

PRACTICAL RESOURCES FOR CHRISTIAN LIVING

WESTERN RECORDER

February 28, 2006
Vol. 180, No. 9

WMU Kentucky Notes



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FOR THE RECORD

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Poll: Many singing 'Holy, Holy, Holy' can't define it

Ventura, Calif. (RNS)—A new survey indicates that 21 percent of Americans consider themselves holy.

The survey, conducted by the Barna Research Group, also found that 73 percent of Americans believe that a person can become holy, regardless of his past, while half of those surveyed said they knew someone whom they considered holy.

The study also asked Americans to define holy. The largest category of respondents (21 percent) admitted they didn't know how to. The highest number that had an idea said "being Christ-like" (19 percent), while 18 percent said "making faith your top priority." Ten percent of those surveyed defined it as simply "having a good attitude about people and life."

The survey concluded that while holiness is a concept embraced by the Christian church, it is not one that many Americans adopt as a focal point in the development of their faith.

The survey's director, Christian researcher George Barna, said "the results portray a body of Christians who attend church but do not understand the concept or significance of holiness."

"The challenge to the nation's Christian ministries is to foster a genuine hunger for holiness among the masses who claim they love God but who are ignorant about biblical teachings regarding holiness," he added.

The Barna report was based on a nationwide telephone survey of 1,003 adults during January. The margin of error for the survey is 3.2 percentage points at a 95 percent confidence level.

Breaking the cloud

Too many pastors fight depression, counselors say

By Ken Walker
State Correspondent

New Albany, Ind.—Before relocating from a Louisville-area church to the Ukraine mission field, Joel Ragains had to overcome more than just the discomfort of leaving familiar surroundings.

Ragains had to overcome the grip of depression, which the former worship leader said he struggled with for two decades.

"I had some issues with my dad that just kept coming up from time to time throughout the years," said Ragains, who formerly served a church in New Albany, Ind. "It really made me angry, and anger turned inward eventually causes depression."

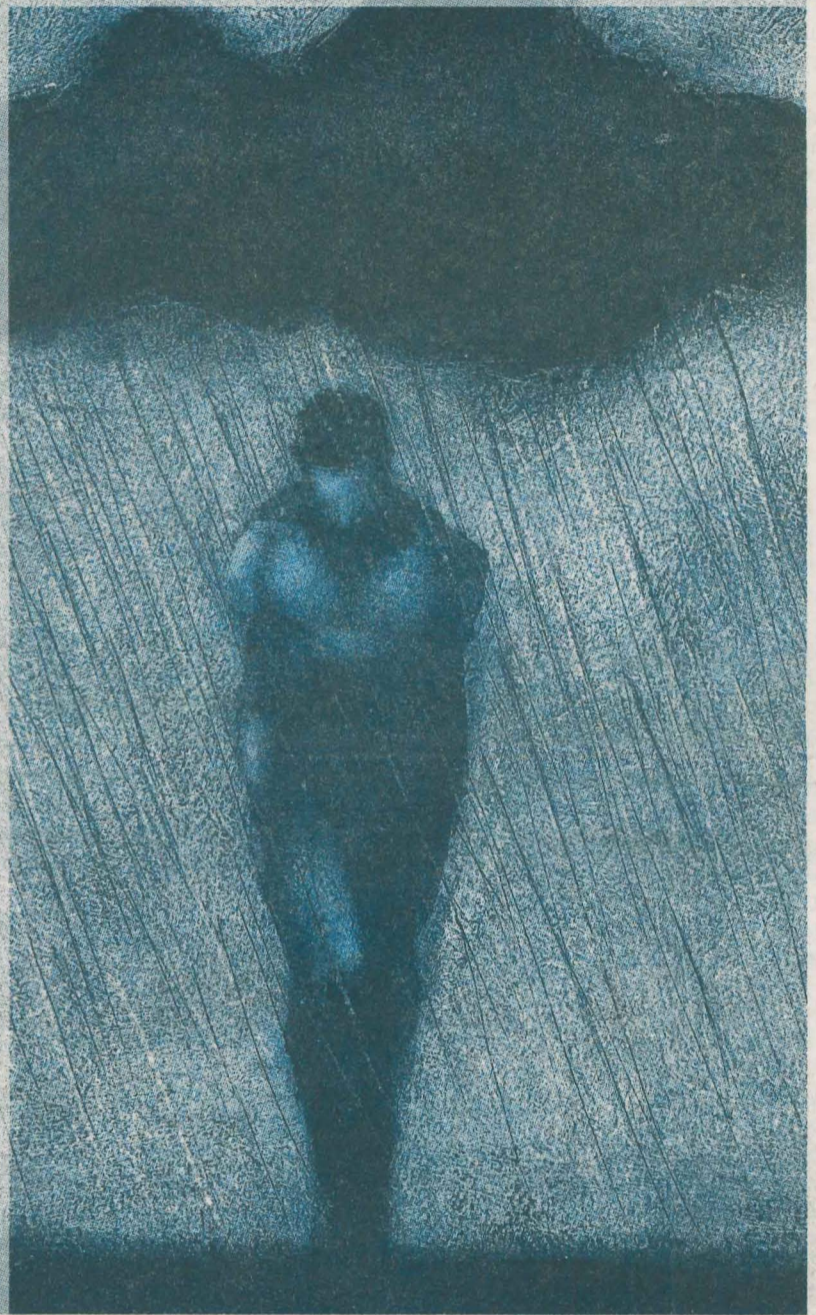
Ragains is not alone. Campbellsville University professor Scott Wigginton notes that many theologians believe such spiritual forefathers as Elijah, Jonah and Job struggled with depression.

Later, so did Martin Luther, Charles Spurgeon and J.B. Phillips, Wigginton said.

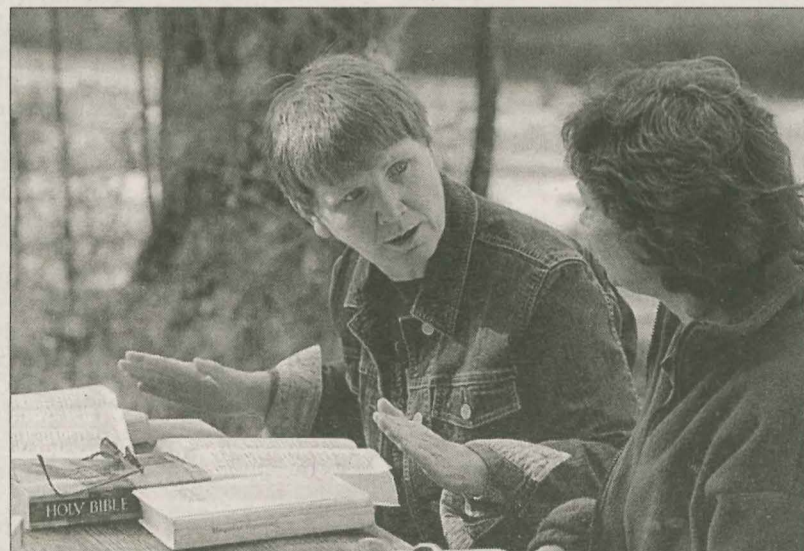
Wigginton, former director of the Life Care counseling center in Louisville, estimates pastors and church staff comprised between 10 and 25 percent of his caseload at any time during his tenure there.

But few would divulge their struggles to their congregation.

□ See *Many pastors don't...* Page 3



While park visitors catch fish, missionary catches people



MISSIONARY Mary Gore (left), a Southern Baptist missionary at Toledo Bend State Park in Louisiana for the last 13 years, explains a Bible verse to a camper, one of thousands Gore ministers to each year. She is among the missionaries highlighted during the Week of Prayer for North American Missions and the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering for North American Missions. (NAMB photo by John Swain)

Toledo Bend, La.—For spunky, fast-talking, fast-walking Mary Gore, it's just another Saturday in bass-fishing paradise.

Gore is busy doing what she does best in Toledo Bend, La. She's out fishing—not for largemouth bass, but for souls.

On this particularly gorgeous Saturday afternoon, she's making the rounds of about 70 campsites at North Toledo Bend State Park, just outside Zwolle, La.

At each campsite, she's inviting campers—who've come from throughout the country—to be her special guests at a morning worship service the next day. Some Sundays, Gore leads as many as five 30-minute worship services at different campgrounds. The assorted congregations gather in such spots as a lake gazebo or a bait and tackle shop.

A native of Silsbee, Texas—with the east Texas drawl to match—Gore is a Southern Baptist missionary in Toledo Bend, a mecca for professional and amateur bass fishermen alike.

She also is among those whose work is profiled this year for the Week of Prayer for North American Missions, March 5-12, and the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering for North American Missions. This year's national goal is \$56 million.

The Toledo Bend Reservoir—located in the west-central part of Louisiana—comprises 70 miles of the Louisiana-Texas border. It includes 185,000 acres of surface water, 1,200 miles of shoreline and is one of the country's largest man-made lakes.

□ See *Park missionary...* Page 6

Dated material. Please deliver by Wednesday, March 1



NAMB's Reccord announces 3-step review plan

Alpharetta, Ga.

(BP)—Responding to concerns raised in a recent Georgia Baptist Christian Index article, Southern Baptist North American Mission Board President Robert Reccord urged NAMB employees Feb. 22 to “keep your heads high, stay on task, pray a lot and reflect Christ in everything you do.”

The hour-long session in NAMB's auditorium was in response to a Feb. 16 article in the Christian Index that questioned NAMB's effectiveness in evangelism, church starts and missionary recruitment.

To address the issues raised by the article, Reccord announced several NAMB actions:

■ At Reccord's request, NAMB trustee chairman Barry Holcomb has appointed a task force of trustees—comprised mainly of the board's executive committee members—to review all the issues raised in the article. The task force began its work last week at NAMB's offices north of Atlanta and will report back to the entire trustee board with a fully documented and detailed study.

■ Reccord contracted the services of the Capin and Crouse auditing firm to conduct an audit of issues addressed in the article. Capin and Crouse—which has performed audits for nonprofits such as Campus Crusade for Christ and Focus on the Family—has begun the review and will provide a report of its findings to NAMB's full board of trustees.

■ In cooperation with the trustee officers, Reccord has called for a special meeting of the full board of trustees March 23 to review and discuss the findings of both the task force and the audit.

Chuck Allen, NAMB's chief operating officer, told NAMB employees, “This could be our finest hour.

“Dr. Reccord and I want you to take the high road and God will lead us through this,” Allen added. “We pray that God will use this situation to make NAMB and our churches even better and stronger.”

'Private prayer language'

Rankin talks candidly about personal practice, recent IMB action

By Trennis Henderson
Editor

Banff, Alberta, Canada—Acknowledging he has practiced a private prayer language “for more than 30 years,” Jerry Rankin candidly shared his views Feb. 17 about the Southern Baptist International Mission Board trustees' recent action on the issue.

Rankin, president of the IMB since 1993, addressed the topic during a question-and-answer session with Baptist editors meeting in Banff, Alberta, Canada, for the 2006 Association of State Baptist Papers annual meeting.

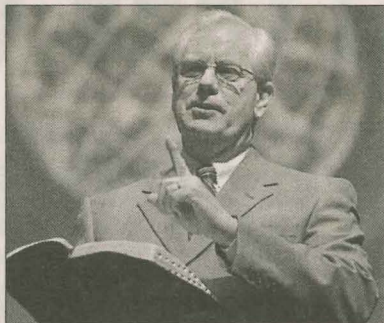
“I do have a private prayer language,” Rankin told the editors. However, “I don't consider myself to have a gift of tongues. I've never been led to practice glossolalia publicly.

“I've never viewed personally my intimacy with the Lord and the way His Spirit guides me in prayer time as being the same as glossolalia,” he added. “I just want God to have freedom to do everything that He wants to do in my life and I'm going to be obedient to that.”

IMB expands policy

The issue of a private prayer language, generally considered a form of glossolalia or speaking in tongues, came to a head in November when IMB trustees adopted a policy banning the future appointment of missionaries who practice a private prayer language. IMB policy already excludes people who speak in tongues in public worship from serving as missionaries.

Although the new policy specifies it is not retroactive, some trustees expressed concern that the action is a slap at Rankin's leadership. He



IMB President Jerry Rankin

confirmed prior to his 1993 election that his private prayer life included occasional experiences of “praying in the Spirit.”

Rankin said the board action “did create suspicion” among some of his supporters “because of an awareness of my personal practices.”

One of his concerns, Rankin added, is that “it was so difficult to identify any compelling reason” for trustees to adopt the policy.

“Certainly biblically it goes beyond the doctrinal parameters of the Baptist Faith and Message,” he emphasized. “I can't remember in my tenure when the board pushed forward to actually adopt something that was as divisive and controversial in terms of ‘why do we need to do this?’

“It does go beyond what Southern Baptists have defined in our confession of faith which should be our doctrinal guidelines,” he added. “It does alienate and offend a large segment of our churches.”

Despite his concerns, Rankin said his responsibility is “to lead the organization, stay focused on the vision and keep us moving forward in that context.”

“I understand and accept the

rationale and the arguments and the authority of those who implemented it,” he told the editors. “To me, it's no violation of my integrity and my responsibility to be accountable to them to implement it.

“I would never compromise or violate personal integrity and convictions,” he insisted. “But every leader sometimes has to do things that they wouldn't necessarily prefer to do or even be in agreement with. There's an accountability to implementing the policies of our board and carrying them out and I'm going to do that to enable us to fulfill our mission task.”

Rankin “not a cessationist”

Detailing his personal views on the issue, Rankin said, “I'm certainly not a cessationist” (someone who believes certain spiritual gifts recorded in Scripture, such as speaking in tongues, no longer function).

“I believe ... as long as the Holy Spirit is operable in our lives and in the church and in the world, what the Bible tells about the work and functioning of the Holy Spirit is applicable,” he noted. “Now that may change historically, but I certainly don't think we have the latitude to just disregard it.

“I just don't see how you can be an inerrantist and be a cessationist,” Rankin said. But he acknowledged others hold the view that someone can't be an inerrantist without being a cessationist.

Insisting that “I don't consider myself a charismatic,” Rankin said his private prayer language remains just that—private.

“No one's ever heard me pray in anything other than English so I think it is still very private and it

will remain so,” he said, “but it's nothing to deny.

“I've been very open with the board” about his personal prayer life, Rankin added. “I don't advocate it. I don't see it as normal or that I should propose that anyone ought to pray in tongues. It's just what God has chosen to do in my life.”

Guideline left no “wobble room”

Concerning the trustees' November action, Rankin said the board's personnel committee initially adopted a guideline that “was drafted in a way there wasn't really any wiggle room. It was pretty explicit—anyone who had a private prayer language, practiced it, was disqualified from serving” as a future IMB missionary.

