

WESTERN Recorder

August 25, 2015

Shine Like Stars * Philippians 2:15

Volume 189, Issue 17

SBTS joins 320-city effort 500 protest Planned Parenthood in Louisville

By James Smith Sr.

Louisville—A contingent of students, faculty, and staff of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary bolstered 500 pro-life protesters at Louisville's Planned Parenthood office Aug. 22.

The protest was part of a nationwide effort in 320 cities to bring public attention to the nation's leading abortion provider in the wake of eight undercover videos released since July by the Center for Medical Progress. The videos, which have led to federal and state investigations of the abortion giant, show Planned Parenthood officials and others associated with the group casually discussing the selling organs of aborted children, and allegedly of babies born alive.

Dylan Harrington, a graduate of Boyce College's Worldview Certificate Program, organized the Louisville protest under the auspices of his Ohio-based pro-life group, Created Equal. Boyce is the undergraduate program of Southern Seminary.

"Each community with a Planned Parenthood abortion clinic, satellite clinic, or office needs to take action against the killing of babies and the trafficking of their aborted baby parts," Harrington said in a news release.

"We should not be opposed to



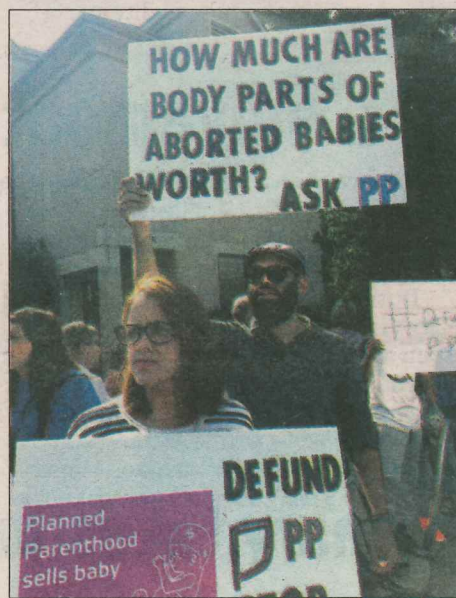
Left, Andrew King, director of Speak for the Unborn and Ph.D. student at Southern Seminary, speaks at an Aug. 22 protest outside the Planned Parenthood clinic in Louisville. Below, Jario Namnun, an M.Div. student, stands with his wife, Patricia, at the Planned Parenthood protest.

protesting," Harrington told the crowd that clogged both sides of the sidewalk in front of the Planned Parenthood office in downtown Louisville, which does not perform abortions.

Other participants in the two-hour-long, peaceful protest included the Catholic Archdiocese of Louisville, Students for Life of the Appalachians, Silent No More Louisville, Sisters for Life, Right to Life of Owensboro, Pleasantville Community Church, Knights of Columbus, and Speak for the Unborn, led by Southern Seminary Ph.D. student Andrew King.

Calling defense of Planned Parenthood in the wake of the undercover videos "truly chilling," King said, "Let's be clear: When we hear talk of tissue donation we must realize that before there is any tissue to donate, there is a life that must be taken."

King said he did not participate in the event standing on a political platform or ideology, even adding, "I do not stand here ultimately as member of a pro-life



movement."

Rather, he continued, "I stand here as a follower of Jesus Christ," emphasizing that

□ See Louisville rally ... Page 2

Missionary with Louisville ties remembered as godly mother, wife

By Mark Kelly

Cartersville, Ga.—On the evening before she and her family had planned to return overseas, Kyra Lynn Karr, a Southern Baptist missionary to Italy, was killed in a traffic accident, Aug. 13.

News reports indicate a tractor-trailer driver exited his vehicle to conduct a safety inspection but the safety brake was not engaged and the truck began to roll. The vehicle hit the pickup in which Karr was traveling, crushing it against the highway guard-rail on U.S. 41 in Bartow County, Ga. Karr, 30, died at the scene.



Kyra Lynn Karr

Her husband Reid and their two youngest children were transported to nearby hospitals, where they were treated and released. Their oldest child was not with them at the time.

The tractor-trailer driver, Ivan Delgado, 52, of Rome, N.Y., was arrested and charged with DUI, police said.

Tabernacle Baptist Church pastor

□ See Missionary dies ... Page 2

Ky. clerks continue fight against same-sex marriage licenses

By David Roach

Morehead—A federal judge has granted temporary relief to one of three Kentucky county clerks still refusing to issue any marriage licenses following the Supreme Court's nationwide legalization of same-sex marriage.

In a seemingly convoluted ruling, Aug. 17, U.S. District Judge David Bunning denied a request from Rowan County Clerk Kim Davis to delay a previous ruling ordering her to issue marriage licenses to all couples regardless of gender. But Bunning, noting "emotions are running high," ruled to delay implementation of his denial while the eastern Kentucky clerk appeals to the 6th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in Cincinnati, the Associated Press reported.

The net result is that Davis still has not been forced to issue marriage licenses to same-sex couples.

"We're very pleased with the results at this stage," Mat Staver, chairman of Liberty Counsel, the Christian legal organization representing Davis, told the Lexington Herald-Leader. "We will file a motion with the 6th Circuit



Penny Stennitt, of Mt. Sterling, during a religious freedoms rally in Frankfort Aug. 22. (AP Photo/Timothy D. Easley)

to extend the stay while we appeal."

An attorney for one of the couples suing Davis told the Herald-Leader he has "not ruled out a motion for her to be found in contempt." AP reported Davis faces potential fines and jail time as well as possible impeachment from her post if she loses her appeal and still refuses to issue

marriage licenses.

Davis testified in federal court she has religious objections to authorizing same-sex marriages. Bunning, however, said Davis must perform "the duties that she took an oath to perform" regardless of her religious beliefs.

Meanwhile, a central Kentucky county clerk also has remained steadfast in his commitment not to issue any marriage licenses in order to avoid authorizing same-sex marriages.

Casey Davis—no relation to Kim Davis—of Casey County has not been sued, but told Louisville's WDRB news he believes a lawsuit is a "good possibility."

Though told by Gov. Steve Beshear to issue marriage licenses to couples regardless of gender, Davis says his right to refuse is protected by a section of the Kentucky constitution stating, "No human authority shall, in any case whatever, control or interfere with the rights of conscience."

Davis said he would rather go to jail than resign,

□ See Clerks appeal ... Page 2

Find us on
Facebook
and on
Twitter
as westernrecorder

Ditch
the
cord.

GO MOBILE
Kentucky Baptist news at your fingertips
WesternRecorder.org



Western Recorder 8-25-2015

Ky. prison volunteers can't call homosexuality sin

By David Roach

Bowling Green—A Kentucky policy barring volunteers and employees in the juvenile justice system from calling homosexuality a sin has drawn criticism from the region's Baptists and provoked the threat of a lawsuit.

David Wells, a 13-year volunteer prison minister from McQuady, was informed in July by the Kentucky Department of Juvenile Justice that he would no longer be permitted to serve at the Warren County Regional Juvenile Detention Center in Bowling Green because he refused to sign a document, per state policy, promising not to "imply or tell LGBTQI juveniles that they are abnormal, deviant, sinful, or that they can or should change their sexual orientation or gender identity."

Wells told Fox News he and other volunteers from Pleasant View Baptist Church received a notice. Pleasant View is not listed as a Southern Baptist congregation by the Kentucky Baptist Convention.

KBC Executive Director Paul Chitwood

told Baptist Press that while nondiscrimination policies "have become commonplace in government and corporate settings," to "begin to require people of faith to sign off on statements that compromise our religious convictions is sad for those desiring to volunteer their time in programs designed to help fellow citizens who, for whatever reason, have found themselves caught in the justice system."

"Sadder still," Chitwood said, "is the reality that those who are in this terribly broken system will no longer have a chaplain to listen to them, counsel them and pray with them."

The "great irony," he noted, is that "the very belief system that has motivated us to volunteer our time for the betterment of our state and society is the belief system our state and society most fears."

In a July 23 letter to the Department of Juvenile Justice, the Christian legal organization Liberty Counsel threatened legal action if the state did not reinstate Wells and other affected volunteers, repeal its policy regarding homosexuality and

promise not to impose a "religious litmus test" related to homosexuality on ministers providing counseling to juveniles. The state's actions against Wells violated both the U.S. and Kentucky constitutions, Liberty Counsel attorney Richard Mast wrote.

The Lexington Herald-Leader reported a week later that the Department of Juvenile Justice was "standing by" its policy, which was adopted in April 2014. Chitwood observed that signing a statement of compliance is an "apparently new requirement."

Juvenile Justice Department Commissioner Bob Hayter wrote a letter to Mast defending the state's "open and inclusive" stance.

"The department's regulation is neutral as to religion and requires respectful language toward youth by all staff, contractors and volunteers," Hayter wrote, according to the Herald-Leader. "The regulation advances a compelling government interest in developing a trusting, therapeutic relationship with the children in DJJ

custody, which requires an environment of unconditional acceptance."

Liberty Counsel founder and chairman Mat Staver called Hayter's response inadequate.

Suppose "one of the kids tells David he sexually molested his sister and wants to change. Another kid tells David that he was sexually molested by a man when he was younger and he wants to change. What is he supposed to do, not offer them a message of hope?"

Richard Nelson, executive director of the Commonwealth Policy Center in western Kentucky, wrote in a commentary for the KBC's Kentucky Today website that the Juvenile Justice Department's policy is an "irony of ironies."

"Jail is a place where people go when ethics are rejected and moral boundaries breached," Nelson wrote.

"And now the state is handcuffing counselors from steering youths—many of whom are in state custody for committing sexual crimes—onto a path of wholeness and spiritual healing." (BP)

Cincinnati 'needs a movement of God,' Ky. Baptists can help

By Robin Cornetel

Cincinnati—With only one evangelical church for every 10,875 people, Cincinnati needs to see a movement of God like never before, said Travis Smalley.

The North American Board Send City missionary said Kentucky Baptist churches could be the catalyst to start that movement.

"It starts with a fundamental call to the Great Commission," Smalley said.

Smalley will lead a church planting vision tour of the Queen City Sept. 28-29.

During the two-day Cincinnati Send City Vision Tour, pastors, directors of missions and ministry leaders will learn about potential missions partnerships in the Cincinnati-Northern Kentucky metropolitan area.

"This vision tour is about connecting pastors to church planters," Smalley said, and providing resources to reach people for Christ. According to NAMB, less than 14 percent of Cincinnati's 1.6 million residents are affiliated with an evangelical church. More than half identify with no religious body.

Smalley said NAMB has designated more than 100 communities in and

around the metropolitan area as sites for new church plants. So far, about 20 churches have been started. Smalley, pastor of Lakota Hills Baptist Church in West Chester, Ohio, has had his hand in coaching five of the new churches.

"Jesus has commissioned us to take the gospel to ends of the earth, and one of the most effective ways to do that is planting churches." (KBC)

International missionary takes on new challenge as DOM

By Robin Cornetel

Williamsburg—Long-time missionary Steven Jett is leaving the mission field in Western Europe to take on a new and challenging work beginning next month in eastern Kentucky.

Jett, a retired International Mission Board missionary, has been called to serve as the new director of missions for South Union-Mount Zion Baptist Association. Jett and his wife, Susan, spent the last 25 years sharing the gospel and planting churches

in Germany.

"We're actually still missionaries, at least that's the way we view it," said Jett. "We weren't just looking for a place to retire. That's not the way we do things."

Jett, 63, will begin serving as director of missions Sept. 1. Jett established four new churches during his time in Europe. In eastern Kentucky, Jett said he plans to continue his church planting efforts, but will first attend to the needs of the association's 54 existing churches.

"It's about the churches, helping them

become more equipped to reach their communities for Christ," Jett said. "It's about making resources available, establishing partnerships inside and outside the region and hopefully encouraging churches to help other churches become stronger financially."

As a graduate of Cumberland College,



Jett

now University of the Cumberlands, Jett said he was "extremely delighted" to be back in Kentucky and looks forward to living in a city where his wife's grandfather once served as mayor.

Susan Jett, who still has relatives in Williamsburg, was asked to serve as the association's secretary. South Union-Mount Zion Baptist Association serves Southern Baptist churches in the Appalachian counties of Whitley and Laurel in southeastern Kentucky, as well as two churches just across the Tennessee state line. (KBC)

Missionary dies

Continued from page 1

Don Hattaway described Karr as "one of the most wonderful, godly young ladies you could know. She was energetic, kind, articulate, beautiful, and a great mother and wife."

The Karrs, who spoke at Tabernacle in Cartersville, Ga., Aug. 9, had been in the U.S. since mid-June and were returning home after a family outing Thursday to fly back to Italy the next day. Hattaway and had worked with the Karrs in Italy earlier this summer, and he spoke to their commitment to their work among churches, students, and planting a church.

"Kyra was part of a street ministry to those caught in sex trafficking as well as to refugees crossing the Mediterranean Sea into Italy," he said.

The Karrs were appointed as International Mission Board missionaries in 2009 and had served in Rome.

Kyra and her family were connected to Sojourn Community Church in Louisville. Survivors include her husband, Reid; and children, Nodyn, Ellie and Livia. (BP)

Clerks appeal

Continued from page 1

WDRB reported.

Kim Davis and Casey Davis were joined by a third clerk, Kay Schwartz, of Whitley County, at a rally at the state capitol on Saturday, organized by The Family Foundation of Kentucky. The three have halted all marriage licenses from their offices.

"They cannot violate their consciences by signing their name to authorize something that they believe is unholy," Kent Ostrander, the Family Foundation's executive director, told the crowd. Ostrander said it's the duty of the state government to come up with a compromise that would not compel the clerks to sign the documents. One suggestion is issuing licenses online, he said.

A crowd of a few thousand, according to an AP news release, filled the lawn in the rear of the capitol building, many carrying signs saying "Freedom of religion" and waving American flags. (BP/AP)



Casey Davis

Louisville Rally

Continued from page 1

God's grace is available to both those who are pro-choice and pro-life.

"We must stand not just against Planned Parenthood and organizations like it," King concluded. "Rather, we must stand against a culture of death armed with a gospel that gives life."

Speak for the Unborn does weekly sidewalk counseling near Louisville's sole abortion clinic — EMW Women's Surgical Center — to persuade women to not abort their unborn children.

"I know you're closed today, but I know you've got people listening," Angela Minter of Sisters for Life said, facing the Planned Parenthood clinic. She then led the group chanting, "Defund Planned Parenthood," a common refrain during the event.

Following speeches by leaders of the participating organizations, protesters marched around the block and concluded in a time of prayer. (SBTS)

Ky. teens reach out to Toronto murder victim's loved ones

By Myriah Snyder

Louisville—The Kentucky Derby week murder of a coffee shop owner from Toronto caused Westport Road Baptist's youth group from Louisville to reach out to the victim's friends, family and colleagues on their Canadian mission trip.

Scott Hunter, co-owner of Gerrard Street East's Grinders, was fatally shot on May 2, while fulfilling his dream of attending the Kentucky Derby. Three teens were charged for the murder.

"We just asked ourselves the question, 'What can we do?'" Josh Miles, Westport Road's minister to students, said. "We just wanted to see if there was any way that we could help bring light to a dark situation."

Miles continued, "I think in an age in which society and culture is increasingly becoming either apathetic toward the church or has a negative view of the church, the church has to ask itself the question, 'In what ways can we come into broken situations and help be a light and a presence that speaks to the grace of who Jesus is.'"

"Especially in Toronto, which in some ways is perhaps further along in its post Christian age, it made us think even more how we can just be seed planters for the grace of Jesus in the midst of broken situations like these," he added.

"It really was an organic process that just birthed out of asking that question," he said.

