

November 8, 2005  
Vol. 179, No. 44**KENTUCKY  
BAPTIST  
FOUNDATION**

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**FOR THE RECORD****Baptists**Baylor taps Nevada educator as president. *Page 2.***Convention Q&A**Kentucky Baptist Convention presidential candidates Paul Chitwood and Bob DeFoor respond to questions. *Page 3.***Financial Forum**Plan now to maximize year-end tax-savings. *Page 4.***Editorial**KBC focus: "Strengthening Every Church." *Page 5.***Family**Anti-abortion groups criticize "American Girl" campaign's link to pro-abortion group. *Page 8.***Books**Reviews include books on church membership training and a guide to biblical cities. *Page 9.***More volunteers sought as disaster relief responds to Indiana tornado****Evansville, Ind.**—Kentucky Baptist disaster relief volunteers currently are serving in three states after a kitchen team mobilized Sunday to feed storm and tornado victims in Evansville, Ind.

Volunteers continue to serve in Mississippi and Miami to help those affected by hurricanes Katrina and Wilma.

Volunteers with a mobile kitchen based in Henderson traveled to Evansville Sunday after an early morning tornado killed at least 22 people.

Set up in the parking lot of the local Baptist association office, workers were unsure Monday morning how long they would be working or how many meals they would prepare.

"I haven't talked to the Red Cross today, and I don't know what their demands are going to be," team coordinator Dallas James said.

The tornado, which struck about 2 a.m. Sunday morning, caused destruction in an area 20 miles long and three-quarters of a mile wide, according to reports by Associated Press.

The various sites could use up to 120 trained Kentucky Baptist disaster relief volunteers, according to Peggy Murphy of the Kentucky Baptist Convention's men on mission department.

Trained volunteers available to serve are asked to contact the office at (502) 489-3527 or toll-free in Kentucky at (866) 489-3527, or by e-mail at peggy.murphy@kybaptist.org.

**Adopting churches****Kentucky churches sign up to help Gulf Coast congregations over long haul**By Ken Walker  
State Correspondent**Waveland, Miss.**—Bowling Green minister Herb Case was asking for directions in the middle of Waveland, Miss., last week when a helpful local resident paused in puzzlement over the building where he had just told Case to turn.

"No, that's not there," he said. With road signs blown away and many buildings no longer recognizable, the man struggled to think of any landmark Case still could use.

"Things have just been leveled," said Case, associate pastor of Rich Pond Baptist Church.

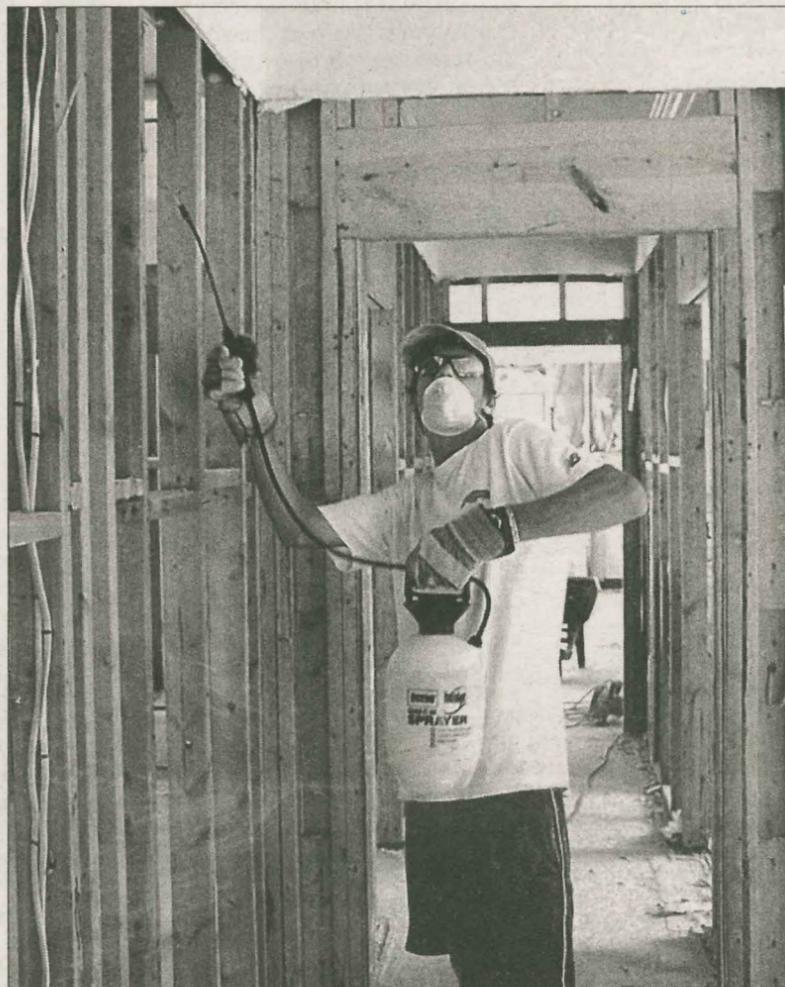
He traveled last week with seven other members of Rich Pond to perform cleanup work in Waveland and to explore the possibility of a long-term relationship with Lakeshore Baptist Church there.

Rich Pond is among the scores of Kentucky Baptist churches looking to link up with a hurricane-crippled church.

In many cases, churches don't yet know how involved they will become with a Gulf Coast-area church, but their efforts have taken a variety of forms.

Some churches are establishing individual partnerships. Others expect to join the Kentucky Baptist Convention as it establishes a formal, long-term partnership with churches in Jackson County Baptist Association in Pascagoula, Miss., and two small associations in Louisiana.

Others have joined the Southern

**CLEANUP** Ryan Taylor, a volunteer from Crestwood Baptist Church in Crestwood, sprays a bleach solution to kill mold in a home in Bay St. Louis, Miss., that was flooded by Hurricane Katrina. (Photo courtesy of Crestwood Baptist Church)

Baptist North American Mission Board's "Adopt a Church" program. So far, nearly 100 Kentucky churches have signed up for matches with churches in Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama and Texas.

"Baptist are autonomous and can partner with anyone they want," noted Randy Jones, leader

of the KBC's missions growth team. "We don't have a corner on the world."

The KBC's partnerships with Mississippi and Louisiana will be launched officially at next week's state convention in Frankfort, but many churches aren't waiting.

□ See Kentucky churches ... *Page 6*

Dated material. Please deliver by Wednesday, November 9

**Electricity & water can turn into deadly mix, specialists warn**By Ken Camp  
Texas Baptist Standard**Waco, Texas (ABP)**—Electricity and water create a potentially deadly combination, but metal—not microphones themselves—present the greatest danger to people in baptistries, according to acoustic and church-building consultants.

The issue came to the forefront when Pastor Kyle Lake of University Baptist Church in Waco, Texas, was killed Oct. 30 after he grabbed a microphone while standing in a baptistry full of water.

Larry Brannin, media production specialist for the Kentucky Baptist Convention's communications office, said that in his 30 years of audio-visual and media experience, he's never heard of an accident like the one that killed Lake.

"Something had to be miswired for this to have happened," he said.

Brian Elwell, senior consultant with Acoustic Dimensions near Dallas, made a similar observation.

"If everything is working right, there is no way a microphone carries nearly enough electricity to cause a person's death," Elwell said.

The exact cause of Lake's death was not immediately known. But a correctly wired, properly grounded microphone carries a maximum 48 volts—nowhere near enough to stop a person's heart, even if that individual is standing in chest-deep water, Elwell explained.

But "correctly wired" and "properly grounded" conditions make all the difference, Elwell and others said. If either the baptistry pool or the metal chassis of the microphone were improperly grounded, it might create a hazard.

Any pool of water carries electri-

cal potential, and if a person standing in electricity-charged water reaches out to touch a metal object, it will complete the circuit and cause a shock, Elwell noted.

Also, if a microphone line were cut and came into contact with high voltage, the metal casing of the mike could become highly charged, he added.

"The bottom line is, if you're in the water, don't touch anything metal," said Elwell, whose firm's clients have included the Crystal Cathedral in Garden Grove, Calif.; Willow Creek Community Church in South Barrington, Ill.; and Saddleback Church in Lake Forest, Calif.

LifeWay Christian Resources recommends that only wireless mikes be used in or near a baptistry—either a wireless lavalier mike, a handheld wireless or a wireless

mike on a stand.

There is not enough voltage in any wireless mike to do any damage, said Davis Byrd, director of LifeWay's church architecture department.

"The water would probably ruin the equipment if it were submerged, but the battery operation doesn't have enough voltage to do any harm," he said.

If a wired microphone must be used, it should be suspended overhead, out of reach, Brannin added.

When it comes to installing electrical items near baptisteries, Brannin strongly urges churches to use only licensed electricians.

"When an amateur tries to do professional work, accidents can happen."

With additional reporting by News Director David Winfrey and Greg Warner of Associated Baptist Press

## Baptist relief work expands across South

**"Disasters throw the gates of North American missions wide open."**

Jim Burton, director of volunteer mobilization for the Southern Baptist North American Mission Board

Alpharetta, Ga. (BP)—Amid unprecedented recovery efforts in the wake of hurricanes Katrina, Rita and Wilma, more than 8,000 Southern Baptist disaster relief workers continue to serve in storm-ravaged regions from Florida to Texas.

Jim Burton, director of volunteer mobilization for the Southern Baptist North American Mission Board, said some disaster relief teams in south Florida are experiencing logistical supply-chain challenges when it comes to food delivery and getting fuel to the feeding units.

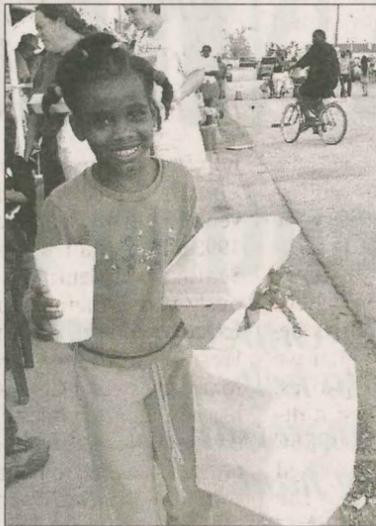
"We're not seeing a fuel shortage," he said. "It's just that everyone's having the same problem—there's no electricity at the gas stations for pumping the gas."

Noting that Baptist workers "now have 16 kitchens in full operation" in Florida, Burton said the response to Hurricane Wilma "is equivalent to what we had in Mississippi or Louisiana" after Hurricane Katrina. "It's not a small operation."

Burton also announced last week that volunteers have prepared a record 10.5 million meals since Katrina made landfall in late August.

"The milestone of more than 10 million prepared meals in the recent response to hurricanes exceeds the expectation of most any national, state or associational leader within Southern Baptist disaster relief," Burton said.

"Those 10 million-plus meals represent a renewal amongst our people to be on mission with God



**HAPPY MEALS** Chricendie Joseph, 7, helps pick up meals for her family from a Southern Baptist feeding unit at First Baptist Church in Belle Glade, Fla. Southern Baptist disaster relief units have served more than 10.5 million meals this year. (BP photo by Joni Hanigan/Florida Baptist Witness)

in North America," he added. "Disasters throw the gates of North American missions wide open, and our people have sacrificially carried the banner of Christ to their neighbors in need."

With more than a million customers still without power in south Florida, dangerous four-way intersections and a 7 p.m. curfew make it difficult for relief workers to begin emergency feeding operations in some areas.

Fritz Wilson, director of the Florida Baptist Convention's disaster relief command center at First Baptist Church in Naples, said Wilma's effect on the state's west coast was devastating to many people but that electrical power was rapidly returning to that side of the state.

Wilson and other leaders from the Florida Baptist Convention recently joined other staff at a command center at Pembroke Road Baptist Church in Miramar, a suburb of Miami, to deliver needed equipment.

"The hard part of this is just the sheer volume of people who are so used to power," Wilson noted. "Even 24 hours without power is hard."

Cecil Seagle, director of the Florida Baptist Convention's missions division, said relief and recovery efforts are "going extremely well considering the enormity of Wilma's destructive power."

"The magnitude of our Southern Baptist friends is magnified by this reality," he added. "Florida Baptists will be forever grateful for the magnificent response of our friends."

Contributions for disaster relief may be sent to state conventions, associations or churches responding to the effort or to NAMB. Donations to Southern Baptist disaster relief can be made online, [www.NAMB.net](http://www.NAMB.net), or by calling (866) 407-6262. Contributions also can be mailed to Southern Baptist Disaster Relief, North American Mission Board, Box 116543, Atlanta, GA 30368-6543.

## Volunteers begin cleanup at New Orleans Seminary

New Orleans (BP)—The first wave of volunteers in a major cleanup initiative at New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary arrived Oct. 31.

The first project for the team of volunteers from Alabama and Mississippi was the removal of belongings left behind by students in their apartments and dorm rooms, said Bob Jackson, director of the seminary's MissionLab program.

Each week, a new wave of up to 50 volunteers will arrive on campus until the cleanup and renovation of the upper floors of campus housing

is complete.

"You're just kind of numb," said Gordon Perry, a volunteer from First Baptist Church in Huntsville, Ala., describing his reaction to the magnitude of destruction on campus, "You can't believe it. It is just not imaginable."

Several volunteers said the hardest part about their cleanup task is throwing away personal belongings left behind after students returned to campus Oct. 5-9 to move out of their apartments and dorms. Some items are ruined, other possessions

were left because students could not fit them into vehicles.

Virginia Kidd of Haven Baptist Church in Madison, Ala., noted, "I think a lot of the students had not really unpacked, since this happened at the end of August. We found a lot of boxes where it looks like they just dug down in it to pull out some stuff and left the rest."

For information about participating in the campus cleanup, contact Bob and Linda Jackson by calling (404) 226-9367 or by e-mail at [bob@missionlab.com](mailto:bob@missionlab.com).

## Relief 'brewhaha': Volunteers didn't withhold water

Clewiston, Fla. (ABP)—Southern Baptist disaster relief leaders are denying reports, spread widely across the Internet, that



a group of their volunteers in Florida refused to give water to victims of Hurricane Wilma because it came from a beer-brewing company.

A Fort Myers, Fla., television news crew first reported the alleged incident Oct. 28. NBC-2 reported that workers cooking meals at First Baptist Church of Clewiston, Fla., declined to hand out canned water provided by Anheuser-Busch.

