



# WESTERN RECORDER

May 2, 2006  
Vol. 180, No. 18

## FOR THE RECORD

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## Most people tell poll they don't need church for spiritual growth

Ventura, Calif (ABP)—Almost three-fourths of Americans claim to be Christians, but only a small fraction consider church the place to deepen their faith, a new survey says.

Fewer than 20 percent of American adults believe participation in a congregation is critical to spiritual growth, and just as few agree that only through participation in a faith community will they reach their full potential, the Barna Research Group reported April 18.

Based on interviews with 1,003 adults from across the nation, the telephone surveys also found that as few as 17 percent of adults said "a person's faith is meant to be developed mainly by involvement in a local church."

What's more, only one-third of all evangelicals—the group most likely to attend church—endorsed the concept.

And while 72 percent of Americans claim they personally have committed themselves to Jesus Christ, fewer than 50 percent attend religious services on a weekly basis.

"These figures emphasize how soft people's commitment to God is," evangelical researcher George Barna said in the report. "Americans are willing to expend some energy in religious activities such as attending church and reading the Bible, and they are willing to throw some money in the offering basket, but when it comes time to truly establishing their priorities and making a tangible commitment to knowing and loving God, most people stop short."

Barna also said the results should challenge church leaders to foster a "more positive community experience." Instead of a generic church model, which emphasizes attendance and experience-driven services, Barna said, churches should try for relationships that are less fluid in nature.

"Jesus' example leaves no room for doubt about the significance of involvement in a faith community," he said, adding that a "biblical understanding of the preeminence of community life" takes strategic planning and time.

The survey, conducted in January, queried a random sampling of people 18 years and older living in the continental United States.

## Picture this



**PHOTO EVANGELISTS** Volunteers recently braved the crowd of 800,000 people along the Ohio River to take digital photos of those attending Thunder Over Louisville, the annual air show and fireworks display. Photo subjects then were instructed to visit JoePix.com, a Web site where they can download the photo and read an explanation about Christianity.

■ Above: Mike Lecompte, a member of Baptist Campus Ministry at the University of Louisville, takes a photo along the waterfront. ■ Right: Josh Yuen (middle) and Melodie Hills (left) talk to a group who had their photo taken. This is the second year Long Run Baptist Association and U of L Baptist Campus Ministry took part in JoePix at Thunder. (Photos by Jonathan Johnston)



## Volunteer 'photo evangelists' reach Thunder attendees

By Dannah Prather  
Partnerships Editor

Louisville—Some people are sharing the gospel as fast as you can say, "Cheese."

Armed with digital cameras and a Web site, a team of Louisville "photo evangelists" braved the crowded banks of the Ohio River recently during Thunder Over Louisville, the air show and fireworks display that opens the annual Kentucky Derby Festival.

Rather than handing out tracts, these volunteers took group pictures and handed out business cards for a Web site called JoePix where people can download an image of themselves at the event.

Capitalizing on the digital age, this Atlanta-based ministry offers visitors to the Web site an opportunity to view an online presentation

of the gospel.

This marked the second year for the JoePix/Thunder outreach, sponsored by Long Run Baptist Association. Last year, approximately 400 of the 631 people who had their photos made, accessed the JoePix gospel presentation online.

"It's great for people who are a little intimidated by evangelism or are just learning," said Christa Webb, a member of Bethany Baptist Church and administrative assistant for Long Run Association.

She said telling a group of strangers: "Y'all get together and we'll take your picture. It's totally free and there's no catch," works like a charm.

Most of the "photo evangelists" were University of Louisville students involved in Baptist Campus Ministry, according to Bill Noe,

U of L campus minister.

Some of the BCM students still were spiritually revved up to share the gospel after a spring break outreach in Panama City, Fla. "They have a desire to share their faith," Noe said. "I told them, 'Here's an opportunity right in our backyard.'"

Launched in 2002, JoePix provides digital cameras, instruction cards, caps, t-shirts and training for volunteers.

"The training really does equip you," Webb said. "After you do it four or five times, it's locked in."

In a two-hour training session on the day of Thunder Over Louisville, JoePix staffer Amy Gagel prepared volunteers for the outreach.

"The beauty of JoePix is that you can use it with your 80-year-old grandpa." □ See Photo evangelists ... Page 3

Dated material. Please deliver by Wednesday, May 3.

## 2006 SBC preview: 'Everyone Can,' part 2

**Greensboro, N.C. (BP)**—Focusing on the goal of winning and baptizing 1 million people in a year, Southern Baptist Convention messengers will gather at the Greensboro Coliseum in Greensboro, N.C., June 13-14, for their 2006 annual meeting.

It will mark the fifth SBC annual meeting in North Carolina, but the first since 1916.

"My quest is going to be to keep the collective head, heart and eyes of the messengers on our main business of witnessing, winning and baptizing," SBC President Bobby Welch told Baptist Press. "I think that's especially critical in light of the ACP report."

The most recent Annual Church Profile showed Southern Baptists baptized 16,000 fewer people in 2005 than the previous year.

This year's meeting will be the second consecutive year Southern Baptists have gathered under the banner of "Everyone Can"—a call for all Baptists to share their faith. Also, for the second straight year, baptisms will be held throughout the sessions in cooperation with local churches.

This year's theme is "Everyone Can ... I'm It!" The "Everyone Can" challenge to win and baptize 1 million people officially began last October and ends the final week of September, which marks the end of the SBC's church year.

Welch will deliver his president's address Wednesday evening, the

same night the Southern Baptist International Mission Board gives its report and presentation. Contemporary Christian band Casting Crowns also will perform that night.

### Crossover evangelism effort

This year's Crossover evangelistic blitz on June 10-11 will involve hundreds of volunteers in witnessing efforts in Greensboro and the surrounding cities, of Winston-Salem and High Point.

Among other highlights of the convention:

■ Southern Baptists will elect a new president to succeed Welch. Convention leaders typically announce a nominee several months before the annual meeting, but no presidential candidate has officially announced plans to be nominated this year.

■ A larger-than-life statue of a young Billy Graham will be unveiled. The nine-foot-tall statue eventually will be moved to a location near LifeWay Christian Resources.

■ Fred Luter, pastor of Franklin Avenue Baptist Church in New Orleans, will preach. Franklin Avenue's building had eight feet of water inside it during the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina.

■ Messengers will be asked to consider a report from the Ad Hoc Cooperative Program Committee that encourages "all Southern Baptist churches to adopt a missional mindset as they contribute at least

10 percent of their undesignated receipts through the Cooperative Program to local and global missions." The report also encourages "the election of officers at the state and national level whose churches give at least 10 percent of their undesignated receipts through the Cooperative Program."

■ Donald Wilton, pastor of First Baptist Church in Spartanburg, S.C., will deliver the convention message.

■ Four pastors will deliver evangelism-themed "Everyone Can" sermons: Luter; Gene Mims, pastor of Judson Baptist Church in Nashville; James Walker, pastor of Biltmore Baptist Church, Arden, N.C.; and David Cox, co-pastor of First Baptist Church in Daytona Beach, Fla.

Churches can register their messengers online at [www.sbc.net](http://www.sbc.net) to avoid waiting at the counter upon arrival at the convention. By registering online, the SBC Web site gives a church a messenger reference number form to be printed out and presented by each messenger at the SBC registration booth in exchange for a nametag and a set of ballots. A church-authorized representative must complete all online registration.

Messengers wishing to propose resolutions must submit them at least 15 days before the annual meeting. Detailed guidelines on submitting resolutions are available at [www.sbcannualmeeting.net](http://www.sbcannualmeeting.net).

## Pastors' Conference to highlight 'different ways' to share gospel

**Greensboro, N.C. (BP)**—Southern Baptist Pastors' Conference President Bryant Wright is seeking to attract both young and old and provide contemporary and traditional worship during the June 11-12 Pastors' Conference.

"We're trying to address the different ways—different styles of worship and different approaches to ministry—in reaching today's world for Christ," Wright said. "Surely, there are many ways we can worship the Lord with a Christ-centered, biblically based focus as long as the gospel is not compromised."

Wright, pastor of Johnson Ferry Baptist Church in Marietta, Ga., said the conference will feature blended music on Sunday evening, contemporary music Monday afternoon and traditional music Monday night. For the first time, it also will feature breakout sessions, which will be held Monday morning.

The breakout sessions will include more than 10 topics, including "Reaching Today's World Through Differing Views of Election," with Southern Baptist Theological Seminary President Al Mohler and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary President Paige Patterson, as well as a session on confronting The Da Vinci Code led by Ben Witherington of Asbury Theological Seminary in Wilmore. Other breakout sessions will address such issues as men's ministries, women's ministries, leadership development, multi-campus churches, church discipline and apologetics.

The breakout sessions and the

Monday afternoon session will be held at the Sheraton Greensboro (the convention hotel). The remainder of the Pastors' Conference sessions will be held at the Greensboro Coliseum. The Pastors' Wives session of the Pastors' Conference will be held Monday at 8:30 a.m. at War Memorial Auditorium, which is near the coliseum.

This year's Pastors' Conference will feature several well-known pastors, including Tony Evans of Oak Cliff Bible Fellowship in Dallas; Johnny Hunt of First Baptist Church of Woodstock, Ga.; David Jeremiah of Shadow Mountain Community Church in Ed Cajon, Calif.; Rick Warren of Saddleback Church in Lake Forest, Calif.; and Ed Young Sr. of Second Baptist Church of Houston.

Monday afternoon's speakers are Erwin McManus, pastor of the Mosaic congregation in Los Angeles; Nelson Searcy, pastor of The Journey in New York City; and Kerry Shook, pastor of the Fellowship of The Woodlands in Woodlands, Texas.

"My desire is to bridge the gap between the emerging young leaders and those who have served us so well for many years," Wright said.

Recording artist David Phelps will sing at the Sunday evening and Monday evening sessions. The Monday evening session also will feature a video tribute to former Southern Baptist Convention President Adrian Rogers and a testimony by his widow, Joyce Rogers.

Additional information about the 2006 Pastors' Conference is available online at [www.reachingtoday.org](http://www.reachingtoday.org).

## Fauls named to NAMB presidential search committee

**Alpharetta, Ga. (BP)**—Kentuckian Greg Fauls, pastor of Bellevue Baptist Church in Owensboro, is among trustees of the Southern Baptist North American Mission Board named to a presidential search committee.

Citing "great anticipation for the future of missions in North America," NAMB trustee chairman Barry Holcomb appointed both a presidential search committee and an executive level policy committee.

The search committee will seek a successor to former NAMB President Robert Reccord who resigned April 17 in the wake of a trustee report that detailed concerns about his management of the agency.

The committee will be chaired by former trustee chairman Terry Fox, pastor of Immanuel Baptist Church in Topeka, Kan., and co-chaired by David Crump of Broken Arrow, Okla. Other NAMB trustees serving on the nine-member committee are Bill Curtis of Florence, S.C.; Ellie Ficken of Montgomery, Ala.; Barbara McCormick of Tigerville, S.C.; Michael Palmer of Salmon, Idaho; Ryan Palmer of Baltimore, Md.; and Jeff Shirley of Rockwall, Texas.

Larry Thomas, director of missions for Little Red River Baptist Association in Heber Springs, Ark., will chair the executive level policy committee. Ron Wilson of Thousand Oaks, Calif., will serve as vice chairman. Other members are Reva Daniel of Clinton, Miss.; Mack McCarthick of Lovington, N.M.; Tim Patterson of Jacksonville, Fla.; Paul Pope of Bonne Terre, Mo.; David Thompson of Old Hickory, Tenn.; and Rob Rogers of Rincon, Ga.

Holcomb said the policy committee "will be tasked with recommending healthy, accountability-focused policies for NAMB's next executive leader." He said the group "will fulfill the spirit of the recommendations" in the board's trustee task force report which was adopted by the full board in March.

Holcomb, pastor of Bethany Baptist Church in Andalusia, Ala., said he believes the committees represent the diversity of Southern Baptist life.

"It is my desire that all Southern Baptists feel they have representation on these committees, which are composed of laymen, laywomen and pastors from large and small churches, from areas of North America where Southern Baptist work is strong as well as new work areas," he said.

Holcomb encouraged Southern Baptists to pray for members of the two committees as well as the entire NAMB board of trustees, which will meet in regular session this week in New York.

## WMU missions celebration to launch 'Live the Call'

**Greensboro, N.C. (BP)**—National Woman's Missionary Union will launch its new two-year emphasis, "Live the Call," as part of its 2006 missions celebration, June 11-12 at the Sheraton Greensboro Hotel at Four Seasons in Greensboro, N.C.

"WMU will follow up on the 'Christ Followers' emphasis with a new focus on what it means to understand, embrace and live the call that God has placed in each of our lives," said Wanda Lee, national WMU executive director. "It will be an exciting time as we celebrate all that God is doing through the missions efforts of so many in our churches as well as through our mission boards."

