Kentucky Notes
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pp. 7-10



By All Means
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May 3, 2016 — *Shine Like Stars* ✳ Philippians 2:15 — Volume 190, Issue 9



T4G speakers tout Reformation heritage

By Andrew Smith

Louisville—The legacy of the Protestant Reformation must endure in the doctrine and ministry of the church, speakers said at the 2016 Together for the Gospel conference in Louisville, April 12-14.

Nearly 500 years after Martin Luther ignited the Reformation in 1517, 10,000 attenders from 43 different countries and 20 denominations filled most of the KFC Yum! Center to hear preaching from Christian leaders typically identified with Reformed evangelicalism. More than 4,000 attenders self-identified as members of Southern Baptist churches.

Of the 10 plenary session speakers listed on the T4G website, at least five were Southern Baptists, including Southern Baptist Theological Seminary president Albert Mohler Jr. and International Mission Board President David Platt. Other Southern Baptist plenary speakers included Thabiti Anyabwile, Matt Chandler and Mark Dever.

Seven SBC entities exhibited at the conference: Southern Seminary, IMB, the Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission, LifeWay Christian Resources, Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary and Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary.

Mohler: The five 'Solas'

Mohler, co-founder of the T4G conference, said in his plenary address that the Protestant Reformation radically transformed the pastoral ministry, starting with Luther himself. The German monk rejected Johann Tetzel's selling of indulgences and eventually criticized the priesthood and papacy—key elements of the Roman Catholic Church.

"Justification by faith alone is not one doctrine among others," Mohler said of Luther's famous declaration that justification is the doctrine by which the church "stands or falls."

The five "Solas"—central Reformation principles each beginning in Latin with the word "sola" (alone)—"were not just slogans," Mohler said. "They were a

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Kentucky's senior citizens 'armored for victory'

By Myriah Snyder

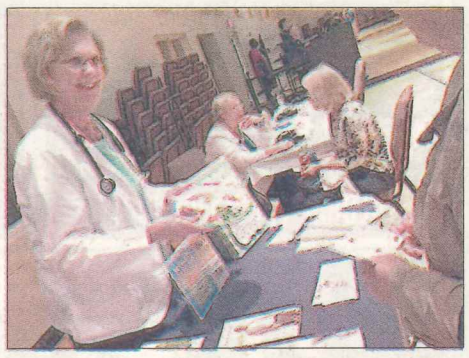
Louisville—On April 18, 19 and 21, more than 800 Kentucky Baptist senior adults gathered in Madisonville, Elizabethtown and Princeton for a time of fellowship and a reminder to be "Armored for Victory."

"The Senior Living Celebrations provide a time of inspiration, equipping, networking and fun for this awesome group that is invaluable in kingdom work," said Shelly Johns White, women's and senior adult consultant with the Kentucky Baptist Convention.

"Although many are retired, all are still needed in service to our Lord as we meet needs, spreading the gospel across Kentucky through our words and actions and living boldly for our Lord daily until we see Him face to face," she said.

"I want them to leave a bit more empowered and impassioned for the Lord," White added.

Each event consisted of a time of worship, a presentation by the Kentucky Baptist Foundation, who also provided breakfast for attenders, a message, workshops and a concert by Larnelle Harris.



Workshops topics included "You don't put on armor to sit on the couch," by Joy Bolton with Kentucky Woman's Missionary Union, focusing on engaging seniors in missions; "Let's get moving," providing guidance on how to make movement a part of daily routine, led by Janet Goodman; and "Navigating Medicare," led by John Nelson.

"God's plan for us is that when the battle is over, we will still be standing firm," Alan Whitham, Central Region consultant with the Kentucky Baptist Convention, told attenders at the Elizabethtown event held at Severns Valley

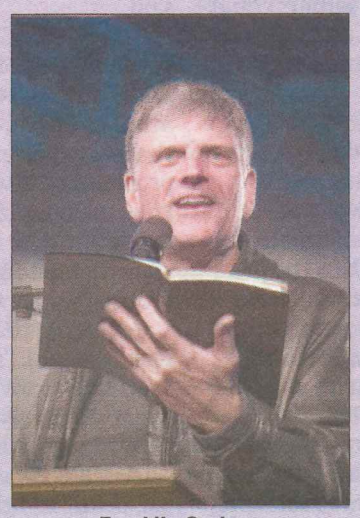
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Graham set to hold Frankfort prayer rally at the Capitol May 4

Frankfort—As a stop on his "Decision America Tour 2016," Franklin Graham, son of Billy Graham and president of Billy Graham Evangelistic Association, is holding a rally at the Capitol in Frankfort on Wednesday, May 4, at noon.

The rallies, held in many other states already, have seen sizable turnouts. The goal of the tour is to visit all 50 states, holding a prayer rally and preaching the gospel.

Graham is encouraging Christians to vote and to "to live out their faith in every part of their lives, and to pray for our nation just as Nehemiah cried out to God to rebuild the walls of Jerusalem and restore hope to His people," according to the BGEA's website.



Franklin Graham

"America is at a crossroads, and I believe we should take every opportunity to stand up for the things of God and His Word," Graham stated.

He refrains from endorsing candidates or having politicians speak at the rallies, choosing instead to encourage Christians to run for office and to vote for those who uphold biblical principles.

Kentucky Baptist Convention Executive Director Paul Chitwood urges "as many Kentucky Baptists as possible to attend this event and pray that the people of our state and nation wake up to their need for Jesus."

Illusionists to 'Engage' students with gospel

Louisville—With illusions and stunts, two evangelists plan to keep students hanging on every gospel-centered word at YEC Engage. The youth evangelism event, which aims to reach the 12-24 age group, will be held in Louisville May 13 at the Kentucky Expo Center.

"If you are looking for a unique way to reach today's younger generation with the gospel of Jesus, then I encourage you not to miss YEC Engage," said Andy McDonald, affinity evangelism strategist with the Kentucky Baptist Convention.

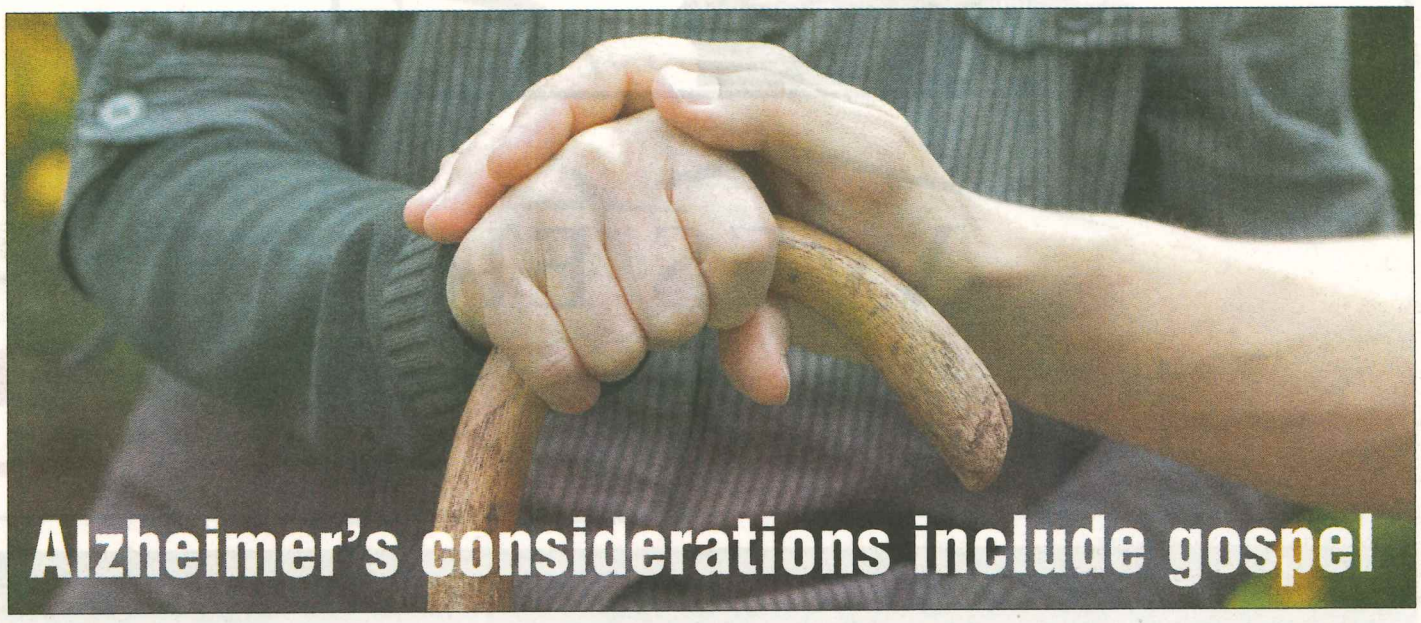
Christian illusionists Brock Gill and Zac Mirzadeh take the stage at 4 p.m. and 7:30 p.m.

"My passion is to provide an unusual way to present truth that will change a life," said Gill, who often uses dramatic stunts to illustrate the gospel message.

Gill was featured as the lead investigator in a documentary called "The Miracles of Jesus" produced by the British Broadcasting Company and Discovery Channel in 2005 and is known for his "bullet catch" stunt. Mirzadeh is a former Muslim who weaves his conversion story into an "experience that will instill wonder in the audience."

YEC Engage! is being held in conjunction with Centershot and National Archery in the Schools Program national tournaments at Louisville's Broadbent Arena. Those attending will have the opportunity to win a Genesis Bow.

The event is free and presented by the KBC through contributions from Kentucky Baptist churches to the Cooperative Program. To register, go to www.kbc.regfox.com/yec2016.



Alzheimer's considerations include gospel

By Erin Roach

Nashville—Alzheimer's disease grips millions of Americans with fear and hopelessness daily, yet the gospel can infuse a spiritual dynamic into the struggle, asserts a university psychologist and author. He suggests believers should prepare for the possibility that their lives could be upended by the increasingly common hardship.

"People will tell me beautiful stories of how their loved ones remembered the Lord even deep into dementia—sometimes through singing well-known hymns, reading familiar Bible passages or praying together," Benjamin Mast, author of "Second Forgetting: Remembering the Power of the Gospel During Alzheimer's Disease," told Baptist Press.

More than 5 million Americans are living with Alzheimer's—a type of dementia that causes problems with memory, thinking and behavior—and it's the sixth leading cause of death in the United States.

An elder at Sojourn Community Church in Louisville, Mast is a board-certified geropsychologist and associate professor and vice chair in the Department of Psychological and Brain Sciences at the University of Louisville.

"It's clear in Scripture that God remembers His people and takes care of them even when they have trouble remembering Him," Mast said.

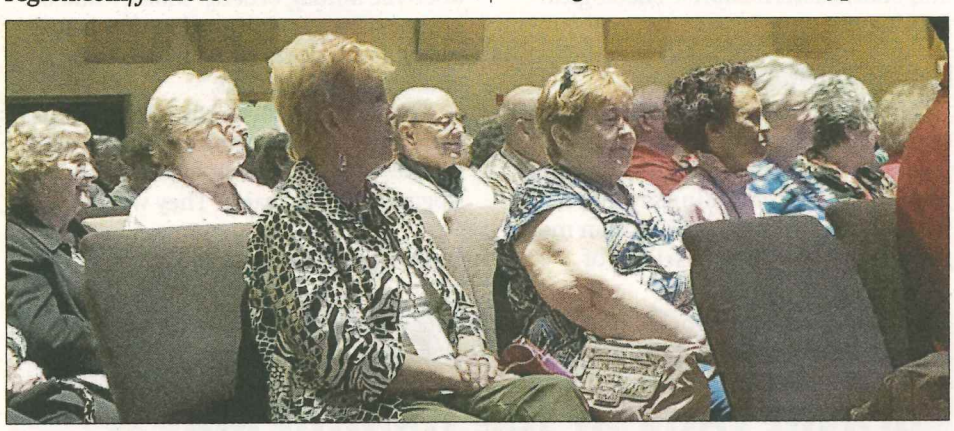
Tom James, pastor of Eastwood Baptist Church in Bowling Green, and a recent president of the Kentucky Baptist Convention, told Baptist Press what it's like walking through Alzheimer's with his wife Jan, a mother of three who is battling the disease at age 57.

DeeEdrah White, whose husband Kevin White is executive director of the Nevada Baptist Convention and whose mother died last year after a struggle with Alzheimer's, relayed some ways churches can minister to patients.

The title "Second Forgetting" refers to the way people, when devastated by Alzheimer's, risk forgetting the gospel's hope and power and can forget God as their comforter, provider and redeemer. Mast wrote the book to help those in the midst of the Alzheimer's journey experience the grace and love of Christ.

Short-term memory is the first thing "to go" when a person suffers from dementia, Mast notes in the book, but a person's deepest and most treasured memories tend to stay with them longer. For this reason, believers need to hear the gospel every day, he says.

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Seniors

Continued from page 1

Baptist Church.

He shared five ways that seniors could arm themselves for victory, using David's encounter with Goliath as an example, drawing from 1 Samuel 17.

"We arm ourselves for victory by being faithful, when we find encouragement from the Lord in spite of the discouragement from others, when we remember the faithfulness of God in the past which bolsters our faith in the present, when we fight with spiritual armor, and when we realize we are not fighting for victory, but from victory," he said.

David obeyed his father with the "routine disciplines of his daily life." Whitham continued. "Because he was faithful in his daily responsibilities and his spiritual disciplines, he was able to hear what was going on. He was attune spiritually to what was going on."

David was discouraged by those who should have been encouraging him, his brother and his king. He was told he was too young. "Most of us would like to hear that we're too young," Whitham joked.

"The armies of Israel were thinking, 'He's too big to hit.' David was thinking by faith, 'He's too big to miss,'" Whitham said.

"David saw Goliath and he saw that battle through the eyes of the Lord," he said. "The scripture calls us to have the mind of Christ, to view the challenges that we experience in life, to view the problems that we encounter in life, to view the temptations that we encounter in life with the mind of Christ, and to view them in light of the truth of the Word of God."

Asserting that Jesus is "our champion," he said, "On the cross of Calvary, Jesus was victorious. Through the empty tomb, Jesus was victorious."

Whitham concluded, "It is because of Christ, it is because of His victory over sin, death and the grave we can stand firm until the battle is over."

Senior Living Celebration is an annual event hosted by the Kentucky Baptist Convention. The event dates for 2017 are May 1, 2 and 4. (WR)



SBC ST. LOUIS

'Awaken America, reach the world'



By Shawn Hendricks

St. Louis, Mo.—When Southern Baptists depart St. Louis after their annual meeting in June, says SBC president Ronnie Floyd, he will be praying they do so with a "deep burden for our nation, a new commitment to racial unity and an extraordinary commitment to evangelize America."

