

WESTERN Recorder

December 29, 2015

Shine Like Stars * Philippians 2:15

Volume 189, Issue 26

Celebrating Kentucky Baptist newspapers since 1825

Louisville—Western Recorder, the official newspaper of the Kentucky Baptist Convention, has been published since December 1825, marking 190 years of Baptist newspapers in the Commonwealth.

Western Recorder emerged from several predecessor papers, the first of which was The Baptist Recorder, which was succeeded in 1830 by The Baptist Chronicle and Georgetown Literary Register.

This paper succumbed to hard times in 1832 and was followed in 1834 by The Baptist Banner, published from Shelbyville and, after 1836, from Louisville.

The newspaper merged with The Baptist of Nashville, Tenn., and The Western Pioneer of Rock Spring, Ill. The merger was continued at Louisville under the name The Baptist Banner and Western Pioneer and served as a denominational organ for Baptists in Kentucky, Tennessee, Mississippi, Indiana, Illinois and Missouri. (See George Jewell's tabular history on page 9.)

In 1851 the name was changed to Western Recorder and has been so called ever since, distinguishing itself as the second oldest Baptist paper in America.

In 1919, the Western Recorder was purchased by the General Association of Baptists in Kentucky, paying \$20,000 for the paper, its printing equipment, mailing addresses and all other assets.

The General Association of Baptists in Kentucky bought three papers, The Baptist World, The Kentucky Mission

Monthly and the Western Recorder, merging them under a single name.

A major impetus for acquiring a newspaper was to unite Kentucky Baptists in supporting the 75 Million Campaign, promoting the mission enterprises and ministries of Southern Baptists.

The effort would quickly give rise to what would become known as the Cooperative Program, which traces its roots to First Baptist Church of Murray in 1925.

Purpose statements have been made at various times which reflect the continuing philosophy of the convention when the paper was brought into the state Baptist family.

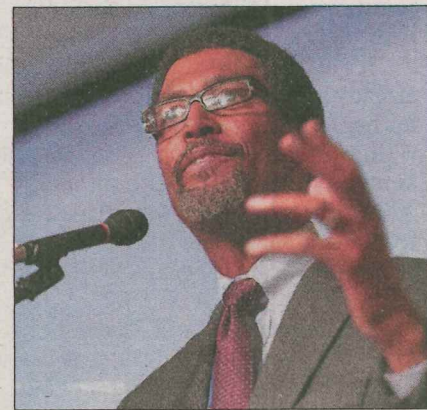
Those statements indicate the paper is to further the cause of

Christ, to inform Baptists in Kentucky about matters of general interest to the churches and to promote and support the programs and ministries of the Kentucky Baptist Convention. In addition, the Western Recorder provides a forum for the exchange of ideas of interest to all Kentucky Baptists.

Since its purchase in 1919, the paper has been the property of what now is the Kentucky Baptist Convention, and is managed by a Board of Directors composed of 12 persons elected to serve by the state convention.

Directors are chosen with regard to their commitment to Baptist principles, knowledge of Baptist programs and ministries, membership in

□ See Since 1825 ... Page 6



Kevin Smith addresses the Ky. Baptist Mission Board on Dec. 14.

KBC president, Smith, stresses importance of cooperating

By Myriah Snyder

Louisville—Cooperative ministry—along with biblical authority and the Baptist Faith and Message—are essential in uniting us as Kentucky Baptists, Kevin Smith, president of the Kentucky Baptist Convention, told members of the Mission Board during a two-day meeting in Louisville Dec. 14-15.

"Cooperative Ministry just assumes I'm cooperating with people who are different from me. It assumes I want to work for the glory of Jesus Christ with

□ See Diversity ... Page 2

Study finds 'no place like church' for the holidays

By Carol Pipes

Nashville, Tenn.—Christmas is a great time to invite someone to church, according to a new study.

In a poll of 1,000 Americans, LifeWay Research found six out of 10 Americans typically attend church at Christmas time.

But among those who don't attend church at Christmas time, a majority (57

percent) say they would likely attend if someone they knew invited them.

"Regular churchgoers may assume the rest of America has already made up their mind not to attend church," said Scott McConnell, vice president of LifeWay Research. "In reality, many would welcome going to a Christmas service with someone they know."

Americans living in the South (66 percent) and Midwest (64 percent) are more likely to attend church at Christmas time than those in the Northeast (57 percent) and West (53 percent).

And throughout the U.S., more women than men are likely to attend Christmas church services (66 percent vs. 56 percent). Those who attend church most frequently throughout the year (once a week or more) are most likely (91 percent) to say they will attend church at Christmas time.

Younger Americans are less likely to participate in a service or Christmas mass than their elders.

Fifty-three percent of those 18 to 24

say they attend church at Christmas, compared to 68 percent of those 65 and older and 67 percent of 35- to 44-year-olds.

For those who do go to church at Christmas, the most frequent reason for attending is clear—to honor Jesus. When asked, "What is the primary reason you attend church at Christmas time?" 77 percent chose "to honor Jesus."

Other reasons Americans chose lagged considerably with 9 percent saying they attend church at Christmas time to be with family and friends, another 9 percent say to observe tradition, and 3 percent to get in the Christmas spirit.

Even among the 29 percent of nonreligious who typically attend church at Christmas time, 47 percent say it's to honor Jesus, 20 percent say they do so to

What is the primary reason you attend church at Christmastime?



observe tradition, 27 percent to be with friends and family, and 6 percent to get in the Christmas spirit.

"Those invited to a church service at Christmas time, may not attend for the same reasons as those who already plan to go. But the majority are open to going," McConnell noted. (BP)

Do you typically attend church at Christmastime?



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WESTERN RECORDER
Celebrating 190 years of "shining the Light through what we write"

Western Recorder 12-29-2015

Louisville family living gospel through adoption

By Myriah Snyder

Louisville—Doug and Cathy Williams, members at New City Church of Louisville, have chosen to add a sixth member to their family as "a continual reminder of the gospel" in their own lives.

"It's already impacted our family. We already love her so much. We are excited for her to be in our home," Doug Williams, missions strategist with the Kentucky Baptist Convention, said.

The adoption of a 19-month-old girl from Ethiopia will be finalized next year. Their process began over three years ago.

"I've done a lot of mission work in Africa and we just felt drawn there. We wanted to adopt from there to show that ultimately the gospel breaks all barriers of ethnicity," Doug said.

More than six years ago his family became interested in the idea of adoption, he said. However, they kept trusting that "in time, we will."

"I think that what God has taught me most is that His timing and the placement of our child is perfect," Cathy Williams said.

"A little over three years ago a young lady from our church who had gone overseas to be a missionary, Brittany Huff, was back at our church sharing,



Doug and Cathy Williams, members at New City Church of Louisville, are adopting a daughter from Ethiopia. They also have a 16-year-old daughter and two sons, 13 and 8.

and during that service the Lord just impressed on my heart and my wife's heart that now is the time, and we can't just keep putting this off," Doug said.

"We needed to be faithful to what the Lord was leading us to do," he continued.

"The process is rather lengthy. It involves a lot of paperwork, homes studies and trainings that we go through," Doug noted.

There also were some struggles with the particular country that really slowed

down the process, he shared.

"We were at the point of asking the Lord if we needed to change countries or needed to revisit the location," he recalled, "and we just felt impressed that we need to stay with this particular location."

"So we did, and by God's grace, we started to see movement again. Over the last year we felt that the Lord was calling us to remain where we're at, just be patient, and wait on Him," he added.

The Williams already have three children, a 16-year-old daughter and two sons, 13 and 8 years old.

"Our children are just ecstatic about it. It will be a beautiful reminder of the gospel, about how we were once not the people of God."

"We once did not have a family. Because of Christ we have been brought into His family. We're adopted into God's family through Christ," Doug said.

Cathy added, "We are excited about having another little girl in our home. I love seeing the excitement that our children are having because we know who she is. We are excited to meet her for the first time."

"It'll also change our family in the sense that we will be a multiethnic family. It's going to be a huge learning curve for us. We're excited to learn," Doug concluded. (WR)

CU students do missions during Christmas break

By Josh Christian

Campbellsville—Approximately 30 Campbellsville University students are visiting orphanages and helping with construction work in Guatemala and Haiti, and providing Christmas for thousands of families in Texas as they teach children about the Lord.

Thirteen students are traveling to Arlington, Texas to work with "Mission Arlington."

"Mission Arlington is one of the most comprehensive community ministries in the country," Ed Pavy, Campbellsville University's director of campus ministries, said. Pavy said students would be working through Mission Arlington's Christmas Store, providing Christmas for thousands of families.

The students include McKenna Hill of Smith Grove, Matt Farthing, of Hopkinsville;

Jonathan Berry, of Elizabethtown; Oksana Marquez, of Herndon; Dylan Joiner of Hopkinsville; Lauren Mayton, of East Bernstadt; Elaine Quinn, of Versailles; Bryan Rule, of Elkhorn; Cody Jones, of Glasgow; Stephanie Morgan, of Hartford; Cassie Emery, of Cloverport; Jesse Harp, of Shelbyville; and Jordyn Bray of Somerset.

Joey Bomia, a CU alumnus and Baptist Campus Ministries intern, is the group leader. Bomia is also discipleship coordinator with the Office of Church Outreach.

Pavy and Brett Sowell, a CU alumnus and BCM intern, are leading a trip to Mirebalais, Haiti. Pavy said his team would focus on light construction as well as Backyard Bible Clubs and sports ministry.

Ten students are going to Haiti, including Sarah Bowman, of Taylorsville; Shelby Baker, of

Shelbyville; Bry Carlin, of Harrodsburg; Jacy Adams, of Williamstown; Bethany Lester, of Danville; Kathryn Thomas, of Elizabethtown; Clayton Rule, of Elk Horn; and Drew O'Neal, of Campbellsville.

Kameron Smith, a student from Louisville, is leading a trip to Guatemala City. Smith said her team will be staying at an orphanage and doing several activities with children there. Students will also do light construction work like pouring a concrete floor, handing out food baskets, and visiting other orphanages.

"Our main goal is to share the gospel, pray with the people and love on everyone we come in contact with," Smith said.

The Guatemala City mission team includes Derrick Livingston, of Campbellsville; Amber Watercutter, of Versailles; and Smith. (CU)



First Baptist Church of Shelbyville sent a mission team to Taiwan in November to distribute Bibles to Mainland Chinese tourists, including John Flanigan and Leonard Ballard, above. Maurice Hollingsworth, pastor and team leader, reports that 2,568 Bibles were passed out during six days of scripture distribution, in conjunction with an International Mission Board ministry called Southern Cross. Bibles are difficult to obtain legally in China; however, Chinese tourists are allowed to bring home Bibles in suitcases when they make trips abroad. In addition, the team worked with a local Chinese church, Yi Mei Tang, which was started by IMB missionaries years ago.

Diversity

Continued from page 1

brothers and sisters who are different from me," Smith, the first African-American elected to the post, said.

Citing 1 Corinthians 12:6, Smith affirmed, "The variety, the diversity and the different personalities and expressions of Kentucky Baptist life are anchored in the person and work of who Jesus is."

Smith reminded the more than 100-member board, mostly pastors from across the state, "God has placed each

part of the body just as He wants it. So all of the diversity and quirkiness and individuality and special cultural and regional considerations ... has been set according to the sovereign will of God.

"That allows us in this room to represent broadly Kentucky Baptists," he said emphasizing the different circumstances in which church plants, historical churches, urban or rural congregations find themselves.

"This allows us to realize, 'Hey, I'm a voice in this setting of Baptist life, but there are also a lot of voices in this setting,'" he explained, noting that different perspectives allow one to see things from

other angles and contexts.

To function where God has placed individuals and churches in the body, two things should be eliminated: "envy and competition," he emphasized, referencing 1 Corinthians 12:18.

"You are in the commonwealth of Kentucky by the sovereign determination of God," Smith concluded. "The body works together for one common function. As we begin our work, may we remember that we are part of a body."