The story was quickly picked up by several Internet weblogs, prompting criticism of Southern Baptists. But the Alabama Baptist newspaper reported Nov. 3 that the TV station's story wasn't entirely accurate.

Keith Hinson, spokesman for the Alabama Baptist State Convention, said: "It is an absolute falsehood to suggest—as many irresponsible bloggers have—that the Baptist volunteers withheld the basic needs of life from Floridians impacted by the hurricane."

The paper reported that Baptist feeding units typically cook meals that either are distributed on site or taken into the community by the Red Cross. Such sites typically do not serve as distribution locations for water, ice or any commodities other than hot meals.

Vernon Lee, an Alabama Baptist volunteer at the site, told the paper the Anheuser-Busch truck arrived and was authorized by Red Cross officials to unload its cans of water, even though the site was not designated for water distribution.

Tim Bridges, pastor of the Clewiston church, said the Anheuser-Busch logo—an eagle inside of a capital "A"—was offensive to him and some church members. "I didn't want to send out a mixed message."

"All that was said was that First Baptist Church people would not be the ones handing it out," he explained. "We didn't refuse the water. Others were giving it out. We were handing out (SBC-supplied) water hand over fist."

Red Cross volunteers, who were working the site with Baptist volunteers, apparently distributed the Busch water. And, the pastor added, Baptist volunteers would have done the same if they had run out of other water.

Bridges noted several other distribution stations nearby were handing out water as well. "I would have no problem giving the people the (Anheuser-Busch water) if they were thirsty, but they were not thirsty," he said.

## Baylor University leaders tap Nevada educator as president

By Marv Knox & Ken Camp  
Texas Baptist Standard

Waco, Texas—Baylor University regents unanimously elected John Lilley, president of the University of Nevada at Reno, as the Texas Baptist university's 13th president.

His election Nov. 3 followed the unanimous recommendation of an 11-member regents presidential search committee.

Regents Chair Will Davis of Austin described the unanimity surrounding Lilley's selection as "remarkable" given the deep divisions among Baylor's various constituencies in recent years.

Lilley, 66, is "a consensus builder" who impressed the regents with his "collaborative approach" to leadership and love for Baylor, Davis said. He takes office Jan. 9, succeeding Robert Sloan, who became university chancellor June 1.

Lilley earned three degrees from Baylor and in January, the Baylor Alumni Association awarded him its Distinguished Alumni Award.

Lilley, the son of a Louisiana Baptist pastor, is a licensed Baptist minister who served as a minister of music during his student years.

Although he has been an ordained ruling elder in Presbyterian churches in recent years, Lilley and his wife, Gerrie, said they look forward to "coming home" and rejoining First Baptist Church of Waco.

Although Lilley has not been a member of a Baptist church for much of his adult life, "I was raised a Baptist and always have been a Baptist," he said.

Baptist General Convention of Texas Executive Director Charles Wade called Lilley's election an answer to prayer.

"I have been in conversation with some of those who brought his name forward, and they have been excited to tell me that this man understands Texas Baptists and wants to be a faithful partner in helping Baylor University and the BGCT move together to achieve great goals to the glory of God," Wade said.

Fielding questions from reporters, Lilley noted that in recent years, Baylor's constituencies have argued about how to balance "faith and learning"—its legacy as a Baptist Christian university as well as its desire to be respected for its academics. "Baylor has had a spirited debate about how to do it," he said, "but agreement that it should be done."

"We must find a way to be intentional about Baylor's faith," he declared. "The only way to deal with this is to talk it through. I can't resolve it, but I think I can create an environment where reasonable people can come together and work this out."

Lilley majored in music at Baylor, earning bachelor's degrees in 1961 and 1962 and a master of music degree in 1964. He earned his doctorate in music at the University of Southern California in 1971.

He became president of the University of Nevada at Reno in April 2001 after serving 21 years as president of Penn State University at Erie.

# KBC candidates discuss Georgetown, presidential appointments

## Chitwood: KBC must find ways to involve younger generation

**Paul Chitwood**, pastor of First Baptist Church of Mount Washington, served as Kentucky Baptist Convention first vice president in 2003-04. He is a trustee of the Southern Baptist International Mission Board and an adjunct professor at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary. He served on the KBC Mission Study Committee and the KBC/Georgetown College workgroup, currently serves on the KBC Mission Advisory Committee and is a former Kentucky Baptist Pastors' Conference president.



Paul Chitwood

### Q: Why are you willing to be nominated as Kentucky Baptist Convention president?

I have always maintained the conviction that what our churches can accomplish for the Kingdom increases exponentially when they cooperate together. My involvement in the KBC has been motivated by that conviction. Thus, I have always been willing to serve our denomination in any capacity the Lord allows.

### Q: What would be your primary hopes and goals as KBC president?

I would have three primary goals as KBC president:

- 1) To support the leadership of our KBC executive director.
- 2) To champion the goals of Kentucky Baptists Connect.
- 3) To promote the involvement of young leaders in the KBC.

### Q: Please share briefly about your personal spiritual pilgrimage.

Deacons from First Baptist Church of Jellico, Tenn., visited our home after my parents' divorce and invited my father and his three young sons to church. We became very involved in the life of the church, and during a visit to our home our pastor led my brothers and me to the Lord. We were baptized together.

From the day of my salvation until now, I have found the Lord to be my greatest source of joy and purpose in life. I have experienced His love, mercy and grace to a far greater degree than I could have ever deserved. I remained an active member of First Jellico until I accepted my first pastorate, South Fork Baptist Church in Owen County, Ky.

### Q: The report of the KBC workgroup that met with Georgetown College officials states that the KBC representatives "were grieved by the decision of the Georgetown trustees" to become a self-perpetuating board. As a member of that workgroup, were you personally grieved by Georgetown's action? If so, what were the primary reasons for your sense of grief?

Any grief I have felt concerning Georgetown's withdrawal from the current covenant agreement has been balanced with rejoicing. My rejoicing has come as a result of the ability of the workgroup to find a peaceful solution that will, I believe, make us a model for other state conventions struggling with similar issues.

My grief has resulted from the distancing of an entity that has been an institution of our convention since 1942. I share the regret expressed by our workgroup regarding the loss of Georgetown as one of our institutions. I do, however, understand the financial needs that are driving

Georgetown's decision and my prayer is that Georgetown will be able to fulfill God's purpose for the institution.

### Q: What is your view of the overall proposed ministry partnership between Georgetown College and the KBC?

Negotiations, by their nature, require give and take. While everyone involved may not be totally satisfied with the outcome of every point of negotiation, I do believe the new partnership that is being proposed is the best that we could hope for from both parties. Georgetown has expressed a desire to remain a vital part of KBC life. The KBC has also expressed a desire to be supportive of the new role that Georgetown will assume. I think that is a win-win.

### Q: What is your view of the KBC's five-year "Kentucky Baptists Connect" emphasis on evangelism, church growth and other ministry priorities?

Having served on the Mission Study Committee that proposed Kentucky Baptists Connect to our convention, I realize that my opinion may be biased. Still, I see this emphasis as one of the greatest opportunities ever set before our convention. Tangible results already are being witnessed throughout the state as new networks are being formed, baptisms are being celebrated and leaders are being energized. I am convinced that our Lord is using Kentucky Baptists Connect to challenge our churches to be more committed to our Kingdom partnerships.

### Q: One of the key responsibilities as president is to appoint three members to the KBC committee on committees. What criteria would you use to make your appointments?

I would have three primary criteria in making appointments:

- 1) Is the candidate and his or her church supportive of the Cooperative Program?
- 2) Is the candidate and his or her church supportive of our executive director?
- 3) Is the candidate and his or her church committed to the authority of Scripture and exclusivity of the gospel?

### Q: How would you describe yourself in the current political/theological landscape of Baptist life?

I would describe myself as a Bible-believing Southern Baptist.

### Q: What do you consider Kentucky Baptists' greatest strengths? Why?

The greatest strength of Kentucky Baptists is the God we serve. Whatever we accomplish of value will be initiated by God, empowered by God, blessed by God and accomplished by God. With that understood, I see evidence of God at work through our leadership. I also believe that, in a day when many conventions are weakening in their influence and splintering in their unanimity, the KBC is poised to accomplish its greatest work for the Kingdom.

### Q: What do you consider Kentucky Baptists' greatest needs? Why?

The greatest need of Kentucky Baptists is to involve the next generation in the life of the denomination. If we do not successfully meet that need, we have scripted failure for our future.

## DeFoor: KBC needs greater involvement by laity, minorities

**Bob DeFoor**, pastor of Harrodsburg Baptist Church, served as Kentucky Baptist Convention first vice president in 1993-94. He is a trustee of Baptist Seminary of Kentucky and previously was a member of the KBC Executive Board, chairman of the Western Recorder board of directors, a trustee of Georgetown College, moderator of the Kentucky Baptist Fellowship and a member of the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship Coordinating Council.



Bob DeFoor

### Q: Why are you willing to be nominated as Kentucky Baptist Convention president?

I was surprised when I was asked to be nominated. It was not something I was running for, but as I considered where we are as Kentucky Baptists, I did not feel it was something I should run from. I do not presume to know God's will concerning who will be elected, but I am at peace with where I am today.

### Q: What would be your primary hopes and goals as KBC president?

Two Bible verses are guiding stars for me—2 Timothy 2:15 and Matthew 6:33. Additionally, I want to help the KBC staff, Mission Board, colleges and other agencies to fulfill their mission. I hope that Kentucky Baptists can appreciate diversity among our churches

and not distrust it. I want us to feel better about one another and our mutual work in Kentucky.

### Q: Please share briefly about your personal spiritual pilgrimage.

Born to Baptist parents, I confessed Jesus as my Lord and Savior at age 10. Following God's call, I entered Southern Seminary in 1964 and was taught by giants of faith and scholarship, including professors Stagg, Ward, Francisco, Oates and many others. At churches in Boston, Glendale and Harrodsburg, I learned and grew, strengthened by these and other Kentucky Baptists in 34 of my 40 years of pastoral ministry. Sandy, my wife, has been an encouragement and example to my continued spiritual growth and development through the years.

### Q: In a recent letter to supporters, you wrote: "Fundamentalism is raising its ugly head among Kentucky Baptists and we have an opportunity to say 'no more, not here, not now, not ever.'" What is the basis of your concerns about fundamentalism in the state?

I believe, at least some of the time, what fundamentalists say. Jerry Falwell said that fundamentalists now control all the SBC seminaries. Prominent Kentucky Baptists toured our state a few years ago and said, "Call us fundamentalists, for that is who we are." I accept their word for who they are.

We Kentucky Baptists are mostly conservative people, not fundamentalists; however, many are influenced by fundamentalist leaders in Kentucky and outside Kentucky who want to control Kentucky Baptists for political and religious reasons. I agree when Jimmy Draper wrote, "fundamentalism is more dangerous than liberalism" ("The Church Christ Approves," pgs. 38-43).

Fundamentalism, whether in Islam, Judaism, Christianity or Baptist life, is not about fundamentals of faith but is a

fear-driven, control-focused distortion of religion. Fundamentalists define doctrinal purity, then demand conformity, but in the process lose the real fundamentals of the gospel, which Jesus said are the love of God and neighbor. Fundamentalism is nervous about freedom and undercuts historic Baptist beliefs. Couple fundamentalism with Calvinism, and you have people who believe they are God-ordained to remake churches, denominations and society in their image. Jesus lovingly but firmly opposed fundamentalism in His day and we should too. Baptist-style fundamentalism is alive, but it never has been well, in Kentucky.

### Q: What is your view of the proposed ministry partnership between Georgetown College and the KBC?

I support the proposed partnership—and it is a partnership. I appreciate the work of Dr. Bill Crouch and Dr. Hershael York in helping Kentucky Baptists take a step forward in enhancing the ministry and relationship of both parties.

### Q: What is your view of the KBC's five-year "Kentucky Baptists Connect" emphasis on evangelism, church growth and other ministry priorities?

Baptists will see that the KBC is truly concerned about helping churches be more effective in the 21st century. I will do what I can, whether president or not, to help Kentucky Baptists be connected to not only our "Connect" goals but also to each other.

### Q: One of the key responsibilities as president is to appoint three members to the KBC committee on committees. What criteria would you use to make your appointments?

Many groups need to be represented better in KBC life. I will encourage greater involvement of laypersons, both male and female; church ministerial staff members; and minority and ethnic representatives. I don't rule out selecting pastors, but we pastors tend to be well represented already.

### Q: How would you describe yourself in the current political/theological landscape of Baptist life?

Fundamentally, I am a conservative Baptist Christian, who believes in applying the gospel of Jesus Christ liberally to every person and facet of society in a non-extremist, moderate manner. Did I use all the labels? Labels, also known as prejudgments, are inadequate. We often accept the label, knowing very little of the person or group involved. Labeling causes us to lose the joy of fellowship with others in God's family.

### Q: What do you consider Kentucky Baptists' greatest strengths? Why?

There are a lot of us. That's good. Most of us are trying to find ways to serve the Lord and make a difference for Him in our world. That's good. As long as the KBC involves all Kentucky Baptists and embodies the Great Commandments and Great Commission, the KBC will continue to build up churches, unite Baptists in serving together and have a "salt and light" impact in our world.

### Q: What do you consider Kentucky Baptists' greatest needs? Why?

To the world, we need to do better in sharing the gospel to all people. We also need to do better in affirming there is only one race and that is called "human." To one another as Baptists, we need to consider what it means to be together "in Christ" and to "be kind one to another."

## KBC 2005 Presidential Candidate Profiles

## WESTERN RECORDER

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

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## Turning church attendees into family members

By Rick Warren

Lake Forest, Calif. (BP)—“Now you are no longer strangers to God and foreigners to heaven, but you are members of God’s very own family ... and you belong in God’s household with every other Christian” (Ephesians 2:19).

Today, a lot of Christians are what I call “floating believers.” It is an expression of America’s rampant individualism. Anywhere else in the world, being a believer is synonymous with being connected to a local body of believers. You rarely find a lone ranger Christian in other countries.

Many American Christians, however, hop from one church to another without any identity, accountability or commitment. They have not been taught that the Christian life involves more than just believing—it also includes belonging. We grow in Christ by being in relationship to other Christians.

C.S. Lewis once wrote an essay on church membership, reminding us that the word “membership” is of Christian origin, but it has been taken over by the world and emptied of its original meaning.