An overview of the new emphasis will be woven into four sessions, each featuring testimonies from missionaries and missions leaders, worship and music. Breakout sessions will offer interactive learning experiences, opportunities for personal and leadership development, and ways to expand one's missions involvement.

Registration and hands-on missions opportunities begin at 1 p.m. Sunday. Those who arrive Sunday afternoon can participate in a variety of options, including mission projects and opportunities to visit with missionaries. Additional options available on Monday will include a "treasure hunt" for missions resources, a self-guided prayer demonstration and a WMU/LifeWay bookstore.

Pepper Choplin, musician/songwriter and minister of music at Greystone Baptist Church in Raleigh, N.C., will be the worship leader for the celebration.

In addition to Lee and national WMU President Kaye Miller, featured session leaders will include Marvinna Hooper, ESL instructor and former missionary to Honduras; Archie Jones, former missionary to Chile, and his wife, Caroline, missions innovator for national WMU; Rosalie Hunt, president of Alabama WMU and former missionary; Donna Swarts, president of Mississippi WMU and coordinator of the Mississippi Disaster Relief Task Force; and the 2006 national ActsUp panelists.

The first general session will begin at 7 p.m. on June 11. The last general session will be 7 p.m., June 12.

For more information, call (888) 968-0322 or visit [www.wmu.com/annualmeeting](http://www.wmu.com/annualmeeting).

## Kentucky WMU prepares for partnership with South Korea

By Dannah Prather  
Partnerships Editor

**Harrodsburg**—Leaders of both Kentucky and Korea Woman's Missionary Unions say their recently announced partnership is an answer to prayers from both sides of the world.

Kentucky WMU Executive Director Joy Bolton said she was preparing for her prayer time one morning when she downloaded a four-page proposal for the partnership.

"I pray the prayer of Jabez all the time about WMU," Bolton told those attending the WMU annual meeting April 22 in Harrodsburg.

Found in 1 Chronicles 4, the prayer asks God, among other things, to expand the territory of influence of a man named Jabez.

"I cried that morning because I knew that God was indeed answering my prayer to expand our territory."

Prayer is a major component of the Kentucky-Korea partnership, Bolton told those at the annual meeting.

"You are going to see that when a state determines to adopt in prayer an unreached part of the world what a tremendous difference it can make," Bolton said.

She noted that West Virginia and Georgia WMU prayed for evangelistic breakthroughs in Mongolia and Tibet, respectively, with great success.

Sook Jae Lee, executive director of Korea Woman's Missionary Union, said Korean Baptist women have much to offer in the area of prayer. In addition to "daybreak" prayer meetings during the week, Korea WMU members meet for prayer each Friday evening for at least three hours. Lee said the sessions often last the entire night.

Atop their prayer list is the reunification of Communist North Korea to South Korea, Lee said.



**KOREA CONTINGENT** Kentucky WMU President Cathy Chinn (far right), joined those attending the annual meeting in welcoming four members of Korea WMU. They are (from left): Executive Director Sook Jae Lee, President In Sook Kim, Treasurer Young Ok Park and selling committee chairwoman Sung Aee Chung.

"We hear that women and children are dying every day without food and the gospel," Lee told the Kentucky crowd. "Please pray for peaceful reunification, (and that) Korean Baptist churches and WMU will be prepared to witness and minister to North Koreans when reunification comes."

In addition to prayer, Kentucky will send teams to Korea to help train WMU members and leaders, and to assist in children's camps. Likewise, Korea WMU members will travel to Kentucky to observe and assist local ministries. Some Korean children also will participate in Kentucky WMU summer camps.

Funding from the WMU Foundation, and additional help from national WMU will assist Kentucky in the partnership.

A Korean WMU member will intern in Kentucky, receiving hands-on experience and financial assis-

tance for formal education.

"You have a spirit to do local, national and international missions," Lee told the Kentuckians. "I'd like to catch some of your spirit and be able to inspire Korean women to be more concerned (to create) more opportunities for service and ministry."

Lee said she considers the Kentucky-Korea partnership a way to thank Southern Baptists for their decades of missionary service in her country.

"I am a product of the work of Southern Baptist missions in Korea," she said, beginning to cry.

"I met Jesus Christ through a Southern Baptist missionary. She helped a middle school girl who wanted to learn conversational English."

Like so many Kentucky Baptists, one of Lee's first spiritual experiences was at a Girls in Action camp. But Lee's experience was in Korea,

not Kentucky.

Through support from national and Alabama WMU, Lee studied nursing in the States and attended Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas. "Because they trained one person, sharing their time, money, concern and love, I could be a WMU leader in Korea," said Lee who has led Korea WMU for 10 years.

"I'm full of appreciation to you Southern Baptist sisters and brothers in America for sending missionaries to Korea. How can I pay you back?"

Lee answered her own question by telling Kentuckians about a new initiative begun in 2005 to train Baptist women in China.

"I appreciate God for giving us an opportunity to pay you back by helping other women in the Third World to start WMU and missions ministries," she said

## Photo evangelists use digital ministry to witness at Thunder

Continued from page 1

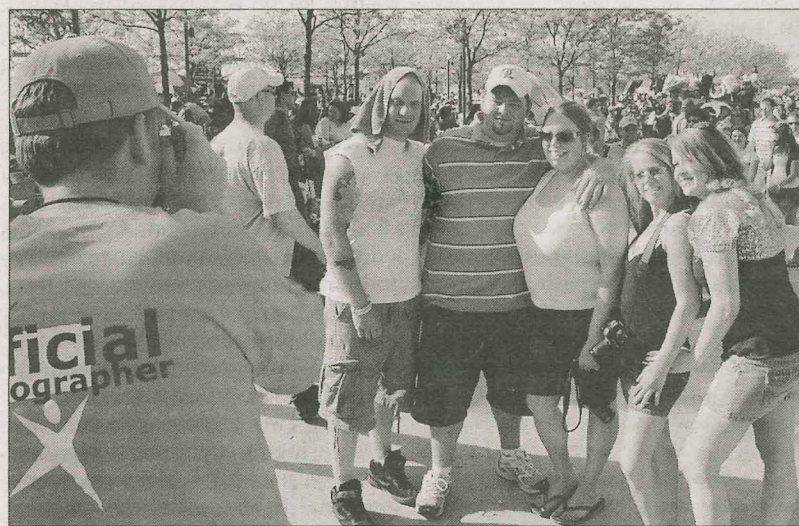
old grandmother who has never touched a camera in her life or an 18-year-old person who thinks he can do anything," she said.

In her two years with JoePix, Gagel has trained many college students who worked tailgating crowds before football games. "Most people don't think about bringing a camera to these events," she said. "You are there to capture that moment."

"I just love the easiness of the transition from taking someone's photo to sharing the gospel," she said. "It's so much easier than walking up to someone and saying, 'Here's a tract.'"

College football games and events such as Thunder are conducive to group photos. JoePix provides a way for one photo to deliver the gospel perhaps to dozens of people.

One person in the group receives the instruction card with the access code. After that person downloads the photo, he or she e-mails the instructions and code to other members of the group—or other friends and family—so they can download



**SAY CHEESE** Todd Robertson, an associate pastor at Walnut Street Baptist Church in Louisville, snaps a photo for a group of people enjoying Thunder Over Louisville April 22. The JoePix ministry provides digital cameras, t-shirts, caps and training for volunteer "photo evangelists" who offer free digital images—and a means to hear the gospel—to people attending large-scale events. (Photo by Jonathan Johnston)

the same photo.

JoePix refers to this as "viral evangelism."

In 2005, more than 13,000 people accessed the JoePix gospel presentation, Gagel said. The ministry estimates that 60 percent of the

photos taken by "photo evangelists" are downloaded.

### Easy introduction to evangelism

JoePix works for the timid first-time evangelist, Noe said. "If you want, all day you can take pictures

and get cards into as many hands as possible." It also provides an introduction for believers who are more experienced and comfortable sharing their faith with strangers.

"Everyone wants to know, 'Why are you doing this? What are you getting out of this? It can't be totally free,'" Noe said. Responding to those comments and questions opens wider the door to share the gospel face-to-face.

Noe said he responded to those common questions with: "We hope to share with you what is most important to us, the love of Christ."

In addition to the two Thunder Over Louisville outreaches, U of L BCM took JoePix to last year's national meeting of Future Farmers of America meeting in Louisville.

Noe said the day-long, relaxed setting for Thunder works well for this type of evangelism.

"The unique thing about Thunder that makes it a great match (for JoePix) is that people are down at the waterfront just hanging out all day long," Noe said. "They are more open to talking and are willing to have a drawn-out conversation while they wait for the fireworks."



### Western Recorder, KBC win awards for writing, design

**Richmond, Va.**—The Western Recorder staff recently received three awards for design and writing from Baptist Communicators Association.

Dannah Prather's article, "The longest yards: Walking aisle stops some potential members," received first place in the Interpretive Reporting, Single Article category. Prather is the Western Recorder's partnerships editor.

The staff also received a finalist award for the State Baptist Newspaper Design category. And News Director David Winfrey received a finalist award for the Newspaper Series category for coverage of Kentucky Baptists' response to Hurricane Katrina.

Other Kentucky awards included Kentucky Baptist Convention Communications Director Robert Reeves and freelance artist Susan Coleman, who received a finalist award in the Brochure Design, Three Colors or More category for the brochure "CP Helps Change Lives."

KBC Web Specialist Brenda Smith received a finalist award in the Web Site Design category for the KBC's Web site.

Baptist Communicators Association exists to educate and inspire communicators in Baptist agencies and churches. For more information, visit [baptistcommunicators.org](http://baptistcommunicators.org).

## WESTERN RECORDER

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Louisville, KY 40253  
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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.

To register change of address: Send the mailing label from page 1, along with your new address, to the subscription department at the Western Recorder address.

To give news tips: Call (502) 489-3422, toll-free (866) 489-3422 or write the editor or news director.

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## Worshipping at Union Band Baptist Church

By Thom Rainer

Howardstown (BP)—I did not accept any invitations to preach on Easter Sunday. Instead, my family and I traveled more than 250 miles one way to attend Union Band Baptist Church located near the small community of Howardstown, Ky.

The caravan included our two sons, Sam and Art, their fiancées, Erin and Sarah, my wife Nellie Jo and me. Our youngest son, Jess, was not able to be with us.

Why would I make a roundtrip journey of 500 miles to attend this church? I admit the first reason is that our oldest son, Sam, is the pastor. But there is much more to this story than familial loyalty and pride. There simply is something special about the church.

Union Band Baptist Church will be 200 years old this summer. The church is located just a few miles from the birthplace of Abraham Lincoln. I have no idea how many pastors the church had before Sam, and neither do the members. Sam works in the energy commodity futures world during the daytime. He is a student at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville on weekday evenings. But on weekends he is at Union Band.

Sam loves the people of Union Band Baptist Church. And they love him. When he first started preaching at the church nearly a year ago,

only six people were in attendance. On this Easter Sunday, 21 people celebrated the Resurrection at the church. And there was little doubt that there was an abundance of love among the "large" crowd.

## FIRST PERSON

I love attending Union Band when I can. I am not the president of LifeWay Christian Resources at that church. I am simply "Sam's dad," a title that is among my favorite. There is no pretense and no class citizenry. We are all just plain folks—good Christian plain folks.

Sam is patiently and lovingly teaching and preaching the Word at Union Band. He typically preaches and teaches verse by verse through a book of the Bible. On this Sunday, all parental prejudice aside, he did a masterful job of preaching the Resurrection story of Luke 24.

No, the little church is not perfect. They struggle financially. They are struggling to get an evangelistic outreach ministry going in the community.

But the church does have much to offer. There are no personal agendas. There are no conflicts that divide the church. And the people are not wealthy enough to be distracted by the material things of the world. They have a dynamic ministry of prayer.

Sam is asked from time to time when he might move on to a more "significant" ministry. He humbly

## IMB action 'troubling'

We just finished reading the April 25 issue of the Western Recorder and are troubled by the decision of Southern Baptist International Mission Board officials to call for Wyman and Michelle Dobbs to resign as missionaries to Guinea.

Maybe we are uninformed, but we thought the mission of the IMB was to further the cause

of Christ around the world.

The targeting of the Dobbses for not being "Baptist" enough reminds us of the Pharisees targeting Jesus for not being Jewish enough. We are Baptist by choice, but believe the way to Jesus is the acceptance of Him as Savior, not following some manmade doctrine.

It will be a pity and shame if this couple is deprived of our support for them to follow



## Reaching Kentucky for Christ

It was rewarding to be a part of the Kentucky Woman's Missionary Union's recent annual meeting at Harrodsburg Baptist Church. There were many key moments:

■ National WMU President Kaye Miller addressed participants.

■ Cathy Chinn was honored as outgoing Kentucky WMU president.

■ Pat Reaves of Louisville was elected as the new state WMU president.

■ A partnership with the WMU of South Korea was launched.

■ There were inspiring testimonies and hundreds of children present who reminded participants of the value of missions education today.

