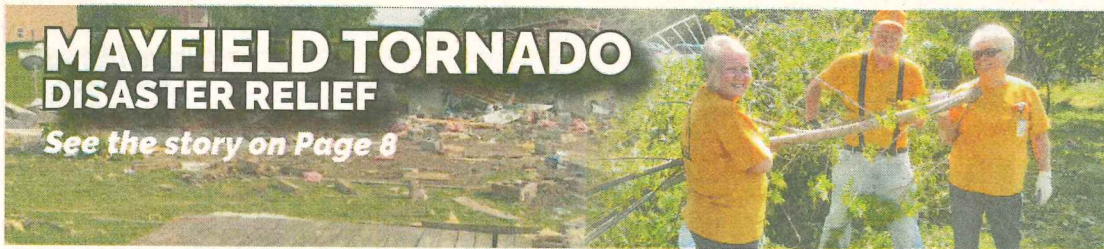


MAYFIELD TORNADO DISASTER RELIEF

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WESTERN Recorder

May 17, 2016

Shine Like Stars * Philippians 2:15

Volume 190, Issue 10



Graham: 'Running a campaign for God'

By Myriah Snyder

Frankfort—An estimated 5,800 people gathered on the Kentucky's capitol lawn on Wednesday, May 4, to pray together and hear Franklin Graham, son of Billy Graham and president of Billy Graham Evangelistic Association.

"Let's take a stand and let's fight back by getting Christian men and women at every level (of government)," Graham encouraged the crowd, who battled the rain to show their support.

The rally in Frankfort, part of Graham's "Decision America" tour 2016, was his 21st stop on a tour of all 50 states.

"We need Christian men and women in the statehouse. We need them in the mayor's office; we need them across this great commonwealth," Graham continued. "We need Christians on the school boards, Christian men and women. They decide the curriculum; they decide the books our students read."

Graham urged Christians to pray, vote and engage in politics. "I'm running a campaign for God," he asserted.

"Getting more believers actively involved in the public square is an excellent way to be salt to our culture," Rick Hardison, chairperson of the Kentucky Baptist Convention's Committee on Public Affairs and pastor of Great Crossings Baptist Church in Georgetown, said.

"Getting Christians elected will never usher in the kingdom or lead to revival," Hardison noted, "but it can slow the decay of culture and mitigate the effects of sin."

Graham expressed "zero hope" in

either the Republican or Democratic parties, stressing the need for Christians in leadership roles.

He did, however, offer praise to Gov. Matt Bevin and Lt. Gov. Jenean Hampton, saying, "These are good people. They love God."

Mike Harmon, Kentucky auditor of public accounts and member of Junction City First Baptist Church, attended the event "because I'm a Christian, and I think it's important for Christians to become involved."

Harmon mentioned how he has bathed each decision to run for office in prayer, and how he feels that the Lord has blessed him in his position as auditor. "I just felt like we needed to be here today to encourage other Christians to step forward and run for office," he said.

"Ultimately, as Graham emphasized, salvation will not come to America through Congress but through the cross," said Kyle McDanell, pastor of East Frankfort Baptist Church.

"If America is going to turn around it will come through the grace of Christ, which will manifest itself politically. But the gospel must come first," McDanell said.

"You might have to go to the polls and hold your nose," Graham said, emphasizing that a Christian may have to vote for the "lesser of two evils."

"Christians need to vote!" Hardison echoed.

However, he added, "Graham emphasized that in a big way, even though I'm not sure I agree with his perspective that we must vote for the 'lesser of two evils.' Many will agree

See Together... Page 2

Mission Board hears reasons to celebrate as Kentucky Baptists

By Todd Deaton

Louisville—Poised to see one of its best years in Cooperative Program giving in several years, if giving trends of Kentucky Baptist churches continue, the Mission Board adopted a \$21.5 million budget for the 2016-17 fiscal year.

The board's action followed the state convention's latest financial report, which shows Kentucky Baptist churches have given \$14,837,526 during the past eight months since the start of its fiscal year—topping last year's total at this point by \$262,261 and exceeding budget projections by \$670,859.

"Kentucky Baptists still believe in working together, as is evidenced by the fact that the Cooperative Program is at its highest point that it has been in the past 5 years," said Paul Chitwood, executive director of the Kentucky Baptist Convention. "In fact, for the current fiscal year, churches are giving 5 percent above the budget."

The new budget, which represents a boost of \$250,000 over last year's, appropriates \$9,997,500 to Southern Baptist Convention causes and \$11,502,500 to



Kentucky Baptist Convention Executive Director Paul Chitwood asked Mission Board members to take several yard signs home to help advertise the need for more Kentucky Baptist foster families. (Photo by Robin Cornet/KBC)

Kentucky Baptist Convention missions and ministries and its agencies and institutions.

Among the Mission Board's allocations, the KBC's Missions Mobilization team will receive \$1,303,247, the Church Consulting & Revitalization team will receive \$2,570,029, and the Evangelism & Church Planting team will receive \$2,646,350.

In moving to a 50-50 split with the

See Mission Board... Page 3

Governor explains 'easy part' of job

By Andrew Smith

Frankfort—From his first day as governor of Kentucky, Matt Bevin's inbox has been piling up. Notes, letters, emails, texts—all from conservative Christians who at last feel represented. Many of them include a well-known snippet from the book of Esther: For such a time as this.

Bevin was sworn in as the third Republican governor of Kentucky since World War II, a Tea Party conservative who defeated Democratic candidate Jack Conway in November 2015.

"People think it must be daunting, dealing with all these people, making all these big decisions," Bevin told Southern Baptist Theological Seminary Magazine in his office inside the state capitol in Frankfort.

"That's the easy part," he noted. "The spiritual part of it, it's—not hard, but it's sobering."

At 5, Bevin became a Christian behind his mother's chicken coop and at 12, rededicated himself to his faith while carrying wood into his parents' farmhouse on a frigid day.

At 49, Bevin is an unabashedly Christian governor who intended to hold an inaugural worship service at Southern Seminary professor Hershael York's Buck Run Baptist Church.

But it had to be moved to a larger venue because so many people wanted to attend. Bevin believes the odds of his election were against him, and that God has placed him in this position for a reason. Bevin feels the weight of that, calling it "the only thing about this job that sometimes feels heavy."

"I realize the impact of this, the ability to truly move the needle for eternity," he said. "For such a time as this," indeed.

Bevin is no stranger to Southern Seminary, which bears his family's name in its most global outpost, the Bevin Center for Missions Mobilization.

The story is well-known among the SBTs community: In 2003, Brittney, the eldest daughter of Matt and his wife Glenna, was a high school senior who dreamed of being a missionary when she was killed in a car accident on Lexington

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BOOTS ON THE GROUND

More than 100,000 Kentucky Baptists involved in missions

By Roger Alford

Louisville—More than 100,000 Kentucky Baptists were personally involved in missions last year, some in other countries and others closer to home.

The false notion that only preachers can be missionaries has been cast aside as Christians from all walks of life step out to obey the Bible's command to go and make disciples, said Eric Allen, missions mobilization leader for the Kentucky Baptist Convention.

"There are mission opportunities for people with most any skill, talent or gift," Allen said. "International Missions Board personnel serving overseas have requested help from Kentuckians who had experience coaching, in construction, and, in one case, artificial insemination of dairy cattle. These kinds of life experiences can be effective means of sharing the gospel."

The total number of Kentucky Baptists involved in mission projects reached 105,979 last year, up from 99,622 the previous year, a 6 percent increase, based on data gleaned from the Annual Church Profile, a state-by-state survey of Southern Baptist congregations. The data showed the number of churches involved in mission projects reached 1,080 last year.

"That's something to celebrate," Allen said.

Kentucky Baptists have proven they're willing to do their part for the cause of Christ. When the Kentucky Baptist Convention spread the word that International Mission Board missionaries needed volunteers with a specialty in artificial insemination in an undisclosed country in Europe, leaders didn't know what kind of response they'd get, if any. It turned out several people stepped forward to help.

"I believe Christians have a greater awareness of the need to be on mission and they want to go," Allen said. "Churches are helping members understand that there are many different ways to engage in missions using an individual's gifts, talents and skills. Plus, no longer do we see missions as something that is done only on a summer trip. People are more likely to engage in missions every week in their local communities. And trips out of the state, or the country, now take place many times throughout the year."

The Kentucky Baptist Convention encourages churches to take part in mission projects, and have developed partnerships with Southern Baptists working in other states and countries to make it easier. The KBC also invites Kentucky Baptists to take part in "vision trips" to areas that need help spreading the gospel, hoping to reveal the dire needs that exist in so many places.



Volunteers from the Woman's Missionary Union collect buckets filled with medical supplies to be sent to African countries hit hard by AIDS. (Photo by Drew Nichter/Kentucky Today)

"We provide training, placement assistance and scholarships for team leaders," Allen said. "We have hundreds of mission opportunities in Kentucky, North America and internationally listed on our website, www.kybaptist.org/go."

Allen said lots of churches are finding fulfillment in doing missions, like Indian Fork Baptist Church in Baghdad.

Since it was founded in 1802, Indian Fork had always been a financial supporter of international missionaries, but

had never actually sent its own members overseas.

That changed last November when four members of the rural church spent a week ministering to orphans in Haiti and sprucing up the orphanage where they live.

"No matter what size your congregation is, the command and commission are the same," said Pastor Josh Rucker said. "The only limits are the ones we create." (KT)



Top: Franklin Graham will visit all 50 states on his Decision America tour. His 21st stop was in Frankfort. **Bottom left:** Graham encourages attendees to hold hands during a time of prayer for the nation and government. **Bottom right:** Kentucky Gov. Matt Bevin greets Graham following the rally at the capitol.

"I love to see anyone, especially of Franklin Graham's stature, who will unequivocally stand up for righteousness, for the truth of the Word of God and for the gospel."

Hershael York, SBTS professor

Graham rally

Continued from Page 1

with Graham. But sometimes both options are so bad that a believer may rightly feel led to vote for neither or to write in a different candidate."

Hardison's stance on writing in a candidate if one feels the other options are immoral has been expressed by other prominent Southern Baptists, including Russell Moore, president of the Ethics and Religious Liberty Commission of the Southern Baptist Convention.

In addition to presenting the gospel to the crowd, Graham asked each person present to consider signing a pledge to "honor God, pray, vote and engage." (For the text of the pledge, go to decisionamericatour.com/pledge.)

"I love to see anyone, especially of Franklin Graham's stature, who will unequivocally stand up for righteousness, for the truth of the Word of God and for the gospel. He did all of that today," said Hershael York, professor of Christian preaching at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary and pastor at Buck Run Baptist Church in Frankfort.

York continued, "He was very direct in his comments about what's going on in our world. What a wonderful and clear presentation of the gospel and pointing people to the salvation that we have in Jesus Christ!"

"The gospel is always good, and Franklin Graham really focused it on the gospel," he added.

The tour will continue with stops in Missouri, Nebraska and North and South Dakota throughout the month of May and many more stops through October. (WR)



Avant announced as Pastors' Conference nominee at St. Louis

St. Louis—John Avant, pastor of First Baptist Concord in Knoxville, Tenn., will be nominated for president of the Southern Baptist Convention Pastors' Conference, according to an announcement by fellow Tennessee pastor Steve Gaines.



John Avant

Gaines, pastor of Bellevue Baptist Church in Cordova, Tenn., stated in an April 27 announcement to Baptist Press: "I have known John Avant for over 30 years. We were in the Ph.D. program together at Southwestern Seminary in the 1980s. We both served as pastors of Southern Baptist churches in Texas at that same time. He is a man of Christ-like character. He has experienced personal revival as well as revival in his churches. He is a devoted husband and father, a gospel preacher, a loving pastor, a soul winner and a servant leader."

A former vice president for evangelization at the North American Mission Board, Avant has been pastor of seven churches in Georgia, Louisiana, Tennessee and Texas. Gaines said Avant "is known for the revival that broke out in Coggin Avenue Baptist Church in Brownwood, Texas, in 1995, where he was pastor, and spread to colleges and churches across America and beyond."

Gaines added, "Since that time, Avant has been a passionate voice calling for a fresh move of spiritual awakening as the great hope of our convention and our nation."

The Pastors' Conference, which features messages from key leaders and inspirational music and worship, will be June 12-13 at America's Center in St. Louis preceding the SBC's June 14-15 annual meeting there.

Phoenix will be the site of next year's Pastors' Conference and SBC annual meeting.

Avant—who has preached at more than 30 state Baptist convention evangelism conferences, pastors' conferences and annual meetings—has pastored First Baptist Concord since 2013, leading the congregation in plans to launch a second campus in August.

First Baptist Concord is the lead partner church for NAMB's Send Cleveland effort, committing resources to church planting in the city and recruiting other churches to join the campaign.

The congregation supports nine total church plants, two of which began this year, Gaines said. Five global partnerships connect First Baptist Concord with the International Mission Board missionaries.

The church projects its total mission expenditures for 2016-17 to be approximately 23 percent of undesignated receipts, with some \$42,000 supporting Southern Baptist missions and ministries through the Cooperative Program, Gaines said. (BP)

Indiana pastor names Miller as Pastors' Conference nominee

By David Roach

St. Louis—Dave Miller, pastor of Southern Hills Baptist Church in Sioux City, Iowa, will be nominated for president of the Southern Baptist Convention Pastors' Conference, according to an announcement by Indiana pastor Todd Benkert.

Benkert, a pastor at Eastlake Baptist Church in Crown Point, Ind., told Baptist Press May 9 he wants "to nominate a small church guy and do a different kind of Pastors' Conference (next) year."

Miller "is a small church pastor," Benkert said. "Dave has shown over the years both in his blogging and participating in convention life that he's committed to unity in the SBC and he's committed to broad participation among the various groups that make up the SBC."

"When we first spoke about a vision for the Pastors' Conference, we were looking at (inviting speakers who were) diverse geographically (and in terms of) age, ethnicity, soteriology—all those things that make up who we are as



Dave Miller

Southern Baptists."

A former SBC second vice president and Baptist Convention of Iowa president, Miller has pastored churches in Virginia and Iowa.

His nomination was first mentioned publicly in a May 2 blog post by a group of 10 Southern Baptist pastors who refer to themselves as "Voices for a New Baptist Future." All 10 are contributors to the SBC Voices blog—some as authors and some as frequent commentators—of which Miller is editor.

In a May 9 news release to BP, Voices for a New Baptist Future, which includes Miller, stated they "believe that the Pastors' Conference would benefit from a new emphasis and direction," adding they "intend to move away from big names, from big churches and big productions to put on a Pastors' Conference focusing on the exposition of Scripture by Southern Baptist pastors for the edification of other pastors."

A Pastor's Conference led by Miller, the press release stated, would include speakers' dividing up a book or section of Scripture and preaching through it

expositionally.

"An effort will be undertaken to find excellent preachers from churches of 500 in average attendance or less who can preach powerful biblical messages," the news release stated. "The focus will not be on the celebrity of the speakers but on the power of God's word."

