

GA Compassion Camp

SEE THE STORY AND PHOTOS ON PAGE 7



WESTERN Recorder

July 26, 2016

Shine Like Stars * Philippians 2:15

Volume 190, Issue 15

Baton Rouge shooting stirs nearby churches

Baton Rouge, La.—Though heartbroken from the deadly attack on Baton Rouge law enforcement officers, the community has hope for the future through Christ, said the pastor of a church mere feet away from a police barricade of the incident, which left three law enforcement personnel dead and three others wounded.

"In the midst of our sorrow there is hope that God will redeem even this for His good purpose," said Jeff Ginn, pastor of Istrouma Baptist Church. "What Satan intends to destroy and divide, God will use to unite."

The Louisiana church was about to start its first morning service July 17 when Ginn learned a shooter had ambushed officers responding to a call nearby. They quickly changed the order of service, focusing on a time of prayer for the situation.

A shooter later identified as Gavin Long of Kansas City, Mo., killed two officers with the Baton Rouge Police Department and an East Baton Rouge Parish sheriff's deputy before being shot by police, according to media reports. The murders occurred less than two weeks after two white police officers

shot Alton Sterling, an African-American, in a Baton Rouge parking lot, inciting a wave of demonstrations that have led to more than 200 protestors being arrested, the Associated Press reported.

Though Istrouma decided to hold both worship services as planned, Ginn said the atmosphere was very different than most Sundays.

"There was an air of heaviness over the services," he said. "One of the points I made in my message was (that) Jesus had joy in spite of the sorrow He experienced. So we pressed on, remembering those who were suffering."

The church staff is holding meetings to plan their response, Ginn said. Possible ministry opportunities may include hosting a blood drive and placing messages of hope on an electronic billboard seen by motorists traveling on Interstate 12.

If the church doesn't offer hope in this situation, Ginn said, it is unclear who will.

"Hope rests in the Lord," Ginn said. "The church is the one who speaks His Word to the watching world. We have to be His voice in this moment."

The deceased officers have been identified as Brad Garafola, 45, of the East Baton Rouge Sheriff's Office, Montrell

Jackson, 32, and Matthew Gerald, 41, of the Baton Rouge Police Department.

Jackson's child attended the daycare at Florida Boulevard Baptist Church.

"Our hearts are heavy as we learn the loss of one of our daycare families. Our

prayers and thoughts go out to their families and all involved," a Facebook post by the church daycare stated.

Florida Boulevard Baptist opened its worship center this past week daily for anyone wishing to pray for comfort, healing and peace. They were joined by other churches hosting prayer gatherings throughout the week.

□ See Baton Rouge... Page 3

"The church is the one who speaks His Word to the watching world. We have to be His voice in this moment."

Jeff Ginn, pastor of Istrouma Baptist Church



SBDP volunteer Ritchie Blackerby of Morristown, Tenn., helps homeowner Joan Burns, 86, down the steps of her Rainelle, W.Va., home. Teams have completed a tear-out and mold remediation, and hope to help her return home soon. (Photo by Laura Sikes/NAMB)

Nearly 20 rescued from flood waters: 'Doing what I had to do'

By Laura Sikes

Rainelle, W.Va.—Rob Bowen had a decision to make. Flee rising floodwaters or help others find safety. The night of the historic flooding in West Virginia, Bowen and his wife Terri decided they would aid their neighbors.

The couple quickly took action. Strapping a light to his forehead, Bowen, a former coal miner, said he found himself out in the darkness in his kayak with a friend searching for neighbors in his hometown of Rainelle, like 86-year-old Joan Burns.

"I had to go and check on my neighbor to see if she was okay," Bowen said.

Burns, who lives alone next to the Bowens' hardware store, Redstar Home Supply, pointed her flashlight through her window to signal the men, who then managed to move her to safety. Southern Baptists Disaster Relief volunteers are now helping Burns return to her home.

Bowen and his friend worked until daybreak with one small boat tied to the kayak, rescuing 18 people in the town of 1,500 in late June. From higher ground, Terri Bowen relayed messages from those trapped in their homes to her husband as he searched from the floodwaters. Tragically, the flood claimed 23 lives that night—15 from Rainelle. About 100 rescues were reported.

"I was just out helping people, doing what I had to do," Bowen said.

"I was really worried with him out there in the water all night," Terri said. The Bowen home would survive undamaged, but their business took on almost six feet of floodwater.

Bowen chose to help his neighbors while the couple's business was taking on floodwaters, costing them thousands

□ See Disaster Relief... Page 3



Joy Bolton, executive director of Kentucky Woman's Missionary Union, and KBC Affinity Evangelism Strategist Andy McDonald welcome Pokémon Go players with Bibles, tracts and bottled water to a pokéstop at the Kentucky Baptist Building.

Pokémon Go craze draws gamers to area churches

By Tobin Perry

Yukon, Okla.—Pastor Dave Dolphin knew little about Pokémon Go before seeing his church's middle school pastor surrounded by several boys with phones out on Sunday discovering the new phenomenon that would capture the world's imagination during the coming week.

It wouldn't be the last time Dolphin, pastor of Trinity Baptist Church of Yukon, Okla., would see people wandering around the church property staring at smartphones. As a Pokémon Go "gym," the church has become a go-to place in the community for the game's players of all ages.

Instead of running from the growing craze, Dolphin says the church is embracing it—by letting players know they are welcome through social media and potentially providing refreshment for players who stop by in

the coming days.

The church's youth also planned an activity where they searched for Pokémon together.

"Everything can be something you can leverage to turn people toward the gospel," Dolphin said. "Think about your neighbors that live around you. Your first conversation with them probably won't be about the sin in their life. It's going to be about a football game or a basketball game or how they get their lawn to look a certain way. You begin the relationship that way. From there you can turn the conversation—maybe not at that moment but the next—to the gospel."

"On top of that, I think it's interesting how many churches seem to be Pokéstops or gyms," he said. "Now you have people on your property who are coming there to play this game, and

□ See Pokémon... Page 8

Kentucky Changers impacting Frankfort, Lawrenceburg communities

By Cary Donnell

Frankfort—Approximately 210 volunteers ranging from youth to retired adults spent five days serving the Frankfort and Lawrenceburg communities in mid-July. They renovated and repaired houses and mobile homes and worshipped at area churches.

"The homeowners are very appreciative," said Peggy Murphy, Kentucky Changers coordinator for the Kentucky Woman's Missionary Union, which coordinated the event. "(The volunteers) are learning what it means to be on mission. (Being on mission) is not a location; it's a lifestyle."

Thirteen groups of volunteers performed service projects at 14 sites, which included projects at Anderson County High School. Crews were given four days to complete the projects, working from morning until about 3 p.m. The cities of Frankfort and Lawrenceburg helped furnish the projects.

Their efforts not only touched the lives of the homeowners, but their own as well.

"We've seen people making decisions," added Murphy. "God gets the glory this week. We're excited to see how (Changers) will look in the future."

The end goal for Changers projects is not repairing a roof, installing new vinyl, cleaning a trailer, repairing a mobile home or constructing a retaining wall to keep out water. It is seeing God change lives through the gospel; it is using construction, repair and service to point others to Jesus.

"We've seen homeowners and Changers saved," said Joy Bolton, executive director-treasurer of Kentucky WMU, "This is about living out our faith."

At the end of each workday, volunteers gathered for a worship service and devotionals at their host church, where they slept and dined. Youth were taught how to write their testimonies and how to actively share their faith.

"We encouraged prayer walks through the community (by volunteers)," said Bolton, "This is a hands-on missions experience."

Volunteers were instructed to hand out multi-colored bracelets, with each color representing a part of the gospel.

"When the Lord opens the door, we need to be able to share," said Randy Foster, crew chief for one of the Frankfort sites. "There's been great interaction among everyone. Kids are learning skills and how to work together."

Tiana Asberry, a high school senior, was serving at another Frankfort home project that involved constructing fences. She was working with Hedgeville Baptist Church. It was her fifth year serving with Kentucky Changers.

"We are called to be the hands and feet of God," said Asberry. "We are called into a stronger relationship with God."

"The youth teach you as much as you teach them," said Tim Bowling, crew chief for a Frankfort mobile home project. "Doing God's work is very fulfilling. In just a week you can become a family."

The ability to balance gospel proclamation and serving the nearby community is what Kentucky WMU strives to achieve and encourage every day. Kentucky Changers is just another way to accomplish that goal.

"Some don't have the resources to do construction," explained Bolton. "We try to be a tangible expression of the gospel." (WR)



Top: Kentucky Changers always serves Anderson County High School, which hosts many of the students.



Middle: Kentucky Changers are involved with many different external repair projects.



Bottom: Several Kentucky Changers volunteers repair a Frankfort home.

London pastor eager to get started as KBC president

By Cary Donnell

Louisville—Andrew Dyer, senior pastor of Corinth Baptist Church in London, never envisioned he would ever be the president of the Kentucky Baptist Convention. Yet, he recognizes the responsibilities before him and knows he'll have plenty of support as he begins his new role.

"Andrew Dyer is one of the finest young pastors in our state. (He) is a thoughtful pastor, dedicated missionary, devoted husband and father, and a highly committed Kentucky Baptist," said Paul Chitwood, executive director/treasurer of the Kentucky Baptist Convention. "He will lead us well."

Dyer, who is moving up from first vice president of the KBC, replaces Kevin Smith, who accepted the position of executive director for the Baptist Convention of Maryland/Delaware.

"(Dyer) is an outstanding young man who led our church in the right direction, (in terms of) missions and Cooperative Program, a wonderful preacher and pastor," said Roy Faulkner, director of missions at Laurel River Baptist Association and a member of Corinth Baptist. "His emphasis will be missions. That's his heart."

"Anytime the members of Corinth need him, he's there," added Faulkner. "He's a real servant."

Dyer's focus as KBC president will be to

encourage cooperation and unity among Kentucky Baptists, whether it be through missions, church planting, church revitalization or evangelism. He plans to work closely with KBC executive director/treasurer Paul Chitwood in order to accomplish this.

"My desire is to exalt Christ, love His bride, and help the Baptist churches of the Commonwealth fulfill the Great Commission," said Dyer. "I look forward to being a cheerleader for the Cooperative Program."

"The KBC is a 'big tent' convention and I am committed to making sure it remains that way under my presidency," added Dyer, speaking about the many ways KBC serves Kentucky Baptist churches.

Dyer doesn't foresee much change with regards to Kevin Smith's agenda as he begins the KBC presidency. He believes the current agenda is not only sufficient but also proactive in terms of the biblical mandate and mission to proclaim the gospel everywhere.

"I know we have a great staff, administrative committee and mission board, so I feel very comfortable knowing that I am not in this position alone and have great people around me I can lean on," said Dyer. "I would also be remiss if I did not mention the Holy Spirit, who is given to help direct and guide me in this task."

Dyer knows it is important that he have the full backing of his congregation not



Andrew Dyer, of London, right, is assuming the presidency of the Kentucky Baptist Convention, after Kevin Smith, who became the first African American to hold the position at last year's Annual Meeting in Elizabethtown, vacated the office.

only to give encouragement but also to help alleviate added responsibilities he is undertaking.

"I am so grateful to the members and staff at Corinth Baptist in London for their encouragement and willingness to take so many burdens off of me that I hopefully can help bear some of the burdens of other pastors and churches across the state as we walk together," explained Dyer. (WR)

Running on empty? Get 'Fueled' at women's retreat

Louisville—Get much-needed fuel and spiritual refreshment at a women's leadership retreat this fall when the Kentucky Baptist Convention presents "Fueled" at Springdale Community Church in Louisville.

"Regardless of our present situation or natural abilities, God can provide everything we need to fulfill His call on our lives," said KBC Women's/Senior Adult Consultant Shelly Johns White.

Speakers will include best-selling author Jennifer Kennedy Dean, executive director of the Praying Life Foundation, and Katie Orr, author of the "FOCUSed 15" Bible study series.

"For Girls Like You" magazine founder Wynter Pitts and her 12-year-old daughter, Alena, also will be featured. Alena is known for her role at Danielle Jordan in the movie "War Room."

Fueled will be held Sept. 30-Oct. 1. The cost is \$28. To register, go to www.kybaptist.org/fueled. (KBC)

Baton Rouge

Continued from Page 1

Thomas Shepard, pastor of the Baton Rouge-area Church at Addis (La.), and members of the congregation spent Sunday afternoon ministering to the family of Matthew Gerald, whose nieces attended Vacation Bible School recently at the church.

"I prayed with the sister-in-law," Shepard said. "We let her know we could meet with her sister (Gerald's wife) or their children to provide grief counseling and whatever else they might need."

On Sunday, Shepherd urged church members to pray for local law enforcement.

"After this morning's unfortunate events, I would like to call our people to prayer," Shepard said. "The officers

affected in this tragedy are a lot closer to home than we expected. Some of our member officers were on the scene when several suspects were picked up in Addis for questioning in connection with the shooting."

Unity 'across racial barriers'

The day after Sterling was killed, 32-year-old Philando Castile, also an African-American, was fatally shot four times at point-blank range as he sat in his car during a traffic stop outside St. Paul, Minn., triggering additional protests nationwide. On July 7, five police were killed in Dallas by a suspect who apparently told officers he wanted to kill white people and was upset by recent police shootings.

Information about Long's motive in killing Baton Rouge officers has not been released, but Lee Wesley, pastor of the

predominantly African-American Community Bible Baptist Church in Baton Rouge, urged people to come together and find a way to break down racial barriers amid the streak of violence and racial tension.

Wesley has made counseling available through the church for those who have experienced trauma related to the shootings of Sterling or the three law enforcement officials. He is planning a multiracial prayer vigil in the hope of unifying the community.

"Our goal is to move forward to a spirit of oneness and unity," Wesley said. "We have a common enemy, and that enemy is Satan, who wants to tear us apart."

