

WESTERN Recorder

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Shine Like Stars * Philippians 2:15

Volume 189, Issue 23

Kentucky Baptists elect first African- American president

By Todd Deaton

Elizabethtown—Messengers to the 178 Annual Meeting of the Kentucky Baptist Convention elected an African American as convention president, called for the federal government to end its funding of Planned Parenthood, and launched a strategy to boost their voice at the state Capitol.

Messengers also approved a \$21.5 million budget goal for the coming year, raising the bar by a quarter

million dollars. The 2016-2017 budget equally divides Cooperative Program receipts between KBC missions and ministries and Southern Baptist Convention causes, sending \$10,750,000 to each after deducting 7 percent for shared CP resourcing.

Kevin Smith, teaching pastor of Highview Baptist Church in Louisville, made history Nov. 10 at Severns Valley Baptist Church by becoming the first African-American to be elected as president of the Kentucky Baptist Convention.

Smith was nominated by Lincoln Bingham, senior pastor of St. Paul Baptist Church at Shively Heights in Louisville. The race-relations pioneer in Kentucky for more than three decades highlighted Smith's contributions as a champion for racial reconciliation, church revitalization, evangelism and missions.

"The Kentucky Baptist Convention is ready for the first African-American president," Bingham said. "Smith is a Cooperative Program champion and

has proven that he is a quality, committed leader."

Resolutions adopted

Among five adopted resolutions, the messengers spoke out against the selling of the remains of thousands of aborted babies, calling on lawmakers to immediately defund the Planned Parenthood organization. One-third of Planned Parenthood's \$1.3 billion budget reportedly comes from the federal government.

"The senseless killing of unborn babies and selling of body parts from those babies" is condemnable, according to a resolution passed by messengers.

Planned Parenthood, an agency providing about one out of every four abortions in the U.S., was the target of an anti-abortion hidden-camera sting that revealed the practice of selling aborted baby parts to researchers. In nearly a dozen videos, the Center for Medical Progress secretly recorded Planned Parenthood officials acknowledging they harvest tissue from aborted babies for scientific research.

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

Kentucky Baptists also formally renounced racism and pledged to pursue cooperative fellowship with all Christian

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Pro-family voters score 'massive victory' with Bevin

By David Roach

Nashville—Pro-family voters scored wins at the polls Nov. 3.

Both Kentucky and Mississippi elected governors who are pro-life and opposed to same-sex marriage. Houston overturned a measure granting protected status to homosexuals and transgendered persons, and Ohio defeated recreational marijuana.

Ryan Anderson, a senior research fellow at The Heritage Foundation, wrote in an online commentary that Election Day 2015 disproved the "conventional wisdom ... that social liberalism is an electoral winner."

"That's not true," Anderson wrote. "At least not in the swing states of Kentucky

and Ohio, and not even in the liberal city of Houston. And definitely not last night. There's a lesson to be learned:

Conservatives can win when they refuse to be bullied by elites into silence. Making the public argument against bad policy and in support of good policy can win the day. It just did."

In Kentucky, Republican Matt Bevin defeated Democrat Jack Conway by a 53-44 margin despite "trailing in every public poll since winning the Republican primary," according to the Lexington Herald-Leader. Bevin's running mate, Lt. Gov.-elect



Governor-elect Matt Bevin

Jenean Hampton, became the first African American to win a statewide election in Kentucky.

A traditional marriage supporter and abortion opponent, Bevin defended Kim Davis, a county clerk in eastern Kentucky, after she was jailed for refusing to issue marriage licenses to same-sex couples. The Washington Post said Bevin's focus "on social issues, including promises to defund Planned Parenthood and defend Kim Davis, helped drive the conservative base to turn out."

During the campaign's closing days, the Family Foundation of Kentucky reported

Planned Parenthood's Kentucky political action committee was making telephone calls discouraging voters from supporting Bevin.

Southern Baptist Theological Seminary reported Bevin made a significant donation to help establish the seminary's Bevin Center for Missions Mobilization in 2012 in honor of his daughter Brittney, who was killed in a 2003 car accident at age 17.

The Bevin Center website includes a video of Matt Bevin speaking during a 2012 Southern Seminary chapel service about Brittney's passion for missions and asking students to listen for God's call to missions. In the video, Bevin says there is "no institution we felt more confident in"

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Smith makes history as KBC president

By Todd Deaton

Elizabethtown—Kevin Smith, teaching pastor of Highview Baptist Church in Louisville, made history again Nov. 10 by becoming the first African-American to be elected as president of the Kentucky Baptist Convention.

Smith, who was the first African-American to serve as first vice president of the KBC in 2006, defeated Jerry Tooley, director of missions for Daviess-McLean Association, who was first vice president this past year. The vote was 578 to 233, with Smith capturing 71.3 percent of votes, compared to Tooley's 28.7 percent.

Smith was nominated by Lincoln Bingham, senior pastor of St. Paul Baptist Church at Shively Heights in Louisville. Lincoln, a race-relations pioneer in Kentucky for more than three decades, highlighted Smith's contributions as a champion for racial reconciliation, church revitalization, evangelism and missions.

"The Kentucky Baptist Convention is ready for the first African-American president," Bingham said. "Smith is a Cooperative Program champion and has proven that he is a quality, committed leader."

Smith, an assistant professor of Christian preaching at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, told the Western Recorder that he was honored to have been nominated by Bingham. "He has been a personal inspiration in his efforts for Christ's people to be united across lines of division," Smith said.

As convention president, Smith said he wants to encourage Kentucky pastors and churches to be "all in" with the cooperative approach to fulfilling the Great Commission.

"Many of our pastors are single-staff or bivocational, and they could really benefit from the encouragement and fellowship of others who are pursuing faithful gospel ministry," Smith said.

Previously, Smith was pastor of Watson Memorial Baptist Church, also in Louisville. During his tenure, he led that congregation into the Kentucky Baptist Convention, and since has been active on various KBC committees and task forces.

Smith, who is working toward a Ph.D. from Southern Seminary, is a graduate of Hampton University and the Church of God Theological Seminary.

Serving with Smith will be Andrew Dyer, a London pastor, as first vice president, and Stephen Hall, a retired music minister from Somerset.

Dyer, pastor of Corinth Baptist Church, was nominated by Chad Fugitt, pastor of Central Baptist Church in Corbin. He received 511 votes, or 68.4 percent, and Dry Ridge pastor Mark Payton received 236 votes, 31.6 percent.

Dyer has been a member of the KBC Mission Board, two-time chair of its collegiate ministry committee, and served on the Committee on Nominations.

Hall became the first music minister in 15 years to hold a state convention office when he was elected as second vice president. He received 321 votes, for 52 percent of the votes cast, defeating Jonathan Gann, pastor of New Salem Baptist Church in Cox's Creek, who received 301 votes, or 48 percent.

Hall has served on church staffs in Kentucky, Indiana, Alabama and



Tom James, left, hands off the president's gavel to Kevin Smith, who was elected the first African-American president in Kentucky Baptist Convention history. Smith is teaching pastor at Highview Baptist Church in Louisville and a preaching professor at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary. (Photo by Robin Cornet)

Tennessee over a 50-year ministry career. A former missionary with the International Mission Board, having served in Brazil, he has served as president of the Kentucky Baptist Men's Chorale and president of the Kentucky Baptist Music Conference.

Hall, who recently retired after 23 years on staff at High Street Baptist Church, was nominated by his pastor, Ed Amundson.

Wilma Simmons was elected by acclamation as secretary, marking the start of her 25th year of service. She is a member of

Big Spring Baptist Church in Vine Grove.

Serving again alongside her as assistant secretary is Pat Reaves, who also was elected by acclamation. She is a member of Bethlehem Baptist Church in Louisville. (WR)

Smith's election signals 'day of inclusion'

By Kristen Lowry & Roger Alford

Elizabethtown—The election of Kevin Smith, teaching pastor at Highview Baptist Church in Louisville, comes at a time when Kentucky Baptists are trying to reach out to people of all ethnicities.

The newly elected convention president has a strong track record as a gospel preacher, a long history of personal evangelism, and a strong conviction that Christians should be engaged in the political process.

Smith also serves as assistant professor of Christian preaching at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, was not raised in a Christian home, but was exposed to the church at a young age by his grandmother. However, it wasn't until college that he heard a sermon on John 3:16 and put his trust in Christ.

"I clearly realized I had been 'bought with a price' and Jesus was Lord and I ought to follow Him," he said.

Smith, considered one of the strongest preachers in the Southern Baptist Convention, has been active at the state and national denominational levels. He is a sought-after speaker at conferences.

"We've seen history being made," said Richard Nelson, a member of Edgewood Baptist Church in Hopkinsville. "This marks a new day for Kentucky Baptists. It signals a day of inclusion, and sends the message that Kentucky Baptists are serious about racial reconciliation."

Ed Amundson, pastor of High Street Baptist Church in Somerset, said Kentucky clearly has more ground to cover regarding racial reconciliation.

"Kevin's election says we've come a long way by the grace of Jesus Christ," Amundson said.

After his conversion, Smith was disciplined by his late pastor and went on to

earn a bachelor's degree from Hampton University and a Masters of Divinity from Church of God Theological Seminary in Cleveland, Tenn. He is a doctoral candidate at Southern Seminary.

Smith served as pastor of Watson Memorial Baptist Church in Louisville for eight years, where he taught the church about the Cooperative Program and led it to become a leading African-American congregation in CP giving.

Smith currently serves as teaching pastor at Louisville's Highview Baptist Church, where Cooperative Program giving has increased more than 300 percent since he began serving there.

As KBC president, Smith has promised to voice the concerns and convictions of Kentucky Baptists. He regularly speaks on college campuses and with the media.

"I always stand for the truth of scripture and the authority of the Bible in the life of a Christian," Smith said.

"In public settings, I stand upon the Bible's teaching in many areas, such as sexuality, the Trinity, greed, drunkenness, taking advantage of the poor, the exclusivity of Christ, the deity of Christ, ... racism, classism, sexism and the image of God in humanity."

Smith serves on the Ethics and Religious Liberty Commission's Leadership Network Council and has expressed support for its president, Russell Moore, and Paul Chitwood, KBC executive director, as they represent the concerns of

Bible-believing Christians on pressing social issues of the day.

"God's people must be engaged in the political process and a voice of salt and light if we hope to see religious liberty preserved," Smith said.

Smith has an active ministry among the Christian Motorcyclist Association. He also has served as a prison chaplain.

"My greatest successes have always been with ex-offenders, because they are often feeling rejected as they seek to re-enter society," he said. "Nothing sounds as sweet to their ear as Christ's words: 'Come unto me, all ye that labor and are heavy-laden, and I will give you rest.'"

Smith said the greatest challenges facing Kentucky Baptists today are the same as those the Israelites faced in the promised land and the early Christians faced in the Roman Empire.

"I don't think the challenges ever change," Smith said. "How do we live faithfully and obediently as we seek to love the only true God with our all hearts and love our neighbor as Christ commanded? (KBC)"



Serving as KBC officers with Smith will be Andrew Dyer, of London, center, and Stephen Hall, of Somerset, right.

'Go fishing!' James urges Kentucky Baptists

By Todd Deaton

Elizabethtown—Knowing how many Kentuckians love to hunt and fish, Kentucky Baptist Convention President Tom James pleased pastors when he urged them to "keep fishing."

"Our job is not to catch fish; our job is to go fishing," the Bowling Green pastor reminded Kentucky Baptists gathered at Severns Valley Baptist Church Nov. 10. "Here's an important truth: You can go fishing without catching fish, but you can't catch fish, without going fishing."

"When we stand in front of the Lord, He's not going to say, 'How many did you catch?'" James continued. "He's going to say, 'How many hooks did you wet?' ... How many times did you share the gospel in an attempt to lead someone to faith?"

Pew forum estimates there are more than 5 billion lost people in the world. "The number is so staggering that we no longer see faces, we see mannequins—people that aren't real," James said.

"At times we say, I hope they get what they deserve," he said. "Aren't you glad the Lord doesn't give us what we deserve?"

While some may say that they aren't concerned about numbers, and that what they want is quality, not quantity, James reminded the crowd of nearly 1,200, "Jesus calls us to be fishers of men."



KBC President Tom James addresses Kentucky Baptists at Severns Valley Baptist Church Nov. 10.

"When you go fishing, do you want quantity fish or quality fish?" James asked. "The answer is, yes!" he chuckled. "You want a large quantity of quality fish."

Fishermen don't quit in five minutes if they haven't caught anything, and believers shouldn't either, he observed, explaining that it may take years of sharing the gospel with someone before they are saved.

"Fish don't want to be caught. They're spooked easily," he said. "They aren't going to jump into your boat."

Similarly, people without Christ may resent and resist the person who is sharing the gospel with them. But "keep loving them and keep sharing," James urged.

Recounting Mark's story of four men

who brought their paralyzed friend to Jesus, James pointed out that the house was packed with people who had gathered to hear Jesus, making it almost impossible for the men to get inside.

"The greatest rumor to get out about your church and mine is that Jesus is in the house," James said. "I believe that if folks know Jesus is in the house, churches still grow."

Yet the four men were determined, James continued. The fact their friend was unable to walk and the crowd blocked their access to Jesus didn't stop them, he said.

The people inside the house "were more concerned about their seats than about the souls outside," James continued, emphasizing that they were the ones who prevented the paralyzed man from reaching Jesus.

