

WESTERN Recorder

October 6, 2015

Shine Like Stars * Philippians 2:15

Volume 189, Issue 20

Americans engage unreached nations in their backyard

By Susie Rain

She spied them in the jewelry aisle. Their dress was a little out of place in an Alabama Walmart. The two women were covered from head to toe in long, black hijab dresses and headscarves. The petite grandmother made an abrupt U-turn with her shopping cart and screeched to a halt next to the Muslim women.

"Hey there," the grandmother said in a deep Alabama drawl. "I really like the henna pattern on your hands. Did you do that?"

The Egyptian women looked down at their dye-stained hands and then stared at Anna Speir in disbelief. Was she really talking to them?

Speir was used to the blank stare, followed by a look of relief and then words gushing out. Most internationals she encounters are lonely. And believe it or not, many are from the same unreached people groups (less than two percent following Jesus) among whom IMB missionaries live and work around the globe.

"God is bringing the nations to us," she said. "What are we going to do about it?"

Speir's question is an interesting one. Most of us are not seminary-trained missionaries, ministers or pastors. We don't speak multiple languages, nor are we familiar with other cultures.

I asked others via social media: How can we reach the 41.3 million immigrants and internationals living next door with the gospel? What came back was amazing—example after example of ordinary people following Christ's commandment to reach the nations. A men's group in Kentucky made weekly visits to the same coffee shop and now the Indian owner joins in their



International students in Topeka, Kansas spend time with Levi and Jenifer Perkins on their farm. They introduce the students to American culture and Jesus' love.

Bible study. A Kansas farmer took a Chinese student out to work the field and told about Jesus' sacrifice.

Ministering to internationals in the USA is as simple as locating them, finding out their needs, and serving them with the love of Jesus. Obtaining a visa is not a problem. Overcoming government opposition to missionary activity is not an issue. God moved these people across the globe to be our neighbors just so they have the opportunity to hear the gospel.

See how people throughout the United States intentionally engage internationals in their communities:

LOCATION! LOCATION! LOCATION!

Two women stood at the back of the room, silently praying for God to give their

new friends dreams of Jesus. In front of them, women from many countries went through the ritual prayer to break a day of fasting. Until she did an online search, Abigail Elizade, Massachusetts, had no idea this mosque was practically in her backyard. The schoolteacher wanted to learn more about Ramadan, so she went straight to the source—an Islamic center.

They offered classes to outsiders in an effort to build relationships with the community. Elizade grabbed a friend and they began a month-long adventure in learning and understanding the Islamic faith so they would know how to share their faith.

"We were going there to keep our mouths shut and learn all we could to help

□ See *Unreached Neighbors* ... Page 8



SBC President Ronnie Floyd said, "We are not backing up on getting the gospel to the world."

EC calls for increased CP to remedy IMB shortfall, cutbacks

By David Roach

Nashville, Tenn.—In response to the International Mission Board's announcement of a personnel reduction, the Southern Baptist Convention's Executive Committee adopted a resolution urging Southern Baptist churches to give "more than ever before" through the Cooperative Program.

The resolution, which was adopted without opposition, stated, "At this urgent hour of desperate need in our nation and around the world, we, the members of the SBC Executive Committee, pledge to encourage and lead our churches to give more than ever before through the Cooperative Program in 2015 and beyond. We also call upon all cooperating Southern Baptist churches prayerfully to join us in doing more than ever before."

The resolution was adopted during the Executive Committee's Sept. 21-22 meeting in Nashville, where President David Platt and other IMB leaders addressed questions from EC members. The IMB had announced previously that it would reduce its total number of missionaries and staff by 600-800 in light of expenditures that exceeded revenues by \$210 million over the past six years.

Platt's extended report preceded 10 minutes of questions and answers. EC President Frank Page then led in prayer for Platt and the IMB. Earlier, IMB chief financial officer David Steverson answered questions in an EC workgroup meeting.

□ See *IMB shortfall* ... Page 10

Pope's speech troubling, some Southern Baptists say

By Tom Strode

Washington D.C.—Pope Francis' historic address to Congress proved troubling in both its lack of clarity on moral issues and in its church-state impropriety, Southern Baptist leaders and pastors said.

The pope spoke to a joint session of Congress on Sept. 24, becoming the first head of the Roman Catholic Church to address the U.S. legislative body. His speech came on the final day of a three-day visit to Washington, D.C., that featured a White House welcome ceremony, a parade and a mass for the canonization of a Catholic saint.

In his congressional speech, Pope Francis commented on a variety of issues but without being particularly specific on

abortion and marriage.

Russell Moore, president of the Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission, expressed gratitude the pope spoke to Congress "about the dignity of all human life, whether the unborn, the elderly or the immigrant, as well as the importance of the family in a free and flourishing society."

He went on to say, however, "I do think that the pope's address was an opportunity to address urgent moral issues like abortion culture and religious liberty with more clarity and directness than what was delivered."

Albert Mohler Jr., president of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, said the pope's reference to abortion and marriage "was a very fuzzy and evasive approach



U.S. Speaker of the House John Boehner, a Roman Catholic, welcomes Pope Francis to the U.S. Capitol on Sept. 24. (Congressional photo by Caleb Smith)

that left many people wondering if he was actually talking about either abortion or marriage at all."

The invitation by congressional leaders

□ See *Pope's speech* ... Page 11

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Your gifts to the Cooperative Program led to 14,228 baptisms in Kentucky and the salvation of more than 300,000 people around the world in 2014.

Western Recorder 10-06-2015

'Biblical sexuality' focus of Louisville black church conference

By Myriah Snyder

Louisville—"The sexual revolution in the black church" was among the topics addressed at a Louisville symposium on "biblical sexuality and the black church."

More than 400 people gathered for the Sept. 19 sessions at Forest Baptist Church, where several Southern Baptists made presentations. Among them were symposium organizer Joel Bowman, pastor of Temple of Faith Baptist Church in Louisville, and Curtis Woods, the Kentucky Baptist Convention's associate executive director for convention relations.

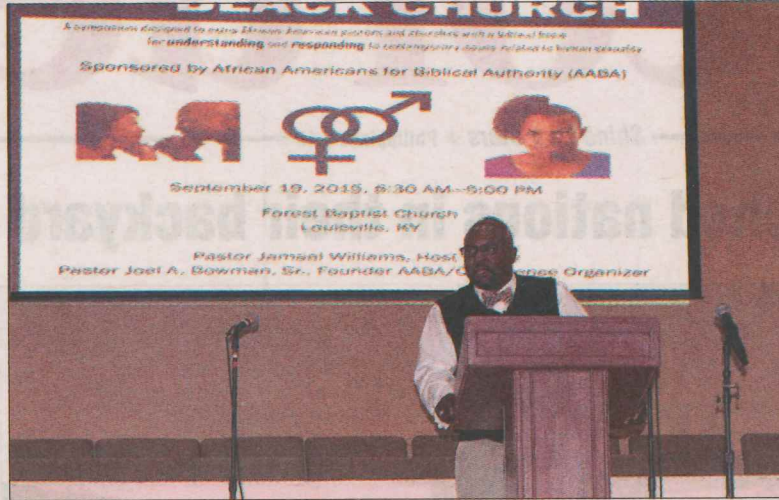
"The overarching purpose (of the symposium) is to equip African American pastors and churches with information about a biblical worldview pertaining to sexuality and how to communicate the same to the congregations that we serve," Bowman said, calling the event a "historical moment in the African American church in Louisville."

Bowman, founder of African Americans for Biblical Authority, said it has been a "passion of mine to communicate very specifically and poignantly about sex and sexuality because I think the church has been woefully negligent in that regard."

He added, "I have observed over time a very disturbing trend amongst very powerful and influential Christian leaders to compromise the truth of God's word. I think a lot of the fallacious teaching we're hearing about sex, and most notably homosexuality, is rooted in preachers, pastors and church leaders not respecting what the Bible is."

Christians must not "use the Bible to say what we want it to say," he said. "God never intended the Scriptures to do that."

Though the conference focused on biblical sexual morality in an African American church context, conference



More than 400 people gathered for the Sept. 19 sessions at Forest Baptist Church, where several Southern Baptists made presentations. Joel Bowman, left, pastor of Temple of Faith Baptist Church in Louisville, organized the event.

organizers did not intend to "pathologize the black church as though it were morally insufficient," Bowman said. "In all fairness to the historically black church, this is a universal problem."

Woods' presentation addressed "the sexual revolution in the black church" from a theological and historical perspective.

"The problem is, beloved, that our people have set their affections on the things below," Woods said. "And once your affections are set on the things below, and you're not consistently looking up, then what you will discover is that everything around you will become misconstrued."

He continued, "If we do not understand how God is working in human history to bring all things together summed up in the Son, then you will approach the issue of human sexuality first from the horizontal perspective as opposed to a vertical perspective."

The adjective "biblical" is an important preface to the term "sexuality," Woods said, "because once the Bible is closed, then all bets are off concerning having the right

idea about sexuality."

Woods acknowledged "brokenness" in African American culture related to sexuality and said at least some of it is related to the "ugly past" of slavery.

African American churches historically have confronted such brokenness with the truth of Scripture, Woods said. However, "now all of the sudden, we close our Bibles and allow civil authorities to help us to define how we understand sexuality."

"May it never be that we allow culture above Christ," Woods concluded.

Aquenna Smith of Chicago presented on "a biblical approach to homosexuality and the LGBTQ community" and shared her own struggle with same-sex attraction. Reading an allegorical poem, she underscored the importance of biblical community and encouragement in ministry to those with same-sex attraction.

Similarly, Daniel Mingo of Louisville spoke of his experience "coming out of homosexuality." He gave his testimony and shared about his ministry to others struggling with homosexuality.

Jamaal Williams, pastor of Forest

Baptist Church, the host congregation, spoke on "sexual abstinence outside of marriage."

He asked the audience to think of sexual abstinence discussions they have had and noted that the gospel is missing from most such talks. "A gospel-centered sex talk centers on the salvific acts of God through Christ," he said.

Christ, Williams said, "has rights to your body, not you. Sexual immorality is self-worship."

He concluded with a reminder to "look less at ourselves and more at Him."

Bowman addressed "poison in the pews: pornography in the black church." He called pornography "more dangerous to the cause of Christ than homosexuality."

"I thank God that even though I was addicted to porn, for the last 12 going on 13 years, I have been free from that addiction," Bowman said.

"There is healing in the name of Jesus. There is deliverance. There's freedom. 'Whom the Son sets free is free indeed,'" Bowman concluded, citing John 8:36.

Other topics addressed were "a biblical view of cohabitation" by Victor Sholar, pastor of Main Street Baptist Church in Lexington, and "a biblical response to sexual abuse and exploitation" by Billy Jenkins, pastor of Mt. Zion Baptist Church in Shepherdsville. The symposium also included three panels covering various topics and questions submitted by attendees online.

"We want to apply the authority of Scripture to overall issues, be it sexuality or any other topic," Bowman said. "All issues might be very unique and distinct, but the one thing I think ties our approach to all of them together is our presuppositional position that the Bible is the Word of God." (WR)

Ky. publisher, former KBC president leading National Newspaper Association

By David Greer

For the second time in its 130-year history, a Kentucky publisher will be president of the prestigious National Newspaper Association. John (Chip) Hutcheson, publisher of The Times Leader in Princeton and The Eagle Post in Oak Grove, will begin a 12-month term during NNA's convention Oct. 1-3 in St. Charles, Mo.

Hutcheson, a member of Southside Baptist Church in Princeton, is a former Kentucky Baptist Convention president and a two-term trustee of the Western Recorder.

"I am honored to move into the NNA presidency," Hutcheson said. "I never dreamed my career would lead in this direction, and I cannot help but think how proud my father would be (he was publisher of The Princeton Leader from 1949-1976, and died in 2002). Yes, there will be great time demands related to this position, but I look forward to opportunities to travel across the country to encourage newspaper personnel from other states and to be a strong proponent for the fact that print is not dead."

Hutcheson, who began his newspaper

career as a sportswriter, credits Publishers' Auxiliary, NNA's monthly publication, for first stirring his interest in the organization.

"For as long as I can remember, every issue had information that proved helpful to me in publishing a newspaper," Hutcheson said.



Chip Hutcheson

Encouragement from the late Guy Hatfield, a Kentucky newspaper owner and publisher, and Max Heath, a retired vice president and executive editor of Shelbyville, Kentucky-based Landmark Community Newspapers and chair of NNA's Postal Committee, further persuaded Hutcheson of the value of becoming involved with NNA. (The three men also served as presidents of the Kentucky Press Association.)

"When I saw the work that NNA does in Washington, D.C., on behalf of all newspapers I was sold on the value of NNA for our industry," Hutcheson said.

But when he became involved with NNA, Hutcheson didn't imagine it would lead to the organization's presidency. "I was asked to be an at-large board member by Illinois publisher Jerry Reppert in 2005, then three years ago was asked if I would consider moving into the officer

rotation that would end up with me serving as president. I think of so many others who are qualified and certainly more capable than me, so that is what makes this honor so special."

Hutcheson's No. 1 goal during his term is to increase NNA membership.

