

WESTERN Recorder

October 20, 2015

Shine Like Stars * Philippians 2:15

Volume 189, Issue 21

NAMB trustees approve Send Relief, IMB aid

By Mike Ebert

Salt Lake City—Trustees of the North American Mission Board have approved the establishment of Send Relief—a new compassion ministry to offer Southern Baptists opportunities to meet physical needs and serve underprivileged communities, and they have appointed a Kentuckian to lead it.

Also during their Oct. 7 meeting, NAMB's trustees approved a \$4 million budget reduction in order to assist missionaries affected by the International Mission Board's budget shortfalls.

NAMB President Kevin Ezell, commenting on the Send Relief initiative, noted shortly after trustees closed their meeting in Salt Lake City, "Imagine 40,000 Southern Baptist churches engaged to meet needs in their communities and across North America. Send Relief will give churches hands-on opportunities to alleviate suffering and transform lives."

Send Relief will launch in 2016 and include compassion ministries to combat hunger, poverty, serve children through foster care and adoption, combat human trafficking, minister to migrants through international learning centers



David Melber (left), who will lead the North American Mission Board's new Send Relief initiative, visits with NAMB vice president of marketing and ministry support Kim Robinson and NAMB executive vice president Carlos Ferrer (right) during the Oct. 7 meeting of NAMB's trustees. (Photo by John Swain/NAMB)

and meet inner-city needs with construction and medical teams.

NAMB trustees approved David Melber as senior vice president of Send Relief. Melber has led Crossings

Ministries camp outreach in Kentucky since 2003.

"Send Relief is going to be an ideal way for us as Southern Baptists to meet a

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Send Relief VP David Melber brings 'passion and experience'

By Mike Ebert

Salt Lake City—David Melber was approved as senior vice president of Send Relief by North American Mission Board trustees at their Oct. 7 meeting in Salt Lake City. NAMB's trustees also approved funding for the new ministry area.

"I know David's passion, experience and his heart for people make him a great fit for this new role," NAMB President Kevin Ezell said. "Southern Baptists want to help people who are hurting, and with David's leadership, Send Relief is going to greatly expand the opportunities for churches and individuals to serve."

Melber said ministries like Send Relief can help Christians reach a culture that has become suspicious or indifferent toward Christianity.

"It lets people see there is something to this Gospel," Melber said. "It's more than just a message."

Melber comes to NAMB after 12 years as president and CEO of Crossings camp outreach in Kentucky and a lifetime of ministry service. Under Melber's leadership, attendance at Crossings Ministries has grown from 1,800 in 2003 to a record 13,000 this year. Campers have given more than \$1.3 million to missions offerings in that time. Crossings is funded in part through Cooperative Program gifts from Kentucky Baptists.

Melber's heart for compassion ministry was shaped in his childhood.

"From early on my parents were big on volunteering and service work," he said. "Then I gained more skills in business, in seminary and at camps seeing what students could do if they were presented with tangible needs."

Paul Chitwood, executive director of the Kentucky Baptist Convention, said Melber's ministry in Kentucky has prepared him well for a larger platform at NAMB.

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Rescuing a rescuer

Kentuckians aid S.C. hero who rescued 18 from flood waters

By Myriah Snyder

Sumter, S.C.—A Kentucky Baptist Disaster Relief team spent part of their week helping a veteran who rescued 18 flood victims in his neighborhood.

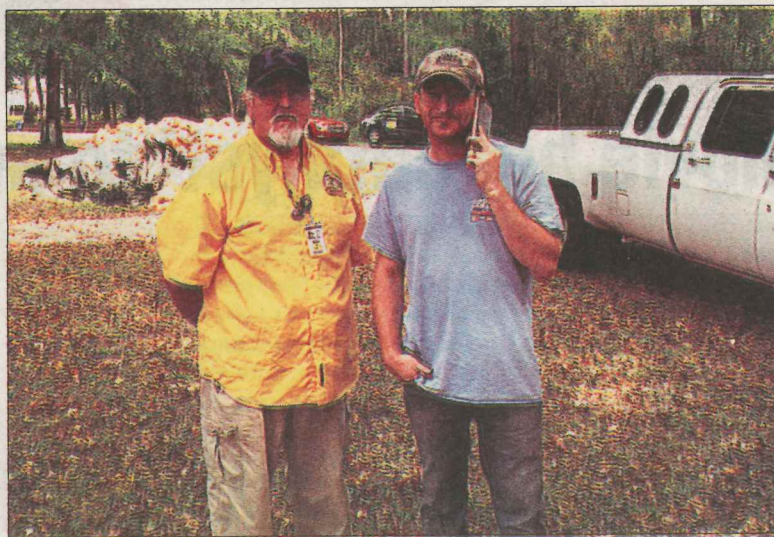
Amos Tolson, an Air Force master sergeant and aircraft mechanic and a resident of Sumter, S.C., spent the weekend of the major floods across the coastal Carolina area, rescuing 18 people, six dogs, five cats and retrieving multiple prescription medications in his neighborhood on Tanglewood Drive.

"There was really no help from emergency relief teams, because the roads were all flooded out. They couldn't get to you," Tolson said.

"When they did show up, this is not a flood ready area, so they weren't equipped," he continued.

"A lot of the emergency responders didn't have boats. The county sheriff's department cleaned out the local outdoor place. They took all the boats they could get, but it still wasn't enough."

"The amount of damage that was here, I



Amos Tolson, right, rescued 18 people, six dogs, five cats and retrieved multiple prescription medications in his neighborhood as coastal Carolina flooded. He is pictured with Bob Perkins, a Kentucky Baptist Disaster Relief volunteer.

mean, it was biblical!" he exclaimed.

The first people that Tolson rescued were his friend's elderly parents. He began his rescues in a paddle boat, before borrowing a friend's boat for more rescues.

"It was Monday morning before I got to sit down. I was still pulling people out," Tolson said.

By late Sunday afternoon, there wasn't a dry piece of clothing or dry towel in his house.

"My wife dried everybody that came through," he recalled. "Neighborhood kids were all in my living room playing with my 3-year-old, trying to keep everyone

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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 10-20-2015

Southern Seminary marks record student enrollment

By James Smith Sr.

Louisville — Trustees of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary received a report of record student enrollment for the recently concluded 2014-2015 academic year and record fall enrollment for the current academic year during their Oct. 12-13 fall meeting.

In other business, the Board of Trustees responded to a referral from the Southern Baptist Convention, designated a new professor to an academic chair and approved faculty sabbaticals.

Albert Mohler Jr., president of Southern Seminary, summarized for trustees enrollment data for the past academic year and the fall 2015 semester, which are new records for the seminary.

For the 2014-2015 academic year, there was a record non-duplicating headcount of 5,067 students—3,546 in the seminary and 1,235 in Boyce College, the seminary's undergraduate school—surpassing the previous record of 4,792 during the 2013-2014 academic year.

Among the total number of students during 2014-2015, 1,985 were enrolled in the Master of Divinity program, Mohler noted. "We exist to train pastors," he said, of which the M.Div. is the core degree—the "gold standard" for Southern Seminary.

Southern's M.Div. enrollment last year was 33 percent more than in the prior academic year when it far outpaced peer institutions accredited by the Association of Theological Schools.

In addition to headcount, Mohler said the fact that Southern Seminary experienced a 10 percent growth for 2014-2015 in total credit hours sold is "a matter of great satisfaction" and an important indicator of the health of the institution.



Ayman Ibrahim

For the fall 2015 semester, the seminary has a record high of 2,755 students, a five percent increase from last fall, of which 1,640 are M.Div. students, 2.56 percent larger than a year ago.

For the fall, there are 980 Boyce students, a 23 percent increase over last fall, with 304 new students, 35 percent larger than a year ago. Mohler also noted that, contrary to national trends, the majority—57 percent—of new Boyce students is male.

During its Oct. 13 plenary session, trustees unanimously approved a response to a referral from the 2015 annual meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention requesting the Executive Committee and all SBC entities to make a "stand in our culture for the truth and lead the way to repair the moral fabric of America, by using all means possible, including the media."

In their response, trustees noted the mission and ministry assignment of the seminaries, while adding that Southern Seminary and its president are "at the

forefront of social media witness, through various digital platforms, including The Briefing," Mohler's daily podcast. Noting students and graduates lead their churches and other Christian ministries to take a moral stand, trustees also said the seminary is committed to working with "other SBC entities on initiatives that address and seek to bear Christian witness to urgent moral issues."

Trustees also approved without opposition the designation of Ayman Ibrahim as Bill and Connie Jenkins Assistant Professor of Islamic Studies.

Ibrahim joined the faculty in June as assistant professor of Islamic studies in the Billy Graham School of Missions, Evangelism and Ministry and senior fellow of the Jenkins Center for the Christian Understanding of Islam.

An evangelical scholar of Islam with two decades of experience of ministry in the Muslim world, Ibrahim has taught courses at Fuller, Southwestern, and Arab Baptist Theological Seminary in Beirut. (SBTS)

Rescuer

Continued from page 1

happy and warm and safe."

Tolson, whose home was one of the last to flood, had about nine people staying there before water rose too high and they evacuated to a high school.

"I have had a couple trips to the Desert, Iraq, Turkey, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, Korea and Kosovo. I've seen it, and I've done it," Tolson recounted.

"I've never done it at home though," he said. "Overseas, you've got an option to lay back. But there was no option; these people are my family."

Kentucky Baptist Disaster Relief units spent time working on Tolson's home after he had spent so much time taking care of others.

"Instead of taking care of his personal belongings and his family, he took care of everybody else in their neighborhood," observed Bob Perkins, a Kentucky Baptist Disaster Relief volunteer.

"This man has served so many times, 20 years in the

service. He has been in combat, he's lost buddies in combat, but he said this was the most stressful part of his life," Perkins said.

"The fact that God brought help to him, he just couldn't believe it," Perkins added.

Disaster Relief teams spent the day taking up his floor that was mostly undamaged to expose a damaged sub-flooring and removing items from his attic to a portable storage unit.

"He just broke down. I think he'd had enough," Perkins said. "He started talking about how his faith was all he had to rely on at this point. He couldn't believe that God brought us to him, after he had helped so many other people," Perkins said.

The DR volunteers then prayed with Tolson. "I think it renewed his faith. It just lifted him up. He's a whole different person today than he was yesterday," Perkins said.

In addition to the DR team that helped Tolson, another flood recovery team, a feeding team, and several chaplains from Kentucky are working with other flood victims in South Carolina. For information on how you can support relief efforts, visit www.kybaptist.org/dr. (WR)



Could 'Woodlawn' movie be 'catalyst' to awakening?

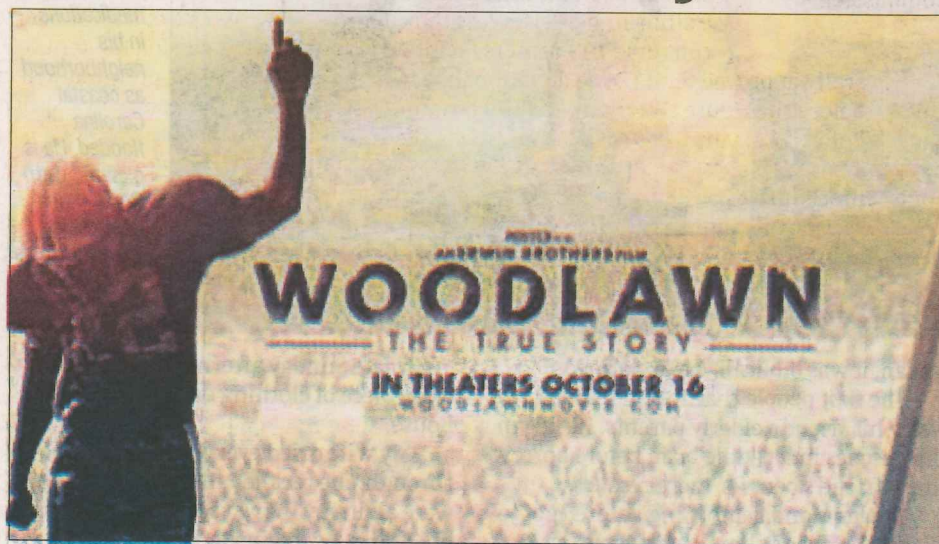
By Myriah Snyder

Dallas—"Woodlawn," a movie about overcoming racial division through faith in Christ, could contribute to "the next spiritual awakening in the United States," Southern Baptist Convention President Ronnie Floyd said during a simulcast to promote the film.

Floyd, pastor of Cross Church in northwest Arkansas, compared the potential effects of Woodlawn, which opened nationwide Oct. 16, to the Jesus Movement of the 1960s and 1970s.

"Tonight is more than just simply about a movie. Tonight is about a movement. A movement toward us seeing the next spiritual awakening in the United States," Floyd said Oct. 14 at the Unify simulcast broadcast from Prestonwood Baptist Church in Plano, Texas. "That movement began years ago in what was called the Jesus Movement, which literally became the Jesus Revolution. We pray that tonight will become the catalyst over the next several weeks to the next great Jesus Revolution in America."

