

PRACTICAL RESOURCES FOR CHRISTIAN LIVING

# WESTERN RECORDER

June 28, 2005  
Vol. 179, No. 26

## WHAT HAPPENED AT THE SBC

**Cooperative Program** Messengers turned back a proposal to cut missions spending slightly to direct more money to culture wars. *Page 2.*



**Resolutions** Overseas troops, Disney and public schools all were addressed in Nashville. *Page 2.*

**Editorial** Will Baptists "join hands & hearts" to spread gospel? *Page 5.*

**Motions** Proposals include "inviting" Woman's Missionary Union to become an SBC agency. *Page 7.*

**Presidential address** Using a memorable sermon prop, Bobby Welch (right) explained what dead frogs have in common with many Southern Baptist churches. *Page 8.*



**Bush speaks** For the fourth year in a row, President George W. Bush addressed messengers. He thanked them for being "soldiers in the army of compassion." *Page 8.*



**Recognition** A life-size sculpture of Billy Graham has been commissioned to honor the Southern Baptist evangelist. It is scheduled to be unveiled at next year's convention and then placed in downtown Nashville. *Page 9.*

**Missions reports** God is at work in Africa and Asia, but Christians face a formidable missions task, Jerry Rankin (right) told messengers. Meanwhile, Bob Reccord unveiled technologies the North American Mission Board will launch to help churches share Jesus. *Page 10.*

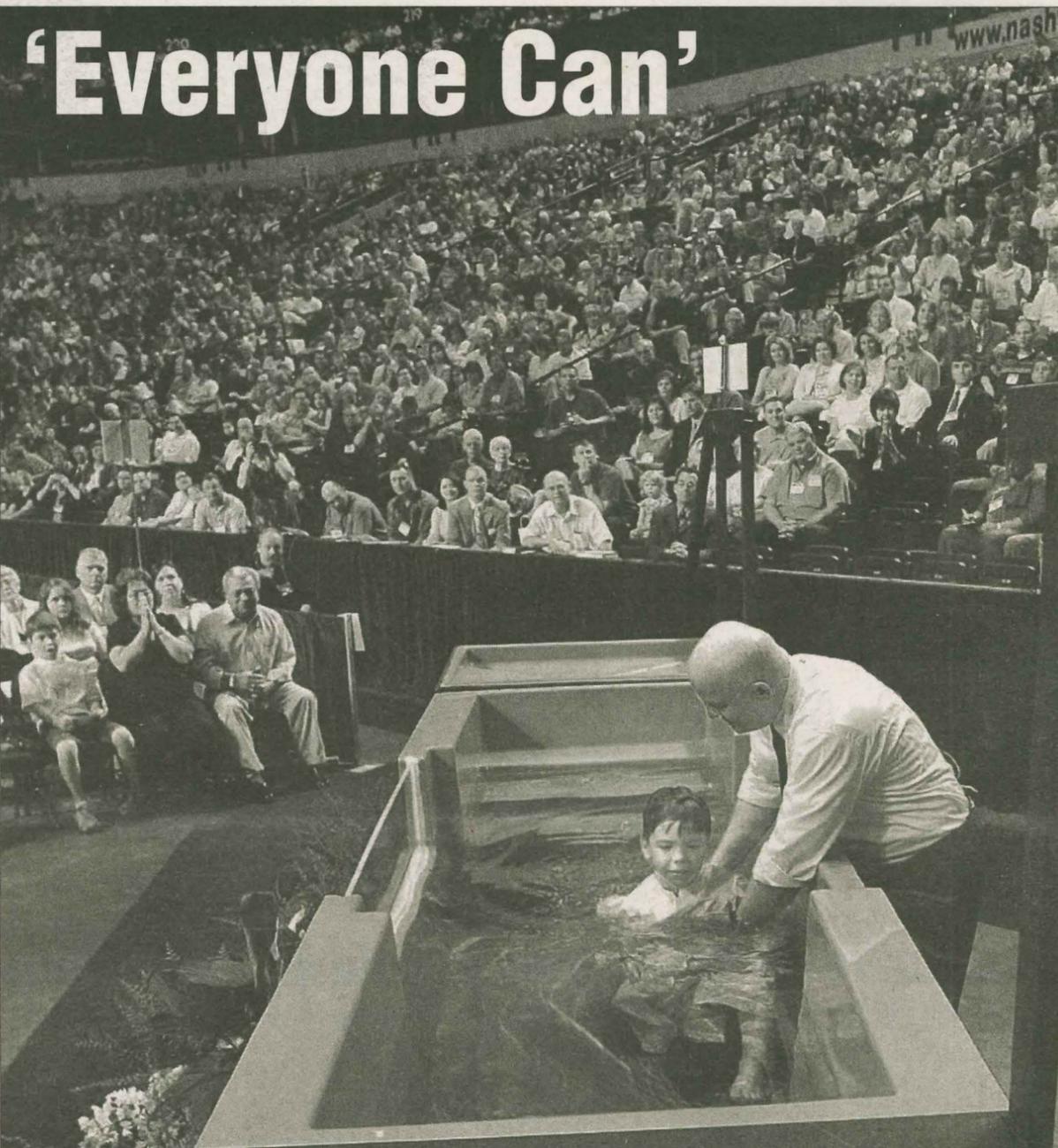


**Young Leaders** LifeWay President Jimmy Draper (left) hosted a young leaders' network before the convention began. Speakers included a Lexington pastor. *Page 12.*



**Woman's Missionary Union** Speakers explored God's passion for missions and officials presented the group's new president during their national meeting. *Page 13.*

## 'Everyone Can'



**BUT WILL EVERYONE TRY?** Jim Cross, pastor of First Baptist Church in Donelson, Tenn., baptizes Luke Charlton, 7, as more than 11,000 messengers to the Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting watch and applaud. Baptisms during the Nashville meeting last week helped highlight the "Everyone Can" challenge for Southern Baptist churches to baptize 1 million people in the next year. SBC President Bobby Welch has said the next 12 months will determine whether the denomination is heading in the right direction. Approximately 10,000 SBC churches had no baptisms last year. (BP photo by Matt Miller)

## Thousands respond as Graham preaches last New York crusade

Dated material. Please deliver by Wednesday, June 29



**I LOVE NEW YORK** Thousands attended Billy Graham's New York crusade in Flushing Meadows. Many have speculated that this will be the evangelists' last crusade. (RNS/Staten Island Advance photo by Michael McWeeney)

By Jason Anthony  
Religion News Service

**New York (RNS)**—On Sept. 1, 1957, the baritone voice thundered to more than 120,000 people crammed shoulder to shoulder in Times Square: "There is enough spiritual power here tonight to touch the world!"

That memory of a robust and youthful Billy Graham contrasted with the image this past weekend in Flushing Meadows of an 86-year-old man struggling to the podium with the help of a walker and the assistance of his son, Franklin, as thousands watched and waited.

"As you probably heard, my sermons are shorter than they used to be," Graham said.

An estimated 230,000 people attended the three-day crusade, June 24-26, with more than 10,000 responding to Graham's invitation to make a spiritual decision.

Fire still can flash from the famous blue eyes during those sermons, and the voice remains remarkably strong, but Graham clearly struggles with the challenges of his age and ailments, including hydrocephalus, or water on the brain.

As he contemplates leaving the pulpit for good, this was as much a chance for New York to say goodbye to America's preacher as it was an opportunity for Graham to preach the gospel one last time to the city that helped propel him from a popular evangelist to a household name.

Before he came to New York in 1957, Time magazine already had dubbed Graham "the best-known, most talked about Christian leader in the world today, saving the pope."

But Graham worried about his  See Thousands respond to ... *Page 6*

## Messengers reject budget amendment, affirm CP goal

By Marv Knox  
Texas Baptist Standard

**Nashville**—The Southern Baptist Convention turned back an attempt to redirect money from missions to political action during its annual meeting in Nashville June 21.

Instead, SBC messengers approved the 2005-06 Cooperative Program budget of \$189.9 million—as originally proposed by the convention's Executive Committee.

That budget allocates 50 percent of undesignated convention receipts (\$94.9 million) to the International Mission Board and almost 22.8 percent (\$43.3 million) to the North American Mission Board. It also directs 1.49 percent (\$2.8 million) to the Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission.

But Rodney Albert, pastor of Hallsville Baptist Church in Hallsville, Mo., called on Southern Baptists to channel more resources into America's culture wars. He proposed amending the budget so that the IMB's share would decrease to 49.75 percent of receipts, NAMB's portion would drop to 22.54 percent, and the ERLC's allocation would climb to 1.99 percent.

"We are in a substantial cultural war," Albert said. "We are fighting for the soul of America. But the Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission gets one of the smallest amounts of budget."

That battle will be won or lost in missions, countered Jim Wideman, executive director of the Baptist Convention of New England.

"Our purpose is not to save the culture of America; our purpose is

### SBC adopts 'sole membership' of New Orleans Seminary

**Nashville**—The Southern Baptist Convention has secured its ties to New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary, concluding years of wrangling over the convention's legal relationship with the school.

Messengers to the SBC annual meeting in Nashville approved a charter change for the seminary, making the convention the "sole member" of the seminary's corporation.

They ratified the measure by a vote of 5,627 to 1,528 after allowing seminary President Chuck Kelley to explain the school's reservations for holding out on the convention most of a decade.

The process began in 1997, when the SBC Executive Committee asked the convention's 12 agencies and institutions to make the SBC the sole member—or single controlling entity—of their corporations. By 2000, New Orleans Seminary was the lone holdout, with the exception of the Executive Committee, which had pledged to submit its sole-member-

ship amendments once the New Orleans dispute was resolved.

"The issue is one of ownership," Morris Chapman, president of the SBC Executive Committee, stressed as he introduced the matter last week. "Do you or do you not believe the SBC should own the entities that receive Cooperative Program funds?"

If the answer is yes, then approving the seminary's charter change and making the convention the seminary's sole member is the right step, Chapman said.

The convention gave Kelley six minutes to explain the seminary's reservations with sole membership and to plead for the messengers to reject the charter change.

He repeated concerns he and other seminary leaders have cited publicly for the past couple of years.

Kelley acknowledged that "both the Executive Committee and the seminary agree the seminary is and always will be an entity of the SBC."

That said, he turned his attention to the seminary's reservations with sole membership.

New Orleans Seminary needs to be exempted from the sole membership requirement because "Louisiana law differs significantly from (laws in) other states," he insisted, noting the state's legal code does not define sole membership the same way as the nine states where 10 other SBC organizations are located.

The seminary's other problem with the changes is the "step toward centralization of control and authority" exerted by the Executive Committee over all elements of the convention, Kelley said.

SBC attorney Jim Guenther said sole membership prevents the organizations from breaking away from the convention without consent of SBC messengers.

Additionally, SBC leaders have claimed sole membership protects the convention from legal liability if an affiliated organization is sued.—Marv Knox



**CONVENTION REPORT**  
Morris Chapman, president of the Southern Baptist Convention Executive Committee, presents the entity's annual report during the opening session of last week's SBC annual meeting in Nashville. (BP photo by John Swain)

to save the world," Wideman said. "If our culture is saved, it will be because we spend more money for evangelism."

SBC messengers struck down Albert's amendment and approved the overall budget. In addition to the mission boards and the ERLC, the Cooperative Program budget directs \$41 million to the SBC's six seminaries and historical library and

archives, \$1.4 million to GuideStone Financial Resources and \$7.7 million to the SBC operating budget.

Among other business proposed by the Executive Committee, messengers voted to approve:

■ Changing the name of the Annual Board of GuideStone Financial Resources. This was the second required vote to amend SBC Bylaw 14, making the name change official.

■ Two future convention sites—Indianapolis in 2008 and Louisville in 2009.

■ The 2009-10 SBC calendar, which includes 32 items. This recommendation also deleted Baptist World Alliance Day from the SBC calendar in 2006, 2007 and 2008. Last year, the SBC withdrew from the BWA, comprised of 211 Baptist conventions worldwide.

## SBC to 'investigate' public schools, end Disney boycott, support troops

By Trennis Henderson  
Editor

**Nashville**—Southern Baptist Convention messengers voted June 22 "to hold accountable schools, institutions and industries for their moral influence on our children."

The resolution also urges parents and churches "to investigate diligently the curricula, textbooks and programs in our community schools and to demand discontinuation of offensive material and programs."

The action came one year after SBC messengers rejected a proposal urging Southern Baptists to remove their children from "godless" and "anti-Christian" public schools.

Attorney Bruce Shortt of Texas was the co-author of proposed resolutions both last year and this year urging parents to withdraw their children from public schools. This year's proposal, co-written by Voddie Baucham Jr., called for removing children from schools that seek to influence students to accept homosexuality as a legitimate lifestyle.

While the measure presented by the SBC Resolutions Committee cited concerns about homosexuality, it stopped short of urging parents to withdraw their children from public schools.

Jim Goforth of Missouri, who spoke against the anti-public school proposal last year, offered an amendment this year commending teachers and students "who feel a call to God to take a stand in secular schools as a light shining in the darkness."

Committee members accepted the proposal as a friendly amendment and it was approved prior to adopting the revised resolution.

Messengers also approved resolutions to end an eight-year boycott of Disney and to express appreciation for American troops and President Bush.

The Disney resolution declares that the SBC's boycott "has communicated effectively our displeasure concerning products and policies that violate moral righteousness and traditional family values."

Urging Disney to provide "only those products that affirm traditional family values," the resolution pledges "to continue to monitor the products and policies of The Disney Co."

Wiley Drake of California, an outspoken Disney opponent, affirmed the proposal to end the boycott. But he proposed an amendment calling for the SBC "to reinstitute another boycott if necessary."

Committee Chairman Gene Mims said that option is implied in the resolution, adding that committee members "don't feel like we need that strong language."

After messengers rejected the proposed amendment, Bill Dodson, pastor of Bell City Baptist Church in Graves County, urged them to maintain the boycott.

Claiming that Disney shifted "from Bambi to bimbos," Dodson added, "We were not wrong in '97 and we should not be wrong now."

Messengers overwhelmingly voted to end the boycott, concluding with a call for Southern Baptists "to practice contin-

ued discernment regarding all entertainment products from all sources."

The resolution honoring the military encourages "all Southern Baptists to pray regularly for our president and to stand with him in opposing global terrorism as he makes decisions that potentially impact the entire earth."

Connie Saffle, a U.S. Army veteran and pastor's wife from Kansas, offered an amendment encouraging Baptists to pray for and support family members of military personnel. It was approved without debate.

A proposed amendment by Robert Dreyfus of Florida called for supporting Bush's stand against terrorism "consistent with maintaining the maximum individual freedoms of all loyal Americans." Dreyfus said he was concerned about "the abridgement of our constitutional rights" through the Patriot Act and other measures. His proposal was defeated.

Prior to messengers' final vote on the resolution, Rick Reeder, director of missions for Caldwell-Lyon Baptist Association, noted, "I'm a father of a soldier who is fighting in Afghanistan. ... We ask everybody we know to pray for him."

Acknowledging that "sometimes it's hard for us to remember that our nation is at war," Reeder urged messengers to pray for soldiers and their families.

Messengers also approved several resolutions without discussion:

■ **Stem cell research.** Noting that messengers "wholeheartedly support efforts to find cures and therapies for human maladies that respect the sanctity of all

human life," the measure adds that "we deplore embryo-destructive research." It expresses "deep disappointment" in a recent U.S. House vote in favor of expanded stem cell research and urges the U.S. Senate to reject such legislation.

■ **Federal judiciary.** The measure calls on "all future judiciary. The measure calls on constructionist judges who will interpret rather than make law." It also urges "all members of the Body of Christ to provide their United States senators with verbal and written encouragement to stop the obstruction of judicial nominees."

■ **Religious freedom and freedom of speech.** The resolution declares that messengers "will vote only for candidates and policies at all levels of government that will protect our religious freedoms and advocate traditional Judeo-Christian values." It urges Southern Baptists to "use the freedom of speech and religious liberty to further the cause of Christ in the public arena."

■ **Reducing teen smoking.** Noting that every day 5,000 children under age 18 smoke their first cigarette, messengers pledged to "work to reduce tobacco use, especially among teens." The resolution also applauds "jurisdictions that have helped reduce teen smoking with substantial tax increases on tobacco products."

■ **Evangelism.** Affirming SBC President Bobby Welch's call for Southern Baptists to "reach, win and baptize one million people" through the "Everyone Can" campaign, the resolution encourages churches "to make reaching the lost a preeminent ministry priority."

## Split court bars Commandments in Kentucky case

Washington—A sharply divided U.S. Supreme Court barred Ten Commandments displays in courthouses June 27.

The 5-4 decision found that Commandments displays in two Kentucky courthouses violate the separation of church and state by promoting religion.