Describing debate over the recent trustee action as “divisive” and “controversial,” Rankin added, “I don't think it's a dead issue. I think there's a lot of reaction ... that's been generated across the convention to revisit it.”

However, “I'm not confident it will be reversed,” he said. “As much as there's been reaction against it, there's been a lot of support for it as well. I think even controversy strengthens the resolve of our board to kind of justify or defend what they've done.”

Looking ahead, Rankin said the IMB's assignment “to assist the churches in sending forth missionaries to plant churches overseas” can't be fully achieved if IMB leaders “say we're going to only assist certain churches or an element of our convention.”

“If they're cooperating members of the Southern Baptist Convention,” Rankin said, “we have an opportunity to serve them.”

SBC leaders consider proposals to increase CP contributions

Nashville (BP)—A committee charged with studying a range of financial solutions within the Southern Baptist Convention is recommending that SBC entities promote the Cooperative Program by continually promoting it in publications and printed materials.

The SBC Funding Study Committee issued its fourth interim report to the SBC Executive Committee Feb. 20, saying that more needs to be done to educate younger generations about the benefits of the Cooperative Program—the SBC's method of funding missions, seminary education and other ministries.

The committee offered three recommendations, including a request that the Executive Committee and entities include “motivating references” about the Cooperative Program “noticeably and continually on all regularly issued printed materials.”

“The committee envisions more than the proliferation of a logo or catch phrases such as ‘A Cooperative Program Ministry,’” the report states. It suggests “the insertion of the CP logo accompanied by short explanations of how the Cooperative Program operates or how it assists the ministry to which the publication relates.”

One specific example cited in the report is for SBC seminaries to let students know through statements on report cards and billing invoices how much of their education is paid for by CP dollars.

The 11-member committee, chaired by Bill Anderson of Texas, was formed in 2002. The report was received by the Executive Committee on a voice vote. The recommendations will be considered by messengers to the SBC annual meeting in Greensboro, N.C., June 13-14.

The committee also recommended:

■ That the Executive Committee “take the initiative in collaborating with each entity” to develop measurable ministry results and report the measurement in the SBC Annual each year beginning in 2008.

Examples include the “numbers of graduates produced at each level of education, the number of past graduates (five or 10 years prior) still in Southern Baptist ministry, the percentage of Cooperative Program given by the average Southern Baptist church, and the year's increase or decrease in that figure, similar numbers for baptism rates, the number of ministers in the Adopt an Annuitant program, the amount distributed under that program, the

number of SBC-affiliated churches using LifeWay Sunday School material, the percentage of our churches that number represents, the number of new church plants for the year (and) the number of church plants reported in past years (five or 10 years prior) that are still functioning churches,” the report says.

■ That the Executive Committee post the SBC's Organizational Manual at SBC.net and print it each year in the SBC's Book of Reports and Annual. The objective would be “to make as many Southern Baptists as possible aware of each entity's assignment, and to provide a backdrop against which entity reports of progress and accomplishment can be made.”

The committee said that above all, the Cooperative Program is dependent on the denomination having a renewed emphasis on biblical financial stewardship.

“The Cooperative Program has not failed us since its inception, but we have certainly failed to properly maintain it,” the report says. “In our last report and in this report we have emphasized the need for the continuing, intentional training of our people regarding stewardship and the Cooperative Program. Obviously these aspects have little to do

with discovery of a new vehicle, and everything to do with rediscovery of an old and proven one—sacrificial giving ... and through the Cooperative Program first and foremost.”

The report cautioned that “nothing fiscally positive and lasting will be accomplished if stewardship training and Cooperative Program commitment continue to languish.”

In related action, Executive Committee members commended a report adopted by state convention executive directors to underscore CP as vital to Southern Baptists' global ministry efforts. The committee also requested that state conventions act upon the executive directors' recommendations later this year.

Among proposals by the executive directors are:

■ That all Southern Baptists reaffirm their commitment to biblical stewardship.

■ That all Southern Baptists tithe to their local church and that all SBC churches “contribute at least 10 percent of their undesignated receipts” through CP.

■ “That we encourage the election of state and national convention officers whose churches give at least 10 percent of their undesignated receipts through the Cooperative Program.”

Kentucky pastor recounts struggle with depression

By Ken Walker
State Correspondent

Editor's note: Because the pastor in this story asked not to be named, the story uses a pseudonym.

Louisville—Although some churches may be gracious when learning their pastor is depressed, Stan James* never told his congregation about his struggle.

The veteran Kentucky Baptist pastor feared it would become one more weapon that some members would use against him in a conflict that began a few years ago during a health crisis.

Back then, some members of the small-town congregation used his health difficulties to try to oust him. That contributed to his struggle with depression.

"That problem left me weak emotionally and made dealing with the pressures of the pastorate more difficult," James said. "We're often some of the loneliest people you can find."

The Kentucky native went to a counselor for help, but didn't find it effective. He also tried medication, but stopped taking it because it made him tired and slow to respond to situations.

"I probably need to vent my frustrations to others more than I do," James said. "In some ways, I've amazed myself at being able to overcome it and work through it."

James said he copes through

leisure activities and finding situations where he can be of help, such as comforting hospital and nursing home patients.

Breaking the cloud



Pastoral pressures

The veteran of more than 30 years in ministry sees pastoral pressures increasing in recent years.

In the rural Kentucky congregation where he grew up, the pastor was expected to be a shepherd and servant.

Today, James said, the model has shifted dramatically, to a corporate CEO-type leader who is supposed to motivate people to be successful.

James noted that during a recent church leader training session, he heard the word "leadership" mentioned repeatedly, but never "serve."

"We have bought the business model instead of seeing the church as a model unto itself," James said. "Our terminology is now business-driven. It drives LifeWay (Christian Resources) and so much of church life, in terms of its work."

"I think that creates a pressure that people are unaware of," he added. "Added to it is the super-church model which has become prevalent, even in a small city like ours."

Not only is being a pastor today much different than it was even five years ago, James said, he thinks the rapid changes create

Many pastors don't recognize depression, counselor says

Continued from page 1

"In Southern Baptist churches, I think it's a culture that leads people to think it's not OK to talk about their story," said Wigginton, who now is a professor of pastoral ministries and counseling at Campbellsville University.

"They end up believing, 'If I struggle or am anxious, people will think less of me,'" Wigginton said.

The Campbellsville professor sees too many overachieving and under-connected Kentucky Baptist pastors, keeping a frantic pace and lacking relationships that can help relieve pressure.

Keeping their struggles secret is the worst thing pastors can do, Wigginton said.

He said he has known pastors who refuse to take measures to regain their health and eventually engage in self-destructive behavior that culminates in resignation or firing.

Had they been willing to confess their troubles, disaster could have been avoided, Wigginton added.

"I've seen churches willing to give (the pastor) a leave of absence for the express purpose of slowing his life down, talking with a counselor and taking care of medical problems," Wigginton said. "I've seen many churches that are graceful."

"It was the same for me"

Lynn and Shirley Traylor found understanding last year when she told Westport Baptist Church members about her struggle with

depression.

Traylor said some people would thank them for sharing their struggles and add, "It was the same for me."

"You can't always look on the outside and say, 'That person is suffering depression,'" he added.

Mrs. Traylor said her condition included a chemical imbalance and a struggle with perfectionism she developed during an introverted childhood. Chronic arthritis pain only added to her problems.

When her father died two years ago, Mrs. Traylor said she found herself feeling isolated and unable to sleep.

At her low point in the summer of 2004, she endured hot flashes, teary outbursts and serious heartburn.

"I got to the point where I didn't want to live any more, where I wanted to curl up in a corner and die," Mrs. Traylor recalled. "I didn't even care if I went to heaven."

Although she realized she needed help, Mrs. Traylor initially felt she couldn't tell her husband because he was too close to the situation.

Indeed, Traylor said he wasn't aware until the couple attended a conference sponsored by the Kentucky Baptist Convention.

Several people there mentioned her signs of depression and encouraged her to seek help.

"I wasn't clued in on it until someone outside the home pointed it out," said Traylor, who has been a pastor in Kentucky for 19 years. "It

Resources

Web

National Institute of Mental Health. The NIMH offers an online booklet about depression with a checklist of symptoms and tips on getting help. www.nimh.nih.gov

WebMD. The popular Web site offers several articles about depression, including a quick quiz about the signs of depression. www.webmd.com

Agencies

LeaderCare. A department of LifeWay Christian Resources of the Southern Baptist Convention, LeaderCare offers pastor retreats, crisis intervention resources and a crisis hotline: (888)

789-1911. For more information, visit www.lifeway.com; enter "LeaderCare" in the search line.

Kentucky Baptist Convention. The KBC leadership development team often can help churches locate a Christian counselor in their area. For information, call the team at (866) 489-3380

Books

Unmasking Male Depression by Archibald Hart.

The Heartache No One Sees by Sheila Walsh.

Feeling Good by David Burns.

In Every Pew Sits a Broken Heart by Ruth Graham.



additional pressure on mature pastors.

He struggles with the idea of constantly reinventing himself to stay abreast of societal trends, wondering if he can be expected to change his style without changing his intrinsic identity.

Two things helped James in recent times, one a church health seminar his association hosted.

Among the topics were ways to help people relate to each other, understand expectations of each other, and how to handle issues that arise in congregational life.

"I think they need to be more willing to talk individually with the pastor rather than across the

back fence about him," James said of how congregations can promote better relationships with their pastor.

"Scuttlebutt is a whole lot worse than individual meetings," he said. "A pastor will always have people who don't like him, but when they'll talk to him it's pretty easily handled."

James also found inspiration in a continuing education course, which he said refreshed him and strengthened his preaching.

"I think the biggest thing is encouragement," James said. "We need to find encouragement about what we're doing and why we're doing it."

was a real eye opener."

Two weeks later, he took her to her first counseling appointment. Mrs. Traylor revealed the treatment publicly five months into a yearlong treatment plan.

Many pastors lack good networks

Besides being grateful for their congregation's loving reaction, Traylor said the experience has made him a better pastor and listener.

In addition, he said he is more willing to refer someone to a Christian counselor when he finds that he doesn't have the skills to deal with their situation.

"I think it's important for pastors to understand that depression happens to nice people," Traylor said. "It's not just people who have lost a job or filed for bankruptcy."

"One thing that fuels it (depression) among those in ministry is we're called on to show leadership," Traylor said. "We don't admit when we're hurting. And we don't have good networks with other ministers."

Every pastor needs a mentor in ministry, Wigginton said. That doesn't have to be a counselor, but someone with wisdom and a mature Christian walk.

"Pastors need to be encouraged to find elders in the church they can relate to and when they're struggling they have a mentor they can go to," he said.

"They can keep anxiety, discouragement and depression from getting so bad they have to go to a

professional," he added.

Ragains said churches should recognize that pressures on pastors have intensified the past 20 years.

People's expectations, society's fast pace, complex social issues and a consumer mentality among church members have put enormous pressures on pastors to "measure up," the missionary said.

Ragains recommends church members take steps to insure the pastor has some accountability and knows how to set boundaries in his life.

"Work with him on understanding that he is human and not their 'savior,'" Ragains said. "He needs a sabbatical. My church understood that and gave me several sabbaticals while I was their worship pastor."

As for changes needed in the way churches operate, Ragains said Kentucky Baptists should encourage openness and transparency, from leadership on down.

"This will help the pastor not feel so isolated and out of touch with others around him," Ragains said.

These days, Mrs. Traylor advises pastors' spouses to remember that they are human and not perfect.

While she seeks to follow God's will for her life, she said she's learned that does not mean she should fulfill every member's expectation.

"God gives us different gifts and personalities," she said. "That is not always being a leader or a prominent driving force in the church, or even a 'hostess' for the church."

Former KBC pastor sentenced to 30 months in prison

Covington—Larry Davis, former pastor of First Baptist Church of Cold Spring, was sentenced last week to 30 months in federal prison for income tax evasion.

Davis' sentencing by U.S. District Judge David Bunning came two years after Kentucky State Police launched an investigation of church funds reportedly spent on gambling. The two-and-a-half year sentence was the maximum allowed under a plea agreement Davis signed last October.

Davis, 58, initially maintained his innocence, but eventually pleaded guilty to federal charges that he lied on a loan application and evaded paying federal income taxes. Two weeks later he resigned as pastor of First Baptist, Cold Spring.

Five other charges were dropped in the plea agreement. The document confirmed that Davis stole between \$500,000 and \$730,000 from church accounts from 2000 to 2003.

Federal prosecutors said Davis made ATM withdrawals from a church account at local racetracks, spent church funds at Internet gambling sites and purchased a Porsche sports car with pilfered funds.

According to the Cincinnati Enquirer, Davis told Judge Bunning, "Nobody is more mad at me than me. I have sorrow and remorse, and I'm ready to accept my punishment." Davis' prison term began immediately after his Feb. 17 sentencing.

WESTERNRECORDER

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Louisville, KY 40253
(USPS 679-380)

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

Western Recorder is published weekly by Western Recorder Inc., an agency of the Kentucky Baptist Convention, Box 43969, Louisville, KY 40253, except for one week in July and December. For general information, call (502) 489-3535. Periodicals postage paid at Louisville, Ky.

To subscribe: Send \$12.50 for a one-year, individual subscription. Group subscriptions on the church budget plan are \$10 per year. An additional church newsletter service is available for churches of all sizes. All subscriptions are payable in advance, except church accounts, which require a tax exemption number.

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

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EvangeCube makes ministry impact

By Mark Lydecker

Alpharetta, Ga. (BP)—A few years ago our campus ministry at the University of South Florida was asked to host an EvangeCube seminar for church leaders and to encourage our students to attend.

We already were using many different types of outreach events and programs. Little did we realize the significant impact this seminar would have on our lives and our campus.

The EvangeCube is a puzzle-like cube with colorful panels that help explain the gospel (www.evangelcube.org). On the day of our EvangeCube training, more than three dozen church leaders attended the meeting. Although only two or three students were in the group, this day would mark a major turning point in our ministry. After the seminar training, we broke into small groups and went out into various parts of the campus to share the gospel. That day, seven people prayed to receive Christ as Savior. Two days later a student who had seen the cube placed his faith in the Lord. This was only the beginning of things to come.

During the time of our Evange-

Cube training, 18 students and leaders decided to take an evangelism trip to New York City during their upcoming Christmas break. The students worked with Park Slope Church using various events and the EvangeCube. When they returned from the trip they were enthusiastic and excited about sharing their faith with the non-Christian students on their campus. It was like a 10,000-watt light bulb had been turned on in our ministry.