Mission Board members were introduced to many of the new and ongoing ministries designed to help Kentucky Baptist churches grow, disciple and share

the gospel. They also heard reports about good work being accomplished through Kentucky Baptist agencies and institutions.

The only official business by the Mission Board was to approve the distribution of \$250,000 in unspent budget short-term interest funds to various ministry areas, including \$50,000 that will be used to help start churches. Other allocations included technical upgrades, partnership missions and repairs to campus ministries facilities. (WR)

Robin Cornetet, of KBC Communications, contributed to this story.

NFL's Watson: 'Changed hearts' can heal racial divide

By Marilyn Stewart

New Orleans—Race is an issue that continues to divide, said New Orleans Saints tight end Benjamin Watson during a book signing at the LifeWay campus store at New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary.

The solution is "changed hearts" in Christ, Watson said.

The event fell on Nov. 24, the one-year anniversary of the ruling in the racially charged Ferguson, Mo., case of the shooting death of Michael Brown. Watson's book, "Under Our Skin: Getting Real about Race—and Getting Free from the Fear and Frustrations that Divide Us," expands on his lengthy Facebook post that resonated with readers the day after the news broke that officer Darren Wilson would not face criminal charges for the shooting death of Brown.

"(Race) is something that keeps on coming up," Watson said. "It's something we're always talking about and it's not seeming to be going anywhere."

Calling his book "part manifesto, part memoir," Watson told the line of fans that snaked past shelves and out LifeWay's door that he put his thoughts to paper after seeing a public reaction to the verdict that seemed to split along racial lines.

"I was conflicted because so much was tied into it. I wanted to work out my thoughts," Watson said. "I didn't even know how to post," Watson quipped, saying he had to call on a friend for help.

Soon afterwards, Watson found himself behind the microphone taking questions on the issue of race. The book followed.

NOBTS President Chuck Kelley noted, "Clear. Honest. Thoughtful. Distinctly Christian. This is how you talk about complex, emotional issues."

"This voice and this issue need to be part of a national conversation to push us



New Orleans Saints tight end Benjamin Watson's book, "Under Our Skin: Getting Real about Race—and Getting Free from the Fear and Frustrations that Divide Us," expands on his lengthy Facebook post that resonated with readers the day after a ruling in the racially charged Ferguson, Mo., case of the shooting death of Michael Brown.

closer to becoming the country, the church of our ideals," Kelley said. "Watson gives us a terrific model on how and why Christians must engage in all conversations about things that matter."

The chapter titles give clues as to Watson's feelings after the Ferguson verdict: Angry; Introspective; Embarrassed; Sad and Sympathetic; Offended; Encouraged, and others.

Watson's book and his Facebook post—which included words that later became chapter titles—call readers to examine attitudes and thoughts. For some, it is a call to repentance, Watson told the

crowd. For others, it's a call for forgiveness, he added.

Written with Ken Peterson, the book came together during the off-season and through late-night consultations during

the Saints' summer training camp, Watson said.

In the book, Watson draws from personal experiences such as being pulled over while driving his wife Kirsten to the hospital for the birth of their first child or how one of his white, high school teammates took an unexpected step toward reconciliation.

"Really, the whole point and hope of Under Our Skin is that you find your place along this whole racial narrative and that you're able to take time to think about some of the deep-seated issues or prejudices that you may have," Watson said.

Yolanda Hingle, a mother of three sons and co-leader of a New Orleans-area teen girls' ministry, said she was nervous about meeting Watson because she doesn't follow football.

"After he spoke for only a few minutes, I realized that this man was so much more than just a football player," Hingle said. "He is a strong man of God. He is a family man. He's a man that seeks to further the Kingdom of Christ while breaking down

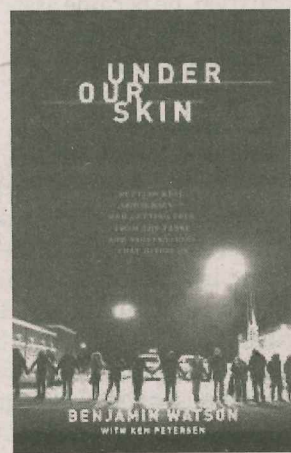
racial barriers and just happens to be a talented football player."

Watson took questions after his opening remarks. Several thanked him for taking a stand.

"It's not something that's easy. We all have something to lose," Watson said. "With any accomplishment, there is a cost. Being a Christian is no different. So, I'm always praying for strength for when my time for paying a huge cost comes. It can only be done in His spirit.... Standing is not done in our own strength."

As each person in the waiting line stepped up for a signature, Watson penned his name and beside it "Gal. 3:28."

Watson lives in New Orleans with his wife Kirsten and their five children. The book is published by Tyndale Momentum, an imprint of Tyndale House Publishers, Inc. "We live in a fallen world and we all have our specific prejudices and biases and assumptions," he concluded. "It is through Him we get a changed heart and through that changed heart we can love each other as He would have us to." (BP)



'Star Wars' book by SBTs professor re-released

Louisville—With the highly anticipated film Star Wars: The Force Awakens opening in theaters before Christmas, Waterbrook Multnomah is set to re-release Timothy Paul Jones' book Finding God in a Galaxy Far, Far Away.

As the new movie is the seventh in the Star Wars saga, Jones' book explores a Christian experience of the previously released six films. The book, originally published in 2003, features a redesigned layout and a new cover.

Jones, C. Edwin Gheens Professor of Family Ministry at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, said the book begins by exploring the awe Star Wars inspires and ends pointing to the gospel as the "consummate fulfillment" of that awe.

"At the heart of George Lucas' space opera is a world that is full of wonders," he said in an interview.

"In a world that is glitzy with glitz, gorged with superficial pleasures, and yet starving for authentic awe, sagas of this sort stimulate the imagination anew.

"These stories seize the space in every human soul that still longs to see exceptional beauty and power even in the most improbable places."

Finding God in a Galaxy Far, Far Away is the result of Jones' own Star Wars fandom, which began when he saw the first film as a 5-year-old. "What captured my imagination at that drive-in theater in southern Missouri was the

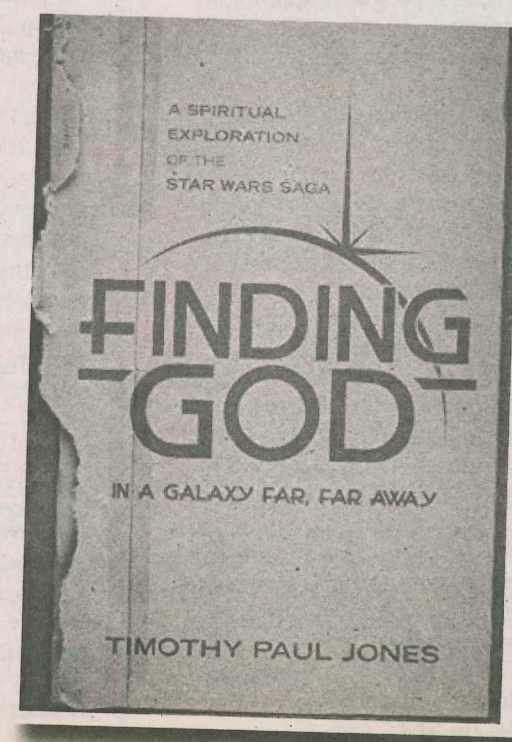
sheer vastness of the universe that the movie portrayed," he said. "To this day, I vividly recall the awe I felt when I saw that Star Destroyer and Rebel Blockade Runner roll across the screen in the opening scene."

The book offers an extensive treatment of how believers should think through the religious implications of Star Wars from a Christian worldview. Jones suggests Christians should interpret all films through the lens of the Bible's storyline—Creation, Fall, Redemption, and New Creation—and that Star Wars is ripe for theological reflection. Although the spirituality in Star Wars is heavily influenced by Eastern mysticism, many of its redemptive themes are borrowed from Christianity.

"Eastern religious ideas are woven throughout Star Wars," he said. "That provides us with a good opportunity to help our children to see the contrast between the personal God of Scripture and the false gods of pantheism and do-it-yourself spirituality."

"At the same time, some of the most powerful aspects of the Star Wars storyline are more Judeo-Christian than Eastern: good triumphs through Luke Skywalker's willingness to sacrifice his own life to redeem his father, and Darth Vader turns from darkness and experiences reconciliation."

The book is available for purchase on Amazon. (SBTS)



Reasons to be thankful

I received a letter this week from one of our International Mission Board missionaries who is taking the early retirement offer from the IMB but desires to return to the field.

Without support from the IMB, the missionary is hoping to raise his own support from his network of relationships with pastors, associational directors of missions, and laypeople who might donate to his cause.

Together
We are the KBC

Paul Chitwood

Knowing all of the challenges that accompany "faith-funded" mission work, I felt great sympathy for this dear brother.

Instead of remaining on the field, he is taking precious time away from the gospel work in order to raise financial support and will live with the stress of knowing his

work is always in jeopardy if the pledges of support aren't kept.

As much as my heart went out to this faithful brother, the letter also reminded me of my calling and how grateful I am for the churches and pastors who support Great Commission work through the Cooperative Program.

Why am I so thankful? Four reasons rise to the top among many:

1. CP mission dollars go farther.

Just as a gallon of milk is cheaper at Walmart than at the minimart service station, the evidence suggests that a dollar invested in the strategic focus and expertise of the largest overseas missionary sending agency in the history of missions (the IMB) can get more boots on the ground among the world's unreached than a dollar given to support an independent missionary.

2. CP mission dollars have high accountability. At home and abroad, bureaucracy in Southern Baptist missions has been deeply cut, resulting in much leaner support and accountability structures. But those structures still exist and are very effective at providing appropriate oversight and accountability to frontline missionaries to safeguard the work.

3. CP mission dollars are focused. Instead of every missionary taking time from the harvest field for extensive travel to do fundraising, the Southern Baptist system provides for a limited number of people to promote the work among the churches and keeps thousands of missionaries in the field.

4. CP mission dollars facilitate a Great Commission strategy at every level and in all places. CP funds are used to evangelize in Eastern Kentucky as well as East Asia. CP funds not only support missionaries overseas, those same funds help prepare and equip them as college and seminary students before they go overseas.

CP funds care for the orphaned child in McCreary County and in

See Thankful ... Page 5

Commemorating a century of Ky. Baptist journalism

With this issue, the Western Recorder observes 190 years of Baptist newspapers in Kentucky, beginning in 1825 with the publishing of The Baptist Recorder by George Waller and Spencer Clack and The Baptist Banner in 1834 by James Wilson and John Waller, both predecessors. Nearly a century ago, the Western Recorder joined the Kentucky Baptist Convention family in 1919, and perhaps it is appropriate to pay tribute to the editors who have served Baptists of the Commonwealth since that important juncture and on whose shoulders we gratefully stand.

Victor Masters (1921-1942) was the first editor of the Western Recorder appointed after it became the official news journal of the Kentucky Baptist Convention. A native of South Carolina, he was a graduate of Furman University and Southern Baptist Theological Seminary. Previously having served as pastor of two churches in South Carolina and one in Virginia, Masters served as associate editor of The Baptist Courier in Greenville and of the Religious Herald in Virginia, before joining the Home Mission Board's staff as superintendent of publicity. During those volatile early years, Masters was called upon to alleviate tensions between moderate and conservative groups vying for control of the Baptist newspaper's voice and of the state convention, facing head-on many of the most pressing doctrinal and moral issues of early 20th Century Baptists.

John Freeman (1942-1946) was executive director of the Tennessee Mission Board immediately prior to becoming editor of the Western Recorder. Freeman was fitted for the position, having served for eight years as editor of the Baptist & Reflector prior to becoming executive director for 10 years. Freeman was not a stranger to Kentucky, however, having graduated from Southern Seminary and holding several pastorates, the last of which was First Baptist Church of Springfield. He was widely known as a leader among Southern Baptists.

