

WESTERN Recorder

November 3, 2015

Shine Like Stars * Philippians 2:15

Volume 189, Issue 22

Platt live stream addresses IMB reset

By David Roach

Richmond, Va.—Restoring the International Mission Board to full financial health will be a long process that requires patience among Southern Baptists and the cooperation of local churches through a variety of avenues, IMB President David Platt said Oct. 27 during a live stream question and answer session.

Addressing a live audience that tuned in using more than 1,500 separate electronic devices, Platt reiterated the IMB's need to reduce by 600-800 its total number of field personnel and staff in light of spending \$210 million more than Southern Baptists have given since 2010.

Reserve funds and proceeds from property sales made up the difference, he said, and no debt was incurred.

Despite the sobering financial report, Platt said the future of Southern Baptist missions is not "a dismal picture."

"I want to reframe" negative prognostications "based on reality," Platt said.

"When I think about (the) SBC, I don't think decline. Yes, we've got challenges in the culture we're in and when it comes to reaching people in the culture and seeing them baptized. ... At the same time, know this: the global witness that God is providing the nations through the SBC right now is nothing short of awesome."

He expressed appreciation that "churches' giving to the IMB through (the)

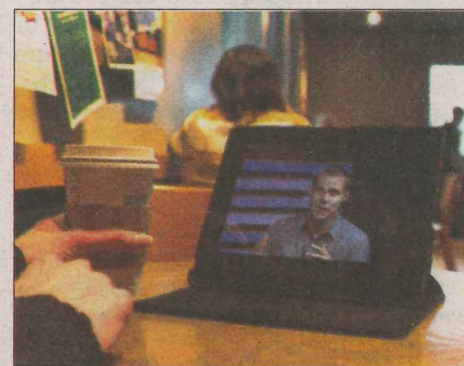
Lottie Moon (Christmas Offering for International Missions) and (the) Cooperative Program actually increased over the last couple of years." Platt's goal, he said, "is in no way to shame the churches and say, 'If you just gave more, we wouldn't have to do this.'"

Still, as the IMB downsizes its missionary force through a voluntary retirement program and other voluntary resignation options, Platt answered questions submitted via Twitter and Facebook about how local churches can help improve the organization's financial situation.

Among the questions submitted:

■ "How would you advise our church to

□ See Platt live stream ... Page 7



International Mission Board President David Platt speaks to Southern Baptists during an IMB-hosted live stream to discuss present challenges and future vision for IMB. (IMB photo by Chris Carter)

DR volunteers from 15 states respond to S.C. flooding

By Joe Conway

Charleston—Hundreds of Southern Baptist Disaster Relief volunteers have provided significant service in South Carolina to survivors of flooding that impacted the state in early October. SBDR leaders said they are encouraged by the outpouring of service and sacrifice.

"I am so thankful for the volunteers from many states who are willing to provide the help needed in the recovery process for those affected by the flooding," said Mickey Caison, North American Mission Board interim executive director for Disaster Relief.

"The government leaders and emergency managers in the communities affected have expressed their deep appreciation of Southern Baptist Disaster Relief's ministry and volunteers who are so compassionate. Discussions have begun with community leaders about the need for rebuilding of homes in the flooded communities," Caison said.

As of Oct. 22, SBDR volunteers from 15 states have been engaged in ministry in four primary areas of the state. A total of 493 homes have been assessed for recovery, mud-out or rebuild. To date, 577 homeowner assistance tasks have been completed, which include everything from minor cleanup to more extensive projects. Nearly 70,000 meals have been prepared in the response.

In preliminary reporting SBDR volunteers and chaplains have made at least 348 gospel presentations. Thirty-five individuals have responded with professions of faith in Christ.

□ See Volunteers ... Page 7



Water rescue volunteers ferry Helen Brunson and bins filled with items retrieved from her mobile home across her yard where flood waters rose more than four-feet high just days earlier, while her husband, Larry, was at work. Steve Shumake, (in yellow shirt), minister of music at Grace Baptist Church, which housed disaster relief teams from Kentucky, coordinated relief efforts in Sumter. (Photo by Todd Deaton)

Ky. flood recovery crews bring hope to Sumter residents

By Todd Deaton

Sumter, S.C.—"Is it at the first step?"

"Yes!"

"Is it at the second step yet?"

"Yes!"

"Is it at the third step now?"

"Yes!"

The panic in Helen Brunson's voice rose with the water level each time she replied to her husband, Larry, who was still at his

job as a security guard.

When Helen finally made the decision to leave her home on Queens Chapel Road, the water in her yard was more than four feet deep and still rising. Helen, who stands a tad over five feet tall, grabbed her Bible, tucked it under her arm, found her purse, and waded through the cold, chest-deep water, as rain continued to fall.

"The farther out you went, the lower the ground became and the deeper the

water was," she recalled. "When it got up to my chest, I said, 'Lord, I'm going to turn back.'"

"But the Lord said to me, 'I'm going to walk you out of here, and I'll be there with you through the water,'" Helen said, bearing testimony to God's goodness.

"I'm not going back there," she told the three disaster relief volunteers, reliving her terror as she stepped into the small

□ See Ky. crews bring hope ... Page 8

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Western Recorder 11-03-2015

Kentucky pastor to revitalize theological education in Zimbabwe

By Craig Sanders

Louisville—Nick Moore, his wife, Kyndra, and the couple's seven children are moving to Zimbabwe.

Their announcement at the International Mission Board's May commissioning service at Highview Baptist East in Louisville garnered a collective gasp throughout the auditorium.

"We're trying to show that when God calls you and makes it clear that you are called, He will provide the way for that to happen," said Moore, 30, a two-time alumnus of Southern Seminary. "Don't limit God's ability to make a way where it seems there might not be a way."

The IMB is sending Moore to help revitalize the Baptist Theological Seminary of Zimbabwe, which has struggled since national Baptist leaders forced out a liberal principal in 2011 for refusing to adhere to the 2000 Baptist Faith and Message.

Moore said his goal as a professor at the seminary is to become part of a conservative resurgence in Zimbabwe by grooming national leadership for the institution, strengthening academic offerings, and mobilizing national church planters. But he will also face many practical challenges such as restoring electricity to the seminary because it is currently in debt to the power company.

When he made his first trip to Africa in 2009, he realized the "need for theological education overseas" and used 2 Timothy 2:2 as an inspiration to go to the nations and train leaders. With the IMB's re-focused efforts toward theological education, Moore saw an opportunity for full-time ministry in Zimbabwe.

While some may marvel at the sacrifices Moore and his family are making, he says he has grown accustomed to handling challenges. Moore married Kyndra at the end of his first semester at Boyce College in 2003 and worked a handful of



Nick Moore, his wife, Kyndra, and the couple's seven children are serving with the IMB to help revitalize a Baptist seminary in Zimbabwe. (SBTS photo by Emil Handke)

jobs to support his growing family while continuing his education.

After graduating from Boyce (2007) and earning his M.Div. from Southern (2010), Moore led the launch of Redemption Hill Baptist Church in Fisherville, in 2012. He served as the lead pastor while working on his Ph.D. in Old Testament Theology. Recently finding new leadership to replace

him at Redemption Hill was the "final peg" in Moore's decision before he accepted the call earlier this year to move his family of nine to Zimbabwe.

Moore, whose seven children range in age from 10 to 1, hopes his family's obedience to the Great Commission will serve as an example and encouragement for other families, no matter their size.

"Trust God to open the doors as you step forward in faith," Moore said. "If God calls you to do something, don't use the family size as an excuse not to be obedient."

Moore says Zimbabwe is a "great place to raise a family" and his large family will actually be an asset in ministering to the culture. He plans to remain in Zimbabwe for three to four years before returning stateside to finish his Ph.D. at Southern and then going back to the mission field.

For info on the Moore family and to receive updates on their service, email pastornick130@gmail.com. (SBTS)

Kentucky's returning IMB missionaries: What's next?

By Myriah Snyder

Louisville—After 20 years on the field, Jeff and Kathy Deasy, missionaries to Nairobi, Kenya, felt lead to take the Voluntary Retirement Incentive.

They are one couple out of many who have chosen to take the VRI offered by the International Mission Board as a first step to resolve the organization's financial troubles.

"The goal of the plan is to offer as generous of a voluntary retirement incentive as possible, while honoring the years of service of those eligible and providing a smooth transition from personnel's current role," IMB's website said. The incentive was offered to all eligible staff and active, career missionaries age 50 and older with five or more years of service.

"When the VRI was announced, we really didn't think we'd take it. We're only in our 50s," Kathy said. "We probably would have never even considered returning to the states had this never happened, but God used this, I think, in our lives to get us where He wanted us at the right time."

The Deasys were appointed to the field in 1995. They began their ministry as music missionaries in Brazil. They worked in Tanzania for a time before moving to Kenya to teach music at the Kenyan Baptist Theological College. Currently, they serve in missionary logistics in Nairobi.

Factors that played into their decision to take the VRI was their health and the health of Jeff's aging mother in a nursing care facility.

"This isn't something we saw coming, hoped for, or even prayed for, but when we prayed about it, we just knew that this was God saying it's time for you to move the home base back to America," Kathy said.

"Right now we are seeing that God is calling us back to America. How that's going to play out, we don't know. I'm putting out resumes. We still feel very called

to stay in ministry. I would love to find a church where I could do music or administration and I'd love to find that in Kentucky, but we're open to wherever God leads," Jeff said.

"We feel like we are doing what the IMB needs to help the board move forward," he said.

Kathy added, "If we can further the gospel by stepping off the field and moving our home base back home, then we need to be open to doing that, because the main thing is getting the gospel to the world. We know God will have a plan to work it all out for good."

Similarly Wayne and Barbara Myers, who have been on the field in Swaziland for 22 years, will be returning to the states. They are Kentucky natives, graduates of Cumberland College (now University of the Cumberlands) and in their early 60s.

"We've lived in the bush, so to speak, for 22 years," Wayne said. His concentration has been with the youth and adults while Barbara has focused on the children of Swaziland.

Their central ministry has been church planting. When they arrived, the country had three Baptist

churches. Today, there are more than 35.

"I know it was very devastating for Wayne, because he loves his work; he loves the Swazi people. For me, I was surprised and hurt at first," Barbara said.

"I think we are working through our emotions," she continued. "I think now I've come to the point that I'm eager to see what the Lord is going to do next."

"We are wide open to whatever door the Lord might open, whether it be director of missions somewhere or pastor or some ministry," Wayne said.

He added, "I'm not ready to retire, let's see where the Lord wants us to be and what He wants us to do. We'll follow Him wherever He opens the door."

"What next?" is a question facing Kentucky Baptists as these and other

missionaries leave the field and return to the states. What can Kentucky Baptists do next to help these Kingdom servants during their transition?

Adapting "12 ways to assist returning Southern Baptist missionaries" by Chuck Lawless, Kentucky WMU has some suggestions to help Kentucky's returning missionaries.

These proposed ways include practical things like prayer, lending a car or a guest

□ See *Returning missionaries* ... Page 3



Barbara and Wayne Myers



Kathy and Jeff Deasy

WESTERN Recorder

SHINE LIKE THE STARS

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Join the party at the
Western Recorder display
table in the KBC Exhibit Hall

Prestonsburg woman praises God after heart transplant

By Myriah Snyder

Prestonsburg—Pastor's wife, pianist and ladies' ministry leader at Prestonsburg's First Baptist Church, Pam Workman, was diagnosed with severe in-stage biventricular heart failure on Aug. 18, 2014. After having stints put in, various operations and medications for nearly a year, she was told that the only way she would survive was to have a transplant.

"My doctor told me we were going to have to do something now. My heart just wasn't getting any better. I was close to dying," Workman said.

"All in all, I knew that God was in control of the whole thing. My church started praying. Everybody was spreading the word to pray for me," she continued.

"One of the things that really

impressed me about it is how God has worked even in our church. It's had such a positive effect on the church and people just coming together and praying," Jerry, her husband, shared.



Pam Workman

The doctor explained to her husband that she "had to make up her own mind because she was the one who had to go through the whole thing."

"My goal is eventually to be a grandmother. And I thought, how can I be a grandmother if I'm not even here? So I had to rethink everything and put it in perspective," Workman said.

She continued, "I wanted to be the best pastor's wife I could be; I wanted to be able to work in my church. I had to give up the women's ministry; I had to give up playing the piano. I knew I wanted to get back involved in everything."

"I just poured out my heart and asked

God to help me with this. I said, 'You're in control. If this is it, I need to accept it,'" she recounted.

"That night I slept so well and I woke up with the best peace that I have ever had in my life. It's as if you're really cold and you walk out to this warm sunshine, and it just bathes over you," she said. "That was the most wonderful feeling that I've ever had, and I knew this was the right thing to do."

She shared her thoughts with her husband, and soon after a week of tests, she was on the list for a new heart. They were told that it would be six months to a year before she would receive one.

But a week later, Jerry received a call that they had a heart ready for her.