Today, most people associate the term “membership” with paying dues, meaningless rituals, silly rules and handshakes, and having your name on some dusty roll.

The Apostle Paul, however, had a very different image of membership. To Paul, being a “member” of the church did not refer to some cold induction into an institution. Rather, it meant becoming a vital organ of a living body (Romans 12:4-5, 1 Corinthians 6:15, 1 Corinthians 12:12-27). We need to reclaim this image.

## Meaning of membership

Joining a church used to be an act of conformity in our society. You joined a church because everybody else did. Now the rules have changed and conformity is no longer a motivating factor. In fact, George Gallup has found that the vast majority of Americans believe it is possible to be

a “good Christian” without joining (or even attending) a local church.

Membership is now an act of commitment. The way you motivate people to join today is to show them value-for-value what benefits are in return for their commitment.

## COMMENTARY

At Saddleback, we’ve found that when people understand the meaning and value of membership, they get excited about it.

There are numerous benefits to membership:

■ It identifies me as a genuine believer (Ephesians 2:19, Romans 12:5).

■ It provides a spiritual family to support and encourage me in my walk with Christ (Galatians 6:1-2, Hebrews 10:24-25).

■ It gives me a place to discover and use my gifts in ministry (1 Corinthians 12:4-27).

■ It places me under the spiritual protection of godly leaders (Hebrews 13:17, Acts 20:28-29).

■ It gives me the accountability I need to grow (Ephesians 5:21).

Nothing helps this picture come into focus like personalizing the purposes of the church. This is especially important when convincing attendees in your crowd to join your congregation.

You need to emphasize the fact that the church provides them with benefits they cannot find anywhere else in the world:

■ Worship helps me focus on God. It prepares me spiritually and emotionally for the week ahead.

■ Fellowship helps me face life’s problems by providing the support and encouragement of other Christians.

■ Discipleship helps me fortify my faith by learning the truth of God’s Word and applying biblical principles to my lifestyle.

■ Ministry helps me find and develop my talents and use them in serving others.

■ Evangelism helps me fulfill my mission of reaching my friends and family for Christ.

There are many analogies for

a Christian disconnected from a church: A football player without a team; a soldier without a platoon; a tuba player without an orchestra; and a sheep without a flock.

But the most understandable (and biblical) picture is that of a child without a family.

1 Timothy 3:15 refers to the church as “the family of God. That family is the church of the living God, the support and foundation of the truth.”

I believe it is important today to position the church as a family, rather than as an institution. Since the 1960s, Americans have become increasingly anti-institutional. They use the phrase “organized religion” with contempt.

On the other hand, people are longing for a sense of family and community.

In our mobile society, people have few roots. People are no longer surrounded by the extended family of aunts and uncles, grandparents and brothers and sisters that provided a safety net for previous generations.

## Longing to belong

Today, we have a record number of single adults in America. Vance Packard called America “a nation of strangers.” As a result, we’re experiencing an epidemic of loneliness in society. One Gallup poll reported that four in 10 Americans admit to frequent feelings of “intense loneliness.” Americans are, in fact, the loneliest people in the world.

Everywhere you look there are signs that people have a deep hunger for fellowship, community and a sense of family. Independent-minded baby boomers suddenly are longing to be connected as they grow older.

This longing for belonging provides the church with a timely opportunity. Positioning the church as an extended family—and as “a place where you are cared for”—will strike a sensitive chord in many lonely hearts.

Rick Warren, pastor of Saddleback Church in Lake Forest, Calif., is author of “The Purpose-Driven Life.”

## Commitment to Christian cooperation

I believe God has directed Kentucky Baptists to a new level of cooperation. This is being manifested in several ways at the upcoming annual meeting to be held Nov. 15-16 at the Frankfort Convention Center.

The decision by Georgetown College trustees to become a self-perpetuating board could have been very divisive, as similar decisions have been in other states. However, the KBC representatives on the Georgetown committee have done an excellent work relating to Georgetown College representatives in reaching a win-win solution.

The two groups worked together to develop an ongoing relationship that will enable Georgetown College and the KBC to pursue their uniquely select objectives and goals.

The one person who has been most strategic in this process is KBC President Hershael York. I am grateful for his work with Georgetown College and concerned church lead-

ers to develop and interpret the process. And, once again, Kentucky Baptists are indebted to Charles Barnes who provided leadership in guiding the work of the joint committees.

Kentucky Baptists also are working together to carry out the theme of this year’s convention, “Strengthening Every Church.” Please pray for messengers as they assemble to conduct Kingdom business, hear inspiring Cooperative Program missions stories, meet with friends and enlarge their vision for missions.

There also is a strong emphasis on baptisms titled “Our Best For God’s Best” that encourages every church to set challenging goals in baptisms. Worthy goals have been set by SBC President Bobby Welch (1 million baptisms) and by the KBC (25,000 baptisms).

It is my prayer that every Kentucky Baptist will pray every day for individuals to be reached and baptized into local churches and

developed as followers of Christ.

Pray that God will increase the passion of Kentucky Baptists for revival in the churches and for the lost to come to Christ. The cooperation of every Kentucky Baptist will be required if people in the commonwealth are to be reached for Christ and assimilated into KBC churches.

During the Tuesday night session a new assimilation resource will be introduced. “Getting People Connected” will focus on raising expectations for new members, building relationships, getting involved in a ministry and becoming part of a small group for accountability.

Necessary business will be conducted Wednesday morning, but most of the time will be given to three seminars on strengthening every church. Biblical scholar Richard Blackaby will focus on spiritual life development; children’s evangelism expert Art Murphy will focus on reaching children; and leadership expert Reggie McNeal will focus on reaching future generations.

Pastors should plan to come and bring their staff and lay leaders. Bill Mackey is executive director of the Kentucky Baptist Convention

## GIVING

## Plan now to help maximize year-end tax-saving efforts

By Laurie Valentine

With Dec. 31 fast approaching, now is a good time to review tax saving actions you already have taken this year and determine if there are other things to do before year-end to further reduce your 2005 income taxes.

If you will be in a lower tax bracket in 2006, it could be prudent to defer some of this year’s income until next year and to pay deductible items before Dec. 31, 2005, that you typically would pay early next year.

Business and professional people who use the cash accounting method can defer the receipt of income by not billing until year-end for services rendered in 2005. Receipt of a bonus that your employer is free to give or not give can be deferred into next year to lower your 2005 compensation income.

Pay real estate taxes and the Jan. 15 installment of state and local income taxes before Dec. 31 to accelerate these deductible items into the 2005 tax year. If possible, pay all medical bills, if the total will exceed 7.5 percent of your adjusted gross income, before year-end to be able to use that expense as a deduction.

Another income tax deduction that is easy to accelerate is the charitable deduction. You have total control on when this deduction will be available; all you have to do is complete your charitable gifts before Dec. 31.

Your tithes and offerings are “charitable gifts” that can be deducted on your income tax return, if you itemize. You also can deduct gifts of appreciated securities, mutual fund shares, real estate, business interests and life insurance policies to your church, Kentucky Baptist and Southern Baptist causes or other qualified charities.

Charitable income tax deductions are available both for outright gifts and life income gifts such as charitable gift annuities and charitable remainder trusts.

Make time for year-end tax planning; it can pay off for you and the charitable causes you choose to support.

Laurie Valentine is trust counsel for the Kentucky Baptist Foundation



## Shared Christian commitment can help strengthen marriage

**Q: My pastor talks a lot about the importance of having a Christian marriage. What makes a marriage Christian?**

Perhaps the best way to answer your question is to begin with what does not make a marriage Christian. A marriage is not Christian just because:

### MARRIAGE

■ The couple got married and holds membership in a church.

- Sits together in a beautiful sanctuary each week.
- Occasionally prays together.
- Owns a family Bible.

In fact, the point could be made that there is no such thing as a marriage that is Christian. Only individuals can give their lives to Christ. There is, however, such a thing as a marriage that is marked by steadfast commitment of each partner to the Lord Jesus Christ. Some of the marks of this distinct marriage include:

- Each partner is committed to Christ and active in the life of the local church.
- Each partner spends time regularly in spiritual disciplines such as prayer, Bible study, silence, solitude and service.
- Each partner prays for, and with, his or her spouse.
- Each partner is marked by the fruit of the Spirit: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control.
- Each partner is willing to give up his or her quest for the ring of power and selfish ambition as they strive to serve the true Lord of the Rings.

How disturbing that the rate of divorce for the so-called "Christian marriage" is just about equal to the divorce rate for "non-Christian" marriages. It is interesting to note, however, that a recent Gallup study revealed the divorce rate for couples who pray together on a daily basis is one out of 1,156 couples.—Scott Wigginton

**Q: Can "therapy" be invasive to children?**

In their book, "One Nation Under Therapy," Christina Hoff Sommers and Sally Satel document a tendency in our society to pathologize and medicalize healthy children.

This results from assuming everything that happens around our children as well as to them affects them at the deepest levels, requiring processing through talk therapy or other forms of expression. Such "therapy" views life as traumatic, and every life experience as something children need help handling.

Such therapy becomes invasive when it forces children to express, in public, feelings or experiences that are intensely personal and private. A child might choose to write or talk about their feelings on their own, but assigning them to do so or insisting that they do so can project feelings and emotions into a situation that may or may not be all that difficult for the child.

Therapy becomes invasive when it projects feelings and fears onto children, creating crisis when none exists. One year after 9-11, materials endorsed by the National Education Association were distributed to help children cope with what was called the "anniversary effect." However, as Sommers and Satel point out, apart from boys and girls directly victimized by the attack, there was no evidence that America's schoolchildren needed psychological comforting.

Therapy becomes invasive when teachers or counselors force children to obsess over feelings and share them with others, telling them they should feel a certain way or asking them to respond to events in prescribed ways. Although grief counselors often descend on schools whether or not they are needed, Sommers and Satel found that most children respond quite well to a crisis without any outside help.—David Garrard

Family Forum writers are:

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

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

**Valerie Vincent**, Christian counselor with Hardy Associates in Louisville. E-mail: dr.vincent@insightbb.com.

**Scott Wigginton**, associate professor of pastoral ministries and counseling at Campbellsville University. E-mail: sewigginton@campbellsville.edu.

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



## KBC focus: 'Strengthening Every Church'

"Kentucky Baptists Connect: Strengthening Every Church" is the focus of next week's Kentucky Baptist Convention annual meeting.

While that certainly is a worthy goal, successfully strengthening every one of the KBC's 2,400-plus congregations is a monumental undertaking.

So far, more than 370 churches officially have signed up to become "connecting" churches. While that's a positive start for the inaugural year of the KBC's five-year "Connect" emphasis, so far it involves only about 15 percent of churches across the commonwealth.

By comparison, the state convention's 2003 Mission Study Committee report states that approximately 450 Kentucky Baptist churches did not baptize anyone in 2002. That is one of many statistics that demonstrate the urgent need to help strengthen churches.

How will next week's KBC annual meeting help? Program highlights include a series of Wednesday morning seminars aimed at key church needs. Richard Blackaby will focus on "Spiritual Preparation for Connecting People to Jesus Christ." Art Murphy will highlight "Taking Your Children's Ministry to the Next Level" and Reggie McNeal will discuss "Connecting Future Generations to Jesus Christ."

Other program highlights during the Nov. 15-16 sessions at Frankfort Convention Center will include the KBC president's address by Hershael York on Tuesday morning, the annual convention sermon by Bill Henard on Tuesday afternoon and a Tuesday evening emphasis on "Engaging and Involving New Members," featuring a message by Jason Pettus.

Combined with ministry reports, prayer emphases, drama and other program features, messengers from churches throughout the state hopefully will return home both inspired and equipped to help achieve Kentucky Baptists Connect goals in such areas as evangelism, discipleship and leader training.

### STRAIGHT FROM THE EDITOR



Trennis Henderson

Of course, a key part of any KBC annual meeting is convention business. In addition to voting on a 2006-2007 Cooperative Program budget goal of more than \$23.5 million, messengers will take action on committee reports, resolutions and miscellaneous business items.

Among major items of business are:

**Proposed ministry partnership between Georgetown College and the KBC.** The proposal being recommended by a KBC workgroup that met with Georgetown officials comes in response to Georgetown trustees' decision to establish a self-perpetuating board.

The plan messengers will consider details how the KBC and Georgetown will alter the two entities' current relationship. Primary changes include the Georgetown board electing its own members beginning in 2006 and the KBC phasing out Georgetown's annual \$1.3 million Cooperative Program allocation over the next four years.

**Officer elections.** Six Kentucky Baptist pastors have announced plans to be nominated for KBC office—two each for president, first vice president and second vice president.

Paul Chitwood, pastor of First Baptist Church of Mount Washington, and Bob DeFoor, pastor of Harrodsburg Baptist Church, are the announced candidates for state convention president. Our annual "Presidential Candidate Profiles" on page 3 detail their views on a number of key issues facing Kentucky Baptists, including the Georgetown proposal and what criteria they would use to make presidential appointments to the pivotal KBC committee on committees. I encourage every convention messenger to take time to carefully read their responses and determine which nominee would best represent Kentucky Baptists in the year ahead.

As Kentucky Baptists focus on "Strengthening Every Church," may we diligently seek God's will during next week's convention sessions and throughout the coming year.

## New Orleans pastors: 'Iron sharpening iron'

By Joe McKeever

**New Orleans (BP)**—Each Wednesday, ministers in the New Orleans area have been meeting at First Baptist Church of LaPlace for fellowship and information. About 50 of us gather each time, but it's never the same group.

On Wednesday, Nov. 2, a young pastor who serves a non-Southern Baptist church in Kenner addressed the group. "I've been in this area for nine years, and I've been impressed with the work of Southern Baptists. I know what you believe and it's the same thing my church stands for. After Katrina hit, I did not see any of my denomination's people down here at all. The first people on the ground were Southern Baptists, and they're everywhere, ministering in Jesus' name. It's outstanding."

"And I want my church to be a part of that," the pastor said. "So I am here, officially requesting to join the Southern Baptist Convention."

Everyone applauded. We might have lost 30 or more churches from Hurricane Katrina, but we just gained one.

