

June 22, 2004
Vol. 178, No. 25

WHAT HAPPENED AT THE SBC



BWA American Baptist Convention leader calls Paige Patterson's assertion of homosexual marriage "outrageous." *Page 2.*

Editorial Will Southern Baptist leaders finally enlarge the tent? *Page 5.*



Get on the bus. New SBC President Bobby Welch plans bus tour to every state in America later this year to encourage Southern Baptist churches to be more diligent about evangelism. *Page 6.*

Messages Southern Baptists must "gear up" for America's culture war, rejecting SBC President Jack Graham says. *Page 7.*



Franklin Graham. Evangelist outlines program to evangelize schools. *Page 7.*

Reports Reaching people for Christ is worth the financial and personal costs, IMB's Rankin says. *Page 8.*



Missing in Action LifeWay Christian Resources President Jimmy Draper says too many young pastors are feeling alienated from the SBC and its leadership, and that's a cause for concern. *Page 8.*

Getting along SBC Executive Committee President Morris Chapman: "We cannot let this convention be driven by politics." *Page 9.*

Presidential address Bush addresses messengers by satellite for third year in a row. *Page 10.*

WMU At the annual meeting before the SBC, speakers and missionaries explore ways to be Christ-followers. *Page 12.*



Reunion Participants and supporters gather for speeches and video to celebrate 25th anniversary of the "conservative resurgence." *Page 13.*

SBC splits with BWA



Approximately 8,500 messengers attended the Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting in Indianapolis last week. Business actions included severing the SBC's 99-year relationship with Baptist World Alliance. Messengers also passed a resolution decrying America's secularization, but rejected an amendment that called on Southern Baptists to pull their children from public schools. **Above:** Messengers vote on the BWA split. **Right:** Richard Leach (left) and Steve Tarpley (center), both of North Gwinnett Baptist Church in Atlanta, check oil and other automotive vital signs at a "pit stop" ministry event at an apartment complex. Kentucky Baptists also participated in this evangelism project. It was one of more than 75 events in Crossover Indiana, an evangelistic effort held the weekend prior to the SBC annual meeting in the host city. (BP photos by Van Payne and Brittany Schultze)



Youth invade Western Kentucky for church planting project

Dated material. Please deliver by Wednesday, June 23.



POWERPLANT Kristin Murdock of Eastside Baptist Church in McDonough, Ga., entertains youngsters taking part in a community center Bible camp. The camp was one of the many mission projects in Trigg County as part of PowerPlant, a program to teach and support church planting. (Photo by Keith Todd)

By David Winfrey
News Director

Cadiz—More than 155 students, sponsors and local volunteers were in Trigg County last week to learn about church planting and help two new congregations.

Youth and college students from 15 churches in nine states were taking part in PowerPlant, a program sponsored by the Southern Baptist North American Mission Board.

PowerPlant is a weeklong mission project that teaches Christian teenagers about the needs and methods for planting churches. Volunteers put that information to use by helping a local church plant with survey work, ministry projects and other work.

The week gives youth a new vision of missions while giving concentrated help to a church plant that might still be trying to get started.

"The whole idea is to bring in a jump start of power to get things to move along," said Geoff Baggett, pastor of Crossroads Fellowship in Cadiz and coordinator of the Trigg County PowerPlant week.

Students study church planting and evangelism techniques in the morning and perform door-to-door visitation and mission projects in the afternoon. During door-to-door visits, students share their faith, gather demographic information about the neighborhood for use by the church plant and tell residents about the new church.

Students last week worked with two churches: Crossroads in Cadiz and Living Waters Fellowship in Oak Grove.

Crossroads, planted in March 2002, meets in Trigg County Middle/High School's cafeteria. In **□ See Students invade Trigg ... Page 3**

SBC ends 99-year affiliation with Baptist World Alliance

By Trennis Henderson
Editor

Indianapolis—Southern Baptist Convention messengers voted overwhelmingly June 15 to end the denomination's 99-year relationship with the Baptist World Alliance.

The action during the SBC annual meeting in Indianapolis follows several years of tension between the two organizations. SBC leaders repeatedly have accused BWA of affiliating with Baptist groups that espouse "aberrant theological views," a charge denied by BWA officials.

Paige Patterson, speaking on behalf of the SBC's BWA study committee, told the 8,000 registered messengers that committee members "have noted with sorrow in our hearts a continual leftward drift in the Baptist World Alliance."

Citing the example of BWA's affiliation with American Baptist Churches, Patterson said a group in that denomination is "committed to being a gay-friendly place for churches and people of that disposition."

"What you give your name and your money to, you give your tacit approval to," he added, insisting that the SBC "can no longer afford to be aligned in any way" with groups that are considered gay-friendly.

Detailing other reasons for the split, the study committee report adopted in February by the SBC Executive Committee noted that "much has been made about the inclusion of the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship into the BWA as having been the cause of our present recommendation to withdraw from the organization."

Declaring that "one soaked by a rain need not blame the last raindrop," the report added, "The decision of the BWA to include the CBF merely served as a confirmation that we must, as a convention, allow the world to see us without having to look through a BWA lens—a lens which, for us, has become too

American Baptist leader calls charges 'outrageous'

Indianapolis—Paige Patterson's assessment of the American Baptist Churches USA's stand on homosexuality is "completely outrageous," declared ABC General Secretary Roy Medley in a statement last week.

Patterson, a member of the Southern Baptist Convention's Baptist World Alliance study committee, cited BWA's affiliation with American Baptists as an example of the alliance's "continual leftward drift."

Patterson pointed in particular to Evergreen Baptist Association, an ABC regional group established last year in the Pacific Northwest that includes some churches that accept homosexuals as members.

The SBC "can no longer afford to be aligned in any way" with groups that are considered gay-friendly, Patterson insisted.

Medley responded: "Nowhere in any of the conversations with the BWA has such an excuse ever been given."

The SBC's decision to pull out of BWA "was clearly and solely a response to the BWA's vote to welcome the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship into the Baptist World Alliance," Medley said. "That is when the issue arose and is the substance of their action, though they have consistently sought to cover it with patently untrue excuses, such as that the BWA is anti-American."

"To characterize American Baptist Churches USA as being in favor of gay marriage goes beyond the pale," Medley insisted. "Our policy statement on family life, adopted in 1984, maintains, 'We affirm that God intends marriage to be a monogamous, life-long, one-flesh

union of a woman and a man.'"

In addition to voting to withdraw from BWA, SBC messengers gave initial approval to SBC bylaw revisions that reflect the change.

BWA General Secretary Denton Lotz noted, however, that the SBC's action "seemed very inconsistent."

While Patterson cited affiliation with American Baptists as a reason to withdraw from BWA, revised bylaw 17 leaves intact a provision for the SBC to "send a fraternal messenger to the annual sessions of the American Baptist Churches."

With SBC leaders insisting "they do not want to be tainted by anyone they're aligned with," Lotz said, "We find it strange not to belong to BWA because the American Baptists are there and then on the other hand to send a representative to the American Baptist Churches."

cloudy."

BWA General Secretary Denton Lotz, who was not invited by SBC leaders to address the BWA recommendation, said in an interview after the vote, "We were shocked by Dr. Patterson bringing in the gay issue which was never on the table before. ... To combine this with the whole question of gay marriage is really an insult to the rest of the Baptists of the world and particularly to the American Baptist Churches which has taken a strong stand that homosexuality is incompatible with the Christian lifestyle."

Patterson, president of Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary and a former SBC president, also expressed concern that some denominations affiliated with BWA "do not believe in the inerrancy and infallibility of Scripture and regularly call it into question."

Explaining that BWA is not a denomination, Lotz said in an inter-

view, "There are 211 confessions or statements of faith" among BWA's 211 member bodies. "We certainly are not liberal," he added. "We're all conservative evangelicals."

During brief discussion on the floor of the convention, Larry Walker, a messenger from First Baptist Church of Dallas, urged messengers to support BWA as "a united, worldwide community of Baptists."

Walker said he views BWA "not as a theological incubator but as a nursery" where the SBC and other groups can help small, struggling Baptist bodies around the world.

"We may not need them, but they desperately need us," Walker said. "Is there something we can do to resolve and reconcile this relationship?"

Immediately after Walker's comments, messenger Wiley Drake of California called for the question, effectively cutting off further debate. Messengers then overwhelmingly

voted by a show of hands for the SBC to withdraw its membership from BWA effective Oct. 1.

The action also will end the SBC's \$300,000 annual contribution to BWA. That amount was reduced last year by \$125,000 in anticipation of BWA accepting the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship as a member body.

The SBC action specifies that the funds be earmarked for the convention to develop strategies "to build strong relationships with conservative Christians around the world."

Responding to the SBC vote, Lotz said, "Money is not the issue. Churches all across the Southern Baptist Convention are going to make up the difference. It really is a theological question of schism and unity: What does it mean to be the body of Christ?"

"It's very sad for Baptists of the world," he said. "We're going to love the Southern Baptists. We want them to come back in."

"What you give your name and your money to, you give your tacit approval to."

Paige Patterson, member of SBC's BWA study committee

"We're going to love the Southern Baptists. We want them to come back in."

Denton Lotz, BWA general secretary

Resolutions address biblical values, marriage; don't reject public schools

By Greg Warner
Associated Baptist Press

Indianapolis (ABP)—Southern Baptists adopted resolutions last week lamenting America's "cultural drift ... toward secularization" and urging Christians to engage culture and vote "biblical values," but they stopped short of calling for a full-scale withdrawal from public schools.

Eight resolutions were adopted, most with little debate or opposition, by the 8,500 messengers attending the June 15-16 Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting in Indianapolis.

The statements presented by a 10-member committee included resolutions supporting the Federal Marriage Amendment, promoting Christian citizenship, honoring the military, and praising the life and presidency of Ronald Reagan.

But the committee declined to act on a resolution proposed by T.C. Pinckney of Virginia and Bruce Shortt of Texas asking Southern Baptists to remove their children from "godless" and "anti-Christian" public schools.

A motion by Pinckney to add the anti-school language to the resolution on secularization failed on a show-of-hands vote.

Pinckney's proposed amendment encouraged all Southern Baptists to provide their children with "a truly Christian education" through Christian schools and home schools and asked churches to "provide counsel and assistance" to help parents do that. "Government schools are becoming actively anti-Christian," Pinckney said.

Committee chairman Calvin Wittman of Colorado said the committee did not want to "usurp" the responsibility of parents to decide how to educate their children. "This is a responsibility that God has given to the parents of the individual child and we encourage parents to exercise their God-given responsibility," he told messengers.

Wittman noted the SBC in recent years has spoken sufficiently on the issue of schools and Christian education, with 11 previous resolutions lamenting the secularization of public schools and supporting Christian public teachers, Christian schools and homeschooling.

Jim Goforth of Missouri, speaking against Pinckney's amendment, said pulling Christian children out of public schools means "darkness will completely

take over the schools."

Shortt, who spoke in favor of the amendment, said the belief that children will positively influence schools as "salt and light" is "misapplied theology." Childhood is a time of discipleship, he said, and placing children in an "anti-Christian" school will corrupt them.

After defeating the Pinckney motion, messengers passed the resolution on secularization unchanged. The statement said "the cultural shift in our nation toward secularism obscures moral absolutes under the guise of tolerance."

Southern Baptists took blame and repented "for our part in the cultural decline that is taking place on our watch" and urged Southern Baptists to "aggressively engage the culture by speaking the truth in love concerning every aspect of life, public and private."

The statement added that "America's only hope is a spiritual awakening by the power of God through the gospel of Jesus Christ."

A resolution on Christian citizenship urged "all Christians to vote in accordance with biblical values rather than according to party lines, personalities or

candidate rhetoric." It called on churches to conduct voter registration and education.

The resolution supporting a Federal Marriage Amendment, which would define marriage as between one man and one woman, also would counter attempts to legalize same-sex marriage. The resolution noted "the institution of marriage is in a state of crisis."

The resolution commending Reagan called him "a man of prayer and strong faith" who "exemplified the hallmarks of a Christian leader." It credited Reagan with respecting the sanctity of life and liberating millions of people from communism.

The resolution on the military called Southern Baptists to pray for soldiers and "to find tangible ways" to support them, but it did not take a specific position on the war in Iraq.

Other resolutions expressed appreciation to God and to the "many faithful men and women who made sacrifices to lead the conservative resurgence" that won control of the SBC 25 years ago and commended LifeWay Christian Resources for producing the new Holman Christian Standard Bible.

More than 80 students head out as summer missionaries

Louisville—More than 80 college students from Baptist Student Union ministries across Kentucky are serving as summer missionaries in work that will span four U.S. states and four foreign countries.

The college students are serving in Poland, Cambodia, East Asia/China and Thailand, as well as domestically in Alabama, Louisiana, Florida and Kentucky.

The Baptist Student Union, a student-led campus ministry organization sponsored by the Kentucky Baptist Convention, is located on most college campuses across the state. The students apply to become missionaries through their Baptist Student Union, and are selected, trained and placed through the Collegiate/Young Adult Ministry Group of the Kentucky Baptist Convention.

Hundreds of other active Kentucky BSU students also applying directly to other mission-sending organizations and will be serving with summer camps and other efforts across the country.

International summer mission assignments differ from those in the United States. All Kentucky BSU students serving internationally this summer will be using English as a Second Language as the primary way to build relationships with students and adults.

Those serving in Cambodia will also be working with a relief agency to teach hygiene classes to students, improve the availability and quality of water, and assist with agricultural improvement. Missionaries in East Asia will also build relationships with students, visit local hospitals, and participate in research and writing.

Missionaries in Thailand will share their faith in a variety of ways

with college and university students on three campuses in northern Thailand.

BSU students serving in Kentucky participate as a member in one the following team areas:

■ **Impact Louisville**, a leadership program with emphases in discipleship, evangelism, community missions and involvement in the local church.

■ **Son Reach**, a team designed to lead vacation Bible schools for children.

■ **Son Burst**, a team specializing in puppetry and interpretative movement performances.

■ **Son Celebration**, a music team for worship settings.

■ **Son Praise**, a worship team.

■ **Son Share**, a team specializing in drama and interpretative movement performances.

Students serving in areas of the United States outside Kentucky will serve in a variety of settings. Some of the ministry they will offer includes backyard Bible clubs and vacation Bible schools for children and youth, creative ministries, beach and tourist evangelism, various outreach activities for all age groups, inner-city work and lifestyle witnessing.

For more information about summer missions, contact the Collegiate/Young Adult Ministry Group toll free in Kentucky at (888) 254-5723 or (502) 244-6463.