"My first thought was I'm not ready. But God knew I was ready, and I knew He was ready because it was His timing," Workman said. "We were excited because it was like I was going to get my life back."

"I remember, when I was laying on the table and they were going to put me

to sleep, telling God this was just me and Him," she shared. "It's like He was standing right there beside me. I felt so at peace with Him," she continued.

Her family rallied around her at the hospital. The surgery took place in the early hours of July 28. Within hours she was breathing on her own, her body had accepted the heart and she was worrying about whether her family had eaten or not.

Her road to recovery will be a process, but on Oct. 11, she played the piano at church for the first time.

"I felt like I had come home again. My husband said 'I think you're back.' I agreed. I'm back," Workman reminisced.

"Personally, I was being brought to the point where I just totally had to lean on God beyond anything else," Jerry added.

"I can't get enough of the good things of God now. I feel like He has just brought me so far. I feel so close to Him with joy now. I want everybody to feel what I'm feeling," Workman said. (WR)

Churches welcome proposed legislation to help abandoned infants

By Robin Cornetel

Frankfort—A Kentucky lawmaker is proposing legislation that would add churches to the list of safe havens where unwanted babies can be dropped off without law enforcement being notified.

Paul Chitwood, executive director of the Kentucky Baptist Convention, welcomed the proposed legislation.

"Kentucky Baptists are committed to doing everything we can to care for hurting families and hurting children," Chitwood said.

"Our churches would not only be willing to be drop off points under a Safe Haven Law, they would want to be that kind of refuge for mothers and children in a time of crisis," he said. "We want to help."

The Kentucky Baptist Convention is a cooperating group of nearly 2,400 churches in Kentucky.

The bill, proposed by Representative Donna Mayfield, R-Winchester, adds staffed churches to Kentucky Safe Infants Act that went into effect in April 2002.

The current law considers only police, fire and ambulance stations that are staffed, and hospital emergency rooms as safe havens.

Under the current law, after a baby has been left with a person at a safe haven, they are required to seek medical treatment at a hospital.

After the baby is treated, contact is made with the Kentucky Cabinet for Health and Family Services.

If the biological parent or parents do not contact the cabinet within 30 days,

legal proceedings are taken to involuntarily end their parental rights, and the cabinet will put the child up for adoption.

"Often when a person is in a situation where they believe there is no hope for them or their child, they will seek comfort and relief at a local church," said Rep. Mayfield. Because of what the church represents in those situations, especially in cases where a parent wants to give up their newborn baby, they should be included as a safe haven under Kentucky law to protect the life of the child, and the identity of the parents."

Mayfield's bill is supported by child advocate groups and religious organiza-

tions across the Commonwealth.

"We at Kentucky Youth Advocates believe every child deserves a family in which they can be safe and nurtured."

"This bill recognizes the important role faith communities can play in achieving that reality," said Terry Brooks, executive director at Kentucky Youth Advocates.

Baptists aren't the only religious group that favors the proposed legislation.

"Particularly in rural areas that are currently underserved, this bill has the potential to provide essential, even life-saving options for young women in very difficult circumstances," said Jason Hall, executive director of the Catholic Conference of Kentucky.

The legislation also would give immunity from both civil and criminal prosecution for the person or persons who accept the baby at a safe haven. (KBC)

Returning missionaries

Continued from page 2

room, or providing financial support. They also include providing ministry or other jobs for the missionaries returning home.

Another "next" step, according to Kentucky WMU, is to help ensure that this never has to happen again. Prayer, again, is key in this endeavor.

Supporting and implementing missions education so that the next generation understands the importance of missions is another way to help, said WMU Executive Director Joy Bolton.

Giving generously to the Cooperative Program through the local church and missions offerings as well as leading the church to increase giving also are key ways that Kentucky Baptists can do their part, Bolton urged.

"I don't think you ever stop doing missions if you're a missionary, but we'll do it from there instead of from here," Kathy said. (WR)

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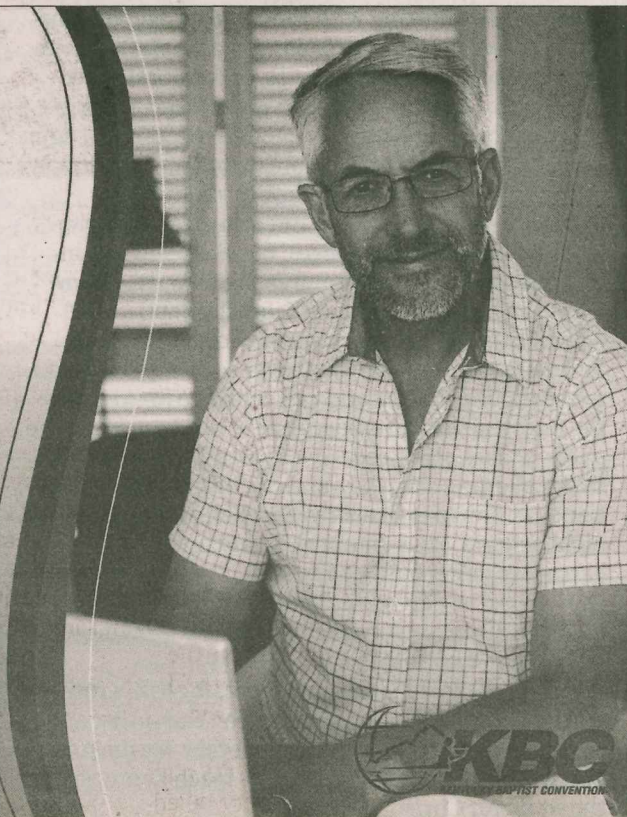
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The future is bright

Having recently recounted the rich history of the Kentucky Baptist Convention and presented a case for why the KBC still exists today, I want to look toward the future. Will the state convention continue to be relevant moving forward? Why or why not?

Elton Trueblood first popularized the term "post-denominational" in 1967. In an article appearing in *Christianity Today*, Trueblood stated, "If we are truly conscious of what time it is, one of the chief facts we must know is that, so far as the Christian religion is concerned, we are in a post-denominational age." Nearly 50 years have passed since Trueblood made that statement, and we still have our denominations. But for how long?

Together We are the KBC



Paul Chitwood

I grew up reaping the benefits of denominational life without realizing it. For example, my Sunday School literature and offering envelopes were produced by the denomination. The hymnals and pew Bibles were from the denomination. Most of the songs the choir sang were published and provided by the denomination. My pastor was educated by the denominational seminary. My youth pastor was being educated at a denominational Bible college. Most of my family members who went to college

attended the school we now know as the University of the Cumberlands, an institution supported by the denomination. I attended summer camps built and staffed by the denomination and youth events sponsored by the denomination. I learned about missions from missionaries supported by the denomination. While some of that has changed, much of it has not. But that isn't meant to suggest things are staying the same.

In fact, the reorientation of American religious life—and of Southern Baptist life—seems to be accelerating. Beginning with the reorganization of the International Mission Board, the North American Mission Board, and many of our state conventions, the advancement of the Great Commission Resurgence agenda at the national convention, state conventions, and even in many local Baptist associations is deeply impacting resources, personnel, organizational structure, and even the basic missions assignments. Thrown into that mix, a host of retirements marking the generational transition of leadership, and the shrinking financial commitments of local churches to the Cooperative Program means everything about denominational life seems to be in flux.

I contend, however, that one of the greatest changes we are experiencing is the diminishing understanding of and interest in the Kingdom role of the denomination. Some have hastily and, I would argue, wrongly dismissed it as irrelevant. Some church leaders see it as financially competing with their budget agendas and have chosen to redirect mission funds to staff salaries, funding volunteer mission trips, or countless other ministries. Some have failed to understand the principle that brought Kentucky Baptists together to begin with, i.e., we really can do more together. Some simply refuse to exhibit the kind of loyalty required for denominational structures and ministries to thrive.

In spite of these challenges, the state convention will continue to be relevant moving forward. I know this to be true because most Kentucky Baptists still believe in working together, and because the needs that were addressed by the churches that formed state conventions still exist and will continue to exist into the foreseeable future. Baptists still need a voice in the public square, still need to work together to be effective at planting churches, and can be much more efficient in ministries like disaster relief, orphan care, and higher education as churches organize themselves and partner together on the state level. The need of churches to be part of a tribe connected by common theological and missional convictions is growing rather than diminishing.

For all of these reasons and more, the KBC's future is bright. Kentucky Baptists still need each other and remain committed to working together. My prayer is that God will continue to use us to reach Kentucky and the world for Christ.

We're celebrating 190 years of Ky. Baptist news

Imagine a world with no state Baptist newspapers. It could well happen. And while you are at it, you might as well picture a world with less Baptist news, and perhaps a few promotional stories containing only information that some may want you to know.

This month, we begin celebrating the 190th anniversary of Kentucky Baptist newspapers. Our theme is "Celebrating 190 years of shining the light through what we write."

Among the earliest Baptist newspapers in Kentucky, *The Baptist Recorder*, was first published in December 1825. It only survived a few years. But undeterred, other editors took up the mantle. By 1834, *The Baptist Banner* emerged, and it would become the *Western Recorder* in 1851, so named because its circulation spanned from Kentucky westward.

The *Western Recorder* has been publishing continuously ever since, conveying Baptist news and unifying Kentucky churches in missions and ministry. We officially joined the Kentucky Baptist Convention family in 1919, though we were serving its churches and associations long before then.

Today, the internet has exploded in popularity. State Baptist newspapers were optimistic at first—perhaps overly so, in hindsight—as they rushed to give away their content online. That trend began shifting recently as more and more newspapers erected "pay walls," which require a reader to subscribe to see content that their news writers generate.

There's a reason for that shift. It's because reporting is an expensive task, and newspapers still do the bulk of uncovering facts that undergird stories, from covering national and state Baptist events all the way to covering your local church happenings. Without state Baptist newspapers, few may ever hear about what local churches are doing for the cause of Christ in their communities and associations.

A recent Kentucky Era article reported that The Pew Research Center's Project for Excellence in Journalism conducted a study of the "news ecosystem" in

Baltimore in 2010. The study looked at six key storylines and where the news had originated. Of the stories that contained new information, 95 percent came from traditional media, mostly newspapers. The study concluded that new media such as Twitter, blogs and Facebook "played only a limited role: mainly as an alert system and a way to disseminate stories from other places."

The same is true of your Baptist news sources, with the majority of new information coming through articles written by Baptist journalists, which are then disseminated through Baptist Press. Kentucky Baptists know they can trust the *Western Recorder* for reliable reporting, devoted to serving the churches.

Despite state Baptist newspapers serving as the primary source for news in many state conventions, recent trends paint a stark picture. Nationally, Baptist newspaper readership continues to fall, including that of your *Western Recorder's*. Without your church's subscriptions, the day may soon come when your Baptist newspaper will be in jeopardy—like those in some neighboring states, which are now published only online.

Although newspapers continue to report more church news, reach more Baptist households and impact our state convention more than any other medium, including the

Internet. Southern Baptist newspapers, especially on the economic front, are facing some serious challenges as printing and mailing costs continue to escalate while their Cooperative Program allocations dwindle.

Your Kentucky Baptist newspaper has been around since 1825 in Kentucky, making it the second oldest continuously published denominational newspaper in the nation.

With God's grace, we're not planning on ceasing publication anytime soon. But, truth be told, we need more subscribers. We need YOU! We are grateful for your faithful readership through all these 190 years, and we're as committed today as we were back then to "shining the light through what we write."

WESTERN RECORDER

Celebrating 190 years of "shining the light through what we write"

Consider calling a returning missionary

By Doug Munton

With the downsizing of the International Mission Board by up to 800 people, many longtime missionaries will be looking for ministry opportunities in the States.

While they will be leaving the mission field (after some difficult and painful decisions), they still want to serve the cause of Christ in ministry.

Might Southern Baptist churches consider them when seeking a pastor and church staff member?

Here are three reasons why:

1. They are willing to do hard things. Sacrifice is not foreign to them. You won't have to wonder if

they are willing to do difficult tasks or take on difficult challenges. They have proven that they can work hard for little thanks. That says a great deal about their work ethic and their character.

2. They know how to adapt and adjust to circumstances while remaining faithful to God's Word.

They can help your church understand the changing culture around them while staying faithful to what God teaches. They can help you walk through any necessary changes without losing focus on God's unchanging Word.

3. They have demonstrated a willingness to put God first in their lives. You will feel confident that

they are about God's Kingdom and not their own. Their sacrifices suggest they consider the things of God greater than their own comfort or fame. That is a strong recommendation.

Returning missionaries will have some adjustments to make. They will be working through the pain of leaving a field they cared deeply about. Coming back to the States will bring some challenges. But they have faced challenges before.

If your church is seeking a pastor or other vocational ministry leader, why not consider a missionary who is returning from the field? The Lord may have made them available to us for such a time as this. (BP)

Doug Munton is senior pastor of First Baptist Church in O'Fallon, Ill.