"We want the world to see us standing together on the Word of God and come together across racial barriers. We want to say all lives matter. Black lives matter,

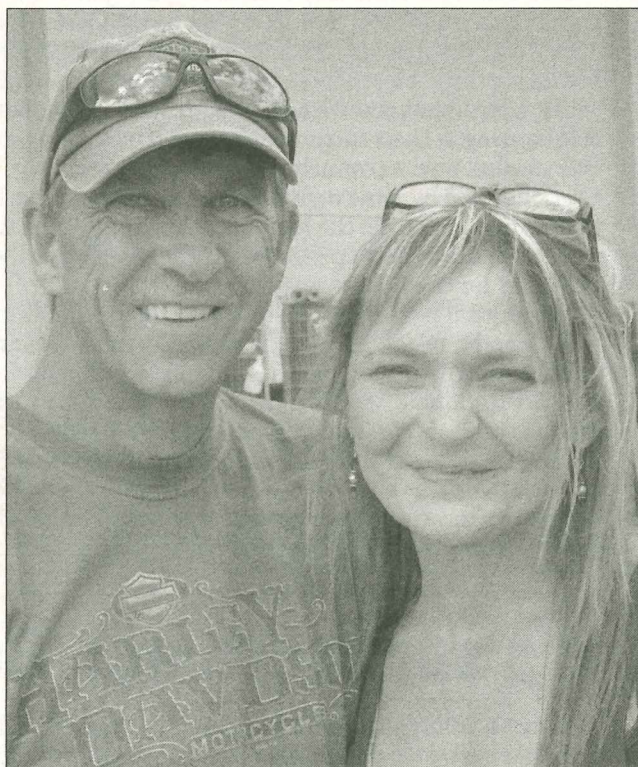
white lives matter, the life of an individual citizen matters, the life of a police officer matters."

At First Baptist Church in Baton Rouge, a predominately white congregation, pastor Oren Conner led a prayer in its worship service for the families of the slain officers as well as Sterling's family, especially his wife Quinyetta and 15-year-old son Cameron.

"The God who saved us is the God who holds us together," Conner wrote. "There is much to do in Baton Rouge, and the churches in our city will be leaning on one another in the days to come. It feels like we've been punched in the gut again, and we need some time to catch our breath. But today, the people of Baton Rouge need your prayers as we groan for peace and plead with God to stir in our hearts a desire to be peacemakers in our broken city." (BP)



Above: Southern Baptist Disaster Relief volunteer Don Owen (center) of First Baptist Church in Morristown, Tenn., prays with homeowner Joan Burns and her neighbor Rob Bowen at the SBDR incident command center, hosted at Bowen's hardware store. Volunteer Ritchie Blackerby (left), also of Morristown, joins the group in prayer. **Right:** Redstar Home Supply owners Rob and Terri Bowen, both natives of Rainelle, W.Va., have allowed Southern Baptist Disaster Relief to set up its command post in their hardware store's parking lot. The couple, members of Calvary Baptist Church in Meadow Bridge, W.Va., helped rescue 18 neighbors from floodwaters that hit their town in June. (Photos by Laura Sikes/NAMB)



Willing servants' sought to learn about Send Cincinnati

Cincinnati, Ohio—Church planters have a vision for Cincinnati and could really use the help of Kentucky Baptists to reach the city with the gospel.

Estimates are that as many as 85 percent of the city's 2.2 million residents are unreached and unchurched.

"The lostness is pervasive, but lives can be changed when God works through His willing servants," said Kentucky Baptist Convention Missions Strategist Doug Williams.

Pastors, directors of missions and other church leaders are invited to discover ways their congregations can impact lives for Christ by meeting with church planters at the Send Cincinnati Vision Tour Sept. 29-30.

North American Mission Board Send Missionary Travis Smalley will lead the two-day tour held in partnership with the Kentucky Baptist Convention and the Northern Kentucky Baptist Association. Smalley also serves as the lead pastor of Lakota Hills Baptist Church in West Chester Township, Ohio.

Participants will share a meal Thursday, Sept. 29, and hear details about the Send City strategy in Cincinnati—one of 32 Send cities designated by the North American Mission Board. The following day, they will meet area church planters and tour Cincinnati's inner-city.

Williams said getting involved in the tour has a dual benefit because when Kentucky Baptists get excited about doing missions, churches get stronger.

"One of the best ways to foster a culture of discipleship and sacrificial giving in our churches is to get members ministering in the lives of others," he said.

Registration for the Send Cincinnati Vision Tour is available at www.kybaptist.org/cincy.

The cost is \$50 and includes transportation during the tour, meals and lodging. Hotel accommodations will be made by KBC staff. Rooms are double occupancy and can be reserved through Aug. 28. (KBC)

Disaster Relief

Continued from Page 1

of dollars of inventory, said his pastor, Zed Volpe, of Calvary Baptist Church in nearby Meadow Bridge, W.Va.

"This is Christianity 101," Volpe said. "Rob and Terri have been awesome." About 100 Southern Baptist Disaster Relief (SBDR) volunteers and others serving from Florida, Kentucky, North Carolina, Tennessee and Virginia have been housed at Calvary since the flood, the pastor said. Church members have served around the clock since the storm hit to help their neighbors and SBDR volunteers.

While the town of Meadow Bridge did not suffer any damages, the church has several members who live in Rainelle and one member who died during the flooding that destroyed more than 200 homes, Volpe said.

Meadow Bridge High School will help house volunteers until school starts, he added.

Damage was so extensive, SBDR opened a command site in Rainelle. Don Owen, director of operations at the site, helped set up the command center with his team from Tennessee. Owen said he'll never forget the response of the people and the mayor of Rainelle the day SBDR came to serve.

"They were so excited when we arrived," Owen said.

Previously, teams served from SBDR's incident command post in Lewisburg about 25 miles away. Due to the need, and travel time to and from Lewisburg, a fourth site was set up in Rainelle. SBDR also continues to operate command sites in Greenbrier, Kanawha and Nicholas counties.

The Rainelle site is in the parking lot of Bowen's hardware store on Main Street. A North American Mission Board Send Relief trailer filled with cleaning supplies, blankets and water is located there to serve the community along with the command team. The Bowens also welcomed volunteers to use an apartment above their store.

"They told us that their property was our property and to use it anyway we needed to help the people of Rainelle," Owen said.

Bill Johnson is serving as deputy incident command leader in Greenbrier, managing relief efforts on behalf of NAMB. He said SBDR is thankful for the Bowens' graciousness.

"In a small town, everyone comes to the hardware store," Johnson said. "It gave us instant credibility in the community. Because of the Bowens, we have a Southern Baptist presence in Rainelle."

Johnson noted a sustained need for volunteers for mud-outs and for those

with construction skills as the work transitions from long-term recovery into rebuild.

Pastor Kerry Hinton of Lynnhaven Baptist Church in Pocomoke, Md., served with seven members of the church and another SBDR volunteer from Virginia on a two-day tear-out for Rainelle homeowner Gail McKinney.

McKinney's home took on four feet of floodwater. The team helped remove mud and debris from the home while helping the 72-year-old sort through her water-soaked belongings.

"Volunteers worked with wonderful compassionate hearts, letting her tell her story and start the healing process," Hinton said.

"A lot of people say that our town is going to be like a ghost town with so many moving out," McKinney said. "We like our town and I hope it gets back on its feet."

"It's a lot of mud and a lot of heartache here, but people have come to help us from everywhere," Terri Bowen said.

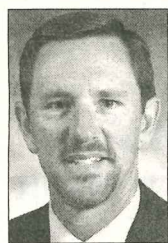
A recent Facebook post from the Redstar Home Supply page reads: "How about those workers coming from all over to help our town! You guys are amazing and really display the Lord's love for us. We are looking forward to seeing what the next chapter (holds) of 'being from Rainelle' ... We look forward to easier days ahead ... God bless." (BP)

Protecting our pastors

The call to be a pastor is the highest calling on the planet. What could be more important than serving as an undershepherd of the Lord Jesus, ministering to His bride? Since the church is the only thing in our world, including the world itself, that Scripture assures us is eternal, those who work to nurture and grow the church have answered a holy call.

To carry out KBC's mission of helping churches reach Kentucky and the world

Together We are the KBC



Paul Chitwood

for Christ, we have focused the work of KBC's Mission Board staff first and foremost on helping pastors. From my experience as a pastor for 18 years and in my role of serving churches and pastors for the past five years, I recognize the incredible privilege of serving as a pastor, but also the heavy burdens they carry. And I recognize that the enemy targets

pastors because sheep tend to scatter when their shepherd falls.

Mark Driscoll, Perry Noble, Darrin Patrick, Bob Coy, Billy Graham's grandson Tullian Tchividjian, the list of pastors with near rock star status who have resigned their ministry over the past couple of years due to moral failure is shocking. Beyond the megachurch stage lights, hundreds of others have disqualified themselves from pastoral ministry—lesser known, but bringing just as much pain and disappointment to themselves, their families, and the local church.

We deeply love and respect our pastors and want to ensure we are doing all we can to help protect them from the enemy. What can we do?

We can recognize the vulnerability of every person, including the men called by God to be pastors. In 1 Corinthians 10, the Apostle Paul uses the example of the Hebrews in the wilderness, those who "drank from the spiritual Rock" (v4) to show how even those who have lived in total dependence upon God can easily fall prey to temptations.

We must recognize the greatest enemies we face: Satan and the man in the mirror. In the same passage, 1 Corinthians 10, Paul references those who were "destroyed by the Destroyer" (v10) and warns us against thinking we stand (v12) lest we fall. Paul is addressing the problem of pride. Most every sin, and every moral failure, can be traced to pride, i.e., the love of self. The most difficult task we have is to control ourselves, our own cravings and passions.

We must never forget the pain and brokenness that follows moral failure. Paul reminds us that the Hebrews "were overthrown in the wilderness" (v5) and "twenty-three thousand fell in a single day" (v8). He offers this example as a sober warning to the Lord's people to guard our lives from sin.

As we guard our own lives, let us commit ourselves to guarding our pastors with constant prayer and encourage our pastors to guard one another with appropriate accountability. We want every KBC pastor to finish well for his sake, the sake of his family, the sake of the church, and for the sake of Christ.

Pokémon and the need for community

These past few days have brought some very disturbing images of black Americans being shot by policemen for sometimes seemingly trivial infractions, giving rise to "Black Lives Matter" protests blocking city streets. Then we saw distressing live reports of shootouts with perpetrators following retaliatory targeting of innocent police officers in Baton Rouge and Dallas, leading to "Blue Lives Matter" counter-rallies. The nation appears on the brink of anarchy in racism's grip.

These past few days also brought coverage of the Republican National Convention, and screens filled with Hillary-haters and Trump-trumpeters. As election time draws nigh, explosive rhetoric has been kicked up a notch. Political pundits square off on television, squawking at unwary callers. The nation appears on the brink of anarchy over control of the White House.

These past few days, in an odd distraction of sorts, also saw the launch of Pokémon Go, a virtual reality game in which players chase mythical monsters—Snorlax, Nidoran, Exegg-cute, Abra, Venonat and the like—lurking around their homes, workplaces, schools and shopping centers. Youth and young adults (and, yes, even older adults) wander about with faces staring at their smartphone screens, searching for that ever-elusive, rare, extremely powerful pokémon.

As if drawn by some mythical beacon, players have been sauntering up outside the Kentucky Baptist Building this week to find a "pokéstop," where "pokéballs" and other essential items for their quest await them.

Other local landmarks, historical markers, fountains, city parks, clocks, restaurants, courthouses, even area churches have become gathering places for teams of Pokémon Go players, called trainers, who in a real-sense are rediscovering the joy and spirit of rebuilding community. Once sedentary and solitary, tied to computer monitors in their darkened rooms, these gamers are venturing out into the open air, walking kilometers in search, visiting long overlooked places of community pride, and socializing with other young adults.



After Thought

By Todd Deaton

Oddly enough, in bringing people together in various neighborhood settings, Pokémon Go seems to be filling one of our society's greatest needs: rebuilding community. The players are breaking down racial and generational boundaries, joining together in a common interest or objective: finding new pokémon, establishing control of gyms.

And, in often bringing young adults to the doorsteps of our churches, Pokémon Go unwittingly seems to hint at its remedy: revitalization of the church. As a nation, we have drifted away from the church and Christian values and, in the process, have torn asunder the very fabric of our society.

Jesus taught us to "love one another, as I have loved you," to be a "good Samaritan" to those who are hurt and suffering (regardless of race), that as "God's chosen ones, holy and loved" we are to "put on heartfelt compassion,

kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience, accepting one another and forgiving one another," and that we should be "compassionate and humble, not paying back evil for evil or insult for insult but, on the contrary, giving a blessing." Treating others as brothers and sisters, worthy of dignity, respectfulness and grace—as we would want to be treated—seems to be deficient these days.

These are the pillars of building true community. They restore a right relationship with God and with our fellow man. Civility, charity and compassion are central to the Christian walk. "For the entire law is fulfilled in one statement: Love your neighbor as yourself" (Galatians 5:14). Red, yellow, black, white (and blue), all are created in His image and, therefore, precious in His sight.

What an opportunity we have been given! When pokémon players drift down our streets or arrive at our church's doorsteps looking for mythical creatures or prizes, we can offer them the true source of community. And, instead of just gaining power to conquer a nearby virtual gym, they will discover how to be "more than conquerors" through Christ, who "powers up" the believer and gives us eternal life.

It's summertime: 'Go, mow and glow'

Here's a wildly successful ministry idea that happened a few weeks ago.

Living Faith Indy, a church plant in Indianapolis, loaded a trailer with a riding lawnmower and some push mowers, edgers, blowers and brooms. The group prayed, asking God's direction for where to begin, then hauled the equipment to one of the modest neighborhoods near their church plant. They found a parking place for their trailer and began to go house to house, asking permission to mow each lawn—for free.

As they approached a home, a different volunteer was assigned to ring the doorbell. After getting permission to work, the joyful crew meticulously groomed the yard. The volunteer lingered on the porch to chat with the neighbor, getting to know him or her.

The work team included church members and a mission team from a partner church, with ages ranging from

kids to senior adults. Every person had a job: a grandpa rode the riding mower, adults operated lawn equipment, kids swept.

Fresh Ideas



Diana Davis

As the church group moved from one house to the next, the neighborhood seemed to come alive. One neighbor played music; another brought some water to workers; children came out to help. The atmosphere was astonishing.

The president of the homeowners association was thrilled to have her lawn done because her own mower had broken. The team gave her one of their used mowers as a gift, and she broke into tears.

When the church group left, the block looked fabulous, and they'd made dozens of positive contacts. They made friends, played with kids, prayed for peoples' needs, and served joyfully. And they'd invited every person to Sunday worship. Only eternity will reveal the

final results, but that church was so energized by the response they're now planning for different small groups to do the same project on various streets until they cover their community.

The last words of Jesus on this earth before He ascended into heaven were these: "Go and make disciples..." (Matthew 28:19). The first word of that verse, "Go," indicates that Christians are to leave the premises and tell others about Jesus as they go out. If we stay inside our church building, enjoying sweet fellowship and caring only for one another, we are missing a huge part of God's command.

There are ministry opportunities all around you. The primary focus is to show God's love, to engage strangers in conversation and invite them to know Jesus. No church or small group is too small, too old, too stagnant or too busy.

