Kentucky Notes
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WESTERN Recorder
News Agency of the Kentucky Baptist Convention

November 1, 2016 — Shine Like Stars ✳ Philippians 2:15 — Volume 190, Issue 22

Trafficking workshop identifies problem, offers solution

By Myriah Snyder

Louisville—As another means to emphasize human trafficking awareness across Kentucky, the Kentucky Baptist Convention offered a one-day workshop, "Stuck in Traffick," at Bethlehem Baptist Church in Louisville.

The Oct. 22 workshop follows on the heels of a letter penned by KBC Executive Director Paul Chitwood on behalf of Kentucky Baptists to potential vendors, stating that the convention will not do business with hotels that fail to train employees to recognize and report human trafficking.

"We wanted to highlight the problem, but also to offer a solution; here's the practical side," Kristen Drake, Kentucky Baptist Disaster Relief ministry assistant and one of the worshop's organizers, said.

She continued,"We wanted to put this in the biblical framework, who we are in the image of God, how that affects everything, and how we approach both the people who have been victimized by it and people who supply the industry."

Keynote speaker for the event was Nick Nye, pastor of Veritas Community Church in Columbus, Ohio, and a founder of an anti-human trafficking ministry, "She Has A Name."

Nye proposed that to address human trafficking, one must look at the whole picture in three parts: the image of God, justice in the church, and practical steps to fight trafficking.

"When it comes to the fight, we have to know that we will never have deep roots in this fight if we do not root ourselves in God's Word and the power of the gospel and have a deep understanding of humanity," he said. "I want to find our solutions rooted in who God is."

He pointed attenders back to Psalm 10:16-18, "O Lord, you hear the desire of the afflicted; you will strengthen their heart; you will incline your ear to do justice to the fatherless and the oppressed, so that man who is of the earth may strike terror no more," focusing on God's heart for justice.

"The gospel's power produces justice," Nye argued. "Justice is an attribute of God Himself. If God is a God of justice, we have to be a people of justice.

"Trafficking is a pathological problem," Nye said, meaning that it is a problem that seems too big to solve. Lest those attending think that human trafficking doesn't happen in Kentucky, examples of victims in the state were given over the course of the day. "This is real," he asserted.

"There is no way we will see a pimp, a prostitute, and a john sitting together receiving the gospel together without the power of the gospel. When we stand on that solid ground, then we can really be able to engage in this massive problem, because that's where the power is."

Nye proposed five practical ways to start fighting trafficking:

1. Develop a culture for justice
2. Be informed
3. Partner with other like-minded ministries
4. Learn how to empower people
5. Fight pornography

Nye concluded, "The battle is so big, but the gospel is powerful."

The workshop also included a panel introducing Scarlet Hope and Refuge for Women. Both are Kentucky ministries reaching women in the adult entertainment industry.

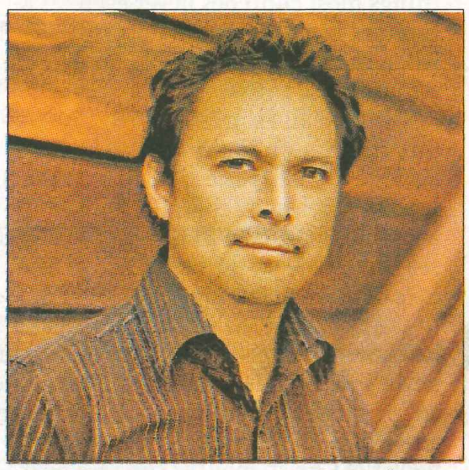
"I want people to walk away from this conference seeing how the gospel really can transform and renew people, not only the survivor of exploitation, but also the brokenness of the porn addict, the john and the pimp," Drake said.

"(God) is in the business of redeeming people for Himself and calling people to Himself," she added. "I really hope that we see the wholistic view, from start to finish, how the gospel touches every part of our lives and how healing and restoration is through Jesus. He saves any who would call on His name." (WR)





Top: *Speakers and organizers for the "Stuck in Traffick" workshop from left to right: Coy Webb, Nick Nye, Lisa Gamble, Kristen Drake, Alice Skaggs, Wanda Walker, and Ked Frank.* **Bottom:** *Attenders learn more about ministries fighting trafficking throughout Kentucky through exhibitor tables.*



Mel McGowan encourages churches to "re-imagine" their existing facilities as sacred spaces to share the gospel with the community.

PASTORS' CONFERENCE KEYNOTE

What story does your building tell the unchurched?

Florence—Great pastors are usually good storytellers, but how many have stopped to think about what story the church building and grounds convey?

"During my 10 years at the Walt Disney Co., I learned that good storytellers can go beyond words to use images, aromas, textures, soundscapes and spaces to tell stories," said Mel McGowan, co-founder and chief creative principal of PlainJoe Studios.

McGowan will be a keynote speaker at the Kentucky Baptist Pastors' Conference Nov. 14 at Florence Baptist Church.

As a strong believer in Christ-centered communities, McGowan travels the world helping churches tell God's story by re-imagining existing facilities as places where people live life together, a "third space" outside of the nuclear home and work.

"Throughout history, communities have always thrived around sacred spaces," said McGowan. "What would it look like if we took the time to intentionally design them?"

Last year, McGowan worked with Severns Valley Baptist Church in Elizabethtown, to develop a master plan for creating spaces that are inviting and conducive to sharing the gospel with the community.

"It's all about what you can do to better engage your community," said Severns Valley Senior Pastor Bill Langley, who urges Kentucky Baptist pastors to look at their facilities from the eyes of the unchurched.

Langley said one of the future developments in the Severns Valley

❑ See Prayer... Page 3

Elizabethtown pastor running for KBC president

Florence—Severns Valley Baptist Church Pastor Bill Langley is the only announced candidate for the presidency of the Kentucky Baptist Convention at this year's annual meeting in Florence Nov. 15.

He will be nominated by Dan Summerlin, a past KBC president and pastor of Lone Oak First Baptist Church in Paducah.

Langley, who served as president of the Kentucky Baptist Pastors' Conference this year, received his bachelor's degree in education from the University of Kentucky, and earned a master's of divinity from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Ft. Worth, Texas, and a doctorate in biblical studies from Louisiana Baptist University.

During Langley's seven years at Severns Valley, more than 500 new believers have been baptized. The Elizabethtown congregation consistently has been one of the state's top Cooperative Program contributors, giving more than $2.1 million through the Cooperative Program since Langley became pastor, and more than $11.6 million dating back to 1928.



Bill Langley

WR: What influence on the Kentucky Baptist Convention do you pray to have during your tenure as president? What will be your primary goals and hopes for the coming year?

Langley: Having pastored for more than 30 years, I have seen and experienced much. As so many others, I am incredibly burdened by what I observe on the national landscape. Tides are turning, momentum is shifting, and it seems as though our nation is, literally, sprinting away from God. The challenges for pastors and churches, today, are many, and they are becoming increasingly intense. However, where there are great challenges, there are also great opportunities! "The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it!" (John 1:5 ESV)

If elected as president of the KBC, my goal and No. 1 priority would be to do all I could to encourage pastors and church leaders to take advantage of every opportunity in evangelism and discipleship. This is not a time to "hold the fort." This is a time to advance and enlarge the kingdom!

WR: As pastor of one of the leading churches in Cooperative Program giving, in what ways do you envision encouraging Kentucky Baptists in fulfilling the Great Commission and strengthening support of the Cooperative Program?

Langley: I am a strong advocate of the Cooperative Program for a very pragmatic reason: We can do much more together than we can do by ourselves. In my opinion, the challenge we face is in doing a better job of sharing the wonderful accounts of people who are being reached as a direct result of missions and missions giving through the KBC. The people in our churches want to be a part of these incredible success stories. So, let's do all we can to be even more effective in communicating what Christ is doing in response to our mission efforts.

> ***"Missions and evangelism must be the lifeblood of our convention, because it is the heartbeat of the Great Commission."***
>
> Bill Langley, pastor of Severns Valley Baptist Church

WR: As KBC president, how would you champion the Mission Board's three primary emphases of church revitalization, missions and evangelism, and church planting?

Langley: This is the heart of what we must be about! These three things have been my heartbeat in the churches I have pastored. I have participated in planting a number of churches here in the states, as well as internationally. Recently, Severns Valley Baptist Church planted two churches in an "unchurched" area of Nicaragua. Both of those churches are experiencing phenomenal growth and, constantly, share with us the stories of those who are coming to Christ and following Him in Baptism. I have also, personally, been involved in church revitalization. We are seeing this hard work bear much fruit. Missions and evangelism must be the lifeblood of our convention, because it is the heartbeat of the Great Commission. I will do all I can to champion and embolden these efforts.

WR: In what ways, do you see the role of KBC president in coming alongside Oneida Bible Institute, Clear Creek Bible College, University of the Cumberlands, Kentucky Baptist Foundation, Kentucky Baptist Woman's Missionary Union and the Western Recorder?

Langley: The call to preach and minister also contains the call to prepare. Kentucky is blessed to have Oneida Bible Institute, Clear Creek Bible College, and the University of the Cumberlands to assist us in this great purpose. I love students. It is always a joy to speak with them as individuals, as well as in group settings. As president of the KBC, I would gladly make myself available to serve as an encourager to these institutions in every way possible. All the agencies of the KBC serve important purposes as they function in alignment with the overall purpose of carrying out the Great Commission. My goal would be to encourage them in that alignment.

WR: If elected, how do you foresee speaking to the next generation of Kentucky Baptist leaders and calling them to be involved in expanding the state convention's Great Commission efforts? What do you consider the greatest strengths of the Kentucky Baptist Convention's work?

Langley: I have had the joy of pastoring churches, now, in three different state conventions: Oklahoma, Texas and Kentucky. Therefore, I can tell you from personal experience that the challenge we face of raising up the next generation of leaders is a challenge facing every state convention. Young pastors and leaders have grown up in a different culture from those my age. They may be finding great help, encouragement and support from church planting and revitalization organizations that are outside the Southern Baptist Convention. When possible, we need to develop partnerships with like-minded Great Commission groups. Again, I believe we can accomplish more together than we can on our own. In truth, I am excited to see some of this already happening under the current leadership of the KBC. I believe this kind of thinking is a wonderful strength of our state convention.

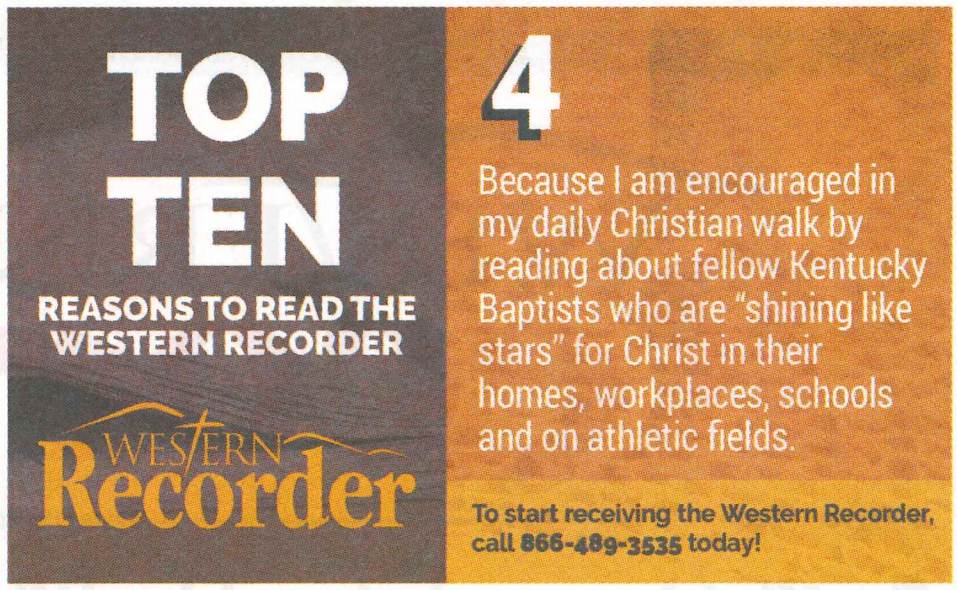
WR: What do you see as the key challenges or moral concerns of our day, and how can the KBC president represent Kentucky Baptists in promoting evangelical Christian values across the commonwealth?

