

WESTERN Recorder

August 11, 2015

Shine Like Stars * Philippians 2:15

Volume 189, Issue 16

Everyday missionaries urged to proclaim Jesus

By Joe Conway and Anne Harman

Nashville, Tenn.—“We are going to send until the whole world hears,” said Kevin Ezell, concluding the final session of the 2015 Send North America Conference. “This is not about a conference. This is about a movement. We are going to send and motivate people to send.”

Ezell, president of the North American Mission Board, and David Platt, president of the International Mission Board, shared the stage Tuesday evening, Aug. 4, much as they had at key moments throughout the two-day missions gathering.

“It is pure joy to think about the pastors and churches represented in this room,” Platt said. “It is amazing to say we want to do this together. Let’s trust the good hand

of God to do this.”

Platt was the final keynote speaker for the event that drew more than 13,600 to the Bridgestone Arena in Nashville. Speaking from Nehemiah 1-2, Platt shared several things God would say to those gathered.

“God is telling us to open our eyes and see a world (like Nehemiah did) in great need,” Platt said. In the Scripture passage, Nehemiah is weeping. The remnant is in trouble.

“When was the last time you wept over people in need?” Platt asked, noting it’s dangerous to become cold and calloused when overwhelmed by a world in need. He said the world’s needs are not only physical, but eternal, spiritual needs: people are going to hell without ever hearing the



good news of how they can be saved.

“This cannot be tolerable to us,” Platt said. “God help us to weep for them.”

Second, Platt said, God would tell attendees: “Believe that I deserve greater glory.” Third, God is saying, “Seek My face,” Platt said. Nehemiah spent approximately

□ See Proclaim Jesus ... Page 3



Passionate worship was a hallmark of the 2015 Send North America Conference. Worship was led by The Passion Band with Kristian Stanfill, Shane and Shane, David Crowder and Casting Crowns. (Photo by Susan Whitley/NAMB)

Drive to defund Planned Parenthood ‘far from over’

By Tom Strode

Washington, D.C.—The legislative effort to defund Planned Parenthood failed Aug. 3 in the U.S. Senate, but pro-life advocates said they will not give up.

The Senate voted 53-46 to bring to the floor a bill to eliminate federal funds for the Planned Parenthood Federation of America (PPFA) and its affiliates. While a majority of senators favored consideration of the proposal, the attempt to invoke cloture, as it is known, fell short of the 60 votes needed to begin debate on the legislation and establish a path to its passage.

The failure to move the bill, S. 1881, to

the floor came in spite of the release during the previous three weeks of videos revealing Planned Parenthood’s trade in baby body parts.

The four undercover videos show PPFA officials discussing the sale of organs from aborted children for research. A fifth video was released Aug. 4. Pro-life leaders expressed their dismay, as well as devotion to continuing the defunding campaign.

Russell Moore, president of the Southern Baptist Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission, said he is disappointed the Senate “did not show the moral leadership to stop funding this violence. Now Senators are on record as for or against,

and the debate goes on.”

“We will not rest until the fundamental protections of right to life and liberty apply to all, regardless of age, income, or stage of development,” said Moore, who endorsed the Senate bill in a July 30 letter to leaders of both houses.

Rep. Diane Black, R-Tenn., who has introduced a defunding bill in the House of Representatives, said the Senate vote “was a triumph of politics over principle and deceit over truth.”

“The fight to defund Planned Parenthood is far from over,” said Black, whose legislation would place a 12-year

□ See Planned Parenthood ... Page 12

Suttles elected Sunrise president

Mt. Washington—Dale Suttles was unanimously elected as president of Sunrise Children’s Services during the quarterly meeting of its Board of Directors July 31. Suttles has been serving as interim president for the past 20 months.

“I am thankful that the Lord has raised up a man of courage and conviction in Dale Suttles,” said Paul Chitwood, executive director of the Kentucky Baptist Convention and ex-officio member of the Sunrise board. “God has given Dale the skill set to take advantage of this opportunity.”

Suttles, 54, is a native of Olive Hill and a graduate of West Carter High School and Morehead State University.

“Working with Dale, I have no doubt that he will always do what is right for children and serve in a way that honors the Lord,” Chitwood said. “This Kentucky Baptist ministry to hurting children is being led by one of our own. Dale is a member of a great church, Immanuel Baptist Church in Lexington.”

“I am deeply humbled by this opportunity,” Suttles said. “We are positioned to make a real difference—not in child welfare but in the well-being of this state’s neediest of children.”

Before the interim term, Suttles had served two-and-one-half years as Sunrise’s regional advancement director for southeastern Kentucky.

Previously, Suttles was executive director of Big Brothers/Big Sisters of the Bluegrass, a high-profile position that he held for two-and-a-half years.

“I am committed to continuing our vital partnership with Kentucky Baptists and the Kentucky Baptist Convention,” Suttles said. “Churches, businesses and corporations across this state help Sunrise give kids a path of life that guarantees their futures.”

Suttles and wife, Libby, have two children and reside in Danville, where she is executive director of the Wilderness Trace Child Development Center. (Sunrise)



Dale Suttles

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UNIVERSITY

Special insert on pages 8-9

48+ Professions of Faith
Among CU Services and Missions

Western Recorder 8-11-2015

Walnut Street celebrates 'daughter churches'

By Myriah Snyder

Louisville—On Saturday, July 31, many churches throughout Long Run Association gathered at Walnut Street Baptist Church in Louisville to celebrate its 29 active "daughter churches."

"I pray our celebration of history today will remind us of our responsibility tomorrow. Because Walnut Street and you, daughter churches ... God is not done sending," said Rusty Ellison, former pastor of Walnut Street.

Churches represented at the event included Middletown First, Ormsby Heights, Green Street, St. Matthews, Living Hope, Kenwood, Meadow Hills, Antioch, Highland, Eastpoint Community, Chinese Walnut Street, Parkland, Hurstbourne, Walnut Ridge, Walnut Grove and Deer Park.

Other churches not represented included Fifth Street, Broadway, Grace Community and a host of others.

Theme of Saturday's special service, introduced by Director of Missions Wesley Pitts, was "Back to Bethel," taken from Genesis 35:1-6.

The service started with selections from Albin Whitworth, pianist and organist at Walnut Street for 17 years and now minister of music and worship/organist at Deer Park.

"Nowhere in my church experience had I ever encountered anything like Walnut Street," Jim Cobban, pastor of Middletown First and former 17-year staff member at Walnut Street, said in



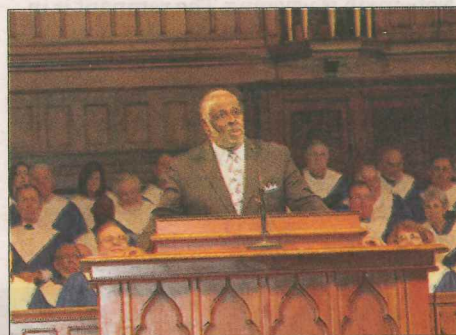
Above, the Green Street Mass Choir performs at Walnut Street Baptist Church. Right, Robert Smith delivering the message. Top right, Walnut Street members serving at ice-cream social.

an address titled, "An apple lying close to the tree: A love letter from the pastor of a daughter church."

He joined Walnut Street after moving to Louisville to attend Southern Seminary in 1981 and a year later was hired.

"I had never worshiped in a church in the city's center. I had never attended a church where governors and bag ladies shared a pew," he continued. "This was a new experience, and I fell in love."

"I have tried my best to carry some of the priorities from Walnut Street at 3rd



and St. Catherine to Main Street in Middletown," Cobban said.

"First, I learned from Walnut Street the importance of partnerships. Second, I learned that a church's strength must be shared. Third, Walnut Street embraced the concept I call 'risky



creativity.' First Baptist has tried to embrace that same ethic," he shared.

A 100-voice choir was led by Gene Sutherland, retired minister of music at Walnut Street and current interim minister of music at Living Hope Church. Additional special music was provided by the Green Street Mass Choir and Christi Cobban.

"Remembering our history and embracing our destiny," was the theme of a message by Robert Smith, professor of Christian preaching at Beeson Divinity School.

"We are here because someone else has paved the way," Smith reminded those attending. "Don't just remember your history and be complacent with it."

Walnut Street is the product of the merging of Louisville's First Church, founded in 1815, and Second Church, founded in 1838.

The event was part of Walnut Street's 200th anniversary celebration, "Living the Legacy." In addition, the church hosted a block party in April and is having a homecoming celebration on Oct. 18. (WR)

CINCINNATI

SEND CITY

VISION TOUR

September 28-29, 2015

'Revitalization two miles from Podunk'

By Todd Gray

Farmington—Bell City Baptist Church is defying conventional thinking when it comes to church growth.

Church growth proponents tend to agree that one important reality for a growing church is location, location, location. Bell City Baptist, however, is located in rural Graves county, two miles from Podunk, one mile from the Tennessee state line, 30 minutes from Murray, Mayfield, Fulton and Paris, Tenn.—or as their members like to say, "30 minutes from anywhere."

Church growth experts might also add that you need a good population base from which to grow a church, but there are no houses visible from the front steps of Bell City Baptist. Church growth advisors might further agree that to reach young families, you will need a modern facility, with programs and ministries that appeal to young families with children, but Bell City Baptist did not have those either.

They did, however, have a Spirit-filled young pastor named Presley Lamm, who loved the people, felt convincingly called to this church, and believed that God could do the improbable, or impossible, with the Bell City congregation.

In the three-and-a-half years that Lamm has served as pastor, the church has grown in worship attendance from about 10 people to an average of 75. Sunday School attendance has increased from 10 to 40 people.

They have gone from a building that had not been updated since 1965 in a landlocked setting to a remodeled worship center with land available for future growth. God has already done a great work in a short time with this rural congregation. In an interview with the pastor, and long-time member, Edith Warren, I asked what

had changed in the past 42 months, and what they addressed as a church in their attempt toward revitalization.

1. The pastor motivated the congregation to think outward.

Pastor Pressley believes, "Everybody deserves a redemption story." He said, "Regardless of their background each person within the reach of this church deserves to hear the gospel—whether an alcoholic or single mom, rich or poor." Lamm sought to remind the congregation that they have a mission to accomplish in reaching the people of their community.

As a result of their shift in focus to outreach they have baptized more than 45 people in the past three years. In some months, they have baptized every Sunday. They have also received almost as many new members by transfer of letter or statement of faith. Recently, one of their new attenders remarked that "every service feels like a revival."

2. They established a social media presence.

Pastor Lamm had never been on Facebook before coming to the congregation, but he has used it effectively as an ongoing social media presence that ministers to their members and the surrounding community.

"The day of going and hanging posters for VBS and revivals is gone," Pressley said. They have about 300 likes on their Facebook page which gets the word out for upcoming events.

3. They sought to improve worship.

Lamm stressed that worship should be enjoyable and organized, but not planned to the point there is little room for trying something different. Praise has become a major part of their worship service from

the congregational singing and the pastor's leadership to celebration from the people of recent victories in their lives.

Members have become accustomed to expecting God to do something in the service. There is a freedom in worship where members do not like to miss services because they are afraid of missing what God might do.

4. They updated their facility.

The building was small, with no updates in the past 45 years. They now have a sound system, video projection system and an open pulpit area to aid in worship and presentations. According to the pastor, "The facility change was a big issue as it was a positive impression to guests that something was happening in the church."

Remodeling cost about \$16,000 and was done mostly with volunteer labor and the financial sacrifices of the members. As they stepped out in faith to do the remodel, God provided all that was needed to get the work completed. They have since purchased six acres for parking and to build a new fellowship hall.

There are no wealthy people in the church or community, but the members give as they are able. They raised \$20,000 in one Sunday in a church that takes in around \$60,000 annually.

5. They built a Community Response Team.

A CRT team was organized in 2014 as an effort to respond to community needs. Since that time the church has ministered to nearly 100 families by doing small construction projects, taking food to families, providing transportation, and in some cases giving money to people in need.

This ministry involves at least 20 members and has served to establish the church as a caring group in the community.

6. They have engaged in missions.

Before Lamm came as pastor, the church had never taken a mission trip. In 2014 they sent five people to Muskogee,



Okla., to work on an Indian reservation.