Make an intentional "go" plan for your church or small group. People nearby are waiting to hear God's Good News. So, go and glow! (BP)

WESTERN
Recorder

Shine Like Stars * Philippians 2:15

13420 Eastpoint Centre Dr.
Louisville, KY 40223

DR. TODD DEATON
Editor

RANDALL JONES
Marketing & Business Manager

News Agency of the Kentucky Baptist Convention

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

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

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

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

To subscribe: Send \$17 for a one-year, individual subscription or visit our website and subscribe to our digital edition at \$11 per year. Group subscriptions (church plan) are \$11 per year.

Letters to the editor:

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



Do people's lives really matter?

Enough is enough.

Christian brothers and sisters, it's time to put away the biased thinking that keeps us divided and embrace all people in godly love. Our lost world will never change unless the people of God acknowledge the pain of all people groups.

Our hearts are broken over the killing of police officers in Dallas and Baton Rouge, La., but we should also have broken hearts over every black life taken by police over seemingly minor offenses—whether the deceased was guilty or innocent. To see men and women die for what at times appear to be trivial reasons provokes despair in the black community. It is our hope that all Americans will love and respect the law enforcement officers who protect us, but the trauma experienced by black Americans over police shootings makes that more challenging for some at times.

Amazingly, in America, we have lived so long with racial bias that often we don't recognize why people of other races are hurting. The people of God must open our eyes, ears and hearts to the lives and struggles of others.

Will God hold Christians accountable only for loving brothers and sisters who look like themselves or for loving all the human family? The apostle John answers in

1 John 4:20-21 by stating, "If anyone says, 'I love God,' and hates his brother, he is a liar; for he who does not love his brother whom he has seen cannot love God whom he has not seen. And this commandment we have from him: whoever loves God must also love his brother."

First Person



Terry Turner

When the love of God is missing, the world becomes a wicked place and we find ourselves asking tough questions. What is happening in America when Micah Johnson, a 25-year-old black man, takes a gun into Dallas and kills five white police officers in the name of racial hatred? How powerful is racial hatred when a white man, Dylann Roof, walks into a black church in South Carolina and kills nine church members after joining them in prayer? What causes a police officer to kill a man over such trivialities as selling cigarettes, selling CDs on the streets or having a broken taillight? What fear is in the hearts of

police officers that causes them to kill a 12-year-old boy playing in the park with a toy gun?

An even more important question should be asked by the body of Christ: When will Christians love all people enough to stop the madness in our land? Professing followers of Jesus who persist in racially divisive

□ See *Lives Matter...* Page 6

What makes a family Christian?

The term "Christian family" is widely used but poorly understood. A family is not necessarily a "Christian family" because:

- The couple got married and each holds membership in a church;
- The family sits together in a beautiful sanctuary each week;
- The family occasionally prays together;
- A family Bible sits in the living room;
- The family celebrates Christmas and Easter.



Scott Wigginton

In fact, one could easily argue that there is no such thing as a family that is Christian.

While the family may have a strong Christian heritage and influence, only individuals can give their lives to Christ. There is, however, such a thing as a family that is marked by the

steadfast commitment of each member to the Lord Jesus Christ.

Following are some of the marks of this distinct family:

- Each person is committed to Christ and active in the life of the local church;
- Each person spends (or is learning to spend) time regularly in spiritual disciplines such as prayer, Bible study, silence, solitude, service, etc.;
- Parents model a life of faith that serves as a guide and example to the children;
- Each person is marked by the fruit of the Spirit: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control;
- Each marital partner is willing to give up his/her quest for the ring of power and selfish ambition as they strive to serve the true Lord of the Rings.

Charles Spurgeon once commented on Proverbs 22:6, "Train up a child in the way he should go—but be sure you go that way yourself."

A Christian family begins and ends with the commitment, faithfulness, and authenticity of the parents.

When this is the case, Henry Drummond's words ring true. "The family circle is the supreme conductor of Christianity!"

Weeping with those who weep

Although I live only 10 miles from downtown Dallas, I'm rarely there. But on July 7, of all nights, I was. I was a couple of miles south of Dallas when the shootings took place and had to make my way back through the city to return home as the situation continued to unfold.

The city looked unlike I had ever seen it. The streets were shut down, blue and red lights reflected off the buildings, and the sky was filled with helicopters. I listened to the reporters on the radio trying to make sense of what just occurred. It wasn't until I returned home and turned on the TV that I began to understand the reality of what had taken place in this city that I love.

It's overwhelming. I feel a sense of the gut-wrenching compassion that Jesus felt as He looked over the multitudes and saw them as sheep without a shepherd. I feel it for the families of Philando Castile and Alton Sterling. I feel it for the black community as they try to make sense of the last few days. I feel it for the 12 officers shot last night and their families. I feel it for the families of the five officers killed. I feel it for our Dallas police officers who will continue to protect our city and its citizens. I feel it for our nation that seems to have somehow reverted back to the racial tension of a previous generation.

As a pastor in this community, I'm thinking about how to respond. I must respond. Not just because I live in this community, but because this is what pastors do.

Pastors shepherd the people of God. They help God's people navigate moments like this. Pastors lead their people in prayer. Pastors encourage their people in hope. Pastors put these situations into a gospel perspective. Pastors lead their people in how to lovingly respond. The church must respond and the pastors must lead them. Even if, at the moment, it is a call to prayer, we must respond.

As we wake up to the reality of these horrific realities of senseless killings and deeply rooted racial tension, our first response might not be to act—but rather to feel. Romans 12:15 says, "Rejoice with those who rejoice; weep with those who weep." The reason God gives us that command is because He knows we do not naturally do this. God knows that every response to someone's suffering is easier than this one; it's easier to act than to feel. It takes less time. It takes less energy. It takes less listening.

It's not that we do not feel badly for people. We are sad for their circumstances and wish they were different. But we do not often set our own circumstances

6 basic truths about investing

What is an investment? It is when you put your money to work for you. Savings accounts and CDs are generally safer; however, their return is usually less. An investment will have increased risk and volatility, but will generally provide increased earnings. You need both—savings and investments.

Most investments fluctuate in value. Fear and greed often determine short term values of stocks. This has been very evident in the recent stock market volatility. An important thing to remember about the investment world: fear inevitably returns to greed, and greed inevitably returns to fear. Don't be overly concerned about the short term "ups and down." Invest for the long term.

Use time, not timing. Even the experts rarely time the market correctly. Just as they agree on the direction of the market, it often moves the opposite way. Those trying to time the market often do the wrong thing at the wrong time. However, those who keep time on their side by investing for the long term, generally profit. Be patient. Do not over-react.

Bank CDs and savings accounts will not make you rich. It happens too often. A person puts their money in CDs or savings accounts to reduce their risk. After taxes and inflation, they end up with a dollar amount that is lower in terms of real buying power. For the long-term, it is generally better to invest for growth to offset the effects of taxes and inflation.

Your "portfolio" is more important than any single investment. No one can expect every investment to grow dramatically. But, you expect reasonable growth from a total mix of investments (portfolio).

It pays to diversify. "Don't put all your eggs in one basket." Use a mix of investments with differing levels of risk. This reduces the volatility of one's total portfolio. People often know this reality but ignore it. The classic example is when someone sees an investment that did extremely well last year and they move all or a high percentage of their portfolio to that one investment, only to have invested too late and ride the values back down. Staying diversified softens this negative impact.

Christians should invest their money. Many of Jesus' parables deal with stewardship. Appropriate investing is part of a Christian's total stewardship (Matt. 25:14-30).



Don Spencer

aside and ask God to allow us to enter into someone else's suffering and pain. After all, we all have enough of our own. But this is the gospel in action.

Among the many gospel-centered responses the church will have to this situation, let's not miss the most basic one—to feel. The glory of the incarnation was not that Christ felt our pain, but that He took our pain, suffered and died for it. But one without the other does not give us much hope. We run to Jesus not only because He can help, but because He understands.

Our response cannot end with grief—but it must start there. We cannot bypass Romans 12:15 in order to jump to our sermons and action plans for racial reconciliation. We must pray that God, in His grace, will allow us to weep with those who weep. That somehow, in the midst of our own griefs and sorrows, God might allow us to understand and feel the grief and sorrow of those around us. That somehow, their grief might even overshadow ours. We must pray that we, as the church, might not only reflect those actions of Christ, but the heart of Christ. That the world around us would see the Jesus of the Bible, the one who bore our griefs and carried our sorrows (Isaiah 53:4). That Jesus is hard to ignore.

Josh Smith is pastor of the Dallas-area MacArthur Boulevard Baptist Church in Irving.

First Person



Josh Smith

Two polished coins

It is not often enough that I tell my pastor, Keith Inman, how much he ministers to me, how often his sermons each Sunday speak to me and strengthen me for the coming week.

Pastor Inman recently went to North Carolina for a visit with children and grandchildren and without fail whenever he goes for a few days of rest in the coolness of the mountains, when he returns his sermons always have a resolve and poignancy even beyond their usual quality. Such was the case this Sunday morning.

His subject was solitude and his text Matthew 11 when Jesus withdrew Himself from the multitudes and said, "Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and burden is light."

The good pastor's words and, more importantly, Jesus' words, were like cool, clear water for parched lips for me, and I have been quenching my thirst on those words ever since. One of the ways I have always found solitude is to delve into a favorite book and lose myself there, and

few authors help me find solitude better than Eudora Welty.

So, early one morning I turned to her fine, soothing memoir, "One Writer's Beginnings," and began to read with coffee cup at hand. If you do not know Ms. Welty or if you do not know this book, I would advise you to put down this newspaper this minute and go find her books right now. You will be better for it. If you cannot do so, here is a small sampling of her prose:

"When we at length bought our first automobile, one of our neighbors was often invited to go with us on the family afternoon ride. In Jackson it was counted an affront to the neighbors to start out for anywhere with an empty seat in the car. My mother sat in the back with her friend, and I'm told that as a small child I would ask to sit in the middle, and say as we started off, 'Now talk.'

"There was dialogue throughout the lady's accounts to my mother. 'I said' ... 'He said' ... 'And I'm told that she very plainly said' ... 'It was midnight before they finally

heard, and what do you think it was?'"

I love Eudora Welty because as a child of the South, she explains to me so much about myself and my family. When Pastor Inman preached about stress and worry, I needed to hear that sermon, because I am constantly stressed and I constantly worry.

Notes from the Back Row



Duane Bolin

Worrying comes honestly with me, because my mother was a chronic worrier. Those of you who remember my mother will know and understand and remember. Eudora Welty helped me understand why my mother happened to be the way she was. In "One Writer's Beginnings," Ms. Welty told how as a child she found in her own mother's bottom bureau drawer, a small white cardboard box.

Inside the box, young Eudora found two polished coins, two buffalo nickels. When she rushed with the prize to her mother, she asked if she could spend them. Her mother said no. Ms. Welty wrote, "I begged her; somehow I had started to cry. Then she sat down, drew me to her, and told me that I had had a little brother who came before I did, and who had died as a baby before I was born. And these two nickels that I'd wanted to claim as my find were his. They had lain on his eyelids, for a purpose

untold and unimaginable."

Eudora Welty's mother had been a chronic worrier and Eudora an overprotected child. When my brother Steve and I were still but babies ourselves, our mother had a baby girl named Cathy. She lived one day. Almost a year later, our mother had a baby boy named Timothy. Timothy lived one day.

With each baby, our mother had a hard, hard pregnancy. Our father did the best he could at work and at our mother's side, and Mom's sister and other relatives helped with Steve and me. Everyone prayed.

Steve and I only now are beginning to understand the devastating effects the deaths of our sister and brother had on our mother and father. Only now can we begin to understand why Mom was such a worrier and how Dad kept it all inside.

I think the saying is attributed to Plato: "Always be kind, for everyone you meet is fighting a hard battle." Or better yet, as Paul told the saints at Ephesus (at least in the language of the King James Version as I learned it as a boy), "be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you."

Duane Bolin teaches in the Department of History at Murray State University. He is a member of Murray's First Baptist Church.

A people desperately in need of the ministry of reconciliation

By Barry Fields

The shootings in Louisiana, Minnesota, and Dallas (and Orlando a few weeks earlier) reveal the reality of living in a fallen world, of creation groaning under the weight of its own unrest. Two gruesome videos were followed by the deadliest day for law enforcement since 9/11. The racial wounds in this country remain unhealed. The only path toward racial harmony is through relational harmony, and the only perfect relationship that has ever existed is the relationship between God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit. Relational harmony is best viewed through the lens of the Trinity: 1) the Image of God, 2) the Imitation of Christ, and 3) the Indwelling of the Spirit.

The image of God

God does something different when forming human beings than when fashioning the plant and animal kingdom. Rather than speaking humanity into existence, God forms us from the dust of the ground and breathes into us the breath of life. Before you could breathe, God first had to breathe into you.

He also declares that every human life is made in the image of God. The reason that mistreatment and murder of others is wrong is not simply because it is against the law, but because you are dehumanizing and taking a life that does not belong to you. Those created in the image of God belong to God. The creator has left his imprint on the creature.

COMMENTARY

When you don't see others as created in the image of God, you are going to devalue human life. That's why the shooting of a gorilla gets way more coverage than the 44 people on average murdered in this country every day, or the 3,600 lives we lose daily to abortion.

Even the gun control debate neglects the obvious: the heart of the problem is the problem of the heart.

James sums up this understanding well in his epistle: you desire, and you do not have, so you murder.

The temptation is to not see the problem at all. Satan is the most devoted racist you will ever meet, and one of the greatest lies he would have you believe is that racism does not exist. Racism does exist because evil exists. He seeks to divide us between black and white, rich and poor, young and old, male and female, so that he might take the throne of our hearts for himself.

Our own Southern Baptist Convention bears this sad reality through its own founding (in order for missionaries to retain slaves), a founding from which we have repented and sought reconciliation. Whatever our political affiliations, we need to understand that we have African American brothers and sisters in this country who live in fear for their lives. Whenever you deny the problem, you become part of the problem.

The imitation of Christ

How should we respond to these tragic events? By following the example of our Lord, who commanded us to

render unto Caesar the things which are Caesar's, and unto God the things which are God's, to not be overcome by evil, but to overcome evil with good.

We know there are police officers who abuse their power, just as there are preachers who abuse their pulpits, and politicians who abuse their policies. But for every corrupt officer, there are thousands of good officers, men and women who put their lives on the line daily. These officers are the ministers of God to us; law enforcement is for our good. We need to treat police officers with respect, thank them for their service, and pray for them.

I've admired the courage of Dallas Police Chief Brown during these days. Chief Brown lost his son, brother, and partner to tragic circumstances surrounding shootings and substance abuse. He has repeatedly declared that these divisions between law enforcement and citizens must cease. He has also taken this issue personally. Until we realize that this is our problem, nothing will change. Brothers and sisters, if you truly believe this is not your problem, remember that you are a sinner, and that automatically makes you a part of the problem.