Those serving this summer, with their school and assignment are:

Kathryn Tellin, Cumberland, East Asia/China
Regina Brand, U of L, Impact Louisville
Melanie Proowski, Berea, East Asia/China
Christopher Neal, Cumberland, Florida
Carrie Baker, ECU, East Asia/China
Kristen Garrett, Campbellsville, Alabama

James Wilson, WKU, Cambodia
Nathan Barnes, Cumberland, Son Share

Kathryn Northcutt, Cumberland, Son Celebration
Benjamin Northcutt, Murray State, Son Celebration

Emily Pavy, Campbellsville, Son Bound
April Fink, Berea College, East Asia/China

Charity Adkins, Morehead State, Son Bound

Kelvin Bullock, ECU, Thailand
Tiffany Johnson, Cumberland, Alabama
Kari McGrath, Campbellsville, Impact Louisville

Kelli Moynahan, NKU, Son Celebration
Magan Hess, Cumberland, Son Reach
Jenn Lyons, NKU, Louisiana

Laura Weems, WKU, Thailand
Tiffany Durr, Georgetown, Alabama
Jessica Whitaker, Campbellsville, Impact Louisville

Leah Decker, U of L, Son Praise
Brittany McCullough, Morehead State, Cedar Crest Camp

Joshua Smith, Murray State, Thailand
April Hicks, WKU, Thailand
Ashlee Combs, Hazard CC, Cambodia

Adrienne Keller, Berea, Impact Louisville
Nicholas Vancil, Murray State, Poland

Stephanie True, Georgetown, Florida
Brad Barrett, Hopkinsville CC, Son Praise

Joshua Covington, Campbellsville, Son Praise

Mark Cressman, Hopkinsville CC, New Orleans
Jackie Grace, Hopkinsville CC, Cedar Crest Camp

Corey Roberson, U of L, Son Celebration
Melinda Sowell, Hopkinsville CC, Son Reach

Jennifer Burris, UK, Son Praise
Michelle Weaver, Campbellsville, Son Burst

Brittney Thomas, Georgetown, Cambodia
Amanda Player, Berea College, Thailand

Taylor Hampton, Georgetown, Son Celebration

Nicole Bellamy, ECU, Son Reach
Roger Hampton, U of L, Thailand
Jonathan Durlauf, U of L, Son Bound
Daniel Freeman, ECU, East Asia
Adam Kilchenman, Cumberland, Son Share

Nho Nguyen, U of L, Thailand
Mindy Schweickhardt, UK, Son Bound
Jeremy Shoulta, Georgetown, Son Share

Tracie Martin, UK, Impact Louisville
Scott Combs, Cumberland, Poland
Edward Suttle, ECU, New Orleans

Alicia Burton, ECU, New Orleans
Sarah Hallmark, Murray State, New Orleans

Justin Newnum, ECU, Impact Louisville
Aaron Cowan, Murray State, Thailand
Emily Runnels, U of L, Son Celebration

Bryan Newman, Kentucky Wesleyan, Son Celebration
Dana Zimmerman, U of L, Thailand

Courtney McClure, U of L, Thailand
Levi Castle, Morehead State, Son Praise

Ashley Clark, Georgetown, Son Share
Carolyn Whaley, Lexington CC, Son Share

Meghan Adams, Murray State, Thailand
Katherine Barr, WKU, Son Bound
Ather Brown, Georgetown, Florida

Mary Grant, NKU, Son Burst
Brandon Rose, ECU, Son Burst
Carrie Freeman, Cumberland, Louisiana

Paula Atkins, Morehead State, Alabama
Rachael Hurt, Campbellsville, Son Celebration

Tiffany Bailey, Cumberland, Cambodia
Andrea Bradley, Murray State, Thailand
Jennifer Russell, Berea College, Cambodia

Kris Miller, Murray State, Thailand
Tracy Roeding, NKU, Son Reach
Lacey Ryan, ECU, Son Share

Chelsea Clarke, Georgetown, Florida
Amy Frothingham, Berea, East Asia/China

William Farrington, Cumberland, Cambodia
Heather Hall, Cumberland, Alabama

Mary Richards, WKU, Son Share

Disaster relief volunteers still working in Eastern Kentucky

Prestonsburg—The need for disaster relief workers in flood-damaged Eastern Kentucky outpaces the supply, according to coordinator Larry Koch.

Volunteers have been in the Prestonsburg area this month with a kitchen and in Allen City performing "mud-out" work, cleaning homes that were flooded earlier this month.

"While many jobs have been completed (35 to date), the number of jobs pending continues to grow as our presence becomes known in the area," Koch said in a recent e-mail to potential volunteers.

The needs expanded to Pike County a week ago, he wrote, when heavy rains flooded parts of Pike County.

"Carl Boyd, DOM of Pike Association, did a survey and found needs in his area that we could meet if we had the personnel," Koch wrote in an appeal for more volunteers.

Disaster relief volunteers interested in working should contact the Kentucky Baptist Convention's Baptist Men in Union office, toll-free at (888)

Students invade Trigg County for NAMB church planting project

Continued from page 1

two years it has grown to a weekly attendance of 165 people.

Although Crossroads is more mature than a church plant, Baggett said they still have a lot to offer and gain from PowerPlant.

"From a church planting perspective, everything's still fresh with us," he said. "We're still in a portable situation where we still rent space."

The church recently purchased land and is moving toward its first phase of construction, he said.

Baggett called PowerPlant a perfect fit for Crossroads.

"PowerPlant is an excellent opportunity for us to share our skills and experiences with the next generation of church planters in Southern Baptist life."

PowerPlant is one part of Baggett's goal for Crossroads to be "the epicenter for a church planting movement in our region."

He said he's trying to build a network in that part of the state to build partnerships for planting "new congregations in every city and township in Western Kentucky."

Living Waters in Oak Grove

Living Waters has not yet begun



FUN & GAMES Nursing home residents Isabel Bloodworth and Thelma Hampton are joined by Stephen Whittaker and Mark Montgomery for a game of bingo. Whittaker and Montgomery, members of Woodbine Baptist Church in Nashville, were in Cadiz to take part in PowerPlant, a church planting missions project. (Photo by Keith Todd)

holding public worship services. A core group started meeting in January that has grown to 30 members, and leaders hope to launch the church this fall, Baggett said.

Living Waters, which is sponsored by Crossroads, is focused on

reaching soldiers at Fort Campbell.

Pastor David Coram recently retired from the United States Army, where he served for 31 years as a soldier, aviator and chaplain.

PowerPlant teams in Oak Grove led church Bible clubs and sports

camp, as well as performing door-to-door evangelism and survey work.

The volunteers found scores of prospects, Baggett said.

"It's literally moving them five, six months forward in the process, just in rapid prospect discovery and sharing church information at every home."

The youth also saw more than 30 people make professions of faith in Christ, he added.

Baggett said organizers hope to build an awareness and passion among youth for church planting.

"It helps them get their minds around church planting," he said. "If nothing else, maybe when they go to college, instead of going to (a church) that they're comfortable with, ... they'd go find the new church plant in town."

Cadiz is one of four PowerPlant project sites in three cities this summer. Others include two project weeks in New York and a final week in Augusta, Maine. NAMB leaders hope to organize eight PowerPlant projects in 2005, and up to 16 in 2006.

Two Kentucky churches sent youth to work in Trigg County: Big Bone Baptist Church in Union and Simpsonville Baptist Church.

WESTERN RECORDER

P.O. Box 43969
Louisville, KY 40253
(USPS 679-380)

TRENNIS HENDERSON
Editor

DAVID WINFREY
News Director

JANET McINTOSH
Marketing & Business
Manager

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

Western Recorder is published weekly by Western Recorder Inc., an agency of the Kentucky Baptist Convention, Box 43969, Louisville, KY 40253, except for one week in July and December. For general information, call (502) 244-6470. Fax: (502) 244-6474. Periodicals postage paid at Louisville, Ky.

To subscribe: Send \$12.19 for a one-year, individual subscription. Group subscriptions on the church budget plan are \$9.75 per year. An additional church newsletter service is available for churches of all sizes. All subscriptions are payable in advance, except church accounts, which require a tax exemption number.

POSTMASTER: Send address corrections to: Western Recorder, Box 43969, Louisville, KY 40253.

To register change of address: Send the mailing label from page 1, along with your new address, to the subscription department at the Western Recorder address.

To give news tips: Call (888) 254-5729, fax to (502) 244-6474 or write the editor or news director.

To submit a letter: Letters from subscribers on any subject will be considered for publication, provided they do not make a personal attack on anyone. Letters are limited to 300 words and may be edited for length. Submit by mail or fax or by e-mail to: wesrec@earthlink.net

To place an advertisement: Rates are available upon request by calling (502) 244-6470. Institutional columns are paid space. Claims made by advertisers are not necessarily those of the Western Recorder's staff and directors.

Directors:
Chairman **Bill Thurman**, Lexington;
Vice Chairman **Linda Polley**, Elizabethtown;
Secretary **Mike Harmon**, Princeton;
Skip Alexander, Campbellsville;
Dan Francis, Erlanger;
David Harmon-Vaught, Louisville;
Ken James, London;
Don Mantooh, Morehead;
Bill Marshall, Louisville;
Floyd Price, Prestonsburg;
Rodney Travis, Hopkinsville;
Marc Whitt, Richmond.

SBC loses key battle

I realize that by this time your office has most likely been flooded with letters in regard to various actions taken at the recent Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting, but I wish to share a few observations.

This was my first trip to a convention meeting. I was anxious to see many who have been heralded as heroes of my faith. I was anxious to see the great democratic process in concert with Christ's vision for His people.

What I saw left me wanting and worried. I speak most specifically to the decision to withdraw from the Baptist World Alliance. We have removed ourselves from an organization that desperately needs us. We have removed ourselves from the last major outlet we have beyond the borders of our own organization.

Last week, we voted to withdraw. It is done. We have lost a battle that desperately needed fighting. That battle was not whether or not to be part of anything, or to allow or condone anything. We were fighting to hear the voices of a lost and dying world, in hopes that we might be able to show them the love of Christ.

A great pastor taught me that you have to "meet people where they are." We are the strongest arm of conservative Christianity in the world. Last week we decided that we no longer need the world. Need I remind my brothers and sisters that Christ did not need the world either? We needed Him.

This lost and dying world needs salt. It needs light. It is begging for it. But last week, the salt walked away.

James Bennett
Greensburg

Help fight pornography

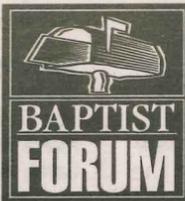
I look forward to reading the Western Recorder every week. I appreciate you and your staff for your dedication to spreading God's news.

I live in Knox County where we recently have been thrown into the pornography spotlight. As a local pastor, this concerns

me. Someone moved in from out of town and opened a sexually oriented business, adjacent to my business, which is located across from a licensed day care. My church, Grays Baptist, is located approximately three-fourths of a mile from this new store. The Knox Baptist Association office is approximately one mile away from said location.

Our association is in the process of rallying God's people to assemble June 29 at 1 p.m., at the courthouse in Barbourville. The people who own and work at this adult store have been arrested and charged with distributing obscene matter. We have been advised that the outcome of this trial could set a precedent for other pornography cases across this nation. We also have been advised that the public can have a decided effect in this case; if there is little or no public interest then the judge or prosecutor could let the case be dismissed.

We do have a tremendous amount of local support, but this



What are you thinking?

The Western Recorder considers letters on any subject for publication, provided they don't make a personal attack. The maximum length for a letter is 300 words. Baptist Forum is limited to Western Recorder subscribers, unless someone is responding to a story or editorial of which they are the subject. Submit by mail, Box 43969, Louisville, KY 40253; fax, (502) 244-6474; or e-mail, wesrec@earthlink.net.

Kentucky Baptist churches celebrate

Two Kentucky Baptist Convention churches recently celebrated important milestones. Let me tell you about them:

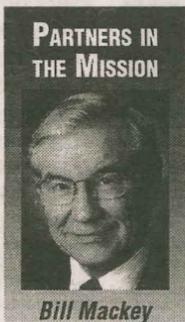
Providence Knob Baptist Church in Rockfield recently celebrated 200

years of ministry. Organized in 1804 with nine members, the church is the oldest in Warren Baptist Association.

Over the years, Providence Knob has sponsored five other churches, including First Baptist Church of Bowling Green. Under the able leadership of Joe Causey, pastor for 24 years, the church currently sponsors a new work and has established new ministries.

"The fact that Providence Knob is celebrating 200 years of service and ministry is a testimony to the grace and mercy of Jesus Christ and the world," Causey wrote. "May those who come after us find the work that we have done satisfactory to build upon, that the name of Christ may be made known to our world."

Causey has served effectively on the KBC Mission Board and has led the church in strong support of missions and ministries in Kentucky and beyond through the Cooperative Program.



Bill Mackey

First Baptist Church of Richmond recently dedicated new facilities located on the bypass just south of downtown. The new site is on a hill near I-75 and Eastern Kentucky University.

The day of celebration included a challenge from Pastor Bill Fort, the placing of the cornerstone, a reception, tours and an evening concert by Larnelle Harris.

The new 1,200-seat main floor sanctuary was overflowing with more than 1,900 people Sunday morning. The balcony currently is used for adult classrooms, as is the fellowship hall.

The preschool area has been designed with a separate hallway that can be easily secured at either end. The youth gathering area and classrooms are located in the lower level

will impact more than just Knox County. We are asking Christians everywhere to come to Knox County for this pre-trial hearing. We would love to see church buses lining the streets of Barbourville on June 29.

If we cannot stop this store, all churches and Christians could wake up one morning to find a strip joint or an adult store as their new neighbor.

We have support and advisers from different parts of the country who will be leading in this fight since the outcome can be so far-reaching.

Darrell Warren
Gray

Workers aid recovery

On May 27, a devastating tornado left much of the community of Eminence in shambles. By Sunday, May 30, Larry Koch and members of the Kentucky Baptist disaster relief team began arriving in Eminence.

By Monday morning, an office was set up in our church and the volunteers, in a number that would grow to 80 by week's end, were manning chainsaws and beginning the back-breaking work of helping us dig out. By the time the team left, they had cleared 57 home and business sites of tree debris.

People of our community are still talking about the men and women in the yellow T-shirts and the amazing amount of work they did. More importantly, they are talking about the wonderful witness for our Lord that the team displayed in their work.

Our church and community are indebted to these men and women, to all the people who helped us feed them for the week (particularly Glenda Lucas who coordinated this work), and to Ballardsville Baptist Church for providing space for them to sleep each night and for providing breakfast and dinner. As a result of so much done by so many, our community is on the road to recovery.

Michael R. Duncan
Eminence

with an outside entrance.

Staff offices are located near their ministry areas. The music suite is located in the educational area adjacent to the sanctuary. The church offices are near the educational building entrance and extend along the front of the building toward the main sanctuary entrance.

Even with the challenge to relocate and build, First Baptist has continued strong support of missions and ministries through the Cooperative Program.

"The founding members of FBC could never have dreamed how greatly God would work over the next 176 years. Thousands of people have heard the Word of God taught and the name of Jesus glorified," Fort said. "As long as God sees fit to keep us on earth, we will continue to bring people to Jesus, train them for service and send them overseas as missionaries, and prepare them for pulpits and ministries."

May God bless all of His churches as we work together to fulfill His mission through His churches.

Bill Mackey is executive director of the Kentucky Baptist Convention

CHURCH

Macedonians are biblical example of grace giving

By Doug Strader

One of our church members recently shared with me that a statement I had made during our stewardship emphasis was true from his perspective—specifically that tithing is a heart issue and not a pocketbook issue.

He further stated that he had grown up in a church where tithing was neither taught nor practiced. People gave enough for the church to pay its bills, but nothing more. That is quite a contrast to the way the Macedonians gave, according to the Apostle Paul.

In 2 Corinthians 8, Paul describes their giving philosophy toward the offering he was receiving for the Jerusalem Christians. Describing their giving as the grace of God, he explained:

■ They were in a severe test of affliction.

■ They had an abundance of joy.

■ They were in extreme poverty.

■ They had an overflowing wealth of generosity.

■ They not only gave according to their means, but beyond their means.

■ They gave of their own free will.

■ They begged for the privilege of giving to the saints in Jerusalem.

■ Before the Macedonians gave of their resources, they first gave themselves to God and then to Paul and his companions.

Paul was writing to the Corinthian Christians, urging them to follow through on an earlier commitment they had made to the same offering for the Jerusalem Christians. He was using the Macedonian example to inspire the Corinthians to action.

As you think about your giving philosophy to God's work, how does it compare to the Macedonian example? Are you a grace giver, or do you give only what you think you can afford? Think about what God has done for you, how you have been a recipient of His grace? Then compare your giving habits with the grace He has given to you.

Each Sunday when we worship through giving, it should please us to know that we have offered God our best. We have trusted Him for our salvation, now we trust Him by giving Him our tithes and offerings. That is grace giving.

Doug Strader, retired director of the Kentucky Baptist Convention's stewardship department, is pastor of Farmdale Baptist Church in Louisville



It's more important for teens to pursue joy than happiness

Q: To what extent do teenagers have control over their own happiness? How can I help my son be a happier person?

Your questions are very interesting in light of the issues raised pertaining to both a biblical worldview and research-based psychological studies in happiness. Psychological studies seem to indicate that happiness, similar to cholesterol, is a genetically influenced trait. As such, it is subject to personal control in the same way that cholesterol can be influenced by diet and exercise.