This year they are sending 14 people to Sioux Falls, S.D., to minister to a NAMB church planter and help with his ministry.

7. They have become intentional about church fellowship.

The church eats together often, and when there is a conflict in the church family, the pastor encourages them to work through their differences and reunite around the will of God. They accept that people will have spirited business meeting discussions about issues for which they are passionate.

Ms. Edith says she has not seen a major rift in the fellowship since Pastor Lamm has been their pastor. He leads business meetings with a rule that if people get angry, the meeting is over.

8. They established prayer as the foundation for all they do.

They pray about upcoming decisions and for resources to carry out the plans of the church. They also pray for each other and for all the churches in the area.

There is no way to explain the encouraging atmosphere at Bell City apart from it being a work of God in a rural community. When Lamm is asked by members of other churches what they need to do to grow, he says, "Do something. Do something. Don't just sit here."

That's pretty good advice from a pastor who is doing what he can do to help a rural church move into its best days. And, if God can bring revitalization to Bell City, He can do it anywhere there is a motivated pastor and willing people. (WR)

Proclaim Jesus

Continued from page 1

four months praying and fasting to seek God before he did anything else. Similarly, Platt said Christians must realize they cannot make disciples or plant churches in their own power, but only in the power of God.

In Tuesday's opening session, Vance Pitman, pastor of Hope Church in Las Vegas, shared characteristics of the ordinary people in the Book of Acts who helped launch the church.

"They had a faith that produced obedience," Pitman said. "They trusted God and did what God said. They clearly heard Jesus speak and simply did what He said. To see God move you have to have faith that leads to obedience."

It was a message that resonated with attendees.

"It is time for the church to get back to the main thing," said Becky Thomas of New Albany, Miss. "We need to do what Jesus told us to do. Vance Pitman did a good job explaining it and making it clear. This has been great."

Breakout sessions, a dozen each in the morning and afternoon, were sandwiched between three main sessions in the

Bridgestone Arena.

Super Bowl winning coach Tony Dungy shared by video how life on mission principles came to him at an early age.

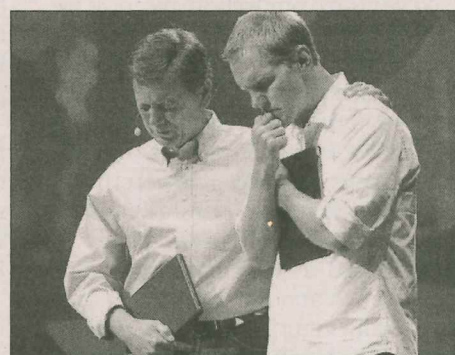
"My number one influence in life started with my parents," Dungy said. "What my mom instilled was driven home my rookie year with the Pittsburgh Steelers by Donnie Shell, the first Christian athlete I encountered who lived his faith. He showed me how to live—you can't separate your faith. Success is uncommon, but significance is even more uncommon. Being able to point people to Christ means more than winning a Super Bowl."

Dungy noted that to live a life on mission people need only to start where they are.

"Start at home first, work second," Dungy said. "Look at areas where I can direct my children first. Then at work—do people see Christ in my life? My hope would be that we would do what Jesus asked us to—be salt and light in the world."

Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission President Russell Moore addressed a Christian's responsibility as a citizen of the kingdom of God. Moore later moderated a presidential candidate forum with former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush and Florida Sen. Marco Rubio.

"We are held accountable for a system



North American Mission Board President Kevin Ezell and David Platt, president of the International Mission Board. (Photo by John Swain/NAMB)

of government where Romans 13 shows we are the people who hold the sword," Moore said. "Act justly. How will we wield the sword of justice? Avoid the temptation of retreating into our subculture or disengaging the gospel from social responsibility. Over all flags there is a cross. We are Americans best when we are not Americans first."

Casting Crowns led Tuesday evening's worship time which concluded with a video of IMB missionary Matt Miller who serves in Barcelona.

His family had built their dream house outside Atlanta. But the 2004 terrorist

bombings of railway stations in Madrid turned their hearts to Spain. They sold their home and found a job there in order to be a part of reaching the city for Christ.

"Living missionally through your job is where you start," Miller said. "You have relationships that allow you to share your life. In whatever God calls you to do, take action. You will see Him come through in ways you can't explain any other way."

Ezell then joined Moore, Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary President Daniel Akin and Southern Baptist Theological Seminary President Albert Mohler Jr. on stage.

"We cannot do, and David and the IMB cannot do what they do, without the sacrificial giving of Southern Baptists every week," said Ezell, thanking attendees for their gifts to the Cooperative Program.

Ezell introduced Platt for the final address by bringing Platt's 9-year-old son, Caleb, on stage.

Ezell recounted how, at their first meeting, "Caleb asked me—are you a Christian? I said yes, and I said I am very thankful you asked. We are trying to motivate and mobilize all these people to ask the same question that you asked me. I'm glad that you have a mom and dad who taught you that. Making disciples starts at home—no one knows that better than David Platt." (BP)

Fierce competition

The scene was surreal. I'm sitting on my bed watching a 14-year-old Hispanic boy and an 8-year-old Chinese girl engaged in one of their fiercest competitions to date. These two enjoy rivalry and, when they find a contest that pits them as anywhere close to being equals, it's game on.

What was the latest fight-to-the-death tournament? Why, Sword Drills, of course!

Together We are the KBC



Paul Chitwood

One would naturally think the older kid would have the edge, but not so. His little sister grew up in Bible drills at church. Up until he came to live with us, our foster son had not been to church. He was given his first Bible

three months ago, and it had continued to sit right where he placed it when we gave it to him. But something had suddenly changed. He had just come home from Crossings camp.

While the staff of Crossings Ministries are recovering from giving their all to another record-breaking season, I am once again seeing the impact of this ministry of Kentucky Baptists up close and personal.

Our foster son was more than a little apprehensive about spending a week at a "church camp" for teens and didn't even bother to pack his new Bible, the one he had never opened after receiving it. Our 8-year-old adopted daughter was no more enthusiastic when it was her turn to go to Crossings Kids camp.

But within minutes of putting their feet on the ground at Cedarmore, all that changed. Our son was texting, asking if I could bring his Bible, and our daughter was refusing to leave the GaGa Ball pit even to eat.

Needless to say, they had a blast! And they came home with a hunger to learn more about God's word.

Knowing her brother was a Bible novice, Cai sensed his vulnerability and challenged him to Sword Drills. And the games began. Sure enough, she had finally found a game she could win.

And as I barked out, "Present your swords ... Romans 10:9 ... Start!" I felt like a winner myself. Here, in my home, I was watching the gospel go to *panta ta ethne*—the peoples of the world. And I was blessed to know that the Cooperative Program ministries of Kentucky Baptists, including Crossings and Sunrise Children's Services, were helping to make it possible.

SBC President: Moral courage and the Planned Parenthood debacle

Now is the time for moral courage in America. Moral courage is the courage to take action for moral reasons despite the risk of adverse consequences.

The reported actions by Planned Parenthood should result in an immediate outcry. Unquestionably, if Planned Parenthood does not decry what has been exposed as immoral, brutal and barbaric, then it is time that the mighty Planned Parenthood should fall.

Justifying or rationalizing their actions is not moral courage. As Fox News commentator Brit Hume states, "The sight of a senior Planned Parenthood official and a doctor to boot, discussing the market for fetal body parts in between bites of salad and sips of wine was stomach-turning." The administration, the board, and the entire Planned Parenthood organization must be held accountable for their actions.

Congress needs moral courage

The House and Senate need to demand the termination of all funds to Planned Parenthood. Not one more dime of the reported \$500 million should go to the brutality of killing the unborn. If the investigation proves allegations true, Planned Parenthood should be defunded. This is not about the 2016 election, but what is right morally.

White House needs moral courage

The President and his White House need to call for an immediate inquiry into these matters, demanding Congress deal with the issue now. This is not about polls and parties, but what is right morally.

Aspiring politicians need moral courage

Since the 2016 presidential campaign faces us daily as well as other elections locally, statewide and nationally, aspiring politicians need to exert moral courage now. Regardless of their support or lack of support in the past for Planned Parenthood, now is the time to stand with moral courage.

Perhaps aspiring politicians or even elected officials have never chosen to ask Planned Parenthood the hard questions. However, you can never say again that you do not know. Now is the time to speak your heart to the American people not only about Planned Parenthood, but your personal conviction about abortion. Without a doubt, we need national leaders who exert strong moral courage.

Business leaders need moral courage

Leaders in the business world cannot remain silent. Moral courage demands these leaders ensure the company's gifts to all organizations, including Planned Parenthood, would never contribute to the brutality of the unborn child.

Media needs moral courage

The Media Research Center studied ABC, NBC, and CBS networks, comparing coverage Cecil the lion in Zimbabwe and the story about Planned Parenthood. Interestingly, the unfortunate incident about Cecil the lion received 30 minutes of coverage compared to the Planned Parenthood story that received 11 minutes.

Yes, the media should cover Cecil the lion, but one would expect equal, if not more coverage of the Planned Parenthood study. The media should continue investigating until the entire truth is known. Even the media needs to exert moral courage.

Pastors & churches need moral courage

Pastors, stand up and speak against the brutality of abortion and other moral issues. This is not being political, but prophetic. God did not call you to sit this one out. He has called you to stand on God's word.

As I stated in my 2015 presidential address to the Southern Baptist Convention, "America: We stand believing that abortion is a glaring desecration of the unborn child's purpose and value. We must be vigilant to

always stand for the unborn child, all human life, and human dignity from the womb to the tomb. Any decline in America's commitment to the unborn child will lead toward an accelerating desecration of human life, resulting in more abuse, more violence, and more chaotic disruption. God has created us to bring Him glory. When we devalue human life in any way from the womb to the tomb, we are robbing God of His intended glory for each of us."

If the Planned Parenthood story had broken before our convention meeting, I believe that our convention would have called for defunding of Planned Parenthood. Take action now. Let your representatives know you support the defunding of Planned Parenthood and the end of abortion.

Moral courage or moral cowardice

What will history say about all of us who lived while abortion existed in our nation? Will it say when the curtain was finally pulled back about the brutality of abortion that Americans stood up with moral courage? Or will history record that we were cowards?

We cannot be adrift on denial. Dietrich Bonhoeffer was right: "Silence in the face of evil is itself evil: God will not hold us guiltless. Not to speak is to speak. Not to act is to act."

Now is the time to lead with moral courage.

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



Guest Viewpoint

By Ronnie Floyd

Caution: Under construction... to better serve Kentucky Baptists!

If you've visited our website recently, we hope you've noticed some big improvements.

On the home page, we've added three exciting enhancements. First, there's a new carousel of featured photos. Some you may have seen in our most recent issue; others you may not have seen in print. The vast majority, however, will be of Kentucky Baptists who are involved in missions and ministry. It's just another way we seek to encourage your church members to be more active in church life and in Kentucky Baptist life.

Then, in addition to our top Western Recorder stories, you will also notice news feeds from Baptist Press, Baptist News Global and Kentucky Press Association. You can now read not only our top stories, but you also will see today's top news articles

from across the Southern Baptist Convention as well as today's headlines from more than 75 daily and weekly newspapers across Kentucky.

If you access our site from a smartphone, rather than with a computer, you may have to turn your device's screen sideways just to see all the news we've packed there. We want to help you be a better, more informed Baptist, who is concerned about today's issues. We want to encourage you to "shine like the stars"—to be on mission for Christ wherever you are.

Of course, you still can access our e-editions by clicking the tab on the homepage, allowing you to read the current issue anytime, anywhere.

And, you can catch up with your church as well—if your church uses our back page newsletter service. The system now

recognizes your subscriber number when you log on and automatically customizes an e-edition just for you by appending your church's newsletter to it. It's just another way, we partner with local churches to encourage missions involvement and Cooperative Program support.

So, why should church members receive the Western Recorder? Because by becoming more aware of all that Kentucky Baptists are doing to reach Kentucky and the world for Christ, they will be encouraged to be more involved in your church ministries and be greater supporters of state, national and international missions. Why would you, as their pastor or church leader, deprive your people of something so vital to their spiritual growth and development?

Call Western Recorder today!

