

WESTERN Recorder

February 23, 2016

Shine Like Stars * Philippians 2:15

Volume 190, Issue 4

Bolton to lead search for National WMU director

By Julie Walters

Birmingham, Ala.—National WMU President Linda Cooper has named the search committee for identifying the woman God would have as the missions organization's next executive director and requested prayer for the search.

Wanda Lee, who has served as executive director since 2000, announced on Jan. 11 to the WMU board her intention to retire, providing ample notice to seek a new leader.

Cooper said she prayed earnestly for God's direction in selecting search committee members who have extensive experience in WMU and represent various geographical locations. Committee members are Joy Bolton, executive director of Kentucky WMU, who will serve as chairperson; Debby Akerman, former national WMU president (2010-2015); Jill McNicol, president of Illinois WMU; Kathy Sheldon, president of Pennsylvania/South Jersey WMU; and June Tate, president of Colorado WMU.

"Above all, I am confident these women will take this task very seriously, seeking the Lord's guidance in all they do in every step of this process," said Cooper, a member of Forest Park Baptist Church in Bowling Green. "I encourage every Southern Baptist to pray intentionally and daily for the committee, for me, and for the one whom God already has selected who will lead WMU forward."

"I also ask you pray for Wanda who will continue to lead WMU in the meantime," Cooper continued. "She has given her all to lead us for the past 16 years and is committed to a seamless transition in leadership. I thank God for her and for other strong missions leaders in our churches who know firsthand how God uses missions discipleship through WMU to change lives."

Including Lee, national WMU has had seven leaders since its inception in 1888: Annie Armstrong (1888-1906), Edith Campbell Crane (1907-1911), Kathleen Mallory (1912-1948), Alma Hunt (1948-1974), Carolyn Weatherford Crumpler (1974-1989), and Dellanna O'Brien (1989-1999).

The committee begins its work immediately. Send recommendations and resumes to WMU Search Committee, c/o Joy Bolton, Kentucky WMU, 13420 Eastpoint Centre Dr., Louisville, KY 40223, to be received no later than May 1. (WMU)



Joy Bolton



RISK speakers: 'Make much of Jesus'

By Todd Deaton and Myriah Snyder

Bowling Green—"How do we make much of Jesus?" asked Southern Baptist Convention President Ronnie Floyd. "With humility," he suggested to the more than 260 Kentucky Baptists attending the RISK Conference in Bowling Green Feb. 8-9.

The two-day event at Hillvue Heights Baptist Church featured Floyd and more than a dozen other speakers—all sharing practical ways to "Make Much of Jesus" in an increasingly hostile and unbelieving world.

Frank Page, president and CEO of the SBC Executive Committee, launched the conference with a message from John 1, urging participants to "look up and see the power of the Lord Jesus."

"What is this power we use for the church and evangelism?" Page asked, underscoring the power of the creative Word, the eternal Word and the incarnate Word—not the denomination's resources or one's own abilities.

"Be strong in the Lord and His mighty power," he charged. "I did not come here to help you be better Baptists; I came here to get you to look up at our Lord Jesus and realize that He is the one who we are all about."

Alex Himaya, pastor of one of the five fastest growing congregations, The Church@ in Broken Arrow, Okla., and author of "Jesus Hates Religion," advised church leaders to "go back to the building blocks" found in Acts.

A general theme throughout the Bible is, "God did not go out and find people who had righteousness to stand on, who were the best people, who got it right," he said.

Recalling how God wove the stories of Tamar, Rahab and Bathsheba into the genealogy of Jesus, Himaya asserted, "Christianity is not for all those who got it right, but for all people who have a past ... and because of that

past, they think they can't get close to God."

"When they think about getting involved in church, they get like a Heisman (trophy)," he continued. "They stiff arm God."

"It's great news that we have!" he exclaimed. "Their sin might have distanced them from God, but the story of this Book is that God has not distanced Himself from them; He is pursuing them. That's the invitation of Christianity."

"The evangelical church is smaller than most of us have been told," asserted John Dickerson, author of "The Great Evangelical Recession" and a California pastor, noting that it now accounts for less than 1 in 10 Americans.

Setting the stage, Dickerson outlined key trends in the evangelical church by pointing out it is shrinking because a majority of young evangelicals are abandoning the faith by 30.

"The shrinking church is on the verge of a fuel crisis," he continued, explaining that the older generations contribute about 70 percent of donations, and that the church is not converting the lost fast enough to keep pace with rapid population growth.

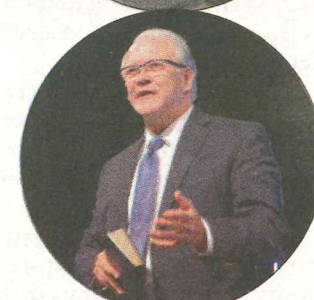
"We are increasingly hated," he said, observing that the external culture is no longer apathetic, but antagonistic. Meanwhile, the struggling church is sharply divided over how to respond to a changing culture," he concluded.

"How do we prepare for these trends?" he asked, leaving the question hanging in the air.

Ricky Chelette, director of Living Hope Ministries in Arlington, Texas, picked up where Dickerson left off, urging, "We must be willing to proclaim the gospel in a culture that does not want to hear it."

Observing that young men and women are confused about their identities, as "old definitions (of marriage) are blowing up" and seem "far too limiting and restricting for the modern world," Chelette asked, "In the world to

□ See Risk... Page 6

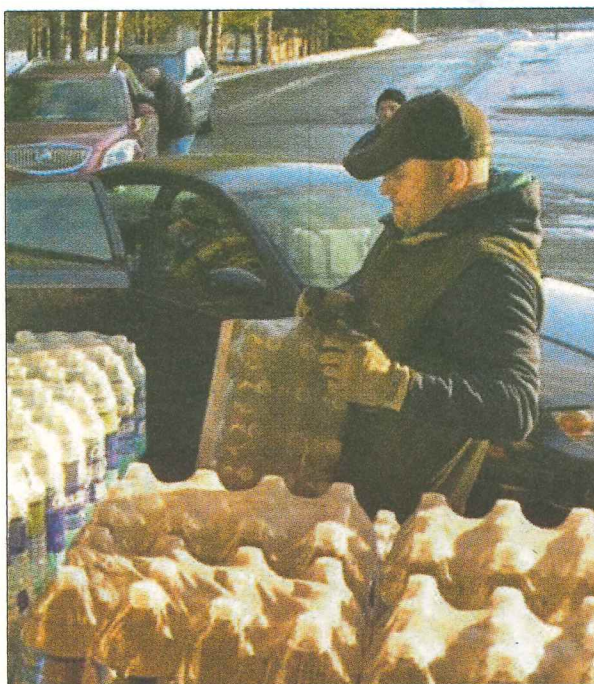


Find us on
Facebook
and on
twitter
as westernrecorder

KentuckyNotes
missions for life®
Missions Celebration

THE INSANITY
GOD
HEART
Preview!

Western Recorder 02-23-2016



Volunteers provide cases of water to Flint citizens during the crisis. (Photo by Tony Lynn, Baptist State Convention of Michigan)

Ky. Disaster Relief teams help in Flint water crisis

Louisville—Teams of Kentucky Baptists with expertise in providing clean drinking water to villagers in Third World countries are working in Michigan to install water purification systems for Flint-area families dealing with lead contamination.

"We want to bring hope and help," said Coy Webb, head of Kentucky Baptist Disaster Relief. "Many people are hurting, and feeling like they have been let down."

Webb said five Disaster Relief teams were deployed Feb. 15. Team members left from the cities of Benton, Beaver Dam, Hickory Grove and Simpsonville.

Lead contamination in the Flint water system has sickened children in a made-made catastrophe that has captured the nation's attention.

Several local, state and federal officials have resigned since doctors revealed last year that using the

Flint River for the city's drinking water supply caused elevated levels of lead in some children's blood. Lead contamination has been linked to learning disabilities and other problems.

Flint switched its water source from Detroit's water system to the Flint River in 2014 to save money while under state financial management. The river water was not treated properly and lead from pipes leached into Flint homes. The city returned to Detroit's system in October while it awaits the completion of a separate pipeline to Lake Huron this summer.

Michigan's governor has apologized repeatedly for the state's role.

In the past year alone, Kentucky Baptist Disaster Relief teams have been deployed to Zambia and Mozambique to ensure safe drinking water.

"To my knowledge, this is the first time we've been deployed within the United States on a water purification mission," Webb said. "People in Flint are dealing with a problem that can't be quickly resolved. The struggle is that this is a problem that could last for months if not longer."

President Barack Obama has signed an emergency declaration, clearing the way for federal aid to help resolve the water crisis in Flint, where, for more than a year, parents had been complaining that the contamination had been slowly poisoning their children.

The three-person teams from Kentucky consist of a driver, an installer and a chaplain, all of whom have vital roles to play.

"These teams not only want to give families access to clean water, but they want to give them hope in the midst of crisis," Webb said. (KBC)

Backpacks & Bibles reach into Appalachia, Mississippi Delta

More than 4,000 decisions for Christ netted

By Faith Morgan

Alpharetta, Ga.—Since 2001, Appalachian Regional Ministries, a ministry of the North American Mission Board, has collected and distributed more than 140,000 Christmas backpacks and boxes filled with toys, clothing, school supplies, food and hygiene items and a Bible.

As the ministry has expanded over the years, backpacks were distributed in the 2015 outreach to more than 46,000 children affected by poverty in Appalachia as well as the Mississippi Delta and beyond.

NAMB's Appalachian ministry has seen more than 4,000 decisions for Christ over the years as a result of the yearly initiative. To learn more about how to get involved in the 2016 Christmas backpack program, visit namb.net/arm.

With every backpack, there are at least two stories—the story of the family who gave and the story of the family who received. There are also the outlier stories—the narratives of the people who have the honor of delivering the backpacks.

These are among those stories, recounted by organizers in their own words:

• Ryan Potts, director of missions, Polk County Baptist Association, Benton, Tenn.

Polk County has a poverty rate above the national average and, normally, double-digit unemployment. Most every home could benefit from their child receiving a backpack.

Thanks to our school system, administrators, staff and employees, the opportunity was opened for us to display the love of Christ to every pre-K to 8th-grade student in west Polk County. Each left the lunchroom with a backpack filled with toys, snack items, hygiene products, school supplies and a Bible.

One association provided hand-crocheted scarfs and hats for several of the backpacks. These were made by a lady

who is over 90 years old and lives in a nursing home in Georgia. She works all year making these items to donate to the Christmas Backpack program. Thankfully, our association has been the recipients of some of those backpacks over the last couple years.

Letters were distributed with the backpacks about the ministry and the churches of our association, so parents could be informed of the source and the ultimate goal to convey God's love in a practical way.

• Mark Partin, pastor, Indiana Avenue Baptist Church, LaFollette, Tenn.

Through NAMB, we have been enabled to touch many lives in an area that has so many needs. Our largest distribution took place at the LaFollette Elementary School. All 750 kids in the school are on free lunch. Many of these children do not eat again until school the next day. The backpacks are truly a blessing for these kids.

We prayed over them for children who needed food to get food and those who need a blanket to get the blankets. God heard and honored our prayers.

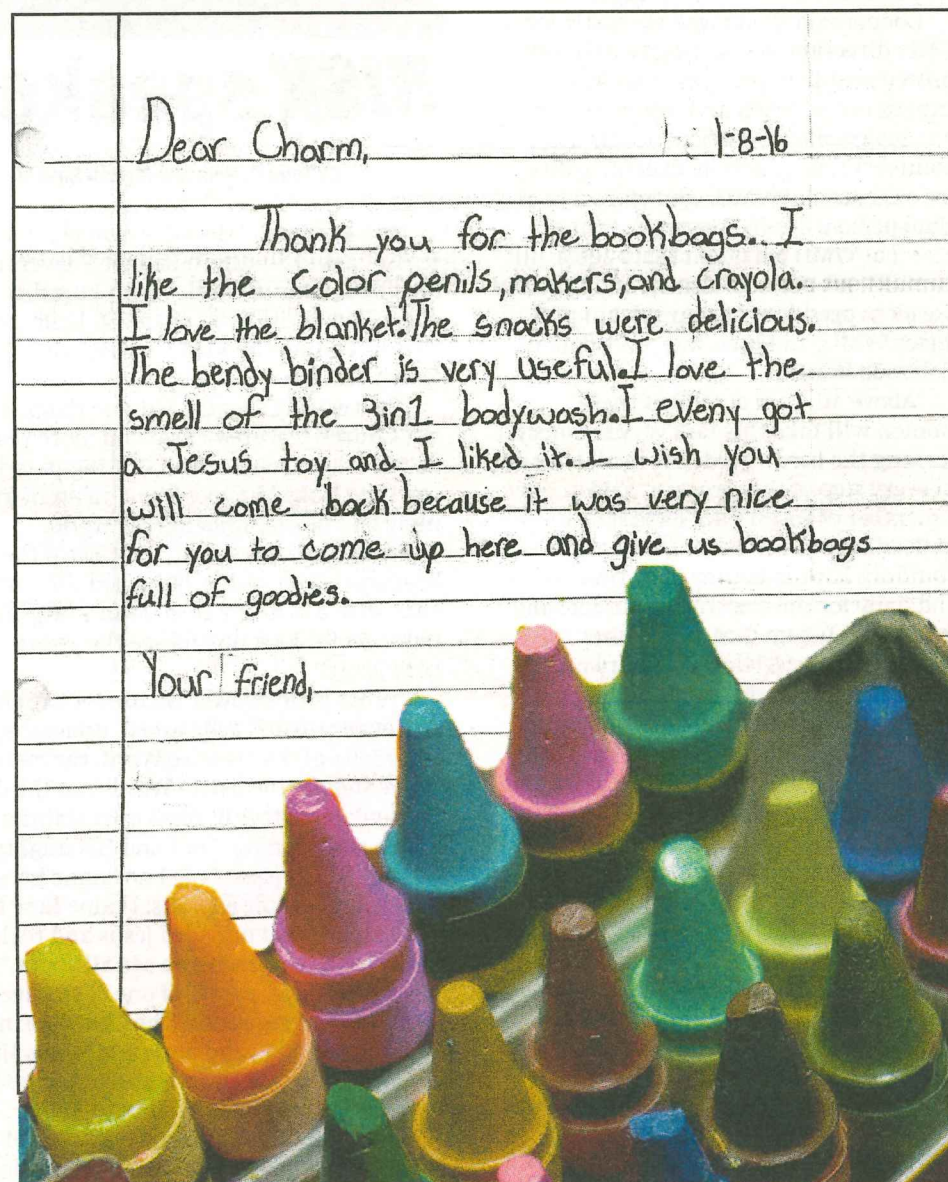
One little girl received an outfit of clothes along with other items. She was adamant she did not want the clothes. Her concerned and confused teacher took the rejected clothing and was walking down the hallway when another teacher came up to her and asked if there were any more backpacks, saying, "I have a little girl who desperately needs clothes, and she did not get any." She was the same size as the one little girl who refused to take the outfit.

