

WESTERN Recorder

September 6, 2016

Shine Like Stars * Philippians 2:15

Volume 190, Issue 18

Katrina-like disaster deployment underway

Denham Springs, La.—A church van apparently caused a stir in one flood-ravaged town in south Louisiana.

A 12-person team traveled to hard-hit Denham Springs on Saturday, Aug. 20. The disaster relief volunteers—from Longview Baptist Church in Deville, 120 miles to the northwest—were only able to mud-out a couple of houses.

The next week, however, Longview's phone lit up.

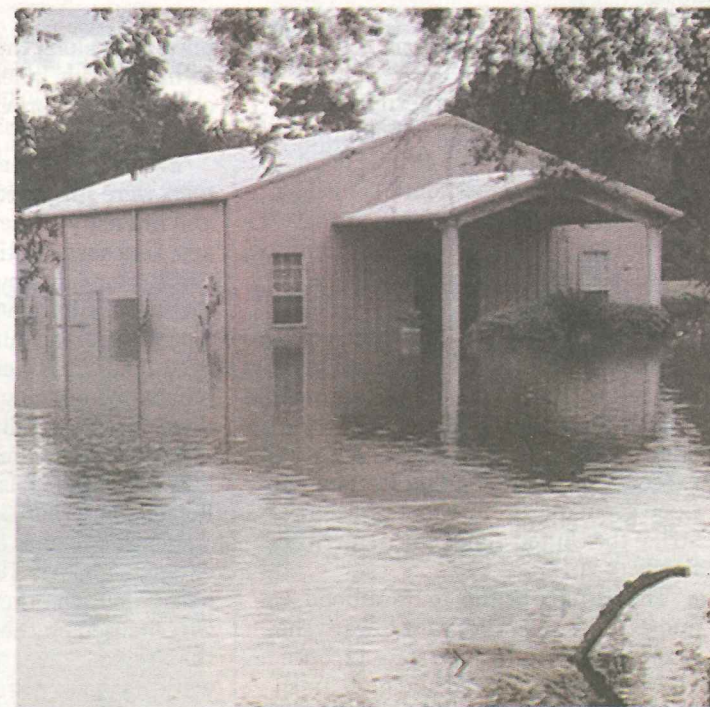
"(O)ther people in the neighborhood saw our van, wrote down the name of our church, Googled it to get our number I would guess, and have been calling non-stop since Monday," pastor Robby Poole recounted to Louisiana's Baptist Message on Aug. 26.

"This (cleanup) is not going to end this week, the next week, next month, or next year," Poole told the newsjournal of the Louisiana Baptist Convention.

"These families desperately need our help. We are being the hands and feet of Jesus and the gratitude of these families' faces speaks louder than words," the pastor said. "It is important these people know they are not alone."

Longview is one of hundreds of Louisiana churches outside the 20-parish flood zone that are sending volunteers to tackle mud-out, mold removal and related services for stricken churches and homeowners, the Message reported.

An estimated 5,100 disaster relief volunteers from across Louisiana and 23 state conventions, including Kentucky Baptists, have been deployed, according to the Message, since the historic flooding began Saturday morning, Aug. 13, after 48 hours of likewise-historic rainfall.



Floodwater has destroyed or damaged an estimated 60 churches in Louisiana, including Blood River Baptist in Albany, left, and River Road Baptist in Hammond, right. Far right, Kentucky Baptist Disaster Relief volunteer Green Wagers of Williamstown, clears water-stained sheetrock from a damaged home.

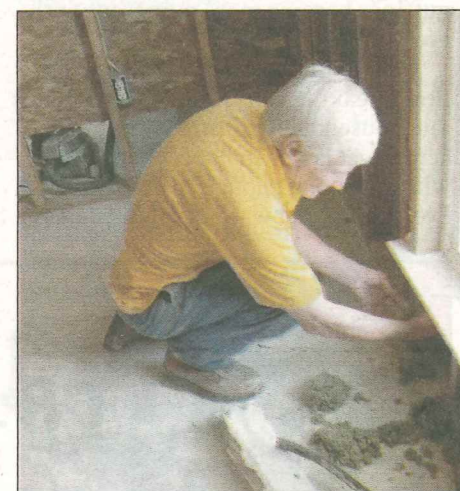
The unfolding recovery effort will be "the biggest mobilization of manpower since Hurricane Katrina," John Hebert, the Louisiana convention's director of missions, stated.

The monumental task facing Louisiana encompasses a now-estimated 61,000 homes that were destroyed or damaged. For Baptists, the challenge also extends to an updated total of 75 flood-battered churches and 70 pastors whose homes were lost or damaged.

Hebert is hopeful for a large influx of volunteers during the three-day Labor Day weekend.

"Look, I thank God for the help and support we have been getting from all over the United States," Hebert said. "So far, we have received \$260,000 in donations, received countless truckloads of much-needed supplies and food, and lots of prayers."

"But now we are praying God will stir
□ See Deployment ... Page 6



Attendees gather in a packed room for Don Spencer's Church Finances session at Parkway Baptist Church in Bardstown on Aug. 18.

Equip tour trains leaders at 8 sites

By Myriah Snyder

Louisville—The last half of August, a Kentucky Baptist Convention team covered eight locations across the state, bringing workshops on evangelism, discipleship and ministry leadership skills to 1,516 attendees on their Equip tour.

The tour began in Prestonsburg and ended in Hopkinsville, stopping along the way at locations within an hour's drive of any Kentucky Baptist church.

Equip is part of a biennial multi-discipline event to train laypersons in the church for more effective ministry. For

the past four years, Equip has rotated with Super Saturday events to provide training to Kentucky Baptists.

Steve Rice, church consulting and revitalization team leader, explained that although pastors, church staff and members are all invited, pastors make up the minority at these conferences. "It's mostly church members who want training in the areas where they have been called to serve in the local church," he said.

"Most churches view the fall as the church year kick off, and many times
□ See Equip ... Page 3

Southern Baptist Disaster Relief volunteers Gary Tracy (left) and Roy Christy, members of Northern Hills Baptist Church in Holt, Mo., examine homeowner Fay McDowell's kitchen in Baton Rouge, La. McDowell, 82, is a member of Zoar Baptist Church and evacuated to the church building when floodwaters overtook her home. (Photo by Carmen Sisson/NAMB)



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8

Because I'm really good at doing the crossword puzzles in each issue and enjoy testing my Bible knowledge and learning scriptural trivia.

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DR 'angels' continue to aid Louisiana flood survivors

By Carmen Sisson

Baton Rouge, La.—Southern Baptist Disaster Relief volunteers, including crews from Kentucky, continue flood recovery efforts across south Louisiana, coping with intermittent rain as they tear out insulation, sweep mud from houses and carry buckets of sodden clothing to curbs.

Few areas were left unscathed last month when nearly 7 trillion gallons of rain fell, killing 13 people and damaging more than 60,000 homes in 20 parishes. State officials estimate the damages will exceed \$20 billion, making the 500-year flood event one of the worst disasters to strike the United States since Hurricane Sandy in 2012.

The damage begins in Hammond, La., and extends 160 miles west toward the Texas border. Along Interstate 12, once lush foliage is withered and gray. Trash flanks fences. Advertisements for home guttings become more numerous with every mile.

Neighborhoods and side streets tell a heartbreaking story. Clothes, mattresses and household furniture lay strewn across wet lawns in hopes that the sun will shine long enough to dry them. Everything that was not salvageable is

piled high along the roadways, transforming shady lanes to narrow pathways, children's toys providing the occasional jolt of color.

Even some of the most seasoned volunteers were surprised by both the scope and intensity of the damage. A few weeks ago, Southern Baptist Disaster Relief (SBDRL) chaplain Roy Christy, a member of Northern Hills Baptist Church in Holt, Mo., was tearing out walls in flood-damaged Texas. This week, he is assessing homes and offering emotional support to flood survivors in Baton Rouge, where more than 19 inches of rain fell in 15 hours. In Watson, La., northeast of Baton Rouge, more than 31 inches of rain fell.

"The damage is impressive, very extensive," Christy said. "But the people here help each other out a lot. They're very focused on the community, not just themselves." Christy and his team are working out of Zoar Baptist Church while assisting local homeowners.

Flood survivor Fay McDowell, 82, has been a member of Zoar since 1962. Her home, located on a busy inland highway, has never flooded, but when the water began rising, she knew she had to leave. She had just enough time to pack a few clothes and place her terrified cat, Mimi, in her attic. Then she grabbed her

suitcase and her dog, Honey, and opened the door. Water poured into her kitchen, and it was continuing to rise. So she fled to the only place she knew she would be safe—her beloved church.

When she was finally able to return home, the sight brought her to her knees. Everything in the house below waist-level was ruined.

"Oh, God, how do people make it that don't have God's help," she said Monday morning, crying as she recalled how bleak things looked. Her husband died three years ago, and she wasn't sure how she would get the help she needed to begin piecing her home—and her life—back together. Hope arrived wearing gold shirts and carrying shovels.

"God brought me to my knees, and I want to tell you, y'all made me stand back up," McDowell said as she stood in a prayer circle with Christy and the other SBDRL volunteers. "God sent me angels."

Their work is a race against time. They have already removed most of the sheet-rock, baseboards and flooring, but mold is beginning to appear, and they are scrambling to get the house gutted and sprayed with Shockwave, a disinfectant designed to kill and prevent mold.

McDowell is currently living in her 12-by-18-foot sunroom with her dog and cat but hopes she will soon be back in her three-bedroom house. She is appreciative for the little things. While one group of volunteers set up a dog kennel in her back yard, filling it with cushions and a bucket of fresh water, others struggled to get her air conditioner running.

"Thank the Lord," she said, when the first wafts of cool air began flowing from the vents. "I'll never again doubt God and His miraculous work. These people are like angels. God has some special people doing this work."

But the blessings go both ways, said volunteer Sheila Gatlin. She and her husband Roger Gatlin attend Pisgah Baptist

Church in Excelsior Springs, Mo. The couple began volunteering with SBDRL several years ago.

"We feel very blessed as a couple that we can serve the Lord and communities in need," Sheila Gatlin said. "Fay has such

a spirit of knowing that the Lord is in control and He's going to provide."

Emotions after the flood run from one extreme to the other, Christy said. Some, like McDowell, draw comfort from their faith. Others are struggling. Christy carries orange pens bearing the words, "Jesus loves you." When he said those words to a flood survivor during Sunday services at Zoar, she wrapped her arms around his neck and began crying. Minutes passed as he held her, absorbing her pain as she sobbed. She never spoke.

"She needed to get that out," Christy said. "We are here to give people hope and help. We always feel when we go home that we were the ones who were blessed."

Disaster relief efforts are ongoing as assessors traverse the state, looking for people in need.

So far, more than 96,000 individuals and households have registered for assistance with the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

As for McDowell, she said she knows now that she will be okay. She renewed her flood insurance, just in time. And SBDRL is on the scene to provide not only labor but also the emotional and spiritual support she needed.

"My faith was strengthened beyond belief when I saw those yellow shirts," McDowell said. "They gave me hope the minute they came in and said, 'Jesus is with us. We came to help.'" (BP)

Editor's Note: Those wishing to learn more about disaster relief efforts can contact the Kentucky Baptist Convention or donate to the cause by going to donations.namb.net/dr-donations. Or, call 1-866-407-NAMB (6262).



Homeowner Fay McDowell hugs Southern Baptist Disaster Relief volunteer Gary Tracy, a member of Northern Hill Baptist Church in Holt, Mo., after a prayer meeting at her house, Aug. 22, in Baton Rouge, La. McDowell is one of thousands of Louisiana residents whose homes were damaged by floods in mid-August. (Photo by Carmen Sisson/NAMB)

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Gray to lead KBC evangelism & church planting

LOUISVILLE—A longtime Kentucky pastor and regional church consultant is being promoted to head the Kentucky Baptist Convention's Evangelism and Church Planting Team.

Todd Gray, who served 20 years as a pastor before joining the KBC, was recommended for the job by Executive Director Paul Chitwood.

"Todd was an evangelistic pastor, leading his churches to grow spiritually and numerically, and had a strong focus on church planting," Chitwood said. "In his consultant's role with KBC, Todd is widely respected in his region by megachurch pastors, as well as bivocational pastors and church planters. I really couldn't imagine anyone being a better fit for this team leader role, and I am thankful to God for His call upon Todd's life to serve Kentucky Baptists."

Gray worked five years as a territory manager for Midwest Equipment Co., handling millions of dollars in outdoor power equipment sales before becoming a pastor. He served in three churches:

New Hope Baptist in Cadiz; Bethel Baptist in Memphis, Ind.; and First Baptist of Oak Grove.

Since 2012, Gray has served the western Kentucky region as a church consultant, providing training and encouragement to pastors, directors of missions, church planters and congregations.

Both the KBC Administrative Committee and Mission Board voted to promote Gray.

"I feel that in 24 years of vocational ministry the Lord has been shaping me for this role," Gray said.

"Evangelism and church planting are both areas of ministry passion for me, and I could not be more pleased by the opportunity to try and impact these areas in the state."

Gray said his approach to the position will be to work directly with people in the field.