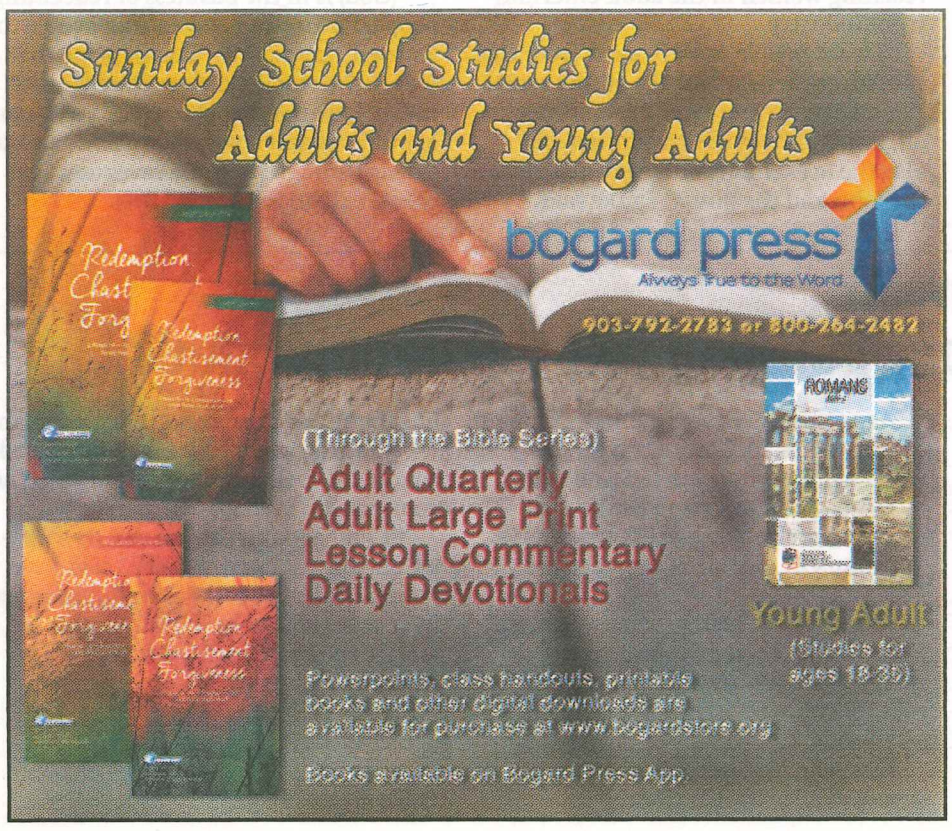
Langley: As I indicated in my first paragraph, our nation is in a moral free-fall. We are seeing conservative, Bible-believing Christians and churches under attack like never before.

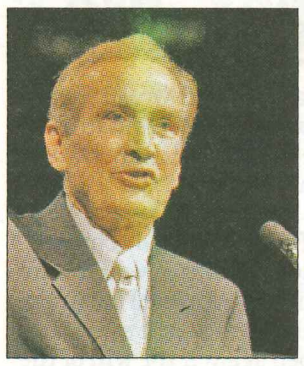
Two years ago, Severns Valley Baptist Church underwent a complete re-write of the church's constitution and bylaws. We had to specifically address what the Bible teaches concerning current hot topic issues, such as the sanctity of life, marriage as a union between a man and a woman, homosexuality and gender identification struggles. These were things most churches never even thought of as needing to be addressed when they originally adopted their constitution and bylaws.

I will do all I can to help educate pastors and church leaders about what can be done to fortify the biblical stand their church takes in its community. But above all, my goal will be endeavoring to see that, what we do, we do in the fullness of grace and truth.

Carrying out the Great Commission has never been comfortable or easy. Jesus never promised it would be. However, He did promise He would be with us! By the grace of God, with the presence and power of Christ, may we run this next leg of the race with great boldness and effectiveness! (WR)







A center focusing on expository preaching named for the late Adrian Rogers is being established by New Orleans Seminary. (BP file photo)

NOBTS to launch Adrian Rogers Center

By Gary Myers

New Orleans—New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary trustees have approved the establishment of an Adrian Rogers Center for Expository Preaching.

Additional initiatives also were approved during the trustees' fall meeting to enhance the training of local church pastors and other church leaders—a Christian leadership major in the doctor of philosophy program and several enhancements to the seminary's master of divinity program.

"Dr. Adrian Rogers is one of the most significant alumni in the history of NOBTS—well-known for a lifetime of excellent expository preaching," President Chuck Kelley said following the trustee meeting. "This center will enhance our ability to train students and prepare them to open God's Word and teach through great expository preaching over the years of their ministry."

Rogers, who died in 2005 after 33 years as pastor of Bellevue Baptist Church in Cordova, Tenn., earned the bachelor of divinity (equivalent to today's master of divinity) at NOBTS in 1958. The Memphis-area pastor and three-time SBC president, launched his radio and television ministry "Love Worth Finding" in 1987. Through Love Worth Finding, millions of people were impacted through Rogers' preaching.

Building on Rogers' legacy of expository preaching, the new academic center will promote training and skill development for current students and pastors alike. In addition to providing leadership and promotion for the preaching degrees in the academic program (master of divinity and doctor of ministry degrees with expository preaching specializations and the biblical exposition major in the doctor of philosophy program), the Rogers Center will host conferences and lectureships in expository preaching. The center also will develop preaching resources to assist local church pastors.

Led by Adam Hughes, NOBTS professor of expository preaching and dean of the chapel, the Rogers Center will officially launch in January 2017.

The new Christian leadership major in the doctor of philosophy program approved by trustees is aimed at providing a Ph.D.-level learning option for the growing number of NOBTS students in master's programs focusing on leadership, NOBTS Provost Steve Lemke said.

"The area of leadership has become one of the most popular specializations among students in our doctor of ministry and doctor of educational ministry programs, and we wanted to offer this focused training in our Ph.D. program as well," Lemke said. (BP)

Pastor's Conference

Continued from Page 1

masterplan will meet his community's need for a 300- to 400-seat chapel for weddings and funerals. To use the stand-alone chapel, Langley said couples would first be ministered to through pre-marital counseling.

Other outside-the-box plans include a walking trail circling the church, a coffee shop and acres of usable green space. The ideas of a disc golf course or an outside movie theater to show weekly family-friendly films have also been bounced around.

"Our facilities are our tools. We should use them in the best way possible to accommodate worship, evangelism, discipleship and fellowship," Langley said.

Others scheduled to speak at the Pastors' Conference include:

- Eric Geiger, vice president of Lifeway Christian Resources;
- David Nasser, evangelist and vice president of Spiritual Development at Liberty University;
- Kenny Rager, pastor of Life Community Church in Owensboro;
- Curtis Woods, associate executive director for convention relations at the Kentucky Baptist Convention.

Attenders at the November conference will elect a president for the 2018 Pastors' Conference.

Mark Shelton, pastor of Burkesville Baptist Church, will preside over the 2017 conference.

For more information, visit www.kybaptist.org/pastors. (KBC)

198-year-old church relocates to 100-acre property

By Myriah Snyder

Frankfort—On Sunday, Nov. 13, Buck Run Baptist Church in Frankfort, a 198-year-old church, will hold its first service on a new property on Leestown Road.

The church has been meeting and doing ministry for the last 128 years on the banks of Elkhorn Creek. The church averages 700 people each Sunday, divided into three services.

The new property includes 100 acres, a 50,000 square-foot worship center, a 940-seat sanctuary, and a children's wing with an indoor playground, among other improvements.

"This is a multi-generational decision," Pastor Hershael York said. "With 100 acres, we're not going to run out of room again."

This service will be the first time in years the church can come together in one service, with enough space for all. Although York does not expect the church to stay at one service forever, he is looking forward to everyone worshiping together for now, he said.

The extra space that the campus provides will only leave more room for growth and with that, expanded opportunities for kingdom work, he added.

Since York became pastor in 2003, he led the church to become debt free in preparation for a move to a new site. Construction of the new facility began in 2015 after the church celebrated retiring its debt in 2013.

In addition to multiple services at its former building, their property was surrounded on three sides by water, making it impossible to expand parking.



Members of Frankfort's Buck Run Baptist Church set to enter their new facilities Nov. 13.

The property was on both sides of the road, making attenders be extra careful crossing it when moving from building to building.

The church hopes to be able to sell the property to another church, although it would make a great office space, wedding chapel or funeral home, church staff added.

"People love that location at the Forks of Elkhorn. They like to come and just look at the creek and the waterfall over the dam behind the church. I'm sure someone has a great use for it," York said. "We're certainly motivated to sell it now that our time there is completed."

"This move is an incredible opportunity for us to do something in a generational way that will glorify God," Mike Hancock, chair of the deacons, said.

"That's our goal, first, foremost, and period. We want to do all that we're doing so that He may be glorified right here in Frankfort," he added.

"It's obviously a historical moment," York added, mentioning not only Buck Run's role in the state's capital city, but also its history with the Kentucky Baptist Convention. "We will celebrate our 200th anniversary in January 2018, so our move comes at an auspicious moment."

Hancock added, "The main thing here is it's not about the building, it's about the kingdom of Christ. That's what we're working toward."

Starting Nov. 20, Sunday School will begin at 9:15 a.m. and the worship service will begin at 10:45 a.m. weekly at the new location on Leestown Road. (WR)

SOUTHERN FOR LIFE

ALUMNI LUNCH
at the Kentucky Baptist Convention

Tuesday, Nov. 15
Grace Fellowship Church, Florence, KY

Tickets: $15
Guest Speaker: Adam Greenway, dean Billy Graham School of Missions, Evangelism and Ministry

The post I never had the courage to write

Together
We are the KBC



Paul Chitwood

My family tree is diseased. Like every family tree in humanity, my family tree is diseased by sin.

Sins take many forms and the overarching consequence of sin, which is death, besets us in various ways. Death has visited my family quite frequently in the form of cancer. Thankfully, due to God's grace in His provision for advances in medicine, most recent cancer diagnoses in my family have not resulted in death. Nevertheless, the battle to overcome cancer can be a journey to the depths of suffering that, at times, make death appear as a welcomed friend.

Besides cancer, another obvious plight on my family is obesity. I have never spoken or written about it because, frankly, I didn't have the courage. I was afraid I'd eventually be condemning myself. I was afraid I would offend people I love. And I was afraid to highlight a struggle that is impossible to hide when I struggle with many things I'm all too thankful to be able to hide.

I am beginning to see brothers and sisters liberated because there are those among us who have enough love and courage to address the issue and come alongside those who struggle with overeating, unhealthy lifestyles, and a general disregard for their bodily temple (1 Corinthians 6:19).

Since Scripture teaches us to steward our bodies to honor God, ignoring our physical health is a matter of disobedience. We must have the courage to admit that and lovingly address it.

For me, a healthy lifestyle has been a lifetime in the making. Blessed with a high metabolism and beset by the sin of vanity, I "kept the weight off" until I hit 40. By the time I was 44, the scales were a good 20 pounds above what the doctor recommended. I've always been physically active and exercised—most months of the year. But after 40, exercise was no longer getting it done. So, alongside my wife at her request, I began a modified version of the diet set forth in Rick Warren's book, "The Daniel Plan." A simple, "Don't eat processed foods, sugar, or dairy," worked well for me once I figured out what that left on the menu. Unless it's Saturday, I stick closely to the plan.

I'm not providing this personal information because I have experienced the benefit of a healthier lifestyle, and I want others to do the same. Several staff members at the KBC have taken huge strides in healthier eating and exercise. When that happens, energy levels rise, health care costs diminish, we set better examples, and, most importantly, we honor God with our bodies.

If you, like most Kentuckians, struggle with obesity, let me encourage you to make a new commitment to "lay aside every weight," literally and figuratively, and strive to "run with endurance the race that is set before us" (Hebrews 12:1). God will be honored.

Why SCOTUS is not the Most Important Thing

Guest Viewpoint



By Daryl Cornett

I have read opinion pieces, listened to commentary on the cable news networks, and had personal conversations about why Christians should vote for Donald Trump. It is basically summed up as, "It's all about the Supreme Court, stupid." O.K., I embellished the "stupid" part, but that seems to capture the sentiment, even if the word isn't employed.

The evangelical case for Trump appears to have been reduced to this single issue for many voters of faith, probably because one is hard pressed to find positive reasons to vote for him. But I don't want to focus on that. What I want to suggest is that if you feel like you are compelled to hold your nose and vote for a candidate simply because you think the moral destiny of the country is in the hands of the next few Supreme Court appointments, then I would like you to consider a couple of reasons why that thinking might be misguided.

First, if true, biblical Christian moral reform is going to take place in our country, it is unlikely to happen through the Supreme Court. We know that the court is charged with interpretation and application of the law and the Constitution. When our local laws and lower courts fall into disagreement and contradictions, then the Supreme Court steps in and makes a ruling. I believe that by the time such divisive issues reach this point, the culture has already shifted.

It is disconcerting to see the court overrule state laws, mandating the legal killing of the unborn and legitimizing same-sex marriage across the land. But these decisions only became realities because of the cultural momentum that carried the debate to that level. These decisions do not mark the beginning of moral decline, they represent the inevitable result of such decline.

Many believe that if we just get conservative justices on the court, then these decisions could be reversed, or at the very least prevent future poor decisions. However, this is not the solution within our political system. Reversal of such decisions might be a moral victory of such, but it would simply send the issue back into the states, where possibly not much would end up changing. Some states may revert back to making abortion illegal and not recognizing same-sex marriage, but it probably wouldn't happen as easily or enthusiastically as we might imagine.

To arrive at real corporate repentance, resulting, for example, in the protection the unborn and upholding of biblical marriage through the civil government, it will have to happen through the legislature. Whereas SCOTUS makes rulings about the proper application of the law and the Constitution, the congress of our country has the ability to amend the Constitution and create the law that the court would then be compelled to uphold. It is the senators and representatives that most directly represent the people, and they are the ones that, according to our Constitution, can amend the Constitution.

