

Seven Puppies

By Van Yandell

Matthew 25: 40 "And the King shall answer and say unto them, Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me."

Have you ever heard a sound you could not place? You did not know where it came from or what it was, so you dismissed it and went your way. Then the next day you heard it again. This time, you make a decision to determine the great mystery.

When I was teaching, I would get home from work and go for a run or a bicycle ride. On a ride one warm spring day about ten miles from home I heard what I thought was a whining somewhere along the road.

Thinking my ears were playing tricks, I pedaled on. The next day riding the same route, the sound was heard again. This time I knew I had to stop. Laying my bike in the ditch I proceeded to walk back along the road to try to determine the sound.

About fifty yards behind me was a cardboard box; the noise was coming from the box. Upon examination, I found a litter of puppies. There were seven of them someone had thrown out and left to starve or be eaten by a predator.

Going on home I told wife Margie and said "I'm going back in the truck and get them." She said "Wait for me!"

We drove out to the place, loaded up the puppies and took them home. They were covered in fleas for which I made a flea treatment bath with warm wa-

ter and detergent and washed them thoroughly. Margie rinsed them and dried them with her hair dryer. She gave them water and soft food. By then they were really hungry.

Then we called the local animal control office. We were told the officer would come get them and find them a good home. A few weeks later I called her to find out if the puppies had been adopted and she said "Yes they have."

All is well that ends well and that time it did. However, throwing puppies, kittens or any other animal away like trash takes the lowest form of human life on the face of the earth. Of course that's just my opinion.

There are numerous actions that might also be classified as inhuman and completely unconscionable. Animal cruelty as in tossing out the puppies is among the top ones. People that abuse others (sexual, mental, physically) are equally uncivilized regardless of the age of the victim.

Another is the Christian that regards the lost/unchurched as disposable or unimportant. If we don't have a burden for the lost in sin, somewhere, we've missed the point of Christianity.

Acts 1: 8 "But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth."

Jesus' last command to us before He ascended was to be witnesses of Him into this lost and

dying world. "Ye shall receive power" is directly referring to the Holy Spirit of God which empowers a Christian. We find the giving of the Holy Spirit in Acts 2: 2-4, just as Jesus said would happen.

We find in Matthew 3: 15 the statement of John the Baptist a short time before Jesus was baptized. "I indeed baptize you with water unto repentance. But he that cometh after me is mightier than I, whose shoes I am not worthy to bear: he shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost, and with fire."

John the Baptist and several Biblical writers reinforce the belief that when one believes, he/she becomes indwelt with the Holy Spirit. In that we were created in God's image (Genesis 1: 27), we also have a spirit and the combining of His spirit with ours gives us amazing power.

Acts 1: 8 gives four geographical areas "Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria and the uttermost parts of the earth." I have come to believe Samaria is not referring to a place but a people. Jesus apparently is telling believers in Him, "Don't draw physical limitations on those you tell about Me."

Also we might consider the "uttermost parts of the earth." We might initially think that is indicating the other side of the planet but not necessarily. A co-worker, a neighbor, classmate or even someone in your own home that you find difficult to reason with might be considered the uttermost.

A woman at church told me about her son-in-law. He laughed at her any time she tried to share Jesus. She was in the uttermost. A neighbor once told me "I don't want to hear that nonsense!" We were in the uttermost.

Not long ago I was pumping gas into my vehicle. A very large bearded man was pumping on the other side and we struck up a conversation. Into our discussion I asked "Do you believe you have something like a spirit or a soul that will live after you die?" He said "Yes I do."

Then I asked "Do you believe there is a heaven in which one's spirit will spend eternity like the Bible indicates?" His answer: "Absolutely!"

"So where do you believe your soul will spend eternity?" "I'm going to Heaven." Then I asked "Why?"

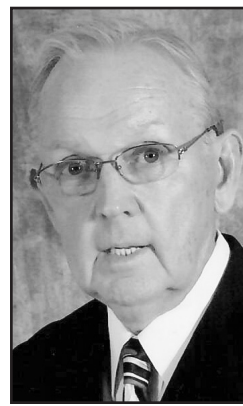
His answer took me by surprise. "Because I believe Jesus Christ is my Lord and Savior, He shed His blood and died for my sins on the cross and that He resurrected in three days from the dead."

