



# WESTERN RECORDER

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## FOR THE RECORD

**Baptists**  
SBC's "What Now?" campaign urges spiritual renewal. *Page 2.*

**Kentucky**  
Commonwealth churches breaking down racial barriers. *Page 3.*

**Financial Forum**  
Are there safe ways to "get rich quick?" *Page 4.*

**Editorial**  
Ten prayer requests for next week's SBC. *Page 5.*

**Prestonsburg**  
MissionsFEST having lasting impact, leaders say. *Page 6.*



**Money**  
Financial adviser Ron Blue asks, "How much is enough?" *Page 8.*

## Poll: Christians buy lottery tix at higher rate than non-Christians

Ventura, Calif. (RNS)—Christians are more likely than non-Christians to invest in lottery tickets while non-Christians are twice as likely as Christians to fast, a newly released survey shows.

The Barna Group, a research and analysis company, looked at the relation between faith and lifestyles in a survey of 1,002 adults in May 2003. It announced its results May 24.

Researchers found that 15 percent of born-again Christians and 23 percent of notional Christians—people who say they are Christian but haven't made a profession of faith in Jesus Christ—bought lottery tickets in a typical week. That compared to 10 percent of adherents of non-Christian faiths and 12 percent of atheists and agnostics.

Although the Bible and churches encourage fasting for religious reasons, adherents of non-Christian faiths—some of which advocate fasting during particular seasons—were most likely to participate in religious fasts.

Researchers found that evangelical Christians and nonevangelical, born-again Christians were least likely to recycle. More than six of 10 non-Christians, notional Christians, atheists and agnostics engaged in recycling. Only half of evangelicals and 47 percent of nonevangelical, born-again Christians recycled.

The survey had a margin of error of plus or minus 3.2 percentage points.

## Kentucky chainsaw ministry



Kentucky Baptist disaster relief volunteers worked this past week in Eminence and in Eastern Kentucky. At least three churches were damaged by floods near Prestonsburg, where volunteers were helping with "mud-out" work. Meanwhile, chainsaw crews cleared trees that fell during wind storms in Eminence. **Above:** Disaster relief volunteers clear downed trees from around the home of Gary and Teresa McAllister in Eminence. The McAllisters lost most of the trees on their property. The tornado also destroyed their sunroom and damaged their roof. **Left:** Volunteers in Eminence were joined by volunteers from Kentucky Heartland Outreach, a college students ministry organized through Campbellsville University. *Story on page 3. (KBC photos by Brenda Smith)*

## Kentucky churches minister to wounded soldiers in Germany



**SPECIAL DELIVERY** Sgt. Joel Reeder of Western Kentucky assembled care packages with Bibles for wounded soldiers from Iraq and Afghanistan who are recovering at the military hospital in Landstuhl, Germany.

By Brenda Smith  
Kentucky Baptist Convention

**Landstuhl, Germany**—Half a world away from each other, a father and son are connecting to minister to soldiers recovering from injuries suffered in Afghanistan and Iraq.

A phone conversation prompted U.S. Army Sgt. Joel Reeder, 23, and his father Rick Reeder of Mayfield to start Wounded Warriors Relief, a ministry to help soldiers recovering at a military hospital in Germany.

The project is a natural outgrowth of the close-knit family, according to the elder Reeder, director of missions for Caldwell-Lyon Baptist Association in Western Kentucky.

In addition to Rick and Joel, the family includes Rick Reeder's wife,

Joyce, and sons Kim, 29, and Kyle, 25. The family has been immersed in ministry for many years, thanks to Rick's time as an associate pastor and director of missions, and Joyce's time as a Christian schoolteacher.

Through Wounded Warriors Relief, individuals, churches and Caldwell-Lyon Association have donated \$3,200 to purchase items for care packages for soldiers and civilian contractors recovering at Landstuhl Regional Medical Center in Germany.

During a phone call in April, Sgt. Reeder mentioned to his father that he was going to be making a trip to the U.S. military hospital in Landstuhl.

□ See Western Kentucky ... Page 6

Dated material. Please deliver by Wednesday, June 9.

## BAPTIST DIGEST

**European Baptists repent for colonialism's abuse.** European Baptists leaders recently "repented" for their century-old role in the colonizing of Africa, which they said divided and exploited the continent. The European Baptist Mission, the mission society of European Baptists, recognized the 120th anniversary of the Berlin Congo Conference of 1884, during which political leaders from 14 Western nations divided up Africa for colonization. "As European Christians who follow the example of Jesus Christ, we must confess that we have profited from the inequality of nations and markets," the EBM said. The Baptist leaders asked African Christians for forgiveness for "allowing the spirit of colonialism to make a mockery of the spirit of Christ." They vowed to work for justice and called for a "New Berlin Conference" to right the wrongs of the 1884 meeting.

**Texas convention bars SBC seminary exhibits.** Southern Baptist seminaries will not be allowed to exhibit at the Baptist General Convention of Texas meeting this fall—further fallout from the deteriorating relationship between the Texas convention and the Southern Baptist Convention. A new policy governing exhibits at the BGCT annual meeting emphasizes ministries related to and supportive of the BGCT. As a result, the six SBC seminaries will not be welcome at the November gathering in San Antonio. BGCT leaders said theological changes in the SBC justify the move. The action came after SBC leaders prohibited the Baptist World Alliance from hosting an exhibit at next week's SBC annual meeting in Indianapolis.

**Church leaves N.C. convention over gay issue.** A Durham, N.C., church has voted to pull out of the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina over the convention's treatment of another congregation that admitted homosexual members. The members of Watts Street Baptist Church voted May 16 to end their financial support of the state convention. The decision was mainly in response to the convention's removal of McGill Baptist Church in Concord from its rolls, said Pastor Mel Williams. "We really thought it was a violation of local autonomy," he said. In 1992 Watts Street broke ties with the Southern Baptist Convention.

**FamilyNet adds news department.** The Southern Baptist North American Mission Board's FamilyNet television network has added a news department that will debut with coverage of the June 15-16 Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting in Indianapolis. News coverage will include a Fox NewsEdge feed and a national news wire service. For more information, visit [www.familynet.com](http://www.familynet.com).

**Korean pastor to be nominated for SBC post.** A third nominee for second vice president of the Southern Baptist Convention, David Young Hwan Gill, has been announced. Gill is pastor of Concord Korean Baptist Church in Martinez, Calif., and current president of the Council of Korean Southern Baptist Churches in North America. He also is first vice president of the California Southern Baptist Convention. Gill joins two other pastors, John Hays, pastor of Jersey Baptist Church near Columbus, Ohio, and Mark Hearn, pastor of Northside Baptist Church in Indianapolis, as nominees for the post.

**CBF chaplain named chief Air Force chaplain.** Baptist chaplain Brig. Gen. Charles Baldwin has been promoted to the Chief of Chaplain Service for the U.S. Air Force. He will become a major general this month and one of the three highest-ranking chaplains in the United States military. As Chief of Chaplains, Baldwin will be senior pastor of a combined active-duty, Guard, Reserve and civilian force of more than 850,000 people serving in about 1,300 locations worldwide. Baldwin, a graduate of the U.S. Air Force Academy and Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, is endorsed as a chaplain by the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship.

**Texas convention to cut NAMB ties.** All five Baptist General Convention of Texas employees with Southern Baptist North American Mission Board appointments will end those relationships with the SBC agency and become fully supported by the Texas convention by the end of the year. The change allows those staff members to focus on their BGCT assignments without having to deal with NAMB requirements, said E.B. Brooks, coordinator of the BGCT church missions and evangelism section. Many of the employees counted as NAMB missionaries are in jointly funded positions on state convention staffs nationwide. The move is the first decision from a BGCT committee appointed to monitor the effectiveness of the 2003 BGCT-NAMB cooperative agreement.

## 'What Now?' effort urges spiritual renewal

Nashville (BP)—"What Now?"—a three-year campaign for personal revival and national spiritual awakening—calls on Southern Baptists to engage the nation with the message that there is hope in times of difficulty.

"The greatest crisis we face is spiritual," said Robert Reccord, president of the Southern Baptist North American Mission Board. "God has given the nation a hunger for Him, and He has prepared Southern Baptists to help fill that hunger."

Beginning with prayer for renewal and revival, What Now? will seek to mobilize 1 million Southern Baptists to share the gospel, start 100,000 new Bible study units and baptize 1 million new believers.

The outreach will culminate with the largest national media campaign ever undertaken by Southern Baptists, a million-dollar program of television, radio, periodicals and Internet advertising de-

signed to get the attention of millions of people who do not attend church or are not immediately receptive to the gospel message.

"Jesus is the solution to the problems that plague us," said James Draper, president of LifeWay Christian Resources. "The gospel is the only hope and we must share it. Christianity is being caricatured and distorted. The church needs to declare a clear and positive word from the Lord."

"What Now? will help us maximize our energies for a common—and very biblical—goal: reaching people and planting churches."

## Goals capture passion

The goals of What Now? can capture the heart and passion of Southern Baptists, said Wanda Lee, executive director of national Woman's Missionary Union.

"With enthusiasm and passion for reaching North America for Christ, WMU is pleased to partner in this call to Southern Baptists,"

Lee said. "As long as there are people and places without a gospel witness, WMU will challenge Christian believers to a radical commitment of time and resources to God's mission."

Gerry Taillon, national ministry leader of the Canadian Convention of Southern Baptists, affirmed the vision of baptizing 1 million new believers.

"Life invariably moves in the direction of the selfish and unfocused," Taillon said. "Believers, churches and denominational organizations must focus on the priorities of the Great Commission to avoid becoming sidetracked by embracing self-centered undertakings."

"What Now? refocuses our energy and resources on our fundamental mission and anticipates the powerful activity of God."

What Now? guides have been mailed to most churches and are available for download at <http://whatnowamerica.com>.

## 2003 Lottie Moon gifts reap record increase

Richmond, Va. (BP)—Southern Baptist churches—and their 5,376 missionaries around the world—are celebrating a record \$136.2 million response to the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for International Missions.

When the books on the 2003 offering closed May 31, Southern Baptists had given \$136,204,648—an increase of almost \$21.2 million, or 18.4 percent, over 2002—the largest dollar increase in the offering's 115-year history.

"Southern Baptists are shouting 'Glory to God!' over this marvelous response to the needs of a lost world," said International Mission Board President Jerry Rankin. "We are especially grateful to Woman's Missionary Union for their wholehearted partnership in encourag-

ing Southern Baptists to step up to this tremendous challenge."

Rankin appealed to the churches for sacrificial giving because financial support had been lagging behind the number of missionary candidates. The IMB responded by limiting missionary appointments and cut stateside staff in June 2003 to keep expenses in line with income.

The board now can loosen restrictions on missionary appointments, Rankin said. After projections indicated the offering would surpass its \$133 million goal, the agency's trustees voted in May to send 200 more long- and short-term missionaries than previously had been planned.

Citing widespread mission opportunities, Larry Cox, the IMB's

vice president for mobilization, noted, "The task before us is enormous, and God's Spirit is moving quickly. Southern Baptists will have to move quickly if they are going to keep up with Him."

"We are not sending out these new missionaries for one year only. If they are going to be able to stay on the mission field—if we are going to be able to send the others God also is calling—we must sustain and increase this level of giving."

"Southern Baptist churches love missions. We are all about missions," Cox added. "Nothing stirs our hearts more than the thought of people who never had the opportunity to hear the gospel just because we didn't provide the resources needed for someone to go and tell them."

## CBF to collect offering for Baptist World Alliance

Birmingham, Ala.—The Cooperative Baptist Fellowship will hold its 14th annual General Assembly June 24-26 at the Birmingham (Ala.) Jefferson Convention Complex.

During the assembly, CBF will highlight its relationship with the Baptist World Alliance. The ministry offering at this year's

meeting will go to BWA, and CBF participants will vote on a budget that would double the Fellowship's annual contribution to BWA from \$20,000 to \$40,000.

