



# WESTERN RECORDER

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## Think before you give, Nigerian church warns

**Abuja, Nigeria (RNS)**—Before giving money, be sure you know who's getting it.

That's the warning from Anglican Church of Nigeria officials who urge foreigners to beware of e-mails from "fraudulent personalities" hoping to exploit "Christian love and the good name of the church."

The trend to lure unsuspecting Christians into donating money to phony African causes grew to an alarming rate in 2005, according to a public disclaimer posted on the Anglican church's Web site and dispatched to news outlets.

"The church advises the general public to verify identities of people before sending money to fraudsters who have not the slightest belief in God, but are only trying to use church sentiments to lure people," AkínTunde Popoola, director of communications, said in a statement.

The "fraudsters," posing as Anglican ministers or missionaries, take part in spurious activities such as selling pets that "never get delivered" and collecting money for the sick and orphans with "seemingly convincing pictures."

Anglican ministers and church members in Nigeria, the world's second largest Anglican province, would not send unsolicited mail seeking or offering money to strangers, the statement said.

Recipients of such mail should alert the authorities or check the validity of the sender through "organized structures" within the church.

## 'Church face'

*Too many pastors wear mask to hide their hurts, speaker tells Ky. ministers*

**By Ken Walker**  
State Correspondent

**Lexington**—Roger Barrier believes too many pastors wear a "church face."

Barrier describes a church face as the polite mask pastors use to hide the unresolved pains that invade everyone's life in an imperfect world.

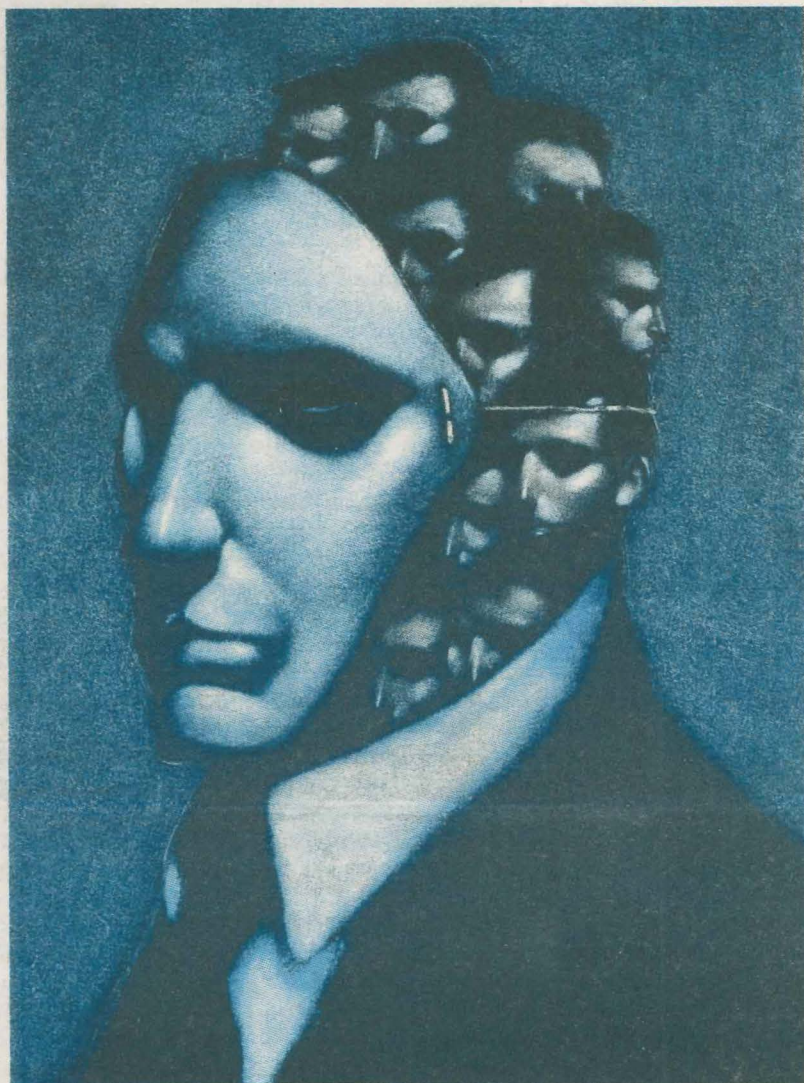
"We don't know very well in our society how to heal hurts," said Barrier, a pastor and counselor who was a keynote speaker at the recent "Shepherding the Shepherd" retreat and conference for pastors in Lexington.

"I never learned (how to heal hurts) in seminary," said Barrier, pastor of Casas Church in suburban Tucson, Ariz. "Most of us in this room don't have the slightest idea. We know how to heal anger and bitterness, but how do you heal the hurts?"

Barrier and his wife, Julie, compared the pressures of ministry to the soft drink cans they shook as they opened their presentation. Childhood wounds, contentious in-laws or constantly complaining church members can add to the mounting pressures, they noted.

Unresolved hurts can affect a church leader's personal and professional life, damaging relationships with family members, church members and even God, they said.

"Our relationship with God and with each other will only be close and intimate to the degree we have healed the hurts of ministry," said Barrier, who has a doctorate in pastoral care. "We must heal those



hurts because those unresolved hurts will mess up our relationship with God (and) they tend to mess up our relationship with other folks."

Pain is an ever-present fact of life, he added, recalling a meeting of an interdenominational pastors' group he attends.

Last fall, Barrier suggested they talk about how their summer had gone. Participants talked of rejection by parents, marital struggles

and family depression. One pastor pulled out his letter of resignation.

"I said, 'Maybe we ought to do some time comforting because there are sure a lot of hurts,'" Barrier said.

Instead of dealing honestly with such pressures, though, Julie Barrier said church life tends to be like their visit to their home state of Texas after moving to Arizona 30 years ago.

□ See Couple outlines ... Page 3

## Where's the tithe? Protestant giving drops to 2.6% of income

**By Ken Camp**  
Texas Baptist Standard

**Champaign, Ill. (ABP)**—If American Christians tithed, churches could gain \$156 billion a year, a recent study found.

And if denominations allocated a greater percentage of their receipts to international human needs, they could make strides in eliminating poverty-related child deaths, researchers concluded.

A recently released study by John and Sylvia Ronsvalle—the latest in an annual series published by "empty tomb," a Christian service and research organization based in Illinois—examines giving trends and church priorities.

In 2003, members of Christian churches in the United States gave an average of less than 2.6 percent

of their income to churches, the researchers discovered.

"If church members were to reach a congregation-wide average of 10 percent giving, an additional \$156 billion would be available to assist both local and global neighbors in need," the Ronsvalles wrote.

"The potential impact of this money is seen in need statistics that could be addressed in Jesus' name: \$5 billion could help stop the majority of 29,000 deaths a day around the globe among children under five, most of whom are dying from preventable poverty conditions; \$7 billion could provide basic education for the world's children; \$124 million could launch a massive world evangelism effort in the '10-40 Window,'" an area of global

spiritual and physical need.

But the long-term trend points to a downturn in individual giving. Overall, church members gave a smaller portion of their income in 2003—2.59 percent—than in 1968, when members gave an average 3.11 percent.

During that same period, churches chose to keep more of the money they received rather than forwarding it to their denominations to support national and international causes, and the 2003 level marked the lowest point in that 35 years.

"If the portion of income donated to the church had not declined between 1968 and 2003, congregations and denominations would have had, in aggregate dollars, 72 percent or \$2.2 billion more for

benevolences, funding the larger mission of the church, than the amount actually donated in 2003," the Ronsvalles noted.

As a part of their study, the Ronsvalles surveyed 28 Protestant denominations. They found—on average—less than two cents of every dollar donated to affiliated congregations in 2003 funded the denomination's international missions programs.

They noted in 14 denominations that grew in membership between 1969 and 2003, about 3 cents of every dollar went to denominational global missions. In 14 denominations that declined during that period, less than 1 cent of every dollar went to international missions.

The full report is available at [www.emptytomb.org](http://www.emptytomb.org).

## BAPTIST DIGEST

**Baptist Retirement Homes** of North Carolina announced Jan. 18 that its trustees have adopted bylaw amendments that empower trustees to elect their own successors. Previously, the bylaws called for trustees to be elected by the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina. A letter informing the convention of the changes was delivered to acting executive director Mike Cummings Jan. 18. "I deeply regret to see this action taken," Cummings said, "and I hope there will be opportunity for us to have some important dialogue ... in regard to this decision." The convention did not contribute funds or participate in choosing trustees for Baptist Retirement Homes until 1957.

**The conservative Southern Baptists of Texas** Convention's executive board has voted unanimously to disaffiliate a church for violating the convention's constitutional provision concerning churches that "affirm, approve or endorse homosexual behavior." Deron Biles, director of SBTC's minister-church relations, said leaders met with the pastor of Faith Harbour in an unsuccessful effort to clarify the church's stance toward a group it is helping sponsor and allowing to meet in its facilities, which bills itself on its Web site as welcoming and affirming of homosexual, bisexual and transgendered people. The new church, Eklektos, also has a female senior pastor. Faith Harbour Pastor Randy Haney wrote on his church's Internet blog, "It always amazes me how much people hate those who try to get out of the box and take the message of Jesus Christ to those who are considered unclean." Noting that "I do not affirm the homosexual lifestyle," Haney added, "I do not hate people who are in that lifestyle."

# Draper retires, ends 15 years at LifeWay

By **Trennis Henderson**  
Editor

Nashville—Affirming his commitment, compassion and vision, friends and colleagues gathered Jan. 13 to honor James T. Draper Jr., who will retire Feb. 1 as president of LifeWay Christian Resources.

Draper, elected president of the former Baptist Sunday School Board in 1991, has been a high-profile leader in the Southern Baptist Convention's conservative shift. Elected SBC president in 1982 and 1983, he was the third in a string of conservative presidents elected since 1979.

Describing Draper as giving, caring and selfless, SBC Executive Committee President Morris Chapman told banquet attendees, "Jimmy literally has been the pastor of the Southern Baptist Convention. ... Jimmy, thank you for being that model for all of us."

Draper was elected Sunday School Board president after former president Lloyd Elder retired amid a dispute with conservative trustees about Elder's leadership.

Pledging during his 1991 inauguration to keep Southern Baptists "on track" with a commitment to biblical inerrancy, Draper later added that he would seek to meet the publishing needs of all Southern Baptists.

"I don't think the Sunday School Board is so firmly attached or identified with one element of the Southern Baptist Convention that we cannot serve everybody," he said at the time. "I am not someone who feels that you have to agree with me to have fellowship."

Echoing that perspective last week, Draper singled out his predecessor for recognition.

"I want to thank Lloyd Elder for being here. Lloyd and I have been friends for a long time," he said. "My coming here was at a very troubled time and a difficult time, but I appreciate Lloyd's encouragement and friendship."

Also recognizing his successor,

## Trustee: IMB leaders tried to silence dissent

Richmond, Va.—A new staff policy, which gives trustees of the Southern Baptist International Mission Board power to censor news stories about their work, reportedly was used Jan. 11 to try to persuade trustee Wade Burleson to resign.

"If I was asked once, I was asked 15 times to resign after the vote for the recommendation to remove me," Burleson, pastor of Emmanuel Baptist Church in Enid, Okla., wrote in his weblog Jan. 12. "The carrot that was offered was that there would be no press release that would be damaging to me or the IMB."

IMB trustee chairman Thomas Hatley of Rogers, Ark., said the threat of publicity was not part of the trustees' action on Burleson.