The Bible emphasizes the priority of personal holiness over the cultural emphasis on happiness.

From a house imprisonment in Rome awaiting the judgment of Nero, the apostle Paul reminded the church at Philippi that joy and contentment are not transitory: "Rejoice in the Lord always, and again I say rejoice" (Philippians 4:4). Paul follows this by linking the following truths to deep joy:

- A sense of nearness to God (Philippians 4:5).
- A sense of connection with God through the regular practice of prayer and thanksgiving (4:6).
- Filling one's mind with true, noble, just, pure, lovely and virtuous thoughts (4:8).
- Our connections with godly mentors (4:9a).
- Doing that which is right, regardless of one's feelings (4:9b).
- Active involvement in a community of faith (4:10).
- Learning to be content despite the roller coaster of circumstance (4:11-12).

Think about practical ways you can help your son in each of these areas. For example, you might begin to pray with him about a mentor he could meet with on a regular basis or encourage him to focus his prayers each morning around that for which he is specifically thankful.—*Scott Wigginton*

Q: What are the signs that our marriage might be getting close to divorce, so we can seek to address those issues?

Dr. John Gottman, one of America's premier researchers on marriage and divorce, in a recent presentation at a national marriage conference, said to look for the following pattern:

The harsh start-up. The habitual pattern of negative, accusing conversation, occurring in the first three minutes of any encounter between a husband and wife, including overgeneralizations and sarcasm.

The Four Horsemen of the Apocalypse. A pattern of criticism, defensiveness, contempt and stonewalling.

Flooding. The reason people "stonewall" is to protect themselves from being emotionally overwhelmed.

Body language. The heart rate speeds up; adrenaline puts the body into overdrive distress.

Failed repair attempts. The Four Horsemen are so entrenched that one spouse's call to take a break or calm down goes unnoticed by the other.

Bad memories. History gets rewritten for the worse, the past is too painful to remember and negative expectations set up a repeating cycle of emotions.

The final stages. Problems are seen as severe and talking seems useless. You lead parallel lives as loneliness sets in.

The key to repairing a marriage is how you act toward each other when you are not fighting. If you still have a basic friendship, you have something on which to base repair.

If these symptoms seem at all familiar to your experience, visit a marriage and family therapist or a marriage education program as soon as possible. For a list of excellent marriage education programs, go to www.ibc-lex.org/married/—*James Stillwell*

Family Forum writers are:

David Garrard, minister to children at St. Matthews Baptist Church in Louisville. E-mail: dgarrard@smbclouisville.org.

James Stillwell, minister to singles at Immanuel Baptist Church in Lexington. E-mail: james@ibs-lex.org.

Valerie Vincent, Christian counselor with Hardy Associates in Louisville. E-mail: vhvdmin@msn.com.

Scott Wigginton, executive director of LifeCare Counseling at Walnut Street Baptist Church and associate professor/departments coordinator of Christian counseling at Boyce College in Louisville. E-mail: swigginton@sbts.edu.

Send questions for Family Forum to Western Recorder, Box 43969, Louisville, KY 40253 or e-mail wesrec@earthlink.net.



Will SBC leaders finally enlarge the tent?

Southern Baptist Convention messengers recorded divided votes last week on such issues as the convention presidency, withdrawing from Baptist World Alliance, studying a convention name change and an anti-public school proposal.

Does such division suggest a rift among the 8,500 messengers who attended the June 15-16 SBC annual meeting in Indianapolis? Probably not. In fact, it likely suggests just the opposite.

During the early years of a 25-year battle over the long-term direction of the SBC, bitter debates, contested elections and close votes were the norm. In recent years, as most moderate Baptists have quit attending the annual meeting, the more conservative base has tended to lean more toward uniformity than unity.

Rather than debating proposals from SBC leaders or fielding competing candidates for convention office, messengers closed ranks behind denominational officials. This year, however, as convention leaders lauded the 25th anniversary of the SBC's "conservative resurgence," messengers once again seemed comfortable expressing diverse views without questioning one another's denominational loyalty.

SBC Executive Committee President Morris Chapman helped set the tone for open discussion by declaring that "the crusade phase of the conservative resurgence has passed."

While claiming that some Baptists opposed to the SBC's conservative shift "have excluded themselves from the historic convictions of Southern Baptists," Chapman acknowledged that SBC leaders still have a ways to go in successfully fulfilling their pledge to "enlarge the tent" of denominational leadership and involvement.

Warning that "we cannot let this convention be driven by politics," he added, "It is imperative that our convention return to some sense of normalcy."

Chapman's call to move beyond convention politics sounds encouraging. One troubling irony, however, is that his renewed call to "enlarge the

tent" came just a few hours after SBC messengers voted to abandon the denomination's 99-year partnership with BWA—and SBC leaders played politics to the hilt to achieve that goal.

An air of convention politics still lingered in other attitudes and actions as well.

During a pre-SBC interview, SBC Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission President Richard Land described the vote to cut ties to BWA as a formality, suggesting that "you can stick a fork in it." While his assessment proved accurate, commenting in such a flippant way before messengers had an opportunity to weigh in on the issue falls short of respecting the convention process.

Even more blatantly, while announcing Gerald Davidson's candidacy for SBC first president in February, former SBC President Bailey Smith said, "The former presidents (of the SBC) have decided that Gerald Davidson should be first vice president."

While former convention presidents are entitled to their opinions as any other SBC messenger, it is not up to them either individually or collectively to "decide" who will hold convention office. The time is far past in SBC life—if it ever existed—that messengers need a small group of convention leaders to handpick candidates or signal the "right way" to vote on various issues.

Even during Chapman's address, his claim that the SBC's current direction "is no less than a miracle of God" clearly depends on one's view of both the tactics and the results of the conservative shift.

On the positive side, new SBC President Bobby Welch noted that "the world knows what Southern Baptists are against. They need to know what we are for."

Urging "unity of purpose for evangelism," Welch said, "The main thing is the main thing and that's sharing the gospel."

And that priority is well worth putting aside convention politics and consciously enlarging the SBC tent for the sake of God's Kingdom.

STRAIGHT FROM THE EDITOR



Trennis Henderson

Baptists offer memorable insights at SBC

Indianapolis—Southern Baptist Convention participants expressed a variety of views during last week's SBC annual meeting in Indianapolis. Among memorable comments were:

New SBC President Bobby Welch: "To say we're plateaued is a large compliment to where we are. I mean we are declining. ... Baptisms have decreased for the fourth year. We can do better than that. We will do better. And the good news is we've got all the makings for it."

Evangelist Franklin Graham: "Let's don't surrender public schools, let's take them back. ... I want to see at least one child in every class in every public school in America who is trained as a witness for Jesus Christ."

Morris Chapman, SBC Executive Committee president: "The crusade phase of the conservative resurgence has passed. The battle has been won. ... Now there are other tasks at hand. We must not linger at the base camp of biblical authority. We are people not only compelled to believe the Book, we are compelled to live the Book. ... We cannot let this convention be driven by politics."

Jimmy Draper, president of Life-Way Christian Resources: "There is a lack of denominational involvement and loyalty among young ministers. We haven't shown them the relevancy of being Southern Baptists. We battle in many churches over trivial issues like forms of worship, or who's in charge. The younger folks may not do it the way you and I do it, but who said our way is the only way to do it?"

Wanda Lee, national Woman's Missionary Union president: "All true followers of Christ desire more than anything to be like Christ. To imitate Christ, one must be intimate with Christ, and that is nourished through daily prayer and study of His Word."

Jay Strack, president of Student Leadership University in Orlando, Fla.: "We live in a time of great change. If we don't like change, how do you think we're going to like being irrelevant?"

Roy Fish, professor of evangelism at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas: "Suppose the Holy Spirit was taken away from your church. What percentage of people would even miss Him?"

Former SBC President Jerry

Vines, pastor of First Baptist Church of Jacksonville, Fla.: "Our job is not to dilute the message, delete the message, dissect the message, doctor the message or dumb down the message. Our job is to deliver and declare the message of the living God."

Richard Land, president of the SBC Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission, promoting the ERLC's iVoteValues.com initiative: "Voting is an act of stewardship. We can reclaim America for the Lord Jesus Christ. ... It is absolutely essential that Christians be involved in the public policy process. This is a life-changing election cycle in the United States."

Ed Taylor, a messenger from Virginia speaking against a proposed SBC name change study that was defeated: "No matter what we change our name to, the media will let the secret out that we're really Southern Baptists."

Carrie McDonnell, lone survivor of a March attack on mission personnel in Iraq, which left four Baptist workers dead, including her husband: "How can we sit back and say, 'I can't' because it's too hard, especially when the world is saying you can't do that. Trust me, for my Jesus it's the least I can do."

SBC 'requests' seminary trustees to amend charter

By Bill Webb

Missouri Word & Way

Indianapolis—Messengers to the Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting voted by a 2-1 margin to "respectfully request" that trustees of New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary amend the school's charter, naming the Southern Baptist Convention as the seminary's "sole member."

The recommendation was presented by the SBC Executive Committee and debated during the opening session on June 15.

Messengers rejected pleas by New Orleans President Chuck Kelley and seminary trustees to delay the matter until 2005. Kelley pledged that the seminary trustees would bring both a sole-member proposal and an alternative charter change "consistent with Louisiana law and Baptist polity" to next year's annual meeting.

Kelley previously said seminary trustees would honor a request to make the charter change granting sole membership to the SBC if the request came as a result of convention action.

Executive Committee Chairman Gary Smith said the Executive Committee made the sole-member request of New Orleans trustees seven years ago and that the seminary had long been the sole holdout of the 11 SBC institutions.

Executive Committee leaders said the convention action is intended to ensure the right of the convention to continue to elect seminary trustees, to guarantee ownership of the seminary remains with the convention and to protect the Southern Baptist Convention from ascending liability.

Welch, new SBC president, proposes 50-state bus tour

By Marv Knox

Texas Baptist Standard

Indianapolis—New Southern Baptist Convention President Bobby Welch pledged to go to great lengths—literally—to encourage the SBC to baptize a million people each year.

Late this summer, Welch will embark on a 25-day bus tour to all 50 states, he announced. From the bus, he will urge grassroots Southern Baptists and their leaders to do more to lead people to faith in Jesus Christ and to bring about a largest Protestant convention.

The bus-a-thon will be part of a multi-faceted effort to reverse the SBC's decline, he told reporters just a few hours after he was elected convention president June 15.

That reversal is vital for the future of both the convention and the nation, stressed Welch, pastor of First Baptist Church of Daytona Beach, Fla.

"As the Southern Baptist Convention celebrates the 25th anniversary of the conservative resurgence, I believe it has also crossed the threshold toward its next great transition," he said. "In all likelihood, this coming transition will be at least equal in impact to anything in the last 25 years. It is not at all clear where this new transition will lead and leave us as a convention—better, worse or stagnated."

Welch warned the convention has started to go downhill, and he called for the current transitional period in SBC history to become a time of significant transformation.

"To say we're plateaued is a large compliment to where we are," he insisted. Asked to clarify that statement, he added, "I mean we are declining. ... Baptisms have decreased for the fourth year. We can do better than that. We will do better. And

the good news is we've got all the makings for it."

Welch announced a five-stage strategy for boosting conversions and baptisms in Southern Baptist churches.

First, in July, he will distribute a video disc to all pastors, directors of missions and state and regional leaders. The message will "share my heart" regarding the need to rally behind evangelism, he said.

Next, Welch will take his bus trip to all 50 states and Canada in 25 travel days, beginning Aug. 29. On the trip, he will visit churches

and communities of all sizes, seeking out ministry and evangelism needs and encouraging Southern Baptists to lead people to faith in Christ.

Third, Welch will speak in conventions, conferences and other meetings throughout the year, "encouraging the unification of the SBC for an evangelism effort."

Then, next March and April, he will visit as many Southern Baptist churches as possible within a 100-mile radius of Nashville, site of the 2005 SBC annual meeting. At these meetings, he will promote evangelism.

Finally, he will launch a unity and evangelism effort at the 2005 SBC. He's tentatively called it "The Everyone Can Kingdom Challenge," noting "evangelism is something all Southern Baptists can do."

Welch described himself as a "helper and encourager" and promised to extend his best efforts to see such an evangelistic transformation come about.

"This convention has a God-given purpose," he added. "We will take the evangelistic challenge of North America right where it needs to be."

Welch also fielded questions on a variety of topics, including:



SBC President Bobby Welch

Messengers reject call to study Southern Baptist name change

By Jennifer Davis Rash

Alabama Baptist

Indianapolis—Southern Baptists will remain Southern Baptists.

After a spirited debate during the Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting, messengers voted 1,731 (55.4 percent) to 1,391 (44.6 percent) against forming a study committee to consider changing the convention's name. The motion to create a study committee was the only motion to make it to the floor for debate out of a record 29 motions.

Claude Thomas, pastor of First Baptist Church of Euless, Texas—who submitted the motion, said, "I brought the motion to this body ... because we have gone beyond our southern regional characteristics. We are committed to reach people around the world for Jesus Christ."

Several messengers questioned the cost to study the name change and to implement it.

SBC President Jack Graham, who initially proposed the study, said, "We don't know the cost of it. It

will require an investment to do the right kind of research. It will require a budget."

Byron Ingles of Georgia said the money would be better spent on seminaries and missionaries.

Herb Stoneman of Salt Lake City noted that the SBC now exists in two nations—Canada and the United States—so it needs a name "that would better reflect who we are."

Glen Peck of Oklahoma said, "We are proud of our hard-won heritage. We know and project our doctrine by our name. ... There is no good time for a bad idea. This is a bad idea."

Rob Zinn of California said, "I am appealing to you to see if God would raise up a better name for all Southern Baptists. ... It is just possible there is something better to reach people for Christ."

Another motion that garnered debate dealt with the Executive Committee naming the SBC as its sole member. The motion was referred to the Executive Committee because it has to be the final entity

Welch wins contested election

Indianapolis—Bobby Welch, pastor of First Baptist Church of Daytona Beach, Fla., was elected president in the Southern Baptist Convention's first contested presidential race in a decade.

Welch defeated Al Jarrell, pastor of Riverside Baptist Church in Merry Hill, N.C., 3,997 to 1,020, or 79.6 percent to 20.4 percent.

Welch 61, gained SBC fame as a founder of the FAITH program, which incorporates an evangelistic emphasis into Sunday school.

But in a change from recent precedent, Welch faced a challenger. Jarrell was nominated by Dennis Conner, pastor of Cashie Baptist Church in Windsor, N.C.

"I am under no illusion Rev. Jarrell may be elected," Conner noted.

He said he decided to nominate Jarrell because during the past nine years, he has become concerned that the SBC's leadership is "growing further and further and further away from the grass-

roots of this great convention."

Jarrell's church averages "just under 70 in Sunday school," Conner said, adding Jarrell is "typical of the pastors in this great convention."

Welch has served as president of the Florida Baptist Convention and vice president of the SBC. He also has been a trustee of LifeWay Christian Resources.

Gerald Davidson, pastor of First Baptist Church of Arnold, Mo., was elected first vice president without opposition. He is a former president of the Missouri Baptist Convention.

The convention's new second vice president is David Hwan Gill, pastor of Concord Korean Baptist Church in Martinez, Calif. He also is president of the Council of Korean Southern Baptist Churches in North America. He defeated Mark Hearn, pastor of Northside Baptist Church in Indianapolis, and John Hays, pastor of Jersey Baptist Church in Ohio.

Public schools. "Our whole passion is to share the gospel with people who do not have it. When it gets darkest, we ought to shine brightest. If you show me the worst places in America, we should start there," he declared. "If the public school system is our best mission field in America, why pull out?"

Federal Marriage Amendment. He affirmed a proposal to define marriage as the union between one man and one woman, which has been offered to counter so-called "same-sex marriages."

Welch told reporters he calls such unions "homosexual marriages," not "same-sex marriages" because the emphasis is on homosexual lifestyle, not a marriage between two people.

Such unions are wrong, he insisted, but he called upon Christians to "approach those people with the

same love, grace and kindness we approach all people."

