

WESTERN Recorder

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Like Stars * Philippians 2:15

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Wisdom-Martin elected exec director of national Woman's Missionary Union

By Julie Walters

Birmingham, Ala.—Sandra Wisdom-Martin was unanimously elected executive director/treasurer of national Woman's Missionary Union by its executive board during a special called meeting, July 29-30, in Birmingham, Ala.

Wisdom-Martin has served as executive director of WMU of Texas. She succeeds Wanda Lee, who has served as executive director of the 128-year-old missions organization for the past 16 years.

Wisdom-Martin will begin her new role on Oct. 15. She was presented to the board by a search committee appointed in February following Lee's announcement of her intentions to retire.

Prior to leading WMU of Texas since 2010, Wisdom-Martin served as women's missions and ministries director for the Illinois Baptist State Association, 2001-2010; and as Cooperative Program Missionary with the Arkansas Baptist State Convention, 1991-2001.

"Having served in three different Baptist state conventions, Sandy brings great experience as a leader to this role along with tremendous creativity," said Joy Bolton, executive director of Kentucky and chair of the search committee. "The affirmations of her leadership received from people in each state where she has served speak volumes. She has earned love and respect through partnerships, missions trips, speaking engagements, and other missions involvement."



Sandra Wisdom-Martin

Bolton describes Wisdom-Martin as "a thoughtful leader who listens well and brings clarity to complex situations when she speaks."

Lee agrees. "I've had the privilege of observing and working alongside Sandy for many years," she said. "Sandy listens well, considers every possible action before she speaks, and then delivers on what she promises. Her quiet presence puts people at ease while building confidence in the actions to be taken. She will lead WMU well from a place of complete surrender to the Lord."

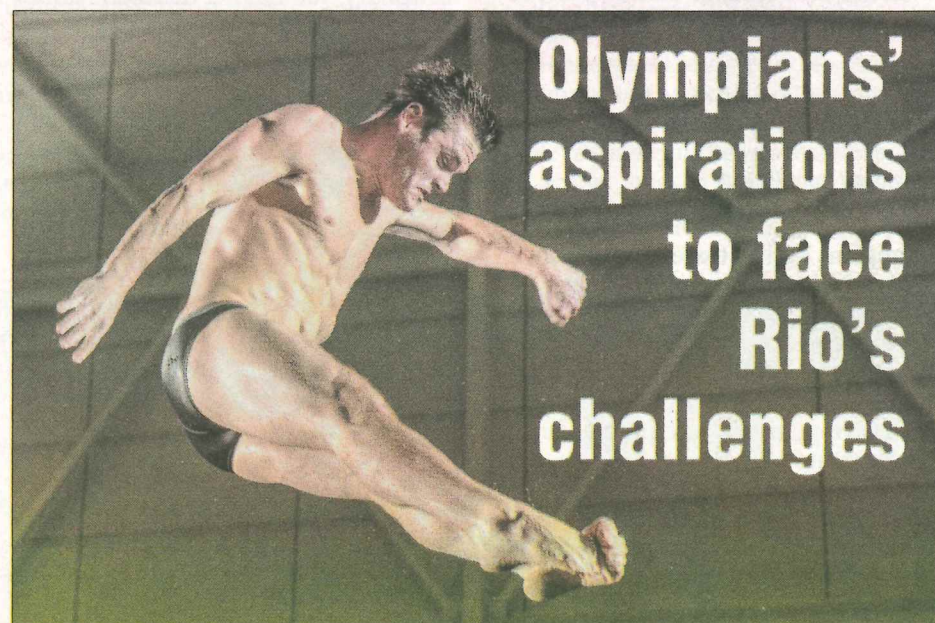
Complete surrender

"My commitment has always been to walk where God leads," Wisdom-Martin noted, "yet this has been a difficult process because I am in a very good place. I love the assignment God has given us (in Texas). This certainly caught my family by surprise and was not a part of our plan, but we believe God is sovereign and all the details of our lives are in His hands. I trust Him completely for the future."

"I don't do what I do because of my employment," Wisdom-Martin continued. "I do what I do because I believe in the restoration of brokenness through hope in Christ. Through WMU, the only reason we do what we do is because He is risen, and we must tell the good news."

Linda Cooper, of Bowling Green, president of national WMU, said Wisdom-Martin serves with humility and compassion and desires to honor God

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Olympians' aspirations to face Rio's challenges

By Tim Ellsworth

Rio De Janeiro, Brazil—Sid Hopkins is an eye-catching sight when he visits the Olympics.

The retired director of missions for the Atlanta-area Gwinnett Metro Baptist Association dons a hat and vest decorated with hundreds of pins that people aren't bashful about inspecting. Hopkins trades pins with other Olympics fans while distributing pins made especially for the Olympics that tell the story of Jesus.

"There is an openness by people to talk with one another and to talk about spiritual things," Hopkins said. "So sharing the seeds of the gospel through the 'storytelling' witnessing pin is well-received. Then the seeds of the gospel go back all over the world as the people return home."

Hopkins is in Rio de Janeiro as the world prepares to turn its gaze on the first South American city ever to host the Olympics. The Games, which kicked off with the Aug. 5 opening ceremony, will be the centerpiece of family entertainment and workplace discussions for more than two weeks.

Pre-event publicity for the Olympics has been largely negative, due to concerns over the Zika virus, Brazil's economic struggles, the fitness of Rio's water supply, the Russian doping scandal and other issues. But Brazil's hosting of the 2014 World Cup proved to be successful, and Olympic organizers are banking on a repeat of that success in Rio.

The Games are expected to be the most-watched TV event in U.S. history, surpassing the 2012 Olympics in London. Americans will tune in to witness a number of significant storylines. Will

Michael Phelps add to his record-holding medal count in his final Olympic competition? The U.S. swimmer has 22 medals, including 18 golds, to his credit so far. Both numbers are more than any Olympian in history.

Will Jamaica's Usain Bolt, the fastest man in history, successfully defend his gold medals? Bolt won gold in the 100 meters, 200 meters and 4x100 meter relay in both 2008 and 2012, and Rio will be the last Olympics for the 30-year-old sprinter who holds the world record in the 100 meters.

Will U.S. gymnast Gabby Douglas repeat as a gold medalist? How will new events like golf and rugby fare?

Baptist Press coverage during the Olympics will focus largely on Christian athletes who are competing. U.S. men's diver David Boudia won gold in the 10-meter platform competition in 2012 and is looking to add to his medal count in both that event and the men's 10-meter synchro competition with his partner Steele Johnson. Both men gave strong testimonies of their faith in Christ following the Olympic trials earlier this summer.

"This is not what my identity is going to be in the rest of my life," Johnson said. "Yeah, I'm Steele Johnson the Olympian, but at the same time, I'm here to love and serve Christ. My identity is rooted in Christ and not in the flips we're doing."

Other BP stories will feature athletes like Vincent Hancock, a two-time gold medalist in skeet shooting; archer Mackenzie Brown; and volleyball player Christa Dietzen.

Sports ministry Athletes in Action has launched a prayer campaign in

□ See Olympics... Page 2

WMU

Continued from Page 1

with her life. "Sandy is passionate about the work of WMU and what it represents," she said, "but most of all she loves the Lord and desires to share His love with everyone He puts in her path."

In regard to transition of leadership, Lee said, "I am excited about handing over this important place of service to Sandy and pledge all of my support and prayers as she comes to lead WMU into the future. Her love for missions, missionaries and WMU provides a strong backdrop for developing the vision we need for the future of WMU."

In addition to more than 25 years of experience in state WMU and church

and community ministry, including children's missions education camps, Wisdom-Martin has served with more than 50 missions groups in nine different countries; served as national coordinator for Mississippi River Ministry; and writes for WMU publications.

In WMU, she has served as an associational Girls in Action director, associational Acteens director, Campus Baptist Young Women president, Mission Friends leader, GA leader, and Acteens co-leader.

Born and raised in southern Illinois, Wisdom-Martin holds a bachelor's degree in social work from Southern Illinois University and a master's in social work from Southern Baptist Theological Seminary. She and her husband Frank have one daughter, Hannah. (BP)

Olympics

Continued from Page 1

which Christians can pray for specific Olympians as they travel to and compete in Rio. After signing up, prayer partners will receive the names of five athletes and details about their home countries and events. AIA will have chaplains in Rio to share the gospel with Olympians and ask for specific prayer requests.

Information about the prayer campaign and other Olympics-related resources from AIA are available at <http://athletesinaction.org/olympics/share>.

In addition, a number of Baptist volunteers like Hopkins will be in Rio during the Olympics to share the gospel both with local residents and with the thousands of visitors from across the globe.

"The Olympics is an amazing gathering of people from all over the world, much like the gathering in Jerusalem at Pentecost," Hopkins said.

John Crocker, evangelism and missions pastor at Whitesburg Baptist Church in Huntsville, Ala., is leading a team of seven people who will engage Rio residents with the gospel through evangelistic block parties and pin trading.



Sid Hopkins

"There exists no greater opportunity to reach people from over 200 nations in 30 days than the Olympic Games," Crocker said. "We have seen many people who come to the Olympic Games open to listen to the gospel because the atmosphere created is one of friendship on a global level. Ministry during the Olympics is simply electric." (BP)

Tim Ellsworth is associate vice president for university communications at Union University in Jackson, Tenn.

Short drive, long list of relevant ministry training at Equip events

Louisville—Staff and volunteer church leaders won't need to drive far to find inspiration and heaps of relevant information at Equip 2016.

The multi-discipline training event plans to make eight stops across the state, beginning Aug. 15.

"Our goal is to offer Equip within an hour's drive of every Kentucky Baptist church at some point in the tour," said Kentucky Baptist Convention Church Consulting and Revitalization Team Leader Steve Rice.

The popular church leader training event features more than 30 Southern Baptist experts in such fields as discipleship, evangelism and Sunday School.

Rice said Kentucky Baptist church leaders, staff and volunteers will gain valuable insight about leading effective ministry programs for youth, women, preschool and children.

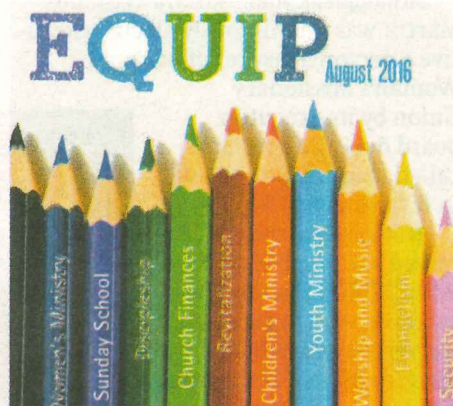
Other classes to explore include church finances, security, revitalization, worship and music.

Equip 2016 will be offered Aug. 15-30 at the following locations:

- Aug. 15, Fitzpatrick Church, Prestonsburg
- Aug. 16, First Church, Russell
- Aug. 18, Parkway Church, Bardstown
- Aug. 22, Beacon Hill Church, Somerset
- Aug. 23, Calvary Church, Glasgow
- Aug. 25, First Church, Walton
- Aug. 29, Twelve Oaks Church, Paducah
- Aug. 30, Edgewood Church, Hopkinsville

To register or to see a complete list of course offerings, visit www.kybaptist.org/equip.

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



As season's end approaches, salvations soaring again at Crossings camps

By Cary Donnell

Louisville—Crossings Ministries' mission since its founding in 2000 has been to lead children and youth to faith in Jesus. Of at least 3,000 who attended camp at its Cedarmore and Jonathan Creek facilities this season, Crossings has reported 665 salvations.

In addition to salvations, about 653 have reported a call to ministry through their experience at Crossings.