"I love being in the field with pastors, church planters and directors of missions, so I hope to work the position from a field orientation," he said. "My plan will include developing a statewide training

schedule to help pastors and church leaders put in place an intentional evangelism strategy for the church."

Steve Rice, leader of the KBC's Church Consulting and Revitalization Team, said he believes Gray is "a perfect fit" for the position.

"Todd Gray is one of the hardest working men I know," Rice said. "He can get more done in 20 minutes than most of us can do in two hours. He is a strong, biblical preacher and a great administrator."

As a church consultant, Gray has regularly reached out to nearly 500 congregations across western Kentucky, helping them formulate strategies for equipping the saints and reaching the lost.

"There is no evangelism silver bullet, but if the gospel seed is sown consistently, prayerfully, and in a multitude of ways, then people will be saved," Gray said. "Pastors are the key to churches becoming more evangelistic. A church will likely not rise above the evangelism example and leadership of its pastor, but on the other side of things, many churches have been willing to adopt the evangelistic zeal and passion of their pastor." (KBC)



Todd Gray

Equip

Continued from page 1

they have new folks in place. We want to coincide with their calendars since we're serving our churches and we're church-centric in what we offer," Rice said.

Workshop topics encompassed categories such as adult Sunday school, children's ministry, church finances, discipleship, evangelism, revitalization, Sunday school directors, women's ministry, worship and music, and youth ministry.

"Do's and don'ts of music ministry" and "Resources for music ministry" were topics that Jason Stewart, KBC worship and music consultant, presented.

"When the typical KBC church gathers for their weekly congregational worship services, more than likely someone has been given the responsibility of song selection, song leading, and maybe even directing the choir," he said. "They may also have the responsibility of scheduling special groups, directing the sound techs, and who knows what else. There is a lot that goes into leading a church worship service, ... or there should be."

He continued, "For the 2016 Equip Tour, my class has been directed towards those that accomplish that feat week in and week out. I have intentionally taught the class as if I were giving advice to a younger version of myself. The purpose of the class has been to give practical helps for the local church music leader."

Shelley Johns, women's and senior adult ministry consultant, presented workshops on "evangelistically focused women's ministry" and "revitalize your faith and ministry through conflict reconciliation."

"Ministry involves serving God through people," she said. "One of the best ways to serve based upon His Word is to intentionally use women's ministry to bring others face to face to their need for Christ—either for the first time or as



Above, 193 Kentucky Baptists gathered in Bardstown for the 2016 Equip tour.

Right, Alan Whitham expressed appreciation to the attendees in Bardstown for their giving to the Cooperative program which made the Equip tour possible.

a building up and equipping in the faith.

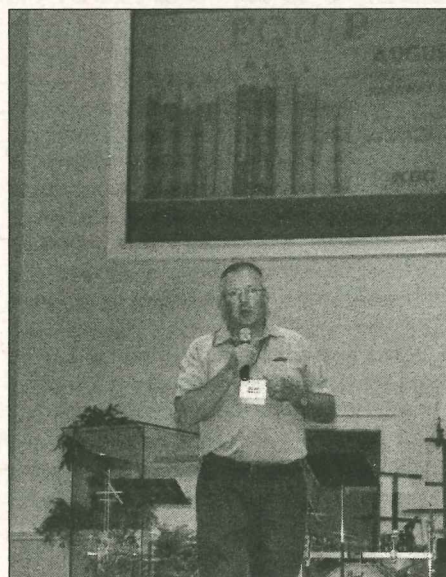
"How we work with each other, utilizing our giftedness in the Body shows Christ's love through our unity in Him," she said. "Evangelistically focused women's ministry and intentionally exercising reconciliatory habits as a lifestyle consistently glorify Christ."

During the tour, she was moved by the many women desiring to live out their calling with unfiltered obedience to God's Word, Johns said.

"They were eager to allow His Word to drastically affect change in their hearts so that others might see and experience Him more clearly through their ministries ... their very lives," she said.

Stewart added, "I am amazed at the incredible turnout for each location." For example, in Walton, there were 229 registrants; in Paducah, 241; and in Hopkinsville, 267.

"Obviously this kind of training is needed and is helping our churches be



effective in reaching Kentucky and the world for Christ," he said.

Alan Whitham, regional consultant group leader for the KBC, addressing attendees at Parkway Baptist Church in Bardstown, recognized the importance of the state convention's partnership with the local church, especially for events like Equip.

"Because churches like yours give to missions through the Cooperative Program, we are able to offer something like the Equip Tour," he noted. (WR)

Former pastor, seminary professor joins KBC staff as church consultant

LOUISVILLE—A former Kentucky Baptist pastor and longtime seminary professor is returning to the Bluegrass State to serve as a regional church consultant.

Larry Purcell will join the Kentucky Baptist Convention's regional consulting team in January. He will serve in the western Kentucky region, which encompasses nearly 500 churches.

"Bringing another leader of this quality to serve Kentucky Baptist pastors and churches is a huge win," said Kentucky Baptist Convention Executive Director Paul Chitwood. "Larry not only has a wealth of experience, he's one of us."

Both the KBC Administrative Committee and Mission Board voted to hire Purcell.

"Larry is uniquely qualified," said Steve Rice, leader of the KBC's Church Consulting and Revitalization Team. "His varied experience and strong west Kentucky connection make him a perfect choice."

Since 2009, Purcell has worked at Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary in Wake Forest, N.C., having served in a variety of roles, most recently as professor of leadership and associate dean of advanced degree administration.

Purcell has also taught at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, the former Mid-Continent University in Mayfield, and he has served as pastor and interim pastor in several churches since 1981.

"During Larry's time in North Carolina, pastors and convention leaders have come to appreciate Larry's ability to be a consultant with churches as they deal with changing communities, transitions of leadership and conflict," said Al James, professor of missions at Southeastern Seminary. "With the heart of a pastor and expertise of a coach, he walks people through the process of evaluating the situation, seeking potential responses and developing plans to move forward."

Chuck Lawless, Southeastern's vice president of graduate studies and ministry centers, said he highly recommends Purcell.

"He knows the area well, has significant pastoral experience, is highly trained and communicates well with pastors," Lawless said.

Charles Frazier, pastor of Zion's Cause Baptist Church in Benton, said Purcell is a man of impeccable character, a strong work ethic and has a passion to serve Jesus.

"Dr. Purcell has been an ever-present mentor in my ministry," Frazier said. "He is able to share his wisdom and spiritual discernment in practical and constructive ways."

As a native of western Kentucky, Purcell is familiar with the religious culture of the region, Frazier said.

"He has credibility with the churches of this area and will be well received," Frazier said. "I believe he will be a solid asset for Kentucky Baptist life." (KBC)



Larry Purcell

Celebration and renewal

The Kentucky Baptist Convention annual meeting, coming up on Nov. 15, is only two months away. I hope you are making plans to attend.

The annual "KBC family reunion" is a time of celebration when the people known as Kentucky Baptists will offer praise and thanksgiving for the ways God has chosen to use us this year. And we have plenty to celebrate!

This year we will celebrate new records for KBC churches in missions

giving through the Lottie Moon Offering for International Missions and the Annie Armstrong Offering for North American Missions. We will celebrate two consecutive years of growth in Cooperative Program giving and two consecutive years of growth in baptisms and overall church membership. And, for the first time in a decade, we will be able

to celebrate the fact that our churches' sacrificial giving exceeded the Cooperative Program budget.

We will celebrate the true and undefiled religion of Kentucky Baptists, being lived out as we care for a record number of hurting children through Sunrise Children's Services, now surpassing 1,000 kids. We will celebrate Kentucky Baptists' commitment to discipling the next generation as is evidenced through our ongoing investment in Clear Creek Baptist Bible College, where enrollment is growing, a record number of students enrolled at the University of the Cumberlands, and rapidly growing enrollment at Oneida Bible Institute.

And that is just the beginning of all we have to celebrate!

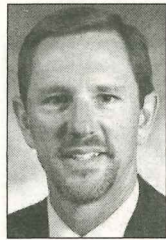
The Apostle Peter called God's people a "chosen" people. Peter wrote, "You are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of Him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light. Once you were not a people, but now you are God's people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy" (1 Peter 2:9-10).

In these days, when some will speak against us because of our commitment to the truths of Scripture, my prayer for Kentucky Baptists as we gather for our Annual Meeting is that our time together will be not only a time of celebration.

I also pray that we will renew our commitment to live and serve in such a way that we will display God's glory and Christ's love so others might be drawn to Him as the Spirit uses our good deeds and verbal witness of the gospel. I pray that what should happen will happen, that through us the light of Christ will shine brighter as the world becomes darker.

Mark your calendar for the KBC Annual Meeting celebration on Nov. 15 at Florence Baptist Church. I hope to see you there!

Together We are the KBC



Paul Chitwood

An 'out-of-this world' testimony of our amazing creator

The psalmist writes, "The heavens declare the glory of God, and the sky proclaims the work of His hands," but Astronaut Jeff Williams surprisingly is fascinated by the beauty of the earth, which he finds just as compelling.

"When I look out the window and I see this (handiwork), all of the elements are what you would imagine you would see with a creative work by an infinite God," Col. Williams told students attending a chapel service last week at Southern Seminary. "You see the design, you see the beauty, you see the purpose, you see all of those elements, you see order in all the details."

Yet, the subject of his camera—with a high-powered lens that appeared to be as long as his arm when it floated up by his side during the NASA downlink—often is not distant constellations and galaxies, as you'd imagine. No, chances are, he's snapping one of those astonishing photographs of his home planet. In addition to Earth's topographical features, he's captured weather fronts, sunrises and sunsets from space, the aurora over the North and South poles, illusion clouds and other captivating wonders.

"When you look down at the planet, you see this marvelous, unique place that we call earth—uniquely designed, uniquely purposed, and a place that is provisioned and ordered to sustain life," Williams said. "Every astronaut who comes up here always ends up putting the focus back on earth, even though we can see so far (into space) and see the vastness of the galaxies beyond."

One starry night months ago, I pointed out to my son and my nephew the International Space Station, soaring 250 miles above our heads, as it streaked across the night sky. Travelling at a mind-staggering 17,500 miles per hour, the space station orbits the earth in only 90 minutes. Observers must know the direction and the precise minute to scan the sky, for the spaceship flashes across the starry expanse in 4 to 7 seconds, before disappearing again over the horizon.

As we strained our eyes heavenward to see the tiny, silverish dot, which looks very much like a star, save for its blinking at regular intervals, Williams' camera perhaps was focused back at us. With an astonishing



After Thought

By Todd Deaton

view that only a miniscule fraction have had an opportunity to experience, he—perhaps more than any other human being—can relate to the psalmist's perspective, "(W)hat is man that thou art mindful of him, and the son of man that thou dost care for him?"

Looking out the space station's small window at Earth is one thing, but "it's quite another thing" to venture outside on a spacewalk, Williams remarked. "... (Y)ou can see through that full-faced visor, not only the vastness and the majesty of the globe itself, but deep out into space," he said. "It just deepens a comprehension, the observation of what we know through Scripture about the amazing creative work of God. It's an incredibly humbling experience."

When he returns today, Sept. 6, Williams will have spent more time in space than any American—534 days to be exact. The retired Army colonel has been a crew member on four space missions, three to the International Space Station. He has been away for 172 days this time. So, what does he miss most when he's in space? Not hamburgers or barbecue. Not football or basketball. Not television or movies. Nope, what he misses is his family.

"Family is what I miss the most," the grandfather of four told Seminary President Al Mohler. "That's centered around relationships, our closest relations, and as believers we understand how central relationship is to the human experience."

"Fascinating," as Spock would say. In a 15-minute interview, the Wisconsin native had underscored for us the two fundamental aspects of the Christian faith: fostering a vertical relationship with our mighty Creator who loves us, and maintaining a healthy horizontal relationship with family and all humanity, with whom we are to share His love. This, not from a theologian or evangelist, but by a military officer and astronaut.

As NASA's transmission began to break up as the space station hurtled past Spain toward the other side of the globe, Col. Williams offered an "out-of-this-world" testimonial that in whatever calling or vocation we find ourselves, we can give witness to the glory of our amazing God who created the heavens and earth.



Labor Day advice: Work hard!

By Terry Dorsett

An investment counselor once gave me these simple rules as I was just starting my career:

1. Work hard
2. Spend less than you earn
3. Save and/or invest the extra
4. Don't touch what you save or

invest until you really have to. What I find interesting about this advice is that it works in all areas of life.

As the Scripture says, "Whoever works his land will have plenty of bread, but he who follows worthless pursuits will have plenty of poverty" (Proverbs 28:19).

Want to lose weight? Work hard. Eat fewer calories than we burn. Turn the

excess into muscle. Don't get off our eating plan unless we really have to.

Want to bring more balance to our schedule? Work hard.

Plan things out to have a little extra time between things.

Use extra time to enjoy our family/scenery/hobbies — and our relationship with Jesus.

Don't let anyone crowd into that extra time unless we really have to.

Want to have more friends? Work hard (yes, friendship is hard work!). Give more attention to others than we demand for ourselves. Let that extra attention fill us with happiness, fulfillment and contentment.

Don't let anyone take that sense of happiness away from us unless we

really have to (and that is rarely ever the case!).

The opposite is also true. If we waste money, time, energy, relationships, etc. on worthless pursuits, we will have to endure plenty of poverty as a result.

