



WESTERN RECORDER

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WHAT HAPPENED AT THE SBC

Elections New Southern Baptist Convention President Frank Page says he's an inerrantist. "I'm just not mad about it." *Page 2.*

Executive Committee Messengers oppose both inviting WMU to give up its auxiliary status and encouraging the election of officers whose churches give 10 percent or more to CP. *Page 2.*



Motions Messengers refer actions regarding a study of Calvinism and the International Mission Board. *Page 6.*

IMB trustees Wade Burleson failed to convince messengers to form a committee to investigate conflict within the IMB's trustee board. *Page 6.*

IMB report Rankin urges Baptists to keep their eyes on the goal, but trustee chairman gets pointed questions during agency's report. *Page 6.*

Condoleezza Rice The U.S. Secretary of State exhorted Southern Baptists to support the United States in spreading freedom around the globe. *Page 7.*

President's address Bobby Welch urged Southern Baptist to do more in supporting and doing missions. *Page 7.*

Resolutions Messengers ask that SBC trustees be teetotalers. *Page 8.*

North American Mission Board Interim president cites progress despite "extremely difficult days." *Page 8.*

Convention sermon Southern Baptist "fat cats" should rely on God and get to work, pastor says. *Page 8.*

"Everyone Can" Theme interpreters challenge Southern Baptists to evangelize. *Page 9.*

Guidestone President urges ministers to improve their health. *Page 10.*

Pastors' Conference Adrian Rogers' widow chides Southern Baptists for narrowing parameters for inclusion, and seminary presidents Paige Patterson and Al Mohler debate Calvinism. *Page 13.*

Not business as usual



Surprise election, multitude of motions mark SBC meeting

Greensboro, N.C.—Southern Baptists elected a little-known South Carolina pastor last week in an unusual three-way race for leadership of the convention.

Page narrowly earned a first-ballot victory with a 50.48 percent majority, defeating two candidates who were endorsed by leaders of the inerrantist movement that has controlled the Southern Baptist Convention for 27 years.

Afterward, Page said he has supported the shift in the convention but believes his election signals a different tone among Southern Baptists.

The meeting saw the first rejection of an SBC Executive Committee recommendation in recent history. Messengers opposed inviting the

Woman's Missionary Union auxiliary to become an official SBC agency.

Messengers also adopted a report urging greater support for the Cooperative Program, but did not back an amendment recommending that officers hail from churches that give at least 10 percent to the joint funding program.

In another business item that had attracted widespread attention,

messengers accepted a recommendation from the order of business committee that gives International Mission Board trustees first crack at addressing their board's conflict.

Messengers proposed a record 29 motions, including requesting a study about the effects of Calvinism on the convention.

Morris Chapman, president of the SBC Executive Committee, urged Baptists to not let minor divisions keep them from evangelism.

"Sometimes we seem better prepared to compete than to cooperate," he said. "I appeal to every Southern Baptist pastor: Major on the majors in our churches."



Frank Page

More Kentucky Baptist congregations looking to be missional

By Ken Walker
State Correspondent

Latonia—Latonia Baptist Church is seeking to be a modern model of a missional congregation.

Four years ago, it started a fall festival for the community that has grown so large that this October the city's business association plans to link the group's fall children's party to it.

On Wednesday nights, Latonia Baptist's Team Kid program attracts three dozen children and another 50 to its youth group. About 80 percent of the teens have no other church involvement.

In mid-May the church hosted a children's spring festival sponsored by Latonia Community Partners, a benevolence organization affiliated with Catholic Social Services.

Soon after, Pastor Stephen Holloway moved into his new home near the church. He hopes living in the neighborhood will help him estab-

lish closer community ties.

The pastor's step gave validity to the sign at the church, which averages 200 on Sundays: "Loving God, Loving Our Neighbors."

"I think mostly people are excited," Holloway said. "I feel in the last six months we've turned the corner."

Serving as missionaries to one's city is the cornerstone of a "missional" church mindset that's being promoted for churches around the country and here in Kentucky.

The Kentucky Baptist Convention recently sponsored a leadership conference where author Reggie McNeal stressed this perspective.

Churches should be asking, "How can I serve you? That's how we bless the community," McNeal told 185 pastors and church leaders at the session. "Do it over and over until it's second nature."

□ See Oak Grove ministry ... *Page 3*



"ONE GREAT DAY" Members of Campbellsville Baptist Church clean a yard for its "One Great Day" ministry event. Approximately 300 members took part in a variety of ministry projects, modeling the movement of many congregations toward a "missional" mindset. (Photo courtesy of Campbellsville Baptist Church)

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Inerrantist, but 'not mad'

New SBC president says he's conservative, calls election 'turning point'

By Steve DeVane

North Carolina Biblical Recorder

Greensboro, N.C.—Newly elected Southern Baptist Convention President Frank Page assured reporters he may be more moderate in tone than some denominational leaders, but he's no less theologically elected presidents.

"I do not believe the convention elected me to somehow undo the conservative resurgence," Page said. "That's not who I am and that's not what they want."

Page, pastor of First Baptist Church in Taylors, S.C., said he has supported the conservative shift in the SBC and was an inerrantist before he knew what it meant.

"I believe in the Word of God," he said. "I'm just not mad about it."

Page won a three-way race for the SBC presidency, defeating two candidates endorsed by the leaders of the inerrantist movement that has controlled the SBC for 27 years.

Page received 4,546 votes, or 50.48 percent of those cast. Ronnie Floyd, pastor of First Baptist Church in Springdale, Ark., and the favored candidate of at least three Southern Baptist seminary presidents, was second with 2,247 votes. Jerry Sutton, a late entry and pastor of Two Rivers Baptist Church in Nashville, was third with 2,168 votes.

While most observers said Page's election—two blocks from where he grew up in Greensboro, N.C.—represents a shift to a more open and inclusive SBC, Page indicated his appointments to leadership positions



2006-2007 SBC OFFICERS In addition to President Frank Page (center), officers elected at the SBC meeting include: (from left) John Yeats, Monroe, La., recording secretary; Wiley Drake, Buena Park, Calif., second vice president; Jimmy Jackson, Huntsville, Ala., first vice president; and Jim Wells, Nixa, Mo., registration secretary. (BP photo by Matt Miller)

won't be much different.

In a press conference just after the election, Page said he will have four criteria in selecting people for SBC leadership positions—a sweet spirit, an evangelistic heart, belief in the integrity of the Word of God and support for the Cooperative

Program, the SBC's unified budget.

Page said he doesn't oppose those who currently serve in SBC positions, but believes that the same people shouldn't hold posts year after year.

No revolution

"I'm not talking about a revolution," he said. "I'm not talking about cleaning house."

Page insisted his election was not about him. Instead, Southern Baptists sent a message that they believe they can do more together than apart and that they want to broaden involvement in the causes of evangelism and missions, he said.

"I think this is a strong call from our people," he added.

Baptist "bloggers," who write

Is election blow against Calvinism?

By Ken Camp

Texas Baptist Standard

Greensboro, N.C.—When Southern Baptist Convention messengers elected dark-horse candidate Frank Page of South Carolina as president, they not only sent a populist message to the power-brokers who backed other candidates, but also—at least in the eyes of some observers—might have dealt a blow to resurgent Calvinism in SBC ranks.

Page, pastor of First Baptist Church in Taylors, S.C., wrote a book published six years ago critiquing five-point Calvinism—belief in total depravity, unconditional election, limited atonement, irresistible grace and perseverance of the saints.

"It is most grievous to see a large number of individuals accept without question the doctrine of John Calvin in regards to salvation," Page writes in "Trouble with the Tulip: A Closer Examination of the Five Points of Calvinism."

"This acceptance of his man-made system of logic has led many to say things about God which are simply unbelievable!"

he writes.

Calvinism distorts the biblical picture of God as a loving Father who wants to see all people brought into relationship with Him, he asserted.

"The true nature of God is not shown by a Calvinistic theology that presents a God who selects one to be saved and another to be lost," Page writes.

Page calls for "a scripturally based understanding of salvation" rather than reliance on "manmade doctrines" such as Calvin's systematic theology.

At his presidential news conference during the SBC annual meeting, Page seemed to express willingness to work with Southern Baptist Calvinists. When asked if he'd be willing to appoint someone to a denominational board who is an inerrantist but might otherwise differ theologically, Page said he'd have to decide such situations on a "case-by-case" basis.

Page noted that while he has spoken against what he called "hyper-Calvinism," he "works wonderfully" with Calvinists and charismatics in his church.

online commentaries about Baptist issues, played a role in his election, Page acknowledged. While the number of bloggers is small, many Southern Baptist leaders read them, he said.

"I believe they played a role beyond their number," he said. "I would say they're a growing force and phenomenon in denominational life."

Page said he has told some younger leaders who are playing a

larger role in Southern Baptist life they must realize that just because they demand something doesn't mean they deserve it.

Page said he believes his election signals the arrival of a different tone among Southern Baptists, one that echoes a deep appreciation of the past but also realizes that the future landscape has changed.

"I do think it's a defining moment," he said. "I think it's a turning point."

Messengers reject adding 10 percent standard to CP report

Also rebuffed: Invitation for WMU to join SBC

By Robert Marus & Steve DeVane
ABP & North Carolina Biblical Recorder

Greensboro, N.C.—Southern Baptist Convention messengers turned back a grassroots attempt to strengthen language in a report that encouraged the convention to elect leaders from churches that give generously to the denomination's budget.

And messengers rebuffed an attempt by the SBC Executive Committee to invite Woman's Missionary Union to become an official Southern Baptist agency.

Mike Stone, pastor of Emmanuel Baptist Church in Blackshear, Ga., attempted to amend a recommendation from the Executive Committee regarding an ad hoc committee's report on promoting the Cooperative Program, the denomination's unified giving plan.

The ad hoc committee originally recommended that churches be encouraged to give 10 percent of their annual undesignated receipts to CP, and it urged the election of state and national convention officers whose churches give at least 10

percent to CP.

But on the eve of the convention, the larger Executive Committee revised the report to remove explicit references to a 10 percent standard. Stone's amendment attempted to restore that language.

"To stand at the platform ... year after year after year and to urge our pastors and our churches

to be exemplary in the area of CP giving and then to fail to have the courage to at least encourage churches to give at the level of 10 percent is an inconsistency of the highest order," Stone said, to applause.

But Stone's amendment failed by about a 2-1 margin on a show-of-ballots vote.

The percentage of annual revenues that many prominent SBC leaders' churches have for the budget has been a hot topic in recent months. Many SBC presidents who were leaders of the SBC's conservative shift have been pastors of churches that sent far less than 10 percent to the Cooperative Program.

Anthony Jordan, executive director of the Baptist General Conven-

tion of Oklahoma and chairman of the ad hoc committee, said the committee recognized a problem when they studied the history of CP giving.

"In 1980, the Southern Baptist Convention gave (an average of) 10.7 percent per church in undesignated receipts to the Cooperative Program. Today, that is 6.6 percent," he said. "We're walking away from our responsibility to fund the greatest missionary force in the evangelical history of Christendom."

Executive Committee officials said they feared the 10 percent standard would be used as a de facto litmus test for denominational service.

Rob Zinn, outgoing chairman of the Executive Committee, said the group decided it wanted to be careful not to appear that it was intruding on the autonomy of local churches to give to CP as they feel called.

After Stone's attempt to amend it failed, the report passed with little opposition.

"Extend an invitation" to WMU

Convention messengers turned back an attempt, however, to assert more control over the SBC's inde-

pendent women's auxiliary.

Messengers defeated an Executive Committee recommendation to "extend an invitation to" Woman's Missionary Union to tighten its ties with the SBC by becoming an official convention agency.

For its 118-year history, the organization—which promotes the denomination's missionary efforts and provides hands-on ministry opportunities—has elected its own leadership. It receives no funds from the SBC budget.

The measure also offered WMU the option of affirming in its governing documents its "historic, unique and exclusive promotion of Southern Baptist Convention missions and ministries."

National WMU Executive Director Wanda Lee told messengers becoming a convention agency—and thus no longer self-governing—would remove the agency from its grassroots supporters.

Joy Bolton, executive director of Kentucky WMU, urged messengers to defeat the recommendation, noting that "there is no question of WMU loyalty to the Southern Baptist Convention."

Messengers defeated the measure on a show-of-ballots vote.



HUMOROUS NOMINATION

A humorous nominating speech from Kentucky minister Bill Dodson, pastor of Bell City Baptist Church near Farmington, was credited with helping Wiley Drake win the race for second vice president of the Southern Baptist Convention. Drake, pastor of First Southern Baptist Church in Buena Park, Calif., won on the first ballot over three other nominees, with 50.37 percent of the vote. Dodson jokingly told the audience he was nominating Drake for second vice president because the convention doesn't have a third vice president. (BP photo by Van Payne)

Also

In other SBC Executive Committee business, messengers:

■ Approved a \$195,948,423 Cooperative Program budget for the 2006-2007 fiscal year.

■ Approved incorporation of Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary in California.

■ Recognized Nashville attorney Jim Guenther on 40 years of service as the SBC's general counsel.

SBC Executive Committee Report

More Kentucky churches taking 'missional' view

Continued from page 1

Darrell Guder, dean of academic affairs at Princeton University, defines a missional church as one focused on its mission of reaching non-believers with the gospel.

A former missions professor at Louisville Seminary, Guder edited the book "The Missional Church," which McNeal recommended to his audience.

Guder said the book raises the question: What would happen if the church took its fundamental missions nature seriously?

The professor of missional theology said changing the way congregations operate might reverse the decline of the Western church.

Many haven't noticed, but Christianity has been disintegrating in this hemisphere for the past century, Guder said.

"There are profound changes we are just beginning to grasp," Guder said. "We're seeing ourselves marginalized."