The strong emphasis on the Kentucky Baptist Convention's Hispanic ministries and the work of the WMU with Hispanic women and children especially captured my attention. The Hispanic band and singers were outstanding, as was the panel discussion with KBC Hispanic ministries consultant Grundy Janes and three

KBC Hispanic missionaries who are jointly sponsored by the Southern Baptist North American Mission Board and local associations.

Last year, 22 Hispanic pastors/leaders graduated from the KBC Hispanic Bible Institute. Forty-five are enrolled at two locations this year, with another site to open in Bowling Green this summer. There currently are 74 Hispanic ministry centers and 10 new Hispanic churches.

Please pray for Larry Baker, director of the KBC's new work and associational missions department, and all who participate in church planting with language groups and with strategic church planting for Anglos.

On another note, I recently was invited by Pastor C.L. Jordan to speak at the missions conference of Greater Good Hope Baptist Church in Louisville. It was gratifying to see the children involved in learning about missions.

I will never forget the statement by minister of education Marcus

Webster's son, Martin, that he wanted to be a missionary. Please pray that our children and grandchildren will learn about missions and that many will respond to the call to serve.

I also recently had the privilege of speaking during the homecoming at Calvary Baptist Church in London. Pastor Harlan Avera has led the church in significant growth and missions support during the past 12 years.

The church exceeded its homecoming Sunday school attendance goal of 300 and had about 440 in worship. Two teenagers were baptized, bringing the total baptisms for the year to 32, and another person came for baptism. The church has an excellent music ministry under the direction of John Avera.

The church's youth ministry has exploded under the leadership of Kris Gilbert. They have plans for a multi-state youth event to be conducted in London, with nationally known musicians and speakers.

Please pray for pastors and church leaders as they seek the best ways to reach people for Christ.

Thom Rainer is president of LifeWay Christian Resources of the Southern Baptist Convention

Christ in the work He has called them to do.

This is very troubling for us.

Randell and Naomi Edwards Dawson  
Paducah

## What are you thinking?

The Western Recorder considers letters on any subject for publication, provided they don't make a personal attack. The maximum length for a letter is 300 words. Submit by mail, Box 43969, Louisville, KY 40253; or e-mail, wesrec@earthlink.net.

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Please pray for pastors and church leaders as they seek the best ways to reach people for Christ.

Bill Mackey is executive director of the Kentucky Baptist Convention

## FAMILY

## What if my child doesn't want to attend college?

By Jeremy White

Imagine the dilemma of parents who have been saving diligently for their son to attend college. He graduated from high school last year and currently is working. He says he has no interest in attending college. Should they make him do so? How can they encourage him to attend college?

Understandably, it's a disappointment for parents when their child doesn't share in their dreams for his life. But it's his life now to make decisions—and to live with the consequences. The parents can point out to him many studies showing that college-educated people earn more throughout a lifetime.

I tried to give such a couple a bit of encouragement to keep in mind. Many people do not attend college and have successful careers and productive lives. Learning a trade certainly can provide many job paths. (Just try to schedule a skilled plumber or carpenter sometime and you will see how much in demand they are.)

Some children need a year or two off from school to further mature, realize their own talents and develop their own dreams. For others, there's nothing like a hard, manual construction job to convince them that college doesn't sound so bad after all.

Many entrepreneurs have enjoyed spectacular success with no college. If a child has an entrepreneurial bent and talent, then he could be the next Bill Gates (who dropped out of Harvard) or Sam Walton (who did not have a college degree).

I did not recommend that the parents make the saved money in the college fund immediately available to their son. If he knows about this fund, the parents should remove any motivation for him getting the fund at this point in his life.

He might decide later to use it for college or the parents could decide to make it available to another child. If he never attends college, they might choose to give it to him later for other useful purposes such as a down payment on a home, a mission trip or business start-up costs.

Not everyone has the same gifts, talents and vocational interests. It's not a biblical mandate that everyone attend a university. God makes each person uniquely with a unique calling.

Jeremy White is a partner with Blythe, White & Associates in Paducah



## Self-awareness is first step in effective anger management

**Q: I often find myself getting angry about insignificant stuff. I know these actions impact my wife and kids. How can I keep my anger under control?**

Anger is a normal emotion experienced to different degrees. The expression of anger is a matter of choice. Our choices determine whether we sin against God and others.

### MARRIAGE

If we yell when we are angry, then we have made a choice. If we try to explore the feelings behind our anger, then we also have made a choice. There are several steps to help manage out-of-control anger:

#### Increase self-awareness about anger.

When you feel angry, pay attention to your body. Anger is a physiological response to a perceived threat. What is happening in your body? Where do you feel the anger (jaws, chest, neck and shoulders, clenched fists)?

The tension you feel in these muscles can be relaxed. Begin to consciously relax those muscles. Slow the pace of your breathing, open your hands, open and relax your mouth, change your body position to a more relaxed one.

**Take control of your actions.** When you feel like exploding, your anger is in control rather than you. Get some distance between you and others. Channel the angry energy into exercising, walking, running, doing chores or anything else active. Use this time alone to get control of your thoughts.

**Engage your brain.** You can choose your thoughts. Rather than focusing on the anger and reliving it, shift your focus to calming thoughts and images.

When you are calm, explore your anger. What were you angry about? What other feelings are behind your anger? Is there hurt, fear, doubt, confusion or disappointment? It might be helpful to explore this with another person in addition to prayer. Seek God's help in revealing your vulnerable feelings.

Anger can be a signal God has given us to learn more about ourselves and our relationships. We must practice self-control and develop that fruit of the Spirit in order for anger to be helpful and not harmful.—Valerie Vincent

**Q: Are there any helpful books for someone going through a divorce?**

Start with Jim Smoke's book, "Growing through Divorce." Always encouraging, he wrote his first edition back in 1974 when there was almost nothing else written on this subject. His recent update includes discussion questions.

### SINGLES

An extensive Bible study is Harold Ivan Smith's "A Time for Healing." Like Smoke's book, it is best used in groups. Smith's stance is that the decisions you make determine how you handle the grief of multiple losses.

For an autopsy of your marriage, try "Why Marriages Succeed and Fail" by John Gottman. Notice his discussion of the "four horsemen of the apocalypse": criticism, contempt, defensiveness and stonewalling.

A Christian view of interpreting your past is John Trent's "LifeMapping." Help for living in the present is Spencer Johnson's "The Precious Present."

Everett Worthington's "Five Steps to Forgiveness" teaches the mechanics of moving from unforgiveness to forgiveness, a decision you will want to make at some point.

For dealing with anxiety and depression, "The Anxiety & Phobia Workbook" by Edward Bourne and "Feeling Good" by David Burns offer helpful suggestions on coping.

"The Parents Book about Divorce" by Richard Gardner provides wisdom for single parents. Neil Clark Warren's "Finding the Love of Your Life" can help you slow down the process of mate selection to thoughtful issues of compatibility rather than short-term connections based on chemistry alone.—James Stillwell

Family Forum writers are:

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



## Cumberlands tackles 'complicated' issue

"It's complicated," University of the Cumberlands President Jim Taylor acknowledged during a recent phone interview with the Western Recorder. His comment, of course, is an understatement.

The Kentucky Baptist Convention-affiliated school has been the focus of media attention since expelling a student April 6 who was trumpeting his homosexuality on his Internet site. News of his dismissal broke at the same time the Kentucky General Assembly was adopting a state budget that included \$10 million to help the university build a pharmacy school on its Williamsburg campus as well as an additional \$1 million for pharmacy student scholarships.

After the initial flurry of media coverage, Cumberlands officials quietly negotiated with the student to allow him to take his final exams and earn credit for his semester's classes. The student, in turn, reportedly agreed not to sue the university.

As Gov. Ernie Fletcher prepared to veto \$370 million in state-approved projects included in the two-year, \$18 billion budget, some observers called for the governor to include Cumberlands' pharmacy school in the cuts. Fletcher opted against the veto, choosing instead to hold the funds until a court ruling determines whether it's constitutional for state funds to go to a private, religious school.

In addition to the suit proposed by Fletcher, the Kentucky Fairness Alliance, a group that supports gay rights, filed suit against Fletcher, claiming that direct government funding of a religious school violates the state constitution.

While the University of the Cumberlands is not named as a defendant in either suit, its \$11 million budget allocation is referenced in both cases. Campbellsville University, also affiliated with the KBC, also was cited in the state's suit for a \$317,900 budget allocation to provide training services at the school's Technology Training Center.

But that's not all. Citing a "budget appropriations process error," Campbellsville officials announced late last week that they were declining the state budget funds. School officials requested that "immediate action be taken to remove the institution by name and point of reference in any pending legal proceedings."

Yes, it's complicated.

On the homosexual rights front, it's clear that Cumberlands has a right as a private school to set its own policies based on the school's values. From a legal perspective, homosexuality is not a protected civil right in the commonwealth.

Questions also have been raised about whether Cumberlands' pharmacy school can be accredited if the school's admissions policies discriminate against homosexuals. Initial indications are that the school's policies will not be a stumbling block to accreditation by the Accreditation Council for Pharmacy Education.

The most significant remaining question concerns church-state separation. Regardless of future court decisions, should a Baptist-related school accept state funds to construct campus facilities?

According to University of the Cumberlands President Jim Taylor, "We don't see any reason why it can't be a faith-based initiative. ... There are public and private institutions, but we all do public good. We believe this will further the agenda to do public good in an under-served population."

KBC President Paul Chitwood, a Cumberlands alumnus, told the Lexington-Herald Leader he was "very encouraged" that Gov. Fletcher left the pharmacy school's allocation in the budget. He added that Fletcher was "wise to seek a ruling on this issue as a means of protecting both the state and the University of the Cumberlands" in case of future legal challenges.

Herschel York, Chitwood's predecessor as KBC president, cautioned that "I always hate to see Baptist schools take anything from the government. The minute you allow government money in, government control comes in."

If it's a choice between accepting \$11 million in state funds or maintaining the school's Christian principles, there is no doubt the University of the Cumberlands will remain a strong, bold Christian institution. But school officials remain optimistic they can do both—legally and morally.

What do you think? Should Baptist schools accept state funds for programs that "do public good"? Where do you draw the line on church-state separation issues? Feel free to share your views in letters to Western Recorder's Baptist Forum column.

### STRAIGHT FROM THE EDITOR



Tretnis Henderson

## One step of obedience leads to more

By John Forrester

**Kotzebue, Alaska (BP)**—My name is John Forrester, and I am a Southern Baptist North American Mission Board church starter strategist serving in the Arctic of Alaska.

Near the end of the summer of 2005, a young Eskimo man named Glenn came to my church. He told me he had been living in the lower 48 and had given his life to Christ down south at a Baptist church but that he had to return home to Alaska to be baptized.

Affirming his belief that to be obedient to the Lord, he needed to follow through with baptism, he asked me if I would baptize him. I agreed with him about his need for baptism, but told him our baptistry was rotten and the church did not have the funds to purchase a new one yet. None of the other churches in town had a working baptistry either.

Glenn responded by saying we could use the ocean, which is located just across the street from the church. I reminded him that even

though it was the end of August, the water in the ocean would be very cold. Remember—this is in the Arctic.

"I am an Eskimo," he responded.

"I can handle it."

So we set up a date a couple of days later, which by now was the first of September. We had a visiting mission team from Georgia working with us that week, and the visiting pastor asked if he could go in the water with me. I said he could.

We conducted the baptism on a Tuesday evening. The entire mission team came out of the church to watch, as did several others from the church and some unchurched people. Approximately 25 to 30 people were watching.

The visiting pastor was wearing insulated waders, but I did not have any waders—I just wore jeans and a shirt. The guest preacher had a thermometer on his boot that registered 40 degrees. The air temperature was 28 degrees and the wind was blowing hard.

Glenn stripped down to just some

swimming shorts and no shirt. The visiting preacher prayed, and then I baptized Glenn. After I took him down under the water, he came up shaking so hard I thought he was going into shock. But he was just excited to be baptized.

The visiting mission team videotaped the whole thing. When Glenn came out of the water, he got in front of the video camera and shouted, "My name is Glenn and I just got baptized for Jesus in the Arctic Ocean!"

You know, it seems strange—while the water was cold and the wind made the temperature feel even colder, the joy of baptizing Glenn took the sting out of the bitter weather.

With every salvation decision, heaven rejoices as a new member comes into the Kingdom of God, and Satan screams.

Glenn has a burning desire to share Jesus with everyone he can. He even believes that God is calling him into the ministry.

It is awesome how one step of obedience can lead to more.

Forrester is a North American Mission Board church starter strategist in Alaska

## Evangelical leaders push Senate for marriage amendment

Washington (RNS)—A broad group of religious leaders is making a national push against gay marriage one month before the U.S. Senate is set to consider a constitutional amendment to ban such unions.

Fifty religious leaders have signed a petition, released last week, that urges the Senate to approve the Marriage Protection Amendment, which would amend the Constitution to define marriage as between one man and one woman.