Cooperative Baptist Fellowship. The CBF formed in 1991, when moderate Southern Baptists gave up trying to regain control of the SBC and created their own organization. Welch was asked how he would relate to the CBF and its members.

"I'm going to say, 'Will you join us at this unity of evangelism?'" Welch said, noting he would work with all who come together to spread the gospel.

Baptist World Alliance. The division between the SBC and the BWA "will mark a real step forward for the sake of the gospel," Welch predicted, refusing to call the separation a "split."

"I believe we (the SBC) will be connected with more like-minded people," he said. "I believe it will be a win."

to come under sole membership, said SBC Executive Committee President Morris Chapman.

Other motions referred to the Executive Committee include:

- Requesting that state conventions provide a good faith estimate about when they will divide Cooperative Program gifts equally between state convention ministries and SBC ministries.

- Appointing a committee of disabled people to assist in logistical planning of the SBC annual meeting.

- Requiring all SBC entities to take the action necessary to comply with the Sarbanes-Oxley Act, not later than June 30, 2006. This is a federal law to ensure corporate financial responsibility.

- Studying SBC trustee orientation and education.

- Updating Roberts Rules of Order in SBC Bylaw 11 to the newly revised edition.

- Motions referred to the North American Mission Board:

- Reconsidering the requirement

that Southern Baptist chaplains be ordained by a local church.

- Helping establish Good News clubs in elementary schools.

- Celebrating associational ministries in 2007.

- Motions referred to the Executive Committee, LifeWay Christian Resources and NAMB:

- Studying ministries to single adults.

- Moving responsibility of college campuses from LifeWay to NAMB.

- Other motions included:

- Considering a boycott of Carnival Cruise Lines and sell of stock as soon as possible, referred to the Annuity Board and the Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission.

- Producing a resource with theological and practical instruction on adoption, referred to ERLC.

- Naming 2005 as the year of the Bible, referred to LifeWay.

Several motions also were ruled out of order because they were more in the nature of a resolution or attempted to direct the internal operation of an SBC entity or church.

Jack Graham: Prepare for culture war

By Charlie Warren
Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine

Indianapolis—Southern Baptists should “look up, step up, stand up, wise up and gear up” for America’s cultural wars, according to outgoing SBC President Jack Graham.

“The moral issues of the time are still on the table,” Graham, pastor of Prestonwood Baptist Church in Plano, Texas, told messengers during his president’s address, June 15 at the SBC annual meeting in Indianapolis.

Graham urged Southern Baptists to fight for passage of a federal constitutional amendment that defines marriage as a union between one husband and one wife.

“It must not be redefined,” he said. “To redefine marriage is an attempt to undermine the foundations of this nation. ... We believe in the family, therefore we must press for the federal marriage amendment and get this done.”

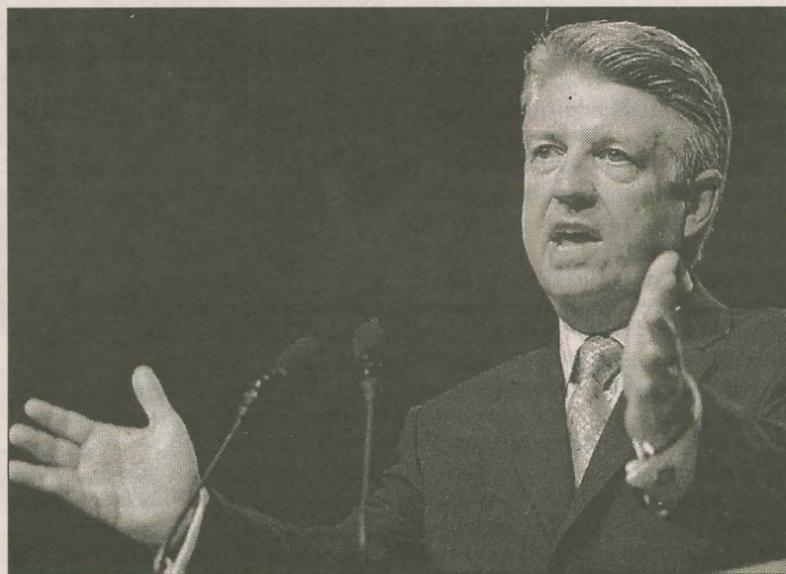
President George W. Bush has called for the added voices of the religious community on this issue, Graham said, and Southern Baptists must step up and gear up for the task.

“The priority for Southern Baptists is to fulfill the Great Commission,” Graham said. “Sharing Jesus is God’s agenda. Some say we should just share the gospel and shut up about the rest of this. ... But if we don’t stand up, speak up, speak up on these issues, who will be left to deal with the issues of our times? If not us, Southern Baptists, then who? If not now, when? May God help us to do it now.”

Southern Baptists are failing in America’s cultural war, Graham said, because they lack the power of God.

“We need preachers who are willing to stand up for truth, preach the truth and call sin by its name,” he said.

Noting this year’s presidential election, he lauded the SBC Ethics



PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS Jack Graham told messengers that Southern Baptists are failing in America’s cultural war. “We need preachers who are willing to stand up for truth, preach the truth and call sin by its name.” (BP photo by Van Payne)

& Religious Liberty Commission’s “iVoteValues.com” initiative to register and inform voters and encourage them to vote on their biblical values and principles.

Preaching from Ephesians 3:20-21, Graham noted that God’s Kingdom, Jesus the Savior, the Bible, God’s mercy and His salvation are forever.

“His reign as King of Kings and Lord of Lords is forever,” Graham said. “Thus, forever we love and serve Him.”

The hope of eternal life must serve as a catalyst for dynamic living today, he added.

“Some say we are in the land of the living on the way to the land of the dying,” Graham said. “That is not true. We are in the land of the dying on our way to the land of the living.”

Walking worthy

He said the worthy walk of believers demands their witness to the world through evangelism and missions.

“Only the Holy Spirit can empow-

er our words and witness and break through the darkness of someone’s life,” Graham said. “If I know my Bible and believe my Bible and don’t walk across the street to share the gospel, I have missed the point.”

He urged pastors to “get over the idea of being CEOs of the church and remember we are called to be shepherds reaching sheep, especially lost sheep.”

He also urged Southern Baptists to reach America’s great cities with the gospel of Jesus Christ by working through associations, state conventions and the Southern Baptist North American Mission Board to adopt strategic cities and seek evangelistic opportunities.

“We must not relent. We must not retreat. We must not give up an inch of God’s territory,” Graham concluded. “I don’t know if we are going to prevail in this cultural war or not. ... The one thing I do know is His Kingdom is forever. The kingdoms of this earth will become the Kingdom of God. ... I know the Word of God will stand forever.”

tone. He has called Christians.”

Southern Baptists must speak out and address the issues of abortion and homosexuality that are facing America today, he stressed.

“Wake up,” he told the messengers. “We need to lead the way and help pass the Federal Marriage Amendment Act. We must lead the way to take God’s nation back from militant gay activists.”

Gaines challenged Southern Baptists “to speak the truth in love” when dealing with homosexuals. “Homosexuals are not our enemy. The devil is our enemy,” he said.

He called on pastors to preach what the Bible says about homosexuality and to remember that homosexuals can “be saved and set free by God.”

Gaines said Baptists should become educated on issues, register to vote and encourage other Christians to vote in order to stop the “homosexualization” of the United States.

Gaines exhorted messengers to build spiritual walls and not to come down from the wall. “The world needs us, whether they know it or not.”

“Southern Baptists, we must do the same. Don’t come down,” he exhorted messengers.

Gaines, who was elected president of the Southern Baptist Pastors’ Conference earlier in the week, said Southern Baptists are called to a great work, they must be committed to that work, and they must complete that work.

“We, as Americans, can’t expect God to bless our nation unless we pray and glorify His name and preach His Holy Word,” Gaines told messengers.

America’s spiritual walls can be rebuilt only by prayer and the preaching of God’s Word, he said. “Prayer needs to be the priority of your life and preaching the priority of your ministry.”

The Alabama pastor said Southern Baptists also must provide a prophetic voice in today’s world. “We are to be the salt and light.”

But Hollywood is setting today’s moral standards for many Americans, Gaines said. “God has not called Hollywood to set the moral

Franklin Graham offers plan to evangelize public schools

Indianapolis—One child in every public school class witnessing for Jesus.

That’s the vision Franklin Graham shared during his address at the SBC annual meeting June 16 in Indianapolis.

Graham, president and CEO of Samaritan’s Purse and the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association, said the association has developed a witnessing program that children can complete over the Internet.

“When a child completes the program, we will send them a card with their name on it saying that they are a certified evangelist with the Billy Graham Association,” he explained. “I want to see at least one child in every class in every public school in America who is trained as a witness for Jesus Christ.”

“Let’s don’t surrender public schools, let’s take them back,” Graham said. “We are going to have witnesses in every class—a young kid who can stand up and share his faith in Jesus Christ.”

Graham said the children would learn Scripture verses they can use to share the gospel. The association also will host an Internet chat room where the young “evangelists” can talk to each other and post prayer requests.

In his closing address for the SBC annual meeting, Graham told messengers that every Christian’s life should be characterized by a desire to share the message of Jesus Christ with people who don’t know Him.

“A witness has to tell the truth”

Preaching from Acts 1:8 and Galatians 1-2, Graham told Southern Baptists that the main task of believers is to tell those around them the truth about the death, burial and resurrection of Christ.

“A witness has to tell the truth,” he said. “The truth is that God sent His Son to earth. The truth is that Jesus Christ is God’s Son born of a virgin. The truth is that Jesus willingly suffered and gave Himself as a sacrifice for our sins. The truth is that Jesus Christ is the Way, the Truth and the Life, and no one comes to the Father but through Him.”

Pluralistic thinking has rendered the gospel message unpopular, he said, but disciples of Jesus must proclaim the truth even when it is not well received.

“There is no other way to God except through Jesus Christ,” he said. “Oh, is that offensive? I’m so sorry but it’s the truth. ... Let’s be a true witness.”

“When you tell someone that their goodness is not enough, when you tell someone that all of the good works that they have done and all of the kind acts are not enough, and when you tell someone that the only way they can come to God is through the shed blood of the Lord Jesus Christ, ... that’s going to be offensive,” Graham said.

“But friends, you have got to tell the truth if we are going to be a witness. Even if it offends them, you have got to tell the truth.”

Time is of the essence for challenging people with the truth, he added.

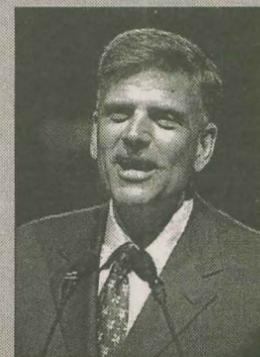
“We don’t have a lot of time. I believe the King of Kings and the Lord of Lords is coming soon,” he said. “I don’t want to go around kicking people in their shins or stomping on their toes.”

Graham concluded that Christians must always be passionate and active witnesses because the task of evangelism has eternal ramifications.

“Let’s go out and start telling men and women about God’s Son, the Lord Jesus Christ. Let’s be biblical witnesses. Let’s tell them that Jesus is the Way, the Truth and the Life,” he said.

“I want to tell the truth because it’s either heaven, or it’s hell. And this is serious business. Are you going to be faithful?”

Compiled from reporting by David Roach for Baptist Press, Jennifer Rash for the Alabama Baptist and Adelle Banks for Religion News Service



FRANKLIN GRAHAM The evangelist urged Southern Baptists to get serious about sharing their faith. “The only chance a person may have at heaven is going to be because of you.” (BP photo by Kent Harville)

Convention sermon: Become spiritual wall builders

By Lonnie Wilkey
Tennessee Baptist and Reflector

Indianapolis—Alabama pastor Steve Gaines challenged messengers to be spiritual wall builders during the annual convention sermon.

America is in a state of crisis, said Gaines, pastor of First Baptist Church of Gardendale, Ala.

International terrorism and an uncertain economy might be immediate threats, but abortion and homosexuality “will determine the future of America,” he predicted.

“We are at a crossroads. Our spiritual walls have crumbled,” Gaines said.

Gaines cited the Old Testament prophet Nehemiah as an example for Southern Baptists to follow today.

Preaching from Nehemiah 6, Gaines noted that Nehemiah was a wall builder. Though he had tremendous opposition, Nehemiah refused to come off that wall, he added.



Steve Gaines

Draper lists LifeWay milestones while citing reasons for concern

By Tony Martin
Mississippi Baptist Record

Indianapolis—LifeWay Christian Resources of the Southern Baptist Convention has seen many accomplishments recently, but it serves a denomination that faces serious challenges, according to LifeWay President Jimmy Draper.



Jimmy Draper

In a candid address to messengers June 15, Draper countered expanding programs at LifeWay with concerns about the denomination's future.

Among LifeWay's accomplishments, Draper said, are the more than 100,000 professions of faith churches saw as a result of vacation Bible school, the opening of 10 new LifeWay Christian Stores and the production of more short-term Bible studies, such as Extreme Love and Know Fear.

"It's a great privilege to be a part of what God is doing at LifeWay," Draper said. "God has allowed us to present a great new translation of the Bible—the Holman Christian Standard—and we've been able to present copies to all of our seminary students."

But Southern Baptist churches serve in a country where people are confused about God, said Draper, who blended personal comments with video segments. Several "man in the street" video interviews showed the confusion many people have about such familiar themes as sin or life after death.

"A lot of people just don't 'get' God," Draper said. "They don't understand Him. As a result, they don't know what sin is or what happens when we die."

But challenges don't exist just beyond the church or denomination, he added, citing what he called his two greatest areas of concern.

"One is the decrease in baptisms for the fourth consecutive year," he said. "It reflects a denomination that has lost its focus."

Draper's second concern dealt with demographics. "Walk around this building and notice how many people you see who are under the age of 40," he said. "There's not many. There is a lack of denominational involvement and loyalty among young ministers. We haven't shown them the relevancy of being Southern Baptist. We battle in many churches over trivial issues like forms of worship, or who's in charge. The younger folks may not do it the way you and I do it, but who said our way is the only way to do it?"

"How do others view us?"

Draper also asked how non-Southern Baptist perceive the denomination and its churches.

"How do others view us?" he asked. "We should be proud of our stand on the authority of Scripture, our affirmation of the Baptist Faith and Message, our faithfulness to sound doctrine in the face of a cultural backlash. At the same time, many people see Southern Baptists against everything and trusting no one—even each other."

"The struggle for the last 25 years in this convention was for scriptural fidelity, and we won," Draper continued. "Now let's do something with this victory. Let's pass it on to the next generation."

In the final video segment Draper shared, a young pastor named Jeff asked, "Is there a place for us at the table?" referring to the future of the Southern Baptist Convention.

"I don't know about you, but that question hits me in the gut," Draper said. "All they (the young pastors in the video) are asking for is a voice, to help determine the future direction of the Southern Baptist Convention."

"There needs to be a greater connection between them and those of us in positions of leadership, from the associational level to the state convention and on to the Southern Baptist Convention," Draper stated.

Draper concluded his report by asking all the ministers 44 years old or younger to stand. Then, he asked older ministers, 45 and above, to "go and put your arm around these young men, get their names, and pledge to pray for them daily." He closed by praying a blessing over the younger ministers.

LIFEWAY
CHRISTIAN
RESOURCES

Rankin: Reaching others worth the cost

By Brian Blackwell
Louisiana Baptist Message

Indianapolis—The Southern Baptist International Mission Board is taking the gospel to more people, but it hasn't been without personal and financial costs, President Jerry Rankin told messengers to the SBC annual meeting June 16.

Speaking at the closing session of the annual meeting in Indianapolis, Rankin thanked Southern Baptists for raising the necessary funds to send more approved candidates to the mission field.

