

WESTERN Recorder

July 28, 2015

Shine Like Stars * Philippians 2:15

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Send Cincinnati impact expected to cross Ohio river

By Robin Cornetel

Erlanger—Send Cincinnati is stretching across the Ohio River to include northern Kentucky, a move that one Kentucky Baptist leader hopes will lead to 20 new churches.

"We can't start them fast enough," said Jim Woolums, Northern Kentucky Baptist Association's director of missions.

Woolums said he could stroll along any Main Street in his association and for every four people he met, three would not know Christ.

North American Mission Board statistics back up that assessment. At least 65 percent of Boone County residents are unreached and unchurched, while neighboring Campbell and Kenton counties are even higher at 75 and 85 percent, respectively.

"We need to have a greater sense of urgency," Woolums said. "We need to go places we've never been before and do things we've never done before to reach people we've never reached before."

For months, Woolums has worked to fast-track the association's involvement with Send Cincinnati, one

of 32 Send Cities designated by the North American Mission Board, because the region shares so much in common with Cincinnati.

"The Cincinnati airport is in Kentucky; we're always reminding people that,"

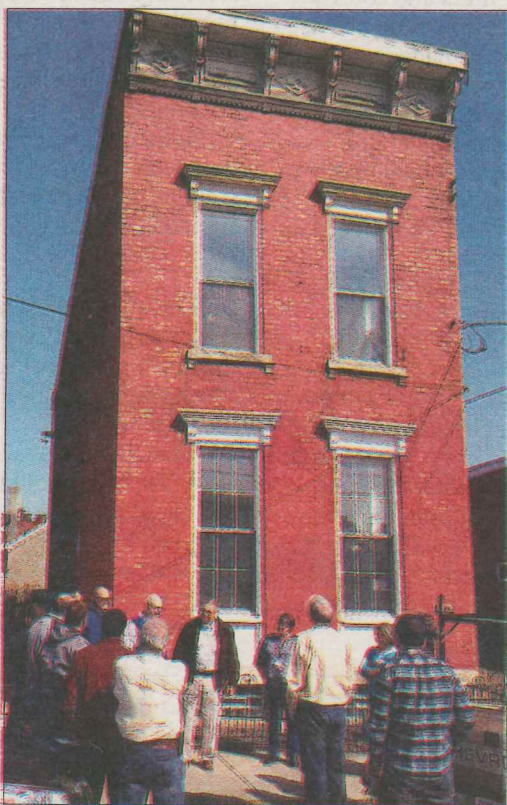
Woolums said.

The mission board's online map of Send Cincinnati shows more than 100 communities in and around the metropolitan area as

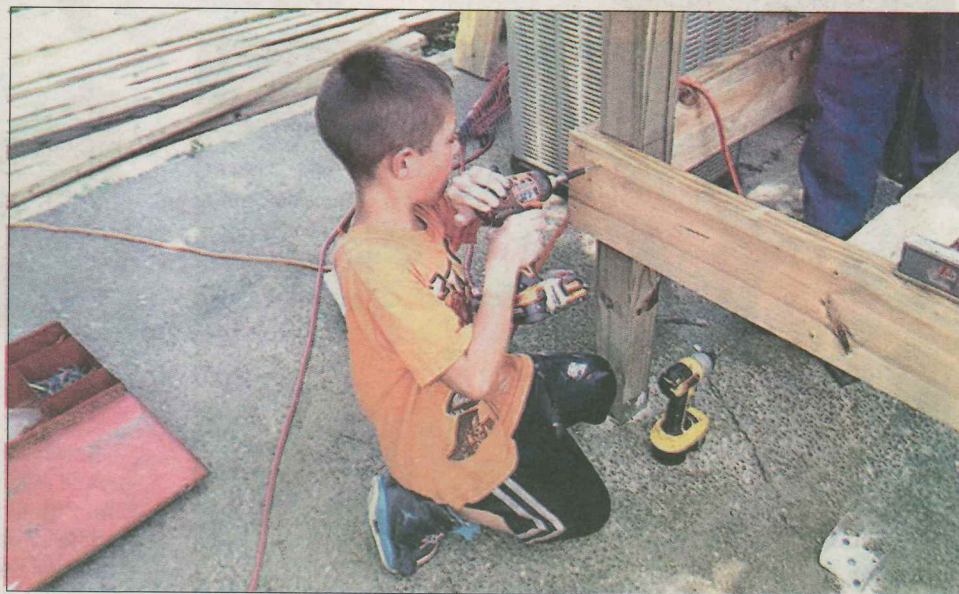
sites for new church plants. So far, about 20 churches have been created.

Woolums said five churches have launched in his association. He envisions 20 more

□ See Send Cincinnati ... Page 3



During a recent Northern Kentucky vision tour, Pastor Richard Fowler tells about the ministry of Oasis Center, the community care arm of Ninth Street Church in Covington.



Nine-year-old Braden uses the skills the Kentucky Changers taught him to help build a deck. He was one of the many contacts made by the Kentucky Changers willing to invest in communities and lives this summer.

Ky. Changers teach students to be 'on mission everyday'

By Myriah Snyder

Louisville—About 1,000 students paid \$200 to spend a week sweating in the heat, working to share Christ's love through repairing houses with the Kentucky Changers. They worked at four locations across the state: Richmond, Marshall County, Maysville and Henderson.

"This summer was incredible because the whole goal of Kentucky Changers is to teach youth how to be on mission every day, not just one week out of the year," Peggy Murphy, Kentucky Changers coordinator with the Kentucky Women's Missionary Union, said.

"There was a great project at each location, and they got a lot of opportunities to see God at work. They got a lot of evangelizing in and learned how to do that as they were showing the love of Jesus in a tangible way," she continued.

At one site, the students got to see the neighbors of homeowners won to Christ. The neighbors prayed and accepted the Lord right in front of the students, Murphy said.

"I think Kentucky Changers is unique, because when kids are at home, they don't see their home as a mission field, but when you step out of your home—whether it's the town or county you live



Kentucky Changers learned to 'share Christ's love in a tangible way' through various building projects.

in—when you go to a different place, you sort of have different goggles on," Jt Jones, member of Sojourn Community Church in Louisville and student at Southern Seminary, said.

Jones' first Kentucky Changers experience was four or five summers ago in Paducah. After that, he and his friends "were changed so much" they took the idea back to Sebree First Baptist Church and started their own ministry, Faith Builders. The group now does two to four projects locally each year, he said.

"For these kids, they know the reason they are there is to work hard and tell people about Jesus,"

he said. "Somehow the Lord blesses them with a good attitude and a good work ethic."

"They are intentionally seeking opportunities to be a blessing to someone, whether that's to pray with the homeowner, which they did, or talking to a kid on the side of the road. They're more open to telling them about Jesus than they would be at

home," he noted.

"Changers gives them a neat environment and it shows them that if they can work hard for Jesus and tell people about Jesus in a different environment, then they have that same ability back home. It just gives them a new perspective," Jones added.

Jones was part of Crew 8 at the Henderson location as an assistant crew chief. They built a deck, pressure washed and painted a house.

One student, Emily, saw a 9-year-old boy, Braden, walking down the road. She went to talk

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Kentucky Notes
missions for life



Western Recorder 7-28-2015

Kentucky Baptists are helping people with remnants of recent floods in Johnson and Rowan counties by meeting a basic need for clean clothes and homes.



Kentucky Baptists assist flood victims

Morehead—Kentucky Baptist Disaster Relief crews worked in Rowan, Johnson and four other counties, helping clear flood-damaged homes of drywall and insulation to prevent the spread of mold.

The volunteers not only met the residents' basic needs for clean clothes and homes—donating the equivalent of 236 work days—but also made 935 ministry contacts, distributed 45 Bibles and 321 tracts, and presented the gospel 59 times, resulting in 17 decisions for Christ.

"For those who were affected, I think reality has started to set in," said Wayne Cornett, pastor of First Baptist Church of Paintsville.

Cornett's church partnered with the Kentucky Baptist Convention to offer flood victims in Johnson County free access to showers and laundry facilities. More than 420 showers were provided and 15 loads of laundry washed.

"As long as there are shelters, there will be people who need showers," Cornett said. "And even for those who have been put up in a hotel, hotels don't come with laundry units. So, it can be a great benefit to folks."

A call for more volunteers to assist in Rowan County was issued last Tuesday. Director Coy Webb said he expects disaster relief volunteers there to clean mud



out of at least 40 homes. As of Friday, more than 124 flood clean up jobs and five repair jobs have been completed.

"We also assisted with recovery relief funds to Johnson and McCracken counties through Paintsville First Baptist Church and Lone Oak First Baptist Church," Webb said.

"We are thankful for ministry provided to children in Johnson County by Paintsville First Baptist Church and the Blood River Baptist Association," Webb added. Kentucky Baptist volunteers have cared for about 400 children, he reported. (WR)



Burkesville safety day attracts 450

Burkesville—Between 400 and 500 people attended Burkesville Baptist Church's first ever Family Safety Day.

The event brought together community agencies, law enforcement officials, health and human service officials and children for some positive interaction in light of all the negative news on television, church leaders said.

"It was a win-win for the church, the community, law enforcement and all other agencies that participated," Mark Shelton, Burkesville's pastor, said. "I would say it was an overwhelming success."

The community began hearing about the event and funding began coming in from local groups like the Cumberland County Sheriff's office and local insurance agencies, such as State Farm and Farm Bureau. The school resource centers and county 4-H organizations also got involved, and Wal-Mart even provided a grant to buy six bicycles to give away.

More than 20 community agencies taught classes ranging from gun safety, ATV and four-wheeler safety to bike safety, fire safety, infant CPR and first aid, among others. Volunteers



from the church interacted with visitors, served food, and worked a VBS information table.

According to the information sheets, one third of attendees had no church home or affiliation, Shelton said. At the end of the day, 38 children were enrolled for VBS and contact was made with an additional 30 unchurched families.

"Our people saw this as not just a safety event, but an opportunity to get families on our church campus and introduce them to our church and perhaps even to share Jesus Christ," Shelton said.

Plans are already being made for next year's event and new agencies are contacting the church weekly to get signed up to participate. (WR)

Ky. Changers

Continued from page 1
to him and brought him back to the worksite.

Braden spent the rest of the week working alongside the team and even brought his family to worship with him. The students and their leaders had the opportunity to pray with his mother, who was in rehab.

"When Braden was helping us, he had a lot of runs in his paint. We equated the runs in the paint as sin. We took the brush as sort of like the Holy Spirit getting those sins out of our life. So with God's grace, I depicted the gospel through getting the runs out of the wall," Jones shared.

Part of Crew 8 intends to use their own time to return to

Henderson and work on Braden's house, prayer walk and look for other small projects while wearing their Kentucky Changers shirts, said Timothy Hall, a member of Crew 8.

"Changers is not a location, but a lifestyle. Changers should not end on the last day of the project. Changers should begin on the last day—begin to look for opportunities to be on mission showing the love of Jesus in a tangible way," Murphy concluded. (WR)



Red Hill Church: 65 years with original pastor

By Myriah Snyder

Vine Grove—Red Hill Baptist Church in Vine Grove celebrated its 65th anniversary July 12, not only as a congregation, but also with the same pastor, James Royalty.

Each year, the church celebrates its homecoming on the second Sunday in July with a morning service, a covered dish meal, an afternoon fellowship and an evening service.

Royalty, along with some other college-aged preachers, began Red Hill as a revival service in a borrowed army tent and a Vacation Bible School that eventually turned into a mission in 1950. Royalty traveled to and from Georgetown College to preach for Sunday services.

In 1952, Red Hill Baptist Church was organized, and Royalty was called as pastor. He has served in that position ever since.

"I prayed about it and thought about it for a long time, whether or not I would accept the call to ministry. I didn't feel I was able. I wasn't a suitable person," Pastor Royalty said.

"By reading the Old Testament prophets, I saw that cities were spared because of one, two or 10 people," he continued. "I thought, 'Well,

if 10 more people, or even one, could be saved because I'd respond, then it's well worth the effort.'

"I decided I would do what the Lord wanted and stay where I was needed, and I'd try to be there when the time came to help that person," he added.

Royalty has served a term on the Western Recorder's Board of Trustees, three years as moderator of Severns Valley Baptist Association and one term on the state convention's Executive Board. Red Hill is part of the Severns Valley Association.

Through the years, the church has contributed to missions in various ways.

A strong supporter of the Cooperative Program, the church, although small in size, sets aside 25 percent of its annual budget for missions, about half of which goes to the CP.



James Royalty



"We're not a large church, but we try to support the Lord's work in any way we can. We've tried to keep ahead of what we ought to be doing through the Cooperative Program," Royalty said.

Additionally, Red Hill has sponsored a Laotian ministry and a Spanish ministry.

The church has had several members who served in volunteer mission work across the state and the world.

The church has also sent its pastor on two mission trips to Africa.

Marlene Lawson of *The Sentinel*, Radcliff also contributed to this story.

72 people saved through drama at Ashland church

By Mark Maynard

Ashland—A Kentucky church has used an attention-grabbing drama to reach thousands of people over the past 17 years.

That includes more than 70 people who made salvation decisions over an eight-day run beginning July 12.

Unity Baptist Church presented a walk-through drama that depicts the ultimate decision everyone has to make in life, whether to accept or reject Jesus. The drama also depicts the eternal consequences of that choice.

The production, which requires 125 to 150 people per show, drew more than 1,700 people. More than 30,000 people have come through the doors of the church to witness the drama since Unity started it 17 years ago.

"It's an effective ministry, where each person who comes through is confronted

with life's most important decision—what will they do with Jesus?" said Unity Pastor Jeremy Couture. "It's powerful and the gospel message is clearly given in several of the eight scenes."

Of the 1,712 people who witnessed the drama, 72 made salvation decisions and 40 rededicated their lives to Christ.

Unity members also benefit from working together on the production, often forging new friendships through the fellowship, Couture said.

Judgement House requires commitment, hard work, diligence and patience from the church family, said Couture, who is nearing his one-year anniversary as pastor.

"What I've learned is that if Unity Baptist Church can pull off a production like this for our Lord Jesus Christ, then we can do anything," he said.

Church members are involved in building sets, writing scripts, acting in



Church members pray before a group enters to see an eye-catching drama at Unity Baptist Church in Ashland.

the scenes, taking groups through as a guide and counseling.

It also becomes a gigantic prayer service throughout the building with each scene lifting up groups before and after they come through.