"As an organization, we are 2,400 newspapers strong," he said. "The accomplishments of NNA are enjoyed not just by its membership, but by many non-members. Perhaps the best example is the work done in the postal arena, thanks in large part to Max Heath. Without the work done by NNA, every newspaper which uses the mail to deliver its products would be paying higher rates and have even worse service than we now have."

These days, any time two or more newspaper people gather, the conversation invariably turns to the future of print.

"I am still a strong proponent of print, acknowledging that we must be open to all avenues that makes us the information source in our communities. But print is still very strong, especially in community journalism," Hutcheson said. "We as an industry have great opportunities to increase our presence in communities, but I am convinced that print's future is still strong."

"Community papers are still alive and

well, and should be for many, many years to come. Community papers offer news and photos that you cannot find anywhere else... Facebook is not going to tell you what happened at a city council meeting or a school board meeting or have all the details about the Friday night football game. People still cut out photos from community papers and stick them on their refrigerators, or they buy extra papers so they can send photos of their children to relatives who live out of town."

Among today's community newspapers, many have embraced digital platforms and social media while others prefer a slower approach. There's room for both, Hutcheson said. "I think they can complement each other. Digital offers weekly newspapers the opportunity to be daily as far as major news events," he said. "Print still is the major revenue generator for every community newspaper I am aware of, but certainly digital offers us opportunities to fulfill our news mission as well as bring in additional revenue."

Assuming NNA's presidency won't be the first time Hutcheson has been in the spotlight. In November 2013, Hutcheson, a Baptist layman, was elected to a 12-month term as president of the Kentucky Baptist Convention. Only five laymen had served as KBC president during a 75-year stretch. (KPA)

See You At The Pole marks 25 years

By Neisha Roberts

Birmingham, Ala.—I woke up early to make my way to Falcon Middle School by 7 a.m., situated off Highway 24 on the golden-yellow plains of Colorado. I was ready to participate in my first See You at the Pole.

As my dad dropped me off 18 years ago, I made my way to the circle that was forming around the school's flagpole. Several students from different grades were there. We huddled close together and grabbed hands. We prayed for our state, our school, its staff and students and for that day to be all about God and glorifying His name.

The prayer time brought with it a sense of accomplishment, freedom, honor and responsibility.

We may have been young, but we took a stand for our faith and learned the importance of prayer along the way.

Sept. 23 marked the 25th annual See You At The Pole, a student-initiated, student-organized, student-led event that started with just 10 students in Texas in 1990 who wanted to pray for their school. In 25 years the movement has grown to see more than 3 million students participate across the United States and in more than 20 countries.

With the theme "UNITED" drawn from Acts 1:14, SYATP 2015 encouraged a time "to commit to global unity in Christ and prayer for this generation," said Matt Wilson, executive director of First Priority Greater



Above, students gather for See You at the Pole event at See You at the Pole at Collins High School in Shelbyville. Right, Prayer time during See You At The Pole event at Mt. Washington Middle School.

Birmingham, an Alabama sponsor and coordinator of SYATP.

"We are encouraging students, school faculty, families, businessmen and women, everyone, to unite together as a community in prayer for our nation," Wilson said.

SYATP coincided with the annual Global Week of Student Prayer (Sept. 20-26) when people are encouraged to find new and unique ways, places and times to pray in groups throughout the week for the world, community leaders, schools, staff and families. (BP)



First Responders Day 'built bridges' in community

By Myriah Snyder

Shelbyville—In light of recent tension between some communities and first responders, and "to build some relationships in the first responder community, and help the community as a whole get to know its first responders," Shelbyville's First Baptist Church hosted a "First Responders Weekend" on Sept. 11-13.

"We wanted to say thank you for all they (first responders) do, but also to get to know them. We wanted to build bridges between the first responder community and the community as a whole," Pastor Maurice Hollingsworth said.

"If you know people and appreciate them, it's hard to get mad at them. So we wanted to offer that opportunity," he added.

"Law enforcement especially is kind of under attack. It's great to see the community rally, not just behind the law enforcement, but firefighters and EMS, and everybody that works together to keep this community safe," Trooper Eddie Whitworth, of Kentucky State Police and member of First Baptist, said.

The idea for the weekend came from a similar event where Hollingsworth was pastor in New Mexico.

Hollingsworth's family has a long



tradition of roasting a pig, which takes around 15 hours.

They invited police officers to come eat and fellowship with them by the fire throughout the night as they roasted a pig. The results of that event were that many people came to know Christ, Hollingsworth said.

"Sometimes it's a little bit hard for a cop to think a pastor can relate to his world, and that's true," observed Hollingsworth. "I don't understand what he has to face, but somehow when we're all sitting around the fire, in the middle of the night, taking care of a hog at 3 a.m., barriers are kind of broken down."

One of Hollingsworth's prayer partners, a retired Secret Service agent for Kentucky, saw the picture of the event in New Mexico and suggested they do the same thing—but for first responders.



Shelbyville's First Baptist Church hosted a "First Responders Weekend" on Sept. 11-13.

The first event of the weekend was the hog roasting. Many first responders came and ate and played corn hole during their breaks throughout the night.

The next afternoon, a community fair was held in the church's parking lot.

First responders sent crews, firetrucks and EMT vans. The fire department even brought a car to demonstrate how the "Jaws of Life" work.

"We had a lot of people here on our parking lot, basically just getting to know these guys who take care of us and protect us all the time," Hollingsworth said.

That evening, the church hosted a

barbecue, where an attorney for the Commonwealth presented an award to one of the law enforcement agents.

On Sunday, the worship service saw more than 600 people in attendance.

"We had a time of prayer for the first responders to ask God's protection over them and blessing over their families and a prayer of gratitude for all that they do for us," Hollingsworth said.

"It was a tremendously effective way to demonstrate to the community that we care about what happens not just on Sunday morning, but we care about them all week long," he said. (WR)

Tates Creek Baptist Association hires new director of missions

Williamsburg—Virginia pastor Danny Davis took on a new role last week serving the churches of Bates Creek Baptist Association as director of missions.

"It's good to come back to Kentucky," said Davis, a native of Williamsburg.

Davis has had a hand in increased baptisms, church attendance and missions involvement while serving as pastor at a number of churches in the Southeast.

"A big part of my ministry for the last



Danny Davis

20 years has been a heavy missions focus by partnering with different entities, both in the states and overseas," he said.

Davis said he hopes to lead Bates Creek Baptist churches along a similar path by coaching and encouraging them.

While pastor of Mount Hermon Baptist Church in Danville, Va., Davis saw more than 100 people participate in international or domestic mission trips in 2012. The church also set

new missions giving records during its eight years under his leadership.

"I believe we have to have our eyes open to see where God is working and where God would have us join Him," Davis said, referring to the need to develop ministry partnerships.

Davis also expressed a burden for pastors, especially those who feel isolated.

"We're moving into a whole new phase in our culture," he added, "and I would like to be there to encourage pastors and churches as they navigate the future that's ahead of us."

Davis is a 1978 graduate of Cumberland College, now University of the Cumberlands.

He received his master of divinity degree from Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary in Wake Forest, N.C., and a doctor of ministry in pastoral theology degree from Columbia International University in Columbia, S.C.

As Bates Creek Association's director of missions, Davis is charged with guiding 43 churches and two missions in Madison, Garrard and Irvine counties. (KBC)

Our rich heritage

In September, I participated in a discussion about state conventions, hosted by Midwestern Seminary during a symposium on the past, present and future of the Southern Baptist Convention. The future of denominational work is inextricably tied to the past. What is the history of the state convention as a denominational structure?

Together We are the KBC



Paul Chitwood

Interestingly, the history of the Southern Baptist Convention is inseparable not only from the history of state conventions but, specifically, the history of the Kentucky Baptist Convention. Kentucky Baptists created our state convention in 1837, eight years before the Southern Baptist Convention was formed in 1845.

Of course, Kentucky was home to Baptist work long before the KBC was organized. The first evangelical church organized west of the Alleghenies was Severns Valley in Elizabethtown, founded in 1781. The first association started west of the Alleghenies is Elkhorn, now known as the Central Kentucky Network of Baptists, organized in 1785.

Kevin Ezell, a Kentucky native who presides over the North American Mission Board, would be pleased to know that the idea for the plan of the American Baptist Home Mission Society was developed in Kentucky by John Mason Peck and Jonathan Going at Shelbyville in 1831.

The idea of the Cooperative Program also originated in Kentucky. On Nov. 16, 1915, the General Association of Baptists in Kentucky met in Jellico, Tenn., at my home church, about 100 yards from the Kentucky state line, and adopted a budget to support all denominational work in the state and across the country. This was a decade before the Southern Baptist Convention, meeting at Memphis in 1925, adopted the Cooperative Program. The Kentucky plan was fashioned after that of First Baptist Church of Murray beginning around 1900.

The Southern Baptist Convention owes its existence and primary funding mechanism to the state conventions of churches that preceded her. Kentucky Baptists enjoy a rich history intertwined with the history of the SBC—a work still thriving. The 2,400 churches of the Kentucky Baptist Convention are planting more churches today than at any time on record. They are currently in a growth trend in baptisms, overall church membership, and in missions giving through the Cooperative Program and through each of the major missions offerings, including the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for International Missions, the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering for North American Missions, and the Eliza Broadus Offering for State Missions.

We have a rich history. And we undertake our work today and in the future standing on the shoulders of those who have gone before us.

'Why They Stay' as insightful as it is challenging

Had it not been for Tom Crites, I may not have continued through the doctorate of education program at Southeastern Seminary. Tom and I were part of the first cohort. Since he worked for the Georgia Baptist Convention and I worked for the South Carolina Baptist newspaper at the time, we quickly struck up a solid friendship.

His route from his house just outside Atlanta took him up I-85 within a mile or two of my home in Greenville, S.C. So, we began carpooling to classes in his black Ford Explorer. During those four-hour rides, we talked about our families since our children are about the same age; we talked about our churches and state conventions since we both worked for Baptists; we talked about our classes since we were reading the same books; and we talked about football since he is an avid Georgia Bulldog fan and the South Carolina Gamecocks are neighboring rivals.

That was nearly seven years ago now. So, imagine my delight when I picked up a book recently and saw his name on the cover. Tom Crites, research specialist for the Georgia convention, partnered with Steve Parr, vice president of staff coordination and development, to write the book, "Why They Stay." They surveyed almost 1,400 young adults, ages 26-39, who have remained connected to their churches, to identify key factors in keeping young adults serving faithfully today.

Knowing Tom, you can be confident the data behind this book is not only statistically reliable, but the findings are equally compelling and challenging. In fact, he and Parr found 15 factors that make a great difference in the likelihood that teens will remain in church as adults. And, they were surprised by five factors that didn't make as much of a difference as first thought.

But the heart of their research is sharing helpful strategies which parents and church leaders can implement to increase the probability that children remain active and faithful. From our time spent together on the road and in class, I can attest that as the father of two children, Kaylynn and Brice, this is a topic about which Tom is very passionate. He and Parr share from their own experiences what they believe will help parents and youth leaders be more effective in discipling

children.

While much has been said regarding why many young people who grew up in the church are leaving, not enough has been written about why some are staying, Parr explains in a press release. "We wanted to conduct a positive study to see if we could draw up a list of instructions and strategies that adults can use to keep their young people engaged, faithful to the church, and ultimately living in line with God's word," he said.

"We really had a burden that we were losing our young people," Tom told me. "It was just breaking our hearts that there seems to be continual erosion." In short, the driving question was, "What could we do to keep more young people in church?"

One surprising finding, according to Tom, was that the relationship with one's parents was the No. 1 driver for staying in church. A good relationship with their mother and father—even if they were divorced—was a big indicator. Probably the biggest surprise, though, was if a college student got plugged into a church quickly, it made a huge difference, like 138 percent, in their likelihood of staying in church. This underscores the significant impact campus ministries can have by connecting students with local churches and small group Bible studies, where they find supportive friendships. Ultimately, the student has to make the commitment to stay in church, he stressed.

"One thing that is so important for kids to see is that their parents are 'the real deal.' They pick up monkey business real easily," Tom said. "Young adults have to know their parents love God and really believe His word," he added. "Whenever they saw their parents investing time, energy and money into the church's ministry, and loving and serving the people, that's when it seemed to click with them."

"Why They Stay" may soon be more than a book, however. The authors hope to ignite a "Stay" movement by encouraging pastors and parents to commit to making a difference: "We want to see thousands and thousands of young people say, 'I love God and I love His church, and I'm going to stay no matter what.'" That's a movement every church should applaud.



After Thought

By Todd Deaton

Clique. Un-clique.

"We're a friendly church!" It's a phrase heard regularly in most churches. Often, the more true statement is, "We're really friendly with one another." Is it possible that newcomers at your church or small group perceive your sweet fellowship as cliquish?

Answer this question: Do you function more as a social club or an army of God?

If your Sunday School class is comfortably stagnant or your church is plateaued or declining in attendance, perhaps it's time to un-clique.

Try these ideas to un-clique your class:

- **Stop and refocus.** Teach members to pay attention. When a guest arrives, members immediately change their focus from chatting with one another to warmly welcome the guest.