WESTERN Recorder

Shine Like Stars * Philippians 2:15

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The Baptist Forum section of the Western Recorder provides an opportunity for Kentucky Baptists to express their viewpoints. Opinions expressed do not necessarily reflect those of the Western Recorder's editorial staff, its Board of Directors, or the Kentucky Baptist Convention. Letters should be no more than 300 words in length and will be edited for style, clarity and space. Letters must reflect a spirit of Christian charity and civility.

8 traits of a missions-centered church

By Susie Rain

God chose the church to be His messenger and make a powerful impact on the world. It doesn't matter if it has 10,000 or 20 members; a church is called to reach the nations with the gospel.

The International Mission Board asked pastors, mission and mobilization specialists around the globe to give some insights into what makes missions-centered churches.

Eight traits indicate this type of congregation:

1. Has a NOW mentality.

The thought of "being in on what God is doing right now" drives this church. They understand most generations before them have not had the opportunity they have today to go to the nations. Not only do unreached people often live in their communities, but global travel is relatively easy now. They can go to India and back in less than a week.

They can actually meet the last unreached people groups (less than 2 percent Christian) on earth, not just see their pictures in a magazine.

2. In it for the long haul.

Rather than asking, "What fits my church?" a missions-centered one asks, "What needs to be done and where?" They are awakened and consumed by worshipping God and making Him known to all peoples. No matter if the

God-given task takes one day or 20 years, they are committed. This collective burden is met with a sustainable plan.

3. Has cheerleaders.

Note the plural. Not one cheerleader but many! Yes, the pastor may lead the way but what happens if he moves to another church? Does this stop a missions-centered church? No! There are other leaders invested and sold out to the vision. They are the mobilizers—point people. A missions-centered church knows that it will be no more engaged in missions than its leaders.

4. Spends time on their knees.

They are ready to tackle spiritual warfare head on. The thought that no other church in the world is praying for a specific unengaged, unreached people group really matters to them. They know that it is their responsibility to come up with a church-planting strategy where none has been done before. They believe that starts with prayer.

5. Is flexible and steadfast.

The phrase, "we've never done it that way," spurs the missions-centered church to break the mold. They strive to be creative, knowing that trends and needs may change but the basics remain the same—sharing the love of Christ and bringing people to Him.

6. Trains and equips.

There is an intentional equipping of

the church to live out God's mission plan. The congregation is disciplined in God's passion for the nations. They are hungry for training in evangelism and strengthening local believers. They pass their knowledge on to others, teaching what they've learned along the way.

7. Networks with others.

Understanding that they don't know everything, missions-centered churches are great networkers. They are aware of others involved in similar projects and readily seek advice. These relationships create a unique synergy that leads to increased effectiveness and a greater impact on the people they are trying to reach, whether that's locally or globally.

8. Sends.

Churches focused on the lost try to plug into the life of the world around them. They understand that being sent isn't a future event or even an overseas calling. Being sent is a book of Acts life-style—a way of living—the way of Jesus.

There are still more than 3,000 people groups with no one intentionally working among them to see churches planted.

The missions-centered church will roll up their sleeves and get their hands dirty for Jesus. This kind of church will ask God to use them no matter the cost.

Are you part of "this kind" of church? What's it going to take for your church to be missions-centered? (BP)

Life insurance legacy gifts

Using life insurance to make a legacy gift to your church, the Cooperative Program or other charitable organization allows you to make a larger gift than you may have ever dreamed possible. That's because the premiums you pay are generally significantly less than the life insurance death benefit that will pay out at your death.

There are two ways to make a legacy gift with life insurance. You can name the church or other charity the primary or contingent beneficiary of the policy or you can transfer ownership and all rights in the policy to the charity.

Naming charities as the primary or contingent beneficiary of a life insurance policy is simple. Doing that provides no current tax benefits to you, but does set up a plan to fund a potentially significant gift to the named charitable beneficiaries of the policy at your death for which your estate would get an estate tax deduction.

Transferring ownership of a life insurance policy to charity is a charitable contribution for tax deduction purposes. If the policy is paid-up, the charity holds it until you die and collects the death benefit. If premiums are due, cash gifts you make in future years to the charity to provide funds for premium payments are additional charitable gifts.

If you can no longer provide funds for future premiums, or don't want to do that from the outset, the charity can cash in the policy or adjust the death benefit to take it to "paid up" status.

Leverage your legacy giving through a life insurance gift.



By Laurie Valentine

How to like your spouse

One thing often heard in counseling offices is the phrase, "I love (him/her), but I'm just not in love with (him/her) anymore." How did the couple get to such a point? If that can be figured out, how can a couple "get back" to their "first love" (Rev. 2:4)?

Perhaps being "in love" is about enjoying, respecting, admiring, and appreciating the other person. While it is true that "love covers a multitude of sins" (1 Pet 4:8), day-after-day, betrayals chip away trust, thus removing the sense of being "in love."

While that sense of being "in love" may be missing, the fact that the husband and wife truly do love each other is what gets them into the counseling office. It is also why the absence of being "in love" is so painful.

How to remedy the situation? Zach Brittle, author of "The Relationship Alphabet," calls it

moving up the three levels of marriage researcher John Gottman's "house of love."

Level 1: Get to know your partner's world. Confide daily. If you don't "get it" ask for clarification. Know your spouse's hopes and fears.

Level 2: Turn towards instead of away. Find a way to hold hands. Ask the other for their opinion. Find the humor in each moment.

Level 3: Share fondness. Say the positive things you feel. Express appreciation daily.

These levels will lead you to the fourth of the "house of love": a "positive perspective." This is more of what we're talking about when we say "in love." While a "multitude of sins" will chip away at the "like" in the relationship, increasing the positive interactions will help rebuild it.

Say, "I not only love you, I like you" next time you get into a difficult spot with your spouse. You will be fulfilling Col. 4:6 and Eph. 4:32.



James Stillwell

Preaching the funeral I most dreaded

By Hershael York

This morning (July 27) I will preach my father-in-law's funeral at Camp Nelson National Cemetery in Nicholasville.

For 32 years of our marriage, I dreaded this task because he was not a believer. He wanted no part of Christ or His gospel. We prayed for him, witnessed to him, sent others to talk to him, and five years ago took him to Manaus, Brazil, to fish for tucunaré (peacock bass), but with the real intention of sharing Christ on the entire trip. We colluded, cooperated and conspired for his soul.

While in Manaus we attended the Nova Igreja Batista, where our close friends David and Pennie Hatcher serve and we stayed in their home. They and all the members of Nova became co-conspirators in our redemptive plot.

I will never forget sitting on the front row of their massive sanctuary surrounded by thousands of bouncing Brazilians worshipping and praising their Savior, smiles beaming from their brown faces. Gene could only recognize one word that they sang over and over—Jesus. He looked at Tanya and said, "These people really believe what they are singing."

When we returned to Kentucky, our niece drove her grandfather home from the airport. She later told us he did not stop talking about the church and about David and Pennie.

The things he went to Brazil to see

did not merit a mention. Instead he was fixated on their deep belief in the gospel.

A few months later his body failed him. He never walked again. The man whose life was as big as the great outdoors suddenly found himself limited to the four walls of a single room and flat on his back in a nursing home.

For the first few days we had to go through red tape to get him a TV and, coupled with his near deafness, he had nothing to watch or hear. The strange providence of God had twisted and brought him to the last place on earth he wanted to be but precisely where he needed to be.

There, in the silence of that room, God brought to his mind all the times someone had shared the gospel with him.

The next day Tanya and I were amazed by his attitude. Frankly, we had anticipated that he would hate the nursing home and might be terribly uncooperative. Instead he was positive, focused, and met this challenge with the same spirit that helped him survive World War II. We were, to be candid, stunned.

Gene put out his hand and said, "Preach to me, Hershey." In 32 years, until this moment, he had never asked me to pray for him or with him about anything. Now I was trying to interpret, "Preach to me" and thought surely he meant for me to pray.

So Tanya took one hand and I the

other, and I prayed. I asked God to strengthen and heal him according to His will, but then I prayed for God to save him. I begged God to help him see that Jesus is the only way. I pleaded with Him to overwhelm him with His love and to overrule his stubborn heart and grant him repentance and faith in Christ alone.

When I said, "Amen," Gene looked me in the eye and said, "I've done that." Tanya and I shot each other a

skeptical and confused glance, both of us worried that he might say such a thing too lightly—though he certainly never had before.

"What?" I asked. "You're telling me that you have repented of your sins and you are trusting in Christ alone for eternal life?"

"Yes," he answered. "I have."

"Now, Gene," I pleaded, "I really need to be sure about this because more than anything I want to spend eternity with you." "Well you will," he said, "because I have done that."

So today, I am not preaching the funeral I dreaded. I am preaching the funeral that I could preach for a Rahab, or a Ruth, or the thief on the cross. It's the story of redemption, of God's love extended to one whom many thought beyond His reach. It's the story of the 5 p.m. worker who gets the same reward as the one who's labored since dawn. It's the story of grace. It's the story of Jesus. (BP)



Hershael York

After 5 years, is there a Great Commission Resurgence?

By Will Hall

When the gavel dropped to end the Southern Baptist Convention's annual meeting in Columbus, Ohio, it also marked the fifth anniversary of "a vision for a Great Commission Resurgence" that was adopted by messengers during the 2010 business sessions in Orlando, Fla.

In a nutshell, a blue ribbon task force—named by then SBC President Johnny Hunt, pastor of First Baptist Church, Woodstock, Ga., and led by Ronnie Floyd, pastor of Cross Church, Northwest Ark., who now serves as president of the Convention—developed seven components of a plan "to mobilize Southern Baptists as a Great Commission people" with the goal of "penetrating the lostness" in North America and around the world.

Theirs was a daunting task, given the extent of the growing lostness in our country and abroad, and the apparent waning effectiveness of Southern Baptists in sharing the gospel.

But, after so much effort was expended to convince somewhat skeptical Southern Baptists (reports varied on whether the "show-of-hands" vote was 60-40, 80-20 or 3-1 in favor) that these actions were "of vital importance to the future of our denomination" and "key to making immediate progress toward a Great Commission Resurgence," it is reasonable for Southern Baptists to expect to see some timely positive results.

In the business world, the research literature suggests it takes 2-4 years to see the results of a strategic initiative in the performance of a company.

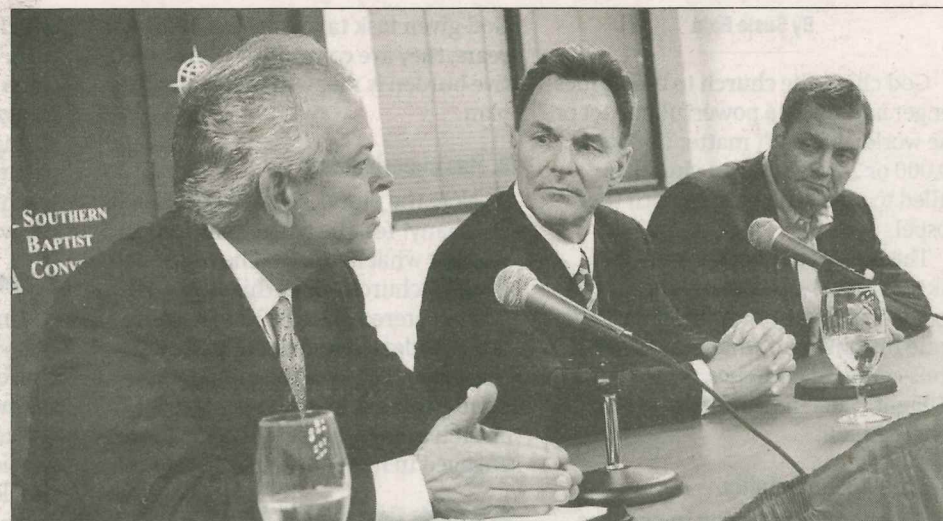
To be fair, the Southern Baptist Convention does not operate like the typical corporation with regard to the relationship it maintains with the nearly 46,500 congregations which cooperate at various levels (local, state and national) in missions and ministries. However, these autonomous local bodies support state and national causes believing the leadership at both levels makes a difference in the collective work of Southern Baptists. So, the five year mark seems a rational point to take a look at how far along the GCR national initiative has moved the Southern Baptist Convention.