Jesus is the solution; our job is to live in such a way that points people to Him. I'm glad Jesus didn't think the way we sometimes do. He could have said, "Humanity's not my problem," but instead He took on the problem by becoming one of us.

So when you see someone of another race, treat them with dignity and

respect. When you see someone being mistreated, stand up for them. Have conversations and build friendships with people of other races and ethnicities. Learn from their experiences. We are our brothers' and sisters' keepers. See the world through their eyes, then see it through the eyes of Christ (who was Jewish and didn't speak English).

The indwelling of the Spirit

Finally, we must have an absolute dependence upon God's Spirit to bring about change. When our forefathers and mothers faced times of national crisis, they got down on their knees, and they didn't get back up until the Spirit of God came down. I want to call us to that same desperation for the movement of God, that same commitment for the things of Christ, that same longing for the power of the Spirit. The whole point of Christianity is that God has reconciled us to Himself through Christ.

Now, our job is to be made right with one another and to share His gospel (2 Corinthians 5:11-21). Remember, somebody's son, somebody's spouse, somebody's father, somebody's brother was killed in Louisiana, Minnesota, and Dallas. Let's pray for the day when justice will roll down like waters, and righteousness like a mighty stream, for on that day when the Lord shall appear, there will no longer be black and white, rich and poor, young and old, male and female, but we will all be one in Christ Jesus.

Barry Fields is pastor of Hawesville Baptist Church.

Lives Matter

Continued from Page 5

rhetoric must be reminded of Peter's words in Acts 10:34-35, "Truly I understand that God shows no partiality, but in every nation anyone who fears him

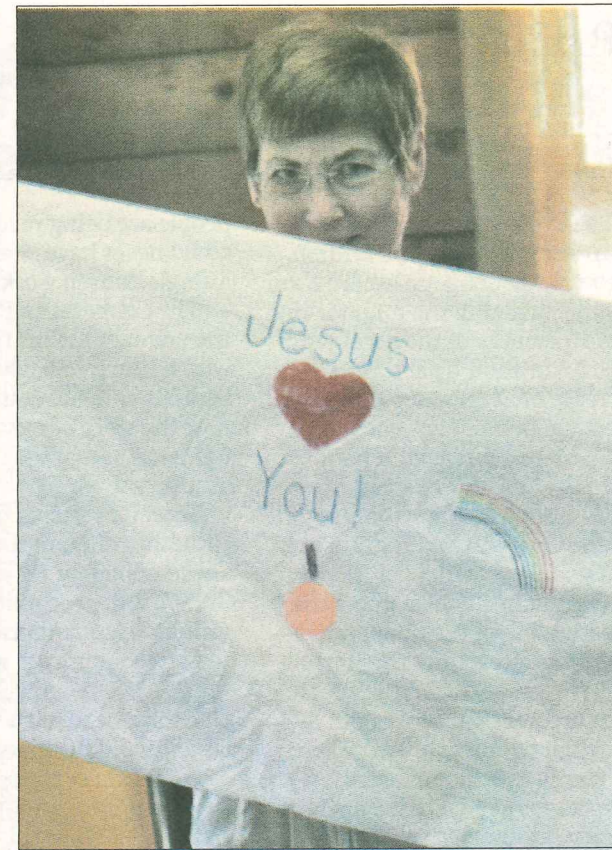
and does what is right is acceptable to him."

"Lives Matter" should be the church's rallying cry. It is a call to help heal the hurts endured by people from all races. The power of love born in the hearts of the people of God is the only answer for the racial issues that exist in America.

When the church is committed to live as Jesus commanded, she can teach the world that the love of God is able to deliver from racial hatred.

Yes, all lives matter to born-again Christians who are committed to live by the Word of God. In light of the bleak past, the final question Christians must

consider is how history will record our handling racial tension in present-day America. Will we walk in the power of love or yield to the wiles of Satan through hatred, racism and divisiveness? We all need each other's understanding to overcome these perilous times. Let's be intentional and love every body. (BP)



Left: GAs gather for a service wrapping up the weekend of fun, fellowship and learning that they spent together. **Right:** Joy Bolton, Ky. WMU executive director, displays a pillowcase made by a GA for a child at Sunrise Children's Services.

Living life of compassion aim of GA camp

By Myriah Snyder

Bagdad—On July 1-2 and 8-9, more than 170 Girls in Action and mother-daughter teams spent two days at Cedar Crest Camp learning how to love and live out a life of compassion.

"I just think it's important that they learn to care about others. The Bible study was the Good Samaritan, and they learned that everybody can be your neighbor, which includes the people in your neighborhood and the people around the state and the people around the world," said Stacy Nall, preschool and children's consultant for Kentucky WMU.

Both weekends included a time of personal devotions, group Bible study, worship, campfire time, games, hiking, swimming, crafts and a "Compassion Walk."

The Compassion Walk was a focus of the weekend and 10-year-old Addison Lauson's favorite part. "I like the Compassion Walk because we are learning about more and more stuff, and you get to do different stuff with them," she shared. "Down at the homeless station we got to build a tent. We prayed. We talked about hunger just now and got to plant

bean seeds."

The walk consisted of nine interactive stations spread throughout the campground. Each stop taught the girls about various ministries including Disaster Relief, hunger, refugees, Sunrise Children's Services and prison ministry.

The girls also spent time making crafts for children at Sunrise. The older girls handstitched little heart pillows with notes of encouragement and the younger girls decorated pillowcases.

"We know that God has given us a gift that we could never repay Him for, which is His son, Jesus. We are so thankful for that," Wanda Lauson, part of a mother daughter team from First Baptist Church of Taylorsville, shared.

"So out of our love for the Lord we are doing our best to be obedient, and to teach our children to be obedient, and to teach our children about God and about the love that He not only has for us, but wants us to share with others," she continued.

"I'm thankful, and out of our love for the Lord we are here learning and trying to help our children see that truth," she said. (WR)



Above: GAs and their mothers and leaders alike participated in game time. **Bottom:** The "Compassion walk" taught the girls about various ministries throughout the state that show love and compassion to those in need.



Girl displays the pillow she made sharing the love of Christ with a child at Sunrise.



CP UPDATE

Kentucky Baptists give \$18.5M through June for missions

Louisville—Kentucky Baptist churches gave nearly \$2 million through the Cooperative Program in June, bringing the total for the first 10 months of the fiscal year to \$18.5 million. That's an increase of nearly \$300,000 over the same period last year.

The latest financial report from the Kentucky Baptist Convention showed the strongest June for the Cooperative Program in 5 years.

"Kentucky Baptists know the effectiveness of the Cooperative Program in reaching the world with the gospel," said KBC Executive Director Paul Chitwood. "By working together through the Cooperative Program, our churches are helping to spread the gospel around the world, and

people are being reached who could never have been reached by a single church working by itself."

The Cooperative Program is the primary means through which nearly 750,000 Kentucky Baptists in 2,400 churches support the work of missionaries in the state, across the country and around the world.

Total CP receipts from Sept. 1 - June 30 are more than \$800,000 ahead of budget projections.

"We will need a little over \$2.7 million in contributions over the next two months to meet our \$21,250,000 CP budget," said Lowell Ashby, head of the KBC's Finance and Business Services Team. "It appears at this point that we'll meet and exceed that amount." (KBC)

Raceway Ministries reaching NASCAR fans

By Cary Donnell

Sparta—Every year Kentucky Raceway Ministries ministers to NASCAR fans at Kentucky Speedway where they have an opportunity to make contacts and change lives in a weekend of NASCAR racing, and this year they believe they saw their best so far.

"We distributed about 4,000 Bibles and 30,000 driver cards, which include God's plan of salvation printed on each card," said J.T. Marsh, executive director for Kentucky Raceway Ministries. "We did more ministry and made more contacts than I believe we ever have."

Ministry volunteers were asked to follow up with at least three people with whom they had connected. During the mid-week practice runs and qualifying races ending Saturday night with the Sprint Cup race, KRM participated in an autograph session, face-painting and games.

They also provided water and food for Speedway employees and vendors; helped repair, rebuild and reconstruct tents on the campground sites that had been damaged in a storm and attended to other needs.

"This year, we made an emphasis to make good contacts with people," added Marsh. "We didn't just want to hand them a Bible and send them on their way. We wanted to follow up and connect on a personal level."

After the Sprint Cup series race on Saturday night, KRM hosted a "Checkered Flag Pancake" breakfast as a closing event. It was one last chance to make connections and evangelize before the end of the NASCAR festivities.

"We had about 100 people show up," continued Marsh. "It was a very good event."

Three Kentucky Baptist associations assisted KRM during the racing weekend. Representatives from the Owen, Ten Mile and Whites Run associations served the needs of fans and Speedway employees.

"We would give out small gift bags that included driver cards and Bibles to many Speedway employees, fans and even a couple of drivers who participated in the autograph sessions in the Kids Zone," said Marsh.

KRM hopes years to come will bring as much, if not more, fruit and connections among the people whom they encounter. "The Lord absolutely was at work," Marsh said. (WR)

Pokémon Go

Continued from Page 1

it's an easy conversation to start."

Like Trinity, Southern Baptist churches throughout the United States encountered the Pokémon Go phenomenon this past week as players visited their properties to search for digital characters, called Pokémon, and engage in battles. In just over a week after its July 6 release, the smartphone-based game has become the most popular mobile game in American history, according to research by SurveyMonkey. Only Google Maps and Snapchat get more daily users.

The Independent says shares of Nintendo, which owns part of The Pokémon Company, have jumped by more than 50 percent since the game's release. According to media reports, the game is available right now in the United States, United Kingdom, Germany, Australia and New Zealand.

The game, the newest iteration of the nearly 20-year-old Pokémon franchise, engages players in an "augmented reality," where they try to find and capture Pokémon hidden throughout the real world. The Australian Business Review has suggested that it may be a "watershed moment" in the development of virtual reality.

Yet the value of the game for many churches is the way in which it has brought people to their doors. Many churches have been included, along with other public places, as Pokéstops and gyms in the game.

Gyms are places where players can battle one another and help one of three teams gain supremacy in the location. Pokéstops are places where players can pick up free items that help them in the game.

Public places like churches that the game has designated as Pokéstops or gyms will likely find themselves visited frequently by players who want to take advantage of the location's unique status.



Josh, left, a Duluth office worker and Lawrenceville, Ga., college student, chats with Georgia Baptist Mission Board state missionary Buck Burch. The cross in front of the Georgia Baptist Missions and Ministry Center had been determined a "gym" for Pokémon Go players like Josh. (Photo by Bryan Nowak)

Kevin Glenn, pastor of Calvary Baptist Church in Las Cruces, N.M., hadn't thought much about Pokémon Go until he read an article online about how the game was sending people to churches. When he shared the article on his Facebook page, he immediately heard from college students from his church who appreciated that their pastor had shown an interest in the game.

The church had a long-term vision to engage the culture, and Glenn saw the presence of Pokémon Go players on his church property as an opportunity to demonstrate Christian hospitality.

Glenn began to mobilize players in the congregation to man stations outside the church where players will be able to find water, charging capabilities for their smartphones, free Wi-Fi and conversation about the game (and potentially the gospel). He also hopes to put up similar stations in other public places around town—complete with tablets where players may be able to check out worship services online as they charge their devices.

"My conviction is that there are elements of creativity in the cultural products of our time, like Pokémon

Go," Glenn said. "We can find redemptive analogies in them. We can find the story in those cultural products and engage in them and point people to the Creator."

Chris Martin, an author developer at LifeWay Christian Resources and longtime Pokémon enthusiast, urges churches to engage Pokémon Go players coming to their church. Martin has written several posts on his blog, millennialevangeli.com, educating churches on the game and helping them see the missional potential of reaching out to gamers.

"When you have people literally coming to your doorstep, I would almost go as far as to say it is your responsibility to engage these people—whether they are there for Pokémon Go or they are looking for directions," Martin said. "If circumstances deliver people to your doorstep, I think you'd be smart to serve them."

"If someone shows up at your church who doesn't look like they're dressed for church or you've not seen at your church before, be kind to them," Martin said. "They may be playing Pokémon Go. If they are showing up during service time, you can invite them to services." (BP)

'Gotta tell 'em all' for Kentucky pastors

Louisville—Kentucky pastors are discovering creative ways to turn the "Gotta catch 'em all" game into "Gotta tell 'em all" opportunities.

Junction City First Baptist is not a Pokémon Go "gym," but Pastor Choe Sergent has some ideas he would implement if it were.

According to his Facebook account, he suggested:

1. Promote that it is (a pokéstop or gym) on social media.
2. Put it in the bulletin so grandparents can share with grandchildren to invite them to church.
3. Offer free donuts and coffee to millennials that play.
4. Put welcome Pokémon Go players signs out front.
5. Giveaway a church t-shirt to the daily gym champion.

6. Have key people mingling with the players that will share the gospel, invite to church, and invite to small group Bible studies.

"Remember, it doesn't matter how they come to the church; what matters is how they leave the church," Sergent continued. "Let them come looking for Pokémon; let them leave having found Jesus."

Immanuel Baptist Church in Lexington has a Pokémon Go gym located right in front of their church sign. They have "harnessed social media" to spread the word to the community, Matt Anderkin, director of communications, said.

"We will hopefully expand that soon, with offering specials in our recreation outreach center, and café there, as well as maybe at the sign having a place where they could get water or just some sort of hospitality to those people to know that they're welcome but we can also have a good time," he continued.

Anderkin added that although the app itself is bringing people to the sidewalk and parking lot, they are also looking into ways to use features within the app to get millennials inside the building itself.

"I think it's really important to do something sooner rather than later. Just in case this is a phenomenon of sorts, I want to make sure that we are there for it," he concluded. (WR)

Teen abstinence rate up 28 percent among American high schoolers

By David Roach

Nashville—The number of American high schoolers who have never had sexual intercourse has increased by 28 percent since 1991, according to data released by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control.

The finding was hailed by advocates of abstinence-based sexual education—also known as Sexual Risk Avoidance (SRA) education—as proof the message of delayed sexual activity is catching on with teens.

“I think this data is very clear,” said Valerie Huber, president and CEO of Ascend (formerly the National

Abstinence Education Association). “It confirms SRA is realistic and that it resonates with teens.”

The data “also tells us that we need to be more intentional with the messages we send to teens—and the importance of giving teens the skills to graduate high school without any of the negative consequences that can surround teen sex,” Huber said in a recent news release. Today, many of those messages “normalize sex, especially for older students. This must change.”