- **Every member is a greeter.** Train members to see every guest through God's loving eyes, and connect personally.

Fresh Ideas



Diana Davis

Learn their name. Listen well and introduce guests to others. Sit near guests. Have real conversation. Tell them about church events and ministries they might enjoy. Get to know them and share your own Jesus story. Don't forget to learn their name.

- **Add chairs, and move over.** Anticipate guests. Provide plenty of seating so a guest never has to search awkwardly. Members can

make guest seating less intimidating when they avoid "saving" seats in worship.

Give up your end-of-pew seat rather than forcing newcomers to climb over you. For a Sunday School class, rearrange

classroom seating often.

- **Avoid exclusive phrases.** "Most of us are related." "We've all been friends for years." "We all grew up in this church." Show love for one another, but never at the expense of excluding others.

- **Connect digitally.** Guests feel welcomed when individuals send an email to invite them back. Add guests' names to your email list immediately. "Friend" them on Facebook.

- **Un-clique leadership.** Involve more people in large and small leadership roles. Many responsibilities are appropriate for newcomers, so offer a place of service.

- **Plan for explosive growth.** When members bring lost friends, and the church envelops guests with God's love, growth happens. Get ready. Mentor potential teachers and leaders. Intentionally create new breakout groups.

The Great Commission is too vast, and eternity is far too important for us to sit in a huddle: Un-clique.

WESTERN Recorder

Shine Like Stars *Philippians 2:15

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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.

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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.

How I started praying the Bible

By Don Whitney

It was the first of March 1985. I remember where I was sitting when it happened.

I was pastor of a church in the western suburbs of Chicago. A guest preacher was speaking at a series of meetings at our church. He was teaching on the prayers of the apostle Paul in his New Testament letters, and encouraging us to pray these inspired prayers as our own.

Then, at one point he held up his Bible said, "Folks, when you pray, use the prayer book."

In that moment I suddenly realized, "The entire Bible is a prayer book. We can pray not only the prayers of Paul in Ephesians, we can pray everything in the Book of Ephesians."

So I started praying each day through one of the passages in my daily Bible reading. Soon I was reading in the Psalms and found it easy to make the words of the psalmist my own prayers.

For example, I read, "How precious is your steadfast love, O God!" (Psalm 36:7), and spoke King David's exact words as my own prayer, immediately adding other thoughts prompted by David's exclamation.

After I'd said all that came to mind from verse 7, I read verse 8: "They feast on the abundance of your

house, and you give them to drink of the river of your delights."

"Yes, Lord!" I prayed. "Let me feast on the abundance of Your house; let me drink of the river of Your delights. Feed my soul with Your goodness. Satisfy my thirsty heart with Your delights. Let me be immersed in the vast, deep, incomparable river of knowing You."

I simply spoke to the Lord those things prompted verse-by-verse in my reading of the psalm. If a verse didn't suggest anything to pray, I would go to the next verse.

On and on through the psalm, praying as prompted by the things I read, I continued until I ran out of time.

I discovered that praying the Bible helped me stay focused and minimized the tendency of my mind to wander.

I stopped saying the same old things about the same old things when I prayed. And yet, I found that I still prayed about the things I wanted to pray for each day, but I stopped using the tired, repetitive phrases I typically used.

Using this approach also gave me a much greater sense of conversing with God. Instead of the usual me-centered monologue that I hoped the Lord would hear, I read what He said in the Bible, then spoke to Him in response.

When I finished, I turned to the words of God again, after which I spoke with Him about what He had just said in Scripture.

Throughout my time in prayer, I kept alternating between God speaking in His word and my speaking to Him in response—just like a real conversation.

Eventually I discovered that what I'd stumbled upon was in fact an ancient Christian practice. Jesus prayed psalms on the cross (see Matthew 27:46 and Luke 23:46). Followers of Jesus in the Book of Acts (4:23-26) prayed psalms. And many prayerful people since Bible times (such as George Müller) practiced praying the Bible. Regrettably, I'd never been taught this simple, satisfying method of taking the words of Scripture and turning them into prayer.

So March 1, 1985, was a day that forever changed my life, and changed virtually every day of my life since.

And now, having prayed the Bible almost daily for 30 years, I can testify that there is nothing in all my devotional life that more quickly and consistently kindles my consistently cold heart like praying the Bible.

It is gratifying to be able to share with you something that has been so meaningful to me for so long. I hope you will find the practice of praying the Bible equally meaningful and helpful in your own prayer life. (BP)

Real estate remainder gifts

The current low interest rate environment has increased interest in legacy giving plans that use a factor tied to current interest rates to value the gift to charity. When interest rates are low, the value of the charitable portion of those giving plans is higher. One such plan is a gift of a remainder interest in real estate.

To give a remainder interest in real estate to charity, you simply deed property to a charity while retaining for yourself the right to full use and enjoyment of the property for a term of years or the rest of your life. At the end of your retained interest, the property is immediately owned by the charity.

The charitable gift is completed when you sign the deed giving the remainder interest to charity and deliver the deed to the charity, not when your interest in the property ceases. That means you can take action now, but continue to have use of the property for whatever period works for your situation.

The present value of the charity's future remainder interest gift in the real estate may be taken as a current charitable income tax deduction if you itemize deductions. The shorter the term you reserve to continue to use the property the greater the value of your gift. For example, if you deeded a remainder interest in real estate to your church reserving the right to use it for five years, the value of your charitable gift would be approximately 85.5 percent of the market value of the property.

Real estate remainder interest gifts ... a legacy gift plan that provides potential income tax savings to the giver now and a significant gift to charity in the future.



Laurie Valentine

'Help! I'm depressed'

Q: I'm not suicidal, but I need hope for today. Is there any word from God for a discouraged Christian who needs hope?

A: I am glad your urge to live is strong. Stay away from anything that can make you more depressed, such as alcohol and depressing music, 24-hour news networks or negative people. Make a choice to be around people who can lift you to a higher place. Your family? Church? Find people who are encouraging. If you can be in the presence of others who can lift you up out of your aloneness, it can be healing.

Take comfort in scriptures that speak of hope.

An extremely hopeful verse about the future was given to a people devastated by war who could see little hope of restoration apart from the promise of God. Yet that promise was: "I know the plans I have for you, plans to prosper and not to harm you, to give you a future and

a hope" (Jeremiah 29:11).

Sit with those words of encouragement; put them on a three-by-five card to carry around with you as a reminder that the only thing we have to know about the future is that it is in the hands of a God who is for us.

In Ephesians 3:20-21, Paul said God is able to do far beyond all we can imagine. Hope may be beyond our imagination for the moment, but it is not beyond God's ability. God is bigger than our ability to be hopeful on our own.

In Romans 5:1-5, Paul said "character produces hope." This reminds us to take our eyes off what other people think and focus on building our own self-discipline, self-improvement, and sense of integrity. Not worrying about what other people think is a healthy way to "stay out of other people's business." Sticking to our own business can help us retain hope.

Help wanted: Someone – anyone?

Where can I find help? It may be the No. 1 question I have been asked over the past 10 or so years.

Pastors from small churches who are looking for someone—anyone—to come and help them begin a student ministry ask it.

Personnel committees who are looking to fill a youth ministry position ask it. Full-time youth ministers who are looking for volunteers ask it.

Sometimes I think if I could just figure out how to develop a youth leader/worker in a box, where all you had to do was open the package and add water and a vibrant youth worker would emerge, then I could retire a wealthy man.

Unfortunately, it isn't that easy.

My heart hurts for these churches and ministries, and as I have wrestled with an answer to this question, I seem to have found at least a modicum of an answer.

Pray. I know that this seems to be the go-to answer with any concern we have and at times it may seem passé, but I am convinced now more than ever that this is the place we need to start.

Jesus tells us specifically to pray for workers. Matthew 9:37-38: "Then He said to His disciples, 'The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few. Therefore beseech the Lord

of the harvest to send out workers into His harvest.'"

Have we prayed, honestly prayed, diligently prayed, continuously prayed, for workers? Or, have we just flippantly asked God for help?

The world our students live in is vastly different from the world anyone over age 35 grew up in.

As a society, we have prolonged adolescences, made everything tolerable, and it has had long-term impact on our society. Praying for workers in this harvest field ought to be at the top of our priority list.

Look Around. With whom in your congregation/community are the students already in a relationship?

Who do they talk to, go to for advice? Who is the Kool-aid mom in your congregation? What adult do they seek out?

It may better serve your need to pour into the life of and disciple a volunteer or a group of volunteers to be the leaders you need, than to spend a lot of time trying to find just the right fit.

In this culture of teens I have become more and more convinced that we need to pay attention to the "who" they already have built relationships with.

I tell adults all the time if for some reason a student has decided

that you are important to them and wants to spend time with you, values your opinion and talks to you on a regular basis, that truly is a gift from God and they are your assignment from God.

Teens today are fickle at best with whom they trust and confide in.

Why not take advantage of those relationships?

One of the caveats of this is that these adults, along with any adult we put in front of our students, need to be adults that are growing in the faith and modeling the lifestyle which we want our students to emulate.

Students have enough people in their lives who want to be their buddy, we need adults who want to be adults and help disciple students into fully devoted followers of God.

Ask. Ask other youth ministries in your area to "borrow" some of their volunteers or volunteer to be a training ground for some of their students that have been called to ministry. You get the advantage of volunteers with a solid base and a built-in mentor.

It also helps students and churches see that we are all in this together and that youth ministry is best done within the context of a healthy network of youth ministers.

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

Youth Ministry Corner



Joe Ball



James Stillwell

Horton and Johnson: profiles in successful mountain ministry

Pike Association has a lot of things for which to be thankful. An example would be the recent LoveLoud project. Ten churches and seven were mission teams involved. As a result effort, 700 people were ministered to and more than 200 Bibles were distributed.

Jason Lowe, director of missions for Pike Association, said, "Relationships between participating churches were strengthened," and that is something to be thankful for.

However, Lowe has more to be thankful for. He has some young ministers in his association who understand how to carry out successful ministries.

Two young ministers, Brian Horton, of Grace Church in Pikeville, and Jason Johnson, of Elkhorn City Church, and I recently discussed ministry essentials. These men have been successful within their ministries. Both have seen increases in attendance and baptisms during the past three years.

As a backdrop for our conversation, I suggested using Myron Rush's four ingredients for success in Christian

ministry. The ingredients, according to Rush, are purpose, unity, effective communication, and a desire to do the will of God. The goal was to see if four ingredients could be identified in the ministries of these two young preachers in Pike Association.

Purpose

Horton, pastor at Grace Church, stated that "the purpose of Grace Baptist was to know God and to make Him known." He pointed out that this was accomplished in three different ways: in-reach, outreach and up-reach. The in-reach of the church entails discipleship; the outreach has to do with evangelism; the up-reach focuses on worship.

Horton added, "Nominations to fill positions at Grace are based on these three elements, with the goal being 'no spectators—everyone should have a role to play within the church.'"

On the other hand, Johnson stated



Brian Horton, left, and Jason Johnson are pastors of Grace Church and Elkhorn City Church in Pike Association.

that his church's purpose was "to love God and to love others," an obvious reference to the words of Jesus in Matthew 22:37-40. When asked how he communicates this to his church, Johnson said, "I repeat it to them every service."

Both of these effective and successful ministries in the mountains of East Kentucky have established a purpose for their existence. They are fulfilling Rush's first ingredient for successful ministry.

Unity

On the subject of unity, Horton was quick to make reference to being "an Acts 2 kind of congregation." By "Acts 2" the pastor was referring to Acts 2:44: "All who believed were together and had all things in common." He believes that the Acts 2 church had a like faith and order, and that is the goal for Grace Church.

Horton had kind words to say about his deacons. His deacon body, he said, was always ready to lean into conflict, and that caused him to praise God for deacons who seek unity for his Pike County congregation. Grace Baptists can sing with the psalmist, "Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brothers to dwell together in unity!" (Psalm 133:1).

Johnson's approach to unity is that of transparency. He tries to keep his congregation informed, and avoids secrets. He is transparent in his daily walk, in his finances, and reporting numbers. He

tries to build trust, and in doing so, creates an atmosphere of unity.

Horton and Johnson agree that keeping an outward focus is a source of unity. These two pastors try to make "the main thing" being reaching sinners for Jesus. Grace and Elkhorn City have seen significant increases in baptisms. Elkhorn City led the association in baptisms in 2014.

Effective communication

Someone has said, "If you want your church to remember information, you must repeat it 17 times." Horton agrees.

"I say the same thing, and I say it over and over again," he said, adding, "I try to communicate in a way that all can understand."

Johnson attempts to use relationship building as a way to communicate. He enjoys laughing with them, but also doing some of the same things that they do. For example, a popular activity in his area is 4-wheeling. So, guess where you can often find Johnson? Yes, you will find him on a 4-wheeler, enjoying an afternoon with church members.

Grace and Elkhorn City have effective and successful ministries because they have found ways of effectively communicating with their churches.

Desire to do the will of God

Horton refers to doing the will of God at his church as "having boots on the ground." He motivates Grace Baptists by giving them ministry projects where they can win, and then progresses from that point.