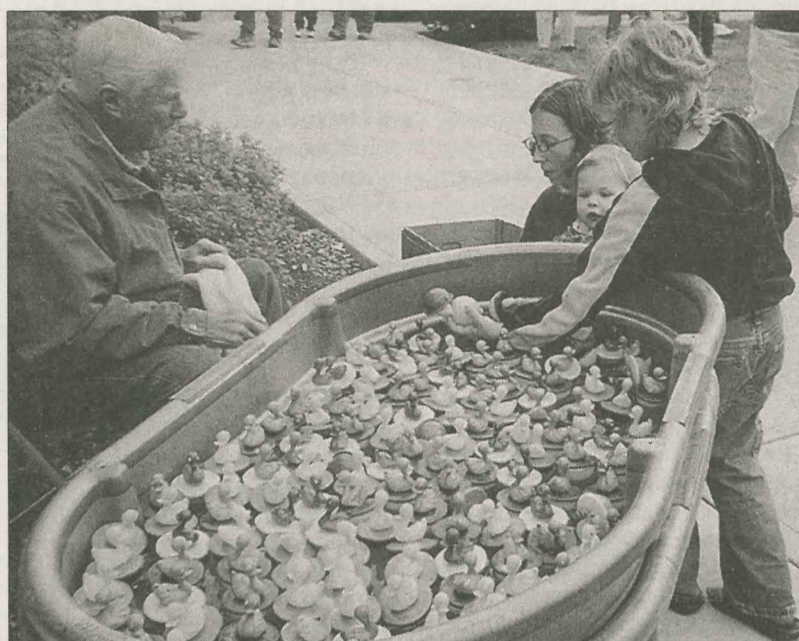
But McNeal said congregations that focus outward can make a major impact.

Examples of missional churches

Among examples he listed are a church in St. Louis that cancels church on a Sunday to provide 500 volunteers to stage an air show. As a result, sponsors allow them to conduct an open-air service before the event.

A pastor in a small South Carolina community spends 20 minutes each Sunday morning praying for people at a restaurant. To show their appreciation, the staff purchased a plaque honoring him as pastor of the café.

Crestwood Baptist Church in Crestwood hopes to touch its community in similar ways through servant evangelism, according to Bill Ellis, minister of education, who



COMMUNITY FOCUSED Jim Ryle (left), a member of Latonia Baptist Church, greets children at a community festival the church hosts. More Kentucky Baptist congregations are getting involved in "missional" activities that focus on serving their communities. (Photo by Betty McCoy)

directs its administrative council.

Although currently without a senior pastor, the church expects to have 350 people involved in such outreach efforts this year.

Among the projects planned are a free neighborhood block party this summer.

"Covering Home" in Crestwood

In September, the church will sponsor "Covering Home," with members donating time to such tasks as washing residents' windows, cleaning businesses' restrooms and giving away water to hikers and bicyclists.

And about 350 members will take mission trips this year to such places as Fleming Neon, Bay St. Louis, Miss., and half a dozen nations overseas.

Ellis said developing an empha-

sis on getting outside the church to do ministry has taken seven years. During that time, average attendance grew from 500 to 1,300.

Among the changes it made were restructuring to eliminate monthly business meetings and committees and setting up a three-week class where members can discover their ministry.

"We had people who were committed and couldn't do ministry because of committee meetings," Ellis said.

"It's increased morale. People are finding more excitement about what they're doing and why they're doing it."

The staff has also changed ways of measuring success. In addition to attendance and offerings, Crestwood Baptist reports how many members are on mission each

week.

Nor is it afraid to try new ministries and adjust if something isn't working.

"So many churches are afraid of failure, they don't do anything, so they sit there," Ellis said.

"One Great Day" in Campbellsville

Campbellsville Baptist Church also is experimenting with ways to reach residents of that college town.

Pastor Skip Alexander said the church is planning for its second "One Great Day" in September, which last year attracted 300 members.

This year's one-day community service project will include an "Extreme Home Makeover" and a mini-marathon fundraiser.

Campbellsville Baptist's new outlook has inspired a couple whose infant died of Sudden Infant Death Syndrome to organize a SIDS-prevention ministry that will help the entire community, Alexander said.

The church is about a year into an intentional process of becoming more missional and hopes to get at least 20 percent of members involved in missions.

"Done in the right way, we find it not to be threatening," Alexander said. "It's created a celebratory sense of church life."

"There's a sense of renewal," the pastor added. "We're talking about, 'How can we remain vital?'"

Holloway noted that adopting a missional mindset is likely to bring conflict among members.

But those who overcome the struggles will find it worth the effort, he added.

"We're moving away from, 'How do we fix up our church building?' to 'How do we transform our neighborhood?'"

Missionaries to India helped start missional movement in Western churches

By Ken Walker
State Correspondent

Princeton, N.J.—The roots of today's missional church movement extend back 30 years to British missionary Leslie Newbigin.

When the longtime missionary to India returned home after 40 years, he discovered England had become post-Christian, said Darrell Guder, editor of the book, "The Missional Church."

Newbigin's writings about the need for Western churches to become more missions-oriented resonated with theologians on both sides of the Atlantic, leading to a series of books and discussions among academics.

It also led to the formation of The Gospel and Our Culture Network, a group of theologians, church and parachurch leaders and denominational officials.

Members of the network were involved in the research project that led to the publication of "The Missional Church" in 1998.

Now used in many seminaries, the book has stirred an ongoing discussion, said Guder, dean of academic affairs and a professor of missional theology at Princeton University.



PLAYGROUND PREPARATION A member of Campbellsville Baptist Church prepares mulch around playground equipment for the church's "One Great Day" ministry event.

"It has proven to be a way of raising questions and addressing issues which a lot of churches are struggling with," Guder said. "It's quite ecumenical, across all denominational lines."

The possibility of disagreements

While many recognize the need for Western churches to focus outside their immediate confines, any discussion of doing so automatically provokes resistance, Guder added.

When a congregation recognizes it was shaped historically

by a missions focus, he said, that realization upsets those who believe the church exists to benefit members or to preserve religious traditions.

Despite the potential conflicts associated with change, Dale Ziemer said he's seeing increasing interest in this approach.

As the managing director of the Center for Parish Development in Chicago, he works with churches seeking to become missional.

"I see not only congregations, but whole fellowships ... and even a whole denomination seeking to become a 'missional church,'" he said.

Although the center doesn't track numbers, Ziemer said it has advised at least one Kentucky Baptist church and worked with a group of Southern Baptist pastors in Dallas.

Some churches have picked up on the theme, he said, in hopes it represents a fix for their ailments or because they see it as the latest theological or church growth fad.

But many others realize their goal should be fulfilling God's mission instead of growth, dominance, control or power, Ziemer said.

The center's director said more

Cumberlands gets gifts totaling \$450,000

Williamsburg—University of the Cumberlands will get a new memorial fountain thanks to a recent donation.

The school recently announced it has received a total of \$450,000; \$200,000 was willed to the school by former trustee Arthur Dale, and \$250,000 was given in honor of trustee Charles Smiddy's late wife, Wilma.

Dale, a Cumberlands' trustee from 1969 to 1978, had given to the school throughout the years, including the donation of the Angel Dale House, which now serves as Cumberlands' Baptist Campus Ministries' residence.

Smiddy, a trustee since 1995, is responsible for the university's 10,000 square foot, three-floor expansion of its library. This 1992 expansion was named the J. Charles Smiddy Learning Resource Center.

In remembrance of his wife, Smiddy's donation will be used to build a fountain in front of the center that bears his name.

Christians are realizing that North America is a mission field.

"They are seeking to be responsive to God's call ... and are discovering the communal nature of God's mission in the world, in contrast to a heavily individualistic message and response," Ziemer said.

According to Ziemer, among hindrances to adopting this outlook are success with current methods, a lack of desire to see more people accept Christ or comfort with the status quo.

Fear of ecumenical efforts can also pose problems, yet a willingness to work with other churches is crucial to the witness of the church-at-large in a community, Guder said.

While enormously diverse in their many forms, Christians as a whole need to remember their ultimate purpose, the professor said.

"What it communicates in the context it finds itself is the same person and work of Jesus Christ," Guder said.

"That same message and unity of witness is often obstructed by the competitiveness, inwardness and focus on maintenance that is characteristic of so many of our congregations."

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

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Mission supporters break cultural mold

By Erich Bridges

Richmond, Va. (BP)—American evangelicals stand accused of being captives of culture—selfish, materialistic, unconcerned about the world.

If we're honest, sometimes we have to plead guilty as charged.

Christian pollster George Barna frequently supplies the evidence to convict us. His research measures the canyon-width distance between what Christians claim to believe and how we act.

"Americans are willing to expend some energy in religious activities such as attending church and reading the Bible, and they're willing to throw some money in the offering basket," Barna recently observed. "But when it comes time to truly establishing their priorities and making a tangible commitment to knowing and loving God, and to allowing Him to change their character and lifestyle, most people stop short."

Bowling to materialism

Jacob Loewen, author of "The Bible in Cross-Cultural Perspective," writes that Third-World Christians who have lived in America "perceive that wealth is the organizing principle in secularized Western culture, including Western Christian-

ity." They see us bowing to the idols of materialism and technology, and they wonder if we have abandoned biblical faith without realizing it.

"People of other cultures sometimes need to see their idols through our eyes, and sometimes we need to see ours through theirs," Loewen recommends.

Good advice. But we also need to celebrate—and imitate—the believers among us who have their priorities straight. If the \$137.9 million given to the 2005 Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for International Missions is an indication, they include quite a few Southern Baptists.

Thousands upon thousands of members in churches of all sizes gave to reach that total, the largest in the offering's 117-year history. The money will support more than 5,100 Southern Baptist missionaries.

Most of the givers aren't wealthy, at least by U.S. standards. Yet they gave generously during a year of economic uncertainty, rising prices and natural disasters.

Their kids did, too.

At Calvary Baptist Church in Tupelo, Miss., more than 100 children participated in a drive to collect and recycle old cell phones for cash to give to the Lottie Moon offering.

COMMENTARY

Elder leadership

Thank you for the article "Who Rules?" by David Winfrey that was featured in the June 6 edition of the Western Recorder.

As a pastor in a church that has recently transitioned to being elder-led, I would like to ask some questions of the article.

First, is being elder-led and congregational mutually exclusive? If we study Scripture, don't we see both of these ideas? We hear Paul call Titus to appoint elders in every town (Titus 1:5) and we see Paul working with a group of elders in Ephesus (Acts 20:17).

At the same time, we hear the words of Christ calling for the church's authority in Matthew 18:17 and Paul echoes this in 1 Corinthians 5:1-5. It seems that a church can be and should be elder-led and congregational at the same time.

Second, is moving toward elder leadership really a step away from historical precedent as the article presented? While the article referenced the 1963 and 2000 Baptist Faith and Message stating that the word "elders" does not appear there, it did not point out that the 1925 Baptist Faith and Message says of "The Gospel Church,"



Seek ways to encourage pastors

Jim and Ruth Sharp recently celebrated their 70th wedding anniversary with family and friends at First Baptist Church of Middlesboro. My wife, Kay, and I were not available for the Sunday afternoon celebration but we were able to visit with the Sharps on Saturday.

Jim and Ruth have two daughters. Shirley is married to Danny Tilford, a retired professor of music at Georgetown College and a church organist. Nancy is married to Emerson Poe and lives in Bluff City, Tenn.

The Tilfords' son, Stephen, is a professor of music at Georgetown College, and their daughter, Jane Ellen, is married to Daven Watkins who is the pastor of First Baptist Church of Owenton. The Tilfords' oldest son, Bradley, lives in Atlanta.

Jim has counted the offering at First Baptist Church for more than 40 years and meets his pastor every Thursday morning for breakfast. With ministers in his own fam-

ily, Jim understands the need for encouraging ministers and their families.

Barnabas was known as the son of encouragement (Acts 4:36). He sought out Saul and introduced him to believers in Antioch where the disciples were first called Christians (Acts 11:25-26).

The Bible speaks of the Scriptures and worship as great sources of encouragement (Hebrews 10:25, Romans 15:4-6). The Bible also speaks of the gift of encouragement and admonishes believers to exercise that gift (Romans 12:8).

The pastor who has members exercising the gift of encouragement is blessed indeed. The pastor's spouse also needs encouragement just as much, if not more.

Often the greatest need for pastors and their spouses is a listening ear that can be trusted. In some cases, a small gift can help the ministering family through a financial crisis. I have known laypeople who

Mae-Emlyn Currie, age 10, collected three of the phones herself. She also helped present the \$217.75 the campaign netted as a way to kick off the church's drive to meet a \$75,000 Lottie Moon goal.

"Lottie Moon went to China, and I am from China," said Mae-Emlyn, who was adopted as a baby.

Her mom, Vicki Currie, is a Girls in Action mission organization leader at the church. "To me it's important that the children understand the world doesn't revolve around them," she said. "I try to teach from the perspective, 'What can you do to make a difference?'"

Crossing generational barriers

Heywood Washburn, 75, is the Calvary member who came up with the cell phone recycling idea. He believes giving teaches something fundamental to people of all ages.

"We don't stress giving as an act of worship anymore," he said. "If we don't keep missions in the forefront, it's too easy to spend money on ourselves."

But if we do keep missions—as an act of worship—front and center, we transcend our materialistic culture rather than being held captive by it.

Heywood Washburn knows that. Mae-Emlyn is learning fast.

Erich Bridges is senior writer with the Southern Baptist International Mission Board

"Its Scriptural officers are bishops, or elders, and deacons." Therefore, it was less than 100 years ago that the SBC recognized elders as leaders in the local church. Perhaps some churches moving this way is not much of an historical shift after all.

Finally, shouldn't we be concerned about what Scripture says rather than what we have done in the past or even what we are doing now? Before we start labeling ideas as Calvinist and Arminian, or conservative and liberal, for the glory of God and the building up of the church, let us seek to be biblical above all.

Brandon Porter
Smiths Grove

could sense when the pastor was burdened by a situation and were willing to listen, pray and help find creative solutions.