It takes an enormous amount of consensus and cooperation to amend the Constitution. I don't think we would want it otherwise. But it has happened (27 times to be exact, the first 10 all at the same time), and it could happen again if the will of the people and their representatives had enough conviction about the importance of any given issue.

To hang your vote solely on the hope of SCOTUS being the function of government that will execute real moral change is misplaced. You and I might want to focus more on who we send to congress, and then lobby for them truly to represent us and do what is congruent with biblical principles.

Second, for real moral reform to occur an ideological shift must take place in the citizens that would then be represented and reflected in our government. How could that happen? It has to come from the impact of the churches in America. It must emanate from the people of God submitting to the Word of God. It can only come through the power of the Gospel genuinely transforming lives one by one until the ideas of biblical Christianity begin to get infused into our thinking and actions.

Real moral change can only come to pass when churches are revived to greater and greater faithfulness and move away from compromise and worldliness. When enough of this happens, then the conscience of a nation may begin to be affected. When that begins to happen, then laws and policies may begin to change that reflect that new reality.

We need to admit that our government and leaders reflect the nature of the people as a whole who elect them. We tend to think that a real moral course correction can come from the top down, but I believe that is wrong. Such change must flow from the bottom up. It starts with us and our families. It happens first in our local churches and hometowns. It builds through having the conviction to send the right kind of representatives to state capitols and Washington D.C.

It has taken some time for the Christian underpinnings in our country to erode to where we are today. It may take some time to see a spiritually renewed and awakened country. But I believe it can happen. It starts right where you are, not in D.C., and certainly not with SCOTUS. (WR)

Daryl Cornett is pastor of First Baptist Church, Hazard.

Getting what we asked for in a President

First Person



Jeff Iorg

No matter who wins the presidential election, it appears the American people are about to get what they have asked for—institutionalization of their rejection of moral authority.

Since the 1960s, there has been a concerted effort by multiple groups to cast off moral restraint in the name of personal freedom. Special interest groups demanding abortion on demand, sexual liberty, marriage redefinition and gender abolition—all in the name of civil rights, personal rights, and individual entitlement—have won the day. Persons who oppose them are marginalized as bigots and rights-denying obstructionists.

That, however, is a truncated, revisionist view of history. When you consider the record, the historical pattern—in both Old Testament and secular history—is quite the opposite. When any society rejects moral authority, chaos always leads to collapse.

This can happen is when God allows leaders to arise who will institutionalize the immorality their followers demand. Check the record—every time this has happened in history the result has been cultural collapse. Many Americans arrogantly believe this cannot happen to us.

In this context, God-fearing people are being laughed at or ignored today. We are mocked for warning about God's judgement. That's considered an archaic concept, an out-of-touch superstition from a past era.

A final, concrete step in rejecting God's standards is when people demand leaders who model and institutionalize their demands—and God gives them what they have asked for. Regardless of who wins the White House on Nov. 8, he or she will represent and amplify the prevailing values of an electorate that, by and large, seems to have acquiesced to the inevitability of amoral and immoral behavior becoming our new normal. (BP)

Western Recorder
Shine Like Stars ✳ Philippians 2:15
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Louisville, KY 40223
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News Agency of the Kentucky Baptist Convention

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

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

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

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BAPTIST FORUM

'Lord, teach us to pray'

First Person



Steve Gaines

If I could encourage the Southern Baptist Convention in one area, it would be to pray.

I want us to be the greatest army of prayer warriors in the world.

Jesus is the only "expert" in prayer. When we read the gospels, we see how important prayer was to Him.

Only one thing is recorded in the gospels that Jesus' disciples specifically wanted Him to teach them. They said, "Lord, teach us to pray."

As we read in Luke 11:1, "It happened that while Jesus was praying in a certain place, after He had finished, one of His disciples said to Him, 'Lord, teach us to pray just as John also taught his disciples'" (NAU).

How did Jesus pray?

Jesus prayed early in the morning.

The Bible says in Mark 1:35, "In the early morning, while it was still dark, Jesus got up, left the house, and went away to a secluded place, and was praying there."

Jesus had just completed a busy day teaching in a synagogue, casting out demons, healing people and having dinner with friends. Yet, in spite of His demanding schedule, He rose early and prayed.

Every Christian should start his day in prayer (Psalm 5:1-3; 143:8; Matthew 6:11). Before you communicate with others, talk with God.

Jesus took prayer retreats.

Jesus was busy but never stressed. Wherever He went, He walked in peace. That's because He prayed. Luke 5:16 says, "But Jesus Himself would often slip away to the wilderness and pray."

You'll never have time to do everything you want to do, or do all that others want you to do. But you will have time to do what God wants you to do, and God wants you to pray.

Time spent in prayer is never wasted time.

Jesus prayed before making important decisions.

The Bible says in Luke 6:12, "It was at this time that He went off to the mountain to pray, and He spent the whole night in prayer to God."

After a night alone with God, Jesus chose His twelve disciples. The Father directed Jesus in that decision because He prayed.

A night spent in prayer and making the right decision is better than years spent in regret because you didn't pray and made the wrong decision.

Jesus is praying now in heaven.

Jesus is in heaven preparing a place for His followers, pardoning lost people who repent and preparing to come again. He is also praying.

Hebrews 7:25 says, "Therefore He is able also to save forever those who draw near to God through Him, since He always lives to make intercession for them."

Christians should never get discouraged. Jesus is praying for us right now.

If Jesus, the Son of God, needed to pray while He was on earth, don't we? A great place to start is to pray, "Lord, teach us to pray."

My prayer is that the people of the Southern Baptist Convention will become the "prayingest" Christians on earth! May we pray and not lose heart (Luke 18:1). (BP)

Gifts that pay you income

Would you like to provide future support to your church or another favorite Baptist cause while receiving guaranteed income for the rest of your life, management of assets and tax savings? If your answer is yes, a charitable gift annuity may be just what you are looking for.

A charitable gift annuity is a contract between you and the Kentucky Baptist Foundation under which you agree to make a gift of cash or appreciated stocks, bonds or mutual fund shares and, in exchange for your gift, the Kentucky Baptist Foundation agrees to pay you (or you and one other person) a fixed amount each year ("annuity") for the rest of your life.

FINANCIAL FORUM

Laurie Valentine

The annuity payment amount depends upon the value of what you give and your age at the time you make the gift. The older you are the higher the payment rate. The annuity payment amount is not dependent on what your gift earns.

At your death, whatever is left of your gift is distributed to the charitable cause or causes you have named to be used as you direct.

Tax savings may be available from the charitable income tax deduction that is allowable and also from the fact that part of each payment you receive is tax-free. Those tax benefits can make the cost of making a charitable gift annuity gift very reasonable.

Using appreciated stocks, bonds or mutual fund shares to establish a charitable gift annuity can also provide capital gains tax savings.

Using travel time to talk

Q: In the next few months my husband and I will be traveling to visit family, what are some good ways we can spend time in the car focusing on our marriage?

A: Travel time can be a great opportunity to talk about your relationship. Here are some exploration questions to jump start discussion:

1. Of the five love languages which ones have you experienced more? Which languages would you like me to focus on more?
2. If you were to plan a romantic getaway for us, where would it be and what would you like to do?
3. During our marriage, what memories do you most cherish about our life together?
4. What things or activities most get in the way of us spending more time together?
5. What have you learned most about yourself by being married to me?
6. What things have surprised you about me that you did not expect but have brought you joy?
7. If you were told we could have six more weeks before one of us would be gone, how would you want to spend it?
8. Of all the experiences we have shared as a married couple, which ones would you enjoy again?
9. If we were to plan our wedding now with what we know, what kind of wedding would you plan? What we should say in our vows?
10. In what ways would you say you have changed or matured since we have been married?
11. What has God taught you about being a husband? a wife? How is that similar or different than what your family taught you?
12. What would you like to see happen in our marriage next year? What do you believe could make us closer?
13. What impact do you think we have had on other people as a couple?

FAMILY FORUM

Valerie Vincent

VETERAN'S DAY

MIA 65 years, Korea veteran draws pastor's gratitude

By David Roach



Paul Kim, an Army veteran and former Cambridge, Mass., pastor, delivered a tribute and gospel message during a ceremony at Cambridge City Hall to honor a U.S. soldier killed in action during the Korean War. (Photo courtesy of Paul Kim)

Cambridge, Mass.—The return of a Korean War veteran's remains to his hometown of Cambridge, Mass., 65 years after his death in 1951 provided opportunity for local Korean Christians to pay tribute and for pastor Paul Kim to offer a public gospel witness.

U.S. Army Cpl. Ronald Sparks, then 20, was wounded in action and captured by Chinese troops the year after he arrived in Korea to help defend it against a communist advance. Shortly thereafter, his family received notice he was missing in action and presumed dead, his nephew Bob Sparks recounted in The Vineyard Gazette of Martha's Vineyard, Mass., in July.

More than 50 years later, in 2005, Ronald Sparks' brother—and Bob Sparks' father—still had not located the remains. In his last words before dying of cancer, he told his son, "No matter what you have to do or how long it takes, please bring my brother Ron home."

After a decade of working with the Army, Bob Sparks did just that. He received a call in June informing him Cpl. Sparks' body had been identified among the unknown solders buried at the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific in Hawaii.

Paul Kim, chaplain at a Cambridge American Legion post, became involved with the Sparks family when he received an email from the city's director of veterans' saying remains of a Korean War veteran killed in action had been identified and were scheduled to be returned home. The city wanted Kim to speak at a ceremony honoring the fallen vet.

Kim, pastor emeritus of Cambridge's Antioch Baptist Church, also arranged for other local Korean pastors to be at the ceremony. He also contacted the South Korean consulate in Boston and helped arrange an official expression of appreciation for Sparks.

At the Aug. 16 civic remembrance event, Kim shared a gospel message.

"What I said there," Kim told Baptist Press, "is that the Korean War is a forgotten war, but the city (of Cambridge) has not forgotten our homecoming hero, Ron Sparks. And the family has not forgotten, and the Korean community has not forgotten. And the Almighty God has not forgotten the missing children who need to come home."

Kim, Asian-American relations consultant for the Southern Baptist Convention Executive Committee, added that God will throw "a homecoming celebration" for any sinner who repents and trusts Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior.

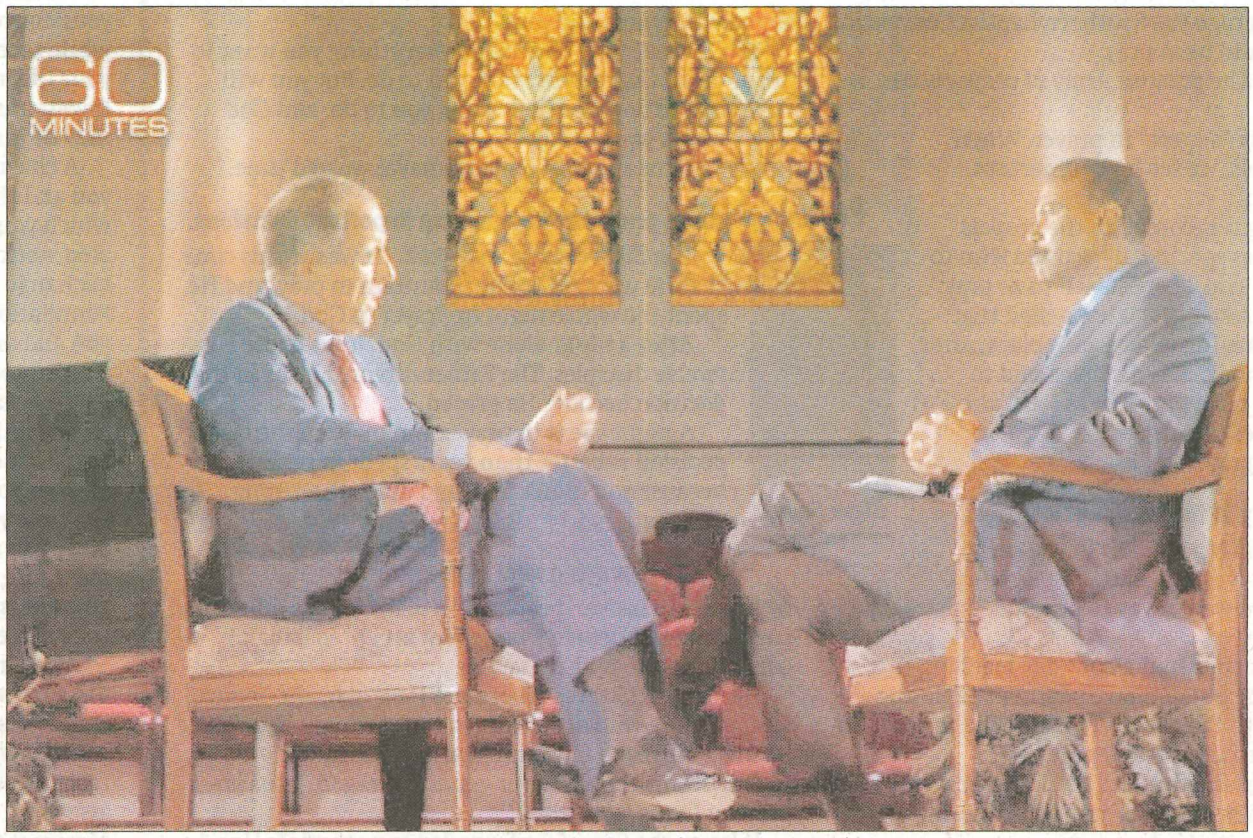
Honoring a Korean War veteran came naturally for Kim because of his longstanding gratefulness for the troops who helped keep his native land free. In fact, shortly after arriving in the U.S. in 1967, Kim joined the Army out of appreciation for Korean War soldiers.