"In the present we find ourselves absolutely amazed—but not surprised—at God's faithfulness and work at Crossings," states the Crossings website. "We could not have anticipated or imagined what God had in store for Crossings over 10 years ago...."

At Crossings camps, kids gather for corporate worship, split into small groups, do outdoor activities, play fun games and study the Bible while lodging

at the camp site for a few days at a time, but staff counselors anticipate greater things to happen.

"We expect God to show up and change lives," said Randall Breland, director of communications for Crossings Ministries. "If we sow the seed, He will reap the fruit."

This summer, camp pastors have focused on John 4 as a teaching passage. In asking youth, "Who are you placing your identity with?" the pastors then emphasize that "Jesus becomes our identity," Breland explained.

Despite the success they've seen through their ministry, Crossings staff is very quick to point out that they are just instruments in God's ensemble. They know it is God who provides, it is God who strengthens, and it is God who works on the heart.

"God is in the business of changing lives," said Breland. (WR)

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RAs discover missions, outdoor activities at Camp Courage

By Cary Donnell

Corbin—102 campers and adults from eight churches attended Camp Courage on July 29-30 at Laurel Lake Baptist Camp. Through the camp theme of "Rejoicing in God's Works," attendees learned about Baptist missionaries and outdoor activities as well as teamwork and cooperation to accomplish tasks and solve problems.

"The purpose was two-fold," said Jon Auten, Royal Ambassadors and Challengers consultant for the Kentucky Woman's Missionary Union. "They meet and hear from missionaries about possibilities on mission fields around the world, and they get outside to enjoy God's creation and learn outdoor skills."

Children, youth and adults from Parkland and Living Hope churches in Louisville, Frenchburg Church, Immanuel Church in Somerset, Wrigley Church,

Knoxville Church in Williamstown, Whitehall Church in Richmond, and Liberty Church in Campbellsville participated in the overnight camp, which began with registration and outdoor games on Friday and ended on Saturday afternoon, following an awards ceremony for the various games and competitions.

"It's a good opportunity for (fathers and sons) to come together. We hope to get the kids excited about missions," said David Buie, RAs and Challengers representative on the Kentucky WMU Board. "Many of those in the mission field began as RAs as children. (We) do it for the kids and ultimately for the Lord."

The camp experience also included worship services. Doug Williams, missions strategist for the Missions Mobilization team at the Kentucky Baptist Convention, preached the sermon for the Friday night service from Numbers 13,

using a scene from the movie "Toy Story" to illustrate the importance of trusting God even when the circumstances seem impossible.

"The kids need to be on mission wherever they are," said Williams. "Their schools, neighborhoods and sports teams need to be where they witness."

For the Saturday afternoon service, the message was brought by Ron Leonard, a North American Mission Board missionary. He, along with his wife Marilyn and dog, Molly, serve as missionaries to military veterans struggling with post-traumatic stress disorder living in the Nashville, Tenn., area. They partner with a larger ministry called "Canines for Christ."

"The first thing is to know Christ. The second is to make Him known," said Leonard. "We're here to help the kids learn how to be on mission."

Children and adults were encouraged

to raise their voices in praise.

"From a young age, guys believe that it's not manly to sing," said Steve McDaniel, worship leader for the Camp Courage weekend. "We are commanded to lift our voices in praise to our God. It's encouraging to see fathers being godly examples to their sons, and to see boys bonding with godly male role models."

The RAs and youth also participated in knot-tying, campfire-building, archery, rope bridge, compass challenge, fishing, bracelet-making, and RA racer events. Awards were given to first, second and third place finishers. Camp Courage is a proactive way to connect RAs from across the state and to encourage community and cooperation among RAs from across Kentucky, Auten noted.

"We're thankful the weather cooperated, and we enjoyed the leaders and kids," said Auten. "All in all, it was a success." (WR)



Why 'tithe' your estate?

What happens to my soul after I die? That's a vital question for every person. Everyone who believes the Bible, has trusted Jesus as Savior, and confessed Him as Lord knows the answer to that question. For us, the greatest desire is that others would ask the same question and, in doing so, recognize their need for Jesus and be saved.

What happens to my stuff after I die? That's another vital question to ask. Everyone who believes the Bible, has trusted Jesus as Savior, and confessed Him as Lord knows we are stewards, not owners, of "our" stuff. What we "have" is only what God has entrusted to us. The Bible instructs us to tithe to acknowledge we love and serve God rather than stuff.

Together We are the KBC



Paul Chitwood

Have you considered making a provision in your will to tithe your

estate? Why should you?

First, by tithing our estate we can acknowledge we love and serve God even in death. Our will can be a great opportunity to show the Lord our devotion never wavered and our desire to be good stewards of what He entrusted to us was never in question.

Second, by tithing our estate we can provide for souls to be saved even after our testimony falls silent. Church evangelism and outreach programs, associational ministries and mission work, and the cooperative mission work and ministries of Kentucky Baptists and Southern Baptists all require financial resources. An estate tithe can be a significant way to provide for these ministries that share the gospel with lost and hurting people.

Third, by tithing our estate we can leave a legacy of stewardship for our families and the world. The best way to teach my children and, someday, grandchildren biblical stewardship is to model biblical stewardship. I'm confident they will be paying attention to the contents of our wills when they are executed. What a great opportunity to disciple them!

Fourth, by tithing our estate we can display our love for the Lord's church. I love the church. I love the church because I love Jesus and, since the church is His body, failing to love the church is failing to love Him. I love the church because the church loved me, introduced me to my Savior, helped raise me, and has helped me raise my children. The church has taught me eternal truths, encouraged me when I was ailing, comforted me when I was grieving, and given me opportunities to do the same for others. If I can bless the church in my death and ensure her ongoing ministry until Jesus comes, I don't want to miss that opportunity.

If you would like more information on how to leave money to your church or mission work, contact Richard Carnes at the Kentucky Baptist Foundation by email at Richard.Carnes@kybaptist.org or by phone at 1-866-489-3533. The ministry of the Baptist Foundation comes at no cost since Kentucky Baptists' CP gifts help provide for it.

Watching the 2016 Olympics for the glory of Christ

There is something uniquely captivating about the Olympic games. They are a mix of awe and wonder as we witness people created in the image of God who have sacrificially honed their bodies and physical skills in phenomenal ways. Add to that the hypnotic power that comes over us when our love of country—born from the reality of where God has providentially rooted us—is combined with our love of sporting competition.

There is a tendency in contemporary culture to consider ours the most sports-obsessed society in human history. Though our culture is clearly saturated with a passion for sports, the obsession with sports was even more pervasive in antiquity.

The first ancient Olympic games can be traced back to 776 B.C. and took place on the ancient plains of Olympia, which is on the western part of the Peloponnese. Along with the Olympics, other Greek crown competitions were held at Delphi, Isthmia and Nemea. The competitions were athletic-religious festivals, and the athletes were viewed as demigods. The Olympic games continued for nearly 12 centuries before they were banned by Emperor Theodosius in A.D. 393 for being pagan cults. The first modern Olympics were held in Athens, Greece, in 1896.

The Olympics has a way of drawing us into competitions we wouldn't otherwise enjoy. Personally, my deepest sporting passions are baseball, tennis and football. I have hardly ever chosen to watch hockey or gymnastics. Nevertheless, my most exciting Olympic memories took place in these sports. As a 12-year-old boy, I watched the 1980 USA hockey team accomplish what is now referred to as "the miracle on ice" by defeating the dominant Russian hockey team in the height of the Cold War. I can vividly remember leaping up and down and embracing everyone in the room.

In 1996, Kerri Strug came to the vault with Olympic gold on the line for the U.S.A. gymnastic team. On her first vault she tore two ligaments in one of her ankles, and it seemed as if the gold was lost to the Russian team. Strug vaulted a second time, in intense pain, and somehow ran down the 75-foot runway, flew through the air and stuck the landing with only one good leg. A 4-foot-9 female gymnast is one of the best examples of fearlessness, toughness and gutsy heart that I have ever witnessed in sports.

Few of the athletes who compete in the Olympics will financially profit from their grueling sacrifice to

represent their country, though. Most have other jobs that allow them to pay the bills while they pursue their Olympic dream.

Years of preparation and discipline all flow into a few days of competition that is both glorious and cruel. For those who triumph, I imagine few things compare with victory on behalf of their country. Consequently, performing poorly carries a burden greater than a mere individual loss.

But, cruelest of all, to me, is the athlete who gets injured prior to or during Olympic competition. The physical pain cannot compare to the agony of a deferred Olympic dream, or as is true in most cases, the end of the dream.

With the excitement of the 2016 Olympic games upon us, here are four ideas about how to watch the competition to the glory of God:

1. Look for truth, beauty and goodness as God's image bearers compete.

"Then God said, 'Let us make man in our image, after our likeness...' So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them" (Gen. 1:26-27).

I will be unapologetically rooting for America to win every event in the 2016 Olympic games. Nevertheless, watching as a Christian means that I enjoy and delight in God as I witness remarkable feats by his image bearers of all nations. In fact, some of the best things about Olympic coverage are the remarkable human interest segments on athletes from around the world. Watch and listen with a sense of awe. Be reminded that every person's greatest need is Jesus. Pray for the athletes you learn about.

2. Learn about focus and perseverance in the face of struggle.

"Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus" (Heb. 12:1-2a).

The author of Hebrews compares the Christian faith to a struggle (agon, from which we get our word "agony," is translated here as "the race"). We are like a runner competing in the Olympics—agonizing and possessing a fixation on the finish line. In our race, Christ ran and finished before us. Yet He is above the race; He governs the race of faith and is the one in whose honor the race is held. Furthermore, Jesus starts each runner on his course and provides the means for a successful race. He also demonstrated how the race was won—Christ Himself endured His struggle to win the place of honor in triumph at the right hand of God. Allow the focus

and perseverance of the Olympic athletes to draw your mind back to this, encouraging you to persevere in the faith with single-minded, Christ-centered focus in your spiritual struggles.

3. Be challenged toward personal discipline and purpose.

"Do you not know that in a race all the runners run, but only one receives the prize? So run that you may obtain it. Every athlete exercises self-control in all things. They do it to receive a perishable wreath, but we an imperishable. So I do not run aimlessly; I do not box as one beating the air. But I discipline my body and keep it under control, lest after preaching to others I myself should be disqualified" (1 Cor. 9:24-27).

The two analogies in this passage are from Olympic-type games: a race and a boxing match. They both underscore the reality of Christian struggle and the need for discipline. Paul asserts that we should run to win, but to do so requires self-control. He also argues that we should be as merciless to our fleshly appetites as a boxer is to his opponent. The Christian faith demands focused self-control and an excellence that was modeled by athletes in the Corinthians' day and age. May our modern athletes remind us of the same thing during this Olympic competition.

4. Let the nations represented cause you to think about our gospel mission.

"After this I looked, and behold, a great multitude that no one could number, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed in white robes, with palm branches in their hands, and crying out with a loud voice, 'Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!'" (Rev. 7:9-10).

Few things represent unified humanity in the midst of ethnic diversity as well as the Olympic games. Some who have little day-to-day interest in athletics will still watch the majestic opening ceremonies as all the athletes gather with great pomp. It is a marvelous display. Christians know this is a picture of something greater. They know that God is at work through Jesus saving a people from every tribe, tongue and ethnic group, creating a new humanity whose chief characteristic is union with Christ. As you enjoy the games, pray for the gospel to spread among all the nations represented.

I wonder what memorable moments this year's Olympics will sear into our hearts and minds? Let your love of country and enjoyment of sports be a catalyst to spur you on to greater love for God in Christ. Let the games begin!