Directors of missions also provide support and encouragement for pastors and their families. In addition, the Kentucky Baptist Convention provides pastoral ministries support through the KBC's leadership development team leader Karl Babb and the team staff. Other KBC staff members provide training and encouragement for church staff members and lay leaders as well.

The Shepherding the Shepherd conference is specifically designed to provide encouragement for pastors and spouses. LifeWay Christian Resources also provides assistance and encouragement through its Web site (www.lifeway.com/pastors).

In these challenging times for church leaders, we must pray for and encourage all ministering families in more intentional ways. If you are not already doing this, today is a good time to start—especially as preparation is made for worship with God's people this Sunday.

Bill Mackey is executive director of the Kentucky Baptist Convention

GIVING

Charitable gift planning: It isn't difficult to do

By Laurie Valentine

Many people would like to make gifts beyond their tithes and offerings to their church and other charitable causes, but they don't know how to do it. Some people also are concerned that such giving could affect their financial security and that of their family.

There are a variety of charitable gift planning options that permit you not only to fulfill your charitable giving objectives, but also provide for your family's future financial security.

A variety of assets can be used to make gifts to charity—cash, stocks, bonds, mutual fund shares, real estate, life insurance and retirement plan/IRA survivor benefits, to name a few. Using appreciated assets to make lifetime gifts provides multiple advantages: a charitable income tax deduction based on the current market value and avoiding all or part of capital gains tax.

There also are numerous ways to make charitable gifts:

Beneficiary designations. You can designate a charity as a primary or contingent beneficiary of a life insurance policy, retirement plan survivor benefit or IRA.

Bequests. You can include a gift to your church or other charitable cause through a bequest in your will or revocable living trust. Bequests can be in the form of a gift of a specific amount, specific asset or a percentage of your entire estate. Bequest gifts can be outright or can be used to establish, or add to, an endowment fund.

Endowment funds. An endowment fund is a permanent, perpetual fund created during your lifetime or at your death for the support of one or more charitable causes. Only the earnings of the endowment fund are paid to the causes you designate.

Life income gifts. Charitable gift annuities and charitable remainder trusts are plans that allow you to make gifts during life for the ultimate benefit of one or more charitable causes, while retaining the right for you and/or others to receive payments for life. Making a life income gift entitles you to a charitable income tax deduction and capital gains tax savings (if you use appreciated assets).

Charitable gift planning provides the opportunity to help make a lasting difference for the cause of Christ in our world—and it's not hard to do.

Laurie Valentine is trust counsel for the Kentucky Baptist Foundation



Mom struggles with making vacation positive experience

Q: Our family has planned a two-week vacation this summer. Actually, I have planned the vacation for my husband and our two sons. My husband doesn't seem to understand how much work going on vacation is for me. By the time we get back home, I am exhausted and need my own vacation. How can I get him to help?

Many wives and moms get stuck in Satan's trap of trying to be the perfect mom and wife. This is self-destructive and harmful to family life.

PARENTING

First, take a look at the expectations you have for yourself. Are they reasonable? Are you trying to have "the perfect family vacation"?

Second, take a look at your patterns of communication with your husband and sons. Do you wish they simply would see what needs to be done and do it? Consider asking your husband and sons for help by being specific and giving a timeframe for when you would like the task completed.

Third, reflect on your expectations of others. Those who have high expectations of themselves also often have high expectations of others. You might need to stretch yourself in the direction of lowering your expectations of your husband and sons—not in terms of the help you want but rather with the manner in which they fulfill the request.

Finally, ask yourself how you respond to help that is given. If your expectations are not met, do you respond with criticism or judgment? This type of response often is met with reluctance to help in the future. You can model for your family that the best response to help given is appreciation and gratitude.

If your husband and sons have become accustomed to you doing all the planning for vacation, they might show resistance to changes. Exercise patience and let them know you want to enjoy the vacation also and not let bitterness or resentment grow in your heart. Pray as a family about this need and how each can contribute to an enjoyable vacation—Valerie Vincent

Q: My husband and I have a block in our communication. What steps can we take to resolve it?

Seek a marriage therapist who is trained in and favors marital education. For an introduction to the basics of marital education, take a look at the Smart Marriages Web site: www.smartmarriages.com. Smart Marriages is a network that has found education to be most effective in strengthening marriages. Much of its emphasis involves teaching communication skills.

One of the best research-based programs is PREP, which focuses on "the speaker-listener technique." The speaker speaks for himself or herself and does not go on and on. The listener paraphrases, focuses on the message and does not rebut. The speaker and the listener take turns speaking and listening.

Another approach, IMAGO, supplements the PREP approach by asking the listener to do three things: mirror, validate and empathize. To mirror is to paraphrase what the speaker just said. To validate is to acknowledge that the speaker makes sense. To empathize is to try to determine what the speaker must be feeling.

It's only as we speak for ourselves and listen actively that we can begin to solve problems and repair relationships.

In Scripture, the book of James is full of good relationship advice. In one of its most famous passages, James 1:19 reminds everyone to be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to take offense. By asking for help, you have taken the first step in that journey.—James Stillwell

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CP makes major impact on SBC election

How will history remember the 2006 Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting?

Many participants will point to SBC President Bobby Welch's enthusiastic emphasis on the "Everyone Can" evangelism challenge to convert and baptize 1 million people in a year. Others will cite the growing influence of younger ministers who have broadcast their concerns about denominational issues through online blogs.

Significant historical footnotes will include U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice's visit and speech and the dedication of a statute honoring legendary evangelist Billy Graham.

But last week's SBC annual meeting in Greensboro, N.C., most likely will be remembered as the Cooperative Program convention.

It's true that messengers rejected an effort to restore a call for convention officers to come from churches that give at least 10 percent of undesignated receipts through the Cooperative Program. But on the practical level, they also elected a president whose church exceeded that mark, giving more than 12 percent through CP last year.

Why is that significant? When Arkansas Baptist pastor Ronnie Floyd's candidacy for SBC president was announced last month, precedent suggested he was a virtual shoo-in. As former president of the Southern Baptist Pastors' Conference, former chairman of the SBC Executive Committee and 1996 SBC convention sermon preacher, Floyd has impressive denominational credentials. He also gained the endorsement of three seminary presidents: Danny Akin, Al Mohler and Paige Patterson.

But even that wasn't enough when grassroots Southern Baptists discovered Floyd's congregation channeled less than one-fourth of 1 percent of undesignated gifts through CP last year. Even coupled with gifts designated directly to SBC causes, the church's giving to denominational ministries totaled less than 2 percent.

Floyd didn't help his cause by responding, "It's real difficult to spend percentages. You spend dollars and cents. I don't think we need to be judging a church in relationship to what it gives percentile-wise."

We must do more to combat AIDS

By Kay Warren

Lake Forest, Calif. (BP)—Joana crawled toward me on her skeletal elbows and knees, each movement a painful reminder of the fact that she was dying.

When I met her, this emaciated woman was homeless, living under a tree. She had unrelenting diarrhea, little food, no earthly possessions and only an elderly auntie who had taken pity on her to care for her needs.

Still, she roused herself to offer me, an American visitor to her part of Mozambique, a traditional greeting.

The African pastors who brought me to visit her told me she had been evicted from her village when it became known that she had AIDS. Now, in this second village, her tiny stick house had burned mysteriously after her status became known. A short time later, Joana died—rejected, abandoned, persecuted and destitute.

We might think this doesn't happen in the United States. "People who are HIV-positive are treated better than that here," we say. But I'm not so sure.

I live in affluent Orange County, Calif., yet a disabled man in my area who was HIV-positive was not al-

STRAIGHT FROM THE EDITOR



Trennis Henderson

In the meantime, South Carolina pastor Frank Page announced he would be nominated as SBC president. Although he previously hadn't held key SBC leadership positions, among his primary credentials was serving a church that gives 12.1 percent through CP. That appeared to resonate with Baptist ministers and laypeople whose congregations have given generously and sacrificially through CP for decades to fund Southern Baptist mission efforts on the state, national and international levels.

"I just believe that it's time for people to not only say they support the work of Southern Baptists, but to show it," Page declared. "And I hope that my candidacy will bring that discussion to light."

In addition to his church's CP giving, "we have a huge missions program on top of that, so we believe that one can do both," Page added. "And I think that's a model that I would like for people to be able to consider."

One week before the annual meeting, Tennessee pastor Jerry Sutton became the third presidential candidate, but his church also designates much of its missions giving and contributes little through CP.

When the votes were cast last week, Page surprised many convention observers by being elected on the first ballot in the three-way race. Although he gained only 50.48 percent of the votes cast, his total more than doubled each of his opponents who received less than 25 percent each.

During a press conference after his election, Page candidly told reporters, "I certainly didn't expect to be here at all. ... I am a little taken aback by this."

The new SBC president added, however, that his election is "a clear call from the people of the Southern Baptist Convention that we want to strengthen our work together through the Cooperative Program."

While affirming messengers' decision not to tie convention leadership to a specific CP giving percentage, Page said, "I do believe a church's giving to the Cooperative Program is a serious and obvious expression of its support for doing missions."

That's a clear message from last week's SBC that all Southern Baptists can take home to their local churches for the sake of cooperation and global ministry.

Twenty-five years into the AIDS pandemic, being HIV-positive still carries stigma and shame. But God cares for the sick and so must we.

It's not a sin to be sick. The Bible tells us Jesus repeatedly was "filled with compassion" as He encountered broken bodies and broken minds. While polite society vigorously avoided contact with those they considered diseased outcasts, Jesus responded in a radical way: He cared. He touched. He healed.

I had no medication that could cure Joana, nothing to alleviate her pain, nothing that would restore her to health. But I offered the one thing that all of us can offer: I offered my presence. I put my arms gently around her, prayed for relief from her suffering and whispered, "I love you."

This is a start, but much more is needed. Today, I challenge the worldwide church to take on the global giants of spiritual darkness, lack of servant leaders, poverty, disease and ignorance. It's past time for those who claim to be Christ's followers to join the struggle against the devastation that the HIV virus brings.

How many more like Joana have to die before you become seriously disturbed?

Kay Warren, a member of Saddleback Church in Lake Forest, Calif., is executive director of Saddleback's HIV/AIDS initiative

Motions address executive perks, Calvinism & IMB

IMB dispute sent back to trustees

Greensboro, N.C.—The Southern Baptist Convention's International Mission Board will get a chance to resolve its own trustee dispute, despite a plea for outside arbitration.

Trustee Wade Burleson asked SBC messengers to authorize the convention's Executive Committee to create a special committee to study conflict at the mission board. The panel would have been charged with reporting its findings and proposing steps to "effect reconciliation" among IMB trustees.

But messengers instead affirmed the SBC order of business committee's proposal to refer the issue to the board's trustees themselves.

The conflict surfaced last fall, when IMB trustees narrowed the qualification for appointment as missionaries. They disallowed candidates who practice "private prayer language" and who have not received "biblical baptism."

Burleson, pastor of Emmanuel Baptist Church in Enid, Okla., protested, claiming the board shouldn't impose requirements more stringent than the SBC's Baptist Faith & Message doctrinal statement.

On his Internet blog, he also criticized some IMB trustees for conducting secret caucuses to orchestrate the board's formal sessions. Other trustees accused him of violating confidentiality rules.

Subsequently, the trustees suggested Burleson be removed from the board.

Later, trustees backed down and decided not to ask for Burleson's ouster. But they placed limitations on his involvement with the board, barring him from executive sessions and committee meetings.

Burleson called for the Executive Committee to create an ad hoc committee to report back to the convention in 2007.

He asked the committee to investigate five concerns: manipulation of the IMB trustee-appointment process, attempts by heads of other SBC agencies to "influence and/or coerce IMB trustees, staff and administration," secret trustee actions, implementation of narrow doctrinal requirements for missionary service, and suppression of dissent by trustees who take a minority position on board matters.

The order of business committee countered that traditional convention practice indicates an entity impacted by a motion has "first authority" to respond.

Burleson told SBC messengers the convention needed to call for the ad hoc study committee in order to break an IMB stalemate over the issue. *Marv Knox*

By Marv Knox
Texas Baptist Standard

Greensboro, N.C.—Taking aim at issues ranging from convention executives' perks, to Calvinism, to pandemics, to what homosexuals should be called, messengers to the Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting presented a flurry of motions.

In fact, 29 motions proposed during the June 13-14 meeting in Greensboro, N.C., constituted an SBC record, according to Allan Blume, chairman of the convention's order of business committee.

The motion that received the most attention asked the SBC Executive Committee to create a special committee to study trustee conflict as well as external manipulation/coercion at the convention's International Mission Board.

Wade Burleson, a trustee who has opposed several key IMB policies since last fall, requested the independent study committee. But convention messengers upheld the order of business committee's decision to refer the motion back to IMB trustees. (See related story.)

Messengers' motions most significantly impacted the Executive Committee, which received 15 referrals during the two-day meeting. Among the referred motions were:

- Conducting an "administrative expense analysis" of all SBC agencies and institutions. The motion seeks examination of agency presidents' travel, housing, office and residential expenses.

- Examining the impact of Calvinism on Southern Baptist life.

- Developing contingency plans if the SBC annual meeting could not be held due to a pandemic influenza or some other disaster.

- Moving the 2008 SBC annual meeting to New Orleans.

- Requiring that convention officers be members of churches that give 10 percent of their budgets to the SBC Cooperative Program unified budget.

- Requiring the full convention to vote on "any doctrinal position or practical policy" of an SBC entity "which goes beyond or seeks to explain" the convention's Baptist Faith & Message statement.

- Counting "any and all verifiable giving from a local Southern Baptist church to legitimate SBC causes" toward that church's "total giving to Southern Baptist missions causes."

This would include funds spent on mission trips, church starts and disaster relief, as well as SBC Cooperative Program contributions.

- Instructing the SBC nominating committee to appoint at least one person under age 40 to each SBC committee and board.

- Appointing a committee to research the "emergent-church movement" and its impact upon the SBC.