Ruel Tifton Skinner (1946-1957), a native of Murray and graduate of Union University, was pastor of First Baptist Church of Bowling Green when he was called to be editor. He was a trustee of Georgetown College and served on a state convention committee that began the Baptist pastor's plan with the SBC Annuity Board. He is remembered as possessing a sweet and gentle manner that afforded him an ability to expose a wrong view without roasting the other person and was known for his genuine appreciation of young ministers who served small country churches. He was buried in Bowling Green in 1978.

Chauncey Daley (1957-1984) would become admired throughout Southern Baptist life as "the dean" of state Baptist newspaper editors. During his 27-year tenure, Daley's editorials, "Daley Observations," were some of the most well-read and highly influential of their day. The Georgia native was a graduate of Mercer University and earned three degrees from Southern Baptist Theological Seminary. Prior to being named editor, Daley served as pastor of several Kentucky congregations, including Woodburn, Providence in Franklin, and Harrodsburg, before becoming a professor at Georgetown College for more than a decade. After retiring, he taught at Boyce Bible School.

After
Thought

By Todd Deaton

Jack Sanford (1984-1989), a former Memphis pastor, was editor of the Western Recorder while I was an intern staff writer and student at Southern Seminary. One of his dreams

was to achieve a strong endowment for the Western Recorder in order to "produce results for Christ until our Lord returns," as he stated it. His greatest legacy, however, sprang from his pastor's heart and a love for the local church. A native of Ohio, he was a graduate of Carson Newman



College and Southern Seminary and held pastorates in Philpot, Pembroke, Paducah and Florence. He had served as first vice president of the state convention and as a member of its executive board. He also was a faculty member of Boyce Bible School. He is the only editor to die while in office, after suffering a heart attack.

Marvin Knox (1990-1995), a feature editor for Baptist Press, news service of the SBC Executive Committee, assumed the editorship in 1990. A native of Fort Worth, Texas, and the son of a Baptist minister, he is a graduate of Hardin-Simmons University and Southern Seminary. He was working as assistant news editor at the Home Mission Board in Atlanta, Ga., from 1979-1981, when he left to pursue a degree at Southern, where he would serve as director of news and information services. After graduation, he became associate editor of the Baptist Message, newspaper of the Louisiana convention, before moving to Baptist Press two years later. He currently is editor of the Baptist Standard in Texas.

Mark Wingfield (1996-1998), who had been the paper's news director since 1991, advanced to editor in 1996. Previously, he had been associate director of news and information at the former Home Mission Board in Atlanta, Ga. He also was director of news and information for Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, and was assistant editor of the Baptist New Mexican in Albuquerque, N.M. A graduate of the University of New Mexico, he attended Southwestern Seminary. He later joined Knox at the Baptist Standard as its managing editor in 1998, and now serves as associate pastor of Wilshire Baptist Church in Dallas, Texas.

Trennis Henderson (1999-2008) was editor of the Arkansas Baptist newsmagazine for seven years before being named editor of the Western Recorder. A seasoned denominational journalist, he previously had been managing editor of the Word & Way for Missouri Baptists. Also a graduate of Southern Seminary, he was a staff writer and advertising representative for the Western Recorder while a student. Maintaining a reputation as a gifted writer—with a keen wit—and respected spokesman on matters of faith, ethics and Christian life, Henderson now is vice president of communications for Ouachita Baptist University in Arkansas.

The legacy of these capable editors and statesmen has made Western Recorder a respected news journal of the most outstanding witness and Baptist voice in their generation, devoted to those who love the truth and trust the people. We count it as a great blessing and esteemed privilege to humbly follow in their footsteps of serving the Lord and Kentucky Baptists.



WESTERN
Recorder

Shine Like Stars *Philippians 2:15

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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.

Christmas lights: 'Punching holes in the darkness'

With recent events all around the world and indeed in the United States, our planet seems to be a dark, dark place these days. We turn on the evening news, we open up the morning newspaper or our laptop computers, only to find some new and different tragedy, some dark deed perpetrated somewhere across the planet or the continent.

Sometimes, it happens across the ocean. Sometimes, we don't have to look far at all. Bombings on the other side of the world. Murder and arson just outside of town. Darkness everywhere we turn.

The great paradox is that I have always associated this time of year with light. I have always associated my own faith with light. I have always associated Christmas, the central celebration—along with Easter—for all Christians with light and lights.

Individuals all over the world yearn for the light. Light plays a central role in other faith traditions: the festivals of light, for example, in Judaism and Hinduism. In Islam, the Quran states that "God is the Guardian and Protector of those who believe; He brings them forth from darkness into light." (2:257).

In Christianity we celebrate Jesus as

"the light of the world." One Sunday night as a child, I walked down the aisle of the James Avenue Baptist Church in Fort Worth, Texas, not just to shake the pastor's hand, but to make "a public profession of faith." This is the way we put it in Baptist life when someone decides to commit to following Jesus as Lord and Savior.

After that Sunday evening service, my father drove our family home through the streets of Fort Worth, and I remember looking out the window at the night lights of the houses and stores from the back seat of our white Rambler station wagon.

The lights looked different to me that evening; in my excitement, brighter somehow. Even though I was just a small boy, I made a mental note that I wanted to always remember how those lights twinkled so much brighter on that particular evening.

Light has inspired the stories of some of my favorite poets and writers. In "The Loom of Years," Alfred Noyes wrote:

"In the light of the silent stars that shine on the struggling sea,
In the weary cry of the wind and the whisper of flower and tree,
Under the breath of laughter, deep in the tide of tears,

Notes from the Back Row



Duane Bolin

Making charitable contributions

The primary motive for charitable contributions is not based on tax benefits for Christians. But the tax benefits are a valid consideration as we try to be good stewards of all God has entrusted to us. This means reviewing our contributions as we approach year end:

1. Charitable contributions must be made to qualified organizations to be deductible.
2. Charitable contributions are deductible only if you itemize deductions for taxes. If using the standard deduction, they are not deductible.
3. You generally can deduct your cash contributions and the fair market value of most property you donate to a qualified organization. Special rules apply to some items like clothing, household items, cars and boats.
4. If you receive something in return, you can deduct only the amount that exceeds the fair market value.
5. The value of donated time or rent free use of a building is NOT tax deductible as a charitable contribution. This includes the value of time given by a professional.
6. Keep good records of any contribution you make, regardless of the amount. Maintain a valid written record.
7. Only contributions actually made during the tax year are deductible. For example, if you pledged \$500 in May, but paid a charity only \$200 by Dec. 31, you can only deduct \$200. The date postmarked or the date charged on a credit card determine the year of the deduction.
8. For contributions of \$250 or more, you need written acknowledgment from the organization with the amount and whether the organization provided goods or services in exchange for the gift.
9. If you donated property, the acknowledgment must include a description of items given. For items valued \$500 or more you must include with your tax return Form 8283—Noncash Charitable Contributions.
10. You can be creative. If your ability to use itemized deductions is "borderline," consider grouping larger charitable contributions in alternate years. Example: Make large contributions in January and December of one year and get the tax benefit of itemized deductions. In the preceding and subsequent year, when contributions are lower, use the standard deduction.



Don Spencer

Obeying God's call to the nations

If you take a look at one of our family photos, you'll see we are a diverse bunch. We have six kids from four countries. John Michael (JM) became part of our family five years ago. I'll never forget the first night after we picked him up from the orphanage in the Philippines.

As I put him to bed that first night, he did something strange. He made fists with both hands and pushed them against my cheeks. I had no idea what he was trying to communicate. Then he said, "I love you, Dad." It was the first time he had said it to me. I told him, "I love you, too."

"I will be a good son for you," he told me. The next morning, when he told me the same in the same serious tone, I realized he saw every day as an opportunity to earn the right to stay a part of my family. I told him that no matter what he did, he would always be a part of our forever family.

"Yes sir, but I will be a good son

for you," he responded.

What if you and I looked at our relationship with our Heavenly Father like JM looked at me?

We don't try to please God in order to earn our salvation, but we long to please God because of who He is. You and I can strive for many things. We can work for riches. We can pursue power. We can seek after fame. But there's only one ambition in our life that really matters—that we obey and please our Heavenly Father.

Paul said in Acts 20, "But I count my life of no value to myself, so that I may finish my course and the ministry I received from the Lord Jesus, to testify to the Gospel of God's grace" (Acts 20:24, HCSB). Nothing mattered more to Paul than obeying God's call to share the gospel of grace throughout the known world.

You may long to be good at what you do for a living, to be the best engineer, the best lawyer, the best

upon a cricket belt, and over them, such was the rigour of the game, a buttoned top-coat," Stevenson wrote.

The appeal was in the secret nature of the game. Only they knew about the light they secretly carried. According to the writer, "the pleasure of the thing was substantive; and to be a boy with a bull's-eye under his top-coat was good enough for us."

Perhaps Stevenson got the idea about the secret mystery of light and life while looking out the front window of his home in England just at dusk, as the lamp-lighter made his way in front of the house lighting one by one the gas lamps along the street.

Young Robert, overcome with the spectacle, called out to his mother. "Mother, Mother, come look!" he cried. "Come see the man punching holes in the darkness!"

Maybe that is how we should consider the lights that we see on our streets, outside our houses, and in our homes.

Holes of light punched in the darkness of a sometimes frightful world. "When Jesus spoke again to the people, he said, 'I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.'"

Duane Bolin teaches in the Department of History at Murray State University. Duane and Evelyn are members of Murray's First Baptist Church.

First Person



Kevin Ezell

I accepted my current ministry assignment from the Kentucky Baptist Convention Mission Board, I told the board members that I would consider being "Cooperative Program Fundraiser-in-Chief" as one of my primary responsibilities. Why? Because I see how the Cooperative Program is accomplishing God's Great Commission "program."

And I am grateful to have the privilege of serving in a role that

mechanic, the best doctor or the best stay-at-home mom you can possibly be.

But above all else you and I have been called to be a child of the King because of who He is. Because of who He is we must obey God by going to the hard places on this continent—the large cities with so many people and so few churches—to tell people about Him. But the lostness in North America is only a fraction of what it is worldwide.

More than 3,100 unreached people groups are not being engaged with the gospel by anyone.

As we strive to be good sons and daughters of the King, only one ambition really matters in our life—to give all we have to make much of Jesus where He is not known. This Christmas season will you obey your Heavenly Father and make reaching the nations your top ambition? No other ambition is worth your time, talents and treasures. (BP)

Kevin Ezell is president of the North American Mission Board.

Thankful

Continued from page 4
Malawi.

And CP funds help strengthen churches here at home so they can be effective at reaching Kentucky and the world for Christ.

Reading about the work of this missionary and how he longed to return to it, I realized anew the privilege God has given me. When

allows me to constantly encourage our churches to remain committed to that cooperative work so missionaries on the frontlines in Kentucky and around the world can stay on the frontlines.

While I hope the brother who sent the letter finds his way back to the field, my greatest hope is that every KBC and SBC church will grow in their giving through CP so no more missionaries have to come home from the field.

New churches show appeal among the unreached

By Lisa Green

Nashville, Tenn.—America is launching new Protestant churches faster than it loses old ones, attracting many people who previously didn't attend anywhere, new LifeWay Research studies show.

More than 4,000 new churches opened their doors in 2014, outpacing the 3,700 that closed, according to estimates from the Nashville-based research organization based on input from 34 denominational statisticians.

And on average 42 percent of those worshipping at churches launched since 2008 previously never attended church or hadn't attended in many years, LifeWay Research found in an analysis of 843 such churches from 17 denominations and church planting networks.

The church planting study indicates newly planted churches are more effective than existing ones at drawing people who aren't connected with a church, said Ed Stetzer, LifeWay Research executive director.

"In winning new converts to Christ, church plants are light-years ahead of the average church because of their focus on reaching the unchurched," Stetzer said.

Characteristics of success

Successful church launches have several factors in common, the 2015 National Church Planting Study shows:

■ **Meeting in a public space.** New churches meeting in schools have significantly higher worship attendance than other new churches. They report more new first-time commitments to Christ and are more likely to become financially self-sufficient.

■ **Focusing on outreach.** New churches offering sports leagues, social gatherings and children's special events are significantly more likely than other startups to be congregations with a majority of people who previously did not attend church.