After the prayer time, our two-and-a-half-hour meeting was jam-packed with one person after another rising to address the group. Disaster relief workers talked about cleanup, building people about permits, and financial people about insurance and loans. One pastor gave a report that Franklin Graham will lead a two-day festival at the New Or-

leans Arena, next to the Superdome, on Jan. 28 and 29. Another spoke of plans to invite all the "first responders" to a banquet or barbecue to show them proper appreciation for all they did to secure the city. Others told of the counseling available for those having trouble dealing with this crisis.

First Baptist Church of Covington, on the north shore of Lake Pontchartrain, has invited our ministers and spouses to have our Christmas banquet in their facilities as their guests at no charge. We gladly accepted and agreed on a date.

One of the most heartening things I heard was a simple word about our weekly meetings. A denominational worker told the group how he was serving a church in South Florida years ago when a hurricane did massive devastation. "We did not have weekly gatherings like this," he said. "Each pastor was pretty much on his own, and it was tough. Within a year, most had bailed out and gone to other places. I want to commend you for getting together like this."

We started these weekly sessions during the evacuation, the first being Wednesday, Sept. 14, at First Baptist Church in Jackson, Miss., when 20 of us drove from every direction to meet. We have not missed a Wednesday since. I have found myself wondering how much good we were doing, looking to the attendance as a clue. But probably the best gauge is that when the meeting

is dismissed for lunch at 11:30 sharp, no one leaves. Some are still standing, talking, 30 minutes later, still not having eaten. Something important is taking place here.

One speaker said, "There's a verse of Scripture that comes to mind: 'As iron sharpens iron, so one man sharpens another.'" Everyone nodded. No one told him we've heard that verse from Proverbs 27:17 at every meeting. We keep discovering the truth of our ministry to and dependence on one another.

One of our chief failings in the days before the hurricane was the isolation of our churches and pastors, and the resulting insulation of our church members. But God is showing us a better way. We've received so much from God's people from one end of the country to the other and even beyond, none of us will brag again about our independence. We are so dependent on the Lord and so interdependent with each other, we've found a far superior way to live and minister.

No one knows yet what our churches in the new New Orleans will look like. But we are determined to be part of a new team of God, partners with one another and with all those who love the Lord Jesus Christ.

We have received so much from so many. We will be eternally in debt. Which is just fine, because a wise man once said, "No one unwilling to be eternally in debt can ever be a disciple of the Lord Jesus."

Joe McKeever is director of missions for the Baptist Association of Greater New Orleans.

## Ashland pastor to be nominated as KBC second VP

Frankfort—Ronnie Mayes, pastor of Rose Hill Baptist Church in Ashland, will be nominated as Kentucky Baptist Convention second vice president during next week's KBC annual meeting in Frankfort.

Mayes, pastor of Rose Hill Church for three years, will be nominated by Harold Cathey, director of missions for Greenup Baptist Association.

Describing Mayes as "a good, strong pastor," Cathey said Rose Hill is "one of our leading churches here in Ashland."

"My heartbeat is to serve the Lord wherever I can," Mayes noted. He said his goal is to "do anything we can to help our churches and state convention reach more people for the Lord."

Mayes, who previously was pastor of churches in Arkansas, is a graduate of Henderson State University in Arkadelphia, Ark.; East Texas State University in Commerce; and Mid-America Baptist Seminary in Memphis. He also served six years at Mid-America as an instructor and director of the school's practical missions, church placement and alumni departments.

A member of the KBC Mission Board, he also has served on the Southern Baptist Convention committee on committees and credentials committee.

In addition to Mayes, other announced nominees for KBC office are:

■ President: Paul Chitwood, pastor of First Baptist Church of Mount Washington, and Bob DeFoor, pastor of Harrodsburg Baptist Church.

■ First vice president: John Mark Toby, pastor of Beacon Hill Baptist Church in Somerset, and Tommy Valentine, pastor of Lexington Avenue Baptist Church in Danville.

■ Second vice president: Bill Shoulta, pastor of Melbourne Heights Baptist Church in Louisville.

# Kentucky churches enlist to help Gulf Coast churches

Continued from page 1

After learning of the need in Waveland, Rich Pond voted to delay remodeling its educational building until January, after its mission team reports its findings.

That could result in shifting \$150,000 from renovations to Gulf Coast repairs, although pastor Steve Hussung said members don't want to commit those funds until they have more information.

"I didn't know what kind of response we would get," Hussung said of a deacon's suggestion that the church delay remodeling. "It got strong support. Their willingness to wait on that to help someone else pleased me."

In Waveland, Case and others found a church whose building was completely blown away. Only the concrete slab remains, through members found the pulpit in the woods after the storm.

Rich Pond member Perry Tichner offered to refinish the banged-up pulpit, but Lakeshore Pastor Don Elbourne declined, Case said.

"He said, 'Right now the scratches and scars remind us of where we've been.'"

### More work than people

Crestwood Baptist Church of Crestwood sent a team to First Baptist Church of Bay St. Louis, Miss., the week of Oct. 17.

The 39 volunteers removed mud



**STORM SURGE** Pews at First Baptist Church in Pass Christian, Miss., swirled in the surge of Hurricane Katrina. Kentucky Baptist churches are linking with congregations along the Gulf Coast to help with long-term ministry and financial support. (BP photo by Norm Miller)

from homes, cleared debris, cut up damaged and downed trees, and distributed supplies to storm victims.

Team leader Tom Townsend said volunteers also removed drywall in the sanctuary after water there reached a depth of four feet.

"There's more to do than there are people to do it," Townsend said. "There's so much devastation you're talking 18 to 24 months (to rebuild)."

Teaching pastor Chris Platt said Crestwood Baptist hopes to send teams back the second week of December, another during spring break and a team of up to 100 next summer.

Platt, who was part of a three-member advance team that visited

Bay St. Louis in late September, said the long-term plan will depend on what exactly is needed.

However, he said response to the needs had stimulated excitement in the congregation.

"This has encouraged people to do missions," Platt said. "There's a real passion (among) people to get involved."

Sand Spring Baptist Church in Lawrenceburg already has been paying rent for a Louisiana family who relocated to Kentucky after Katrina destroyed their home in New Orleans.

Although it doesn't yet know what churches it will help on the Gulf Coast, pastor Mike Hamrick said Sand Spring is contemplating giving between \$25,000 and \$100,000 to help rebuild churches that have been destroyed.

That sum probably will be added to a loan balance of about \$320,000 left from a \$2.5 million building project completed in 2002, Hamrick said.

"We felt we could get the money there quicker if we just added it to the church loan," the pastor said. "Then we could ask people to reimburse that. They need the money right away."

Construction of a family life and education center also might be put on hold if Sand Spring sends more money for Gulf Coast relief, Hamrick said.

"We think helping rebuild churches is a way we can help other believers."

First Baptist Church of Ashland has sent half a dozen members and staffers to Louisiana, with several working at Immanuel Baptist Church in Slidell.

Pastor Ed Talley doesn't know whether that will lead to a long-term partnership. But he expects to learn more when longtime state disaster relief volunteer Harold Moore returns home.

Moore originally went to Slidell, but he currently is working in Miami with a Kentucky feeding unit serving Hurricane Wilma victims.

"We haven't set down to map out a strategy yet, but we feel there will be long-term needs and we want to plug in to those," Talley said. "We have slated Nov. 13 for a special offering (for the Gulf Coast). How the money is spent will depend on what develops."

The KBC's Randy Jones, who is also a member of Westport Road Baptist Church's missions council, said the Louisville church will get involved in the state's partnership.

"This partnership with Louisiana and Mississippi will be our primary focus for the next one to three years," Jones said. "We may get it all done in one year, but traditionally you don't."

With additional reporting by News Director David Winfrey

receive him. "You like to re... fish, and they... wanted. "When they were all... Gather the piec... waste a bit." "I... me? "Do not think... the pieces left over fr... in the one who will accuse you... the five barley leaves which the peo... father, Moses, in whom... or hope, is the very one who... you. "If you had really believed... you would have believed... he wrote... do not believe... you believe what I say... Jesus Feeds Five Thousand... Matthew 14:13-21; Mark 6:30-44; Luke 9:10-17; John 6:1-14

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Dr. Joel C. Gregory

## Campbellsville UNIVERSITY

In support of Campbellsville University, alumni and friends are cordially invited to attend the Annual Convention Breakfast Wednesday, Nov. 16 7:30 a.m. at Holiday Inn • Frankfort, Ky.

(Capital Plaza, 405 Wilkinson Blvd.)

The breakfast is free, but reservations are requested and may be made by calling 1-800-264-6014 ext. 5211, or via e-mail at development@campbellsville.edu.



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# KENTUCKY BAPTIST FOUNDATION

## THE KENTUCKY BAPTIST FOUNDATION

provides financial solutions  
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Convention-related churches,  
associations, institutions  
and agencies and certain  
other IRC 501(c)(3)  
organizations through a  
wide variety of services.

CELEBRATING

60

YEARS

## EXECUTIVE LEADERS

**A.M. VOLLMER** July 1, 1946—August 31, 1964

**JAMES C. AUSTIN** September 1, 1964—September 30, 1967

**GRADY L. RANDOLPH** March 1, 1969—August 31, 1985

**RICHARD G. CARNES** December 1, 1988—August 15, 1995

**BARRY G. ALLEN** September 1, 1985—December 1, 1988 (Acting)  
February 1, 1996—Present



VOLLMER



AUSTIN



RANDOLPH



CARNES



ALLEN

## INVESTMENT APPROACH

### MANAGER OF MANAGERS

The KBF is a manager of managers, utilizing seven managers across four asset classes with different, but complementary styles and investment decision-making processes.

### INVESTMENT FUNDS

The KBF utilizes two investment funds to accomplish the goals and objectives of its clients:

#### EQUITY FUND

To preserve and enhance real inflation adjusted value of the principal of the funds, and to provide an increasing stream of earnings.

#### FIXED INCOME FUND

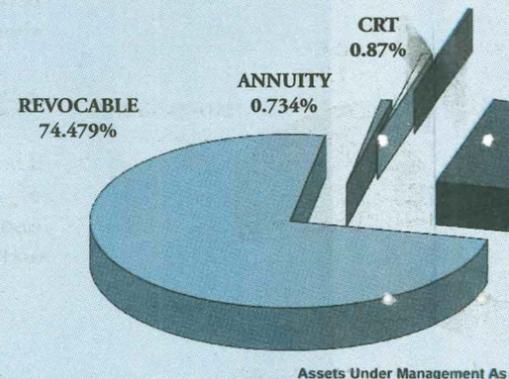
To maximize cash income while preserving principal in nominal terms.

### EQUITY FUND CHARACTERISTICS

#### ASSET CLASSES:

U.S. Large Cap Core	80%
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U.S. Small Cap Growth	5%
International Value	10%
<b>Total</b>	<b>100%</b>

### KENTUCKY BAPTIST FOUNDATION FUND TYPES



## 1945-1965

### CREATION

A motion was made from the floor of the annual meeting in 1943 in Bowling Green that a Foundation be created.

The General Association of Baptists in Kentucky created it in 1944 by approving a charter and transferred \$183,000 of its "trust" funds to the Foundation to begin operation.

### CORPORATION

The Foundation was incorporated March 8, 1945 and its first Board meeting was June 19, 1945 at which Dr. J. W. Black, General Secretary of the GABK, agreed to serve as Secretary-Treasurer of the Foundation until other and more permanent staff arrangements could be made.

### CULTIVATION

Following Dr. Black's eight months of service was Dr. W. C. Boone, also General Secretary of the GABK, who served 4 1/2 months until Dr. A. M. Vollmer was elected as the first full-time Executive effective July 1, 1946. Previously he was superintendent of the Louisville Orphan's Home. In his first report to the Board Dr. Vollmer said, because the Foundation was new and most of our Baptist people, including our pastors,

were not familiar with its purpose and work, he felt the preparation of literature to supply this information was the first need. He prepared 5,000 eight-page two-color folders entitled "Tomorrow's World." These were mailed to all pastors and 500 lay-members of our churches. Other seed-sowing activities were: supplied pulpits, attended associational meetings, requested pastors to supply the names of individuals who could and should make the Foundation the beneficiary in their wills, contacted Baptist bankers and lawyers in county seat towns and asked them to advise their Baptist clients about the wisdom of naming the Foundation as a beneficiary in their wills, and advertised in the Western Recorder.

### CAPTURE

The management consulting firm of Booze, Allen and Hamilton recommended in 1959 the Foundation become a department of the Executive Board of the GABK. The impact of that "capture" was felt for years to come; there was some beneficial and some limiting impact. The Foundation was a hybrid from that point until January 1, 1995 when the KBC restored it to full agency status.

## 1965-1985

### CENTRALIZATION

During this period the administrative, budget and promotional activities were centralized through the KBC Executive Board.

### CUSTODY

The fiduciary duties, including the accounting, related to the endowment and trust funds were centralized through the Kentucky Baptist Foundation Board of Directors and its custodian bank.

### COOPERATION

With the leadership of Grady Randolph, a high level of cooperation existed between the KBF Board and the KBC Executive Board under the leadership of two KBC executive secretaries, Harold Sanders and Frank Owen.

### CONSERVATION

Jim Austin and Randolph continued the Vollmer tradition of speaking in churches and associations, in promoting "Make Your Will Month" in January each year and in visiting with individuals about their estate plans.

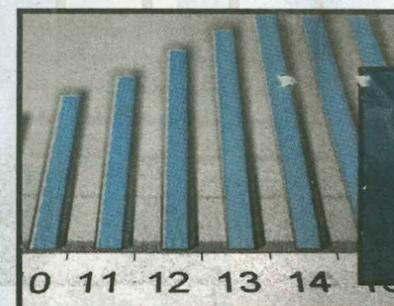
## 1985-1995

### CLARIFICATION

Following Grady Randolph's retirement, KBC executive secretary Bill Marshall engaged the KBF Board in a process to clarify and to enhance the KBF's role in the future of Kentucky Baptist life.

### CRITIQUE

KBC Business Manager Barry Allen served 39 months as the acting executive leader of the KBF. During this period of clarification and critique of how best to enhance the role of the KBF, progress was made in the implementation of new policies, engagement of several new institutional clients, reorganization of the board into several working committees, and election of the first woman board member.



## FULLY INVESTED

Philosophically the KBF stays fully invested at all times; does not try to time the markets.

## REBALANCING

### INDIVIDUAL ACCOUNTS

The rebalancing of an account will occur at the end of the calendar month in which the asset allocation between the equity fund and the fixed fund is more or less than 5 percentage points from its target allocation.

