

PRACTICAL RESOURCES FOR CHRISTIAN LIVING

WESTERN RECORDER

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FOR THE RECORD

Partners

The annual meeting in Bowling Green presented multiple scenes of Baptist partnership through the ages. *Page 3.*

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Emotional response

David Henson (above), pastor of First Baptist Church of Frankfort, issued an emotional response to a newsletter distributed at the convention calling his church liberal. *Page 7.*

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Speakers

Charles Lowery told messengers their churches should resemble fishing expeditions more than picnics. *Page 9.*

'Peacemaker' McKinley wins KBC presidency

By Trennis Henderson
Editor

BOWLING GREEN—Newly elected KBC President Jim McKinley said he hopes to be a peacemaker among all Kentucky Baptists during his year-long term.

"When it comes to my relationship to Christian brothers and sisters, I'm a compromiser to the core," he said. "When it comes to facing the evils of the world, I don't give an inch in words or actions."

The retired Southern Baptist missionary to Bangladesh was elected KBC president Nov. 14. He won by a vote of 1,091-978 over Kevin Ezell, pastor of Highview Baptist Church in Louisville.

Citing his primary goal as KBC president for the coming year, McKinley said, "Jesus prayed that His disciples would be one. I can't improve on that. Any time I can help in the healing process, I'll do it. That's who I am."

The KBC presidential election occurred last week amid endorsements for both candidates.

□ See KBC President ..., page 7

PARTNERS IN THE HARVEST

Kentucky Baptist Convention

Faith & Message study commissioned

By David Winfrey
News Director

BOWLING GREEN—A nine-member study committee will recommend at next year's KBC annual meeting how the Kentucky Baptist Convention should relate to the 2000 Baptist Faith and Message statement.

Outgoing KBC President Terry Wilder was instructed to assemble the committee by a motion approved during the annual meeting, Nov. 14-15 at First Baptist Church of Bowling Green.

Wilder said he hopes to name the committee before the KBC Executive Board meeting, Dec. 11-12 in Louisville. He said he is working to compose a committee that represents the diversity of opinions represented throughout the Kentucky Baptist Convention on the matter.

"I just want to be sensitive to the differing opinions in the state and be as fair in representing Kentucky as I can," he said.

Messengers voted 879-747 to form the committee, proposed by past KBC President Charles Barnes. He noted that several states have responded to the new statement of faith and that Kentucky Baptists should also. "The question is how."

"Oftentimes, as you all know, how we do things is equally important as what we do," said Barnes, a messenger from Hurstbourne Baptist Church in Louisville and a trustee at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville.

Barnes called the committee the



PACKED HOUSE ■ Above: More than 2,300 people attended the Kentucky Baptist Convention annual meeting at First Baptist Church of Bowling Green. ■ Right: Charles Barnes introduces the motion to form a study committee to examine the 2000 Baptist Faith and Message.

best way to "thoughtfully and carefully consider how Kentucky Baptists should best respond to this."

Others, however, opposed the idea, seeking a vote during the convention on whether to affirm the Baptist Faith and Message.

"All of us here today know if we're Baptists or if we're something else," said Bill Dodson, pastor of Bell City Baptist Church in Murray. "We don't need to wait a year to decide if we want to really be in the mainstream of Southern Baptist life."

Dodson offered a motion that the

□ See Faith & Message ..., page 6



KBC group identifies 12 trends affecting Kentucky Baptists

By Brenda Smith
Kentucky Baptist Convention

LOUISVILLE—Churches that expect smooth sailing during the first part of the 21st century could be capsized by a roiling ocean of cultural and social changes, say KBC staff who are studying those changes.

"Never has there been a time in history when as many changes are taking place at one time," said Chip Miller, leader of a Kentucky Baptist Convention group studying how social and cultural changes affect the church. "The speed of change is just gut-wrenching."

The trends sweeping over the culture reach every aspect of human interaction, from the most intimate changes in the family to such overarching trends as the rise of post-modern materialism, secularism and consumerism, Miller said.

The transitions cluster group, one of five Kentucky Baptist Convention staff cluster groups studying key areas facing church and society, has identified 12 trends affecting Kentucky Baptists, Miller said.

"It's not an issue of whether or not we like these changes, it's a

matter of finding ways to minister" in the context of these changes, Miller said.

The 12 trends and issues are:

■ **Family issues.** Families in the 21st century aren't all made up of a mother, father and 2.2 children. All kinds of families must be made to feel welcome in Kentucky Baptist churches, Miller said. "Churches must be prepared to minister to single parents, blended families and couples without children."

■ **Changing ideas of worship.** Many churches today already are struggling with traditional and non-traditional worship styles, Miller said. Churches will need to move the debate beyond style and focus on substance, he said. They must answer the questions, "What is worship?" and "Who is worship for?"

■ **Intergenerational issues.** Christians of different generations approach evangelism, ministry and worship differently, based on the experiences of their respective eras.

Churches must cultivate an atmosphere that encourages participation and spiritual growth in each generation, Miller said.

■ **Identifying leadership vision and values.** Because church members come from a variety of backgrounds, churches can no longer assume that everyone who attends holds the same values. For that reason, churches must work to identify core beliefs. Church leaders—both lay and staff—must allow God to show them His "big picture" and find ways to fulfill His mission for each individual church, Miller said.

■ **The increasing importance of "hands on" experiences.** Young adults in particular don't want to just sit in the pew and take it all in, Miller said. They want to exercise their faith through ministry and missions they can personally be involved in. Active participation in missions trips, partnership missions activities and direct church interaction with international mission fields are examples of how churches are

adapting to this need.

■ **The speed of change.** Church and denominational structures were created in a time when change came more slowly, Miller said. These organizations must find ways to adapt their strategies and ministries more quickly to changing needs and expectations within their constituencies.

■ **Vacuous values.** The culture as a whole is seeking spirituality but is taking a mix-and-match approach to faith, Miller noted. According to a 1992 Barna Research survey only one out of every five adults (18 percent) believe the Ten Commandments are relevant for people living today. At the same time, the number of adults who read the Bible regularly has dropped significantly. Kentucky churches are being challenged to help individuals become familiar with the Bible and trust the instruction the Bible provides, Miller said.

■ **The increasing number of choices and competition.** Americans have more choices about how to spend their time than ever before. Churches are challenged to reach out to communities of people that

□ See KBC group identifies ..., page 3

The Big 5

Issues every church should address

IMB trustees evaluate, affirm Rankin's leadership

By Louis Moore
SBC International Mission Board

PORTLAND, Ore. (BP)—Meeting in executive session, trustees of the Southern Baptist International Mission Board approved a report affirming the leadership of IMB President Jerry Rankin.

Trustee chairman Tim McCoy of Macon, Ga., said the report was presented by the board's trustee and staff partnership committee. The committee was formed last spring in response to tensions that developed between the trustee board and IMB administration over handling of the renovation of the agency's Richmond, Va., office complex, as well as other administrative matters.

Trustees also approved a staff report requested by the SBC Executive Committee on cooperative partnerships overseas.

Prior to the report's approval, the board's 14 regional committees examined in detail every partnership with other groups overseas.

The report states: "The objective of

bringing all the peoples of the world to saving faith in Jesus Christ is not just our mission; it is God's mission as clearly and explicitly expressed in the Bible and in His call to make disciples of all nations. We must recognize that God has called many who exalt the name of Jesus to His kingdom purpose. The task is not ours alone."

The report noted that "it behooves us to coordinate efforts with other evangelicals who have a conversion theology and share our conviction that apart from Jesus Christ one is lost and bound for hell.

"Much of the work of the IMB is done in affiliation with Baptist associations, conventions and unions overseas," the report states. "These are indigenous and autonomous local bodies over which the Southern Baptist Convention and IMB has no control and authority. However, our working partnerships with these Baptist groups around the world allow us to exert a great deal of influence to maintain doctrinal integrity, and our personnel serve to facilitate the effectiveness of these

entities in their focus on evangelism."

The report notes that the IMB has carefully defined working relationships with other agencies and organizations "in order to protect our doctrinal integrity and the stewardship of Southern Baptist resources, especially in the indigenous churches that are planted and multiply as a result of our mission efforts."

Highlighting the Portland, Ore., trustee meeting was an appointment service for Southern Baptists' 33 newest overseas missionaries. The event, held during the opening night of the Northwest Baptist Convention's annual meeting in Portland, drew about 1,900 people.

In other action, trustees unanimously approved a record-setting budget of \$254.1 million for 2001.

The new budget includes \$239.6 million for operating, \$13.5 million for capital and \$1 million for special contingencies. The budget reflects a \$12.55 million, or 4.84 percent, increase over the IMB's 2000 budget of \$241.6 million.

The Cooperative Program is expect-

ed to provide 35.93 percent of the new budget, with the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering projected to raise 45.79 percent. The rest of the funds will come from investment income, hunger and relief funds, undesignated giving income and other sources.

In his report, Carl Johnson, who is retiring early next year as the IMB's vice president for finance, expressed appreciation to Southern Baptists for their consistent financial support, through both the Cooperative Program and the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering.

Johnson said he believes the Cooperative Program's strength will be able to withstand current tensions in the Southern Baptist Convention. He pointed out that the Cooperative Program was \$18.7 million over its projected budget when the fiscal year ended in September.

Trustees named David Steverson, an associate vice president under Johnson, as the interim vice president for finance and treasurer, and set up a committee to search for a permanent successor.

NAMB commissions 65 new missionaries

By Todd Deaton
South Carolina Baptist Courier

COLUMBIA, S.C. (BP)—Sixty-five new missionaries were appointed to serve in the United States and Canada during a commissioning service Nov. 14 at First Baptist Church of Columbia, S.C.

The Southern Baptist North American Mission Board appointment service was held in conjunction with last week's South Carolina Baptist Convention annual meeting. The event was the first such service held during a meeting of the state convention.

"The commissioning service gave our people a chance to encourage these newly appointed missionaries, assure them of our prayers and financial support, and teach our people where their monies are going," said Carlisle Driggers, SCBC executive director.

Missionary appointees Amy Brady of Jackson, Tenn., and Omar Irby of Spokane, Wash., shared their testimonies with the crowd of about 1,500

South Carolina Baptist messengers, guests, missionaries and their families.

Describing herself as "passionate about seeing God's people learn how to minister to the poor," Brady said her own "pivotal moment" came during a mission trip to the inner city of her hometown.

"I was blown away by poverty, by the hurt, by the utter hopelessness I saw in the inner city," she said. "I wanted to spend my life in some type of ministry to the poor."

Brady, who now serves as director of church and community ministries for Madison, Chester and Crockett Baptist associations, told of her early disillusionment in finding a place of service. She then noted that "God has been so faithful to me and His purpose to bring me to a place where the vision He gave me can come to fruition. There is nothing else I'd rather do with my life."

Irby, a pastor for 28 years, told the crowd how God had prepared him for missionary service through the "val-

ley" and "mountain" years of his ministry. During the first 15 years, he served nine churches in four states. Frustrated, he left the ministry and became a handyman, before being called to a church where he has served the past 13 years. He led that congregation to increase Cooperative Program giving and triple in attendance.

"I'm grateful that when we give up on God, He does not give up on us," Irby said.

The new missionaries join more than 3,260 career missionaries and about 1,760 long-term volunteers working across North America who are supported by Southern Baptists.

"When He called, you didn't debate, but said, 'I will go,'" NAMB President Robert Reccord said, addressing the new missionaries, "and we're here tonight to celebrate God putting His hands on you and thrusting you into the harvest" of souls. He charged the 65 appointees to always "be ready" to preach the Word and "be steady" through times of trial.



BAPTIST DIGEST

■ **Wake Forest survives vote.** Baptists in North Carolina voted narrowly to retain fraternal ties with Wake Forest University. Messengers voted 60-40 percent to end a 166-year relationship with the school, falling short of the two-thirds majority needed to change the state convention constitution. The school has come under fire for allowing the sale of alcohol on campus and for not prohibiting Wake Forest Baptist Church from holding a same-sex union in the university chapel.

■ **Texas conservatives support CP.** The Southern Baptists of Texas Convention has voted to send 51 percent of its Cooperative Program budget receipts to Southern Baptist Convention causes. The conservative convention was established in

1998 in response to the Baptist General Convention of Texas' declining support of the SBC. The new convention adopted a 2001 budget of \$4.3 million. It is the first state convention to allocate more than half of its CP receipts to SBC causes.

■ **Memorial honors LifeFlight crew.** Georgia Baptist messengers held a memorial service for the victims of last July's LifeFlight helicopter accident during their recent annual meeting. A college scholarship fund was set up to benefit the children of the flight nurse, paramedic and pilot killed in the July 24 accident. Messengers also approved a new missions partnership with France and presented a \$500,000 hunger relief check to North Korean officials.

■ **Virginia Baptists fund new work.** Virginia Baptists approved a \$15 million budget last week that dramatically increases funding to start new churches and reinvigorate existing ones. Convention leaders said the move is needed to respond to Virginia's population growth, especially among ethnic and international groups. Some messengers opposed the plan because it involved a 2 percent decrease in allocations for national and global ministries, although efforts to amend the budget were defeated.

■ **Texas church cuts ties to SBC.** Seventh and James Baptist Church in Waco, a historic Texas Baptist congregation, voted to "declare that we are not related to the Southern Baptist Convention." The vote,

105-2, was "positive in nature," said Pastor Raymond Bailey. The church, located next to Baylor University, stopped funding the SBC through its budget about 10 years ago. The church expressed identification with four other Baptist groups: Waco Baptist Association, Baptist General Convention of Texas, Cooperative Baptist Fellowship and Baptist World Alliance.

■ **BP plans journalism conference.** Baptist Press will host its inaugural National Student Journalism Conference in Nashville, Sept. 27-29, 2001. Washington writer and commentator Fred Barnes will be one of four keynote speakers. The conference will be held at the Southern Baptist Convention building in Nashville. For information, call (615) 782-8615.

Presentations show partnership through the ages

BOWLING GREEN—From H. Boyce Taylor 75 years ago to missionaries now on the fields in Poland and Tanzania, presentations throughout the Kentucky Baptist Convention annual meeting portrayed the missions impact of cooperation.

The 75th anniversary of the Cooperative Program was recognized during the Tuesday evening program as Tim Gooch, a member of Crestwood Baptist Church, portrayed Taylor, former pastor of First Baptist Church of Murray and an early CP architect.

