope through all the videos and all the education we show during camp that students would not only understand but also have a heart for the Great Commission and proclaiming the gospel in their lives, whether that is one day to be an accountant and sharing the gospel in their job or whether that is to be a missionary or a pastor," Melber added.

The year-and-a-half in the making partnership is in addition to various international partnerships Crossings is a part of in the Philippines, Trinidad, Zambia, Moldova, Ukraine, India and, most recently, Haiti.

"They (IMB) had a vision of taking the gospel to some of these unreached people groups. We had a vision of wanting to see the gospel being taken. The two just wed perfectly," Melber said.

David Platt, IMB president, addressed this partnership in a video to Crossings Ministries. "I want to take just a quick minute to thank you for what you are doing there at Crossings as you are praying for the spread of the gospel to go to the nations and as you are giving sacrificially toward that," Platt said.

He continued, "As you're celebrating the gospel, I'm so thankful that you're turning your eyes and your ears and your hearts toward those who have never heard this good news of what God has done in Christ."

"So I want to encourage you to give sacrificially, to think through individually, and then collectively look at what we've got an opportunity to be a part of as we give to see missionaries mobilized from churches to take the gospel to those who have never heard it," he said.

"I praise God for all the great things I have heard about what He has done and is doing at Crossings, and I pray that as you give toward this offering that the fruit of

your giving would have ripple effects literally all around the world for ever, for all of eternity, that as a result of your giving, people might hear the gospel and be saved from their sins," Platt concluded.

The first influx of campers unpacked their Bibles and swimsuits this past weekend at Jonathan Creek in Hardin. Cedarmore, Crossings' camp in Bagdad, will host its first round of sweaty, screaming students this week.

A typical day at Crossings starts with breakfast and "morning celebration." Bible study and group discussion go on until lunch time. After lunch, students participate in recreational activities and spend time with their church groups. After dinner is worship and "checkpoint" to discuss the day followed by more recreation time.

This year, in addition to renovations—new rooms, exteriors, common spaces and expanded housing—at both campuses, new "Points of Impact" or POIs are available. POIs are times of recreation/activity that take place every afternoon. New POIs include gaga ball, human foosball, Zumba, illusions, Legos, Minute to Win It, and science experiments (for kids camp).

Melber said Christian camps across the country have been in decline since 2000 and many have gone out of business. He said he's often asked how Crossings manages to draw thousands of kids from as far away as Florida and New York to spend summer after summer in the small

Kentucky towns.

"The Lord is very gracious," he said. "Crossings continues to grow in spite of us."

"We exist to proclaim the gospel. That is why God has us on this earth," Melber said. In that regard, there's another number Melber wants to see increase this summer.

"It would be great to see 1,000 kids come to know Christ," he said. Last year, more than 800 salvation decisions were made at Crossings camps.

The theme, "Proclaim," will echo from Crossings worship centers this summer. Each night, students will hear the plan of salvation and learn how to share it with others.

To those considering bringing groups to camp, Melber said, "We want them to know the gospel is going to be proclaimed. We want them to know that there are a lot of fun activities at camp."

He concluded, "There's a lot of things at camp that would make it appealing to a lost student, so use this as an evangelistic opportunity and bring your unsaved kids. And your saved students are going to be presented with how to partner with the Great Commission in taking the gospel to the uttermost parts of the earth, especially through this new partnership with the IMB." (WR)

Robin Cornelet, of KBC Communications, contributed to this story.

Summer is missions time

More than any other season of the year, summer is the time for Kentucky Baptists to be on mission! Volunteer mission trips in and out of the state and overseas are on the calendar for most of our churches.

Here at home, probably the biggest mission event in our communities is Vacation Bible School, a time when churches all across the state will be ministering to and sharing the gospel with families. Kentucky Changers is also a

Together We are the KBC



Paul Chitwood

big part of a missional summer for many of our churches committed to sharing Christ in their Judea. In addition to hosting Kentucky Changers, the WMU staff members have a calendar packed with summer mission activities and trainings.

I recently had the privilege of spending time with Crossings Ministries' summer staff, most of whom are

college students, as they prepare for their summer mission of sharing the gospel with close to 14,000 young people at our Kentucky Baptist camps. Another group of college students will take part in the Kentucky Baptist Convention's Experience 1:8, a discipleship and missions program that seeks to mold students into missional leaders. Students will serve in Kentucky, as well as outside of the state and nation.

Kentucky Baptists will benefit from thousands of reinforcements as we seek to reach our state for Christ this summer. Volunteer mission teams from churches sprinkled across the Southern Baptist Convention choose Kentucky as a missions destination each year, most doing their work in the summer. While the mountains of eastern Kentucky and counties along the Mississippi River Valley receive the lion's share of volunteers, several other communities in our state are host sites as well.

Why such a flurry of activity for Southern Baptists and Kentucky Baptists while most are simply enjoying the "lazy days of summer?" The Bible's final chapter helps answer that question. No less than four times do we find the imminent return of Jesus referenced in Revelation 22. In verse 7, Jesus declares, "I am coming soon." In verse 10, the angel warns, "The time is near." Then, in verses 12 and 20, Jesus twice more announces, "I am coming soon!"

At the moment of His return, the invitation to "come ... take the free gift of the water of life" extended in verse 17 will forever be closed. Those who have accepted Christ's invitation will have their sins forgiven and enjoy eternity in His heavenly kingdom. But those who have not accepted the invitation will receive the wages of their sin in an eternal hell. Yet, until that moment, the invitation still stands. And that invitation is to be heralded by those who, themselves, have accepted it. Thus, the highest privilege and heaviest obligation in history rests upon us: We are to share the hope of the gospel while there is still time for the lost to be saved.

Summer is close at hand. So is the Savior's coming. Kentucky Baptists, we have work to do!

Paul Chitwood is executive director of the Kentucky Baptist Convention.

The transformative power of saying 'I will'

Saying "I will" do something is a lot different from saying "I could," "I might," "I can" or "I should." It requires commitment. It's transformative. That's the premise behind Thom Rainer's latest handbook for church members that describes nine traits of an outwardly focused Christian.

"I Will!" is a follow-up to his best-seller, "I am a Church Member." In this excellent resource for both new and long-time members, which will be available in July, the president of LifeWay Christian Resources encourages would-be disciples to take the next crucial step: moving from a right attitude ("I am") to a right action ("I will").

"It's really basic," Rainer acknowledges. "It's a matter of learning what the Bible says about being a part of the body of Christ. It's about hearing His voice through His word."

But then comes the hard part for many disciples: "And when Christ asks you to serve Him and others in His church, you should have one joyous response. Of course, by now you know the response," he adds. "I will." Let's admit it. It's easier just to reply, "I'll pray about it," and then NOT.

It doesn't take our children long to realize that when someone says, "We'll see," what he or she really means is "not likely." They retreat disheartened, sulk or, worse, throw a tantrum. We often play a similar semantics game when it comes to church, but God knows our true heart—and it usually doesn't take long for others to figure it out, either. That's one reason many become disheartened and disillusioned with the church, Rainer suggests.

The transformative power, he says, begins when we choose, instead, to adopt the attitude of Christ, highlighting Philippians 2:4-5. Beyond leading church members to declare, "I will have the attitude of Christ and put other church members before my wants and desires," Rainer calls them to make some essential commitments: to worship with others, to grow together in a small group, to serve, to go share the gospel, to give abundantly and joyfully, to focus on positive ways God is using the church, to become an instrument of revival, to make a difference for Christ.

Imagine what could happen in our churches if we all became instruments of revival. It would be ... transformative.

"It is time for church members to become a part of a

movement where self is sacrificed and the body of Christ is strengthened. It is time to seek to bring glory to God through His church. It is time for a real revival of the hearts of church members," he urges. "So beginning this moment, become the type of church member who will be used by God to be an instrument of a movement of revival in our churches."

"I do." Say the simple phrase, and people immediately associate it with wedding vows. It connotes making a life-time commitment to someone. Saying "I will" should too. The two-word phrase should just as immediately be associated with our commitment to God. As disciples of Christ, "I will" should be our ready response to serving others.

After Thought

By Todd Deaton



In a moving commissioning service at Highview Baptist Church in Louisville, Kentucky Baptists witnessed 34 disciples, including three Kentucky couples, say "I will" go wherever He leads and tell others about Jesus. They join approximately 4,800 missionaries seeking to share the gospel in some of the darkest and most difficult

places around the world.

In a rousing challenge, International Mission President Platt proclaimed, "God is worthy of more than 'nominal, casual, comfortable Christianity.'" More than mere casual acceptance, the gospel elicits "total abandonment," he said. "This gospel beckons us to abandon plans and dreams and possessions and priorities and treasures and pleasures in this world."

Jesus told a story about a man with two sons in Matthew 21:28-31. The father instructed his sons to go work in the vineyard. The first son refused, but later obeyed and worked in the vineyard. He ultimately did the will of his father. The second son quickly said, "I will," but actually disobeyed and did not work in the vineyard. Jesus likened the first son to tax collectors, prostitutes and other outcasts of Jewish society because they accepted Him as the Messiah and turned from their former disobedient ways. Jesus pronounced judgment on the leaders of Israel, who were likened to the second son who, although he first stated he would obey, did not do the will of the father.

Which son are you most like? Does your "I will" mean something?

'Blooming blessings' from your flower garden

By Diana Davis

When our children were small, we'd stop by the garden store each spring to select packets of zinnia seeds to plant outdoors. We'd wait in amazement as big, colorful blooms began to appear.

Then we'd watch for opportunities to use the flowers in ministry. Just as another bloom would appear, a need seemed to arise—a neighbor, discouraged acquaintance, child with a broken arm, a friend in the hospital—and we'd share.

Whether you have a garden or a favorite local florist, it's remarkable how a flower can provide a reminder of His love:

■ Prepare cards with a Scripture, and attach with a ribbon to gift flowers.

Handwrite a note: "This flower's from my garden! Remember that God loves you and so do I. Get well soon."

Fresh Ideas



Diana Davis

■ Collect inexpensive bud vases. Add flowers for a personal gift for a friend.

■ Help your child deliver a flower to a teacher, school nurse, grandparent, dentist, postal carrier or sick friend.

■ Fill vases of flowers for the restroom counters at church on Sundays.

■ For long-term illness, deliver a few flowers in a vase, and assign different church members to add a flower or two to add each day.

■ Recycle altar flowers. Divide them into bouquets and deliver to sick, homebound, hospitalized or nursing home members or friends.

■ Allow green-thumbed church members to help with church landscape. Host a garden party, or organize a group to meet for an hour on Saturdays.

■ Plant flowers for homebound members or elderly church neighbors.

■ Plant bulbs at a nursing home and host a tea or hymn-sing when they bloom.

■ Enhance a church buffet dinner with wildflowers and vines from your yard.

■ Do a "God Cares" project for neighbors near your church. Prepare notes about how much God cares about them, quoting Luke 12:28. Participants bring cut flowers, tie with twine and deliver with an invitation to worship.

So clip some wild sunflowers, prune your roses, or visit your florist. And as you admire God's beautiful creation of flowers, watch carefully for ways to use them to honor Him. I'm planting zinnias with my grandson, and thanking God in anticipation of sharing His creations. (BP)

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Shine Like Stars * Philippians 2:15

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For missionaries, Baptist Faith & Message is touchstone

By David Platt

The Southern Baptist Convention International Mission Board trustees approved policy changes recently regarding baseline qualifications for missionaries. There have been various misunderstandings communicated online and in social media about these policies, and these reports have given us the opportunity to provide necessary clarifications concerning what this policy change means.

The driving force behind all these changes is to unify all SBC churches under the umbrella of the Baptist Faith and Message in order to send limitless missionary teams to unreached people and places for the glory of God.

One issue that has particularly drawn attention is the practice of speaking in tongues or the use of a private prayer language.

Until now, if a person had spoken in tongues or practiced a private prayer language, that person was immediately disqualified from appointment as an IMB missionary. IMB trustees voted to remove that automatic disqualification.

Yet this was a vote that addressed

issues of qualification for potential IMB missionaries in the church, not the practical work of actual IMB missionaries on the field. That is a critical distinction.

Over the course of appointing, training and supervising missionaries, IMB addresses many significant theological and practical issues, including the use of tongues. Though these issues may not affect our base qualifications, they

do affect our everyday work.

IMB's long-held position remains that these practices cannot be normative in teaching or disruptive in practice. Through careful appointment, training and supervisory processes, IMB ensures that every missionary remains resolutely focused on making disciples and multiplying churches in ways that faithfully represent Southern Baptist theology, missiology, ecclesiology and practice.

The purpose of these changes is to more intentionally unite IMB policies with Southern Baptist belief and practice as expressed in the statement of faith upon which over 40,000 Southern Baptist churches have agreed: the Baptist Faith and Message.

Any changes we make at IMB are

not being considered and implemented simply for the sake of change.