Another boy who was so excited, he got exactly what he wanted, and he told his teacher, "I'm going to do the happy dance!"

As each grade came into the gym, I was allowed to pray over them and for them in the name of Jesus Christ. It was truly a blessing.

• Bill Barker, national director of Appalachian Regional Ministry and Mississippi River Ministry, NAMB

We get to see and hear the stories



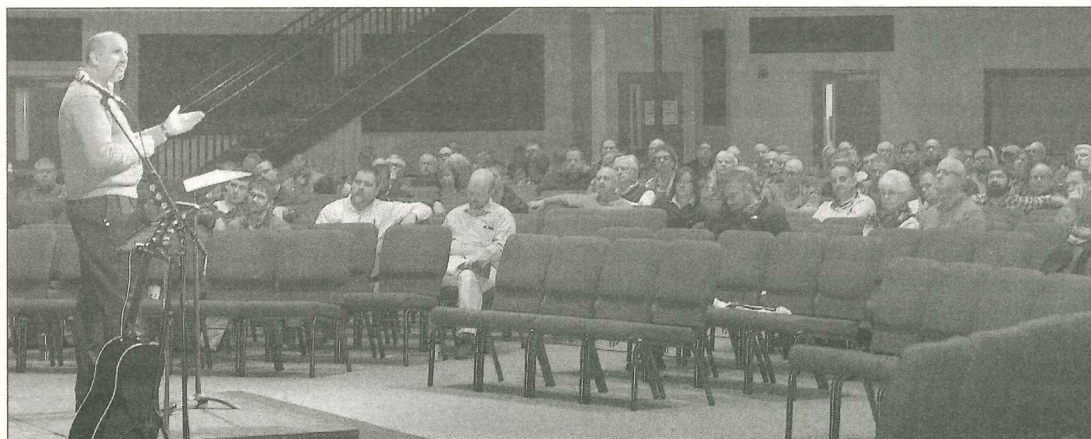
every year, but the novelty never wears off, and this year is no exception. We hear stories of the little girl who came without a coat and opens her backpack, and some mother in Georgia or Alabama or North Carolina bought a coat and crammed it into that backpack. And when the kid opens it up, again and again, I hear, "It was just my size and my favorite color." Whether it's blue or it's pink or it's purple or yucky green, "It's just my favorite color."

There are the kids that had a

Christmas gift in mind, and they open up the backpack, and it's there. I can't explain that. It's God.

We receive lots of thanks for the food. One of the little girls sent a thank-you note back to her ministry center that said she was grateful for the toys and grateful for the other stuff, but she really liked the food best of all, because that's all she had at Christmas.

In 2015 we distributed 46,112 backpacks. It's more exciting every year; my heart can't stand it. (BP)



KBC Collegiate Evangelism Strategist Brian Combs (far left) encourages churches to partner with area campuses to reach students with the gospel. Lexington pastor Ron Edmonson (left) shares leadership principles gleaned from Moses in Exodus 17.

Risk

Continued from page 1

come, what is youth ministry going to look like?"

Highlighting the conflict between the intention of God and the reality of man, he asserted, "The call of Christ is not to define ourselves, but to deny ourselves."

"We have a story that transforms people's lives at deepest part of who we are," Chelette proclaimed.

"What year is it in your church?" Life-Way President Thom Rainer began, observing that most are stuck in 1990.

A majority of churches are growing at a pace less than the community's growth, Rainer noted, advocating awareness of five key issues in order to become an evangelical force in their communities:

- For most churches, practices common in 1990 are still common today.
- The church has gone through a tumultuous period recently, and things have changed from a stewardship perspective.
- A major shift has happened in how to reach communities—from attractional to incarnational outreach.
- Most church members operate from a selfish mindset of "serve me, meet my demands, listen to what I want."
- The greatest challenge is understanding how to lead change in a change-resistant church, and the need for unity. "You cannot send a fractured, fighting body into the community and expect it to be a force for the gospel," Rainer said.

Shane Farmer, a pastor from Highlands Ranch, Colo., asserted the need to become a "welcoming church,"

suggesting members start thinking of Sunday as an open house and practice being good hosts by not limiting our interactions to family and friends.

"You don't have to have spiritual gift of evangelism for your church to fulfill the first half of the Great Commission," he said. Rather, church members possess a high "EQ"—evangelistic quotient—a way of relating well to people.

"Community forms best around a cause, and I believe that cause should be an evangelistic one," he said, advocating the need to create missional communities around affinity groups.

Brian Mills, speaker/consultant for churches and ministries and co-author of "Virtuosity," stressed the importance of evangelism.

He asked, "Throughout the journey do we not forget about the day we were saved by the way we treat lost people? Sometimes instead of saying I'm better than that dude, we need to recognize that we are all sinners and all need to be saved by the grace of God."

Mills stressed that if "you want to be an evangelist, live like an evangelist."

"In our churches, if we're not seeing people saved, then we have no disciples. Disciples evangelize and evangelists disciple," he added.

"There's a need for evangelism to overflow out of us. We've got to stop separating it. We've got to stop saying, 'That's not my gift.' You've been saved, son."

"We've got to wake up to the gospel and recognize it's not in our giftedness. It's who you are. If you're saved, you talk about your faith," he said.

David Bailey, founder of Arrabon, a ministry dedicated to reconciliation through community and worship, said that fallen people build walls.

"We end up building walls because we don't know what the other is," he said.

Bailey presented three action items to help the church break down walls and reach the lost.

- Collect information on how to engage in cross-cultural engagement.
- Find good practices of cross-cultural engagement and imitate them.
- Integrate that throughout your whole community, throughout all ministries.

Ron Edmonson, pastor of Immanuel Baptist in Lexington, reminded attendees that their calling is to the church. He shared "five things he learned about leadership from Moses" in Exodus 17.

- "God calls imperfect people to His work and to His churches."
 - "Some of the biggest battles Moses fought were among his own people."
 - "The larger the vision, the harder it is to move forward."
 - "Moses had a group of people around him who were willing to defend him and help him."
 - "Moses stayed committed to the vision and fully relied on God to do so."
- "Dear Pastor, protect your soul; protect your family; protect your ministry; protect your calling; protect your character. We don't need any more casualties for the kingdom," he challenged.

Albert Mohler, president of Southern Seminary, spoke of the call to the culture.

"We didn't worry about the culture when we thought the culture was with us. We were the mainstream," Mohler said. He said this is obviously not the case anymore.

"It's a sense of urgency that now falls upon us because we recognize we're not asking this from a position of cultural

dominance anymore, we're asking this from a position of cultural displacement and vulnerability," he said, drawing attention to the fact that in a biblical context, "losing cultural privilege is not a problem."

Christians will have to come together and learn from other minorities how to respond to culture as another minority.

Mohler shared a reset for churchgoers. "We need to engage the culture not because the culture is made up of cultural artifacts, entertainment, politics, economics, sociology and all the rest, but because it is made up of our neighbors. It is made up of human beings, and those human beings, every single one of them, are deeply embedded in culture."

"So if we really care about reaching people, about individuals, we are going to recognize that every single one of them is embedded in culture," Mohler said. "If you love God, you will love your neighbor. That's why we're called to the culture."

SBC president Ronnie Floyd pulled the entire theme of the conference together by reminding attendees that they are called to make much of Jesus.

"One event defines human history: the cross of Jesus Christ. This cross event not only intersects time and space but it also speaks to the deepest needs of the human heart. Where there is pain, truth, love, justice, or forgiveness, they all converge at the cross," he said.

"This cross calls you and it calls me to make much of Jesus Christ," Floyd added. "We need to leave here with a passionate conviction that we will be preachers of the gospel, church leaders of the gospel, that are committed to making much of Jesus and what He has done for us on the cross." (WR)

Reconciliation reflects the gospel, says Kentucky Baptist leader Chitwood

By Annie Corser

Louisville—Extending forgiveness reflects the heart of the gospel, said Kentucky Baptist leader Paul Chitwood during a Feb. 11 chapel service at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary.

"There is no way that the gospel is put on more beautiful and powerful display than when a believer is able, willing and ready to extend the forgiveness that we have received," said Chitwood, executive-director treasurer of the Kentucky Baptist Convention. "Genuine forgiveness is a shocking display of the truth of the gospel."

Preaching from Matthew 18:33, Chitwood's message, "The Gospel Mandate of Mercy," offered a remedy for the pastor's "common cold" of bitterness. In understanding the miracle of mercy and forgiveness offered to every person through

Jesus, Christians are able to extend amazing mercy and forgiveness to others.

Chitwood's experience in pastoral counseling immersed him in the reality that offering forgiveness is one of the "most profound struggles that human beings face."

"More often than not, the root issue that was exposed during pastoral counseling was a root of bitterness that was growing within the soul," he said. "And like gangrene, the infection was overtaking every relationship and every sphere of that person's life. Sadly it's an ailment as prevalent as the common cold even in the church. If we will be faithful gospel physicians, we must be prepared to diagnose this condition and to apply the balm of the gospel."

Chitwood has witnessed the gospel revealed through forgiveness within his

family. After decades of pain and heartache, Chitwood's mother-in-law extended seemingly undeserved mercy and forgiveness to her ex-husband in such a way that he could not deny the gospel.

"(In the passage), Peter wants to know how much forgiveness we should extend," he said. "Jesus through the parable causes Peter to think first about the forgiveness he has received, and we should do the same. And as we teach others about how to be reconciled to one another in light of the gospel, we should point them first to the cross where their debts have been paid; where our debts

have been paid."

Chitwood extended a challenge to

Southern students, recognizing that many of them are called to be ministers, pastors, and missionaries fulfilling the Great Commission.

"How can we be faithful gospel physicians, when it comes to teaching the truth of the gospel? It goes beyond the forgiveness that we have received to the forgiveness that we must extend," he said.

"Reconciliation is God's way of showing the gospel to a world in desperate need of the gospel."

Audio and video of Chitwood's chapel sermon is available at sbts.edu/resources. (SBTS)

"Sadly (bitterness) is an ailment as prevalent as the common cold even in the church. If we will be faithful gospel physicians, we must be prepared to diagnose this condition and to apply the balm of the gospel."

Paul Chitwood

Ups and downs for Baptists in the Kentucky General Assembly

Pro-life proponents and evangelical Christians have had some ups and downs of late. They've had good reason to be thankful on the state legislative front. Yet, on the national scene, efforts to defund Planned Parenthood were thwarted.

Republicans and Democrats in Kentucky resolved a stalemate over an informed consent bill by allowing physicians to consult with patients either face-to-face or by a live video feed. It is the first pro-life bill passed in more than a decade.

The wisdom of requiring live interactions should be obvious. Women are afforded an opportunity to consult with a doctor and ask appropriate questions regarding personal risks and benefits before undergoing a medical procedure. Why should anyone object? An objection that the law might place an undue burden on patients from rural areas was removed by technology that makes video chats possible online. Anytime partisan politics is set aside to do what is ethically right and promotes the general welfare of the state's citizens, we should commend our legislators.

Gov. Matt Bevin kept his word and was quick to sign the informed consent bill—his first since taking office—and merits the appreciation of Kentucky Baptists. He also put a prompt halt to abortions being performed at a Planned Parenthood clinic in Louisville. Whether or not Planned Parenthood received permission from the previous administration, the fact that an unlicensed clinic would apparently place women at greater risk by performing abortions without appropriating agreements to provide ambulance services and hospital care

in the event that unforeseen complications arose is unconscionable, if not wanton endangerment.

In the latest development, the Kentucky Cabinet for Health and Family Services has filed a lawsuit against the Planned Parenthood facility for allegedly performing 23 abortions without a license. "We will hold Planned Parenthood accountable for knowingly endangering their patients by providing illegal abortions at a facility that was not properly licensed nor prepared to handle an emergency," Bevin stated. The lawsuit seeks maximum fines being imposed on Planned Parenthood "for its callous and knowing violations."

The Kentucky Senate also passed SB7, a pro-life bill that would cut taxpayer support of Planned Parenthood. Redirecting taxpayer dollars to health providers that do not perform abortions should be a high priority for Kentucky Baptists in promoting the sanctity of human life. In the House, the bill received a first reading and was sent to committee.

Then, in response to the jailing of Rowan County Clerk Kim Davis, who refused to issue marriage licenses to same-sex couples, the Senate approved SB5 which would create two marriage license forms—one for same-sex couples and another for traditional couples—without the names of the county clerks. One license would designate the bride and groom; the other, first and second party. Both would require applicants to note their genders. The House, however, will likely pass its own version.

"We are content to see the process work and look

forward to an end result that provides for the effective and efficient issuance of marriage licenses in all counties of the Commonwealth," said KBC lobbyist Tom Troth, "while at the same time providing for an accommodation to people of faith, like the clerks, who wish to exercise their sincerely held religious beliefs regarding the issuance of those licenses."

Meanwhile, a school superintendent attempted to rewrite a Christmas holiday classic by removing biblical references. A public school in Johnson County was told to censor its performance of "A Charlie Brown Christmas" by omitting Linus' quotes from Luke. "We stand with Linus," quipped Martin Cochran of The Family Foundation, in supporting a bill intended to protect the religious freedom of our children. "When schools start seeing a cartoon character quoting the Bible as a threat, then things have obviously gone too far," he added.

"Senate Bill 15 is a statutory codification of current court rulings allowing for personal religious expression in the public school system," said Troth, who also is pastor of Hillcrest Baptist Church in Frankfort. "It is not an attempt to expand upon those important rights, but to reaffirm those rights that already exist under the law, which is a good thing."

Though we would be disconcerted if school officials and teachers, as authority figures in the classroom, began proselytizing for their various faith groups, Baptists have always been strong advocates of religious freedom. This bill would provide basic protections for all our students, including Christians, from the virulent secularism that increasingly encroaches upon their First Amendment freedoms. As this bill advances, we should encourage due consideration.



After Thought

By Todd Deaton

Come see the Holy Land

Michelle and I were blessed to tour the Holy Land in 2001. I am not the same guy I was when I left. I will never read the Bible the same, I will never preach the same, and hopefully, I will never live the same!"

Michelle and I had this same life-changing opportunity due to the generosity of a church member who loved his pastor and wanted to richly bless my life and ministry. At the time, we could not have afforded the trip, but how thankful I am that I was able to have the experience so early in my ministry.

My favorite memory was standing on the hillsides overlooking the Sea of Galilee in the area where it is believed Jesus delivered His Sermon on the Mount. The beauty and tranquility of that setting, and the thought of my Lord standing on a grassy knoll speaking the "words of life," captured my mind and my heart. Never had I felt as close to Him.

Rice and I will lead a Kentucky Baptist Convention trip to the Holy Land on March 14-23, 2017. We are partnering with Jerusalem Tours out of Columbus, Ohio. David and Sara Chay, the owners, are a wonderful couple who know how to put together tours to their homeland. Our guide, Kobi Kimhy, has been voted the #1 tour guide in Israel a number of times. His knowledge, personality and genuine love for Israel cannot be matched.