WESTERN Recorder

Shine Like Stars *Philippians 2:15

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

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

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

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Letters to the editor:

The Baptist Forum section of the *Western Recorder* provides an opportunity for Kentucky Baptists to express their viewpoints. Opinions expressed do not necessarily reflect those of the *Western Recorder's* editorial staff, its Board of Directors, or the Kentucky Baptist Convention.

Letters should be no more than 300 words in length and will be edited for style, clarity and space.

Letters must reflect a spirit of Christian charity and civility.

What are we going to do?

By Nate Adams

I remember vividly my dad talking about the final hours he spent with his mother in the hospital before she died. Grandma was a devoted Christian and churchwoman, a member for more than 60 years of First Baptist Church of Murray, which played a key role in the birth of the Cooperative Program in 1925.

As she was coming to the end of her life and was only semi-conscious, Dad said grandma would occasionally rise up out of her hospital bed and say over and over, "What are we going to do? What are we going to do? What are we going to do?"

Then he said she would relax back into her pillow with these words: "I guess we'll just trust the Lord."

For devoted Southern Baptists, recent news from the International Mission Board that as many as 600 to 800 missionaries soon need to return from the mission field leads us to that same urgent question. What are we going to do?

The IMB has been drawing down on financial reserves and selling properties for years in order to keep as many missionaries on the field as possible. It has been an unsustainable situation that IMB leadership reports must now be corrected.

What are we going to do? I submit that trusting the Lord is still the best

and right answer. Let me suggest five specific ways we can do that.

First, we should pray. We should intercede for those in leadership at IMB as they make decisions, and for those missionaries and others who are affected by those decisions. We should pray for solutions, and for generosity from givers and churches, and for the Lord to send laborers into the harvest fields, even as it seems the opposite may be happening.

Second, we should trust the IMB trustees and executive staff to do their jobs. More than once over the years I have thought to myself that I would do things differently if I were in charge of some organi-

zation. Sometimes time proves me right, and sometimes time proves me wrong. But in our autonomous, cooperative family of churches we elect trustees to give oversight to the gifted and called leaders of our entities. They are closer to the facts, finances and circumstances than any of us. And the Bible says that one of the ways we trust the Lord is to trust the leaders He providentially allows to have positions of authority.

Third, we should renew and increase our churches' commitment to missions through the Cooperative Program. Even the higher levels of giving to the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering over the past decade apparently have not been enough to

prevent this downsizing of the missionary force. But 10 percent giving through the Cooperative Program would have. Nationally, CP giving from Southern Baptist churches has dropped from an average of 10 percent in 1989 to 5.5 percent in 2014. If churches' CP giving had continued to average at least 10 percent over those years, the number of international missionaries would have grown dramatically, along with the rest of our cooperative missions and ministries.

Fourth, we should of course consider giving our most generous gifts ever through the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering. IMB says that will not change the need for many of the missionaries to return home. But it may speed the rate at which they can be replaced.

Finally, as churches, associations, state conventions and individual Christians, we should look for ways to directly assist the missionaries returning stateside. Temporary housing, transportation, job placement and encouragement will be needed by returning missionary families.

Many of us were surprised at the need for these missionaries to return home. But God is not. And so let us answer that urgent question with one or all of these very tangible actions that demonstrate we are trusting the Lord. (BP)

Nate Adams is executive director of the Illinois Baptist State Association.

FIRST PERSON

Can church budgets be visionary & rewarding?

By Todd McMichen

The church budgeting process ranks fairly low on the list of a minister's most motivating and inspiring experiences. Pastors will line up to deliver a message, shepherd the hurting, pray for the wayward and lead the body forward. If a pastor is awake at night thinking of the budget, it's for the wrong reasons.

For many, the budgeting process begins with ministry leaders submitting their annual requests for funds. Some underestimate budget needs; others inflate numbers because they don't expect to receive the full request.

Once the numbers are in, the vetting begins. Unfortunately, this process is often shaped by fixed expenses and relational loyalties than most would like to admit. Tough decisions are always present, which can result in hurt feelings or a stressful extension of reasonable financial limits. Finally, the budget is sent to a financial business meeting for approval, where it's secretly hoped that few will show up to participate.

Does a visionary, rewarding budgeting process exist? If so, what does it look like?

Let's consider a different approach—one that can increase vision, disciple your people and set your church free from the bondage that sometimes accom-

panies money.

1. Begin with a season of prayer and fasting. Scripture teaches the tithe is holy to the Lord (Leviticus 27:30). This applies both to the one giving and the one spending. God grants you resources to use for His glory and to impact lives.

Your leadership needs to feel deep gratitude and responsibility before the process begins. Releasing ownership will change the language of the conversation from the beginning.

2. Recount how God has been at work in the past year. Where do you see the fruit of His hand or the anointing of His Spirit? Seeing the hand of God can provide a good indication of what He desires to do in the future.

Ultimately, you need to align your resources to support God's work. Acknowledging God's work will prevent personal agendas, subjective opinions and ministry silos from occurring. Released resources and the Spirit's leading create wonderful meetings.

3. Stand on the foundation of vision clarity and a well-defined discipleship strategy. No church is great at everything. Do you know what your church does better than others? God places unique people in communities for a specific period of time.

Your church has its own unique calling and it's not

supposed to compete with the congregation across town or mirror the church across the country. You are free to be you. This level of focus will cause your ministry to expand. It helps you say a powerful "yes" as well as a confident "no."

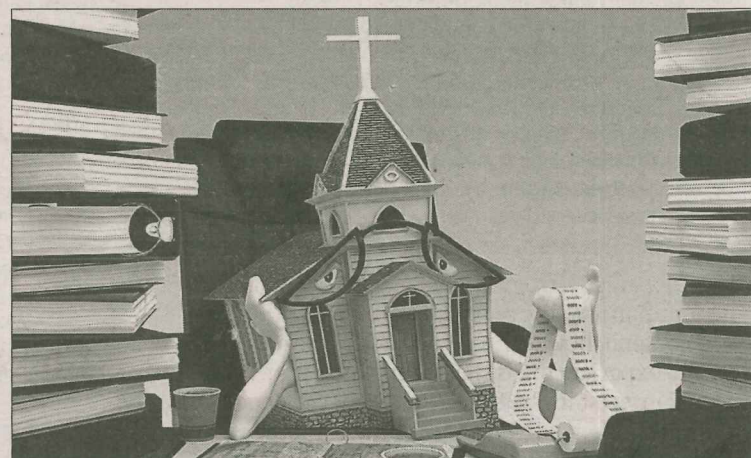
4. Learn your ROI. Do you know the impact of a dollar spent? Is your church investing the proper amount to gain the desired result to accomplish your dream? The longer a church exists, the more its budget grows. It's rare that a congregation evaluates an expense based on the return.

We tend to continually fund ministries long after they have lost effectiveness. Every ministry line is not mission critical and not all ministries are created to exist forever. The vision to glorify God and make disciples never changes, but strategy does.

5. Allow strength and strategy to lead. This may be a radical concept for most, but give consideration to each budget year starting with a blank slate by not encouraging each department to make its own financial requests. Instead, allow the activity of God, the vision strategy and a few select financially gifted people to create a solid business plan.

This doesn't mean collaboration and dialogue are removed. It simply means those with the

FIRST PERSON



giftedness should lead under the clear direction of the bigger picture vision.

6. Spend strategically, not simply less. Perhaps this is a shocking piece of advice: Create a spending plan that spends only 90 percent of your previous year's undesignated giving receipts. (This may take a few years to accomplish.)

Most churches increase their budget 3-15 percent annually. Why do we do this? "It's faith based and visionary," a pastor might say. In reality, it's far from visionary. It tends to create a lot of stress and can be careless, unfocused and demotivating. It creates a crisis money culture instead of a generous culture.

7. Plan to be surprised. Every year God will call you to become engaged in something you can't currently see. And, of course, there's always the possibility that something will break or wear out.

And then there's the next growth step that will need to be funded.

Prepare for what you can't currently see. Nothing is more financially freeing than cash reserves. It's a sure way to tell God "yes" before He ever asks you to go. But don't step over the line and hoard cash reserves. God gives you money to invest in His causes.

8. Inspire others with the vision investment plan. A well-designed spending plan and presentation should bring glory to God, affirm those who have invested, validate what the leaders have said in the past and inspire toward the future. It should raise generosity. A faith-filled expectation for the future inspires all.

Everything is a choice. As leaders, we choose the financial culture we create. Every conversation can be both a vision and discipleship conversation. It all depends on how you lead it. (BP)



Laurie Valentine

Reach your WORLD

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

**Kentucky
Baptist
Convention**

**Annual
Meeting**
Severns Valley
Baptist Church

November 10, 2015

2015 Report of the KBC Committee on Nominations

SPRING REPORT

KBC MISSION BOARD:

- Owen County (Region 5):** 2016 Unexpired Term - Jeremy Warren (Owenton)
- Ten Mile (Region 5):** 2017 Unexpired Term - David Foley (Dry Ridge)
- Union (Region 5):** 2015 Unexpired Term - Kevin Strausbaugh (Cynthiana)

BOARDS OF AGENCIES & INSTITUTIONS:

- Crossings Ministries (Trustee)**
2017 Unexpired Term [1]: Denis Tocci (Louisville)
- Oneida Baptist Institute (Trustee)**
2016 Unexpired Term [1]: Sharon Allen-Gay (Manchester)

FALL REPORT

KBC MISSION BOARD:

- At Large (Region 1):** 2018 Term - Ian Carrico (Fancy Farm)
- At Large (Region 8):** 2018 Term - Jason Lowe (Pikeville)
- Allen (Region 3):** 2018 Term - Ron Wells (Alvaton)
- Bell (Region 8):** 2018 Term - Mark Elkins (Middlesboro)
- Blood River (Region 1):** 2018 Term - Jason Sharp (Benton)
- Boone's Creek (Region 6):** 2018 Term - Travis Drake (Winchester)
- Caldwell-Lyon (Region 1):** 2018 Term - Bryan Grigg (Kuttawa)
- Central (Region 7):** 2016 Unexpired Term - Jonathan Bennett (Lebanon)
- Central Kentucky Network (Region 6):** 2018 Term - Michael Cabell (Versailles)
- Central Kentucky Network (Region 6):**
2017 Unexpired Term - Kenneth Johnson (Lexington)
- Davless/McLean (Region 5):** 2018 Term - Kenny Rager (Owensboro)
- Green Valley (Region 2):** 2018 Term - Jeff Burke (Henderson)
- Lincoln County (Region 7):** 2016 Unexpired Term - Ron Shepherd (Waynesburg)
- Long Run (Region 4):** 2016 Unexpired Term - Donnie Gullion (Louisville)
- Long Run (Region 4):** 2017 Unexpired Term - Ken Vickery (Louisville)
- Long Run (Region 4):** 2018 Term - Jon Rohr (Taylorsville)
- Long Run (Region 4):** 2018 Term - C. L. Jordan (Louisville)
- Long Run (Region 4):** 2018 Term - Prasad Aghamkar (Louisville)
- Nelson (Region 3):** 2018 Term - Richard Carwile (Bloomfield)
- Northern Kentucky (Region 5):** 2018 Term - Mark Webb (Taylor Mill)
- Ohio Valley (Region 1):** 2018 Term - Barry Yates (Morganfield)
- Pike (Region 8):** 2018 Term - Brian Horton (Pikeville)
- Pulaski (Region 7):** 2018 Term - Tony Hall (Somerset)
- Pulaski (Region 7):** 2016 Unexpired Term - Carter Stewart (Bronston)
- Red River (Region 8):** 2018 Term - Michael Butler (Frenchburg)
- Rockcastle (Region 7):** 2018 Term - David Sargent (Mt. Vernon)
- Russell County (Region 7):** 2018 Term - Stan Milby (Russell Springs)
- Russell Creek (Region 7):** 2018 Term - Mark Graham (Greensburg)
- Salem (Region 3):** 2018 Term - Phillip Cole (Irvington)
- Severns Valley (Region 3):** 2018 Term - Kevin Roberts (Elizabethtown)
- Shelby (Region 4):** 2018 Term - Maurice Hollingsworth (Shelbyville)
- Simpson (Region 3):** 2018 Term - John Gifford (Bowling Green)
- South District (Region 6):** 2018 Term - John David Lane (Harrodsburg)
- S Union/Mt Zion (Region 7):** 2018 Term - Billy Howell (Corbin)
- Tates Creek (Region 6):** 2018 Term - Deron Cobb (Richmond)
- Union (Region 5):** 2018 Term - Kevin Strausbaugh (Cynthiana)
- Warren (Region 3):** 2018 Term - Jim Gifford (Bowling Green)
- Warren (Region 3):** 2018 Term - Donnie Meador (Scottsville)
- West Union (Region 1):** 2018 Term - Mark Sickling (La Center)
- Whites Run (Region 5):** 2018 Term - Chris Kazee (Worthville)

BOARDS OF AGENCIES & INSTITUTIONS

Clear Creek Baptist Bible College (Trustees)

