

November 22, 2005
Vol. 179, No. 46

WHAT HAPPENED AT THE KBC?



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Closing the back door KBC leaders encourage churches to

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Resolutions Messengers address gambling and education. *Page 6.*



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Convention sermon Bill Henard tells messengers that Christ is the foundation for every missions experience. *Page 7.*

Acting dis-gracefully Richard Blackaby asks why Christians act no differently than the rest of the world. *Page 9.*



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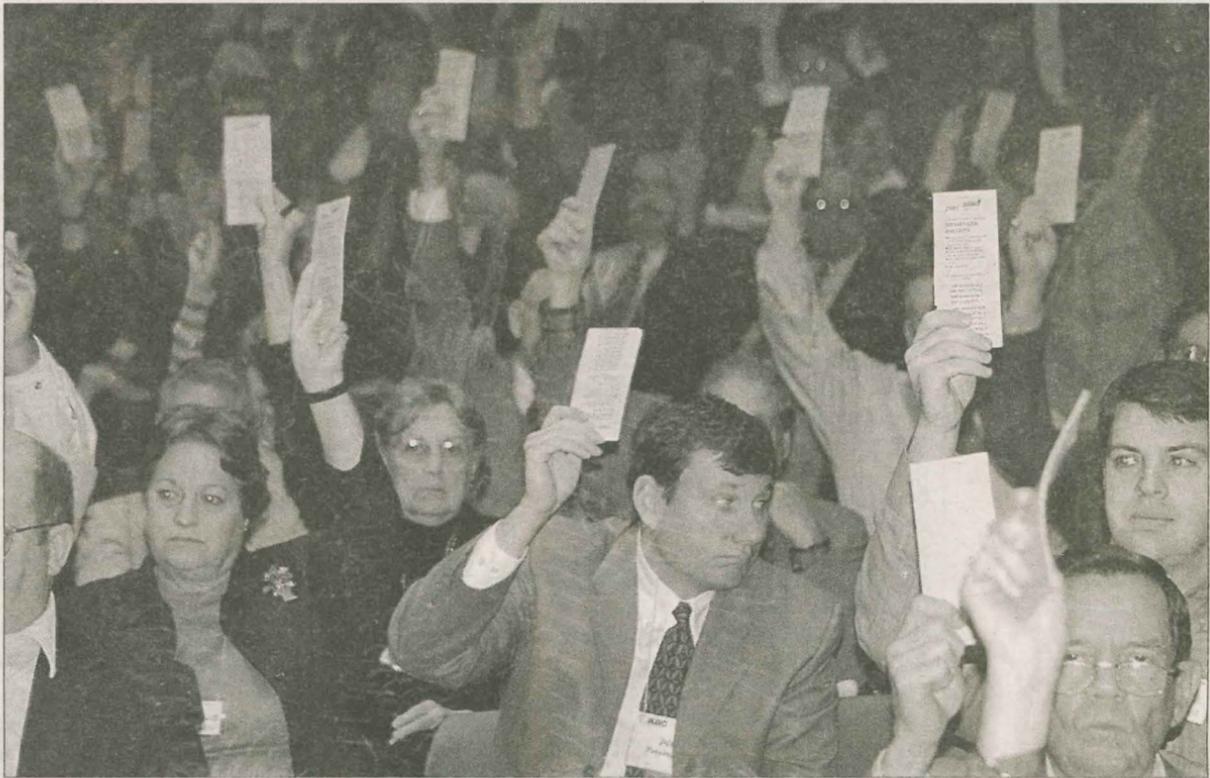
Adrian Rogers Southern Baptist Convention leaders remember the three-time president and pastor of Bellevue Baptist Church in Memphis. *Page 2.*

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"Painter of light" Popular artist Thomas Kinkade has no plans to slow down. *Page 13.*

Books Reviews include the latest by John Maxwell and a book to help high school seniors prepare for the real world. *Page 13*

Amicable agreement



APPROVAL Messengers to the Kentucky Baptist Convention annual meeting in Frankfort vote to approve a new ministry partnership with Georgetown College in response to the school's decision to elect its own trustees.

Georgetown pact approved overwhelmingly

By **Trennis Henderson**
Editor

Frankfort—In a historic, relationship-altering move, Kentucky Baptist Convention messengers voted overwhelmingly Nov. 15 to approve a new ministry partnership with Georgetown College.

The agreement, to be implemented over four years, came in response to Georgetown trustees' decision in September to establish a self-perpetuating board. A detailed "memorandum of understanding" about the

new relationship was developed by a 14-member workgroup of KBC and Georgetown representatives.

Major provisions of the agreement specify that Georgetown will elect its own trustees beginning in 2006 and that the KBC will phase out Georgetown's \$1.3 million Cooperative Program allocation over the next four years.

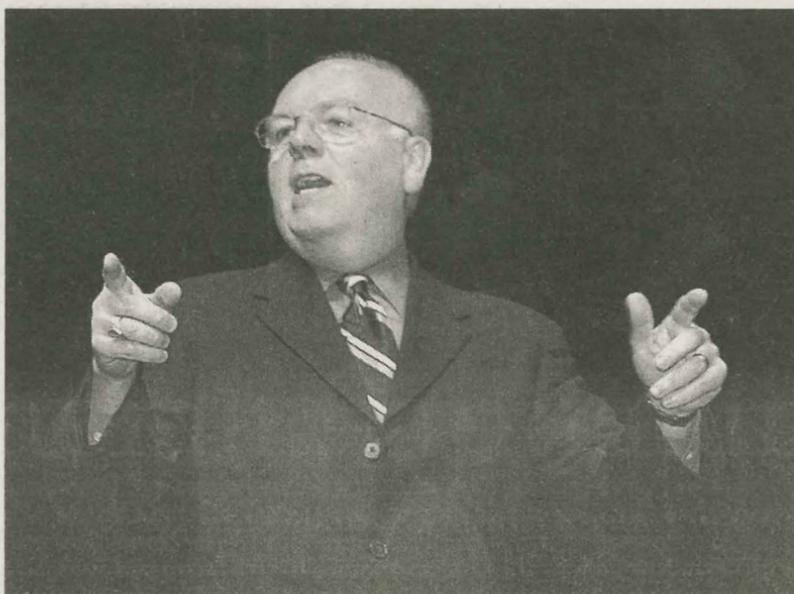
The plan also specifies that 75 percent of Georgetown's trustees will be Kentucky Baptists, that Georgetown students will remain

eligible for KBC-funded scholarships and that the KBC and Georgetown will continue to jointly fund a campus minister position.

The action comes a year after KBC messengers rejected a plan to allow all four state Baptist college boards to have up to 25 percent of trustees who are not affiliated with KBC churches. That was among recent decisions that prompted Georgetown's board to revert to its pre-1942 status of naming its trustees.

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Consultant to messengers: Get out of churches, into culture



DISCERNING DIFFERENCES Churches must recognize that the different generations in their congregation actually are different cultures, said Reggie McNeal, leadership development director for the South Carolina Baptist Convention. "And the implications of that are huge." (Photo by David Winfrey)

By **David Winfrey**
News Director

Frankfort—Christians must get out of their churches and into the lives of non-Christians if they want to effectively share the gospel message with Americans, Reggie McNeal told Kentucky Baptists last week.

"I'm here to help you get out of the church business today," McNeal told messengers during the closing session of the Kentucky Baptist Convention annual meeting in Frankfort, Nov. 16.

Unchurched Americans aren't interested in attending a church, regardless of how a local congregation changes its worship, programs or facilities, said McNeal, director of leadership development for the South Carolina Baptist Convention.

"You can build the perfect church and they still won't come," he announced. "We've probably reached everybody in North America that wants to be church-ed."

McNeal insisted he's an optimist about the future of the church, but first it must change its strategy.

"We're on the cusp of the biggest realignment in Christianity since the Reformation," he said.

McNeal compared American churches to river water salesmen standing beside the river.

"People in this culture don't know why they should stop off at our booth to pick up a bottle when they can go down to the river," McNeal explained.

"You and I are still trying to figure out a way to make our label appealing. And what we've got to figure out ... is how to get out of the booth and get into the river, because that's where the people are."

Mixing humor with theories, McNeal told Kentucky Baptists that Jesus is the model for this transition because He did the same thing while on earth.

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Dated material. Please deliver by Wednesday, November 23

Adrian Rogers remembered as SBC conservative leader

"When they write on my tombstone, I'd like for them to say something like this: Here lies Adrian Rogers, a man of God."

Three-time SBC President Adrian Rogers

Memphis, Tenn.—Three-time Southern Baptist Convention President Adrian Rogers, whose conservative leadership helped change the SBC, died Nov. 15 following a battle with cancer and double pneumonia. He was 74.

Rogers, longtime pastor of Bellevue Baptist Church in suburban Memphis, helped build the church from a membership of 9,000 to more than 29,000, making it one of the nation's largest Southern Baptist congregations.

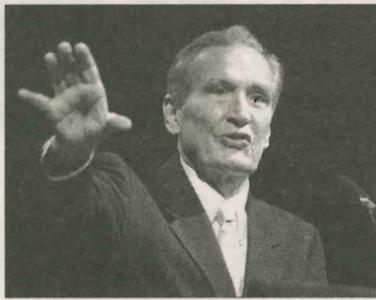
His face and voice were known to millions of Christians worldwide thanks to his Love Worth Finding television and radio ministry, which is carried in more than 150 countries. He was inducted into the National Religious Broadcasters' Hall of Fame in 2003.

Election sparks SBC shift

But Rogers might be best remembered for his leadership in the SBC's theological and political conservative shift. His election as SBC president in 1979 marked the official beginning of the denomination's conservative movement. Rogers, and other conservative presidents who followed, pledged to use their nominating powers to name only those who believed in the inerrancy and infallibility of the Bible.

Rogers, who also was elected SBC president in 1986 and 1987, served as chairman of the 2000 Baptist Faith & Message Study Committee that reviewed and revised Southern Baptists' statement of faith.

Rogers, in an October interview with the Florida Baptist Witness, acknowledged the significance of



Adrian Rogers

his role in the SBC's conservative movement.

"I look back on my life and there are a lot of things that have happened. I have written books, pastored churches, preached on radio and television around the world," Rogers noted. "But I think the part that God allowed me to have in the turning of the SBC may have the longest-lasting effect and be the most significant."

Describing the denominational shift as "part of church history," he added, "We think of the ancient councils of the church in decisions and so forth, but this thing is not small; it is big."

According to SBC Executive Committee President Morris Chapman, Rogers' "tenacious yet humble commitment to the absolute authority and inerrancy of God's Word stood in stark contrast to the ominous theological drift that threatened the convention. ... When selected to take the helm of the SBC, he led us in making critical course corrections that helped return the convention to its original course."

At the SBC annual meeting this year, Rogers was honored with a

resolution passed by the SBC Executive Committee that noted many people have called him the "preeminent pulpiteer" among Southern Baptists.

Rogers preached at the SBC Pastors' Conference in Nashville, June 20, appearing energetic and showing no signs of cancer. Participants gave him a standing ovation.

"When they write on my tombstone, I'd like for them to say something like this: Here lies Adrian Rogers, a man of God," he told the crowd.

"There has never been a greater day to preach the gospel of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ than today," Rogers added. "Somehow, we get the idea that poor God, He's not able to do what He used to do.

"I want to tell you, my friend, God is still God. He is not old. He is not sick. And He is not tired. The problem is not with God. ... Don't you insult God by saying that (revival) can't happen."

Rogers, the author of 18 books, also established the Adrian Rogers Pastor Training Institute and taught at Mid-America Baptist Theological Seminary in nearby Germantown, Tenn., an institution he helped found.

Legacy as "preacher-populist"

Baptist historian Bill Leonard said Rogers' high level of visibility as a "preacher-populist" meant he left an important legacy not only for Southern Baptists, but for American religion and politics in general.

"As a preacher with a particular rhetorical style that represents Southern evangelicalism inside a

megachurch orientation, he helped shape popular religion in the U.S.," said Leonard, dean of Wake Forest Divinity School in Winston-Salem, N.C. "I also think that he was a leader in what I would call the politicization of large segments of Southern evangelicalism and moving them into greater political activism on the right."

Rogers' most lasting contribution to Southern Baptist life in his latter years may have come as chairman of the Baptist Faith & Message Study Committee. In one its most controversial moves, the 2000 committee chose to remove language from the 1963 BF&M that stated, "The criterion by which the Bible is to be interpreted is Jesus Christ."

"Jesus Christ cannot be divided from the biblical revelation that is testimony to Him," Rogers told SBC messengers at the time. "We must not claim a knowledge of Christ that is independent of Scripture or in any way in opposition to Scripture."

Born in West Palm Beach in 1931, Rogers graduated from Stetson University and New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary. He served as pastor of First Baptist Church of Fellsmere, Fla.; Parkview Baptist Church in Fort Pierce, Fla.; and Merritt Island (Fla.) Baptist Church before moving to Bellevue in 1972. He retired earlier this year and was named pastor emeritus.

Rogers is survived by his wife, Joyce, as well as four children, nine grandchildren and one great grandchild. His funeral service was held Nov. 17 at Bellevue.

Compiled from Baptist Press, Associated Baptist Press and Religion News Service

Southern Baptist, evangelical leaders reflect on Rogers' life & legacy

Nashville (BP)—Adrian Rogers' death Nov. 15 prompted Southern Baptist and evangelical leaders across the nation to reflect on the life and ministry of the three-time Southern Baptist Convention president. Among them:

SBC President Bobby Welch. "The flags of Christianity in general, and of Southern Baptists in particular, should be at half mast upon this occasion because few and very, very few like Dr. Adrian P. Rogers—friend, pastor, warrior, statesman, soul winner and inspiration—seldom arise in one generation."

Morris Chapman, president of the SBC Executive Committee. "Adrian Rogers was a model preacher, pastor, evangelist, husband and father. He was an inspiration to untold millions, and the full impact of his life and ministry likely will not be comprehended or calculated this side of eternity. ... When I needed counsel, I often sought his advice. Not only was I blessed by listening to his powerful sermons, I looked at his life and saw no greed, no grudges, no jealousies and no egotism. However, I did see Jesus. Adrian was my mentor in the ministry, and became for me a model of the Christian life—a model for whom I had enormous love and respect."

James Draper, president of LifeWay Christian Resources. "He was a friend who was always loving, always commanded respect, always calling us to do what is right, never wavering in his commitment to God and to His Word, leading us to stand firm in matters that must not be compromised and by his character and extraordinary

giftedness, compelling us to follow his leadership. He was a giant in every way."

Richard Land, president of the SBC Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission.

"Dr. Adrian Rogers was one of the giants of the faith of any era of the Christian church. If there were a Mount Rushmore for Southern Baptists, Dr. Rogers would certainly be on it. Adrian Rogers was perhaps the last half century's premier example of an expository preacher who used his gifts to magnify the Lord Jesus Christ and His victory for humanity on the cross."

Jerry Rankin, president of the SBC International Mission Board. "Adrian Rogers was a great man of integrity who provided outstanding leadership to our convention. In addition, for us the passing of Adrian is not just the death of a great Baptist statesman, but the passing of a member of the family. In a real sense, he is one of ours. Adrian has given one of his children to the mission field. His son, David, serves with us in Western Europe."

Robert Reccord, president of the SBC North American Mission Board. "Adrian was a friend and mentor to me and so many others who greatly admired his stewardship of the many gifts with which God blessed him. Our denomination owes him a deep debt of gratitude for the courageous leadership he gave during the critical years that placed us back on such a firm foundation. The ministry at Bellevue and the thousands of lives changed through it will live on as an enduring testimony to his legacy and an example

of how God can work so mightily through a humble and committed servant. No one can fill his shoes, but I pray we will all aspire to walk in the faith and obedience to God he so remarkably demonstrated."

O.S. Hawkins, president of GuideStone

Financial Resources. "When I heard early this morning of Adrian's death, my mind raced to 1 Samuel 9:6: 'Behold, there is in this city a man of God who is an honorable man. ... He can show us the way we should go.' Adrian Rogers was our 'man of God' and he showed us 'the way' in every aspect of his life. Fittingly, he has now led the way for us again and today he has looked upon the face of Christ in glory! Our prayers and love are with Joyce and the family."

Paige Patterson, president of Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary.

"No more 'half hallelujahs' for Adrian Rogers. He is home with Jesus with a full hallelujah! While we rejoice for him, he leaves a vacancy in my heart more massive than the sweep of the Grand Canyon. So many contributed massively and heroically, but in my estimation Adrian was the one human, essential prophet in returning the SBC to the faith of its fathers. Whether the discussion is compassion, mental alacrity, sense of humor, prowess in the pulpit, passion for Jesus and for lost sinners, or just faithful encouragement of the brethren, Adrian Rogers brought it all to Southern Baptists. If we Baptists had a Hall of Fame, Dr. Rogers would be enshrined tomorrow."

Al Mohler, president of Southern Bap-

tist Theological Seminary. "Dr. Rogers was a lion in our midst—the man God used to serve as leader and voice for a great resurgence of biblical Christianity. He was a man of tremendous gifts, whose booming voice was matched by a gift for words and a powerful delivery. He dominated the pulpit as few men ever have, preaching the Word and calling sinners to faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. He was a modern-day 'Prince of Preachers' whose personal example served to encourage thousands of others to greater faithfulness in preaching the Word of God."