David Prince is pastor of Ashland Avenue Baptist Church in Lexington and a professor at Southern Seminary. This article was first published on the Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission website.

Guest Viewpoint



David Prince

WESTERN Recorder

Shine Like Stars * Philippians 2:15

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Letters to the editor:

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



Are they the next great generation?

By Erich Bridges

Remember the "Greatest Generation" that won World War II and turned America into a global powerhouse? Well, their spoiled grandchildren are the "Louisiest Generation," says Johnny Oleksinski, a 26-year-old New York Post reporter.

"Like a member of Alcoholics Anonymous, I must admit that I'm powerless to (change) my biological age," Oleksinski lamented in a recent column. "Nonetheless, I fight back every day against the traits that have come to define Gen Y: entitlement, dependency, nonstop complaining, laziness, Kardashians."

They're more interested in snapping selfies than developing actual selves. They invent elaborate personalities on social media but can't hold an actual face-to-face conversation. They have no loyalty to anything that doesn't build their own personal "brand."

After rehashing all the stereotypes about Millennials (at least the upscale Millennials he encounters in trendy Brooklyn neighborhoods), Oleksinski tells today's 20-somethings: Stop blaming everybody else for your own lack of accomplishment. Stop waiting around for something big to happen. Get a life and start living it.

Every time I read one of these anti-Millennial screeds, I'm tempted to join in the jeering. I'm a Baby Boomer, after all, so it's my duty to complain about these young upstarts who dare to out-"me" the original "Me Generation."

Problem is, the stereotypes don't fit many of the Millennials I know. Consider the Sunday School class I co-teach for young adults (ages 18-25). We average eight to 10 people a week. On two recent Sundays, only one or two showed up. Were the others chilling at the beach or out playing Pokemon Go? Hardly.

Three of our young women were in South Asia, making friends and sharing the love of Christ with Hindus, Muslims and anyone else they met in one of the world's great megacities. Two of our young men were in Uganda, boating to isolated islands on Lake Victoria to

deliver the gospel to fishermen and their families. So I'll gladly give them a pass for missing Sunday School.

Another member of our class has contended with a major disability since birth. Yet she is one of the strongest followers of Christ I know. She finished college last year and has begun writing a book to encourage others who struggle with disabilities and various challenges. Her main message: Trust God and never give up.

Still another class member just began graduate study in social work. She wants to use her training to serve others—especially the poor, the oppressed and the marginalized.

A young woman from our church joined a mission group straight out of high school. She's already spent time in the Middle East helping Syrian refugees. More recently, she led a 10-person team to Israel and the West Bank to build relationships with Jews and Palestinians. Half of the people on her team were older than she is.

I could go on. True, the Millennials in our church are much too tiny a demographic sample to be representative of their generation. True, many Millennials have dropped out of churches or never become a part of one in the first place. And I've encountered plenty of Millennials who seem aimless or content to fritter away their lives on pointless pursuits.

But I've met hundreds of other 20-somethings around the country who are just as committed, just as inspiring, just as determined to serve God and others as the young adults in my church. And they represent millions more.

Oleksinski and others who push the media stereotypes of Millennials may not be aware of this cohort of young Christ-followers. But they are there—and we should celebrate them. They need our encouragement, our mentoring and our prayers. Too often, we allow the world to frame how we view the people who live right next to us, even our younger brothers and sisters in the faith.

Let's stop bashing Millennials and start building them up. (BP)

FIRST PERSON

Being a healthy observer of tragic events

Q: Horrifying events can inundate our minds when we are tuned in to a 24-hour news cycle. How can a Christian stay mentally and emotionally healthy when media bombards us with violence?

A: As Christian writer Anne Lamott has said, everything functions better when unplugged for a while. Find ways to step away and unplug.

Go on a "news fast" and from all media and screens. Avoid sensory overload that can easily happen in our often violent, ever-changing world. Remember the words of Paul in Philippians: "Whatever things are lovely ... of good report ... think on these things."

Your brain needs times of rest. Contemplate and meditate on the goodness of God. Take a walk in nature. Sit among flowers and trees, sunsets and stars. God is bigger than whatever is happening in the world.

Practice self-care. If we're not careful, a violent event half a world away can draw us in as if it were a tornado or hurricane headed straight for our own zip code. We can find ourselves building our lives around that tragedy and neglect our own. Before we know it, we're not eating right, sleeping well, or exercising.

You do no one any good by neglecting yourself. "Love your neighbor as yourself" assumes you will take care of your basic needs. You become a better vessel for the Spirit to use when you practice good health habits.

You may be going through your own traumatic, life-altering event such as death, divorce, or unemployment. Keep up your support system. Call a therapist. Take a deep breath. Ask a friend to meet.

Take positive action. Remember, prayer is an action. Again, Paul to the Philippians: "Pray about everything, and the peace of God that passes all understanding shall guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus."



James Stillwell

Ways to give to Baptist voices

Your church, association and the Kentucky Baptist Convention and its agencies and institutions provide a wide variety of important ministries that need financial support.

The ways you can support these important causes through legacy giving (giving out of your assets, rather than your income) are also wide-ranging.

An outright gift of cash, appreciated securities or real estate is probably the most common, and simplest, way to make gifts during your lifetime.

Other methods of lifetime giving, such as charitable gift annuities and charitable remainder trusts, allow you to set up a future gift to one or more Baptist causes while retaining an annual income

for your lifetime or a term of years.

There are also a variety of gifts you can arrange now to benefit the causes of your choice at your death.

The most common is a bequest in your Will or Living Trust.

Another possibility is to name a Baptist cause as the beneficiary of some portion of your retirement account, IRA or a life insurance policy.

You can designate your gift be used for a specific program or ministry or you can allow the organization to choose how to use your gift.

You may also want to limit the organization to using only the earnings off what you give (this type of arrangement is called an "endowment fund").

Gifts may be made directly to the benefiting organization or may be given to a third party, such as the Kentucky Baptist Foundation, to manage for the designated beneficiary cause or causes.



Laurie Valentine

Capstone of oath of office: 'So help me God'

Next January, the newly-elected president of the United States will stand forth and say these words:

"I do solemnly swear that I will faithfully execute the Office of President of the United States, and will to the best of my ability, preserve, protect and defend the Constitution of the United States. So help me God."

Of the 44 U.S. presidents, most have said these words with one hand raised and the other placed on the Holy Bible, with witnesses present. From mayors to congressmen, senators to presidents, all elected officials step into a place of public trust.

As we move closer toward November, however, past and present character issues related to the integrity of candidates—including presidential candidates—persist.

The conversation seems to have moved from, "who is the best person to be president?" to "who is the least bad?"

Some, in order to alleviate our consciences, say things like, "Well, we're not calling a pastor-in-chief," in order to dismiss major character flaws of people running for president.

Now, America has had its fair share of men in the White House with flaws. It was not always people worthy of admiration like George Washington, "The Father of His Country," and "Honest Abe" Lincoln. We've had a

number of men whose reputations devalued the integrity connected to the White House.

Yet this conversation about "who is the least bad" should cause us to step back and examine what this says about us as a nation.

First Person



Brian Hobbs

To do so, let's look at some of the words in the oath of office. The first word is "solemnly swear." As Christians, we are taught not to swear in vain or make vows hastily

(Proverbs 20:25; Ecclesiastes 5:5; Matthew 5:34), so to make a public oath like this is serious business.

The second is "faithfully execute the office of president," which means this person is stepping into a time-honored and constitutional role that must be lived out faithfully, not made up on the fly.

The next key words are "of the United States." Other honorable nations throughout history have had leaders—Britain with its kings and prime ministers, France with its emperors, Rome with its caesars. In the United States, we follow in the path of George Washington, the first citizen-leader of this great nation.

Next, we see that the president will, to the best of his or her ability,

"preserve, protect and defend the Constitution."

This office is not a dictator or monarch. It is a constitutional role, bound by the limits of the U.S. Constitution.

Last we hear those words, "So help me God." This phrase, though not required by the Constitution, has been added as the capstone of taking the oath of office. It signals a humble recognition that God's help is requested—no, is needed—in this grand endeavor. It is also an admission that even the

highest office in the land is subject to God.

As we continue to hear about character flaws, sins and scandals related to the people vying for the White House and other offices, it's a good time to step back and consider this.

When you look at the various candi-

dates—Republican, Democrat, Libertarian, Independent—who seems the most ready to take on, with integrity and honor, this role of president?

Now is the time, not to explain away past or present character flaws and issues of integrity. Instead it is the time to raise the bar of expectations for each and every candidate.

This is a sobering time for America, as well as a time to pray deeply about the decisions we make. So help us God.

"This is a sobering time for America, as well as a time to pray deeply about the decisions we make."



Breaking growth barriers at Marion church

By Todd Gray

Marion—When Mike Jones became pastor of Marion Baptist Church in May 2007, the church was already great with potential of being even better. Jones followed a good interim pastor who had been with the church for 18 months. Prior to that, the church had moved into a maintenance mindset and needed to do some things to reach people.

Marion Baptist averaged 164 in worship attendance and 128 in Sunday School then. Today, the church sees more than 300 people attending two morning worship services and about 240 attendees in Sunday School. They are reaching people from all socio-economic backgrounds in Crittenden County. Marion Baptist is an exciting congregation with an eye on outreach to their community.

When asked what the Lord may have used to help the church grow, Jones suggested the following list:

1. The church had a great interim and was ready to grow. The church had benefited from an interim pastor who helped the church become ready to move forward. God can use a good interim leader to help a church return to its original vision and become outwardly

mindful. Most churches start with an outward focus, but in time many turn inward and offer programs and services aimed primarily at their membership.

2. They were intentional about using their facility to serve the community.

Prior to Jones' coming, the church built a Family Life Center with a gymnasium, walking track, weight room, commercial kitchen and classrooms. They opened their facility for people in the community to play basketball and volleyball at certain times. This exposure enhances the church's reputation as well as gives members an opportunity to build relationships with people.

3. The church developed an evangelistic prayer ministry. Marion Baptist now has a multi-pronged prayer strategy. They have members who pray during the morning service. They also pray corporately on Wednesday night. They lead their congregation to enter into multiple

30- or 40-day prayer emphases, and they pray for lost and unchurched people by name. Jones knows the path to reaching people requires planning and hard work, but the power comes from God through prayer.

4. They place a strong emphasis on Sunday School.

The church offers a traditional Sunday school that is staffed with trained leaders, heavily promoted from the pulpit, and well supported by the congregation. Sunday School is the primary tool for

assimilating and connecting new people to the congregation. Jones leads the charge in promoting Sunday School and is actively involved.

5. They have an outwardly focused pastor. Jones has a heart for outreach and has led the church to adopt a vision for reaching the community. When he heard, through a ministry offered by the Kentucky Baptist Convention, that 7,800 people in Crittenden county did not

attend church anywhere, the "outreach wheels" began to spin in his mind. Since then he has led the church to support a vision to intentionally reach 10 percent of these people in the next 10 years.

6. They added staff to accommodate and promote growth. When Jones began as pastor, the church staff was a senior pastor and a youth and worship pastor. They now have a Family Life Center pastor to reach families with children.

7. They promote ongoing training for all levels of leadership. Marion Church takes advantage of all training offered in their area. They attend KBC training events including Super Saturday and Equip Tour, as well as other targeted regional efforts.

For a congregation to break through attendance barriers requires prayer, a plan and hard work. Jones advises: "Begin with prayer. Get together with some key leaders and have them pray with you. Be very patient. We spent seven years before we could start a second service. Lead the people to the point where the people are begging you to do it. Be intentionally evangelistic and outwardly focused. And visit other churches and have your people visit churches that are at the place you want to be." (WR)

Regional SPOTLIGHT

Todd Gray
West



Ashland church tills garden as community ministry

By Myriah Snyder

Ashland—Central Baptist Church's new ministry center, Hope Central, has begun ministering to those in need in its community in a unique way.