"Many people come through broken after going through the Hell and Heaven scenes," Couture said. "It's an emotional experience that punctuates the reality of our choices. Are you going to accept Jesus or reject Him? That's the question that's asked throughout." (Ashland Independent)

Send Cincinnati

Continued from page 1

churches planted across Boone, Campbell and Kenton counties, with four focused on reaching the region's growing Hispanic population.

Planting new churches is paramount to the Send North America strategy.

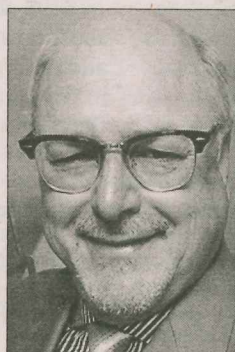
"Jesus has commissioned us to take the gospel, and we have found one of the most effective ways to do that is planting churches," said Send City Missionary Travis Smalley.

Estimates are that 60 to 80 percent of growth at church plants comes from

people who do not attend any church body. In contrast, churches that are 10 to 15 years old gain 90 percent of their new members through transfer growth from other churches.

Smalley, pastor of Lakota Hills Baptist Church in West Chester Township, Ohio, will lead the Send Cincinnati City Vision Tour Sept. 28-29.

During the tour, pastors and missions leaders will hear from church planters, learn about their vision for reaching the lost, and discover ways churches can get



Jim Woolums

involved.

"This vision tour is about connecting pastors with church planters," Smalley said.

Woolums, who is a trustee of the Western Recorder, said he will be there.

"We have an overwhelming number of people who are disconnected from church, from Christ, (and) who are walking into eternity without Him," Woolums said. "Now more than ever, we need to fall on our faces before God and align our hearts with His." (KBC)

Owen Co. teen national Bible drill champion

Frankfort—Toss out any scripture reference and Nichole Roberts can open her Bible to it in a flash.

Ask her to quote a passage from memory and she won't miss a single word.

The 17-year-old from one of the smallest communities in Kentucky is the newly crowned champion of the National Invitational High School Bible Drill Tournament.

The competition, a speed drill which involves locating Bible passages and reciting them from memory, first piqued Robert's interest when she was invited to take part by a friend six years ago.



Nichole Roberts

Since then, Roberts, a home-schooled student, has competed in six state Bible drill tournaments and finished runner-up twice. But in April, her victory in the Kentucky High School Bible Drill earned her the opportunity to represent Kentucky at the national tournament in Kingsland, Ga., last month.

"I was extremely surprised and shocked," Roberts said of the moment when they called her name out as the new national champ. "It was an amazing feeling."

The competition, popular in Southern Baptist churches, helps to increase a believer's knowledge of the scriptures while also teaching how to apply them in life.

When a smiling Roberts, the daughter of Everett and Peggy Roberts of Monterey, made her way up to get her trophy, Fay True, her Sunday school teacher and coach, applauded from the sidelines. Even though Nicole is the only Bible drill competitor at Mount Vernon Baptist Church out of Frankfort, True spent six hours every week helping her practice and prepare for competitions.

"She's actually one of the main reasons why I've continued with it," Roberts said of True. "She's just an amazing person to be around and she supports me through everything."

Mount Vernon Pastor Larry Adkins said True is an exceptional trainer. "She encouraged Nicole so much and made her feel that she could win, that she could do as good as the others even though we were from a smaller, rural church," he said.

With True's help, Roberts estimated that she has memorized at least 200 Bible verses.

Roberts said the spiritual growth that comes from this much time spent in Scripture is the real reward. That, she said, is far more valuable than any trophy.

Nicole encourages young people to cash in on this opportunity while they have the chance.

"I just wish more kids would be involved in it," she said, "because it's definitely changed my life."

Any churches wanting to participate in Bible drill or youth speaker's tournaments should contact Robby Adkins at (502) 750-1301. (KBC)

'For the least of these'

I just returned from South Africa with a new perspective on the world-wide impact of Kentucky Baptists.

My time in the country included days spent around Pietermaritzburg, where I was able to trace the footprints of Kentucky WMU, Kentucky Baptist Disaster Relief, KBC collegiate ministry, and numerous volunteer groups that have gone there to serve and share the love of Christ with orphans, AIDS victims, and countless lost and hurting people.

Together We are the KBC



Paul Chitwood

I was accompanied on the journey by my 18-year-old son, Daniel, and Chuck McAlister, our KBC evangelism, church planting & collegiate ministry team leader, who also serves as the chairman of the board for Baptist Global Response, the humanitarian relief ministry of Southern Baptists.

Since much of the work in Pietermaritzburg is funded by BGR and supported by Kentucky Baptists through a unique partnership between BGR and our disaster relief ministry, Chuck and I were eager to get a first-hand look.

We were also looking forward to connecting with a team of our college students serving there through KBC's Acts 1:8 Leadership Experience.

What we saw left me in awe of what God is doing through the giving and going of Kentucky Baptists and also deeply grateful for the ministries supported by our churches. We visited Tabitha Ministries in Pietermaritzburg, home to 42 orphaned children now cared for by missionaries and staff.

Most of these children lost their parents to AIDS, and roughly one-third of the kids are HIV positive. They are the "least of these" our Lord called us to serve and love. And Kentucky Baptists are answering His call.

In an outlying community called "Sweetwaters," we were able to see a ministry center constructed, in large part, by Kentucky Baptists. That ministry center is now a beacon of hope in the midst of overwhelming hopelessness. Each week, 130 child-headed households come to the center for a package of food. There are no parents in these families, most of them having fallen victim to AIDS.

The oldest child has assumed responsibility for his or her siblings and leads them in a struggle to survive. We distributed the food paid for by Southern Baptists and thanked God for the compassion of His people that would prevent the starvation of the least of these.

We also made several home visits with a Southern Baptist missionary doctor to check on hospice patients and deliver buckets packed with personal-care items. Those buckets were packed and provided by Kentucky Baptists. We had the joy of seeing some of those patients, and their caregivers, come to Christ.

And, again, we thanked God for the love and generosity of our churches at home that haven't forgotten the least of these.

Curbing deaths caused by drug overdoses

Kentuckians, we have a problem.

While much of the media's focus was on Confederate flag and statue rallies, another gunman at a movie theater, and flooding in several Kentucky counties, an alarming report released by the state Office of Drug Control Policy, showing an increase of 7.6 percent in deaths due to drug overdose, might have escaped our attention. In fact, deaths from drug overdoses made up almost 60 percent of accidental deaths statewide—more than car accidents, fire, drowning or gunshots.

The report indicates 1,087 overdose fatalities in 2014, 77 more than in 2013. Of the 795 deaths autopsied by the Kentucky Medical Examiner that were due to drug overdoses, 233, nearly one-third, were attributed to heroin. The rise in overdose deaths indicates the persistent challenge of reining in substance use and abuse, officials observed.

Fayette County saw the largest increase in fatalities from overdoses, with a 30 percent jump last year, the Herald-Leader reported. In Lexington, 112 people died from overdoses, compared with 86 in 2013. Meanwhile, Jefferson County (Louisville) had the most overdose deaths with 204, up 12 from 2013.

And in Northern Kentucky, Campbell, Kenton and Boone counties ranked three, four and five, respectively, in the rate of drug overdose deaths per 100,000, an article in The Kentucky Enquirer noted. Kenton County saw 26 heroin-related overdose deaths, while Campbell and Boone counties saw 15 and 14 deaths.

But this problem isn't confined to the state's major urban areas. The Appalachian News-Express reported that Pike County had the second-highest rate of overdose deaths, with 50.8 per 100,000 people in 2014. There were 32 overdose deaths in Pike County in 2014, an increase from 24 the previous year. Pike trailed only Floyd County, which had a rate of 55.1, nearly 4.5 deaths higher per 100,000.

Most of these victims had multiple drugs in their system, the ODCP report noted. Morphine was found in about 40.9 percent of the cases, followed by cannabinoids at 35.7 percent and heroin at 28.8 percent. Other drugs commonly found included prescription medicines, such as hydrocodone and oxycodone.

As if this news wasn't bad enough, Flakka—an illegal synthetic drug that causes users to become hyper paranoid and exhibit superhuman strength—is making its way into the state, the Kentucky New Era warns. Flakka, which has

been described as more addictive than cocaine and cheaper than a Big Mac, is testing local law enforcement resources.

Sheriff Johnny Bivens of Lewis County told the Paducah Sun that Flakka "is the worst drug I've seen in my 18-year career."

In addition to extreme paranoia and unusual strength, Flakka, also known as gravel, triggers a syndrome called excited delirium that pushes one's body temperature to dangerous levels, which damages the brain and other vital organs and may induce heart attacks. This extremely addictive drug which can be injected, snorted or vaporized is white or pinkish, looks like rock salt, and has a foul smell similar to ammonia.

After Thought

By Todd Deaton

The Kentucky General Assembly has taken some key steps in curbing overdose deaths, stiffening penalties for heroin traffickers and increasing access to an overdose-reversal drug, naloxone. Legislators also established a controversial needle exchange program and created a "good Samaritan" provision that allows people to seek help for overdose victims without facing prosecution.

While stronger legislation is a needed start, drug-abuse education and prevention requires a community effort. Tracey Corey, Kentucky's chief medical examiner, told the Herald-Leader, "What we can definitely say is that we need to continue to devote significant resources and energy to help curb the tragic and untimely deaths of so many Kentuckians." But, what else can be done to prevent overdose deaths?

- Awareness and constant vigilance are the best tools parents can use to help keep kids safe, and churches can undertake a key role in helping make adults more aware of possible substances that children and other family members may be abusing and of the warning signs of drug addictions.

- Law enforcement officials, doctors and EMTs, school administrators and teachers, church leaders, other faith-based organizations, and substance-abuse treatment centers can join forces to implement public education and drug-abuse prevention campaigns.

- Pastors, youth ministers, and Sunday School teachers can make information about local treatment resources readily available for individuals who seek help, and certified alcohol and drug counselors in our congregations can be enlisted to offer group and individual therapy sessions.

- Churches also can provide compassionate and healing support groups for individuals and families.

Planned Parenthood by the numbers

By Joe Carter

With controversy surrounding Planned Parenthood over the sale of fetal tissue, here are a few facts about the organization from its 2013-14 annual report:

- 3%—Planned Parenthood claims that abortions account for 3 percent of the services they provide. PP considers an "activity" any separate action, exam or test. If a patient seeks an abortion, she may also receive an HIV test, a STI test, a pap test, medication to prevent infection and oral contraceptives. PP counts each as an "activity." Even if a pregnant woman came to a PP clinic for an abortion, the abortion would only count, in this

example, as 16 percent (1 of 6) of the "activities" for the patient.

- 77—Years Planned Parenthood Federation of America has existed. The American Birth Control League began in 1921 and became PP in 1942.

- 700—Number of U.S. "health centers" connected to PP. It works on a franchise model, so each center is part of a network of 66 affiliates.

- 327,653—Number of abortions PP performed in 2013.

- \$495—Median charge for a surgical abortion at 10 weeks' gestation in 2011 and 2012, according to a study published in the journal Women's Health Issues in December 2013.

- \$523,616—Earnings for CEO Cecile Richards during the 2012-13 fiscal year.

- \$60,319—Average amount American taxpayers (at the local, state and federal level) give PP every hour, 24 hours a day, 365 days a year.

- \$528,400,000—Revenue PP received from government health services, grants and reimbursements in 2014.

- \$1,303,400,000—PP revenue in 2014.

- \$3,123,963—Domestic gross of "Obvious Child," an "abortion comedy" released in 2014. PP "worked for years with the film's writer, director, and producers to shape the story," filmed in a Planned Parenthood Hudson Peconic health center (in the New York City area), and oversaw its release to widespread critical and commercial success." (BP)

WESTERN Recorder

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What would life be like without remote controls?

By David Jeremiah

What would life be like today without a remote control for our televisions, stereos, DVD players and ceiling fans?

Remote devices have been around for a long time. The first patent was issued for a remote device in 1898 to Nikola Tesla for a radio-controlled boat, but remote controls became widespread after World War II where technology was in military applications.

Televisions became widely available in the 1950s. Prior to the introduction of TV remotes, we had to get up, take four to six steps, bend over, turn a knob to change the channel, adjust the sound or turn the TV off, and then turn around, walk the four to six steps back and sit down.

We are now spoiled with the ease of operation. The TV remote also illustrates issues in our culture today:

- Everybody wants to be in charge (of the remote).
- Nobody can focus (while flipping channels).
- Entertainment is a birthright.
- We've lost our patience and the ability to prioritize.
- We want everything within our grasp.
- We become blind to what we are viewing if we aren't careful. We are easily influenced by what surrounds us.

Consider who is in charge

The Bible is clear about control:

- God is in control of everything

(Ephesians 1:11).

■ Fallen human beings want to be in control (Isaiah 14:13-14).

■ The tension between God and man over who's in charge is the subtext of the entire biblical revelation (Genesis 3:1-24).

Fortunately, God has provided a way to tame the self-centered, bound-to-control human heart. For every person who will open the door, God sends the Holy Spirit to dwell within us. As liquid fills an empty vessel, the Holy Spirit fills the human heart and mind with the presence and power of God. Self-centeredness is not removed, but it is overshadowed and controlled by God-centeredness.

Being "filled with the Holy Spirit" is not an option in the Christian life. It is a necessity—indeed, a command (Ephesians 5:18). It will change your perspective and your actions.

The apostle Paul contrasts the two lifestyles that result from being controlled either by the flesh (Galatians 5:19-21) or by the Holy Spirit (Galatians 5:22-23). The differences are starkly evident. Whenever we manifest characteristics of the flesh, we must yield control of our lives to the Holy Spirit, allowing Him to manifest the life of Christ through us. It is then that we learn true strength comes from being submitted to God through the Spirit.

Submitting to the Spirit

Fortunately, God is not remote—and

He never breaks, gets lost or runs out of power. And He is good! Why would anyone want to fight with God over the issue of control in life? Here's how to ensure that God is in control:

1. Confess your controlling nature.

Fallen human beings are control freaks. So tell God that you are sorry for trying to usurp what is rightfully His. He knows you and He will forgive you (1 John 1:9).

2. Invite the Holy Spirit to take control. Confess your sins, creating a clean vessel in which a Holy God can dwell. Invite God to fill your heart and mind with His Spirit so you might be guided and directed (controlled) by Him. Believe that what you ask in faith, you will receive (Luke 11:9-13).