"A church family needs a few easy wins," Horton said. "It is wonderful to have your church obey God in a certain area of their life, gain a victory, and then 'spike the ball!'"

Johnson noted, "When you have a church that knows their purpose, obtains unity, and masters effective communication, you will then have the motivation necessary to carry out the will of God."

Horton and Johnson may be young in age, but they are mature in the faith. Both are knowledgeable in carrying out an effective and successful ministry for the Lord.



Corinth Baptist embraces Bible storying for discipleship

By Myriah Snyder

London—Corinth Baptist Church in London "blurred the lines between evangelism and discipleship" with a full-day TruthSticks training workshop. About 50 people from London, Lexington, Winchester and Somerset attended the event, led by Mark Snowden, evangelism director for the Missouri Baptist Convention, and coauthor of the book "Truth that Sticks."

Participants visited zones to learn how to use Bible stories in conversational evangelism and making disciples. They used crossbows, small group examples, videos, case studies and conducted man-on-the-street interviews to learn how to start spiritual conversations. Participants received a copy of Snowden's book.

"The overwhelming purpose was to make disciples," Andrew Dyer, pastor of Corinth Baptist, said.

"It was discipleship training for our life group leaders, but really what we found and what believers are finding is that Bible storying works to get the gospel to people. Missionaries have been using it in illiterate cultures for years, but even with literate people, many of them learn best by orality, by hearing the stories," he said.

He continued, "It is a tool to give to our people to help them share the gospel and help them grow and disciple."

"One of our church members who is an accountant talked about a difficulty that they were dealing with in their office. He used a Bible story to share to try to encourage morale in his workplace," Dyer said.

"Anyone who wants to be a catalyst for kingdom growth" should attend these events, Snowden said.

Snowden's training events are "an intentional day of exploring and evaluating and growing." The training event includes five learning zones that teach participants how to use Bible storying to make disciples, "like Jesus did."

"One of the things that people will sometimes use is when they hear Bible storying they get nervous that you're not going deep in the Scriptures with people," Dyer said.

"When we talk about Bible storying, what we're really talking about is, how do we get God's word deep into our lives in such a way that we can apply it and really be and make disciples?" he explained.

"It's just another way that we, at Corinth Baptist Church can be about fulfilling the Great Commission here in Kentucky and around the world," Dyer said. (WR)

Regional SPOTLIGHT



Paul Badgett
East

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Oneida Baptist Institute breaks ground for dorm

Oneida—On Sept. 29, Oneida Baptist Institute administrators, board of trustees and other distinguished guests held a symbolic groundbreaking ceremony for the school's new 200-bed dormitory, Carnahan-Daugherty Hall.

Ken Bolin, pastor of Manchester Baptist Church and OBI trustee, led the dedicatory prayer for Carnahan-Daugherty Hall.

OBI president Larry Gritton Jr., introduced Arthur Walker III, owner of The Walker Company, in charge of construction for the new dormitory. Other guests included architect Todd Ott, members of the Walker Company, Donna McClure from Senator Mitch McConnell's office, OBI new construction coordinator Paul Filiatreau, and freshman Orloff Phillips representing the boys' dormitory.

The new 200-bed facility will replace the old Carnahan Hall, which was constructed in 1968. The original Carnahan Hall was a girls' dorm built in 1905 and made possible by a gift from Mr. & Mrs. Robert Carnahan, one of Oneida's greatest benefactors in its early days.



Oneida Baptist Institute administrators, board of trustees and other distinguished guests participated in a symbolic groundbreaking ceremony Sept. 29 for the school's new 200-bed dormitory, Carnahan-Daugherty Hall.

The first building was demolished in 1967. A second Carnahan Hall was built in 1968 as a boys' dormitory and maintained the name to honor the early benefactor and Oneida storekeeper.

In 2013, OBI was notified that Wesley Daugherty had left an estate gift—the largest gift the school has ever received. According to his CPA, Daugherty came

to Oneida with his church group and fell in love with Oneida.

The new boys' dormitory will be named Carnahan-Daugherty Hall to honor both the past and present donors. Demolition on the old dorm began June 29. The last dormitory built on campus was in 1982 with the construction of Preston and Ruby Baker Hall. (WR)

Prescription drug abuse still growing in Kentucky

By Kat Russell

Paducah—An average of 44 people die in the United States every day from drug overdoses involving prescription drugs, according to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control.

More than 1,000 people die each year in Kentucky from prescription drug overdoses, giving the state the third-highest overdose death rate in the nation.

In McCracken County, the problem of prescription drug abuse has gotten steadily worse over the past 10 years, said Det. John Tolliver, the prescription drug diversion investigator with the Paducah Police Department.

"The addiction rates have risen, the overdose rates have skyrocketed, not just here in Paducah but nationwide," he said. "Accidental prescription drug overdose deaths have climbed to the number one reason for accidental deaths in the country, surpassing even auto accidents, and that's just in the last couple years."

Ryan Norman, a drug detective with the McCracken County Sheriff's Department concurred, calling prescription drug abuse "one of the top three problems in our area" along with methamphetamine and cocaine.

The most commonly abused drugs are prescription painkillers, tranquilizers and stimulants, according to research from the National Institute on Drug Abuse, which also noted that 52 million Americans over the age of 12 have abused prescription drugs at some point in their life.

The institute's research also showed the U.S. to be the most medicated country in the world with its 5 percent of the globe's population consuming 75 percent of the world's prescription medications.

That availability and the fact that many prescription narcotics are

cheaper than street drugs are factors that directly contribute to the rise in prescription drug abuse, Tolliver said.

"A lot of the times, most of the cost of the drugs is covered by insurance or some type of health care, and they're easy to obtain," he said.

"You can get them from family, from friends, from people's medicine cabinets and doctors' offices."

There are also misconceptions regarding the safety of prescription drugs, he added.

"I think people believe that by taking prescription drugs, it's a safer alternative to illicit drugs on the street," he said. "They're FDA approved, you know what you're getting and people think if a doctor gave it to them then it can't be bad. I think a lot of people see prescription drugs as a lesser evil."

Both agreed that prescription drug abuse is an equal-opportunity illness that affects people of every age, race, gender and socio-economic status.

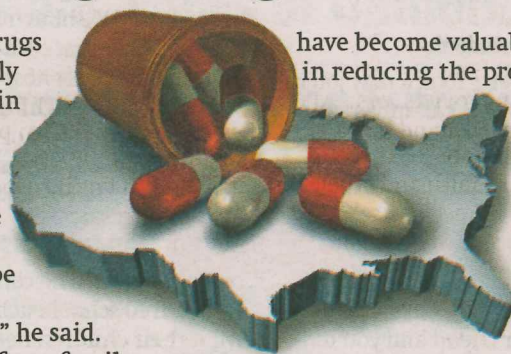
The number of children as young as 12 experimenting with and abusing the drugs is also on the rise.

The detectives said many people who become addicted to prescription medications initially start using the drugs for legitimate reasons, such as pain management for an injury or illness.

"As the addiction cycle begins to take hold, they need more and more of (the drug) feed their addiction," Tolliver said.

In addition to law enforcement efforts to combat prescription drug addiction, state legislators have sought to tighten regulations.

Prescription monitoring programs such as Kentucky's KASPER system



have become valuable tools in reducing the problem of "doctor shopping," Tolliver said, making it easier to monitor physicians' prescribing practices.

House Bill 1, which was passed in 2012, tightened prescription laws and required physicians to consult KASPER before doling out narcotics.

Additionally, Gov. Steve Beshear has announced that Kentucky will receive nearly \$4 million in federal funding over the next four years to "combat the epidemic of prescription drug overdoses."

The money will be used to fund continued research and education efforts as well as enhance enforcement systems now in place.

On a local level, both Paducah police and the sheriff's department regularly organize drug "take back" days where citizens can bring in unused or expired medications in and give them to officials for safe disposal.

Last spring, Tolliver said a total of 243 pounds of prescription medications was collected.

There is a prescription drop-off box in the lobby at the police department, and the sheriff's department will take unwanted medications at any time and dispose of them.

Despite efforts, Tolliver said the problem has not been contained.

"Since beginning this position in January 2013, my caseload has steadily increased and arrests have increased, even though we are making the laws tougher." (KPNS: The Paducah Sun)

1% CP Challenge met by 4,422 SBC churches

By Diana Chandler

Nashville, Tenn.—Southern Baptist Convention Executive Committee President Frank Page has personally signed letters to more than 4,400 Southern Baptist churches that have met or exceeded the 1% Cooperative Program Challenge.

Recognized for their contributions are 3,846 congregations that met the challenge for the first time during the 2013-14 fiscal year (Oct. 1-Sept. 30) and 576 that met the challenge for two consecutive years, said Ashley Clayton, SBC Executive Committee vice president for Cooperative Program and stewardship development.

The 1% CP Challenge calls on churches to increase their Cooperative Program giving by at least 1 percentage point of their budgets from undesignated gifts by their members and visitors. CP gifts undergird both the work of the state Baptist conventions and the SBC's national and international missions and ministries.

In the letters in advance of October's Cooperative Program Emphasis Month on the SBC calendar, Page reminded pastors that every Cooperative Program dollar given is an investment in Baptist outreach.

The letters seek to express the "heartfelt gratitude on the part of every international missionary, every church planter in North America and Canada, every person in need or at risk from natural disaster, every seminary student, every plateaued or struggling church, and so many other people who are impacted," Page told Baptist Press.

The month-long Cooperative Program emphasis spurs churches to learn about the Cooperative Program and prayerfully consider increasing their contributions.

FishHawk Fellowship Church, a Southern Baptist congregation in Lithia, Fla., is among churches that have met the 1% CP Challenge two fiscal years concurrently since 2012-13.

"We support and participated in the 1% challenge because the CP was instrumental in our establishment and growth as a church," pastor David Whitten told Baptist Press. "As a former church plant, funds from the CP helped sustain us during the early days of our ministry. We are now a healthy, growing Southern Baptist church and we consider it both a duty and an honor to give back to the CP."

FishHawk, in the Tampa area, increased its CP giving from 2.2 percent in 2012 to 5.6 percent in 2014, according to Executive Committee figures.

If every Southern Baptist church embraces the 1% CP Challenge, annual Cooperative Program giving would increase by nearly \$100 million, Page said.

CP contributions for the current fiscal year were 1.13 percent above projections through August.

Clayton said the increased giving will help many Southern Baptist outreaches.

"Assuming this trend continues through the fiscal year end, that 1.13 percent increase represents almost \$3 million dollars more for SBC missions and ministries fueled by the Cooperative Program," Clayton said. "This is good news for Southern Baptists."

"As a matter of fact, missions contributions across the board are up over last year," he noted. "Along with the 1.13 percent increase in Cooperative Program giving, special missions offerings, the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering and the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering, are both up by about two-thirds of 1 percent over last year."

"Again, good news," Clayton said. (BP)

Readers offer tips to reach internationals with gospel

By Susie Rain

Sharing the Good News with the Tibetan people of the Himalayas has never been easier. You don't have to trek the world's highest mountain range to get to them because some live right here in the United States — Queens, N.Y., to be exact!

Most of the world's 6,000-plus unreached people groups (less than 2 percent follow Jesus) can be found in neighborhoods throughout the United States, maybe even yours. This global migration gives the American church opportunities like never before to reach a lost world.

Let's be practical. These international neighbors usually speak a different language. They follow another religion. Their culture is not the same. So where do we even begin to make an impact?

Never fear! Readers just like you answered this question via social media and offered these tips and resources:

Start a conversation. Become friends.

Sometimes just opening your mouth is difficult when you don't have a common language. But let's be honest. Walking up to any stranger—let alone someone from another country—can be intimidating.

Laurel Duty, a student from Mississippi, pointed out, "Everyone just wants a friend and someone they can trust, especially when you are far from home. We, as believers, can be that person."

Ask for someone's story. They will tell it if you will listen.—*Morgan, Texas*

Take the first step and ask a simple question like, "What does the henna

(temporary dye art) on your hand mean?" Who knows? Maybe your next conversation will lead to a henna party with women from Africa, South Asia and the Middle East using patterns that depict Bible stories.

Be intentional. Share Jesus.

Nikki White spent years showing people Jesus in her life but an Oklahoma pastor challenged her. "I had never sat down and actually talked about heaven and hell," she recalled. "I expected people to intuitively understand by watching. It doesn't work that way. You need to be intentional in meeting people, knowing their needs and sharing the gospel."

■ Look for ways to share Scripture. Print bilingual scripture so you are helping neighbors learn English, but they can better understand in their first language.—*Dean Sides, Alabama*

■ Look for local events that attract immigrants. There's an international soccer tournament in our town. We mingle and develop long-term relationships.—*Katherine Pullen, Tennessee*

■ Frequent a gas station, restaurant or shop owned by internationals. Our men's group hosts Bible study at a convenience store owned by an Indian man. He now joins them.—*Susan Bryant, Kentucky*

Host an international student.