As in past efforts, the campaign is led by prominent evangelicals, including Focus on the Family founder James Dobson; Ted Haggard, president of the National Association

of Evangelicals; and Richard Land, president of the Southern Baptists' Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission.

Other signatories include Jewish, Episcopal, Orthodox and Lutheran leaders, as well as Apostle Russell Nelson, representing the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

The Senate isn't expected to have the 67 votes required for passage when the measure comes up on June 6. Still, the issue resonates with the Republican base and it increased the turnout in the 2004 elections, when 11 states passed constitutional amendments outlawing gay marriage.

On April 25, leaders of the campaign said they will mail millions of postcards asking religious believers to contact their senators to support the amendment.

"Cross-culturally, virtually every known human society understands marriage as a union of male and female," said the petition, organized by the Washington-based Alliance for Marriage.

It goes on to say, "We have recently watched with extreme alarm the growing trend of some courts to make marriage something it is not: an elastic concept able to accommodate almost any individual preference. This does not so much

modify or even weaken marriage, as abolish it."

The Senate defeated a similar bill in 2004. In order to pass, the measure needs a two-thirds vote in both the House and Senate. If approved by Congress, it then would need to be ratified by 38 states.

Speaking at a seminar on religion in America, Land said he is optimistic Congress and the states will approve a federal marriage amendment. He noted that 40 states have approved either marriage protection amendments or laws preventing "same-sex marriage" from being recognized within their borders.

With additional reporting by Baptist Press

### NATIONAL NOTES

**Evangelical coalition: Global warming worries overblown.** A coalition of evangelical religious leaders has launched an education campaign that will try to persuade pastors and churchgoers that dire predictions about global warming are overblown. The Interfaith Stewardship Alliance, supported by Focus on the Family founder James Dobson and others, announced that its network will provide information that can be distributed to parishioners or used in sermons. It's the latest salvo in an escalating battle among evangelicals over the environment. In February, a more moderate evangelical group, the Evangelical Climate Initiative, was launched. It advocates action to combat global warming, which it says could result in the deaths of millions of people.

**Methodist membership drops for 36th straight year.** Methodist Church membership and attendance are slightly down again in 2004, according to a new report. The United Methodist Church said membership dropped .81 percent, to a little more than 8 million, and attendance fell .96 percent. It marked the 36th consecutive decline since the denomination was formed in 1968. The UMC is still the third largest church in the United States, behind the Catholic and Southern Baptist denominations, according to the National Council of Churches' 2006 Yearbook.

**Georgia gov. authorizes funding for school Bible classes.** Georgia Gov. Sonny Perdue signed legislation April 20 authorizing public high schools in the state to offer courses in the history and literature of the Bible, provided the courses are taught "in an objective and nondevotional manner with no attempt made to indoctrinate students." Georgia becomes the first state to offer elective Bible classes on a statewide basis, education experts believe, though numerous school districts throughout the country have chosen independently to teach such courses.

**Black Salvation Army national commander takes office.** Israel Gaither, the first black man to serve as the Salvation Army's national commander for the United States, took office May 1. Gaither previously served as the chief of the staff of the Salvation Army, the second-highest position in the organization after the general.

**Students charged in Alabama arsons plead "not guilty."** Three men charged with conspiracy and arson in the burning of nine churches in rural Alabama are scheduled to go to trial June 5 after pleading not guilty last month. Defendants Russell DeBusk Jr., 19; Benjamin Moseley, 19; and Matthew Cloyd, 20, also face state charges in connection with the fires, five of which happened Feb. 3 in Bibb County. Four more happened in west Alabama Feb. 7. Defense lawyers have not ruled out a possible plea agreement, Associated Press reported.

**Religious freedom commission urges Sudan intervention.** The United States Commission on International Religious Freedom issued a report recently painting Sudan as a nation in crisis that needs U.S. intervention. "Sustained close engagement by the United States government is necessary to ensure compliance ... with human rights provisions," chairman Michael Cromartie told reporters in releasing the study, based on a fact-finding visit in January. The bipartisan commission was created by Congress in 1998 to promote religious freedom and make policy recommendations. Its Sudan study found displaced refugees, a prohibition on new churches and even genocide of non-Muslims—all in a country supposedly at peace.

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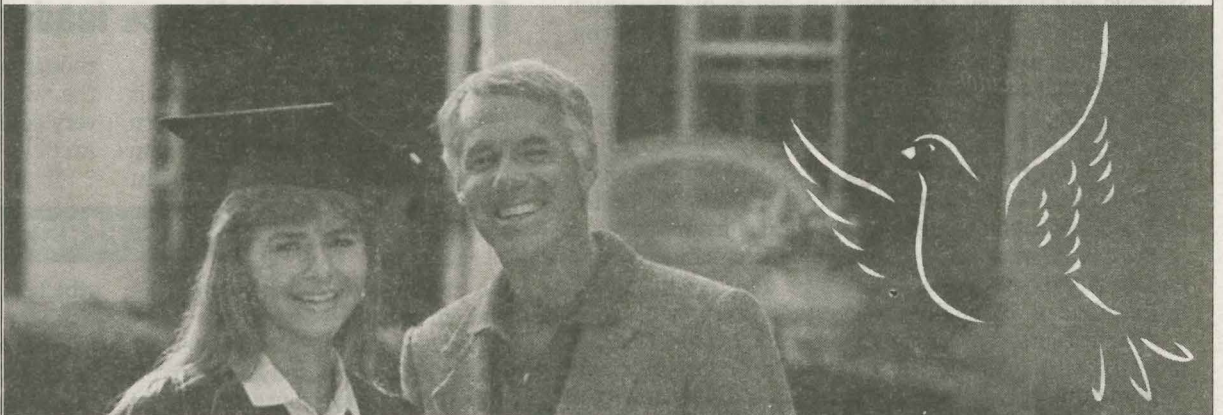
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Competition ... confusion

Help is available to sort through charitable options

The number of tax-exempt organizations has grown in the last five years by 227,907 to 1,540,554. Section 501(c)(3) includes educational and religious organizations. That group has grown by 236,431 to 1,010,365 and now represents 66 percent of the total. This does not include churches, because they do not have to register with the IRS.

On any day or night you can turn on your TV, open your mail or e-mail, answer your telephone, read a periodical or access the Internet, and you are being solicited to give for the support of some charitable cause. It might be a cause worthy of support. Who can argue with fighting hunger and ignorance among children, or cancer, or helping the physically and mentally handicapped?

Included in this mix are our Baptist organizations. More and more, they are appealing to you not just for your traditional annual gift, but also for an over-and-above legacy gift.

And we all know if we give once, that organization will keep coming back to us for additional

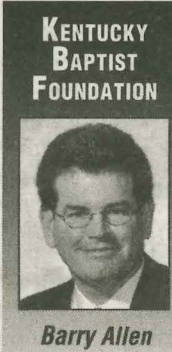
gifts. Some of you have become confused in the midst of these appeals. Rather than becoming more enthusiastic, you are becoming desensitized about your giving. It doesn't have to be that way.

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As Christians, in the matter of financial stewardship, our first loyalty is to Christ by giving through our churches and those organizations with which we are related that extend Christ's message beyond our churches.

Give Laurie Valentine and me the privilege of assisting you in sorting through the competition and confusion of today's charitable giving environment.

Barry Allen is president of the Kentucky Baptist Foundation, PO Box 436389, Louisville, KY 40253; (866) 489-3533; www.kybaptistfoundation.org



Barry Allen

Kudzu

Doug Marlette



For Heaven's Sake

Mike Morgan



Bible Crosswords

Elizabeth B. Smith

Across

- 1 "Abraham built an \_\_\_\_" (Genesis 22:9)
- 5 "After these \_\_\_\_" (Genesis 22:1)
- 10 Public transportation
- 12 Needed for a shower
- 13 "Where is the lamb for a \_\_\_\_ offering?" (Genesis 22:7)
- 14 Irish freedom fighters, abbr.
- 16 Peter said, "\_\_\_\_, we have left all" (Mark 10:28)
- 17 Male pronoun
- 18 "\_\_\_\_ took all the silver" (1 Kings 15:18)
- 19 Study for an exam
- 21 Exclamation
- 22 Asian beast of burden
- 24 Concern
- 26 Isaac's replacement (Genesis 22:13)
- 28 First person pronoun
- 29 Place where Mary and Joseph found no room
- 30 Preposition that indicates belonging
- 32 Where Abraham went to sacrifice Isaac (Genesis 22:2)
- 34 He "laid the wood \_\_\_\_ order" (Genesis 22:9)
- 37 "God will \_\_\_\_" (Genesis 22:8)
- 39 "I and the lad will \_\_\_\_ yonder" (Genesis 22:5)
- 40 Company, 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					33			
	34	35									36
37						38		39			40
41										42	
43						44	45			46	
			47		48					49	
50									51		

- 41 The opposite of followed
- 42 Irish county, abbr.
- 43 Lemon thirst quencher
- 44 Elongated fish
- 46 "Abraham and the \_\_\_\_ went together" (Genesis 22:5)
- 48 Adjective suffix indicating nationality or "somewhat"
- 49 Simile preposition
- 50 "Abraham rose up \_\_\_\_" (Genesis 22:3)
- 51 Abraham took three \_\_\_\_ to reach the mountain (Genesis 22:4)
- 11 "None can \_\_\_\_ his hand" (Daniel 4:35)
- 15 Transportation on tracks, abbr.
- 17 The story's main character
- 20 Northeastern state
- 21 Either
- 23 Sky fellow, abbr.
- 25 Nurses, abbr.
- 27 Where Abraham was told to go (Genesis 22:2)
- 31 \_\_\_\_ up, excited
- 33 "The \_\_\_\_ of the Lord called unto him" (Genesis 22:11)
- 35 A swollen mass of tissue
- 36 The \_\_\_\_ was laid on the altar (Genesis 22:9)

Last week's solution

1	E	L	I		J	E	S	U	S		9	10	11			
12	W	E	N		A	V	I	T	H		14	I	C	E		
15	E	A		16	O	M	E	N		17	18	O	R	D	E	R
19	S	H	A	P	E	N				21	R	U	E			
22	M	E	S		23	R	E	T	I	R	E	D				
27	A	N	O	N		29	L	I	N	E	N		30	U	S	E
31	B	E	N		32	F	A	V	O	R		33	A	S	E	
34	E	R		35	T	A	K	E	N		36	B	L	E	W	
37	L	I	G	H	T	E	R		39	M	I	L				
40	H	I	N		41	R	E	T	A	I	N		42	A	S	
44	45	S	T	O	N	E		46	L	A	D	E		47	R	E
48	T	E	S		49	S	H	I	N	E		51	M	O	S	
52	P	A	T		53	S	E	E	K	S		54	A	N	T	

Down

- 2 The kind of job your car needs
- 3 "God tested \_\_\_\_" (Genesis 22:1 NIV)
- 4 What a baseball player wants
- 5 Where the ram was caught (Genesis 22:13)
- 6 Abraham's son
- 7 Negative
- 8 Guy's date
- 9 Voiced
- 37 "Abraham ... saw the \_\_\_\_ afar off" (Genesis 22:4)
- 38 "Abraham lifted up his \_\_\_\_" (Genesis 22:4)
- 40 School group
- 42 "Pharaoh ... sought to \_\_\_\_ Moses" (Exodus 2:15)
- 45 Inquiring noise
- 47 Overhead train

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## Fletcher holds Cumberlands funding, two lawsuits filed

### Resolution affirms university's action

London—Affirming the University of the Cumberlands' decision to expel an openly gay student, Laurel River Baptist Association's executive board adopted a resolution of support April 24 for the Kentucky Baptist Convention-related school.

Cumberlands officials "acted in a Christian manner to guard the integrity and Christian principles that the university was founded upon," the resolution states.

Associational leaders affirmed support for Cumberlands President Jim Taylor and other school officials "who have come under fire and severe criticism ... for their love of the Lord and their obedience to His Word."

The resolution pledges prayer for university leaders and encourages young people to attend University of the Cumberlands.

Frankfort—A pair of lawsuits filed last week concerning \$11 million in state funding for the University of the Cumberlands has shifted the issue's primary focus from homosexual rights to church-state separation.

The suits were filed after Gov. Ernie Fletcher said he will hold, but not veto, \$11 million in government funding for the Kentucky Baptist Convention-affiliated school, which made headlines last month by expelling a gay student.

Fletcher said he will not disburse the grant—earmarked to help establish a pharmacy school at the university—until questions about its constitutionality are settled.

Addressing Kentuckians on statewide television April 24, Fletcher said, "I believe we need to answer once and for all in Kentucky the legality of funding private faith-based institutions for public purposes."

Fletcher's office filed suit the next day, asking the Franklin County Circuit Court to review the constitutionality of the issue.