With the theme of this year's June 14-15 gathering being "Awaken America: Reach the World—Agree, Unite, Pray," Floyd continues to point to passionate prayer as a critical tool for a "nationwide and global spiritual awakening."

"I pray that our SBC messengers encounter the living God through moments of worship, preaching, challenge and prayer," Floyd said.

For the second year, Floyd will lead a Tuesday evening session devoted to prayer. "A National Call to Prayer for Spiritual Leadership" will feature a diverse group of Southern Baptist leaders and pastors with special guests Keith and Kristyn Getty.

Floyd has also invited African American pastor Jerry Young, who is president of the National Baptist Convention, USA, Inc., to participate in the evening session. Young also will be among the speakers at a special session, "A National Conversation on Racial Unity in America," that will take place that morning.

Floyd described St. Louis as "one of America's significant cities."

"With the racial unrest in St. Louis due to what happened in Ferguson in August of 2014, Southern Baptists will have a strong opportunity to represent Christ through Crossover ministry in the city," Floyd said of the annual evangelism outreach event that takes place each year in the annual meeting's host city. They also have an opportunity to "speak to the racial challenges that face not only St. Louis, but our entire nation."

He noted, "I believe we will leave St. Louis with a powerful, strong, clear and encouraging testimony of the need for loving one another, regardless of the color of one's skin."

Election

As Floyd wraps up his second and final term as SBC president in June, messengers will elect a new leader. At least three candidates are expected to be nominated for SBC president: North Carolina pastor J.D. Greear, Tennessee pastor Steve Gaines and Louisiana pastor David Crosby.

Florida pastor Jimmy Scroggins announced in March 2 that Greear will be nominated for president.

Scroggins noted, for 14 years Greear has pastored The Summit Church in Raleigh-Durham, N.C. During that time, worship attendance has grown from 350 to just under 10,000, Scroggins said. Total baptisms increased from 19 in 2002 to 928 in 2014, the last year for which statistics are available through the SBC's Annual Church Profile. Greear served two years with the International Mission Board before being called to The Summit.

Former SBC President Johnny Hunt announced a week later that Gaines will be nominated for SBC president.

During the 11 years Gaines has pastored the Memphis-area Bellevue Baptist Church in Cordova, Tenn., the congregation has averaged 481 baptisms per year, according to the SBC's Annual Church Profile. Previously, he pastored churches in Alabama, Tennessee and Texas.

Former SBC President Fred Luter announced later that Crosby will also be nominated as SBC president.

Crosby has pastored First Baptist Church in New Orleans for the past 20 years. The congregation has averaged 658 in worship and 24 baptisms annually over the past five years, according to ACP. Crosby has served a variety of leadership roles at the association, state convention and SBC levels.

Proposals

Messengers gathering in St. Louis will consider a variety of recommendations during the annual meeting. Among them:

• a recommendation amending SBC Bylaw 26 regarding questions to SBC entity leaders from the floor during the annual meeting. The recommendation is intended to provide consistency in the time allotted to ask questions.

• a one-time transfer of funds from the North American Mission Board (NAMB) to the International Mission Board to assist IMB personnel leaving the board during its "organizational reset."

• a new name for Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary. If messengers give approval to the name change, the new name will be Gateway Seminary of the Southern Baptist Convention. To take effect, the bylaw amendment, which was approved during last year's annual meeting in Columbus, Ohio, must be approved again in St. Louis.

SBC app

Messengers to the annual meeting once again can stay updated by using the "SBC Annual Meetings" mobile application. The app includes a listing of speakers, as well as the daily program schedule, daily events, exhibitor listing, convention center maps, 2016 Book of Reports and more. Download the app by accessing the App Store, Google Play, or by visiting http://m.coreapps.com/sbc_am2016.

Other highlights

• With the theme "Live This!" the June 12-13 Pastors' Conference will welcome pastors and their wives for a two-day event of preaching, worship and prayer at the convention center.

Southern Baptist Pastors' Conference president John Meador said pastors need to heed Scripture's call to "do the work of an evangelist." Among this year's scheduled speakers: International Mission Board president David Platt, LifeWay Research executive director Ed Stetzer and pastors Greg Laurie, Jack Graham, James MacDonald, Byron McWilliams, Noah Oldham and Jimmy Scroggins. To learn more about this year's schedule, sponsors and theme, visit sbcpc.net.

• The SBC annual meeting will feature a joint "Sending Celebration" as the International Mission Board and North American Mission Board celebrate overseas missionaries and North American church planters, along with their sending churches, as they answer God's call to plant churches and make disciples in the U.S. and around the world. The Sending Celebration at America's Center in St. Louis will display how God has a place for every church—and every Christian—to be on mission with Him, for His glory.

• The North American Mission Board will officially launch Send Relief during the Send Luncheon held at noon on June 13 at The Dome at America's Center. Luncheon attendees will hear stories of how churches throughout North America are meeting needs as they engage their communities with the gospel. To obtain a free ticket for the event, visit www.namb.net/sendluncheon. SBC attendees can also learn how their churches can become more involved in church planting.

• Anita Renfroe, a popular Christian comedian and communicator, will be the keynote speaker of two of three events for ministers' wives attending the annual meeting. The trio of women's events, based on the theme, "Be Encouraged," will include a Pastors' Wives Conference, a Ministers' Wives Luncheon and a Women's Expo.

Resolutions

Messengers planning to propose resolutions must submit them no later than 15 days prior to the annual meeting. Resolutions may be submitted online but must be followed up by a letter of credentials from the submitter's church. (BP)

Credentials, Tellers committees, parliamentarians announced

St. Louis—Southern Baptist Convention President Ronnie Floyd has announced appointees to the 2016 Credentials and Tellers committees.

Appointed co-chairmen of the Credentials Committee are Jeff Crawford, teaching pastor of the Fayetteville campus of Cross Church in northwest, Ark., and Chris Johnson, senior pastor of First Baptist Church, Van Buren, Ark.

Among the committee members is Matthew McCraw, minister of missional outreach at First Baptist Church of Henderson, Ky.

Brandon Park, pastor First Baptist Church in Rayton, Mo., and A.B. Vines, pastor of New Seasons Church in Spring Valley, Calif., will co-chair the Tellers Committee.

Serving as a teller from Kentucky will be Justin Compton, lead pastor of Redemption Hill Baptist Church in Fishersville.

Floyd also named parliamentarians for the SBC 2016 Annual Meeting in St. Louis.

Chief parliamentarian Barry McCarty, who began his service under the SBC presidency of Charles Stanley in 1986, will be honored for his long-time service to the SBC.

Two Kentuckians are among those serving as assistant parliamentarians: Adam Greenway, dean of the Billy Graham School of Missions, Evangelism and Ministry at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary; and Amy Whitfield, Southern Baptist Theological Seminary director of communications. (BP)

Pastors' Conference to spotlight evangelism

By David Roach

St. Louis—Southern Baptist Pastors' Conference president John Meador didn't choose the "Live This!" theme of this year's sessions in St. Louis.

He said it was burned on his heart several years ago as God convinced him through study of 2 Timothy 4:5-6 that he had not been leading his church in evangelism and that he—along with fellow pastors—needed to heed Scripture's call to "do the work of an evangelist."

Naturally, when he was elected Pastors' Conference president, that passage became the theme Scripture for the June 12-13 gathering. It reads in full, "But as for you, be serious about everything, endure hardship, do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry. For I am already being poured out as a drink offering, and the time for my departure is close."

Meador, pastor of First Baptist Church of Euless, Texas, said he does "not believe pastors across America understand those verses."

"I don't think I understood them until a few years ago," Meador said, when "God convicted me that ... I had not been doing that for close to 30 years. I had personally practiced (evangelism), but I hadn't equipped our people."

So Meador trained more than 600 adults to share the gospel over the past two years, with results he called "invigorating." He hopes ministers leave this year's conference with a similar drive to equip their congregations and with similar powerful results to follow.

The Pastors' Conference will feature preaching, worship and prayer to undergird the ministry of pastors and their

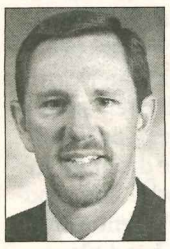
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Easy math: 98 + 2 = 100

The following is a guest post from KBC Mission Strategist Doug Williams.

Jesus' commission to make disciples of all nations is clear. Is the church today commissioned to simply send long-term missionaries, or might there be room for short-term missions teams, too? I offer eight reasons why the church should include short-term missions as part of its strategy.

Together
We are the KBC



Paul Chitwood

1. Jesus commanded us to make disciples locally and globally (Matthew 28:16-20; Acts 1:8). The Scriptures do not give us an option of whether we make disciples here or there; it's both/and.

2. There is more work than workers (Matthew 9:37-38). Jesus tells us to pray to send workers into the harvest. Every country where I am privileged to share in disciple-making, I hear from NAMB and IMB missionaries that they need more partners, not just the traditional long-term personnel, but short-term teams as well.

3. Volunteer missionaries can be a source of encouragement for long-term missionaries (Acts 14:19-23). Every gospel minister needs someone to come alongside as a source of encouragement. Weariness easily sets in, and missionaries need to know they are not alone.

4. We can accomplish more together than we can alone (Matthew 10:5). Cooperation is more than our dollars; it includes our effort. As Jesus discipled His followers, He sent them together. Jesus planned for multiplication of impact. He knew that impact required teamwork.

5. Volunteer missions work is a farm system for long-term missions (Acts 13:1-3). Throughout his missionary journeys, the Apostle Paul consistently brought others with him. Often they were short-term.

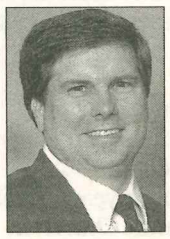
6. Volunteer missions work opens our eyes to the need of the gospel worldwide (Matthew 9:36). In looking over the crowds, Jesus is moved with compassion that leads to action. Staying in our comfortable bubbles isolates us from the reality of a world desperately in need of the Savior. Going somewhere else allows us to see a world filled with people who have real hurts and needs.

7. Volunteer missions work is a way to disciple (2 Timothy 2:2). Paul taught Timothy who taught faithful men who taught others. Short-term missions offers a platform for discipleship. Taking people out of their comfort zones and into the world is a crucible for Jesus to work.

8. Because 98 + 2 = 100. People often say, "Why should we go there when people need Jesus here?" People need Jesus everywhere. Why can't I make disciples where I live 98 percent of the year and give 2 percent of the year to making disciples over "there"? It's not hard math: 98 + 2 = 100.

Short-term missions should be part of making disciples locally and globally for the glory of God.

Look up in the sky ... it's a glowing message



After Thought

By Todd Deaton

Last Friday evening, my family went to see the "Balloon Glow," a Kentucky Derby event at the Expo Center. My kids tell me that their grandfather took them to see a Balloon Glow when they were little, but neither Michelle nor I recall ever having seen the beautiful spectacle.

For the uninitiated, two dozen or more hot air balloons anchor on the lawn, and after dark, they light up when pilots send gas flames upward inside them. It's a fantastic sight!

Hot air balloons were the first human-carrying flight inventions, according to Wikipedia. The first balloon flown in the United States, was launched in January 1793 from the Walnut Street Jail in Philadelphia by an early French aeronaut, Jean Pierre Blanchard. During the Civil War and WWI, balloons were said to have been used to observe battle formations and troop movements.

Today, they are mostly used commercially and come in various shapes and sizes—even resembling a peanut and cartoon characters. It's a gorgeous show to observe the balloon races during rush hour the day before the Balloon Glow or on the morning after, as they float gracefully above the Louisville skyline.

During a Balloon Glow, there are two basic calls: "All Twinkle" and "All Glow." With cameras at the ready, observers wait for pilots to make the colorful balloons appear to twinkle as they send short bursts of a flame streaming upward. This wondrous spectacle is best captured on video since some balloons will be lit while others are dark.

An "All Glow," however, is exactly what it sounds like. Pilots ignite their burners longer, so all of the balloons light up simultaneously. Kids eyes light up, too, with amazement!

Captivated for nearly an hour in a crowd of 75,000 onlookers, several thoughts raced across my bedazzled mind. On the side of each balloon was an advertisement for a sponsor—banks, fitness clubs, fast-food restaurants, hospitals, department stores, realtors, insurance agencies, auto-parts companies, even dentistry offices. Barely visible in the dark and somewhat difficult to see during an all twinkle, messages lit up the night during an all glow.

How does the gospel's message shine in your life? Does it flicker? Or, glow brightly? Whose message do we mostly advertise? Christ's? Or, some other worldly endeavor's? Hmmm ... What if Kentucky Baptists and other Christian groups entered a balloon that carried a message of God's wondrous love for all derby-goers to see? Imagine viewing His message aglow or floating high in the sky!

Pastor David Prince and the members of Ashland Baptist Church in Lexington have penned an excellent resource for family devotions, "Jesus the Hero." One of the devotions expounds upon Matthew 4:12-16 with an observation of how in darkness a big flashlight can shine a long way.

"In the Bible, long ago ... God promised the land of Galilee would see a great light. That's Jesus!" the writer explains. "Just as a bright light (or a balloon) is for shining a long distance in darkness, the light of Jesus should be shared with people all over the world living in the darkness of sin." How will we do it today?

Why mothers are so important

By Dorothy Patterson

FIRST PERSON

Molding minds, healing spirits, nurturing bodies and developing potential—this job can be amazingly productive and rewarding.

For a mother, rearing her children is her mission, life's work, the opportunity for her greatest legacy.

You cannot pay a woman to do what mothers do for free. A mother loses much of her privacy and sometimes experiences radical changes to her lifestyle. Children may bring disappointments and sorrows.

A mother's rewards are not materialistic benefits that fade but intangible rewards of blessings and honor that will last through eternity.

The home is essential for the production of moral, social and human capital—the workforces and visionary leaders needed for the future. This process, when done with excellence, cannot be short-circuited, mechanized or standardized.

I want to challenge mothers to complete dedication to becoming family-obsessed in the sense of being passionately devoted to the high and holy task of preparing the next generation. What a difference could be made if suddenly the home and family, and especially the children, could be treated with the same importance as other professional pursuits.

Remember:

• You are equipped to be a "life bearer"—to conceive, carry and nurture the beginning of life. A mother's exclusive role in procreation and her unique human tie with her offspring position her to extend her influence far beyond the family circle. She plays a major role in establishing the values and character not only of her children but also of a nation.