Benkert told BP that Voices for a New Baptist Future doesn't "want what we are proposing here to be seen as a negative statement about past conferences or megachurch leaders or popular pastors. But we want to make a positive statement about the value of small churches in the SBC and the diverse landscape that makes us Southern Baptist pastors and churches."

According to the SBC's Annual Church Profile, Southern Hills has had an average worship attendance of 223 over the past five years and has given an average of 12.2 percent of undesignated receipts to the Cooperative Program, Southern Baptists' unified channel for funding missions and ministries in North America and worldwide. The congregation is engaging an unreached people group in Senegal, according to the news release. (BP)

Mission Board

Continued from Page 1

Southern Baptist Convention, Kentucky Baptists already have completed a task that other state conventions are just beginning, noted Lowell Ashby, team leader of the KBC Business and Finance team. Since 2011-12, the KBC has forwarded 46.5 percent for SBC causes and retained 46.5 percent for KBC missions and ministries, while splitting 7 percent for CP promotional funding.

Kentucky Baptists also have given more than \$1.1 million during the past 8 months for state missions through the Eliza Broadus offering and more than \$5.1 million for international missions through the Lottie Moon offering, Ashby reported to the Mission Board. Meanwhile, the Annie Armstrong offering for North American missions has topped \$1.5 million.

"Kentucky Baptists generously give about \$35 million annually for all missions causes," Ashby said. "Additionally, last year Kentucky also saw the largest increase in its Cooperative Program percentage of undesignated gifts from the previous year, increasing to almost 6.5 percent," he said.

The amount represents the largest annual uptick to CP giving in this century, Ashby noted, adding that "the upward trend in giving means more people will hear the gospel message."

"Almost every offering that comes into the KBC, from EBO to Barkley Moore (for Oneida Baptist Institute) are all more than last year," reported Steve Bruce, chairman of the business and finance committee. The Lottie Moon offering total was up \$315,806, and the Annie Armstrong offering is up \$374,416 through April, he noted.

"And, if trends continue, we will go over the \$22 million mark (CP budget), helping us to reach more with the gospel," Bruce reiterated, urging Mission Board members to go back to their churches and encourage the people, "so we can send not just one more, but two more, three more

(new missionaries) ... to share the gospel."

KBC Executive Director Paul Chitwood, in updating Mission Board members on the convention's cooperative missions work, shared more cause for celebration, highlighting increases in baptisms, total church membership and CP giving.

Chitwood noted the number of church members engaged in mission trips was up last year to a record high of 105,415 people. He also emphasized that the KBC has helped churches start 25 new churches and currently has 50 church plants in a three-year funding launch phase.

The KBC is continuing to "double down" on its efforts to help Kentucky Baptists engage in politics, Chitwood continued, noting recent legislative victories, such as the Kentucky Safe Infants Act and the revised informed consent law.

"As these issues illustrate, politics is a lot more than budgets and elections," he said. "We must continue to use our pulpits and the collective voice of Kentucky Baptists to speak for justice and liberty."

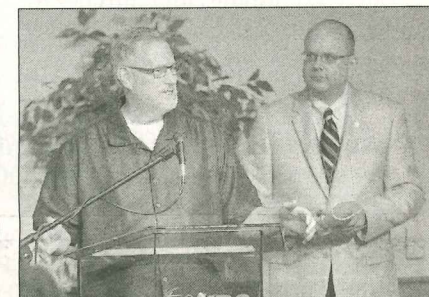
In other actions, the Mission Board approved a recommendation for a 1 percent pay increase for KBC personnel and appointed Rick Howerton of LifeWay Christian Resources as the new south central region pastoral ministry consultant.

In his remarks to the board, KBC President Kevin Smith called on Kentucky Baptists to be courageous people in these challenging days, and highlighted characteristics that all believers should reflect as God's faithful people.

"Nothing divides the body (of Christ) like cowardice in the face of challenging times," he said, paraphrasing Joshua's charge to "choose whom you will serve."

"Remember we're always pushing His people to consider a choice of faithfulness to God or adherence to idols, of following His ways or those of the surrounding culture or nation," he said.

Yet, in the midst of a progressively ungodly culture, Christians cannot be selfish or resentful with the mercy of God, Smith maintained. "That's why we want to go, because he's a merciful and gracious God." (WR)



Rick Howerton, a LifeWay Church Resources consultant, speaks to the Kentucky Baptist Convention Mission Board on Tuesday. Howerton will serve as the KBC's new south-central regional consultant (Robin Cornet/KT)

LifeWay consultant joins KBC to work with south-central churches

By Roger Alford

Louisville—A LifeWay Church Resources consultant with a strong ministry background is joining the Kentucky Baptist Convention's team of regional consultants charged with strengthening congregations.

Rick Howerton will serve in the south-central region based in Bowling Green, where he once served as the Western Kentucky University campus minister for the Kentucky Baptist Convention. He will begin his new duties on July 16.

"In my present role, I fly into a given location, give a presentation, consult a church, or speak at an event, and move on to the next location," he said. "It would be a great honor to walk alongside some pastors and church leaders and connect relationally while making a kingdom difference together."

Howerton was founding pastor of The Bridge, a Southern Baptist church plant in Spring Hill, Tenn. He worked for LifeWay from 2000 through 2010 and again beginning in 2014. He also worked for NavPress

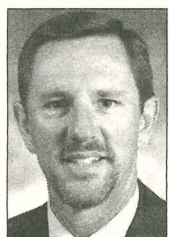
See Howerton... Page 6

Highlights from executive director's report

I am pleased to update you on our cooperative mission work, particularly as we look back over the past year. Foremost, totals from the most recent Annual Church Profile give us much cause for celebration.

In three key categories, KBC churches continued to see increases for a second straight year. Baptisms are up over the year before, totaling 14,460. Total church membership is also up, as is Cooperative Program giving. Another vital statistic is participation in volunteer mission trips and projects. That number is up, with a total of 105,415 Kentucky Baptists involved in mission work.

Together We are the KBC



Paul Chitwood

As we embraced our new mission statement four years ago, I stressed to our staff the

need to get out of the building and into the churches. A convention created by churches for churches to help churches had better employ people who are ready to call on churches.

To that end, your KBC staff members drove more than 520,000 ministry miles last year, up from 465,000 in 2014. Those miles were, for the most part, en route to visit churches, their pastors and staff, and associational missionaries. Those 520,000 miles circles the globe 21 times or, to bring it closer to home, you could drive from Pikeville to Paducah 1,300 times.

As to the ministry accomplished while traveling all those miles, here is a brief synopsis:

- Your Mission Board staff members preached and spoke more than 1,000 times.

- We made approximately 10,000 presentations and consultations with Kentucky Baptist pastors, associations, and congregations regarding topics such as evangelism training, developing a missions strategy, worship trends, managing church conflict, pastor search team training, utilizing technology in the church, church security issues, and more.

- Ministry events overseen by Mission Board staff and Kentucky missionaries yielded more than 2,500 professions of faith.

- We helped churches start 25 new churches and currently have more than 50 church plants in the three-year funding launch phase.

- To help churches engage Kentuckians between the ages of 12 and 24, KBC campus missionaries have helped establish 44 teams across the state. These Twelve24 Teams are engaging 40 middle schools, 59 high schools, and 18 college campuses.

- KBC staff members created 116 news releases, 67 videos, sent thousands of tweets and more than 1,000 Facebook posts.

- In November, we launched our

See Highlights... Page 12

'Mr. President, can I go to the bathroom?'

"Can I go to the bathroom?" Besides an English teacher who was more concerned with correcting grammar, most teachers simply filled out a hall pass. We'd then head down the hall in the appropriate direction. It never crossed our minds we had a choice to make.

Now, you and I probably assumed the matter was a "no brainer." After all, from childhood we've known there is an obvious difference between males and females. Our parents modeled it for us at church, ballgames, and when we stopped at a highway rest area. Boys went one way; girls went another. It's a matter of decency, respectfulness and propriety.

In gym class, when boys and girls separated for an exercise or activity, we knew which line to be in. We were instructed which locker room to store our gym shorts and shirts. We didn't give the matter a second thought. Where we'd go seemed ... well, "natural." Did we have a choice?

Apparently, we did. It's a decision that other minds—very great ones—have been contemplating. The President of the United States has grappled with this weighty matter of state, stepped in and issued an executive directive. School teachers take note.

Parents rightly are alarmed. The choice is no longer as obvious as first thought. Rather, it can be determined by the gender with which one identifies. Now biological boys might be using the girl's room; biological girls might be using the boy's room. It's allowed! Should parents have to worry when they drop their kids off at school, if they're going to be exposed to someone of the opposite sex in the restroom or locker room?

Governors also are alarmed. Kentucky's Matt Bevin denounced the Obama administration's directive to allow transgender students to use the bathroom of their chosen

gender identity. "It is difficult to imagine a more absurd federal overreach into a local issue. Under the Tenth Amendment to the United States Constitution, the federal government has no authority to interfere in local school districts' bathroom policies," Bevin stated.

He's not alone. Both North Carolina Gov. Pat McCrory and Texas Gov. Greg Abbott say they will fight back against the school directive. North Carolina has adopted a new law that requires individuals in government buildings to use rest-

rooms corresponding to the sex on their birth certificates, rather than the gender with which one identifies. Seems logical.

Baptist leaders are alarmed, too. Paul Chitwood, executive director of the Kentucky Baptist Convention, didn't mince words. "I am in complete agreement with Gov. Bevin and believe this to be the most egregious interference into the lives of everyday Americans ever suggested by a United States president," he said.

"Tens of millions of innocent children and their families will be impacted, offended, and made vulnerable by Obama's edict. He has rained chaos on our country."

Ronnie Floyd, president of the Southern Baptist Convention, didn't either. He described the federal directive as "an outrageous attack on our Creator Himself, human sexuality and morality, and an advancement of the attack against religious freedom." He urged, "Every Christian in America or anyone who has any conviction about morality needs to rise up and say, 'Enough is enough!'"

As Americans and Baptists, we treasure our freedom. Some choices, though, aren't up to individuals. They are part of our Creator's grand design: "Haven't you read," (Jesus) replied, "that He who created them in the beginning made them male and female" (Matthew 19:4). Do we really need a President to resolve which bathroom we should use?



After Thought

By Todd Deaton

Fresh Ideas: Let's all 'Invite 1' to VBS

Vacation Bible School—it's not just for church kids! VBS can be a fantastic evangelism event. Catch a vision for how your VBS could impact eternity.

Here is a simple plan to involve every member of your church or small group to engage unchurched children in a life-changing VBS. It's called: "I Invited 1".

Issue a challenge.

The goal is for every individual in your church to personally invite one unchurched boy or girl to VBS. Anyone can do that. Specifically issue a call to every child, senior adult, youth, single adult, couple and college student to take the challenge.

Ask God to alert them to children in life's path who don't attend church—neighbors, acquaintances, schoolmates, strangers, work associates' children, and then to personally invite the child to your church's VBS.

Ask church members to bring the first name of that child next Sunday.

Make it easy.

As you issue the challenge, give each

person one great-looking VBS invitation for the child they'll invite. It can be a business-card size or larger-size invitation. Include the church website for details and online registration. Pray over the invitations and ask God to direct each person to a child who needs Him.

Make it visual.

- Create a huge "Jesus loves the little children" wall display in a visible area of the church.

- On a Sunday before VBS, provide greeters with colorful die-cut paper dolls to give to each church attendee to write the first name of the child they're inviting, and add it to a wall display as a prayer reminder.

- Print well-designed, round stickers with large letters "I invited 1" for every person to wear. Purchase and print sheets of circle stickers. Picture this: grannies and 4-year-olds, teens and newcomers all wearing "I Invited 1" stickers. Wouldn't it be fun if some needed a dozen stickers?

- Announce the total number of those who have been personally invited so far. Pray for them. Challenge others

to invite at least one person.

Create excitement.

- Strive for 100 percent involvement. Though many are already fully engaged in VBS planning, the majority of members probably can't offer hands-on help because of work, schedule or health. Every person of every age and circumstance can invite one child.

- Children's Sunday School teachers can relay tips on how to invite friends, how to welcome newcomers, and how to invite them to your church after VBS.

- Just before VBS begins, encourage members to remind the child they invited to come.

- Instead of an all-church project, this could be done in your choir, women's ministry, youth group, deacons, small group, etc.

- Plan an enormous follow-up on Saturday after VBS and prepare to welcome many new parents and children on Sunday.

So wear your "I Invited 1" sticker with pride and prayers. And, VBS staffers—hold on to your hats! God's at work, His church is excited about inviting, and this may be the most thrilling VBS yet. (BP)

Fresh Ideas



Duane Bolin

WESTERN Recorder

Shine Like Stars *Philippians 2:15

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My secret to reviving a dying church

By Randy Adams

Thirty years ago I began my first pastorate. It was a dying church—dead really. Today we would call it a “legacy church plant.” There were 10 people who attended our first Sunday, all but one retired, and he was a teenage boy. I’m not sure why the boy was there, except that he lived on the other side of the cemetery.

The cemetery, the church and a small school building, long since closed, bordered each other. The Thurmond family gave the property for these entities in the 1890s, each deemed important for a community in those days.

My wife Paula and I served that church for three-and-a-half formative years, formative for us and for that church and community.

I soon learned the former pastor recommended the church to disband and give the building to the local Baptist association. He had reasoned this was their best option since they hadn’t baptized anyone in four years, only had a Sunday morning worship service with few attendees, and little prospect of seeing things turn around. The few attendees, most of whom had lived there all their lives, considered his suggestion but decided to give it “one more try,” which meant giving one more seminary student an opportunity to “learn on them.”

We moved into the parsonage, which hadn’t been lived in for a few years. They tried to get it ready for us, but they hadn’t killed the scorpions, which we killed by the dozens.

Then there were skunks under the house. I would sit up at night, with a light shining into the yard, waiting for the skunks to come out. I shot them once they got far enough that they couldn’t get back before they died.

The house wasn’t much, but it was rent-free, so we were grateful to have it. We had no neighbors, except cattle and the cemetery. And we had fireflies, hundreds of them that spring. One night I caught a couple dozen and released them into our bedroom. I must say, it was quite romantic having those fireflies lighting up our room. But they all died so I only did that one time.

When I think back on those days, I am grateful we came from a church that taught us how to share the gospel and believed you had to take the gospel to the people, not wait for them to come to you. So that’s what we did. We began to visit homes in that rural area, and a few more people started coming.

The real breakthrough came that summer when Curtis Aydelotte gave his life to Christ.

I went to Curtis’ house and visited with his wife Kandy. She said she would be at church with her kids but her husband wouldn’t because “he doesn’t go to church.” But the next day, he was.

Within a month he received Christ and became the first person baptized in that church in four years. Curtis was 47 years old. He later told me that when I came to his house he was sick in bed with a migraine, but he could see me out the window.

When his wife told him I was a preacher, he said, “Huh, a preacher who wears blue jeans. I think I’ll try that church.” That was 30 years ago and Curtis and Kandy are still serving Christ in their senior years.

Others soon came to know Christ.

Families were transformed. The church grew. We never became large, but that church is still there today. The 10 there when we arrived are all dead, save the one boy, but the church remains.