"The greatest obstacle to people coming to Christ are cold, carnal, calloused, critical Christians—those already 'in the house,'" he admonished.

Tearing off a roof was an

unconventional way to get someone to Jesus, James observed, cautioning Kentucky Baptists not to be wary of untraditional methods to bring people to Jesus.

The first place that Jesus told the man to go after he was healed was home, James emphasized. "We have believed the devil's lie that the hardest people to witness to is our family," he said.

"If you have been changed by the gospel, the easiest people to witness to ought to be your family, because they're the ones who see the change in you."

Imagine the man rolling up his mat and walking home, James continued.

"He comes around the corner and there

is his little daughter playing in the yard who has never seen her daddy walk. She's shocked, 'Daddy, what happen?' He smiles and says, 'Honey, I've just met Jesus!'"

"That story needs to happen over and over again across the commonwealth," James said. "Men coming home to their families and saying, 'Honey, I've just met Jesus.'" (WR)

Chitwood: To reach world, 'we need one another'

By Myriah Snyder

Elizabethtown—To reach the world, "we need one another," Kentucky Baptist Convention Executive Director Paul Chitwood reminded Kentucky Baptists attending their annual meeting.

"Do we understand what hangs in the balance, Kentucky Baptists? Eternity hangs in the balance," Chitwood told the crowd of 1,200 at Severns Valley Baptist Church.

"What does that have to do with you and me and our being here today?" he asked. "It's the very reason we gather here today."

"We have been called to reach our world. Thank God we decided a long time ago we would do it together. From looking around this room, I believe we're still in it together," he said.

Chitwood's convention sermon addressed what it means to stand together and the importance of it.

Drawing from 1 Thessalonians 3:6-13, Chitwood said that Kentucky Baptists are "doing good work in a hard place," just like those whom Paul referenced in the Scripture.

"Where culture has rejected, they are committing themselves to Christ and His word. They are faithful while others are falling. They preserve while others panic and quit."

"Kentucky Baptists, God has given us men like that," he stated.

Standing together means "standing fast for one another," "celebrating one another" and "standing in the gap on behalf of one another," he explained.

"If we will reach our world, we must adopt a different posture toward one another that we haven't always had," Chitwood said.

He urged, "Rather than standing and

criticizing one another, the gospel would be better served if we would pray for one another. Rather than talking about one another, we should be thanking God for one another. Rather than looking for ways to divide we should be pledging our love for the brethren."

However, that doesn't mean Christians can't disagree, he continued.

"It certainly doesn't mean that we overlook apostasy," he said. "The most loving thing that we can do is confront those that are cascading toward the cliff of doctrinal heresy."

"But when a brother is walking with

the Lord, yearning to share the gospel, I'm going to thank God for him. That's a brother I should love," he said.

"If we need someone to criticize, let's criticize those who cutting the heads off our brothers and sisters, not those who are a little more or less Calvinistic than we are," he said. "If we need someone to rail against, let's rail against the sodomizers, instead of those who have a little different understanding of how the sovereignty of God is on display in the effectual call."

"If we need a strawman to dress down in a sermon, let's rip the scrubs from the

abortionist," he proclaimed.

Rather than "dressing down" a young preacher in jeans or an older preacher who still wears a suit and tie, "Let's rip the hood from the racist, rather than mock the church with a band or the church with a Baby Grand," Chitwood said.

"Better yet, let us tan the hide of that prowling, devouring lion himself," he urged, "and let's love, pray for, love and thank God for one another."

"Brothers, where we can, we must stand for one another and stand in the gap on behalf of one another. Now more than ever, we need one another." (WR)



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Breaking barriers

The 2015 Kentucky Baptist Convention annual meeting was a wonderful time of inspiration and celebration with more than 1,000 registered messengers participating in the day's two business sessions. Here is a highlight of my report:

"Today marks my fifth opportunity to report on behalf of the Mission Board as your executive director. To say the past four and a half years have been challenging at times would be an understatement, but God has proven time and again that no barrier has been placed before us that He is unable to breakdown or overcome.

Together We are the KBC



Paul Chitwood

"As I came into my role, we faced an enormous financial barrier with Cooperative Program giving sliding downward. I am pleased to report that God overcame that barrier this year when we saw our churches give more to fund the work of reaching Kentucky and the world for Christ than they had given in the year prior. Not only did we witness an increase in CP giving, but all three of our missions offerings also increased over the prior year.

"Another barrier we have faced, for the past several years, is the barrier of a culture growing ever hostile toward the gospel. We were seeing fewer people reached and baptized year after year. But God was able to break down that barrier, and we saw more people come to faith and be baptized in KBC churches this past year than the year before.

"Yet another barrier was the struggle with three KBC institutions wavering in their commitment to our churches and their commitment to biblical teaching. Thankfully, the convention stood strongly, and today we see the good results. Kentucky Baptists, through Sunrise, are providing Christ-centered care for nearly twice as many kids as we were caring for in 2013 when the former president was leading the board to change hiring policies. God has broken down the barrier, and now we are touching the lives of over 750 children and doing it in a way that does not require us to compromise our biblical convictions.

"Georgetown College was another institution that turned from her historic relationship with KBC churches, announcing in 2005 that it would end its covenant agreement with our churches. Georgetown honored the covenant's terms of dissolution and began the four-year process of withdrawal, replacing the covenant agreement with a partnership agreement. When the college failed to keep the terms of that partnership agreement, terms the college itself had proposed, the agreement was ended in 2013.

"Then, one year ago, we heard the bewildering news that Campbellsville University had broken its covenant agreement with the churches and elected its own trustees. Campbellsville failed to honor its long-standing promise to observe the four-year process required to leave the covenant agreement. In the past few weeks, we have learned that Campbellsville has now joined a denomination with churches that do gay weddings. The liberal direction of every institution that breaks ties with its churches is predictable. But what has happened so quickly at this once-proud Kentucky Baptist school is stunning.

"The downfall of these once faithful institutions has been heartbreaking, but Kentucky Baptists' only remaining university, the University of the Cumberlands, now has an enrollment surpassing the combined enrollments at Campbellsville and Georgetown by more than 1,000 students. God is blessing!"

Historic day in race relations for Ky. Baptists

Nov. 10, 2015, turned out to be an historic date for Kentucky Baptists. The first African American president was elected during their annual meeting at Severns Valley Baptist Church in Elizabethtown. Don't miss the historical significance of the venue either: the oldest Baptist congregation in the commonwealth.

Kevin Smith, indeed, is a very capable and deserving choice to lead Kentucky Baptists. He serves on the faculty of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary as a preaching professor, and he is on the ministerial staff of Louisville's Highview Baptist Church. Previously, he has leadership experience as a vice president for the Kentucky Baptist Convention. Adjectives such as committed, passionate, dynamic, intellectual and servant-heart come readily. One can only hope that this momentous election will mark the first of many to come.

Lest we miss the significance of this occasion in race relations, only five decades ago our nation was in the midst of a horrendous struggle with integration and civil rights. As a child of the 60s, I can recall race riots in front of the elementary school in my small, southern town where hostile mobs tore up a school bus. As a teenager, I can recall creating "an issue" when I invited some black guys to join a pick-up game on our church's basketball courts.

Though tragic in tone, a 1962 editorial by Chauncey Daley provides a good study in contrast. Daley shared his painful experience after attending a Kentucky Baptist Student Union Convention in Lexington. On the program that evening was Henry Q. Taylor, secretary of Health Services for the nation of Liberia.



Kevin Smith just before going to the platform to take the gavel as president of the Kentucky Baptist Convention. (Photo by Tanya York)

A great humanitarian, Taylor had come to tell students about Operation Brothers Brother II, in which teams of doctors had given their time and services on an errand of mercy to eradicate small pox in the West African nation through mass inoculations. He had been invited by Robert Hingston, a medical doctor and member of First Baptist Church of Cleveland, who had invented a "peace gun" used to rapidly inject serum into the arms of patients.

On the way to the convention, Taylors' airplane had been rerouted to Louisville because of fog, and he did not have time to eat before speaking to the students. And, the privilege of being in the company of these two great humanitarians turned to humiliation for Daley on the way back to Louisville that evening. Daley writes:

"The first eating place open as we journeyed toward Louisville was in Frankfort. As we walked into this place, it never occurred to me that one of us had different color skin. In fact, from the

moment that I met this great person I was never aware of his color. But I was suddenly jarred to reality when I saw the anguished face of the waitress when we sat down."

The restaurant owner refused to serve a black person, so they continued on to their hotel in Louisville, arriving after 1:15 a.m. Taylor had not eaten in 18 hours, so the men went looking for an all-night diner.

"Feeling certain it was all right, but wishing to avoid any scene, I went in ahead to ask about service," Daley continues. "Again, the man in charge shook his head saying the boss had left orders not to feed any black customers." Two candy bars were all the food a famous humanitarian had on his first visit to Kentucky.

"I felt like crying," Daley writes, "not for Taylor who smiled through it all, but for Kentuckians who apparently never, read, 'Be not forgetful to entertain strangers: for thereby some have entertained angels unawares' (Hebrews 13:2)."

Yes, that was long ago, and strides have been made. Even so, we still have a long way to go in our society and in our congregations in regards to racial reconciliation. Yet Lincoln Bingham, well-known as a race-relations pioneer in Kentucky, was right when, in nominating Smith, he declared, "The Kentucky Baptist Convention is ready for the first African American president."

We should all rejoice in a momentous step taken by Kentucky Baptists in recognizing the worth and service of our brothers and sisters in Christ who are of a different race or ethnicity. May Kevin Smith's election indeed signal the dawn of a "day of inclusion."

sleep better, exercise and are less likely to get infections.

The Journal of Happiness Studies said this is also true for teens. The study surveyed 1,035 students and found that teens who were most thankful had more friends and higher GPAs. The opposite was true of those showing materialistic values. This is good reason to get your kids to tell you at least one thing they are grateful for before they get out of the car.

For me, an attitude of gratitude is something I practice daily, not just on Thanksgiving. But gratefulness does not come naturally. We have to train ourselves to be thankful:

■ **Write it down.** Listing the things we are grateful for will help us remember to be thankful. We tend to forget His benefits and blessings. Just the act of putting pen to paper cements the act of thanksgiving in my heart.

■ **Use your words.** My son Mark took a while to speak. The words were in his mind, and he might have been thinking

□ See Giving thanks... Page 5

Thanksgiving: A healthy heart

By Vicki Heath

Health-conscious people have said for years there is a connection between a healthy body and a healthy spirit. Now there is clinical proof alongside the Bible's affirmation of people who give thanks and praise to God.

Psalms 103:1-5 sparked my interest with the phrase "praise the Lord O my soul, and forget not all his benefits" and "who satisfies your desires with good things so that your youth is renewed like the eagle's."

A number of studies have shown how gratefulness can enhance your health. The Heart International journal published a study revealing that heart patients who had a positive, thankful outlook on life had much better results. The study suggests grateful people tend to earn more money,

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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.

Kentucky Baptists: 'Stop funding Planned Parenthood'

By Myriah Smith

Elizabethtown—Kentucky Baptist Convention messengers adopted a resolution calling for ending public funding for Planned Parenthood on Tuesday at the KBC Annual Meeting in Elizabethtown.

"Therefore be it resolved that messengers to the 2015 annual meeting of the Kentucky Baptist Convention call for an end to any and all public funding for Planned Parenthood," the resolution states.

"Therefore, be it further resolved that messengers to the 2015 annual meeting condemn the actions of Planned Parenthood in the senseless killing of unborn babies and in the selling of body parts from those babies," the resolution continues.

Citing statistics indicating that "one of every four abortions performed in America are carried out at Planned Parenthood," the resolution noted that 995,787 abortions were carried out at Planned Parenthood in the past three years. Leading to the resolution were videos showing Planned Parenthood officials talking about selling organs from aborted babies. Other contributing factors included



KBC messengers raise ballots on social issues of the day, including government funding of Planned Parenthood, cooperative missions and racial reconciliation, and social justice and civil rights. (Photo by Robin Cornet)

tax documents that "raise legitimate questions about the need for public funding to Planned Parenthood," and Margaret Sanger's, Planned Parenthood's founder, strong belief in eugenics.

Racial Reconciliation

Another resolution focused "on cooperative missions and racial reconciliation" was passed on Tuesday.

"Many of our Kentucky Baptist forbearers wrongly defended the right to enslave

African peoples. Radicalized thinking hindered multi-ethnic cooperative missions for the first 100 years of Kentucky Baptist existence," the resolution states.

"Be it resolved that we, acknowledge past and present racism in our hearts ... we renounce and oppose all forms of racism which distort the message of the gospel," the resolution continues.

The KBC "will intentionally pursue at least one ethnic minority congregation in mutual friendship and love in order to reach our world for the glory of God," it concluded. Curtis Woods, associate executive director for Convention Relations, presented the resolution.

"The final resolution on cooperative missions and racial reconciliation is an important resolution for our convention because it reminds us of the responsibility we have to constantly remember Jesus' prayer in John 17 that we would become one," Woods said. "In order for us to advance the gospel of Jesus Christ together, we have to deal with very difficult things in our pasts."

Woods, referencing Dietrich Bonhoeffer's "Life Together," said, "In order for a resolution to become revolutionary or

transformative, we must embody the words therein. Simply put, 'we do life together.' The final resolution is about us a band of baptized believers, red, yellow, black, and white, all being precious in His sight in the 21st century, telling the lost and dying world that we are one." The resolution passed unanimously.