• You are appointed to be the rock of strength and haven of protection for your vulnerable children. A mother who is anchored in her own faith and whose character is settled in her own life is going to be a formidable influence on her offspring. Knowing that someone cares for him and is committed to him above every earthly endeavor gives a child confidence for whatever obstacles he may face and serves as a mooring in the storms of life.

• You have the opportunity to lay the foundation for all learning. Hands-on, custom training is the order of the day for serious developmental training of the child. The teaching of physical coordination and informal social interaction includes learning first by practicing communication in simple practical ways through ordinary conversation between mother and child.

• You have the opportunity to make your children feel that home is the happiest and best place in all the world. By her own attitude and efforts, a mother regulates the internal policies of her home. Her daughters have the opportunity to model themselves after her example, and her sons can be inspired by her quiet but consistent encouragement; both daughters and sons are directed by her counsel and her virtues.

The home is the toughest workplace of all with unrelenting and even unreasonable demands. A mother seems to be on call 24 hours a day without a basic wage, much less any overtime. The work may be physically, emotionally and mentally draining—or even boring at times. A mother may not be recognized or thanked for her selfless labor.

Mothers who devote their primary energies and creativities and the bulk of their time to rearing their children do indeed work, but they are not paid in dollars. Their rewards rest in the seedbed of their own hearts with lasting memories of their investment in the lives of those whom they love most in the world.

The best present I have given my children has been my presence in their lives. The best present they have given me is wrapped up in who they have become, the roles they have taken in their own respective homes and the contributions they are making in the lives of their own families, friends and even with the strangers who cross their paths. They continue to be a joy to my life, and because of their commitment to Christ, they will be my brightest crowns to place at the feet of the blessed Jesus. (BP)

Dorothy Kelley Patterson is professor of theology in women's studies at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary and wife of the seminary's president, Paige Patterson.

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Letters to the editor:

The Baptist Forum section of the Western Recorder provides an opportunity for Kentucky Baptists to express their viewpoints. Opinions expressed do not necessarily reflect those of the Western Recorder's editorial staff, its Board of Directors, or the Kentucky Baptist Convention. Letters should be no more than 300 words in length and will be edited for style, clarity and space. Letters must reflect a spirit of Christian charity and civility.

BAPTIST FORUM

Baptist leader says overeating occupational hazard for pastors

By Roger Alford

Barbourville–Seymour Wattenbarger isn't nearly the man he once was.

Physically speaking.

A year ago, Wattenbarger tipped the scales at 325 pounds, but a healthy diet has allowed the 76-year-old Baptist preacher to trim down significantly.

He's shed 75 pounds—and counting.

"My clothes didn't fit me," he said. "My suits were too small. I felt terrible. My doctor informed me that I had crossed the line into diabetes. I made up my mind the weight had to come off."

Now, Wattenbarger, director of missions for the Knox Association of Baptists, is warning other preachers that they need to be careful to avoid one of the chief occupational hazards of their jobs—overeating.

Facing schedules heavy on weekday luncheons, Sunday afternoon dinners and endless potluck meals, it's easy to add inches to the waistband. Studies have found more than 75 percent of American preachers are overweight or downright obese.

Wattenbarger said Kentucky Baptists often joke about their food consumption, but, he says, it's no laughing matter.

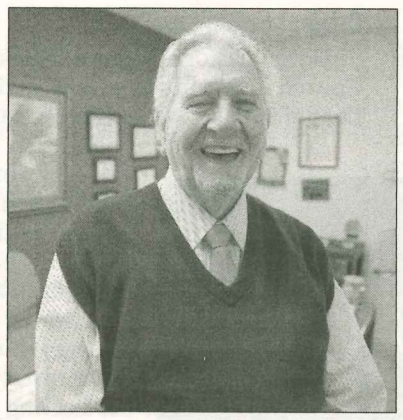
"Our pastors are digging their graves with their teeth," he said. "We tend to eat, eat, eat. I've been known to eat a whole pie myself in years past."

Wattenbarger went on a low-carb diet when he walked out of his doctor's office last year. Three months later, his blood sugar level was in the normal range. His blood pressure was down. His triglycerides and cholesterol plummeted.

"My energy level went up," he said. "I feel so much better. Inch by inch, anything's a cinch."

Wattenbarger is challenging other pastors to follow his lead. He's convinced healthy diets will translate into more souls saved, because preachers will have more energy for evangelistic efforts, whether one-on-one or in worship settings.

Christians across the country have begun focusing on better eating habits, in part thanks to books like The Daniel Plan that was co-written by



Seymour Wattenbarger, Knox Association of Baptists director of missions, has lost 75 pounds. (Photo by Roger Alford)

Rick Warren, founder of the Saddleback megachurch in Lake Forest, Calif. Warren has said in interviews that he realized the need for such a book because of his own weight problems and those of his Saddleback church members.

The Daniel Plan quickly became a New York Times bestseller. The book's name is from the Old Testament hero who refused the standard table fare of the Babylonian empire, opting to make fruits and vegetables his primary food source.

Wattenbarger, who believes the key to his weight loss has been to avoid carbohydrates, recalls the day 11 years ago when his poor eating habits first caught up with him.

"I was dizzy," he said. "My ears were ringing. My speech was slurred. I couldn't stand up. I couldn't walk. All I could do was dry heave."

Wattenbarger was rushed to a local hospital where his self-diagnosis was confirmed. He had had a stroke.

Though he came home on a walker, Wattenbarger quickly rebounded and was soon back in the pulpit. That close call didn't significantly alter his diet, at least not long term.

It was the realization that he faced insulin injections that finally got his attention.

"All these suppers, all these homecomings, all these potlucks had caught up with me," he said. "And they'll catch up with all preachers sooner or later unless they're careful." (KT)

Six risks that can spoil your retirement plans

FINANCIAL FORUM

Don Spencer

Adequate planning for retirement is critical. That planning should factor in numerous risks that retirees may face. Here are six risks that often overlooked.

1. Longevity Risk—Everyone is aware that we are living longer than previous generations. Retirement planning and lifestyle decisions made in the year just prior to retirement and in the early years of retirement should factor in this risk. Bad choices will compound into major problems as one gets older.

2. Frailty Risk—Some folks use creative strategies for withdrawing retirement funds. These can work well but require continued monitoring. What happens if someone's frailty causes them to be unable to make needed changes to their plans? This risk should be considered.

3. Forced Retirement Risk—You may plan to work until "full-retirement age." But what happens if health conditions make it necessary to retire early? Will your income and assets be sufficient to meet basic needs if that happens? Too many who are forced to retire early due to disability find their financial resources are totally inadequate. Plan for this possibility with adequate disability insurance and increased savings.

4. Loss of Spouse Risk—Survivor benefits should be considered. Too often income sources are cut in half but the basic living expenses continue to be nearly the same. The last thing a widow or widower needs is undue concerns about adequate income after the death of a spouse.

5. Legacy Risk—The need for adequate income during one's life often needs to be balanced with the desire to leave assets for children and grandchildren. Some benefit approaches provide maximum income in retirement but leave nothing for heirs. Other approaches maximize benefits for the heirs but do not provide adequate retirement income. One should consider these competing issues.

6. Health Care and Long-Term Care Risks—This involves many unknowns about the future. Health care costs continue to rise at a rate much higher than overall inflation. Add to this the increased need of medical care as one ages. On average, there is a 50/50 chance you will need nursing home care in your lifetime. The need of more medical care at higher costs must be factored into retirement planning.

Alzheimer's

Continued from page 2

"Despite the effect of the curse upon our physical bodies, (believers with Alzheimer's) remain children of God," Mast writes.

One particular man with dementia, Mast recounts, became somewhat belligerent, believing he was being held against his will. "As the staff considered how to address this problem, one remembered that he was a Christian and suggested that someone read the Bible with him," Mast writes.



Tom James

"... As I sat next to him and read the Bible, the anger melted away. Soon, he was nodding in agreement with the words of God, whispering, 'That's right ... mmm hmm.' ... For him, God's Word was an anchor in the storm of his confusion. Reminded of the Lord's goodness, he experienced peace."

Mast writes, "By choosing how to live now, we are making choices about how we will live in the future.... Do you have a habit of daily prayer and Scripture reading? In developing godly habits we make them a part of who we are and embed them in our souls and procedural memory systems."

A caregiver's perspective

James, the Kentucky pastor, has met Mast and told BP he benefited from his medical knowledge and pastoral perspective. James and his wife have been married for 31 years. Jan, who he described as the ideal pastor's wife, was diagnosed with Alzheimer's last year.

"They call Alzheimer's the long goodbye, and it's true," James said. "Each day it seems like you lose just a little bit of them, and if you're not careful you'll spend your time dwelling on all of the plans that have gone by the wayside."

James has learned how important it is to minister to caregivers, he said, because "we have no idea what goes on when people go home." He prays for patience.

"What happens is you find yourself getting frustrated with the person with the disease and then you get frustrated with yourself because you recognize that they can't help it," James said.

Keeping up communication with an Alzheimer's patient is important, James advised church members. "Keep talking to them. Just accept that that's who they are. I think sometimes we're afraid that we'll ask something or say something that might hurt them. So what ends up happening is they get hurt because people treat them differently and nobody talks to them."

For a caregiver, don't ask. Just do something, James said. "If you ask a caregiver, 'Is there anything I can do?' they're going to tell you no or, 'I don't know.' Just find something that you can do for them—cutting their grass, bringing them a meal, arranging for someone to sit with their loved one so they can go do whatever they want."

Since his wife's diagnosis, a church member has spent every Tuesday with her, taking her to the women's prayer meeting, taking her to lunch and just hanging out with her, James said.

Though the Alzheimer's trial is devastating, James emphasized he made a vow to his wife and the Lord when they married: "in sickness and in health"—never thinking this would happen. "A pastor friend made a statement to me one time: You love your spouse based on their position, not their performance," he said.

White said she was more able to see that her mother was created in the image of God as the disease took its toll.

"As she became less herself the more clearly I could see that she was His creation, not for what she could do but for who she belonged to," White told BP. "The last time we saw her, we wheeled her into the day room where they were having a church service and singing. She was trying to participate, and that image brought that thought to mind."

White commended her mother's church, Bethel Baptist Church in West Plains, Mo., as a great example of how to minister to a person with Alzheimer's.

"They really worked at including her. They brought her into Sunday School class," White said. "Of course, she wasn't combative or given to outbursts, but what she said didn't really make sense. They just would let her talk and then go to the next person. ... They made visits and sent meals and tried to help with cleaning and things that she had given up doing."

Shortly before her mother died, White got the idea to put up a bulletin board in her room at the assisted living facility to show some of the things her mother did before she was sick.

"I feel like the caregivers need to know that's a person who did all of these things," White said. "That's an important thing to honor."

For more information on walking the Alzheimer's path from a Christian perspective, visit benjaminmast.com. (BP)

Together

Continued from page 1

matter of life and death. Without those Solas, there is no gospel."

The five *Solas*, translated into English, are: by Scripture alone, by faith alone, by grace alone, through Christ alone and glory to God alone.

Preaching from Colossians 1, Mohler noted the fundamental issue of the Reformation was the nature of the gospel, and that has not changed in 500 years.

"The key question that drove Luther to his knees," Mohler said, "... the key issue that led him to flee the altar in what was supposed to be his first mass, the key issue that was behind his nailing of the 95 Theses to the door is this: How are sins forgiven? And Colossians 1 declares these sins are forgiven in Christ."

Platt: Faith of martyrs

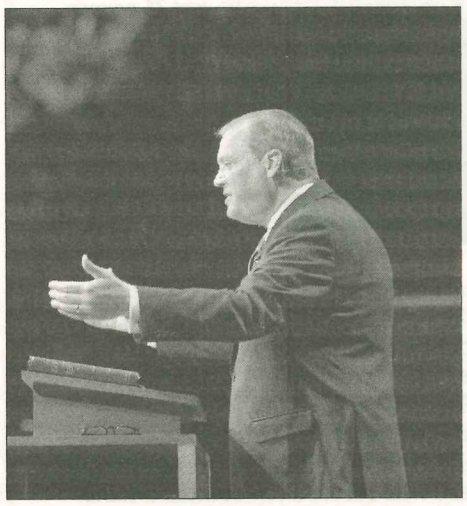
Platt preached on the martyrdom of English Reformers, including William Tyndale and John Rogers, who were persecuted for translating the Bible. They were able to endure death at the burning stake, Platt said, because they knew the greatness of their forgiveness from God.

"Your perspective of earthly embers changes when you've been saved from an eternal inferno," Platt said.

With thousands of unreached people groups around the world, many of them without a Bible translated into their native language, Platt urged believers to consider what price they are called to pay for the spread of the gospel. Following the example of Tyndale and Rogers, Christians should boldly speak the gospel despite opposition, he said.

"The martyrs didn't die because they believed this gospel; they died because they were proclaiming this gospel," Platt said.

Chandler: Courage to endure



Albert Mohler, Jr.

Chandler, pastor of The Village Church in Flower Mound, Texas, and president of the Acts 29 Network, said a healthy awe of God fuels a believer's endurance through personal trials and public opposition.

"Thin, flat pictures of God will not sustain with the courageous force of a big, deep, beautiful, border-line-frightening, glorious God," Chandler said. "If you preach Him flat, if you preach Him small, if you preach Him worried ... your people will not be bold."

Preaching from Romans 11:33-36, Chandler said Christians can have absolute confidence in God's wisdom and provision.

"Christian courage, inflamed and informed by the glory of God, will be the undoing of every empire but the Kingdom of God," Chandler said. "Brothers, be fearless to preach the fullness of the character of God."

Dever: Lasting joys

Dever, pastor of Capitol Hill Baptist Church in Washington, D.C., and president of 9Marks, said pastors are tempted to place too much value on worldly achievements like large worship attendance. Instead, he challenged attenders to value the slow, lasting joys of pastoral ministry over the fleeting joys of the spotlight.

"Things that may first appear to be the kind of nourishing joys that we need to live on may in fact not be," Dever said. "In fact, they can deprive us of the discipline we need to find our joys where we should."

Anyabwile: Saving grace

Anyabwile, pastor of Anacostia River Church in Washington, D.C., walked through Romans 3:21-26, noting that the glory of saving grace shines brighter when perceived out of the darkness of the fallen human condition.

"If we can comprehend something of the ugliness of sin, then we can, against that dark backdrop, see something of the beauty of justification," Anyabwile said.

Because of God's saving love, Anyabwile said, Christians can have absolute confidence in their final deliverance.

"Before time began, God decided that He would save us, not because of anything we did, but because of what His Son did," Anyabwile said. "Because His Son did it, it can never be controverted, it can never be subverted, it can never be taken away for those who trust in Christ."