2017 Unexpired Term [1]: Tommy Floyd (Monticello);
2019 Terms [8]: Harlan Avera (London), Julia Blocker (Shawnee, TN), Bill Duncan (Harrogate, TN), Johnny Jervis (London), Tim Langford (Hickman), Jason Moore (Ferguson), Ellis Payne (Dixon), Mark Payton (Dry Ridge)

Crossings Ministries (Trustees)

2016 Unexpired Term [1]: Charlie Wallace (Simpsonville);
2019 Terms [3]: Paul Douglas (Paducah), Brandt Lyon (Paducah), Randy Stinson (Fisherville)

Kentucky Baptist Foundation (Directors)

2019 Terms [4]: Sidney Fogle (Louisville), David Griffith (Elizabethtown), David Nunery (Campbellsville), Dennis Tindle (Somerset)

Kentucky Ethics League (Trustees)

2018 Terms [5]: Anthony Carson (Sonora), Anthony Carter (Williamsburg), Wesley Pitts (Louisville), Choe Sergent (Junction City), Lester Watson (Princeton)

Oneida Baptist Institute (Trustees)

2019 Terms [6]: Beth Blackwell (Louisville), Scott Hughes (Somerset), Farrell Isenberg (Owensboro), Gerald Murphy (Hodgenville), Kevin Roach (Corbin), David Sargent (Mt. Vernon)

Sunrise Children's Services (Directors)

2018 Unexpired Terms [3]: Byrd Copley (Elkhorn City), Kelly Hale (Lexington), David Wotier (Owenton);
2019 Terms [4]: Tom James (Bowling Green), Jon Morgan (Versailles), Wesley Noss (Versailles), Lange Patrick (Louisville)

University of the Cumberlands (Trustees)

2019 Terms [7]: Tony Hancock (Lexington), Oscar Hornsby (Somerset), Donnie Patrick (Williamsburg), Carolyn Petrey (Snellville, GA), Paul Steely (Williamsburg), Scott Thompson (Oneida, TN), Jon Westbrook (LaGrange)

Western Recorder (Directors)

2019 Terms [3]: Bill Bartleman (Paducah), Chip Hutcheson (Princeton), Rick Robbins (Hardinsburg)

Committee on Nominations:

Committee Members: Mike Jones (Chairperson), Harold Best, James Carroll, Brian Croft, Shawn Dobbins, Barry Fields, Tim Harris, Darrick Holloman, Brian Horton, Stan Lowery, Calvin Naylor, Shane Nickell, Brandon Porter, Scott Rogers, Dale Rose, Victor Sholar, Wilton Shelton, Chris Short, Joshua Smith, Ronnie Stinson, Paul Strahan, David Tucker, Mark Webb, and Matthew Williams

Ex Officio Members: Executive Director, Paul Chitwood and Convention President, Tom James



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Committee on Committees & Committee on Annual Meeting

2015 Report of the KBC Committee on Committees

- Committee on the Annual Meeting:**
2018 Terms [2] - John Lucas (Pikeville) and Andy Haley (Pembroke)
- Committee on Constitution & Bylaws:**
2016 Unexpired Term [1] - Paul Richey (Hodgenville);
2017 Unexpired Term [1] - Stephen Cavness (Fulton);
2018 Terms [3] - Robert Chaudoin (Bowling Green), Josh Rucker (Bagdad), and Mike Baker (Mayfield)
- Committee on Credentials:**
2018 Terms [3] - Maurice Hollingsworth (Shelbyville), Jeff Carlisle (Bowling Green), and Michael Butler (Frenchburg)
- Committee on Nominations: 2018 Terms**
Region 1: Rodney Bice (Bardwell)
Region 2: Brandon Boone (Hopkinsville)
Region 3: Barry Raley (Auburn)
Region 4: Mark Williams (Louisville)
Region 5: Dewayne Slusher (Mays Lick)
Region 6: John Duncan (Lexington)
Region 7: Mark Shelton (Burkesville)
Region 8: Vince Mullins (London)
- Committee on Public Affairs:**
2017 Unexpired Term [1] - Nathan Elliot (Wilmore);
2018 Terms [3] - Baxter Boyd (Princeton), Mark Galloway (Henderson), and Greg Reynolds (Bowling Green)
- Committee on Resolutions:**
2016 Unexpired Term [1] - Matt Hall (Louisville);
2017 Unexpired Term [1] - Cameron Debity (Louisville);
2018 Terms [2] - Charles Frazier (Benton) and Tim Jernigan (Hopkinsville)

Committee on Committees:

Committee Members: David Stokes (Chairperson), Norm Brock, Joe Bufford, Richard Carwile, George Drake, Wes Fowler, Donnie Patrick, Wes Pinkley, and Jamaal Williams

Ex Officio Members:

Executive Director, Paul Chitwood and Convention President, Tom James

2015 Report of the KBC Committee on Annual Meeting

Persons to Report - 2016

- Preacher of the Annual Sermon:**
Kevin Ezell (NAMB);
Alternate - Jeff Noffsinger (Olmstead)
- Obituaries:**
Dale Rose (Monticello);
Alternate - Don Mathis (Bowling Green)

Committee on Annual Meeting:

Committee Members:

Paul Atchison, Joe Crider, Travis Kaiser, Scott Kerr, and Howard Williams

Permanent Member:

Executive Director, Paul Chitwood

Ex Officio Members:

Convention President - Tom James,
First Vice-President - Jerry Tooley,
Second Vice-President - Mark Payton,
President of Pastors' Conference - Ben Stratton,
President of KBMC - Eddie Russell,
President of KBREA - Bill Ellis

Hobby Lobby owners investigated for museum acquisitions

By Diana Chandler

Nashville—Hobby Lobby craft chain owners the Greens are under federal investigation to determine whether the family illegally imported Assyrian and Babylonian cuneiform tablets from Israel for display in the family's Bible museum, the Daily Beast reported.

The U.S. government has confiscated a shipment of as many as 300 small clay tablets that were in route to Oklahoma, the Hobby Lobby headquarters, the Daily Beast reported, citing confirmation from Cary Summers, president of the Museum of the Bible set to open in 2017 in

Washington, D.C.

"There was a shipment and it had improper paperwork—incomplete paperwork that was attached to it," The Daily Beast quoted Summers, saying he hinted the items might have simply been held up in customs for the past four years because of the paperwork.

Hobby Lobby's corporate office affirmed the company's cooperation with the investigation.

"Hobby Lobby is cooperating with the investigation related to certain biblical artifacts," Zack Higbee, corporate communications coordinator, told Baptist Press in written comments. "The

Museum of the Bible is a separate not-for-profit entity made possible, in part, by the generous charitable contributions of the Green family."

The Association for Research of Crimes Against Art, ARCA, said in an Oct. 27 blogpost that the investigation is partly centered on Article 2.3 of the International Council of Museums Code of Ethics, which states, "Every effort must be made before acquisition to ensure that any object or specimen offered for purchase, gift, loan, bequest, or exchange has not been illegally obtained in, or exported from its country of origin or any intermediate country in which it

might have been owned legally (including the museum's own country). Due diligence in this regard should establish the full history of the item since discovery or production."

The tablets, believed to have originated in Iraq, are described on their FedEx shipping label as "hand-crafted clay tiles" valued at under \$300, The Daily Beast reported. Archaeological and ethnological imports defined as the "cultural property of Iraq" have been restricted within the U.S. since 1990, according to The Daily Beast.

□ See Hobby Lobby owners ... Page 10

Platt live stream

Continued from page 1

consider its missions budget allocation in light of the IMB needs?"

Platt replied, "I would encourage your church...to give sacrificially for the spread of the gospel to the nations and specifically for the spread of the gospel to people who have never heard it. And I hope that your church sees IMB as a valuable partner in seeing that happen."

■ "I struggle because I feel like our local church should send teams, not just give money. How do we balance?"

Platt noted that giving and sending teams should be a "both/and" proposition rather than an "either/or" scenario.

"Send money and send people," he said.

"As more people are going out from churches to get the gospel to the nations, then more people are going to want to give to see more people going out to get the gospel to the nations. If people aren't going out and people are just sending money, there's a disconnect."

■ "Has any thought been given to changing the funding model of IMB missionaries?"

Platt said he hopes some IMB missionaries will be "totally self-funded," travelling overseas as students in international universities, business professionals employed by corporations and retirees funded by their own savings and U.S. government programs. He also raised the possibility of fully-funded IMB church planters expanding to a mobilization model where business professionals on their church

planting teams "begin to pull together" and "actually begin to support the full-time church planter much like we support a pastor here."

Another possibility is for churches to utilize the IMB's existing GC2 (Great Commission Global Connect) and SBC Direct programs to fund specific missionaries outside traditional cooperative funding channels.

"I know as soon as I mention that," Platt said, "there are a lot of questions that come up just along the lines of: What does that do when it comes to Cooperative Program or Lottie Moon or your giving? We have closely monitored that. The churches that are sending people through those pathways have actually increased their giving to the Cooperative Program and Lottie Moon as they've sent more

missionaries.

Every method of funding IMB missionaries should be consistent with a model that "bolsters and fuels the cooperative giving that goes on among Southern Baptist churches," Platt said. "And I'm convinced there's a way to do that. We've just got to think wisely through it."

Platt requested prayer for the IMB family and the churches it serves. He asked Southern Baptists to help returning missionaries by providing extra houses, vehicles and jobs. Giving to the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering, he said, is one important step Southern Baptists can take to help the IMB in the days ahead.

"I want to see less missionaries coming off the field, more missionaries getting the gospel to the nations in the days ahead," Platt said. (BP)

Volunteers

Continued from page 1

Kentucky Baptists have been serving in the Sumter area. North Carolina Baptists have handled much of the volunteer work in the Myrtle Beach and Brunswick County, N.C., area.

Volunteers from Alabama and Oklahoma have been serving with South Carolina volunteers in Columbia. Charleston has had teams serving from Florida, Louisiana, Oklahoma and Virginia, alongside South Carolina volunteers.

Ministry in Horry County, is being conducted by volunteers from Mississippi, Missouri, New Jersey, North Carolina, Virginia, Pennsylvania and South Carolina. In different parts of the state, teams from Florida, Georgia and Tennessee have also been working.

"We never felt more like a neighborhood than we do now because of neighbors helping each other," said flood survivor Darin Cobb, who lives in the Park Hill Retreat neighborhood in North Charleston. "I knew that churches help, but I'm amazed at what they're doing."

Throughout the response college students have been using fall breaks and weekends to serve. Students from the Baptist College of Florida were serving in Summerville this week. Another group of college students began recovery and cleanup work at an apartment complex in Columbia on October 23.

"The collegiate and local church volunteer response to the great needs is so encouraging," Caison said. "God continues to use His people's love, and their willingness to share that love, in such real and practical ways. We are hearing many



testimonies of homeowners accepting Christ as a result of the witness of volunteers. We continue to discover needs in many communities in South Carolina. As the water has receded, and roads are opening up, SBDR volunteers now have access to

many homes in small rural communities. Please continue to pray for the SBDR leaders, volunteers and those affected in South Carolina."

NAMB coordinates and manages Southern Baptist responses to major



Left, Southern Baptist DR volunteers Charles Clark (left) and Richard Brown served with their Oklahoma team of 10 in North Charleston, S.C. In nine days the team worked on 11 homes. (NAMB photos by Laura Sikes) Above, Florida Southern Baptist Disaster Relief feeding team volunteers serve dinner at Old Fort Baptist Church in Summerville, S.C., in response to massive flooding in the area.

disasters through partnerships with 42 state Baptist conventions, most of which have their own state disaster relief ministries. (BP)



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Ky. crews bring hope

Continued from page 1

johnboat to retrieve some of her belongings.

Although she vowed she wasn't going to live in the mobile home again, she smiled nervously and even joked with the men who ferried her across her yard through water that was still waist-high nearly two weeks later, as her husband trudged a few steps behind.

Hurricane Joaquin drenched much of lower South Carolina Oct. 3-4, killing as many as nine people, shutting down interstates and spurring scores of home evacuations. Reports of up to two feet of rain were common across the state.

More than 650 homes in the Sumter area were damaged extensively by the torrential rains and two breached dams. Almost 20 bridges were washed out or closed, trapping many of the city's residents seeking higher ground.

As of Oct. 25, 43 volunteers served on several Kentucky Disaster Relief flood recovery crews, a chaplain team and a feeding unit that were engaged in ministry in the Sumter area. A total of 47 homes had been assessed for recovery or mud-out.

To date, 112 homeowner assistance jobs have been completed, which include everything from minor cleanup to more extensive projects. More than 1,250 meals have been prepared, and chaplains reported 74 Bibles and 99 tracts distributed, with 35 gospel presentations resulting in four decisions for Christ.