■ **Supporting their leaders.** Adequate compensation and health insurance for the church planter are linked to higher worship attendance and a greater likelihood of financial independence for the new church.

■ **Starting more churches.** New churches that invest in church planting and launch at least one additional new church in the first five years report higher worship attendance and more new commitments to Christ.

"Healthy new churches have an outward focus from day one, communicating every month that the goal is to be a multiplying church," Stetzer said.

Back to basics

Though some pastors bristle at new churches coming into their community, they have more to learn—and less to fear—from the startup down the street, Stetzer said.

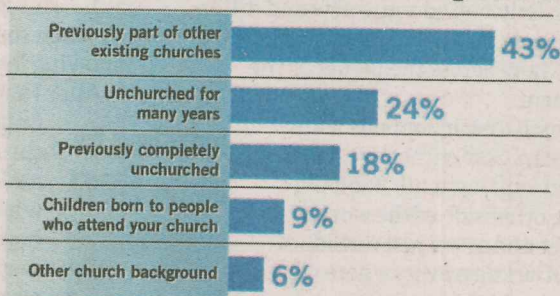
One lesson is the value of time-tested methods. While most church plants use the Internet for outreach, 77 percent say word of mouth and personal relationships are the most effective forms of publicity. Only 6 percent say social media is most effective. Nearly two-thirds of new churches (63 percent) say Bible study is their primary small group activity.

"It's not the most innovative things that matter most. It's the nuts and bolts," Stetzer said.

"An existing church can take notice and ask, 'Hey, are

Among American Church Planters:

Of the people who currently attend your church, what is their background?



we doing those things? Are we making sure people in the community know we exist? Are we inviting people to come and making them feel welcome and all those things a church plant does?"

In addition, Stetzer said, new churches can attract demographic groups that may be largely unreached by existing ones. Sixty percent of church plants aim to reach a cross-cultural or multiethnic group of people from the outset.

"It takes multiple methods to reach a diverse population," Stetzer said. "The United States from its founding has been a very diverse population. A one-size-fits-all church has never been part of the American equation.

"As much as ever, we need different approaches to reach different types of people." (BP)

State conventions spotlight sanctity of life, religious liberty

By Tammi Ledbetter

Nashville—The sanctity of human life and defense of religious liberty remained the most often addressed concerns among many state Baptist conventions during their annual meetings as messengers penned resolutions endorsed by fellow Southern Baptists.

Resolutions calling for an end to the funding of Planned Parenthood gained support in eight state Baptist conventions this year, with others declaring the sanctity of human life. Pro-life concerns remained on the minds of messengers in light of undercover videos released by the Center for Medical Progress allegedly showing Planned Parenthood executives discussing the sale of baby parts obtained through abortion.

Identifying Planned Parenthood as the single largest abortion provider in the nation, the resolution approved by Oklahoma Baptists, for example, called on policymakers to redirect taxpayer funds to more reputable medical providers of wom-

en's health.

Other state conventions joining in the call for defunding Planned Parenthood included Alabama, Idaho, Kentucky, Louisiana, Missouri, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Tennessee, Southern Baptists of Texas Convention, Utah-Idaho and West Virginia, with sanctity of life statements passed in Arkansas, Georgia, Kansas-Nebraska, Southern Baptists of Texas Convention and Southern Baptist Conservatives of Virginia.

Last summer's Supreme Court ruling legalizing same-sex marriage led messengers in Kansas-Nebraska, Louisiana, New Mexico and Tennessee to voice objection, while resolutions in Arkansas, Nevada, New England, Oklahoma, Utah-Idaho, Baptist General Association of Virginia and Southern Baptist Conservatives of Virginia affirmed the sanctity of marriage.

Appeals for a defense of religious liberty also arose in resolutions passed in Alabama, Arkansas, Illinois, Louisiana, Missouri, Oklahoma, South Carolina, the Southern Baptists of Texas Convention and

Baptist General Association of Virginia.

Tennessee Baptists worded their resolution by stating that "no governing institution has authority to negate or undermine God's definition of marriage" and that "the religious and conscientious liberties of individuals and institutions should not be infringed upon as a result of living according to deeply-held biblical convictions about marriage."

In a year when the Southern Baptist Convention celebrated the 90th anniversary of the Cooperative Program, resolutions were approved in seven state conventions expressing appreciation for the funding mechanism for worldwide ministry, including Arkansas, Louisiana, Missouri, New England, Nevada, Ohio and South Carolina.

Ohio Baptists encouraged increased CP giving to "keep and put more missionaries on the field, facilitate church planting, fund evangelism in our state and around the world, (and) assist in equipping churches to be healthy."

Several state conventions added references to the 2000 Baptist Faith and Message in their governing documents or

guidelines. Mississippi Baptists approved the first reading of a constitutional amendment specifying the current BF&M as their doctrinal guideline.

Tennessee Baptists now require members of boards and committees to act in accordance with the statement of faith while Florida Baptists affirm it as the theological foundation for convention ministries.

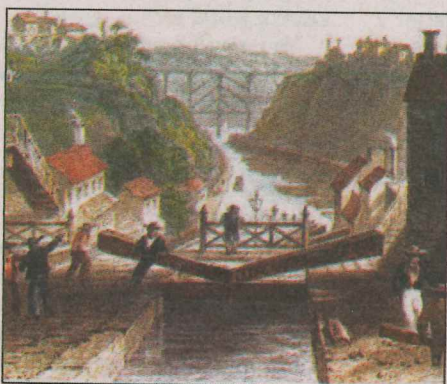
In Kentucky and Utah-Idaho state conventions, congregations that affirm, approve or endorse homosexual behavior will not be considered cooperating churches, with the latter adding the requirement that they complete the Annual Church Profile.

Michigan Baptists adopted a new constitution and bylaws, addressing requirements of a cooperating church that involve the state convention's vision, mission and doctrinal statement, credentials, submission of an Annual Church Profile and contributing to the Cooperative Program.

Louisiana Baptists approved guidelines for disaffiliation of any local congregation no longer in agreement with beliefs and practices of the state convention. (BP)

Can you guess what this is?

If you were around in 1825-26 when your state Baptist paper was getting started, you likely would have heard about the building of the Erie Canal.



WESTERN RECORDER

**Celebrating 190 years
of Kentucky Baptist newspapers**

Since 1825

Continued from page 1

Kentucky Baptist churches and their willingness to serve together with the editor and staff in producing a paper which advances the work of the Kentucky Baptist Convention in missions, education and evangelism.

The paper has had only 10 editors since its purchase by the convention in 1919.

Beginning with J. W. Porter, who was serving at the time, past editors include V. I. Masters, J. D. Freeman, R. T. Skinner, C. R. Daley, Jack D. Sanford, Marv Knox, Mark Wingfield and Trennis Henderson

(see editorial). Todd Deaton has been editor since 2009. Masters and Daley enjoyed the longest tenures, serving 21 and 27 years, respectively.

The paper is supported by subscriptions from individuals and churches, the sale of advertising space, gifts from friends and from an allocation of Cooperative Program funds from the annual budget of the Kentucky Baptist Convention.

Continued support of the paper through prayer for those who produce it and subscriptions are essential to its continued existence as an arm of the Kentucky Baptist Convention. (WR)

—Adapted from an article by former WR editor Jack Sanford, published Nov. 10, 1987.

More than 1,000 gifts collected for eastern Kentucky's children

By Myriah Snyder

Shelbyville—Thirty groups throughout Shelby County and the Louisville area have collected gifts for ministry centers to distribute throughout eastern Kentucky.

Eastern Kentucky SONrise, a ministry to help people in eastern Kentucky via networking, assists the missionaries who live and work in the various communities. Several years ago, SONrise helped provide more than 200 Christmas gifts for a

few ministry centers in eastern Kentucky.

The number of gifts provided has expanded each year, and in 2015, SONrise hoped to collect 1,000 gifts.

In the end, their gifts totaled 1,036. The ministry centers then hosted parties to distribute the presents as children came to hear the Christmas story.

The WMU at Highland Baptist Church in Shelbyville assisted SONrise with preparing the gifts for distribution.

Each gift is valued between

\$20 and \$25. Gifts included items such as toiletries, toys, books, winter gloves, hats, scarves, school supplies and Christian items.

Linda Otterback, a Kentucky/NAMB Mission Service Corp missionary serving with Eastern Kentucky SONrise, was enthusiastic about the number of gifts collected.

"We are most grateful for the help and encouragement of so many wanting to contribute to the children of eastern Kentucky," Otterback said. (WR)



Volunteers distribute gifts to families in need throughout eastern Ky. this Christmas season.

Championship quarterback's faith solid as his sportsmanship

By Whitney Jones

Louisville—After a successful play-off game against Trinity High School that eventually led to winning this year's state championship, Louisville Male High School quarterback Hayden Shelton wasn't out touting his victory or throwing a celebration. Shelton was at his church, St. Matthews Baptist Church decorating for the holidays.

For those who know him, it is no surprise that the Football Coaches Association named Shelton the 6A Player of the Year. He is a strong athlete who led his team in an undefeated season with a faith just as solid as his sportsmanship.

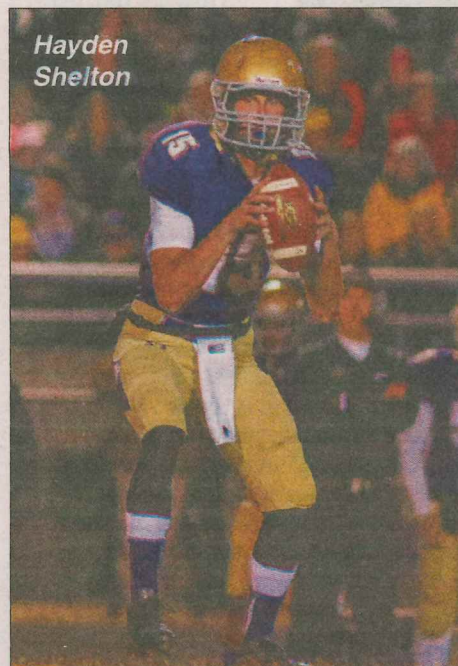
St. Matthews Baptist Church children's minister David Garrard said the community knew it was going to be a good year for the football team, but it wasn't just the winning streak that excited him.

"As the quarterback, (Shelton) would be in a position of strong influence in his school, and I was grateful because I knew he would embrace that and be a witness for Christ," Garrard said.

He wrote Shelton a letter at the beginning of the season and encouraged Shelton to live out his faith since he would be in that position of influence.

"It's fun to see young people who seem

to be really sincere about faith and for whom faith seems to be the most important thing in their life," Garrard said. He calls Shelton a "muscular Christian," referencing the 1981 film "Chariots of Fire," saying Shelton fills that role because his skill on the field draws attention, and he uses that attention for good.



Shelton is just as involved in bringing other people toward Christ as he is on his team. He helped Garrard coach an Upward Bound basketball team, encouraging younger players to hone their skills on the court and also focus on their faith.

His youth minister at St. Matthews, Brian Johnson, said Shelton is constantly trying to make sure his peers are engaged during Bible study, sometimes corralling all their cell phones into one pile.

"Even when he comes after practice, sometimes he comes in (to youth group) with his dinner," Johnson said. "In the midst of all of this it's never been about him. He's extremely modest."

Johnson said there is little Shelton won't do to serve his church community, even dressing as a Disney character to sing to children with the Baptist Fellowship in West Louisville.

Shelton hasn't been without obstacles though. He tried out to be starting quarterback his sophomore year and was passed over for the spot. His mother Candace Shelton said he never once complained about it, but instead said it must be part of God's plan for him. He continued with Male's team even though he could have moved to another school.

Shelton said that obstacle made starting as quarterback during this undefeated

season "extra special." His mother works with him to prep before games, said he has been steadfast in football and in faith.

"He's walked the line," she said. "He's a good representation of what a solid Christian young man should be."