### CLASSES/STYLES/MANAGERS

Rebalancing among managers of all asset classes and styles, if needed, occurs at least once a year on August 31.

## CHRISTIAN-BASED SOCIAL SCREENING

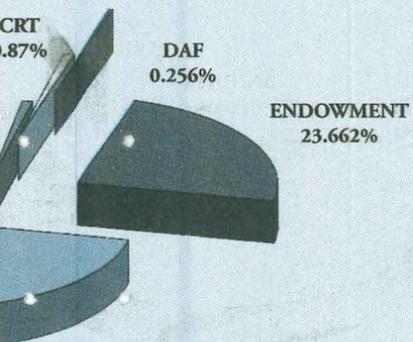
The KBF takes very seriously its fiduciary duty not only to use prudence in maximizing the earnings of an account, but also to invest in a manner consistent with the highest Christian moral and ethical standards as taught and implied in the Scriptures.

To that end the KBF avoids investments in any company which has a substantial interest or activity related to beverage alcohol, tobacco, gambling, pornography or abortion.

## SUPERVISION

The KBF Investment Committee, within the framework of policy set by the Board of Directors, has direct responsibility for oversight and management of all funds and managers of funds.

## TRUST FOUNDATION TYPES



Under Management As of August 31, 2005

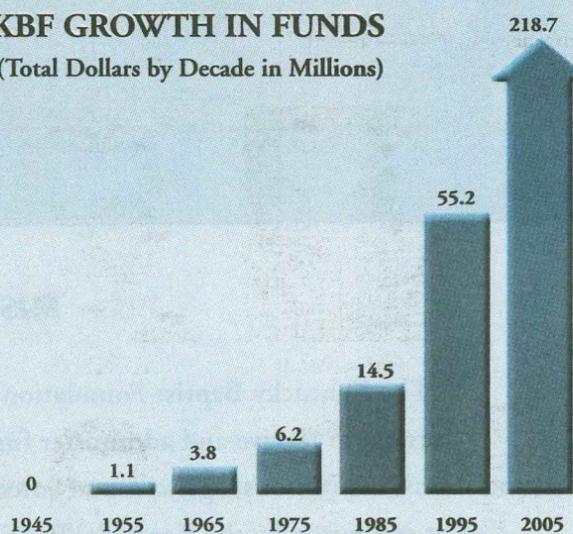
## INDEPENDENT THIRD PARTY PERFORMANCE MEASUREMENT

The KBF utilizes an independent consultant to assist in monitoring the performance of all managers and in conducting manager searches, when needed.

## FEES

Due to the economies of scale of size and the KBC budget subsidy, the KBF fee is a below-market fee.

## KBF GROWTH IN FUNDS (Total Dollars by Decade in Millions)



## DISTRIBUTIONS BY DECADE

1955	162,323
1965	749,596
1975	2,026,101
1985	5,904,591
1995	13,703,472
2005	71,878,153

## 1988

### COMPROMISE

Although the KBF board desired to return the KBF to its original full agency status, the final decision was to continue its agency status for its fiduciary duties, but change its executive board "department" status to a newly created "program unit" classification.

### COVENANT

This revised relationship status was incorporated into a covenant agreement with the KBC in November 1987.

## 1988-1995

### COMMUNICATION

Under the leadership of Richard Carnes, the ministry of Kentucky Baptists' best-kept secret was communicated in new and different ways.

### CAPITALIZATION

Significant growth in the funds under management occurred during this period, from \$20M to \$50M, and a management fee was initiated in 1991 to supplement the KBC budget subsidy for operations.

### CAPACITY

The 1994 employment of Laurie Valentine, the first trust counsel, greatly facilitated the KBF's expanding service capacity, and the powers of fund management were broadened to include Baptist organizations who were not officially related to the KBC but whose purposes were not in conflict with KBC purposes.

### CONFIDENCE

The combination of increased revenues from fees, increased communication and increased service capacity resulted in a growing confidence among Kentucky Baptists in their "trust agency" as it celebrated its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

## 1996-2005

### COMMUNICATION

President Barry Allen identified the communication challenge as the greatest challenge. Before it's too late the older generation must be challenged to leave a legacy and the younger generation must be taught to live according to biblical principles of stewardship. Use of the Internet was introduced as well as other non-traditional communication methods.

### CULTIVATION

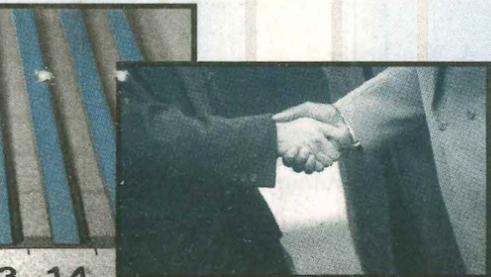
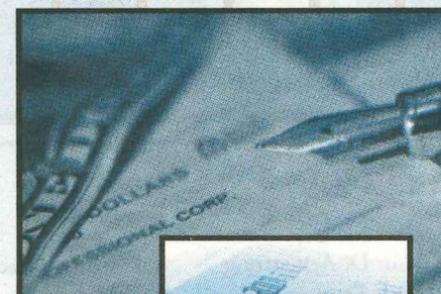
To encourage, educate and enable Kentucky Baptists to make a lasting difference through financial stewardship, Barry Allen and Laurie Valentine have presented the KBF's ministry to hundreds of individuals, churches, associations and statewide groups. Total assets under management and distributions to beneficiaries grew significantly during this period, from \$55M to \$218M.

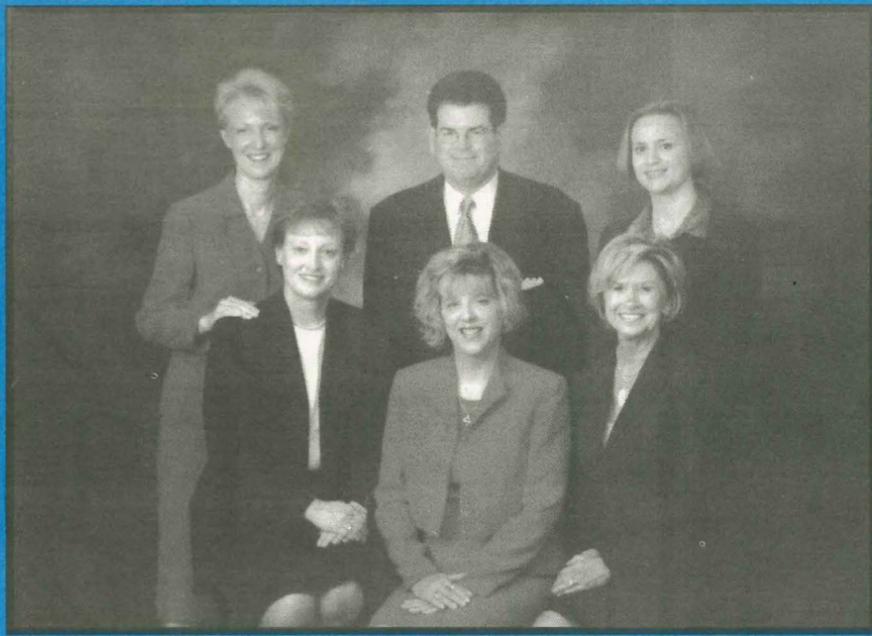
### COMPETITION

With the largest generational transfer of wealth in history about to take place (\$47 trillion), every charity in the U.S. has geared up to get its share. Competition for the charitable dollar and for the management of those dollars has become fierce.

### COMPUTERIZATION

Significant enhancements to and use of communications and computer technologies have been implemented.





*www.kybaptistfoundation.org*

### MISSION

“ The Kentucky Baptist Foundation is a Kentucky not-for-profit corporation formed to receive and administer funds for the benefit of (a) the churches, associations, institutions, agencies and enterprises fostered by, having the official sanction of or supported by the Kentucky Baptist Convention, (b) Baptist organizations whose purposes are not in conflict with Kentucky Baptist Convention causes; and (c) other 501(c)(3) organizations whose purposes are not in conflict with Kentucky Baptist Convention causes. ”

## SERVICES PROVIDED

### FOR INDIVIDUALS

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- Website ([www.kybaptistfoundation.org](http://www.kybaptistfoundation.org))
- Financial Solutions Series on Website
- Brochures on a Variety of Estate & Charitable Gift Planning topics

*Private Confidential Planning Consultation*

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- Incapacity Planning
- Legacy Gift Planning
- Long Term Care Planning

*Fiduciary Services*

- Can Serve as Trustee of Charitable Remainder Trusts
- Administer Endowment Funds, Donor Advised Funds and Charitable Gift Annuities

*Wealth Transfer Consultation*

### FOR CHURCHES, ASSOCIATIONS, INSTITUTIONS AND AGENCIES:

*Stewardship Education and Information*

*Legacy Gifts Program Consultation*

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- On-Going Advice & Support
- Development of Financial Policies

*Investment Management Services for Perpetual and Other Funds*

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The art of slowing down

Camps offer opportunity to relax, listen to God speak

From my perspective, as a husband and father of four, life seems to be pretty hectic.

Each night of our week features some type of function, practice or meeting. We limit what our kids do, but statistically with four we are going to be busy for the next 12 years. With that thought in mind, I think to myself, I do not want to add another thing to my schedule, no matter how good it might be or what it has to offer. This thought spurs me to think about our camp and conference ministry. We promote and encourage people to add another event to their already hectic lifestyles. For without these events or camps, our ministry does not exist.

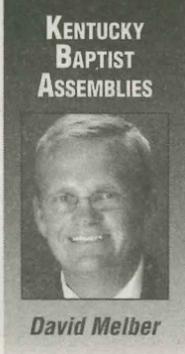
How do I promote and passionately encourage people to add events to their lives when I don't want to add to my own?

When the opportunity arises that I can be on the Cedarmore or Jonathan Creek properties without the reason being work, I greatly enjoy my time there. It is relaxing for me to disengage from the hectic pace of life to sit and think about the really important

aspects of why we are on this earth. To enjoy the fall temperatures and colors are especially refreshing, as it is my favorite time of the year.

The hours in each day have not changed; our discipline in guarding our time has become the problem. We use all kinds of excuses to justify our busyness, and quite frankly I do not think God is impressed by any of our reasons for the rush.

I know you are thinking, the last thing you need is another "thing" to attend, and you are probably right. What we all need is a time to disengage from our madness and focus upon creation and, more importantly, the Creator. You might be surprised, the lecture to sit under or the conference to attend is not what we long for. It is honestly the time alone in creation with the Lord that we need. He is our life and sustainer; seek to enter His rest today.



KENTUCKY BAPTIST ASSEMBLIES

David Melber

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

Kudzu



Doug Marlette

For Heaven's Sake



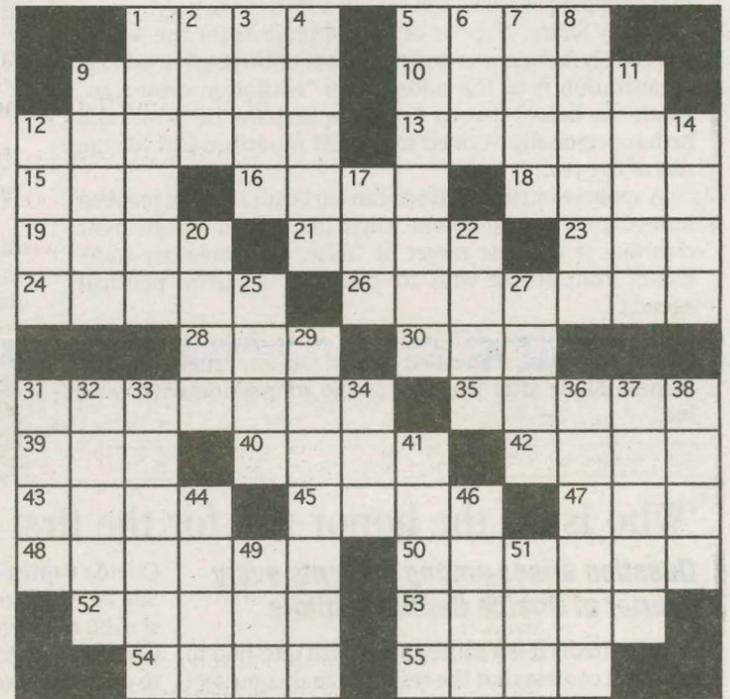
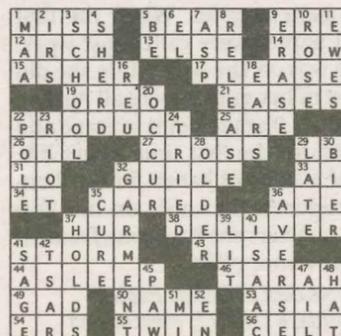
Mike Morgan

Bible Crosswords

Across

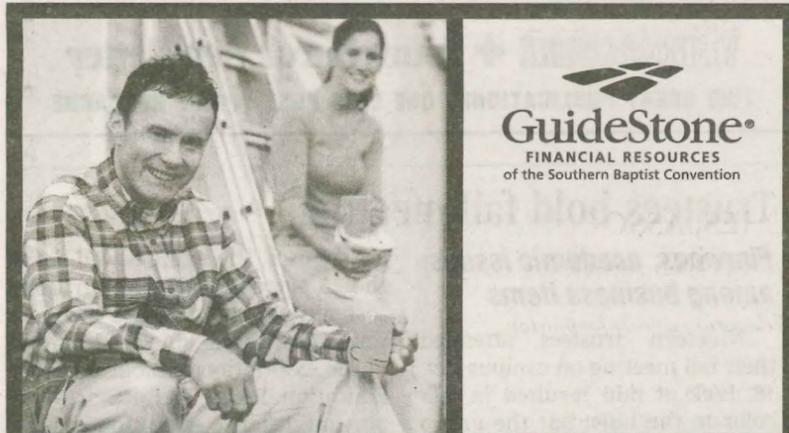
- 1 They give a hoot
- 5 Smite, modern style
- 9 Time of personal testing
- 10 "Every kind of beasts ... hath been \_\_\_ of mankind" (James 3:7)
- 12 Rio \_\_\_
- 13 Officer of David who "was over the tribute" (2 Samuel 20:24)
- 15 Cereal grain
- 16 "He cannot \_\_\_ himself" (2 Timothy 2:13)
- 18 Trigonometric ratio
- 19 Healing plant
- 21 Put two and two together
- 23 Middle-school subj.
- 24 Egg size
- 26 One who grinds his teeth
- 28 "Stand in the \_\_\_ before me" (Ezekiel 22:30)
- 30 Cotton \_\_\_
- 31 God \_\_\_ those who honestly seek Him
- 35 Earl, for one
- 39 Ancient Scandinavian war horn
- 40 \_\_\_ de France
- 42 Dandelion, for one
- 43 To be (Fr.)
- 45 "I will ... that men \_\_\_ every where, lifting up holy hands" (1 Timothy 2:8)
- 47 One beguiled by the serpent
- 48 Scoundrel (colloq.)
- 50 "Looking up to \_\_\_ he blessed them" (Luke 9:16)

Last week's solution



- 52 Garden or grass, for example
- 53 Amend
- 54 What club coffers contain
- 55 Lunch orders (abbr.)
- 22 "The Lord God had not caused it to \_\_\_ upon the earth" (Genesis 2:5)
- 25 Whence the wise men came
- 27 \_\_\_ on-the-mountain
- 29 "Thou must prophesy again before many \_\_\_" (Revelation 10:11)
- 31 Played certain instruments
- 32 Old stringed instruments
- 33 Task to do
- 34 French preposition
- 36 "And levy a tribute unto the Lord ... both of the persons, and of the \_\_\_" (Numbers 31:28)
- 37 Bar used to pry
- 38 "All the trees of \_\_\_, the choice and best of Lebanon" (Ezekiel 31:16)
- 41 "They ... came into an harlot's house, named \_\_\_" (Joshua 2:1)
- 44 Firstborn of Isaac and Rebekah
- 46 Make oneself heard
- 49 Make ends meet, with "out"
- 51 Memo abbr.