The group of approximately 20 stopped by Grinder's Coffee and presented the owner, Joelle Murray with a painting depicting Toronto's skyline, Louisville's skyline and the word "hope."

The church had contacted Murray before visiting, and she had posted about it on the coffee shop's Facebook page, inviting friends and family to participate. Local media picked up on the



A group of students and chaperones from Westport Road Baptist in Canada for mission work and to reach out to friends of victim of a Louisville murder.

significance of this event, and CBC Toronto covered it as well as a local newspaper and WLKY, Miles said.

"We want this man's friends and co-workers to know that the people of Louisville are behind them and the people of Louisville are remembering him," Abby Johnston, the artist behind the piece presented, told Wave3 news.

She continued, "Spread hope. Spread love and show everyone around the nation and around the world Louisville is more than its crime rates."

"It's a city where we can all come together. We can love and we can hope even through the bad situations."

"I was really touched. I thought it was a really sweet gesture," Murray told Inside Toronto. "It was a great step for healing."

Murray continued, "They were a very amazing, well-spoken group of young people. It was just incredibly kind of them to do this."



Westport Road Baptist member, Maddie, speaks with one of Hunter's friends in Toronto.

This stop was just a part of the group's trip that was being planned before the murder took place. Additionally, they traveled throughout various parts of Canada, sharing Christ's love by serving others. The theme of their annual outreach trip was "stories." The group shared their own and encouraged those they came in contact with to do the same. (WR)

Campbellsville hosts 8,681 campers, records 224 decisions

By Joan McKinney

Campbellsville—Campbellsville University hosted 8,681 participants in summer camps from May through early August, as compared to 7,007 last summer, for an increase of 24 percent.

Forty-four camp groups visited the campus with 187 churches participating in activities.

Centri-Kid camps included 4,840 participants—539 more than last year—from 180 churches, 13 more than in 2014.

Rusty Watkins, director of summer camps and conferences, said this summer's camps had 93 first-time decisions for Christ and a total of 224 decisions. Each student making a first-time decision received a Bible.

A total of 487 professions of faith were made from June 1, 2014, through May 31, 2015, among all Campbellsville University services and missions. This does not include summer decisions.

"In my 14 years of leading the summer camp program, we have had 1,603 first-time decisions for Christ," he said. "That is an amazing picture of what Campbellsville University is all about."

Watkins said the camps consisted of Centri-Kid Camps for third through sixth graders, Fellowship of Christian Athletes State Leadership Camp for junior and



Centri-Kid students participate in "Mass Chaos" on the campus of Campbellsville University during one of their camps. Centri-Kid camps included 4,840 participants from 180 churches. (CU photo by Joshua Williams)

senior high students, Kentucky Baptist Convention All-State Youth Choir and Orchestra, Kentucky Police Explorers Academy for high school and college students, 55 sports camps including basketball, soccer, wrestling, football, tennis and cheerleading, leadership retreats and a Reformed Presbyterian Church of North America camp.

Campbellsville University, for the first year, led its own Journeys Camp for junior and senior high students. The School of Music led a two-night, three-day Chamber Music Camp, and the school hosted the Ignite Conference, which brought in spiritual leaders from all over the country for a four-day conference. All but one of the groups that were on campus have already rescheduled to return next summer.

Watkins said Campbellsville will be hosting the Kentucky Boys State in June.

The university has scheduled four Journey Camps (two for third through sixth grades and two for sixth through 12th grades).

Watkins said campers came from 28 states and Canada, and they were impressed with Campbellsville University and the camp staff.

"This campus is beautiful and it is ideal for Centri-Kid Children's Camp," members of First Baptist Church in Paris, Tenn. said. Centri-Kid has scheduled to host nine cycles of camp on the campus again next summer.

Kevin Milburn, pastor of Union Baptist Church and former vice president of the Kentucky Baptist Convention, said about his campers had a "great time at Campbellsville."

For information, contact Watkins at rdwatkins@campbellsville.edu or (270) 789-5047. (CU)

Press pause & plan to attend music conference

Shelbyville—Ministers of music will be able to enjoy a stress-free day of learning and fellowship next month at the Kentucky Baptist Music and Worship Conference.

"I encourage music ministers to press pause on things back home and take this time to get re-energized," said Kentucky Baptist Convention Music and Worship Consultant Jason Stewart.

The music conference will be held at Shelbyville First Baptist Church on Sept. 24, from noon until 9 p.m.

Joe Crider, professor of church music and worship and executive director of the Institute for Biblical Worship at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, will lead the conference.

Crider has spoken at worship conferences and churches throughout the United States and frequently writes for the Institute of Biblical Worship website. He has served as a worship pastor for more than 25 years, ministering in Colorado, California, Missouri, Virginia and Kentucky, and is currently worship pastor at La Grange (Ky.) Baptist Church.

Stewart said in addition to increasing their musical acuity, ministers of music will be blessed later that evening by two talented groups.

The Norton Hall Band and Doxology Vocal Ensemble will take turns leading worship, beginning at 8 p.m.

"I hope all Kentucky Baptist pastors encourage their ministers of music to attend this conference," Stewart said.

Registration for the Kentucky Baptist Music and Worship Conference is required and must be completed by Sept. 21.

For more information, go to www.kybaptist.org/kbmc. (KBC)

Sept. 11 is deadline for All-State Jr. High auditions

Louisville—The Kentucky Baptist All-State Junior High Choir is warming up for another season as auditions get underway.

Students in grades 7 through 9 who are active in a Kentucky Baptist church are eligible to audition for the choir. The deadline for completed forms and audition CDs/DVDs is Sept. 11.

The All-State Junior High Choir is a 90+ voice choir designed to keep musically talented youth involved and challenged in church music by addressing the social, spiritual, and musical needs unique to this age group.

Students will be notified of audition results by Sept. 18.

The choir will rehearse at Walnut Street Baptist Church in Louisville during the second weekend in November. More information may be found at www.kybaptist.org/asjhc.

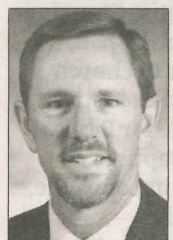
State sees impact of ruling

People of faith across the United States are wondering how the 5-4 decision of the United States Supreme Court to redefine marriage will impact them. In Kentucky, we didn't have to wait long to find out.

Volunteer chaplains reportedly have been turned away by Kentucky's Department of Juvenile Justice unless they sign a document indicating they will not refer to homosexuality as "sinful."

This apparently new requirement is being linked to a DJJ policy on "Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity" adopted in April of 2014. That

Together We are the KBC



Paul Chitwood

four-page policy states, at one point, "DJJ staff, volunteers, interns, and contractors shall not imply or tell LGBTQ juveniles that they are abnormal, deviant, sinful, or that they can or should change their sexual orientation or gender identity."

These types of policies have become commonplace in government and corporate settings. But to begin to require people of faith to sign off on statements that compromise our religious convictions is sad for those desiring to volunteer their time in

programs designed to help fellow citizens who, for whatever reason, have found themselves caught in the justice system. Sadder still is the reality that those who are in this terribly broken system will no longer have a chaplain to listen to them, counsel them, and pray with them.

As I understand it, a Baptist chaplain can't serve a Baptist kid unless that Baptist chaplain promises not to address sexual sin as sexual sin. The same would be true for Catholic or Muslim kids who could not have access to a chaplain who shares their religious beliefs because those chaplains are no longer welcomed.

This news comes at a time when Kentucky's government services are being revealed as woefully inefficient and horribly dysfunctional. For example, the Louisville Courier-Journal recently reported on the woeful state of Kentucky's Cabinet for Health and Family Services. The opening line announced, "State social service officials in northern Kentucky lost track of nearly 100 cases of alleged child abuse or neglect—some not assigned to workers for investigation and others languishing for months after social workers responsible for them resigned."

It continued with a host of quotes from present and past employees revealing enormous caseloads, epidemic employee turnover, and workers' debilitating stress levels. As for the Cabinet's handling of the myriad of problems, one person observed, "The Titanic is sinking and the cabinet is rearranging the deck chairs."

Rest assured, the current state of the DJJ is no better. Louisville's WHAS-11 News reported on that topic earlier this year. In that report, Bardstown Police Chief Rick McCubbin stated, "No matter how horrible the crime is or if it's a misdemeanor to say it's a waste of the law enforcements time I'm probably not too far off base and I don't think you'd find any officers across this state that would argue that point with me." He calls the system "a joke."

A mother all too familiar with the system said, "My child has 16 charges as a juvenile and is still getting chance after chance. Who does that? And then when he turns 18, I'm quite sure he's going to think he can break the law and then he's going to be sent away for life because he wasn't corrected as a child."

In the midst of this disaster, and with a budget that has been slashed, the DJJ has found a way to rid itself of free help from those who are there to help broken kids put their lives back together. The great irony? The belief system that has motivated us to volunteer our time for the betterment of our state and society is the belief system our state and society most fears. Chief McCubbin is right, the system is a joke.

Praying through scripture remedies boredom

Looking at the day's headlines, one would think there's plenty to pray about: terrorist acts at sporting events, theaters and even churches; protest rallies for protecting our First Amendment religious freedoms; videos surfacing with allegations of fetal mutilation by tax-supported agencies; community rallies lamenting a rise in deaths due to heroin overdoses; distressing admissions of marital infidelity by a family values advocate and television personality.

And, there also seems to be much to praise God for: Christians willing to stand up for their faith, even at the risk of loss of vocation or imprisonment; hundreds of professions of faith and decisions by teens at our summer camps; dozens desiring to use creative arts in missions and ministry; volunteers training for disaster relief efforts; thousands across the nation who attended rallies in support of pro-life values.

Yet, if Donald Whitney is right, many of us regrettably would have to admit that our prayers are repetitive, even boring, as our thoughts frequently turn inward—our health, our family, our finances, our work. "Why don't the people of God enjoy prayer more?" he asks. Many of us, Whitney maintains, do not pray because we simply don't feel like it. Why not? Because we tend to say "the same old things about the same old things."

Many great Christians mistakenly conclude, "Something is wrong with me," the Southern Seminary professor of spiritual formation explains. "If I get bored in something as important as prayer, then I must be a second-rate Christian," they reason. After all, the words just do not seem to flow as beautifully as the prayers of others do.

I've been there! And my guess is, so have many of you. But Whitney, whom I had an opportunity to hear speak on this topic several years ago at a Baptist editors' meeting in Williamsburg, Va., has a word of hope: "(If this mind wandering boredom describes your experience in prayer, I would argue that if you are indwelt by the Holy Spirit—if you are born again—then the problem is not you; it is your method."



After Thought

By Todd Deaton

Whitney, who will be the keynote speaker at the upcoming Super Saturday training event in Louisville Sept. 12, asserts, "Every Christian can have a meaningful, satisfying prayer life." He offers a solution in his new book, "Praying the Bible." Under 90-pages in length, it is an easy read. But, his little book packs a profound punch and, with the Holy Spirit's influence, offers a practical yet powerful transformation of our prayer life through meditating on God's word.

The problem, Whitney emphasizes, is not that we pray about the same old things. "To routinely pray about the same people and situations is perfectly normal," he acknowledges. "It's normal to pray about the same old things because our lives tend to consist of the same old things."

Yet, when one prays this way, it becomes boring, he adds. "And when prayer is boring, we don't feel like praying, it's hard to pray, at least in any sort of focused, heartfelt way."

His solution? "When you pray," he suggests, "pray through a passage of Scripture, particularly a psalm," observing that there is a psalm "for every sigh of the heart." Let the words of Scripture become the words of your prayers, he urges.

For example, if you choose Psalm 23 and read "The Lord is my shepherd," you might thank Him for being your shepherd. Ask Him to shepherd your family—to guide, protect and provide for them. And, pray that He will make your family members His sheep, and ask Him to shepherd you in the decisions you have to make.

When nothing else comes to mind, go to the next phrase—"I shall not want," Whitney explains. Keep going until you either finish the psalm or run out of time.

"By praying through a passage of Scripture," he observes, "you'll find yourself praying about most of the same old things, but in brand new ways. You'll also find yourself praying about things you would otherwise never pray about."

While I'm particularly looking forward to hearing Whitney again in Louisville, I'm equally certain that the other keynote speakers—Hershael York, Nate Adams and Micah Fries—will offer inspiring and practical advice for church leaders at Super Saturday training events in Lexington, Paducah and Bowling Green. Make plans to bring a group from your church!

'The launch list'

They're on the front line of ministry in your church. They dedicate countless hours every week to Bible lesson preparation, outreach contacts, and ministering to class members. From preschoolers to senior adults, your church's Sunday School or small group leaders impact lives.

Need fresh ideas for demonstrating appreciation for their faithful ministry?

Print an annual bulletin insert listing all Sunday School/small group teachers of the church, with teachers' names listed under their "sending" Bible class. The sending class is the one they'd attend if they weren't serving as a teacher. Beside each name,

indicate the age group they lead, such as preschool, adult, etc. Challenge the church to pray faithfully for these leaders.

There's no greater compliment to an adult Bible teacher than launching leaders to serve, so this list will encourage adult teachers. Adult classes can be the greatest supporters and encouragers for members-in-service.

Challenge adult classes to honor and support them using these ideas:

■ Create a "wall of honor" display in your classroom, featuring their photos and class names. Leave room for additional teachers that God may call out, and update the display

frequently. Email a photo of the wall to those featured.

Fresh Ideas



Diana Davis

■ Pray for them in class often. Snap a photo of the class in prayer and text it to them.

■ Take a brief "field trip" during the last minutes of class to stroll past classrooms serve in Sunday School. Snap a photo and send it to them.

■ Send email encouragement notes, or mail notes signed by class members.

■ Help with a specific need for the class they teach, i.e. equipment, transportation, snacks for a fellowship, Bibles for class newcomers, a desired toy for a preschool classroom.

WESTERN Recorder

Shine Like Stars *Philippians 2:15

Box 43969
Louisville, KY 40253

DR. TODD DEATON
Editor

THOMAS C. TOWNSEND
Marketing & Business Consultant

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

Western Recorder is published bi-weekly by Western Recorder Inc., an agency of the Kentucky Baptist Convention, Box 43969, Louisville, KY 40253. Periodicals postage paid at Louisville, Ky. (USPS 679-380)

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

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

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

Letters to the editor:

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

Who do you love more?

By Kathy McBroom

The day we arrive at a new church, I think about what the day that we leave will be like. Recently, God called us from Englewood Baptist Church in Jackson, Tenn., to Little Flock Baptist Church in Shepherdsville.

I have friends at EBC that are more like sisters, and in Christ, we are sisters. We have been blessed to be a part of this church family twice and leaving it the first time was hard enough.

Months ago, God began to stir us. We knew that He was moving us, but where we did not know. When it became clear as to where, I prayed and waited. As I waited for a clear answer from God, He spoke in many ways.

I think I am an obedient Christian ... until God reveals the truth about that. When it was time to act on what we believed to be God's plan, I was mad that I had to start applying for jobs knowing I had a great one. Crockett County High School will be forever one of my favorites.

Going through this agonizing process, I distinctly remember saying out loud, "God, yes or no? Do we stay or go?" That still small voice came back with the same question I have had to answer every time we are facing this situation: "Who do you love more?"

I have to admit I love my comfort. I don't care to start over, make new friends or sell our house. Our house is the one where our daughters drove for the first time, had their first boyfriends come to our door, and where our precious collie, Jack, is buried in our backyard.

I stand and look at the stairs and see those two faces come down for Christmas mornings and just for a regular school day. Both of my daughters have graduated while we have been in our house.