In addition to the state's suit, the Kentucky Fairness Alliance, a gay rights group, sued Fletcher after he declined to veto Cumberlands' allocation. The suit claims direct government funding of a religious school violates the state constitution.

The issue concerns a part of the commonwealth's charter that prohibits government grants to sectarian institutions. "No portion of any fund or tax now existing, or that may hereafter be raised or levied for educational purposes, shall be appropriated to, or used by, or in aid of, any church, sectarian or denominational school," the section reads.

According to Cumberlands attorney James Jordan, "The first issue is strictly a separation of church and state issue. The second issue gets into whether faith-based restrictions can be placed on students in an institution using public funds."

Cumberlands President Jim Taylor noted that school officials believe the constitutional restriction "applies to elementary and secondary schools, not higher education."

"There are all kinds of examples where the state already does this with other institutions," Taylor added. "It's been going on for decades."

The controversy over the grant to the Baptist school began after university officials expelled sophomore Jason Johnson in early April, after it was discovered he listed his sexual orientation on a Web site. Johnson's page on MySpace.com classified him as "gay" under a section labeled "orientation."

KBC President Paul Chitwood, a Cumberlands alumnus, affirmed Fletcher's decision. "I think the governor took a very wise course of action that really does safeguard both the commonwealth and the University of the Cumberlands."

Chitwood, pastor of First Baptist Church of Mount Washington, said that while the constitutionality of the grant is an open question, he doesn't believe the university was unwise in pursuing it. The grant would help construct the building for a pharmacy school in a region with a pharmacist shortage.

"There's a desire on the part of the university to serve the community and the commonwealth in addition to its service for the Kingdom, and those really go hand-in-hand," he

said. "We're really not talking about the furtherance of the gospel."

Taylor said school officials "don't see any reason why it can't be a faith-based initiative. ... It's something we've been working on for a long time. We're going full speed ahead with our architects."

Concerning the gay rights issue, Taylor added, "Neither federal nor Kentucky law presently forbids private colleges and universities from imposing rules which address lifestyle or sexual orientation."

### Campbellsville turns down money

In a related issue, Campbellsville University also was cited in the state's suit for a \$317,900 budget allocation to provide training services at the school's Technology Training Center.

Citing a "budget appropriations process error," Campbellsville officials announced April 28 they will

not accept the state allocation. They also requested that "immediate action be taken to remove the institution by name and point of reference in any pending legal proceedings."

Campbellsville President Mike Carter explained that the state funding should have been earmarked for Team Taylor County, the area's regional development authority, which then could contract with the school to provide training services.

"Historically, we have received state and federal monies, but they have always come through our industrial development authority," Carter explained. "We're assisting the public good of the commonwealth."

"We felt that we needed to distance ourselves from a lawsuit that was going to be very costly to us," he added.

Based on reporting by Editor Trennis Henderson and Associated Baptist Press

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## Meet some of the class of 2006, part 6

### Oneida senior's progress in grades, maturity makes difficulties worthwhile

Sometimes a student must hit bottom before he enrolls at Oneida. "Cory" (not his real name) had pretty much worn his parents down to a frazzle. His parents divorced when Cory was 2 years old. He lived with his mother until he was 11. When he got more out of control, his mother decided it was time for Cory to live with his father and stepmother. Things didn't really improve, and Cory's biggest problem was his attitude. His mother told us Cory was "all about fun and games, he has a no-care attitude, he thinks the whole world should center around him, he back talks" and, well, you get the idea. He basically was out of control when he lived with his mother.

Cory's father's description of him was not much different from his mother's. In addition to 15 in-school suspensions, his dad told us Cory was "defiant at times and likes to make his own rules." The final straw came when Cory and a friend took a truck that belonged to his friend's father for a joy ride and got caught. Cory needed a reality check. His parents first sent him to a "boot camp" for a short period before he came to Oneida four years ago. We knew we had our hands full, but his senior essay makes all of our efforts worthwhile.

He wrote in part, "When I was back home I wasn't the greatest kid for my parents. ... I hung out with all the wrong people. ... When I first got to Oneida I was like, wow, what a country place. ... Now that I look back on these things I laugh about it. ... When I came to Oneida I had never made the honor roll and it wasn't something I really wanted to do. When you come to Oneida

you learn to do your schoolwork or you will have to go to study hall each evening. I figured I had nothing better to do than my schoolwork, so I did and I finally made the honor roll. ... There are many teachers who I remember the most. ... Mr. Stockton has been my mentor since the end of the ninth grade, and I love him as if he were one of my family. He helped me with any problems I had, and I believe God put him in my life to watch over me and witness to me.

"Mr. Spencer (our campus minister) has greatly influenced my life by preaching the Word and also being a great role model. He is what every kid should want to grow up to be and to have as a father figure. Since I have been here I have accepted Christ and I have tried to make Him the center of my life. ... Being a non-Christian when I came here, I know the importance of knowing Christ and how to center Him in your life. ... While at Oneida I have

learned that if you are not a Christian when you come you will soon learn it is the only way to be. ... Being at Oneida you have the opportunity to worship every day and get to hear the Word of God spoken by some of the wisest men on earth. ... Now that I have gone through this change, it has affected the way I do things and who I am.

"Since I have been at Oneida I have matured in every way possible. ... I have also learned that it is better to do things right the first time or you better not do anything at all. All I have learned is credited to Oneida and the people here. I love everyone who has ever helped me in any way and I hope to see all of you after I graduate."

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

THIS IS ONEIDA



W.F. Underwood

## Dr. Kelly touring commonwealth

### Dramatic monologue recalls Clear Creek's beginning

This year marks the 80th anniversary of Clear Creek Baptist Bible College. One component of the celebration is a dramatic monologue presentation of L.C. Kelly.

In recent days I have presented the monologue as the program for church senior adult gatherings at Immanuel Baptist Church in Lexington and Eastwood Baptist Church in Bowling Green. I welcome invitations from other church groups as an opportunity to celebrate our heritage, to inform you about Clear Creek and to deepen your support of our unique ministry. The monologue

is the May program for the Bell County Historical Society.

For the monologue my hair becomes whiter and is parted in the middle like Kelly's. The vest worn with the pinstriped suit shows a gold pocket watch chain. The first-person monologue begins with Kelly's coming to Pineville in 1920 and shares some highlights of the following 34 years. The heart of the story is his "vision in the valley" that inspired the founding of Clear Creek.

Of course, I often encounter many reminders of L.C. Kelly. A

bronze bust of Dr. Kelly, fashioned by an Oklahoma alumnus, sits near my desk. On a bookshelf lays an autographed book open at the page with these phrases he wrote and followed with his signature: "As a man's faith is so be it unto him. We are not here to make a living, but to make a life." I often walk by his former home. Beautifully renovated Kelly Hall affirms his legacy.

In January, I attended the recognition ceremony of L.C. Kelly's inclusion in the Georgetown College Alumni Hall of Fame. The plaque reads, "Lloyd Caswell Kelly (Class of 1902) was dedicated to being God's witness through ministry and education. As a minister, he pastored numerous congregations throughout Kentucky. As a Baptist educator, he was instrumental in the founding of two Kentucky institutions, Campbellsville College (1906) and Clear Creek Baptist Bible College (1926)."

L.C. Kelly, like Abel, "being dead still speaks" (Hebrews 11:4). I hope I'll have many opportunities to speak on his behalf during these days of celebration.

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

CLEAR CREEK  
CHRONICLE



Bill Whittaker

## At song's fifth anniversary, St. James revisits 'Wait for Me'

By Erin Roach  
Baptist Press

Nashville (BP)—Purity has long been an issue of great importance to singer-songwriter Rebecca St. James, and at the fifth anniversary of the release of her landmark single "Wait for Me," she continues to show young people worldwide how to wait honorably for the spouse God may have for them.

The song, written by St. James as a pledge of commitment to her future husband, has inspired thousands of teenagers worldwide to remain sexually abstinent until marriage.

"I think deep down young people do know that waiting is the right way to go, and they just want encouragement to wait," she said.

Lots of young men have thanked her for recording the song too, St. James said.

"It's a pretty well-known fact that guys would like to marry a virgin. I think the whole idea that a girl is singing that song and is waiting really appeals to them too and helps them to strive to be men of honor," she said.

Jimmy Hester, a co-founder of the True Love Waits abstinence campaign, praised St. James' for her willingness to be a key spokesperson for sexual abstinence until marriage.

"The impact of this song and Rebecca's consistency over the years has made an eternal impact on the lives of many students."

St. James said she first made a decision about purity at a True Love Waits rally in Peoria, Ill., when she was 16 years old and just starting out in the music industry.

"I saw a couple hundred other young people taking a stand for God, and I was so inspired by that but also really felt challenged to make that commitment myself,"

she recounted.

As she progressed in her music career and became a popular figure at youth rallies and True Love Waits events, she began speaking publicly about her goal of purity.

### Testimony leads to song

Afterward, she said, teenagers would gather around and share how thankful they were that someone else was waiting because that made it a little easier for them to wait.

"It was something that I saw was very need-driven, so I just kept talking about it," St. James said.

Such events eventually inspired her to write the song.

With its release in 2001, "Wait for Me" caught on quickly, and St. James said she has heard hundreds of stories of how it was instrumental in helping people keep their pledge for purity. Married couples tell her the song helped them to abstain from sex while they were dating, and some have even played it at their weddings because it meant so much to them.

She said the song's success has taught her that youth yearn for a community of peers in facing the struggle for purity.

"Just about every time I hear of a young person that has slid down an immoral path, it's because they've surrounded themselves with other young people who are not living the Christian life and are not committed to God's way," she said.

"On the other hand, I've also seen a lot of young people who have waited, and I think a large reason why they've had the strength to stand is because they've dated other people that are committed to waiting and they've had friends that have encouraged them in that commitment."



Rebecca St. James

**Evangelism Outside the Box: New Ways to Help People Experience the Good News.** Rick Richardson. InterVarsity Press, 2000. 192 pages. \$12.00. ♦♦♦ (out of five)

I came to this book with high expectations. Rick Richardson had served as pastor of evangelism for Church of the Resurrection in Wheaton, Ill. My wife and I attended services at that church two years ago and were impressed. So I figured Richardson had something to say.

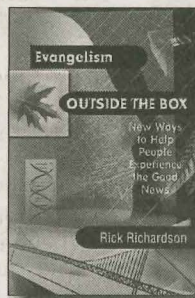
I was not disappointed, at first. In the introduction he makes a poignant observation: "It takes a disproportionate commitment for evangelism to reach the level of intensity of other values and priorities." He suggests that for churches to break out of their box of self-ministering, they might need to streamline their structure so that a minimum of 40 percent of their people are involved in evangelistically oriented ministry.

Following John Wesley's small-group model (a perfect example of the adage "everything old is new again"), Richardson suggests this pattern of doing evangelism in a postmodern world: build friendships and pray, hold soul awakening events, draw pre-Christians into seeking community, challenge pre-Christians to conversion, help new Christians into transformation.

Two strengths of the book are the recasting of John Wesley's vision and Richardson's discussion of conversion and transformation.

A weakness has to do with his uncritical use of "felt needs" as a way of addressing the gospel. As one trained in social ministry, I can attest that this approach has its difficulties, not the least of which is making the transition from, "God wants to meet your needs" to "you need to surrender your life to God and allow Him to re-make you." From "God accepts you where you are," to "If anyone would be My disciple, He must deny himself, take up his cross and follow Me."

Richardson discusses both sides eloquently, but he fails to make the transition with clarity. That was disappointing. Jim Holladay



chipped away at the true authority of the Bible, even from their own perspective and for their own group. Each group has some valid points to make, and Wright gives them their due. But as is often the case, a critic's reaction to one position drives the critic to a point that is equally open to criticism.

Wright claims that the authority of Scripture for the church and individuals is maintained when the understanding and "improvisations" of Scripture are totally contextual, liturgically grounded, privately studied, refreshed by appropriate scholarship and taught by the church's accredited leaders.

In brief, yet comprehensive discussions of each of these proposals, Wright challenges the reader to truly allow the Scripture to be an authoritative guide to God's presence in the world. What I like most about Wright's proposal is that it responds positively to the points made by various approaches to scriptural authority. One comes away from reading this book not armed with information to win a fight over the Bible, but an understanding that will allow the Bible to recapture its intended place of authority in the church. Wayne Hager

**Inside Out Worship: Insights for Passionate and Purposeful Worship.** Matt Redman. Regal Books, 2005. 177 pages. 12.99. ♦♦♦♦

Matt Redman "and friends" have written a great little book that explores the worship process.

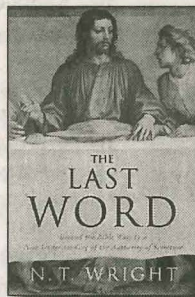
Redman writes, "Outside-in worship never works. True worship always works itself from the inside out—a love for God which burns on the inside and can't help but express itself externally too. Purposeful lives of worship exploding from passionate and devoted hearts."