James Dobson, founder of Focus on the Family. "There is no one in America whom I respected more than Dr. Rogers. He has been a faithful friend to me and to the ministry of Focus on the Family for many years, serving as a voice of wisdom, encouragement and admonition on our board of directors. He was also a staunch ally in the battle to defend biblical values in our culture. Most importantly, Dr. Rogers was responsible for impacting countless people through the faithful preaching of the gospel of Jesus Christ. That was the defining passion of his life, from the day I first met him until the very end."

Beverly LaHaye, founder of Concerned Women for America. "Adrian Rogers was a true spiritual giant. We offer our deepest condolences to his wife, Joyce, and his four children and nine grandchildren. Adrian's life and ministry were a blessing to many. We take comfort in the assurance that he is now rejoicing in Heaven with his personal Lord and Savior."

Messengers elect Chitwood, Toby, Mayes to top posts

By Trennis Henderson
Editor

Frankfort—Three conservative pastors were elected to the Kentucky Baptist Convention's top offices last week, including President Paul Chitwood, pastor of First Baptist Church of Mount Washington.

All three men were elected over moderate candidates endorsed by Mainstream Baptists of Kentucky.

Chitwood was elected 974-601 over Bob DeFoor, pastor of Harrodsburg Baptist Church.

In a post-election news conference, Chitwood, 35, said he is "thankful to the Lord for the privilege of serving" and "thankful Kentucky Baptists have put their trust in a younger leader."

DeFoor, who has expressed concern about the growth of political fundamentalism among Kentucky Baptists, said he does not consider Chitwood a fundamentalist.

Striking a conciliatory tone, DeFoor added, "Paul is a fine man and he will do very well. He's a gracious Christian man who has proven himself very well."

"I think today was a good day for

Kentucky Baptists," DeFoor added. "I am confident Paul's leadership will be inclusive."

Expressing appreciation for DeFoor's spirit, Chitwood said, "I think we've proven the days of divisiveness are behind us."

"I think Kentucky Baptists in the pew always have been conservative people," Chitwood added. "There is diversity among us. I think that is a healthy thing."

In other races, John Mark Toby, pastor of Beacon Hill Baptist Church in Somerset, was elected first vice president by a vote of 510-253 against Tommy Valentine, pastor of Lexington Avenue Baptist Church in Danville. Ronnie Mayes, pastor of Rose Hill Baptist Church in Ashland, was elected second vice president by a vote of 228-180 against Bill Shoulta, pastor of Melbourne Heights Baptist Church in Louisville.

In uncontested elections, Wilma Simmons of Brandenburg was re-elected secretary and Mike Melloan of Owensboro was re-elected assistant secretary.

Chitwood was nominated by former KBC President Charles Barnes

who described him as "one of our younger pastors who has already made a significant contribution to the Kingdom work in Kentucky."

Citing Chitwood's service as a former KBC first vice president and member of the KBC Mission Study Committee as well as a trustee of the Southern Baptist International Mission Board, Barnes added, "Paul understands the heart of Kentucky Baptist work. He understands our heritage. He understands our polity. And he will fairly lead all Kentucky Baptists."

Chitwood, a graduate of Cumberland College in Williamsburg and Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, has served as pastor of First Baptist, Mount Washington, since 2003. He previously was pastor of First Baptist Church of Somerset, First Baptist Church of Owenton and South Fork Baptist Church of Owenton.

Toby, who also will serve this year as president of the Kentucky Baptist Pastors' Conference, served last year as co-chairman of the KBC tellers committee and as a member of the Southern Baptist Convention tel-



ers committee. He is a graduate of Eastern Kentucky University in Richmond, Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville and Luther Rice Seminary in Atlanta.

Mayes, pastor of Rose Hill Church for three years, is a member of the KBC Mission Board. He is a graduate of Henderson State University in Arkadelphia, Ark.; East Texas State University in Commerce; and Mid-America Baptist Seminary in Memphis where he also served as an instructor and department director.

KBC OFFICERS State convention officers for 2005-2006 are (from left) President Paul Chitwood, First Vice President John Mark Toby, Second Vice President Ronnie Mayes, Secretary Wilma Simmons and Assistant Secretary Mike Melloan.

Both sides praise amicable attitude in Georgetown proposal

Continued from page 1

Prior to debate on the issue, KBC President Hershael York told messengers, "The way we conduct our business as Baptists says much about who we are. It is an act of worship, because we do it not in our own name, but in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ. ... I am asking that we conduct this affair in a God-honoring, Christ-like manner."

Former KBC President Charles Barnes chaired the joint workgroup. Recounting Georgetown's decision to establish a self-perpetuating board, he said KBC workgroup representatives "certainly regret that they are moving in this direction but we understand why they are. We want to be as supportive as good Baptists as we can as we move forward."

Emphasizing that "the Kentucky Baptist Convention has never owned Georgetown College," Barnes added, "In fact, Georgetown College is older than the Kentucky Baptist Convention and it was only in 1942 that the convention began electing trustees of Georgetown College. ... The only question before us is how we will work through this four-year period" to phase out provisions of the current covenant agreement adopted in 1987.

Georgetown in "Baptist family"

Barnes noted that Georgetown officials affirmed their desire to have an ongoing relationship with the state convention. Although "they will no longer be an institution or agency of the convention as they are today," Barnes said, "We want them to be part of our Baptist family."

Georgetown President Bill Crouch emphasized that during dialogue with convention leaders, "the Spirit of God was felt in our meetings together and prevails even today."

Acknowledging it was "a spirit I have not felt before in the Kentucky Baptist Convention," Crouch added,



KEY PLAYERS Georgetown College President Bill Crouch (left) and Kentucky Baptist Convention President Hershael York, key players in the Georgetown proposal adopted last week, visit together after the vote.

"This spirit has opened the doors for conversations about all we hold in common and not what divides us. ... The entire process has been above board and totally honest."

While "some may view this agreement and proposal as a divorce," Crouch said KBC leaders "join me in viewing it as a relationship of love and respect going forward."

Describing the reasons for Georgetown's decision to establish a self-perpetuating board, Crouch said "three strategic visions of Georgetown College" include becoming "nationally known as a superior liberal arts college," seeking to "achieve Phi Beta Kappa, the highest academic ranking a college can achieve" and seeking to build a \$100 million endowment within 10 years. The school currently has \$28 million in endowment and \$45 million in long-term debt.

Concerning Phi Beta Kappa status, Crouch said Georgetown will seek to achieve that goal while "remaining a Christian college, a rare occurrence in higher education

today."

Georgetown's trustees believe "the best way to achieve this is through this proposal," Crouch said. "We hope that you, the Kentucky Baptist Convention, will always want to have fellowship with Georgetown College and let us join forces with you in mission and ministry to advance the Kingdom of God. ... May God do a great work in all of us."

Opening the floor for debate, York explained that no amendments or substitute motions would be accepted. "Because this is an agreed partnership with another entity, to amend it is to nullify it," he said. "Therefore only an up-or-down vote is in order."

"Tired of the fighting"

Darren Gaddis, pastor of Central Baptist Church in Corbin, described the dialogue with Georgetown as "Kentucky's finest hour."

"For the past 25 years, we've seen fighting going on in states all around us," he noted. "Praise the Lord that most of that fighting has

stayed out of the state of Kentucky.

"The truth is I'm tired of the fighting. I think it's time for us to get our heads on straight and start focusing on what's important."

Acknowledging that Georgetown has the right to alter its relationship to the KBC, Gaddis added, "Our responsibility is to determine how this departure takes place. We can do what I believe we should do which is to shake their hand and allow them to hug our necks. Or we could do the other thing and choose not to agree with this. In other words, punch them and allow them to punch us."

"If they're going anyway, let's do the right thing," he urged. "Let's not fight. Let's hug their neck, let them go their way and let's pray God's blessing on them."

David Keuss, a messenger from Ninth and O Baptist Church in Louisville, said he opposed the proposal "because we are supporting a divorce."

Since the current covenant agreement "allows them to leave voluntarily in four years, then we should allow them to do that," he said. "But we should not support a divorce which is what we're doing before the world."

Corey Abney, pastor of Kings Baptist Church in Mount Washington, urged messengers to adopt the proposal.

"I believe that as we affirm this motion, the world will see that our priority lies with leading people to Jesus Christ," he said. "For the sake of our reputation and the reputation of the Lord Jesus Christ, ... I urge us to affirm this motion."

The proposal was adopted on a show-of-ballots vote with only scattered opposition.

Crouch described the vote margin as "even more substantial than I had anticipated." He said he hopes the KBC's action "sends a national message to other conventions that this is something you don't need to fight over."

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

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The motive behind your mission

By Rick Warren

Lake Forest, Calif. (BP)—God has given every believer, in every one of our churches, a mission—to go into the world and share the good news about Jesus.

Why? Why should we care enough about the people around us to tell them about how to get to heaven? This can be a difficult concept to teach our congregations. How do we motivate them to take the good news and share it with others? Here is something that might help:

The Bible—in 2 Corinthians 5:14—says: “For the love of Christ compels us.” Our love for Jesus motivates us to fulfill our mission.

Everyone matters to God

God has never made a person He didn't love. God made some people that I don't love, and God has made a lot of people that I don't even like.

But God loves them. The most despicable person you can imagine is still loved by God. And because God cares, we must care.

I once watched a televised interview with Jane Roe—of the famous Roe v. Wade abortion case. During the interview, she shared that she had become a believer in Jesus Christ. As she told her story, you could hear how her heart had been softened and she'd become a warm, caring, loving individual.

It dawned on me that one person who showed love and attention and shared the good news with her—one loving relationship—in Jane Roe's life did what all the protests in the world had failed to do and that was to change her mind.

You change people by love. Society is changed one life at a time. God has put specific people in your life that He expects you to share the good news with. You're the only Christian some people know.

God will hold us responsible for the lives of the people He has put in our path to tell the good news. Not just family, friends and relatives, but

all the people we come into contact with.

That might scare some of your church members. 2 Timothy 1:7-8 says, “The Holy Spirit doesn't want

you to be afraid of people but to be wise and strong and to love

them and enjoy being with them. If you will stir up this inner power, you will never be afraid to tell others about our Lord.” That Living Bible paraphrase says the antidote to fear is love. The reason your church members don't share the good news is that they don't love people enough to want to get them into heaven. If they loved them enough, they'd want to tell them the good news.

If one of my kids were in a burning building, I wouldn't care how big the flames were—I'd go in after them. I wouldn't care if I got hurt. I wouldn't care if other people said I was crazy. I'd still go in. I'd grab my child and bring him out. I might be singed and burned. Then people would say, “You were brave!” No, I wasn't brave or courageous or crazy. I was motivated by love.

When we finally love our family members enough, we'll have the courage to tell them about Jesus. It's not like we're trying to give them cancer. It's not like we're trying to sell them swampland in Florida. We're telling them the greatest news in the world—about forgiveness of the past, power and purpose in the present, and a home in heaven in the future. We can't get that deal anywhere else.

“Show and tell” your faith

Many people in our congregations wonder how they should go about sharing their faith. You do it two ways: You've got to show it and share it.

Remember “show and tell” from your school days? That's what God wants us to do. He wants us to help others visualize it with our lives and verbalize it with our mouths.

Thanks to Kentucky Baptists

It is a special privilege to serve our Lord by serving Kentucky Baptists. There are many reasons why I feel this way, but one is certainly the Christ-like way in which Kentucky Baptists have determined to conduct business. This was especially evident at the annual meeting in Frankfort last week.

The decision by Georgetown College trustees to become self-perpetuating could have been divisive. But a joint committee representing the Kentucky Baptist Convention and Georgetown College found a way, under God, for the school to make a smooth transition over a four-year period. The messengers voted by an overwhelming majority to approve the process.

I am grateful for all who assisted in the development of the transition process, especially KBC President Hershael York, KBC Workgroup Chairman Charles Barnes and Assistant Executive Director Steve Thompson. Georgetown College President Bill Crouch and the

college's trustees also deserve credit for their support of the process.

I am also grateful that the convention passed a resolution supporting the three KBC institutions of higher education—Campbellsville University, University of the Cumberland and Clear Creek Baptist Bible College.

PARTNERS IN THE MISSION



Bill Mackey

The leadership provided by executive office staff in working with KBC committees also was a blessing. KBC staff members from all of our teams were involved in the auxiliary meetings and exhibits, as well as hosting special guests.

The annual meeting schedule was excellent, especially the prayer times, dramas and worship experiences. The theme of “Strengthening Every Church” flowed throughout the Pastors' Conference and annual meeting.

On Wednesday morning a series of seminars were conducted. Richard Blackaby spoke on the topic, “Putting a Face on Grace,” which is the title of his new book. I will never

If you've ever served on a jury or watched a case on television, you know that the No. 1 tool of a defense attorney is to discredit the credibility of the witness. If he can do that, then the case is thrown out.

Don't you think Satan is trying to do that with our members? He wants to discredit our lifestyle so other people will say, “If that's a Christian, forget it.”

We can actually keep people out of heaven by the way we live. The fact is you're being watched by your boss, your neighbors, your employees, your children, your relatives. Every conversation you have, every action you have, every word you speak has eternal implications. That's an awesome responsibility.

I shudder thinking that one day someone might use my life as an excuse for saying no to Jesus. “I've seen how Warren lives. If that's a Christian, then forget it.” I shudder to think of standing before God one day and explaining that somebody went to hell because of my example.

We need to show God's love and live in a way that brings credit to God's name. Colossians 4:5 says, “Make the most of your chances to tell others the good news.”

Some people say, “I don't need to tell people. My witness is my life.” Do you realize what an ego trip that is? Even Jesus had to tell them how to be saved, and He was perfect.

They might not know why you're good. We say, “My witness is my life.” That means you just walk in the room and people look at you and automatically fall on their face and repent and accept Christ. I doubt it! We've got to tell them.

Our mission is the same mission regardless of where we are in the world. It is to invite people into God's family. I challenge you to challenge your church to get serious about sharing the good news with the people God has put in their life.

Ask them, “Is anybody going to be in heaven because of you?”

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

think of God's grace in the same way again. Blackaby shared that God's grace appropriated in our lives is the biblical foundation for evangelism. If we do not practice grace toward others, people will not hear our message of grace.

Every Kentucky Baptist should have the privilege of hearing this message. You can listen to it, download it or order a cassette/DVD by visiting www.kybaptist.org/av. Other presentations from the annual meeting and Pastors' Conference can be found there as well.

The presentations by children's ministry expert Art Murphy and leadership expert Reggie McNeal were equally inspirational and informative. McNeal reminded us that we now have the opportunity to minister to six generations in the church. Each generation has its own culture and “heart language” for worship, relating, learning and serving.

I am asking all Kentucky Baptists to pray with me every day for personal and church revival and obedience to the Great Commission by asking God to use you in connecting all people to Jesus Christ.

Bill Mackey is executive director of the Kentucky Baptist Convention

GIVING

Christians need to affirm importance of giving to God

By Doug Strader

Psalm 24 says, “The earth is the Lord's and the fullness thereof, the world and those who dwell therein, for He has founded it upon the seas and established it upon the waters.”

While God's Word clearly declares that truth, it seems that fewer and fewer people actually believe it. Many people live their lives as though the things they have accumulated are actually theirs. Even many people who claim to be followers of Christ have a difficult time recognizing that all they have is God's and that He allows them to use it while they are on the earth.

If we truly believe God owns everything, then we understand that God doesn't have a need for us to give anything to Him; it is His already.

The real truth is that we need to give to God. Why? I do not understand all the reasons, but I do know some reasons why we need to give:

We need to give because giving blesses us. Proverbs 22:9 tells us, “Whoever has a bountiful eye will be blessed for he shares his bread with the poor.”

By giving, we show evidence that we have true faith. James talks about faith without works and faith with works. Giving shows faith with works.

Being a giving person results in Christ-like contentment. Paul talks to the Corinthians about sowing sparingly and bountifully. Bountiful sowing brings a bountiful harvest.

Giving can make us more like Jesus. “For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though He was rich, yet for your sakes He became poor, so that you by His poverty might become rich.” Jesus is the best example of sacrificial giving.

Giving shows our investment in eternity. Our giving to Christ and His mission helps take the gospel to people throughout the world.

Giving can help provide victory over materialism. Hoarding is a way of life for millions of people. Some people act as if they can never get enough. A few years ago LifeWay Christian Resources produced a study written by Larry Burkett titled “How Much Is Enough?” that helps Christians come to terms with their material resources.

You likely can think of other reasons to give of our resources to God. The above list can be a good beginning for your study.

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



Parents can help kids express thanks in fun, creative ways

Q: As we celebrate Thanksgiving, what are some practical ways I can help my kids express thanks?

Several years ago Ray Bolz sang, "Thank you for giving to the Lord. I am a life that was changed." The song has become a way of saying thanks to special people who have touched our lives.

PARENTING

As your children celebrate Thanksgiving, ask your child to think of a special person who has helped him or her learn about God. Then look for creative ways to say thank you.