When Neisha Roberts took a new job in Alabama, she called the local university to see if there were any students from Thailand. She had served two years with the IMB and wanted to continue



Anais and Dean Saelao, California, prepare a traditional Thai meal for friends in their campus apartment at Golden Gate Seminary. The Saelaos use their kitchen as a means to share the love of Jesus with non-believers—especially internationals. (Photo by Kate Weatherly)

ministering to Buddhists. Reaching international students is a great way to impact a lost world. Most plan to return home and can take the gospel—or a seed planted in their heart—back with them.

■ Invite students to hang out with your family. They want to experience American culture and life. This is where you connect.—*Levi and Jenifer Perkins, Kansas*

■ College kids never turn down food. I always take my international friends from the dorm with me to church when there's a dinner.—*Jacob Pruett, Mississippi*

Jenifer Perkins noticed in their student program at Washburn University in Topeka, Kan., that students love to attend church with their host families but not when it's the only thing you invite them to do. The students feel disappointed and like they didn't really experience America. Avoid this pitfall by allowing students to

see God in all aspects of your life.

Hospitality. Share a meal.

Most of our international neighbors come from cultures where hospitality and relationships are central to life. When they come to America, they feel disconnected, isolated and alone. Inviting them to our homes, serving them and treating them with love is vital to sharing the gospel.

■ Get past the surface stuff and be a part of their lives. One relationship developed to the point we became "grandparents" for school events.—*Patricia Reaves, Kentucky*

■ Don't just share a meal. Cook together. Teach a recipes and let them teach you.—*Melissa Treat, Mississippi*

■ Offer rides. Many don't drive yet. A Chinese woman and I scheduled our well-baby appointments together so I could drive her. That developed into me teaching English from a children's Bible.—*Emily Kuhnel, Texas*

Teach. Learn. Love.

Learning is a two way street. Let your international friends teach about their culture while sharing about your own. Virginians Scott and Rebecca admitted this can take time and effort but it's worth it in the end. Learning our way into their world provides a culturally appropriate way to share the gospel and disciple.

God is moving people to your community so they may hear and know Him. Will you take up the cross? Remember, you aren't alone. There are people willing to assist. All you have to do is join the conversation. (BP)

Unreached neighbors

Continued from page 1

us be better prayer warriors," Abigail admitted. "But we fell in love with these women from different countries and we couldn't keep Jesus to ourselves.

"They were amazed that we didn't get anything from God for being nice to them," Elizade said, noting that Muslims believe in a "good works" system. "We

found that on a personal level, it's not threatening at all to share your faith because they are your friend and you took time to listen and get to know them."

FINDING NEEDS

Becky Gilbert, Georgia, didn't want to spend her retirement at home. She looked around the community and saw a growing Ethiopian population. She approached the director of the Ethiopian Community Center and asked a simple question: How

could she help? The community realized this retired schoolteacher was exactly what their children needed. They asked her to tutor the kids.

Four years later, this tutoring program is a two-week camp before school starts.

This year, they had 100 students and 50 volunteers prepping snacks and teaching. The program features a class for parents called "Parenting in America."

For 40 years, Women on Mission groups from several churches in Kentucky have

filled a need on Wednesday mornings as part of an international friendship program.

They offer things not found in most English-as-a-Second-Language programs—crafts, driving lessons, cooking with American foods, sewing, Bible stories, etc.

Patricia Reaves found her niche 20 years ago with preschoolers. She takes care of the children while women from all over the world get that "adult" time every mother craves.

"Babies cry in the same language," Reaves said. "This is a great way to connect with moms... They don't have family nearby to help. So we can give them a safe environment to take a break."

LOVING YOUR NEIGHBORS

Building deep relationships with internationals takes time, just like with any other friendship. For Dean and Lisa Sides, Alabama, this process started in the classroom helping medical students with terminology.

They take time to learn the culture of the students and ask God to show them who is seeking Him.

A student surprised the Sideses when she said, "Every time I come to class, there is such a peace here. Where does that peace come from? Is that from your religion?"

God orchestrates opportunities for all to hear His message.

Now is the time to reach the nations in your own backyard. Methods will vary, but the basics stay the same—using both actions and words to communicate Jesus' love and sacrifice.

Will you love your international neighbor? (BP)

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#BOYCEPREVIEW



Hall of Fame catcher Yogi Berra lives on in sermons

By David Roach

New York—When former New York Yankees catcher Yogi Berra died Sept. 22 at age 90, the sports world lost a 13-time World Series champion. Some preachers, meanwhile, lost a source of sermon material who mixed humor with wisdom.

Southern Baptist pastors—Ken Whitten, Jack Graham, James Merritt and, according to Merritt, Adrian Rogers among them—have long quoted Berra's famous "Yogi-isms." Elected to the Baseball Hall of Fame in 1972, the three-time MVP was in the Major Leagues as a player, manager and coach for 40-plus years.

"Every pastor who loves baseball has probably used Yogi in their sermons," said Whitten, pastor of Idlewild Baptist Church in Lutz, Fla., and a longtime Yankees fan, "because pastors are attracted to one-liners."

Though Berra once quipped, "I really didn't say everything I said," the dozens of one-liners attributed to him include:

- "Never answer an anonymous letter."
- "Baseball is 90 percent mental, and the other half is physical."
- "You can observe a lot by just



Yogi Berra's 1953 baseball card (Wikipedia photo)

watching."

Whitten told Baptist Press Yogi-isms are valuable for sermons because their wit resembles that of Jesus' teachings.

When Jesus said it would be "easier for a rich man to enter into heaven than for a camel to go through the eye of a needle,"

His listeners likely laughed, Whitten said. "It was funny. Jesus would use that to break up His messages."

Also like Berra, "no one used irony in messages more than the Lord Jesus Christ," Whitten said. Berra, who was Catholic, heard the gospel on many occasions, Whitten said. Teammate Bobby Richardson "shared the gospel many, many times with Yogi, and they had a lot of conversations about the Lord," said Whitten, a friend of the former second baseman.

Graham, pastor of Prestonwood Baptist Church in Plano, Texas, said Berra's words have helped him call people to faith in Christ.

"One Yogi-ism I've used in terms of making a decision to follow Christ is, 'If you come to a fork in the road, take it,'" Graham told BP. Graham has also modified one of Berra's most famous quips to highlight God's sovereignty and the eternity of heaven.

"I said this recently in a message: It ain't over til it's over, but really it's not over til God says it's over. And it's never over if you know Christ," Graham said.

"Through the years, some of these

things (Berra said) would pop into my head and I would use them" in sermons, he said.

A Yankees fan as a child in the 1950s and 60s, Graham received an autographed photo of Berra by mail. Today, Graham's pet beagle is named Yogi.

Merritt, pastor of Cross Pointe Church in Duluth, Ga., quotes Berra frequently in sermons and told BP the late Rogers of Bellevue Baptist Church in Cordova, Tenn., also quoted the famed Yankee.

Yogi-isms "did make a point," Merritt said. "Yogi wasn't trying to be funny just to be funny. In his own way, he was really quite profound."

Merritt has quoted "it's déjà vu all over again" to urge people not to repeat the negative aspects of history and "if you come to a fork in the road, take it" to encourage seizing opportunities.

Berra authored several books.

"I would encourage not just preachers, but anybody—if you want a good laugh, if you also want to see how humor can be used to teach wise lessons, Yogi is a great example," Merritt said. Services were Sept. 29 for Berra, who once said, "You should always go to other people's funerals. Otherwise, they won't come to yours." (BP)

Is Pope Francis changing pastors' views of Catholic Church?

By Lisa Cannon Green

Nashville, Tenn.—Pope Francis is boosting the reputation of the Catholic Church among Protestant pastors in America, a new study shows.

Nearly 4 in 10 say the pope, known for his humility and concern for the poor, has had a positive impact on their opinions of the Catholic Church, LifeWay Research finds. Almost two-thirds view Pope Francis as a genuine Christian and "brother in Christ."

However, half of Protestant pastors say they do not value Pope Francis' opinion on matters of theology.

Changing views

LifeWay Research asked 1,000 Protestant pastors in America about their views in a phone survey from Sept. 8-21, 2015, shortly before the pontiff's visit to the United States.

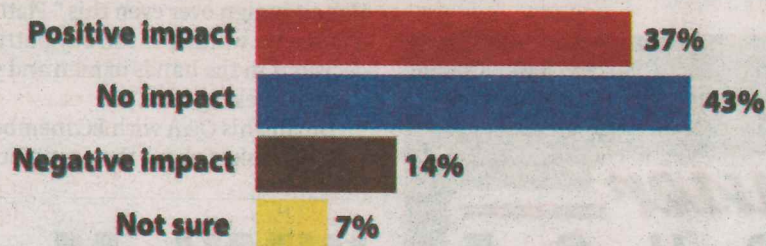
Pope Francis, who in March 2013 became the first non-European and first Jesuit priest to be named pope, has been outspoken on such issues as welcoming immigrants, shunning materialism and protecting the environment.

For 43 percent of Protestant pastors, Pope Francis has not changed their views of the Catholic Church. However, half say the current pope has affected their opinions—and nearly three times as many cite a positive impact (37 percent) as a negative one (14 percent).

"Our sample itself—Protestant pastors—is named after the Protestant Reformation, so they are particularly interesting to survey," said Ed Stetzer, executive director of LifeWay Research. "And the survey says that this pope does, indeed, have a 'Francis effect,' even on a group of people named for protesting the very faith the pope leads."

Ninety percent of Protestant pastors agree Catholics can be "born-again Christians," but they are less certain whether Pope Francis is their "brother in Christ." Sixty-three percent believe he is a

What impact has Pope Francis had on your opinion of the Catholic Church?



genuine Christian, while 22 percent disagree, and 16 percent are unsure.

Evangelical pastors report more skepticism about Pope Francis than their mainline Protestant counterparts. While 80 percent of mainline Protestant pastors believe the pope is a true Christian, only 58 percent of evangelical pastors agree.

"The fact that some pastors don't see the pope as their 'brother in Christ' seems strange to many outside Protestantism and evangelicalism, I imagine," Stetzer said. "However, the forerunners of most Protestant pastors—from Luther, to Wesley, to Spurgeon, to many others—certainly did not see the pope as their 'brother in Christ.'"

"Within a few centuries, the pope has gone from anti-Christ to 'brother in Christ' for a lot of Protestants."

Protestant pastors are divided on whether they value Pope Francis' opinion on theological issues. More than 4 in 10 say they value the pope's opinion, but 50 percent say they do not. Mainline pastors (57 percent) are more likely than evangelical pastors (36 percent) to say they value Pope Francis' opinion.

Mainline pastors are also more likely to say Pope Francis has influenced their opinion of the Catholic Church, with 50 percent saying the impact has been positive and 9 percent saying it has been negative. In contrast, 30 percent of evangelical pastors say Pope Francis has boosted their

opinion of Catholicism, while 15 percent say their opinion has declined.

Divided views

Favorable views of Pope Francis are most pronounced among highly educated Protestant pastors and those in the Northeast, the survey finds.

Fifty-one percent of Protestant pastors in the Northeast say Pope Francis improves their opinion of the Catholic Church, compared to 38 percent in the Midwest, 34 percent in the South, and 31 percent in the West. Most Northeastern pastors (53 percent) also say they value the pope's opinions on theological matters, a view shared by fewer than half of pastors in the Midwest (45 percent), South (39 percent), and West (38 percent).

More than two-thirds of Protestant pastors with a master's or doctoral degree (69 percent) view Pope Francis as a genuine Christian and brother in Christ, compared to 42 percent of those with a bachelor's degree or no college degree.

Those with a master's degree or higher are also significantly more likely to say they value Pope Francis' opinions on theological matters (49 percent) and the pope improves their opinion of the Catholic Church (43 percent). Among those with less formal education, 22 percent value the pope's theological opinion and 18 percent say he has a positive impact on their view of Catholicism. (BP)

Archery ministry will host two regional tournaments

Louisville—Two Kentucky Baptist churches will host the state's first Centershot regional tournaments in October, giving archers the opportunity to test their marksmanship skills outside church clubs.

"The popularity of Centershot is growing exponentially," said Andy McDonald, Kentucky Baptist Convention affinity evangelism strategist.

"More and more Kentucky Baptist churches are finding archery is a great way to evangelize, disciple and mentor children and adults in their communities."

Churches participating in the Centershot archery ministry are invited to attend one of two tournaments.

The Eastern Kentucky Regional Centershot Tournament will be held Oct. 24, 10 a.m., at First Baptist Church of London.

This tournament is open to students in grades 4-12.

For more information about the eastern Kentucky competition, or to register, contact Ryan Coffey at 606-271-9081, or by email at ryankcoffey@gmail.com.

Lone Oak First Baptist Church of Paducah will host the Western Kentucky Regional Centershot Tournament Oct. 31, 9 a.m. Archers from second grade through adults are eligible to compete.

For more information about the western Kentucky tournament, or to register, contact Howard Fuller at 270-554-1441, or by email at hfuller@loneoakfbc.org.

The cost to register is \$10. Prizes will be awarded.

The second annual Centershot National Tournament is set for May 13-14, 2016, in Louisville. (WR)

IMB shortfall

Continued from page 1

SBC President Ronnie Floyd proposed adoption of the resolution during a Sept. 22 meeting of the body's administrative committee.