The conference also featured plenary messages from Ligon Duncan, chancellor of Reformed Theological Seminary in Jackson, Miss.; C.J. Mahaney, pastor of Sovereign Grace Church of Louisville; John MacArthur, pastor of Grace Community Church in Sun Valley, Calif.; John Piper, founder of Desiring God; and Kevin DeYoung, pastor of University Reformed Church in East Lansing, Mich.

Mohler presented a breakout session, "Nowhere to Hide? Facing the Reality of the Secular Movement" and was on a panel with Duncan and MacArthur on the need for seminary education.

James Hamilton, professor of biblical theology at Southern Seminary, spoke about the role of biblical theology in a pastor's study of Scripture.

The 2016 Together for the Gospel conference was the sixth iteration of the biennial event, which started in 2006 under the leadership of Mohler, Mahaney, Duncan and Dever. (BP)

After finding God in Gitmo, Army vet reunites with military chaplain for T4G

By Craig Sanders

Louisville—Nearly two years after his military chaplain baptized him in one of the world's most spiritually dark places, Illinois police officer and Army veteran Scott Carter reunited with Southern Seminary alumnus Raymond Lowdermilk at the April 12-14 Together for the Gospel biennial conference for what he described as a "glimpse of heaven."

Carter, a patrol officer near Chicago, was deployed to the Guantanamo Bay detention camp with the 339th Military Police Company in January 2014. Working first as a camp block sergeant and then as an operations sergeant, Carter supervised guards and Gitmo detainees.

But Carter said he felt overwhelmed at times seeing dangerous war criminals detained for terrorism, which constantly reminded him of the 9/11 attacks he witnessed on TV the day his now 14-year-old twins were born.

"It's physically dark because you're looking through tinted glass," Carter said. "But it's so spiritually dark in there, it's draining—that's what led me to the chapel."

It was there on a Sunday he met Lowdermilk, serving a deployment as an Army 1st lieutenant chaplain for the Joint Detention Group. Lowdermilk said shortly after he invited Carter to a Wednesday night service, "I don't think I could keep him out of the chapel."

Soon, Lowdermilk and Carter were attending an open-air barracks Bible study with nearly 20 other soldiers and meeting as often as five nights a week for fellowship events.

"The level of community was so intense, not only did we see six get baptized, when people left they would leave being deployed as missionaries to their home churches," said Lowdermilk, now an Air Force chaplain stationed at the Eielson Air Force Base in Alaska. "Their theological understanding, their growth in the Lord had never been as intense, accurate or relevant."

Raised as a nominal Lutheran, Carter says no one ever explained to him that salvation came "by faith alone, through grace alone, in Christ alone" until Lowdermilk shared the gospel with him.

"I was so worried about legalities of religion—I haven't done this or I haven't done that," Carter said. "I was actually avoiding church because of legalities. And when he explained to me I didn't need that—wow. ... I couldn't get enough."

Lowdermilk baptized Carter in Guantanamo Bay on June 29, 2014, a day Carter said was filled with "glorious tears" as he shared his testimony before the other soldiers. Since returning to Illinois, Carter joined a Baptist church nearby and enrolled at Liberty University online to complete his bachelor's degree.

After more than two decades spent saving lives as a police officer, soldier, firefighter and paramedic, Carter now senses a call to save souls as a minister and hopes to pursue his Master of Divinity at Southern.

Lowdermilk, who graduated with his M.Div. in biblical counseling from Southern Seminary in December 2012, said he recognizes a "huge" opportunity for ministry in the military. Lowdermilk says he never has to compromise his convictions as a Southern Baptist chaplain and "continually contends for the sufficiency of Scripture in counseling, preaching and teaching."



Scott Carter (left) and Raymond Lowdermilk (right) on the campus of Southern Seminary. (SBTS Photo by Emil Handke)

During his ministry in Gitmo, Lowdermilk explained the biblical instructions for pastors and encouraged soldiers to depend on the Holy Spirit for guidance and not on a chaplain. At the end of his deployment in August 2014, Lowdermilk said he and Carter made a promise to reunite at T4G in 2016.

In the week they spent together in Louisville revisiting some of the same truths Carter first learned in Gitmo, Lowdermilk says the sixth biennial conference—focusing on what it means to be a Protestant—reinforced teachings on biblical manhood and the nature of grace.

One of those key lessons was from a three-week sermon series he preached on heaven while in Guantanamo Bay. The beauty of Christian friendships, Lowdermilk said, is how those relationships will continue for eternity. His reunion with Carter for the conference illustrated that truth, as well as the massive gathering in Louisville's KFC Yum! Center.

Carter agreed: "Ten thousand believers singing those hymns at the conference. What a glimpse of heaven." (SBTS)

Kentucky Notes
missions for life®

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 Reaching Kentucky and the World for Christ

The mission statement of the Kentucky Baptist Convention states that the KBC was "created by churches, for churches, to help churches reach Kentucky and the world for Christ." By providing a variety of missions opportunities, we seek to do our part to fulfill this vision. The events planned by Kentucky WMU are not simply state events we want you to attend. Rather, they are avenues to help churches reach Kentucky and the world for Christ.


Joy Bolton

In June we will kick off four weeks of Kentucky Changers. Participants come together from Kentucky Baptist churches to share the love of Jesus with people who need help with exterior home repairs. While Kentucky WMU is the organizer of these projects, it is churches who come to participate. Thus in 2016 Kentucky Changers will be an avenue for churches to reach Hopkinsville, Calloway County, Greensburg, and Frankfort for Christ.

In June Kentucky WMU will also sponsor Mission Adventure for Kentucky Kids. Through MAKK, churches bring children in grades 4-6 and their leaders to participate in mission trips designed for children. These trips not only allow children from our churches to reach Kentucky for Christ, children grow in their leadership skills and their own understanding of the gospel. This year Mission Adventure for Kentucky Kids will take children to Richmond and Bowling Green to share Jesus.

Camp overnights are another opportunity for churches to provide special missions experiences for children and students. Interacting with a "real live missionary" can make an impact for a lifetime with outcomes that touch the world. Overnight camps are offered in July for Mothers and Daughters, GAs, Acteens, Royal Ambassadors and Challengers.

Churches will reach all the way to New Orleans to share Christ this summer through our state Acteens Activators team. This team which includes Acteens and leaders from several different churches will share Jesus with children through ministries of the Baptist Friendship Center.

Reaching Kentucky and the world for Christ also includes training leaders because every effort for the Kingdom requires leadership. By training leaders for missions education, Kentucky WMU is helping churches now and for years to come as leaders continue to grow and develop. We will have training for associational WMU leaders on May 14 at the Kentucky Baptist Building. Then we will take leadership training out in the state through Excel on July 23 at Reidland Baptist Church, Paducah; August 20, Hickory Grove Baptist Church, Independence; and September 10, Bethlehem Baptist Church, Louisville.

At WMU training events our goal is to equip leaders for teaching missions, planning ministry projects, and engaging people in praying and giving for missions.

Kentucky WMU Annual Meeting Giving Totals

Ministry to Missionaries:
$7855.60 to bless KY missionaries

Bucket Project:
$2783 for shipping / 327 buckets

Kentucky WMU Heritage Fund:
$1626.90 underwrites KYWMU

Touch Tomorrow Today Endowment:
$245 supports KY & National WMU

Eliza Broadus Offering:
$615 to support Kentucky missions

The 2015-16 Eliza Broadus Offering is received through August 31, 2016. We still need $138,080.82 to reach our $1.25 million goal! (As of 4/18/2016)

As a partner with the Kentucky Baptist Convention, WMU helps churches to learn, pray, give, go and send. Reaching Kentucky and the world for Christ requires that we do no less.

Churchwide Missions

WMU DIRECTORS
Excel is for Leaders

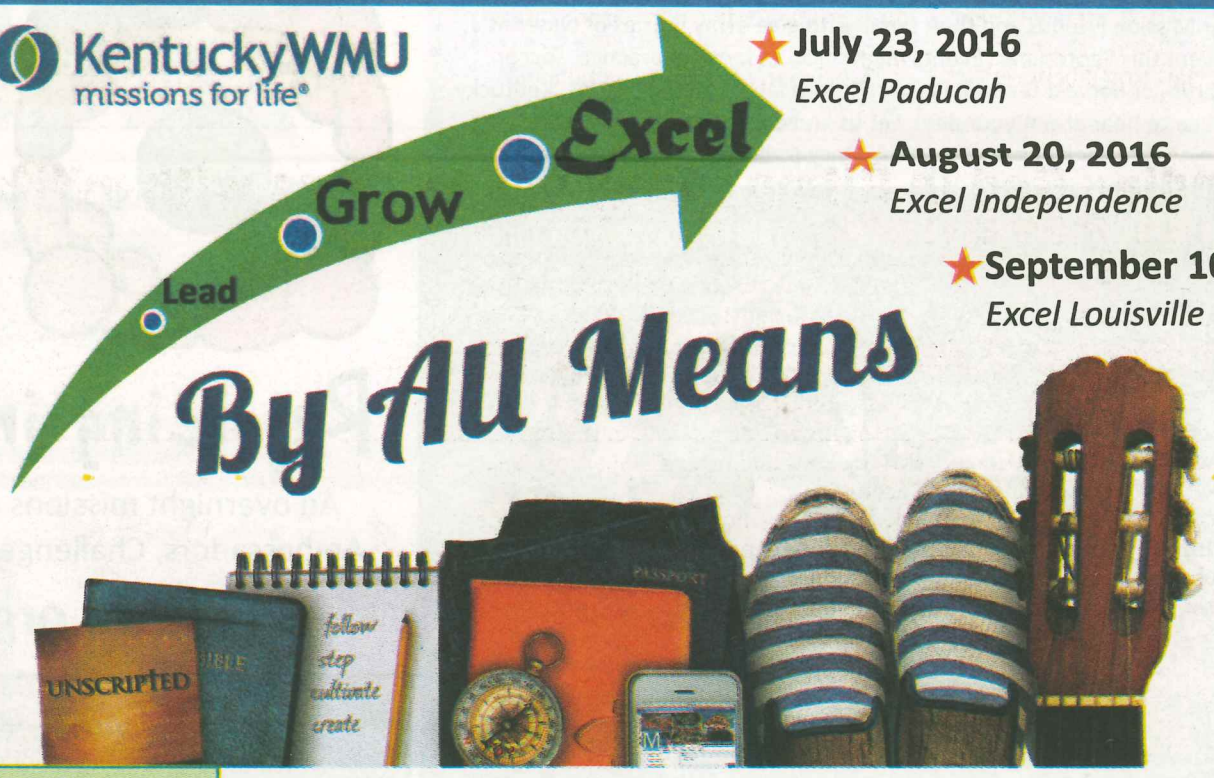
Wanda Walker, Missions Consultant

Most all that serve as a leader in whatever capacity want to excel, whether it be team captain, cookie sales chairman or in a professional role.

As a WMU leader in your association or church, you have accepted the responsibility as a leader. Your desire would be to excel and grow WMU. However, sometimes we get stuck and feel like we don't know what else to do. It happens to all of us.

During Excel, it is our goal to provide resources to help any leader in the church to grow and sustain WMU in the church. With a new emphasis year, there are many new resources and opportunities to grow, re-start or start a new group.

Register for Excel at one of the three locations and let us help you become the most excellent leader you can be!



★ **July 23, 2016**
Excel Paducah

★ **August 20, 2016**
Excel Independence

★ **September 10, 2016**
Excel Louisville

Announcing the 2016-2017 Kentucky WMU Executive Board

Officers
President: Susan Bryant
Vice-President: Cathy Terrell
Recording Secretary: Marcia Ballard

Regional Representatives
Region 1: Martha Clark, Amanda Major, Margaret Dunn
Region 2: Diane Thacker, Pat Key, Linda Egbert
Region 3: Lauri Warden, Nancy Brown, Sharon Gilliland
Region 4: Melissa Logsdon-Young, Ruth Hinkle, Lisa Crenshaw
Region 5: Linda Netherly, Carole Kemper, Lorene Heskett
Region 6: Fay Royalty, Gail Hall, Donna Fegenbush
Region 7: Georgia Burton, Rebecca Carnell, Roetta Vaught
Region 8: Kay Underwood, Beth Wyatt, Joyce Scroggs

Ex-Officio Members
Baptist Nursing Fellowship President: Benita Decker
Development Specialist: Cheryl Hatfield
Royal Ambassador/Challenger Representative: David Buie

Excel is leadership development and training for Church WMU Leaders of all varieties! Whether you are a seasoned veteran or brand new recruit, Excel will challenge and equip you to lead missions in your church and for your specific age-level organization.

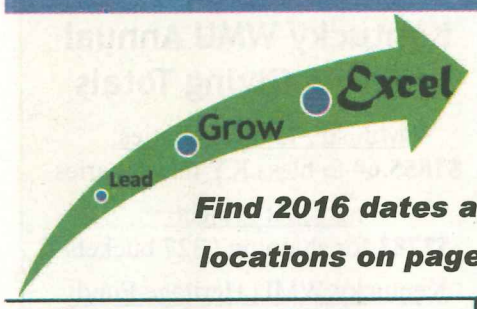
Cost: $15 Early Bird Rate, $25 after the deadline

Childcare is available - $4 per child

Excel Paducah	*Excel Independence*	*Excel Louisville*
July 23, 2016	August 20, 2016	September 10, 2016
Reidland Baptist Church, Paducah	Hickory Grove Baptist Church, Independence	Bethlehem Baptist Church, Louisville
Early Bird Deadline: July 13	*Early Bird Deadline: August 10*	*Early Bird Deadline: August 31*

kywmu.org/excel

Children's Missions



Find 2016 dates and locations on page 7

Attention All Children's Leaders!

Are you ready to Excel?

By All Means



MISSION FRIENDS®

Fun at Excel

Stacy Nall, Missions Consultant

Preschool leaders have perhaps the most important job in the church, but what most people don't realize is that we have the most fun! Mission Friends and leaders get to play as they learn more about missions. At this year's Excel, Mission Friends leaders will explore more ways that preschoolers learn through play. Helpful hints and classroom management tips will be shared. Mission Friends leaders and those wishing to have fun playing and learning are welcome!

GIRLS IN ACTION®

Excel-lent Discipleship

Stacy Nall, Missions Consultant

As a GA leader, you have the responsibility to teach girls about missions. You may not realize it, but you are also modeling the Christian life for them. At each of the three locations of Excel, GA leaders will learn about the upcoming year in missions and will discuss ways to disciple girls. We'll take a look at Jesus' discipleship model and discover how his example of service influenced his disciples. Spending time with your GAs, whether it's doing mission projects or just having a sleepover can make a positive difference in your GAs' lives.