Woodlawn, which recounts the true



story of spiritual awakening at a 1970s high school torn by racial tension in Birmingham, Ala., is produced and directed by Jon and Andy Erwin. The Erwin Brothers are also the makers of "October Baby" and "Mom's Night Out."

The Erwin Brothers say their purpose in releasing Woodlawn is to harness the power of the digital age to spread the

gospel. Data indicates it could be possible to make a faith-based movie a blockbuster if Christians from different generations and backgrounds would unite for a Kingdom purpose, the brothers say.

International Mission Board President David Platt said in a video aired at the simulcast, "I praise God for His grace and Jon and Andy Erwin, as I had the joy of

pastoring these brothers and their families at the Church at Brook Hills (in Birmingham) and seeing their desire to use film and the gifts that God has so evidently given them and others to get the gospel around the world."

Platt said movie theaters in cities across the globe where missionaries are not welcome represent "avenues that are there for the spread of the gospel to the nations." Woodlawn, Platt said, is helping to "maximize those avenues toward the end that the gospel would be more accessible to millions upon millions of people and God would be glorified among more and more peoples."

The movie highlights God's power and makes reference to the Jesus Revolution of the 1970s, including a call to salvation issued by one of the film's main characters, Hank (Sean Astin). "I'm asking you to stand up right now and make a decision to change, to forgive, to choose Jesus," Hank tells the Woodlawn football team.

Another scene in the movie shows a stadium full of people holding candles, □ See Woodlawn movie ... Page 10

Burkesville pastor to be nominated to lead KBC pastors' conference

By Todd Deaton

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

Shelton, pastor of Burkesville Baptist Church in Cumberland County, will be nominated by Tom James, lead pastor of Eastwood Baptist Church in Bowling Green and current president of the Kentucky Baptist Convention.

"God is at work doing incredible things at Burkesville Baptist where Mark (Shelton) has served for more than 17

years as their pastor," James said.

"Mark is a proven leader and pastor who has a deep love for his people."

Calling Shelton a "committed soul-winner," James said last year Burkesville baptized 57 people.

Under his tenure, Sunday School attendance has grown from 35 to 277, and Cooperative Program giving has increased by nearly 25 percent to just over 11 percent of their undesignated receipts today, he added.

A graduate of Mercer University and Campbellsville University, Shelton, who grew up in Crab Orchard, has served as an



Mark Shelton

adjunct professor of New Testament and evangelism at Campbellsville.

He also was associate pastor or pastor of churches in Lincoln, Pulaski and Boyle counties, and has been a member of various KBC committees, such as the Mission Board and Nominating Committee. He was instrumental in developing a new chaplain program for Cumberland County Hospital.

"Mark truly has a heart for fellow pastors and would use this position as a means to encourage them," James continued. "In visiting with Mark, he's bothered by the number of pastors that are

discouraged, many of whom are leaving the ministry."

If elected as president, Shelton said his goal would be to "speak into the lives" and encourage pastors and lay people across Kentucky. "I believe with great conviction that we have never had such a time as this to spread the gospel, and that the world and current happenings have created for us a great opportunity to reach lost people for Christ."

Shelton is the second announced candidate for the post. Jonathan Carter, pastor of Mt. Zion Baptist Church, is expected to be nominated by Travis Farris, senior pastor of Walnut Memorial Baptist Church in Owensboro. (WR)

Does Planned Parenthood change show guilt?

By Tom Strode

Washington—Planned Parenthood's decision to forego federal reimbursements for fetal tissue donation serves as an admission of its guilt and should not halt the congressional effort to defund the organization, its critics say.

The Planned Parenthood Federation of America announced Oct. 13 that none of its centers will accept federal reimbursement in the future for expenses accrued in tissue donations from aborted babies for research.

In a letter, PPFA President Cecile Richards said the action was taken to "completely debunk the disingenuous argument" used by opponents in the wake of undercover videos providing evidence the country's leading abortion provider trades in baby body parts.

Richards' letter to Francis Collins, director of the National Institutes of Health, followed the release of 10 secretly recorded videos that show various Planned Parenthood officials in different locations discussing the sale of organs from aborted children.

The videos recorded and released by the Center for Medical Progress also display PPFA employees acknowledging their willingness to manipulate the abortion procedure to preserve body parts for sale and use. In addition, the videos include evidence of the dissection of live babies outside the womb to remove organs.

In the three months since CMP released the first video, Richards and other Planned Parenthood officials have denied any legal wrongdoing or profit from fetal tissue donation.

Southern Baptist ethicist Russell Moore said PPFA's announcement "is an acknowledgment of what they have denied all along."

"They traffic in human organs from non-consenting victims," said Moore, president of the Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission, in a written statement. "This is essentially Planned Parenthood's way of saying, 'We never did this, and we won't do it again.'"

"It is time for the United States government to hold this predatory corporation accountable."

Rep. Diane Black, R-Tenn., sponsor of a bill approved by the House of Representatives to defund Planned Parenthood, found it curious that PPFA officials say they have done nothing wrong but "still find it necessary to change their policy following the recent undercover videos. Clearly, this was a decision motivated by optics rather than the organization's conscience."

The announcement "does not change my conviction that Planned Parenthood should not be subsidized by American taxpayers," Black said in a written release.

"This is essentially Planned Parenthood's way of saying, 'We never did this, and we won't do it again.'"

Russell Moore, president of the Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission

The Alliance Defending Freedom said Richards' letter does not address charges that PPFA affiliates have participated in what it says appear to be various crimes related to trafficking in baby organs for profit, modifying the abortion technique to procure intact body parts and performing partial-birth abortions.

Richards' letter "amounts to an admission of guilt," said Kellie Fiedorek, ADF litigation counsel. "The fire that Planned Parenthood's misdeeds started has been too hot, and she mistakenly thinks this will put water on it."

"Ms. Richards never once explains how Planned Parenthood calculated the costs of procuring fetal remains in order to sell them because she can't," Fiedorek said in a written statement. "The price-per-specimen approach she admitted to in her August letter to Congress is a profit-driven system, pure and simple."

"The American people have a right to get to the bottom of Planned Parenthood's disturbing activities and to demand that not one more penny of their tax dollars goes to fund them."

CMP founder David Daleiden said in a written statement that Richards' announcement "proves what CMP has been saying all along—Planned Parenthood incurs no actual costs, and the payments for harvested fetal parts have always been an extra profit margin."

As she had in congressional testimony Sept. 29, Richards told Collins in her letter less than 1 percent of PPFA's centers facilitate fed-

erally approved fetal tissue donation. In a hearing before the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee, she failed to directly address a question about manipulation of the abortion procedure to procure body parts and denied dissection of a living child outside the womb has occurred in a Planned Parenthood clinic.

With its decision, PPFA is taking opponents' "smokescreen away," Richards wrote.

Rep. Jason Chaffetz, R-Utah, chairman of the Oversight and Government Reform Committee, said Planned Parenthood's announcement "is helpful in taking away some questions surrounding their transactions involving fetal tissue."

His panel's investigation will continue, however, because the letter does not explain why "a non-profit, tax-exempt organization reporting approximately \$125 (million) in revenue over expenses annually needs a subsidy from the American taxpayer."

PPFA and its affiliates received more than \$528 million in government grants, contracts and reimbursements, according to its latest financial report (2013-14). Planned Parenthood affiliates performed more than 327,000 abortions during 2013. (BP)

Smith, Patterson headline Ky. Baptist Pastors' Conference

By Todd Deaton

Elizabethtown—With a theme of "An Identity Worth Preserving," drawn from 2 Timothy 2:2, the 2015 Kentucky Baptist Pastors' Conference will feature keynote addresses by Evangelist Bailey Smith and Seminary President Paige Patterson.

Smith and Patterson, both former presidents of the Southern Baptist Convention, will deliver the opening and closing addresses for the evening session, Nov. 9, at Severns Valley Baptist Church in Elizabethtown.

"I believe our identity as Baptists is slowly being forgotten," said Conference President Ben Stratton, pastor of Farmington Baptist Church. "This year I hope the conference reminds Kentucky Baptists that we have an identity that needs to be preserved in the 21st century."

Speakers for the afternoon session, which begins at 2 p.m., include Ron Noffsinger, a pastor in western Kentucky; Jeff Faggart, founder of the Baptist History Preservation Society; and Adam Greenway, professor and dean at Southern Seminary. Also speaking during the evening session will be Moses Radford, an African-America pastor in Kentucky.

This will be the first time for Kentucky pastors to hear Radford, Faggart, and Noffsinger, Stratton noted. "All four are dynamic preachers with a passion for Christ, His word and the New Testament church," he said.

As one of the founders of the J.H. Spencer Historical Society, Stratton has a passion for Kentucky Baptist history, and as a special attraction, this year's program will contain a history of the Pastors' Conference.

"The Kentucky Baptist Ministers' Meeting was started in 1835, two years before the KBC," Stratton noted, adding that the event has changed much over the years. "At one time, it was common to have 15 or more preachers in a two day period," he said.

Another highlight at this year's meeting will be an historical table displaying past presidents, all the way back to 1835, Stratton added. "For example, V.I. Masters, former editor of the Western Recorder, was president of the conference on nine different occasions," he noted.

This year the conference will follow the old Bible Institute model, Stratton explained. The model was popularized by H. Boyce Taylor, pastor in Murray and founder of the Cooperative Program, and for more than 100 years was a mainstay of the Pastors Conference, Stratton said.

"A Bible Institute seeks to have various men preach on different biblical and doctrinal issues," he explained, pointing to one example from 90 years ago found at baptisthistoryhomepage.com/ky/mercer.h-burg.bib.inst.html "These Institutes were once very common all across the state," he said.

Like previous years, Stratton hopes this year's conference with provide a great time of fellowship, encouragement and instruction for Kentucky Baptists.

"We have much to be thankful for, including all that God has done for us through Jesus as well as the great legacy our forefathers left us," he said. "I pray pastors will go back to their churches and challenge their members to preserve our identity as Kentucky Baptists for future generations." (WR)



Patterson



Smith

Every church needs one

In my last article, I recounted the rich history of the Kentucky Baptist Convention and the extensive role the KBC played in the history and development of the Southern Baptist Convention. While we are grateful for our history, why does the KBC still exist?

The KBC still exists today for the same reason it came into existence: Baptist churches in Kentucky created the state convention as a strategic part of their cooperative missions strategy, and still consider it to be so. We acknowledge the

Together We are the KBC



Paul Chitwood

reason the KBC exists in our mission statement, which reads: "The Kentucky Baptist Convention: Created by churches, for churches, to help churches reach Kentucky and the world for Christ."

Missouri Baptist Convention Executive Director John Yeats notes that "churches assign to state conventions ... func-

tions that are more than what 99 percent of churches can do." I would suggest that the comprehensive functions of state conventions are more than what any single church can do.

When a church chooses not to affiliate with and participate in the life of a state convention, there are functions the church could be carrying out that they simply are not-at least not in an effective and efficient manner.

Every local church should be doing all it can do to promote a pro-life agenda and a religious liberty agenda in society and government. But a single church has little impact, particularly upon the decisions of state government. Working together through the KBC, however, our 2,400 churches are able to address sanctity of life and religious liberty issues, as well as issues like casino gambling and marijuana legalization, in meaningful and productive ways that allow us to be a significant force for righteousness in Kentucky. That is just one example, among many, of why the Kentucky Baptist Convention still exists today.

Church planting is another example. While we believe and affirm the biblical model of church planting—i.e., churches planting churches—most churches being planted today in Kentucky are successful not only because of a mother church giving them birth, but also because of the 2,400 churches working together through the KBC to help fund the plants and train the planters. When it comes to small churches—and most SBC churches are still small churches—the old adage, "We can do more together," is certainly true in the arena of church planting. Most of our churches would struggle greatly to birth a new church on their own but, working together, the impossible becomes possible. The KBC helps churches plant churches in Kentucky.

There is, in fact, a long list of ministries and mission work coordinated at the state convention level that is vital to the kingdom: orphan care, evangelistic work on state and university campuses, legislative initiatives, church revitalization and strengthening, church planting, and disaster relief ministries are but a few examples. God continues to bless and use the churches of the Kentucky Baptist Convention.

Cooperative Program: Where is the money?

The Southern Baptist Convention is a convention of churches that partner together to reach the world for Christ. As we aspire to this biblical vision of presenting the gospel to every person in the world and to make disciples of all the nations, we must find a way to increase financial resources to this serious and grand vision.

I am often asked, "Where is the money to accomplish this vision?" In this month of emphasis on the Cooperative Program, I think we must answer this question openly and honestly. As one Southern Baptist, I want to attempt to answer the question, "Where is the money?"

The money is in the pockets of God's people

The most recent research by empty tomb, inc. reveals the following:

- Less than 3 percent all Christians tithe, meaning give at least 10 percent of their income to their church

- The median annual gift to a church is \$200.

- In 1968, Americans gave 3.1 percent of their disposable income; now Americans give 2.2 percent, which is less than they gave during the Great Depression.

- At the current rate of decline, by the year 2050, Americans will give only 1 percent of their disposable income to the church; if this occurs, a vast number of churches and missions will be forced to close.

I find this data shows the selfishness and narcissistic reality of millions of professing Christians today.