The struggle early in his high school football career isn't the only one he has faced. Shelton also injured his shoulder late this season and had to miss a playoff game. Shelton carries with him a small pocket cross for every game, which his family said he is frantic without.

He got the cross when he was baptized and makes sure he always has it on him when he plays as a constant reminder for what is most important to him.

Shelton is the middle child in a family of five children. At school he works on the yearbook staff and plays baritone in the band. As a senior, he is thinking about his future. He hopes to play football in college, and schools in Kentucky, like Centre and Georgetown, have shown interest.

Shelton and his family hope he may be able to play for a larger school, but as they wait his mother says they have faith in the Lord as his plans unfold.

When he starts college, Shelton is hoping to study math with the aim of becoming an accountant, teacher, or engineer in addition to playing on the field. (WR)

Thirty-three with ties to Kentucky graduate from Southern Seminary

Louisville—Thirty-three students with Kentucky ties graduated from Southern Baptist Theological Seminary during commencement ceremonies on Dec. 11. The students include:

Master of Divinity

Douglas Allison, Little Rock, Ark., Auburndale Baptist Church, Louisville; Changhae Baek, Daejeon, Young-Woon Baptist Church; Hopson Boutot, Circleville, Ohio, Belmar Baptist Church, Louisville; Jonathan Canler, Lexington, Ashland Avenue Baptist Church, Lexington; Steve Ham, Burlington, Grace Fellowship Church, Florence; Caleb Hughes, Louisville, Highview Baptist Church, Louisville; Andrew Mikels, Danville, Immanuel Baptist Church, Danville; Wesley Parsons, Whangarei, New Zealand, Hazelwood Baptist Church, Louisville; Calvin Payne, Louisville, Kenwood Baptist Church, Louisville; Brandon

Porter, Whangarei, New Zealand, Hazelwood Baptist Church, Louisville; Randall Rearden, Hawesville; Chandler Snyder, Lexington, Porter Memorial Baptist Church, Lexington; Yonggang Tang, Ninth & O Baptist Church, Louisville; Brent Nelson Walker, Newport, Highland Avenue Baptist Tabernacle Church, Fort Thomas; and Colin Wood, Toronto, Canada, Ninth & O Baptist Church, Louisville.

Advanced Master of Divinity

Clara Christine Flores, Chapel Hill, Highview Baptist Church (La Respuesta), Louisville.

Master of Theology

Donald Richard Carver Jr., Shepherdsville, Bullitt Lick Baptist Church, Shepherdsville.

Master of Arts in Christian Education

Cris Garrido, La Romana, Iglesia Bautista Int'l, Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic.

Master of Arts in Church Ministries

Jessica Cheatham, Bagdad, Clifton Baptist Church, Louisville; and Joshua Looten, Columbia, Mo., Tunnel Hill Baptist Church, Elizabethtown.

Master of Arts in Theological Studies

Steven Craft, Louisville, Ninth & O Baptist Church, Louisville; and Barry Gibson, Pineville, Jenson Baptist Church, Pineville.

Master of Arts in Church Ministries

Ngang Dorchi Lama, Sankhuwasabha, Nepal, Asha Church, Louisville; and Clifton Roth, Louisville, Sojourn Community Church, Louisville.

Master of Theology

Allan Gregory Daigle, Erlanger, First Baptist Church, Cold Spring.

Doctor of Philosophy

Hopson Boutot, Circleville, Ohio, Belmar Baptist Church, Louisville; and James Detwiler, Eminence, Ninth and O Baptist Church, Louisville; and Keith

McKinley, Louisville, Westport Road Baptist Church, Louisville.

Doctor of Education

Randall Burns, Bowling Green, Monticello Baptist Church, Morgantown; Barry Gibson, Pineville, Jenson Baptist Church, Pineville; Justin Mason, Mayfield, New Hope Baptist Church, Mayfield; and Matthew McCraw, Henderson, First Baptist Church, Henderson.

Doctor of Educational Ministry

Cheryl Erwin, Nicholasville, Porter Memorial Baptist Church, Lexington.

Doctor of Ministry

Donavon Ray Burton, Somerset, Beacon Hill Baptist Church, Somerset; and Wes Pinkley, Ekron, Ekron Baptist Church, Ekron.

One Kentucky student graduated from Southeastern Baptist Seminary in Wake Forest, N.C., Dec. 11. Tiffany Ramos, of Walton, received a master of arts in inter-cultural studies degree. (WR)

264 people saved via 'Tell Your Story' initiative

Louisville—In a warm, friendly voice, a lady identified as Betty S. shares a gripping story about how she came to faith in Jesus Christ as a 12-year-old girl growing up on a farm in rural Kentucky in the 1940s.

The death of her 21-year-old brother, Butch, a soldier killed in action in France during WWII, caused her to think about where she would spend eternity when she dies.

"As I reflected on his life as a Christian, I realized he was in heaven with Jesus, but if I died I was not prepared to see him again," she explained in an audio recording on the www.tellyourstory.today website, a joint initiative of the Kentucky Baptist Convention and The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville. "For the first time, I realized I was lost and a sinner."

That prompted the young girl to pray to accept Jesus as her Savior.

"I can't tell you how wonderful my life has been as a Christian," she said. "Yes, I have experienced trials, discouragement, temptations and grief like everyone else does, but I had the constant presence of God's Spirit who strengthens me when I faced all these things. God gave me hope and joy, and I look forward to seeing my brother Butch in heaven."

More than 600 people have recorded similar stories about their salvation experiences through a cutting-edge evangelistic outreach that church leaders hope will spark revival in their Bible belt state and beyond. Some of the stories are heart-rending. Others humorous. All document personal encounters with Jesus.

"What we're trying to do is make it the

quintessential evangelistic tool in the state of Kentucky," said Chuck McAlister, head of the Kentucky Baptist Convention's evangelism team.

McAlister briefed the KBC's Evangelism Committee on the Tell Your Story initiative in a meeting this month.

In the past year, he said, people from 25 states and five foreign countries have recorded their stories on the website. Nearly 20,000 people from all 50 states and 79 foreign countries have listened to those stories. And 264 have indicated they made salvation decisions after listening.

It would be impossible for anyone who listens to the stories not to have their interest in Christianity aroused by ordinary people talking about their encounters with Jesus.

A man identified as Emery R., like so

many others who have recorded their stories on the website, said his outlook on life was forever changed the instant he became a Jesus follower.

"At that moment, I felt peace like I'd never known in my life," he said.

KBC began the Tell Your Story initiative as a way for the unchurched to hear how regular people met Jesus and how He changed their lives for the better.

To record a salvation story, call 888-564-7773. The recordings go to the www.tellyourstory.today website and participants are texted a link to share on Facebook, Twitter and other social media or print on business cards.

"This is a simple way for ordinary folks in the pews to share their stories with lots of people," said Andy McDonald, a KBC evangelism strategist. (KBC)

Team builds latrines to keep Tanzania school open

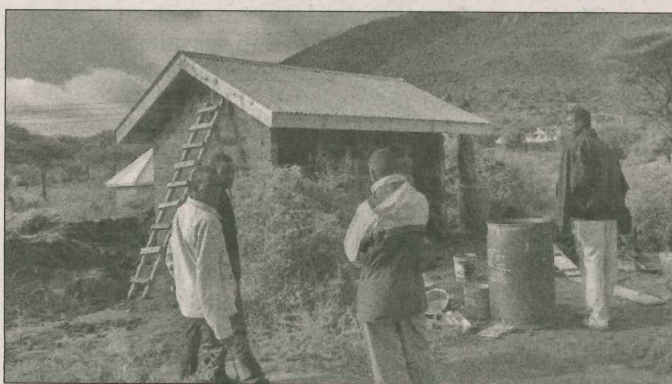
By Myriah Snyder

Tanzania—A Kentucky Baptist Disaster Relief team finished what they began during a summer mission trip by building two new latrines for a school in Longido, Tanzania, with Baptist Global Response funds.

Ron and Greta Wilson, members of Parkway Baptist Church in Bardstown and volunteers with Disaster Relief, took two interns, Emily Bertram, from University of the Cumberland, and Madison Sawyers, from Clear Creek Baptist Bible College, to Longido to minister to the Abernathy Baptist Primary School. The school was begun in 2002 by International Mission Board missionaries Tim and Annie Titenberg.

In July, the interns taught music and English language and led recreation. Greta spent time mentoring staff and encouraging the women and children.

"They were very grateful people," Greta said. "They gave us their very best." She recounted a story about how after they had



Local workers build a latrine for the Abernathy Baptist Primary School with help from Kentucky Disaster Relief and Baptist Global Response.

given the students and staff gifts during a celebration, the librarian, Jonathan, knocked on the Wilson's cabin door later to give them a gift of three eggs from his chicken.

"That is a big deal for them to give food," she said. "I fell in love with them. They were very receptive of us."

Ron said from that project, they saw the

school's needs. There was only one latrine.

"They were told they had to have two, and they didn't have funds to build one.

"Through the missionaries that are serving, we coordinated a request through Baptist Global Response to get funds, and they came through," he said. "They asked if we would come back and oversee the project."

Ron traveled back and forth to coordinate things, and in November, he returned to finish constructing the latrines.

Usually December is the start of a short rainy season and they have another in the spring, and it had not rained much in months. "They were praying for rain because they had a lot of cattle and sheep dying because of lack of water and no pas-

ture," he explain

However, it began raining so hard that the only working latrine that they had caved in, meaning the school would have had to shut down, he recounted.

"God knew this was going to happen," Ron said. Because the team was there with the funds from BGR, they were able to finish the project and save the school.

"After the project was finished the teachers and the students were just praising the Lord for His timing, because they can start back to school in January," Ron shared. If BGR hadn't funded the project, the school wouldn't have been able to add latrines.

"It was pretty neat the timing of everything," he added. "The Lord allowed me to see that."

"I am amazed at the little things that God does to insure that He gets the praise and glory for our little labors," Doug Lee, IMB strategist connected to the project, said. "The entire administration and even children are seeing God's hand in the timing of this project, for sure." (WR)

Evaluate your surroundings as the page of 2015 turns

This time of year especially we begin to get nostalgic about the year that is ending and begin to look ahead to the year that is beginning. It is an annual turning of the page that becomes a natural event in our lives.

In a lot of ways 2015 was a tough year. The funerals we were a part of were way too many.

In February, my dear friend Bill Houpt graduated to glory. There isn't a day that passes that I don't think about him. The life experiences we shared are some of the most precious memories I have. Even the NFL season is different this year, somehow it just doesn't mean as much. I have even found myself picking up my phone to call him on occasion. The impact he had on a generation of youth ministers in Kentucky no one will know this side of heaven.

Also this year, two other men who invested in me as a young minister, Jerry Kibbons, a professor I had at

Campbellsville, who also performed Gina's and my wedding, passed away, as did Mike Watts, the pastor who brought us to Edgewood. Both of these men saw more in me than I saw in myself, put me in a place to succeed, and took a chance on a young minister. We also lost a former student, Antonio Webb. Tonio was a vital part of our youth group in Hopkinsville.

He was much too young and his passing left a huge hole in a lot of lives. There have been other things that will make me glad the pages of 2015 are coming to an end. Dear friends have lost jobs, marriages have fallen apart, and terrorists are bombing innocent victims all across the globe.

But 2015 also had some great moments.

I got to see hundreds of students cross over from death to life this summer at camp! I also got the opportunity to pour into both the Milton and Corn Creek Baptist churches in Trimble County as

their interim/long term supply pastor.

Our son Jordan and his wife Kaitlyn bought their first house, and our daughter moved into an apartment in Old Louisville (a place where she has always wanted to live). Friends and ministry partners have started new jobs, had or adopted new babies, were married or had kids to get married. It has been a year not a lot unlike other years. Each has its share of joys and sorrow and all around us, every day, life happens.

As the page of 2015 turns, let's take time to look around, evaluate where we are in ministry, our relationships, and our walk with God. For some of us, we know that 2016 needs to bring a new ministry assignment. If in your heart you know that is the case, begin now to be proactive, seek the face of God and good counsel from friends, and trust God to take care of you. Don't be afraid to take a leap to a new place.