Evelyn Boyington



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## Anti-abortion groups criticize American Girl's link to Girls Inc.

Chicago (RNS)—Two organizations known for their opposition to abortion have questioned a recent joint alliance between American Girl, maker of popular dolls and books, and Girls Inc., which supports abortion rights.

The Chicago-based Pro-Life Action League has called on its supporters to boycott American Girl products during the Christmas shopping season.

The Tupelo, Miss.-based American Family Association has asked its supporters to contact American Girl to voice disappointment in its decision to be involved in a fundraiser for Girls Inc., formerly known as Girls Clubs of America.

In September, American Girl, the Wisconsin-based subsidiary of Mattel, launched the "I CAN" program to encourage girls to believe in themselves.

It offers one-dollar "I CAN" bands that could be worn as a bracelet, or backpack charm, with proceeds benefiting Girls Inc.

Critics of Girls Inc. point to an advocacy statement on the organization's Web site that says, "Girls Inc. supports a woman's freedom of choice, a constitutional right established by the U.S. Supreme Court in 1973 in Roe v. Wade."

Ann Scheidler, executive director of the Pro-Life Action League, said the bracelet program is not consistent with her group's values.

"We are asking people who care about little girls, and about the value of human life, to refrain from purchasing and visiting American Girl Place during the entire Christmas shopping season," she said in a statement.

Randy Sharp, director of special projects for the American Family Association and the father of three girls, said his organization is in the midst of an "education campaign" about the links between American Girl and Girls Inc. and he has personally decided to boycott American Girl for the rest of the year.

A spokeswoman for American Girl could not be reached immediately for comment. Girls Inc. issued a statement claiming it was the target of "false, inflammatory statements from people who are pursuing a narrow political agenda."

In a separate development, a Catholic school in Brookfield, Wis., cancelled plans for an American Girl Fashion Show after learning of the connection with Girls Inc.

## Study finds teenagers make up lower rate of U.S. single mothers

Nashville (BP)—Children born out of wedlock today are more likely to have mothers in their early 20s than teens, according to new data from the National Center for Health Statistics.

A record high number of 1.5 million babies were born to unwed mothers last year, but the surprising trend is that most of those moms were not teens, according to a report on the data by USA Today Oct. 31.

Teens accounted for half of all unwed births in 1970; they accounted for 24 percent of the total in 2004.

The report prompted leaders of the Southern Baptist abstinence movement True Love Waits to point to virginity pledges as a leading factor in the reduction of teen pregnancies.

Jimmy Hester, a spokesman for True Love Waits, said the stats that show girls are having children out of wedlock less in their teens and more in their 20s indicates leaders "haven't convinced them that what's best for them and their child is to wait until marriage."

"Despite the progress made over the past decade, much work remains to be done," he said.

"The United States still has the highest rate of teen pregnancy and out-of-wedlock births in the industrialized world," Hester added, "resulting in severe economic and social costs, not to mention the personal pain early sexual activity places upon teenagers and their families."



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## 'Who is on the honor roll for the first time?'

### Question arises among students every quarter at Oneida Baptist Institute

Admittedly it is a somewhat selfish question to ask, but I confess that the response makes me feel good all over. Each quarter we make it a point to call the names of the students who have earned honor roll status. In addition to the recognition and satisfaction the students feel, there is one other perk. Students who make the honor roll are exempt from going to our required nightly study hall. While students who are not on the honor roll spend an hour each evening in study hall, the honor roll students have other options. They can clean their rooms or do their laundry, but that is unlikely. They can stay in their rooms and sleep, or they can go to "free time," enjoy activities on the athletic field or just kick back and watch a little TV. As long as they remain on the honor roll, they have a lot of other options. We review their grades every four and one-half weeks to make sure they still are making grades equal to those required for the honor roll. If their grades fall below a certain minimum, it is back to study hall. Actually, a few students continue to go to study hall even though they do not have to. For those students, grades and a good education are very important, so they don't mind going to study hall.

Each quarter in chapel, we call the names of students making the honor roll and ask them to gather on stage. We then ask which students are on the honor roll for the first time. It is gratifying to see a dozen or so hands go up nearly every time. Equally satisfying is to see the big smiles on their faces. One of those big smiles was on the face of "Joyce," (not her real name). Joyce came to

Oneida Baptist Institute in the middle of last year. She admitted to having skipped school a lot, and she did not have the best peer group. Her teachers liked her, but Joyce just did not make much effort to do her schoolwork.

A pastor's wife gave Joyce's mother some information and an application for Oneida. Joyce was excited about the possibility of coming to Oneida because she knew something had to change. She never was going to make it through high school at the rate she was going. When we received her transcript from her old school it was not good. The grading scale at her school provided for a passing grade and credit for a grade of 65 or higher. Her highest grade was a 60, and her other grades were mostly in the mid-50s. She needed a lot of help and a little more interest in making better grades. When school was out last May, her report card was better but not what she wanted. During her first two quarters here, she had a total of five F's, five D's and a few better grades.

When Joyce returned in August, we knew she needed to put forth more effort and to make it her goal to make better grades. When the first quarter honor roll names were called last week, guess whose name was on the list? While she did have one D, the rest of her grades were all A's and B's! She had earned a 3.0 grade point average and made the honor roll for the first time in her life. When we asked for a show of hands for our first-time honor roll students, the smile on her face said it all. In three quarters she had gone from all failing grades to the honor roll.

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

## Trustees hold fall meeting

### Finances, academic issues among business items

Nineteen trustees attended their fall meeting on campus Oct. 18. Lack of rain resulted in less color to the hills, but the group enjoyed the fellowship.

Trustees received the 2004-05 audit, an "unqualified" report without any recommendations. Auditors observed that the decreased income reflected a trend among charitable agencies they audit. To help achieve a balanced budget, trustees reluctantly adjusted employee benefits by decreasing health care coverage, lowering retirement payments and cutting the number of unused sick leave days paid when leaving employment. Trustees committed their support for the \$1.23 million "Affirming Our Values—Leaving a Legacy" campaign.

The board authorized approximately \$9,500 transferred from board-invested funds to the endowed scholarship fund to complete the minimum level required so three scholarships can produce student aid.

Issues related to academic affairs included: (a) A report on the enrollment of 15 non-vocational ministry students; ten of these

are spouses. The figure is well below the 25 percent limit set by trustees to maintain the college's focus on ministry training. (b) Reaffirmation of the Association of Biblical Higher Education Tenets of Faith. (c) A report on distance education indicated a decline in the Kingston Center enrollment and an increase in on-line enrollment. (d) A report on the SACS Quality Enhancement Plan and the ABHE alternative study related to Christian worldview. (e) Trustees supporting plans to seek a faculty member to teach pastoral counseling.

Two new goals were added to the college's strategic plan: enhancing student learning in spoken and written communications; and developing a program certifying mission service toward completion of requirements for the missions/evangelism degree.

Officers elected included Chair Tim Langford of Hickman; Vice-Chair Jack Fox of Louisville; Secretary Ernest Slusher of Pineville. Appreciation was expressed to former chair Estill Carter of Prestonsburg, and two trustees rotating from the board: Joan Parr of Lexington and Larry Mills of Barbourville.

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

CLEAR CREEK CHRONICLE



Bill Whittaker

## Moore's 'Voices' tops best-sellers list

Richmond, Va. (BP)—More than 140,000 copies of Beth Moore's new devotional book "Voices of the Faithful" have sold nationwide since its release Aug. 2.

The book shot up the best-sellers list and stayed in the top five for at least two months in the Christian Retailing category.

The book by Moore, a popular women's conference speaker, is a collection of 365 daily devotions featuring the stories of Southern Baptist missionaries.

Coinciding with the book's release is a yearlong prayer emphasis. Southern Baptist churches are being encouraged to partner with the Southern Baptist Inter-

national Mission Board to pray for missionaries around the world.

IMB President Jerry Rankin said the book has gained a "tremendous response" for the agency.

"We cannot begin to imagine the power that is unleashed to touch a lost world—and inspire others to join these missionaries as they lift up their voice."

In January, Moore, Rankin and musician Travis Cottrell will conduct a simulcast broadcast for churches already involved in the "Lift Up Your Voice" call to prayer and to stimulate others to join in praying for overseas missionaries.

For simulcast information, visit [www.cnn.tv/cnn/voice.htm](http://www.cnn.tv/cnn/voice.htm).

## Rick Warren quote used in Starbucks campaign

Seattle (BP)—Rick Warren, author of "The Purpose-Driven Life" and pastor of Saddleback Church in Lake Forest, Calif., is using another innovative method of ministry: putting Bible-based quotes on Starbucks coffee cups.

Warren will be part of Starbucks' "The Way I See It" campaign, a collection of thoughts, opinions and expressions provided by notable figures that now appear on the chain's coffee cups. In the spring, some cups will begin featuring one of his quotes:

"You are not an accident. Your parents may not have planned you,

but God did. He wanted you alive and created you for a purpose. Focusing on yourself will never reveal your real purpose. You were made by God and for God, and until you understand that, life will never make sense. Only in God do we discover our origin, our identity, our meaning, our purpose, our significance and our destiny."

The quote will mark the first mention of God in the Starbucks quote campaign. Earlier this fall, Baylor University pulled one of the quote cups from its coffee shop because of its statements about homosexuality.

## BAPTIST STATE CONVENTION OF NORTH CAROLINA

Mobilizing Baptists for Ministry

## COMMITTEE SEEKS NOMINATIONS FOR NEW EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

The committee charged with recommending a new executive director-treasurer to lead the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina is seeking recommendations or nominations to the post. Neither you nor your nominee is required to be a North Carolina Baptist. Please include as much information about the candidate as you can.

Recommendations must be postmarked  
by Nov. 21, 2005, and mailed to:

P.O. Box 2138  
Cary, NC 27512

Committee chairman Robert Jackson's e-mail  
address is [pastor@peninsulabaptist.com](mailto:pastor@peninsulabaptist.com).

**Membership Matters: Insights from Effective Churches on New Member Classes and Assimilation.** *Chuck Lawless. Zondervan Press, 2005. 207 pages. \$16.99 ♦♦♦♦ (out of five)*

The "matters" in "Membership Matters" could be either a verb or a noun, as Chuck Lawless examines the process of member training and assimilation in effective churches.

Out of his study of 85 effective churches, Lawless concluded that serious attention to the meaning of church membership matters if churches are going to be effective in reaching, retaining and motivating congregants.

Most of the churches he surveyed could be considered high-demand churches. They believe that being a church member should mean more than having one's name on the roll. These churches had clear expectations of members. A key component to communicating those expectations was through a membership class.

Most of the churches surveyed required a basic membership class for all new and even existing members. Most communicated the same basic information: congregational history, mission, vision, beliefs and organization. Churches that made these classes an ongoing part of their life saw not only growth in numbers, but in overall support and involvement.

While pointing out why and how membership matters, Lawless also provides tools for churches interested in implementing a membership orientation program. Not only does he outline several models from the churches surveyed, but he provides a set of appendices with tools a church can readily adapt and use.

One could quibble with the impression that membership orientation is a magic bullet to help low-impact churches turn the corner to vibrancy. At the same time, his presentation points to a weakness in many of our congregations, and offers a positive prescription for addressing it. *Jim Holladay*

**Enough About You, Let's Talk About Me: How to Recognize and Manage the Narcissists in Your Life.** *Les Carter. Jossey-Bass, 2005. 208 pages. \$21.95. ♦♦♦♦♦*

This is a difficult book to read. Not because the subject matter is hard to understand, but because of the questions it brings to the reader.

There are a number of reasons for this. First, a narcissist is by definition a person who is so self-absorbed that all of his or her relationships are toxic. When Carter describes narcissistic actions, almost everyone will see some of himself or herself in the description. The point of personal reflection is whether those elements of self-absorption have become toxic in your life. The consolation is that if you are concerned about being narcissistic, you are not, because according to Carter, narcissists do not have the capacity for such self-examination.

A second difficult aspect of the book is that Carter holds out no hope that the narcissist in one's life will change. Rather than being

a book about how to help a narcissist change, this is a book about how the "victim" can deal with the heartache and confusion of having a relationship with a narcissist. This means that the entire burden of management falls on the victim. If things are to get better, it will not be because the narcissist has a sudden revelation. Carter believes this process of management never will end as long as you have a relationship with a narcissist.

The hopeful part of the book is the help offered to victims of narcissistic relationships to realize they are not at fault and that one does not need to accept the toxicity of the narcissist as reality. Recognizing a narcissistic relationship for what it is goes a long way toward coping with it.