The CDC’s 2015 Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance System (YRBSS) found 41.2 percent of high school students nationwide reported having had sexual

intercourse. That’s down 54.1 percent since 1991, the first year statistics were measured, and down 46.8 percent in 2013.

The YRBSS data also indicated decreases both the past 24 years and the past two years in the number of teens to have sex before age 13, teens who have had sex with four or more different partners and teens who currently are sexually active.

A full 69.9 percent of high schoolers are not currently sexually active—defined as not having had sexual intercourse during the three months prior to the survey, the CDC reported.

The American College of

Pediatricians, a conservative counterpart to the American Academy of Pediatrics, said the new data “demonstrates clearly... sexual abstinence, is a relevant message for youth and a goal they can achieve.”

“The College urges all physicians, mental health professionals, educators and legislators to join parents in promoting sexual abstinence to youth as an attainable goal that is clearly the best for children,” the American College of Pediatricians said in a news release.

The data on teenage sexual abstinence was released less than two months after the CDC reported America’s teen birthrate had dropped to its lowest level since record keeping began. (BP)

Opioid abuse crisis gets congressional, Christian responses

By Daniel Woodman

Nashville—In the wake of an opioid abuse prevention measure passed by Congress, Christians are finding new ways to combat the crisis alongside the new bill.

Gary Robbins, pastor of East Williamson Baptist in West Virginia, described opioid abuse as a widespread problem that needs to be addressed.

“Just about everywhere I have been it has been a problem. It has hit everywhere,” Robbins said.

Opioids are medications that relieve pain by reducing the intensity of pain signals reaching the brain. One medication classified as an opioid is morphine, which is commonly synthesized and used to make heroin, one of the most addictive drugs available, according to the National Institute on Drug Abuse.

The Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Act, passed by the Senate July 13 and by the House a week earlier, will increase funding for abuse programs and make medicine that fights addiction more readily available.

The act will “address the destructive side of opioid use” and provide doctors and patients with more resources, said Barrett Duke, vice president for public policy and research of the Southern

Baptist Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission.

“There is something in this law for every kind of opioid user,” Duke said. “The person in pain will have more resources brought to bear to ensure the responsible and appropriate use of these drugs to deal with their legitimate needs.”

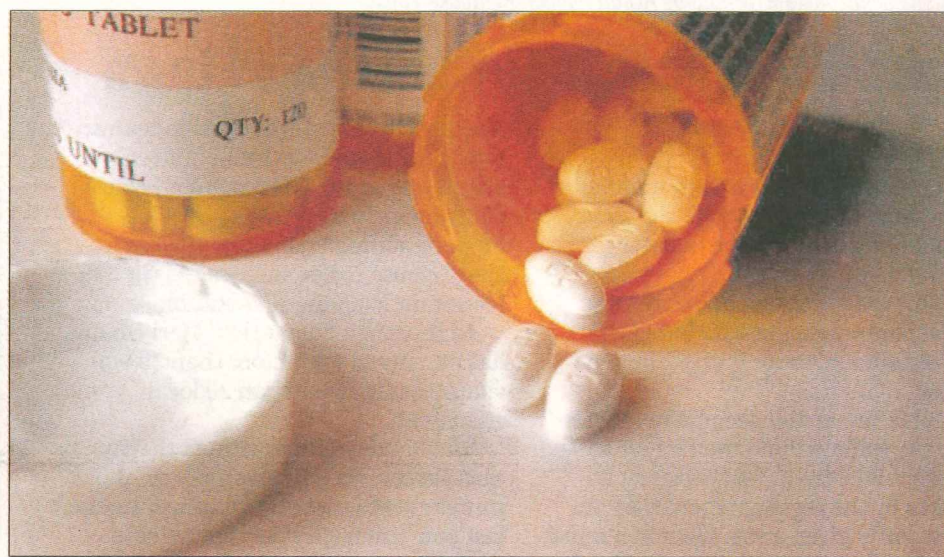
“Others who use these drugs to mask the effects of emotional, psychological or spiritual pain will find more resources available to help them deal with their real needs,” Duke said.

Opioid abusers also will face more obstacles when trying to obtain drugs, he noted, saying the law “will serve us all well.”

“Millions of people have been helped by the pain-relieving capacity of opioids,” Duke said. “Yet, for many of those millions, one form of pain has been replaced by the pain and destruction of addiction. Opioid addiction is real and deadly.... (P)eople struggling with addiction to a drug that at one time was a great help will soon have more assistance in reclaiming their lives.”

Locally, providing food and transportation are two avenues Gary Robbins uses to minister and counsel opioid abusers in his town.

“We go in with counseling, we try to



encourage them, and we try to show them what type of effect it is having on their children and on society. We try to give them the whole nine yards,” the pastor said.

The West Virginia Convention of Southern Baptists adopted a resolution in 2015 urging “every faithful Christian” to “bear a definite responsibility to achieve a successful solution” to the problem of drug abuse.

Messengers pledged “total abstention” from alcohol and illegal drugs and promised never to abuse prescription medication.

Building off the resolution, Robbins believes the true answer to the opioid crisis lies within the power of the gospel.

“Our only hope is a changed heart. God is going to have to do that. We just trust in the Lord. One of the things our churches are going to have to get over is condemning those people and treating them like they can’t be reached. We don’t have to agree with it, but we got to love them.”

Opioid abuse also is a major concern in New Hampshire, according to Rich Chegg, the state director of missions. The state ranks as the second worst when it comes to providing abuse treatment for those who need it, according to a 2014 report from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

“We have seen a huge increase in the number of heroin addicts in our small city of Manchester,” Chegg said. “The sad reality is that while just driving to the grocery store, you will typically see a few heroin addicts on the street.

The number of people panhandling

has drastically increased.

“We are also foster parents and the opioid crisis has overwhelmed the foster care system weekly,” Chegg said. “[W]e get calls or emails about children needing homes because of this crisis.”

There is a need for the church to get involved, Chegg said, and its role is crucial.

“The church should support foster and adoptive work within their communities. Right now the system is so overwhelmed.... For those struggling with addiction, the church can help provide resources and support faith-based drug rehab programs. Commit to pray for those struggling with addiction. And be a listening ear to the family who is hurting. After performing a funeral for a young man who died of a heroin overdose, it is vital for the family to be surrounded by a loving church that will provide support and love,” Chegg said.

The Southern Baptist Convention passed a resolution in 1997 that stated “because of our desire to provide good examples for those whom we love, particularly our young people, we promise total abstention from all alcoholic beverages and all illegal drugs, and furthermore we promise to never abuse medications prescribed by doctors or sold over the counter.”

Messengers also pledged “active involvement in the effort to rid our country of drug abuse” and to “to enhance public awareness of the problem and its consequences and encourage our Christian leaders and the entities of the Southern Baptist Convention to minister to those harmed by drug abuse.” (BP)

303-792-2783 or 800-264-2482

SPLAT

bogard press
Always True to the Word

Student Leaflets
Tell Cards
Teacher Leaflets
Visuals

SHARE • PRAY • LEARN • APPLY • TELL

Preview Paks are available.

www.splat.bogardpress.org



Baptist missionary Vickie Pinkley talks with customers in the eastern Kentucky convenience store that she helps operate. (Photo by Alison Pulliam/Kentucky Today)

Gas station fuels spiritual life of town

By Alison Pulliam

Lynch—A bell jingled as a middle-aged man walked through the door. He laid a few dollars on the counter for gas and requested prayer.

This may be unusual behavior at most convenience stores, but Black Mountain Exchange is anything but usual.

Bible verses and decorative murals dot the walls around the thinly stocked shelves. Free tracts and Bibles sit in stacks by the register where they are frequently given away. Christian music floating from the small stereo fills the background as customers shop.

Operated by missionaries Jim and Vickie Pinkley, this gas station and small store serve both the financial and spiritual economy of Lynch.

Lynch, like much of eastern Kentucky, was hit hard by the recent decline in coal mining. A town that once boomed with more than 10,000 people has dwindled to fewer than 800.

In its prime, Lynch was the world's largest coal camp and housed over 4,000 employees of the United States Steel Corp. The company spared no expense in building up the town—adding beautiful new schools, churches and even a hospital.

When U.S. Steel decided to close its mines in the area, it took thousands of jobs and the life of the community with it.

"It wasn't just the company leaving town, it was the town closing down," Jim Pinkley said.

Now there are very few jobs allowing people to stay in their mountainous home.

"The only thing we've seen in the last five years, as far as any type of business—other than the Kentucky Mine Museum and Portal 31—are the outreach programs like Meridzo ministries that Vickie is aligned with," said Lynch resident Don Elliot.

Founded by pastor Lonnie Riley in 1999, Meridzo Ministries has grown to be an integral part of the southeastern Kentucky landscape.

The non-profit branch offers many outlets for proclaiming the gospel. Among its ministries are a church,

housing for short-term mission teams, two facilities used to host children's camps and more. The for-profit branch contributes to community development by adding businesses such as Lamp House coffee shop and Black Mountain Exchange gas station.

In its years of operation, Meridzo has partnered with more than 30,000 volunteers in more than 20 local ministries.

The Pinkley family turned their own short-term partnership with the ministry into a long-term commitment last year when they decided to leave their home near Louisville and move to Lynch.

Hearing of the opening with Black Mountain Exchange pricked their hearts for this place they had grown to love. After 12 years of mission trips through their church, Jim and Vickie felt the Lord calling them to step out of their comfort zone.

They sold their house and moved their three children down to Lynch, leaving two adult children behind.

This required an incredible amount of trust in God, not only because of the separation from friends and family, but because of the lack of financial security. With Jim only five years away from retirement, the Pinkleys were unsure how they would support themselves.

However, Jim and Vickie knew the Lord would supply their needs if this is what He called them to.

Like the nine other Meridzo missionary families, the Pinkleys are funded on a "by faith" premise. This means they accept donations but they never go out and fundraise for support. They simply take it "by faith" that the Lord will know their needs and provide them in His time.

And while God continues to faithfully bless their growing business at Black Mountain Exchange, financial profits are not the main concern.

"Our intention, of course, is not to sell gas and is not to sell pizza and is not to sell food, but it's to give out the Word of God which is the bread of life," Vickie Pinkley said. "Our heart's desire is to see lives of the middle people here in Lynch changed completely for His glory." (KT)

Church leaders, members can sharpen ministry skills at Equip

Louisville—It's back-to-school time for Kentucky Baptists looking to sharpen ministry skills and get equipped for the coming year.

Registration for the Kentucky Baptist Convention's premier church leader training conference, Equip 2016, is now open.

The popular biennial event features more than 30 Southern Baptist experts in such fields as discipleship, evangelism and Sunday school.

Church leaders, staff and volunteers will gain valuable insight in how to lead effective ministry programs for pre-school/children, youth and women.

Other classes to explore include worship/music, church finances, security and revitalization.

Conferences run from Aug. 15

through Aug. 30 and will be hosted by eight Kentucky Baptist churches.

Aug. 15, Fitzpatrick Baptist Church, Prestonsburg

Aug. 16, First Baptist Church, Russell

Aug. 18, Parkway Baptist Church, Bardstown

Aug. 22, Beacon Hill Baptist Church, Somerset

Aug. 23, Calvary Baptist Church, Glasgow

Aug. 25, First Baptist Church, Walton

Aug. 29, Twelve Oaks Baptist Church, Paducah

Aug. 30, Edgewood Baptist Church, Hopkinsville

To register, visit www.kybaptist.org/equip.

The cost is \$10 per person with a maximum fee of \$50 per church. (KBC)



Providence Baptist Church members participate in a footwashing service, which was part of the celebration activities. Established in 1815, Providence Church is the birthplace of Laurel River Association, which organized 16 years later.

Laurel River's mother church celebrates 200 years

By Myriah Snyder

London—Providence Baptist Church, the birthplace of the Laurel River Baptist Association, is celebrating its 200th anniversary.

Their first service was held in November 1815. The church held a celebration around its 200th anniversary date where Luke Day, a Corbin pastor whose father was a former pastor of Providence, spoke, and they had dinner on the grounds.

The church has continued its celebration throughout 2016. They held a "May Day" service, honoring the tradition. Laurel River Baptist Association's director of missions, Roy Faulkner, presented a history of Providence. Those who wanted to participate had a foot-washing service, and they held another dinner on the grounds.

The regular homecoming service is planned for September, and Providence is acknowledging its milestone by packing 200 Operation Christmas Child shoeboxes for Samaritan's Purse during the Christmas season.

Since their beginning in 1815, the congregation has seen more than 1,000 baptisms and given in excess of \$1 million to missions.

"Providence Baptist Church is the mother church of our association," Faulkner said. "The association was organized there in 1831.

"Over the years they have grown and

been blessed and been one of the great leaders in this area in missions' outreach and community service," Faulkner said.

"They have a long and rich history since their establishment in 1815 and our association grew out of that. We have a great relationship still through all these years," he added.

Providence has members who have been on the membership role for seven or so decades. Maxine Rudder has been a member since 1944. "I just think it is one of the best churches around," she shared.

When asked what her favorite memory was at Providence, she said, "The best thing is when I saw my three children saved at the church."

Today, she and 14 family members take up an entire pew each Sunday. Six of her grandchildren also made professions of faith there.

"Our goal is to continue on trying to be a light to the community. We want to see souls saved, of course, for Jesus Christ, and be the salt and the light as the Lord has called us to be," David Thomas, Providence's pastor since 2005, said.

Thomas added, "Our vision is to be active in the community, outside of the walls of our church and make an impact on the area around us for Jesus Christ."

"The Lord has blessed us for 200 years and as long as the Lord allows us to tarry, we will just continue doing His work," he concluded. (WR)

Louisville church seeks to reach Indian neighbors

By Cary Donnell

Louisville—Hurstbourne Baptist Church could tell their neighbors next door were hurting and in need. But it wasn't a need for food, clothes or shelter. It was far greater.

"Several years ago the Missions Team from Hurstbourne gained a burden for the hundreds of South Asians that live near our church campus and began a strategic work," said Cameron Debity, senior pastor of the Louisville congregation.

"A key phrase that the leaders have rallied around is, 'A healthy church reflects the community in which it is a part of,'" he said. "So, many of our folks began to long for an ethnically diverse congregation, filled with individuals from our immediate community."

The church began an outreach mission to reach a nearby—perceivably lost—community of Indian immigrants, who are living in an apartment complex near the church.

The mission specifically arose from a vision from the senior pastor to make the congregation more diverse and look more like the vision of heaven in Revelation.

"I believe our church has become a place of peace and a conduit for friendship-building for our South Asians," added Debity. "They are an incredibly communal people so we provide many opportunities for them to connect with one another and for our faith family to connect with them."