Taylor led his church in 1900 to adopt a unified budget plan of church finances, a system soon followed by other churches in Kentucky.

In 1915, Taylor was chairman of the committee that presented the unified giving plan to the Kentucky General Association, the precursor of the Kentucky Baptist Convention.

Dressed as Taylor, Gooch recounted how Southern Baptists had launched the "75 Million Campaign," an effort to raise \$75 million between 1920-1924. Though \$92.5 million was pledged, a recession helped limit collection, to \$58 million, Gooch noted.

But "what it did do is show the Southern Baptist Convention a taste of what a unified giving plan could do," he said. In 1925, Kentucky's unified plan was a model for the Cooperative Program, the unified plan through which Southern Baptists fund missionaries, seminaries and other agencies and institutions.

Contemporary Christian music artist Clay Crosse also performed a brief concert as part of the CP celebration.



The evening ended with Crosse singing "I Surrender All" as representatives of Kentucky Baptist and Southern Baptist ministries took the stage.

Southern Baptists serving in Poland and Tanzania also shared testimonies during the convention. Kentucky Baptists are in the second year of three-year missions partnerships with Baptists in Poland and Tanzania.

Noting that there are "only 4,000 Baptists in Poland," John Strimple said, "They really need our encouragement and they need this year as on-site coordinators for the KBC's partnership with Polish Baptists."

Strimple and his wife, Jan, began serving earlier this year as on-site coordinators for the KBC's partnership with Polish Baptists.

Strimple said their primary responsibility is to "go to the 66 Baptist churches in Poland and see where God is working and take Polish Baptists and Kentucky Baptists and put them together where God is already working." They also are responsible for arrang-



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ing such details as transportation, food and lodging for Kentucky Baptist volunteers serving in Poland.

Mrs. Strimple said volunteers are needed to "help conduct Vacation Bible School in Poland and teach Polish Baptists how to do it." She said there also are many other partnership projects available.

Nearly 140 Kentucky Baptists took part in partnership mission trips to Poland last year, Strimple said, but in a nation with an unsaved population estimated at 30 million people, "it wasn't enough."

"When God says, 'Who shall I send and who will go for us?' how will Kentucky Baptists respond?" he asked.

Ralph and Vivian Boyle, Southern Baptist missionaries to Tanzania, encouraged Kentucky Baptists to help accomplish "the unfinished task" of

global evangelization.

Noting that the Cooperative Program plays a significant role in that strategy, Boyle said, "I believe rich American Christians are blessed for one reason—to bless others."

"The only thing with the Cooperative Program is it's too easy," he added. "We are called to give sacrificially and it's too easy."

Citing Tanzania's spiritual needs as an example of worldwide ministry challenges, he said 65 percent of the nation's population "do not know about Christ and His forgiveness and defeat of death."

Urging Kentucky Baptists to "use the Lord's money the Lord's way," Boyle said, "Thank you, Kentucky Baptists, for not only sending your Cooperative Program dollars around the world, but for going yourself."

"We work because the time is short," he said. "The task is too great for churches to do it individually."



PARTNERS ■ Far Left: Ralph and Vivian Boyle, Southern Baptist missionaries to Tanzania, encourage Kentucky Baptists to help accomplish "the unfinished task" of global evangelization. ■ Left: Clay Crosse sings "I Surrender All" as representatives of Kentucky Baptist and Southern Baptist ministries fill the stage. ■ Above: Tim Gooch, portraying H. Boyce Taylor, describes how the Cooperative Program began.

KBC group identifies 12 trends affecting Kentucky Baptists

Continued from page 1

are easily distracted in a way that seeks to do more than simply entertain.

■ **Gender issues.** Deciding on the role of women in the church is an issue more and more Kentucky churches are facing. As the economic and education level of women continues to improve and the role of women in the family and society changes, more and more Kentucky churches are being challenged to re-evaluate the role of women in the church, Miller said.

■ **Balancing the use of technology with the personal interaction.** Technology moves products and information at an amazing rate of speed but can't replace the personal touch. Churches have the opportunity for filling a void in the lives of people who need a place to connect. Kentucky churches must cultivate a culture that encourages deep, lasting relationships between people. Small groups, cell groups and Sunday school classes all provide venues for meeting and developing relationships with people, Miller said.

■ **The decline in corporate loyalty.** Just as companies and workers no longer have a sense of loyalty to each other, many Christians are no longer loyal to an individual church or denomination. They will go where they perceive they are best having their needs met. For Kentucky Baptist churches, this means

preparing to help assimilate new members.

"We have to teach them who Lottie, Annie and Eliza are," Miller said, referring to three prominent Baptist women and the mission offerings that bear their names. Every church family has a special culture and language, and bringing new members into the family will mean passing on heritage and traditions, he said.

■ **Increasing ethnic diversity.** The ethnic face of America is changing rapidly. The U.S. Census Bureau projects a decline in the number of non-Hispanic whites in Kentucky in the next 25 years. At the same time, the number of African-Americans, Asians and Hispanics is expected to increase.

The number of Hispanics is expected to increase most dramatically, from 0.7 percent in 1995 to 1.3 percent in 2025. Kentucky Baptists must do more to welcome minority groups into the life of the church and denomination if they hope to continue evangelizing and ministering.

Churches must understand that the methodology they use to present the gospel needs to change in response to these 12 cultural and social trends, even while the gospel it-

self does not change, Miller said.

"It's not an issue of theology, it's sociology," he added. Christians who grasp the difference between the two will be following in the footsteps of Christ, he said. "Sociologically, Jesus broke every stereotype."

Church traditions could make it hard for congregations to change, Miller noted. Educational and religious institutions historically have been strongly change resistant, he said.

"Churches (that fail to change) will be blindsided. They will disconnect, and they will become irrelevant," Miller said. "That's a huge criticism of the church today."

Churches also must understand that the entire cultural context has been changed by larger trends such as post-modernism which is defined by moral relativism, celebration of diversity, a desire for authenticity and a desire to escape loneliness.

Post-modern people tend to satisfy their spiritual hunger by rejecting institutionalized Christianity in favor of a "mix-and-match theology" where consumers construct their own spirituality.

Many churches in Kentucky are aware of cultural trends and addressing them; others, however, are not,

The Big 5

Issues every church should address

Miller said.

For example, Severns Valley Baptist Church in Elizabethtown is responding to worship differences within its constituency by offering traditional, contemporary and blended worship services every Sunday.

The three services allow members and visitors to communicate their worship of God in different ways, according to leaders. The three services also allow members and visitors to explore different ways to communicate their love for God.

Miller said there is no step-by-step prescription for dealing with the trends but the KBC Executive Board staff is available to help individual congregations develop the response that is best for them.

The transitions cluster group will release a resource list of books, articles and Web sites that can help churches explore and address social and cultural trends. The KBC staff also plans to connect pastors, directors of missions and lay leaders with resources by integrating what the cluster group learns into existing conferences such as the Annual Deacon/pastor/spouse retreat, Super Saturday training sessions and the annual evangelism conference.

"I think the main thing church leaders must understand is that it's not an issue of whether or not we like these changes," Miller said. "It's a matter of finding ways to minister."

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*Earnestly contend for the
faith which was once for
all delivered to the
saints.—Jude 3*

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KBC isn't a 'game'

This year's KBC annual meeting should give all Kentucky Baptists pause to consider the future of our cooperative witness. During the convention, a group portraying themselves as Kentucky Baptist laymen distributed a "newsletter" that was little more than an endorsement of a particular presidential candidate. Later, as one nomination was placed before the body, the speaker remarked that he "knew how the game was played" in KBC presidential elections.

Sadly, after the election results were announced, many messengers simply got up and left. Almost half of the registered messengers never returned, missing a grand celebration of the Cooperative Program and giving up the joy of hearing reports and committees sharing the news of Baptist work.

What does it say about us when political "newsletters" are given out at the convention, and when messengers only arrive to vote for "their" candidate and leave when that person is defeated? One candidate said the close presidential vote signaled "an obvious sign the state is starting to turn." He's right. The "turn" is an attempt to move Baptists away from servant-oriented leadership that flows from the bottom up. It is demonstrated by "leaders" who seek to "win" and mislabel those who disagree with their viewpoint.

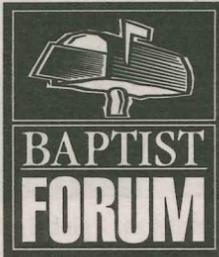
Kentucky Baptists' fellowship, devotion and spirituality must not be measured by whether or not we vote for a particular person or affirm a particular version of the Baptist Faith and Message. If the main thoughts you had about the convention focused on whether your "side" won or lost or how you would be victorious in next year's KBC, then perhaps the "game" has become more important to you than the

cause of Christ. If that's so, we're all losers for having let ourselves be "turned" from a view that sees our faith and cooperative witness as something precious to one that sees it merely as a "game."

Lynn Traylor
Westport

Appalling accusations

I am appalled and outraged at the half-truths and misinformation distributed by Kentucky Baptist Laymen's Network about the Kentucky Baptist Fellowship and the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship. People who know us know the statements are a caricature of the facts.



Some glaring distortions are contained in an article that compares the Southern Baptist Convention with the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship. This article tries to connect the purposes of the fellowship with a radical left-wing agenda. This could not be further from the truth.

The Kentucky Baptist Fellowship is a mission-minded and mission-active people. We are clear about our purpose to be involved in missions, to provide resources for churches and individuals and to preserve and promote historic Baptist principles. We value local church autonomy, priesthood of the believer and soul competency.

The Kentucky Baptist Laymen's Network prints half-truths about the purpose of the fellowship by connecting individuals that relate to the fellowship to organizations with different purposes from the fellowship. This "logic" is about as valid as saying that since a church member is also involved in a secular organization, therefore a church supports this secular organization.

For example, just because a deacon in your church is involved in some

unethical business practices doesn't mean your church is unethical. By the same token, just because a coordinating council member of CBF/KBF or a pastor of a CBF/KBF supporting church has a certain theological position doesn't mean this position is the agenda of CBF/KBF.

Supporters of the fellowship are strong supporters of the Kentucky Baptist Convention. The Kentucky Baptist Fellowship is not on the far left nor do we have an agenda other than the agenda of serving Christ with integrity. We are made of people who are solid Baptists with a heart for missions and evangelism.

John Lepper, Coordinator
Kentucky Baptist Fellowship

Cooperative impact

I'd like to say a special "thank you" to the thousands of Kentucky Baptist volunteers and blood donors who made Operation Cooperation a wonderful part of our 75th anniversary celebration of the Cooperative Program. With the late addition of one last drive, Kentucky Baptists collected 3,474 units of blood through 78 separate blood drives around the state. This was a truly significant amount and made an important contribution to saving lives during a time of critical blood shortage in Kentucky.

Operation Cooperation was a way for Kentucky Baptists to celebrate our heritage of cooperation by demonstrating it in a meaningful and tangible way. It proved to be a great witness to our state of the love and compassion Kentucky Baptists have because of what Jesus has done for us. It was a wonderful message to share with a society that too often only sees Baptists as being engaged in conflict.

Thank you, Kentucky Baptists, for showing Christ's love in this meaningful way!

Robert Reeves, Coordinator
Operation Cooperation

PARTNERS IN THE MISSION

Reflections on the KBC annual meeting

The Kentucky Baptist Convention annual meeting last week in Bowling Green was an outstanding time of worship, fellowship and business for Kentucky Baptists. Let me share some of my thoughts on the annual meeting:

One of the most important actions taken by messengers was the passage of the following motion made by Charles Barnes, a Baptist layman and former KBC president: "I move that the president of the 2000 annual meeting of the Kentucky Baptist Convention appoint a committee of nine members for the purpose of studying the 2000 Baptist Faith and Message and recommending to the 2001 convention how the Kentucky Baptist Convention can best relate to the 2000 Baptist Faith and Message as Kentucky Baptists seek to fulfill their purpose and mission in the name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ."

Please pray for Terry Wilder as he prayerfully appoints this committee. Then pray sincerely for this commit-

tee as it goes about this assignment that has significance for all Kentucky Baptists.

I think this action by convention messengers will allow time for all Kentucky Baptists to study and prayerfully reflect on the 2000 Baptist Faith and Message and permit God to guide us in finding higher ground together.

Wilder did an excellent job of presiding and dealing with some difficult parliamentary procedures. All of the officers served faithfully and effectively during the past year.

Please pray for the new KBC president, retired Southern Baptist international missionary Jim McKinley. Also pray for the other officers, the convention committees and the Executive Board members who will be serving this year.

Mark Hopper, pastor of First Baptist Church of Bowling Green, and Warren Baptist Association Director of Mission Jerry Oakley were excellent hosts for the 2,145 messengers plus guests. I also want to express

heartfelt appreciation to the KBC Executive Board staff members who helped prepare for this near-record convention attendance.

The Tuesday evening 75th anniversary celebration of the Cooperative Program was outstanding. Many thanks to Tom Smoot, director of the KBC creative ministries department, for his coordination of the drama and to Larry Brannin of the communications/media department for the effective video. The concert by Clay Crosse, the visible response of 300-plus people involved in KBC ministries and the prayer time directed by Larry Martin were very meaningful.

The messages by Terry Wilder, Harold Greenfield and Charles Lowery were outstanding and the inspirational music was the best that I can remember. Calvin Taylor of Bowling Green, music leader for the convention, led us to express worship with some new lyrics that spoke to our hearts.

May God grant Kentucky Baptists the privilege of working together to fulfill the mission of sharing the gospel across Kentucky and around the world.

Bill Mackey is executive director of the Kentucky Baptist Convention

FAMILY

Why do people often postpone estate planning?

By Jeremy White

Lawyers, accountants and financial planners often have difficulty persuading their clients to take action in estate planning.

Even after explaining the benefits of having a will, lower-

ing estate and income taxes, seeing heirs enjoy gifts now, experiencing the joy of giving to charities and avoiding stress for the surviving family, many people are reluctant to begin or complete preparations for their death.

I have often wondered why this is true. Certainly, we know we eventually will die. I believe one or more of the following four fears contribute to families avoiding proper and beneficial estate planning:

■ **Mortality fear.** We tend to put off things we don't like. Acknowledging our mortality is hard enough personally and even harder for our family members. So we avoid unpleasant plans or products, such as long-term care insurance or funeral arrangement planning.

