



# WESTERN RECORDER

May 30, 2006  
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WMU Kentucky Notes



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## FOR THE RECORD

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School officials in Shelby and Russell counties call off formal prayer during ceremonies. *Page 8.*

## Poll: Americans think moral values growing worse

Princeton, N.J. (BP)—More than eight in 10 Americans say the country's moral values are getting worse, a new Gallup poll shows.

The 81 percent of adults who say the nation's "state of moral values" is getting worse is a record high for the question, which was first asked in 2002. It registered at 67 percent in each of the first two years and 77 percent in 2004 and 2005 before reaching even higher this year.

Only 11 percent of Americans say the nation's moral values are getting better.

The 10-point spike between May 2003 and May 2004 (when the polls were conducted) came during a time in which "gay marriage" was legalized in Massachusetts and several Canadian provinces, Janet Jackson was exposed on nationwide television during the Super Bowl and the story broke about abuses at the Abu Ghraib prison in Iraq.

The increase in pessimism about morality since 2002-03 is seen most among Republicans (a 16-point increase) and independents (an 18-point jump) and less among Democrats (a 6-point jump).

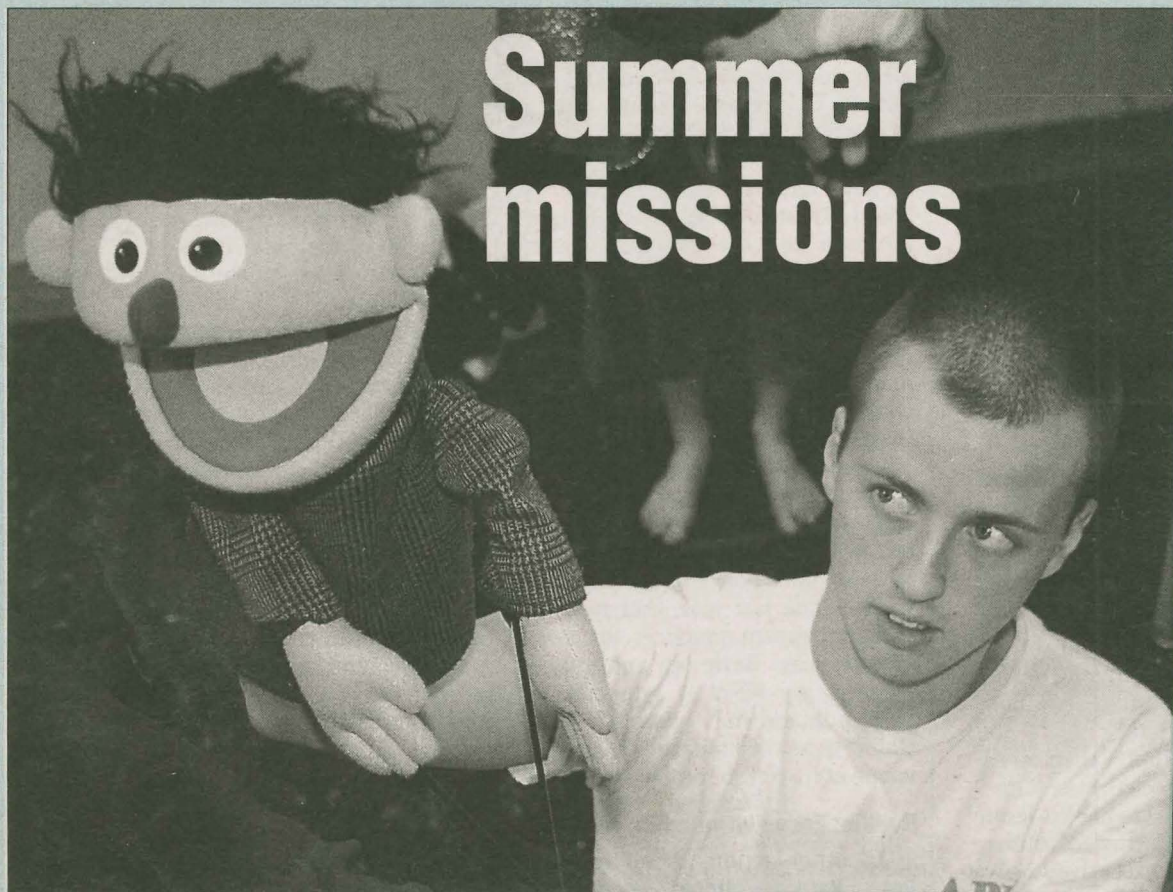
Other findings of the poll:

■ 51 percent of those polled said homosexual relations are "morally wrong" and 44 percent say they're "morally acceptable."

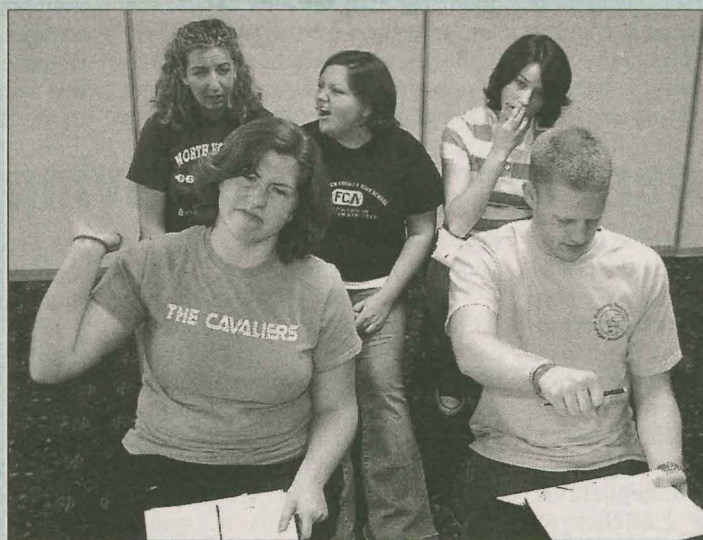
■ 44 percent of Americans say abortion is morally acceptable, 43 percent said it's wrong.

■ 71 percent of those polled said the death penalty is morally acceptable.

■ 61 percent said embryonic stem cell research is morally acceptable. The question did not note that the embryos are destroyed, a fact that pro-lifers say can change a poll's outcome.



## Summer missions



This week college students from throughout the commonwealth are preparing for a summer of ministry. Some will serve on "Son Teams," using creative ministries to share their faith. Others are headed to Poland, Brazil and other countries to work with missionaries and churches. ■ **Above:** Jon Richard, a student at the University of Kentucky and a member of the Sun Burst-Brazil team, practices his puppetry skills.

■ **Left:** Members of Sun Burst-Amhurst practice a skit about a family arguing during their drive to church. They are: (back row, from left) Mary Helen Gipson (Murray State University), Shauna Sams (Berea College), Sarah Thomas (Northern Kentucky University), (front row) Maeghan Garrett (Kentucky Wesleyan College) and Luke Woodward (University of Kentucky). *Story on page 7.*

## KBC Women of Worth speaker: Seek God during difficulties



By **Dannah Prather**  
Partnerships Editor

**Somerset**—As a pastor's wife, Mary Southerland got accustomed to being too busy to spend time with God or to share her pains and problems with others.

Each week, she played the piano for four worship services, led Bible studies, helped in children's ministry, counseled women in her church, and met countless other needs.

In the process, Southerland said, she was becoming "mired" in a "slimy pit" such as the one King David described in Psalm 40.

"My picture of the victorious Christian life did not include depression," Southerland told the 330 Kentucky Baptists and guests attending the May 22 Women of Worth Lifestyle Evangelism Conference. "Pastors' wives aren't supposed to struggle."

The Psalm, and a news report of an enormous sinkhole, gave Southerland insight about her illness.

The process that forms a sinkhole is similar to depression, she said. "The underlying resources dry up, and suddenly, overnight, the surface collapses."

The problem is revealed instantly, but the cause starts much earlier, in secret.

Staying too busy, neglecting time with God in prayer and Bible study, hiding past hurts, and pursuing approval from others instead of God, all work to "dry up" a believer's spiritual resources, she said.

In her sinkhole, Southerland said, even the most ordinary tasks seemed impossible. "Do you know how many brands of peas there are in the grocery store?" she asked. "I couldn't choose."

□ See KBC event urges ... *Page 3*

Dated material. Please deliver by Wednesday, May 31.

**ON THE LEVEL** Mary Southerland, founder of Journey Ministry based in North Carolina, tells Kentucky Baptists and guests attending the recent Women of Worth Lifestyle Evangelism Conference that "the ground at the foot of the cross is level. There are no pedestals." Southerland is author of four books including "Coming Out of the Dark," a memoir about her battle with depression. (Photo by Dannah Prather)

## Debate between Burlelson, IMB leaders continues

Albuquerque, N.M. (ABP)—Wade Burlelson, the embattled blogging trustee of the Southern Baptist International Mission Board, says he will not obey his suspension from closed-door meetings of the board, setting up yet another confrontation in a running feud in the SBC global missions agency.

"I have run out of patience," Burlelson told Associated Baptist Press.

After trustees voted in March to rescind a proposal seeking to dismiss Burlelson from the board, chairman Tom Hatley said Burlelson was banned from serving on trustee committees.

Last week, Hatley accused Burlelson of violating the confidentiality of private trustee sessions by posting details on his blog.

Hatley then asked new chairman John Floyd to bar Burlelson from trustee forums and executive sessions in the upcoming year.

Burlelson said he was ready to let the conflict die, until Hatley leveled new, unspecified accusations against him during the trustees' meeting last week.

"Now we're back to this unsubstantiated allegation," Burlelson said, "so now I have to defend myself."

In his blog May 26, Burlelson said he also plans to reveal details of what he says are trustee violations of their own policies, which he says explain his dissatisfaction with the IMB board.

Newly elected IMB chairman John Floyd said Hatley was within his rights to suspend Burlelson and that he will enforce the suspension unless the executive committee decides at its next meeting to change it.

Floyd reiterated Hatley's contention that Burlelson has not apologized sufficiently for offending board members.

Burlelson has apologized for the tone of one of his blog postings but has said repeatedly he will not apologize for unspecified offenses until they are detailed for him.

## IMB trustees elect former staffer as chair

Albuquerque, N.M. (ABP)—Trustees of the International Mission Board elected John Floyd, a former top administrator of the Southern Baptist entity, as trustee chairman—raising questions among some trustees about a possible conflict of interest.

Meanwhile, outgoing chairman Tom Hatley leveled additional criticism against blogging trustee Wade Burlelson, whom the trustees previously tried to have removed from the board. Trustees tried again to get Burlelson to quit blogging about trustee meetings.

Floyd, administrative vice president at the independent Mid-America Baptist Seminary in Germantown, Tenn., was elected board chairman by a vote of 39-34 over Wayne Marshall of Mississippi. Sixteen trustees were absent or abstained from the vote.

Floyd, retired IMB regional director for Europe, has been linked to new IMB policies, adopted by trustees late last year, that require stricter baptism practices for new missionaries. Burlelson and other bloggers say Floyd is sympathetic to "Landmarkism," a theology that claims to be the only true church by virtue of its view of proper baptism.

### Rankin: Focus on worship, service

In other action, IMB President Jerry Rankin offered encouragement to missionaries struggling with low morale because of "confusion," "conflict," "uncertainty" or "insecurity"—an apparent reference to trustee turmoil. He encouraged

missionaries to focus on worship and "the privilege of serving," not their own problems.

Trustees also appointed approximately 100 new missionaries.



John Floyd

Immediately after Floyd's election, Burlelson raised concerns about his new role. "Is there a conflict of interest when a former staff administrator of the IMB becomes the chairman of the board?" Burlelson asked May 23 in his blog.

Burlelson asked if it is appropriate for Floyd, who currently receives a pension administered by the IMB, also to sit on the committee that controls IMB pensions.

Floyd "may turn out to be the best chairman the IMB has ever had," Burlelson conceded. But he added, Floyd's service could be a violation of a Southern Baptist Convention bylaw, which states: "No person shall be eligible to serve on any one of the above entities from which he/she receives any part of his/her salary, directly or indirectly, or, which provides funds for which he/she has a duty of administration."

Former employees serving as agency trustees is rare in SBC life, although the IMB currently has three.

Outgoing chairman Tom Hatley concluded his final report to the board by saying Burlelson had breached trustee confidentiality in his blog. Previously, Hatley endorsed a trustee request that no blogging about the IMB sessions be allowed, "out of respect for the trustees."

Burlelson stepped to a floor microphone and asked for evidence of his offenses. Hatley said the issues were

not for discussion in open meetings and had been misrepresented. He then asked for Burlelson's microphone to be turned off.

"The issue is free and open debate," Burlelson later told Baptist New Mexican editor John Loudat. "While I may abide by the request not to blog, it is ludicrous to ask everyone not to blog."

In the executive committee report, Hatley acknowledged Burlelson had "apologized" for and retracted "certain things" on his blog that criticized trustees. But Hatley encouraged new chairman Floyd not to lift restrictions previously imposed on Burlelson governing his online comments.

### Trustees table policy discussion

Trustees tabled a motion that would have reopened discussion of the two policies adopted in December on baptism and private prayer language. The executive committee recommended that Hatley appoint a task force to determine what Southern Baptists expect in the way of doctrinal qualifications for future missionary candidates.

The proposed committee—nine to 11 people, including non-trustees—would be charged "to discover, contextualize and report back to us" on matters of a further doctrinal statement or parameters, Hatley said. After much deliberation, the motion was tabled until July.

A second motion, to create a six-member team of current and former trustees to relate to staff and missionaries when they felt the system had failed their needs, was referred to the executive committee.

## SBC leaders drop 10% CP giving challenge

Nashville (BP)—Two of nine recommendations to strengthen the Cooperative Program will be revised when they are presented to messengers at the Southern Baptist Convention in Greensboro, N.C., next month, according to a May 26 announcement by the president and officers of the SBC Executive Committee.

One of the recommendations now will encourage churches to increase their giving through the Cooperative Program but no longer will specify a 10 percent goal for supporting the missions and ministries of state Baptist conventions and the SBC. Another now will encourage the election of leaders whose churches "are committed to increasing systematically and enthusiastically the percentage of undesignated receipts given through the Cooperative Program," again without mention of a 10 percent target.

"These recommendations never were intended to create controversy," the May 26 statement reads. "We hope the revised recommendations will make it possible for messengers to wholeheartedly embrace our initiative to increase support for the Cooperative Program."

Morris Chapman, president of the SBC Executive Committee, said the changes were needed because the mention of a goal was being misperceived as a mandate or litmus test, instead of the intended spirit of the report to encourage greater

support of SBC causes through the Cooperative Program.

"The mention of a specific percentage in the recommendations has generated so much discussion from a variety of perspectives that we felt a revision would allow all Southern Baptists, from churches large and small, to enthusiastically approve the report, including the nine recommendations," Chapman told Baptist Press. "The officers of the Executive Committee and I feel we are recommending a revision that will make the acceptance of the report universal among Southern Baptists while remaining a challenge to every church and every pastor."

"The members of both the Executive Committee and the (Ad Hoc) CP Committee strongly believe in the autonomy of the local church and fully understand that only a local church can decide what portion of their tithes and offerings will be given through the Cooperative Program," he added. "The language of the recommendations keyed on the word, 'encourage.' Nevertheless, if we can dispel misunderstandings about the report, we are obligated for the sake of God's Kingdom and the convention to do so."

Cooperative Program support has emerged as a hot button issue in the SBC presidential election.

Media coverage of Ronnie Floyd, pastor of First Baptist Church in Springfield, Ark., has highlighted

the percentage of his church's giving through CP, that includes both state and national causes, 0.27 percent (\$32,000) of undesignated receipts of \$11,952,137. His church gave another 1.58 percent (\$189,000) directly to the SBC for national causes only.

The other candidate for SBC president is Frank Page, pastor of First Baptist Church of Taylors, S.C. In 2005, the Taylors congregation gave \$534,683, or 12.4 percent, through the Cooperative Program from total undesignated receipts of \$4,297,861.

The recommendations came to the Executive Committee after approval by state executive directors who met in February in Canada. The report is the result of almost three years of work by the Ad Hoc CP Committee, chaired by Anthony Jordan, executive director of the Baptist General Convention of Oklahoma.

Jordan expressed disappointment with the proposed revisions.

"The report's recommendations were made in an effort to challenge Southern Baptists to reach the world with the gospel in a manner consistent with our history as a denomination," Jordan said. "Calling for the election of officers who demonstrate in word and deed a commitment to cooperative missions giving and recommending that our churches give at least 10 percent of undesignated receipts through the Cooperative Program were never intended to be law."

## Ga. evangelist, Calvinist pastor 1st VP nominees

Greensboro, N.C.—A vocational evangelist and a neo-Calvinist pastor are expected to be nominated next month for Southern Baptist Convention first vice president.

Evangelist Keith Fordham of Fayetteville, Ga., immediate past president of the Conference of Southern Baptist Evangelists, and Mark Dever, pastor of Capitol Hill Baptist Church in Washington, D.C., and a popular leader among SBC Calvinists, will be nominated for first vice president during the June 13-14 SBC annual meeting in Greensboro, N.C.

Fordham, a vocational evangelist for more than 33 years, will be nominated by Bill Britt, current president of the Conference of Southern Baptist Evangelists.

"Dr. Fordham is a dynamic and deeply spiritual evangelist who has been used mightily of God to impact our convention through his preaching and leadership," Britt said.

Fordham said he would focus on evangelism as an SBC officer. "We must all work together in the 'unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace,'" he said. "Let Southern Baptists join Jesus in an all-out effort to seek and save those who are lost."

Dever announced May 24 that he will be nominated for the post. Several members of a group of leaders concerned over the denomination's direction have been mentioning Dever's name for several weeks as a potential nominee for SBC office.

Dever said "a number of people" had approached him about being nominated for either first vice president or president. He said the time commitment associated with the SBC presidency would cause him to decline a nomination for that position, but that he would be willing to serve in the vice presidential slot.

Fordham is a member of Harp's Crossing Baptist Church in Fayetteville. Information from the SBC's 2005 Annual Church Profile survey shows the church gave \$157,813, or 10 percent, through the Cooperative Program from total undesignated receipts of \$1,570,882.