"The opportunity to resign offered to Brother Wade would have allowed the withdrawal of the motion or have rendered the motion mute," he said in an e-mail to Associated Baptist Press Jan. 17. "There was no discussion or 'deal' relating to publicity about this that came from the floor. What individual trustees might have said to him I cannot



**REFLECTIONS** James and Carol Ann Draper share remembrances and words of appreciation during his Jan. 13 retirement banquet in Nashville. (LifeWay photo by Kent Harville)

Draper said LifeWay trustees "have done a great job in bringing Thom Rainer to be the next president of LifeWay."

Rainer, former dean of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary's Billy Graham School of Missions, Evangelism and Church Growth, was elected by LifeWay trustees in September. He has served as president-elect since mid-October and will succeed Draper Feb. 1.

Several convention leaders shared video greetings during the retirement banquet, including SBC President Bobby Welch and former presidents Jim Henry, Bailey Smith and Jerry Vines as well as fellow SBC entity presidents Jerry Rankin of the International Mission Board and Robert Reccord of the North American Mission Board.

"God bless you on this great day," Welch told Draper. "You have loved us, you have cared for us, you have wanted to help us and always watched out for us and looked for a way to better our lot in the ministry."

Describing current SBC agency heads as "the finest institutional leaders the Southern Baptist Con-

vention has ever had," Draper noted, "We don't always agree, but iron sharpens iron."

"We have clashed in thoughts and plans, but always with the purpose of seeing that the will of God is accomplished and that Christ is honored," he declared, "and the driving passion has been that we do all we can to make the Southern Baptist Convention an instrument that God can use."

In addition to convention leaders, Draper's family shared words of appreciation. Affirming the family's "godly heritage," the Drapers' son Randy said five words that describe his dad are consistent, conviction, compassion, contagious and character.

"He's consistent in his love for God and Christ," the younger Draper said. "He's got compassion for the lost world, for the saints, for the people around him."

Christian comedian Dennis Swanburg, who served as master of ceremonies, read a letter of tribute from evangelist Billy Graham. "You have had a singular focus on leading people to Jesus Christ," Graham wrote to Draper. "You have stood firm on the truth of Scripture and by doing so have strengthened and enlarged the work of the Southern Baptist Convention."

Draper also was recognized for his recent efforts to dialogue with and involve younger, emerging Baptist ministers in denominational leadership.

Jeff Harris, pastor of Gracepoint Church in San Antonio, Texas, told the banquet crowd, "In the last three years of his ministry here, he has been boldly challenging the status quo of this denomination."

"He has traveled around this country to sit with young men with sometimes radical ideas, unconventional ideas and listened to them so that they could be heard," Harris said. "You were saying, 'It's time for us to wake up and change.' I believe that's your legacy."

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## IMB highlights theological ed, ministry impact

Richmond, Va. (BP)—Southern Baptist International Mission Board leaders reaffirmed their commitment to theological education overseas during the IMB's Jan. 9-11 trustees meeting in Richmond, Va.

Addressing concerns that the IMB is abandoning theological education on the mission field, IMB President Jerry Rankin told trustees, "We certainly are not abandoning theological education as this would erode our mission objectives of evangelism, church planting and reaching all peoples."

"It is not an issue of investing in high-cost, Western-style institutions," he added, "but finding the methods and means to deliver the vital training needed, at the time and place it is needed, to nurture church-planting movements and assure those who identify themselves as Baptist are well-grounded in sound doctrine."

Rankin said the IMB appoints a number of new missionaries every year as seminary professors.

"However, we are not interested in processing those who simply want to be classroom teachers," Rankin said. "Those assigned to seminaries should be, first of all, committed to evangelism and church planting and model that involvement in a lifestyle commitment among their students, along with providing classroom instruction."

Gordon Fort, vice president for overseas operations, told trustees the IMB has a relationship with 63 seminaries, and 113 missionaries teach either full- or part-time in many of those institutions.

Fort said 43 missionaries work with 252 Bible schools and institutions around the world, in addition to the 63 seminaries. Many more missionaries are teaching on a short-term basis, he added.

Trustees also received the Annual Statistical Report showing substantial growth in international missions efforts in 2004.

In the 2004 reporting period, IMB missionary personnel:

- Engaged 137 new people groups. The total population of those people groups was more than 120 million individuals.

- Worked with 108,713 Baptist churches, including 17,676 newly established churches.

- Reported 459,725 baptisms, but IMB officials said they believe baptisms were under-reported in 2004.

- Planted the first Baptist churches among 14 people groups where no evangelical churches existed previously.

- Worked among 50,637 total outreach groups and started 8,729 new outreach groups.

Compiled from Associated Baptist Press and Baptist Press

# Seeing God at work

## Pastor & wife: Timelines can help Christians see where God was active

By Ken Walker  
State Correspondent

Lexington—Amid the fast pace of church work, pastors and their spouses should take the time to recognize what God has done through their lives and ministries, according to Skip Alexander.

"The rush of ministry is such (that) we always look forward, never in the past," said Alexander, pastor of Campbellsville Baptist Church.

"It's always the next church, the next book, the next sermon. It's good to stop and to see what God has done."

Alexander and his wife, Leigh Anne, were among the speakers at the recent *Shepherding the Shepherd* conference in Lexington.

As part of their workshop on connecting with God, the Alexanders asked participants to complete personal chronologies of significant events in their past.

The couple, who met while attending Georgetown College, reviewed some of the stresses that confronted them after they married in 1988. Two years included major changes, which they termed "clumps":

■ In 1995, Mrs. Alexander's mother was diagnosed with breast cancer for a second time, their second daughter was born with a life-threatening condition and their

oldest daughter was upset about their move to Louisville.

■ In 2001, a pair of close friends divorced, another friend died of a heart attack, their church started a building program and their oldest child was baptized.

During the first set of clumps in 1995, Mrs. Alexander said, she felt alone as she coped with having a newborn and a 3-year-old in turmoil. Meanwhile, her husband enjoyed meeting new people and adapting to a new church, and he wasn't aware of her pain.

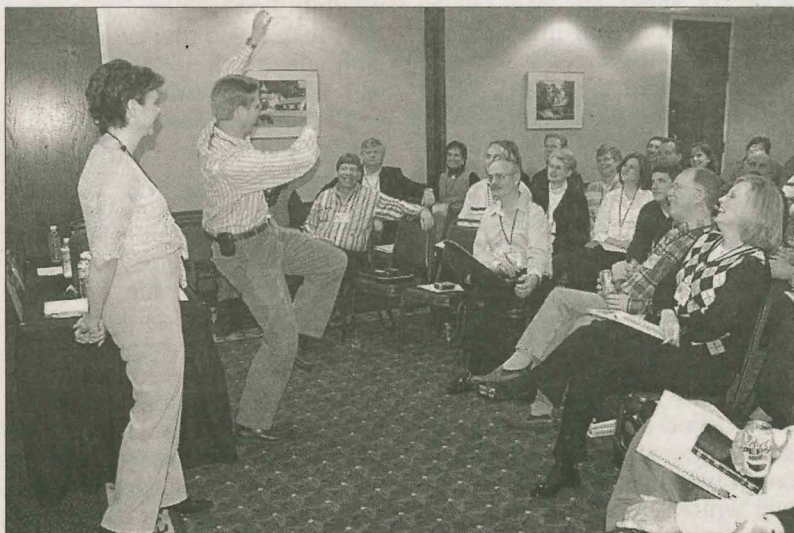
"I tended to withdraw from the family emotionally and they felt more alone," he confessed.

But after their close friends' ugly divorce in 2001, he added, "We realized we had grown some. Our marriage was better."

"We handled that totally different six years later," Mrs. Alexander said. "I didn't feel isolated. We talked about those friends who broke up (and asked), 'What can we do to prevent that from happening to our marriage?'"

### Recognizing blessings

"Look at what happened," Alexander said, encouraging participants to reflect on their experiences. "Did you run and hide? How did you handle (challenges)? This also can turn into time of praise, looking at



**CROUCHING TIGER, HIDDEN PASTOR** Skip Alexander, pastor of Campbellsville Baptist Church, shares a humorous moment with those at a workshop during the *Shepherding the Shepherd* conference. More than 300 pastors and spouses attended the conference. (KBC photo by Larry Brannin)

what God has done."

When couples shared some of the highlights they recognized, they named such things as:

■ The blessings they missed earlier in life as "hit and miss" church members.

■ God moving them through situations and bringing them blessings.

■ One bivocational pastor said he appreciated how he never could have endured the stress without his wife's help.

"I hope this starts a discussion and awareness of marriage and ministry," Alexander said. "When you don't have an identity apart from

ministry, from your church, it can be suffocating."

After the workshop, Alexander said this exercise also has value for church members.

Everyone has a history of both stressful and rewarding times, such as a building program or a pastor's departure; completing a timeline helps people understand how God has worked in their lives, he said.

"In our history there's truth," Alexander said. "Our past indicates our future. If we can look at our past and see where there were weaknesses, we can begin to address and change the history."

## Couple outlines 3-point plan to heal life's hurts in church

Continued from page 1

When a woman in a group of pastors' wives asked how she liked ministry. Mrs. Barrier talked of feeling scared, alone and unsure of how to deal with her husband's depression.

Instead of responding, the questioner turned to another woman and cheerfully repeated the question. The encounter taught her she wasn't supposed to express any vulnerability.

"I'm supposed to say 'Praise God!' and act like everything is all right," Mrs. Barrier said. "So many pastors' wives feel there's no safe place where they can be real."

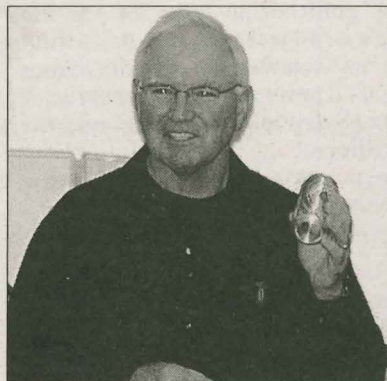
The two have had their share of hurts while at Casas Church, a Southern Baptist congregation that has grown in attendance from 70 to 4,500 during their tenure.

Among them was the death of their first child at nine months of age. Mrs. Barrier said she never spoke about it for 16 years, leaving her husband alone to grieve their daughter's death.

"Pushing down the pain in your life doesn't make it go away," she said. "Jesus wants to heal that pain."

Barrier recounted a significant ministerial wound involving an influential church member who threatened to destroy him if he didn't curtail a ministry the member didn't like.

Barrier withstood the challenge, but 15 years later he had a dream about wanting to shoot the man.



**SHAKING THINGS UP** Roger and Julia Barrier compare the pressures of life to the shaking of a soft drink can. (KBC photos by Larry Brannin)

"There comes a time in life when we have to deal with it," Barrier said, noting that unresolved hurts lead to such symptoms as drug and alcohol abuse, overwork, extra-marital affairs, pornography use and temper outbursts.

### Healing plan

During the conference and in an interview afterward, the Barriers offered a three-point plan for healing unresolved hurts:

**Citing theology.** Barrier said the church's emphasis on humanity's fallen nature must also incorporate the message of Genesis 2, when God says it isn't good for Adam to be alone.

Men and women not only need a Savior; they also need friends, Barrier said.

**Providing comfort.** Mrs. Barrier said the biblical concept of helping others mourn includes listening

to them and weeping with them. She called this a primary path for healing.