Kim's appreciation for Sparks in particular grew as he learned of ways their lives converged. For one, the Methodist congregation the Sparks family attended allowed the church Kim was pastoring to meet in its facility for nearly a decade. And Kim's wife Rebekah was born in South Korea just six days before Sparks was captured.

Rebekah Kim told BP she considers herself "a major beneficiary" of the sacrifice made by soldiers like Sparks. (BP)

Former SBC president on '60 Minutes,' addresses refugee crisis

By Margaret Colson



Former SBC president Bryant Wright, left, pastor of Johnson Ferry Baptist Church in Marietta, Ga., appeared on CBS's "60 Minutes" to discuss the Christian response to the refugee crisis and his own church's involvement in helping settle Syrian refugees in the U.S. (Screen capture from CBS News)

Marietta, Ga.—Amid today's tumult of political rhetoric and social discourse about Syrian refugees entering the U.S., a pastor and former Southern Baptist Convention president spoke out in an Oct. 16 "60 Minutes" report, as well as a Sept. 11 sermon, calling on Christians to lean on God's Word to determine how to respond to the Syrian refugee crisis.

Bryant Wright, senior pastor of Johnson Ferry Baptist Church, said Christians are not to make decisions about Syrian refugees "by our feelings, by our fears, by talk radio, by political candidates, by political ideology, by news stations, by news outlets and publications.

"We are to make our decisions according to the teaching of God's Word," he said in his message to his Marietta, Ga., congregation in September on the 15th anniversary of the worst terrorist attack on American soil.

During the 60 Minutes segment, titled "Finding Refuge," correspondent Bill Whitaker reported that 13,000 Syrian refugees have resettled in the U.S. in the past year, and more are coming.

After the terrorist attack in Paris in November 2015 that killed 130 people, 31 governors called for a complete halt to the Syrian Refugee Program, Whitaker reported. Georgia's Gov. Nathan Deal also signed an executive order denying state services to Syrian refugees, an action prompting a letter from Wright, urging the Republican governor, a man he voted for, to reconsider.

"Our calling ... is far higher to follow Christ and do what Christ teaches us to do than whether there's an R or a D behind your name," Wright, former president of the Southern Baptist Convention, said during the 60 Minutes interview.

The governor's ban was later withdrawn after it was deemed illegal by Georgia's attorney general, Whitaker reported.

Just as the political response to the Paris terrorist attack was unfolding, the first Syrian refugees began arriving in the U.S.

"Desperation is really the one word that best describes what refugees feel," Wright preached in September. Such desperation, he said, "drives them to what is often an impossible hope ... seeking to flee a reign of terror ... and looking for a better life to come."

The 60 Minutes report highlighted the thorough screening process each refugee family must undergo before being admitted into the U.S. The U.S. security check can take up to two years, Whitaker reported.

In his sermon Wright underscored the different roles the government and church fulfill in the Syrian refugee crisis.

The role of government, he said, is to uphold the common good, to protect citizens from within and without, to administer justice and to punish evil, while the role of the church is to love our neighbor as ourselves, particularly to care for those in need, he said.

"The government has decided 10,000 Syrian refugees are coming. That's not our decision. Isn't it better to reach out and love these folks than to give them the cold shoulder? Which approach do you think might cause a Muslim refugee to be more sympathetic to Islamic terrorism? Which approach? To me it's a no-brainer," Wright said in during the 60 Minutes interview.

Wright acknowledged in his September sermon, "We are living in a world of fear today in 2016." Still, as in the parable of the Good Samaritan in Luke 10, Christians are called to love our neighbor as we love ourselves, he said.

"Our neighbor is our fellow man. It's all mankind—people from all religious backgrounds and non-religious backgrounds, people from all different people groups and ethnicities. Our neighbor is our fellow man and especially our fellow man that is hurting," he said.

The war in Syria has taken the lives of almost a half million people and created the largest refugee crisis since the end of World War II, Whitaker reported.

Wright asked his congregation, "If you're a follower of Christ, where is the outrage concerning the humanitarian disaster that is going on in Syria and Iraq in the Middle East?"

Members of Johnson Ferry Baptist Church began helping Syrian refugee families settle into their new homes in America last December.

Bryan Hanson, assistant pastor of global ministries national at Johnson Ferry Baptist Church, noted that "a lot of people want to make this (the Syrian refugee crisis) a political issue; for us, it's a biblical issue."

It wasn't the first time the suburban church has helped resettle refugees. In the 90s, the church helped resettle refugees from Kosovo, and in 2006 the church helped resettle Hurricane Katrina victims.

The first Syrian refugee family the church welcomed into its community arrived on Dec. 1.

Others soon followed. Today the church is helping resettle seven Syrian Muslim families and one Iranian Christian family—a total of 37 people, including 20 children—in its upper-middle-class predominantly Republican suburb of Atlanta.

The response of Johnson Ferry Church along with Wright's teachings run parallel with a resolution adopted by messengers to the Annual Meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention this past June, to "encourage Southern Baptist churches and families to welcome and adopt refugees into their churches and homes as a means to demonstrate to the nations that our God longs for every tribe, tongue, and nation to be welcomed at His throne," while also calling "on the governing authorities to implement the strictest security measures possible in the refugee screening and selection process, guarding against anyone intent on doing harm."

More than 120 volunteers from Johnson Ferry Church are involved in the refugee resettlement ministry. On a weekly basis, approximately 50 are actively serving in some way. The ministry is time and energy-intensive.

The goal is "helping families become self-sufficient, productive and integrated into society," Hanson said.

"There are no strings attached for our love for them. We're sharing the love of Christ. We're being the church as God has called us to be the church," Hanson said. (BP)



An insert to the Western Recorder by Kentucky Woman's Missionary Union • Funding provided by the Cooperative Program and the Eliza Broadus Offering

WMU facilitates missions involvement

What WMU does boils down to this statement

I spent two weeks this past summer working with Kentucky Changers. I was a "go-fer," photographer, and general assistant to Peggy Murphy, Kentucky Changers Coordinator. I saw the impact up close and personal as they say.



Joy Bolton
Executive Director

What I also saw was that churches had sent these students to participate in missions. The sending churches wanted their students to serve people in need and experience hands-on missions. Most of the churches that were represented could not have planned and conducted an effort like Kentucky Changers on their own.

By planning four weeks of Kentucky Changers, enlisting all of the volunteers, working with host associations to raise the money for the projects, and seeing to the myriad of other details, Kentucky WMU facilitated the missions involvement of over 1,000 people.

Through Mission Adventure for Kentucky Kids, children and leaders had a similar experience. Kentucky WMU planned a missions experience with age-appropriate ministries for children. The churches sent their children and leaders to serve and experience missions involvement. Many went home realizing that they could continue these types of ministries at home. Over 100 children and leaders were involved in missions through MAKK and the impact will go on for years to come.

Likewise, a team of Acteens Activators, sponsored by Kentucky WMU, traveled to New Orleans this summer to help with ministries at the Baptist Friendship Center, directed by Dr. Kay Bennett. The girls and leaders came from different churches and likely would never have had this experience without planning by Kentucky WMU.

The same thing happens in churches. WMU groups (Women on Mission, GA, RA, Mission Friends, and other WMU organizations) take the lead in planning ministry opportunities, enabling others from the church to get involved in some way. Churches reach out to nursing homes, help with community events, collect items for the homeless, and much more because of WMU in the church.

People who may not see themselves as part of WMU get involved in missions when they give or pray using WMU provided resources for each of our missions emphases. Whether they realize it or not, they are giving and praying because WMU facilitates missions involvement! It all boils down to this.

Thank you, Kentucky Baptists!

For your missions giving during 2015-16

- Cooperative Program: $22,315,866.61
- Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for International Missions: $5,371,451.37
- Annie Armstrong Easter Offering for North American Missions: $2,350,565.92
- Eliza Broadus Offering for Kentucky Missions: $1,213,887.57

Plus gifts to other missions causes such as Disaster Relief, Oneida Baptist Institute, Sunrise Children's Services, Global Hunger Relief, and more!

Gifts to all missions offerings during the 2016-17 offering year will be received through August 31, 2017.

Thank you for faithful giving!



kywmu.org/annualmeeting

Join us for an Eastern Kentucky Missions Extravaganza!

Friday

9:00 a.m.	By All Means in Eastern Kentucky— An introduction to missions in Eastern Kentucky
11:15-1:45	By All Means—Interactive Missions Experiences with Eastern Kentucky ministries
2:00 p.m.	By All Means—Kentucky WMU
5:00 p.m.	Baptist Nursing Fellowship Dinner Executive Board Reunion Dinner
6:30 p.m.	By All Means—Around the World International Missions Emphasis

Saturday

9:00 a.m.	By All Means—Celebration Oneida Baptist Institute Choir & Student Testimonies Sunrise Children's Services Testimony Kentucky Missionary of the Year Award Kentucky Missionary Commissioning Service

Registration for lunch and childcare: kywmu.org/annualmeeting

By All Means Plan!

Avoid conflicts and involve more people in missions

By Wanda Walker, Missions Consultant

Have you planned something only to learn that it conflicts with another event in your church? Nothing says "uh oh" like the right and left hand not knowing what the other is doing. We may have good intentions, but mis- or non-communication can lead to mess-ups and embarrassment. We just get so excited about what we are doing we fail to let other folks who need to know…. know! Here are a few things to keep in mind…

1. Pray about what God wants you to do to lead your church to understand and embrace ***By All Means***.
2. Work with your church and ministry leadership teams. Remember to include all age levels organizations in the events. Let them know how the emphasis and WMU objectives flow into all ministries of the church. Connect with everyone!
3. Invite other leaders and church staff to join your WMU leadership team meetings.
4. If you are unsure about what to do or have questions, contact your Associational WMU Director or the Kentucky WMU staff. If you need help connecting with your association office or WMU staff, please call the Kentucky WMU office at 502-489-3534 or 866-489-3534. Email: kywmu@kybaptist.org.
5. Celebrate the event and the positive results achieved!

As we are in the midst of leading our churches with the new emphasis ***By All Means*** encourage members to be involved with upcoming events including Baptist Women's World Day of Prayer (November 7). Attend an observance in your association if it has been scheduled or plan one for the women in your church. Plans can be downloaded from www.bwawd.org/day-of-prayer.

The observance of the Week of Prayer for International Missions and the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering is scheduled for December 4-11. Focus on WMU is February 13-19 and Children's Ministry Day is February 18. All of these events are wonderful ways to promote ***By All Means*** and the work of WMU.



Growing By Leaps & Bounds!

Let Kentucky WMU come along side with training and materials

The mission programs for children in my church are growing by leaps and bounds.

This fall we have added a new Mission Friends organization making a total of three. We have four brand new RA leaders. One of these leaders can still recite the RA pledge from his time as an RA many years ago. I am fortunate to lead GAs with Stacy Nall, our state WMU preschool and children's missions consultant.



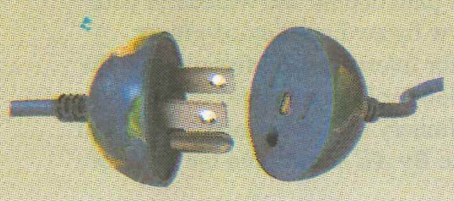
Susan Bryant
President

We have a church that loves missions. As I write this, twenty two members are in Missouri being the hands and feet of Jesus. We have filled 85 hospice care buckets and are gearing up for Operation Christmas Child shoeboxes and the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering.

You might be saying to yourself, of course Susan's church is doing that because she is the state WMU president. Quite the contrary, I am the state WMU president in large part because of my church's history of missions education and involvement. I have benefitted from those who have gone before me and instilled in me a love for missions. We are also fortunate to have a pastor who makes missions central to the life of our church.

Perhaps you struggle to have missions education for your children or to make missions part of your church life. Please know that you are not alone. Kentucky WMU can help in making stand alone missions materials available to plug in various areas of your church life.

Just as Jon Auten came to my church to train the new RA leaders, all of our staff are willing to do the same for your leaders. We welcome the opportunity to come along side you in making missions come alive in your church as well.



There's always time to share the missions story, and Plug-In Missions Education makes it easy.

Visit **kywmu.org/plugin** for monthly ideas of missions lessons that can be "plugged in" to just about any children's ministry setting.