NEWS ANALYSIS

COMPONENTS ONE AND TWO

The task force framed all of its recommendations in the context of a mission statement and core values designed to facilitate our convention of churches "working together more faithfully and effectively" in creating "a new and healthy culture."

The eight core values (Christ-likeness, truth, unity, relationships, trust, future, local church and kingdom) are well-stated ideals and actionable, but difficult to measure. The mission statement ("... to present the gospel of Jesus Christ to every person in the world and to make disciples of all the nations") essentially is a restatement



GCR Task Force members (l-r) Johnny Hunt, Ronnie Floyd and Albert Mohler Jr., took questions for about 45 minutes from press members at the Orlando SBC meeting. Many of the questions concerned proposed changes to the North American Mission Board. (BP file photo)

of Matthew 28:19-20, except, it omits mention of baptism—which is a key measure of effectiveness in assessing mission success.

In 2010, LifeWay reported 331,008 baptisms in the United States and the International Mission Board announced 360,876 baptisms overseas.

Five years later, both disclosed fairly large drops in their respective data.

The number of conversions fell to 305,301 at home (a five-year loss of 25,707), according to the 2015 Annual Church Profile summary, and IMB's 2015 Fast Facts show a dip to 190,957 spiritual births

abroad. (However, it is not known how much of the 169,919 slump is due to an IMB procedural change started in 2010 to "no longer include reports from partner conventions and unions" in order to more accurately reflect "the board's work and influence" in the field. Also, although overseas baptisms have fallen from 2010 levels, the 2015 total exceeds the 114,571 baptisms in 2014.)

COMPONENTS THREE, FOUR, SIX, SEVEN Giving

Although the task force did not set specific goals related to evangelism and

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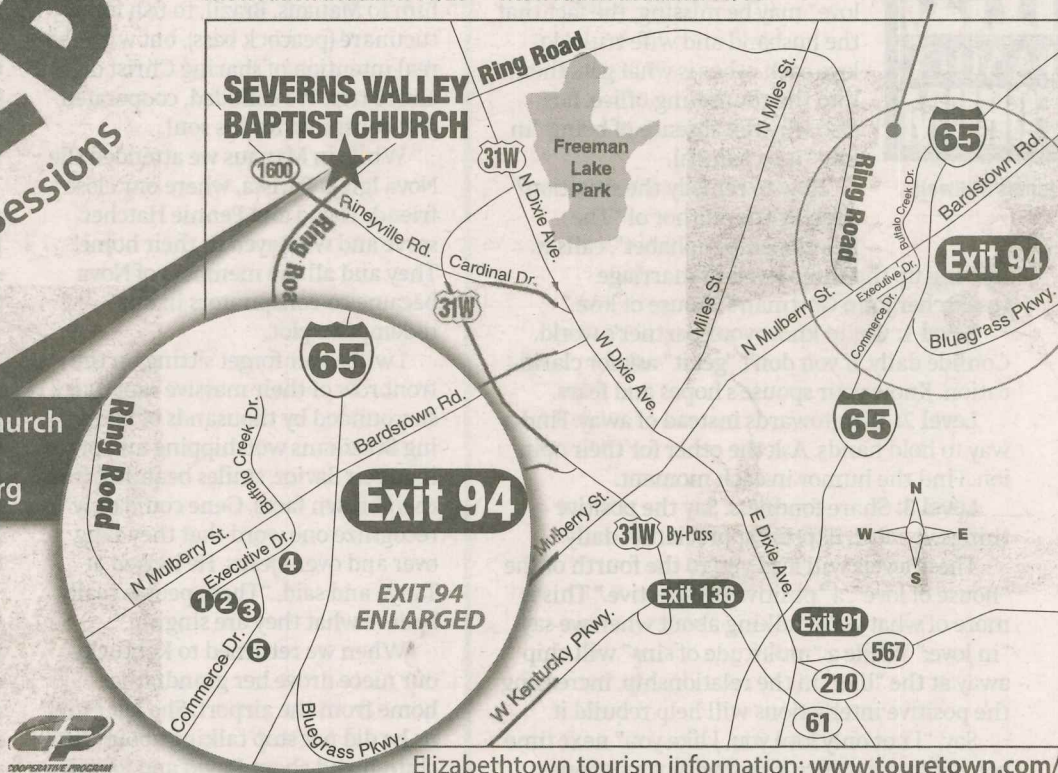
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baptisms, in the four statements related to giving and funding, three contained benchmarks about finances.

Calling for “a new level of sacrificial giving” as part of COMPONENT THREE, the ad hoc committee urged churches “to increase the percentage of their Cooperative Program giving,” prevailed upon state conventions to forward a greater percentage of CP funds to national causes, and, asked SBC entities to maximize use of CP monies for taking the gospel to the nations and leading SBC churches to do the same.

They also took action to “celebrate every dollar given”—another way of saying that churches, and pastors, should get credit for contributions to SBC work, even if outside the channels of the Cooperative Program and special mission offerings for the IMB and the North American Mission Board.

To this end, the panel crafted a special category, “Great Commission Giving,” into which the CP, Lottie Moon Christmas Offering and Annie Armstrong Easter Offering are lumped together with other designated gifts deemed as contributing to local, state or national Southern Baptist work. This category did not replace Total Missions Expenditures but was added as a new measure of effectiveness.

Implemented in 2011, GCG amounted to \$695,694,322. It has varied during subsequent years, but was reported in 2015 as \$637,498,179, a \$58 million drop from its beginning (and a hefty decline from the \$777,452,820 recorded during the previous year).

As for CP, \$191,763,153 was contributed for the fiscal year ending Sept. 30, 2010, compared with \$186,567,611 received during the fiscal year ending Sept. 30, 2014 (although Baptist Press announced in June that receipts to this point in 2015 are 2 percent ahead of donations for the same time frame in 2014).

The final report also called on Southern Baptists to adopt giving goals “no less than \$200 million annually” for the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering and “\$100 million annually” through the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering.

The LMCO goal has remained steady at \$175 million from 2010 through 2015, but the annual collection reached a record \$154 million two years ago before dropping by about \$1 million last year.

The AAEO undulated between \$54 million and \$56 million, or so, from 2010-2013 before reaching \$57 million during

the last fiscal year. Meanwhile, trustees dropped the annual goal from the \$70 million mark for 2010 to the \$60 million target for 2015.

Church planting

COMPONENT FOUR was crafted with the priority of “liberating NAMB to conduct and direct a strategy for reaching the United States and Canada with the gospel and planting gospel churches.”

The key recommendation that emerged from this discussion was the “phasing out of Cooperative Agreements” with state conventions, affecting about \$51 million in funding. In essence, these funds were redirected from state conventions, and NAMB’s role for nurturing pioneer state conventions was “left” for the larger state conventions to pick up.

NAMB did not actually add \$51 million to its budget. But essentially, that was the effect.

Meanwhile, NAMB missionaries would no longer receive support from states—meaning they would report solely to NAMB and not be jointly supported with state conventions.

So how has church planting improved?

The data does not allow assessment of whether NAMB has succeeded in reprioritizing “to reach metropolitan areas and underserved people groups” as called for by the task force. However, the numbers show that churches planted after the adoption of the GCR recommendations essentially are as healthy as they historically have been in the SBC.

For instance, NAMB shared in 2015 that the “church planting class of 2010” started with 943 church plants with 757 surviving through 2013 (the latest ACP report at the time)—or about 80 percent.

According to findings from the Church Survivability and Health Study 2007, about 81 percent of church plants survive through year three. So the class of 2010 is on target with regard to this metric.

In its 2015 statement, NAMB did not release actual numbers for worship attendance, membership and CP giving for the class of 2010, opting instead to cite percent changes in the averages from year two to year three. But, it is possible to make comparisons with the CSHS 2007 church planting data:

- 7 percent growth in membership (membership information was not assessed in the CSHS 2007 research)
- 20 percent jump in attendance (compared to an estimated 18 percentage point increase, or 33 percent jump, for the average church plant in the CSHS 2007 report)

- a ratio of one baptism for every 13 members (church plants in the CSHS 2007 study typically baptized 13 people in year three while averaging about 73 in worship service, for a ratio of about 1:6)

NAMB also shared that altogether, the class of 2010 contributed \$3.3 million to missions (up 12 percent for the year), or just under \$4,360 of giving per church plant (through the Cooperative Program, LMCO and AAEO, combined).

Total receipts for church plants in the CSHS 2007 averaged \$70,000 per congregation, but there was no data showing how much each church plant spent on cooperative ministries and missions.

Except for baptism-to-attendance ratios, the class of 2010 appears to be on par with previous church planting year groups. That’s not to dismiss the importance of this metric—it’s an essential

□ See Resurgence? ... Page 11



Ronnie Floyd, chair of the Great Commission Resurgence Task Force and pastor of First Baptist Church of Springdale, Ark., speaks about the GCR before nearly 11,000 messengers at the annual meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention in 2010. Messengers voted to adopt the recommendations of the task force.

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Campbellsville University has 126 students serving in summer mission work

A total of 126 students from Campbellsville University are serving in missions and ministry projects this summer.

“At Campbellsville University, we seek to be unapologetically Christ centered in our focus to higher education, and a basic part of our mission is that we follow the model of Christ in serving others in His name,” Dr. John Chowning, vice president for church and external relations and executive assistant to the president, said.

Students will serve at LifeWay CentriFuge/M-Fuge Camps, Crossings Camps, mission trips and ministry internships in Taiwan, Ecuador, Ukraine, Haiti, China, Malta, El Salvador, Ireland and Belize; and church camps around the United States.



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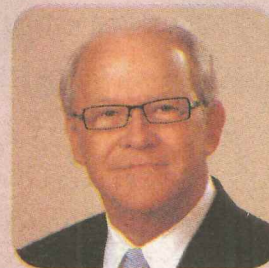
Dr. Frank S. Page,
president and chief executive officer
of the Southern Baptist Convention
Executive Committee,
to speak at CU on Sept. 29-30

Page will be speaking on “Mis-
sions and Servant Evangelism.”

Sept. 29 will be a Baptist
Heritage Lecture Series event
with a conversation to students.
The event starts at 5 p.m. EDT in
the Badgett Academic Support Center.

Sept. 30 will be a chapel service at 10 a.m.
EDT in Ransdell Chapel.

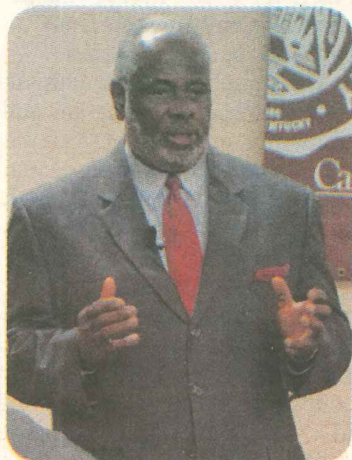
Both events are open to the public.





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Dr. Robert Smith speaks at CU's CALL Conference

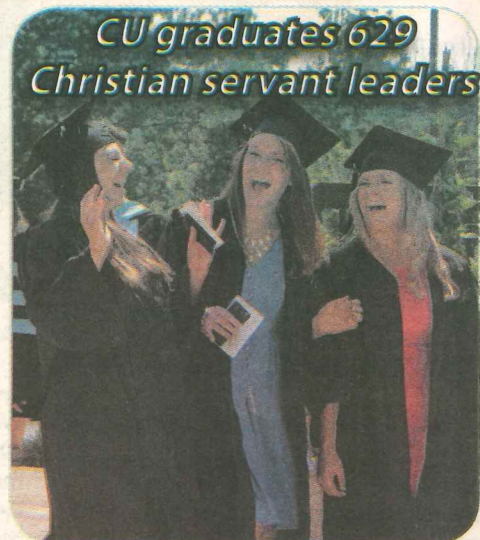


CU's The CALL Conference accomplished its goal of teaching evangelistic preaching and how best to reach people for Christ.

Dr. Robert Smith, left, Charles T. Carter Baptist Chair of Divinity at Beeson Divinity School, led the discussion at CU's Louisville Education Center, speaking about the authoritative and powerful message of the Word of God.

The conference brought together "brothers and sisters of various ethnicities and races and denominations united to learn from a master practitioner of preaching," according to Dr. John Hurtgen, dean of the School of Theology.

A total of 75 people attended the conference.