3. Yield to the Spirit. Read the passage in James 4:13-16 about men who boasted about their plans for the future. And take James' words to heart: "Instead you ought to say, 'If the Lord wills, we shall live and do this or that.'" At every crossroads of life, before you "click the remote," stop and yield your choices to God's Holy Spirit.

He doesn't need permission to change your plans, but the act of your offering it to Him will change you.

4. Be wise. Finally, follow Ephesians 5:15-17. Redeem the time God has given you. Don't allow any device, desire or distraction to rule your world.

Yield your time, treasure and talent to God as you turn your remote control over to Him. (BP)

FIRST PERSON

Confused by investment jargon?

Many people are confused by financial terms used in investing.

Q: What's a stock?

A: Stock represents ownership in a company. If you buy a share of ABC Company, you now own a small part of ABC Company as a stockholder. If ABC does well, you may earn dividends—payments a company makes to stockholders based on profits. If company earnings grow, your stock grows in value.

Q: What's a bond?

A: When you invest in a bond, you lend money to a company, city, school district, government, etc. Bonds are a formal "I owe you" that represent an obligation to repay the amount borrowed by a certain time. High quality bonds are a safe investment.

Q: What's a Money Market fund?

A: The money market is not one market, but several individual markets that hold the country's cash reserves in various forms. Banks, businesses and government agencies use the money market for short-term borrowing. You'll be paid interest and your principal is relatively safe.

Q: What's a Mutual Fund?

A: A mutual fund is an investment company that pools money from many investors to purchase many different stocks, bonds and money market instruments. When you buy a mutual fund share, you buy a slice of a fund's total investment. Like individual stocks and bonds, mutual funds do not guarantee you'll make money but the risk of losing money is reduced.



Don Spencer

Honoring dishonorable parents

Q: As our children become teens, they are more aware of the selfish and even abusive lifestyles of their grandparents. We have tried to set boundaries and shield our family while struggling with what it means to honor our parents.

A: In the book, "Honoring Dishonorable Parents," Jan Frank reminds us that there are no exemptions from the fifth commandment: "Honor your father and your mother ..." (Exodus 20:12; Deuteronomy 5:16). While dealing with absentee, abusive, insensitive, dysfunctional,

coarse, selfish and toxic parents is a struggle, for the Christ follower, writing them off is not an option.

Frank explains what honor doesn't mean. It does not mean pleasing, pretending or subjecting yourself or your children to harm. It does not mean becoming entangled in unhealthy patterns, being overly responsible or ignoring illegal, immoral or toxic behavior.

While children are called to "obey" their parents, adults are no longer bound by the biblical injunction to obey. Instead, honoring means that we treat dishonorable parents with kindness and respect. We are called to speak the truth in love (Ephesians 4:15). Adult children should set a pattern of loving behavior even if we don't feel like it (1 Corinthians 11:1). We should seek to settle issues as much as is possible (Romans 12:18) even as we submit to God's authority and sovereignty (Psalm 139).

Forgiving our parents may not be easy, but it is right. Since the Greek word for forgiveness literally means "to send away, let go, give up a debt," there is a daily letting go of the emotional debts against parents.

It is easier to act yourself into a different way of feeling than it is to feel yourself into a different way of acting.



Scott Wigginton

Defining success in ministry

I am often asked, "How does someone know if they are successful in ministry?" My answer is that success in ministry cannot be determined in the present. Success in ministry is best determined by what the students who are currently in your group are like 10 to 15 years down the road.

We can have slick programs, attract large numbers, have everyone in a small groups, take multiple mission trips every year, go to great camps and retreats, have kicking dNow's, lock-ins, and a myriad of programs. But if 15 years from now our current group of students are not active in a church and aren't walking with the Lord, then we were not successful. On the other side, if our current students 15 years from now are active in a church, growing in their faith and still close to one another regardless of time or distance, then we may be able to say we were successful.

There is an old hymn that says, "I'm so glad I'm a part of family of God," and one of the things we wanted to create while we were at Edgewood Baptist Church in Hopkinsville was a sense of family—a place where you could be you, a place where you could grow in your faith, a place where you would be accountable to those around you.

Looking back on our time there, we had our sense of failures, decisions

we regret making, programs that worked, programs that flopped, fundraisers that lost money, but we did do life together. We took a hodgepodge of kids from all over Hopkinsville and tried desperately to create a family because families have each other's backs. Families love each other, in spite of the warts, their shortcomings, their quirks, and they love each other for a lifetime.

This month, the family was rocked. One of the family, Antonio "Tony" Webb, drowned. To say that Antonio was from the rough side of town would have been an understatement. He and his sisters, Takisha, Lauvenia and Shanika, and his brother, Greg, were students who we picked up on the church bus.

But they quickly became part of the family, an integral part of the family.

"I thank my God every time I remember you" (Philippians 1:3) is a verse that we at times toss around flippantly. But, for me and my immediate family, it is the truth about Antonio. We remember how his million-dollar smile lit up a room when he entered it, and the time he spent with Jordan and loved on him like a big brother would.

We had the privilege of seeing him serve two summers on the Mission Adventure camp staff at RABRO. What a site it was to see an inner-city kid from Hopkinsville be a horse

wrangler at RA camp!

The tales that were told of his time with the group from m-fuge camp, to Kentucky Changers, dNow weekends, regular Sunday and Wednesday activities. Everywhere we went, people instantly fell in love with Antonio.

In recent years, some—if not most—had lost contact with Antonio. Life after high school was tough for him and as happens sometimes after we leave the bubble of youth ministry, the group went in multiple directions. But almost every time that part of us would gather, the question would come up, "Have you heard from Antonio lately?" While separated by distance and circumstances, he was never far from everyone's thoughts and hearts. Maybe that is why the news of his death hit us all hard.

The chapel at the funeral home was filled with people who loved him, were loved by him, were influenced by him, who have a lifetime of memories to pass on.

It did this old youth minister's heart good to see his former students love on each other, love on Antonio's family, remember a time when we all did life together, and to be "Jesus with skin" to a community in mourning.

In 15 years, what will be your legacy? How will your students remember you? How are you equipping them to follow Jesus and to walk together in their discipleship journey?

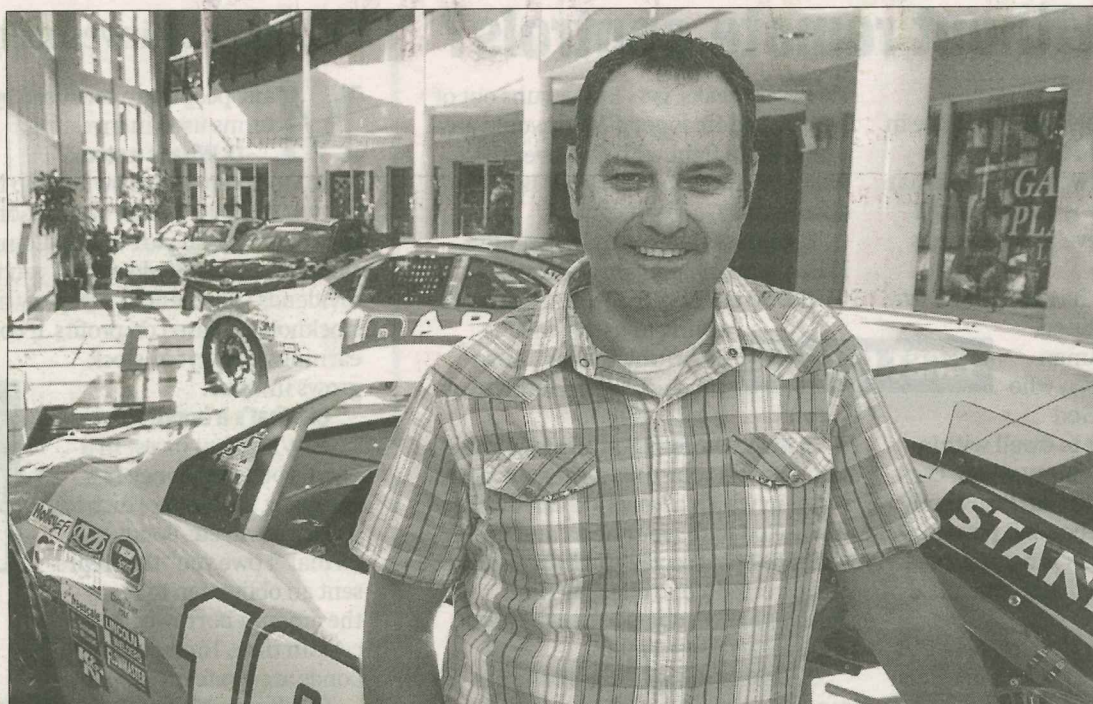
Joe Ball, a former youth minister at Edgewood Baptist Church in Hopkinsville, is youth ministry strategist for Crossings Ministries.

Youth Ministry Corner



Joe Ball

Kyle Dillard, pastor of Mission City Church, poses in the multi-million-dollar lobby of Joe Gibbs Racing, which is filled with replicas of the expensive race cars that win NASCAR races across the country. (Photo from Biblical Recorder)



NASCAR church answer to pastor's prayers

By Mike Creswell

Huntersville, N.C.—You don't have to like NASCAR to be part of Mission City Church.

But for now, it appears to help.

That's because the new church plant meets in the famous Joe Gibbs Racing shop in Huntersville, N.C., just north of Charlotte.

Enter the front door and you're in a multimillion-dollar showroom of race cars that are faithful copies of the actual Toyotas that the four Gibbs teams have driven to NASCAR victories across the country. Lobby display windows are packed with trophies, awards and souvenirs.

The modern building is part executive offices and part garage. There's even a window where one can look down at the outer garage area.

But pastor Kyle Dillard said the real race cars are tweaked in a very secure garage behind closed doors, safe from prying eyes. He points down to a checklist where every bit of each highly sponsored car—down to the last nut and bolt—is tracked for repair or improvement.

Church services are held in a well-equipped auditorium that seats 90 people, though the fledgling congregation will need a few more months to fill it. The church started meeting about a year ago in the Dillard home. Several months later they were ready for an outside meet-

ing place.

They tested the move by asking that God not let it rain on Sunday nights at 6 p.m. when they met. "It rained a lot last summer, but it never rained on a Sunday night," Dillard said.

How did meeting in a racecar shop come about? It became possible only because Dillard got to know some of the Joe Gibbs Racing staff. "You can't live in this town and not know NASCAR people," he said.

Finding suitable and affordable meeting places is one of the biggest challenges newly planted churches face.

Even with financial and other help from the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina's church planting team, new churches often must meet in schools or other public buildings. And that can require setting up a trailer full of seats, pulpits and sound systems each week.

"We are so glad we're not having to do that every Sunday," Dillard said. "Having this place to meet is such a blessing."

The convention's church planting team worked in partnership with churches, associations and networks of churches to help them start 103 new churches during 2014. That works out to a new church started about every three days on average. North Carolina Baptists

support this ministry through the Cooperative Program and their North Carolina Missions Offering.

Helping start new churches is one of the many ways the Baptist State Convention is helping reach North Carolina's estimated 5.8 million lost people for Christ.

Dillard is one of about 150 church planters getting support from the church planting ministry. He said he has developed great respect for Richard Lee, the convention's urban church planting consultant, who is working some 20 new church plants in the Charlotte area and comes by for regular meetings.

A music graduate of Appalachian State University, Dillard was a traveling Christian concert musician for years before he became a worship leader at Willow Creek Community Church in Chicago's suburbs, a mega-sized congregation that is one of the nation's largest. He later served with Lake Forest Church in Huntersville and once commuted to Boston each week for seven months to lead worship on Sundays for a church there.

Dillard said he and his wife prayed over church job offers from across the country and eventually felt led to the Charlotte area, not far from his hometown of Belmont.

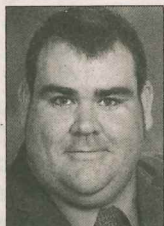
"We prayed for God to show us some direction. He did, and here we are," he said. (BP)

Monticello pastor to be nominated to lead pastors' conference

By Todd Deaton

Monticello—Jonathan Carter, of Monticello, will be nominated as president of the Kentucky Baptist Pastors' Conference Nov. 9 in Elizabethtown, immediately prior to the Annual Meeting of the Kentucky Baptist Convention.

Carter, pastor of Mt. Zion Baptist Church, will be nominated by Travis Farris, senior pastor of Walnut Memorial Baptist Church in



Jonathan Carter

Owensboro.

"I feel that Pastor Jon would make an excellent candidate for this prestigious position because of his love for Southern Baptists' conservative efforts," Farris said in nominating Carter.

"He is a devoted pastor who has unashamedly voiced his love for Scripture," Farris added. "He is bold in his convictions and presents them without compromise through the medium of SBC Today."

Raised as the son of a United States Marine, Carter surrendered his life to Christ in 1999 after losing his father to cancer, Farris noted.

Prior to being called to Mt. Zion, Carter was a youth pastor for 10 years in North Carolina and Ohio. He is a graduate of Clear Creek Baptist Bible College and a student of Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary.

"I am confident that he would lead the Pastor's Conference with Southern Baptist integrity and with a desire to exhort his brother pastors," Farris said of Carter. (WR)

Jeannie Elliff, 69, dies after third battle with cancer

By Tess Rivers

Richmond, Va.—Jeannie Elliff, wife of former IMB President Tom Elliff, died July 20 at her home in Oklahoma City following a long struggle with cancer. She was 69.

"The entire IMB family and I praise God for Jeannie Elliff," said IMB President David Platt. "To use Paul's words from 2 Corinthians 6:10, we are filled with sorrowful rejoicing at the news of her passing. We grieve with Tom, the Elliff family, and countless friends who have known and loved this woman of prayer and model of faith."

Elliff, who had fought two previous bouts with cancer, was diagnosed a third time in 2014, a few months after her husband asked IMB trustees to begin the search for his successor.

"For many years, she has served and cared for IMB personnel around the world in selfless and unseen ways, and we will miss her deeply," Platt said. "Yet we grieve with hope, for the joy of Christ in Jeannie Elliff could not be overcome by cancer, and it has not been overcome by death. We rejoice that she is with our Lord, and we look forward to the day when we will join her around the throne of our King with every nation, tribe and tongue to give Him the ultimate glory."