Mission Friends Can Share God's Love

Give preschoolers the opportunity to experience hands-on missions

By Stacy Nall, Missions Consultant

Mission Friends across Kentucky took part in "Give a Cup of Water in Jesus' Name" this past September. Mission Friends groups were encouraged to give bottled water to participants at sports events and fall festivals.

If your group missed out on September's ministry project, you can still involve preschoolers in hands-on missions. Your Mission Friends Leader suggests different "Helping Others Activities" each month, such as making and distributing "Car Care Kits."

Team up with children's missions leaders for Children's Ministry Day, February 18, 2017. Find creative ways for preschoolers and children to "Love Your Neighbor."

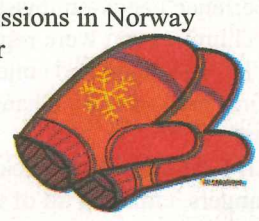


If you missed training at Excel, National WMU has some excellent online courses for preschool leaders. Each course is $20.

- How Preschoolers Learn
- Leading Mission Friends
- Uniquely Designed: Preschoolers
- Beyond the Basics: Mission Friends

develop
WMU® leadership training
wmu.com/develop

Put your mittens on and get Mission Friends excited about missions this winter by exploring Norway. Use the International Mission Study 2016 Preschool Teaching Guide: Norway from wmustore.com. Preschoolers will learn about missions in Norway through winter crafts, games, food, and stories.



NEW: Wild About Missions

Girls in Action will experience missions in uniquely Kentucky settings

By Stacy Nall

Girls in Action are invited to get "Wild about Missions!" next spring and summer with three events across Kentucky.

Join us for a Night Safari at the Louisville Zoo, April 28-29. GAs and their leaders will be learning missions in different regions of the world as well as the animals who live there.

Saddle up your horses as we visit the Kentucky Horse Park, June 3. GAs and leaders will learn more about horses and equestrian ministries in Kentucky.

July 7-8, GAs and leaders are invited to explore God's great creation at Camp Joy and Mammoth Cave.



CA-BOOM!

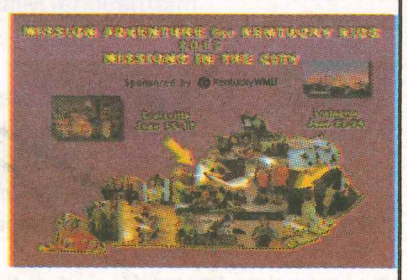
Children in Action Blast Off On Missions



In September, children and their leaders from across Kentucky met at South Side Baptist Church and the Moore Activity Center for CA-BOOM! Children helped the Moore Activity Center prepare for its holiday outreach events. Missionary Amy Wilhelmus directed kids to fill treat bags with candy and tracts. They placed labels on canned good for Thanksgiving baskets and made ornaments as Christmas presents. Missionary Amy Fisher shared about her experiences in Peru. CA-BOOM! participants learned how to pray for Amy and Amy!

Notes for Children's Missions Leaders

- If you missed training at Excel, try these online courses from **wmu.com/develop**: How Children Learn, Leading Girls in Action, Uniquely Designed: Children, and Leading Children in Action. Each course is $20
- The International Mission Study for 2016 focuses on missions in Norway. Find resources at **wmustore.com**.
- Celebrate the Tenth Anniversary of CMD! Children's Ministry Day is Saturday, February 18, 2017. The theme is "Love Your Neighbor." Learn more: **wmu.com/cmd**.
- Join us for Mission Adventure for Kentucky Kids in 2017. Kids and leaders will be serving in Louisville and Lexington. Go to **kywmu.org/missionadventure** for more information.



Introducing Four Awesome Acteens

Meet the 2016-17 Kentucky Acteens Panelists!

By Denise Gardner, Acteens Specialist

The Kentucky Acteens Advisory Panel is selected annually by the Kentucky WMU Executive Board to help plan and conduct Kentucky WMU sponsored events for students. Congratulations to this year's panelists.

Emma LeFevre, a high school sophomore from Barlow, First Baptist Church, has a heart for missions and a heart for serving others. She is gifted musically and uses those gifts often, playing piano and saxophone. Emma willingly accepts responsibility for any task asked of her, which she demonstrated over and over while serving as an Acteens Activator this summer in New Orleans.



Pictured left to right: Daisy, Emma, Bethany, Jenna

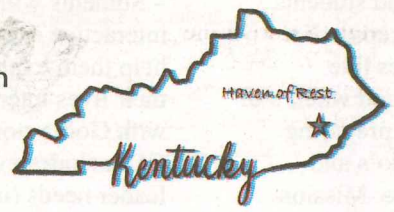
Daisy Major, a high school junior from Mt. Carmel Baptist Church in Fulton, is on her second term as an Acteens Panelist. Daisy is a pro with missions, serving on teams to Puerto Rico; Alaska; Gulfport, Mississippi; Kentucky Changers (Lexington, Hopkinsville, Richmond and Calloway County); and Acteens Activators in New Orleans. Daisy's teacher at school says, "Daisy shines brightly for Jesus at school."

Bethany Ouellette, a high school senior from Gethsemane Baptist Church in Danville will tell you in a heart-beat that "head knowledge" of Jesus and "heart knowledge" are two very different matters: being Christ-like is heart knowledge! Bethany says missions provides an opportunity for people to hear about Christ. Bethany says that Acteens provides a loving atmosphere for girls to be molded into God-fearing women.

Jenna Thomas, a high school sophomore from Barlow, First Baptist Church, knows that Christianity is a relationship not a religion. Serving in missions is how Jenna shows God's love. She believes that God's love is a gift to give away. Jenna is committed to her Acteens, saying that Acteens is a group of caring Christian women and girls who support and love one another no matter the circumstances. Acteens learn about missions and step out of comfort zones to do missions.

Acteens Leader Journey

Saturday, April 1-Thursday, April 6, 2017 at the Haven of Rest (near Inez). Project includes: sharing time with families; working in the Thrift Store; and helping with nursing home ministries. Cost: $50.00 per leader. Leader Journey is in preparation for the Acteens Journey in the summer.



Royal Ambassdors Event Goes East & West

RAMCON East, March 4; RAMCON West, March 18

By Jon Auten, Missions Consultant

For the last several years, Kentucky Royal Ambassadors and their leaders have had the opportunity to join other RA groups from around the state for RAMCON, our state Royal Ambassador Missions Congress. RAMCON has been held in the spring in the western part of the state while Camp Courage happens in the late summer on the eastern side of Kentucky. In 2017, however, I want RAMCON to be closer geographically to more of our RA chapters.

With that goal in mind, I am pleased to announce that there will be two missions congress events for our state in 2017 – RAMCON East and RAMCON West!

Russell First Baptist Church has agreed to host RAMCON East, which will be held on Saturday, March 4. And on March 18, we will be returning to Beaver Dam Baptist Church for RAMCON West.

I am really excited about both of these events and the opportunity for more boys to meet real life missionaries. Attending congresses was a big part of my RA experience growing up and the missionary testimonies that I heard at these events played a big role in my call to ministry. I want more RAs in Kentucky to have the same kind of experiences that I did. I think holding two RAMCON events will help to make that happen.

Both RAMCON events will feature two great missionary speakers, RA Racers, Line Gliders, and a Rain Gutter Regatta. So mark your calendars, look for more information at our website (kywmu.org/ramcon) as it becomes available, check out the email newsletter when it shows up in your inbox, and start making your plans now to bring your boys to either RAMCON East or RAMCON West!





RA Racers, Line Gliders, and a Rain Gutter Regatta are part of the fun at RAMCON

Kentucky Changers & Creative Ministries

Amazing missions opportunities for students, and adults too!

By Peggy Murphy, Kentucky Changers/Creative Ministries Festival Coordinator

Kentucky Changers had an amazing year starting in the spring with Adult Changers. Forty-four adults went to Camp Joy in Brownsville and worked for three days, completing over 50 tasks that greatly improved the facility. Adult Changers worked hard, ate well, worshiped intensely, and enjoyed wonderful fellowship.

The summer was extremely busy with four student projects in Hopkinsville, Calloway County, Greensburg, and Frankfort/Lawrenceburg. Changers had a total of 1,043 participants with 17 salvations, 14 rededications, and 20 who felt the call to ministry. Praise the Lord!

After a small break from the summer, it was time for the Fall Adult Changers. We headed to Camp Schafer in Hawesville with 54 adults. It was truly amazing how much work was completed in three days. Participants enjoyed working, fellowshipping, and worshiping together.

Registration is now open for 2017 Changers. You will want to get your registration in now. God has opened the door to great locations for 2017 and we invite you to be a part of what He is doing. We hope to see you in 2017!



Love Out Loud

Dates and Locations:

June 10-16	Shelbyville	Saturday – Friday	$200.00
June 17-23	Harrodsburg	Saturday – Friday	$200.00
July 1-7	Albany	Saturday – Friday	$200.00
July 8-15	Greensburg	Saturday – Saturday	$210.00

Register Early and Save!

Register Sept. 15 - Feb. 15. Save $5.00 per participant.
Deposits are due by **Feb. 15th, 2017** to receive the discount.

Plans are underway for the **2017 Creative Ministries Festival 2.0** at Living Hope Baptist Church in Bowling Green on March 10-11, 2017. Our keynote speaker will be Lee Webb, author of the book "Go Outside."

In addition to creative ministries classes such as drama, juggling, ballooning, interpretive movement, clowning, and many others, we are adding a new musical aspect.

With the help of Jason Stewart, Worship Consultant at the KBC, the 2017 CMF will offer classes in the Cajón Drum, Basic Guitar, Intermediate Guitar, Sound and Lights, Voice Projection, and How to use Creative Ministries in Worship. We are very excited to have Jason joining us.

Registration is open! Go to **kywmu.org/cmf** to register your group.

Sign up your students and adults now!



Women on Mission started with help from KY WMU

Seven years later this group meets every week to do their part in missions

By Wanda Walker, Missions Consultant

Once upon a time there was a small church that did not have a WMU or Women on Mission group. They were in a populated geographic area of Kentucky, but the church was out in the country. One day there were some women who thought, "Isn't there more to church than just worship and Bible study?" Then one of the women said, "I've heard about this missions education organization called Women on Mission. Maybe we could do that here at our church. I will call and find out more!" The lady called the Kentucky WMU office and learned that her church qualified to be a new start organization. They received materials to help them get organized, and started learning about, giving to, and praying for missions."

And now for the rest of the story… this group has been together for seven years. Their enthusiasm has grown as they meet weekly for an hour before the Wednesday night service. They have been involved each month is serving others in their church and community.

What a testimony of WMU and Women on Mission!

Did you read? This group meets EVERY Wednesday night. They do a missions lesson, Bible study, and sometimes another devotion! They always name and pray for the missionaries. A quote from a recent letter says "It is such a blessing for us ladies to gather, study, converse and form closer friendships with one another…Please continue to pray for our group as we do our part in mission work."

Recently, in a chapel service I attended, participants were challenged to put as much time in their Bible study and time with God as the time they spent watching television. In fact, the speaker said that if people would use the eight minutes of commercial time in a thirty-minute program for Bible reading, one could read the Bible in a year. What would happen if we extended that same principle to missions education for adults?

There is so much to offer for young adult women (myMISSION), median adult men and women (Adults on Mission), and adult women over 35 (Women on Mission). Starter packs can be downloaded from wmu.com or by contacting Kentucky WMU.

Could you have a similar story?

Kentucky WMU Calendar

Nov
7 Baptist Women's World Day of Prayer
15 Kentucky Baptist Convention Annual Meeting, Florence
17 KY WMU Volunteer Luncheon

Dec
4-11 Week of Prayer for International Missions and Lottie Moon Christmas Offering

Feb
13-19 Focus on WMU
18 Children's Ministry Day

Mar
4 RAMCON East, Russell First Baptist
5-12 Week of Prayer for North American Missions & Annie Armstrong Easter Offering
10-11 Creative Ministries Festival, Living Hope Baptist, Bowling Green
18 RAMCON West, Beaver Dam Baptist Church
31 -4/1 Kentucky WMU Missions Celebration & Annual Meeting, Central Baptist, Corbin

Winter Retreat or Lock-in can be fruitful for missions

WMU resources for students will help you plan an overnight or weekend event

By Jon Auten, Missions Consultant

Winter is often a good time to have a retreat or lock-in with Challengers, Youth on Mission groups, or other student ministry groups. These overnight or weekend events provide great opportunities for leading young people in fruitful times of student-led worship, fellowship enhancing activities, hands-on mission projects, and transformative Bible studies. If you are looking for resources as you plan for an event like this, please allow me to make a few suggestions.

- Carry On: Prepping and Packing for Successful Mission Trips – This resource for leaders and students contains a six-week preparation guide and covers topics like budgeting, the why's and when's of pre-project site visits, preparing backup plans, onsite do's and don'ts, and much more. Mission trips always present unexpected challenges. This book will prepare your group to "carry on" despite the barriers as you seek to follow God out into the mission field.
- Story Line: Tracing the Connection Between God's Story and My Story – Students will participate in an interactive experience which will help them explore how the story of their lives intersects and connects with God's story every day. This CD includes everything a student leader needs (instructions, graphic elements, debriefing tips, and more) to guide students through this meaningful study.
- Making It in the Real World: The Reality Game of Life and Poverty – Millions of people live in grinding poverty, struggling every day to survive. This experience will use a life-size game board activity, complete with real-life poverty statistics, to help your students understand the needs of impoverished people both near and far.