Poverty is not just financial. Many people have a poverty of time, friendships and health, all because they wasted their talents, skills, abilities and energy on things that had no purpose.

One important strategy for having a rich life is to decide what purpose our lives should have and then pursue that purpose with a passion and refuse to let ourselves be distracted by all the junk along the way.

We may not ever be rich, or famous, or the super-organized, but we can live a blessed life that has meaning and purpose if we put these concepts into practice.

WESTERN Recorder

Shine Like Stars * Philippians 2:15

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Stop and soak in the view along the way

By Dave Cook

It's hard to enjoy a drive through the Blue Ridge Parkway when you're used to the interstate. The turns drone on and on, while every few minutes a beautiful overlook makes you feel guilty for breezing by it. And there's the frustration of getting behind a motorist driving too slow.

But that's OK. You're not there to get to your destination quickly, or you would have taken I-40. You're there to enjoy the beauty of the Smoky Mountains, to get out and look at all those overlooks. The trouble is that your well-ingrained habits don't examine every mountain peak, drink in their glory, or do anything close to sitting still. You can't help but zoom through it all, because that's all you know how to do behind a wheel.

In the same way, when we're so used to flicking through Twitter, skimming blog posts and trekking through our Bible-in-a-year plans, it can be very hard to slow down and soak in the richness of the Psalms.

But the Psalms were meant to be savored. They aren't Cheetos; they're Kobe steaks. They aren't mile markers; they're curves on the Blue Ridge Parkway. And every one of them has a view you could sit with for an hour.

The Psalms employ visual images more frequently than other books of the Bible. They feel dense because they really are dense with imagery.

But it's those images that, like a scenic overlook, are so easy to miss when you drive too fast.

So the advice I give to someone reading the Psalms is the same advice I give to a first-time driver on the Blue Ridge Parkway: slow down, stop often and come back sometime.

When we read the beginning of Psalm 42 (ESV), "As a deer pants for flowing streams, so pants my soul for you, O God," it's easy to either speed on to verse 2 or slip into interpreter's mode. "He's thirsty for God. Am I thirsty for God? Does my soul thirst?" We want the shortest distance between our minds and the meaning, so much that we'll skip right by the powerful imagery to get there. But, so often, it's that imagery that speaks to the heart. It's there for a Spirit-inspired reason.

That word picture is like a scenic overlook. Stop and take it in.

Beyond meditating on the meaning, meditate on the image. Picture a magnificent deer running from the archer's arrow or the lion's roar, confused, tired and dehydrated. What does it want more than anything? Water. It pants for it. That deer is thirsty—and your soul is thirsty, too. Now you're ready to ask if your soul thirsts for God, because now you can sense the meaning more deeply. Your heart was moved before your head even knew what that thirsty deer was

all about.

One way to make it come alive is to recall your experiences. When was the last time you were that thirsty? Whether it's my memory of the Coke my dad bought me decades ago after my first workday in the Florida sun, or water I had after mowing the lawn in Kentucky humidity, I know what it's like to pant. Thankfully, I know what it's like to have

COMMENTARY

thirst quenched too. I can still feel that first sip of Coke coating my 8-year-old stomach. I can't imagine how much more refreshing the sight of Jesus will be than that.

So chew on the images before you move on, the same way you chew on a piece of a steak before you swallow it. Sometimes they come more easily, but other times they don't. You might have to learn something about the gold of Ophir to grasp Psalm 45:9, for instance. But you can guess that it's exotic gold, and thus very valuable. Whatever effort you have to put in, Bible dictionaries you have to open, or Google searches you have to type—the image is worth it.

Read slowly enough that you catch these images. Stop, park and look at them for a while. Finally, come back every once in a while. You need to see these pictures again. They won't get old. The views are great.

Dave Cook is worship pastor at Hawesville Baptist Church.

Planning for your family

Planning for how to provide for your family at your death should be a key objective of estate planning and it is good stewardship.

The costs of probating and distributing your estate and the amount of death taxes due may be greater if you have not planned well, which means less to pass to your beneficiaries.

For those with children under age 18, thought needs to be given to whom you want appointed as guardian for your children if both parents died before all are 18 or older.

The court-appointed guardian will make all the decisions you as a parent would be making for your children until each reaches age 18. You can include a provision in your Will designating who you want appointed as guardian.

A decision also needs to be made as to whether the share you want to leave to a family member will be given to them outright, or whether their share should be managed by someone else, either until they get to an older age or perhaps for the rest of their life if they are incapacitated or just not good money managers.

Including a trust provision in your Will allows you to empower another person to manage the share of a family member beneficiary.

Usually the trustee is permitted to use the trust income for the beneficiary and may also be authorized to use trust principal for the beneficiary's health, education and other needs.

Heed Paul's admonition in 1 Timothy 5:8 and "provide for (your) relatives, and especially for the members of (your) household...."



Laurie Valentine

Living Psalm 23 in your marriage

Psalm 23 speaks to the Lord God's relationship and care for us, His sheep. Recently I heard a good sermon on Psalm 23 and imagined how this could apply to marriage.

The psalmist speaks to personal needs that only God can meet. He has given the gift of marriage to help meet our needs while we live on earth and make our way in a broken world.

Verse one of the psalm describes a condition of satisfaction. "I shall not want." Have you ever felt so satisfied in your marriage that you experience contentment? Are you aware of what you want or long for in your marriage? Do these wants line up with biblical principles or fleshly desires?

Verse two describes a condition of peace in which God "makes" and "leads." It is not optional. God's wisdom knows we need this. Does your marriage provide rest from a demanding world?

Verse three attends to our brokenness. Often we see brokenness in our spouse, but fail to see our own brokenness. Perhaps the marriage is broken. God's restoration is not surface, but penetrates deep.

Verse four reflects on dark and scary times in life. Are you walking through those times together looking to the Good Shepherd for guidance; humbling yourself to the Spirit's discipline, correction and teaching; acknowledging personal errors and offenses; seeking forgiveness; offering apology; and committing to a process of transformation?

Verse five reminds us that even in the presence of hostile situations and a hostile culture, God gives out of abundance. How ready are you both to receive that blessing?

Verse six reminds us that God's goodness is directed toward us, but a righteous God will not wait forever to address our sin. What sin continues in your marriage that must be eliminated?



Valerie Vincent

Flooded treasures and withstanding coming storms

By Doug Parkin

The magnitude of the property damage in Louisiana's flooding disaster is incredible. The magnitude of the emotional damage is incalculable.

And for disaster relief volunteers, it is hard to describe the emotions of walking into a home and, after performing necessary demolition of flood-damaged flooring and walls, leaving it actually looking worse than when we started.

I just returned from four days in south Louisiana helping lead teams in recovery support to flooded-out homeowners.

We worked on eight homes, among the efforts at 50 homes being coordinated by First Baptist Church in Ponchatoula, La., where my son Robert is the youth minister. After salvaging what possessions we could for homeowners, we then worked to preserve and prepare their homes for rebuilding.

The flood survivors seemed numb with the realization of the damage and of the daunting challenges they will have to overcome to rebuild their homes and their lives. While some had experienced this type of flooding before, many had never anticipated this danger to their homes.

Each home's circumstance was different. Water reached different levels; different building materials required different demolition approaches; in some houses we

worked while standing in remaining water while other houses were relatively dry.

There is nothing fun about hauling destroyed furnishings and personal possessions out to a debris pile by the street. Nothing is satisfying about revealing clutter and hidden trash in a family's home. No pleasure is found in cutting up carpet, ripping out sheetrock handful by handful, or tearing out insulation.

These tasks, however, are absolutely necessary. Every nook and cranny of the home and every concealed pocket of moisture must be opened up, cleaned out, air-dried and treated against present or future growth of toxic black mold. The very bones of the building must be revealed and cleaned before repairs are begun.

For all of us, whether flood survivor, disaster relief volunteer or anyone anywhere, much in this disaster experience that can be related to how we live our lives.

While knick-knacks are showcased on our bookcases and mantles, irreplaceable photo albums and important papers are relegated to bottom shelves. We sometimes elevate insignificant aspects of our lives and neglect the true treasures upon which we should be focused.

As one inch of flooding can cause damage up to two feet or more above the water line, if we do not carefully consider the true value of personal

relationships and of our relationship to Christ, we risk allowing seemingly small matters to invade our lives, destroy these relationships and overwhelm our faith.

Our families and friends can become the debris tossed to the street and our faith can become as weakened as wet sheetrock. The only way to properly recover is to clear away the worthless clutter in which we once placed value, strip away the walls behind which we hide our secrets, purge the pride that is the black mold of our lives, and purify our lives by repentance before God and humility before others.

Take this opportunity now to look around the "house" of your life. Ensure that you properly value the true treasures of your life and elevate them to the position of importance they deserve. If you find yourself repeatedly inundated by life, perhaps you need to review the foundation upon which you have built.

If you have not yet experienced unexpected devastation, now is the time to prepare. Lift up and properly position the important relationships and aspects of your life, just as you would raise your home above a known flood line.

Build up your relationship with God and your dependence upon Christ, just as you would build up sandbags against rising waters. Only then can you be assured that your life's "house" can withstand coming storms. (BP)

FIRST PERSON

Mexico Baptists setting example of faithfulness in missions

This is not the first article written about the faithfulness in missions giving by Mexico Baptist Church in Marion, and it will likely not be the last.

Cooperative Program giving at the rural Crittenden County church goes back to 1946. On Oct. 16 of that year, the deacons of Mexico Baptist voted to increase the CP giving of the congregation from 10 percent to 15 percent of undesignated offerings. Then on March 4, 1959, the church voted to increase their CP giving by 2 percent for the next two years, and then an additional 1 percent per year until they reached their goal of giving 25 percent of their offerings to the Southern Baptist missions funding offering.

In addition to their Cooperative Program giving, the church also supports its local association, Ohio River, at 5 percent per year as well as giving generously through Lottie Moon, Annie Armstrong, Eliza Broadus, Oneida, association offerings, and other special collections for mission needs.

If readers think Mexico is a missions giving church but not a missions going church, they would be mistaken. This rural congregation of 225 in morning worship gives in excess of \$150,000 a year to various causes, but they are also actively engaged in the mission of Jesus in their own community and beyond.

Pastor Tim Burdon explained why the church supports missions at a high level. "When you go back to the history of the church in the 40s," he said, "those deacons at that time just had a heart to share the gospel with people all over the world."

"These were conservative leaders who were committed to the concept of the cooperative program," he noted.

Burdon said that this missions giving mindset continues in the church today. He added, however, "There are a lot of people in churches that do not understand the cooperative program."



This lack of understanding can result in a lack of loyalty if not addressed. Burton knows that he has inherited a leadership mantle in one of the great missions giving churches in the state, and he is one of the top voices in the church making the case for CP support, as well as giving to missions in other ways.

The church does give sacrificially, but they also benefit enormously. Because of their active financial commitment to missions, there are several things that happen:

- 1. The people are engaged in missions all over the world.**
- 2. They experience God providing all their needs.** "Back when we were doing our education building and all of the construction work, we never once had to cut out Cooperative Program giving," Burton shared. "We did not have a capital campaign. God just met a great need. We were faithful to give and God was faithful to provide."
- 3. They believe they are a stronger church because of their giving.** Burton feels that God is honored in their giving because the church is getting financially



This rural congregation of 225 in morning worship gives in excess of \$150,000 a year to various causes, but they are also actively engaged in the mission of Jesus in their own community and beyond.

involved in something that is important to God: world missions.

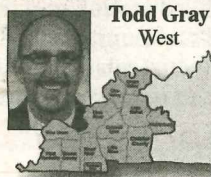
4. They sense the favor of God on their congregation. Burton cites Malachi 3:10 where the Lord says He will open to the people the windows of heaven in response to their giving. They in no way feel that God is indebted to them, but they clearly believe God is honoring their giving.

5. Mexico is a leader in the state, setting an example for other churches. Mexico is located off the beaten path from most in the state. Their level of giving makes them stand out to Kentucky Baptists.

For many years the church has been recognized as the leading per capita giving congregation out of 2,400 churches in the state. They do not give for recognition, but they do value setting a sacrificial example for others.

Paul, the Apostle, wrote to the Philippian church, in response to their faithful support of his mission endeavor, "But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus" (Philippians 4:19 KJV). While this verse is claimed by many, it was first written to a church that was financially supporting the cause of Christ outside their own region.

Regional SPOTLIGHT



Todd Gray
West



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Deployment

Continued from page 1

a great army of volunteers to come and help us try to get ahead of this thing," Hebert said. "To every volunteer, church, association and neighbor, I just want to say God bless you."

Coy Webb, disaster relief director for the Kentucky Baptist Convention sent out an urgent plea for volunteers and chaplains last week.

Twenty-one volunteers and two chaplains worked in the Denham Springs area the week of Aug. 23-31, and 16 more volunteers and three chaplains are already scheduled to serve Sept. 7-15. Additional disaster relief teams are expected to be sent in the near future.