Social Justice

Similarly, a resolution on "gospel-centered social justice on the 50th anniversary of the Voting Rights Act of 1965" was passed by KBC messengers.

The resolution referenced America's early history of "legally sanctioned inequality on the basis of race through multiple Supreme Court decisions."

"Evangelical Christians of all ethnic persuasion must champion the cause of social justice and civil rights without contradicting the gospel and clear principles of Scripture concerning race, class and gender," the resolution stated.

Kentucky Baptists "celebrate and commemorate the federal legislation which gave African Americans the right to vote without fear of racially discriminatory practices," the resolution said. (WR)

Baptists have chaplain, lobbyist, journalist at Capitol

By Roger Alford

Elizabethtown—Kentucky Baptists have implemented a three-pronged strategy intended to give them more input in political issues that have moral and ethical implications.

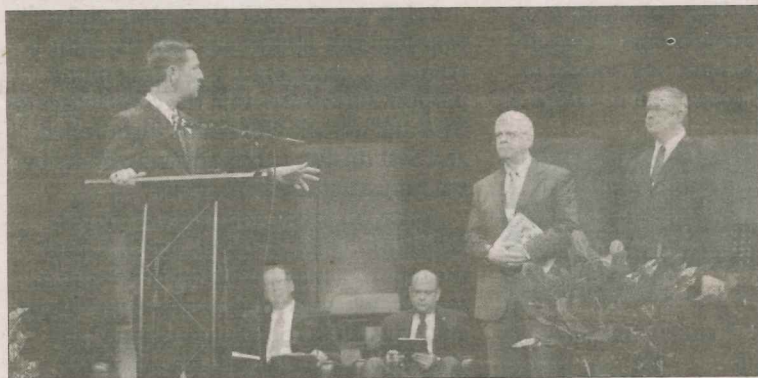
Kentucky Baptist Convention Executive Director Paul Chitwood unveiled the strategy Tuesday at the KBC Annual Meeting in Elizabethtown, telling messengers about a grant that is covering the cost of a lobbyist, a chaplain and a journalist, all of whom will be based at the Capitol in Frankfort.

Chitwood emphasized that the grant means that no Cooperative Program funds, which covers the cost of missionaries and ministries around the world, will be used in the new initiative.

"For too long, we've been too quiet in the Capitol," Chitwood said. "As you know, forces on the other side have quashed a number of commonsense bills time and again, including every pro-life proposal that has been introduced in the General Assembly in recent years."

The sheer size of the KBC, with 2,400 churches and nearly 750,000 members, means it could be a tremendous influence for good in the political process. But, having been largely silent in the political world, that influence hasn't been fully realized in the state legislature, where nearly half the Senate lawmakers identify themselves as Baptists, as do nearly a third of House lawmakers.

The Glenmary survey, a religious census done every 10 years, shows that in 2010 more than 1 million Kentuckians



Executive Director Paul Chitwood, left, introduces Tom Troth, center, and Steve Weaver. Troth is a lobbyist at the Capitol representing Kentucky Baptist interests. Weaver serves as a chaplain at the Capitol. (Photo by Robin Cornet)

identified themselves as Southern Baptists—that's about one in four. The numbers suggest Kentucky Baptists have the potential to be a powerful force in the state Capitol.

Chitwood announced that former Kentucky Legislative Research Commission Deputy Director Tom Troth has signed on as the KBC lobbyist. Troth, a lawyer, also is pastor of Hillcrest Baptist Church in Frankfort, where he has served for more than 20 years.

"Tom is a strong Christian leader who knows the ins and outs of the Frankfort political system like few others," Chitwood said. "I'm convinced that God prepared him for this role and arranged to put him in it."

Troth began in the new role Oct. 1. "Lobbyists are the norm for organizations working against the interests of people of faith, yet Kentucky Baptists have never had a lobbyist representing them," Chitwood said. "As a result, we've not had a significant voice on many of the most

crucial issues of our day. That has now changed."

Having a Kentucky Baptist chaplain in the Capitol is another key part of the strategy. Chitwood said the chaplain will be entirely non-partisan so that he can minister to the needs of every lawmaker and Capitol employee, regardless of political affiliation.

Steve Weaver, pastor of Farmdale Baptist Church near Frankfort and a teacher at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, began the role of Capitol chaplain Oct. 1. Chitwood said the Capitol could easily be described as a spiritual battlefield, and having a chaplain on hand to minister to lawmakers is vital.

"Elected officials in Frankfort tend to be more prone to the whims of political influence than spiritual influence," Chitwood said. "But the fact is, if more of these government leaders had the mind of Christ, most of the moral and ethical issues Kentucky wrestles with could be resolved overnight. That's why we believe it's crucial

that we have a Southern Baptist chaplain in place at the Capitol to form relationships with our elected leaders, to share the gospel, to counsel on personal matters when needed, and to be a friend."

Chitwood said the chaplain will not engage in any lobbying activity, will not show favor for a political party and will not take stands on political issues.

"Instead, he would be 'pastor' to the elected officials in the legislative and executive branches and their hundreds of employees," Chitwood noted.

Two lawmakers, one Republican and one Democrat, approached the KBC public affairs committee to ask that a chaplain be assigned to the Capitol, pointing out what they saw as the great spiritual needs there.

The third prong of the strategy was to create an online resource that could provide Kentucky Baptists with daily news and perspective. Chitwood said Kentucky Baptists have a tremendous need for reliable information about what their state lawmakers are doing.

Former International Mission Board foreign correspondent Kristen Lowry has been hired to cover the Capitol for Kentucky Today. Her salary and expenses also are being covered by grant funding.

"We'll strive to ensure that all news articles in Kentucky Today will be accurate, fair and balanced," Chitwood said. "We cherish these news values and are bent on upholding them in our reporting."

The website will also offer commentary and opinion pieces that will "help Kentucky Baptists make sense of what's going on around them," he said. (KBC)

Giving thanks

Continued from page 1

"thank you" but he needed to say it out loud. And so do we. Don't let grateful thoughts go unspoken. Words have power to bring hope if we use them.

■ **Choose gratefulness.** We have more control over our thoughts than many of us realize. Even in the hardest times we can find a reason to be grateful. Being grateful is a decision you make, not necessarily something you might feel. I have a long-time pastor's wife friend who is always smiling. Someone asked her once "why are

you always smiling?" Her answer? Because I decided to.

■ **Pray.** The Bible says in 1 Thessalonians 5:18, "give thanks in all circumstances for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus" (NIV). I want to have a happy healthy Thanksgiving. I want to focus on my friends and family and not so much on the

food. I want to express genuine gratitude to our Lord. The health benefits are just a bonus! Proverbs 17:22 is true, "A cheerful heart is good medicine ..." (NLT).

Vicki Heath is the national director of First Place 4 Health, a wellness program for balance in spirit, soul, mind and body based on a giving Christ first place.

Elizabethtown pastor, 19 churches recognized for CP support

Elizabethtown—An Elizabethtown pastor and 19 churches were singled out as models of unwavering faithfulness to cooperative missions giving during the annual meeting of the Kentucky Baptist Convention.

Bill Langley, senior pastor of Severns Valley Baptist Church, received the Distinguished Cooperative Program Leadership Award for his lifelong devotion to the Cooperative Program. He has served the 4,000-member congregation and the community of Elizabethtown since 2009.

In the past 10 years, Severns Valley gave nearly \$3 million to missions through the Cooperative Program, contributing to the increase in baptisms and church plants in Kentucky and around the world.

"Dr. Bill Langley is a convictional leader," said Curtis Woods, Kentucky



Jeff Wilson, right, associate pastor of Severns Valley Baptist Church in Elizabethtown, accepts the Distinguished Cooperative Program Leadership Award on behalf of Senior Pastor Bill Langley, as KBC Associate Executive Director Curtis Woods looks on. (Photo by Robin Cornet)

Baptist Convention's associate executive director. "Langley embodies the 'four

pegs' of our convention: he has a high view of scripture; he adheres to the Baptist Faith and Message; he is passionate about the Great Commission; and he honors cooperation.

"For several years, Severns Valley has set the bar in CP giving," Woods said. "Without question, churches that set the pace for others in CP giving are led by CP marathoners. Bill is a long-distance giving champion." (KBC)

■ Top contributors in total CP giving

Severns Valley Baptist Church, Elizabethtown, \$342,797; Lone Oak First Baptist Church, Paducah, \$317,200; Immanuel Baptist Church, Lexington, \$276,060.

■ Top CP supporters in per capita giving

Countryside Baptist Church, Morganfield, \$342; Mexico Baptist Church, Marion, \$302; Caskey Baptist Church, Hopkinsville, \$290.

Thirteen churches reached milestones in Cooperative Program giving:

■ \$5 million milestone

First Baptist Church, Henderson; Central Baptist Church, Winchester; First Baptist Church, Murray.

■ \$4 million milestone

Eastwood Baptist Church, Bowling Green.

■ \$3 million milestone

Westport Road Baptist Church, Louisville.

■ \$2 million milestone

Pleasant Hill Baptist Church, Somerset.

■ \$1 million milestone

Calvary Baptist Church, Glasgow; First Baptist Church, Kuttawa; Bethlehem Baptist Church, Louisville; Columbia Baptist Church, Columbia; Walnut Grove Baptist Church, Fredonia; Calvary Baptist Church, Danville; First Baptist Church, Monticello. (KBC)

Pro-family voters

Continued from page 1

than Southern Seminary to carry out Brittney's vision of missions mobilization.

Kentucky Baptist Convention executive director Paul Chitwood said in a KBC news release he looks forward to working with Bevin "on issues that matter to people of faith in Kentucky."

Bevin's "interviews and speeches," Chitwood said, "seemed to strike a chord with evangelical voters and the election results indicate they turned out on this Election Day."

In Mississippi, Republican Gov. Phil Bryant won a second term by a 67-32 margin over Democrat Robert Gray. Bryant is pro-life and opposes same-sex marriage.

In Texas, the Houston Equal Rights Ordinance (HERO) was repealed by a 62-38 majority, KHOU television reported. The ordinance—passed by the city council in May 2014 but stayed by a judge pending the repeal vote—would have extended civil rights protections to individuals based on sexual orientation and gender identity.

The repeal marked the culmination of an 18-month legal battle between city officials and HERO opponents who sought to place the measure's repeal before voters. In

July, the Texas Supreme Court ordered Houston's city council either to repeal HERO or send it to voters. In August, the council opted for a public vote.

Russell Moore, president of Southern Baptists' Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission, said, "Months ago, when Mayor (Annise) Parker attempted to subpoena the sermons of Houston pastors, I argued then that the preaching of the church of God does not belong to the government and we will not hand it over.

"Not now. Not ever. Here, the people of Houston have spoken and said the same is true of the conscience. The defeat of this proposition ensures that the consciences of men and women will not be steamrolled, and that unsuspecting citizens will not be put into vulnerable situations."

Jonathan Saenz, president of the pro-family group Texas Values Action, called the repeal "a massive victory for common sense, safety and religious freedom." Saenz and other HERO opponents claimed the law would have allowed, among other things, the use of women's restrooms and locker rooms by men.

"The eyes of the nation were on Houston, and the people sent a clear message and soundly rejected this intentionally deceptive and dangerous ordinance," Saenz said in a statement.

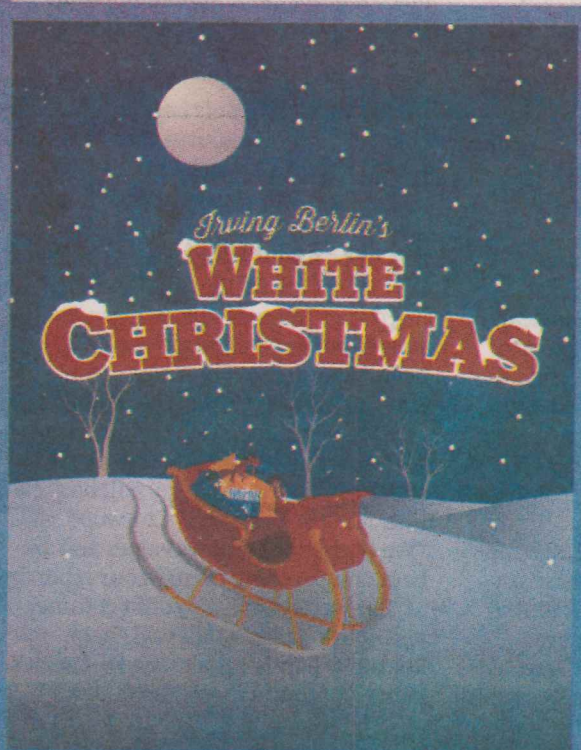
"Millions of dollars pouring in from national LGBT extremists, an out-of-control Mayor and a sustained media onslaught could not overcome the tireless efforts of Houston pastors and people of faith standing for common sense, safety and liberty."

In Ohio, residents voted 64-36 to reject a state constitutional amendment that would have legalized recreational marijuana. Despite losing the fundraising battle \$20 million to \$1 million, marijuana opponents won even "large urban counties" where legalization advocates "had hoped their support would rest," the Cincinnati Enquirer reported.