These resources and other learning activities for teens can be purchased at **wmustore.com.**

The WMU theme for 2016-17 is "By All Means." The resources mentioned above, along with the lessons in your Challengers and Youth on Mission leader books, will guide you as you help your students discover what God is doing in the world and how they can join Him in faithful mission service.

KENTUCKY WMU HERITAGE FUND July 1—September 30, 2016 Donations

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

In Honor of:	Donor:
Jon Auten	Marcia Ballard
Lisa Crenshaw	Cheryl Hatfield
Lorene Heskett	Cheryl Hatfield
Donna Fegenbush	Cheryl Hatfield
Roetta Vaught	Cheryl Hatfield
Joyce Scroggs	Cheryl Hatfield
David Buie	Cheryl Hatfield
Benita Decker	Cheryl Hatfield
Nancy Crenshaw	New Salem WMU
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June & Gerald McNeely	Pat & Dudley Reaves
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Pat & Dudley Reaves, Marcia Ballard, Jim & Mary May, Lee & Joy Bolton, Kathy Reeves, Daryl Story, Geneva Faw, Theresa & Kenneth Faw, Randall & Margaret Story, Betty Hartley, Cathy Terrell, Steve & Donna Fegenbush, Lincoln County Baptist Association WMU, Watts Chapel Baptist Church WMU, Connie & Larry French, WMU Christ Followers – Pleasant View Baptist Church, Glen & Annette Story, Jane Reeves, John & Pam Cook, Beth Wyatt, Ellyn Sydney



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

Other Gifts:
Denise Gardner
Glenna Henry
Joyce Wilcox
Lori Sharp
Kentucky WMU Staff
Central Baptist Church, Life Changers Group
Ruth Hinkle
Cadiz Baptist Church Women on Mission

COOPERATIVE PROGRAM:

RESPONDING TO THE GREAT COMMISSION



THOUSANDS OF MISSIONARIES SENT OUT

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

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

THOUSANDS OF SOULS BEING SAVED

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

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

KBC
KENTUCKY BAPTIST CONVENTION

COOPERATIVE PROGRAM

The Oneida Pastors' Conference

This is Oneida



Larry Gritton

One of my memories of growing up at Oneida involved visitors on our campus for the Mountain Mission Conference. While I wasn't at all involved in that conference, I remember scores of people appearing on our campus for a week or so in the summer. I sometimes wondered who all those people were and why they would come to Oneida every summer. I now know who those people were. They were pastors and their families, and I am guessing they came to our campus to have their spirits fed, to spend time with their families, and for rest and relaxation. Many of them also came because they knew and loved Oneida.

Unless someone has been a pastor, he or she can't quite understand the challenges pastors face. A pastor is often expected to be CEO, CFO, head of maintenance, confidant, friend, teacher, bus driver, and on call 24 hours a day. It's hard to describe to folks, but preaching is emotionally, physically and spiritually exhausting. I remember from my pastoring days simply wanting to crash on Sunday afternoons.

Perhaps some pastors stay too long, but too many pastors leave churches too soon. Pastors should leave when the Lord leads them to do so, not because they are upset or because someone is upset with them. There are many reasons for this alarming rate of turnover, but I believe part of the reason is that too many pastors don't take the time to feed themselves and also make their families a priority.

In my role here at Oneida, I feel as though I am, in some ways, pastor of a large, extended church—that church being the fine Christian folks all across Kentucky who help us do what we do and also our many students and staff. I have been very intentional in making sure my first ministry is to my family, but Oneida is nearly a 24/7 job. Much like a pastor, I am always on call, even when I am off the clock.

Over the past three years, I have received many questions and comments about that Mountain Mission Conference, and we now plan to host The Oneida Pastors' Conference this coming summer. The dates are July 24-26, 2017. We want pastors and their families to come and be blessed. We will have some great speakers and will provide lodging, meals, and recreation free of charge. We plan to house our guests for the conference in our brand new Carnahan-Daugherty Hall. We simply want to say thank you to our pastor friends and their families who do so much for so many.

You will hear and receive more details later on, but for now mark this date on your calendar and plan to come and be blessed at The Oneida Pastors' Conference—July 24-26, 2017.

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.

Student thankful for alumni influence

Clear Creek Chronicle



Donnie Fox

New student Taylor Haley, from Tullahoma, Tenn., is thankful for the influence of his pastor and Clear Creek alumnus who shared with him about Clear Creek.

"I had made a profession of faith when I was a young child," said Haley. "But it wasn't until years later at a youth event I attended with my church youth group that I realized I was in desperate need of a personal relationship with Jesus Christ. After that everything changed. After that I was free to live for Christ. It's been a bumpy road for sure. There's been struggles, doubts, insecurities and other things. But God placed amazing mentors in my life that I know helped shape me into the man I am today.

"I surrendered to ministry on a Sunday morning when my pastor began preaching through the book of Mark and the calling of the first disciples," said Haley. "They were fishermen. It wasn't just their job. It was who they were, their lifestyle, what they identified as. And they abandoned it to follow after Jesus. At the time, I was working on my associate's (degree) in criminal justice. Many people had asked if I was going to go into ministry. I always thought I couldn't because of my degree. But I realized that my clinging to a degree was just like how the disciples identified as fishermen; and it was hindering me from what God was really calling me to do."

"My pastor, Matt Collins, happened to be a Clear Creek graduate," said Haley. "The first thing he told me was about Clear Creek. At first I planned on doing online courses because we had launched the youth ministry and would never have thought of leaving our students. But Matt greatly encouraged us to make a visit to the campus because he assured us that nothing can replace the face to face teaching that the professors had to offer. Once we visited, hung out with students and faculty, and saw the beautiful creek, we knew this was where we needed to be.

"The classes at Clear Creek are amazing," said Haley. "All of the professors here are genuinely committed to seeing the students succeed. Clear Creek is a great place and it is very affordable. You won't get a better educational experience anywhere else."

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.

Year-end giving

Making charitable gifts is not only an opportunity for you to make a difference in your community through a favorite charitable ministry, it's also an excellent way to reduce your tax burden for the year.

Ky. Baptist Foundation



Richard Carnes

A tax deduction for charitable giving isn't guaranteed just because you're generous. As with everything in tax law, it's important to follow the rules. By doing so, you can help ensure that your donations result in maximum benefits for you and the chosen charitable organizations you support through your gifts.

The Internal Revenue Service offers the following reminders to help taxpayers plan their gifts to charity:

- **Qualified charities.** Only donations to eligible organizations are tax-deductible. Select Check, a searchable online tool available on IRS.gov, lists most organizations that are eligible to receive deductible contributions. In addition, churches are eligible to receive deductible donations. That is true even if they are not listed in the tool's database.
- **Year-end gifts.** Contributions are deductible in the year made. Donations by check count for 2016 as long as they are mailed in 2016. Also, donations charged to a credit card before the end of 2016 count for 2016, even if the credit card bill isn't paid until 2017.
- **Itemize deductions.** For individuals, only taxpayers who itemize their deductions on Form 1040 Schedule A can claim deductions for charitable contributions. This deduction is not available to individuals who choose the standard deduction.
- **Record donations.** The longstanding requirement of the IRS is that a taxpayer obtain an acknowledgement from a charity for each deductible donation (either cash or property) of $250 or more. Also, be aware that additional rules apply for a property contribution of $250 or more.

As you begin to look beyond 2016, you may also wish to consider arranging for future charitable gifts that result in immediate tax and other financial benefits. By doing so, you may be able to enjoy tax savings, increased income and other financial advantages today while providing for a significant charitable gift to a favorite Baptist ministry as part of your long-range planning.

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



Chitwood urges Ky. Baptists to meet 2,000-bucket challenge

Florence—Kentucky Baptists can impact eternity for thousands of people halfway around the world just by filling a bucket.

"More people are dying of AIDS in Sub-Saharan Africa than in any other part of the world, and with the help of something as small as a hospice bucket, their eternal lives with Christ could be secured," said Paul Chitwood, executive director of the Kentucky Baptist Convention.

The convention is teaming up again with Baptist Global Response to provide comfort to people in their final days as they succumb to the HIV/AIDS virus.

Sub-Saharan Africa accounts for two-thirds of the world's new HIV infections, according to the World Health Organization. The region reported 25.6 million people living with HIV in 2015.

Chitwood has challenged Kentucky Baptists to pack 2,000 hospice buckets and fill a tractor-trailer that will be parked at the KBC Annual Meeting in Florence on Nov. 15.

Churches can find a complete list of supplies gathered from the requests of patients and those who care for them. Warm socks, healing lip balm, unscented lotion, soft bed sheets and drinking straws top the list.

Last year, Chitwood had the opportunity to hand-deliver buckets that were packed by Kentucky Baptists to AIDS patients in South Africa.

"We had the joy of seeing some of those patients and their caregivers come to Christ," Chitwood said. "We thank God for the love and generosity of our churches that haven't forgotten the least of these."

In 2014, Kentucky Baptists collected 1,458 buckets at the KBC Annual Meeting in Bowling Green.

"It's a beautiful way to take the gospel to the lost," Chitwood said. "Join me in this Great Commission opportunity."

For more information, visit www.kybaptist.org/buckets. (KBC)



20 SBC churches among largest, fastest growing

By Diana Chandler

Nashville—Twenty Southern Baptist congregations are among the 2016 top 100 fastest growing and largest participating churches in the U.S., with NewSpring Church in Anderson, S.C., ranking highest in both categories among Southern Baptists.

In the lists compiled annually in collaboration between Outreach Magazine and LifeWay Christian Resources, NewSpring Church ranks third in largest participating churches and eighth among the fastest-growing churches named in Outreach's October issue.

NewSpring, under the leadership of interim senior pastor Clayton King, reported an average attendance of 33,761 and a 21 percent growth of 5,925, according to the list.

The nearest Southern Baptist church in growth was Central Baptist Church in Jonesboro, Ark., the pastorate of Archie Mason, ranking 11th and reporting a 30 percent growth of 958 in its attendance of 4,203. It was followed closely by Beltway Park Church in Abilene, Texas, the pastorate of David McQueen, ranking 15th with 25 percent growth of 966 for an average attendance of 4,836.

In participation, Saddleback Church, the pastorate of Rick Warren in Lake Forest, Calif., was the second highest Southern Baptist church, ranking fifth with an attendance of 25,612. Elevation Church in Matthews, N.C., under the leadership of Steven Furtick, followed at 11th with 21,146 in attendance.

In the self-reported survey, LifeWay Research surveys 27,000 churches for information and calculates the results for the lists. Outreach then interviews pastors and writes features profiling churches and leaders.

Southern Baptist churches achieved higher rankings in participation than in growth. Each list includes 20 Southern Baptist congregations, with seven of those churches ranking in the top 100 on both lists. All numbers are based on attendance, not official membership, according to the report, and captures numbers from February and March of 2015, excluding Easter Sunday.

"Although we go to great lengths to confirm data, the information is reported by pastors, staff or church officers, and as such, reflects their perception—their churches as they see them," Outreach said in its October issue.

Second Baptist Church in Houston, led by H. Edwin Young, ranked 13th in participation with 20,698 in attendance; Woodlands Church in The Woodlands, Texas, pastored by Kerry Shook, ranked 14th with 19,430 in attendance; and Lake Pointe Church pastored by Steve Stroope in Rockwall, Texas, ranked 28th in participation with 12,185 in attendance.

Rounding out Southern Baptist churches in the top 100 in participation, according to the list, are Houston's First Baptist Church under the leadership of Gregg Matte, 51st with 8,237 in attendance; Biltmore Church in Arden, N.C., pastored by Bruce Frank, 63rd with 7,490 in attendance; Bellevue Baptist Church, the pastorate of current SBC President Steve Gaines, 65th with 7,329 in attendance; Shadow Mountain Community Church in El Cajon, Calif., pastored by David Jeremiah, 67th with 7,276 in attendance; Austin Stone Community Church in Austin, Texas, the pastorate of Matthew Carter, 72nd with 6,881 in attendance;

Long Hollow Baptist Church in Hendersonville, Tenn., pastored by Robby Gallaty, 76th with 6,582 in attendance; Sandals Church in Riverside, Calif., pastored by Matt Brown, 83rd with 6,333 in attendance; and The Church Without Walls in Houston, the pastorate of Ralph West, 90th with 6,010 in attendance.

Among the fastest growing churches, Southern Baptists ranking below the top three in the denomination are Elevation Church which ranked 18th with an 18 percent growth of 3,268 for an attendance of 21,146; Mercy Hill Church, Greensboro, N.C., the pastorate of Andrew Hopper, 25th, growing 48 percent in attendance and adding 487 worshippers for an average of 1,500; Calvary Fellowship in Miramar, Fla., pastored by Bob Franquiz, 31st with a 26 percent growth of 538 for an average attendance of 2,632; and Liberty Baptist Church, Hampton, Va., led by Grant Ethridge, 35th, growing by 18 percent to add 802 for an average attendance of 5,282.