Others I know of need to stay put. Things are tough, the ministry/church you are serving needs you there. But most

importantly, God's call to there is still on you. It may be easier to leave and start fresh, but I don't ever remembering God calling us to something easy.

For some, it is time to spend the next season focusing on your family. Your kids/spouse are starving for your attention, and you have sacrificed them on that altar of busyness.

Recruit volunteers, let some things go on your calendar, but make it a priority to be there. You family needs to know that they are just as important as those people at the church.

Finally, take some time as the page turns and examine your spiritual walk. It is easy to talk a good game. But honestly where is your relationship with God. If the only time you are reading scripture is to prepare a lesson or sermon, and your only prayer life is in front of a crowd or before a meal, changes need to be made immediately.

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

Youth Ministry Corner



Joe Ball

Tabular History of the Western Recorder

George Jewell, of the Editorial Department of the Western Recorder, performed a valuable and difficult task in 1935 of preparing in tabular form the history of the Western Recorder. Jewell made a minute examination of numerous manuscripts as well as studied many old file copies of the Western Recorder and its lineal predecessors themselves. Without doubt it was the most complete tabular record of the history of this newspaper which has ever been compiled. In this issue, we offer this updated and edited version of his momentous work, with gratitude to our many faithful readers. — *Todd Deaton, Editor*

Dates	Editors	Publishers, Owners, Printers	Dates	Editors	Publishers, Owners, Printers
THE BAPTIST RECORDER					
1825	George Waller, Spencer Clack, Eds.	Bloomfield: "Continued about 4 years."	1871	L. B. Woolfolk, W. W. Gardner, Assoc. Eds., Jan. 7, 1871. George Varden took place of Woolfolk, as Assoc. Ed., June 3, 1871. A. S. Worrell, A. C. Caperton, eds. W. W. Gardner, George Varden, Assoc. Eds., July 8, 1871	R.M. Dudley, J. W. Rust, Props, March 1869 Moved to 111 Jefferson St. Dudley & Rust, Owners, moved to Mozart Building, 4th & Jefferson, Jan. 1871.
THE BAPTIST BANNER					
1834	James Wilson, M.D., Ed.	Shelbyville: J. H. Ransdell & Irvine Parrott	Worrell & Caperton, Props.		
1835	John L. Waller, Ed., Sept. 19, 1835; Silar M. Noel and R. T. Lillard, Asst. Eds., Oct. 3, 1835. Thomas B. Walker, New Albany, Ind., added to staff July 25, 1838. John Mason Peck, Rock Springs, Ill. and R. B. C. Howell, Nashville, Tenn., Assoc. Eds., Feb. 14, 1839. A. R. Hinckle, Franklin, Ind., added Nov. 21, 1839. William Calmes Buck, Louisville, Ky.; W. C. Crane, Montgomery, Ala., Assoc. Eds., in 1841.	Louisville: Irvine Parrott purchased Baptist Banner from Ransdell & Parrott, and moved it to Louisville Dec. 6, 1836. Jacob Eliot & Co., Pub., Jan. 1, 1838. The Baptist, Nashville, Tenn., R. B. C. Howell, Ed., and The Western Pioneer, Rock Springs (now Alton), Ill., J. M. Peck, Ed., were combined with The Baptist Banner, Feb. 14, 1839. The South-Western Monitor and Religious Luminary of Mobile, Ala., formerly of Natches, Miss., was combined with The Baptist Banner and Western Pioneer in 1840.	1872	A. S. Worrell, A. C. Caperton, J. S. Coleman, Eds. W. W. Gardner, George Varden, Assoc. Eds., Jan. 13, 1872	Worrell, Caperton & Coleman, Props, Jan. 1873 Moved to 95 Green St.
BAPTIST BANNER AND WESTERN PIONEER					
1839	Name changed Feb. 14, 1839.	Moved to 47 Wall St., in 1841. James Hull, Printer, engaged Jacob Eliot & Co, Jan. 26, 1843. W. C. Buck, Pub., March 9, 1843; James Hull, Printer.	1873	A. C. Caperton, Ed. J. S. Coleman, Beaver Dam; George Varden, Paris, and W. W. Gardner, Russellville, Assoc. Eds. A. S. Worrell, San Francisco, Calif., Corresp.; and A. B. Cates, Office Ed., March 8, 1873. J. S. Coleman dropped Oct. 25, 1873. D. B. Ray, LaGrange, Mo., became Corresp. Feb. 7, 1874, to Feb. 13, 1875, succeeding A. S. Worrell.	A. C. Caperton, Prop. Moved to 77 Fifth St., Aug. 1873.
1841	William Calmes Buck, Ed. and Prop., Jan. 14, 1841.	G. H. Monsarrat, Pub. March 1845-Nov. 1848. Moved from 47 Wall St. to 459 Market. St.	1877	George Varden, J. M. Pendleton, J. C. Burkholder, L. B. Woolfolk, Samuel Boykin, Norman Robinson and Dora Leora Bettison Robinson, Special Contributors, Feb. 8, 1887.	Moved to 149 S. Fourth St., March 1876.
THE BAPTIST BANNER			1882	T. B. Craighead, Asst. Ed., J. M. Pendleton, J. C. Burkholder, Samuel Boykin, Special Contributors. Wm. R. Caperton, Mgr. & Asst. Ed.	
1848	Name changed Jan. 6. 1848.	LaRue & Thurman, Props. Hull & Bros., Printers, March 1850. Hull & Shannon, Printers, July 1850. Moved to 85 Fourth St.	1887	T. T. Eaton, Ed., Oct. 6, 1887 to his death., T. B. Craighead, Asst. Ed.	Harvey, McFerran & Co., Baptist Book Concern, owners. Moved to Third St., later to Third & Jefferson; 538 S. Fourth St.; 642 S. Fourth St.
1849	W. C. Buck and Alexander W. LaRue, Eds. & Props., Aug. 15, 1849.	LaRue, Thurman & Kirk, Props. Hull & Bros., Printers. Office moved to N.E. Cor. 3rd & Market St., Aug. 1852. Thurman, Fisher & Kirk, Props., Nov. 1852. Thomas Fisher purchased LaRue's interest.	1907	C. M. Thompson, Ed., Nov. 7, 1907 to July 1, 1909. J. G. Bow, Assoc. Ed., June 29, 1907 to Nov. 18, 1909.	Baptist Book Concern, owners. Moll & Co., printer. Baptist State Board of Missions in Ky. in 1919 purchased from Baptist Book Concern the Western Recorder (and the Baptist World) and consolidated with Kentucky Mission Monthly.
1850	John L. Waller, R. L. Thurmand and A. W. LaRue, Eds., May 8, 1850.	Thurman & Fisher, Props.	1909	J. W. Porter, Ed., July 1, 1909 to Jan. 27, 1921. E. C. Stevens, Assoc. Ed. Jan. 6 1916 to June 14, 1917. W. D. Nowlin, Assoc. Ed., June 21, 1917, to 1919. E. B. Hatcher, News Ed. 1919 to Oct. 7, 1920.	
THE WESTERN RECORDER			1921	Victor I. Masters, Ed., Feb. 1, 1921 to Oct. 1942.	General Association of Baptist in Kentucky Louisville: 127 East Broadway. Board of Publication (now trustees) appointed by General Association of Kentucky Baptists, beginning 1929
1851	Name changed to Western Recorder (Dec. 24, 1850).	Ford & Fisher, Publishers.	1942	John D. Freeman, Nov. 1942-Jan. 1946	
1852	John L. Waller, Ed., Jan. 17, 1852. A. W. LaRue and Chalers D. Kirk, Assoc. Eds. John L. Waller and Charles D. Kirk, Eds.	Office moved to Walnut St. Baptist Church, Walnut & Fourth Sts., Feb. 1854.	1946	Ruel Tipton Skinner, Ed., Sept. 1946-July 1957. George Jewell, Assoc. Ed. 1926 to June 1963.	Middletown: Kentucky Baptist Building. Western Recorder published in print shop until July 1977. Shelbyville: Landmark Community Newspapers Inc., printer, Nov. 1977. Format changed to tabloid.
1853	John L. Waller, Ed., March 16, 1853. "Conducted by John L. Waller, R. L. Thurman and T. J. Fisher," April 20, 1853. "Conducted by John L. Waller, Samuel Howard Ford and T. J. Fisher," Sept. 8, 1853. John L. Waller and S. H. Ford, Eds., Nov. 9, 1853	A. F. Cox, Printer, July 9, 1856, taking place of Hull & Bros.	1957	Chauncey Daley, July 1957 to June 1984. George Jewell, Assoc. Ed.; R. G. Puckett, Assoc. Ed., June 1963 to July 1966; George Knight, Assoc. Ed., Sept. 1966 to Sept. 1968; Bob Terry, Assoc. Ed., Sept. 1968 to Aug. 1975; James H. Cox, Assoc. Ed., Sept. 1975-June 1991.	
1854	S. H. Ford, Ed., Oct. 1854, upon death of J. L. Waller. S. H. Ford, S. W. Lynd, Wm M. Pratt, A. W. LaRue, A. D. Sears, L. Fletcher, J. M. Bennett, plurality of editors starting between Oct. 15, 1854 and Jan. 10, 1855. Bennett and Ford dropped Jan. 9, 1856; J. W. Warder appears. W. C. Duncan added May 21, 1856.	J. Otis, Business Dept., A. F. Cox, Printer.	1984	Jack Sanford, Ed., July 1984 to May 1989. James H. Cox, Assoc. Ed.	
1857	Norman Robinson, Ed., Aug. 26, 1857.	Hull & Bros., resume printing, March 1858. Hanna & Co. Printers.	1990	Marvin Knox, Ed., June 1990 to Nov. 1995. Mark Wingfield, News Dir., July 1991-Dec. 1995.	
1858	Joseph Otis, Ed. & Prop., Feb. 3 1858. Norman Robinson, Assoc. Ed., Feb 3, 1858, until March 31, 1858.	Charles Y. Duncan & Co, Pub. Was suspended twice account of Civil War.	1996	Mark Wingfield, Ed., May 1996 to Oct. 1998. David Winfrey, News Dir., June 1996 to Oct. 2006.	
1861	S. H. Ford, Ed., June 29, 1861.	Graves & Waller, Props. Office on Main St.	1999	Trennis Henderson, Ed., June 1999 to March 2008. David Winfrey, News Dir. Drew Nichter, News Dir., May 2007 to Jan., 2013.	
1864	Alfred C. Graves, Ed., March 5, 1864. A. C. Graves, Jonathan C. Waller, Eds., May 7, 1864 to June 25, 1864. G. W. Robertson, A. C. Graves, J. C. Waller, Eds., July 2, 1864. Jonathan C. Waller, Ed. Aug. 13, 1864. G. W. Robertson added as Assoc. Ed., Oct. 1, 1864. Dropped Dec. 24, 1864. J. M. Weaver became Assoc. Ed., Jan. 27-Nov. 3, 1866.	Robertson & Waller, Props.	2009	Todd Deaton, Ed., Jan. 2009 to present. Drew Nichter, News Dir., Robin Cornette (Bass), News Dir., Feb. 2013-April 2014.	Louisville: Moved to new Kentucky Baptist Building, 13420 East Point Centre Dr., in 2005 Cynthiana: Landmark Community Newspapers Inc., printer. Began publishing bi-monthly Jan. 2015
1866	R. M. Dudley, Ed., Nov. 24, 1866.	Moved to 232 Main St.			
1868	R. M. Dudley, J. W. Rust, Eds., Aug. 1, 1868.	M. W. Sherrill, R. C. Sherrill, J. W. Rust, Props. Sherrills & Rust, Owners, Aug. 1868			



January

- 5 Power Lunch, Ky. Baptist Building, Louisville
- 8-9 Music Leadership Council, Ky. Baptist Building, Louisville
- 8-9 Tutoring Children and Youth Workshop, First Baptist Church, Williamsburg
- 15-16 Ky. Baptist Disaster Relief Chaplaincy Training, Beaver Dam Baptist Church
- 16 Ky. Baptist Disaster Relief Training Phases 1 & 2, Beaver Dam Baptist Church

MOUNTAINS TO THE MISSISSIPPI

COMPILED BY STAFF

ELIZABETHTOWN—Severns Valley Association will hold its January Pastor's Conference on Jan. 13 at 10:30 a.m. **Josh Looten**, pastor at Tunnell Hill Church, a recent graduate of Southern Seminary, will be the speaker. **Randy Mitchell**, music minister at Elizabethtown Church, will be leading music. **Gerald Murphy** is director of missions.