Anderson, of the Heritage Foundation, said 2015's election results teach a lesson politicians should remember in 2016: "Stand on principle. Make the public argument. Defeat bad policy. Enact good policy." (BP)

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Proposed 'Tebow Bill' offers home-school students greater access to sports

Frankfort—A Kentucky lawmaker is proposing legislation that would allow home-schooled students access to public school athletics.

The bill, proposed by Rep. Stan Lee, R-Lexington, is known as the "Tim Tebow Bill," named after former University of Florida and NFL quarterback Tim Tebow, who was home-schooled and allowed to play for his local high school team.

Bill Request 396 would allow home-school students to register with the middle or high school in their district, and be subject to the same requirements as public school students to participate, including taking a physical and meeting academic requirements. The proposal would require parents of a home-schooled student to provide transportation for athletic events.

The bill is co-sponsored by Rep. Lynn Bechler, R-Marion, Rep. Robert Benvenuti, R-Lexington, Rep. Tim Couch, R-Hyden, Rep. Ron Crimm, R-Louisville, House Republican Whip Jim DeCesare, R-Bowling Green, Rep. Kenny Imes, R-Murray, Rep. Jerry T. Miller, R-Louisville, Rep. Phil Moffett, R-Louisville, and Rep. Addia

Wuchner, R-Burlington.

"If we truly want children in Kentucky to strive for success like Tim Tebow, then why not give parents the legal option of home schooling their children and allow their children to participate in sports in their local public school district," Lee said.

The bill was filed last year, but did not receive a hearing. Nearly half of all U.S. states have passed the Tim Tebow Bill.

Scott Bolin, director of Christian Home Educators of Kentucky, sees growing support for legislation, despite reservations.

"There's some concern... that (the bill) might cause heightened regulation on home schooling," Bolin said.

Bolin attributes growing support for the legislation to education about the bill.

"There would be benefits to the legislation for homes-schoolers, but again, there are some that are concerned about what it might do as far as regulations," Bolin said.

Kristi Winchell homeschools her sons to teach them from a "Biblical worldview." "There's a big hole in the home-school community as far as organized sports," Winchell said. (KBC)

An insert to the Western Recorder by Kentucky Woman's Missionary Union • Funding provided by the Eliza Broadus Offering and the Cooperative Program

A PERSONAL WORD The importance of missions learning

As we come to the Week of Prayer for International Missions and the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering, it is a time of mixed emotions. We are heartbroken over the news that 600-800 missionaries will be returning home due to a shortfall in revenue for a number of years. While this has worked out well for some, it is still not what they had planned. All are grieving the closing out of their ministries far too soon. Our prayer is that national believers and missionaries still on the field will be able to carry on. We also pray that those returning home will find new places of service here and that the tremendous language and cultural skills that they bring

will indeed help us to reach the nations in our midst.

In an address to the Executive Committee of the Southern Baptist Convention, Wanda Lee reminded us of the words of Annie Armstrong who said "After study of God's Word comes study of the fields. Then people pray. Then they give." Wanda called us to account for the fact that many churches have abandoned the part of what Annie said between study of the God's Word and praying and giving – that is the study of the fields.

Wanda correctly pointed out that mission study is the driving force between how much we pray and how much we

give. She said, "We can lament the churches that haven't given, we can lament many things....But one thing we have failed to do in our churches is to embrace the missions assignment of helping our children and our youth understand God's field." As Wanda rightly pointed out, when there is no understanding of the depth of lostness, there's no passion to give. And when a church tilts toward entertaining their children and youth, or abandons Wednesday missions night activities in deference to other programs or sports, we have let that overshadow the priority of equipping the next generation for missions.

I cannot tell you the number of times I have received calls lamenting that a church is cutting the Cooperative Program

because key leaders did not know what it was or why we support it. Study of the fields not only includes a study of lostness, but it also includes teaching our children, students, and adults the ways we send and support missionaries so that they can go and push back the darkness.

As Wanda said to the SBC Executive Committee, "We can't go through this again." In WMU we invite you to go with us. Quit entertaining children and young people. Lead them to study God's Word and then expose them to the lostness of the world. Our children and youth long for deeper meaning and purpose, and they will commit their lives to service and the call of God to the fields that are white unto harvest if we teach them.



Joy Bolton

Churchwide Missions

WMU DIRECTORS Churches need to know what God is doing around the world

Wanda Walker, Missions Consultant

During fall break, I took advantage of the week to travel to one of my many favorite places in our state along with my girls. It was a working week for me. I had the pleasure and privilege of meeting with several churches and friends from churches to follow up and find out how things were going with WMU in their church. As the week passed, there were as many different WMU experiences as there were churches. It was nice to see three new starts of adult missions organizations in two different associations. However, that was not the news elsewhere. I heard lots of stories of discouragement, frustration, and hurt. What I came away with was a challenge to myself, WMU Directors in our associations, and church leaders. We must be diligent and keep on keepin' on!

Associational WMU directors and leaders, churches need you! They need a friend, leader, and encourager. Please consider these suggestions as you lead your association in WMU:

- Pray for churches with and without WMU
- Pray with church WMU leadership.
- Pray for church pastors and staff who do not know, understand, or encourage WMU in their church.
- Pray for church pastors and staff who do support WMU.
- Pray for churches to open their hearts and doors to missions education.
- Pray for personal discernment to develop and maintain relationships in churches.
- Develop relationships with your

WMU leaders, formally and informally. Yes, this takes time. Some of the best leaders grow and lead from time being invested in them as leaders. Think of those who taught and led you to be the leader you are. Church leaders need to know you care.

- Maintain relationships with leaders with a call, personal note, or a cup of coffee. A little effort goes a long way. These are things you hear over and over. And they work. If I had the time, I would visit every single church in our state to encourage leaders. Maybe that should be a five year goal.

In light of the recent announcement from IMB, I can't keep from thinking about the statistics we learned years ago. Churches with WMU give more to the



Cooperative Program and our mission offerings. If church leaders are discouraged, that has to have some impact on

giving. When we learn about what God is doing around the world, we are encouraged to pray, give and go more. It all works together. So I don't believe it is a coincidence that missionaries have to return from the field.

My girls overheard a conversation during the week about the church not supporting WMU. Later, the oldest one asked "Why don't their church like WMU?" There was a brief conversation. Next question, "Don't they want to know about what missionaries do?" Another brief conversation. Then she replied, "How rude is that?! And sad." She got it right. We need to get it right.

2015 LOTTIE MOON CHRISTMAS OFFERING®
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Week of Prayer for International Missions
November 29 - December 6, 2015

Kentucky WMU Annual Meeting

April 8-9, 2016

First Baptist Church, Madisonville, KY

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of the Story

Program Guests Include:

- ⇒ Linda Cooper, President, National WMU
- ⇒ Wayne & Barbara Myers, Swaziland
- ⇒ Terry Sharp, Urban Mobilization Strategies, IMB
- ⇒ Benita Decker, Music Director
- ⇒ Ron and Marilyn Leonard with Molly the Therapy Dog, PTSD Ministry

Special Features:

- ⇒ Parade of Flags
- ⇒ Conferences by Eliza Broadus Offering Recipient Ministries
- ⇒ Friday evening gospel concert by The Childress Family
- ⇒ A Preview Showing of "The Insanity of God" movie
- ⇒ Kentucky Missionary of the Year Award
- ⇒ Commissioning Service for Kentucky Missionaries
- ⇒ Ministry Projects:
 - The Bucket Project – Hospice Care buckets for Africa
 - Breaking Bread Ministry – Food items for local ministry

NEW: Watch for a postcard to be mailed in early January. Registration and schedule information will be posted online:

www.kywmu.org/annualmeeting

Children's Missions

Upcoming Opportunities for Children include Missions Learning and Hands-On Projects

Explore the sights, tastes, and smells of Indonesia this December! Preschoolers, children, and leaders alike will enjoy a tropical International Mission Study. As they learn about Jacob and Robin Talley* who are special workers living on the island of Sumatra, Indonesia. This study corresponds with the December units for Mission Friends, Girls in Action, Children in Action, and Royal Ambassadors. Teaching guides for preschoolers and children are available from Woman's Missionary Union and the International Mission Board. *Names changed.



On February 13, 2016, children and adults across America will be participating in Children's Ministry Day. The theme for 2016 is All for You. Try one of these ideas or let your kids come up with the project.

- Clean up a park or community center
- Pack school lunch kits for a local food pantry
- Make and deliver fleece scarves to a homeless shelter or clothes closet
- Create and deliver flower arrangements to a senior center



Take a mini-mission trip with your kids next June! Kids in grades 4-6 and leaders can participate in hands-on missions through Mission Adventure for Kentucky Kids at Richmond or Bowling Green. Ministry projects will include activities such as serving meals at a soup kitchen, cleaning up parks, and conducting arts and sports camps. Kids and adults will also enjoy worship, Bible study, track time and recreation. Get your reservation in early for Mission Adventure for Kentucky Kids!

Mission Adventure for Kentucky Kids

A Mission Trip for Children

Bowling Green
June 23-25, 2016

Richmond
June 16-18, 2016

kywmu.org/missionadventure

MISSION FRIENDS® Teaching Preschoolers

Stacy Nall, Missions Consultant

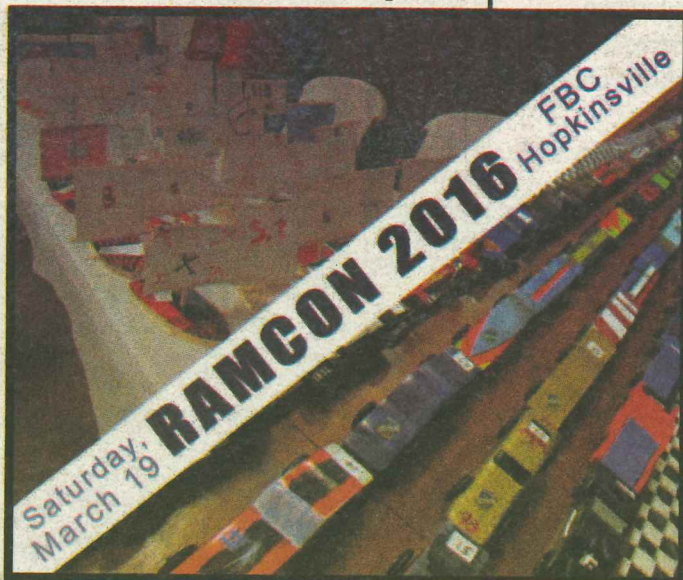
Thanks to all the Mission Friends groups that participated in "Sing to Seniors!" this past September. I know the seniors you met were very blessed! If your Mission Friends didn't get to "Sing to Seniors!" in September, consider going caroling in December. Look for next September's Mission Friends project suggestion in the spring edition of Kentucky Notes.

Active learning in the interest areas or learning centers of a preschool classroom is a "Best Practice" for teaching preschoolers. These interest areas include:

- art
- blocks
- books
- games and manipulatives
- homeliving
- music and movement
- nature

Each session of *Mission Friends Leader* is full of ideas for interest areas. Extra Activities are provided at the end of each month's sessions. You can also get ideas from *First Steps in Missions*, vol. 21. If you haven't used interest areas or learning centers, try choosing two or three at first. Then add more as you feel more comfortable using centers.

Leading Mission Friends is an online training course available for Mission Friends leaders. The course includes many different interactive learning activities which look at the purposes of Mission Friends, the teaching components of missions areas and Christian concept areas, resources, planning activities, group time, and helping others activities. The next course, *Uniquely Designed: Preschoolers*, covers the characteristics of preschoolers and how they learn. You can access these courses through wmu.com/develop.



ROYAL AMBASSADORS® RAMCON '16 - Missions and Fun!

Jon Auten, Missions Consultant

RAMCON 2016, our state RA missions congress, will be here before you know it. First Baptist Church Hopkinsville will be the site. March 19 will be the date. And missions fun and learning will be the objective.

Plans are coming together to make this event even better than the one before. Once again, we will have two great missionary speakers, and boys will have the opportunity to compete in RA Racers as well as the Rain Gutter Regatta. But the racing won't stop there! RAs can also participate in line gliders, turtle races, Pit Stop Challenge, and an onsite mission project. As usual, boys will need to build an RA race car to bring with them to compete in RA Racers. They can also build a sail boat, line glider, and "turtle" for the event, but they don't have to. Several ready-to-race boats, gliders, and "turtles" will be available for use

by the boys who don't bring one. We want everyone to experience the fun of these different competitions. More details about the event, and how to register, will be available after the first of the year at kywmu.org/ramcon.

Remember, Kentucky Notes is not the only way to get information about upcoming state RA events. Kentucky WMU uses multiple media avenues: from flyers and postcards in the mail, to email newsletters and Facebook posts, we are committed to letting you know what is going on with Kentucky RAs.

If you are not receiving information by mail, and would like to, call or email me (Jon) with your address and I will be sure to get your info in our database. Want to get the email newsletter? Visit our page kywmu.org/subscribe to sign up for the RA email newsletter. Like our page at [facebook.com/KentuckyRA](https://www.facebook.com/KentuckyRA) to open up another information avenue.

We want you to know all the latest news about Kentucky Royal Ambassadors. Please help us by making sure we have connected with you via your preferred method of communication.

Jon Auten, 502-489-3451
jon.auten@kybaptist.org



GIRLS IN ACTION® Ready for Another Year?

Stacy Nall, Missions Consultant

GAJAM is over, but there are many exciting opportunities coming up in the new year for you and your girls! Check out some of the great upcoming opportunities in this issue of Kentucky Notes and at kywmu.org/ga.