You don't have to spend any money. Handmade cards and notes are always better. Be as specific as possible in telling what this person has done for you. Among possible options:

- Make an acrostic using the letters of the friend's name to describe his or her influence and friendship.

- Write a cinquain poem (check with an English teacher for details!) to express your thanks.

- Have your picture made together as a way of honoring your special friend.

- Using construction paper, aluminum foil and yarn, make and present a medal recognizing your friend or loved one as one of your heroes.

- Write a special prayer of thanksgiving.

- Ask your friend to honor you by sitting with you in worship one Sunday.

Show your child Philippians 1:3, which reads, "I thank my God every time I remember you." Help your child connect the verse with his or her special friend during this Thanksgiving season.—David Garrard

Q: I'm really having a hard time staying married. I have been unhappy for quite a while. I am concerned about the effect on my children if I leave, but I am just tired of how things are. Can I be forgiven if I choose to leave?

If there is the presence of abuse or there are fears for your safety for you or your children, a separation would be needed to stop all abusive behavior.

MARRIAGE

If the case is that you and your spouse have "grown apart," then you will need to take a hard look at your motives. God believes in marriage and believes in a marriage filled with love. Both you and your spouse have responsibilities to the marriage relationship.

When the two of you brought children into the relationship, you made a commitment to the welfare of those children. Ending your marriage, even if unhappy, is not simply about what you want. God has given you stewardship over your children. Their long-term health (mental, physical, spiritual and emotional) has been placed in your care.

Before making the decision to leave your marriage, take a serious inventory of your role in the relationship. What have you done to make the marriage better? Because you cannot change your spouse, you have to begin with the person you can change.

Most all of us have the desire to be happy during our lifetime on earth. But to seek only happiness in this life is to strive for that which is elusive. The challenge for every married person is to seek after those things God holds in high regard, such as commitment, faithfulness, right living, unconditional love, reconciliation, confrontation about truth and forgiveness.

God's purpose for our time on earth is much more than maintaining feelings of happiness. Feeling unhappy is not a legitimate reason to leave a marriage and create that type of brokenness in the lives of your children.

Don't settle for being unhappy. Be creative and proactive about making changes in your marriage. It is likely you have more power and influence in your marriage than you have been willing to exert or recognize. It is the privilege of God to extend His grace and forgiveness to any of us. Consider prayerfully the decision you make.—Valerie Vincent

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KBC '05: Peaceful, positive & productive

Last week's 2005 Kentucky Baptist Convention annual meeting proved to be peaceful, positive and productive.

Prior to Kentucky Baptists' Nov. 15-16 gathering in Frankfort, there was the potential for significant division on such issues as Georgetown College trustees' decision to establish a self-perpetuating board and a contested presidential race.

While scattered reports indicated this could be a political showdown among Kentucky Baptists, the reality is that convention leaders and messengers conducted themselves in a Christ-honoring way that long-time KBC observers have come to expect.

On the Georgetown College front, KBC and college officials worked diligently in recent months to craft a win-win proposal. In the end, messengers overwhelmingly approved a plan that will allow Georgetown to elect its own trustees beginning next year. Rather than immediately cutting off funds or filing suit against the school, KBC leaders agreed to gradually phase out Georgetown's \$1.3 million annual Cooperative Program allocation over the next four years.

Such decisions are quite different from recent actions by other state Baptist conventions. Georgia Baptists voted last week to sever ties with Mercer University over a gay-rights controversy. Tennessee Baptists cut Belmont University's \$2.3 million CP allocation, but then delayed action on a proposal to redefine the two entities' relationship. Belmont President Robert Fisher indicated those actions likely will prompt a legal battle.

Here in Kentucky, KBC President Hershael York urged messengers to "conduct this affair in a God-honoring, Christ-like manner."

Encouraging fellow messengers to "do the right thing," Darren Gaddis, pastor of Central Baptist Church in Corbin, said of Georgetown, "Let's hug

their neck, let them go their way and let's pray God's blessing on them." During cordial floor debate, only two people spoke against the proposal.

In this year's presidential election, Paul Chitwood was elected by a total of 62-38 percent, the largest margin of victory in a contested presidential election in recent years.

While some observers view his election as an indicator of a conservative shift in Kentucky Baptist life, that's not necessarily so. Both Chitwood and unsuccessful presidential candidate Bob DeFoor agreed that most Kentucky Baptists are theologically conservative.

The fact is that Chitwood is a young, articulate, well-qualified leader who has had the opportunity to serve in several significant KBC positions the past few years.

DeFoor described Chitwood as "a gracious Christian man who has proven himself very well."

"The deal is not uniformity, but a sense of unity," DeFoor added. "I don't see us having issues of not being able to work together while expressing diversity."

Chitwood expressed confidence that "the days of divisiveness are behind us" in Kentucky Baptist life. "There is diversity among us," he pointed out. "I think that is a healthy thing."

In addition to the Georgetown proposal and officer elections, messengers adopted a Cooperative Program budget goal of more than \$23.5 million; heard updates on disaster relief, partnership missions and other vital ministry efforts; dedicated the Tuesday evening session to a focus on "Engaging and Involving New Members"; and took part in Wednesday morning seminars highlighting key strategies to strengthen churches.

And, in typical Kentucky Baptist fashion, a peaceful, positive and productive perspective prevailed. If that commitment to Christ-honoring cooperation continues, Kentucky Baptists' best days are ahead.

STRAIGHT FROM THE EDITOR



Trennis Henderson

Adrian Rogers: 'Friend and fellow servant'

By James Draper

Nashville (BP)—We grieve over the death of Adrian Rogers. But we do not grieve for him; we grieve for ourselves. We will greatly miss him. We celebrate his coronation into the presence of the Lord as he is now absent from the body and present with the Lord.

Solomon wrote, "A friend loves at all times, and a brother's born for a difficult time" (Proverbs 17:17). Both of these statements describe the life of Adrian Rogers to me. A friend and confidant for over 25 years, he was the North Star for many of us. He was loving, always calling us to do what was right, never wavering in his commitment to God and to His Word, leading us to stand firm on matters that must not be compromised and by his character and extraordinary giftedness compelling us to follow his leadership.

He became a cherished brother during the difficult days of the conservative resurgence. His partnership in the effort to lead the Southern Baptist Convention to an unquestioned commitment to the authority, inerrancy and sufficiency of Scripture provided the energy and strength to carry on that effort. He was a giant in every way. He was a giant spiritually. His one desire was to please his Lord.

He was a giant as a preacher of the gospel. We often have thought

that if God spoke audibly, He would sound like Adrian. A master communicator and expositor of God's Word, he had no equal in the pulpit. He was a giant as a counselor; when he spoke we all knew he was giving wise counsel and sound advice. His ability to analyze and decipher difficult issues and to give a concise direction was remarkable.

So many memories flood my mind. Thirty-five years ago a member of my church whose baseball career led him to Florida for spring training sent me a tape of a phenomenal preacher he heard in Merritt Island, Fla. It was Adrian Rogers. That was my introduction to this magnificent gospel preacher. His first-ballot election as president of the Southern Baptist Convention in 1979 sparked a renewal and reformation in our convention.

When our church in Eules, Texas, needed a great evangelistic thrust, it was Adrian Rogers who came and preached a great revival crusade. When I was inaugurated as president of the Baptist Sunday School Board (now LifeWay Christian Resources), Adrian Rogers brought the main challenge.

I have observed Adrian as personal friend and fellow servant of our Lord. I've seen him through the eyes of Christian leaders who shared his passion for biblical truth. My oldest son and his family were members of

Bellevue for some years and Adrian was their pastor. Their youngest son, my grandson, was saved under Adrian's ministry, so I have observed him through the eyes of my own children and grandchildren. The witness is perfectly consistent. He was a man of absolute integrity who lived out the message he preached.

When I was president of the Southern Baptist Convention, Adrian and I sat together at a meeting hosted by Jerry Falwell. Adrian looked at me and asked, "Can you imagine a Southern Baptist Convention big enough for Adrian Rogers, Jimmy Draper and Jerry Falwell?" I'm not sure at that time either of us could do that.

Now we are faced with the task of trying to envision the Southern Baptist Convention without Adrian Rogers. I'm not sure I can do that yet. He will be greatly missed. He was the heart of the conservative resurgence. No one can take his place. But that's good because we'll be driven to be reminded that the Lord is the Source of our vision, our passion and our convictions. Adrian would be pleased with that because he never viewed himself as a leader, but as a servant, and always challenged us to draw closer to the Lord Jesus Christ.

Farewell, my friend. We love you and thank God for the example you set for all of us.

James Draper, president of LifeWay Christian Resources, is a former Southern Baptist Convention president

FIRST PERSON

CONVENTION NOTES

Attendance up. This year, 1,815 messengers attended the Kentucky Baptist Convention annual meeting, an increase from last year's 1,521 messengers in Louisville.

CP budget goal approved. Messengers adopted a 2006-2007 Cooperative Program budget goal of \$23,562,000, a 2 percent increase over the current budget goal. Allocations include 64 percent for Kentucky Baptist ministries and 36 percent for Southern Baptist Convention causes. They also approved a challenge goal of \$1.3 million, for a total CP goal of \$24,862,000.

Next year in Bowling Green. Next year's KBC annual meeting will be held at First Baptist Church of Bowling Green. The 2007 meeting will be in Elizabethtown at Severns Valley Baptist Church, which currently is constructing a new facility. Messengers voted to accept an invitation to hold the 2008 annual meeting at Immanuel Baptist Church in Lexington.

Thanks and help. Charles Rogers, director of missions for Jackson Baptist Association in Pascagoula, Miss., thanked Kentucky Baptists for their disaster relief work in the Gulf Coast area devastated by hurricanes. "By your prayers, God is at work. Thousands of Southern Baptists have come. It's a wonderful thing to see God at work." The association is one of three that Kentucky Baptists have formed a new partnership with for ministry to residents and rebuilding churches. Rogers urged churches to get involved in the work. "God has tenderized the hearts of our community. I want to tell you that's because of the work of Southern Baptists. Thousands will be saved. It is a harvest time for us."



ILLUSTRATING "CONNECT" Charles and Rebecca Reese, who comprise the "Re-Creations" drama team, performed skits throughout the annual meeting to illustrate the KBC's five-year "Kentucky Baptists Connect" strategy to involve churches and Christians in connecting people to Christ.

Closing the back door

Churches urged to keep new members by better involvement

By David Winfrey
News Director

Frankfort—Churches that involve members in small groups, ministries and relationships with leaders and other members do a better job of keeping new members, pastors and leaders told messengers during the Kentucky Baptist Convention.

KBC officials dedicated the Tuesday evening session last week to the topic of assimilation, sometimes called "closing the back door" in recognition that many congregations have a problem with new members becoming inactive within a year of joining a church.

"I've watched them come and go," said Ron Davis, pastor of Franklin Crossroads Baptist Church in Cecilia. "My energy was bringing them in, but my weakness was assimilation."

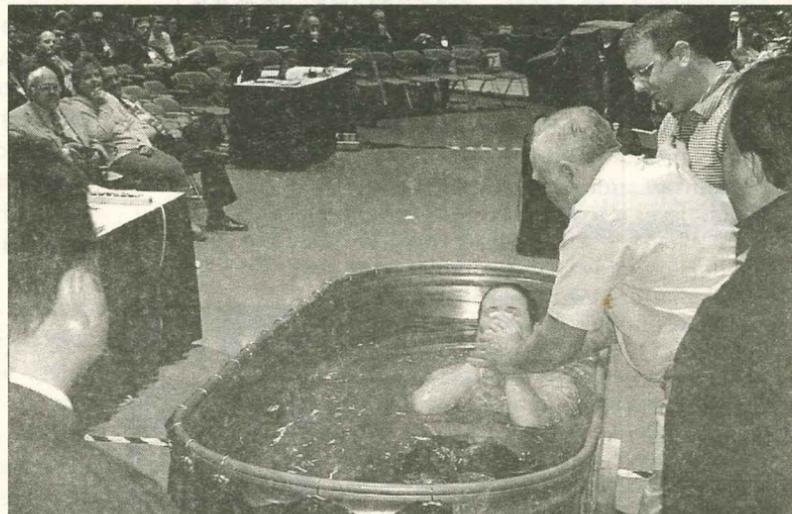
Four years ago, he said, he began teaching a six-week "survival kit" class for new members and visitors. The class educates people about the church's purpose and shows them how to get involved.

"Remember the moment they walk down the church aisle?" he asked. "They're ready to go. So take them somewhere."

A special team of KBC staff and pastors have been working to equip churches with articles, books and other resources to help them better understand how to assimilate new members into the life of their congregation.

"Statistics tell us that we only keep about three out of every 10 people that we baptize into our churches," said Dan Garland, leader of the KBC's church development and evangelism team.

Work on assimilation developed from a study last year, commissioned by the KBC, which found that 81 percent of unchurched Kentuck-



BAPTISM Members of Hope Community Church in Lawrenceburg baptized four people during the KBC annual meeting to illustrate the goal of increased baptisms.

ians previously were involved in a church. Of those "de-churched" Kentuckians, 67 percent claimed that they had made a commitment to Jesus Christ.

"How can we keep believers connected to the church so they don't become part of the de-churched of Kentucky?" Garland asked.

With the help of research from Thom Rainer, the new president of LifeWay Christian Resources, the KBC is promoting four actions churches should take to retain members:

Expectation. Churches should communicate expectations for members. Often this can happen through a new member's class or other orientation process before someone joins or shortly afterward.

Ministry involvement. Rainer found that if a new member isn't involved in a ministry six months after joining a church, he or she likely already is moving toward being inactive in the church.

Relationships. People who don't feel connected to other people within the church don't remain connected to the church for long, Rainer states.

Small group involvement. New

members who are involved in small groups—a ministry team, discipleship group or Sunday school class—are less likely to leave a church, even if they experience a season of discouragement, Rainer states.

Jason Pettus, pastor of Living Hope Baptist Church in Bowling Green, told messengers that churches must create a process in which people can progress from believing in Jesus to having a place where they find a "place and purpose in the family."

Church leaders count mission dollars and baptisms, but rarely retention rates, he noted.

"I realized we had to stop counting how many people we got to come and start counting how many people stayed," he said. "Nobody's going to slap you on the back and say, 'Hey, you retained another one.'"

"Do you love your people enough to reclaim the saved?" he asked. "They've already been blood bought, but they're wandering."

The KBC has developed a list of assimilation resources for churches. For more information, contact the adult Sunday school/discipleship department at (502) 489-3572 or toll-free in Kentucky at (866) 489-3572.

Messengers approve resolutions on gambling & education

By Trennis Henderson
Editor

Frankfort—Addressing such issues as gambling and the role of Christian parents in public education, Kentucky Baptist Convention messengers adopted eight resolutions without debate or opposition Nov. 16.

Declaring "our opposition to all types of gambling in our state," the anti-gambling resolution warns that "the gambling industry preys on those who are poorest in our society" and that "gambling is a direct attack on the work ethic presented in Scripture."

Noting that "gambling may become a compulsive addiction leading to the destruction of the family unit and producing anti-social behavior in our society," it adds that studies show casino gambling in particular "is detrimental to our society by increasing crime" such as robbery, murder, rape, prostitution, drug trafficking and corruption of public officials.

The resolution on public educa-

tion is virtually identical to a measure adopted in June by Southern Baptist Convention messengers.

Emphasizing that "children have been entrusted to parents by the Lord and represent our nation's future and our spiritual legacy," the resolution states that "many negative influences are attempting to transform the moral foundation of the culture by reshaping the core values of our children, undermining historical truth, and promoting promiscuity, violence and other immoral behaviors."

"Homosexual activists and their allies are devoting substantial resources and using political power to promote the acceptance among schoolchildren of homosexuality as a morally legitimate lifestyle," the resolution adds.

It urges parents and churches "to exercise their rights to investigate diligently the curricula, textbooks and programs in our community schools and to demand discontinuation of offensive materials and programs."

Other resolutions adopted by messengers include:

Affirming Kentucky Baptist higher education. One day after approving a new ministry partnership with Georgetown College that ends the school's role as a KBC entity, messengers affirmed the state convention's "long and fruitful relationship with the University of the Cumberlands, Campbellsville University and Clear Creek Baptist Bible College."

Citing the KBC's "deep desire to see students learn in a thoroughly Baptist environment," the measure affirms the convention's "desire to maintain strong ties between our institutions as we mutually commit to carry out our respective missions in a united effort to see Christ glorified and His Holy Word incorporated into every aspect of life and every arena of service."

Hurricane disaster relief efforts. Recounting the devastating impact of hurricanes Katrina, Rita and other recent natural disasters, messengers expressed "our heartfelt

gratitude to all Kentucky Baptist disaster relief volunteers who have or will serve to help meet needs following these disasters."

The resolution pledged "our continued prayer support and other help to the people, churches and associations of the affected area."

International Baptist Convention partnership. Noting that 493 Kentucky Baptist volunteers have participated in 37 partnership projects in Europe during the past four years, messengers pledged "ongoing prayer support for all Christians in Europe and for the ongoing work of the International Baptist Convention."