"We are not backing up on getting the gospel to the world," Floyd, pastor of Cross Church in northwest Arkansas, told the full EC. "And that is what this body must resolve and clearly send across the Southern Baptist Convention. We are not backing up on pushing back the lostness in this world."

According to printed EC background materials, Floyd cited reaffirmation of giving through CP as "the most effective means to provide both long-term sustainability and financial flexibility to address pressing crises as they emerge." One-time gifts, including gifts through the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for International Missions, "may allay IMB's present need to keep a larger number of its missionary force on the field," but they do not "address the full range of both IMB and other SBC entities' needs to maintain long-term sustainability," the background materials noted.

EC chairman Mike Routt promised to urge the congregation he pastors, Circle Drive Baptist Church in Colorado Springs, Colo., to increase its giving through Southern Baptists' unified program of supporting missions and ministries across North America and around the globe.

Circle Drive "has adjusted our Cooperative Program giving three times in the last six years," Routt said. "As a result of what I have experienced this week, these



IMB President David Platt told EC members he received a letter claiming the IMB is "letting Satan win" by reducing its number of fully funded missionaries. "I want to be clear: Satan does not win," Platt said. "... If Romans 8:28 is true, Satan never wins. God works together all things for the good of those who love Him and have been called according to His purpose."

two days, I'm going back, and we're raising it again."

Routt urged EC members to "lead by example" and "be upset that we're keeping 90-95 percent of our income in our buildings."

In light of the IMB financial situation, the EC's business and finance committee discussed its process of reviewing the financial audits presented to SBC entities. No EC member questioned the integrity of the IMB's reporting of financial data, and Steverson told Baptist Press the IMB's audits are "clean."

Platt told EC members the "voluntary retirement incentive" offered to all IMB

personnel at least 50 years old with at least five years of service is truly voluntary. It represents a way of discerning God's work in employees' lives, he said.

Those who opt to accept the retirement incentive must indicate their choice by Nov. 2.

Phase two of the IMB's plan, to be implemented after Jan. 1, will involve asking all other employees to discern whether God is leading them to another ministry opportunity, Platt said. Phase two will occur regardless of how many people accept the voluntary retirement incentive, he said.

"That entire plan is based on the premise that God knows what He is doing and He's sovereign over even this," Platt said. "And so we wanted to start by putting all decisions in the hands of men and women who are seeking Him."

During his Q&A with EC members, Platt was asked about the possibility of a

"less voluntary" process of reducing employees in the future. He responded that is a "bridge" the IMB hopes it does not need to cross, trusting God to direct through voluntary means those He is calling to other service.

Platt said in an interview the IMB has neither announced publicly how many people were offered the retirement incentive nor stated specific projections regarding what percentage is likely to accept. Platt cited "pastoral reasons" for keeping that information confidential, noting the IMB does not want to exert undue pressure on employees considering the offer.

Presently, the IMB has about 4,780 missionaries, Steverson said. He added the board has committed to send 300 new missionaries in 2016 and anticipates resignations and retirements of approximately 300 missionaries in an average year.

In total, the 5,250 missionaries and stateside staff members must be reduced by 600-800, Platt said, an approximate decrease of between 11 and 15 percent.

Platt and Steverson both said IMB leaders did not begin to formulate their two-phase plan until after the SBC's June annual meeting in Columbus, Ohio.

Platt told EC members about a letter he received claiming the IMB is "letting Satan win" by reducing its number of fully funded missionaries. That claim, he said, is wrong.

"I want to be clear: Satan does not win," Platt said. "... If Romans 8:28 is true, Satan never wins. God works together all things for the good of those who love Him and have been called according to His purpose."

He continued, "Brothers and sisters, let's be aware Satan is at work. But let us also be assured that even he cannot prevent God from using all these things for good. So we do not fear. In God's sovereign plan to make the gospel known among the nations, He saw even this coming. And so we rest assured, brothers and sisters, our God wins always." (BP)

WMU: More than ever, pray for missionaries

By Julie Walters

Birmingham, Ala.—As International Mission Board personnel who are eligible for the organization's voluntary retirement incentive prayerfully consider God's leading, Woman's Missionary Union leaders are calling for more intense prayer and support for Southern Baptist missionaries.

"Ongoing, focused prayer for our missionaries has always been a foundational component of missions discipleship through WMU," said Wanda Lee, executive director of national WMU. "It is both a privilege and responsibility to lift up our missionaries in prayer, and so vital right now as they are making potentially life-changing decisions."

National WMU will host a special time of prayer for international missionaries during an observance of the Week of Prayer for International Missions at WMU's headquarters in Birmingham Dec. 3.

In addition to prayer, WMU is seeking to help missionaries who decide to return to the U.S. with housing and transportation.

Missionary housing has long been a ministry provided by WMU through a password-protected database of available housing for missionaries. WMU provides counsel to those who want to learn more about starting a missionary house ministry and facilitates communication between missionaries and those who have houses available for use.

Currently, approximately 530 homes are available for long-term housing and 117 for short-term housing of missionaries made available by churches, associations and individuals in 27 states. WMU is seeking to update the database prior to posting it for missionaries to use in their search for housing if they leave the field.

"If you have a home available to offer to missionaries as they transition back to the U.S., please contact us so we can add your residence to our housing list," Lee said. "We also know transportation will be a need, so we are contacting those currently on our list to see if they may also have a vehicle they can offer for use."

Contact housing@wmu.org or (205) 991-8100 with questions or information about housing or transportation for missionaries. (BP)

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Pope's speech

Continued from page 1

to the head of a religious body to speak to legislators also was problematic, said Mohler and some Southern Baptist pastors.

"I wonder what evangelical religious figure would be accorded such an opportunity," said Mark Dever, senior pastor of Capitol Hill Baptist Church in Washington, D.C., in a written statement for Baptist Press.

Bart Barber, pastor of the First Baptist Church in Farmersville, Texas, told BP, "For Congress to treat a church as though it were a state and the head of a church as though he were the head of a state runs contrary to basic First Amendment principles of disestablishment."

While he commended the pope's advocacy for the sanctity of human life, "together with our Baptist forefathers I ask our government not to extend special diplomatic privileges to the Roman Catholic Church that it does not extend to any other religion," said Barber, a member of the ERLC's Leadership Network Council.

Mohler described the pope's address to Congress as a "troubling development."

Baptists "historically have been very opposed to the United States government recognizing any religion or religious leader in such a way," Mohler had told BP before the pope's visit to Washington.

In his Sept. 24 podcast, Mohler referred to an observer on National Public Radio who said it should be

acknowledged the pope will address Congress as a pastor, not a political leader.

"Well, let's just state the obvious: No other pastor in the history of the United States of America has ever addressed a joint session of Congress," Mohler said.

Southern Baptists have long stood against such government favoritism of a religious body.

In his speech to Congress, the pope spoke of the "responsibility to protect and defend human life at every stage of its development." He spoke of the importance of the family but did not explicitly define marriage as only between a man and a woman.

The pope addressed the environment, poverty and immigration in speaking to lawmakers and tens of thousands of people who watched his speech on Jumbotrons on the west lawn of the U.S. Capitol. He also called for a "global abolition" of capital punishment.

He did not mention Jesus Christ, however, in what Mohler called an "amazing development."

The pope endorsed religious freedom in both his words and actions during his time in Washington.

At a welcoming ceremony Sept. 23, he told President Obama and an audience on the White House's south lawn that American Catholics and others desire respect for their "right to religious liberty."

"That freedom reminds one of America's most precious possessions," the pope said. "(A)ll are called to be vigilant, precisely as good citizens, to preserve and defend that freedom from everything that would threaten or compromise it." (BP)

Pope Francis to Ky. clerk Kim Davis: 'Stay strong!'

By David Gibson

Throughout his visit to the U.S., Pope Francis was careful to avoid many of the hot-button social issues that have roiled American society. He repeatedly exhorted bishops to take a more positive approach and not pick fights that would turn more people off than they would attract.

Now it turns out that even as he was preaching that message the pope met secretly with an icon of the culture wars: Kim Davis, the Ky. clerk and conservative Christian jailed for five days for refusing to issue marriage licenses for gay couples.

The meeting with Davis took place Sept. 24, before Francis left Washington for New York, Davis' lawyer said. Mat Staver of the Liberty Counsel, which has represented Davis, told CBS News the Vatican contacted him. Despite blanket media coverage of every move the pope made during his visit, Staver said he worked with church officials to sneak Davis and her husband, Joe, into the Vatican Embassy in Washington.

The meeting took place about 2:30 p.m., Staver said, and lasted between 10 and 15 minutes. According to Inside the Vatican magazine, the Argentine pope spoke in English with Davis and her husband, alone and without an interpreter or aides. Staver said he was not present either.

Davis told the magazine that Francis said to her, "Thank you for your courage."

"I said, 'Thank you, Holy Father,'" Davis reportedly said. "I had asked a Monsignor earlier what was the proper way to greet the pope, and whether it would be

appropriate for me to embrace him... I hugged him, and he hugged me back."

Davis said it was an extraordinary moment.

"'Stay strong,' he said to me. Then he gave me a rosary as a gift, and he gave one also to my husband, Joe."

After repeated requests for comment, the Vatican spokesman, the Rev. Federico Lombardi, would only say, "I do not deny that the meeting took place, but I have no other comments to add."

Throughout the trip, Francis seemed to studiously sidestep political land mines and repeatedly urged his bishops to avoid harsh language and culture war battles—and the Kim Davis case has been one of the year's biggest rallying cries for the religious right.

How the Davis meeting with Francis came about, however, is a mystery.

The Vatican spokesman, Lombardi, said in a statement issued Oct. 2 that Davis was one of "several dozen" people Francis met at the Vatican Embassy in Washington on Sept. 24 as he prepared to leave for New York, the second leg of his U.S. trip.

"Such brief greetings occur on all papal visits and are due to the pope's characteristic kindness and availability," the statement said. "The pope did not enter into the details of the situation of Mrs. Davis and his meeting with her should not be considered a form of support of her position in all of its particular and complex aspects," Lombardi said. (RNS)



Kim Davis

Reach your WORLD

In Christ, God was reconciling the world to himself... and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation. — 2 Cor 5:19

Annual Meeting Nov. 10

Severns Valley Baptist Church, Elizabethtown

KBC Mission Board Recommendations to be Considered for Fiscal Year 2016-17

The annual Cooperative Program goals, as well as the percentages for the division of Cooperative Program funds between Kentucky Baptist Convention and Southern Baptist Convention causes, are determined by the Kentucky Baptist Convention in its annual session.

Upon recommendation of the Mission Board, the Convention in Bowling Green, November 11, 2014, set the 2015-2016 goals and percentages as shown below. The Mission Board recommends to the Convention in Elizabethtown on November 10, 2015, the following 2016-2017 goals and percentages.

I. COOPERATIVE PROGRAM GOAL	APPROVED 2015-2016 BUDGET		PROJECTED 2016-2017 BUDGET		VARIANCE
A. TOTAL COOPERATIVE PROGRAM GOAL	\$21,250,000		\$21,500,000		\$250,000
1. SBC CAUSES	\$10,625,000	50.00%	\$10,750,000	50.00%	\$125,000
2. KBC CAUSES	\$10,625,000	50.00%	\$10,750,000	50.00%	\$125,000
B. COOPERATIVE PROGRAM RESOURCING	\$ 1,487,500		\$ 1,505,000		\$ 17,500
1. SBC SHARED FUNDING	\$ 743,750	3.50%	\$ 752,500	3.50%	\$ 8,750
2. KBC SHARED FUNDING	\$ 743,750	3.50%	\$ 752,500	3.50%	\$ 8,750
C. OPERATIONAL BUDGET (c)	\$21,250,000		\$21,500,000		\$250,000
1. SBC CAUSES (a)	\$ 9,881,250	46.50%	\$ 9,997,500	46.50%	\$116,250
2. KBC CAUSES (b)	\$11,368,750	53.50%	\$11,502,500	53.50%	\$133,750
II. OTHER ESTIMATED INCOME*	\$ 1,830,712				
A. ELIZA BROADUS OFFERING*	\$ 860,000				
B. OTHER*	\$ 970,712				
III. TOTAL KBC BUDGET GOAL*	\$13,199,462				
TOTAL KBC/SBC BUDGET GOAL*	\$23,080,712				

(a) The distribution of these items is voted by the Southern Baptist Convention.

(b) The distribution of these items is voted by the Kentucky Baptist Convention Mission Board.

(c) Any Cooperative Program receipts in excess of the goal will be distributed at the same percentages.

*** To be approved by the Mission Board upon recommendation of the Business and Finance Committee May 10-11, 2016.



KENTUCKY BAPTIST CONVENTION

Find information on the 2015 KBC Annual Meeting and Kentucky Baptist Pastors' Conference at www.kybaptist.org/annualmeeting.

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\$132 each

In the past two years, I have had the privilege of attending quite a few of the annual meetings of Kentucky's Baptist associations.

This is Oneida



Larry Gritton

It has been a privilege to meet many of you and also to see and hear some of what the Lord is doing through Kentucky Baptists.