An online training course for Girls in Action is now available. This course, *Leading GA*, offers a variety of interactive learning activities that will introduce you to the basic information



you will need to lead GA. You will also have opportunities to apply what you are learning to your GA group. You can access this course through wmu.com/develop.

When you ask a question during your missions lesson and no one answers, do you find yourself answering the question yourself? Or do you tend to call on the children who have their hand up first? Try the "Best Practice" of "Wait Time." If you allow girls time to think about their answers, you'll find their answers have more depth and participation increases.

CHILDREN IN ACTION® Blast Off On-Mission!

Stacy Nall, Missions Consultant

We had a great time at CA-BOOM! in September. Boys and girls learned about Paul the first missionary, met 21st century missionaries, and participated in a ministry project. Opportunities to get the children in your church to blast off on mission are far from over. Check out some of them in this issue of Kentucky Notes and at kywmu.org/ca.

Would you like to see more



participation during Children in Action sessions? When you ask a question during your missions lesson, be sure to use the "Best Practice" of "Wait Time."

Give your kids time to think about their answers. The depth of their answers may surprise you, and more kids may join in!

Student Missions

ACTEENS® Introducing the 2015-2016 Kentucky Acteens Panel

Denise Gardner, Acteens Specialist

Hydiatu Konneh is from Fern Creek Baptist Church, Louisville. Hydiatu serves in her church by helping with children's church and Vacation Bible School and serving as an usher. She has served in Honduras and Nicaragua with her church. Hydiatu says, "Missions is important to me because as a child of God, I am to love and serve my fellowman. Christ expects me to live according to His example. 'Teach them to obey everything that I commanded you.' Jesus lived His earthly life as a servant. Everywhere He went, He served people. He healed the sick, He fed the hungry, He gave sight to the blind and He raised the dead. He has commanded us to go and do likewise, so I go."

Daisy Major is from Mt Carmel Baptist Church, Hickman. Daisy serves in her church by helping in VBS, with Christmas Child Boxes and in worship at a senior adult assisted living facility. She has served in Puerto Rico and Alaska with her church. Daisy loves Kentucky Changers – she has served 3 years! Daisy says, "Missions is important to me because that is how you reach



baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost.' Jesus calls us to go tell, go teach, and go baptize. This is our life goal."

Bethany Ouellette is from Gethsemane Baptist Church, Danville. Bethany serves in her church by helping with VBS and in Children's Church. She loves creative arts, especially drama. Bethany says, "Missions is important to me because everyday hundreds of people die never knowing that Jesus loves them and wants to save them. All they needed to do was ask. I believe that missions will end this. Everyone may not be saved but we can make Christ available for everyone to hear about Him. I just want everyone to have the opportunity to be saved."

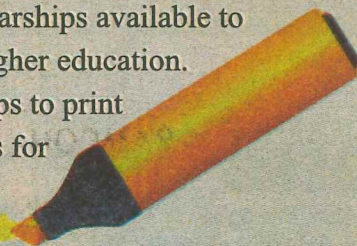
Cali Wooldridge is from Gethsemane Baptist Church, Danville. Cali serves in her church by helping in VBS and participating in projects with a local food pantry, preparing food for a homeless shelter, and at an adult senior center. Cali enjoys music (she is in her school band) and creative ministries. Cali says of missions education (Acteens), "I believe by having Acteens, people come to know the Lord and grow more in their faith."

people far away and near to you. Not only is giving to missions important but also participating. God has instructed us to do so... 'and He said to them Follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men.'"

Patty McFarland is from Gethsemane Baptist Church, Danville. Patty serves in her church by singing with her church praise teams and caring for children during her church's Hispanic ministry. Patty says, "Missions is important to me because Jesus says, 'Go ye therefore, and teach all nations,

Scholarships!

Kentucky WMU has scholarships available to women and men seeking higher education. Visit kywmu.org/scholarships to print an application. Applications for the 2016-17 award year are due **February 15, 2016**.



CHALLENGERS® The Fun Didn't Stop with RAs

Jon Auten, Missions Consultant

Many, if not all, of the teen boys in your Challengers group were Royal Ambassadors during their adolescent years. Some of them may have struggled with this transition away from RA Racers, fun games, move-about activities, and camping. The youth-oriented lesson plans with deeper Bible studies, thoughtful discussions, and more challenging mission projects may cause some of them to long for their RA days.

Thankfully, you don't have to assign all of the fun, learning activities to the pages of history. First of all, Challengers can still participate in RA Racers. Simply ask your RA leader to include a Challengers division in your church's upcoming RA Race Day. Send car kits home with youth boys and tell them to have them ready by the set date if they want to race.

If your church or association doesn't have an RA Race Day, there are still two opportunities to race at the state level. At both RAMCON and Camp Courage, Challengers are welcome to be a part of the missions fun and learning, including racing against other Challengers. Every

year we have a handful of teen boys who bring their cars to compete. Make plans to bring your Challengers and we'll have two or three handfuls! Information about our state events can be found at kywmu.org/ramcon and kywmu.org/courage.

Campcraft and camping can also continue to be a part of your Challengers ministry. Five Campcraft patches are available to be earned by teen boys who want to increase their outdoor living skills. The five levels – Pathfinder, Adventurer, Back Packer, Trip Camper, and Primitive Camper – will take Challengers from the basic skills needed for overnight campouts to the more advanced abilities required for four days of primitive camping.

God's creation is a beautiful place full of wonderful examples of God's power, wisdom, and provision. Leaders, consider taking your teen boys on a couple of camping trips each year where they can draw closer to God through His handiwork while learning practical outdoor skills. I know you will all be blessed by the experience.

The Campcraft Manual was written by Texas Baptist Men and can be downloaded for free at kywmu.org/raresources.

YOUTH ON MISSIONSM Planning for Summer?

Jon Auten, Missions Consultant

Many Youth on Mission groups prepare during the winter for a mission trip they will be taking later in the year: project and site selection, recruiting students and chaperones, fund raising, coordinating transportation and lodging are part of the planning. Here are a few options and resources to help with that process.

Looking for something that is lighter on the planning side? Take your group to Kentucky Changers. Participants work on home repairs for low-income families, sharing the love of Christ through practical assistance, faithful lives, and loving words. Learn more about this pre-packaged missions opportunity and register online at kywmu.org/changers.

Looking to equip your students with creative skills to use while leading VBS and Backyard Bible Clubs? Bring them to Creative Ministries Festival 2.0 where they

can learn to make balloon animals, perform pocket magic, and juggle. Youth will also have the opportunity to learn puppet skits, creative movement using dowel rods, and human video. Classes for leaders will be available in the areas of mission trip planning, forming a creative arts team, and planning a block party. All the info you need can be found at kywmu.org/cmf.

Don't want to neglect the spiritual preparation and growth of students going out on mission this summer? Check out "Carry On," the new mission trip planning guide from WMU. "Carry On" contains a six-week preparation guide along with information about budgeting, working with on-site ministry partners, cultural sensitivity, congregational support, and other key mission trip topics. Look for this great resource book in the WMU Yearbook or online at wmustore.com.

KENTUCKY CHANGERS Announcing 2016 Projects

Peggy Murphy, Changers Coordinator

Attention all Youth Leaders! Be sure to mark your calendar for our summer projects.

Project	Date	Changers Pastor
Hopkinsville	June 11-17	Joe Ball
Calloway County	June 18-24	Nick Stamps
Greensburg	July 2-8	Steve Coleman
Frankfort	July 9-15	Steve Coleman

Go to kywmu.org/changers for more information and to register.



Creative Ministries Festival 2.0

LIVE IT OUT LOUD!

March 11-12, 2016

Rich Pond Baptist Church, Bowling Green, KY

kywmu.org/cmf

PRESIDENT'S PERSPECTIVE On the Road Again - Kentucky and Beyond

One of the pleasures of serving as president is the opportunity to participate in church/association meetings across our beautiful state. During the last few weeks, I have traveled up and down I-75, across I-64 and down I-65, not to mention on a mix of state and county roads. Everywhere I go, I get to meet wonderful people who are supporting missions, those learning about missions and others who serve as missionaries. I am thankful for opportunities to share my love of missions and meet others who share this same passion.

One of the wonderful benefits of travel is that I sometimes have KY WMU staff along as sidekicks (or on occasion I am their sidekick). What fun it is to travel with these people and share opportunities to be



Susan Byrant

out in the state. We are fortunate to have a staff who makes themselves available to the churches from Fulton to Ashland, Covington to London and points beyond.

My travels this year have also taken me to Malawi in July as part of a team from KY WMU that taught pastors' wives at the Baptist Seminary in Lolongwi. Close to 200 women traveled from all over that country, at great personal sacrifice, to learn how to better serve God in their role as pastor's wife in their churches and villages. They ate food prepared over an open fire, many slept on the concrete floor, hand washed their clothing, and dried them by draping them over bushes. They were so grateful for the opportunity to study and learn and taught us so much about what it means to surrender, sacrifice, and serve.

A sweet note I received recently

thanked me for encouraging the ladies in a particular church. The WMU Director shared how she is seeing a renewed interest in missions among her ladies as a result of my sharing with them. What she doesn't know is that I was encouraged by being with them. WMU is still relevant in our churches today and never more so than at a time when the International Mission Board is having to reduce the number of missionaries on the field in an effort to become fiscally stable. Missions education among our age level organizations will teach the next generations the importance of financially supporting our missionaries in order that we never have to experience this again.

As you are reading this, our KY WMU Executive Board will have just met. Along with staff, we will have charted where we have served in the state and determine ways we can better serve our churches and

associations in the years ahead. These women - and one man - will have traveled from across our state, taking time from their work schedules and families, to collaborate on the work of KY WMU.

My pastor and others have teased me about living in my car, and to an extent, perhaps I do. Each time I head out to a church or association, there is great anticipation in knowing that through the work of KY WMU in our churches people are coming to know Jesus somewhere in the world. Missionaries depend on us as prayer partners, the North American and International Mission Boards depend on us to promote offerings and teach people in the churches through missions education, and churches are looking beyond their four walls to minister in the name of Jesus. I am thankful every day for the work of KY WMU.

See you down the road.

Adult Missions

ADULTS "All for You"

Wanda Walker, Missions Consultant

We are approaching the last focus year on our emphasis All For You: Surrender, Sacrifice, Serve. What have been your experiences with the adult groups in your church during the past 15 months?

Mark 8:34 reminds us to deny ourselves and follow Him. That is a daily reminder, not for special occasions or when we feel like it. It is my prayer that you did grow in your daily walk with Christ, and that in walking with Christ you experienced that following Christ only leads to surrender, sacrifice, and service.

In the next issue of Kentucky Notes, I would like to have your stories and testimonies of how God used you and/or your adult groups through this emphasis. Your story will inspire others. Please mail, email (wanda.walker@kybaptist.org) or post to the Kentucky Women on Mission Facebook page. I can't wait to read and share your stories.

KENTUCKY CHANGERS Calling Adult Changers!

Peggy Murphy, Changers Coordinator

Adults Needed!

The 2016 Adult Kentucky Changers dates and location have been set. All we need now is willing adults to come and use their expertise to complete the projects. The 2016 Adult Changers will be Thursday, March 31st through Saturday, April 2nd. We will be working on Camp Joy in Brownsville, KY. This camp has been around for many years and this past summer the camp hosted around 200 children at the camp.

Some of the buildings at Camp Joy are in need of everything from a facelift to a major overall. We need lots of adults with a variety of skills. Some areas of need: licensed plumber, licensed electrician, heat and air, handicap ramp, painting, install tile flooring, and general cleaning and organizing.

Adults Changers will be lodged at Camp Joy in the dorms. Meals will be



prepared in the dining hall. We need volunteers to help cook and serve as well! If you are 18 years old or older, you are invited to this great event!

Lots of skill - We need you!

Little skill - We need you!

No skill - We need you!

Participants should arrive at Camp Joy after 7 pm on Wednesday, March 30, or by 7:30 am on Thursday. We will work on the property during the day and have a time of fellowship and worship each evening, Thursday, March 31 through Saturday, April 2. We will wrap up with dinner at 5 pm on Saturday and leave for home. The cost is just \$40 and includes nine meals, lodging, secondary insurance, and a T-shirt.

Go to kywmu.org/adultchangers to learn more and to register.