The money to reach our towns, cities, regions, states, nation and the world is in the pockets of God's people. We need to repent and call people to God with boldness and compassion.

Pastors, Christian leaders and church leaders must lead the way in giving at least 10 percent of their income through their local churches. The professing Christians and members of our churches must also do the same.

This is not an option for us, but it is a biblical truth that our Southern Baptist Convention has practiced for years. In the Baptist Faith and Message 2000, we read this in Article XIII on Stewardship: "According to the Scriptures, Christians should contribute of their means cheerfully, regularly, systematically, proportionately, and liberally for the advancement of the Redeemer's cause on earth."

Once again, I want to appeal to pastors to address the importance and necessity of biblical stewardship with your church. Be biblical, bold and convictional. There is no need to apologize for calling your people to give more. We give because we love Christ, want to walk in obedience to Him, and desire to see our town, region, nation and world reached for Christ.



Guest Viewpoint

By Ronnie Floyd

the gospel, there is no greater way to impact this population of 7.2 billion people. Go to your church now and ask them to pray and act with all of us to give more now through our Cooperative Program.

The problem is not our path, but our pace

Please understand, while each Christian is under obligation to obey the Scriptures through the giving of the first fruits through their church, each church and each state convention is under the necessity to get the gospel to the entire world. This is not an option, but an act of obedience.

The problem is not our path, but our pace! Our path is set; we want to be a Great Commission people. Yet, our pace needs to accelerate with a deep sense of urgency.

I know each church faces different challenges and circumstances and each state convention is unique with its own opportunities and challenges. This is why my appeal has been continually: Each of us can find a way to do more!

We need to also remember: this is God's money. It is not our money personally, our church's money, our state convention's money nor our Southern Baptist Convention's money. It is God's money. He has entrusted to us His money to use for His purposes for His glory alone.

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

Lessons from an Irish Border Collie

By Kathy McBroom

The summer of 2011 I was privileged to travel with a group of amazing high school people. We toured the United Kingdom, and one of my favorite parts of this tour was Ireland. Ah, the homeland.

Unfortunately, just like the commercial, I found that I am not Irish: I am English.

One of my favorite moments was the day that we got to watch a demonstration by a shepherd. There are few shepherds in Ireland now, and it was a memorable day.

The Bible uses the example of sheep often, but I discovered that day that we

can learn a lot from the shepherd's right hand helper, the Border collie. The spiritual connections are so clear. I will simply list for you some of my observations.

Ponder these truths and how they relate to our relationship with God.

FIRST PERSON

- The shepherd speaks "dog language". Only the dogs know what he is saying when he is giving commands.

- Each dog knows his call. When the shepherd performs each individual call, all of the dogs except one stay still.

- One dog messed up terribly. He would not listen to the shepherd. The shepherd said, "His problem is he lacks

guts. He will never be a good dog because of fear."

- A small border collie with courage can make a sheep twice its size obey. The collie that does exactly as its master has trained is a force to be reckoned with.

God loves us enough that He sent His Son to die for us. When we accept His gift of love, He dwells within us. He will lead us, guide us and protect us. We can trust Him. We are His children.

"My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me" (John 10:27).

Do you have a relationship with God through Jesus Christ? If so, listen to what He may be calling you to do today.

WESTERN Recorder

Shine Like Stars *Philippians 2:15

Box 43969
Louisville, KY 40253

DR. TODD DEATON
Editor

RANDALL JONES
Marketing & Business Manager

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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.

The fellowship of the unknown

By Rob Pochek

The vast majority of those serving as pastors in the United States do so in obscurity. I suspect most of us would be hard-pressed to identify 50 pastors by name, and the number from whom we have received personal ministry would be far lower.

Even with the advent of social media networks, ministry is done in obscurity to a large degree. Indeed, the Barna Group says the average Protestant church size in America is 89 adults.

This is why pastors are, for the most part, the fellowship of the unknown.

I mention all of this because October has historically been Pastor Appreciation Month, and the fact is that most church members have been significantly impacted by a pastor who will spend most of his ministry in obscurity. God uses these people to make an eternal difference in the lives of men and women, boys and girls.

While our culture prizes fame and notoriety, neither is essential to effectively serving others. What is essential is a willingness to be used by God on His terms. The Bible is filled with just such people.

They have names that appear for a brief time, in a short narrative, never to be heard from again—people like Kenaniah (1 Chronicles 15:21-22),

Zechariah (Luke 1:8-25), Simeon (Luke 2:25), Anna (Luke 36), Phillip (Acts 8:5-8), Ananias (Acts 9:10-17) and Shamgar (Judges 3:31). They were people who lived in obscurity, stepped into God's spotlight for a brief moment in their faithful service to the Lord, and then returned to the shadows.

The vast majority of those faithfully serving the church as pastors will never write a best-selling book. They will never be the featured speaker at a conference. They will

FIRST PERSON

never have anyone stand in line to take a photo with them. No one will ever want them to sign their Bible (a practice I still find awkward). They will never preach a sermon on television. They will never be invited to preach on a seminary campus.

They will never be known by anyone outside of the circle of people they have been given spiritual responsibility to care for and nurture. And, that is perfectly fine. They are part of the fellowship of the unknown.

The two men who made the most dramatic impact on my life in their pastoral ministry fit this description perfectly.

Steve Tanner and Dale Prince were my pastors during my most formative years. "Brother Steve" was instrumental in leading my parents to Christ, which transformed the

trajectory of our entire family. Similarly, "Brother Dale" was our pastor when I came to faith in Christ and when I surrendered to full-time Christian service. I still find myself using sayings from his ministry in my own preaching and teaching.

Both of these men were serving a "small church" when our lives intersected. They were serving, largely, in obscurity, their membership in the fellowship of the unknown well-established.

To my knowledge, neither spoke at a state or national pastor's conference. Yet, there are countless lives who have been impacted by their respective ministries.

Indeed, the fact you are reading this is another life that has been impacted by these two men. And I hope there will be one more: your pastor.

Whether you are in a smaller church or a large church, would you make it a point to let your pastor know how much you appreciate them? You may not understand all of their struggles or challenges. You may not even agree with all of their decisions. But, for the sake of the Gospel, would you simply let them know you love them, appreciate them and will pray for them?

I cannot tell you how much those simple things mean to those of us who are part of the fellowship of the unknown. (BP)

Consider pre-retirement issues

Most of us have been conditioned to view life in stages—childhood, education and training, career or work years and finally, retirement.

In recent years, a new stage has been suggested called "pre-retirement." It comes between career and retirement. This generally includes folks in their 50s and 60s. From a financial perspective they have been defined as those who have reached a level of some financial independence, often because they have finished the child-rearing years. But they are emotionally a long way from being ready to retire.

Financial planner and author, Peter Lindquist has described pre-retirement as folks between the "rat-race and the rocking chair."

Financial consultant, Keith Weber, suggests what's important is the ability to create meaning, balance and purpose without being tied to a job that consumes all their energy and leaves little room for anything else in their lives.

Many of those in the "pre-retirement" phase have become disillusioned in the pursuit of a retirement goal that seems to be less and less possible to achieve. Some are even pursuing education in order to shift to other careers.

These changes have financial implications. How can one arrange finances to achieve their personal goals? While the issues often focus on goals and purpose, they must also include issues of budgeting, investing decisions and retirement income options.

Perhaps you identify with this phase in your life as it relates to goals and purpose for your life. It's important to consider how your commitment as a Christian affects these issues. As you contemplate these issues, be sure to address the financial aspects that go with it. How does it affect your financial planning now and for the future?



Don Spencer

Are you building spiritual capital?

I recently read an article from Ronald Blue & Co. about the importance of building spiritual capital in the lives of our children.

1) A global perspective. Children need to be exposed to the big world God has created, the different people He has created, and the different situations in which these people live. That exposure should give them greater appreciation of what they have and take their focus off money, things, and materialism. Our children need to have a perspective beyond their needs, wants and desires.

They must have a perspective on others' needs and on giving. We must help them be stewards, not consumers.

2) The training of trials and failures. The Bible is clear that challenges are God's method of training, teaching, and growing us to maturity in Him. Most parents find it difficult to let their children experience trials. If our children have

everything they want, how can they learn to be dependent on God?

3) Giving, work and church. Children need to understand that God commands us to work, and if we don't, we do not generate the income necessary to provide for our families. Finally, our work should be kept in balance so we have time to focus on the church and the world.

4) A heart for God. Helping our children learn to have hearts for God is another way of building spiritual capital in their lives. Two suggestions:

- They should observe a calling in our lives that is bigger than what we're doing vocationally. They should observe that our lives are purposeful and focused on God's plan for us.

- They should see us pray, study our Bible, have a daily quiet time, and talk about God.

Seeing the relevance of God in our own lives helps turn their hearts toward God and His way.



David Garrard

Governor created mess around Kim Davis

By Kent Ostrander

The nation has been focused on Kim Davis for three months. Like her or not, it seems as though she has been the center of every story and in the frame of every photo or video taken.

Shucks, even the Pope met with her. But as a result, the entire nation has missed the point. In fact, the Blue Grass poll released recently confirms that even Kentuckians have missed the point.

The reason for all of this commotion is not Kim Davis, but Gov. Steve Beshear. Bluntly, he violated Kentucky law.

Kentucky government, by law, may not burden someone's religious liberty unless it "PROVES by clear and convincing evidence" two things: 1) it "has a governmental compelling interest" and 2) it "has used the least restrictive means to further its interest."

No one is arguing against the compelling interest generated by the Supreme Court—it has indeed, rightly or wrongly, re-defined marriage.

But the state's failure with the second point is equally apparent: What did Gov. Beshear do to accommodate the County Clerks' deeply-held religious convictions? Can he "prove" anything on that count?

"Do your job or resign" has been his kindest message.

Or, "I'll let the courts and clerks work this out." This has translated to mean: "I'll allow the state's

County Clerks to be sued by the ACLU both professionally and personally, including for court costs, attorney fees and 'punitive damages.'"

Is being sent to jail for religious beliefs a "least restrictive means"? Most would suggest the opposite.

Clearly, Kentucky state government has not lived up to its legal responsibilities. The fact that a judge has created some solution indicates that a solution could be found, but more importantly, that Gov. Beshear didn't find it.

To clinch the point about the state's responsibility to use the "least restrictive means," one needs only examine the Local Mandate Fiscal Impact Estimate drafted by the Legislative Research Commission in 2013 and given to all legislators when House Bill 279 was being considered—it had already contemplated Kim's situation!

Quote: "Additionally, the least restrictive alternative required of the local government may be minimal (the cost), for example, in adjusting the timing of certain events in a jail, or significant (the cost), for example, if it requires hiring additional staff or paying

overtime for other staff to do a job that an employee declines to do because of religious beliefs." (Emphasis added.)

In August, the four Leaders of the General Assembly understood this—two Democrats and two Republicans—saying that they were willing to help the County Clerks. But with no regular session of the legislature scheduled, it was Gov. Beshear's job to do.

Does it surprise you that he vetoed the bill that established this standard? Worse, does it bother you that he has been ignoring it?

Does it trouble you that he overlooked Attorney General Conway's refusal to defend the State Constitution's marriage amendment and spent state dollars to hire private attorneys to do Conway's responsibilities, but did not offer anything to the clerks?

The bottom line is, Gov. Beshear is an American, and he can believe anything he wishes.

The problem Kentucky is facing now is that he not only has beliefs, but he tries to force them on everyone else ... in this case, through inaction. That inaction allowed the ACLU to attempt to punish Davis for her conscientious beliefs.

Kim Davis did not go to jail for what she did; she went to jail because of what Gov. Beshear did not do.

Kent Ostrander is executive director of The Family Foundation of Kentucky.

VIEWPOINT

Ky. pastor helps members to 'Imagine Not As Much'

Henderson—Most churches are wanting to grow, but Nathan Whisnant is leading Airline Baptist in Henderson to lose—not members, but pounds—through a Christ-centered health program with an evangelistic emphasis.

The program was written by Pastor Whisnant and is called "Imagine Not As Much." In a recent interview, I asked Whisnant some questions that may help other pastors and churches understand the outreach plan and discover ways it could be used in their ministry locations.

What is Imagine Not As Much?

Imagine Not As Much is a way to learn to glorify God with your body, to reach and maintain a healthy weight, and provide a bridge to share the gospel. The class involves four sessions addressing nutritional fitness, physical fitness, motivational fitness, and spiritual fitness.

In the nutritional fitness session, participants are taught what to eat, when to eat, and how much to eat.

The physical fitness session focuses on how to incorporate anaerobic and aerobic activity into one's daily life. The motivational fitness class deals with pushing through eight typical mental road blocks faced when trying to change one's food intake lifestyle. The spiritual fitness class helps participants connect healthy living with a desire to glorify God.

Why did Whisnant start this program?

The motivation for starting Imagine Not As Much came out of Pastor Whisnant's own struggle with weight, and success in weight loss. He is just under six feet tall, and in 2013 he weighed 215 pounds. Over a period of one year, he lost 40 pounds and his wife, Tammy, lost 60 pounds.