Collectively we can do so much more than we can do individually, and collectively Kentucky Baptists enable Oneida to reach and teach so many more young people than we could otherwise.

I recently hit the road on a Tuesday morning for a bit of a trip that would keep my development director and me on the road for 750 miles and 17 hours. The last stop on our trip was Boiling Springs Baptist Church in Munfordville. The Lynn Baptist Association director of missions had extended an offer for me to come and speak about Oneida.

I was given 20 minutes to share, but I actually took 27 minutes. While I did

go seven minutes over my allotted time, I am sure it was still quite short compared to what Dr. Barkley Moore would have done. In my 27 minutes, I shared several things about our ministry and highlighted our new building project. I included some information about our furniture fundraiser for this new building once it is complete.

A few minutes after I had shared, one of the association's pastors made his way to the pulpit and made a motion. He moved that the 19 churches of the association each contribute \$132 to make the \$2,500 needed to furnish one of our 50 new dorm rooms.

I was touched by this motion, second, and unanimous vote. The motion also included that this room sponsorship be done in honor of their retiring director of missions and his sweet wife. As I glanced over my shoulder to this DOM and his wife, I saw that they, too, were moved by this gesture.

It was so obvious that the people of the Lynn Baptist Association loved and appreciated their DOM and his wife, and it was also obvious to me that the

Lynn Baptist Association loves and supports Oneida. It has also been obvious and overwhelming for me to see how many people in this state choose to bless Oneida in so many different ways.

My traveling companion and I returned home at 1:15 a.m. We were both physically weary, but at the same time we were spiritually and emotionally charged because of the outpouring of the Lord's blessings on Oneida. For the duration of our new dorm (hopefully 50 years or more), young men will see that folks at the Lynn Baptist Association love and support them even though they have probably never met them.

Our students and I are grateful for your love and support. Oneida would not exist without you, and God's Kingdom is filled with people who were able to attend Oneida because you made it possible.

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

Jones joins WR staff as business manager

Louisville—Randy Jones, director of missions for Oldham-Trimble Baptist Association, has joined the staff of the Western Recorder as business manager.

Jones, who previously served as Missions Team leader for the Kentucky Baptist Convention from 1996-2009, began duties Sept. 1. He will be responsible for the fiscal operations of the newspaper, developing and implementing a subscription promotion strategy, and coordinating advertising.

"We believe Jones will be an incredible addition to our team," said Editor Todd Deaton. "His proven managerial skills, his name recognition and reputation across the state, and the relationships he has fostered through the years with Kentucky pastors and churches will be a tremendous asset to his success with Western Recorder."



Randy Jones

Jones—who has also served as a DOM for three other associations, as a pastor and as an international missionary—will make a superb representative for the state Baptist newspaper as a pulpit-supply preacher in churches, as a Bible study leader, and as a guest speaker for associational events, Deaton noted. "And I encourage churches in our KBC family to call upon him often," he added.

"I count it a privilege and an honor to become the marketing/business manager for the Western Recorder," Jones said. "It is also very humbling to follow in the footsteps of so many outstanding folks who have served in this capacity."

In expressing his calling and desire to obey God's will and pleasure for his life, Jones added, "At this juncture ... it is my passion to support and serve Kentucky Baptists through this new opportunity for ministry."

Prior to joining the KBC staff, Jones was director of missions for Northern Kentucky Baptist Association. Earlier, he served as director of missions for Boones Creek Baptists and for Northwest Indiana Baptists. He also has been associate pastor of education and administration at Central Baptist Church in Winchester and pastor at First Baptist Church of Sonora, and he served two years as a missionary in Costa Rica and Paraguay with the former Foreign Mission Board.

A graduate of Kentucky Wesleyan College and Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, he and his wife, Sherry, have four grown children and five grandchildren. (WR)

Training to serve others

Student Kendra McNeeley is one of our local students from just across the Tennessee state line in

Clear Creek Chronicle



Donnie Fox

Lafollette, Tenn. Although she started her educational journey at a local university, she is thankful for the Lord directing her to Clear Creek.

"When I attended the Passion Conference in 2012, one of the main focuses that year was on human trafficking," said McNeeley. "My heart was absolutely shattered for the men and women who were forced to work for

money in ways that I can pray that I never have to experience, even in my dreams.

"After that year my longing to do something about trafficking and help

those who were victims to it only grew," she said. "I was attending a local university at the time and a friend I had made on campus invited me to go to a college ministry at Pump Springs Baptist Church, where I met some of the students from Clear Creek.

"As I got to know them and hear about what they were learning on campus and in the classroom, I realized that this was a place that God wanted me to be. Now here I am, getting an education so that I may learn more, grow more, and one day serve God and His people to the best of my ability," she added.

"The course work in some of the classes is quite challenging, but there is not one class that I have had so far that I have not enjoyed," said McNeeley. "In the short time that I have been here, I

have learned more about Scripture and about the people in the Bible than I ever thought I could possibly know. I feel that the things I have learned, both in and out of the classroom, will greatly benefit me later on in life when I am serving as a Christian counselor where God places me.

"I can think back on the moments when I sat in the classroom or even in a small group discussion on campus and hopefully the knowledge that I have learned and the discussions that I have had will help me to help someone else, with Jesus Christ always at the center."

To be continued ...

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

A financial tidal wave

The United States is presently in the midst of the largest generational transfer of wealth in history. Most estimates project the amount of this wealth transfer to be upwards of \$41 trillion between the years 1998 through 2053. Churches have not capitalized on the opportunity presented by this generational wealth transfer. Also, many churches have not educated their membership about their responsibility to wisely prepare for executing this upcoming wealth transfer in a God honoring way.

In most churches, the stewardship focus has been on tithes and offering giving that comes from members' income and "liquid assets," which may represent only a small portion of a member's net worth. Certainly it is good for the church to instill this discipline of current giving, but the

discipline of financial stewardship should also include legacy giving.

What is a legacy gift?

- It is a gift over and above tithes and offerings. It is a gift out of assets, not out of income.
- It is a gift that can't be put in the offering plate.
- It is a gift made in light of the giver's overall estate and financial plans.
- It is a gift that uses tax-advantaged methods to accomplish the giver's objectives.
- It is a gift that may require professional adviser assistance to complete the contribution.

Developing a coordinated legacy giving effort is how the church can capitalize on the tidal wave of opportunity presented by this generational wealth transfer. The legacy gifts that transpire from the churches' stewardship education efforts will most certainly provide additional "above and beyond" financial resources that will permit the

church to enhance and expand its programs and ministries. Such an effort will also encourage church members to "Honor the Lord with (their) substance" (Proverbs 3:9).

As church leadership prays about its obligation to educate church members about the stewardship of legacy giving, the leadership should determine how legacy gifts will be used to further the church's mission and what kingdom impact will result from receiving legacy gifts.

How does a church get started in developing its personalized legacy giving ministry? An excellent first step is to contact the Kentucky Baptist Foundation. We welcome the opportunity to explain our legacy gift program development assistance. You may contact us 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



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Highlands honors 40-year music minister

By Myriah Snyder

Lexington—For the last 40 years, Highlands Baptist Church in Lexington has had the same music minister. They declared Sunday, Aug. 9, “Jim Whetsel Day” in his honor.

“He loves the Lord, and he’s deeply committed to the Lord. He has demonstrated that for 40 years,” Highlands’ pastor, J.K. Pierce, said as he presented a plaque to Whetsel.

The plaque reads, “James E. Whetsel, in appreciation for 40 years of loyal and faithful service as minister of music at Highlands Baptist Church, Lexington, Ky. Aug. 9, 2015.”

“Besides that, he has done it without pay. Most churches pay their minister of music,” Pierce added. “He has never taken a nickel for serving as our minister of music. That’s the kind of person he is.”

“We do honor you. We love you, and we just want you to know that everybody is of the same mind about that, and about you,” Pierce said. “You deserve all of the recognition we could possibly give you. Words and plaques are inadequate to tell you how much you’re appreciated.”

The day was full of testimonies given about Whetsel’s ministry, a “pie supper,” and Whetsel singing. “The King is Coming.”

Whetsel, who has been a member of Highlands with his wife, Wanda, for the past 52 years, began his ministry as an interim music minister. Eventually the church called him to the position permanently. Although he had reservations about “lack of experience,” he felt the Lord was calling him there.

“He didn’t know anything about music.



Pastor Pierce presents a plaque to James Whetsel commemorating his 40th anniversary as music minister at Highlands Church in Lexington.

I would like to have a movie of then and now, because I think it would be amazing the change in him,” long-time member Bob Lefever said.

“I have never known a man that is more patient and loving to us, even when we skip out on rehearsal time,” said choir member Doris Barber. “He just takes it like it is, and God always uses it. And later, he says, ‘Y’all sure sounded good.’”

In addition to serving as part-time music minister during the tenure of five pastors, Whetsel has led singing for revivals throughout the area. He was ordained as a deacon in 1969, has served as an adult Sunday School teacher for 28 years, and has been involved in home and foreign mission trips.

“Highlands is the only church I’ve ever known. I was saved here in a revival meeting—my wife and I both were. We’ve been members 52 years in November,” Whetsel said.

“It’s been most wonderful being here that long. I wouldn’t think about going anywhere else unless the Lord just led me to do that,” Whetsel concluded. (WR)

MOUNTAINS TO THE MISSISSIPPI

COMPILED BY STAFF

CADIZ—Ponderosa Church will hold revival Oct. 18-21 with Shane Board as evangelist. **Norman Cotton** is pastor.

Delmont Church will hold revival Oct. 25-28 with Jimmy Gentry as evangelist. **John Mitchell** is pastor.

COLD SPRING—Northern Kentucky Association’s annual meeting will be held Oct. 19 at First Church of Cold Spring. Pastors’ Conference, Children’s Ministry Summit and Student Ministry Summit will begin concurrently with a continental breakfast at 8:30 and sessions at 9 a.m. **Joel Carwile**, now lead pastor at First Church of Athens, Ala., will lead the pastors’ conference and will be the featured speaker at the meeting.

COVINGTON—First Church, Ninth Street, celebrated its 150th anniversary Aug. 23. **Adam Crews** is senior pastor.

ELKTON—Bellview Church will host the 2nd annual Southern Kentucky Bible Conference on Nov. 1-5, 6:30 p.m. nightly, and 3 p.m. on Monday. Theme will be Second Coming of Christ. Speakers include **James Shutt, Don Mathis, David Skinner, Ben Stratton, Steve Rutherford** and **Curtis McGhee**.

ERLANGER—Erlanger Church celebrates its 125th anniversary Nov. 22. **Dwight Moody** is senior pastor.

FT. THOMAS—Highland Avenue Tabernacle has ordained and called **Brent Walker** to become its pastor. He was ordained Sept. 13.

LOUISVILLE—On Sept. 27, Farmdale Church celebrated its 90th Anniversary. **Will McCartney** is pastor.

MURRAY—Sugar Creek will host a Community Wide Tent Revival on Oct. 21-24 at 6:30 p.m. nightly. For details, call 270-873-9222. **Jordan Roach** is pastor.

PIKEVILLE—Mayflower Unity Church will hold revival Oct. 18-21: Sunday at 11 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Monday – Wednesday at 7 p.m. **Tim McClanahan** is pastor.

SALYERSVILLE—Licking River will be hosting three nights of preaching and a fall festival Oct. 21-25. Homecoming services will be held Oct. 25. **Richard Greene** is pastor.

TAYLORSVILLE—On Sept. 20, Plum Creek Church celebrated its 205th anniversary. **Jon Aris Rohr** is pastor.



October

- 8-10** Ministers in Transition, Louisville
- 11** Women’s Chorale Concert, Campbellsville Baptist Church
- 14-15** B+ Captive Saint, Kentucky Baptist Building, Louisville
- 16-17** Disaster Relief Blue Hat & State Leaders’ Training, Kentucky Baptist Building, Louisville
- 22** Men’s & Women’s Choroals Combined Concert, Scottsville Baptist Church

November

- 2-4** Salt Lake City Vision Tour, Salt Lake City, Utah
- 3** November Power Lunch, Kentucky Baptist Building, Louisville
- 5** Ministry Assistants’ Workshop, Kentucky Baptist Building, Louisville
- 6-8** International Conference, Cave City Convention Center
- 7** GA Jam, Campbellsville Baptist Church

Our greatest need

I am asked from time to time, “What is the greatest need at Crossings for the future?” Well, that is a loaded question for sure, and one that can have numerous legitimate answers.

To simplify my response, I must say the answer can be summarized in two simple statements.

Crossings Ministries



David Melber

While these answers are simple and perhaps common sense, I am convinced that common sense is a term no longer relevant in our world. It has ceased to be common.

First, the greatest need for Crossings going forward is a faithful commitment to God’s word. This means we hold His word as inerrant and we preach the gospel of Jesus in all we do.

Holding His word as our authority will direct and order our steps and make us convictional in our programs, events and staffing.

I firmly believe this area will become the great dividing line in our society and many will likely soften their stance on biblical faithfulness for cultural acceptance.

Secondly, we must continue to pray for God to bring forth laborers for His harvest. The Bible says in

Luke 10:2, “The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few. Therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into His harvest.”