Carter offers hope that it is possible to make moves in one's own life to diminish the joy-stealing effects of a narcissist's attitude and actions. Carter also encourages the reader to forgive the narcissist and move on with life. The hope of the book is that the victim can become stronger and less fearful. I highly recommend this book. *Wayne Hager*

**The Uttermost Part of the Earth: A Guide to Places in the Bible.** *Richard Losch. Eerdmans Publishing, 2005. \$16. ♦♦♦♦♦*

Richard Losch's biblical travelogue isn't designed to cover every city in the Bible.

Rather, the former rector of St. James Episcopal Church in Livingston, Ala., focused on the places having the most impact on biblical events. In doing so, he includes some sites that aren't in the Old or New Testament but significantly influenced its people and happenings.

One example is Sepphoris, a city five miles north of Nazareth that was popular to occupying Romans. Tradition holds that Sepphoris was the hometown of Jesus' maternal grandparents.

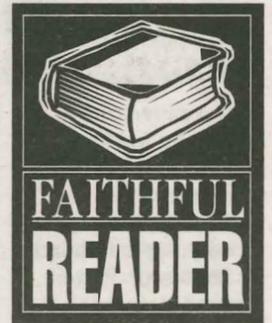
Losch speculates that Jesus would have visited the city often and would have observed Roman culture there, learning some Latin and Greek.

The book features 76 places, as well as a set of maps in the back and a pronunciation guide. Most chapters are five pages or fewer and are easily readable. Historical junkies will enjoy the book while others might find it a bit dry.

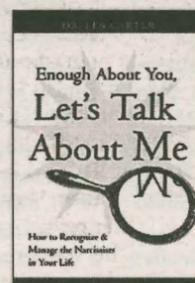
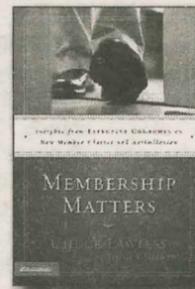
Losch sometimes includes archaeological information at odds with a strictly literal interpretation of the Bible.

The chapter on Ai, for example, states the city was unoccupied during the time when Joshua was said to be destroying it and its occupants. Still, when such conflicts occur, Losch offers theories that span the theological spectrum.

If there's a criticism, it would be that in today's electronic and visual age, the book doesn't include a CD with maps or interactive teaching tools. As more Sunday school teachers and preachers use PowerPoint or other visual teaching software, a digital map of each city would be a plus. *David Winfrey*



By Wayne Hager, pastor of Calvary Baptist Church in Mt. Airy, N.C.; Jim Holladay, pastor of Lyndon Baptist Church in Louisville; and David Winfrey, news director of the Western Recorder. They welcome feedback or suggestions for book reviews. Contact them via e-mail at: [whager@trifoliant.net](mailto:whager@trifoliant.net); [lyndonpastor@aol.com](mailto:lyndonpastor@aol.com); [david.winfrey@kybaptist.org](mailto:david.winfrey@kybaptist.org).



## PRAYER PARTNERS

Please pray for the following Kentucky Baptist missionaries and ministries:

**Trinity Baptist Church in Falmouth.** Pastor Conrad Hefner is leading the church in C.A.R.E. ministry, an acronym for Christians Actively Reaching Everyone. Beginning in September of this year, more than 55 percent of the church's Sunday morning attendance is now involved in one of four ministry teams. Members are learning to use their spiritual gifts through various opportunities for service offered by each team. Pray that the congregation will be more effective in reaching the young people of the community. Pray also that more members will get involved in ministry to others.

**Missionaries Jason and Sarah Lee of Louisville.** The Lees serve as church planters with African refugees, most of whom are Muslim. "God has brought the Muslim people here to us so that we will share with them the gospel of Christ," Lee noted. Pray that God will use the Lees to help the gospel break through the Islamic and refugee worldviews and that many of the refugees will come to know Jesus Christ as their personal Savior. Pray also that the Lees will model Christ-like actions and attitudes as they point their new friends to personal faith in Christ.

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 (866) 489-3530.

## MOUNTAINS TO THE MISSISSIPPI

COMPILED BY STAFF

■ **CLAY CITY**—Powells Valley Church recently called **Gary Willoughby** as pastor.  
 ■ **DE MOSSVILLE**—Wilmington Church will host the **Patriot Quartet** Nov. 13, 11 a.m. Activities also will include a fellowship meal after the service.  
 ■ **ELKTON**—Elkton Church will host "GriefShare" Nov. 14, 6:30 p.m. The seminar and support group for people experiencing grief will be led by **Chris Short**.  
 ■ **FORT THOMAS**—First Church will celebrate its 90th anniversary Nov. 13. Activities include a 5 p.m. dinner followed by a concert by **Yulia Yungkang** and **Steve Gabennesch**.

**Joe Boone** is pastor.  
 ■ **HARRODSBURG**—Harrodsburg Church ordained **Pat Baker, Jo Ker-ric** and **Kay Trisler** as deacons Oct. 23. **Robert DeFoor** is pastor.  
 ■ **HEBRON**—Hebron Church called **Shane Edwards** as pastor effective Nov. 20.  
 ■ **LEXINGTON**—Boone's Creek Church celebrated its 220th anniversary Sept. 25 with 209 people in attendance. The church ordained **Ron Thomas** as a deacon Oct. 2.  
 ■ **LOUISVILLE**—Deer Park Church began its yearlong centennial celebration Oct. 23. **David Platt** is pastor. Maple Grove Church called **Josh-**

## Mourners 'embrace beauty' in life of electrocuted Texas pastor

**Waco, Texas (ABP)**—For many of his friends and family members, it was only appropriate to remember Kyle Lake on All Saints Day, two days after the 33-year-old pastor of University Baptist Church was electrocuted to death while standing in the church's baptistry.

"Kyle, in so many ways, was a saint," said his brother-in-law Scott Gornto. "He was the most beautiful person I've ever met."

More than 2,000 friends and family members gathered Nov. 1 to reflect on Lake's life, which ended abruptly and tragically Oct. 30 as about 800 worshipers looked on in horror.

Mourners expressed their feelings about Lake on several poster boards hung outside the church's sanctuary. The boards proclaimed a Lake maxim, "Embrace beauty." One anonymous person wrote, "Thank you for your legacy." Another simply penned, "You changed my life."

Lake ministered primarily to college students, who make up the bulk of University Baptist Church's membership. He also was considered an up-and-coming pastoral voice in the emerging church movement.

The funeral crowd quickly filled the sanctuary of Waco's First Baptist Church, as well as a chapel set up as an overflow room.



## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### November

**11-13** All-State Jr. High Choir, Hurstbourne Baptist Church, Louisville.  
**14** Kentucky Baptist Music Conference, First Baptist Church, Frankfort.

**14** Secretaries Meeting, Frankfort.  
**15-16** Kentucky Baptist Convention Annual Meeting, Frankfort Convention Center.  
**19** Christian Women in Ministry State Leadership Forum, Baptist Building, Louisville.

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

**ua McFarland** as associate pastor for students effective Oct. 1. **Ray Hayes** is pastor.

St. Matthews Church will host "Targets for Successful Parenting" Nov. 18, 7 to 9 p.m., and Nov. 19, 4 to 6:30 p.m. The conference will be

led by **Art Murphy**, president of Arrow Ministries, a national ministry to parents and churches. For more information, call (502) 896-8882 or e-mail [dgarrard@smbclouisville.org](mailto:dgarrard@smbclouisville.org).  
 ■ **RUSSELL SPRINGS**—Fairview Church recently called **Rick Mann** as pastor.

face our frailty, we say with Peter, "Where else are we going to go?" Burleson said. "You see, Jesus is a living reality to us in this moment."

In an impromptu moment, songwriter David Crowder, who leads Univeristy Baptist's worship band, paused to remember his friend before leading the crowd in a rendition of "It Is Well."

Lake had a way of making every situation better, Crowder noted.

Urging attendees to be grateful for Lake's life, even in the face of overwhelming pain, Crowder added, "I really think the way to defeat this grief is to be grateful, to have a heart of gratitude."

## CLASSIFIED ADS

**AVAILABLE:** Magnify Quartet—men's 4-part harmony gospel music—love musicians seek to magnify Jesus. Love offerings requested—never a fee. Call toll-free: (877) 409-3764 or (859) 393-4517. [www.magnifyquartet.com](http://www.magnifyquartet.com).

**FREE:** Eight beautiful mid-'70s light fixtures need to be adopted. Call (270) 369-7234 or e-mail [fbsonora@bbtel.com](mailto:fbsonora@bbtel.com).

**SEEKING:** Full-time senior pastor for Deep Creek Baptist Church in Harrodsburg, Ky. Please send resumé to Buddy Logue, Pastor Search Committee, 627 Greenwood Drive, Harrodsburg, KY 40330. For more information, call (859) 734-7622.

**SEEKING:** Part-time minister of music. Must read music, have good people-skills. Call (859) 351-7653.

**SEEKING:** Part-time children's minister (20 hours per week). Contact Steve Boyd at (502) 722-5246 or mail resumé to: Simpsonville Baptist Church, 7208 Shelbyville Road, Simpsonville, KY 40067, Attn: Steve Boyd.

**SEEKING:** Full-time worship leader for First Baptist Church in beautiful, historic Carter County. Music degree from college or seminary required. Experience in contemporary/traditional. Must also have good people-skills. Send resumé to: Music Search Committee, First Baptist Church, 212 East F Street, Elizabethtown, TN 37643.

**SEEKING:** Pastor for Petrey Memorial Baptist Church in Hazard, Ky. For more information, please visit our Web site at [www.petrey memorial.org](http://www.petrey memorial.org). Resumés, tapes/videos should be sent to: Pastor Search Committee, 141 Alto St., Hazard, KY 41701.

**SEEKING:** Associate pastor/worship leader. Theologically conservative Southern Baptist church seeks man to lead blended worship. Must exude love for Jesus and have a servant's heart. Send resumé to: FBC, 106 West Oak St., West Frankfort, IL 62896. (618) 932-2105. Fax: (618) 932-2106. [rkarroll@verizon.net](mailto:rkarroll@verizon.net).

**SEEKING:** Part-time children's ministry coordinator to work with elementary students, grades 1-5, under the supervision of the children's ministry director of Bellevue Baptist Church in Owensboro, Ky. Send resumé by Oct. 28 to: Personnel Committee, Bellevue Baptist Church, 519 W Byers Ave., Owensboro, KY 42303.

**SEEKING:** Senior pastor for a small, vibrant church in central Kentucky village. Midway Baptist is a congregation actively working to be church in its special little community and in far away places. A traditional and contemporary service on Sunday, with attendance around 35-50 and 100 to near 200, respectively, serve a broad spectrum of ages and worship preferences. Small groups on Wednesday and Sunday evenings encourage growth and fellowship. A new ministry center facilitates increasing activity. The search committee has received direction from the church body indicating a preference for someone with a degree in theology and experience as a senior pastor. Resumés may be sent: Pastor Search Committee, Box 352, Midway, KY 40347, Attn: Dave Forman, chair. Upon receipt of resumés, prospective candidates will be sent information packets with further instructions. More information is available at [www.midwaybc.net](http://www.midwaybc.net).

**SEEKING:** Full-time children's minister at First Baptist Mayfield. Send resumé to: Pastor Bob Swift, 118 West South Street, Mayfield, KY 42066.

**SEEKING:** Part-time minister of youth. Send resumé to Cloverdale Baptist Church, 4401 Manslick Road, Louisville, KY 40216, Attn: Paul Bewley.

**SEEKING:** Full-time music/youth minister. Please send resumé to: Calvary Baptist Church, 21 Glory St., Irvine, KY 40336.

**SEEKING:** Full-time minister of students for Gano Baptist Church, Georgetown, Ky. This minister will be responsible for student ministries grades K through 12, with an emphasis on youth, grades 7 through 12. Resumés may be sent to: Minister of Students Search Committee, Gano Baptist Church, 212 Bevins Lane, Georgetown, KY 40324; or e-mail to [ganopastor@aol.com](mailto:ganopastor@aol.com).

**SEEKING:** Full-time associate pastor. Ministry with emphasis on children, youth and young adults. Salary will be based on qualifications and experience. Interested candidates may e-mail resumés to [fbcmorehead@hotmail.com](mailto:fbcmorehead@hotmail.com), or mail them to: First Baptist Church of Morehead, 123 East Main St., Morehead, KY 40351, Attn: Chair, Personnel Committee.

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

**SEEKING:** Full-time youth minister at First Baptist Mayfield. Send resumé to: Pastor Bob Swift, 118 West South Street, Mayfield, KY 42066.

**SEEKING:** Pastor for Parkway Baptist Church in Hodgenville, Ky. For more information, please e-mail [donnastrader@peoplepc.com](mailto:donnastrader@peoplepc.com). Send resumés to Parkway Baptist Church, PO Box 326, Hodgenville, KY 42748.

**SEEKING:** Covenant Baptist Church in Collierville, Tenn., is now accepting resumés for a full-time senior pastor. For more information, see [www.covenantontheweb.org/CBC\\_Search.html](http://www.covenantontheweb.org/CBC_Search.html). E-mail resumé to: [general@covenantontheweb.org](mailto:general@covenantontheweb.org) or mail to: Pastor Search Committee, Covenant Baptist Church, PO Box 1165, Collierville, TN 38027 by Dec. 15, 2005.

**SEEKING:** Bivocational pastor for East Bend Baptist Church, a rural Southern Baptist church in Boone County. Send resumé to Pastor Search Committee, 10060 Bell Road, Union, KY 41091. Praise God!

**SEEKING:** Full-time minister for children through youth for McDowell First Baptist Church—an exciting, growing, loving fellowship in Eastern Kentucky. Mail resumés and/or sermon tapes to: McDowell First Baptist Church, PO Box 241, McDowell, KY 41647, Attn: Search Committee.

**TOUR:** Last call to enjoy Hawaii with Christian Life Tours, Feb. 6-16. This fabulous land tour (not a cruise) is all-inclusive. Also taking reservations for an escorted Alaska inside passage and glacier cruise departing June 3. For brochures, information or reservations, call (877) 557-0073 (toll-free), or e-mail: [ddale1950@aol.com](mailto:ddale1950@aol.com).

## Carter talks about war, faith and politics on book promotion tour

By Adelle Banks  
Religion News Service

Washington (RNS)—Former President Jimmy Carter said last week he doesn't doubt President Bush has a sincere faith, but they practice their Christianity differently.