"When's the last time someone comforted you?" she asked. "For some of you, it's been a long time."

**Changing church culture.** Church leaders must help change their church culture to recognizing hurts and creating an atmosphere where members care for one another.

"Until that consciousness percolates down through our church culture, we'll have a very difficult time for anybody finding healing," Barrier said. "You can't get healed alone. When you're hurting and mourning, you've got to have somebody to be there to comfort you, to listen to you."

Barrier said many members and pastors bring their hurts to church, which results in a lot of anger.

Such things as mutual support groups where pastors can unbur-

den themselves, and small groups where members can be honest with each other, can help address the problem, Barrier said.

But Barrier said he doesn't think congregational leaders will make the difference in building healthier church relationships. Instead, he said, the impetus will come from pastors.

"That's got to come from the pastor who's lived that out and begins to share it with his folks," Barrier said. "Seventy-eight percent of Americans say the evangelical church is the most judgmental segment of society. As long as that's our reputation, it's going to be hard to have functional church cultures among us."

Conference organizer Richard Adams said several pastors and spouses told him that the Barriers' talk was the most practical and helpful session to date in the event's eight-year history.

Pastors are so busy helping others that few take time to address their own hurts, said Adams, director of the Kentucky Baptist Convention's leadership development department.

"I'm not sure they had slowed down enough to process it," Adams said of the impact of the Barriers' talk. "That's the challenge for people in ministry."

This year's *Shepherding the Shepherd* conference attracted a near-capacity crowd of about 310 people, he said. Next year's *Shepherding* conference will be held Jan. 18-20 in Lexington.

**"Completing a timeline helps people understand how God has worked in their lives."**

Skip Alexander, pastor of Campbellsville Baptist Church

**"When's the last time someone comforted you? For some of you, it's been a long time."**

Conference speaker Julie Barrier

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

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## Faithfully share His story with others

By James Draper

Nashville (BP)—A number of years ago as I was coming out of Old Town Mombasa, Kenya, our team saw an old blind man feeling his way along a wall across the street. We went to him and shared the gospel. When we finished, he asked, "If this is true, why have you waited so long to tell me?"

That question has driven me ever since to see beyond my little world and see the people of the world with whom God has sent us to share the good news of Jesus Christ.

A chapter of my life ends at the end of this month when I retire as president of LifeWay Christian Resources, ending 55 years of full-time ministry. It has been quite a story written by a Great Savior. He has given my life meaning beyond what I could ever have imagined. He took this mischievous, skinny kid growing up in some small towns and churches in Arkansas and Texas and literally took me around the world. I feel like He's let me peek behind the curtain to see all He's doing to redeem His people, and it's amazing. What a privilege it has been to serve.

This past year I've reflected a lot on my time at LifeWay and on my time in ministry. So many people and so many opportunities come to mind, it leaves me humbled. I'm overwhelmed by a gratitude that consumes my soul.

My beautiful bride of 50 years, Carol Ann, has in every way been the essence of a Proverbs 31 woman. "She is far more precious than jewels." I believe only God can fully probe the depths of my heart and understand the gratitude I have for the life partner He gave to me.

## Gratitude for co-laborers

Of course, ministry is not a job done in a vacuum. I praise God for the co-laborers I've had these 15 years in our LifeWay trustees and employees. Paul writes to the Philippians: "I give thanks to my God for every remembrance of you, always

praying with joy for all of you in my every prayer because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now" (Philippians 1:3-5). I can't improve on that expression of gratitude as I think of the trustees with whom I've served.

The Southern Baptist Convention has been blessed by God to do His work. It isn't the denomination itself that is great—it's the people in it. I've been blessed to work with the gifted leadership partners found at other SBC entities. Never has the SBC had stronger or more gifted leaders. I think of the state executives and directors of missions and associational leaders scattered across our country, many serving in out-of-the-way places. I love them because they labor not for recognition but to fulfill their calling of God.

Pastors, you are my heroes. All I ever wanted to do was be faithful to my calling as pastor of a local church. It is the highest calling in the world. You have a tough job in today's culture, but you have the most important job this side of heaven. You have never been far from my thoughts and prayers in what we've done here at LifeWay.

## "Walk worthy of the Lord"

As a pastor, the Lord has allowed me to be caretaker for His bride. I think of people with whom I've served on staff and the thousands of people who've been members of the churches of which I've been pastor, and I pause in overwhelming gratitude. What great folks. I have been far more blessed by these churches than they have been blessed by me. My prayer for each of these special places of service and the people in them is that they "may be filled with the knowledge of His will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding so that (they) may walk worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to Him, bearing fruit in every good work and growing in the knowledge of God" (Colossians 1:9-10).

I've spent quite a bit of time over the past two years talking to

younger leaders. These are men and women who love Jesus, are willing to go to the hard places for the gospel's sake and have the creativity to finish His work. These younger folks have energized and encouraged me. The future of the Southern Baptist Convention is bright. There are tremendous leaders coming into maturity and they are the promise of our future.

## "Climb to new heights"

Finally, I am tremendously grateful for Thom Rainer. I had no part in choosing my successor; the trustees did that. But as I survey the denominational landscape I can think of no other leader so uniquely qualified to lead LifeWay into the future. I have said I believe LifeWay's best days lie ahead, and I am confident that under Thom's leadership God will make that become reality. As Paul challenged Timothy: "In the presence of God, who gives life to all, and before Christ Jesus ... I charge you to keep the commandment without spot or blame until the appearing of our Lord Jesus Christ" (1 Timothy 6:13-14). Stay the course, broaden the horizons, swim in new oceans, climb to new heights, reach further than you've ever reached, dream greater dreams than you have ever dreamed, knowing that our Savior leads the way for you. These co-workers here at LifeWay will make the journey with you, and the Lord will be praised and glorified.

I am retiring from this phase of ministry, but the old Kenyan's question echoes in my mind: "If this is true, why have you waited so long to tell me?" I'm sure he'd heard many stories in His life, but none like the story we shared. Millions more wait for one of us to share the story—His story—with them.

The best way I know to express my gratitude to Jesus for the life He's written for me is to be faithful in my relationship to Him. From that I'll never retire as I look forward to one day being promoted into His presence.

James Draper is president of LifeWay Christian Resources of the Southern Baptist Convention

Crossing," located in the northeast area of Jefferson County.

Larry Baker, director of the KBC's new work and associational missions department, shared with me recently that a total of 51 churches were launched last year. In addition, 15 other churches affiliated with the KBC or entered into a watch-care relationship with the KBC in November.

I am grateful for the work of this department, the High-Impact Church Advisory Committee, associations, and sponsoring and partnering churches that have cooperated to help make these church starts possible. There currently are 21 church starts in process. Some of these are Hispanic, Korean and Chinese.

I also am grateful for the monetary support of all Kentucky Baptists through the Cooperative Program that enables us financially to help start churches. Please pray that God will direct in raising up pastors to lead church starts where needed, especially in metro areas.

Bill Mackey is executive director of the Kentucky Baptist Convention

## FIRST PERSON

work. It isn't the denomination itself that is great—it's the people in it. I've been blessed to work with the gifted leadership partners found at other SBC entities. Never has the SBC had stronger or more gifted leaders. I think of the state executives and directors of missions and associational leaders scattered across our country, many serving in out-of-the-way places. I love them because they labor not for recognition but to fulfill their calling of God.

Pastors, you are my heroes. All I ever wanted to do was be faithful to my calling as pastor of a local church. It is the highest calling in the world. You have a tough job in today's culture, but you have the most important job this side of heaven. You have never been far from my thoughts and prayers in what we've done here at LifeWay.

The Southern Baptist Convention has been blessed by God to do His work. It isn't the denomination itself that is great—it's the people in it. I've been blessed to work with the gifted leadership partners found at other SBC entities. Never has the SBC had stronger or more gifted leaders. I think of the state executives and directors of missions and associational leaders scattered across our country, many serving in out-of-the-way places. I love them because they labor not for recognition but to fulfill their calling of God.

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The best way I know to express my gratitude to Jesus for the life He's written for me is to be faithful in my relationship to Him. From that I'll never retire as I look forward to one day being promoted into His presence.

## Gratitude for co-laborers

Of course, ministry is not a job done in a vacuum. I praise God for the co-laborers I've had these 15 years in our LifeWay trustees and employees. Paul writes to the Philippians: "I give thanks to my God for every remembrance of you, always

## Church starts make positive impact

On a recent Sunday evening I had the privilege of participating in a dynamic worship experience at Sojourn Church in the Highlands area of Louisville. It was exciting to experience the vision and commitment of the congregation to be a witness to young adults.

The church was launched six years ago and has grown to about 400 in attendance. It now meets in a rented church facility, but Pastor Daniel Montgomery has led the church to purchase a 50,000-square-foot elementary school near the Highlands community. The building still must be remodeled to meet the needs of the church and surrounding community.

Sojourn is a warm and welcoming congregation with most of the attendees under age 35. Although I was the only one in attendance that evening with gray hair, I was greeted immediately. Once I was in a seat, someone else greeted me and pro-

vided additional information.

During worship, the lyrics of the music were powerful and filled with the truth about God and His redemptive plan for all. The transitions between songs were filled with Scripture verses and brief statements that set the stage for the next song. The prayers were related to praise and intercession for life situations.

The biblical message was filled with the truth of God's Word and application to the real issues of life. A two-page outline assisted participants in following the message. During the 75-minute worship service, the congregation also participated in the Lord's Supper.

The church also is making a commitment to be the body of Christ elsewhere in the city of Louisville. Under the leadership of the pastor, Sojourn is assisting the Kentucky Baptist Convention and Long Run Baptist Association in sponsoring a high-impact church start called "The

## PARTNERS IN THE MISSION



Bill Mackey

## CHURCH

## Christian giving involves more than finances

By Doug Strader

When Christians—and especially pastors—talk about giving, most people think about financial giving. But if one stops and thinks for a few minutes, you realize there are many ways to give in addition to financial giving.

I recently came across a book titled "The Giving Christian" by Kirk Nowery, president of INJOY Stewardship Services. Nowery lists several ways Christians can give in addition to financial giving:

**Giving the gift of truth,** or sharing the reason for our hope as believers in Jesus Christ as our Lord and Savior.

**Giving the gift of help.** Millions of people are in need and their only hope is for people who are Christians to minister to their needs. Of course the needs could be physical, spiritual, emotional or financial.

**Giving the gift of service.** Millions of Christians spend their lives in service through the church. People who have the gift of service, and who use their gift, do a great work for the Lord and His church.

**Giving the gift of resources.** Nowery calls this putting your money where your mouth is. Another way to say it is that these are the people who walk the way they talk. The gift of financial giving is a wonderful gift from God.

**Giving the gift of strength.** Many Christians call this the gift of encouragement. What a wonderful gift to possess. Many people, both Christians and pre-Christians, often lack the ability to prevail in the face of overwhelming discouragement and despondency. Christians who encourage are a godsend.

**Giving the gift of prayer.** This involves interceding to bless and benefit others. Every church needs prayer warriors who will stand in the gap and intercede for those who are hurting.

**Giving the gift of love.** Nowery says this is putting first the thing that matters most. Jesus said the most important commandment is to love the Lord with all our heart, soul and mind and the second most important is to love our neighbor as our self.

The next time you think about giving, do not automatically think it is all about finances. Instead, think of all the ways you can be a giving Christian in addition to your tithes and offerings.