Frank Page, Southern Baptist Convention Executive Committee president, said, "Dayle and I dearly loved Jeannie Elliff. While we met her many years ago, she became particularly special to us when I was elected president of the SBC in 2006. Very new to the national Southern Baptist Convention level, she became a precious encourager to us."

"Heaven is a richer place today and I immediately called out Job 1:21, 'blessed be the name of the Lord' when I heard of her passing," he said. "Our prayers are with Tom and his precious family."

In 2014 she was awarded the Willie Turner Dawson award at the Ministers' Wives Luncheon during the Southern Baptist Convention's annual meeting. The award is given to women who have made a distinct denominational contribution that extends beyond the local church.

"I accept this on behalf of the 2,578 IMB women who serve in hard places around the world," she said.

Many of the IMB women Elliff referenced particularly appreciated her prayer ministry. From personal experience, Elliff understood how to pray specifically and passionately for the needs of those ministering in hard places. She served as a missionary in Zimbabwe in the early 1980s and sent two children and their families overseas as missionaries. At one time, 11 of her 25 grandchildren lived overseas.

Elliff's passion for prayer was fueled in part by the difficult circumstances she faced in her own life, including a 1982 auto crash in Zimbabwe that critically injured her daughter, Beth.

"That was a huge lesson for me," she said in a 2011. "The Lord said, 'You're not in charge, Jeannie.'"

The lesson she learned as she relinquished control of her children in Zimbabwe led Elliff to desperately seek—for herself and others—the One who is in ultimate control. An entire wall of the Elliffs' walk-in bedroom closet was covered with the photos and prayer cards of IMB missionaries. When things got hectic, she often went into the closet to pray. Her primary prayer for missionaries was based on John 17:3 and Daniel 11:32: That they would seek to know God first, and do great things as a result.

"Jeannie was a blessing to everyone who knew her," said Clyde Meador, IMB executive adviser to the president. "Her absolute commitment to and dependence on the Lord was always evident by the joy she shared with all she encountered."

"Her passion was to share the love of Jesus—from her family and her neighbor to the ends of the earth. From the first time I met her even until now, her faith and joy never wavered." (BP)



Jeannie Elliff

A PERSONAL WORD

The best summer missions experiences don't end when summer is over

The summer months have been BUSY for Kentucky WMU. And what excitement we have experienced!

The summer started with a brand new event called **Mission Adventure for Kentucky Kids**. Children and leaders learned about missions as they did missions in Princeton and Inez.



Joy Bolton

Kentucky Changers had a second great season under WMU sponsorship. The first week in Tate's Creek Association had well over 400 participants. There were 14 students saved and more than I could count in the closing celebration who indicated that God was calling them to ministry. The team went straight from Richmond to Benton for a week in Marshall County, then traveled to Maysville for a third week. They were grateful for a week off before going to Henderson. Thank you Peggy

Murphy and all the volunteers who provided this opportunity for students.

The **National WMU Missions Celebration** was historic for Kentucky with the election of Linda Cooper as president. She is the first from Kentucky to hold this office. Arlene Miller of Crofton received the Dellanna O'Brien Women's Leadership Development Award and Hydiatu Konneh of Louisville was among the six national Acteens panelists. Kentucky WMU was well represented in attendance at the meeting.

In July we had three weekends of **camp overnights**. Mother/Daughter and GA Overnights were held at both Jonathan Creek Baptist Camp and Cedar Crest Camp at Cedarmore. Camp Courage for RAs, dads, and leaders will be held July 31 – August 1 at Laurel Lake Baptist Camp.

Now we turn our attention to fall and the Season of Prayer for State Missions.

Our theme is *The Heart of the Story*. It is first and foremost a time of prayer. Everything we do must be grounded in prayer.

During the emphasis, we invite you to listen to the stories, learn about the ministries, lift the ministries up in prayer, and leave an offering at your church to support Kentucky missions. The Eliza Broadus Offering is sponsored by Kentucky WMU in cooperation with the Kentucky Baptist Convention. It supplements the Cooperative Program to provide much needed funds for missions. Thank you for giving.

Soon school will start and many students begin in new classes at church. Fall is a great time to launch missions learning opportunities. It is vital to teach children now to care about a lost world that does not know Jesus. Not only can our believing children witness to their friends now, but as we plant the seeds of missions

Eliza Broadus Offering Update

The 2014-15 goal is
\$1.25 million.

\$1,187,707.29

given as of 7/14/2015
(and still counting thru 8/31/15!)

Check the graph at kywmu.org/ebo
for a running total given to date!

in their hearts, those seeds will bloom in service in the future. Are you teaching the missionaries of tomorrow today? We can help you start or strengthen missions for all ages in your church.

Kentucky WMU challenges Christian believers to understand and be radically involved in the mission of God. We help Kentucky Baptists learn, pray, give, go, and send!

WMU NEWS

Linda Cooper Elected National WMU President!

Linda Cooper of Bowling Green was elected as president of Woman's Missionary Union on June 15 at the WMU Missions Celebration in Columbus, Ohio. Linda is the first WMU president from Kentucky.

Linda served as the 38th president of Kentucky WMU from 2010-2014. In June 2014 Linda was elected as Recording Secretary of National WMU, only the second time someone from Kentucky has served in this role. After serving just one year in this position, Linda was tapped for WMU president.

Linda is employed as a Registered Dental Hygienist and has worked for Benson Family Dentistry for over 35 years. Linda and her husband, Jim, are active members of Forest Park Baptist Church where Linda serves as WMU director. She



is also the WMU Director for Warren Association of Baptists. Linda and Jim have two adult children and two grandchildren. Linda brings a wealth of WMU knowledge and experience to this new role. In addition to her WMU experience at the church, association, state and national levels, she is a capable writer having written articles for national WMU publications as well as

columns for Kentucky Notes. Linda is a popular speaker and communicates well with WMU and other audiences.

Linda served on the Kentucky WMU Executive Board from 2006-09 and was elected president of Kentucky WMU at the 2010 Annual Meeting in Louisville. As president of Kentucky WMU, Linda served as a vice-

president of National WMU.

Linda has served on international mission trips to Jamaica, Tanzania, South Korea, South Africa, and Indonesia. She was part of a WMU team in Puerto Rico as well as Familyfest and Missionsfest in Kentucky.

Linda was saved as a 12-year old and says that going to church has always been a

part of her life. Linda says that she strives to walk with the Lord daily "by staying in His Word, praying, sharing Christ verbally, and by the way I try to live." In describing her WMU experience when she was elected as Kentucky WMU



Malawi

president, she said, "Although I know and believe that mission trips are life changing, I believe our real mission is to live a missions lifestyle each day on the mission field where God has planted us. I am fortunate in the fact that in our dental office,

we have prayer before work and I am free to share Christ."

Kentucky WMU is proud of Linda's election to this leadership role. She has been in many of our churches and associations. We know her as a wonderful speaker, effective leader, and one who leads by example. Please pray for Linda as she serves as our national WMU president.



Korea

Learn *The Heart of the Story* of eight gospel-centered ministries in Kentucky.

- A promotional booklet/DVD has been mailed to WMU directors and pastors.
- The DVD includes short videos to show in worship services or mission studies, and computer files of all print materials and graphics.
- Get involved in a day of ministry through Operation Inasmuch Kentucky.
- All state missions materials are provided free of charge. The material is undated and may be used any time during September or throughout the year.
- Standing orders for posters, prayer guides, and envelopes will be sent by August 21. An additional promotional booklet/DVD will be enclosed. Contact Kentucky WMU if you need to place a new order or make changes to your standing order.

The
Heart
of the Story

Season of Prayer for State Missions

and Eliza Broadus Offering

September 2015

Offering Goal: \$1,250,000

Suggested date: September 13-20

WMU DIRECTORS - CHURCHWIDE

Celebrating and planning for the new church year

By Wanda Walker

It's the end of the current church year. How will you choose to celebrate? Have you written thank you notes for all the age level leaders, volunteers, and church staff that faithfully served? Everyone likes to receive appreciation whether spoken or written. Notes, however, can provide a long-lasting effect and may be the encouragement to continue serving through WMU.

As you plan and prepare for the new year, have the entire team working together. If you have not planned a summer meeting or a retreat, do so now. It is not too late. The new church year is coming! What better time to review and evaluate the past year and develop a plan to engage the church in missions education?

Here are some ideas to help as you plan:

- Invite church staff to attend your planning meeting and give input for the coming year. Look at WMU and church staff as a team, not competitors.
- Give each leader a copy of the 2015-2016 Yearbook. (Order from national WMU, \$8.99, product #W153101, www.wmystore.com)
- If you will have new leaders, give them a copy of the guide for the age level they will be working with (see WMU catalog for product number.)
- Have copies of the church calendar, association calendar, Kentucky WMU calendar, and the school calendar on hand.

- Provide a budget to review. Remind everyone to adhere to the budget and be good stewards.
- Make it a dreaming plan time. What do you and your team want to accomplish at each age level and in the church during the upcoming year? Don't forget to include how your church will address PTSD at each age level and in the church.

If you have not subscribed to *Missions Leader*, order it for the WMU director and other leaders as needed. It will arrive three times a year and will be your best friend as a missions leader in the church. Many of the ideas above came from *Missions Leader* and there is so much more that will be beneficial for you as you grow missions education in your church.

ADULTS

Generation gap

By Wanda Walker

Back in June, I attended the national WMU meeting in Grove City Ohio. A workshop I attended was led by Carol Causey on the national WMU staff. She did an excellent job discussing the barriers to communication as it relates to generations.

The most significant thing I received from this presentation was, "Don't stereotype a generation." We do this so often, and by doing so we miss the wisdom of life experience. Respecting what one has lived and how the communication styles have changed might influence how you and I understand and relate to each other. For example:

The Silent Generation (1925-1941) used the rotary phone, memos (on paper!), and one-on-one communication.

Baby Boomers (1942-1961) used touch tone phones, call me anytime, and in person communication.

With Generation X (1961-1981) and cell phones, communication was direct and immediate.

For Millennials (1981-present) social media makes communication indirect and immediate.

Take note: Facebook was originally filled with teens and young adults, but now has become the source of communication for median and senior adults. Young adults are communicating through other means, such as Instagram, Twitter, and Vine. Messages are instantaneous - then gone, or put on YouTube for all to see.

Ministry with adults today crosses all generations. Communication, informed by an understanding of generational life experiences, makes a difference. As we pray, lead, and grow Women on Mission, myMISSION and Adults on Mission, do so with an open mind and heart using effective communication.

Don't stereotype a generation!

ROYAL AMBASSADORS - CHALLENGERS - YOUTH ON MISSION

Great tools for a great year in mission education

By Jon Auten

Royal Ambassadors

In just a few days, you will be loading up your RAs and their gear for the annual trip to Camp Courage at Laurel Lake Baptist Camp. You know the boys are going to have a great time as they try their hand at archery, compete in knot tying, race their cars, swim in the pool, hear great missionary speakers, and do a bunch of other fun stuff. As you take care of last minute details, I imagine that you have very little time to be thinking ahead to the fall. So, on behalf of busy RA leaders statewide, I have spent some time thinking about what is ahead for Royal Ambassadors in Kentucky.

My first thought is the *WMU Year Book* for 2015-2016. In the *Year Book* you will find plenty of help as you plan for the coming year. There are several great articles at the very front that will encourage and inspire you. "Why Missions Discipleship?" by Valerie Carter will help you remember why you teach RAs, helping boys develop a missions lifestyle. Other articles delve into our theme "All for You: Surrender, Sacrifice, Serve" as the writers challenge you to live a missional life.

There is also a "Trimester Planning"

calendar starting on page 28. This is a great tool to use as you look at the year ahead. This calendar contains information about how the theme is being addressed in the year ahead, who the missionaries are for each month, and what the RA special emphasis will be each month. This information will help you to know when events like RA Racers, Line Gliders, and Sailboats will be highlighted so you can order the kits in a timely manner.

Another piece of information will be helpful to you as you plan for the year. RAMCON 2016 will be held on Saturday, March 19. The location has not yet been confirmed, but look for that information, and more, as we make our way through the fall and winter months. As always, go to kywmu.org/royalambassadors for additional information and resources related to RAs in Kentucky.

Challengers and Youth on Mission

The *WMU Year Book* is also a great planning tool for Challengers and Youth on Mission Leaders. Here again, you will find information that will give you a great overview of the theme and lessons for the coming year. Be sure to place your order early for your copy of Challengers Leader or the Youth on Mission plan book. Each one of these resources has a year's worth

of materials for its respective organization. By receiving it early, you can begin to make plans for the year before your teens arrive for the first meeting.

Challengers are more than welcome at RAMCON and Camp Courage, but leaders for Challengers and YOM will want to keep two other events on their radar. The rescheduled date for Creative Ministries Festival 2.0 is coming up fast. August 14-15 will find teen boys and girls gathering with their leaders in Bowling Green to learn about using creative arts to share the Gospel. With classes in interpretive movement, balloon twisting, God Rods, and more, mission-minded teens will find plenty of help as they seek to equip themselves to be on mission in their communities and beyond.

Kentucky Changers is a second missions opportunity that youth leaders need to mark in their calendars. Changers is not your typical summer camp experience. If you want to get your teen boys and girls involved in practical, real-life missions, then Changers is the place for your group to be. The 2016 locations are already set and the projects are being lined up by local leaders even now.

Look for more information on both of these great teen events at kywmu.org/cmf and kywmu.org/changers.

Creative Ministries Festival 2.0

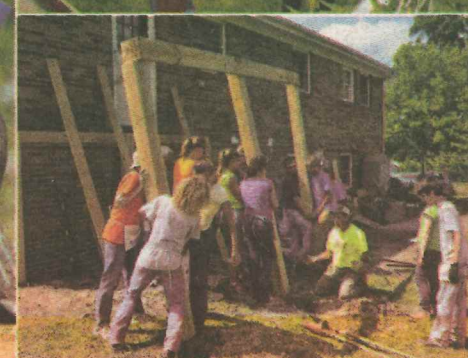


Rescheduled!

August 14-15, 2015

Living Hope Baptist Church,
Bowling Greenkywmu.org/cmf

Kentucky Changers 2015



PRESIDENT'S PERSPECTIVE

Making a WMU Bucket List

Three years ago at the KY WMU Annual Meeting, I led a conference entitled "Your WMU Bucket List." This conference evolved from a similar one I had attended at Ridgecrest that dealt with a much more serious subject matter. Who says a bucket list has to be serious! I wanted to develop a list that would be seriously fun but equally important.