His brother suggested that there are many people who will not come to church to hear the gospel, but they

Regional SPOTLIGHT



Todd Gray West

might come to have a need in their life addressed, and the gospel could be shared in that setting. Whisnant accepted the call as being from the Lord and set out, with the help of his wife, to produce a curriculum and start classes.

What have been the results so far?

The first class was offered in June. Fourteen people signed up, and 12 completed the course. During the four week course, the group of 12 lost 115 pounds, with other measurable results regarding blood pressure and sugar levels.

Since the course ended and the coaching portion began the group has recorded a total weight loss of 255 pounds. They have started a second group, and one of the women prayed to receive Christ and wants to be baptized.

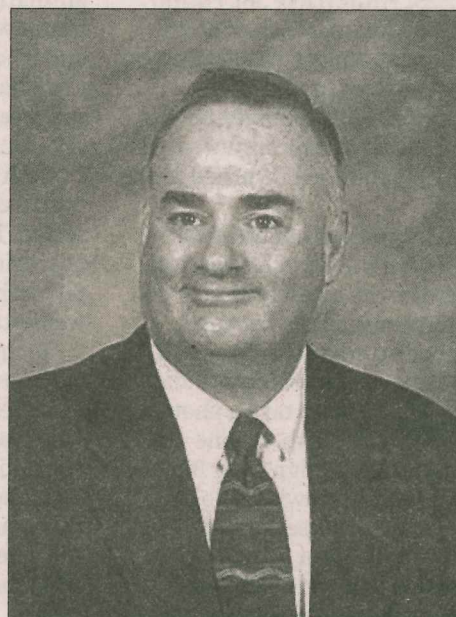
How can other pastors and churches use the program?

If other pastors or churches are interested in the Imagine Not As Much program, he and Tammy are willing to share their resources and help any way they can—even if it means traveling to the church and coaching a pastor on leading the class.

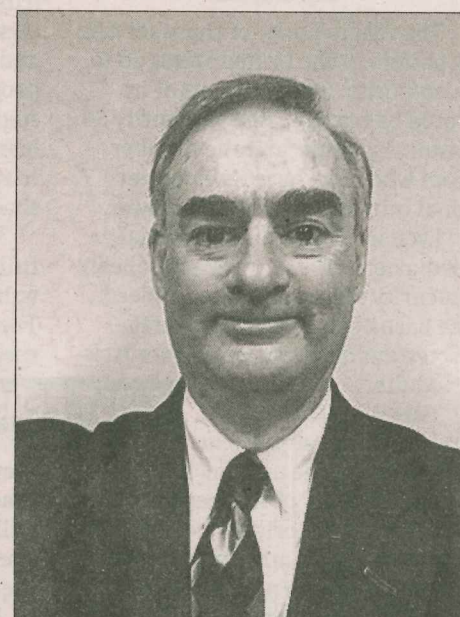
He only requests his expenses be paid. They are also willing to host a family in their own home to train them to teach the material.

How is the program evangelistic?

The class is evangelistic in two ways.



Nathan Whisnant is leading Airline Baptist in Henderson to lose—not members, but pounds—through a Christ-centered health program with an evangelistic emphasis. Left, Whisnant in 2013. Right, Whisnant, who stands just under six feet tall, has lost 40 lbs.



First, it is an outreach for members of the church to invite their unchurched friends and family members. Second, the gospel is shared explicitly in the fourth session, giving attendees an opportunity to receive the Lord.

The class is then followed up with group and individual coaching. At this time, Whisnant is writing a daily Bible devotional for participants to use long term.

What are some of the positive benefits to the church?

Some of the benefits of using Imagine Not As Much listed by Pastor Whisnant include:

1. People are losing weight, becoming more healthy, and living healthier lives.
2. Members are finding a non-threatening way to reach out to the lost.
3. People who receive Jesus through this program will be connected to a local

church.

4. The church is able to minister to people at a point of need in their lives.

5. The participants are growing in discipleship and spiritual disciplines.

6. The church is able to help other churches see a path to reaching new people for Christ.

7. The church is able to model healthy living to the community.

Nathan and Tammy Whisnant would have been satisfied to experience the blessing of weight loss and a healthier lifestyle alone. However, it seemed to them that what they had experienced was a way to reach out to others with the good news of salvation through faith in Christ.

Pastor Whisnant has a desire to see more people added to the kingdom of God. Imagine Not As Much is just one tool he, and others, can use toward that goal. (WR)

Songwriter Sandi Patty announces retirement, farewell tour

By Jonathan Merritt

New York—Grammy-winning Christian singer Sandi Patty is singing her swan song.

On Sept. 28, a group of about 20 publicists, media moguls and celebrities gathered at Rockefeller Center to hear the 59-year-old music great announce her retirement and farewell tour.

Patty's career has spanned some four decades, during which she accumulated five Grammy Awards, four Billboard Music Awards and 40 Dove Awards, and she performed at three inaugurations.

"No matter what you do, there comes a time when you should step away," Patty said. "And mine has finally come."

Born in Oklahoma City, she made her debut at age 2, singing "Jesus Loves Me" at her church. She was a shy child who was uncomfortable on stage during most of her life. But she says singing somehow helped her overcome this obstacle.

"Music has been my voice when I felt like I have not had a voice," Patty said.

Her career began during college when she was studying to become a teacher and accepted a gig singing backup vocals for

the Bill Gaither Trio. But years later, she was catapulted into the national spotlight when she performed "The Star-Spangled Banner" at the rededication of the Statue of Liberty in 1986. Vocalists were soon reproducing her rendition of the national anthem at sporting events and ceremonies across the country.

As popularity grew, Patty became one of the first Christian artists to gain a mainstream audience, and made multiple appearances on "The Tonight Show" with Johnny Carson. At the height of her career, she was a role model as a Christian wife and mother. But in 1995, she admitted to extramarital affairs that resulted in divorce. Many Christian stores and radio stations banned her music, forcing her to step away from the spotlight.

"In the Christian music industry,



Sandi Patty

divorce was just a big no-no," Patty said. "There were people who, in their own hurt and brokenness, could not come alongside of me. I was prepared to walk away from Christian music."

Patty said the divorce meant that many "people stopped wanting to hear" what she had to say, but she did not feel called to quit. She released more than a dozen award-winning albums from 1996 to 2015.

Patty's influence is apparent in her accomplishments and accolades, but it was also felt during her recent announcement. Among the attendees were representatives from Guideposts Magazine, The Huffington Post and Sirius XM Radio. The ends of the table were flanked by a television producer from ABC and Emmy Award-winning television host Rita Cosby.

"As a woman and as a Christian, Sandi Patty has always been an incredible inspiration to me," Cosby said. "She is a role model for how we should live our lives and how opportunities are limitless as long as you stand for what you believe."

Kathie Lee Gifford also made an appearance after naming Patty as one of her "favorite things" and "one of the greatest voices God ever gave a human being" on

NBC's "Today" show.

While Patty's music has influenced millions, Christian music took on a popular sound during the "contemporary Christian music" boom of the 1990s and has been dominated by the "worship" genre since the early 2000s. Her traditional sound doesn't fit within either trend.

Patty wants to end her storied career on a high note. She plans to revisit her adolescent dream of teaching by launching an online certificate program in "worship arts and leadership" at Mid-America Christian University in Oklahoma City. And in February, she will launch "Forever Grateful," a yearlong farewell tour, which will include 90 dates and a performance at Carnegie Hall.

Patty said she wants to thank all the people who have supported her through the years. She recalls the end of Jesus' ministry, when He served His followers a meal, washed their feet and taught them one last time.

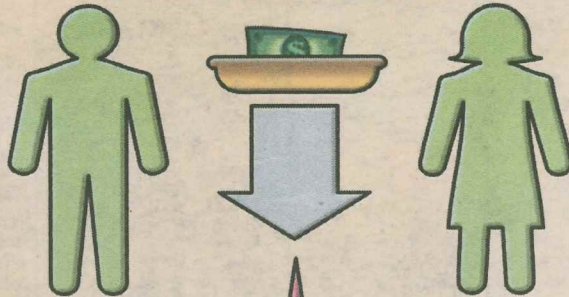
"The Bible says Jesus 'loved them to the end,' and that's what I want to do," a teary Patty said. Her fans "think the music has made a difference in their life, but it has meant more to me." (RNS)

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NAMB approves aid*Continued from page 1*

real need—not only for the physical side but to proclaim the gospel, see people come to Christ and help be part of the church planting effort," Melber said. (See related story.)

NAMB's disaster relief team will be part of Send Relief and continue to have its own director. The mission board will continue to serve as coordinator of national disaster relief responses.

Aid to IMB missionaries

Trustees approved the \$4 million budget reduction to assist IMB missionaries during NAMB's 2015-16 fiscal year. Ezell requested the action in response to the IMB's announced reduction in personnel of up to 15 percent in order to address ongoing revenue shortfalls.

"This is a Kingdom vote," declared NAMB trustee chairman Chuck Herring, senior pastor of Collierville First Baptist Church near Memphis, after NAMB trustees unanimously passed the resolution. Next, the SBC Executive Committee must approve the proposed assistance before NAMB can transfer funds to IMB.

In other business:

■ Trustees received a report showing that revenue for 2014-15 was 1.15 percent higher than the previous year and revenue exceeded spending for the year.

■ Trustees authorized several other position and structure changes in addition to Melber's in Send Relief. Carlos Ferrer will serve as executive vice president; Kim Robinson will serve as vice president of marketing and ministry support; and Clark Logan will serve as chief



North American Mission Board trustees Danny de Armas (left), senior association pastor at First Baptist Church Orlando, and David Parks, a member of Porter Memorial Baptist Church in Lexington, Ky., visit during a break at their Oct. 7 meeting in Salt Lake City. (Photo by John Swain/NAMB)

financial officer. All three men have been promoted from other roles at NAMB.

■ Gary Frost shared with trustees that he has resigned from his role as vice president of NAMB's Midwest Region to move to the role of national facilitator for prayer and compassion initiatives with Mission America.

Ezell, in his address to trustees, included a brief look back at his first five years at the entity. Among the sharpest contrasts: In 2010 NAMB's annual

summer meeting had 300 attendees and NAMB paid them to attend; in 2015, the Send North America Conference in Nashville drew more than 13,000 attendees and all but a few paid their own way.

Ezell also pointed to downsizing that has allowed more resources to go to the field, better counting and tracking of Southern Baptist church plants and a tripling of resources NAMB sends to Canada.

"You are changing lives," Ezell told trustees. As examples he mentioned a church plant in Detroit that recently had 250 at a preview service. Another in Augusta, Maine, is now averaging more than 700 a week in worship attendance. "There are church planters all over North America who, because of your leadership, are being taken care of better than they ever have."

Ezell closed by thanking trustees for their affirmation of Send Relief and shared his excitement about its potential.

"People are very excited about compassion ministry," Ezell said. "We believe Send Relief is a way to help thousands of churches take their first missions step." (BP)

Mike Ebert writes for the North American Mission Board.



North American Mission Board President Kevin Ezell pauses with David Melber and his wife Tera at the Oct. 7 trustee meeting where Melber was named senior vice president of NAMB's new Send Relief compassion ministry. (Photo by John Swain/NAMB)

Melber VP*Continued from page 1*

"God has used David in miraculous ways to transform Crossings Ministries into one of the most successful Christian camp ministries in the world," Chitwood said. Under Melber's leadership, Chitwood said, Crossings launched a successful children's ministry as well as a worldwide missions strategy that is helping campers and churches share Christ among the nations.

"I believe the skills and experiences David has sharpened as president of Crossings have prepared him for the opportunity God is setting before him with NAMB," he said.

Ezell told NAMB trustees details of the Send Relief ministry still must be developed. It will include ministries such as hunger and poverty relief, foster care and adoption, ministry to victims of human trafficking, and construction projects in low-income inner-city areas. NAMB's national coordination responsibilities with Southern

Baptist Disaster Relief will come under the Send Relief umbrella, serving state conventions and other ministry partners as it always has.

"Young people want to serve," Ezell said. "People are retiring with 10 or 20 or more years of good health left. They want meaningful ways to use their skills and serve. Send Relief will do that."

Melber said Send Relief won't focus on building its own ministries but will find people who are already demonstrating leadership and success and give them a larger platform to expand their ministry.

"I don't think I've got the greatest idea on how to address human trafficking but God has no doubt burdened people with that. They are already doing great things and they need to be given some encouragement and resources to see those ministries expanded," he said.

Melber said Southern Baptists have a great reputation for serving in times of disaster and he wants to build on that inclination to serve.

"The reality is there are plenty of human conditions that need relief without hurricanes or tornadoes," Melber said. "Jesus went to where the people were. These ministries will help us do that. Ultimately this will be for proclaiming the gospel and helping to start new churches. I don't want to say it's the best thing going at NAMB, but I'm pretty excited about it."

Melber and his wife Tera have six children, including two who are adopted from Ethiopia and one from the Philippines. (BP)

"The reality is there are plenty of human conditions that need relief without hurricanes or tornadoes. Jesus went to where the people were. These ministries will help us do that."

David Melber

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JOHN WALLER
FAITH

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'Entertaining' children costly to missions, Lee says

By Art Toalston

Nashville—"How did this happen?" Wanda Lee asked herself.