These memories are priceless. But I must return to the question, "Who do you love more?" If I am unwilling to let them go and move forward, I am in essence saying

that I love me more. I love my comfort. As Christians, our life is not one of a closed fist, so to speak. It is one of an open hand.

As I was searching for scripture on this, God led me to Romans 12:1. We are to be a living sacrifice: "Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship."

I don't like sacrifice. What's in it for me? How will this work out? Will I find another teaching job as good as the one I already have? You know, the one that you want me to give up, God?

Who do you love more, Kathy? "In view of God's mercy..." I am to keep in my view God's mercy for us. The epitome of His mercy is Christ. Since I am a Christian, I must follow Christ.

He knew a thing or two about sacrifice. I must offer my body as a living sacrifice. This means that my will is not to take precedence over God's will.

Who do I love more? As I ponder this question, my soul just starts to cry out, "God, I love you more." I see a man on a cross, who gave it all for me: how could I give less? All my thoughts of keeping things easy start to sound like a whining 2-year-old.

As we met people from our new church, God started giving me a glimpse of His plan. That excitement of knowing that you are following God's will began to stir.

We will have the privilege of serving alongside some longtime friends of ours, and God only knows what He has in store for all of us, including Englewood.

Only a true Christ follower can know the joy of God's moving and His allowing us to be a part of that. There is no other feeling like it.

The sum of it is this: I love Him more. Through the tears and gut wrenching goodbyes, I choose Him. It's time for a new adventure of the best kind.

So I ask you, my friend, "Who do you love more?"

Guest Column



Kathy McBroom

Are you teaching children to be good church members?

In his excellent book, "I Am a Church Member," Thom Rainer talks about what it takes to be a good church member.

To begin with, it is important that all of us understand that being part of a church is a privilege. Dietrich Bonhoeffer said, "It is by the grace of God that a congregation is permitted to gather visibly in this world to share God's word and sacrament. Not all Christians receive this blessing."

Talk with your children about how fortunate they are to be able to go to church. Tell them about the many people in other parts of the world who would love to have the same opportunity—even once.

Pray as a family for your church. Pray specifically for your church leaders. Pray that God will guide them and give them

strength for their work. Pray that God will give them wisdom. Pray for their families.

Worship together as a family. Many churches have separate worship experiences for children, but you will still want to find times that you can worship together. Children need to see parents singing and giving and studying the Bible and praying and responding to God. As you worship be engaged and energetic—not a clock watcher!

Serve as a family. Look for opportunities to work side-by-side. Volunteer at a food pantry. Gather communion cups. Find something to do for someone else in the name of Jesus.

Finally, be careful how you talk about your church. There are no perfect churches because churches are made up of people and there are no perfect people. Be encouraging. Little ears are listening. Ask God to help you teach your children to love the church.



David Garrard

Preparing adult workers for back-to-school time

How can it possibly be back-to-school time again already? It seems like just yesterday school let out and the madness of summer began. But all over the commonwealth, schools are back in session, and our students have returned to one of the biggest mission fields in our communities. I trust that we have sent them off well.

Usually this time of year, we talk about preparing our students and school faculty and staff to go back to their mission field. But this time, I want to address it from the other side of the coin.

How are we preparing the adults who are pouring into those students we have sent back to school? What plans do we have to equip those small group leaders, Sunday School teachers, bus drivers, chaperones, parents or any other adults who will be systematically pouring into our students? I know training sounds boring and takes time to execute. But if we expect our adults to be at their best, then we need to provide them with opportunities to improve their skills in whatever responsibilities they have.

So let's look at some places we may need to consider offering training.

Curriculum usage—One of the biggest expenditures in most every youth budget is curriculum. When we look at the dollars we spend on Sunday School literature, Wednesday night studies, Sunday night stuff, small group and Dnow resources, it

can be mind-boggling.

In order for us to be good stewards of those resources, we need to train our leaders in how the publisher puts it together and wants it to be used, as well as the purpose it serves in our ministry and our desired outcome. It could also be helpful to our leaders for us to give the reasons why we picked this particular line of curriculum to use and some information about the publisher.

Providing teachers with teaching materials without providing adequate training on how to use them is like giving a guy a new set of golf clubs without teaching him how to use them. Regardless of how good the clubs are, without lessons on how to use them, he is still going to be a hacker on the course.

Out of class expectations—What expectations, if any, do you place on your workers? Do you want them to plan out of class experiences with their students (mission projects, social gatherings and a social media presence)? Have you trained them in how best to use their time and resources? Have you given them at least a general idea on what is expected, and how they can expect you to provide support for their efforts? Have you trained them in ways to remain above reproach in these situations?

Praying for the students—Honestly, I would hope you wouldn't have to do a lot of training in this

area, but if the abundance of research is any indication, we need to train our adults not only on the importance of prayer, but also how to pray.

A 2014 survey by The Washington Post concluded that people 15 and over in Kentucky spent an average of nine minutes a day engaged in any religious activity. We need to train our workers that praying for our students and their lost friends is an expectation, and give them some practical ways to do so.

How to share the gospel—This is another area that you would think would be a no-brainer, but I am constantly amazed in the trainings that I do how many youth workers (and some youth ministers) do not feel adequately trained to share the gospel. When pressed on what they would do if a gospel conversation started, many say they would find a pastor to share the gospel with the student.

We need to share the gospel story with our workers, train them with ways to share their faith story and to also share the gospel story with the students with which they have been entrusted. Sharing the gospel shouldn't be a "well if that happens I'll figure it out" expectation, but instead it should be an intentional part of all that we do.

Good training helps prepare our adult workers who prepare our students who are daily on the front line of missions.

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



By Don Spencer

Will you have enough to retire?

Few people can be absolutely sure if they'll be financially prepared for retirement, but there are steps you can take to ensure you are on the right track.

1. What do you want your retirement to look like? Decide what type of life you want. Will you travel? Do volunteer work? Work part-time? Be involved of certain hobbies?

These answers will help you know how much income you will need throughout retirement.

2. Set a budget. This includes housing, food, transportation, gifts, taxes and medical costs.

3. Review your future income sources. Look at the total picture. This includes social security, retirement and job income.

Once you calculate your future total income, determine how much more you will need from your retirement plan to support your lifestyle.

4. Assess your current retirement contribution level and investments. The amount needed will depend on your future income needs. It takes two things to have adequate retirement income—time and money.

The less you have of one, the more you will need of the other. Therefore, if your time before retirement is short, it will require larger contributions. Consider how your retirement is invested. Does it match your time horizon and risk tolerance?

Generally, you want to use a well-diversified asset allocation that's more aggressive while you're younger and shift to a more conservative investment as you approach retirement years. With careful planning and disciplined savings, a secure retirement is not out of reach.

The most important step in being ready for tomorrow is to take action today.

Cox's Creek pastor to be nominated as KBC 2nd VP

By Todd Deaton

Cox's Creek—Jonathan Gann, pastor of New Salem Baptist Church in Cox's Creek, will be nominated for second vice president of the Kentucky Baptist Convention during its annual meeting Nov. 10 in Elizabethtown.

Gann will be nominated by Robert Tarrence, interim pastor of Glendale Baptist Church in Bowling Green, when the KBC meets at Severns Valley Baptist Church.

"Jonathan greatly represents what Kentucky Baptists are all about," Tarrence said.

"Jonathan believes in the Cooperative Program and mission giving," he added, noting that Gann has led New Salem to

increase its CP giving to 10 percent in just a few short years while also contributing substantially to the Lottie Moon, Annie Armstrong and Eliza Broadus missions offerings.

Gann has demonstrated a spirit of cooperation in Nelson Baptist Association, where he serves as moderator and has been a member of its administrative team, Tarrence said.

A native of Murfreesboro, Tenn., Gann is a graduate of Middle Tennessee State University and is currently enrolled in the master's degree program at Louisville Bible College. He served as youth

minister at New Salem prior to becoming its pastor in June 2012.

"One might ask, why nominate one so young?" Terrance acknowledged.

"When we look around our convention, the one thing so easily recognizable is that we are losing our younger preachers. Jonathan represents a generation that needs to know that they are wanted and needed in our KBC life," he explained. "He will be able to bring a perspective from this generation to the workings of our convention."

Gann is the second announced candidate for the KBC's



Jonathan Gann

second vice president post. Stephen Hall, retired minister of music and education at High Street Baptist Church in Somerset, also is expected to be nominated.

If elected, Gann said that his primary focus would be to "come alongside the president and 1st vice president to carry out the vision of the KBC and to connect and encourage churches to stand firm on the scriptures and gospel of Jesus Christ. I will be a supporter of Dr. Chitwood's and his leadership in the KBC."

New Salem Baptist Church contributed \$15,611 through the Cooperative Program in 2013-2014 of its undesignated receipts of \$155,442, or 10 percent. The congregation reported nine baptisms last year. (WR)

Can you teach us how to be a church?

By Jeff Crabtree

Many churches in the Kentucky Baptist Convention have seen a decline or plateau over the past few years. Churches are bombarded by the word "revitalization." For some this is a negative term. However, I see that the process of revitalization has been around a lot longer than we have used the word.

In Ohio County, there is a church that more than likely has not heard the word "revitalization," but God has restored them and given them new life.

East Hartford Baptist Church began as a mission in 1956 and became a church in 1974. Looking at the 20 Year Statistical History Report, from 1995 to 2005, the worship attendance looks like a bell curve, beginning at 60 with a high of 175, then plummeting to 33 in worship for 2005.

During this decline a new pastor came: Troy Richards. Over the next 10 years, God began the process of revitalizing East Hartford. Looking at the years 2006-2014, you see a totally different church. The church has seen more than 150 baptisms, worship attendance growing from 33 to

252, and five times the offering.

As I spoke to pastors Troy Richards and Andy Gowins about what God has done at EHBC, several things jumped out, suggesting that any church connecting to God can see a turnaround. Here are six factors that God used to cause this church to become a story of His revitalization process:

■ **The church accepted their current situation.**

In 2005, when Richards arrived, the church was almost ready to close. Growing up in Ohio County, Richards understood the church's history and the struggles it had gone through. The church was approximately \$100,000 in debt, with no apparent way to pay the loan.

The church did not have a great reputation in the community, which added to the work for the new pastor and those 33

members left to tend to church affairs.

Another issue was the large percentage of new Christians. However, it was here that Richards heard the people asking him, "Can you teach us how to be a church?" These people had come to accept

their current situation and needed help.

■ **Develop a vision**

The church had too many ministries and was not doing any of them well. Pastor Richards led the church to embrace a "Four

L" vision: Live, Learn, Love and Lead. The vision was simple and still drives the church 10 years later. The vision is "Live for Jesus, Learn about Jesus, Love people as Jesus does, and Lead people to Jesus."

The vision has also helped EHBC organize their ministry into four teams. The "Living Team" is for fellowship and keeping unity in the church; the "Learning

Team" is for teaching and making disciples; the "Loving Team" is about being servants and showing the love of Jesus to community and the world; and the "Leading Team" has the task of training people to fill the roles of the other teams.

God has and is still using this vision to accomplish His task through EHBC. Developing a vision is another reality for a church to move forward.

■ **Intentional outreach**

When Pastor Richards got to East Hartford in 2005, he needed to help the community better understand the new congregation. The goal for the church, Richards said, was to "touch the community so they would see us." Like many churches, EHBC was not being intentional about reaching the community.

As EHBC began to minister to the community, they touched people in the county, and they collected and delivered supplies for the victims of Hurricane Katrina in Louisiana.

Pastor Richards said that EHBC now has a desire to impact its community. He said, "If we know someone is not in a church, we help them."

■ **Development of members and leaders**

Pastor Gowins engages new church members with DMV: Discipleship, Membership and Volunteer. As new people have come to EHBC, they have been given many opportunities to connect to ministry by fulfilling the "Four L's." With both the DMV and the Learning Team, church leaders are moving people out of the chairs and into ministry. Churches today do not have the luxury of endless volunteers, so the key of connecting people to a place of service is extremely important.

Talking with Gowins and Richards, you hear their passion for the kingdom and EHBC. These two men would encourage every pastor to have a long tenure at one place with a great dependence on God. The work has not been easy and many times it is without fanfare, but for these two pastors long tenure equals life investments in people.

In the case of EHBC, it has taken 10 years to get the church to this place. These pastors know that prayer is their greatest tool. Richard's encouragement for other pastors is to stay grounded in prayer. He explained, "God knew what they needed, and He supplied the needs." (WR)

Regional SPOTLIGHT



Jeff Crabtree
South Central



Practical Training for Kentucky Baptists

August 22 // Immanuel Baptist Church, LEXINGTON

August 29 // Lone Oak First Baptist Church, PADUCAH

September 12 // The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, LOUISVILLE

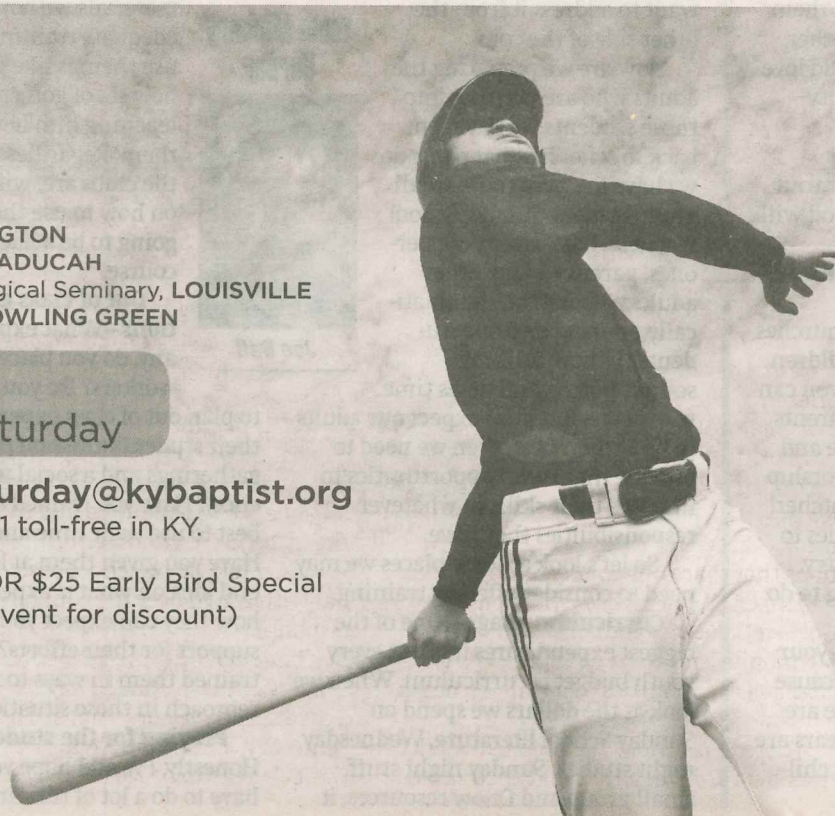
September 19 // Eastwood Baptist Church, BOWLING GREEN