We want to invite pastors, church staff, church members, directors of missions, along with any believers to join us as we walk in the footsteps of Jesus. We have negotiated a great price of \$3,869 per person that includes flights from Louisville, hotels, touring, meals, tips, fuel charges, etc. We invite churches to consider sending their pastor(s) and his wife on this trip of a lifetime.

If you are interested, email Rice at steve.rice@kybaptist.org. Reserve your spot early because I believe this is going to be a very popular trip.

Together We are the KBC



Paul Chitwood

Take the 3-question quiz: 'You can do this!'

Let's suppose your boss is not a believer and you are assigned to tell him or her about God.

This is not an imaginary story; it's a fact. God has commissioned every believer to share His plan of salvation with those who don't know Him.

Sharing Jesus with others is really much easier than you may think. Lost people are often more anxious to hear God's Good News than we are to tell it. Begin today by taking this three-question quiz.

Question #1: In your normal pattern of life, where do you mingle with non-Christian people?

Is it around the water cooler at work? At your tennis match? In your neighborhood or favorite coffee shop or gym? At your children's ballgames or on the playground? As a volunteer in a local nursing home or in Southern Baptist Disaster Relief? Maybe it's in a professional organization or community group.

As you live among unbelievers, be

sure to "make the most of every opportunity" (see Colossians 4:3b).

God has strategically placed you in every circumstance of life. "But this will be your opportunity to tell the rulers and other unbelievers about me" (Matthew 10:18b). If you're a lawyer, you're a lawyer for Jesus. If you're a commuter, you're with a busload of people who may need Jesus. Whatever you do, "do everything to spread the Good News and share in its blessings" (1 Corinthians 9:23).

Remember that the first word of the Great Commission is "go." If you don't ever have contact with unbelievers, perhaps it's time to take a class, join a club or meet your neighbors.

Question #2: As a Christian, can you express some ways God has impacted your life this week?

One of the most effective ways to share Jesus is to tell your story. In everyday conversations, give God the glory and tell about how He helps you through difficult circumstances.

As you live for God and tell stories about how God works in your life, "many will see what he has done and be amazed. They will put their trust in the Lord" (Psalm 40:3b).

Consistently share your personal daily God-stories. Pray for listeners. Invite them to church. Introduce them to your Savior. "But as for me, I will always proclaim what God has done" (Psalm 75:9a). Your story is effective.

Question #3: Will you count it a privilege to share Jesus with others?

Jesus has commissioned every believer to intentionally tell others about God's salvation plan. "Work at telling others the Good News, and fully carry out the ministry God has given you" (2 Timothy 4:5).

Sharing about Jesus is not a punishment; it's an enormous joy and privilege.

You are God's representative! "So we are Christ's ambassadors; God is making his appeal through us" (2 Corinthians 5:20a). The apostle Paul said, "Though I am the least deserving of all God's people, he graciously gave me the privilege of telling the Gentiles about the endless treasures available to them in Christ" (Ephesians 3:8).

Look at the mission field around you. God has entrusted you, His follower, to share His salvation plan, to tell others about your Savior. (BP)

Fresh Ideas



Diana Davis

WESTERN Recorder

Shine Like Stars * Philippians 2:15

13420 Eastpoint Centre Dr.
Louisville, KY 40223

DR. TODD DEATON
Editor

RANDALL JONES
Marketing & Business Manager

Board of Directors:

Dan Summerlin (chair), Paducah;
Chip Hutcheson (vice chair), Princeton;
Bill Ellis, (secretary), Lexington;
Bill Bartleman, Paducah;
Billy Compton, Mount Washington;
Linda Cooper, Bowling Green;
Bill Edmonds, Louisville;
Floyd Price, Richmond;
Paul Nunn, Prestonsburg;
Rick Robbins, Florence;
Larry Rowell, Campbellsville;
Jim Woolums, Erlanger

Western Recorder is published bi-weekly by Western Recorder Inc., an agency of the Kentucky Baptist Convention, 13420 Eastpoint Centre Dr., Louisville, KY 40223. Periodicals postage paid at Louisville, Ky. (USPS 679-380)

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

POSTMASTER: Send address corrections to: Western Recorder, 13420 Eastpoint Centre Dr., Louisville, KY 40223.

To subscribe: Send \$17 for a one-year, individual subscription or visit our website and subscribe to our electronic-only edition at \$10.60 per year.

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.



'Where were the lost people in my life?'

I never expected a trip to northern Europe to change me. I had been on many mission trips, and this wasn't my first vision trip. But it was my first mission trip to somewhere other than a Third World country.

Just prior to leaving, I panicked. I thought, "We're not going to build anything, we're not doing a medical clinic or a Vacation Bible School, we're not cleaning or repairing. How will we engage people? How will we share Jesus?"

Upon arrival, as we watched our missionaries, I saw how they were sharing Jesus: through intentional engagement with the hope of developing relationships and living life alongside people who need to know Jesus.

During a lunchtime conversation, I talked with International Mission Board strategy leader David Moench about groups of people we are a part of that give us opportunities to develop relationships and share Jesus, like a running club, neighbors in an apartment building and musicians.

That conversation stayed with me. Where were my groups—the people I spent time with? I saw people at work—but I saw a denominational organization. The people I hang out with outside work are friends from church.

So I had to ask, "Where were the lost people in my life?" And I didn't like the answer. There weren't many. I bowled in a league, and based on what I saw and heard, I would guess many of them were

living far from Jesus, but I only saw them on Thursday nights.

I began praying about where I could begin, what group I could join, and God brought to mind a group I had known about for many years but had never participated in. My university has an alumni chapter in the city where I live. They gather to watch athletic

events, do service projects, and for social gatherings. I am an introvert, and I don't know anyone in this group. The thought of walking in alone is what has kept me from participating. But God was very clear. This was the group to join.

With trembling knees I attended the first event—a game watching party. To my surprise, the first couple I met were faithful followers of Jesus, active in missions. But I've also met many others who are not. As I've sat with new friends watching games, I've heard language that makes me uncomfortable; I've had beverages at my table that make me uncomfortable. But I've come to realize, more than ever, that to impact lostness, I have to touch

lostness. It will be uncomfortable. And it has to be intentional. More than being ready to share the gospel when the opportunity presents itself, I have to put myself in places where those opportunities are more likely to happen.

After having conversations with a shopkeeper in Sweden, I've tried to be more intentional about patronizing businesses in my neighborhood, eating at the same restaurants and so on. I knew I was on the right track when I entered a restaurant recently, and the waitress placed my order before I could. I'm a creature of habit. The conversations we are having are the beginnings of a relationship.

Each time I have on a mission trip, my prayer has been that God would use me to impact someone positively for Christ. And each time I have returned, I have realized how much I gained. This was even more true when I went to Sweden. I had some meaningful conversations, and I pray God will use those conversations to draw people one step closer to Him. But having those conversations changed me.

I don't know where this journey will lead, but I know I am not the same person who went to northern Europe. And that's a good thing.

By the way, I have met my closest neighbor. And I am thinking about joining a running club. For beginners. (BP)

First Person



Laurie Register

Flexible life income gift

Are there "minimum distribution rules" requiring you to take more from your IRA than you currently need for living expenses? Are you interested in establishing a charitable gift plan that will ultimately provide a significant gift to one or more charitable causes, while allowing you to "tap in" to an income stream at a later age?

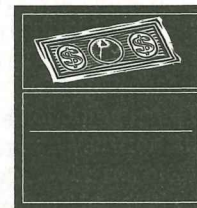
A "flexible deferred charitable gift annuity" may be the way to solve your problem and accomplish your charitable giving objectives.

A deferred charitable gift annuity is a gift plan in which a charity agrees, in exchange for a gift of cash, appreciated securities or real estate, to make fixed payments to the giver and/or one other person for their lifetime(s) beginning at least one year and one day after the gift is made. At the death of the "life income" beneficiary(s), whatever remains is paid out to the charitable cause(s) the giver designated.

While the annuity payments don't start for a year or more, the giver is entitled to a charitable income tax deduction in the year the gift is made to the charity.

A "flexible deferred charitable gift annuity" offers an additional benefit. Instead of designating a particular, unchangeable start date for the annuity payments, the flexible gift annuity contract reserves to the giver the right to postpone the decision about the actual annuity payment start date until later.

Your charitable income tax deduction will be determined using the earliest date on which you can "turn on" the annuity payments. And, the annuity payment amount will vary depending on when you elect to start the payments ... the longer you wait, the higher the annuity payment.



Laurie Valentine

What do divorcing people need?

Many divorcing families "keep it together" for appearances to extending family during the holidays, only to announce in January they are divorcing. Then the persons hit with the devastation of that announcement the most (the divorcing families) have to deal with the culture's romance obsession on Valentine's Day.

What do divorcing people need?

1. Structure. Divorcing families can find a structure of simple meals, planned a week ahead, can help them get through an otherwise hectic week. When a church hosts a divorce recovery workshop, it can help by providing a meal each week, an educational presentation about the emotional upheaval of divorce, and a supportive small group with trained leaders who understand the divorce experience. This structure, especially when it is a workshop that ministers to those affected by divorce (both adults and children of divorce) can help people experiencing this tragedy know they can make it, one week at a time.

2. Education. A person who has built their whole adult life as one half of a couple needs to hear about resources available for the newly single. Persons going through a crisis need expert guidance from an objective point of view. Books such as Jim Smoke's "Growing through Divorce," Harold Ivan Smith's "A Time for Healing," and "Overcoming the Death of a Dream" are great Christian tools for those going through divorce, and for support groups.

3. Support. Theologian/psychologist Henri Nouwen's concept of the "wounded healer" applies to divorce. People in a crisis need to be surrounded by people who have "been there," survived and thrived after a similar crisis. A divorce workshop or support group held in a church can be a great place for newly singled people to find community that models unconditional love.

4. A Place to Process Forgiveness. The Bible's teachings about divorce, forgiveness and prayer, are all in Matthew 18-19. A church workshop that allows people in small groups to process forgiveness related to divorce is a gift to the Body of Christ and a loving outreach to the world that needs to hear the liberating message of John 8, "neither do I condemn you; go and sin no more."

James Stillwell has led Divorce Recovery Workshop since 1993 in Lexington and has reached over 3,100 families. This semester the workshop is in the Frankfort-Midway area, at the Forks of Elkhorn Baptist Church on Thursday nights, 7 to 9 p.m. beginning Feb. 25.

If I were a selfish church member ...

By Kathy McBroom

If I were a selfish church member, I would view getting up and going to church as an imposition. After all, I work hard all week and this is "me-time." I might arrive at church in a bad mood, thinking, "Well, let's just get this over with."

If I were a selfish church member, I would be upset if I didn't get a warm welcome, and probably consider not going back.

If I were a selfish church member, I would look at the décor or building campaign and consider how I could do it much better.

If I were a selfish church member, I would look for a church that was a real attention getter, the "it" church, forgetting that my focus needs to be on looking for a body of believers that knows the meaning of true worship, and every class, event and activity focuses on glorifying Christ Jesus, not us.

If I were a selfish church member, if I did decide to stay and get involved, I would look for how I could bring attention to me, with my self-glorifying attitude. Since the enemy is deceptive, I might not even realize that I am doing that, but my thoughts always center around me—how "they don't listen to me," how "they never give me the attention or respect I deserve."

If I were a selfish church member, when the pastor starting using words like "repentance" and "sin," and didn't make me feel good about myself as I was leaving, I would probably not go back. After all, "I am a self-made person, who needs all this sacrifice stuff?"

If I were a selfish church member, when there was an

emphasis on missions and giving to missions, I would get upset with the fact that they wanted to help church plants in cities in the U.S. where there are very few Christians and no churches, or they wanted to send my money to support a team that will partner with a church in Haiti. "After all, there are people right here, all around us, that need Jesus," while I sat back and did nothing about that.

If I were a selfish church member, I would get upset that the sermon was too long, too boring, the music was too "young" or too "old", that I was hot or cold and no one spoke to me as I was leaving. I would look around at those with tears, with raised hands during worship, and going to the altar to pray as weak. They need a "higher power; I don't." I would miss the fact that those people are breaking free, and that Christ came to set us free, as I walked out of church with my head already starting to spin with burdens of the upcoming week and life. I would be trying to put together my action plan, list the pros and cons, not realizing that I just walked away from the answers, burden release and peace that is free through Christ Jesus.

If I were a selfish church member, I would read this article and think "she told them," maybe considering who I could share this with—totally missing that God is speaking to you and me.

God gave me this message in the middle of the night, and I knew that first and foremost, He had a word for me, for when I look in the mirror, I see a selfish church member.

"And he said to all, 'If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me'" (Luke 9:23).

FIRST PERSON

What I've learned from African American churches

By Jeff Crabtree

I have attended many different types of churches in my lifetime. Some were small with an aging congregation, while others were large with multi-cultural attendees. Every church has its own culture and traditions, some exclusively seen only in one particular faith community.

Over the past few years, I have had the pleasure to attend or preach in a few predominantly African American churches. As I think about these congregations, I have witnessed some commonalities. The first African American church I preached in was the historic Church Street Baptist Church in Bowling Green. I would like to share two observations.

The first observation about these churches is they all have a high regard for their pastor. I know many churches show respect to their pastors, but the African American churches I attended have raised the bar of love, respect and encouragement. These churches address their pastor as either Reverend or Pastor at all times. I cannot recall hearing one of these men of God called only by his first name. In our world today, we see some men have brought shame upon the title. It is refreshing to see a pastor given respect because of the calling God has placed upon his life.

Another way of showing respect for the pastor is how these specific congregations marked the pastor's years of service. In October I was asked to preach at the 9th anniversary of Buddy Slaughter Jr. at the Means Avenue Baptist Church in Hopkinsville. During this service, Brother Buddy and his wife April were placed in special seating at the front of the sanctuary. The service gave time for each church ministry to present Rev. Slaughter with a gift, ranging from words of encouragement to tangible gifts. One group organized a drama to show their love and appreciation. Not only did the church recognize the pastor's work, but they also pointed out Sister April's contribution to the ministry.

Many churches miss the opportunity

to celebrate the man whom God brought to be their shepherd. A few weeks ago I was with a pastor who he just finished 10 years as pastor, and he told me there was no recognition at all.

Last year at a conference I was told 1,500 pastors leave a church every month across our denomination, and 77 percent of pastor's wives said they wish their husband would find a new place to serve. Even in Kentucky, our best estimate is that more than 10 percent of the churches associated with the state convention are currently without a pastor. Maybe there is a need for some churches to rethink their regard for the role of pastor.

The second observation about the predominantly African American churches is they have an uninhibited freedom of worship. They seem to be a community of praise to show their love for the Lord. As the choir sings, those sitting in the pews begin to stand and become part of worship through the music, without being asked to do so. The worship takes a spiritual direction as the congregation and the ministers enter into a time of celebration.

Through the reading and preaching of the Word, prayers, and invitation, there is an overall sense of freedom that seems to be fueled as individuals come together in corporate worship.

In these churches, worship is not limited by time. Many churches today have an order of service the leadership develops, but the African American churches I have attended are not held captive by the clock. Worship services are directed by the movement of the Spirit and not by crossing off activities in the bulletin. One lady in a congregation I recently visited said, "Some may say we stay too long, but we enjoy worship."