The partnership has been extended through October 2006.

Other resolutions affirmed Campbellsville University's 100th anniversary in 2006, expressed gratitude to Kentucky Baptist leaders who guided the transition to a new Baptist Building, and expressed appreciation to those who planned, hosted and led last week's annual meeting.

York: Share gospel with 'passion, persuasion, pleading'

By **Trennis Henderson**
Editor

Frankfort—Declaring that “theology matters,” Kentucky Baptist Convention President Hershael York added, “There’s a movement today that says, ‘Let’s not talk about doctrine, let’s just talk about Jesus.’”

By contrast, York insisted, “To talk about Jesus is to talk about doctrine. ... What we believe about Jesus matters. What we believe about this matters. What we believe about the lost matters.”

Delivering his presidential address during the opening session of last week’s KBC annual meeting in Frankfort, York highlighted the role of the watchman detailed in Ezekiel 33.

York, pastor of Buck Run Baptist Church in Frankfort, also is associate professor of Christian preaching and an associate dean in the school of theology at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville.

Belief affects actions

Noting that the watchman’s job is to “see the enemy coming and to give advance warning to every person who might be asleep there within those walls,” York cautioned that if the watchman “doesn’t believe that there’s a danger, he’s never going to give a warning. ... What he believes affects whether or not he performs his duty.”

Ezekiel 33 describes God as both a God of judgment and love, York explained. “The very same God Who sends the sword on the land is the God Who appoints the watchman,”

he noted, “because God is a God of love and is not willing that any should perish.”

York said the passage “tells us something also about the lostness of humanity.”

“The truth is that we are all born in sin, that we are all born at enmity with God and in need of a Savior,” he declared. “It tells us that the lost bear responsibility for their iniquity even if they never have opportunity to repent.”

“That’s a tough truth, isn’t it?” he added. “That’s a hard thing for us to believe. There’s something in us that just wants to think there’s got to be some other way. But the Word of God is so clear that there is no other way.”

“Jesus didn’t come into this world to condemn the world because this world is already condemned,” York emphasized. “There is something from which people must be saved. We don’t take them the gospel just to make them feel better. ... We’re taking them the gospel because they’re lost, in need of a Savior without whom they cannot and will not be saved.”

York said Christians today also must realize the watchman’s job “is going to be affected by what he believes about the condition of those he must warn.”

“The watchman feels a sense of urgency because he believes judgment is real, the need is real and that motivates everything about him.”

York acknowledged that Christians “might disagree about how

the watchman ought to be trained to do the job; we might disagree about his methods; ... we might disagree even about whether or not a woman can be a watchman. But we dare not disagree that those who are asleep with no knowledge of coming judgment are in real danger.”

Explicit faith in Christ

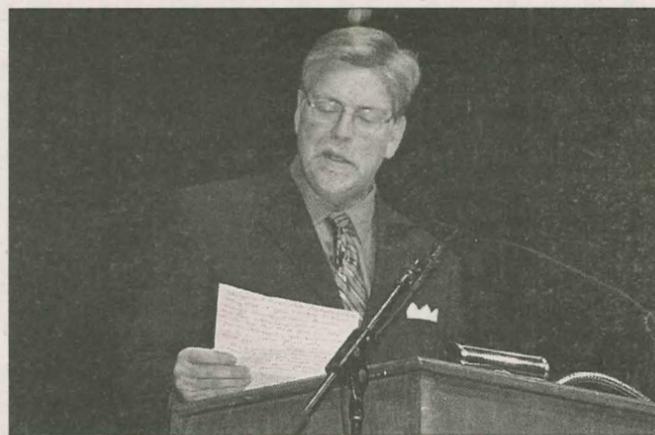
Citing the urgency of sharing the gospel, York said, “If explicit faith in Jesus Christ were not necessary for eternal life, I ask you: ‘On what basis would eternal life be given?’ You’ve only got two choices here—you’ve got faith and you’ve got works.”

“Paul makes it absolutely clear in Galatians and in Romans that there is no salvation by the works of the flesh,” he pointed out. “So let’s rule out works. So that leaves faith.”

“Well faith in what?” he continued. “There is no other faith but the faith of the Lord Jesus Christ.”

“Don’t blame God if people die having never heard the gospel,” York warned. “He has given us our marching orders. He has told us to preach the gospel to every creature. But if don’t believe they’re really lost, if we allow one inking of doubt to creep into our hearts and minds, to tell us that ‘Oh, there’s some other way they can be saved,’ it will rob us of our missionary zeal.”

Affirming that “the only way we can reach them is with the gospel of Jesus Christ,” York urged Kentucky Baptists to share the gospel with “a sense of passion, persuasion and



AFFIRMATION Reading letters of criticism and affirmation he has received as KBC president, Hershael York told convention messengers last week, “I only want to get one word of affirmation: ‘Well done, good and faithful servant.’”

pleading.”

“Passion brings clarity,” he noted. “Passion brings urgency.”

Warning that “in our day, we’re the unmoved sharing the incomprehensible with the indifferent,” York said, “We ought to have a sense of passion and excitement and urgency and delight all at once as we plead with them to receive the gift of eternal life, to fall in love with the Lover of their souls.”

Challenging Christians “to quit worrying about what other people say about us,” York added, “We need to just start talking about Jesus. It’s amazing the way we set up so many issues that not only divide us; they take us away from the gospel.”

“My problem is not liberals,” he declared. “My problem’s my own laziness. And your problem is not the rise of fundamentalism; it’s the decline in baptisms.”

“If we will preach Christ and Him crucified,” York concluded, “God will send revival.”

Henard: Christ foundational for every missions experience

By **David Winfrey**
News Director

Frankfort—Kentucky Baptists seeking to reach the commonwealth for Christ must recognize they can accomplish that goal only through the same power of God that raised Christ from the dead, Bill Henard told messengers during last week’s convention sermon.

“The thing we are guilty of as Kentucky Baptists, especially in so many of our churches, is that we never do anything that demands the power of God,” said Henard, pastor of Porter Memorial Baptist Church in Lexington.

Kentucky Baptists have set a number of goals related to evangelism, baptisms, church planting and ministry, Henard noted. But that strategy, titled “Kentucky Baptists Connect,” requires a biblical foundation for what’s being attempted and accomplished, he added.

Preaching from Philippians 3:10, Henard listed four foundational reasons for Kentucky Baptists’ efforts:

To experience the intimacy of Christ. “Paul said, ‘My goal is to know Him,’” Henard noted.

Paul had a personal, intimate, experience-based knowledge of Christ that differed from how the Israelites knew God in the Old Testament, Henard said.

In the Old Testament, the high priest could enter the presence of God only once a year, on the Day of Atonement, and might be killed if God rejected the people’s offering



BILL HENARD The pastor of Porter Memorial Baptist Church in Lexington delivered the convention sermon at the KBC annual meeting.

for the forgiveness of their sins.

But through Jesus, Christians can know God personally and not just know about God, Henard said.

“We can enter to the throne of grace with boldness, and there we will find mercy to help us in our time of need.”

To experience the outpouring of Christ’s power. “The very power that God used to raise Jesus from the dead is the power that He makes available to us,” Henard said.

Paul explains in Ephesians 1 that the power of God that raised Jesus from the grave is also the power of creation, salvation and domination, Henard explained.

“What Paul is allowing us to understand and helping us to know (is) the reason why we can live the Christian life, the reason why we can accomplish the goals that we have and we can do the things that we do is because God makes avail-

able to us His power.”

The goal set by Southern Baptist Convention President Bobby Welch for churches to baptize 1 million people this year is impossible without the power of God, Henard added.

But too often churches only attempt what they can accomplish in their own power, he said.

“But what God wants us to know is (that) as Kentucky Baptists, if we’re going to make a difference in our commonwealth and reach this commonwealth for Christ, we cannot do it under our own power. We’ve got to do it under the power of the Resurrection.”

To experience the fellowship of Christ’s passion. Henard said Jesus didn’t suffer because of the pain or embarrassment of the cross but because of the lostness of humanity.

Recalling the resurrection of Lazarus and Jesus weeping over Jerusalem, Henard said Jesus wept because of the world’s unbelief.

“When was the last time that you wept because someone was lost?” he asked.

Henard said that while driving to Frankfort for the convention he saw two young women kissing in a car.

“I thought, these two girls are somebody’s daughters and these two girls are loved by God, but these two girls probably don’t know Him,” he said.

“What are we as Kentucky Baptists going to do to reach girls like that?” he asked.

“I weep when my team loses. And they’ve lost a lot this year. I weep when Old Yeller gets shot in the movie, but when was the last time that I wept because of two lost girls in a car?”

To experience the character of Christ’s person. “What Paul challenges us to do is to be molded and shaped into the death of Jesus,” Henard said.

The Gospels often quote Jesus telling those who wanted to follow Him first to deny themselves and to take up their crosses.

“It is the perspective that if we are going to reach this world, if we’re going to make a difference, you and I must be willing to die to self.”

But egos are the primary barrier that will keep Kentucky Baptists from denying themselves in order to accomplish the goals involving reaching others, he added.

“It’s the thing that’s killing us,” Henard said. “If you look at why Christians don’t get along with Christians, why churches don’t get along with churches and why there’s fighting inside of so many churches, the reason is because of our ego, our arrogance, our pride.”

Too many Christians believe that the church is about their needs, he added.

“What we need to do is to die to self,” he said. “The goal is to be conformed, to be shaped, to be molded into the very death of Jesus so that He might transform us into His image.”

AGENCY REPORTS

Baptist Healthcare System. The system consists of hospitals in Louisville, Paducah, Lexington, Corbin and LaGrange, as well as the management of a hospital in Elizabethtown. Among the new programs introduced in the past year were two urgent care centers opened in Louisville and nearly \$70 million in new technology and equipment invested throughout the system in fiscal year 2004. In addition to providing seminars, speakers, health fairs and educational programs, the system gave \$3.6 million in cash and in-kind donations.

Campbellsville University. The school has received \$33.7 million in gifts and pledges toward its \$35 million campaign for faculty, buildings and programs. Campbellsville has experienced 11 consecutive semesters of record enrollment. The school's current enrollment is approximately 2,100 students. This fall, Campbellsville launched First Class, a concentrated course on character, values, servant leadership, stewardship and financial management for all incoming freshmen. "The school is in its 99th year of Christian service," President Mike Carter noted. "All of us at Campbellsville University are excited about the future."

Clear Creek Baptist Bible College. President Bill Whittaker said the school focuses on four core values that leaders pray students will incorporate into their lives: the centrality of Christ, the total trustworthiness of Scripture, evangelism and missions. "Those who teach at Clear Creek are firmly committed to those values," he said. "We are a servant of the churches." The school currently offers 30 classes online as well as a distance learning center in Kingston, Tenn. Clear Creek's current enrollment is 212, with a full-time equivalent enrollment of 174. Next year, Clear Creek will celebrate its 80th anniversary.

Georgetown College. This fall, Georgetown saw a record undergraduate enrollment. The school gave more than \$4.6 million in financial aid to Baptist students. During the past three years, Georgetown has added \$8.1 million to its endowment. In the past year, the school finalized its association with the International Baptist Convention in Europe, and the school recently became an official affiliated institution with the Baptist World Alliance. Georgetown currently has 120 ministerial students, and 50 recent graduates are enrolled in seminary or ministry-related graduate programs.

Kentucky Baptist Assemblies. During the summer of 2005, 1,850 students made professions of faith in Jesus through the camping ministries of Kentucky Baptist Assemblies. In addition to the Jonathan Creek and Cedarmore assembly campuses, KBA has expanded its ministry to include camping opportunities in Northern Kentucky and in Moldova. The agency's focus is reaching youths with the gospel, Executive Director David Melber said. "We've got an (age) 8 to 16 window outside this building," he said. "That's what our ministry is committed to doing." KBA will offer scholarships for 10 percent of its camp enrollment this year, and Melber urged pastors to use the scholarships to bring unchurched youth to camp.

Kentucky Baptist Foundation. The foundation exists to help Kentucky Baptists with stewardship education, stewardship management and stewardship development, KBF President Barry Allen said. In the past year, the foundation's total funds under management reached \$218.7 million, an increase of \$22.3 million compared to 2004. The agency distributed nearly \$9 million in earnings to a variety of causes in the past year. In March, the foundation completed its 60th year of service. "The foundation exists today not for itself but for the rest of our larger and extended Baptist family," Allen said.

Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children. The agency cared for 2,500 children and families in the past year through residential programs, foster care homes, counseling service, pregnancy and adoption services and other programs. KBHC President Bill Smithwick announced the agency's new ministry support center in Mount Washington is named in honor of former President Eldred Taylor. Taylor told messengers: "I ask you to hear the cries of these children who have nowhere else to turn and give this ministry your love, your prayers and your financial support."

Kentucky League on Alcohol & Gambling Problems. Executive Director Howard Beauman asked pastors to contact his office for help with votes about allowing alcohol sales in their area. "You can't wait until the last minute," he added. Beauman also urged Kentucky Baptists to contact their state legislators regarding upcoming votes to expand gambling in Kentucky. "They want to know what the churches have to say." He countered the promise that expanded gambling will bring \$400 million to the state's budget. "Kentuckians will have to lose \$1.1 billion and that comes out of our local economy."

Oneida Baptist Institute. The boarding school for students in grades 6-12 has an average enrollment of 325 students, with 150 faculty and staff. Oneida receives 9 percent of its budget from the Cooperative Program; 35 percent comes from student fees. The remaining 56 percent comes from individuals, churches and other groups, including the annual Father's Day Offering. The school's campus includes a working farm, where staff and students raise 1,600 hogs and 125 cattle annually. Approximately 75 percent of the school's students are not Christians when they enroll. Each student is required to take a year of Bible class, as well as attend daily chapel services and worship on Sunday.

University of the Cumberland. With an anonymous gift, the school has established the Franklin P. Owen Chair of Home and Foreign Missions, named after the former executive secretary of the Kentucky Baptist Convention. The school's Mountain Outreach student ministry recently completed its 23rd year of service. Students and volunteer workers from other states built four houses this summer for area residents, bringing the total to 121 houses built. The school's endowment totals approximately \$60 million, the fourth highest for colleges in the state.

Western Recorder. The Western Recorder received five awards from Baptist Communicators Association for news reporting, feature articles and editorials in the past year. The partnership ministry with smaller state conventions expanded to publishing the newspaper for the Colorado Baptist Convention, bringing to six the number of state conventions the Western Recorder serves. The Western Recorder continues to customize its paper for scores of churches to include the congregations' church newsletter. The paper provides a complimentary subscription to every Kentucky Baptist pastor.

Kentucky Woman's Missionary Union. A study of Kentucky Baptist churches discovered that in 2004 the 59 percent of Kentucky Baptist churches that have WMU groups contributed 87 percent of state funds given to the Cooperative Program. The study found 1,262 Kentucky Baptist Convention-affiliated churches reported having WMU; 868 reported having no WMU. Executive Director Joy Bolton said the study also found that missions giving among Kentucky churches with WMU averaged 13.1 percent of the church's total receipts, compared to 10.2 percent among non-WMU churches in the Kentucky Baptist Convention. "We are missions advocates, teachers and leaders," Bolton said of Kentucky WMU. "We make missionaries."

Compiled from written and oral reports

Consultant to messengers: Get out of church and into culture

Continued from page 1

"It's OK to think like this. Because, after all, in the first century organized religion had reached just about everybody that wanted to be a Pharisee."

As an example of today's unchurched Americans, McNeal recounted praying for a waitress who believed in God and called Jesus "way cool," but wanted nothing to do with organized religion.

"You are not going to be able to create an organized religious experience that's going to be intriguing enough for this kid," he said. "If she cannot find God and deal with Jesus at Longhorn, she ain't going to leave here to look for Him."

McNeal predicted that in about a decade two-thirds of Christians won't practice their faith in a traditional church. "Church attendance is going to continue to dwindle. In fact, the only reason it's holding up right now is because Americans are living longer."

McNeal explained that most churches don't realize that the various generations in America today are so dramatically different from one another that they cannot experience worship in the same way.

"You can look out at your church on Sunday and if it's all Anglo or all African-American or all ethnic, you're still looking at multiple cultures. And the implications of that are huge."

Understanding the generations

For example, he said, the Senior and Builder generations (those born from 1900-1924 and 1925-1945, respectively) believed they were responsible for advancing the institutional church. The Baby Boomers (1946-1964) have focused on "fixing" the church to meet their needs.

Gen X-ers (1965-1983) are more concerned with a church experience that is built on authenticity and relationships than the seamless performances of their parents' church.

And Millennials (1984-2000) are the first true digital generation that multi-tasks and processes information differently from those born before them.

"Those kids come to church where everybody's doing the same thing at the same time at the same speed. For these kids it's like entering a time warp," McNeal said. "They're bored out of their minds. I don't care how good a preacher you are."

Each of those generations, or cultures, must be allowed to worship in their own "heart language" the same way a missionary would encourage natives of another country to worship in their cultural context, McNeal said.

But while many church members will applaud a missions video about a missionary leading new converts to worship God in their own heart language, they don't recognize the same needs for the youth in their own community, he added.