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



## Reflective listening can help others feel heard, understood

**Q: I have a friend who always complains to me that her husband does not listen to her. I have seen both of them in action, and I don't think either one of them is a very good listener. How can I be her friend and support her as well as let her know that both of them need to make a change?**

There is a technique called reflective listening that I teach in a psychology course. The instructions are simple: The listener must look at the person speaking, focus on the speaker and can only reflect back what the speaker is saying. The listener is not allowed to ask questions, make comments or share anything from his or her view. The listener can only focus and reflect.

### MARRIAGE

Students let me know that as the speaker they feel heard when the listener uses this technique. They also usually share that most people do not listen to them in a way in which they feel heard.

A word search in Scripture lists hundreds of times the words "listen" and "hear" are found. Often the references reveal, "God listens" or "God heard," with a sense that God's focus is on the voice and heart of the speaker. At times, the speaker pleads for God to listen. Sometimes the speaker is declaring to others, "God has heard me."

Deep within us there is a longing to be listened to and heard. We long for this from God. The marriage relationship is to be an earthly reflection of that heavenly relationship. One way to do this is to listen and to hear. We expect God to stop, be still and listen to the deep yearnings of our heart. It is a righteous and expected thing to stop, be still and listen to the deep longings in the heart of one's spouse.

Perhaps you can share with your friend the powerful act of listening and encourage her to give this gift to her husband. Encourage her to be still and listen to her spouse in order to hear the deep longings of his heart. Possibly, in return, she will receive the same gift from him.—Valerie Vincent

**Q: My husband is a wonderful man who has a bad habit of cursing when he becomes irritated or angry. When I call him on it, he tells me I am just making it worse. Other than giving up, what can I do?**

The way you "call him on it" likely will make a major difference in his response. Typically the use of profane language suggests anger or an intense emotion surrounding a highly charged event or set of circumstances.

For some males, the use of profanity has been modeled by parents, coaches and peers. For others, it is a way of being defiant in the face of authority. Unfortunately, we live in a culture that has normalized the use of profane language.

When your husband tells you that you make it worse by calling him on it, I can only imagine some of the ways this might occur. Let me point out some things that usually won't work:

- Confronting him in front of family members or friends.
- Confronting him while he is frustrated or angry.
- Bringing up this problem without his permission in Sunday school, Bible study or with a group of people.
- Telling him to "just calm down."

Your husband needs you to talk with him privately at times when he isn't angry or frustrated. Let him know that you want him to be able to vent his frustration and that you are willing to listen. Remind him that you realize it will be a process of spiritual growth that will enable him to clean up his language and that you will be praying for him. Encourage him to pray quietly when he is most tempted to use foul language. Finally, make sure you affirm him at the times when he gets angry and demonstrates growth.—Scott Wigginton

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## IMB action: Messengers deserve details

According to media reports, it appears no trustee has been dismissed from a Southern Baptist Convention board in the denomination's 160-year history. At the very least, such action has not taken place in recent convention history.

That adds significant import to the Southern Baptist International Mission Board's effort to remove Wade Burleson as an IMB trustee just seven months after he was elected to the post by SBC messengers.

As you would expect, there are conflicting perspectives about the need for IMB trustees to present such a proposal to convention messengers during this June's SBC annual meeting in Greensboro, N.C.

The recommendation comes in the wake of Burleson's outspoken opposition to a pair of recently adopted IMB policies on "private prayer languages" and baptism. Burleson, who frequently posts his concerns on his Internet weblog, also claims that a small group of trustees are exerting control over board actions in violation of IMB policies.

According to IMB trustee chairman Tom Hatley, however, the "rare and grievous action" to seek Burleson's dismissal is based on "broken trust and resistance to accountability, not Burleson's opposition to policies recently enacted by the board."

Hatley insists the action is "absolutely necessary for the board to move forward in its duties as prescribed by the SBC."

Burleson, of course, has a quite different view. According to Associated Baptist Press, the Oklahoma Baptist pastor said he was shocked to learn Jan. 11 that he was being removed from the board.

"It seemed to me a leap across the Grand Canyon for any trustee to recommend my removal without first trying to arrive at a compromise," he wrote in his blog. "I could not understand the sudden action."

"I said to anyone who would listen in the hall-

ways, parking lot and hotel that I would stop blogging if the trustee board passed a policy that blogging by trustees was detrimental to the IMB," Burleson wrote in his Jan. 14 blog. "I still am amazed that the motion was to remove me rather than a recommendation for a policy that all trustees stop blogging."

Burleson, who recently concluded two years as president of the Baptist General Convention of Oklahoma, insists the underlying issue in his dispute with fellow trustees is a growing division among conservative Southern Baptist leaders over freedom of conscience.

Is Burleson a troublemaker who has resisted accountability to the board or is he an impassioned crusader who has legitimate concerns about IMB actions? And either way, does his conduct warrant him becoming the first SBC trustee removed from office?

Oklahoma Baptist Executive Director Anthony Jordan released a statement Jan. 12 affirming Burleson's ministry among Oklahoma Baptists. Citing Burleson's "outstanding service," Jordan said he "has demonstrated excellent leadership and integrity while exemplifying a passion for reaching the world with the gospel of Jesus Christ."

Before voting on this complex issue in June, SBC messengers deserve to know specific details about the charges of "broken trust and resistance to accountability." It isn't enough for IMB leaders simply to say, "Trust us that he has broken trust." As messengers determine the proposal's ultimate outcome, they have both the right and responsibility to be fully informed before casting their votes.

One of the questions Burleson has posed in the midst of this debate is: "Are we going to allow principled dissent" on SBC boards? Whether convention messengers side with Burleson or the majority of the IMB board, that is a question that deserves prayerful reflection between now and June.

### STRAIGHT FROM THE EDITOR



Trennis Henderson

## Stop gambling bills

It is time for all Christians to call their senator and representatives and tell them to vote no on any gambling bill that comes before them. Call (800) 372-7181 to leave a message for your state senator and representatives.

According to The Kentucky Citizen, a newsletter published by the Family Foundation of Kentucky, the state would get only 35 percent of the revenue, with the casinos keeping the other 65 percent.

Some of the wealthy people in Kentucky have pooled \$5 million for an advertising campaign to convince you to give them sole ownership of eight casinos that are planned if gambling is approved.

If you observe who buys the most lottery tickets in Kentucky, you will see it is the people who can least afford them. A few months ago I was in a convenience store that sells lottery tickets, and a young woman with four children came into the store and bought cigarettes and \$5 worth of lottery tickets. She was hoping to win big, but that is what everyone who gambles believes.

The governor of Illinois is trying to get legislation passed to close the casinos in Metropolis. Why? He says

it is not good for the people who need their money for other things, like food, utilities and medicine.

The Kentucky legislature meets for two or three months, so don't wait. Call today and let your voice be heard. Also call or write Gov. Fletcher.

The gambling industry is hoping that citizens of Kentucky can be manipulated by a well-planned advertising campaign to believe that gambling will be a good thing for Kentucky. In other words, they think you are stupid enough to believe all you see on TV or read in their clever ads.

For more information, contact the Family Foundation at www.tffky.org or call (895) 255-5400.

Hilda Winchester Murray

## Don't dilute faith

I am disappointed that the Western Recorder's Jan. 10 issue gave a four-star review to Dennis Kinlaw's book written to denounce the "juridical understanding" of the atonement ("salvation by grace alone, through faith alone," and that Christ paid the penalty for our sins) as inadequate.

The reviewer himself mentions the book's point that "Jesus is not

the only way of salvation" but then says, "My only complaint was the book's typeface."

On the contrary, the Bible is explicit that there is no salvation without embracing these very truths along with Christ Himself. The divide on these issues is not between evangelical and mainline Christianity, but between biblical Christianity and none at all.

There can be no personal relationship with a just God without sin being dealt with. Let us pray for the souls of those who would dilute our faith, that they will accept, rather than criticize, the only gospel that saves.

Chris Pope  
Louisville

**Editor's Note:** The Jan. 10 review of "Let's Start with Jesus: A New Way of Doing Theology" does not state that author Dennis Kinlaw believes "Jesus is not the only way of salvation." Rather, it states his view that "Jesus is not only the way of salvation," adding that He also "is the truth about God, ourselves and our world" and that "He comes to be life for us." The phrase "not only the way" has a completely different meaning from "not the only way." The Western Recorder unequivocally affirms Jesus Christ as the only way of salvation (John 14:6).

## Whaley, longtime KBC employee, remembered as ministry mentor

Louisville—James Whaley, who served more than 30 years on the Kentucky Baptist Convention staff, died Jan. 15. He was 86.

Whaley joined the state convention staff in 1953 as Training Union department director. He also served as director of church services and retired in 1984 as associate to the KBC executive director. After retiring, he and his wife, Wilma, served as field coordinators for the KBC's mission partnership with Baptists in Kenya.

Describing Whaley as "a faithful servant from start to finish," former KBC Executive Director Bill Marshall wrote at the time of Whaley's retirement, "In his 30 years of life and ministry among Kentucky Baptists, James has left his fingerprints on just about everything that has been done."

Whaley's funeral service was held Jan. 18 at Woodland Baptist Church in Louisville where he was a charter member. Pastor Mike Sharp used Whaley's first name as an acrostic, describing him as jovial, affectionate, a mentor, enthusiastic and spiritual.

Whaley "gave his life at the Baptist Building in serving the Lord," Sharp added. "His life was lived in dedication to the Lord's work."

KBC Executive Director Bill Mackey said Whaley was one of his mentors in ministry. Whaley "was always thinking about the future and developing other people," Mackey noted. "To have been blessed, mentored and encouraged by James Whaley felt like I had been touched by God."

Whaley, a native of Georgia, was a graduate of Emory University and New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary. A World War II Air Force veteran, he also served as Training Union assistant for the Alabama Baptist State Convention before joining the KBC staff.

In addition to his wife, he is survived by three children and eight grandchildren. Memorial gifts may be made to Woodland Baptist Church volunteer missions, Baptist Seminary of Kentucky, Hospice of Louisville or the Alzheimer's Association.

## Former Georgetown President Robert Mills dies, 89

Georgetown—Robert Mills, the 20th president of Georgetown College, died Jan. 16 of complications from pneumonia. He was 89.

Dwight Moody, Georgetown's dean of the chapel and a 1972



Robert Mills

Georgetown graduate, remembered Mills as "the leading figure for Baptists in Kentucky during his tenure."

Mills was Georgetown's longest-serving president, leading the school from 1959 to 1978. During his tenure, he oversaw construction of Asher Science Center, Cralle Student Center and the school's south campus, primarily made up of residence halls.

Eric Fruge, a Georgetown student in the early '70s and now the college's capital campaign director, reflected on Mills' accessibility to students and others.

"He was not pretentious at all," Fruge recalled. "You could just go to his office and talk." Retired Georgetown College music professor Danny Tilford said he first got to know Robert and Millie Mills as a Georgetown senior in 1956, when Tilford was organist at Immanuel Baptist Church in Lexington.

Describing the couple as role models, Tilford noted, "The Millses helped mold our lives more than

any other couple—marriage, parenting, integrity, spiritual values."