The book is composed of small chapters written by Redman and a who's who of worship leaders and conference speakers. Contributors include: David Crowder, Jack Hayford, Sally Morgenthaler, Louie Giglio, George Barna and David Ruis.

Chapters are clustered into four sections: "Searching the Psalms," exploring how they inspire and instruct us in worship today; "Taking It Forward," a look at practical and spiritual approaches that can help worship leaders; "Theology of Worship," a look at God-centered and Scripture-shaped foundations in worship; and "A Grounded Life," exploring worship in the real world.

Musician David Crowder draws from his experiences to write about the importance of relationships in a Christian's spiritual development. "A band by its very nature requires that there be a dismantling of the individual, a coming together for a common goal. This should be recognized and used to propel us further toward the realization of the kingdom of God."

The book is a great read for worship leaders in any setting. Pastors might find the book refreshing as it gives insight into how many worship leaders feel, think and plan services. Steve Coleman



**The Last Word: Beyond the Bible Wars to a New Understanding of the Authority of Scripture.**

N.T. Wright. Harper San Francisco, 2005. 146 pages. \$19.95. ♦♦♦♦

The "Bible Wars" have been raging in Christian denominations my entire ministry. Numerous cases can be pointed to when disagreements over the nature of the authority of Scripture have resulted in new denominations or groups being formed.

Into this fray walks N.T. Wright, a longtime contributor to both academic and popular writings about the Bible and Bible times.

I have long admired Wright for his ability to cut through the surface of an issue and get right to the foundational level. This book is no exception. Wright is concerned that liberals, conservatives and all those in between unintentionally have

## Networks sue FCC to protest indecency rulings

New York (BP)—ABC, NBC, CBS and Fox filed lawsuits in federal appeals courts in April, challenging the Federal Communications Commission for its aggressive enforcement of indecency laws.

"In filing these court appeals we are seeking to overturn the FCC decisions that the broadcast of fleeting, isolated—and in some cases unintentional—words rendered these programs indecent," the networks, along with their affiliates, said in a joint statement April 14.

In March, FCC commissioners released decisions resolving more than 300,000 consumer complaints about nearly 50 television programs broadcast between February 2002 and March 2005, proposing a total of \$3.9 million in new fines.

The lawsuit comes at the same time when a coalition of conservative organizations have renewed a call for national legislation that cracks down on TV indecency.

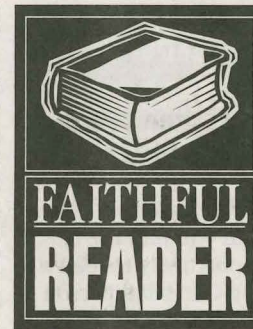
In an April 25 conference call, representatives from four groups discussed their desire that the Senate take action to prevent what they deem indecent programming from reaching households across the United States.

Representatives for the Parents Television Council, Concerned Women for America, Focus on the Family and the Family Research Council said it's time the U.S. Senate enact legislation.

The Broadcast Decency Enforcement Act of 2005 was passed in the House of Representatives, but has yet to go to a vote in the Senate.

"What we want is for the Senate to take action, to put real meat on the bones of these fines," said Brent Bozell, president of the Parents Television Council.

Representatives from these four groups say that current fines are not enough to deter networks from airing content.



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

## HOW TO BECOME A CHRISTIAN

By Ken Fentress

If you had the opportunity to lead a non-Christian person to faith in Christ, what would you say? If someone asked you to explain how to be saved, where would you begin?

Here is a basic plan of salvation—acknowledge, admit and accept—that is easy to communicate:

**Acknowledge God's sovereignty.** You must acknowledge that God is God alone. Isaiah 45:22 says, "Turn to me and be saved, all you ends of the earth; for I am God, and there is no other." He alone is the sovereign God of the universe and is worthy of our trust.

**Admit your own sinfulness.** If you acknowledge God as God alone then you will be able to see the truth about your sin. Romans 3:23 says, "For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God." To admit your sinfulness before God is the essence of confession. 1 John 1:9 declares, "If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness." Confess that you are a sinner before God and that you need His forgiving grace.

**Accept Christ's saving work on the cross.** The only way to be made right with God is through faith in Christ and His death on the cross and resurrection from the dead. 1 John 2:2 explains, "He is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not only ours but also for the sins of the whole world." If you repent and believe the gospel, you will be saved (see Acts 2:38; 1 Corinthians 15:1-5).

*Ken Fentress is dean of intercultural programs and assistant professor of Old Testament interpretation at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville*

## MOUNTAINS TO THE MISSISSIPPI

COMPILED BY STAFF

■ **BOWLING GREEN**—Burton Memorial Church will hold a commissioning service May 7, 10:30 a.m., for members serving in summer missions, with **Thomas Weakly** of Campus Crusade for Christ as special guest. Four members will serve in Slovakia and one each will serve in Papua, New Guinea; Mandora, N.D.; and Pass Christian, Miss. **Kevin Hash** is pastor.

■ **DRAKESBORO**—Ebenezer Church will hold revival services May 7, 11 a.m. and 6 p.m., and May 8-12, 7 p.m. with **Ray Gilliland** as evangelist.

■ **FRANKFORT**—Tyre Denney recently resigned as pastor of North Benson Church.

■ **HENDERSON**—Immanuel Temple ordained **Bob Crowder** as a deacon April 23.

■ **HOPKINSVILLE**—Eastview Church will hold a "Breaking Down the Spiritual Walls" revival May 7, 10:30 a.m. and 6 p.m., and May 8-10, 6:30 p.m., with **Todd Gray** as evangelist. For more information, call (270) 885-7371. **Mike Willmouth** is pastor.

■ **LAWRENCEBURG**—First Church recently called **Robert Ehr** as pastor. He previously was pastor of Big Sandy Church in Tuscaloosa, Ala.

■ **LEXINGTON**—Boone's Creek Church will hold revival services May 19-20 with **Roddie Taylor** as evangelist. For more information, call (859) 263-5466.

■ **LOUISVILLE**—Buechel Park Church

### Spotlight on ...

#### Bardstown



Bardstown Church will hold a day of renewal and revival May 21 at 8:30 and 11 a.m. and 6 p.m. with guest preacher **John Yarbrough**. **David Stokes** is pastor.

ordained youth minister **Mark Nethery** to the gospel ministry April 23. **Don Rogers** is pastor.

Cloverleaf Church will host **The Duvalls** in concert May 6, 7 p.m. For more information, call (502) 367-0218.

■ **MARTIN**—First Church will hold revival services May 7-10 with various churches leading each service: May 7, McDowell First; May 8, Fitzpatrick First; May 9, Salyersville First; and May 10, Garrett First. For more information, call (606) 285-3441.

■ **MOUNT STERLING**—Howards Mill Church will hold revival services May 7-9 with **Sherl Thomas** as evangelist. For more information, call (859) 497-7005.

■ **PADUCAH**—Oaklawn Church will host **The Hoppers** in concert June 4, 1:30 p.m. For more information, call (270) 442-1513. **Thomas Williams** is pastor.

■ **PLEASUREVILLE**—Herbert Slaughter

## KBC CALENDAR OF EVENTS

KENTUCKY BAPTIST CONVENTION

### May

4 Adults 50+ Living Celebration, First Baptist Church, Madisonville.

4 "Next Level" Ministry Workshop, Broadway Baptist Church, Lexington.

5 Children's Bible Drill, Lone Oak First Baptist Church, Paducah; and First Baptist Church, Somerset.

5-7 Equestrian Trail Ride, Mammoth Cave.

6 Children's Bible Drill, First Baptist Church, Bowling Green; and First Baptist Church, Madisonville.

6 Woman's Missionary Union Leadership Training for Associational Leaders, First Baptist Church, Central City.

13 Regional Keyboard Festival, St. Matthews Baptist Church, Louisville.

15 "The Word Became Flesh" Workshop, Second Baptist Church, Madisonville.

16 "The Word Became Flesh" Workshop, Long Run Baptist Association Office, Louisville.

17 "The Word Became Flesh" Workshop, Allen Baptist Church, Prestonsburg.

18 "The Word Became Flesh" Workshop, Trinity Baptist Church, Lexington.

22 Women of Worth Lifestyle Evangelism Conference, Beacon Hill Baptist Church, Somerset.

22-24 Kentucky Baptist Youth Ministry Association Spring Retreat, Bullittsburg Retreat Center, Petersburg.

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

retired April 30 after eight years as pastor of Cropper Church. Slaughter served 53 years in ministry, including 18 years with the former Southern Baptist Home Mission Board. He and his wife will continue to live in Bagdad, and he will be available for pulpit supply or interim ministry.

■ **RINEYVILLE**—**Calvin Keith** recently resigned as associate pastor of students and education at Rineyville Church to begin a ministry in Pennsylvania.

■ **SCIENCE HILL**—Northside Church will hold revival services May 7,

10:45 a.m. and 6 p.m., and May 8-10, 7 p.m., with **C.E. Jacob** as evangelist. For more information, call (606) 423-2271.

■ **WINCHESTER**—Allansville Church will hold revival services May 14, 11 a.m. and 6 p.m., and May 15-17, 7 p.m., with **Don Mathis** as evangelist. **Tom Cummings** is pastor.

Kiddville Church ordained **Andrew Bottorff** and **David Bottorff** as deacons April 23.

New Hope Church will hold revival services May 7-10 with **Foy Back** as evangelist. For more information, call (859) 745-5807.

## CLASSIFIED ADS

**BOOKS:** We buy quality used Christian books. Christian Book Nook, 2116 South Preston St., Louisville, Ky. (502) 637-8881.

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

**FOR SALE:** Christian, Spanish and patriotic neckties; retail value: \$12-\$15; your cost: \$6; great fundraiser. Humor book: "500 Laughter Doeth Good Like a Medicine" \$8. (606) 285-3051.

**SEEKING:** Senior pastor for Pioneer Baptist Church in Harrodsburg, Ky. Average attendance: 80-100. Send or e-mail resumé to: Pioneer Baptist Church, c/o Harry Harmon, 126 Mercer Ave., Harrodsburg, KY 40330. [hharmon@adelphia.net](mailto:hharmon@adelphia.net); [www.pioneerbaptistchurch.us](http://www.pioneerbaptistchurch.us).

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

**SEEKING:** Part-time minister of youth and recreation. Applicant must be spiritually mature, enthusiastic and creative. Send resumé to: Fern Creek Baptist Church, PO Box 91146, Louisville, KY 40291, Attn: Personnel Committee; or e-mail to [linda@ferncreekbaptist.org](mailto:linda@ferncreekbaptist.org). Resumés will be received through June 5. Questions: call (502) 239-0316. Linda Barnes Popham, pastor.

**SEEKING:** Preschool director—must be of Baptist belief with good organizational skills, knowledge of curriculum, and be able to work well with children. Involves three mornings per week; average of 15 children; supervise a preschool teacher. Resumés to Cecilia Baptist Church, 416 East Main St., Cecilia, KY 42724, by May 5, 2006.

**SEEKING:** Severns Valley Association of Baptists is seeking God's man to serve as full-time director of missions for our 49 churches. We have two Korean churches and are involved with three other associations in starting a Hispanic ministry in this area. Please submit resumé and a cover letter by May 31 to: Director of Missions Search Committee, Severns Valley Association of Baptists, PO Box 541, Elizabethtown, KY 42702.

**SEEKING:** Full-time pastor for East Cumberland Avenue Baptist Church, located in Middlesboro, Ky., near the entrance to historic Cumberland Gap National Park in SE Kentucky. Average attendance in Sunday morning worship: 100-125. We are looking for a shepherd who is passionate in his love for the Lord and for the flock, and will challenge our people to pursue holy living and to bring others to know Christ through clear, expository preaching of God's Word. Send resumé, at least one audio or video tape, and any related information to: Pastor Search Committee, East Cumberland Avenue Baptist Church, PO Box 1332, Middlesboro, KY 40965.

**SEEKING:** Church pianist for Hurstbourne Baptist Church. Skills required include accompanying, improvisation and sight reading for blended worship style. Contact: Chris Kihn, minister of worship and music, 8800 Shelbyville Road, Louisville, KY 40222; or (502) 426-2444.

**SEEKING:** Full-time pastor for wonderful rural community neighboring Owensboro (short drive to Louisville). Average attendance at blended worship: 300. Five staff members. Resumé to: Pastor Search Committee, Lewisport Baptist Church, 1115 Pell St., Lewisport, KY 42351.

**SEEKING:** Full-time minister of music and education for Fern Creek Baptist Church. Applicant must be an excellent and experienced musician, worship leader and educator and must exemplify strong spiritual maturity. Send resumé to: Fern Creek Baptist Church, PO Box 91146, Louisville, KY 40291, Attn: Personnel Committee; or e-mail to [linda@ferncreekbaptist.org](mailto:linda@ferncreekbaptist.org). Resumés will be received through June 5. Questions: call (502) 239-0316. Linda Barnes Popham, pastor.