Register online today

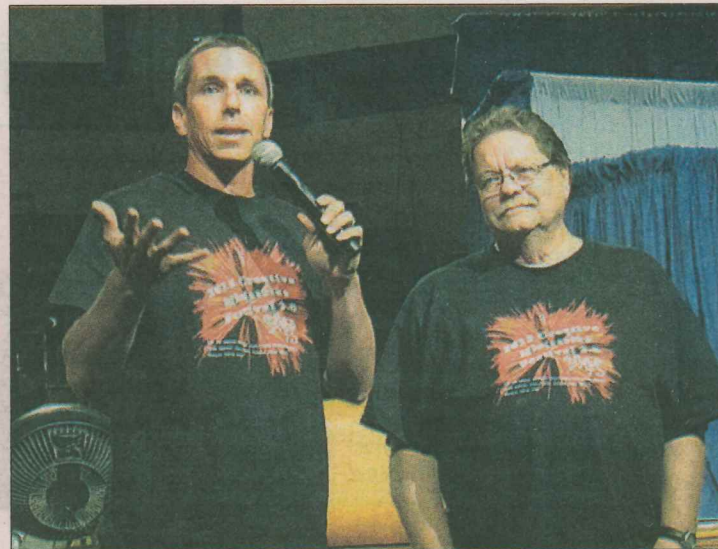
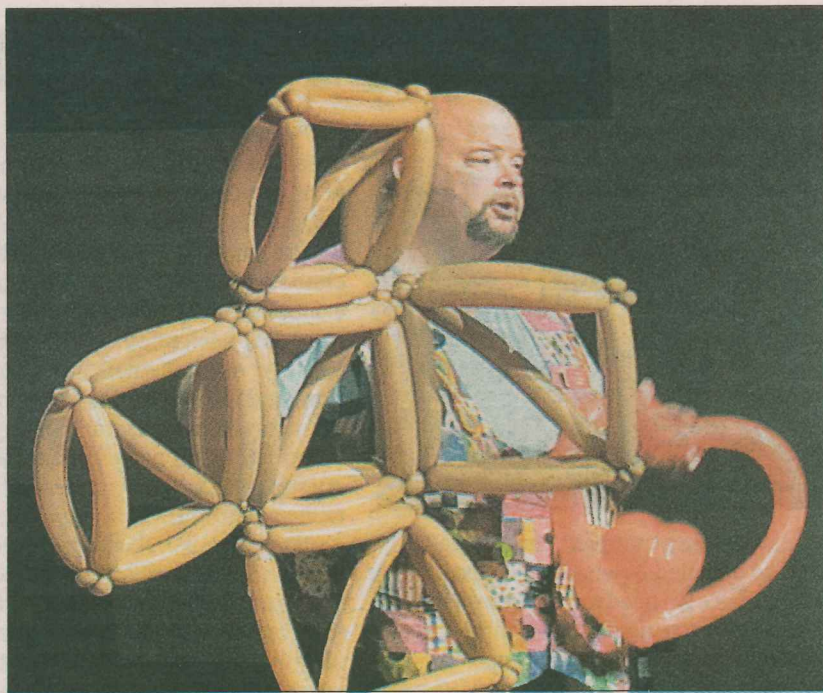
www.kybaptist.org/supersaturday

For more information, email supersaturday@kybaptist.org or call (502) 489-3571 or (866) 489-3571 toll-free in KY.

Great low price! \$35 per person OR \$25 Early Bird Special (must register by Monday before each event for discount)



Terry Kelly of Jester Ministries uses balloons and other visual arts to share the gospel.



David Buckner credits Tom Smoot for mentoring him in creative ministries. Smoot was recognized in the closing session for starting CMF over 20 years ago.

Below left, Clowning was a favorite class and at the Block Party. Peggy Leach, right, had an extra outfit, so a volunteer had her first experience of clowning.

Creative Ministries

Creative Ministries Festival 2.0 launched Aug. 14-15, under the direction of Kentucky WMU. The two-day experience at Living Hope Baptist Church in Bowling Green equipped students to share the gospel in creative ways.

More than 200 participants attended classes in various aspects of creative ministries such as puppetry, balloons, interpretive movement, sign, skits, juggling, face painting, magic, lip synch, clowning and human video. CMF 2.0's missions component featured a block party for practical experience and a missions fair to connect creative ministry teams with missionaries and ministry leaders.

The next event is March 11-12 at Rich Pond Baptist Church in Bowling Green.



Bethel Baptist puppeteers prepare to present a skit at the block party, hosted by Forest Park Baptist Church.



More than 200 participants attended CMF 2.0, the first Creative Ministries Festival under Kentucky WMU sponsorship.



Above, Tim Bertram uses his artistic talents to proclaim Jesus through word and art. Top, Jon Auten emceed the presentations at the block party.

Union University in Tennessee withdraws from CCCU

By David Roach

Jackson, Tenn.—Union University has announced its withdrawal from the Council for Christian Colleges & Universities because of what a Union news release called the council's "failure to respond appropriately to two member institutions that have endorsed same-sex marriage."

In comments to Baptist Press, the CCCU said it is "saddened by Union's decision" and underscored its practice of "advocating vigorously on behalf of schools that hold the orthodox view of marriage."

In an Aug. 3 letter to Shirley Hoogstra, president of the CCCU, and Charles Pollard, chairman of its board of directors, Union President Samuel "Dub" Oliver said he was grieved to withdraw, since Union

has been a CCCU member since 1991. Union is affiliated with the Tennessee Baptist Convention.

"The Union community has certainly benefited from the student programs, professional development, and advocacy offered by the Council, as well as our fellowship together," he wrote. "Even still, our faithfulness to the authority of Scripture takes precedence... our advocacy for Christ-centered higher education means that we must stand with institutions that share our commitments."

Two CCCU member institutions—Goshen College in Indiana and Eastern Mennonite University in Virginia—changed their policies regarding benefits for same-sex couples.

Those institutions "abandoned fidelity to God's word when they endorsed same-

sex marriage," Oliver wrote.

The CCCU said it would consult member institutions, Inside Higher Ed reported, noting the council may downgrade Goshen and Eastern Mennonite to "affiliate status" and limit voting privileges.

CCCU membership requirements do not reference homosexuality specifically, but the council says member institutions must be "Christ-centered and rooted in the historic Christian faith."

CCCU told BP no school besides Union has withdrawn over the council's response.

Thomas White, president of Cedarville University in Ohio and a former vice president at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, told Inside Higher Ed, "The CCCU is at a crossroads and is doing the

right thing by having private conversations with presidents of various institutions to determine the best way forward. ... Cedarville University will not compromise on the biblical view of marriage."

Because the CCCU board was not definitive, Oliver wrote, the collective voice of CCCU member institutions was weakened. He cited a July 28 news release stating the "vast majority" of CCCU members hold to a historic, orthodox understanding of marriage between a man and a woman.

"The fact that this is not unanimous damages our witness," Oliver wrote. "The reason we are passionate about this is because what we are talking about is not a secondary or tertiary theological issue—marriage is at the heart of the gospel. To deny the Bible's concept of marriage is to deny the authority of Scripture." (BP)

Ky. panel: SCOTUS decision only 'tip of the arrow'

By Myriah Snyder

Frankfort—Kentucky Baptist Convention Executive Director Paul Chitwood; senior council with the Alliance Defending Freedom, Bryan Beauman; and pastor of Farmdale Baptist Church, Steve Weaver, recently participated in a panel discussion with East Frankfort Baptist Church's pastor Kyle McDanell.

"It's been my experience that previous generations could safely assume religious liberty, but now we must again defend it and promote it," McDanell said.

The primary questions before the panel were: "Are we overreacting to the SCOTUS decision? Is religious liberty really under assault?"

"Is this a watershed moment? Is this important? Are we making too much of a big deal about this?" Beauman began.

"Were there celebrations in the street? Were there hundreds of people in front of the Supreme Court when the ruling came down and they liked it? Did corporate America and practically every member of a Fortune 500 react with some type of rainbow colored ad? Did you see Twitter and Facebook and all your friends on social media change their pictures, paint rainbows across them? With all the support, did you see media glorify it?" he said.

"If this opinion meant nothing, if it wasn't a watershed moment, would there have been that nationwide a response of joy and celebration?" he reasoned. "We all know that answer. The question is where do we go from here and what's next?"

"Is it over; was that the end of it? Was it just about marriage and now those

KBC Executive Director Paul Chitwood discusses religious liberty with other Ky. Baptists in a July 31 panel.



advocacy groups fighting for that have stopped? No," Beauman replied.

Chitwood added, "We are investing as Kentucky Baptists in defending the religious liberties of Kentucky Baptists because we believe this threat is real. The SCOTUS decision is a watershed moment. It can't be overestimated. This is the tip of the arrow. This changes everything."

Weaver said, "There are implications that have indicated where we are in our society in many ways and demand that a certain type of behavior be accepted and celebrated."

"For those who are pastors or Christians of conviction, whether they're operating as florists or bakers or in education, they're being asked to lay down their religious convictions as they leave the church door on Sunday. That is something unprecedented," Weaver said.

"This idea that freedom of religion is only something we do on Sunday morning and doesn't affect every aspect of our lives is also revolutionary in America, and now we're seeing multiple cases where those

rights are being trampled," he asserted.

"The question is, what is the next step? That's where we need to be involved in the process, communicating with our legislature and others, for whatever type of changes come down the pipeline," Weaver urged.

Pointing out that both Hilary Clinton and President Obama have been quoted using the term "freedom of worship," rather than "freedom of religion," McDanell asked, "Does it really matter?"

"The President of the United States does not haphazardly use the English language," Chitwood said.

"No human being on the planet has his words more closely scrutinized, nor does any other human being's words carry such authority as that of the President of the United States," he noted. "I assure you, his words are spoken with great intentionality and very strategically."

"He is choosing to rewrite history and present a new perspective of the American experiment of democracy and religious liberty."

"When he chooses to use the phrase 'freedom of worship' rather than 'freedom of religion,' it is for some purpose and the reasons for it are obvious," Chitwood said.

The panel also discussed the threat of churches and institutions losing their tax exempt status, practical steps the church can take to defend religious liberty, the consequences of "emergency contraception" and the Affordable Care Act, and if taxes should continue supporting Planned Parenthood. The panel concluded with the question, "Where are we headed in the next generation?"

"I'm optimistic, because the gospel is the only answer," Weaver said.

"The end result of erotic liberty is going to be broken hearted, broken people who will need the gospel. What they think will satisfy them will not."

"We have the only message that will satisfy their deepest longings, so what we've got to be ready to do, as the people of God, is to be the kind of people who are not characterized by anger or by fear, but who are characterized by joy in the gospel and the belief that the gospel is powerful enough to save people from their sins."

Beauman added: "What we're countered with is things aren't easy, and we're given the opportunity to show our faith, to live out our faith, to be obedient. Now is the time not to be down. Now is the time to be excited about. What greater times to reach out, to share truth! We have an opportunity to stand."

"I don't know where it's all going in the short term, but we know where it's all going in the long term," Chitwood concluded. (WR)

CINCINNATI

SEND CITY

VISION TOUR

September 28-29, 2015

States move to defund Planned Parenthood

By Tom Strode

Washington, D.C.—Three states acted swiftly to accomplish what the U.S. Senate could not—defund Planned Parenthood.

Alabama, Louisiana and New Hampshire all have eliminated funding for the country's leading abortion provider after the release of videos providing evidence Planned Parenthood trades in baby body parts.

Since mid-July, an investigative group has released five undercover videos that show Planned Parenthood officials discussing the sale of organs from aborted children for research. More videos are expected to emerge in the next few weeks.

Thirteen states have initiated investigations into Planned Parenthood, according to The Christian Science Monitor. After investigations in their states, Florida and Indiana officials have reported they found no evidence of violations by the organization regarding fetal tissue.

While some states have canceled contracts with Planned Parenthood, supporters of defunding in the U.S. Senate fell short in their attempt Aug. 3. Senators voted 53-46 to bring to the floor a bill to eliminate federal funds for the Planned Parenthood Federation of America 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.

The state actions—and the renewed federal effort—have come in response to the latest, but most grisly, revelation about the practices of a network of affiliates that performs more than one-fourth of this country's abortions each year. A widespread social media campaign to publicize the videos and eliminate government funding of PPF—often using the hashtag #DefundPP—erupted when the first footage was released July 14.

Pro-life leaders continue to call for elimination of government money for Planned Parenthood.

Russell Moore, president of the Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission, commended “the moral clarity and conviction of these states that have taken real action to prevent Planned Parenthood from accessing taxpayer funds. It is abundantly clear that what goes on in Planned Parenthood clinics is not reproductive health but a ghoulish form of human piracy.”

“We mourn the lack of moral leadership that failed to pass legislation in the U.S. Senate, but as these governors and officials have demonstrated, real action and real change is possible,” Moore told Baptist Press. “The ultimate defunding of Planned Parenthood is a human rights issue that is worthy of our endurance.”

Casey Mattox, senior counsel of Alliance Defending Freedom, said in a statement, “Not one more penny should go to Planned Parenthood, a billion-dollar abortion

dealer caught on camera negotiating the sale of hearts, lungs, and livers from aborted babies. Our tax dollars instead should fund local public health clinics, which outnumber Planned Parenthood locations more than 10 to 1 and are not tainted by constant scandals and misdeeds. America doesn't need Planned Parenthood.”

Louisiana made public its defunding decision Aug. 3, and New Hampshire and Alabama quickly followed:

■ Louisiana Gov. Bobby Jindal said his administration canceled its Medicaid agreement with Planned Parenthood.

“Planned Parenthood does not represent the values of the people of Louisiana and shows a fundamental disrespect for human life,” said Jindal, a candidate for the Republican presidential nomination. “It has become clear that this is not an organization that is worthy of receiving public assistance from the state.”

■ The New Hampshire Executive Council voted Aug. 5 to reject contracts for Planned Parenthood in the state. The vote came along party lines, with the council's three Republican members in support of defunding.

Chris Sununu, a pro-choice Republican on the council, had supported Planned Parenthood funding in the past but urged the state to find other vendors to provide women's health services, according to the New Hampshire Union Leader. Describing the videos as “horrific and disgusting,”

Sununu said, “I have serious questions about it, especially at the national level.”

■ Alabama Gov. Robert Bentley, a Republican, announced in an Aug. 6 letter to Planned Parenthood Southeast his administration was terminating its Medicaid agreement with the affiliate.

“The deplorable practices at Planned Parenthood have been exposed to Americans, and I have decided to stop any association with the organization in Alabama,” Bentley said in The Birmingham News.

“As a doctor and Alabama's governor, the issue of human life, from conception to birth and beyond, is extremely important. I respect human life and do not want Alabama to be associated with an organization that does not.”

The videos, produced by the Center for Medical Progress, show hidden-camera conversations between PPF officials and people portraying representatives of a human biologics firm.

Planned Parenthood and its allies have charged CMP with fraud and have defended the need for Planned Parenthood's services to women, especially those with lower incomes.

“Extremists who oppose Planned Parenthood's mission and services are making outrageous and completely false claims,” said Dawn Laguens, PPF's executive vice president, in a statement. “These videos are intended to shock and deceive the public.” (BP)

Parliamentarian McCarty now Baptist

By Gerald Harris

Atlanta—If Southern Baptist Convention annual meetings were tallied like college or NBA basketball games, Barry McCarty would be the leader in minutes played. In the course of 29 annual meetings, no one has accumulated more platform time in the SBC's annual sessions than the well-known chief parliamentarian.

The Atlanta native—who became a Southern Baptist on Aug. 16 and is joining the faculty of an SBC seminary—has logged some 540 hours on the platform. But that is only a small part of what the convention parliamentarian actually does. McCarty customarily spends a significant amount of time with the SBC presidents in preparation for the convention business sessions.

McCarty has now served under 16 SBC presidents, beginning in 1986 with Charles Stanley, pastor of First Baptist Church of Atlanta. His parliamentary expertise has been invaluable in helping convention leaders navigate through some rather stormy business sessions.

McCarty also is a preacher, teacher, pastor and educator. He holds a Ph.D. in rhetoric and argumentation from the University of Pittsburgh, has served as president of Cincinnati Christian University and senior pastor of Peachtree Christian Church in Atlanta. McCarty had served the Lord in the Stone-Campbell tradition that sought to restore Christian unity through abolishing creeds and returning to the principles of the early churches described in the New Testament.