BWA voted in July 2003 to include the CBF as a member body. BWA is a fellowship of 211 Baptist unions and conventions compris-

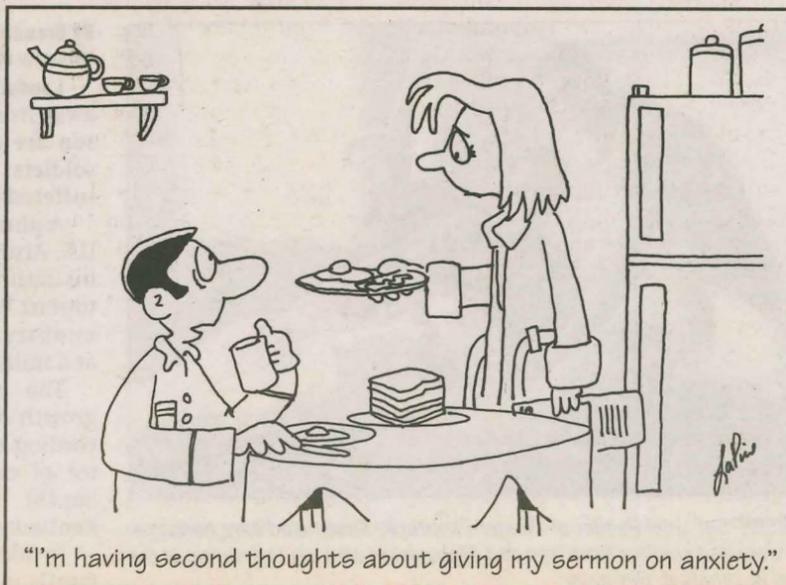
ing a membership of more than 46.5 million baptized believers. Southern Baptist Convention messengers will vote next week on a proposal to withdraw from BWA membership.

The CBF meeting will feature John Kinney, dean of the school of theology at Virginia Union University, as the keynote speaker and singer-songwriter Kyle Matthews as the featured musician.

CBF was founded in 1991 by moderate Baptists in response to the SBC's conservative shift. With an annual budget of \$16 million, CBF partners with 13 theology schools and supports 150 missionaries serving in North America and around the world.

The General Assembly will include more than 130 ministry workshops on such topics as responding to hunger and HIV/AIDS, grappling with missions ethics, understanding fundamentalism and engaging Baptists and Jews in dialogue.

For more information about the General Assembly, visit [www.thefellowship.info](http://www.thefellowship.info) or call (770) 220-1600.



# Racial reconciliation

*Churches around Kentucky finding ways to break down barriers*

By Ken Walker  
Kentucky Baptist Convention

**Louisville**—When Ronnie Hampton invited Lonnie Riley to teach a Wednesday night Bible study in 1999 at Greater Mount Sinai Baptist Church, the two pastors simply were renewing an old friendship.

But that gesture led to continuing cooperative projects between Mount Sinai and the Community Church at Lynch (formerly Lynch Baptist Church).

The historically black and white churches, respectively, have worked together to renovate parks, lead backyard Bible clubs and sports camps, and repair housing in this southeastern Kentucky community.

It also led both congregations in the economically-depressed area—once home to thriving coal production—to integrate their membership.

Hampton has baptized more than a dozen whites at 85-year-old Mount Sinai, which until five years ago was all black. Today, about 15 African-Americans are among the 40 to 50 people attending Riley's church.

"We've learned that no man is an island and everyone has something to bring to the table," said Hampton, Riley's basketball teammate in 1969-70 at Southeastern Community College. "Everyone has a uniqueness, and when we use that, we get a panoramic view. There is no black heaven or white heaven."

Riley added, "The church has learned God is able to do more than we ask or think. ... I've learned God is more than enough and our dreams are never quite as big as His. There's no barrier God can't break and no life God can't reach."

Throughout the commonwealth, other Kentucky Baptist churches are reaching across racial and denominational boundaries to develop closer bonds and touch their communities.

## Lexington: Building & ministries

In Lexington, Imani Baptist Church broke ground May 2 for its first worship center on the city's north side. Celebrating with the congregation was its partner from the south side, Immanuel Baptist Church.

The two formed a partnership five years ago after the predominantly white Immanuel voted to invest \$50,000 per year to help the new African-American congregation build its own facility. Those funds wound up in escrow as Imani searched for property, and in February Immanuel sent Imani a check for \$250,000.

"That was probably more of a motivation on the part of our people to commit themselves," said Imani's pastor, Willis Polk. "Seeing someone else invest in that project motivated people to respond and



**TONY EVANS CRUSADE** In 2000, Christians in Louisville came together across racial and denomination lines to host a crusade featuring Dallas pastor Tony Evans. The event drew 13,000 people and featured 166 participating churches from various backgrounds and denominations.

encouraged them."

More importantly, the financial gesture helped stimulate a continuing series of joint fellowships, worship services, men's prayer break-fasts and community projects.

The two churches have sponsored a T-ball league, cleaned up an old African-American cemetery and started a ministry in an apartment complex. Imani also sends members to work on Immanuel's annual Habitat for Humanity home building project.

Immanuel's pastor, Craig Loscalzo, said that instead of starting a new church, its mission committee wanted to support an existing work. As a result, the two have helped each other accomplish more than they could have individually.

"We never viewed it as racial reconciliation," Loscalzo said. "We weren't interested in getting together for an annual pulpit swap and the rest of the year we didn't talk to each other."

"Willis and I probably have lunch together once a month to fellowship and say, 'Is there something we could do together?'"

## Louisville: Reconciliation

A similar partnership in Louisville started in 1997 between St. Paul's Missionary Baptist Church in the inner city and suburban St. Matthews Baptist Church.

Members from both congregations attended the inaugural meeting of Reconciliation Networks of the World at Coventry, England. They co-sponsored the 1998 meeting at St. Matthews and are helping plan the 2005 meeting, which also will be held at St. Matthews, Oct. 5-8.

In 1999, members worked together to build a missionary house at St. Paul's. The following year they helped establish a city-wide reconciliation effort after a crusade featuring Dallas pastor Tony Evans. The Evans meetings drew 13,000 people and featured 166 participating churches from various backgrounds and denominations.

In addition, St. Paul's and St. Matthews meet each February on the Southern Baptist Convention's

"Race Relations Sunday."

"Both of us have the same agenda—we're each trying to bring people to a right relationship with Jesus Christ," St. Paul's pastor Lincoln Bingham said of the annual service. Bingham also serves as consultant for cooperative ministries for the Kentucky Baptist Convention. "We also celebrate what has happened on the horizontal plane. We recognize it when things are done to bring people together."

## "A better race climate"

Since this effort began, 74 black churches have joined the Kentucky Baptist Convention, Bingham said, and St. Matthews is in the process of joining the historically black General Association of Baptists in Kentucky.

Saloma Baptist Church, a predominantly Anglo church in Campbellsville, also will apply for membership at the association's annual meeting in July, Bingham said.

"I believe we have created a better race climate in Louisville," Bingham said. "One thing our church has learned is to develop a deeper appreciation for cultural differences, worship styles and ministerial approaches. We see them as strengths rather than weaknesses."

Efforts to bridge cultural, socio-economic and racial gaps have great spiritual significance, according to Riley. Not only has it changed an atmosphere of hopelessness in Lynch to one of hope, four new churches have started in the small rural community, he said.

"We don't see each other as black and white," Riley said. "Everyone understands there are differences but we don't key in on the differences. We key in on the Lord's Word and helping the community."

Hampton added that reconciliation is also personal.

"Lonnie and I have such a good relationship," said Hampton, who credits Riley with mentoring him when he became a bivocational pastor in 1999. "In basketball and life, I'm indebted to him."

Western Recorder state correspondent Ken Walker wrote this article as a freelance writer for the Kentucky Baptist Convention

## Disaster relief workers feeding and cleaning near Prestonsburg

By David Winfrey  
News Director

**Prestonsburg**—Kentucky Baptist disaster relief volunteers are in Prestonsburg this week, responding to floods that have damaged more than 400 homes in Floyd County.

A feeding team was expected to be set up this past weekend at Clark Elementary School, according to Larry Koch, disaster relief coordinator for the Kentucky Baptist Convention's men's ministries department.

From May 27 to 31 storms resulted in high winds, tornados and flooding throughout the state, according to Stacy Floden, public information officer for Kentucky Emergency Management.

A total of 34 counties have declared a state of emergency, seeking state and national assistance, she said.

Of 20 counties where statistics were available, more than 2,000 homes were affected by the storms, with at least 136 being destroyed and another 839 having "major damage," she said.

At least \$15 million in damages has been recorded and five people were killed in the storms, Floden said.

The hardest hit counties were Henry, Floyd, Magoffin and Martin, she said.

In Hardin County, Kentucky Baptist volunteers helped at least 33 families remove fallen trees from their yards.

Chainsaw crews cut the trees into portable logs and limbs and helped move them to the side of the road for removal. Workers finished their work there last weekend, Koch said.

Volunteers are expected to be needed through the rest of the week in Floyd County, according to Harold Moore, a disaster relief volunteer who is organizing volunteer "mud-out" teams in the Prestonsburg area.

"It looks about as bad as anything you've seen," said Moore, who added that local residents were just learning of help to clean out their homes.

In many houses, volunteers will have to remove all flooring and tear out the walls—down to the studs—to avoid potential mildew from spreading and causing a health hazard.

## Churches damaged

At least three churches were damaged by the flooding in Enterprise Baptist Association, according to Director of Missions Tom Biddle. Those are:

■ Liberty Baptist Church in Johnson County had more than two feet of mud and water in its sanctuary.

■ Licking River Baptist Church in Magoffin County had approximately six inches of water in its building.

"They had just remodeled their sanctuary in the winter time," Biddle said, adding that members expect to have to rip out and replace its floors.

■ Mt. Beulah Baptist Church in Martin County had about five feet of water and mud in its building, Biddle said.

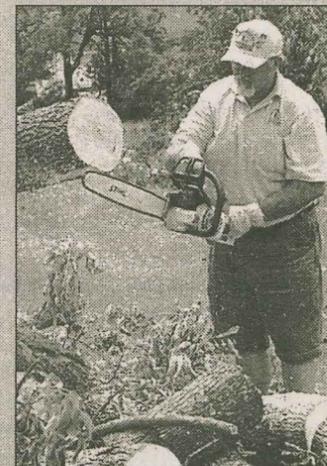
"That's a small church and pretty much everybody who's a member had their homes wiped out," he said. Those families were moved to temporary housing, he added, so repairs are expected to take longer.

In Floyd County alone, at least 400 homes were damaged by the floods, according to Jim Caldwell, emergency management director for Floyd County.

The county is accustomed to flooding for the Levisa Fork of the Big Sandy River, but this storm flooded tributaries not normally affected, he said. "It's one of the worst (floods) that we've had on the northern end of the county."

An estimated 4,000 people in Floyd County were affected by the floods, which dumped six inches of water in a 24-hour period, he said.

For more information about disaster relief volunteer opportunities and training, contact the KBC men's ministries department at (888) 254-5720.



**EMINENCE CLEAN UP** Kentucky Baptist disaster relief volunteers like Bob Perkins of Simpsonville were on hand within a few days to help residents of Eminence clear trees and debris. (KBC photo by Brenda Smith)

## WESTERN RECORDER

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

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## Gambling—Don't bet your life on it

By Howard Dayton

Gainesville, Ga. (BP)—Why have places like Las Vegas become such popular "vacation" destinations—even among Christians? And why have so many Christians bought into the notion that gambling is nothing more than harmless entertainment? Just what is gambling, and why do people gamble?

A report by the Employee Assistance Program at the University of Texas at Austin indicated that approximately \$14 billion per year worth of productivity is lost by business and industry through absenteeism, wasted time, poor work performance, loss of income, criminal acts such as theft, accident, rehabilitation and recovery and medical treatment due to gambling and gambling-related problems.

In addition to this—and unseen to most people—at least a quarter or maybe more of all family disruptions, neglected or abused children, divorces, mental breakdowns and suicides can be traced back to the negative effects of gambling.

In the strictest sense, gambling is a method by which a person thinks he or she can get rich quick without having to earn the wealth by labor. Solomon said, "There is profit in all hard work, but endless talk leads only to poverty" (Proverbs 14:23).

Attaining wealth by working is scriptural, but attaining wealth by enticing someone to gain money at the certain loss of someone else violates every principle taught by Jesus. In short, gambling is deceptive and sinful. It promotes and breeds selfishness, greed and covetousness.

Regardless of how socially acceptable the practice of gambling has become, it still is preying on the weaknesses of others, and this is contrary to the instruction of Scripture in 1 Thessalonians 5:14-15.