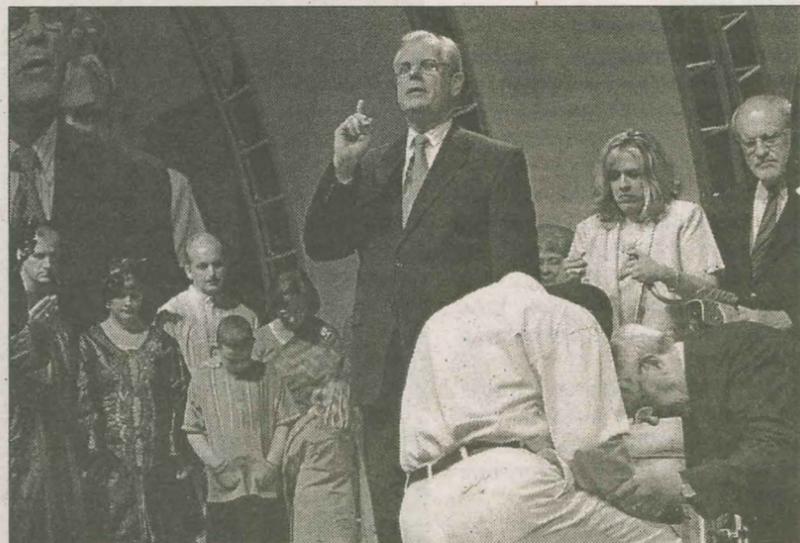
Last year, the IMB appointed only 100 long-term missionary candidates due to financial constraints. In 2002-2003, churches collected a record \$115.1 million for the Lottie Moon Offering for International Missions. But that increase still didn't match the needs to send 308 missionaries who applied for service, he said.

"You heard the appeal and in a phenomenal response demonstrated that the hearts of Southern Baptists are devoted to our great mission task," Rankin said. "This has enabled us to remove restrictions on missionary appointments and move forward in obedience to God."

"Your generous response has enabled us to send out missionaries, many of whom could not go into the field last year," Rankin continued. "I want to praise God for the faithfulness through you as you and your churches gave to the Lottie Moon offering and totaled more than \$136 million in giving."

Rankin said that while the IMB saw temporary reductions in the missionary force, that did not stop "the power of God from penetrating a lost world with the gospel of Jesus Christ."

In addition to setting a new record in Lottie Moon giving, Rankin reported that Southern Baptist missionaries and their national Baptist partners baptized more than



MISSIONS PRAYER Jerry Rankin, president of the Southern Baptist International Mission Board, leads missionaries and messengers in prayer during his report at the Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting. The man kneeling is a resident of a predominantly Muslim country who became a Christian as a result of the work of Southern Baptist missionaries. (BP photo)

500,000 new believers, a 17 percent increase from last year.

"This increased evangelistic impact is due to a missions strategy in which missionaries firmly committed to the Baptist Faith & Message are planting Baptist churches that continue to multiply and expand access to the gospel," Rankin explained.

Rankin noted that more than 16,000 new churches were planted. That was nearly double the amount planted in 2002, he added.

Also, the IMB initiated work among 192 new people groups previously identified as unreached.

"This has not been without cost," he emphasized. "There are more and more places that do not welcome missionaries."

"Our personnel become vulnerable not simply due to their Christian witness but because they are Americans living in a hostile world."

Rankin said the four missionaries

in Iraq who were killed in a March 15 attack were aware of the risks.

"But they went because of the conviction that Jesus was the answer," he said. "Amazingly this tragic death... has inspired others to follow in their steps."

Rankin then introduced Carrie McDonnell, the lone missionary survivor of the Iraq attack.

"How can we sit back and say, 'I can't' because it's too hard, especially when the world is saying you can't do that," McDonnell asked. "For my Jesus, it's the least I can do."

Through interviews with other IMB personnel, Rankin shared how missionaries are needed to spread the gospel throughout the world.

"God continues to call out missionaries such as these to join Him on mission, to extend to the people of God literally to the ends of the earth," Rankin said. "The big, thrilling testimonies are built on the foundation of faithful missionaries who have gone before."

INTERNATIONAL
MISSION BOARD

Reccord offers 'God-sized dreams' for NAMB

By Lonnie Wilkey
Tennessee Baptist & Reflector

Indianapolis—North America is encompassed in a sea of lostness, according to North American Mission Board President Bob Reccord.

During NAMB's report at the annual meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention June 15, Reccord told messengers that seven of 10 people in North America are lost.

In addition, Reccord said, 60 percent of America's population lives in the 50 largest metropolitan cities.

"Some of those are easy to see, some are not," he observed.

Reccord stressed that the only hope those seven of 10 people have is that someone will notice they are lost.

During the presentation, Reccord introduced messengers to NAMB's newest missionaries as the entity observed a "commissioning celebration."

"These missionaries are my heroes. We congratulate you. We thank you for hearing God's call, answering His call and commitment to telling His story."

Wanda Lee, executive director of Woman's Missionary Union, led a prayer for the newly commissioned missionaries.

Reccord closed the NAMB presentation by outlining some "God-sized dreams and goals" with SBC messengers. Reccord said NAMB hopes to:

■ Help equip one million Southern Baptists to share their faith this year and to have six million who can do so by the end of 2010, Reccord said.

■ Partner with state conventions and others to raise the percentage of churches involved in church planting from 5 percent to 25 percent by the end of 2010. If this is accomplished, Reccord said, "we would see 11,000 new churches."

■ Partner with state conventions to help send 750,000 people to work on short-term NAMB-related projects.

■ Have 10,000 missionaries and chaplains serving in North America by 2010.

"These are God-sized dreams and God-sized goals," Reccord said. "But these are on target for people who believe in an exceptional God."

NORTH AMERICAN
MISSION BOARD



FLAG PARADE Representatives with the North American Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention hold state flags during NAMB's annual report to SBC messengers. This year the annual report included a commissioning service for new missionary appointees. (BP photo by Van Payne)

Can't we all just get along?

Time for SBC to move beyond politics, Morris Chapman says

By Trennis Henderson
Editor

Indianapolis—Celebrating the 25th anniversary of the Southern Baptist Convention's "conservative resurgence," Morris Chapman declared June 15 that "the crusade phase of the conservative resurgence has passed."

"The battle has been won," said Chapman, president of the SBC Executive Committee and former convention president. "Southern Baptists have experienced God's miracle of returning us to our biblical roots."

"Now there are other tasks at hand," Chapman told SBC messengers during his Executive Committee report. "We must not linger at the base camp of biblical authority. We are people not only compelled to believe the Book, we are compelled to live the Book. Surrender, sacrifice, righteousness and holiness must consume our hearts and minds."

In other action during the Executive Committee report, messengers gave initial approval for the Southern Baptist Annuity Board to change its name to GuideStone Financial Resources. Messengers also adopted a \$183.2 million Cooperative Program allocation budget for 2004-05.

During his report, Chapman warned that convention leaders "must never cease to be vigilant against heresy."

Cautioning against both liberalism and hyper-independence, Chapman said, "If Southern Baptists steer too sharply to the right,

we will end up on the road of separatism and independence. ... If there's ever been a time the devil would like to see the SBC crash and burn, it is now.

"We cannot let this convention be driven by politics," he added, urging the convention "to return to some sense of normalcy." Otherwise, he said, the SBC could "fall into the error of Pharisaism, ... lifeless orthodoxy parading as true faith."



Morris Chapman

Recalling his pledge as SBC president to "enlarge the tent" of leadership in Southern Baptist life, Chapman said convention leaders "have never executed to the fullest extent that promise to enlarge the tent."

While those in trustee positions must be inerrantists, endorse the 2000 Baptist Faith and Message statement and support the Cooperative Program, leadership should be open to those "who listen to God's Spirit, not trustees who are susceptible to politics."

"Politics does not die easily," he acknowledged. "The death of politics in a spiritual environment only comes after we die to ourselves."

"We can be both conservative and cooperative," he insisted. "God is looking for us to change the world and to do it now."

Among major Executive Committee recommendations, messengers:

■ Approved the Annuity Board's name change to GuideStone Financial Resources of the Southern Baptist Convention. The change will require a second vote next year, but the action allows the Annuity

Board to use its new name immediately.

■ Approved amendments to the Annuity Board's ministry statement that allow it to make retirement and insurance services available to evangelical ministry organizations outside the SBC.

Mitchell Jackson, a messenger from Miner Baptist Church in Sikeston, Mo., expressed concern that the amendments would allow the Annuity Board to serve groups not in sympathy with the SBC. He said some churches affiliated with a breakaway moderate convention in Missouri "literally hate the SBC and want it destroyed but they want the benefit of the Annuity Board."

Annuity Board President O.S. Hawkins responded, "When the Executive Committee takes issue with certain new state conventions, we don't serve those folks."

Citing the need to maintain and expand the Annuity Board's asset base, Hawkins said the goal is to "serve the Southern Baptist pastors at the crossroads."

"We're trying to save an insurance program," he added, noting that the only way to expand the board's asset base is to expand ministry opportunities.

■ Approved a 2004-05 Cooperative Program operating budget of \$183.2 million. Major allocations include 50 percent for the SBC International Mission Board, 22.79 percent for the North American Mission Board and 21.64 percent for theological education.

If the budget goal is exceeded, the first \$250,000 over budget will be earmarked to fund CP education efforts at the SBC's six seminaries.

Theme interpretation speakers share Kingdom challenges

By Steve DeVane
North Carolina Biblical Recorder

Indianapolis—Speakers urged Southern Baptists to seek God's Kingdom in a series of theme interpretations during the denomination's annual meeting.

With a theme of "Kingdom Forever," speakers shared some "Kingdom Challenges" with messengers.

Jay Strack, president and founder of Student Leadership University in Orlando, Fla., said young people who are in ninth grade will be asked to absorb more information in their senior year of high school than their grandparents had to absorb in their lifetimes.

"We live in a time of great change," Strack said. "If we don't like change, how do you think we're going to like being irrelevant?"

Preaching from a passage in Joshua 1, Strack asked Southern Baptists to face the challenge of reaching the next generation. A study by the Barna Research group found that young people coming out of evangelical youth groups said they learned a few Bible facts, made good friends and had fun.

"We are failing to raise up a generation," he said.

Southern Baptists need Kingdom vision, Kingdom virtue and Kingdom valor to do what God is calling them to do, Strack said.

David Jeremiah, an author and pastor of Shadow Mountain Baptist Church in El Cajon, Calif., discussed the challenge of staying on course for God throughout life.



Jay Strack

Jeremiah said Jesus is the only person who "stayed on course" for His whole life. "Not for one moment did He step away from His heavenly calling."

Christians today won't live as perfectly as Jesus, but can do what God calls them to do, he said.

Jeremiah said at the end of Jesus' life, He told God that He had finished all that God gave Him to do.

"He didn't say He'd finished all the work there is to do," Jeremiah said. "He said He'd finished all the work God gave Him to do."

"The God who called us is also the God who enables us."

Roy J. Fish, distinguished professor of evangelism at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort

Worth, Texas, said Southern Baptists can advance the Kingdom through the renewal of desperate passion, the release of divine power and the recovery of decisive purpose.

Using a passage from Luke 5, Fish told how four men lowering their paralyzed friend through a roof to Jesus "simply weren't going to be stopped."

Fish said few people talk these days about a burden for souls.

"I don't hear much today about roofs being torn open so people can be brought into the presence of Jesus," he said.

Fish said sharing the message of Jesus releases divine power.

"Suppose the Holy Spirit was taken away from your church," he said. "What percentage of people would even miss Him?"

Fish said the conservative resurgence that was celebrated at the SBC meeting was needed. "But we must take heed that this resurgence not degenerate into lifeless orthodoxy where our heads are full, but our hearts are empty."

Jesus is telling Southern Baptists to rise up and walk, Fish said.

"We have been extremely strong in preaching the gospel," he said. "I sometimes wonder if we've been that strong living it out."

CONVENTION NOTES

Attendance low again. Only 8,600 messengers attended last week's Southern Baptist Convention. While that's more than the 7,078 messengers at last year's event in Phoenix, it's less than half the 17,900 messengers who attended the last time the meeting was held in Indianapolis in 1992. This was the fourth consecutive year registration dipped below 10,000 messengers. Prior to 2001, messenger registration dropped below 10,000 only once in more than 25 years.

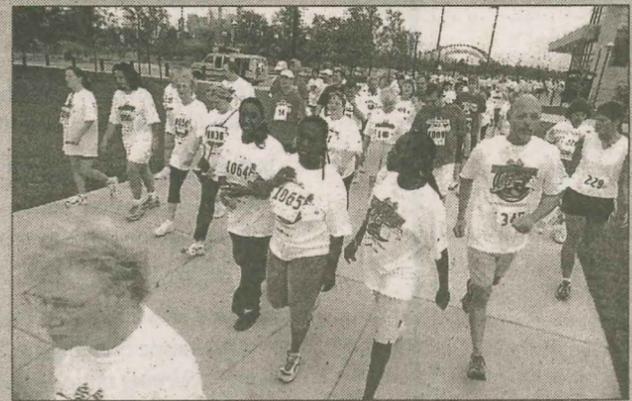
Kentuckians named to Committee on Nominations. Tom Butler, a member of East Baptist Church in Paducah, and Randy McPheron, pastor of West Corbin Baptist Church in Corbin, were elected during last week's SBC annual meeting as members of the convention's 2004-05 Committee on Nominations. The 70-member committee is responsible for recommending individuals to serve next year as trustees of Southern Baptist seminaries and other entities.

Mohler receives black church award. Al Mohler, president of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, was presented the Emmanuel McCall Denominational Servant Award by the Black Southern Baptist Denominational Network at its annual meeting in Indianapolis. Network Executive Director Sid Smith said the group chose Mohler to receive the group's highest award, in part, because he embraced black church studies and intercultural studies at the seminary. The award is named after a pastor and employee of the former Southern Baptist Home Mission Board who pioneered bringing African-American churches into the Southern Baptist Convention.

Southern Seminary loan approved. Meeting just before the SBC annual meeting, the Southern Baptist Executive Committee approved a request from Southern Baptist Theological Seminary to borrow \$1.7 million to fund phase one of the seminary's "master plan" renovation and construction project. Phase one involves renovating Alumni Chapel, Carver Hall and Rankin Hall and building additional parking lots.

Seminary president Akin hurt in fall. Daniel Akin, president of Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary in Wake Forest, N.C., was hospitalized June 15 after falling through an opening in the stage at the Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting. Dr. Robert Stewart, the seminary's doctor, examined Akin in a first aid room shortly after the accident. Akin later was taken to a local hospital, where X-rays showed no broken bones, Higgins said. He was released later the same day after other tests showed no damage to his spleen.

IMB to launch new publication. The Southern Baptist International Mission Board received approval June 14 from the Southern Baptist Executive Committee to publish a new publication named "To the Ends of the Earth." The eight-page "mini-magazine" is designed to create awareness about international missions and will be distributed free of charge to churches and individuals throughout the convention. The mini-magazine is being sent to subscribers of The Commission magazine, which was suspended last spring for financial reasons. IMB officials say that the new publication is not intended to replace The Commission.



FUN RUN More than 600 Southern Baptists of all ages registered to participate in the "Living @ Your Best" Wellness Walk and 5k Run, June 14 at White River State Park in Indianapolis. The event was sponsored by the Annuity Board of the Southern Baptist Convention. In looking for solutions to the health care cost crisis, Annuity Board President O.S. Hawkins has been encouraging Southern Baptists to give attention to their physical well being along with their spiritual health. (BP photo by Kent Harville)

Voter registration bus



TRUCK TOUR Richard Land (right) shows SBC President Jack Graham the features on a tractor-trailer rig that will tour the country, encouraging evangelicals to register to vote. (BP photo by Morris Abernathy)

ERLC urging Christians to vote

Indianapolis—In a year when citizens will go to the polls and choose their president and many other national leaders, more than one-third of Southern Baptists are not registered to vote, according to Richard Land, president of the Southern Baptist Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission. "Voting is an act of stewardship," he said. "We can reclaim America for the Lord Jesus Christ."

The ERLC has launched the iVote Values initiative to help Christians discover the critical issues.

The campaign features a tractor-trailer that will travel across the country. The 67-foot-long "iVote rig," loaded with "interactive games, online voter registration, multi-media screens and non-partisan voter information," will travel to key American cities to promote voter awareness.