Other referred motions (with the receiving agency in parentheses) called for:

- Conducting an external audit of all funds handled by the International Mission Board's Central Asia region from 1999 through 2005. Ron McGowin of First Baptist Church in Fairfield, Texas, claimed a 2002-03 IMB internal audit on work in the region "at best could only account for \$372,831.62 of embezzled monies." (The motion was referred to the IMB.)

- Determining how the SBC's two mission boards can "work in greater partnership and harmony." (IMB and North American Mission Board.)

- Investigating why children from evangelical families leave the church as they enter adulthood, why "the vast majority of evan-

gelical Christians do not hold to a clearly defined biblical worldview" and why a "growing carnality" is producing "unregenerate church members." (LifeWay Christian Resources.)

- Authorizing GuideStone Financial Resources, the convention's annuity and insurance board, to allow lay members of Southern Baptist churches to participate in its financial and insurance products. (GuideStone.)

In addition to the motion supporting Burleson's reinstatement into the full activities of IMB trustees, the order of business committee declared six motions out of order. They included requests that the convention:

- Recognize a new U.S. Christian flag, known as "Beauty and Band." The committee felt this request was beyond the convention's control.

- Instruct new SBC President Frank Page to retract a letter of affiliation written by an Executive Committee employee to New Life Community Church in California. The motion was out of order because convention policy, not a letter from any convention employee, determines if a church is affiliated with the SBC, Blume said, adding the issue could not be debated, because the convention does not have all the relevant facts about the church and because no messengers from the church were present to defend their congregation.

- Stop using the word "gay" when referring to homosexuals in sermons, publications and the media. Blume explained this motion was not in order, because "it is beyond the scope of the convention's authority to direct churches to use a specific vocabulary."

A full report on all 29 motions can be found on WesternRecorder.org

Messengers pepper IMB chairman with questions about trustees

By Grace Thornton
Alabama Baptist

Greensboro, N.C.—Messengers raised questions about trustee rights and closed-door meetings during the International Mission Board's report to the Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting.

IMB trustee Chairman John Floyd fielded questions about a motion referred to the board for investigation. (See related story above.)

"We expect that you will fully investigate these controversies," Richard Peoples, pastor of Scotts Creek Baptist Church in Sylva, N.C., said to Floyd after the report of IMB President Jerry Rankin.

But he noted two concerns of "more immediate importance"—the restrictions of the right of trustees to participate fully in board meetings and voice dissent on decisions on which they might disagree.

"What immediate corrective action do you intend to take?" Peoples asked Floyd.

"I'm not aware of restriction of trustee rights," Floyd replied, noting that any recent trustee decisions had been made with a two-thirds majority. "I pray that you'll pray for us and trust us to do what God leads

us to do."

Another messenger questioned the accountability of the board of trustees.

"How is it that the executive sessions, which have continued for months and months, can continue considering that it's raised many, many, many questions ... for those

looking on ... in not giving the people the full understanding of what's taking place behind closed doors?"

Floyd responded that the board sometimes should meet and discuss issues internally with "the press out of the way."

He also noted that at the last meeting, the board did not call any such session. "I'm not sure in whose minds these executive sessions have existed."

Floyd called for Southern Baptists to "trust these 87 men and women who represent a cross section of our convention to do the right thing when it needs to be done."

In his report, Rankin said Southern Baptists "must not be distracted, diverted and discouraged by controversial and secondary issues."

"May we focus on the task and be found faithful ... in proclaiming the

gospel until all have heard," he said.

In the midst of such heavily publicized internal issues, Rankin said publicity and discussion largely has overlooked the fact that God is moving as never before through Southern Baptists and the IMB.

In 2005, 137 unreached people groups gained access to the gospel for the first time, 99 of which had a population of 100,000 or more, he said. The IMB also appointed and sent 805 new missionaries to the field, a 26 percent increase in appointees compared to the previous year. Seventy-three percent of new long-term missionaries went to serve among unreached people groups.

"We are a mission people ... and we rejoice in all our wonderful Lord is doing," Floyd added, noting that the IMB now has more than 5,100 missionaries serving around the world. He also told convention messengers that including short-term volunteers, more than 30,000 Southern Baptists "went all over the world to share the gospel of Jesus Christ" in 2005.

Southern Baptists also gave the largest Lottie Moon Christmas Of-

fering in history, with \$137.9 million given during the yearly missions emphasis.

Rankin added that Southern Baptist missionaries deserve not only financial support but heavy prayer support.

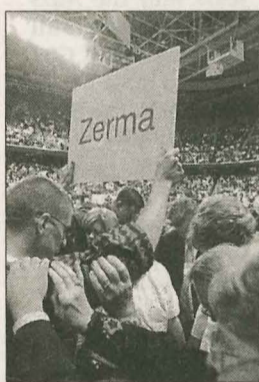
Rick Hedger, pastor of Calvary Baptist Church in Neosho, Mo., and his wife, Sandee, described how their congregation has adopted a people group in West Africa, taking one day each week to fast and pray for them to know Christ.

God answered the church's prayers, he said, as scores of the Mandyak people group have accepted Christ after the prayer commitment started.

Rankin said Southern Baptists must "plead for the nations and those in darkness."

"Would you and your church accept the responsibility of praying into the Kingdom an unreached people group?" he asked.

"We'll never have enough missionaries to touch all the nations and peoples of the world," he added. "But the 43,000 churches and 16 million Southern Baptists can lift their voices to God and touch the nations and peoples of the world."



A HEART FOR THE UNREACHED Messengers at the Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting gather around missionaries, dressed in West African attire, to pray over them and the people groups they represent. This missionary represented the Zerma, an unreached people group in West Africa. (BP photo by Matt Miller)

International Mission Board Report



Jerry Rankin

Rice: America's job is to spread freedom

By Robert Marus
Associated Baptist Press

Greensboro, N.C. (ABP)—In an address that was received like a campaign stump speech, U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice exhorted Southern Baptist messengers to support the United States in spreading freedom around the globe.

After a standing ovation upon being introduced, Rice touched briefly on her faith background as the daughter and granddaughter of Presbyterian ministers.

She thanked Southern Baptists for their faith-motivated social work and disaster relief, saying, "Whenever tragedy brings people to their knees, Southern Baptists have been there to help people get back on their feet."

Rice spent most of her remarks casting a missionary-like vision of the United States' role on the world stage—as a liberator and spreader of freedom and justice.

"President Bush and I share your conviction that America can, and must, be a force for good in the world," she said. "Human dignity is not the grant of governments. ... It is God's endowment to all humanity."

Some people throughout the world are denied that dignity regularly by poverty, by the lack of political and religious freedom and by human trafficking and other forms of subjugation—and those situations are ultimately in America's best interest to ameliorate, she said.

Facing "threats in the making"

"These are tragedies, but they are also threats in the making," Rice said.

The United States has a keen interest in promoting religious freedom abroad, stopping oppression in places like Darfur, fighting AIDS and poverty and ending human trafficking worldwide, because oppression, poverty and suffering produce instability, she asserted.



WARM WELCOME U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice responds to an enthusiastic welcome from messengers to the Southern Baptist Convention's annual meeting. Rice told the audience that the United States must address disease, the rule of tyrants and infringements on religious liberty. (BP photo by Van Payne)

"If America does not serve great purposes—if we do not rally other nations to fight intolerance and to support peace and to defend freedom ... then our world will drift toward tragedy," she said.

"The strong will do what they please, the weak will suffer most of all. And inevitably—inevitably—sooner or later, the threats of the world" will come to U.S. shores as they did on Sept 11, 2001, she said.

America has both the moral authority and the ability to lead the world, Rice insisted.

"Let us resolve to deal with the world as it is, but never to accept that we are powerless to make it better than it is—not perfect, but better," she said.

Rice acknowledged that the United States has a history of not living up to its own ideals of freedom.

"After all, when our Founding Fathers said 'we the people,' they didn't mean me," she said. "My ancestors in Mr. Jefferson's Constitution were only 3/5 of a man."

But times have changed, Rice said, whose predecessors in office

were an African-American man and an Anglo woman.

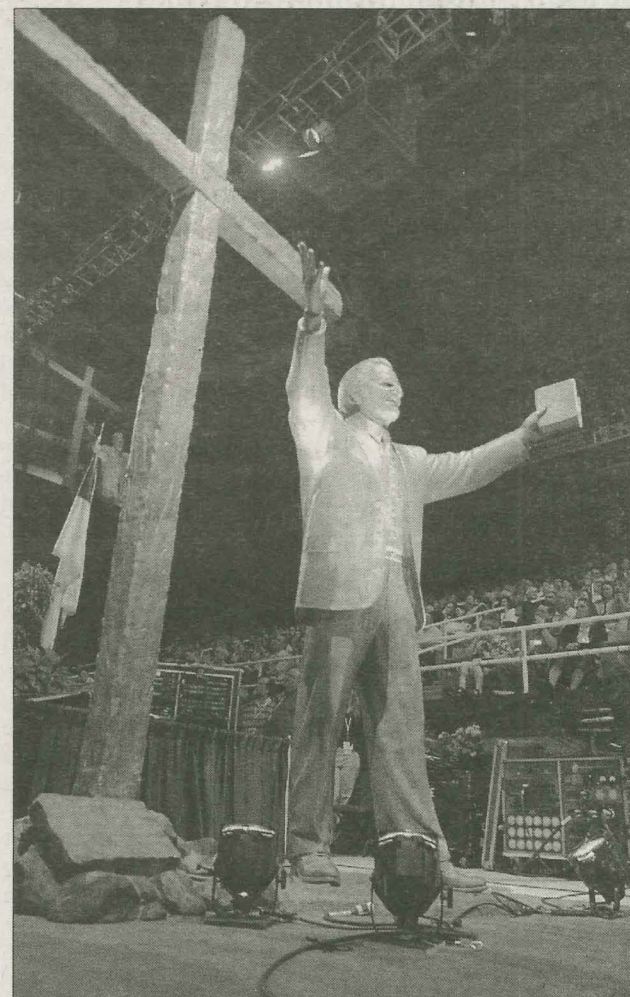
"If I serve to the end of my term as secretary, it will be 12 years since a white man was secretary of state," she quipped, to loud applause.

The Southern Baptist crowd saved its most enthusiastic ovation for a section of the speech where Rice discussed the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. The day before Rice spoke, the denomination's resolutions committee quashed a South Carolina messenger's proposed resolution "on the Southern Baptist Convention's support for the unjust war in Iraq."

Rice acknowledged that the war has ended up being "far more difficult than many of us expected it would be." But she said the price was worth it—to fight terrorism and to give Iraqis and Afghans "a chance—not a guarantee" of freedom with security.

"When possible, we are bringing terrorists to justice, and when necessary, we are bringing justice to the terrorists," she said, to an enthusiastic standing ovation.

Lasting monument



STATUE UNVEILED Evangelist Billy Graham is larger than life for many Southern Baptists. Soon, a 7-foot-tall likeness of him will stand in downtown Nashville. Mounted in front of a 17-foot-tall cross, the statue of Graham will stand near the SBC executive offices and LifeWay Christian Resources' corporate headquarters. At the foot of the cross are three nails and a stone inscribed with John 3:16. "This sculpture will stand not only as a timeless reminder of the glory of God but also as an evangelistic invitation declaring 'There is always room at the cross for you,' said SBC President Bobby Welch. Cliff Barrows, music and program director for the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association, and William Franklin Graham IV, grandson of Billy Graham and son of Franklin represented Graham at the unveiling. Barrows said Graham "is greatly humbled and honored by this gesture but so proud of the fact that the convention has again renewed its commitment to evangelism." (BP photo by Jonathan Blair)

Welch urges Southern Baptists to win more people for Christ

By Steve DeVane
North Carolina Biblical Recorder

Greensboro, N.C.—Outgoing Southern Baptist Convention President Bobby Welch guaranteed Southern Baptists will meet his goal of baptizing a million people in a year. He just didn't say what year.

In his final address to the SBC annual meet-

President's Address

ing as president, Welch said some people have claimed he called the convention to try to do the impossible.

"We will baptize a million in a year," he said. "I don't know if it'll be this year."

The goal might be reached this year if Southern Baptists get to work in the last three and a half months of the SBC's fiscal year, he asserted.

The SBC annual meeting focused on the theme "Everyone can—I'm it."

Welch, using the story of Jesus feeding 5,000 as recorded in John's Gospel, said God is calling on Southern Baptists to do more.

Welch described how Jesus eyed the crowd, looking for people who might be saved. "We must rediscover

our confidence in the power of God's gospel."

Christians shouldn't have to invite their friends to a meeting or get them to read a book if they believe in the power of the gospel to radically change lives, Welch said.

"You can win them on the spot," he declared.

Welch said he had asked missionaries what the hardest part of their jobs are, expecting to hear about the distance from home or separation from families. Instead, the missionaries told him about the pain of having so few resources that they have to keep saying "no" to reaching people who are ready to say "yes" to the gospel.

"Ladies and gentlemen, I'm telling you today, that ought not be true," Welch said.

Two things are critical for Southern Baptists—their theology of evangelism and how they apply it, Welch asserted. "We have to do more going and giving."

Welch said Southern Baptists get the "best bounce for their buck" through the Cooperative Program. Through the unified giving plan,



MORE MORE MORE Bobby Welch tells churches, "We can do more, we should do more and we will do more," referring to baptisms in his final address as president of the Southern Baptist Convention June 14 at the annual meeting in Greensboro, N.C. (BP photo by Jonathan Blair)

Baptists are working 24 hours a day, seven days a week, 365 days a year, he said.

Referencing recent talk of whether churches should give at least 10 percent of their budget to CP, Welch asked Southern Baptists instead to focus on what they agreed about in the giving plan.

"All have agreed we should do more ... and we can do more and we will do more," he said.

When Jesus fed the multitude, all

God needed was a lad, Welch noted.

"I wonder where all the men were?" he said. "There were 5,000 of them hanging around there."

Maybe all the men were trying to figure out how to get to the leadership table—or perhaps were trying to figure out how to keep others from the table, he suggested.