## Why gamble?

Many people gamble because they feel they have needs that cannot be met through earned income. Gambling to them is their "opportu-

nity" to acquire material wealth and comforts.

Another group gambles just for the fun of it; they call themselves social gamblers.

A third group entails compulsive gamblers. For them, gambling is a disease that wrecks their finances, families and careers.

At first glance, each group appears to have a different motive for gambling but, in reality, they all have the same motive: gaining materialism without labor (Proverbs 14:23)—the ultimate in get-rich-quick schemes.

Is gambling wrong?

The following might help you as a Christian evaluate whether gambling is an activity with which you should be involved, because gambling:

■ Often is connected with other vices, such as prostitution and drugs.

■ Is always associated with get-rich-quick motives (see Proverbs 28:22).

■ Discourages work (see Genesis 3:19).

■ Often will offend a brother or sister in Christ (see 1 Corinthians 8:11-12).

■ Manifests a heart of greed and love of money, which Scripture says is the root of all evil. "Those who want to be rich fall into temptation, a trap, and many foolish and harmful desires, which plunge people into ruin and destruction" (1 Timothy 6:9).

## Effect of lotteries

State lotteries operate legally in more than 40 states, and several more have voted to join the crowd.

Citizens of one state spend an average of \$1.5 billion annually on lottery tickets. They could have spent that money in local businesses, placed it in investment vehicles or deposited it in savings.

Ironically, much of that money goes right into the state's coffers, making the state the big winner. States generally claim from 35 to 45 percent of the money raised by lotteries.

## Teach children spiritual truths

Vacation Bible school is one of the best opportunities in the local church to introduce boys and girls to the Christian faith in an understandable way. A focused Christian learning experience of at least 15 hours, VBS is composed of creative engagement with Bible stories and enjoyable learning activities.

VBS is one of the favorite activities for many boys and girls during the summer. It is rewarding to see boys and girls have fun learning about God's love and grace expressed in the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

The week of VBS does much to teach Christian values and obedience to God and His Word. The concentrated learning helps develop Christian convictions. When a value becomes a conviction, you are likely committed with all your heart, mind and strength (Deuteronomy 6:5). It is a delightful experience to see my granddaughter, Lily,

quote that verse pointing to her heart, mind and then raising her arms and flexing her muscles as she concluded with "strength."

The writer of Deuteronomy makes it clear in chapter 6 that parents have an awesome responsibility to live and teach the faith in their lifestyle. We begin by making sure that the truth of God is indelibly impressed upon our hearts. Then we are to impress them on our children.

The Bible says we are to talk of the Lord's commandments when we are at home and when walking and traveling. Teaching Bible truth is to be the last thing we do before we go to bed and the first thing when we arise in the morning (Deuteronomy 6:7).

We also are to be bold with our commitment as we wear symbols of our faith and make them visible at home. They serve as reminders of our commitment, provide great

Administration and promotion take another 10 to 20 percent, leaving less than half of the money collected to be paid to winners.

According to the Grocers Association of one of the largest states, 66 percent of the food stores that sell lottery tickets reported a decline in food sales after they began to sell tickets. It is estimated that since 1990 more than half of that state's lottery ticket sales came from customers whose income is near or below the national poverty level.

The poor tend to be the greater victims of the lottery simply by virtue of the fact that they have smaller incomes.

Emmett Henderson of the Georgia Baptist Convention's office of ethics and public affairs says, "For the poor, lottery is not harmless entertainment. It is a desperate but vain attempt to survive. But the odds of winning are so cruel—roughly 13 million-to-one is typical for state lotteries throughout America—that lottery turns out to be theft by consent. Almost all players lose money."

## What would Jesus do?

Jesus said all the commandments can be summed up in the first and greatest commandment (love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul and mind) and in the second commandment (love your neighbor as yourself).

Ponder the following questions: Would Jesus participate in this game of chance? Would He bet money on His chances of winning? Would His involvement cause others to accept Him as their perfect example? While these questions might appear ludicrous, the way a Christian answers these questions should determine his or her course of action.

Someone has said that Christians are the only Christ many non-Christians will ever see. Remember that, more often than not, our actions and our decisions will bear testimony of what should be the true nature of Christ. "I will honor those who honor Me, but those who despise Me will be disgraced" (1 Samuel 2:30).

Howard Dayton is CEO of Crown Financial Ministries

teaching opportunities and serve as points of discussion.

David wrote in Psalm 78:6-7 that each generation has the responsibility to teach God's commandments, "so the next generation would know them, even the children yet to be born, and they in turn would tell their children. Then they would put their trust in God and would not forget His deeds but would keep His commands."

I believe that every child and youth deserves the opportunity to learn about God's love through VBS. Pray for all who will be teaching and leading VBS, and for the pupils and their parents!

**Special Note:** Due to an oversight, Susan Emmons Hatfield's name was left off the list of missionaries who came out of Rose Hill Baptist Church, Ashland, in my article in the May 25 issue of the Western Recorder. Susan and her husband, Mark, serve as International Mission Board missionaries in Eastern and Southern Africa.

Bill Mackey is executive director of the Kentucky Baptist Convention

## STEWARDSHIP

## Are there safe, proven ways to 'get rich quick'?

By Don Spencer

It's every investor's dream—a money-making technique that you can get in on for a small amount of money, ignore for a few years and then reap a great reward. Does it

sound like a lost crusade? It wasn't for Ann. She's been putting aside \$75 a month for the past five years and has earned an annual return of almost 8 percent per year. And it was not a dream for Martin, who started saving 50 cents per week in 1946 and now has more than \$82,000.

Ann and Martin have been more successful than some professional money managers because they stuck to some basic principles of investing:

■ **Pay yourself first.** (For the Christian, this secular principle should be stated, "Pay God and yourself first.") Ann and Martin invested regularly each month. One used payroll deductions and the other used automatic check withdrawals. The critical thing was their commitment to saving a specific amount every month—even if the amount was relatively small.

■ **Every little bit counts.** That's due to the impact of compound interest and its counterpart, dividend reinvestment. I remember my grandmother's savings account passbook that was found after her death. The last transaction was many years in the past. It was amazing to see the effects of compounding on a very small, seemingly insignificant amount of money. It had grown over the years to become a significant sum. Remember, as an investor, time is on your side.

■ **Don't follow the herd.** Regular investing saves you from the tendency to buy high and sell low. By investing an equal amount each month, you benefit over time. Know why you're investing. Pick investments that are appropriate to your risk tolerance level and your time horizon. For example, you can use higher risk investments for retirement that is years away.

Above all, don't chase last year's winners. Too many people sabotage their investment strategy by moving their money to the investment that did best last year. Rarely will you benefit from this approach. Too often, you will be buying high and selling low, which is no way to make money.

Finally, use professional help where appropriate, but take control of your investments.

Don Spencer is a certified financial planner and directs the Kentucky Baptist Convention's annuity department



## Planned or spontaneous fun can help revitalize marriage

**Q: My husband and I have been married for just a few years and yet we are acting like "an old married couple." What can we do to put some fun back into our marriage?**

To many couples consider dating as the preceding event to marriage and fail to continue dating after they get married. Dating involves several essential elements for a healthy and loving relationship, one of which is play.

God has given us a beautiful creation to enjoy, so play! Play helps us relax and laugh. Laughter helps us gain perspective and let go of minor frustrations. Laughter helps our body, mind and spirit heal from the disappointments of daily living and refocus on God's goodness and the privilege of loving relationships.

Making play a priority in your marriage can help you and your spouse detox from the demands of jobs and other stress. Play can be a planned vacation but even better, sprinkle play throughout your day. Play includes such acts as:

- Leaving an encouraging note for your spouse in his or her car along with a favorite treat.
- Leaving a single flower on the side of the bathroom sink (though you might want to clean the sink first).
- Spreading a picnic cloth in the middle of the den, placing a candle in the center and calling it a campfire where you both can tell stories.
- Sending one of those silly and fun e-cards to your spouse in the middle of the day.
- Surprising your spouse at lunch break with take-out from a favorite restaurant.
- Making up questions to ask one another while driving in order to discover more about each other.
- Rewarding your spouse for an achievement by presenting some cash at a favorite store and letting him or her search for that perfect item.

Play is that perfect fun and feeling good in the process. It can add new life to tired patterns of marital relating. Play is vital to a healthy marriage.—Valerie Vincent

**Q: With summer here, our kids love to ride their bikes. However, it often is a struggle to get them to wear their bicycle helmets. How important are helmets?**

There are 85 million bicycle riders in the United States. More than half a million bicyclists visit emergency rooms each year with injuries.

Approximately three-fourths of all bicycle-related head injuries occur among children ages 14 and under. In 2001, 134 children age 14 and under died in bicycle-related crashes. Riding without a helmet significantly increases the risk of sustaining a head injury in the event of a crash. Nonhelmeted riders are 14 times more likely to be involved in a fatal crash than helmeted riders.

These statistics from the Bicycle Highway Safety Institute underscore the importance of using helmets. Children (and adults) always should wear a bicycle helmet that meets or exceeds the safety standards developed by the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission. Good helmets can be purchased for less than \$15, but they must fit properly in order to work properly. The National Safe Kids Campaign Web site offers the following tips:

**Eyes.** The rim of the helmet should be one to two finger-widths above the eyebrows.

**Ears.** The straps should form a "V" just beneath the ear lobe.

**Mouth.** The buckle should be flush against the skin under the chin. When the rider opens his mouth, he should feel the strap snug on the chin and the helmet hugging his head.

For more information about bicycle safety, visit [www.safekids.com](http://www.safekids.com).—David Garrard

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## Ten prayer requests for next week's SBC

"The intense prayer of the righteous is very powerful," declares James 5:16 in the new Holman Christian Standard Bible.

As a few thousand Southern Baptist Convention messengers gather next week in Indianapolis for the 2004 SBC annual meeting, intense prayer is the most significant action available for the millions of Southern Baptists who won't make the June 15-16 trip to Indy.

In fact, a group of more than 260 Baptists in the host state of Indiana have been conducting a 24-hour-a-day, seven-days-a-week prayer vigil for the SBC annual meeting since last fall. For Kentucky Baptists who would like to join in praying for next week's Southern Baptist gathering, consider the following 10 prayer requests:

**1. Crossover Indiana.** The weekend before the annual meeting, hundreds of Baptist volunteers will be involved in Crossover Indiana, an evangelistic emphasis that will use block parties, door-to-door visits and other efforts to spread the gospel in and around Indianapolis. Crossover, which has been held in conjunction with the SBC annual meeting since 1989, has led to more than 33,000 people making professions of faith in Christ. Pray both for the ministry volunteers and the spiritual response of people they encounter.

**2. SBC-related meetings.** The Southern Baptist Pastors' Conference, Woman's Missionary Union annual meeting and several other auxiliary meetings are held in conjunction with the SBC each year. Pray that participants will hear words of encouragement and challenge and be better prepared to serve in mission and ministry settings throughout the nation and world.

**3. Convention officers.** Pray for SBC President Jack Graham as he moderates Southern Baptists' two-day business session. Ask God to imbue him with wisdom, insight and balance as he presides. Pray also for the new convention officers who will be elected next week.

**4. Baptist World Alliance proposal.** As messengers consider an SBC Executive Committee recommendation to end the convention's 99-year membership in BWA, pray for a positive, Christ-honoring discussion focused on the merits of the issue. Above all, pray that God's will can be discerned and followed for the benefit of the SBC and our Baptist brothers and sisters around the world.

**5. SBC Resolutions Committee.** Pray for the members of this year's Resolutions Committee as they conduct their work and present recommendations. Pray especially for their responses—one that seeks to distance the SBC from public schools and the other that affirms historic Baptist involvement in those settings.

**6. Cooperative Program budget.** Messengers will consider a proposed \$183.2 million Cooperative Program budget for 2004-05.

Pray that the funds will be used effectively and efficiently to spread the gospel at home and abroad.

**7. Convention speakers.** Pray for Graham's presidential address as well as the annual convention sermon and a series of "Kingdom Challenge" messages by various speakers. Ask God to use each speaker's words to benefit participants and the work of God's Kingdom.

**8. Convention reports.** The Southern Baptist International Mission Board, North American Mission Board and other SBC entities will present annual reports. Pray for their ministry efforts next week and throughout the year.