"Volunteers are not required to have mud-out experience, as we will have qualified leaders who can provide



Kentucky Baptist Disaster Relief volunteers Carolyn Gray and Jody Bratcher of Benton pray with other volunteers and a Louisiana woman distraught by her loss.

training and direction on site," Webb said. "If you love Christ, have a heart for people, and a willingness to work, we can use you." (BP/WR)

BE READY-LIVE READY

2016 STATE MISSIONS EMPHASIS AND ELIZA BROADUS OFFERING

By Myriah Snyder



Jesus spent His earthly ministry walking the streets, ministering to the poor, desolate and despaired. He saw needs and filled them. He preached God's kingdom and sent out His disciples to do the same.

After Christ's death, resurrection, and ascension, His disciples received power from the Father and continued to proclaim the gospel. The apostle Paul traveled around the known world, sharing the gospel and planting churches. Others became Christ followers and they, too, were passionate proclaimers of Jesus as the Way, the Truth and the Life.

Times of persecution came and

Peter wrote to "the temporary residents of the Dispersion" to encourage their faith, to encourage them to be ready and live ready to share the gospel, doing good to others, no matter what happened.

And who will harm you if you are passionate for what is good? But even if you should suffer for righteousness, you are blessed. Do not fear what they fear or be disturbed, but set apart the Messiah as Lord in your hearts, and always be ready to give a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you. However, do this with gentleness and respect, keeping your conscience clear, so that when you are accused, those who denounce your Christian life will be put to shame. For it is better to suffer for doing good, if that should be God's will, than for doing evil. 1 Peter 3:13-17
HCSB

This year, public school children are being reached with the gospel of Christ

because a ministry is willing and ready to teach them. Homeless families are being fed and their souls being drawn to the Savior because shelters are ready and equipped to meet their physical and spiritual needs. Because Kentucky Baptists live ready, men, women and children are being shown the love of Christ.

Across Kentucky there are ministries that have taken seriously the challenge to be ready, live ready. Prayer and financial support through the Eliza Broadus Offering helps these ministries share the gospel.

Always be ready to join in by giving of time, resources, and prayer. **Live ready!**



ELIZA BROADUS OFFERING 2016-17 Allocations

Kentucky Baptist Convention\$860,500
Missions Mobilization\$399,000
Evangelism & Church Planting.....\$461,500

Kentucky Baptist Associations & Special Ministries ...\$135,000

All Kentucky Baptist Associations will be given a ministry grant of \$500 provided the association meets EBO grant guidelines.

Requests for Special Ministries funds may be made through an application process. KY Baptist affiliated ministries may apply.

The deadline for submitting an EBO allocation request from the 2016-17 offering is December 15, 2016. The allocation request form is posted online: kywmu.org/eboapplication.

Kentucky WMU\$254,500
Missions Education, Leader Development, Resource Materials.....\$129,355
Missions Events, Kentucky Changers, Camps & Overnights.....\$44,945
Missions Promotion & Season of Prayer.....\$80,200

**Eliza Broadus Offering
2016 Goal
\$1,250,000**



Refuge Louisville and Twelve24 Initiative Helping churches engage the nations in their backyard

When internationals move into the neighborhood, churches may not know how to best reach out to their new neighbors. Refuge Louisville is there to help churches engage the nations in their backyard. Working alongside area churches to encourage and equip them to minister to refugees and immigrants, Refuge provides avenues through which the church can meet the various needs of internationals to build relationships that are transformative.

The primary focus of Refuge ministry is refugees living within Louisville, though the methods they use are easily reproducible anywhere. Refuge is currently working in multiple communities in the Louisville Metro area providing programs like English as a second language (ESL) classes, citizenship classes, kid's clubs, adopt-a-family programs, youth mentorship, artisan groups, computer classes, tutoring, and more. All of the services are free and a way for the church to show love in practical ways.

Joy (name changed) is an Iraqi Muslim woman who recently came to know Christ. "This past year Joy's husband passed away unexpectedly," shared a Refuge staffer. "Both had been students at our ESL classes. Along with a few of her ESL teachers, we helped her with funeral arrangements."

Soon after, she became suicidal and we feared for her life and the safety of her young daughter. What followed was a messy season involving Child Protective

Services and intensive mental health care. Still, the ladies that helped with the loss of her husband stuck around through the months of care that were required to see them both have a good and stable home again.

Through this time, Joy started asking questions about Jesus and attending church. Recently, she said that she no longer believed in Islam and wanted to follow Jesus. She is being discipled and cared for by these same women and is exhibiting a new found joy in Christ. Her journey is just starting. Please pray for her."

Joy once said, "Islam is all about 'Don't do this and don't do that,' but Christianity seems to be about doing and loving and giving." Refuge workers regularly hear Muslims express that their Muslim neighbors aren't helpful, but that Christians are. "Their past and present experiences are forcing them to reconsider everything they think about God, so that through genuine care and concern, we gain opportunities to share where this hope in us comes from," explained one Refuge worker.

The vision and goal for Refuge is to see families working with families. "We can do programs, but over time, programs come and go. The Church needs to be in homes, to be present with people, sharing life with one another," said a worker.

Refuge hopes that more churches get involved by sending teams to be educated and equipped in cultural ministry.

"Our hope is that they can return home and begin to impact their community for Christ," said one worker.

Brett Martin, international campus missionary for the Kentucky Baptist Convention, understands the need to equip churches to reach internationals.

There are more than 8,000 international students in Kentucky, with the majority coming from China, India, and Saudi Arabia. Most have never met a Christian, let alone heard the gospel.

"You can impact the world by stepping onto a campus," said Martin. "You can impact the world by simply inviting international students into your home. Even if you have little experience in interacting with different cultures, God can use you."

Equipping churches to reach international students is part of the Twelve24 Initiative, a movement to help churches reach out to every student from 12 to 24 on every campus and help them encounter Jesus.

EBO provides funds for international student ministry and has provided ministry grants to Refuge Louisville which uses the funds primarily for youth and children's programs. Grants also help Refuge provide resources to churches as they minister to internationals in their communities.

"Between Bibles and various items, the grant has gone a long way toward helping many people in our communities hear the gospel," a worker commented. "Bibles and Jesus film DVDs in different languages help to get God's Word out."



BE READY-LIVE READY**Impact & CWJC:
Offering a hand up**

Two ministries housed in the same building meet immediate needs and also have long term impact by helping women to develop personally and spiritually.

Since opening its doors in 1995, Impact Ministry has been living ready to help the Christian County community. It's two-fold purpose is "to help low income persons and to give churches an opportunity to be on mission at home," said Arlene Miller, director.



Arlene Miller

Impact achieves this purpose by offering spiritual counseling, free clothes, food, Bibles, hygiene items, diapers, school supplies, birthday party in a bag, new baby bag, winter needs, and help with Christmas gifts.

Impact is open three days a week with help provided by volunteers from Christian County Baptist Association churches. The ministry serves about 200 people a month, which touches 400-500 family members.

"I remember the time a woman came asking for shoes for her son. He had been wearing pink shoes that had belonged to his sister because there was no money to buy shoes for him. We had just been the recipient of the associational WMU project of 'Soles for Souls,' and shared with her as we gave her new shoes for her son of how God had provided."

Christian Women's Job Corps (CWJC) takes Impact Ministry to the next level by helping women to develop personally and spiritually. Women who come for help at Impact have a place to learn new skills and experience transformation through CWJC classes.

"We decided to begin CWJC, a ministry of WMU, after seeing so many women in need and wanting to do more for them. Three of us went to training and after a year of preparation, we began classes in 2005," said Miller. "We offer weekly life and job skills classes, and we always have Bible study. Many tell us their favorite part of CWJC is Bible study."

CWJC classes include topics such as nutrition, women's health, parenting, conflict management, dealing with change, sewing, cooking, GED preparation, computer basics, writing resumes, and self-protection awareness.

EBO funds help Impact and CWJC to provide Bibles, food, baby items, and other supplies to be ready to share the gospel.

**Students take a BREAK for Bible learning on a bus
Renovated bus serves as an off-campus classroom**

BREAK ministry is ready to share the gospel each week with children in public schools with activities on a bus. BREAK or Bible Released-time Education Association of Kentucky is an off-campus program that is offered as an elective in public elementary schools.

BREAK teaches children what the Bible says about things such as God and the Christian life. Classes focus on character training and practical application of Christian principles.

Throughout the week, the BREAK program offers students Bible stories, Bible memory, Christ-centered environment. This is accomplished by meeting in a renovated bus parked just off of the school campus. The time in BREAK is treated just like any other elective offered to the students. Parents must request that their child receive this Bible-based moral education.

The 10-year old ministry began with one elementary school in Corbin with 75 students. Today, it is reaching four schools in two school systems totaling nearly 900 third through sixth graders.

The idea of RTBE (Released Time Bible Education) has been around since 1914. BREAK is part of a movement to revive this mission tool, especially in Kentucky. However, BREAK has also encouraged RTBE in Ohio and Tennessee.

"Released time worked hand in hand with our school to improve the overall culture in our building. When we would see certain misbehaviors arise, I would communicate this to Released Time teachers and they would teach lessons in their classes to reinforce proper behavior in the building," said Sharon Ball, principal of Corbin Elementary School.



Above: The BREAK bus is bright and inviting. A second bus will be painted soon with help from EBO.



Right: Beth Arnold enjoys teaching Bible lessons to students on the BREAK bus.

"Several students who attended Released Time would mention to me what they learned. One student wrote a note to me, and at the end mentioned a lesson she had learned in Released Time that day," continued Ball.

"Some students who attend struggle academically. This program offers encouragement and adult mentoring, which has influenced students to work harder and perform better in class," added Ball.

Through BREAK, many children have come to a saving faith in Christ. A goal is that not only children, but also families can be reached.

The BREAK team, is staffed by three self-funded missionaries and about 20 volunteers. BREAK staff and volunteers feel called to evangelize and disciple public school children and also believe that these children are the avenue to further reach families and school staff.

BREAK is thankful for support from the Eliza Broadus Offering which is helping to renovate the buses where the children are taught. A second bus will be painted soon. Prior funds provided through the KBC helped the ministry expand to another school.

For more information email BREAK: BREAK4children@gmail.com.

LIFEproject helps churches reach communities**Connecting through common interests is a way to share Christ**

Imagine taking a hobby or an interest that you are passionate about and turning it into a mission field.

This is what LIFEproject through the Kentucky Baptist Convention is about.

"LIFEproject is a church-wide strategy designed to help churches engage affinity groups and reach the communities within communities with the gospel," said Andy McDonald, Affinity Strategist for the KBC.

"We know that nearly every person in every community (including our church members) has a connection to other people through common hobbies, interests, needs, concerns, work, and neighborhoods. LIFEproject helps believers leverage this connectedness to reach the lost," continued McDonald.

LIFEproject uses hobbies such as archery, motorcycles and ATVs,

hunting and fishing, fitness and health, community celebrations, Power Lunch, military and first responder events, and sports outreach ministries to make community connections to share the gospel. This approach is referred to as affinity evangelism.



The materials include a Leader's Guide, Member's Guide, and other practical online tools that will guide churches in a step-by-step process: Look, Identify, Focus and Engage.

As an example of the impact of affinity evangelism, McDonald shared

that a young man gave his heart to Jesus at a KY Baptist Biker event. That young man later posted on Facebook, "I feel great! You guys are what I needed to help me find hope in God. I finally trust in Jesus... Thank you guys and thank God I've been found and redeemed."

"Eliza Broadus Offering funds have paid for the printing of LIFEproject materials as well as funding for all or part of many Engage events such as Kentucky Baptist Bikers, Centershot, and a veterans worship service at Stithton Baptist in Radcliff where many came to Christ," said McDonald. "These are only a few of such events. EBO will continue to fund these kinds of events as well as LIFE training."

LIFEproject is about more than affinity events," added McDonald. "It also acts as a catalyst for on-going ministries that the church can use to help people encounter Jesus."

BE READY-LIVE READY**God's Appalachian Partnership**
Meeting spiritual and physical needs

God's Appalachian Partnership (GAP) lives ready to share the gospel by meeting the spiritual and physical needs of people in Appalachia. Located in McDowell, GAP focuses on Floyd County and a 22 mile stretch of State Route 122 that runs between the towns of Martin and Wheelwright. This area is characterized by the beauty of the Appalachian landscape as well as poverty and life-altering social issues.

John and Shaughanessy Morris, NAMB missionaries since 2001, serve with GAP. John became the second executive director in 2014. Shaughanessy is the graphic designer and oversees GAP's media. Serving with them is Kathy Henson, director of distribution, who oversees resource distribution and helps teach classes.

The GAP staff and volunteers address both spiritual and physical needs by providing food, household supplies, furniture, home repairs and classes. Classes include parenting, nutrition, money saving tips, budgeting classes, and Bible studies.

In addition, the ministry hosts "BeansTalk" to give a place for the community to share a hot meal and get to know each other. Some of their other ministry events include a community Easter egg hunt; KidStock, a fun event for families where school supplies and tennis shoes are provided; and a Christmas project.