"I have a commitment to worship the Prince of Peace not the Prince of Pre-emptive War," the former president told a gathering of reporters at a breakfast meeting sponsored by The Christian Science Monitor.

Carter, the nation's 39th president, said he also differs with the Bush administration on addressing poverty.

"I believe that Christ taught us to give special attention to the plight of the poor," said Carter, a Baptist who ended his affiliation with the Southern Baptist Convention in 2000. "In my opinion, this administration—I'm not talking about President Bush personally—has committed itself to extol the advantages of the rich. ... Almost every major change that's been made in our taxation system has been to enrich the already extreme rich Americans."

Carter was appearing at one of many appearances publicizing his new book, "Our Endangered Values: America's Moral Crisis." The author of 20 books said his latest one is his first political volume.

"I have felt for a number of years that we have had such a dramatic and profound and unprecedented change in basic American politics," he said.

"There's been an increase in basic fundamentalism ... both within the religious community of our country and also within government and an unprecedented and overt—not disguised—merger of the church and the state, of religion and politics," he said.

Asked about the Democratic Party's handling of religion, Carter said he thinks the lack of a demonstration of "compatibility with the deeply religious people" has hurt it greatly.

"I felt at ease going to an African-American church and taking over the role of the pastor even ... and there was a feeling, I think among deeply religious people in this country that maybe Bill Clinton and I were compatible with them," he said. "I don't think they had that feeling in 2004."

Carter said Democrats must make changes in their appeal to have more success in the next presidential election. "I think to let the very ... deeply religious people and the moderates on social issues like abortion feel that the Democratic Party cares about them and understands them is a crucial element that has to be inserted," he said.

## Classy, not trashy

Point of Grace hosts girls-only events to talk about clothes, boys and virtue

By Greg Garrison  
Religion News Service

Birmingham, Ala. (RNS)—Teenage girls—and their moms—tend to get excited about Point of Grace, a fixture on America's Christian music scene for 15 years.

The four female singers hope to translate that excitement over their music into lessons about chastity and modesty.

Across the country, they are leading two-day "Girls of Grace" conferences. They blend concerts with a workshop for teen girls that promises to take on such issues as premarital sex and being fashionable without showing too much skin.

The conferences, which stopped in Louisville last month, feature tips on cosmetics, fashion and shopping. The group brings along other music leaders, including Rebecca St. James, and speakers, including a cosmetics expert.

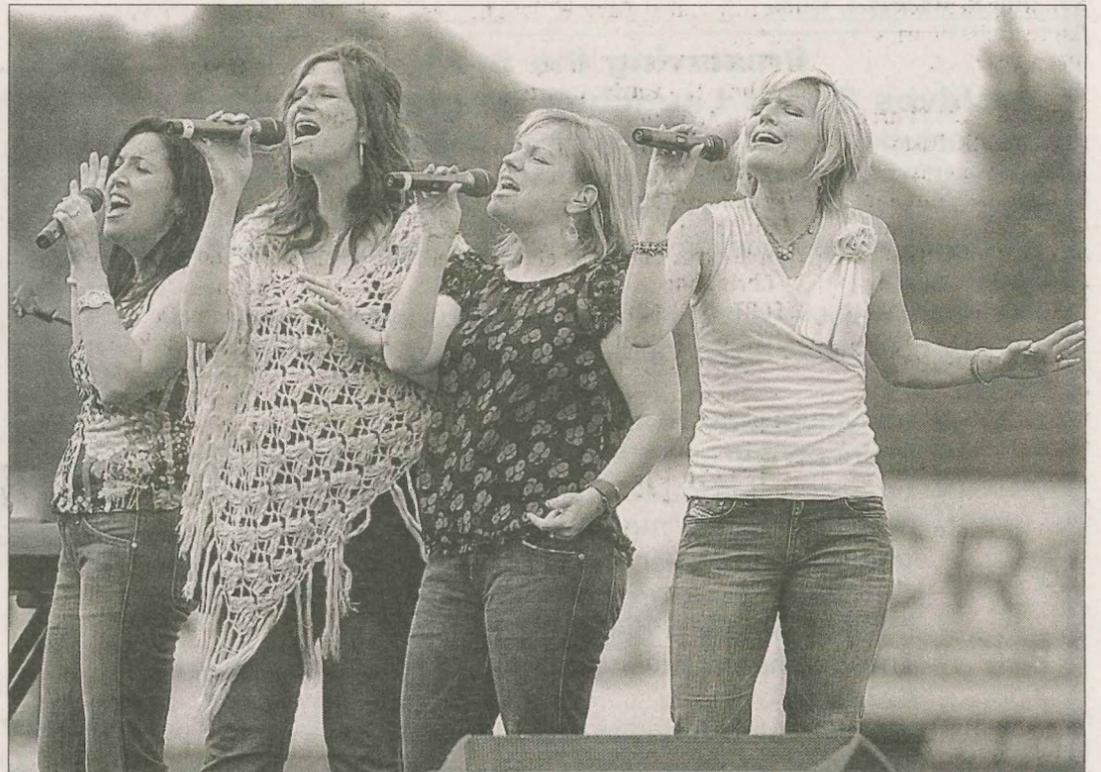
"We've always wanted to do something for teenage girls," said Heather Payne, who co-founded Point of Grace 15 years ago with childhood friends Denise Jones and Terry Jones, and another singer, Shelley Breen, whom they met at Ouachita Baptist University in Arkadelphia, Ark.

Leigh Cappellinno, wife of their long-time guitar player, joined the group in 2003 after Terry Jones retired in 2002 to stay home with her three children.

### Heart-to-heart talks

"We want girls to show they are a Christian in the way they act and the way they dress," Payne said. "There's so much pulling at them from the world. They think they need to have so much money, clothes and possessions. We have a lot of teenagers who suffer from depression because they realize they don't have all that."

The format features a lot of music interspersed with heart-to-heart



talks and beauty tips.

"We do a concert, and we talk to girls about things in their own lives that we deal with," Payne said. "We try to be vulnerable and talk about things we struggle with."

They show how Christian girls can look pretty without appearing slutty.

"We show how jeans can look cute without being low-slung," Payne said. "You have to be picky."

And why not wear a shirt under a tank top, she suggests.

"We want to teach kids to dress in a classy but not trashy way," Payne said. "We have a fashion show with a makeover. It's such a fun time."

Girls can go wrong by following the crowd on fashion choices such as prom dresses, Payne said.

"We've chosen prom dresses, to show them how they can look good but not bare their entire body," she said. "There's no reason to show your belly."

Point of Grace also promotes chastity.

"I used to give my testimony that I was a virgin and I was going to save myself for my husband," Payne said.

She did save herself for marriage, she said.

"It worked for me, and it would work for everybody," Payne said. "It's God's way."

As for boyfriends: "It's hard to get it through to a girl that it's not the most important thing," Payne said.

"I was 29 before I got married," she said. "There was never the right guy. I wondered if I would ever find him. When I put all that worry into my relationship with the Lord, my attitude and perspective changed. You will have relationships; some of them will last, some will not."

"The main thing you should look for in a boy is if he loves God with his whole heart," she continued. "Our bodies are a temple, and we're not supposed to have sex before we get married."

The singers also talk about body image.

"All of us struggle with our self-image," Payne said. "Sometimes I don't like to look in the mirror. I have told myself that I hated myself. I have a 3-year-old girl. I would be devastated if I ever heard her say that about herself. God created us to be His image-bearers."

### POINT OF GRACE

Members of the popular Christian quartet perform in Birmingham, Ala. Pictured are (from left) Leigh Cappellinno, Heather Payne, Shelly Breen and Denise Jones. The foursome has sponsored "Girls of Grace" conferences to teach chastity and modesty. (RNS photo by Jeff Roberts)

## Hopkinsville team takes part in Brazil partnership

Hopkinsville—A mission team of 10 people from the Christian County area recently returned home after serving in Brazil six days as part of a Kentucky Baptist Convention partnership missions trip.

Will Stone, pastor of Casky Baptist Church in Hopkinsville, led the team in evangelism work with Southern Baptist missionaries in Teresina, Brazil.

Stone described the people of Brazil as warm and welcoming.

"In the eight international mission trips I have been on, this is the first one that I've seen such openness to the gospel," Stone said.

During the six days, the team made 151 home visits, distrib-

uted 249 tracts and gave away 60 Bibles.

The mission team also conducted a three-day vacation Bible school with an average attendance of 66 children.

The team also led evangelistic services at night. During these services, a total of 166 people made decisions to accept the Christian faith.

Others members of the team included Jim Bailey, a member of Casky Baptist Church; Darrell Crawford, pastor of Pleasant View Baptist Church in Hopkinsville; John Segree, pastor of Sinking Fork Baptist Church in Hopkinsville; Bill and Diane Boldt from Stanton Baptist Church; Mike Foreman, pastor of Concord Bap-

tist Church in Hopkinsville; and Brandt Lyon, Ricky Means and Mandy Bermudez from Olivet Baptist Church in Herndon.

The Kentucky Baptist Convention partners with Baptists in northeast Brazil and in the area around the capital, Brasilia, to meet physical, spiritual and educational needs and to help start and strengthen churches.

The Kentucky Baptist Convention's partnership missions department has scheduled 22 mission trips to Brazil for 2006.

For more information, contact the KBC partnership missions department at (502) 489-3529 or toll-free in Kentucky at (866) 489-3529 or visit [www.kybaptist.org/partnership](http://www.kybaptist.org/partnership).

# Kentucky Baptist Heritage

Newsletter of the Kentucky Baptist Archives Advisory Board

Bill D. Whittaker, Editor

November 8, 2005

## Preserving the Story

### Archives Board Launches Biography Project

The Kentucky Baptist Archives Advisory Board has approved the writing of a volume of brief biographies on Kentucky Baptist leaders during 1900-2000. The book is planned for approximately 300 pages with publication to mark the 400<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Baptists in 2009.

The Board welcomes nominees for inclusion in the volume. The editorial committee has adopted the following criteria for a biography:

- ✓ Individual must be deceased
- ✓ Major portion of life and ministry served in Kentucky
- ✓ Focus on individuals omitted from other publications
- ✓ No career faculty member or president of KBC educational institutions or The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary; these are covered in institutional histories
- ✓ Male or female; ordained or lay leader
- ✓ The volume will include individuals from each region of Kentucky
- ✓ The editorial committee determines who is to be included, assigns writers and edits material to meet publication guidelines.

Send nominations to [bwhittaker@ccbba.edu](mailto:bwhittaker@ccbba.edu) or 300 Clear Creek Road, Pineville, KY 40977. Twenty-nine names have already been submitted.

## 2005 Church Anniversaries

All churches listed by name and association.

### 150th

Pleasant Ridge, Crittenden  
South Hampton, Daviess-McLean  
Cedar Grove, Liberty  
Silent Run Missionary, Little Bethel  
Florence, Northern KY  
Wallins, Upper Cumberland  
Washington Street, West Union

### 200th

Bethlehem, Central  
Long Lick, Elkhorn  
Monticello, Gasper River  
Sandy Creek, Gasper River  
Lynn Camp, Knox  
Pleasant Grove, Long Run  
Old Salem, Ohio River  
Buffalo Lick, Shelby

### 225th

Providence, Boones Creek



## A History Trip Worth Taking

Kentucky music and history are combined at the Kentucky Music Hall of Fame and Museum, Renfro Valley. The Hall of Fame honors Kentucky's greatest musical achievers from a variety of music styles- folk, gospel, bluegrass, pop, blues, jazz, opera and country. The gallery includes one-of-a-kind exhibits and rotating displays. The facility has interactive displays and educational programs for schoolteachers and students. The museum gift shop features a wide variety of music, instruments, gifts and souvenirs. Visit their website: [www.KyMusicHallofFame.com](http://www.KyMusicHallofFame.com). The Hall of Fame is open Thursday – Saturday, 10 am to 6 pm, Sunday 9 am to 5 pm; closed on Monday.

## A How-to Kit for Your Church's History

Designed to strengthen the history work of your church, this kit features a 120-page, 8 ½ x 11, detailed manual. The manual presents guidelines for church history committees; offers instructions for celebrating a church's anniversary; tells how to research, write, and publish a church's history; suggests ways to observe Baptist Heritage Sunday; shares how to locate and preserve church records and how to display and exhibit a church's history; and provides guidelines on how to communicate, dramatize, and photograph a church's story. \$19.95 plus shipping Available from Baptist History and Heritage Society, PO Box 728 Brentwood, TN 37024-0720; order by phone: 800-966-2278.

## We Almost Missed Christmas

One year when I was a young teenager we almost missed Christmas. Back then most of our



Christmas presents were ordered from the Sears catalog. It was Christmas Eve and they hadn't arrived. Of course I didn't know that at the time.

On this particular Christmas Eve no one was home except myself and Buzzy and Doug, two of my brothers. Mother and my sister, Margie, had gone to Princeton to shop, with Daddy I guess; I don't really remember where he was. We were home alone. About four in the afternoon the phone rang and I answered it. The voice on the other end was Santa Clause; at least the man was going to play Santa Clause for our family.

The voice really belonged to our local Postmaster. He wanted to know if Mother was home. I said, "Naw, she's gone to Princeton." Then he asked if Reg was there, Reg was Daddy to me. I told him he wasn't there either. So he had to tell me what he was calling about. He told me that some packages had come in the late mail and he thought they might be Christmas presents. Seeing how it was Christmas Eve, he was afraid someone might not get any presents. (I knew one of those someone's was me.) He wanted to know if somebody could come and get them. I told him there was no one there to come and get them. Then he asked if I wanted someone from the post office to run them out to the house. Of course I did; I didn't want the rest of the family to miss Christmas. It was due to the kindness of this Postmaster and mail carrier that we had presents that year.

You know, I don't remember any of the presents I got that year, but I have never forgotten the phone call from that postmaster or the mail carrier when he came driving up our driveway with the presents.

But folks, the greatest kindness ever shown to little boys and girls was when God sent his Son as a gift for the whole world. "For there is born to you, this day in the city of David, a Savior ..."

From *Is a Mule Worth Riding and Other Spiritual Stories*, written by Don Phelps, pastor of First Baptist Church, Sturgis KY, published 2005; illustration by Rick Phelps, art teacher at Apollo High School, Owensboro, KY.