"It is absolutely essential that Christians be involved in the public policy process," Land said. "This is a life-changing election cycle in the United States."

Bush addresses messengers via satellite

By Steve DeVane
North Carolina Biblical Recorder

Indianapolis—President Bush promised messengers at the Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting last week that he would "defend the sanctity of marriage against activist courts."

Bush's address via satellite marked the third straight year he has spoken to the meeting. Messengers interrupted his speech more than 15 times with applause, including several standing ovations.

Some of the loudest cheers came when Bush mentioned his defense of marriage.

"The union of a man and woman is the most enduring human institution," he said.

Bush got another standing ovation when he referenced his signing a ban on partial-birth abortions.

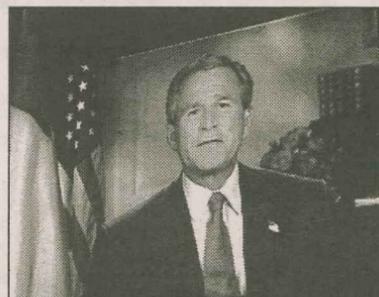
"I will keep working to build a culture of life in America," he said.

Bush said he was working for other related legislation.

"Common sense and conscious tell us that when an expectant mother is killed, two lives have ended and criminals should answer for both," he said.

Bush also talked about military victories in Afghanistan and Iraq, but said tough challenges are ahead. "In Afghanistan and Iraq, we will finish the job."

Bush thanked Southern Baptists for their strong support of the war



PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS President George W. Bush is projected on a large screen while speaking to SBC messengers live via satellite from the Oval Office of the White House. (BP photo by Matt Miller)

on terror. He called freedom "God's gift to every man and woman who live in this world."

Bush cited his economic accomplishments and attempts to release federal funding to faith-based groups. He called on lawmakers to stop holding up his judicial appointments.

"On the Senate floor, it is time for those senators to stop playing politics with American justice," he said.

Before Bush spoke, SBC president Jack Graham praised Bush's strength and resolve, saying the president and Southern Baptists have "strong, shared values."

Tim Goeglein, a special assistant who deals with evangelicals for Bush, talked to messengers a short while before Bush. Goeglein thanked

Southern Baptists for praying for "the Bush-Cheney administration."

Election time

Bush's address to the SBC this year comes in the middle of his reelection bid. The November election pits Bush against Democrat Sen. John Kerry, with many polls showing the race as a dead heat.

Recently, the SBC Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission launched a Web site, www.iVoteValues.com, to "promote awareness of the immediate and long-term importance of value-based voting."

Conservative evangelicals are credited with helping Bush win a narrow election over Al Gore in 2000.

At a meeting in Raleigh, N.C. about a month before that election, ERLC President Richard Land told a group that God is not a Republican or a Democrat, but God is pro-life, pro-family and not pro-homosexual.

The ERLC Web site lists issues such as abortion and same-sex marriage on which Bush and many Southern Baptists would likely agree.

An announcement in the SBC Bulletin distributed daily at the annual meeting was titled "Churches and Elections."

"Pastors, you would be amazed at how much freedom you and your church have to legally be involved in the election process—without endangering your non-profit status," the announcement stated.

building on a Legacy



Our name is changing!

The **Annuity Board's** name is changing to GuideStone Financial Resources of the Southern Baptist Convention.

Why?

When the Annuity Board was chartered in 1918 as the Commission on Ministerial Relief and Annuity, our name reflected our original mission: to provide financial relief to retiring pastors who, after a lifetime of supporting others, could not support themselves.

Over the years our mission has grown and our name no longer effectively describes the depth and variety of products and services available to our participants. Today, we offer a full range of financial services including retirement, life and health plans and investment products.

What does it mean?

We believe the new name, GuideStone Financial Resources, will help guide our future while enabling us to build on our *legacy* of TRUST, SERVICE, VALUES, EXPERIENCE and STRENGTH.

Our name is changing, but our focus will remain the same... *Serving those who serve the Lord.*


GuideStone
FINANCIAL RESOURCES
of the Southern Baptist Convention

Campbellsville University's School of Theology

Proudly presents the Guest Speaker for its annual

January Bible Study Preview:

"Hope When Believers Struggle: Studies in the Gospel of Mark."



Dr. Argile Smith

Chair of the Pastoral Ministries Division &
J.D. Grey Professor of Preaching,
New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary

August 5, 2004

The Gheens Recital Hall

Campbellsville University

12:30 p.m. - 8:15 p.m.

For more information:

Mrs. Betty Hatfield
School of Theology
Campbellsville University
1 University Drive
Campbellsville, KY 42718
800.264.6014
270.789.5029
theology@campbellsville.edu

Campbellsville
UNIVERSITY

Study free of charge • cost for evening meal \$10.00 (payable that day).

New staff at Cedarmore, Jonathan Creek

Summer busy, fun when you enjoy those you work with

Summer is in full swing and we are enjoying the energy of great numbers of youth at Cedarmore and Jonathan Creek camps. Camp time is always busy, but it is enjoyable, especially when you work with people who are a joy to be around.

Recently, we were privileged to add two staff members to our ministry. Shane McGrath and Scott Bidwell have joined us at Cedarmore and Jonathan Creek, respectively. Shane will begin work full time in July as Cedarmore's new associate director. Shane was born in Indiana and has served in conference ministry for several years. Shane is gifted in many areas and he will help us a great deal with guest services and technical support. Shane is married to Kari Ann, and they have two girls, Myra, 4, and Elizabeth, 2. Please remember them as they transition to this new position.

This addition brings great relief to Bert Lace as he has served more than a year without the help of an associate. Bert has done a remarkable job, and our ministry has increased under his leadership

in spite of being short a key staff position.

Scott Bidwell transitioned from part-time to full-time at Jonathan Creek last month. Scott, a recent graduate of Murray State University has served with us at Jonathan Creek since 2001 in various roles. Scott will serve as assistant program director in support of Crossings at the Creek and our year-round program development. Scott brings a great passion for excellence in many areas, and he has a heart to see students reached with the gospel. Scott and his wife, Monica, live in Hardin.

I have a great privilege of serving with many wonderful people and these two families are a great addition to our ministry. Our ministry can only grow at the rate of our ability to fill key positions, and we continually look for people who complement and expand our leadership group. As always, we continue to need your prayers as we seek to minister to our churches across this state and beyond.

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

KENTUCKY BAPTIST ASSEMBLIES



David Melber

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 1-800-928-5242 to make a reservation and receive directions.

Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children
 Life-Changing Ministries for Children & Families **KBHC**

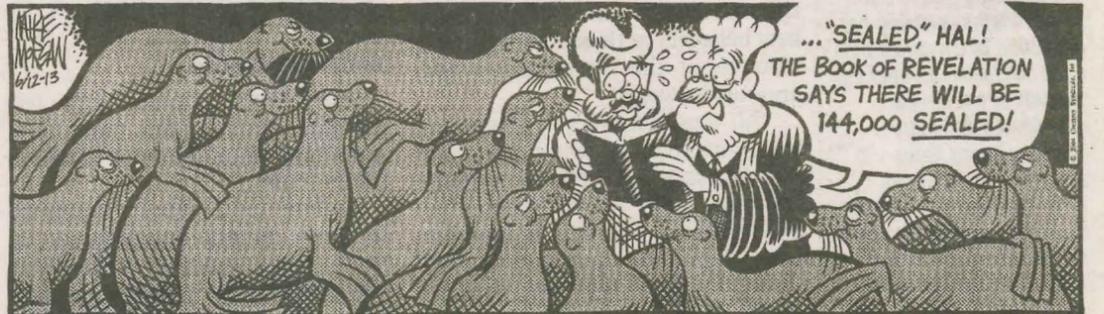
LifeWay Church Buses
 1-800-370-6180
 www.carpenterbus.com

Kudzu



Doug Marlette

For Heaven's Sake



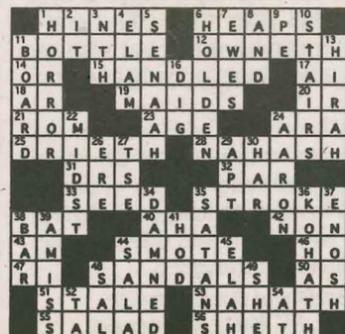
Mike Morgan

Bible Crosswords

Terri Grottke

- Across**
- 1 Regal
 - 6 "Beerth of the children of _____" (Deuteronomy 10:6)
 - 11 Pronoun
 - 12 "A workman that _____ not to be ashamed" (2 Timothy 2:15)
 - 14 Dir.
 - 15 Hot _____
 - 17 Old Testament book
 - 19 Medical abbr. for delirious state
 - 20 Tyre and _____
 - 21 Son of Aram (Genesis 10)
 - 23 Yes!
 - 24 Arsenic (abbr.)
 - 26 "As thou goest unto _____ a mount of the east" (Genesis 10:30)
 - 30 Another name for Hagar
 - 34 Son of Midian (Genesis 25:4)
 - 35 _____ wave
 - 36 Jesse's third son (1 Chronicles 2)
 - 38 Name that means "son of my sorrow"
 - 39 Note on diatonic scale
 - 40 "Where his tent had been ... between Bethel and _____" (Genesis 13:3)
 - 42 Linking verb
 - 43 O.T. bk.
 - 46 Wheat by-product
 - 50 Ignore
 - 51 Expiates
 - 53 _____ art
 - 54 In nearest proximity
 - 56 Pronoun
 - 58 What to do with rosebuds?
 - 59 Reposed
- Down**
- 1 Chess piece (abbr.)
 - 2 Possessive pronoun
 - 3 Insect
 - 4 Some tennis serves
 - 5 Biblical pronoun
 - 6 Warrior in David's army (1 Chronicles 12:6)
 - 7 Site of threshing floor where Joseph mourned Jacob (Genesis 50)
 - 8 Son of Abinadab (2 Samuel 6:3)
 - 9 Furniture tree
 - 10 Dir.
 - 13 Basketball pass (colloq.)
 - 16 Masculine nickname
 - 18 Article
 - 21 Biblical verb
 - 22 Son of Eliphaz (1 Chronicles 1:36)
 - 23 Capital of Moab (Numbers 21:15)
 - 24 Naaman preferred this river in Damascus to the Jordan (2 Kings 5)
 - 25 Near where John the Baptist baptized (John 3:23)
 - 27 Greek letter
 - 28 Part of a garment
 - 29 Band or chair
 - 31 Consumed
 - 32 Cotton _____
 - 33 Fuss
 - 37 Sighing sound
 - 38 Grievous
 - 41 King of Judah, et al.
 - 43 Preposition
 - 44 So extreme
 - 45 Competent
 - 47 Tea, for one
 - 48 Picnic pests
 - 49 The royal _____
 - 50 Retreat, for some
 - 52 Pronoun used for a country
 - 53 King of Bashan (Numbers 21)
 - 55 Conjunction
 - 57 "Mr. _____" of TV fame

Last week's solution



WMU explores ways to be radical Christ-followers

By Bill Webb
Missouri Word & Way

Indianapolis—Missionaries, Woman's Missionary Union leaders and others explored what it means to be Christ-followers during WMU's 2004 annual meeting June 13-14 in Indianapolis.

Through music, dramatic presentations, videos, testimonies and inspirational messages from North American and international missionaries, the 850 women registered were challenged to carry the message of Christ and disciple new believers in their communities, throughout the United States and around the world.

"All true followers of Christ desire more than anything else to be like Christ," WMU President Janet Hoffman told participants. "To imitate Christ, one must be intimate with Christ, and that is nourished through daily prayer and study of His Word."

Christian believers who are like Christ are more interested in being than doing, but those who love Christ intimately begin to serve Him by serving others, she added.

"Following Christ is love in action," she said. "In loving, we are most like Him because Christ is love. Love for each other will prove to the world that we are His."

She said loving as Christ loves means loving extravagantly and unconditionally. "Will our imitation of Christ inspire others to follow Him?" she asked.

Missionary stories

Missionaries shared their testimonies during the two days, explaining how they've sought to follow Christ.

Harriet and Paul Lawrence, Southern Baptist missionaries to North Africa and the Middle East, told of the danger and unique challenges of serving in Gaza and the West Bank of Jordan. They spoke about near misses by both Israeli and Palestinian bombs.

"We love the Lord too much to fear following Him," said Harriet.

"In spite of the hardship, it is worth it to follow Him, added Paul.

Barbara and Harry Bush, Southern Baptist missionaries to South Asia, told of "equipping God's leaders" by providing biblical training to Christian leaders in nine nations. About 1,600 people have received such leadership training, resulting in 16,000 baptisms and 285 new churches in the nine nations.

Milton and Mary Jane Allred, missionaries to the Mixteca Indians in Mexico, described their ministry

and their plan to pursue reaching the Mixteca stateside when they retire at the end of this month.

Kentucky connections

Two women with Kentucky connections were part of the WMU meeting.

Rebecca Carnell, literacy missions consultant for the Kentucky Baptist Convention, received the Dellanna O'Brien Award for Women's Leadership Development. She recalled attending a life-changing WMU annual meeting in 1992. Deeply moved by the testimony of a man who called it "a miracle" that he had been taught to read as an adult, Carnell made a commitment to return home and use the training she had already received to teach others to read.

Since then, she said, God also has given her opportunities to teach literacy and English as a second language as well as training others to do so. For the past six years, Carnell has served part time as a Mission Service Corp volunteer and part time as literacy consultant for the Kentucky Baptist Convention.

Former Kentuckian Beth Ann Williams, woman's ministry consultant for Utah-Idaho Baptists, encouraged participants to prayerfully support the efforts of WMU-sponsored volunteers and others who will minis-

ter during the summer Olympics in Athens, Greece.

A self-described "Olympics junkie," Williams coordinated 1,300 volunteers from 21 states who engaged in creative ministry during the Winter Olympics in Salt Lake City.

With small children at home, Williams will not participate in ministries at the Athens games, but she and a friend have rented a pavilion in Salt Lake City and are having Greek food catered there during the games as a way to use the Olympic theme to share Christ with others.

Lee announced at the meeting that an offering of \$6,950 was collected Sunday evening for the WMU Vision Fund.

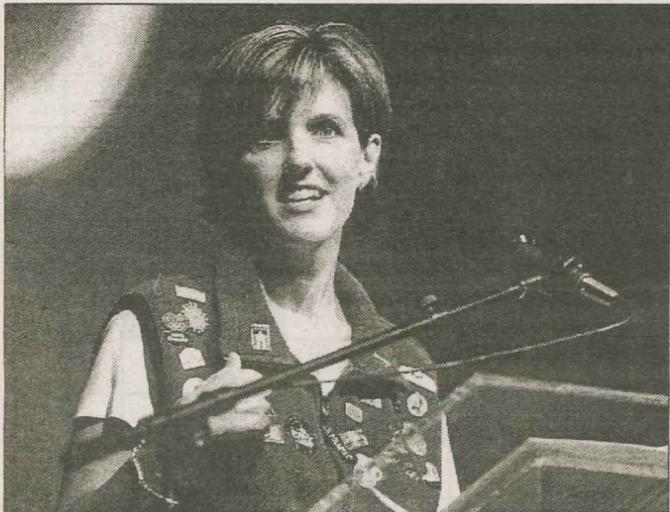
Participants also learned that Lottie Moon Christmas Offering receipts reached a record \$136 million for 2003, and that the 2004 Annie Armstrong Easter Offering is running 15.3 percent ahead of last year.

During the Monday morning business session, Hoffman was re-elected as national WMU president. Kathy Hillman of Waco, Texas, was elected to a first term as recording secretary, succeeding Yolanda Calderon of California.