■ **Longevity fear.** By depending on bank accounts rather than God's provision, even millionaires worry about "Will I have enough?"

■ **Perception of greed fear.** Perhaps some people are overly sensitive about discussing estate plans because they suspect their heirs are just trying to obtain their property.

■ **Complexity fear.** Many people don't understand trusts, wills, estates, taxation, inheritance tax, annuities or retirement plan beneficiaries. So, the perceived complexity paralyzes them to action.

Generally, the above fears are baseless and unfounded. To overcome them, consider these conclusions:

■ You will die.

■ You can't take your money or material possessions with you.

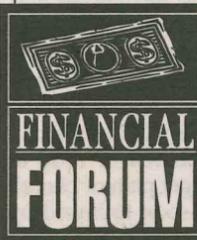
■ Estate planning is impossible after you die.

■ You have a choice; either state law or you will decide how to distribute your estate.

Qualified professionals can help guide you through the estate planning process.

The surviving families of those who died without estate plans wish the deceased had made plans. The surviving families of those who died with estate plans appreciate the plans and have less stress during their grieving.

Jeremy White is a certified public accountant in Paducah. He presents financial seminars and workshops at churches and conferences.



Arguments about teen fashion often concern control, respect

Q: My 17-year-old daughter is getting rebellious. She went to school the other day with a blue skirt, a white blouse and high-top black tennis shoes with white sport socks. It looked awful! When I demanded that she go to her room and change, she pitched a fit and called me a bad word, refused to change and went out the door to catch the bus. She later explained that she was late, could not find her good shoes and was old enough to wear whatever she wanted, as long as it was decent. Any suggestions?

Your daughter is right about some things, but so are you. She is right that as an older adolescent she should be able to choose what she wears. She knows the fashion rules. If she decides to break them, it is up to her to suffer the consequences. A friend at school can say what you said about how bad it looked and she more likely will listen. You are correct in your fashion etiquette. However, this was not so much about fashion as about control and respect.

You and your daughter were wrong in at least one point. She was wrong to be disrespectful of you. "Honor your father and mother" does not have an exception for teenagers. She owed you basic respect and should not have "gone off" on you. "Name calling" is way out of bounds. You were in the wrong to demand that she change without asking what was going on. She had a problem. She could not find the proper shoes. Could you help her? "Provoke not your children to wrath" follows just three verses after the honor commandment.

With older teens we are better off to discover the problem and join them in seeking good options. Too much control invites rebellion. Respect and control are not the same. Rebellion and independence are not the same. You deserve respect; she deserves independence.—*Wade Rowatt*

Q: I recently was diagnosed with high blood pressure by my family doctor. He prescribed medication, a low-sodium diet and moderate exercise. However, he did not explain exactly what high blood pressure is. Can you help?

As many times as physicians diagnose high blood pressure, I can understand why he may have assumed you would know what it is. In this country high blood pressure problems are all too frequent.

The heart is a pump whose job is to pump blood to the muscles, brain, kidneys and other internal organs. The blood must be ejected from the heart with enough pressure to reach all of these organs, and the pressure is normally controlled by tiny muscles in the walls of the blood vessels that squeeze or relax as needed to ensure the correct flow of blood.

For reasons that are unknown, some people develop too much squeezing of these muscles, leading to too much pressure inside the blood vessels. It is likely that in many cases the tendency to have high blood pressure is inherited, but additional factors that contribute to high blood pressure are smoking, drinking too much alcohol, being overweight, and not getting enough exercise.

The health impact of high blood pressure over time is severe. The heart becomes enlarged due to overwork, which eventually leads to congestive heart failure. High blood pressure is called a "silent" disease, meaning there are no symptoms to warn of danger until serious damage has been done. Only by early diagnosis and treatment can serious health problems be prevented. Follow your doctor's recommendations and you will find the problem can be managed.—*Jon Rainbow*

Family Forum writers are David Garrard, minister to children at St. Matthews Baptist Church in Louisville; James Stillwell, minister to singles at Immanuel Baptist Church in Lexington; Jon Rainbow, a clinical gerontologist and professor at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary; and Wade Rowatt, director of the St. Matthews Pastoral Counseling Center in Louisville. Send questions for Family Forum to Western Recorder, Box 43969, Louisville, KY 40253 or e-mail us at wesrec@ntr.net.



The true heartbeat of Kentucky Baptist life

It wasn't the elections or dramatic pageantry. It wasn't even the inspirational messages or special music. As significant as each of those elements was during last week's Kentucky Baptist Convention annual meeting, the real heartbeat of the convention surfaced near the end of the Tuesday evening session.

A time of focused prayer concluded the KBC's "Partners in the Harvest" celebration of the Cooperative Program's 75th anniversary. After an elaborate historic drama enhanced by multi-media technology and a high-energy mini-concert by Christian recording artist Clay Crosse, messengers and guests joined hands in small groups to pray for God's blessings and leadership in Kentucky Baptist life.

Larry Martin, leader of the KBC missions growth team, invited participants to "pray that we see God move in power." During the prayer emphasis, requests were voiced on behalf of convention leaders, congregations and other spiritual needs. It was a quiet reminder of the real reason that Kentucky Baptists gather to worship, minister and cooperate together.

Unfortunately, the Tuesday evening crowd was significantly smaller than the crowd that gathered a few hours earlier to elect a new KBC president. During the Tuesday afternoon presidential election, more than 2,000 messengers cast ballots. Just four hours later, as Kentucky Baptists prepared to celebrate the global ministry impact of the Cooperative Program, fewer than a third of the registered messengers were still around to vote in the election for second vice president.

That means more than 1,400 messengers failed to see this year's KBC gathering at its very best as Kentucky Baptists earnestly petitioned God for a spirit of unity and hope. Those who stuck around just long enough to support their presidential candidate likely left Bowling Green with a skewed perspective of what Kentucky Baptist life and ministry really are all about.

The lack of messenger involvement was highlighted in the convention's opening session when the committee on order of business proposed reducing the next

day's quorum for conducting business from 25 percent of registered messengers to 10 percent. Messengers strongly defeated the motion, sending a clear message that participation in the annual meeting should involve more than casting one or two votes and then heading home.

A case could be made that lowering the quorum requirements was needed to ensure convention business wouldn't grind to a halt on Wednesday morning. But it still sends a troubling message to suggest that up to 90 percent of convention messengers are expendable once the presidential election is over. Surely taking part in the moments of inspiration, celebration and spiritual reflection is a vital aspect of the annual meeting experience.

On the positive side, messengers did take action to prohibit future on-site distribution of campaign materials for KBC elections. While all individuals are free to express their opinions about candidates or other issues, this year's action by members of the conservative Kentucky Baptist Laymen's Network to stand outside the doors of the church and hand out partisan political material obviously was more divisive than informative.

Based on the narrow vote margins on major business items, the laymen's network and other political activists have proven that partisan politicking can sharply divide messenger votes. The more challenging question is: Where are the denominational statesmen who will put aside personal agendas for the sake of Christian unity and Christ-honoring ministry?

Outgoing KBC President Terry Wilder called on fellow Kentucky Baptists to "work together, pray together and reach Kentucky for Christ together." New KBC President Jim McKinley pledged to work toward peace in convention life. "Our Father wants that very, very much," he added.

Prior to the Tuesday evening prayer emphasis, Crosse invited the crowd to join in singing, "O Lord, make us more like You." Is that really the heartbeat of Kentucky Baptists? It can be—and should be.

STRAIGHT FROM THE EDITOR



Trennis Henderson

Marketing your church in the new millennium

By Virgle Grant

"Go out into the highways and hedges, and compel them to come in, that My house may be filled" (Luke 14:23).

How can churches be faithful to this biblical command in the new millennium? What strategies must we deploy in order to take the gospel to homes and apartment units that are gated and locked? How do we get our foot in the homes of people who are pre-Christian and who are skeptical of everyone and everything?

One answer is marketing. The strategy of marketing is nothing new to Christians. Luke 14:23 is an example of New Testament marketing techniques.

There are numerous examples of effective church marketing today. For example, when you place an advertisement in the newspaper to inform people of your church services, you are marketing your church. If your church has a sign on the church grounds, you are engaged in marketing. Every time your pastor accepts an invitation to of-

fer a benediction at a public event, his presence is an exercise in marketing.

Your church probably already is more involved in marketing than you realize, although we rarely call those actions marketing. Nonetheless, they are marketing techniques being employed by the church. Don't ignore the opportunity to market your church simply because you might feel uncomfortable with the lingo.

Before you go out and start sinking big bucks into extensive marketing strategies, take time to complete the following steps:

- Make sure that your church has an emblem, icon or logo that people can associate with your church.

- Contract with a professional graphic artist to design and lay out all the church's marketing materials. Avoid the urge to cut costs on this item.

- Be intentional in reaching your target audience.

Here are some non-traditional marketing tools that churches are using to reach people:

- Sponsor a youth sports team.
- Place advertisement inserts in the

local newspaper. Our congregation pays for the layout and printing of the insert, then the local newspaper charges a fee to place the inserts in the paper.

- Advertise on prescription medicine bags at your community's favorite pharmacy.

- Network with apartment owners and provide brochures about your church for their welcome packets.

- Join the local chamber of commerce and advertise in the chamber of commerce magazine or publication.

- Develop a church Web site and advertise your church on other Web sites.

- Sponsor a "haunted house" or other seasonal activity. Give the people who attend a brochure about your church and invite them to church. Our congregation has done this for the past two years and has found it very successful. We have been able to minister to more than 1,000 people a year.

It doesn't matter what specific strategies your church uses as long as the church is actively involved in spreading the good news of the gospel. Remember to be intentional, be professional and be willing to color outside the lines.

Virgle Grant is pastor of Eastside Bethel Baptist Church in Richmond



BAPTIST BUSINESS ■ Above: Bill Henard, pastor of Porter Memorial Baptist Church in Lexington, discusses plans with the committee on order of business to offer a substitute motion that messengers affirm the 2000 Baptist Faith and Message. President Terry Wilder later ruled the motion out of order because it was a resolution. ■ Below left: Will Stone, pastor of Pleasant View Baptist Church in Hopkinsville, votes on a motion. ■ Below right: Willis Henson speaks in favor of the committee.

Faith & Message study commissioned

Continued from page 1

convention affirm the 2000 Baptist Faith and Message, but Wilder, who was presiding over the KBC business session, ruled that the motion was actually a resolution and referred it to the resolutions committee. The resolutions committee later reported that it would not introduce a resolution that could contradict Barnes' motion to form a study committee.

Jay Adkins, pastor of Fellowship Baptist Church in South Shore, also recommended that the convention address the statement of faith during this year's convention. "With all due respect, aren't you glad God so loved the world that He didn't send a committee?"

But Willis Henson, pastor of Lone Oak First Baptist Church in Paducah, said a study committee would prepare Kentucky Baptists to make an intelligent, Christian decision.

He recalled previous issues for which Kentucky Baptists formed committees. Everyone didn't get his or her way, he noted, "but everybody went away feeling like they had been heard and they were a part of the Kentucky Baptist family."

"I don't have a disagreement with the 2000 statement of faith and message, not at all," Henson said. "I do have a disagreement, though, with us narrowing our circles and not ... making decisions on an informed kind of way."

The 2000 Baptist Faith and Message has been a hot topic among Baptists since it was unveiled in May. Messengers to the Southern Baptist Convention in June endorsed it to replace the previous 1963 Baptist Faith and Message.

The committee that produced the 1963 document included presidents of 23 state Baptist conventions. A 15-member study committee, appointed by then-SBC President Paige Patterson, produced this year's statement.

Supporters of the new document say it better represents the Southern Baptist Convention, especially the conservative leadership that has been elected for more than 20 years. Critics say



leaders of SBC agencies and institutions are using the document to exclude from leadership those who aren't in absolute agreement with the national convention's conservative shift.

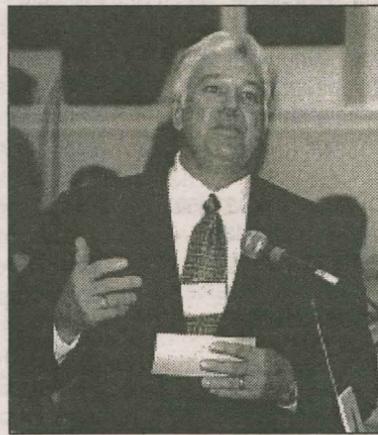
The 2000 Baptist Faith and Message gained attention for several issues, including its statement that the Bible prohibits women pastors and its nuanced changes of the concept of the "priesthood of the believer" to "priesthood of believers."

The new document's statements on Scripture also have been a lightning rod. It defines the Bible as "God's revelation of Himself to man" rather than "the record of God's revelation of Himself to man." It also excluded the sentence from the 1963 statement that said, "The criterion by which the Bible is to be interpreted is Jesus Christ."

From conservatives' perspective, the changes have cemented their conviction that the Bible is the written Word of God. Moderates contend, however, the new statement elevates the Bible to an object of worship rather than an inspired document that points believers to Christ.

During debate on Barnes' motion, Bill Henard, pastor of Porter Memorial Baptist Church in Lexington, offered a substitute motion that messengers affirm the 2000 Baptist Faith and Message, saying "I believe that it is time for Kentucky Baptists to speak and stand now."

After consulting with parliamentarians, however, Wilder ruled Henard's



proposal out of order because it called for the opinion of the convention messengers, not action by the convention. "An opinion of the Kentucky Baptist Convention is a resolution, and a resolution cannot substitute a motion."

Some questioned that ruling, stating that last year a motion was offered to affirm the 1963 Baptist Faith and Message.

When Wilder called Dobson's motion a resolution and referred it to the resolutions committee, Mike Harris, a messenger from Ashland Avenue Baptist Church, appealed the ruling. Messengers, however, supported Wilder's decision on a show of ballots.

Asked later about last year's motion, parliamentarian A.B. Colvin said he and fellow parliamentarian Eldred Taylor usually limit their opinions of motions or resolutions when asked by the president or whoever is in charge of the convention business meeting. Last year, Colvin said, KBC President Charles Barnes allowed the motion to be put to a vote without consulting the parliamentarians.

Henard said he understood Wilder's opinion. He noted that because the KBC president serves just one year, there's little time to establish precedents during each term.

"I hold no ill opinion of President Wilder because I've been in his position," he said, referring to church business meetings. "You've got to make quick decisions. It's really a heavy pressure."