In a related case, the justices ruled 5-4 that a Ten Commandments display on the grounds of the Texas capitol is permissible. Justice Sandra Day O'Connor was the swing vote in both cases.

In addition to the two divided votes, the high court sent mixed signals by ruling that some courthouse displays, including the frieze in its own courtroom, are permissible if the displays are presented neutrally to honor the nation's legal history.

The Commandments displays in two Kentucky courthouses went too far in endorsing religion, the court ruled.

The case of *McCreary County, Ky., vs. ACLU* was appealed to the Supreme Court after the 6th U.S. Court of Appeals ruled in late 2003 that it was unconstitutional to display the Ten Commandments with other historical documents in courthouses in McCreary and Pulaski counties.

Writing for the majority in the Kentucky case, Supreme Court Justice David Souter emphasized that "the First Amendment mandates government neutrality between religion and religion, and between religion and non-religion."

Dissenting from the majority, Justice Antonin Scalia wrote: "The Commandments have a proper place in our civil history," adding the rule of law includes "the absolutely indispensable requirement that judicial opinions be grounded in consistently applied principle."

In the Texas case, justices ruled a 6-foot granite monument on the grounds of the Texas capitol was a permissible tribute to the nation's legal and religious history. For the majority, Chief Justice William Rehnquist wrote, "Of course, the Ten Commandments are religious—they were so viewed at their inception and remain so."

He added, however, that "simply having religious content or promoting a message consistent with a religious doctrine does not run afoul of the Establishment clause."

These cases mark the first time since 1980 that the high court has dealt with the issue of Ten Commandments displays on government property.

That year, in *Stone vs. Graham*, the court ruled unconstitutional a Kentucky law requiring public schools to post the Commandments in each classroom.

# Joshua Project

Program providing network to equip and encourage church leaders

By Ken Walker  
KBC Communications

**New Castle**—Since he first participated in the Joshua Project, Pastor Dave Charlton has seen attendance at New Castle First Baptist Church increase about 50 percent.

But Charlton said the program has done more than spark numerical growth at the church.

The leadership training program has made him a more confident and effective leader, he said.

"I think you get a really positive experience learning from your peers," Charlton said of the Joshua Project, which the Kentucky Baptist Convention started five years ago.

The Joshua Project features an intense five-day event and an ongoing field-driven, peer-coaching process.

The program involves occasional large gatherings and regular small peer groups called "cluster groups" to encourage, equip and challenge pastors and other leaders to develop as leaders.

"People talking to me are doing the same thing, doing ministry seven days a week. They're able to answer questions and give me some insights into what I'm doing," Charlton noted. "There's a tremendous amount of fellowship as well."

### From Moses to Joshua

Named for the mentoring that the Old Testament leader Joshua received from Moses, the program arose from a similar effort started by KBC Executive Director Bill Mackey when he served at the evangelism and leadership development director for the South Carolina Baptist Convention.

Approximately 150 Kentucky pastors and church staff members have participated thus far in the program. It includes an annual five-day, intensive training weekend, followed by a series of small group meetings.

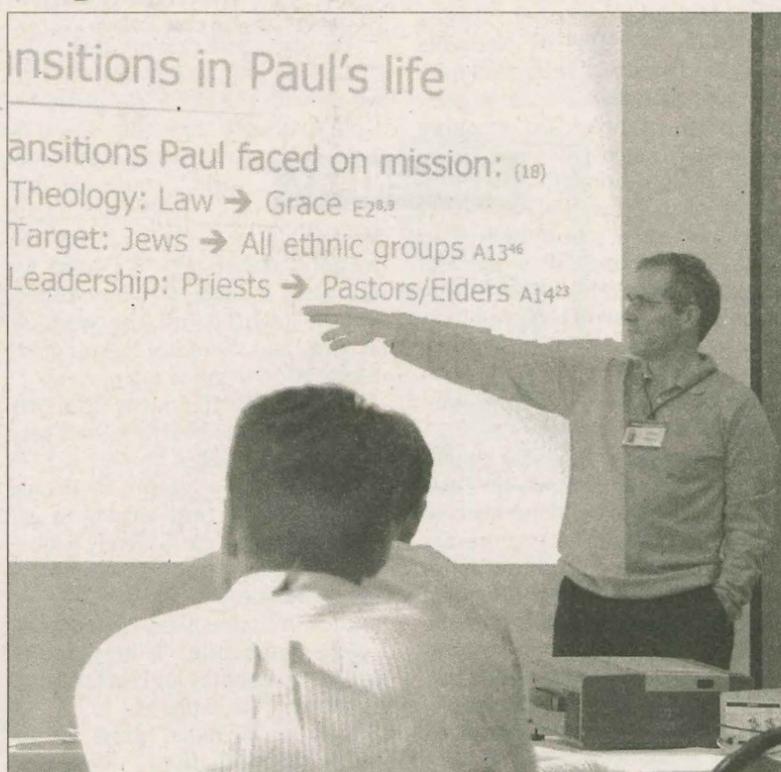
The training explores such topics as new ministry paradigms, developing ministry vision and values, team development and managing change.

Those who follow up with continuing education meet in groups of four to six.

"Leadership development is a process," said Richard Adams, the KBC's leadership development department director who oversees the Joshua Project. "The small-group process is field driven. The pastors and staff members involved decide their curriculum—what they need to learn and want to learn."

Participation is by invitation, with candidates selected by referrals that come from alumni, state convention staff and directors of missions.

"This is for pastors who want to develop ministry," Adams said. "The benefits of it are a greater self-awareness—an awareness of who they are as leaders and insights on the value of vision. They develop a personal vision as well as a church vision."



**WORKSHOP** Gene Wilkes, author of "Jesus on Leadership" and pastor of Legacy Church in Plano, Texas, leads a "Joshua Cluster Celebration" for Kentucky pastors and staff earlier this year. The program helps church leaders explore developing ministry vision and values, team development and managing change.

Ironically, Charlton has never been able to attend the annual event. Instead, he got involved by participating in a "cluster launch," a two-day meeting that brings together members of small groups from around the state.

Charlton said he was so impressed with his first small group that he recently started meeting with a second.

Although they only committed to meet for a year, Charlton's first group continued meeting for three years because the gatherings were so beneficial.

Meeting every four to six weeks, the sessions required a full day because of travel involved.

But Charlton said he never minded reserving the time to make the sessions.

"Our church has grown during this period spiritually, numerically and financially," Charlton noted.

Charlton said he grew most through the Joshua Project by looking beyond his own church members.

"In a church you can get caught up in your own community. This helped me step outside my own community and look closely at what we were doing and examine its effectiveness and spiritual content. It broadened my horizons."

He added that the group sessions also affirmed that some of the steps he was taking in his small, rural community were headed in the right direction.

"There's a certain amount of doubt," Charlton said. "I needed to be more confident and bold in leadership and not be afraid to try some new things."

### Multiple benefits

After attending the Joshua Project kickoff five years ago, Joe Leonard of First Baptist Church of Madisonville was not able to get involved in a small group.

Several months later, he left

## Notice

In accordance with the Western Recorder's 50-week publishing schedule, no paper will be published next week

Central Baptist Church in Corbin for Madisonville. But the pastor has seen benefits in both churches because of his exposure to leadership training.

"The Joshua Project helped me realize if we didn't have a vision, we wouldn't move forward," Leonard said. "This helped me be the leader I needed to be. I learned I must take the lead and bring people along with me."

He initiated goal-setting at Central Baptist. After moving to Madisonville, he led that church to form teams to examine various areas of ministry, such as worship, education and discipleship training.

The process also led the Madisonville congregation to develop a new vision statement, shift from a traditional to a blended style of worship and call a full-time children's minister.

Attendance since then has increased about 12 percent, he said. More importantly, Leonard said, more young adults have stepped up to assume the leadership roles of older members who have retired or died.

"This church is becoming healthier and stronger," Leonard said. "When we looked at what we're doing, we're guided by our vision statement. We're looking at what we have to do to be a witnessing church at home and around the world."

The next Joshua Project event will be held Oct. 14-18 at the Holiday Inn University Plaza Hotel in Bowling Green. For more information, contact Adams at (502) 254-4734, ext. 271, or e-mail richard.adams@kybaptist.org.

## Events planned around new KBC building

The Kentucky Baptist Convention is planning three events to say "good-bye" to their home of the last 48 years, and "hello" to their new home and neighbors.

The KBC announced the sale of its current headquarters, located at 10601 and 10701 Shelbyville Road, and the purchase of new headquarters, located at 13420 Eastpoint Centre Drive, in April. The KBC Mission Board staff, Western Recorder, Woman's Missionary Union and Kentucky Baptist Foundation plan to move into the new facility in early August.

A farewell reception is planned for July 13 from 1:30-3:30 p.m. at the Shelbyville Road facility.

A dedication and open house at the new headquarters is planned for Oct. 11 from 1-3 p.m., giving staff a few weeks to settle in before welcoming Kentucky Baptists to their new headquarters. The dedication will feature a formal ribbon-cutting ceremony, refreshments and tours of the new building, and is open to all Kentucky Baptists.

An open house for new neighbors in the surrounding Eastpoint Centre office park is planned for Dec. 5. The open house will feature a Christmas theme, and the building will be decorated for the season.

For more information about these events, contact Denise Withers toll-free in Kentucky at (888) 254-5713.

## WESTERN RECORDER

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

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**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.

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## Want to make a global impact? Pray

By Erich Bridges

Nashville (BP)—A young pastor I met at last week's Southern Baptist Convention meeting in Nashville has all the tools for a successful ministry: a passion for God, eloquence, intelligence, a heart for reaching people with the gospel.

Like many Christian leaders of his generation, however, he's uninterested in the traditional marks of pastoral "success." A large church with a big budget doesn't excite him. Nor does he seek power and influence among his ministerial brethren.

"We don't want power," he said of himself and his peers.

What do they want? The opportunity to make an impact on their culture for Christ by living authentic faith. They yearn for community and often find it via online blogs that connect them with others of like mind. They also want to make an impact on the world.

There are many ways to do that, but the most potent one is prayer.

As much as missionaries need financial support, as much as they want partners to work alongside them, the one thing they can't do without is prayer.

"Every one of them will tell you

that's their greatest need," says International Mission Board President Jerry Rankin.

Yet even mission-minded folks struggle to pray specifically and strategically for the lost of the globe.

"It's tough for me to pray consistently for the world," confessed mission mobilizer Shane

Bennett in a recent posting on [missionscatalyst.org](http://missionscatalyst.org). "It's hard for me, and, I suspect, many others because my life is full, the 'world' is far away and there is a lack of great information to guide my prayers."

Bennett solicited ideas from others. He got some heartfelt—and very practical—responses.

"I long for a group of people who will make time weekly to get together to pray passionately for unreached people groups," wrote Paul from Colorado.

Ed in Arkansas likes to pray with a globe beside him. "It helps me to look at the country and sort of 'aim' my prayers," he explains.

Rick in Michigan prays in response to international news. "For those who read the newspaper or listen to the news on the radio, I think it is such a good discipline to respond in prayer to the story as I

## COMMENTARY

## Student perspective

Friends, there has been a lot of talk about Georgetown College on these pages over the last months.

I understand the interest fellow Kentucky Baptists have in our institutions, and I think I can be of some help in answering the questions posed regarding this school. I am pastor of a small Kentucky Baptist church and am a senior at Georgetown with a double major in religion and philosophy.

I know the professors of these departments about as well as any student does. I have had a lot of classes

in the two departments and can testify to what I have been taught in my three years.

One concern that has been voiced is whether an orthodox or unorthodox theology is propagated to students of religion at Georgetown. I can honestly say the answer is neither. Never has a professor asked me to believe or disbelieve a certain doctrine. Rather, I have been equipped with the tools to gather and synthesize information so that I can make informed decisions for myself. Isn't that what college is about?

My classes have not given me

am listening to it," he says.

An updated method of "praying alongside the news" comes from Dave. "Use Google alerts to inform you of articles written about the country or people for whom you are burdened," he suggests.

Warning: It's hard to pray consistently for the unreached. It's even harder to mobilize others to pray.

Sometimes it's easier to take mission trips across the globe than to bend your knees in global intercession in your own living room. Don't get discouraged and don't give up if you miss a day or a week. A good place to start for specific, strategic prayer requests is the IMB's prayer site: [www.imb.org/compassionnet](http://www.imb.org/compassionnet).

A great new resource is "Voices of the Faithful," a 366-day devotional compiled by popular Christian author and speaker Beth Moore and Southern Baptist missionaries. To order the devotional and related resources, call (800) 999-3113 or visit [www.voicesofthefaithful.com](http://www.voicesofthefaithful.com).

During the IMB's report to SBC messengers in Nashville, Pacific Rim regional leader Don Dent told of lives transformed by strategic praying. "It's a spiritual battle," Dent said, "and we need Southern Baptists to join us in prayer."

Erich Bridges is a senior writer with the Southern Baptist International Mission Board

answers, but have compelled me to dig deep in the Scriptures to find answers for myself. Here at Georgetown my faith has deepened and matured; it has become my own.

I am thankful for such an education and I am not alone. Around the state, country and world there are youth ministers, pastors, missionaries and others you know and respect who have come through this institution under the challenging guidance of these faithful professors. God has used Georgetown and its faculty to bless Kentucky Baptists for 176 years. Rest assured He continues to do so today.

Roger Jasper  
Georgetown

## Brazilian gang members meet Jesus

I had the opportunity to participate in a partnership missions project in Teresina, Brazil, June 6-17, and saw God do some amazing things through Kentucky Baptists. One of the most dramatic stories is that of a youth gang leader and five gang members who prayed to receive Jesus Christ and attended services at Gil-ede Baptist Mission.

Two Brazilian pastors from New England, who served on the Kentucky team, met the gang members during an outreach soccer event on Saturday morning. The gang members later attended a special Valentine service Saturday night. Then, Charlie Faria, one of the Brazilian pastors, engaged the gang leader and provided funds for him to visit his sick mother after Sunday morning worship the next day.

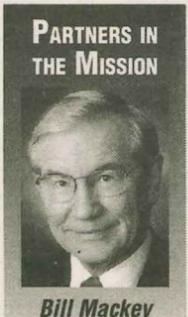
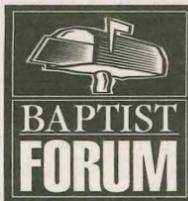
A follow-up soccer event Monday provided the opportunity to share the gospel with the gang leader who prayed to receive Christ. Jose Monteiro, also a Brazilian pastor from New England, encouraged the

gang leader to use the EvangeCube, a tool that helps communicate the story of salvation, to share with the gang members. The gang leader did so and five of the members prayed to receive Jesus Christ. They were all present for the service Monday night.

Please pray for the church as they follow up with these teens. The church has an excellent group of youth who provide inspirational music accompanied by guitar, drums and interpretive movement.

Team members spent much time in home evangelism. Some visits were planned and others were spontaneous, but all were meaningful. The teams in Teresina registered more than 75 professions of faith during home visits, plus decisions during services.

On two occasions, the team members saw five professions of faith occur in a home. It was gratifying to observe laypeople sharing their faith and seeing the Holy Spirit work through them.



Bill Mackey

## CHURCH

## Positive, negative stewardship views provide insights

By Doug Strader

After more than 25 years as a pastor and more than eight years as stewardship director of the Kentucky Baptist Convention Mission Board, I have had the opportunity to experience and hear a myriad of financial stewardship ideas. Some of them have been positive and some have been negative. I would like to share some of these thoughts and ideas to help you and your church with financial stewardship promotion.

Some of the negative thoughts and ideas I have encountered include:

■ "If everyone tithed, the church would have so much money that we would not know how to use." Wouldn't that be a good problem for the church to deal with?

■ "Since we are one of the wealthiest families in the church, if we tithed on our income it would discourage the other families from giving since the church would not necessarily need their money." However, the Bible doesn't teach us to not give a tithe if we are wealthy or make an enormous amount of money. The Bible does teach that we are to bring the whole tithe into the storehouse.

■ "If you do not give a tithe through your church, God will get it some other way such as medical bills, disasters, etc." But how does it bless God and his work if we pay out large medical bills or large repair bills?

■ "If you will give a tithe and more, God will give you more money than you need and you will be physically healthy." Those might be blessings God gives to His children, but they are not based on how much money one gives to the Lord.

Here are some of the positive ideas I have encountered:

■ "I cannot afford to not give my tithes and offerings to God because He has given everything for me including the death of Jesus on the cross to pay for my sins."

■ "I am not really giving anything of my own to God because everything I have is a gift from Him and He allows me to use it while I am here on earth. I am just a steward of all the 'stuff' God allows me to possess and use while I live on earth."