GRAY—Knox Association welcomed Old Time Missionary Church into its fellowship after a year of watch care. The association also voted to receive Poplar Grove #2 Church under watch care. Also, WMU of the association received \$2,500 to purchase a cow for a missionary family that is using farming to share the gospel and they named it "Knox." **Seymour Wattenbarger** is director of missions.

HODGENVILLE—First Church is hosting a showing of the movie "Woodlawn" on Jan. 3 at 5 p.m. For information, call the church office at (270) 358-3193. **Paul Richey** is pastor.

KEVIL—Newton Creek Church has called **Marty Brown** as pastor. He began duties Dec. 20.

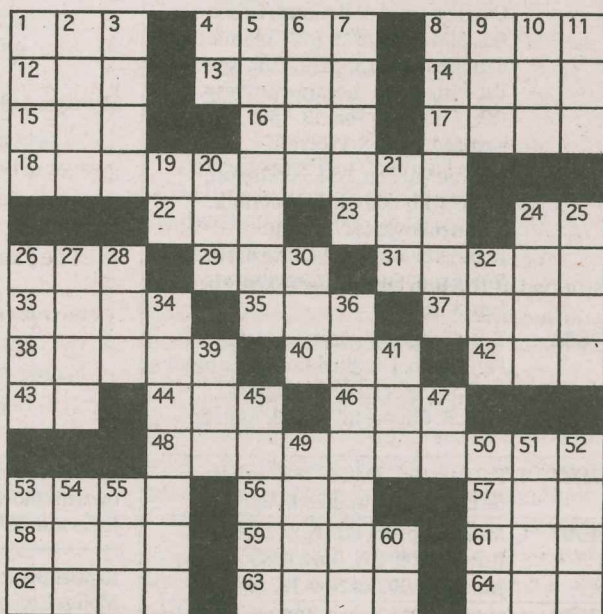
PADUCAH—Trinity Church has called **Lee James** as pastor. He has been serving as interim.

Bible Crosswords

By Mary Ann Freeman

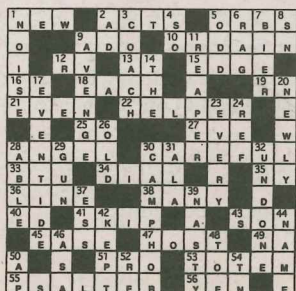
Across

- 1 "____ the just shall live by faith" (Hebrews 10:38)
- 4 Breakfast food that Noah's son (Genesis 5:32)
- 8 "____ without ceasing" (1 Thessalonians 5:17)
- 12 Dentists' group
- 13 Soccer great
- 14 Worn in a religious painting
- 15 "They neither sow ____ reap" (Luke 12:24)
- 16 No to a Scot
- 17 Last word in the Bible (Revelation 22:21)
- 18 Site of final conflict (Revelation 16:16)
- 22 Hath, in modern English
- 23 UNIVersity in Carbondale, Ill., abbr.
- 24 FL from TN, direction
- 26 Abraham's nephew (Genesis 14:12)
- 29 "She gave me of the tree, and I ____ eat" (Genesis 3:12)
- 31 What the lame man did (Acts 3:8)
- 33 Woodwind instrument
- 35 "____ thou on my right hand" (Matthew 22:44)
- 37 "Honey in the carcase of the ____" (Judges 14:8)
- 38 "Get thee behind me, ____" (Matthew 16:23)
- 40 Time period
- 42 Subway system
- 43 ____ Salvador
- 44 Sun in Madrid
- 46 Balaam's Mr. Ed (Numbers 22:28)
- 48 Luke's penpal (Acts 1:1)
- 53 "There is ____ good but one" (Matthew 19:17)
- 56 Canterbury's religious leader, abbr.
- 57 "Ye ____ the light of the



#053

- world" (Matthew 5:14)
- 58 Pitcher
- 59 "Obedient by word and ____" (Romans 15:18)
- 61 Missing soldier
- 62 Adolescent
- 63 Figures
- 64 Woman's malady
- Down**
- 1 Wendy's dog
- 2 "____ of a sweet smell" (Philippians 4:18)
- 3 "The flesh of the child waxed ____" (2 Kings 4:34)
- 4 Long play video tape setting, abbr.
- 5 Joseph's story told here
- 6 "A wise son maketh a ____ father" (Proverbs 10:1)
- 7 What the sower sowed (Matthew 13:4)
- 8 Anna's father (Luke 2:36)
- 9 Took Isaac's place (Genesis 22:13)
- 10 Pub drink
- 11 Hither, thither, and ____
- 19 "____, Lord God" (Jeremiah 1:6)
- 20 Zilpah's lad (Genesis 30:11)
- 21 "Thou anointest my head with ____" (Psalm 23:5)
- 24 "Not having ____ or wrinkle" (Ephesians 5:27)
- 25 Sicilian volcano
- 26 "He that loveth his life shall ____ it" (John 12:25)
- 27 Joktan's son (Genesis 10:28)
- 28 Child
- 30 "Appointed unto men once to ____" (Hebrews 9:27)
- 32 Direct
- 34 Magi saw star in this sky (Matthew 2:2)
- 36 Stuck
- 39 Japanese drama
- 41 "He planted an ____ and the rain doth nourish it" (Isaiah 44:14)
- 45 "____ quiet and peaceable life" (1 Timothy 2:2) (2 words)
- 47 Yes to Julio
- 49 David's grandpa (Ruth 4:22)
- 50 "Thy word is a ____ unto my feet" (Psalm 119:105)
- 51 Used to cast lots (Numbers 27:21)
- 52 Red and Dead
- 53 Kingdom of heaven is like one (Matthew 13:47)
- 54 "____ no man any thing" (Romans 13:8)
- 55 Maiden name
- 60 Document signed, abbr.



CLASSIFIED Ads

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: 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@catoneida.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: Temple Hill Baptist Church, a conservative Southern Baptist Church in rural south east Barren County, Ky., affiliated with the Monroe Association, is seeking a bivocational pastor. Average Sunday morning attendance is approximately 130. Church services include Sunday School, worship service Sunday morning and evening, and Wednesday night Bible study. Resumes will be accepted Dec. 1, 2015-Jan. 15, 2016. Resumes should be mailed to Temple Hill Baptist Church, P.O. Box 1946 Glasgow, KY 42142-1946.

SEEKING: Barren River Baptist Church, in Bowling Green, Ky., is seeking a bivocational pastor with a strong leadership skill set to help the church connect to the community and communicate Christ clearly. The church is strategically located with excellent facilities, ample parking and an activities center. We will accept resumes until 1/15/2016. Email to brbc-pastorsearch@gmail.com or mail to: Barren River Baptist Pastor Search, Chuck Threlkel, 720 Summerlin Dr., Bowling Green, KY 42104.

SEEKING: Full-time music and worship pastor at First Baptist Church of Murray, Ky. Contact Rhonda Roberts at First Baptist Church, 203 South 4th Street, Murray, KY 42071.

SEEKING: Garner Missionary Baptist in Rush, Ky.: pastor retiring after 23 years. Looking for godly man to continue the ministry. Average attendance 200. Multiple ministries church. Send resume to P.O. Box 630, Catlettsburg, KY 41129.

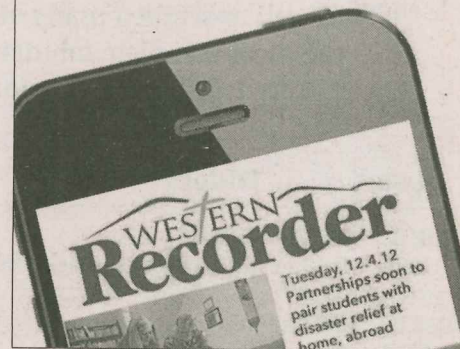
SEEKING: Oakland Baptist Church is prayerfully accepting resumes for lead pastor. Send resume to Pastor Search Committee, Oakland Baptist Church, P.O. Box 154, Oakland, KY 42159. We will be accepting resumes until Feb. 12, 2016.

SEEKING: Jackson Grove Baptist Church in Bowling Green, Ky., is seeking a bi-vocational pastor with strong leadership skills to help the church connect with the community and communicate Christ clearly. The Church is strategically located just outside city limits with excellent facilities. Email resumes to hstewartbg@gmail.com or mail to: Jackson Grove Search, c/o Harold Stewart, 536 Detour Rd., Bowling Green, KY 42101-6501.

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

SEEKING: Unity Baptist Church in Ashland, Ky., is seeking a full-time minister of music to lead and coordinate an active ministry in a multi-generational church, utilizing a blended style of worship. Average attendance is 250-300. Send resume

Take us with you
westernrecorder.org



to Search Committee, P.O. Box 2286, Ashland, KY 41105.

FOR SALE: Wickliffe First Baptist has a 1999 Ford Bus E-350 - 20 passenger - mileage 121,011. It is two tone, blue with silver and runs good. Sale price \$3,500. Call 270-335-3598 or 270-562-4097.

SERVICE: JCA Media, LLC, well known in KBC. 20+ years' experience installing quality equipment at reasonable pricing. Let us help you enhance your worship experience. For information/references, visit www.jcamedia.com or contact us at (270) 312-7492.

SEEKING: Columbia Baptist Church is prayerfully seeking a full-time minister of students. Candidates must have a minimum of a bachelor's degree and 1-2 years' experience working with youth. Candidates must have a kingdom focus, be a team player, and evidence a passion for developing disciples and investing in families. Send resumes to: Columbia Baptist Church, 201 Greensburg St., Columbia, KY 42728, or email them to pastorbill@columbiabaptist.com.

SEEKING: Columbia Baptist Church is prayerfully seeking a part-time minister of music. Candidates must have a minimum of a bachelor's degree with preferred emphasis in music worship. Candidates must have a minimum of 1-2 years' experience in worship leadership, evidence a kingdom focus, and be a team player. Send resumes to: Columbia Baptist Church, 201 Greensburg St., Columbia, KY 42728, or email them to pastorbill@columbiabaptist.com.

SEEKING: Church administrator (part-time). Walnut Street Baptist Church in Louisville is seeking a part-time church administrator to provide leadership in the management of the day-to-day operation of the church's office. This person works closely with pastoral staff and support. Accounting experience is essential as this person is responsible for the accuracy and maintenance of the church's financial information in collaboration with the finance assistant. Additional responsibilities include supporting various committees that develop or oversee the church's budget and finances; complies with federal, state and local tax requirements; and maintains the records for Walnut Street Baptist Church Foundation. Send cover letter and resume to scsearch@walnutstreet.org. Deadline for applications: Jan. 8

SEEKING: Bi-vocational pastor for small congregation located in DeMossville, Ky. In charge of the welfare and responsible care of the church. Preside at all meetings of the church. Preach at appointed hours of worship on Sunday, lead regular midweek meetings, and administer ordinances as taught in Scriptures. Have general care of the spiritual welfare of the membership of the church. Submit your resume by mail to DeMossville Baptist Church, P.O. Box 27, DeMossville, KY 41033, or e-mail to dbc@zoomtown.com.

Flora family goes on mission together in Lesotho

By Marie Curtis

Lesotho—When Jim and Teresa Flora, IMB missionaries from Hamlin Memorial Baptist Church in Springfield, Mo., think about their work and ministry in the mountains of Lesotho, they automatically think of how their children are involved. They are quick to say they rely on the prayers and encouragement of their three grown sons and their families in the U.S., but daughters Gracie, Anna and Rebekah are a part of each day's work.