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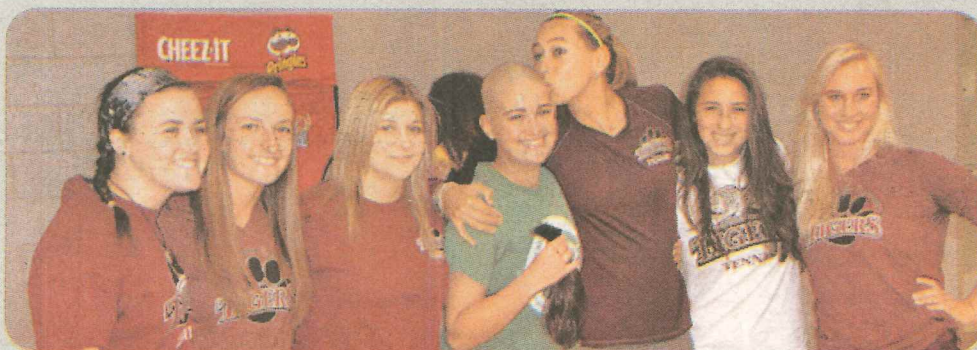
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Dr. G. Ted Taylor, director of church outreach,
CU FIRST CLASS and professor of theology
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CU's St. Baldrick's raises over \$25,000 for children's cancer at latest event

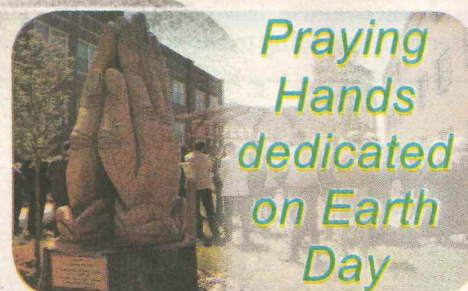


Haley Dallas, fourth from left, receives a kiss on her newly shaved head from her fellow Lady Tiger Tennis Team member Megan Charity after Haley shaved her head at St. Baldrick's.

Shaving heads for a cure has brought in nearly \$25,000 for the St. Baldrick's Foundation from St. Baldrick's "Shaving for a Cure" at CU.

Forty-six men, women and children gathered in Powell Athletic Center to shave their heads to raise money for children with cancer. The event brought in \$18,000 for head shaving, with an April Color to Conquer event raising \$7,000, with the total amount collected being nearly \$25,000.

This year marks the eighth year for St. Baldrick's in Campbellsville. Since it has started, \$300,000 has been raised with the help of Dance Maroon and Color to Conquer 5K events in Campbellsville.



Dr. Twyla Hernandez is panelist on George Bullard's Network

George Bullard, head of the Faith Soaring Learning Community network, invited Dr. Twyla Hernandez, assistant professor of Christian missions at CU, to be a call presenter on a panel to discuss her new journal, "Christianity does not equal U.S.: A Global Perspective." The journal was written in response to Pew Research Center's article regarding the decline of Christianity in the U.S.

"I wanted everyone to know that Christianity is alive and well and even flourishing in other parts of the world," she said.

Still time to apply for fall! campbellsville.edu

Glenville Baptists celebrate 150 years of ministry

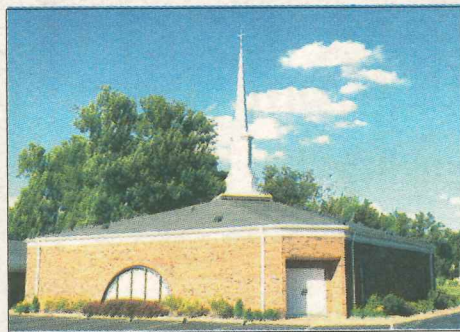
By Myriah Snyder

Utica—Glenville Baptist in Utica celebrated 150 years of ministry on July 19.

The celebration, part of the church's "Year of Jubilee," included morning worship, with a sermon by Ronald Rose, a former pastor of Glenville, potluck dinner on the grounds, and an afternoon service featuring remembrances of former pastors and music ministers.

"The passage that we used for the 'Year of Jubilee' comes from the book of Acts where it talks about the characteristics of the growing, early church. They heard the disciples teaching, they met together, they broke bread regularly, they worshipped, and God did miraculous signs among them," Charles Thomas, pastor of Glenville since 2001, said.

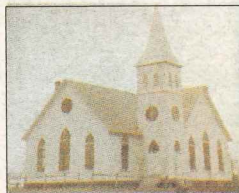
"We, too, need to continue these things. And if we do and we're faithful in our part in it, it's up to God to add to our number."



It's God's church," he said.

Rose spoke from 2 Timothy 1:5 on being prepared for the future, and the Wednesday before, a time capsule from 1984—filled with pictures, notes and documents—was opened for viewing at the service. About 220 people, more than double the average attendance, celebrated with the church that day.

Former pastors, including Richard Waggener, Wendell Sandefur, Keith Page



and T.A. Prickett, attended the celebration, as well as many former members and music ministers. "So many people came home. It was just a wonderful celebration," said Shelia Iglehart, chair of the 150th Anniversary committee and 42-year member of Glenville. "We are a loving church. We are a mission minded church. It's just a home for me."

Jerry Tooley, director of missions for Daviess McLean Baptist Association, spoke, and the church was recognized via a declaration by the local Representative and a letter from the Office of the President of the United States. Missionaries who claim the church as their home sent a letter also.

Since last July, the church has had various ministers preach and former music

ministers come back to lead worship as part of their 150th anniversary.

Glenville Baptist Church was organized in 1865 in a log cabin. The church took the name of Glenville from a nearby village, and the charter members came from Brushy Fork and Mt. Liberty Baptist churches. The church requested admission into the Daviess McLean Association, and was unanimously received that same year.

Glenville used the cabin for three years and built a sanctuary in 1868. They used that building until 1904, when a new house of worship was constructed. The current sanctuary, the fourth structure used by the church, was dedicated in 1984.

Thomas' goal for the future of Glenville is "to remain focused outward on the community and on people all the way around the world."

"We're a rural church, a smaller church, but we can be big in purpose," Thomas said. (WR)

Southern Seminary student, father of 4, dies in crash

Louisville—Wade Stephenson, a Southern Seminary M.Div. student, was killed in a July 23 crash.

A car crash in southern Indiana July 23 claimed the life of a husband and father of four who was also a Master of Divinity student at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary.

Wade Alan Stephenson, 42, was struck near Posey Chapel Road and Kansas Church Road in Fredericksburg, Ind., when another vehicle drove through the intersection, according to a news release

from the Washington County Sheriff. Stephenson was airlifted and died shortly after arrival at University of Louisville Hospital.

"We are thankful for Wade's life and witness, and we pray that his family will know the peace from Christ that passes all understanding," said Southern Seminary President Albert Mohler Jr. "We are stunned by this tragedy and are reminded all over again that our only hope—and our certain hope—is found in the gospel of Christ."

Stephenson, a member of Sovereign Grace Church of Louisville, began taking classes at Southern Seminary in 2014. Southern Seminary hosted a memorial service in Heritage Hall with his family, church members, and seminary community.

He is survived by his wife of 12 years, Becca, their three daughters and soon-to-be-born son. Stephenson worked as a piano technician and graduated from Salem High School and Indiana University Southeast. (SBTS)



Wade Stephenson, 42, with wife Becca and three daughters.



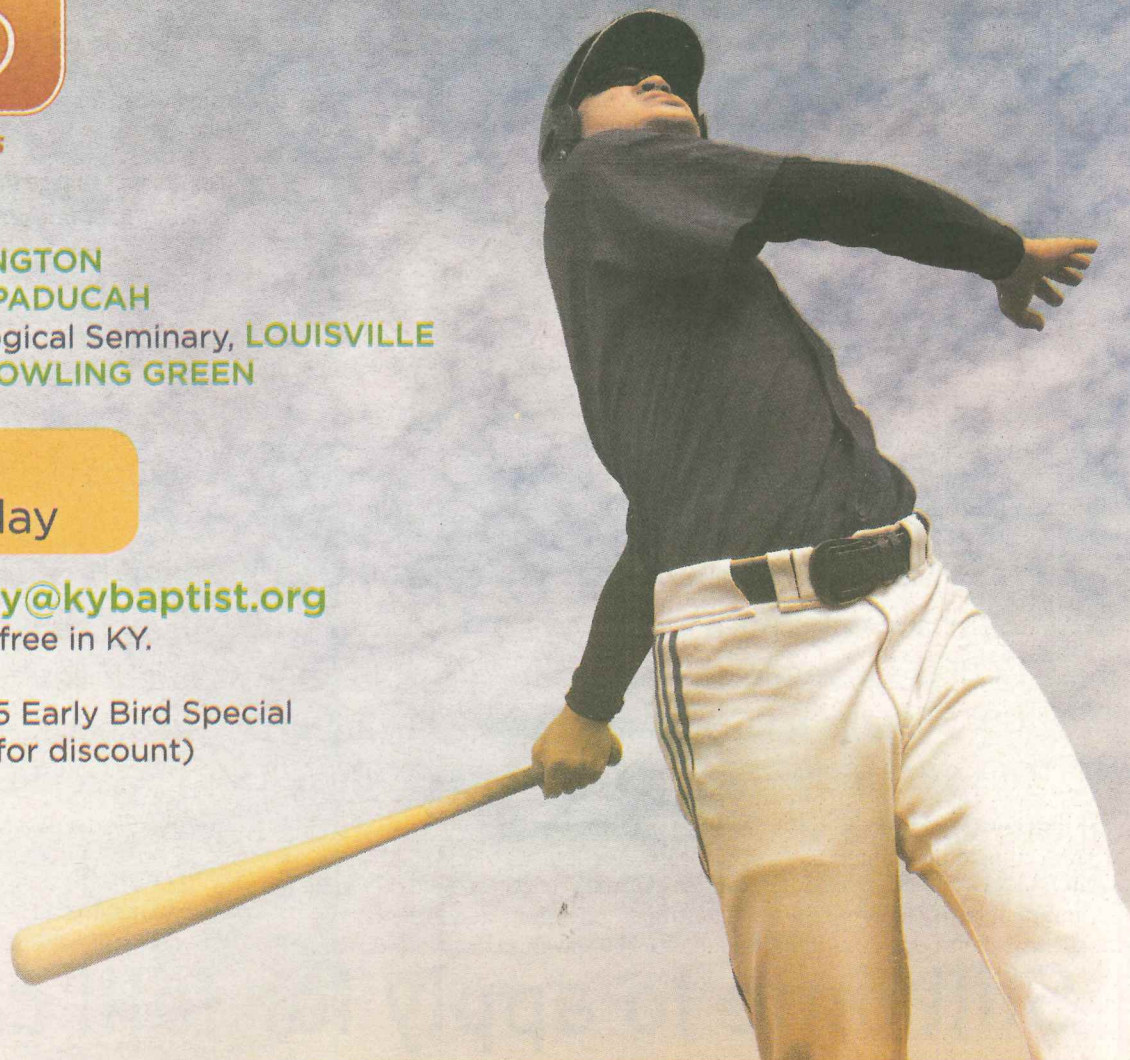
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Resurgence?

Continued from page 7

measure of evangelistic effectiveness. But a single year of low baptism data may not point to trouble.

If the class of 2010 continues to lag their peer groups, Southern Baptists might have cause for concern. Likewise, if the classes of 2011-2015 aren't keeping pace, then it would be reasonable to suspect something systemic might be amiss.

In any case, even with good news about the 2010 cohort, the 757 church plants still existing today do not come close to meeting the need that existed in 2010, and our church plant numbers in subsequent years have not kept up with the needs that have expanded each year since.

The population of the United States increased by 11 million people from 2010 through the start of this year (about half the growth was the result of immigration), creating the need for an estimated 110,000 new churches (based on an average of 100 members per congregation).

Altogether, an estimated 30 percent of the U.S. population is not Christian—about 96 million—meaning we need about 960,000 new church plants, if that is going to be our main means of evangelizing the lost.

Shifting locus and funding

The task force used COMPONENT SIX to state their belief that “the state conventions must take the lead” in stewardship education and promotion of the Cooperative Program.

Specifically, their recommendation encouraged the SBC Executive Committee, which has responsibility for both ministry assignments, “to work with the state conventions ... in developing a strategy for encouraging our churches to greater participation and investment in the Cooperative Program.”