CALENDAR 2015-2016

November 29 - December 6

Week of Prayer for International Missions

February

13 Children's Ministry Day

8-14 Focus on WMU

March

6-13 Week of Prayer for North American Missions

11-12 Creative Ministries Festival 2.0, Rich Pond Baptist, Bowling Green

19 RAMCON, First Baptist, Hopkinsville

April

8-9 Kentucky WMU Annual Meeting, Madisonville First Baptist Church

22-23 Women on Mission Retreat, Laurel Lake, Corbin

29-30 Women on Mission Retreat, Camp Schafer, Hawesville

KY WMU HERITAGE FUND Thank You for May 1- August 31, 2015 Donations

In Honor of:

Nancy Ivy
Melissa Logsdon-Young
Cheryl Hatfield
Linda Cooper
Melissa Logsdon-Young
Frankie Johnson
Linda Cooper
Garnett Hutchinson
Lori Sharp
Susan Bryant
Faye Marshall
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Pat Reaves
Fort Mitchell Baptist WMU
Pleasureville Baptist WMU
Beth Wyatt
Cheryl Hatfield

In Memory Of:

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Richard Luebbert
Patsy Sims
Mary Lou Crutcher
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Anna White

In Memory of Marilyn Lamkin:

Marcia Ballard, June Rice, Geri Ethridge, Carolyn Kays, Glenna Whittaker, Shirly Whittaker-Burba, Friendship Sunday School Class of Hurstbourne Baptist Church, Pat and Dudley Reaves, Ona Craycroft, Thelma Stocking, Jay and Cheryl Hatfield

In Honor of Cheryl Hatfield:

Linda Cooper, Arlene Miller, Joy Bolton, Susan Bryant

Other Gifts:

July Williams, May Bazaar-Lugo, KY WMU Staff, Sandra Hagan, Sally Deen Estate, Jan Powell, Peggy Meriedeth, Gloria Hatzakorizan, Amy Shelton, Salem Association WMU, Life Changers Group of Central Baptist Church

Women's Retreats

Developing Spiritually towards a Missions Lifestyle



Speaker:
LaRaine Rice

April 22-23,
Laurel Lake,
Corbin

April 22-23,
Camp Schafer,
Hawesville

I came that they may have life
and have it abundantly.
John 10:10

kywmu.org/retreats

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WMU
missions for life®

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Louisville, KY 40223
(502) 489-3534
Toll-free (866) 489-3534
kywmu.org

Kentucky Baptists

Continued from page 1

brothers and sisters regardless race or ethnicity. "A biblical worldview requires all Christians to unite together in order to advance the gospel," the resolution stated. Therefore, "we renounce and oppose all forms of racism which distort the message of the gospel."

In separate resolutions, messengers celebrated the 50th anniversary of the Voting Rights Act of 1965, which gave African Americans the right to vote, and they objected to growing anti-Christian bias in society, calling on judges to treat followers of Jesus with respect and dignity afforded by God and the U.S. Constitution.

Convention officers

Smith, who was the first African-American to serve as first vice president of the KBC in 2006, defeated Jerry Tooley, director of missions for Daviess-McLean Association, who was first vice president this past year.

Smith, an assistant professor of Christian preaching at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, captured 578 votes, for 71.3 percent of the votes cast, compared to Tooley's 233, or 28.7 percent.

Serving with Smith will be Andrew Dyer, pastor of Corinth Baptist Church in London, as first vice president, and Stephen Hall, of High Street Baptist Church in Somerset, who also made history by becoming the first music minister in 15 years to hold a state convention office when he was elected as second vice president. Dyer defeated Mark Payton, pastor of Dry Ridge Baptist Church, who served as second vice president last year; Hall defeated Jonathan Gann, pastor of New Salem Baptist Church in Cox's Creek.

Political strategy

Kentucky Baptists heard about the implementation of a three-pronged strategy intended to give them more influence in Frankfort on political issues that have moral and ethical implications on the state's citizenry.

KBC Executive Director Paul Chitwood unveiled the new strategy, telling messengers about a financial grant that is covering the cost of a lobbyist, a chaplain and a journalist, all of whom will be based at the Capitol in Frankfort. No Cooperative Program funds, which cover the cost of missionaries and ministries around the world, will be used in the new initiative, he said.

Former Kentucky Legislative Research Commission Deputy Director Tom Troth, a Frankfort pastor, has agreed to serve as KBC lobbyist; Steve Weaver, another pastor near Frankfort, has assumed the role of Capitol chaplain; and Former International Mission Board foreign correspondent Kristen Lowry has been hired to cover news from the Capitol.

Chitwood also announced the launch of an online news resource, Kentucky Today, to help provide Kentucky Baptists with news and perspective on the social issues of the day. Calling it "a complement to the Western Recorder— which has served Kentucky Baptist churches for 190 years— Chitwood said Kentucky Baptists need to know what's going on in the world around them to effectively engage that world.

"We'll strive to ensure that all news articles in Kentucky Today will be accurate, fair and balanced," he added.



Registration totaled more than 976 messengers at this year's annual meeting of the Kentucky Baptist Convention in Elizabethtown, surpassing the registration last year in Bowling Green of 748 messengers. Total attendance was slightly more than 1,200.

In his address, Chitwood urged Kentucky Baptists to celebrate with one another in victorious times and stand fast in the faith with one another in difficult times.

"We have an army of pastors who labor in their churches, serve the sheep, love the lost, and faithfully preach the gospel every time they stand in the pulpit," Chitwood said. "While others are caving into the culture, going soft on marriage, and pretending the atrocities of Planned Parenthood aren't taking place, these men are standing strong in their pulpits, faithfully preaching the Word of God, shining the light of the gospel on sin, refusing to compromise on the faith once for all delivered to the saints, and lifting up Jesus as He draws the lost to salvation."

Journalism award

Veteran TV reporter Lawrence Smith was the recipient of the Integrity Award for Coverage of Faith Issues, an honor bestowed by the Kentucky Baptist Convention. Smith works for WDRB-TV in Louisville. He was recognized for his coverage of the religious liberty aspects of the Kim Davis story. Davis is the Rowan County clerk who refused to sign same-sex marriage licenses, believing it violates her conscience and religious convictions.

Other action

In a bylaw change, messengers expanded on what it means to be a cooperating church by adding, "Churches that act to affirm, approve or endorse homosexual behavior would be deemed not to be in cooperation with the convention."

Choe Sergent, chairman of the Committee on Constitution and Bylaws, said the new language adds clarity for churches desiring to be "in general agreement with any of the historic Baptist confessions of faith."

Messengers approved another change clarifying that Annual Church Profile reports are not a requirement for sending messengers to annual meetings.

The only motion to be presented—made by Jim Holladay, pastor of Lyndon Baptist Church in Louisville—was ruled "out of order" by KBC President Tom James.

"I move that the messengers of the 2015 meeting of the Kentucky Baptist Convention affirm our belief in the right of any employee of the Kentucky Baptist Convention to attend any Baptist church in Kentucky that is in friendly cooperation with the Kentucky Baptist Convention," Holladay stated.

"And find unacceptable the practice of any employee of the Kentucky Baptist Convention and/or any of its agencies or ministries of counseling anyone against attending or becoming involved in any of the ministries of or joining any Baptist church in Kentucky that is in friendly cooperation with the Kentucky Baptist Convention," he continued.

Contacted by the Western Recorder, Holladay explained that from time to time he had heard pastors and members of other churches talking about members of their congregations who work for the KBC or one of its

agencies. "One concern they share is that many of these persons feel pressure, either directly or indirectly, to change their church membership to a church that is more 'acceptable' in the eyes of their supervisors," he said. "The reasons given for encouraging the change more often than not seem to focus on other affiliations that the church may have."

James ruled the motion out of order, explaining that 1) any employees of the Kentucky Baptist Convention are actually employees of its mission board, 2) that the language "affirm our belief" was asking messengers to "express their sentiment and not take a concrete action," and 3) that the Kentucky Baptist Convention has "no authority to instruct agencies on what they should do. That's up to their trustees."

Upcoming meetings

Kevin Ezell, president of the North American Mission Board, will preach the convention sermon when Kentucky Baptists gather for their annual meeting

in Florence next year. Ezell served as pastor of Highview Baptist Church in Louisville for 14 years prior to becoming NAMB president. He holds a doctorate from Southern Seminary.

Jeff Noffsinger, pastor of Dripping Spring Baptist Church in Olmstead, was approved as the alternate.

Messengers also approved gathering in Pikeville in 2018 for the first time in convention history. The meeting will be held at the East Kentucky Expo Center. (WR)



Wilma Simmons, left, was elected convention secretary for the 25th consecutive year. Assistant Secretary Pat Reaves, right, was re-elected to a seventh term.

HILLCREST REAL BIBLE CONFERENCE



Glenn Denton

"Our desire is to have a Baptist conference where preaching is emphasized! You'll hear amazing music, have a shoutin' good time, but most of all we'll hear Bible preaching from the best preachers in America!"

— Pastor Glenn Denton

MARCH 2-4, 2016
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LEBANON, TN
hillcrestbaptist.org



Herb Reavis



Rick Coram



Kara Blackard



Jeff LaBorg



Mike Stone



Ronnie Owens

Wednesday — 6:30 p.m. service; Thursday & Friday — 9 a.m. service, lunch, 6:30 p.m. service

Just 30 miles east of Nashville at 621 Hartsville Pike, Lebanon

Hotel Accommodations

Comfort Suites (Conference Hotel), 615-443-0027, Hampton Inn & Suites, 615-444-3445, LaQuinta Inn & Suites, 615-470-1001, Quality Inn, 615-444-7020

When life gives you lemons ... (Part 1)

Our choir recently set out on our newly purchased bus for a two-day, one-night trip. Our plan was to visit a church in Somerset on Sunday morning, a church in Louisville on Sunday evening, and then another Louisville church on Monday. Our plans were not God's plans.

This is
Oneida

Larry Gritton

Our bus gave us trouble on the way to Somerset. We barely made it for the 11 a.m. service, but we had a great visit and were blessed financially and in other ways by the Ferguson Baptist Church. After lunch, we set out for Louisville. We made it a few miles out of Somerset before the bus overheated.

Friends of the school had traveled from Lexington to Somerset to hear the choir. Their son attended Oneida and sang in our choir some years ago. Fortunately, they were following the

bus when we broke down. I jumped in the car with them and headed back into Somerset to find some help.

Not long after we broke down, a local pastor stopped to help and called a mechanic who came to our rescue. Another gentleman from the area who owned an auto sales shop also stopped to help us. Some folks from Ferguson Baptist also worked to enable us to get the help we needed.

About an hour and 45 minutes later, our bus was repaired and we were back on the road for Louisville and could make our 6 p.m. service in Louisville.

Less than 10 miles down the road, our bus began to overheat again. After some periodic stopping and assessing, we eventually broke down again in Salvisa (Mercer County).

As I was on the phone making calls to Louisville, my sister who lived nearby and a dear lady stopped. She said, "I saw the Oneida logo, and just had to stop to help." I told her of our

failed attempt to get to Louisville for a 6 p.m. service, and she quickly said, "Why don't you come sing at my church, Salvisa Baptist Church, which is just 1.5 miles from here?"

I felt terrible about not making our visit to Highview Baptist Church, but perhaps the Lord had ordained this impromptu visit to Salvisa Baptist. Within 10 minutes, her pastor arrived with their church bus. He, too, invited us to share in their service. I said, "Are you sure that's OK?" This gracious pastor said, "I learned a long time ago not to interrupt God's interruptions."

He made two trips to haul our kids to church. At the church, the kids sang and I shared about OBI. While we were sharing, the fine people of Salvisa Baptist made arrangements to feed and house us, and get our bus off the road.

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.

Growing up on the Creek - (Part 2)

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

Clear Creek
Chronicle

Donnie Fox

She continues her fond memories of growing up on and being a student now at the Creek.

"I have loved the classes at Clear Creek!" said Dowell. "The experience in the class

room here is unique to any college I have ever visited. The professors are dedicated not just to giving a thorough biblical education, but also to connecting personally with each student.

"The classes here have help in

preparing me for ministry first of all by teaching me how to study the Bible" she added. "My husband and I are young and love being able to teach and help out in any area we can at our local church. Being able to study God's word and relay it to those we teach is one thing I will use in every aspect of my life.

"All the classes I have had thus far which teach verse by verse through the books of the Bible have been amazing," Dowell said. "Just being taught how to study God's word by godly men and women is a lesson I will use and apply in every area of my life—from my own children to those whom I have the privilege of serving in a local church.

"Clear Creek will not just prepare you in the classroom, but the experience you receive on-campus is like none other," said Dowell. "The

spiritual and personal growth that happens when you discuss the Bible with fellow classmates and faculty is life changing.

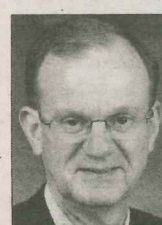
"I personally have found out more about myself through being a student here. Some of that was good," she added, "but I also had to acknowledge the bad things in my life which were taking from my relationship to God.

"The wisdom the professors have about the Bible is beyond comparison, yet they are all extremely humble. On top of that, the tuition is unbeatable!" Dowell said. "I believe anyone called into any form of ministry should greatly consider being equipped through Clear Creek. It is definitely a decision that will reap benefits for the rest of your life."

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

Are you an Oikonomos?

Christian stewardship is a discipline that must be learned and lived. In the New Testament, we see the Greek word *oikonomia* (stewardship) referenced. *Oikonomia* means the act of managing what belongs to another person.

Ky. Baptist
Foundation

Richard Carnes

A person is not born with this knowledge of stewardship, it has to be learned from other wise, mature Christians. Also it is important to recognize that the exercise of *oikonomia* is more about one's spiritual development than one's financial development.

As we search further the variations of the word stewardship, we come to the Greek word *oikonomos* (steward). An *oikonomos* is a person in charge of the affairs of another; one who acts as a manager; one who is entrusted with the management of

the material things owned by someone else.

When we explore the role of the steward in the New Testament period, we learn that the steward functioned like a member of the family. The steward was expected to exercise intelligence and initiative, unlike a slave or servant. We also come to understand that stewardship involved both relationship and responsibilities for the master as well as accountability and faithfulness to the master.

Churches can have a tremendous influence on their members in creating a stewardship culture that cultivates kingdom-minded stewards. Church leadership can foster this stewardship culture through regularly presenting biblical truths about the stewardship of our lives, including the possessions God has entrusted to us, along with His expectations, promises, rewards and punishments.