The reality of today's lost world leads us to be unified and act with urgency in order to get the gospel to more people and places, all while remaining tightly tethered to Southern Baptist convictions.

As the international missions arm of the Southern Baptist Convention, the IMB cannot settle for anything less than a streamlined approach focused on empowering limitless missionary teams to make disciples and multiply churches among unreached people and places for the glory of God.

I have been very encouraged from the spirit of unity among our trustees to the responses we have received from pastors and entity leaders across the SBC since making these decisions.

I hope and pray that in the days ahead, the IMB will exalt Christ, mobilize Christians, equip the church and facilitate church planting among unreached peoples in order that we might play our part in the eventual accomplishment of the Great Commission. (RNS)

David Platt is the president of the International Mission Board.

FIRST PERSON

An international experience

By Scott Wigginton

Q: As our high school senior graduates and prepares to go to college, we hear about the importance of him having an international experience in his college years. Why is this important and how can we help?

A: It is hard to imagine a better classroom than the continents and cultures that await the international traveler. In a world that is increasingly more accessible, there are unprecedented opportunities for average American students to experience what only the wealthiest of generations past could access. Crossing borders brings new understanding of the incredible wealth of God's creativity and generosity. Students have the chance to break free of cultural sameness to

be stimulated by new horizons and shoes-on-the-street adventures. The rewards of the journey far outweigh the risks.

In honor of David Letterman's retirement, here are my "Top Ten Ways to Help!"

1. Encourage your son to consider short-term mission trips.
2. Remind him that God loves

the nations, not just Americans.

3. Urge him to check out "study abroad" experiences.
4. Help him get a passport.

5. Encourage your son to befriend international students.
6. Regularly model this by having internationals in your home.

7. Consider buying travel items such as luggage and voltage converters for Christmas and birthday presents.
8. Make inquiry about study abroad and mission trip experiences part of visiting prospective colleges.

9. Once an international experience has been planned, help research the new country and culture.
10. Make it a habit for your family to regularly pray for missionaries and for different parts of the world, often in response to global events.

At the end of a great adventure, perhaps you or your student will be able to say, like Ross Ward, "I did all this while you were watching TV."

Supreme Court & marriage—preparing our churches

By Ronnie Floyd

One of the most powerful features in our upcoming Southern Baptist Convention in Columbus, Ohio, will occur in our final afternoon session on June 17. This is not the year to leave the annual meeting early.

The stakes are rising

The U.S. Supreme Court recently heard oral arguments for and against redefining marriage in America.

Marriage between a man and a woman is a God-ordained institution; the courts in our land do not need to attempt to redefine what God Himself has already clearly defined.

Yet, the stakes continue to rise regarding marriage in our nation. If the Supreme Court rules to redefine marriage, the continual attack that is already taking place on religious liberty will escalate.

Hear me clearly: If we lose the freedoms of religion, then all the freedoms we have today will begin to diminish.

What is at stake is great. This is undeniable. We do not control the Supreme Court. At this point, our number one role must be to pray. Regardless of the outcome, may God have mercy on America and teach us how to live daily.

Preparing our churches

It is incumbent upon us to do all we can with all we have to prepare our churches for the future. The Supreme Court may rule on this issue within days of or during our convention in Columbus and,

regardless of the outcome, our churches need to be prepared.

We must respond to the issue and toward those who may have differing opinions in a way that would represent our Lord Jesus Christ in the highest manner.

Unquestionably, things are changing, and the way we address this issue must be done with the truth of God in one hand and the love of God in the other hand.

Our Southern Baptist churches must rise in this moment and minister to people of all ages who are wrestling with all the challenges of the sexual revolution in America.

Children and teens need help.

Parents need help. Adults of all ages need help. Pastors, Christian leaders and churches need help.

SBC Presidential Panel

Since this need is so pressing, I appealed to our 2015 Committee on Order of Business to allocate some time for us to address it on Wednesday afternoon during the SBC annual meeting.

I am thankful to Andrew Hebert, our chairman, and the members of this committee who provided us with an answer to this need.

We created an SBC Presidential Panel for a session titled "The Supreme Court and Same Sex marriage: Preparing Our Churches for the Future." I prayerfully thought about who could contribute to this conversation and sought counsel from others.

I am absolutely thrilled with who God has put together.

I will lead this panel with five

gifted people, each of whom has valuable insight into this discussion.

The panel includes:

■ Albert Mohler Jr., president of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Ky.

■ Russell Moore, president of the Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission, Nashville, Tenn.

■ Rosaria Butterfield, writer, speaker, educator, pastor's wife and author, Durham, N.C.

■ Ryan Blackwell, senior pastor, First Baptist Church, San Francisco

■ Matt Carter, senior pastor, The Austin Stone Community Church, Austin, Texas

While most of us are very familiar with the giftedness and contributions of Dr. Mohler and Dr. Moore, the other three leaders also will bring a special perspective.

Recently, I listened to the powerful testimony of Rosaria Butterfield concerning this issue. You will not want to miss her insight. Additionally, my 31-year-old dear friend, Ryan Blackwell, has pastored San Francisco's First Baptist Church for four years.

Matt Carter has pastored in the capital city of Texas since 2002 and speaks into the lives of people weekly who live and navigate through cultural issues.

Spread the word and join us for the final session of our 2015 Southern Baptist Convention.

Let's experience our convention all the way through the final prayer with a great expectation for God to encounter us powerfully.

Ronnie Floyd is president of the Southern Baptist Convention and pastor of Cross Church in northwest Arkansas.

Avoiding big financial mistakes

By Don Spencer

We all make mistakes. But making mistakes in retirement plan can be costly. Here are a few to avoid:

1. Automatically moving money out of an employer's plan when you change jobs.

Many assume it is to their advantage to move retirement money out of a previous employer's plan. Some financial planners capitalize on that mindset by encouraging transfers—at times more to the benefit of the planner. Compare investment options and whether they are appropriate for your time horizon and risk tolerance.

2. Investing "to" retirement instead of "through" retirement.

Making changes in the investment approach near retirement is prudent. But many people live 20 to 25 years after they retire.

3. Timing the market instead of putting time in the market. Too many make their retirement investment decisions based on fear, rather than facts. As a result, they move out of market-based investments when the market has dropped. Most end up with lower returns than if they had kept the money in the market.

4. Failing to rebalance. When you enroll in a retirement plan, you select investment funds with a certain percentage in various asset classes. Over time, the performance of those classes will change percentages in your account. Every few years it's important to rebalance your account so the percentages are back to the base.



9-year-old renewing hope after Haiti earthquake

By Meredith Flynn

Bigarade, Haiti—Several years ago, the Bigarade community in Port-au-Prince was just a flood plain. Now, more than a hundred homes dot the landscape, and children run down the dirt roads to their very own school.

Earlier this year, there was a new face at the school, though one who's very familiar with its story. At 9 years-old, Mackenzie Howell has been working to renew hope in Haiti since 2011, when she saw a documentary about the devastating earthquake that rocked the country the previous year.

Four years after she started raising money to help kids and families there, Mackenzie visited Bigarade and the school she helped build. "Seeing the kids" was what she looked forward to most before the trip, and was also her favorite part of being in Haiti, she told the Illinois Baptist newspaper.

"She really does care about this," said Mackenzie's mom, Alison, who also went along on the trip led by Bob Elmore, who facilitates the Illinois Baptist State Association's short-term mission teams in Haiti. The Howells, who are from Nederland, Texas, met Elmore through International Mission Board missionaries working in Haiti after the earthquake.

Mackenzie sent her first donation—\$1,400 raised through a coin drive at her preschool and a bake sale at church—to the missionaries to help with construction projects. They connected her

with Elmore.

Since her first project, Mackenzie has raised more money with several other initiatives, including sales of "Leila's Big Difference," the book she wrote and published in 2013.

Elmore, several teams of volunteers, and Haitian workers have turned Mackenzie's gifts, along with other donations and resources, into a school for more than 100 children in Bigarade.

Instant community

The school property was vacant in November of 2011, when Elmore first saw it. "It was a goat field then ... we just kind of wrote it off," he said.

When he returned the next spring, a local Christian man named Thomas had gotten permission to put up a tarp and bamboo school on the site. People on Elmore's mission team were asking, "What can we do?"

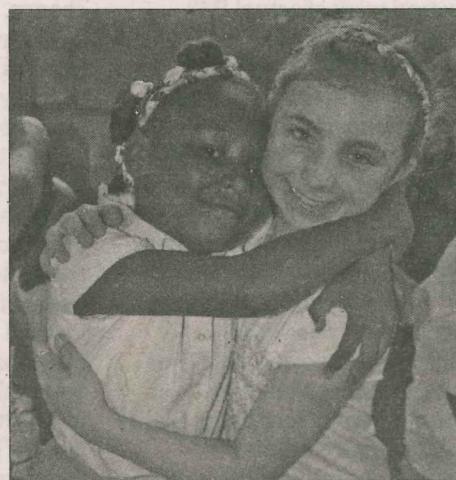
That fall, after receiving an anonymous donation to purchase the land, Elmore took a team to Bigarade to start construction on the school.

At least eight Illinois churches and associations helped with the project. The facility now doubles as Gosen Church.

Bigarade is an "instant community," Elmore said, a product of the earthquake that drove people from where they were and forced them into new living situations. Before the school was built, kids were either walking to another community or not going to school at all.



Mackenzie Howell



After four years of prayer and giving, it was all hugs and smiles as Mackenzie (right) visited a community school in Bigarade that her missions giving helped build. (Photo by Bob Elmore)

Working in the school was one of the main objectives for Mackenzie and her team. They came prepared to do a two-hour lesson each day with crafts, and to provide lunch for the kids on three days.

"Our ultimate goal is to start a feeding program where the kids can have lunch every day," Alison said a few days before her team left for Haiti. It just seems like something God would want them to do, she said, to feed His children. The team took with them enough money to start construction on a kitchen for the school, and also a classroom for the youngest students.

Thomas, who put the early school on the property, is now headmaster, and students arrive every morning in blue and white uniforms. Once a goat pasture, the school employs seven teachers, and has 114

students. The feeding program will employ two or three cooks and purchase food from local sources, Elmore said.

Complete God

"... It was such a blessing to watch her," Alison said of her daughter during the trip. "She really grew throughout the week."

And Mackenzie's not finished with Haiti, not by a long shot.

She wants to go back—soon. And she's planning a second book.

"It's going to be about Leila; a white girl that came from the U.S. to visit her school and help out with the school and do crafts and stuff, kind of like how I did," Alison said.

Recently, Mackenzie shared about Haiti with kids in her church's Awana program for kids. Her grandmother, who also was part of the March trip, came out of the room crying, Alison remembered.

"Whatever you do, don't practice with her," was the grandmother's advice for Mackenzie's future speaking engagements.

"... She had them laughing and crying," Alison said. "It's because it really does come from her heart."

In Haiti, Mackenzie taught her new friends a dance she had choreographed in honor of their country to a song with special meaning there, "I Am Not Forgotten." Watching, Alison said, "It was just such a beautiful picture of how complete God is."

"So many times, we give to missions or do this and that ... but we don't always get to see the fruits. I just continuously thank God that's He's allowed us to see so much of the fruit of His work." (BP)

IMB requirements

Continued from page 1

newly adopted policy 200-1 replaces the previous policy of the same number, which had been adopted in 2010 to govern qualifications for career missionaries. The policies on teenage children, tongues and baptism were not part of the former version of 200-1, although Norville said such matters would be interpreted within the revised policy.

Previous policies need revision, Platt said, given the demands of fulfilling the Great Commission today. He commented on several specific changes related to hot-button issues:

■ "Under (the newly adopted) 200-1, a divorce is not an automatic disqualifier for long-term service with the IMB as it was under the old policy," Platt said.

The marital history of all missionary candidates still will be examined. However, the circumstances of a divorce will now be considered along with the view of the prospective missionary's host culture regarding divorce and the candidate's potential role on a missionary team, Platt said. Requirements regarding divorce may need to differ for lead church planters and support personnel, he said.

Previously, divorced persons were disqualified from service as career and apprentice missionaries.

■ The only baptism requirements under the new policy are that a missionary be "a baptized member of a Southern Baptist

church" and possess a "conviction of truth as expressed in the current Baptist Faith and Message statement of the Southern Baptist Convention."

The BF&M, Article VII, defines baptism as "the immersion of a believer in water in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. It is an act of obedience symbolizing the believer's faith in a crucified, buried, and risen Saviour, the believer's death to sin, the burial of the old life, and the resurrection to walk in newness of life in Christ Jesus." Article VII adds that baptism is "prerequisite" to church membership and the Lord's Supper.

IMB missionaries, Platt said, "are going to believe and function and practice and live in accordance with" the BF&M.

Previously, IMB policy 200-16 stated: "Baptism must take place under the authority of a local church that practices believer's baptism by immersion alone, embraces the doctrine of the security of the believer's salvation and does not view baptism as sacramental, regenerative or essential to salvation."