Dever said his church had about \$1.9 million in undesignated receipts in 2005 and forwarded \$150,500, or 7.5 percent of that total, to the Southern Baptist Convention. The church stopped contributing to the Cooperative Program through the District of Columbia Baptist Convention after the SBC North American Mission Board de-funded the D.C. convention in 2002.

Compiled from reporting by Associated Baptist Press and Baptist Press

## KBC event urges women to seek God in difficulties

Continued from page 1

Shopping, housework, cooking and taking her children's school activities overwhelmed her. "Other people took my kids to buy cleats for soccer," Southerland said.

Paralyzed by depression for two years, Southerland said Christian counseling, medication and faithful contact with God in study and prayer delivered her from a debilitating condition.

Through the healing process, God led her to a new ministry that began with her book, "Coming Out of the Dark" a memoir about her battle against depression.

She founded "Journey Ministry" as a way to encourage women through conferences and retreats. Since its founding, she has written three additional books.

Journey Ministry is based in Waxhaw, N.C., near Charlotte, where her husband, Dan, is on the pastoral staff of Next Level Church.

### Facing life's storms

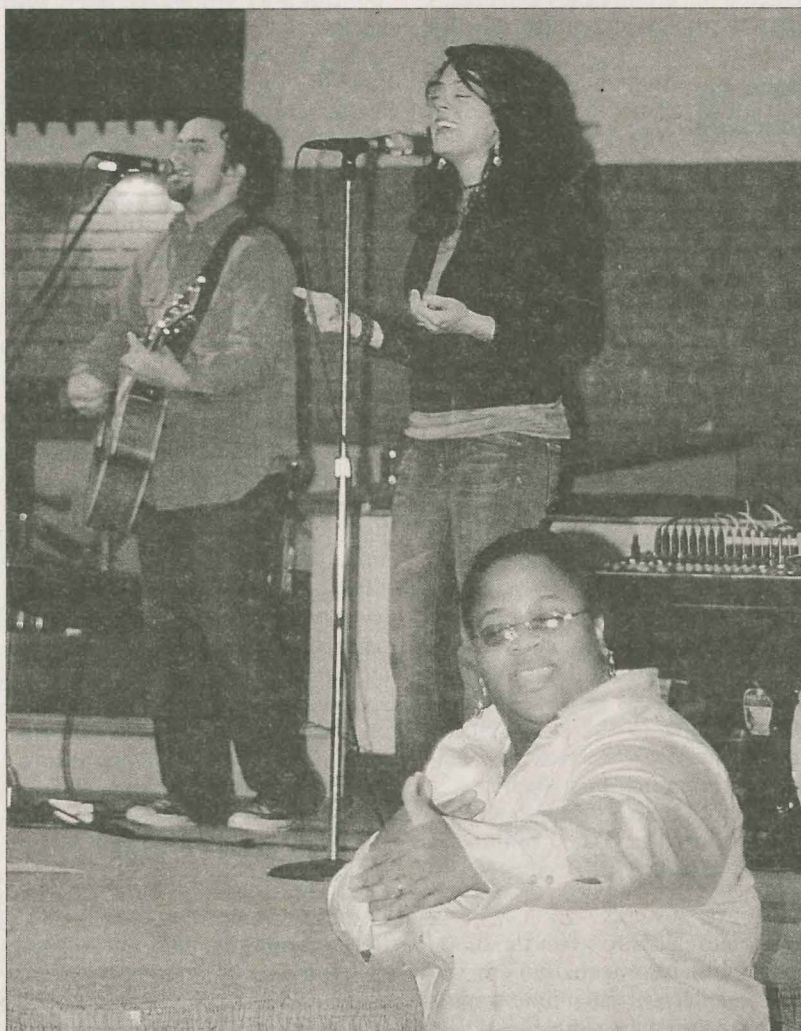
Southerland emphasized that problems always will be part of life, even for the most obedient Christians. "God did not come to eliminate our storms," she said. "He came to fill them with His purpose."

For Southerland and her family, storms came with alarming frequency. Among them, her teenage daughter, who has bipolar disorder, was arrested for drug possession and underage drinking. A heart condition nearly killed her husband.

Southerland said as she and her family met each storm armed with God's love and strength, she knew they were maturing in their faith.

She noted that in ancient Mediterranean culture, a threshing sledge used was called a "tribulum."

The name is derived from the Greek word "tribolos" or "tribulation." Although the tool could be used as a weapon, Southerland said the tribulum "is a tool of refine-



**SIGNS OF PRAISE** Through sign language and interpretive movement, Tyra Lokey Robinson (foreground) of Lawrenceburg added to the worship time led by Christy Nockels of Watermark.

ment, not destruction."

Similarly, God uses tribulation in the lives of Christians to refine faith, not destroy it.

"It's a shallow love that rescues too quickly," she said. "Sometimes trials come because of sin (and) the purpose of the storm is to purify."

Through her depression and other difficulties, Southerland said she learned what Christian joy is—and is not. "Joy is deeply rooted confidence that God is in control," she said.

"It's not being 'ha-ha' happy."

Another important lesson she said God taught her is that "on Judgment Day, we stand in front of an audience of One. ... I did a lot of work (in the church) for which I was not gifted. I built my life on doing. We're human beings, not human doings."

Bearing up under challenges also produces Christian humility, Southerland said. Admitting that she had a problem and needed help was dif-



ficult, but necessary. "The ground at the foot of the cross is level," she said. "There are no pedestals."

With humility, honesty and humor, Southern Baptist missionary Phyllis Foy would disarm anyone who might attempt to put her on a pedestal.

"Even missionaries freeze up," Foy told the WOW conference audience at Beacon Hill Baptist Church in Somerset. "Every now and then, you just don't get it right."

### Missed opportunities

Foy and her husband, Bob, are national church renewal coordinators with the North American Mission Board.

She recalled a missed opportunity to share the gospel with a man who was eager to hear. He was selling tethered hot air balloon rides at a county fair where the Foyes had set up a retail booth.

One rainy day, when attendance was low, the man visited Foy at the booth. Her husband wasn't there, and when the man began asking spiritual questions, Foy said she became nervous. Fearful she would say the wrong thing, she asked the man to come back the next day and talk to her husband.

Preparing to go to the fair the following day, she heard a news report that the balloonist and two members of his family had been killed in an automobile accident.

"I told God, 'If You put people in my path, I'll be aware,'" Foy said. "I may not say the perfect words," but she pledged she never would knowingly let an opportunity pass to share the gospel with a hungry heart.

Also on the WOW conference program was dramatist Amanda Walter of Louisville. She portrayed a series of women making excuses for why they did not talk about their personal faith with non-Christians they saw frequently.

One character complained that the gym wasn't the place to witness. Another said five minutes with the kids at the bus stop didn't afford enough time to talk to her neighbor about Jesus. A third character said her nail stylist's statue of Buddha crept her out too much to broach the subject of Christianity.

Walter then conveyed the words she imagined the lost hearts would say, if they could, to these Christians: "Just tell me. ... I'll listen."

### KID CRAZY

Amanda Walter of Louisville portrays a mother pouring out praise for her children in her diary. In the sketch, the diarist focuses on temporal beauties, such as outward beauty, catching a husband, being the perfect mom and building a career, until she realizes that God is the most important part of life.

## Hot dogs, obedience reunite family, missionary recounts

Somerset—Confident that the voice she heard was God's, a woman obediently bought hot dogs and charcoal briquettes, and in the process, restored a family living hundreds of miles from her Florida home.

Southern Baptist missionary Phyllis Foy shared the inspirational story at the recent Women of Worth Lifestyle Evangelism Conference in Somerset.

Foy explained that a Woman's Missionary Union member in a Florida church felt called to provide free evening meals for people at Jacksonville Beach.

Friends, even fellow church members, tried to talk her out of the project. They said the people hanging out at the beach at night were "up to evil," Foy said.

The warnings came from a concern for the woman's safety, Foy said, but people also told the WMU member that she would be wasting

her time on people who—because of drug abuse, crime and homelessness—were beyond help.

The woman considered their warnings, but told her husband she still felt God wanted her to undertake the project. With her husband's help, and assistance from a few others, she began offering weekend evening meals of hot dogs and hamburgers at Jax Beach.

On one evening, "a beautiful, blond-headed, blue-eyed girl smelled the hot dogs cooking," Foy said. "She was 15 years old and had run away from home."

The girl approached the woman organizing the meal and asked how much the hot dogs cost. The woman explained that the food was free and that she, her husband and other volunteers were members of a local church.

"You're a WMU lady, aren't you?" the girl asked.

The woman was shocked

that this young girl knew about Woman's Missionary Union. The girl went on to say her mother was active in WMU.

The teenager was the Foyes' daughter, who had run away from home months before.

The Florida WMU member asked the girl, "When was the last time you spoke to your mother?" The girl admitted it had been a long time.

Together, they left the beach and called the Foyes. During the conversation, Foy said, her daughter asked, "Can I come home?"

Those attending last week's Women of Worth conference gave Foy a standing ovation as she explained that she and her husband have their daughter again "because a lady was so committed to doing what the Father laid on her heart to do."

"Be faithful to what God has called you to do," Foy told the women gathered at Beacon Hill Baptist Church. "And then do it." *Dannah Prather*



Phyllis Foy

## WESTERN RECORDER

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

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## The roses will bloom again

By Christian George

Birmingham, Ala. (BP)—The venerable R.G. Lee preached, "The roses will bloom again," from the pulpit of First Baptist Church of New Orleans, during the early 1920s.

Today, as the city of New Orleans rebuilds in the wake of Hurricane Katrina, these prophetic words continue to offer hope.

Lee, born in a log cabin on Nov. 11, 1886, became one of the most renowned preachers in the modern Christian world. He served in a number of pastorates, including Bellevue Baptist Church in Memphis, Tenn., but he had strong ties to the Crescent City. As pastor of First Baptist, New Orleans, he witnessed more than 1,000 new members come to his church, mostly by baptism. He also strongly supported the Baptist Bible Institute, which later became New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary.

In 1948, messengers elected Lee to the first of three terms as president of the Southern Baptist Convention, and by the end of his life, millions of people revered him as one of the greatest Baptist preachers since Charles Spurgeon.

R.G. Lee was not immune to violent and uncertain times. During his lifetime, the United States saw five gruesome wars. Against this backdrop of darkness, Lee championed the light of God. During his ministry in New Orleans, he preached "The Roses Will Bloom Again," a sermon that still offers encouragement in the wake of Katrina.

Lee's former church was among the first congregations to provide relief efforts after Katrina struck.

Working in cooperation with the Salvation Army and Southern Baptist disaster relief, church members brought hot meals into the flood zone, gutted flooded homes and cut trees away from damaged buildings.

"It excites me greatly that God's people have been so engaged since the storm occurred," said David Crosby, current pastor of First Baptist Church of New Orleans.

Crosby and his church started the Baptist Crossroads project, the first building blitz in the New Orleans flood zone. Partnering with Habitat for Humanity, First Baptist has raised more than \$3 million and recruited more than 3,000 volunteers to build 40 homes in the city's Upper

Ninth Ward.

"Our evangelism in the past has been mighty in words," Crosby said, "but this is a chance to be mighty in deeds."

R.G. Lee once said, "The disciples thought the roses would never bloom again when they knew that Jesus was in the grave. But the roses did bloom! And after the stress, after the stress and storm, the roses bloomed. After the storm, the sun shone. And after the night, the glory ... the roses bloom again!"

"Our only real hope is in Christ," Crosby said. "All our building efforts are futile unless we build in Him. I want this city to be rebuilt by God's people so that He will receive the glory for what happens here, and so that there will be a new spiritual foundation undergirding the new city of New Orleans."

R.G. Lee died in 1978, but his words still remind us that hope hangs on the horizon. Thorns are not without their roses, and pain is not without its purpose. The winter is gone, spring is here, and the Crescent City will smile once more. Indeed, the roses will bloom again.

*Christian George, a preacher and writer, is a student at Beeson Divinity School in Birmingham, Ala.*

## FIRST PERSON

## CP deserves support

It is absolutely unbelievable to me that Ronnie Floyd would allow his name to be presented as a candidate for Southern Baptist Convention president in June in Greensboro, N.C.

The church Floyd serves as pastor in Arkansas gave 0.27 percent to the Cooperative Program last year! What is even more astounding is the fact that SBC seminary presidents Akin, Mohler and Patterson have endorsed Floyd for president.

Albert Mohler publicly says his calling to Southern Seminary is a call to return to biblical truth. I am in favor of that. Each of our SBC

seminaries needs to teach the Bible. I personally believe the Bible is the inspired, inerrant, infallible Word of God. But how much Bible could be taught in our six seminaries if the average Southern Baptist church gave 0.27 percent to the Cooperative Program? How can Mohler, as the head of Southern Baptists' flagship seminary, endorse a candidate who clearly doesn't support CP?

My wife and I are graduates of Southern Seminary—educated with the support of CP dollars. We served with the International Mission Board for 16 years—paid and supported each month with the help of CP dollars. What if our international missionaries came home on state-

side assignment and encouraged our churches to give 0.27 percent to CP? And lest you wonder, I am a staff member in a Kentucky Baptist church that gives 13 percent of undesignated gifts to CP.

Lord willing, I will drive to Greensboro next month to vote against Ronnie Floyd. I urge all former IMB missionaries to get the word out about Floyd's candidacy and go to Greensboro if to do nothing other than vote and make your voice heard that the Cooperative Program is the lifeline of this convention. It deserves—no, demands—a leader who believes in the integrity and worth of the Cooperative Program!

*Larry Rowell  
Campbellsville*

## Focusing on the harvest

There are so many people in Kentucky who need to come to a saving knowledge of Jesus Christ. In fact, there could be up to 2.5 million people in our state who are unreached.

Let me break down some of those numbers:

- Some analysts believe there are as many as 250,000 Hispanics in Kentucky. There are people from other language groups who need to be reached as well.

- Eastern Kentucky has long been recognized as a mission field with 60 to 75 percent of the people unreached for Christ.

- The college campuses are a mission field with more than 200,000 students. Many are completely unreached while others dropped out of church after graduating from high school.

- Reports indicate that up to 84 percent of the youth population is unreached. I think the same probably is true for children as well.

There are significant numbers

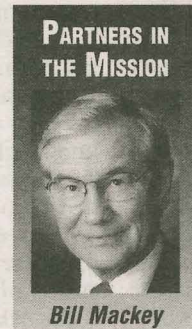
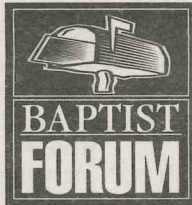
of unreached people in every age group. All of them deserve to hear the good news of God's love and forgiveness in an understandable way and have an opportunity to receive Jesus Christ.

The Bible says that when Jesus saw the crowds He was moved with compassion for them because they were sheep without a shepherd (Matthew 9:36).

Then Jesus said, "The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few. Pray the Lord of the harvest to send out workers into His harvest fields" (Matthew 9:37-38).

I praise God for all that is being done by Kentucky Baptists to reach people for Christ. As Kentucky Baptists, you are supporting 12 full-time and 12 part-time campus ministers who involve 19,000 students each year. More than 400 students become believers each year.

You also are supporting 74 Hispanic ministries. Eleven ministries became churches last year. The KBC Hispanic Bible Institute has 45 His-



Bill Mackey

## FAMILY

## How much should parents give kids as an allowance?

By Jeremy White

Parents often wonder, "How much should we give our children as allowances? What chores are required?"

An allowance can be a teaching tool to help children

learn about money from experience. You are there to guide, but they learn from handling their own money.

One rule of thumb used by some financial counselors through the years is an allowance of \$1 per week multiplied by your child's age. Thus, an 8-year old gets \$8 per week. That might sound high, but with this approach your child should be paying some of his or her own expenses such as school lunches and clothes.

For reference, here are the results of a Yankelovich Youth Monitor survey published in the Wall Street Journal, including age group, percent receiving an allowance and average weekly amount among those receiving an allowance:

- Age 6-8, 50 percent, \$6.
- Age 9-11, 56 percent, \$8.
- Age 12-14, 67 percent, \$11.30.
- Age 15-17, 57 percent, \$19.30.

I'm not suggesting these amounts be your child's allowance. That's your decision. I thought this information could satisfy your curiosity about what others do. Set the allowance to cover some needs but not provide all their wants.

We require our children to complete certain chores just because they are members of our family. These include cleaning their room, setting the table, loading the dishwasher and folding laundry. They receive no payment for doing these chores, they began at an early age, and the chores increase as the children get older.

Our children receive allowances to teach them about money by having their own experience with money. In other words, we do not tie the payment of an allowance to completing chores. The two are not dependent on each other. If you paid for every chore, what would you do when the child refused because he or she had enough money or wasn't motivated by money?

In addition to required chores, certain jobs around the house are optional. They receive compensation for these jobs. Weeding the garden, sweeping the deck, raking leaves and wiping the baseboards provide opportunities for extra money.

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



## Finding healing from adultery begins with God's forgiveness

**Q: I am a single man who got involved emotionally and sexually with a married woman who was separated from her husband. She recently decided to reconcile with him. I feel like I wear the "scarlet letter" with those who know what happened. How do I gain forgiveness and try to move on?**

I suggest the following steps for you to seek forgiveness and restoration:

Make sure your confession of sin is up-to-date. "Against

### SINGLES

Thee and Thee only have I sinned, and done this evil in thy sight. ... Restore to me the joy of thy salvation" (Psalm 51).

This was David's confession of adultery and murder. God knows you better than you know yourself yet loves you more than you can imagine. The parable of the prodigal son (Luke 15) teaches that God strongly wants to bring you back into a restored relationship with Him.

It helps to "confess your faults to one another, that you may be healed" (James 5). Find a safe person in your area such as a pastoral counselor at [www.aapc.org](http://www.aapc.org). Pastoral counseling is fully confidential and done by someone who appreciates your faith.

Have you forgiven the other person? Yourself? Everett Worthington's excellent book, "Five Steps to Forgiveness," might be helpful.

Jesus said to a woman caught in adultery, "Go and sin no more" (John 8). Remove yourself from situations where you will be tempted to stay in contact with the person.

Find a small group for accountability relationships. Accountability means sharing equally with one another, praying for and encouraging one another.

Enlist a safe group of pastors or deacons to help you walk through a time of restoration. Done confidentially and lovingly, this process can provide a sense of full restoration to God's service.