The Kentucky Baptist Foundation

can assist Kentucky Baptist churches in fostering a stewardship culture among its members by encouraging individuals to have an up-to-date Christian estate plan; educating church members on how to achieve their Christian estate planning objectives; and providing private, confidential estate stewardship consultation to individuals seeking guidance on how to support the ministries of their church through their estate plan.

The Kentucky Baptist Foundation staff is honored to work with individuals seeking how best to be a faithful *oikonomos*. To learn more about how we can assist you or your church, 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, P.O. Box 436389, Louisville, KY 40253; toll-free: (866) 489-3533; KyBaptistFoundation.org.

James makes appointments

Elizabethtown—Tom James began his last day as president of the Kentucky Baptist Convention by announcing his appointments to the convention's Committee on Committees.

James' appointments to the KBC's Committee on Committees are pastors Ian Carrico, Travis Drake and Rob Patterson.

Carrico is pastor of Beulah Baptist Church in Fancy Farm, from West Kentucky Baptist Association in Region 1.

Drake is pastor of Central Baptist Church in Winchester, from Boone's Creek Baptist Association in Region 6.

Patterson is the discipleship and missions pastor at Immanuel Baptist Church in Corbin, from South Union-Mount Zion Baptist Association in Region 7.

Terms end in 2018. The nine-member committee makes nominations for all of the KBC's permanent committees.

Other committee members are Joe Bufford (Region 2, Christian County Baptist Association), Richard Carwile (Region 4, Nelson Baptist Association), George Drake (Region 8, Red River Baptist Association), Donnie Patrick (Region 5, Oldham-Trimble Baptist Association), Wes Pinkley (Region 3, Salem Baptist Association), and Jamaal Williams (Region 4, Long Run Baptist Association).

Ex officio members are KBC Executive Director Paul Chitwood and the convention president. (KBC)

15 churches align with KBC

Elizabethtown—Fifteen congregations were welcomed into the Kentucky Baptist Convention, joining a family of nearly 2,400 Baptist churches in the commonwealth.

Additionally, four Kentucky Baptist churches were placed under watchcare.

Allen Bonnell, chairman of the KBC's Committee on Credentials, presented the newly affiliated churches:

Bluegrass Cowboy Church, Carlisle; Crosspoint Church, Morehead; CrossPoint Church, Walton; Eastpoint Community Church, Louisville; Iglesia Bautista Fe en Cristo (Faith in Christ), Elizabethtown; Kentucky Myanmar Christian Church, Louisville; Life Point Church of Franklin, Owenton; Mission Church, Alvaton; New Hope Baptist Fellowship, Owenton; Open Door Baptist Church, Mayfield; Redemption Hill Baptist Church, Fisherville; Riverwoods Church, Benton; The Church at Louisville; Truth Baptist Church, Radcliff; and Yahweh Baptist, Mayfield.

Congregations joining under watchcare status are Beaver Creek Southern Baptist Church in Topmost; Salt and Light Baptist Church in Crestwood; Thoroughbred Community Church in Lexington; and Zion Grove Missionary Baptist Church in Ekron. Churches under watchcare are typically beginning acquaintance with KBC missions and ministries. (KBC)

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Buyers Guide.



Hinson, longest-serving Southern professor, dies at 84

By Craig Sanders

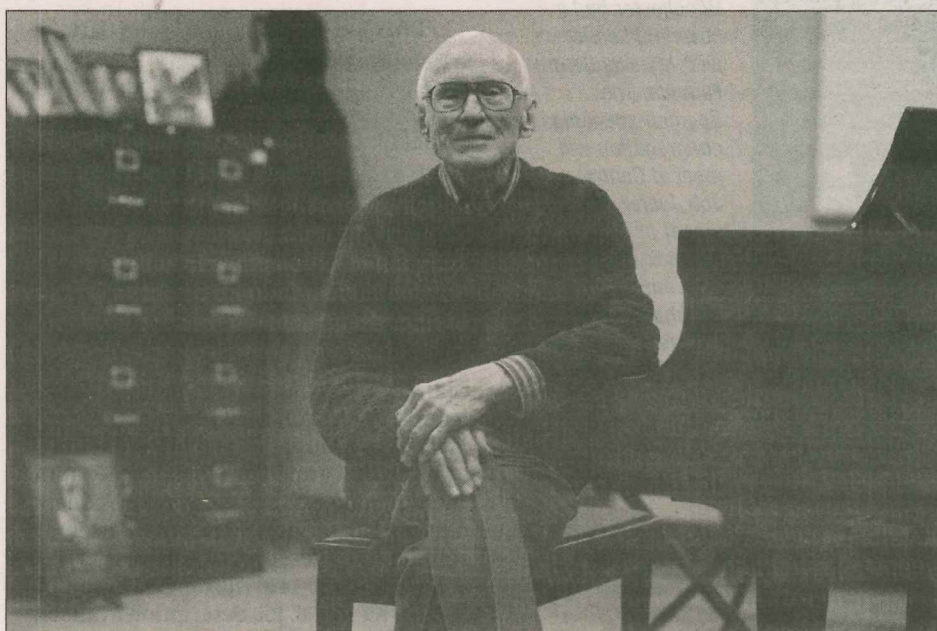
Louisville—A world-famous pianist and musicologist who was the longest-serving faculty member in the history of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary died Nov. 11 after a battle with cancer. Maurice Hinson, 84, was the senior professor of piano at the seminary and had taught courses for 58 years.

"Maurice Hinson was one of the greatest musicologists ever to serve among Southern Baptists, a world-class scholar whose authority was regularly invoked in the leading conservatories and schools of music around the world," said Southern Seminary President Albert Mohler Jr., describing Hinson's "immeasurable" legacy.

He was a wonderful Christian gentleman who combined his love for students with his love for music, having a very rare gift both as a pianist and as one of the great scholars of the piano as an instrument. He will be greatly missed," Mohler said.

Hinson was an accomplished pianist by age 13, attending the Sherwood Music School in Chicago for three summers. The prodigy decided to pursue a career in teaching while enrolled in the Julliard School of Music in New York his senior year of high school.

After graduating from the University of Florida, Hinson served in the Korean War and found himself stationed away from the battlefield in France. It was there



Top, Maurice Hinson, who died Nov. 11 at age 84, taught at The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary for 58 years. Below, Hinson in a 1957 faculty photo. He is the most widely published of any faculty member in seminary history.



he studied under famed musician George Bolen at the Conservatoire National in Paris.

Hinson resumed his formal education following his military service and earned his Master of Music and Doctor of Musical Arts degrees from the University of Michigan. He began teaching at Southern Seminary in 1957.

"The passing of Dr. Maurice Hinson marks the close of an unprecedented

teaching ministry in the area of church music and worship at Southern Seminary," said Greenway, dean of the Billy Graham School of Missions, Evangelism and Ministry. "Through the countless students he taught and the abundant published works he produced, Dr. Hinson made an indelible contribution to Christian ministry by helping the church of our Lord Jesus Christ more faithfully witness through music."

In addition to being the longest-serving faculty member in the seminary's history, Hinson was also the most widely published. Among his 14 books, the

reference work *Guide to the Pianist's Repertoire* is a standard in the field and is currently in its fourth edition. He also wrote more than 100 articles in music publications.

Through the publishing company Alfred Music, Hinson produced more than 300 masterworks, which are edited collections of classical compositions to help students learn to perform difficult pieces from the likes of Beethoven and Mozart. Some of his most recent articles appear in the *New Grove Dictionary of American Music in the United States*.

"His contribution was fourfold as concert pianist, scholar, pedagogue—very famous in terms of the technique of teaching piano—and then church musician," said Esther Crookshank, Ollie Hale Chiles Professor of Church Music at Southern Seminary, who served alongside Hinson for 20 years.

Crookshank said she admired Hinson's commitment to excellence and recounted numerous examples of his vibrancy in the classroom, including guest appearances in her classes in which he would analyze and perform from memory dozens of Beethoven's most challenging sonatas.

"Excellence characterized everything about him. He was a joy, so full of energy and effervescent. He really sparkled even as he was teaching," Crookshank said. "He has been a gift to the world of music and to the church."

Hinson is survived by his wife Peggy of 64 years (the couple first met in kindergarten at age 5), daughter Susan Elizabeth Jordan, and four grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his daughter, Jane Leslie Enoch. (SBTS)

Reporter Lawrence Smith receives Integrity Award

Elizabethtown—Veteran TV reporter Lawrence Smith is the recipient of the Integrity Award for Coverage of Faith Issues, an honor bestowed by the Kentucky Baptist Convention.

Smith, reporter with WDRB TV in Louisville, has worked for several television news stations during his long career, including with those in Houston, Knoxville, Tenn., and Lexington, Ky.

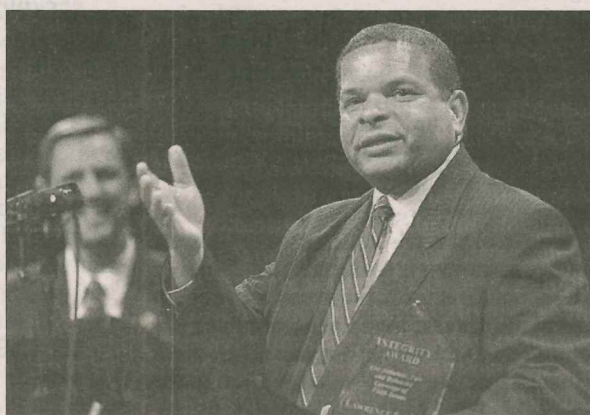
KBC Executive Director Paul Chitwood awarded the prize to Smith at the Annual Meeting of Kentucky Baptists at Severns Valley Baptist Church in Elizabethtown.

"Our selection committee was impressed by the thorough, thoughtful coverage Smith provided this year," Chitwood said. "His portrayal of news events was fair, accurate and well-balanced."

KBC Communications Director Roger Alford, a former correspondent for The Associated Press, nominated Smith for the award.

Alford said Smith understands the impact religion has on the lives of everyday Kentuckians, and he was particularly impressed with the reporter's coverage of the religious liberty aspects of the Kim Davis story.

Davis is the Rowan County clerk who refused to sign her name to same-sex



Lawrence Smith thanks Kentucky Baptist messengers upon receiving the Integrity Award for News Coverage of Faith Issues from the Kentucky Baptist Convention.

marriage licenses, on the belief that doing so would violate her conscience and religious convictions.

"To say that I am surprised to receive this award is an understatement," Smith said. "The Kim Davis story is an important one, embodying the clash of world-views, the debate over church and state, and the Christian's role in civil government."

"I am truly humbled that the KBC believes I told the story well," he said.

Smith and his wife, Garnetta, are members of Highview Baptist Church in Louisville, where he has served as a deacon, usher and community group leader. Smith has a broadcasting degree from Eastern Kentucky University and studied theology at the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville. (KBC)

How can you help Sunrise kids during holidays?

With more than 750 children in Sunrise's care every day, there are plenty of ways for individuals, businesses, churches and other groups to help through the holidays.

It also is a great opportunity to introduce Sunrise's mission and needs to others throughout the state.

Among the ways to help:

Christmas Sponsorship Program—Shop directly from a child's Christmas wish list, or make a donation that will allow Sunrise staff to do the shopping for you.

Complete wish lists can be fulfilled for just \$60 to \$150 depending on the child's age.

Please call (800) 456.1386 or email kchristmas@sunrise.org to sign up or with any questions.

Gifts in honor or memory of someone special—Finding it difficult to shop for friends, family or co-workers? Give them a gift that truly makes a difference!

Make a gift in honor or memory of someone special, and Sunrise will send a note to let them know you're sponsoring a child in their honor.

Simply write in the memo section of your check, "In Memory of" and the honoree's name.

Christmas gatherings—Add some spice to your typical Christmas or holiday gathering by encouraging guests to bring gifts for the children at

Sunrise. Gift cards, in particular, are extremely helpful, especially to stores such as Target, Wal-mart or other well-known retailers.

Designate a time during your gathering to talk about the children, reminding everyone of the true meaning of Christmas.

Sunrise can provide donation forms for your guests that can be used for their tax records.

End-of-year gifts—For those who want to take advantage of a tax-deductible gift and do some good all year round, encourage them to make an end-of-year gift to Sunrise.

Their donation is 100 percent tax-deductible, and the greatest benefit is to the children we serve, who will benefit year-round from this generosity.

Gifts can even be made online at www.sunrise.org.

Submitted by Christi Moffett, senior director of marketing at Sunrise Children's Services.



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



Central Baptist Church in Winchester had a covenant service with Iglesias Centro Familiar. The Spanish-speaking congregation will meet at Central. Job Juarez (on stage) of the Kentucky Baptist Convention gave the charge. From left are John Austin, James Poer, Philipa Andrade, Pastor Carlos Andrade, Pastor Travis Drake, and David Hoffman.



November

23-24 Transitional Interim Pastor Training, Kentucky Baptist Building, Louisville

30 Collegiate Disaster Relief Training, University of the Cumberlands, Williamsburg

MOUNTAINS TO THE MISSISSIPPI

COMPILED BY STAFF

CLAY CITY—Grider Denney has retired from Clay City Church after more than 31 years as pastor.

FREDONIA—Creswell Church celebrated 100 years in October. Bobby Jackson is pastor.