“In reading Baptist history,” McCarty recounted, “I discovered that the desire to recover New Testament Christianity was also what the Anabaptists were striving to do during the Protestant Reformation.”

At the recent SBC annual meeting in Columbus, Ohio, McCarty was asked, “Barry, when are you going to become

a Southern Baptist?” He responded, “Well, it may be sooner than you think.”

Began with 2000 BF&M

McCarty developed a love for Southern Baptists through the years and a growing appreciation for the Baptist Faith and Message as a confession of sound biblical doctrine.

“My confidence in the BF&M 2000 began 15 years ago when I assisted the SBC in its adoption,” said McCarty, a man who holds tenaciously to the infallibility of God's word. “Paige (Patterson), who was the convention president in 2000, and I had numerous conversations about that confessional document and how it would be presented to the messengers at the Orlando convention.”

“I immersed myself in the content of the Baptist Faith and Message and grew to love the way it summarized the Christian faith. I especially appreciated its clear statement on salvation by grace through faith, while also affirming believer's baptism as the biblical testimony of a saving faith in the work of Christ.”

McCarty cited three reasons for his decision to become a Southern Baptist. “First,” he noted, “while Southern Baptists are not a creedal people, they are a confessional people. And at this point in history the Baptist Faith and Message 2000 is the best statement of faith I know of.”

“Second, right now no one is speaking to our culture on the great moral issues with as much clarity or biblical integrity as Southern Baptists,” McCarty said. “Third, at this point in history no one is doing more to penetrate lostness around the world than Southern Baptists.”

“Dr. Barry McCarty has been a like-minded believer for 15 years,” said Patterson, president of Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. “One of my greatest joys is to welcome him to Southern Baptist life in a new way.”

‘We want in’

On Aug. 16, McCarty his wife Pat were baptized and welcomed into the membership of Sherwood Baptist Church in Albany, Ga. The McCartys selected Sherwood because of their friendship with pastor Michael Catt, the influence of Sherwood's Refresh Conferences, and the



Barry McCarty, the Southern Baptist Convention's parliamentarian for 29 years, is now a Southern Baptist and a faculty member at Southwestern Seminary. (BP File photo)

prayers the church has lifted to God on their behalf.

“On Sunday,” McCarty told Georgia Baptists' Christian Index newsjournal, “we are going to give four offerings to Sherwood Baptist Church. We are going to give our tithe, which will go to the local church, to the Georgia Baptist Convention and the Southern Baptist Convention through the Cooperative Program. We will give three gifts over and above our tithe: one to the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering for North American Missions, another gift to the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for International Missions and a gift to Mission Georgia (state missions).”

“We get it. We understand how our convention works and we want in on all of it.”

Pat McCarty also is familiar with Southern Baptist life. When Barry served as a pastor in Dallas, she was employed by GuideStone Financial Resources, the SBC's financial services arm. And during his pastorate in Atlanta, Pat served as an employee of the NAMB.

By month's end Barry McCarty will have an opportunity to serve as a professor of preaching and rhetoric at Southwestern Seminary. He turned down other ministry opportunities to accept the position at the Fort Worth campus, and it's easy to sense his delight over the new season of ministry the Lord has provided.

“I would like for evangelicals across the nation to know my reasoning for becoming a Southern Baptist,” McCarty said, “and I would say to them, ‘If your church is having a love affair with the culture rather than lovingly speaking truth to the culture, you may need to become a Southern Baptist.’ Southern Baptists are the strongest voice for New Testament Christianity in our generation. I want to be part of that voice.” (BP)

BWA's Callam calls on Baptists worldwide to unite

By Eron Henry

Durban, South Africa—In the closing session of the 21st Baptist World Congress in South Africa on July 26, Baptist World Alliance General Secretary Neville Callam renewed a call for the unity of the worldwide Baptist family.

Callam called attention to the jubilant occasion in July 1905 when the original BWA constitution was agreed by the delegates at the inaugural Baptist World Congress.

Callam said those who formed the BWA were keen to emphasize that the worldwide fellowship being formed was to signify or express the oneness in Christ of Baptist churches worldwide. "The BWA was to become a vehicle for both the expression of that oneness and the furtherance of Baptist unity," he said.

The BWA leader urged contemporary Baptists to affirm the importance of unity as a central focus of the BWA. More than 2,500 participants from more than 80 countries attended the congress in Durban.

"The BWA has the calling to model this unity in our life as a denominational community and to serve as a vital instrument that helps Baptists overcome fragmentation and division," he said.

At the same time, Baptists ought to recognize that they are part of a wider global community of Christians, Callam added, declaring that Baptists share with "other Christians the one body of Christ."

Callam challenged Baptist Christians to "keep the word of God in our hearts and let us model a loving and



The fifth Congress Human Rights Award was presented to Rwandan Corneille Gato Munyamasoko, general secretary of the Association of Baptist Churches in Rwanda (AEBR).

united movement of Baptist Christians," going "forward as a people who are united in God our Savior."

In other BWA-related news, the fifth Congress Human Rights Award was presented to Rwandan Corneille Gato Munyamasoko, general secretary of the Association of Baptist Churches in Rwanda (AEBR).

Munyamasoko was recognized for his work in peace and reconciliation after the 1994 genocide in his country. The Rwandan Genocide was a mass slaughter of Tutsi and moderate Hutu in Rwanda by members of the Hutu majority. From April to mid-July 1994, 500,000 to 1,000,000 Rwandans were killed, 70 percent of the Tutsi and 20 percent of Rwanda's total population.

A citation read at the presentation on July 23 described Munyamasoko as a strong advocate; a prophetic witness; a champion of the vulnerable; and as a reconciler, peace-maker, pacifist and mediator.

BWA General Secretary Neville Callam declared Munyamasoko a committed Christian who has drawn "upon biblical theology, integral mission, training and community development to assist groups and persons to overcome national rivalries and ethnic differences."

The Rwandan Baptist leader, who was born to exiled parents in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), is "driven by the idea of the church as a home of peace."

He was instrumental in leading groups in Rwanda "to consider the painful background of Rwanda's ethnic divisions in the quest to overcome the destruction of social groups victimized by suspicion and lack of trust."

Munyamasoko led Rwandans "to understand the causes of the genocide; to seek and to extend forgiveness; and to build relationships based on the principles of justice, mercy and faith, emphasizing the need for reconciliation with God, self and others."

The Congress Human Rights Award is presented at each Baptist World Congress, normally held every five years. The 2015 congress, which had as its theme, "Jesus Christ, the Door," took place in Durban. It was the first Baptist World Congress in Africa since the first in London, England, in 1905. The 2020 celebration will combine the Baptist World Congress with the Baptist Youth World Conference. It will be held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. (BWA)

Colorado marijuana legalization taking a toll

By Jim Burton

Pueblo, Colo.—One Colorado "church" is pushing for its mountain town of 1,500 to become the nation's first "sanctuary" for "therapeutic and spiritual users of cannabis."

Calling itself "Closer to the Heart Ministry," the so-called church in Nederland, Colo., celebrates cannabis—the plant that produces marijuana—as mankind's "tree of life."

Baptist pastors, however, see no safe haven from recreational marijuana's toll since its legalization on Jan. 1, 2014.

Charlie Jones, pastor of Fellowship of the Rockies in Pueblo, said legalization has spawned a heightened demand for social services in southern Colorado, including an 81 percent rise in marijuana-related calls to emergency response dis-

patchers in 2014.

"People have moved to Colorado because of the legalization of marijuana, and then they have stressed the food pantries and homeless shelters and things like that," Jones said.

Twenty-four retail stores opened on the first day of legal recreational marijuana in Colorado in 2014; today, the state is home to more than 330 such stores.

Pueblo County, with a population of just over 162,000, has issued 41 marijuana retail licenses, with outlets garnering more than \$44,600 daily, according to the Pueblo Chieftain.

Colorado's embrace of recreational marijuana comes as science continues to produce information about its detrimental effects. Besides the short-term mood-altering characteristics, long-term effects include stunted brain development.

With marijuana's potency much higher than in the 1960s, long-term use starting in adolescence results in an eight-point drop in IQ on average through a person's late 30s, according to the National Institute on Drug Abuse.

Accessibility to marijuana in Colorado has created challenges that often land at the doorstep of local churches and ministry centers. Most of those challenges result from miscalculated consequences, beginning with tax revenue shortfalls.

During the first fiscal year of legalization, Colorado estimated it would garner \$118 million in retail marijuana tax revenue. The receipts were closer to \$36.2 million.

Taxes on legal marijuana make the retail price high, which has fueled black market sales. Proponents had predicted the black market would shrink. The

Pueblo Chieftain reported in a recent series on legalization's implications that cartels are now operating in Colorado.

Though possession of an ounce or less of marijuana is now legal in Colorado, the state Supreme Court recently determined that employers could set stipulations related to drug use. Most have a zero tolerance policy, meaning that any trace of marijuana, which can last from four to nearly 70 days depending on usage, can disqualify a person for a job. Jobless people often become homeless.

Numerous other questions have emerged including whether food stamps cover marijuana-laced edibles (retailers sold more than 4.8 million units for recreational use in 2014) and how to keep those food products from children and youth.

"In church we're seeing more that we are strangers, exiles and aliens," said Michael Morgan, 37, pastor of Wellspring Community Church near Denver.

"We've seen it move from a hobby for people to something that they do all day long. It begins to infiltrate all of life... I never see people quit," Morgan said.

With legalization of marijuana implying a moral legitimacy to its use, churches that have small groups gathering in homes must now spell out expectations.

Jones has encouraged church members to be responsible in their decision-making.

Some have irresponsibly come to church high on marijuana. Attitudes in Colorado also has changed hiring practices at churches.

"We ask about positions on alcohol and marijuana, how you would counsel (people)," Jones said. Yet complications from recreational marijuana may also stir a new focus within the church.

"We're not the moral majority, but we're the missional minority," Morgan said. "The mission is to exalt and glorify Jesus and help others come into a relationship with Jesus and be transformed by the power of the gospel. (BP)

Be a Bulldog Day

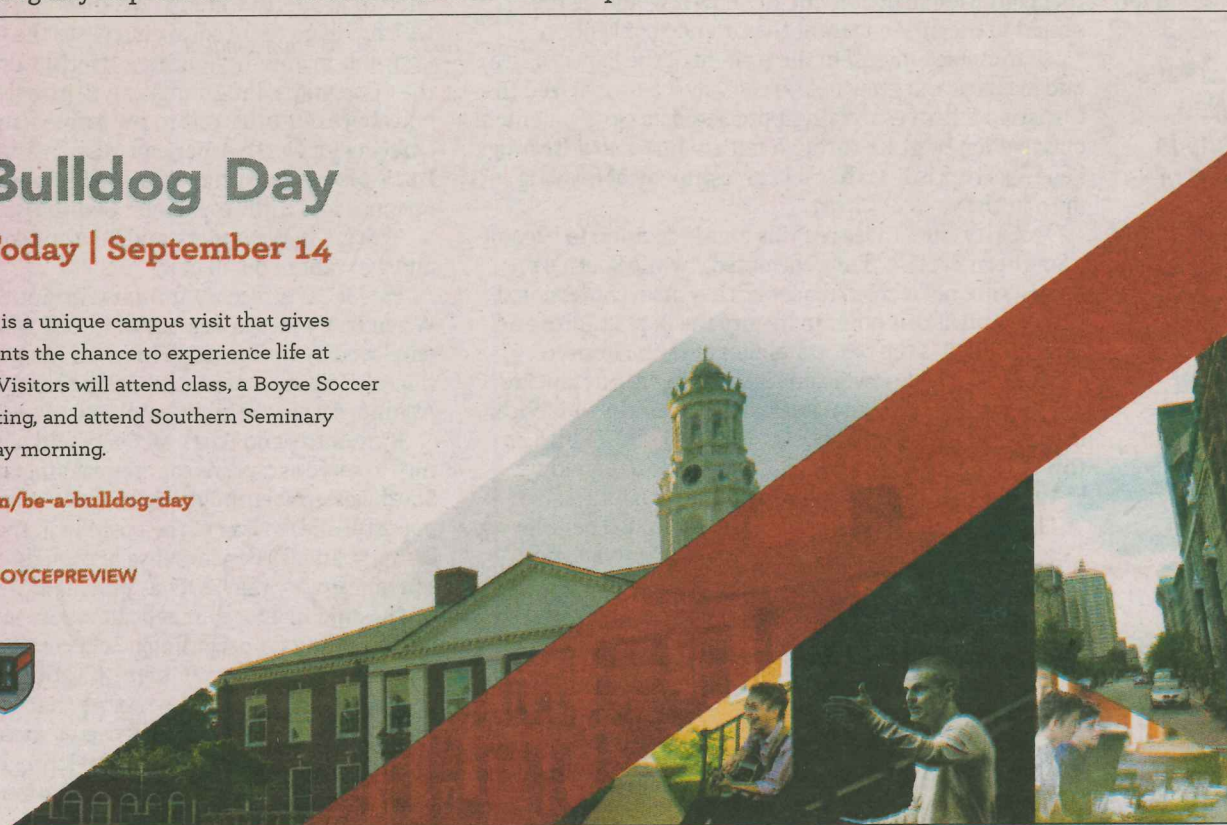
Register Today | September 14

Be a Bulldog Day is a unique campus visit that gives prospective students the chance to experience life at Boyce first-hand. Visitors will attend class, a Boyce Soccer game, Dorm Meeting, and attend Southern Seminary Chapel on Tuesday morning.

boycecollege.com/be-a-bulldog-day

#BOYCEPREVIEW

BOYCE
THE COLLEGE OF SOUTHERN



IRS promise met with praise, caution

By David Roach

Washington, D.C.—The Internal Revenue Service will not revoke the tax-exempt status of religious organizations that object to same-sex marriage, IRS Commissioner John Koskinen has promised at least twice in recent weeks.

But tax experts say the commissioner's commitments are not a guarantee for organizations with religious objections to the Supreme Court's nationwide legalization of homosexual marriage this summer.

Michael Batts, a CPA who specializes in nonprofits, told Baptist Press some types of tax exemptions could still be in jeopardy.

"It is helpful to have correspondence from the sitting IRS commissioner that provides some minimal level of temporary assurance about the position of current IRS officials. But the commissioner's comments on federal tax-exempt status for religious organizations do not establish legal authority on the matter and they are not the end of the story," Batts said.

"Leaders of religious organizations must also keep in mind that federal income tax exemption is only one front with respect to this issue," Batts noted. "State and local tax exemptions of various types, as



Commissioner John Koskinen committed July 29 not to revoke the tax-exempt status of colleges opposing same-sex marriage.

well as other areas of law like housing, zoning and land use are administered by countless agencies all over the country. Federal, state and local officials administering these other areas of law are not bound by the comments of the IRS commissioner or, for the most part, by federal tax law."

Christian organizations that object to gay marriage "will be seeking much greater and broader assurance" related to tax exemptions, Batts said. Koskinen's first promise occurred at a U.S. Senate Judiciary Oversight Subcommittee hearing July 29 in which Sen. Mike Lee, R-Utah, asked the commissioner whether he could commit, "in the absence of a directive by Congress or by the courts," to not "take any action to remove the tax-exempt status from Christian colleges and universities based on their belief that marriage is between a man and a woman." Koskinen said, "I can make that commitment." The IRS

commissioner said any policy change will be preceded by an opportunity for public comment. "There would be no surprises" for tax-exempt status for colleges and universities, Koskinen said. If there were a change, "the public would have plenty of notice and plenty of opportunity to comment, and that's not going to happen in the next two and a half years."