The policy applied to all missionaries at all levels of service.

■ The previous policy on tongues and private prayer languages "went beyond some of the language in the Baptist Faith and Message," Platt said. The BF&M makes no mention of either issue.

Policy 200-1 also does not mention speaking in tongues or using a private prayer language, but Platt said the IMB Field Personnel Manual allows a missionary to be terminated for disruptive

emphasis on any specific spiritual gift as normative for all Christians. He stressed his opposition to excesses of the charismatic movement.

"I have seen and confronted the dangers of the charismatic movement and the error that has in so many ways undercut the authority of God's word," Platt said. "... I want to make sure that we are faithfully representing Southern Baptist churches and convictions at every point."

Previously, IMB policy defined the gift of tongues, or glossolalia in Greek, as speaking "a legitimate language" and disqualified from service all missionary candidates who used an unintelligible language in worship or practiced glossolalia in worship without following the New Testament guidelines. Using an "ecstatic utterance as a prayer language" disqualified a candidate from service.

■ Families with teenage children are eligible to serve under policy 200-1 and will be evaluated on a case by case basis, Platt said, noting some mission fields are suitable for families with teenagers while others are not.

A previous policy stated that couples with children 12 and older would be eligible for service only after specific criteria were met, including psychological or psychiatric evaluations of the children.

Asked about policies governing alcohol use, Platt said trustee-approved policy did not previously and does not currently disqualify from service candidates who drink alcohol.

"The only way to address some of these issues is not a policy that's a disqualifier on the front end," Platt said. "People know. It's not like we're hiding any of what we believe about these issues. But we are saying, 'OK, they're not automatically disqualifiers on the front end, but it's clear, as an IMB missionary, that we abstain from alcohol.'"

Making adherence to the BF&M the baseline requirement for missionary service represents an attempt to ease initial restrictions on qualified Southern Baptists who feel a call to take the gospel to the nations.

Trustees "see that there are some issues we must address as the IMB," Platt said. "Our pipeline has been small and tough to get through in different ways that we could open up and free (up)."

Regarding prospective missionaries who were prevented from serving under the old policies, Platt said, "The door is open for them to explore serving with the IMB." Platt asked Southern Baptists to pray for wisdom among IMB leaders as they seek to increase the number of missionaries despite limited funds.

"Even before this, we were turning away Southern Baptist church members who were qualified to serve as missionaries—even under our old qualifications," Platt said.

"Some would say, 'Then why open up the pathway if you've already got kind of a backlog?' Well, I don't want to continue to say no to qualified members of Southern Baptist churches," Platt said. (BP)

Iraqi believers

Continued from page 1

checkpoints where they were forced to abandon their cars and personal belongings.

Many were betrayed by Muslim neighbors, whom they had lived beside all their lives. Others watched as young daughters were taken from them to be sold as brides or slaves to ISIS fighters. The lives they knew were jerked from them in a moment. Most families arrived in places like Erbil or Dohuk with nothing but their lives.

One woman with two very small children shared this with me as we sat in her refugee tent: "What did we do that we were driven from our homes? Our only offense is that we would not denounce Christ. How could we deny the One who is Lord? We now know that the plan of ISIS is to wipe the earth clean of Christians. Their goal is genocide, ... to eradicate every follower of Christ. We have lost everything: our homes, our land, our possessions and our trust of our neighbor. They have stolen our dignity. When you lose your home, ... your land, you have no identity. All that we have left is our faith. Do churches in America know what is being done to us? Do they care?"

The Scripture on the wall, where our team set up to provide medical care, perhaps best shared their plight, "Yes, the time is coming that whoever kills you will think that he offers God service. And these things they will do to you because they have not known the Father or Me" (John 16:2-3). This is the reality of our brothers and sisters scattered across northern Iraq by persecution.

Our Kentucky Baptist Disaster Relief team served among these refugees for almost two weeks providing medical care and compassionate ministry. We were able to assist 944 patients in multiple clinics and provide the love of Christ to 1,055 hurting children. We were able to pray and share the love of Christ with them. We were often humbled by the hospitality, grace and faith of these left with so little. We promised that we would not forget them, and that we would seek to give a voice to their plight.

Our persecuted brothers and sisters are crying out to God and to the church. How can we remain silent? Dietrich Bonhoeffer was right, "Silence in the face of evil is itself evil. God will not hold us guiltless. Not to speak is to speak. Not to act is to act."

What can Kentucky Baptists do in such a time as this? Let me offer five practical ways that we can help our brothers and sisters in Christ.

First, we can contact our representatives in the U.S. government and be advocates for the persecuted church. ISIS is a threat to the stability of the Middle East, but they are a threat to our nation as well. They are a threat to humanity. We must be a voice for the voiceless. We must be outspoken in our cry for justice and in shining the light of Christ on evil. Not to speak is to speak.

Second, we can provide tangible assistance to the more than 1 million refugees living in exile in Kurdistan. Financial gifts can be designated to Baptist Global Response, the International Mission Board and to the World Hunger Fund. Among the current needs requested of our team was funding to establish a mobile medical clinic and rent assistance that

would enable families to move from camps into apartments (\$600 a month will put three families into an apartment). Not to act is to act.

Third, we can advocate for Iraqi Christians by asking that our government allows them to immigrate to the United States and be willing as churches to sponsor refugees. Countless Iraqi believers would love to come to our nation and would be resources to our churches that would strengthen our ability to reach others from the Middle East who are in our state. Would your church consider sponsoring an Iraqi Christian family to find refuge in America?

Fourth, Kentucky Baptists can "GO." Iraqi churches and other strategic partners are seeking churches and teams that will join them in this critical hour of ministry. Thousands of nominal Christians, Yazidis

and Shia Muslims have been displaced from their homes and have come together across northern Iraq. ISIS has caused many Muslims to

begin to question their beliefs, and forced nominal Christians to realize faith must be more than empty rituals. This has created a door of opportunity for the gospel. Believers in Kurdistan are crying out for partner churches to join them in this critical hour. There are current needs for medical teams, children's teams, discipleship workers, evangelism training and pastoral training, women's ministry, church construction, and strategic long-term church partners. They are crying out for Kentucky Baptists to join them as they seek to minister to a vast sea of refugees.

God has cracked open a door that has been previously closed, so now is the time. Will we have the courage to step through the door for Christ?

By going, Kentucky Baptists can proclaim to the displaced:

- You are not alone.
- You are not forgotten.
- You are loved by God and the church of our Lord.
- You have brothers and sisters who will come alongside you and stand with you for the sake of Christ.
- Not to act is to act.

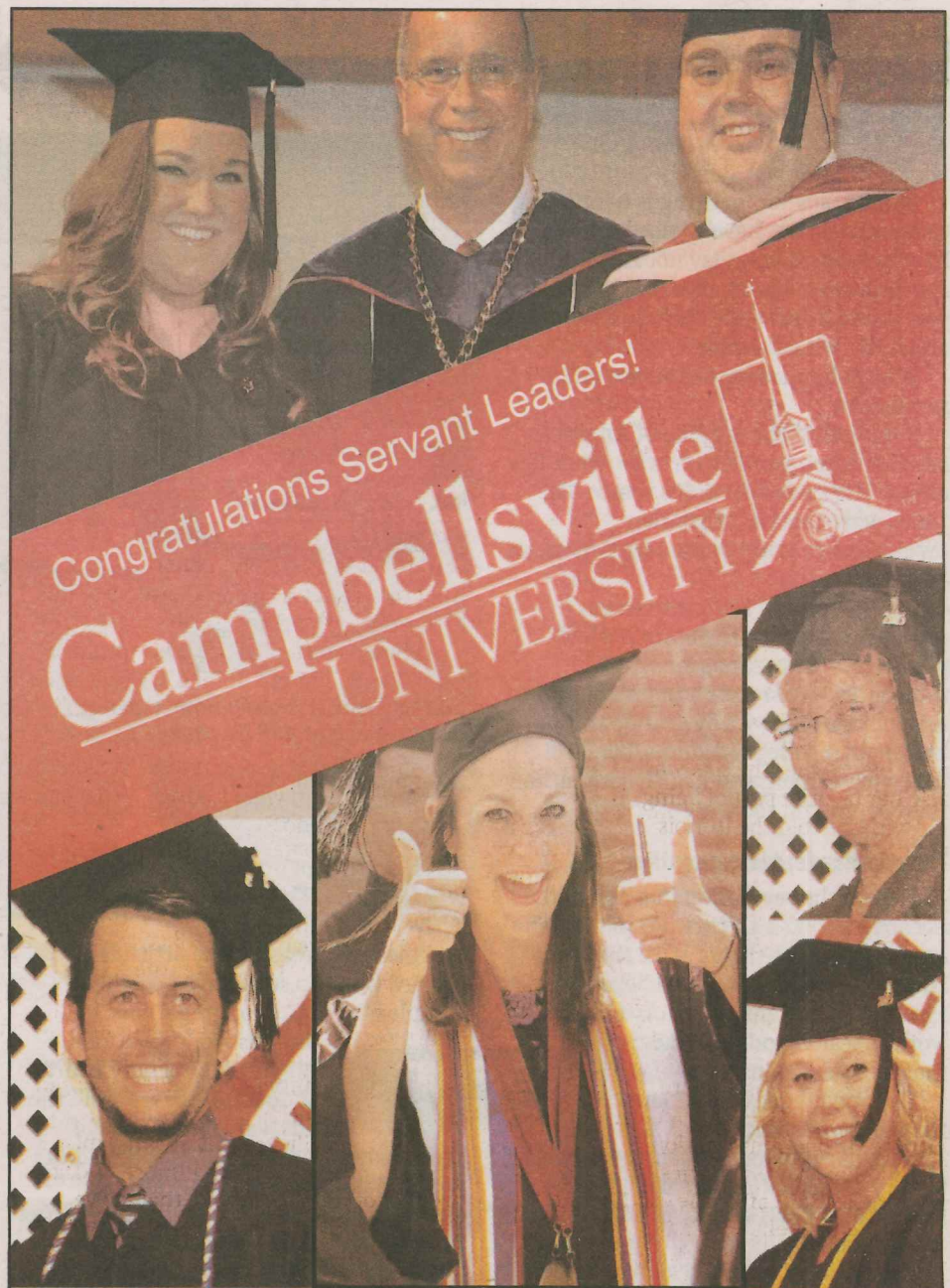
Finally, the most important thing we can do is pray. Pray for the thousands of refugees who have fled to northern Iraq and surrounding countries. Pray for Christians who have been left homeless and without jobs. Pray that the Islamic State will be awakened to the truth of the cross. Pray for God to push back the darkness and evil. Pray that God will use persecution to expand His church and open new doors for the gospel. Pray for God to be magnified among the nations.

Silence is not an option. How will you respond?

"Is this not the fast which I choose, to loosen the bonds of wickedness, to undo the bands of the yoke, and to let the oppressed go free and break every yoke? Is it not to divide your bread with the hungry and bring the homeless poor into the house; when you see the naked, to cover him; and not to hide yourself from your own flesh? Then your light will break out like the dawn, and your recovery will speedily spring forth; and your righteousness will go before you; the glory of the Lord will be your rear guard" (Isaiah 58: 6-8).

Contact the Missions Mobilization Team for information on how your church can join us in this Great Commission task in northern Iraq and the Middle East. Call (502) 489-3399 to learn more. (KBC)

FIRST PERSON



Celebrate Christian Joy! We're very thankful for the students who are going out from CU as Christian Servant Leaders in Kentucky, around the country and literally around the world. At Campbellsville University, we seek to be unapologetically Christ-centered in our focus to higher education, and a basic part of our mission is that we follow the model of Christ in serving others.

Please join us in prayer for the thousands of campers coming in and graduates heading out, and for over 130 students taking their summer breaks and spending that time in ministry and mission points of service. A number of CU administrators, faculty, staff, and coaches, as well as students, are serving in local churches on a regular basis - as pastors, associate pastors, interim pastors, student ministers, worship leaders, small group Bible study leaders and in numerous other areas of service.

Looking for a summer camp enrichment adventure?

Summer camps available at Campbellsville University are:

- **Chamber Music** Camp, June 7-9
- **Kids College** Day Camp, June 8-11 and July 13-15;
- **Youth Theater** Camp, June 8-13;
- **Hunter Cantwell QB and Skills Player Football** Camp, June 13;
- **Lil Tiger Softball** Day Camp, June 16 and 17; and • the new **Journeys** Camp, July 19-21 and July 22-24.
- **Summer Communication Institute**, sponsored by Forcht Broadcasting and Campbellsville University-Somerset, at the Noe Somerset Education Center, June 8-July 9.

Campbellsville University Life Teams stand ready to assist you and your church in sharing the Good News of Jesus Christ!