Susan Byrant

The conference was a fun time where we explored WMU activities in which we could be involved and ways we could promote WMU making it a part of our legacy. Participating in Missionsfest, attending the National WMU Celebration and Annual Meeting, making Lottie Moon tea cakes, and getting to know a missionary personally were just a

few of the items on the bucket list.

I have thought about that conference many times in the ensuing years. The target audience was people who are interested in WMU (which just happened to be everyone at the annual meeting!). But it was so much more than that. Because Woman's Missionary Union challenges Christian believers to understand and be radically involved in the mission of God, those items on a WMU bucket list should be on every Christian's bucket list. Okay, maybe not making Lottie Moon tea cakes, but you get the idea.

This year I have been checking things off my bucket list. Among those things checked off have been overseas trips in support of our missionaries, having the opportunity to get to know our missionary

parents, participating in a couple of missionary appointment services, leading associational WMU training, having fun at Mission Adventure for Kentucky Kids, and Children's Ministry Day. Time spent around the state speaking at church and associational events is another fun way to check items off my list.

Have you made a WMU bucket list? Maybe you are halfway through a bucket list and don't even know it. Our bucket lists may vary. What might be on my list may not make it on yours. Certainly kissing one of the Good News Llamas at the National WMU Missions Celebration and Annual Meeting may not make it on too many bucket lists, but it did mine. (I even have the video to prove it!)

Why are bucket lists significant? They help us identify those things that are important to us and then help us focus on

accomplishing them. Maybe you have always wanted to participate in Kentucky Changers or attend a Women's Retreat. Maybe hosting a WorldCrafts party or working at a local ministry is more your thing. Whatever it is, making your bucket list can be fun and checking items off as you accomplish them will be satisfying. And just think of all of the people you will have helped in the process. Because the goal of this list is not just to make us feel good about accomplishing these things, but to help others to know about the One who motivates us to have the list in the first place.

I look forward to hearing about your bucket lists. And if I can help you and your church or associational WMU determine your lists, just call. I have a bucket, and I love to travel. We have lots to accomplish before we "kick the bucket"!

ACTEENS

I love Acteens! And I love my Acteens Leader even more today

By Denise Gardner

Do you remember what it was like to be a teenager? I do. And I thank my Lord for those years and for an organization just for teenaged girls. I also thank my Lord for a small group of young ladies that met each Wednesday night in the living room of our Acteens leader's home. We learned about missionaries and then we prayed for missionaries that were having a birthday. We prayed for each other and especially for the missionaries we had met. You see, my Acteens leader brought home every missionary she met. Then we planned a way to support those missionaries. We raised money to buy fish and ducks for Bangladesh, provide cows for Ethiopia, and support Lottie Moon and Annie Armstrong. Do you know she even trusted teenagers to teach Bible stories, crafts, songs, and games in Backyard Bible Clubs with migrant and inner-city children? In other words, Barbara Joiner instilled a missions lifestyle into her Acteens. That's what I remember about my teenaged years.

And I think that is what every teenaged girl needs: an Acteens leader that puts her all in! The theme for the 2015-2016 year is ALL FOR YOU, Surrender - Sacrifice - Serve. When we give our all in serving the Lord, our girls will see the difference. An "all in" attitude is what makes an Acteens leader memorable and extends her influence beyond the teenage years. Throughout the 2015-2016 church year, we will learn more about what it means to be a disciple of Christ by denying ourselves completely, taking up our cross daily, and following Christ wherever He may lead.

So, let's check ourselves and see if we are ready to "make memories" (begin a new and exciting year) with Acteens!

Acteens Leader Checklist

- ☒ Secure a copy of Acteens Leader for each of your leaders.
- ☒ Order a copy of The MAG for each of your Acteens.
- ☒ Review the Acteens plan in the WMU Yearbook 2015-2016 and develop a plan.
- ☒ Pray for each of your returning Acteens by name.

As you begin a new year, also consider two new resources for students from national WMU:

1. *Ignite: - An Experience to Spark Compassion for People Who Hurt* CD is an interactive experience designed to help students gain a deeper understanding about those who hurt, as well as ideas for putting faith into action as you minister. The CD contains leader and student materials.
2. *Carry On: Prepping and Packing for Successful Missions Trips* is packed with information you need to prepare your students' and your leaders' for your next missions trip. A 6-week preparation guide, budgeting, pre-project site visits, on-site do's and don'ts, working with on-site ministry partners, what to pack, cultural sensitivity, and including your congregation in supporting the trip are all included.

I know you love missions or you would not be investing in the lives of Acteens. **Thank you!**

Mission Adventure for Kentucky Kids 2015

Making gifts for local store owners in Princeton.



PRESCHOOL - CHILDREN

Doing missions; plant seeds now for a lifelong commitment

By Stacy Nall

Preschool

This September, Mission Friends leaders are encouraged to plan a "Sing to Seniors" outing for their preschoolers. Choose a retirement home, nursing facility, or homebound church members to visit. Arrange a time for preschoolers to visit. Practice a few simple songs with your preschoolers. You may even want to involve preschool choir leaders. The seniors you visit will be so blessed!

The Week of Prayer for State Missions and Eliza Broadus Offering* is also in September. Preschoolers will be learning how students are using their creative gifts to share God's love. The Creative Ministries Festival is highlighted in the Preschool teaching materials.

Best Practices for Teaching

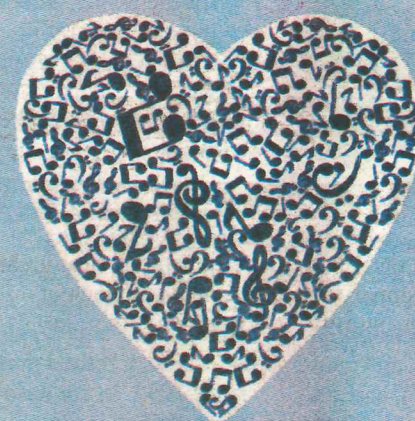
Preschoolers: Speak simply and directly when speaking to preschoolers. If you ask if a child would like to pick up the toys, be prepared for him or her to say "No!" Don't give long explanations why the toys should be picked up. Simply say, "Let's pick up our toys so that we can have snack."

Children

This summer was packed with missions events for children! Kentucky WMU hosted the very first "Mission Adventure for Kentucky Kids" in Princeton and Inez. Children and their leaders worked in thrift stores, sang in nursing homes and conducted Backyard Bible clubs. If you missed this unique opportunity for your kids to "do" missions, plan to be involved next June. We will be in Richmond and Bowling Green.

Girls, moms, and leaders enjoyed an "Asian Adventure" at Jonathan Creek and Cedar Crest. They learned about missions in Asia. They heard missionaries from Japan, conducted scavenger hunts, and were involved in culture camp. Asian games, crafts, and swimming were also a big part of the weekend.

September 19, girls and boys are invited to CA-BOOM! (Children in Action - Blast Off On Mission!) at Aberdeen Baptist Church in Morgantown. Children will be exploring the travels of Paul, the first missionary, as well as meeting 21st century missionaries!



Mission Friends

Sing to Seniors Day
This September!

Kentucky WMU would love to hear about your "Sing to Seniors Day!" Send information and pictures to Stacy.Nall@kybaptist.org

"Forever Friends" is the theme for GA JAM, November 7, at Campbellsville Baptist Church. Girls will discover how to be a good friend and make new friends. They will learn how missionaries make friends in order to share the Gospel.

During the Week of Prayer for State Missions* in September, children will learn about disaster relief ministries in Kentucky.

Best Practices for Teaching Children:

Children's mission groups like GA, RA, and CA are well known for "doing" missions. Next time you would like to do a hands-on mission project with your kids, let them develop the project. Start by helping your kids create a list of needs in your community. Let them brainstorm ways they can help. Help your kids choose the best, most practical way to help. Let your kids use their particular gifts to carry out their mission project.

*Week of Prayer for State Missions and Eliza Broadus Offering material is available from your WMU director or at www.kywmu.org/ebo.

CALENDAR 2015

August - November 2015

August

- 7-8 GA Leader Retreat, Southland Ranch, Paducah
 14-15 Creative Ministries Festival 2.0, Living Hope Baptist Church, Bowling Green
 22 Super Saturday, Immanuel Baptist Church, Lexington
 29 Super Saturday, Lone Oak Baptist Church, Paducah

September

- 12 Super Saturday, Southern Seminary, Louisville
 13-20 Week of Prayer for State Missions and the Eliza Broadus Offering
 19 CA-BOOM!, Aberdeen Baptist Church, Morgantown
 19 Super Saturday, Edgewood Baptist Church, Bowling Green

October

- 22-24 Kentucky WMU Executive Board Meeting

November

- 2 Baptist Women's World Day of Prayer
 7 GA JAM, Campbellsville Baptist Church, Campbellsville

WMU NEWS

Arlene Miller recognized for outstanding leadership



Arlene Miller, director of Impact Ministry in Hopkinsville, was presented with the Dellanna West O'Brien Award for Women's Leadership Development during the recent national WMU

Missions Celebration in Columbus, Ohio.

Arlene is a leader in ministries that touch women and families in Christian County Baptist Association. She is a native of Kentucky, mother of three, and grandmother of five, a retired nurse (LPN), and a widow since 1995. In addition to directing Impact Ministry, Arlene is the Co-coordinator of Christian Women's Job Corps (CWJC) in Hopkinsville, involved with Mississippi River Ministry, and active in WMU leadership at New Palestine Baptist Church in Crofton.



Kentucky Baptist Convention Annual Meeting

Tuesday, November 10, 2015

Severns Valley Baptist Church, 1100 Ring Road, Elizabethtown, KY

Join in worship and fellowship with Kentucky Baptists!

Baptist Women's World Day of Prayer

ARISE

SHINE

Monday,
November 2,
2015

WHEN WE RISE UP
HE SHINES THROUGH

KENTUCKY WMU HERITAGE FUND

A Gift that Keeps Giving

Did you know that a gift to the Heritage Fund will never be spent? Rather, it is invested and the earnings keep giving, often far exceeding the original gift over time.

A gift to the Heritage Fund through the Kentucky Baptist Foundation or to any WMU endowment through the WMU Foundation will keep giving and supporting WMU.

Give a gift that will keep giving today!

www.kywmu.org/heritagefund



Practical Training for Kentucky Baptists

Kentucky WMU will offer two conferences at Super Saturday '15.

Morning session:
Overview of WMU

Afternoon session:
PTSD
(offered twice)

August 22:

Immanuel Baptist Church, Lexington

August 29:

Lone Oak Baptist Church, Paducah

September 12:

Southern Seminary, Louisville

September 19:

Edgewood Baptist Church, Bowling Green

CA-BOOM!

September 19, 2015

Aberdeen Baptist Church, Morgantown

A Journey with Paul

Travel with Paul, the first missionary!

Meet present day missionaries!

Discover how you can be on mission!

kywmu.org/caboom

Forever Friends!

Learn how to
make friends and
share the Good
News of Jesus!

Have fun
with your
friends and
make new
ones!

GAJAM

November 7, 2015

Campbellsville
Baptist Church

Learn how missionaries
share Jesus
through friendships!

Learn more at kywmu.org/gajam

Thank You! Donors to the Kentucky WMU Heritage Fund

January 1—April 30, 2015

We are grateful for the incredible number of donations to the Heritage Fund during the first four months of this year. Due to the number of people who have been honored and remembered through these gifts, we are including the listing of Heritage Fund gifts as a special supplement to Kentucky Notes in the Western Recorder.



<u>In Honor of:</u>	<u>Donor:</u>	<u>In Honor of:</u>	<u>Donor:</u>	<u>In Honor of:</u>	<u>Donor:</u>	<u>In Honor of:</u>	<u>Donor:</u>
Louise Wardrip	Rebecca Carnell	Jessie Boyd	Jeanne Scott	Laverne Sublette	Linda Alexander	Shirley Rhoton	Rita Thompson
Stacy Nall	Joy Bolton	Bill & Ellie Summers	Cindy Hurley	Martha Sheehan	Linda Alexander	Peggy Ballou	Robin Reeves
Wanda Walker	Joy Bolton	Gladys Waldrop	Cindy Hurley	Gina Wall	Linda Alexander	Sally Schmuck	Diane Thacker
Melissa		Shirley Jones	Alison Holbrook	Linda Cooper	Linda Alexander	Charlene Bennett	Melissa
Logsdon-Young	Sherryl Young	Peggy Hicks	Sara Murray	Cheryl Hatfield	Peggy Leach		Logsdon-Young
Gerald & June	Linda & Russell	Susan Bryant	Betty Rucker	June Rice	Rebecca Carnell	Linda Whitlow	M. Logsdon-Young
McNeely	Hoffman	Bobbie Atwell	Sandy Clark	Mildred Johnson	Patricia H. Callan	Connie Posey	M. Logsdon-Young
Gerald & June	Pat & Dudley	Shelby Castlen	Rachel Reynolds	Ivadean Gibson	Claudia Greenwood	Myrleen Quiggins	M. Logsdon-Young
McNeely	Reaves	Nancy Crenshaw	Sherry Collins	Irma Woodrow	Lenna Walton	Sherry York	M. Logsdon-Young
Geneva Faw	Annette Story	Walene Hardin	Sherry Collins	Belinda Murphy	Shelby Castlen	Judy Harley	James Harley
Betty Wheeler	Brownsboro Park	Jeff & Melva Clark	Sherry Collins	Margaret Fain	Lori Sharp	Lenna Walton	James Harley
	WoM	Joy Bolton	Nancy Brown	Anna Mary Byrdwell	Suzanne Barrett	Joy Bolton	James Harley
Peggy Hicks	Marcia Ballard	Jeff Peed	Jennifer Peed	Martha Birdwhistell	Fay Royalty	Gayle Horn	James Harley
Peggy Hicks	Wanda Walker	Grandsons	Kim Duvall	Anna White	Linda Lee	Joy Masden	Lisa Crenshaw
Anna Mary Byrdwell	Lori Sharp	Coy Webb	Vivian Overall	Peggy Hicks	Nancy Polhill	Rev. & Mrs. Wes	
Barbara Joiner	Denise Gardner	Iona Cole	Donna Stinson	Joy Bolton	Jan Devers	Hanson	McConnell S.S. Class
Joy Bolton	Virginia Drake	Susan Bryant	Linda Payton	Wanda Walker	Anonymous	Pat Bush	Wanda Thomas
Anna Mary Byrdwell	Virginia Drake	Pat Bush	Diane McNichols	Oleta Money	Anonymous	Dianne McNichols	Wanda Thomas
High Street Baptist	Linda Cooper	Gayle Horn	Betty Jo Motley	Nancy Atchinson	Betty Coppage	Pat Reaves	Laura Morris
Debbie Akerman	Linda Cooper	Dana Beach	Rhonda Wilhoite	Kyle & Jessica Page	Annette Story	Becky, Clara,	
Susan Bryant	Linda Cooper	Joy Bolton	Esther Money	Linda Coyle	Tina Broaddus	Agnes Otey	Sharon Givens
Dee Gilliland	Barry & Larie Allen	Anna Mary Byrdwell	Susan Bryant	Violet Gatewood	Tina Broaddus	Mary Jane Bell	Vicki Purcell
Kay Trisler	Barry & Larie Allen	Pat Key	Joyce Wilcox	Cheryl Hatfield	Jay Hatfield	Lena Romans	Norma Barrett
Joy Bolton	Barry & Larie Allen	Joy Bolton	Rachel Dermon	Delores Gilliland		Joy Bolton/KY WMU Staff	Bonnie King
Anna Mary Byrdwell	Marcia Ballard	John & Melissa		Peterson	Laverne Sublette	Anna Mary Byrdwell	Pat Reaves
Frances Leathers	Sandra Winter	Fitzwater	Debby Akerman	Doris Poston	Patti Burgard	Cathy Mattingly	June Rice
Roetta Vaught	Sharon Fields	Ruth McConnell	Ruth Ellen Stanley	Marian Leftwich	Shirley Rhoton	Linda Alexander	Amanda Major
Velma Hope	Robin Turley	Joy Bolton	Patti Campbell	Pat Bush	Martha Shipley	Betty Rucker	Henry County WMU