A fellow seminary student asked me, “How do you get motivated to preach to so few people?” That was an odd question to me. Motivation was not a problem. I was visiting people throughout the week, sharing Christ and inviting them to church.

If they came and I wasn’t prepared for them, that would be a tragedy. Every individual needed and deserved to hear a well-prepared message from God’s word just as much as the attendee of a megachurch did.

A further motivation for me was that I was learning how to preach and how to pastor. These both required hard work. I was young and knew I wouldn’t be at that church forever. But if I did not serve them well, why should God give me any other ministry? Besides, this was what God called me to, and I was having fun.

We saw a “little revival” in that church and community. It came as the pastor, and then the church, began to share Christ with others. It came as our little church gained confidence that God was at work, and that they could invite people to attend with the confidence that God could use us to bring eternal life to others.

Within two years, God even used our church to start another about seven miles away. We were the first church to start a church in that association in about 10 years. That served to motivate other churches, much to do the same.

Those years at Fairview Baptist Church were good years. We learned a lot, and we saw God do a good work. If your church needs revival, share the gospel and lead your church to do the same. The gospel of Jesus Christ is the power of God to save a person from sin, and nothing revives a church like God’s people getting right with Him and sharing the gospel with others.

Several years ago I saw Curtis Aydelotte at a funeral. He told me that recently he had crashed his motorcycle and was sliding down the road, certain he would die. “It was amazing because I wasn’t afraid. I was sliding down the road and I knew I would be with God,” he said. “That’s the thought that hit my brain. I knew I’d be with God—and I wasn’t afraid.” Then he said, “I thought you’d like to know that.”

Curtis was right. I did like hearing that. It demonstrated that the Jesus he had come to know decades before, through the ministry of a little reviving church, is powerful, and His salvation is eternal. (BP)

FIRST PERSON

“We saw a ‘little revival’ in that church and community. ... It came as our little church gained confidence that God was at work, and that they could invite people to attend with the confidence that God could use us to bring eternal life to others.”

Big truths for little people

Years ago I remember reading how Josh McDowell was very intentional about making sure his children knew what was important to him and what he believed about certain things. Along those lines, here are a couple of “big truths” that I want my own children, as well as the kids I work with at St. Matthews Baptist Church to know, remember and make part of their lives.

God made me; God loves me; that’s what makes

me special. In a world filled with identity theft, it’s easy for our children to misunderstand who they are and what gives them ultimate value and worth. Friends, music, media and a host of other influences will tell our kids that what makes them special is how they look, who they know, where they live, how much money they have, how well

they can do something, how smart they are

There is nothing wrong with any of these things. However, as Timothy Keller points out, if you build your identity around them you are setting yourself up for disappointment because none of them last. Our children need to know that their ultimate identity, value and sense of worth lies in the fact that God made them and loves us. They belong to God. That is what makes them special. That is what gives their lives value.

Coupled with that foundational truth is this one: No matter what happens to me or around me, God is always with me. The promise of God’s presence in the midst of the ups and downs that life brings gives the Christian boy or girl the strength they need to survive in a world where things aren’t always fair and don’t always make sense.

Teach your children these foundational truths and look for every opportunity to reinforce them as your kids grow in God’s grace. And don’t forget to embrace these truths yourself!



David Garrard

Church estate planning basics

A Christian estate plan is one that has been developed by prayerfully determining how God wants you to provide for your family and other “dependents” at your death and how your finances will be managed and decisions will be made for you if, at some point in the future, you are no longer able to do that for yourself because of a stroke, dementia or accident.

To accomplish God’s plan for who is to receive what you own when you die, you need a will designating how your probate estate assets (individually-owned assets and amounts payable to your estate or executor at your death) will pass at your death. The distribution plan in your will should be coordinated with life insurance and retirement plan beneficiary designations.

You must also look at how your assets are titled as joint tenants with rights of survivorship do not pass under your will; they pass to the surviving joint owner.

God’s plan for asset management and decision-making in the event you become incapacitated can be accomplished by making a durable power of attorney, which allows you to empower someone to make decisions for you and manage your finances if you become incapacitated.

To assure the appropriate person(s) have authority to make healthcare decisions for you if you are incapacitated a healthcare surrogate designation should also be considered. And, by making a living will directive you can put in writing your wishes regarding the continuation of life-prolonging medical procedures in the event of a terminal condition diagnosis.

Be a good steward of all with which God has blessed you by taking time to do Christian estate planning.



Laurie Valentine

Protect your children against the ‘ordinary’

By Lee Clamp

I don’t know how I survived my childhood.

My mom never bought me a bike helmet. She let me lick the spoon knowing there were raw eggs in the cake batter. My dad made me drink water from a hose. When I left to play all day, I never had a cellphone.

If you were born before 1980, you’re probably thinking the same thing. Did our parents love us? Did they even care? We grew up in a different world, where viewing daily news coverage of horrific events was uncommon. It seems exploration is over. Rarely do kids venture out of sight. To protect them from evil, we hover. Evil invokes fear, but the church should be on offense, not defense.

In an effort to protect, we run the risk of paralysis. We have become people who pursue comfort and are hesitant of adventure. If we hold our children too tight, we may squeeze the life out of them. I’m not suggesting you let your 2-year-old wander through the woods unattended, nor am I suggesting your middle school child go off with friends for a week with no supervision. Protect them from the obvious. What I am suggesting is to let their failure rate increase. When they dream a God-size vision, encourage them rather than pointing them in another direction. If the Lord leads them to a dangerous mission field, don’t hold them back.

We are in desperate need of risk-takers—those who will risk a successful and comfortable career for a life devoted to taking the gospel to the world’s unreached people. We need people who will risk ridicule in order to stand up for the truths of Scripture. We need a generation who will sacrifice their lives for those in need, who care more about the advancement of the gospel than the safety of a stagnant life. (BP)

FIRST PERSON

IMB's Meador to retire after 41 years of 'steady, unflappable' leadership

By Michael Logan

Richmond, Va.—Clyde Meador, who retires May 13 from the International Mission Board, is known—along with his wife Elaine—among missionary teams for steady, unflappable leadership.

Yet 41 years of service, with Clyde most recently serving as executive advisor to IMB's president, testify to the Meadors' simple steps of obedience even more than to their strategic insights and leadership.

"When you look at Clyde's and Elaine's lives, it's step-by-step obedience in the same direction towards the Father's will for their lives," said John Brady, vice president for Global Engagement.

Clyde has worked closely with three IMB presidents as a top advisor and vice president, and even as the mission organization's interim president from August 2010 to March 2011.

"When I first stepped into my role as president of the IMB, the first thing I did was ask Clyde to continue in leadership, for I could not imagine taking this responsibility without his leadership alongside me," David Platt said.

Platt said he, like others within IMB, valued Clyde's steady nature and wisdom. "His steadiness has been an anchor

for the IMB during the ups and downs, trials and challenges that the IMB has experienced over the previous four decades."

The Meadors began their careers with IMB in 1974 when they were appointed as missionaries to Indonesia. For the next 14 years, the couple served in a range of roles, with Clyde starting as a church planter in Medan, then training pastors and lay leaders in Semarang and later Purwokerto. In 1987 he became the mission administrator in Jakarta.

In 1989 Clyde took on leadership of the Southern Asia and Pacific Itinerant Mission. Former IMB President Jerry Rankin served as the Meadors' area director at the time and noted that Clyde "had sound theology and was a strategic thinker. You saw this in how he led the itinerant missionary teams."

The itinerant approach was a creative innovation in a rapidly changing world, Rankin said.

More than a decade before mission strategists had introduced concepts like creative access, Clyde and Elaine were leading roving teams of missionaries who moved in and out of South Asian countries on training circuits for local pastors and lay leaders.

Clyde and Elaine moved from leading the itinerant teams in the early '90s to

leading missionary teams across the South Asia, Pacific and Oceania regions as an associate director and then an area director.

Platt said Clyde's deep relationship with Christ was the foundation for his long tenure of leadership. "His personal relationship with Christ is the spring from which everything in his life and leadership flows. He loves God, fears God, and lives to glorify God."

Former IMB President Tom Elliff, who led the organization from 2011 to 2014, said there is an easy, trusting way about Clyde and Elaine.

"It is the authentic nature of Clyde's and Elaine's hearts that stands out most clearly to me," Elliff said. "You can trust they will do what they say they will do. If they say that they are going to pray for you, they will. When they say that you are their friend, you are their friend. They remember their commitments. They don't take these things lightly."

Rankin, who worked with Clyde and Elaine for much of their mission careers, said the couple's success as leaders also resided in their willingness to follow.

"You cannot be an effective leader without being an effective follower," noted Rankin, whose 17-year presidency began in 1993 and ended with retirement in 2010. "Clyde is a leader, but he is

also happy to work in that servant role. He is able to enjoy fulfillment and joy in knowing that he is contributing to making things happen. He didn't seek the credit. He doesn't need that."

In 1998, Rankin asked Clyde to take on leadership of a massive new area which included all IMB missionary teams working in Central and Southern Asia. This followed Rankin's decision in 1997 to rework the IMB's structure and focus, an initiative called New Directions.

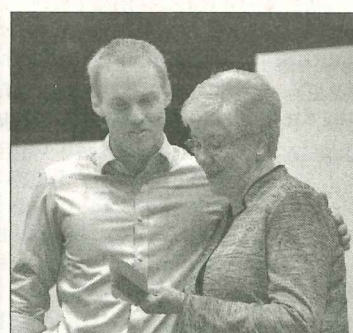
"New Directions launched a redeployment of our mission force to focus on engagement, to change our ethos to one of church planting, and to understand people groups," Rankin said. "Clyde's fingerprints are all over that."

In 2001 Rankin asked the Meadors to move to Richmond and join the office of the president as part of Rankin's leadership team.

"I had a vision for where I knew we needed to go," he said, "but it was people like Clyde and Elaine, with their humble leadership, that helped make it happen."

Elliff noted, "Clyde is one of the most humble people you will ever be around," he said. "He is not ignorant of what his talents are—nor is anyone else who works with him—but he never seeks to use those to lord it over anybody." (BP)

Left: Elaine and Clyde Meador (right) receive appreciation for their 41 years of service through the International Mission Board from Zane Pratt (left), IMB vice president for training, during a May 10 luncheon given in their honor. Right: IMB President David Platt recognizes Wanda Lee, executive director of Woman's Missionary Union, for her partnership in missions as she plans to retire. Platt presented Lee with a gift to The Wanda Lee Joy Fund which benefits a solid financial foundation for the operational expenses of national WMU. (Photos by Roy Burroughs/IMB)



International Mission Board honors past, looks to future

By Julie McGowan

Richmond, Va.—The International Mission Board is ready to move forward into a future of partnership with churches that empowers limitless missionary teams who are making disciples and multiplying churches among unreached peoples and places for the glory of God, International Mission Board President David Platt told the agency's trustees May 11.

In addition to hearing this vision for the future, IMB trustees also approved the appointment of 29 new missionaries; recognized the longtime service of two faithful missions servants as they retire; and elected new officers during their May meeting near Richmond, Va.

Southern Baptist churches have rallied around the IMB in an unprecedented way to indicate their passion to get the gospel to people who have never heard it, Platt said, noting Lottie Moon Christmas Offering projections indicate an increase in the 2015 annual offering, which runs through the end of May. Offering totals are reported in early June after the conclusion of the campaign year.

Trustees also presented a resolution in appreciation of a one-time \$4 million gift from the North American Mission Board to aid IMB missionaries transitioning off the mission field.

"God is good, and God is gracious, and in all we have walked through, God has been faithful to provide everything we need and, by His grace and in His wisdom, to bring us to a place that we set out to get to nine months ago: a place of short-term financial responsibility and long-term organizational stability," Platt said. "The stage is now set for God to work in and through the IMB for years to come spreading His grace and His glory all over the world."

Platt reflected on the staggering world population growth, noting that it wasn't until 1800 that the world's population hit 1 billion people. In 1960, that number was 3 billion people. Through exponential growth in less than 100 years, the global population is projected to triple to about 9 billion by 2048.

"You look at this in all of history, and it's humbling, isn't it, to consider the time and place where God has put you and me?" Platt said, reporting that nearly 3 billion out of 7 billion people right now are unreached—"billions of lost men, women and children have never heard how they can be saved."

"In light of these realities, our goal is not just to send 100 or 200 more missionaries," Platt said. "We want to send thousands more missionaries, and the potential for doing that is real. But what that means is that with all of our resources in the IMB, we must work

with Southern Baptists to streamline pathways for multitudes of men and women to take this gospel to the nations in the future."

"Even with a view toward the future, we are not forgetting the past," he said. "For everything we do in the days to come will involve standing on the shoulders of those who have gone before us."

The trustee meeting included a luncheon honoring Clyde Meador and his wife Elaine. Meador retires May 13 after 41 years of service through IMB. Trustees also presented a resolution in appreciation for the Meadors' service. Clyde Meador has worked closely with three IMB presidents as a top advisor and executive vice president, and even as the mission organization's interim president from August 2010 to March 2011. He has served most recently as executive advisor to the president.

Trustees also recognized Wanda Lee, who has announced her retirement by the end of this year after serving for 16 years as executive director of national Woman's Missionary Union. Lee and her husband Larry are former IMB missionaries who were appointed in 1979 to the Windward Islands. The recognition included a gift of \$15,000 from the IMB to The Wanda Lee Joy Fund, which benefits a solid financial foundation for the operational expenses of national WMU. (BP)

Howerton

Continued from Page 1

Christian Publishing in Colorado Springs from 2010 through 2013.

"Rick has vast experience as a consultant through LiveWay and NavPress," said Steve Rice, leader of KBC's Church Consulting and Revitalization Team. "Rick traveled all over America consulting SBC churches of all sizes. He is known to be a leading voice in several key areas of church life."

Over the years, Howerton also has served as KBC campus minister at Northern Kentucky University, as associate teaching pastor at Living Hope Baptist Church in Bowling Green, and in a variety of other ministry roles. He has a lengthy list of published works, including books, Bible studies and articles.

"Rick understands churches of all sizes and demographics," said Bruce Raley, executive pastor at First Baptist Church in Hendersonville, Tenn.

"He grew up in small churches, planted a church, and also served on a large church staff. Therefore, he is uniquely qualified to speak to various pastors and church leaders."

Raley said Howerton understands there is not a "one-way-fits-everyone" method of ministry. "He has strategic skills that can help a pastor understand his context and culture and develop a ministry plan from there," Raley said.

Scott Kilgore, senior associate pastor at Crossland Community Church, said Howerton has a heart for others and a desire to draw them closer to the Lord.

"I know everyone is unique, but there is a special uniqueness to Rick Howerton," Kilgore said. "His gifts, his commitment to his calling, his empathic heart, and his pure devotion to the Lord make him an exceptional leader, an exceptional co-worker and an exceptional servant of our Lord." (KT)

Bevin

Continued from Page 1

Road, just 100 yards from the seminary's Norton Hall.

Nine years later, Matt and Glenna stood beside seminary President Albert Mohler Jr. at the dedication of the Bevin Center, which was founded because of the Bevin family's endowment in Brittiney's memory.