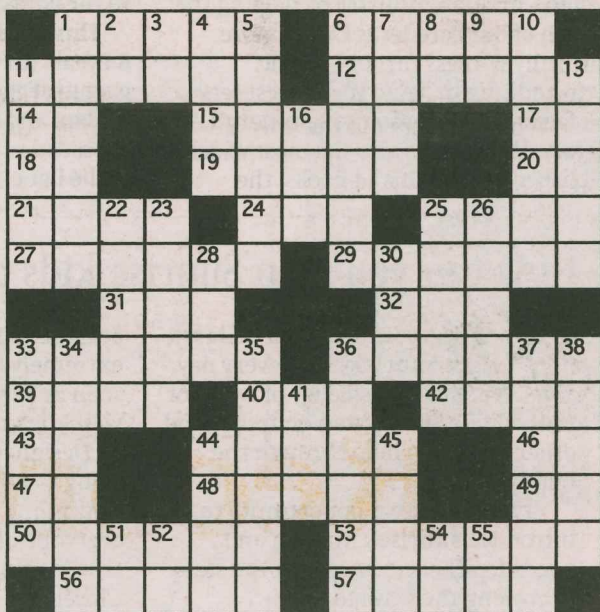
PRESTONSBURG—Enterprise Association will host an association Christmas Sing on Thursday, Dec. 3 at Allen Church. For more information, call (606) 886-3335.

PRINCETON—Southside Church finished its 19th Annual Judgement House, reporting 1,124 rededications and 122 salvations.

Bible Crosswords

Across

- 1 Pretty much
- 6 Off the cuff (2 words)
- 11 Expelled gas
- 12 Belonging to the earth
- 14 Radium, chem. symbol
- 15 Precious stone on the third row of the priest's breastplate (Exodus 28:19)
- 17 Western Canadian province, abbr.
- 18 All right
- 19 Annoyed
- 20 Short greeting
- 21 "I ... have the ____ of hell and of death" (Revelation 1:18)
- 24 Creatures from outer space, abbr.
- 25 Slightly open
- 27 One who revises
- 29 "I was afraid, and went and hid thy ____ in the earth" (Matthew 25:25)
- 31 Peter once cut one off
- 32 Belonging to New York's largest island, abbr.
- 33 "The glory of the Lord ____ the house" (Ezekiel 43:5)
- 36 First appearances
- 39 "Ye ____ men with burden grievous to be borne" (Luke 11:46)
- 40 Lemon beverage
- 42 "____ a rod of an almond tree" (Jeremiah 1:11) (2 words)



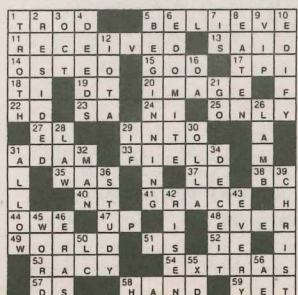
#050

- 43 Letter that follows el
- 44 Belonging to Mr. Rogers
- 46 A mate for Pa
- 47 Eastbound, abbr.
- 48 Cancel
- 49 Point, abbr.
- 50 Angry outburst
- 53 Man-made channels
- 56 Collapsed
- 57 Give off

Down

- 1 What the Mount Sinai did when the Lord descended
- 2 Biblical land: ____ of the Chaldees
- 3 Innings pitched, abbr.
- 4 "Lest he ____ my soul like a lion" (Psalms 7:2)
- 5 More nervous
- 6 Affirm
- 7 "Let us not love in word, neither in tongue; but in ____ and in truth" (1 John 3:18)
- 8 Living room, abbr.
- 9 Iridium, chem. symbol
- 10 "Daniel . . shall leap from ____" (Deuteronomy 33:22)

- 11 Penniless
- 13 Part of a dress below the waist
- 16 Altitude, abbr.
- 22 "____ yourselves to the Lord" (2 Chronicles 30:8)
- 23 Not fresh
- 25 A plausible excuse
- 26 Son of God and Son of man
- 28 Metal
- 30 Strong drink
- 33 Swift
- 34 Verse written in iambs
- 35 Mended socks
- 36 Figure out
- 37 Where Samuel grew up
- 38 "The four and twenty elders, which sat before God on their ____" (Revelation 11:16)
- 41 Where Daniel spent time with lions
- 44 Lose color
- 45 Shut hard
- 51 Royal Academy, abbr.
- 52 Audio-visual, abbr.
- 54 Negative
- 55 Preposition



CLASSIFIED ADS

FOR SALE: 34 pews, 140" solid dark wood, padded, \$300 each, less if you buy all. 6 pews 137" solid light wood, more modern pews, \$200 ea. (260) 403-5255.

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: 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 am 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: 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.

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: Severns Valley Baptist Church in Elizabethtown is 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. Full job description 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 gbc-search@glasgowbaptist.org. Accepting resumes until Dec. 1.

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.

To place an advertisement in the Western Recorder:

Rates are available upon request.

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



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

SEEKING: Cornerstone Baptist Church is seeking a senior pastor. A young church located between Lexington and Winchester, Ky. Send resumes to: 4451 Winchester Rd., Lexington, KY 40509.

SEEKING: Winfield Baptist Church in Winfield, Tenn., is accepting resumes for a full-time senior pastor. Applicants may send resumes to Search Committee at P.O. Box 100, Winfield, TN 37892, or emailed to dmurphy@tcatonida.edu.

SEEKING: Bethany Baptist Church is seeking the pastor that God has called to His service. Please send resume by Dec. 31 to Bethany Baptist Search Committee, P.O. Box 155, Alvaton, KY 42122, or e-mail to bbcpssc@yahoo.com.

SEEKING: Small Southern Baptist church in scenic southeastern Kentucky is seeking a God-called pastor/preacher to help grow our church. Send resume to Pastoral Search Committee, P.O. Box 1332, Middlesboro, KY 40965.

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

SEEKING: Small/medium church looking to grow youth ministry requires full-time youth pastor. Send resume to Darlene@BBCLife.org

SEEKING: Immanuel Baptist Church in Somerset is seeking a full-time senior pastor. Immanuel is a conservative Southern Baptist church averaging 146 in Sunday School and 196 in worship. Send resumes to immanuelbaptistchurch@windstream.net or Pastor Search Committee, 808 Bourne Ave., Somerset, KY 42501.

SEEKING: Minister to children and family-part time position (15 to 20 hours a week) at Pinckard Baptist Church in Versailles. Send resume to pinckard-church@aol.com or 3401 Pinckard Pike, Versailles, KY 40383.

SEEKING: Bellview Baptist Church in Woodruff, S.C., is seeking a senior pastor. The candidate should have at least 3 years of experience as a senior pastor, have a seminary degree from a Southern Baptist Seminary, and be willing to relocate to within a 10 mile radius of the church. Information about our church and church family, as well as a list of our desired qualifications can be found on our website at www.bellviewbaptistchurch.org/#/contact-us. Resumes including statement of faith, references, DVD/CD can be mailed to Pastor Search Committee, Bellview Baptist Church, 901 Bellview Rd., Woodruff, SC 29388, or emailed to secretary@bellviewbaptistchurch.org no later than 12/31/15.

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Veteran's cross-country cycling spotlights missions

By Makayla Sykes

Cleveland, Tenn.—Army veteran Tom Cawood set out on Aug. 24 to ride his bike from San Diego, Calif., to St. Augustine, Fla. Along the way, he and his wife Pat helped raise awareness for missions and the North American Mission Board.

At age 81, when most of his contemporaries are slowing down, Cawood gives the impression of gaining speed. His life motto is, "Life is like water skiing, if you slow down, you go down."

Cawood, followed by his wife in a recreational vehicle, first began planning the coast-to-coast journey in April.

This is not the Tennessee native's first adventure or the first time he has faced a formidable challenge. As a young child Cawood fell out of a window and broke his back.

While recovering, he contracted tuberculosis in the hospital. Doctors said he would not live past 20. Cawood defeated the odds and went on to serve in the U.S. Army for two years stationed at Fort Bliss, Texas, as an electronic technician for guided missiles.

"We bleed red, white and blue," Cawood said of his family military heritage. "My wife's father was in the Navy (for nearly 30 years) and I was in the Army. We have a son serving in Germany." Cawood added, "We lost our Marine son in 2008 in an auto accident. We have a granddaughter who served in the Navy and a grandson in the Army."

Cawood became a Christian at age 14 and went on to serve in various ministries. "I have been a Sunday School teacher, a deacon, a department supervisor and, well, just about everything else," he said. He also worked for a sheriff's department and was asked to be the chaplain of the reserve officers.

Pat noted, "The God appointments have just been amazing."

The Cawoods, members of First Baptist Cleveland, Tenn., planned their trip with the goal of raising money and awareness for three organizations that held a special meaning for them: the Livestrong program through the YMCA, Disabled American Veterans and the North American Mission Board.

The couple said they wanted to emphasize missions throughout their trip, placing a specific interest in NAMB's work and its Send North America emphasis on planting churches in 50 key cities.

"We were talking to our pastor about how we can tie it all together," Pat said. "Our pastor told us one day, 'Do you realize that you are going to be riding through three of the Send cities, and if you count Atlanta, that's four.'"

"This all led us into adopting the Send North America strategy," Pat said. The Cawoods explored NAMB's website and studied the Send North America strategies, NAMB's farm system and an overview of the cities they would travel through.

During the Cawoods' trip, they always stopped to rest on Saturday evenings and would find a place to attend church on Sunday mornings. The couple visited various churches where they often were given time to speak to the congregation about their journey.

"In Baton Rouge we were able to look



Tom and Pat Cawood take a break to pose with their dog, Shaina, prior to their 3,000-mile, cross-country fund-raising bike ride. Tom, 81, a U.S. Army veteran, used the trip to highlight the Send North America strategy at stops made at churches on Sundays. "We would just direct people to NAMB and tell them to see where they can be involved," Pat said. (Photo courtesy Legendary Images)

up some of the specific projects for New Orleans and present them," Pat said. "We would just direct people to NAMB and tell them to see where they can be involved."

The Cawoods distributed between 700 and 800 reference cards that shared information about NAMB. "Who knows how far those have traveled," Pat said.

The Cawoods also picked Livestrong and Disabled American Veterans because of the close ties they've had with the organizations through the years.

"We have friends who are disabled American veterans, and so we knew that it was the right path," Tom said. The Cawoods picked the Livestrong program because of the prevalence and severity of cancer.

"Our son had the same cancer that Lance Armstrong had a few years ago, so we became aware of the program then" Pat noted, "Everybody has someone or knows someone who has gone through the trials of dealing with cancer."

A year before the trip, Tom was diagnosed with kidney cancer and had one of his kidneys removed.

Prior to Tom's cancer, he was in a severe motorcycle accident at age 74 where he was admitted to an intensive care unit and was on life support for five weeks. "He should not have survived," Pat said.

The cross-country bicycle trip ended up being far more intense than the Cawoods had planned. There were many days when the temperature was at least 114 degrees. The Cawoods froze wet paper towels and stuck them in Tom's helmet.

"We would start at 3:30 a.m. and ride under the moonlight in order to get miles in before it got too hot," Pat said.

Despite the heat, miles and exhaustion, Tom remained faithful to the task at hand.

"He's just an amazing guy," Pat said, "But we serve an even more amazing

God."

"While we were out there we thought the end would never come, but here we are," Tom said.

The Cawoods reached the finish line on the beaches of St. Augustine on Oct. 14. Tom said that during the hardest parts

of his ride he would think of the popular song, "One day at a time, sweet Jesus."

"When we reach out and walk with the Lord and we walk in His strength, then there isn't anything we can't do," he said. "It's one step, one pedal and one breath at a time." (BP)



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Clear Creek Baptist Bible College

2016 Spring Semester Classes

On Campus Classes

*Below are listed the On Campus classes that will be offered during the Spring 2016 semester. Classes **begin January 12, 2016.***

American History II
Basic Christian Apologetics
Baptist Doctrine
Bible Teaching Lab
Biblical Hermeneutics
Church Administration and Leadership
Church History
Church Revitalization
English Composition II
English Proficiency
Ethics
Fine Arts and Humanities
Greek II

Hebrew II
Internship II
Introduction to Ministerial Counseling
Math Proficiency
Missiology
New Testament 2
New Testament 4
New Testament 6
New Testament 8
Old Testament 2
Old Testament 4
Old Testament 6
Old Testament 8

POWER to Succeed
Psychology of Lifespan Development
Senior Seminar
Sermon Delivery
Spiritual Formation
Systematic Theology II
Theology of Missions and Evangelism
Worship/Music Ministry
Youth Ministry Issues

Text Color Code
Orange First Year
Blue Second Year
Green Third Year
Fusia Fourth Year

On Line Classes

*Below are listed the On Line classes that will be offered during the Spring 2016 semester. Classes **begin January 18, 2016.***

American History II
Baptist Doctrine
Basic Christian Apologetics
Biblical Archaeology
Biblical Hermeneutics
Church Administration and Leadership
Church History
English Composition II
Ethics
Greek II
Hebrew II

Introduction to Ministerial Counseling
Internship 2
New Testament 2
New Testament 4
New Testament 6
New Testament 8
Old Testament 2
Old Testament 4
Old Testament 6
Old Testament 8
POWER to Succeed

Psychology of Lifespan Development
Senior Seminar
Sermon Delivery
Spiritual Formation
Systematic Theology II
Worship/Music Ministry

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