States vary on Baptist Faith & Message actions

Messengers to other state Baptist conventions have made a variety of statements regarding the 2000 Baptist Faith and Message. Among them:

■ **Alabama.** The Alabama Baptist Convention approved a resolution affirming the 2000 Baptist Faith and Message, but also earlier versions in 1963 and 1925, as non-binding "guides for better understanding doctrinal practices of faith."

■ **Arkansas.** The state convention's articles of incorporation refer to the 1963 Baptist Faith and Message. Proponents failed to get two-thirds of messengers to approve changing the document to refer to the 2000 statement.

■ **Colorado.** The state Baptist convention's constitution previously required churches seeking affiliation with the state group to have adopted and adhere to the 1963 Baptist Faith and Message. Messengers approved a recommendation to update the Colorado Baptist constitution to base membership on agreement with the 2000 statement.

■ **Florida.** Messengers approved bylaw changes updating references to the state convention's official faith statement from the 1963 Baptist Faith and Message to the revised document. Florida churches that disagree with the revisions, however, can remain in good standing with the state convention. Language on membership adopted in 1994 requires adherence either to the Baptist Faith and Message or "any other declaration of faith which parallels the tenets of our historic Baptist faith."

■ **Georgia.** Messengers voiced "approval and appreciation" for the 2000 Baptist Faith and Message statement.

■ **Louisiana.** Messengers adopted the 2000 Baptist Faith and Message as the state convention's official statement of belief.

■ **Mississippi.** Messengers affirmed the Bible as their "final authority for faith and practice," stating that it is up to churches to choose what faith statement they use.

■ **Tennessee.** Messengers adopted a resolution saying they "acknowledge" the BFM "as a source of information in assisting believers to express their faith." Messengers debated and then voted 542-428 against a motion to change the word "acknowledge" to "affirm."

■ **Texas.** The SBC's adoption of the Baptist Faith and Message and actions by SBC agencies requiring employees to affirm the new statement were among reasons cited by the Baptist General Convention of Texas for withdrawing \$5.3 million from SBC seminaries and agencies.

The 2000 Baptist Faith and Message has been a hot topic among Baptists since it was unveiled in May.

KBC President McKinley to pursue peace

Continued from page 1

Both men announced their candidacy in June. McKinley, who said in October he "would not want meetings held to support me for any position," was later endorsed in a letter by Robert DeFoor, pastor of Harrodsburg Baptist Church. DeFoor said the letter was mailed to several hundred "middle of the road, moderate kind of people."

Ezell was endorsed by the conservative Kentucky Baptist Laymen's Network in a newsletter distributed outside First Baptist Church of Bowling Green as messengers entered the church where last week's KBC annual meeting was held.

Ezell said before the election he was not recruited by the laymen's network but was "thrilled to have their support."

All three candidates DeFoor endorsed in his letter were elected to KBC offices. None of the four nominees recommended in the laymen's network newsletter won election.

The president's main duties include presiding over the KBC annual meeting and Executive Board meetings as well as appointing three members to the nine-member committee on nominations.

John Michael, president of the Kentucky Baptist Laymen's Network, said his group was disappointed that Ezell lost.

"If you're going to lose a vote, it's always encouraging to only lose by a little," Michael added.

Ezell told the Louisville Courier-Journal that the close vote shows the tide is turning toward electing more conservative candidates.

With the presidential election helping spark a near-record turnout of more than 2,100 messengers, McKinley said he was shocked to be elected KBC president.

"I wasn't shocked that it was



KBC ELECTIONS ■ Left: Burt and Wanda Whited, members of First Baptist Church of London, vote during the election for KBC president. ■ Above: Elected officers are (from left) President Jim McKinley, Assistant Secretary Joe Priest Williams, Secretary Wilma Simmons, First Vice President Harold Greenfield and Second Vice President Dick Ham.

close," he said. "I was shocked that I had more votes than Kevin."

Pledging to "reach out to people," McKinley said, "I am a peacemaker. I'll do everything I can to try to be a brother to brothers and sisters who don't necessarily agree with me."

McKinley said he believes the vast majority of denominational conflicts "would be resolved by genuine revival. We have a lot of pride. I hope we can get beyond that. I'll pray for that."

A member of Westport Road Baptist Church in Louisville, McKinley served 34 years as a Southern Baptist missionary to Bangladesh. He describes himself as "conservative theologically and middle-of-the-road denominationally."

Immediately prior to the presidential nominating speeches, David Hinson, pastor of First Baptist Church of Frankfort, asked for a point of personal privilege.

Responding to the laymen's network handouts, Hinson took issue with the newsletter's characteriza-

tion of his church as liberal. The handout described his congregation as one of "three liberal Kentucky churches" that recently severed ties to the Southern Baptist Convention.

Michael said Hinson's comments likely affected the presidential election's outcome. He said Hinson "basically labeled us as promoting disharmony."

Hinson said the outcome of the election "did not enter into my mind" when he stood to voice his concerns. "I did not think what I said would affect it one way or another," he said. "I felt moved by the Holy Spirit to speak."

Later in the meeting, messengers adopted a motion prohibiting future on-site distribution of campaign material for KBC elections.

Michael called the action historically, procedurally and constitutionally inappropriate. Noting that the motion "was clearly directed at the Kentucky Baptist Laymen's Network," he claimed the action is "an infringement upon our First Amendment rights."

Hinson said he appreciates the convention's stand on the issue. "The material distributed (by the KBLN) at the convention was less than ethical," he said. "I am grateful that the convention has a standard of ethics now."

In addition to the presidential election, Harold Greenfield was elected first vice president and Dick Ham was elected second vice president.

Greenfield, retired director of missions for Caldwell-Lyon Association, was elected first vice president by a five-vote margin (887-882) over Richard Oldham, pastor of Glendale Baptist Church in Bowling Green.

Ham, who recently retired as minister of music at First Baptist Church of Richmond, was elected second vice president by a vote of 432-211 over Rick Hatley, associate pastor for education at Central Baptist Church in Winchester.

In the only uncontested election, Wilma Jean Simmons, a member of Ekron Baptist Church in Brandenburg, was elected to a 10th term as KBC secretary.

Joe Priest Williams, a retired pastor from Louisville, also was elected to a 10th term as assistant secretary. He won by a vote of 421-231 over Robert Tarrance, pastor of Green Ridge Baptist Church in Lewisburg.

Frankfort pastor counters charge of liberalism leveled by network

By Trennis Henderson
Editor

BOWLING GREEN—Declaring "I reject being called a liberal," Frankfort pastor David Hinson issued an emotional response to a conservative newsletter distributed last week to Kentucky Baptist Convention messengers.

"The Kentucky Baptist," a publication of the Kentucky Baptist Laymen's Network, endorsed a slate of conservative candidates for KBC office and Pastors' Conference leadership. A front-page article expressed concern about "three liberal Kentucky churches" that "leave and lambaste the Southern Baptist Convention because of our denomination's commitment to Holy Scripture."

A page-three article lists the three churches as First Baptist Church of Frankfort, Central Baptist Church of Lexington and Crescent Hill Baptist Church of Louisville. The three congregations recently took action to distance themselves from the SBC, citing the denomination's conservative shift over the past two decades and disagreement with recent changes to the SBC's Baptist Faith and Message statement.

Hinson, pastor of First Baptist, Frankfort, requested a point of personal privilege immediately prior to the KBC presidential nominating speeches. "I reject the title 'liberal' at First Baptist Church of Frankfort," he said. "We are not liberal. ... I'm as Baptist as Kentucky Fried Chicken."

Hinson questioned why leaders of the laymen's network did not contact him before labeling the congregation liberal. "We believe Jesus died on the cross to save us from sin. We believe God teaches everyone to love one another," he said. "Kentucky Baptists need to be big enough for all of us."

After Hinson's remarks, KBC President Terry Wilder called on Kentucky Baptists "to work together, pray together and reach Kentucky for Christ together."

Wilder was later approached by Rick Reeder, a messenger from Trace Creek Baptist Church in Mayfield. Reeder told Wilder he thought Hinson's comments were "inappropriately timed and inappropriately allowed."

"This point of personal privilege basically interrupted the process that was already going on," Reeder said. He noted that Hinson's "main grievance seemed to be a personal offense he took at being labeled a liberal" although Hinson was not referred to by name in the newsletter.

Wilder agreed to clarify the issue for messengers during the next business session.

Noting that Hinson "was absolutely correct in being able to ask for that point of personal privilege," Wilder added, "It has been brought to my attention ... that he was not the person that was addressed in the article to which he was referring."

Although Hinson's name "was not mentioned in the publication," Wilder said, "His church was mentioned and thereby he felt implicated and chose to respond."

Messengers also responded to the flap by voting to prohibit future on-site distribution of campaign materials.

Crescent Hill Pastor Ron Sisk, who was referenced by name in the newsletter as a "liberal Baptist pastor," declined to respond to the publication's specific charges.

He said, however, that "I want to congratulate Kentucky Baptists for their insight and maturity in responding to the attempt to inject politics into Kentucky Baptist elections."

John Michael, president of the Kentucky Baptist Laymen's Network and newsletter editor, said he didn't see a need to contact Hinson before publishing the newsletter.

"We were just reporting the facts that his church was in disagreement with the Southern Baptist Convention and had left," Michael said. Saying the term "liberal" is "the opposite of the conservative viewpoint," he added, "That was not meant to be a pejorative term. I might not have used it if I realized he would take such offense at it."

Hinson said Michael apologized to him after Hinson addressed the convention. "I accepted his apology but personally it is still painful," he said. "It was an extremely painful moment for me to share what I shared, but I felt moved by the Holy Spirit to speak. I am grateful I had the chance to share it."

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Messengers vote to ban campaigning from KBC meetings

By David Winfrey
News Director

BOWLING GREEN—Messengers approved a motion barring on-site distribution of campaign literature for Kentucky Baptist Convention elections after members of a laymen's group handed out newsletters criticizing three KBC churches and endorsing a slate of candidates.

The motion, introduced by Mark Hopper, pastor of First Baptist Church of Bowling Green, was approved by a voice vote.

The motion was directed at the Kentucky Baptist Laymen's Network, whose members were on church property at First Baptist of Bowling Green, handing newsletters to pastors leaving the Nov. 13 pastors' conference and to KBC messengers as they entered the church Nov. 14.

The network has produced three newsletters. Much of their content is critical of the Cooperative Baptist

Fellowship, a moderate group formed in response to the conservative direction of the Southern Baptist Convention.

Network newsletters and members recruited messengers to attend the Kentucky Baptist Convention and vote for conservative candidates supportive of the Southern Baptist Convention.

The newsletter distributed in Bowling Green endorsed four candidates for KBC offices. None of those were elected, although several votes were close.

In co-sponsoring the motion, Les Hollon called the KBC annual meeting a "sacred gathering" that is not suitable for campaign materials.

"Our unity, based upon salvation in Jesus Christ, biblical values and our passion for missions and evangelism, has withstood the many pressures of temptations to sidetrack us," Hollon, pastor of St. Matthews Baptist Church in Louisville, said after the meeting. "We should be filled with sufficient Christian love and maturity of character to express our viewpoints without disparaging remarks."

Network President John Michael initially told the Louisville Courier-Journal he intended to abide by the motion. Later last week, however, Michael issued a statement saying the network retracts his earlier statement and will reserve judgment on the issue.

"We might voluntarily abide by it, but we haven't decided that yet," he said. "We feel like we are performing an important service to a great majority of Kentucky Baptists by addressing important issues in public life."

"The people who don't like to be criticized, they are decrying us in the name of harmony," he added. "Harmony is good, but we also need to be united around truth and not one philosophical or theological viewpoint."

Michael called the motion to bar campaign materials flawed procedurally and historically, and he called the motion "an infringement upon our First Amendment rights."

Historically, Michael said, the motion challenges the Baptist concepts of soul competency and the freedom for believers to make up their own minds.

"By attempting to censor our newsletter, the moderates have trampled on the values they claim to cherish," Michael's statement said. "Does soul competency apply only when a person agrees with the moderate viewpoint?"

Hollon disagreed. "We stand for people's constitutional rights of distributing opinions as long as they do not commit libel," he said. "But even in secular politics, campaigners are not allowed to distribute campaign materials on voting premises."

Procedurally, Michael objected to the motion, stating that messengers to one year's convention can't dictate to future conventions how they can or cannot express themselves.

A.B. Colvin, a retired KBC employee and parliamentarian for the



NETWORK'S NEWSLETTER John Michael, president of the Kentucky Baptist Laymen's Network, hands out newsletters during the KBC annual meeting. Messengers later voted to ban on-site distribution of campaign materials.

**PARTNERS
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Kentucky Baptist Convention

Bowling Green convention, said he views the motion to be as valid as the convention's bylaws and other guidelines for what can and can't be done during a meeting.

"I think the convention can say any time it wants to, 'We don't want any material other than what we have already approved,'" said Colvin, retired missions and evangelism director for the convention. "When we have leased a place, whether we pay for it or not, we can say what will be distributed while we're there."

Colvin said Michael could bring procedural concerns to the KBC Executive Board, which will meet Dec. 11-12 in Louisville. Colvin said he personally found the network's material distasteful for the annual meeting. "I think John or anybody else knows that's not the way to conduct a religious meeting."

Meanwhile, the head of the Kentucky affiliate of the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship said he is "appalled and outraged" by the network's newsletters and their descriptions of the CBF.

A previous network newsletter called the CBF "a splinter group of liberal Baptists." The newsletters also have stated that CBF had leaders who deny the deity of Christ, support the ordination of homosexuals and advo-

cate federal funding for abortions.

In a statement, John Lepper, coordinator of the Kentucky Baptist Fellowship, said he is concerned that the newsletters seek to connect the CBF with "a radical left-wing theological and social agenda."

Lepper accused the laymen's network of printing "half-truths" about the CBF's purpose by connecting individuals who relate to the Fellowship to organizations with different purposes from the Fellowship.

In the newsletter's article comparing the SBC and CBF on 12 points, Lepper said, "only one is true, namely that CBF/KBF supports the ordination of women as senior pastors."

Lepper added that Kentucky supporters of the CBF and KBF have also been strong KBC supporters. "Churches of which these leaders are a part are not on the far left, nor do they have an agenda other than the agenda of serving Christ with integrity," he added.