The ministry is led by Prasad Aghamkar, a doctoral student at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, who is originally from Mumbai, India. He has been serving as a South Asian ministry catalyst at Hurstbourne since 2014.

"I was praying that God should show me a new way in which to reach out to the Indian community," said Aghamkar. "Hurstbourne Grand Apartments, adjacent to Hurstbourne Baptist Church, has a very large Indian population. God answered my prayer of



Members of the Aashirwad Asian Fellowship meet for fellowship and tea in the church parking lot, a weekly event every Thursday.

reaching out to these people by giving me this unique idea, which is culturally relevant and non-threatening to these people."

The ministry, called the Aashirwad Asian Fellowship, meets every month in the church's fellowship hall.

People from many different nationalities, backgrounds and faiths gather and hear the gospel proclaimed through devotionals, music and testimonies.

The ministry also includes a social aspect, where Indians visit and talk over free tea every Thursday in the church parking lot from 5:30-8 p.m., a time strategically selected because many are out for their evening walk. On average, about 25-30 people show up to the "Tea Stall" each week.

"Indians are very fond of tea or 'chai.' It's part of our culture to have tea and talk," continued Aghamkar. "Our main goal is to build relationships to have dialogue and discussion so that we can

ultimately share the gospel with them."

The church understands that patience is necessary to see how the fruits of their labor will pay off.

"This is definitely a long-term ministry effort," stated Debity. "For the foreseeable future, it seems that we will be neighbors to one of the largest South Asian populations in the city."

"We believe that God has strategically placed our church in close proximity to this people group for such a time as this."

The goal is to see the community of Indian immigrants come to faith in Jesus.

"We hope to continue to build relationships and to build trust, so that we can give a credible witness," said Debity. "As one pastor said, 'We want to be a church who does good deeds, to foster good will, so that we can share the good news of the gospel.' We are praying for that first Indian family to turn to Christ as Savior and Lord." (WR)

Website to aid foster care, adoption

Frankfort—A new website aims to make it easier for Kentucky parents to navigate foster care and adoption.

"Every child deserves a loving home," First Lady Glenna Bevin said in unveiling the adopt.ky.gov website with Kentucky Health and Family Services Secretary Vickie Yates Brown Glisson.

Bevin said her office worked closely with the state's Department for Community Based Services to create a website to clearly show each step in becoming a foster or adoptive parent.

The Bevins have nine children, and four are adopted. Bevin has said that her top priority as first lady is child and family advocacy. Glisson said the new website is an important first step toward making the adoption process less stressful and confusing.

"For prospective parents wanting to complete their 'forever families,' the steps of adopting can seem endless," Glisson said. "This improved website is meant to make the process understandable from the start."

According to DCBS, about 8,100 children are in Kentucky foster care, and many of them are awaiting adoption.

"Foster care is meant to be a temporary setting until families can be safely reunified," DCBS Commissioner Adria Johnson said. "But when children cannot return home, we work to find loving, permanent homes for them. This new website has revitalized the entry point for families to learn about opening their hearts and homes to a vulnerable child."

The new site also includes contact information and a link to the Special Needs Adoption Program photo search database where families can use criteria like gender, age and siblings to search the listings of children awaiting adoption.

"It's important that families seeking to adopt find the child match who is right for them," Johnson said. "This initial database search, with guidance from DCBS caseworkers, can help parents find children who are a good fit for their families." (BP)

Crittenden DOM to retire, cites health concerns

By Cary Donnell

Williamstown—Greg Nimmo, director of missions of Crittenden Baptist Association in northern Kentucky, will retire July 31 due to health concerns.

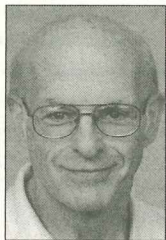
"I'm thankful for the ministry Greg has provided to the association and wish him well as he turns the page on another chapter in his life story," said Eric Allen, Missions Mobilization Team Leader at the KBC. "I applaud Greg's efforts to lead the association to try different ways to reach the lost."

Nimmo leaves Crittenden Association after 11 years.

He began as DOM in 2005 after stints as senior pastor of Oak Ridge Baptist Church in Williamstown, Beech Ridge Baptist Church in Bagdad and Hustonville Baptist Church

outside Danville.

"As you get older, your bones don't renew themselves," said Nimmo, "I needed to step down."



Greg Nimmo

Under Nimmo's leadership, the association has emphasized outreach.

"We just had a group return from the Sioux Indian reservation in South Dakota," noted Nimmo. "Going forward, the association will make it a point to focus on the epidemic of the heroine highway through northern Kentucky."

The Crittenden association will move forward with a search committee to find its next director of missions.

"I'm praying the association will re-examine its value to the churches and re-dream their future as they seek the Lord for a DOM," said Allen. (WR)

Biblical studies prof Denny Burk elected CBMW president

Louisville—Biblical studies professor Denny Burk has been elected president of the Council on Biblical Manhood and Womanhood, an organization that helps believers understand and apply the Bible's teaching on sexuality and gender.

Burk, whose election was announced July 20, is a faculty member of Boyce College at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville and director of the undergraduate school's Center for Gospel and Culture. His desire to address gender issues stems in part from his work as an associate pastor at Kenwood Baptist Church in Louisville, Burk told Baptist Press.

"I've already had church members wondering what they're supposed to do and how they're supposed to think about coworkers who are entering

into same-sex marriages and who are transitioning to some sort of a transgender identity," Burk said.

"They're wondering, one, what do I think about that? What does the Bible teach about that?" he said. "And then number two, how do I be a faithful disciple for Jesus in their lives in light of that?"

Burk's vision for CBMW includes reaffirming the organization's bedrock belief that men and women are fundamentally equal and have been assigned distinct roles in the church and the home, a belief known as complementarianism and articulated in one of CBMW's founding documents, the Danvers Statement of 1987.

Burk envisions drafting a new statement concerning "current challenges" like transgen-

derism and the redefinition of marriage, according to a vision statement posted online.

"Western culture has embarked upon a total revision of sexual and gender norms," Burk wrote in the statement. "It has evicted the male-female complement from the definition of marriage. Indeed, with the transgender challenge, it has thrown into question the meaning of the sexual binary that God has encoded into every cell in our bodies."

"As a result," Burk noted, "churches find themselves facing questions about manhood and womanhood that were barely imagined when the Danvers Statement was written."

Burk will continue in his role at Boyce in Louisville, where CBMW also is headquartered. He succeeded Strachan, who became executive director president in 2015.

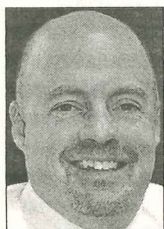


Denny Burk

A sweet spirit that touches many

The Oneida ministry reaches so many in so many different ways. Hayley is one of our "staff kids." Her parents, Steve and Sharon, have faithfully served at Oneida for 20 years. Hayley, I

This is Oneida



Larry Gritton

believe, has been blessed by the people of Oneida, but has also been such a blessing to those same people.

Hayley has some physical and learning challenges, and once she reached the age at which she could no longer attend public school in the county, it became necessary for us to consider Hayley's mother's role and her ability to serve in the ministry of OBI. We arranged a split shift type of job for Sharon that would allow her to be at home with Hayley half of the day.

You might ask, "What does Hayley do that first half of the split shift while

both her mother and father teach?" We have a "Career Placement" program that enables upperclassmen to work on campus for a couple of hours during the school day. Some work in our day-care center, some in donations, some in maintenance, some in our IT department, and others serve as office assistants, just to name a few of those jobs.

This past school year, we arranged for some of these Career Placement students to work closely with and care for Hayley for half of the school day. Hayley certainly seems to enjoy this time with friends, but I know those kids who worked so closely with Hayley have also been impacted.

One of the students who worked with Hayley is another staff kid named Olivia. Olivia just graduated, and when I met with her in May to gather information for graduation, I noticed she had mentioned she planned to pursue a degree in special education. When I asked her if that desire and field of

choice had anything to do with her time with Hayley, she told me it had everything to do with Hayley. Pursuing a degree in special education wasn't even on Olivia's radar before working more closely with Hayley, but her time with Hayley has led her to commit her life to the service of children who need some special attention.

Hayley brings such joy to our campus and to the lives of our students, staff, guests and volunteers. Each time I see Hayley on our campus, my day and mood are brightened. She has such a sweet and loving spirit, and I would encourage you to try to meet Hayley on your next visit. Although she has never been a student at OBI, she is a life that has been impacted and that has impacted many others. Once again, the Lord uses the people of Oneida to change young lives, and we are grateful for your role in that.

Larry Gritton Jr. is president of Oneida Baptist Institute.
Website: oneidaschool.org

The sounds of summer

While our administrative offices are still open through the summer, there is noticeably less activity with classes out and many of our students gone. This summer is an exception.

Clear Creek Chronicle



Donnie Fox

On any given day, you can be in different areas of our campus and see multiple renovation projects going on and hear the sounds of heavy equipment running, demolition work, hammering nails, and people discussing details of the

projects they are working on. Even though it is a lot louder on our campus this summer, these sounds of summer are very encouraging to us as we watch how the Lord has provided a way to get a lot of projects started that we have

been praying about for many years.

The centerpiece of our campus renovation projects is the reception area in our administrative building. This area is being totally renovated with new furnishings and will make it a more inviting place as our guests enter the building. The reception area will also include a renovated model of the city of Jerusalem that will allow guests to take a narrated tour of the city of Jerusalem and its surrounding areas when they visit our campus.

We are thankful for the new roof and other repairs that the Lord has provided for on our Family Life and Conference Center. Crews are busy getting that building ready. We have started renovations on Mahon Apartments, one of our faculty/staff housing areas. This building will house four newly renovated faculty/staff apartments when this project is completed.

We are excited about two pastor retreat houses that we are currently working on, which will provide pastors and their families a place to take a break from their ministry setting and spend some time on our campus free of charge. Paving equipment is a welcomed sight on our campus as crews complete paving projects on campus roadways that have been in need of new surfaces for many years.

We could not do all of this without the volunteer labor that comes to our campus each summer to help with our projects. This summer we will have groups from Kentucky, Tennessee, Georgia and Mississippi. We praise the Lord for these wonderful folks who have been a part of creating some wonderful sounds of summer for us.

Donnie Fox is president of Clear Creek Baptist Bible College, 300 Clear Creek Road, Pineville, KY 40977

Sending students, children and leaders

Kentucky WMU helps churches learn, pray, give, go and send! This includes sending student missionaries.

This summer Kentucky WMU has helped churches send students, children and leaders through Kentucky Changers, Acteens Activators, and Mission Adventure for Kentucky Kids.

EBO at Work



Joy Bolton

Just two weeks ago, a team of Acteens Activators was sent by their churches to serve with Kay Bennett at the Baptist Friendship Center in New Orleans. Kentucky WMU organized the trip, but it was churches that sent the student missionaries.

These students led activities with children and adults, provided school supplies, and helped with a block party.

Churches sent students to serve through Kentucky Changers in Hopkinsville, Calloway County, Greensburg, and Frankfort/Lawrenceburg to

help homeowners with work they could not do themselves. Many were elderly or disabled. Some just did not have the financial resources needed.

These homeowners were amazed that a group of teenagers would pay to participate in a week of missions work. The words "thank you" and "blessed" were heard over and over.

Our prayer is that these students will return home stronger in their own walk with the Lord and better equipped to be missionaries in their schools.

A part of serving with a student mission team sponsored by Kentucky WMU is training on how to share your faith. At Kentucky Changers, students spent time learning how to use a "colors of faith" bracelet to share the gospel. They wrote their personal testimonies and were encouraged to share their stories.

When students gave away a bracelet, they reported to Mrs. Peggy, who would ask them to tell her about that

experience and what it meant to them. Then they were given another bracelet to do it again.

I want to thank the adults who came with the students on these mission trips. The mentoring that has taken place is phenomenal. To watch the interaction between the adults and students, as they laughed and teased each other one minute, and then discussed serious topics and prayed together the next, touched me deeply. I have watched adults this summer who care deeply about students and demonstrate it by spending time with them, making mission trips possible.

On the last week of Kentucky Changers, I met two older ladies, who had come as chaperones with the girls from their church. They were having a blast. They both told me that they were not sure exactly what Changers was all about, but were willing to give it a try.

Joy Bolton is executive director-treasurer of Kentucky Woman's Missionary Union, kywmu.org

Borger to lead January Bible Study Preview

Campbellsville—Todd Borger, associate professor of Old Testament and Hebrew at Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary in Wake Forest, N.C., will be the leader of the January Bible Study Preview at Campbellsville University Aug. 4.

Borger will speak on "Malachi: Faithfulness to the Lord's covenant and teaching."

The session will be from 1 p.m. until 8 p.m. in the Banquet Hall of the Badgett Academic Support Center, 110 University Dr., Campbellsville.

The preview is open to pastors and laypersons who love to study God's Word. Cost for the preview is \$15 which includes dinner from Brothers BBQ.

Borger has published articles in several journals and served with the International Mission Board from 2003 to 2009.

He received his Ph.D. from Southern Seminary, his M.Div. from Golden Gate Seminary and his B.M. from the University of the Redlands.

Register at <http://www.campbellsville.edu/jbs>. For more information, contact Sherry Bowen, secretary for the School of Theology, at (270) 789-5029 or slbowen@campbellsville.edu. (CU)

Sunrise expands regional access to family services with three new offices

Mt. Washington—Kentucky Baptists' child services agency will open three new family services offices in August, bringing expanded access to therapeutic care and counseling to the London, Pikeville and Florence areas.

Sunrise Children's Services and its supporters will celebrate the new programs with launch events at each location.

• **London**—Ribbon cutting, Aug. 3, 3:30-5:30 p.m., with London-Laurel County Chamber of Commerce, at Sunrise Youth Support Center, 60 Bennett Circle.

• **Pikeville**—Aug. 4, 11 a.m. to noon, at Coal Run Community Center, 105 Church St., Pikeville.

• **Florence**—Aug. 9, 11 a.m.—1 p.m., at Sunrise Office, 8172 Mall Rd., Suite 219-220.

Sunrise's new family services program will provide individual, family and group therapy, and counselors will help clients cope with relationships, life events, grief, abuse, depression, and families affected by drug and alcohol abuse. Therapeutic services also include case management interventions with children and their families.

All counseling is strictly confidential, and insurance and payment arrangements are discussed prior to the first appointment.

"Sunrise's continued investment in these communities is meeting a critical need by providing damaged youth and families with a full spectrum of care for emotional, physical and psychological problems," said Dale Suttles, president of Sunrise Children's Services.