In Honor of Barry Allen's Retirement from the Kentucky Baptist Foundation

Lori Sharp, Amanda-Grace Richey, Joy Bolton, Marcia Ballard, Wanda Walker, Linda Cooper, Irma Woodrow, Kentucky WMU Staff

<u>In Memory of:</u>	<u>Donor:</u>	<u>In Memory of:</u>	<u>Donor:</u>	<u>In Memory of:</u>	<u>Donor:</u>	<u>In Memory of:</u>	<u>Donor:</u>
Lillian Cravens	Anna White	Martha Lyle	Pat & Dudley	Brenda Bush	Dianne McNichols	Lela Mae Spears	Anonymous
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WMU		Sarah Clark	Lora Sanders	Ruth Harris	Karin Edgington	Shirley Tallent	Tina Broaddus
Carolyn Wheatley	Allison Women of	Walter & Irene		Bob Key	Pat Key	Trudy McConnell	Patti Burgard
	Rose Hill Bapt. Ch.	Bowman	Walene Hardin	Mary Ellen Batsel	Pat Key	Wilma Riggs	Patti Burgard
Betty Wheeler	Westport Rd. Tues.	Bill & Ginny Jones	Suzanne Beck	Ann Moffett	Susan Bryant	Margaret Crawley	Connie Wise
	Night WoM	Betty Hunt	Sandy Clark	Bob Key	Joyce Wilcox	Louise Sanders	Lynda Dawalt
Mildred M. Fann	Bettie Sue Wells	Jane Kent	Shirley Taliafero	Harriett Harp	Laverne Sublette	Vanda Simpson	Melissa
Martha Lytle	Linda Cooper	Jean McKenzie	Nancy Brown	Mary T. Porter	Maribeth Hambrick		Logsdon-Young
Kathryn Akridge	Barry & Larie Allen	Virginia Miller	Nancy Brown	Mary Pat Kent Price	Maribeth Hambrick	Brenda Bush	Wanda Thomas
Fairy Copple	Liberty Bapt. WMU	Polley Anthony	Nancy Brown	Jane T. Kent	Maribeth Hambrick	Martha Lytle	Faye Dail
Rachel Stum	Liberty Bapt. WMU	Martha Lytle	Norman Lytle	Mary Ellen Batsel	Jan Powell	Kay Bevil	FBC Central City
Mary Mae Mardis	Alena Wyatt	Sue Anderson	Jacqueline Walker	Emma Tackett	Linda Lee	Betty Shelton	FBC Central City
Mary Brandt	Grober-Parish BW	Edna Miller	Harriette Coyle	Delores Brackett	Oleta Money	Esther Jolly	Phyllis Mitchell
Sue Meuth	Dolores Gilmore	Rosemary Frasure	Rebecca Watts	Bob Morgan	Anonymous		

In Memory of Richard Luebbert

Glenda Tripplett, Carolyn Hyatt, Lori Sharp, Pat Key, Van & Marjorie Yandell, Julia Devore, Wanda Walker, Golden Rule Class of Clayvillage Baptist Church, Jo Pelham, Dorothy Graves, Vicki Sutherland, Shirley & Jim Taliafero, Ruth Hinkle, Bettie Sue Wells, Buck Grove Baptist Women, Diane Thacker, Dolores Gilmore, Esther Money, Linda Devine, Jay & Cheryl Hatfield, Betty Kreft, Wayne & Peggy Puckett, Aileen Davis, The Early Family, Virginia Petrey, Steve Thompson, Betty Montfort, Ohio River Baptist Assoc. WMU Council, Susan Coleman, Patty Renfrow, Kentucky Baptist Foundation Board & Staff, Kentucky Baptist Convention Mission Board & Staff, Anna White, Rudy King, Steve & Jannette Henderson, George & Cathy Chinn, Maribeth Hambrick, Chuck & Frankie Johnson, Bill & Kay Mackey, Susan Bryant, Brenda Lunsford, Linda Cooper, Amos & Laurie Valentine, Peggy Leach, Edwina Rowell, Linda Netherly, Northern KY Assoc. WMU, Joy Bolton, Peggy Craycraft, Ten Mile Association WMU, Georgia Burton, Charles Barnes, Betty Chatham, Vivian Overall, Amanda Major, Margaret Hardesty Johnson, Irma Woodrow

In Memory of Mary Lou Crutcher

Amos & Laurie Valentine, Carol Hooker, Lonnie & Cathy Jones, Geri Ethridge, Peggy Hicks, Bonnie & Brown Ginter, Janet Walker, Nan Baker, Sue & Bob Sweeney, Mary Games, June Rice, Charles Bratcher, Wayne & Lynn Milligan, Nancy Davis, Paula Settle, Myra Schuster, Marcia Ballard, Charles Barnes, Leon & Charlene Hall, Doris Harlow, Pat & Dudley Reaves, Winsome Sunday School Class, Eleanor Collins, Glenna Whittaker, Shirley Whittaker-Burba, Shirley & Jim Taliafero, Joyce Collins, Sharlie Hoskins, Glenda Tripplett, Joyce Hockersmith, Stuart & Jerry Huffman, Bill & Rickey Browning, Mary Berridge, Margaret Hardesty Johnson, Phyllis Mitchell, Irma Woodrow, Jan Devers, Joy Bolton, Ray Lloyd, Darriel & Linda White, Douglas & Beverly Houston, Sandy Amburn, Carole Kemper, Wanda Dobbins Women on Mission Group of Hurstbourne Baptist Church, Stacy Nall, Norman Lytle, Maribeth Hambrick, Eloise Davis, Bob & Janet McCarter, Friendship International

Other Gifts

Mrs. Robert Brown	Lucy Burton
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Tina Nicely	Sara Murray
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Kay Underwood	Jo Pelham
Geraldine Carter	Laverne Sublette
Lee Bolton	Katherine Smith
Grace Harness	Cheryl Hatfield
Cathy Mattingly	Judy Short
Kentucky WMU	Marcia Ballard
Staff	Peggy Ballou

Flying robes

Some of my fondest childhood memories involve my father taking me to Cincinnati to see the Atlanta Braves play the Cincinnati Reds.

My father was a Reds fan, and I grew up on the Braves since one of the only television stations we got in Oneida was WTBS, which carried a lot of Braves games.

Normally we would go on a day when there was a doubleheader in order to get more bang for our buck.

On the first Sunday in May, our choir had a day/night doubleheader. We visited Barnesburg Baptist Church in Somerset for the morning service.

After lunch at Barnesburg, we headed for central Kentucky. We made a McDonald's ice cream and WiFi stop (it amazes me how addicted today's youth are to WiFi, but that is perhaps a story for another day) and a visit to a park, where my nephew also happened to be playing baseball that day.

We then visited New Hope Baptist

Church in Lincoln County.

We had a great visit at both churches, and the trip was pretty uneventful, at least until the ride home.

I had driven separately that day in order to go from Lincoln County to Louisville for the KBC's Mission Board meeting the following morning.

Just as I pulled into the hotel parking lot, I received a call from our choir director. I could tell from the sound of his voice that something wasn't quite right.

We had forgotten to close the door for the understorage of the bus. Almost all of our choir robes had flown out somewhere along the highway.

The bus had circled back and they found a couple of the robes along the road, but the rest were nowhere to be seen.

Our choir director and bus driver felt badly about what had happened, and the fact that I am a bit of a cheap-skate probably concerned them somewhat.

I asked how long we had had those robes and was told 19 years. I guess it

was time for some new ones anyway. I told our choir director not to worry about it, and that I would have a lot of fun telling the story as we visit churches next year.

I expect to get a lot of mileage out of this mishap. He is currently pricing new robes, and of course I asked him to find some blue ones.

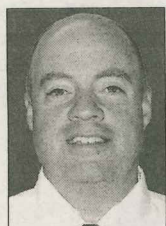
Ironically, when the pastor of New Hope visited for graduation a few days later, he told us someone had found a robe on the side of the road. Of course, we told him the story behind that.

If you are ever in Lincoln County and see a stray choir robe on the highway, just pick it up and bring it to us when you can!

As a matter of fact, just come visit, even if you don't have a robe to bring back to us. Just remember to close the trunk before you hit the road.

Larry Gritton Jr. is president of Oneida Baptist Institute. Website: oneidaschool.org. Phone: (606) 847-4111. Follow OBI on Facebook at www.facebook.com/OBI.KY and Twitter, @Oneida_Baptist.

This is Oneida



Larry Gritton

Family influence (Part 1)

William Brittain is one of our students from the local area. He is thankful for the witness he has seen in his family through his years growing up.

"Both of my parents are born again believers who faithfully follow the Lord Jesus Christ," Brittain said. "My parents have always taught our family to follow Jesus. One thing that stands out to me is the advice my dad gave me growing up.

"That advice was to never send my children to church, but to always take them to church. That statement is a summary statement for my family.

"I came to know the Lord Jesus Christ as my Lord and Savior when I was around 8 years old," said Brittain.

"My parents had always taken me to church and Vacation Bible School was part of that.

"During VBS that year, I realized my need for a Savior and my need for forgiveness when the gospel was presented to me during the service. I responded to the Holy Spirit's conviction on my heart that day and placed my faith and trust in Jesus Christ."

"How I lived was influenced tremendously by this until I got into High school where I began to live in the world," said Brittain. "It wasn't until my sophomore year of college that I began to realize how far I was from Christ. The Lord had been working on my heart to preach, but I rebelled against Him.

"It wasn't until Oct. 17, 2010, that I surrendered my heart and life back to Jesus. That day I returned to a totally

surrendered relationship with God and repented of the life I had been living."

"I then felt the Lord leading me to Clear Creek," said Brittain. "I began praying that if it was His will for me to be there for Him to open the door. Within two weeks of deciding to transfer to Clear Creek, I was enrolled, had an advisor, a schedule, and was an official student. I currently feel the Lord leading me to pastor His people at a local church. I love God and His people, and I am thankful to be called to minister to them."

To be continued....

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

Do you know?

Do you know that the average person's net worth consists of 9 percent in cash and 91 percent in non-cash assets (home equity, life insurance, retirement assets, investments and business interests)?

Do you know that 60 percent of Americans die without a Will, and of those who do have one, 70 percent have not reviewed it within the past three to five years?

Do you also know that Americans are currently in the midst of the largest ever generational transfer of

wealth? Estimates project that \$41 trillion will pass from one generation to the next during the period of 1998 through 2053.

In view of this data it is vital for

each of us to be faithful in our "estate stewardship." As Christian stewards (managers), we should hold certain convictions regarding the resources God has entrusted to us for our use and oversight:

1. God is the creator and owner of all things, and we are instructed to be God's managers.

2. How we plan our estates likely will be the single most important act of financial stewardship we shall ever make.

3. Through thoughtful estate stewardship, each of us can care for our families and impact the world for Christ.

Whether we are considering our estate plan for the first time or reviewing plans already in place, we benefit from identifying our objectives, approaching them realistically,

and avoiding hazards through seeking knowledgeable counsel. Appropriate counsel helps us know where to begin, what to look for, and what we might expect in the process. Ultimately, we can turn this stewardship task into effective, God honoring plans that support and provide for our families and support the building of God's kingdom.

The Kentucky Baptist Foundation staff stands ready to assist you by providing private estate stewardship consultation. You may contact the Foundation's trust counsel, Laurie Valentine, or me at our toll-free number (866) 489-3533.

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



On July 25, 2014, investigators posing as a Fetal Tissue Procurement Company met with Planned Parenthood's Senior Director of Medical Services, Deborah Nucatola.

SBC leader: Time for reborn to take stand for unborn

By Bob Allen

Nashville—The Southern Baptist Convention's top spokesman for public policy concerns said "it is time for the reborn to stand up for the unborn" after an undercover video purported to show a Planned Parenthood official discussing the sale of fetal organs.

Russell Moore, president of the SBC Ethics and Religious Liberty Commission, said in a blog July 14 that he was shocked by a video released July 14 by The Center for Medical Progress allegedly showing discussions between Dr. Deborah Nucatola, senior director of medical services for Planned Parenthood Federation of America, and actors posing as buyers from a human biologics company about how fetal tissue is harvested and the costs associated with its procurement.

He calls the video an "atrocious" and said the government should investigate.

Planned Parenthood issued a statement saying some of its centers help women who want to donate aborted tissue to medical research. There is no financial benefit to the patient or Planned Parenthood, the statement claimed, but sometimes the cost of transporting tissue to research centers is reimbursed, a standard practice in the medical field.

"A well-funded group established for the purpose of damaging Planned Parenthood's mission and services has promoted a heavily edited, secretly recorded videotape that falsely portrays Planned Parenthood's participation in tissue donation programs that support lifesaving scientific research," said Eric Ferrero, vice president of communications for Planned Parenthood Federation of America.