ROYAL AMBASSADORS®

Excel By All Means

Jon Auten, Missions Consultant

With summer right around the corner, you may not be thinking about autumn and the new Royal Ambassador curriculum for 2016-17. But Kentucky WMU is, and we want to equip you at Excel 2016 to lead your RA chapter into a new year of missions learning and action. At Excel you will learn about the new WMU theme *By All Means,* discover all that's new in the world of RAs, be reminded of basic elements that make RA unique, and hear how other leaders are making RAs work in their particular context. For dates and a list of the Excel locations, please see page 7.

CHILDREN IN ACTION®

New at Excel

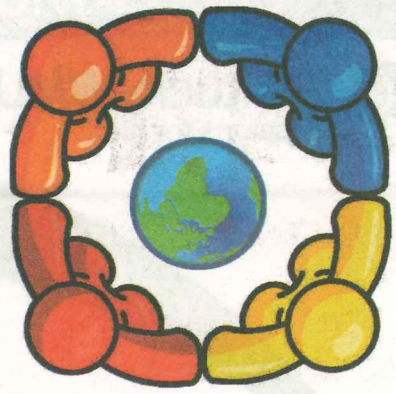
Stacy Nall, Missions Consultant

This summer at Excel, Children in Action leaders will discuss ways to add mission projects, games, and other learning activities to their CA curriculum. We'll learn how to incorporate "Missions Expedition," the Children in Action individual achievement plan, into your monthly sessions. Leaders will share mission project ideas. We'll also discover online helps for enhancing your weekly sessions. Find out what's new in 2016-17.

New this year at Excel: Children's leaders will learn from a panel of experienced leaders in GA, CA and RA. You'll hear how other leaders are overcoming obstacles in scheduling and inventing creative ways to teach missions in their churches. You won't want to miss it!

Mission Friends Fall Mission Project

Invite your Mission Friends and their families to give away bottles of water at a community event this September. Events might include football practice, soccer practice, a 5K run, or harvest festival. Place scripture labels on the bottles. Kentucky WMU would like to hear about your day! Let us know through Kentucky Woman's Missionary Union facebook page or by email, Stacy.Nall@kybaptist.org.



Camp Courage

July 29-30, 2016

Rejoicing in God's Works

An overnight missions experience for Royal Ambassadors, Challengers, Dads, and Leaders.

kywmu.org/courage









Pictures from RAMCON 2016 (March 19) - RA Racers, Pit Stop Challenge, and Missionary Time - See you next year! - www.kywmu.org/ramcon

Student Missions

ACTEENS® Why Should I Attend Excel?

Denise Gardner, Acteens Specialist

You've seen the front page ad for summer leadership training at Excel. Some of you are thinking: "I've been leading Acteens for 30+ years; why should I come to Excel?" For others its, "I've just been asked to lead this group of teenaged girls called Acteens, HELP!"

No matter where you are on the spectrum, here are the Top Ten Reasons for ALL Acteens leaders to come to Excel this summer!

1. To learn all about Acteens – who, what, when, where, why, and how!
2. To experience Acteens
3. To work with a group of new and experienced leaders in planning for a "whole" year of missions experiences: learning, praying, giving, and doing! – Go home with a plan in hand!
4. To receive a 2016-2017 WMU Yearbook (planning guide)
5. To gather "new and fresh" ideas from other leaders
6. To fellowship with other Acteens leaders
7. To learn how Acteens can participate in Acteens Activators
8. To be a part of planning for Kentucky Acteens missions events
9. To experience a sample of Missions Quest
10. Because I have a surprise just for YOU – Acteens Leaders!



Acteens Quest for Leaders

An Acteens Leaders' Retreat

August 5-6, 2016

Liberty Baptist Church, Campbellsville

Details online at kywmu.org/ActeensLeaders

A New Event for RA and Challengers Leaders

KENTUCKY WILD CAMP

Wilderness Instruction & Leadership Development Camp
Frontiersman Level Training
May 20-22, 2016
Laurel Lake Baptist Camp

kywmu.org/wild

CHALLENGERS® Come to Excel

Jon Auten, Missions Consultant

The teen years are a tough time for youth boys. Temptations present themselves at every turn. Finding one's place among peers can be a perilous endeavor. Making decisions that could have long term ramifications is a very real possibility. Teen guys need help and guidance. Have you accepted the challenge to help teenage boys navigate the turbulent waters by leading a Challengers group at your church? If so, Kentucky WMU wants to help you. You are invited to attend Excel 2016 (locations and dates can be found on the front page) where you will receive training on using the Challengers Leader guide, incorporating traditional RA activities (like Campcraft) into your lessons, and teaching your guys to live for Christ *By All Means*.

YOUTH ON MISSION℠ Lead By All Means

Jon Auten, Missions Consultant

This summer, one of the Kentucky Changers projects might be the destination for your Youth on Mission squad. Maybe your group is utilizing some new creative arts skills at a local Backyard Bible Club. Or perhaps you are taking a group of teens to lead VBS in eastern Kentucky. Whatever the case may be, guiding youth through the summer months can keep a leader on the go. While you are going, however, don't forget to prepare for the new curriculum year. The next volume of the Youth of Mission leader's book is now available! Get yours and sign-up for training at Excel 2016 where Kentucky WMU will help you prepare to lead your group to serve Christ *By All Means*. Dates and locations are listed on the front page of Kentucky Notes. (page 7)

Acteens Quest

The Power of a Girl to Change the World

Speaking Love to the People of the World

For girls in grades 7-12

July 8-9, 2016

Jonathan Creek Baptist Camp

Cost: $60 per person before June 1, 2016

After June 1, the fee is $70 per person.

Fee includes lodging, meals, and materials.



Fun on the lake! Crafts!
Missions! Bible study!
Christmas project for TCKs!

kywmu.org/quest

Pictures from Creative Ministries Festival 2.0 (March 4-5)





Pray for *changed lives* this summer!

KENTUCKY CHANGERS

kywmu.org/changers

Adult Missions

PRESIDENT'S PERSPECTIVE Celebrating Missions!

What do buckets, campaigns and the persecuted church have in common? Where can you meet a 165 year old woman, a ministry dog and the WMU Power Trio all in one place? The 2016 Kentucky WMU Missions Celebration and 113th Annual Meeting held on April 8-9 at Madisonville First Baptist Church was the location for all of this and much more. Linda Cooper, National WMU President, and former KY WMU President shared personal stories as she presented the theme interpretation of "The Heart of the Story".



Susan Byrant



Three hundred and twenty-seven buckets of hope were collected and sent on their way to Sub-Saharan Africa to meet the physical needs of those suffering from AIDS. Missionaries will use these buckets to share the hope of Jesus with those who need to know Who is at the heart of the story. Missionaries Wayne and Barbara Myers shared stories of the impact of these buckets and how God multiplied buckets for their use. Have you packed a bucket?



"Eliza Broadus"

Eliza Broadus, aka Donna Fegenbush, shared how excited she was to see all the kingdom work that is being done across KY that is supported by the Eliza Broadus State Missions Offering named in her honor. Kentucky WMU staff and some friends presented a "campaign platform" outlining the tasks of WMU and how programs and events sponsored by KY WMU fulfills its "campaign agenda." The subject of the nations in our midst was addressed by Terry Sharp of the International Mission Board. North America has become a modern crossroads of peoples from the entire globe. Today there are 361 people groups in the United States. Terry challenged us to look at our communities and see the nations that are coming to us and asked; What if churches didn't just adopt a people group from around the world? What if we adopted the immigrants next door? Dr. Kevin Smith, president of the Kentucky Baptist Convention, brought greetings from the KBC shared his support of KY WMU. Joy Bolton, Linda Cooper and I were given the moniker "WMU Power Trio" by Dr. Smith, and I believe the title has stuck (we may order t-shirts!).

Mission Service Corps missionaries Ron and Marilyn Leonard, along with their therapy dog Molly, shared how they are working with military personal and their families affected by Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) the social issue currently being addressed by National WMU.



Dr. Kevin Smith

Seven brand new Kentucky missionaries were commissioned by the Kentucky Baptist Convention for work throughout KY. John Morris, Director of God's Appalachian Partnership in McDowell, KY was honored as KY Missionary of the Year. One of the highlights of our meeting was the viewing of documentary "The Insanity of God" based on the book of the same name by Nik and Ruth Ripken, IMB missionaries who have spent years interviewing persons throughout the world who are persecuted for their beliefs. We were honored to have Ruth with us to introduce the movie and lead a conference on this subject.

Plans are already underway for the 2017 Kentucky WMU Missions Celebration and 114th Annual Meeting in Corbin on March 31 and April 1, 2017. Mark your calendars. I look forward to seeing you there!



Molly the Therapy Dog



New Kentucky Missionaries

ADULTS

Try Something New

Wanda Walker, Missions Consultant

Adult leaders are always looking for ways to increase missions education involvement in their church. This summer during EXCEL, adult church leaders will have to opportunity to experience a "meeting"; explore resources; and share with each other what has and has not worked with the adults.

EXCEL is offered to help church leaders excel at their calling as a missions education leader. The adult audience is different than working with children and students. We tend to be more settled and become compliant with the way things are. Come to Excel and allow yourself to be challenged to do things a new way and together we will explore ways to encourage and grow adult involvement in WMU.



Find 2016 dates and locations on page 7

By All Means

KENTUCKY WMU HERITAGE FUND January 1- March 31, 2016 Donations

The following persons were honored or remembered through gifts to the Heritage Fund during the first quarter of 2016.

In Honor of:	Donor:
Dolores Gilmore	Patricia Burgard
Brenda Stewart	Patricia Burgard
Patricia Donahoo	Patricia Burgard
Cathy Chinn	Marcia Ballard
Twyla Sheffield	Marcia Ballard
Wanda Walker	Donna Mitchell,
Wanda Walker	Charolette Rock
Wanda Walker	Anne Partenheimer
Wanda Walker	Dolores Gilmore
Pat Reaves	KY WMU Development Comm.
Linda Cooper	KY WMU Development Comm.
Susan Bryant	KY WMU Development Comm.
Cathy Terrell	KY WMU Development Comm.
Pat Reaves	Melissa Logsdon-Young
Pat Reaves	Susan Bryant
Denise Gardner	Marcia Ballard
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Estelle Gray	First Baptist Church, Murray
Peggy Murphy	Beth Wyatt
Clara Matthews	Jay & Cheryl Hatfield
Wendy Stout	Marcia Ballard
Dee Spears	Susan Bryant
Joy Bolton	Pulaski Co. Assoc. WMU
Melissa Logdon-Young	Joy Bolton

In Memory Of:	Donor:
Billy Carnell	Kentucky WMU
Vonda Donahoo	Patricia Burgard
Rhaenell Stone	Patricia Burgard
Kathy Strange	Patricia Burgard
Alta Bullock	Rockcastle County Assoc. WMU
Jan Melton	Van & Marjorie Yandell
Jean Albright	Maribeth & Horace Hambrick
George Slinker	Lori Sharp
George Slinker	Kentucky WMU
Mary Lou Crutcher	Arthur & Amy Finkelberg
George Slinker	Donna Mitchell
George Slinker	Charolette Rock
George Slinker	Anne Partenheimer
George Slinker	Dolores Gilmore
Mary Yandell Roderick	Van & Marjorie Yandell
Doris Emily Hidalgo	Wanda Walker
George Slinker	Rob & Nancy Brown
George Slinker	Deitra King
Mazie Lee	Paula J. Settle
Doris Emily Hidalgo	KY BNF
George Slinker	Ruth Hinkle
Jose Alves Silva	Jimmie & Regina Graham
George Slinker	Joy Bolton

Other Gifts:
Davidetta Konneh
Kentucky WMU Staff
Dr. & Mrs. Barry Allen
Lori Sharp

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

2016 CALENDAR

May	
14	SALT, Kentucky Baptist Building
20-22	WILD Camp, Laurel Lake
June	
11-17	Kentucky Changers, Hopkinsville
12-13	WMU, SBC Missions Celebration/ Annual Meeting, St. Louis, MO
16-18	Mission Adventure for Kentucky Kids, Richmond
18-24	Kentucky Changers, Calloway County
23-25	Mission Adventure for Kentucky Kids, Bowling Green
25	Summer BNF Meeting, Elizabethtown
July	
1-2	Overnight at Cedar Crest, Bagdad, KY
2-8	Kentucky Changers, Greensburg
8-9	Overnight at Jonathan Creek, Hardin
8-9	Acteens Quest, Jonathan Creek, Hardin
10-17	State Acteens Activators Team, New Orleans, LA
9-15	Kentucky Changers, Frankfort
23	Excel, Reidland Baptist Church, Paducah
29-30	Camp Courage, Laurel Lake Baptist Camp, Corbin

WMU: Share Christ by all means

By Julie Walters

St. Louis—Sharing Christ by all means is the theme of this year's Woman's Missionary Union Missions Celebration and Annual Meeting, June 12–13.

The theme is also WMU's emphasis for 2016–2018, which is found in 1 Corinthians 9:22b–23: "I have become all things to all people so that by all possible means I might save some. I do all this for the sake of the gospel, that I may share in its blessings."

Wanda Lee, executive director of national WMU, noted, "With the words of Paul in his first letter to the Corinthians, we are called to become servants to all; put the needs of others first; and under the leadership of God, do whatever it takes to bring them to faith."

"This new emphasis in WMU challenges us to follow Jesus' example ... to step into the world around us, cultivate relationships, and create opportunities to demonstrate the love of Christ," Lee said. "Then, by all means, let's share Christ with those waiting to hear."

Speakers will include Jeff Iorg, president of Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary; Sebastian and Erin Vazquez, international church planters; Goldie Francis, an International Mission Board worker; Travis Kerns, a missionary serving with the North American Mission Board in Salt Lake City; and Katie Orr, author and pastor's wife.

There will be five general sessions: Sunday (June 12) at 3 p.m. and 7 p.m.; and Monday (June 13) at 9 a.m., 1 p.m. and 5 p.m. In addition, 22 different one-hour conferences will be offered on Monday during breakout sessions. Topics range from how to develop disciples in a postmodern culture, to missional leadership, to creative ways to engage others in learning about and doing missions.

Additional Sunday events include:

- A reception in honor of Lee as she retires later this year following 20 years of service through national WMU—16 years as executive director and four years as president.
- A meet-and-greet with missionaries featured during the Missions Celebration, as well as some international missionaries who took the Voluntary Retirement Incentive IMB offered.
- A guided tour for members of Girls in Action, Royal Ambassadors, and Children in Action.