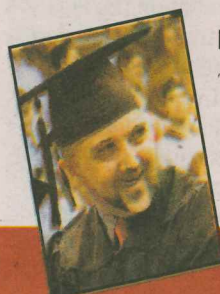
To schedule a group, contact:

Dr. G. Ted Taylor, director of church outreach,
CU FIRST CLASS and professor of theology.

Call or text **865.235.4827**

Wes Carter, asst. director of church outreach
Call or text **270.849.7575**

ENROLL NOW at Campbellsville.edu



Looming senior adult revolution to impact nation

By Chuck Kelley

New Orleans—Something is happening that you may not have noticed. If you have noticed it, you may not fully appreciate its significance. It will affect you. It will affect your church. It will affect the whole nation.

What's happening is a senior adult revolution.

Some call it the graying of America, but that is too gentle a term for what lies ahead. It is more like a '60s remix. The 1960s were the most turbulent, revolutionary years in modern American history.

Every aspect of U.S. culture was affected, including the church. Now picture the '60s reimagined and reinvented: profound changes in American life driven by grandparents rather than college students, by retirement living and health care rather than drugs and rock 'n' roll.

The unprecedented generation

Here is the revolution in a nutshell: According to Ken Dychtwald in the "The Age Wave," "two-thirds of all the men and women who have lived beyond the age of 65 in the entire history of the world are alive today." Ponder that for a few moments.

Dychtwald goes on to note that life expectancy for Americans doubled in the relatively brief history of our nation, creating for the first time "a mass society of healthy, active elders."

Not since the days of Noah has God given a generation extended life, good health and adequate resources. Today the fastest-growing segment of the senior adult population is the 85-and-up group.

The birthdays you celebrate now are practice for the birthdays you will celebrate for many years to come.

The ripple effect

The simple fact of senior adults living longer sets in motion many ripples. Older adults will be an important



Southern Baptist Disaster Relief volunteers fill Red Cross containers with food for delivery to hurricane victims. (BP file photo)

influence in our churches for a significantly longer time than was true in the past.

They will not only be present, they will be active. They will not only be active, they will be vocal.

This is one reason why attitudes toward worship style have become so complex for many congregations.

In most congregations, a strategic plan for the future that does not incorporate the needs, values and gifts of senior adults is incomplete. Older adults will make attention to pastoral care essential for healthy churches. A growing number of senior adults will move from independent living to assisted living to life in a skilled nursing unit.

How will the church minister to them as they make these very important transitions? How will the church incorporate their presence in a retirement community as a launching pad for evangelism and ministry to other residents of that community? Senior adults will affect the lifestyles and decisions of younger adults. A growing number of church members will have the care of senior parents as a priority.

VIEWPOINT

Imagine the questions and issues faced by Baby Boomers who will retire and still have responsibility for the care of aging parents. This will affect how families spend their time, their money and their emotional energy. A church's attitude toward, and provisions for, senior adults will be noticed in a way not unlike how parents look carefully at programs for their children.

A Great Commission army

This senior adult revolution is more than a medical advance. As the number of unevangelized and unchurched in our nation grows, God is raising up a Great Commission army.

He intends for senior adults to form the critical mass necessary for the gospel to penetrate the world. Their opinions will shape direction. Their willingness to give will affect fiscal stability.

Their engagement with the mission will be crucial for mobilizing congregations. God intends for senior adults to step up to missions engagement and not step aside for younger adults to do all the work. The current generation of young adults is often called the Millennials. I call them the Lost

Generation. They are the largest generation in American history, bigger even than the Baby Boomers.

They are also the most unevangelized generation in American history. So many of them have no religious background; they are also called "nones" for responding to surveys about religious background and beliefs with "none of the above." However, connections with senior adults are possible.

Millennials made Tony Bennett, popular in the 1960s, more popular than at any other time of his career. Their interest in the classic hymns of the faith has spurred every major Christian artist today to record at least one album of hymns. They have a deep respect for authenticity and consistency. We are unlikely to reach the Millennials without the witness of the seniors.

How can senior adults make a difference?

- Write cards and notes to people. Children and their parents are a good place to start. Handwritten cards and notes become treasures.
 - Be a mentor to younger adults. Get to know the ones around you. Listen to them. Pray for them. When they face issues you faced, tell them how you managed. Be a grandparent outside your family.
 - Seek Kingdom advance above personal satisfaction.
 - Speak as often of Jesus as you do your grandkids.
 - Give one last gift to Jesus through your estate. Honor Him in your death as you sought to do in your life, making your last act on earth a gift to your church or a Christian ministry.
- Not since the days of Noah has God done for a generation of people what He is doing for this generation of senior adults. Celebrate your extended life, health and resources as His gift for His purposes. Use these additional years for His glory. (BP)

Chuck Kelley is president of New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary.

Network pulls Duggar family's TV series, Josh resigns FRC

By Diana Chandler

Nashville, Tenn.—TLC has pulled the hit series "19 Kids and Counting" in response to media reports alleging Josh Duggar, the 27-year-old son of Jim Bob and Michelle Duggar, sexually molested five underage girls when he was a teen.

Josh Duggar, now married with three children of his own, also resigned his position as a lobbyist with the Family Research Council family values group. In a May 21 People.com story posted on the family's blog, he apologized for the sin after allegations surfaced.

"Twelve years ago, as a young teenager, I acted inexcusably, for which I am extremely sorry and deeply regret. I hurt others, including my family and close friends," Josh said in the blogpost. "I confessed this to my parents, who took several steps to help me address the situation. We spoke with the authorities, where I confessed my wrongdoing, and my parents arranged for me and those

affected by my actions to receive counseling. I understood that if I continued down this wrong road that I would end up ruining my life."

His parents reported the incident to police 12 years ago, but no charges were ever filed, the Washington Post reported.

FRC president Tony Perkins affirmed Josh Duggar's resignation.

"Today Josh Duggar made the decision to resign his position as a result of previously unknown information becoming public concerning events that occurred during his teenage years," Perkins said in a statement on the FRC website. "Josh believes that the situation will make it difficult for him to be effective in his current work. We believe this is the best decision for Josh and his family at this time. We will be praying for everyone involved."

TLC has removed the show from its schedule, but ran a "19 Kids and Counting" marathon May 21 after news of the molestations broke. Victims have not

publicly commented.

Jim Bob and Michelle Duggar said when they learned of the molestations 12 years ago, it was a dark time that drew the family closer to God.

"We pray that as people watch our lives, they see that we are not a perfect family. We have challenges and struggles every day," the couple said. "It is one of the reasons we treasure our faith so much because God's kindness and goodness and forgiveness are extended to us—even though we are so undeserving. We hope somehow the story of our journey—the good times and the difficult times—cause you to see the kindness of God and learn that He can bring you through anything."

Josh Duggar's wife Anna said he confessed the incidents to her two years before proposing marriage, and that she



Anna and Josh Duggar

was "surprised at his openness and humility."

On the blogpost, Anna Duggar said she knows "who Josh really is—someone who had gone down a wrong path and had humbled himself before God and those whom he had offended. (He is) someone who had received the help needed

to change the direction of his life and do what is right."

Josh Duggar long ago sought forgiveness from his victims and from God, he said on the blog, and "would do anything to go back to those teen years and take different actions. In my life today, I am so very thankful for God's grace, mercy, and redemption."

Jim Bob and Michelle Duggar are outspoken advocates of their Christian faith as well as pro-family public policies. Their television show debuted in 2008. (BP)

'Bringing God to soldiers and soldiers to God'

By Rudy Gray

Columbia, S.C.—Lt. Col. Derrick Riggs, serving in Afghanistan as command chaplain for NATO Special Operations and the Special Forces Joint Task Force, was beginning a series of Bible studies based on Psalm 91, which he calls "David's Fearless Warrior Psalm."

There was a visitor for the first Wednesday study, Jan. 28. "Normally the new guy just sits there and listens," Riggs said, "but not Jason."

He jumped right in, not just giving his perspective on the psalm that speaks of the security of one who trusts in the Lord, "but explaining sections and helping to make the complex easily understandable," Riggs said. "I quickly realized Jason had a personal relationship with God, and it was refreshing to have another believer in the group."

The following evening, Riggs received word of an attack at the Special Missions Wing.

Three Americans were dead, shot by an Afghan soldier or someone dressed in an Afghan uniform. The chaplain reported for duty and talked to four men who had witnessed the attack.

"Three of them were hunkered down in a bunker when the shooting started," Riggs recounted.

"The other guy was the one who killed the Afghan that turned on our guys." The Taliban later claimed responsibility for the killings.

Riggs, 44, now on his fifth combat tour in his 18 years of military service, read the list of the three deceased men. Walt Fisher was from North Myrtle Beach, S.C., Matt Fineran was from Summerville, S.C., and Jason Landphair was living in Fayetteville, N.C.

Riggs did not make an immediate connection to the names until his chaplain assistant said, "Hey, sir, wasn't that guy from the Bible study last night named Jason? Is this the same guy?"

"I felt chilled," Riggs said. "Stunned ... shocked."

The following day he accompanied the three bodies to a C-130 transport for a "hero flight" back to the United States.

"In one of those cold metal coffins," Riggs said, "was the body of Jason Landphair, the first-time visitor at the Wednesday night Bible study 48 hours before—alive, vibrant, smiling, talking, engaging in the discussion of how God can make a person into a fearless warrior."

"Forty-eight hours earlier, I was teaching about the Fearless Warrior. I had no idea that Jason would be living it."

"Rest in peace" is the standard phrase for funerals and sending off the dead. But for Jason, I said, 'Rest in eternity, my friend, for now you stare directly into the loving eyes and relax in the gentle arms of God. You are the Fearless Warrior.'"

Army chaplain—a lifelong goal

Even with such occurrences, Riggs is living his dream.

"He always wanted to be an Army chaplain," said his father, retired Col. Dwight Riggs, an Army chaplain himself for 26 years.

The senior Riggs and his wife Kathy are members of First Baptist Church of



The late Jason Landphair, shown with his wife Natasha, was an Army Special Forces medic killed in Afghanistan in late January. (Photo courtesy of the Baptist Courier)

Columbia, S.C., where their son was actively involved before being deployed overseas. His son graduated from Dallas Theological Seminary in December 1997 and went on active duty as an Army chaplain in January 1998. When he began his chaplaincy work at age 26, Derrick was the youngest chaplain ever to serve, his father said.

"I was deployed three weeks after 9/11," Derrick Riggs said, "which began what has become a ministry of bringing soldiers to God and God to soldiers in garrison and combat."

Landphair: 'Passionate about faith'

Landphair, the visitor to Riggs' Bible study in January, is survived by his wife Natasha and two daughters, Sofia, 3, and Wren, 2. Friends have described Natasha as an amazing woman of God.

Following her husband's death, she sent Riggs a note that read, "Jason called that night and told me about the Bible study. He was excited and looking forward to going back next week."

"That note brought tears to my eyes," Riggs recounted.

Landphair was described by those who knew him as a man of God who demonstrated the love of Christ and touched everyone around him. "He always loved the military and always had a strong sense of patriotism and duty to God and country," one person said.

Landphair's father described his son as "a devout Christian ... passionate about his faith."

Riggs said that even though Landphair was at Camp Integrity only about two weeks, "the impact his visible relationship with God has had on many of my personnel has been profound."

A graduate of Idaho State University, Landphair joined the Army and was

deployed to Iraq where he was wounded by a sniper. But he soon returned to duty after receiving a Purple Heart. After his injury, he trained in the Army Special Forces to become a medic and served three tours in Afghanistan without further injury.

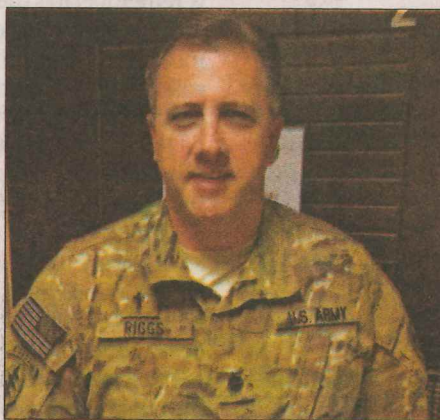
Landphair was trying to help two wounded comrades when he was killed.

"Jason was a Special Forces medic and was responding with aid just like he had been trained to do," Riggs said. "Most people flee at the sound of gunfire. Soldiers run toward it. Medics run to the wounded to protect and take care of them, even though the danger is still present."

Riggs led the second Wednesday Bible study on Psalm 91 with a heavy heart, admitting he was "overcome with emotion. All of us were feeling overwhelmed knowing that one of our group was now standing in the presence of God."

Riggs has continued in his ministry of "bringing God to soldiers and soldiers to God." After three tours in Afghanistan and two in Iraq, he will have been deployed a total of 46 months. After all those deployments and numerous Bible studies in combat areas, he "never really wondered if someone in our group would not return because of death."