Several airmen from Shaw Air Force Base helped Kentucky Baptists on three days during the second week, lifting heavier furniture and removing wooden



Kentucky DR volunteers Randy Foster, of Crestwood (l), and Tony Callan, of Paintlick, carry out a clothes dryer as Sumter homeowner Carolyn Mansuetti watches.

floors and door frames. Kentucky Baptists gave each a New Testament and a hygiene kit in appreciation for their hard work.

Overwhelmed by it all, at times Carolyn Mansuetti just had to sit down and cry, as she watched disaster relief volunteers carry furnishings from their home on Fawn Circle where they had lived for almost 30 years and set them on the curb as refuse.

Leo, her husband, is a retired Air Force veteran. On the walls of his study were presidential commendations and photos of planes, including a painting of the F-100 Super Saber in which he flew 239 missions in Vietnam and another that he had built himself and flown in various air shows. He also had once trained fighter pilots in Tulsa, Okla.

For him, it appeared to be harder to let go of some sentimental items. Decades of memories of his time spent in military

service to his country and the life that he and Carolyn had built together filled their once-lovely home.

Their daughter, Julie, tried her best to lift their spirits, "Think of this as a chance to redecorate, Mom."

Carolyn nodded and forced a grin. "It's hard," she repeated over and over as volunteers selected the furniture that could be saved, treated and stored on a tractor trailer until their house is rebuilt and that which they shouldn't keep.

But as she looked at the bare studs and floor boards, ready for contractors to come install new walls and wood floors, Carolyn seemed to regain some hope. "Thank you!" she cried, as she hugged the necks of each of the DR volunteers when they presented a Bible to her.

"It breaks your heart, seeing their whole lives wiped out like this," said crew chief Chris Cropp, a member of Fisherville

Baptist Church, who spent two weeks in Sumter. "Loving and helping people—I feel God wants me to do this (ministry), and I love it."

Cropp became involved in disaster relief when tornadoes ripped through parts of Alabama in 2011. He also helped in Liberty, Ky., in 2012 when tornadoes destroyed much of that mountain town. And, he was part of Southern Baptists' Hurricane Sandy Rebuild efforts.

"We're blessed more than those we come to help," he added. "They're fighting just to get it back together, and what little bit I can do is listen, reassure them and love on them."

Yet, a Kentucky Baptist flood recovery team does much more.

Drywall and insulation are removed down to the bare studs; door frames are knocked out; carpets and wooden floors are taken up; kitchen cabinets and appliances are carted off. The remaining structure is treated for mold, and left ready for a contractor to begin rebuilding the house.

In short, DR crews provide a sense of direction and restore a homeowner's hope, Cropp said.

Susan Bell rescues cats. At times, she has kept as many as two dozen, maybe more, at her house on Briarwood. When the waters began to rise and she knew it was time to go, she cut a hole in her ceiling so the cats could hopefully escape. To her knowledge, they all made it.

As a disaster relief crew ripped out drywalls and removed wood floors and kitchen tiles, several cats darted in and out of the shrubbery, looking for food or a free hand to pat them. Their purring seemed to provide comfort and a sense of peace to Susan, who was so grateful for

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those who had come to help that she brought a pizza to them for lunch.

At the home of Robert Moses, a truck driver for a natural gas company, on Perry Boulevard, and at the homes of Hunter and Susan Hodges and of Ryan Dickson back on Briarwood, the story was much the same.

Dickson's elementary-school aged son pointed to where water had risen as high as the fence in his backyard, when Kentucky Baptists presented a Bible to his dad. He was eager for the day when he and his brother and 1-year-old sister would be able to return to their own rooms and neighborhood friends.

"We've found out that doing for others brings us joy," said crew chief David Hampton, of Corbin. "Mostly because people are so grateful."

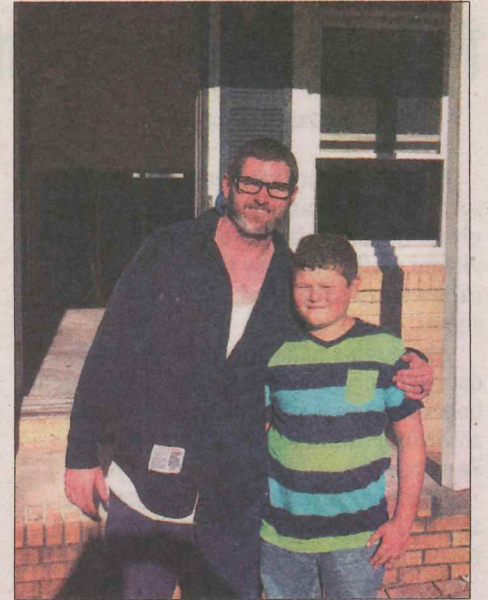
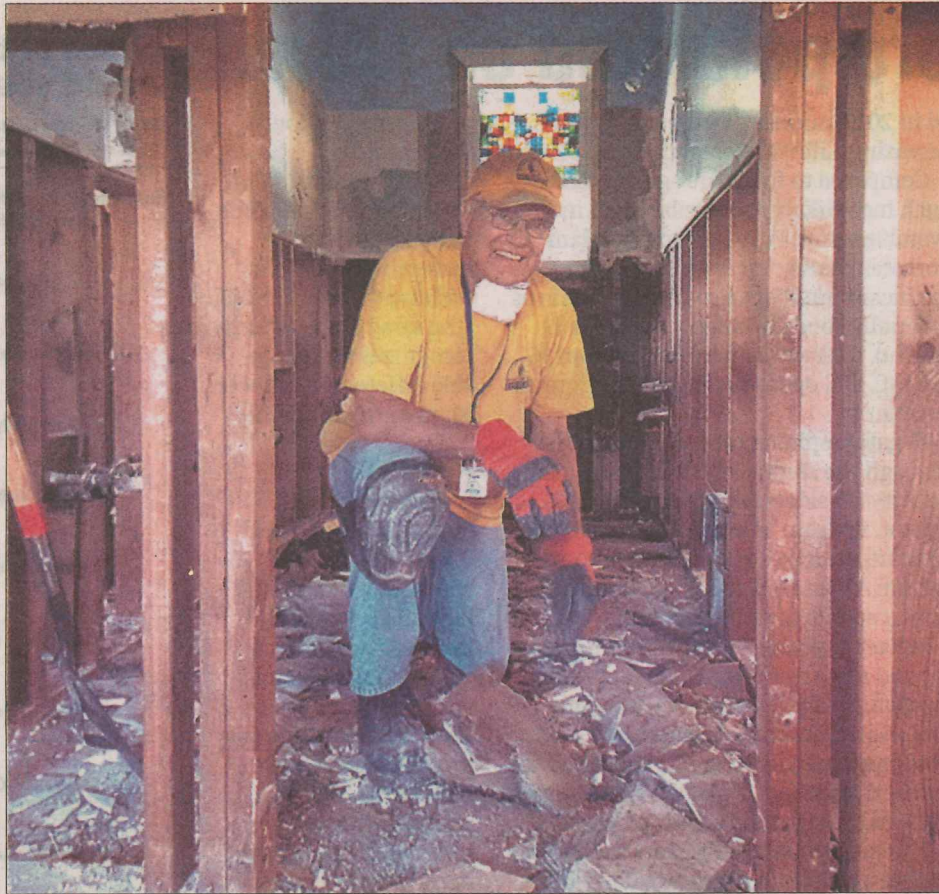
When Hampton retired four years ago, he urged his wife, Susan, to become involved in Immanuel Baptist Church's disaster relief ministry. His first trip was to North Carolina, and they caught the disaster relief "bug" then, he said.

"We enjoy being around other disaster relief volunteers. They are such a family," he added. "Some of our best friends now are people we didn't even know five years ago."

Kentucky Baptist crews stood down on Oct. 25, yielding to Alabama volunteers who are carrying on the work in Sumter.

"It continues to be a privilege to serve beside Kentucky Baptist Disaster Relief volunteers who exemplify compassion for hurting people and a deep love for Jesus Christ," said state DR director Coy Webb.

"As we close our response, I rejoice that Kentucky Baptists were able to bring needed help, a healing touch, and most of all, the hope of Jesus Christ to our neighbors in South Carolina," Webb said. (WR)



At left, Tom Bratcher, a DR volunteer from Richmond, tears out sheetrock in a Sumter home.

Above, Homeowner Ryan Dickson and his son return to thank Keith Stinson, who led a DR crew from Richmond. Below, more than 200 flood buckets with cleaning supplies arrive to be distributed to Sumter residents.



At left, Dottie Gist, along with her husband, Wayne, from Owensboro, have served on several DR teams to assist victims of recent disasters. Below left, huge piles of moldy construction materials line Sumter streets. Below right, Chris Cropp, of Fisherville, and another volunteer tear out a kitchen sink and cabinets.



Pastors grow more polarized on Islam

By Lisa Cannon Green

Nashville—Protestant pastors are increasingly polarized about Islam, with a growing share labeling the Muslim faith violent while a sharply rising minority calls it spiritually good, a new study shows.

Although a majority considers Islam dangerous, a small but increasing segment believes Islam is similar to Christianity, according to a new survey by LifeWay Research.

And two-thirds of Protestant pastors agree Christianity and Islam should seek to coexist in America.

The softening of some pastors' views toward Islam is a key finding of a LifeWay Research survey of 1,000 Protestant pastors. Seventeen percent of pastors characterize Islam as similar to Christianity, nearly double the 9 percent from five years earlier. Although views shifted in both directions, positive opinions rose more significantly.

The American public, meanwhile, is twice as likely as pastors to see common ground between Islam and Christianity. In a parallel survey of 1,000 Americans, more than a third say the two faiths are similar.

"To understand the data, you have to understand that Protestant pastors are not of one mind," said Ed Stetzer, executive director of LifeWay Research, "and minds are changing in more than one direction."

Shifting views

While more than 8 in 10 Protestant pastors say Islam is fundamentally different from Christianity, just as they

did in 2010, minority viewpoints are increasing, LifeWay Research finds.

Compared to five years ago, pastors are much more likely to describe Islam in favorable terms. Fifty percent say Islam promotes charity, up from 33 percent. Significant numbers also describe Islam as spiritually good (32 percent, up from 19 percent), tolerant (24 percent, up from 16 percent), and open (22 percent, up from 12 percent).

Negative opinions are also on the rise, although the shift is less dramatic. A slim majority considers Islam dangerous (52 percent, up from 44 percent). Almost half say Islam promotes violence (49 percent, up from 42 percent) and is spiritually evil (46 percent, up from 39 percent).

Stetzer explained, "Some mainline pastors and a few evangelicals are answering questions in a more positive way, while some evangelicals and a few mainline Protestants are trending in a negative way. But the biggest move is in the smallest percent—and is in a more positive direction."

The surveys allowed pastors to choose positive and negative terms to describe Islam, and pastors chose more of both this year than they did in LifeWay Research's survey five years ago. Fewer pastors opted for "none of these."

In the most pointed increase, 53 percent of pastors say Islam is "relevant today," an opinion held by only 28 percent five years earlier.

"It only makes sense that Islam is relevant today—it's on the evening news regularly. What's perhaps most interesting is that the majority of that coverage is negative, but some pastors still evidence a more

positive perception," Stetzer said.

"Furthermore, it is worth noting that while pastors appear to be increasingly familiar with Islam," Stetzer said, "the same large majority recognizes unmistakable differences between Islam and Christianity."

Moving apart

Evangelical and mainline pastors hold divergent opinions about Islam. Most self-identified evangelical ministers view it as a violent and dangerous faith, while most self-identified mainline pastors associate it with peace, love and compassion.

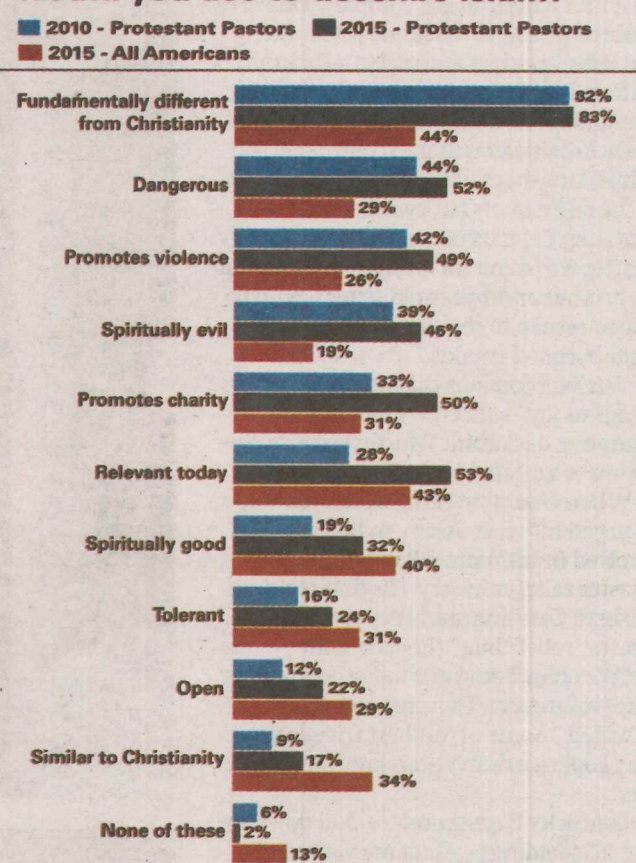
The gap has widened in the past five years.