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



## How should parents respond when kids see Internet porn?

**Q: My 9-year-old son has just been introduced to several X-rated Internet sites by one of the neighborhood children. How should I talk to a child at this age who has just been exposed to more in one afternoon than a child should see in a lifetime?**

This is a problem nearly every family has to face in the 21st century. No matter what filtering system you choose, the best defense is helping your children become their own filter by talking with them about the issue. In this sense, your child will be ahead of countless kids who don't have parents they can honestly talk to about such topics.

Check out [www.kids.getnetwise.org](http://www.kids.getnetwise.org). It will walk you through various options, and there are many.

As in any disciplinary situation, it is wise to neither panic nor ignore the situation. Take the issue seriously, talk it over with your child and take the most precautionary steps you can to make access to such sites more difficult in the future.

You might also consider confronting the other child and set clear boundaries about what is acceptable in your home and with your child. If you have a good relationship with the other child's parents, seek to involve them in working toward the best solutions for both families.

Regardless of whether you can have an impact on the other child and family, you can have a big impact on your own child and family. Your child will learn more from your example than anything else. Set up appropriate disciplinary consequences if the situation occurs again.

Above all, keep the lines of communication open with your child. Remember, children and teens have a built-in "bunk detector," and can sense if what you are trying to teach them is also true for you.—James Stillwell

**Q: I'm having trouble understanding my husband's thrill-seeking nature. He constantly is planning or participating in some sort of outdoor activity such as rock climbing or kayaking. While he sometimes invites me, I have no desire to participate. Several of my friends describe their husbands in similar ways. What's the deal?**

The deal is that men simply are different from women. This difference is not right or wrong. It is just different.

According to John Eldredge in "Wild at Heart: Discovering the Secret of a Man's Soul," it is important to remember that women were created within the lush beauty of the Garden of Eden. Adam, however, was created outside the Garden, in the wilderness (Genesis 2). While Adam is brought into Eden afterward, it seems that the insatiable longing to explore lingers with him.

Eldredge suggests that men and women each bear the image of God in a unique way. Scripture reminds us, "So God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created him, male and female He created them."

"Deep in his heart," Eldredge writes, "each man longs for a battle to fight, an adventure to live and a beauty to rescue." This sense of men bearing the strength of God and women bearing the beauty of God is seen from childhood. Little boys seem always to be looking for a battle and an adventure. What can they shoot, climb, subdue or capture? As they become teenagers, young men become interested in what beauty they can pursue or rescue.

While space does not permit a fuller and more critical reflection on a biblical theology of manhood and womanhood, suffice it to say that we are created differently. Provided that your husband is not being abusive, neglectful or excessive in his pursuits, let me encourage you to support him and occasionally join in.—Scott Wigginton

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## Will Baptists 'join hands' for the gospel?

If Southern Baptists can live up to the hype, baptizing 1 million people in 12 months should be no problem at all.

The frenzied atmosphere of last week's "Everyone Can" kickoff featured indoor fireworks, balloons dropping from the ceiling of Nashville's Gaylord Entertainment Center, Ricky Skaggs blowing a shofar and Southern Baptist Convention President Bobby Welch leading convention messengers in repeated shouts of "Everyone Can—and I'm It!"

"I want them to hear you in hell," Welch declared. "And I want them to hear you heaven."

Welch, who launched a 50-state bus tour last fall to promote evangelism and pulled dead frogs from his pockets last week as sermon illustrations, definitely is a master motivator. He was elected to a traditional second year as SBC president without opposition.

But reality is that it will take far more than catchy slogans and emotional appeals to increase baptisms in the coming year by 260 percent. In addition to "Everyone Can—and I'm It," we must acknowledge that "Only Jesus Can—and the Holy Spirit Is It." While we are called to be active, willing participants in sharing the gospel, salvation is wrought only by the working of God's Spirit.

Here in Kentucky, convention leaders are taking a more low-key approach with a focus on "Our Best for God's Best," a call for Kentucky Baptist congregations to seek to match their best baptism total of the past decade. Dan Garland, leader of the Kentucky Baptist Convention's church development and evangelism team, said statistics show that if each church matched its top baptism mark from the past 10 years, next year's baptism total would exceed 40,000—a growth of nearly 250 percent over last year.

Whether you and your congregation prefer

"Everyone Can," "Our Best for God's Best," a combination of the two or some other ministry strategy, the key is to actively seek more converts and disciples for God's Kingdom.

Jimmy Draper, president of LifeWay Christian Resources, affirmed the "Everyone Can" goal of 1 million baptisms as "a measure of how effectively we are relating to the lost and sharing the difference Christ makes." But he cautioned that if the SBC's aim simply is to hit a numerical milestone, "it reveals that we were focused on the wrong thing and baptisms then became an end."

Delivering the closing challenge during the June 22 "Everyone Can" rally, Draper declared, "Southern Baptists have been called by God to be the leader in evangelism and missions in confronting our culture with the gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ. Let's rise up and follow Him and His story to its glorious conclusion."

In addition to the SBC's focus on evangelism and baptisms, one of last week's most significant gatherings took place two days before the SBC meeting convened. Draper hosted a two-hour Younger Leaders Summit as the culmination of a yearlong effort to dialogue with younger ministers about denominational involvement.

"We're behind you; we believe in you. It's your passion, your energy that is needed to keep us on mission," Draper told the summit crowd. "We want to join hands and hearts. Let's do something to impact this culture with the gospel."

How will Southern Baptists impact today's culture with the gospel? One starting point is to "join hands and hearts" across generational lines with a greater focus on the timeless message than changing methods. And who will take the next step to make that happen? In the words of SBC President Welch, "Everyone can."

### STRAIGHT FROM THE EDITOR



Tannis Henderson

## Convention speakers share memorable words

**Nashville**—"Everyone Can—and I'm It," Bobby Welch's rallying cry for the "Everyone Can" evangelism emphasis, likely was the most-repeated phrase at last week's Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting in Nashville.

But it wasn't the only memorable quote uttered during the SBC gathering and related meetings. Other convention sound bites include:

**President George W. Bush** (speaking via live satellite feed): "Southern Baptists are the soldiers in the armies of compassion at home and abroad. ... As you work to feed the hungry and provide shelter for the homeless, you are changing America and the world for the better—one heart, one soul and one conscience at a time."

**SBC President Bobby Welch**: "The 'Everyone Can' Kingdom Challenge' to witness to, win and baptize a million people is a lockdown cinch. It is a guaranteed success and foolproof. Beloved, you can't mess this up unless you stay on the bank. ... We are going to go out and we're going to attack the gates of hell for the sake of souls."

**Jimmy Draper, president of LifeWay Christian Resources**: "Our passion for souls has cooled. It has slipped away from us. ... While the world around us slides toward

hell, our churches are often battle-grounds instead of lighthouses, refusing to abide by clear, biblical principles of reconciliation and restoration."

**Adam Greenway, pastor of the Baptist Church at Andover in Lexington**: "We need to be exactly as diverse and inclusive as Jesus Himself was. He brought people to the table. ... What are we doing to reach out to fulfill the mission?"

**Denise Lingefelt**, a former drug addict and prostitute, who was baptized during the SBC meeting in Gaylord Entertainment Center. A former maintenance worker at Gaylord, Lingefelt declared: "I used to clean this place. Now, I am getting cleaned up in this place."

**Jerry Rankin, International Mission Board president**: "Our missionaries are reminded constantly of a massive tsunami wave of lostness that continues to envelop our world. Every week a quarter of a million lives are swept into hell in South Asia alone. ... Will we respond to the pleas of our Lord to go to the uttermost ends of the earth, to be His faithful witnesses?"

**Rebekah Naylor, missionary surgeon to India**: "God planted in my heart a passion for the people of India. ... What is passion? That for which you are willing to sacrifice anything, even your life."

**Former SBC President Adrian Rogers**: "I have seen men too big for God to use, but never one too small. Gideon was called not for what he was but for what God could make out of him."

**Roy Fish, professor of evangelism at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary**: "Jesus was the message hot on the lips of the apostles. Jesus was the introduction, the body and the conclusion. Peter might have called for a march or put bumper stickers on chariots; he could have challenged the social ills of the day. But he didn't do that. ... He preached Jesus and 3,000 people were saved."

**Jerry Falwell, pastor of Thomas Road Baptist Church in Lynchburg, Va.**: "There's nothing deader than dead orthodoxy. Orthodoxy on ice is just as damaging as liberalism on fire."

**Evangelist Jim Wilson of Orlando, Fla.**: "We're studying surveys rather than Scripture. The trend today is to look to Rev. Big Church and mimic him because he's found the secret to success. But God has called us to be faithful."

**Will Franklin, grandson of evangelist Billy Graham**: "I don't want you to think, 'Man, I wish I could be like Billy Graham.' My grandfather and I would say: 'You're shooting too low. Aim higher. Be faithful to the one calling God has given you.'"

## Thousands respond to Graham's New York crusade

**"There may never be a moment like this in your whole life."**

Evangelist Billy Graham during his trademark invitation last Friday.

*Continued from page 1*

reception, according to his autobiography "Just As I Am," writing in his diary, "I have prayed more over this assignment and wept more over the city of New York than any other city we've been to. Now it is in God's hands."

His 1957 crusade was scheduled for six weeks at Madison Square Garden but stretched to 16, with an attendance of more than 2 million people. His visit grew to include outdoor rallies in Harlem and Brooklyn and an overflow crowd at Yankee Stadium.

Graham said last Friday that he still loves and prays for New York. In his message he talked about the history of Flushing Meadows Park and playfully referred to New York's hometown boys, the Mets and the Yankees, who were facing each other in a subway series that night.

His voice was soft but strong for the 30 minutes that he spoke. He joked easily with the crowd as the sun set behind him, as he reminisced about his first sermon in North Florida and a red sheep he owned named Kruschev.

His Friday Bible message came in reference to a 1924 Yankees World Series, which came down to a single batter in the seventh inning. The batter hit a home run, but was called out because he forgot to touch first base.

This, said Graham, was like churchgoers who had not been born again.

"We have Christian faith, we go to church," said Graham. "But deep inside we need something else."

Graham was animated after spending much of the week resting in Long Island as a nurse waited in the wings in case he had medical trouble.

"He's really charting new territory," said A. Larry Ross, Graham's director of publicity. "None of the great evangelists of history have preached beyond their mid-60s."

### Last crusade?

Graham has told Ross that he "won't retire until the Lord retires him," but Ross predicts declining health will keep Graham from doing any preaching next year. "Last year was an unusual year for him physically," Ross noted.

He had two bad falls that year, which caused him a partial hip fracture and a fractured pelvis.



**MANY TONGUES** Men hold signs around the Unisphere in Flushing Meadows Corona Park in Queens, N.Y., for non-English speaking people coming to the Greater New York Billy Graham Crusade. Graham's messages were translated into 20 languages for the three nights. (RNS/Staten Island Advance photos by Michael McWeeney)

Though the bones have now healed, Graham uses the walker to protect himself from future falls, Ross said.

Graham repeatedly has talked about his hydrocephalus, a condition that can happen in the elderly when areas of the brain become filled with spinal fluid. Symptoms can include forgetfulness, dementia and loss of motor control, according to the Hydrocephalus Association in San Francisco.

Graham also suffers from prostate cancer and Parkinson's.

The hydrocephalus is treatable, and three operations to drain the fluid at the Mayo Clinic had a marked, positive effect, members of his staff said.

When he was younger, Graham was known as a live wire.

He was called "a gymnast for Jesus," pacing and gesturing so vigorously that Cliff Barrows, who

still appears on the crusade stage, was assigned to wind and unwind the cord of his lapel microphone. That grueling summer of 1957, Graham lost more than 20 pounds in 16 weeks.

### Memories of 1957

Graham stayed put behind the podium last weekend, but his preaching ranged far and wide, displaying the quick, resourceful mind older New Yorkers still remember.

One of the deep impressions from his 1957 visit was an impromptu sermon drawn from the marquees of the movie theatres along Broadway, which were featuring "Love in the Afternoon," with Gary Cooper and Audrey Hepburn, and "The Ten Commandments," starring Charlton Heston.

Richard Goodwin was there in 1957, and returned Friday night.

He was 22 back then, serving in the Army at Fort Monmouth, N.J., and skeptical about the church and the crusade at Madison Square Garden. But somehow he found himself coming forward when Graham called.

"Mentally I asked myself, 'What am I doing up here?'" said Goodwin, 70, now living in Sanford, Maine. "It came to me—I was giving my heart to God. Tears flooded my eyes."

Goodwin joined Graham's crusade choir that summer of 1957 and said his most vivid memories were seeing the back of Graham's head and the crowds of people coming into the outfield of Yankee Stadium, "like ink being poured out of a bottle."

Goodwin sees the progress of time in himself and Graham.

"We all have to go through that process of getting old," said Goodwin. "The Holy Spirit works through these jars of clay."

### Graham: Not afraid of death

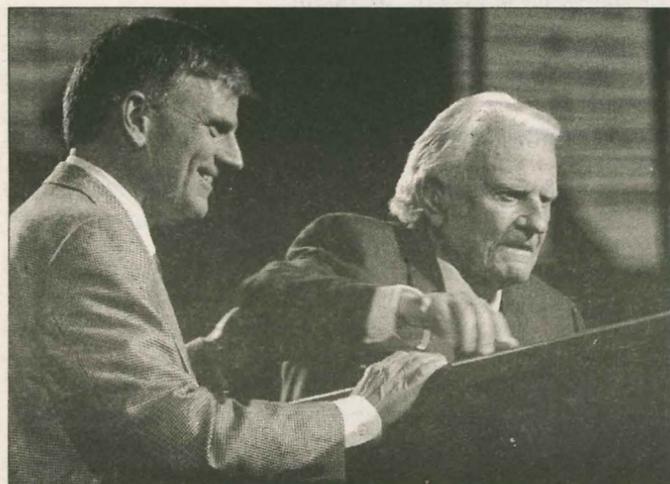
Graham has often said that he is not afraid of death. At a press conference before the Flushing Meadows crusade he told a story about a near-death experience he had a few years ago, where he became aware of all of his life's sins, and the forgiveness of them.

"I had the greatest peace," said Graham. "I've never lost it to this day."

At the end of sermons last weekend, Graham called listeners to come forward for a trademark altar call as a sign of dedication to Christ. As he spoke, streams of people moved toward the stage.

His plea was to those still in their seats, summing up his message of ministry in New York.

"There may never be a moment like this in your whole life. There may never be a moment like this in New York," he said softly on Friday night. "You come now."



**FATHER & SON** Franklin Graham (left) helps his father to the pulpit during the crusade. Although the younger Graham was on hand in case needed, his father completed all three messages last weekend.

*Kentucky Baptists*  
are invited to a  
*Farewell Reception*  
commemorating  
*48 years of*  
Kentucky Baptist Convention  
*ministry*  
at its Shelbyville Road  
campus in Louisville  
Wednesday, July 13  
1:30-3:30 p.m. EDT

1:30-2:15 - Worship and Sharing - Chapel  
2:15-3:30 - Refreshments and Office Visits

*Above: Original KBC Building, 10701 Shelbyville Road, 1957.*  
*Below: KBC Building, 10701 Shelbyville Road, after addition, 1979; 10605 Shelbyville Road (present offices of Kentucky Baptist Foundation, Kentucky Woman's Missionary Union and the Western Recorder), 1996. Both buildings have been sold and offices will relocate in August, 2005.*

For directions, visit  
[www.kybaptist.org](http://www.kybaptist.org)

## Welch: Renewed evangelism requires 'unity of purpose'

By Greg Warner  
Associated Baptist Press

**Nashville** (ABP)—Southern Baptists are seeing decreased results in evangelism because of a lack of effort and "unity of purpose," Bobby Welch told reporters after his re-election as Southern Baptist Convention president.

Welch, pastor of First Baptist Church of Daytona Beach, Fla., spent his first year as president urging Southern Baptists to confront flagging evangelism, pointing to a drop in total baptisms during four of the past five years.

During a press conference after his June 21 election, he discussed how Southern Baptists balance activism on social issues, which have kept Southern Baptists in the news in recent years, with evangelism, which he and others say has been the SBC's historic hallmark.

During the convention, messengers adopted resolutions about public school morality, stem cell research, judicial activism and other hot topics.

Asked if such social issues are distracting Southern Baptists from witnessing, Welch told reporters, "I don't think so. In fact, I almost wish it were true, because I would know how to come at it."

"Lack of effort" is the reason baptisms have dropped off in Southern Baptist churches, and the slump can be overcome by working harder, he said. "A lot of pastors are looking for a drive-thru window" where they can order a simple solution to evangelism, Welch added. "It's hard work."

In fact, he said, evangelism and political action complement each other. "If you get involved in people's lives personally, you'll be concerned" with their public lives.