Sunrise's counseling and therapeutic services reach into all 120 Kentucky counties. The agency also has family services offices in Owensboro, Madisonville, Elizabethtown and Danville.

New Ky. Changers trailer named for Duvall

By Myriah Snyder

Monticello—In February, Dellard Duvall passed away, but he left behind a legacy of love with Kentucky Changers.

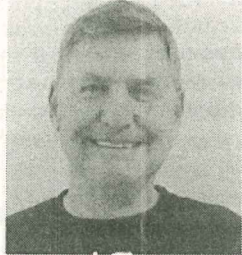
Duvall was a crew chief at Changers since 2003 and his wife, Vera, has been lead cook since 1999. Beloved by members of his crew, Duvall poured his heart into Kentucky Changers.

Before he became suddenly ill with cancer, Duvall and Vera felt the Lord laid on their heart to raise funds to purchase a trailer to transport sound and office equipment as well as other items. Previously, Changers used a bus and other means to move items from site to site.

After the 2015 Changers project, Vera went to a friend at First Baptist Church of Monticello and asked for help raising funds for the trailer. He agreed to help her as soon as she was ready. "I thought, we had time before the new Changers project started next year," she recounted.

"In the meantime, my husband got sick. So we had to deal with his illness," she said.

In February, the Lord called Duvall home. "When donations started coming in, I asked that they be given to Kentucky Changers and the trailer project for Dellard Duvall," she said.



**DELLARD DUVALL
KENTUCKY
CHANGERS**

Although this covered part of the cost, they were still lacking a significant amount. Her friend from church decided that instead of contacting other churches to raise the funds, First Baptist should consider donating the rest.

"I had no idea. It just blew me away. ... It was a God thing," she said. "He brought it before the church, and they voted to pay for the rest of the trailer."

This year, the trailer took its maiden voyage to Hopkinsville, filled with equipment with the dedication, "In loving memory of Dellard Duvall," written on its side.

"I think that is really a big testament to how important Changers was to them, that the whole church knew how important it was to them. And we needed it; we had nothing to carry our supplies in," Peggy Murphy, Kentucky Changers coordinator, said. (WR)



Arnie Forman, the associate pastor and music minister, left, and Don Tanner, a longtime church member and deacon, burn the mortgage note.

Northern Ky. church celebrates mortgage milestone

By Cary Donnell

Union—Union Baptist Church has a long history. Established in 1887, the congregation completed its first sanctuary three years later. The church updated its sanctuary in 1949 and felt led to do so again a half-century later. The church then added an educational building in 1968. But, as any church will tell you, decisions like these are not easy ones for members bear the burden for many years.

"The newness of our worship center lasted for several months, and it was truly a blessing, then reality set in," said Arnie Forman, associate pastor and minister of music at Union Baptist. "We had a mortgage (to pay off)."

By 2011, the church had cut the debt roughly in half. Yet, there still was a long way to go. Progress on paying off a worship center, built from 1999-2000, was slowed due to a couple of pastors on staff deciding to accept calls elsewhere.

That's when one of the deacons challenged the congregation to pay off the debt as quickly as possible in order to position the church for greater ministry opportunities, Forman said.

"No one disagreed that we needed to be

debt free," he added, "but some questioned whether we could make much ground in such bad economic times."

The first Sunday of the month was designated as "Gifts Sunday," in which the church body would go above its tithe to pay off the mortgage quickly. While members were welcome to give any Sunday, the first Sunday of each month was emphasized.

"The Lord received our gifts of faith, and with His blessing what had taken the previous 11 years to accomplish was achieved in four years," noted Forman.

The church celebrated its payoff with a church-wide picnic and mortgage note-burning June 12. "The church gathered together, humbled by God's grace and love, and praised Him as Jehovah Jireh; 'God our provider'."

Randy Jones, interim senior pastor at Union Baptist, issued a challenge to not rest on the recent accomplishment of paying off the mortgage, but rather look ahead to the future. "Look unto the subdivisions and the abundant numbers of people all around our church building who need to know Christ as Savior and Lord," he urged. "Let's pray and seek God's direction for future evangelism and growth. Let's claim the city of Union for Christ!" (WR)

Crossings Ministries hires director of development

Crossings Ministries has hired Trey Brunson to lead its newly created Development Program, beginning Aug. 1. The Development Program aims to build a needs-based camp scholarship program, expand the capacity of Crossings' camp and conference centers, and to drive new ministry initiatives.

Brunson, his wife Rachael, and their two sons are moving from California, where they have spent the last year helping plant Story City Church in Burbank. Brunson brings a wealth of experience to the table, having served in executive pastoral roles for the past 10 years at First Baptist Church of Jacksonville, Fla., and First Baptist Church of Dallas, Tex.

Crossings' new Development Program is a fundamental component in Crossings current efforts to expand its ministry. By the end of this summer, Crossings will have seen more than 14,000 students and adults come to camp to hear the gospel proclaimed. During this summer alone, 665 students have professed belief in Jesus as Savior and another 653 students have been called to ministry while at camp.

The camp and conference centers are nearing full capacity during the summer. President Jeff Dalrymple remarked on the unique door of opportunity the Lord has given Crossings, "Today, the need to reach

students with the message of the gospel is critical. As we look to the future, we have a unique opportunity to build on our current success. The board and leadership of Crossings are seeking to expand the ministry and influence of Crossings to see more lives changed and more leaders equipped."

Brunson will begin his work within the Kentucky and Midwest region, focusing on building relationships with current and previous ministry

partners. From there, Brunson plans to build a network of friends and ministry partners who can help Crossings reach more people with the gospel.

When asked about the need for a Development Program, Brunson elaborated, "Imagine if we were able to build more buildings. How many more kids could we put there? Students need to hear about Jesus and be equipped to proclaim the gospel. Future missionaries and pastors are sitting in those seats. The problem is not getting kids to camp; the problem is having enough seats for all the students who want to come."

Pastors, partners, or friends of Crossings who are interested in learning more about Crossings Development Program can contact Trey Brunson at (502) 491-7000 or tbrunson@gocrossings.org.



Trey Brunson



In Memory

Mullins, Kentucky pastor, dies at 77

Carl Mullins of Dry Ridge, a long-time Kentucky Baptist pastor, died July 7 in Warsaw after an extended illness. He was 77.

Mullins was a member of Inez Baptist Church. His former pastorates include Demossville Baptist Church, First Baptist Church of Salyersville, Warfield Baptist Church, Mouthcard Baptist Church, First Baptist Church of West Liberty, Cherryville Baptist Church in Lawrence County, and Topmost Baptist Church.

In addition to his wife of 56 years, Eileen Rebekah Mullins, he is survived by a daughter, Virginia Bishop of Union; two sons, Carl Dwayne Mullins, of Cordova, and Richard Mullins, of Wittensville; four grandchildren; two great-granddaughters; and three sisters.

Funeral services were held July 11 at the Elliston-Stanley Funeral Home in Williamstown. Memorials are suggested to the Missions Department of the Kentucky Baptist Convention. (WR)

Woodcock, KBC staff member, dies suddenly

Vicky Woodcock, a ministry assistant at the Kentucky Baptist Convention, died on Friday, July 8.

She worked for the KBC for 10 years and was a member of Lakewood Baptist Church in Louisville.

"Vicky Woodcock was a valued member of the KBC staff.... She was very dedicated to her work," Jim Donnell,

associate executive director for Kentucky Baptist Convention operations, said.

Donnell continued, "Vicky especially loved serving Kentucky Baptists. Her skills were particularly called upon during a several year period when we were without a director in the Worship and Music department when Vicky essentially ran this area of work. A lesser individual would have wilted under this pressure, but Vicky met this challenge head on."

"Kentucky Baptists were fortunate to have had Vicky's services," he added.

Steve Rice, her KBC supervisor, said, "(Woodcock) was an extremely hard worker as well as an extremely happy worker! She will be greatly missed as a loyal KBC staff member, but even more as a friend."

She is survived by her husband, daughter and son, mother, sisters and numerous other family and friends. Funeral services were held July 13 at Lakewood Baptist Church. (WR)



Vicky Woodcock



July

29-30 Camp Courage, Laurel Lake Camp, Corbin

August

2 Power Lunch, Kentucky Baptist Building, Louisville.
11 LIFE Tour, First Baptist Church, Clinton.
15 Equip, Fitzpatrick Baptist Church, Prestonsburg.
16 Equip, First Baptist Church, Russell.
18 Equip, Parkway Baptist Church, Bardstown.
20 Excel, Hickory Grove Baptist Church, Independence.

MOUNTAINS TO THE MISSISSIPPI

COMPILED BY STAFF

BOWLING GREEN—Heirline, from Jasper, Tenn., will be in concert at Jackson Grove Church on Sunday July 31 at 6 p.m. For information, call (270) 991-7554 or (270) 776-2879

EDDYVILLE—Second Church will be having homecoming on July 31. **Mac Walls** is pastor.

FREDONIA—First Church has called **Presley Lamm** to be their pastor.

HOPKINSVILLE—First Church will hold a free community-wide Back-to-School celebration Sunday, Aug. 7, 4-7 p.m. at their Christian Life Center. For more information, call the church at (270) 886-1216.

LOUISVILLE—Green Acres Church will hold its 60th anniversary celebration July 31. Worship is at 10:30 a.m., followed by dinner and a concert by **GABC Praise Team** at 1:15 pm. To RSVP, call Nancy Thomas, at (502) 964-8165.

Morningside Church has called **David McBath** as pastor.

Springdale Church has called **Josh Laxton** as pastor.

MAYFIELD—Cuba Church will have their homecoming Aug. 7. **Bethany Renae** from the group Highway 22 will provide the special music at 10 a.m. and a fellowship meal will follow the service. **Matt Jackson** is pastor.

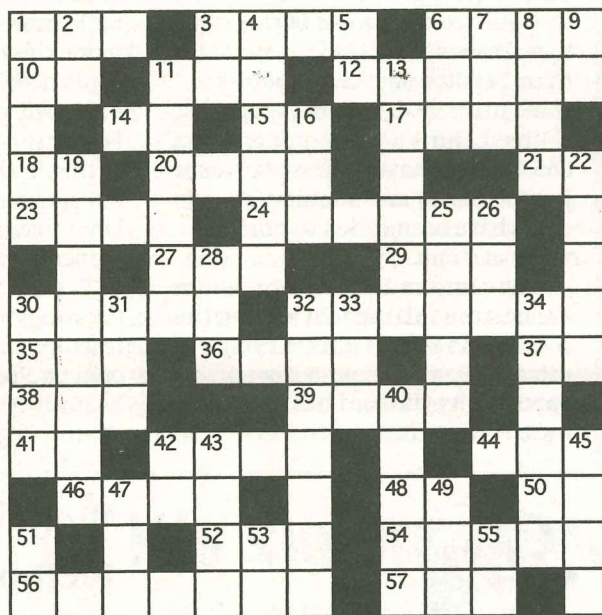
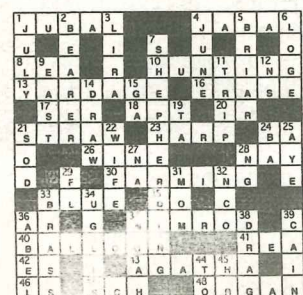
Bible Crosswords

By Joyce Handzo

Across

- 1 "Rule them with a ____ of iron" (Revelation 2:27)
3 "At the ____ of Jesus every knee should bow" (Philippians 2:10)
6 A bitter compound used in drugs and dyes
10 Utah, abbr.
11 "The ____ fell upon Jonah" (Jonah 1:7)
12 To regard with affection
14 Rhode Island, abbr.
15 "Go thee one way ____ other" (Ezekiel 21:16)
17 "____ thy mouth wide" (Psalm 81:10)
18 For example, Lat. abbr.
20 "The days that Adam lived were ____ hundred and thirty" (Genesis 5:5)
21 Street, abbr.
23 "Jesus died and ____ again" (1 Thessalonians 4:14)
24 One who selects the contents of a publication
27 Associate in Applied Science, abbr.
29 Officer of the British Empire, abbr.
30 "Women ____ themselves in modest apparel" (1 Timothy 2:9)
32 "We are not ____ to answer thee" (Daniel 3:16)
35 Ribonucleic acid, abbr.
36 "They ____ unto it a lace of blue" (Exodus 39:31)
37 Northeast, abbr.
38 "The angels of God ____ him" (Genesis 32:1)
39 "____ that man" (2 Thessalonians 3:14)
41 Social Security, abbr.
42 Metal containers
44 "And the ____ stood still" (Joshua 10:13)
46 "The coat was without ____" (John 19:23)

#67



#68

- 48 Anno Domini, abbr.
50 "For God ____ loved the world" (John 3:16)
52 "Ye do ____, not knowing the scriptures" (Matthew 22:29)
54 "All the fiery ____ of the wicked" (Ephesians 6:16)
56 "His ____ went to Jerusalem every year" (Luke 2:41)
57 "The ____ of all flesh is come before me" (Genesis 6:13)

Down

- 1 "Thou shalt not speak evil of the ____ of thy people" (Acts 23:5)
2 Old Testament, abbr.
3 "There is none righteous, ____, not one" (Romans 3:10)
4 Makes amends for sin
5 Each, abbr.
6 Ampere, abbr.
7 "A faithful witness will not ____" (Proverbs 14:5)
8 Vessels used to make tea or coffee
9 Maine, abbr.
11 Measurement in only one direction
13 "Gamaliel, a ____ of the law" (Acts 5:34)
16 "In the first chariot were ____ horses" (Zechariah 6:2)

- 19 "Surely ____ and mercy shall follow me" (Psalm 23:6)
22 "Write them upon the ____ of thine heart" (Proverbs 7:3)
25 Very fat
26 Referee, abbr.
28 "Go to the ____, thou sluggard" (Proverbs 6:6)
30 "He took them up in his ____" (Mark 10:16)
31 A cereal plant
32 "Take up the ____ out of the burning" (Numbers 16:37)
33 "Why make ye this ____, and weep?" (Mark 5:39)
34 "The lord commended the ____ steward" (Luke 16:8)
40 "Their ____ hath been to feed cattle" (Genesis 46:32)
42 California, abbr.
43 "These things saith the ____" (Revelation 3:14)
45 "Canst thou put a hook into his ____?" (Job 41:2)
47 "Give ____, O Lord, unto my prayer" (Psalm 86:6)
49 "____ shall judge his people" (Genesis 49:16)
51 General Practitioner, abbr.
53 Right, abbr.
55 Road, abbr.

CLASSIFIED ADS

SEEKING: Part-time music minister at Sharon Church, Mayfield, Ky. Please see church 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: Friendship Church is seeking a bi-vocational pastor. Friendship is a rural church offering children and youth ministries. Resumes will be accepted until July 31 and can be emailed to janeblevins@hotmail.com.