**9. Franklin Graham.** The head of the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association will be the closing speaker for this year's annual meeting. Pray that his message will make a spiritual difference in the lives of convention participants.

**10. Messengers' spirit.** As messengers explore the theme, "Kingdom Forever," pray that we all maintain an effective witness that will impact our nation and world for the cause of Christ.

### STRAIGHT FROM THE EDITOR



Trennis Henderson

## 'I prayed with a Marine today'

By Shane Dillman

Bethesda, Md. (BP)—One of the moments frozen in time is the breathtaking and awe-inspiring photograph of the Marines raising the flag atop Mt. Suribachi on Iwo Jima in the gruesome struggle that would claim thousands and forever change the men who took part in this bloodiest of bloody battles.

Ministering to the injured Marines who are returning from Iraq and Afghanistan are moments that will be forever frozen in time for me. As a staff chaplain at the National Naval Medical Center in Bethesda, Md., I am honored to be able to serve the Marines and their families during difficult and trying times.

Every day I am able to see the honor, courage and commitment of these young men and women who have made the U.S. Marine Corps the pride of America's military. I consider it a great honor to be able to care for, support and pray for some of America's greatest heroes. Many of these brave Marines have lost limbs, their sight and are battle fatigued, but in almost every case, their main concern lies with their fellow Marines who are still in harm's way.

As I was talking to one Marine, he told me his greatest regret was that he would no longer be able to serve beside his fellow Marines. The reason this brave young man could no longer serve was that he had lost both arms in combat. As I met with him, his wife and his parents,

he said nothing about the sacrifices he had made. With tears in his eyes, he spoke with grace and poise about the love and sacrifices his family had made for him.

This story of love and strength is not an isolated incident but is the norm for the injured Marines who are returning from Iraq and

Afghanistan.

In America, we make movies about heroes and patriots. Some of the finest patriots I have ever met have been Marines who are patients at National Naval Medical Center. Through their valor, they show what it truly means to be among the few and the proud. When I was growing up, I thought of Marines as super heroes. Whether a Marine is in uniform or in civilian attire, it was always easy to spot them. They held their heads a little higher and each step showed their pride.

The young men and women I am able to visit every day represent everything that is good about America. They have pride in self and country. They do not ask for personal favors, but they are consistently trying to find out information about their fellow Marines. It is very difficult to see people hurting both emotionally and physically. I am privileged to show them God's love and have the opportunity to pray with them and many times share tears with them.

The image that stands out the most in my memory occurred while I was walking down the passage-

way to my office and heard a voice behind me. I instantly recognized the voice of a young Marine who had lost his left leg in combat. As I turned my head, I was astounded to see him walking toward me. He told me that he wanted to thank me for all of the prayers, calling cards and the time we had spent talking. He told me that he spent prosthetic was working out well and that he would be able to carry on.

I wanted to smile and shake his hand, but instead I had to choke back the tears. I told this young man that he did not have to thank me for anything; it was he who had done me a great favor. He had allowed me to stand with him at a very vulnerable time. After a quick nod, he thanked me and walked away.

Whether someone agrees or disagrees with the war in Iraq is inconsequential; what really matters is the bravery of these young men and women. They are willing to answer the same call that so many before them have heard. With much the same courage their ancestors displayed when they raised the flag at Iwo Jima, these young Americans have raised our flag throughout Iraq. They have given people who have never known freedom the chance to be free. They protect the innocent and care for the fallen.

They also have allowed this Navy chaplain the highest honor of being able to say, "I prayed with a Marine today."

Navy Chaplain Shane Dillman serves at the National Naval Medical Center in Bethesda, Md.

## Leaders: Prestonsburg MissionsFEST has lasting impact

By Julie Walters  
Woman's Missionary Union

**Prestonsburg (BP)**—The recent ministry projects for MissionsFEST are showing staying power in Prestonsburg and the surrounding area, according to local Baptists.

The Woman's Missionary Union outreach concluded April 24 "but it has sparked great interest and enthusiasm for community outreach," said Kathi Sparks, a local resident who was among the 200-plus volunteers participating in the weeklong missions experience jointly sponsored by national WMU, Kentucky WMU, Appalachian Regional Ministry and the local Enterprise Baptist Association.

In addition to local churches,

MissionsFEST attracted volunteers from Alabama, Arkansas, Colorado, Florida, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, Missouri, North Carolina, Ohio, Tennessee, Texas and Virginia.

A total of eight professions of faith were recorded during the week, and the changed lives included those of the volunteers.

"We saw the mindset (of local volunteers) change from being a missions field to seeing themselves as missionaries," said Tom Biddle, director of missions for Enterprise Association.

### Volunteers catching vision

"Volunteers caught a vision and a passion to go out beyond the walls of their respective churches and reach their communities with the love of Christ," he added.

Also as a result of the week, area residents are visiting church for the first time, pastors and local ministries have been encouraged, volunteers are praying about where God would have them serve next and valuable relationships have been formed, Biddle said.

"A month later, people are still talking about the impact."

More than 90 Kentucky volunteers from outside Enterprise Association participated in MissionsFEST, according to Joy Bolton,

executive director of Kentucky Woman's Missionary Union.

"I've continued to hear good comments from the folks in Enterprise Association about how pleased they were at the number who came," she said.

Throughout the week, 29 ministry sites provided a wide array of evangelistic and service opportunities, including after-school Bible clubs, prayerwalking, multihousing ministry, clowning at retirement homes, construction, landscaping, cleaning and repairs.

"I have prayed to go on a missions trip for years, but God used me right here at home by bringing MissionsFEST to our area," Sparks said.

Sparks was one of a group of nine volunteers who visited low-income housing developments in Johnson County. Paired with Zeldean Munton, a volunteer from Missouri, Sparks witnessed God at work as they walked from door to door with tracts, copies of the New Testament, and light bulbs in sleeves that stated, "Jesus is the light of the world."

### Door-to-door witnessing

As they approached the first door, Sparks admitted she was terrified. "I was totally out of my comfort zone, but knew I was do-

ing what God wanted me to do. I didn't have to do anything; God was doing it."

On the first day, Sparks said they were well-received in the community, but no decisions for Christ were made. On the morning of the second day, very few doors were even opened. During lunch, other volunteers who were working on quilts for girls at Morehead's Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children inquired how they could pray for Sparks and Munton.

Their request was simple: "Ask God to open doors." The remainder of the day went quite differently, Sparks said. Many doors indeed opened, including the door of a 33-year-old woman's heart, she said.

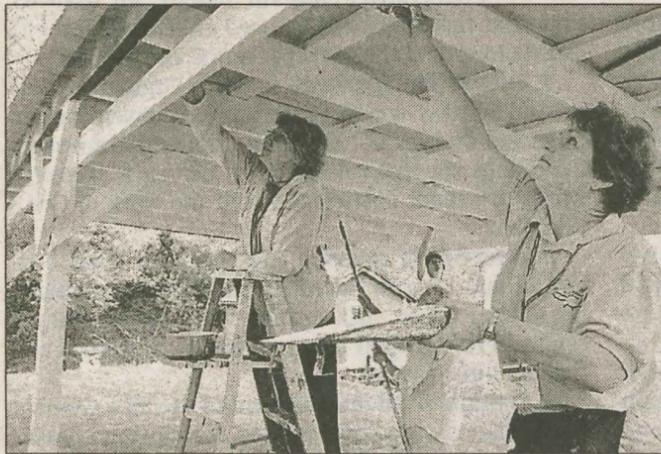
"We asked if we could talk with her for a few minutes as she eyed the Bibles in our hands," Sparks recounted. "She answered, 'You can talk but I probably won't listen.' But the longer we talked, the softer she got. She accepted Christ while we were there and is now visiting my church."

For more information about MissionsFEST and FamilyFEST, contact WMU's Volunteer Connection at (205) 991-4097 or visit [www.wmu.com](http://www.wmu.com).

With additional reporting by News Director David Winfrey

### MISSIONSFEST

Volunteers paint a car shelter this past April in Eastern Kentucky as part of MissionsFEST. In addition to drawing workers from 12 other states, more than 90 Kentucky volunteers came from outside the local area. (File photo)



"The majority of the soldiers were coming back from down range with nothing but the BDUs (battle dress uniforms) that they were wearing."

Sgt. Joel Reeder

Continued from page 1

"(My father) asked me what the situation was at the hospital and at that point I didn't really know much about the hospital's operations. I checked into the situation by contacting the Landstuhl chaplain's office and the Landstuhl chapter of the American Red Cross," Joel Reeder said.

"I was informed that the majority of the soldiers were coming back from down range with nothing but the BDUs (battle dress uniforms) that they were wearing. They had no extra clothes or comfort items."

The more he looked into the situation, the more strongly the younger Reeder felt that he had to do something. Delivering care packages with a small variety of items that would make the soldiers' stay more comfortable seemed like the ideal solution.

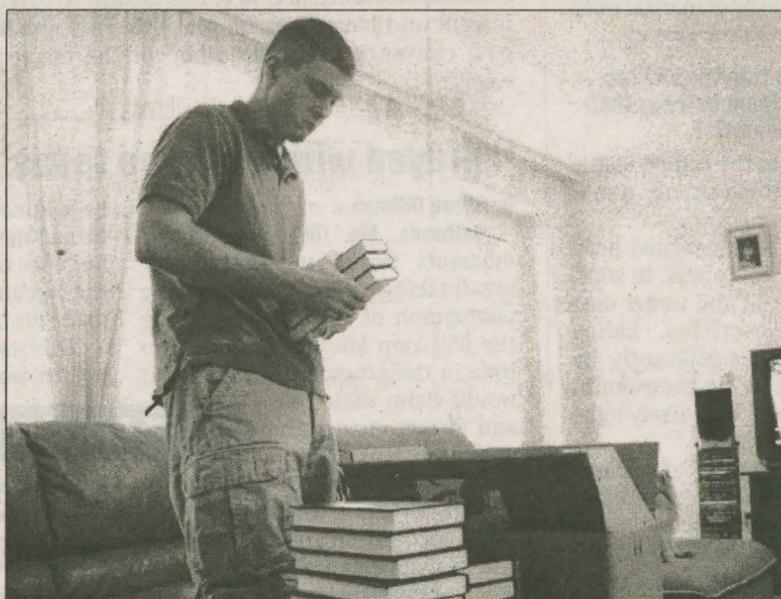
With the help and guidance of his father, Joel Reeder investigated the situation and made sure he had proper clearance to begin helping.

Back home in Western Kentucky, Rick Reeder asked the members of Caldwell-Lyon Association to pray for his son, and began setting up channels to collect and direct funds to the fledgling ministry.

### Candy, phone cards and Bibles

"My role here was to try to set up a means by which people who want to donate can, in a way that we have oversight and accountability," Reeder said. "People want to know what to do, they just need a way."

As word got out, donations began to come in. Kyle Reeder, Joel's older brother, shared a flyer detailing the ministry with one of his guitar students. The student took it to his parents, who in turn shared the request



**GETTING READY** Joel Reeder looks over Bibles to be distributed to wounded soldiers recovering at the military hospital Landstuhl, Germany. Kentucky Baptists have donated more than \$3,000 to the project.

with their church. The church since has voted to give \$500 to Wounded Warriors Relief.

For his first trip to Landstuhl, Joel Reeder pulled together more than \$800 from family, friends and his own bank account. Reeder used the money to purchase puzzle books, phone cards, candy, fast-food coupons, paper envelopes and more from the local Post Exchange for the special care packages to be distributed. Purchasing the items and assembling the care packages himself was more cost-effective and efficient than asking individuals and churches to assemble and ship the packages to Germany.

Joel Reeder also included a Bible and wrote a letter that he included in each care package, explaining the origins of the gift.

"Whatever branch of the service you are in, you know that we take care of our own. That is why I am here, but these gifts were made possible not by a military organization or even from military communities," wrote Joel Reeder, who has been a member of Trace Creek Baptist Church in Mayfield for seven years. "These gifts come from a group of Christian individuals from Western Kentucky. These are ordinary citizens who felt the need to support you out of patriotism and American pride."

On April 24, Joel Reeder, his wife, Stephanie, and another friend drove 250 miles from Reeder's base to the hospital to visit with wounded soldiers and deliver the care packages.

"The soldiers that received the

packages seemed to really enjoy them. I received a very positive response," he said. "I was amazed that these soldiers were in such good spirits after being injured so badly. Some soldiers had lost an arm or leg and one a hand, but they welcomed me in and told me their stories."