The WMU Missions Celebration and Annual Meeting will be in the Ferrara Theatre at America's Center, the same convention center where the annual meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention will be held June 14–15. (BP)

Pastors

Continued from page 3

wives. The sessions at America's Center will be held prior to the Southern Baptist Convention's June 14-15 annual meeting there.

Attendees "will walk out with a very clear understanding" of the theme passage, Meador said.

Speakers for Sunday evening (June 12) at the Pastors' Conference will include Noah Oldham, pastor of August Gate Church in St. Louis; and James MacDonald, pastor of Harvest Bible Chapel in Rolling Meadows, Ill.

Monday morning (June 13) will feature messages from David Platt, president of the International Mission Board; and Byron McWilliams, pastor of First Baptist Church in Odessa, Texas.

Monday afternoon speakers will include Jack Graham, pastor of Prestonwood Baptist Church in Plano, Texas; and Ed Stetzer, executive director of LifeWay Research.

In a departure from previous Pastors' Conference schedules, the Monday afternoon session will dismiss early so attendees can disperse to five breakout sessions geared toward pastors of different size churches. Each breakout will feature a question and answer period with one keynote speaker and several other leaders on how to mobilize church members to share the gospel with their communities.

Monday evening speakers will include Jimmy Scroggins, pastor of Family Church in West Palm Beach, Fla.; and Greg Laurie, pastor of Harvest Christian Fellowship in Riverside, Calif.

Worship will be led by the Passion worship band; Andy Johnson, worship pastor at First Baptist Euless; and Tim Whedbee, worship pastor at Mobberly Baptist Church in Longview, Texas.

This year's leadership team, which includes Neil Franks, pastor of First Baptist Church in Branson, Mo., as vice president and Glynn Stone, pastor of Mobberly Baptist, as treasurer, hopes pastors from the Millennial generation will join their older counterparts at the conference. They believe the Passion worship band and extensive use of social media in Pastors' Conference promotion will help Millennials connect.

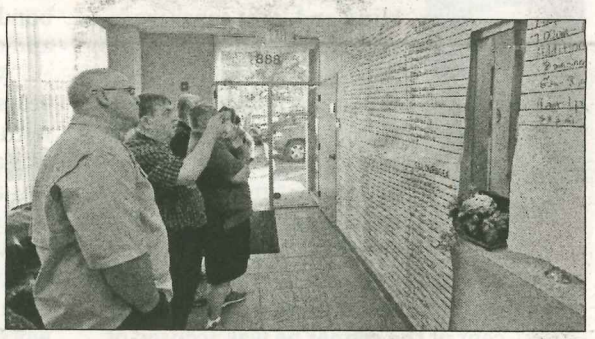
"I don't think anybody can deny that we are at an all-time low in evangelism," Meador said. "I don't think anyone can deny that no one is going to change this unless that pastor does. And because of those truths, I think this Pastors' Conference is critical and crucial."

The Pastors' Conference is free and requires no registration. To learn more about this year's schedule, sponsors and theme, visit sbcpc.net. (BP)

Crossover: St. Louis Southern Baptists ready for volunteers

By Jim Burton





Left: *Taylor Warren, 4, part of a mission team from Eagle Lake, Fla., washes cars at a free car wash at Bloom Baptist Church in Lithopolis, Ohio. The event was part of a series of evangelistic outreaches called Crossover 2015 in Columbus, Ohio. (File photo by Matt Miller)* **Above:** *St. Louis Metro Baptist Association Director of Missions Jim Breeden (far left) and Tom Firasek, a member of St. Louis' Maplewood Baptist Church, look over the plans for Crossover Columbus.*

St. Louis—The iconic Gateway Arch represents the pathway to the west for most travelers and locals.

For Tom Breeden, St. Louis Metro Baptist Association's executive director, it's also the gateway to a mission field in need of hope. That's why he welcomes the estimated 3,500 Southern Baptist volunteers who will converge on the metropolitan area June 11 for Crossover St. Louis.

The scores of travelers who constantly cruise the I-70 corridor through Missouri's largest city likely never see what Breeden sees. From the Arch to Lambert International Airport, they will pass neighborhoods unreached with the gospel—much like major cities in foreign lands.

"We have 12 unreached areas of St. Louis that don't have a Southern Baptist church within a three-to-five-mile radius," Breeden said. "Visitors driving on the I-70 corridor will pass some of the darkest and most dangerous areas of our city."

During Crossover, volunteer teams will visit five of those areas to plant and water the gospel. Some of those volunteers may become part of the 25 church planters and church planting partners that SLMBA hopes to recruit long-term via the evangelism outreach, he said.

One Southern Baptist church exists for every 7,872 St. Louis residents. St. Louis is a North American Mission Board Send City.

Mission projects along the I-70 corridor are among an estimated 75 initiatives in SLMBA seeking volunteers for music concerts, block parties, city beautification and projects designed to enhance SLMBA's growing partnership with local school districts. Most of these projects will happen around existing SLMBA churches, with each having received a grant from NAMB and the association.

"From the beginning, we have asked our churches to dream and do more than they could ask or think from God on their own," said Tom Firasek, SLMBA's ministry and partnership coordinator. "We have churches getting on board that have done very little ministry outside their church walls.

"Our churches have received a new passion to reach their neighborhoods for Christ," said Firasek, who is also serving as the local Crossover coordinator.

"Our vision is to enhance and enlarge what is already in place," Breeden said. "We focus (daily) on starting, strengthening and sending churches on mission. That's the focus of Crossover this year."

Four more area associations in the 2.73 million St. Louis metro area are also planning Crossover events: Jefferson, Franklin and Two Rivers associations in Missouri, plus Metro East in Illinois.

Joel Southerland is NAMB's executive director for evangelism and their point person for Crossover. He welcomes the group of SBC seminaries that sponsors a weeklong practicum for an estimated 150 students from each of Southern Baptists' six seminaries. The students will spend half a day in class and the rest of the day engaged in evangelism, both door-to-door and event evangelism.

"Many churches are doing evangelism projects for the first time in that pastor's tenure," Southerland said. "So we're hoping the training that goes into big evangelism projects trains the church pastor for future evangelism endeavors."

"We want Crossover to have a lasting impact on the church plants and the churches long after we're gone," Southerland said.

Send Relief compassion projects bring a new complementary dimension to Crossover this year by inaugurating NAMB's new mobile medical and dental clinics. They will serve in the Ferguson area, which gained worldwide attention following riots fueled by racial tensions in 2014.

Other Send Relief compassion projects will include hunger and poverty relief with local churches and a construction project called Home Fire Campaign, which will check and install fire alarms, according to David Melber, NAMB's Send Relief vice president.

Firasek described details of some of the Crossover ministries/projects:

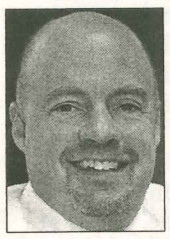
- On the Illinois side of the Mississippi River, The Calling Church will carry out a major community cleanup project.
- In South St. Louis City, the Church at Bevo will host a block party in one of the most ethnically diverse areas of the city.
- Michael Byrd, pastor of Faith Community Bible Church in Baden, will host a block party in North St. Louis City. This area has not had a Baptist witness for many years.

Churches traveling to St. Louis can download a distance partner form at http://www.crossoverstlouis.com, or contact Firasek at 214-225-1948 or tfirasek@stlbaptist.org. (BP)

Reflections on 30 years of service

The following was penned by one of our faithful servants of 30 years:

This is Oneida



Larry Gritton

When I first came here
thirty years ago, there was
certainly plenty that I did
not know about the years
and just what they would
hold and how the events of
my life would unfold.

I was young and still
uncertain at the time

That the pattern of my
life would have reason or
rhyme

A few years later God graciously
brought into my life

A wonderful young lady who
would soon become my wife

Although we faced many a challenge from the very start

God's faithfulness and grace to us
he did impart

With caring families and many a
faithful friend

Upon which in times of need we
could depend

Many of the saints with whom we
have been blessed to serve

Have gone on to the heavenly
reward they richly deserve

Many of the young people which
down through the years we have
known

Now have precious children and
grandkids of their own

Even though there have been
many times in which we felt stressed

We can see the many, many ways
that God has truly blessed

Through our trials and struggles
we have been able to learn

Many rich lessons that otherwise
we would not discern

In reflecting on the things that
have brought us to this day

In conclusion this is what I really,
really want to say

It's only by the mercy and grace of
God that's very clear

That for thirty years I've had the
privilege to be here

Larry Gritton Jr. is president of Oneida Baptist Institute. Website: oneidaschool.org. Phone: (606) 847-4111.

Student thankful for new life in Christ

Clear Creek Chronicle



Donnie Fox

New student Ethan Sowders looks back over his life and is so thankful for God's grace and how He has brought him to the place he is now.

"I was born with a disease called achromatopsia, which renders me legally blind and light sensitive," said Ethan. "I didn't grow up in a Christian home. My father got involved in some things that eventually sent him to prison.

"At the time, I was sheltered from the details of all the things he was involved with, so I believed he was innocent. I really wanted him to be found innocent of the crimes he was accused of, but he was not.

"When he was imprisoned, my mom took the burden of providing for both of us upon herself," recalled Ethan. "We stopped attending church. I became disillusioned and began questioning any kind of a faith in God. When I was 13, I became a fully committed atheist and rejected Christ. I spent the next four years in bondage to pornography, depression and anger.

"Much of my time during these years of my life was spent debating with Christians about why the Bible was a book of fairy tales, why Jesus was a myth, and why their God was a figment of their imagination."

"When I was 17, I attended a revival service with my mother," said Ethan. "During the service I heard a worship song playing, and I felt something cut right through me.

"Suddenly I felt the weight of conviction on my heart and a profound sense that I was deeply wrong and guilty before God. During this service God spoke to me and told me that He loved me and that He forgave me, and He wanted me to come home. That night I surrendered my life completely to Jesus Christ."

"Over the course of the revival I began to feel the call of God on my life to full-time ministry, said Ethan. "My life has never been the same since then.

"I praise God for His grace in saving a sinner that was so hostile to His word and His Son. He has given me a sense of freedom, drive and purpose that I've never known before."

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

Questions you should ask

Ky. Baptist Foundation



Richard Carnes

George Kinder, author of the personal financial planning book, "Seven Stages of Money Maturity," asks his clients the following three questions to help focus the client's goal planning.

Question 1: Imagine that you have all the money you need now and in the future.

What will you do with this financial abundance? How will you live your life? What if anything will you change in your lifestyle?

Let yourself dream by describing a life that for you is complete and richly yours.

Question 2: You have just come from a doctor appointment and your physician told you that you have five years to live.

The good part is you won't ever feel sick. The bad part is that you will have no notice of your death.

How will you live your life in light of this knowledge? What, if anything, will you change?

Question 3: You have just come from a doctor appointment and this time your physician tells you that you have only one day left in your life.

The question you have now is not how to spend the hours that remain. Instead, ask yourself what am I feeling? What are my regrets and longings? What dreams will be left unfulfilled? What do I wish I had finished that is incomplete?

As I reflected on these three life scenarios my thoughts turned to Jesus' parable found in Luke 12:16-21 of the rich man who decided to tear down his barns and build bigger ones, with the intent to take it easy; eat, drink and enjoy himself.

God says to the man "You fool! This very night your life will be demanded from you. Then who will get what you have prepared for yourself."

This is a tragic consequence of storing up treasure purely for self while not being rich toward God.

The Kentucky Baptist Foundation staff is honored to assist numerous Kentucky Baptists that have sought God's direction on how they should consider planning their financial matters in order to provide for their families, their church and other Baptist ministry causes.

These thoughtful Christian stewards have followed a very different life path to that of the rich man in Jesus' parable.

If you have questions about Christian estate planning topics or want to request a private estate stewardship consultation, please contact the Foundation's trust counsel, Laurie Valentine, or me at our toll-free number (866) 489-3533.

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

Brock, pastor for 60 years, dies

Fort Myers, Fla.—Clarence Russell Brock, 89, a native of Vox, Ky., passed away April 16 in Fort Myers, Fla. Brock served as a pastor and Bible teacher for 60 years, many of which were spent serving congregations in Indiana and Kentucky, where he served his first church in 1948.

In 1945 he entered the military and while stationed in the Philippines built relationships with missionaries there.

His first three churches were in Kentucky, beginning in Greenmount, followed by East Bernstadt and Lexington. In 1957 he followed God's call to Indiana, serving seven more churches in Portland, Evansville, Richmond, Fort Wayne and Muncie. He was also an interim pastor in Yorktown, Ind., and Cadiz, Ky.

In addition to his pastoral duties, Brock served in various capacities, including vice president, president and board chairman of the State Convention of Baptists in Indiana. He also served for six years as a trustee for Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary.

He loved mentoring young "preacher boys." One of them, Jamus Edwards, pastor of Pleasant Valley Community Church in Owensboro, conducted his funeral, along with Brock's grandson-in-law, Thomas McClusky, of Raleigh, N.C.

He is survived by his brother, Archie Brock; son, Dan Brock; daughter, Carolyn Benjamin, and four grandchildren. He was preceded in death by Alena (Bill) Brock, his wife of more than 43 years.

Boggs, Cumberland DOM, dies

Loyall—Ernest Boggs, retired Upper Cumberland Baptist Association director of missions, died April 18. He was 80.

In addition to serving with Upper Cumberland Association for 14 years, he was pastor at Chevrolet, Liggett and Sunshine Baptist churches in Harlan. Boggs also participated in overseas missions and was a church builder.

A veteran of the Marines, serving in Japan, he attended the University of Kentucky and Clear Creek Baptist Bible College.

Boggs was a native of Leslie County. He is survived by his wife, Anna Sue, four children, and many grandchildren and great grandchildren.

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Above: *A disaster relief team from Kentucky works on a flood damaged home near Lake D'Arbonne in Farmerville, La. (Photos by Stewart F. House/NAMB)* **Left:** *Tony Callan of Sparta, Ky., a member of Paintlick Baptist Church, pries away base board to cut away paneling damaged by flood water as part of a Southern Baptist Disaster Relief volunteer team assisting flood survivors in Farmerville, La. Teams for across the U.S. have served in Texas and Louisiana.*

Compassion rises with water levels to help Houston residents

Houston—A flash flood on April 18 swamped Houston when as much as one foot of rain fell on the nation's fourth largest city, claiming seven lives and making it the wettest day there since 1888.

Most of the victims died in their cars while trying to traverse flooded roads. An estimated 1,200 Houstonians required rescue assistance.