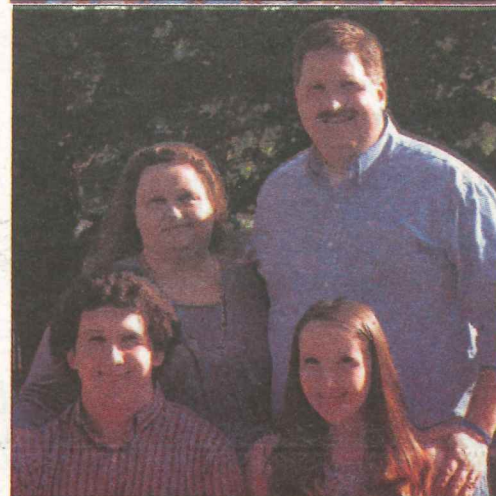
GAP is partially funded through the KBC Missions Mobilization Team which provides resources for Church and Community Missions (CCM). The Eliza Broadus Offering provides funds to KBC for missionary support as well as CCM initiatives to more effectively reach the lost.

"GAP is showing people the love of God in tangible ways," said Eric Allen, Missions Mobilization Team Leader. "Their ministry contributes to community transformation as they endeavor to develop people, not just distribute items to meet human needs."

Sarah (name changed), a former client of GAP and now a volunteer in ministry to others, shared her story. "My husband and I moved back to Eastern Kentucky about 10 years ago. We had three little girls and a very limited budget. I can't recall how I heard about GAP. All I know is that I am very thankful that we found it. Many times the food we received helped us get from paycheck to paycheck without my family going hungry. The biggest blessing was in items that food stamps could not purchase such as detergent, shampoo, diapers, wipes, etc. I remember praying one time before my appointment and telling God of all our needs. I walked back to the diaper section and they didn't have my girl's size. I asked the person working if there were any more in the back. She checked and there on the shelf was one bag of diapers the very size I needed! I was amazed how God use GAP to meet my need. God heard my prayers. He cares about my family and He supplied our needs."

"Sarah is no longer in need of assistance from GAP. Now she and her family serve as volunteers and minister to individuals who are where she once was," said John Morris. "Sarah currently serves full-time at the local church where she and her family attend. It is exciting to see how the Lord is using this family for His glory."

Gwen (name changed) had been coming to GAP for about a year when a mission team from Pennsylvania came and offered haircuts, styles, and manicures. Gwen had not had a haircut in years, but decided that she would like to have her waist-length hair cut "short and spiky" like one of the female missionaries at GAP. Later that day she stopped in to see Morris. As he got up to greet her, he said "Gwen, I love your hair, it's beautiful." Gwen began to cry and replied, "Today is the first day in my life that I have ever felt beautiful."



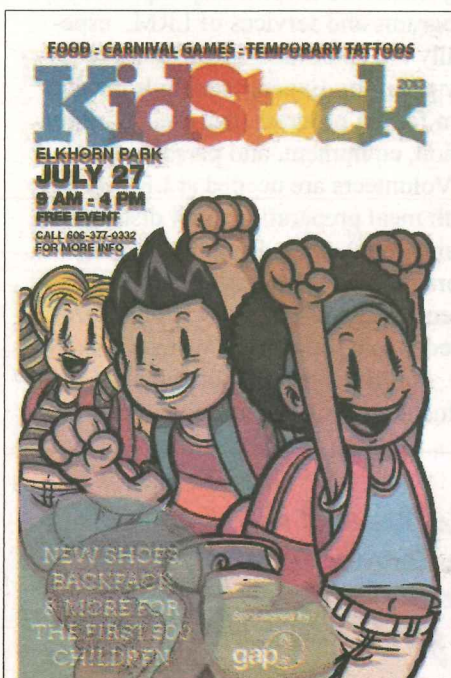
TOP: Volunteers help to keep the food pantry stocked and organized. BOTTOM: The Morris Family serves together at GAP; Kathy Hensen oversees resource distribution.

"Those words hit me like a ton of bricks," said Morris. "This was the opportunity we had been waiting for God to provide. I said, 'Gwen, you are beautiful because God created you. You have been created in the image of the Almighty God. Psalm 139 says that you are fearfully and wonderfully made.' I went on to share the plan of salvation and just how much God does love her. Gwen's life was transformed

as we met her at the point of her need that day – which happened to be a haircut – and then shared with her the gospel of Jesus Christ."

Mission teams are invited to volunteer as well as individuals and families. Additionally, summer internships are available. For more information on how to get involved, visit gapky.org.

Activities for children and families include Kidstock and an annual Easter egg hunt.



The 2016 Kentucky State Missions insert is made possible by the gifts of your church through the **Cooperative Program** and the **Eliza Broadus Offering**. It was adapted from the Master Article included on the 2016 *Be Ready-Live Ready* DVD (pdf file).

The Writer: Myriah Snyder is a reporter with the Western Recorder and student at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary.

Please note: The 2016 *Be Ready-Live Ready* DVD complements this article. A copy of the DVD has been sent to each pastor and WMU director. In addition, posters, prayer guides, and offering envelopes are provided to churches on request through a standing order system with Kentucky WMU. State missions materials are also posted online: kywmu.org/ebo.

BE READY-LIVE READY**Women on Mission live ready to change girls' lives**

When the Women on Mission Prisms from Russell First Baptist Church began discipling 24 troubled girls in the Ramey-Estep Homes in 2005, they knew that had taken on a great responsibility.

Ramey-Estep Homes is a private, not-for-profit organization offering residential treatment and community based services to boys and girls, ages 12-18, in Boyd County, Kentucky. It is a great mission field and provides many ministry opportunities.

Through missional parties, including devotions, music, and refreshments, the Women on Mission have ministered to the girls at Ramey-Estep. Sometimes they add games, crafts, or ministry projects.

"Everything is Christ centered. Girls also receive Christian resources to use in their cottages such as DVDs, CDs, and literature," explained Pam Holbrook, WMU Director at Russell FBC.

As the number of girls grew, the Prisms group realized that they could not handle the task alone. Through an association partnership, the ministry was expanded with the help of Garner Missionary Baptist Church.

"Visits are coordinated throughout the year and every month is covered," Holbrook explained. At the events, WMU members break participants into groups of about six girls and a couple of ladies for personal time, including prayer requests that "break our hearts," said Holbrook.

By 2014, the girl's part of the home all had Christian mentors but the boys had no ministry. The WMU groups began to pray about this and asked men's groups in the association to step up. In December 2014 a group of men from Garner Missionary Baptist Church answered that call.

The WMU groups give credit to the Lord for the "vital, meaningful ministry covering the entire Ramey-Estep Homes campus" that was made possible by the addition of the boy's ministry.

"We love our Ramey girls!" Holbrook said. "We have laughed, cried, prayed, sang, danced, and crafted. And we have eaten our way through just about every snack known to mankind! We have dressed up like princesses for princess parties (our royalty in Christ) and made our own essential oils while learning about their uses from biblical accounts."

The girls have also been involved in ministry projects with the WMU ladies. "They are sweet girls who love to do things for others," explained Holbrook.

"The EBO grants help us to do all of this and more. We are so thankful to all who give to the Eliza Broadus Offering! Young, precious lives are being transformed by and for Christ," Holbrook concluded.

Children have an adventure in missions Hands-on missions develops missions for life

In June each year, children gather in two locations for three days of hands-on missions, Bible study, track time, prayerwalking, recreation, and crafts. Mission Adventure for Kentucky Kids (MAKK) is a mission trip designed for children in grades 4-6 which teaches them to live ready to share their faith.

Prayerwalking lays the foundation for the ministry projects and helps children see needs in each community. Children and their leaders then engage in missions through ministries such as helping at a local thrift store with sorting items, singing at area nursing homes, and leading Arts and Sports Camps and Backyard Bible Clubs.

Sponsored by Kentucky WMU, MAKK helps children grow closer to Christ and develop a missional lifestyle. Through MAKK, children learn to be sensitive to the needs of others, develop a daily quiet time, and learn to use their God-given gifts to share the gospel.

MAKK 2016 was held in Richmond and Bowling Green. Children and their leaders prayerwalked at both Eastern Kentucky University and Western

Kentucky University campuses.

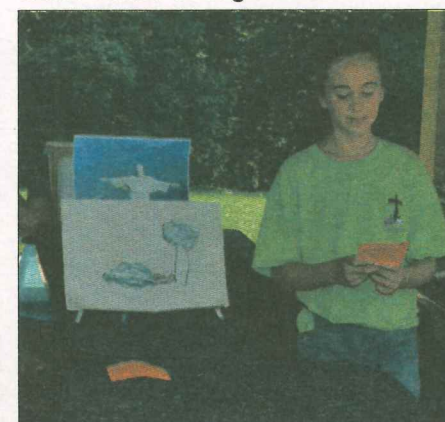
In Richmond, MAKK participants delivered meals to the homebound and served at the Salvation Army. In Bowling Green, they helped at Hope House, Salvation Army, Hotel, Inc. and Hospice. On Friday, kids and leaders went door to door to invite children to Arts and Sports Camps.

To prepare for the camps, MAKK participants chose to be in an arts or sports track, based on their interests and skills. The arts track participants learned painting and sculpting techniques and how to relate their projects to Bible stories. The sports track participants learned basketball and soccer skills. They learned what the Bible says about spiritual training. On Saturday, the kids and leaders held Arts and Sports Camps for area children in Richmond and Bowling Green.

Many one on one connections were made throughout the weekend. Two boys encouraged a Salvation Army worker. A girl shared the plan of salvation to an adult by using the "eBall." A young woman expressed an interest in a personal relationship with Christ.



Above: Prayerwalking at WKU. Below: Kids learn how to lead and teach others through MAKK.



One boy invited a Muslim man to bring his children to Arts and Sports Camps. Kids who attended Mission Adventure for Kentucky Kids gained confidence in their ability to share Christ in different ways.



LOUISVILLE Rescue Mission

CARING FOR THE HOMELESS SINCE 1881

Louisville Rescue Mission (LRM) has been helping the homeless and hurting of Louisville since 1881 under various names. With the goal "to proclaim the gospel and extend God's mercy to the homeless and hurting of the greater Louisville area in support of the local church," LRM serves thousands each year.

"When someone is homeless or hurting, they have immediate physical needs" said Eric Allen, KBC Missions Mobilization Team Leader. "LRM hopes to meet these needs through Emergency Services which includes food, clothing, hot showers, laundry, storage, and mail services."

Ministry statistics last year include serving 2159 individuals at the Emergency Day Shelter through a total of 32,755 visits. LRM provided approximately 31,500 meals, 2,600 loads of laundry, and 6,400 showers and toiletry items.

Another way LRM seeks to combat the "Crisis of Homelessness" is through daily chapel services at their day shelter. The gospel is faithfully proclaimed through pastors, students, volunteers, and staff.

In addition to emergency services, LRM offers the LifeChange program for men with life-controlling issues. LifeChange is a residential program lasting six to nine months. The goal of

LifeChange is both a program and ministry goal at Louisville Rescue Mission

this program is to help men confront their issues and empower them to change through gospel-centered teaching, biblically based care and counseling, case management, life skills training, and involvement in a local church.

Through LifeChange, men are given a place to stay, meals, weekly counseling sessions, daily small groups and classes, jobs training, and a connection with a local church. LRM is committed to walk alongside these men, point them to the cross, and see their lives transformed.

John had a seemingly great life with a successful business career in marketing and a happy marriage. However, his addictions consumed his life and left his marriage broken and him jobless and hopeless. Case management, counseling, and biblical teaching through the LifeChange program helped John get a new job and more importantly, a new life as a baptized follower of Christ.

Robin began his time at LRM through the day shelter, eventually entering the LifeChange program. After completing LifeChange, however, Robin struggled to leave the

program, being unsure of the next step.

Through Permanent Supportive Housing at LRM, he was able to take the next steps. Today Robin is no longer homeless. He is employed and an active member of a KBC church. Additionally Robin serves as a resident manager at LRM and is a positive influence on other residents.

Permanent Supportive Housing provides homes and supportive services including case management and subsidized rent for men coming out of homelessness who have a diagnosed disabling condition.

Louisville Rescue Mission is thankful for funds from the Eliza Broadus Offering which are used to help support the programs and services of LRM, especially the LifeChange residential recovery program. Expenses include curriculum for the program, supplies, transportation, equipment, and personnel.

Volunteers are needed at LRM to help with meal preparation, mail distribution, managing the laundry schedule, bag storage, chapel leadership, holiday events, and maintenance. Women are needed to help with the women's shelter. For more information, email: info@louisvillerescemission.org.

2016 STATE MISSIONS EMPHASIS AND ELIZA BROADUS OFFERING

Kentucky Goal
\$1,250,000

But honor the Messiah as Lord in your hearts. Always be ready to give a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you.
- 1 Peter 3:15

ERLC event: Gospel applies to race, politics, art

By Tom Strobe

NASHVILLE, Tenn.—Speakers at a Southern Baptist-sponsored conference on cultural engagement provided guidance on how the gospel of Jesus addresses issues from race relations to politics to the arts.

The Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission's 2016 national conference attracted more than 900 attendees for two days of considering how Christians can engage the culture while remaining faithful to the gospel.

ERLC President Russell Moore said he wants attendees to approach culture with confidence in the gospel's proclamation, as well as with kindness and gentleness.

Fear among American Christians is "a very real problem," and those fears sometimes "actually contradict the gospel itself," Moore said.

Hip-hop artist and pastor Trip Lee told the audience engaging culture does not require "some grand scheme."

"If you want to engage culture, be faithful in public," he said. "When I say in public, I mean in our daily lives in front of other people."