"The Bevin family is demonstrating Christian stewardship in its very essence," Mohler said that day. "They are not only continuing a missions vision in honor of their daughter and her memory, but they are doing something that will make a real and immediate difference on the mission fields of the world."

Family matters

The first time Bevin remembers someone asking him what he wanted to do with his life, he said, "I want to run an orphanage."

Matt and Glenna adopted four Ethiopian orphans in 2012 after the Kentucky foster care system didn't let them adopt a child because they already had five biological children.

Bevin's affection for children is obvious—after the interview, Bevin snuck up behind a group of elementary-age kids on a school field trip to the capitol, high-fiving each one. Bevin spent some time in his office with one of his adopted sons, Jonah, and later ran him down in the hallway to give him a hug.

Even as governor, weekends are sacrosanct family time for Bevin, with only the most important appointments permitted on Saturdays and Sundays.

In 2010, before his political career began, Bevin sold his family's company, Bevin Bells. Despite the chance to become the parent company's CEO, Bevin decided to do something else.

"I turned down the best job opportunity I'd ever been given," he said. "I just felt that it wasn't what I was supposed to do. I just was very prayerful about it, but just felt that I really had to pour into my family."

Bevin pulled his kids out of school for a year and in 2011 took them on a trip across the United States, visiting key sites in the nation's history: sitting in the desks of schools in Topeka, Kan., made famous by the Brown v. Board of Education case that ruled public school racial segregation unconstitutional; standing on the steps of Central High School in Little Rock, Ark., where the National Guard had to escort black students into class after desegregation in 1957; peering into the Grand Canyon.

While kids in other families might roll their eyes as their parents stop at every waterfall or national forest during vacation, for Bevin's family it was more than 40 state capitol buildings.

"They were tired of state capitols," Bevin said with a smile. "I like state capitols. You can learn a lot about a state from its capitol."

"I'm tired of people apologizing for the greatness of America. ...The Judeo-Christian principles upon which this nation was forged, literally, were unlike anything that has been, before or since. The greatness of America is a result of the decisions that were made by our founders and the focus on these core principles."

Gov. Matt Bevin



Left: Governor Matt Bevin sits inside his office in the Kentucky State Capitol. (Photos by Emil Handke/SBTS) Right: Gov. Bevin speaks to a groundskeeper outside the Capitol building.

High overlooking the regal dome of the state capitol building in Frankfort sits the grave of Kentucky legend Daniel Boone. When Bevin visits the site, what catches his eye is how dilapidated it is—paint chipped, chain ropes missing, dog droppings littering the granite.

"We need to start taking pride in ourselves," Bevin said. "You can tell a lot of things by whether people celebrate them. This is why I think our state needs to be a better model of this."

Bevin sees his governorship as an opportunity to restore citizens' faith in what he considers the founding principles of the United States.

National pride and patriotism are not in vogue among many Americans, but Bevin wants Kentucky to be an "example

of American exceptionalism and greatness and spirituality and morality, built on the right foundation."

"I'm tired of people apologizing for the greatness of America or the distinction of America. The Judeo-Christian principles upon which this nation was forged, literally, were unlike anything that has ever been, before or since," Bevin said. "The

greatness of America is a result of the decisions that were made by our founders and the focus on those core principles."

When asked about people who have inspired him, Bevin listed Mohler, Corrie ten Boom, Eric Liddell, Billy Graham. But it was an obscure 80-year-old missionary who perhaps made the most personal impact on Bevin and gave him one of his most treasured memories of his daughter Brittiney.

'Ripple Effect'

For some time, Bevin had been

involved with the Ramabai Mukti Mission, a Christian organization that has cared for impoverished widows and orphans in India since 1889.

When he noticed Brittiney's heart for missions, he took her to the Mukti annual conference in New Jersey when she was 16.

Between one of the sessions, an elderly woman approached Bevin and introduced herself.

Elsie Rohrer had been a missionary in India for 40 years until the country closed its borders to foreign missionaries in 1988, and in the intervening years before that 2002 conference she had served on the executive board of the Mukti American Council.

She had attended to hear her friend present at the session, but got such a strong impression about Brittiney she hadn't heard a word her friend said. Rohrer told Bevin she had felt compelled by the Holy Spirit to pray for Brittiney over and over, a girl she had never met before.

"Every time I stopped praying," Bevin recalled Rohrer telling him, "I literally heard a voice telling me, 'Pray for that girl. I'm going to use that girl.'"

Rohrer later did meet Brittiney, and the two developed such a bond that when Matt and Brittiney visited India through Ramabai Mukti in January 2003, Rohrer insisted on joining them, despite her rapidly declining health and mobility. It would be Rohrer's last trip to the country.

The night of Brittiney's death, Bevin's mind raced back to Elsie Rohrer and the New York missions conference 17 months before.

"I just remember thinking, 'How are you going to use her now?'" Bevin said. "And it was funny because I wasn't angry, but I felt kind of ripped off. Here you're calling Brittiney to missions. It's what she wants to do with her life. How is she going to be used now?"

After Brittiney's car accident, Bevin visited Rohrer in her native Pennsylvania not long before she died. He told her about his daughter's story, the journals they found after her death dripping with

compassion and missionary zeal, and the inspiration she was becoming for others called to the mission field.

"I had heard that her mind was starting to slip, that she had some dementia," Bevin said. "But interestingly when I was with her, she was amazingly lucid, so that even the person who was there was (surprised). I shared with her some of the ripple effect of Brittiney's story, the things that had happened as a result of her inspiration to Brittiney, and how Brittiney's life had touched other people."

Brittiney's final journal entry is etched on the wall at the Southern Seminary missions center that bears her name: "My dangerous prayer is that you'll place broken hearted people in my path and fill me with you so that I can let your love heal their pain."

'Let the chips fall where they may'

Bevin briefly has to excuse himself from the interview for various duties—a phone call with U.S. Sen. Rand Paul, an introduction for the lieutenant governor outside his office—before returning and smoothly resuming his thought.

His desk is cluttered, even a little messy, just days after signing significant pro-life legislation and in the process of suing a Louisville Planned Parenthood for what he considers illegal abortions.

The legislation is an "informed consent" bill requiring pregnant women to receive face-to-face consultation before an abortion. It is Bevin's first pro-life victory as governor and criticism is mounting.

"For me, it's easy. It's not even hard to be pro-life," he said firmly. "I don't give a rip what people think about it for me politically. It's so cathartic not to care about your stance on something affecting your political career. I genuinely don't."

"I didn't intend to have a political career. I'm not trying to build a new career, politically. It allows me to do what I truly believe to be right and to stand on it with conviction—to do what's right and let the chips fall where they may." (BP)



Ky. Baptist Disaster Relief volunteers respond to Mayfield tornado

By Myriah Snyder

Mayfield—Area churches and Kentucky Baptist Disaster Relief volunteers are pulling together to repair damage done by tornadoes on Tuesday, May 10, that tore through western Kentucky, splintering structures and homes in Trigg and Christian counties and leveling neighborhoods and a business in Graves County. Winds reached up to 140 mph., and 10 injuries were reported.

"We were watching the tornado from one of our offices upstairs in the church, and we could tell that it was close to the school and close to the hospital," said Chad Lamb, pastor of His House Ministries in Mayfield.

"As soon as we saw that we jumped in a vehicle and took off that way. We're just trying to make sure that we're doing the thing we're supposed to be doing, checking on the flock, taking care of the people and meeting needs wherever we could," he added.

The damage, although devastating, could have been much worse. Graves County Sheriff Dewayne Redmon told Associated Press that he saw the tornadoes heading toward the school.

"We knew that it was going to get hit," he said. "But there's only one reason

why we didn't lose a bunch of kids' lives ... and that was because of God. He shifted that tornado right before it got to that school."

In cooperation with other area churches, including First Baptist of Mayfield, which opened its facilities to house those displaced by the storms, His House Ministries has become a hub of relief efforts, working with the community and sheriff's department.

As they went behind Bennet Motors, a car dealership that was virtually destroyed, Lamb said, "That is something I will never forget the rest of my life. It looked like something out of a movie, something that you would see in a mass disaster on television or somewhere else. Every home back there was literally leveled, like they were gone. We started trying to help. We were praying with people, just trying to meet a need."

Many others churches are pulling together to help out. The morning after the tornadoes, Sinking Spring Baptist in Murray dropped off a truckload of supplies, clothes, shoes, blankets and non-perishables in Mayfield. They are volunteering their time to clean up, too.

Kentucky Baptist Disaster Relief volunteers have been deployed to the area. Teams intend to help the approximately



Photo from WSIL-TV

30-40 homeowners who were impacted by assisting with tarping, chainsaw needs, providing chaplains and meeting various needs.

"I think it's awesome," Dennis Manley, Purchase Area Baptist Association's director of missions, said of the cooperation he has seen. "We have churches that are spread out in three counties. Yet, it doesn't matter. When there's a need, it's exciting to see the churches rally together to help."

"It's kind of where we are, churches helping churches, churches helping people," he said.

To get involved in relief efforts through donation, visit www.hishouse.tv/tornadorelief. Groups seeking to get



Photo courtesy of Chad Lamb

involved in relief efforts should contact the executive pastor of His House, Tony Adams. (WR)



Left: Christine Gabriel, wife of Southern Seminary M.Div. student Kevin Gabriel, helps with clean-up efforts at the childhood home of Muhammad Ali during the 1937 Project.

Right: Tyler Clark, Student Life coordinator at Southern Seminary, helps build a home with Habitat for Humanity during the 1937 Project. (Photos by Emil Handke)

Southern's 1937 Project sends record 450 volunteers to serve Louisville

By Craig Sanders

Louisville—A record 450 volunteers from Southern Baptist Theological Seminary and Boyce College completed service projects across Louisville during the fourth annual 1937 Project in April. The event commemorates the school's relief efforts in the Great Flood of 1937, when the Ohio River rose to more than 50 feet, creating one of the worst floods in American history.

"This is not just a civic program, but also a spiritual program for our city and that is why it is so, so appropriate that Southern Seminary is right at the center of it," Louisville Mayor Greg Fischer said at the kickoff for the project.

Participants ranging from the ages of 2 to 60 completed 23 projects throughout the Louisville area, totaling over 1,500 hours of service. The 450 volunteers from the seminary community was a 46

percent increase over last year's record turnout.

Included among the projects: building a home for Habitat for Humanity, renovating for Steam Exchange in the Smoke-town neighborhood, landscaping for the Conrad-Caldwell House Museum, and final renovations and restorations of the childhood home of Louisville boxing legend Muhammad Ali.

The Muhammad Ali Childhood Home Museum project was led by Andres and Courtney Vera, three-time 1937 Project volunteers.

Their work at the historic landmark consisted primarily of landscaping, mowing and clearing out overgrown vines in preparation for the museum's grand opening on May 1.

While at the Ali home, the team had the opportunity to meet Rahman Ali and his wife, Caroline, who came to show their appreciation for the 1937

volunteers. During the landscaping, Vera said a volunteer discovered a 25-pound weight in the yard. Upon showing it to Rahman Ali, Muhammad's younger brother, he confirmed that it belonged to the former heavyweight champion and civil rights activist. The curator for the museum told volunteers he would add it to the museum's collection.

"Our experiences with the 1937 Project in the past have all been great and not only have we had a chance to meet different people within the SBTs family, but we've had a chance to meet people in the community and learn about the different efforts around the city that seek to serve the neighborhoods and citizens of Louisville," said Vera, a doctoral student from Bogotá, Colombia.

The 1937 Project is a campus outreach in conjunction with Mayor Fischer's Give A Day week of service, an annual effort to encourage compassion in the city of

Louisville. Southern Seminary initiated its service project in 2013 with the goal of sharing the gospel and meeting the practical needs of the community. It is named after the seminary's relief efforts in the Great Flood of 1937, when Southern became a safe haven, housing orphans and flood victims as well as serving as the temporary office for the mayor during the city's recovery.

"This has been a beautiful partnership between the seminary and the city," Fischer said. "The city's history will be forever wedded to this seminary."

Jeremy Pierre, Southern's dean of students, said he has been grateful for the mayor's leadership because Christians are "all about compassion." Pierre said this project is one way in which the seminary can continue to foster a love for God and for neighbor and to model service to both future church leaders and the community around them." (SBTS)



Angela Banks (right), a new missionary from First Baptist Church, Canyon, Texas, and her mother, Brenda (center), visit with IMB trustee DeeEdrah White, a member of Granite Hills Baptist Church in Reno, Nevada. Banks said she told God, "I will do whatever you want me to do, go wherever you want me to go, and stay where you want me to stay." (Photo by Roy M. Burroughs/IMB)

NEW MISSIONARIES: Walking in obedience to God

By Julie McGowan

Richmond, Va.—When Holly McMickle arrived at a university in Europe as a Journeyman, the task of sharing the gospel among so many who'd never heard of Jesus overwhelmed the Georgia native.

"I thought, 'God, I am just one girl. What can one girl do?'" she recalled during her appointment as an International Mission Board missionary on last Tuesday. "I watched as God moved in the hearts of students, teachers, administrators and families. I learned that it did not matter what one girl can do, it mattered what our God can do."

McMickle was one of 29 new missionaries appointed during the IMB board of trustees meeting near Richmond, Va. After serving with IMB's Journeyman program, she is being sent to Eastern Europe. McMickle has noted two home churches—First Baptist Church in Locust Grove, Ga., and First Baptist Church, Alexandria, Va.—that she will lean on for prayer support. The new missionaries shared their testimonies during the service which was simulcast live to allow Southern Baptists to join in the celebration.

Nathan and Tessa Baker recalled a time when they were on mission in Madagascar, sitting under a tree with a team from one their home churches, Southbridge Fellowship in Raleigh, N.C. They listened to a village elder describe how his community had been transformed by Jesus—a Savior hundreds of thousands in Madagascar have never known.

"We are returning to Madagascar ... and we pray God will continue to open the doors of salvation to those who have never heard," Tessa said. "We are so thankful that we are going, as God told Isaiah, 'to the distant islands that have neither heard my fame nor seen my glory. And they will declare my glory among the nations.'"

The distant lands of the earth, IMB President David Platt noted, are in the news today for all kinds of crises and tragedies. And while believers may want to tell God, "I'll go wherever you want me to go," they should consider that "wherever" could mean a dangerous place that causes fear to challenge obedience.

Platt read from Numbers 13. In this

Scripture passage, God's people stood on the brink of the promised land, a land of prosperity and fruitfulness. God had delivered them miraculously from the oppression of slavery. But on the cusp of entering the promised land, the people said, "We can't do it."

He noted the attitudes of the Israelites are an example of believers today: They disregarded the goodness of God—His glorious grace. They doubted God's greatness, magnifying potential problems and minimizing God's powerful promises. They disobeyed the Word of God, disqualifying themselves from the blessing of God.

"That's the point of the whole story. Unwillingness to trust God robs the people of God from the blessing of God," Platt said. "Mark this down. If God is for you, no one can stand against you. If God is against you, you have no hope."