"I am ready to come home for a while," Riggs said. He is scheduled to return to the U.S. in June. (BP)



Lt. Col. Derrick Riggs, who became an Army chaplain shortly after 9/11, encountered a "Fearless Warrior" when teaching on Psalm 91 in late January. (Photo courtesy of the Baptist Courier)

Midwestern adopts Danvers Statement

By Bob Allen

Kansas City, Mo.—Future professors of Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary will be required to teach not only in accordance with the Southern Baptist Convention's official faith statement, but also must affirm different but "complementary" roles for women and men in the church and home.

Midwestern trustees recently added the Danvers Statement, a document drafted at a 1987 meeting in Danvers, Mass., outlining core beliefs of a group called the Council on Biblical Manhood and Womanhood as a guiding document at the SBC seminary in Kansas City, Mo.

Seminary President Jason Allen said in a press release the intent is to "emphasize mission clarity" at a time when "so many entities and institutions in North America are negotiating away their convictions or projecting intentional ambiguity on the great doctrinal and moral issues of our generation."

The Danvers Statement, previously affirmed by Southwestern Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas, and Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary in Wake Forest, N.C., interprets the Bible to teach, "Adam's headship in marriage was established by God before the Fall, and was not a result of sin."

The Fall, the statement says, introduced distortions into the relationships between men and women:

"In the home, the husband's loving, humble headship tends to be replaced by domination or passivity; the wife's intelligent, willing submission tends to be replaced by usurpation or servility," the statement says. "In the church, sin inclines men toward a worldly love of power or an abdication of spiritual responsibility, and inclines women to resist limitations on their roles or to neglect the use of their gifts in appropriate ministries."

The rationale behind the Danvers Statement, first published in final form by the CBMW in Wheaton, Ill., in 1988, included "widespread uncertainty and confusion in our culture regarding the complementary differences between masculinity and femininity."

The statement also addressed "widespread ambivalence regarding the values of motherhood, vocational homemaking, and the many ministries historically performed by women," "the growing claims of legitimacy for sexual relationships which have biblically and historically been considered illicit or perverse" and the "upsurge of physical and emotional abuse in the family."

The statement affirms that "distinctions in masculine and feminine roles are ordained by God as part of the created order, and should find an echo in every human heart."

"In the family, husbands should forsake harsh or selfish leadership and grow in love and care for their wives," it says. "Wives should forsake resistance to their husbands' authority and grow in willing, joyful submission to their husbands' leadership."

"In the church, redemption in Christ gives men and women an equal share in the blessings of salvation," it continues. "Nevertheless, some governing and teaching roles within the church are restricted to men." (BNG)



Creative Commons photo by mrehan

'it's a God thing'

Does popular phrase reveal troubling theology?

By Jeff Brumley

You may have used this popular phrase a few times yourself. Or maybe you've heard others say it when some unexpected miracle happens.

"It's a God thing."

Usually it involves some unbelievable circumstances behind that job promotion, new relationship or unexpected medical recovery.

Certainly it must be "a God thing." It's a popular, though difficult to measure, catch phrase. A 2013 book, "It's a God Thing: When Miracles Happen to Everyday People," spawned a Facebook page with nearly 3,300 fans.

But there are some who take issue with the phrase, or at least with how and when it is used—and when it isn't used.

One of them is writer and Texas pastor Shane Pruitt, who recently penned an article titled "Should We Be Saying 'It's a God Thing?'" for Relevant magazine.

It's always a God thing

"It's a God thing" is used in Christian culture when things unexpectedly work out the way we wanted them to," Pruitt writes.

It usually expresses surprise at some positive thing that happens to or for the phrase's user.

The saying is also biblically accurate, because Scripture shows that God is sovereign and in total control.

"The great things that happen in our life—it's a God thing," Pruitt said.

But here's where Pruitt and other ministers part ways with the popular phrase. The catch, they say, is if unexpected windfalls are God things, then so must be those unexpected inconveniences and even tragedies.

Lost a job or a spouse?

"When things don't go our way—it's still a God thing," Pruitt said.

'It's still about me'

But even that doesn't sit right with Michael Sciretti, the minister of spiritual formation at

Freemason Street Baptist Church in Norfolk, Va.

Sciretti said he isn't comfortable with the egocentric theology implied in "It's a God thing." But he isn't willing to agree negative things also are from God.

"I don't get too hung up on what happens to people, good or bad," he said. "I have concerns with theology that says everything that happens is God's will."

The approach in spiritual formation ministry is to focus on responding in faith to whatever happens—whether it is good or bad, or God's will or not.

"Whether it's good or pleasurable, or bad or not as pleasant, how do I respond from a place of the heart?" he said.

That means finding a way to remain centered regardless of the circumstances "so whatever happens I am never completely shaken or lose myself," Sciretti said.

Another weakness of simply applying the slogan to negative events as well as positive ones is that it presumes the individual is at the center of the universe, Sciretti said.

Such thinking has a hint of Calvinist spirituality, in which all things—marriage proposals and cancer diagnoses—are predestined.

In that approach "it's still all about me," Sciretti said.

The challenge is learning to let go of the ego and let God take center stage. One solution is remembering the priesthood of all believers.

"From a Christian perspective we are meant to be priests to creation and we have a role in welcoming the Kingdom of God on earth and working toward justice," he said.

From that perspective, whether it's a promotion or a layoff, God's influence can be increased because the ego is diminished, Sciretti said.

"Cancer? No, that's not a God thing, but it can be a God thing how I respond to cancer," he said. God's will can be done in that and any other situation "if I can let God get inside of me to grow my being to be more grateful and have more compassion." (BNG)

Soon-to-be college freshman fights human trafficking

By Myriah Snyder

Louisville—"It just ignited this passion in me for fighting human trafficking and for the real people who are a part of this issue," Lily Murphy, a 19-year-old, soon-to-be college freshman, said of her recent six-month mission trip fighting human trafficking.

Murphy, who attends Sojourn Community Church's Midtown campus in Louisville, took a year off after graduation from Christian Academy in Louisville to "join the frontlines of missions."

Through the organization Youth with a Mission (YWAM), Murphy spent three months receiving a missions education in Los Angeles during the day and spent her Friday nights with Justice 180 from 3 a.m. to 6 a.m., talking to prostitutes on the streets, praying for and with them, handing out information to help them get off the streets, and giving out goody-bags with scripture and lip gloss.

After the three-month educational portion was over, the outreach portion focusing on human trafficking began.

"We went to an area called La Merced, Mexico City. There was probably a prostitute every couple feet along this five square-block area. We would just go and talk to them," Murphy said.

She continued, "We gave them roses and Christmas cards on Christmas Eve, and we would pray for them, and just hear their stories and ask them where they're at with their life, where they want to be and what their dreams are."

In Mexico City they would also "hang out" with underage girls who were rescued from a life in the sex industry and placed in a safe home.

"Each day was just something new that we did involving the human trafficking that is going on in Mexico," Murphy said.

In Costa Rica, the ministry was similar. However, there was a brothel, where the team spoke with some of the men who were visiting it.

"It was crazy to see how many people would come to us and tell us their life story," she recounted. "It was just like the presence of God made people feel safe, and a lot of people were really open to us."

While in Costa Rica, her team held church services called "Casa Agape."

"We would have prostitutes and homeless people and men who had come to Costa Rica for sex tourism all in the same service," she said. "It was crazy to see this crowd of people come and hear about God's love for them and worship in the same space."

"I think foremost, it's obvious her incredible growth in her faith," said her aunt, Tamara Murphy, a member of First Baptist Church of Shelbyville.

"I think one thing she learned was that everybody has value," she added. "It doesn't take a whole lot to show God's love and hope in Christ and to give that person value in that."

"I don't think I'll ever not be involved in fighting human trafficking," said Lily, who will be attending University of Kentucky in the fall. She intends to major in marketing and minor in photography and "stay involved in human trafficking awareness, and use my own skills in ways I think I can help."

"There is never going to be a point in my life where I can say that I don't know what is going on in human trafficking," she said, "and that I won't be actively working against it." (WR)



One minister says the phrase should be applied to tragic events, not just good ones.

Another suggests it shouldn't be used at all, and Christians instead should focus on how they respond to life.

IMB missionary, 67, dies unexpectedly in Malawi

Zomba, Malawi—International Mission Board missionary Susan Sanson, 67, died of malaria in Zomba, Malawi, on May 18.

She developed a sudden onset of malaria on May 17 and began treatment. However, early the next morning her husband Billy woke to find her unresponsive. He rushed her to the hospital, but she passed away as medical staff were examining her.

"This was sudden, tragic and quite unexpected," said Kevin Rodgers, an IMB strategy leader in Africa and a friend of the Sansons.

"Susan was a unique, godly, precious child of the King, and while I know she is in His presence in perfect peace and joy, there is still a great burden of sadness that we will all have to work through in the days to come."

The Sansons, who do not have children, moved to Malawi as IMB missionaries in 2000. Susan Sanson was

involved in reaching out to, discipling and counseling university students, and also worked in Baptist churches in

Zomba. Billy Sanson is a chaplain and university minister at Chancellor College in Zomba.

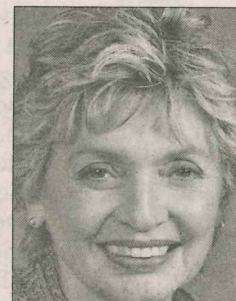
Susan Sanson was born in New York and raised in Ohio. As a young adult, she spent time in Manhattan as a model and fashion magazine editor.

"She had an amazing testimony of ... moving to New York and living the high life as a fashion model and

mover and shaker in the fashion world ... and then God arresting her heart and bringing her back to Him," Rodgers said.

"She quit her job, sold her things, moved to New Orleans and enrolled in New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary."

She met Billy Sanson at the seminary, where he was a Ph.D. student. They married in 1992. (BP)



Susan Sanson

Mission:Dignity ministry buoys 2,000 retired pastors, widows

By Roy Hayhurst

Dallas—Virginia Pangle summed up what Mission:Dignity means to a pastor's widow like herself.

"I don't have to worry about being cold, hungry or going without my medicine," she said.

Mission:Dignity, a ministry of GuideStone Financial Resources of the Southern Baptist Convention, ensures that Pangle along with nearly 2,000 other retired Southern Baptist pastors, their spouses or widows are able to have a sense of financial dignity in retirement.

The ministry, fully supported by gifts from individuals, Sunday School classes and churches, provides monthly grants to retired Southern Baptist workers in critical financial need.

The neediest couples can receive up to \$600 each month in assistance.

Mission:Dignity Sunday, held the fourth Sunday of every June on the Southern Baptist Convention's calendar, is set aside for churches to make a special offering for support of the ministry.

Sixty percent of Mission:Dignity recipients are widows; one out of every four recipients is a pastor's widow age 85 or older. Mission:Dignity receives no Cooperative Program funding.

"GuideStone was founded to serve those who gave sacrificially to spread the word of God," GuideStone President O.S. Hawkins said.

"The very DNA of GuideStone, part of the fabric that our founder, William Lunsford, laid for us, is to care for pastors and their widows in old age. We're privileged to carry on this ministry through Mission:Dignity."

To help churches mark Mission:Dignity Sunday, GuideStone has created videos,

bulletin inserts, posters, a PowerPoint slide and sermons for use June 28 or any Sunday.

Materials are undated so churches can use the materials at a time convenient to their schedule. Churches can order materials now through June 22 for delivery in time for Mission:Dignity at MDSunday.org. Additionally, churches can request information by calling 888-98-GUIDE (888-984-8433).

John Ambra, Mission:Dignity director, said Mission:Dignity offers the opportunity for churches to live out, as noted in the book of James, care for widows in their distress.

"Some of our participants tell us that Mission:Dignity is the difference between having food, or not, having medication, or not, or having to choose between heat or eating," Ambra said.

"To come alongside these dear soldiers of the cross and serve them and, in many cases, their surviving widows is a deep blessing. Additionally, we're encouraging pastors and members of Southern Baptist churches to refer retired pastors or their widows who are in critical financial need to Mission:Dignity."

"We ask pastors to think about their pastoral predecessor or for church members to remember the pastor who helped lead them to the Lord; (the apostle) Paul reminds us that those who work in preaching and teaching are worthy of double honor."

"It is our deep calling and blessing to ensure those workers live out their declining years in dignity and honor."

June 28 is Mission:Dignity Sunday in the Southern Baptist Convention. For more information, go to MissionDignity.org.

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

"I DON'T HAVE TO WORRY
ABOUT BEING COLD, HUNGRY OR
GOING WITHOUT MY MEDICINE.

IT IS SUCH A **BLESSING**
TO KNOW I CAN PAY MY BILLS ON TIME."

— VIRGINIA PANGLE, widow of Rev. Hazen Pangle

They call it Dignity. We call it a Mission. GuideStone's Mission:Dignity ministry provides critical financial assistance to thousands of retired Southern Baptist ministers, workers and their widows. **But we can't do it without you. DONATE AT MissionDignitySBC.org.**

Mission:Dignity Sunday is **June 28, 2015** —
Order materials today.