The city finally caught a break on Friday, April 22, their first dry day since the initial downpour, though rain returned on Sunday along with tornado warnings. Citizens reported tornado sightings in southeast Harris and Galveston counties.

Disaster relief teams from the Southern Baptists of Texas Convention and Texas Baptist Men are coordinating efforts in Houston.

A SBTC feeding unit operating out of the Humble Area First Baptist Church is supporting the American Red Cross' shelters. Many Houston-area churches have requested training from SBTC for mud-out operations in homes.

"Many unchurched in our community are suffering from the floods," said Barry Jeffries, senior pastor of Humble Area First Baptist Church. "Those we minister to are curious as to why we would help neighbors we don't know. Doors open through disaster."

Terry Henderson, TBM's disaster relief director, has mobilized chaplains and assessors while also helping churches that have begun cleaning homes. Their base of operation is Copperfield Baptist Church in northwest Houston, which is surrounded by four subdivisions with an estimated 600 flooded homes.

Houston is home to Union Baptist Association, Southern Baptists' largest association with approximately 600 churches. Tom Billings serves as the association's executive director, and he said there are no reports of damage to any association churches.

"The experience of having your home flooded is devastating," Billings said. "There is a real sense of helplessness as you watch the water rise and know there is nothing you can do to stop it.

"Many of the homes affected by recent flooding were in areas that had never flooded before, so there was also a sense of shock at being flooded out. Like the waters, though, the level of people's compassion rises to the meet the need.

Meanwhile, the Louisiana Baptist Convention continues its recovery efforts there from earlier Gulf Coast flooding. David Abernathy, LBC's disaster relief incident commander said recovery there is happening mostly in the northeast and northwest regions of the state.

Kentucky Baptist disaster relief teams were among those to respond.

"After seven weeks, the response has been fabulous," Abernathy said. "We couldn't ask for more than what different states have given us."

The disaster response based out of North Monroe Baptist Church will likely run through mid-May, Abernathy said. (BP)

Report from Kentucky teams serving in northwest Louisiana April 17-24

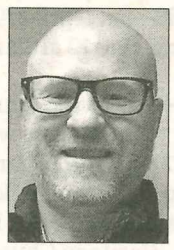
Site: First Baptist Church Haughton, LA

Volunteer Days: 238
Volunteer Hours: 2,480
Ministry Contacts: 163
Chaplain Contacts: 312
Gospel Presentations: 6
Bibles Distributed: 83
Assessments Completed: 12
Mud-out/Flood Recovery Jobs Completed: 79
Roof Tarping Repair Jobs Completed: 1

Face-to-face consults 'blessing' for churches looking to expand reach

Pikeville—When a Pikeville pastor wanted an evaluation of how well his church was sharing the gospel, he turned to Kentucky Baptist Convention Missions Strategist Doug Williams.

"Doug was a blessing to our church," said Brian Horton, senior pastor of Grace Baptist Church. "He helped us discover our current practices and beliefs about missions and showed us how to develop and promote a more passionate view of missions in our church."



Brian Horton



Neal Thornton

Since meeting with Williams, Horton said the church's vision team has filled five poster boards with outreach ideas, such as single-mother ministries and scholarships for seminary students. Horton also said more than 100 members wearing "Love Pikeville" shirts plan to attend the Hillbilly Days festival asking their neighbors how they can pray for them.

Williams said churches that want to experience the same kind of renewed enthusiasm for missions find it when missions becomes a priority.

"Churches desiring the presence and power of God will be intentional about obeying the Great Commission," Williams explained.

He said the KBC helps churches become "witnesses in Jerusalem, Judea, and Samaria and even to the ends to the earth" by offering free, face-to-face consultations. Williams meets with church leaders and walks them through comprehensive evaluations of their ministry reach using a tool called MAP, or Missions Assessment Profile The in-depth survey focuses on four key areas—leading, equipping, supporting and sending—and points churches toward the next steps in achieving their missions goals.

Mount Vernon pastor Neal Thornton said he was pleased with the healthy discussion that was generated after the church leaders' consultation with Williams.

"It exposed strengths and weaknesses that otherwise may have gone unknown, and in doing so, it paved a path from where we are to where we wanted to be," Thornton said.

For some, those next steps could mean a one-day community service outreach, Williams said. For others, it's planting a church or developing long-term partnerships, like those established through the North American Mission Board's Send Cities emphasis.

Williams has a long list of local, national and international opportunities in need of missions partners. In addition to Kentucky Baptist missionaries who need churches to help support their ministries, there are domestic partnership needs in Boston, Cincinnati and Salt Lake City. International missions partners are needed in Europe, Brazil and Sub-Saharan Africa.

"The Great Commission is not an option; It is our obligation as a body of believers," Williams said. "Great Commission faithfully and effectively."(KBC)

May all children know a mother's love

By Melissa Bailey

Jessie endured immense emotional and physical abuse as a young girl. She suffered through the difficult divorce of her parents, relocation, and then her mother's multiple sclerosis diagnosis. Jessie found herself pregnant at 15 when she was placed in foster care, along with her twin sister and another sister who was handicapped—and her foster parents already had five children.

Through all this, Jessie refused to let her circumstances hold her back. Sunrise Children's Services came to Jessie's aid, helping her find direction and the resolve to work toward a brighter future. Now 19, Jessie has her own apartment, is raising her daughter, and is going to school to earn a nursing degree.

Sunrise Children's Services touches the lives of nearly 1,000 children across Kentucky every day—from foster care, to residential therapy, and independent living. We provide hope and healing to children like Jessie who eventually found stability and a role model for motherhood through Sunrise.

Mother's Day is a day we set aside each year to honor that special woman who is a blessing in our life. This is the woman who makes her children feel uplifted through love, guidance and encouragement—who unselfishly gives her heart and soul to care for her family each day. But not every child has someone in their life to call mom, and this is a reality we often see at Sunrise.

This Mother's Day, Sunrise Children's Services has set an ambitious goal to raise $100,000 for the children who need us most. These dollars help us continue finding forever homes for kids in crisis like Jessie. Our hope is that all children will know a mother's love, and can count on the kindness of generous donors to provide much needed help and healing. Can we count on your support?

SUNRISE Children's Services

We wish all mothers a blessed and Happy Mother's Day. If you'd like to make a gift to Sunrise Children's Services in honor of a special woman in your life, contribute online at sunrise.org/donate.

Melissa Bailey is associate director of communications for Sunrise Children's Services. Contact Sunrise Children's Services, P.O. Box 1429, Mount Washington, KY 40047-1429; (502) 538-1000; www.sunrise.org.

KBC Calendar of Events

May

9-10 KBC Mission Board, Baptist Building, Louisville
12 LIFE Tour, Southern Heights Church, Lexington
13 Youth Evangelism Conference, Expo Center, Louisville
14 Centershot National Tournament, Expo Center, Louisville
14 SALT, Baptist Building, Louisville
18-20 Directors of Missions Leadership Advance, Rough River Dam State Park

Mountains to the Mississippi

Compiled by Staff

GEORGETOWN—Gano Church has called **Rob Muncy** as pastor.

MONTICELLO—Mount Zion Church will have revival services May 8-11. Evangelist will be **Phil Glisson** of Memphis, Tenn. **Jonathan Carter** is pastor.

MOUNT STERLING—Spring Street Church will hold homecoming on May 8 with special singing, service and dinner to follow. For information, contact the church at (859) 498-5532. **John Runyon** is pastor.

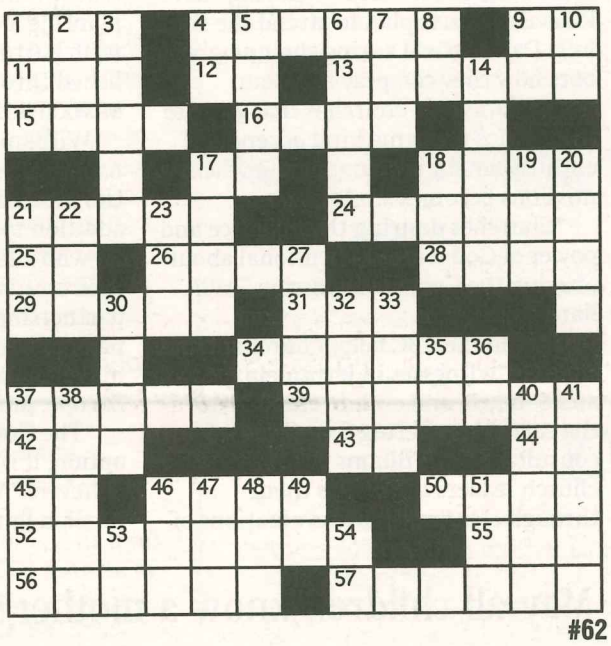
PRESTONSBURG—Enterprise Association will hold a Spring Gospel Sing May 12 at Garrett First Baptist Church at 7 p.m.

SCOTTSVILLE—Scottsville Church will celebrate its 175th Anniversary May 11 at 6:30 p.m. with a SBC History Presentation; May 14 at 7 p.m. with a banquet; and May 15 at 10:50 a.m. with worship and 6 p.m. fellowship. For information, call the church at (270) 237-3451. **Dale Darley** is pastor.

WINCHESTER—Heritage Church will have revival May 13-15. **Kyle Knight** will be preaching. **Tim Christopher** is pastor.

Bible Crosswords

By Linda Nunn



#62

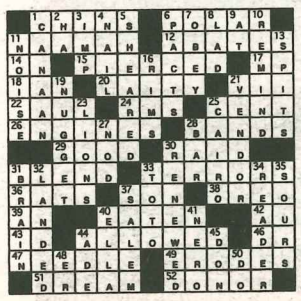
Across

1 "Joshua the son of ____" (Deuteronomy 34:9)
4 "And I sent the ____ before you" (Joshua 24:12)
9 "Blessed are ____" (Matthew 5:11)
11 One of the kings of Judah (1 Kings 15:11)
12 "He had compassion ____ him" (Luke 10:33)
13 "Intending after ____ to bring him forth to the people" (Acts 12:4)
15 "Thy father made our ____ grievous" (1 Kings 12:4)
16 "The ____ shall be first" (Matthew 19:30)
17 "____ burden is light" (Matthew 11:30)
18 "There was one ____, a prophetess" (Luke 2:36)
21 "And a certain woman named ____" (Acts 16:14)
24 "When I am weak, then am I ____" (2 Corinthians 12:10)
25 "____ strong" (1 Samuel 4:9)
26 "I am that bread of ____" (John 6:48)
28 "As the apple ____" (Song of Solomon 2:3)
29 "What must I do to be ____?" (Acts 16:30)
31 "Better is it that thou shouldest not ____" (Ecclesiastes 5:5)
34 "O generation of ____" (Matthew 3:7)
37 "And the glory of the Lord abode upon mount ____" (Exodus 24:16)
39 Seeds that can be made into soup
42 A natural substance containing a valuable metal
43 New Testament, abbr.
44 Latin that is, abbr.
45 "___ man can serve two masters" (Matthew 6:24)
46 "And whatsoever goeth upon his ____" (Leviticus 11:27)
50 "He hath ____ great things" (Joel 2:20)
52 "There shall be weeping and ____ of teeth" (Luke 13:28)
55 "Though they be ____ like crimson, they shall be as wool" (Isaiah 1:18)
56 "Rebekah ... the daughter of Bethuel the ____" (Genesis 25:20)
57 "We remember the ... ____" (Numbers 11:5)

Down

1 "I tell you, ____ " (Luke 13:3)
2 United Service Organizations, abbr.
3 "I was afraid, because I was ____" (Genesis 3:10)
4 "____, everyone that thirsteth" (Isaiah 55:1)
5 "Believe ____, and she shall be made whole" (Luke 8:50)
6 "Birds of the air have ____" (Luke 9:58)
7 "Arise, Peter; slay and ____" (Acts 11:7)
8 Poet Elliot's initials
9 "Sing unto the Lord, O ____ saints" (Psalm 30:4)
10 One of the sons of Judah (Genesis 46:12)
14 A male voice part
17 "And (Jesus) called, saying, ____, arise" (Luke 8:54)
18 "Thou ____ my King" (Psalm 44:4)
19 Compass direction, abbr.
20 "Rock of ____, cleft for me"
21 Pounds, abbr.
22 "____, though I walk" (Psalm 23:4)
23 French word for island
27 "I will fear no ____" (Psalm 23:4)
30 "I am the true ____" (John 15:1)
32 "Who is worthy to ____ the book?" (Revelation 5:2)
33 "So they two ____ until they came to Bethlehem" (Ruth 1:19)
35 Right, abbr.
36 Yes, in Italian or Spanish
37 "Speaking to yourselves in psalms and ... spiritual ____" (Ephesians 5:19)
38 Sarcasm
40 "Fine ____ is the righteousness of saints" (Revelation 19:8)
41 "Some ____ fell by the way side" (Matthew 13:4)
46 23rd letter of the Greek alphabet
47 Expression of triumph
48 "That I may ____ Christ" (Philippians 3:8)
49 Chemical symbol for tin
51 Spanish word for gold
53 "To the dwelling of ____" (Numbers 21:15)
54 "____ ye therefore" (Matthew 28:19)

#61



Classified Ads

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

SEEKING: New Bethel Baptist Church, 504 Highway 2779, Hardinsburg, KY, 40143, is seeking a part-time youth/children's minister. Please contact Bro. Jeremey at (270) 925-5875 or HardinsburgNewBethel-Baptist@gmail.com

SEEKING: Concord Baptist Church is seeking God for our next senior pastor. Our senior pastor will be responsible for leading the church in functioning as a fully equipped, evangelical, New Testament Body of Christ. He will also lead the congregational organizations and staff in achieving the mission of the church as lead by the Holy Spirit. Concord Baptist Church is an evangelical, missions-minded congregation adhering to the Baptist Faith and Message. After prayerful consideration please send resumé and sermon DVDs to Pastor Search Committee Chair, Concord Baptist Church, 1945 Concord Lane, Hopkinsville, KY 42240.

SEEKING: Senior pastor, Ridgecrest Baptist Church, St. Charles, Mo. See blog. ridgecrest.org for details.

SEEKING: Franklin Baptist Association is accepting resumés through May 15 for a part-time director of missions. Please send resumés with a cover letter and 3 references to searchfba@gmail.com. For more information contact Kyle McDanell at (502) 695-3851.

SEEKING: Great Crossing Baptist Church in Georgetown, Ky., has a part-time position open for a youth leader. Great Crossing is a Southern Baptist church with an attendance of about 100. The youth leader must be well grounded in the Christian faith with a firm belief that the Holy Bible is God's revelation of Himself to man, is complete and without error. This person should have a spiritual gift for working with and teaching young people. Salary range is $10,000- $12,000 per year. Inquiries and resumés may be sent to 421wrobey@gmail.com.