"We view our ministry as a complete family job," says Teresa, who was called to missions as a child in Girls in Action.

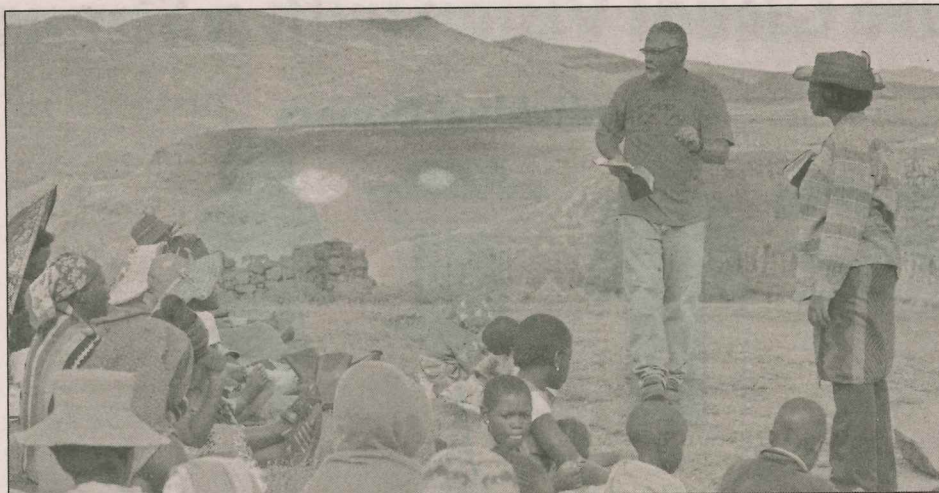
On a typical Saturday when the family heads into a rural village, Gracie reviews the Bible story she will teach, Anna makes sandwiches with the bread she baked Friday night, and Rebekah loads balls into the truck and reviews the games she will play with children.

When they arrive, the girls engage the children while Jim greets a young pastor and Teresa, a registered nurse, checks on several villagers who have been sick. As the worship time begins, the family joins the crowd sitting on the ground as Basotho children shove to sit in their laps. When it's their turn to teach a Bible story, the Flora daughters stand before the crowd with confidence and share from God's word.

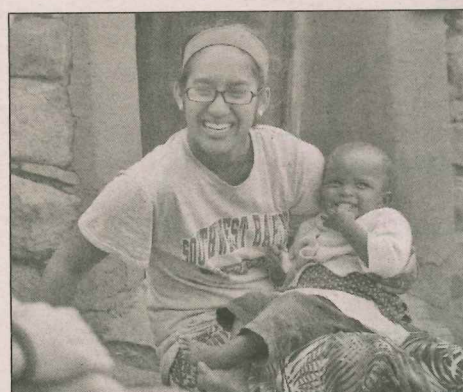
Jim says he loves seeing the uniqueness in his daughters and the ways that they are using their gifts. "They have some of their own ministries," Jim explains, like Gracie who took the initiative to learn and then teach simple sign language to the church family of a Deaf girl.

"They do some discipling with teenage girls, they do storying in the village and they do a lot of baby holding and playing games," Jim adds.

The girls also are helpful when church teams come from the U.S. The logistics of hosting short-term groups is extensive, but Jim and Teresa say that they couldn't reach these mountains for Christ without the



Every week, IMB missionary Jim Flora travels with his family into remote villages to share stories from the Bible. Jim also trains pastors who are leading new churches. (IMB photos)



Gracie Flora, age 17, holds a child while the grandmother seeks treatment by volunteers hosting a medical clinic.

support.

Long-term partnering churches include First Baptist Church of Perryton, Texas; First Baptist Church of Clarendon, Texas, and River Oak Church in Chesapeake, Virginia.

The girls' faces light up with smiles as they greet visiting friends and spend the days beside them in ministry — helping in medical clinics, serving as guides in the villages and helping volunteers navigate the harsh living conditions of Lesotho. Some days that means helping to set up

tents where they will camp in remote villages or encouraging a volunteer reluctant to ride a horse up the steep mountain trail. Every day is different and every experience is a blessing, the girls say.

"We want to model for them doing things that you think you can't do, stretching yourself, being in the uncomfortable places and letting God bail you out," Teresa said. "We want to encourage them to see God working that way in their lives."

Lesotho just might be the perfect place to learn these lessons. The Floras live four hours away from the nearest grocery store. Trips to a city for supplies will take all day, or sometimes several days if they get stopped at the border between Lesotho and South Africa.

Roads are often flooded, and some villages become inaccessible. Visiting rural villages means hauling camping equipment to stay the night.

Teresa has held babies as they took their last breath, and the whole family has grieved the loss of friends. Starving children continue to break their hearts. Violence against women is a constant concern. Teresa confesses that a few moments have led her to say, "Lord, can we keep doing this?"

Jim said that the Lord continues to sustain them and renew their call. They understand the importance of the task.

"We understand that time is short; we understand that in a nation that has the second highest HIV and AIDS rate in the world that there are people that we share the gospel with from day to day that will not be here next year," Jim said. "So we do work hard to be good stewards of the Lord's time that He has given us on this earth because we do believe that it's unacceptable that there are people who have not heard the story of Jesus."

Jim and Teresa both confess that the hardest part of living in Lesotho is being far from family in the U.S., which now includes six grandchildren. But neither feels reservations about raising their daughters in a remote location, where violence against women is common and HIV/AIDS is a leading cause of death.

They are careful in their daily life and work but do not live in fear. They say their faith that they are exactly where God intends for them to be is strong, and they know their daughters are part of God's plan.

"God gave them to us for a purpose, and we believe that part of that purpose is reaching the nations," Jim says. For their family, going was the only option. "Our prayer is this, that we could teach them more by going than we could ever teach them by staying."

The Flora family thanks God for faithful giving to the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering and Cooperative Program, as well as the continued prayers of hundreds of churches. But they also want to encourage more churches to send out missionaries and teams to join in the work.

"We're praying in 2015 and the years to come as we serve God in the mountains that there will be more Southern Baptists who come to put their boots on the ground so that we can get the message to every village and to every person so that they would have the opportunity to accept Christ as their own." (BP)

Call to Lesotho was hard to ignore for Virginia eye doctor

By Marie Curtis

The call of God could not have been clearer for Dr. Dave Klink.

"We really need an ophthalmologist, one who specializes in disease of the eyes in children," Klink heard missionary Teresa Flora say over Skype. When you're a pediatric ophthalmologist, that request is hard to ignore.

Klink, who is also a neuro-ophthalmologist and served for 28 years with the U.S. Navy, listened as Teresa shared this with his church, River Oak Church in Chesapeake, Va.

The church has a partnership with Teresa and Jim Flora in their work with the Basotho people of Lesotho, and Klink had been praying about how the Lord might want him to serve.

As Teresa, a registered nurse, described the eye diseases that were threatening the village children with blindness, he knew he could help.

Teresa saw the tears in his eyes as Klink said, "You've been praying for an ophthalmologist? That would be me."

Klink says the condition that the

children, as well as adults, face is vernal conjunctivitis, which can lead to vision loss and even blindness if untreated. The harsh climate, high elevation and constant exposure to smoke over cooking fires are constant irritants.

On his first trip there in 2013, Klink identified 22 children with vernal conjunctivitis and treated them with eye drops he brought from the U.S.

In addition to fitting people of all ages with much-needed glasses, he took time to stop, pray and share, through an interpreter, that what the people really need is a relationship with Jesus Christ.

On his second trip in 2014, he was able to do some follow-up exams and track his patients' progress. "I've seen a couple of the kids I had treated last year. They are doing really well."

His time in Lesotho isn't easy. In addition to the long trip to South Africa and drive into the mountains of Lesotho, his group hauls heavy equipment and cases of medicine and eye glasses, sets up clinics in dusty schoolrooms or dark huts, travels by horse into villages with no

roads and works into the evenings. One night after supper at the missionaries' house, Klink, assisted by a dentist on the team, removed a growth from behind a boy's ear.

Teresa continues to rejoice that Dr. Klink is a partner in the ministry. "He is

the most humble man I've ever met," Teresa says of Klink. "He loves the Lord with all his heart. And he steps out of his world into my world. He will work hours upon hours, loving people, touching people and being a part in God's healing in their lives." (BP)



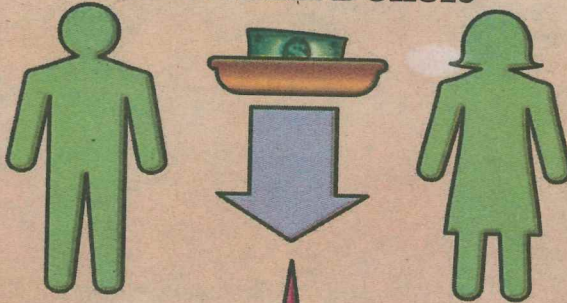
Pediatric and neuro-ophthalmologist David Klink (left) and dentist Leon Cerniway remove a large cyst from behind a Basotho boy's ear.

The Cooperative Program

An Aggressive Global Vision with a Strong Home Base



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Language Missions

Partnership Missions

Discipleship

Recreation

Benevolence

Local Ministries

Staff Compensation

Fellowship

Music/Worship

Children's Ministries

Youth Ministries

Single Adult Ministries

Median Adult Ministries

Senior Adult Ministries

Christian Education

Local Church
(Illustrative Ministries)

Cooperative Program



Church Revitalization

Leader Training

Conflict/Transition
Management

Disaster Relief

Affinity Evangelism Training

Church Planting

Baptist Campus Ministries

Christian Higher Education

Missions Mobilization

Missions Education

Multi-Ethnic Missions and
Ministry

Camps for Children and Youth

Foster Care

Charitable Gift Consultation
and Investment Management

**Kentucky Baptist
Convention**

Cooperative Program



Southern Baptist Convention



**Golden Gate Baptist
Theological Seminary**
Mill Valley, CA
Campuses: Brea, CA • Denver, CO
Phoenix, AZ • Vancouver, WA

**Midwestern Baptist
Theological Seminary**
Kansas City, MO
Extensions: Bolivar, MO • Des Moines, IA
Overland Park, KS • St. Louis, MO • Tulsa, OK
Wichita, KS

**Southwestern Baptist
Theological Seminary**
Fort Worth, TX
Extensions: Houston, TX • Jacksonville, TX
Little Rock, AR • Lubbock, TX • Plano, TX
San Antonio, TX • Shawnee, OK
Bonn, Germany

**Executive Committee of the
Southern Baptist Convention**
Nashville, TN

**Ethics and Religious Liberty
Commission**
Nashville, TN
Washington, DC

International Mission Board
Richmond, VA

North American Mission Board
Alpharetta, GA

**Southern Baptist
Theological Seminary**
Louisville, KY
Extensions: Auburn, AL • Burlington, VT
Chicago, IL • Columbia, MD • Broadview Hts., OH
Knoxville, TN • Fenton, MI • Green Bay, WI
Greenville, SC • Jackson, TN • Nashville, TN
New York City, NY • Northborough, MA
Savannah, GA • Springdale, AR • Washington, DC

**Southeastern Baptist
Theological Seminary**
Wake Forest, NC
Extensions: Anderson, SC • Asheville, NC
Charleston, SC • Charlotte, NC • Richmond, VA
Tampa, FL

**New Orleans Baptist
Theological Seminary**
New Orleans, LA
Extensions: Albany, GA • Baton Rouge, LA
Birmingham, AL • Blue Mountain, MS
Clinton, MS • Graceville, FL • Hialeah, FL
Jackson, MS • Jacksonville, FL • Lafayette, LA
Marietta, GA • Orlando, FL • Pineville, LA
Pensacola, FL • Shreveport, LA • Tampa, FL

GuideStone Financial Resources
Dallas, TX
Non-CP Receiving • SBC Entity

LifeWay Christian Resources
Nashville, TN
Non-CP Receiving • SBC Entity

Woman's Missionary Union
Birmingham, AL
Non-CP Receiving • SBC Auxiliary

World