Fifty-two percent of evangelical pastors today characterize Islam as spiritually evil (up from 44 percent), while only 32 percent of mainline pastors agree, a rate unchanged from five years ago.

Conversely, nearly half of mainline pastors call Islam spiritually good (47 percent, up from 35 percent). Fewer than 1 in 4 evangelical pastors share that opinion (24 percent, up from 16 percent).

Evangelical pastors increasingly say

Which of the following characteristics would you use to describe Islam?



Islam is dangerous (59 percent, up from 50 percent) and promotes violence (54 percent, up from 49 percent), while mainline pastors' views on those terms are little changed. In contrast, growing numbers of mainline pastors say Islam is tolerant (35 percent, up from 25 percent) and open (30 percent, up from 18 percent), while evangelical pastors' agreement with those terms rises only slightly. (BP)

Hobby Lobby owners

Continued from page 1

The Greens, a Christian family that closes its national chain of Hobby Lobby stores on Sundays, have amassed the world's largest private collection of rare biblical texts and artifacts, which would be the centerpiece of the eight-story, \$800 million museum. The Greens have previously displayed portions of their collection in a traveling exhibit.

Hobby Lobby CEO Steve Green said he is unaware of any pieces in the collection having been obtained illegally, but couldn't rule out such a possibility, The Daily Beast reported.

"Is it possible that we have some illicit (artifacts)? That's possible," the Daily Beast reported. If charges are filed, the Greens could be forced to forfeit the artifacts and pay a fine, according to reports.

The museum will allow visitors to explore the Bible's impact on world culture and modern civilization, including literature, fine arts, architecture, education, science, film, music, family,

government, law, human rights and social justice. Archaeological and historic treasures, including the Dead Sea Scrolls, ancient Torah scrolls, early New Testament texts, rare biblical manuscripts and first-edition Bibles will be

included, Summers has said of the museum.

"We've assembled," Summers said in a press release, "the best in architectural, interior and environmental design to provide Museum of the Bible guests with an experience that is unique, innovative, customizable to each visitor's level of interest and, most of all, memorable."

The Greens made national headlines in 2014 when they won a U.S. Supreme Court appeal against a

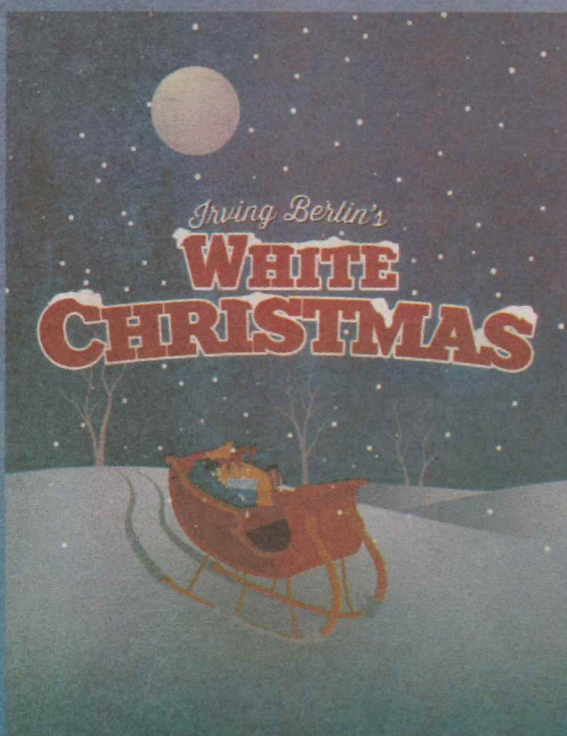
key mandate of the Affordable Care Act which would have required the Christian business owners to provide abortion-inducing contraceptives to employees through their health insurance plans.

The Supreme Court ruled that Hobby Lobby and other "closely held" companies could exercise their religious opinions and conscientiously object to the mandate. (BP)



This Gilgamesh cuneiform is among The Green Collection of biblical antiquities. (Museum of the Bible photo)

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Ky. Baptists to call for defunding Planned Parenthood

By Robin Cornetel

Elizabethtown—Kentucky's largest religious organization is expected to vote on a resolution next week calling for the defunding of Planned Parenthood.

The 750,000-member Kentucky Baptist Convention will take the vote at its annual meeting on Nov. 10 in Elizabethtown.

"The horror of Planned Parenthood's murder and selling of babies can no longer be tolerated in our society," said Kentucky Baptist Convention Executive Director Paul Chitwood.

The resolution is expected to be unanimously approved by messengers representing nearly 2,400 Kentucky Baptist

churches.

Planned Parenthood, which was the target of an anti-abortion hidden camera sting that captured discussions about the selling of body parts from aborted babies, provides about one out of every four abortions performed in the U.S. The organization reported performing more than 300,000 abortions last year.

In nearly a dozen videos, the Center for Medical Progress secretly recorded Planned Parenthood officials acknowledging the selling of aborted baby parts.

Planned Parenthood President Cecile Richards has since declared that her organization will stop receiving money for fetal tissue transactions following the outrage of multiple anti-abortion groups.

"In the name of women's health, Planned Parenthood preys on expectant mothers, many of whom are in desperate situations and looking for help," Chitwood said.

"Instead of help, Planned Parenthood brings unspeakable harm to these ladies and their children."

The resolution points to tax documents that raise legitimate questions about the need for public funding to Planned Parenthood, considering the organization spends millions on political activities, travel and exorbitant salaries. By example, the resolution notes Richards has an annual salary of \$590,000.

One third of Planned Parenthood's

\$1.3 billion budget comes from the federal government.

"Kentucky Baptists cannot remain silent," Chitwood said.

Chitwood said Kentucky Baptists will also be taking a stand for justice when they meet at Severns Valley Baptist Church by presenting resolutions about religious liberty and racial reconciliation.

"Our brothers and sisters of color historically were deprived of justice. And now more than ever, believers of every color are being deprived of justice," Chitwood said. "For the cause of justice we will not be silent."

More than 1,100 people attended the convention when it was last held in Elizabethtown six years ago. (KBC)

Time to make reservations for Shepherding 2016 couples' retreat

Louisville—Registration is now open for Shepherding 2016 and spots at the ministry couples' retreat fill up fast, according to the conference organizer.

"It's one of our more popular events of the year," said Steve Rice, leader of Kentucky Baptist Convention's Church Consulting and Revitalization team.

The highly sought-after weekend conference is designed to provide a relaxed atmosphere where ministry couples can experience renewal, strengthen marital relationships and encounter God through worship.

"We wouldn't miss it for anything,"

said Pamela Smith, who serves as pianist alongside her husband, Greg, pastor of New Cut Road Baptist Church in Louisville. Smith said church members understand how much the couple looks forward to the January getaway and cared for their children when family was unavailable.

"They know how much we love it and how much we need it," Smith said.

Greg Smith said they have attended all but one Shepherding event in 16 years.

"It's just a great time for us. Pamela enjoys it so much, she would kill me if I didn't bring her," the pastor said. "We

have friends that we have made here that we meet every year."

Last year, nearly 140 couples attended the three-day event that featured North American Mission Board President Kevin Ezell as one of the inspirational speakers.

Speakers at January's conference include Chuck Lawless, dean of graduate studies at Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary; Eric Geiger, vice president of LifeWay Christian Resources; Kevin Smith, teaching pastor at Highview Baptist Church in Louisville; and Allen Bonnell, lead pastor of Immanuel Baptist Church in Corbin.

Kathy Litton, a pastors' wives ministry consultant with the North American Mission Board, will be leading breakout sessions for women.

Shepherding 2016 will be held Jan. 28-30 at Griffin Gate Marriott Resort & Spa in Lexington. The cost is \$250 per couple and includes lodging, conference materials and all meals with the exception of Friday evening.

The event is sponsored by Baptist Health and the KBC through to the Cooperative Program. To register, or for information, visit www.kybaptist.org/shepherding. (KBC)

LIFEproject: An effective, easy-to-use evangelism tool for churches

Louisville—An amazingly simple, yet powerful evangelism tool called LIFEproject is on its way to Kentucky Baptist churches that will help pastors mobilize their members to reach their neighborhoods with the gospel like never before.

"Pastors are busy people. They need resources that are easy-to-use, yet highly effective at igniting hearts to reach the unchurched in their communities," said Chuck McAlister, Kentucky Baptist Convention Evangelism, Church Planting and Collegiate Ministries team leader.

"LIFEproject is just that resource," he said.

Beginning mid-November, Southern Baptist churches across the state will open their mailboxes to find two complimentary LIFEproject booklets: a leader's guide and a members' guide. Inside the 20-page booklets, pastors will find the outline of a proven strategy to help people encounter Jesus through affinity evangelism.

"People are hungry for authentic relationships," said KBC Affinity Evangelism Strategist Andy McDonald. "With LIFEproject, churches can create avenues to build those relationships within the community and, more importantly, point people to a real and authentic relationship with Christ."

Affinities can be built around mutual interest in sports, hobbies, schools or places of work. Others affinity groups can be focus on community needs, such as addictions, family finances, or helping newcomers adjust to life as migrant

workers.

The booklets walk participants through a 14-week process that includes church assessment, leadership development and vision casting for engaging an affinity group.

LIFEproject is a creation of McAlister and his evangelism team, and infused with their decades of experience in evangelism ministry.

McAlister said more information

about LIFEproject will be presented at the Kentucky Baptist Convention Annual Meeting Nov. 10 at Severns Valley Baptist Church in Elizabethtown.

In the meantime, visit www.kybaptist.org/lifeproject to learn more and download the LIFEproject leader's and members' guides. Questions may be directed to KBC Affinity Evangelism Strategist Andy McDonald at andy.mcdonald@kybaptist.org. (KBC)





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Highlights from OBI

I'm going to try a different approach and format to this column. I'm just going to rattle off some highlights of our school year.

This is Oneida



Larry Gritton

■ Dozens of young people have given their hearts to Jesus.

■ We had a great revival Sept. 22-23. It was led by the KBC's Jason "Bubba" Stewart and Pastor Kevin Roach of Calvary Baptist Church, Corbin.

■ Between 35 and 50 students per week are voluntarily attending a Bible study group called the Lion's Den on Sunday evenings at

Oneida Baptist Church. The church's new pastor is one of our house parents.

■ Our new Carnahan-Daugherty building is rising out of the ground.

Walls are in progress. We did a ceremonial groundbreaking on a rainy day on the porch of one of our buildings.

■ We now have a dozen of the 50 needed \$2,500 dorm room sponsorships.

■ We have 322 students from 23 states and 20 countries.

■ Our new K-5 has 38 students.

■ Nearly 40 students are coming to school on our two bus routes.

■ Both of our soccer teams were Class A Regional and Sectional Champions and participated in the state tournament.

■ The students on our farm are hydroponically producing lettuce for our consumption.

■ One of our female students is an FFA creed speaking state champion and will be a part of the national creed speaking competition at the

National FFA Convention in Louisville.

■ We have a new 2009 travel, coach-type bus. It was purchased this summer to be used primarily by our choir. Our choir already has 27 bookings for this school year. We have openings on Feb. 14 and May 8.

■ Scores of visitors and volunteers continue to roll in each week.

■ Twenty percent of our staff this year is alumni.

■ God continues to be faithful to our ministry.

Thank you for helping us to achieve all of these great things and more!

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.

Cockrum confirmed as Cumberlands president

Williamsburg—Larry Cockrum was officially confirmed as the 10th president of University of the Cumberlands on Oct. 15, following unanimous agreement by the Board of Trustees. Over the past year, Cockrum served as CEO and president-elect, overseeing all operational aspects of the institution.

"In this past year as acting president, Larry has proven to be a very capable leader while setting an example with his Christian faith and work ethic," said Jon Westbrook, chairman of the Board of Trustees. "His style of leadership is proactive with measureable results yet his personality is humble and open to considering the opinions of others."



Larry Cockrum

Cockrum joined the Cumberlands family in 2005. Previously, he served as vice president for Academic Affairs from 2007-2014.

Under his leadership, enrollment grew from 1,728 students to just over 6,100 students this fall. The university's rapid growth is largely attributed to Cockrum's vision for expanding the university's affordably priced online degree programs.

"In our journey from 1888 to today, Cumberlands has continually adapted to new technologies and the ever-changing world in which we live," said President Cockrum. "Our methods of delivery may have changed over the years but our mission remains the same."

"We believe an education should provide a variety of learning opportunities for students, both inside and outside the classroom. We emphasize not only academics, but also student work and service, with the end goal of developing well-rounded, educated individuals," Cockrum said.

Cockrum, who received a Doctor of Education from Vanderbilt University and a post-graduate certification from Harvard University, succeeds long-time President, James Taylor.