### Making the ministry last

Joel Reeder plans to continue the ministry as long as resources are available. He has made arrangements through a local Baptist church near the base to continue the ministry if he is deployed, and plans to expand the care packages to include Christian literature and tracts.

"The response I got from other soldiers has been amazing," he said. "Everyone that I have talked to about the project has been excited about it and some have volunteered to help."

Rick Reeder is working through contacts in the United States to find more ministry partners in Germany who might be willing to help.

Since Joel Reeder's first trip, Caldwell-Lyon Association also has voted to pay for the younger Reeder to make two more trips at a total cost of \$1,600. Also, churches from as far away as Washington and North Carolina have indicated interest in participating.

For more information about Wounded Warriors Relief, send an e-mail to [woundedwarriors@earthlink.net](mailto:woundedwarriors@earthlink.net) or call Rick and Joyce Reeder at (270) 388-4867.

E-mail messages also can be sent to be included in the care packages via the [woundedwarriors@earthlink.net](mailto:woundedwarriors@earthlink.net) address. Cards can be sent to Box 972, Eddyville, KY 42038.

Summer camp time is here

Would you commit to pray for us in three key areas?

Camp has arrived and it is moving quickly. As you read this, we will be midway through our second week of camp at Jonathan Creek.

I personally love the change of pace that camp brings. While our schedules are long and tiresome, the energy and excitement from thousands of youth in some way make me feel a little younger.

We have looked forward to this summer with great anticipation. When you add campers from Cedarmore, Jonathan Creek and our Moldova partnership, the numbers are significant. God has opened the door for us to impact approximately 10,000 people this summer. With these tremendous numbers, we do have many areas that you can support with your prayers.

Consider committing to pray for our ministry in the following three specific areas: First, that we will be the best stewards of our time with youth by using all possible means to present the gospel and disciple them. Second, pray for our staff at each location;

pray that we will have the energy to maintain the long, rapid pace during camp and that we each will lead our respective staff in a God-honoring way. Third, pray that campers will be kept safe. This is the one area that makes me most nervous, and it is the one area that can disrupt our ministry the most.

KENTUCKY BAPTIST ASSEMBLIES



David Melber

You might wonder why I did not ask you to pray that we see thousands of decisions. I believe that if we are good stewards in teaching, we lead in a God-honoring way, and if our campers are safe, the decisions will come.

As always, camp will be over before we know it: We anticipate that this will be an amazing summer, filled with excitement, entertainment and a great deal of change in the lives of those who attend. We even now look forward to students who will feel God's call upon their lives to give themselves to Him in lifelong ministry. Maybe some of those students will be living out that call next summer by serving in Moldova as a result of God's power now.

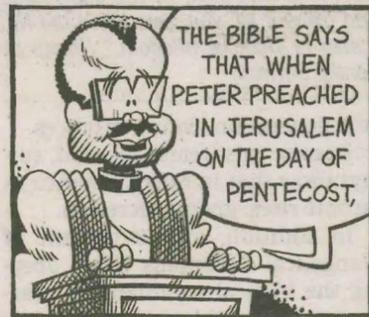
David Melber is president of Kentucky Baptist Assemblies. Contact him at 3043 Beal Road, Hardin, KY 42048; phone (270) 354-8355.

Kudzu



Doug Marlette

For Heaven's Sake



Mike Morgan

Bible Crosswords

Across

- 1 Croaker
- 5 "The priest shall pronounce him clean: it is but a \_\_\_\_" (Leviticus 13:6)
- 9 Female sibling, for short
- 12 South American country
- 13 Layer
- 14 Gold, Sp.
- 15 "And they bowed their heads, and made \_\_\_\_" (Genesis 43:28)
- 17 Familiar name for Saul's son (1 Samuel 14:42)
- 18 "Master, the Jews of \_\_\_\_ sought to stone thee" (John 11:8)
- 19 "Then Saul fell straightway all \_\_\_\_ on the earth" (1 Samuel 28:20)
- 20 "Though thou shouldst bray a fool in a mortar among wheat with a \_\_\_\_" (Proverbs 27:22)
- 23 Plural suffix
- 24 "And be ye kind \_\_\_\_ to another" (Ephesians 4:32)
- 25 "Stolen \_\_\_\_ are sweet" (Proverbs 9:17)
- 28 "Woe unto them that draw iniquity ... and sin as it were with a cart \_\_\_\_" (Isaiah 5:18)
- 30 "The liberal soul shall be made \_\_\_\_" (Proverbs 11:25)
- 31 Conceited person
- 33 "Cut the bars of iron in \_\_\_\_" (Psalm 107:16)
- 35 Before, poetic
- 36 Talking horse
- 37 "And the harp, and the viol, and the \_\_\_\_ ..." (Isaiah 5:12)
- 40 "They fell on their \_\_\_\_: and they said, The Lord he is the God" (1 Kings 18:39)
- 42 Volcano output
- 43 Burned residue
- 44 "If ... I may provoke to \_\_\_\_ them which are my flesh" (Romans 11:14)
- 49 Black sticky substance

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Janet W. Adkins

- 50 "And his allowance was a \_\_\_\_ daily \_\_\_\_ for every day" (2 Kings 25:30)
  - 51 Sharpen
  - 52 Compass point, abbr.
  - 53 "Thou sawest the feet and \_\_\_\_" (Daniel 2:41)
  - 54 Precipitation
- Down**
- 1 Fleet post office, abbr.
  - 2 Confederate soldier
  - 3 Mine product
  - 4 "But thou shalt put away the \_\_\_\_ of innocent blood from Israel" (Deuteronomy 19:13)
  - 5 "For I have learned, in whatsoever \_\_\_\_ I am, therewith to be content" (Philippians 4:11)
  - 6 Motion picture
  - 7 Atomic Energy Commission, abbr.
  - 8 "That the \_\_\_\_ may be waved for a wave offering" (Leviticus 7:30)
  - 9 "For I am a stranger with thee, and a \_\_\_\_ as all my fathers were" (Psalm 39:12)
  - 10 "Thou shalt not lift up any \_\_\_\_ tool upon them" (Deuteronomy 27:5)
  - 11 "And he hath put a new \_\_\_\_ in my mouth" (Psalm 40:3)
  - 16 My Gal \_\_\_\_
  - 20 For, Sp.
  - 21 "And Seth ... begat \_\_\_\_" (Genesis 5:6)

- 22 "Their throat is an open \_\_\_\_" (Psalm 5:9)
- 23 "And they shall \_\_\_\_ the flesh in that night, roast with fire" (Exodus 12:8)
- 25 "Joshua made \_\_\_\_ a long time with all those kings" (Joshua 11:18)
- 26 Einsteinium, chem. symbol
- 27 Painful
- 29 Printer's measure
- 30 "When saw we thee an hungered and \_\_\_\_ thee?" (Matthew 25:37)
- 32 Wager
- 34 "The \_\_\_\_ shall rejoice and blossom as the rose" (Isaiah 35:1)
- 37 "And their words seemed to them as idle \_\_\_\_" (Luke 24:11)
- 38 "The king of Assyria brought men from Babylon ... Cuthah, and from \_\_\_\_" (2 Kings 17:24)
- 39 Twenty thousand measures of barley, and twenty thousand \_\_\_\_ of wine" (2 Chronicles 2:10)
- 40 Destiny
- 41 Belonging to Abia's son (Matthew 1:7)
- 42 Ancient musical instrument
- 45 Late Chinese Communist Chairman
- 46 Charged particle
- 47 "The children of Lod, Hadid, and \_\_\_\_" (Ezra 2:33)
- 48 Not old

**Is adoption an option?**

Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children can help you learn more about domestic and international adoptions and provide guidance throughout the adoption process.

Join us for a free adoption orientation meeting. Meetings will be held from 7 to 9 p.m. Eastern time in Louisville on the following dates:  
**June 24, July 15, August 5, September 16, October 14, and November 18.**

Reservations are required. Please call KBHC at 1-800-928-5342 to make a reservation and receive directions.

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www.carpenterbus.com

Last week's solution

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| 31 |    |   |    |    |    |    | 32 | A  | G  | A | 33 | A  |
| 35 | N  | A | K  | E  | D  |    | 37 | A  | R  | C | 38 | D  |
| 40 | G  | M |    | 41 | V  | I  | 42 | C  | E  | H | 43 | H  |
| 45 | S  | E | T  | 46 | H  |    | 47 | S  | O  | L | I  | D  |
| 49 | 50 | A | A  | 51 | H  | 52 | B  | A  | 53 | B | O  | L  |
| 54 | O  | V | U  | L  | E  | 56 | E  | A  | 57 | S | 58 | N  |
| 59 | L  | A | R  | G  | E  | 60 | E  | E  | L  | Y |    |    |

## Christian financial adviser asks, 'How much is enough?'

**"We believe what the world tells us about money, as opposed to what God tells us."**

Author and financial adviser Ron Blue

By Ken Walker  
State Correspondent

Louisville—An international financial planning expert believes churches have a window of opportunity to fulfill Christ's Great Commission, but only if their members first acknowledge that God owns everything.

Speaking at a May 25 breakfast sponsored by the Louisville Christian Foundation, Ron Blue said many Christians fail to recognize the difference between ownership and stewardship.

With the latter, a person recognizes he or she has been given the responsibility for wisely managing God's resources, he said.

"If I don't own it, I can't lose it," said Blue, author of 13 books and founder of an Atlanta money-management firm that oversees \$2 billion in assets. "Think of the freedom that comes from that. I'm the most financially free when I hold everything God has entrusted to me with an open hand.

"That's the key to (the question) 'How much is enough?'" he added. "How much does God want you to have? Stop thinking of it as your money."

The handling of God's resources is important because of opportunities facing today's church, the speaker said, outlining such statistics as:

- With 4 percent of the world's population, the U.S. controls 40 percent of its wealth.

- Americans hold 80 percent of the world's wealth held by evangelical Christians.

- \$41 trillion soon will pass to the



**RON BLUE** The author of "Splitting Heirs" told a Louisville audience recently that too many Christians chose a lifestyle they must fund with debt. "If you understand God owns it all, you have taken the No. 1 step to financial freedom." (Photo by Donald Dornick)

next generation via inheritances.

Despite this wealth, he said, surveys show that in North America as income rises, giving decreases.

In addition, only 3 percent of evangelical Christians tithe; obeying the biblical command to practice tithing would generate another \$150 billion annually, said Blue, who now spends much of his time working with the Christian Financial Professionals Network.

The picture of churches and ministries struggling to survive financially doesn't line up with Scripture either, he said.

Blue mentioned four passages—Exodus 36:6-7, 1 Chronicles 29, Acts 4:34 and 2 Corinthians 9:8—in which generous giving created a fully-funded church.

"What if you had a fully-funded church in Louisville?" asked Blue, naming a variety of needs, such as single mothers and inner-city residents, that could be addressed. "(God) has given us in America re-

sources that are unimaginable."

One way for Christians to develop better giving habits is to decide how much is enough and then set limits, Blue advised.

Whether it is funding a child's college education, lifestyle or other concerns, Christians must decide at a certain point to stop acquiring money in order to give more, he said.

"If you don't set limits, you'll never be satisfied," Blue said. "I have yet to meet anybody of wealth who feels secure, significant or successful."

### 5 options for money

He said there are only five ways to spend money—give it away, pay taxes, pay off debt, spend it on one's lifestyle or save it.

Most people start by funding their lifestyle and since they have to pay their debt and taxes, they wind up with nothing to give and little to save, Blue said.

"I would say the priority is to give," he added. "If I set priorities, I can't live beyond my lifestyle."

"With most young families, we start with lifestyle and fund it with debt. So we don't give and we don't save for the future. If you understand God owns it all, you have taken the No. 1 step to financial freedom."

In an interview with the Western

Recorder, Blue said the problem that many Christians have is failing to live within their means.

If they believe God has called them to a particular job, they should also recognize that occupation will afford them a certain lifestyle and not try to live beyond it, he explained.

Church members also should resist society's materialistic lures, reinforced by such popular advertising slogans as "you deserve a break today" or "you deserve all the gusto you can get," Blue added.

Noting that only 40 percent of the people in his congregation give more than \$500 a year to the church, and the bleak statistics on tithing, Blue said this demonstrates the lack of a belief system.