"Beyond what words can say ... we're grieving," the executive director of the WMU, the Southern Baptist Convention's missions education auxiliary, said of the imminent downsizing of 600-800 missionaries and staff members in a multi-million-dollar shortfall confronting the International Mission Board.

Lee, who was among Baptist leaders addressing the SBC Executive Committee during its Sept. 21-22 meeting, pointed to the insight of Annie Armstrong, the first corresponding secretary of the auxiliary in 1888.

Missions education first entails a study of God's word, Lee said in recounting Armstrong's insight.

Then comes a study of the mission field. Then prayer. Then sacrificial giving for the advance of the gospel.

"We study God's word," Lee said. "We've been a good denomination in that. We're a people of prayer, and we're getting better at that. And we're pretty good at giving."

But, Lee said, many Southern Baptist churches have abandoned what Armstrong identified as the "driving force" between studying God's word and "how much we pray and how much we give."

"We can lament the churches that

haven't given, we can lament many things," Lee said. "But one thing we have failed to do in our churches is to embrace the missions assignment of helping our children and our youth understand God's field."

When there's "no understanding of the depth of lostness, there's no passion to give," Lee said.

When a church tilts toward entertaining their children and youth, or abandons Wednesday night activities in deference to local soccer leagues, "(we have) let that overshadow the priority as a Christian church leader of equipping the next generation for missions."

"We sacrificed our adults of today 20 years ago," Lee said. "We sacrificed them when we said, 'Well, I guess we can't have RAs (Royal Ambassadors for boys) and GAs (Girls in Action) because kids have got to go play soccer."

"I faced that as a pastor's wife and a mother. ... And now we're living with an adult church that doesn't know why they give. They don't give sacrificially because they don't know the field. They don't know the depth of lostness."

"We have a job to do," Lee said. "We can't lose another generation. ... We have to do what Annie said years ago. We have to teach them God's word. We have to help them see all of God's world—the way He loves (people) and the way He desires for them to come to Him."

"And when we feel that depth of



Learning about the mission field is vital to nurturing prayer and giving, WMU's Wanda Lee says to SBC Executive Committee. (Photo by Morris Abernathy)

conviction, we will pray like we've never prayed before ... (we will) give sacrificially."

Lee said WMU will "stand with our missionaries, we're going to support them, we're committed to being the best partner with IMB we can be." WMU will be fulfilling one of its key roles in Southern Baptist life—helping returning missionaries find housing. And they will need to be alerted to employment

possibilities. Re-entry retreats will be needed for their youth.

"But we can't go through this again," Lee said.

"So come, go with us. Quit entertaining your children and your young people. Drive them to study God's word. Expose them to the field for the depth of understanding that will commit their lives to service and prayer, and their money will follow." (BP)

LGBT protestors spark news conference at Southern Seminary

By Craig Sanders

Louisville—Reparative therapy is a "superficial" response to homosexual and transgender change, and Christian ministers must instead call all people to repentance and faith in Jesus Christ, said leaders of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary and the Association of Certified Biblical Counselors in an Oct. 5 news conference.

"We don't think the main thing that is needed is merely repair but rather redemption," said Southern Seminary President Albert Mohler Jr. "When it comes to sexuality, we do believe that wholeness and holiness can come, and will come, to the one who faithfully follows Christ."

Mohler and ACBC executive director Heath Lambert addressed local and national media to refute the claims of the Fairness Campaign, a Louisville LGBT (lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender) advocacy group alleging a conference being held at the seminary promoted reparative therapy, which is a secular method of converting sexual orientation and gender identity.

Nearly 40 LGBT activists stood on the sidewalk near the seminary's Alumni Memorial Chapel in the first of two planned protests as a record 2,300 conference attendees registered for the three-day conference on homosexuality and transgenderism.

"The Christian church has sinned against the LGBT community by responding to this challenge in a superficial way," Mohler said. "It's not something that is so simple as converting from



Nearly 40 LGBT activists held up signs condemning reparative therapy at the first of two planned protests near Southern Seminary's campus on Oct. 5. (SBTS photo by Emil Handke)

homosexual to heterosexual, and from our gospel-centered theological understanding that would not be sufficient."

He continued: "Our message is the gospel for all people and that means we call all people to be converted to faith in Christ and then as disciples of the Lord Jesus Christ to live in holiness and wholeness, which is defined by obedience to him, each in our own way."

Lambert, who is also associate professor of biblical counseling at Southern Seminary and Boyce College, said he recognized the "cultural voice" embraces homosexuality and transgenderism but the Bible is what "authoritatively

declares" moral behavior. He said the conference will demonstrate for ministers and counselors a "Christian compassion" for those struggling with homosexuality and gender identity.

"We don't call people to embrace heterosexuality," Lambert said. "We call people to embrace Christian faithfulness."

Lambert clarified the existence of three approaches to counseling homosexuality and gender identity: a secular position embracing all forms of sexuality, the secular position of reparative therapy, and the Christian position of repentance and faith.

Lambert said the biblical position is that those who come to faith in Christ must respond by leaving behind sinful patterns in Christian obedience as they experience transformative change from the Holy Spirit.

What that looks like, Lambert said, is a transformed Christian sexuality manifesting itself either in heterosexual monogamy or celibacy.

"The standard for sexuality in the Bible is one man and one woman in the context of Christian marriage," Lambert said. "If you are not in that one man, one woman relationship of marriage, then the call on your life is joyful, faithful, Christian celibacy, and that is what we're calling people to—Christian faithfulness regardless of what your sin is and regardless of what your situation is."

Fairness Campaign protesters say reparative therapy increases the rate of depression and suicide in the LGBT community. According to a news report by local TV station WDRB, Fairness Campaign director Chris Hartman said such therapy is a dangerous attempt to persuade the LGBT community "to change the nature of who they are."

Following the evening protest, activists planned to attend a worship service for the LGBT community at Crescent Hill Baptist Church, which was recently removed from the Kentucky Baptist Convention for its acceptance of same-sex marriage.

The ACBC annual conference ended Oct. 7 with Sam Allberry, a pastor and author who describes himself as a same-sex attracted Christian living in celibacy. (BP)

Kentucky Baptists helping S.C. flood victims

Louisville—Kentucky Baptist Disaster Relief teams arrived in South Carolina last Sunday to assist in recovery efforts after record rainfall caused widespread flooding and at least 19 deaths.

The catastrophic flooding was the result of more than 20 inches of rain that fell on parts of the state last week.

Kentucky Baptist Convention Disaster Relief Director Coy Webb said two Kentucky flood recovery teams, a feeding team, and several chaplains have been sent to South Carolina to work alongside national and state Baptist conventions that also deployed personnel.

Richard Harris, South Carolina Baptist Convention interim executive director-treasurer, said he welcomes all assistance.

"South Carolina has experienced historic rainfall and flooding that few of us have experienced in our lifetime," Harris said. "Thousands across our state have lost homes or had significant damage to their homes, as well as vehicles and other personal property. Business owners are facing huge damage to buildings and inventory loss. Numerous churches, many of our SCBC churches, and their members have felt the wrath of the heavy rains and flooding."

About 300 roads and bridges remain closed a week after storms.

Harris said the crisis provides an opportunity for Southern Baptists to "express the love of Christ, meet needs and share the hope found in the gospel with people impacted by the floods."

Kentucky Baptists who want to help



flood victims can make financial donations through Kentucky Baptist Disaster Relief, www.kybaptist.org/dr, or to Southern Baptist Disaster Relief at www.namb.net/disaster-relief. The money will be used to:

- purchase supplies and materials to clean out homes and churches;



- purchase food, supplies and housing for volunteers mudding out homes and churches;

- assist families with special needs and repair of homes;

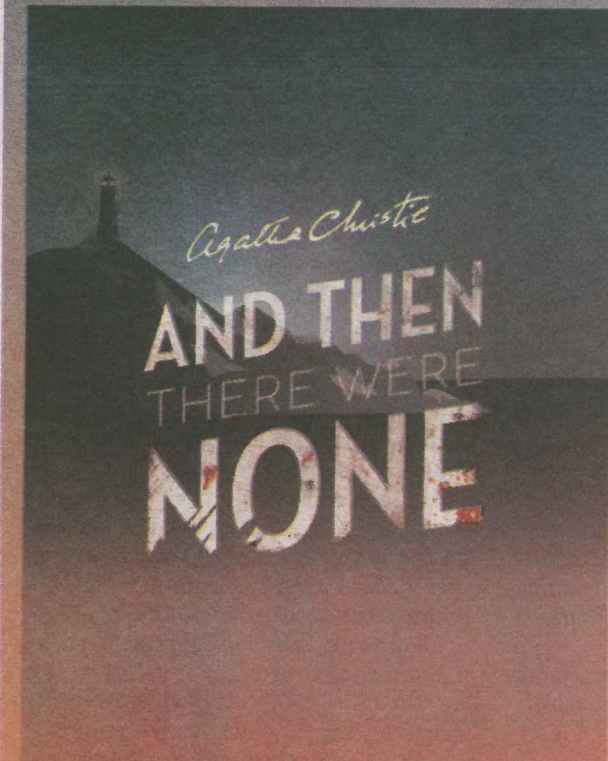
- purchase fuel and supplies to operate trucks and equipment;

- assist churches with grants to clean their facilities or cover income losses;

- provide for warehousing and transportation of supplies and materials, and

- provide rental equipment to support mud-out operations. (KBC)

Top right, Chris Cropp uses an air pressure device to "pop off" hardwood floors for cleaning. Right and top left, Kentucky Baptist volunteers clean a home in Sumter, S.C., that was damaged in recent flooding.



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Woodlawn movie

Continued from page 1

reminiscent of the Explo '72 event during the Jesus Revolution.

"Look around you. We are not alone. This is what happens when God shows up," a speaker says to the racially diverse crowd.

Tony Perkins, president of the Family Research Council, said "the movie is a reminder that today's church leaders are in a very similar generation as the 60s and 70s."

He continued, "But the fact is that the Jesus Movement changed them and it changed history. High school- and college-aged students were challenged to embrace Jesus and live counter to the culture."

"You know, Woodlawn really shows the choice that these young people and all of us have. It is a choice to live with a greater fear or reverence for God than for man. They had to turn their back on the ways of their day and embrace the truth of the gospel of Christ."

The simulcast featured other endorsements and testimonies as well as Prestonwood pastor Jack Graham

interviewing one of the lead actors, Caleb Castille, about his call to be in the movie.

"What a movie, what a story, and the story is true—not only what happened in 1973 back home in Alabama, but what has happened in so many hearts and lives in this generation, my generation," Graham, 65, said.

"We were a part of this Jesus Revolution. It rocked America," he continued. "The revolution that took place in the '60s and '70s was a powerful movement of the Holy Spirit. We believe that God continues to work in the heart of His people who call out to Him."

"I personally believe that you, the generation of today, can be the next great movement of God in this world. We desperately need it," Graham said before inviting those in attendance to commit their lives to Christ as Lord and Savior. Many appeared to respond.

Floyd urged simulcast attendees to "embrace fully the vision" of Woodlawn's creators "because I'm convinced that God can do more in a moment than we could ever do in a lifetime."

The simulcast will subsequently air multiple times on TBN. Check local listings or visit www.woodlawnmovie.com for details. (BP)

SBC president suggests a single mission board

By Bob Allen

Kansas City, Mo.—Southern Baptist Convention President Ronnie Floyd suggested merger of the convention's two mission boards during a symposium on the denomination's future Sept. 28-29 at Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Kansas City, Mo.

"Structures and systems flow from the work of God," Floyd, senior pastor of Cross Church in Northwest Arkansas, told denominational leaders at the first installment of new symposium series to be held once every three years. "They do not create the work of God."

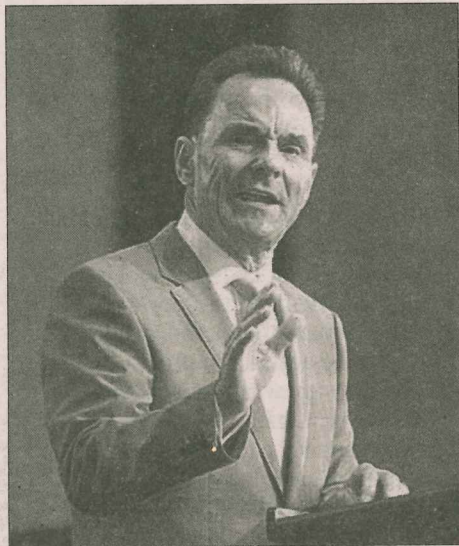
"If we hold on to our old structures and systems—more concerned about preserving them than seeing them conformed to what God is doing today—then we may lose both the work of God and this present generation of Baptists," Floyd said three months into his second and final one-year presidential team.

Floyd, a pastor for 39 years, said the stakes are high for the denomination's future.

"In 1845, we were founded with a great purpose and vision to reach the world for Christ," he said. "As we have grown in our organization, we have also grown in our complexity."

"If this continues, our central focus will become the preservation of our structures and systems—the budget and the allocation of it to our ministries—rather than keeping our focus on our mission to reach the world," he said.