If Southern Baptists would spend less time blogging on Web sites, maybe they'd spend more time witnessing, Welch said. He quickly added that if anyone was happy that he'd criticized bloggers, they should think about how much time they spend on their cell phones.

Welch mentioned his sermon at last year's SBC meeting when he used a dead frog as an illustration. Welch said the frog was run over by a car because it wasn't in deep water where it was supposed to be.

Welch then turned around and was handed a live frog. He pointed out how the frog's long legs allowed him to jump far.

Welch then noted the difference between one frog's croak and the croaking of a multitude of frogs.

"This convention needs to come together on the main thing."

"We will baptize a million in a year. I don't know if it'll be this year."

SBC President Bobby Welch

Amended resolution urges SBC trustees be teetotalers

By Trennis Henderson
Editor

Greensboro, N.C.—Southern Baptist Convention messengers declared “total opposition to the ... consuming of alcoholic beverages,” in a strongly worded resolution on the issue at their annual meeting.

Messengers adopted 15 resolutions presented by the SBC Resolutions Committee on issues ranging from genocide in Darfur, Sudan, to “human species-altering technologies.” But the resolution on alcohol was the only one to spark extended debate.

Benjamin Cole of Dallas cautioned that abstinence is “not an essential for unity and not an essential for the proclamation of the gospel.”

Cole, one of the more prolific Internet bloggers among younger pastors, insisted abstinence “is not a matter to die on.” His views echoed previous online posts by fellow blogger Wade Burleson of Oklahoma.

In a June 14 blog entry after the resolution was adopted, Burleson wrote that “some of my blogging friends believe the resolution on alcohol use in America ... is an attempt to embarrass me, or possibly remove me” as an International Mission Board trustee.

“I wholeheartedly support all believers who have an abstinence conviction,” Burleson noted. “However, I believe the authoritative, inspired Word of God forbids drunkenness, not necessarily the drinking of an alcoholic beverage.”

Committee member Dwayne Mercer insisted Southern Baptists “have always stood for total abstinence.”

Warnings that some believers advocate drinking alcohol “under the guise of freedom in Christ,” Mercer added that committee members “feel that the SBC ought to address this and be aware of what is going on all across America.”

Jim Richards, executive director of the conservative Southern Baptists of Texas Convention, proposed an amendment urging that no one be elected as a Southern Baptist entity trustee or committee member who “is a user of alcoholic beverages.”

Citing the need to “stand for holiness and purity in our walk,” Richards said, “The use of alcohol as a beverage can and does impede our testimony for the Lord Jesus Christ. Our leaders should take the high road in our walk with the Lord Jesus.”

Tom Ascol of Fort Myers, Fla., spoke against the amendment. “I do not think that we can be more holy than Jesus Christ,” he said, adding that “Christ turned water into wine.”

Messengers approved Richards’ amendment and the motion on a show of ballots.

A proposal on “engaging the direction of the public school system” drew brief discussion.

Voicing concern about public schools teaching “dogmatic Darwinism” and acceptance of the homosexual lifestyle amid a pervasive “humanistic and secular orientation,” the resolution urges churches to solicit members to seek election to their local school boards and exert “their godly influence upon these school systems.”

The measure also affirms “the hundreds of thousands of Christian men and women who teach in our public schools” and encourages young people “who are seriously considering the teaching profession as a possible calling of God to pursue that calling.”

Jeff Young of Ravenna, Texas, called for “private Christian schools organized and funded by Southern Baptists” rather than leaving teachers “to operate in a hostile environment” in public schools. Despite Young’s concerns, messengers voted overwhelmingly to approve the original resolution.

Resolutions adopted without debate addressed:

- Supporting a federal “marriage protection amendment” to the Constitution.

- Opposition to federal judges who “legislate from the bench” and support for quick Senate votes for judicial nominees.

- Criticizing China’s treatment of North Korean refugees.

- Criticizing the conflict and “ethnic cleansing” in Darfur, Sudan.

- Caring for the physical and spiritual needs of all immigrants while also urging the U.S. government to “enforce all immigration laws.”

- Urging legislation to prohibit “human species-altering technologies.”

- Supporting conservation and preservation of natural resources while adding that “environmentalism is threatening to become a wedge issue to divide the evangelical community.”

- Calling on all school boards to accommodate groups seeking to provide off-campus biblical education during the school day.

- Affirming bivocational, volunteer and part-time ministers.

- Expressing appreciation for Southern Baptist disaster relief workers in the wake of hurricanes Katrina and Rita.

- Pledging to pray for President Bush and the U.S. military.

- Recognizing LifeWay Ridgecrest Conference Center’s 100th anniversary next year.

In other action, messengers rejected an appeal by Tom Ascol to consider his proposed resolution on integrity in church membership. The vote came after the Resolutions Committee declined to act on his proposal, which affirmed the practice of church discipline.

Messengers also rejected a request to consider a resolution on prayer for and support of Israel. Committee chairman Tommy French explained that the committee opted not to take action on the proposal because the convention had addressed the issue in 2002.

The committee also declined to recommend proposed resolutions addressing Baptist dissent, the SBC’s support for “the unjust war in Iraq,” a call for an external financial audit of the International Mission Board’s Central Asia region, the IMB’s adopted policies on baptism and private prayer language, doctrinal parameters of cooperation, and the exercise of religious freedom and freedom of speech “to make America a better place.”

“The use of alcohol as a beverage can and does impede our testimony for the Lord Jesus Christ.”

Jim Richards, executive director of the Southern Baptists of Texas Convention

“I believe the authoritative, inspired Word of God forbids drunkenness, not necessarily the drinking of an alcoholic beverage.”

International Mission Board trustee Wade Burleson

Convention sermon calls ‘fat cats’ to action, relying on God

Greensboro, N.C. (ABP)—The Southern Baptist Convention cannot afford to rest at ease as a “cushy denomination” of lazy church members, Donald Wilton told the group’s annual meeting.

“We are fat cats,” said Wilton, pastor of First Baptist Church in Spartanburg, S.C. “Just look at us.”

Speaking soon after Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice addressed the assembly, Wilton said he greatly admired Rice, but he also reminded them they owed ultimate allegiance to God alone.

“I’m going to submit to you that as believers in Christ Jesus, we are not even of America,” Wilton declared. “We march according to a different drumbeat.”

To that end, Wilton said, God is most pleased when His people depend on His grace.

“The Bible tells us we can ask of the Lord, and He’ll give to us,” Wilton said. “Southern Baptists, I mean to submit to you today that it’s time for us to wake up as a denomination. It’s time for us to roll up our sleeves and go to work and become the soul-winners that we claim to be. God has given us our marching orders.”

Wilton told the group that nothing more important exists than unobstructed access to the “heart of God Himself.” To gain that access, Southern Baptists have “serious forgiving” to do between leaders, pastors and laity, he asserted.

Many conflicts in church today center around three points, Wilton said, and church policies should not be built on any of them—confusion about absolute truth, matters of personal conviction and matters of personal preference.

For all the warning, Wilton said, the good news is that potentially dire conditions can leave believers to look to Christ for leadership.

“I submit to you today, my beloved friends, that it leaves us where we need to be—right there at the foot of the cross,” he said.

Fish outlines progress despite ‘difficult days’

By Robert Marus
Associated Baptist Press

Greensboro, N.C. (ABP)—After a rough spring, the new interim leader of the Southern Baptist Convention’s domestic missions agency sought to accentuate the positive in his annual report to the Southern Baptist Convention.

Roy Fish, interim president of the North American Mission Board, told messengers that, although the board has experienced some “extremely difficult days” recently, “this past year has been one where our missionaries ... have made a tremendous impact in the lives of thousands of people.”

Just days before the convention, Fish was named as temporary replacement for Robert Reccord, who resigned April 17 in the wake of a trustee investigation that found evidence of significant mismanagement at the mission board.

“Through it all, your trustees have sought to be transparent with our SBC family about where we are, and where we’re headed,” said Fish, a retired evangelism professor from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary.

Fish particularly pointed to thousands of baptisms performed in the past year by NAMB-endorsed chaplains in the armed forces and hospitals.

That prompted a question from a messenger related to a recent controversy at the denomination’s other missionary agency, the International Mission Board. Its leaders recently decided to tighten the restrictions on baptism qualifications for

missionary candidates.

“Does the North American Mission Board have, or do you plan to have a response to IMB regarding those baptisms, because what the IMB has done is effectively told you that every single one of those chaplain baptisms that were performed ... are now

null and void should one of those officials at some point later on decide to go to the international mission field,” said William Blosch, a messenger from First Baptist Church in Plantation, Fla.

“I can tell you that we do not have such a policy ... nor do we intend, as far as I’m aware, to entertain that sort of policy,” answered Bill Curtis, the board’s newly elected chairman. Curtis is pastor of Cornerstone Baptist Church in Florence, S.C.

Missionaries talk about work

Missionaries touted the board’s work in two metropolitan areas that have often proven difficult for Southern Baptist mission work—New York

City and New Orleans.

“Contrary to what you might hear on the news or contrary to what you might see on television,

North American Mission Board Report

God is alive and well in New York City,” said Aaron Coe, a Southern Baptist church planter who has started The Gal-

lery, a church in the SoHo district of lower Manhattan. The congregation’s goal is to reach out to a neighborhood of well-educated artists and professionals who are immersed in a highly secular culture.

“I’m convinced tonight more than any other thing that there are no God-forsaken places in the world tonight,” Coe said. “There are no God-forsaken places; there are just church-forsaken places.”

Missionary Kay Bennett thanked Southern Baptists for the dollars and volunteer hours they have provided in the wake of Hurricane Katrina’s destruction of her New Orleans. Bennett runs the city’s Baptist Friendship House, located near the flood-ravaged Lower Ninth Ward.

When Bennett returned to the city after the storm, she said, she rejoiced when she saw that floodwaters stopped a block from Friendship House.

“All four of our Baptist centers in New Orleans did not receive any flooding,” she said. “God knew that we would need Southern Baptists to help our city rebuild.”



Roy Fish

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Theme messages challenge Southern Baptists to evangelize

Greensboro, N.C.—Southern Baptists should turn the world upside down through evangelistic efforts, speakers told the Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting.

Four pastors exhorted messengers to rally around SBC President Bobby Welch's "Everyone Can, I'm It" goal of baptizing 1 million new Christians between October 2005 and September 2006.

New Orleans pastor Fred Luter reminded Southern Baptists that the early church "turned their world upside down" without the resources and advantages Southern Baptists have today.

"We must be led and empowered by the Holy Spirit," said Luter, pastor of Franklin Avenue Baptist Church in New Orleans. "The Holy Spirit will give us new power that will enable us to evangelize and to witness and to win the lost."

David Cox, Welch's co-pastor and successor at First Baptist Church in Daytona Beach, Fla., observed that one thing missing from Southern Baptist life today is "the concept of Christian love—loving one another and loving sinners."

"Most of the people where I am from are not going to come to church unless I go to them, take them by the hand, demonstrate the love of Christ, and show them that Jesus died for them. That is the bottom line."

James Walker, pastor of Biltmore Baptist Church near Asheville, N.C., said fishing for men is the "family business" of Southern Baptists. But while many churches are "fishing industry franchises," they have lost interest in fishing.

Gene Mims, pastor of Judson Baptist Church in Nashville, urged Southern Baptists to not lose focus on the goal of personal evangelism.

"This is the time, the place and the hour to personalize the Great Commission and ask not 'What is God going to do through your church?' or 'What is He going to do through the denomination?' but 'What is God going to do through my life, and where will He send me in order that I might win some?'" Mims said.

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*Due to another convention in Bowling Green, rooms were unavailable at the Holiday Inn University Plaza. Limited rooms are blocked at the Courtyard by Marriott.

Attendees must make and pay for their own reservations. To receive blocked room rates, call preferred hotel and request a room in the Kentucky Baptist Convention block. Most accommodations are non-smoking. The Bowling Green hotel tax is 11.25%.

Baymont Inn & Suites
165 Three Springs Road
800.642.4239 / 270.843.3200
\$79 flat rate (king and/or double beds)
Complimentary continental breakfast
Reservation deadline: October 13

Courtyard by Marriott*
(Smaller block of rooms at this property)
1010 Wilkinson Trace
270.783.8569
\$90 flat rate (doubles and kings)
Breakfast buffet (at cost)
Reservation deadline: October 13

Drury Inn Bowling Green
3250 Scottsville Road
800.325.0720 (reservations) / 270.842.7100
\$85-\$94 (doubles and kings; 1-4 persons)
Complimentary hot breakfast
Reservation deadline: October 13

Fairfield Inn Marriott
1940 Mel Browning Street
270.782.6933
\$79 flat rate (singles and doubles)
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Reservation deadline: October 13

Hampton Inn
233 Three Springs Road
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CONVENTION NOTES

Kentuckians named to Committee on Nominations. Two Kentuckians were elected to the 2006-2007 SBC Committee on Nominations. They are: Mike Melloan, a member of Yellow Creek Baptist Church in Owensboro, and Jamie Ward, associate pastor of preaching and evangelism at Hillvue Heights Baptist Church in Bowling Green.

97 percent of new trustees are first-timers. New trustees of the Southern Baptist Convention's entities are diverse, have an average age of 48 and are overwhelmingly first-time nominees. Of the 105 nominations made by the Committee on Nominations, only three have ever served on an SBC board, according to committee chairman Guy Sanders, pastor of First Baptist Church of New Port Richey, Fla. He said the churches that nominees represent give an average of more than 9 percent of their budgets through the Cooperative Program and have an average of 48 baptisms per church. "If we all did that, we'd baptize 2 million a year," Sanders said.

Rainer outlines four themes for LifeWay. In his first address to the SBC annual meeting as president of LifeWay Christian Resources, Thom Rainer said the agency will focus on the Bible, the local church, relevance through LifeWay Research and partnerships with state conventions. "If we do these things, then LifeWay and her employees will have made a difference and then, and only then, will our work not be in vain."