Grace happens. It might be hard to believe now, but God some day can use you to help restore and strengthen the lives of others who have experienced similar personal failures.—James Stillwell

## Q: How can we best encourage our teenagers to be good sports when they lose in athletic competition?

As the parents, you shoulder the lion's share of the load for influencing your teens' attitude. Your attitude toward their coach, team, competitors and other parents will wield a huge influence on your son or daughter.

One of the foundational principles identified by the leaders of the successful Upward Basketball program is the "circle of criticism" and the "circle of affirmation." Simply put, the circle of criticism or affirmation begins with the response of the coach to a call made by the referee. If the coach responds with public criticism, the parents receive implied permission to react similarly and then the players follow suit. If the response of the coach is affirmation and/or acceptance, parents and players receive this influence as well.

Here are a few things for parents to keep in mind when dealing with competitive sports in school:

- Encourage players, coaches and referees.
- Remember that winning is less important than the character being molded and shaped in your athlete. Find positive points even in losing situations.
- Talk with a coach privately about concerns you have after you calm down and take 24 hours to pray and consider your concerns.
- Sports doesn't always mold character; often it reveals it. Pray about what God is revealing about your character as you sit in the stands.
- Support the local chapter of the Fellowship of Christian Athletes and consider sending your athlete to one of the summer camps hosted by FCA.—Scott Wigginton

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## Have you prayed at the church altar lately?

When was the last time your church altar was filled with people praying?

What about you? Have you personally walked down the aisle and knelt at the altar to seek God's face in response to burdens in your life or the lives of those around you in the past few weeks? The past year? The past five years?

While many churches have altars that often have people kneeling in earnest prayer, many other congregations extend public invitations week after week with little or no response from anyone.

At Crestwood Baptist Church in Oldham County where my family and I are members, I've had the privilege of participating in corporate prayer at our church altar twice in recent weeks.

First was a prayer of dedication after leaders in our congregation signed a partnering church covenant with Kenwood Northeast Baptist Church, also in Crestwood. Church members were invited to join Kenwood Pastor James Booker and Crestwood Minister of Education Bill Ellis in a time of prayer at the end of the service. It was a meaningful time of celebration and cooperation as our two congregations pledged to help support and strengthen each other.

The second opportunity was during a preview concert by Poema, a women's quartet in our church who were on their way to Germany and Italy as part of the Kentucky Baptist Convention's partnership with the International Baptist Convention. After the group sang and shared their testimonies, we concluded the evening with a prayer for them as they prepared to minister overseas.

As significant as those moments at the altar were, they also reminded me of the need for all of us as believers to respond to the Holy Spirit's

prompting each time He nudges us to spend time in prayer at church or elsewhere.

The KBC's five-year Kentucky Baptists Connect strategy acknowledges the effort's goals and objectives "cannot be achieved without God's hand of blessing upon Kentucky Baptists." The report notes that "KBC staff, associational and church leaders, and institution and agency personnel are encouraged to place a special five-year emphasis on prayer focused on God's protection and connecting all people to Jesus Christ."

Those same goals are appropriate for all Kentucky Baptists to pursue. Whether seeking God's wisdom and will in church or denominational life, praying for spiritual renewal and revival, or interceding for the spiritual and physical needs of family and friends, Kentucky Baptists would be well served by making every church altar a place of frequent and fervent prayer.

Jesus told His followers in Matthew 9:37-38, "The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. Pray the Lord of the harvest to send out workers into His harvest."

When Christians gain an urgent burden and vision for people in spiritual need, we tend to think the first response is to go and do. But Jesus said the starting point is prayer, petitioning God "to send out workers into His harvest." Often, of course, God graciously allows us to be part of the answer to our own heartfelt prayers.

As Kentucky Baptists seek to make an eternal impact across the commonwealth for the sake of the gospel, there is no better place to begin than on our knees at our own church altars.

Have you prayed at the altar lately? What about next Sunday?

### STRAIGHT FROM THE EDITOR



Trennis Henderson

## Take a vacation without busting your budget

By Howard Dayton

Gainesville, Ga. (BP)—We are a recreation- and entertainment-oriented nation—maybe obsessed is an even more descriptive word.

Of course, vacations aren't bad; in fact, they're good and can be helpful if kept in proper perspective. However, if you're in debt, you never should use money that rightfully belongs to creditors in order to entertain yourself. Christians should resist this tendency and put restraints on vacations.

The problem is that many Christian families don't save for their vacations, opting instead to charge it. It's called instant gratification. Unfortunately, bills eventually become due and the debt obligation usually far outweighs any instant gratification.

Vacations and eating out are primary sources of credit card debt accumulation. Families overspend on vacations because they haven't saved enough to go on a vacation and so they use their credit cards. Quite often, the previous year's debt is not paid off before vacation time comes again. As debts pile up, there is a greater desire to "get away from it all." Of course, that simply compounds the problem.

This year, gas prices have presented some staggering restraints to

vacation plans for many people. Gas prices make it more important than in previous years to stay within budget limits and to look for ways to cut expenditures. Oh, did I mention that you should have a family budget, and that it should include planning for entertainment and recreation?

There are cost-saving alternatives available for your family if you are willing to consider them and are serious about staying within the percentage allocation of your budgets for entertainment and recreation. You might not like all of the following suggestions, but at least consider them:

- Studies show drivers will improve their vehicle's gas mileage by 30 percent by keeping tires properly inflated, staying within the speed limit and not accelerating or braking rapidly.

- Consider camping vacations to avoid motel and restaurant expenses.

- Select vacation areas within a couple of hours driving distance from home.

- Look into swapping residences with a friend, relative or Christian family in another locale to provide an inexpensive vacation.

- Consider taking a vacation with another family to reduce expenses.

- Although this one might be difficult for families with school-age children, plan vacations during off-seasons if possible.

- If flying, use the least expensive late night or early morning coach fares available.

- Play family games instead of scheduling paid entertainment.

- Eat "brown-bag" or dinner leftover lunches as often as possible.

- Some restaurants have "early bird" dinner specials from 4-6 p.m. that are less expensive than menu items after 6 p.m.

- If you must take an extended or expensive vacation, save for it now and take it next year.

If you're willing to take a little time to look for them, there are many ideas you could think of for an enjoyable vacation that won't bust your budget. The certainty is that God always has an alternative to debt. Once you commit to living within the means God has provided, He will open all kinds of less expensive alternatives.

God knows we need rest and relaxation, and He often will provide it from unexpected sources once our attitudes are correct and our values align with His stewardship guidelines. Whether you're in debt or not, try to stay within reasonable budget parameters for your vacation.

Howard Dayton is CEO of Crown Financial Ministries

# Presidential candidates offer differing views of SBC vision, needs

## Floyd emphasizes need for spiritual renewal in SBC

Springdale, Ark. (BP)—Citing a church-wide spiritual renewal that took place in his congregation 10 years ago, Ronnie Floyd says his desire is to lead a similar denomination-wide transformation for the Southern Baptist Convention.

Floyd, pastor of First Baptist Church in Springdale, Ark., will be nominated for Southern Baptist Convention president during the SBC annual meeting June 13-14 in Greensboro, N.C. Georgia pastor Johnny Hunt, who had been expected to be the nominee favored by current SBC leaders, chose instead to nominate Floyd.

Saying his nomination was a surprise, Floyd said if he is elected SBC president, he would "passionately lead a desperate call to a spiritual movement in this denomination, a spiritual movement that is biblically based, Jesus-centered and Holy Spirit-controlled."

Floyd emphasized he would work to re-establish the centrality of the local church within the convention. He was on the committee that formulated the Covenant for a New Century, an effort in the 1990s that restructured entities and streamlined programs and mission assignments for the national convention.

"What I want us to understand always is the heartbeat ... the center of this denomination, is always the local church and the purpose of the denomination is to serve those local churches for the purpose of helping them carry out the gospel of Christ together across the world," he said. "So in that whole process I do know that there are many who feel that that has gotten out of balance in recent years."

Floyd said his focus on spiritual renewal would continue current SBC President Bobby Welch's emphasis on evangelism and baptism "to a degree, because everything we do should be moving us toward the fulfillment of the mission of taking the good news of Christ around the world beginning right here in our back yards of our local churches."

### CP giving levels prompt concern

One of the most discussed issues about SBC elections this year involves the Cooperative Program giving levels of candidates' churches. In February, state convention executive directors approved a report with nine CP-related recommendations that also gained affirmation by the SBC Executive Committee. One of the proposals encourages the election of state and national convention officers whose churches give at least 10 percent of their undesignated receipts through the Cooperative Program.

According to the 2005 Annual Church Profile, Floyd's congregation gave \$32,000 or 0.27 percent of undesignated receipts through CP and another \$189,000 (1.58 percent) directly to SBC causes last year.

Floyd said that the Cooperative Program can be relevant only to the point of the convention re-imaging and reinventing itself to meet the needs of Southern Baptist churches and help them propagate the gospel around the world.

"I think in relationship to the Cooperative Program the No. 1 issue people need to always understand is that it is a tool, it is a vehicle," Floyd said. "It's for churches to join together in our world missionary enterprise."

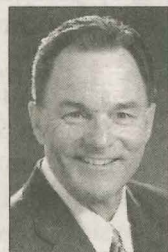
He added that churches can and should

do better. However, he cautioned against making cooperation anything other than voluntary.

"There was never mandated cooperation," he said, adding that there is no scriptural basis for tithing to a denomination. "I don't believe that's what anybody's saying, but we need to be careful."

"It's real difficult to spend percentages," he said. "You spend dollars and cents, and in relationship to that I don't think we need to be judging a church in relationship to what it gives percentile-wise."

Noting that First Baptist, Springdale, has started 17 churches since 1999 "on every inhabited continent of the world," Floyd said, "That doesn't show up in CP giving... At the same time we're taking a mission trip at least once a month, or 12 a year. That doesn't show up in CP giving."



Ronnie Floyd

Addressing other issues of concern, Floyd cited recent conflicts at the SBC's two mission boards.

Stressing the need to trust the trustee system, he said, "I'm a firm believer in the trustee system. We have to let the trustee system work, and No. 2 we have to pray for the leadership of God on those serving as trustees on those various agencies and boards."

### "We're people of the Book"

Floyd said there is a connection between the controversies embroiling Southern Baptist life, including stagnant baptism numbers, and the need for spiritual renewal.

"We have so many issues out here that are raging within the fellowship of Southern Baptists that are only going to be solved when we start really placing a strong, strong, deep abiding belief in the right things that bring about spiritual movement, which would be the importance of prayer at a deeper level in our churches, the mentioning at least of a nod of the significance of fasting along the way if a church would ever feel led to do that, or whatever it may be—those things that God loves."

"We're people of the Book," he said. "We need to operate by the Book, and part of operating by the Book is encountering God to the point where we have some lifestyle change going on. You know, that's our hope for our culture."

Acknowledging other issues such as Calvinism and the practice of private prayer language, Floyd said that whatever the theological issue is, "if it does not help ignite a greater passion for the Word and the greater passion to reach the world, then we have to evaluate the positions we hold."

Floyd said some Southern Baptists hold Calvinist beliefs, but that the threat was a "hyper" form of Calvinism that has a spirit of condemnation.

Affirming a need to "come together to discuss what we can do together and believe together," he added, "The more we split hairs on various matters, the less effective we're going to be in carrying forth our mission."

Citing concerns across generational lines among some people who do not feel they have a voice in the convention, Floyd said the answer is to create venues for people to feel like they are being heard.

"Until we do that, you know, they are not going to engage in what we want them to do."

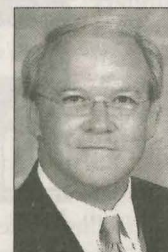
Rather than SBC leaders calling for "loyalty, loyalty," Floyd said, "What they will listen to is, 'Tell me about what you want to do for God. Tell me about how you want to reach this region, and I'm going to listen.'"

## Page warns of rising discontent among some conservatives

Taylor, S.C. (ABP)—Warning "there is a serious disconnect between the leaders of our Southern Baptist Convention and the rank-and-file," South Carolina pastor Frank Page announced he will be a candidate for SBC president next month.

Page's announcement May 22 guarantees Southern Baptists the first seriously contested election since 1994.

Page, 53, pastor of First Baptist Church in Taylors, S.C., was recruited by conservative Southern Baptists dissatisfied with Arkansas Pastor Ronnie Floyd's close ties to the SBC's current power structure and his church's minimal Cooperative Program support.



Frank Page

In a news release announcing his candidacy, Page praised Floyd and affirmed the movement that ousted moderate leaders in the 1980s. He said the differences that prompted his nomination are not about theology or personalities but "methodology—how we do missions and how we do convention work."

Page described an SBC establishment that he believes has lost touch with those who put it in power.

"There is a serious disconnect between the leaders of our Southern Baptist Convention and the rank-and-file layperson and pastor," he wrote. "Some perceive that there is a well-oiled machine, filled with power-hungry politicians, running the show, while the vast majority of loyal, supportive people are left without any voice and/or influence. While this observation may or may not be true, there is a serious perception of disconnect and distrust."

### SBC needs "truly democratic convention"

Calling for a "truly democratic convention," he wrote, "Let us have two or more conservative, solid candidates run each year," without "calling into question anyone's integrity or veiled threats regarding suicide of political futures."

"Many of us are tired of seeing the same names on committees year after year," he added. "Many of us are losing patience with the perception that a few people control everything in the Southern Baptist Convention."

In an interview with Associated Baptist Press, Page said doctrinal guidelines for leadership in the SBC should not exceed the Baptist Faith and Message doctrinal statement that was revised in 2000.

He said agency trustees, such as those at the SBC International Mission Board, have a right to set guidelines for employees, but he added: "Doctrinally, we need to stay with the parameters of the Baptist Faith and Message."

Noting that it also is improper to exclude people from denominational participation because their churches don't contribute a certain percentage of receipts to the Cooperative Program, Page added that it is "absolutely" appropriate to expect elected leaders to support the ministries they govern.

"I would be morally irresponsible to call myself Southern Baptist and not support the work that we do," he said. "We must have leaders that model that kind of cooperation."

"Is this election going to be one in which a candidate is elected who gives little support to the Cooperative Program and at the same meeting the convention is asked to vote on initiatives which strengthen the

Cooperative Program (and expect leaders to model that cooperation)?" he wrote in his news release.

Floyd, former chairman of the SBC Executive Committee, has faced criticism because his church gives 0.27 percent through the Cooperative Program. Page's church contributes 12.1 percent.

"To have a president who gives one quarter of a percent," while adopting a 10 percent standard, sends a "duplicious message," Page told ABP.

He wrote in his news release, however, that "we must affirm that all mission work is vital and appropriate. I will never cast aspersions upon any church or pastor who is on mission for God."

Page, who grew up in Greensboro, N.C., site of the June 13-14 SBC meeting, warned of a "state of turmoil" engulfing several SBC agencies and an "overall malaise" affecting SBC churches.

Turmoil is evident at the North American Mission Board, where the president recently resigned under pressure, he said, and the International Mission Board, where "missionaries have changed to an entirely different missions methodology over the last several years."

"I feel strongly that Southern Baptists need to deal with all of these issues," he wrote.

### Include rather than exclude

If that weren't challenge enough, Southern Baptist churches face "dangerous days," he said, citing recent statistics that show a pattern of decline in baptisms, Sunday school attendance and other indicators.

"Above all that, there is an overall malaise among many people," he said. "There are many groups that state that the 'threads' by which we are connected are becoming increasingly frayed and tenuous. What will hold us together? ... Is there any way for us to do anything other than to rearrange deck chairs on a sinking Titanic?"

In such dangerous times, Page wrote, Southern Baptists must practice openness, accept their differences, and include more people—rather than exclude people.

"For almost 30 years we have concentrated on doctrinal purity (Praise the Lord!)," he wrote. "Let us now add to our passion, revival, soul-winning and missions!"

Solving the SBC's malaise starts with cooperation, he said.

"I am convinced we can do that better together than by pulling apart, as we are prone to do," he added.

"I'm not running against Ronnie Floyd. I'm sure he's a wonderful person. Thank the Lord for that. I just believe that, as Southern Baptists, we can do a lot better if we pull together."

"If anything will hold us together," he said, "it will be a rallying around missions and evangelism ... and church transformation."

Page said there is a need "to pull together various factions" within the SBC, and he mentioned young pastors, "emergent" pastors, Calvinists, extreme legalists, strong denominationalists and even the few remaining moderates.

Page acknowledged that, while contemplating his nomination, he had received some of those "veiled threats regarding suicide of political futures." But he said such warnings about opposing the SBC establishment "didn't concern" him because he had no personal ambitions about seeking denominational office.

"I have no political future," he quipped.

# Kentucky college students take part in mission teams

By Jonathan Johnston  
Kentucky Baptist Convention

Louisville—Sixty college students involved in Baptist ministries throughout the state are spending their summer break helping people and sharing their faith in Kentucky and in far-flung locations around the world.

The students are on nine teams sponsored by the Kentucky Baptist Convention in partnership with the Southern Baptist Convention's North American Mission Board and International Mission Board.

International teams will work in Brazil, Costa Rica, Poland, Slovenia and Thailand. North American teams will serve in Amherst, Mass., and Kentucky.

God often uses summer missions to capture the attention of college students, said Keith Inman, head of the KBC's collegiate ministry department. "By removing some of the distractions that prevent us from being focused on discovering our purpose, summer missions can make it easier to hear the voice of God."

Summer missions also is an exciting time of discovery, he added. "Students will be presented with the opportunity to discover our responsibility as wealthy, educated university students to those who are in great need."

Four of the teams are "Son Teams," which use sports, drama, music, dance and other creative arts to present the gospel. Students selected for the teams will spend the summer traveling to share their message in a variety of settings.

They include:

**Son Burst—Brazil.** This team will support the KBC's partnership with Baptists in Brazil by using creative ministries, including puppetry and creative movement, to share the



**GETTING READY** Tom Smoot, director of the Kentucky Baptist Convention's creative ministries group, directs members of Son Burst—Brazil as they practice a skit. Summer mission teams break this week from training and practice to head to their respective ministries.

Christian faith cross-culturally. This team also will travel throughout Kentucky.