Michael said he would correct any factual errors brought to his attention. "On the other hand, if it's information that people just don't like because they don't agree with a certain viewpoint or they don't like certain facts to be disclosed, that's got to be resolved in the eye of the public as to what is appropriate."

Resolutions include Children's Homes

BOWLING GREEN—Kentucky Baptist messengers adopted three resolutions during last week's annual meeting, including a statement commending the Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children for its "heroic commitment to ... Christian moral values."

The resolution came in response to a pending lawsuit and other actions aimed at the KBHC after officials fired a lesbian staff member. Multi-million dollar contracts with the state of Kentucky for the KBHC to provide childcare services appeared in jeopardy for several weeks this summer before the two sides agreed to renew the arrangement.

During a report to KBC messengers, KBHC President Bill Smithwick said, "We don't think homosexuality is a lifestyle that should be presented to our children in any way as a viable option. ... As long as Kentucky Baptists stand with us, we will provide Christ-centered ministry."

The resolution affirmed that the Kentucky Baptist agency "has made it a condition of employment for all employees to exhibit values in their professional conduct and personal lifestyles that are consistent with the Christian mission and purpose of Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children."

Noting that the KBHC "has withstood in recent months strong pressure from the commonwealth of Kentucky and special-interest groups to compromise its Christian values and principles," the resolution called on Kentucky Baptists to financially support and pray for the institution as children's home leaders "continue in the ministry of Christ-centered childcare."

Messengers also adopted a resolution affirming the 75th anniversary of the Cooperative Program as well as a traditional resolution of appreciation for leaders who planned and coordinated the KBC annual meeting.

The CP resolution described the financial plan as "a vital unified giving program used by Kentucky Baptists to support missions and ministry here in Kentucky, throughout the United States and across the world."

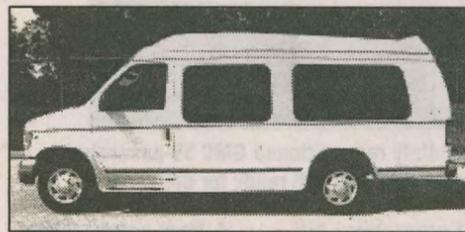
It called on Kentucky Baptists "to continue to work together in the cooperative spirit embodied by the Cooperative Program to reach a hurting and lost world with the good news of Jesus Christ."

Resolutions committee chairman Gayle Toole said the committee declined to take action on a proposal to affirm the 2000 Baptist Faith & Message because the committee "cannot introduce a resolution contradictory to action the convention has already taken." Messengers voted the previous day to establish a study committee to evaluate the 2000 faith statement and bring a report to next year's annual meeting.

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Wilder: Keep rowing, Kentucky Baptists

By Trennis Henderson
Editor

BOWLING GREEN—Declaring that Kentucky Baptists have “a great tradition and a proud future,” Kentucky Baptist Convention President Terry Wilder urged fellow Baptists to “keep on rowing.”

Wilder, pastor of Burlington Baptist Church, issued the challenge during his presidential address in the opening session of last week’s KBC annual meeting.

Recounting the story of an Alaskan fisherman whose boat was pulled out to sea by the tide, Wilder said the fisherman kept rowing toward home until the tide reversed and he reached safety.

Noting that pastors and church staff members often feel that “the tide of the enemy is dragging you south faster than you can row north,” Wilder said, “Keep on pulling, keep on rowing and keep on praying through the long night.”

“The Bible is crystal clear about who is going to be victorious in the end,” he affirmed. “One day, when that great tide of eternity has brought you safely home, Jesus will be standing there waiting with open arms. And the only thing He asks is that you be found faithful with that wonderful gospel calling He has given you.”

Citing Jesus’ declaration in John 4:35 that the fields are ripe for harvest, Wilder said Kentucky Baptists are at their best when they are actively involved in missions and evangelism.

“We are not a creedal people. We are a ‘commission’ people,” he said. “Kentucky Baptists always have been and always will be a people driven by a single purpose to reach every man, every woman and every child in our commonwealth with the life-changing gospel of Jesus Christ.”

“Anything less or anything more will only serve to distract us from our one Great Commission,” Wilder warned. “From the parking lot to the choir loft, from the last pew to the pulpit, Kentucky Baptists are men and women, laypersons and staff who are partners with God in the harvest of lost souls.”

Greenfield’s sermon summed up: Jesus is Lord

BOWLING GREEN—Harold Greenfield’s convention sermon could be summed up in one phrase: “Jesus is Lord.”

Celebrating the Lordship of Christ, the longtime Kentucky Baptist minister declared, “Jesus is. Jesus is Lord. Jesus is Lord of all.”

“The hope of human history rests upon these statements,” he added. “The world has not outlived His love; the world has not bettered His vision; the world has not strayed beyond His reach.”

Greenfield retired Jan. 1 after serving 29 years as director of missions for Caldwell-Lyon Baptist Association. After preaching the 2000 Kentucky Baptist Convention sermon Nov. 14, he was elected KBC first vice president later that day.

Greenfield described Jesus’ life as



TERRY WILDER The KBC president noted that Christians can easily get discouraged in a sin-sick world. “Don’t think for a moment about giving up. ... Keep on working and keep on witnessing.”

“That is what has kept us together all these years and that is the only thing that will keep us together in the future.”

Wilder said examples of Kentucky Baptists’ ministry commitment include record financial giving through the Cooperative Program, growing ministry efforts on high school and college campuses and the Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children’s stand against homosexuality.

Paying tribute to KBC Executive Director Bill Mackey, Wilder said, “I believe that Dr. Mackey will lead Kentucky Baptists to our finest hour. He is a man of true vision and you need to be dreaming with him. ... He is a true Jesus man and it is his heart to see this state won to Jesus Christ and you need to be in step with him.”

Describing a recent partnership mission trip to Poland as the “most memorable moment” of his presidency, Wilder introduced Daniel Trusiewicz, pastor of First Baptist Church of Wroclaw, Poland. Wilder said Trusiewicz “is excited about what Kentucky Baptists can do in Poland” as part of the missions partnership.

“If I could have a missions wish,” Wilder told the convention crowd, “it would be that every person in this room would make a personal commitment to do a mission project outside of your

church this next year.”

In addition to the partnership with Baptists in Poland, Kentucky Baptists are involved in missions partnerships in New England and Tanzania. The KBC also will partner with the European Baptist Convention beginning in January.

While many Kentucky Baptist churches are experiencing “unprecedented days of growth and opportunity,” Wilder noted that other congregations “struggle with a lack of commitment.”

Although “it is easy to become discouraged in this sin-sick world,” he added, “Don’t think for a moment about giving up. ... Keep on working and keep on witnessing.”

“Do you want to see Kentucky Baptists at our very best?” Wilder asked. He said that occurs every Sunday in churches throughout the state as people make their way to the altar to accept Jesus as their personal Savior.

“That’s the best picture that you will ever see of Kentucky Baptists,” he said. “That’s who we are—a people with but one mission, to help finish the task that God Himself set before us to reach this state, to reach this nation and to reach this world for Jesus Christ.”



Greenfield

“the fact of human history.”

Recounting Christ’s death, burial and resurrection, he said, “He who leads us was, is and always shall be Lord. We are not alone. He is as near to you as your next heartbeat. To live in Him is to live abundantly, powerfully, joyfully and purposefully.”

Greenfield said Jesus is described as “Lord” more than 700 times in Scripture. Noting that lordship means ownership, he added, “He did not write His signature in the sunset, but He is still the owner. ... He did not burn His brand on a cattle on a thousand hills, but He is still the owner.”

Although some people have tried to discredit or destroy the Son of God, Greenfield said, “You can try to put Him in the grave and He will come up out of the grave. ... He is higher than

the heaven of heavens. He is holier than the holy of holies. He is Lord.”

Jesus is Lord “whether you acknowledge Him or not,” he added. “The prophets declared it. The psalmist sang it. The angels proclaimed it. The historians recorded it. The disciples affirmed it. The Holy Spirit confirmed it. The people of God know it.”

Citing the declaration in Philippians 2:11 that “every tongue shall confess that Jesus Christ is Lord,” Greenfield noted that “others have their equals but Jesus stands alone.”

“He is Lord over disease, demons and death,” he said. “He is Lord of your doubts, defeats, disappointments and discouragements. ... He is the same yesterday, today and forever.”

“Jesus is Lord,” Greenfield concluded. “I like the way it soothes my ear. I like the way it warms my heart. I like the way it rolls off my tongue. I like the way it thrills my soul. Jesus is Lord.”

Lowery describes plan for churches to tap God’s power

By David Winfrey
News Director

BOWLING GREEN—Churches would experience more of God’s power if they realized their purpose resembled a fishing trip instead of a picnic, Charles Lowery told messengers to the Kentucky Baptist Convention.

“You’d be surprised that most churches don’t understand the plan of God,” Lowery said during the closing session of the meeting Nov. 14.

Lowery, a writer, psychologist and pastor of Hoffmantown Community Church in North Albuquerque, N.M., used the acrostic POWER to describe



Lowery

how churches can experience more of God’s power in their congregation.

■ *P* stands for “plan.” God’s plan for churches is that they have power to be His witnesses, Lowery said.

But too many churches act as though they are the Love Boat, focused on the comfort and pleasures of the passengers.

“The church isn’t the Love Boat, the church is a fishing boat, it’s a working boat, it’s a rescue boat,” he said.

Likewise, God’s plan dictates what techniques and tools churches should use to reach people.

“If you’re going to fish, you’re going to use bait that fish like. If you’re going on a picnic, you’re going to take food that you like,” Lowery said. “It doesn’t matter what you like. It’s not part of the plan.”

■ *O* stands for “overlook.” Lowery said that if a church is going to try to reach non-Christians, church members will have to overlook some of the things non-Christians do.

“Most of us spend half our time trying to catch people breaking the rules when they don’t even know what the rules are,” he said.

Previous generations sometimes responded to guilt, but people today are drawn more by relationships, he said. “If you’re going to reach sinners you’ve got to overlook some stuff,” he said. “This generation will never be convicted unless they’re first connected to somebody.”

■ *W* stands for “Widen doors of the church.” Lowery encouraged messengers to do things that widen the horizon of their churches. “Stop doing things that are only important to you.”

One example, he said, are the resolutions Baptist conventions continually pass. Often, he said, they offend non-Christians, making it harder to attract them to the church. Lowery noted that the Bible says Christ gave the church the ministry of reconciliation. “It didn’t say we will have a ministry of resolutions.”

A positive example of widening one’s horizons is Veggie Tales, he said. He described them as silly and simplistic, nevertheless he buys every one he can.

“I get nothing out of them whatsoever, but they’re not for me. They’re for my grandkids,” he said. “It’s feeding that generation in a way they can understand.”

Lowery said that if a church’s youth ministry isn’t making its older members uncomfortable the ministry probably isn’t working. “Generations change, and we have to widen our horizons.”

■ *E* stands for “expect criticism.” Lowery noted that Jesus came “straight from heaven” but wasn’t religious enough for the religious authorities of the day.

“If you’ve got a plan and it’s God’s plan, there’s going to be people who don’t like the plan,” he said.

■ *R* stands for “realize that sacrifice is important to power.” Lowery noted that Philippians 3:10 describes knowing the fellowship of Jesus’ suffering and the power of His resurrection.

“We need to sacrifice because He sacrificed,” Lowery said. “It is the plan of God to give us power to be witnesses in this world.”

Messengers OK record CP budget

BOWLING GREEN—Kentucky Baptist Convention messengers approved a record \$22.4 million Cooperative Program budget during their annual meeting.

In accepting the report of the KBC Executive Board, messengers adopted the budget, which is a 6.75 percent increase compared to the current budget goal.

Messengers also approved dividing the funds, with 35.8 percent going to Southern Baptist causes and 64.2 percent being spent on Kentucky mission causes and ministries.

Messengers also approved an additional \$1.3 million challenge goal, to be split likewise.

In recent years, the KBC has inched its division of funding toward a 36-64 percent division between SBC and KBC work.

The Executive Board is the 164-member body that conducts KBC business between annual meetings.

KBC President Terry Wilder listed several accomplishments by the Executive Board during the past year. Among them:

- Approving hiring KBC staff for seven new positions.
- Approving a three-year partnership between the KBC and the European Baptist Convention, starting in 2001.
- Approving a February 2002 launch of "Higher Education Sunday."
- Commending Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children and President Bill Smithwick for the agency's stand on moral principles. State agencies had sought to pressure the KBHC to change its hiring policy, which bans employment of homosexuals.

**PARTNERS
IN THE HARVEST**
Kentucky Baptist Convention

■ **Attendance way up.** A total of 2,139 Kentucky Baptists registered as messengers for the annual meeting at First Baptist Church of Bowling Green. That was a 64 percent increase compared to 1,372 messengers last year in Covington. With an additional 223 church members and 14 visitors, total attendance last week was 2,376 people.

■ **Vigilance urged.** Terry Lester, chairman of the KBC Committee on Public Affairs, called on Kentucky Baptists to be diligent in fighting the expansion of alcohol sales and gambling in the commonwealth. "The biblical admonition to be of sober spirit still applies and calls us to be on guard," he said. Lester praised Claude Witt, executive director of the Temperance League of Kentucky, for helping keep Kentucky Baptists informed about ethical issues. Lester said efforts are under way now to submit a bill during the 2001 Kentucky General Assembly to permit gambling devices in all liquor stores.

CONVENTION NOTES

■ **11 churches added to KBC.** The Committee on Credentials recommended, and messengers approved, 11 new churches for affiliation in the Kentucky Baptist Convention. They are: Anchor Baptist Church in Lexington, Corinthian Baptist Church in Louisville, Dayspring Baptist Church in Ermine, Elizabethtown Baptist Church in Elizabethtown, Family Baptist Church in Bagdad, Fellowship Baptist Church in South Shore, Friendship Valley Baptist Church in Berea, Harvest Community Church in Pleasureville, New Vision Baptist Mission in Mayfield, State Street Baptist Church in Bowling Green and Truth Mission Baptist Church in Frankfort.

■ **See you in Lexington in three years.** Messengers approved Immanuel Baptist Church in Lexington as the site of the 2003 annual convention. The 2001 and 2002 meetings already were scheduled for Murray and Williamsburg, respectively.

■ **History book unveiled.** The Kentucky Baptist Archives Advisory Board unveiled "Kentucky Baptists, 1925-2000: A Story of Cooperation." The book, written by Murray State

University Professor Duane Bolin, will be sent to each Kentucky Baptist church.