When the spring semester resumed, students started prayer-walking in groups around campus. Our students prayed in the Greek village, around dorms and outside classroom buildings. As they prayed, they got the idea to speak to passing students and ask them if they could pray for any need they had. After the prayer, they presented the gospel using the EvangeCube. The effect: hundreds of prayers and presentations, dozens of decisions for Christ, and a campus ministry that was able to prioritize its ministry efforts.

What began as an insignificant seminar became a tool that changed a campus ministry. Anthony Meoli, one of the students who attended

the initial EvangeCube training, said the cube has taken him out of his comfort zone and enabled him boldly to share the gospel everywhere he goes.

One of his fellow students, Andrew Bancroft, agreed that "by learning and using the cube I now have a mindset of looking to share the gospel, whereas before I would not have even thought of taking the time to speak with anyone about Christ."

This past January Bancroft used a large cube to make a 10-minute gospel presentation to a group of 170 students that included 15 Muslim students, eight Jewish students and their two spiritual leaders.

Why did all this happen? Because we were open to being instructed in a new evangelism technique that we considered "out there" and we prioritized our ministry.

Our ministry has seen changed lives, real growth and activity that constantly reflected upon God's power and sovereign hand to move in lives. What great words the Lord has given us in Romans 10:15, "How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!"

Mark Lydecker is director of collegiate evangelism for the Southern Baptist North American Mission Board

FIRST PERSON

'Irreverent' worship

Your Feb. 14 article about churches failing to retain members failed to cover one important reason, particularly among senior citizens: irreverent sanctuaries.

We were taught that the sanctuary, with its altar, was the closest one could get to God and, because He gave us His best—His Son—we also gave Him our best by wearing our best. We got all personal things—chatting with friends, trips to the restroom, etc.—out of the way before entering the sanctuary.

We sat quietly, reading our Bibles or in meditation, until the choir

entered, singing as they entered, with the preacher on the platform motioning for the congregation to rise and join in the hymn of praise and thanksgiving. Next came his blessing of the service. There was no interruption by people moving up and down the aisles, leaving and returning, and certainly no talking. When the service ended, one felt he had been in close worship with the Lord.

Today, people come in all kinds of clothes. They chat with each other like it is a town hall meeting. Someone gets up and begins announcing all the upcoming events, even though they all are listed in the program and repeatedly have

been shown on the hanging screen in front. I haven't seen a choir enter singing nor the preacher blessing the service in years.

You don't see the preacher until he gets up to deliver the sermon. We have slide shows, kiddie performances, skits, etc.—just about anything to "entertain" the congregation. You leave at the end of the service not feeling as if you've been in close worship with the Lord.

The best part of the service is the preacher's sermon, but one can remain home and hear excellent ministers preach on TV or the radio. That's one reason why churches are failing to retain at least some members.

Roy L. Jones
Burlington

God at work across Kentucky

It's always exciting to me to see how God is at work across Kentucky. My wife, Kay, and I recently had the opportunity to visit several churches where God's presence is evident.

One church we visited was Quinton Baptist Church in Bronston. Jonathan Jones is the pastor of this Pulaski Association church.

Quinton has a strong outreach to children and youth and recorded 12 baptisms this past year. Although a small church, the congregation gives 7 percent of undesignated receipts to world and state mission causes through the Co-operative Program. Malcolm Cheek, director of missions for Pulaski Association, and his wife, Barbara, were present for worship.

During the travel to Quinton, we visited briefly with thechurch@cedarcreek and pastor Jefferson Calico. This church meets at the associational office for Lincoln and Casey counties. It is gratifying to

know that the churches of Lincoln County Association are sponsoring this new church.

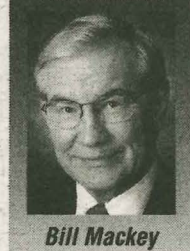
The new work had been the vision of Harry Hunter, the former director of missions, who died with cancer last May. He had led the association to purchase property on the new lake five years earlier.

We also recently had a special opportunity to worship with Mt. Freedom Baptist Church in Wilmore during the days of spontaneous revival on the Asbury College campus, also in Wilmore. Several students and staff had participated and one staff person gave a testimony of her renewed experience with the grace of God.

Pastor David Hewitt had invited me to share information about Co-operative Program missions with adults during the Sunday school period and to speak on missions during morning worship. Hewitt has led the church to reach out to children and recorded 15 baptisms



PARTNERS IN THE MISSION



Bill Mackey

STEWARDSHIP

Checklist offers financial insights for ages 20-35

By Don Spencer

Certain basic principles of Christian financial planning apply throughout life. Since financial needs at each stage of life change, however, there

are different priorities for each age group.

There also is a tendency of each age group to make certain financial errors.

Below is a checklist of financial issues typically to be considered by those in their 20s and early 30s. Over the next couple months, I will have similar lists for older age groups.

This list is not meant to include everything one should consider, but can serve as a starting point.

What to do for ages 20-35:

- Develop a habit of tithing.
- Develop a financial record-keeping system.
- Make a spending plan (budget).
- Establish a savings plan of at least 5 to 10 percent of income.
- Establish a credit history but carefully manage any increased need for credit.
- Make sure you have adequate life, health and disability insurance. Coverage might need to be adjusted during this period of life.
- Provide for child rearing costs and expanding housing needs.
- Begin and build education funds for children.
- Write wills.

What to avoid for ages 20-35:

- Too much emphasis on current needs resulting in failure to prepare for future life stages.
- Overspending.
- Having no financial goals or having unrealistic goals.
- Failure to seek professional financial assistance.
- Insufficient insurance.

What to accomplish:

- Assess your financial needs and set appropriate future financial goals.
- Keep spending, borrowing and savings balanced.
- Establish a system to keep financial and legal records and documents organized.
- Develop basic financial planning skills.
- Establish a pattern of other family members' involvement in financial decisions and planning.

Don Spencer is a certified financial planner and directs the Kentucky Baptist Convention's church financial benefits department



Workshops, other resources help address grief of divorce

Q: My friend recently went through his third divorce. He often is sad, but he has started dating again. Any advice I could share with him?

You might try an Internet search engine to find a divorce recovery program near your friend. Enter the name of the city and the words "divorce recovery."

SINGLES

If you can find a nearby divorce recovery workshop with speakers and small groups, that probably would be most beneficial. Workshops in Louisville and Lexington include Crescent Hill Baptist Church in Louisville which hosts an annual workshop with several speakers (crescenthillbaptistchurch.org), Immanuel Baptist Church in Lexington which has a workshop each spring and fall with one speaker and small groups based on the book "Growing through Divorce" by Jim Smoke (ibc-lex.org) and Porter Memorial Baptist Church in Lexington which hosts a small group based on the book "A Time for Healing" by Harold Ivan Smith (portermemorial.com). Both Smoke's and Smith's books are excellent helps for individuals dealing with the crisis of divorce.

If a workshop is not scheduled in the near future where your friend lives, share the name of a good counselor who can help him work through the multifaceted grief of divorce. Your pastor might know of a good counselor or you can locate one at www.aapc.org.

Besides giving your friend a good book or workshop referral, just be a friend. When someone dies, the church is good at surrounding the person left with support. This is much more difficult, but just as important when someone experiences the death of a marriage. You can be a world of good to your friend just by sitting and listening. When Job's world fell apart, his friends were the most help when they offered their presence without advice. This can be the greatest gift you give to someone who is hurting.—James Stillwell

Q: Our teenage son gets so discouraged. He is small for his age, has average grades, is not gifted at athletics and isn't musically talented. He says he will never amount to anything. How can we help him?

Remind your son that his current position is less important than the direction he is growing. Some of the greatest men and women in history have had very humble beginnings and could have thought of themselves as failures had they not learned what John Maxwell has called "the law of process."

Writing on leadership, Maxwell states, "Although it's true that some people are born with greater natural gifts than others, the ability to lead is really a collection of skills, nearly all of which can be learned and improved."

One of the greatest examples of this law of process is former U.S. President Theodore Roosevelt. He began his life as a puny and sickly young man, very poor eyesight and debilitating asthma. As a teenager, he began to establish disciplines of exercise, reading, proper diet and study that eventually made him into a man who helped the United States emerge as a world power, oversaw the building of the Panama Canal and won the Nobel Peace Prize.

When Roosevelt died in his sleep on Jan. 6, 1919, Vice President Thomas Marshall said, "Death had to take him sleeping, for if Roosevelt had been awake, there would have been a fight." Maxwell reminds us that when they removed Roosevelt from his bed, they found a book under his pillow. Up until the end, he was involved in a construction process—on himself.

Luke 2:52 tells us, "Jesus increased in wisdom, and in stature, and in favor with God and man." Help your son strive to develop his mind, body, relationships with others, and above all, his relationship with his Heavenly Father.—Scott Wigginton

Family Forum writers are:

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

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

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

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



Mission boards facing challenging issues

The Southern Baptist Convention's two missionary-sending organizations traditionally are considered the crown jewels of the SBC's global mission and ministry efforts. But recent developments have raised troubling questions at the denomination's North American Mission Board and International Mission Board.

On the home front, the Georgia Baptist Christian Index published a five-page analysis of NAMB as the entity prepares to enter its 10th year of ministry. NAMB, established in 1997 as part of major SBC restructuring, combined the work of the former Home Mission Board, Brotherhood Commission and Radio & Television Commission. The Index analysis raises questions about NAMB's effectiveness in its primary ministry responsibilities of evangelism, church planting and missionary recruitment.

On the international level, the IMB recruits, commissions and supports more than 5,000 missionaries serving around the world. Closer to home, recent IMB trustee actions have included seeking to remove a board member for alleged "broken trust and resistance to accountability," as well as adopting a policy that prohibits appointing future missionaries who practice a "private prayer language." While the policy is not retroactive, part of the rub is that IMB President Jerry Rankin acknowledges practicing a private prayer language.

What is the current status of these issues?

NAMB response is mixed bag

NAMB's initial response to the Christian Index article has been a mixed bag. Adopting a shoot-the-messenger tactic, NAMB's official response claimed the article failed to use "accepted journalistic standards," adding that "labeling the story as 'an analysis' does not exempt its author from the standards of fairness and disclosure Baptists expect from their reporters."

While the article did cite the concerns of unnamed "Georgia Baptist pastors," it also repeatedly referenced an interview with NAMB chief operating officer Chuck Allen. Parts of the article also were based on previously reported quotes from NAMB President Robert Reccord, statistical information provided by NAMB and information from NAMB's policy manual.

Yes, the article would have been stronger if unnamed sources had been willing to speak on the record. As a bylined analysis piece, however, the Index's managing editor, Joe Westbury, and editor Gerald Harris clearly assumed responsibility for the content of the article.

Another concern cited by NAMB officials was that publication of the article was timed "for maximum damage to North American missions." I know Westbury and Harris well enough to trust that their intention was to strengthen, not weaken, NAMB's ministry efforts and financial support. In fact, the article's closing sentence sums up their perspective: "The bottom line is that if we lose the homeland, we lose the world."

In a front page note that accompanied the article, Harris wrote, "We want to affirm our commitment to NAMB and especially to our missionaries. We encourage all Georgia Baptists to sacrificially give to this year's Annie Armstrong Easter Offering so NAMB can be more effective than ever in taking the gospel to a hurting world."

The Index article also points out NAMB's "phenomenal gains in World Changers involvement, chaplaincy enlistment and disaster relief participation."

On the positive side of NAMB's response, officials acknowledge "a few high-profile programs that, frankly, didn't do as well as we had planned," adding that "we admit we're not perfect."

Additionally, Reccord announced a three-step review plan last week to address issues raised in the Index article. Trustee chairman Barry Holcomb has appointed a trustee task force to review the concerns, Reccord has contracted with an independent auditing firm to assess the issues raised and the full board will hold a special meeting March 23 to review the findings of both the task force and the audit.

Despite their objections to the Index article, NAMB officials are to be commended for pursuing a detailed

review and response to the article's concerns. Hopefully, the audit will be presented directly to the full board, rather than being filtered through NAMB's administration, in order to avoid any potential conflict of interest as trustees wrestle with weighty decisions on NAMB's behalf.

While outside critique and criticism generally aren't easy for any ministry organization to hear, ideally the eventual outcome will be an even stronger, more effective North American Mission Board poised to make a positive impact for the Kingdom of God.

IMB to reconsider Burleson action

Over on the IMB front, trustees voted in January to seek the removal of trustee Wade Burleson, an Oklahoma Baptist pastor and immediate past president of the Baptist General Convention of Oklahoma.

The call for Burleson's ouster came amid his frequent Internet blogs opposing the adoption of recent IMB policies on believer's baptism by immersion and the practice of private prayer languages.

But according to IMB trustee chairman Tom Hatley, the proposed action was due to "broken trust and resistance to accountability, not Burleson's opposition to policies recently enacted by the board."

Earlier this month, Hatley announced that trustee executive committee members have agreed to ask trustees to rescind their January action.

"We have determined that we have the ability to seek management of these issues through internal processes that were not known during our January meeting," Hatley explained. "We have never reached this stage of conflict before and did not know of all our options until recently."

While seeking an internal solution might not satisfy everyone involved, it appears to be a positive step toward avoiding a divisive debate on the floor of the SBC annual meeting in June.

As they reconsider their January action toward Burleson, perhaps trustees also should revisit their decision last November to reject missionary candidates who acknowledge using a private prayer language.

It seems that the board's longstanding policy against appointing missionaries who publicly practice speaking in tongues is sufficient to maintain the SBC's traditional aversion to charismatic practices.

Once IMB trustees start delving into candidates' private prayer closets, however, the risk of creating a "don't ask, don't tell" policy about personal spiritual practices could produce more harm than good. Candidates who have the integrity to acknowledge using a private prayer language will be disqualified from service while others with similar practices who adopt an "end justifies the means" mentality for overseas service could gain appointment.

I'm certainly not advocating charismatic practices and teaching on the mission field or elsewhere. But the key word is "private" prayer language—not something missionaries or other Christians are seeking to spread beyond their personal devotional lives.

My question is whether IMB trustees should police missionary candidates' private prayer lives.

"When you pray, go into your inner room, and when you have shut your door, pray to your Father who is in secret," Jesus taught in Matthew 6:6. If Jesus believes prayer should be a private conversation between a believer and God, that should be good enough for us too.

In a recent question-and-answer session with Baptist editors, Rankin said he believes the private prayer language policy adopted by trustees "goes beyond the doctrinal parameters of the Baptist Faith and Message."

Noting that he doesn't consider himself a charismatic, Rankin added, "I just want God to have freedom to do everything that He wants to do in my life and I'm going to be obedient to that."