**Son Burst—Amherst.** This team will travel to Amherst, Mass., to work with Mercy Church, a church that students from Murray State University helped start six years ago. This team also will travel and work in Kentucky.

**Son Bound.** This team consists of students who use their athletic abilities to host sports ministry work with the Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children. The team also will travel to Poland to assist in youth ministry and youth camps.

**Son Reach.** This team focuses on children's ministry and will travel throughout Eastern Kentucky to help churches with vacation Bible school and camps.

Twelve students also will travel to Costa Rica to minister to that nation's poverty-stricken people. Water purification systems will be constructed at strategic points. The team also will work with churches, schools and orphanages in the slums of San Jose, the nation's capital. The team will be working with the EdgeOutreach group as well as



Southern Baptist missionaries.

A team traveling to Poland will minister in an inner-city area known as the "Triangle" in Wroclaw. The students will help lead an ongoing program for children. The students also will build relationships with youth in the area by teaching conversational English classes in a public school, leading a weekly English club at a local coffeehouse and hosting other events.

The team also will help local churches with construction and serve as counselors at a Christian youth camp.

A team traveling to Slovenia will work with Southern Baptist missionaries and develop a multi-media presentation focusing on four key cities in Slovenia. The students also will be involved in Christian literature distribution and engage Slovenian students in a cultural English exchange.

Students who travel to Thailand will serve on four campuses throughout the city of Chiang Mai. The team will focus on building relationships with local students through a variety of activities.

The team will get to work with university students from the Khon Muang ethnic group. Of the 6 million people in the Khon Muang group, only 1 percent are Christian.

Another group of students, known as the Impact team, will participate in community-based missions among local churches in Northern Kentucky. These students will help local churches in community outreach and ministry to various age groups.

For more information about summer missions, contact the KBC collegiate/young adult group toll-free in Kentucky at (866) 489-3573 or visit [www.kybaptist.org/collegiate](http://www.kybaptist.org/collegiate).

**PRACTICE, PRACTICE**

Audrey Ferguson, a student at Murray State University, and Emily Veal, a student at the University of Louisville, practice their puppetry skills. (Photos by David Winfrey)

## Students serving in Kentucky, Poland, Brazil, Costa Rica and elsewhere

Students serving in Kentucky Baptist Convention collegiate mission teams this summer include:

**Katie Adams**, Murray State University, Crestwood Baptist Church in Crestwood, Costa Rica.

**Amy Ashburn**, Union University, First Baptist Church of Barbourville, Thailand.

**Karen Ball**, University of the Cumberlands, Edgewood Baptist Church in Hopkinsville, Slovenia.

**Rachel Barber**, Western Kentucky University, Westside Baptist Church in Murray, Costa Rica.

**Zach Bray**, Georgetown College, New Hope Christian Church in Maysville, Costa Rica.

**Lindsey Beil**, University of the Cumberlands, Florence Baptist Church, Poland.

**Mary Alice Birdwhistell**, Georgetown College, Sand Spring Baptist Church in Lawrenceburg, Son Reach.

**Amber Brewer**, Berea College, Oak Street Baptist Church in Maryville, Slovenia.

**Jessi Bullock**, Northern Kentucky University, Buckner Baptist Church in La Grange, Impact Northern Kentucky.

**Laura Lee Burford**, Northern Kentucky University, Greenup Fork Baptist Church in Owenton, Impact Northern Kentucky.

**Bentley Caldwell**, Western Kentucky University, Faith Center of Paducah, Son Bound-Poland.

**Leslie Cecil**, University of Louisville, Owensboro Christian Church, Son Reach.

**Andrew Chacko**, University of Louisville, Owensboro Christian Church, Thailand.

**Michael Chen**, Berea College, Impact Northern Kentucky.

**Carrie Kendrick**, Murray State, First Baptist Church of Eddyville, Thailand.

**Steve Clark**, University of Louisville, Browns Baptist Church, Son Bound.

**Nathan Cobb**, Kentucky Wesleyan College, Owensboro Christian Church, Son Reach.

**Tiffany Davidson**, Western Kentucky University, Calvary Baptist Church in Murfreesboro, Tenn., Son Burst-Brazil.

**Amber Davis**, Campbellsville University, Walnut Memorial Baptist Church in Owensboro, Poland.

**Allison Day**, University of the Cumberlands, First Baptist Church of Whitesburg, Poland.

**Michael Etter**, University of Louisville, First Baptist Church of Williamsburg, Thailand.

**Audrey Ferguson**, Murray State, Memorial Baptist Church in Murray, Son Burst-Brazil.

**Carrie Freeman**, University of the Cumberlands, Main Street Baptist Church in Williamsburg, Thailand.

**Maeghan Garrett**, Kentucky Wesleyan College, Faith Missionary Baptist Church in Madisonville, Son Burst-Amherst.

**Mary Helen Gipson**, Murray State, Yellow Creek Baptist Church in Owensboro, Son Burst-Amherst.

**Nina Glassco**, Henderson Community College, Immanuel Baptist Church in Henderson, Poland.

**Jeremy Grace**, Murray State, Second Baptist Church of Greenville, Costa Rica.

**Heather Hall**, University of the Cumberlands, Watson Chapel Baptist Church in Whitesburg, Thailand.

**Lindsay Hutcherson**, University of Louisville, Crestwood Baptist Church in Crestwood, Costa Rica.

**Ashley Jones**, Murray State, White Sulphur Baptist Church in Fredonia, Thailand.

**Ben Keith**, Berea College, Berea Baptist Church, Poland.

**Alicia Kittinger**, Kentucky Wesleyan College, Parkview Methodist Church in Madisonville, Costa Rica.

**Laurin Lansing**, Southeastern Louisiana University, Zoar Baptist Church in Baton Rouge, La., Thailand.

**Amy Lester**, Lexington Community College, Bruners Chapel Baptist Church in Harrodsburg, Poland.

**Chad Martin**, Western Kentucky University, Antioch Baptist Church in Knob Lick, Son Bound.

**Kayla Meadows**, Morehead State University, Vine Run Baptist Church in Dry Ridge, Son Reach.

**Torey Merrick**, Georgetown College, Buck Run Baptist Church in Frankfort, Thailand.

**Makenzie Moon**, Murray State, Olivet Baptist Church in Paducah, Thailand.

**Andrew Morrison**, University of the Cumberlands, Hickory Grove Baptist Church in Independence, Son Burst-Brazil.

**Erin Nowak**, Morehead State University, St. Matthews Baptist Church in Louisville, Poland.

**Sam Plants**, Berea College, Berea Baptist Church, Salt Lake City.

**Jalaine Polk**, University of Louisville, Crestwood Baptist Church in Crestwood, Impact Northern Kentucky.

**Jon Richard**, University of Kentucky, St. Pius X in Owensboro, Son Burst-Brazil.

**Tracy Roeding**, Northern Kentucky University, Main Street Baptist Church in Alexandria, Costa Rica.

**Leah Ryan**, Georgetown College, St. Matthews Baptist Church in Louisville, Costa Rica.

**Lauren Sallee**, University of Kentucky, Cathedral of Christ the King in Lexington, Poland.

**Shauna Sams**, Berea College, Grand Rivers Baptist Church, Son Burst-Amherst.

**Nathan Smith**, Western Kentucky University, First Baptist Church of Franklin, Costa Rica.

**Jess Sorrell**, Georgetown College, Spring Street Baptist Church in Mount Sterling, Impact Northern Kentucky.

**Kathy Stienbarger**, University of the Cumberlands, Montgomery Baptist

Church in Carrie, Thailand.

**Ellen Sullivan**, University of Louisville, Monterey Baptist Church, Impact Northern Kentucky.

**Dan Tepe**, Murray State, Highland Hills Baptist Church in Fort Thomas, Costa Rica.

**Sarah Thomas**, Northern Kentucky University, Hickory Grove Baptist Church in Independence, Son Burst-Amherst.

**Grace Todd**, Berea College, Hamlet Missionary Baptist Church in Benton, Poland.

**Emily Veal**, University of Louisville, Southeast Christian Church in Louisville, Son Burst-Brazil.

**Amanda Voelker**, Eastern Kentucky University, New Heights Baptist Church in Louisville, Thailand.

**Melissa Whitley**, University of Louisville, Bardstown Baptist Church, Costa Rica.

**Paul Wilkes**, University of the Cumberlands, Bedford Baptist Church, Thailand.

**Alex Williams**, Western Kentucky University, First Church of God in Mt. Carmel, Ill., Impact Northern Kentucky.

**Luke Woodward**, University of Kentucky, Calvary Baptist Church in Lexington, Son Burst-Amherst.

**Josh Yuen**, University of Louisville, Crestwood Baptist Church in Crestwood, Son Bound-Poland.

## Graduation prayers cancelled in at least two counties

**During the principal's opening remarks, students stood and said the Lord's Prayer in unison.**

**Russell Springs (BP)**—About 200 seniors at a Russell Springs high school graduation stood and recited the Lord's Prayer May 19 in response to a federal judge banning prayer at the ceremony after a student's lawsuit.

And a similar lawsuit appears to have stopped formal prayer during this weekend's graduation ceremony in Shelby County.

Officials at Russell County High School said voluntary prayer had been a part of the school's graduations for decades, until May 16 when an anonymous graduating senior, with the help of the American Civil Liberties Union of Kentucky, filed a lawsuit claiming he was offended by graduation prayers.

"My high school graduation is a very important event for me, and I want to attend my graduation without having to compromise my constitutional rights," the student said in an affidavit. He was identified only as John Doe, stating he feared retaliation.

### Praying in unison

U.S. District Judge Joseph McKinney granted a temporary restraining order about 12 hours before the start of graduation, ordering school officials and a peer-elected student not to proceed with a scheduled prayer in the ceremony.

But during the principal's opening remarks, students stood and

said the Lord's Prayer in unison, drawing a standing ovation from the crowd of 2,000 people, according to Associated Press.

The "revival-like atmosphere" continued, AP said, when senior Megan Chapman, chosen by her classmates to deliver remarks, mentioned her faith—particularly that she believed God had guided her since childhood. She was interrupted repeatedly by the cheering crowd as she admonished graduates to trust in God.

"So, when you get out in the world and things get hard and you don't feel like you're going to pass that final next week in college, or you're not going to be able to pay that next bill, God's going to help you through that with your faith in Him," Chapman said, according to AP.

Russell County School Superintendent Scott Pierce told AP he was pleased with the response from the senior class at graduation because it showed they've learned to be "critical thinkers."

"They exhibited what we've tried to accomplish in 12 years of education—they have the ability to make these compelling decisions on their own," he said.

Liberty Counsel now represents Chapman as part of its "Friend or Foe Graduation Prayer Campaign" and will ask the court to vacate its ruling, which the conservative

legal group called "invalid, wrong and limited."

### Differing legal opinions

"Students have the right to include religious viewpoints during their graduation speeches," Anita Staver, president of Liberty Counsel, said in a statement.

"It is inappropriate for a school to censor religious viewpoints from a student's personal graduation message," she added. "Our country was founded upon prayer. Our currency acknowledges God. Our legislatures begin each session with prayer. Our students have the right to voluntarily pray during graduation. It is insensitive and unconstitutional to silence student-initiated, voluntary prayer."

ACLU lawyer Lili Lutgens also invoked the intentions of the nation's founding fathers to defend their case.

"This case is not about whether people can pray," Lutgens told The Louisville Courier-Journal. "It's about families and individuals deciding for themselves whether, when and how to pray. Our found-

ers intended that these sorts of religious decisions be made by individuals and families, not government."

The district judge in the Kentucky case said he would provide reasons for his three-sentence ruling at a later date. Both sides have expressed interest in securing a precedent for future cases.

In Shelby County, Shelby High School principal Gary Kidwell said last week that the school would not schedule any formal prayers after receiving a letter from the ACLU on behalf of a student.

Kidwell added no prayer would be held at a school banquet and awards ceremony as well, according to the Courier-Journal.

The school "will be compliant with the law and also provide a dignified program for all students," he said.

The U.S. Supreme Court has yet to rule specifically on student-led prayers at graduations, though it banned clergy-led prayers at graduations in 1992 and banned student-led prayers at high school football games in 2000.



# "The borrower is slave to the lender."

Proverbs 22:7

## God has a plan for your money!

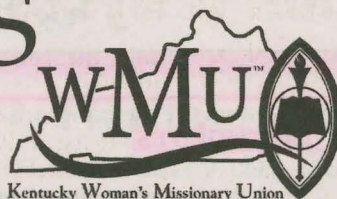
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# WMU™ KENTUCKYNOTES



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

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2005-06  
Eliza Broadus Offering

for Kentucky missions  
will be received  
through 8/31/06

Basic Offering Goal: \$925,000  
Challenge Goal: \$1,000,000

\$830,254 received  
as of 5/26/06

Summer 2006

## WORLD MISSIONS UNLIMITED 2006

<b>WHAT?</b>	Training    Inspiration    Motivation    Fellowship
<b>WHO?</b>	Church WMU and Baptist Men on Missions leaders Associational WMU leaders
<b>WHY?</b>	To create an excitement and develop expertise in missions education To lead others to impact their world for Christ and His mission To become the leader God wants you to be
<b>HIGHLIGHTS?</b>	Larry Koch – Disaster Relief Associate, Kentucky Baptist Convention Bill Barker – Director, Appalachian Regional Ministry Dianne Daniels – Multicultural Ministry Consultant, WMU, SBC Hispanic WMU Leadership Track (in Spanish) Associational WMU Leadership Track
<b>WHEN? and WHERE?</b>	July 21-22, Westport Road Baptist Church, Louisville
	<b>Friday</b> 6:00 p.m. – 9:15 p.m.
	<b>Saturday</b> 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.
<b>COST?</b>	\$15 per person (if registered by June 30) \$20 per person (if registered by July 14) \$25 per person (if registered after July 14) Includes: Friday and Saturday workshops and sessions Saturday lunch WMU participants receive a WMU Year Book Baptist Men on Mission participants will receive related resources.
<b>HOW?</b>	Request registration brochure from Kentucky WMU, complete and return with registration fee.
<b>QUESTIONS?</b>	Call 502-489-3534 or 1-866-489-3534 OR e-mail: Brenda.Price@kybaptist.org

## A Personal Word

In 2003, Kentucky WMU launched a growth plan called **Missions LINK**. LINK stands for Linking, Involvement, Needs and Knowledge for Missions.



**Joy Bolton**  
Executive  
Director-  
Treasurer

Each year we have focused on a different aspect of that acrostic. For 2006-07, our emphasis will be Knowledge. How do we learn about missions so that we can link knowledge to our own involvement and in meeting needs? While we certainly learn through doing, there are things we need to learn about missions that we will learn by reading and through study. There is no better resource for such learning than WMU magazines and resources published by our

national WMU office.

In our Annual Meeting, we began a new campaign called "I Subscribe." Not only will subscribing help each of us learn more about missions so that we can do more and meet more needs, but subscribing will provide needed support for our national WMU.

There is a strong connection between Kentucky WMU and national WMU. Our Kentucky WMU president serves as a member of the national WMU Executive Board along with the other state WMU presidents. As our state president, she is a vice-president of WMU, SBC.

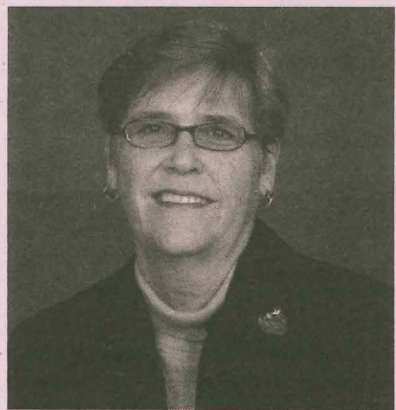
National WMU is both an organization and a non-profit business. Because national WMU as an organization receives no funding from the Southern Baptist Convention, meaning no Cooperative Program funding, then our national WMU office must be self-supporting. This is done through the sale of magazines, books, and other products. National WMU is a non-profit organization, meaning that all profits from sales are put back into the work of the organization.

What this means to us in Kentucky and every other state, is that pieces like age-level brochures, WMU catalogs, MissionsFEST promotion, and other pieces are provided to us free of charge. We can then give them to you free of charge. It means that national WMU has the resources to pay the way of our president to the national WMU Board meeting each year in January and for the national WMU Annual Meeting. It means that national WMU staff can help us in the states develop materials and provide training.

If national WMU were to ask each one of us to make a \$20 donation to help the work of the national office, most of us would be glad to do that. Well, for less than \$20, you can support our national WMU office. Get a personal subscription to a WMU magazine. Get one for yourself. Get one for a friend. Get one for a granddaughter. At my house, we receive 3 copies of *Missions Mosaic* every month—one for me, one for my mother, and one for my daughter. That way, we each have our own copy to keep with our Bible to pray daily for our missionaries.

Linking Involvement, Needs, and Knowledge for Missions is what Missions LINK is all about. As we continue our focus on WMU growth in Kentucky, let's be informed women about the needs and opportunities around the world in missions. I subscribe! What about you?

## Introducing Pat Reaves Kentucky WMU President



Patricia Reaves

Patricia Reaves of Louisville was elected as the thirty-seventh president of Kentucky WMU on April 21, 2006 in Harrodsburg.

Pat and her husband, Dudley, are active members of Bethlehem Baptist Church in the Long Run Association. Pat sings in the choir, teaches Sunday School, and is active in WMU. Also, Pat and Dudley teach a class of two- and three-year-old Mission Friends and have been involved in ministry to Hispanic children. Pat and Dudley have been married for 43 years and have three children and three grandchildren.

Pat's WMU experience includes serving in church and associational WMU leadership as WMU director, Missions Friends leader, Ministry-Witnessing Consultant, and other positions. Pat served on the Kentucky WMU Executive Board from 2002-2005 as a representative from Region Four and as Chairperson of our Per-

sonnel/Administrative Committee for two years. Pat is a member of the KBC Mission Board and currently chairperson of the Missions Growth Committee. She is also a member of our Kentucky WMU Resource Team in the area of Mission Friends (Preschool) work.

In describing her WMU involvement, Pat says "I have been involved with WMU most of my life. I was a GA and started teaching Sunbeams when I was about 14. I still have the white Bible my BYW group presented to me when I was getting married." In addition to her other WMU leadership roles, Pat coordinates care for international preschoolers for Friendship International, a ministry of Long Run WMU. Friendship International meets every Wednesday during the school year as an outreach to internationals. The program includes Bible study, crafts, music, and other classes.