The church looked at the neighborhood and wanted to do something more, something different than they have done in the past. They saw that by-and-large their community had needs, and they wanted to do more than meet "immediate needs," said children's minister and pastor's wife Renee Parsons.

"Everybody is meeting the immediate needs, but they are not really 'long-term' it. It has created a society of dependency," Parsons commented. "We said, 'Okay, how do we stop doing that and start doing something much more productive?'"

Drawing from the cliché, "Stop giving them fish; start giving them poles," the church stopped giving out money, clothes and, largely, food. Instead, they pointed people to other ministries and resources throughout the area, and they began focusing on a new approach, Hope

Central, located in a house next door to the church, Parsons shared.

Two main ministries the center will offer will be tutoring and an urban garden.

In cooperation with the public school system in Ashland, Hope Central will use volunteers to offer tutoring services and homework help. Teachers will choose children who need help after the first nine weeks. From 4-5 p.m. four days a week, up to 20 children will meet with tutors in reading and math. From 5-6 p.m., more tutors will be available for homework help.

The urban garden was birthed out of this ministry and is a project for youth at Central. They will apply scriptural truths to gardening, as well as use it for outreach, John Clark, Central's youth pastor, said.

In addition to growing a garden on the church grounds, they are starting a "pallet ministry," Clark said. Each pallet will contain a small garden.

Instead of giving people boxes of food, they will give them a pallet garden. The pallets will open doors for evangelism as

volunteers develop relationships with the community.

"We're using our outreach to not just share the gospel, but also help these people find what they need and get them the assistance they need to help better their lives and show them the love of Christ. It's just a blessing all round," Clark said.

The ministry center will be a hub for many things, including a place for the community to connect with other ministries that they may not have access to otherwise. Central's VBS ministry will operate out of the center, as well as other services offering job placement or pregnancy crisis help.

The center, which has been in the works for a year and a half, will be fully functioning by October.

"This will be an awesome way to get these people some help, some love, and just give them Jesus," Clark added.

"The kids we are dealing with now are a generation of an already lost generation," he added. "If we don't make some drastic steps to go towards these children and make a difference in their lives, then what are we here for?" (WR)



2016 STATE MISSIONS EMPHASIS AND ELIZA BROADUS OFFERING BE READY-LIVE READY



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By WMU Staff

The Summer Olympics have just begun, and already we have heard the familiar words, "To your marks!" followed by "Set!" and then the pause as athletes and spectators alike strain to hear a mechanical beep or a starter's pistol. Those athletes know what it is to be ready, but how ready are we as Christ followers? The theme for this year's state missions emphasis centers on 1 Peter 3:15, which directs believers to "always be ready to give a defense to anyone who asks you the reason for the hope that is in you." Always. As in, 24/7, 365. We must be prepared to share the love of Christ and the message of the gospel every day and in every situation: to the co-worker, restaurant server, cashier, soccer coach, or the parent of your child's best friend. We must be sensitive to the needs of others, to respond when that person, so obviously in pain, is seated next to us at the doctor's office, or by the fountain at the mall. Additionally, we must equip and encourage believers who serve in places we cannot: Asia, Appalachia, the inner city.

Kentucky WMU invites you to dig into this year's materials for the EBO emphasis. There are dramatic vignettes, videos of Kentucky missionaries and ministries that benefit from your support, responsive readings, sermons, and as always, lessons and activities for every age in your church. Everything is available online at kywmu.org/ebo. To request a DVD of materials, email heather.hendricks@kybaptist.org or call 502-489-3534 or 1-866-489-3534 (toll-free in KY).

WMU offers so much; it is worthy of second look

This summer Kentucky WMU and other KBC ministries participated in a Cooperative Program video.

Several CP-funded ministries in Kentucky were asked to write a 15-second script about our work. It was difficult to do.



Joy Bolton

WMU has one singular focus, missions, but trying to describe our work reminds me of the story of the blind men describing an elephant based on what part of the animal they touched. The descriptions varied dramatically: a pillar, rope, tree branch, wall, enormous fan, etc.

So it is with WMU.

Each ministry is but a part of our work. Mission Friends, GAs, RAs, Children in Action, Acteens, Challengers, Youth on Mission, myMISSION, Women on Mission, Adults on Mission – these are just the start. Kentucky Changers, Mission Adventure for Kentucky Kids, camp overnights, RAMCON, GA JAM, Creative Ministries Festival, CA-BOOM, retreats, and multiple leadership development opportunities are all components of Kentucky WMU.

It doesn't end there. Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for International Missions, Annie Armstrong Easter Offering for North American Missions, Eliza Broadus Offering for State Missions, missionary prayer calendar, Baptist Nursing Fellowship, Missionsfest, Familyfest, and are other efforts.

If the average churchgoer's perception of WMU is "a group of ladies who meet for a program, pray for missionaries, and do some projects," that church member only sees one corner of a big picture, or like one of the blind men in the story, he might have hold of an ear but that doesn't mean he knows what the animal looks like.

Be Ready-Live Ready is also more than the theme for our 2016 state missions emphasis. It is a call to action. We are to be ready, every day, to tell the story of Jesus. We live ready as we pray for missions and our own opportunities to share the gospel. We live ready as we learn about His work around the world and get involved personally in ministry. We live ready as we give to support others who do missions and help others in Jesus' name.

This is WMU. We help churches learn, pray, give, go and send!

Joy Bolton is executive director of Kentucky WMU, joy.bolton@kybaptist.org & www.discoverjoy.org

Changing the Changers

Students find new confidence to share Christ using gospel bracelets

By WMU Staff

The spiritual life has always been the focus of Kentucky Changers, with quality, free home maintenance and repair to the needy across Kentucky a close second. This summer's projects, however, stretched students even further in their faith.

The weekend before the first full day "on the job" is filled with Bible study, worship, and getting acquainted with peers, tools, and rules.

This year, students also learned how to share the gospel using a colorful bracelet.

The result, according to several students, was a greater confidence in talking to others about the importance of Christ in their lives.

Kentucky WMU staff reported students leaving in the morning with multiple

bracelets on their wrists and returning in the afternoon requesting more.

"I must have given out 10 bracelets that week," said Sydney Amos, a member of of Valley View Baptist Church in Vine Grove. "They helped me to be more confident in sharing God's word."

Nearly 1,000 students participated in Changers this summer. Several came

as guests of Kentucky Baptist youth, perhaps experiencing Christian community for the first time. Seventeen made professions of faith, and 20 said they felt that God was calling them to the ministry.

Get an inside look at Changers by checking out this year's videos at <https://vimeo.com/kywmu>.



Haley Morrow, a member of First Baptist Church of Bronson, works on a roofing job during the Greensburg Kentucky Changers project July 4-8. Nearly 1,000 students served through Kentucky Changers this summer.



Ky Baptists: Help us find a few good women

As president of Kentucky Woman's Missionary Union, I am privileged to head a board of 30 women who represent your churches and associations across the state. The full board has two scheduled meetings annually. In between, our various committees meet regularly, with several members joining us via conference call, to conduct the work of Kentucky WMU in a timely manner. Regional board members represent churches from eight regions of the commonwealth and serve three-year terms. Eight members rotate off the board each year with new members installed at the annual meeting every Spring. Fall is the time when the nominating committee considers who will be recommended to serve the following year.

We seek persons with a passion for missions and missions education currently involved in WMU who can devote the time necessary to help oversee our work. Our nominating committee is seeking recommendations from you, Kentucky Baptists. Who better than those at the grassroots level to know women of this caliber?

More than 20 years ago, when I was first asked to serve on the board, I was told that it was an honor to serve but it was not an honorary board. We are a working board that expects much from our members. Kentucky WMU has a vibrant board, and the work accomplished each year is staggering. We approve the budget, new hires, policy changes and the things most often associated with a board of directors, and our members assist in the many events offered each year. Some of those are mentioned in this edition of *Kentucky Notes*. We also participate in Excel or other training events, and are front and center in the many ways we support our missionaries and promote missions giving in our churches.

I hope that after reading this, someone has come to your mind who you think would be a valuable member of the Kentucky WMU board. I encourage you to take a few minutes to complete a nomination form and send it in. You can find it online at kywmu.org/executiveboard, or if you attended the annual meeting in April, you will find it on the last page of your program.

Susan Bryant of Pleasureville is president of Ky WMU and a member of Graefenburg Baptist Church.



Susan Bryant

WMU Directors

Try new approaches to missions education, service, promotion

By Wanda Walker

Fall is a great time to initiate new and innovative approaches to missions education and action, and this fall marks the launch of WMU's new emphasis, *By All Means*, which explores that idea more fully. (For more info on the emphasis, check out my other article on page 10.)

To get you started, why not consider one or more of the following?

- Have a reception to honor the memory of Eliza Broadus our state missions pioneer. Have a display highlighting her life. Get started on our website, kywmu.org/eliza.

- Hold a churchwide WorldCrafts party to support people groups our IMB missionaries serve alongside. The WorldCrafts event planner is a great free resource for hosting a successful event. Get the details on planning and promotion at worldcrafts.org and click on "Parties" located at the top of the page in green.

- Remind your church that World Hunger Sunday is Oct. 9 and use resources from globalhungerrelief.com.

- Women on Mission and/or Acteens could volunteer child care services for select Sunday mornings to give regular child care workers an opportunity to attend a worship service.

- Host a church staff breakfast during Clergy Appreciation Month in October. Give staff a gift that will be a daily reminder of WMU and its age-level organizations. GAs could bake goodies, make cards or a craft. Ask your music minister for time on one Sunday for Mission Friends to share a song for church staff.

- On Baptist Women's World Day of Prayer, Nov. 7, have a location in your church available for 24 hours of intercession. Create stations for prayer using the guide produced by the Women's Department of the Baptist World Alliance. For details and resources, visit <http://bwawd.org/day-of-prayer>.

- Leave surprise packages on the doorstep of someone you know who may have a need but might not be comfortable asking for help.
- Co-sponsor an event with other groups in the church, such as Sunday school, women's ministry, or activities/recreation. Do something with a missions flair.

- Does your WMU team receive *Missions Mosaic*? This great resource would make a perfect gift for them? It will enhance their joy of missions. Subscribe online at <https://www.wmystore.com/missions-mosaic>.

Directors, please help us reach as many Kentucky Baptists as possible with important news and resources. Return the WMU Church Leadership Form to Kentucky WMU, 13420 Eastpoint Centre Dr., Louisville, KY 40223. Wanda Walker is adult/churchwide consultant for Ky WMU, wanda.walker@kybaptist.org

Girls in Action, Children in Action

MAKK, Overnights provide mix of fun, service, learning for Ky kids

By Stacy Nall

This summer, boys and girls from all over the state participated in Mission Adventure for Kentucky Kids. This year's events were held in Richmond and Bowling Green.

Kids and their leaders prayerwalked the Eastern Kentucky University and

Western Kentucky University campuses. In Richmond, they delivered meals to the homebound and served at the Salvation Army.

In Bowling Green, kids volunteered at Hope House, Salvation Army, Hotel, Inc. and Hospice.

In addition to serving, MAKK gives

kids the opportunity of leading. With help from adult volunteers, boys and girls offered free arts and sports camps to their peers in the community.

It was encouraging to see our kids growing in their faith and understanding of the needs around them, including the needs of boys and girls their own age. Next year's MAKKs will be in Louisville or Lexington.