With additional reporting by John Loudat, editor of the Baptist New Mexican; and Charlie Warren, editor of the Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine

KENTUCKY NATIVE

Williamsburg native Beth Ann Williams, wearing her collection of Olympics pins June 13 during an opening session of the annual Woman's Missionary Union meeting, talks about her experiences directing Southern Baptist ministries during the 2002 Winter Olympics in Salt Lake City. (SBC photo by John Swain)



Purpose-driven for 105 years

Mission statement, 'Education for time and eternity,' more than just a slogan

By Michael Spencer
Campus Minister

Throughout its 105-year history, Oneida Baptist Institute has been a unique community of people centered on a common mission. OBI was "purpose-driven" long before the phrase became popular. Understanding our purpose is the best way to appreciate what God is doing here.

OBI's purpose is summarized in our mission statement: "Education for Time and Eternity." We're not a child care program, a counseling center or a "reform school." OBI is a school where students from around the world can get a first-class education. Our alumni include leaders in every field. Our educational standards, certified through rigorous accreditation by the Kentucky Non-Public School Commission, exceed those of many public and private schools.

OBI is a "good Samaritan" school. Our admissions approach allows us to take the student who needs a "second chance." We admit students throughout the year and will consider those who present challenges. In most cases, students who have experienced difficulty or failure elsewhere improve in our program. "Kids with problems aren't all problem kids" is a phrase we hear often.

This "good Samaritan" approach places OBI in contrast to many Christian schools. OBI's leadership has kept the vision of helping students who need help at the center of our mission for more than 30 years. Education is our ministry, but compassion is our method.

The second part of our mission statement says that we educate "for eternity." Many students who come to OBI are strangers to a personal relationship with God through Jesus Christ. They are from all different backgrounds, from atheism to other world religions. Yet when they come to Oneida they hear—daily—the importance of a life that receives God's gift of love through Jesus.

Eternal values help put earthly experiences in perspective. For the student who is hurting or confused, the gospel offers hope and help. For the student whose family experience has been painful, the gospel offers a God Who is a loving Father. For the student who says "no" to Christ while he is with us, we present a gospel that grows, like a seed, when no one can see the growth.

At Oneida we place God at the center of our ministry through daily worship, Christian faculty and staff, and biblical truth.

Men like James Anderson Burns, Barkley Moore and W. F. Underwood have led OBI to be faithful to our purpose in good times and in tough times. I often tell students that no school has changed less in 105 years than OBI! I don't mean buildings or air conditioning, but who we are and what keeps us working, praying and hoping day after day.

OBI's purpose is central to who we are and what we do. We hope to let our light of Christian education shine that students might come to trust their Father in heaven. As long as God gives us the opportunity we will pursue this purpose, and may He continue to get the glory.

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



Amazing grace

Tennessee student wants others to experience new life

"This will be the first time my name has been in the paper, outside of the court news," student Kirk Kirkemende said with a laugh.

"After being on drugs and alcohol for 35 years, I went to jail a few times," Kirk said. "The last time, I saw Ralph Reagan (2000 graduate) at the courthouse, and he asked if I was ready to turn my life around. I told him it was either that or die. He took me to the Bread of Life Mission. That night in the devotional service, I went to the altar and gave my life to Jesus. Since then, it has been one blessing after the other."

Kirk is a native of Crossville, Tenn. His father is a veterinarian and his mother an English teacher. "They're glad to see my life change," he said. "Ralph helped me get to Clear Creek. I want to help people in the condition I was in." 2001 graduate Greg Williams, pastor of a Crossville church, also encourages Kirk.

"God has a purpose for me," Kirk stated. "Sometime, I think I'll be back helping Ralph. The Bread of Life Mission is expanding, help-

ing minister to the transient and homeless people who need a place to stay. So many of them are lost, like I was."

What's his appraisal after one semester at Clear Creek? "I'm excited about my studies. It's great getting a new opportunity," he said. "Clear Creek is just like family; I feel love every where I go.

Most wouldn't expect it, not if you've been out in the world like I have. My brother, Paul, is also here; he expressed an interest about a month or two after me. We took entrance exams the same day. It amazes me to see him sitting beside me in class."

After a summer class in spiritual disciplines under Bill Tichenor, Kirk and Paul went to Crossville until the fall semester; we look forward to their return. "We know we are on holy ground," Kirk said. "It all has to be of God to have had the change that has come to our lives."



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



Carey Knowles
Christian humorist, family entertainment

Carey brings laughter and encouragement to meetings and banquets. Call today!

229-868-2120 ~ www.careyknowles.com

Pastors' Conference theme: 'Jesus Came Preaching'

By Jennifer Rash
Alabama Baptist

Indianapolis—Southern Baptist leaders came preaching during the 2004 Pastors' Conference, June 13-14 at the Indiana Convention Center in Indianapolis.

Following the theme "Jesus Came Preaching," pastors, professors and other ministry leaders developed sermons around Jesus' directives. Many also highlighted then-Southern Baptist Convention presidential nominee Bobby Welch's goal for Southern Baptists to baptize 1 million people in one year. (Welch was elected SBC president June 15.)

Paige Patterson, president of Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas, reminded Southern Baptists that since the conservative resurgence in 1979 they have baptized only about 400,000 people a year.

"And we have baptized mostly our own, many of them for the second time," he said. "Many of us are guilty of the infant baptism we used to criticize everyone else for. (This is happening) because we no longer believe in the exclusivity of salvation in Christ."

Preaching from Matthew 7:13-29, Patterson said the doctrine of the exclusivity of Jesus Christ "is the most hated doctrine in all the world today," but he challenged Southern Baptists to stick to it.

"Let us preach to make men free. God help us if we preach anything else but Jesus and Him alone for salvation."

Jerry Vines, pastor of First Baptist Church of Jacksonville, Fla.,



Jerry Vines The pastor of First Baptist Church in Jacksonville, Fla., said: "Our job is not to dilute the message, delete the message, dissect the message, doctor the message or dumb down the message."

preached from 1 Timothy 6 with the theme "Old preachers never die."

"Our job is not to dilute the message, delete the message, dissect the message, doctor the message or dumb down the message," he said. "Our job is to deliver and to declare the message of the living God."

Ted Traylor, president of the 2004 Pastors' Conference, found himself preaching during a slot reserved for Adrian Rogers.

Rogers, pastor of Bellevue Baptist Church in Memphis, Tenn., was not released by his physician to preach following heart bypass surgery March 16.

Preaching from Luke 4:16-44, Traylor shared thoughts about the authority, anointing and announcement of the "peerless preacher."

"There are some people outside of our normal paths that we must begin to do a better job reaching," Traylor said, noting three specific groups—various ethnic groups, teenagers and twentysomethings. "Something must change with the

way we are pronouncing the gospel, so we can announce to them that Jesus is Lord."

Ronnie Floyd, pastor of First Baptist Church of Springdale, Ark., said teaching, preaching and the practice of a biblical theology of stewardship are missing in most Southern Baptist churches today.

Drawing from the example of David in 1 Chronicles 29, Floyd encouraged pastors to be courageous spiritual leaders who put biblical theological stewardship into practice. Only then, Floyd said, will God provide "supernatural contagious results."

Eddie Echarri, a former prisoner who now directs community outreach for Olive Baptist Church in Pensacola, Fla., urged church leaders to reach out to those who need Jesus.

"Broken spirits and broken hearts are showing up at your church," he said.

Preaching from Hebrews 12, **Johnny Hunt**, pastor of First Baptist Church of Woodstock, Ga., challenged his listeners to be "satisfied to be called a preacher."

"Brethren, we're not CEOs," he said. "Who wants to be a chief executive officer reporting to the company when you can be a called-by-God pastor reporting to the King of Kings and Lord of Lords?"

Fred Luter, pastor of Franklin Avenue Baptist Church in New Orleans, challenged Southern Baptists to become Kingdom citizens by becoming like Christ.

Using John 13:34-35 as his text, Luter said in order to be like Christ, one must have love for the Scrip-

tures, the Savior and the saints. "How can we win the world if we don't love one another?" he asked.

Ergun Caner, a professor at Liberty University in Lynchburg, Va., and the Southern Baptist son of an Islamic leader, said he became a Christian, and several other family members were saved in following years, "all because one stubborn, obnoxious high school kid took the Great Commission seriously. ... Thank God that we are united in missions and evangelism, because I wouldn't be standing here if it were not for your hearts and your work and your programs."

Evangelist Voddie Baucham of Spring, Texas, said preaching the gospel in today's culture takes courage because it is not accepted as it once was. "I believe there is coming a time when we will pay a price for preaching the gospel."

During officer elections, Steve Gaines, pastor of First Baptist Church of Gardendale, Ala., was elected president of the 2005 Southern Baptist Pastors' Conference.

Gaines was elected over Terry Fox, pastor of Immanuel Baptist Church, Wichita, Kan.

Hunt nominated Gaines on behalf of Rogers who was unable to attend.

Scott Wilkens, a church planter from Kentucky, and David Thompson, pastor of Northpointe Community Church in Nashville, were elected first vice president and secretary-treasurer respectively.

With additional reporting by Randy Cowling, editor of the *Kansas-Nebraska Baptist Digest*, and Elizabeth Young, editor of *Arizona Portraits* magazine



"How can we win the world if we don't love one another?"

Fred Luter, pastor of Franklin Avenue Baptist Church in New Orleans

'Resurgence' participants, backers celebrate 25th anniversary

By Steve DeVane
North Carolina Biblical Recorder

Indianapolis—During the heart of the Southern Baptist Convention controversy, conservatives considered a proposal to split SBC seminaries with moderates, according to one prominent conservative.

Paige Patterson, an architect of what supporters call the "conservative resurgence" in the Southern Baptist Convention, said the suggestion that conservatives and moderates each get control of three seminaries was made because some resurgence leaders feared conflict was hurting the convention.

The idea was put aside, Patterson said, after a pointed objection from Homer Lindsay Jr., former co-pastor of First Baptist Church of Jacksonville, Fla.

Lindsay, who died of cancer in February 2000, stood up during a discussion about the plan, announced he was leaving and called other conservatives in the room a "bunch of wimps," Patterson recalled.

"I thought I was with men of God," Patterson quoted Lindsay as saying.

Patterson told the story during a "conservative resurgence reunion" June 14, the night before the start of the 2004 SBC annual meeting. He used it as an example of how God guided the conservative movement.

Critics tend to call the movement in the SBC since 1979 "the fundamentalist takeover." Both sides

agreed the convention has shifted decidedly rightward.

About 600 people attended the reunion. While they rejoiced over the past 25 years, several speakers also expressed concerns about the future.

Richard Land, president of the SBC's Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission, said the reunion was needed because great events should be commemorated. But he said there was another reason for the celebration.

Learning from history

"Those who do not know their history and do not learn from history are doomed to repeat it," he said.

Land, who presented a historical review, said he believes God will bless the SBC. "We believe God has tested us and He has found us faithful."

Planners said the reunion was intended to remind younger Southern Baptists of the events during the last 25 years.

Speakers at the rally included Patterson and Paul Pressler. The two are widely credited with beginning the movement after they realized SBC presidents held a great deal of power over the election of trustees to SBC seminaries, agencies and institutions.

In the 1970s Patterson and Pressler believed liberalism was taking hold in the SBC. They organized

people to come to SBC meetings to elect conservative presidents.

Patterson is now president of Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas. He is former president of the SBC and Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary in Wake Forest, N.C.

Pressler has served in several key SBC trustee posts.

Reunion attendees gave Patterson and Pressler two standing ovations.

Before the meeting Pressler, a retired judge from Texas, talked with admirers and posed for photographs. He said during the meeting that he felt overwhelmed.

Pressler, author of "A Hill on Which to Die," a history of the "resurgence" from his perspective, said Southern Baptists must not rest on their laurels.

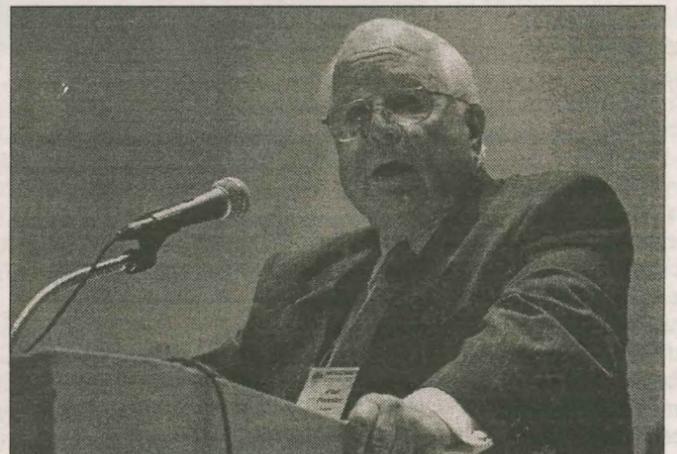
"My friends, if we hesitate, we're going to lose it," he said.

Jim Richards, head of the Southern Baptists of Texas Convention, said the younger generation must know about the movement.

"We must never lose sight of the methodology that was used," he said. "Although we consider ourselves all conservatives, we must not wink at someone who may be wavering."

Pastor Jerry Falwell opened the reunion with prayer.

His church, Thomas Road Baptist Church in Lynchburg, Va, was formerly an independent Baptist congregation before joining the SBC



less than 10 years ago. "I was not a Southern Baptist when you guys hijacked it," he joked before praying.

The reunion also included video clips of W.A. Criswell's sermons at the 1985 and 1988 SBC meetings. Jerry Johnson, president of Criswell College in Dallas, said the 1988 sermon was especially important when conservatives won the SBC presidency by a close margin.

"Dr. Criswell, I believe, turned the tide," Johnson said.

The video clips started with Criswell asking if he could talk about liberals who he said were then becoming known as moderates.

"A skunk by any other name still stinks," he said to cheers on the video and at the reunion.

The video ended with Criswell blowing a kiss on convention messengers.

RESURGENCE ARCHITECT
Judge Paul Pressler of Houston speaks June 14 at the Conservative Resurgence Reunion, held prior to the SBC annual meeting. (BP photo by Matt Miller)

PRAYER PARTNERS

Please pray for the following ministries throughout Kentucky:

Liberty Baptist Church in Hagerhill. This 135-year-old church suffered severe damage after flood waters climbed four feet high inside the building last month. Damage is estimated at \$250,000 and the congregation had only \$58,000 in insurance. Pray for Pastor Robert Hill and church leaders as they clean up, replace and repair from the flood damage. Pray also that they will be a strong witness and source of support to the area families whose homes were damaged or destroyed by flooding.

Immanuel Baptist Church in Louisville. Pastor John Ryan Fullerton and church members have begun "Labor Ministry." Members perform minor home repairs for neighbors while other church members share their faith with the home owners. Pray that the residents will be receptive to the gospel. Pray also for more members to serve in Labor Ministry.

Mission Service Corps missionary Barbara Greenfield of Princeton. Greenfield is the founder of Bright Life Farms, a group home and working farm that serves developmentally challenged adults. Residents live and work on the farm under the care of Christian house parents and staff. Pray for the staff to have patience and compassion as they care for and minister to residents. Pray also for finances, resources and volunteers to complete the new girls' home that is under construction.

MOUNTAINS TO THE MISSISSIPPI

COMPILED BY STAFF

■ **CADIZ**—Rock Front Church recently called **Billy Hart** as interim pastor.

■ **CAMPBELLSVILLE**—Meadowview Church recently called **Brent Gup-ton** as pastor.

■ **CROMWELL**—Green River Church will host **The Florida Boys** in concert June 27, 7 p.m. **Kelley Harris** is pastor.

■ **DRY RIDGE**—**Willie Ailstock**, pastor of Dry Ridge Church, has been called to active duty with the Army Reserve to serve at Fort Knox for one year. **French Harmon** is serving as interim pastor.

■ **HAZARD**—First Church recently called **Ricky Ray** as pastor.

■ **LOUISVILLE**—Buechel Park Church recently ordained **Deborah Anne**

Murrell to the gospel ministry. **Don Rogers** is pastor.

Cloverleaf Church will host the **Manna Quartet** in concert June 26, 7 p.m. For more information, call (502) 367-0218.

Midlane Park will have a special musical presentation during evening services June 27 to celebrate the church's 41st anniversary.

Third Avenue Church recently called **Brad Wheeler** as pastoral assistant. **Jason Arens** is pastor.