Floyd, a member of two panels in the last 20 years to reorganize and reprioritize the nation's second-largest faith group and chair of the "Great Commission Resurgence" task force that



Ronnie Floyd speaks at "The SBC & the 21st Century" symposium at Midwestern Seminary. (Screen capture from Vimeo)

brought recommendations approved in 2010, said for the purposes of his assignment he was presenting his observations about spiritual renewal and "strategic reinvention" of the SBC as questions, even though he has an opinion about most of them.

One—"for the sake of gospel advancement, should the International Mission Board and the North American Mission Board become one mission board?"—prompted bloggers who attended to weigh in with both pros and cons.

In video of the message recently made available online, Floyd said the question is one that will be addressed by the next generation of Southern Baptist leaders.

"This is not a new question at all," he said. "Some of us who have been involved in shaping the future have asked this

question and tried to answer it honestly. With our present matters at hand, this question is being asked more today than ever before."

Floyd suggested three factors that before now have prevented Southern Baptists from having just a single mission board:

■ Unique roles of each mission board. "While this has been true before, is it still true within the global culture we experience daily and with the reality the ethnicities that live everywhere across this world?" he asked.

"Is this true when technology is helping shape the culture today and can assist us in our mission? Furthermore, with an undeniable global mindset in America today, is this still the right strategy?"

■ Cooperative Program dollars would be held mostly by one board instead of two. At present, merger would mean that 73 percent of the SBC portion of the Cooperative Program unified budget—more than \$137 million—would be controlled by one board of trustees.

"Is this really problematic when the board of trustees is responsible to the convention for the fiduciary responsibilities of our entities?" Floyd asked. "Is this really a viable reason why this should remain as our strategy? I wonder what our churches think."

■ The timing has never been right. "Only God knows the time," Floyd said. The real question about the future of the SBC's two mission boards is "which decision will fast-forward the mission of our churches to advance the gospel of Jesus Christ to the ethnicities of the world."

"This generation of Baptists will have to determine how to answer this ques-

tion," he said.

On another topic, whether there is a future for state conventions and local associations, Floyd said if the SBC were being built from the ground up today, there would be a need for boots on the ground to help churches achieve their mission.

"If we operated from a clean slate today, perhaps it may look somewhat different, but the key reality for the future would be more their function than in the structure," Floyd said.

Floyd said the key for state conventions and associations to be relevant in the future is to clarify their mission and simplify their responsibilities.

"They do not need to duplicate and triplicate one another, nor do our national entities need to do that," he said. "We must find a way to cease duplication and triplication locally, statewide and nationally."

Floyd said state and local Baptist groups must "be agile in their response to the churches."

"Weighty, needless structure prohibits immediate response to the churches," he said. "We need to rid anything in our state conventions, anything in our associations and even our national entities that slows down our responsiveness to the churches."

In terms of sustaining themselves financially, Floyd said any organization that cannot raise enough money to support itself should be questioned about whether it is truly needed.

For example, Floyd said some state conventions and local associations might consider "merging for the greater cause of helping our churches more effectively." (BNG)

Earliest draft of King James Bible found by N.J. professor

Montclair, N.J.—For a month after he returned from England last year, a Montclair State University professor did not realize what a treasure he had found in a rare books library at Cambridge University.

While abroad, Jeffrey Miller, an assistant professor of English at the New Jersey school, had acquainted himself with some of the 70 pages of a notebook that had belonged to Samuel Ward, a 17th century biblical scholar.

But it wasn't until Miller returned home, and made a more thorough study of photographs he had taken of its pages, that he understood how stunning a discovery he had made.

The notebook held draft portions of the most enduring English translation of the Bible: the King James Version, which was published in 1611 and named for the newly ascended King James I.

"I am not even sure I believed it initially," said Miller, describing the moment when he figured out he had seen draft pages from the most widely read work in all of English, including Shakespeare.

"It seems beyond belief to think you could be looking at a draft of the King James Bible, much less a draft unlike any other draft that we previously had, much less the earliest draft of the King

James Bible," he said.

In the following months, scholars of the KJV confirmed Miller's find.

Miller, who specializes in early modern literature, history and theology, had set out for Cambridge in hopes of learning more about Ward.

The professor had agreed to write an essay on him for a book about the several dozen men the Church of England had grouped into "companies" charged with producing the KJV.

So Miller went to Sidney Sussex College, within Cambridge University, whose archives contain many of Ward's papers.

"I was maximally hoping to find some letter that he had written that seemed relevant," said Miller. "Actually I did find that."

But he also found the notebook, catalogued in the 1980s as "a verse-by-verse biblical commentary" with "Greek word studies and some Hebrew notes."

"Let's have a look at this," Miller thought of the paperback-sized book, whose pages date from 1604 to 1608.

Eventually, Miller came to understand that some of the pages were Ward's draft of a part of the KJV—one complete and one incomplete book from the Apocrypha, writings accepted by some Christian denominations as part of the Bible, but considered non-canon-

ical by others.

Miller saw an entire draft of 1 Esdras, and a partial draft of the book known as the Wisdom of Solomon.

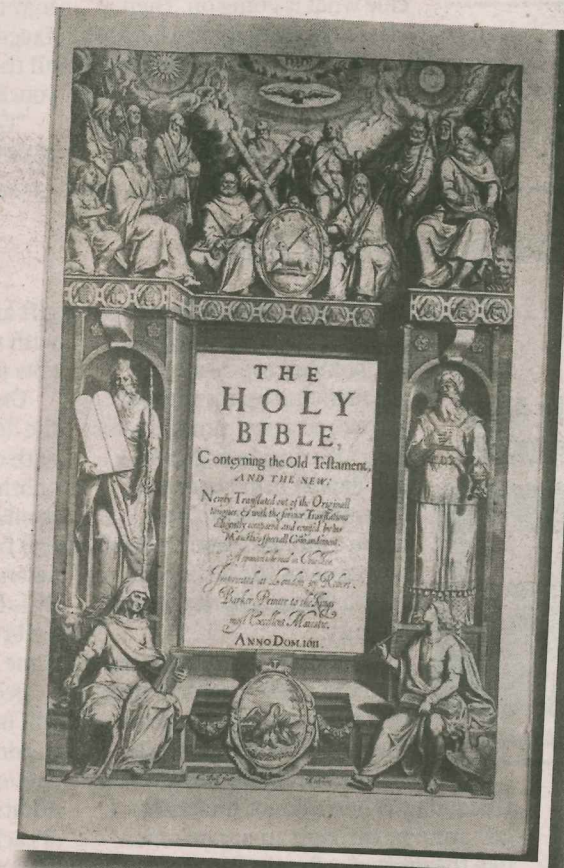
The professor made his findings public Oct. 14 in an article in the Times Literary Supplement, in which he explains that the King James Bible, organized as a group endeavor, may have been more the product of individuals than previously thought.

"It's really the first real solid evidence for that," Miller said.

While very few drafts—and no complete drafts—of the KJV have been found, Miller's discovery is the first that can be attributed to a particular translator.

Further study, he said, will shed light on the KJV, but also the English language it helped shape.

"The King James Bible is a monument of English religion, literature and the language itself," he said, and it's important to understand how it got built. "It didn't just fall out of the sky." (RNS)



The first edition of the King James Bible, a work commissioned in 1604 upon the ascension of James, to replace the influential but divisive Geneva Bible. This extremely rare octavo edition of the New Testament was clearly intended for popular use, perhaps indicating why very few have survived.

The small joys of serving at Oneida

We face many challenges each and every day at Oneida. Often times we are disappointed or heartbroken over decisions our students, current and former, have made, but our greatest joys and rewards are often those little moments when we see our students succeed and make a difference in the world or in someone's life. The following article was written by one of our staff members:

This is
Oneida



Larry Gritton

Working at OBI has numerous benefits. None of them are better than the memories of students who have attended here. One of

the more enjoyable memories for my wife and me involves a young man from Rosedale, N.Y., named "Joe."

I didn't have the pleasure of working with him in the classroom, but he was part of a group of young men my wife and I drove to a nearby town.

We took these boys to be fitted for tuxedos to wear to the upcoming senior banquet. Joe was a joyous spirit

and immediately developed a relationship with the store's seamstress. Her nickname was "Sitter," and she was probably in her mid- to late-80s.

All the boys in this group were very big. The owner of the men's store was a retired coach of the local high school, and he tried to convince the boys to play football for the local high school since OBI didn't have a football team.

He had an answer for every reason why they felt they couldn't play for another school. He was very convincing, but of course, it isn't something that ever happened.

The boys went to the banquet and ate like you've never seen boys eat. We returned the tuxedos the following Monday. It wasn't very long after that weekend that we got word that Sitter was in the Corbin hospital and not doing well.

When we gave Joe the news, he immediately asked if we could visit her. A few days later we took Joe to see her.

Although she her health was failing, you could see her spirits improve

with Joe's appearance and again with the conversation they had.

We left after about a 30-minute visit. On the way back to OBI, Joe said something like, "Boy, that was fast. When we do hospital visits at home, we spend three or four hours singing, praying and chatting. This was really quick."

At the end of that school year (2007), my wife and I retired to Florida. Ben spoke French fluently.

During the following school year, while relaxing in sunny Florida, we returned from grocery shopping and found a message on our phone.

The message was about six or seven sentences in French, some deep laughter, and then Joe called. What a joy it was for us to hear his voice.

I don't know where Joe is today or what he is doing, but I know he is making a difference in someone's life.

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.

Training to serve others (Part 2)

Student Kendra McNeeley is one of our local students from just across the Tennessee/Kentucky state line in LaFollette, Tenn. Although she started her educational journey at a local university, she is thankful for the Lord directing her to Clear Creek. Her story continues...

Clear Creek
Chronicle



Donnie Fox

"I have particularly loved all of my Bible classes so far here at Clear Creek," said McNeeley. "There are often times when I am studying the Bible and I may not have a clue what is going on. Then, I can go to class and, through the help of my professors and the Holy Spirit, it all comes together and makes sense. When that light goes on, I get the biggest smile on my face and rest in the

magnificence of Scripture and the splendor of our Creator."

"Being in ministry and serving God and others is one of the most rewarding things that you will ever do with your life," said McNeeley. "Sure, there will be hard times that life throws your way and the enemy will be relentless, but the joys and blessings of serving God and others far outweigh life's struggles."

"Clear Creek is a great place to grow in your faith, your relationship with God, and your future ministry," she said. "You may be scared, not knowing what is going to happen or who you may meet. You may not even know exactly what God is calling you to do; all that you know is that He has called you. But that's okay."

"God has called each and every one of us to go out and love Him and love

people. You may think that someone else is better equipped to go out to the mission fields, be pastor of a church, or simply go out and talk to people on the street," McNeeley added. "I want you to know that God knows exactly what He is doing, even when we do not."

"The great thing about learning all of this at Clear Creek is that you have a loving family all around you, and this family will be with you throughout the rest of your life. They are there to pray with you and for you, to lift you up, to talk, laugh, and even cry with," she said.

"There is nothing better than a ministry focused, God loving family—and that is what Clear Creek is."

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

Giving now and later

Some individuals strongly desire to establish plans to make a legacy gift now, but they are hesitant about giving up the annual income stream from the asset they are considering gifting to a Baptist ministry cause. One effective way to both make a gift and retain a fixed payment for life is through establishing a charitable gift annuity.

Ky. Baptist
Foundation



Richard Carnes

A gift annuity enables the donor to make a contribution that might otherwise come through their estate, while also retaining significant benefits today. When a donor establishes a gift annuity through an organization like the Kentucky Baptist Foundation, the property that funds the gift annuity is eventually used for the charitable ministry purpose that the donor designates, just as if the donor had left a bequest by will. But unlike a bequest, a

gift annuity will provide the donor with regular payments and other benefits for as long as they live.

Under the terms of a gift annuity the donor can make a charitable gift with cash or other property. The donor or others they designate then receive fixed payments for life. The amount and frequency of the payments are determined at the time the gift annuity is funded. Also, the payments will never change and are designed to continue regardless of how long you live.

Because a portion of the gift annuity will be used for charitable purposes, the donor is entitled to an income tax deduction for the year of gift. Additionally, for a period of time, part of each payment may be received free of income tax, or be taxed at capital gains tax rates that may be significantly lower than rates paid on other income.

To summarize, the benefits for the donor considering this type of legacy

gift plan are as follows:

- The satisfaction of making an important contribution to a Baptist ministry in which you believe.
- Fixed payments for life.
- An immediate income tax deduction
- A partial bypass of capital gains tax
- An extended payment of any capital gains tax due
- Partially tax-free payments for a number of years
- Removal of assets from the donor's taxable estate while continuing to enjoy lifetime payments

To seek assistance in creating a charitable gift annuity that will ultimately provide support for worthy Baptist causes, you may contact the Foundation's trust counsel, Laurie Valentine, or me at our toll-free number (866) 489-3533.

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

Appeals court throws out settlement of Baptist Homes lawsuit

Mount Washington—A federal appeals court has thrown out the 2013 settlement of a lawsuit challenging state funding of Sunrise Children's Services, the Kentucky Baptist children's ministry, saying a judge should decide if court-ordered monitoring of alleged violations of the separation of church and state by Sunrise Children's Services is fair.