■ **Religious educators chose officers.** Kentucky Baptist Convention Sunday school consultant Doug Miller was elected president-elect for the Kentucky Baptist Religious Education Association. Wendy Dever, KBC preschool children's associate, was elected secretary/treasurer. President Jim Fields said he hoped the group would address declining participation and consider an annual retreat.



OVERFLOW Messengers watch the convention sermon via closed-circuit TV in one of four overflow rooms at First Baptist Church of Bowling Green. Attendance for the Kentucky Baptist Convention annual meeting was the highest in recent history.

Helping hurting children & families

Thanksgiving means different things to different people, but for us Kentucky Baptists it means expressing our gratitude to God and to Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children.

This year KBHC President Bill Smithwick is challenging our Kentucky Baptist family to give \$1.2 million through the Thanksgiving Offering. My family and I already have given, and I encourage you to do the same. Every Kentucky Baptist man, woman, boy and girl should experience the joy of giving for this Christ-centered ministry which provides care and hope to hurting children and families. What a difference we are making in the lives of these children and families. However, it takes all of us praying, giving and volunteering to meet the ever-growing challenges of this specialized ministry. If you need information about the variety of services KBHC provides, all you need to do is call (502) 245-2101 or (800) 456-1386.

The Kentucky Baptist Foundation is pleased to be the fiduciary of endowment and trust funds that have been given for the perpetual benefit of our children's home ministry. Perhaps you are interested in leaving a legacy of your commitment to Jesus Christ and His ministry to chil-

dren. With an outright gift of cash, appreciated stock or appreciated real estate you can establish an endowment during your lifetime. If you need to receive income during your lifetime from the asset you give, a charitable remainder trust or a charitable gift annuity is worth your consideration. Perhaps you are more inclined to establish such an endowment upon your death rather than during your lifetime. If so, a bequest in your will or revocable living trust, a life insurance or retirement plan beneficiary designation would be worth considering. Laurie Valentine, our trust counsel, and I would consider it a privilege to assist you in your consideration. There is no cost to you. Please call us toll-free.

Let each of us do our part in showing compassion for Kentucky's hurting children and families, and let us remember the words of the apostle Paul in 2 Corinthians 1:3-5. They are words of praise to the Father of compassion, and words of admonition to us.

Happy Thanksgiving!

Barry Allen is president of the Kentucky Baptist Foundation, 10605 Shelbyville Road, Louisville, KY 40223; (888) 254-5701

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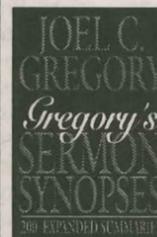
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AGENCY REPORTS

■ **Baptist Healthcare System.** This past year marked the 75th anniversary for the health system providing care. Chaplain Yoshia Takagi of Central Baptist Hospital told messengers that the system is altering its information gathering to better facilitate getting consent from patients to share their information with pastors and churches.

■ **Campbellsville University.** President Michael Carter said enrollment is nearly 1,600 students, with approximately 330 students in this past fall's incoming class. Nearly 200 students were involved in spring break mission trips. "Campbellsville University has never been stronger academically, financially and—we're praying daily—spiritually," he said. The current enrolment has the largest percent of Kentucky Baptist students in the school's history.

■ **Clear Creek Baptist Bible College.** Fall 2000 enrolment for the Pineville college totaled 51 students, according to the school's written report. The school maintains a faculty-student ratio of 1-15. The agency sent seven faculty and staff to the pastor's school in northern Russia. In the spring, the school launched the Heritage of Faith Campaign to secure \$1.75 million to renovate Kelly Hall. Thus far, commitments have totaled \$903,000.

■ **Cumberland College.** Missions involvement continues to play a large role

in the lives of students at Cumberland College. Approximately 90 students are involved in Mountain Outreach, the campus ministry to the Williamsburg community. During this past summer, 87 Cumberland students served on mission fields in the United States and abroad. During spring break, 68 students traveled in 10 groups to Philadelphia, Houston, North Carolina and Florida.

■ **Georgetown College.** President Bill Crouch said Georgetown is committed to its mission of being a place for investigation and exploration within the context of Baptist freedom and heritage. "It is the balanced conviction that the spirit and the mind protect us from the challenges and dangers of our day," Crouch said. "From one direction there is the intellectualism of secular culture pushing us to abandon our mission and deny our Lord Jesus Christ. On the other hand is the extreme narrowness of a religious environment that is replacing the spirit of cooperation with the cords of control and condemnation."

■ **Kentucky Baptist Assemblies.** During the three years that Cedarmore and Jonathan Creek assemblies have operated as a separate agency, Kentucky Baptist Assemblies has sought to show constant improvement at both facilities, President Rusty Ellison said. Summer camps are improving in attendance, he said and the

new Crossings at the Creek summer program at Jonathan Creek already has a high reservation count for next summer, he said. "We have made more than \$1 million of capital improvements and repairs in our first three years, with this year scheduled to be the biggest yet with our plans for major improvements at Cedarmore."

■ **Kentucky Baptist Foundation.** Total funds under management of the foundation increased \$33.5 million during the past year to \$228.3 million. Foundation President Barry Allen noted that an estimated \$47 trillion will be passed between generations during the next 15 years. The foundation established 54 new accounts last fiscal year.

■ **Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children.** Since the Baptist Orphans Home of Louisville was founded in 1869, Kentucky Baptists have supported the work and ministries of Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children, President Bill Smithwick said. Smithwick also thanked Kentucky Baptists for standing beside the agency when its contracts were threatened for not changing its employment policy that bans hiring homosexuals. Last year the agency averaged 12 professions of faith in Jesus Christ per month, he said.

■ **Oneida Baptist Institute.** "If it were not for the generosity of Kentucky Baptists,

there would not be an Oneida," President Bud Underwood said in his written report. Oneida has enrolled students this year from China, Bosnia, Thailand, Ethiopia, Zimbabwe, Vietnam, Korea, Zambia, Japan and Liberia. "Some are Christians; others may be Muslim or Buddhist. All will hear the good news of Jesus Christ at Oneida."

■ **Western Recorder.** The state paper for Kentucky Baptists won four awards from Baptist Communicators Association this past year, Editor Trennis Henderson noted. In addition to providing information of importance to Kentucky Baptists, the Western Recorder is committed to being partners in the harvest by working with churches that use the paper to print their newsletters and with partnership with other state conventions, helping edit, print and mail their monthly newspapers, Henderson said.

■ **Woman's Missionary Union.** Kentucky WMU has helped train mission leaders through such events and projects as the creative ministries festival, World Missions Unlimited conferences and Project HELP: Violence. The goal and challenge goal for year's Eliza Broadus Offering for State Missions totals \$1 million. The challenge portion will fund church starts in Kentucky, according to Joy Bolton, Kentucky WMU executive director-treasurer.

Compiled from oral and written reports

Remembering Miss Mac

By Robert Dunston

On Oct. 25, Miss Emma McPherson, a longtime administrator and faculty member at Cumberland College, passed away. She was one of the most beloved individuals ever associated with the college and her Christian spirit touched the lives of thousands of people.

"Miss Mac," as she was known to practically everyone, earned degrees from Meredith College, Campbell College (now Campbell University), Southern Seminary and the University of Kentucky. In 1989, Campbell University named her an Outstanding Alumnae.

McPherson came to Cumberland College in 1951 to become dean of women and to teach religion. Forty-one years later, she retired as dean of students and associate professor of English. Even then, she continued to teach English on a part-time basis for another four years.

During her long tenure, McPherson served in many ways. One of her legacies is the Cumberland College Woman's Club, which she began in 1955.

While at Cumberland College, McPherson received many honors including the Sears Roebuck Award for Teaching Excellence and Com-

munity Service, and the William T. Miles Award for Community Service. Cumberland College recognized her outstanding contributions in 1993 by conferring an honorary doctor of laws degree upon her.

McPherson was an indefatigable member of First Baptist Church of Williamsburg. She served as a Sunday school teacher, deacon, director of the visitation program and member on countless committees. Even after breaking her hip in the spring of this year she continued to chair the nominating committee.

Her service through the Delta Kappa Gamma Society International, the Williamsburg Woman's Club and Baptist Regional Medical Center expanded her ministry to touch the lives of many more individuals.

All of us at Cumberland College mourn her passing. Her life consistently represented the best of Christian service and dedication. We will miss the mentoring she provided us all but will treasure our memories and continue her legacy.

Robert Dunston is chairman of the religion department at Cumberland College, 6000 College Station Dr., Williamsburg, KY 40769

CUMBERLAND COLLEGE



In everything

Prepositions are tricky little words. In some cases, you can swap words such as "for" and "of" and the meaning of a sentence stays pretty much the same. In other cases, the difference could be as stark as daylight and dark.

Whenever I hear the suggested Scripture for our Thanksgiving offering, it is natural for me to revisit those passages. This year was no exception when we decided that 1 Thessalonians 5:18 would be the theme for this year's offering emphasis to Kentucky Baptist churches. "In everything give thanks," the Apostle Paul writes, "for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus."

That word "in" makes all the difference in this verse. Paul isn't instructing us to give thanks for everything, or because of everything. He knew better. It is true that he attained an attitude of contentment that I daresay most believers envy, or strive for. Yet, I still cannot imagine him bobbing in the ocean, clinging to a piece of wrecked ship crying "Lord, I'm so grateful for that storm You permitted to enter my life!" Instead, Paul encouraged the church at Thessalonica, and us, to set our sights on something higher, or I should say, Someone higher.

I cannot help but think of our kids when I read this verse. So many of them have been swept off the deck during the storms of life. They've been bruised, molested and neglected, yet many of them exude thankfulness. Two of our teenagers shared beautiful testimonies of gratitude at our recent President's Dinner. They are so grateful for what they have.

They are grateful to God and they are grateful to you.

Our theme came about because of the storms of this year brought about by our employment policy and the subsequent tense negotiations with state government. Was I grateful for that storm? No. Was I grateful in the midst of the high winds? Absolutely. God has blessed KBHC and me incredibly. He has used many of you as channels of that blessing. I am confident that as you consider God's blessings this Thanksgiving, you will continue to remember the children. Thank you all.

Bill Smithwick is president of Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children, 10801 Shelbyville Road, Middletown, KY 40243. Call (800) 456-1386. KBHC's Internet address is: <http://www.iglou.com/kbhc/>

HOMES FOR CHILDREN



Bill Smithwick

Conference urges ministers to be 'Celebrating the Call'

"Don't ever get confused and think if you're in the center of God's will, everything will be smooth."

Ike Reighard, pastor of North Star Baptist Church in Kennesaw, Ga.

BOWLING GREEN—Kentucky Baptist pastors were urged to celebrate their call during the annual pastors' conference, Nov. 13 at First Baptist Church of Bowling Green.

David Butler, pastor of Springdale Baptist Church in LaGrange, noted that many pastors have lost the initial wonder or spiritual adrenaline from their calling as a result of the grind and cynicism of their jobs.

Preaching from Acts 20, Butler encouraged pastors to have an openhearted approach to ministry, a faithful allegiance to biblical truth that is incarnational in their lives and a willingness to remove all limitations and conditions on their service.

Pastors should be responsive to the needs of their congregations, he said.

"A big ego can't co-exist with a servant's heart," he said. "The sheep aren't there for the shepherd."

KBC Executive Director Bill Mackey encouraged pastors to be servant leaders with vision.

Speaking from Joshua 1, Mackey cited Joshua as an example of servant leadership for carrying out God's will without thought of personal gain.

"Just as God promised Joshua, 'I will be with you all the way,' we have the promise of Jesus that He will be with us all the way," Mackey said.

"There are many things that pull at our heartstrings but are they worthy of your total devotion with heart and mind and soul?" Mackey asked. "The servant who is going to be blessed by God is the servant that is going to be fully devoted to Him."



OFFICERS Pastors' Conference officers elected for the coming year are (from left) President Paul Badgett, pastor of First Baptist Church of Pikeville; Vice President Marty Thompson, pastor of Summersville Baptist Church; and Secretary/Treasurer Gene Hill, pastor of Macedonia Baptist Church in Jonesville.

Kevin Ezell, pastor of Highview Baptist Church in Louisville, said Acts 2 shows the steps for a good church to become a great church.

Ezell said the church in Acts 2 was characterized by devotion to God's word, fellowship, unity, communion, prayer, compassion, praising God and making more disciples.

He said many churches have allowed Satan to rob them of their joy.

"Vance Havner, some don't know the difference between dignity and rigor mortis," he said. "When you come to church you don't come to mourn a dead corpse, but to praise a living king."

"It's all about leading people to be what God has called them to be," he added. "The call to lead is the call to lead your church forward by leading them backward to Acts."

Charles Lowery, pastor of Hoffmantown Community Church in Albu-

querque, N.M., peppered his sermon on the "call to joy" with dozens of humorous anecdotes that encouraged pastors to be joyful and have fun.

"You look at Jesus, He had a lot of fun, didn't He?" Lowery asked. "Of course, He ticked at lot of people off, but He had a lot of fun."

Preaching about the life of Joseph, Georgia Baptist pastor Ike Reighard noted that Joseph lived his life "in the center of God's will."

Even when Joseph was sold into slavery, falsely accused by his master's wife and thrown into prison, "the Lord was with him," Reighard said. "God had a purpose for his life."

Reighard, pastor of North Star Baptist Church in Kennesaw, Ga., said the keys to Joseph's success were that he knew how to forgive, how to focus on God and how to keep the faith.

"Don't ever get confused and think if you're in the center of God's will, everything will be smooth," Reighard said. "Even in down times, God gives us the ability to stay up."

Regardless of life's circumstances, he said, "Continue to be faithful, continue to follow God and do the things He has called you to do."

Hershael York, a professor of preaching at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, emphasized the importance of constant obedience to God.

Recounting how a single act of disobedience affected Moses, York noted that after Moses struck a rock with his rod rather than speaking to it as God instructed, God forbid him to enter the

Promised Land.

While that sounds like "a harsh judgment on this great servant," York added, "What we fail to appreciate is the incredible level of leadership and holiness that God has erected for those who claim to speak for Him. ... If you're looking for God to cut you some slack in the ministry, you're in the wrong business."

He said keys to avoiding disobedience include:

■ "Don't think that your past obedience grants you a present indulgence."

■ "Don't sacrifice inner holiness for outward success."

■ "Don't grow weary in well doing."