Multi-ethnic baptisms punctuate convention. Multiple ethnic groups were represented among those baptized during the annual meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention. In what SBC President Bobby Welch called "a wonderful expression—the first big step of a believer," local pastors baptized 17 Anglo, Vietnamese and Hispanic families and friends in the presence of messengers gathered at the convention. Because baptism is an ordinance of the local church, all baptisms were conducted with the full approval of the sponsoring home churches, with members from each church present to witness.

Attendance flat for Greensboro meeting. After recent controversies at some SBC agencies some people speculated that attendance at this year's annual meeting would increase. But that doesn't appear to be the case. The unofficial total of 11,639 messengers in Greensboro would be barely under last year's total of 11,641. This is the second straight year that more than 11,000 messengers attended the meeting.

Stewardship education moves to Executive Committee. Responsibility for stewardship education within the Southern Baptist Convention was transferred during the annual meeting to the Executive Committee from LifeWay Christian Resources, as messengers approved the consolidation of stewardship with SBC Cooperative Program promotion. The Executive Committee, which houses the Cooperative Program offices, now will add a stewardship arm to "produce, develop, publish and distribute products that help Southern Baptists to grow in commitment to Jesus Christ by applying biblical principles of stewardship."

Messengers decline to get involved in dispute. Messengers declined to get involved in a complex and messy legal battle between a California church and an association. Michael Stewart, director of missions for Central Coast Baptist Association in Gilroy, Calif., made a motion concerning the denominational affiliation of New Life Community Church of Prunedale, Calif. Stewart's motion sought to retract a 2005 letter from an Executive Committee employee that had welcomed New Life into the SBC. New Life reportedly voted to become an SBC church in 2005 and has given directly to the SBC allocation budget two years in a row. But the church is at the center of a lawsuit in California over whether it took control of another SBC church's property. After a short debate June 14, messengers affirmed the recommendation from the SBC Committee on Order of Business in ruling Stewart's motion out of order.

Texas, then Indiana. Next year's annual meeting will be held in San Antonio, and the 2008 meeting is scheduled to be held in Indianapolis. The SBC Executive Committee will consider a request that the 2008 meeting be moved to New Orleans. An attempt to require messengers to vote on moving the meeting to New Orleans failed after Jack Wilkerson, the convention's business manager, explained the SBC already is committed to meet in Indianapolis in 2008, and changing now would mean breaking contracts, costing the convention thousands of dollars.

Hawkins: Southern Baptist ministers' health stats improving, but more work needed

Greensboro, N.C. (BP)—O.S. Hawkins, president of GuideStone Financial Resources, offered a three-pronged approach to fighting rising insurance costs for church staff.

"The first responsibility is GuideStone's and in the past year we have offered enhancements in the life and health areas to provide additional flexibility in plan options, deductibles and competitive rates."

Taking advantage of significant discounts through Highmark Blue Cross Blue Shield, medical rates have been stabilized. While more than 40 percent of personal plan medical participants received a decrease in rates in 2005, more than 57 percent of personal plan medical participants received a decrease in rates for 2006.

"The second step is your responsibility to improve your overall health through proper diet and exercise," Hawkins said.

The wellness center in the SBC exhibit hall had attracted more than 1,000 messengers by the end of the second day of the convention, he noted.

"The numbers are improving. Total cholesterol count is down, blood pressure is dropping and blood sugar numbers are dropping," he said.

"Unfortunately, the preliminary report for the Greensboro convention reveals that 70 percent of pastors have a medium-to-high risk for cardiovascular disease so there is still work to be done," he added.

The final initiative is the responsibility of the church. Hawkins urged churches to include life and health benefits in their church budget for their pastor and staff.

"If we work together, we can make a difference," Hawkins said.



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Scholarship funds help students make their mark

As you prayerfully consider ways to leave your legacy or to honor a loved one, let me encourage you to consider giving someone else the opportunity to follow in your footsteps or in the footsteps of your loved one. A fitting way to do that, and to make education opportunities available to future students, is to establish a scholarship fund. If you or your loved one is a teacher, you might prioritize students in education; if a physician, prioritize pre-med students; if a church staff minister, prioritize ministerial students. You can prioritize students preparing for whatever area of life in which you or your loved one has made a mark.

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Barry Allen

Awarding scholarships to Kentucky Baptist students is one of the most gratifying aspects of the foundation's ministry. Each academic year the foundation awards approximately \$200,000 to approximately 1,000 students attending Campbellsville, Cumberland, Georgetown, Clear Creek, Mid-Continent, Southern Seminary and Boyce. The foundation also manages scholarship funds for a number of churches.

All of these scholarships were established by people who loved young people, believed in the abilities of our Baptist educational institutions to prepare students effectively to live in the world and to follow in the footsteps of the loved ones for whom the scholarships were named, and trusted the Kentucky Baptist Foundation to administer the scholarships until Jesus comes again.

Some of these endowments were established by outright gifts of cash or appreciated assets, some by bequests in wills, and some by a combination of gifts during one's lifetime and then additions at death by bequests. Perhaps you are not in a position to give up the income you receive from a particular asset, but you would like to go ahead and make the gift. In that case, a charitable gift annuity or a charitable remainder trust would be worth considering.

Call toll-free Laurie Valentine or me to assist you in establishing a way for future students to follow in your footsteps or the footsteps of your loved one.

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

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Cheryl Keiser

Across

- 1 "A _____ that needeth not to be ashamed" (2 Tim. 2:15)
- 6 "The word of God ... is sharper than any twoedged _____" (Hebrews 4:12)
- 10 Friend, Fr.
- 11 When you will arrive, approximately, abbr.
- 12 In favor of
- 13 Belonging to God's chose nation
- 15 Young lady, Fr., abbr.
- 17 Man's name
- 19 Sons of Judah, Er and _____ (Genesis 46:12)
- 21 Edward, for short
- 23 Chinese dynasty
- 24 Firstborn son of Judah (Genesis 38:2-3)
- 27 Primps
- 29 "_____ not yourselves" (Romans 12:19)
- 31 "When the morning stars _____" (Job 38:7)
- 32 "Jesus thou _____ of God" (Matthew 8:29)
- 33 Letter before "em"
- 34 Teletypewriter, abbr.
- 35 In order that
- 37 Small particle
- 39 Translation, abbr.
- 41 Son of Adam
- 43 Prophet during David's reign
- 46 Masculine article, Fr.
- 47 Indicate agreement with a movement of the head
- 48 "These _____ Milcah did bear" (Genesis 22:23)
- 50 Letter after "em"

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57									58				

- 52 Preposition
- 53 "Lion will not _____ himself" (Isaiah 31:4)
- 55 Sea lettuce
- 57 "_____ obtained favor" (Esther 2:15)
- 58 Moisten
- 25 City in Nevada
- 26 "Delivered when she was past _____" (Hebrews 11:11)
- 28 "Take it, and _____ it up" (Revelation 10:9)
- 29 Josaphat's father (Matthew 1:8)
- 30 Building wing
- 35 To stow, especially in a ship's hold
- 36 Exclamation
- 38 St. Paul is the capital of this state, abbr.
- 39 Not that
- 40 "The heathen _____" (Psalms 46:6)
- 42 Masculine article, Sp.
- 44 "Lest he _____ my soul like a lion" (Psalms 7:2)
- 45 New England state, abbr.
- 47 "As it was in the days of _____, so shall it be also in the days of the Son of man" (Luke 17:26)
- 49 Stomach, for short
- 51 Girl's name
- 53 Syllable of satisfaction
- 54 Exist
- 56 Low pressure, abbr.

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WMU seeks God's call during missions celebration

WMU leaders tout missions support

Greensboro, N.C.—Woman's Missionary Union Executive Director Wanda Lee and Kaye Miller of Little Rock, Ark., national WMU president, reported to Southern Baptist Convention messengers about the stewardship, mission education and hands-on mission experiences of WMU.

They thanked the convention for making missions a priority, reporting that Southern Baptists gave \$138 million to the Lottie Moon Offering for International Missions and \$53 million to the Annie Armstrong Offering for North American Missions.

Lee also noted WMU's strong promotion of the Cooperative Program.

WMU Report to SBC

Miller noted that a study showed that per capita giving is significantly stronger in churches that have WMU organizations.

The WMU leaders also noted the organization's ongoing role in mission education and in hands-on mission opportunities for girls and women.

They noted that undated missions curriculum is available now for download from the WMU Web site.

They reported that 27 hands-on mission and ministry opportunities sponsored by WMU, state WMU organizations and local associations, have resulted in participation by more than 4,000 volunteers.

Women and girls "experience missions through action, being the hands and feet of Christ," Miller said.

They also announced "Blume," a convention for teenage through college-age girls, July 10-13, 2007, in Kansas City. The event will include activities, mission projects, worship and celebration of missions. *Charlie Warren*



REPORTING Kaye Miller (left), national president of Woman's Missionary Union, and Wanda Lee, WMU executive director, bring the auxiliary's report to messengers at the Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting (BP photo by Bill Bangham)

By Charlie Warren
Arkansas Baptist News

Greensboro, N.C.—Christians must hear, understand, embrace and live God's call, program leaders reminded Baptist women during the 2006 Woman's Missionary Union celebration.

"How can you hear God's call when those around you want you to mimic the call of someone else?" asked Paige Chargois of Richmond, Va., who interpreted the missions celebration theme throughout the meeting, June 11-12 in Greensboro, N.C.

Christians should discover the authenticity of God's unique call upon each believer's life to follow and obey, she stressed.

Embracing God's call means "putting our arms around something too great for us. ... It is a task we will never complete," she said. And sometimes it means Christ's followers must "toss overboard some of the baggage we've been carrying far too long."

"If we would stop clinging to things that leave us empty and look to the Lord Who wants to fill us again and again with what is meaningful and valuable and worthy and worthwhile, then we will begin to see that nothing is worth holding onto that the Lord says to discard," she said.

As part of the program, Archie and Caroline Jones, former missionaries to Chile, reflected on their lifetime commitment to missions. Since retiring as career missionaries, they have served as short-term volunteers in South Africa, Venezuela, Armenia

and China, and they said they are ready to go again "wherever God sends us and whenever He provides the plane tickets."

They related their experiences in Chile, where they served an 800-mile-long association, starting churches and seeing them grow. They also adopted a Chilean baby and said they were surprised by the reaction of the Chilean people.

"You must really love us," they often heard people say. "You adopted one of us."

WMU Annual Meeting

An International Mission Board representative, identified only as Pam for security reasons, de-

scribed her and her husband's ministry in a Muslim-dominated area.

Pam's work started when representatives from some of the 14 Muslim tribes in the region contacted the center and asked for agricultural assistance. As a result, missionaries train local Christians to go into Muslim villages, providing Christian ministry and establishing house churches, she said.

Mississippi WMU President Donna Swarts described how she discovered she could balance WMU involvement with work in a ministry typically led by Baptist men—disaster relief.

She provided emergency child-care in the wake of flooding in Georgia in 1993 and then coordinated eight childcare units that responded to floods in North Dakota in 1997. She also joined relief efforts in New York City in the wake of the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks.

"The experience of the years and



"LIVE THE CALL" Rosalie Hunt, president of Alabama Woman's Missionary Union and a former missionary, interprets the theme for the national WMU Annual Missions Celebration: "Live the Call: Yesterday and Today." The celebration preceded the Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting. (BP photo by Van Payne)

the call of God have enabled me to be a small part of the army that is the church of Jesus Christ," she said.

To that end, Norma Melton, who leads church and community ministries in Asheville, N.C., encouraged the WMU women to see themselves as instruments through which God touches a broken world.

"The most important partnership we will ever have is our personal partnership with Christ," she said.

With additional reporting by Bill Webb of the Missouri Word & Way and David Sanders of the Arkansas Baptist News

Running and jumping for Oneida

Despite schedule conflict, two students make it to the state's track & field meet

By Tamara Cochran
Oneida Baptist Institute Publications

Tara Koffa, who graduated with Oneida Baptist Institute's class of 2006, and Amos Nagbe, a junior at OBI this fall, represented Oneida at the state track & field meet June 3.

Tara qualified for state by placing second at the regional meet in two events: the 100-meter dash and the high jump. She earned a seventh-place state medal in high jump and finished 10th place in the dash.

Amos also earned his state slot in the 200-meter dash with a second-place regional win.

OBI track coach Lance Nutter was proud of his team members. "We figured several would go to state, and Tara and Amos are definitely among our top athletes."

Tara has been on the OBI track team for the last three years, as long as Nutter has coached the team. This was the first state meet for Tara, who also was team captain.

Amos joined the team last year and went to state in the long jump. "Both of them are natural athletes," Nutter said.

Tara remained at Oneida after graduation to finish the track season at regionals. She continued to practice daily for the state meet a week later. "I did a lot of running exercises and stretches," she explained.

"Tara works really hard at what she does," Nutter said. "She was certainly the most dedicated on the team. That's probably why she got a seventh place at state."

Though she wishes she had done a little better in her running event, Tara was satisfied with her state performance.

Several other track team members, including Amos, also stayed behind after school ended to compete at the regional meet. But many students went home for the summer, which hurt both the girls' and boys' teams' chances of doing well at regionals.

"Overall, the season was a success. Others could have easily qualified for state, especially our two relay teams, if they had been here," Nutter said.

Oneida's calendar does not match that of public schools, but we follow the Kentucky public school schedule in sports. "It's hard for the (Oneida) students in spring sports," Nutter said. "They have parents and summer jobs pulling on them to come home, which I understand. Who would want to stay for two more weeks after school is out, or three if they make state?"

Tara was a freshman from New Jersey when she enrolled at Oneida in 2003. She was impressed with the numerous opportunities for co-curricular involvement. Tara never before had participated in sports, but because she is tall, her family often encouraged her to try. At Oneida, Tara discovered a love for sports and participated in softball, volleyball, basketball, cross country and track & field. At graduation Tara was the recipient of the John Michael Davis Award, one of our school's highest honors. The Davis Award is given to a senior noted for outstanding citizenship.