Some Southern Baptists will agree with Rankin's assessment; others won't. Either way, it's worth IMB trustees taking one more look to ensure biblically qualified, God-called Southern Baptists aren't prohibited from serving God's Kingdom as international missionaries.

STRAIGHT FROM THE EDITOR



Trennis Henderson

Park missionary catches people, not fish



"We have to go where the people are."

Missionary Mary Gore

Continued from page 1

people through Toledo Bend this weekend," Gore predicts. "Now, I can't talk to all 30,000 of them in one weekend, but I'm going to talk to as many as I can.

"We have to go where the people are," Gore adds. "We take the church outside. We want to give people the chance to not only know His creation, but also to meet the Creator.

"Jesus, when He gave the Great Commission, said 'Go, and make disciples.' I've yet to find a verse that said, 'Come and invite them to your air-conditioned, padded pew church building.' Jesus went out with the fishermen. He preached on the seashore and He preached from a boat. He went to the marketplace. He preached up on the side of a mountain. He didn't always stay in the synagogue. We're just trying to follow Jesus' example—trying to be His hands and feet to reach a lost and dying world."

Inviting campers to a church service is only one of Gore's methods to share Christ.

She conducts backyard Bible clubs for children. She wows kids with puppet shows. She quenches the thirst of campers by distributing bottles of water with the plan of salvation imprinted on the labels.

"Our 'Fun in the Son Club' is a day camp for kids, which we

conduct in parks, private marinas, neighborhoods around the lake and even in some of the local housing projects," Gore said. "It has all the ingredients of a church's vacation Bible school—Bible lessons, music, crafts, recreation and snacks. We just do it outside."

According to "Miss Mary," the only thing some of the children in her "Fun in the Son Clubs" know about Jesus is what she tells them.

"They never get to go to church or Sunday school. In fact, some of them think God's last name is a four-letter word. That's the only time they hear about God. So we try to show them the cross and let them know that Jesus came and lived and died for them—and rose again so that they could have a relationship with Him."

Eating three lunches a day

Because she sees her role as a calling and not merely a job, Gore's work hours are not the typical 9-to-5, Monday-Friday.

"People like to fish and camp. So I try to emphasize how fishing and camping are good things. I have a ball coming out here at all hours and visiting with the campers. Hey, maybe they're frying fish and I may get a piece of fish out of it, who knows? I've been known to eat three lunches a day out here."

Gore's passion extends to folks who wouldn't darken the doors of a church to hear about Jesus.

"As a resort missionary, I try to get the gospel outside the four walls of the church building," she said. "Whether people are camping at the lake, fishing in a tournament, attending one of our local fairs or festivals, or whether they're just passing through Toledo Bend, I try to tell them about Jesus—that He has a plan for their lives and cares about them.

"Letting people know that God loves them and has a great plan for their lives is the most fun anybody can have. And it just amazes me every day that Southern Baptists will let me do this and even pay me to do it," she said.

"Without the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering for North American Missions, I wouldn't be able to do this," she added. "I would have to worry about how I was going to pay my next electric bill."

IMB readies response to Philippine landslide

Richmond, Va. (BP)—International Mission Board missionaries in the Philippines are calling for prayer as they prepare to respond to the Feb. 17 landslide that buried the small village of Guinsaugon.

More than 100 bodies have been pulled from the mountain of mud that swallowed 375 homes there; Filipino officials say they fear the death toll could climb as high as 1,500.

"We are saddened to know that more than 1,000 Filipinos have been buried alive," Carl Miller, an IMB missionary to the Philippines, said. "Sadder still is the fact that most of these Filipinos have died without knowing Christ."

A team has been sent to the Guinsaugon village to assess the damage and learn how they can best help. The IMB has set up a Web page to donate to the Guinsaugon relief effort. It can be accessed at www.imb.org/worldhunger.



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Proverbs 22:7

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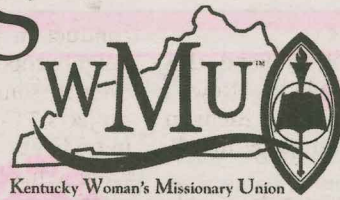
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WMU™ KENTUCKYNOTES



A quarterly publication of Kentucky Woman's Missionary Union
P. O. Box 436569, Louisville, KY 40253-6569 • (502) 489-3534 • Toll-free: (866) 489-3534
Supplement to Western Recorder

Funding for this publication made possible through contributions to the Eliza Broadus Offering and the Cooperative Program

2006 Annie Armstrong Easter Offering for North American Missions

Theme: Tell His Story
Offering Goal: \$56 million

Kentucky Baptist churches gave \$1,753,713 to the 2005 Offering for North American Missions. This offering provides missionary funding across North America and a portion of our gifts are used in Kentucky.

Spring 2006

Kentucky WMU Annual Meeting

Keep the
Message **ALIVE**

Harrodsburg
Baptist Church

April 21-22,
2006

Church & Association WMU are invited to bring displays on the theme "Keeping the Message Alive."

Session Highlights

Friday Morning, 9:45 a.m., Eastern Time—

Keep the Message Alive Around the World

Music for Worship by Rejoice
Missionary: Carmela Bartels, Central & Eastern Europe
Keynote: Kaye Miller, President, WMU, SBC

Friday Noon—Lunch, Displays, Prayerwalking

Box lunch by pre-reservation.
Visit WMU Displays & Bookstores
Virtual Prayerwalk for KBC Partnership Missions
Prayerwalking in Harrodsburg

Friday Afternoon, 1:20 p.m.—

Keep the Message Alive through Kentucky WMU

Music for Worship by Rejoice
Eliza Broadus Offering Emphasis: Mary Bolton & Friendship International Choir, Louisville
Heritage Fund Special Recognitions
KY WMU Business Session & Election of Officers

Friday Afternoon, 3:30 p.m.—

Reception honoring Cathy Chinn

Friday, 5:00 p.m.—Executive Board Reunion Dinner

(All former Executive Board members are invited to attend.
Advance ticket purchase required. To make meal reservations, contact Kentucky WMU for a reservation form or go to <http://www.kywmu.org/annualmtg.htm>.)

Friday Evening, 6:45 p.m.—

Keeping the Message Alive in Kentucky

You are invited to wear Spanish attire and bring a Spanish Bible to donate to a Kentucky Hispanic ministry.
Music for Worship by Rejoice
Greetings: Bill Mackey, Executive Director, KBC
Fiesta! Hispanic Ministries in Kentucky:
Spanish Praise Band - Cooper Chapel Road Baptist
Hispanic WMU - Ruth Salazar, Cristina De La Barra
Hispanic Ministry Testimony - Pat Howard
Cathy Chinn & Panel: Grundy Janes, Carlos De La Barra, Jesus Pacheco, Jorge Garcia, Roland Muñiz
Offering of Spanish Bibles

Saturday Morning, 9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.—

Keep the Message Alive - My Responsibility

Music for Worship by Rejoice
Launch of Korea - Kentucky WMU Partnership
Special Presentation by Sook Jae Lee, Executive Director, Korea WMU; Prayer Testimony, Maxine Bumgarner, Executive Director, West Virginia WMU
Keynote: Kaye Miller
Passing of the Gavel

Saturday Noon—Luncheons

- Acteens / Youth on Mission Pizza Party
- Baptist Nursing Fellowship Luncheon

A Personal Word

The 2006 Kentucky WMU Annual Meeting will be a high point in this year. Not only will we hear from our new national WMU president, Kaye Miller, and IMB missionary, Carmela Bartels, we will also have a Spanish Fiesta on Friday evening and then launch our new partnership with Korea WMU on Saturday.



Joy Bolton
Executive
Director-
Treasurer

The new partnership comes at the request of Korea Baptist WMU (KBWMU) to enter into a three-year partnership beginning in 2006. Prayer is the foundation of the partnership. We will be praying for both North and South Korea and will include a commitment to pray as a part of the launch event. Sook Jae Lee, Korea

WMU Executive Director, will be with us at Annual Meeting to show a video of KBWMU work and issue a personal call to partnership. Maxine Bumgarner, Executive Director of West Virginia WMU, will share a prayer testimony that vividly demonstrates what can happen when a state WMU decides to pray for another country.

The partnership will include several provisions to enhance WMU work in both countries. These include an intern from Korea who will work in the Kentucky WMU office during 2007 and assistance for a seminary education for the Korean intern. In addition, the partnership will provide opportunities for Korean WMU leaders to observe the work of Kentucky WMU and for Kentucky WMU leaders to visit Korea WMU. Prayerwalking will be an important part of the partnership. In addition, Korea WMU has requested volunteers to assist with their children's summer and winter camps and for children from Korea to attend camp in Kentucky. The Korean WMU Ladies Choir will come to Kentucky for the 2007 Kentucky WMU Annual Meeting and will also sing in churches in Kentucky as part of their visit.

It is our prayer that God will use the partnership to enhance missions around the world and strengthen WMU as we build global WMU relationships. In 2005, a Kentucky WMU team prayerwalked in Piauí, Brazil and led a day of WMU training for Piauí WMU. In March 2006, Cathy Chinn, president of Kentucky WMU, will lead a second WMU team to Piauí as we support the KBC partnership there. The request from Korea Baptist WMU to partner with them is another opportunity for us to build relationships with WMU sisters around the world.

I want to express my thanks to Cathy Chinn for her service as our president for the past four years. Cathy has been wonderful to work with. She has been a mentor and friend to me and many others. Cathy has traveled many miles across Kentucky speaking in churches and associations, encouraging leaders, and helping to start new WMU work. Cathy and George are an inspiration to all of us as they model a missions lifestyle. Join us at Annual Meeting as we honor Cathy at a reception on Friday afternoon.

Get a carload of women and meet us in Harrodsburg, April 21-22. Registration information has been mailed to each church. You may preregister for Annual Meeting as well as order a box lunch. The Kentucky WMU Annual Meeting is the gathering place for everyone who cares about missions. You will be renewed and inspired to *Keep the Message Alive*.

Directions to Annual Meeting

Harrodsburg Baptist Church
312 South Main Street
Harrodsburg, KY 40330
Phone: 859-734-2339

Harrodsburg Baptist Church is located on the corner of Main and Office streets. From US 127 South, turn left on Office. From US 127 North, turn right on Office.

Parking will be available at Harrodsburg Baptist and nearby churches, as well as at Fort Harrod State Park. Parking attendants will be available to direct you to parking. A shuttle will run from the state park.

For help with driving directions from your area, go to:
www.mapquest.com or www.randmcnally.com.

Information for WMU Directors



Last year we had a number of new WMU and its age level organizations begin here in Kentucky. I enjoy receiving letters and e-mails from WMU Directors about how their groups are developing and growing.

I would like to share with you a recent letter from Ten Mile Baptist Church, which started their WMU in October 2005. Here are excerpts from an email sent by Deborah Hardy and Frances Bayes:

"There are about 5 to 7 woman in our WMU, and our name is Loving Hands for Christ.

"We started by making comfort kits for hurricane victims. We made 128 and sent them to Alabama. We are doing a desert a month for different organizations. We had a drive for Haven of Rest for Eileen Mullins; we collected laundry soap, softener & softener sheets, soaps, shampoos, dish soap, paper towels, toilet paper and things such as that. We are currently working on Pure Love, Pure Water. We have sent our first one in and are working on another. We have helped restock our food pantry at our church. We sponsored a family for Thanksgiving and one for Christmas dinners. We collect many items for the nursing homes for Christmas.

"In November, we decided we would try to collect \$500 for Lottie Moon. We collected \$1,026. Also at that meeting we cooked meals for 3 shut-in families from our church.

We have been very blessed by what the Lord allows us to do, but even more blessed that we have a very generous church family.

We at Ten Mile Baptist Church and Loving Hands for Christ would like to thank you for giving us the opportunity to let you know how the Lord is working in our church.

Thank you again and may God be with you and yours."

God is doing amazing things in the life of local churches with new and long-standing WMU organizations. If you have a story to share with us about your WMU organizations, please send it. Your stories encourage us all as we pass on the passion for missions and mission education.

Peace, Joy and Blessings!

—Wanda Walker

Adults

"God will find a way, when there seems to be no way. He works in ways we cannot see..."

I struggle often with my schedule. I don't have time to add another thing. But I love what I do, everything I do.

Almost everywhere I go I hear from you that you don't know how to get women and adults in your church to engage in mission education.

Welcome to this generation! I am not being critical; I am merely acknowledging our frustration and concern. This has been an ongoing issue for women for a long time. Women seem to have more to do than in any other time in history. Even women who were homemakers years ago are finding a life filled with opportunities to do and go and be involved in so many things. I don't believe women don't want to be involved. I believe they have other opportunities that keep them busy.



So, how do we reach out and get them engaged? If you find the answer, let me know. Just kidding. I do not have the cure-all answer, but I do have some suggestions.

I believe we need to engage women in missions through what they are most involved in.

Soccer practice three times a week? Encourage soccer moms who love missions to meet on the field and perhaps minister to other soccer parents during practices. New baby or first-time women? Include mission prayer and encouragement during play dates. What about a mom of teenagers group?

Many churches have incorporated new names for their groups that focus on a number of things such as Crafters on Missions (they meet and crochet and get involved in missions with their craft); Missions on Monday; and Upward Moms. Anyone can pray for missions and missionaries anywhere and anytime. It is when

we limit our opportunities that we allow our passion to fade away. Mission education does not have to be a meeting and just doing whatever is in the *Missions Mosaic*. Expand your imagination.

Meeting regularly still has its place and importance. I love attending my monthly meeting with my friends and sisters. Sometimes I don't feel I have enough time to meet either. We individually and collectively have to decide how we will serve God and live our passion for missions and mission education. God will make a way even when we don't seem to think

there is one.

Pass on the Passion for Missions and Mission Education!

—Wanda Walker

Youth



Your mission, should you choose to accept it, is to attend Exalt. Exalt 2006 is just around the corner and it is an event you won't want to miss. Wini Moran will be the featured speaker and Katie Richards, President of KY Baptist Campus Ministries, will also share. All agents will worship with an all girl praise band from the WKU BCM, be sent on a secret mission Friday night, and attend special interest seminars. Be sure to mark March 31- April 1 on your calendar. Exalt will be held at Living Hope Baptist church. For more information, contact Kentucky WMU or go to the youth page of our website www.kywmu.org for downloadable information.

New this year is a conference for teenaged guys, 4:GO. It will take place in Bowling Green the same weekend as Exalt at Greenwood Baptist. Contact the Youth Evangelism department at 502/866-489-3351 for more information.

Acteens Splash this summer is another event you won't want to miss.