"We believe what the world tells us about money, as opposed to what God tells us," he said. "Money becomes an object rather than a tool."

As for pastors trying to persuade their congregations to increase their giving, Blue said it begins with the leader's convictions.

Blue said he finds that many pastors are uncertain about finances, or fearful of raising the issue, so they generally avoid the issue.

"The big point is: What does the pastor himself believe so much that he does?" Blue said. "His preaching will flow out of that."



## Some things just happen and some things don't

### Oneida's Father's Day Offering needs someone to promote it in every church

There are many events in our lives that just happen. Some events are going to take place with or without our involvement or consent. Birthdays, anniversaries, taxes, the first day of school or the first day on a new job, death and much more are just going to happen.

One thing that kind of happens around here is floods. We get accustomed to them and deal with the situation the best way we can. The flood we experienced this week was a reminder of the inevitability of flooding, surrounded as we are on three sides by water.

But this article is not about floods; they just happen. What I want to tell you about will not just happen; it will take a lot of effort on the part of our faithful friends.

Father's Day is just a few days away. Father's Day is a special time set aside

to honor our fathers. Tragically, too many young people grow up without the love, counsel and support that only a father can provide. However, Father's Day is going to happen without any effort on our part. Getting a special card or gift for Dad will, on the other hand, require some effort.

Something else might happen on Father's Day, but not without your help. The special Father's Day Offering for the ministry of Oneida Baptist Institute will take some effort on your part. Many churches do a wonderful job of promoting and supporting the offering. Unfortunately, other churches may not have the opportunity to support the offering because no one promoted it.

A few weeks ago, we mailed materials to every church, telling a little about the ministry Oneida

provides. Our theme this year is "A Portrait of Oneida" and the poster sent with the promotional materials pictures five OBI students. I had nothing to do with the selection of those students, but I know each of them personally.

One of those students was on a full scholarship this past year. Her mother is deceased, and she never has had a father in her home. This young lady was very thankful for the scholarship money made available to her. Another student is from overseas and became a Christian during her sophomore year. She very much appreciated the opportunity to attend a Christian school.

One of the girls came from a broken home and was headed full speed in the wrong direction in life. She and her father are grateful for the opportunity she had to attend OBI so she could regain her priorities in life. One of the young men is a staff child and is thankful for the opportunities he had at Oneida. He has attended school at

OBI his entire life. He knows firsthand how the faculty and staff struggle with their modest salaries. Finally, the second young man is the son of a pastor/missionary. He and his sister wanted to attend Oneida but could not afford even the modest room and board we charge. Both were given full scholarships!

The Father's Day Offering helped make it possible for these and many other students to attend Oneida Baptist Institute. Please support the Father's Day Offering so we can continue to help those who need us the most! It won't just happen!

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



W.F. Underwood

## Preparing the pastor's wife

### Lincoln County student and his wife answer God's call

A grandmother's encouragement continues to motivate Sylvia Sexton, a Lincoln County student and wife of student Robert Sexton.

"My grandfather graduated from Clear Creek in 1957, and Grandmother Luada Smith encouraged me to take classes. She said I needed the background of biblical knowledge to help Robert in ministry," Sylvia said. "Our first year, we took most of the same classes, but now there is some difference because I'm on the Christian education track and Robert is preparing to be a pastor."

Sylvia's parents divorced when she was young, and her grandmother has been a mentor. "She always taught me to do what is right. She said a woman was no less a person, and I should stand on my own feet and do what God wanted. She always told me to seek Him and His wisdom and not follow what others think I should do."

The Sextons' first two years at Clear Creek included renewed friendship and support from their former pastor and his wife at New Salem Baptist Church in Lincoln County. Austin and Barbara Campbell manage Kelly Hall and campus

food services. Both Robert and Sylvia have workshop positions in Kelly Hall. "Knowing them has helped us make a good transition," Robert said. "We will miss them." The Campbells retire at the end of June.

"Last year, I started cleaning commuter (student) rooms," Sylvia said. "That keeps me humble. Being a servant is the main thing."

Robert performs maintenance work at Kelly Hall.

Another passion for Sylvia is sign language, motivated by a deaf friend in Lincoln County. "The deaf need to know the Word," Sylvia said. She completed two classes at the Kentucky School for the Deaf in Danville.

At Trinity Baptist Church in Middlesboro, the Sextons started children's church and attendance grew from four children to 14. "The children are sponges, and two mothers have started to church because of the program," Sylvia said.

Seeing the commitment and growth of Sylvia Sexton and considering her future potential affirms again the wisdom of diversifying our curriculum to encourage the training of ministry spouses.

Bill Whittaker is president of Clear Creek Baptist Bible College, Pineville, KY 40977; (606) 337-3196



Bill Whittaker

# Expanding faith-based initiatives

*President hosts conferences to praise progress while pushing for more*

Washington (RNS)—President Bush has expanded his support of faith-based and community initiatives by signing another executive order creating offices within his administration designed to give them equal footing for governmental funding of social services.

The new Centers for Faith-Based and Community Initiatives will be housed in the Departments of Commerce and Veteran Affairs and the Small Business Administration.

Bush said in the order, issued June 1, that the new centers will "help the federal government coordinate a national effort to expand opportunities for faith-based and other community organizations and to strengthen their capacity to better meet America's social and community needs."

The agency centers are designed to end obstacles to the participation of such groups in regulations, contracts and other aspects of federal programs.

The order calls for the centers to work with the White House Office of Faith-Based and Community Initiatives to distribute information and develop pilot programs to increase the participation of community and faith-based groups in governmental projects.

In previous executive orders, the president created similar centers in the Departments of Justice, Labor, Health and Human Services, Housing and Urban Development,

Education and Agriculture and in the U.S. Agency for International Development.

## "They do a better job"

Bush signed last week's order on the same day that he addressed the first White House National Conference on Faith-Based and Community Initiatives in Washington.

"I believe it is in the national interest that government stand side by side with people of faith who work to change lives for the better," the president told more than 1,500 people gathered at the Washington Hilton.

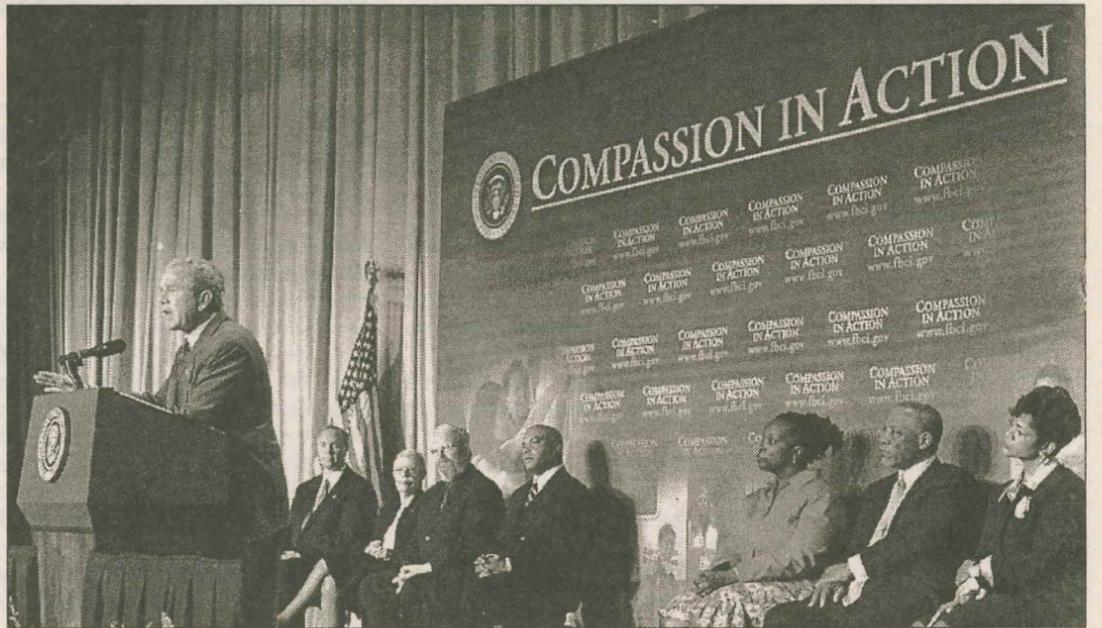
"I've told our government, the people in my government, rather than fear faith-based programs, welcome them. They're changing America," Bush said. "They do a better job than government can do."

The daylong, election-year conference followed 12 regional conferences that the Bush administration has held across the country.

In a 40-minute speech laced with examples of how people from addicts to refugees have been assisted by faith-based organizations, Bush spoke of "miracles" that have occurred and hearts and souls that have been changed one by one.

Clearly comfortable with his audience, Bush cited a former inmate and drug addict who was helped by a rescue mission—and by reading the Bible.

"It's a powerful change agent



when you start reading the Bible in prison," the president said, drawing applause. "This guy was lost and now he's found."

The president also gave his audience what he billed as a "progress report" on how his administration has worked to increase access to government funding for faith-based groups.

## More than \$1 billion in grants

He cited the estimated \$1.1 billion in competitive grants in five federal agencies to faith-based groups in fiscal year 2003 and new and proposed regulations from several Cabinet departments and the U.S. Agency for International Development that aim to "end the discrimination" against faith-based groups pursuing grants.

Administration officials say they are continuing to respond to Bush's 2002 executive order to treat faith-based organizations equally with other groups seeking grants and other financial assistance.

Although some legislation related to the faith-based initiatives has died on Capitol Hill, Congress has approved funding for other Bush proposals, according to Jim Towey, director of the White House Office of Faith-Based and Community Initiatives.

Approved proposals include those dealing with drug recovery, mentoring of prisoners' children and a Compassion Capital Fund that provides technical assistance to community and faith-based groups, Towey said.

## FAITH-BASED SPEECH

President Bush addresses the first White House National Conference on Faith-Based and Community Initiatives on June 1 in Washington. On the same day, he issued an executive order expanding the number of federal agencies with centers focused on faith-based and community groups that provide social services. (White House photo by Joyce Naltchayan)

# Wouldn't it be great ...

... if churches had a resource to help families with the challenges they're facing?

## You're holding it.

Every week, the Western Recorder offers Family Forum, a faith-based column to help with the variety of issues families face today. Specialists on parenting, seniors, singles, teenagers and relationships can help equip your congregation to live out their

Christianity where it matters most. Shouldn't your members be getting Family Forum?



PRACTICAL RESOURCES FOR CHRISTIAN LIVING  
WESTERNRECORDER

## Bush, groups react to judge's ruling against Partial-Birth Abortion Ban Act

San Francisco (RNS)—After a California judge declared June 1 that the Partial-Birth Abortion Ban Act is unconstitutional, religious groups and others with opinions on the abortion debate have reacted with words of disappointment and welcome.

U.S. District Judge Phyllis Hamilton of the U.S. District Court in San Francisco concluded that the 2003 law "poses an undue burden on a woman's ability to choose a second trimester abortion" and is "unconstitutionally vague." She said the ban should require an exception regarding the health of the mother.

President Bush was among the dissenters who immediately opposed the ruling. He vowed to continue to defend the law.

"Partial-birth abortion is an abhorrent procedure that must be ended once and for all," a statement from his press secretary said. "The president strongly disagrees with (the) California court ruling, which overturns the overwhelming bipartisan majority in Congress that voted to pass this important legislation."

During the controversial procedure that the law sought to ban—called "partial-birth abortion" by its critics—a fetus is partially extracted through the birth canal and its skull is collapsed by suctioning

out the brain.

"Once again a federal judge has declared that Roe v. Wade stands for the right to kill a child in the process of being born," said Cathy Cleaver Ruse, spokeswoman for the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' Secretariat for Pro-Life Activities.

Others opposing the decision looked to future court rulings on the same issue.

"Rulings from courts in New York and Nebraska are pending, and we remain cautiously hopeful that at least one of these jurisdictions may yield a different finding," said Carrie Gordon Earll, senior policy analyst for Focus on the Family.

Gloria Feldt, president of Planned Parenthood Federation of America, which filed the suit challenging the ban, hailed the ruling as "a landmark victory for medical privacy rights and women's health."