But there were two other men, Joshua and Caleb, who by contrast, believed the goodness of God, Platt said. They trusted the greatness of God, knowing He was bigger than the daunting obstacles they faced—obstacles they viewed as opportunities. They were confident in God's presence, and it changed everything. They experienced the blessing of God.

"I exhort you tonight. Believe the goodness of God," Platt told the appointees. "There will undoubtedly be days that will not be easy ... and I exhort you tonight not to lose sight of the grace of God that has brought you to where you are and to trust that He is good. All His promises and His plans for you—though not always easy to understand and sometimes shrouded in mystery—His plans and purposes for you and your family are good. We can trust Him with our lives, we can trust Him with our families. Believe His goodness."

Ten years ago, God used a trip to show Angela Banks a spiritual darkness she had never seen before. Her response was to tell God, "I will do whatever you want me to do, go wherever you want me to go, and stay where you want me to stay, because for me, to live is Christ and to die is gain," she said. "Now, I am being sent by First Baptist Church in Canyon, Texas, to the Hausa people in West Africa to see the light of the gospel push back the darkness." (BP)

'It's a God Thing' in Eastern Kentucky

Charles Roesel, Florida's Urban Pastor of the Year, made a trip to Eastern Kentucky recently to lead revival services at Rose Hill Missionary Baptist Church. While there, he met with some Eastern Kentucky pastors at Rose Hill Missionary Baptist Church in Ashland and First Baptist Church of Prestonsburg.

The former senior pastor of First Baptist Church of Leesburg, Fla., was comfortable being in Eastern Kentucky since he began his ministry as pastor of a mission of First Baptist, Prestonsburg, at David, Ky.

Ira McMillian was pastor of First Baptist Church at the time, and he had led the church to establish 13 mission sites. While a student at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Roesel became pastor of one of those missions. His commute to David was a 400-mile round trip, and his salary was only \$50 a week. He recalls driving a Studebaker that did not have a heater.

Roesel's message to Eastern Kentucky pastors centered on the powerful results of ministry evangelism. He defines ministry evangelism as caring for the hurts and needs of people, and using that as a platform for sharing the gospel. He was very quick to point out that he was not talking about the social gospel (meeting needs but never sharing the good news), but ministry evangelism (meeting needs and sharing the good news).

Every pastor received a copy of Roesel's book, "It's a God Thing." In the appendix, there are 100 ministry evangelism ideas that a church can follow no matter how tight its budget.

Some of Roesel's advice:

"Use what you have."

"Never ask if you can afford it. Only ask, is it God's will. If it is God's will, God can afford it!"

"Preach on financial freedom. Too many Baptists spend money they don't have, to buy things they don't need, to impress people they don't like."

"Ministry evangelism is a bullet that will fit any ministry gun."

"Lead your congregation to offer applause when the offering is taken, it is such a privilege to have the opportunity to give."

"Teach members the difference between 'get to' and 'got to.'"

He also offered helpful insights on "closing the backdoor" of the church.

He offered seven steps to consider:

Passionate Invitation: Preach the

word, and then offer a passionate invitation. The invitation should be based on the fact that Jesus is the only way to God (John 14:6).

Wise Counsel: Roesel noted that everyone who made a decision at his church was taken to a counseling area. People received 30-minutes of counsel from someone who had been trained.

He did not feel five minutes down front for someone making a life-changing decision was adequate.

Required

New-Members

Class: This step

required all

new additions

to attend a New

Member's class. In the class each participant was encouraged to find their place within the body of Christ. It also provided a venue to complete background checks.

Place of Service:

A place of service was determined for each new member. Roesel stated that when they introduced the new Christians on Sunday nights, they identified a chosen place of ministry.

He added that there is no such thing as a "nobody" in the kingdom of God.

Sunday School Enrollment: As part of the assimilation process, the goal is to nurture a mature believer, and the method is discipleship through the Sunday School. Roesel observed that Sunday School classes provide a group of Christian friends for love, encouragement and support.

Sponsor Assignments: Roesel emphasized that it is vital to have someone stand with a newborn Christian for at least one year. He does not believe that the Lord isolates His saints, but firmly holds to the concept of the more mature helping those that are new to the faith.

Assimilation Secretary: This person has the key role of assigning new members to sponsors. Also, the assimilation secretary tracks new saints by attendance and calls them by phone several times during the first year.

Some other issues discussed at the Eastern Kentucky luncheons included:

- Let your congregation know what a joy it is to serve the Lord.

- Build relationships within the congregation.

- Your congregation will love you equally to the way you love their former pastor.

- Have a balanced preaching schedule. Preach out of the New Testament during the morning service and preach out of the Old Testament during the evening service.

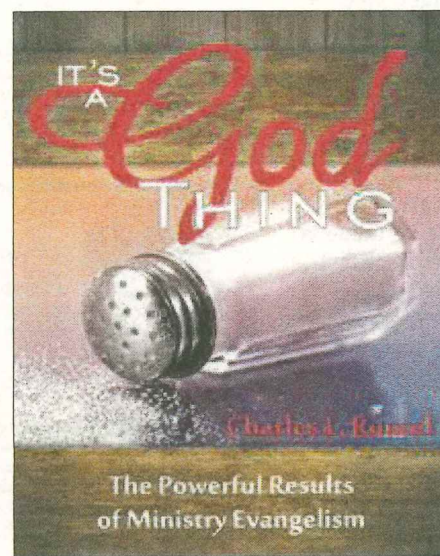
- Encourage your church to read through the entire Bible in one year.

(WR)

Regional SPOTLIGHT



Paul Badgett
East



LifeWay panel, documentary to feature Kentuckians

St. Louis—LifeWay Christian Resources will provide a free breakfast for pastors and screen two new movies at the Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting in St. Louis.

The focus of the LifeWay Pastors' Breakfast will be "Leading Change in the Church," featuring LifeWay President and CEO Thom Rainer, followed by a panel discussion of critical issues in effectively navigating change.

The panel will include two Kentuckians: Ron Edmondson, of Immanuel Baptist Church in Lexington, and Kevin Smith, of Highview Baptist Church in Louisville.

Other panel participants are Sam Rainer, West Bradenton Baptist Church, Bradenton, Fla., and Jimmy Scroggins, Family Church, West Palm Beach, Fla. Eric Geiger, vice president of LifeWay's Resources Division, will serve as moderator.

The free breakfast will be held June 15, beginning at 7 a.m. in the America's Center Ballroom, rooms 220-229. Attendees will also receive resources worth more than \$100. Advance reservations can be made at www.lifeway.com/pastorsbreakfast.

LifeWay Films will screen "The Insanity of God," a documentary produced by the International Mission Board that examines experiences of persecuted believers living in China, the Middle East, and former Soviet republics. The film is based on the bestselling book of the same name by Nik Ripken and published by B&H Publishing.

"The Insanity of God" will be shown free of charge in Ferrara Theatre at America's Center on April 13 at 9 p.m. Tickets are not required, but seating will be limited.

LifeWay Films is also finalizing plans to screen an additional movie Tuesday evening in Ferrara Theatre following the SBC plenary session. The film selected will be announced closer to the meeting. (BP)

SBC PRESIDENTIAL PANEL

A NATIONAL CONVERSATION ON RACIAL UNITY IN AMERICA

TUESDAY MORNING, JUNE 14



LED BY DR. RONNIE FLOYD
Senior Pastor
Cross Church
Northwest Arkansas
President
Southern Baptist Convention

FEATURED SPEAKERS:



MARSHALL BLALOCK
Senior Pastor
First Baptist Church
Charleston, South Carolina



JERRY YOUNG
Pastor
New Hope Baptist Church
Jackson, Mississippi
President
National Baptist Convention, USA



H. B. CHARLES
Senior Pastor
Shiloh Metropolitan Baptist Church
Jacksonville, Florida



JOE COSTEPHENS
Pastor
First Baptist Church
Ferguson, Missouri



TIMMY CHAVIS
Senior Pastor
Bear Swamp Baptist Church
Pembroke, North Carolina



D. A. HORTON
Church Planter
Reach Fellowship
Los Angeles, California



FRED LUTER
Senior Pastor
Franklin Avenue Baptist Church
New Orleans, Louisiana



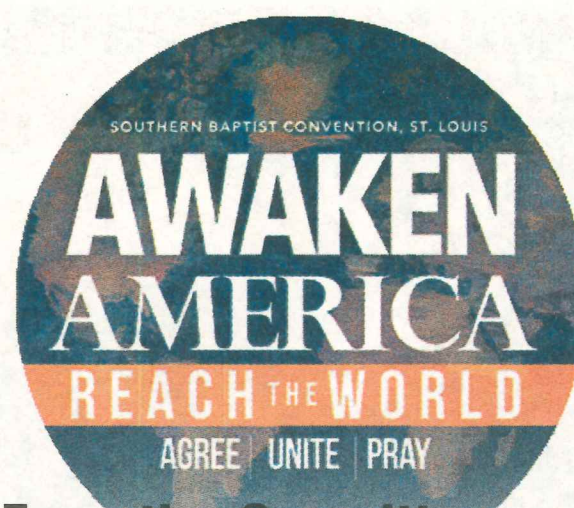
GREGG MATTE
Senior Pastor
First Baptist Church
Houston, Texas



KENNY PETTY
Senior Pastor
The Gate Church
St. Louis, Missouri



DAVID UM
Senior Pastor
Antioch Baptist Church
Cambridge, Massachusetts



Executive Committee, boards, commission, other SBC nominees announced

Nashville—Nominees to serve on the Southern Baptist Convention Executive Committee, the four denominational boards—International Mission Board, North American Mission Board, LifeWay Christian Resources, and GuideStone Financial Resources—the Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission, the six seminaries and the Committee on Order of Business have been selected by the 2016 SBC Committee on Nominations.

Nominees will serve if elected by the messengers to the 2016 SBC Annual Meeting June 14-15 in St. Louis. Those from Kentucky include:

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE (82 members): Janice McAlister, layperson and member of Crestwood Baptist Church, Crestwood, replacing Bill Whittaker, Glasgow, who resigned. Nominated for a second term is John Smith, Munfordville.

INTERNATIONAL MISSION BOARD (82 trustees): Nominated for second term is Susan Bryant, Waddy.

SOUTHERN SEMINARY (44 trustees): Nominated for second terms are Joshua "Josh" Albertsen, Fisherville, and Jeremiah "Jeremy" Rhoden, Louisville.

SOUTHWESTERN SEMINARY (40 trustees): Nominees with terms to expire in 2021 replacing trustees ineligible for re-election include Thomas "Tom" James, pastor, Eastwood Baptist Church, Bowling Green, replacing Lyman "Hutch" Hutcheson, Paducah.

NEW ORLEANS SEMINARY (40 trustees): Nominated for a second term is Ralph Prince, Paducah.

ETHICS & RELIGIOUS LIBERTY COMMISSION (34 trustees): Nominated for a term to expire in 2018 is David Prince, pastor, Ashland Avenue Baptist Church, Lexington, replacing Lynn Traylor, Buckner, who resigned. (BP)

North American Mission Board to launch Send Relief opportunities

St. Louis—Southern Baptists attending this year's SBC annual meeting in St. Louis will learn how their churches can engage local communities with the gospel by partnering with the North American Mission Board's new Send Relief initiative.

NAMB will officially launch Send Relief during the Send Luncheon held at noon on June 13 at The Dome at America's Center, former home of the St. Louis Rams. Luncheon attendees will hear stories of how churches throughout North America are meeting needs as they engage their communities with the gospel. NAMB will provide ways to help equip the church to more effectively do likewise in their community.

Tickets are required. 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. NAMB's SBC exhibit will feature the work of its Send Network and NAMB missionaries who are serving through-

out North America.

Several missionaries will be present to share partnership opportunities. Visitors to the exhibit will have the opportunity to learn how their church can become a sending or supporting church and how interested individuals can start on a path toward church planting.

"We want Southern Baptists to know that God is at work and He is moving," said Dustin Willis, NAMB's team leader for Send North America events.

"What could happen if we truly joined together to see the gospel go forth both through the meeting of physical needs and the planting of churches? Momentum has been growing over the past five years (since the launch of Send North America). We can feel it and many of the churches who have joined in have felt it. What would it be like for all the churches participating in the Southern

Baptist Convention to be a part of that momentum?"

The convention will conclude with a "Sending Celebration" on June 15 as NAMB again partners with the Interna-

tional Mission Board to highlight the role of local churches in sending missionaries to the mission field—in North America and around the world.

As a prelude to launching Send Relief, NAMB will feature a number of ministry opportunities the week prior to the SBC.

These efforts will highlight the kinds of compassion ministries Southern Baptists can be equipped to carry out in their own communities and across North America through Send Relief.

For example, Send Relief will partner with First Baptist Church of Ferguson, Mo., to give away Backpacks of Hope and host a carnival for Ferguson children. Southern Baptist volunteers, in

partnership with the Red Cross, will also go door-to-door to install free smoke detectors for Ferguson residents.

Send Relief will also operate a mobile medical clinic and a mobile dental clinic to help St. Louis residents in need of those services. The two mobile clinics are in the process of being built and will be debuted the week prior to the convention. NAMB's Send Relief ministry will make the mobile clinics available to Southern Baptists for medical and dental outreaches in their communities after the convention.

"We hope Southern Baptists can walk away from the convention this year knowing that there is a very attainable ministry that they can be involved with that will help them engage with and reach their community," said David Melber, NAMB's vice president for Send Relief. "We also hope Southern Baptists will see that NAMB can come alongside them and provide resources that can help them do ministry they might not be able to do on their own." (BP)

"We want Southern Baptists to know God is at work and He is moving."

Dustin Willis, NAMB Send North America team leader

'Limitless opportunities' to highlight IMB message at SBC

St. Louis—Southern Baptists will learn more about how the International Mission Board partners with churches to overcome barriers and cross bridges together to effectively send missionaries to difficult-to-access places and global cities during the Southern Baptist Convention's annual meeting in St. Louis.

The SBC annual meeting also will feature a joint "Sending Celebration" as the IMB and North American Mission Board celebrate overseas missionaries and North American church planters, along with their sending churches, as together they answer God's call to plant churches

and make disciples in the United States and around the world.

The Sending Celebration, scheduled for Wednesday afternoon, June 15, at America's Center in St. Louis, will display how God has a place for every church—indeed, for every Christian—to be on mission with Him, for His glory.

Driven for more than 170 years with a passion to see the gospel proclaimed to all nations, Southern Baptists have relentlessly pursued ways to share the gospel, make disciples and multiply churches among all unreached people and places through the IMB.

This passion still unites and drives Southern Baptists as a convention of churches cooperating together to fulfill Christ's commission—even in the midst of a world radically changing with rapid urbanization, technological advances, global migration and other barriers.

Today, the IMB seeks to capture the opportunities God is affording Southern Baptists to partner with churches to send limitless missionary teams to make disciples and multiply churches. Thanks to the experience and generous support of Southern Baptists, God has uniquely equipped IMB to help effectively send

missionaries both to extreme places and global cities.

New opportunities in current global realities, IMB reports, can provide endless opportunities for disciples to play an integral part in making disciples globally.