Girls, moms, and leaders gathered at Cedar Crest and Jonathan Creek for "Compassion Camp." They discovered what the Bible has to say about compassion by studying the story of the Good Samaritan.

Missionary speakers challenged campers to show compassion to others in need. Among the activities, campers decorated pillow cases and made pillows for some of the children and teens in care of Sunrise Children's Services.

Missions events continue into the fall with CA-BOOM! and GA JAM.

On Sept. 24, children in grades 1-6 will "Celebrate Missions" at the Moore Activity Center in Covington, which provides a variety of ministries to children and families in the area. Children in Action and other boys and girls who attend CA-BOOM! have the opportunity to help MAC prepare for its holiday outreach efforts. An international missionary will join us to share about her work in Peru. Online registration is underway at kywmu.org/caboom.

Girls in grades 1-6 are invited to GA JAM in Richmond, Nov. 12. This year's theme is "Mission: Possible." Girls will uncover clues from the Bible about their role in missions. Missionaries will share how they discovered God's will for their lives. Keep watching kywmu.org/children as details are finalized.

Stacy Nall is preschool/children's consultant for Ky WMU, stacy.nall@kybaptist.org



Above: There's always time for fun at a Mission Adventure for Kentucky Kids weekend. Events were held this summer in Bowling Green and Richmond. **Top:** Two Kentucky Girls in Action are ready to facilitate a free arts camp for boys and girls in Richmond as part of one of this year's Mission Adventures for Kentucky Kids.

RAs, Challengers, YoM

New theme, 'By All Means,' can equip boys, youth to fully engage in missions

By Jon Auten

In September, *RA World* and *RA Leader* will feature the new theme, *Mission: My Life*, based on the 2016-18 WMU theme *By All Means*.

As RAs and their leaders learn the lessons and unpack the meaning of the new emphasis, the prayer is that boys will be challenged to make missions a part of their daily lives by engaging fully in missions learning and action.

Leaders, this material is written to help you teach RAs about how the Great Commission impacted the early disciples, how it informs the lives of current-day missionaries, and how it can transform the lives of believers today.

RA Leader, *RA World*, and all the other resources you need to help your Royal Ambassadors grow into "well informed, responsible followers of Christ" are available at wmustore.com.

As you plan for the coming year, please mark your calendars for RAM-CON 2017 on March 18 at Beaver Dam Baptist Church. As the date approaches, more info will be posted at kywmu.org/ramcon.

Follow "Kentucky Royal Ambassadors" on Facebook.

Challengers & Youth on Mission

What if the teenaged boys in your Challengers group, or the boys and girls

in your Youth on Mission group, did the following things on a regular basis:

- Followed Christ's example?
- Stepped into the world around them?
- Cultivated relationships with others, and
- Created opportunities to demonstrate the love of Christ?

You certainly would be proud of a group of young people who lived like that, wouldn't you? With the help of the new *Challengers Leader* book and *Youth on Mission Plan Book* for 2016-17 (available at wmustore.com), you can equip the young men and women in your group to live in just this kind of

way.

By All Means, that's the overarching theme in the Bible studies, mission studies, personal growth studies, and missions activities that will enable your students to live for Christ in all they do.

You can also engage teens in practical missions through Kentucky WMU's Creative Ministries Festival and Kentucky Changers.

Stay up to date on news, events and resources for students at kywmu.org/students.

"Kentucky Challengers" and "Kentucky Changers" are on Facebook.

Jon Auten is the RA/Challengers consultant for Ky WMU, jon.auten@kybaptist.org

Help preschoolers provide 'cup of cold water' to others in September

By Stacy Nall

Collecting and donating necessities to those in need is a great missions project for preschoolers. There are so many ministries that rely on such gifts: food pantries, homeless shelters, after-school programs, community centers and more need non-perishable foods, toiletry items, gently used toys and clothes, and other in-kind donations.

Christmas in August missionaries need all sorts of supplies to keep their ministries going. Refer to the summer edition of *Mission Friends Leader* for Christmas in August missionaries and a list of specific needs.

As part of the Eliza Broadus State Mis-

sions Emphasis, preschoolers will learn about God's Appalachian Partnership, a ministry based in McDowell. GAP needs

school supplies each year for its KidStock event. For a list, visit gapky.org.

Beyond collecting items, have you ever wondered how your Mission Friends can get beyond the walls of the church to minister to others?

With help from parents and grandparents in your church, you can expand your preschoolers' concept of helping others.

This September, Mission Friends and their leaders and parents are invited to "Give a Cup of Water in Jesus' Name."

Prepare labels with your church's name

and contact information. Help your preschoolers attach them to water bottles. Arrange for your group to offer the water to participants and/or spectators at a sporting event such as football practice, a local run/walk or fall festival.

Encourage families to visit the home-bound. Parents and preschoolers could deliver cookies, weed a flower bed, and sweep the sidewalk. Older preschoolers

may even want to read a Bible story.

For boys and girls heading to school this fall, guide them in making a "Jesus loves you" card to give to a new friend.

As Mission Friends leaders, you need to be creative with mission projects, but the fact that you are creative is why God called you to work with preschoolers!

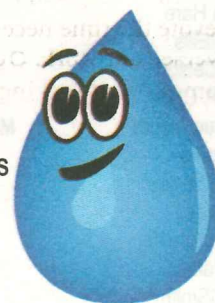
Stacy Nall is preschool/children's consultant for Ky WMU, stacy.nall@kybaptist.org



Hey Mission Friends!

Give a Cup of Water in Jesus' Name

Leaders & parents, help Mission Friends attach Scripture & church info labels on bottled water to give to thirsty folks at an event this September! A football or soccer game, 5K or fall festival are just a few ideas. Let us know how it goes. Post on the KWMU Facebook page or email Stacy.Nall@kybaptist.org. Thanks!



Stuck in Traffick

An informational event from Ky Baptist Disaster Relief on Human Trafficking

Oct. 22, Bethlehem BC, Louisville

\$10/person (includes lunch) free child care with registration by Oct. 19

www.kybaptist.org/traffick

Questions? 502-489-3527 or 1-866-489-3527
toll-free in KY

Two more chances!

Start the new church year with great training. 12 topical and age-graded training sessions



Aug. 20, Independence
Sept. 10, Louisville

For info & to register www.kywmu.org/excel
Questions? Call 502-489-3453 or 1-866-489-3453
(toll-free in KY)

Celebrate Missions!

at CA-BOOM!

Children in Action Blast Off on Mission!

- * Meet an international missionary!
- * Learn how to pray for and give to missions.
- * Enjoy a party for missions!

Help with holiday projects for the Moore Activity Center

- Prepare Halloween treat bags
- Put Scripture on food for Thanksgiving baskets
- Make ornaments for Christmas bags

For boys & girls grades 1-6
& leaders

Saturday, September 24, Covington

10 a.m. - 2:15 p.m. (EST)

South Side Baptist Church/Moore Activity Center

Early bird rate-\$10/person (lunch included)

www.kywmu.org/caboom

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These gifts to the Heritage Fund were received during the second quarter of 2016 and include funds received at the annual meeting and in response to the \$10/12 Challenge. Thank you to each donor for your support of Kentucky WMU through gifts to the Heritage Fund Endowment.

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Kentucky Baptists' gifts through the Cooperative Program and the Eliza Broadus Offering for State Missions make Kentucky Notes possible.

Sharing Christ 'By All Means' is tall but attainable order

By Wanda Walker

"I have become all things to all people so that by all possible means, I might save some. I do all this for the sake of the gospel that I may share in its blessing" (I Corinthians 9:22b-23, NIV).

Are these some challenging words for you? We are experiencing troubling times in our society. It would be easy to retreat into our Christian comfort zones for protection and mutual understanding. Even having a desire to follow these words of Scripture is a tall order sometimes.

As adults, we find ourselves easily swayed by our emotions and experiences which might seem to tell us that this particular Scripture is not meant for us. It is for the "super Christians," the pastors and the missionaries.

Not so.



Keep in mind that this is not from our parents, our employer, or our friends; this is from Jesus! I don't know about you, but the more I study the Bible, pray, and listen to the Holy Spirit, the more responsible I feel to standards such as the one spelled out in this passage. Doesn't that accountability make us stronger Christ followers and missions-minded people?

This fall, as a way to explore further this very tall order from our Lord, WMU organizations everywhere are beginning a new emphasis, **By All Means**. Through these excellent resources, I think you will be encouraged to consider anew how believers are to live and lead.

The 2016-2017 Year Book, a planning guide for WMU leaders serving all age groups, will have information and resources to make the learning, praying,

and doing experience more interactive and meaningful. Also, visit wmu.com and search "By All Means" for articles, blog posts, and details on the materials.

Additionally, *Missions Mosaic* will have stories and insights to better understand each aspect of this emphasis. If you are not subscribing, now is a great time to start. It is affordable, and you can subscribe online at <https://www.wmu-store.com/missions-mosaic>.

Refresh, a fall retreat, is just around the corner for women ages 18-40—although the young-at-heart also are invited. Guest speakers are LaRaine Rice, Nicole Coomer and me.

The event is Oct. 7-9 at Oasis Christian Retreat Center in Franklin. Reservations are required, so sign up today at kywmu.org/refresh.

Wanda Walker is adult/churchwide consultant for Ky WMU, wanda.walker@kybaptist.org

Host kickoff event to mentor Acteens just one idea for new year

By Denise Gardner

September: a new start! School has begun and everyone has fresh, new school supplies and shoes. Fall is in the air and we can begin again.

Acteens Leader and *The Mag* begin fresh too, with a new mail house, a new frequency, and a new format.

Both magazines cover a quarter of the year (September, October, and November). The Bible study, centered on the new WMU emphasis, **By All Means**, literally begins with the Beginning, Genesis.

As a leader, how should you begin a new year of Acteens? Here are some ideas:

Little/Big Sisters Assign current Acteens to your new arrivals "graduating" from Girls in Action and host a kickoff event.

Missions Lock-In Invite a mission speaker and plan several hands-on missions projects.

Begin at Home Load Acteens in the church bus/van and drive the community to learn about local mission sites.

School Prayerwalk Organize your Acteens to prayerwalk local schools.

Did you miss our Acteens Leader

Retreat? Visit us at facebook.com/kentuckyacteens for tips and ideas shared at the retreat and to connect with other Acteens leaders in the state.

Don't forget ...

October 1 Kentucky Acteens Activator applications due at the Kentucky WMU office. Look for the application online at

www.kywmu.org/activator or email me at denise.gardner@kybaptist.org.

November 1 National Acteens Panelist applications due. Applications are online at www.wmu.com or information is available in *Acteens Leader*.

Denise Gardner is Acteens specialist for Ky WMU, denise.gardner@kybaptist.org



Kentucky Acteens Activators assemble back to school backpacks for children served by the Baptist Friendship House in New Orleans. The Kentucky team also assisted with vacation Bible school during the summer mission trip.

Refresh

A retreat for the young & young at heart

Oct. 7-9, Franklin
Oasis Christian Retreat Center

Inspiring speakers, Fellowship, More!

\$95/person or \$150/cabin

For more details or to register, visit
kywmu.org/refresh

Questions? 502-489-3453 or 1-866-489-3453 (toll-free KY)

GA JAM 2016

Mission: Possible!

... with God, all things are possible
Matt. 19:26



First Baptist Church, Richmond
Sat., Nov. 12, 10 a.m. - 2:15 p.m. (EST)
Early Bird Rate \$10/person (includes lunch)

Registration Oct. 28 - Nov. 4 \$15/person

Register online kywmu.org/gajam

Questions? 502-489-3454 or 1-866-489-3534 (toll-free in KY)

Most Americans prefer talking about politics, not God

By Bob Smietana

Nashville—Politics trumps God for most Americans when it comes to conversations with their friends, a new study shows.