While political action is not a distraction for Southern Baptists, Welch said, "that political stuff is a lot easier than the spiritual stuff."



**PRESS CONFERENCE** Southern Baptist Convention President Bobby Welch talks with reporters June 21 after his election to a second term as SBC president. (BP photo by Van Payne)

Doing the hard work of evangelism and getting involved in people's lives attracts a lot of criticism, he suggested. "You can catch nothing but trouble doing what we're doing."

Welch, a self-described "average guy" who won re-election without opposition, endeared himself to Southern Baptists during his first term with his down-to-earth style and single-minded focus on evangelism, traveling mostly by bus to all 50 states to stir up evangelistic commitment.

He told reporters all the renewed attention on evangelism during the last year gives Southern Baptists "a real possibility of being in on something monumental." But if Southern Baptists are not successful at revitalizing evangelism statistics after "all the running and jumping and preaching and going all over the world," he warned, "then this convention has problems far deeper than anyone believed."

Although evangelism is a bottom-line commitment of Southern Baptists—"you can hardly find a lower common denominator"—the convention nonetheless lacks "that unity of purpose" that will maximize its evangelistic potential.

"We are stifling and slouching along ... because we are not creating spiritual synergy," he said. "We

need something to force us to come together on a quest."

During the two-day convention, several comments and motions from convention messengers—including New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary President Chuck Kelley—warned of the danger of growing "centralization" of power in the SBC bureaucracy. Asked if that was hurting the convention, Welch said, "Always with something this size, that is a continual risk." He said most denominational leaders are aware of the danger and fighting against it.

But he added, "The large struggle for the convention is that we don't have enough bold, centralized leadership."

On other topics, Welch, a decorated military veteran, said the war in Iraq is "a just war" by traditional standards of Christian morality. He said the United States needs to finish the job in Iraq. "I wish all our (soldiers) could come home by the first of year, but if they come home there will be a bunch of terrorists following them," he said.

But he said his military experience in Vietnam doesn't qualify him to critique the handling of the Iraq war. "I was just out there crawling on my knees trying to stay alive," he said.

On the issue of the moral influence of public schools, Welch said he opposes a movement for Christians to withdraw from public schools. "I do not believe it is the best contribution Southern Baptists can make," he said. For many Christians, home schools and private schools are not an option, he said. And to withdraw would be to abandon the mission field of public education.

"How many steps backward can you take from a pagan world?" he asked. "We are called to be change agents (in the culture). I don't see how we can change much if we are backing up."

### Welch re-elected SBC president

**Nashville** (ABP)—Bobby Welch was re-elected to a second term as president of the Southern Baptist Convention without opposition June 21.

Welch, pastor of First Baptist Church in Daytona Beach, Fla., has endeared himself to Southern Baptists with his humor and emphasis on grassroots evangelism. Messengers to the 2005 SBC meeting elected him to another one-year term, following a longtime pattern of granting presidents a second term.

Welch made a revitalization of SBC evangelism the hallmark of his first term, challenging Southern Baptists to convert and baptize 1 million new Christians in the next year—a program called "Everyone Can." During the week-end before the SBC meeting in Nashville, Southern Baptists held their largest door-to-door witnessing effort ever, according to convention leaders.

Alabama evangelist Junior Hill, who nominated Welch, praised him for stirring Southern Baptists out of their indifference. "A prophet has been among us," he declared.

Jerry Sutton, pastor of Two Rivers Baptist Church in the host city of Nashville, was elected first vice president with 72 percent of the vote in a runoff with Dan Spencer, pastor of First Baptist Church of Thomasville, Ga. Sutton is a longtime conservative leader in the convention. Spencer, 37, was offered as one of the "next generation" of SBC leaders. Mike Boyd, pastor of Wallace Memorial Baptist Church in Knoxville, Tenn., also was nominated on the first ballot.

Roy Fish, professor of evangelism at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas, for more than 40 years, was elected second vice president with 80 percent of the vote.

In electing Fish, messengers turned back the nomination of Wiley Drake, pastor of First Southern Baptist Church in Buena Park, Calif., who has become well known to messengers as a frequent introducer of motions and resolutions during the annual convention. Drake instigated the SBC boycott of Disney in 1997.

In his nomination speech, Bill Dodson of Farmington, Ky., called Drake "Mr. Resolution, a man who is seldom wrong and never in doubt, and everyone's favorite messenger."

"I believe it is time for us to let him speak from the platform microphone," Dodson joked. And if Drake were elected, he added, "we all will benefit from fewer motions and less resolutions."

Two other officers were re-elected—James Wells, a director of missions from Nixa, Mo., as registration secretary, and John Yeats of Oklahoma City, editor of the Oklahoma Baptist, as recording secretary.—Greg Warner

## Motion attempts to bring national WMU under SBC authority

By Marv Knox  
Texas Baptist Standard

**Nashville**—The Southern Baptist Convention will consider attempting to bring its women's auxiliary under its authority, thanks to a motion from the floor of the SBC annual meeting.

The convention received 24 motions during last week's meeting in Nashville. Of those motions, 13 were referred to convention agencies for consideration, and 11 were ruled out of order.

The request to invite Woman's Missionary Union to become an entity of the SBC was suggested by Leslie Stock, a messenger from Boonville, Mo.

Woman's Missionary Union is an auxiliary to the SBC. WMU was founded independently of the convention in 1888. Its primary objectives are to educate Southern Baptists about missions, collect two offerings that provide major funding for the convention's international and domestic mission boards, and provide hands-on opportunities for missions. As an auxiliary, WMU raises its own funding and elects its own board and officers.

Stock's motion proposed the SBC "extend an invitation" for WMU to "become an entity of the Southern Baptist Convention to join the other SBC entities ... in the work of missions and enjoy the benefits of being an entity of the SBC."

Some observers suggested the motion could be used to bring WMU into stricter alignment with the convention. While Southern Baptists consistently have affirmed WMU's zeal for missions, some leaders have claimed the women's group has not adequately embraced the "conservative resurgence" that turned the SBC sharply to the right during the past quarter century.

WMU Executive Director Wanda Lee said operating procedure calls for referring requests for corporate changes to the WMU executive board, the organization's governing body.

The motion was referred to the SBC Executive Committee for study.

Six motions referred to various SBC agencies asked the convention to:

- Expand ministry to single parents and their children. The convention referred the motion to 11 SBC

agencies, exempting the Executive Committee, which does not have ministry program assignments.

- Create a liaison to "coordinate and enhance" the convention's ministry to homosexuals. It was referred to the Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission, LifeWay Christian Resources and the North American Mission Board.

- Request LifeWay Christian Resources to "make available once again through any and all willing local, hometown Christian book stores" its undated materials, including vacation Bible school curricula. Referred to LifeWay.

- Make GuideStone Financial Resources "the primary (healthcare insurance) provider" for employees of all SBC entities. Referred to GuideStone.

- Request the International Mission Board to report on its plans for "continuing support of theologically conservative" schools and seminaries and to explain and reaffirm its intent to "continue to require theological training in a Baptist seminary for all full-time mission personnel." Referred to the IMB.

- Study whether "a local church

organized by the government as a 501(c)(3) state church is biblically correct." Referred to ELRC.

Six motions referred to the Executive Committee asked for:

- Each state Baptist convention to provide "a good-faith estimate" of when it plans to divide its Cooperative Program budget receipts evenly between itself and the SBC.

- Recognition of the Southern Baptist Messianic Fellowship "as a formal evangelistic mission entity to Jewish people worldwide."

- A moratorium on holding the SBC annual meeting on the week after Father's Day.

- Permission to submit proposed resolutions up to the beginning of the afternoon session on the first day of the convention's annual meeting. Current bylaws stipulate resolutions must be submitted at least 15 days in advance of the annual meeting.

- Placement of one woman on every SBC committee.

- Strengthening the bylaws' language to emphasize that messengers may immediately consider motions rather than refer them to SBC entities.

## Are you deep-water doers or dead frogs? Welch asks

**"Looks to me like all of you'd be up and ready to attack hell with a squirt gun."**

SBC President Bobby Welch, from his convention address

By David Winfrey  
News Director

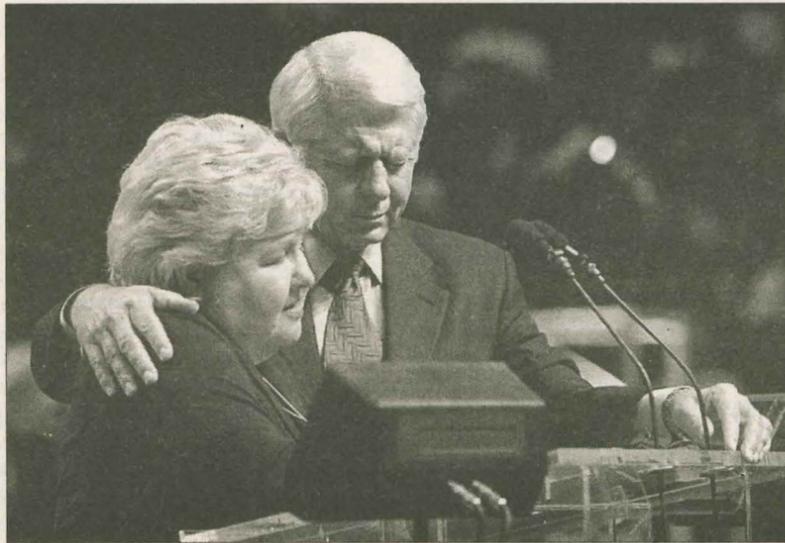
Nashville—What do dead frogs and stagnant churches have in common? A lot, Southern Baptist Convention president Bobby Welch told the recent SBC meeting.

Welch provided one of the more memorable sermon props in recent history when he displayed a squashed, dried frog—and several more like it—from the pulpit. "This frog belonged in the deep, but he hopped in the street. And that's where his end came," said Welch, pastor of First Baptist Church of Daytona Beach, Fla.

Welch, who repeatedly has warned Southern Baptists about their slumping evangelism, said he discovers another "flat dead church and a flat dead bunch of Christians" every day. Like the frogs—which were run over by a concrete truck on a road near Welch's house—Christians are intended to live in the "deep waters," fishing for converts, Welch said, citing a similar admonition of Jesus' to His disciples in Luke 5.

"You see, if you're destined for deep water, you better go that way," he warned in his presidential address. "The consequences can be dangerous."

"You know where I found all these little dead frogs?" he asked, removing several from Ziploc bags.



**WIFE'S PRAYER** Maudellen Welch prays before her husband, Bobby Welch, president of the Southern Baptist Convention, presents his president's address last week at the SBC annual meeting in Nashville. Several speakers' wives prayed before their husbands spoke to underscore the importance of their partnership in ministry. (BP photo by Matt Miller)

"Following this big dead frog. ... Just because that frog's a big croaker and a high hopper doesn't mean he's going in the right direction."

Welch, who has challenged Southern Baptists to baptize 1 million people in the next year, said too many Christians are choosing the safety of the shore over following God out into the deep. "In fact, this shore fishing we've caught into is what is going to kill evangelism

in this convention, in this nation."

Too many Christians employ a "facility-based" evangelism strategy, he said, that encourages Christians to stay warm and comfortable in the church and requires non-Christians to visit a church before they hear about Jesus.

"That's not New Testament evangelism, and that's not what you see in the model of Jesus," he said. "That's too close to the shore.

You're not out in the deep."

Welch said the text in Luke outlines "Jesus' personalized simplified systematic theology for soul winning": The father must catch the followers; the followers have to catch the faith; and the faithful catch the fish.

Welch urged Southern Baptists to realize they come from a rich spiritual heritage filled with people willing to follow God's call.

"They had enough spiritual guts to get out of the bank and go out into the deep," he said. "That's how you got the International Mission Board. Some people said, 'We've got to go deeper. ... We've got to go everywhere.' And they did."

Welch recalled the "Million More in '54" campaign when Southern Baptists sought to reach a million people. "We are bigger and better by the power of God, Southern Baptists, than we are remembering and acting like it.

"We're deep-water doers. We're disciples of deep-water doers. We've got that kind of blood running in our bodies," he said, raising his voice. "Bless God, why would a crowd like this want to lie down and roll over? When the world's in the shape it's in and we've got the best deal ever, looks to me like all of you'd be up and ready to attack hell with a squirt gun and go to the deep."

## Bush praises Southern Baptist 'army of compassion'

By Tony Cartledge  
North Carolina Biblical Recorder

Nashville—Touting his desire to build a "more compassionate society," President George W. Bush thanked Southern Baptists June 21 for being "soldiers in the army of compassion" who make a difference in America and the world.

Bush's speech marked the fourth year in a row he has addressed Southern Baptist Convention messengers, all live via satellite except

for 2003, when he sent a taped message.

Bush thanked SBC President Bobby Welch for his military service and expressed appreciation for a Southern Baptist campaign to send postcards to troops in the field. "Our men and women appreciate it even more," he said.

Bush touched on four elements known to resonate with many Southern Baptists: a proposed "family amendment" that defines marriage as the union of one man and one woman, continuing legislation to curtail the practice of abortion, the appointment of more conservative judges, and government aid for faith-based organizations.

"Building a more compassionate society begins with preserving the source of compassion: the family," he said.

"For the good of families and societies, I support a constitutional amendment to protect the institution of marriage," he said.

"For the good of the legal system, I will continue to nominate federal judges who faithfully interpret the law and do not legislate from the bench," Bush said, calling for all of his nominees to get an up or down vote on the floor of the U.S. Senate.

"Building a compassionate society also depends on building a culture of life," Bush said, one that "defends its most vulnerable members at every stage of life" and "supports principles of ethical science."

Ethical science must preserve human dignity, Bush said, citing his opposition to cloning and partial birth abortion.

"Finally, building a compassionate society requires that we mobilize our nation's armies of

compassion to help the poor, the sick and those who hurt." Faith-based institutions change hearts every day, but the government has discriminated against faith-based programs, he said. "That's why I signed an executive order that said that faith groups providing social services are entitled to the same access to federal money as other groups."

Bush said billions of dollars had been made available to faith-based groups. He cited a \$5.8 million grant to College Park Baptist Church, a Cooperative Baptist Fellowship-related church in Orlando, Fla., to build 68 homes for low-income seniors.

"Faith based groups should never have to forfeit their religious liberty to get federal dollars," he said. "We want your help, we want your love, but at the same time you do not have to forget the mission of faith or ignore the mission of faith that calls you to action in the first place.

"Southern Baptists are the soldiers in the armies of compassion at home and abroad," Bush said. He noted Southern Baptists' emphasis on abstinence education, which is credited with helping Uganda reduce HIV rates.

"Service to others is a Baptist tradition," Bush said. "As you work to feed the hungry and provide shelter for the homeless, you are changing America and the world for the better—one heart, one soul and one conscience at a time."

Messengers responded with a lengthy standing ovation, then paused for a "God and country" observance that included a pledge to the American flag.

## Convention sermon urges SBC to avoid 'Titanic' mistake

Nashville—Southern Baptists must remain faithful to the conservative resurgence to avoid making a "Titanic" mistake, Ken Whitten told messengers during his convention sermon at the Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting.



Ken Whitten

Whitten, senior pastor of Idlewild Baptist Church in Tampa, Fla., said the Titanic was thought to be unsinkable, but "the unsinkable did the unthinkable."

Drawing analogies between Paul's shipwreck in Acts 27, the sinking of the Titanic and the Southern Baptist Convention, Whitten said "our great Captain" is asking whether Southern Baptists will rescue those who are sinking and perishing.

Whitten said that in Acts 27 Paul gave four warnings against doubting, drifting, discarding and despairing.

To counteract the dangers, Paul threw out four anchors, he said: God's presence, purpose, promise and provision.

Southern Baptists might not all agree on literature or worship style, Whitten said, but they can agree that "God has taken a denomination and turned it around ... to rescue the perishing and care for the dying."



**VIDEO ADDRESS** President George Bush thanked Southern Baptists via satellite for their support of troops in the field. He also discussed a proposed "family amendment," building a "culture of life," the appointment of conservative judges and government aid for faith-based organizations. (BP photo by Van Payne)

## Closing rally urges 'Everyone' to focus on evangelism

By Lonnie Wilkey  
Tennessee Baptist and Reflector

Nashville—As the final gavel sounded on the 148th annual meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention and balloons were released from the top of the Gaylord Entertainment Center, messengers were still chanting "Everyone can and I'm it."

The yells were a common reply throughout the two-day meeting to President Bobby Welch's question of who could witness, win and baptize 1 million people in the coming year.

Building on momentum from his bus tour of the Southern Baptist Convention this past year and in sessions of the annual meeting, Welch exhorted messengers to leave the convention united in one purpose.