To engage culture, Christians don't need "a massive understanding of culture," Lee said. "You've just got to follow Jesus in public."

"Hip-hop is not exactly known for its moral uprightness and robust theology," he said. "As a rapper then, I get the opportunity to try to show off Jesus when it's not expected. Any time you see faithfulness to Jesus, it feels unexpected and refreshing."

Minority pastors Bryan Loritts and D.A. Horton urged evangelicals to embrace gospel-based racial reconciliation.

"We're different, and those differences are not to be ignored. Nor are they to be idolized," he said.

"If the gospel does not come to bear on your social relationships, you have not truly embraced the gospel," Loritts said.

Horton, pastor of Reach Fellowship in Los Angeles County, said of race relations in America, "I see tension. I see conflict. I'm not seeing resolution."

While the church is positionally a



Trillia Newbell, the ERLC's director of community outreach, speaks as a panelist during a breakout session on race and cultural engagement Aug. 26 at the ERLC National Conference. (Photo by Rocket Republic.)

"snapshot of heaven," practical segregation is still being practiced, he told attendees.

"... We lack multi-ethnic leadership. ... It's one thing to have a multi-ethnic church, it's another thing to have multi-ethnic leadership," Horton said.

He urged both white and black evangelicals not to abandon each other when conflict arises. "Conflict is nothing more than the litmus test of our relationships."

Panelists discussing evangelical political engagement agreed the recent cultural upheaval and the disconcerting presidential election campaign is not without some positive effects.

"This election cycle has been a nearly unmitigated disaster," said Bruce Ashford, provost and professor of theology and culture at Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary. "I say 'nearly unmitigated' because I think that it has taken something of this magnitude maybe to awaken many or most of us to the fact that we should not be beholden to any narrative, not the Fox News narrative or the MSNBC narrative ... or any modern political ideology."

"As I see it, every modern political ideology has idols lurking underneath it," he told attendees. "And I think this election has been unsettling enough that we might once again realize the gospel transcends and calls into question all of those things, and we might regain our witness and the clarity of our voice."

In a conversation on preaching and engaging culture, Moore and mega-church pastor Andy Stanley demonstrated divergent approaches to sermons.

Stanley, senior pastor of North Point Ministries in Atlanta, said he thinks of a sermon series as a 3 1/2-hour sermon that he stretches across six weeks. He may not even have a biblical text during the first Sunday or two.

He does not lack confidence in biblical authority, but he takes this

approach with non-Christians attending his church's gathering "based on culture and some cultural assumptions," Stanley said. To remove obstacles, he does not say, "The Bible says," but refers to the authors and Jesus, attempting to "weave every single sermon" back to Christ and His resurrection, he said.

Stanley told Moore he has never preached a sermon on abortion, believing it is better to address the issue and those involved in a small group setting.

Moore responded by saying it is important that what we "are approaching people with is an encounter with the risen Christ who speaks through His Word."

"In a worship experience, what you are doing is communicating to your people, I think, and to the people who are watching what is the basis for our authority as a congregation and as a church," he told Stanley.

One reason he preaches about abortion, Moore said, is to offer "mercy and reconciliation" to those who have participated in an abortion.

Jimmy Scroggins—lead pastor of the multi-generational, multi-ethnic Family Church in West Palm Beach, Fla.—said he thinks about cultural engagement "every single day."

"Honestly, I don't see how you can possibly be pastoring in today's environment without thinking about it every single time," he said. (BP)

Judge Moore to stand trial for gay marriage order

By David Roach

MONTGOMERY, Ala.—With Alabama Chief Justice Roy Moore set to stand trial on charges he defied federal court rulings on same-sex marriage, a legal adviser to Alabama Baptists' public policy auxiliary has called the allegations against him unmerited.

At issue in Moore's case is a Jan. 6 administrative order in which he stated Alabama's 68 probate judges had "a ministerial duty not to issue any marriage licenses contrary to" the state's ban on same-sex marriage until the Alabama Supreme Court clarified the relationship between state law and the U.S. Supreme Court's decision legalizing same-sex marriage.

The Alabama Judicial Inquiry Commission (JIC) alleges in a 293-page complaint that Moore "failed to respect and comply with the law," citing the U.S. Supreme Court's 2015 Obergefell ruling among other cases.

The JIC seeks to have Moore, a Southern Baptist, removed from office.

On Aug. 8, the Alabama Court of the Judiciary, a state panel that disciplines judges, denied both a motion from the JIC to remove Moore from office immediately and a motion by Moore to dismiss the complaint. A trial is set for Sept. 28.

Eric Johnston, an attorney who advises the Alabama Citizens Action Program, an auxiliary of the Alabama Baptist Convention, told Baptist Press, "I think it's real clear that the marriage issue and his stand on it is what brought this (complaint) on. It's almost like it's vengeance by those that won the marriage issue in Alabama."

If Moore is removed from office, it will be his second time to face that penalty. He was removed from office in 2003 for refusing to remove a Ten Commandments monument from the Alabama Judicial Building. He was elected chief justice for a second time in 2012. (BP)

Davis suit dismissed, but challenges persist

By David Roach

ASHLAND—Although a federal judge has dismissed three lawsuits against Kim Davis, a Kentucky county clerk who refused to grant marriage licenses to same-sex couples, the religious liberty of officials in other states continues to face legal challenges.

Federal judge David Bunning, who jailed Davis for five days last year, closed all cases against her Aug. 18.

"The ACLU wanted to pursue the case and continue it against Kim Davis to seek damages and attorney's fees and costs," said Davis' attorney Mat Staver, founder and chairman of Liberty Counsel, a legal organization specializing in religious liberty cases. "We opposed that, and the judge ultimately granted our request and dismissed ... all three cases that were filed against her ... It's a significant development."



Kim Davis

Davis' case prompted Kentucky's state legislature last year to create a marriage license form that did not require county clerks' signatures, codifying an executive order by then-newly elected Republican Gov. Matt Bevin.

Staver told Baptist Press "about half" of U.S. states have adopted some form of religious liberty protection that appears to protect state and local officials who object on religious grounds to sanctioning same-sex marriages. However, only a "minority" of those states, including Utah and North Carolina, have granted explicit protection to officials whose consciences do not allow them to solemnize same-sex marriages.

"What you're starting to see is a major pushback against religious freedom when it comes to the issue of colliding with ... same-sex marriage," Staver said, "which is a startling development and frankly a frightening development." (BP)

Call For Resolutions

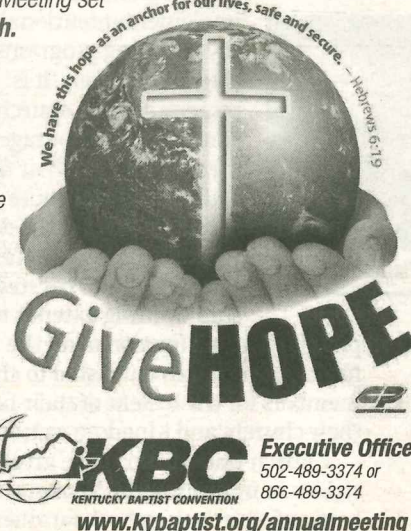
Deadline Oct. 17

The Kentucky Baptist Convention's Committee on Resolutions will receive resolutions through October 17 for consideration at this year's Annual Meeting set for Tuesday, Nov 15, Florence Baptist Church.

Resolutions Must:

- Be typewritten, titled & dated.
- Be accompanied by a letter or email from a church qualified to send a messenger to the annual meeting of the Kentucky Baptist Convention certifying that the person submitting the resolution is a member in good standing.
- Include complete contact information for the person submitting the resolution and his or her church. No person may submit more than three resolutions in a single year.
- If you have a resolution to be considered, email to: communications@kybaptist.org (preferred)

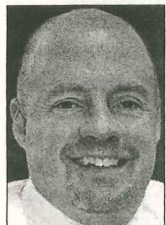
Mail to: Committee on Resolutions
c/o KBC Executive Office
13420 Eastpoint Centre Drive
Louisville, KY 40223-4160



Beginning with worship

It has been a long-standing tradition at Oneida that our faculty and staff begin the school year with a day of worship and fellowship. While it is tempting to move right into all the business and needs of a new school year, we resist that temptation and spend our first day together in this unique way.

This is Oneida



Larry Gritton

My last Christian school in Florida was a great school, and it did a week-and-a-half of staff meetings before the students arrived. All those days began with prayer and a brief devotion, but not an actual time of worship.

On Aug. 10 our entire staff gathered at Oneida Baptist Church for an opening worship service. This day is one of my favorites of our year because we are united in God's love and the business, challenges and burdens of our day-to-day operation are set aside. In this

meeting, we heard scripture and had a time of prayer for our students, staff, volunteers and donors and friends. We worshipped in song and heard powerful testimonies from three staff members, two of whom are former students.

Our guest speaker was a trustee who pastors in Rockcastle County. He brought an excellent word and challenged to people to serve faithfully by being the 5 o'clock workers that are mentioned in the parable of the vineyard. I wish I could bottle up the words, feelings and unity we experienced to utilize all throughout our new year.

After dismissing by joining hands and singing "Blest Be The Tie," we had lunch together in our cafeteria. We loaded the bus and our cars and headed for Levi Jackson State Park in London. This picnic typically involves miniature golf, swimming, cornhole, board games, cards, music, fellowship, and an evening meal.

For several years we had the picnic

catered, but the event had become quite expensive for 175 people including staff and their families. Westside Baptist Church in Berea volunteered to provide our evening meal for our picnic.

These fine folks went above and beyond to bless our staff and their families. They put on an amazing spread of food and drinks. They provided gospel music entertainment, and they even decorated in a back-to-school theme and allowed our teachers to take home their school-supply-type decorations. These folks simply couldn't do enough for us, and served and encouraged us as we prepared to serve the Lord and our students for another school year.

Please pray for us as we attempt to remain driven, zestful and worshipful as we seek to meet the needs of many young people this year.

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.

Clear Creek offers bi-vocational certificate

This year Clear Creek Baptist Bible College is celebrating 90 years of training those called of God to Christian service. I am proud of the fact that Clear Creek is still focused on this one mission that God gave our first president, Dr. L.C. Kelly, in 1926.

Clear Creek Chronicle



Donnie Fox

As we celebrate our 90th year of ministry training, we still feel clearly called and commissioned to pursue the vision God gave L.C. Kelly to give ministers of Kentucky an opportunity to pursue and obtain a ministerial education. It is with this passion in mind that we wish to announce our new bi-vocational ministry certificate.

Starting in the spring 2017 semester, 25 bi-vocational pastors from Kentucky Baptist Convention churches will have the opportunity to complete the certificate tuition-free through the gracious

Cooperative Program support of our Kentucky Baptist Convention churches and the financial support of individual donors who have provided scholarships to cover tuition. Students will only be responsible for a registration fee, part-time student service fee, and the cost of their books each semester.

The bi-vocational certificate will consist of 18 credit hours. Coursework will include eight hours in Bible, six hours in doctrine and theology, and classes in church revitalization and spiritual formation. The certificate will be completed across three semesters, by taking seven hours per semester the first two semesters and then four hours the last semester. The entire certificate will be delivered online to accommodate the busy schedule of the bi-vocational pastor. The online cohort will begin together and take every class together.

The opportunity to earn this certificate tuition free is extremely limited, and will only be offered to the first 25

applicants who are serving as bi-vocational pastors in Kentucky Baptist churches and who have never taken classes at Clear Creek before. Our first, spring semester, online cohort will begin certificate work in January 2017 and will complete their studies in May 2018. There will not be a new cohort started until this first cohort has completed their studies. Any student above the first 25 applicants accepted from Kentucky Baptist Convention churches, or students from other states may complete the program at our current tuition rate.

If you would like information about our bi-vocational certificate, contact Clear Creek's admissions director, Greg Young, at greg.young@ccbbc.edu or (606) 337-1103.

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.

Educate and encourage

As the development agency for Kentucky Baptist churches, the

Ky. Baptist Foundation



Richard Carnes

Kentucky Baptist Foundation helps educate a church's staff and lay leadership on effective ways to implement intentional legacy planning programs for church members. It is imperative that churches educate and encourage their members to see their financial stewardship more broadly than just the donation they place into the offering plate. This stewardship training extends to

planning the utilization of all the financial resources entrusted to church members for the benefit of their family, their church, and Kingdom causes.

Church leaders can make great strides in impacting the financial well-being of church member's families and

the well-being of the church's ministries by scheduling teaching opportunities for their church members on how to become "Kingdom-minded" stewards. The great news for church leaders is they are not alone in providing this type of Christian estate stewardship training for their members.

The KBF facilitates training of church members to become more "Kingdom-minded" by conducting educational seminars on financial and estate planning topics at your church. This educational resource is provided by the KBF at no cost to Kentucky Baptist churches, including:

Estate Planning Mistakes and Solutions—Discover what the 10 biggest estate planning mistakes are and how to avoid them to assure you manage your finances wisely.

Who Will Be In Charge If ...?—Explores incapacity planning tools—powers of attorney, health care

advanced directives, Living Trusts and what happens if no prior planning has been done.

Ways To Make Gifts To Your Church—Estate stewardship giving ideas to encourage church members to take stewardship to a deeper level—what to give, how to give, and why we as Christians should give.