It turned out he was a deacon in the church and had worked Christian missions for three decades. Was that a wasted conversation? Absolutely not! Perhaps he will tell someone based on our conversation.

Van Yandell is a retired Industrial Arts teacher, an ordained gospel evangelist and commissioned missionary. His email is vmy3451@gmail.com

Dr. Curtis Yarbrough

Dr. Curtis Carroll Yarbrough, 84, of Madisonville, Kentucky, formerly of Webster and Muhlenberg counties passed away at his home Saturday, April 11, 2026.



He was the son of the late Reverend Carroll Wesley Yarbrough and Mary Leslie (Glore) Yarbrough, born January 14, 1942, in Providence Kentucky.

He is survived by his wife of 62 years, Pauletta (Mooney) Yarbrough, and their daughter, Dr.

Rachel Yarbrough.

Throughout his adult life, he shared his Christian faith through full-time ministry as a pastor and evangelist of several General Baptist churches in western Kentucky, southern Illinois, and Michigan. For 51 years, he was called to lead congregations at Hopkinsville GB Church (Hopkinsville), Concord GB Church (Manitou), New Testament (Flint, MI), Clay GB Church (Clay), Duvall's Chapel GB (Greenville), Star/ Pleasant Valley GB Church (Eldorado, IL), Joines Chapel GB (Clifty), Interim at White Oak GB (Clay), and Little Zion GB (Dixon).

Dr. Yarbrough served on the Oakland City University (IN) Board of Trustees for 40 years; served on the Webster County Board of Education for 6 years; served as the Moderator for the General Association of General Baptists; and served on the General Board for General Baptists. He was active in each ministerial association in the communities he served.

Dr. Yarbrough and his family are advocates for the Webster County School District and the Webster County High School's Future Farmers of America providing a land lab for agriculture students and awarding scholarships to local graduates.

He is remembered as a man committed to God, his family, his friends and his community.

He was predeceased by his mother and father, his brother, Richard Yarbrough, and sisters, Diana Tinkle and Jenny Rowe.

In addition to his wife and daughter, he is survived by his sister, Linda Ray Simpkins; brother-in-law, Aubrey R. (Sally) Mooney; nephews, Marty (Pam) Rowe, Dean (Tina) Rowe, Chris (Amy) Rowe, Dawayne (Polly) Yarbrough, Matthew (Kristin) Mooney; nieces: Penny (Steve) Jarvis, Michelle Yarbrough, Missy (Mark) Calloway, Jenni (Larry) Shadown, and Leslie (Brendan) Mooney; and 24 great nephews and nieces.

A celebration of Dr. Curtis C. Yarbrough's journey of life will be Wednesday, April 15, 2026, at 12:00 PM at Mt. Gilead General Baptist Church near Slaughters Kentucky. Friends may call at the church Tuesday evening April 14th, 2026, from 4:00-8:00PM, and from 9:00AM until service time on Wednesday at the church.

Interment will be at Oddfellow Cemetery, Clay.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests contributions be made to Hospice of Western KY, 2914 Old Hartford Rd, Owensboro, KY 42303 or General Baptist Ministries - Designated Gift: Faith Home, Honduras.

Townsend Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements.

Online condolences can be made at www.townsendfuneralhomeinc.com

"I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith"

II Timothy 4:7-8

Paid

State Revenue Shows Increase

By Tom Latek
Kentucky Today

The Office of State Budget Director reported on Friday that March's General Fund receipts grew 6.2 percent compared to March of last year, leaving the state on track to meet the estimate set by the Consensus Forecasting Group.

Total revenues for the month were \$1,128.8 million, compared to \$1,062.6 million during March 2025. Receipts have now fallen 0.4 percent for the first nine months of the 2026 fiscal year. For the just completed quarter, total General Fund collections grew 0.2 percent. Growth rates for the first three quarters of FY26 were -2.8, 1.4 and 0.2 percent.

The official revenue estimate calls for a 1.3 percent decline in revenue for the fiscal year. To meet the estimate, receipts can decline 3.6 percent over the last three months of the year.

State Budget Director John Hicks remarked: "That is consistent with the trend established in the previous four March revenue totals. Sales and use taxes had a strong showing with a 16.3 percent increase, with the recognition that last March receipts may have been slightly understated. A clearer view of the current state of General Fund revenues will emerge next month when March and April can be combined and compared to sum of the two months

from 2025."