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



W.F. Underwood

A man of faith with a love for prophecy

Alumni & campus family remember George Sleeker

Two weeks after George Sleeker submitted grades for his spring semester courses, he told his son, "I'm sick and don't think I can teach next semester." A few days later, a large crowd gathered in the Clear Creek chapel for his funeral. Bro. Sleeker was blessed to practice his calling until the very last; all of us would like that.

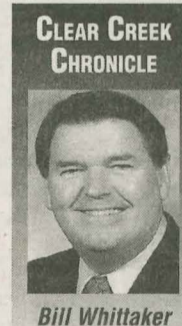
The Arkansas native received a Purple Heart as a World War II Army veteran. At the age of 28 he came to "a saving knowledge of Jesus Christ." His formal education included B.S. and M.A. degrees and a B.D. from Southwestern Seminary. Sleeker taught in public schools for 29 years, including Reidland High School near Paducah and in Michigan. He was pastor of churches, usually bivocational, in Texas, Kentucky and Michigan. He taught Bible at Oneida Baptist Institute for two summers and one full term.

Since the fall term of 1991 George and Barbara Sleeker volunteered their services at Clear Creek. For the first years he taught history and Bible; she taught math. The past few years she tutored students in math and Bro. George taught

his favorite subjects—the feasts of Israel, Ezekiel-Daniel, and Revelation. For him, "last things" were clear and certain—a source of conviction for some and a delightful debate with others. The campus family appreciated his sense of humor.

Married for 49 years, the Sleekers reflected personal independence and a close dependence on each other. Their only child, Wilson, said, "I was fortunate to grow up with a Bible teacher and pastor. He led my wife to Christ."

His favorite books offer a fitting benediction for this faithful servant: "The heavens were opened and I saw ... God. The Lord Is There" (Ezekiel 1:1, 48:35); "Daniel purposed in his heart. ... But go your way till the end; for you shall rest, and will arise to your inheritance at the end of the days" (Daniel 1:8, 12:13). "I am the Alpha and the Omega. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all. Amen" (Revelation 1:8, 22:21).



Bill Whittaker

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

Adrian Rogers' widow scolds SBC for narrowness

By Jennifer Rash, Erin Tunnell
& Grace Thornton
Alabama Baptist

Greensboro, N.C.—Adrian Rogers' widow captured unexpected attention at the Southern Baptist Pastors' Conference by asserting her husband would not approve of narrowing parameters of fellowship in the Southern Baptist Convention.

Joyce Rogers—whose deceased husband was a former Southern Baptist Convention president and longtime pastor of Bellevue Baptist Church in Cordova, Tenn.—gently scolded Southern Baptists, saying: "Adrian Rogers would not have been a part of some things going on today, getting narrower and narrower about some issues."

She was among a host of speakers at the two-day conference, which precedes the annual Southern Baptist Convention meeting.

In addition to the plenary speakers, the event featured breakout sessions for the first time this year.

Attendees chose from among workshops on such topics as church discipline, "The Da Vinci Code," apologetics and men's and women's ministries.

One of the most popular conferences was the debate between seminary presidents Al Mohler and Paige Patterson about Calvinism. (See story below.)

Mrs. Rogers recalled her husband as someone who would try to convince others of his viewpoint if they disagreed. But she said Rogers would not exclude someone from service because of the disagreement.

"Adrian Rogers was a gracious

man who worked for unity in the body of Christ," Joyce Rogers said. "He believed with all his heart inerrancy was a hill to die on. But he still sought unity in the body of Christ.

"Will you continue this race that one ran so well with truth, courage and integrity? Be men of integrity, pure and faithful to the end. ... I want to challenge you pastors to be courageous, always standing for moral truths and what is right no matter the cost."

Ed Young, another former SBC president and pastor of Second Baptist Church in Houston, likewise called for unity among Southern Baptist biblical inerrantists.

"Southern Baptists have forgotten who they are. And because of this, we do not know where we are going. I believe that we as Southern Baptists are on way, way, way too many side streets," he insisted.

"Our theology is biblical, it is not systematic. Therefore we as Baptists, we are not Calvinist; we are not Arminian; we are Baptists. That's who we are, and we always come down somewhere in the middle."

Functionally, Southern Baptists have the Great Commission as their mission statement, Young said. Their marketing strategy is to reach Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria and the ends of the earth.

"And when you forget who you are—a Great Commission people—you do not know, do not see where you are going and you end up on side streets," he said.

Other messages during the conference included:

Pastors' Conference

Seminary presidents Patterson, Mohler debate 5-point Calvinism

By Tony Cartledge
North Carolina Biblical Recorder

Greensboro, N.C.—Baptist seminary presidents Paige Patterson and Al Mohler might have philosophical differences on the subject of divine election as interpreted by Calvinism but little that has practical effect, an hour-long dialogue revealed.

Patterson and Mohler discussed "Reaching Today's World Through Differing Views of Election" in two breakout sessions of the Southern Baptist Convention Pastors' Conference June 11. Both sessions, in a cavernous space occupying three hotel ballrooms, drew standing-room-only crowds.

Mohler, a self-described Calvinist and president of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, and Patterson, president of Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas, gently sparred while emphasizing their mutual love and respect for each other.

Patterson: Flawed logic

Patterson said he didn't like the "flawed logic" that if one isn't a Calvinist, he or she must be an Arminian, insisting, "I am neither."

The claim that non-Calvinists don't accept the doctrines of grace or the sovereignty of God also is flawed, Patterson said.

Patterson listed several reasons

why he is not "a Dortist Calvinist," referring to the Synod of Dort in 1618-19. The synod produced five cardinal tenets of Calvinism—total depravity, unconditional election, limited atonement, irresistible grace and perseverance of the saints.

"I do not find in Scripture any case for irresistible grace," Patterson said, arguing salvation would be coercive if humans have no choice and citing Scriptures that suggest humans have the ability to reject God.

Likewise, Patterson said he finds no biblical support for a belief in limited atonement, citing multiple texts supporting a belief that Christ died for all and God wants all people to be saved.

Patterson quoted Scriptures that he said link predestination to divine foreknowledge, indicating that God knows in advance who will accept Christ but does not predestine some to salvation and some to condemnation. That would put God in the position of creating people just so He could condemn them, Patterson said.

"I believe too often Calvinism is the death-knell for evangelism for many people," Patterson said. He acknowledged that many Calvinists—including Mohler—remain evangelistic, and said, "It is my conviction that as an evangelist for Christ, we are compelled to persuade men."

Rick Warren told the conference, "People aren't turned off to Jesus; they are just tired of people who don't really follow him."

Warren, author of "The Purpose Driven Life" and pastor of Saddleback Church in Lake Forest, Calif., spoke via video to the audience, saying Christians should imitate Christ in nine ways: integrity, humility, simplicity, possibility, hospitality, civility, charity, generosity and priority.

"When God finds a person willing to live like this, there is nothing God won't do for this person," he said. "They live not perfectly but they intentionally live the way God wants us to live."

Kerry Shook, pastor of Fellowship of The Woodlands, near Houston, revved up the Pastors' Conference with a video of a professional motocross biker riding over several jumps in his church's sanctuary during a conference session focused on contemporary worship.

Motocross bike action—and similar attractions—draw the unchurched and cause them to drop their guard, Shook explained.

"They come in with their guard up and a chip on their shoulder. They wonder if you'll accept them," he said. "But they loosen up with five minutes of motocross and will then listen to 30 minutes of a gospel message."

Seeing lives changed is what it's all about, Shook said. "You may say that's just entertainment, but there's been a seismic shift in our culture from being a church culture to a secular culture. We are missionaries in that culture, and I've had to learn their language to share the very same message that never

Mohler affirmed, "I believe in all five points of Calvinism," before offering his interpretations of several points.

Mohler: God is a choosing God

Mohler said he prefers to speak of "effectual calling" rather than "irresistible grace." God's effectual calling does not draw someone to Christ against his or her will, but once the work of salvation begins, one cannot resist, he explained.

"We all believe in limited atonement," Mohler said. "The question is by whom. I do believe before the creation of the world, God determined to save sinners who would come to accept Christ through the electing purpose of God."

But, Mohler said, "God is a choosing God." God chose Israel as a special people and has called out the church, he added.

Mohler said every person attending was probably a Calvinist to some degree. Belief in inerrancy, substitutionary atonement, divine omniscience and the perseverance of those who accept Christ all owe something to Calvinism, he said.

Widespread belief in world missions "is more recent history" for Calvinists, Mohler said.

"What binds us together is that we both believe in a 'well-met offer' of the gospel—that when we share the gospel with someone, that he or



changes—Jesus Christ."

Erwin McManus, pastor of Mosaic in Los Angeles, agreed with the need for multilingual sensitivities. To prove his point, he broke into Spanish, then Korean, during his message. Just as most listeners didn't understand all the words of his trilingual speech, many don't understand the growing contemporary style of worship and misunderstand its purpose, too, he explained.

"A lot of people are speaking a language we don't understand, and we think they are rejecting Jesus but they are not," McManus said. "We simply need to understand that they need to hear the gospel in their language."

Also during the meeting, Louisville pastor **Kevin Ezell** was elected vice president of the SBC Pastors' Conference for 2007. Ezell, pastor of Highview Baptist Church, will serve with President Hayes Wicker, pastor of First Baptist Church in Naples, Fla.; and Treasurer Joe Taylor, pastor of South Reno Baptist Church in Reno, Nev.

PASSING THE BATON

Joyce Rogers, widow of Adrian Rogers, longtime pastor of Bellevue Baptist Church in Cordova, Tenn., raises a baton representing her late husband's desire to see Southern Baptists united in taking the gospel to a lost world. (BP photo by Bill Bangham)



she can believe and be saved."

People who follow "the heresy of hyper-Calvinism," who don't believe in evangelism, are now few in number, Mohler insisted. Their churches, if found, would be very small, he said. "A vital hyper-Calvinism movement is a living oxymoron."

Evangelism is essential, Mohler said. "I don't believe anyone who appeals to Christ will be denied."

"We must be as eager as the apostle Paul to persuade others to follow Christ, knowing that only God can effectually bring about the internal call," Mohler concluded. "We do not know who is elect; we just know there are sinners in need of the gospel, and we believe that God does save sinners."

ELECTION TALK

An estimated 2,500 people packed a Pastors' Conference session featuring Al Mohler and Paige Patterson, debating Calvinism. About 300 people stood during the first session, and the Greensboro fire marshal closed the room after it reached capacity for the second session. (BP photo by Matt Miller)

PRAYER PARTNERS

Please pray for the following volunteers taking part in projects related to Kentucky Baptists' partnerships with Baptists in Brazil and Europe:

■ The collegiate creative arts team traveling to Teresina, Brazil, June 19-29.

■ A volunteer team from Crestwood Baptist Church in Crestwood to conduct evangelistic work in Teresina, Brazil, June 19-29.

■ Twenty-seven Kentucky volunteers traveling to Interlaken, Switzerland, July 5-14 to conduct vacation Bible school. Volunteers will work with the children of ministers and church leaders attending the summer meeting of the International Baptist Convention.

■ Six Acteens and adult leaders traveling to Slovenia July 15-25 to support Southern Baptist workers there.

■ Six volunteers from Scottsville traveling to Jurbise, Belgium, July 20-29 to conduct backyard Bible clubs.

■ Two volunteer teams from Pulaski Baptist Association and Blood River Baptist Association traveling to Teresina, Brazil, July 31-Aug. 10 for church planting and evangelism projects.

MOUNTAINS TO THE MISSISSIPPI

COMPILED BY STAFF

■ **ASHLAND**—**Jim Fox** recently resigned as youth pastor of Rose Hill Church to serve as camp director of Lighthouse Christian Camp in Smithville, Tenn.

■ **CORBIN**—First Church honored **Floyd and Barbara Curd** on their 50th wedding anniversary June 17.

■ **FRAKNFORD**—**John Heskett** recently retired as director of missions for Franklin Association. Heskett, who has served as DOM since 2003, also is a retired pastor and former Southern Baptist international missionary to the Dominican Republic. He is moving this month to Parsons, Tenn.

Immanuel Church will host a musical day camp July 10-14, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., for children in grades 1-6. Performances will be July 15-16, 6 p.m. For more information, call (502) 223-7601.

■ **HODGENVILLE**—Pleasant Grove Church recently called **Zach Cross** as youth minister.

Spotlight on ...

Greenville



Roland Memorial Church will host the gospel group **His Song** in concert June 25. For more information, call (270) 338-3620.

■ **LEXINGTON**—Grace Church ordained **Gary Lyons** as a deacon June 18. **Terrence Freeman** is pastor.

■ **LOUISVILLE**—Ormsby Heights Church will host "Freedom Celebration" July 2 with activities, food and fireworks. For more information, call (502) 447-6867.

Tom and Shirley Shultz, members of Rockford Lane Church, celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary June 17.

Kentuckian Eileen Mullins awarded WMU's top honor

By Amy Whitfield

SBC Woman's Missionary Union

Greensboro, N.C.—Kentuckian Eileen Mullins was awarded the 2006 Dellanna West O'Brien Award for Leadership Development June 12.

Mullins, founder of Haven of Rest ministry in Inez, received the award from national Woman's Missionary Union and the WMU Foundation during WMU's annual missions celebration last week in Greensboro, N.C.

The award recognizes Baptist women who foster Christian leadership in other women, display the potential to be a leader in their community and world, and excel in missions education.

The O'Brien Award for Women's Leadership Development, WMU's highest honor, includes a \$2,000 grant from a WMU Foundation endowment that will be used to further the ministry of Haven of Rest.



MINISTRY IMPACT Wanda Lee (left), executive director of national Woman's Missionary Union, presents the 2006 O'Brien Award for Women's Leadership Development, to Eileen Mullins, founder of Haven of Rest ministry.

Mullins founded Haven of Rest in 2004, a hospitality house for those who have relatives in prison. Located a mile from Big Sandy Federal Penitentiary in Eastern Kentucky, the ministry supplies food and lodging to visitors of those incarcerated there—loved ones who



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

June

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.