Rounding out Southern Baptists among the fastest growing churches are Lake Pointe Church, 53rd, growing 12 percent with 1,286 new attendees for an average attendance of 12,185; Lifepoint Church in Lewis Center, Ohio, pastored by Dean Fulks and ranking 58th, with a 24 percent growth of 405 for 2,112 in attendance; Pinelake Church in Brandon, Miss., pastored by Chip Henderson, ranking 60th, recording a 12 percent growth of 1,054 and averaging 9,845 in attendance; Anderson Mill Road Baptist Church in Moore, S.C., D.J. Horton pastor, 61st, reporting 19 percent growth of 501, average attendance of 3,167; Sugar Creek Baptist Church in Sugar Land, Texas, pastored by Mark S. Hartman, 68th, recording 16 percent growth of 568 and averaging 4,229 in attendance; Biltmore Church, 77th, recording 12 percent growth of 787 and averaging 7,490 in attendance. (BP)

Kids in crisis reaches alarming proportions

According to the Kentucky Department of Community Based Services, there were nearly 130,000 calls to a state child abuse hotline in fiscal year 2015, a substantial increase over the 108,000 calls received in 2011. Of those calls, 60,000 met the criteria necessary to begin an investigation. Child abuse was substantiated in more than 26,000 cases. By comparison, 18,000 abuse claims were upheld in 2013.

SUNRISE Children's Services

Clearly, the incidence rate of child abuse and neglect has reached an alarming level. These young victims bear severe emotional scars. Those scars take time to heal, but without full stomachs and the security of knowing where their next meal is coming from, their bodies, minds and spirits can't recover.

Sunrise Children's Services is committed to keeping kids in crisis nourished in body and soul. We rescue and help these innocent victims begin the process of healing. Each child who comes to Sunrise is deeply wounded, and desperately in need of God's healing grace. We help these children and their families find health and happiness through counseling, therapy and prayers.

This Thanksgiving, as you celebrate in the warmth and fellowship of friends and family, we ask that you keep these children in your prayers and consider supporting Sunrise in its mission. You may be assured that your gift will help us provide care for these lost and abandoned orphans of the living. Visit www.sunrise.org for more information.



KBC Calendar of Events

November

4 Ministry Assistants' Workshop, Ky. Baptist Building, Louisville

5 Kentucky Baptist Disaster Relief Blue Hat & State Leaders' Meeting, Ky. Baptist Building, Louisville

5-6 BCM International Conference, Cave City Convention Center, Cave City

11-13 All-State Junior High Choir, Ashland Avenue Baptist Church, Lexington.

12 GA JAM, First Baptist Church, Richmond

14 Kentucky Baptist Pastors' Conference, Florence Baptist Church, Florence

15 KBC Annual Meeting, Florence Baptist Church, Florence

Mountains to the Mississippi

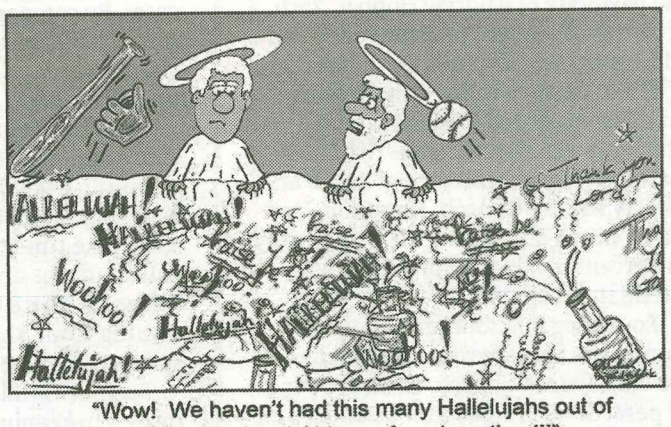
Compiled by Staff

CECILIA—Cecilia Church will hold World Day of Prayer Ladies Event on Nov. 7, 6-7:30 p.m. For more information, call (270) 862-4228. **Troy Richards** is pastor.

CRESTWOOD—Crestwood Church will hold a Ladies Night Out paint party on Nov. 4 at 6:30 p.m. For more information, call (502) 241-8534. **Donnie Patrick** is pastor.

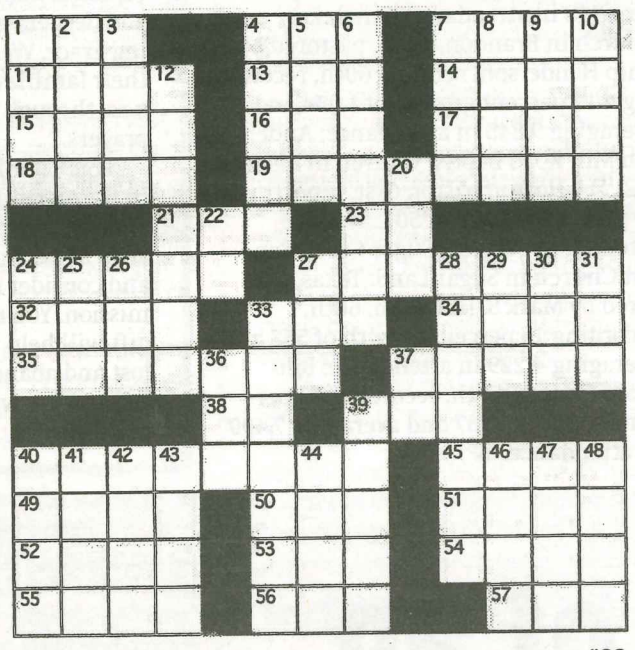
ELIZABETHTOWN—Severns Valley will host **David Nasser,** senior VP for spiritual development, Liberty University, on Nov. 13, 9-10:45 a.m. For more information, call (270) 765-7822. **Bill Langley** is pastor.

LEXINGTON—Grace Church will hold World Day of Pray on Nov. 7 at 6:30 p.m. **Steve Price** is pastor.



"Wow! We haven't had this many Hallelujahs out of Cleveland and Chicago for a long time!!!"

Bible Crosswords



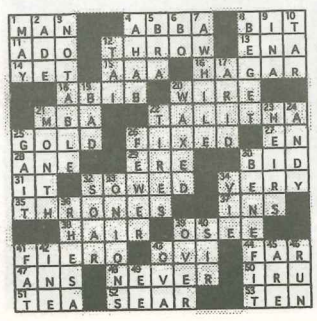
#06

Across

1. QEII milieu
4. Noun case (abbr.)
7. Hot ____
11. Pull behind
13. Gold (Sp.)
14. Feminine pronoun (Fr.)
15. Emanation
16. Comparative suffix
17. "he burned the bones of the king of Edom into ____" (Amos 2:1)
18. "Go, ____ an altar unto the Lord" (2 Samuel 24:18)
19. Another name for Jesus
21. "we receive the ____ reward of our deeds" (Luke 23:41)
23. Preposition
24. "ye that labour and are heavy ____ " (Matthew 11:28)
27. Registered
32. ____-a-dale (var.)
33. Scold
34. Raised (Fr., masc.)
35. The sun
37. "Then the ____ taketh him up into the holy city" (Matthew 4:5)
38. Pronoun
39. "a ____ for a burnt offering" (Leviticus 9:2)
40. "his understanding is ____" (Psalm 147:5)
45. Son of Seth
49. Inescapable ruin
50. Pray (prefix)
51. Captain of the Nautilus
52. ____ of students
53. "Cain...dwelt in the land of ____" (Genesis 4:16)
54. Edible root
55. Cooking pot
56. Caleb was one
57. ____-Tin-Tin

Down

1. Sixth month of Jewish calendar
2. "we know that thou art ____ " (Matthew 22:16)
3. Heroine of Dr. Zhivago
4. "Let us make a joyful ____" (Psalm 95:1)
5. Classic cookie
6. "Joy cometh in the ____" (Psalm 30:5)
7. "I can of mine own ____ do nothing" (John 5:30)
8. "And they came to ____, where were twelve wells" (Exodus 15:27)
9. Feminine name
10. High school student
12. "I made me ____ and orchards" (Ecclesiastes 2:5)
20. Can. prov.
22. Not (prefix)
24. Boy
25. In the manner of
26. "so that ____ come upon you unawares" (Luke 21:34)
27. "incline thine ____ unto me" (Psalm 17:6)
28. Constituent
29. The apocalypse (abbr.)
30. A prince of Midian (Joshua 13)
31. "The First State" (abbr.)
33. "by these were the ____ divided in the earth after the flood" (Genesis 10:32)
36. Jack Haley portrayed this man
37. Lawyer for the state (abbr.)
39. "be ____ always to give an answer" (1 Peter 3:15)
40. The seer against Jeroboam (2 Chronicles 9)
41. Christmas (Fr.)
42. Young horse
43. A son of Helem (1 Chronicles 7)
44. Cancer is one (abbr.)
46. "my salvation is ____ to come" (Isaiah 56:1)
47. He defeated Zimri (1 Kings 16)
48. Not later



#05

Classified Ads

SEEKING: Children's ministry position at Grace Church Louisville 10-15 hours per week. Experience preferred but not required. K-5. Send resumé to don@grace-lou.com.

SEEKING: Boones Creek Baptist Association is seeking a full-time director of missions. Please send resumés to P.O. Box 537, Winchester, KY 40392. Deadline for resumes is Nov. 1.

SEEKING: Spring Bayou Church in Kevil, Ky., is in search of a new bi-vocational worship leader. All interested candidates may submit their resumé and video of a worship service to Spring Bayou Baptist Church, 1205 Woodville Rd, Kevil, KY 42053. Email is sbbc@brtc.net.

SEEKING: Piano/keyboard player wanted. Blackjack Baptist Church in Franklin, Ky., is seeking someone for its weekly worship services. Email resumés to blackjackbaptist_franklin@yahoo.com, or mail resumés to Blackjack Baptist Church, P.O. Box 555, Franklin, KY 42135.

SEEKING: Music director. Blackjack Baptist Church in Franklin, Ky., is seeking a dedicated self-motivated person with leadership qualities for our worship services. Email resumé to blackjackbaptist_franklin@yahoo.com or mail resumés to Blackjack Baptist Church, P.O. Box 555, Franklin, KY 42135

SEEKING: Ovesen Heights Baptist Church in Hodgenville, Ky., is seeking a part-time youth minister. Interested individuals can send their resumé to jmd42748@yahoo.com, or call (270) 358-8041 for more information.

SEEKING: First Baptist Church, Carrollton, Ky., is seeking a part-time music minister. Send resumé to fbc.carroltonky@gmail.com.

SEEKING: Providence Baptist Church is seeking a part-time youth minister. Contact searchcommitteepbc@gmail.com.

SEEKING: Truth Baptist Church is accepting resumés for a pastor. The church is looking for a God-called individual who will lead the church forward and further the development of the congregation. Resumé deadline is Dec. 1. Send resumés to Truth Baptist Church, c/o Pulpit Search Committee, 355 Shelby Ave., Radcliff, KY 40160, or P.O. Box 582, Radcliff, KY 40159.

SEEKING: Woodburn Baptist Church is accepting resumés for a student pastor. The job description can be found on the church's website, woodburnbaptist.org. Resumés can be sent to personnel@woodburnbaptist.org.

SEEKING: Ten Mile Baptist Church is looking for a Southern Baptist, conservative preacher. Must use KJV Bible. Seeking bi-vocational. Contact: Deborah Hardy, 179 Willow Pointe Dr., Glencoe, KY 41046, (859) 816-2285.

SEEKING: First Baptist Church of Highland Heights in northern Kentucky is prayerfully seeking a God-called minister dedicated to serving Him and His people, leading them to grow spiritually through God-inspired messages from His Word, and encouraging each to use his spiritual gifts to help reach others so that the church will grow abundantly in Him. Resumés will be accepted until Jan. 1, 2017, and may be sent to First Baptist Church Highland Heights, ATTN: Pastor's Search Team, 2315 Alexandria Pike, Highland Heights, KY 41076. Resumés may also be submitted electronically to fbchh@hotmail.com.

SEEKING: Willisburg Baptist Church in Washington County, Kentucky, is looking for a part-time youth minister. Send resumé to bro.jay5599@gmail.com.

AVAILABLE: Windstream Business Solutions: Email William.Suratt@Windstream.com or call (859) 357-6081 for all your church or business phone/internet/cloud needs.

EVENT: Third Annual Camp Joy Youth Camp Benefit Concert, Saturday, Nov. 5, 6 p.m. (CT), at Plum Springs Baptist Church, 2080 Plum Springs Rd., Bowling Green, KY 42101. $2 door admission (will go to singers). All monies from love offering and silent auction will be donated to Camp Joy in Brownsville, Ky. Singers will be Jerry Hatcher, The Joymakers, and The Noblemen. Sponsored by Jackson Grove Baptist Church and Plum Springs Baptist Church. For information or directions, call (270) 991-7554, (270) 991-5103 or (270) 843-2174.