Justice Department officials vowed to appeal the decision. Similar lawsuits opposing the law are pending in federal courts in Nebraska and New York, and the case is likely to end up at the U.S. Supreme Court. Hamilton's ruling applies to the approximately 900 Planned Parenthood clinics around the country, as well as Planned Parenthood physicians performing abortions in other facilities.

## PRAYER PARTNERS

Please pray for the following Kentucky Baptist churches and ministries:

■ **Caney Baptist Center and Caney Baptist Church in Pippa Passes.** Lawrence and Martha Baldrige have served as ministry center directors and pastor for more than 40 years. They have served as Southern Baptist missionaries for 30 of those years and will be retiring this month. Pray for them as they seek ways to help the leadership of the church and the ministry center with this transition.

■ **Corinth Baptist Church in Corbin.** The Corinth Baptist Church building was destroyed by fire in 2001 and still is in the process of being rebuilt with volunteer labor. Due to construction, the church didn't host vacation Bible school last year. But members are excited about offering it in June of this year. Pray for Pastor Lenard Strunk and the church as they seek to reach out to children and families through vacation Bible school. Pray also that God will send workers to help with the construction, which is nearing completion.

■ **Mission Service Corps missionaries Jimmy and Faye Stallons in Oak Grove.** Jimmy and Faye Stallons serve as directors of Impact 2, a ministry of Christian County Baptist Association and Oak Grove Baptist Church. Impact 2 provides food and quality used clothing to individuals and families. Pray that the Stallonses and other volunteers working with them will have a bold witness and many opportunities to share Christ while serving through the center.

## MOUNTAINS TO THE MISSISSIPPI

COMPILED BY STAFF

■ **ASHLAND**—First Church will host the Illinois Baptist All-State Youth Choir and Orchestra July 17 as part of the group's summer tour. **Dwain Rogers** is minister of music and associate minister.

■ **COLD SPRING**—Christ Church recently constituted and called **Bill Humphrey** as interim pastor.

■ **EUBANK**—McKinney Church recently called **Edward Bray** as pastor.

■ **GEORGETOWN**—Dry Run Church recently called **Tony Shouse** as pastor.

■ **HENDERSON**—Immanuel Church's children's choir will present the vacation Bible school musical "Rickshaw Rally" June 25.

■ **HODGENVILLE**—South Fork Church recorded 12 professions of faith and 15 additions to the church during revival services May 23-26 led by evangelist **Don Mathis. Norm Brock** is pastor.

■ **HOPKINSVILLE**—First Church recently honored **Larry and Barbara Wilson** on their 50th wedding anniversary. **Rodney Travis** is pastor.

■ **LOUISVILLE**—Beechmont Church youth choir will present the musical/drama "The Prayer of Jabez" June 13, 6:30 p.m. For information, call (502) 368-5806.

Carlisle Avenue Church recently honored **Keith and Sue Walker** on their 50th wedding anniversary.

Deer Park Church recently called **Ronald Turner** as minister of music. Turner, a professor of church music at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, previously served Deer Park in the same position from 1973-1993. **David Platt** is

pastor.

Gethsemane Church's June 27 concert featuring **The Hoppers** has been postponed. The church will announce the new date when plans are finalized.

Lakeside Church will host **Hosea's Cry**, a night of worship with **Jeremy Cloninger**, July 17, 7 p.m.

■ **MAYFIELD**—Graves County Association will hold a dedication and open house July 11, 2:30-4:30 p.m., for its 5,000-square-foot mission center. The facility, built on a 14-acre site just outside Mayfield, includes office and work space, conference rooms, kitchen and a bedroom for guests. **Charles Clark** is director of missions.

■ **MIDWAY**—Midway Church recently called **Cody Davidson** as associate pastor/youth.

■ **MOUNT WASHINGTON**—First Church will hold a ladies prayer luncheon, June 12, 1 p.m., with **Michelle Chitwood** as the featured speaker. **Paul Chitwood** is pastor.

■ **OWENSBORO**—Buena Vista Church recently called **Bruce Treon** as pastor. He previously was pastor of New Salem Church in Cox Creek.

Hall Street Church will host a free Father's Day concert June 20, 6 p.m., featuring the **Annie Moses Band** of Nashville.

### What's going on?

Mail your happenings to Mountains to the Mississippi at Box 43969, Louisville, KY 40253. Fax: (502) 244-6474. E-mail: wesrec@earthlink.net.



## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### June

10-12 Soak-a-City—Youth Evangelism Conference, Pikeville.

12 Church Weekday Education Seminar, Porter Memorial Baptist Church, Lexington.

12-16 Mission Adventure Camp for Boys, grades 4-10, Campbellsville University.

14-18 Discovery Youth Week, Cedarmore.

14-18 Mission Adventure Camp for Girls, Cedar Crest, grades 4-6.

14-18 Mission Adventure Camp for Boys, grades 4-10, Campbellsville University.

18-19 Mother/Daughter Overnight, Cedar Crest, grades 1-3.

19 Church Weekday Education Seminar, Living Hope BC, Bowling Green.

19-26 Kentucky Changers, Calloway.

19-26 Kentucky Changers, Hopkinsville.

20-27 All-State Youth Choir/Orchestra, Murray State University.

21-25 Discovery Youth Week, Cedarmore.

21-25 Mission Adventure Camp for Girls, Cedar Crest, grades 4-6.

21-25 Mission Adventure Camp for Boys, grades 4-10, Campbellsville University.

25-26 Acteens Splash, Jonathan Creek, grades 7-12.

25-26 GA Overnight, Jonathan Creek, grades 4-6.

25-26 Mother/Daughter Overnight, Cedar Crest, grades 1-3.

25-26 Mother/Daughter Overnight, Jonathan Creek, grades 1-6.

25-26 Mission Adventure Camp, father/son overnight for boys,

grades 1-3, Campbellsville University.

28-7/2 Discovery Youth Week, Cedarmore.

28-7/2 Mission Adventure Camp for Girls, Cedar Crest, grades 4-6.

### July

2-5 Baptist Men on Mission wrangler trail ride, Land Between the Lakes State Park.

3-10 Kentucky Changers, Frankfort.

5-9 Discovery Youth Week, grades 7-9, Cedarmore Camp.

5-9 Mission Adventure Camp for Boys, grades 4-10, Campbellsville University.

5-9 Mission Adventure Camp for Girls, grades 4-10, Cedar Crest Camp.

9-10 Mission Adventure Camp, father/son overnight for boys, grades 1-3, Campbellsville University.

9-10 Mother/Daughter Overnight for Girls, grades 1-3, Cedar Crest Camp.

12-16 Discovery Youth Camp, grades 7-12, Cedarmore.

12-16 Mission Adventure Camp for Girls, grades 4-10, Cedar Crest Camp.

13-18 Women's Chorale Kentucky Tour.

16-17 World Missions Unlimited, First Baptist Church, Shelbyville.

19-23 Discovery Youth Camp, grades 7-12, Cedarmore Camp.

19-21 Mission Adventure Express Camp for Boys, grades 3-6, Campbellsville University.

22-23 Quarterly Prayer Meeting for Spiritual Awakening, Haven of Rest Family Ministries, Inez.

23-24 World Missions Unlimited, First Baptist Church, London.

For more information, call (888) 266-6477 or visit [www.kybaptist.org](http://www.kybaptist.org)

## CLASSIFIED ADS

**AVAILABLE:** Ordained Southern Baptist minister for revivals and/or special youth evangelistic services in your church—also would be open possibly to full-time pastorate with a mission-minded, conservative but relevant SBC church. If interested, e-mail [georgembryant@hotmail.com](mailto:georgembryant@hotmail.com), or call (859) 272-7156.

**FUNDRAISING:** Fundraising professional since 1988. Extensive work with churches and Christian organizations. Represent over 30 national companies. Bramblett Marketing Associates, (800) 867-1876; [bma@ziggycom.net](mailto:bma@ziggycom.net).

**SEEKING:** Crescent Springs Baptist Church is accepting resumés for a part-time minister of music. Mail resumés to the church at 627 Buttermilk Parkway, Crescent Springs, KY 41017, Attn: Doris Perry.

**SEEKING:** First Baptist Church of Bowling Green, Ky., is in process of searching for an activities director for its new Christian life center. Qualifications include either a degree or experience in directing a recreation program; a personal commitment to the Christian faith is necessary as well. Salary and benefits are negotiable and will depend on qualifications and experience. If interested, please send resumé along with a cover letter to: Search Committee, First Baptist Church, 621 East 12th Ave., Bowling Green, KY 42101.

**SEEKING:** Operations manager for cleftRock Retreat Center. Benefits include on-site housing. Details: contact Bob Fields, (800) 719-0600, or [bfields@2geton.net](mailto:bfields@2geton.net).

**SEEKING:** Full-time youth/music minister. Send resumé to: First Missionary Baptist Church, PO Box 368, Benton, KY 42025.

**SEEKING:** Church pianist. Hurstbourne area of Louisville. Above-average compensation. Inquiries: (502) 491-1920.

**SEEKING:** Minister of youth/recreation for a dynamic, growing 814-member congregation in central Kentucky. Responsibilities will include middle, high school and college students as well as some recreation and education. Send resumé to: Eddie Benton, Youth Search Committee, Parkway Baptist Church, 2580 Springfield Road, Bardstown, KY 40004.

**SEEKING:** Ministry assistant for KBC communications department. Position requires 3-5 years related experience. Responsibilities include clerical, technical and writing assistance in the areas of video/audio production, Web site maintenance and general media services. This full-time position offers competitive salary and benefits package. Contact the administrative services department, Kentucky Baptist Convention, Louisville, KY; (502) 244-6468.

**SEEKING:** Full-time associate pastor of administration—will serve on staff in charge of finances, day-to-day church activities. Submit resumé, three references, to: Piner Baptist Church, 15044 Madison Pike, Morning View, KY 41063, Attn: Personnel Committee. Phone: (859) 356-3222.

**SEEKING:** Post Oak Baptist Church is currently accepting resumés for the position of minister of music. Interested individuals should send resumés to: Search Committee, Post Oak Baptist Church, 900 Bluegrass Ave., Russellville, KY 42276. (270) 726-2157; [pobc@bellsouth.net](mailto:pobc@bellsouth.net).

**SEEKING:** Full-time director of missions for Severns Valley Association of Baptists in central Kentucky. Resumés should be postmarked by June 30, 2004, and addressed to: DOM Search Committee, Severns Valley Association, PO Box 541, Elizabethtown, KY 42702-0541.

**SEEKING:** Zion Baptist Church in Henderson, Ky., is prayerfully seeking a full-time associate pastor of children. ZBC is a rapidly growing church which currently averages 650 in Sunday school, with an established, dynamic children's ministry, ministering to over 200 children weekly. A seminary degree and prior experience is preferred. Send resumé to: Zion Baptist Church, 8158 Highway 351, Henderson, KY 42420; or e-mail [mkgallow@yahoo.com](mailto:mkgallow@yahoo.com).

**SEEKING:** Prayerfully seeking a full-time minister of children and youth. Correspond by calling Pastor Brad King at (859) 236-4956.

**SEEKING:** Part-time youth minister (paid position; grades 6-12) for Mexico Baptist Church in rural western Kentucky. Also seeking a part-time music minister. Average Sunday school attendance: 135. Send resumé to MBC Youth Council, 175 Mexico Road, Marion, KY 42064, Attn: Brent Highfil, or call (270) 965-2149. [turnerchandler@hotmail.com](mailto:turnerchandler@hotmail.com).

**SEEKING:** Forest Park Baptist Church, located three blocks from Western Kentucky University, is in search of a full-time Minister of Music & Youth. Seminary education and/or prior experience is preferred. Loving congregation and excellent benefit package awaits interested candidates. Interested applicants may send resumé to: Minister of Music/Youth Search, Forest Park Baptist Church, 520 Old Morgantown Road, Bowling Green, KY 42101, Attn: David Morrow; or e-mail: [ForPrkBapt@aol.com](mailto:ForPrkBapt@aol.com).

**SERVICE:** America's fastest-growing Christian long distance company. 3.9 cents/minute; no monthly fees; no codes or restrictions; 6 second billing; 250,000 happy customers. Toll-free: (866) 587-8346 or [www.covenantphoneservice.com](http://www.covenantphoneservice.com). Home agents needed.

# All-State singers

*More than 130 youth from throughout state lead worship and showcase talent*

Louisville—More than 130 of the top child singers from Baptist churches across the state recently took part in Kentucky Baptist All-State Children's Choir concerts.