Worship through giving is an

important part of the African American church. Some churches do not pass an offering plate. Each individual brings an offering to the front and places the gift into the baskets. Everyone participates in this part of worship.

In the last church I visited, the person praying over the offering asked God to bless those that could give and bless those who could not. Those who touched the basket without putting anything in were by faith asking to be blessed so they could give next time. The act of individuals coming to the baskets was, in my opinion, a way for individuals to worship the God who gives and blesses His children.

Let us remember that worship is not designed for the congregation to be the audience. Worship is about the congregation actively engaged in giving God full attention where He is the audience of One.

As you attend your worship this week, why not go with an expectation of celebration. Enter His gates with thanksgiving! A church family should be a treasure for us.

I would challenge you to attend a different culture of worship too, so that you can see different expressions of worship. Worship when done to express our praise to God looks extremely different across the commonwealth. The end result, though, should always be for God's glory.

I am grateful for what God has shown me in traveling to different churches. My wife Pam usually goes with me. When asked how she likes going to different places, she replies, "I get to worship with brothers and sisters in different ways, and many I will not have another opportunity to worship with until I get to heaven."

Our differences make us who we are, but our God makes us family!

Regional SPOTLIGHT



Jeff Crabtree
South Central



Survey helps answer 'What's a pastor worth?'

Louisville—Kentucky Baptists can play a big role in determining what's comparable when it comes to wages and benefits for church employees—and all it takes is about a 5-minute survey.

The Southern Baptist Convention's biennial compensation survey is sponsored by GuideStone Financial Resources, in partnership with LifeWay Research, the Kentucky Baptist Convention and other state conventions.

"There is no other tool that is this easy, this comprehensive and free for churches to use when seeking to be fair to their current staff by making sure their compensation packages are in line with other churches of comparable size and financial resources," said Don Spencer, Church Financial Benefits consultant at the KBC.

He encouraged all Kentucky Baptist pastors and church staff to participate. Results from the 2016 survey will be available in the fall.

"The data will be only as strong as the participation," Spencer said, adding that compensation and benefit information can be contributed anonymously.

The most recent survey results, conducted in 2014, have been viewed nearly 55,000 times. Pastors and church employees may complete the survey online by visiting www.guidestone.org/compensationsurvey. Those churches completing the survey will be entered into a drawing for an iPad. (KBC)

Crestwood Baptist hosts archery tournament

Crestwood—Crestwood Baptist Church will be hosting a CenterShot archery tournament Mar. 19. The tournament is for individuals in grades 4-12 shooting in 3 divisions—elementary, high school, and middle school. At the end of April, they will host a similar event for individuals and teams.

This is the first tournament of its kind that Crestwood has held. Crestwood began CenterShot in September 2015. They are now on their third round of eight-week classes. After the children have completed their classes, they provide a time of practice and devotions on Monday nights. Overall, they have seen 70 children come through the program.

The classes are structured to provide time of instruction in archery and time of group devotions.

"Our hope is that we do a lot of discussion—it's not a lecture type lesson; it's a discussion, and our young people become more and more confident in the word and express it," Larry Watkins, member of outdoors ministries at Crestwood Baptist and archery instructor at Oldham County High School, said. Already, the church has seen students step up and lead the devotions in classes after they completed their own.

"We're excited about what they're learning. We had two decisions made that we are aware of," Watkins said, giving credit to the Lord. "It was during our program that they accepted Christ."

To get involved, make inquiries or request more information, email Larry Watkins at watkinswoods1200@gmail.com or call (502) 693-9453. (WR)

CALDWELL/LYON BAPTIST ASSOCIATION PRESENTS

29th WESTERN KENTUCKY EVANGELISM CONFERENCE

MARCH 7, 2016

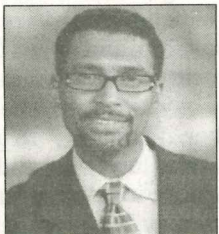
at Southside Baptist Church, Princeton, KY • SESSIONS: 9:00 - 1:30 - 6:00



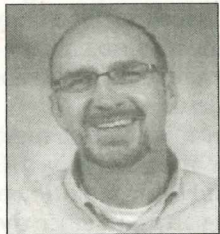
Dr. Paige Patterson
Pres. Southwestern
Baptist Theological
Seminary



Dr. Phil Hoskins
Evangelist



Dr. Kevin Smith
President, KBC



Bro. Todd Gray
KBC Regional
Consultant

SESSION 1 — 9:00 A.M.

Worship Music The Nelons
Welcome & Invocation
Introduction of Speakers
Message Bro. Todd Gray
Worship Music The Nelons
Message Dr. Kevin Smith
Special Music The Nelons
Message Bro. Phil Hoskins
Benediction

Break for Lunch 11:30

Meal for speakers, musicians and Evangelism Team will be provided.

SESSION 2 — 1:30 P.M.

Worship Music The Nelons
Welcome & Invocation
Introduction of Speakers
Message Dr. Paige Patterson
Special Music The Nelons
Message Dr. Kevin Smith
Worship Music The Nelons
Message Bro. Todd Gray
Benediction

Break for Dinner 4:00 P.M.

Meal for speakers, musicians and Evangelism Team will be provided.

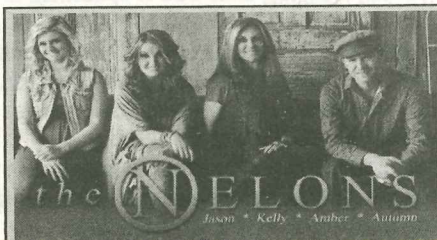
SESSION 3 — 6:00 P.M.

Concert The Nelons
Welcome & Invocation
Introduction of Speaker
Message Dr. Paige Patterson
Worship Music The Nelons
Message Bro. Phil Hoskins
Benediction

Inspirational Music and Worship by The Nelons

www.kellynelson.com
Faith. Family. Legacy. Vision.

With tight family harmonies, timeless songs and a passion for worship, The Nelons have been captivating audiences for four decades. With a love for the old and a vision for the new, The Nelons embrace their traditional roots, all the while, bridging the generational gap by pushing musical boundaries.



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

A PERSONAL WORD Upcoming 2016 Missions Celebration Highlights

Our 2016 Missions Celebration includes quite a lineup of program guests, ministry projects, and conferences. From having our own Linda Cooper, in her first year as the national WMU president, to collecting hospice care buckets for Africa, it is going to be an awesome event. In addition, we will host a preview showing of the new movie, "The Insanity of God."

In case you don't remember, "The Insanity of God" book took the 2013 Annual Meeting by storm. We ordered several cases of books and they quickly sold out. In the book, Kentucky missionaries Nik and Ruth Ripken tell gripping stories of believers

around the world who have stood strong for Christ in the face of persecution. The Ripken's were with us for the 2013 meeting and we were captivated by their stories.

The new movie tells many of the stories from the book and will be released later this year. However, by special arrangement with the International Mission Board, the movie will be shown in the Friday evening session of the 2016 Kentucky WMU Annual Meeting.

We will welcome Ruth Ripken to our meeting to lead conferences and introduce the movie. This is a tremendous honor for Kentucky WMU to host one of the very first showings of this movie

anywhere in the country!

While preregistration is not required to attend the Missions Celebration, reservations are required for meals and child care. Please download this year's information piece which has an overview of the event, schedule, hotels, ministry projects, and registration. You can register by mail or online.

This is also the annual meeting of Kentucky WMU and we will elect officers on Friday afternoon. The Saturday program will focus on Kentucky missions as we recognize the Missionary of the Year and commission new Kentucky missionaries.

Be sure to pack a bucket for Annual Meeting. If every person brought at least

one bucket, we would have a truckload!

Our goal for this event is 1,000 hospice care buckets. Missionaries Wayne and Barbara Myers will be on hand to share stories of the impact these buckets make with those who have AIDS in Africa.

Annual Meeting is just one of many events sponsored by Kentucky WMU this year. Read through this issue of Kentucky Notes to learn about Creative Ministries Festival 2.0, RAMCON, Spring Retreats, Mission Adventure for Kentucky Kids, Kentucky Changers, summer overnights, and more.

Your gifts to the Cooperative Program, Eliza Broadus Offering, and the Kentucky WMU Heritage Fund help us do the work of Kentucky WMU. Thank you!



Joy Bolton

Churchwide Missions

WMU DIRECTORS

Experience a Good Book

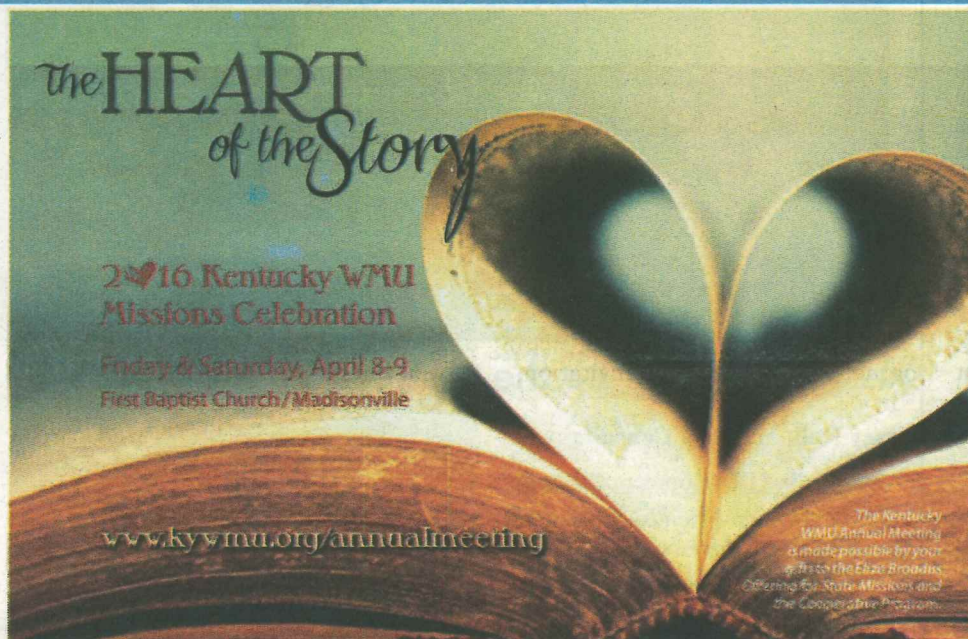
Wanda Walker, Missions Consultant

Have you taken the opportunity to read our emphasis book this year? *Both Feet In* by Dr. "Bud" Fray is, in my opinion, an excellent book for getting a sense of that realistic experience of serving in the field. As I read the book, I could feel the bumps on the road and even sense the evil in the villages where he traveled.

If you want a good study to engage your entire church, this is the book for you. At the end of each chapter are questions to lead into group discussion. This would also be a good book to begin a book of the month group in your church.

WMU provides valuable resources that will benefit anyone. We need to take advantage of these resources, such as the emphasis book, to engage and educate our churches about missions. Share with your church staff what is available to them, personally as well as corporately, to learn more about how our missionaries are serving around the world and how what we learn leads to praying, giving, and going more than ever.

As the spring approaches, so is the time for plans to attend associational and church leadership development events. Check the calendar in your Kentucky WMU Supplement or kywmu.org/calendar for dates and locations. Blessings!



It's a Missions Celebration!

Friday & Saturday,
April 8-9

Location: First Baptist Church, 246 N. Main Street, Madisonville, KY 42431

Ministry Projects:

Collection of Hospice Care Buckets for Sub Sahara Africa

Collection of needed items for Breaking Bread Ministry

Kentucky WMU Missions Celebration and Annual Meeting

April 8-9, 2016 - First Baptist Church, Madisonville, KY

The Prelude will begin ten minutes before the start of each session. All times listed are in Central Time.

Friday, April 8

8:30 am Registration, Bookstore, Displays,
9:00 am The Heart of the Story Around the World
Parade of Flags during prelude
Theme Interpretation - Linda Cooper
Missionary Recognition
The Heart of the Story in Swaziland
- Wayne & Barbara Myers
The Nations in Our Midst - Terry Sharp
Offering for Kentucky WMU Ministries to Missionaries
11:15 am / 12:15 pm / 1:15 pm Conferences & Activities
Choose from a variety of conferences.
Visit the displays, go to the bookstore!
Box Lunch by pre-reservation
Missionary Parents: gather for lunch together at 11:15.
2:15 pm The Heart of the Story ... Kentucky WMU
Theme Interpretation - Linda Cooper
State Missions - Donna Fegenbush as "Eliza Broadus"
Kentucky WMU Staff Report
Business Session & Election of Officers

3:30 pm Break

5:00 pm Executive Board Reunion Dinner *by reservation only*
Baptist Nursing Fellowship Dinner *by reservation only*

6:30 pm The Insanity of God
Gospel concert - The Childress Family
Introduction to movie - Ruth Ripken
Movie: The Insanity of God

Saturday, April 9

9:00 am Conference & Activities
Choose from a variety of options.
Welcome, children! Meet Molly the Therapy Dog
and missionaries Ron and Marilyn Leonard in a special children's conference
10:00 am The Heart of the Story in Kentucky
Theme Interpretation - Linda Cooper
Kentucky Missionary of the Year Award
Commissioning of Kentucky Missionaries
Challenge - Ron Leonard
12:00 pm Bucket Dedication - at the Truck

Complete information and registration is available online: kywmu.org/annualmeeting

HERE I AM SEND ME.

WEEK OF PRAYER FOR
North American Missions
March 6-13, 2016

Goal: \$70 Million

ANNIE ARMSTRONG
EASTER OFFERING

North American Mission Board

Children's Missions

Another "Best Practice" for Teaching Preschool and Children

Stacy Nall, Missions Consultant

School teachers consider "Best Practices" in teaching as they plan their weekly lessons. As a preschool or children's mission leader in your church, you want the "best" for your children as well. "Balanced Curriculum" is a Best Practice standard for teachers. A Balanced Curriculum in a school setting would include a broad offering of subjects, taught in different ways to meet the needs of all students. What does a Balanced Curriculum look like in a missions classroom? Our WMU Objectives serve as our curriculum guideline.

- Pray for missions: Are we praying for missionaries and mission needs each

week?

- Engage in Mission Action and Personal Witnessing: Are we leading our kids in mission projects?
- Learn about missions: Are we taking advantage of different ways to tell the mission story (videos, games, real-live missionaries)?
- Support Missions: Are your kids involved in giving to missions? Can you lead them to give sacrificially or raise money for missions offerings?

- Develop spiritually towards a missions lifestyle: Are your kids memorizing scripture and developing a personal quiet time?
- Participate in the work of the church and denomination: Are you looking for ways to meet needs in your own church and association?

Sometimes we as mission leaders tend to focus on only one particular objective. Evaluate your plans for this month's missions unit. How can your lessons be more "balanced" in content and methods?