Moore termed Planned Parenthood's response to the video "as chilling as it is unconvincing."

"Let's be clear about what is going on, it is not only that infants, in their mother's wombs, are deprived of their lives, but also that their corpses are desecrated for profit," Moore said.

"This is not only murderous; it is murderous in the most ghastly way imaginable," Moore said. "Is it not clear at this point that these are not health care providers but pirates and grave robbers of those who have no graves?"

Moore wrote Speaker of the House John Boehner calling for an investigation into "profiteering in violence on the part of Planned Parenthood."

Earlier this week the ERLC announced it would join Focus on the Family in an effort to get more evangelicals to participate in the annual March for Life event (Jan. 21-22) in the nation's capital held each January marking the anniversary of the 1973 Roe v. Wade Supreme Court decision legalizing abortion on demand. (BNG)

Pack Church celebrates Sparks' 50 years as pastor

By Whitney Jones

Rumsey—Carl Sparks has served the same church in Rumsey for 50 years. He started his ministry in 1961 and in 1965 settled in as pastor of Pack Baptist Church.

Fast forward to 2015, and about 60 past and present church members sit in the Pack pews to celebrate his five decades of service to the congregation.

Church members shared stories at the June 18 celebration, including a light-hearted recollection of a community baptism on the Green River. A youth choir from more than 25 years ago reassembled to sing the hymn "Lord Build Me a Cabin." Family and friends with fond memories of Sparks' service shared jokes, too.

Jack Bell has been a member of Pack Church since before Sparks began preaching there.

Bell said Sparks has held together the small church that sits in the middle of



Many people celebrated with Rev. Carl Sparks July 18 at Pack Baptist Church, where he has served for 50 years. Sparks is pictured with his brother-in-law, Rev. Jerry Eades, left, and Deacon Jack Bell, right.

farmland on a narrow, winding road.

Sparks has always been a bi-vocational pastor, growing tobacco and working within the educational system. He taught special education at Central City High School and Drakesboro School in the 1960s and 1970s. He was also the

principal for 25 years, spending time at both Graham High School and Graham Middle School.

Sharon McLaughlin worked with him then. She said he was a calm, laidback principal who respected teachers. She said he uses the same approach as a pastor.

She joined the church after a split in her previous church that was difficult to overcome. McLaughlin said she felt welcomed at Pack and especially by Sparks.

"The people are like family. They really are, and it was nice to have someone that I trusted again. I plan on coming here until it closes," she said.

Jerry Tooley also experienced Spark's graciousness, saying he has been helpful to him in the 16 years he has served as the Daviess-McLean director of missions.

"I've never known anybody being here but Brother Sparks, always so gracious and so kind," Tooley said. "When I first started my ministry as a director of missions, he was just so gracious to me, welcomed me, encouraged me, made sure to always tell the people I was here. ... (You) always knew he was there for you."

Sparks isn't ending his ministry at Pack Baptist anytime soon though. He continues to preach each week to a congregation of about 20 people. (WR)

Central couple making VBS work for others

By Mark Maynard

Ashland—Rob and Renee Parsons have been on a Vacation Bible School mission this summer.

Parsons, the pastor at Central Baptist Church in Ashland, and his wife, Renee, have taken mission teams to several churches in the Greenup Baptist Association to put on VBS.

It has been welcomed help for some struggling churches who do not have either the resources or membership to run a successful VBS.

"We're not snagging other people's sheep," explained Renee Parsons. "We want to help put on a VBS and then help them provide a sustainable (children's) ministry after that. We work with the pastors."

Parsons says churches had become too isolated and looking inward instead of outward. They are partially funded through the Greenup Baptist Association and Kentucky Baptist Convention. The couple have a trained team of 32 workers who often split

up duties to do VBS at multiple churches. About 20 churches in the area have provided help or given them materials.

"The successful churches don't call me" to run the VBS, she said. "If the haves will help the have-nots, all our churches will grow."

However, many are thrilled to have some help with a trained staff.

On a recent Saturday at Central Baptist, they held a block party. It was the culmination of a VBS at Pollard Baptist, the kickoff for VBS at Central and a preview for New Hope, Blackburn Avenue and Second Baptists. But it doesn't stop with VBS, Parsons said.

"This is a kickoff to children's ministry that can last the whole school year," he said. The idea is to get as many children in VBS as possible, he said.

"If a child already has a church affiliation, we'll send information to that church," Renee said. "This isn't church work. It's kingdom work."

Greenup Baptist Association allotted

\$2,500 for the ministry and the Parsons used that to buy materials and training.

Forty were trained and 32 ended up working. They are between the ages of 9 and 60, Renee said. Parsons has been at Central Baptist for a year and membership has tripled. The 77-year-old church was close to closing before he arrived.

They went from about nine who were regularly coming to 60 or 70 before the summer break hit.

"The way he teaches Bible study is like being at a seminary," said Ed Allen, who has been a member since 1948. "They've made a big difference in our church."

Rob and Renee were youth pastors at



Central about 20 years ago.

"It was the first place we served in ministry in 1996," he said. (Daily Independent)

Mark Maynard is editor for the Daily Independent of Ashland.

Retired Owensboro pastor, KBC president, dies

Owensboro—David Nelson, retired pastor and former president of the Kentucky Baptist Convention, died at his home in Owensboro, July 10. He was 88.

Nelson was pastor of First Baptist Church of Owensboro for 31 years before retiring in 1992.

During his pastorate, Nelson served as KBC president from 1965-66.

Prior to First Baptist, Nelson led two Louisville churches: Vine Street Baptist Chapel from 1949-1955 and Highland Baptist Church from 1955-1961.

Nelson was a longtime servant of Kentucky Baptists and held many positions in denominational life, including president of the Louisville Baptist Pastor's Conference and chairman of the KBC missions committee.

He helped Long Run Baptist Association by joining the Baptist Student Union advisory committee and Daviess-McLean Baptist Association by chairing committees on evangelism, personnel and

finances.

Nelson also served as a trustee for Campbellsville College (now University), Georgetown College and Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary. He was also a doctor of ministry supervisor at Southern Seminary.

At the national level, Nelson served on the Southern Baptist Convention's Committee on Committees and was a trustee of the Annuity Board (now GuideStone Financial Resources). He also was a member of the SBC's Special Study Committee which revised the Church Annuity Plan.

Nelson earned his doctorate from Southern Seminary and was named a distinguished alumnus of the school in 1994.

Nelson was preceded in death by his wife, Jo, in 2010. He is survived by his children, Kathryn Fruge, of Owensboro, and Drew Nelson, of Birmingham, Ala., and several grandchildren and great-grandchildren. (KBC)

Education key to escaping cycle of poverty, abuse

Statistics reveal that at-risk youth have a higher probability of dropping out of school.

Their lack of education limits their future opportunities. Many youth never recover and end up repeating the cycle of abuse and poverty.

At Sunrise we realize that dropping out of school is never a quick decision, but a process.

Teenagers are absent from school and fall behind in their work. As they miss more school, the youth feels inferior and embarrassed. There is no motivation from parents to continue. Their already low self-esteem dips even lower.

"Seeing no way to pull through, they just drop out," said Stewart Haag, the activities coordinator at Spring Meadows Center in Mt. Washington.

Such was the case with 16-year-old Jason, who is currently a sophomore at Spring Meadows:

"I was embarrassed to go to school so I stopped going. I hated it. I wouldn't do my work and it set me back. My dad is in and out of my life. My mom doesn't have a high school diploma so I didn't see what the big deal was. I do believe I would have dropped out of school had I not come to Sunrise."

Jason is now excelling in school. He has a "B" average. He had his first visit with his future foster parents and is close to transitioning into their home.

A youth's education is just one part of a holistic treatment approach practiced at Sunrise.

Often a youth's resolve to graduate is the result of a rigorous therapeutic program that includes counseling, tutoring, social skills and spiritual

disciplines.

Due to this approach, Sunrise celebrated over 23 high school and 42 middle school graduates this spring. Of course we realize this is a state-wide victory. Partly because these youth came to Sunrise from all over the state and now have a greater opportunity to stop the cycle of poverty.

Secondly, we received your state-wide support through prayer, encouragement, monetary donations and the giving of school supplies. This is our victory. So let's celebrate together!



Jake Pelfrey is web developer and internet strategist for Sunrise Children's Services. Contact Jake by email at jpelfrey@sunrise.org, at Sunrise Children's Services, P.O. Box 1429, Mount Washington, KY 40047-1429; (502) 538-1000; www.sunrise.org.



July

- 31-8/1 Camp Courage, Laurel Lake Baptist Camp, Corbin
31-8/1 Girls in Action Leaders' Retreat, Greenup Baptist Association, Ashland

August

- 7-8 Girls in Action Leaders' Retreat, Southland Ranch Camp, Conference & Retreat Center, Kevil
11 August Power Lunch, Kentucky Baptist Building, Louisville
22 Super Saturday, Immanuel Baptist Church, Lexington
29 Super Saturday, Lone Oak First Baptist Church, Paducah

MOUNTAINS TO THE MISSISSIPPI

COMPILED BY STAFF

BUCKNER—Oldham-Trimble Association is sponsoring a summer picnic for ministers and families on Aug. 28 at 6 p.m. at Wendell Moore Park.

CADIZ—**Tim Smith** has accepted the call as pastor of Locust Grove Church. He began his ministry July 5.

CERULEAN—Cerulean Church has called **John Denham** as pastor.

EDDYVILLE—**Eric Nelson** began duties as pastor of Bethany Church July 6.

FRANKFORT—Buck Run Church has called **Grant Castleberry** as pastor of outreach and evangelism.

ISLAND—Station Church will celebrate 175 years on Aug. 9. They also are celebrating member **Ernestine Garst**, who is 109. **James Edward Watkins** is pastor.

LOUISVILLE—Cloverleaf Church will be hosting the **Blackwood Brother** on Aug. 2 at 7 p.m.

MAYSVILLE—**Doug Shelton** is the new pastor of Calvary Church.

MT. STERLING—**James Skidmore** was ordained as pastor at Macedonia Church July 12.

OWENSBORO—South Hampton Church is celebrating its 160th year. **Clay Lambert** is pastor.

PADUCAH—Oaklawn Church welcomed **Adam Smith** as its new pastor July 26.

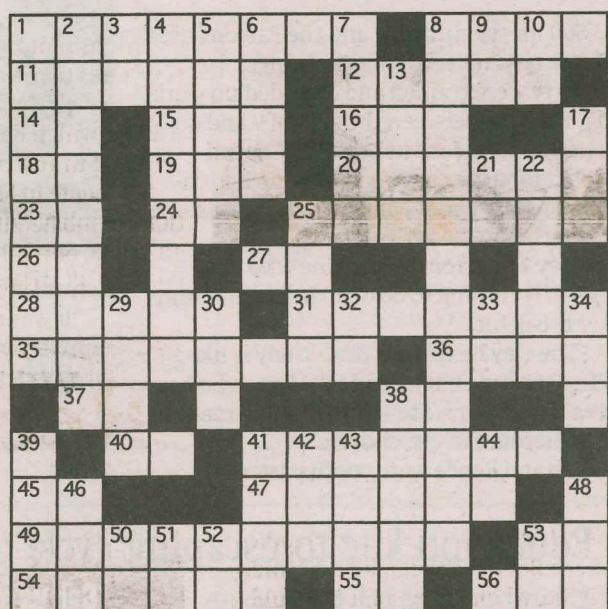
UTICA—Glenville Church held its 150th anniversary celebration July 19. **Charles Thomas** is pastor.

WINGO—**Coleman Austin** has accepted the call as pastor of Fellowship Church.

Bible Crosswords

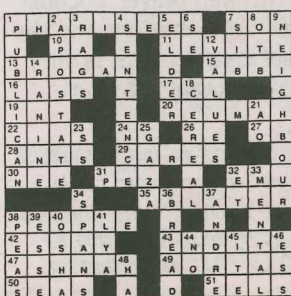
Across

- 1 Person who makes perfume
8 "Ten women shall _____ your bread in one oven" (Leviticus 26:26)
11 Any person
12 "The noise of the stamping of the _____ of his strong horses" (Jeremiah 47:3)
14 Inspector General, abbr.
15 Edible Japanese plant
16 Eggs
18 Near, abbr.
19 "No man putteth a piece of _____ cloth unto an old garment" (Matthew 9:16)
20 Temporary route
23 Teacher's helper, abbr.
24 Physician, abbr.
25 "Take thee a _____ razor, and cause it to pass upon thine head" (Ezekiel 5:1)
26 Four, Romans num.
27 South Vietnamese coin
28 Short for potassium nitrate, Br.
31 "He shall sit as a _____ and purifier of silver" (Malachi 3:3)
35 "There shall be weeping and _____ of teeth" (Matthew 8:12)
36 "This do ye; _____ your beasts, and go" (Genesis 45:17)
37 Island nation, abbr.
38 Too much of a drug, abbr.
40 Therefore
41 Putting threads together to make fabric
45 Impersonal pronoun
47 Current of warm water that



#042

- affects the weather (2 words)
49 Paul's occupation
53 Peach state, abbr.
54 Dorcas's occupation (Acts 9:39)
55 "Come unto _____, all ye that labour" (Matthew 11:28)
56 "In the beginning _____ created the heaven and the earth" (Genesis 1:1)
Down
1 Coloring with a brush
2 "Grave upon it, like the _____ of a signet" (Exodus 28:36)
3 Track transportation, abbr.
4 Sinks below surface of water
5 "Is a candle brought to be put _____ a bushel?" (Mark 4:21)
6 Cat's cry
7 "Peter knocked ... a damsel came to hearken, named _____" (Acts 12:13)
8 Noah's occupation (2 words)
9 Flying soldiers, abbr.
10 Dorothy's state, abbr.
13 "Shepherds ... keeping watch _____ their flock by night" (Luke 2:8)
17 Tax enforcement organization, abbr.
21 Old English, abbr.
22 "Take I pray thee ... And he _____ him, and he took it" (Genesis 33:11)
25 Overheat
29 Flaps
30 Extremely high frequency, abbr.
32 For example, Lat. abbr.
33 Northern continent, abbr.
34 "Though they be _____ like crimson, they shall be as wool" (Isaiah 1:18)
38 Like a sheep
39 Glove
41 "We will eat our own bread, and _____ our own apparel" (Isaiah 4:1)
42 Antlered animal
43 Musical term to indicate "animated," abbr.
44 "There was _____ room for them in the inn" (Luke 2:7)
46 Hot or cold beverage
48 A son of Zilpah (Genesis 35:26)
50 Nickel, chem. symbol
51 Total loss, abbr.
52 Southwestern state whose capital is Jefferson City, abbr.
53 "_____ ye therefore, and teach all nations" (Matthew 28:19)



CLASSIFIED ADS

SEEKING: Part-time music director position available to serve at First Baptist Church of Cold Spring by coordinating and administering an effective music program by blending contemporary and traditional music at the 10:30 am and 6 p.m. Sunday and Wednesday evening services. Please send resumes to Music Ministry Search Team at 4410 Alexandria Pike, Cold Spring, KY 41076. Job description available at <http://fbccs.com>.