"We shut down the DVD and the light comes up and we say, 'By golly, there won't be any drums in this sanctuary,'" he said.

"We do not allow for our own



NEW APOLOGETICS Christians will reach non-believers through service, not discussion, Reggie McNeal said. "It's that simple, but it's that profound."

kids the stuff that we pay missionaries to do overseas," he said. "We've got to learn to respect each other and say 'It's OK.'"

Traditionally, worship has occurred in a large, multi-generational gathering and spiritual formation (often called Sunday school) took place in smaller age-divided groupings, McNeal noted.

"In the new world ... you're going to have smaller, targeted worship stuff and then, when you leave for spiritual formation, it's going to be intergenerational," he said, noting that younger adults are longing to learn skills and lessons from senior adults.

"Life skills and insights have to be handed down intergenerationally, life on life, heart on heart."

Christians shouldn't be so concerned with trying to convince non-Christians that God or Jesus is real, McNeal said, because most of them already have some level of belief. "They believe in alien abductions and everything else," he noted. "The Resurrection's a piece of cake."

But the apologetics that will work in this new world is sharing the truth through acts of grace and love, he added. "We have the truth. They can't hear it until we show it in love."

Church service, not church growth

The early church did not have a church growth campaign, McNeal said. "The early church had a service campaign," he said, describing Christians who saved female babies abandoned on doorsteps or nursed sick people back to health "because they weren't scared of dying."

"The early church died to itself and served their world. They weren't worried about the bottom line. They were worried about giving themselves away," he said. "We're going to have to repent, get out of our church business, get into people business and start serving them, and that's when they'll start listening. It's that simple, but it's that profound."

Christians feeling uneasy about the future should find comfort in the fact that today's conditions are similar to those encountered when the early church saw miraculous growth, McNeal said.

"The world is a lot closer to AD 30 than it is to 1980," he said. "And the good news about that is that we get to follow the Spirit in ways that, if we've got the courage and believe that God is the best consultant yet, then you are going to get to see things that people have only dreamt about."

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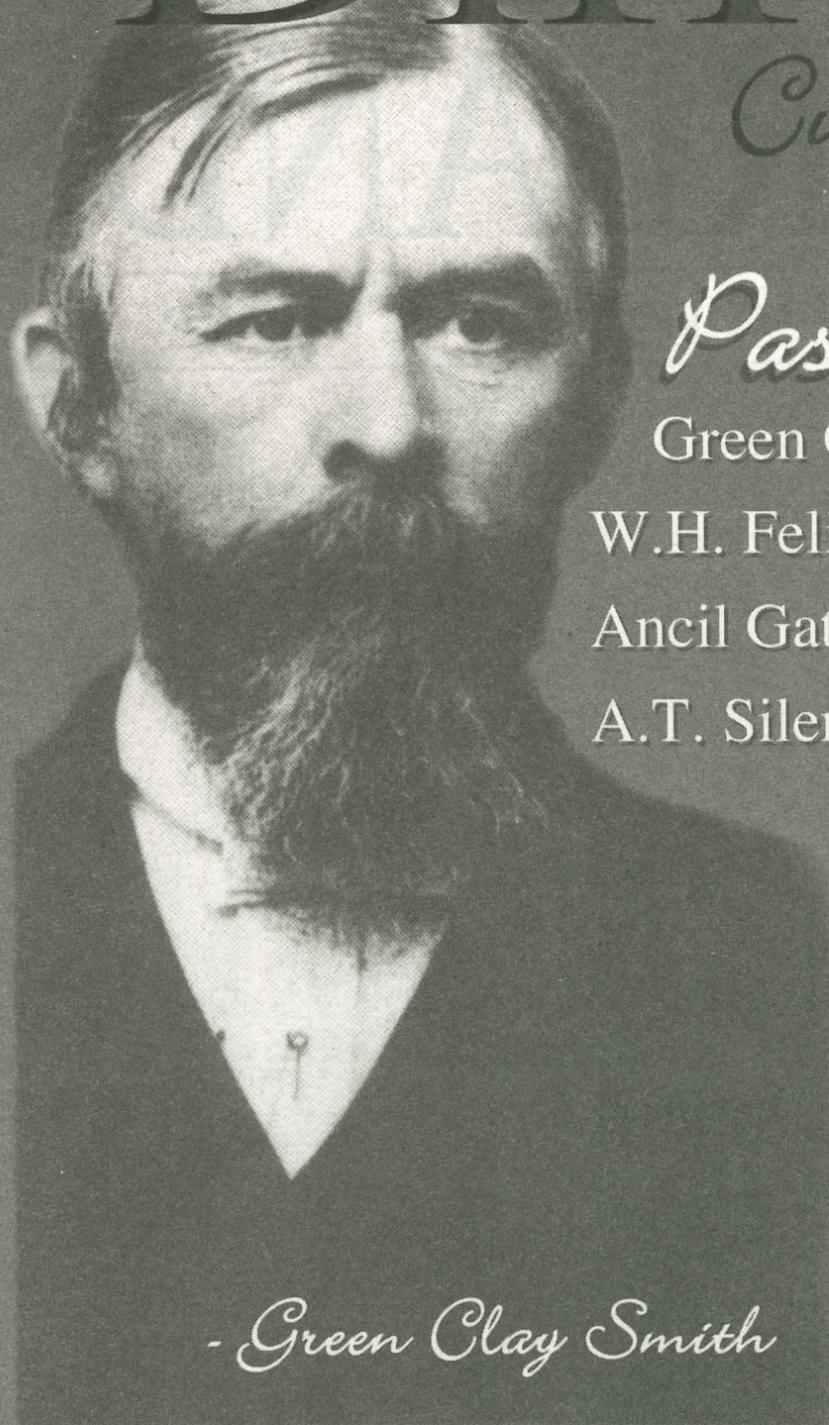
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Bill Messer, *Alumnus* 1990

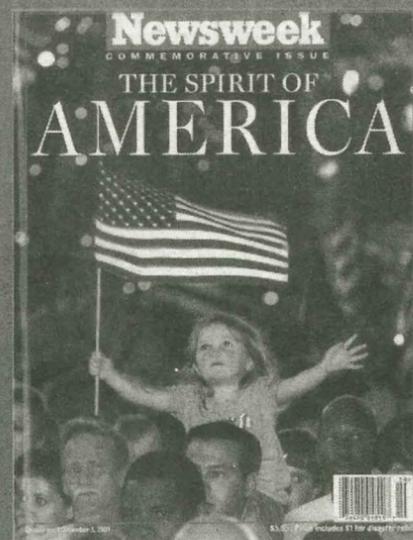
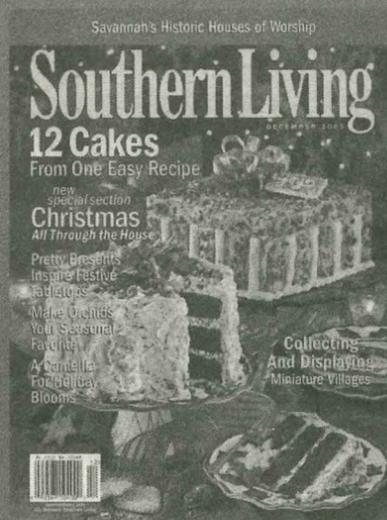
Floyd D. Price, *Alumnus* 1997

Charles Barnes, *Alumnus* 1999

Gene Siler, *Trustee* 2004

Paul Chitwood, *Alumnus* 2005-2006

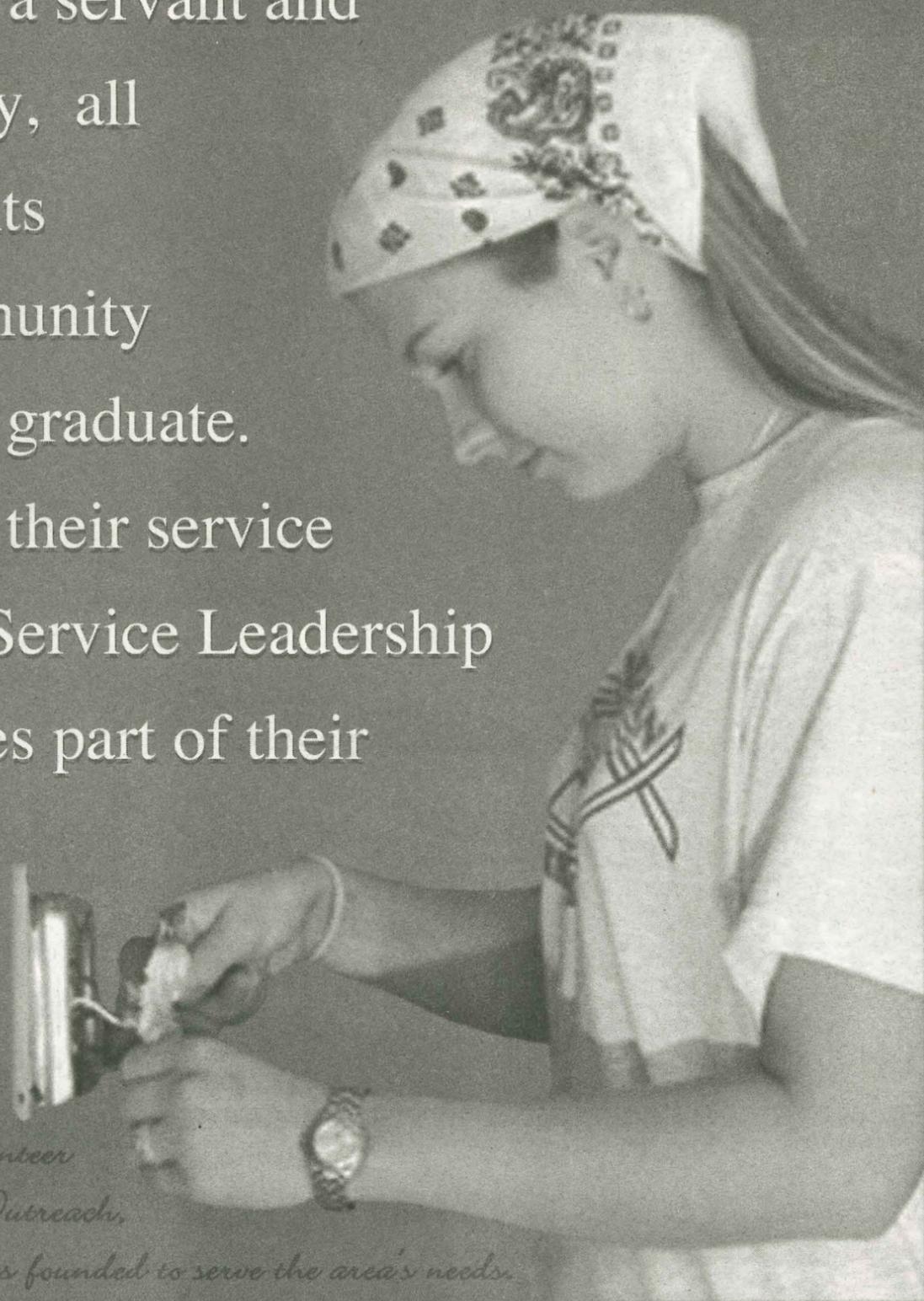
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Blackaby: Churches, Christians acting dis-gracefully

Attitudes and actions threaten witness, seminary president says

By Ken Walker
State Correspondent

Frankfort—Christians have the most to be thankful for but often act no differently than the rest of the world, according to Richard Blackaby.

Christians should be grateful for God's mercy, but they often are sour, bitter people, said Blackaby, president of Canadian Southern Baptist Seminary in Cochrane, Alberta.

Speaking at last week's Kentucky Baptist Convention annual meeting in Frankfort, Blackaby recalled numerous recent encounters with a variety of unhappy Christians.

So many, in fact, that Blackaby said it has stirred him to write a forthcoming book titled "Putting a Face on Grace."

Among these disgruntled people were couples divorcing, a minister whose cynicism had left a trail of broken relationships, an overbearing father and several church splits rooted in unforgiveness.

"If the gospel can't keep our own marriages together, how do we think the gospel will be attractive to couples out in the world?" he asked.

Illustrations of grace

This bitterness among Christians is causing young people to leave the church in droves because they see their parents' faith making little impact on their lives, added Blackaby, the father of three children.

To illustrate showing grace, Blackaby recalled the day his family was scheduled to take a picture for

their Christmas card.

When their 18-year-old son came out of his room, he had spiked his hair and colored it fluorescent blue.

Before he could explode, Blackaby's wife, Lisa, grabbed him and privately reminded him that Mike never used drugs or alcohol and was planning to become a minister.

"That hair color won't last through three shampoos," she told him. "Don't say something that will last for 30 years."

Mrs. Blackaby provided a more recent example of grace after being seriously injured in an early November car accident, along with their 14-year-old daughter.

Police told Richard Blackaby the driver of the other car was at fault. Not paying attention to a car stopped in front of her, she lost control after slamming on her brakes.

Afterward, numerous Christians told Blackaby, "You could sue for a lot of money for all that carelessness." But two days after Lisa came home from the hospital, she wrote a letter to the other driver, who was still hospitalized.

Mrs. Blackaby related her gratitude to God that the other woman was OK and empathized with her, noting it must have been frightening to go through the ordeal alone.

"I thank God every day that you're OK and with His help, I'll be OK too," Blackaby quoted from his wife's letter. "I believe in all my heart that God spared all of our lives that day. God must have a purpose for us and that must be why He did that."

"If you ever want to ... just get together and have coffee and talk through it, I want you to know I'd love to get with you and just celebrate what God did to spare our lives," the letter added.

The next day another Christian called Mrs. Blackaby to say that she knew the other driver. Although the caller had witnessed to the driver, she said she always had been too busy and thought Christians were a bunch of hypocrites.

Blackaby told the audience: "I want you to pray for Lois, because I don't think the world understands what grace is all about. Too often they come across Christians and they don't experience grace."

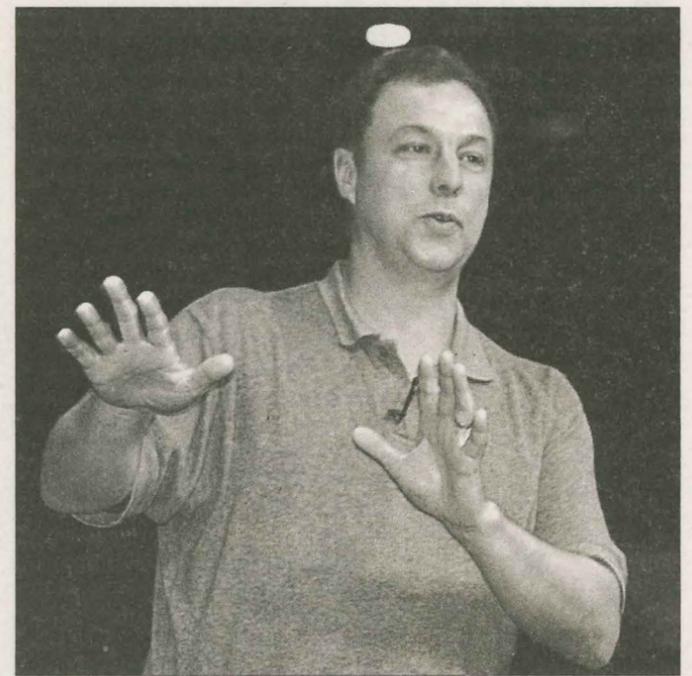
"They don't experience forgiveness. They experience hard-heartedness, the same thing that they get in the world, and they wonder why Christians make such a big deal about their faith in Christ."

Examples of non-grace

This lack of grace affects people in many ways, Blackaby said, such as the couple he met recently whose constant mutual criticism and dredging up past hurts were like hammer blows against their marriage.

Blackaby recalled another couple in ministry who have been married for 40 years. They would never divorce, he said, but the wife confided their home had no joy because of continuing conflict.

"Shouldn't the church be an oasis of grace?" Blackaby asked. "Is not the church sometimes the most ungraceful place you've ever been?"



What does every church split say to a watching community?"

The seminary president offered an example of a gracious attitude he observed when he went to speak at a church's Monday night youth service.

The back row was filled with senior citizens. Although they wore earplugs to block the loud music, the elderly people told Blackaby they loved the fact that young people were coming and regularly accepting Christ.

"It's not about music style, it's about grace," Blackaby said. "You can't give someone something you don't have. You can tell those who have never gotten over the grace of God, because they're the ones who are so eager to pass it on to others."

"IT'S ABOUT GRACE"

Richard Blackaby, president of Canadian Southern Baptist Seminary, noted that a lack of grace is leading to divorces among Christian couples. "If the gospel can't keep our own marriages together, how do we think the gospel will be attractive to couples out in the world?"

Consultant: Reach children with better-designed ministries

By Ken Walker
State Correspondent

Frankfort—Reminding Kentucky Baptists of the saying, "It's better to build children than to repair men," Art Murphy encouraged churches to take their children's ministry to the next level.

Murphy, a children's ministry consultant, urged church leaders to rethink their approach in hopes of connecting young people to Christ.