**SEEKING:** Part-time database coordinator (M-F, 25-30 hours) for Cabbage Patch, a non-profit Christian organization. Administrative support, experience in database and Microsoft software, bulk mailings. Must be analytical, multi-tasker. Resumé, salary requirements to: Lisa Griffin, Cabbage Patch, 1413 S 6th St., Louisville, KY 40208; [lgriffin@cabbagepatch.org](mailto:lgriffin@cabbagepatch.org). Fax: (502) 637-9943.

**SEEKING:** Part-time minister of music in Stanford, Ky., area. For job description or more information, call (606) 365-2116.

**SEEKING:** Part-time youth director for Green Acres Baptist Church. Must be committed to Christ, energetic, willing to build group and have balanced approach to youth ministry. Call (502) 964-8165.

**SEEKING:** Director of missions for Central Association (Washington and Marion counties). If interested, mail resumé to Central Association of Kentucky Baptists, PO Box 596, Lebanon, KY 40033; or call (270) 692-9577 for information.

**SEEKING:** Full-time director of preschool ministries to develop, coordinate and direct weekly preschool ministry (birth through kindergarten). A bachelor's degree in Christian or early childhood education is required, and experience in a community church setting is preferred. Interested applicants should forward a resumé with cover letter and salary requirements to: Personnel Committee, PO Box 22022, Lexington, KY 40522-2022.

**SEEKING:** Part-time pianist for Fern Creek Baptist Church. Strong accompanying skills required. Send resumé to: Fern Creek Baptist Church, PO Box 91146, Louisville, KY 40291. Questions? Call (502) 239-0316. Linda Barnes Popham, pastor.

**SERVICES:** Christian long distance at 3.9¢/minute (24/7); no monthly service charge. Toll-free: (866) 587-8346 or [www.covenantphoneservice.com](http://www.covenantphoneservice.com).

## All-State Children's Choir sings about themes of faith

Owensboro—A total of 127 children, representing 46 churches from throughout the commonwealth, recently performed as members of the 2006 Kentucky Baptist All-State Children's Choir.

The choir consists of students in grades 4-6 who are selected through taped auditions, according to Roxanne Nanney, preschool/children's music consultant for the Kentucky Baptist Convention.

Judges chose choir members based on such skills as being able to maintain pitch, the candidate's tonal quality and being able to sing in harmony with other voices, said Nanney, who also is minister of music at First Baptist Church of Brandenburg.

After their selection in mid-March, the children had five weeks to practice with their church music minister or children's choir directors.

The choir gathered April 21-22 at Cedarmore Baptist Assembly in Bagdad to rehearse for their concert appearance.

The concert was held April 23 at Macedonia Baptist Church in Owensboro. The choir also sang during the morning worship service on April 23 at St. Matthews Baptist Church in Louisville.

"Our theme this year was, 'A Faith That's Sure,' which is based on 1 John 5:13," said Nanney, who also served as choir director for the group. Her assistant director was Mary Suggs of First Baptist Church of Bowling Green. The accompanist was Nevalyn Moore of Campbellsville University.

"We had songs that represented all the different foundations of faith," Nanney said. Themes included creation, sin, the need for a Savior, Jesus and going to heaven.

Choir members learned nine songs, ranging from Mozart's "Alleluia" to John Rudder's "The Lord Bless You and Keep You." The choir also performed "Wind in the Pine," a song by Kentucky composer Jonathan Shippey, who is a member of Highland Baptist Church in Louisville.

Nanney said she hopes the experience teaches choir members that music is an important tool to praise God. "And that even as children they can be worship leaders as they sing at home," she said.

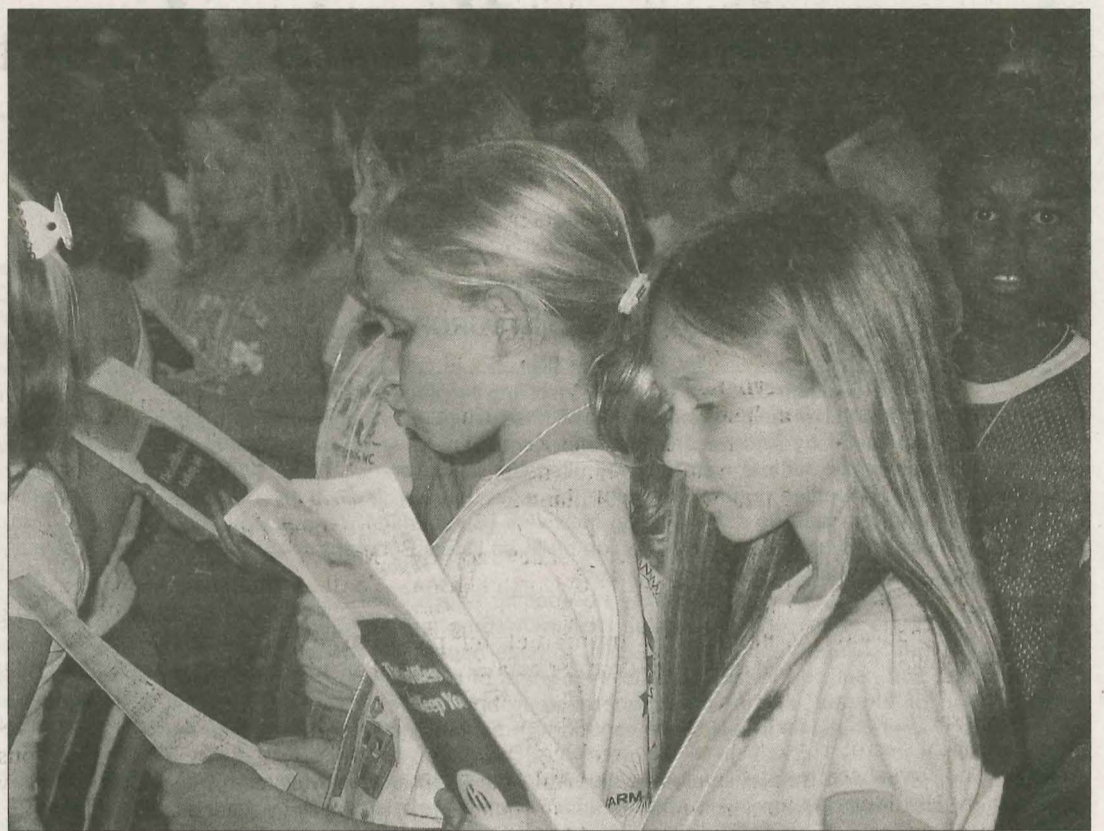
"My personal dream is that these children, because of their experience with All-State Children's Choir, will want to continue to be involved in music in worship in their local churches throughout their lives."

For more information about the All-State Children's Choir and other KBC-sponsored music opportunities, call the KBC worship/music department at (502) 489-3524 or toll-free in Kentucky at (866) 489-3524.

Those selected for the choir are:

**Emily Antle**, First Baptist Church of Fishersville.  
**Taylor Ater**, First Baptist Church of Bowling Green.  
**Emma Bachman-Johnson**, Faith Baptist Church of Georgetown.  
**Ashton Bain**, First Baptist Church of Lawrenceburg.  
**Meredith Baird**, Hartford Baptist Church.  
**Olivia Baird**, Hartford Baptist Church.  
**Trevor Baise**, Cave City Baptist Church.  
**Sarah Bazemore**, Buena Vista Baptist Church in Owensboro.

**Duncan Beach**, First Baptist Church of Bowling Green.  
**Alex Beard**, First Baptist Church of Albany.  
**Loren Been**, Fern Creek Baptist Church in Louisville.  
**Alexandra Billups**, Unity Baptist Church in Ashland.  
**Jordan Blase**, Simpsonville Baptist Church.  
**Abby Boone**, Hurstbourne Baptist Church in Louisville.  
**Laura Branham**, First Baptist Church of Frankfort.  
**Julia Brewer**, First Baptist Church of London.  
**Bailey Brown**, Lewis Lane Baptist Church in Owensboro.  
**Rachel Bunger**, Crescent Hill Baptist Church in Louisville.  
**Andrew Butler**, First Baptist Church of Brandenburg.  
**Lucas Butler**, First Baptist Church of Brandenburg.  
**Madison Campbell**, First Baptist Church of Richmond.  
**Kaitlyn Carroll**, First Baptist Church of Richmond.  
**Gracie Cartwright**, First Baptist Church of Princeton.  
**Jessica Carver**, First Baptist Church of Morganfield.  
**Katie Cerqua**, Hurstbourne Baptist Church in Louisville.  
**Hannah Chaney**, First Baptist Church of Bowling Green.  
**Kira Clayton**, Highland Baptist Church in Louisville.  
**Andy Clements**, Eastwood Baptist Church in Bowling Green.  
**Jacob Clingmayer**, First Baptist Church of Murray.  
**Corey Cobb**, First Baptist Church of Owenton.  
**Kelsey Collins**, Lone Oak First Baptist Church in Paducah.  
**Mikalla Cotton**, First Baptist Church of Princeton.  
**Rachel Daniel**, First Baptist Church of Bowling Green.  
**Hope Darnell**, First Baptist Church of Lawrenceburg.  
**Tori Davis**, First Baptist Church of Richmond.  
**Sam Dawson**, St. Matthews Baptist Church in Louisville.  
**Hannah Deaton**, Hurstbourne Baptist Church in Louisville.  
**Hannah DeBolt**, First Baptist Church of Brandenburg.  
**Alyssa Durbin**, Lone Oak First Baptist Church in Paducah.  
**Kristen Eckler**, First Baptist Church of Richmond.  
**Ashlee Edminster**, First Baptist Church of Murray.  
**Lauren Erickson**, First Baptist Church of Murray.  
**Megan Fuller**, Highland Baptist Church in Louisville.  
**Casey Galyon**, St. Matthews Baptist Church in Louisville.  
**Molly Garrett**, Highland Baptist Church in Louisville.  
**Shelby Glover**, Second Baptist Church of Hopkinsville.  
**McKenzie Stone Guess**, First Baptist Church of Eddyville.  
**Zach Hajdalenko**, Beechland Baptist Church in Louisville.  
**Cori Hammons**, Crescent Hill Baptist Church in Louisville.  
**Laura Haney**, First Baptist Church of Richmond.  
**Taylor Hardcastle**, Rich Pond Baptist Church in Bowling Green.  
**Erin Harper**, First Baptist Church of Princeton.  
**Corine Hensley**, Macedonia Baptist Church in Owensboro.  
**Kaylee Hicks**, Versailles Baptist Church.  
**Sarah Holbrook**, First Baptist Church of Morganfield.  
**Sydney Holland**, Lone Oak First Baptist Church in Paducah.  
**Ellen Howard**, Edmonton Baptist Church.  
**Andrew Hudson**, First Baptist Church of London.  
**Mackenzie Humphrey**, First Baptist Church of Richmond.  
**Taylor Hurt**, Macedonia Baptist Church in Owensboro.



**Samantha Isbell**, Lone Oak First Baptist Church in Paducah.  
**Macey Jenkins**, Rich Pond Baptist Church in Bowling Green.  
**Christen Johnson**, Campbellsville Baptist Church.  
**Martin Jones**, Central Baptist Church in Corbin.  
**Kayla Joseph**, Immanuel Baptist Church in Paducah.  
**Leah Kahne**, Hurstbourne Baptist Church in Louisville.  
**Jessica Kindrick**, Faith Baptist Church in Georgetown.  
**Katie King**, Beaver Dam Baptist Church.  
**Natalie King**, Lone Oak First Baptist Church in Paducah.  
**Nathan King**, Lone Oak First Baptist Church in Paducah.  
**Alex Kirby**, First Baptist Church of Lawrenceburg.  
**Megan Laffoon**, Hurstbourne Baptist Church in Louisville.  
**Nancy Lewis**, Calvary Baptist Church in Danville.  
**Marjorie Mason**, First Baptist Church of Frankfort.  
**Rachel Mattingly**, Buena Vista Baptist Church in Owensboro.  
**Shelby Mattingly**, Versailles Baptist Church.  
**Ryan McBride**, First Baptist Church of Richmond.  
**Luke McCarty**, First Baptist Church of Fishersville.  
**Olivia Melton**, Beaver Dam Baptist Church.  
**Shelby Meredith**, First Baptist Church of Princeton.  
**Emily Metcalfe**, Faith Baptist Church in Georgetown.  
**Joseph Miller**, Lewis Lane Baptist Church in Owensboro.  
**Adam Mollett**, Calvary Baptist Church in Danville.  
**Andrew Olson**, St. Matthews Baptist Church in Louisville.  
**Kendra Ozment**, First Baptist Church of Fishersville.  
**Beth Peeff**, First Baptist Church of Fishersville.  
**Olivia Pitcock**, Coral Hill Baptist Church in Glasgow.  
**Caroline Ridings**, First Baptist Church of Richmond.  
**Emily Ridings**, First Baptist Church of Richmond.  
**Kelsey Roberts**, First Baptist Church of Murray.  
**Benjamin Russell**, Harrodsburg Baptist Church.  
**Katie Saylor**, First Baptist Church of Murray.  
**Morgan Schussler-Williams**, Crescent Hill Baptist Church in Louisville.  
**Ally Sharp**, First Baptist Church of Fishersville.