Koskinen wrote in a July 30 letter to Oklahoma Attorney General Scott Pruitt that the "IRS does not view" the Supreme Court's same-sex marriage ruling "as having changed the law applicable to section 501(c)(3) determinations or examinations. Therefore, the IRS will not, because of this decision, change existing standards in reviewing applications for recognition of exemption under section 501(c)(3) or in examining the qualification of section 501(c)(3) organizations."

Pruitt, a trustee at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, called Koskinen's promises not to revoke the tax-exempt status of religious organizations "a victory for religious freedom in America" and for non-profits who feared they would be denied tax-exempt status because their religious beliefs prohibit them from participating in same-sex marriage." (BP)

Bombs halt worship services

By Diana Chandler

Las Cruces, N.M.—Bombs exploded Aug. 2 at two Las Cruces, N.M., churches—including a Southern Baptist congregation—cancelling Sunday morning services and prompting evacuation of churches across the city.

No one was hurt in the explosions that caused minimal damage at Calvary Baptist Church and Holy Cross Catholic Church, the Associated Press reported.

New Mexico state police described the bombs as improvised explosive devices designed to cause harm.

About 50 worshippers had gathered for the 8:30 a.m. service at Calvary Baptist when the bomb exploded at 8:20 a.m. in a mailbox attached to the building, Scott Rodgers, pastor of core groups, told Baptist Press.

Worshippers remained calm as police evacuated Calvary Baptist, Rodgers said. He preached the Sunday morning service in the parking lot. Church members are doing well, Rodgers told Baptist Press, and a licensed professional counselor within the congregation has made himself available if needed.

"Each church member that I've spoken to (has) given praise to God for how He protected us," Rodgers said, "and recognizing what little we do know about the device, we're very grateful that God has protected us and not a single person was hurt, not in the slightest."

Mass had already convened at Holy Cross Catholic Church when a bomb exploded outside a church window around 8:40 a.m., A.P. reported, as 200 prepared for communion. The bomb damaged a glass entryway.

Several churches in Las Cruces ended or cancelled Sunday services after the explosions.

Newly hired Calvary Baptist pastor Kevin Glenn, former pastor of Memorial Baptist Church in Columbia, Mo., was spending his first Sunday in Las Cruces in preparation for his new pastorate.

Dozens attended an interfaith prayer vigil Aug. 2 at Pioneer Park. (BP)

178th KBC ANNUAL MEETING
In Christ, God was reconciling the world to himself... and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation. - 2 Cor 5:19

Reach your WORLD

Tuesday, November 10, 2015 • 2 Sessions
Saverns Valley Baptist Church • Elizabethtown

The KBC Mission Board, Pastors' Conference and other affiliated meetings convene on **Monday, November 9.**



Denise.Withers@kybaptist.org

Contact KBC Events & Facility Management office for more information

www.kybaptist.org/annualmeeting

Visit for annual meeting details (particularly as program agendas and other details are finalized this fall)

Saverns Valley Baptist Church
1100 Ring Road
www.seavernsvalley.org

Elizabethtown Accommodations for Messengers

Rates are per night (do not include 10.24% hotel tax) • Limited number of rooms available.

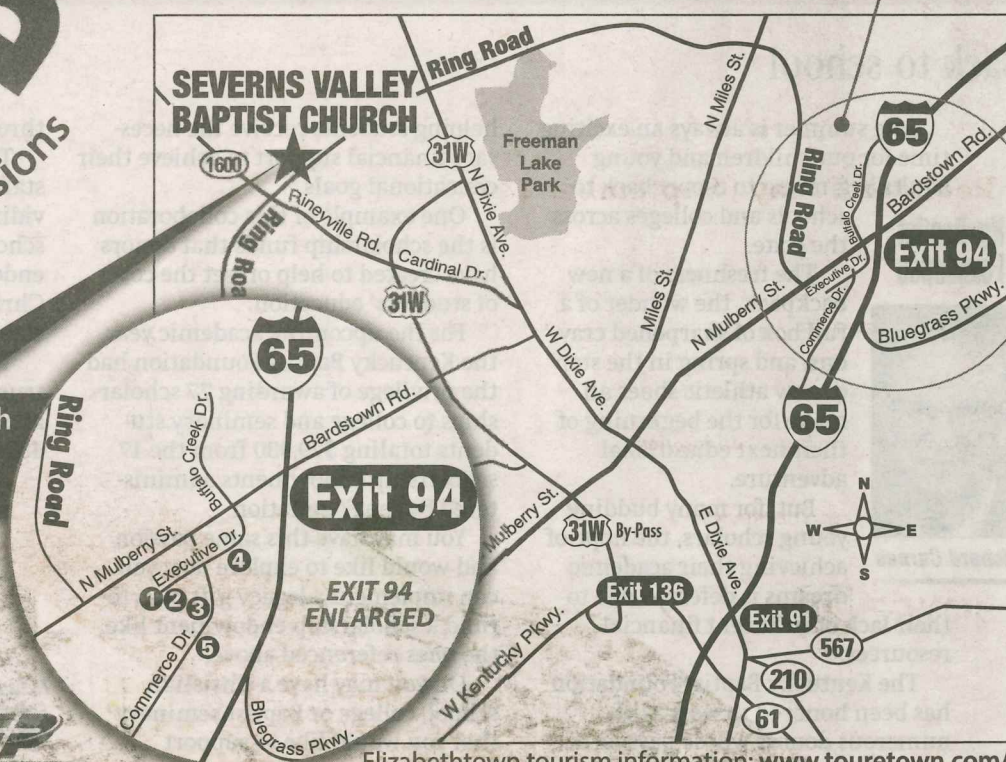
To receive the KBC block rate when making your reservation:

1. Request a room in the KBC messenger/attendee block.
2. Make and pay for your own reservation.
3. Inquire about hotel cancellation policy and/or penalties, if applicable.
4. Meet your selected hotel's reservation deadline.

Hotels listed are at Exit 94 off I-65:

1 Fairfield Inn & Suites 1031 Executive Drive, 42701 270.769.1440 • \$99-\$109 Reservation deadline: 10/12	3 LaQuinta Inns & Suites 210 Commerce Drive, 42701 270.765.4747 • \$90 Reservation deadline: 10/16	5 Comfort Suites 215 Commerce Drive, 42701 270.360.0088 • \$100 Reservation deadline: 10/8
2 Hampton Inn 1035 Executive Drive, 42701 270.765.6663 • \$129 Reservation deadline: 10/25	4 Wingfield Inn & Suites 1043 Executive Drive, 42701 270.769.3030 • \$89.99 Reservation deadline: 10/16	

AREA
ENLARGED
BELOW LEFT



Elizabethtown tourism information: www.touretown.com/

KBC institutional partnerships

As one school year ends, we seem to already be in preparation for the next one.

This past May, we began discussions with Sunrise Children's Services about helping train some of our folks for the new school year. One of our staff couples had recently completed the process with Sunrise to become foster parents.

This couple is now providing a loving home for three foster children.

They used to work as house parents for us, and pitched the idea to me of having Sunrise help train our folks.

I believe Sunrise and Oneida work with virtually the same type of child.

There may be many differences between us. They are a children's home and we are a school, but the bottom line is that we both love the Lord and kids and are working toward the same goal of impacting lives with the love of Christ.

I met with one of Sunrise's folks

and arranged for them to come and be a part of our pre-school meetings and trainings.

Our staff meets for three days before our students arrive. The first of those three days is always a worship and fellowship day.

We worship together at Oneida Baptist Church and then spend some time at a local park fellowshiping—and since we are Baptist, of course, a good meal is involved.

The following two days involve meetings and training.

When I first met with the representative from Sunrise, I soon discovered he also was a pastor. As a matter of fact, his former church had even donated some seating that we had been given and installed in our Sparks Gymnasium.

After this discovery, I asked my new friend if he would come a day early before leading our training and be our guest speaker for our opening worship service.

He agreed and brought an excellent message to our staff.

After charging our batteries with worship and fellowship, we then got

down to the business of meetings and training. Sunrise brought in four of their folks to lead us in training. They covered three critical issues with us and also encouraged us.

Their president even attended part of our meetings. It was good to share lunch and more about us with him.

I have really enjoyed our partnership with other KBC agencies and institutions and their people. We were blessed in our training, and I know you would be so encouraged to see the cooperation of your KBC ministries.

Kids and adults in our world are hurting, and you help all of the KBC's agencies and institutions to reach these people with the love of Jesus Christ.

Together we can do so much more than we can independently.

Thank you for your support of Sunrise, Oneida, and all of your KBC ministries.

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.

Willham, former DOM for South District dies

Danville—William Willham, retired South District Association director of missions, died on Aug. 4. He was 87.

In addition to his position as South District's DOM from 1982-1993, Willham served as their consultant from 1994-2001 and as director of missions consultant for Mercer Baptist Association from 1990-2001. In these roles he was active in establishing a deaf ministry and a Hispanic ministry.

Willham was named Kentucky Director of Missions of the year in 1996. He served as former president of the Directors of Missions Fellowship and as president of the Retired Directors of Missions Fellowship of the Kentucky Baptist Convention.

He served in leadership roles with the Florida and Alabama Baptist conventions, and was pastor of churches in Alabama and Florida, as well as being involved in mission work in New York.

He served on the staffs of Harrodsburg Baptist Church and Parkville Baptist Church. He also was involved in the establishment of Ellers Memorial, Fellowship, Shakertown, Pioneer and Dry Branch Baptist churches.

A former Kentucky State Militia Sergeant, he graduated from Harrodsburg High School, Georgetown College and Southern Baptist Theological Seminary. He also did post graduate archeology work through New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary.

At the time of his death, he was a member of First Baptist Church of Danville. (WR)

Hutchinson recognized for 40 years' service

Williamstown—Crittenden Baptist Association recognized Garnett Hutchinson on Aug. 23 for 40 years of service through the association.

"All your friends from the churches in our association and state wish you a very happy retirement. We want you to know that we love you and appreciate all the time you have given in service to our association and its ministries. May God bless you and your family!" Marietta Hedges, clerk and co-historian at Williamstown Baptist Church, said.

The recognition service took place at Williamstown Baptist Church. Recollections of special moments were compiled into a keepsake album for Hutchinson.

In 1972, Hutchinson was elected as assistant clerk for the association's annual meeting.

In 1977, she continued her service as clerk, and has done so until the present day. Additionally, she served as ministry assistant for the association since 1983, serving under two directors of missions.

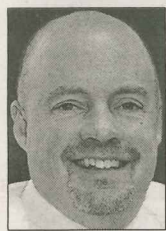
She was also a member of the Executive Board of Kentucky WMU and served as their secretary for one year. Garnett is also active in the Kentucky Baptist Secretaries Association since 1986, serving two terms as president elect and as president.

Garnett is a member of Dry Ridge Baptist Church where she has served in WMU, Baptist Women, Women on Mission, Children's Ministry, and as a Sunday School teacher. (WR)



Hutchinson

This is Oneida



Larry Gritton

Thankful for ministry role models

"I've always been one to want to stay with my grandparents more than my actual parents," said first-year student

Jason Scott. "God and my grandparents got me to where I am today. All the men on my grandfather's side were ministers except for my grandfather himself.

"In our family we learned and practiced the gift of working and being thankful for what we were given or worked for," he said. "We worked constantly to keep Christ as the center of our

family.

"I came to know Jesus Christ thanks to my grandmother taking me to church as a child," Scott added. "I always loved to go to VBS! When I was 8, I surrendered my life to Christ at a

VBS commencement service."

"At age 10, I surrendered my life to the preaching ministry," said Scott. "I tried to run from the call, but the pressure and conviction kept getting stronger. I found out about Clear Creek from my DOM from the Muhlenberg County Baptist Association.

"While accepting the call to the preaching ministry, I also felt the call to music ministry. I have had the honor, privilege and blessing of singing with some top notch Southern Gospel Quartets," he said. "But with that, came pride. It got in the way of my relationship with Christ. I had to remove myself from the music ministry for a couple years.

"Since being at Clear Creek I have re-entered the music ministry once again. I love it because I can sing and play and teach music, while preaching

and teaching His holy word," Scott said.

"The classes at Clear Creek have helped me in equipping me for ministry by causing me to dig deeper into God's word," said Scott. "The Bible classes and the church administration class have been my favorites thus far. The Bible classes cause you to dig deeper in the scripture, and the church administration class gives you a taste of what it is going to be like dealing with church staff.

"If you are looking for a place to get a deeper connection with God in your life, then Clear Creek is the place to be," he urged. "You'll feel right at home here at Clear Creek. We strive to be one big happy family and love everyone and take care of each other."

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

Clear Creek Chronicle



Donnie Fox

Back to school

Late summer is always an exciting time for our children and young adults beginning to report back to schools and colleges across the state.

The freshness of a new backpack, the wonder of a full box of sharpened crayons, and spring in the step of new athletic shoes all make for the beginning of their next educational adventure.

But, for many budding young scholars, the hope of achieving their academic dreams is deferred due to their lack of sufficient financial resources.

The Kentucky Baptist Foundation has been honored to work with numerous donors whose passion is

helping students receive the necessary financial support to achieve their educational goals.

One example of this collaboration is the scholarship funds that donors have created to help off-set the costs of students' education.

For the upcoming academic year, the Kentucky Baptist Foundation had the privilege of awarding 77 scholarships to college and seminary students totaling \$79,930 from the 17 scholarship endowments administered by the Foundation.

You may have this same passion and would like to explore how you can implement a legacy gift plan to fund a scholarship endowment like the ones referenced above.

Or, you may have a Christian school, college or Baptist seminary that you would like to support

through a legacy gift.

The Kentucky Baptist Foundation staff is available to assist you by providing guidance in creating these scholarship funds and charitable endowments to support worthy Christian education causes across the state and the nation.

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. Baptist Foundation



Richard Carnes

Moore's new book, 'Onward' addresses engaging culture

By Tom Strobe

Nashville, Tenn.—Sanity and Christianity should mark the church's cultural engagement, Russell Moore says. So he wrote a book to help followers of Jesus live up to both.

"I noticed that fellow Christians often struggled with how to understand and communicate gospel truth in contentious cultural contexts," Moore, president of the Southern Baptist Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission, said in an email interview with Baptist Press.

"Political and social issues can often make Christians crazy. Every Christian has a responsibility to articulate how the gospel informs every aspect of life, including politics and culture. Therefore we need to know how to stay sane and how to stay Christian while doing so."

The result of his effort to address this need in the church is "Onward: Engaging the Culture Without Losing the Gospel." The book, released Aug. 1, has been described by Collin Hansen, editorial director for The Gospel Coalition, as one evangelical Christians need "for such a time."

The book, published by B&H Publishing Group, expands some of the themes Moore has articulated since he became president of the ERLC in June 2013, such as:

- Nominal Christianity is dying in the United States, and that is good for the church.

- Evangelical Christians should embrace the strangeness of Christianity.

- Christians should recognize they are a prophetic minority and speak with "convictional kindness."

In a piece on Moore and the book in The Atlantic magazine, managing editor Emma Green wrote, "The assumption that evangelicals own American culture and politics has ended."

"This is good for minority groups, for other Christians, and for those who are still searching. But the radicalness of Moore, who by right of inheritance should be America's Culture Warrior in Chief, is that he thinks it's good for evangelicals too."