From Jesus we hear that there does exist a plentiful harvest, which is great news; however, laborers are few, which is not good news. Nevertheless, He has given us the answer: Pray to the Lord of the harvest.

Yes, these two statements encapsulate the greatest need for the future of Crossings.

While they may sound simple, practicing them faithfully is not so easy.

As you think of your purpose on earth, I would encourage you to be continually convinced of the importance of holding fast to the Bible. If we give up the Bible as our authority, what is left?

Secondly, that we all realize and embrace the truth of Luke 10:2 and pray for laborers to be sent into the plentiful harvest that God has promised.

Your prayers to this end for Crossings are greatly appreciated. Thanks for the support!

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

‘Would you listen to my story?’

This past summer in preparation for an overseas mission trip, I spent time on the phone with my cell phone provider, arranging international coverage for the time I would be away.

The representative was chatty and asked about why I was going to Malawi.

I explained and we began to talk about church. She told me a little of her story, but could not spend much more time on the phone, as she had a job to do.

So I asked, “Would you listen to my story?” and then I gave her the web address for TellYourStory.today where my testimony is posted under Joy B from Shelbyville. A few minutes later I received a text that someone had listened to my story.

Tell Your Story and other evangelism efforts of the Kentucky Baptist Convention are funded in part through the Eliza Broadus Offering.

When you give to EBO, you are helping us tell the story of Jesus across our state. You are helping us provide evangelism training. You are helping to provide various opportunities for evangelistic outreach.

But you, too, must tell your story. Please visit the website and get the phone number to call to record your story. Take some time and write down what you want to say.

Practice it a few times, then call the number. If you mess up, it is OK. You can stop the recording and do it again. It took me several tries before I was satisfied.

After your story is recorded, it will be reviewed and a message from Chuck McAlister will be appended.

When you record your story, you will need to leave a cell phone number or email to receive messages about your story.

You will receive a message when it is posted and when people listen. You can share links to your story through social media, email and text messages.

Recording your story will also help you prepare to tell your story in person. The Heart of the Story of state missions is people. You can be at the heart of the story as you share your story with someone who needs Jesus.

Thank you, Kentucky Baptists, for giving \$1,220,277.57 to the 2014-15 offering. Join us as we give again for 2015-16. Our EBO goal is \$1.25 million.

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

EBO at Work



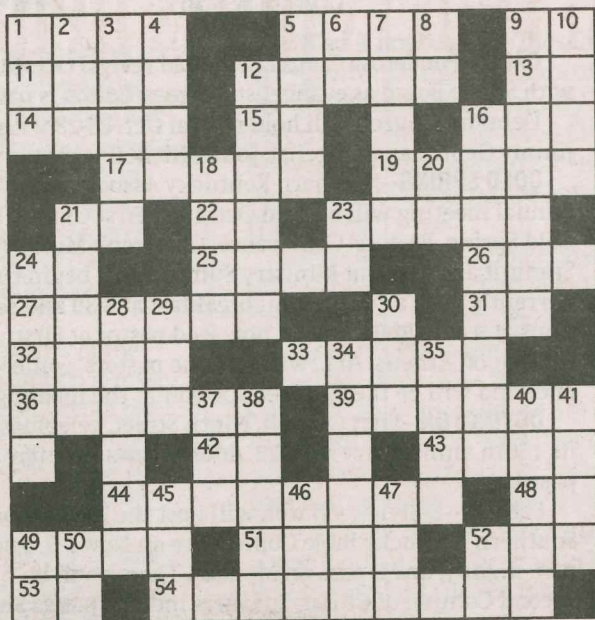
Joy Bolton

Bible Crosswords

By Rebecca Souder

Across

- 1 "The ____ of God is eternal life" (Romans 6:23)
- 5 "Jesus Christ our ____" (Romans 1:3)
- 9 Civil Servant, abbr.
- 11 "To God ____ wise, be glory" (Romans 16:27)
- 12 "Walk in the ____, as he is" (1 John 1:7)
- 13 Of age, Lat. abbr.
- 14 "The fallow ____" (Deuteronomy 14:5)
- 15 "The grace ____ our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all" (Revelation 22:21)
- 16 Tender loving care, abbr.
- 17 "Whom I ____ with my spirit in the gospel" (Romans 1:9)
- 19 "The Word was made flesh, and ____ among us" (John 1:14)
- 21 New England state, abbr.
- 22 Electrical engineer, abbr.
- 23 Abraham's wife (Genesis 12:5)
- 24 Southern continent, abbr.
- 25 "We have seen his ____ in the east" (Matthew 2:2)
- 26 All news station, abbr.
- 27 "He ever ____ to make intercession" (Hebrews 7:25)
- 31 Heligram, abbr.
- 32 Got down
- 33 "And ____ himself in water" (Leviticus 15:5)
- 36 "My heart's desire and prayer to God for ____ is, that they might be saved" (Romans 10:1)
- 39 "One ____ stretched forth his hand ... unto the fire" (Ezekiel 10:7)
- 42 French article
- 43 Assistant, abbr.
- 44 "A virgin shall conceive ... and shall call his name ____" (Isaiah 7:14)
- 48 Biblical land: ____ of the Chaldees

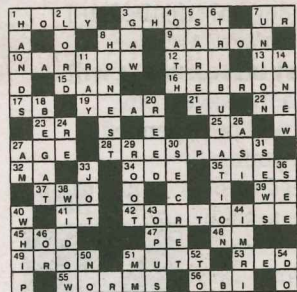


#047

- 49 "I am the true ____" (John 15:1)
 - 51 "He ____ again the third day" (1 Corinthians 15:4)
 - 52 Spring month
 - 53 Preposition
 - 54 "His name shall be called ____" (Isaiah 9:6)

Down

 - 1 "For ____ is my witness" (Romans 1:9)
 - 2 Chemical suffix
 - 3 "Every spirit that confesseth that Jesus Christ is come in the ____ is of God" (1 John 4:2)
 - 4 "The coasts of ____" (Matthew 15:21)
 - 5 "He that hath the Son hath ____" (1 John 5:12)
 - 6 King of Bashan (Numbers 21:33)
 - 7 The damsel that opened the door for Peter (Acts 12:13)
 - 8 Dental technician, abbr.
 - 9 "That ye may know what is the hope of his ____" (Ephesians 1:18)
 - 10 "After the most straitest ____ of our religion I lived a Pharisee" (Acts 26:5)
 - 12 "He that ____ not knoweth not God" (1 John 4:8)
 - 16 "When for the time ye ought to be ____, ye have need that one teach you again" (Hebrews 5:12)
 - 18 "We which have believed do enter into ____" (Hebrews 4:3)
 - 20 American actor and humorist, initials
 - 21 "Except I shall ... put my finger into the print of the ____ ... , I will not believe" (John 20:25)
 - 23 Jr. 's dad
 - 24 "The Lamb that was ____" (Revelation 5:12)
 - 28 Mary was a ____ when Christ was born
 - 29 When you'll reach your destination, more or less, abbr.
 - 30 Bachelor of Theology, abbr.
 - 34 "Do not think that I will ____ you to the Father" (John 5:45)
 - 35 "Come down, and ____ his son" (John 4:47)
 - 37 Shade tree (Hosea 4:13)
 - 38 "Take my yoke upon you, and ____ of me" (Matthew 11:29)
 - 40 Habitual
 - 41 Battery, abbr.
 - 45 Kitten's cry
 - 46 Biblical land (Genesis 4:16)
 - 47 Before, poetic
 - 49 South Carolina's neighbor to the north, abbr.
 - 50 Neuter pronoun
 - 52 Missouri University, abbr.



#046

UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE Statement of Ownership, Management, and Circulation (All Periodicals Publications Except Registered Publications)				13. Publication Title Western Recorder		14. Issue Date for Circulation Data Below September 22, 2015																																																																					
1. Publication Title Western Recorder				2. Publication Number 679-380		3. Filing Date September 25, 2015																																																																					
4. Issue Frequency Bi-Weekly				5. Number of Issues Published Annually 26		6. Annual Subscription Price \$11 and \$17																																																																					
7. Complete Mailing Address of Known Office of Publication (Street, city, county, state, and ZIP+4) 13420 Eastpointe Centre Drive, Louisville, KY 40223-4160				8. Complete Mailing Address of Headquarters or General Business Office of Publisher (Not print office) 13420 Eastpointe Centre Drive, Louisville, KY 40223-4160																																																																							
9. Full Names and Complete Mailing Address of Publisher, Editor, and Managing Editor (Do not leave blank) Randy Jones and Complete mailing address				10. Owner (Do not leave blank) Randy Jones, Business Manager, 13420 Eastpointe Centre Dr, Louisville, KY 40223-4160																																																																							
11. Known Bondholders, Mortgagees, and Other Security Holders Owning or Holding 1 Percent or More of Total Amount of Bonds, Mortgages, or Other Securities. If none, check box ☒ None																																																																											
12. Tax Status (For completion by nonprofit organizations authorized to mail at nonprofit rates) (Check one) ☒ The purpose, function, and nonprofit status of this organization and the exempt status for federal income tax purposes: ☐ Has Not Changed During Preceding 12 Months ☐ Has Changed During Preceding 12 Months (Publisher must submit explanation of change with this statement)				15. Extent and Nature of Circulation																																																																							
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17. Publication of Statement of Ownership ☒ The publication is a general publication, publication of this statement is required. Will be printed in the October 2015 issue of this publication.				☐ Publication not required.																																																																							
18. Signature and Title of Editor, Publisher, Business Manager, or Owner 9/25/2015				Date																																																																							

Africanized 'killer' bees, Baptist relief efforts help farmers

By Ann Lovell

Copán Ruinas, Honduras—The buzzing grows louder as the small group climbs the mountain toward the bee hives. Decked out in protective gear, the group approaches carefully.

They've heard the stories of these bees—Africanized "killer" bees who swarm aggressively and whose painful venom can damage human tissue and even lead to kidney failure and death.

"The bees are a very different type of work. Sometimes it's fun, but also sometimes a little scary," says Obando Velásquez, an agricultural extensionist with the

Chorti Agricultural Development Center in Cabañas, Honduras.

The Chorti are a Mayan people group who live in western Honduras and eastern Guatemala.

"The bees are a very different type of work. Sometimes it's fun, but also sometimes a little scary."

Obando Velásquez agricultural extensionist in Cabañas, Honduras

Velásquez—whose work is funded by Baptist Global Response, in part with resources provided by Global Hunger Relief—learned about three years ago that Africanized honeybees could be captured and colonized to produce honey. Now he is teaching others in western Honduras to do the same as part of a sustainable livelihood project sponsored by the Chorti center.

Africanized bees—first introduced into the Americas in the 1950s as part of an experiment by Brazilian geneticist Warwick Kerr—are a genetic hybrid of the more docile European honeybees and the hearty African honeybees that thrive in tropical climates. Since their introduction, biologists say, Africanized bees have gained the reputation as one of the most invasive bee species of all time. By 1990, populations of Africanized bees had saturated South and Central America, including Honduras and Guatemala. Today the bees also are present in the southern and southwestern United States.

Africanized bees are one of the most aggressive bee species.

They will attack unprovoked and respond more aggressively to disturbances—like being robbed of their honey—than their more docile European cousins.

Still, Velásquez and a friend believed a bee project could help provide supplemental income for Chorti subsistence farmers.

"We thought it could work, and we had a suitable place to start a project with bees," Velásquez says. "So we started with one box and went to the forest to find a hive. We took the hive back to the plot to begin working with it.

"We saw that it was very interesting to evaluate, to be able to study the life and the functions of the bees. So, we started with one, and then we went looking for more (hives) in the forests, in far-away plots."



These Africanized "killer" bees help subsistence farmers in Honduras by producing honey, which can be sold, and pollinating plants, which helps increase crop yield.



Obando Velásquez tranquilizes Africanized "killer" bees as part of a sustainable livelihood project sponsored by the Chorti Agricultural Development Center in Cabañas, Honduras. The bees produce honey and pollinate plants – important benefits for subsistence farmers dealing with deforestation and drought. Beekeeping helps farmers develop sustainable livelihoods as deforestation and drought make their lives more difficult. The project is funded in part by Global Hunger Relief, through Baptist Global Response. (BGR photos)

Velásquez learned that bees not only produce honey, which can be sold, they also pollinate plants, which helps increase crop yield—important benefits for subsistence farmers dealing with deforestation and drought.

Word of the bee experiment and its advantages spread.

In 2014, six Chorti farmers approached Velásquez about the possibility of being taught to work with the bees.

So, has Velásquez been stung by the bees?

"Yes, many times!" Velásquez says. "Last year they attacked us. I got stung by 20. Twenty!"

"It was a very strong attack for me, but such is life."

Global Hunger Relief is a channel for helping people because 100 percent of each donation goes directly to meeting the hunger need. Nothing has to be withheld for overhead expenses because Southern Baptists already have covered those costs by their contributions through the Cooperative Program. (BP)

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COOPERATIVE PROGRAM 

KENTUCKY BAPTIST CONVENTION ANNUAL MEETING

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