Throughout Scripture, God has used ordinary Christians to accomplish great things. Southern Baptist churches have the God-given opportunity to find new ways for Christians of all skills, experience and backgrounds to join missionary teams made up of students, professionals, retirees and church planters. (BP)

Trump knocks Moore after comments to national media

By Art Toalston

Washington—Russell Moore spoke and Donald Trump took notice on Twitter May 9. Trump's tweet came the morning after Moore, president of the Southern Baptist Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission, criticized the presumptive Republican nominee on CBS' "Face the Nation" and, two days earlier, in a New York Times online op-ed.

"@drmoore Russell Moore is truly a terrible representative of Evangelicals and all of the good they stand for. A nasty guy with no heart!" Trump tweeted.

Trump's tweet quickly stirred reactions among outspoken Southern Baptists, from pro-Trump pastor Robert Jeffress of First Baptist Church in Dallas to several Baptist leaders who affirmed Moore's comments.

Moore was one of several "key conservatives," as described by Face the Nation host John Dickerson, interviewed on the talk show. Moore said character matters as much now as it did during "the previous Clinton era," an era when, as Moore has said on previous occasions, conservatives were outraged over former President Bill Clinton's sexual behavior in the White House. Some conservatives "now are not willing to say anything when we have this sort of reality television moral sewage coming through all over our culture," Moore said.

These conservatives, not specified by Moore in his Face the Nation comments, formerly complained "we have too much awful cultural rot on television," but now they want "to put it on C-SPAN for the next four years and to give a model to our children," whether by Trump or Democratic frontrunner Hillary Clinton, "of an amoral sort of vision of America."

Trump and Clinton, Moore said, reflect "an embrace of the very kind of moral and cultural decadence that conservatives have been saying for a long time is the problem."

A segment of "under-50 evangelicals," not quantified by Moore, are "saying, we cannot in good conscience support either of these two candidates because what we end up with at the end of the day is one sexual revolutionary party that is hostile to everything that we believe in."

"@drmoore Russell Moore is truly a terrible representative of Evangelicals and all of the good they stand for. A nasty guy with no heart!"

Donald Trump



ERLC President Russell Moore was one of several "key conservatives," as described by Face the Nation host John Dickerson, interviewed on the Sunday morning talk show. (Screen capture from Face the Nation/CBS)

Some conservative evangelicals, Moore acknowledged, will vote for Trump because they believe "the Supreme Court is on the line."

Yet "there are going to be many other evangelicals who simply don't vote ... or who do find a third-party candidate or a write-in candidate to vote for, not because they think that candidate will win, but because they think there's something more important than politics, which is one's conscience."

Jeffress, in an email to Baptist Press, said, "If you keep poking the bear, you shouldn't be surprised when the bear takes a bite out of you."

Jeffress told TIME magazine, "This is unprecedented what Russell Moore has done, and I believe there are many people who are not sympathetic with his views toward Trump." Jeffress added, "While Moore is a respected leader in the Southern Baptist Convention, he absolutely does not speak for all Southern Baptists even as I don't speak for all Southern Baptists. There are no Southern Baptist popes."

Among Moore's supporters, Trump's reaction is "a badge of honor," tweeted culture commentator Denny Burk, professor of biblical studies at Boyce College, the undergraduate school of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary.

J.D. Greear, pastor of The Summit Church in Raleigh-Durham, N.C., and one of three candidates for Southern Baptist Convention president in June, tweeted that he is grateful for Moore's leadership, "particularly his posture of grace and

truth. Lead on, brother!"

"Keep pressing toward the mark," Thabiti Anyabwile, a frequent speaker at Baptist conferences and a pastor in the Washington-area, tweeted to Moore. In a second tweet, Anyabwile said, "You won't meet a man w/ a sharper mind, warmer heart and consistent passion for what's right than Russ @drmoore."

Moore, in his New York Times op-ed three days after Trump became the presumptive Republican nominee had written, "Regardless of the outcome in November, his campaign is forcing American Christians to grapple with some scary realities that will have implications for years to come."

Referencing the spread of Christianity in Africa, Asia and Latin America and ethnically diverse churches in America, Moore claimed, "This election has cast light on the darkness of pent-up nativism and bigotry all over the country. There are not-so-coded messages denouncing African-Americans and immigrants; concern about racial justice and national unity is ridiculed as 'political correctness.' Religious minorities are scapegoated for the sins of others, with basic religious freedoms for them called into question."

Moore noted, "The question is whether evangelicals will be on the right side of Jesus. That will mean standing up for the church's future leaders, and for our mission, especially when they are politically powerless.... A vast majority of Christians, on earth and in heaven, are not white and have never spoken English."

"The man on the throne in heaven is a dark-skinned, Aramaic-speaking 'foreigner' who is probably not all that impressed by chants of 'Make America great again.'" (BP)

ERLC to unveil 'Gospel for Life' book series

St. Louis—The Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission will unveil the first three volumes in its new "Gospel for Life" book series during the annual meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention June 14-15 in St. Louis.

Among its other initiatives at the SBC meeting, the ERLC will join with the 9Marks ministry for the second consecutive year to cosponsor a conversation on church and culture.

The first three volumes in the nine-book "Gospel for Life" series—produced in partnership with B&H Publishing Group—will address religious liberty, racial reconciliation and same-sex marriage.

The series seeks to provide gospel-centered resources to help Christians address controversial ethical issues.

The series, ERLC President Russell Moore said, "aims to help the church in navigating through ethical and cultural issues. The gospel speaks a word to all of life, not just our Sunday mornings. Our hope for these books is that they will encourage and embolden Christians to see all of life—from adoption to marriage to politics—from a Kingdom perspective." (BP)

KBC Position Opening

Kentucky Baptist Convention has an immediate opening for a Help Desk Representative in the Information Technology Department. Position primary responsibility – user support and customer service on company supported computer applications and platforms. Troubleshoot problems and advise on the appropriate action. Should possess knowledge and experience of customer service practices, relevant call tracking applications working knowledge of fundamental operations of relevant software, hardware and other equipment, self-starter, ability to work both independently and as a team player, prioritize multiple projects to meet deadlines. Strong interpersonal communication and computer skills required. College degree or comparable professional focus in computers and technology a must. Great environment, attractive pay and benefits. Mail resumé to: Human Resources, Attn: Shari Rogers, P.O. Box 43433, Louisville, KY 40253-0433 or e-mail to shari.rogers@kybaptist.org.

Two Kentuckians appointed to disciple-making task force

Alpharetta, Ga.—Kevin Ezell, president of the North American Mission Board, and Thom Rainer, president of LifeWay Christian Resources, have appointed a task force on disciple-making that includes two Kentuckians.

Consisting of Southern Baptist pastors, the task force will recommend

"The priority will be leading people to the gospel and then putting them on a pathway toward spiritual growth and maturity."

Kevin Ezell, NAMB president

steps churches can take to improve their disciple-making process and spark a disciple-making movement throughout the Southern Baptist Convention. Among those named to the group are Kevin Smith, teaching pastor, Highview Baptist Church, Louisville; and Pavel Urruchi, Hispanic pastor, Erlanger Baptist Church, and a Hispanic catalyst for Northern Kentucky Association.

"This group will suggest a

transferrable process that any church can use in any context," Ezell said. "The priority will be leading people to the gospel and then putting them on a pathway toward spiritual growth and maturity."

Rainer is hopeful the task force's recommendations will help churches make

more effective discipleship.

"I'm confident this team of proven pastoral leaders will help us better understand how to help our churches make and grow disciples," Rainer said.

Robby Gallaty, senior pastor of Long Hollow Baptist Church in Hendersonville, Tenn., is the task force chairman.

"Biblical disciple-making includes both inviting—evangelism—and



Kevin Smith



Pavel Urruchi

investing—discipleship. We cannot have one without the other," Gallaty said. "For years we have been 'decisionistic,' but we need to be more 'disciplistic.'"

The task force is being appointed at a time when Southern Baptists continue to see a decline in the number of annual baptisms.

Ezell said the task force will present a report at the 2017 Southern Baptist Convention in Phoenix. (BP)

Ward, long-time pastor, dies

Raymond Ward, 91, of Morgantown, died May 6 at Greenview Hospital in Bowling Green.

A native of Butler County, Ward served as pastor of churches in Butler, Muhlenburg, Logan, Barren, Warren, Daviess and Ohio counties. His longest pastorate was Rineyville Church, where he served from 1969-1989.

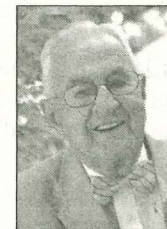
In 2006, Rineyville honored him by bestowing the title of pastor emeritus.

After retiring, Ward continued to serve in 23 interim positions in churches throughout Severn Valley Association. His last interim position, completed on April 19 of this year, was director of missions for Blackford-Breckenridge Baptist Association.

A graduate of Western Kentucky University, he attended Campbellsville College and Southern Baptist Theological Seminary.

He also served in several leadership capacities with the Kentucky Baptist Convention and was a recipient of the C. Ford Duschner award for support of the Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children (now Sunrise Children's Services).

Ward was preceded in death by his wife of 53 years, Justine Flener Ward, who passed away in 2001. He is survived by a daughter Sarah Margaret Ward, of Morgantown; a son, Samuel Thomas Ward, of Elizabethtown; three grandchildren and three great grandchildren.



Raymond Ward

Thoughts from our graduates

The following comments were provided by some of our graduating seniors and were shared at our graduation ceremony. Thank you, Kentucky Baptists, for helping these young people and many more to reach this graduation milestone.

This is Oneida



Larry Gritton

Female student from Phoenix, Ariz.—"My time here at OBI has taught me a lot. I've learned so many things, not only from my teachers, but from the houseparents as well. I've learned how to grow in Christ and if it were not for this place, I would have never learned how to do this."

Male student from Louisville.—"OBI got me away from all the things that I was doing back home. It saved me, and in the end it really showed me what being my own man feels like."

Male student from Oneida.—Growing up as a 'staff kid' at Oneida Baptist Institute, I've sacrificed some

things, but I feel that the benefits have outweighed the sacrifices—benefits like a quiet and safe environment, a Christian community to call home, and the chance to meet people from all over the world. I believe I have excelled mentally, physically, socially and spiritually because of the opportunities I have had at OBI and the sacrifices others have made for me to be here. I would like to thank the Christians far and wide who give to support the Oneida ministry. You have impacted my life in ways I may never know."

Male student from Brazil.—"OBI was a huge blessing in my life because my parents had no idea where I would go to finish my high school and then go to college, since they went to serve in Senegal. I am truly grateful for the help they gave my family."

Female student from Queens, N.Y.—"In all honesty, if I didn't come to this school, not only would I not be the person I am today, I probably couldn't have impacted the few people here

that God would have wanted me to."

Male student from Vine Grove.—"My time at OBI changed my life forever. I had more issues than I could count when I came here, but I have worked through many of them. I have grown in my Christian walk and faith and will be forever grateful to OBI and all the staff for all the wonderful memories and changes made in my life."

Female student from Fort Myers, Fla.—"My time at OBI has taught me a lot of things about myself. I have learned to be more adaptive and patient. OBI is a family environment which makes it comfortable to be here."

Female student from The Congo.—"OBI has actually helped me to be more open to others and be more responsible and make my own decisions, and to not always depend on my parents."

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

Highlights

Continued from Page 4

online news site, Kentucky Today, as a complement to the ministry of our Baptist newspaper, the Western Recorder. Kentucky Today has delivered thousands of state, national, and world news stories to Kentucky Baptists, and has provided news from the KBC and SBC.

We created Kentucky Today with two overarching goals: to ensure Kentucky Baptists are well informed so that they can better engage our culture, and to strengthen the sense of community among Kentucky Baptists.

Kentucky Baptists still believe in working together, as is evidenced by the fact that CP is at its highest point, year-to-date, than the past five years. For this fiscal year, churches are giving 5 percent above the budget.

As I complete my fifth year as executive director, I celebrate God's faithfulness and the faithfulness of our pastors and churches to reaching Kentucky and the world for Christ.

Graduates share favorite memories from the 'Creek'

It is graduation time at Clear Creek Baptist Bible College!

This is always a special time to celebrate what God has done in the lives of our graduates. I know you will enjoy reading about some of their favorite memories they recalled during their time with us preparing for God's call on their lives. They always enjoy sharing these during their graduation ceremony.

Clear Creek Chronicle



Donnie Fox

"My fondest memory while at Clear Creek is God's provision for me and my family including friends I have made with students, faculty and staff."

—Joshua Keith Blanton

"Two of my fondest memories from Clear Creek are walking in the woods seeing God's wonders and rediscovering the truth of God's Word

in my ministry."

—Tyson C. Bloor

"My fondest memory from CCBBC is playing intramurals, getting to know many wonderful people, and making friends that will last a life time. Being able to live in an atmosphere of love for God was amazing for a year and a half. I loved every moment I spent at Clear Creek."

—Jason William Brogan

"Some of my favorite memories are growing in my walk with Christ and making lifelong friends. I have also enjoyed my time with faculty and staff, the single ladies fellowship, exploring this region of the world as well as the Bible and other ministry classes here. God has truly blessed me at Clear Creek, and I am very grateful that He brought me here."

—Tyler Renae Camp

"Two of my fondest memories from Clear Creek are visiting New York City

on a mission trip with Dr. Hughes, and my peers and God transforming me as a Christian through Dr. Fox's spiritual formation class."

—Landon Trey Copley

"I have two fine memories from my time here at Clear Creek. The first is going out and fellowshiping with the guys from Kelly Hall. The second is working with Dr. John Ditty's choir at First Baptist Church, Whitley City. I had so much fun doing that."

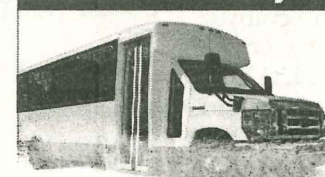
—Gary Lee Earl

"As an online student, I have never visited campus but I did get to meet the college president, Dr. Fox, at a Northern Kentucky Baptist Association meeting while I was taking a class that he was teaching."

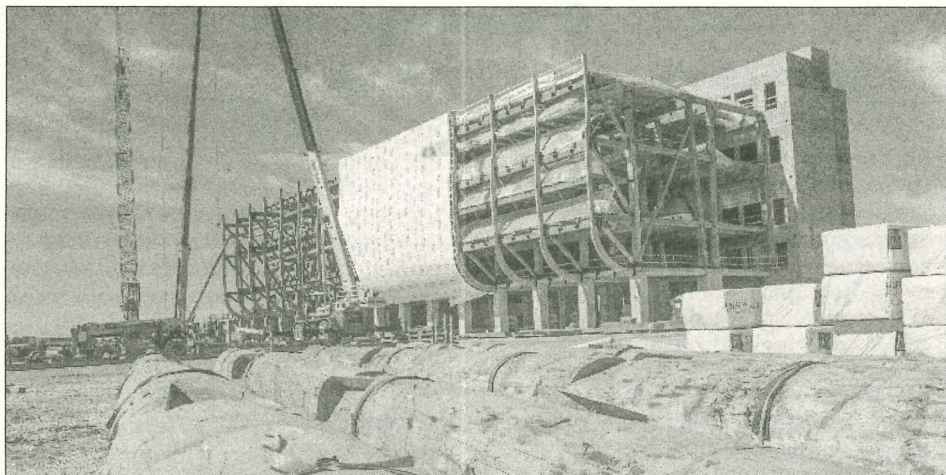
—John Jacob Haller

Donnie Fox is president of Clear Creek Baptist Bible College, 300 Clear Creek Road, Pineville, KY 40377; toll-free: (866) 340-3195; ccbhc.edu; email: dfox@ccbhc.edu.