We welcome Pat to this new leadership role with Kentucky WMU.

## Adults

What price do you put on your time with Adults and Women on Mission? Most of our churches have an hour a month they will spend in adult mission education. Doesn't seem like much, however several women will say, "I don't have time." Please take a couple of minutes and reflect on these words.

The Value of Time  
(Author Unknown)

"Imagine there is a bank that credits your account each morning with \$86,400. It carries over no balance from day to day. Every evening deletes whatever part of the balance you failed to use during the day.

What would you do? Draw out every cent, of course!

Each of us has such a bank. Its name is TIME. Every morning, it credits you with 86,400 seconds. Every night it writes off, as lost, whatever of this you have

failed to invest to good purpose. It carries over no balance. It allows no overdraft. Each day it opens a new account for you. Each night it burns the remains of the day. If you fail to use the day's deposits, the loss is yours. There is no going back. There is no drawing against the "tomorrow". You must live in the present on today's deposits.

Invest it so as to get from it the utmost in health, happiness and success! The clock is running. Make the most of today.

To realize the value of ONE YEAR, ask a student who failed a grade.

To realize the value of ONE MONTH, ask a mother who gave birth to a pre-mature baby.

To realize the value of ONE WEEK, ask the editor of a weekly newspaper.

To realize the value of ONE DAY, ask a daily wage laborer with kids to feed.

To realize the value of ONE HOUR, ask the couple who are waiting to meet.

To realize the value of ONE MINUTE, ask a person who missed the train.

To realize the value of ONE SECOND, ask a person who just avoided an accident.

To realize the value of ONE MILLI-SECOND, ask the person who won a silver medal in the Olympics.

Treasure every moment that you have! And treasure it more because you shared it with someone special, special enough to spend your time.

And remember that time waits for no one.

Yesterday is history.

Tomorrow is a mystery.

Today is a gift.

That's why it's called the present!"

An hour a month to pray for and learn about missions ... Hmm?! Pass on the passion for missions and mission education!

—Wanda Walker



## WMU Directors



I don't doubt that whenever you ask those in your church or association to work with mission education you have heard ... "Oh, I don't have time to do that. I am already doing..." I have said it before. You may have said it.

As WMU leaders, you are going to hear these things from the leadership in your associations and churches. Do not be discouraged.

Engaging your church in missions education is a task to be greatly rewarded by our Father. Start with prayer. What is your dream or vision for your church family? What does your WMU leadership team have as a vision? Talk with your church leadership. Define their vision. Ask to collaborate on how to increase the awareness of missions and missions education with the church family. If your church has a missions committee, involve them. Learn their vision. Build a WMU leadership team meeting or meetings on growing that

vision. Grow a plan with a strategy that will work for your church family. This may not take off like gangbusters. Patience and prayer are crucial.

What an incredible opportunity we have as WMU leaders. We lead by example and commitment to our Lord. We lead our church families to become stronger Christ followers. What an honor and privilege!

—Wanda Walker

## Youth

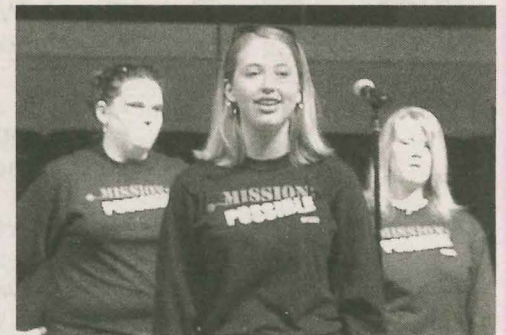
With God all things ARE possible. Exalt 2006 was blessed by God. We were inspired by Wini, Katie and Bonita to complete God's mission. The praise team and the other students from the BCM at WKU poured themselves into the lives of the participants. On Saturday afternoon, the guys attending 4:GO and Big Red (mascot at WKU) joined us for a joint worship service. Make plans to attend Exalt and 4:GO next year. Splash is fast approaching. Make your reser-



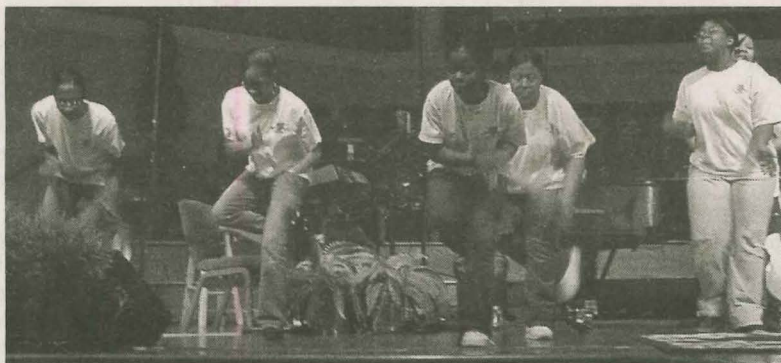
vations now for the "slumber party with a mission", June 23-24 at Jonathan Creek. Son Bound, the BCM sports ministry team, and Jenny, a language student and ESL teacher in a last frontier country will be with us.

Jenny will also be at Cedar Crest June 26-30. This week at Mission Adventure Camp is set aside for girls in grades 6-10 and includes time for ministry projects in the community. See you there!

—LaRaine Dail



Stephanie Lawless (Corbin), Katie Hildabrand (Russellville) and Brianna Clark (Owenton) planned and led Exalt in their role as Acteens Panelists.



The Step Team of New Hope Missionary, Radcliff, shared in worship.



Katie Richards, president of Kentucky BCM, spoke and led a workshop.



Big Red made a special appearance on Saturday afternoon when 4:GO joined Exalt for worship.

## Preschool and Children

Do you think the boys and girls in Mission Friends, Girls in Action and Children in Action are worth it? Are they worth you being the best teacher or leader you can be? The answer to both questions is, of course, "YES!" To be an effective teacher or leader and have a strong missions education program for preschoolers and children, attend **World Missions Unlimited** this summer! There will be something to learn and share whether you are a new teacher or leader or an experienced one. (See page 1 for the details.)



In September preschoolers and children in your church will want to participate in the **Season of Prayer and Offering for State Missions**. It would be a great way to start the new church year. The study and prayer material will focus on ministries in eastern Kentucky. Teaching guides are available from your WMU director or Kentucky WMU office. Launch



the state mission emphasis by involving preschoolers and children in **Operation Missions LINK**, a simultaneous missions project day across Kentucky on Saturday, September 16. Choose a ministry in your community or association to give preschoolers and children a hands-on missions experience.



—Brenda Price

## Children in Action Missions Day Camp

Cedar Crest (at Cedarmore)  
Saturday, September 23  
10 a.m. – 3 p.m. (Eastern Time)  
Cost – \$10.00 per person

For members of Children in Action  
(boys and girls, grades 1-6)

Meet missionaries, make new friends,  
learn about God and His creation, do  
crafts, play games and have fun galore!

Contact the Kentucky WMU office after  
July 1 for details.

## President's Perspective

Remember the emphasis "*Beyond Belief!*" we had a few years ago in WMU? Well, that is how I am feeling right now writing this article to you. Never in my wildest imagination would I have thought I would be the President of Kentucky Woman's Missionary Union. Thank you for allowing me to serve in this position. I will be stretched way beyond my comfort zone. I like talking, but not in front of large groups. Pray that I get more comfortable with that (for everyone's sake)! As *Christ Followers* let us commit to pray this prayer for each other: "...we pray for you all the time—pray that our God will make you fit for what he's called you to be, pray that he'll fill your good ideas and acts of faith with his own energy so that it all amounts to something" 2 Thessalonians 1:11 (Msg.).



Pat Reaves  
Kentucky WMU  
president

Some of you know me from my travels around the state with the state resource team sharing about Mission Friends. For those of you who don't know me, let me tell you a little about myself. I have lived in Kentucky most of my life—a few preschool years in Glendale and then in Louisville. Our family transferred to Concord, Calif. (near San Francisco) in the late 70's and lived there for three years and then it was back to Kentucky. My husband, Dudley and I have been married 42 years (43 in October). We have served together in many mission adventures. Dudley likes to let people know he is a member of WMU. He is a Mission Friend teacher. We teach a class of 2- and 3-year-old Mission Friends. We have three children. Together they have increased our tribe to eleven. Laura and her husband, Barry, are the parents of our two granddaughters. Faith (our Acteen) is 14 and Caleigh (our GA—until September) is 12. Laura is the GA Director in our church. Kristin and her husband, Jennings, are the parents of our grandson Luke who is 6. This is Luke's last year as a Mission Friend. Kristin teaches Mission Friends in our church. Our families are members of Bethlehem Baptist Church in Louisville. Our son Greg and his wife Petra live in New York City. They have given us grandcats!

WMU has been a part of my life since I was a GA. It has given me many ways to serve the Lord. Many people have been mentors and cheerleaders along my journey. I know I shouldn't name names but Boots Williams, June and Gerald McNeely and the state WMU staff have given me the chances and encouragement to try things I never thought I could do—again *Beyond Belief!*—a big thanks to them. I have served on the state resource team for several years and on the WMU Executive Board. These are opportunities for which I am very thankful. I have served on the associational leadership team (Long Run Association) for many years, as Mission Friend Consultant, WMU Director for eight years, and am now serving as the Ministry/Witnessing Consultant. In my church, I have served as WMU Director and now as Mission Friends Director. Our associational WMU has a ministry to internationals each Wednesday morning. I coordinate and help care for the preschoolers that come so their moms can attend class. My mother and I work together in the baby room. Some of my favorite people are preschoolers and God has allowed me to mix preschoolers and missions—it can't get any better than that! Facilitating a Women on Mission prayerwalking group has been a joy. We prayerwalk our community school each month and help them in other ways. I am just like most of you—busy.

Summer is almost here. If you are still thinking about a mission trip, let me encourage you to look into MissionsFest or FamilyFest. These are trips arranged by national WMU. Dudley and I have been on several, and we have gone on two with our daughter's family. They are well planned and reasonably priced.

I hope to see you in Louisville at World Missions Unlimited on July 21-22. Come and get prepared for the new year. Bring the men, too. There will be training for Baptist Men, RA and Challengers leaders.

I am excited about meeting more of you as I travel the state. Again thank you for the opportunity to serve you.

Working together,  
Pat Reaves

## Kentucky WMU Heritage Fund December 1, 2005 — February 28, 2006

The following persons were honored or remembered through gifts to the Kentucky WMU Heritage Fund during the second quarter of the 2005-06 fiscal year.

### In Honor of

Horace & Maribeth Hambrick  
Charmaine Nichols Prayer Team  
WMU, FBC Lawrenceburg

### Donor

Chuck & Frankie Johnson  
Cathy Chinn  
Irma Woodrow

### Special Gifts

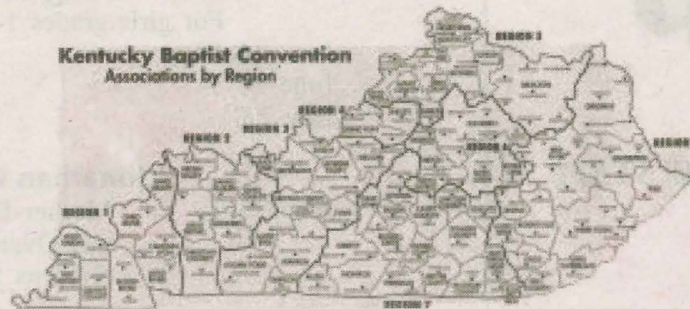
Dr. & Mrs. T.R. Sisk, Jr.  
Barry Allen

### In Memory of

Alene Woodward  
Lillian Romer

### Donor

Bro. Dale & Betty Etheridge  
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## 2006-07 Kentucky WMU Executive Board

President: Pat Reaves  
Vice-President: Pat Key  
Recording Secretary: Susan Stinnett

Region 1: Bettie Wright, Ada Brock, Linda Alexander  
Region 2: Tina Nicely, Marilyn Seelig, Dolores Gilmore  
Region 3: Patty Renfrow, Tracye Johnson, Linda Cooper  
Region 4: Ruth Hinkle, Vicki Bierman, Susan Bryant  
Region 5: Garnett Hutchison, Debbie Mullins, Carole Kemper  
Region 6: Marcia Ballard, Peggy Craycraft, Renea Houston  
Region 7: Mae Dick, Barbara Cheek, Shirley Cox  
Region 8: June Rice, Beth Wyatt, Estella Brashear

BNF President: Jessica Childers  
Development Specialist: Twyla Sheffield

## Calendar

### June

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

### July

5-7 Mission Adventure Camp (Express) for Boys & Girls, grades 3-6, Cedar Crest  
7-8 Mother/Daughter Overnight, grades 1-3, Cedar Crest  
10-14 Mission Adventure Camp for Girls, grades 3-6, Cedar Crest  
21-22 World Missions Unlimited, WMU & Baptist Men on Mission Leaders  
Westport Road Baptist Church, Louisville

### August

5 Crafters on Mission, Grace Baptist Church, Lexington  
19 Super Saturday, Lexington  
26 Super Saturday, FBC, Bowling Green  
Super Saturday, FBC, Prestonsburg

## Scattered

"So those who were scattered went on their way proclaiming the message of the good news."  
Acts 8:4

WMU Fall Retreats  
September 15-16  
Jonathan Creek

October 13-14  
Cedarmore

## Project HELP: Poverty

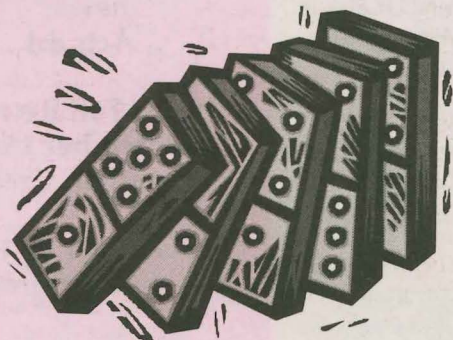
According to the United Nations Developmental Program, people in the United States and Europe spend more money on their pets than the 13 billion dollars per year it would take to care for the basic health and nutrition need of the world.

National WMU offers two resources for Project HELP: Poverty. For preschoolers and younger children is the book, "What Does It Mean to be Poor?" by Joye Smith. For adults is "Breaking the Cycle: Issues Affecting Poverty." These two resources are available through WMU Customer Service. Another highly recommended book for adults to read is "What Every Church Member Should Know About Poverty" by Ruby Payne. Being aware of the critical issues surrounding poverty can motivate us to want to do more.

Next time you feed your pet, think about putting aside the same amount it costs for its food for those who will not get a meal on that day. We all can make a difference.

## A CHAIN REACTION BEGINS AT CAMP!

It won't be long until hundreds of campers make their journeys to Cedar Crest and Jonathan Creek to discover the joy of missions! Campers will learn how sharing Christ's love is like a chain reaction.



### MISSION ADVENTURE CAMP STAFF Cedar Crest

**Director:** Stacy Nall  
**Assistant Director:** Catherine Partlow  
**Unit Leaders:** Amanda Ortt  
 Heather Wilson  
**Recreation Leader:** Brigette Sowder  
**Lifeguard:** Jessie Adams  
**Cabin Leaders:** Alexandra Ackerman  
 Rachel Allen  
 Jennifer Belcher  
 Erica Gabbard  
 Katherine Krutza  
 Elizabeth Thornhill  
**Assistant Cabin Leaders:** Rebecca Gardner  
 Jessica Johnson  
 Jennifer Murphy  
 Nicole Turner  
 Aurelia Walker

## 2006 CAMP SCHEDULE

### Mission Adventure Camp At Cedar Crest

June 13-17	Girls in grades 3-6
June 19-23	Girls in grades 3-6
June 26-30	Girls in grades 6-10
July 5-7	Girls and Boys, grades 3-6
July 10-14	Girls in grades 3-6

### Mother-Daughter Overnights

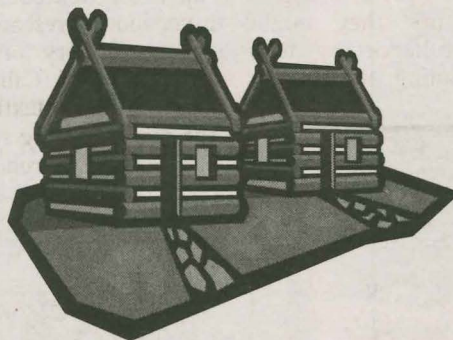
For girls grades 1-3 and moms

June 16-17  
 June 23-24  
 July 7-8

### Jonathan Creek

June 23-24 Mother-Daughter Overnight  
 GA Overnight  
 Acteens Splash

Space may still be available!  
 Please contact the WMU office at:  
 1-866-489-3534



## Baptist Nursing Fellowship

Summer Luncheon  
and  
Continuing  
Education Event

June 25, 2006  
 Elizabethtown

\$15.00 for BNF members  
 \$20.00 for non-BNF members



Baby Boot  
Camp  
Leadership  
Training

2 CEU credits

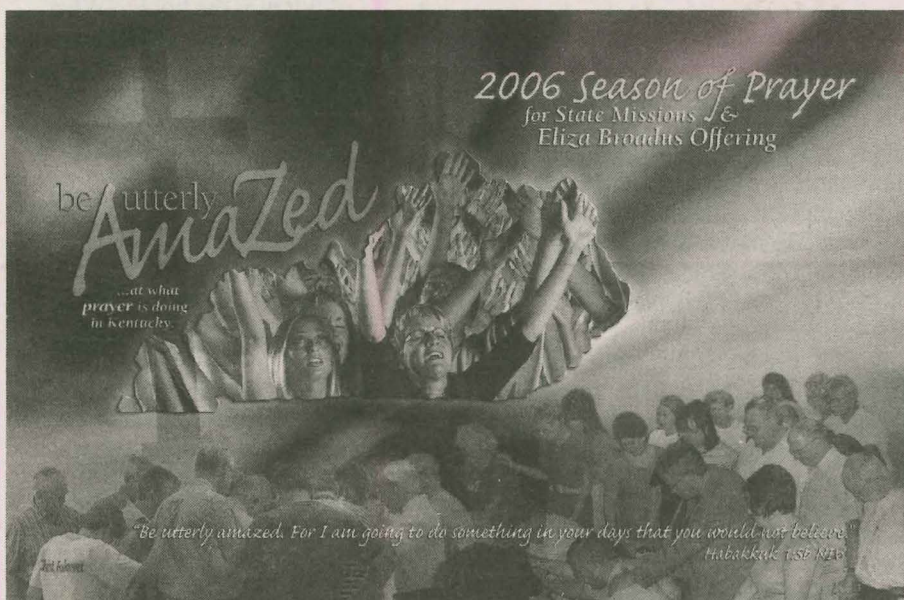
For more information or to  
 register, please contact  
 Kentucky WMU,  
 502/866-489-3453.