Mission: Dignity.
Assisting Retired Ministers and Spouses



SCAN TO ORDER MATERIALS
from your smartphone or tablet.

Graduation 2015

Students and staff share some amazing success stories

On May 16, we sent 51 graduates off to meet the world. Paul Chitwood, executive director of the Kentucky Baptist Convention, brought a tremendous challenge to our graduates at Baccalaureate that morning. We then had a beautiful graduation ceremony that afternoon. Graduation day is a bittersweet day at OBI. While we are so happy for our graduates, we are also sad to see them go. Kids come from all over the world to this little place, but this also means when they leave us they go back to locations all over the world. We hope and pray that they take Jesus and their diplomas with them and have a positive impact on this world.

Our graduation service is a little longer than most, especially considering our graduating class is smaller than most. We like to take time to recognize each student and tell some of his/her story. Each of this year's 51 graduates has a story to tell, and each story now includes this little place called Oneida.

The following is some of what was shared on May 16 about one of our amazing success stories.

Student to staff: "Mrs. Grant, one thing I can say is thanks for not giving up on me, even though I gave up on myself so many times. Mrs. Baker, we're a little bit alike about certain things. You know me better than I know myself. You didn't have to be my

teacher, but you chose to. Thank you; you're such a sweet lady. Mrs. Nelson, you're tough and I like that. You've always kept it honest with me, never beating around the bush. Mrs. Sink, you made me join FFA and I'm so thankful. You taught me that honesty is the best policy, and to never forget it. You taught me that even when I'm down to always pick myself up. Mrs. Cartwright, you're different, not like any of the other ladies. You're hard but sweet, and always have my back. Mr. Stratton, thank you for believing in me and keeping me out of trouble.

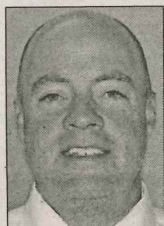
Thanks for always listening. Thank you to my family for being by my side."

Staff member to student: "I have seen such growth in 'Johnny.' He has worked incredibly hard to overcome some very difficult obstacles. He has searched for meaning and purpose in his life, and I believe he has found those answers. He came to us as a young man with an uncertain future and is now leaving us knowing and trusting that God has a plan for his life—a life filled with hope and a good future. I don't think I have ever been as proud of a student and their accomplishments as I am of 'Johnny.'"

"Thank you, friends of Oneida, for helping make Johnny's story a successful one."

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

Memories (Part 2)

Graduates share favorite memories from their days at the "Creek"

I know you will enjoy reading more favorite memories from our graduates:

"My fondest memories will always be the joy of being with other Christians and learning about the One we love and desire to serve.

"I also deeply appreciate each person in their various positions that guided me and cared for me and lifted me and my family up in prayers. I love chapel. I get to sit back and just soak up the entire ministry.

"As a pastor's wife that is a luxury. I have been greatly fed spiritually. I also want to thank my husband for his love, patience, encouragement and help during this time."—Rhonda Bradshaw

"My fondest Clear Creek memories would probably be the fact that I did meet my wife while attending Clear Creek. My next memories would come from all the friends I have gained.

"Lastly, would be the knowledge and wisdom I gained from the professors and their classes. Overall, my time at Clear Creek has been extraordinary. I have had my ups and downs like everyone else, but I believe God knew what He was doing when He placed me here."—Casey Carver

"My fondest memories of Clear Creek have yet to come. I count it a blessing that God would allow me to attend Clear Creek and also to join together with those faithful servants in equipping God called men and women for Christian service."—Eric Joseph Greene

"Two of my most memorable things while at Clear Creek would be that I was able to bring a family to the campus Shopping Spree. It was the only Christmas they could afford for them and their three children.

"The other memory was accidentally walking through Dr. Fox's screen door while at his house for a Joint Student Meeting."—Craig Allen Holder

"My fondest memory of Clear Creek is when, under the excellent teaching of Dr.

Sulfridge, the Holy Spirit opened my heart and mind to innumerable truths about difficult questions that I had asked of the scriptures for a long time.

"It was as if the gates to the kingdom were swung open in an instant! My understanding of the Word as well as my appreciation of it has never been the same!"—Steven Todd Johnson

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

Clear Creek Chronicle



Donnie Fox

48 with Ky. ties graduate from Southern, Boyce

Louisville—Forty-eight Kentucky Baptist students graduated from Southern Baptist Theological Seminary and Boyce College this spring.

Southern Seminary conferred degrees to 297 Southern students May 14 and 107 Boyce students May 8. Graduates include:

School of Theology

Doctor of Ministry

■ Steven K. Rader, Mt. Vernon, First Baptist Church, Mt. Vernon

Doctor of Philosophy

■ Ryan A. Brandt, Mundelein, Ill., Sojourn Community Church, Louisville

■ Adam Howell, Elizabethtown, Tenn., Ninth & O Baptist Church, Louisville

Master of Divinity

■ Mark D. Brockman, Crestwood, Sligo Baptist Church, Sligo

■ Christopher H. Harper, Lexington, New Hope Baptist Church, Lexington

■ Camron L. Hyde, London, Immanuel Baptist Church, Corbin

■ John T. Lowe, Louisville, Immanuel Baptist Church, Louisville

■ Anna C. Ovenell, Cashmere, Wash., Clifton Baptist Church, Clifton

■ Harrison P. Swadley, Greenville, S.C., Kenwood Baptist Church, Louisville

■ Van M. Thompson, Louisville, Highview Baptist Church, Louisville

■ Ryan S. Troglin, Fort Worth, Texas, Third Avenue Baptist Church, Louisville

■ Taylor S. Wehrle, Lexington, Ninth & O Baptist Church, Louisville

Master of Theology

■ Keith Hanson, Louisville, Immanuel Baptist Church, Louisville

■ Timothy L. Jacobs, Shepherdsville, Crossing Church, Bardstown

■ Jeffrey L. Love, Madisonville, Ninth & O Baptist Church, Louisville

Master of Arts in Biblical Counseling

■ Kendria C. Burrows, Freeport, Grand Bahamas, Third Avenue Baptist Church, Louisville

■ Kelly Jones, Lexington, Center Point Church, Lexington

■ Kari M. McCulloch, Louisville, Farmdale Baptist Church, Louisville

■ Amanda M. Ostrom, Louisville, Immanuel Baptist Church, Louisville

■ Joshua J. Pollitt, Maysville, Central Baptist Church, Corbin

■ Erin S. Semeyn, Bowling Green, Ninth & O Baptist Church, Louisville

Master of Arts in Theological Studies

■ Lauren V. Merritt, Louisville, Ninth & O Baptist Church, Louisville

Billy Graham School of Missions, Evangelism and Ministry

Doctor of Philosophy

■ Matthew D. Haste, Eubank, Living Hope Baptist Church, Bowling Green

■ Travis W. Kaiser, Louisville, Highview Baptist Church, Louisville

■ John Wind, Fergus Falls, Minn., Clifton Baptist Church, Louisville

Master of Divinity

■ Matthew H. Delos Santos, Muntinlupa City, Philippines, Grace Fellowship Church, Louisville

■ Patrick Lee Allen Smith, Lawrenceburg, Sand Spring Baptist Church, Lawrenceburg

Master of Theology

■ Charles R. Sumner, Lexington, Victory Baptist Church, Lexington

Master of Arts in Church Ministries

■ Gregory A. Homberg, Cynthiana, Cynthiana Baptist Church, Cynthiana

■ Marc E. Mullins, Louisville, Kings Baptist Church, Mount Washington

■ Robert J. Stephens Jr., Greenup, Bible Baptist Church, Ashland

Master of Arts in Missiology

■ Patrick R. Steward, Louisville, Sojourn Community Church, Louisville

Master of Arts in Youth and Family Ministry

■ Corey S. Thweatt, Benton, Center Point Church, Lexington

Boyce College graduates

Bachelor of Arts—Biblical and Theological Studies

■ Mathew R. Gilbert, London, First Baptist Church, East Bernstadt

■ Justin B. Miles, Louisville, Highview Baptist Church, Louisville

■ Calvin T. Payne, Jacksonville, Fla., Kenwood Baptist Church, Louisville

■ Benjamin Wilson, Berea, Grace Community Church, Berea

Bachelor of Science—Humanities

■ Brent D. Jordan, Louisville, Sojourn Community Church

■ Emilee Smith, Morehead, Owingsville Baptist Church, Owingsville

■ Kurt D. Smith, Brandenburg, Ekron Baptist Church

■ Joshua O. Whisenant, Louisville, Hurstbourne Baptist Church, Louisville

Bachelor of Science—Missions

■ Dylan Quinn, Frankfort, Bellepoint Baptist Church, Frankfort

Bachelor of Science—Counseling

■ Aaron Davis, Louisville, Shively Baptist Church, Louisville

Bachelor of Science—Youth Ministry

■ David J. Harvey, Louisville, Springdale Community Church, Louisville

Bachelor of Science—Church Ministry-Children's Ministry

■ Leah N. Campbell, Louisville, Shively Baptist Church, Louisville

Bachelor of Science—Elementary Education

■ Chelsea P. Blackport, Paducah, Lone Oak First Baptist Church, Paducah

Associate of Arts—Biblical and Theological Studies

■ Lydia F. Berryhill, Buchanan, Mich., Immanuel Baptist Church, Louisville

■ Luke P. Tassell, Louisville, Cedar Creek Baptist Church, Louisville (SBTS)

Two Kentuckians among SEBTS grads

Wake Forest, N.C.—Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary's graduating class included 274 graduates receiving 44 undergraduate, 197 graduate and 38 doctoral degrees.

Among the graduates were two students with Kentucky ties:

■ Master of Arts—Joshua Tyler Smith, Shepherdsville

■ Master of Divinity w/ Christian Ministry—Daniel Howard Curry, Louisville. (SEBTS)

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Two Kentuckians among SEBTS grads

Payday loans targeted by ERLC, others in coalition

By Tom Strobe

Washington—The Southern Baptist Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission has helped launch a religious coalition seeking an end to the predatory loan industry.

The ERLC joined with other religious organizations May 14 to announce the Faith for Just Lending Coalition at a Capitol Hill news conference. The diverse alliance that includes Baptists, other evangelical Christians and mainline Protestants seeks to raise awareness about predatory lending and to motivate individuals, lenders, churches and the government to help bring an end to the practice.

Commonly referred to as payday lending, the growing practice draws poor people especially into a debt trap by charging excessive, and often misleading, interest rates, according to coalition members. While an interest rate may be presented by a lender as 15 percent, for instance, it actually is only for the two-week period until a person's next payday. The annual interest rate may be 400 percent or more, making it difficult for the borrower to repay the loan. It requires years for some people to pay their debt.

More than 20,000 payday and car-title loan stores exist in the United States, according to the coalition. Payday lenders also operate online.

Predatory payday lending "grinds the faces of the poor into the ground," ERLC President Russell Moore said in a written statement announcing the coalition's formation. "As Christians, we are called by Jesus, by the prophets and by the apostles to care for the poor, individually, and also about the way social and political and corporate structures contribute to the misery of the impoverished."

Barrett Duke, the ERLC's vice president for public policy, said at the May 14 news conference, "God is not an economic Darwinist. He does not believe in survival of the fittest when it comes to the treatment of the poor."

Messengers to the 2014 SBC meeting approved a resolution that denounced predatory payday lending and called on government policies to end the practice.

Other members of the Faith for Just Lending Coalition, as announced, are the National Association of Evangelicals; Cooperative Baptist Fellowship; National Baptist Convention, USA; National Latino Evangelical Coalition; Center for Public Justice; PICO National Network; and Ecumenical Poverty Initiative.

While Moore acknowledged the organizations don't agree on every policy issue, he is "happy to work together on this issue to stand against unchecked usury and to work for economic justice, human dignity and family stability."

At its launch, the coalition announced the following principles for just loans:

- "Individuals should manage their resources responsibly and conduct their affairs ethically, saving for emergencies, and being willing to provide support to others in need.
- "Churches should teach and model responsible stewardship, offering help to neighbors in times of crisis.
- "Lenders should extend loans at reasonable interest rates based on ability to repay within the original loan period, taking into account the borrower's income and expenses.
- "Government should prohibit usury and predatory or deceptive lending practices."

The SBC resolution expanded on

numerous concerns about payday lending, describing it as "the practice of lending small amounts of money, usually \$350 or less, to individuals for two-week periods (i.e. until the next payday) potentially trapping borrowers in an endless cycle of two-week loans, often at an annual interest rate up to or exceeding 360 percent."

With the coalition launched, its members will begin focusing on building support throughout the country and in Congress to put an end to the predatory

practices of payday lending, Duke said. Coalition members visited with congressional members or staff after the May 14 news conference.