CHILDREN IN ACTION®

Hello Summer Missions

Stacy Nall, Missions Consultant

Are you wondering how to keep your Children in Action involved in missions over the summer? Kentucky WMU has designed a mini-mission trip called **Mission Adventure for Kentucky Kids** for girls and boys in grades 4-6 and their leaders. Mission Adventure for Kentucky Kids will take place in Richmond, June 16-18 and Bowling Green, June 23-25. Children will be leading Arts and Sports Camps, preparing food for community agencies, and prayer walking university campuses. Visit kywmu.org/missionadventure or call 502-489-3454 for more information about Mission Adventure for Kentucky Kids.

Online Development Courses for Children's Missions Leaders

Uniquely Designed: Children- A course using a variety of interactive learning activities to introduce the stages of childhood development and ways to lead children in each stage to live missionally. Visit ChristianLeaderLearning.com for more information or to register for a class.

MISSION FRIENDS® Be the Best Leader You Can Be

Stacy Nall, Missions Consultant

Online Development Courses

Leading Mission Friends- Introduction and step-by-step guidance for leading a Mission Friends group.

Uniquely Designed: Preschoolers- Discover how God has designed the unique characteristics of preschoolers to grow physically, mentally, socially, and spiritually. Visit

ChristianLeaderLearning.com to learn more or register for a class.

New Resource for Mission Friends

Always Remember to Pray: Preschoolers will learn that wherever they go and whatever they do, God always wants to hear from his children. To order, visit wmustore.com or call 1-800-968-7301.



Girls in grades 4-6 and their leaders are also invited to participate in **Mission Adventure for Kentucky Kids** in June. This mini-mission trip will be offered in Richmond, June 16-18 and Bowling Green, June 23-25. Children will be involved in hands-on mission projects that include leading Arts and Sports Camps for area children. For more information about these events for GAs, visit kywmu.org or call Stacy at 502-489-3454.

Online Development Courses

Leading GA- This course offers a variety of interactive learning activities that will introduce you to the basic information you will need to lead GA. You will also have opportunities to apply what you are learning to your GA group for your church setting to help you get started with confidence.

Uniquely Designed: Children- This course offers a variety of interactive learning activities that introduce leaders to the stages of childhood development and how to lead children to live missionally in each of the stages.

Visit ChristianLeaderLearning.com for more information or to register for your first class.

ROYAL AMBASSADORS®

New Event for Leaders

Jon Auten, Missions Consultant

You are holding your copy of Kentucky Notes and you see the phrase "RAMCON 2016" and you wonder, "Is it



too late to register?" Good news! It is not too late! The deadline, however, is fast approaching. To get the Early Bird rate of \$10, register by March 4. After that, the fee will be \$15. Registration closes at midnight on March 11.

Royal Ambassadors from around the state will hear from two great speakers during the day: an IMB missionary who serves in south Asia and a Kentucky missionary who helps plant cowboy churches in western Kentucky. Our mission project will help this Kentucky church planter. Both speakers will help RAs better understand what God is doing in the world.

RAMCON will also feature several great RA racing events. Rain Gutter Regatta, Line Gliders, RA Racers, Turtles Races, and Pit Stop Challenge are all on the schedule. So, what are you waiting for? Go to kywmu.org/ramcon and register your RA group for a great day of missions learning and fun: Saturday, March 19, in Hopkinstown.

This spring we also have a special training opportunity for RA leaders. **WILD (Wilderness Instruction and Leadership Development) Camp** is designed to teach camping and outdoor living skills to leaders who want to use Campcraft with their Royal Ambassadors. Novice and experienced leaders will learn new skills and strengthen existing ones – all with the goal of being able to pass along these skills to boys who will grow up to be Christ's witnesses in local churches, at disaster sites, and among people groups throughout the world.

KENTUCKY WILD CAMP

WILD Camp will be held May 20-22 at Laurel Lake Baptist Camp. The cost is \$60 for the weekend and includes all meals. Go to kywmu.org/wild to get more info about the schedule and equipment needed, and to register.

Information about Mission Adventure for Kentucky Kids, a pre-planned mission trip for children in grades 4-6, can be found at kywmu.org/missionadventure. And just in case you were wondering, information about Camp Courage will be appearing on the website later this spring.

GIRLS IN ACTION® Resources and Events for GAs

Stacy Nall, Missions Consultant

Join us for **Compassion Camp** at Cedar Crest or Jonathan Creek this July. Mothers and daughters in grades 1-3 and girls in grades 4-6 and their leaders will discover how God cares for us and hurting people around the world.



Student Missions

KENTUCKY CHANGERS Stay Connected to the Source

Peggy Murphy, Changers Coordinator

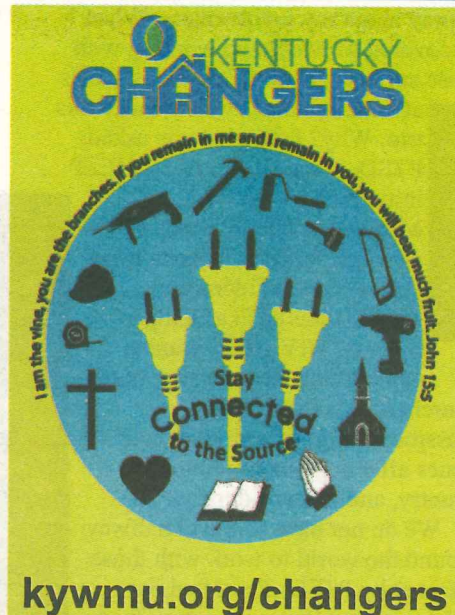
Are you connected to the source?

Every student wants to be connected to something. It is a way to feel like you belong, you matter to someone, and your existence is important. Students join clubs at school and try out for sports teams in hopes of finding a place to fit in. They look for groups of peers that they can join. Some of these groups are not valuable to their lives. There is so much worldly influence on students today.

This year, the Changers focus will be **Stay Connected to the Source**. Students will learn to connect to the real Source of

value and purpose: our mighty Savior. God has the perfect plan for each of our lives. Jeremiah 29:11 says, "For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future." (NIV) The world has much to offer, but every worldly thing is temporary and will not give us hope and a future. Jesus reminds us not to store up treasures that will not last.

2015 Kentucky Changers had just under 1,000 participants. There were 101 decisions of salvation, rededication, and call to ministry over the four weeks. We praise the Lord for that! We need to



connect to that Source! A relationship with Jesus will bring hope and a future. There were also 20 students who prayed and felt God calling them to serve on the Changers Ministry Team for 2016. Once you are connected to the source you feel the need to join God where He is working. You feel the need to be on mission.

If you are not involving your students in missions please consider Changers for 2016. It will give your students an opportunity to see what a blessing it is to connect to the true Source and join God in His work. Visit kywmu.org/changers for dates, locations, and registration.

ACTEENS® Communicating with Acteens

Denise Gardner, Acteens Specialist

Recently I received an article printed in the *Clay City Times*. Acteens from Salem Baptist Church located near Irvine (Boones Creek Baptist Association) were recognized for their mission action. The article told how the church collected needed supplies for families staying at the Ronald McDonald House in Lexington. The Acteens prepared 50 Christmas treat mugs and delivered them along with the supplies the church had collected. Yes, the story did tell all about RMH and how it is a blessing to families who have children in the hospital; but the story also told of the importance of Acteens, "the girl's mission club" and all about their mission project. And the story did not stop there: it continued with "any girl in middle or high school who doesn't have a church home is welcome to join," and listed the Acteens meeting day, time, and place.

Awesome – I want to go to Acteens at Salem Baptist Church! But newsprint isn't the only way to communicate!

Barlow First Baptist Church Acteens have their own Facebook page. Leaders and Acteens can communicate

with each other the subject of meetings, reminders of what to bring, or about special guests attending. A few weeks ago, during all the snow (school was out!), leaders posted a devotional thought and a scripture verse to memorize.

Communication is key to reaching girls for missions – are you making Acteens known? The only rule is to find what works for your girls. Whether newsprint, phone, text, or web – let's talk Acteens!

Acteens Quest

July 8-9, 2016

Jonathan Creek Baptist Camp

Fun on the lake! Crafts!

Missions in Asia! Bible study!

Christmas project for TCKs!

kywmu.org/quest

CHALLENGERS® Campcraft for Men of All Ages

Jon Auten, Missions Consultant

In the last issue of Kentucky Notes, I wrote about RA activities, including Campcraft, that you can continue to use in your Challengers group. The Campcraft Manual (visit kywmu.org/raresources to download for free) includes information about the skills teen boys need in order to earn the various Campcraft patches for Challengers. Levels begin with Pathfinder; progress through Adventurer, Backpacker, and Trip Camper; and end with Primitive Camper. Checklists in the manual's appendix make it easy to track advancement. Even if your group doesn't have much experience with camping, the Pathfinder level covers the basic outdoor living skills they need to get started.

For leaders who have little personal camping experience, we have just what is needed. Wilderness Instruction and Leadership Development (WILD) Camp is for RA and Challenger leaders who would like to be trained to use Campcraft with their missions group. WILD Camp will be held May 20-22 at Laurel Lake Baptist Camp. It will cover the Frontiersman Level which focuses on basic campcraft skills and prepares adults to teach RA Campcraft

levels and Challengers Pathfinder Level. All of the instructors are Kentucky Baptist RA leaders who have been trained by Texas Baptist Men, the group that produces the Campcraft Manual. The cost for the training is \$60 and includes your food for the weekend. Please go to kywmu.org/wild for a schedule, equipment list, and online registration.

Missions events for Challengers are coming up this spring and summer as well. There are four weeks of Kentucky Changers where teen boys can share the truth of Christ while completing home repair projects for people in need. (Visit kywmu.org/changers to learn more.)

Learn more about Creative Ministries Festival 2.0 (March 11-12) at the Youth on Mission column and at kywmu.org/cmf. Youth boys are gifted in many ways and those creative gifts can be used to share the Gospel. CMF 2.0 can help teach them how.

RAMCON is March 19! Challengers are more than welcome to join the missions learning and fun. We will hear from two missionaries and compete in RA Racers, Line Gliders, Rain Gutter Regatta, Turtle Races, and the Pit Stop Challenge. Get the scoop at kywmu.org/ramcon.

YOUTH ON MISSIONSM Preparing to Go and Stay

Jon Auten, Missions Consultant

Creative Ministries Festival 2.0 is March 11-12, but you still have time to register! This event will help prepare students to share Christ through creative arts. March 1 is the deadline for regular registration at \$20 per person. Late registration is open March 2 through March 9 and will cost \$25. In addition to sessions for teens, there will be options for adults to learn more about leading their youth groups to utilize creative arts in missions and ministry. Find more information at kywmu.org/cmf.

Registration for Kentucky Changers is open as well. For just \$200 per person, your church's youth group can participate in a week long, pre-planned mission trip where

they can share the Good News while doing practical, hands-on ministry to people in need. When young people spend a week at Changers, they help change the lives of hurting people, and they come home

having been changed themselves. Visit kywmu.org/changers to learn more.

Leaders, as you make plans for this summer and begin to prepare your youth for camp, Changers, or another mission trip, I know you will be thinking and praying for the youth who will be going and for the people whose lives they will touch. But there is another group I hope you won't forget about – the teens who can't go on the trip with everybody else. Maybe their family can't afford it. Maybe they have work or school responsibilities that keep them from joining the group. Whatever the case may be, it is easy for these students to feel less a part of the group as everyone else begins to look forward to, and prepare for, the coming summer trip.

How can you minister to them during this time? Here are three quick ideas.

- 1. Don't belittle their reason for staying.** Whether the choice was the student's, a parent's, or employer's, the decision to stay does not make the student less spiritual than the ones who are going. Nor does it make them an "example" for the other teens.
- 2. Look for ways they can be a part of the missions effort.** Maybe they can coordinate part of the team preparation or supply collection. Perhaps they can be the communication link back to the church, passing along stories and prayer requests during the week.
- 3. Find ways to include them in the celebration of what God did during the trip.** They probably would have liked to have gone on the trip, so it won't edify them to say, "You should have been there," after it is all over. This will be easier if they have had a role in the project from the very beginning.

Live It Out Loud!

Creative Ministries Festival 2.0

March 11-12, 2016

Rich Pond Baptist Church, Bowling Green, KY

kywmu.org/cmf

PRESIDENT'S PERSPECTIVE PTSD, at Home and Abroad

In December I had the privilege to travel to south Asia as part of a Baptist Global Response (BGR) team to assist

national workers. The scope of our trip was to work with women and children who were suffering from post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) as a result of the earthquakes that had ravished that country early in the year.

It was a heartbreaking journey as we witnessed firsthand the devastation wrought by the tremors. However, we were heartened by the work that our Baptist partners have accomplished to ease the suffering of those involved. Not only were physical needs being met, but Jesus was being shared and many were coming to Him.

When I was first asked to be part of a team going to south Asia, I knew I needed

to pray about my involvement. When I discovered we would be working with those suffering from PTSD, I felt God's affirmation that I was to make this trip. Why? I am glad you asked.

PTSD, is the latest Project HELP initiative of Woman's Missionary Union. Since 1994, national WMU has been on the cutting edge of identifying social issues such as hunger/poverty, HIV/AIDS, human exploitation, etc., and has given

churches tools to develop a grassroots effort to address these issues affecting our communities, country, and the world today.

We do not have to travel halfway around the world to work with those affected by PTSD. Too often our service men and women return from combat and are unable to cope with

the memories of war. Children relive over and over the terror of school shootings. Women are not able to overcome the emotional stress of domestic violence. First responders struggle to erase the memory of tragedies they have witnessed.



Susan Byrant

The list goes on. Working with the women and children in south Asia and helping them to articulate their feelings about the earthquake also gave us the opportunity to share the hope they can have in Jesus. Did we have all the answers to help them overcome the issues they faced?



No. Do our churches have the ability to counsel those suffering from PTSD? Not in most cases. However,

we can come alongside those who are suffering and be the hands and feet of Jesus as we minister to them.

The national WMU website (wmu.com/projecthelp) has excellent resources for all ages in dealing with this issue. As you educate yourself on PTSD, you will become more aware of how pervasive it is in today's society and hopefully identify ways you and your church can address PTSD.

I am thankful to be part of a ministry that determines to be proactive in addressing issues affecting our world today. I ask that you join in this effort to give hope to the hurting in our communities and the world today.

Adult Missions

2016 CALENDAR

March

- 6-13 Week of Prayer for North American Missions
- 11-12 Creative Ministries Festival 2.0, Rich Pond Baptist, Bowling Green
- 19 RAMCON, First Baptist, Hopkinsville

April

- 8-9 Kentucky WMU Annual Meeting, Madisonville First Baptist Church
- 22-23 Women on Mission Retreat, Laurel Lake, Corbin
- 29-30 Women on Mission Retreat, Camp Schafer, Hawesville

May

- 14 SALT, Kentucky Baptist Building
- 20-22 WILD Camp, Laurel Lake

ADULTS Develop Spiritually Toward a Missions Lifestyle

Wanda Walker, Missions Consultant

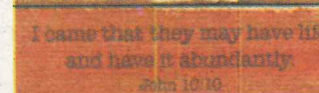
Develop spiritually toward a missions lifestyle. How often do you really think about this WMU objective? I recently found a beautiful quote by Anne Danielson, "Let your life be your art." This has a missional perspective. When we take the initiative to develop spiritually toward a missions lifestyle, we become a living portrait of God's work in our life.