## Thank You

Hello Kentucky WMU:

*I just wanted you ladies to know how much we appreciate your including Kentucky Raceway Ministries in the Season of Prayer for Kentucky Missions for 2005. Knowing that KY Baptists from all over the state were praying for you and the mission that God has called you to is overwhelming. I meet people all of the time that tell me that they have been praying for me, people I have never seen before but were involved in the Season of Prayer. I received several hundred cards from pre-schoolers that were handmade telling me that they love me, and are praying for me. Some drew racecars, some traced their hand. My wife works with infants and toddlers and told me that when children trace their hand, that's the way they write their signature before they know how to write the letters of their names. That just melted my heart. The response that we received from the Hot Wheels collection was overwhelming as well. We received several thousand cars. Many came with notes from the groups that collected them. I know that these cars have been anointed, and many children will learn about Jesus through the races we have. Thank you ladies, and thank all of the ladies of the WMU for their prayers and support.*

Blessings,  
 John Roberts, Director  
 Kentucky Raceway Ministries



## Be Utterly Amazed

Season of State  
Missions  
and  
Eliza Broadus  
Offering

September 2006

Offering Goal: \$1,000,000

- A packet of state missions teaching materials, DVD, poster, offering envelope, and promotional ideas will be mailed to the WMU director or WMU contact person in every church in July.
- DVD segments include: Crisis Pregnancy Ministries, Eastern Kentucky Missions, Collegiate Ministries, Offering Promotion by Dr. Bill Mackey & Dr. Paul Chitwood, Disaster Relief Update.
- Please return the order card for additional envelopes, prayer guides, and posters.
- All state missions materials are provided free of charge.
- This year's material is undated and may be used any time during September.
- Suggested date: September 17-24, 2006.

## B.C./A.D. spat similar to other school religion conflicts

By Michael Jennings  
Religion News Service

**Louisville (RNS)**—Kentucky's state school board apparently has resolved a spat over historical date references in social studies classes, but not before Gov. Ernie Fletcher seized on the issue.

And while the immediate controversy over the use of B.C. (Before Christ) and A.D. (Anno Domini, Latin for "in the year of the Lord") might have subsided, related fights over the proper role of religion in public schools appear to be far from settled.

Earlier this year, staff at the Kentucky Department of Education proposed substituting C.E. (Common Era) for A.D. and B.C.E. (Before the Common Era) for B.C. in draft curriculum guidelines for high school and middle school social studies classes.

The common B.C./A.D. system is based on the supposed year of Christ's birth—a date posited by the monk Dionysius Exiguus in the year 525. Years after Christ's birth go up; those before it are counted backwards.

The proposal quickly came under attack from the Family Foundation of Kentucky, which accused state officials of trying to strip religious references from the state's public schools.

In April, the statewide education board restored A.D. and B.C. to the

guidelines, but only after including both systems—B.C./B.C.E. and A.D./C.E. The school board is expected to take final action next month on the voluntary guidelines, which spell out key concepts that students are expected to master in all grades and subjects.

The debate is reminiscent of fights over religion in public schools that have flared in other states, most often over the teaching of "intelligent design" in science courses.

Gov. Fletcher, speaking at a bill-signing ceremony for a measure authorizing the installation of a Ten Commandments monument on the state Capitol grounds, said he opposed dropping A.D. and B.C. in schools.

Two days later, the Kentucky Senate unanimously voted to require public schools to use A.D. and B.C. The bill died after the House failed to act before the legislative session ended last month.

### "Religiously sterilize"

Martin Cothran, senior policy analyst for the Family Foundation, accused school officials of trying to "religiously sterilize the teaching of history in our schools."

But Lisa Gross, spokeswoman for the state school board, said the aim merely was to familiarize students with nomenclature they might encounter on college-entry tests and in their reading and further

education.

Schools are free to depart from the guidelines, she said. "There's no desire at the state level to meddle in the local authority of schools on this issue or any other," she said.

Nancy Jo Kemper, executive director of the Kentucky Council of Churches, said schools should teach students the meaning of C.E. and B.C.E. "simply because it increasingly is the language and the abbreviation used in the secular world and in academic circles, and our young people need to be acquainted with that."

But Kemper, an ordained minister in the United Church of Christ and the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), rejected the idea that the terms were an assault on Christianity.

### "Very hot issue"

Gross said that until the Family Foundation protested, only one of the hundreds of public comments the department received on the document had criticized it for using the secular dating system.

"It was one of those issues that exploded and was very hot for a brief period of time, and it's calmed down considerably," Gross said.

Gilbert Sewall, director of the American Textbook Council, an independent research center that reviews history and social studies texts, said California recently adopted many textbooks that use the secular dating system. He looks askance at that trend.

"A.D. has been around a long time, and the question is: Why is it being replaced now, in the early 21st

century?" he said. "It's not unconnected to secularism in the society."

### Political issue?

Contention over the larger issue of religion's place in Kentucky's public schools shows no sign of abating. Fletcher, who vows to seek re-election next year, has signaled that he might try to use that issue to revive his political fortunes, which have been weighed down by a merit-hiring scandal and his own related May 11 indictment on misdemeanor charges.

In his State of the Commonwealth address in January, Fletcher, an ordained Baptist minister, urged schools to include intelligent design—the theory that life and the universe are best explained by an intelligent cause—in their curriculum.

"This is not a question about faith or religion," the Republican governor said. "It's about self-evident truth."

Fletcher followed up in February with a letter to the executive director of the Kentucky Academy of Science, urging schools to use the power they already possess under Kentucky law to teach intelligent design in conjunction with evolutionary theory.

"It disappoints and astounds me that the so-called intellectual elite are so concerned about accepting self-evident truths that nearly 90 percent of the population understands," Fletcher said in his letter.

Fletcher's statements add to evidence from other states that promoting intelligent design is still seen in some sectors as a useful move on the political chessboard, despite a federal judge's ruling last December that barred a school board in Pennsylvania from teaching the theory in science classes. U.S. District Judge John Jones called the Dover Area School Board's effort a thinly disguised promotion of religion.

Kemper said schools have opened themselves to attack by religious conservatives by purging texts and curricula of all religious content in the mistaken belief that continuing to teach it would amount to an endorsement of religion.

The result has been an "enormous vacuum" in public knowledge about the role religion has played in American history and culture.

"Frankly, I think public education has failed in this whole arena," she said.

## Rural Kentucky church's facility destroyed by arson

**Olney—Lafayette Baptist Church**, a rural Kentucky congregation that dates back to the late 1800s, lost its church facility in an apparent arson attack May 20.

The fire, reportedly set early Saturday morning, was not discovered until 9 a.m., said Pastor Morris Brown. By then the church's sanctuary, classrooms and fellowship hall had burned to the ground.

"I was just devastated," Brown said. "The whole church is just devastated. It's not a large church, but it's a good bunch of people."

Police arrested and charged Jimmy Renshaw, 56, with second-degree arson. Brown said this is not the first time Renshaw reportedly has set fire to the church.

Renshaw was indicted 10 years ago for setting fires in the area, including at Lafayette Baptist, according to media reports. But those charges were dropped three years ago after Renshaw spent several years in mental health facilities and was ruled incompetent to stand trial.

Brown said Olney Gospel Fellowship has invited the Lafayette congregation to use its facilities until the church can rebuild.

The destroyed church building, built in 1940, was "partly covered by insurance," Brown added, "but not as much as we should have been."

Bob Morrison, director of missions for Little Bethel Baptist Association, said he plans to meet with church members June 4 to help plan for the future.

"Our association is going to come alongside and do whatever we can to help them back on their feet again—financially and with labor, prayer support and moral support," Morrison added.

"We're all in this together," Brown said of his congregation. "We are just trusting the Lord to get us through this."

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Hope's Call. We  
will also have a  
great lineup of  
breakout speak-  
ers on issues  
of relevance to  
single adults.

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\$30 Advance  
Tickets

Breakout Work-  
shops: Sat. Only

This year's  
conference  
will feature:

Hope's Call



Dave  
Edwards

Our Annual Single Adult Conference - in IBC's Fellowship Hall. Our speaker this year is one of America's top speakers to single adults: Dave Edwards from Oklahoma City. Dave has previously led a revival at IBC & has also led one of our fall single adult retreats. We welcome back Dave & look forward to his great humor & spiritual insight.

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June 9th: 6-7pm Registration, 7pm Conference  
June 10th: 8:30-9pm Registration, 9-10pm Conference

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# Breaking the Silence...

## What Fellowship People Do

### Breaking the Silence: Compassion for an HIV Positive World

June 21-22

International Ballroom E/F,  
Omni Hotel, Atlanta, Ga.

**C**ooperative Baptist Fellowship invites you to attend the first ever HIV/AIDS Summit, designed to provide opportunities to formulate a personal, church and Fellowship-wide response to this global health crisis. Participants will receive helpful resources with which to engage the issue after the meeting.

David Beckmann, president of CBF partner organization Bread for the World, will speak during the plenary session beginning at 1 p.m. Wednesday. The session will present a global look at HIV and its relation to poverty, as well as testimony from a person living with HIV. On Thursday, breakfast will be provided for participants.

There will also be eight workshop sessions covering topics such as local church response, medical issues, personal stories, and thinking biblically and theologically about HIV/AIDS.

Go to [www.thefellowship.info](http://www.thefellowship.info) to register, or call (770) 220-1600.

Cost to register is \$40, \$30 for students. Scholarships available for students!



#### Plus, free concert by Salvador

8 p.m., June 21  
Sidney Marcus  
Auditorium, Georgia World  
Congress Center



David Beckmann



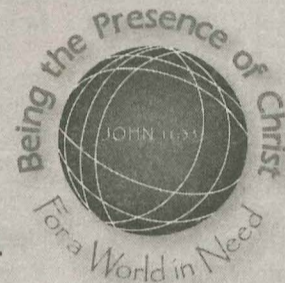
### 2006 General Assembly

General Sessions – June 22-23

Auxiliary Events – June 21 & 24

Georgia World Congress Center  
Atlanta, Ga.

### Schedule of Events



#### Wednesday, June 21

Auxiliary Events

9:00 a.m. – 3:30 p.m. Invitation to Sabbath: A Clergy Day  
Apart (off-site)  
1:00 p.m. – 5:30 p.m. HIV/AIDS Summit  
6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m. Theological Education Banquet  
8:00 p.m. Free concert by Salvador

#### Thursday, June 22

7:00 a.m. – 8:45 a.m. Auxiliary Events  
8:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m. HIV/AIDS Summit  
8:30 a.m. – 7:00 p.m. Resource Fair Open  
9:00 a.m. – 10:10 a.m. Workshops  
10:30 a.m. – 11:40 a.m. General Session I — Response from  
CBF moderator Joy Yee  
11:45 a.m. – 1:45 p.m. Lunch & Auxiliary Events  
2:00 p.m. – 3:10 p.m. Workshops (includes Business  
Breakouts)  
3:45 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. State/Regional Meetings  
5:00 p.m. – 6:30 p.m. Dinner & Auxiliary Events  
6:45 p.m. Pre-Worship Gathering  
7:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m. General Session II  
8:30 p.m. Resource Fair Event


#### Friday, June 23

7:00 a.m. – 9:00 a.m. Auxiliary Events  
8:30 a.m. – 7:00 p.m. Resource Fair Open  
9:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. General Session III — Report from  
CBF Coordinator Daniel Vestal  
11:00 a.m. – 11:45 a.m. Fellowship Time  
11:45 a.m. – 1:45 p.m. Lunch & Auxiliary Events  
2:00 p.m. – 3:10 p.m. Workshops  
3:30 p.m. – 4:40 p.m. Workshops  
5:00 p.m. – 6:30 p.m. Dinner & Auxiliary Events  
6:45 p.m. Pre-Worship Gathering  
7:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m. General Session IV  
8:30 p.m. Resource Fair Event

#### Saturday, June 24

Auxiliary Events  
8:15 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. Companions in Christ Training (off-site)

There is no charge to attend the General Assembly.  
To view updates or to register and reserve your hotel room,  
visit [www.thefellowship.info](http://www.thefellowship.info).

Cooperative Baptist Fellowship 

[www.thefellowship.info](http://www.thefellowship.info)

(800) 352-8741

### The state has made your will

**Do you really want the state to make those decisions?**

There is no law in Kentucky that says you have to make a will. However, there is a law that dictates what happens to your property if you do not have a will. It is called the Kentucky Intestate Succession Statute. In other words, the Commonwealth of Kentucky has a will for all of you who do not make your own.

Some people do not see a problem with not having a will or estate plan. However, as a Christian you should recognize you have the right and the responsibility to decide how your property will be distributed at your death, along with other important decisions included in your will. Under Kentucky's statute, there is no way for you to benefit your church or other Baptist and charitable causes without a will or some other estate planning document.

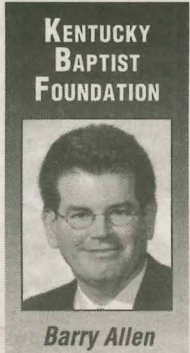
Most surviving spouses will not be happy with the will the state has for them. Neither will the never married, widowed or divorced be happy. Since the state cannot know your wishes concerning your survivors, each will get a share of your probate estate

based solely upon each person's relationship to you. In some cases, if there is no one the state considers an heir, your assets will become the property of the state.

If you die without a will, it could be costly, and in the case of minor children, the state will have to determine who will care for them and who will manage any funds or property they inherit. At age 18 they will receive all of their inheritance to use as they wish.

You have the option to decide who will get what, who will be the guardian of minor children and who will be the fiduciaries of your estate plan. By making a will and/or other estate planning documents you, not the state, decide. It also makes it possible for you to add a Christian dimension and to incorporate any tax savings alternatives into your plan.

Call toll-free Laurie Valentine for estate stewardship consultation at no cost.



Barry Allen

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

### Kudzu

Doug Marlette



### For Heaven's Sake

Mike Morgan



### Bible Crosswords

#### Across

- 1 "Receive his mark in his \_\_\_\_\_, or in his hand" (Revelation 14:9)
- 7 "If the foot shall say, Because I am not the \_\_\_\_\_, I am not of the body" (1 Corinthians 12:15)
- 10 Imperial Chemical Industries, abbr.
- 11 "In the day thou wast born thy \_\_\_\_\_ was not cut" (Ezekiel 16:4)
- 12 Bird's beak
- 13 "Let \_\_\_\_\_ esteem other better than themselves" (Philippians 2:3)
- 14 Speed measurement, abbr.
- 15 Car fuel
- 16 Peruvian beast of burden
- 18 The letter that follows "em"
- 20 East Indies, abbr.
- 21 Either
- 22 "Fall by the \_\_\_\_\_ of the sword" (Luke 21:24)
- 24 Activity or movement
- 26 Preposition
- 27 Fifteen, Romans num.
- 28 Wing of a building
- 29 "I am escaped with the skin of my \_\_\_\_\_" (Job 19:20)
- 32 The letter that precedes "em"
- 34 "A man's pride shall bring him \_\_\_\_\_" (Proverbs 29:23)
- 36 "The government shall be upon his \_\_\_\_\_" (Isaiah 9:6)
- 40 Midwest state, abbr.
- 41 Negative
- 43 Last, prefix
- 44 Violent group
- 45 Sticky

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

- 46 "God ... spake in time \_\_\_\_\_ unto the fathers by the prophets" (Hebrews 1:1)
- 49 First person plural pronoun
- 50 Female, suffix
- 51 Sheep's noise
- 52 And so on, Lat. abbr.
- 53 Verb of being
- 54 "The \_\_\_\_\_ of every man is Christ" (1 Corinthians 11:3)
- 22 "Having \_\_\_\_\_, see ye not?" (Mark 8:18)
- 23 Used-to-be, prefix
- 25 "Love worketh no \_\_\_\_\_ to his neighbour" (Romans 13:10)
- 26 Exist
- 29 "The \_\_\_\_\_ is a little member" (James 3:5)
- 30 "Take of his blood ... upon the \_\_\_\_\_ of their right hand" (Exodus 29:20)
- 31 "\_\_\_\_\_, is the Lord of Hosts" (Isaiah 6:3)
- 32 Word reviser, abbr.
- 33 "They brake not his \_\_\_\_\_" (John 19:33)
- 35 First person plural pronoun
- 37 Arizona's neighbor, abbr.
- 38 "Only her \_\_\_\_\_ moved, but her voice was not heard" (1 Samuel 1:13)
- 39 Rodent
- 42 To drive out
- 47 The remains of burned wood
- 48 "With the \_\_\_\_\_ bone of an ass ... have I slain a thousand men" (Judges 15:16)
- 50 Printer's measure
- 51 Minister's undergraduate degree, abbr.