A divided three-judge panel of the Sixth Circuit U.S. Court of Appeals ruled Oct. 6 that a lower court erred in allowing plaintiffs including Baptist minister and former seminary professor Paul Simmons and the Commonwealth of Kentucky to settle a dispute dating back to the 1998 firing of a lesbian employee by the Kentucky Baptist Convention entity, then known as Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children.

Terms of the agreement applied to all nonprofit organizations applying for government grants but singled out Sunrise for special scrutiny because of allegations in the lawsuit that the Baptist agency pressured children in its care to become practicing Christians. Sunrise denied those allegations, but was not given an opportunity to sign off on the agreement.

Lawyers for Sunrise said the settlement subjects the agency "to unique reputational harm" and "denies Sunrise a chance to clear its name."

The appellate court agreed, vacating the June 30, 2014, order by U.S. District Judge Charles Simpson in Louisville, that Sunrise had no legal right to interfere if the two parties in the lawsuit agreed. The majority ordered the lower court to decide "whether, among other things, the settlement agreement is fair to Sunrise."

In a dissenting opinion, U.S. District Court Judge Timothy Black said the district judge already determined the settlement to be fair and that the appeals court should not instruct a lower court on what legal issues to decide.

Dale Suttles, chief executive officer of Sunrise, described the ruling as a win for the non-profit ministry that serves hundreds of abused and neglected kids.

"This case has been going on for 16 years and Sunrise is ready to turn the page," Suttles said. "We have 750 kids who have faced some of the most terrible things imaginable. We need to focus instead on making a difference in their lives."

Circuit judges did not indicate whether the lower court's ruling was fair to Sunrise.

"We feel good about the Sixth Circuit Court's decision," Suttles said. "Now we'll wait to see how the district court handles its decision." (BNG/KBC)

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Billy Graham marks 97 years with new film

By Diana Chandler

Charlotte, N.C.—The Billy Graham Evangelistic Association has released a new film in its global "My Hope" outreach and is encouraging pastors to use the free resource in conjunction with Graham's 97th birthday celebration Nov. 7.

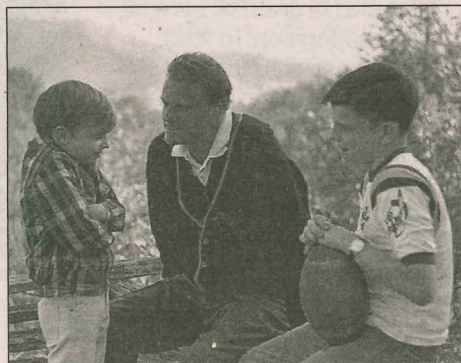
"Value of a Soul" showcases the testimonies of three born-again believers, including a former hard-core underground rapper, a Purple Heart recipient and a twice-divorced mother who suffered an abortion years ago at age 16.

The new film and accompanying resources are suited for use by pastors and laypeople alike, My Hope vice president Steve Rhoades said in a press release.

"Our focus is on encouraging and equipping the local church to simply share Jesus," Rhoades said. "We want to help local congregations by providing high-quality free resources—like Value of a Soul—anyone can use to reach out with a message of hope in their communities."

The Value of a Soul trailer may be viewed at MyHopeWithBillyGraham.org/Value-Of-A-Soul-Trailer, and the full 30-minute film will be available for free online viewing and download Oct. 15, BGEA said. Advance orders of a single complimentary DVD are being taken online, along with requests for free prayer cards. Additional copies of the DVD and related discipleship resources will be available for nominal fees and shipping costs.

Value of a Soul focuses on Jesus' question on the worth of a person's soul in Mark 8:36-37 and features San Antonio burger restaurant owner Mark Outing, who was known as Magic Mark in the rap group P.K.O.; retired U.S. Army Maj. Scotty Smiley, who lost his vision in a car bomb explosion in Iraq; and motorcycle shop owner Laura Klock, who lost a child to abortion.



"All three stories, and (Franklin Graham's) message in the film, address the underlying truth that each person—each soul—has value," Rhoades said. "We hope churches and individuals will begin praying and planning now for how God can use this film to reach out to neighbors, family and friends with a message of hope this November and beyond."

Value of a Soul is the latest in a series of My Hope films, including "Heaven," released in 2014, and "The Cross" and "Defining Moments," both released in 2013.

The My Hope outreach encourages churches, individuals, businesses and community venues to host My Hope viewing parties including DVD viewings and invitations to accept Christ. Since its international launch in 2002, the My Hope evangelistic outreach has been implemented in 60 countries in the Americas, Africa, Asia,

Europe and the Middle East. Including the 2013 debut in the U.S. of "My Hope America," more than 350,000 churches and 4 million individuals have participated in the evangelistic outreach, BGEA said. Decisions to receive Christ have surpassed 10 million, BGEA said, including 160,000 in the U.S.

Value of a Soul will be released in Canada this fall, and a new My Hope UK film is in production to be released to churches and groups in the United Kingdom, BGEA said. (BP)



Billy Graham



"Value of a Soul," the My Hope evangelistic outreach film that will mark Billy Graham's 97th birthday, features Purple Heart recipient and retired Army Maj. Scotty Smiley, who lost his vision in a car bomb explosion in Iraq.

MOUNTAINS TO THE MISSISSIPPI

COMPILED BY STAFF

BARDWELL—Mississippi Church celebrated its 175th homecoming Sept. 27. **Mark Burnett** is pastor.

BRODHEAD—Maretburg Church celebrated its 80th Anniversary Oct. 18. **Wayne Harding** is pastor.

ELIZABETHTOWN—Valley Creek Church is conducting a coat drive for the coal mine area and Phelps Baptist Church. Area churches are encouraged to participate in the collection of new or gently used coats, jackets or hoodies of all sizes. Also needed are hats, scarves and gloves. Items may be dropped off at Valley Creek, or call the church office at (270) 737-9282.

FRANKLIN—Calvary Church will hold its 50th Anniversary and Building Dedication on Nov. 8, 9 a.m. Sunday School, 10 a.m. worship. Guest Speaker will be **Frank Page**, president/CEO of the SBC Executive Committee. Open House will be 2-4 p.m.

HICKMAN—West Hickman Church celebrated its homecoming and dedication of a newly completed ministry building Sept. 27. **Jason Sipes** is pastor.

LOUISVILLE—Bethany Church's Student Ministry will sponsor "Movie in the Church Courtyard" on Oct. 23 at 7 p.m. **Ken Vickery** is pastor.

MILTON—Milton Church has called **Timothy Scott** as pastor.

MOUTHCARD—Mouthcard Church will hold homecoming service on Nov. 1 at 11 a.m. **Ben Martin** is pastor.

ORLANDO—Flat Rock Church will host the singing groups His Heart Quartet on Oct. 25 at 11 a.m. and the Ole Stump Kickers on Nov. 15 at 7 p.m. **Jack Stallsworth** is pastor.



October

22 Men's & Women's Chorales 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

9 KBC Mission Board, Severns Valley Baptist Church, Elizabethtown

9 Kentucky Baptist Pastors' Conference, Severns Valley Baptist Church, Elizabethtown

10 KBC Annual Meeting, Severns Valley Baptist Church, Elizabethtown

What would you do to help a child?

By Christi Moffett

The media reports daily of children who are neglected, abused and sold into sex slavery. The overwhelming sense of frustration in wondering why no one was there to make a difference in the lives of these children is our rally cry for action now. Neglect and abuse should not be part of a child's life, and certainly not in Kentucky, not our children, not on our watch.

God's word clearly tells us that pure and undefiled religion is to care for the widow and orphan. "Religion that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless is this: to look after orphans and widows in their distress and to keep oneself from being polluted by the world" (James 1:27).

Friends, colleagues, fellow believers, in a nation fraught with moral decay, complacency towards the needs of others and flat out narcissism in our daily spending habits, it is time we draw a line in the sand.

Caring for those little lives that were not discarded and dismembered as a "choice," but given a chance to live, and live fully.

Today, right now, there are Kentucky children living in dire conditions, living lives filled with neglect and pain. And these Kentucky children need saving ... today.

By God's grace, each child in the care of Sunrise has been entrusted into the hands of caregivers who are trained and equipped, but the care of precious little ones and their bright future must be funded.

Our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, said, "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the

kingdom of God belongs to such as these." (Luke 18:16)

Do we hinder the little children when those that are the most in need are battling for survival and unable to get to the Savior because of the hopelessness of their plight?

Close your eyes, picture her, a little girl, hungry, abused, scared, looking for help... She is in our midst.

If we fail to rescue her, her life may be spoken about as a number, another one of the children reported on daily

who are trapped in the sex industry in the United States.

This may seem dramatic, but it is reality to

the least of these. And I, for one, have dedicated my life to speaking up for those who cannot speak for themselves. And I need your help to provide each forgotten child of Kentucky with a hope and a future.

This year Sunrise Children's Services is throwing out a bold challenge to the churches of Kentucky. If not us, then who? It's "All In A Day's Pay."

Sunrise will communicate with 2,800 Baptist churches in Kentucky. Every church member is being challenged to make a difference in the life of a child by donating "one day's pay" for the betterment of one child.

A church filled with people who care for the least of these, is a church that is alive and truly living life like Jesus instructed.



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

Medical pros needed for international disasters

Louisville—Ready to take those advanced medical skills to the next level and reach hurting people around world for Christ?

Baptist Global Response is recruiting missions-minded medical professionals who can respond to international medical disasters at a moment's notice.

Volunteers will be among the first to help victims of tsunamis, earthquakes and other natural or man-made disasters, as well as have the opportunity to be the light of Jesus for people in their darkest days.

Eligible participants will be assigned to a team of five medical professionals and placed on-call one month per year. If a disaster occurs, team members will have two to five days to deploy and may remain in the affected country up to two weeks.

Prior arrangements should be made with employers before being called out on

assignment. Response calls are infrequent, but immediate response in the event of a disaster is crucial.

To be part of an international medical response team, participants must be able to pay for training and travel expenses, which range \$3,000 to \$5,000.

An online training course through the International Institute of Medicine should be completed before taking Baptist Global Response training. For a discounted rate, contact Micah Flint at micah@inmed.us and identify as a BGR volunteer.

Upcoming training dates through Baptist Global Response are:

- Oct. 30-31 at Coastal Community Church, Galveston, Texas.
- Jan. 22-23 at Idlewild Baptist Church, Lutz, Fla.

Questions may be sent to med-disaster@gobgr.org. (KBC)

WESTERN Recorder + Your church newsletter

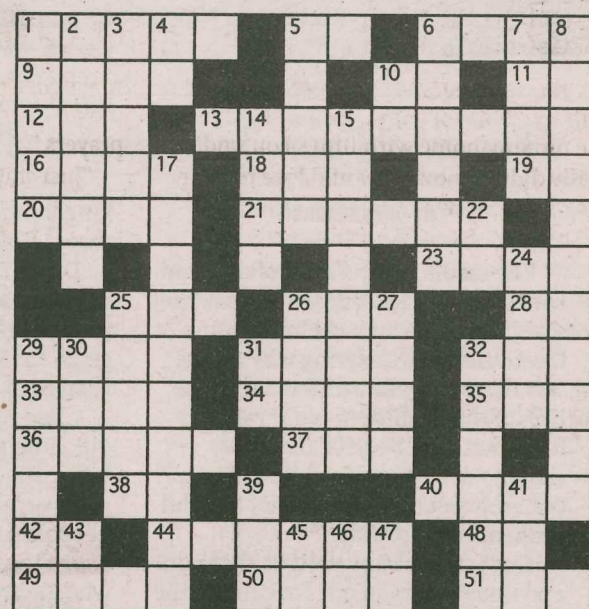
TWO GREAT PUBLICATIONS, ONE LESS POST OFFICE HEADACHE

Bible Crosswords

By Cheryl Keiser

Across

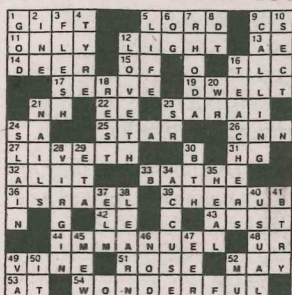
- 1 "Except a man be born of _____ and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom" (John 3:5)
- 5 Preposition
- 6 "Wisdom giveth _____" (Ecclesiastes 7:12)
- 9 The son of Boaz (Matthew 1:5)
- 10 Two, prefix
- 11 Four, Romans num.
- 12 Edge
- 13 Flesh-eater
- 16 "Let their table be a snare, and a _____" (Romans 11:9)
- 18 Girl's name
- 19 "_____ was wicked" (Genesis 38:7)
- 20 _____ Christian Anderson
- 21 "We remember the fish which we did eat freely in Egypt ... and the leeks, and the _____, and the garlick" (Numbers 11:5)
- 23 A celebration
- 25 Perform
- 26 Article
- 28 Osmium, chem. symbol
- 29 A deep breath
- 31 Taxis
- 32 "A serpent _____ him" (Amos 5:19)
- 33 Group of three
- 34 "I will not _____ out his name" (Revelation 3:5)
- 35 Single, prefix
- 36 Recover strength
- 37 "How long will it be _____ they attain to innocence?" (Hosea 8:5)



#048

- 38 Executive order, abbr.
- 40 "I will _____ of mercy and judgment: unto thee, O Lord" (Psalms 101:1)
- 42 Library numbering system, abbr.
- 44 "There shall be no _____ on the vine" (Jeremiah 8:13)
- 48 Compass point
- 49 "As the _____ among thorns, so is my love among the daughters" (Song of Sol. 2:2)
- 50 "It is a _____ thing that the king requireth" (Daniel 2:11)
- 51 "For _____ so loved the world" (John 3:16)
- 7 "Behold the _____ and the wood: but where is the lamb?" (Genesis 22:7)
- 8 "Whosoever believeth on him should not perish, but have _____ life" (John 3:16)
- 10 Bismuth, chem. symbol
- 14 Old Testament prophet
- 15 The person we are to love the same as we love ourselves
- 17 Science of the mind
- 22 Southern continent, abbr.
- 24 Cut of meat
- 25 Nimble
- 26 Story
- 27 This, Sp.
- 29 Casual walk
- 30 Hero of David's guard (1 Chronicles 11:40)
- 31 Type of radio
- 32 Purchasing
- 39 "Break also the _____" (Amos 1:5)
- 41 New, prefix
- 43 101, Romans num.
- 45 Ma's mate
- 46 More, suffix
- 47 Compass point

#047



Down

- 1 Value
- 2 Man who conspired against Moses (Numbers 16:1)
- 3 Son of Esau (Genesis 36:11)
- 4 "Called the altar _____" (Joshua 22:34)
- 5 Paget's father (Numbers 1:13)
- 6 "Why seek ye the _____ among the dead?" (Luke 24:5)

Oak Grove pastor Hunt dies at 67

Daniel Hunt Sr., pastor of Faith Family Ministries in Oak Grove, died on Tuesday, Oct. 6, in Nashville. He was 67.