Richard Land, president of the Southern Baptist Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission, warned that "God has been and is judging America for our sin, for our idolatry. If there is to be hope for America, it is from people who are called by His name."

Citing the nation's political and social turmoil over such issues as abortion and homosexuality, Land said, "Our loyalty doesn't belong to any party or any candidate; it belongs to Jesus Christ."

"God is not a Republican or a Democrat," he added, "but God is pro-life."

Land urged Christians to be spiritual salt and light while praying for God to send revival and reformation.

"If we turn to God, Al Gore can't stop revival and if we don't turn to God, George W. Bush can't bring revival," he declared. "Our problems can only be solved by God."

Best times of the season

By Tamara Cochran
Oneida Baptist Institute Publications

The final season of Michelle Mau's four-year career as our girls' cross-country coach culminated in another trip to state competition. Mau, who also coaches track, will be leaving Oneida Baptist Institute in May.

When asked what it will be like to step down, Mau said, "I don't want to think about it. It's not just the coaching I'm leaving, because I can probably help coach anywhere. I just love the athletes I get to work with here."

Coach Mau summarized the cross-country team's season: "Just an incredible amount of hard work went into the season. We had a lot of new athletes, and they really came on strong at the end." Mau enjoyed watching new talent develop in runners like fifth-grader Andrea Linares, while returning veterans Natalie Blades, Alicia Barrett, Joy Beth Woods, Megan Travis and Jennifer Martin gave the girls' team its foundation.

After sweeping the Three-Rivers Conference meet, the girls went on to earn a state competition-qualifying fourth place at regionals. The team included Alicia Barrett, Andrea Linares, Jennifer Martin, Joy Beth Woods, Joy Stovall, Megan Travis and Johanna Ryan.

Mau reported that at the state meet, "Every girl ran her best time of the season." One girl ran a full five minutes under her best time. For the team, the combined net personal records of each girl showed more than 15 minutes' improvement.

Though our team was not a top contender, two team members crossed the line at about halfway on the list. Our top two state placers were Jennifer Martin, 94th place; and Andrea Linares, 104th

place. There were a total of 181 runners at the meet.

Eighth-grader Dale Litchfield also qualified for state as an individual and was among the top 10 male runners of the conference. He represented Oneida strongly at his first of what Mau believes will be many trips to the state competition. "I'm looking forward to seeing improvement as he gets older," Mau said. Dale finished 120th out of 200 runners.

Mau credited boys' coach Keith Davenport for his contribution to Dale's improvement over the season. "It's really impressive to think of an eighth-grader as being the best on the (boys') team. ... To see Dale excel and go to state is a real testimony to his hard work."

Mau was pleased with the efforts of the younger runners throughout the season. The boys' middle school team brought home a second place conference win. They also placed second at the Berea invitational. Andrea Linares won every middle school girls' conference race in which she participated. She joined high schoolers Jennifer Martin, Joy Beth Woods and Alicia Barrett on

the conference top 10 list. The boys' varsity team claimed second place in the "Best in the East" Owsley County invitational. If it had not been for some injuries along the way, Davenport suggested his team might also have qualified for state. "We were real close, ... but just didn't quite make it. They ran hard," Davenport said. "It's just always good to see kids come along from no experience to being really good runners at the end of the year, even if they didn't go to state."

W.F. Underwood is president of Oneida Baptist Institute, P.O. Box 67, Oneida, KY 40972. www.oneidaschool.org; e-mail: president@oneidaschool.org

THIS IS ONEIDA



W.F. Underwood

Newlywed finds a campus mentor

Michelle and Josh Carpenter moved to campus a week after their marriage. During marriage counseling, they were asked about ministry training plans. Without any plans they decided to visit Clear Creek.

"The Lord soon confirmed this was the place. It was a little hectic with wedding plans and preparations to move, but it worked out. We like it a lot," Michelle said.

"Todd and Jodie Buck, students from Alaska, took us in and became good friends. They had three children but never made us feel we were too young to be their friends. They became mentors to us. Jodie showed me how to cook with herbs. I miss her a lot but thank God for their friendship and encouragement."

My wife and I recently enjoyed dinner with the Carpenters. The delicious meal demonstrated some of Jodie Buck's mentoring.

The Carpenters teach a discipleship group for 4th-6th graders at Harlan Baptist Church. She also helped with church drama activities. Michelle's pilgrimage to find assurance of salvation affects her counsel to youth. "At age 7, I thought baptism would be fun and my parents would be proud of me, but I really didn't trust Jesus. At age 12 I was

scared about hell at a youth camp and again made a decision to double-check myself with God. It was a year later when I truly came to know Christ," Michelle stated. "Now when one of our youth comes for rededication I want to make sure they are really saved."

When Michelle was 15, her church hosted a World Missions

Conference. On the third night, she realized God's call to a life of ministry.

"Through youth trips, VBS and other experiences, I had become aware that I would never find contentment in life unless I was serving God," she said. Four years later she met Josh, who had moved to McMinnville, Tenn., from Los Angeles, "I wasn't looking for a husband, but I had assurance that God would not lead

me into a relationship with someone without a call to ministry. Josh had a call!" Michelle recalled with a smile.

Specifics for future ministry remain unsure, but Michelle states, "I will probably work with youth and children." Those youth will gain a good mentor.

Bill Whittaker is president of Clear Creek Baptist Bible College, Pineville, KY 40977

CLEAR CREEK CHRONICLE



Bill Whittaker

Admid struggles Crosse learns to 'surrender all'

By Brenda Smith
Kentucky Baptist Convention

BOWLING GREEN—When Clay Crosse took the stage during the Tuesday evening session of last week's Kentucky Baptist Convention annual meeting, he did more than share his heartfelt lyrics and distinctive voice. The Dove-Award winning Christian recording artist joined Kentucky Baptists in celebrating the 75th anniversary of the Cooperative Program.

"I'm a lifelong Baptist and have always been a supporter of the Cooperative Program," said Crosse, a member of First Baptist Church of Collierville, Tenn.

A 30-minute mini-concert by Crosse capped off the anniversary celebration. At the close of the mini-concert, representatives of CP-supported ministries flooded the stage as Crosse sang his former No. 1 hit "I Surrender All."

Crosse, a native of Memphis, Tenn., has been part of the Southern Baptist Convention's national CP celebration all year. He wrote the CP celebration theme song "I Will Follow Christ" and he recorded the song along with Bob Carlisle and BeBe Winans. The song won the 2000 Dove Award for inspirational recorded song of the year.

"I was completely blown away by my tune 'I Will Follow Christ' being chosen" as the CP celebration theme song, Crosse said. "To have them use this song is a true honor."

The song compares modern believers with early Christians, and the shared faith that binds believers together across 2000 years of history.

Crosse was inspired to write the song after seeing a Broadway musical



CELEBRATION Christian recording artist Clay Crosse joins in celebrating the 75th anniversary of the Cooperative Program during the Kentucky Baptist Convention annual meeting in Bowling Green last week. Crosse wrote the celebration's theme song, "I Will Follow Christ."

featuring a group of veterans singing a passionate song about their service in war.

"Watching them sing inspired me to write a song for a group of men singing about their faith in Christ," he explained. "It tells how through the struggles and the battles for the cause of Christ, they, and we, remain strong in the faith."

Crosse struggled through his own test of faith two years ago. His distinctive voice—the same voice that has produced eight top singles including "His Love Is Strong" and "His Love's Comin' Over Me"—suddenly became unreliable. Crosse found himself struggling to use the talent that sustained his career.

"I had always thought if all else fails, at least I can sing. I used to really

find strength in my voice, and it had always been my security. So these problems grabbed my attention, and I know now that it was really God trying to speak to me."

In the midst of the struggles with his voice, Crosse began to examine his commitment to God.

He was 95 percent committed to God, and that was great by the world's standards, Crosse told Kentucky Baptists, but he knew he needed to be completely committed to God.

Years in the spotlight had left him concerned about how other people viewed him. "I was consumed with wondering and worrying what others thought of me, never asking God, 'What do You think of me?'"

The intense personal and professional struggle led Crosse to complete-

ly submit his life to Jesus Christ in 1998. The experience transformed him and inspired many of the songs on his latest release, "A Different Man."

"I really feel like a different man," he explained. "There's a fire in me that seldom existed before—a real desire to learn and grow in Christ; a desire to further His cause, not mine; to make Him known. He has compelled me to put my pride away."

Crosse and his wife, Renee, work hard at living out their faith before their daughters, Shelby, 8, and Savannah, 3.

"We don't want them to hear us say one thing and live in a different way," Crosse noted. "Kids are too sharp for that. They know what's important to you and what isn't."

The couple's commitment appears to be bearing fruit. Crosse shared with the convention crowd that his daughter Shelby recently made a profession of faith in Christ, a moment that Crosse captured on audio tape to share with her in the future.

The biggest sacrifice Crosse says he must make is being on the road away from his family. But God has strengthened his family and his wife fully supports his work, he said.

"My little girls just know that going on the road is part of what I do," he said. "One day they'll realize that it is God's calling on my life that takes me on these trips. I thank God for my ministry and I also thank Him for my family. He has anointed them both and one won't hinder the other."

Crosse's performance at the KBC annual meeting wrapped up several weeks on the road. After a brief break, he will hit the road again with his "Child of the Promise" tour. For tour information, visit his Web site at www.claycrosse.com.

Music ministers focus on worship trends, needs

By Dannah Prather
Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children

BOWLING GREEN—Music ministers from across Kentucky gathered Nov. 13 at Rich Pond Baptist Church in Bowling Green for a time of reflection and renewal.

Gene Wright of First Baptist Church of Shelbyville, the new president of the Kentucky Baptist Music Conference, described the event as "a musician's perspective on worship."

Conference secretary/treasurer Jimbo Stevens of Calvary Baptist Church in Danville said the challenge facing many music ministers today is: "How do you do something different without leaving somebody behind?"

Dramatist Chuck Neighbors of Master's Image Productions in Salem, Ore., led a session on "Church Drama Resources and Ideas." Although some churches are uncomfortable using drama, Neighbors noted that drama can be a useful tool in outreach and to enhance worship.

"Do something that strikes a nerve," he urged. "If people laugh or are moved to tears, they are identifying with what you are saying."

Mark Edwards, minister of music at First Baptist Church of Nashville, led a session on "Can Congregational Singing Get Any Better?" Edwards said his church sings hymns "with no apologies."

He encouraged participants to know the make-up of their congregations and to use that information to make decisions about worship music.

Monologues 'make people think,' Christian dramatist says

By Brenda Smith
Kentucky Baptist Convention

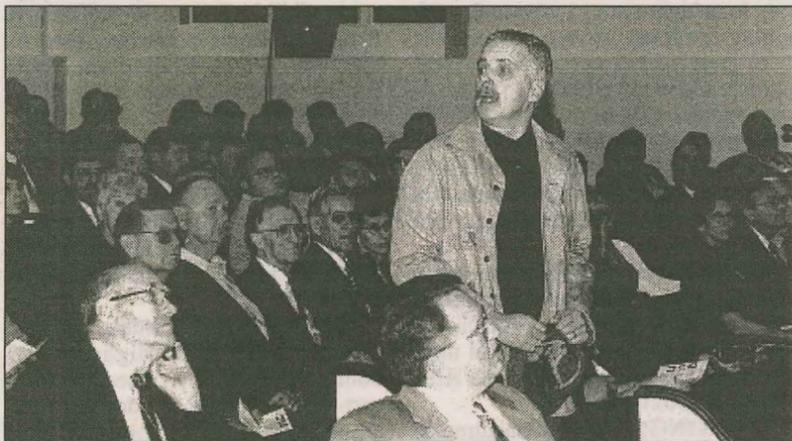
BOWLING GREEN—Chuck Neighbors set the tone during the opening session of last week's Kentucky Baptist Convention annual meeting by asking the ubiquitous question: "What Would Jesus Do?"

Sharing a monologue from his dramatic adaptation of Charles Sheldon's classic book, "In His Steps," Neighbors transported Kentucky Baptists back to the original context of that question. He portrayed the "tramp" in Sheldon's book who interrupts a church service one Sunday morning and challenges the church to follow Jesus' compassionate example.

"What I feel puzzled about is: What is meant by following Jesus? What do you mean when you sing 'I'll go with Him, with Him, all the way'? Do you mean that you are suffering and denying yourselves and trying to save lost, suffering humanity just as I understand Jesus did? What do you mean by it?" asked Neighbors, dressed as the disheveled, earnest tramp.

Neighbors said he chose to perform his "In His Steps" excerpt during the opening session because it speaks to discipleship and commitment to following Christ.

During the annual meeting, he also



IN HIS STEPS Christian dramatist Chuck Neighbors portrays the tramp who interrupts a church service in Charles Sheldon's classic book, "In His Steps." In the role, Neighbors challenged people attending the Kentucky Baptist Convention annual meeting to follow Jesus' compassionate example.

performed "Another Sunday Morning," a skit that gives a light-hearted nod to Sunday school teachers; and "Remember Pop," in which a man laments the moral decay of the culture that surrounds him. In "For Those Who Have Ears But Do Not Hear," Neighbors offered a firsthand look at the challenges of prayer.

"The job of drama is to raise issues and make people think," explained Neighbors, who travels the country with his theater ministry, Master's Im-

age Productions, leading workshops and performing in churches. "I don't have a mandate to say, 'This is the way it ought to be.'"

Neighbors sees drama as a powerful ministry tool. "The gospel doesn't change, but our methods must," he noted. "Drama is an effective tool for reaching our entertainment-driven culture."

Neighbors said he is finding that a growing number of evangelical churches are catching the vision of using dra-

ma as a way both to engage the culture and motivate believers.

Typically, Neighbors is asked to perform during Sunday evening services, but many churches now are asking him to incorporate performances from his repertoire into morning services as well. Neighbors often tries to set up his drama so that the pastor can use it to illustrate the sermon.

"Churches using me the most now would not have let me in the door 20 years ago," he said. "Southern Baptists are doing a lot of great things, very cutting edge."

Neighbors is no stranger to Southern Baptist life. He grew up as a member of a Southern Baptist church in Michigan. As a teen, he says he "felt called to ministry but didn't know how that was going to flesh out." At about the same time, he discovered drama.

After high school, he attended Carson-Newman College in Jefferson City, Tenn., where he majored in theater with a minor in religion. It was there that he learned about a traveling Christian theater troupe. After several years acting and managing Christian drama teams, he settled with his wife in Salem, Ore., and founded Master's Image Productions in 1984.