It is June 23-24, 2006. Last year we had close to 100 in attendance; so, be sure to register early. This year's theme is "Chain Reaction." Son Bound BCM ministry team, will be with us at Jonathan Creek.

April 15 is an important deadline for Acteens. Applications to serve on the 2006-2007 Kentucky Acteens Advisory Panel are due that day. You can get an application from the state office or on the youth page of the website.

Blume, formerly known as NAC, will take place July 10-13, 2007 in Kansas City, MO. Thousands of girls from across the country will gather for this exciting event. Check out www.blumeforgirls.com for more information.



—LaRaine Dail

Preschool and Children



PRE-SCHOOL—
Happy Birthday, Mission Friends! This year we are celebrating 110 years of preschool missions education. In 1896 Sunbeams became a part of Woman's Missionary Union and in 1970 Mission Friends began. Are you or do you know of a Mission Friends teacher who has been teaching since Mission Friends began in 1970? If so, please let national WMU know. Send the name, address, phone number and a photo to start@wmu.org or WMU Preschool Resource Team, P.O. Box 830010, Birmingham, Alabama 35283-0010.

CHILDREN—
ATTENTION ALL MEMBERS OF GIRLS IN ACTION AND CHILDREN IN ACTION! The GA and Children in Action



Missions Event is scheduled on Saturday, April 22, 2006 at Harrodsburg Baptist Church, Harrodsburg. Because both Girls in Action (girls, grades 1-6) and Children in Action (boys and girls, grades 1-6) are a part of WMU, this special event is planned during the WMU Annual Meeting.

The event begins at 9:00 a.m. and concludes around 12:00 noon (Eastern Time). As the general meeting is in session for everyone else, the children and leaders will be having their own event with opportunities for meeting missionaries, singing, and all kinds of fun! The event will be held in the Recreation and Outreach Center (ROC) of the church, located across the street from the back of the church. Watch for signs to direct you to the ROC entrance. See directions to the church on page 1 of this insert.



No pre-registration for the event is required. However, the cost is \$2 per person attending to be paid on arrival.

Children and leaders attending can be involved in a ministry project by bringing one canned food item per person to the event. The food collected will be distributed to programs for needy families in the Harrodsburg area. For further information contact Kentucky WMU.

Don't forget camp! Two state camps, Cedar Crest (at Cedarmore) and Jonathan Creek, offer opportunities for all girls. In addition, a special Express Week is offered for boys and girls at Cedar Crest. More information can be found on page 4 of this insert.

—Brenda Price

MISSION: POSSIBLE

Exalt 2006 Bowling Green March 31 - April 1

President's Perspective

As you read this, our Kentucky WMU Brazil team is preparing to leave on March 6 for Teresina, Brazil. We will return on March 17. Please pray for us as we prayerwalk the sites where Kentucky Baptist teams will work and serve in 2006. Last year was a great year for our new partnership with the state of Piaui, Brazil, with nearly 1,000 people coming to Christ. We expect 2006 to be a red-letter year as well, so pray and see if God is calling you to Brazil for a short-term mission trip where



Cathy Chinn
Kentucky WMU
president

you will be able to see lives changed and be a part of that. Contact Ross Bauscher at our partnership office for more details.

The North American missions emphasis is upon us and our mission work needs your support. Your church's contribution to the Annie Armstrong offering could make the difference in some mission outreach programs being able to do the work that God has called them to do. And, that means some could miss their chance of hearing about the name of Jesus and making a life-changing commitment. Our North American missionaries are using creative

ways to reach people and are touching groups of people in our country that have not been reached. Please pray for the work in North America and the more than 5,000 missionaries.

I hope you are making some serious plans for some type of missions trip this year. God wants us to get out of our comfort zone and share His love. If you are just starting to branch out and get your church involved in direct missions, try a trip right here in Kentucky. Our missions growth team or our state WMU office would be a great help in finding you a place to go. You may even call me for some help in knowing some places that need volunteers. You can go for a weekend if a week is too long for your schedule. I think if you do that, it will not be long until you will be scheduling another weekend to go back again. Sometimes we think we are going to go on a trip to bless or help others, but in the process, we find we are blessed beyond measure.

I hope you are planning on bringing a group from your church to our state WMU Annual Meeting at Harrodsburg Baptist Church on April 21-22. You will truly be blessed by the special guests. Besides our missionaries and Ross Bauscher, from our partnership office, our new national WMU president, Kaye Miller, will be with us. We will also have special guests from South Korea as we kick off a new WMU partnership between Korea WMU and Kentucky WMU. On Friday evening, we will feature our Hispanic work in Kentucky and hear from our Hispanic missionaries in Kentucky and will collect Hispanic Bibles for their ministry.

I wish to say thank you for allowing me to serve you, Kentucky Woman's Missionary Union, for these last four years. This has been an incredible time for me as I have represented you on the National WMU level, on mission fields both domestic and international, and as I have served alongside so many of you on our Kentucky WMU Executive Board. I treasure the friendships I have made and am forever thankful for the many opportunities you gave me to share with you in your churches and associations. I must say a special thank you to Joy Bolton, Brenda Price, Anna Mary Byrdwell, LaRaine Dail, Donna Dye, Wanda Walker, Stacy Nall, Denise Gardner, Glenda Triplett, Ashlee Wheeler, Tonya Williams Heartsill, Doris Riddle and Jennifer Martin. I think they are all the WMU staff during my four years, but if I have missed anyone, please forgive me. They have all been such a joy to work with, plan with and pray with. Kentucky is indeed very lucky to have such competent, caring staff.

I wish to thank all of you who have and are praying for me on a regular basis. Words cannot express my gratitude to you. My experiences while serving in the role of your president will forever remain to me...priceless.

—Cathy Chinn

Kentucky WMU Heritage Fund September 1 – November 30, 2005

The following persons were honored or remembered through gifts to the Kentucky WMU Heritage Fund during the first quarter of the 2005-06 fiscal year. Thank you to each person who gave to the Heritage Fund in honor of or in memory of someone significant to you and WMU. Earnings from this endowment fund are used by Kentucky WMU as approved by the Development Committee. During 2005-06, Heritage Fund earnings will help provide expenses for our Hispanic WMU Meeting in February and Associational WMU Leadership Training in May.

In Honor of & Donor:

Anna White by the children of Anna White

In Memory of & Donor:

Sue Hill by Caldwell-Lyon Association
Ann Moffett by Esther Money
Doris Mullendore by Kentucky WMU
Joyce Thompson by Steve Thompson
Mary Mildred Crouch by Anna White
Marjorie Hightower by Grober Parrish Baptist Women
Doris Mullendore by Maribeth Hambrick
Emma Lee Davidson by Georgetown Baptist WMU
Doris Mullendore by Marquerite Ward
Doris Mullendore by William & Susan Neely
Doris Mullendore by David & Debbie Ward
Doris Mullendore by Tom & Christina
Clayborn Southerland by Dale & Betty Etheridge
Charlsie Link by Ethel Harmon WoM

Special Gifts

Betty Elliott

Coming this fall ...

Scattered

Welcome New WMU Starts!

We welcome the following new WMU groups during September 2005 to January 2006. All age groups of WMU are among these 2005-2006 new starts.

Church, Town	Organization(s)*
Bandana, Bandana	CiA
Belmont, Ashland	MF
Bethany, Sturgis	MF, Y/M
Bethesda, Independence	MF, CiA, W/M
Big Creek, Hazard	GA
Calvary, Irvine	CiA, Y/M
Cannonsburg, Ashland	MF
Carlisle Ave., Louisville	CiA
Center, Russellville	CiA
Central, Winchester	GA
Chapel Hill, Princeton	MF
Clarkson, Clarkson	CiA
Clearview, Leitchfield	MF, GA, Y/M
Dyer Hill, Smithland	GA
FBC, Whitesburg	W/M
FBC, Brandenburg	CiA
FBC, Middleboro	MF
FBC, Worthington	CiA, W/M
Fourth St., Owensboro	MF, CiA, ACT, W/M
Friendship, Irvine	MF, CiA
Hardmoney, Boaz	MF
Harmony, W. Paducah	W/M
Heritage, Winchester	W/M
Horizon, Danville	M/F
Lyndon, Louisville	ACT
Mt. Salem, Hustonville	W/M
New Hope, Hustonville	W/M
North Frankfort, Frankfort	MF, GA
Peaks Mill, Frankfort	MF, CiA
Reid Village, Mt. Sterling	MF
Salem, Brandenburg	W/M
Scotts Grove, Murray	GA
Southfork, Owenton	GA
Sparta, Sparta	GA
Squiresville, New Liberty	MF
Ten Mile, Glencoe	W/M
Victory, Shepherdsville	CiA

*KEY: MF (Mission Friends), GA (Girls in Action), CiA (Children in Action), ACT (Acteens), Y/M (Youth on Mission), W/M (Women on Mission), A/M (Adults on Mission)

Calendar

March

- 3-4 Creative Ministries Festival & Youth Missions Workshop, Southern Seminary, Louisville
- 5-12 Season of Prayer for North American Missions & Annie Armstrong Easter Offering
- 10-11 Creative Ministries Festival & Youth Missions Workshop, Hillvue Heights BC, Bowling Green
- 17-18 KY WMU Resource Team Training, Cedarmore
- 31-4/1 Exalt, Living Hope BC, Bowling Green

April

- 20 KY WMU Executive Board Meeting, Harrodsburg
- 21-22 KY WMU Annual Meeting, Harrodsburg BC
- 22 GA/Children in Action Missions Event, Harrodsburg BC

May

- 6 KY WMU State Associational Leadership Training (SALT) First B.C. Central City, 9:00 am-3:00 pm
- 20 KY WMU State Assoc. Leadership Training (SALT) Northside BC, Winchester, 9:00 am-3:00 pm
Calvary BC, Somerset, 9:00 am-3:00 pm

June

- 5-11 Mission Adventure Camp for Girls, Staff Training, Cedar Crest
- 11-12 National WMU Missions Celebration, Greensboro, NC
- 13-14 Southern Baptist Convention, Greensboro, NC
- 12-16 Mission Adventure Camp for Girls, grades 3-6, Cedar Crest
- 16-17 Mother/Daughter Overnight, grades 1-3, Cedar Crest
- 19-23 Mission Adventure Camp for Girls, grades 3-6, Cedar Crest
- 23-24 Acteens Splash, grades 7-12, Jonathan Creek
GA Overnight, grades 4-6, Jonathan Creek
Mother/Daughter Overnight, grades 1-3, Jonathan Creek
Mother/Daughter Overnight, grades 1-3, Cedar Crest
- 24 Baptist Nursing Fellowship Summer Luncheon, Elizabethtown
- 26-30 Mission Adventure Camp for Girls, grades 6-10, Cedar Crest

Summer Camp Update

Be sure to mark your calendar for this summer's camping events! Registration forms are now being accepted in the Kentucky WMU office. Please contact the WMU office or visit our website if you need registration materials.

Camp Dates

CEDAR CREST

June 12-16 girls grades 3-6
June 19-23 girls grades 3-6
June 26-30 girls grades 6-10
*July 5-7 girls **and boys** grades 3-6
July 10-14 grades 3-6

Mother-Daughter Overnights

June 16-17 grades 1-3 and moms
June 23-24 grades 1-3 and moms
July 7-8 grades 1-3 and moms

*Kentucky WMU is offering an Express week of camp for both girls and boys. Church chaperones are *required* for Express week. Church chaperones are *optional* for other weeks at Cedar Crest.

JONATHAN CREEK

Mother-Daughter Overnight
GA Overnight
Acteens Splash

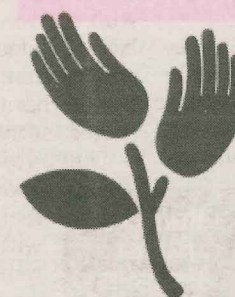
JUNE 23-24

grades 1-3 and moms
grades 4-6 and their chaperones
grades 7-10 and their chaperones

CAMP STAFF NEEDED

Applications for summer staff at Cedar Crest will be accepted until all positions are filled. Positions include: cabin leaders, assistant cabin leaders, lifeguard, recreation leader, kitchen coordinator and unit leaders. Staff members are high school juniors and seniors and college students. Also, one medical volunteer is needed for each week of camp. Please contact the WMU office for applications.

For more information contact: Stacy Nall at 502-489-3454 or toll free 1-866-489-3534
Stacy.Nall@kybaptist.org, www.kywmu.org



Christian Woman Job Corps Site Coordinator Training

May 22-25, 2006

Pleasant Hill Baptist Church
Somerset, KY

For registration packet, please
call Kentucky WMU.
502-489-3534

Baby Boot Camp 2006

Kentucky Baptist Nursing Fellowship will host three Baby Boot Camps for pregnant teens. We need your help. Below is a list of items needed for the Boot Camps. Donations will be taken at Annual Meeting at the BNF display.

Newborn Diapers,
Baby Lotions, Shampoo, Wash,
Wipes,
Diaper Rash Medication,
Sleepers, all types of Blankets or
Quilts, Undershirts, Socks,
Booties, Bibs,
Bottles, Bottle Brushes, Pacifiers,
Thermometers, Syringes, Nail
Care Kits,
and the books
*Baby Boot Camp and Purpose
Driven Life*

For more information, contact
Wanda Walker at Kentucky
WMU, 502-489-3453 or e-mail
wanda.walker@kybaptist.org.

Baptist Nursing Fellowship

Summer Luncheon and
Continuing Education Event

June 25, 2006
Elizabethtown

\$10 for BNF members
\$15 for non-BNF members



Baby Boot Camp
Leadership Training
2 CEU credits

For more information or to register, please contact Kentucky WMU, 502-489-3453.

WORLD MISSIONS UNLIMITED 2006

- Training
- Motivation
- Inspiration
- Fellowship

July 21-22

Westport Road Baptist Church, Louisville

Friday, 6:30 - 9:00 p.m.
Saturday, 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

How can YOU become a better missions leader? Attend conferences for basic training or advanced leadership skills at World Missions Unlimited. Conferences for church leaders of all WMU organizations and Baptist Men on Mission (formerly Brotherhood) organizations will be provided. There will be a training track for Associational WMU leaders on Friday and Saturday. Special interest conferences will also be offered.

Cost: \$15 if registered by June 30; \$20 after June 30
(includes: Saturday lunch and resources*)

Registration materials will be mailed to all church/associational WMU leaders in late April. For more information, contact Kentucky WMU.

*Those attending WMU conferences will receive a WMU Year Book. Participants in Baptist Men, RA, Challengers conferences will receive appropriate resources.