"It's going to take everybody doing everything with all they can and it has to happen now," Welch told messengers.

"We're going out there and we're going to attack the gates of hell for the sake of souls."

Throughout the annual meeting in Nashville's Gaylord Entertainment Center, speakers expounded upon the meeting's theme: "Everyone Can."

Jimmy Draper, president of LifeWay Christian Resources, urged Southern Baptists to stop "hiding in the stuff" and to respond to the challenge Welch placed before them.

Draper noted that in 1 Samuel Saul was a man of "incredible talent" presented with an "incredible opportunity" by God.

Yet when it came time to anoint Saul as the king of Israel, he could not be found. Scripture says Saul was found hiding among the supplies "or as the King James puts it, hiding away in the stuff," Draper said.

Likewise, he said, the Southern Baptist Convention has been blessed by God. But "Saul's tragic story has been repeated in the life of many a minister, church and even denomination," Draper observed.

As the number of baptisms have stagnated in the past 50 years, he said, "Our passion for souls has cooled. It has slipped away from us."

He challenged Southern Baptists to stop hiding "in the stuff of personal, church and convention power struggles and of bitterness, resentment and cynicism."

"Let's rise up and follow Him and His story to its glorious conclusion," Draper said.

Singer, songwriter and author Dawn Smith Jordan reminded messengers and visitors that everyone can forgive those who have caused them even the most grievous hurt.

The former Miss South Carolina 1986 and second runner-up for Miss U.S.A. described how God has convicted her through the years to forgive others, including the man who murdered her 17-year-old sister.



Jordan later would have to again forgive, this time it was her husband of seven years who left her with two small children.

While she has learned that life is going from one storm to the next, she concluded, "His grace has made me strong," calling attention to her mother's favorite Scripture passage, 2 Corinthians 12:9.

Bivocational pastor Anthony Williams of Oklahoma exhorted messengers to "have a lifestyle of evangelism."

"Everyone can witness. Everyone can reach people for Christ," said Williams, pastor of Grace Baptist Church in Durant, Okla.

Michael Lewis emphasized that

"everyone can go and tell" others about the Good News.

The senior pastor of Great Hills Baptist Church of Austin, Texas, pointed out people today are miserable, just as the lepers in 2 Kings were.

But when asked to name the church's purpose in the world today, only 11 percent of respondents said the church exists to reach people for Christ.

With baptisms plateaued since 1962, churches should be asking themselves: "Should we sit here until we die?" Lewis urged.

With additional reporting by John Loudat of the Baptist New Mexican and Vicki Brown of the Missouri Word & Way

**RALLY** Fireworks ignite near center stage and balloons drift down as Bobby Welch, president of the Southern Baptist Convention, presents the "Everyone Can" Kingdom Challenge Launch June 22 to close the SBC annual meeting in Nashville's Gaylord Entertainment Center. (BP photo by Kent Harville)

## Baptists honor Graham by commissioning sculpture for Nashville

By Marv Knox  
Texas Baptist Standard

Nashville—Even though he could not attend, Southern Baptists' favorite son stood in the spotlight at their annual meeting June 22 in Nashville.

Billy Graham was away preparing for what might be his final crusade, but the Southern Baptist Convention approved a tribute honoring his life and ministry.

Then his grandson and namesake, William Franklin Graham IV, helped artist Terrell O'Brien unveil the model of a statue of the famed evangelist, which one day will stand in Nashville.

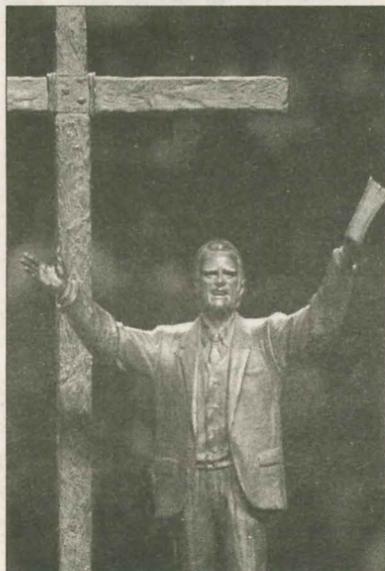
The Graham tribute capped a series of four citations of appreciation the SBC bestowed upon longtime Baptist leaders. The convention also honored Bill Crews, Jimmy Draper and Adrian Rogers.

"Probably, now there is no better known name in all the entire world when it comes to being a person of faith than 'Billy Graham,'" SBC President Bobby Welch said.

"In addition to that, there has never been a man on the planet who has preached face-to-face to multiplied hundreds of millions," he added. "Or preached such a clear gospel."

"He is one of us, a Southern Baptist. That's a pretty good son to have."

The convention audience watched a video sketching the details of Graham's life and ministry. It told how a 1949 tent revival in Los Angeles stretched into an eight-week preaching marathon



**BRONZE MODEL** SBC leaders unveiled a bronze model of a sculpture commissioned to honor evangelist Billy Graham. The sculpture will be finished and shown at next year's annual meeting in Greensboro, N.C., and then moved to a permanent location in Nashville. (BP photo by Kent Harville)

that catapulted the young Graham to national prominence.

In the intervening 56 years, he has preached to 210 million people, "more than any person in the history of the world," the video proclaimed. Graham has preached in 185 countries and has shared the gospel not only with millions of people, but also with presidents, dignitaries and world leaders.

The video contained several clips of Graham preaching the gospel through the years. It also included

an interview in which he said, "I consider the call to the ministry the highest calling in the world ... divine and eternal."

SBC Executive Committee President Morris Chapman presented the framed tribute in honor of Graham to his grandson, called Will.

### Grandson: Don't shoot too low

The tribute described Graham as "a trans-generational global icon" who has been "used by God to present the gospel to hundreds of millions of people around the world."

"I wish my grandfather could be here," the younger Graham said. "He and my father (Franklin Graham) couldn't be here." But they're both at work, serving God, he added, noting his grandfather was preparing to start a crusade in New York City two nights later.

"I want to say thank you to Southern Baptists," Will Graham said.

"I don't want you to think, 'Man, I wish I could be like Billy Graham,'" he urged. "My grandfather and I would say: 'You're shooting too low. Aim higher. Be faithful to the one calling God has given you.' He's going to use you, just like my grandfather. ... Say, 'Lord, use me.'"

The statue of Graham is titled, "There's Room at the Cross for You," Welch said. It will feature Graham standing before a towering cross, dressed in a three-piece suit, with a Bible in one hand and his arms outstretched.

O'Brien, the sculptor, is a bivocational pastor in Wyoming. He will spend the next year crafting the full-sized version of the piece, which will

be unveiled in June 2006, when the SBC meets in Greensboro, N.C. Later, it will be moved to Nashville.

### Other commendations

Among the other recipients of SBC statements of appreciation:

■ Crews retired last fall after serving 17 years as president of Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary in Mill Valley, Calif., and previously was editor of the Northwest Baptist Witness and pastor of eight churches. The resolution cited him for leading the seminary to achieve accreditation for master's degrees at its five campuses and lauded him for his "integrity, devotion, faithfulness, compassion, warmth and unflagging commitment to reaching the West for Christ."

■ Draper will retire in February, completing more than 14 years as president of LifeWay Christian Resources. Before that, he was president of the convention and served eight churches. The resolution called him a "pastor's pastor" and praised his "unflagging commitment to evangelism" and ability to model "servant leadership."

■ Rogers, the first president elected during the SBC's "conservative resurgence," retired this spring after 32 years as pastor of Bellevue Baptist Church in suburban Memphis, Tenn. He is the only person in recent history to serve three terms as convention president. His resolution tabbed him the "prince of preachers" and said his convention leadership helped restore SBC seminaries and other agencies "to their historic theological foundations."

## Draper outlines challenges in last report as LifeWay president

By Chris Turner  
SBC LifeWay Christian Resources

Nashville (BP)—Retaining young leaders and expanding their spiritual impact were among the challenges Jimmy Draper outlined during LifeWay Christian Resources' annual report to the Southern Baptist Convention.

"Younger ministers are going where the action is, building relationships and bringing the wounded to the field of Christ," said Draper, who is retiring as president of LifeWay after 14 years next year.

"We need a healthy infusion of their passion to awaken in us the passion that drove the renegades who founded our denomination 160 years ago," he said. "I'm banging this drum of younger ministers because I do not believe God is finished using the SBC, and that our best days lie ahead."

The SBC is "wrong," he said, if it allows younger leaders to walk away from the denomination by not engaging and involving them. Draper said the listening sessions he hosted with younger leaders this past year will continue to impact him and the future of LifeWay.

He encouraged other entities to make changes, as well.

LifeWay has recruited four new trustees under age 40, plans to hire someone to focus on young leaders, and intends to continue the dialogue with younger leaders, he said.

"We have other plans on the drawing board, but this is just a sample," he said. "The point is this: They've asked for a seat at the table and LifeWay is pulling up some chairs. I encourage every church and entity in the SBC to do the same."

Draper briefly addressed the SBC's endeavor of reaching a million baptisms, calling the goal a "sign of healthy churches; a measure of how effectively we are relating to the lost and sharing the difference Christ makes." He added that if the SBC's aim is to reach a million baptisms to say it reached a goal, "it reveals we were focused on the wrong thing and baptisms then become an end."

### Future challenges

Draper outlined six challenges the entity and its new president face in the future after his retirement in February:

1. LifeWay must continue to grow in its understanding that it is a Kingdom enterprise. "As God works through us" must be more than the introduction to LifeWay's vision statement, he said. It must be the intention of the organization's service.

2. LifeWay must intensify its effort to have a greater spiritual impact in the SBC, in the United States and in the world.

3. LifeWay must continue to attract and retain the best and brightest people in order to sustain and grow the ministry and business that God has entrusted to them.

4. LifeWay receives no Cooperative Program money and is self-supporting, so it must continue to operate profitably in order to remain a strong ministry. It must continue providing the finest, biblically based materials, events and services while being a viable competitor in the marketplace.

5. LifeWay must continue to be a champion for Southern Baptist doctrines and values and be a unifying force that pulls Baptists forward and together as a denomination.

6. LifeWay must become successful at raising funds for ministry from interested individuals.

LifeWay has identified several opportunities to expand the agency's spiritual impact, he said, including:

■ Expanding the reach of the recently formed Holman Bible Outreach International.

■ Making a more intentional global push with True Love Waits.

■ Creating the LifeWay Leadership Institute to provide biblically based leadership and management development.

■ Expanding the reach of the evangelism tool "Share Jesus Without Fear."

"I will step from this position February first next year, but I do not intend to back away from getting in there and mixing it up," he said. "We as LifeWay and we as Southern Baptists must aggressively pursue the ministry opportunities God has placed before us."



Jimmy Draper

## IMB notes gospel's spread in Asia, Africa

By Erich Bridges  
SBC International Mission Board

Nashville (BP)—The huge tsunami waves that devastated Asia's coastlines six months ago shrink in comparison to the waves of lostness—and God's Spirit—sweeping the world, Southern Baptist Convention messengers heard during the International Mission Board's report.

"In an instant 250,000 lives were swept into eternity without Christ," IMB President Jerry Rankin told messengers. "Yet our missionaries are reminded constantly of a massive tsunami wave of lostness that continues to envelop our world. Every week a quarter of a million lives are swept into hell in South Asia alone. Every month a quarter of a million lives are claimed by the AIDS epidemic in sub-Saharan Africa. A tsunami wave of postmodernism is sweeping over Europe."

But an even more powerful wave of God's light is moving across the world, Rankin said as he introduced a video presentation about the global waves of light and darkness.

Southern Baptist missionaries saw 607,000 new baptisms in 2004, almost a 20 percent increase compared to the previous year. One of them was the president of Zambia.

Approximately 21,000 churches—400 a week—were begun. Mas-

sive people groups in China and South Asia are hearing the Good News for the first time, he added, and openness "is stirring even across the Muslim world—that last formidable barrier to world evangelization."

Rankin thanked Southern Baptists for giving more than \$133 million to the 2004 Lottie Moon Christmas Offering, almost matching the "phenomenal" \$136 million given for the 2003 offering.

The support allowed the International Mission Board to send out 692 new missionaries last year, he said, multiplying Southern Baptist witness in 184 countries. They also initiated work among 163 new people groups—131 of them "previously untouched by the gospel of Jesus Christ."

The remaining mission task challenges Southern Baptists to much greater commitment, according to several missionaries who reported on work in their regions.

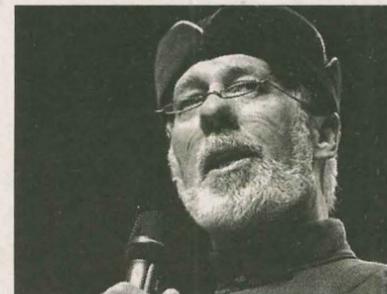
Missionary Ron H., who serves in West Africa, asked the crowd to imagine 1,000 people groups spread over an area the size of the United States—with only 50 small missionary teams among them.

One in every 10 people on earth is a Muslim, reported Liz M., who works in North Africa. They are the teachers, the guardians of family and religious traditions, she said, but they are hungry for truth.

"Aiesha is a teacher who I have



Jerry Rankin



MISSIONS REPORT Larry P., a Southern Baptist representative to Southeast Asia, shares his testimony during the annual International Mission Board report at the Southern Baptist Convention in Nashville. (BP photo by Matt Miller)

met with for the past two years," Liz said. "She is seeking the truth. She has read the Bible, because the Quran (Islam's holy book) tells her to read the Gospels and the books of Moses."

"It is said that it takes seven years and over 100 times hearing the gospel in a way they can understand it for a Muslim to come to Jesus Christ. Will it take that long for my friend Aiesha to hear the truth and for the truth to set her free?"

Rankin said nothing could be done to save the tsunami victims.

"But there is something we could have done to keep them from going to hell," he added. "Will we respond to the pleas of our Lord to go to the uttermost ends of the earth, to be His faithful witnesses?"

"Everyone can give and pray and go, because we are His hands and His feet to fulfill His mission."

## NAMB to launch 'Who Cares?' media campaign

By Lee Weeks  
SBC North American Mission Board

Nashville (BP)—The North American Mission Board will launch a national evangelistic media campaign this fall and use Internet broadcasting to help churches of all sizes share the gospel throughout the world.

NAMB President Bob Reccord described the two initiatives during his report at the Southern Baptist Convention last week.

The report featured a video adaptation of C.S. Lewis's 1941 book, "The Screwtape Letters," looking from a demon's perspective at how the gospel message is reaching today's society even in the kingdom of darkness.

The media campaign, "See Who Cares," includes eight 30-second television commercials spotlighting such life issues as crisis pregnancy, addictions, divorce and financial crises. Each commercial poses the question: "Does anyone care?"

The television, radio and print media ads will direct respondents to visit [www.SeeWhoCares.com](http://www.SeeWhoCares.com) and to Web sites of participating churches, associations and state conventions that purchase media exposure in their region.

At [SeeWhoCares.com](http://www.SeeWhoCares.com), Reccord said, viewers will see a video explaining, "There is Someone who cares and His name is Jesus Christ." Web site visitors are invited to register to receive additional e-mail follow-up and other resources.

Reccord said the commercials are

free and can be customized for local Southern Baptist churches, Baptist associations and state conventions.

NAMB plans to launch the media campaign in the fall by placing print ads in major newspapers throughout the country. More information is available at [www.namb.net/whocares](http://www.namb.net/whocares).

Citing statistics that show 92 percent of businesses and 54 percent of homes with Internet access use broadband technology available for Internet broadcasting.

Reccord said the network's goal is to one day be "the largest online portal for Christian media content," noting that it will offer churches and ministries of all sizes customized and cost-effective options for hosting interactive Web sites with features such as digital audio, live video streaming, and audience-polling capabilities.

Also in his report, Reccord noted that the largest number of new Southern Baptist churches was added in 2004. The 1,781 congregations includes church starts and new affiliates with the SBC. Of the 1,781, 59 percent are ethnic or African-American congregations.

Other North American missions accomplishments in 2004 included:

■ NAMB, state conventions and local Baptist associations equipped more than 1 million Southern Baptists in evangelism.



Bob Reccord



"SCREWTAPE" REPORT The annual report of the Southern Baptist North American Mission Board featured a modern-day scenario based on C.S. Lewis' classic "Screwtape Letters." (BP photo by John Swain)

■ More than 116,000 Southern Baptists were mobilized by NAMB for North American mission endeavors.

■ More than 15,000 disaster relief volunteers responded to disasters and helped prepare more 3.5 million hot meals.

■ 5,126 NAMB missionaries and 2,395 SBC-endorsed chaplains served throughout North America.

"God desires to do something more, something big, something above and beyond all that can we ask or think," Reccord concluded. "We at the North American Mission Board are convinced that God desires to use us—and you—as together we send missionaries, share Christ, start churches, mobilize volunteers and impact the culture of North America."