SEEKING: Buffalo Lick Church is seeking a bi-vocational pastor. Send resumes to harrisonvest@twc.com or call (502) 633-4320.

SEEKING: Evergreen Church in Frankfort, Ky., is seeking a part-time children's minister. Submit resumes to maryghughes28@gmail.com. (502) 223-8364.

SEEKING: Evergreen Church in Frankfort, Ky., is seeking a part-time children's minister. Submit resumes to maryghughes28@gmail.com. (502) 223-8364.

SEEKING: The Summersville (Ky.) Church is accepting resumes' for a pastor. Summersville is looking for a God-called individual who will lead the church forward and further develop the congregation. Please send resumes to Summersville Baptist Church, c/o Pulpit Committee, PO Box 68, Summersville, KY 42782.

SEEKING: Friendship Church in Campbellsburg, Ky., is in search of a part-time youth minister. E-mail: friendship-youthresume@gmail.com.

SEEKING: Columbia Church is prayerfully seeking a full time minister of students (Grades 7-12). Candidates must have 1-2 years of experience working with youth and a bachelor's degree is preferred. Candidates must have a kingdom focus, be a team player, and evidence a passion for developing disciples and investing in families. Please send resumes to: ATTN: Personal Committee, Columbia Baptist Church, 201 Greensburg St., Columbia, KY 42728 or email them to churchoffice@columbiabaptist.com. While Columbia Baptist appreciates all candidates, applicants should understand that Columbia is not a reformed church.

SEEKING: First Church Paris, Ky. is accepting resumes for a full-time pastor. Send resumé and inquiries to fbcpky.psc@gmail.com.

SEEKING: Lewisport (Ky.) Church is seeking a senior pastor. The church exists to glorify God by making disciples who are consumed in worship, craving the word, connected in authentic community, committed to prayer, and compelled to serve. Send resumé to pastorsearch.lewisportbaptist.org or P.O. Box 475, Lewisport, KY 42351 between

July 11 and Aug. 22.

SEEKING: New Cut Road Church is seeking part-time worship leader. Worship style: blend of traditional and contemporary. Qualifications: Born again Christian; two years of experience; and high school or GED. Description: Under pastor's supervision, plan, promote and implement music program to include adult choir, praise team and accompanying instrumentalists. Submit resumes by email: newcutroadbaptist@gmail.com or mail to New Cut Road Baptist Church, P.O. Box 14085, Louisville, KY 40214. For details, call: Matt Likes at (502) 593-4410.

SEEKING: Lewisport Church is currently seeking an interim pastor for approximately 6 months. Lewisport is looking for a pastor for Sunday morning services only. Will take resumes through August. Please send resumes to: Attn: Troy Roberts Lewisport Baptist Church, 1115 Pell St., Lewisport, KY 42351 Or email to troy@lewisportbaptist.org. Subject: Interim Search.

SEEKING: Camp Pleasant Church in Frankfort, Ky., is seeking a bi-vocational pastor. Submit resumes to 830 Shadrack Ferry Rd., Frankfort, KY 40601 or jeanie@camppleasant.org by Aug. 31.

SEEKING: Southside Baptist Church, Princeton, Ky., is now accepting resumes for a full-time minister of music. Email resumes to musicsearchteam@southsidebaptist.com or mail them to: Southside Baptist Church, Attn: Music Search Team, P.O. Box 684, Princeton, KY 42445

SEEKING: Columbia Baptist Church is prayerfully seeking a part-time minister of music. Candidates must have 1-2 years of worship leadership experience and a bachelor's degree is preferred. Candidates must have a kingdom focus and be a team player. Send resumes to: ATTN: Personal Committee, Columbia Baptist Church, 201 Greensburg St., Columbia, KY 42728 or email them to churchoffice@columbiabaptist.com. While Columbia Baptist appreciates all candidates, any applicant should understand that it is not a reformed church.

SEEKING: East Hickman Baptist Church seeking part-time pianist. Submit resumes by email easthickmanbc@mail.com or mail to East Hickman Baptist Church, 6418 Tates Creek Rd., Lexington, KY 40515.

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

SEEKING: Westside Baptist Church, Murray, Ky., is seeking a youth, college and career pastor. Resumes may be submitted to aleslie@wbcmurray.org.

SEEKING: Pleasant Hill Baptist Church in Somerset, Ky., is prayerfully seeking a full-time minister of students for preK-12th grade. Send resumes to: PHBC, 1685 Hwy 3091, Somerset, KY 42503, or email to ministry.assist@phbcsomerset.com. For more information, please see church website www.phbcsomerset.com, under About Us, then Staff.

SERVICE: Finally see your creative ideas in print! Trellis Writing & Ghostwriting offers services in multiple genres and mediums. Extensive experience in Christian fiction/non-fiction, as well as ministry, scholarly, and business writing. To get started, visit www.trelliswriting.com, contact info@trelliswriting.com, or call (602) 803-0820.

AVAILABLE: Jewish Outreach Ministry. Co-founder and former president of the Southern Baptist Messianic Fellowship is working in Louisville to begin a Jewish Ministry. For information, call Jim Hendricks at (540) 525-4116.

AVAILABLE: Home based magazine. Nets \$57K part-time. Clients established. \$24,900. Retiring. Call 828-633-6382.

AVAILABLE: Pastor with over 30 yrs. experience. Available to churches for intentional interim, pulpit supply in or near Oldham Co., Ky. (502) 321-1557.

ESTATE SALE - LOG HOMES
PAY THE BALANCE OWED ONLY!!!

AMERICAN LOG HOMES IS ASSISTING FINAL RELEASE
OF ESTATE & ACCOUNT SETTLEMENT ON HOUSES.

3 Log Home kits selling for BALANCE OWED, FREE DELIVERY

1) Model #101 Carolina \$40,840...BALANCE OWED \$17,000

2) Model #303 Little Rock \$38,525...BALANCE OWED \$15,000

3) Model #403 Augusta \$42,450...BALANCE OWED \$16,500

BEFORE CALLING: VIEW at www.loghomedream.com
Click on House Plans

NEW - HOMES HAVE NOT BEEN MANUFACTURED

- Make any plan design changes you desire!
- Comes with Complete Building Blueprints & Construction Manual
- Windows, Doors, and Roofing not included
- NO TIME LIMIT FOR DELIVERY!

BBB
A+ Rating

SERIOUS ONLY REPLY. Call (704) 602-3035 ask for Accounting Dept.



Left: Life-size figures of Noah's son Japheth and his wife "Rayneh," who is not named in the Bible, show what life may have been like on Noah's Ark in the living quarters of the full-scale replica at the Ark Encounter, during a preview of the park July 5. **Right:** Supporters worship and take photos during a ribbon cutting event at the Ark Encounter. (RNS photos by Emily McFarlan Miller)

Guests flood gates as Noah's Ark theme park opens

By Emily McFarlan Miller

Williamstown—Ken Ham sees a parallel between the time of Noah in Genesis and today's growing secularization of American culture.

So perhaps it makes sense that Ham's Christian apologetics ministry, Answers in Genesis, has built an ark 510 feet long, 85 feet wide and 51 feet high, based on the cubit measurements God gave Noah in the biblical flood account.

But while only eight people in Noah's family climbed aboard the biblical ark, when the rain began to fall, on July 5 as if on cue, more than 8,000 people got a first look inside the full-scale replica at the Ark Encounter. The ark and 800-acre theme park officially opened to the public July 7 in northern Kentucky.

Ham called the Ark Encounter's opening "a historic event in Christendom" at the ribbon-cutting and preview Tuesday and predicted it would become "one of the greatest Christian outreaches of this era of history."

The park's centerpiece features three decks of exhibits explaining Answers in Genesis' views of the biblical flood account and life-size figures depicting what life on the ark might have been like for Noah and his family—an extravaganza Ham described as "beyond

Hollywood."

The park also features a two-story restaurant, aerial zipline cables and the Ararat Ridge Zoo with goats, ponies, emus and more animals. The next phase of park construction likely will include a walled city "that takes you back to Noah's day" with shops, restaurants and street performers that visitors will walk through as they approach the ark, said Michael Zovath, chief action officer for Answers in Genesis and project director for the Ark Encounter.

But the Ark Encounter is "not just for entertainment," said Ham, president and CEO of Answers in Genesis.

It's to "proclaim God's word and the gospel," he said. It's meant to show—in keeping with Answers in Genesis' ministry, focused on issues such as creation, evolution, science and the age of the Earth—that the biblical flood account is historic and the Bible is true in regard to history and science.

"When people say, 'What are you really doing here? What statement are you making?,' well, you know, in a world that we see becoming very secularized before our eyes, it's really time for Christians to do something of this size, of this quality, that competes with the Disneys and the Universals to get a message to the world," he said.

The park's opening day—7/7—was chosen because Genesis 7:7 reads, "And Noah and his sons and his wife and his sons' wives entered the ark to escape the waters of the flood."

Employees have been working six days a week since April to finish by that date, Zovath said. There still is lighting and animal sculptures (eventually, the ark will hold 200) to finish, and the animal sounds and music that boom through the wooden structure have not yet been finalized, according to Patrick Marsh, vice president of attractions for the Ark Encounter.

Those at Tuesday's ribbon-cutting and park preview—accompanied by hymns, shofar blasts and a marching band—were either members of the media or supporters who had donated toward the construction of the Ark Encounter.

America's Research Group estimated the park could attract up to 2.2 million visitors in its first year, perhaps doubling attendance at its sister attraction, the Creation Museum. ARG's research also indicates more than 40 percent of those visitors may not even be Christians.

"Even if they don't share our biblical view," Ham said, "they can't help but be impressed by the structure, the craftsmanship, the attention to detail in the world-class exhibits inside. And—who

knows?—maybe they'll be challenged to even talk about the Bible as we do."

The animal sculptures were a hit with Michigan couple Holger and Lindsey Spiewak's seven children. They especially liked the dinosaurs, they said.

And 8-year-old Merrick Spiewak said, "I think it's really cool because the people looked really real."

The Spiewak family has been following the ark's construction for the past seven years, Lindsey Spiewak said, but "to see it come to life and be real life is amazing."

"We came up on the hill where the ark was sitting," she said. "It just took my breath away, and I had tears in my eyes because, wow, this was real. It's a piece of history. I just think it's so cool."

Steven Gutierrez, who came to the park from California with his wife, Veronica, and their young daughter, Apphia, said he first had discovered Answers in Genesis' ministry a few months after becoming a Christian. Gutierrez, who had lots of questions, found its resources helpful, and he said he hoped the exhibits aboard the ark also would help others.

"If there are people who are skeptical and confused," he said, "a lot of their questions could be answered just by walking through the exhibits." (RNS)

Bill Nye tours Ark Encounter, hears gospel

By David Roach

Williamstown—When evolutionist Bill Nye "the science guy" visited a life-size replica of Noah's Ark in northern Kentucky, he wanted to learn how children were reacting to what he has called a danger to science education.

By the time he left the Ark Encounter theme park, he had also learned the story of Christ's atoning death on the cross for humanity's sins, Ark Encounter's chief executive Ken Ham told Baptist Press.

Nye "wanted to mock us" during his widely reported July 8 visit, according to Ham, founder of Answers in Genesis (AiG), which operates Ark Encounter. "But I believe God is also drawing him. I believe God is burdening his heart. Otherwise, why would he be interested?"

Ark Encounter opened to the public July 7 and features a 510-foot replica of Noah's

giant boat, described in Genesis 6-9. Nye, a 1990s children's television personality, has criticized the project publicly.

The ark replica "could be just a charming piece of Americana ... but this is much more serious than that," Nye said. "This guy (Ham) promotes so very strongly that climate change is not a serious problem, that humans are not causing it, that some deity will see to it that everything is OK."

Ham personally led Nye through the ark after Nye accepted an invitation from Ham on Twitter and in a blog post. Nye requested and received permission to film the tour for a documentary. Ham and Nye's conversation drew hundreds of onlookers by Ham's estimate and materialized into a debate on the early chapters of Genesis, science and the Christian worldview.

It was the second such debate between the two. The first occurred in 2014 at AiG's Creation Museum and was viewed by mil-

lions online, The Post reported.

Nye, CEO of the Planetary Society, arrived prepared to challenge the claims of exhibits and "wouldn't let me answer any questions," Ham said. Nye's resistance to dialog about scientific issues led Ham, a Southern Baptist, to ask about his worldview and personal spiritual beliefs.

"I asked him about what happens when you die," Ham said. "He said, 'When you die, you're done.'"

When they arrived at an exhibit on life before Noah's flood, Ham explained the origin of sin and how the first blood sacrifice—when God provided animal skins as clothes for Adam and Eve—pointed forward to Christ's ultimate sacrifice on the cross.

"I talked to Bill about the second death and that when you die, you're not done," Ham said.

At the end of their tour, near statues of Noah's family praying, Ham asked if he could pray for Nye, who responded, "I can't stop you. He just stood there and stared at me ... and I prayed for him." (BP)



Ken Ham (right) of Answers in Genesis shared the gospel with science educator and evolutionist Bill Nye during a tour of the Ark Encounter theme park. (Photo courtesy of Answers in Genesis.)

COOPERATIVE PROGRAM:

RESPONDING TO THE GREAT COMMISSION

THOUSANDS OF MISSIONARIES SENT OUT

The Cooperative Program is how Kentucky Baptists respond to the Great Commission, joining together with more than 46,000 congregations nationwide to support some 10,000 missionaries who are sharing the gospel of Christ every day.

The Cooperative Program is also how 750,000 Kentucky Baptists in 2,400 congregations support the work of the Kentucky Baptist Convention and its many agencies and institutions that do so much for the cause of Christ. It's through the Cooperative Program that orphaned children are given safe haven, future church leaders are educated, aging congregations are revitalized, pastors are taught effective evangelism strategies, church members are encouraged to be on mission, and so much more.

THOUSANDS OF SOULS BEING SAVED

Kentucky Baptists, working cooperatively in communities from the mountains of Appalachia in the east to the banks of the Mississippi River in the west, have had great success in reaching out with the gospel over the past year. The latest figures from the KBC show 14,223 baptisms across Kentucky in 2014, an increase from 13,975 the year before. That's enough people to populate a mid-sized Kentucky city. But the news gets even better. Thanks to your support of the Cooperative Program, missionaries from the Southern Baptist Convention's International Mission Board reported another 190,957 baptisms last year.

The Cooperative Program isn't just a line on your church budget. It is the primary means through which Southern Baptists support the work of missionaries in the state, across the country and around the world. The Cooperative Program allows your congregation to make an impact literally around the world.