Six in 10 Americans are more comfortable talking about politics than their spiritual beliefs. And most say they aren't interested in having more spiritual conversations.

By contrast, evangelical Christians prefer talking about God over politics by a 2-to-1 margin.

Those are among the findings of an online survey of 1,004 Americans about their views on spirituality and politics from LifeWay Research.

Scott McConnell, executive director of LifeWay Research, said Americans like to talk about both politics and religion, which are sometimes considered off limits in polite conversation. But they often prefer one to the other.

"People tend to discuss the things that matter most to them," he said. "For evangelicals, that is their faith."

As part of the survey, researchers compared how often Americans talk to others about politics to the number of times they talk about spirituality.

Two-thirds of Americans (64 percent) say they had at least three conversations about politics in the last month. Eight percent had no conversations about politics. By contrast, fewer than half (44 percent) had three or more spiritual conversations in the same time frame. Twenty-two percent had no conversations about spirituality.

Overall, 6 in 10 Americans (59 percent) say they're more comfortable

discussing their political views than their spiritual beliefs. But there are distinctions among certain groups.

Women (51 percent), those who go to church at least once a week (57 percent), and those with evangelical beliefs (63 percent) prefer to talk about their spiritual views. Men (69 percent) and those who don't have evangelical beliefs (65 percent) prefer to talk about politics.

Most Americans also say they have about as many conversations about spirituality as they can handle.

About half (51 percent) say they have "just the right amount" of discussions on spiritual beliefs. A quarter (23 percent) want fewer spiritual discussions. Only 1 in 5 wants more. Six percent aren't sure.

Those with evangelical beliefs (32 percent), those 55 and over (26 percent), and those in the South (24 percent) are more likely to say they have such conversations "less often than I would like."

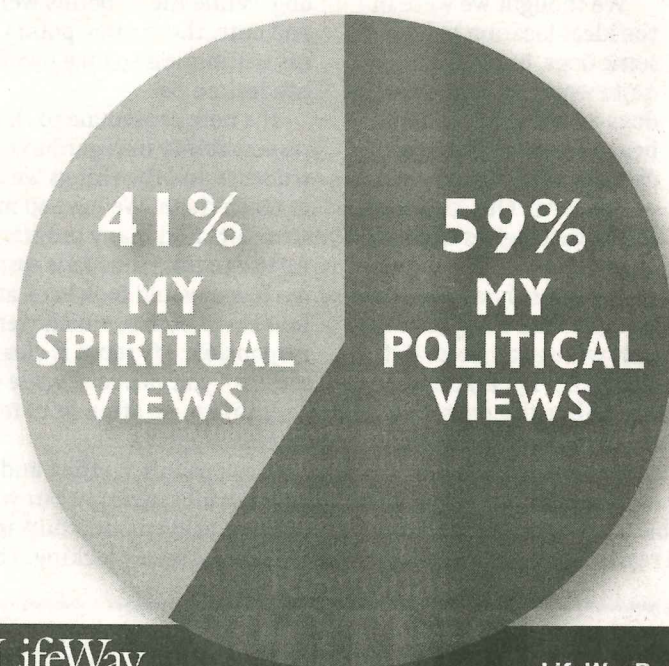
Churchgoers are split. Three in 10 (29 percent) of those who attend at least once a week say they want fewer spiritual conversations. One in 4 (26 percent) wants more spiritual conversations.

Still, many Americans are open to hearing what other people think about faith. About half (52 percent) believe they have as much to find out as they do to share during a spiritual conversation. A quarter (26 percent) say they have more to find out. A similar number (22 percent) think they have more to share.

Evangelicals are more likely to believe they have more to share (32 percent) in a spiritual conversation. They're less likely to say they have more to find out (17 percent). Frequent churchgoers also believe they have more to share (33 percent).

Among Americans:

Which are you more comfortable talking about with others?



LifeWay
Biblical Solutions for Life

LifeWayResearch.com

Those findings don't surprise McConnell. Sharing one's faith in order to convert others is a core evangelical conviction.

Still, he said, those with evangelical beliefs may need to listen more during a spiritual conversation.

"If you don't care what your neighbors believe, chances are they won't listen to what you have to say," he said.

Philip Nation agrees. Nation helps manage Bible Studies for Life, which sponsored the survey. Evangelicals who want to share their faith may need to listen first, he said.

"Evangelicals too often only want to lecture our neighbors," he said. "We need to learn the needs and worldview of our neighbors so we can effectively discuss the gospel." (BP)

Highway crash kills missionary family

By Mark Kelly

Minneapolis—A young missionary family of five from Bethlehem Baptist Church in Minneapolis is being mourned after a highway crash in western Nebraska took their lives July 31.

Jamison and Kathryn Pals, both 29, and their three children, Ezra, Violet and Calvin, ages 4 years to 2 months, died when their minivan was rear-ended by a semitrailer truck in a construction zone on Interstate 80.

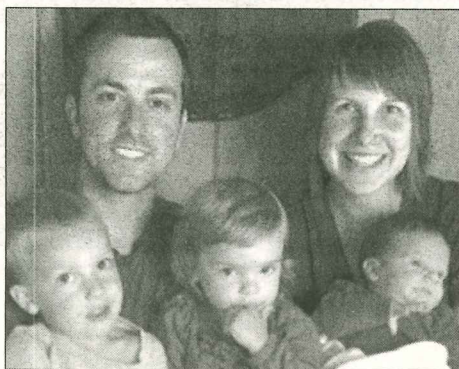
The Pals were headed to Littleton, Colo., for a final training session before leaving in October to serve as missionaries with Christ Bible Institute in Nagoya, Japan, according to the church's statement. The couple had just left a water park to complete the final three hours of their 13-hour journey.

The statement released by Bethlehem Baptist Church, part of the Baptist General Conference, pointed to the hope Christians dealing with death have.

"As Christians, we look death in the face and see ultimate victory, not tragedy, because Jesus defeated sin and death for all of his people," said church spokesmen Jason Meyer and Kenny Stokes.

The Pals had written about their preparations for missionary service on a blog called "For the joy of Japan."

"Jesus Christ is everything. You could take away all else in our lives—money, home, health, family, friends, the



inter-web—and we would still be rich in Christ," Jamison Pals wrote on the blog. "We cherish Jesus Christ. We know that he is worthy of love, trust, adoration and obedience, no matter what people group you belong to or culture you identify with. We simply want to play a small part in bringing these things about for people in Japan."

Kathryn Pals saw her mission through the lens of motherhood: "You can be a mom anywhere in the world," she wrote. "Why not be a mom living among other moms who don't yet know Jesus? Why not raise children who make friends with other children who've never heard the gospel before?"

The impact of the collision pushed the Pals' vehicle into three other vehicles, and both the car and the truck burst into flames, the Minneapolis Star Tribune reported. The driver of the semitrailer truck was charged with five felony counts of vehicular homicide. (BP)

Team USA flag bearer Phelps' rehab was 'Purpose-Driven'

By Tim Ellsworth

Rio De Janeiro, Brazil—Michael Phelps, Team USA flag bearer at the Olympics opening ceremony Aug. 5 in Rio De Janeiro, was heavily influenced by Rick Warren's "The Purpose-Driven Life" during rehab after his second arrest on a drunken driving charge.

"It's turned me into believing that there is a power greater than myself, and there is a purpose for me on this planet," Phelps said about the book in an ESPN feature.

The most decorated Olympian ever with 22 medals including 18 gold, Phelps originally retired after the 2012 London Olympics. He was arrested in September 2014 for his second Driving Under the Influence offense while attempting a comeback. In the days following the arrest, Phelps locked himself in his room, eating and sleeping little, as he evaluated his life, he told ESPN.

"I just figured that it was the best thing to do to just end my life," Phelps said.

But after a conversation with his friend and former Baltimore Ravens star Ray Lewis, and at the encouragement of other loved ones, Phelps decided to enter rehab at The Meadows outside Phoenix. Lewis gave Phelps a copy of the



BP file photo

book before he left.

Phelps spent 45 days at The Meadows, often calling Lewis to talk about some of the content he was reading and sharing with others in rehab.

After completing the program, Phelps worked to rebuild his fractured relationship with his father Fred, who divorced Phelps' mother when Phelps was 9. He also resumed his training, eventually qualifying for his fifth Olympics. Phelps' U.S. teammates elected him as the flag bearer for the opening ceremony.

Phelps credits "The Purpose-Driven Life" for much of the good he experienced in life during and after rehab.

"It helped me when I was in a place where I needed the most help," he said.

Since its 2002 release, The Purpose Driven Life has sold more than 40 million copies and has been translated into 50 languages, including Afrikaans, Arabic, Farsi, Rwandan, Sango, Swahili and Zulu, according to Bible Gateway. (BP)

Teaching responsibility

In the years preceding our move to Oneida, my family lived in a home that we rented, and we didn't own any pets. Once we moved to Oneida and moved into our home that included some land, we decided to dip our toes in the pet ownership pool.

This is Oneida



Larry Gritton

We thought we were in the ideal location to have some dogs, but it didn't quite work out that way. The dogs would not stay home, began roaming the school's campus, and chased cows on the farm. Our kids soon found themselves with no dogs.

We recently visited someone who had a dog, and my kids were enamored with that little, hyperactive house dog. Within a few days, I found the following note from Alex, our 10-year-old son, on my phone:

"Why Alex Should Get A Dog: I am responsible. My room is clean. I am selfless. I really like dogs. I will run

with the dog. I will buy the dog food. I will clean up his mess. I will train him to not jump on mom and dad. I will teach him tricks. I will potty train him."

Although I admired Alex's efforts, I still was not inclined to get him a dog. While Alex's points were simple and cute, those same points did show his willingness to take ownership of his desired pet.

His note caused me to think of responsibility in regard to our Oneida students and the things we attempt to teach them. We have so much structure and many programs that we use to teach our kids responsibility. If you would look back at Alex's first three points, which were, "I am responsible. My room is clean. I am selfless," you can read some of the very things we attempt to teach Oneida students.

Responsibility, effort and selflessness are all traits that our youth today, and even our adults today, seem to be sorely lacking. The Oneida

setting is ideal for teaching these values.

If you ask our students what they dislike the most about OBI, they will typically mention something about rules and food. Those rules they reference represent the structure that they need, but don't want.

Having a pet is a big responsibility, and being a student at OBI is also a large challenge. Everything we do is geared toward helping young people find success that will last for both time and eternity.

Come and visit Oneida sometime this fall. If you do, I doubt you will find another dog at the Gritton house, but I guarantee you that we will show and tell you about the many programs that make our kids responsible enough to not only care for a pet, but to become soldiers of the cross and also good citizens.

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

Pastor celebrates 50 years of ministry

By Cary Donnell

Owensboro—Larry Birkhead preached his first sermon Aug. 30, 1964, at South Hampton Baptist Church in Owensboro. It was the beginning of a journey that would lead him to serve at eight Kentucky Baptist churches as senior pastor and three others as interim pastor.



Larry Birkhead

"I knew from age 13 that I wanted to be a preacher," said Birkhead. "It was just a matter of making myself stay focused and forcing myself to do it."

Birkhead, who was ordained June 26, 1966, celebrated his 50th anniversary of ministry in a gathering at Daviess-McLean Baptist Association in Owensboro.

He has served as pastor to Mt. Vernon Church in Calhoun, Spottsville Church, Yelvington Church in Maceo, Ghent Church, Pond Run Church in Beaver Dam, New Barren Springs Church in Hopkinsville, Robards Church and Sorgho Church in Owensboro—where he currently serves and has twice served as interim pastor.