With additional reporting by Stella Prather of the Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine

God is good

God impacting campers both now and for eternity

Camp is a great blessing, and I am privileged to participate in such an amazing ministry. Summer has started beautifully, and week two was filled with excitement.

Between Cedarmore and Jonathan Creek we saw more than 1,000 students during the past seven days. Many experienced the saving power of Jesus in their lives. Many students felt great deliverance and healing through God's power, and students at Jonathan Creek gave more than \$6,700 to send youth to camp in Moldova. These are just some of the immediate results from the week, but can you imagine the results and fruit to come during the next 50 years?

This week I read a letter from a lady who attended Cedarcrest many years ago. She shared about her salvation experience at the age of 14 while sitting on the porch of one of the cabins. She further recounted her walk with the Lord as she served in missions. Now she is married and looks forward to bringing her three daughters to Cedarcrest in the coming

years. Imagine the significance of sitting with each of the young girls as they hear how their mother experienced Jesus Christ and how her life was changed for all eternity. We pray with this young mother that each of her daughters will be drawn to God and experience salvation in Christ.

The bottom line is that our ministry is to provide a place where people can come to know Christ for the first time or where they can grow in their relationship with Him. Simply put, we can become distracted from our purpose by the challenges we face. I will not share the difficulties, but believe me they happen every day and night, for we are in a spiritual battle for the lives of literally thousands who are separated from our Lord.

As always, we ask for your support in prayer that we stay faithful to the gospel message and that we will be faithful through the challenges that come with camp.

God is good all the time. Enjoy Him today.

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

Doug Marlette

Kudzu

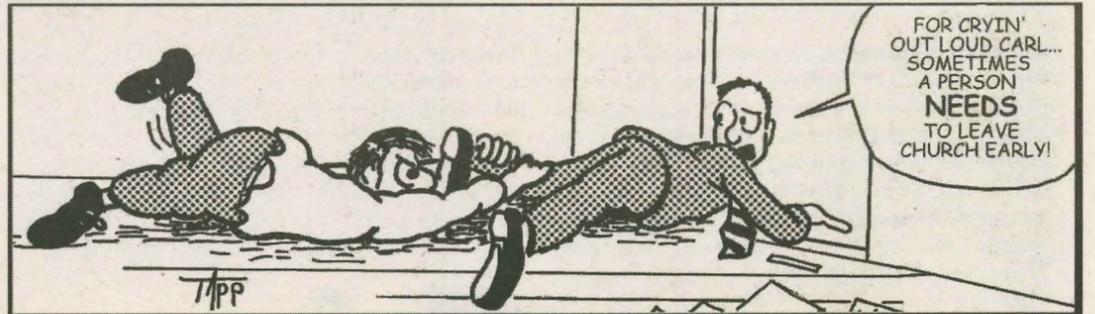


NOBODY EVER LISTENS TO ME.



Church of the Covered Dish

Thom Tapp



Bible Crosswords

Evelyn Boyington

Across

- 1 Deface
- 4 A seal or official stamp
- 8 Like a black pearl
- 12 Poetic before
- 13 Aesop's foolish fellow
- 14 Great Lake
- 15 Masculine nickname
- 16 Son of Jerahmeel (1 Chronicles 2:25)
- 17 Darius the \_\_\_\_\_, one-time ruler of Babylon
- 18 Far \_\_\_\_\_
- 20 Bane of insomniacs (pl.)
- 22 Grammar-school essay
- 24 Liquid measure
- 25 "They may teach the young \_\_\_\_\_ to be sober" (Titus 2:4)
- 26 Sheltered side
- 27 FBI agent, familiarly
- 30 Symbolic sign
- 31 Owns
- 32 Harsh breathing
- 33 Meditation by preacher (abbr.)
- 34 "My house shall be called the house of prayer; but ye have made it a \_\_\_\_\_ of thieves" (Matthew 21:13)
- 35 "Thou shalt not bear \_\_\_\_\_ witness" (Exodus 20:16)
- 36 Trench surrounding fortified place
- 37 "So I swear in my wrath, They shall not \_\_\_\_\_ into my rest" (Hebrews 3:11)
- 38 "Except ye \_\_\_\_\_, ye shall all likewise perish" (Luke 13:3)
- 41 Make a judgment
- 42 "The fire shall \_\_\_\_\_ be burning upon the altar" (Leviticus 6:13)
- 43 "Father, save me from this \_\_\_\_\_" (John 12:27)
- 45 River or Sea

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51				52				53		

- 48 Close by
- 49 Ultimatum word
- 50 Blunder
- 51 "I beseech thee, look upon my son: for he is mine \_\_\_\_\_ child" (Luke 9:38)
- 52 "For ye have \_\_\_\_\_ of patience" (Hebrews 10:36)
- 53 Actress Laraine
- Down
- 1 "They ... found the colt tied by the door ... where two ways \_\_\_\_\_" (Mark 11:4)
- 2 Linking verb
- 3 "I know that my \_\_\_\_\_ liveth" (Job 19:25)
- 4 "A good name is rather to be \_\_\_\_\_ than great riches" (Proverbs 22:1)
- 5 "Then shall the lame man leap as an \_\_\_\_\_" (Isaiah 35:6)
- 6 Mine find
- 7 Common cents
- 8 Forgive or pardon
- 9 Greek god of war
- 10 Let it \_\_\_\_\_
- 11 Shoe sizes
- 19 "For all the promises of God in him are yea, and in him \_\_\_\_\_" (2 Corinthians 1:20)
- 21 "One thousand shall flee at the rebuke of \_\_\_\_\_" (Isaiah 30:17)
- 22 Jesus sent His disciples out by \_\_\_\_\_ (Mark 6:7)
- 23 Base in baseball
- 24 "They shall \_\_\_\_\_ vineyards, but not drink the wine thereof" (Zephaniah 1:13)
- 27 Wavered
- 28 In addition
- 29 The \_\_\_\_\_ Slayer (J.F. Cooper novel)
- 31 "The idols of the \_\_\_\_\_ are silver and gold" (Psalm 135:15)
- 32 Throw a fit
- 34 Puzo's Corleone
- 35 "The Lord ... is to be \_\_\_\_\_ above all gods" (1 Chronicles 16:25)
- 36 "A \_\_\_\_\_ heart maketh a cheerful countenance" (Proverbs 15:13)
- 38 First woman to be U.S. Attorney General
- 39 "Let me be weighed in an \_\_\_\_\_ balance" (Job 31:6)
- 40 Ring out
- 41 Masquerade of sorts
- 44 Corrida cry
- 46 Age
- 47 "He turneth ... the watersprings into \_\_\_\_\_ ground" (Psalm 107:33)

Last week's solution

1	B	E	E	T	O	G	S	P	A	R	T
12	A	S	A	A	L	O	E	I	L	A	R
15	Y	E	S	N	I	L	E	A	I	M	S
18	K	I	N	G	O	F	K	I	N	G	S
21	E	E	L	S	I	R	O	N			
23	W	A	S	T	E	G	N	U	E	A	
26	A	N	T	S	T	A	G	D	O	W	N
32	N	Y	W	H	Y	T	O	W	E	D	
35	S	T	A	R	S	H	O	E			
38	L	O	R	D	O	F	L	O	R	D	S
41	H	I	R	E	N	A	U	M	H	U	T
45	A	N	T	E	E	Z	R	A	I	R	E
48	M	E	S	S	E	S	S	E	M	E	N

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The Pregnancy and Adoption Services office of Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children in Louisville has an immediate job opportunity for a seasoned candidate who will provide administrative support, perform tasks involving word processing of letters, memos and reports, maintain office files, make copies and send faxes as needed, use various computer software including Microsoft Outlook, Corel Word-Perfect and Excel. Two to five years of related experience required. Good oral and basic written communication skills and the ability to communicate effectively with the public and with co-workers, as well as a high school degree or equivalent are required.

KBHC offers flexible hours, an excellent benefits package and up to 35 paid days off per year. Hiring salary range is \$18,200 - \$19,552. Apply in person at our Central Office Annex located on the campus of Spring Meadows Children's Home at 10801 Shelbyville Road, fax resume to (502) 254-0153, e-mail to jobs@kbhc.org or mail resume indicating position applying for and salary requirements to:

**Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children**  
10200 Linn Station Road, Suite 200  
Louisville, KY 40223

EOE, Females and Minorities are encouraged to apply

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WESTERNRECORDER

## CONVENTION NOTES

**Kentuckians on Committee on Nominations.** A Paducah pastor and a Louisville pastor's wife have been named to the 2005 SBC Committee on Nominations. Kevin McCallon, pastor of First Baptist Church of Paducah, and Lynette Ezell, wife of Highview Baptist Church Pastor Kevin Ezell, were among the 70 nominees for the committee. The Committee on Nominations nominates people to serve on SBC's boards, commissions and committees. The committee is made up of two people from each state Baptist in addition to those affiliated with the SBC. One person from each state is in church-related vocational work and one is a layperson.

**Attendance increases.** The SBC annual meeting saw a 35 percent increase in attendance compared to last year's meeting in Indianapolis. Officials say 11,641 messengers registered for last week's meeting in Nashville, the first time in five years that more than 10,000 messengers attended. Kentucky had the third largest messenger count, with 989, behind only host state Tennessee (1,955 messengers) and Georgia (1,021).

**Crossover counts 2,500 professions.** At least 2,500 people made professions of faith as a result of Crossover, according to organizers. Thousands of volunteers traveled to Nashville early for the annual evangelistic outreach effort before the SBC annual meeting. Organizers said 7,374 Southern Baptists knocked on 46,391 doors, completed 18,128 visits, shared the gospel 4,985 times and led 584 non-Christians to pray to commit their lives to Christ. Block parties, cultural festivals and other Crossover efforts pushed the number of professions over the 2,500 mark.

**Guidestone notes some decreased premiums.** Forty percent of the participants in GuideStone Financial Resources' health plans saw decreases in premiums last year, apparently

due in part to increased health awareness, Guidestone President O.S. Hawkins told messengers during his annual report last week. Hawkins said individuals must take responsibility for health and churches must take responsibility for promoting the health of their members in order to control health care costs. He also noted that 67 percent of visitors to GuideStone's SBC exhibit for free medical tests were in danger zones for high blood pressure, cholesterol or other health problems.

**Land: ERLC helps Baptists vote values.** The Southern Baptist Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission and its "I Vote Values" campaign helped more than 400,000 people "vote in a more intelligent, more concerned way," Land told messengers during the agency's report last week. In last year's presidential election, he added, almost 25 percent of voters said moral issues were the most important deciding factor for them. "There is a new force loose in America, and it is people who are going to vote traditional religious values," Land said.



**FUN RUN** More than 700 Southern Baptists took part in the third annual "Living@YourBest" wellness walk/run during the Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting. "We hope this event will encourage Southern Baptists to make a commitment to living more healthful lifestyles," said O.S. Hawkins, president of GuideStone Financial Resources, which sponsors the event. (BP photo by Matt Miller)

## Sports at Oneida Baptist Institute

## Student turnover can pose extra challenges for Oneida's athletics

By Lance Nutter

Oneida Baptist Institute teacher and coach

OBI students can get a healthy dose of competition in both academics and sports. Oneida sports programs share the same characteristics and issues as those at public schools, with several added problems.

Most schools can build sports teams expecting to have students come back year after year. Due to the nature of our ministry, we do not necessarily have the luxury of maintaining a consistent student body. Some young people stay with us for seven years, while others remain only for a year or two. This can hurt the athletic programs.

It usually takes years for players in a given sport not only to learn the fundamentals of the game, but also to trust and appreciate their teammates and coaches. Many OBI students might have incredible talent. Throughout their lives, though, they either have been let down by other people or haven't had the opportunity to participate on a team. Either way, they haven't been able to grasp the concept of team play.

Oneida's sports programs can give them that opportunity. It is sometimes hard for OBI coaches to understand that instead of having a finished product, they usually are faced with a "work in progress."

Our coaches might finally think the next year will be the winning one, but when next year rolls around the roster has changed drastically and the team dynamics are completely different. The coach is faced with a whole new season of

trying to train the new players to play as a team.

Another issue for Oneida is our no-cut policy. Many OBI athletes never have been involved in an athletic program because they fear being "cut." It is a challenge for our coaches to work with students who have had little or no sports experience before coming to Oneida.

Sports teams that depend more on individual effort than team play have an advantage at a school like OBI. This probably, in part, explains why the Oneida cross-country team has been blessed the past two seasons to attend the state competition.

The year before last, the team took 10th place in the state. This past year the team finished second in the region and 17th place overall at state. Both state tournaments saw OBI athletes in the top 15. The team consisted mainly of underclassmen, so we have an excellent chance for a good showing next fall. The team and coach think there is

a good chance of a first-place finish at regionals this year.

Track and field also benefits from quality athletes at Oneida. This year saw strong girls' and boys' teams, with top finishes at several meets, including the Appalachian Classic held at Clay County High School. At the 2005 regional competition, the boys finished ninth and the girls finished 10th overall. Student-athlete Amos Nagby won the gold medal in the long jump and the chance to compete at the state level. Amos went on to the state meet and ended up with a 15th place overall.

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

## THIS IS ONEIDA



W.F. Underwood

## Lexington pastor among younger leaders urging SBC involvement

By Trennis Henderson  
Editor

**Nashville**—Urging younger leaders to take an active role in denominational life, Kentucky Baptist pastor Adam Greenway said younger ministers "better be willing to pay the price."

Greenway, 27, is pastor of the Baptist Church at Andover in Lexington. A featured speaker at the Younger Leaders Summit June 19 in Nashville, Greenway also was elected last week as a trustee of LifeWay Christian Resources.

The summit, hosted by LifeWay President Jimmy Draper, was the climax of Draper's yearlong effort to dialogue with younger leaders and encourage their involvement in SBC life.

Emphasizing that "this is the beginning of something, not the end of something," Draper said, "We're behind you; we believe in you. It's your passion, your energy that is needed to keep us on mission."

Greenway was one of six younger leaders invited to speak at the pre-convention summit that attracted more than 400 participants.

Addressing the issues of biblical diversity and inclusiveness, Greenway declared, "We need to be exactly as diverse and inclusive as Jesus Himself was. He brought people to the table."

"If we are going to reach a world and culture to us, we are going to have to reach out," he said. "Red, yellow, black, white, we say they are all precious in His sight. What are we doing to reach out to fulfill the mission?"

Robby Partain, evangelism leader for the Southern Baptists of Texas, noted that "young leaders are going to partner up in one way or another. The question is, 'Will the SBC be a network of leaders and churches that young leaders want to connect with?'"

"We have to focus on penetrating lostness," he said. "We've got to streamline everything for the mission."

Chris Seay, pastor of Ecclesia in Houston, warned that Southern Baptists "have become known as these dogmatic and judgmental people and we don't need to be those people. ... Doctrine is important, but being faithful to God is more important."

Jeff Harris, pastor of Gracepoint Church in San Antonio, Texas, urged Baptists to master the "napkin test."

"If you can't tell somebody what you stand for in the space of a napkin, then you don't clearly understand the message you are trying to communicate," he explained.

"The SBC needs to be able to write on a napkin what its message is," he added. "Unfortunately we are more known for what we are than what we are for. ... I'm afraid somebody will stand up again this year (at the SBC) and marginalize us even further from the people we say we want to reach."

The solution, Harris suggested, is a unified focus that crosses all generations in the denomination for the sake of the gospel "and let that be the only thing that we're about."

With additional reporting by Chris Turner of LifeWay Christian Resources

## Preaching, cooking and studying

## W. Kentucky student family at home at Clear Creek

Some students might call Erick Bauer the Harmony Heights chef. When my five sisters visited us last fall we asked Erick to prepare a pork loin and a turkey; the result was delicious.

Erick and Sheila and their two children came to us from Hawesville. "At 40 years of age, I walked into classes like a man in a fog," Erick said. "I've come a long way since I gave my life to Christ in 1984. The Holy Spirit got my attention at camp. I was 16 and president of my church youth group. I've noticed as a pastor, people can be in church faithfully but not saved."

After two years in the Air Force, Erick received a general discharge into the Marine Corps infantry.

"I've been in many countries, and did some missionary work without knowing it," Erick said. "One night the Holy Spirit let me know it was time to answer the call that I refused at age 17. Next to Jesus, my wife is the best thing that happened to me. We'd been married 10 years and I surrendered to preach. She's stood with me."

After four years as a pastor, Erick came to Clear Creek. "It is the scariest thing in the world not being in the pulpit. Life feels like a quagmire," Erick stated. "Patience is my worst attribute, but Clear Creek has already helped me with that." He's had many opportunities to supply preach during the past two semesters.