Kentucky WMU retreats changed direction several years ago. Currently, women's retreats are focused on the woman God has created us to be as we move toward a missional lifestyle. This year's theme, *Loving God's Abundant Life*, will help us realize that since Jesus meets our daily needs now and forever, we don't have to worry about our own needs. We can focus on helping others. Since Jesus takes care of us, we get to take care

of our friends, family, and neighbors: both locally and globally. We can gladly help a friend because Jesus daily helps us. We can show love to others because our heavenly Father loves us. What freedom!

Jesus came so that we may have life and have it abundantly! We can share that message in words and actions with those around us so they, too, may know abundant life in Jesus. *Jesus becomes the art displayed in our life.*

Plan to join us at one of the spring retreats. Visit kywmu.org/retreats to learn more and to register.



Women's Retreats

Developing Spiritually towards a Missions Lifestyle

Speaker:
LaRaine Rice

April 22-23,
Laurel Lake,
Corbin

April 29-30,
Camp Schafer,
Hawesville

kywmu.org/retreats

KENTUCKY WMU HERITAGE FUND September 1- December 31, 2015 Donations

Thanks to all who made donations to the Heritage Fund last fall. Every gift makes an impact!

In Honor of:	Donor:	In Honor of:	Donor:	In Memory Of:	Donor:
Fern Clark	Kendal & Laura Clark	Susan Bryant	Nancy Brown	Sally Deen	Delores Spears
Joy Bolton	Marcia Ballard	Julia Devore	Nancy Brown	Marilyn Lamkin	June Adams
Jon Auten	Joy Bolton	Kentucky WMU Staff	Nancy Brown	Mary Lou Crutcher	June Adams
Wendy Stout	Joy Bolton	Jay Hatfield	Cheryl Hatfield	Edna Keeling	June Adams
Linda Devine	Lee & Joy Bolton	Kentucky WMU Staff	Cheryl Hatfield	Brother of Jean Scroggins	Fred & Janet Harding
Joy Bolton	Nancy Brown	Jon Auten	Melissa Logsdon-Young	Eliza Broadus	Marcia Ballard
Stacy Nall	Pat Reaves	Stacy Nall	Melissa Logsdon-Young	Cossie Webb	Burks Branch WMU
Sally Schmuck	Diane Thacker	Wilma & Gordon McDowell	Lynn Association WMU	Wilma Knight	Jay & Cheryl Hatfield
Gayle Horn	Mercer Assoc. WMU Leadership Team	Cheryl Hatfield	Marcia Ballard	Billy Carnell	Jay & Cheryl Hatfield
Slate Branch Baptist Church	Linda Cooper	Linda Cooper	Forest Park Baptist WMU	Gerri Lynn Wiser	Jay & Cheryl Hatfield
First Baptist, Madisonville	Linda Cooper	Laverne Sublette	Gleaners Class	Ruth Walton	Jay & Cheryl Hatfield
Susan Bryant	Linda Alexander	Pat Reaves	Marcia Ballard	Other Gifts	
Cheryl Hatfield	Linda Alexander	Maribeth & Horace Hambrick	Frankie & Chuck Johnson	Kentucky WMU Staff	
Melissa Logsdon-Young	Linda Netherly	LaRaine Rice	Faye Dail	Ruth Briscoe	
Wanda Smith	Pat Reaves	Anna Mary Byrdwell	Jay & Cheryl Hatfield	Amanda Major	
Joy Bolton	Cindy Hurley	Susan & Mark Hatfield	Allison WMU, Rose Hill Baptist Church	Cadiz Baptist Women on Mission	
Joy Bolton	Nancy Brown	Ruth Miller	Paula Settle	Linda Cooper	
				First Baptist Bowling Green, WMU Group Mite Box Project	



Trafficking victims can be in the church's midst

By Raleigh Sadler

New York—Everyone is looking to be loved. Anna was no exception. While still in her late teens, she met and fell in love with an older man who gave her what she craved. "Could he be the one to love and accept me for who I am?" she wondered.

This longing for love made her vulnerable to her boyfriend, who had ominous plans for their relationship. Over the ensuing months, she would be subtly manipulated into becoming part of his special "art project." Unknowingly, she was trafficked into the world of pornography.

Human trafficking occurs when those most vulnerable are exploited for commercial gain. According to the Walk Free movement (www.walkfree.org), as many as 36 million people are modern-day slaves.

With cases reported in all 50 states in the U.S., it is clear that anyone can be affected by this evil, whether they may be the man in India forced to work against his will in a brick mill or the 17-year-old girl in the back pew of a southern church being trafficked for sex by her boyfriend.

As Anna shared her story with me, I couldn't shake a nagging question: "How did the local church serve you during your exploitation?" Hearing my question, she laughed. "For years," she replied, "I went to church regularly. No one noticed anything. Everyone thought I was happy, so nothing wrong could be going on."

Anna's story is not uncommon.

Amanda Eckhardt, director of programs at Restore NYC, who works with about 200 sex trafficking survivors a year, says many of their clients have been allowed by their traffickers to attend church services. Many even attend faith communities regularly. Others in the anti-trafficking movement confirm what Eckhardt has observed, that the local church is one of the few places where

trafficking victims can go without being stopped by their exploiters.

For Christians, this should be good news, since the church has been called to care for "the least of these." This phrase comes from what has become known as the Parable of the Sheep and Goats (Matthew 25:31-46), where Jesus sits as judge at the final judgment, saying to those on His right, the sheep: "Come, you who are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world" (Matthew 25:34). "As you did it to one of the least of these my brothers, you did it to me" (Matthew 25:40). Those on His left, the goats, however, are cursed and condemned because their faith had no works of mercy and compassion.

If this is true, why aren't we hearing more stories like Anna's?

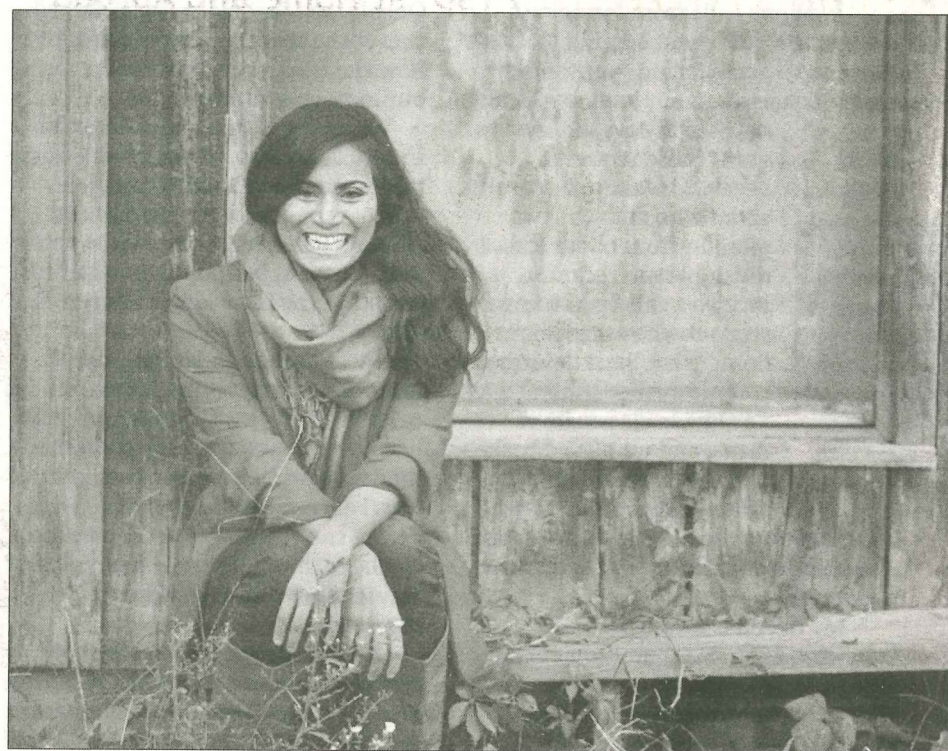
If we're honest with ourselves, we're not attuned to look for vulnerable individuals like Anna—not even in our midst. How can the local church be the hands and feet of Jesus Christ if we aren't being His eyes and ears? How can we love someone if we don't even know they exist?

Here are several ways to start:

• Take another look at the gospel.

With Christ, we see the King of Glory coming to a broken world and becoming vulnerable—to the point of death to save the vulnerable. When we had nothing to offer, He lived, died and rose in the place of those who defied Him. As we rest in this truth, we will find ourselves motivated to love others without any guarantee of reciprocity.

• **Pray.** The gospel leads us to pray for others, especially those in dire need. As we begin to pray for the vulnerable in the community, our eyes will begin to open. As we repent of not actively caring, we will be given opportunities to care. As we pray for the trafficked, the traffickers and those who purchase sex, we will be moved to action. Our God is a God of justice who loves the "least of these" more than we ever could.



• Become aware of human trafficking.

Learn how to identify and respond to those being exploited. "Recognize the Signs" is a helpful overview posted by the nonprofit Polaris anti-trafficking organization at <https://polarisproject.org/recognize-signs>.

• **Respond.** A great way to respond is by putting the National Human Trafficking Hotline number in our phones: 1-888-373-7888. When you call the hotline, you will be greeted by someone who desires to help you care for those who may be being exploited. They will take the information that you give and pass it along to the proper authorities in your community.

• Get to know other church members.

Fighting human trafficking can begin with an act as simple as listening to someone's story. As we get to know one another and build deeper relationships within the church, we are better positioned to respond with our hearts and

eyes wide open.

Anna found help from Christians whose eyes were open. It was through her time at Mercy Ministries, a Christian residential program working with young women, that she realized her identity did not rest in her exploitation but in Christ, who was for her. Anna has since become a noted advocate in the fight against human trafficking (see <http://annamalika.com>) and the creator of a fashion line aptly called "Freedom is the New Beautiful."

As Anna shares her story, she doesn't refer to herself as a survivor of human trafficking so much as an overcomer. While vulnerable and looking for love, she found that love in the person of Jesus Christ.

As those who share in this love, let us notice those who are vulnerable—especially if they may be sitting in the back row of our own congregations and appear as if nothing is wrong. (BP)

North Carolina Baptists set aside \$500,000 for retiring missionaries

By Allan Blume

Cary, N.C.—The Executive Committee of the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina approved a recommendation Jan. 26 to set up a \$500,000 reserve fund to employ International Mission Board retirees returning to North Carolina.

Executive Director-Treasurer Milton Hollifield Jr. said, "This reserve will provide additional funding for strategic efforts to impact lostness through disciple-making ... as we seek to capitalize on the expertise of IMB missionaries who are returning to the United States."

Meanwhile, the Baptist State Convention forwarded approximately \$400,000 more to Southern Baptist Convention missions and ministries for 2015 than it did in 2014, bringing the Cooperative Program dollars they forwarded in 2015 to \$10.7 million, according to a report during the BSC's Board of Directors meeting.

The 2016 BSC budget includes another \$1.07 million increase for SBC missions and ministry through CP, which could

mark a record high for the state convention.

"I am deeply encouraged to hear of this serious turnaround in North Carolina's CP giving," said Frank Page, president and chief executive officer of the SBC Executive Committee. "God bless the churches of North Carolina who are catching a new vision of reaching the nations for Christ."

The BSC's executive committee also has approved a new strategy to help retiring IMB missionaries who are transitioning to the state.

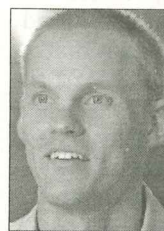
IMB leaders announced in August 2015 a plan to reduce personnel

expenses in an effort to balance the entity's budget. The IMB's organizational "reset" included a voluntary retirement incentive for personnel that met certain tenure and age requirements.

Missionaries who accepted the voluntary retirement incentive and are relocating to North Carolina will be considered for positions as contract workers for the BSC if they desire to continue in vocational ministry among international people groups.

Potential jobs will focus on strategic efforts facilitated by the five BSC ministry teams: church planting, strategic focus, Great Commission partnerships, church revitalization and disciple-making.

"This generous gift from the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina will go a long way toward meaningfully redeploying retired IMB missionaries as they transition to a new season of ministry."



David Platt

IMB president David Platt said of the BSC's plan, "This generous gift from the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina will go a long way toward meaningfully redeploying retired IMB missionaries as they transition to a new season of ministry in which they are engaging lostness throughout North Carolina."

Hollifield noted, "I can tell you with all honesty that it gives me great, great, great joy. I give thanks to God that North Carolina Baptists rallied behind our mission board and rallied behind these returning missionaries at a most critical time."

The BSC has been reducing staff in recent years to increase Cooperative Program support for international missions, Hollifield said. Any new workers from the IMB pool of missionaries will become contract employees paid from a new reserve fund. However, if there are staff vacancies available, "We are very willing and eager to consider some of these returning missionaries," he noted. (BP)

Former student brings encouragement to our campus

From time to time, I receive phone calls from former students who ask about coming to speak in chapel and sharing some of their experiences with our students. I can't

This is
Oneida



Larry Gritton

say I am always inclined to grant those requests, because I want to be careful about who and what we place in front of our kids. I did, however, recently receive a call from a former student who asked about doing what I just described.

This former student was an Oneida classmate of mine, and we played basketball together. We hadn't talked in well over 20 years,

but once we began talking it was as if we had been talking every day since graduation.

My friend is now a pastor in Detroit, Mich. He shared that he had been praying that the Lord would reveal a people and place to him that could use his love and care. He

believed OBI and the community of Oneida was that place. As he shared this with me, I also shared with him how the Lord has burdened me for our local community.

We began to talk about dates for him to come and minister here. I originally mentioned a fall revival next school year, but my friend felt compelled to get here sooner. We scheduled a date in January and began to pray that the Lord would bless in this effort.

Once the date in January rolled around, a brutal winter storm had hit eastern Kentucky. I called my friend just a few hours before he was scheduled to leave Detroit and head our way. I encouraged him to wait a day before traveling. My friend got here a day later than originally planned, but ultimately led in four worship services.

We were greatly blessed by both our speaker and his mother, who traveled with him. His mother is a pastor's wife of 45 years. They did

ministering on and off of our campus, and brought great encouragement to both our staff and students.

In one of the services, my friend shared that one of our tutors had been such a great influence in his life and ultimately helped him to graduate on time. This tutor, unbeknownst to my friend, is still serving here as a tutor. When her name was mentioned, she stood in chapel and was thanked by our speaker for the impact she had on his life. When the service ended, my friend put a big, bear hug on this unsung hero who still tutors our kids one at a time.

So many people love and bless Oneida in so many different ways. Your support blessed and enabled my friend to be here many years ago. He is now in the business of blessing so many others, and that is something that should bring you great pride.

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

Youth curriculum debuts: 6-year free resource

Fort Worth, Texas—Richard Ross has spent most of his life leading youth to a deeper relationship with Christ, so he didn't hesitate when he felt God's call to develop curriculum for teens.