As a child, Birkhead had to have a tonsillectomy, which caused hemorrhaging that nearly killed him. It was then that his mother prayed that his life be given to the Lord for service. This, Birkhead said, was the start of intentional prayer efforts about his ministry future.

"Some people say there isn't a God, but I know better," said Birkhead. "It wasn't just coincidence that this all happened. All this worked for me."

The 74-year old Philpot native doesn't know how much longer he'll serve, or where else he might go in the years ahead. But, he knows he must rely on the Lord for direction and clarity.

"As long as my health's good, I want to serve the Lord," he said. (WR)

Faw, longtime Africa missionary, dies

Waynesburg—Wiley Faw, a Southern Baptist missionary to Nigeria and member of Pleasant View Baptist Church in Waynesburg, died Aug. 3 at Ephraim McDowell Hospital in Stanford. He was 89 years old.

"He was a real down-to-earth guy, a real go-getter," said Kyle Page, pastor of Pleasant View Baptist, "Whole generations of Nigerians are Christians because of he and his wife's ministry."

Faw also served in the military during the end of World War II. He was present at the Nuremberg Trials, where Nazi officials were tried for war crimes and crimes against humanity.

He is survived by his wife, Geneva Willis Faw of Waynesburg, two daughters, Rhonda Faw Cassel of Dayton, Ohio and Mira Faw Reeves of Waynesburg.

Faw and his wife served as missionaries to Nigeria for 36 years. He will be remembered for his heart for missions, other people, and the Lord, his pastor said.

"He was light years beyond me in terms of spiritual maturity," added Page. "I'm so thankful I got to know him." (WR)

Practical ministry training during summer break

Summer breaks for our students provide a great way for them to experience practical ministry training

Clear Creek Chronicle



Donnie Fox

opportunities on the mission field. First year student Cody Simpkins shares about his summer mission trip.

"This summer marked my third time going on a mission trip to Nicaragua," said Simpkins. "My motivation for doing missions is the Great Commission and Acts 1:8. I have a heart for short term mission work and God has blessed me with the opportunities to go

back to Nicaragua multiple times.

"The team went to different villages and interacted with the locals by playing soccer, conducting abuse prevention clinics for women, handing out beans and rice, and each team

member was able to give their testimony over the local Christian radio station.

"After the work in the villages and surrounding areas we made a special trip into Honduras," said Simpkins. "We visited a church that has been planted. They had nine people baptized that morning, and they asked me to preach."

"The team also did a youth camp on this trip. The theme for camp was 1 Timothy 4:12. 'Be an Example in Word, Conduct, Love, Faith, and Purity.' I helped lead the youth lessons for camp. We focused on each thing that Paul wrote and had five lessons in total."

"During the lesson of 'Be an Example by Love,' I was led by the Holy Spirit to show a demonstration of love by washing the feet of two of the youth that were at camp. At the end

of camp, during the last night of worship together we had three young ladies make professions of faith! Many more rededicated themselves to Christ."

"This trip always has an impact on me in a variety of different ways," Simpkins said. "No matter how comfortable I become, God always pulls me out of my comfort zone and I always make new friends who I stay connected with through Facebook. I see more Spanish than English on my news feed than I have ever before. To see the body of Christ working together has really opened my eyes to the importance of the entire body. No matter how small a part of the body might be, God is still glorified through it."

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

Growth in giving in 2015

The annual report on charitable giving in the United States for the year 2015 was recently published by Giving USA Foundation. The Giving USA report announced that 2015 was America's most-generous year ever with a total of \$373.25 billion contributed to charitable causes, which was a 4.1 percent increase over the prior year. Religious organizations continue to remain the number one recipient of charitable contributions in the USA at 32

Ky. Baptist Foundation



Richard Carnes

percent, or \$119.3 billion, followed by donations to education at 15 percent, or \$57.5 billion, and human services at 12 percent, or \$45.2 billion as other large recipients.

There has been a general slowing of giving to religious causes in recent years, but contributions held steady at 32 percent from 2014 to 2015. The encouraging news is that almost 74 percent of religious organizations responding to the Nonprofit Research Collaborative Winter 2016 survey reported increases in 2015 contributions.

We are pleased to report that the Kentucky Baptist Foundation for its fiscal year 2015 distributed in excess of \$6 million toward Kingdom advancement through the various church, missionary, educational, evangelistic and compassion ministry causes of the Kentucky Baptist Convention, the Southern Baptist Convention and other Christian organizations. The distributions from the Foundation during 2015 increased

10.7% from the prior year.

These distributions were made possible by the many faithful and generous Christian stewards who practiced estate stewardship and generous giving at a deeper level. Their gifts through bequests, charitable trusts and other types of legacy giving have created perpetual endowment funds that will provide growing distributions to Baptist causes until Jesus comes again.

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

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



Ken Thomas and his wife, Sharon, not only hope his recent bout with cancer is over, but also that it has strengthened his Christian witness.

Thomas: 'God prepared me' to fight cancer

By Cary Donnell

Louisville—Ken Thomas is a civil engineer at the University of Tennessee. He is a husband, a father and a grandfather. Last June, when he found out he needed knee replacement surgery, he went in for a checkup, where the physician noticed an unusual growth on his leg.

At first, it was thought to be a cyst, but further examination and tests showed it was far worse. It was synovial sarcoma, a rare but aggressive cancer that spreads very rapidly.

"The Holy Spirit was already preparing me," said Thomas. "I was very calm through the whole process."

Thomas is the father-in-law of Doug Williams, missions strategist for the Missions Mobilization team at the Kentucky Baptist Convention. Thomas, a resident of Knoxville, Tenn., has made it a point to share the gospel with people he encounters on campus and to be a living example of a life changed by Christ.

"He has used his career to point students and faculty to the gospel," said Williams. "It's been a strong testimony to God's grace."

Upon removal of the growth, the crater on his leg had to be cleaned out and filled in. This was an arduous process that required steadfastness and a reliance upon God for strength, perseverance and hope. Thomas also underwent a muscle transplant in his leg to rid it of unhealthy muscle and tissue caused by the cancer.

Following that, Thomas underwent radiation treatments at the University of Tennessee's cancer institute. He was confined to a hyperbaric chamber, where he was to breathe pure oxygen and let his leg recover. His pain medication wasn't working like it should, and he was in extreme pain for long periods at a time. He was unable to walk and wasn't sure he ever would again.

"I thought about the pain Christ suffered on my behalf," added Thomas, a member of First Baptist Church of

Powell, Tenn. "It was nothing like my pain. Death didn't bother me."

"He kept a very God-centered attitude," reflected Williams, "It was really amazing how the Lord was at work through him. He didn't seem phased at all."

Amazingly, after two weeks, Thomas began making strides. He began by using a wheelchair. Then he was able to walk with a cane, and now is able to walk normally. He still needs regular checkups and medical visits, but by-and-large life is back to normal.

"I kept telling God how grateful I was, how He was doing work," recalled

Thomas. "I was very much at peace."

Along with intentional prayer visits from family and friends, along with Scripture reading and meditation, Thomas found solace in two Christian songs, "Same Power" by Jeremy Camp and "Overwhelmed" by Big Daddy Weave. These songs

made their way into his heart and have come to represent more than just any other Christian song he's heard on the radio.

The songs reminded Thomas that trials such as his cancer battle are God's way of strengthening our faith and making us more like Him. Thomas was also reminded that the hope we have isn't a recovery from cancer, financial stability, a career we love, or anything earthly; it's hope in Christ for our eternal salvation.

"The family was doing an incredible job in prayer and support," said Thomas. "My wife did an incredible job of caretaking."

Thomas plans to return to work in August. He feels strengthened by this brush with cancer and not only hopes the cancer is gone for good, but also that it has strengthened his Christian witness, and that it will point to the kingdom of God.

"This type of cancer generally goes to the lungs and is very dangerous," said Williams. "He knew how to suffer well and honor the Lord while doing it." (WR)

Funds for rebuilding historic church donated to Sunrise

On July 12, Sunrise Children's Services became part of the legacy of a venerable old church that today lies beneath the waters of Taylorsville Lake.

Garnett Mobley, a former member of the defunct Ashes Creek Baptist Church, presented Sunrise with a donation of more than \$68,000 on behalf of the agency's Spring Meadows facility, a residential home for abused and neglected boys, ages 12 to 18.

The gift was presented in two parts, on July 12-13. Spring Meadows is located in Mt. Washington.

Mrs. Mobley explained that the funds were originally intended to help rebuild the church, which was taken in the mid-1970s when work began on Taylorsville Lake. However, due to a lack of community interest, and too few remaining former members, it was determined that rebuilding would be impracticable.

Mrs. Mobley, who had been granted power of attorney for her

uncle, Tom Cull, the church's former treasurer and a generous contributor over the years, elected to donate the funds rather than see them go to the state.

"My uncle wanted to move the church, but there just wasn't enough time," Mrs. Mobley recalled. "The last service was held Oct. 24, 1976, in (a mostly) empty church. There were six people there."

A relative of Mrs. Mobley's mother was the

church's first

pastor. Estab-

lished in

1910, Ashes

Creek began

as a multi-

denomina-

tional church, with services alternat-

ing between Baptist, Presbyterian,

Methodist and Christian church

liturgies.

In later years, she discovered that the church's history closely paralleled those of her Cull relatives. The Cull family had come from Owen County.

During a visit there, Mrs. Mobley came across a county thoroughfare named "Cull Road." On it, she discovered a very familiar-looking Baptist church, which had clearly provided the design for the Taylorsville church.



#FUELED

Kentucky Baptist Convention
Women's Leadership
Retreat

**September 30 &
3:30pm (doors open)–9pm**

**October 1, 2016
8:15am–3pm**
(all times are local)

**Springdale
Community Church
Louisville**

SPECIAL GUESTS

 Jennifer Kennedy Dean The Praying Life Foundation Author Speaker	 Katie Orr Teacher Author Speaker Blogger	 Wynter Pitts Author Magazine Founder Actress	 Alena Pitts Actress (War Room) Model Writer
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**\$28 through September 12
\$33 after September 12
and at event**
(includes break refreshments / Friday dinner / Saturday lunch)

 **KBC**
KENTUCKY BAPTIST CONVENTION

registration / information / program updates / downloads / lodging
www.kybaptist.org/fueled



August

- 11 LIFE Tour, First Church, Clinton
15 Equip, Fitzpatrick Church, Prestonsburg
16 Equip, First Church, Russell
18 Equip, Parkway Church, Bardstown
20 Excel, Hickory Grove Church, Independence
22 Equip, High Street Church, Somerset
23 Equip, Calvary Church, Glasgow
29 Equip, Twelve Oaks Church, Paducah
30 Equip, Edgewood Church, Hopkinsville

MOUNTAINS TO THE MISSISSIPPI

COMPILED BY STAFF

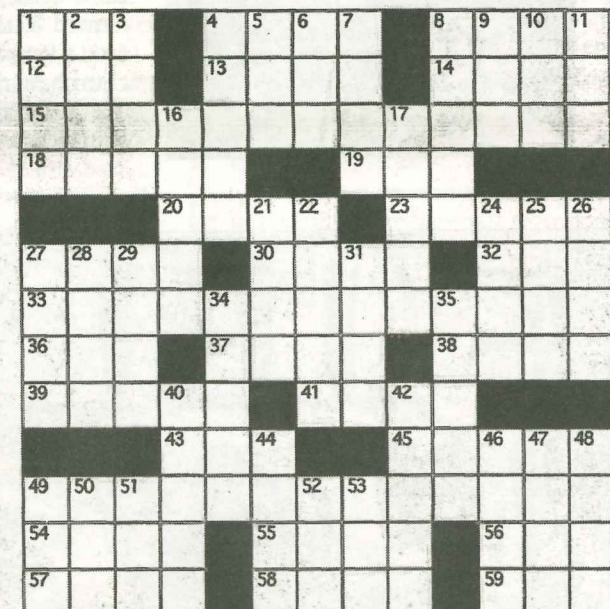
- BAGDAD**—Christiansburg Church has called **Harry Hebert** as pastor.
BUFFALO—Buffalo Church has called **David Waddle** as pastor.
CECILIA—Cecilia Church called **Troy Richards** as pastor. Unity Church has called **Butch Ford** as pastor.
EASTVIEW—Eastview Church has called **Mike McGrew** as pastor.
ELIZABETHTOWN—Blue Ball Church has called **Glenn Corbett** as pastor.
Heavenbound Church called **Charles Waters** as pastor. Locust Grove Church has called **David Smith** as pastor.
HICKORY—Pleasant Grove Church will have its 150th homecoming Aug. 14. **Larry Fraser** will preach at 11 a.m. Lunch and an in-house singing will follow. **Michael Farmer** is pastor.
HODGENVILLE—Middle Creek Church has called **Jim Webster** as pastor.
LOUISVILLE—Forest Church called **Nate Bishop** as pastor.
MAGNOLIA—Magnolia Church has called **Chuck Pollard** as pastor.
MAYFIELD—West Broadway Church will hold homecoming Aug. 14. Better Way will sing at 10 a.m., **Kyle Reeder** will preach at 11 a.m., and a meal will follow. **Jared Baker** is pastor.
MELBER—New Concord Church will have a homecoming service Aug. 14. A gospel sing will be held at 1:30 p.m., featuring LaFevre Quartet.