Citing urgency, they set a deadline of 2013.

The 2011 SBC Annual documents that the SBC EC adopted a recommendation that year “stating it will pursue an enhanced relationship among and between the state conventions, the associations, the entities and the Executive Committee for the purpose of developing an holistic and unified approach in promoting the entire Cooperative Program and stewardship education across the Southern Baptist Convention.”

COMPONENT SEVEN had a more tangible impact on the SBC EC.

The 23 members of the GCR panel expressed hope “to see Southern Baptists break the ‘50 percent barrier’” by taking one percentage point from the Executive Committee’s allocation of 3.4 percent of the CP budget for national entities, and redirecting it to the IMB.

In real terms, that meant just under a \$2 million loss for the Executive Committee, which had a 2010 budget of about \$6.9 million (including funds from all sources).

To date, the Executive Committee has reduced its CP allotment to 2.99 percent, boosting the IMB’s share of the SBC Cooperative Program Allocation Budget to 50.41 percent.

No other national entity has contributed any portion of their respective CP allocation to the IMB.

But, the IMB also receives about 69 percent of all designated funds given to national causes, and its \$300 million



Led by Johnny Hunt, president of the Southern Baptist Convention, members of the Great Commission Resurgence Task Force hold their ballots up in favor of passing the recommendations during the 2010 SBC annual meeting at the Orange County Convention Center in Orlando, Fla. (Photo by Matt Miller)

operating budget is significantly more than any other national entity which receives CP support.

COMPONENT FIVE

The suggestion to blur the divide between “home” and “foreign” missions by letting the IMB expand its ministry assignment to include “reaching unreached and underserved people groups without regard to any geographic limitation,” raised suspicions of a move to merge the NAMB with the IMB—particularly in light of comments a year earlier by NAMB’s chairman of trustees that Southern Baptists should have “a singular world mission agency.”

But what actually resulted was a change in the IMB’s ministry assignments to allow them to “provide specialized, defined and agreed upon assistance to the North American Mission Board in assisting churches to reach unreached and underserved people groups within the United States and Canada.”

News articles have highlighted how teams from the two missions groups already have met at least twice “to trade ideas,” and, for “cross-pollination” which could “multiply the effectiveness of reaching the unreached wherever they are.”

Moving forward

Unfortunately, despite the broad scope of recommendations by the Great Commission Task Force, as yet, these reforms have not turned around the negative trends identified as signs the “Great Commission commitment is diminishing among us.”

So what are Southern Baptists to do?

En masse

Mass evangelism might be one answer.

At the heart of the matter, it’s simple math.

If we desire mass baptisms, we should be emphasizing mass evangelism efforts.

Naysayers have criticized that “a program of evangelism” like mass evangelism is a great approach “if the 1950s come back.”

But Billy Graham proved it can work in major urban settings—3.2 million professions of faith over the course of 417 crusades. Other Southern Baptist evangelists like Georgia’s Rick Gage have shown it continues to work in small towns, too—about 2,900 salvation decisions during eight U.S. campaigns, 2013-2014; and, Louisiana’s Bill Britt has proved its effectiveness overseas, at least 70 times, recording 20,000 salvation decisions during a

four-day outreach in Kenya in 2005, for example. Moreover, all of these evangelists emphasize discipleship in prepping churches for the work that takes place after each campaign.

On fertile ground

Likewise, perhaps we should consider the proposal by Robin Dale Hadaway, professor of missions at Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Kansas City, Mo.

In October 2014, Hadaway offered that part of the problem with international missions has been a focus on reaching resistant people groups at the expense of a harvest among receptive populations.

He argued for at least a balance in where we concentrate our resources, suggesting we are leaving sheaves of crops in the fields while trying to gather a few grains among thistles. He did not recommend Southern Baptists abandon such countries, but reasoned that we should at least consider whether our strategy based on reaching people groups is the best approach for reaching more lost individuals.

His proposal to focus more on “receptive” regions and less on “resistant” ones might even have value for how we do evangelism in the U.S.

Identify and engage the experts

There are some real evangelism

experts out there, experienced soul winners with track records to prove it, and we should be listening to them.

These aren’t necessarily personalities who grace conference platforms, year in and year out, nor prolific writers with multiple titles on the shelves of LifeWay’s stores, or consultants with hyper-worded biographies. They simply are men and women gifted by God and committed to the task of evangelism.

We don’t need to take them out of the field, where they are desperately needed. But we can ask them to help us develop a plan for reaching the lost on the scale we know is required. Besides, before committing significant resources to whatever plan they might suggest, we can follow Daniel’s example and test the concept.

Naaman, the commanding general of the Syrian army, resisted when Elisha sent word for him to wash in the Jordan seven times in order to be healed. That is, until a servant asked Naaman if he would have complied if the prophet had told him to do something great.

The lesson? It doesn’t take something grand to make a big difference, just do what works.

Hall is editor of the Baptist Message of Louisiana, from which this article is reprinted.

Remembering Deceased Kentucky Baptist Leaders

At its annual meeting in November, the Kentucky Baptist Convention wishes to recognize Kentucky Baptist ministers, missionaries, educators, institutional leaders, laypersons and staff who died during the past convention year (September 1, 2014 through August 31, 2015).

To ensure that all deserving servants are remembered, we need your help. If you know of a Kentucky Baptist whose life of Christian service ended this past year, please notify us.

Submit the following information about the deceased by September 5:

- full name
- dates of birth and death
- active or retired status
- church/association/state where member
- brief description of service or ministry worthy of recognition

Send by letter to:
Wanda Karolyi/KBC Executive Office
PO Box 43433
Louisville KY 40253-0433

Send by email to:
wanda.karolyi@kybaptist.org

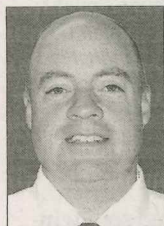


Exciting new construction underway

The first few days of July ushered in the demolition of Carnahan Hall. The first Carnahan Hall was a girls' dorm built in 1905 and made possible by a \$10,000 gift from Mr. and Mrs. Robert Carnahan, some of Oneida's greatest benefactors in our early days. The first building was demolished in 1967.

The second Carnahan Hall was built in 1968, honoring this early benefactor and Oneida storekeeper.

This is Oneida



Larry Gritton

In late 2013 we were blessed with an amazing legacy gift. After much thought, prayer and discussion with our trustees, it was decided to use this gift to build a new boys' dormitory. Construction is now underway and the new building, Carnahan-Daugherty Hall, will house 200 young men from all over the world.

Our K-5 expansion, which will bring more local, commuting boys and girls to our campus once again, will demand more classroom space. Therefore, the new building will also

include an academic floor. The academic portion of the building will be called the A.B. and Irene Colvin Academic Center.

A.B. Colvin, otherwise known as "Mr. Kentucky Baptist," served our convention in multiple capacities over the years and also served as special assistant to the president at Oneida from 1985 through 2003. A gift from the Colvin family is helping make the academic portion of the building a reality.

Lord willing, this building will be completed for the 2015-16 school year. Once the building is complete, we will need furnishings. We have already received some gifts designated for furniture for this new facility.

In a 1902 edition of The Baptist Argus, our founder, James Anderson Burns, said, "Now it may be in the providence of God, that some of our friends will kindly engage to furnish these rooms (McMurray Hall) in memory of relatives."

A movement of this kind has been started by a few persons consenting to furnish one room each. These

rooms can be furnished at a very low cost, and I think it would be a great benefit to a boy to occupy such a room and see daily the name in whose name it was furnished."

Some 113 years after Professor Burns made his plea, I now ask if you would consider helping furnish a room so that our young men can live and learn in a comfortable environment as they reside here in their home away from home. For each \$2,500 or larger gift that comes in, we will place a sign just outside of the room that says, "This Room Furnished By _____." Perhaps your church would want to furnish a room or perhaps you would want to furnish a room in someone's memory.

We are excited about this new facility for our young men, and we are grateful to all of our friends and supporters who have made and are continuing to make this possible.

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 and @lgritton.

Planned Parenthood

Continued from page 1

moratorium on funds for PPFA while Congress investigates the organization. "We will not give up and we will not stand down."

Sen. Joni Ernst, R-Iowa, sponsor of the rejected Senate defunding bill, said she will continue to urge the Department of Health and Human Services to cooperate with investigations of Planned Parenthood. "I remain committed to getting these answers because protecting our most vulnerable is an important measure of any society," she said.

The roll-call vote demonstrated the Democratic Party's continued commitment to Planned Parenthood and other abortion rights organizations. Only two Democrats—Sens. Joe Donnelly of Indiana and Joe Manchin of West Virginia—voted to bring the bill to the floor.

Sen. Mark Kirk of Illinois was the lone Republican to oppose advancing the legislation. Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell also voted "nay," but only in order to be able to bring the bill up again as required by Senate rules. Sen. Lindsey Graham, R-S.C., would have added another vote for cloture, but he missed the roll call to be in New Hampshire for a GOP presidential candidate forum.

On Aug. 4, a Planned Parenthood executive criticized the defunding attempts as "political games."

Dawn Laguens, PPFA's executive vice president, said on CNN, "What we're seeing here are attacks on people's ability to get health care. We're seeing attacks that are intended, in their end analysis, to get rid of safe, legal abortion in this country and destroy Planned Parenthood, who stands up for the reproductive health rights and freedom of women and all people in this country."

Foes of the defunding effort have defended the need for Planned Parenthood's services—and the need for federal funding of the organization—to women, especially those with lower incomes. They also have criticized the videos as fraudulent.

Ernst's bill would maintain federal funding for women's health at the same level but would transfer money no longer available for Planned Parenthood to other eligible service providers.

The videos, produced by the Center for Medical Progress, show conversations between PPFA officials and individuals portraying representatives of a human biologics firm. On the videos, recorded secretly by a hidden camera, Planned Parenthood executives are shown discussing their ability to provide parts of aborted fetuses for research and their willingness to manipulate the abortion procedure to preserve organs for sale and use.

While CMP releases edited videos of the conversations, it also releases what it describes as full footage of the interactions between PPFA officials and those recording the conversations.

The ERLC and other opponents of government funding of Planned Parenthood have tried in previous congressional sessions to cut off money for the organization and other abortion providers but have fallen short.

In its latest financial report (2013-14), PPFA said it received more than \$528 million in government grants, contracts and reimbursements. It performed 327,653 abortions during 2013. (BP)

Thankful for godly witness of family—Part 2

William Britain is one of our students from the local area. He is thankful for a place like Clear Creek where he can be equipped for God's calling on his life.

Clear Creek Chronicle



Donnie Fox

"The classes at Clear Creek are amazing and they have been such a great tool for me to experience the things I need to be most effective in the ministry God has called me to be involved with," Brittain said. "I could easily say that all of my classes have been my favorite because the entire

faculty does an excellent job in sharing their knowledge.

"One of my recent online classes, Baptist Doctrine, is one that really stands out to me. This class has taught me the importance of

knowing why we, as Baptists, believe what we believe. Just because you grow up in a Baptist church does not always mean that you understand why you believe what you do.

"Before my time at Clear Creek, I used to get frustrated because there were times that I really didn't understand why I believed certain things. This class has helped me to really understand why I believe what I do, and why it is important to know why you believe what you do.

"I know there are others who are called to ministry like me and may be searching for a place to be equipped for the ministry God has called them to be involved with," Brittain said.

"For anyone who feels that God is calling them to ministry training, I would encourage them to explore the possibility of Clear Creek. This is an

amazing school, and the knowledge you learn about the Bible and the church is priceless.

"More important than the knowledge you learn is the wisdom that the staff and faculty share with you. They share their experiences with you while advising you on situations you may be in. They love you as well, and all of those things combined are such a blessing.

"If you are afraid or stuck in the middle about coming to Clear Creek, don't be! If God leads you here, He will empower you to succeed and be who He has called you to be."

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.

Watching your legacy

Recently, my wife, Karen, and I had the great joy of caring for our 21-month-old granddaughter while

Ky. Baptist Foundation



Richard Carnes

our son and daughter-in-law traveled on a weekend trip.

We played, we hugged, we read Bible stories and we ran around the house together, giggling and laughing all the way.