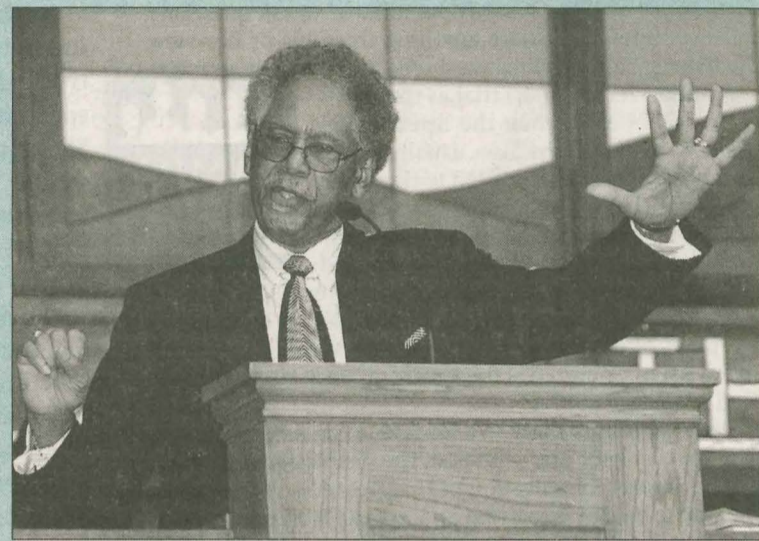
Before being elected Georgetown's president, Mills worked for the Kentucky Department of Education, was registrar and dean of admissions at the University of Kentucky and chairman of the department of educational administration at the University of Texas. A native of

Erlanger, he held three degrees from the University of Kentucky.

Mills' funeral service was held Jan. 20 in Georgetown's John L. Hill Chapel. Survivors include his wife, Mildred, and three children.

Memorial gifts may be made to the Robert and Millie Mills Scholarship Endowment at Georgetown College.

## Founder's day speaker



Lincoln Bingham, pastor of St. Paul Missionary Baptist Church in Louisville, speaks to University of the Cumberlands staff and students during last week's convocation on Martin Luther King Day. Bingham, who also serves as a cooperative ministries consultant with the Kentucky Baptist Convention, focused his message on inclusiveness, noting that King was "moved by the power of love." (University of the Cumberlands photo)

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Summer camp registration rising

Vacancies growing slim at Cedarmore, Jonathan Creek

My last article was titled "Volunteer help needed." Obviously, I do not possess some magical crystal ball, but I never would have imagined what has taken place during the two short weeks since that last column.

Perhaps most of you realize that this summer marks the beginning of our Crossings at Cedarmore summer camping program and what will be the seventh summer of Crossings at the Creek. As with most areas in life and ministry, you seek God's direction, make all the right plans and work hard, but the results fully depend upon God.

As I write, no one would have dreamed what is taking place with our summer registration for the two camps. Crossings at the Creek has approximately 3,600 campers registered—about 500 ahead of this point last year. Crossings at Cedarmore has nearly 1,900 campers scheduled for the six-week period of the summer. Keep in mind it is the second week of January; still a lot of time for more to come.

In reality, the vacant spots for either camp are growing slim,

with roughly half of the summer weeks booked.

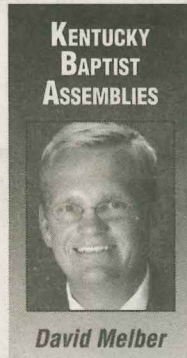
Several years ago, plans were being set to launch Crossings at Cedarmore. While many hours of work and prayer have been offered for this camp, I cannot express in words our thankfulness for God's favor in the first year of this program.

Approximately 1,300 campers attended the first summer of Crossings at the Creek, and it has grown to nearly three times the first year attendance. I am not sure what might happen at Cedarmore, but God already has exceeded all expectations.

No matter what our attendance might be this summer, the reality is that thousands of students will come in contact with the gospel message. Our prayer is that 1,000 youth would respond in faith and "cross" from death unto life.

We have been asking for volunteers to come and serve. God is providing students at an amazing pace. Come and serve and, more importantly, experience what God will do in the lives of all who participate with Crossings this summer.

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



David Melber

Kudzu

Doug Marlette



For Heaven's Sake

Mike Morgan



Bible Crosswords

Evelyn Boyington

Across

- 1 Atlas and Apennines (abbr.)
4 "Is there no \_\_\_ in Gilead?" (Jeremiah 8:22)
8 Son of Omri; notoriously evil king
12 Gershwin
13 Great Lake
14 KJV verb
15 Complete collections
17 "Thou shalt not plow with an ox and an \_\_\_ together" (Deuteronomy 22:10)
18 Curtain or horse
19 Canines, for example
21 Stage direction
23 Legal object
25 Chemical suffix
26 Certain physician (abbr.)
28 "The yoke shall be destroyed because of the \_\_\_" (Isaiah 10:27)
32 \_\_\_ ear
33 "Whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also \_\_\_" (Galatians 6:7)
34 Energy unit
35 Mad at
36 "They \_\_\_ my path, they set forward my calamity" (Job 30:13)
37 "There were set there six \_\_\_ of stone" (John 2:6)
39 Elder (abbr.)
40 "The everlasting \_\_\_, the Lord" (Isaiah 40:28)
41 One fleet of foot in the forest
42 Grand \_\_\_ auto
44 "Let them praise his name in the \_\_\_" (Psalm 149:3)
48 "\_\_\_ went before the ark" (2 Samuel 6:4)
50 Linking verb

11x11 crossword grid with numbers 1-59 indicating starting points for clues.

- 52 "\_\_\_ my lips"
53 Works like a gem
54 Steadfast
56 KJV grain
57 Aid's partner
58 Saline drop
59 "When we came to the \_\_\_, that we opened our sacks" (Genesis 43:21)

- 26 Gossip, literally (colloq.)
27 Addition column
28 "God is thy refuge, and underneath are the everlasting \_\_\_" (Deuteronomy 33:27)
29 "Thou art \_\_\_, O Lord" (Psalm 119:151)
30 Paddle
31 NYC subway
32 "Is any thing \_\_\_ hard for the Lord?" (Genesis 18:14)
35 Asparagus unit
37 Sorrow
38 "The staff of his shoulder, the \_\_\_ of his oppressor" (Isaiah 9:4)
40 "The Holy \_\_\_ shall come upon thee" (Luke 1:35)
42 \_\_\_ and again
43 Colorfast
45 Father of Salathiel (Luke 3:27)
46 "Whosoever slayeth \_\_\_, vengeance shall be taken on him" (Genesis 4:15)
47 Idyllic spot
48 Exclamation
49 Where the action is
51 Baseball stat.
55 Son of Judah (1 Chronicles 2:3)

Down

- 1 "There went up a \_\_\_ from the earth and watered" (Genesis 2:6)
2 Birch or ginkgo
3 Make contented
4 "\_\_\_ it ever so humble ... "
5 Son of Jether (1 Chronicles 7:38)
6 Feminine name
7 "A thorn in the flesh, the \_\_\_ of Satan" (2 Corinthians 12:7)
8 "\_\_\_ in me, and I in you" (John 15:4)
9 Animal not to be eaten (Deuteronomy 14:7)
10 Hubbub
11 Actor Cross
16 Sunset, for one
20 Coop dowager
22 Participle suffix
24 Hardly fickle

Last week's solution

11x11 crossword grid with words filled in from the previous week's puzzle.

Advertisement for Carpenter Bus Sales: 'Is Your Van Safe? Send for a FREE CD!' Includes image of a van and contact information.

Advertisement for Western Recorder: 'Visit us on the Web!' Includes image of a laptop and list of services like 'Read stories', 'Submit a classified ad', etc.

## Pikeville pastor hopes Challenge expands church's mission vision

**"I'm hoping to have my folks get the total picture."**

Sam Crawford, pastor of Immanuel Baptist Church in Pikeville

By Dannah Prather  
Partnerships Editor

**Pikeville**—Immanuel Baptist Church in Pikeville has accepted the "Acts 1:8 Challenge" and Pastor Sam Crawford said he hopes the Southern Baptist Convention initiative will spark a more comprehensive missions strategy among his congregation.

"I'm hoping to have my folks get the total picture," said Crawford who has been pastor of Immanuel for more than seven years. "We don't want to get focused on just one area."

The Acts 1:8 Challenge is a joint initiative of the Southern Baptist International Mission Board and North American Mission Board.

Immanuel was the 2,000th congregation in the SBC to accept the Acts 1:8 Challenge since it began last summer.

Based on the admonition in Scripture for believers to be witnesses for Christ "in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth," the challenge encourages congregations to undertake mission projects in their communities, state, North America and the world.

"We do some things really well," Crawford said, noting that Immanuel's members maintain a year-round food pantry, sponsor holiday food drives and support ministries at the Freeda Harris Baptist Center in Elkhorn City.

The church also serves annually in World Changers projects. Recently, Immanuel members participated in two disaster relief trips to the Gulf Coast following hurricanes Katrina and Rita.

"The challenge is to keep going

out," he said, and to accept God's "promised presence with us. If we have His heart for the world, He will bless us with His resources."

Crawford said he hopes that as interest in the Acts 1:8 Challenge grows, the congregation will undertake international mission trips.

"We can be involved in international missions through the Coop-

erative Program," he said. "But we can also go ourselves."

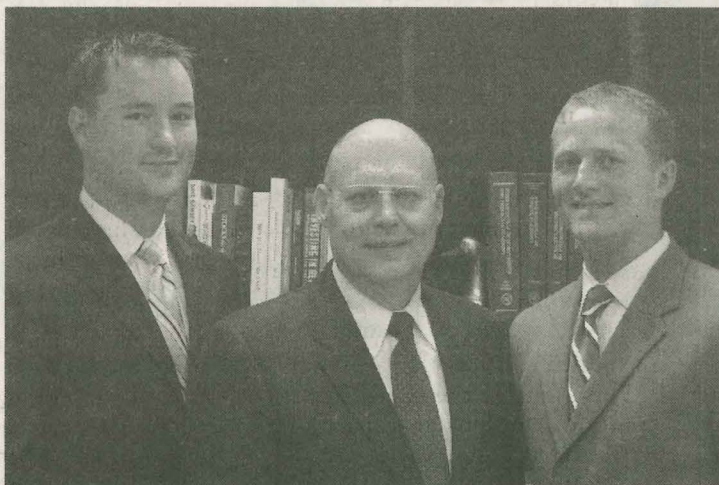
To start the emphasis, Crawford began preaching through the book of Acts in January. "Right now, I'm laying the groundwork."

As of mid-December, 83 Kentucky Baptist churches had accepted the Acts 1:8 Challenge by signing up online at [www.actstone8.com](http://www.actstone8.com) or by

calling (800) 4ACTS18. Churches receive resources to help them initiate gospel-sharing activities close to home, across the world and places in between.

Among the resources are a 60-page leadership guide, CD-ROM, PowerPoint presentations, video clips, bulletin inserts and a sermon outline.

## Heard from your advisor lately?

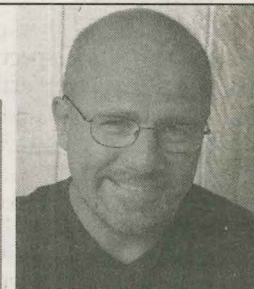


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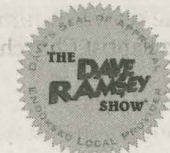
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DAVE RAMSEY



## 'Come over and help us'

**God's call for ordinary workers changes lives of thousands of Oneida students**

By Michael Spencer

Oneida Baptist Institute Assistant to the President

"And a vision appeared to Paul in the night: a man of Macedonia was standing there, urging him and saying, 'Come over to Macedonia and help us'" (Acts 16:9).

You and I are Christians today because Paul paid attention to a vision of a man standing in Europe—a whole new world—and answered the call. It is still an important call from God, and if I could ask the Lord to send that call to Kentucky Baptists in 2006, I wouldn't hesitate to do so.