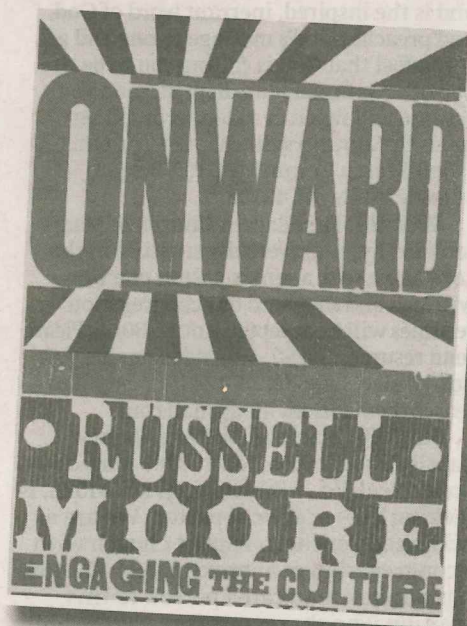
Hansen wrote in a review of Onward, "Moore is neither concerned with propping up the Bible Belt nor invested in advancing a partisan political agenda that will save America."

"The best sections of Onward," Hansen said, "illustrate how the kingdom of God upends the world's values, which have shaped the church's practices and priorities."

In the book, Moore addresses the "moral majoritarian impulse" of American Christians in recent decades—an impulse that he sees as a hindrance in both theology and policy.

"The worst effect of (this impulse) was simply that truths that should have been boldly articulated simply went assumed, until they obviously couldn't be assumed anymore," he told BP.

"That led to a generic, mushy civil religion where anyone who participated in Christian culture—and by 'Christian culture' I mean anyone who wasn't openly criticizing it—was identified as a



believer."

The vanishing of such a civil religion "is good news because it allows more clarity about how countercultural the gospel really is, and its strangeness is all the more visible," Moore said.

A gospel lens is indispensable for Christians to engage culture correctly, he said in the interview, adding an "almost gospel" won't suffice in "a more openly secular public square."

"If we try to rebuild the civic religion of the past, we'll miss the chance to articulate the strangeness and freakishness of the truth," Moore told BP. "And if we bend to accommodate the culture, we won't be able to receive the refugees who will be searching after the Sexual Revolution and hyper individualism disappoint them."

In his book, Moore says the formation of the church's culture is critical to the church's witness to the culture.

The "first step to a kingdom-focused cultural engagement is the recovery of a church that practices church discipline," he writes. "We are to hold accountable those on the inside, and speak to those on the outside with persuasion and mission."

"We tend to do the exact reverse," Moore says. "We rail against the culture outside, and speak in muted and ambiguous terms about what is common among us. We lambaste political and culture heresies on the outside, but sit silently in the face of doctrinal heresies on the inside."

When Christians speak to the outside culture, their "convictional kindness"—marked by faithfulness to the Gospel with a gracious tone—is actually an "act of warfare," Moore writes in the book.

Seeing kindness, rather than rage, as strength in cultural engagement will be challenging for Christians, he said, "precisely because being conformed to the world instead of Christ is always challenging."

"The world defines strength much differently than Jesus does," Moore told BP. "Convictional kindness comes from quiet confidence, confidence rooted in the gospel and not in Gallup."

"Only when we are convinced that the gates of hell will never overcome the church can we lay down the panic and the outrage long enough to love people—especially those we'd consider our 'enemies'—in Jesus' name." (BP)

MOUNTAINS TO THE MISSISSIPPI

COMPILED BY STAFF

ALEXANDRIA—Eddie Adkins was called as pastor of Licking Valley Church.

BELLEVUE—Aaron Sams celebrated his 5th year at First Church.

BEREA—Valley Church will hold its homecoming on Sept. 20. Evan Eckler is pastor.

BURLINGTON—Jordan Jones was called as pastor of Bellevue Church.

BUTLER—Second Twelve Mile Church called Kyle Marlette as pastor.

CLINTON—West Kentucky Association will hold its annual picnic at Columbus Park on Sept. 6.

COVINGTON—Gary Couch was called as pastor of Visalia Baptist Church.

South Side Church called Kevin Murphy as pastor. Redeemer Church, a new church plant, with Ben Brown as pastor, launched Aug. 5 on Ashland Ave.

Randy Wallace celebrated his 30th year of ministry at Oak Ridge Church.

DRY RIDGE—Josh Hildebrand launched Mercy Ridge Church on Aug. 23.

FORT THOMAS—Micah Spicer was called as pastor of First Church.

INDEPENDENCE—Bill Clark celebrated his 5th year of ministry at Hickory Grove Church.

LOUISVILLE—Farmdale Baptist Church will celebrate its 90th anniversary Sept. 27. Worship will begin at 10:50 a.m. with a celebration meal following.

MAYFIELD—Mount Pisgah Church will observe homecoming on Sept. 6. Ronnie Wingo will be guest speaker with special music by Bluegrass Revival.

OWENTON—Owen Association had seven churches serve breakfast each day to Owen County fair workers.

Ten Mile Association had four churches serve breakfast each day to Gallatin County fair workers.

PETERSBURG—Steve Cable has been called as pastor of Petersburg Church.

Jaime Thornberry was called as pastor at Bullitsburg Church.

SIMPSONVILLE—Steve Ladd will be leading worship at Simpsonville Church on Sept. 6 in both services. Ladd has been nominated for "New Artist of the Year" and has had four Top 40 singles. Steve Boyd is pastor.

SOMERSET—Mount Pleasant Church will hold its homecoming Sept. 13. Jesse McCoy is pastor.

STERNS—First Church will celebrate its 100th anniversary Sept. 6. Hilton Duncan is pastor.

UNION—Monte McElfresh celebrated his 15th year as pastor at Beaver Lick Church.



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 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

24 Kentucky Baptist Music Conference, First Baptist Church, Shelbyville

25-26 Men's & Women's Chorale Retreat, Hurstbourne Baptist Church, Louisville

25-26 Basic Training Journey for Hispanic Church Planters, Bellevue Baptist Church, Owensboro

26 Men's & Women's Combined Chorales Concert, Hurstbourne Baptist Church, Louisville

28-29 SEND Cincinnati Vision Tour, Cincinnati

Sunrise launches 'Extended Arm of Care'

For 146 years, Sunrise Children's Services has been serving abused and abandoned children within the Commonwealth of Kentucky through a broad array of programs designed to meet their most basic needs, while providing therapeutic services to help them heal. Your past support has touched so many young lives. Thank you!

What happens when these children become young adults and support is no longer available?

- Only 3% of children in foster care get post-secondary education

- 70% end up back in negative situations because of not having the support, direction or hope for tomorrow

- The majority of emancipated foster children move within 5 miles of their abusive home

We invite you to join us in developing our groundbreaking, "Extended Arm of Care" program to assist children, ages 15 through 18, in Sunrise Children's Services foster and residential care programs and help them develop a sustainable path for life.

Core components will include a life assessment, assigned mentor(s) to

provide guidance and encouragement, and seminars to teach important life skills like basis finance, effective communication, how to dress for success, and more. Additionally, we are partnering with our community and state colleges, and establishing apprenticeship programs with local businesses, to arm these children with critical skills and knowledge, so they can establish a career path and become productive members of our community.

We are launching this pilot program this fall. And, we need your help.

Through your heartfelt consideration, you will not only demonstrate God's love, you will make a deep, positive impact at a critical point in time for children who have endured tremendous pain and suffering. We encourage you make a meaningful difference in their lives.

Contact Sunrise Children's Services, P.O. Box 1429, Mount Washington, KY 40047-1429; (502) 538-1000; www.sunrise.org.



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

SEEKING: Burlington Baptist Church (SBC), a missional, contemporary church

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

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

SEEKING: 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. Resumes will be accepted until 9/30/15. Please send resumes 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 resume to: P.O. Box 127, Ashcamp, KY 41512, or email us at: marrowbone-baptist@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 resumes to: Milton Baptist Church 10078 Highway 421 North Milton, KY 40045, or kylehelton_32@yahoo.com. All resumes 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 resume to Pastor Search Committee, P.O. Box 877, Richmond, KY 40476, or e-mail to S.Hammons@bhtoolworks.com. Our close date for resumes will be Oct. 1.

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

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. Resumes 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: First Baptist Church of Loyall, in Harlan, Ky., is seeking to fill the position of senior pastor. Resumes 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 of 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

resume and video clips to fbcworshippastorsearch@roadrunner.com. Deadline for submission is Aug. 30.

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 resumes to First Baptist Church, Attn: Search Committee, 118 W. South St., Mayfield, KY 42066, or by email to office@firstmayfield.com.

SEEKING: First Baptist Church of Salyersville, Ky., is seeking applications for a full-time pastor. Applications may be obtained by written request to the church at P.O. Box 616, Salyersville, KY 41465 or by phoning the church and leaving a message at (606)349-6276 with full name, address and contact number.

SEEKING: Bond Baptist Church is prayerfully seeking a bivocational pastor to lead congregation (avg. 100+ W.S.). Church parsonage available. Send resume and preaching CD or DVD to Bond Baptist Church, Attn: Pastor Search Committee, P.O. Box 520, Annville, KY 40402 or email to BondPastorSearchCommittee@gmail.com.

SEEKING: White Hall Baptist Church in Richmond, Ky., is seeking a part-time or interim minister of music. We are looking for a male worship leader who would lead a blended style of music. This person would also work with an adult choir and instrumentalists. Please email resumes to timbeard@whitehallbaptistchurch.org. You may also send a resume to White Hall Baptist Church, 3401 Colonel Rd., Richmond, KY 40475, Attn: Personnel Committee.

SEEKING: First Baptist Church of Franklin, Ky., is presently accepting resumes for a full-time pastor to lead our church in glorifying God. Resumes are accepted at www.searchteam@franklinfb.org or by mail at Search Team, First Baptist Church, P.O. Box 1068, Franklin, KY 42135. Resumes will be accepted through Sept. 30.

SEEKING: First Baptist Church of Albany, Ky., is seeking a youth and activities minister for full-time employment. Experience with Upward basketball helpful. Salary 25-30k depending on experience. Please submit resume to: Search Committee, Albany First Baptist Church, 110 W. Cumberland St., Albany, KY 42602 or email to speddicord@windstream.net.

SEEKING: We are opening the process again for individual resumes for senior pastor for Southside Baptist Church, Princeton, Ky. Candidates should have strong preaching skills, passion for pastoral care, demonstrated administrative ability, a heart for missions and evangelism. Some seminary education is desirable. Church has minister of music and youth pastor plus support staff and averages 350 in Sunday School. Send resumes to: Pastor Search Committee, P.O. Box 684, Princeton, KY 42445; or e-mail to pastorsearch@southsidebaptist.com. Resumes accepted through Sept. 30.

SEEKING: Minister of music. Bagdad Baptist Church in Bagdad, Ky., is seeking a part-time minister of music. The successful candidate will lead a blended style worship, working with a adult choir, praise team and instrumentalists. If interested, submit resume to Kyle Wiley at Kwiley83@att.net.

SEEKING: Bagdad Baptist Church is seeking a part-time secretary. If interested, send resume to Kyle Wiley at Kwiley83@att.net.

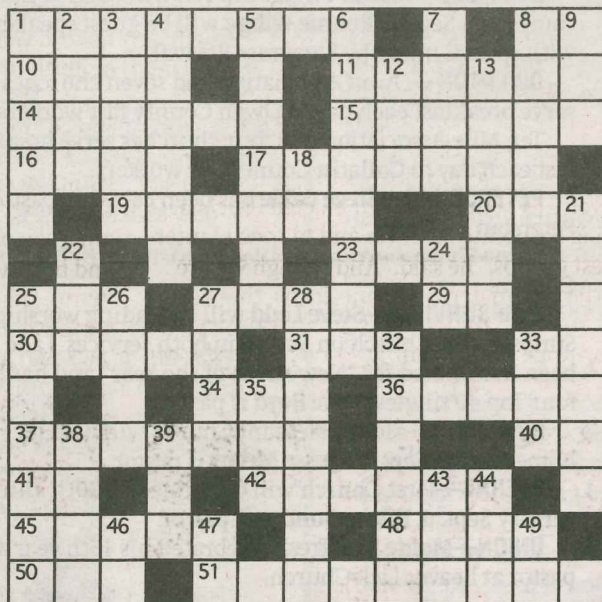
FOR RENT: Two condos in Destin, Fla. 2 bed, 2 bath. Book now for Aug-Dec. lewbramer@gmail.com 423-309-4422.

SERVICES: Churches interested in scheduling Personal Revival Training, or Church Revival Preparation Training. Call Jerry for more information and church references, (502) 531-0396.

Bible Crosswords

Across

- 1 Jesus is the good _____
- 8 Thank you, Br.
- 10 Jesus made water into this at Cana
- 11 Prophet in Jerusalem that warned Paul he would be arrested (Acts 21:10-11)
- 14 To set apart for a duty of the church
- 15 "For we wrestle not against flesh and blood ... but ... against the _____ of the darkness" (Ephesians 6:12)
- 16 To have a strong smell
- 17 The people of Athens had an altar to an _____ God (Acts 17:23)
- 19 This servant of God must be the husband of one wife, grave, and not double-tongued (1 Tim. 3:8-12)
- 20 "_____, and ye shall receive" (John 16:24)
- 23 Tower where Jacob (Israel) camped on his way to Canaan (Genesis 35:21)
- 25 The opposite of live
- 27 Poisonous snakes (Deuteronomy 32:33)
- 29 Myself
- 30 Where Israel was held in bondage for centuries until Moses led them to freedom
- 31 Remaining residue after something has been burned
- 33 Pertaining to farming, prefix
- 34 A servant of the high priest lost this momentarily to Peter's sword
- 36 God asks us to improve or _____ our ways (Jeremiah 7:3)



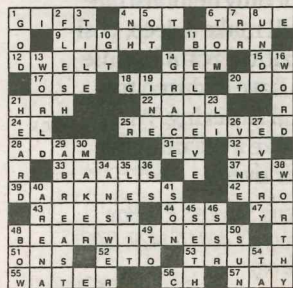
#044

- 37 "Teaching them to _____ all things" (Matthew 28:20)
- 40 _____ and fro
- 41 Second note of musical scale
- 42 People sacrificed this to atone for sin
- 45 Helped Moses speak before Pharaoh
- 48 Revise
- 50 One who held up Moses' hands at the battle of Amalek (Exodus 17:12)
- 51 "Let us draw near with a true heart in full _____ of faith" (Hebrews 10:22)

Down

- 1 The Word of God is sharper than this
- 2 "The labourer is worthy of his _____" (Luke 10:7)
- 3 Terminated
- 4 Reached a maximum
- 5 "Thus saith the Lord unto the _____ that keep my sabbaths" (Isaiah 56:4)
- 6 The absence of light
- 7 Ring of light
- 8 Spins
- 9 Balaam's spoke to him by God's power
- 12 Firearm
- 13 "_____ of false prophets, which come to you in sheep's clothing" (Matthew 7:15)
- 18 Negative
- 21 "Seek ye first the _____ of God" (Matthew 6:33)
- 22 Swine
- 24 God's name for Himself: I _____ (Exodus 3:14)
- 25 The fourth of Israel's judges, a woman
- 26 Sight organs
- 27 Ancestor of family of porters who returned from exile (Nehemiah 7:45)
- 28 "Children, obey your _____ in the Lord" (Ephesians 6:1)
- 32 "Is not my word like as a fire? saith the Lord; and like a _____ that breaketh the rock" (Jeremiah 23:29)
- 33 Sluggards should learn from this insect
- 35 Assyrian region from which Sargon brought men to populate devastated Samaria (2 Kings 17:24)
- 38 Boyfriend, Fr.
- 39 The conscious self
- 43 Woman's name
- 44 Linear, abbr.
- 46 Railed transportation, abbr.
- 47 Sodium, chem. symbol
- 49 Technetium, chem. symbol

#043



Former Atlanta fire chief now a preacher

By Diana Chandler

Ridgecrest, N.C.—Kelvin Cochran was enjoying newfound popularity in 1981 as one of the first black firefighters in Shreveport, La., when women began following him to the fire station with their phone numbers in hand, charmed by his presence on the back of the fire engine.