For more information about Master's Image Productions, visit the Web site www.mastersimage.com.

PRAYER PARTNERS

Please pray for these people and projects, which are part of Kentucky Baptists' partnership with Baptists in Poland, Tanzania, Europe and New England:

■ A group of young Christians in Tanzania who are preparing to teach "True Love Waits" seminars across their country which is ravaged by AIDS.

■ Rain for the Ifakara area of Tanzania. Missionaries report that because of lack of rain in March through June, rain is desperately needed in November and December to produce enough food to provide until next year's growing season.

■ The final stages of completion of an agricultural training center among the Sukuma peoples of Tanzania. Missionaries Twyilia and Terry Bell write, "A dormitory-type building is being constructed of mud brick, so it is critical to complete this building before the rainy season begins in November."

Mountains to the Mississippi

Compiled by Shirley Wooton

■ **CAMPBELLSVILLE**—New Bethlehem Church called **Donald Auberry** as pastor.

■ **EMINENCE**—Eminence Church ordained **Lynn Payton**, director of youth and children's ministry, and **Becky Lucas**, minister of music, as deacons. **Michael Duncan** is pastor.

■ **LOUISVILLE**—Crescent Hill Church hosted a reception in honor of **Louie Bailey's** 15th anniversary as minister of music. **Ron Sisk** is pastor.

Jim McKinley, newly-elected Kentucky Baptist Convention president, will speak at Hurstbourne Church Nov. 26 at 10:45 a.m. **Jon Bishop** is pastor.

Ormsby Heights Church will host Christian humorist **Dennis Swanberg** Dec. 8 at 7 p.m. Call (502) 447-6867.

Christmas plans?

The Western Recorder is assembling a special listing of Christmas programs throughout Kentucky. Please send information about cantatas, nativity scenes and other happenings to Shirley Wooton by Nov. 27. Mail: Box 43969, Louisville, KY 40253. Fax: (502) 244-6470. E-mail: shirley_wooton@kybaptist.org

Richard Bowden is pastor.

Shively Church will host a Thanksgiving service Nov. 21 at 7 p.m. Carlisle Avenue, Shively Heights and Rockford Lane churches will also participate. **Randal Pollock**, pastor of Rockford Lane Church, will speak.

West Broadway Church honored administrative assistant **Nancy Dobbs** on her retirement after 35 years of ministry. West Broadway also recognized **Skip Alexander's** fifth anniversary as pastor.

■ **MURRAY**—**Richard West**, 92, retired from Hilltop Church after serving 22 years as pastor.

Hilltop Church called **Bobby Edmonson** as pastor. Edmonson previously was a pastor in Tennessee.

■ **OWENSBORO**—Southeast Church dedicated its building and property Nov. 19. The church has grown from 15 members in 1992 to 270 members today. **Randy Stallings** is pastor.

Missionary update

■ **Takahiro and Lana Oue**, missionaries to the Western Pacific, are in the States. They may be reached until Dec. 29 at Bethlehem Church, Missionary Residence, 4803 Westside Drive, Louisville, KY 40219.

1,000 Acteens Activators take on world

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. (BP)—More than 1,000 Acteens Activators and Acteens Activators Abroad will never forget Puerto Rico; Brazil; England; Australia; Charleston, S.C.; the District of Columbia or 24 other sites where they volunteered last summer.

Acteens Activators and Acteens Activators Abroad are favorites with teenage girls involved in Acteens, the organization for girls in grades seven through 12 sponsored by Woman's Missionary Union. The volunteer programs gives the teens hands-on missions experience in the States and overseas.

Activator groups are matched with a Southern Baptist North American or international missionary who needs the kind of ministry the Acteens group can provide. Each Activator team is connected with a local supervisor who makes the missions assignment.

Last summer, 94 Acteens Activator teams, totaling 1,040 teens and leaders, from 21 states worked in such ministries as migrant camps, hospitality missions, construction and home repair, vacation Bible school and resort ministries.

One of the most concentrated efforts was in Charleston, S.C., where

170 Acteens worked at the National Acteens Activators Event 2000 in conjunction with Charleston Outreach, a ministry of Charleston Baptist Association. During the last week of June, Acteens contacted 2,337 people and witnessed 153 professions of faith.

Alabama WMU staff member Candice McIntosh worked in Charleston with the Acteens Activators from First Baptist Church, Columbiana, Ala.

"The Charleston workers were impressed with the girls' ready-to-work attitude and their sense of knowing what God wanted them to do," McIntosh reported.

On the prayerwalk, their witnessing tool was a box of Little Debbie snacks. They gave the cakes to people they met along the way as an expression of God's love.

Jack Little, director of Charleston Outreach, worked with more than 2,000 volunteers this summer. He said he was especially pleased with Activators because of the diligence they showed.

"I was particularly impressed in the spirit the team leaders had when we had to combine several groups at sites where larger groups of volunteers were needed," he said.

CLASSIFIED ADS

FOR SALE: Beautiful console piano. No money down—take on low monthly payments. (800) 371-1220.

SEEKING: Immediate need for full-time administrative assistant for growing church. Experience preferred with emphasis on Word, Excel and desktop publishing. Send resumé to: Personnel Chairman, West Broadway Baptist Church, 8420 Six Mile Lane, Louisville, KY 40220.

SEEKING: Interim minister of music (15-20 hours/week). Immanuel Baptist Church, 800 Rhodes Drive, Elizabethtown, KY 42701. ibcmusic@hotmail.com.

SEEKING: Salvisa Baptist Church is presently searching for a part-time minister of youth. Please send resumé to: Personnel Committee, Salvisa Baptist Church, PO Box 75, Salvisa, KY 40372.

SEEKING: Mount Olivet Baptist Church is seeking a full-time minister of youth and children. Ideal candidate is responsible for coordinating ministries to youth and assisting Children's Ministry Council in ministry to children. Send biographical sketch to: Search Committee, 15583 Coatesville Road, Beaverdam, VA 23015.

SEEKING: Immediate need for full-time administrative assistant for growing church. Experience necessary with emphasis on Microsoft Word and Excel as well as desktop publishing. Please forward resumé to: Personnel Chairman, Franklin Crossroads Baptist Church, 4695 Hardinsburg Road, Cecilia, KY 42724.

SEEKING: Part-time (less than 20 hours per week) worker to perform copying, mail room and routine maintenance services at the Kentucky Baptist Convention Building in Louisville. Contact Administrative Services at (502) 244-6468.

SEEKING: Full-time minister of music. Responsibilities include music planning and directing, visitation, supervising educational ministries and committee. Resumés to: Immanuel Baptist Church, 800 Rhodes Drive, Elizabethtown, KY 42701. ibcmusic@hotmail.com.

SEEKING: First Baptist Church of Chattanooga, Tenn., is receiving resumés for minister to families with children. This position is an opportunity for a high-energy individual, preferably seminary trained, to minister with preschoolers and children, their parents and leaders. Inclusive in theology and creative in ministry, FBC is supportive of both SBC and CBF. Resumés should be mailed to: Search Committee, First Baptist Church, 401 Gateway Ave., Chattanooga, TN 37402.

SEEKING: Local Christian social service agency seeks part-time office assistant. Involves working with clients and a core of volunteers. A real mission ministry. Interested? Call Kim Griggs at (502) 584-0774.

SEEKING: Associational director of missions for Greenup Baptist Association of Churches, located in Northeastern Kentucky. Candidate should be a leader, evangelistic, organized, with mission experience and an undergraduate degree—seminary a plus. Compensation is commensurate with education and experience. Contact Annette at (606) 928-2063 (phone/fax) or greenup@dragg.net to request an application.

SEEKING: Accompanist for Sunday morning and evening worship services, Wednesday evening prayer service and choir rehearsal. Send resumé to: Personnel Committee, Parkway Baptist Church, 1915 N Broadway, Lexington, KY 40505.

SEEKING: Kings Baptist Church in Taylorsville, Ky., is currently accepting resumés for a full-time, experienced pastor—a pastor who is highly motivated and spiritually driven—for a growing church involved in a building program. Send resumés to: Kings Baptist Church, 989 Kings Church Road, Taylorsville, KY 40071, Attn: Lou Cornell.

SEEKING: Full-time minister to students with additional administrative responsibilities for a multi-staff church. Seminary degree preferred. Send resumé to: Search Committee, South County Baptist Church, 5115 Butler Spur Road, St. Louis, MO 63128. (314) 843-5558 or socobaptist@aol.com. Pastor is John L. Hessel.

SEEKING: Food service director for medium-sized church. Send resumé to: West Broadway Baptist Church, 8420 Six Mile Lane, Jeffersontown, KY 40220.

SEEKING: Farmdale Baptist Church, 5610 U.S. Highway 127 South, Frankfort, Ky., is seeking three part-time positions: children's minister, youth minister and organist. Send resumé to church in care of Personnel Committee.

SEEKING: Organist for east-end (Louisville) church. Two Sunday morning services. Blended service. May also play keyboard for worship team occasionally. Contact: Gary Vidito, West Broadway Baptist Church, (502) 491-1920.

SEEKING: East Cadiz Baptist Church of Cadiz is seeking a full-time minister of music and youth. Send resumé to: M/Y Search Committee, East Cadiz Baptist Church, 407 Third St., Cadiz, KY 42211.

WANTED: 15-passenger van for small church in southern Kentucky. Please call (606) 376-9679.

Class assignment gives 'MK' a chance to witness

RODING, Germany (BP)—"Do we have any other religions represented in our group here?" A teacher asked her class of seventh-grade girls that question as they gathered for an overnight retreat in the Bavarian Forest of Germany. Like the teacher, many of the girls were Catholic.

"Missionary kid" Leslyn Ichter, 12-year-old daughter of Southern Baptist International Mission Board missionaries Carlos and Shannon Ichter, took a deep swallow and raised her hand.

She wasn't alone. Five other girls raised their hands: one Buddhist, one Jehovah's Witness, two Muslims and, surprisingly, another Baptist. Leslyn discovered Anna and her family also attended a Baptist church.

The teacher asked each of the girls to prepare a brief report on the beliefs of their religions. She didn't have to ask Leslyn and Anna twice.

The girls prepared two posters. The first explained some basic biblical beliefs, such as believer's baptism and salvation through Christ alone. The second was a simple gospel presentation. Leslyn and Anne explained in German that the only way for a person to be reconciled with God is through a personal relationship with Jesus Christ.

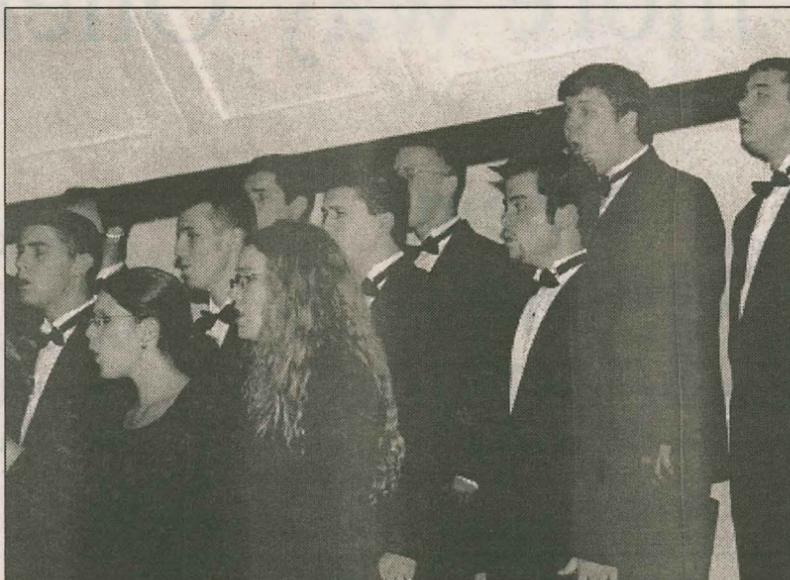
Like most missionary kids in Germany, Leslyn attends a German national public school. Usually missionary children are the only believers in their classrooms. Often those who are open about their faith are targets of ridicule.

But at the close of the girls' presentation, when Leslyn invited all her classmates and the teacher to attend a small, but growing Baptist church, the teacher voiced interest in visiting a worship service.

KBC SCENES



PARTNERS IN THE HARVEST Kentucky Baptist Convention



MUSIC From southern gospel and contemporary Christian music to classical hymns and orchestras, the Kentucky Baptist Convention annual meeting offers a variety of music styles for messengers to enjoy. From top left:

■ Doug Crawley, worship and music minister of Walnut Street Baptist Church in Louisville, sings. ■ Calvin Taylor leads messengers to sing the theme hymn "God Has Called Us." ■ A community choir composed of members of Bowling Green churches sing Wednesday night. ■ Phoebe Parks, a member of First Baptist Church of Bowling Green, plays handbells. ■ Ken Goforth, music minister for Scottsville Baptist Church, leads the Kentucky Baptist Wind Orchestra. ■ The ladies ensemble from Burlington Baptist Church sings before the president's address by Terry Wilder. ■ The Georgetown College Chorale sings during the college's report.

“Freely ye have received,
freely give.”

— Matthew 10:8

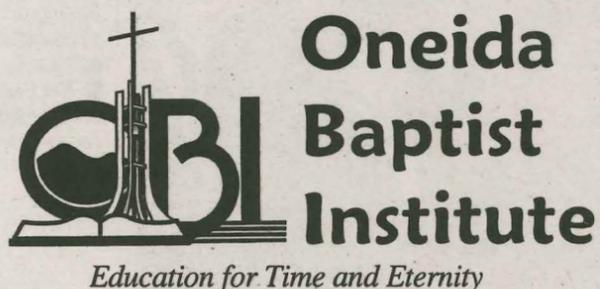


Scott Self coaches soccer and swimming, and teaches world history and sociology.

A 1993 Oneida graduate, Scott came to OBI in the seventh grade and was a student with us for six years. Like many of our faculty and staff, he came back to Oneida to work more hours for less pay, to give someone else the same experience he received.

It's not surprising our faculty and staff help hundreds of kids find success during the difficult years.

One more way Oneida is different.



To learn more about OBI, contact us:

P.O. Box 67, Oneida, Kentucky 40972
Phone: (606) 847-4111 Fax: (606) 847-4496
Web site: www.oneidaschool.org