But even Ross was surprised at the result: a six-year free curriculum for grades 7-12 encompassing a multi-year journey to learn everything from apologetics and ethics to evangelism and missions.

The online "Disciple6" curriculum, written by 60-plus faculty and students at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, includes learner and leader guides spanning core doctrines of the faith to train disciples for Christ.

The resource is available for download at Disciple6.com.

"Yes, we need to offer biblical ministry to every teenager, regardless of spiritual condition or motivation," Ross told the Southern Baptist TEXAN, newsjournal of the Southern Baptists of Texas Convention. "But every church absolutely must offer a place where those select teenagers gather to truly become world-changing disciples. That is what we are missing today, and that is what we must begin to do—or all is lost."

Students who go through the Disciple6 curriculum can earn a first-semester scholarship to the seminary's undergraduate school, the College at Southwestern, ranging from a 10 percent discount for someone who completes one year to a 100 percent discount for students who finish all six years.

The curriculum was a complete volunteer effort; writers were not paid fees. One of the writers, Candi Finch, assistant professor of theology in women's studies, said the Disciple6 curriculum is desperately needed.

"While many churches are doing a great job of discipleship, the truth is that we are losing the majority of our young people," Finch told the TEXAN.

Finch quoted research from the Barna Group, which she said found "one of the most common critiques of the church" by young adults who grew up in church and then left "is that they felt they could not ask their most pressing questions about life and faith in the church or were simply given shallow answers."

"This curriculum wrestles with each core doctrine of the faith as well as engaging many pressing ethical questions of our day from a Christian worldview perspective," Finch said.

Ross, professor of youth ministry and co-founder of the True Love Waits movement for sexual purity, said the new curriculum grew from asking some of the top youth pastors, "What is your plan for discipling your core teenagers for six years, from grades 7-12?" None of them had a comprehensive plan.

"Everyone embraced the fact that the curriculum would be offered to every church at no cost," Ross said.

Disciple6 is not designed for Sunday School, an hour when lost youth may be present, Ross said.

"This curriculum only can be effective with teenagers who have made a firm decision to be a disciple of Jesus," he explained.

"The goal is teenage disciples who are fully prepared to disciple others—now and for a lifetime," Ross said. (BP)

International student preserves against all odds

One of our international students is Shamma Lorrean from Haiti. He has a wonderful testimony how God used his circumstances to bring him to Clear Creek.

Clear Creek
Chronicle



Donnie Fox

"I grew up on a small island west of Port-au-Prince, Haiti, called La Gonave," said Shamma. "I was born into a poor family in the poorest country in the Western hemisphere."

"My father is a Christian pastor. He led one church to start two others and is now the pastor of all three of these churches," he said.

"My mother is always by his side to encourage him and give words of wisdom. My oldest sister is a nurse at a mission hospital. My other siblings are studying to be able to enter

college.

"When I was a teenager, I gave my heart to the Lord and was baptized," Shamma continued. "However, a few years later, looking for what the world offered, I walked away from God's presence. I wanted things that would please my desires, such as material wealth, money, pleasure and so forth."

"God gave me several talents, including music, but I used my music to worship the gods of the world, not Him, and to make it pleasant for my own satisfaction," he said. "I was famous in some places because of my music, and I had everything I needed, but peace."

"Everything I had worked for fell apart when an earthquake hit our country in 2010," he recalled.

"On Jan. 12, when the earthquake hit Haiti, I was in a recording studio

in Port-au-Prince, where I used to do some part time jobs to help myself and my siblings," said Shamma. "After spending the whole day waiting for the electricity to come back on, at 3 p.m., I heard, 'Yay, yay, yay!' This is the usual cheer from the whole town when the electricity comes back on."

"I didn't get much work done however, because at 4:54, the earthquake hit us. I was on the third floor, which probably saved my life because the building fell on me, but most of the people on the floors underneath died. I was pinned in, unable to move in a door frame that collapsed on my head and chest. I could not breathe."

To be continued ...

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

Kentucky missions that you make possible

Several years ago we introduced this column to help you know where the Eliza Broadus Offering is used across Kentucky. I hope you have been excited about the many ways the offering shares "The Heart of the Story" across Kentucky.

EBO at Work



Joy Bolton

Thank you for your faithful giving. EBO funds are received monthly, and we are praying to reach the 2015-16 goal of \$1,250,000. A total of \$1,061,309 has been received through the first week of February, which is a little behind last year. We will continue to receive 2015-16 EBO gifts through Aug. 31.

The Kentucky WMU Finance Committee met a few weeks ago to make EBO Special Ministry Grants for this year. \$95,500 was awarded to 98 different ministries. In addition, 69 Kentucky Baptist Associations received a grant of \$500 to be used as needed for

missions in the association. Every ministry that has received a grant must complete an accountability form to apply for a subsequent grant.

Springfield Baptist Church fed children from the local Housing Authority during their Kingdom Wednesday program. Between 60-70 percent of these children are unchurched. Through this ministry they heard the gospel and learned Bible verses.

Kentucky Raceway Ministry used EBO funds to purchase Bibles that include testimonies by NASCAR drivers. Through Facebook, KRM learned of a boy who received a Bible while at a race. His mother told them how the boy reads the Bible each night and they discuss what he has read.

This year Friendship International in West Union Association had one student from Nigeria, five from Colombia, two from Thailand, two from South Korea, one from Jordan, two from Albania, and 16 from Mexico. A number of students have

become active in local congregations, which have worship in their native languages. Several students have learned enough English to be hired part-time or full-time in the area.

A boy who had been rejected by his mother found God's love through High Mountain Horsemanship Outreach. He went from being bullied to having the confidence to train a 1,000 pound horse and then teach those who had once bullied him how to lead a horse. Above all, he received Christ as Savior!

We are grateful to partner with KBC through the Eliza Broadus Offering.

Keep Kentucky missionaries and missions volunteers in your prayers. Pray for open doors to share Jesus, who is "The Heart of the Story," with people across our state.

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

SBTS alum Jerry Johnson's fight for Christian communicators

By James Smith Sr.

Nashville—In radio, silence is not golden. Indeed, “dead air”—a period of unintended silence during a live program—is a broadcaster’s nightmare.

Jerry Johnson’s mission in leading the National Religious Broadcasters is to protect his fellow communicators’ right to exist and prevent the worst kind of dead air—the censorship of evangelical voices on radio, television, the Internet and social media.

Johnson will lead his third annual meeting as president of the association of communicators when “Proclaim 16: International Christian Media Convention” meets this week in Nashville at the Gaylord Opryland Resort and Convention Center.

A 2003 Ph.D. graduate of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary and veteran Southern Baptist leader, Johnson assumed the presidency of NRB in November 2013 with a mission to transform the historic evangelical organization for the modern world of media and prepare its members for the growing opposition they face in the federal government, the commercial world and broader society.

Johnson was the ideal selection as NRB president because of his experience in radio ministry and his passion to defend evangelical voices in the culture, according to Bill Blount, chairman of the NRB Board of Directors.

“We believe Dr. Jerry Johnson was called by God to direct the National Religious Broadcasters for ‘such a time as this,’” said Blount, president of Blount Communications Group, a Christian radio network of seven stations throughout New England he and his wife Debbie founded 36 years ago.

“With the onslaught of moral and ethical changes taking place in our country, and internationally, the NRB is uniquely positioned to speak to the issues of our day through the various media platforms represented by our membership,” Blount told Southern Seminary Magazine.

National Religious Broadcasters began with 150 radio broadcasters in 1944 in response to industry censorship when



Jerry Johnson, National Religious Broadcasters president, underscores “our first mission is to advance biblical truth” during last year’s meeting in Nashville. (Photo courtesy of National Religious Broadcasters)

the Federal Council of Churches (now known as National Council of Churches) successfully lobbied all three national radio networks to adopt regulations targeting popular evangelical programs for removal in favor of programming by mainline denominations. In response to the evangelical broadcasters’ efforts, by 1949 the ABC Radio Network reversed the regulations, with other networks later following.

“Today, we’ve come full circle,” said Johnson, citing examples of commercial and industry censorship: the forced removal of Mozilla CEO Brendan Eich for a donation in support of traditional marriage and the firing of sports broadcaster Craig James for views he expressed while running unsuccessfully for public office.

While industry censorship is a real threat, Johnson said even greater is his concern about the growing prospect of government censorship.

“NRB is going to have to stand up for the First Amendment—the freedom to believe and the freedom of speak in America,” he said.

The first three parts of the First Amendment of the Constitution—religious freedom, freedom of speech and

freedom of the press—protects NRB members’ ministries, Johnson noted, and NRB must be the front line defenders of those rights.

“I think we’ll be the leading advocate for evangelical communicators, protecting their First Amendment rights,” he said.

Johnson said the challenges Christian communicators face today require the existence of an organization like NRB to defend their rights.

While NRB began in the 1940s as an association of radio ministries, today the network of 1,200 members with a weekly, cumulative listenership/reader-ship of 60 million, covers the full range of communications platforms evangelicals are engaging to proclaim the gospel, Johnson said. Radio remains a key part of the organization, but members today are also on television, as well as media delivery platforms made possible by the Internet: podcasts, YouTube videos, blogging, social media—and whatever the next advancement in technology will bring.

Further, Johnson believes NRB today is ideally situated to assist and defend local churches, throngs of which are engaged in a wide range of media ministries.

A former pastor in Texas and Colorado, Johnson went to NRB with a vast background in Southern Baptist leadership: as dean of Boyce College, president of Criswell College, seminary administrator and trustee of Southern Seminary. Johnson’s commitment to helping pastors and local congregations can be traced to his own experiences in churches and denominational leadership.

As a trustee of Southern Seminary in the 1980s and early 1990s, Johnson

played a key role in the election of Albert Mohler Jr. as the ninth president in 1993.

Johnson, who would go on to serve as chairman of the seminary’s Board of Trustees, later became a doctoral student. His studies at Southern gave him the analytical skills he is using today leading NRB, he said.

When Johnson was installed as NRB president in February 2014, he asked Mohler to offer the keynote address at the ceremony.

“I wanted to send a signal about the kind of leaders we want to be, the kind of leaders we want to follow, and the kind of leaders we want to include in NRB,” Johnson said of his invitation to Mohler, who is speaking at the convention this year.

Calling him a “dear friend,” Mohler said Johnson “played a vital role on Southern Seminary’s Board of Trustees at a most important moment in its history.”

Noting Johnson’s other positions at the seminary and elsewhere, Mohler said, “In every role, Jerry has shown himself to be an incisive Christian thinker, a courageous Christian leader, and a gifted apologist. His doctoral work in Christian ethics puts him in very rare company.”

As NRB president, “Jerry is one of the most important evangelical leaders of our time,” Mohler said, noting NRB is now an “even more effective and faithful voice” on the “front lines of defending and extending the gospel of Christ.”

SBC president Ronnie Floyd echoed Mohler’s assessment of Johnson’s importance to the evangelical world.

Floyd, pastor of Cross Church in northwest Arkansas, and longtime NRB member who spoke at the 2015 convention, said Johnson will have “tremendous influence on the future of evangelical Christianity nationally and globally.” He added, “It is a joy to know that we have a great Southern Baptist leader like him in one of the most strategic roles in Christianity today.

“We see many forces aligning for censorship against conservative Christianity,” he said. “I feel it’s absolutely essential for the American church to have equal access to radio, television and the Internet. NRB champions this cause.” (BP)

RED GREEN

in Not Old in Ripe
NORTH AMERICAN TOUR

SATURDAY, APRIL 2, 2016 – 7 PM
TAFT THEATRE
CINCINNATI
1-800-745-3000

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 6, 2016 – 7 PM
STRANAHAN THEATRE
TOLEDO
419-381-8851

www.redgreen.com

****LOG HOME****

Financial Problems—Need Quick Sale
Kit Purchased from AMERICAN LOG HOMES
Model #403 Augusta with Building Blueprints, Construction Manual & FREE DELIVERY

Price \$42,450 MUST HAVE \$16,000

HOUSE HAS NOT BEEN MANUFACTURED
Windows, Doors, and Roofing Not Included
NO TIME LIMIT FOR DELIVERY!
May Verify All The Above with Company

VIEW at www.loghomedream.com - Click on House Plans
READY BUYER ONLY! Call JOHN at 704-769-2227

Download Our Free Church-Bus Buyers Guide.

THEBUSCENTER.com
Endorsed by LifeWay Christian Stores

MOUNTAINS TO THE MISSISSIPPI

COMPILED BY STAFF

CRESTWOOD—Oldham-Trimble Association's mission trip to LaCampa, Honduras, will be March 5-19. A team of 25 volunteers from seven churches will work with missionaries and Honduran pastors to support church planting and development. Sponsored by OTBA partner churches—Ballardsville (**Tony Wolfenbarger**), Buckner, DeHaven (**Ross Bauscher**) and Westport (**DeWayne Sowell**), the team will provide partial funding and construction help. **Rick Lucas** is interim director of missions.

ELIZABETHTOWN—Severns Valley Association congratulates **Colby Helms** on becoming the new Baptist campus

minister at Elizabethtown Community and Technical College. **Gerald Murphy** is director of missions.

LOUISVILLE—Lyndon Church celebrated its 95th anniversary Feb. 27. **James Holladay** is pastor.

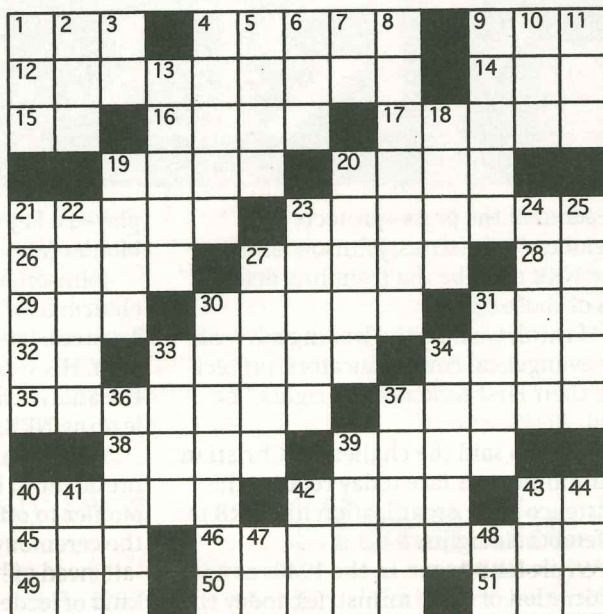
St. Matthews Church will hold its 9th Annual Great Bowls of Fire Chili Cook-off March 13 at 5:30 p.m. Proceeds benefit the youth ministry and their summer mission trip to the Dominican Republic and Passport Camp. **Greg Barr** is pastor.

PRINCETON—Chapel Hill Church will hold its Spring revival April 24-27 with **Matt Grimes**, pastor of Sugar Creek Church. **Jeff Boone** is pastor.