Hunt had been battling cancer for more than a year. He was preceded in death by his wife, Sharon Morrison, in 2013.

He was a church planter with the Kentucky Baptist Convention and a former pastor of Beech Grove, Elk Horn and New Covenant Baptist churches, among others. Faith Family Ministries was the fourth church he planted. His heart there was with reaching and discipling military members and their

families.

A graduate of Campbellsville College, he previously served in the United States Navy, serving active duty in Vietnam.

While in school, he was pastor of his first church, outside of Cattlesburg. Additionally, he studied at the Criswell Center in Dallas, Tex., and Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville.

He is survived by two sons, one daughter and grandchildren. Memorial contributions may go to Faith Family Ministries Mercy Ministry.



Daniel Hunt Sr.

CLASSIFIED ADS

SEEKING: Church seeking senior pastor who preaches the truth, teaches the word, locally and globally mission-minded, relates to all walks of life, has a ministry degree, can work with a leadership team, and supports external interdenominational ministries. We are theologically and biblically conservative, a multi-racial, socially and economically diverse congregation, casual dress, contemporary worship service, with a wide spiritual maturity range. Resumes can be sent to: cfbcpastorsearch@gmail.com.

SEEKING: Duke Memorial Baptist Church of Somerset is seeking God's man to become their pastor. Previous pastor of 22 years retired due to physical disability. We will receive only printed resumes until 12/31/15. Address is 106 Layman Ave., Somerset, KY 42503.

SEEKING: Providence Knob Baptist Church in Warren County, Ky., is seeking a bivocational pastor. Send resume to pkbc-search@yahoo.com or mail to PKBC, P.O. Box 54, Rockfield, KY 42274.

SEEKING: Bivocational/retired pastor. Small, eastern Jefferson County church, searching for part-time minister. A contributing member of KBC and LRBA. Salary offered \$100/week. Send resume to First Baptist Church of Eastwood, P.O. Box 103, Eastwood, KY 40018.

SEEKING: Garner Missionary Baptist Church in Rush, Ky.: multiple ministry church seeking pastor. Average attendance 200. Send resume to P.O. Box 630, Catlettsburg, KY 41129-0630.

SEEKING: Union Missionary Baptist Church in Morgantown, Ky., is seeking a bivocational pastor to fill our pulpit. We are looking for someone eager to serve God and do His will. Duties include Sunday morning service, Wednesday night Bible study, visitation and occasional Sunday afternoon service at the local nursing home. Resumes can be sent to jongivens78@yahoo.com.

SEEKING: Bethel Baptist Church, Norman, Okla., is seeking a full-time senior pastor. Located approximately one mile from the University of Oklahoma, we are a conservative Southern Baptist church that supports the Cooperative Program. Email resumes to bbnormanps@gmail.com, or send to Pastor Search Committee, Bethel Baptist Church, 1717 W. Lindsey St., Norman, OK 73069.

SEEKING: Part-time director of music ministry position available at First Baptist Church Cold Spring, Ky., to serve the church by coordinating and administering an effective music program by blending contemporary and traditional music at the 10:30 am and 6 p.m. Sunday and Wednesday evening services. Please send cover letter, resume and references to Music Ministry Search Team at 4410 Alexandria Pike, Cold Spring, KY 41076. Job description

available at <http://fbccs.com>.

SEEKING: Welfare Baptist Church, Jamestown, Ky. is prayerfully seeking a bivocational pastor for small congregation. Please send resume and CD/DVD, if available, to Welfare Baptist Search Committee, P.O. Box 904, Jamestown, KY 42629.

SEEKING: Springfield Baptist Church is accepting applications for pastor. Resumes accepted until Nov. 20. P.O. Box 286 Springfield, KY 40069.

SEEKING: Salyersville First Baptist Church, Salyersville, KY 41465, is seeking a full-time pastor. Resumes may be emailed to Salyersvillefbcc@hotmail.com.

SEEKING: Crestwood Baptist in Frankfort is seeking a pastor. Applications available at www.crestwoodbaptist.com. Can be completed online or mailed to Pastor Search, Crestwood Baptist Church, 1006 E. Main St., Frankfort, KY 40601, or emailed to doerther@crestwoodbaptist.com.

SEEKING: First Baptist Church, Oneida, Tenn., is accepting resumes for pastor. We are a Southern Baptist Church and committed to sharing the gospel and mission work. After 14 years of service our pastor is retiring. Send inquiries and resumes to: FBC Oneida, Pastor Search Committee, P.O. Box 4067, Oneida, TN 37841, or e-mail resume to: smarcum@marcumlaw.net.

SEEKING: Full-time senior pastor. First Baptist Church Shepherdsville, established in 1837. Accepting resumes: Pastor Search Committee, First Baptist Church, Shepherdsville, 254 Buckman St., Shepherdsville KY 40165.

SEEKING: Pleasant Hill Baptist Church is accepting applications for pastor. Pleasant Hill is a conservative church in Somerset, Ky., that accepts the Baptist Faith and Message 2000 as its statement of beliefs. Resumes and recommendations will be accepted through Dec. 15 and should be submitted electronically to phbcpastorsearch@gmail.com.

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101-year-old's salvation caps wife's 24-year prayer

By Brian Blackwell

Alexandria, La.—Lou Warshaw prayed for 24 years that her husband George would accept Christ as his Lord and Savior. After years of refusing to give up on the hope that he would become a Christian, God answered her prayers when, at the age of 101, George made that decision and followed through with believer's baptism.

"The devil kept telling me it wouldn't happen," Lou said, admitting to times when her faith was tested. "But I kept believing God would let it happen. I think I'm still on cloud nine."

George's conversion story began on July 24, 1991, when he and Lou became husband and wife. The two were of different faiths; George was a Jewish non-believer; Lou was a Christian.

Even so, George attended Calvary Baptist Church in Alexandria, La., most Sundays with Lou, where she was a member. They sat in the same pew every Sunday for worship and then attended a Bible study class.

Lou and other friends never pushed their faith on George through the years but showed him Christian love and prayed that he would come to know Christ.

In recent months, George had become unable to continue attending Calvary or even living at his residence with Lou, so he went into the Veterans Affairs Nursing Home in nearby Pineville but still remained in constant contact with Calvary members and staff.

In late June, questions he asked about the Christian faith were more frequent and, on July 10, George asked David

Boothe, his longtime Sunday School teacher, to visit him.

Boothe said the conversation "moved to that of denomination and (Lou) and I both explained to him that being a member of a denomination doesn't mean anything as far as a relationship with God."

"We told him you have to get your relationship with God straightened out, and the way you do that is trusting in God. We talked some more and he said he wanted to accept Christ."

Three weeks later, Lou was at the VA Nursing Home for a moment flowing from her intercession for George. Surrounded by friends and family who had prayed and never given up hope that he would accept Christ, George was baptized.

Since he was too weak to undergo baptism by immersion, Boothe and Calvary pastor David Brooks jointly baptized George using water from the Jordan River that Brooks had collected during a trip to the Holy Land.

Brooks described Lou as a perfect example of a Christ-like follower who obeys Christ's commandments even when the situation seems hopeless.

"She prayed for him for years and lived out an exceptional Christian life in front of him," Brooks said.

"It is a great lesson to be persistent in praying for the salvation of anyone and witnessing to them. And never underestimate living a Christ-like life 24-7 in front of your family members. You never know the impact your life will have on them."

Since his conversion and baptism, Lou and George read the Bible when they are together during her visits at the nursing home.



David Boothe (left) and David Brooks jointly baptized George Warshaw, who accepted Christ after his wife Lou and others prayed for him and showed Christian love for 24 years.

"It is a great lesson to be persistent in praying for the salvation of anyone and witnessing to them, Brooks said. 'And never underestimate living a Christ-like life 24-7 in front of your family members. You never know the impact your life will have on them.'"

Boothe is the teacher of his Bible study group at Calvary Baptist Church in Alexandria, La., and Brooks is his pastor. (Photo courtesy of Calvary Baptist Church)

"He can't see well anymore, so I read him the Bible for a long time when I'm at the nursing home with him," Lou said. "I really didn't know he would love to hear the Bible as much as he does. It's like he has a hunger for it."

George's baptism portrays a lesson Lou for Christians who have witnessed to a

non-believer for many years: "Keep praying and believe God will answer your prayers."

"Just stay with it," she said. "God's time is not our time. When the time is right, He will answer your prayer." (BP)

Lecrae's latest accolade: Artist of the Year

By Art Toalston

Nashville—Lecrae, called "one of the leading lights in the gospel-rap movement" by Billboard, was named Artist of the Year at the 46th annual Dove Awards, Oct. 12 in Nashville.

It marks the first time the top award has gone to "a rapper," according to The Tennessean, though the newspaper added a qualification: "rap-pop artist" TobyMac was named Artist of the Year in 2008.

Lecrae also won Dove Awards for Rap/Hip Hop Album of the Year for his 2014 release "Anomaly" and song of the year, "All I Need is You," in the same genre among 40-plus categories.

Other winners included:

■ for King & Country, Contemporary Christian Artist of the Year.

■ Michael W. Smith, Christmas Album of the Year for last year's "The Spirit of Christmas."

■ Gaither Vocal Band, Southern Gospel Artist of the Year.

■ Oak Ridge Boys, Country Song of the Year, "Sweet Jesus" with Merle Haggard.

Lauren Daigle, from Lafayette, La., was named New Artist of the Year while her song "How Can It Be" was named Pop/Contemporary Song of the Year.

Co-hosts for the awards ceremony were Sadie Robertson of the "Duck Dynasty" TV series and author of "Live Original: How the Duck Commander Teen Keeps It Real



and Stays True to Her Values," and Erica Campbell, five-time Grammy winner and WEtv star of "Mary Mary." Campbell garnered a Dove Award for Contemporary/Gospel/Urban Song of the Year for "I Luh God."

The ceremony was held in Nashville at Lipscomb University's Allen Arena.

Daniel Woodman, a journalism student at the University of Missouri who served as Baptist Press' summer intern, noted, "Lecrae is important as an artist because he is the bridge between Christianity and the culture of our youth."

"Through his music he addresses issues that are hard to talk about, from racism to sexual abuse, in a relevant manner that relates to us, the youth in America especially," Woodman said in written comments. "Lecrae's Artist of the Year award not only signifies his musical talent, but his ability to bring Christ to our culture in a way that touches believers and non-believers alike. He is the transcendent art-

ist of our generation."

Lecrae, who had a tour date in California, accepted the Artist of the Year honor by video.

The 36-year-old's music has garnered multiple awards, including a Grammy for Best Contemporary Christian Music Performance/Song in February and earlier Dove Awards for rap/hip hop album and song of the year. Anomaly, his seventh album, premiered last year atop the Billboard 200 Album Chart and Gospel Album Chart—the first-ever to do so in both genres, in addition to topping several other Billboard categories.

A book by Lecrae, titled "Unashamed," is slated for a May 2016 release by the B&H Publishing Group of LifeWay Christian Resources of the Southern Baptist Convention. According to a LifeWay news report, Lecrae will write of how his Christian faith lifted him from a difficult past that included childhood abuse and struggles with drugs and alcoholism.

"As an artist, my ambition is to make honest music, and I feel the same way about writing this book," Lecrae said. "I want to be honest about where I've come from and what I've learned along the way. I want to influence culture, to help catalyze and inspire, and help other people find understanding. If they find some inspiration and some clarity for their own lives, as they follow my journey, then I will have succeeded." (BP)

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