"I view this position as an honor and a privilege," Cockrum added. "It is a pleasure to work at an institution where the vision is to be a premier liberal arts university that encourages intellectual and spiritual growth, coupled with leadership and service."

Cockrum and his wife of 42 years, Dixie, have four children: Jason, Nicholas, Lindsey, Cassie and one grandchild, Cora.

Growing up on the Creek—Part 1

Clear Creek Chronicle



Donnie Fox

Cassandra Dowell is all grown up now and a student herself at Clear Creek. When she first came here as a teenager when her mother was a student, she had no idea God was preparing her for the husband she would meet here.

She has fond memories of growing up on the Creek.

"I had close contact with the students while my mother was a student at Clear Creek," said Dowell. "They became mentors and

models that I wanted to live my life after.

"At a youth lock-in that was held in the late fall of 2006, I felt for the first time my need for a Savior," she continued. "That night I accepted Christ into my life, and stopped simply acting like a Christian and truly became

one."

"Growing up at Clear Creek, I never considered being a student myself until I met my husband, David," said Dowell.

"He was actually one of the students from Clear Creek that helped supervise at the lock-in that I was saved at that same fall.

"David and I began a relationship in the spring of 2007, the end of my sophomore year of high school.

"Every day after school and extra-curricular activities, I would drive to Clear Creek to spend the rest of the afternoon with David," she recalled.

"Initially I had wanted to go to college to become a school teacher," continued Dowell.

"After having been with David throughout my whole junior year of high school, I realized he truly loved me and had plans to marry me one day. I felt that if God had called David

into some sort of ministry then, as his hopeful future wife, I would need preparation, too.

"During my senior year of high school, I decided that I was definitely going to attend Clear Creek to prepare for whatever ministry God had in store for David and me," she said.

"My projected graduation date is spring 2017. As of now, our family has not felt a clear calling to one specific ministry," Dowell shared.

"I always tell people who ask us that we are simply taking one day at a time and being obedient to the ministry God lays before us each and every day."

To be continued ...

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

Fiduciary management of church assets

Ky. Baptist Foundation



Richard Carnes

The Kentucky Baptist Foundation continues to discover that a large number of churches are

unaware of the fiduciary services and investment management oversight services that the Foundation makes available to Kentucky Baptist churches and institutions.

Of course, we are grateful and pleased to already be assisting the investment needs of many churches using the Foundation's investment oversight services and we desire to extend

this capability to many more churches.

You may have heard the term fiduciary and wondered what it means. A fiduciary is a person or organization who has the legal responsibility for managing someone else's money, including members of a church's investment committee, foundations, endowments, and trustees of private

trusts.

Fiduciary status is generally defined as a person who:

- Manages property for the benefit of another;
- Exercises discretionary authority or control over assets;
- Acts in a professional capacity of trust and renders comprehensive and continuous investment oversight

A fiduciary demonstrates prudence by the process through which investment decisions are managed, rather than by showing that investment products and techniques are chosen because they were labeled as "prudent."

The Kentucky Baptist Foundation is honored to serve Kentucky Baptist churches and Kentucky Baptist institutions through its fiduciary service of investment management oversight. We are happy to provide information about the Foundation's investment service to those churches who may have this need. We encourage church leaders to invite Foundation staff to

make an investment presentation to the appropriate leadership group in the church for consideration and comparison.

The hallmarks of the Kentucky Baptist Foundation's investment management oversight service are: value added performance; Christian-based social screening of investment securities; and below market fee cost. Although past performance is no guarantee of future results, the Kentucky Baptist Foundation can provide your church with references of other churches that have been satisfactorily using the Foundation's services for a number of years.

To get started with learning more about this valuable fiduciary service of the Kentucky Baptist Foundation, 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.

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Gender roles: Campbellsville rekindles debate

By David Roach

Campbellsville—A potential partnership between a former Kentucky Baptist university and an organization that supports female pastors illustrates what some see as an advance of the biblical egalitarian movement. The Southern Baptist Convention, in contrast, supports preserving complementary roles of men and women in the home and church.

In September, Campbellsville University hosted the inaugural Christians for Biblical Equality lectures, named for an organization that advocates, based on its interpretation of Scripture, equal authority and leadership roles for men and women in families and churches.

While Southern Baptists affirm equal standing and worth of men and women before God in the Baptist Faith and Message, the Southern Baptist Convention's confession of faith, they also distinguish between the roles God has assigned them.

The position stipulating the fundamental equality of men and women as well as a distinction between their roles in the church and home is known as complementarianism.

Campbellsville trustees voted last year to abandon a longstanding covenant agreement with the Kentucky Baptist Convention that granted the convention authority to elect the university's trustees. The convention, a ministry partner with the SBC, changed its historic practice of sending a portion of Cooperative Program gifts received to the university. Campbellsville reportedly signed a partnership with American Baptist Churches

in Indiana and Kentucky Oct. 22.

"News that Campbellsville University has become a member of the organization called Christians for Biblical Equality once again sheds light on their decision to distance themselves from Southern Baptists and Kentucky Baptists," KBC executive director Paul Chitwood told Baptist Press. "CBE rewrites the Bible's teaching in passages like Ephesians 5, 1 Peter 3 and Colossians 3. My greatest concern for Campbellsville is that the Bible has stopped being the final authority and is being replaced with human wisdom. That isn't a good foundation for a Baptist education."

CBE President Mimi Haddad delivered the inaugural lecture at Campbellsville and argued that gender should not be a factor in the selection of church leaders.

"Not only is leadership service, but it is about character," Haddad said in a news release. "We should be looking for people not based on gender, but on spiritual gifts."

Haddad clarified her position to BP, stating, "Before the fall, Genesis makes clear that men and women are created in God's image for shared dominion-authority (Genesis 1:26-28). Throughout Scripture, women exhibit spiritual, legal and political leadership despite able men, in their communities, whom God could have used."

Among younger evangelicals and the leadership of the Evangelical Theological Society, some point to a resurgence of complementarianism. Complementarians believe the office of pastor is reserved for men, though there is disagreement over what positions on a church staff should be classified as pastoral roles. (BP)

Retreats can provide spiritual markers

This time of year is my favorite in regards to being outdoors. Fall includes many welcome changes including cooler temperatures, fall colors, football, and retreats are in full swing.

Throughout the years with Crossings, I have enjoyed getting to know so many during their respective retreats. It has been such a blessing to hear how God is active in the lives of people from churches throughout our state.

Back in 1997, it was a retreat occurring in the fall that Tera and I attended in North Carolina that made such an impact on our family. We were blessed to be able to attend an Experiencing God—weekend for couples.

One, it was a blessing for us to spend a weekend together away from the kids.

Tera also enjoyed the fact that our room did not have a TV nor did we have cell service. While she enjoyed these limitations, it was quite difficult for me to adjust to no cell service.

During that weekend, I can honestly say I really don't remember the sermon topics or many specifics about our time there.

What I do remember with great clarity was a clear call from God that we must surrender our lives to full time ministry.

This particular weekend became

one of those spiritual markers in our lives that we mentally revisit often.

In the last 18 years, we have experienced some of the best times and, honestly, some of the most difficult times.

In the times of difficulty, that weekend serves as a great reminder of the clear call God placed on our lives and we get encouragement from that memory.

Each weekend when we have guests at Cedarmore and Jonathan Creek, I wonder what God may be doing in the lives of these groups.

It is my prayer that many will also look back one day to such events and remember how God clearly called them to Himself for full time ministry or missions.

I am thankful for one particular retreat in the fall of 1997—the Melber family was put on a very rewarding new life journey.

Crossings Ministries



David Melber

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

Bracelet leads to gospel conversation

The 2015 Creative Ministries Festival included a block party for students and leaders to use their skills in community outreach. There were performances by puppets, step teams, drama teams and individual performers. Clowns, balloons, good food and bouncy climbers rounded out the activities.

I arrived early to be sure that the setups were ready and to help as needed.

A man with a teenager and three grade-school age boys arrived early. The car was old and the dad showed the effects of some hard living with tattoos and missing teeth.

He was very receptive to my welcome and conversation with him and the boys.

I have been using "colors of faith" bracelets this year with people of all ages. People will note the bracelet and I respond, "I will give it to you if you will let me tell you about it." Always people are ready to listen. This dad and the boys were no exception.

I leaned in the car window and explained the plan of salvation using the colors in the bracelet. To my surprise one of the boys said, "Could I get a Bible? We used to go to church and we don't go anymore. I miss reading the Bible."

We quickly secured a Bible. The dad and boys stayed for the block party and the church was able to

get the information needed to follow up with the family.

Your gifts to the Eliza Broadus Offering made that conversation possible. EBO helps to provide funding for missions events for children and students.

Creative Ministries Festival is the newest in the WMU family of events which allow us to teach missions and provide hands on missions experiences at the same time.

You have likely heard the news that due to revenue shortfalls, 600-800 missionaries will be returning home from overseas assignments.

This is the outcome of failing to help our children and youth understand the lostness of the world and teaching them the ways we send and support missionaries.

The WMU display at the Kentucky Baptist Convention is focused on (1) Ways you can help returning Southern Baptist missionaries and (2) Ways you can help ensure this never happens again.

Stop by the Kentucky WMU display for practical suggestions of things you can do now.

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

EBO at Work



Joy Bolton

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November

- 5 Ministry Assistants' Workshop, Ky. Baptist Building, Louisville
- 6-8 International Conference, Cave City Convention Center
- 7 GA Jam, Campbellsville Baptist Church
- 9 KBC Mission Board, Severns Valley Church, Elizabethtown
- 9 KBC Pastors' Conference, Severns Valley Church, Elizabethtown
- 10 KBC Annual Meeting, Severns Church, Elizabethtown
- 10 Men's Chorale Concert, First Church, Brandenburg
- 13-15 All-State Junior High Choir, & Concert, Walnut Street Church, Louisville

MOUNTAINS TO THE MISSISSIPPI

COMPILED BY STAFF

BEREA—Tates Creek Association welcomed **Danny Davis** as director of missions on Oct. 1.

FREDONIA—Walnut Grove Church has called **Bill Bruce** as pastor.

LOUISVILLE—New Beginning Church held a note burning service. Pastor **Mike Baker** and the church thank Long Run Association and the Kentucky Baptist Convention for their support throughout the years.

Bethany Baptist will hold a missions festival on Nov. 14-15. For more information, call (502) 452-2681. **Ken Vickery** is pastor.

PADUCAH—Lone Oak First Church will host a Women's Conference featuring **Kelly Minter**, with music by Cultivate Worship Trio on Nov. 6, from 6:30-8:30 p.m., and on Nov. 7, from a.m.-noon. For more information, call (270) 554-1441. **Dan Summerlin** is pastor.

PRINCETON—Beulah Hill Church has called **Jerry Holeman** as pastor.

Eddy Creek Church has called **Leslie Joyce** as pastor. Sugar Creek Church has called **Matt Grimes** as pastor.

RICHMOND—Union City Church welcomes **David King** as pastor.

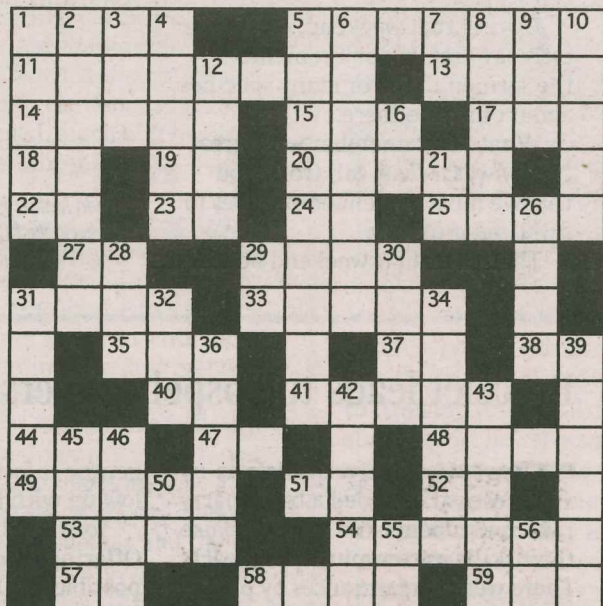
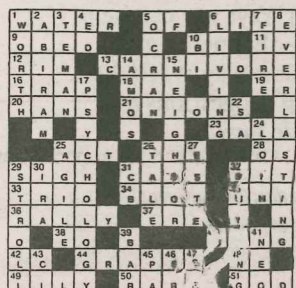
Bible Crosswords