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CHRISTIAN STORES



Ark Encounter gets tax incentive up to \$18.25M

By Diana Chandler

Frankfort—The Kentucky tourism authority has granted the Answers in Genesis apologetics ministry a tax incentive that could top \$18 million for its Ark Encounter museum opening July 7 in Williamstown.

The Kentucky Tourism Development Finance Authority approved the incentive at its April 25th meeting, ending a years-long AiG battle with the state for the incentive that allows developers of certain tourism projects to recover up to 25 percent of the project's development costs over a 10-year span.

The approval followed a Jan. 25 federal appeals court decision requiring the state to grant the incentive that AiG had sued to obtain. The state had argued that AiG would use religion to discriminate in hiring employees, and that the use of tax incentives to advance religion violated state law.

Newly elected Kentucky Gov. Matt Bevin chose not to contest the January court ruling. The tourism authority, with four new members appointed by Bevin, approved the incentive 7-0 with two members absent, the Courier-Journal newspaper reported.

Through a \$62 million bond offering and \$33.5 million in donations, AiG has raised \$93.2 million of the \$95.5 million goal to fund the museum's construction, Ham told Baptist Press April 27, emphasizing the incentive is not being used to fund the project. Instead, businesses must operate for a full year before beginning to receive rebates from the incentive.

"A lot of the atheists and some of the secular media were claiming for the last couple of years now, that we're using taxpayer money ... to build the ark," Ham said. "Well, the tourism tax incentive didn't even get approved until (April 25), so it has nothing to do with building the ark. This is a performance-based incentive, and it's only a rebate on the sales taxes paid within the facility once you open, and it's up to a certain maximum over 10 years."

AiG has estimated the rebate could amount to as much as \$18.25 million, based on attendance projections and the cost of the project's first phase. Still, the incentive was a contributing factor to AiG's decision to build the ark in Kentucky.

"We commissioned a specialist in real estate to look for properties" in the tri-state area of Indiana, Ohio and Kentucky, Ham said. "The tourism tax incentive was certainly a ... significant factor in the choosing of the property."

AiG did not apply for the tax incentive

for its first project in Kentucky, the Creation Museum in nearby Petersburg, which AiG said has attracted over 2.5 million guests since opening in 2007.

"When we first came out here and looked for a place to build the Creation Museum," Ham said, "we just did not know about the incentive" that must be applied for before construction begins.

The Ark Encounter is a life-sized replica of Noah's Ark with 140,000 square feet of exhibit space inside. It is flanked by a 1,500-seat restaurant, a lodge, a small zoo and other amenities.

Ham hopes the ark and upcoming phases of the biblical theme park, including a World City, a Tower of Babel and a First Century Village, will spur interest in the Bible and encourage many to accept the gospel.

"The secularists have been trying to shut down people talking about the Bible, talking about Christianity," Ham said. "(AiG wants) to do something that will impact the public with the Christian message, in other words, get them talking about it, and the ark certainly will."

"From what our research indicates, up to 2 million people a year could come to this," he said. "I think it will be one of the greatest Christian outreaches of our era. I don't think there's any other Christian attraction like this ... that would impact that many people."

The Ark Encounter will offer day and night attendance during its first 40 days of operation, evoking the 40 days and nights of rain from which Noah's ark provided protection. Tickets will allow attendance from 9 a.m.-4 p.m., or 5 p.m.-12 a.m.

"While the Ark Encounter will be able to accommodate 16,000 guests per day, our consultant's research has shown that we could possibly expect more than that during the first few weeks of opening, especially during the summer time frame," Ham said. "So, to make sure this themed attraction remains an enjoyable experience for everyone, we are adding a nighttime shift for the first 40 days."

Its July 7th opening is also significant. "We are so excited that the construction progress and schedule landed on this 7/7 date," Ham said in an AiG press release. "Genesis 7:7 states that Noah and his family entered the ark. So it's fitting we allow the public to enter the life-size Ark on 7/7."

Ham expects construction on the ark itself to be complete by the end of May, with landscaping and construction of amenities continuing up until the opening.

The ark is slated to employ 35-40 full-time workers and 300-400 seasonal staff. (BP)

White House issues transgender order to schools

By Tom Strobe

Washington—The Obama administration issued an order May 13 instructing all public schools to permit transgender students to use the restrooms and locker rooms of their gender identity instead of their biological sex.

The directive met quick protests from Southern Baptist leaders. Ronnie Floyd, president of the Southern Baptist Convention, described the federal guidance as "an outrageous attack on our Creator Himself, human sexuality and morality, and an advancement of the attack against religious freedom."

"Gender is not a human choice, but a gift from God to each of us," Floyd said in comments to Baptist Press, adding the directive "contributes to the continual chaos in our society."

"Every Christian in America or anyone who has any conviction about morality needs to rise up and say, 'Enough is Enough!'" Floyd said.

Russell Moore, president of the Southern Baptist Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission, described "the decree from the Obama Administration (as) a stunning misuse of power."

"Children are not pawns of the state, to experiment with on behalf of the latest fashionable 'right side of history' cause," Moore said in a statement. "Christians must continue to insist that the worldview of the Sexual Revolution harms men and women, and advocate for the inherent dignity of all."

Frank Page, president of the SBC Executive Committee, called the directive "an obvious attempt to obviate the will of the people to accommodate an agenda (President Obama) has sequentially followed since his election."

"In one inappropriate and most likely illegal action, he has put children at risk and bears sole responsibility for any child harmed as a result of this order," Page said in a statement for BP. "My hope and prayer at this point is that somehow the Supreme Court might recognize the inappropriateness of this action. God help us all!"

Denny Burk called the federal guidance "jaw-dropping."

"This radical directive is a heavy-handed, unconstitutional overreach in order to force Americans to pretend that some boys are girls and some girls are boys," said Burk, professor of biblical studies at Boyce College, the undergraduate school of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary.

The Obama administration letter does not have the authority of law but includes the implicit threat of a lawsuit or loss of federal money if a school does not comply, The Times reported.

"A school may not require transgender students to use facilities inconsistent with their gender identity or to use individual-user facilities when other students are not required to do so," the letter says, according to The Times.

It also says a school's duty under federal law "to ensure non-discrimination on the basis of sex requires schools to provide transgender students equal access to educational programs and activities even in circumstances in which other students, parents, or community members raise objections or concerns. As is consistently recognized in civil rights cases, the desire to accommodate others' discomfort cannot justify a policy that singles out and disadvantages a particular class of students." (BP)

Praying for a gospel harvest this summer

By Randall Breland

My college roommate kept a poster of a Charles Spurgeon quote above his desk that read: "Blood-red will our skirts be if through life we have sought inferior objects, and forgotten that men needed to be saved." Proclaiming the gospel is the one great objective of Crossings Ministries. Over 14,500 students and adults are scheduled to pass through the gates of Crossings' two properties this summer at Cedarmore and Jonathan Creek. Every student will be confronted with the pivotal question: "Will you believe on the Lord Jesus Christ?"

Will you join us in praying for this one superior objective—that students will come to know Christ?

The Crossings staff has a certain and confident expectation that God will move in the hearts of students and they will come to know Him. Why do we have such a confident expectation? We have such confidence because Jesus told us that the fields are white for harvest (John 4:35). We have such expectation because we know that God is at work building a kingdom of worshippers. We have such urgency because we believe that God is in the business of changing lives.

Therefore, we urge you to pray for

these students to believe on the Lord Jesus.

While knowing the Lord Jesus is paramount, we also want these students to have a biblical understanding of who they are. This is why our theme for the summer of 2016 is "Identity." Camp pastors will be taking students through John chapter 4 and delving into the life of the woman at the well. The goal is to help students answer the question, "Who are you?"

from a biblical perspective. We want to expose the false and destructive identities present in their lives and help them understand that they are a new creation in Christ. All believers belong to Jesus, and Jesus belongs to them! King Jesus is the living water that can satisfy their souls and transform their desires, behavior, and purpose in life.

Only He can provide them with the identity that they urgently need. Pray that God will continue to change students into true worshippers who are eager to love and obey King Jesus and are compelled to proclaim the gospel of the kingdom.

Randall Breland is the new director of communications for Crossings Ministries.

CROSSINGS
cross over from death to life



May

- 18-20** DOM Leadership Advance, Rough River Dam State Park
- 21** Celebrating Beyond March 2, 2012, Old Mill Park, West Liberty
- 26** Churches Planting Churches, Severns Valley Association, Elizabethtown
- 26** Why They Stay, Warren Association, Bowling Green

June

- 7** Power Lunch, Baptist Building, Louisville
- 9** LIFE Tour, Flemingsburg Church, Flemingsburg.
- 11-17** Kentucky Changers Hopkinsville

MOUNTAINS TO THE MISSISSIPPI

COMPILED BY STAFF

BENTON—Union Ridge Church has called **Jack Kee** as pastor.

CANNONSURG—First Church will host the spring meeting of the J.H. Spencer Historical Society on May 23 at 6:30 p.m. Pastor **Stan Williams** will speak on the Traveling Church and **Mickey Winter** on the first 50 Baptist churches started in Kentucky.

FREDONIA—First Church recently returned from a mission trip to Arizona. They recorded five salvations.

LOUISVILLE—Rockford Lane Church called **Ken Rutledge** on April 17 to serve as pastor.

MAYFIELD—New Harmony Church has called **Corey Holt** as pastor.

MURRAY—Salem Church has called **Lucas Nance** as pastor.

ROCKFIELD—Clear Fork Church will be hosting a Squire Parson's Concert on July 23 at 6:30 p.m. Free admission with a love offering being taken. **David Daugherty** is pastor.

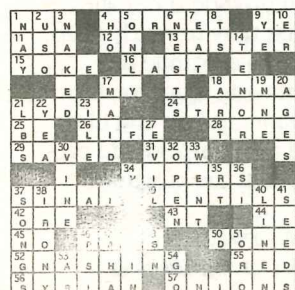
SYMSONIA—Elva Church will have revival services May 15-18, with different speakers each day and special music. Sunday service begins at 11 a.m.; Sunday night at 6 p.m.; week nights at 7 p.m. **Michael Littrell** is pastor.

Bible Crosswords

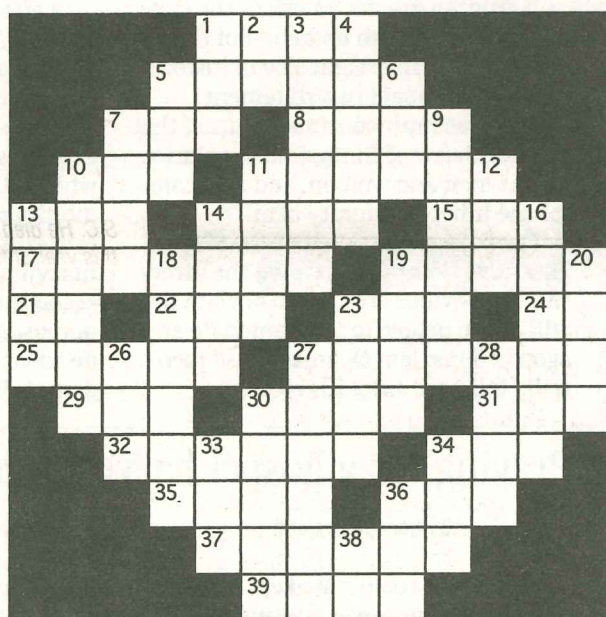
Across

- 1 "I will ____ praise to the name of the Lord most high" (Psalm 7:17)
- 5 "Famine and pestilence shall ____ him" (Ezekiel 7:15)
- 7 "He hath chosen Solomon my son to ____ upon the throne" (1 Chronicles 28:5)
- 8 "When it shall turn to the Lord, the ____ shall be taken away" (2 Corinthians 3:16)
- 10 Letter before dee
- 11 "____ is confounded and dismayed" (Jeremiah 48:1)
- 13 Self-addressed envelope, abbr.
- 14 Religious group
- 15 "There ____ him ten men that were lepers" (Luke 17:12)
- 17 "And hired counsellors against them to frustrate their ____" (Ezra 4:5)
- 19 "And if he trespass against thee ____ times in a day ... forgive him" (Luke 17:4)
- 21 Plural ending
- 22 Belonging to Judah's first son (Genesis 38:2-3)
- 23 Prohibit
- 24 Alcoholics Anonymous, abbr.
- 25 Robinson Crusoe author
- 27 "They found him ... sitting in the midst of the ____" (Luke 2:46)
- 29 "____ thy morsel in the vinegar" (Ruth 2:14)
- 30 "I will ____ in thy truth" (Psalm 86:11)
- 31 Amount, abbr.
- 32 Girl's name
- 34 Late general/president

#62



By Janet Adkins



#63

- 35 Father of Ahira (Numbers 1:15)
- 36 Saints, abbr.
- 37 Fur-bearing aquatic animals
- 39 Syringe, for short

Down

- 1 "I will ____ no wicked thing before mine eyes" (Psalm 101:3)
- 2 Method of administering medication, abbr.
- 3 "Not a ____, lest ... he fall" (1 Timothy 3:6)
- 4 "That he was gone to be ____ with a man that is a sinner" (Luke 19:7)
- 5 Expire
- 6 Equip
- 7 "And Samuel answered Saul ... 'I am the ____'" (1 Samuel 9:19)
- 9 "Gird yourselves, and ____, ye priests" (Joel 1:13)
- 10 "I have ____ you to be carried away captives" (Jeremiah 29:7)
- 11 "And there followed him a ____ of meat from the king" (2 Samuel 11:8)
- 12 Girl's name, for short
- 13 "Have they not ____?" (Judges 5:30)
- 14 "For they were ____ afraid" (Mark 9:6)
- 16 "They did ____ and ceased not" (Psalm 35:15) (2 words)
- 18 "Let my ____ go, that they may serve me" (Exodus 9:1)
- 19 "And the cup was found in Bejamin's ____" (Genesis 44:12)
- 20 Political cartoonist
- 23 Gaucho's weapon
- 26 "No grapes on the vine, nor figs on the ____ tree" (Jeremiah 8:13)
- 27 "All things which were ____ and goodly are departed" (Revelation 18:14)
- 28 "He was strong as the ____" (Amos 2:9)
- 30 "For the fierce ____ of the Lord is upon you" (2 Chronicles 28:11)
- 33 "Let us meet ... in the plain of ____" (Nehemiah 6:2)
- 34 Contraction
- 36 Theatre sign when there are no more seats, abbr.
- 38 European Plan, abbr.

CLASSIFIED ADS

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: 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 tunnelhillbaptistchurch@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: 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@fbc Somerset.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 at ehbc Harrison.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: 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 Ky. 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 is 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.