As your church begins to plan its fall education and training for Wednesday evenings, Sunday evenings or the Sunday morning Sunday School hour, please consider inviting KBF staff to conduct a seminar session at your church. To learn more, contact the KBF's trust counsel, Laurie Valentine, or me at our toll-free number (866) 489-3533 for the KBF's full list of legacy planning seminar topics and to schedule a seminar date.

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

2nd showing of 'Insanity of God' slated Sept. 13

Nashville—Response to the one-night premiere of "The Insanity of God" in movie theaters across the United States has prompted an encore showing for Tuesday, Sept. 13.

The feature documentary produced by the International Mission Board and Cooke Pictures and distributed by LifeWay Films tells the story of missionaries Nik and Ruth Ripkin. After the death of their son, the couple traveled to 72 countries into the depths of the persecuted church to find out if God actually makes a difference in difficult places.

The film is based on a best-selling book of the same name released by the B&H Publishing Group.

LifeWay Film's Trey Reynolds said many theaters were sold out for the Aug. 30 premiere.

"The night ended with more than 70,000 tickets sold—40 percent more than our goal," he said. "The film came in at number one in per-theater average, beating major films being played with nearly triple the amount of theaters."

The movie trended on social media across the country. One person posted on Twitter, "#InsanityofGod is the most stunning movie I have ever seen."

Another tweeted, "After watching #InsanityofGod my 12-year-old daughter is talking 2 me about wanting to be a missionary."

Reynolds credited the success of the film to the support from local churches.

"This film is the ultimate challenge to believers of how to spread the Gospel and one of the greatest tools for the church to use in her mission of building disciples. Based on the response we've seen thus far, we believe thousands of believers and non-believers alike were touched on a different level by this story," Reynolds said.

"We pray everyone who missed it Tuesday will get a chance to experience this great story Sept. 13, and it will touch more lives and change hearts across the country."

Tickets for the Sept. 13 showing will be available online at FathomEvents.com and at participating theater box offices.

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New sexual identity report lauded by LaGrange pastor as resource

By David Roach

Nashville, Tenn.—A report by two Johns Hopkins psychiatry scholars debunking myths about homosexuality and transgenderism has been cited by a pastor who specializes in mental health care issues as a valuable aid for ministry to those struggling with sexual identity.

"The article represents some of the most clear-headed thinking that I have read on the volatile subject of sexual identity," said Tony Rose, who chaired Southern Baptist Convention Executive Committee President Frank Page's Mental Health Advisory Council. "The tenor of the authors is worthy of being imitated."

"I am in agreement with the article's stated primary concern—the unusual amount of traumatic mental and emotional health experiences found among the population of humans who struggle with sexual identity issues," Rose, pastor of LaGrange (Ky.) Baptist Church, told Baptist Press. "The church could learn from this model of compassion and seek to meet this observable need."

The three-part report in the fall edition of *The New Atlantis* journal by Lawrence Mayer and Paul McHugh, both of the psychiatry department at the Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine, draws on more than 200 peer-reviewed scientific studies and argues:

- The idea sexual orientation is "an innate, biologically fixed property of human beings—the idea that people are 'born that way'—is not supported by scientific evidence."

- The "elevated risk" among homosexual and transgender individuals "for a variety of adverse mental health outcomes" cannot be explained fully as the result of "social stressors" like discrimination and harassment.

- The idea that gender identity is "an innate, fixed property of human beings that is independent of biological sex" is not supported by scientific evidence.

Mayer, the report's lead author, writes in the preface that he "strongly support(s) equality ... for the LGBT community" and that the report "is about science and medicine, nothing more and nothing less."

McHugh previously has expressed public skepticism regarding the effectiveness of gender reassignment surgery in improving the mental health of people suffering from gender dysphoria—the condition of not feeling at home in one's God-given body in terms of gender.

Rose said "pastors should take the time to read this article for several reasons. One reason is to observe the skill of serious research from an objective perspective. It appears the authors worked hard to keep personal preference from getting in the way of their research findings."

Alan Branch, a Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary ethics professor whose book "Born This Way?" draws similar conclusions to Mayer and McHugh, told BP, "A careful review of research on homosexuality will demonstrate that the church should not change its biblical stance that sex is designed by God to be experienced in a heterosexual and monogamous marriage."

"Christian mercy demands both that we stand firm on the biblical stance while

showing mercy to those who desire to overcome homosexual temptation and live as a faithful disciple following biblical sexual ethics. But mercy does not mean we compromise what God's Word says. If God's Word is true, compromise would be the most unmerciful thing we could do," Branch said in written comments.

He added, "The 'born this way' claim is an inaccurate and truncated description of findings to date."

Among other conclusions of Mayer and McHugh's report:

- Studies of identical twins "make clear that genetic influences cannot be the whole" cause of same-sex attraction, though genetic factors likely play a role.

- Without further research, "the idea that sexual abuse may be a causal factor in sexual orientation remains speculative."

- "Compared to the general population, non-heterosexual and transgender sub-populations have higher rates of mental health problems such as anxiety, depression, and suicide, as well as behavioral and social problems such as substance abuse and intimate partner violence."

- "Almost nothing is well understood when we seek biological explanations for what causes some individuals to state that their gender does not match their biological sex."

- It is "especially troubling" that "drastic interventions" like hormone therapy and gender reassignment surgery "are prescribed and delivered to patients identifying, or identified, as transgender," including children.

Mayer and McHugh close their report by arguing, "Everyone—scientists and physicians, parents and teachers, lawmakers and activists—deserves access to accurate information about sexual orientation and gender identity."

"While there is much controversy surrounding how our society treats its LGBT members, no political or cultural views should discourage us from understanding the related clinical and public health issues and helping people suffering from mental health problems that may be connected to their sexuality." (BP)

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Troubled siblings find homes, happiness

A couple of years ago, siblings Marisa and Jason needed help. They'd begun exhibiting harmful behavior, having been exposed to explicit sexual acts at home for years. Placement in separate foster homes was necessary to break the pattern of sexually reactive behavior. Apart and in unfamiliar surroundings, Marisa, 13, and Jason, 11, were despondent and frightened, left only with the hope that their lives might get better someday.

Marisa's foster parents, the Mankowskis, did substantial research to learn how they could best help Marisa work through her pain and begin the healing process. A loving, trusting relationship developed and, in June, the Mankowskis adopted Marisa.

Less than a month later, Jason was also adopted by his foster parents after a lengthy process. Jason came to the Jamisons about two years ago. The Jamisons have an abiding commitment to the welfare of children, having fostered 20 kids in 15 years. Their experience has left them with an informed perspective on the reliability and effectiveness of organizations that work with youth in crisis.

The Jamisons are grateful to Sunrise for finding a forever home for Jason. "Sunrise is the best agency we've been with, by far," he said.

Today, the future looks bright for Jason and his new family. The Jamisons celebrated the adoption with a trip to the beach, and they expect Jason will continue to thrive in his adoptive home. "He's a good kid, he's smart, and

he gets good grades," Mr. Jamison said.

During this Week of Prayer for International Missions, it is fitting to note some ways that the Eliza Broadus Offering helps to reach internationals in Kentucky. At the top of my list is the work of Baptist Campus Ministry.

Through campus missionaries, interns and volunteers, international students are welcomed, fed and helped with English. They make friends and hear the gospel. This year EBO will provide \$60,000 for international student ministry.

Kentucky Baptists also reach out to internationals through Friendship International ministries. Groups in

Lexington, Louisville and Paducah are sharing the gospel with internationals through weekly outreach activities that include Bible study, choir, meals, English classes, sewing and other activities. EBO grants to each Friendship International group have helped with supplies and other expenses.

Church planting among various language and ethnic groups is another way we share Christ with internationals in our state. Established language churches are also instrumental in reaching internationals that come to Kentucky.

Please pray and give faithfully to all of our missions offerings. Remember that EBO is at work reaching the nations right here in Kentucky.



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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KBC

KENTUCKY BAPTIST CONVENTION

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

September

- 10** Excel, Bethlehem Church, Louisville
- 15** Retired Director of Missions Luncheon, Severns Valley Association, Elizabethtown
- 22** Ky. Baptist Music Conference, Woodburn Church, Woodburn
- 23-24** Disaster Relief Chaplaincy Training, Clarkson Church, Clarkson
- 23-24** Men's & Women's Chorales Retreat, Living Hope Church, Bowling Green
- 23-24** Basic Training Journey for Hispanic Church Planters, First Church, Paducah
- 23-25** Converge Conference, Jonathan Creek Camp & Conference Center, Hardin
- 29-30** Cincinnati Vision Trip, Cincinnati

Bible Crosswords

Across

1. Spending limit
4. Drilled
9. Scottish topper
12. Eskimo knife
13. Speak pompously
14. Stream
15. Cyrus, king of _____ (2 Chronicles 36)
17. "we are of the truth, and shall _____ our hearts before him" (1 John 3:19)
19. Becomes boring
20. Small (suffix, p1.)
21. Passageways
24. Stolen
28. Dill herb
29. C. Bronte heroine
30. Steamer (abbr.)
31. British 'bye
32. "and he said in the sight of Israel, _____ stand thou still" (Joshua 10:12)
34. Of vegetable origin (suffix)
36. Pronoun
37. Alphonso's queen
39. No coins are needed to operate its meter
41. Grad. degrees
43. "their laws are _____ from all people; neither keep they the king's laws" (Esther 3:8)
45. "And though... _____ destroy this body" (Job 19:26)
46. Some vowels
47. To be stationary with the head of the wind, as a ship
49. Carries
52. Explorer
55. Assist
56. "Thou shall not oppress an _____ servant"

MOUNTAINS TO THE MISSISSIPPI

COMPILED BY STAFF

BEECHMONT—Hazel Creek Church will hold homecoming Sept. 25. Singers will be 'Voices of Praise' at 10 a.m., and sermon by **Carl Nelson** at 11 a.m. **Terry Chaney** is pastor.

BENTON—**Jack Kee** is now pastor of Union Ridge Church. **Mike Farmer** was called as pastor of Vanzora Church.

CRITTENDEN—Crittenden Church will host the Phil Cross Choir Revival Sept. 11 at 6 p.m. **Doug Miller** is pastor.

CROFTON—Crofton Church will hold revival Sept. 18-21, with Evangelist Don Mathis. **Rick Hatley** is pastor.

FRANKFORT—Pleasant Ridge Church will celebrate homecoming Sept. 11, with music and dinner on the grounds. **Bobby Tindall** is pastor.

FULTON—Cayce Church will celebrate its homecoming Sept. 11. **Dale True** is pastor.

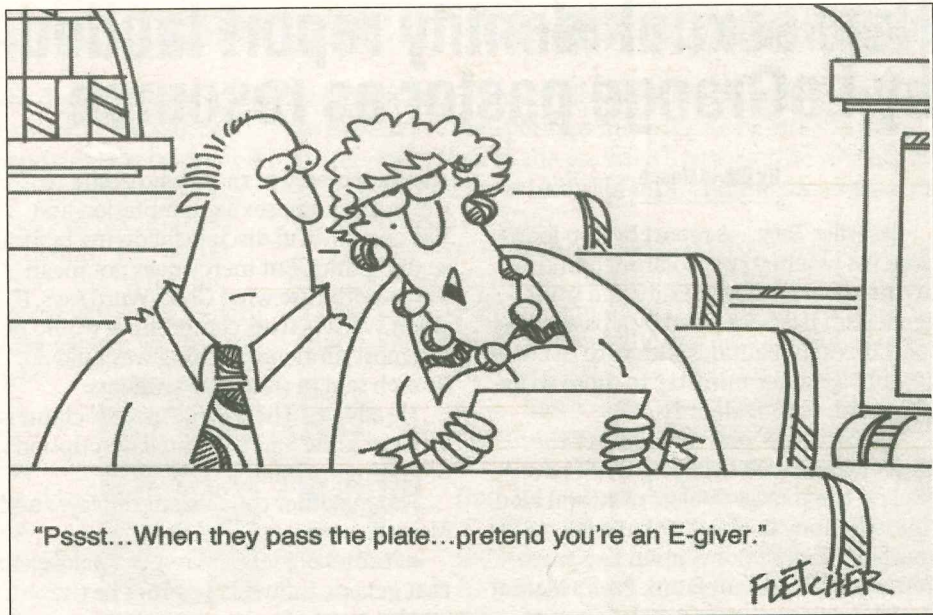
LACENTER—New Hope Church will hold homecoming Sept. 18. Preaching will be at 10 a.m. and singing by the Moreheads will be at 11 a.m. **John Burnett** is pastor.

LAWRENCEBURG—**Nik and Ruth Ripken**, the missionaries from Kentucky featured in "The Insanity of God," will speak at First Church at 8:30 a.m. and 10:50 am on Sept. 11.

MONTICELLO—**Mark Helton** will begin duties as senior pastor of First Church of Monticello on Sept. 11. He previously served First Church of Belfry for 14 years.

MOUTHCARD—Mouthcard Church has called **James Lackey** as pastor. He assumed duties Sept. 4.

PIKEVILLE—After 28 years of service, **Tim McClanahan** announced his retirement from Mayflower Unity Church. His last Sunday was Aug. 28.