SEEKING: Oneida Baptist Church, in Oneida, Ky., and adjacent to Oneida Baptist Institute, is prayerfully accepting resumes for a bivocational pastor. Email resumes to christy.gay@clay.kyschools.us.

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.

SEEKING: Bandana Baptist Church is prayerfully accepting candidates for a full-time or bivocational pastor to lead our congregation (avg. 55 W.S.). Send resumes and CD/DVD to: Bandana Baptist Church, Pastor Search Committee, P.O. Box 87, Bandana, KY 42022.

SEEKING: Dry Run Baptist Church in Georgetown, Ky., is prayerfully seeking a full-time pastor. Mail resumes to: Search Committee, 2109 Cincinnati Pike, Georgetown, KY 40324 or email to drbcsearch@yahoo.com

SEEKING: Highland Ave. Baptist Tabernacle Church in Fort Thomas, Ky., is prayerfully accepting resumes for the position of full-time pastor to lead a congregation with average worship attendance of 100. Experience and seminary degree preferred, but not required. Please send resume and CD/DVD/Internet link for sermons to: Highland Ave Baptist Tabernacle Attn: Pastor Search Committee, 1080 Highland Ave, Ft. Thomas, KY 41075 or email to pastorsearchhbtcc@fuse.net.

SEEKING: Columbia Baptist Church is seeking a children's minister with a passion for reaching children and their families with the gospel of Jesus Christ. CBC has plenty of room to grow and currently serves approximately 30-50 children weekly, with 90 or more during VBS. A bachelor's degree and prior experience working with children and their families is preferred. Applicants seeking either part-time or full-time work will be considered. Please submit resume to: Personnel c/o Columbia Baptist Church, 201 Greensburg St, Columbia, KY 42728.

SEEKING: New Harmony Baptist Church of Benton, Ky., is seeking a full-time children's pastor. Send resumes to nhmbc@newharmonybaptist.net.

SEEKING: Part-time youth pastor for Pinckard Baptist Church in Versailles. Send resume to Personnel Team, Pinckard Baptist Church, 3401 Pinckard Pike, Versailles, KY 40383.

SEEKING: Part-time worship/music minister, Buckner Baptist. Blended worship, praise team and choir leading primary duties. Compensation based on experience. Submit resume with references via e-mail: bucknerbaptistchurch@mw.twcbc.com.

SEEKING: First Baptist, Hodgenville, is seeking an associate pastor of family ministry. He will be responsible for developing and carrying out a vision for the preschool, children and youth ministries. Qualifications include working on a completed master's degree from an accredited seminary or divinity school; ordination; and experience in children, youth or family ministry. Mail resume to FBC Hodgenville,

730 Tonieville Road, Hodgenville, KY 42748 or email to sally@fbchodgenville.org.

SEEKING: Executive director (DOM), Noonday Baptist Association. Marietta, Ga. 127 ethnically and economically diverse partner churches and missions are searching for a leader for one of the SBC's leading associations. Skill sets include strategist, consultant, administrator and collaborator. Resumes accepted online through July 31. www.noondayba.org.

SEEKING: Burlington Baptist Church (SBC), a missional, contemporary church with traditional roots and values, is seeking a full-time senior pastor/servant leader. Average Sunday worship attendance is 750. We are seeking an honest, firm in his faith, lead worshipper with a passion for impacting the lost. All earnest applicants may apply by submitting resume and optional five minute introduction video by Sept. 7, 2015, to: Burlington Baptist Church, Pastor Search Team, P.O. Box 48, Burlington, KY 41005 or to searchcommittee@burlingtonbaptist.org.

SEEKING: A U.S., Haiti-based ministry seeks financial scholarship support for a young man wishing to attend the Baptist Theological Seminary of Haiti. Contact Dan at 513.235.4624 or d.neal@jesusinhaiti.org for more information on this exciting opportunity to help a young man pursue his passion to preach in his country.

SEEKING: Bruner's Chapel Baptist Church in Harrodsburg, Ky.—Minister of music needed. Please send email including phone number to pastorsmith@hotmail.com and hedgespethsmith@hotmail.com.

FOR RENT: Two condos in Destin, Fla. 2 bed, 2 bath. Book now for Aug-Dec. lewbrammer@gmail.com 423-309-4422.

SEEKING: Illinois Baptist Children's Home seeks an executive director to replace current director's retirement the end of 2016. Applications are to be received by January 2016 to fill the position by October 2016. Go to www.bchfs.com/employment.html for details.

SEEKING: Sunrise Children's Services has multiple openings for Direct Care Counselors in the Mt. Washington, Elizabethtown, Morehead, and Danville locations. Provides direct provision of care and supervision to clients according to agency policies and procedures, licensing and accreditation requirements. Must be capable of physically restraining youths up to 19 years of age. Bachelor's degree with no experience, or high school degree or equivalent with 1 to 2 years.

SEEKING: Bethany Baptist Church is looking for a bivocational Southern Baptist preacher. We are located in Union County, Ky. We are looking for a spirit-filled man of God. If interested, send resume to PO Box 435, Sturgis, KY 42459. Contact number: (270) 952-6521.

SEEKING: Pastor Search, Summersville Baptist Church, Summersville, Ky., is looking for a traditional-type pastor who can and will relate to all age groups. Someone who is interested in activities for the young as well as the older adult. He needs to be grounded in and believes that the Bible was and is the inspired, inerrant word of God, and preaches God's message to one and all. If you feel that God is calling you to be the pastor at Summersville Baptist, send your resume and taped or video recorded sermons to: Summersville Baptist Church, C/O Pulpit Search Committee, P.O. Box 68, Summersville, KY 42782.

SEEKING: Beechland Baptist Church in Louisville, Ky is seeking a pre-school/children's minister. This position is 30 hours per week and oversees the ministry area for birth thru 5th grade. More information is available upon request by contacting the church office at 502-935-1313 (ask for Royce Bishop). Candidates can email resumes to bbcbishop@bellsouth.net or mail them to 4613 Greenwood Rd, Louisville, KY 40258.

Hurricane Katrina left mark on Baptist relief

By Tobin Perry

Gulfport, Miss.—"We've shared the gospel with so many people in this community, I don't know if there is anyone else we can share with," Randy Corn thought to himself six months after Hurricane Katrina when he arrived in Gulfport, Miss., one of the many Gulf Coast cities devastated by the historic hurricane 10 years ago.

"I don't know if there's anyone else who hasn't heard the gospel," Corn thought in beginning a week of Southern Baptist Disaster Relief construction projects through his church, Biltmore Baptist in Arden, N.C., which had served in the area multiple times and seen many give their lives to Christ through SBDR ministry.

Corn had prayed with the homeowner his team was serving on their first morning in Gulfport and, with his proclivity for evangelism, took a look around the neighborhood and spotted a group of young people talking at the end of a driveway.

After striking up a conversation with the group, who expressed gratitude to Southern Baptists for their relief efforts, Corn led one of the young men to faith in Christ—the first of eight people he would lead to faith in less than three hours.

Thanks in part to Corn's experience as an SBDR volunteer following Katrina, he and his wife Ronda became North American Mission Board missionaries and have spent much of the past decade helping train SBDR teams in personal evangelism.

Corn, who served on his first SBDR team just days after Katrina's onslaught, was one of nearly 21,000 volunteers from 41 Baptist state conventions to participate in Baptist relief efforts that began after the hurricane's Gulf Coast landfall on Aug. 29, 2005, and continued through March 2006. Another 26,000 volunteers would participate in Operation NOAH (New Orleans Area Homes) Rebuild from March 2006 to April 2009. The influx of new volunteers—by far the most who would ever participate in a single SBDR response and rebuild effort—would transform future disaster relief efforts by Southern Baptists.

Fritz Wilson, executive director of disaster relief for the North American Mission Board, calls Hurricane Katrina one of a handful of transformational events in the history of SBDR—from its inception in 1967 during Hurricane Beulah to the Southern Baptist response after the 9/11 terrorist attacks. Yet no response remotely compares to Hurricane Katrina.

Within the first five years after the hurricane, the number of trained volunteers soared by 46 percent—from 51,300 to 95,000 volunteers—with more than 25,000 new volunteers trained in the first few months after the hurricane.

"I saw missionaries and disaster relief volunteers come here from all over the country to help those of us in the city, whether it was to gut our homes or our churches or to help to paint or cut grass," said former SBC President Fred Luter, pastor of New Orleans' Franklin Avenue Baptist Church for nearly three decades.

Mickey Caison, who directed SBDR efforts when Hurricane Katrina hit, noted the additional volunteers vastly increased SBDR's capacity and boosted its standing among fellow disaster relief organizations.



Hurricane Katrina evacuees were spread across the Gulf Coast. Above, SBDR volunteers prepare a meal in Meridian, Miss. In total, SBDR prepared 14.6 million hot meals in the response. (File photos by John Swain/NAMB)

"We went from an organization that worked with Red Cross and FEMA to an organization worthy of a relationship and a commitment from FEMA. It gave us a different kind of credibility in the eyes of emergency managers and government officials."

With reports by national media outlets such as The Wall Street Journal, awareness of Southern Baptist Disaster Relief rose throughout all levels of government.

"It opened doors that normally we couldn't even get close to knocking on," said Jim Burton, director of volunteer mobilization at the North American Mission Board at the time. "We got much, much better at telling our story through secular media. Then when the government got around to doing a report in 2006 to evaluate what had happened, they were all over the Southern Baptist Disaster Relief response with praise, according to what had been accomplished there."

Burton noted that SBDR's Katrina efforts became a model for other organizations, even secular ones. As an example, he pointed to a national organization for project management professionals that asked him to write a textbook chapter titled, "A Faith-Based Response to Catastrophic Disaster: An Overview of Southern Baptist Disaster Relief Planning



Cooperation between responding relief entities was enhanced in a number of ways after Hurricane Katrina. Above, SBDR volunteers meet with The Salvation Army in Biloxi, Miss.

and Logistics in Hurricane Katrina."

SBDR volunteers returned home with a new passion for disaster relief—as well as for New Orleans and the Gulf Coast. And some stayed, making a gospel-sized impact on their new home.

James Welch was finishing his studies at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, when Katrina hit the Gulf Coast. The following June, Welch's family joined a team from Louisville's Sojourn Community Church in moving to New Orleans to serve the city and dream about a future church plant.

For the first several years, Welch simply served, often through SBDR, putting up sheetrock and painting—and telling people about Jesus when the opportunity came up. Three and a half years after Katrina, Welch and his team began to explore locations for a church plant. Local Southern Baptists connected Welch with Lakeview Baptist Church, a declining church that had been hit hard by Katrina.

The connection proved to be a "win-win" opportunity for Welch, his team and

the declining church. The new church, Harbor Community Church, which formed from the partnership, has grown to nearly 300 worshippers. Yet the young church's success has been about more than numbers—it's also been a growing symbol of a city reborn, a living picture of the gospel.

"Before Katrina, evangelicals were largely seen as a group of people who were just coming to New Orleans to convert people or to tell people what they shouldn't do," Welch said. "After Katrina, New Orleans people see a more gospel-centered view of an evangelical. Meaning that evangelicals come because they understand their own brokenness and they understand the brokenness that happens within culture and community, and they're here to present this gospel of reconciliation."

Today, Southern Baptists have 65,000 trained volunteers—including chaplains—and 1,550 mobile units for feeding, chain-saw, mud-out, command, communication, childcare, shower, laundry, water purification, repair/rebuild and power generation. SBDR is one of the three largest mobilizers of trained disaster relief volunteers in the United States, along with the American Red Cross and The Salvation Army.

NAMB coordinates Southern Baptist responses to major disasters in partnership with 42 state Baptist conventions, most of which have their own state disaster relief ministries.

To donate to SBDR, visit <https://donations.namb.net/dr-donations>; call 1-866-407-6262; or mail checks to NAMB, P.O. Box 116543, Atlanta, GA 30368-6543. (BP)

Southern Baptist Disaster Relief volunteers clear debris from a home in Pascagoula, Miss., flooded by Hurricane Katrina. Destruction and damage from the storm spread 90,000 square miles and destroyed or made uninhabitable 300,000 homes.



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COOPERATIVE PROGRAM:

RESPONDING TO THE GREAT COMMISSION

THOUSANDS OF MISSIONARIES SENT OUT

The Cooperative Program is how Kentucky Baptists respond to the Great Commission, joining together with more than 46,000 congregations nationwide to support some 10,000 missionaries who are sharing the gospel of Christ every day.

The Cooperative Program is also how 750,000 Kentucky Baptists in 2,400 congregations support the work of the Kentucky Baptist Convention and its many agencies and institutions that do so much for the cause of Christ. It's through the Cooperative Program that orphaned children are given safe haven, future church leaders are educated, aging congregations are revitalized, pastors are taught effective evangelism strategies, church members are encouraged to be on mission, and so much more.

THOUSANDS OF SOULS BEING SAVED

Kentucky Baptists, working cooperatively in communities from the mountains of Appalachia in the east to the banks of the Mississippi River in the west, have had great success in reaching out with the gospel over the past year. The latest figures from the KBC show 14,223 baptisms across Kentucky in 2014, an increase from 13,975 the year before. That's enough people to populate a mid-sized Kentucky city. But the news gets even better. Thanks to your support of the Cooperative Program, missionaries from the Southern Baptist Convention's International Mission Board reported another 190,957 baptisms last year.

The Cooperative Program isn't just a line on your church budget. It is the primary means through which Southern Baptists support the work of missionaries in the state, across the country and around the world. The Cooperative Program allows your congregation to make an impact literally around the world.