By Rebecca Souder

Across

- 1 Stepped
- 5 "Though ye ____ not me, believe the works" (John 10:38)
- 11 "His own ____ him not" (John 1:11)
- 13 Spoke
- 14 Bone, prefix
- 15 "A man sent from ____" (John 1:6)
- 17 Tissue plasminogen interceptor, abbr.
- 18 Seventh note of the musical scale
- 19 Doctor of Theology, abbr.
- 20 "The express ____ of his person" (Hebrews 1:3)
- 22 Head, abbr.
- 23 Salvation Army, abbr.
- 24 Nickel, chem. symbol
- 25 "He gave his ____ begotten Son" (John 3:16)
- 27 The, Sp.
- 29 Preposition
- 31 "____ gave names to all cattle" (Genesis 2:20)
- 33 "The ____ is the world" (Matthew 13:38)
- 35 "The Word ____ with God" (John 1:1)
- 37 French article
- 38 Canadian province, abbr.
- 40 New Testament, abbr.
- 41 "Full of ____ and truth" (John 1:14)
- 44 "____ no man any thing" (Romans 13:8)
- 47 Not down
- 48 "To whom be glory for ____" (2 Timothy 4:18)
- 49 "Go ye into all the ____" (Mark 16:15)
- 51 "Jesus ____ the Christ"

#048



#049

- (John 20:31)
- 52 That is, Lat. abbr.
- 53 Spirited
- 54 Spares
- 57 Doctor of Science, abbr.
- 58 "Sat down on the right ____ of the Majesty" (Hebrews 1:3)
- 59 "Tempted like as we are, ____ without sin" (Hebrews 4:15)
- Down**
- 1 Pledge
- 2 Dwelled
- 3 Fall month, abbr.
- 4 "Put off the old man with his ____" (Colossians 3:9)
- 5 "In the ____ was the Word" (John 1:1)
- 6 Doeg was from this tribe (1 Samuel 21:7)
- 7 Exists
- 8 "I have never ____ any thing that is common or unclean" (Acts 10:14)
- 9 Very important person, abbr.
- 10 "Let us therefore follow after the things ... wherewith one may ____ another" (Romans 14:19)
- 12 Infinitesimal amount
- 16 District attorney, abbr.
- 21 "____ ye therefore, and teach all nations" (Matthew 28:19)
- 26 "Behold the ____ of God!" (John 1:36)
- 28 "The ____ was given by Moses" (John 1:17)
- 29 "How shall ye believe, ____ I tell you of heavenly things?" (John 3:12)
- 30 Widemouthed pot
- 31 "Truly ye bear witness that ye ____ the deeds of your father" (Luke 11:48)
- 32 Name for Christ: the Son of ____
- 34 "Neither was any ____ in his mouth" (Isaiah 53:9)
- 36 "____ to shew thyself approved" (2 Timothy 2:15)
- 39 The Anointed One
- 42 "After that he was ____ from the dead" (John 21:14)
- 43 "So is ____ one that is born of the Spirit" (John 3:8)
- 45 "The ____ was made flesh" (John 1:14)
- 46 Historic periods
- 50 Numbering system for library books, abbr.
- 55 Ex dividend, abbr.
- 56 Of age, Lat. abbr.

To place an advertisement in the Western Recorder:

Rates are available upon request.

Call (502) 489-3428 or visit westernrecorder.org



DEDICATION: Calvary Baptist Church, 804 Church Street, Franklin, KY 42134, 50th Anniversary & Building Dedication, Sunday, Nov. 8. Worship at 10 a.m. Dr. Frank Page, president and chief executive officer of the Southern Baptist Convention Executive Committee will be the speaker. From 2-4 p.m., Open House. All are invited to attend.

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: 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: 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 bbcnormanpsc@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 of 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 a.m. and 6 p.m. Sunday and Wednesday evening services. 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 bi-vocational pastor for small congregation. 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: Liberty Association of Baptists is seeking a director of missions. The ideal man would be a strategic thinker and vision caster for our 36 churches, with a Great Commission desire. Liberty is situated in south central Kentucky. Our churches are a mix of bivocational and full-time staffs. Resumes will be received through Dec. 1. Interested parties may submit resumes by email, to: puritan2483@gmail.com, or Ricky Martin 210 W. Brown St. Glasgow, KY 42141.

CLASSIFIED ADS

SEEKING: Flatwoods First Baptist Church is seeking its next full-time pastor. We average 130-150 in our Sunday a.m. worship service. Send resume and DVD or sermon to Flatwoods First Baptist Church, P.O. Box 1005, Flatwoods, KY 41139. Deadline for resumes is Dec. 15. Requirements: Bible college or higher preferred. Contact Jay Beek at beek107@zoominternet.net, (606) 923-8893, First Baptist Church, P.O. Box 1005, Flatwoods, KY 41139, c/o Jay Beek.

SEEKING: Cadiz Baptist Church is seeking a full-time minister of music to lead our church in a blended God-glorifying style of worship. This person will also serve the church in an associate pastor capacity under the leadership of the senior pastor. Send resumes to P.O. Box 606, Cadiz, KY 42211, or call the church at (270) 522-6002. Previous experience and seminary education are not required, but preferred.

SEEKING: We are seeking a full-time pre-school director. Candidates must be able to multi-task, invest relationally in volunteers and lead with vision. They must also be a humble and teachable team member. The full job description is posted at: svbc.cc/preschool-director. For information on how to apply, call (270) 982-2080.

SEEKING: Associate pastor—Rose Hill Baptist Church, Ashland, Ky. Part-time, 20 hours/week. Salary \$10,000. Position includes outreach ministry, small-group ministry education. Minimum requirement: Bible college degree.

SEEKING: Glasgow Baptist Church is seeking a full-time discipleship/student pastor to further develop our congregation, both by direct leadership and inspirational leadership. Must have strong administrative skills, previous experience is a plus, self-starter, highly motivated, team player, and family focused. Send resume to gbcsearch@glasgowbaptist.org. Accepting resumes until Dec. 1.

SEEKING: First Baptist Church of Gallatin, Tenn., is prayerfully accepting resumes for senior pastor. Send resume to Pastor Search Committee, First Baptist Church, P.O. Box 369, Gallatin, TN 37066.

SEEKING: Cedar Creek Baptist Church is seeking a part time youth pastor to lead its gospel-centered ministry. Minimum of college degree and experience preferred. Send resumes to CCBC Youth Search Committee, 7709 Bardstown Road, Louisville, KY 40291, or cedarcreekbc@gmail.com. Deadline is Nov. 30.

SEEKING: Chatham Baptist Church is seeking a minister of students and recreational outreach. For more information, visit church webpage at chathambaptist.org. Applications are due Dec. 2.

SEEKING: Rock Lick Missionary Baptist Church, Somerset, Ky., is prayerfully seeking a pastor with strong preaching skills, a passion for visiting and pastoral care, a heart for missions and evangelism, one who works well with all age groups through senior members and has especially strong leadership with youth. Resumes may be sent to: Pastor Search Committee, 122 Ashurst St., Somerset, KY 42501 or call (606) 678-5901.

TRAVEL: Send Your Pastor Away! Special rates for "Double Honor Bible Land Training Tours" that will forever enhance his preaching and passion for the Lord. www.pilgrimage.com. (800) 322-0788.

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Royals' Ben Zobrist: A 'missionary' to teammates

By Tim Ellsworth

Kansas City, Mo.—Ben Zobrist has proven his value on the baseball field to the Kansas City Royals. In Game 4 of the American League Championship Series, Zobrist homered off Toronto pitcher R.A. Dickey in the top of the first to give the Royals a quick 2-0 lead, sparking a four-run inning in a blowout 14-2 win.

Two games later, Zobrist again went deep in the first inning to give Kansas City a quick lead, setting the stage for a clinching 4-3 win over the Blue Jays and a World Series berth.

Highly coveted for his versatility, Zobrist also brings a consummate professionalism and veteran presence to the team's clubhouse. More important to him, however, is the influence for the kingdom of God that he has on his teammates.

"Ben, by virtue of the providence of God, has ended up being a missionary in a very difficult mission field of professional sports," said Byron Yawn, senior pastor of Community Bible Church in Nashville, where Zobrist and his wife Julianna are members.

Zobrist, son of a pastor in Eureka, Ill.,



Ben Zobrist (center) is the son of an Illinois pastor who played college baseball at Dallas Baptist University before entering the Major Leagues. (Kansas City Royals photo.)

became a Christian as a child. In high school, after realizing that sports held too prominent a place in his heart, he recommitted himself to the Lord. After a collegiate career at Dallas Baptist University, Zobrist spent most of his professional career with the Tampa Bay Rays, making the American League All-Star

team twice and playing in the 2008 World Series. A trade after the 2014 season sent him to Oakland. Kansas City acquired Zobrist in a mid-season this year, and he settled in at second base down the stretch.

"Like anybody else that goes and does their job, there's a way to do your job with excellence," Zobrist said in an interview

with the Florida Baptist Witness. "You want to represent Christ well with doing your job, first and foremost, because that's what you're there to do."

For Zobrist, family is a major part of his life. Ben and Julianna have two kids, with a third child due this month.

The couple has made a commitment never to be apart for more than six days—which means that Julianna and the kids spend time traveling with him.

His positive attitude and approachable spirit in the locker room make him a unifying force with the team. He often prays for his teammates and engages them in conversations about the gospel, and Yawn said he's able to do this because of the respect he has earned as a steady leader.

"The consistency of the godliness of his life is a natural attraction to a diversity of personalities on the team," Yawn said.

"We try to view Ben somewhat like we would a salesman that has to travel throughout the year and be gone a majority of the time, where we accommodate this season of his life," Yawn said. "Of course, his spirit is such that when he's done with baseball, we know exactly where he'll be." (BP)

World Series cities share need for church plants

By Tobin Perry

Kansas City, Mo.—At first glance the two cities appear as different as they could possibly be.

New York City is the city that doesn't sleep, the financial center of the United States and one of the largest cities on the planet. The home of barbecue, jazz and Hallmark, Kansas City, Mo., is best known as the "Heart of America" and the "Paris of the Plains."

The two cities are also the largest and the smallest Major League Baseball markets in the United States. Yet they shared North America's attention as they hosted the 111th World Series.

Among the 50 cities the North American Mission Board is focusing its church planting efforts, New York City and Kansas City share a considerable need for new church plants. When Southern Baptists watched the World Series this year, it provided an opportunity to learn more about two of the most significant mission fields in North America.

In fact, the two specific communities near where the games were played have unique missional needs. Queens, the New York City borough where the Mets play, has 2.3 million people in it alone—larger than all but three U.S. cities. Steve Canter, NAMB's Send City missionary for New York City, of the city's five boroughs, said Queens has been one of the toughest for Southern Baptist churches to take root in.

"Because of the diversity and density of Queens, we need church planters that are going to reach first-generation people from all over the world," Canter said. "It is the most diverse borough we have. Really, almost everything is in Queens, every kind of food you can imagine, every kind of people group you can imagine."

Adam Bishop moved to Queens from Alabama in February to help start churches in this diverse borough.

Particularly focused on unreached South Asian people groups, Bishop hopes to plant churches in the borough's Jackson Heights neighborhood. The neighborhood has one of the highest concentrations of South Asian immigrants in the city. Jackson Heights, Bishop said, has become a hub for newly arriving Tibetan, Indian, Bhutanese, Nepali and Pakistani immigrants.

To connect with these communities, Bishop teaches English as a second language. He works with other church planters who are focused on unreached people groups. Together they host a monthly celebration with worship music and a short sermon. Bishop also hosts a small group Bible study in his home once a week. He's praying for opportunities to continue to connect with and share the gospel with South Asians in the neighborhood.

"The need is huge," Bishop said. "A lot of the people we work with are immigrants. They've either been in the United States for a short time or they've been here for several years, but more than likely their English won't be very good. Many of them came to Jackson Heights because they wanted to be a part of a community of people who are the same as them, as far as their language and culture. We wanted to plant a church that would bring all of those people together."

The community around Kansas City's Kauffman Stadium has also seen new Southern Baptist activity in recent years. In April of 2014 Lenexa Baptist Church in Lenexa, Kan., replanted River Edge Fellowship on the edge of Kansas City, Mo., and the suburb of Raytown, just a mile or two from the stadium.

A diverse neighborhood, the Raytown community around River's Edge Fellowship isn't easy to reach, said campus pastor Travis Yeargans. Officially a campus of Lenexa Baptist Church, the River's Edge functions in many ways as a typical church plant with both live preaching and

local leadership.

Yeargans said the biggest need of the Raytown community is for its struggling churches to adjust their focus with an eye toward reaching a new generation of residents.

"Kansas City is an old city with a lot of

history of religious life here," Yeargans said. "But where we are many of the legacy churches are dying—they're dance halls now. They used to be places that the community recognized as houses of worship, and they're now being used for something else." (BP)

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Meeting in midfield

Midfield: The middle area of the field occupied primarily by a team's midfielders. The team with the strongest midfield players will often win a match because many battles are fought out in this area.

~ Stewart Coggin, <http://worldsoccer.about.com/>



Teenagers. They're a long way from middle age, but in the middle all the same.

They are no longer children and not yet adults. They want to be independent, but are still learning to take responsibility.

Adolescents struggle with self-image, future goals, relationships, dreams, and fears. Who are they? What do they believe? How will those beliefs impact their lives?

These years can be a time of battle for their souls. If they don't give their lives to Jesus as children or adolescents, it is much less likely that they will come to Christ as adults.

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