As I listened to each new word and observed each new skill that she was developing, it became abundantly clear that I was observing a major piece of my unfolding legacy.

As I watched her and as she held my hand, walking ever so tentatively at times, it dawned on me that I was blessed to help her take the first of what will be millions of steps toward

her own legacy.

My heart nearly explodes with joy and desire to help her develop her potential and most importantly, come to her own personal relationship with Jesus.

I might also call this experience a part of investing for eternity. This type of investment includes passing on values, perpetuating traditions and promoting ideals for future generations.

Each of us has the opportunity to incorporate this type of investing into our families and similarly into our churches and church related ministries.

There are likely ministries you want to nurture and financially provide for, such as mission endeavors, Christian education programs, children's care, support efforts at your

church and many other ministries for the building of God's kingdom.

As you watch the unfolding of your legacy, consider including charitable gifts in your estate and financial plans.

This type of investing for eternity will assure that your generosity continues beyond your lifetime.

The Kentucky Baptist Foundation staff is available 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

Ky. Baptists partner with Brazilian Baptists

São Paulo, Brazil—Members of Highland Baptist Church in Shelbyville, Crestwood Baptist Church, and High Street Baptist Church in Somerset, joined together on a mission trip with Alto Riviera Baptist Church in the southern region of São Paulo, Brazil, and IMB missionaries Scott and Joyce Pittman.

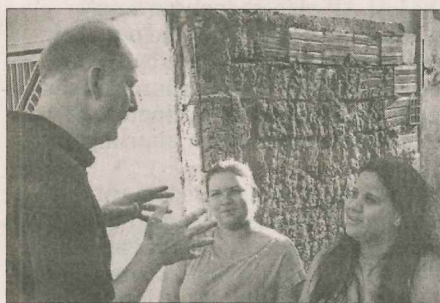
They were the Pittman's first mission team to visit since becoming mega-city strategists in São Paulo. Some of the team members previously had worked with the Pittmans when the missionaries served in Teresina, Brazil, prior to Scott's work as partnership missions team leader for the Kentucky Baptist Convention and Joyce's work at the Western Recorder.

The team made 30 evangelistic visits the first week of June. Five Brazilians made professions of faith, and six others agreed to continue to pray about making that step of faith. They also shared the good news of Jesus Christ through a Vacation Bible School, an Upward basketball clinic and English classes.

Orlando Lima, an Alto Riviera leader, marveled at how a small group of Christ followers armed with "a simple gospel message" could make a difference.

Several members of Alto Riviera led three of the team members through the hilly streets of São Paulo to visit Norma in her home. Norma confirmed she had an on-going relationship with God. Her daughter, Amanda, and daughter-in-law, Gabriella, had not accepted Jesus as their Savior, but they were willing to listen to what the mission team shared.

The mission team presented the gospel using an EvangeCube and offering personal testimonies. Amanda realized her need to repent of her sin and turn to Jesus. Gabriella initially was hesitant, but



These girls accepted Christ. Chris Platt, left, explains the next steps of baptism and how to live for Jesus.

after hearing another testimony, she sensed God was at work in her heart and decided to make her decision.

Gabriella said, "I am happy because I was a little indecisive about what I wanted, but I listened, and after I had a minute to think about it, I decided it was the best thing I could do. It is the best path to follow."

Before leaving the house, Amanda and Gabriella were partnered with mentors so they could be effectively discipled. Alto Riviera Baptist Church is in a section of the city called Jardim Angela where only two Baptist churches serve its nearly 292,000 residents. The Pittmans estimate that Southern Baptists need to plant 27 more churches. Kentucky Baptists churches are needed to become prayer partners that adopt a city district, an existing Baptist church, or a people group within the city.

Further opportunities include becoming a volunteer church that commits to a one-time project or a partnering church that makes a long-term commitment to work with missionaries in a particular area or with a people group. A vision trips is planned Nov. 9-14. For information, email adoptsaopaulo@pobox.com.

MOUNTAINS TO THE MISSISSIPPI

COMPILED BY STAFF

CAMPBELLSVILLE—Taylor County Association will host a WMU Family Missions Fair on Aug. 8 at Campbellsville Church's Christian Life Center from 2-4 p.m.

GRAY—Knox Association is celebrating its churches that have been on mission trips this summer: First, 17 to India; East Barbourville, four to Alaska, two to Africa; Calvary, five to Alaska; Swan Pond, four to Alaska; and Artemus, two to Alaska.

LOUISVILLE—Cardinal Hill Church has called **Jammie Vance** as pastor.

Rutledge Road Church celebrated the 25th anniversary of **John Duty** as pastor.

Antioch Church will host Perspectives on the World Christian Movement on Thursday nights, Aug. 20-Nov. 19, 6-9 pm. The discipleship/missions class examines the world Christian movement from biblical, cultural, historical and strategic perspectives. Learn from pastors, missionaries, professors, mobilizers, church planters and others. Contact **Mark Mihalyov** at mmihalyov@yahoo.com.

MAYFIELD—Graves Association had several churches involved in mission trips to Omaha, Nebraska and Sioux City in July.

MOUNT VERNON—Thirteen volunteers from Rockcastle Association traveled to Managua, Nicaragua. They reported 825 professions of faith. The volunteers represented five of the association's churches.

PIKEVILLE—First Church called **John Lucas** as senior pastor on July 26. He has been associate pastor since 2009. Meta Church participated in a World Changers trip in July.

VERSAILLES—Versailles Church partnered with Hope Renewed International July 18-26. The missions team helped serve, equip and empower residents of Guatemala through several projects and ministries, including a girl's home, construction work on a boy's transition home, a preschool built in a city dump, and working in slum areas. **Michael Cabell** is pastor.

Pinckard Church has called **Mike James** as pastor. James previously served at Judson Church in Nashville and also has been a regional consultant for the Kentucky Baptist Convention.



August

- 22** Super Saturday, Immanuel Baptist Church, Lexington
- 29** Super Saturday, Lone Oak First Baptist Church, Paducah

September

- 1** September Power Lunch, Kentucky Baptist Building, Louisville
- 4-5** Basic Training Journey for Church Planters, Kentucky Baptist Building, Louisville
- 12** Super Saturday, Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville
- 16-18** Kentucky Missionary Retreat, Cumberland Falls Resort State Park, Corbin
- 18-19** Disaster Relief Chaplaincy Training, Rich Pond Baptist Church, Bowling Green
- 19** CA-BOOM!, Aberdeen Baptist Church, Morgantown
- 19** Disaster Relief Training Phases 1 & 2, Rich Pond Baptist Church, Bowling Green
- 19** Super Saturday, Edgewood Baptist Church, Bowling Green

Crossings sees many 'firsts'

We are rapidly approaching the end to another summer of Crossings. While there are similarities in camp from year to year, each summer has certain unique aspects. This is the 16th year of Crossings and, believe it or not, this year included many "firsts" for Crossings.

For the first time, we will see new records in many aspects of camp. Exactly what records are set will be coming in our next article.

Obviously, with record numbers of attendance, we have many "highest-ever" numbers, but I would like to focus on one particular number.

For the first time, we were blessed with a record number of summer staff that so faithfully served the Lord this year. We started the summer with approximately 100 college-age students.

They were bombarded with learning to do numerous tasks from cooking/serving food to facilitating zip lines and most anything in between.

They would each day hear emotionally challenging stories from students representing nearly 600 churches from over 18 states.

They endured 18 hour workdays with at times heat indexes of over 110 degrees. I could continue to list items, but in short they endured much.

During our exit interviews as

summer winds down, the most significant part is what we have heard from them about their favorite part of the summer.

These statements illustrate the grace of our God as so many would recount their thankfulness for the difficulties they experienced throughout the summer.

Through these difficulties they were drawn closer to God as He sanctified them in the refining fire of camp life.

You may think camp is only for the campers, but that is not correct. Camp is for all involved—from those praying for students, those people who sacrificially gave so students could attend, the bus drivers, chaperones, youth ministers, and our staff alike.

God has used this summer to work in the lives of our staff more than any before to conform all of us more into the image of His Son. We have been truly blessed beyond works this year by His grace through difficulties.

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

Crossings Ministries



David Melber

It's not too late!

On Aug. 31 we will close the books on the 2014-15 Eliza Broadus Offering. It has been a good year, though we have not reached our offering goal of \$1.25 million. We are \$50,000 short. It is not too late to give. Online giving is an option.

Reports on grants given to associations and to various ministries across Kentucky from this year's offering are coming in. Let me share a few.

■ **Refuge Ministry** reaches out to internationals living in Louisville. Jonathan Braden wrote: "This grant provided funds to replenish resources (Bibles, books, videos and more), provided opportunities for kids and youth, and helped Refuge enter into new communities."

■ **Faith Family Ministries** reported, "The money was used on an Easter/2nd anniversary flyer. We wanted to saturate our community and get the word out about FFM. We had 114 present with 34 first-time guests, most of whom came in response to the flyer. ... We plan another in the fall."

■ **A New Hope Pregnancy Center** in Shepherdsville wrote, "God continues to bless and guide us with this amazing ministry in Bullitt County. We have already assisted over 100 men, women and children this year with free resources ... given to those in unplanned pregnancies and to new moms and dads in our area."

■ **First Priority Student Outreach** in

Stanford reported that the EBO grant helped "to train Christian students through class settings on how to share their faith at school."

There have been 27 salvations in public schools this year in Central Kentucky due to these training sessions."

■ **Shepherd's Pantry** in Lynch purchased "Steps to Peace with God" to give with food provided to families in need.

■ **South Union/Mt. Zion Association** held an evangelism conference. EBO funds provided tracts and New Testaments for participants.

■ **Tate's Creek Association** assisted campus ministry at Berea College with Bible study resources and summer outreach activities.

Learn "The Heart of the Story" of more gospel-centered ministries in Kentucky through our 2015 missions materials. Learn about these ministries in the State Missions Special Edition, which will be in the Sept. 8 issue of the Western Recorder. Use it as a guide to pray for missions.

Let the stories inspire your giving to the Eliza Broadus Offering. For information, visit www.kywmu.org/ebo.

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

EBO at Work



Joy Bolton

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 resumés to Music Ministry Search Team at 4410 Alexandria Pike, Cold Spring, KY 41076. Job description available at <http://fbccs.com>.

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

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

Ave, Ft. Thomas, KY 41075 or email to pastorsearchhabtc@fuse.net.

SEEKING: 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 resumé to: Personnel c/o Columbia Baptist Church, 201 Greensburg St, Columbia, KY 42728.

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

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 resumé 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@burlington-baptist.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.

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 resumé 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 resumé 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 resumés to bbcbishop@bellsouth.net or mail them to 4613 Greenwood Rd, Louisville, KY 40258.

SEEKING: Eastern Kentucky church seeking pastor to lead a congregation averaging 100-150 in regular attendance. Send resume and preaching dvd or cd to First Baptist Church, P.O. Box 241, McDowell, KY 41647, Attention: Pulpit Committee.

SEEKING: First Baptist Church of Madisonville, Ky., is prayerfully trusting in the Lord as we seek a senior pastor, one who will lead and shepherd our congregation. resumés will be accepted until 9/30/15. Please send resumés to PSC, FBC Madisonville, P.O. Box 17, Madisonville, KY 42431 or e-mail to searchfbcmadisonville@gmail.com.

SEEKING: Marrowbone Missionary Baptist Church, located at 3783 Marrowbone Creek Rd., Elkhorn City, KY 41522, is seeking a bi-vocational pastor. We are a mid-sized Southern Baptist church with a congregation of approximately 100-150. It is our desire to call a person to this position who shares our core values and beliefs; possesses and

exhibits the traits of strong leadership through humility; and genuinely desires being part of a relationship-based family of believers. If God is leading you to our church, we would love to hear from you. Please send resumé to: P.O. Box 127, Ashcamp, KY 41512, or email us at: marrowbonebaptist@gmail.com

SEEKING: Milton Baptist Church, located in Milton, Ky, is seeking a full-time pastor. This person would lead, teach and serve members to do God's work. Please send resumés to: Milton Baptist Church 10078 Highway 421 North Milton, KY 40045, or kylehelton_32@yahoo.com. All resumés considered must be postmarked prior to Sept. 5.