The choir, which showcases young musicians in grades 4-6, is chosen by taped audition from children's choirs in Kentucky Baptist Convention-affiliated churches across the state. Once selected, members of the Kentucky Baptist All-State Children's Choir may continue to participate through sixth grade.

The choir is divided regionally. The East All-State Choir, which has 70 singers and represents 24 Kentucky Baptist churches, met for a rehearsal retreat at Cedarmore Baptist Conference Center near Bagdad on April 16-17. The east choir sang April 18 at the Sunday morning worship service of First Baptist Church of Owenton and an afternoon concert at Latonia Baptist Church in Covington.

Roxanne Nanney, the preschool/children's music consultant for the KBC's worship and music department, was director of the east choir. Edwina Rowell, of Campbellsville, was the accompanist.

The West All-State Choir, which has 61 singers from 17 Kentucky Baptist churches, met for their rehearsal retreat April 23-24 at Jonathan Creek Camp and Conference Center.

The west choir sang at the April 25 morning worship service at First Baptist Church of Murray, followed by a 3 p.m. concert at First Baptist Church of Eddyville that afternoon.

Janie Benjamin of Louisville was the west choir director. Bobbie Sue Chumbler of Paducah was the accompanist.

For more information about All-State Choir, contact the Kentucky Baptist Convention's worship and music department toll-free at (888) 254-5707.

## West choir:

**Megan Abney**, Macedonia Church, Owensboro  
**Michaela Ash**, Upton Church, Upton  
**Kelsi Austin**, First Church, Princeton  
**Caitlin Belcher**, First Church, Bowling Green  
**Hannah Bowers**, Southside Church, Princeton  
**Taylor Bruton**, First Church, Leitchfield  
**Courtney Carlton**, First Church, Eddyville  
**Kurt Carson**, Rich Pond Church, Bowling Green

**Mollie Claywell**, Calvary Church, Glasgow  
**Renee Clinger**, First Church, Murray  
**Lauren Dieleman**, First Church, Murray  
**Rachel Donelson**, First Church, Bowling Green

**Nichole Fears**, Second Church, Hopkinsville  
**Gabriel Feese**, Calvary Church, Glasgow  
**Natasha Fraser**, First Church, Bowling Green

**Sameer Fraser**, First Church, Bowling Green

**Taylor Gilkey**, First Church, Princeton  
**Tyler Goff**, Beaver Dam Church, Beaver Dam

**Zoe Goodnight**, Lone Oak First Church, Paducah

**John Gore**, Macedonia Church, Owensboro  
**Sarah Graham**, Macedonia Church, Owensboro

**Rachel Hampton**, Second Church, Hopkinsville

**Stacey Harbold**, Second Church, Hopkinsville

**Taylor Hardcastle**, Rich Pond Church, Bowling Green

**Megan Haycraft**, Macedonia Church, Owensboro

**Laura Hensley**, Macedonia Church, Owensboro

**Hannah Hinton**, First Church, Murray  
**Sydney Holland**, Lone Oak First Church, Paducah

**Hutch Humphrey**, First Church, Bowling Green

**Emily Hurt**, Macedonia Church, Owensboro

**Ben Hussung**, Rich Pond Church, Bowling Green

**Katie King**, Beaver Dam Church, Beaver Dam

**Natalie King**, Lone Oak First Church, Paducah

**Page Leatherman**, First Church, Kuttawa  
**Sandra Lind**, Second Church, Hopkinsville

**Taylor Lindsey**, Cave City Church, Cave City  
**Alycia Lynch**, Rich Pond Church, Bowling Green

**Young-eun Oh**, First Church, Murray

**Savannah Pepper**, First Church, Princeton  
**Timmy Perdue**, First Church, Eddyville

**Matthew Ray**, First Church, Murray  
**Darcy Reed**, Second Church, Hopkinsville

**Rachel Rhodes**, First Church, Eddyville  
**Natalie Rickman**, First Church, Bowling Green

**Whitney Rogers**, Second Church, Hopkinsville

**Katie Saylor**, First Church, Murray  
**Ginny-Lynne Sexton**, First Church, Leitchfield

**Natalie Shown**, Beaver Dam Church, Beaver Dam

**Hunter Smith**, Upton Church, Upton  
**Maegan Snodgrass**, Beaver Dam Church, Beaver Dam

**Sidney Sowers**, Calvary Church, Glasgow

**Sarah Sparks**, Macedonia Church, Owensboro



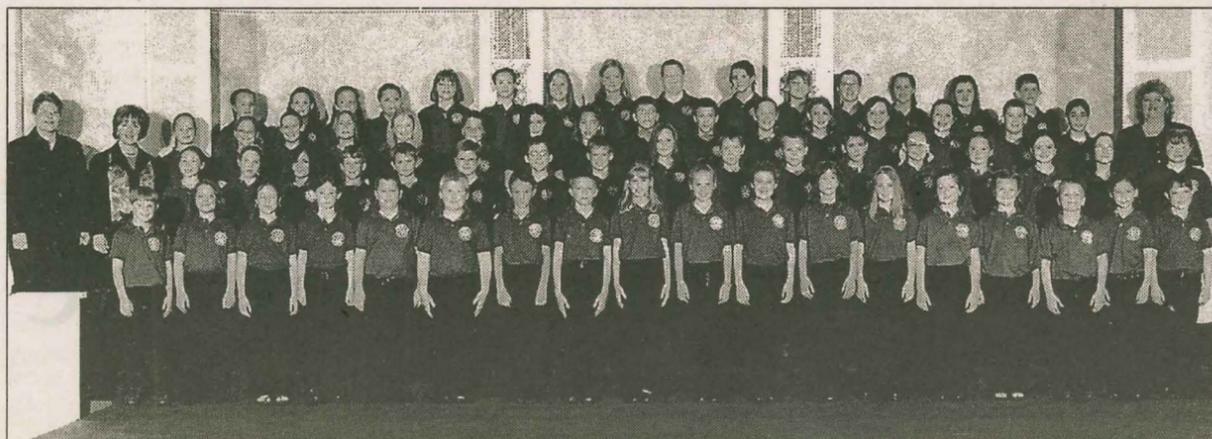
**Morgan Steiner**, First Church, Murray  
**Kolby Stinson**, Scottsville Church, Scottsville  
**Ashlyn Stout**, Macedonia Church, Owensboro  
**Callie Ann Tackett**, Second Church, Hopkinsville  
**Ann Kathryn Talley**, First Church, Princeton  
**Paige Tennyson**, Calvary Church, Glasgow  
**Megan Vincent**, Cave City Church, Cave City  
**Amelia Watkins**, Rich Pond Church, Bowling Green  
**Brian Welch**, Buena Vista Church, Owensboro

## East choir:

**Thomas Amburn**, Hurstbourne Church, Louisville  
**Emma Bachman-Johnson**, Faith Church, Georgetown  
**Sterling Baker**, Crescent Hill Church, Louisville  
**Lauren Bishop**, Hurstbourne Church, Louisville  
**Jordan Blasé**, Simpsonville Church, Simpsonville  
**Lemuel Bosley**, First Church, Brandenburg  
**Andrew Butler**, First Church, Brandenburg  
**Madison Campbell**, First Church, Richmond  
**Jessica Coffman**, First Church, Fisherville  
**Brittany Couch**, First Church, Lawrenceburg  
**Allie Czack**, Versailles Church, Versailles  
**Eli Cunningham**, Highland Church, Louisville  
**Kelly Cunningham**, Evergreen Church, Frankfort  
**Chris Deaton**, Hurstbourne Church, Louisville  
**Matthew Durr**, Faith Church, Georgetown  
**Hannah Ellis**, Hurstbourne Church, Louisville  
**Sarah Ashley England**, Versailles Church, Versailles  
**Caleb Green**, First Church, Russell  
**Sarah Green**, Versailles Church, Versailles  
**Emily Gumm**, Parkland Church, Louisville  
**Zach Hajdalenko**, Beechland Church, Louisville  
**Emily Hardin-Lynch**, Hope Community Church, Lawrenceburg

**Rhodes Hambrick**, Faith Church, Georgetown  
**Olivia Higdon**, Valley View Church, Louisville  
**Alexis Hobbs**, First Church, Brandenburg  
**Krissie Hogan**, First Church, Frankfort  
**Ian Hopkins**, First Church, Frankfort  
**Millie Horn**, Crescent Hill Church, Louisville  
**Gretchen Horton**, Calvary Church, Danville  
**Christina Johnson**, First Church, Owenton  
**Martin Jones**, Central Church, Corbin  
**Alan Laffoon**, Hurstbourne Church, Louisville  
**Shelby Laswell**, Pleasant Grove Church, Shepherdsville  
**Jessica Linton**, Hurstbourne Church, Louisville  
**Lucas Mason**, First Church, Frankfort  
**Shelby Mattingly**, Versailles Church, Versailles  
**Barbara McDonald**, First Church, Lawrenceburg  
**Matthew Murphy**, Pleasant Grove Church, Shepherdsville  
**Alex Nelson**, Hurstbourne Church, Louisville  
**Colton New**, First Church, Owenton  
**Brandon Nidiffer**, Pleasant Grove Church, Shepherdsville  
**Jenna Nidiffer**, Pleasant Grove Church, Shepherdsville  
**Morgan Pauley**, Beechland Church, Louisville  
**Alyssa Pendleton**, Pleasant Grove Church, Shepherdsville  
**Anne Haley Pendleton**, Versailles Church, Versailles  
**Steven Phelps**, Highland Church, Louisville  
**Kathryn Pollock**, Faith Church, Georgetown  
**MeLeigha Pollock**, Campbellsville Church, Campbellsville  
**Leah Poole**, Evergreen Church, Frankfort  
**Bliss Powers**, First Church, Brandenburg  
**Gabriel Prewitt**, Beechland Church, Louisville  
**Danielle Ransdell**, First Church, Owenton  
**Kelsi Richerson**, Campbellsville Church, Campbellsville  
**Caroline Ridings**, First Church, Richmond  
**Joel Sams**, Millville Church, Frankfort  
**Jon Sanders**, Highland Church, Louisville  
**Kate Sanders**, Immanuel Church, Frankfort  
**Erin Shields**, First Church, Lawrenceburg  
**Cynthia Smith**, First Church, Brandenburg  
**Chelsey Spencer**, Evergreen Church, Frankfort  
**Jeff Stelly**, Parkland Church, Louisville  
**Adrienne Tarpey**, Crescent Hill Church, Louisville  
**Tyler Taylor**, Valley View Church, Louisville  
**Jessica Waters**, First Church, Fisherville  
**Emily Weeks**, Hurstbourne Church, Louisville  
**Elizabeth Whitt**, First Church, Richmond  
**Allison Williams**, Beechland Church, Louisville  
**Shelbie Wilson**, Beechland Church, Louisville  
**Caitlyn Wolz**, First Church, Fisherville  
**Ashleigh Woodcox**, Campbellsville Church, Campbellsville

**WEST CHOIR** Janie Benjamin of Louisville was the west choir director. Bobbie Sue Chumbler of Paducah was the accompanist.



**EAST CHOIR** Roxanne Nanney, the preschool/children's music consultant for the Kentucky Baptist Convention's worship and music department, led the east choir. Edwina Rowell of Campbellsville was the accompanist.

# A Portrait of Oneida



Oneida Baptist Institute is a fully accredited Christian boarding school for young people in grades 6-12. OBI is a faith ministry. The largest portion of our funds, about 56%, comes from individuals, churches and other groups. Student room and board fees make up only 35% of the school's income. The remaining 9% of our funding comes from the Kentucky Baptist Convention Cooperative Program.

The average enrollment of Oneida Baptist Institute is 350, and we have some 150 faculty and staff to care for our students. At Oneida, we admit young people throughout the year. The school is on the quarter system, and also has a six-week summer school program.

Oneida offers a wide selection of co-curricular activities and elective classes. Many students find their "niche" in sports, while others take pride in doing a job in our unique student work program. Our average 12:1 student-teacher ratio, tutoring lab and nightly study hall help teens achieve academic success.

At OBI we share the gospel with the lost and disciple young believers. Many students come to Christ each year at Oneida Baptist Institute.

Would you like to learn more about us?

## Oneida Baptist Institute



*Education for Time and Eternity*

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