#### Down

- 1 "Jesus ... with his \_\_\_\_\_ wrote on the ground" (John 8:6)
- 2 The Atlantic or Pacific
- 3 "The Lord God ... took one of his \_\_\_\_\_, and closed up the flesh" (Genesis 2:21)
- 4 "Thou shalt bruise his \_\_\_\_\_" (Genesis 3:15)
- 5 "Immediately his feet and \_\_\_\_\_ bones received strength" (Acts 3:7 O.E. spelling)
- 6 Flower
- 7 Fifth letter of the Hebrew alphabet
- 8 Soul, Lat.
- 9 Remove horns
- 17 The widow's \_\_\_\_\_
- 19 Edward, for short
- 21 Kind of tea

#### Last week's solution

1	W	A	T	E	R	4	S	B	E	W	A	R	E	9
10	A	M	I	11	N	C	12	I	R	A	T	E	13	
14	L	A	M	B	15	T	O	T	I	L				
17	K	E	A	R	T	18	H	A	N	D	S			
23	G	P	I	E	24	A	S	K	L					
26	N	E	S	T	A	27	C	T	28	L	O	T	29	
30	O	N	31	I	N	C	R	E	A	S	E	E		
34	B	O	A	Z	35	H	E	N	E	T	A			
37	L	E	Y	E	38	A	D	E	40	A	C			
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50	L	I	N	E	52	R	U	L	E	R				
53	A	L	E	G	54	O	D		55	O	N	E	S	

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## NATIONAL NOTES

**Poll: Most Americans oppose "gay marriage."** A new Gallup poll shows that exactly half of American adults support passage of such an amendment, and 58 percent oppose "gay marriage." The poll found that by a 58-39 percent margin American adults oppose redefining marriage to include homosexuals. Additionally, 50 percent favor and 47 percent oppose a marriage amendment to the U.S. Constitution. The U.S. Senate is scheduled to debate an amendment beginning June 7.

**Are religious groups at schools "undesirable"?** A South Carolina church has filed suit against a school board in Charleston, S.C., charging violation of constitutional rights because the board allegedly wants to ban "undesirable" groups from meeting at a school. According to the suit by Gracepointe Church, school board member Cheryl Mushrush privately told the church pastor that the board did not want to set a precedent by allowing extended use of facilities because other "undesirable" groups—such as Muslims—might seek to use them too.

**American Bible Society president named.** Paul Irwin has been appointed as the president of the American Bible Society after serving as the interim head of the Bible mission organization for nearly a year. Irwin, an ordained United Methodist minister who has taught at the Boston University School of Theology, is overseeing a number of ambitious goals for the ABS. One is to introduce the Bible "to every person on Earth in the next 10 years."

**Episcopalians launch building effort in New Orleans.** The Episcopal Diocese of Louisiana hopes eventually to build 150 homes to sell to low-income first-time home buyers, to help rebuild the city that was damaged by Hurricane Katrina.

**Operation Rescue founder joins Catholic Church.** Randall Terry, the anti-abortion activist who founded and directed Operation Rescue, left his evangelical roots to join the Catholic Church last month. Now president of the Society for Truth and Justice and a state Senate candidate in Florida, Terry, 46, told the National Catholic Register he always had been impressed by his Catholic friends' devotion to fighting abortion.

## Congress passes bill targeting military funeral demonstrations

**Washington (BP)**—A measure specifically targeting protesters from a Kansas church has been approved by the U.S. Senate and House of Representatives in order to end protests the Kansas group has staged at military funerals at all 122 national cemeteries.

The "Respect for America's Fallen Heroes Act" passed the Senate without objection and with no recorded vote May 24 after a nearly identical bill cleared the House 408-3 two weeks earlier. President Bush is expected to sign the legislation into law.

"American military men and women who give their lives in defense of our nation deserve a peaceful and honorable funeral," Rep. Mike Rogers, R-Mich., the House sponsor, said. "Their families also deserve the freedom to honor their loved ones and celebrate their lives without the harassment of protesters."

## Senate OKs increasing broadcast indecency fines

**Washington (BP)**—The U.S. Senate approved a bill May 18 to require a ten-fold increase in fines for indecency on radio and television.

The Broadcast Decency Enforcement Act, which passed the Senate by unanimous consent, would increase the maximum federal fine for each broadcast violation from \$32,500 to \$325,000.

Differences between the Senate bill and an even more stringent measure passed last year by the House of Representatives must be worked out before Congress can

enact final passage. Under the Senate's version, protesters could not come within 300 feet of the entrance of a cemetery and within 150 feet of a road into the cemetery from 60 minutes before until 60 minutes after a funeral. Violators would face up to a \$100,000 fine and up to a year in prison.

The legislation is in response to protests led by Fred Phelps, pastor of Westboro Baptist Church in Topeka, Kan., which has no affiliation with any national Baptist organization.

Phelps and his extended family have long made a practice of picketing with offensive language on signs at various events, often taunting homosexuals, but lately they've approached grieving military families with words such as "Thank God for IEDs," or improvised explosive devices, which have killed a large number of U.S. troops in Iraq.

Phelps has led protests at soldiers' funerals in several states, including Kentucky.

The bill's sponsor, Sen. Sam Brownback, R-Kan., said, "It's time that broadcast indecency fines represent a real economic penalty and not just a slap on the wrist."

The House version would have increased the maximum fine per violation to \$500,000 and mandated a license revocation hearing for a station after a third violation.

Neither bill would directly affect cable or satellite programming. The FCC can regulate only broadcast radio and television.

## Insurer has plan to decrease church camp drownings

**Merrill, Wis. (RNS)**—A leading insurer of religious organizations has developed a new system designed to reduce drowning deaths at church-owned summer camps.

Church Mutual Insurance Co.'s Swimmer Safety Program features fluorescent, color-coded wristbands that swimmers wear to indicate their level of swimming ability.

Non-swimmers wear red wristbands, according to the program's system, intermediate swimmers yellow and "qualified swimmers" wear green. Non-swimmers must stay in designated areas, while intermediates are not allowed to enter water above their shoulders.

"These bright-colored wristbands are intended to allow lifeguards and other supervisors to quickly scan the swimming area to see if a poor swimmer has wandered beyond the safe zone," risk control manager Rick Schaber said.

In 2004, 11 people covered under Church Mutual policies drowned, and 38 have died by drowning since 1998. Church Mutual insures 94,000 religious organizations nationwide.

According to the National Center for Injury Prevention and Control, in 2003 there were 3,306 unintentional non-boating-related drowning deaths in the United States.

## The faces in the crowd

## Graduation brings to mind many faces of Oneida students from years gone by

By Suzi Garrett  
Oneida Baptist Institute Houseparent

The music starts and we all quietly walk into the crowded chapel. Just behind us march, two abreast, this year's seniors. At the end of this ceremony, they will move the tassels on their mortarboards as they officially are declared graduates. Then they will be considered adults. But first they have been "ours" for a short time and now must endure this timeless ritual.

Each young person will hear an abbreviated version of essays they have written about their time at Oneida, read by the president. We like to think we give each graduate a real "send-off," attempting to dwell on the good things that each has accomplished while he or she was with us.

As the ceremony starts, the graduates look at us with expressions of just wanting to get this formality finished. But as it continues, their faces become more animated as they become involved in what is being said. Inevitably, at least one will have written about a parent or sibling who has died whom he wishes could have been here for this important day in his life. Tears well up in the eyes of many of the students who face us, and for many of us, too.

So as I look into the faces in the crowd, I see not only those actually in front of me, but the faces of others who have gone before them. I remember a young man who went to foreign soil to fight a war, returning safely only to be killed in a traffic accident the night he came back. I remember a boy who came to us fresh out of drug

rehab. He was a joy to work with and now operates a successful trucking line. I recall a beautiful young woman raised in a Hindu upbringing. She accepted Jesus while she was with us and worried that her parents would not be happy with that decision. Today she is a registered nurse in a huge city. Her husband, another Oneida graduate, operates a successful cleaning business that he says is based on the learning experiences he got here cleaning the dormitory. I envision the

happy face of another young girl, who rededicated her life to Jesus as a student here and was proud to graduate even though she was last in her class. Just six months after graduation she decided to marry. She had a child a year later, and only three years after that died in her sleep, the tragic result of an allergic reaction to an antibiotic. I recall an international student who came to our Christian school as a Muslim, but later accepted Christ and now is a practicing oncologist in Pennsylvania. They might not be here physically, but the memories are so strong on every graduation day. They will always be "our kids" just as if we had given birth to them.

I remember many faces and stories, stories of wishes and prayers, of homework and dorm work, laughs and tears, hard work and just as hard play. Jesus Christ allows us, collectively, to play a small part in their lives at this special place in the mountains of Eastern Kentucky. We might not have the opportunity to see each other again in this life, but I pray that many of us will meet again some day at the feet of Jesus. What a glorious homecoming it will be.

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

## More senior memories

## Graduates recall fondest memories at Clear Creek

Clear Creek graduates walking across the platform to receive their degree share some of their memories. Here are some from the May 5 service.

"I'm thankful for the development of some golden friendships." Craig Garland, Harlan. (To say thanks, Craig, assisted by seniors Eric Newcomer and John Minton, treated the faculty and staff to a barbecue picnic on May 17.)

"Twice, I blocked Dustin Sims' shot with my hat while playing basketball." Seth Miller, Harrodsburg. (Seth also remembers meeting his future wife, Janie, in the bookstore; and the birth of their son, Benjamin. They have moved to Southeastern Seminary.)

"I treasure the friends I have made." John Minton, Beaver Dam. (John received the Rev. Claude H. Fox Award for "the greatest progress as a student." He is pastor of a church near Corbin.)

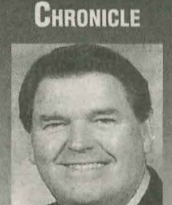
"There are so many wonderful memories I have of Clear Creek, but the most precious is the magnificence of God. I have learned so much more outside the classroom than I have inside the classroom. God drew my fam-

ily together, tighter and closer than we have ever been. He has given me new, life-long friends and allowed me to do something I never thought would be possible—graduate. The most beautiful gift since being at Clear Creek is my precious princess Dani-Cate. She is truly the apple of her daddy's eye. God is good." Daniel Reed, Oklahoma.

"My fondest memories are the relationships established with professors and friends. The Russian auction (a campus men's fund-raiser for students at Novgorod Pastor-Church Planter School) has a special place also." Michael Plemons, North Carolina.

"Skipping rocks on Clear Creek with my son Devon. God brought a woman greater than any of my dreams, hopes and wishes into my life as my wife. While here we have been challenged in many ways, but through it all God has drawn us closer and made us stronger. My wife is a wonderful mother to my son, whom she calls her own, and to our two great babies, born while at Clear Creek." James Wilcox, Oregon and Tennessee.

## CLEAR CREEK CHRONICLE



Bill Whittaker

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

## Book & Sonic Flood to promote student missions

Nashville (BP)—A book and a tour by Christian band Sonic Flood are part of the Southern Baptist International Mission Board's strategy to inspire students to take part in missions.

The board will sponsor a missions mobilization tour featuring Sonic Flood to at least 40 cities, beginning in September.

Multimedia images of missions work, including testimonies of students working on the field, will be part of the Sonic Flood "This Generation" tour.

And in partnership with Integrity Publishers, a missions-themed devotional book for students, "My Life, His Mission," is slated for an Aug. 1 release.

Rick Heil, Sonic Flood's lead singer, said he hopes the three-month nationwide tour will inspire students to think about their faith and examine what it means to follow Christ.

"So many students are searching for truth and looking for something more," said Heil, who has participated in international mission trips to South Africa, Turkey and Thailand. "I hope through this tour students will realize that God is bigger than the boxes they have put Him in. I pray that the students will see that God loves everyone the same and He is to be shared."

The tour tentatively is scheduled to come to Shepherdsville Sept. 14 at Little Flock Baptist Church and to Bowling Green Oct. 19 at Living Hope Baptist Church.

"My Life, His Mission," meanwhile, is a six-week challenge to encourage student participation in missions.

"I want students to see that as followers of Christ they have some role to play in missions, whether it is praying or going overseas," said Kim Davis, who helped compile the book's missionary testimonies. "This book will help students determine their role in the Great Commission."

"My Life, His Mission" offers 90 student missionary testimonies recounting how they responded to their call to short-term mission projects. The book also is a resource for mission preparation.

"As a missionary for 13 years who hosted a lot of volunteers on the field, I realized the most important thing I could do is help students be prepared before coming to the field," said Davis, adding that preparation begins with developing the students' walk with God.

The book also explores responding to the Great Commission and learning how to share the gospel effectively.

For more information about the Sonic Flood tour, visit [www.sonicflood.com](http://www.sonicflood.com). For more information about "My Life, His Mission," visit [thetask.org/hismission](http://thetask.org/hismission).

## Scriptural skeptic's book draws critics

By Ken Walker  
State Correspondent

Louisville—While you probably won't find it in a Christian outlet, a book casting doubts on the New Testament's authenticity is adding fuel to the fire sparked by the recent film premiere of "The DaVinci Code."

Released last November by Harper San Francisco, "Misquoting Jesus" has made numerous national bestseller lists.

The book is written by Bart Ehrman, chair of the religious studies department at the University of North Carolina.

Ehrman argues that multiple copying of manuscripts and scribal changes over 15 centuries—before the invention of the printing press—make it impossible to know the original text.

In addition to doubting the accuracy of Scripture, Ehrman also questions the belief in its divine inspiration.

"If (God) really wanted people to have His actual words, surely He would have miraculously preserved those words, just as He had miraculously inspired them in the first place," writes Ehrman, a Moody Bible Institute graduate who now calls himself an agnostic.

"Given the circumstance that He didn't preserve the words, the conclusion seemed inescapable to me that He hadn't gone to the trouble of inspiring them."

But other scholars say Ehrman doesn't build a convincing case for doubting Scripture.

New Testament scholar Rob Plummer compares "Misquoting

Jesus" to a popular, but phony, e-mail warning that freezing water in plastic bottles can be cancerous.

"Alarmist?"

"When you investigate and see what scientists say, you realize it's not supported by the facts," said

Plummer, a professor of New Testament interpretation at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville.

"That's similar to Ehrman's book. It's alarmist," he said.

Plummer said the book would appeal to "people who are wanting to hear why the Bible is not reliable and why it's been changed."

But a careful examination of the facts and opinions of other scholars show widespread disagreement with Ehrman's thesis, he added.

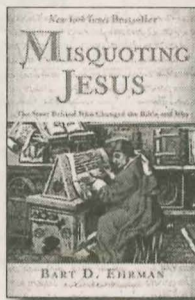
For example, the book is dedicated to retired Princeton professor Bruce Metzger, but Metzger would "radically disagree" with Ehrman's assertions about the text's reliability, Plummer said.

"The evidence is selectively presented," Plummer said of "Misquoting Jesus." "When you look at what the variants are, it's not what you might think about something that calls into question the reliability or the historicity of the text."

Nor are Christian publishers taking the latest challenge to biblical authority lying down.

Next month, Kregel Publications will release "Reinventing Jesus: What the DaVinci Code and Other Novel Speculations Don't Tell You."

Written by a trio of Dallas Theological Seminary professors,



## A wave of responses

A new wave of books responding to the doubters of Scripture appears to be on the way.

The new volumes resemble the response of publishers to the claims put forward in "The Da Vinci Code."

Anti-"DaVinci Code" books collectively have sold about 900,000 copies.

Several indirect responses to Ehrman's "Misquoting Jesus" were released earlier this year, including:

- "Stolen Identity: The Conspiracy to Reinvent Jesus" by seminary professor Peter Jones.

- "Answering the Objections of Atheists, Agnostics & Skeptics" by Ron Rhodes.

- "Bible Answers to Life's Big Questions" by Bruce Bickel and Stan Jantz.

In August, Nelson Books, whose "Breaking The DaVinci Code" is a bestseller, will release another title by the author and scholar Darrell Bock.

Although not directly at Ehrman, "The Missing Gospels" will take a critical look at early resources related to the history of Christianity.

advance publicity says it is the first book to directly address "Misquoting Jesus."

A press release said the book will comment on such topics as Christ's deity and resurrection, Gnosticism and the canon of Scripture.

In a review of Ehrman's book on the Bible.org Web site, co-author Daniel Wallace said "Misquoting Jesus" fails to deliver what it promises, because almost none of the variants cited involve Jesus' sayings.

"Time and again in this book, highly charged statements are put forth that the untrained person simply cannot sift through," Wallace said.

"And that approach resembles more an alarmist mentality than what a mature, master teacher is able to offer."

## Author tackles 'Ethix' issues for young adults

By Shawn Hendricks  
SBC LifeWay Christian Resources

Nashville (BP)—Jana never expected her college psychology class to go "X-rated."

When a college professor required the class to write reviews on four hours of pornographic films, Jana refused.

Instead, she typed a four-page paper on why she shouldn't do the assignment as a follower of Christ. The professor accepted it and gave the class the option of not watching the movies. Half the class walked out with Jana.

"This shows the power of one person with conviction standing up for what is right," author and speaker Sean McDowell writes in his latest book for teens and college students.

Jana's story is just one example of how young people can defend their beliefs and impact lives, recounted in "EthiX: Being Bold in a Whatever World."

In it, McDowell tackles the pressures of premarital sex, homosexuality, alcohol, drugs, abortion and a variety of other issues that today's youth encounter.

Tapping biblical insight, statistics and common sense advice, McDowell delivers a straightforward

approach to making right decisions and standing up for what is right. Each chapter wraps up with discussion questions for small groups.

McDowell is the son of well-known Christian author and speaker Josh McDowell. Aside from writing and speaking at youth events, the younger McDowell heads the Bible department and teaches philosophy and literature at a Christian high school in San Juan Capistrano, Calif.

One of McDowell's previous projects involved compiling a book

with his father titled, "The Youth Ministry Handbook." McDowell applies lessons from his father and his youth ministry experience to answer the many questions young people deal with daily.

The media continually pound teens and college students with questions that challenge what they believe. "Why wait?" "What if you were born that way?" "Who has the right to judge you?" How young adults respond to these and other questions, McDowell writes, often determines who they are now and who they become.

One question, however, stands above them all, McDowell contends.

"The most important question

we ask in life is not related to our career, or where we live, or even to where we go to college," he writes. "The most important question relates to the issue of how we live our lives—what, or whom do we live for?"

Many young Christians cave under the pressure to be "politically correct" and openly accept lifestyles that go against biblical principals, he writes. Others proclaim there are no moral absolutes, a statement McDowell dismisses as a joke.

"Moral absolutes are unavoidable," he writes. "It is impossible to deny the existence of absolutes without appealing to an absolute."

A society without standards is a society in disarray, he adds.

"If people could drive on whatever side of the road they desired or as fast as they wanted, society would be out of control," he writes.

"When we lose the ability to make moral judgments, we can no longer make a distinction between the actions of Mother Theresa and Hitler."

No matter how the world's standards change, God's Word remains the same, McDowell writes.

"God's standards never change—even if ours do," McDowell writes. "And God not only expects us to stand up for what is right, He empowers us with the strength to do so."