In praise of volunteers

Workers scrambling to prepare camps for summer

Words simply cannot fully describe certain events in life. With summer rapidly approaching, we are scrambling at each property to make as many improvements as possible; quite honestly all the improvements we can afford to do.

At Jonathan Creek, our tasks include renovating bathrooms at Gray Motel, renovating Shoemaker Chapel, renovating Waller Dorm, converting the old dining hall to a one-of-a-kind café that you will have to see to believe, digging a new pool, building a new RV park and making several other much-needed improvements.

This year more than any other, we have begun to see how critical volunteers are to this ministry. Groups from Cadiz, Hopkinsville, Blood River Association and Bowling Green have contributed countless hours to make these improvements come to reality.

During the last week, I had the privilege to spend a little time with some of the volunteers, and they expressed that their service is not to me or our staff, but to God. There is simply no better motivation than to honor God with our

acts of worship by serving Him. While I do not get to spend time with our volunteers on a continual basis, I do feel they are my brothers and sisters in Christ and our partners in this ministry because of our shared motives for service.

Our purpose is clear; it is not about buildings, but seeing lives connected with Jesus. Our task is to remove any and all barriers that might hinder our staff, guests and volunteers from connecting with Christ.

Camp is less than 90 days away. While an abundance of work has been completed, much more remains. Once camp arrives, we will depend upon 30-50 volunteers each week at Cedarmore and Jonathan Creek. During most summer weeks, we will have more than 1,000 guests between Cedarmore and Jonathan Creek. The needs are seemingly unlimited, but with partners like the ones we have, the needs certainly can be met.

Come and serve with us. It is not about the work, but the blessing of seeing lives changed while at camp.

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

KENTUCKY BAPTIST ASSEMBLIES



David Melber

Kudzu

Doug Marlette



For Heaven's Sake

Mike Morgan



Bible Crosswords

Evelyn Boyington

Across

- 1 Wrath
- 4 Send out
- 8 "They made a calf ... and offered sacrifice unto the ____" (Acts 7:41)
- 12 From or to a distance (prefix)
- 13 "He maketh the storm a ____" (Psalm 107:29)
- 14 Bog
- 15 He thought Hannah had been drinking
- 16 Bold alternative
- 17 Disobey a road sign
- 18 "Do good to them that ____ you" (Matthew 5:44)
- 20 Lady of Spain, perhaps (abbr.)
- 21 "In thee, O Lord, do I put my ____" (Psalm 71:1)
- 23 "____ God in the day of visitation" (1 Peter 2:12)
- 27 Clarifying abbr.
- 28 From here one has a bird's-eye view
- 30 Ripped apart (arch.)
- 31 Feminine name
- 33 "There is a ____, the streams whereof shall make glad" (Psalm 46:4)
- 35 Little lamb's cry
- 36 Land measure
- 38 AKA Cephas
- 40 Title of respect (abbr.)
- 41 What Demetrius the silversmith made (Acts 19:24)
- 43 Children of the vindicated Job: ____ sons and three daughters
- 44 Number of pieces of silver belonging to the woman in the parable of the lost coin
- 45 Cash cow (abbr.)

1	2	3		4	5	6	7		8	9	10	11	
12				13					14				
15				16					17				
			18	19				20					
21	22					23				24	25	26	
27				28		29				30			
31		32						34			35		
36				37		38				39		40	
41					42				43				
									44				
									45				
46	47	48					49				50	51	52
53						54					55		
56							57					58	

- 46 Isle of ____, in the English Channel
- 49 Arafat's assoc.
- 50 Not a lot
- 53 Buffalo's lake
- 54 ____ Window (Hitchcock film)
- 55 Before
- 56 Coffin
- 57 "____ it even to the foundation thereof" (Psalm 137:7)
- 58 Tribe of Israel
- 17 Hit's inits.
- 19 Good king of Judah
- 20 Storm hazard
- 21 Son of Japheth (Genesis 10:2)
- 22 Toothbrush brand
- 23 "What ____?"
- 24 The Great ____ (name for God)
- 25 "For he knoweth our ____; he remembereth that we are dust" (Psalm 103:14)
- 26 Pine
- 29 What sour grapes do, hopefully
- 32 To blunder
- 34 "I will ____ health unto thee" (Jeremiah 30:17)
- 37 One or the other
- 39 Jerky movement during sleep (abbr.)
- 42 "I will spread my ____ upon them" (Hosea 7:12)
- 45 Exclamation of pity
- 46 Sticky trap
- 47 Son of Bela (1 Chronicles 7:7)
- 48 Give (Scot.)
- 49 Legume
- 50 "I have ____ you with milk" (1 Corinthians 3:2)
- 51 Tide competitor
- 52 Benign skin tumor
- 54 B&O, e.g.

Down

- 1 Believer in (suffix)
- 2 Cousin, e.g.
- 3 U.S. statesman Root
- 4 "I will ____ you abroad among the nations" (Nethemiah 1:8)
- 5 Actor Alan
- 6 "They angered him ... so that it went ____ with Moses" (Psalm 106:32)
- 7 Britain's John Major, once (abbr.)
- 8 "That I may ____ unto you some spiritual gift" (Romans 1:11)
- 9 "I must ____ in this land" (Deuteronomy 4:22)
- 10 Mine find
- 11 What Fred Astaire did?

Last week's solution

M	A	P		S	W	A	M		B	S	M	E		
A	B	I		T	A	R	E		H	E	A	R		
R	E	S		T	O	R	E		D		E	A	R	N
S	T	A		I	N		S	E	A	T	S			
				T	E	A			S	H	U	N	S	
A	R	C		H		S	I	G	H		R	A	E	
P	U	R		E		I	L	O		R	E	V	E	
E	T	E			H	A	L	L		E	D	E	N	
S	H	A		D	E		D	I	A					
				T	E	N				S	L	O	P	E
E	R	I		E		R	E	M	E	M	B	E	R	
L	O	O		P		O	R	A		E	P	I		
M	E	N		S		W	A	R	T		D	E	E	

Expanding Gambling Will Be Bad News for Kentucky!

DAMAGED GIVES
Gambling Is No Game

The Kentucky General Assembly is currently considering several proposals that would bring casinos to Kentucky. This is bad news because expanded gambling will hurt families, harm our economy and make our state government dependent upon revenue from big gambling corporations.

Call your governor and legislators now to let them know YOUR opinion on this issue!

Gov. Ernie Fletcher
502-564-2611
Legislative Message Line
800-372-7181

KBC
KENTUCKY BAPTIST CONVENTION

P.O. Box 43433
Louisville, Kentucky 40253-0433

Committee on Public Affairs
502-489-3578 or 866-489-3578

Want to know more? Visit
www.kybaptist.org/publicaffairs

COOPERATIVE PROGRAM

Expectations lead to pastor depression, experts say

"Often, pastors are depressed before they even realize it or are able to admit it."

Church consultant
Glenn Wagner

By Ken Walker
State Correspondent

Charlotte, N.C.—Glenn Wagner thinks that until churches change their mode of operation, they will continue to reap the problem of depressed pastors.

Most American churches follow an autocratic, numbers-based model that the business world birthed but has since rejected, said Wagner, who leads a church consulting and coaching organization called FutureLead.

"The leadership models are more corrupted, which leads to false expectations," Wagner said of the pressure on pastors to produce larger churches and bigger budgets.

Many churches "have adopted a secular, corporate model for our leadership," he said. As a result, he added, performance measures often are more secular than biblical.

Ironically, people enter ministry with a sense of God's call, only to find it redefined by worldly expectations, Wagner said.

As the former pastor of a megachurch in Charlotte, Wagner's departure in the fall of 2004 attracted attention (including in a recent Western Recorder article) when he wrote in his letter of resignation that he "used material from the sermons of some of my brother preachers ... and did not give them credit."

But Wagner said the situation went much deeper. In an article for Rev. magazine last year, he discussed at length his struggle with depression that preceded his resignation.

In it, Wagner talked of conflict over various issues, such as staff problems, power struggles and factions within the congregation.

"Often, pastors are depressed before they even realize it or are able to admit it," he wrote. "Meanwhile, the shadows of depression haunt their lives and dismantle their ministries one day at a time."

"Even more difficult is the fact that once a pastor is diagnosed with depression, many churches are not safe places in which they may find support and healing," he stated.

Affecting churches

The implications of this situation are serious for the church, Wagner said, adding that it's a primary reason why most churches aren't growing.

Wagner, who now leads conferences and workshops for thousands of pastors and laypeople each year, estimates that 40 percent of pastors struggle with depression.

If just 10 percent of the general population had such problems it would be seen as a national crisis, he added.

Not only is little attention focused on the problem, few church members understand the pressures pastors face, Wagner said.

"I've been in ministry 30 years, and I still get (comments), 'You only work one day a week; what's the big deal?'" Wagner said.

"I think they miss the point as to what comes out of a pastor's soul as he cares for the flock. If you take your ministry seriously at all, there's a greater energy loss out of ministry. You grieve (a death) and 15 minutes later you're celebrating with people

who had a baby."

Barney Self, a counselor for LeaderCare, the pastoral ministry division at LifeWay Christian Resources, agreed that the demands of ministry easily can drain a pastor's energy.

"It's like putting a V-8 engine to a line to your arm and cranking it up," said Self, who fields about 1,000 calls a year from ministers facing stress, conflict or termination. "It will suck the life right out of you."

Without release valves, pastors find it tough to survive, Self said. "That's what burnout and compassion fatigue have created within the ministry body in this country, I'm afraid."

Firings, high expectations

Eighty percent of the calls he handles involve some component of depression, Self said. Usually, by the time pastors ask for help, the situation has reached a crisis stage.

Forced terminations—which he estimates happen at 1,200 Southern Baptist churches annually—usually revolve around power and control.

"That can drain you of all manner of joy," Self said. "Church is supposed to be a safe place, both to worship and have a sense of koinonia, and when it's not that way it's really hard to deal with."

Christian counselor Bruce Hardy said he finds pastors often become depressed because they face unrealistic expectations from their congregations.

For example, he said, many churches have declining membership and attendance because visitors are not interested in the congregation's outdated worship style.

Members expect the pastor to lead them to grow while they cling to their traditions, Hardy explained.

"I see some churches wrestling with that and the pastor feeling under the gun to grow the church," said Hardy, a former pastor of Buechel Park Baptist Church in Louisville. "Sometimes the expectations of the pastor and his role can be unrealistic."

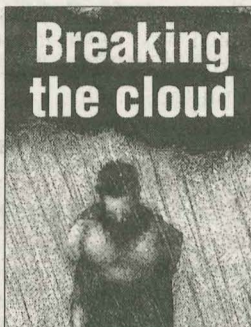
Both Self and Hardy say congregations can help pastors deal with pressure by taking more active roles in church life. Surrounding the pastor with people willing to support him and serve as ministry partners in leadership is vital, Self said.

Pastors in smaller churches—which make up the bulk of the Southern Baptist Convention—are expected to do everything from taking out the trash to making all the hospital calls, Self added.

"That kind of expectation creates all manner of possibilities for trauma of the small church pastor," Self said. "There's a need for people to come alongside and help."

An active hospital visitation ministry is one way churches can bear the burden, Hardy said.

"(Don't expect) the pastor to make all the hospital calls, because over time, he witnesses and hears the trauma on a regular basis," Hardy said. "By doing that, it can help the church express itself as ministers of the gospel and the priesthood of believers."



Nuts and bolts

Maintenance crew performs jobs big and small to keep campus running

By Art and Angela Roberts
Oneida Baptist Institute Maintenance Director
& Assistant to the Maintenance Director

If you walked into the Oneida Baptist Institute maintenance department on any given day, you might not find anyone there. We are always busy. What a joy it is to be able to share what we do and who we are.

We maintain 105 buildings, 300-plus toilets, more than 1,000 light fixtures. We also maintain a swimming pool and run our own sewage treatment plant. We help remodel dormitories as needed, and we help out in a pinch during floods or snow. We also manage the fire alarm and security systems, and we answer to the state inspectors for meeting their requirements. We feel honored and privileged to serve the Lord in this place.

Ecclesiastes 9:10a says, "Whatever your hand finds to do, do it with all your might." God is the driving Power that allows us to do all that we do. Oneida's maintenance staff help keep things running to further the ministry of others. Whether it be plunging a toilet; replacing a broken window; or designing, building and installing new equipment, each job is equally important to us. We try to complete them to the best of our abilities.

Our typical day begins at 7:30 a.m. First, we gather as a department for devotions and go over what must be done that day. God has blessed us with men whose talents complement each other. We have a plumber, two electric and heating, ventilation and air conditioning techs, and two support men. After our prayer time, we go our

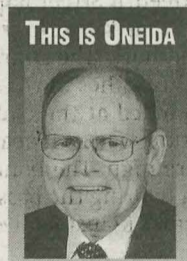
separate ways to work on various projects. The day ends at 5 p.m. when we go home for dinner with our families. One of us always is on call for emergencies. Some weeks we have no evening emergencies. Other weeks, everything quits working at the same time. These times are challenging for us and for our families, who so willingly sacrifice their time with us so we can help others.

Two years ago, we designed and built a slop tank to chop and store our leftover food. In the last year, we have installed a dehumidification system for our pool building. Recently, we installed a holding tank to help us get an old, shut-down gas well up and running. These are our "glory jobs," big enough for us to see that we've accomplished something. We also have an average of 100 small jobs. Filters need changing. Machines need repairing. The sewage plant needs tending. Light bulbs need changing. Windows need repair.

We don't have much contact with the students unless we choose to "moonlight" in other ministries. Several of us work or have worked in the dorms a few evenings during the week. This gives us a chance to spend quality time with the kids. By getting to know the students personally, we know better how to pray for them, mentor them and love them. These opportunities are the icing on the cake for us. What a blessing it is to share Christ through example, word and deed.

We thank each of you for the work you do as volunteers, for your prayers on our behalf and for your friendship. We hope we can be as much of a blessing to you as you are to us.

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



W.F. Underwood

Preparing the called

Clear Creek committed to Bible college education

Clear Creek is accredited by two U.S. Department of Education-approved agencies: the Commission on Colleges of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools, and the Association for Biblical Higher Education. Both of these peer groups help us fulfill our mission.

More than 120 years after the Bible school movement began, there are more than 1,200 Bible schools and colleges in the U.S. and Canada; 183 of these are part of ABHE. The distinctive elements of a Bible college are a core of biblical and theological studies, liberal arts courses and professional studies related to Christian service. This is supplemented with practical ministry opportunities through which students apply classroom instruction.