"Come over and help us." Consider coming to Oneida Baptist Institute and serving God at this unique school and ministry. As I type this column, OBI needs high school and middle school teachers, someone to teach auto mechanics and willing servants in capacities from printing press operators to maintenance men to office staff. We have no secret source for our personnel and faculty needs. God must call people to come and share their gifts.

The lives of thousands of students have been changed forever because ordinary people heard God's call and came to Oneida to do what they could with the talents they had. It isn't just college-trained faculty who make Oneida work. We need "salt of the earth" people who want the satisfaction of serving the Lord Jesus in a full-time capacity.

"Come over and help us." Ministry at OBI is a blessing to the families that serve here. Our children are blessed to be part of an academically

excellent, culturally diverse Christian school. It is a great blessing to be part of our children's lives every day year-round. OBI staff children have rich opportunities all the way from daycare to co-curricular and senior activities.

"Come over and help us." Serving the Lord is a missions experience that doesn't require you to go overseas. At God's school in the mountains, the world comes to you. Students from around the world and throughout the United States come with needs we can meet and hearts that the Spirit will touch. The ministry of every OBI staff member is part of what God is doing here. Construction labor and farm work are as important as preachers and teachers in sharing Christ with students.

"Come over and help us." Under the leadership of Dr. W.F. Underwood, OBI staff live in excellent housing and minister free from many of the concerns of other ministries, such as fund raising, insurance and retirement. We can concentrate on our mission of education and evangelism. I am grateful to Dr. Underwood and those who support our school that I have been able to minister in one place for more than 14 years and be useful every day.

"Come over and help us." Is God calling you? Is there a longing in your heart to use your gifts at a ministry that lives out the gospel in community, missions and service to others? Do you have gifts and abilities that could be useful at OBI?

Contact Dr. Underwood if you believe serving at Oneida might be a possibility for you.

W.F. Underwood is president of Oneida Baptist Institute, Box 67, Oneida, KY 40972; [www.oneidaschool.org](http://www.oneidaschool.org); e-mail: [president@oneidaschool.org](mailto:president@oneidaschool.org)

THIS IS ONEIDA



W.F. Underwood

## Beating the drum for discipleship

**Indiana student finding a good fit at Clear Creek**

Second-year Indiana student Brian Whalen has played the drums since age 9; now he follows the beat of a different drum in preparation for ministry.

Church was the first place Brian visited after his birth. "My mom always kept us in church; it was rough on her when Dad wasn't there. She knew the Lord and what He was about. Everyone in the family is now a believer."

When he announced his calling, Brian's pastor, 1992 alumnus Dave Purichia, told him about Clear Creek. "I thought music and youth was the direction for ministry. But God changed my mind, and now I look forward to serving as a pastor," Brian said. "I want to see people saved and also grow in their relationship with Christ. At one church we attended there was a swinging door, people left soon after they joined. We had the program, but not enough involvement."

During his first year, Brian was involved at Pump Springs Baptist Church in Harrogate, Tenn. He played the drums in the Celebrate Recovery band. "Celebrate Recovery focuses on hurts, habits and

hang-ups, helping people through addictions," Brian said. "About 30-40 attended on Tuesday nights; many of them were not church members." Brian said the Lord was leading him to do more work to disciple those attending, a call that was confirmed when another drummer became available. The family now attends First Baptist Church of Barbourville and works with the youth program.

The Whalens arrived at Clear Creek with the expectation God would take care of them. "Some things didn't work out as we planned, but God did provide," he stated. "I got a job as cashier in the campus business office."

Brian has no doubt Clear Creek is a Bible college. "The professors go out of the way to pray with us," he said. "They take time to help us with learning and to get the best from our experience. The family orientation is why we came; it is a good fit for our family." Brian and Alisa have been married for 10 years and have two children, Jeremiah, 5, and Isaiah, 2.

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

CLEAR CREEK CHRONICLE

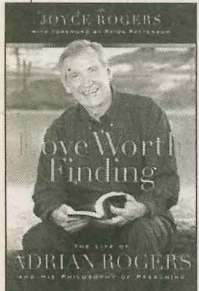


Bill Whittaker

**Adrian Rogers' wife pens bio of famous preacher**

Bellevue, Tenn. (BP)—There is no better expert on the late Adrian Rogers than his wife and lifelong sweetheart, Joyce.

Mrs. Rogers, who experienced the highs and lows of life alongside him, has recorded her unique perspective in "Love Worth Finding: The Life of Adrian Rogers and His Philosophy of Preaching."



The biography was released shortly before

Rogers' death Nov. 15 as a result of cancer and pneumonia.

Mrs. Rogers recounts her husband's beginning in the ranks of the ordinary, where in junior high he was known as "unruly and belligerent."

Rogers became a Christian at age 14 after some neighbors invited his family to a crusade.

Mrs. Rogers was standing by Rogers' side the night he stepped forward during a retreat to publicly declare that God had called him to preach the gospel.

After years serving smaller churches, he was pursued by the search committee of Bellevue Baptist Church in Memphis.

She writes that there was a mix-up in the process, as Rogers thought he simply was filling the pulpit one Sunday at Bellevue. The search committee thought he was preaching in view of a call. Church leaders had Rogers leave the auditorium, and the congregation unanimously voted him in as pastor, to his surprise.

**Call Waiting: God's Invitation to Youth.** Larry McSwain and Kay Shurden. Judson Press, 2005. 82 pages. \$10.00. ♦♦♦♦

Perhaps it was the title. Maybe it was the blurb in the catalog. Somewhere I got the impression that this book was about helping youth explore their call to missions, ministry or some other avenue of "full-time Christian service."

In one of life's pleasant surprises, I discovered I was wrong.

For sure, Larry McSwain and Kay Wilson Shurden deal with that issue, though only as part of a larger discussion. "Call Waiting" explores what it means to hear Jesus call out, "Come, follow Me."

The chapters deal with the authors' basic understanding of the Christian call: "An invitation from God to you to partnership in the church and the world now and forever."

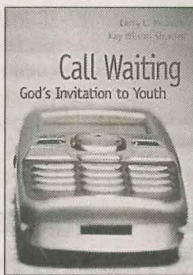
The final chapter is an invitation to explore how that call will work itself out in the reader's life. Reflection questions and space to journal at the end of each chapter offer an interactive experience.

A leader's guide at the end of the book offers suggestions for using it as a resource for group study.

"Call Waiting" is an excellent resource for introducing youth to what it means to be a Christian.

As such, it speaks to new Christians, youth preparing for baptism, non-Christian youth who have questions and youth who may have made professions of faith as children.

Though adults might be a bit uncomfortable using a book with youth writ large all over it, I have no doubt that many adults (yes, even seasoned church members) would gain a deeper understanding of what it means to be a Christian by reading this book. *Jim Holladay*



**Taking It to the Streets.** Ted Haggard. Regal Publishing, 2005. 88 pages. \$8.99. ♦♦♦♦

This book has nothing to do with the 1970s rock song by the same title by the Doobie Brothers.

Rather, it is about getting prayer out of the church house and taking it to the streets of your community.

Ted Haggard has written a concise book to help readers walk their neighborhoods, schools, business and other areas to pray for them.

Haggard, a pastor and president of the National Association of Evangelicals, writes that prayer is the mechanism for truly connecting to God and power for ministry in the world we live in.

If you have ever wanted change in a city government or community, then pray for local leaders and stop complaining, Haggard advises.

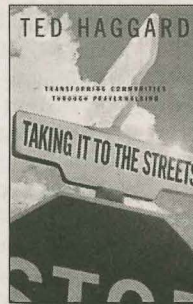
Change is possible, Haggard writes, and God is the source of power for that potential change. Christians also can influence a community, Haggard adds, as their prayers motivate them to get involved in local activities.

"Taking It to the Streets" is a short read because it's more about action than just reading. The book has only five chapters, which address prayer in general and specific ways to pray.

Each chapter ends with a section for reflection and questions to ponder.

The end of the book has a prayer journal to help the reader organize his or her prayers and track God's answers.

This is a good book for a small group, Sunday school class or a group wanting to make a difference in their world. *Steve Coleman*



**Biblical Foundations for Baptist Churches: A Contemporary Ecclesiology.** John Hammett. Kregel Publications, 2005. 368 pages. \$19.99. ♦♦♦

Some of the topics discussed in this book are a good statement of what almost all Baptists can affirm (such as the nature of the church).

Other parts seem to take a decidedly partisan view (such as the role of women in the church). While author John Hammett knows everyone will not agree with him, I found some of his conclusions hard to accept.

I can say this book is well-written and makes its points well-reasoned.

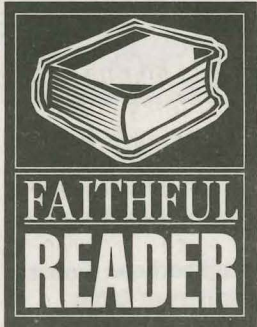
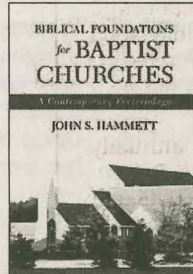
Hammett's primary purpose is to reclaim the place of the church in the world by fully examining what it means to be the church.

This book will be most welcome among more conservative Baptists and evangelical Christians.

Of most interest to me is the discussion of the trend among some conservative churches to adopt a leadership model that includes "elders." Hammett offers evidence of Baptist "elders" in the 18th and 19th centuries (which comes as news to most Baptists).

Hammett almost sides with the validity of women deacons, but he comes down heavy on the side of a leadership model that includes teaching elders (pastors) and ruling elders (lay-people), both of whom must be men, according to his interpretation.

Perhaps what I should say about this book is to quote Hammett's words when referring to articles in the fall 1981 issue of Review and Expositor journal on ordination for Christian ministry: "I do not agree with the perspectives of all the articles, but on the whole, they give helpful information on a topic rarely treated elsewhere in any depth." *Wayne Hager*



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@trifluent.net; lyndonpastor@aol.com; risen4me@hotmail.com.

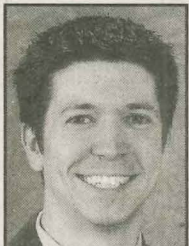
**20TH WESTERN KY EVANGELISM CONFERENCE**

**FEBRUARY 6, 2006**

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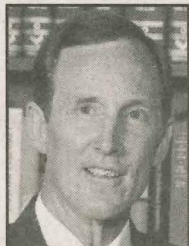
**THIS YEAR'S SPEAKERS AND PROGRAM PERSONALITIES**



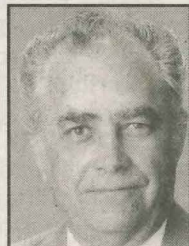
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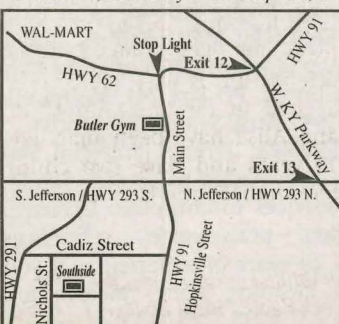


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**Publisher wins lawsuit in cult case**

Houston (RNS)—A Texas court has dismissed a lawsuit against a publishing house that was brought by a religious organization objecting to being listed in a book about cults.