## PRAYER PARTNERS

Please pray for the following Kentucky Baptist missionaries and ministries:

**"Plant a Row" ministry of First Baptist Church of Shelbyville.** This ministry was birthed in one of the church's 50 community groups that met during the spring semester. The community group felt they could meet a physical need and share Christ's love by encouraging church members to plant an extra row in their gardens. The food from the extra row will be distributed through the local food ministry to help feed hungry families in Shelbyville. Pray that members will give of themselves, their time and their resources to plant an extra row of vegetables for the benefit of others. Pray that those who receive the food will know that they are loved and cared for by Christians and by Jesus Christ.

**Mission Service Corps Missionary Kim Fox of Corbin.** Fox serves as an associational children's minister with Director of Missions Janus Jones and South Union-Mount Zion Baptist Association. She directs vacation Bible school training, backyard Bible clubs, a summer camp for girls and the Christians by Choice clown and drama ministry. Pray for Fox's safety and health this summer during this busy time of ministry. Pray also that she will have the opportunity to lead many children to a personal relationship with Jesus Christ.

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

## MOUNTAINS TO THE MISSISSIPPI

COMPILED BY STAFF

■ **CAMPBELLSVILLE**—Campbellsville Church honored **Anne Mardis** May 21 upon her retirement after 47 years as church secretary. Mardis, a 1959 graduate of Campbellsville University, served with three pastors at Campbellsville: **Chester Badgett, James Jones** and current pastor **Skip Alexander**.

Saloma Church will host its annual "Day @ Green River Lake" June 4. The event will include worship at 9 a.m. and Bible study at 10 a.m., followed by games, fellowship and a potluck picnic meal. For more information, call (270) 789-0082. **John Chowning** is pastor.

■ **CHAPLIN**—**Carole Forte**, whose husband, Gene, is former music director at Chaplin Fork Church, died May 19. She was 52. Forte, a graduate of the University of Louisville, was a second grade teacher at Cox's Creek Elementary School.

■ **JACKSON**—First Church recently called **Joe Allen Ernsperger** as pastor.

■ **LEXINGTON**—Immanuel Church will host "Enjoy the Ride," an area-wide single adult conference June 9, 7-9:30 p.m., and June 10, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. **Dave Edwards** of Oklahoma City will be the keynote speaker and **Hope's Call** will be the featured singers. Workshops will address such issues as single adult sexuality, helping single adults through grief, legal issues for single adults and "Five Steps to Financial Sanity." For more information, call (859) 685-3200.

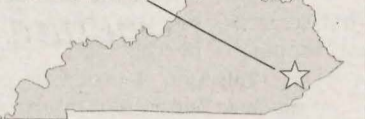
■ **LOUISVILLE**—Cloverleaf Church will host **Amy Lambert** in concert June 11, 7 p.m. For more information, call (502) 367-0218. **Geoffrey Lacefield** is pastor.

Highland Church will host a hymn festival with **John Dickson**, former minister of music, June 4, 5 p.m.

■ **MAYSVILLE**—**Mary Robbins**, widow

## Spotlight on ...

### Emmalena



The Kentucky Baptist Conference of the Deaf was held May 5-7 at Camp Nathanael. Newly elected officers for 2006-2007 are President **Milton Walters** of Louisville, Vice President **Richie Noble** of Hazard, Secretary **Jane Walters** of Louisville and Treasurer **Steven Whitehead** of Erlanger. For more information, contact **Tim Bender**, state missionary with the deaf, at [TLLSBender@aol.com](mailto:TLLSBender@aol.com).

of former Bracken Association director of missions Carl Robbins, died April 15. She was 74. She is survived by four children, six grandchildren and two great-grandchildren. Memorial gifts may be made to the Aberdeen Church building fund or Gideons International.

■ **NICHOLASVILLE**—Edgewood Church recently called **Steve Sholar** as pastor.

■ **SOMERSET**—**William Adcock** recently resigned as minister of music at First Church. **Bill Haynes** is pastor.

■ **WILLIAMSBURG**—**Correction:** Incorrect dates were submitted and published last week for Main Street Church's centennial celebration. The celebration will be June 2-4.

## What's going on?

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



## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### June

- 3 Church Weekday Education Seminar, Bethlehem Baptist Church, Louisville.
- 10-17 Kentucky Changers, Russellville.
- 12-16 Mission Adventure Camp for Girls, Cedar Crest.
- 16-17 Mother/Daughter Overnight, Cedar Crest.
- 18-25 All-State Youth Choir/Orchestra Tour, University of the Cumberlands, Williamsburg.
- 19-23 Mission Adventure Camp for Girls, Cedar Crest.
- 23-24 Acteens Splash, Jonathan Creek.

23-24 Girls in Action Overnight, Jonathan Creek.

23-24 Mother/Daughter Overnight, Cedar Crest.

23-24 Mother/Daughter Overnight, Jonathan Creek.

24 Baptist Nursing Fellowship Summer Luncheon, Elizabethtown.

24-July 1 Kentucky Changers, Lawrenceburg.

### July

1-4 Wrangler Trail Ride, Land Between the Lakes.

5-7 Express Mission Adventure Camp for Girls and Boys, Cedar Crest.

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

## Bus driver led to faith in Christ at NAMB commissioning service

**Highland, Calif. (BP)**—Seventy-one new North American Mission Board missionaries and chaplains were reminded last week that Christians don't have to travel far to reach the mission field.

Between two Sunday morning commissioning services at Immanuel Baptist Church in Highland, Calif., one of the two bus drivers, Alfred Hinson, who had been driving for the missionaries and chaplains, made a profession of faith in Christ.

After the services, Hinson was introduced to the missionaries, chaplains, their families and NAMB staff at a luncheon hosted by the church.

The missionaries and chaplains— from 23 states and one Canadian province—cheered for Hinson as they welcomed him into the family of God.

"Sometimes during commissioning services we forget why we are commissioning because we are so caught up in the service, but this

time we were reminded right away," said John Yarbrough, NAMB's vice president for strategic initiatives.

Yarbrough, who preached during both services May 21, challenged the congregation and NAMB workers to "serve all-out in a searching culture."

"Right now we are in influential days," Yarbrough said, noting that the Apostle Paul "influenced his culture with the same tool box we have."

"If you're a Christian, then you have a story," Yarbrough said.

"We're all Christians because someone shared Jesus with us," he added. "But seven out of 10 Americans are lost."

Yarbrough encouraged each NAMB appointee to have "an airplane story" of leading a person to Christ sitting next to them on their return flights. "They have been divinely seated next to you. I will be praying for you on your way home."

## CLASSIFIED ADS

**FOR SALE:** Cemetery lot (Resthaven, Louisville). Beautiful bronze section 8, lot 859, site 6. \$1,400. (859) 266-6830.

**SEEKING:** Part-time minister of music for blended/traditional worship for east end Louisville church. Mail resumé to: Melbourne Heights Baptist Church, 3728 Taylorsville Road, Louisville, KY 40220. Phone: (502) 454-4681.

**SEEKING:** Full-time pastor to students for First Baptist Church, New Tazewell, Tenn. If interested, please send resumé to: Student Pastor Search Committee, c/o Dr. Randy Pressnell, PO Box 248, New Tazewell, TN 37824.

**SEEKING:** Part-time director of missions for Mercer Association of Baptists. If interested, mail resumé to: Mercer Association of Baptists, 315 N Main St., Harrodsburg, KY 40330, Attn: Personnel Committee.

**SEEKING:** Part-time youth minister for Union City Baptist. Send resumé: 2502 Doyleville Road, Richmond, KY 40475, Attn: Search Committee.

**SEEKING:** Part-time youth minister. Send resumé to Eastern Gate Baptist Church, PO Box 6686, Shepherdsville, KY 40165.

**SEEKING:** Full-time associate pastor of youth and ministry development. Education and experience: college required, seminary preferred. Financial package: commensurate with education and experience. Georgetown Baptist Church, Georgetown, Ky., is affiliated with both SBC and CBF. To review candidate qualifications and ministry responsibilities, please visit our Web site at [www.georgetownbaptist.org](http://www.georgetownbaptist.org) and select the associate pastor of youth and ministry development menu link. The church is hoping to complete interviews and select a candidate by Sept. 1, 2006. Those interested in this position should submit a resumé by June 15, 2006. Resumés may be sent to: Rev. Ken Holden, associate pastor of youth and ministry development, 207 South Hamilton St., Georgetown, KY 40324.

**SEEKING:** Part-time youth minister (20 hours per week). First Baptist Church (predominant affiliation: CBF). Mail resumé to church: 254 South Buckman St., Shepherdsville, KY 40165, Attn: David Wells; or call the church office, (502) 955-7372, for more information.

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

**SEEKING:** Organist/pianist with strong accompanying skills. Mail resumé to: Melbourne Heights Baptist Church, 3728 Taylorsville Road, Louisville, KY 40220. For more information, call the church: (502) 454-4681.

**SEEKING:** Full-time staff minister to work with children and recreation ministries for Second Baptist Church of Greenville. This position will require skills in recruiting, training and organizing volunteers. Send letter of interest and resumé to: Search Committee, Second Baptist Church, PO Box 390, Greenville, KY 42345.

**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:** Full-time pastor. Conservative, traditional Southern Baptist church. Resumés: Hedgeville Baptist, PO Box 626, Danville, KY 40423.

**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:** 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.

## 1,900 and counting



**"SOUL WINNER"** Nell Kerley, who has led nearly 1,900 people to faith in Christ, visits with Southern Baptist Convention President Bobby Welch. Welch, in his "Everyone Can" initiative, has urged Southern Baptists to baptize 1 million people during the current church year. (BP photo by Norm Miller)

### Woman's bold witness leads hundreds of people to make professions of faith

By Norm Miller  
Baptist Press

**Statesville, N.C.** (BP)—Nell Kerley sat quietly as her two team members talked with a husband and wife about their need for a relationship with Jesus Christ.

When they refused the invitation to pray and ask for forgiveness and salvation, the evangelism team prepared to leave.

"Wait a minute. I want to talk to the daughter," said Kerley, who had been observing the 15-year-old girl. "You've heard everything that was said tonight, haven't you, Danielle?"

Danielle nodded.

"And would you like to give your life to the Lord?"

The young teen nodded again and then prayed a prayer of repentance from her sins and of commitment to Jesus Christ.

Seven years ago, Danielle was the first person to accept Christ in conjunction with Kerley's witness. Since then, she has seen nearly 1,900 people turn to faith in Christ.

The North Carolina Baptist said she learned to tell others about Jesus through the church's FAITH outreach, which uses Sunday school classes for evangelistic outreach. "Since then, everywhere I go I talk to someone about the Lord," she said.

Even a trip to the hospital for a broken shoulder couldn't stop her from sharing her faith.

Kerley wasn't in the hospital long before she realized how many people in the facility she could tell about Jesus. She sent for some Bibles from the Baptist associational office, and anyone who came into her room got a Bible and an invitation to salvation in Christ. Kerley gave away more than 100 Bibles.

"Hospital employees called my room the 'holy room,'" said Kerley, who, after she was able to get out of bed, began witnessing to other patients at the hospital, where she once served as a volunteer assistant to the hospital's chaplain.

"Nineteen people in the hospital prayed to receive Christ," Kerley said.

When the spouse of a patient complained about Kerley's evangelistic efforts, she was forced to stop. So, she joined the volunteer staff at the Baptist association office where she interviews people who come to the association's food pantry and clothes closet.

"I have a few, but not many, who reject the Lord," Kerley said.

#### "On your way" to hell

"I talked with one young woman who said she'd rather go to hell than give up her men. And I told her, 'Honey, you're on your way,'" Kerley recalled.

"Nell has an extra cup of evangelism. That's her gift," said Sandra Harrison, church and community ministries director for South Yadkin Baptist Association. "People around her just get saved. It's a lifestyle for Nell."

People sometimes ask Kerley how she knows if everyone who prays for salvation actually means it. "I tell them that the Lord didn't tell me I have to know if they meant it."

She noted that the association refers those who profess faith in Christ to a local church, and pastors of those churches often provide positive reports of the new members.

"I just tell them about the Lord and leave the rest to Him. He gets a-hold of them and He changes them," Kerley said. "Besides, I'm just an old gray-headed woman who loves the Lord."

She's got more than gray hair. At age 73, Kerley suffers with Non-Hodgkin lymphoma, diabetes and arthritis.

"I love the Lord," Kerley said, explaining why she tells so many about Jesus. "It's just my life and I'm happy doing it."

"And I don't want anybody to go to that terrible place called hell. But no one else is telling them," Kerley said. "There are lost people out there who need the Lord."

## 'God can be cool'

### Kirk Franklin has no problem fitting God into culture

By Mary Lolurso  
Religion News Service

**Birmingham, Ala.** (RNS)—Kirk Franklin's speaking voice sounds thick and kind of fuzzy, but let's not get any rumors started about throat problems.

Actually, the gospel triple threat—performer, songwriter and producer—says he just rolled out of bed and picked up the phone. This is his morning voice, his 9 a.m. voice, his haven't-brushed-my-teeth-yet voice.

Franklin, 36, promises that his vocal cords will be pushing out something quite different on his latest tour. "I'm fine," he says. "My voice is doing great."

Although Franklin's latest shows don't have the multimedia trappings of his previous Hopeville tours, which resembled Broadway theater, he emphasizes that the music and the message remain as powerful as ever.

"It still comes with the same kind of passion, the same kind of ministry," he says. "It still has the same focus and energy, even if you don't have 20 dancers on the stage."

Special effects may come and go, he says, but a church boy's focus on God?

Change that, and everything falls apart.

"It's a heart issue, not an external issue," Franklin says.

That's why he points to the integrity of the old-fashioned, shout-it-out choir, while maintaining that a street ministry may require other tools—the use of hip-hop rhythms, for example, or a more contemporary brand of showmanship.

#### Cross-cultural Christian

Franklin has become famous for his innovations in that regard. Evidence of rap, funk, soul and R&B can be heard on CDs such as "Hero," "The Rebirth of Kirk Franklin" and "The Nu Nation Project."

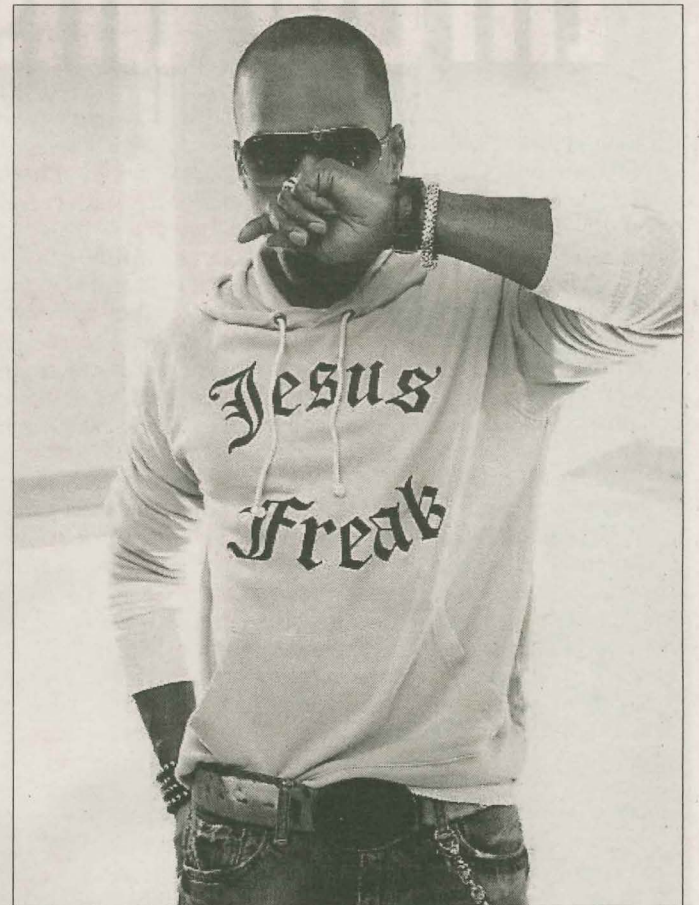
"The way I look at it, we're all connected, one body with many parts," Franklin says. "I can relate to the choir but also to the corner. A man who's a missionary to China can be doing the same work as a man on stage at Radio City."

Ask Franklin if he is 50 percent preacher and 50 percent musician, and he declines to divide the inspirational pie.

"I've never sat down and tried to break down the formula," he says. "Self-evaluation is dangerous for me. Everything I do has a spiritual reference point. But I think that every Christian should be able to take his tie off and put his baseball cap on."

Millions agree, and have turned Franklin into a success story, with a string of No. 1 albums on the Billboard charts, three Grammy Awards and an entire pew full of Dove and Gospel Music Association awards.

For Franklin, all of this is evi-



dence that "God can be cool, God can fit into our culture."

He admits to being as human as the rest of us, but tempted by the material possessions money can provide and the hip-hop world's emphasis on bling.

"The flesh is always wanting to run to those things," Franklin says. "But God's No. 1 priority is not platinum or ice. It's to develop character and for us to be people of integrity. God's primary motive is for us to be more beautiful inside."

Franklin has been vocal about his human flaws—too vocal, some say—admitting to a lifelong addiction to pornography during a 2005 interview on "The Oprah Winfrey Show."

He and wife, Tammy, talked about the issue on television, Franklin said, because they were asked to do so and because he had overcome the addiction and wanted to help others who might be struggling with it.

"I had been open in Christian magazines, talking about it," Franklin says. "If I'm going to be honest about something, I'm going to be honest across the board. Once God gave me victory over it, I had a burn and a passion to tell people, 'Here's what God did for me.'"

Franklin also is directing his energies at trying to heal the residents of hurricane-devastated New Orleans, where he will perform on June 9. He has participated in benefit concerts for Katrina relief, and says no committed evangelist could do otherwise.

"I expect to find lots of angry people, lots of skeptics, lots of people who are not ready to hear my message," Franklin says. "But you serve where God wants you to serve. We should be able to look back in history and see that black folk took the initiative to be connected with black folk. This American tragedy speaks volumes about being our brother's keeper."

**JESUS FREAK** Gospel singer Kirk Franklin currently is touring on his Kirk Franklin & Friends tour. Area stops include Knoxville June 11 and Louisville June 17.



**Can you afford to  
throw this away?**

**Didn't think so**

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