SEEKING: Hill Grove Baptist Church is seeking a bi-vocational pastor for rural community. We are located in Guston, Ky. www.hillgrovebaptistchurch.org. Send resumés to: kathygerkinsveith@twc.com or 1124 Ridgeway Dr., Brandenburg, KY 40108.

SEEKING: Part-time communications specialist for Kentucky WMU. Looking for an individual with experience in social media, web design, apps, creating print pieces (postcards, flyers, posters), writing, and project management. Experience with WMU organizations a plus. Send resumés and work samples by June 15 to Joy Bolton, Executive Director, Kentucky WMU, 13420 Eastpoint Centre Drive, Louisville, KY 40223 or email: Joy.Bolton@kybaptist.org.

SEEKING: Southside Baptist Church, Princeton, Ky., is now accepting resumés for a full-time youth and children's minister. Bachelor's degree, seminary training and experience is preferred, but not required. Please email resumés to: youthsearchteam@southsidebaptist.com or mail to: Southside Baptist Church, Attention: Youth Search Team, P.O. Box 684, Princeton, KY 42445.

SEEKING: Long Run Baptist Association in the Metro Louisville, KY area is seeking a director of missions for its 160 churches. Resumés will be received through June 30, 2016 and may be sent to christina@lrba.org to the attention of the DOM Search Committee. Hard-copy resumés may be sent to DOM Search Committee, Long Run Baptist Association, 2722 Crittenden Dr., Louisville, KY 40209-1114.

SEEKING: Erlanger Baptist Church is seeking a director for its SonLight Preschool. Preschool hours are Monday-Friday from 9:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. To view job description, please go to http://erlangerbaptist.org/#/connect/sonlight-preschool Please send all resumés to: ebcsonlightministry@gmail.com.

SEEKING: Richmond First Baptist Church is seeking a person to lead senior adult ministry. The part-time position includes building a strong fellowship of seniors through travel, Bible Study and group encounters, and also involves using seniors as a resource for ministering to others. Resumés or recommendations will be accepted until position filled and should be submitted to fbcresumes@firstbaptist-net.com or Administrator, First Baptist Church, 425 Eastern Bypass, Richmond, KY 40475. Selected candidates will be contacted to schedule an interview.

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

WANTED: I am writing a book on church revivals in Kentucky and gathering revival stories. If you would like to share a church revival story, call Jerry at (502) 531-0396.

FOR SALE: Looking for a mission? Christian publisher net \$57K part-time. Clients established. EZ to learn. Do from your location. \$24,900. Retiring. Call 828-633-2737.

MEMORIAL DAY: Jimmy Connelly's greatest honor

By Jim Burton

St. George, S.C.—An estimated 3.6 million Americans fought in the Pacific Theatre in World War II, overcoming brutal encounters on island after island against Japanese soldiers burrowed into the hillsides.

The late Jimmy Connelly was one of those Americans.

The Navy made Connelly chief of a troop-landing Higgins Craft during the massive amphibious assaults at the outset of the Allies' first major Pacific offensive against the Japanese—Guadalcanal in the Solomon Islands.

Each craft could ferry up to 36 Marines, and when they stormed the beaches, Connelly operated a 7.62mm belt-fed machine gun to provide cover. On his 10th trip to transport troops into the Solomon Islands battle zone, he also was carrying several hundred five-gallon cans of gasoline. When a mortar round struck their craft, shrapnel pierced his neck and arm, and his pants were set afire, propelling him into the ocean.

When he returned home from the war, Connelly never mentioned the injuries. Too many men like him—18 to 21-year-olds uprooted from their families and hometowns—lost their lives and limbs that day. His suffering, by comparison, had been minor.

Seventy-two years later, Connelly could still recite the names of his crew members killed that day in the Solomon Islands. Not until his mid-80s did he even speak of the war—or that the Navy awarded him a Purple Heart.

Child of the depression

Connelly was born in 1922 into a family who scrapped their way through the Great Depression on a small farm in Branchville, S.C. He carried fresh milk on the school bus, and when it stopped at a railroad track, he would jump off and make deliveries to the stores before walking about a mile to school. With the money he made, Connelly was able to buy his clothes.

After high school, Connelly attended the University of South Carolina in Columbia but was unable to find a job there to support himself. So he returned to the family farm and eventually secured a job at the Charleston Naval Shipyard as an apprentice building and repairing ships. He became a ship fitter, someone who measured and designed repairs—which led to his Navy enlistment.

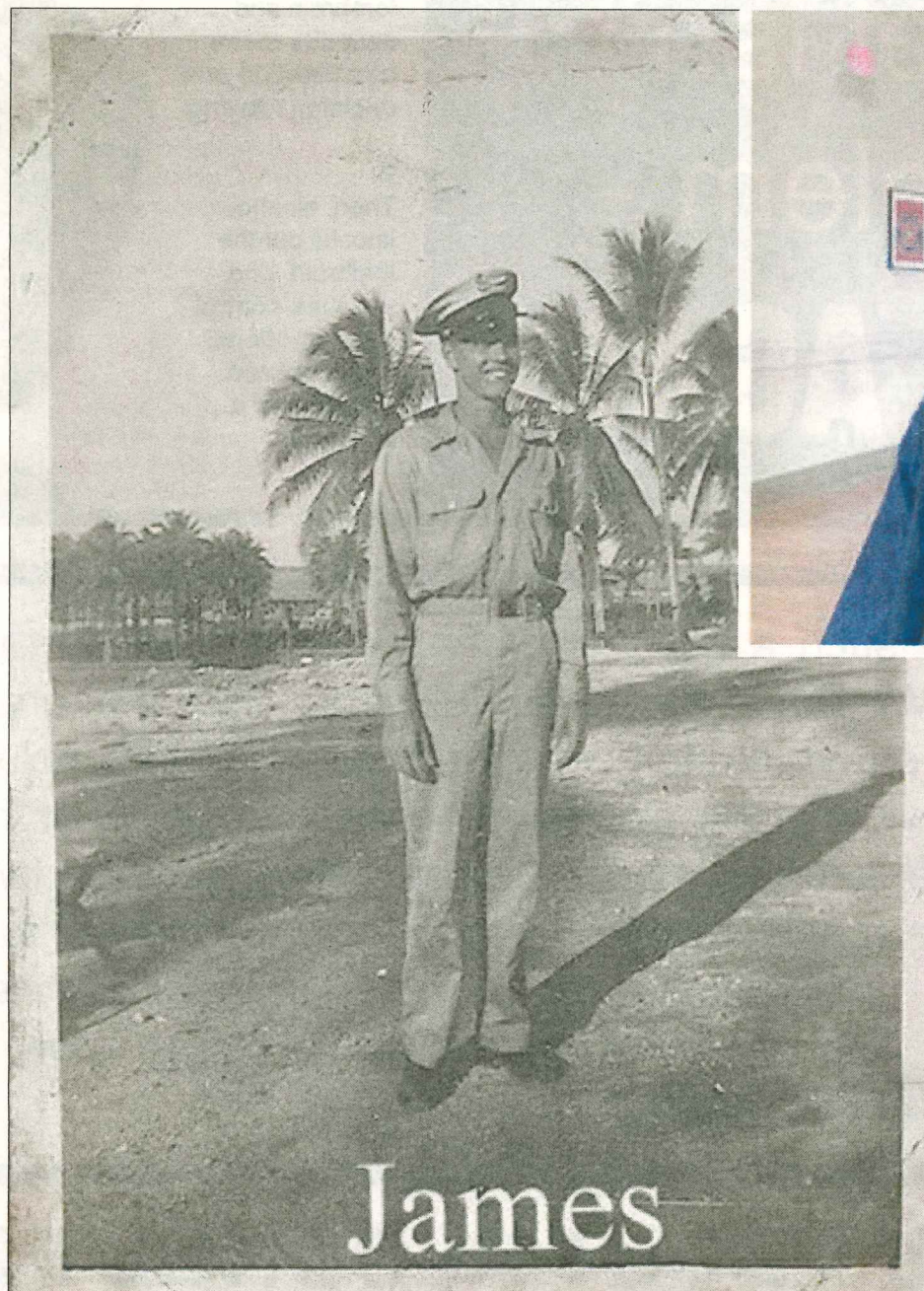
When he returned home from the war, Connelly caught the eye of Frances George, who lived about 10 miles away. He began frequenting their family's restaurant where she worked in January 1946.

"He was very quiet, not boisterous," Frances said. "Some of the soldiers were so flirty, but my husband wasn't like that."

Jimmy and Frances were married on July 2, 1946, when she was barely 18. This summer would have marked their 70th anniversary.

Their only child, Jimmy Connelly Jr., was born in 1947.

Connelly returned to the Charleston Ship Yard after the war where he worked as a supervisor in design and planning



Left: The late Jimmy Connelly, shown here in uniform during World War II's battles in the Pacific, received a Purple Heart for injuries when his Navy troop transport was hit by enemy fire—an honor he never told anyone about until some 10 years ago.

Right: Jimmy Connelly, after returning from World War II, became a leading churchman in St. George, S.C. He died March 26 of this year at the Veterans Victory House in nearby Walterboro. (Photo by J. Gerald Harris)

until he retired.

Because Connelly never talked about the war, Frances never understood how much of the war he brought home. Neither of them had knowledge of post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD).

"At night, he would have terrible nightmares three to four nights per week," Frances said. "It would scare me to death. He didn't know what it was, and neither did I."

Connelly had recounted in a 2015 interview with the Georgia Christian Index, "The most vivid recollection of the war for me was seeing those young soldiers being riddled with bullets and shrapnel when they landed on the beaches. I could see them losing their limbs and dying in the sand, and I can still hear them crying out for their mommas, but their mommas were not there."

The horror of war "still lives with me today," Connelly told The Index. "I saw large numbers of our best young men die ... to ultimately preserve our own freedom."

He also remembered the killing of enemy soldiers.

From his vantage point on the Higgins Craft, he could see Marines use flamethrowers to flush the Japanese from their entrenchments.

"It was horrible, but I could smell the stench of burning flesh from my vantage point hundreds of yards away," he said.

Not until about 10 years ago did

Frances know that Jimmy had a Purple Heart. That was also about the time she learned the extent of his shrapnel wounds when he started bleeding while shaving as shards surfaced on his skin.

When he had a stroke, doctors ordered a routine MRI. The powerful magnets in the MRI pulled one of the shrapnel pieces close to his jugular vein and nearly severed it.

Deacon emeritus

Jimmy and Frances were members of Memorial Baptist Church in St. George, S.C.

Besides his gentle spirit, friends and family remember how much he loved his church as they mourned his passing this year on March 26 at age 93.

He was one of nearly 500 elderly World War II veterans estimated to die each day.

"At the funeral, I got pretty emotional," said Clay Shook, Memorial's pastor. "He was a dear friend of mine. As a pastor, I need men like him in my life. He cared about his church, me and my family."

Shook spent time with Connelly in his role as a deacon and trustee as well as the church's jack-of-all-trades fix-it man. Connelly earned a reputation around town for shopping to get the best price on church repairs.

"Jimmy loved his church," Shook said. "He was an exceptional churchman and

deacon," a man who uniquely made "a huge difference."

He had come to know Christ as a young lad and was baptized at Mt. Tabor Baptist Church near Reevesville. "But I have been baptized three times—once as a child, again in the Potomac River before going to the Pacific. I just wanted to make sure I had properly obeyed the Lord," he told The Index. "I was also baptized in the Jordan River when I took a trip to Israel."

Connelly's example affected Shook's only son, Andy, who served in the Marines from 2008-2014. After boot camp, Andy came to church in his dress blues to salute Connelly on the church steps. At the graveside, Andy placed his Afghanistan combat-action ribbon on Connelly's casket.

Connelly's values took hold in his family as well. His youngest grandson, Christopher, gave a eulogy, speaking of his love for his grandfather, and his grandfather's love for Christ.

In World War II's battles for freedom, Connelly had told The Index, "I considered it worth my life."

Yet, "The proudest moment of his life," his wife Frances said, "was when they elected him deacon emeritus." (BP)

Jim Burton is a writer and photojournalist based in Atlanta, with reporting by J. Gerald Harris, editor of The Christian Index, newsjournal of the Georgia Baptist Convention.

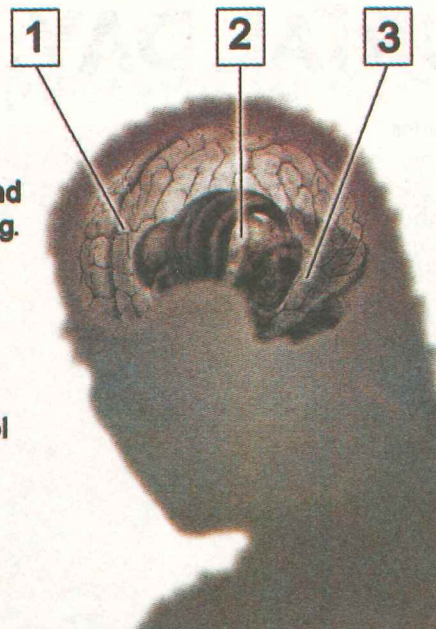
If you think alcohol isn't a problem - **THINK AGAIN**

HOW ALCOHOL ATTACKS THE BRAIN

A guide to the sequential damage alcohol inflicts on neural tissue

1. First, alcohol affects the forebrain and assaults motor coordination and decision making.

2. Then, alcohol knocks out the midbrain, and you lose control over emotions and increase chances of a blackout.



3. Finally, alcohol batters the brainstem as it affects heart rate, body temperature, appetite and consciousness, a dangerous and potentially fatal condition.

Alcohol has become such a big part of American life today that we rarely stop to consider its effects. We live in an alcohol-infused culture that encourages and entices everyone, especially our youth, to "just try it". Many people, including Christians drink wine with dinner, have a drink or two after work to relax, or have a few beers at sporting events. The alcohol industry has saturated our world with their advertising, using every available media avenue and its lobbying power, to promote alcohol as recreational and fun. They don't want you to think about the negatives - that would cut into their profits. The Kentucky League wants you to know the truth. Alcohol is harmful, dangerous, and addictive.

THE FACTS ABOUT ALCOHOL IN AMERICA

- ❖ 16.3 million adults age 18 and older had an Alcohol Use Disorder in 2014.
- ❖ Nearly 88,000 people die from alcohol-related causes annually, making it the 3rd leading preventable cause of death.
- ❖ In 2014, 9,967 people were killed in alcohol-impaired driving crashes, accounting for 31% of the total motor vehicle traffic fatalities.
- ❖ Alcohol is a factor in 40% of all violent crimes.
- ❖ More than 7 million U.S. children live in a household with at least one alcoholic parent.
- ❖ Among victims of domestic violence, alcohol played a role in 55% of the cases.

The Kentucky League continues to fight alcohol every day because we believe that people of faith are called to influence and change the culture in which we live. Therefore, the Kentucky League joins the National Transportation Safety Board in recommending that America lowers the blood-alcohol content level that constitutes drunk driving to 0.05 to help save lives and prevent injuries.

Kentucky League on Alcohol and Gambling Problems
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