Since payday lenders often "refuse to operate in a responsible manner, government intervention is crucial," Duke said in a written statement for the coalition. "We cannot sit by idly while some of the poorest among us are preyed on by people simply looking for a quick buck with no regard for the devastation they cause in the lives of others." (BP)

Cumberlands confers 815 degrees

Williamsburg—On May 9, University of the Cumberlands conferred 815 degrees during its commencement ceremony: 227 bachelor's degrees, 540 master's degrees and 18 doctorate degrees.

During the 2014-15 academic year, the University conferred a total of 1,376 degrees, the most successful year in Cumberlands' history. Cumberland undergraduate students are required to complete a minimum of 40 hours of community service before graduation, and those who complete a minimum of 200 service hours are named Hutton Scholars. The class of 2015 contributed a total of 25,705 hours.

The H. N. and Frances Berger Awards for the outstanding female and male members of the graduating class went to Sarah England, of Versailles, and Cory Clark, of Seymour, Tenn. The awards recognize students who have exhibited academic achievement combined with leadership and service to the college and the larger community.

Three students were named



Presidential Scholars for their accomplishments in research: Shelby Gibbons, of Hamersville, Ohio; Mallory Harper Hamm, of Mt. Vernon; and Amanda Newquist, of Corbin.

Sarah England received the George S. Munro Memorial Prize in Pre-Medical Studies, which is awarded in recognition of academic excellence and effort to the graduating senior pre-medical student who has achieved the highest grade-point average. (UC)

Missionary appointment service

Story after story of their callings makes powerful impact

Earlier this month we had the blessing of attending the IMB missionary appointment service in Louisville.

We expected to hear great music, a powerful sermon and specific prayers for the ones being sent out and we did. However, the most powerful part of the evening for our family was the testimonies of the missionaries.

I have been in a Southern Baptist Church since conception—yes, that sounds weird, but it's true.

I became a Christ follower at age 13, and I have experienced the many blessings of being a part of the Southern Baptist family. My early years included time as a RA.

My mother was involved in Mission Friends and the ways of SBC life—especially international missions has been a key part of our development and has shaped us in numerous ways.

The missionary appointment service was one of the most impactful events I have been to in my life.

Story after story of each of their respective callings from the Lord were great encouragement and powerful testimonies to the God we serve. One

after one they would share of specific times in their lives that God clearly called them and then led them to this point in their lives.

Each story seemed to originate from a teenage-year experience. That evening caused us to have many introspective thoughts of what God would have us do from hearing their testimony.

One key truth for sure, I am more burdened than ever that our message at camp to nearly 14,000 campers must be crystal clear. Should you consider if God is calling you to full-time ministry—whether here or abroad? Please join us in prayer

that God would call out great numbers from the experience at Crossings this summer.

This year our theme is "Proclaim"—a fitting reminder of why we are on this earth—we are to proclaim the gospel in all aspects of our lives and to all peoples.

Your partnership in this ministry is needed now more than ever, with our largest summer ever—the opportunities to see great numbers of laborers sent into the harvest have never been greater.

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

Crossings Ministries



David Melber

New mission for new era

Foundation's ministry to focus on local churches, CP

At the request of the Kentucky Baptist Foundation Board of Directors, the Kentucky Baptist Convention, at its 2013 convention, approved changing the Kentucky Baptist Foundation's purposes as defined in its Articles of Incorporation. The three main purposes now are as follows:

- 1) To serve as the development agency for cooperating affiliated KBC churches, but not limited to, promoting legacy gifts to and administering funds for such churches.
- 2) To promote legacy gifts for the benefit of the Cooperative Program.
- 3) To further develop religious, benevolent, charitable, educational, and missionary activities by serving, administering funds of, and promoting any institution, agency, association, or enterprise fostered by or having official sanction of the KBC.

The Foundation's new president, Richard Barnes, assumed his leadership role on June 1. He will begin a new era of ministry focusing on the local church and the Cooperative Program. These two causes are vital to the future growth of kingdom work among Baptists and around the world. The church is the

foundation on which the KBC builds all of its ministry. CP is the key source of support for this ministry and cannot be "taken for granted."

In order to be effective, Richard will need the support and cooperation of all KBC church pastors. There are two major things that you can do. One, spend some time with Richard and learn how the Kentucky Baptist Foundation can best

service your church. The opportunities will differ among churches. Together, you can determine the most effective approach. Second, begin to identify members whose commitment to stewardship would benefit by knowing how the Kentucky Baptist Foundation, at no cost, could help them realize their Christian stewardship commitment through legacy giving in a good estate plan, and to introduce them to Richard or Laurie

Valentine, KBF's Trust Counsel (502) 489-3533 or (866) 489-3533 toll-free (Ky. only).

On behalf of our Board of Directors, I want to thank all who allow the foundation to serve them and further advance all of our kingdom works.

Pastors, please join with us in partnership in this new era of service.

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

Ky. Baptist Foundation



Charles Barnes



June

- 2 Power Lunch, Ky. Baptist Building, Louisville
- 11-13 Mission Adventure for Kentucky Kids, Calvary Baptist Church, Princeton
- 13-19 Kentucky Changers, Richmond
- 14-15 National WMU Missions Celebration & Annual Meeting, Greater Columbus Convention Center, Columbus, Ohio
- 16-17 SBC Annual Meeting, Greater Columbus Convention Center, Columbus, Ohio
- 20-26 Kentucky Changers, Marshall County.
- 21-28 Kentucky Baptist All-State Youth Choir & Orchestra, Campbellsville University

MOUNTAINS TO THE MISSISSIPPI

COMPILED BY STAFF

BRODHEAD—Livingston Church welcomed a new pastor, **Gary Parker**, and his wife, Donna.

LOUISVILLE—The memorial service for **Jim McKinley**, former missionary and a former president of the Kentucky Baptist Convention, has been changed to Sunday, June 28, 3 p.m., at Westport Road Church.

PRESTONSBURG—Allen Church will host the Sacred Winds Ensemble on Sunday, June 14, at 3 p.m. The group is comprised of professional musicians from across the country. For more information, see sacredwinds.org. The concert is sponsored by the church and ministry partners, and is free to the public.

WAYNESBURG—Olive Church hosted an open house reception to honor its pastor, **Bert Hall**, who is celebrating 40 years in the ministry. Hall has preached at several churches in Pulaski and surrounding counties, including his home church, Northside in Science Hill. He has been serving as pastor at Olive Church since 1999.

What's happening?

Send your church news and association events to:

Mountains to the Mississippi
karen.martin@westernrecorder.org

To place an advertisement

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



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: 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: Calvary Baptist Church in Franklin, Ky. is accepting resumes for the position of full-time pastor. Please send resumes and CD/DVD/Internet Link for sermons by June 15, 2015 to: Calvary Baptist Church Pastor Search Committee, P.O. Box 1064, Franklin, KY. 42135 or email to pastorsearchcalvary@gmail.com.

SEEKING: Part-time adult choir leader for First Cedar Creek Baptist Church, Bardstown, Ky. Email resume to bcurtsinger@bardstowncable.net.

SEEKING: Crofton Baptist Church in Crofton, Ky., is prayerfully accepting resumes for the position of full time pastor to lead our congregation. Experience is preferred. Please send resume to Crofton Baptist Church, Attn: Pastor Search Committee, 155 College Street, Crofton, KY 42217 or email to office at croftonbaptist@bellsouth.net.

SEEKING: Camp Pleasant Baptist Church in Frankfort, Ky. is seeking a senior pastor. Please send resumes to campoffice@camppleasant.org.

SEEKING: Jordan Baptist Church, Sanders, Ky., is seeking a bivocational pastor to lead our congregation. Resumes may be sent to the search committee by mail in care of: Obie Hunt, 321 Grobmyer Avenue, Carrollton, KY 41008.

SEEKING: Olive Branch Baptist Church in Hanson, Ky., is prayerfully accepting resumes for a bivocational director of music ministries. Please send resumes to 400 Olive Branch Church Rd., Hanson, KY 42413, Attn: Personnel Committee, or email to olivebranch552@bellsouth.net.

SEEKING: Freedom Baptist Church in Lawrenceburg, Ky., is accepting resumes for the position of pastor to lead our congregation of 65 to 70 in reaching the community for Christ. Please send resumes to Freedom Baptist Church, P.O. Box 557, Lawrenceburg, KY 40343, or email to Douglas Caldwell@bellsouth.net.

SEEKING: Minister of music/worship pastor job description. Bethlehem Baptist Church located in Louisville, Ky., is seeking a part-time minister of music/worship pastor. The successful candidate will lead a blended style of music worship, working with the sanctuary adult choir, praise team and instrumentalists. If interested, submit resume to Vic Peek at vicpeek@gmail.com.

SEEKING: Little River Baptist Association is currently seeking a full-time director of missions. Resumes with references may be sent to: Little River Baptist Association, Attention: DOM Search Committee, 5092 Blackhawk Rd. Princeton KY, 42445 until June 30.

SEEKING: First Baptist Church of Rockville, Md., was begun in 1821 and is a regional church located 25 miles from downtown DC. FBC is seeking God's will for a senior pastor to lead a contemporary and a traditional worship averaging combined 232 with three support staff. Christian preschool. Qualifications are: 1) Minimum

master's degree from SB seminary with at least 5 years pastor experience. 2) Believe in inerrancy of Bible and exemplify qualities in 1 Tim. 3:1-7 and Titus 1:6-9. 3) Lead worship, preach, teach, the gospel message relevant to spiritual growth. 4) Communicate and connect with all age groups with love of Christ and provide counseling and ministering in crisis. 5) Passion for evangelism and start new ministries and participate in SB denomination. 6) Compassionately lead congregation of diverse ethnicity in spiritual growth, leadership, conflict resolution, and interpersonal relationships. 7) Oversee administrative responsibilities and mentor staff. Send letter of interest and resume to pastorsearch@firstbaptistrockville.org or mail to: Pastor Search Team, 682 College Parkway, Rockville, MD 20850-1134. Deadline July 1.

SEEKING: Hedgeville Baptist Church is seeking a full-time pastor. Applicant must meet qualifications of 1 Timothy 3. Send resume to: Hedgeville Baptist Church, P.O. Box 262, Danville, KY 40422.

SEEKING: Fountain Run First Baptist Church in Fountain Run, Ky., has an open position for a youth director. If interested, call or text Tony Houchens at 1-270-991-5349 or email at hooch22102@gmail.com.

SEEKING: First Baptist Church of Lawrenceburg, Ky., is seeking a part-time children's minister. For more information contact Phillip, (502)598-6146, or Heather, (502)859-2506. Send resumes to fbcresumes@gmail.com. Deadline June 30.

SEEKING: Small Baptist church in Warren County, Ky., seeking a bivocational pastor. Close personal walk with the Lord along with knowledge, wisdom and understanding of the Holy Bible is required. Motivated leader with vision and focus to carry on God's mission, "to seek and save that which was lost" (Luke 19:10). Prior pastoral experience, education and training is preferred. Applicants send your resume to pkbcsearch@yahoo.com or mail to PKBC, P.O. Box 54, Rockfield, KY 42274.

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

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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).

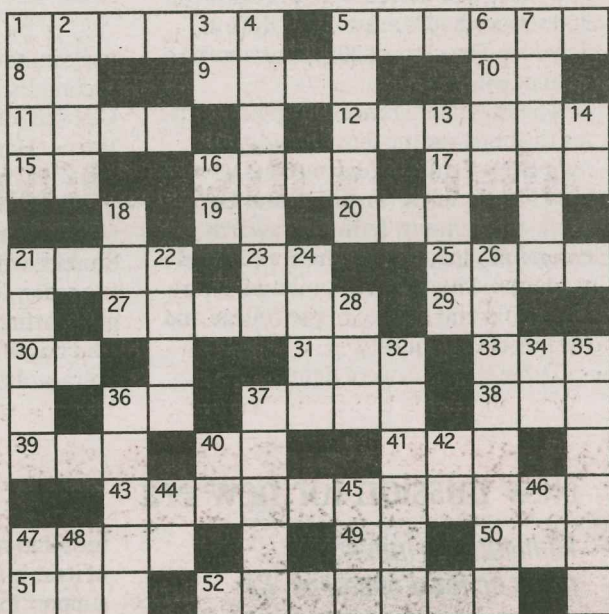
SERVICES: The family and employees of JCA Media would like to thank you for the outpouring of support displayed during the passing of Jim Cottrell. Your cards, calls, visits, and presence during this difficult time were a testament to how many people Jim touched. We are saddened by his absence in our daily lives, but know Jim's presence remains within the honesty, integrity, quality of workmanship, and fairness upon which he built his reputation. We look forward to continuing to help you enhance your worship experience. For information/references, please visit JCAMedia.com.

SERVICES: Attention Pastors & Leaders: Russell Funk, a pastor and M.B.A., seeks to provide your church with solutions to financial issues associated with ministry administrative costs. At Free Rain we offer excellent, professional, very affordable and personal solutions to ensure you are a good steward. There are 3 questions: 1) What are budget concerns? 2) What is your biggest financial issue? 3) Will you take the steps to ensure a solid foundation to spread the gospel? Call 270-847-6261 for a FREE consultation for your church or association. www.freerain.com.