The plaintiffs—a loose-knit religious group known as The Local Church and Living Stream Ministry, its publishing arm—say they will appeal the Jan. 5 ruling to the Texas Supreme Court, the state where the case was filed. The Local Church has about 300 U.S. churches with an estimated 25,000 members.

The libel suit sought \$136 million in damages from Harvest House Publishers.

The appeals court reversed a lower court's decision and sided with Harvest Publishers and authors John Ankerberg and John Weldon, who wrote a 700-page book titled "Encyclopedia of Cults and New Religions."

The church claimed that the encyclopedia made defamatory statements against it by calling it a "cult" and including a chapter in the book on it.

But appeals court Chief Justice Sherry Radack, writing for a three-judge panel, said: "Nothing in the book singles out the church as having committed the 'immoral, illegal and despicable' actions alleged in its petition. Simply being included in a group with others who may have committed such 'immoral, illegal and despicable' actions does not give rise to a libel claim."

Ankerberg and Weldon said in a statement: "Though The Local Church clearly desires acceptance within evangelical Christianity, suing those who critique their teachings is not the way to gain it, but rather, dealing with the unorthodox teachings that exist in their publications."

## PRAYER PARTNERS

Please pray for the following Kentucky Baptist missionaries and ministries:

### Neighborhood dinner ministry of Eaton Memorial Baptist Church in Owensboro.

The church is beginning a ministry in February that will seek to connect their community to Christ. Pastor Dennis McFadden said the church will serve hot meals to the hungry of the community every Monday night. Eaton Memorial Church has remodeled its kitchen to prepare for the ministry. The church's GROW ministry will follow up with participants who have no relationship with Jesus or church affiliation. Pray that volunteers will show commitment to the ministry and be faithful in their service. Pray also that this ministry will meet the spiritual needs of diners while providing meals to meet their physical needs.

### Mission Service Corps Missionary Cara Anderson of Morehead.

Anderson serves as an assistant to the campus minister at Morehead State University and gives leadership to a weekly women's discipleship group, an international outreach program and the missions team. Anderson also spends time listening to and counseling young women who stop by to talk about various personal issues. Pray that Anderson will be sensitive to God's leadership and say the right words as she mentors and disciples young women on the campus. Pray also that she will be instrumental in leading international students to faith in Christ while helping them feel welcome on campus.

If you would like Kentucky Baptists to join in praying for a ministry of your church or association, please send the information to Eric Allen at [Eric.Allen@kybaptist.org](mailto:Eric.Allen@kybaptist.org) or call (866) 489-3530.

## MOUNTAINS TO THE MISSISSIPPI

COMPILED BY STAFF

■ **BURLINGTON**—Burlington Church ordained **Dan Fields** as a deacon Jan. 22. **Terry Wilder** is pastor.  
 ■ **EDDYVILLE**—First Church ordained **Heath Carlton** as a deacon Jan. 22. **Tim Perdue** is pastor.  
 ■ **FALMOUTH**—Turner Ridge Church recently called **Garland Dale Carey** as pastor.  
 ■ **HARDINSBURG**—Hardinsburg Church ordained **Kerry Lane Spencer** to the gospel ministry Jan. 8. He will begin serving as an international missionary in February. **Doug Miller** is pastor.  
 ■ **HAZARD**—**Jack Hester**, a Mission Service Corps missionary serving in Hazard, died Jan. 13 at age 78. He established Middle Fork Mission in 2003. Hester is survived by two sons, two granddaughters and one great-granddaughter. His funeral service was held Jan. 16 in Gloucester, Va.  
 ■ **LAWRENCEBURG**—Mount Pleasant Church ordained **Ernie Ray Drury** and **Ollie Neat** as deacons Jan. 22. **Harold Garrison** is pastor.

### Spotlight on ...

#### Hodgenville



First Church will host **The Talley Trio** in concert Feb. 3, 7 p.m. **Gerald Murphy** is pastor.

■ **LOUISVILLE**—Buechel Park Church ordained **Chris Atzinger**, **Robert Simms** and **Betty Terry** as deacons Jan. 15. **Don Rogers** is pastor.

Cloverleaf Church will host **The Crossmen** in concert Feb. 4, 7 p.m. **Geoffrey Lacefield** is pastor.

St. Matthews Church will host concert pianist and composer **Stanton Lanier** Jan. 29, 6:30 p.m. **Les Holton** is pastor.

■ **TAYLORSVILLE**—Little Union Church ordained **John Snow** and **Shelby Mattingly** as deacons Jan. 22.

## World Changers slates 93 cities; Feb. 1 is 'lock-in' deposit date

**Alpharetta, Ga. (BP)**—Thousands of Southern Baptist students—from teenage to college-age—will travel to 93 U.S. cities this summer to work on 2006 World Changers mission projects.

Feb. 1 is the deadline for churches to pay \$50-per-person deposits to lock in registrations.

"This will be our 17th summer of projects for World Changers," said Jim Burton, director of volunteer mobilization for the SBC's North American Mission Board. "We have a great track record for providing Baptist students with an excellent mission experience."

Established in 1990, World Changers is a mission experience packaged by NAMB enabling students to donate part of their summer to rehabilitate substandard housing. At the same time, they develop mission skills, grow in their faith and share the gospel.

Renovation projects will kick off June 10 and run through Aug. 5, said John Bailey, NAMB's national manager for World Changers.

"We'll hold our larger World Changers events, called our XL

Projects, in Norfolk, Va., and Birmingham, Ala.," Bailey said. "We'll have 800 kids in Norfolk, which will feature well-known youth speaker David Nasser and Jamie Smith and her worship band. In Birmingham, we'll have 500 students and feature Mike Satterfield as speaker and the Warren Jacobs Band."

World Changers events in Kentucky will be held June 10-17 in Pikeville, June 24-July 1 in Madisonville and July 8-15 in Henderson.

Bailey said new cities participating in World Changers in 2006 include Little Rock, Ark.; Tulsa, Okla.; Buffalo, N.Y.; and Gallup, N.M. World Changers also is sponsoring several spring break projects in March and April.

In the wake of last fall's devastating hurricane season on the Gulf Coast, World Changers also is increasing the number of construction renovation projects in Alabama, Mississippi and Louisiana.

Church leaders can visit [worldchangers.studentz.com](http://worldchangers.studentz.com) to sign up or see a list of project cities. For additional information, call World Changers at (800) 462-8657.

## LifeWay helps turn steeples into cash

**Nashville (BP)**—Churches across the country have discovered a new way to raise funds for ministry and missions by using an often-overlooked building asset—the church steeple.

Houses of worship can earn income by contracting with telecom companies to provide use of church steeples to serve as cell phone towers. With the right agreement, steeple towers can be a win-win situation for churches and telecom companies.

Recognizing the need for churches to have an advocate when working with telecom companies, LifeWay Christian Resources has partnered with Steeplecom, a company with the sole purpose of assisting

churches in negotiating profitable contracts for steeple towers.

"Steeplecom is our endorsed provider for the placement of wireless communication antennas in our churches," said Ron Chandler of LifeWay's direct marketing department.

LifeWay has worked with Steeplecom to provide pre-approved contracts designed to protect churches while helping them earn the most they can from their church steeple.

Chandler said LifeWay's marketing department has "studied the industry and the particular service providers and we endorsed Steeplecom because we have found them to be the best in the field and they meet our performance standards."



## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### January

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

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

### February

3-4 Deacon/Pastor/Spouse Retreat, Bowling Green.

16 Connecting with Guests and New Members, Williamstown Baptist Church.

20 Retirement Choices Workshop, First Baptist Church, Princeton.

21 Connecting with Guests and New Members, Mays Lick Baptist Church.

21 Retirement Choices Workshop, Baptist Building, Louisville.

22 Retirement Choices Workshop, First Baptist Church, London.

23 Connecting with Guests and New Members, Severns Valley Baptist Church, Elizabethtown.

23 Retirement Choices Workshop, Porter Memorial Baptist Church, Lexington.

25 All-State Youth Choir/Orchestra Auditions and State Youth Choir Festival—East, Central Baptist Church, Winchester.

25 Hispanic Evangelism Conference & Hispanic Women's Meeting, Horse Cave Baptist Church.

25 Love 101, Living Hope Baptist Church, Bowling Green.

25 RA Congress Region 1, First Baptist Church, Mayfield.

27-28 Kentucky Baptist Evangelism Conference, Immanuel Baptist Church, Lexington.

### March

3-4 Creative Ministries Festival, Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville.

3-4 Handbell Festival, Cave City Convention Center.

4 RA Congress Region 5, Central Baptist Church, Maysville.

4 Vacation Bible School Clinic, Victory Baptist Church, Lexington.

6 Interfaith Witness Training, Northside Baptist Church, Elizabethtown.

7 Interfaith Witness Training, Paintsville.

8-22 Kentucky Changers College Blitz, Morehead.

10-11 Creative Ministries Festival, Hillvue Heights Church, Bowling Green.

11 All-State Youth Choir/Orchestra Auditions, Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville.

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

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**SEEKING:** Church pianist for Sunday morning and evening services, Wednesday evening and Wednesday rehearsals. \$100 a week. Send resumé to: Minister of music, Bethlehem Baptist Church, 5708 Preston Highway, Louisville, KY 40219; or fax to: (502) 964-9678.

**SEEKING:** Part-time youth director for Harvestland Community Church, a young and growing congregation in Hodgenville, Ky. Mail resumé to: Steve Wright, 239 Jewell Lane, Magnolia, KY 42757; or e-mail to: [wswcsa@aol.com](mailto:wswcsa@aol.com).

**SEEKING:** Full-time pastor for First Baptist Church, Brandenburg, Ky. Average Sunday school attendance: 170; worship: 275. Mail resumé to: Marilyn Craycroft, 333 Atwill St. Brandenburg, KY 40108. Applications accepted until Jan. 31, 2006.

**SEEKING:** Part-time director of children's ministries for Perryville Baptist Church near Danville, Ky. This church of 200 in Sunday school has an exploding children's ministry and desires to become a child-friendly church. Mail resumé to Perryville Baptist Church, PO Box 26, Perryville, KY 40468, Attn: Personnel Committee.

**SEEKING:** Full-time pastor's secretary and general secretary for East End church. Must be proficient in Microsoft Publisher and Microsoft Word. Five days (35 hours) a week with benefits. Fax resumé to (502) 893-9386.

**SEEKING:** Full-time associate pastor/youth minister for Thornhill Baptist Church in Frankfort. Send resumé to: Personnel Committee, 1142 Holmes St., Frankfort, KY 40601-1315.

**SEEKING:** Full-time minister of students (youth-college) for First Baptist Church, Pikeville, Ky. Resumé may be mailed to: Pastor Paul Badgett, 126 4th St., Pikeville, KY 41501; or e-mail: [pastorbadgett@yahoo.com](mailto:pastorbadgett@yahoo.com).

**SEEKING:** Full-time pastor for First Baptist Church of Highland Heights, located in Northern Kentucky. Please send resumé to: Pastor Search Committee, 2315 Alexandria Pike, Highland Heights, KY 41076.

**SEEKING:** Church secretary (20-plus hours per week). Call or submit resumé to Victory Memorial Baptist Church, 3805 Southern Parkway, Louisville, KY 40214; or call (502) 638-2521.

**SEEKING:** Full-time minister of education/youth for First Baptist Church of Walton. Resumé may be mailed to 47 South Main St., Walton, KY 41094; or e-mail to [pastorbcw@fuse.net](mailto:pastorbcw@fuse.net).