"It's not a clubhouse for adults, it's a lighthouse for families with children that need someone to rescue them," said Murphy, former children's ministry pastor of First Baptist Church of Orlando, Fla.

Murphy said children's ministry must change in several key areas:

■ **Ministry names.** "Sunday school" sounds worse than "Saturday school" to children, Murphy said, noting that famed Willow Creek Community Church calls its children's program "Promised Land."

"If you love Sunday school, change the name so it won't turn people away," Murphy said.

■ **Facilities.** A United Methodist church in Tulsa, Okla., has a merry-go-round in its preschool area. First Baptist Church of Jacksonville, Fla., built a state-of-the-art building where children slide from one floor to the next, ending up spit from the mouth of Jonah's whale.

Murphy said children's facilities



"**BUILD CHILDREN**" Art Murphy, president of Arrow Ministries, urged church leaders to rethink their approach for church. "It's not a clubhouse for adults, it's a lighthouse for families."

should broadcast the message: "We love kids and kids love it here."

"Our buildings need to be tweaked in most churches," said Murphy, whose ministry has a separate division called Wiggle & Giggle Studios to help churches design child-friendly spaces.

■ **Curriculum and use of multimedia.** Instead of thinking that children have to sit quietly at a desk for an hour, which most consider boring, Murphy said churches should make youthful instructional activities inviting and lively.

"Have a place where children can play, and whatever they learn they'll remember for a lifetime," he said. "It's amazing what you see when a child is relaxed."

■ **Leadership.** Murphy said he

started his children's ministry work at First Baptist of Orlando with 67 volunteers. By the time he left 17 years later, he had 725 volunteers and a waiting list for others wanting to help.

Churches must change leadership training and retention, Murphy said. Most churches are stuck in the 1970s, he added, thinking that training children is something to be delegated to a children's minister.

"We can't grow if our children's ministry doesn't grow," Murphy said.

High-tech, high-touch

Church leaders also must recognize that today's "Y2K kids" are oriented to technology, meaning leaders must use high-tech teaching tools.

Additionally, he said, as the world moves faster, attention spans get shorter. As a result, churches must be masters at recognizing teachable moments, Murphy said.

Today's children also are desensitized to violence and other unhealthy social trends. Murphy said kids are becoming non-relational and aren't easily impressed.

But they still respond to love and still need God, which gives the church a golden opportunity to share the gospel, he added.

While teaching children, he said, congregations should remember the four major transitional periods

in a child's life:

Their first year. At this time, a baby is wondering, "Where am I?"

Instead of gossiping in the church nursery, Murphy said, workers should engage in bonding, child's play and kissing infants.

"We can reach a family by getting it right," he added.

Age five. At this point, a child is asking, "Who am I?" and wondering about parents' directions, the future and where he or she will fit in the world.

Sixth and seventh grades. At this stage, children are about to enter a pressure cooker. They face major decisions, meaning churches must focus on providing guidance for these adolescents, Murphy said.

The first two years after high school. As at age five, children in their late teens are asking, "Who am I?" Murphy noted.

No matter what stage of life, though, Murphy said churches can learn by watching such operations as Sesame Street, McDonald's and Veggie Tales.

"It's time for us to put 'happy' and 'play' in our place," he said.

He warned that changing facilities and programs can spark feuds in a church, just as introducing pipe organ music created conflict in the 1600s. "Change takes time," he noted. "But we don't tiptoe around the power people. We need to be leaders."

"It's time for us to put 'happy' and 'play' in our place."

Art Murphy, founder of Arrow Ministries

Pastors' Conference speakers highlight cross of Christ

"The church is not there for you to hang out at; it's there for you to load up and go out into the field and fight."

SBC President Bobby Welch

By Trennis Henderson & Ken Walker
Editor & State Correspondent

Frankfort—Recounting images and emotions from visits to the devastated Gulf Coast, Southern Baptist Convention President Bobby Welch declared, "Disaster does not discriminate and neither must the love of God."

Welch, the closing speaker at last week's Kentucky Baptist Pastors' Conference, highlighted the conference theme, "It's Still the Cross."

As Southern Baptists minister to hurricane survivors, Welch said, "It's not just still the cross; it's always the cross. If you don't have the love of God in Christ Jesus from Calvary, then you don't have what you need."

Emphasizing the urgency of sharing the gospel, Welch added, "You can give them the beanie-weenies and the water and the bread, but you must give them Jesus at the same time. That's our biblical distinctive" as Southern Baptists.

"We do not have one problem that soul winning will not solve," he noted. "If you and I would get serious about what Jesus is serious about, things would change."

Welch challenged Kentucky Baptists to help baptize 1 million people this year, host associational baptism rallies and increase giving to the Cooperative Program.

"Our banner cry is the gospel of Jesus Christ," he said. "Give them Jesus, give them Jesus, give them Jesus because it's still the cross."

Former KBC Pastors' Conference President **Paul Chitwood** also spoke during the Monday evening session. Chitwood, pastor of First Baptist Church of Mount Washington, was elected the next day as KBC president.

Preaching from Hebrews 12, Chitwood focused on "It's Still the Cross for Kentucky."

"God has called us to be faithful in bringing the message of the cross to Kentucky," he declared. "This isn't the hour for divisive rhetoric. There are too many people who are dying without faith in Christ."

"How can we be found faithful?" Chitwood asked. He said three keys are to come back to the cross, delight in the discipline of God and labor for the lost.

"Gentlemen, you've been called to preach the cross," he told fellow pastors. "It represents what your Savior died for. It represents what we live for. We must come back to the cross."

"You've not been called to sit in the shade of your pulpit and merely point the way to Calvary," he added. "God has called you to get out and do the work."

Thurmond Coleman, who served 45 years as pastor of First Baptist Church of Jeffersontown, told conference participants, "I don't know



OBJECT LESSON Southern Baptist Convention President Bobby Welch holds a tattered doll he found in the ruins of a house hit by Hurricane Katrina. "Disaster does not discriminate," he declared, "and neither must the love of God."

what else you have going on in your church, but if the cross is not there, you have missed the whole point.

"People need to be brought out of their hopelessness and darkness," he added. "They want to hear about a God Who cares for their soul."

Urging pastors to "speak boldly," Coleman warned, "There are a lot of hungry people in our churches. They come in hungry and leave hungry. It's a waste of some folks' time to come to church because of a lack of the preaching of the gospel."

"We've got to tell the story," he insisted. "It's not the cross that saves us, but the Christ Who once hung on the cross. It is our responsibility to tell the world about One who is and One who shall be. Jesus Christ is still the answer."

During the afternoon session, **Kevin Ezell**, pastor of Highview Baptist Church in Louisville, urged pastors to guard their marriage and family life so they wouldn't be disqualified from ministry by personal indiscretions.

"There's not a man or woman today who is beyond that," he warned. "There's potential here for extramarital affairs, of addiction to things we should not watch."

Displaying his church staff's "10 Commandments," Ezell noted that prohibitions for opposite-sex contact include one-on-one home visits, showing questionable affection or discussing detailed sexual problems in counseling.

The list was part of guidelines Ezell reviewed for persevering in ministry, including laying aside weights, getting rid of entangling sin, using wisdom and staying focused.

"God did not call us just to start the race, He called us to finish," Ezell said. "The way you run and win is to fix your eyes on Jesus."

Russell Moore, dean of the theology school at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, warned that too many churches fail to take the blood of Christ seriously.

Moore said Moses taught the Israelites about life being in the blood so people ultimately would recognize Christ's sacrifice as the way to eternal life.

"Imagine if all across our Kentucky Baptist Convention our ... churches came to every single seminar and ... conference with, at

the forefront of their mind, 'The blood of Jesus cleanses us from sin,'" Moore said.

"Imagine all of us, instead of simply being consumed with so many trivial things, understood that the key message of the Bible is a message that all us are under judgment ... unless we are in Christ."

In the conference's opening message, **Bob Pitman**, pastor of Kirbywoods Baptist Church in Memphis, Tenn., cited references from 1 Corinthians to remind participants that modern churches aren't the first to experience problems.

Pointing to some Corinthian church members wanting to ignore



PASTORAL ADVICE Thurmond Coleman challenges Kentucky Baptist pastors to "speak boldly."

a man having an affair with "his father's wife," Pitman quipped, "Some people are so open-minded they are flat-headed."

Not only was that church divided morally, legally and spiritually, they even quarreled over their favorite preacher, Pitman noted.

However, he exhorted pastors to preach the major theme of the cross: that Jesus died for humankind's sin and salvation.

They should also remember the cross' power, he urged.

"How is it manifested?" Pitman asked. "Through a changed life."

During a Monday evening business session, participants elected **Floyd Paris**, pastor of Unity Baptist Church in Ashland, as president-elect and **Adam Greenway**, pastor of the Church at Andover in Lexington, as secretary/treasurer.

Incoming president **John Mark Toby**, pastor of Beacon Hill Baptist Church in Somerset, succeeded **Robert Tarrance**, pastor of Green Ridge Baptist Church in Lewisburg.

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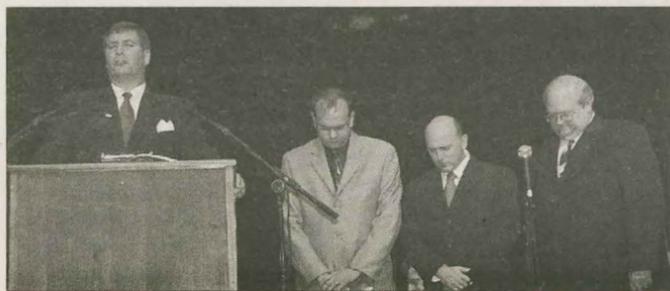
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NEW OFFICERS Pastors' Conference President **Robert Tarrance** (left) prays for incoming officers (from left), Secretary/Treasurer **Adam Greenway**, President **John Mark Toby** and President-Elect **Floyd Paris**.



Volunteers helping out

Help still needed at both Cedarmore, Jonathan Creek

Perhaps many of you realize we are entering a new era with volunteer support at our camps. The most significant showing of late has been at Jonathan Creek. During the past two months, nearly 100 volunteers have come and accomplished a tremendous amount of work at the Creek.

While these volunteers come from a wide range of groups, the most prevalent contributor has been the Campers on Mission. Most recently, Campers on Mission served at Jonathan Creek for two weeks, and the work they accomplished was an amazing blessing.

To put things in perspective, our building and grounds staff for Jonathan Creek consists of one employee and we have two who care for Cedarmore. With approximately 700 acres, 70 buildings, miles of roads and utilities, and about 200,000 square feet of buildings with an average age of 30 years, our maintenance tasks are unending—a whole lot to do with three people!

I wish to personally thank all who have been in service over the last few weeks. What you have

done literally would not happen otherwise. The names are many and if listed would not fit in this column. I know that you each realize it is the Lord Whom you serve by the painting, building, planting, tiling, grading and cleaning. While you serve the Lord, we are the recipient of a great blessing that will be transferred unto thousands of guests who will attend our camps in the summer to come. More importantly, we have seen over 4,100 salvation decisions in the past two years alone, and the service given to the properties play a significant role in our ministry and these changed lives.

Our list of scheduled improvements for Cedarmore and Jonathan Creek is long. The days to accomplish the improvements are limited, and we continue to need a great deal of service at each location. If you have any interest in partnering with our ministry, please contact:

■ Harold Bellendir at Jonathan Creek, (270) 354-8355.

■ Bert Lace at Cedarmore, (502) 747-8911.

Thanks again, and come see us again.

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



David Melber

Cooperative Baptist Fellowship Seeks Global Missions Coordinator

CBF is prayerfully seeking a person to lead its global missions efforts. CBF Global Missions works through a team structure composed of field personnel, administrative personnel and domestic and international partners. The coordinator will lead this team as it attempts to address the holistic needs of our world, using the resources God makes available through individuals and churches.

Requirements:

- a demonstrated, abiding commitment to the Lordship of Jesus Christ and to the fulfillment of His commission to share the gospel with all people in a culturally meaningful manner.
- an undergraduate degree required; an advanced degree is preferred.
- spiritual maturity and integrity; the coordinator must be ready to fulfill the role of servant leader and team player.
- ability to listen effectively, assimilate varied viewpoints, understand the needs of team members and the people of our world.
- strength to make, interpret, and implement difficult decisions.
- significant cross-cultural experience.
- proven ability to communicate effectively with individuals and groups through public speaking and mass media.
- experience in administration and budget processes to lead the global missions team effectively.
- a demonstrated commitment to the concept of missions and Baptist principles as embraced and practiced by the Fellowship.

The Global Missions Coordinator Search Committee will accept applications or recommendations from now until Jan. 1, 2006. Electronic submissions are preferred and may be e-mailed to gmc.search.chm@comcast.net or paper submissions may be mailed to Global Missions Coordinator Search Committee, 1901 Girard Ave., Richmond, VA 23229-4129.

Cooperative Baptist Fellowship

Kudzu

Doug Marlette



For Heaven's Sake

Mike Morgan



Bible Crosswords

Evelyn Boyington

Across

- 1 Iowa city
- 5 Apple variety
- 9 Thirty Years' _____
- 12 "I will bring again the captivity of _____" (Jeremiah 49:39)
- 13 Levitical city of refuge (1 Chronicles 6:73)
- 14 Samuel's mentor
- 15 Continent (abbr.)
- 16 Wired, with "on"
- 18 "They shall _____ the whirlwind: it hath no stalk" (Hosea 8:7)
- 19 "My Father giveth you the _____ bread from heaven" (John 6:32)
- 20 Where the prodigal son dined out
- 22 Live; realize one's potential
- 23 "The _____ of wisdom is above rubies" (Job 28:18)
- 25 "If the good man ... had known what hour the _____ would come" (Luke 12:39)
- 27 Deceased
- 28 Facade
- 29 Kind of number
- 32 Ember residue
- 33 Trunk "tenant"
- 34 KJV deer
- 35 Born (Fr.)
- 36 Pitchfork hazard
- 37 Winter plague
- 38 Adhere
- 40 Fish or fight
- 41 Hush!
- 43 Linking verb
- 44 "I was an hungred and ye gave me no _____" (Matthew 25:42)
- 45 _____ and Gown
- 47 Unplanned information channel (colloq.)
- 48 Son of Judah (Genesis 38)
- 50 Used to row the boat
- 51 Opera solo
- 53 "At _____" (heard at certain camps)
- 55 Meddle
- 56 Be introduced
- 57 "I am instructed ... both to abound and to suffer _____" (Philippians 4:12)

Down

- 1 Number of lepers in Samaria who were healed by Jesus (Luke 17)

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12				13				14		
15			16	17				18		
		19				20	21			22
23	24				25				26	
27				28				29	30	31
32				33					34	
35				36					37	
		38	39				40			
41	42		43			44				
45		46				47			48	49
50				51	52			53	54	
55				56				57		

- 2 In the manner of
- 3 One of the Kettles
- 4 "And they shall _____ him in an hundred shekels of silver" (Deuteronomy 22:19)
- 5 "The chariots shall _____ in the streets" (Nahum 2:4)
- 6 Number of lepers in Samaria who praised God (Luke 17)
- 7 Bar Harbor state (abbr.)
- 8 Auntie _____ (L. F. Baum character)
- 9 Tiny and young
- 10 Southern state (abbr.)
- 11 Ready
- 17 "Let us not be weary ... for in _____ season we shall reap" (Galatians 6:9)
- 18 Deli staple
- 19 "Bring ye all the _____ into the storehouse" (Malachi 3:10)
- 20 Lion's portion
- 21 Horologist's concern, in a way
- 23 _____ of action
- 24 Level, as a building (Brit.)
- 25 "First, I _____ my God through Jesus Christ for you all" (Romans 1:8)
- 26 Didn't remember
- 28 _____ Islands
- 30 Dreary
- 31 "Let us not love in word ... but in _____" (1 John 3:18)
- 33 Agitate
- 37 Become aware of
- 39 Ecu
- 40 The Great _____
- 41 Organ option
- 42 "As small as the _____ frost on the ground" (Exodus 16:14)
- 44 "I have _____ to eat that ye know not of" (John 4:32)
- 46 Droll
- 47 _____ low
- 48 Compass dir.
- 49 Buttons
- 51 Exist
- 52 In _____
- 54 One (Scot.)

Last week's solution

S	I	R	S	A	C	R	E	O	W	L
P	O	E	T	R	O	A	D	P	O	E
A	N	N	A	E	M	S	N	E	E	D
		18	19	20	21					
		E	G	G	B	E	G	I	N	
		22	23	24	25	26				
		S	W	E	A	R	D	O	T	A
		27	28	29	30	31				
		C	L	I	D	A	M	D	R	O
		32	33	34	35	36				
		L	I	N	E	M	A	D	E	V
		37	38	39	40	41				
		A	N	G	R	Y	R	U	E	R
		42	43	44	45	46				
		P	G	R	E	D	E	N	T	R
		47	48	49	50	51				
		B	O	A	R	D	S	E	C	
		52	53	54	55	56				
		S	E	E	R	E	A	T	R	O
		57	58	59	60	61				
		A	W	L	B	A	R	E	A	M
		62	63	64	65	66				
		Y	E	T	E	D	E	N	H	E

BAPTIST DIGEST

Alabama Baptists. Messengers to the Alabama Baptist State Convention endorsed a call to use the 50th anniversary of the Montgomery bus boycott, beginning Dec. 1, as a way to foster racial harmony. Jay Wolf, chairman of the resolutions committee, emphasized the importance of the resolution on racial reconciliation. Wolf said that in the past, Alabama Baptists have sometimes taken the wrong side on the issue of race. "God calls us to be reconcilers," he said. "If we can get black and white churches working together, that will be massive." Other resolutions approved by messengers during the Nov. 15-16 annual meeting included appreciation for the life and work of Adrian Rogers, opposition to gambling and support for the sanctity of marriage.