**Rachel Sheldon**, Lewis Lane Baptist Church in Owensboro.  
**Ethan Shippey**, Highland Baptist Church in Louisville.  
**Gregory Sholar**, Edmonton Baptist Church.  
**Alissa Shultz**, Rich Pond Baptist Church in Bowling Green.  
**Cassidy Sibert**, First Baptist Church of London.  
**Ashley Simpson**, Beaver Dam Baptist Church.  
**Julie Spaulding**, First Baptist Church of Owenton.  
**Allison Stewart**, Beaver Dam Baptist Church.  
**Sarah Suggs**, First Baptist Church of Bowling Green.  
**Adrienne Tarpey**, Crescent Hill Baptist Church in Louisville.  
**Sadie Theodore-Powell**, First Baptist Church of Richmond.  
**Mina Thomas**, First Baptist Church of Frankfort.  
**Courtney Thompson**, First Baptist Church of Frankfort.  
**Leah Thompson**, Coral Hill Baptist Church in Glasgow.  
**Rebekah Thompson**, Coral Hill Baptist Church in Glasgow.  
**Sophie Van Hooser**, First Baptist Church of Princeton.  
**Blair Walden**, First Baptist Church of London.  
**Grace Waldron**, Second Baptist Church of Hopkinsville.  
**Nicole Walker**, Lone Oak First Baptist Church in Paducah.  
**Ryan Walker**, Immanuel Baptist Church in Paducah.  
**Erin Warner**, Cornerstone Baptist Church in Lexington.  
**Andi Wash**, First Baptist Church of Owenton.  
**Abby Watkins**, Rich Pond Baptist Church in Bowling Green.  
**Felicia Whitehouse**, Beaver Dam Baptist Church.  
**Emma Whitlock**, Faith Baptist Church in Georgetown.  
**Elizabeth Whitt**, First Baptist Church of Richmond.  
**Allison Williams**, Beechland Baptist Church in Louisville.  
**Rachel Williams**, Beaver Dam Baptist Church.  
**Sydney Wilson**, First Baptist Church of Richmond.  
**Christa Wing**, Calvary Baptist Church in Glasgow.  
**Hannah Woggon**, Crescent Hill Baptist Church in Louisville.  
**Dustin Wolz**, First Baptist Church of Fishersville.  
**Kirsten Wright**, First Baptist Church of Richmond.

**ALL-STATE** Hannah Chaney (foreground) and Sarah Suggs, both members of First Baptist Church in Bowling Green, rehearse during the All-State Children's Choir retreat and concert tour, held April 21-23 at Cedarmore Baptist Assembly. Chaney and Suggs were among 127 children chosen to participate in the choir.

# Kentucky Baptist Heritage

Newsletter of the Kentucky Baptist Archives Advisory Board

Bill D. Whittaker, Editor

May 2, 2006

## BAPTIST EDUCATION IN KENTUCKY'S JACKSON PURCHASE

By R. Charles Blair

The Jackson-Shelby Purchase, involving the far western parts of Kentucky and Tennessee and the north part of Mississippi, was concluded with the Chickasaw Nation by Andrew Jackson and Kentucky Governor Isaac Shelby in 1818. A few white settlers were already (illegally) in the area, but the Kentucky portion was not settled rapidly even after the legal opening. More than a decade went by with few families coming along the rivers (Cumberland, Tennessee, Ohio, and Mississippi) which bounded the region on three sides. But many of these were Baptists, and churches were soon opened.

While these Baptists made no specific educational requirements for their ministers, many of them wanted men with some formal training, and most wanted their children, especially the girls, to have opportunity for "book-learning" of some sort. But due in large part to their years of conflict with the established religion of Virginia, and to their general approach to life, they wanted local schools, (and churches!) under local control, with as little "outside" interference as possible.

The first Baptist school developed in the Purchase, in what was then West Union Baptist Association (and Hickman County), was an academy for girls, formally called a "Female Seminary." Located in Clinton, this was the first high school of any sort west of the Tennessee River in Kentucky. While it was incorporated in 1850, a building existed as early as 1846, and there are hints in the records of activities in the 1830's. The building burned in 1854, and was not replaced, evidently due to war clouds on the horizon. However, a brick house which was used to house the girls is still in existence.

The "War Between the States," as it was known in the Purchase, brought about much "destitution" (a common term in Baptist records of the post-war period). Churches were often closed or neglected; financial and social issues plagued even the best people. But by 1870 interest in education led Elder Willis White (often called "Father White" in the newspaper accounts of the period) to lead in building what was intended as another school for girls. White, a county Judge, was pastor of the Clinton Church, Moderator of West Union Association, and at times pastor of other churches, including one of the oldest, at Columbus. A well-trained lady from Massachusetts, Miss Amanda Melvina Hicks, was called to be Assistant Principal of the new work, and stayed until 1894, serving as President after 1880.

Before the school opened, in 1874, preachers requested the addition of a ministerial department, and Clinton College became a co-educational four-year institution, with as many as 200 students at times under Miss Hicks' able leadership. During the same period, Methodists in the area operated Marvin College at Clinton, where Alben Barkley (later to become Vice-President of the United States) worked his way through, giving rise to the term "Barkley swept Here." Two buildings of that campus survive. Clinton College was closed in 1915, partly because of international politics (the on-coming war), partly because of doctrinal issues, and partly because of the growing acceptance of public education. The campus was sold to the county and was operated as a high school. Majestic columns from the front of the main building survive as a reminder of the school, and a house which served that school as a girls' dormitory is still occupied.

Also, a bankrupt "college" at Blandville, in what is now Carlisle County, was purchased by West Union Association in 1886 and re-opened as a Baptist school, which struggled to operate until 1910. Trustees for Clinton College and for Blandville were elected by area associations of Baptist churches. One memory of "Blandville College" was that "The students did not progress by grades and forms, but by leaps and bounds." Graves County Baptists also attempted to open a "college" at Wingo in 1887, but there is no further record of that effort. These were more like boarding high schools, but served a definite purpose in encouraging literacy and progress as population grew in the Purchase.

Between the two world wars, formal ministerial training in the Purchase was left to H. Boyce Taylor's West Kentucky Bible School at Murray and to the Hall-Moody Institute of Martin, Tennessee. A few men attended Union University at Jackson, Tennessee, or even the Louisville Seminary. Taylor's school, operated after his death by Roy Beaman, was moved to Paducah in 1935. In a personal interview, Dr. Beaman said: "I only had 2 students in 1937, so I just let the flood kill it." (The Ohio River flooding of that year made many changes in all the river area.)

Shortly after World War II, many in western Kentucky began discussing a "preachers' school" like the Taylor work. As men returned from the war, with their G. I. Bill benefits, and felt led of God to the ministry, many recognized the need for more formal training. Men like O. C. Markham, Curry O. Simpson, E. D. Davis, and others with such training agreed to teach. Brother Calvin M. Hudson made a motion to develop such a school in the Annual Meeting of West Kentucky Association on October 6, 1948, becoming one of the first students, and Dr. L. W. Carlin of Paducah's Bellview Church taught the first class. On the snowy night of January 10, 1949, a group of less than a dozen met in the basement of the First Baptist Church of Clinton. From that humble beginning, to a house on Waterfield Drive in Clinton in the fall of 1949, to the North 15th Street Mayfield location in 1957, to the present campus between Mayfield and Paducah in 1976, "West Kentucky Baptist Bible Institute" has become Mid-Continent University, home of Baptist College of the Bible and Baptist College of Arts and Sciences.

It seems fair to say that two strands of Baptist life have always been interwoven in Kentucky's Jackson Purchase, one of some suspicion of outside influence and even of education itself, the other an appreciation for the need of training to be able to understand God's written revelation.

## ERNEST REGINALD SAMS

By Dennis L. Brewer

Rev. E. R. Sams was born at Great Crossings in Scott County near Georgetown, Kentucky, October 10, 1884, the fourth child in a family of eleven born to Nancy Emerine and William Sams; three died in infancy. His father died when he was ten years old. He completed elementary school then dropped out of school to help support the family and send his younger sisters to school. Later he attended Georgetown College. In 1918, when the flu epidemic ran rampant, he had his personal possessions packed, ready to go to the Southern Baptist Seminary. That institution was closed for several months; Brother Sams never got to the seminary.



In 1909 Ernest Reginald Sams married Edna Clara Cart, who worked faithfully by his side and was a great help to him in his work. To this union were born nine children, seven of which attained maturity. The importance of education was stressed in the home and all of the seven children received a college education; six of them were schoolteachers.

Brother E. R. Sams was ordained to preach by the Great Crossings Baptist Church in 1911 and he was pastor of several churches in the Scott County area. In 1922 he moved to Owen County where he was pastor of Pleasant Ridge Church at Sweet Owen as well as other small churches throughout the area.

E. R. Sams, O. P. Jackson and Birchett Kemper are listed as ordained ministers present at the First Baptist of Owenton, September 21, 1924, when the churches from the disbanded Concord and Owen Associations, along with the churches in the Ten Mile Association located in Owen County, met and organized the Owen County Baptist Association.

Sams started his ministry in Boone's Creek Association on January 1, 1929, and served as pastor of six different churches over the next twenty years. He was pastor of Providence from March 1, 1929, through 1936; South Irvine from July 1, 1929, through 1933; Calvary from January 1, 1929 through 1938; Drowning Creek 1932; Beattyville 1933-1948 and Zion from 1934-1940. Brother Sams conducted sixteen Bible Schools in 1946, fifteen Bible Schools in 1947, ten Bible Schools in 1948 and nine Bible Schools in 1949.

He was interested in all phases of church work, stressing a fully graded Sunday School, Training Union and Missionary Societies. His personal notes show that he held men's meetings using W. M. U. material; this was before the organization of Brotherhood. He conducted services at mission points in Lee County and pioneered in Vacation Bible School work, being assisted in this effort by college students and pastors from over the state who donated two weeks of their summer for this effort. Georgetown College students also came on afternoon and conducted services at mission points. Three churches were built as a result of this effort.

E. R. Sams, along with T. P. Edwards and George Grubbs are listed among the state missionaries who spoke briefly of their fields of labor before the General Association at Immanuel Baptist Church in Lexington, Kentucky, November 14, 1944.

After retirement as Pastor of Beattyville Baptist Church and County Missionary for Lee County, E. R. Sams moved to Louisville where he taught a men's Bible class at the Okolona Baptist Church and also supplied pulpits until his death in 1963 at the age of seventy-eight.

## E. J. Weller

By Martha Vitale



Ernest Jewell Weller, Baptist minister, was born on November 28, 1876 on a farm in Nelson County, Kentucky, to Jacob Jonathan and Cynthiana Straney Weller. He assumed adult responsibilities early in life, his mother having died when he was only two years old and his father when he was fifteen. He was able to support himself by finding work as a clerk, blacksmith, and then as a machinist for the L&N Railroad in Louisville. At age 25, convinced that God was calling him into the ministry, he entered Bethel College in Russellville, completing his education with a Th.B. from Southern in 1908. Two years later, in 1910, he

married Katharyn B. Stout, a schoolteacher and graduate of Bowling Green Southern Normal School (as it was called at that time). Together they had six children, two sons and four daughters.

Weller considered it a great privilege to study with outstanding theologians and educators of his day, among whom were Drs. Mullins, Carver, and Sampey, and he was well aware and deeply appreciative of the remarkable quality of the training and guidance he received at Southern. It became clear to him that there was a "dearth of Christian education in this state, very few young preachers, and few with any theological training." Therefore his goals included not only preaching the gospel with an emphasis on Baptist doctrine, but promoting higher education as well, especially among his fellow ministers. His ministry was typified by well-defined and firm convictions, which he never hesitated to share in defense of the truth.

He was called to his first full-time pastorate in Hopkinsville to organize and establish a new church, where he "laid a good foundation and provided a constructive and abiding work as the first pastor of Second Baptist Church," which grew from thirty-three charter members to one hundred and six in his three years there. (1) Subsequently serving in Webster, Owen and Henry counties, Weller was then called to Immanuel Baptist Church in Covington, where he led in construction of the present large brick building after the church was destroyed by fire.

After leaving Covington he took other pastorates, principally in central Kentucky and including five years at Double Springs Church in Lincoln County. He continued his preaching and associational work as he struggled to provide for his growing family, while never losing sight of a personal goal he shared with his wife: a college education for their children. Having chosen Georgetown College, in the fall of 1934 he rented a small house and took his family there. But on May 6, 1935, a few months after moving to Georgetown in pursuit of that goal, he was killed in an automobile accident as he was returning home from a preaching appointment.

(1) "History of Second Baptist Church" 4910-1999 Hopkinsville, Kentucky