Bible Crosswords

By Linda Nunn

Across

1. Teen's task?
4. "Into your ____ are they delivered" (Genesis 9:2)
8. King of the Amalekites (1 Samuel 15)
12. Govt. agency
13. Hatred (Ital.)
14. At any ____
15. The sound of this sent a fiery mountain into the sea (Revelation 8, 2 words)
18. Three ____ years (Isaac's age at fatherhood; Genesis 25)
19. Year (Sp.)
20. Funeral ____
23. Desire
27. Thought
30. Cooking pot
32. Encore! (Fr.)
33. "For John came to you in the way of ____" (Matthew 21:32)
36. Used to form feminine name (suffix)
37. Bramble (Heb., var. pl.)
38. Auditoriums
39. Melchizedek, king of ____ (Genesis 14)
41. Dines
43. Vehicle
45. Springs where John baptized (John 3)
49. "a good ____ have all they that do his commandments" (Psalm 111:10)
54. River of France and Germany
55. Great Lake



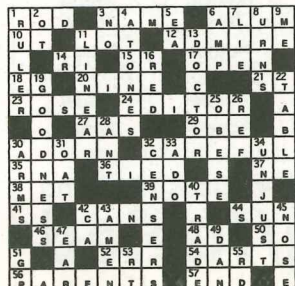
#01

56. Meadow
57. Entertainment award
58. "there were ____ between Rehoboam and Jeroboam" (2 Chronicles 12:15)
59. Of the family of the Erites (Numbers 26)
22. Oak (Heb., pl.)
24. Resting
25. Clamp
26. U.S. agency which incorporates the Weather Bureau
27. Eye part
28. Actress Merrill
29. Evenly proportioned (Fr.)
31. Hawaiian feast
34. Wife of Judah's son Er (Genesis 38)
35. Snooped
40. "____ knee shall bow" (Isaiah 45:23)
42. Flat, rectangular pieces
44. All dirs.
46. White ____
47. Extraordinary person
48. East African folklore character
49. Employ
50. One-time war zone (colloq.)
51. Hoover ____
52. ____-la
53. "the fowls of the ____" (Job 12:7)

Down

1. ____ kit
2. Oil org.
3. Texas town
4. Nectar
5. "I will ____ unto thy days fifteen years" (2 Kings 20:6)
6. Young louse
7. Feminine name
8. "Put on the full ____ of God" (Ephesians 6:11, NIV)
9. Mountain ravine
10. Dined
11. ____ real! (colloq.)
16. Wife of Chilion
17. Character in The Last of the Mohicans
21. "as swift as the ____ upon the mountains" (1 Chronicles 12:8)

#68



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

SEEKING: Part-time children's minister, newborn through 5th grade. 20-25 hours per week. Experience and education preferred but not required. Send resumé to: Alton Baptist Church, 1321 By Pass North, Lawrenceburg, KY 40342. Attn: Gary Ellcessor.

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

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 resumé to: ATTN: Personnel 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: 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 pastorsearchlewisportbaptist.org or P.O. Box 475, Lewisport, KY 42351 between July 11 and Aug. 22.

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 resumé through August. Please send resumé 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 resumé to 830 Shadrack Ferry Rd., Frankfort, KY 40601 or jeanie@camppleasant.org by Aug. 31.

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

SEEKING: Columbia 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

resumé to: ATTN: Personnel 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: Youngers Creek Church in Elizabethtown, Ky., is seeking a part-time youth minister. Interested individuals can send their resumé to James Hines, at janicehines70@gmail.com or call (502) 773-0749 for more information.

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

SEEKING: Westside Church, Murray, Ky., is seeking a youth, college and career pastor. Resumé may be submitted to aleslie@wbc-murray.org.

SEEKING: Part-time pastor for Belmar Church. Send resumé to 4142 Monroe Ave., Louisville, KY 40213, Attention: Search Committee.

SEEKING: Long Ridge Church in Owenton, Ky., is seeking a full-time or bivocational pastor. Long Ridge is a church of about 100 members. Send resumé to longridgebaptist@gmail.com.

SEEKING: New Hope Church, Versailles, Ky., is seeking a worship/youth pastor. For a job description and to submit resumé, email ma@newhopeky.org.

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.

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Left: Bike shop worker David helps a girl with her helmet at a bike safety class at Hurricane Memorial.

Right: Pastor Jeffrey Gee (left) looks on as recently released inmate Gene works on a bike at Hurricane Memorial's workshop. (Photos by Eric Reed)

Bicycle ministry steering lives toward recovery

By Eric Reed and Morgan Jackson

Herrin, Ill.—"Pastor Hurricane! Pastor Hurricane! Me next!" a 9-year-old red-head shouted.

"That's not his name, Dominic! That's his church," the boy's mother chided. "He's Pastor Gee."

"Me, me, Pastor Gee!" Dominic chanted. He wanted his turn on the bicycle training path.

On a warm day behind the Herrin House of Hope soup kitchen and thrift shop, pastor Jeffrey Gee of Hurricane Memorial Baptist Church in Herrin, Ill., and several volunteers taught children bike safety, complete with helmets and a course lined with orange traffic cones.

The bikes they rode were second-hand, but they had been completely repaired and spruced up in the church's bike shop. It's all part of Gee's plan to keep the kids out of trouble, and at the same time teach former convicts a trade to keep them from returning to prison.

By Gee's calculations, a fourth of Herrin's population "has been in jail for at least one day," said Gee, "many for a year or two." That's believable in a state that has 45,000 people in prison right now. This fact led the Hurricane church to start a "re-entry ministry" five years ago. Today their outreach to former prisoners includes a 12-step program, gardens, housing, and their ever-expanding bicycle shop.

World of wheels

The basement under the sanctuary of Hurricane Memorial is packed with bicycles, a hundred or more in rows and rows. Gee buys them at police auction—stolen and broken bikes that can't be reunited with their owners—and brings them to the workshop. New repairman Gene had one turned upside down on a worktable.

In his 50s, Gene is one of four men recently released from prison who live in the church's former parsonage, and who

work on the bikes.

Hurricane Memorial has a big vision for Gene and others like him. The pastor characterizes his congregation as a neighborhood church. With 80 members, "we're really just a small church," he noted, "but we do a lot."

"When I first encountered what Hurricane Memorial has done under Pastor Gee's leadership, I was struck at how much ministry to the community they were doing as a small church," said Stephen Williams, one of Illinois Baptist State Association's zone consultants for southern Illinois. It doesn't take a big church to have a big impact.

The parsonage serves as a halfway house, giving the people who stay there time to get re-integrated into society.

With the bike shop, as well as an organic garden and greenhouse, there is no shortage of work to be done.

The bike program allows volunteer workers to prove that they can show up for work faithfully. They earn a reference in order to

get a paying job. And they can choose and fix their own bicycle, a means of transportation to a future job.

The road to recovery

Keeping these men from returning to prison is a considerable challenge.

In Illinois, 51.7 percent of former inmates are sentenced for later offenses and are back in jail within three years—higher than the national average. A Pew Research study shows if Illinois could cut its recidivism (return) rate by 10 percent, the state would save \$40 million. More important, lives would be changed.

Gee and Hurricane Memorial Church are doing their part.

In addition to teaching work skills, the church offers a group meeting to help people stay clean and sober. Their Celebrate Recovery ministry offers a place to find biblical truth and community with those facing similar struggles. The 12-step program geared toward



Reintegrating into society is difficult for many newly released prisoners. More than half go back to jail. Pastor Jeffrey Gee (second from right) and Hurricane Memorial Baptist Church want to give them a fresh start with job skills, a purpose, and a place in the community. (Photo by Eric Reed)

all "hurts, habits, and hang-ups" is based on principles from Jesus' Sermon on the Mount. It's a national ministry started by pastor Rick Warren and Saddleback Community Church in California with chapters in local churches.

In May, Gee led "Celebrate Recovery Sunday," conducting the morning service as if it were any other Celebrate Recovery night. The aim was to get the church members on board with the ministry, and to let them see how beneficial it can be for people struggling with

addictions. For this small congregation, "Pastor Hurricane" continues stirring up ministry activity.

In just over a year, the bike team has repaired and distributed more than 100 bicycles free of charge. Gee hopes to open another shop in Marion about 12 miles away, making more bicycles available to kids and to adults who need transportation to work.

"If you see an adult riding a bike around Herrin or Marion," Gee said, "it's probably one of ours." (BP)



Crossings

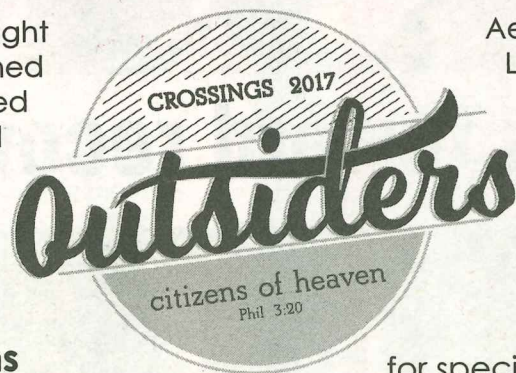
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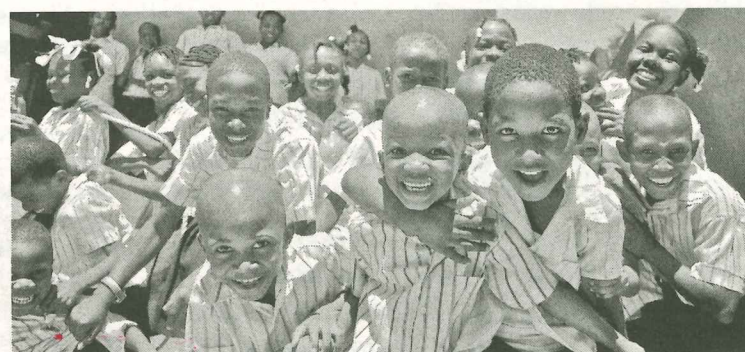
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