Road Fund receipts for March totaled \$151.7 million, a 6.0 percent increase compared to March 2025 levels. Year-to-date receipts have decreased 0.5 percent. Road Fund collections declined 2.0 percent in the just completed quarter after growing 0.1 percent and 0.3 percent in the first two quarters.

The official Road Fund revenue estimate

calls for revenues to decrease 1.0 percent for the fiscal year. Based on year-to-date tax collections, revenues can fall 2.4 percent for the remainder of FY26 and still meet the estimate. Among the accounts, motor fuels rose 1.3 percent, motor vehicle usage revenue grew 18.8 percent, and license and privilege receipts decreased 1.0 percent.

-- PUBLIC NOTICE --

NOTICE OF BOND RELEASE

In accordance with KRS 350.093, notice is hereby given that Webster County Coal, LLC, 1146 Monarch Street Suite 350 Lexington KY 40513 has applied for Phase I, II, and III bond release on increment no. 2 of permit no. 917-5023 which was last issued on July 25, 2025. The application covers an area of approximately 0.25 surface acres located 1.6 miles from Lisman in Webster County.

The permit area is approximately 1.6 miles from the intersection of KY-270 and KY-874 and approximately .66 miles southeast of Fredricks Ditch.

The bond now in effect for increment no. 2 is a surety bond in the amount of \$75,000. 100% of the original bond amount of \$75,000 is included in the application for release.

Reclamation work performed includes: The permittee has successfully completed all surface coal mining and reclamation operations in accordance with the approved reclamation plan, such that the land is capable of supporting the post mining land use approved pursuant to 405 KAR 16:210 or 405 KAR 18:220; and has achieved compliance with the requirements of KRS Chapter 350, 405 KAR Chapters 7 through 24, and 405 KAR 10:020, Section 3(2) and release of 0.25 acres.

This is the final advertisement of the application. Written comments, objections, and requests for a public hearing or informal conference must be filed with the Director, Division of Field Services, 300 Sower Boulevard Frankfort, Kentucky, 40601 by Friday, May 15th, 2026.

A public hearing on the application has been scheduled for 9:00 AM on Tuesday, May 19th, 2026 at the Department for Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement's Madisonville Regional Office, State Office Building, Third Floor, 625 Hospital Drive, Madisonville, KY 42431. The hearing will be cancelled if no request for a hearing or informal conference is received by May 15th, 2026.

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-- PUBLIC NOTICE --

NOTICE OF BOND RELEASE

In accordance with KRS 350.093, notice is hereby given that Hopkins County Coal, LLC, 1146 Monarch Street STE:350, Lexington, Kentucky 40513, has applied for Phase III bond release on Increment No. 7, 13, 14 of permit 917-0034, which was last issued on February 8, 2024. The application covers an area of approximately 167.20 surface acres.

The permit area is near the intersection of Slover Creek Road and Bruce Road.

The bonds now in effect for the mentioned increments are surety bonds in the amount of \$504,400. 100% of the original bonds receiving Phase III release in the amount of \$504,400 is included in the application for release.

Reclamation work performed includes: backfilling, regrading, topsoil replacement, and drainage control including soil preparation and initial seeding and mulching in accordance with the approved reclamation plan and a report for the area has been submitted to the cabinet in accordance with 405 KAR 16:200, Section 8 or 405 KAR 18:200, Section 8. revegetation has been established in accordance with the approved reclamation plan and the standards for success of revegetation, successful completion of all surface and reclamation operations in accordance with the approved reclamation plan such that the land is capable of supporting the post mining land use of cropland and pastureland approved pursuant to 405 KAR 16:210 or 405 KAR 18:220; compliance with requirements of KRS Chapter 350, 405 KAR Chapters 7 through 24, and 405 KAR 10:020 and release of 167.20 acres.

Written comments, objections, and requests for a public hearing or informal conference must be filed with the Director, Division of Field Services, 300 Sower Boulevard Frankfort, Kentucky, 40601 by June 5th, 2026.

A public hearing on the application has been scheduled for 9:00 AM on Tuesday, June 9th, 2026 at the Department for Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement's Madisonville Regional Office, State Office Building, Third Floor, 625 Hospital Drive, Madisonville, KY 42431. The hearing will be cancelled if no request for a hearing or informal conference is received by Friday June 5th, 2026.

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