SEEKING: Kirksville Baptist Church is currently seeking the man God is calling to serve as our next pastor. Our church was established in 1838 and is located in Richmond, Ky., with a membership of 653. We are a member of the Southern Baptist Convention that adopted the Baptist Faith and Message 2000 as our doctrinal position. We are very mission driven and support the Cooperative Program of the Southern Baptist Convention. God has blessed our church with strong leadership and pray our next pastor will have those same leadership skills but need not be a CEO of all, but an under shepherd with the ability to lead and feed the flock. If you feel God inspired to pursue more information, please send your resumé to Pastor Search Committee, P.O. Box 877, Richmond, KY 40476, or e-mail to S.Hammons@bhtool-works.com. Our close date for resumés will be Oct. 1, 2015.

SEEKING: First Baptist Church, Vanceburg, Ky., is prayerfully seeking a full-time pastor whom God has chosen for our congregation. Please send resumés to First Baptist Church, Attn: Pastoral Search Committee, P.O. Box 217, Vanceburg, KY 41179.

SEEKING: We are seeking resumes for a bi-vocational pastor for our church, Grace Free Will Baptist Church, 12316 Alvaton Scottsville Rd., Alvaton KY 42122, just outside Bowling Green. Any interested pastors please send resumés to the address listed or to the e-mail address. If you would like to talk to our search committee chairman, please call Reggie @270-781-9531 or kllpc@att.net

SEEKING: Faith Baptist Church in Frankfort, Ky., is prayerfully seeking candidates for the position of part-time youth minister or youth leader through Sept. 15, 2015. Resumés or CD/DVD may be sent to Faith Baptist Church, 50 Bridgeport-Benson Rd., Frankfort, KY 40601, attn. Ed Whittaker. Visit our website at faithbaptistfrankfort.org.

SEEKING: The First Baptist Church of Loyall, Harlan, Ky., is seeking to fill the position of senior pastor. Resumés are currently being accepted by the Pastor Search Committee. Applications should be mailed to the church at P.O. Box 220, Loyall, KY 40854, Attn: Pastor Search Committee.

SEEKING: First Baptist Church, Mt. Sterling, Ky., seeks full-time worship pastor. Preferred candidate will lead worship with guitar or keyboard. Ministry description available at www.FBCmtsterling.com. Send resumé and video clips to fbcmwshippastorsearch@roadrunner.com. Deadline for submission is Aug. 24.

SEEKING: First Baptist Church of Mayfield, Ky., is currently seeking a full-time minister of music/worship leader. Candidates should be able to lead in both modern and traditional styles of worship, have previous ministry experience, and be passionate about leading others in musical worship. FBC Mayfield is located in Western Kentucky and averages 350 in Sunday morning attendance. Please submit resumés to First Baptist Church, Attn: Search Committee, 118 W. South St., Mayfield, KY 42066, or by email to office@firstmayfield.com.

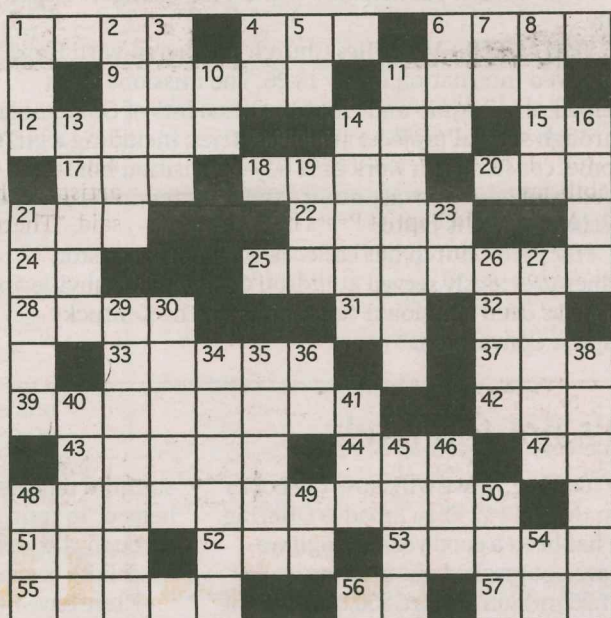
FOR RENT: Two condos in Destin, Fla. 2 bed, 2 bath. Book now for Aug-Dec. lewbrammer@gmail.com 423-309-4422.

Bible Crosswords

By Rebecca Souder

Across

- 1 "The ____ of God is eternal life" (Romans 6:23)
- 4 "Without him was ____ any thing made" (John 1:3)
- 6 "That was the ____ light" (John 1:9)
- 9 "The ____ shineth in darkness" (John 1:5)
- 11 "Which were ____, not of blood" (John 1:13)
- 12 "Was made flesh and ____ among us" (John 1:14)
- 14 Precious stone
- 15 Dock warrant, abbr.
- 17 Chemical suffix
- 18 Young woman
- 20 Also
- 21 His Royal Highness, abbr.
- 22 "Smote the ____ into his temples" (Judges 4:21)
- 24 Hebrew name for God, comb. form
- 25 "But as many as ____ him" (John 1:12)
- 28 The first man
- 31 Electron volt, abbr.
- 32 Four, Romans num.
- 33 Belonging to a Canaanite god
- 37 "A ____ commandment I give unto you" (John 13:34)
- 39 "The ____ comprehended it not" (John 1:5)
- 42 Emergency Relief Organization, abbr.
- 43 To balk, Scot.
- 44 Office of Strategic Services, abbr.
- 47 Year, abbr.
- 48 "But was sent to ____ of that Light" (John 1:8) (2 words)
- 51 Overseas News Service, abbr.
- 52 European Theater of



#043

- Operations, abbr.
- 53 "Full of grace and ____" (John 1:14)
- 55 "I come baptizing with ____" (John 1:31)
- 56 Church, abbr.
- 57 Negative vote
- 23 Fifty-one, Romans num.
- 26 "I am the true ____" (John 15:1)
- 27 "Which lighteth ____ man" (John 1:9)
- 29 Side by side
- 30 "Builder and ____ is God" (Hebrews 11:10)
- 34 "How ye ought to ____ every man" (Colossians 4:6)
- 35 "And ____ out to husbandmen" (Mark 12:1) (2 words)
- 36 Church school, in other words, abbr.
- 38 "Thou art ____, O Lord" (Revelation 4:11)
- 40 Place for competition
- 41 "The only begotten ____" (John 1:18)
- 45 Son of Adam
- 46 Soviet Socialist Republic, abbr.
- 48 "Every knee should ____" (Philippians 2:10)
- 49 "He gave power ____ become" (John 1:12)
- 50 "Did shine as the ____" (Matthew 17:2)
- 54 Tantalum, chem. symbol

Down

- 1 "The Word was ____" (John 1:1)
- 2 "The Word was made ____" (John 1:14)
- 3 "Take thee a ____" (Ezekiel 4:1)
- 4 New England state, abbr.
- 5 A division of Scripture
- 6 Thomas, for short
- 7 Railroad, abbr.
- 8 "To ____ the heavy burdens" (Isaiah 58:6)
- 10 Gross ton, abbr.
- 11 "Them that ____ on his name" (John 1:12)
- 13 "The ____ was made by him" (John 1:10)
- 14 "But ____ and truth came" (John 1:17)
- 16 "In the beginning was the ____" (John 1:1)
- 19 Suffix
- 21 "Two disciples ____ him

#042



Escape artist prepares others for ultimate escape

By Daniel Woodman

Nashville, Tenn.—Jumping out of airplanes, breaking free from jail cells, and evading death. It's just another day of work for Anthony Martin.

Martin, a member of Mapledale Baptist Church in Sheboygan, Wis., started Ambassador in Chains Ministries in 1998. Martin uses his talents as an escape artist to draw people into local churches. He specifically hopes to attract those who would not necessarily come to the church for a more traditional presentation of the gospel.

Guy Fredrick, pastor at Mapledale Baptist, praised Martin for his work within the community and using his talents to share the gospel.

"He's very evangelical, very solid in his doctrine, very solid in his teaching and I highly commend him," Fredrick said.

Leo Endel, executive director of the Minnesota-Wisconsin Baptist Convention, also praised Martin, who is an executive committee member for the convention.

"I found Anthony to be humble and a gifted person.... His presentation really draws people's attention and then he weaves it into a gospel presentation that is memorable," Endel said.

Martin details the account of his life as an escape artist and as a follower of Jesus Christ in his book, "Escape or Die," published in 2013. The 49-year-old escape artist has made a career of evading death, but even Martin says there is one escape he can't do by himself.

"Skydivers deal with life and death every day," Martin noted. "The reality is if the parachute doesn't open, you're going to impact the ground at 180 miles per hour. It's a life-and-death situation. Now true, we do have a backup that God provided that we can escape eternal death and He was gracious enough to provide us with it. So for people to insist on being able to flap their arms to survive or somehow provide some other means is illogical."

Despite the life-threatening situations Martin routinely places himself in, he has learned to understand his fears and not allow them to hinder his stunts.

"With my escapes, one principle is to understand what the different kinds of fear are," he said. "There is the fear that the tiger is in the room, that's a legitimate fear because you can see him, he's in the room. Then there is the other kind of fear where what if the tiger comes in the room? And I find that most people spend a lot of time with the what-ifs."

Martin has had to overcome fear many times in his career. In 1990, the escape artist had his hands chained and was placed inside a metal cage that had locks just removed from the factory



Anthony Martin stands beside the box he would have to escape while being dropped 14,500 feet from an airplane.

packaging. The cage, along with Martin, was then lowered into a water-filled quarry. Martin was able to escape in one minute and 45 seconds.

One of his more recent stunts garnered national attention when Martin appeared live on the Fox News Channel in 2013. The stunt involved him being handcuffed and chained inside a box with a "keyless" lock. The box containing Martin was then released from a plane 14,500 feet in the air. The live audience watched in awe as Martin escaped from the box and released his parachute in time to land safely on the ground.

Many would affirm that Martin is an example of how God can use extraordinary and unconventional talents to advance His kingdom.

Martin wrote in his book that he originally intended to start his ministry with Roger Nelson. Nelson founded Skydive Chicago and became a mentor to Martin when he practiced his aerial escapes. Soon after the two men met, Nelson was imprisoned for involvement in a smuggling ring that funneled drugs from Central

America into the U.S. But once out of jail, Nelson and Martin reconnected. Martin said he saw a changed man who had an authentic relationship with the Lord.

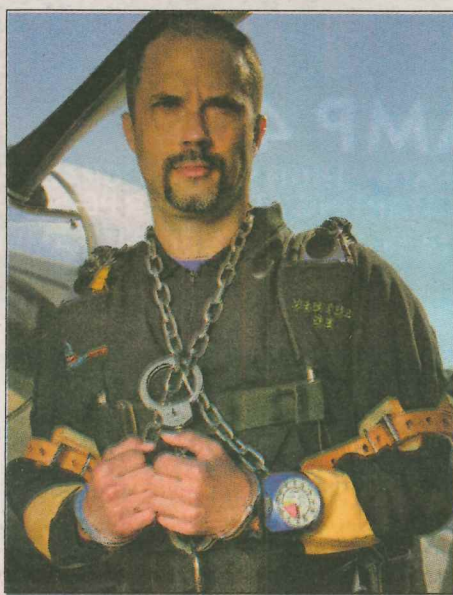
The duo worked together as Nelson passed off his wealth of skydiving knowledge. But Nelson died in a skydiving accident just days before their ministry was set to launch.

Nelson's death led Martin to start the

ministry in honor of his close friend, and he set out to impact local churches around the country with his unique abilities.

Martin told Baptist Press he believes in the local church and the role it has in reaching out to the local community. Martin said there is a place for many talents inside the church.

"I think the lesson to be learned is to use the talents that God has given you, whether you are a skydiver, an escape artist or whatever you do in life," Martin said. "There is something that you do that puts you in a position to contact people.... I can't think of a profession where there is not some interaction with people." (BP)



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JULY 13 to JULY 16	JON MERRYMAN
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*All prices listed are based on the Promotional Rate. Groups may secure these limited time prices with a \$500 (\$150 for Camp 40) group deposit (due 10/15/15) and a \$75 (\$20 for Camp 40) per person deposit (due 2/15/16) toward the final balance. Please note: lodging and date assignments are based on availability and lodging minimums. You will receive a confirmation email after your registration has been processed.