FOR SALE: Baldwin spinet console piano for sale. Excellent condition. Recently tuned. $700. Phone Donna at (502) 396-8397.

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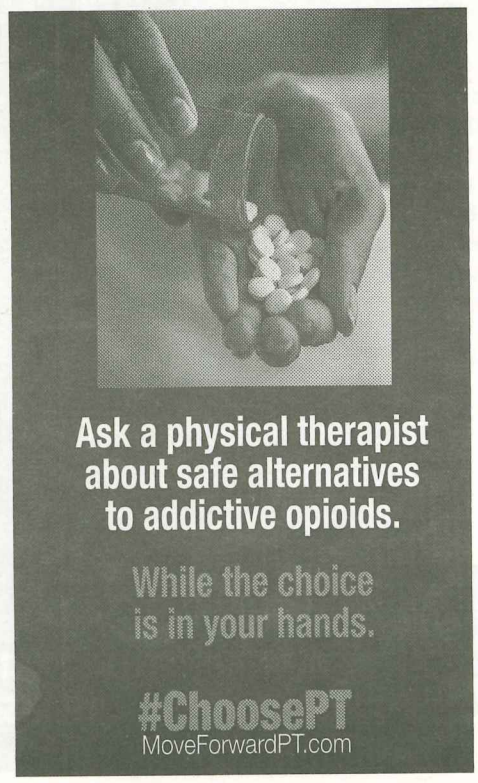
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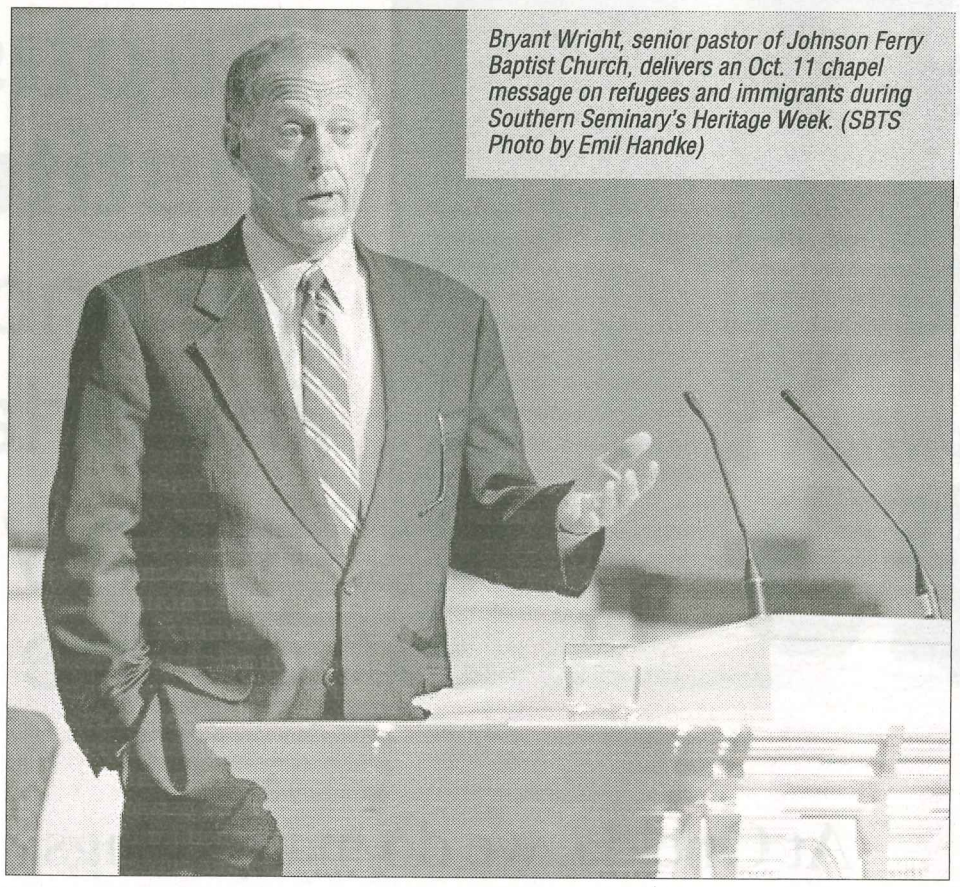
Please RSVP by November 8th.

Contact the Office of Development at (270)789-5216 or via email at dgpeavler@campbellsville.edu



Getting 'off the couch' changes heart in refugee ministry

By Margaret Colson



Bryant Wright, senior pastor of Johnson Ferry Baptist Church, delivers an Oct. 11 chapel message on refugees and immigrants during Southern Seminary's Heritage Week. (SBTS Photo by Emil Handke)

Marietta, Ga.—Johnson Ferry Baptist Church began ministering to a Syrian refugee family last December, just weeks after the terrorist attack in Paris that killed 130 people.

In spite of the attack and the ensuing political storm regarding Syrian Muslim immigration, the suburban Atlanta church's senior pastor Bryant Wright was "unwavering" in his resolve to minister to Syrian immigrants coming into the U.S., said Bryan Hanson, assistant pastor of global ministries national at the church.

"Doesn't it just make sense that it is far better to reach out with the love of Christ to people in need who have undergone incredible suffering than to give them a cold shoulder to where they possibly become embittered at the U.S. and more vulnerable to evil influences in their lives?" asked Wright in a sermon on Sept. 11.

Currently the church is helping resettle seven Syrian Muslim families and one Iranian Christian family—a total of 37 people, including 20 children and even one baby born in the U.S.—in its upper-middle-class suburb of Atlanta.

Robbi Fernandes, a volunteer with the church's refugee resettlement ministry, noted that "when you sit with a woman refugee and watch a video stream of her sister getting married in Syria and wipe the tears from her eyes ... when you help a 56-year-old man send photos of himself home to his 80-year-old mother that he knows he will probably never lay eyes on again ... when you walk into school with a teenage boy and see the excitement on his face that he can actually attend school again ... when you witness a call come in from Syria and hear the crying on the phone and see a man weep in despair ... it changes your heart."

Syrian resettlement in the U.S. is not without risk, acknowledged Hanson. Yet, risk "does not diminish our calling" as Christians to do "what God has called us to do."

While fear may be an understandable response to Syrian refugees, he said, "Love drives out fear. The opposite of fear is not courage, but love.

"As you begin to have relationships with the refugees, as you begin to love them, as you begin to put faces with the statistics, fear is driven out," he said.

Church member David Hicks, who is involved in the church's refugee ministry, agreed.

"Once you meet these families and their children, you see that they are truly grateful for any help. As a Christ-follower, we are called to help others," he said.

Johnson Ferry's relationship with each refugee family begins with meeting the family at the airport and inviting the family to stay in the home of a church member for a few nights. Then the family is taken to its new home, which has been fully furnished by church members. From there, a whirlwind of activities over an extended period of time helps acclimate the families to the U.S. Volunteers also help teach the families English, enroll the children in school, provide transportation, teach driver's education, assist with homework, help adults obtain green cards, assist in job searches, teach adults how to write checks and use ATM's and more.

The refugee families are "surrounded by people every day who love them. The day is rare when these families don't receive some kind of touch from our church," Hanson said.

The goal of the ministry is to help the refugees become self-sufficient and productive members of society as they experience God's love through those who are helping them.

> ***"Doesn't it just make sense that it is far better to reach out with the love of Christ to people in need who have undergone incredible suffering than to give them a cold shoulder..."***
>
> Bryant Wright, senior pastor at Johnson Ferry Baptist Church

After arriving in the U.S. in December, the head of household of the first Syrian refugee family—who had never written a check in his life—was able to pay his bills for the first time this past summer. He works at a catering company owned by a church member. His son is enrolled in kindergarten.

"There is joy and pride in becoming independent," Hanson said. "It's very humanizing not relying on other people."

For Fernandes, a wife and mother of a 13-year-old daughter, being a Christian means "action. It means that I have to get off the couch and actually do something. I need to follow Christ's example of standing up for the vulnerable, loving the unlovable, showing compassion to others. When you turn off the rhetoric of the media and stop and look at refugees as human beings, as people that Christ died for, how can you not want to help them?"

She got "off the couch" to serve a Syrian family of four—a husband, wife and two children. The family left behind another adult child with two small children in Syria, along with other close family members.

"The most important thing I am doing is being their friend," said Fernandes, a preschool teacher. Practically, she provides a weekly English lesson, assists with transportation needs, serves as a liaison between school teachers and the family and meets other needs as they arise.

She also prays for them. "I pray continually that they will see Christ in me. I pray that they will come to know and accept Jesus as their Savior," she said.

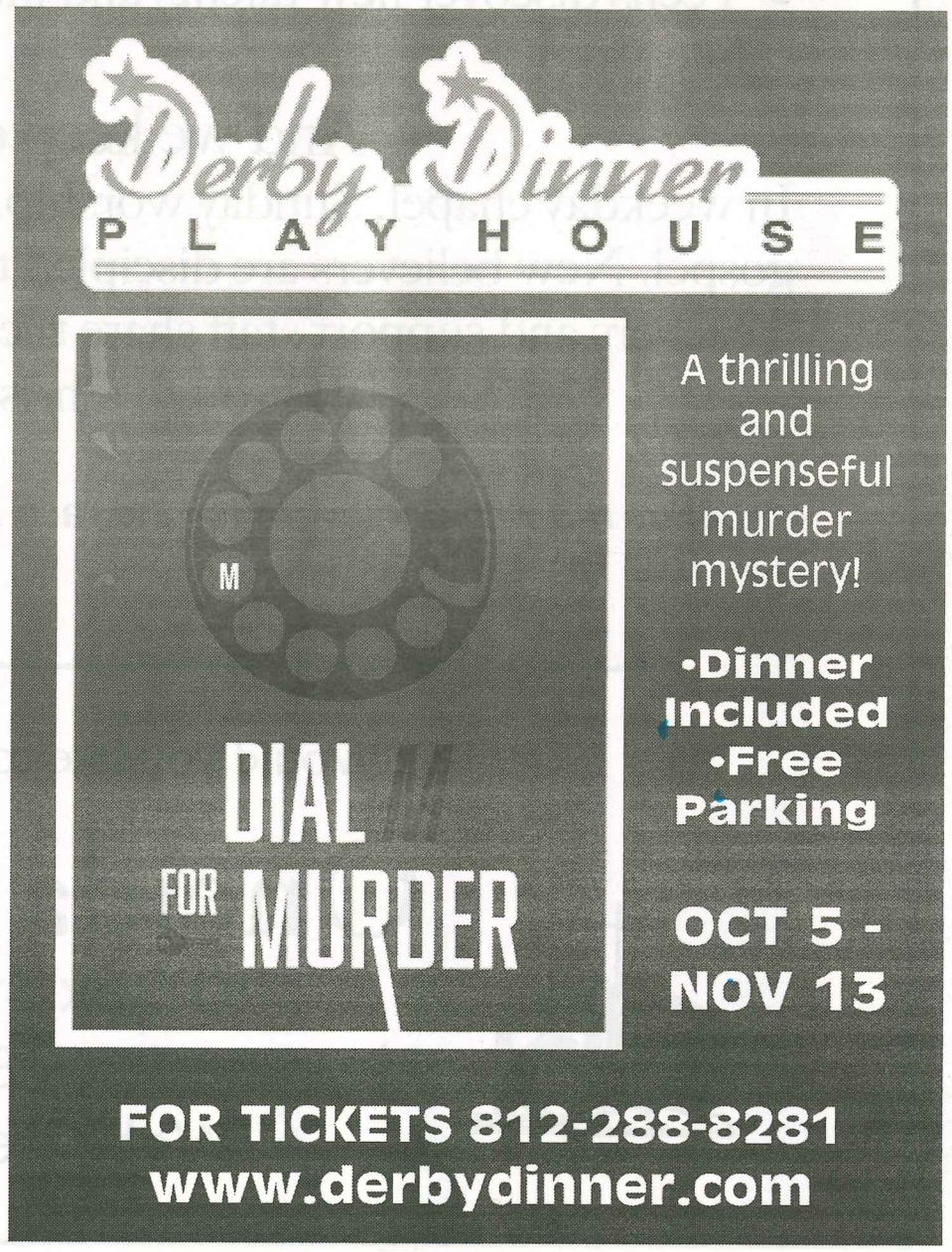
In mid-July Hicks drove one of the refugees, a Kurdish father of three young children who is trained as a tailor, to a job interview at a window treatment shop owned by a Christian.

"It was great to see God's timing and the father's face as he was able to begin part-time work the Monday following his interview," said Hicks, adding that the business owner has been pleased with the quality and speed of the refugee's workmanship. Hicks has continued to provide transportation to and from the job for the man, and he has helped him with tax withholding forms.

In going through daily routines with refugees, talking about religion with them is "natural," said Hanson, "because religion is such a large part of who they are and their daily lives." The seven Syrian families are all Muslim.

"If we reflect the love of Christ with them, we've done what we're called to do," he said.

The refugees, whom Hanson has known for less than a year, "are my friends now. I want them to believe. I hope they will become my brothers and sisters in Christ." (BP)





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