CLASSIFIED ADS

SEEKING: Evergreen Church in Frankfort, Ky., is seeking a part-time children's minister. Submit resumes to mary-hughes28@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 resume to: Alton Baptist Church, 1321 By Pass North, Lawrenceburg, KY 40342. Attn. Gary Ellcessor.

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

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

SEEKING: Youngers Creek Church in Elizabethtown, Ky., is seeking a part-time youth minister. Interested individuals can send their resume to James Hines, at janice-hines70@gmail.com or call (502) 773-0749 for more information.

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

SEEKING: Oak Hill Church, Sonora, Ky., is accepting resumes for a pastor. Oak Hill is a rural church located in LaRue County. The church has an active children and youth ministry. Members are seeking a pastor with a heart for the Lord. Send resumes to: Attn Pulpit Committee, Oak Hill Baptist Church, P.O. Box 252, Sonora, KY 42776, or email to oakhillbaptistchurch@hotmail.com.

SEEKING: Knoxville Church in Williamstown, Ky., a mission-minded and dedicated rural church, is seeking a full-time or bi-vocational pastor. Resumes may be submitted by Sept. 30 to Knoxville-BaptistSearch@gmail.com.

SEEKING: Clear Fork Church in Rockfield, Ky., is accepting profiles/resumes for a pastor. Clear Fork is a conservative congregation located in a rural but quickly growing area of Warren County. Send profiles/resumes to Pastor Search Committee, P.O. Box 105, Rockfield, KY 42274 or email to clearforkbaptistchurch@yahoo.com by Oct 1.

SEEKING: Bevinsville Church is seeking a bi-vocational pastor. Send resumes to P.O. Box 17, Bevinsville KY 41606.

SEEKING: Raymond Church in Webster, Ky. (a small rural church) is prayerfully seeking a pastor who is dedicated to lead the progress and spiritual growth our church. Resumes will be accepted until Sept. 25. Send to P.O. Box 356, Irvington, KY 40146 or emailed to tcwilliams@bbtel.com.

SEEKING: Donaldson Creek Church in Cadiz, Ky., is situated in Land Between the

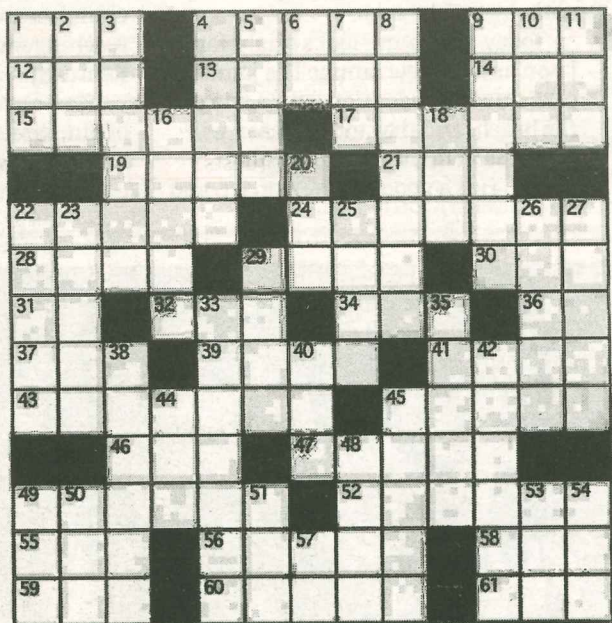
Lakes Recreational Area. The conservative Southern Baptist Church is accepting applications for an energetic bi-vocational pastor. This pastor must be well-versed in the Bible and wanting to shepherd a warm, loving congregation who is dedicated to God's leadership. Send resumes or inquiries by Oct. 1 to Marty Hunter, Search Committee Chair, 4572 Donaldson Creek Rd., Cadiz, KY 42211.

TRAVEL: Join Lexington Community Seniors, a faith-based group of 20 churches, for a fabulous tour to HAWAII, departing Oct. 5. The escorted group will spend 3 nights in Honolulu (visiting Pearl Harbor and other historical sights) then enjoy 5 nights on the beautiful island of Maui. Round trip air from Lexington or Louisville can be arranged. To obtain a free flyer, or to make a reservation, call 859-278-7224.

SEEKING: Munfordville Church is seeking a full-time student & family pastor to organize and oversee children and student ministries of the church. The individual will be responsible for equipping and partnering with parents by providing them with resources to become actively and intentionally involved in the spiritual formation and discipleship of their families. Further responsibilities include development and implementation of programs, activities, camps/retreats, etc. for grades 7-12; development and directing children and family outreach opportunities; working with others in the church to coordinate overall ministry of children from cradle to 6th grade. The student & family pastor will report to the pastor. Additional responsibilities: Teach and model a moral lifestyle according to Scriptures; provide counsel and support for students and families; build relationships with students, parents and others; attend student functions where appropriate; perform other ministerial duties as needed or assigned. Resumes should be mailed to Munfordville Baptist Church, ATTN: Student & Family Pastor Search Committee, P.O. Box 445, Munfordville, KY 42765. Resumes may also be submitted electronically to mbcyouthchildrenministry@gmail.com. Resumes will be received through Sept. 26.

AVAILABLE: Interim pastor to commute on long-weekend basis to serve church. Capable pulpit and pastoral ministry. Retired, 27-year, SBC-endorsed Army chaplain. Currently volunteer senior chaplain for Kentucky Disabled American Veterans. For information, write 676 Pine Top Rd., Russell Springs, KY 42642, call (606) 219-0926 or email kychaplainwade@gmail.com.

SEEKING: First Baptist Church of Clinton Ky., is seeking a part-time/bi-vocational youth pastor. The youth pastor will serve as leader of a comprehensive youth ministry by leading, teaching, mentoring and encouraging students 7th-12th grade in their spiritual walk. For a detailed list of qualifications and responsibilities, or to submit a resume, email jonathanballantine@yahoo.com.



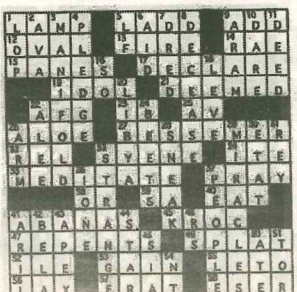
#03

- (Deuteronomy 24:14)
58. Historical period
59. Affirmative answer
60. "the enemy...sowed _____ among the wheat" (Matthew 13:25)
61. "he is a _____ creature" (2 Corinthians 5:17)
23. Seventh son of Elioenai (1 Chronicles 3:24)
25. One of the dukes of Edom (Genesis 36:43)
26. City just across the Red Sea (Exodus 13)
27. Attire
29. Son of Seth
33. "Stand _____ on thy feet" (Acts 14:10)
35. Describe dramatically
38. Eludes
40. Slippery one
42. "I have _____ the bands of your yoke" (Leviticus 26:13)
44. Poetic p.m.
45. "the _____ were wrapped about my head" (Jonah 2:5)
48. Words of understanding
49. _____ of Fundy
50. Primitive species of wheat (KJV)
51. Assembly (Heb.)
53. Before (poet.)
54. Harsh
57. Union Pac. was one

Down

1. "Let this _____ pass" (Luke 22:42)
2. Ginger
3. Lydia's color
4. "Job was covered with _____" (Job 2:7)
5. Spoken
6. Egyptian sun god
7. Greek letter
8. "he shall give thee the _____ of thine heart" (Psalm 37:4)
9. Has faith
10. _____ mail
11. First name of life preserver vest
16. Seasons
18. "Siddim, which is the salt _____" (Genesis 14:3)
20. Case out, clandestinely
22. "the Lord saw that Leah

#02



Retired Ky. pastor taking church to the world on a Harley-Davidson

What does a SBC pastor do after retirement—find a hobby?

Tommy Purvis, retired pastor of Ballardsville and DeHaven Baptist churches, bought a Harley Davidson. Soon after, he read an article in the Western Recorder on the Dakota Baptist Convention's annual ministry to bikers at the Black Hills Motorcycle Rally in Sturgis, S.D.—the world's largest.

"It was like a 'light bulb' suddenly coming on, and I called Buck Hill, missions director," Purvis recalls.

After explaining the need and methodology, Hill invited Purvis to participate, and he immediately responded.

"Now I understood my sudden urge to ride, and how a hobby could be used to spread the gospel," Purvis said. "Thousands of people ride motorcycles, many wish they could, and others are intrigued. Therefore, it's a natural conversation-starter."

Since talking with Hill in 2012, Purvis has returned to Sturgis five times.

This year, Dakota Baptists gave away their 11th new Harley-Davidson. The project is funded through the Dakota Baptist Convention, churches, and individuals, including volunteers who come from all over the USA. Local churches provide housing and some even provide meals.

People are invited into the ministry site on Main Street, next door to a major tattoo parlor and just down the street from a bar frequented by Hell's Angels, Purvis said. Once inside, they are warmly greeted and invited to listen to a three-minute story of how the Lord changed the volunteers' lives, he explained.

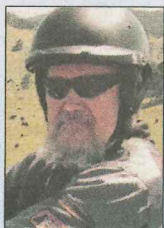
The listener then is invited to pray to receive Jesus Christ as Savior. "Some are uninterested and only want to register for the bike," he said. "Others move toward the Lord, but walk away—yet have a germinating seed planted in their lives."

Others accept the Lord as Savior, and those who become believers are connected with a church in their hometowns for discipleship, he noted.

This year 3,085 stories were shared with 242 people professing Jesus Christ as Savior.

Blessed by his service of volunteering in the ministry, Purvis observed: "A hobby you love is an effective way to share the story of God's love."

"Rather than planning a 'big church event,' we take the church to the world," he said, adding, "Your mission field is the one where you're standing at the moment." (WR)



Tommy Purvis



Sturgis Bike Rally remains fertile soil for evangelism

By Jim Burton

Sturgis, S.D.—Josh Mueller wasn't exactly sure what he was getting into when he drove to the annual Sturgis Bike Rally.

His brother Jeff is his pastor at Restore Church in their hometown of Yankton, S.D. Jeff had recruited Josh to volunteer at the Dakota Baptist Convention's Sturgis Bike Giveaway evangelism initiative.

During their first shift at the evangelism venue, Josh was too nervous to share his faith with anyone. Like many Christians, Josh was nervous about personal evangelism. Unlike many Christians, Josh develops a stutter when he's nervous. That night he observed and prayed for the team. The next night Josh was a different person, Jeff said.

"It was definitely divine circumstances and by God's grace that he was able to share his testimony and faith in Jesus," Jeff said.

On that shift, Jeff was in front of the venue working as a "catcher," interacting

with Sturgis attendees and inviting them to register for the free Harley-Davidson motorcycle drawing at the end of the rally. First, they would need to listen to a three-minute testimony from someone like Josh, who was a "sharer."

The brothers had a signal. If Josh was too nervous to speak to the prospects that Jeff brought in, he would nod. As Jeff approached with the first two guests, there was no nod. Josh shared his story with two young men who had life stories similar to Josh, and they both made professions of faith in Christ.

"We were on cloud nine that whole night," Jeff said. The rest of the week, Josh was a "witnessing machine."

Josh and other volunteers made 3,085 gospel presentations that yielded 242 decisions at the Sturgis rally. Visitors came from across America and England, New Zealand, Australia and Slovakia.

Not every decision to follow Christ was immediate. A couple from Arizona visited during a 7-10 p.m. shift, and the woman told a volunteer sharer from Georgia that

she was a Wiccan. After leaving the event venue, the woman felt deeply troubled and decided to go back and find those "church people."

It was after midnight, and the venue had closed. But someone directed the couple to a recreational vehicle behind the storefront venue in an alley where Buck Hill, director of missions for the Dakota Baptist Convention, and Bob Clardy, a volunteer from Whitefield Baptist Church in Belton, S.C., were staying.

"I need something and I need it now," the woman said through tears.

Hill shared God's plan of salvation, and the woman prayed to receive Christ. Afterward, Hill congratulated her on her new spiritual birthday.

"Does that mean I'm worth something now?" the woman asked.

The next day when the couple revisited the venue, Clardy didn't recognize the woman. Her countenance had changed from darkness to light.

"Only God can do what only God can do," Hill said.

This year's Sturgis attendance, estimated at 300,000 from Aug. 8-14, was down significantly from the rally's 75th anniversary last year. Still, the spiritual conversations with visitors were deeper and intense, Hill said of the interaction.

Garvon Golden, the Dakota convention's executive director, said the success of the annual Sturgis Bike Giveaway has been their prayer emphasis. Each of the 128 volunteers received a guide called "Thirty Days of Prayer for Sturgis" to prepare spiritually to share their three-minute testimony.

The giveaway's prize was a 2016 Harley-Davidson Heritage Softtail Classic, which maintains historic characteristics of original Harley-Davidson motorcycles, other than minor tweaks through the years.

The 2016 Sturgis Bike Giveaway—the 11th occasion for the evangelism outreach—entails a partnership between the Dakota Baptist Convention, North American Mission Board, Georgia Baptist Mission Board and donations from individuals and businesses. Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Kansas City, Mo., supports the event by bringing students for an evangelism practicum. (BP)



"The Western Recorder is one of our primary means of inviting Kentucky Baptists to join in our mission to proclaim the Gospel and see lives transformed by God."

Russell Breland, Communications Director

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