SEEKING: Tunnel Hill Baptist Church in Elizabethtown, Ky., is seeking a part-time youth director. Approx. 20 hours a week. Please submit resumé to tunnelhillbaptist-church@gmail.com no later than July 1st.

SEEKING: Christian County Baptist Association in Hopkinsville Ky., will be accepting resumés for the position of director of missions. CCBA consist of 44 churches and 1 mission. Any interested candidates should submit a resumé to ccbadomsearch@gmail.com by June 15.

SEEKING: Turner Ridge Baptist Church is offering an opportunity to an enthusiastic young adult for ministry among young people through a well-established youth program. Send resumé Turner Ridge Baptist Church, Phone: (859) 654-8707, 60 McGraw Rd., Falmouth, KY 41040.

SEEKING: FBC Somerset is seeking a part-time middle school pastor. This position requires attendance/involvement in all Sunday and Wednesday services/activities and to be involved in weekly outreach. Requirements: College Degree preferred but not required, administrative skills, love for middle school students, growing and working disciple of Jesus Christ. Send resumés bcrews@fbcsomerset.org.

To place an advertisement in the Western Recorder:

Rates available upon request

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

SEEKING: Part-time music minister at Sharon Baptist Church, Mayfield, Ky. Please see our website for job description/qualifications at www.sbcmayfield.org or send a resumé to Sharon Baptist Church, 3586 State Route 303 Mayfield, KY 42066.

SEEKING: Eagle Heights Baptist Church is accepting resumés for a full-time student pastor. Send resumés to EHBC, 703 E. Walters, Harrison, AR 72601 or email to ehbcadmin@eagleheightsharrison.org. Job description is available @ehbcharrison.org.

SEEKING: Part-time minister of music at Zion's Cause Baptist Church. The church has three Sunday morning worship services, including traditional/blended and contemporary/modern music. Must be capable of leading congregational singing, conducting choral worship, and leading praise band. Church is located in northern Marshall County. 1532 US Hwy 68 West, Benton, KY 42025. (270) 527-9696.

SEEKING: Minister of music part-time: 10-20 hours week. General description: The Minister of music works with the pastor to provide leadership to the worship services of First Baptist Church. All interested candidates should submit a resume with three references by mail or email to: First Baptist Church, 32 E. Lexington Ave., Winchester, KY 40391 or fbcwinchesterky@hotmail.com.

SEEKING: Prayerfully seeking bi-vocational pastor for small congregation in Jamestown, Russell County, Ky. Send resumé to Welfare Baptist Church, P.O. Box 904, Jamestown, KY 42629.

SEEKING: Small southern Baptist church (conservative and traditional) seeks pastor. Located in central Kentucky. Prefer full-time, but will consider bi-vocational. Send resumé to: wbc.resume@yahoo.com or mail to 620 George St. Lebanon, Ky, 40033. Attn: Jerry Albertson.

SEEKING: BBC is seeking a full-time youth pastor to minister students grades 6-12. Check the church out at www.BBCLife.org. The ideal candidate will be a hard worker, have strong vision for youth ministry, possess the skills to implement that vision within overall vision of the church. The ideal candidate will be a person willing to work on a team with the sr. pastor and staff to ensure the overall health and well-being of the church. Salary begins at $34,600, based on experience. Send resumé to darlene@BBCLife.org.

SEEKING: Green Acres Baptist Church seeking senior pastor with duties typical of same: preaching, leading in worship, supervising staff, equipping church members as disciples, and leading in pastoral care ministry. Send resumé and cover letter to Green Acres Baptist Church, 5189 Poplar Level Rd., Louisville, KY 40219 or email to cwmgabc@gmail.com.

FOR RENT: St. Pete beach area-2/bd 2/ba Special Rates Aug.-Sept. 2016 and Feb. 2017. On the beach. (502) 777-7046.

WANTED: Interested in purchasing one to two octaves of handbells. Contact Helen Morgan (859) 351-0086 or (859) 885-3249.

Western Recorder + Your church newsletter

TWO GREAT PUBLICATIONS, ONE LESS POST OFFICE HEADACHE

End times, rapture and Antichrist focus of new LifeWay study

By Bob Smietana

Nashville—Most Protestant pastors believe Jesus will return in the future. But few agree about the details of the apocalypse, a new study shows.

A third of America's Protestant pastors expect Christians to be raptured—or taken up in the sky to meet Jesus—as the end times begin.

About half think a false messiah known as the Antichrist will appear sometime in the future.

A surprising number think the Antichrist has already been here or isn't on his way at all.

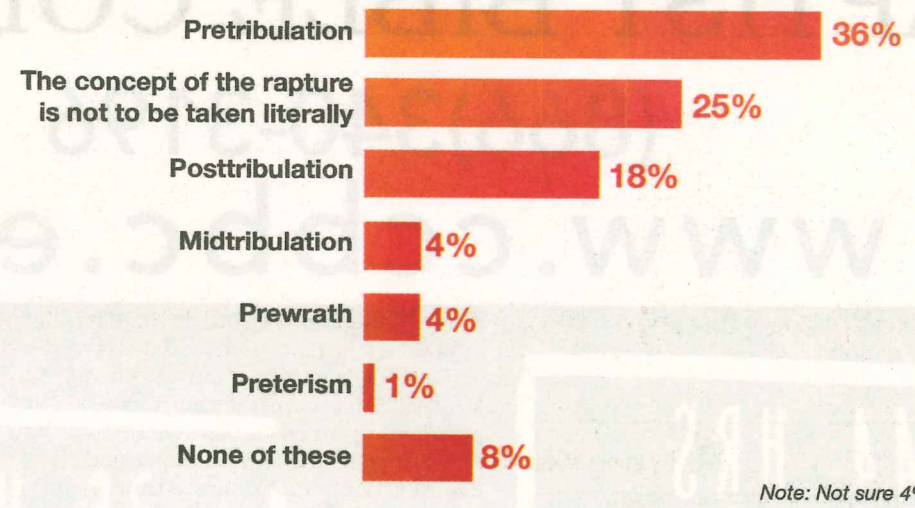
Those are among the findings of a new telephone survey of 1,000 Protestant senior pastors and their views on end-times theology from Nashville-based LifeWay Research, sponsored by Charisma House Book Group.

End-times theology remains popular with churchgoers, says Scott McConnell, vice president of LifeWay Research. But it's not an easy topic to preach about.

"Most people want their pastor to preach about the Book of Revelation and the end of the world," he said. "But that's a complicated task. Pastors and the scholars they cite often disagree about how the end times will unfold."

Among Protestant Pastors:

Which of the following statements best describes your views on when the biblical rapture will occur?



Note: Not sure 4%

No consensus about the rapture

Researchers found widely varying views about three aspects of end-times theology:

- The timing of the rapture (see 1 Thessalonians 4:15-17 and Matthew 24)
- The nature of the Antichrist (found in 1 John and 2 John and other texts)
- The millennial kingdom, when Jesus reigns for 1,000 years (Revelation 20:1-10)

About a third (36 percent) of Protestant senior pastors believe in the kind of pre-tribulation rapture familiar to pop culture. In that scenario, Christians disappear at the start of the apocalypse. Those left behind suffer great trouble or tribulation.

One in 4 pastors say the rapture is not literal. Nearly 1 in 5 thinks the rapture happens after the tribulation (18 percent). A few believe the rapture already happened (1 percent) or that it will occur during the tribulation (4 percent) or before the wrath of God is poured out on the earth (4 percent).

Others don't agree with any of these views (8 percent) or aren't sure what will happen (4 percent).

Mainline Protestant pastors (36 percent) are more likely to say the rapture isn't literal. Pastors who hold this view include about half of Lutherans (60 percent), Methodists (48 percent) and Presbyterian/Reformed pastors (49 percent). Few Baptist (6 percent) or Pentecostal pastors (less than 1 percent) hold that view.

Evangelicals overall (43 percent) are more likely to believe in a pre-tribulation rapture.

Education and age also play a role in how pastors view the rapture. Pastors with a master's degree (33 percent) or a doctorate (29 percent) are more likely to say the rapture isn't literal than those with no degree (6 percent) or a bachelor's (16 percent).

Sixty percent of pastors with no college degree believe in a pre-tribulation rapture. By contrast, 26 percent of pastors with a master's hold that view.

Pastors under 45 are least likely to believe in a pre-tribulation rapture (28 percent), compared to their older cohorts. They're also most likely (23 percent) to believe in a post-tribulation rapture.

Most expect Antichrist, disagree on timing

LifeWay Research also found diverse views about the Antichrist.

About half (49 percent) say the Antichrist is a figure who will arise in the future.

Others say there is no individual Antichrist (12 percent); that, he is a personification of evil (14 percent) or an institution (7 percent). Six percent say the Antichrist has already been here.

Baptists (75 percent) and Pentecostals (83 percent) are most likely to see a future Antichrist.

Lutherans (29 percent), Methodists (28 percent) and Presbyterian/Reformed pastors (31 percent) are more likely to see the Antichrist as a personification of evil.

Education also played a role in how pastors see the Antichrist. Two-thirds of those with no college degree (68 percent) or a bachelor's (63 percent) believe in a future Antichrist figure.

Fewer than half of those with a master's (39 percent) or a doctorate (49 percent) hold that view.

Premillennialism is commonplace

Pastors also disagree about the details of the millennial kingdom.

About half (48 percent) believe in premillennialism, the view that the 1,000-year reign of Christ happens in the future.

A third (31 percent) believe in amillennialism, the view that there's no 1,000-year reign—instead Jesus already rules the hearts and minds of Christians.

One in 10 (11 percent) believe in postmillennialism—the idea that the world will gradually become more Christian until Jesus returns.

Most pastors were split by denomination:

- Baptists (75 percent) and Pentecostals (84 percent) are most likely to choose premillennialism.
- Lutherans (71 percent) were most likely to choose amillennialism, followed by Presbyterian/Reformed pastors (52 percent) and Methodists (37 percent).
- Methodists (27 percent) were more likely than other denominations to choose postmillennialism.

Education also played a role. Premillennialism is popular with those with no college (71 percent) or a bachelor's degree (63 percent).

Amillennialism is favored by those with a master's degree (41 percent).

Billy Hallowell, author of the upcoming book "The Armageddon Code: One Journalist's Quest for End-Times Answers," said the research quantifies the prevalence of different end-times theories.

"I'm hoping the data opens a discussion about preachers' eschatological beliefs, why they hold those ideas, and how congregants and faith leaders can better understand the biblical texts," he said.

McConnell said it's not a bad thing that pastors disagree on the details of the apocalypse.

Most agree on the main teachings about the second coming. The rest of the details, he noted, don't affect the day-to-day life of most Christians.

"The big picture of Revelation is clear—Jesus returns, people must be ready, evil is defeated," he said. "With the rest of the details, there is room for disagreement."

LifeWay Research is a Nashville-based, evangelical research firm that specializes in surveys about faith in culture and matters that affect the church. (BP)

> ***"I'm hoping the data opens a discussion about preachers' eschatological beliefs, why they hold those ideas, and how congregants and faith leaders can better understand the biblical texts."***
>
> Billy Hallowell, author

Kentucky voices

What do you believe about the end times, and why? Send letters to the editor (350-word limit) to Western Recorder, 13420 Eastpoint Centre, Louisville, KY 40223, or todd.deaton@westernrecorder.org.





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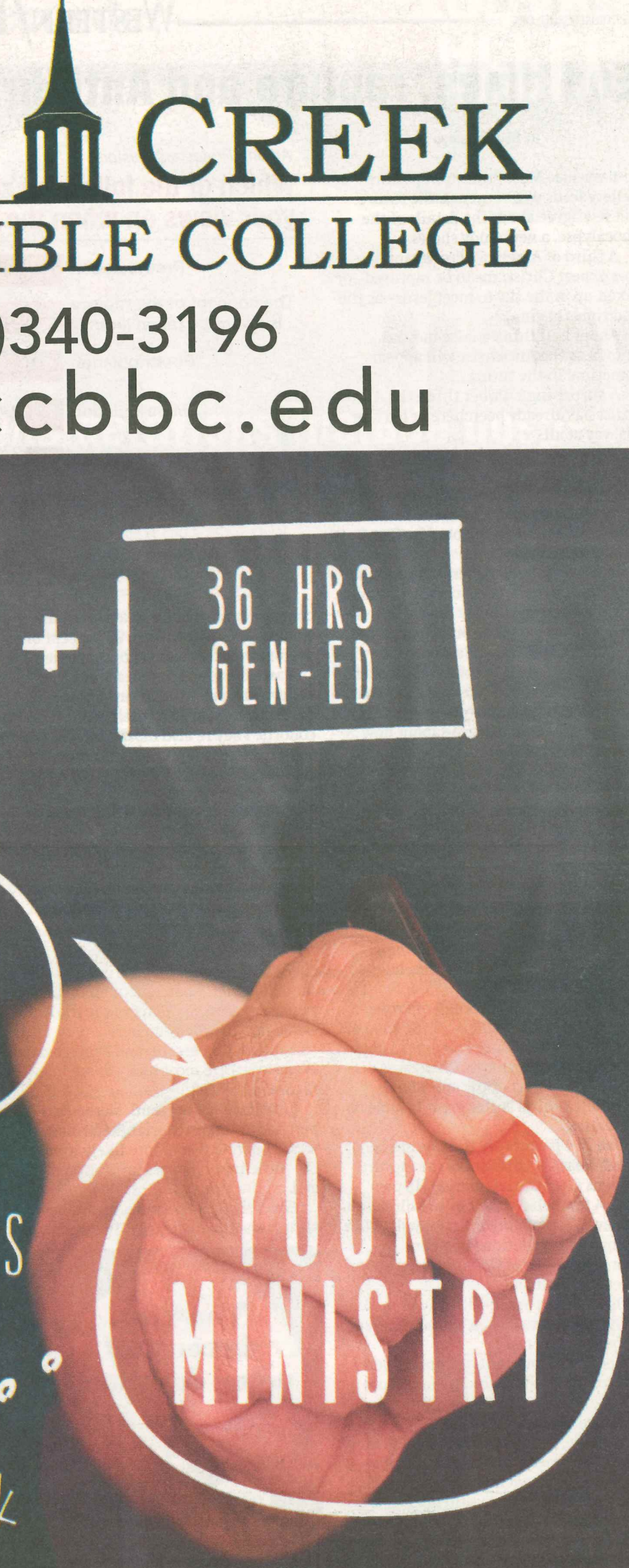
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