After attending the ABHE annual meeting Feb. 16-18, my appreciation deepened for the unique niche that Bible colleges have in higher education. With a theme focusing on "global Christianity," we experienced the reality of Bible colleges impacting diverse cultures at home and around the world. Statistics reveal more international

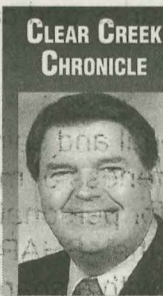
missionaries come from Bible colleges than any other educational background.

How does Clear Creek compare with other ABHE schools? The average size of ABHE colleges is 388 students; Clear Creek enrolled 212 in 2004-05. Our student/faculty ratio of 11:1 is lower than the average of 14:1. At Clear Creek 83 percent of our full-time faculty hold a doctorate; the national average is 36 percent. Our library holdings of 44,447 are lower than the national average of 57,082. Our tuition is lower: \$4,110 compared to \$7,009.

The February/March issue of SBC Life described the undergraduate programs of five SBC seminaries as "Bible colleges," and their creation a response "to the liberalization of our Baptist colleges and universities in the States." The article stressed the need for "conservative Bible colleges with faculties that are committed to the inspiration and inerrancy of the Scriptures."

For 80 years Clear Creek has been such a school; and we feel strong enough about that commitment that we have Bible in our name.

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



Bill Whittaker

Abortion case might signal Court's future direction

By Adelle Banks and Robert Cohen
Religion News Service

Washington (RNS)—After years of disappointment with Supreme Court decisions on abortion, religious conservatives say they expect significant legal changes after the high court agreed Feb. 21 to consider the constitutionality of a federal law banning a controversial type of late-term abortion.

"With two new judicial conservatives on the Supreme Court, this could signal the end of the abortion lobby's stranglehold on the court," said Andrea Lafferty, executive director of the Washington-based Traditional Values Coalition, which hopes the high court will end the protracted battle over a "grisly procedure" her organization opposes.

The case, involving a procedure critics call "partial-birth abortion," will be heard this fall. It is

considered a key test of whether a Supreme Court with two new members will shift direction on one of the nation's most hotly debated social issues.

The dispute involves a law approved by Congress and signed by President Bush in 2003 making it a crime for doctors to perform the procedure known medically as intact dilation and extraction.

The procedure, which Bush called an "abhorrent practice," involves partial removal of the fetus from the womb and a puncturing of the skull, and is used to terminate pregnancies in the second and third trimesters.

Doctors who perform the procedure contend it is the safest method of abortion when the mother's health is threatened by heart disease, high blood pressure or cancer.

The decision to hear *Gonzales vs. Carhart* this fall was made by a court with two new members, including Justice Samuel Alito Jr., who took his place on the bench for the first time last week. Alito replaced retired Justice Sandra Day O'Connor, a supporter of abortion rights.

New justices, new day?

Abortion was a major issue in the fight over Alito's nomination and that of new Chief Justice John Roberts.

The presence of Alito and Roberts has kindled renewed hope among some religious groups that their opposition to abortion might be reflected by the court.

A variety of groups plan to file briefs with the court concerning the ban. Among them is the American Family Association.

"We look forward to the new court's consideration of the case and fully expect a victory for the cause of the unborn," said Brian Fahling, senior trial attorney for the association's Center for Law & Policy.

The congressional ban never took effect after being struck down by federal courts in Nebraska, New York and California. The courts found the federal law lacked necessary exceptions for cases where a woman's health was at risk.

The decision to reconsider the issue comes six years after the high court voted 5-4 to strike down a Nebraska state partial-birth abortion law because it lacked an exception to protect the health of the mother. In that case, O'Connor was a pivotal fifth vote. Even with O'Connor's retirement, there are five clear votes to uphold *Roe vs. Wade*.

Study: Christian abstinence pledge has impact

By Ken Camp
Texas Baptist Standard

Waco, Texas (ABP)—A new survey of Baptist newlyweds suggests that, though true love does not always wait, it waits more often if it starts with a formal pledge of purity.

While most church-going young couples in the Texas survey acknowledged having sexual intercourse before marriage, the study suggested Baptist couples were much more

likely to wait until their wedding night if they took a formal abstinence pledge, such as Southern Baptists' True Love Waits program.

The program gained popularity in the 1990s. Many of the earliest generations of youths to take the pledges have since entered into their first marriages.

Byron Weathersbee, interim chaplain at Baylor University in Waco, Texas, analyzed such sexual-

purity pledges and sex education in a Christian context as the focus of his doctoral dissertation. He surveyed young married couples in Texas Baptist churches to examine how—and how much—churches made an impact on their sexual behavior.

6 of 10 pledgers abstain

Of the young Christians surveyed, six out of 10 who made sexual purity pledges abstained from sexual intercourse until marriage. But only three of 10 who didn't take a formal pledge remained chaste.

All of the surveyed individuals—who had been married less than five years—professed faith in Christ. Of that figure, 99 percent attended church, 84 percent said they grew up in church and 87 percent grew up in a two-parent home.

Even so, 62 percent of the males and 65 percent of the females engaged in sexual intercourse before marriage, Weathersbee discovered. Nine out of 10 who acknowledged sexual activity prior to marriage never took a True Love Waits pledge.

"To a large degree, we're missing it," Weathersbee said. "The young people are receiving the data, but they're not translating it into values that result in a lifestyle of purity and holiness."

The strength of the True Love Waits emphasis lies in the way it involves parents, a supportive network of peers, the church as a whole and the community at-large in emphasizing the importance of a pure lifestyle, Weathersbee said.

The overall sexual abstinence movement clearly has reaped positive benefits, said Richard Ross, who pioneered the True Love Waits program in 1993.

"The fact is rates of teenage sexual activity rose for 20 unbroken years. Then came True Love Waits and, from that, the broader abstinence movement. From that moment on, rates of teenage sex have dropped every year for 12 unbroken years," he said.

True Love Waits leaders have written a grant proposal for a study to compare faith-based abstinence programs to secular programs, he added.

NATIONAL NOTES

Supreme Court allows sect to use hallucinogenic tea. The U.S. Supreme Court last week unanimously sided with members of a small New Mexico sect's bid to use hallucinogenic tea in religious rituals. Chief Justice John Roberts said the sect's right to religious expression and practice superseded federal drug control laws that were used to confiscate the tea. The ruling served as a strong endorsement of the 1993 Religious Freedom Restoration Act, which requires the government to show a "compelling interest" before it can limit religious freedom.

SBC leader: Church directories aren't campaign tools. The North Carolina Republican Party is asking church members in their state for their church directories, reportedly as part of "get-out-the-vote" efforts. Richard Land, president of the Southern Baptist Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission, called the idea misguided. "Such a request is completely beyond the pale of what is acceptable," he said. "It is a violation of the trust of your fellow church members."

Poll: Ten Commandments judge slipping in race. A recent Alabama poll shows the candidate known as "the Ten Commandments Judge" is far behind in his bid to become governor. Alabama Gov. Bob Riley has opened a 2-to-1 lead over ousted Alabama Supreme Court Justice Roy Moore in the race for the Republican Party's gubernatorial nomination later this year. The Mobile Register-University of South Alabama survey of registered likely GOP primary voters showed Riley with 56 percent to Moore's 28 percent.

Historic Baptist church named landmark. Birmingham's Sixteenth Street Baptist Church, the site of a 1956 bombing that killed four girls, has become a national historic landmark. The church served as a gathering place for civil rights rallies in the 1960s. A bomb planted Sept. 15, 1963, exploded at the church, killing the girls. School desegregation was in its early stages in 1963 and racial tensions were high. The bombing brought national outrage, helping to bring the passage of the 1964 Civil Rights Act. Three former Klansmen were convicted in the bombing.

Massachusetts Wal-Marts to sell abortion pills. Wal-Mart will sell Plan B, an emergency contraceptive with abortion-causing properties, in its Massachusetts pharmacies after a state board voted to require the retail giant to stock the controversial drug. Wal-Mart is reconsidering its nationwide policy not to dispense Plan B, also known as a "morning-after" pill. Until now, Wal-Mart has stocked the drug only at its pharmacies in Illinois, where Gov. Rod Blagojevich ordered its sale in all pharmacies last year.

Evangelical scholar leaving Wheaton for Notre Dame. Mark Noll, professor of history at Wheaton College in Wheaton, Ill., will leave there for the University of Notre Dame in South Bend, Ind., at the end of this academic year. Wheaton is considered a center of conservative Protestant scholarship. But in recent years, Notre Dame has attracted a large group of evangelical scholars. Noll is best known in Christian circles for his book, "America's God: From Jonathan Edwards to Abraham Lincoln."

The Kentucky Baptist Convention in cooperation with
the North American Mission Board presents

**Mission Service Corps
Basic Training
March 10-11
in Louisville, KY**



1:30 pm Friday – 5:00 pm Saturday

Basic Training is for mission minded adults seeking greater fulfillment in ministry and Mission Service Corps missionaries and candidates.

Participants will

- Experience personal and spiritual growth
- Gain greater awareness of ministry opportunities
- Develop a vision for personal ministry
- Learn how to use their SHAPE in ministry
- Meet new friends with a shared passion for missions
- Understand Mission Service Corps and its role in missions

Cost is \$15 and includes materials, lunch, and evening meal. Reservations must be made by Friday, March 3rd at 1-866-489-3530. or www.kybaptist.org/msc

**Basic Training is a time of
Information and Inspiration!**

PRAYER PARTNERS

Please pray for the following Kentucky Baptist missionaries and ministries:

Living Water Community Church in Mount Sterling. Pastor Grant Cannoy planted the church more than two years ago. It now is averaging more than 70 people each week for worship. Living Water primarily reaches young adults and families, and lack of meeting space has become an issue. The church purchased land and will begin building a new facility in April with help from Joshua Land Ministries and other volunteers. Pray that God will provide needed resources and building materials to complete the job without debt. Pray also that construction volunteers will share gifts and skills God has given them.

Mission Service Corps Missionaries Richard and Becky Cotton of Louisville. The Cottons serve as chaplains in the Community Corrections Institute, leading weekly Bible study and discipleship opportunities for inmates. Pray that God will guide the Cottons' thoughts and actions as they teach the Bible, listen to inmates and offer words of encouragement. Pray that God will comfort and provide for the families of the inmates who face many difficulties when a family member is incarcerated.

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

MOUNTAINS TO THE MISSISSIPPI

COMPILED BY STAFF

■ **CADIZ**—Liberty Point Church recently called **Monty Flanigan** as pastor

■ **COVINGTON**—Latonia Church recently honored **Smith and Lucille Gibson** on their 60th wedding anniversary. **Steve Hollaway** is pastor.

■ **CRESTWOOD**—Crestwood Church will host Australian Christian band **Alabaster Box** in concert March 1, 6:30 p.m. Tickets are \$5 and available at Wellspring and LifeWay Christian Book Stores in Louisville. For more information, visit www.crestwoodbaptist.org.

■ **ELIZABETHTOWN**—Severns Valley Church recently honored **Sam and Mary Lou Woodford** on their 50th wedding anniversary. **Billy Compton** is pastor.

■ **EVARTS**—Everts Church recently called **Gary Craig Jr.** as pastor.

■ **HOPKINSVILLE**—Calvary Memorial Church will host the drama, **"Heaven's Gates and Hell's Flames,"** March 12-14, 7 p.m. For more information, call (270) 886-8068. **Larry Combs** is pastor.

■ **LOUISVILLE**—Cloverleaf Church will host **The Dills** from Jackson, Tenn., in concert March 5, 7 p.m. For more information, call (502) 367-0218. **Geoffrey Lacefield** is pastor.

Kim Elzy recently resigned as director of youth activities at Green Acres Church. **Dan Powell** is pastor.

George Fridlender, a native of Russia, will share his Christian testimony at Lyndon Church March 5, 6 p.m. **Jim Holladay** is pastor.

St. Matthews Church will host

Spotlight on ...

Shepherdsville



Bullitt Lick Church will host a wild game dinner March 3, 6 p.m., with **Joe Bland** of the National Wild Turkey Federation, as guest speaker. For more information, call (502) 543-2483.

the **African Children's Choir** in concert April 2, 6:30 p.m. For more information, call (502) 896-8882.

Valley View Church will host Christian recording artist and comedian **Mark Lowry's** "God Is Crazy about You" tour March 11, 6 p.m. For more information, call (502) 935-5142.

■ **PRINCETON**—First Church recently called **Steve Bristow** as interim minister of music. **Tom Hughes** is pastor.

■ **VERSAILLES**—**Whit Criswell**, a former gambling addict, will speak at Versailles Church March 5, 5 p.m. **John Brandon** is pastor.

What's going on?

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



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

March

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

3-4 Handbell Festival, Cave City Convention Center.

4 RA Congress Region 3, Parkway Baptist Church, Bardstow; RA Congress Region 5, Central Baptist Church, Maysville; RA Congress Region 8A, First Baptist Church, Russell.

4 Regional Keyboard Festival, First Baptist Church, Murray.

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

6 Connecting with Guests and New Members, Hickory Baptist Church, Mayfield.

6 Interfaith Witness Training, Northside Baptist Church, Elizabethtown.

7 Connecting with Guests and New Members, First Baptist Church, Madisonville.

7 Interfaith Witness Training, Paintsville.

8-22 Kentucky Changers College Blitz, Morehead.

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

10-11 Mission Service Corps Basic Training, Baptist Building, Louisville.

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

11 Vacation Bible School Clinic, First Baptist Church, Madisonville.

13 Connecting with Guests and New Members, Greenwood Baptist Church, Bowling Green.

14 Connecting with Guests and New Members, Cornerstone Baptist Church, Lexington.

18 All-State Youth Choir/Orchestra Auditions, Beaver Dam Baptist Church.

18 RA Congress Region 2, First Baptist Church, Madisonville; RA Congress Region 3&7 Combo, Hillvue Heights Church, Bowling Green; RA Congress Region 6, Red House Baptist Church, Richmond; RA Congress Region 7, Campbellsville University.

18 State Youth Choir Festival, West, Beaver Dam Baptist Church.

20-21 Basic Training for Church Planters, Baptist Building, Louisville.

20-21 Welcome to Kentucky, Baptist Building, Louisville.

24-25 Youth Bible Drill & Speakers Tournament, Immanuel Baptist Church, Elizabethtown.

25 RA Congress Region 4, Parkland Baptist Church, Louisville; RA Congress Region 7, Elk Spring Valley Baptist Church, Monticello; RA Congress Region 8B, Camp Howard.

31-April 1 Exalt, Bowling Green.

April

7-8 Collegiate Leadership Training, Walnut Street Baptist Church, Louisville.

7-8 Quarterly Prayer Meeting for Spiritual Awakening, Northside Baptist Church, Mount Vernon.