Florida Baptists. Seeking to galvanize the 1,550 messengers in attendance to action, leaders of the Florida Baptist State Convention signed the Florida Marriage Protection Amendment during the convention's Nov. 14-15 annual meeting. The petition defines marriage as a union between one man and one woman. A total of 611,009 petition signatures are needed by Feb. 1, 2006, to place the measure on the November 2006 Florida ballot. Among the meeting's featured speakers was Charles Colson, prison minister, author and convicted Watergate co-conspirator, who urged Christians to fight the clash of worldviews and cultures in today's world. Messengers adopted a resolution in support of President Bush and the U.S. military for "preserving and protecting freedom."

Louisiana Baptists. Messengers to the Louisiana Baptist Convention's annual meeting Nov. 14-15 surprised some observers by rejecting candidates and causes endorsed by the state's conservative leaders. Messengers voted 687-607 to amend a budget-cutting proposal that would have had a disproportionate impact on the Baptist Message, the convention's newspaper. The amendment effectively restores approximately

\$52,000 to next year's budget for the newspaper. Messengers also defeated a proposal to dissolve the paper's independent board of directors and move it under the control of the convention's executive board. Messengers also defeated two of the three candidates for convention office endorsed by the Louisiana Inerrancy Fellowship, including electing Bill Robertson of Winnsboro by a vote of 792-540 over Jerry Chaddick of DeQuincy.

North Carolina Baptists. Conservatives in the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina elected their candidate as president, toughened the convention's stance against gay-friendly churches, replaced the interim executive director and approved new institutional trustees without dissent. But they failed to eliminate a budget arrangement that allows moderate churches in North Carolina to fund non-Southern Baptist causes. The flurry of actions came during the convention's Nov. 14-16 annual meeting. A motion to eliminate four spending plans that allow churches to choose what Baptist causes they support outside North Carolina—including the moderate Cooperative Baptist Fellowship—failed on a close vote. But money contributed to CBF through the convention's budget will no longer count as state Cooperative Program funds.

Texas Baptists. Rallying under a banner of "One Family—One Mission," messengers to the Baptist General Convention of Texas annual meeting elected the convention's first African-American president and approved a governance plan that mandates at least one-third non-Anglo representation on a streamlined BGCT Executive Board. Messengers elected Michael Bell, pastor of Greater St. Stephen First Baptist Church in Fort Worth, as president. He succeeds Albert Reyes, the first Hispanic BGCT president. The governance changes reduced the Executive Board from 230 to 90 members, with three people from each of 30 sectors across the state.

Georgia Baptists vote to cut ties to Mercer over gay-rights group

Columbus, Ga. (ABP)—Georgia Baptists voted Nov. 15 to begin the process of severing their last ties with Mercer University.

The move comes in the wake of a controversy over homosexuality at the school. But it also follows years of conflict between leaders of the conservative-led convention and the moderate-controlled school.

The proposal must be approved a second time, by messengers to next year's GBC annual meeting, before it takes effect. If approved, it will cut approximately \$3.5 million in annual convention funding to Mercer.

The motion cited reports about the Mercer Triangle Symposium, a

group that bills itself as Mercer's "GLBT (gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender) rights student organization."

According to the Georgia Baptist Christian Index, the group was recognized by the student government but not officially endorsed by the school's administration.

Georgia Baptist Executive Director Robert White said inviting students to meetings where gay rights are openly advocated was a step too far for the convention.

Mercer trustee David Hudson said university officials had "already taken steps to deny use of facilities for such a group of students."

Tenn. Baptists postpone Belmont vote

Clarksville, Tenn. (BP)—Messengers to the Tennessee Baptist Convention annual meeting cut funding for Belmont University but delayed acting on a proposed resolution altering the relationship between the two entities.

Belmont President Robert Fisher told messengers the matter would become a legal fight if it wasn't settled that day. "We are confident in the courts we will win," he added.

Messengers approved a budget that redistributed the \$2.3 million originally designated for Belmont.

A 54-year-old contract between

the TBC and Belmont was the sticking point for messengers. The 1951 contract reportedly contains language indicating that if Belmont passed from Baptist control, its property would revert to the possession of the TBC Executive Board.

Fisher indicated the contract had been superseded many times over the years by actions from both entities, and that it would have "no impact whatsoever" on the status of the relationship. But messengers chose to ask the TBC Executive Board and its attorneys to look at the contract to determine its validity.

What matters most

Oneida sees students as more than what they accomplish academically

By Michael Spencer
Assistant to the President

Halfway through every academic quarter, our students are given "progress reports." Parents receive this report of how things are going so far, and it gives parents, students and teachers the opportunity to engage in congratulations, mid-course corrections or a complete restart.

I usually take the "progress reports" days as an appropriate time to speak in chapel about encouragement. Many students will be experiencing improvement in academics, but others will be confronting some of their continuing problems. The path to success isn't automatic for any student, and encouraging those who find continuing difficulties is essential for a Christian school.

Oneida's philosophy of education begins with seeing our students through the lens of biblical truth, and not just through what they accomplish in the classroom or elsewhere on campus. Students are people made in the image of God. Because they are created "fearfully and wonderfully," they have value. If they are never successful in the classroom, they always will be people who matter.

Oneida has the strength of a diverse program, and we frequently find that the student who never will be at the top of the honor roll still finds a place in the work program, in the FFA or on an athletic team. But Oneida is about more than just options for students; we are about seeing our students differently than other schools do. That difference is Jesus.

How would Jesus look at students? Would He see them in terms of their athletic abilities? Would He be concerned about grades? How would Jesus communicate to students that their significance was not based on performance of any kind? If a student was with Jesus for a school day or year, what would he or she remember most?

It is an important and unique aspect of Oneida that we want to emphasize academics and co-curriculars, but we do not want to define our students' lives by what they do in school. We want their identities and contributions to be based on the love of God given to every person in Jesus Christ.

By placing the gospel at the center of our school, we remind our students that what matters most in life cannot become ours by study in a classroom or victory on an athletic court. The most important thing in life is not subject to grades and doesn't come with a diploma or scholarships.

To come to know the love of God, we simply believe and receive. God comes to us in Jesus Christ when we are undeserving and unable to save—or even love—ourselves. Paul confessed that whatever he was, he was by the grace of God. This is the key to a Christian school: The free grace of God in Jesus Christ exceeds any accomplishment or success.

Scripture says that God will do more for us than we can ask or think. I believe that the greatest encouragement for a struggling student is the overflowing love of God that never asks for a grade point average, but gives us the gift of Christ's eternally secure love now and forever.

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

CLEAR CREEK CHRONICLE



Bill Whittaker

Pobody's nerfect

Coping with flawed people, churches and institutions

Some events at the Frankfort meeting of the Kentucky Baptist Convention reminded me of the theme we once used for a missionary kid's camp in the Philippines—"Pobody's Nerfect." A good Scripture to put into practice is 1 Corinthians 4:5, "Judge nothing before the time."

Most KBC messengers probably would say the meeting is usually a mix of decisions they agreed with and some they didn't like. You've heard the line, "Get two Baptists together and you have three opinions." Thankfully, our recent sessions exemplified a high degree of unity and commitment to do our part in connecting people to Jesus Christ.

Shortly after my report, messengers told me, with a smile, I had placed an online student in Boyle County when he lived in Garrard County. Another said I had Chad Burdette as a pastor in Monticello instead of Mount Vernon. I won't tell you the rest of my convention blunders. Pobody's nerfect.

Add to my convention experience messengers saying, "I hear you're retiring," and it makes a

person ponder the future. The time of my departure is close enough for increased concern about the funds managed by GuideStone. Leadership is a tenuous experience; we have our limited time to try to make a difference, with the realization that "He who judges me is the Lord" (1 Corinthians 4:4). God works good, even in our mistakes. Someone heard my comments about online classes and came to our exhibit for more information.

I left Frankfort and stopped in Versailles for a visit with Tom and Rieta Moody. We served together seven years at First Baptist Church of Murray. Rieta was assistant chaplain at Paducah Baptist Hospital; she now

is slipping further into the grip of Alzheimer's. The visit, like life and leadership, was a mixture of joy and sadness; but being with them for a while was among the best moments of the week.

When I returned home Wednesday, I decided not to risk dealing with the public. With the sun occasionally breaking through the clouds, I removed a foot of leaves from the front lawn. The result was nearly perfect.

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

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'Painter of Light'



SHEDDING SOME LIGHT Painter Thomas Kinkadee says he's amused with speculation that he has a team of artists doing work for him. (RNS photo by John Whitehead)

Popular artist has no computers, no interns and no plans to stop

By David Dunckle
Religion News Service

Morgan Hill, Calif. (RNS)—Thomas Kinkadee laughs at people who think he doesn't paint much anymore, or who believe he doesn't do his own work.

"I love this mythology that I have a huge studio with all these artists hidden away, doing my work for me," Kinkadee said during a telephone interview from his studio in Morgan Hill, Calif. "I would like to know where all those artists are. I could use them."

Kinkadee is known as the "painter of light" for his trademark paintings of warmly glowing cottages and lighthouses. In the interview, he discussed the work that has made him one of this country's most popular Christian artists.

Q: Are you working as we speak?

A: Yes, I'm working on a painting called "Lamplight Sunset." I did a series of paintings based on when I lived in England, a little village there. It was very romantic. This is the last piece in that series. It's gone on for 10 years.

Do you paint every day?

Yes, I'm a studio hermit. The only meetings I ever take are while I'm working. I'm a traditional oil painter. Although I've come up with some techniques for speeding the drying process, it's still very time-consuming. I have about 70 paintings going at any given time. I finish 10 to 15 a year.

What is your process while painting?

No one way. I'm always experimenting. People think I use a lot of high-tech equipment, but I don't even own a computer. I hold a brush, not a mouse.

Sometimes I work with an underdrawing, and I have been an advocate of plein air ("open air") painting. I keep my easel handy when I travel. I take a little sketchbook with me wherever I go. But for the most part, my work is imaginative. I just start with an idea in my head.

How important is faith in your work?

Art is kind of a faith activity.

You are taking a blind leap of faith when you paint, trying to create a world that speaks to you or to other people. I believe that God gives us our talent for a reason. I'm always praying that simple one-word prayer: "Help."

What do you hope to accomplish as Ambassador of Light for the Points of Light Foundation?

The first President Bush gave that speech about a thousand points of light, in which he encouraged people to volunteer. But this idea has been championed by a number of statesmen and public figures, probably going all the way back to George Washington. When John F. Kennedy said, "Ask not what your country can do for you," he was talking about the same thing.

Are you doing anything specific for victims of Katrina?

Yes, we are creating a "Light in the Storm" candle with a company called Home Interiors. It will sell for about \$6, and all the money will go to the relief effort. We hope to sell a million of them.

Why do you think you are such a lightning rod in the art community?

There are artists who set fire to themselves or urinate on the canvas, but they aren't as controversial as me! I've only done one thing, and I've done it well. I create romantic images that are warm and welcoming. What I paint provides comfort and hope to some people, and that's why I do it.

What's ahead for you?

Now that I'm in my mid-40s, I see my role shifting. I'd like to continue to be a spokesman for certain core values, especially as it relates to kids. I can't stand to see children who aren't well cared for.

How would that play out?

We just did a drawing project with the Orange County Children's Hospital, and with Disney. I'd like to see that expanded to provide art materials to kids in children's hospitals worldwide. I could do a video presentation to go with it. It would help kids take their minds off the troubles they are going through.

Winning with People: Discover the People Principles that Work for You Every Time. John Maxwell. Nelson Business, 2004. \$24.99. 275 pages. ♦♦♦♦ (out of five)

Leadership writer, speaker and former pastor John Maxwell observes that many people struggle with personal relationships and have few tools with which to handle these relationships. This book is his attempt to provide those tools.

Maxwell offers the reader 25 "people principles" with the goal of helping the reader become a "people person." Maxwell contends we do not need to be boxed in by what we are "naturally" but can learn to relate to the people around us.

Each of his principles is introduced by an illustration that works into a point-by-point presentation of the principle under consideration. The 25 principles center on five issues—readiness, connection, trust, investment and synergy—which Maxwell contends must be addressed in order for every personal relationship to be meaningful.

Maxwell should be commended for his organization and for most of his content. Some of what he states is simply common sense. Occasionally, he offers a unique principle for consideration. If there is a criticism of the book, it is that sometimes Maxwell describes a principle too simply. The book suffers by not going deeper into some of the principles.

This book is best read in bits and pieces or used in a weekly discussion group. Each principle is best studied and then given some time for reflection before picking up the next principle.

To help with the reflection, each chapter ends with discussion questions. They do not simply review the material but are geared toward real interaction with the material of the chapter. The discussion questions help overcome some of the superficiality encountered while discussing the principles. *Wayne Hager*

"Goodbye High School, Hello World."

Bruce Bickel & Stan Jantz. Regal Books, 2000. 203 pages. \$14.99. ♦♦♦

This book is a reprint of "Real Life Begins after High School." It is written for graduating seniors and is an excellent resource to help them transition from high school to college.

The best tool for that transition is a well-developed relationship between parents and their teens, but this book can help discussions take place during that final turbulent and busy school year.

Bickel and Jantz wrote this book from their many experiences as parents sending their own teenagers off to college. The chapters are fun and easy to read with witty advice given by young adults age 18-21.

The book gives advice on surviving dorm life, choosing friends and maintaining relationships with parents. Topics include personal health, sleep, getting a job as well as getting and maintaining a relationship with God.

The section on alcohol does concern me. The authors take a less

than serious stance on the issue, stating that the Bible does not forbid it and leaving it up to each college student to decide. The authors fail to give solid biblical advice about an issue that causes young people today more pain and death than ever before. This prevents me from recommending the book completely to students, but it remains a helpful resource for parents regarding the advice they give their children heading off to college.

I asked a recent high school graduate to read the book and tell me her thoughts on it as a graduation present. She was less than impressed with the book and gave it a lower rating than I have. She was not pleased with the section on alcohol but otherwise liked its advice about college, sleep and health choices. *Steve Coleman*

Embracing Grace: A Gospel for All of Us. Scot McKnight. Paraclete Press, 2005. 182 pages. \$16.95. ♦♦♦

Evangelicals are famous for asking, "Do you know Jesus Christ as your personal Lord and Savior?" as a way of determining whether a person is "saved" or not. But the way to salvation often is presented as accepting certain beliefs rather than being shown how to enter a whole new relationship.

How do we take a personal gospel and turn it into an impersonal system? How can we correct the anemic and distorted picture of salvation that we often present to the world?

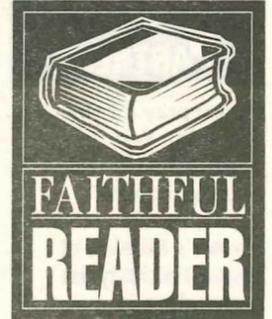
Scot McKnight advocates recovering the understanding of salvation as communion with God, with other people and with creation. The biggest enemy the gospel faces is individualism, which is not only pervasive in our culture, but in the church. Our notion of the individual and individual salvation betrays the biblical recognition that the individual can be understood only within the context of the human community of which he or she is a part. The contemporary understanding of individualism actually diminishes who we were created to be.

McKnight writes that if we are going to restore a proper understanding of salvation, we must regain a more biblical recognition of the human condition. He invites us to re-examine what it means to have been created in the image of God and how sin has affected us. When sin entered the human community, the chaos that God pushed back during Creation became a factor

in all our relationships. Embracing grace, therefore, is a matter of welcoming the transforming power of resurrection.

I found McKnight's presentation of the human condition and the gospel's response compelling. Those with more transactional or propositional views of the gospel likely will argue that he puts too much emphasis on the relational and is thus, too subjective.

I think he has gotten to the heart of Jesus' proclamation. But awkward writing and choppy composition often obscured his insights. *Jim Holladay*



By Wayne Hager, pastor of Calvary Baptist Church in Mt. Airy, N.C.; Jim Holladay, pastor of Lyndon Baptist Church in Louisville; and Steve Coleman, pastor of education and youth at New Work Fellowship in Hopkinsville. They welcome feedback or suggestions for book reviews. Contact them via e-mail at: whager@trifcient.net; lyndonpastor@aol.com; risen4me@hotmail.com.