The 21-year-old dated like “crazy” for four months, he said, until God woke him up one morning and changed his life.

“Son, this is not the life I called you to. You need to find yourself a wife,” Cochran remembers God saying. “I thought, rather than trying to find someone that I never met, let me just take the time and pray and think of the girl that I admired the most growing up in Shreveport.”

His memories took him back to the fourth grade and a certain Carolyn Marshall, whom he found only after calling every Marshall in the Shreveport phone book. He persuaded her to invite him to the home she still shared with her mother in a public housing development.

He proposed that night over hot chocolate, and without a diamond ring, at the kitchen table as her mother sat in another room. He and Marshall were married six months later. They celebrated their 33rd wedding anniversary in June and have three adult children and a grandchild.

Cochran sees his unconventional road to marriage as part of God’s plan to prepare him and his family for the difficult situation they now face since he was fired as Atlanta fire chief in January after he wrote, “Who Told You That You Were Naked?” The discipleship book for men focuses mainly on the fruit of salvation in

Jesus Christ, but lists homosexuality as one of many manifestations of a lack of spiritual discipline. The biblically based statements on homosexuality placed him at odds with the City of Atlanta, his employer.

“This is how God prepared my family to persevere,” he told a group of 200 men gathered July 23 at the 2015 Black Church Leadership and Family Conference.

“When you skip dating and courtship and go right to engagement, you’re going to have some sufferings in your marriage. It gave me a firsthand experience of how the grace and power of God can sustain holy matrimony, even without dating, without courtship.”

Growing up in a Christian home in poverty—sometimes with only bread and mayonnaise to eat—and the inherent difficulties rising through the ranks to become the first black fire chief in Shreveport are circumstances that have emboldened him to stand for Christ in difficult situations.

“I came to realize that God has been preparing me for this my entire life. Suffering is an inherent and necessary component of fulfilling God’s purpose for our lives.”

Cochran finds strength in God for his present journey battling the city of Atlanta in a lawsuit filed by Alliance Defending Freedom, charging the city violated Cochran’s free speech and religious freedom by firing him. One fruit of his current struggle is the call to preach, Cochran told the men at the Ridgecrest conference.

“In this whole experience God has done many amazing things, but one of the things He’s done, He’s called me to preach

the gospel,” Cochran said. “It’s still hard for me to get that out, considering who I am and where I came from.... So I need your prayers.”

Cochran preached his first sermon in July at Elizabeth Baptist Church in Atlanta, where he is also a deacon and teacher. It was through a Bible study he leads on the quest for authentic manhood at the church that the book was born. Cochran said he felt inspired to write the book after hearing men in the class talk about struggles with their sinful nature.

He began by researching the words “naked,” which means condemned and deprived, and “clothed,” which means redeemed and restored.

“This is what God told me, ‘I’ve got too many Christian men walking around acting like they’re naked. You need to ask them today, Who told you that you were naked?’ and that’s what that book is about. But because men have challenges with sexual sin, I had to talk about sex in the book.”

Cochran’s story appears to be symptomatic of an ever-increasing attack on the freedoms of religion and speech in America.

“The divisions from my experience of what I’ve been going through since Thanksgiving, the divisions by religious and secular standards by the body of Christ in the United States have diluted the power and influence of our collective voice as believers to our elected officials, to big corporate business and to special interest groups,” he said. “And though we are the vast majority of Americans, there are smaller segments of groups in our nation who are transforming the very foundation



Kelvin Cochran finds strength in God for his present journey battling the city of Atlanta in a lawsuit filed by Alliance Defending Freedom, charging the city violated Cochran’s free speech and religious freedom by firing him.

of our nation.”

Most Christians have been quiet as the definitions of family and marriage have diminished, he said, and they must be protected to preserve society’s foundation.

“Life, family and marriage is how God intends to effect bringing the Kingdom of God into the earth. He does it through life, He does it through marriage and He does it through family. It’s His mechanism for bringing the Kingdom into earth.”

Cochran shared lessons learned since the controversy began over his book—namely, that God always prepares His children for sufferings they experience; there are worldly and biblical consequences for standing on biblical truth; sufferings are for God’s glory and those who endure sufferings will be blessed for their endurance.

“Brothers my back is not against the wall, I’m not at the end of my rope, and throwing in the towel is not an option. I am a son of the Most High God,” he said, and borrowed words from a favorite hymn. “I have decided to follow Jesus. I have decided to follow Jesus, no turning back, no turning back.” (BP)

Hearts on Fire transforms thousands in 3 decades

By Craig Mintz

When Scott Carter started the Hearts On Fire Youth Conference with about 150 students in 1986, he never imagined what it would become.

Last year, more than 11,000 students and their leaders filled the LeConte Center in Pigeon Forge for a dynamic weekend of worship. This year’s lineup includes groups like Mercy Me, Finding Favour and The Skit Guys. Speakers include Dave Edwards and former University of Tennessee football player Inky Johnson.

Even though the conference has grown considerably over the years, the goal remains the same as it was three decades ago.

“Hearts on Fire exists for two reasons,” said Carter, associate pastor for youth at First Baptist Church of Sevierville, Tenn. “First of all, it’s an evangelism conference to bring young people into a relationship with Christ. Number two, it’s to encourage every believer into a deeper walk—to let the Holy Spirit fan that flame.”

Since it began, thousands have professed faith in Jesus Christ or have been renewed in their walk with the Lord through the conference.

Carter recalls lives changed like a young man named Gregory Palmer. Not long after he was saved at a Hearts on Fire conference, Palmer was killed in a car accident. Palmer’s parents were so thankful for the impact HOF made in his life that they buried him in his conference t-shirt and attended the conference the next

several years. Many more, like Palmer, have forever been changed by their experience at HOF.

Anthony Kendall, a youth pastor at First Baptist Church near Charlotte, N.C., and a former member of Carter’s youth ministry, brings his teenagers to HOF because it is centered on Christ and the gospel.

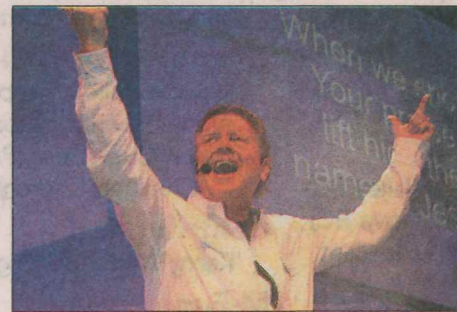
“From the worship band, to guest music artists, to the speakers, Hearts on Fire exalts and honors Christ,” Kendall said. “I have had students saved at Hearts on Fire. I have had students called to ministry at Hearts on Fire. I have had students challenged and equipped in their walk with Christ at Hearts on Fire. Simply put, God is still using Hearts on Fire after all these years to call teenagers to follow Jesus.”

Past speakers have also given thanks for the way God uses the conference.

Tony Nolan, a speaker at last year’s conference, said, “I have thousands of youth leaders asking me to direct them to a conference that will really change the hearts of their students. Hearts on Fire is that conference. It’s not just money well spent, it’s resources well invested.

“I say ‘invested’ because you will receive a return back into all the hard work you’re already doing every week in your students’ lives,” Nolan added. “This event transforms your students’ hearts to go back home and be totally into the passion and the mission of your student ministry.”

Carter was saved at age 15 at Calvary Baptist in Oak Ridge. Carter said he had a wonderful pastor and youth pastor who invested in him. As he began to pray about



Scott Carter started the Hearts On Fire Youth Conference with about 150 students in 1986.

what to do with his life, he clearly sensed the Lord telling him to spend his life in gospel ministry reaching youth.

While serving at Parkway Baptist Church in Knoxville, the Lord led Carter and some other youth ministers to organize a conference for youth. At that first conference, held in Crossville, a storm knocked out the power. Even though a lack of electrical power meant they didn’t have microphones or lights, Carter said the Holy Spirit moved in a powerful way.

Since then, HOF has been held in North Carolina and Gatlinburg. After outgrowing Gatlinburg’s conference center, HOF moved to Pigeon Forge. His vision is to one day see 20,000 in attendance there.

Carter says he is thankful to serve at a church like First Baptist Church Sevierville that is so supportive of the HOF ministry. Many members volunteer to work as greeters, work tables and serve as counselors.

This year’s event will be held Nov. 20-21. For more information or to register for HOF, visit heartsonfireministries.org or call (865) 776-2629. (Baptist & Reflector)

WESTERN Recorder
Shine like stars in the world.

Start your subscription plan today
Call us at (502) 489-3535

Individual & Gift Subscriptions:
\$17 each

Save more! Group Subscriptions:
\$11 each (5 or more)

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone (Day): _____

Email: _____

- ☐ Subscribing for myself
- ☐ Payment for gift subscription
- ☐ Gift subscription from:
- ☐ Yes! Sign me up for Western Recorder’s FREE e-newsletter
- ☐ Tell me how to save my church money by printing its newsletter on back



Use share icon on your phone or tablet to add **WesternRecorder.org** to your home screen!

UNIVERSITY of the CUMBERLANDS

STUDENTS ON MISSION – SUMMER 2015



WHITLEY COUNTY, KY

Appalachian Ministries Team

Aaron Adkisson (Broadhead, KY – Broadhead BC)
Eric Bowen (Stanford, KY – Immanuel BC, Corbin)
Abbey Cherry (Cincinnati, OH – Clough Pike BC)
Kaitlin Dejarnette (Alexandria, KY – Main Street BC)
Ford Edwards (Brookville, IN – Elm Grove SBC)
Haley Ferguson (Hawesville, KY – Blackford BC)
Dayna Grant (Kingston, Jamaica – St. Margaret's Church)
Haley Johnson (Somerset, KY – Somerset FBC)
Caroline Schlansky (Lexington, KY – Porter Memorial BC)
Haley Swihart (Hawesville, KY – Blackford BC)

Mountain Outreach Team

Jeremiah Brown (Crab Orchard, KY – Valley BC)
Kortlyn Campbell (Corbin, KY – Oak Grove BC)
Shawnee Holbrook (Rockholds, KY – Pleasant Grove BC)
Sam Hurst (Dacula, GA – Twelve Stone BC)
Alaina Jackson (Williamsburg, KY – FBC Williamsburg)
Emma LeMaster (Winchester, KY – Central BC)
Dalton Logan (Corbin, KY – Blessed Hope BC)
Randy Maynard (Pikeville, KY – Pikeville UMC)
Andrew Root (Williamsburg, KY – FBC Williamsburg)
Kayla Sears (Williamsburg, KY – Piney Grove UMC)
Cody Steakley (Mt. Juliet, TN – Gladeville BC)
Tracy Taphouse (Dacula, GA – Belmont BC)
Katie Wash (Harrodsburg, KY – Calvary BC)

Laurel Lake Baptist Camp

Cassidy Daugherty (Mt. Vernon, KY – FBC Mt. Vernon)
Chris Setters (Covington, KY – Oak Ridge BC)

KENTUCKY AND OTHER STATES

BCM – ACTS 1:8

Joey Koogler (Hebron, KY – Immanuel BC, Corbin)
Jake McPherson (Mt. Vernon, KY – Northside BC)
Nick Mills (Corbin, KY – Immanuel BC, Corbin)
Tanner Williams (Louisville, KY – Canadatown BC)

Crossroads Community Church Team, McCreary County

Dustin Cawood (East Bernstadt, KY – Parkway Church of God)
Lillian Cottingham (Jackson, GA)
Marissa Hoffpauir (Thompson Station, TN – Oak Valley BC)
Kathleen Kovach (London, KY – FBC East Bernstadt)
Kayla Smith (Williamsburg, KY – Faith BC, Corbin)
Will Thomas (Whitley City, KY – Crossroads Community BC)
Sarah Watkins (Benton, KY – FBC Benton)

Crossings Ministries

Maggie Ballou (Corbin, KY – Central BC, Corbin)
Alisha Brown (Jacksonville, FL – FBC Jacksonville)
Galen Overstreet (Parksville, KY – Indian Hills Christian Church)

Centrifuge

Kenny Wilson (Bowling Green, KY – Living Hope BC)

M-Fuge

Anna Hoekstra (Centralia, IL – Central City BC)

Home Churches

Jacob Akens (Clinton, TN – Jarnigan Chapel Missionary BC)
Tyler Baker (Somerset, KY – Eagle Heights BC)
Blair Barger (Knoxville, TN – Salem BC)
Lyndsey Bell (Pee Wee Valley, KY – Pee Wee Valley BC)
Nathan Braden (Clinton, TN – FBC Clinton)
Aaron Brewer (Cincinnati, OH – Montgomery BC)
Blake Brogan (Cincinnati, OH – Voyager Church)
Holly Bullock (Somerset, KY – FBC Somerset)
Alex Campbell (Middlesboro, KY – Old Yellowcreek BC)
Christina Chitwood (Jellico, TN – FBC Jellico)
Elizabeth Conlee (Frenchburg, KY – Bethel BC)
Aaron Cook (Stanford, KY – Pleasant View BC)
Cory Crabtree (Somerset, KY – FBC Somerset)
Seth Gilliam (Stanford, KY – Blue Lick BC)
Nick Hibbard (Corbin, KY – Old Time BC)
Ben Kendrick (Danville, KY – Junction City FBC)
Shane Maples (Walland, TN – Prospect BC)
Mason Neltner (Alexandria, KY – Main Street BC)
Alva Wright (Williamsburg, KY – Yaden Church)

Other

Cheyenne Brown (Carlisle, OH – Vineyard Church) Leslie Co., KY Big Creek Missions
Chloe Fogle (London, KY – Soul's Harbor Church) – Pigeon Forge, TN
Jackie Henderson (Hindman, KY – FBC Hindman) Camp Nathaniel, Hindman, KY
Annmarie Lake (Mason, OH – Crossroads Church) Athletes in Action
Ethan Lake (Berea, KY – Berea BC) Alaska
Caleb McDonald (Shelbyville, KY – FBC Shelbyville) Children's Intern, FBC Wilmington, NC
Jasmine Minke (Bellingham, WA – Hillcrest BC) Appalachian Outreach, Jefferson City, TN
Yeager Smith (Williamsburg, KY – East Jellico BC) Cincinnati, OH, NAMB – Lakota Hills BC
McKenzie Wheeler (Prospect, KY – St. Bernadette Church) Young Life Camp, Lake City, MI

INTERNATIONAL

Darci Arnett – Haiti (Salyersville, KY – Bethel Bible BC)
Kellie Ball (Williamsburg, KY – Emlyn BC) Honduras
Shantel Buchner (Boston, KY – Parkway BC) Ecuador
Chelsey Pomeroy (Louisville, KY – FBC Fairdale) Ecuador
Sarah Setters (Taylor Mill, KY – Oakridge BC) Macedonia
Logan Smith (Danville, KY – FBC Danville) Guatemala
Anna Solomon (West Paducah, KY – Friendship BC) Kenya
Hannah Tyler (Broadhead, KY – Bible BC) Macedonia
Merissa Waddey (Florence, KY – Florence BC of Mt. Zion) Haiti
Taylor Waddle (Corbin, KY – Shiner Church of Christ) Panama
Bethany Yonts (Lexington, KY – House Church) Macedonia

(Note: We have made every effort to provide accurate information and include all students involved in mission activities this summer. The information provided is what was available at the time of the printing deadline.)