**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.

**SERVICES:** Trinity Janitorial Services is available to provide janitorial services to churches. Licensed/insured, praiseworthy references with 20 years of experience. If you need cleaning done, please call: (502) 227-4795, 229-3883; or e-mail: [jefcharlotte@earthlink.net](mailto:jefcharlotte@earthlink.net).

# Answering the call

*IMB's Rankin tells new international missionaries to expect tough times ahead*

By Julie McGowan  
SBC International Mission Board

**Glen Allen, Va. (BP)**—The Southern Baptist International Mission Board commissioned 12 new missionaries Jan. 10 during a service in Glen Allen, Va.

The new missionaries will serve in five of the IMB's administrative regions: Western Europe, Central Asia, East Asia, the Pacific Rim and South America.

The new workers join more than 5,100 Southern Baptist missionaries serving through the IMB around the world.

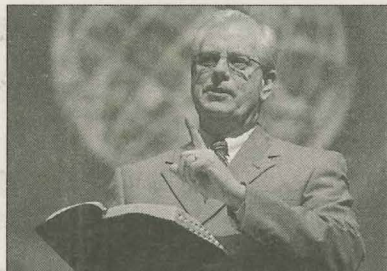
"I wish the experience of this evening could guarantee that you will have success in your ministry," IMB President Jerry Rankin told the new missionaries. Instead, he predicted, they will face struggles and some failures.

Rankin told the missionaries they could expect to encounter struggles of a new language, a new culture, religious resistance, discouragement from trials and loneliness, as well as temptations of pride and personal comforts.

The missionaries, he added, will even be tested by doubts to believe the promises of God when they do not see the fruits of their ministries.

## Flee, follow & fight

Rankin offered the advice of the Apostle Paul in 1 Timothy 6: 11-12: "But flee from these things, you man of God, and follow after righteousness, godliness, faith, love, perseverance and gentleness. Fight the good fight of faith; take hold of the eternal life to which you were called, and you made the good confession in the presence of many witnesses."



**RANKIN'S CHARGE** International Mission Board President Jerry Rankin talks to newly commissioned missionaries during a service in Glen Allen, Va. The 12 new missionaries join more than 5,100 IMB workers around the world. (IMB photo by Scott Lashinsky)

Missionaries may not expect the need to "flee" from a love of money or possessions, Rankin said. But "you're going to find yourself in a deprived lifestyle," he noted, recalling one missionary who felt guilty for missing Wal-Mart and Diet Coke.

"The things you can't get become an attraction," he said. "Don't let them become a snare and temptation to you. You've given yourself to a higher calling."

The Apostle Paul also urged Timothy to follow characteristics that present a good witness—a mandate applicable to mission personnel who often are observed because they are foreigners or outsiders.

"Intentionally pursue the characteristics that will draw people to our Lord Jesus Christ," Rankin said.

Ezekiel 36:23 promises that the nations will know God through believers honoring Him, he said. "That's why God has called you to South America to the Quichua people, to Germany and Wales and France, to East Asia and the



**EYES TOWARD EUROPE** Kendra and Rod Lindsey, from LaMarque, Texas, newly appointed missionaries to Western Europe, share their testimony during the International Mission Board's missionary appointment service in Glen Allen, Va. (BP photo by Tracey Alexander)

Pacific Rim—that they might see in you the holiness of God. That they might see the reality of your living Savior and know that He is God."

The admonition to fight the good fight of faith may seem incongruent to the role of a missionary, Rankin said. But the Apostle Paul was aware that Timothy—just as the 12 new IMB missionaries—was being sent into unfriendly territory to engage in a challenging struggle.

"We're told that one day there will be those from every tribe and people and tongue and nation gathered around the throne of God, and that includes the people to whom God has called you," Rankin said.

"Hold onto that thought—that faith—and fight the good fight of faith."

## Missionaries' stories

**Glen Allen, Va. (BP)**—In testimonies during the commissioning service, the new missionaries told how God has prepared them for challenges ahead:

■ Rod and Kendra Lindsey, from LaMarque, Texas, will live and work in Paris, often called the "City of Lights."

"I am visually impaired, and this means I live in a world of physical darkness," Kendra Lindsey said. "However, I am not bound and blinded by a world of spiritual darkness that comes only from being separated from God. Jesus said, 'I am the Light of the world.'"

"God wants our family to be a torchbearer of His true light into this city of darkness."

■ One year ago, Jason and Cheryl Dietz, from Sweetwater, Texas, had never heard of Dresden, Germany. Within a few months, they will be serving God there.

"It was over 10 years ago that Cheryl and I told God that we would be willing to serve as missionaries if He wanted us," Jason Dietz said. "It has taken Him all that time to prepare us for the job He has for us."

■ Coming from families of poor, uneducated migrant farm laborers, Al and Anna Rodriguez know what it's like to do work no one else is willing to do. Now Rodriguez and his family, from East Wenatchee, Wash., will serve God in South America.

"I began to experience things in my life that, in my own abilities, I could never have accomplished," he said. "After 34 years of our married life, through personal dedicated prayer, and through the prayers of God's people praying for His will in our lives, now we have been called to reach out to the Quichua people in South America."



**HEADING SOUTH** Anna and Al Rodriguez, from East Wenatchee, Wash., newly appointed International Mission Board missionaries, will work among the Quichua people in South America. (BP photo by Scott Lashinsky)

# Film about martyred missionaries casts homosexual in lead role

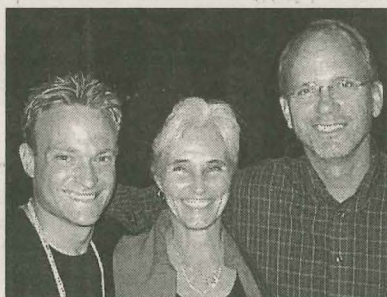
**Studio City, Calif.**—A much-anticipated movie about martyred missionaries in Ecuador has raised the eyebrows of some Christians for casting a homosexual activist in a leading role.

Chad Allen stars as missionary Nate Saint in "End of the Spear," which opened last weekend in theaters nationwide.

The film's release marks the 50th anniversary of the Jan. 8, 1956, killing of Saint, Jim Elliot and three other American missionaries by tribesmen in the Ecuadorian jungle.

The story continued when one of Saint's sisters, Rachel Saint, and Elliot's widow, Elisabeth, subsequently lived among the tribesmen, helping kindle faith among those who had cast the spears and others in the pervasively violent culture. Elliot chronicled her experiences in "Through Gates of Splendor," which remains a classic among books on missions.

Saint's son Steve, who was 5 when his father was killed, has made regular visits to tribesmen over the years—and found an amazing bond with the one who speared



**CHAD ALLEN** The TV and film actor (left) fills a dual role as slain missionary Nate Saint and his son, Steve (right). (Every Tribe Entertainment photo)

his dad, a man named Mincaye now in his mid-70s. Saint's son Jesse and his family currently live among the tribe.

Allen, 31, has starred in several films and TV shows. His most prominent role was that of Matthew Cooper for six years in the TV series "Dr. Quinn, Medicine Woman." He also acted in a Los Angeles production of "Corpus Christi," a play portraying Jesus as a homosexual.

A 2003 profile in the gay magazine The Advocate noted Allen's involvement in such organizations as the Gay and Lesbian Victory Fund,

which helps openly gay political candidates, and a suicide hotline for homosexual teens.

Art Toalston, an editor for Baptist Press, called Allen's casting "an unexpected example of the nation's culture war" that "casts a cloud over 'End of the Spear.'"

## Producers respond

The film's lead producer, Mart Green, producer/writer Bill Ewing and director Jim Hanon issued a three-paragraph statement to Baptist Press concerning Allen:

"We cast Chad Allen because he had the best audition of anyone else by far. We know that the character in the film and the actor are not the same. If as a film company we could only work with people who were completely sanctified, then the film would never have been made. We do not agree with Chad over homosexuality. 'End of the Spear' is not about Chad Allen, but rather it's about remarkable people who lived their faith against all odds, and dared to reach out at the cost of their lives.

"The discussion over sin and working with sinners has been in

the body of Christ from the beginning. We are glad that our lives are not being compared with Nate Saint. We don't believe we would stack up.

"The story is greater than the storytellers and it would be an enormous disservice if great stories of faith like this one were reduced to the human shortcomings of the filmmakers. We invite you to experience End of the Spear and then judge for yourself the message you are left with."

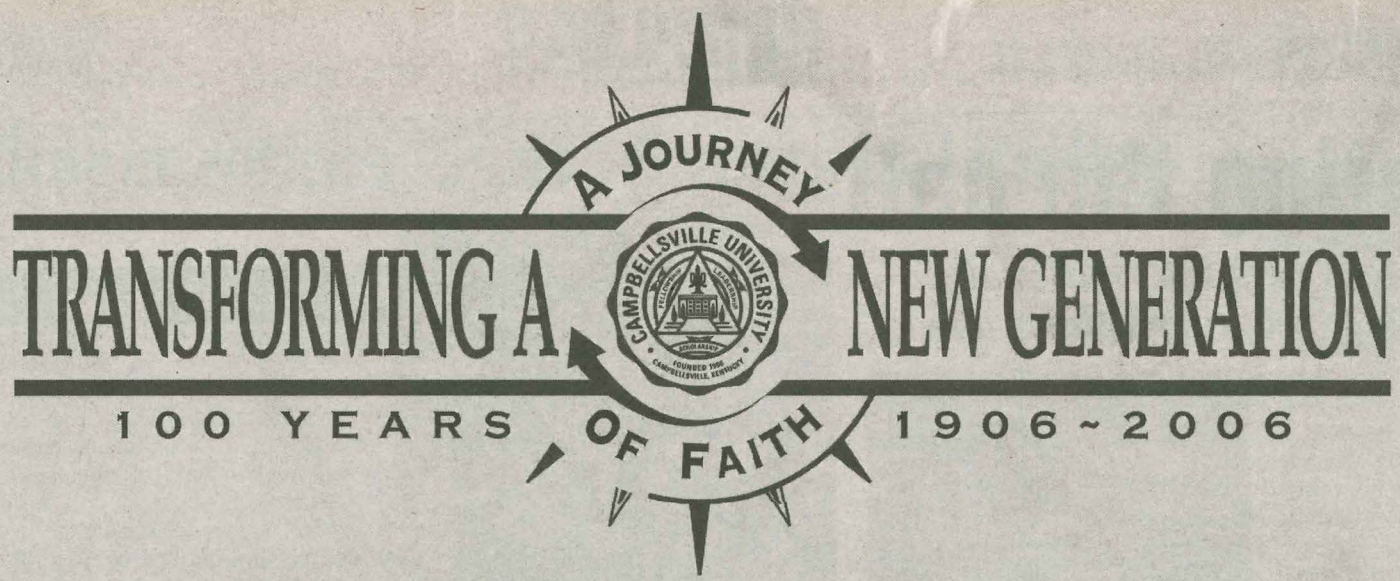
Steve Saint has been a consultant to the film company, which is donating half of any proceeds to benefit the Waodani (who had been misidentified for years as Auca Indians) and other indigenous peoples. Saint led Mart Green and others into the Ecuadorian jungle to ask the tribe's permission to film their story.

The producers have said they were not aware of Chad Allen's homosexuality when they gave him the role of Steve Saint in the film but decided to stick with him once they were told of his sexual practices.

Compiled from reporting by News Director David Winfrey and BP editor Art Toalston

**"We are glad that our lives are not being compared with Nate Saint. We don't believe we would stack up."**

From statement by producers of "End of the Spear"



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