The family soon adjusted to Clear Creek. "The truck backed in at our Harmony Heights duplex, and here came the kids," Erick said. "Our house seems to be the center for eight to 10 campus children."

At the end of a recent day, I couldn't resist the invitation to fellowship at their table with beans

and cornbread. On Memorial Day we joined other campus families for a picnic and prayer service hosted by the Bauers. When he isn't preaching, cooking and studying (probably in that order!), Erick also has a "workshop" position as one of our campus security.

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

## CLEAR CREEK CHRONICLE



Bill Whittaker

## WMU urges members to share 'Passion' for Christ

By Charlie Warren  
Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine

Nashville—Passion was on the minds of almost 1,400 Baptist women gathered at First Baptist Church of Nashville for the annual meeting of Woman's Missionary Union June 19-20.

That passion focused on God's mission, inner-city ministry, the nation, the world and serving God.

With a theme of "Pass on the Passion," WMU members heard testimonies and challenges from missionaries, agency heads and WMU leaders during the two-day meeting.

Arkansas missionary Diana Lewis shared her passion for those who live in poverty and for matching people in the pews with mission opportunities in their own back yards.

"God has given us in Arkansas a passion for those in our state who are lost without a Savior," Lewis said. "God's desire is for all of them to know Him."

Rebekah Naylor, a missionary surgeon to India for more than 30 years, described the satisfaction she has ministering to people through Bangalore Baptist Hospital and in church planting.

With almost 1.1 billion people, predominantly Hindu and Muslim, India is the world's second largest nation and its largest democracy, Naylor said.

"God planted in my heart a passion for the people of India," Naylor said. God answered prayer in marvelous ways, ultimately

giving Naylor management responsibility for the hospital. In that role she fostered an environment where doctors and staff prayed regularly and shared their faith freely.

"What is passion?" she asked. "That for which you are willing to sacrifice anything, even your life. ... Perhaps my greatest joy comes from being a partner in church planting."

Outgoing WMU President Janet Hoffman of Farmersville, La., challenged participants to have a passion for missions and to pass it on to the next generation. A passion for missions is always only one generation away from being extinguished or from explosive growth, she added.

Hoffman urged the women to fan the spark in their hearts for God's mission. "Stir it up daily in your intimate time with Christ, and pass it on."

### An inner-city model

In a session emphasizing inner-city ministry, leaders of First Baptist Church of Nashville explained that they purposefully decided to stay in the inner city and aggressively minister to inner city needs.

The church and its downtown ministry center has helped more than 400 women through Christian Women's Job Corps, individual and group counseling, GED programs and job placement.

First Baptist Pastor Frank Lewis praised "100 wild praying women" who met regularly to pray for the

inner city. From that sprung the ministry center for women in crisis.

"It would be so much easier to put a 'for sale' sign on Seventh and Broadway and move out," Lewis said. "But you know what? God called us to be here. ... We are committed to be here."

### New president, offering goals

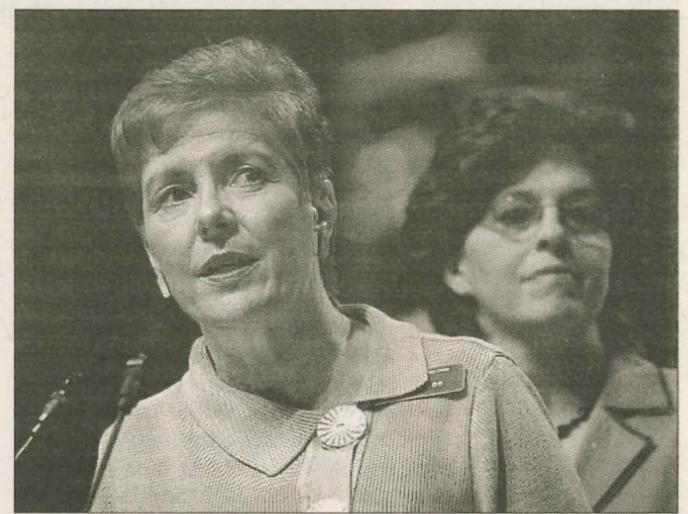
Kaye Miller of Immanuel Baptist Church of Little Rock, Ark., was elected president of Woman's Missionary Union during the meeting. Miller, president of the Arkansas WMU since 2002, is the daughter of Harland and Jo Willis, who were medical missionaries to Thailand.

In WMU's structure, presidents of the state organizations serve as vice presidents on the national level. Kathy Hillman of Texas was re-elected as recording secretary.

During her report to the Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting June 21 in Nashville, Lee announced that the WMU Executive Board set the 2006 Lottie Moon Christmas Offering goal at \$150,000 and the 2007 Annie Armstrong Easter Offering goal at \$57 million.

When Nashville Mayor Bill Purcell welcomed WMU members to the city, he concluded by thanking WMU, on behalf of his mother, for the organization's continued support of the Women's Department of the Baptist World Alliance.

The Southern Baptist Convention voted in 2004 to withdraw from participation with BWA



### WMU LEADERSHIP

Wanda Lee (left), executive director of Woman's Missionary Union, and Kaye Miller, new WMU national president, deliver the auxiliary organization's report June 21 to messengers attending the Southern Baptist Convention's annual meeting. (BP photo by Van Payne)

but WMU, despite its auxiliary relationship to the SBC, voted to maintain ties with the worldwide Baptist organization.

Attendees heard words of challenge and encouragement from James Porch, executive director of the Tennessee Baptist Convention; Jerry Rankin, president of the International Mission Board; and Bob Reccord, president of the North American Mission Board.

Rankin thanked the national missions organization for its "faithful support and passion for missions" that has enabled Southern Baptists "to reach a lost world together in partnership."

With additional reporting by Tony Cartledge of the North Carolina Biblical Recorder, John Loudat of the Baptist New Mexican, William Perkins of the Mississippi Baptist Record and Bill Webb of the Missouri Word & Way

## Pastors' Conference speakers urge devotion to God, evangelism

By Jennifer Rash  
Alabama Baptist

Nashville—Vision, valor, vigilance, vitality and victory are the five components of a man of God's ministry, Adrian Rogers told those attending the Southern Baptist Pastors' Conference.

"Without God, Adrian Rogers would be nothing, nothing, nothing," said Rogers, pastor emeritus of Bellevue Baptist Church in Cordova, Tenn.

"But God is almighty, and He has the ability to take your life and my life and make you and me a man of God."

Preaching from Judges 6-7, Rogers described Gideon as a man "just small enough and weak enough" for God to use.

"I have seen men too big for God to use, but never one too small," Rogers said. "Gideon was called not for what he was but for what God could make out of him."

Rogers noted that Gideon had a vision resulting directly from his encounter with God.

"We have so many preachers today who are living lives of quiet desperation, drawing their breath, drawing their salary and waiting for retirement," he said. "They need to get a fresh vision of Almighty God. Never has there been a day, an age or an opportunity to preach the gospel of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ like there is today."

Rogers headlined the two-day Pastors' Conference in Nashville,



**PASTORS' CONFERENCE** Adrian Rogers, who retired earlier this year after 32 years as pastor of Bellevue Baptist Church near Memphis, Tenn., speaks at the Southern Baptist Pastors' Conference in Nashville. Rogers, who is battling colon cancer, arrived in Nashville to preach shortly after finishing his latest chemotherapy treatment. (BP photo by John Swain)

June 19-20 preceding the SBC annual meeting.

In other sermons:

**Johnny Hunt**, pastor of First Baptist Church, Woodstock, Ga., said evangelistic churches are led by evangelistic pastors unafraid to move toward simplicity, simply preaching the gospel of Christ.

Hunt spoke from Acts 8, in which Philip was led into the desert in the middle of the day, an unlikely destination but a place where he was ordained to meet someone who needed to hear the gospel.

"I have heard pastors question whether or not they should go to a church because they don't know if the church has an evangelism program in place," he said.

"I say to them, 'That's exactly why they need you, to come in and

be evangelistic and set the model.'"

**Jerry Falwell**, in his first outside engagement since being hospitalized in May, focused on having a message, a mission and a vision.

Falwell, pastor of Thomas Road Baptist Church in Lynchburg, Va., said the message for Baptists included several fundamental beliefs such as the inspiration and infallibility of Scripture, the deity of Christ and the "substitutionary" atonement of Christ for all men.

"I believe the greatest local churches since Pentecost are yet to be built," Falwell said. "God is looking for men whose hearts are right before Him."

**Roy Fish**, professor of evangelism at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas, exhorted pastors to "preach Christ."

Southern Baptists "seem to be losing a sizable portion of our evangelistic passion," Fish said, noting pastors also can get caught up in defending the gospel rather than preaching it.

Speaking from Ephesians 3:8, he urged pastors to preach about Christ, the cross and the Resurrection, "and not merely on Easter morning."

During the conference, Fish was honored for his 40 years as evangelism professor at Southwestern. Fish was presented a check for \$31,000, collected from former students and others in his honor.

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

said true satisfaction comes only from Jesus.

Preaching from Ecclesiastes, Vines noted that Solomon severed his relationship with God to seek worldly things.

Solomon tried to satisfy his soul through education, pleasure, wine, luxury and lust, Vines said. But when he was old, Solomon realized that these worldly things could not satisfy.

"When he (Solomon) gets to the end of it all, he says, take the world and give me Jesus," Vines said.

Former Alabama Chief Justice **Roy Moore** spoke on the importance of acknowledging God, even in adverse situations.

Moore was ousted as Alabama's highest judge in 2004 after refusing to remove a monument of the Ten Commandments he had erected in Alabama's state judicial building in Montgomery. The famed memorial was on display in Nashville in the exhibit hall during the Pastors' Conference and SBC annual meeting.

Moore said his decision to defy court orders was "about the acknowledgement of God."

He urged pastors and churches to take a stand for God. "God is sending a spiritual awakening across our land. ... It is a great time to be alive and face freedom to acknowledge God."

With additional reporting by Stella Prather and Lisa Watson of the Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine and Grace Thornton and Erin Webster of the Alabama Baptist

## PRAYER PARTNERS

Please pray for the following Kentucky Baptist missionaries and ministries:

**Celebration Sunday ministry at Lynn Camp Baptist Church in Gray.** Pastor Carl McCray and student minister Tim Bargo began a "Celebration Service" on the first Sunday of each month to reach people who are unchurched. They said members are excited about inviting people each month to this service that includes contemporary music, casual dress, nametags for everyone, baptism of those who became Christians the previous month and an evangelistic message. The result has been an increase in baptisms, worship attendance and church membership. Pray for effective discipleship and follow-up of converts. Pray also for the church as leaders consider adding an additional early service each week to reach those who are unable to attend the current service.

**Mission Service Corps missionary Shirley Cox of Mount Vernon.** Cox is a missions photojournalist who writes for Missions Mosaic, Kentucky Baptists and other Christian newsletters and publications. Using the printed page, Cox tells what God is doing through missionaries across our state. Her writing helps raise the awareness of ministry needs and also serves as an encouragement to the missionaries. Pray for insight and wisdom as she writes and edits articles. Pray also that God will create new avenues for telling others about His work.

If you would like Kentucky Baptists to join in praying for a ministry of your church or association, please send the information to Eric Allen at [Eric.Allen@kybaptist.org](mailto:Eric.Allen@kybaptist.org) or call (888) 263-5080.

## MOUNTAINS TO THE MISSISSIPPI

COMPILED BY STAFF

■ **CADIZ**—Cadiz Church recently honored **Bill and Marci McCraw** on their 50th wedding anniversary. **Kevin Roberts** is pastor.

■ **CAMPBELLSVILLE**—Elk Horn Church ordained **Christopher Williams, Bobby Wood** and **Guy Wood** as deacons June 5. **Ron Gleaves** is pastor.

■ **JASON ENGLAND** recently resigned as youth minister and associate pastor of Salmoma Church.

■ **FOUNTAIN RUN**—First Church recently ordained youth minister **Mark Graham** to the gospel ministry. **Hermon Wilkins** is pastor.

■ **FRANKFORT**—Immanuel Church will host its 10th annual Musical Day Camp July 18-22, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., for children who have completed grades 1-6. For information, call (502) 223-7601.

■ **HENDERSON**—Immanuel Baptist Temple recently called **Phillip Basinger**, director of missions for Baptist Valley Association, as interim pastor.

■ **LEXINGTON**—Grace Church recently honored **Bob and Dona Garrett** on their 50th wedding anniversary. **Terrence Freeman** is pastor.

■ **LOUISVILLE**—Highland Church will host **Cynthia Clawson** in con-

cert July 9, 7:30 p.m. For information, call (502) 451-3735. **Joe Phelps** is pastor.

Ormsby Heights Church will host a community celebration July 3, 6 p.m., with food, carnival games and fireworks. For information, call (502) 447-6867.

■ **PIKEVILLE**—Grace Church ordained **Billy Jack Branham** and **Larry Comp-ton** as deacons May 22.

■ **PINSONFÖRK**—McVeigh Church recently called **James Justice** as interim pastor.

■ **SOMERSET**—First Church honored **Jim Fields**, minister of education for 11 years, with a retirement reception June 26. He will be available for preaching, teaching and part-time educational consulting work. **Bill Haynes** is pastor.

■ **WHITE MILLS**—White Mills Church recently called youth minister **Bruce Underhill** as interim pastor. He also is campus minister at Elizabeth College Community and Technical College.

■ **WILLIAMSBURG**—Main Street Church ordained **Ken Anderson, Rick Fleenor, Marc Hensley, David Jones, Derrick Lowrie, Pat Marple** and **Lloyd Zehr** as deacons June 5. **Bill Wright** is pastor.

## KBC CALENDAR OF EVENTS

KENTUCKY BAPTIST CONVENTION

### July

1-4 Wrangler Trail Ride, Land Between the Lakes.

4-8 Mission Adventure Camp for Boys, Campbellsville University.

6-8 Mission Adventure Camp (Express) for Girls, Cedar Crest.

8-9 Mission Adventure Camp for Boys Father/Son Overnight, Campbellsville University.

8-9 Mother/Daughter Overnight, Cedar Crest.

9-16 Kentucky Changers, Louisville.

11-15 Mission Adventure Camp for Boys, Campbellsville University.

11-15 Mission Adventure Camp for Girls, Cedar Crest.

15-16 World Missions Unlimited, Severns Valley Baptist Church, Elizabethtown.

18-20 Mission Adventure Camp for Boys Express Camp, Campbellsville University.

20-23 Kentucky Secretaries Retreat, Campbellsville University.

21-22 Quarterly Prayer Meeting for Spiritual Awakening, Columbia Baptist Church.

25-27 Mountain Missions Conference, Oneida Baptist Institute.

### August

13 Super Saturday, Immanuel Baptist Church, Lexington.

20 Super Saturday, First Baptist Church, Prestonsburg; Second Baptist Church, Hopkinsville.

For more information, call (800) 266-6477 or visit [www.kybaptist.org](http://www.kybaptist.org)



## CLASSIFIED ADS

**FOR SALE:** Professional church organ. Rodgers Kent 705; 52-note peddle board; excellent condition; \$8,000. (502) 241-8818 after 6 p.m.

**NEEDED:** Church plant looking for furniture donations: chairs, tables, children's furniture, cribs, etc. Contact Pastor Matthew: (502) 384-5496; [matthew@bardstowncf.org](mailto:matthew@bardstowncf.org).

**SEEKING:** Part-time children's minister for Cloverleaf Baptist Church. Send resumé to the Personnel Committee, Cloverleaf Baptist Church, 4401 Manslick Road, Louisville, KY 40216.

**SEEKING:** Part-time youth minister to lead growing youth group in south-central Kentucky. Interested applicants may send resúmes to: Horse Cave Baptist Church, 301 East Main St., Horse Cave, KY 42749, Attn: Search Committee; or call (270) 786-2970.

**SEEKING:** Full-time minister of students and Christian activities for Lewis Lane Baptist Church, Owensboro, Ky. Responsibilities will include providing comprehensive leadership and vision for the student ministry (K-12) as well as administering church-sponsored recreational activities for all ages. Interested candidates may e-mail resúmes to [greg@lewislanebc.org](mailto:greg@lewislanebc.org) or mail resúmes to: Lewis Lane Baptist Church, 2600 Lewis Lane, Owensboro, KY 42301, Attn: Search Committee. Resúmes need to be submitted by Aug. 1, 2005. Full job description available upon request or at [www.lewislanebc.org](http://www.lewislanebc.org).

**SEEKING:** Full-time pastor for Grace Baptist Church located near Pikeville, Ky. Church averages 150-175 in worship attendance. College degree preferred with some seminary training. Send resumé to: Search Committee, Grace Baptist Church, PO Box 1485, Pikeville, KY 41502.