■ **MACEO**—Yelvington Church will hold revival services June 23-27 with several guest speakers: **Michael Rust, Kenneth Stone, Farrell Isenberg** and **Kenny Rager**.

■ **MURRAY**—Sinking Spring Church recently called **Carl Butler** as pastor.



FELLOWSHIP French Harmon (left), the Kentucky Baptist Convention's church development strategist for North Central Kentucky, visits with Clear Creek Baptist Bible College staff members Jay Sulfridge (center) and Donnie Fox during last week's SBC annual meeting in Indianapolis. (Photo by Trennis Henderson)



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

June

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.

26-30 Discovery Youth Camp, grades 7-12, Cedarmore Camp.

26-28 Mountain Missions Conference, Oneida Baptist Institute.

30-31 World Missions Unlimited, First Baptist Church, Madisonville.

August

2-6 Discover Kids Week, Cedarmore.

14 Super Saturday, Erlanger Baptist Church.

14 Super Saturday, Bellevue Baptist Church, Owensboro.

16 Understanding Other Beliefs Conference, Warren Association Office, Bowling Green.

17 Understanding Other Beliefs Conference, Northside Baptist Church, Elizabethtown.

21 Super Saturday, Severns Valley Baptist Church, Elizabethtown.

28 Super Saturday, Immanuel Baptist Church, Lexington.

September

3-6 Baptist Men on Mission wrangler trail ride, Land Between the Lakes.

4-6 Soak A City Youth Evangelism Conference, Ashland.

11 Super Saturday, Lone Oak First Baptist Church, Paducah.

For more information, call (888) 266-6477 or visit www.kybaptist.org

CLASSIFIED ADS

AVAILABLE: Ordained Southern Baptist minister/evangelist with 35 years experience for revivals, discipleship training, evangelism training and leadership institute for equipping training. Endorsed by the NAMB. If interested, contact Dr. Lee Elias at PO Box 1394, Bowling Green, KY 42103, or phone/fax (270) 842-0495.

FOR SALE: Church pews. Beautiful, high-quality hardwood pews (580 total linear feet). Excellent condition. For more information, please call (859) 635-5725.

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

SEEKING: Immediate opening for administrative assistant (35 hours per week). Compensation includes health, dental and vacation benefits. Must be computer-literate with excellent written and oral communication skills; book-keeping experience helpful, but not required. Resumes should be mailed to: John Lepper, coordinator, Kentucky Baptist Fellowship, 225 South Hurstbourne Parkway, Louisville, KY 40222; or e-mail to jlepper@kybf.org as a Word attachment. Contact same for position description.

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

SEEKING: Ministry assistant for the Adult Sunday School/Discipleship Group. Position requires three to five years related experience; strong organizational and computer applications skills. Attractive compensation and benefit package. Contact the Administrative Services Department, Kentucky Baptist Convention, Louisville, Ky. (502) 244-6468.

SEEKING: The Kentucky Baptist Fellowship is seeking resumes for the position of associate coordinator for missions. The person who fills this full-time position will provide leadership for missions participation and education in Kentucky; engage individuals and churches in hands-on mission work; and network with individuals, groups and churches to develop and expand ministry possibilities. Please submit resumes to: John Lepper, coordinator, Kentucky Baptist Fellowship, 225 South Hurstbourne Parkway, Louisville, KY 40222. Contact same for a position description (jlepper@kybf.org or (502) 426-1931). Deadline for receiving resumes: Aug. 6, 2004.

SEEKING: Full-time pastor for Old Yellow Creek Baptist Church, Middlesboro, Ky. Please send resume to: Pastor Search Committee, Old Yellow Creek Baptist Church, 225 S. 38th St., Middlesboro, KY 40965.

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

SEEKING: Full-time worship/student pastor to be on the cutting edge of worship (blended music services) and student ministries for Northside Baptist Church, Mayfield, Ky. Seeking an enthusiastic individual with a heart for God, music and students and strong organizational, relational and communication skills; individual must be team-oriented. Send resume to: Northside Baptist Church, 611 W Lochridge St., Mayfield, KY 42066, Attn: pastor.

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 resume to: Zion Baptist Church, 8158 Highway 351, Henderson, KY 42420; or e-mail mkgallow@yahoo.com.

SEEKING: Part-time music minister for White Sulphur Baptist Church. Send resume to church: 5300 Ironworks Road, Georgetown, KY 40324, Attn: Roger Davis.

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

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

SEEKING: Minister of music, Culpeper Baptist Church, Culpeper, Va. 1,000 members; two worship services (contemporary and traditional); moderate conservative church founded in 1774. Resumes received at: Personnel Committee, 318 South West St., Culpeper, VA 22701; tfusion@culpeperbaptist.org; (540) 825-8192. Affiliated with Shiloh Baptist Association and Baptist General Association of Virginia.

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. Home agents needed.

Crossover Indianapolis

Volunteers see 1,500 professions of faith in evangelistic event

By Lee Weeks
SBC North American Mission Board

Indianapolis (BP)—Blaring rap music, yellow crime scene tape, open-hooded vehicles on ramps and young children playfully running through the streets is an all-too-common scene throughout much of inner city America.

A similar scenario played itself out June 12 at the Cloverleaf Terrace apartments in Indianapolis during the community's annual luau festivities. This year, however, Southern Baptist volunteers from throughout the Southeast joined the celebration.

They hosted children's games and crafts and provided free car washes, oil changes and other maintenance. The rap music was of the Christian variety, and the yellow tape sectioned off part of the parking lot where groups of Baptist men serviced the vehicles while sharing the gospel.

The Cloverleaf outreach was just one of nearly 40 evangelistic block parties held June 11-12 throughout metropolitan Indianapolis as part of Crossover Indiana. Crossover is an annual Southern Baptist evangelistic effort held the weekend prior to the Southern Baptist Convention's annual meeting in the host city.

Statewide, 100-plus churches were part of 75 Crossover events scheduled June 7-19, including block parties, street evangelism, neighborhood prayerwalking, door-to-door spiritual opinion surveys and more than 40 revival crusades.

More than 1,500 professions of faith in Christ were recorded as a result of the Crossover efforts through June 12, according to reports submitted to the Metropolitan Baptist Association office in Indianapolis.

Nearly 1,000 volunteers—about half of whom are from out of state—took part in the outreach.

Block parties featuring free food, children's games and prizes were



RACE CAR INSPECTION Martha Feleke, 5, waits with her mother as her freshly created race car is inspected during the Pit Stop ministry at Indianapolis Cloverleaf Terrace Apartments. This evangelism project was one of more than 75 events comprising Crossover Indiana. Crossover is an annual evangelistic effort held the weekend prior to the SBC annual meeting throughout the host city. (BP photos by Bob Carey)

held June 12 throughout Indianapolis in apartment complexes, city parks, shopping center parking lots, on street corners and in rural open fields.

Evangelistic laboratory

Crossover is described as an evangelistic laboratory unifying Southern Baptists across the country in a convention-wide Kingdom-building effort.

"Crossover helps us focus as Southern Baptists on what we're all about," said John Yarbrough,

vice president of evangelization for the North American Mission Board. "It encourages the churches locally and leaves a residue of equipped witnesses to further impact the area for eternity."

Back at the inner-city Cloverleaf Terrace apartments, Baptist men's groups from churches in Kentucky, Arkansas, Mississippi, South Carolina and Georgia participated in the "Pit Stop" ministry by providing minor vehicle maintenance on about 30 vehicles in the apartment complex. Some men shared the gospel while the others serviced the vehicles.

Ministry evangelism projects like the Pit Stop are part of a new adult mission education emphasis by NAMB's Baptist Men on Mission organization "Men @ Work."

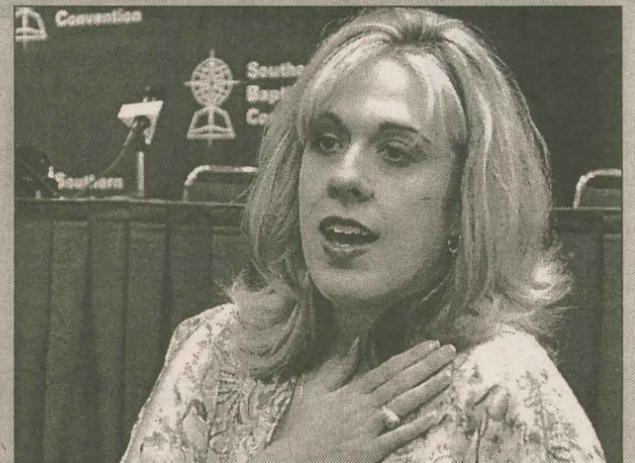
"We plan to take this back home and repeat it in our community because there's the same need there," said Rick Gastineau of Hyattsville Baptist Church in Lancaster, Ky.

At Sunnyside Road Baptist Church, Pastor John Dimmick said the efforts by nearly 30 of his church members and volunteers from Michigan and Virginia to canvass 1,000 homes made an eternal difference in their community.

More than 250 spiritual opinion surveys were conducted, leading to 115 gospel presentations. Thirteen people made professions of faith, and volunteers identified 55 new prospects.

"We had a great day and greater days are ahead," Dimmick said.

Depending on God



INJURED MISSIONARY Carrie McDonnell, wife of missionary David McDonnell, killed March 15 in Iraq, speaks from a wheelchair at a news conference June 16 during the annual meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention. (SBC photo by Matt Miller)

Missionary shot in Iraq trusting God for both healing & direction

By Erin Curry
Baptist Press

Indianapolis (BP)—Just three months after losing her husband and being seriously injured in Iraq, Carrie McDonnell is telling people who feel called to a dangerous task for the Kingdom of God they'd "better go."

"We have to keep going to the hard places. We have to keep going to the violent places," McDonnell said in an interview during the Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting in Indianapolis. "God's call was not just to go to the places that were easy."

McDonnell was the lone survivor from a March 15 drive-by shooting in which her husband, David, and three fellow International Mission Board workers, Larry and Jean Elliott and Karen Watson, were killed while traveling in northern Iraq.

McDonnell said she hopes people don't look at her and decide not to go to places like Iraq.

"I hope this fires people up, not that they say, 'I can't go. Look at her, look at the tragedy in her life,' but rather say, 'Look how God has overcome this,'" she said.

Though she describes her walk with God as being close long before the shooting, McDonnell said she certainly has struggled with why God allowed such a tragedy to happen. But she said she's found God to be faithful, full of grace and mercy.

"That has not changed one bit. From the time I woke up (from the coma), God has been very near. He was near when we were being attacked," she said. "I woke up and my world turned upside down, and I found out my husband didn't make it."

"So therefore I'm dealing with my body being broken and my heart being broken, and His Word says that He is full of love and He is sovereign, and my heart's going, 'That doesn't sound right. That's not what I'm feeling,'" McDonnell said. "But I just continue to cling to the truth, even though there have been hours of going, 'Is that right?' and going, 'I know it's right, and I know that He is sovereign and He is full of love.'"

Fast recovery

McDonnell said God's hand has been evident in many ways, including the fast healing of her left leg, which was shattered by a bullet.

Doctors initially predicted the severity of the injury would take 10 months to heal. Instead, in 10 weeks she has gone from an external fixator to a cast to a splint on her leg. The splint, she said, should be off by the end of the summer.

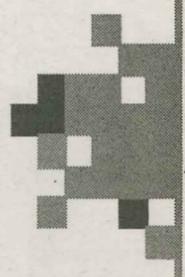
"That's God's grace," she said through tears. "I was in that truck. I know what happened. His hand was upon me. He kept me alive."

McDonnell said she had no blueprint for the way things have happened, so she doesn't know what's next. She also requested prayer for her family as they continue to grieve the loss of her husband, David. The two were married just one year and nine months at the time of the attack.

"He was a man of true virtue," she said. "He wasn't somebody you would think you couldn't approach. I never saw my husband meet a stranger. Within minutes you would count him as a good friend. He loved to tell stories. ... He loved his Jesus, and he taught me to love my Jesus."



PRE-BAPTISM PRAYER Dusty Selig (left) prays with Jason Lockhart before baptizing him in a portable baptism tank.

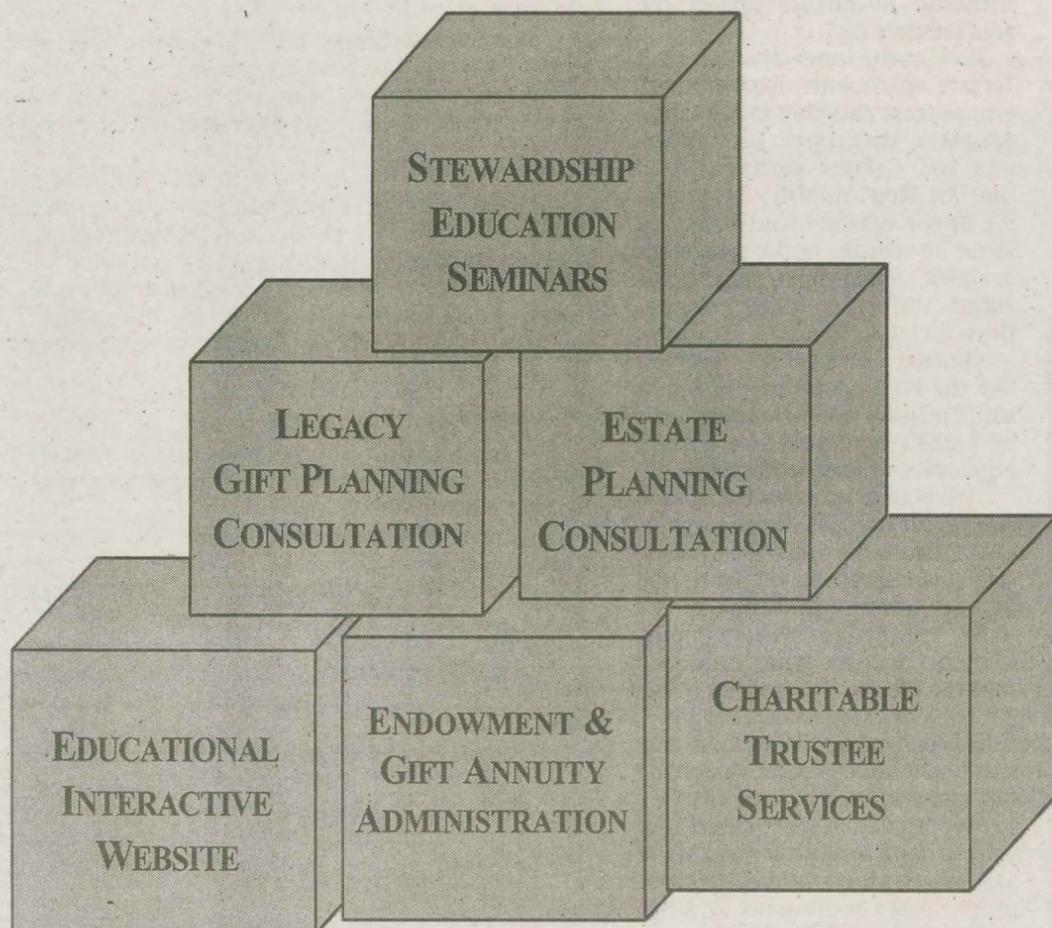


Building Blocks Of Service

The Kentucky Baptist Foundation's services are building blocks for the future. Foundation staff provide planning ideas and information which individuals may use to build for the future financial security of themselves, their families AND their favorite Kentucky Baptist and Southern Baptist causes.

Without fee or obligation, individuals and church groups can obtain information about the services of the Foundation through our website (www.kybaptistfoundation.org), one of our informative seminars, a personal visit with a Foundation representative or by being added to our mailing list.

The Foundation's services include:



IF YOU WOULD
LIKE MORE
INFORMATION ON
HOW THE
FOUNDATION CAN
SERVE YOU,
PLEASE CONTACT:

Barry Allen
President

or

Laurie Valentine
Trust Counsel



P O Box 436389
Louisville, KY 40253-6389
(502) 244-6466
(888) 254-5701—(KY Only)