PRAYER PARTNERS

Please pray for the following Kentucky Baptist missionaries and ministries:

Master's Mission of Logan Todd Baptist Association in Russellville. A new ministry, based on James 2:17, has begun under the leadership of Jim Moore and Director of Missions Rob Johnson. The ministry coordinates men, women and youth to do small repair jobs for elderly, disabled or disadvantaged people in South Central Kentucky. Volunteers share the witness of Christ through projects such as minor roof repairs, winterizing, window and door repair, and minor electrical or plumbing repairs. Pray that those they minister to will see the love of Christ through their work and witness. Pray also that God will provide more Christian laborers to help meet the many needs that exist in the association.

Missionaries Greg and Alice Whitetree of Elkhorn City. The Whitetrees serve as directors of the Freeda Harris Baptist Center. They share the witness of Christ through after-school clubs for children, food and clothing distribution, sports clinics and leagues, classes for women and special evangelistic events. Pray that the Whitetrees and volunteers who serve with them will have power and boldness as they share the gospel. There are young people who have accepted Christ but don't feel comfortable in a traditional church. Pray that a church will begin a contemporary service and reach out to meet the needs of these young adults.

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 or call (866) 489-3530.

MOUNTAINS TO THE MISSISSIPPI

COMPILED BY STAFF

■ **BAGDAD**—Bagdad Church recently called **Guy Futral** as interim pastor.
 ■ **BRADFORDSVILLE**—Bradfordsville Church recently called **Donavon Burton** as pastor.
 ■ **CAMPBELLSVILLE**—Saloma Church will host a potluck meal and fellowship hour Nov. 27, 5 p.m., followed by a Hanging of the Green service at 6 p.m.
 ■ **FRANKFORT**—Crestwood Church recently celebrated the fifth anniversary of its Ten Commandments ministry with **Charles Wysong** as guest speaker. **Wallace Kent** is pastor.
 ■ **GREENVILLE**—Woodland Church called **Tommy Webb** as pastor effective Oct. 30.
 ■ **LOUISVILLE**—Korean Mission Church recently called **Yun Yeong Ji** as pastor.
 Hurstbourne Church recently called **Trent Chambers** as minister of youth.
 ■ **MOUNT HERMON**—**John Lowe II**, pastor of Oak Grove Church since 1993, resigned effective Nov. 27.
 ■ **RICHMOND**—Harris Memorial Church recently called **Chris Buck**

as pastor. He was ordained to the gospel ministry Nov. 13 at White Hall Church.
 ■ **SANDERS**—Jordan Church will celebrate homecoming Nov. 27 with worship service at 11 a.m., followed by a fellowship and meal. For more information, contact Pastor **John Collett** at (859) 428-9396.
 ■ **SOMERSET**—High Street Church celebrated its 90th anniversary with special services Oct. 30, Nov. 2 and Nov. 6. Guest speakers included former pastors **Sam Adkins** and **Chris Platt** as well as **Tommy Wicker** who was ordained by the church. Former youth minister **David Bickers** also participated. The church honored **Darrell Burton**, pianist; **Bob Newby**, former music leader; and **Hazel Smiley**, former organist. **Jammie Vance** is pastor.

What's going on?

Mail your happenings to Mountains to the Mississippi at Box 43969, Louisville, KY 40253. E-mail: wesrec@earthlink.net.

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

FOR RENT: 2-bedroom/2-bath condo. Winter in Gatlinburg: \$65/night. Walk to town. (251) 666-2175. pdw@world.att.net.

FOR SALE: 1991 Ford 15-passenger van. 96,643 miles; good condition; asking \$3,300. Call (502) 368-5806.

SEEKING: Bivocational pastor for Cooper Baptist Church in Monticello, Ky. Cooper Baptist is a Southern Baptist church located in Wayne Co. Please send resumé to Pastor Search Committee, Cooper Baptist Church, PO Box 96, Monticello, KY 42633.

SEEKING: Part-time youth minister for Flint Baptist Church in Murray, Ky. For more information, contact Rev. DeWayne Chadwick at donaldchadwick@bellsouth.net; or by phone: (270) 753-7978.

SEEKING: Full-time associate pastor for Buck Creek Baptist Church, located 12 miles south of Owensboro, Ky. Ideally, this position would comprise music and youth responsibilities, though a youth-children combination would be considered. Please forward resumé, with church membership history and five references, to Bro. Jeff Devine (senior pastor). E-mail address: heartland@pngusa.net. Or mail to 3788 US Highway 431 N, Calhoun, KY 42327.

SEEKING: Director for parents' day out program in east end of Louisville (approx. 20 hours a week). Established program. Ideal requirements for director: regular church attender; bachelor's degree in early childhood education; three years full-time experience in early childhood education. If interested, please e-mail resumé to: Lsabowles@bluegrass.net; or fax it to: (502) 245-7945.

SEEKING: Dedicated bivocational individual to lead music program at Cloverdale Baptist Church—would be responsible for leading choirs and music in worship services. Send resumé to: Personnel Committee, Cloverdale Baptist Church, 314 W Main St., Cloverdale, KY 40111.

SEEKING: Part-time music minister—able to lead traditional or blended worship. Will consider college student pursuing music ministry. Mail resumé to: Bethel Baptist Church, 5260 E Highway 452, Eubank, KY 42567.

SEEKING: Experienced part-time minister of music for Hebron Baptist Church in Northern Kentucky Baptist Association. Salary commensurate with experience and education. Send resumé to Marylin Sutton, 1614 North Bend Road, Hebron, KY 41048; or e-mail to: masutton@aol.com.

SEEKING: Clear Creek Baptist Bible College announces an opening on the faculty for the 2006 fall semester. This is a full-time position to teach pastoral care and ministry courses. This individual also may lead the Christian service activities of the college. Academic credentials to teach courses in counseling and psychology are required. Candidates with a terminal degree are strongly preferred. Five years full-time ministry experience in a Southern Baptist-related ministry is required. Publishing record and/or college level teaching experience would be helpful. Rank and salary to be determined by experience and educational background. Send credentials including a statement of faith and educational philosophy to the academic dean, Clear Creek Baptist Bible College, 300 Clear Creek Road, Pineville, KY 40977. E-mail may be sent to mhester@cbbc.edu. Clear Creek Baptist Bible College is an agency of the Kentucky Baptist Convention with a mission "to provide educational preparation for adults called of God into Christian service."



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

December

12-13 Mission Board, Baptist Building, Louisville.

January

12-14 Shepherding the Shepherd, Radisson Hotel, Lexington.

19 Pastor/Staff Forum, Southside Baptist Church, Princeton.

24 Pastor/Staff Forum, Victory Baptist Church, Lexington.

27-28 Preschool/Children's Ministry Meeting, Lakeside Baptist Church, Louisville.

27-28 Quarterly Prayer Meeting for Spiritual Awakening, Severns Valley Association Office, Elizabethtown.

30-31 Theophostic Prayer Counseling Training Seminar, Campbellsville Baptist Church.

For more information, call (800) 266-6477 or visit www.kybaptist.org

IMB simulcast to launch prayer focus

Richmond, Va. (BP)—The Southern Baptist International Mission Board will host a national "Lift Up Your Voice ... A Call to Prayer" simulcast Jan. 27 and Jan. 29 to help launch a yearlong prayer initiative to connect churches with God's work around the world.

The 90-minute event will feature author and speaker Beth Moore; David Jeremiah, pastor of Shadow Mountain Community Church in Southern California and host of the syndicated "Turning Point"

media ministry; IMB President Jerry Rankin; and Carrie McDonnell, a former IMB worker who was critically injured in Iraq in 2004.

Available resources include the book, "Voices of the Faithful," a small-group facilitator's guide, music CD and iWorship video.

Broadcast schedules and subscription information are available online at www.ccn.tv/ccn/voice.htm or by calling (800) 321-6781. For more information visit www.voicesofthefaithful.com.

CLASSIFIED ADS

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

SEEKING: Part-time music minister for church with about 125 active members. If interested, please contact the church office at (502) 223-8364.

SEEKING: Bivocational pastor needed for a small, traditional, 12-year-old Southern Baptist church in a fast-growing suburban area 20 miles south of Salt Lake City, Utah. Great growth possibility. Please send resumé to: Pastor Search Committee Chairman Myron Adams, 2228 East 7110 South, Salt Lake City, UT 84121.

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 youth. Send resumé to Cloverdale Baptist Church, 4401 Manslick Road, Louisville, KY 40216, Attn: Paul Bewley.

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

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.

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, Elizabethton, TN 37643.

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 Nov. 24 to: Personnel Committee, Bellevue Baptist Church, 519 W Byers Ave., Owensboro, KY 42303.

SEEKING: Pastor for Parkway Baptist Church in Hodgenville, Ky. For more information, please e-mail donnastrader@peoplepc.com. Send resumé to Parkway Baptist Church, PO Box 326, Hodgenville, KY 42748.

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 resumé to fbcmorehead@hotmail.com, or mail them to: First Baptist Church of Morehead, 123 East Main St., Morehead, KY 40351, Attn: Chair, Personnel Committee.

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

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

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

Wal-Mart avoids boycott over Christmas snub

By Kevin Eckstrom & Jason Kane
Religion News Service

Bentonville, Ark. (RNS)—Retail giant Wal-Mart altered its Web site to acknowledge Christmas less than one day after a conservative Catholic group began a national boycott against the company.

The boycott, enacted because of perceived discrimination against Christmas, but not Hanukkah or Kwanzaa, was abandoned when Wal-Mart revised its Web site Nov. 10.

Wal-Mart also issued an apology for a customer service e-mail that claimed Christmas does not have religious roots.

The New York-based Catholic League said Wal-Mart was treating Christmas as a secular holiday, while not taking a similar approach with the Jewish holiday of Hanukkah, which begins the same day as Christmas, or Kwanzaa, a celebration of African-American culture that begins Dec. 26.

A recent search for Hanukkah on Wal-Mart's Web site yielded 200 products, and Kwanzaa 77. Prior to the change, a search for "Christmas" directed users to a "holiday" page, where a second link brought them to 7,967 Christmas items. Now, customers are taken directly to the "Christmas" site.

Bill Donohue, president of the Catholic League and organizer of the boycott, was also angered by an e-mail from Wal-Mart headquarters to a customer who complained about "Happy Holidays."

The e-mail said Christmas is not a religious holiday but an "ancient tradition that has its roots in Siberian shamanism."

"Santa is also borrowed from the Caucasus, (sic) mistletoe from the Celts, yule log from the Goths, the time from the Visigoth and the tree from the worship of Baal," the e-mail said, according to Donohue.

In a statement on its Web site, Wal-Mart spokesman Dan Fogleman apologized to those offended by the "inflammatory" comment, adding the associate responsible was no longer with the company.

"We at Wal-Mart believe this e-mail between a temporary associate and one of our valued customers was entirely inappropriate," he said, adding "Wal-Mart is proud to welcome customers of all faith, and celebrants of all holidays."

Displays of Christmas in the public square, particularly in retail environments, have become an annual crusade for Donohue.

Wal-Mart stood by its policy encouraging employees to say "Happy Holidays," which Donohue called "dumb" but added it was not part of the boycott.

Annie missionaries selected for 2006

By Debbie Sills
SBC North American Mission Board

Alpharetta, Ga. (BP)—The Southern Baptist North American Mission Board has announced the selection of missionaries to be featured during next spring's Week of Prayer for the 2006 North American Missions Emphasis.

The 2006 theme, "Tell His Story," is based on Mark 16:15 to undergird Southern Baptists' awareness of the need to support those who are sharing the gospel on the North American mission field.

Eight NAMB missionaries or missionary couples are selected each year to represent the work of 5,200 missionaries across the United States and Canada.

The 2006 Week of Prayer missionaries are:

Chet and Michelle Cantrell of East St. Louis, Ill. The Cantrells direct the Christian Activity Center and minister to children and youth facing a 60 percent school dropout rate, crime-ridden streets and a life of poverty.

Kevin and Alicia Madden in British Columbia, Canada. They serve as church planting missionaries, and Madden also serves as senior pastor of The Potter's House Community Church, a ministry offering a safe place for people to hear the gospel.

Mary Gore of Zwolle, La. Gore is a resort missionary who shares the

gospel with children and adults through various campground ministries in the popular Toledo Bend Lake area.

Randy and Denise Chestnut of Cleveland, Ohio. Chestnut serves as the associational missionary for the Greater Cleveland Baptist Association. The Chestnuts use creative methods to share the gospel where there is only one Southern Baptist church for every 46,000 people.

Andrew and Edith Chan of Arcadia, Calif. The Chans are church planters focusing on predominantly Chinese areas of California.

Larry and Joanne Woods of East Lansing, Mich. The two are Mission Service Corps missionaries reaching students for Christ on the campuses of Michigan State University and Lansing Community College. Woods is legally blind.

Dave and Debbie Howeth of Helena, Mont. They serve as associational missionaries and church planters for Treasure State Baptist Association, an area encompassing 40,000 square miles. Howeth works to encourage and motivate pastors as they share Christ in sparsely populated areas of Montana.

Reggie and Anna Robbins of Decatur, Ga. The Robbinses direct Set Free Memorial Drive Ministries and Sanctuary Shelter which provides a safe, Christ-centered environment for drug and alcohol addicts to move toward a new life in Christ.

To assist Southern Baptist churches, a free promotion packet emphasizing the Tell His Story theme will be mailed to every church in mid-January. Week of Prayer missionaries are featured throughout the packet, in video segments on a DVD (VHS available on request), in a daily prayer guide and on missionary prayer cards available for purchase.

The North American Missions Emphasis includes three aspects:

■ The annual Week of Prayer, which is March 5-12, 2006, when churches focus on praying for the eight missionaries and their areas of service.

■ The North American Mission Study, which is designed to involve all age groups in a study of the Tell His Story theme and spark a desire to tell His story in North America.

■ The Annie Armstrong Easter Offering, which supports more than 5,200 North American missionaries and their ministries. The 2006 goal is \$56 million, 100 percent of which is used for missionary support.

More information about the Week of Prayer for North American Missions and the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering is available at www.AnnieArmstrong.com.

North American mission study materials (lesson plans and support material) will be added in January.

Next week

Read about the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for International Missions in next week's Western Recorder.

Report finds religious oppression in N. Korea

By Kabuika Kamunga
Religion News Service

Washington (RNS)—Religious freedom is suppressed in North Korea while its citizens are forced into a quasi-religious cult worshipping a dead Korean leader, according to a new report by the U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom.

The study, released last week, reveals an enormous gap between North Korea's policy and international standards for religious freedom, said David Hawk, a human rights investigator and advocate who led the commission's study.

Religious suppression in North Korea began in 1945 when former Prime Minister Kim Il Sung came

to power, Hawk said. By the onset of the Korean War in 1950, the suppression worsened with the execution of religious believers.

Eight years later, the North Korean leader changed his title from "Prime Minister" to "Great Leader." Despite Kim Il Sung's death in 1994, religious suppression continues under his son, Kim Jong Il, who rules over the Communist country while requiring worship of his father, the report said.

Hawk—the author of "Hidden Gulag," a book about North Korea's prison camps—said the religious philosophy in North Korea "consists of a glorification and semi-deification of Kim Il Sung as the Korean messiah."

Hawk interviewed 40 North Korean refugees in South Korea during the preparation of the study. When asked if freedom of thought and religion existed in North Korea, the refugees said "impossible," and "it cannot possibly exist."

They seemed surprised that such questions even could be asked, he said. The refugees only agreed to talk anonymously to protect relatives back home, Hawk said.

"If you have a religion, you will be persecuted, even executed," said one refugee, according to the report.

The commission, created by Congress, advises the federal government on issues related to religious freedom.

Robertson tells Pennsylvania town, 'Pray to Darwin'

Dover, Pa. (RNS)—Television broadcaster Pat Robertson has proclaimed God will forsake a Pennsylvania town because its voters tossed out school board members who supported the teaching of intelligent design.

But residents interviewed in the Dover Area School District said they're not worried.

"God doesn't do that," said Chris Macdonald, 50, seated at the Moonlight Cafe in Dover. "I'm not worried. Not at all."

Robertson made the statement Nov. 10 on his syndicated talk show, "The 700 Club." Robertson hosts the show, produced by the Christian Broadcasting Network.

He warned that if a disaster befalls the Dover area, its residents should forget about any help from

God. Dover Area School District, a mostly white, rural area, has 17 churches.

"You just rejected Him," Robertson said, "from your city. ... You just voted God out of your city. And if that's the case, don't ask for His help, because He might not be there."

Last year, the Dover school board adopted a policy requiring school administrators to read a statement to ninth-graders preparing to study Charles Darwin's theory of evolution. The statement says Darwin's theory that species evolved from a common source through natural selection "is not a fact." It also informs students that the school library has materials about intelligent design.

Intelligent design holds that life is too complex to have evolved at

random and must have a powerful intelligence behind it. Many interpret that intelligence to be God.

Critics said intelligent design is thinly disguised creationism, which the U.S. Supreme Court ruled in 1987 is a religious philosophy, not science.

Eleven parents filed a federal lawsuit against the district, saying the policy violated the constitutional separation of church and state. That trial lasted for weeks, and a ruling is expected by sometime in January.

Earlier this month, the eight incumbent school board members on the ballot were defeated. Some of the winning candidates have said intelligent design does not belong in science class. They suggested that it be taught in courses on American culture or social studies.

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