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

CLASSIFIED ADS

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

FOR RENT: 2-Bedroom/2-bath Seascape Resort condo; across from beach in Destin, Fla. Phone: (502) 396-8397 or 850-8832.

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.

SEEKING: Full-time minister for youth, children and their families for First Baptist Church, Elkin, N.C. Seminary or divinity school degree required; ministerial experience preferred. The minister will coordinate and lead age-appropriate programs for children, K-12, directing attention to spiritual, biblical, theological, missional and recreational areas. The minister will assist other ministerial staff in giving pastoral care to the children and their families. First Baptist Church, Elkin, is affiliated with the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship, the North Carolina CBF and the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina. Send inquiries to: Personnel Committee, First Baptist Church, Elkin, PO Box 618, Elkin, NC 28621. E-mail: 1stbaptistelkin@earthlink.net; Website: elkinfbc.org.

SEEKING: Full-time pastor for First Baptist Church, Shepherdsville, Ky. Interested candidates should send resumé to: Pastor Search Committee, First Baptist Church, 254 South Buckman St., Shepherdsville, KY 40165.

SEEKING: Full-time associate pastor/music for Thalia Lynn Baptist Church to lead both contemporary and traditional worship. Send resumé and references by April 1, 2006, to: Chairman, Music Search Committee, 725 Southleaf Drive, Virginia Beach, VA 23462; or e-mail: music@thaliaylenn.com.

SEEKING: Full-time pastor for West Fork Baptist Church in Murray, Ky. Send resumé to Kenneth Greer, 115 Shadow Circle, Murray, KY 42071. Resumés accepted through March 31, 2006.

SEEKING: Volunteers, March-November, for Glorieta Conference Center, Glorieta, N.M., in the mountains at 7,500 feet, 18 miles northeast of Santa Fe, N.M. Serve in maintenance, conference support, grounds, food service. Commitments of 2-12 months preferred, with a minimum commitment of one month. Each volunteer required to work at least 30 hours/week for which Glorieta will provide free: a full-hook RV site, or an efficiency apartment or hotel room; and meals. For information/application, contact Lee or Bea Carl, volunteer coordinators, at (505) 757-4298, or e-mail vols05carl@cybermesa.com.

SEEKING: Minister to families, Cornerstone Baptist Church, Nicholasville, Ky. Please respond to cbjc@Alltel.net or (859) 312-7638.

SEEKING: Full-time minister of youth in a growing central Kentucky community. Send resumé and personal ministry statement to Youth Pastor Search Committee, First Baptist Church, 111 North Main St., Lawrenceburg, KY 40342, Attn: Kevin Payton; or e-mail to trtn@adelphia.net.

SEEKING: Bivocational pastor for Worthington Baptist Church. Send resumé to: Worthington Baptist Church, PO Box 368, Worthington, KY 41183.

SEEKING: Part-time administrative assistant/circulation clerk for the Western Recorder. Mail resumé to Janet McIntosh, PO Box 43969, Louisville, KY 40253. For more information, call (502) 489-3428.

SEEKING: Conservative Southern Baptist pastor for Bayless Baptist Church, St. Louis, Mo. Send resumé to: Pastor Search Committee, 4045 Toenges, St. Louis, MO 63116, Attn: Pat Cheney.

SEEKING: Full-time minister of music for choral and instrumental programs for all ages in Southern Baptist church. Required: College degree in music plus 5 years experience (additional years of experience may be substituted for college degree). Send resumé postmarked by March 3 to: Music Search Committee, Unity Baptist Church, 2320 29th St., Ashland, KY 41101.

SEEKING: Part-time minister of music for Silver Creek Baptist Church of Berea, Ky. Resumés may be mailed to PO Box 97, Berea, KY 40403, or e-mail silvercreekbaptist@alltel.net.

SEEKING: Full-time minister of youth and children for First Baptist Church, Franklin, Ky. Please send resumé to: Search Committee, First Baptist Church, 303 East Cedar St., Franklin, KY 42134.

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

SEEKING: Part-time/bivocational pastor 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.

SEEKING: Part-time minister of youth (grades 7 to 12) to continue God-given growth through current AWANA program. Send resumé to Elkhorn City Baptist Church, PO Box 448, Elkhorn City, KY 41522, or call Pastor Shawn at (606) 754-4781.

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: jeffcharlotte@earthlink.net.

One church, three cities

New Orleans pastor travels circuit to preach & minister to relocated members

By Shannon Baker
Baptist Press

New Orleans (BP)—The upheaval of Hurricane Katrina has turned Fred Luter into a circuit-driving preacher.

The New Orleans pastor has journeyed more than 9,000 miles since last fall to make trips to several cities to visit displaced members of his congregation.

When Katrina struck last fall, Franklin Avenue Baptist Church in New Orleans had more than 7,000 members, having grown from 65 members in 1986 when Luter was called as pastor.

The hurricane and subsequent flooding claimed the church campus, Luter's home and virtually everything else in the Lower Ninth Ward community where he grew up.

But, being a pastor, the hardest part about Katrina "has been not being able to see our members," Luter said. "So many people are still displaced."

Houston, Dallas, Atlanta ...

In the aftermath of the storm, Luter and his wife, Elizabeth, began constant travels from Birmingham, Ala., where they resettled, to New Orleans, Baton Rouge, Houston, Dallas, Atlanta and other cities in an effort to reconnect with the church's scattered membership.

Having found most of the members in New Orleans, Baton Rouge and Houston, Luter began a "circuit-preaching" schedule in January, explaining, "We're one church in three cities."

On the first and third Sundays of the month, he preaches a 7:30 a.m. service for Franklin Avenue church members hosted by First Baptist Church of New Orleans. On the same afternoons, he travels an hour to Baton Rouge, where he preaches a 1 p.m. service.

On the second and fourth Sundays of the month, he travels 11 hours from Birmingham to Hous-

ton to preach a 1 p.m. service hosted by First Baptist Church there.

To Luter's surprise, the largest gathering has been in New Orleans, where already approximately 1,100 members have attended the 7:30 a.m. service.

In Baton Rouge and Houston so far, 600 to 700 people have attended.

Luter is thankful for how the predominantly white churches have opened their arms to Franklin Avenue members, who are predominantly African American. "It is more of a blessing than they can ever imagine," he said.

Home, church campus destroyed

Still, the challenges haven't been easy for the Luters.

Having completely lost their own home and belongings in the storm, the Luters are trying to pick up the pieces of their own lives in between their travels.

They plan to return to the New Orleans area this week, moving to an apartment in Kenner. "New Orleans is home," Luter said. "I've been there all my life. I owe it to the church, the neighborhood, the city, to go back and help rebuild."

Once back in New Orleans, Luter plans to focus more on the church's physical property, where flood-water rose to about eight feet, according to visible stains throughout the complex.

"The whole bottom level was destroyed," Luter said in an earlier report to Baptist Press. "All the church offices were totally destroyed, the family life center, gymnasium floor, the classrooms there, the nursery, the bookstore, the library—all of those things were totally destroyed by the water."

Thus far, those areas have been gutted and sanitized. Now Luter faces insurance issues and hiring contractors to rebuild the church, a daunting task considering the extremely slow economic recovery and lack of resources plaguing



CIRCUIT-DRIVING PASTOR Fred Luter (center) is traveling between New Orleans, Baton Rouge and Houston to visit members of Franklin Avenue Baptist Church.

New Orleans.

Ultimately, Luter would like to see Franklin Avenue Baptist Church serve as a catalyst for stimulating activity in the area and aiding those whose lives were devastated by the storm.

"We'll probably never again have the same numbers," he said. "But I assure you, we'll have a better ministry. From all the lessons we've learned from this thing, we'll definitely have a better ministry."

Luter acknowledges, however, that the Lower Ninth Ward, the area where most of the church members once lived and where he responded to God's call to preach, will never be the same.

"There are just parts of the city that can't be rebuilt—not like they were before," the pastor lamented. Beyond their own home, the Luters' parents also lost their houses.

The community's close proximity to a breached flood wall will prevent some people from moving back to the area, he said.

So, for now, Luter plans to continue traveling to Baton Rouge, Houston and other cities to minister to his flock.

Leaving Houston one day, he looked to Elizabeth and asked a pointed question about all the time on the road: "Do you think we can handle it?"

Nodding his head in affirmation, he answered his own question: "I'm going to stick in there. I love the folk and I wouldn't miss seeing them."

Baptist chaplain helps owners cope with loss of furry friends

By Nicole Larosa
Religion News Service

Raleigh, N.C. (RNS)—When her cocker spaniel died last June, Pam Carpenter was devastated. Niki was the family clown.

Abused as a puppy, Niki thrived after Carpenter adopted him and wielded control over her husband, Don, and their seven other dogs on their North Carolina farm.

So when chronic bronchitis meant Niki had to be euthanized, Pam needed support. Enter the pet chaplain.

Like a handful of others across the country, Rob Gierka of Raleigh, N.C., is a chaplain for pet owners. Based at a veterinary hospital, he conducts pet blessings and funerals, honors prayer requests for pets, and lends an ear to those grieving the loss of their faithful furry friends.

Gierka drove over an hour to be with the Carpenter family that evening. A friend of Pam's from graduate school, he led the family in a celebration of Niki's life.

"He played music. He read some prayers. We talked about Niki and about a lot of things related to life and death and spirituality," said Mrs. Carpenter. Gierka also encouraged the couple to share funny memories, like how Niki hated to be outdoors. "It lightened the load," Mrs. Carpenter added.

Gierka was a lay chaplain at his Baptist church, and trained as a professional chaplain in a human hospital. But as an animal lover he noticed an unmet need in people grieving for their pets.

"The loss of a pet is not trivial. Serious issues come up," he said. "The kind of grief that a person is feeling isn't quite acceptable in the culture we live in."

Serving veterinary staff

Wearing a badge that says "chaplain," Gierka offers support to anxious pet owners in the waiting room, or after their pet is put to sleep.

He also ministers to hospital staff, whom pet owners often lash out at when they learn their animals must be put down.

"I love the animals," he said, "but my chaplaincy work, at the end of the day, is about caring for the people who care for the animals. This way, we all have someone who cares and that's what love's about."

Children and the elderly are particularly affected by a pet's death, Gierka said.

He remembers a 10-year-old boy who prayed for a miracle to save his dog. But the vet told the boy's mother the animal was dying. Telling her son that God wouldn't answer his prayer with a "yes" was difficult.

"That's a theological problem," said Gierka, and the kind he's trained to help with.

Gierka tries to provide children with a sense of closure when their pets die. He recalled a burial service he performed in a family's backyard. "The children felt they could still play with their pet, because it was still in the yard."

Older pet owners, Gierka said, often count on their pets for companionship and validation. "When that pet dies," Gierka said, "who's relying on them anymore for life?"

Idol contestant, worship leader trusting God, not fame & fortune

By Erin Curry Roach
Baptist Press

Hollywood, Calif. (BP)—Mandisa Hundley, one of 20 contestants to make the latest cut on television's No. 1 show "American Idol," is not ashamed of her faith in Christ.

On a recent episode, she showed a public expression of forgiveness for a caustic judge's insult.

Mandisa—who prefers to be known by her first name—is a regular worship leader at Beth Moore's Living Proof Live conferences throughout the country and one of 10 women and 10 men still competing for a chance to win the contest. She has made it known that a brief bout with fame is nothing compared to her relationship with Jesus Christ. In fact, she put her faith into



Mandisa

action recently when Simon Cowell, one of the show's infamously harsh judges, flippantly remarked about her weight.

"Do we have a bigger stage this year?" he asked on camera after she walked away.

Mandisa, a Nashville native, responded to Cowell's comment the next time she appeared in front of the judges.

"What I want to say to you is that, yes, you hurt me and I cried and it was painful, it really was. But I want you to know that I've forgiven you and that you don't need someone to apologize in order to forgive somebody," she said.

"I figure that if Jesus could die so that all of my wrongs could be forgiven, I can certainly extend that same grace to you," she

added.

Cowell responded by getting up and hugging her, saying, "Mandisa, I'm humbled, really. I'm just so appalling, aren't I?"

Prior to her involvement with the Living Proof conferences, Mandisa worked at LifeWay Christian Resources in Nashville in the customer service department and then later as a contract worker for the women's ministry area.

Chris Adams, women's enrichment ministry and ministers' wives specialist at LifeWay, said it's obvious that Mandisa's love for God "just oozes out of her."

"And when she sings, you know she is just praising the Lord as she does it," Adams said. "You see it on her face. You see it in her demeanor. It's just really fun to watch somebody who has that much talent to use that for the Lord."

Mandisa, Adams said, has

recorded an album that's a sampling of those styles, although the record has been put on hold until her time in the contest is finished.

Inspired by Beth Moore

On the description of contestants at www.idolonfox.com, Mandisa said she has been singing as long as she can remember, but if she could no longer sing, she'd most "love to be an anointed and effective Bible teacher."

Asked who her American Idol is, she replied, "An author and speaker named Beth Moore. She inspires me to live more like Jesus and I want to do the same."

Before she performs, Mandisa said she prays, and her hero is Jesus because "He saved my life."

If she doesn't make it further on American Idol, she said she will continue to sing for a living just as she does now because she loves it.

The *Western Recorder*

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WESTERN RECORDER

Saving marriages

Kentucky groups seek to help couples stay together

by Ken Walker
Staff Correspondent

Lexington—After three couples in his church divorced in the late 1990s, Richard Gaines decided he had to do something about it.

"You know the people involved, it becomes personal," said Gaines, pastor of Consolidated Baptist Church in Lexington. "I heard one (ex-wife and) minister say recently, 'If I had my idea it was going to be this painful, I wouldn't have done it.'"

That adversity prompted Gaines to start a marriage ministry in the Lexington congregation, including a monthly Bible study and fellowship for married couples.

Last January the church hosted a citywide "marriage" retreat with speakers Jeff and Betty Mellroy. This summer Consolidated will sponsor a weekend couples' retreat in Louisville.

Gaines also recently preached a sermon series on family. He said many couples are ignorant about what God requires of spouses and about such concepts as mutual submission, respect and love.

"God has a picture of marriage and how beautiful it can be if we understand Him," Gaines said. "The church has bought into the societal version of marriage and that's not what God says it is."

The desire to enhance matrimony and stem a spiraling divorce rate is behind a grassroots movement that has spread through a number of Kentucky Baptist churches.

Traditionally, the movement to strengthen marriages cuts across religious and social boundaries, according to James Stillwell, who directs marriage enrichment at Immanuel Baptist Church in Lexington.

"I think there's a consensus as a lot of lines on marriage experience," said Stillwell, who also writes for the *Western Recorder's* Family Forum column.

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