Bible Crosswords

Across

- 1 "Then ____ was wroth with the seer" (2 Chronicles 16:10)
4 "I do ____ to day and to tomorrow" (Luke 13:32)
9 "Behold, the ____ of the Lord cometh" (Isaiah 13:9)
12 "His brethren ... Gilalai, Maai, ____ and Judah" (Nehemiah 12:36)
14 "Which are blackish by reason of the ____" (Job 6:16)
15 "____ shall be as gods" (Genesis 3:5)
16 Elliptical
17 Relatives
19 "Thou shalt be for ____ to the fire" (Ezekiel 21:32)
20 Female reproductive organ, comb. form
21 "I will ____ the other bullock" (1 Kings 18:23)
23 "He hath ____ the dough" (Hosea 7:4)
26 "Gather a certain ____ every day" (Exodus 16:4)
27 Makes warm
28 Northeastern area of the U.S., abbr.
29 "This is ____ of the Hebrews' children" (Exodus 2:6)
30 "The black horses ... go forth into the ____ country" (Zechariah 6:6)
31 A poem
32 King of Bashan (1 Kings 4:19)
33 "All the ____ thereof shall be burned with the fire" (Micah 1:7)
34 Mimicked
35 "I am like a ____" (Psalm 102:6)
37 Snow vehicles
38 "And ____ gave names to all cattle" (Genesis 2:20)
39 "____ was a tiller of the ground" (Genesis 4:2)
40 "O thou fairest among ____" (Song of Solomon 1:8)
42 "Set it upon a ____" (Numbers 21:8)
43 On or about, abbr.
45 "And he smote them ____



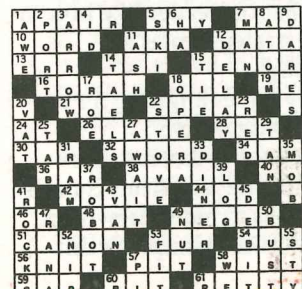
#057

- and thigh" (Judges 15:8)
46 "To the ____ of the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ" (2 Thessalonians 2:14)
49 Albert, Allen, and Alex, for short
50 "The magicians and astrologers that were in all his ____" (Daniel 1:20)
51 "As it was in the days of ____" (Luke 17:26)

Down

- 1 "Not willing that ____ should perish" (2 Peter 3:9)
2 "____ this great sight" (Exodus 3:3)
3 Preposition
4 "The people did hide themselves in ____" (1 Samuel 13:6)
5 Single
6 Religion, abbr.
7 Electrical engineer, abbr.
8 "In the hand of him that ____ thee" (Ezekiel 28:9)
9 "When they had ____" (John 21:15)
10 "The ____ of violence is in their hands" (Isaiah 59:6)
11 Affirmative
13 "They brought down the king from the ____ of the Lord" (2 Kings 11:19)
18 Belonging to Una
19 Festival
20 Small flying insects
21 Sag
22 "The ____ of the mountains is his pasture" (Job 39:8)
23 "The name of the third ____-Happuch" (Job 42:14)
24 "On the seventh day God ____ his work" (Genesis

#056



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

February

- 27 WMU Leadership Network Meeting, Ky. Baptist Building, Louisville
27 Operation: Inasmuch Training, Crosspointe Church, Owensboro

March

- 1 Power Lunch, Ky. Baptist Building, Louisville
4-5 International Team Leader Training, Ky. Baptist Building, Louisville

- 5 VBS Clinic, Rich Pond Church, Bowling Green
11-12 Creative Ministries Festival 2.0, Rich Pond Church, Bowling Green
11-12 Ky. Baptist Disaster Relief Chaplaincy and Phases 1 & 2 Training, Crestwood Church

- 11-12 VBS clinic, First Church, Richmond
17 Men's & Women's Chorales Combined Concert, Consolidated Church, Lexington
19 RAMCON 2016, First Church, Hopkinsville
29 Get Acquainted Day, Ky. Baptist Building, Louisville

CLASSIFIED ADS

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 resumé by mail to DeMossville Baptist Church, P.O. Box 27, DeMossville, KY 41033, or e-mail to dbc@zoomtown.com.

SEEKING: Munfordville Baptist Church is seeking its next full-time pastor. Criteria include being a Southern Baptist Convention preacher who adheres to the Baptist Faith and Message and will be supportive of the Cooperative Program for missions. Resumes and sermon DVDs should be sent to the attention of Pulpit Committee Chairperson at P.O. Box 445, Munfordville, KY 42765.

SEEKING: Harrodsburg Baptist Church is seeking a full-time student minister with a passion for reaching Jr. and Sr. high youth with the gospel and maturing them in their faith. HBC has an extremely strong youth group, wonderful facilities, large youth budget, and a strong reputation in the community. Applicants may apply by sending resumé to HBC Personnel Committee, 312 South Main St., Harrodsburg, Ky. 40330, or email to wayne@harrodsburgbaptist.org. Accepting applications until Feb. 29.

SEEKING: Conservative Southern Baptist Church is seeking a part-time music minister/worship leader. Submit inquiries and/or resumes to: PBCMusicMinister@gmail.com, Music Minister Search Committee, Providence Baptist Church, 6265 Georgetown Rd., Frankfort, KY 40601.

SEEKING: Children's minister for Elkton Baptist Church, Elkton, Ky. This is a full-time position, and we are looking for someone who is a team player, energetic, self-motivated, well organized and can relate to children, parents and the rest of the church. A bachelor's degree and experience is a plus. Send or email resumes to: elktonchurch@bellsouth.net or Elkton Baptist Church, P.O. Box 547, Elkton, KY 42220.

SEEKING: Evergreen Baptist Church, 2698 Evergreen Rd., Frankfort, KY 40601, is seeking a part-time children's minister and a part-time youth minister. (502) 223-8364 office@evergreenbaptistchurch.us.

SEEKING: Union Baptist Church, in Northern Kentucky, is looking for a lead pastor with a demonstrated ability to unashamedly preach the Word of God, challenge His followers, and clearly communicate mission & vision. This person must be a visionary leader who can equip and teach others to serve in the fulfillment of the Great Commission and have a heart for reaching the lost in the dynamic & growing Northern Kentucky community and around the world. We are a mid-size Southern Baptist church with 290-300 weekly attendance. Please submit resumes, audio/video recording to unionbaptistpastorsearch@gmail.com, or Union Baptist Church, P.O. Box 194, Union KY 41091, Attn: Ken Soucy. Deadline for submitting resumes is Feb. 29.

SEEKING: Dyer Hill Missionary Baptist Church, outside Smithland, Ky., is prayerfully seeking a bi-vocational pastor with strong leadership skills to help the church connect with the community and communicate Christ clearly. Services include a blended of both traditional and contemporary worship. Submit resumes to dhybcpastorsearch@gmail.com, or Dyer Hill Baptist Church, Pastor Search Committee, C/O Kevin Wring 856 Pinckneyville Rd., Salem, KY 42078.

SEEKING: FBC Cold Spring, Ky., is currently hiring a full-time minister of children, youth and their families. This position will oversee the strategic vision for children's and youth ministries (nursery through high school), work with pastor to integrate family-oriented discipleship and parenting initiatives throughout the church, and help to cultivate community development across generational lines. Applicants should send resumes or questions to Robert Miller, Search Team Committee chair at First Baptist Church of Cold Spring, Ky., via email: YouthSearchTeam@fbccs.com by March 1.

SEEKING: New River/McCreary County Missionary Baptist Association is accepting resumes through March 31 for a full-time director of missions. Please send resumé to nrmc@highland.net, or mail to 24728 Scott Hwy, Winfield, TN 37892.

SEEKING: Send resumes for full-time music pastor to EHBC, 703 E. Walters, Harrison, AR 72601, or email to ehbcadmin@eagleheightsharrison.org.

SEEKING: Secretary/financial secretary with typical duties and working knowledge of MS Office and QuickBooks software. Send resumé to Green Acres Baptist Church, Attn.: Personnel Committee, 5189 Poplar Level Rd., Louisville KY 40219, or email same to cwmngabc@gmail.com

SEEKING: Interim/transitional pastor for Green Acres Baptist Church. Mail resumé with cover letter to church Attn.: Pastor Search Team, 5189 Poplar Level Rd., Louisville KY 40219, or email to cwmngabc@gmail.com.

AVAILABLE: Pastor with 30+ yrs. experience for interim and/or pulpit supply in Oldham and surrounding counties. (502) 321-1557.

FOR SALE: Baby-Grand Piano for sale. Our church has a beautiful mahogany brown Yamaha GH1 for sale. It was built in Japan and assembled in Georgia. Has a new humidifier system to help keep tuned. Approximate appraisal of \$10k, asking \$8k. Questions or pics, email www.johnny.baker56@yahoo.com.

FOR RENT: Destin, Fla., beach house. 6 Bed/4 Bath. 1/2 block to beach. Perfect for family vacations. VRBO.com/454133. (502) 727-7426.

SERVICE: Mobile website, smartphone apps, live video streaming, podcast, DVD production, and much more. To contact for a quote: (606) 669-0807.

TRAVEL: Bus tour with First Baptist Church, Richmond, May 16-21. Trip to Hershey, Gettysburg, Philadelphia, George Washington Crossing. \$740 per person, single. Call Floyd Price (859) 421-1418.

New documentary seeks to inspire ministry to military, veterans

By Jeff Brumley

In 2010, Justin Roberts was a newly minted Army chaplain and “very green” when he reported for duty with a crack battalion of the 101st Airborne Division.

“I showed up with my helmet cover on backwards,” he said. “I had a lot to learn.”

And learn he did—first about the appalling rate of suicides afflicting military members, then about bravery and sacrifice during a deployment with the Screaming Eagles that year to Afghanistan. The unit lost 18 soldiers killed in action and 200 earned Purple Hearts.

Upon the unit’s return a year later, Roberts said he learned another hard lesson: that churches don’t do nearly enough to minister to physically, emotionally and spiritually wounded soldiers and their families.

“You would think churches would be number one in being part of the answer, but I think they are simply unaware there is a problem at this point,” said Roberts.

So Roberts filmed and directed “No Greater Love,” a feature-length documentary using combat footage he shot while in Afghanistan along with post-deployment interviews of troops and their families.

The film shares the realities of war as

experienced by the soldiers who served in Kunar Province, one of the most mountainous and treacherous parts of Afghanistan. The realities of losing loved ones to combat death, suicide or PTSD is also presented.

“These are a group of people struggling to reconnect with society,” said Roberts, now a civilian filmmaker.

“This film is to help raise awareness.”

‘That’s just crazy’

It’s already accomplished that in film circles since its first viewing in September.

The film has earned several honors, including Best Documentary and the Mass Impact Award at the Boston Film Festival, where it premiered. It claimed Best of Show and Best Documentary at the Lake Charles Film Festival and Best Military Film at the San Diego Film Festival, among others.

And it also drew the attention and passion of Laura Fong, assistant professor and journalist-in-residence at Mercer’s Center for Collaborative Journalism.

Fong eventually became a producer for the film after meeting a soldier at a military hospital. He had been part of Roberts’ unit. She then connected with the chaplain while he was still on deployment.

The unique vision Roberts brings to the subject—as both a filmmaker and a

member of the unit being documented—provides the film with an original perspective and message, Fong said.

“That’s just crazy,” she said of the notion of a serving chaplain carrying a camera into combat. “That’s not what chaplains typically do.”

She couldn’t say no when Roberts asked for help producing the film.

As a photo journalist, Fong said she’s been documenting the lives and struggles of military members, veterans and their families for a decade. No Greater Love is right up there with the most moving accounts of war and its aftermath that she’s seen.

“It’s just so profound,” she said of the film she co-produced.

‘A critical thing’

Roberts said his lessons have also been profound.

Just before leaving for Afghanistan, Roberts said he asked a trusted first sergeant how he should conduct his ministry overseas. The non-commissioned officer, who didn’t particularly care for chaplains, advised him to stay near the action and to accompany each platoon on at least one patrol.

Roberts said he was able to ask that question, and get valuable advice, because he had gotten to know the man during months of responding to suicides or attempted suicides.

That relationship in turn helped him form relationships with other soldiers, which gave him a chance to intervene positively in their lives on deployment and back home.

“So connecting wasn’t a nice thing, it was a critical thing,” he said. “It saves lives.”

And it’s those kinds of connections military members, veterans and their families need from churches now, he said.

But it’s been a difficult undertaking at times, Roberts said.

“My encounter with the church when I got back has been strained because I keep on encountering pastors who are not intentionally reaching out to veterans,” said Roberts, who was raised Southern Baptist and attended Dallas Theological Seminary before entering the Army.

Some congregations are afraid to take on such ministries for fear that the difficulties working with combat veterans and the families can be overwhelming.

But those congregations could learn about faith from those served in military related ministries.

“I saw people with mixed relationships with God be willing to die for one another,” he said. “I have never seen that

in the church.”

Now Roberts is hoping that his film, with a late-summer target release in theaters, will convince churches to embrace those ministries.

“We could head off thousands of deaths (from suicide) and millions of issues,” he said.

Roberts said he is working with Cru Military, a ministry of Campus Crusade for Christ, to form a relational ministry structure that churches can plug into.

By the time the film hits theaters, viewers will see a number during the credits to which they can text donations.

The idea is that seeing the emotional and physical price soldiers and their families pay to wage war will open pocket-books and inspire ministry, he said.

“The great irony is that the one people group in our country who are in desperate need of help from the church and ministry, they are not a target for ministry,” Roberts said. “It’s not on the agenda.” (BNG)

Soldiers with the Screaming Eagles patrol in Afghanistan. “No Greater Love,” a new feature-length documentary uses combat footage shot in Afghanistan along with post-deployment interviews of troops and their families. (Photo by Justin Roberts)



Members of the 101st Airborne Div., including Chaplain Justin Roberts, right, in Afghanistan. (Photo by Daniel Byerly)

WESTERN Recorder
Shine like stars in the world.

Start your subscription plan today
Call us at (502) 489-3535

Individual & Gift Subscriptions:
\$17 each

Save more! Church Group Subscriptions:
\$11 each (5 or more)

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone (Day): _____

Email: _____

- ☐ Subscribing for myself
- ☐ Payment for gift subscription
- ☐ Gift subscription from:
- ☐ Yes! Sign me up for Western Recorder's FREE e-newsletter
- ☐ Tell me how to save my church money by printing its newsletter on back



Use share icon on your phone or tablet to add **WesternRecorder.org** to your home screen!

KENTUCKY CHANGERS

2016 Projects

Project Hopkinsville June 11-17

Project Calloway County June 18-24

Project Greensburg July 2-8

Project Frankfort July 9-15



kywmu.org/changers

A New Event for RA and Changers Leaders

KENTUCKY WILD CAMP

Wilderness Instruction & Leadership Development Camp
Frontiersman Level Training

May 20-22, 2016
Laurel Lake Baptist Camp

kywmu.org/wild

HERE
I AM SEND
ME.

ISAIAH 6:8

WEEK OF PRAYER FOR
North American Missions

March 6-13, 2016

Goal: \$70 Million

ANNIE ARMSTRONG
EASTER OFFERING



North American
Mission Board