**SEEKING:** Pastor. Send resumé to Piney Grove Baptist Church, c/o LaVetta Mahan, 3009 Mountain View Lane, Corbin, KY 40701.

**SEEKING:** Director of music for SBC church. Bivocational will be considered. PO Box 1917, Henderson, KY 42419.

**SEEKING:** Full-time senior pastor—Rosemont Baptist Church, Lexington, Ky. Job requirements at [www.lifewaylink.com/8592776147](http://www.lifewaylink.com/8592776147). Send resumé: Search Committee, Rosemont Baptist Church, 556 Rosemont Garden, Lexington, KY 40503.

**SEEKING:** Full-time minister of music and education for New Friendship Baptist Church in Auburn, Ky. Primary responsibility will be a blended-music ministry and coordinating education for church with emphasis on youth program. Average SS attendance is 200; morning worship, 220; and evening attendance averages over 110. Church information may be found at [newfriendshipchurch.com](http://newfriendshipchurch.com). Send resumé to Norm Hughes, 738 Hughes Road, Franklin, KY 42134.

**SEEKING:** Full-time pastor for First Baptist Church, Williamsburg, Ky. Beautiful small town setting near Cumberland College. Diverse membership with an average Sunday attendance of 140 and an active youth group. Must be able to work with both SBC and CBF. Parsonage optional. Seeking individual with MDiv. degree and pastoral experience. Send resumé to: First Baptist Church, 230 S 5th St., Williamsburg, KY 40769.

**SEEKING:** Full-time minister with youth for Broadway Baptist Church, an established, forward-looking congregation in Louisville, Ky., affiliated with CBF. A job description and other information are available at [www.broadwaybaptist.org/position-MinisterWithYouth.html](http://www.broadwaybaptist.org/position-MinisterWithYouth.html).

**SEEKING:** Pastor for rural Southern Baptist church. Send resumé to: Pastor Search Committee, 529 Ada Drive, Harrodsburg, KY 40330-1011.

**SEEKING:** Pastor. Harrison Avenue Baptist Church, 1125 Harrison Ave., Harrison, OH 45030. Resúmes accepted through Sept. 30, 2005. For information, call (513) 367-6020.

**SEEKING:** Part-time minister of music. First Baptist, Shepherdsville, is seeking a 20-hour-per-week minister of music. Primary responsibilities include Sunday worship, Wednesday choir rehearsal and creation of new music groups. Send resúmes to: [gary@shepfbc.org](mailto:gary@shepfbc.org), or Gerry Hardin, 254 S. Buckman, Shepherdsville, KY 40165. See our Web site: [www.shepfbc.org](http://www.shepfbc.org).

**SEEKING:** Director of administrative support services for Southern Seminary, a Christian working environment. Scope of position includes purchasing, accounts payable, project planning and tracking. The successful candidate will have proven interpersonal, computer and critical thinking skills, along with a strong customer service orientation. Five years of appropriate experience and a bachelor's degree are preferred. Send resumé with salary history and requirements to: Personnel Services, Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, 2825 Lexington Road, Louisville, KY 40280, or to [personnel@sbts.edu](mailto:personnel@sbts.edu).

**SEEKING:** Southeastern Kentucky church seeks pastor who loves the Lord, teaches God's Word, relates to all ages and has strong leadership/organizational skills to guide the church to be a glory to God. Small-town church with the unique opportunity of ministering to community and Oneida Baptist Institute. Housing provided; insurance negotiable. Resúmes to: Oneida Baptist Church, PO Box 98, Oneida, KY 40972, Attn: Pulpit Committee.

**SEEKING:** Pianist. Please send resumé to First Baptist Church, 118 West South St., Mayfield, KY 42066. For more information: (270) 247-2992.

**SEEKING:** Full-time and part-time ministers for youth, education, evangelism and children. Send resumé to Pastor Bob Swift, 118 West South St., Mayfield, KY 42066.

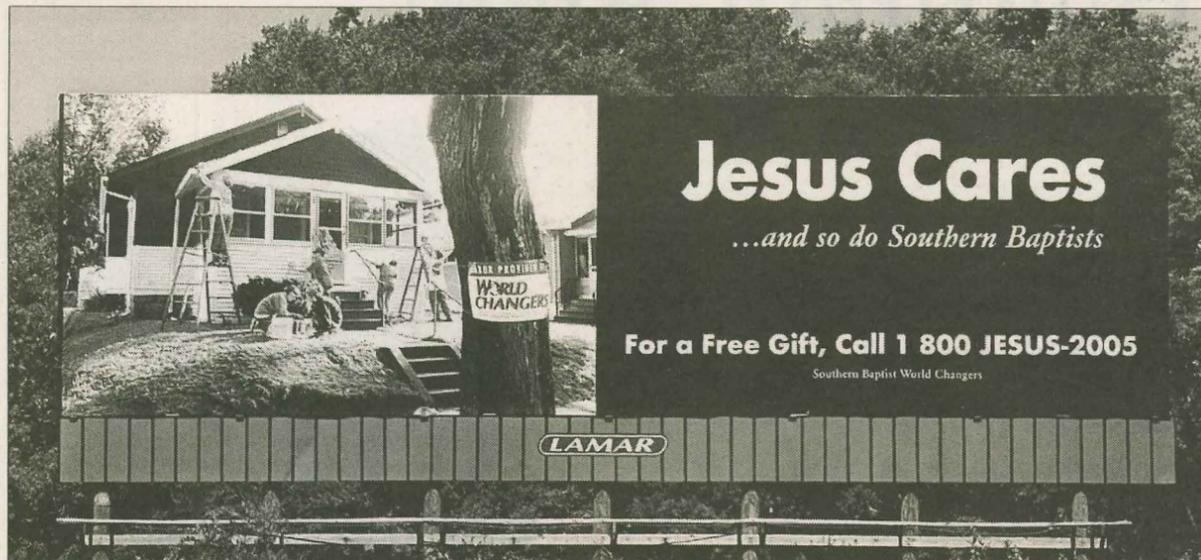
**SEEKING:** Full-time pastor for Second Baptist Church, located in the Western region of Kentucky. College degree preferred, with some seminary training. Send resumé to: Search Committee, Second Baptist Church, 633 Bishop St., Madisonville, KY 42431.

**SEEKING:** Full-time pastor for Parkway Baptist Church in Lexington, Ky. Send resumé, belief statement and philosophy of ministry to: Search Committee, Parkway Baptist Church, 1915 N Broadway, Lexington, KY 40505.

**SEEKING:** Part-time minister of youth at Bagdad Baptist Church in Shelby County. Candidate should be energetic, self-motivated, able to lead by example, to relate to all ages on a spiritual and personal level and be willing to make a long-term commitment to our youth ministry. Please send resumé to: Youth Minister Search Committee, PO Box 8, Bagdad, KY 40003.

**SEEKING:** Experienced payroll accountant for Southern Seminary, a Christian working environment. The successful candidate will have proven accounting, computer, critical thinking, interpersonal and time-management skills, along with a strong customer service orientation. Send resumé with pay history and pay requirements to: Personnel Services, Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, 2825 Lexington Road, Louisville, KY 40280, or e-mail to [personnel@sbts.edu](mailto:personnel@sbts.edu).

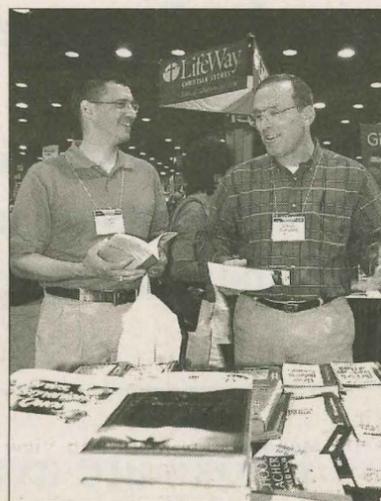
## Nashville images



**A BIG WELCOME** A billboard about Southern Baptists greets those leaving Nashville International Airport and heading downtown. (BP photo by Morris Abernathy)



**A PLEDGE TO ENCOURAGE** As part of a military tribute June 21 honoring men and women in the armed forces, messengers to the Southern Baptist Convention were given postcards to send to encourage American troops. (BP photo by Matt Miller)



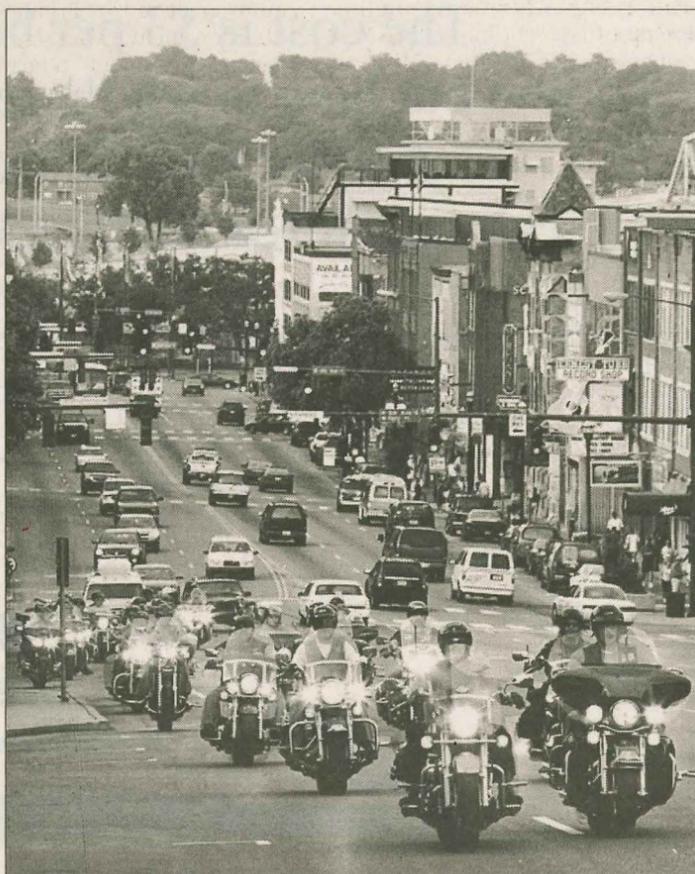
**BOOKSTORE BROWSING** David Campbell (right), pastor of Buck Grove Baptist Church in Meade County, and Ed Hamlin, a member of Buck Grove, review resource books at the LifeWay Bookstore in the exhibit hall for the SBC annual meeting. (Photo by David Winfrey)



**MUSIC** Contemporary Christian musician Rebecca St. James was among the performers to sing at the annual meeting and other convention-related events. (BP photo by Kent Harville)



**TEN COMMANDMENTS** The now nationally famous Ten Commandments monument, originally built for display in the Alabama Supreme Court building, was on display in the exhibit hall during the SBC annual meeting. (BP photo by Jonathan Blair)



**FAITH RIDERS** Nearly 30 "FAITH Riders," Christian motorcyclists from several states, ride into downtown Nashville June 17 on their way to Crossover training at the LifeWay Christian Resources building. The bikers rode to Nashville to participate in one of dozens of events comprising Crossover, the annual evangelistic effort held the weekend before the SBC annual meeting. (BP photo by Bob Carey)

## Public expression



**BAPTISMS AT SBC** Phil Gruita (right), pastor of Ivy Memorial Baptist Church in Nashville, baptizes Lisa Clark, 28, as messengers to the Southern Baptist Convention watch and applaud. She was one of eight people baptized by Nashville churches at the meeting in the Gaylord Entertainment Center. (BP photo by Van Payne)

## Nashville congregations share baptisms with SBC messengers

By Jennifer Davis Rash  
The Alabama Baptist

**Nashville**—Southern Baptists might not remember Luke Charlton, but the 7-year-old from Nashville always will remember the 16-million member Baptist body.

That's because Charlton was one of eight candidates for baptism from five Nashville-area churches who agreed to allow Southern Baptists to peek into their churches' observance of this local church ordinance.

Charlton was baptized by his pastor during the Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting in Nashville.

Eric Kilby, now a member of Hermitage Hills Baptist Church in Hermitage, Tenn., summed up his reason for being baptized at the Gaylord Entertainment Center: "The purpose of baptism is to display obedience. Why do it in front of 1,000 when you can do it in front of 10,000?"

Kilby and his wife, Julie, were baptized in the Wednesday evening session of the annual meeting.

During each session of the convention, a different church held its baptism in a five-minute slot on the program.

Julie Kilby said it was something she always will remember. "It was special. It was neat to look out and see that many Christians, brothers and sisters in Christ."

Jim Cross, pastor of First Baptist Church of Donelson, Tenn., where Charlton is now a member, explained that the local churches performed the baptisms, not the SBC. It was a local church event that was being held on the convention floor.

"For those few moments, the SBC is joining us as a family for that celebration," he said. "We are not joining the convention."

Each baptism was conducted with the approval and support of the sponsoring home church. And members of each church were present to serve as witnesses.

### Cautious questions

Cross said he did experience apprehension from several pastors as he contacted them to participate. "Naturally this is a new thing and some polity issues came up," Cross noted. "But once I explained that the local church service just happens to be there at the convention, they were on board."

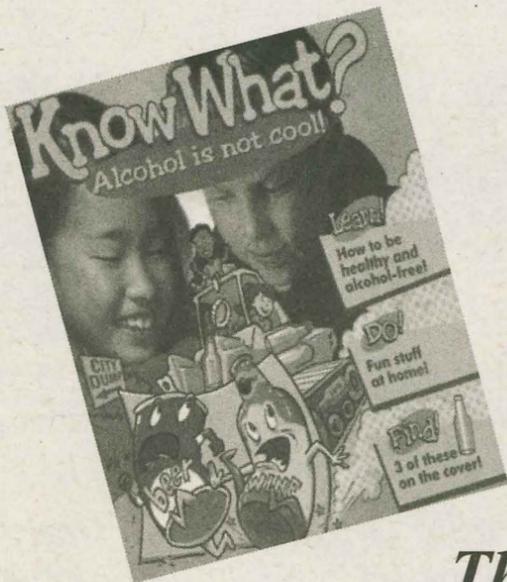
As Cross organized the baptisms, he worked with the four other pastors to insure a variety of baptismal candidates. "We had a child, a senior adult, a young married couple, some raised in church and some who just came into church," Cross said. Two of the three people baptized by Phil Gruita, pastor of Ivy Memorial Baptist Church in Nashville, made professions of faith in Christ during Crossover Nashville June 18.

"Sharing the gospel, seeing people saved and baptizing, this is really what we are about," Cross said. "This was a great way to be able to say (that)."

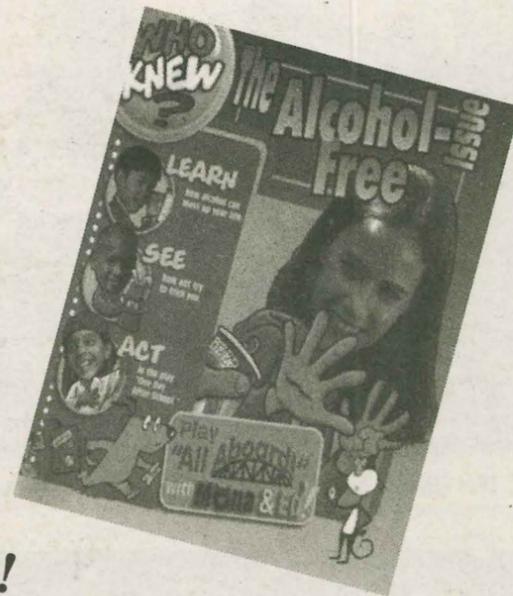
SBC President Bobby Welch added the baptism segment to the 2005 annual meeting as a way to depict the challenge he launched June 22, which is to "witness, win and baptize 1 million" in one year.

"Baptism is that huge, first giant step toward discipleship," Welch said. "For some, this was the first baptism they had seen in at least 12 months."

# Project Guardian Angel

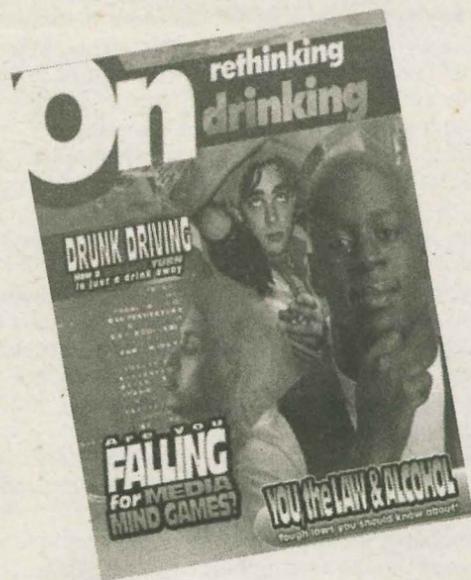


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*"Let Your Light Shine Before Men"*

Matt 5:16