Bible Crosswords

Across

- 1 Division of opposing parties
- 5 "___ thy way unto the Lord" (Psalms 37:5)
- 8 Exclamation
- 9 Small amount
- 10 "___ my Father's house are many mansions" (John 14:2)
- 11 "Jesus saith unto them, Come and ___" (John 21:12)
- 12 Nativity set
- 15 Indianapolis's state, abbr.
- 16 Where Goliath was from (2 Samuel 21:22)
- 17 Social equal
- 19 Overdose, abbr.
- 20 New Testament book that follows Galatians, abbr.
- 21 Isaiah's father (Isaiah 1:1)
- 23 Exclamation of satisfaction
- 25 Sound used to attract attention
- 27 Rachel's handmaid given to Jacob to bear a son (Genesis 30:3)
- 29 "___ is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him" (Hebrews 11:6)
- 30 "___ ye therefore, and teach all nations" (Matthew 28:19)
- 31 Lower limb
- 33 Legendary bird of prey
- 36 Line, abbr.
- 37 Time past
- 38 Office of Technology Assessment
- 39 Cow's noise
- 40 Dover's state, abbr.
- 41 "Thy word have I ___ in mine heart" (Psalms 119:11)



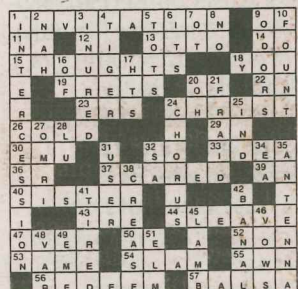
#038

- 43 "There shall in no wise enter into it any thing that defileth, neither whatsoever worketh ___" (Revelation 21:27)
- 47 "Why beholdest thou the ___ that is in thy brother's eye?" (Luke 6:41)
- 49 Where Job lived (Job 1:1)
- 50 High ranking Turkish official
- 51 "He planteth an ___, and the rain doth nourish it" (Isaiah 44:14)
- 52 Man who died after he had deceived the apostles (Acts 5:1-5)
- 14 More, suffix
- 16 Leave
- 18 Steal
- 21 Solomon planted these trees in terraces up to the temple (2 Chronicles 9:11)
- 22 City of David (2 Chronicles 5:2)
- 24 Circle of light
- 26 Herod's wife and sister-in-law (Luke 3:19)
- 28 Not him
- 32 Elisha's servant (2 Kings 4:12)
- 34 Begins with Genesis and ends with Malachi, abbr.
- 35 Pertaining to the body
- 36 Unwilling
- 37 Arab country
- 40 "My meat is to ___ the will of him that sent me" (John 4:34)
- 42 Pronoun for a thing
- 44 "___ still, and know that I am God" (Psalms 46:10)
- 45 Joshua's father (Joshua 1:1)
- 46 King of Bashan (1 Kings 4:19)
- 47 Mother
- 48 Old style, abbr.

Down

- 1 Father of Israelite spy (Numbers 13:10)
- 2 Lower part of the face
- 3 Yes, Sp.
- 4 Land that lies ten miles east of Beer-sheba (Nehemiah 11:26)
- 5 Hidden store
- 6 The Philistines put five golden ___ in the Ark of the Covenant as a trespass offering when they returned it (1 Samuel 6:4)
- 7 To stick, adhere
- 13 Hebrew unit of measure

#037



Magna Carta 800th anniversary rich with relevance

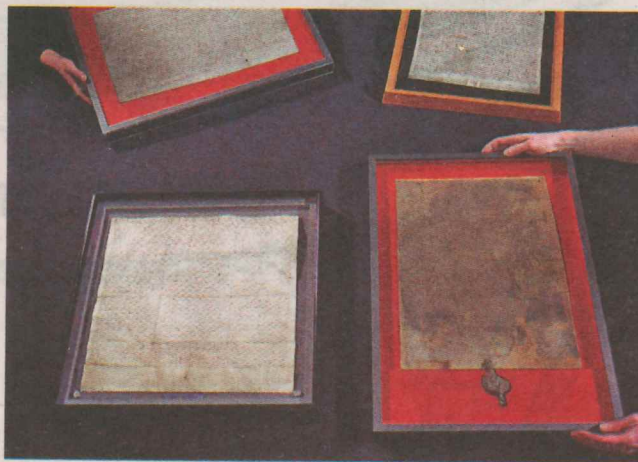
By Libby Donaldson

London—June 15 marks the 800th anniversary of King John's seal on the Magna Carta, one of the most significant documents in the history of democracy.

While only three of the Magna Carta's original clauses are still a part of British law, this canon was foundational in shaping today's human rights and personal freedoms, including the freedom to practice religion.

In the U.S., it paved the way for governing documents, including the Declaration of Independence, the U.S. Constitution and the Bill of Rights. The Fifth Amendment—"Nor shall any persons be deprived of life, liberty or property without due process of law"—sounds much like the Magna Carta's 39th clause.

In 13th-century England, King John wasn't the most popular ruler. His frivolous spending and lack of concern for his people led to heavy taxation. Upset by his selfish monarchical style, unsatisfied barons demanded something be done. Along with several bishops, they drafted 63 clauses that helped rein in King John, claiming all free men—even the monarch—were subject to the law. In 1215, at Runnymede, England, King John placed



his seal of approval on the document that has forever shaped the relationship between governing powers and free men in democratic societies.

Translated from its original Latin, the Magna Carta (Great Charter) states, "No free man shall be seized or imprisoned, or stripped of his rights or possessions, or outlawed or exiled, or deprived of his standing in any other way, nor will we proceed with force against him, or send others to do so, except by the lawful judgment of his equals or by the law of the land. To no one will we sell, to no one deny or delay right or justice." Applied, it meant

every free man had the right to a trial by a jury of his peers.

Rebecca Jones, a high school history teacher in North Carolina, says that while Americans may not hear about the Magna Carta as much as the U.S. Constitution or the Bill of Rights, it is just as valuable.

"Those ideas of limiting that power of the king would in turn influence the writing of America's own founding government. It was also

one of the first times in European history that we see a limit on absolute monarchy, something that wouldn't happen in France until the revolution in 1789 or in Russia until 1918," she said.

Mark Durfee agrees. The U.S. history teacher in Texas says the Magna Carta was the "foundational influence" that led to the English Bill of Rights of 1689. In North America, it largely impacted the Virginia House of Burgesses in 1619, the Mayflower Compact in 1620, the Fundamental Orders of Connecticut in 1639—"the first written constitution in English Colonial

America"—the Declaration of Independence in 1776 and the Articles of Confederation in 1777. This all led up to the drafting, signing and ratification of the U.S. Constitution in 1787 and 1788 and the Bill of Rights in 1789 and 1791.

Anniversary celebrations in the United States occurred as early as November. The Library of Congress hosted a copy of the Magna Carta for 10 weeks, along with other documents that depicted "how a number of the most basic principles of the U.S. Constitution—consent of the governed, the right to a trial by jury, the right to due process of law, freedom from unlawful imprisonment and limited government under the law—can be traced to Magna Carta," according to the Library of Congress website.

The American Bar Association will host 600 to 800 U.S. lawyers to commemorate the anniversary at the monument the ABA erected at Runnymede in 1957. Queen Elizabeth II also will make her way to the location where the Magna Carta was born.

The British Library exhibition "Magna Carta: Law, Liberty, Legacy" is open to the public through Sept. 1. (BP)

Libby Donaldson is a writer for the London Bureau of Baptist Press.

Page: Obama's comments on poverty disappointing

By David Roach

Nashville—President Obama's suggestion that evangelicals often devote more resources to fighting abortion than caring for the poor reflects ignorance concerning denominations like the Southern Baptist Convention, Frank Page said on a national radio broadcast.

"We are involved" in fighting poverty, Page, president of the SBC Executive Committee said May 16 on the "Washington Watch" radio program's weekend edition hosted by Tony Perkins, president of the Family Research Council. "So there was both arrogance and ignorance involved in his comments. It bothered me deeply. We care about people."

Page was referencing comments made by Obama at a May 12 panel discussion on poverty hosted by Georgetown University. The president acknowledged that some conservatives "deeply care" about the poor and "exhibit that through their churches." But later, he said poverty relief "is oftentimes viewed" by churches "as 'nice to have' relative to an issue like abortion" in discussions of "the thing that is really going to capture the essence of who we are as Christians."

Obama referenced "the evangelical community" among the referents of his comments.

Page said he has "met with President Obama many times," "heard his personal testimony" and served on an advisory council for the White House Office of Faith-Based and Neighborhood Partnerships. "So I was deeply disappointed to hear what he said. To be honest with you, President Obama owes evangelical Christians an apology."

Page estimated at least 40,000 of about 46,000 churches in cooperation with the SBC have ministries aimed at helping the

poor. First Baptist Church in Taylors, S.C., where Page served as pastor for nine years, offered a free medical clinic six days a week and "dozens" of after-school programs, he said, citing the church as illustrative of what many other congregations do.

Southern Baptists "have the third largest disaster relief ministry in the world," Page said. "Who do you think is involved right now in Nepal? Well, we are. We were there before the government was. When the government leaves, we'll be there."

President George W. Bush once told Page he was flying over New Orleans following Hurricane Katrina and asked, "Who are all those people with yellow hats and yellow shirts?" The reply came, "Mr. President, those are Southern Baptist volunteers."

Southern Baptists operate feeding stations for the Red Cross following disasters, Page said, and give 20 times more money annually to disaster relief and a global hunger fund (Global Hunger Relief) than to the Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission, the convention entity charged with advocating, among other things, pro-family legislation in Washington.

"When you look at the actual work of the 46,124 local churches, then you're including billions and billions of ministry dollars" spent on helping the poor, Page said.

Obama's comments reflected "ignorance" of evangelical views, Page said, because the president does not often visit churches, especially evangelical ones. The comments reflected "arrogance" because Obama "dared tell us what we should focus upon."

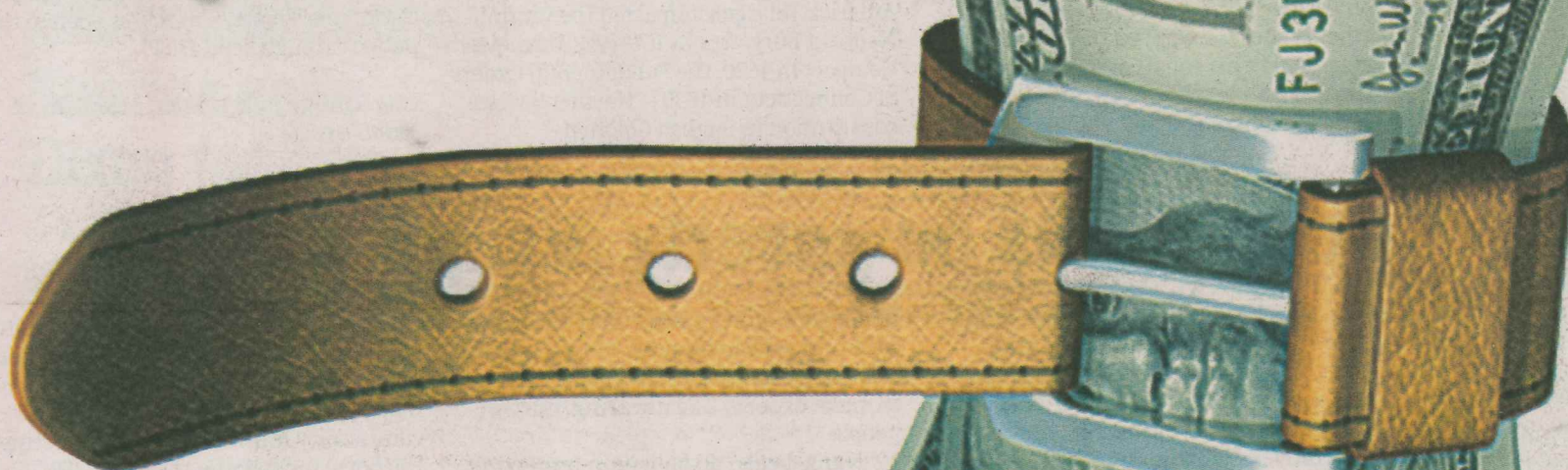
The remarks about evangelicals point to "a bigger issue," Page said. "It's part of trying to silence Christians who are

strongly pro-life. And it is part of a bigger (attempt) to keep us quiet, to put us in the corner, to ostracize us, to alienate us and to make us seem like uncaring, hurtful people."

Evangelicals "do believe in protecting

the unborn. We are unashamed of that," Page said. "We also know that we've got to take care of the born, and the vast majority of our resources (devoted to community ministries) go to protecting the born and helping the born." (BP)

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