7-8 Mother/Daughter Overnight, Cedar Crest.

8-15 Kentucky Changers, Louisville.

10-14 Mission Adventure Camp for Girls, Cedar Crest.

21-22 Quarterly Prayer Meeting for Spiritual Awakening, Severns Valley Baptist Association Office, Elizabethtown.

21-22 World Missions Unlimited, Westport Road Baptist Church, Louisville.

31-August 2 Mountain Missions Conference, Oneida Baptist Institute.

August

5 Crafters on Mission Day, Grace Baptist Church, Lexington.

19 Super Saturday, Porter Memorial Baptist Church, Lexington.

26 Super Saturday, First Baptist Church, Bowling Green, and First Baptist Church, Prestonsburg.

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

often travel long distances with weary hearts and little money.

Mullins' inspiration for Haven of Rest was rooted in her own family tragedy. In 1996, one of her sons was sentenced to 20 years in prison after being convicted of manslaughter for killing his wife in a bitter divorce dispute. In the midst of her own pain, Mullins saw a need to minister to others who were experiencing similar sorrow. She said God directed her to build Haven of Rest.

"We would not have this ministry if we had not gone through this valley of tragedy in our lives," Mullins said. "The most important thing I have learned is that God calls us to help the hurting. He wants to share His love through us by meeting their needs."

As Mullins accepted the award on behalf of all those who have made the vision God gave her a reality, she told the crowd, "When

God gives you a vision, when He calls you, He will equip you in His own time and in His own way."

Joy Bolton, Kentucky WMU executive director, said Mullins had a special determination to be used by God and allowed Him to turn a family tragedy into something for His glory.

"Eileen uses every speaking opportunity to not only tell the story of the Haven of Rest ministry, but also to urge Southern Baptist churches to once again emphasize missions education," Bolton said. "She is an active participant in WMU in her association and has done a great deal to encourage women to fulfill their calling."

A retired teacher and pastor's wife, Mullins has been a WMU leader and missions education advocate for years and has enlisted several women to guide the Haven of Rest ministry by serving on its board of directors.

CLASSIFIED ADS

SEEKING: Organist. Paid position—Sunday mornings only. 17-rank Schantz pipe organ. More information, contact Greg Harry, FBC Hodgenville. (270) 358-3193.

SEEKING: Part-time youth minister for Freedom Baptist in Stanford, Ky. Anyone interested should send resumé to Gary Padgett, 405 Crawford Land, Stanford, KY 40484.

SEEKING: Volunteers for medical mission to villages in Romania. Need individuals with some medical experience to go late August through early September. Contact Dr. or Mrs. John Hines, (502) 893-8283.

SEEKING: Full-time minister of music for First Baptist Church of Festus-Crystal City, a conservative church. Salary TBD; preferred minimum: bachelor's degree. Applicant must agree to 2000 Baptist Faith & Message. Send resumé and references to 107 Truman Blvd., Crystal City, MO 63019; or e-mail tbaker5@sbcglobal.net by June 30, 2006.

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 minister of music. Applicant must be worship leader experienced in working with various styles of music. Zion is a dynamic, growing church that averages a total of 750 in two blended Sunday morning worship services. Candidate must be spiritually mature, have strong leadership skills and be able to lead all aspects of worship ministry including congregational worship, praise team & band; choirs of all ages and creative arts ministries. Position requires a seminary degree and at least five years experience. Send resumé, references and letter of interest to: Zion Baptist Church, 8158 Highway 351, Henderson, KY 42420, Attn: Worship Pastor Search Committee.

SEEKING: Pastor for Beattyville Baptist Church. Send resumé to: Ken Farmer, 8433 Highway 587, Beattyville, KY 41311.

SEEKING: Part-time youth director for First Baptist Church, Hazard, Ky. Visit our Web site at hazardfbc.org for salary information and job description. Applicants should send resumé to: Dr. Ricky Ray, First Baptist Church, 560 Main St., Hazard, KY 41701.

SEEKING: Blood River Baptist Association will be receiving resumé for the position, director of missions, beginning May 8, 2006, and will continue receiving all postmarked on or before June 30, 2006. All interested applicants may send a resumé to: Blood River Baptist Association, PO Box 18, Hardin, KY 42048, Attn: DOM Search Committee.

SEEKING: Full-time pastor—traditional Southern Baptist church. Resumé: White Stone Quarry Baptist Church, 2764 Blue Level Road, Bowling Green, KY 42101.

SEEKING: Full-time youth minister at First Baptist, Mayfield. Send resumé to: Pastor Bob Swift, 118 West South St., Mayfield, KY 42066.

SEEKING: Full-time youth minister. Please forward resumé or letter of interest to either jgifford@cbnstl.com or Grapevine Baptist Church, 85 Sandcut Road, Madisonville, KY 42431.

SEEKING: Organist/pianist with strong skills in accompanying, improvisation and sight reading for blended worship style for Versailles Baptist Church. Contact Maria Lester, minister of music, 125 E Green St., Versailles, KY 40383; or call (859) 873-7338.

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

SERVICES: Christian long distance: 3.9 interstate; 4.9 in state; no monthly service charge. Call: (866) 587-8346 or www.lowermyphonebill.com/harold/.

Multitude of methods

Crossover reaches out with variety of evangelistic events

By Mickey Noah & Eva Wolever
SBC North American Mission Board

Greensboro, N.C. (BP)—Bikers, cowboys and Native Americans had one thing in common during Crossover Triad 2006: Jesus Christ.

A motorcycle rally, a rodeo, an international fair, sports clinics and a series of evangelistic block parties took place as part of the evangelistic outreach in the tri-city area of Greensboro, Winston-Salem and High Point.

Crossover, the annual pre-convention evangelistic blitz preceding each Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting, was sponsored jointly by the North American Mission Board, the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina and 200 area churches. Ninety-eight churches took an active part in hosting events.

Early reports indicate at least 500 decisions for Christ were reported by Intentional Community Evangelism teams, who shared their faith on the streets of Greensboro for about a week.

Nearly 300 salvation decisions were reported at 30 or so Crossover events in the Triad area, with additional numbers still coming in.

"When you're ministering to bikers, it's different from other segments of the population," said Mike Young, coordinator for the Carolina Faith Riders, a group of 350 Christian motorcyclists. "If you're a Christian, they want to make sure your walk matches your talk, or they won't have anything to do with you."

More than 200 bikers—some Christians but most not—drove into a parking lot near Greensboro's Koury Convention Center to sign up for the ride benefiting Baptist Children's Homes of North Carolina, to hear live Christian music and testimonies and enjoy good food.

Young was elated with the event's turnout.

"The idea of the day was to let people know that Jesus can make



WILD RIDE "Red Hot" takes Triad-area bull rider Terry Owens for a wild ride during a rodeo in Archdale, N.C., sponsored by Triad Cowboy Church. The rodeo was one of the many events of Crossover Triad, conducted by Southern Baptists in the tri-city area of Greensboro, Winston-Salem and High Point before the SBC annual meeting in Greensboro, N.C. (BP photo by Jonathan Blair)

a difference, and I think that has come through loud and clear."

About 15 miles south of Greensboro, horses—not Harleys—were the feature attraction.

Cowboy evangelism

"Cowboy Stampede" was the brainchild of cowboy preacher Jeff Smith, a North American Mission Board national missionary who used a rodeo as a Crossover event to spread the gospel to more than 1,000 people in a livestock arena in Archdale, N.C.

The event featured bull riding, barrel racing, pole bending, mounted shooter and the "Harvest Cowboy Band."

"It was a block party for cowboys," Smith said. After the rodeo's dust and gunsmoke cleared, he preached a 20-minute sermon from the middle of the arena. After his message—describing Jesus as the ultimate "trail boss"—Smith asked the crowd to make decisions for Christ. Dozens of hands went up, Smith said.

In Greensboro, in an effort to make personal contact with residents of neighborhoods surrounding churches, many Crossover participants went door-to-door to share the gospel message of Jesus Christ.

Pastor Milton Harrington traveled 12 hours by van from Tallahassee, Fla., with other church members to participate in Cross-

over with dozens of volunteers from Cornerstone Baptist Church in Greensboro.

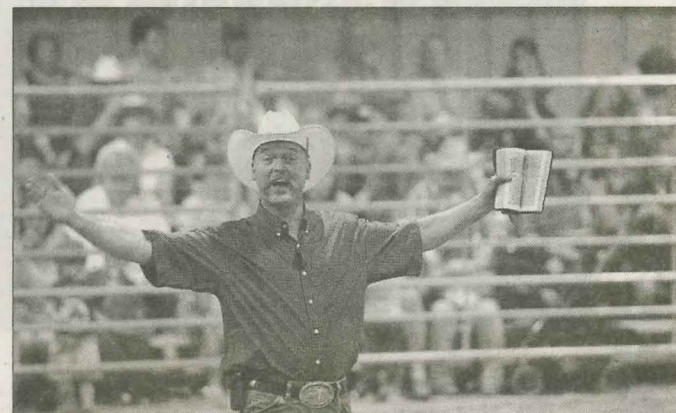
"Block parties are very important to really soften families up for future contact and for future ministry to them," Harrington said.

International flavor

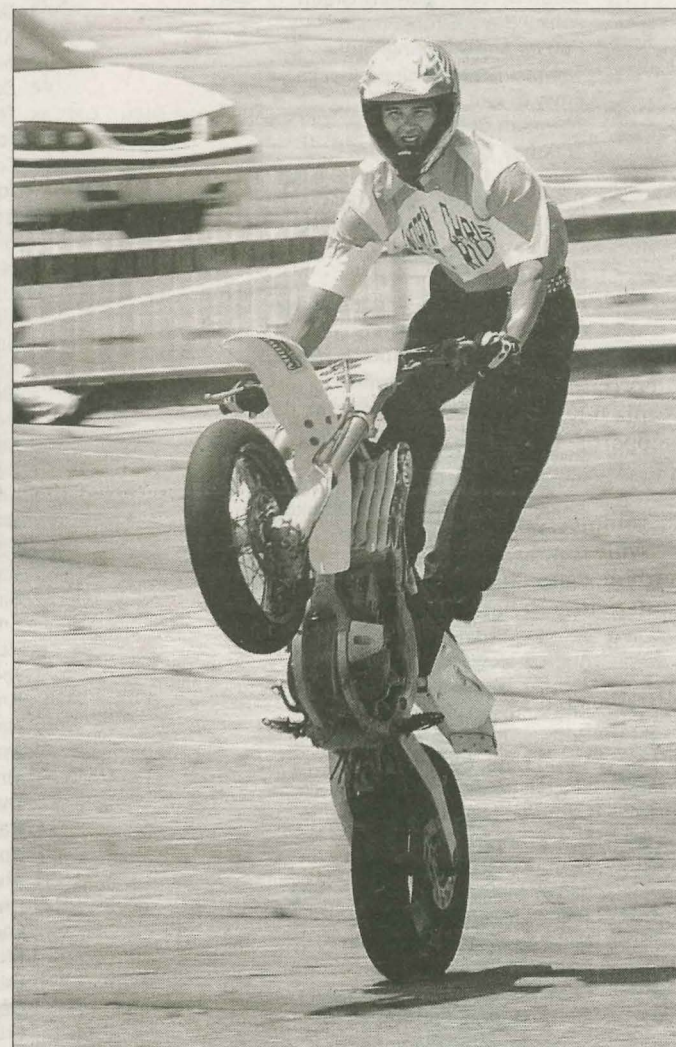
The largest Crossover event was the International Fair at Greensboro's Ben L. Smith High School. By mid-Saturday afternoon, a few thousand people had come to sample the cuisine of 14 countries, including China, Korea, Indonesia, Japan, Vietnam, India, Mexico, Laos, Cambodia, as well as Native Americans.

Each ethnic group had a booth highlighting their cultures and colorful dress. As the aroma of the ethnic food filled the gym, children of the participating countries sang familiar Christian hymns in their native languages. And 200 Crossover volunteers—many from Greensboro's local ethnic churches—shared the gospel with all who would listen.

"We hope that if we get 3,000 registration cards, we can turn that into a prospect list for local ethnic churches," said Jason Kim, a NAMB evangelism associate and one of the leaders of the fair. Kim said their ultimate goal is to plant nine churches in primarily ethnic areas of Greensboro.



COWBOY GOSPEL Cowboy missionary Jeff Smith of Midland, N.C., preaches to a crowd of more than 1,000 people at the rodeo. Smith, a member of the Cowboy Church Network of North America, plans to start cowboy churches in every county of North Carolina. (BP photo by Jonathan Blair)



SHOWING OFF

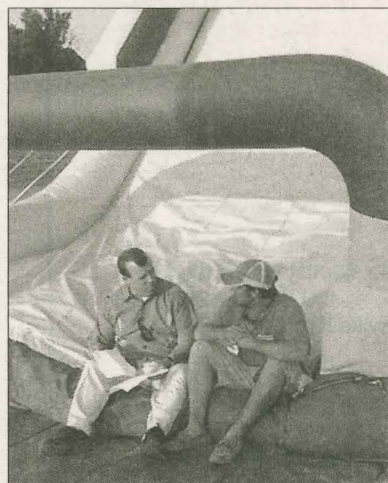
A stunt rider from WheelzNorth of Bolivar, Ohio, demonstrates his skills. The Triad Biker Day and Charity Ride for the Children was part of Crossover Triad. (BP photo by Bob Carey)

North Carolina's "Piedmont Triad" area includes about 1.5 million people in Greensboro, Winston-Salem, High Point and surrounding areas. A Crossover 2006 goal is to plant 19 churches in the region.

"We invested heavily in resources to help our churches take advantage of this volunteer power," said Milton Hollifield, executive director of the North Carolina convention. "The Saturday events exceeded our greatest anticipation. As thrilled as I am with the saturation presence of Christian witness in this area today, I'm even more excited about the changed lives that will result from new congregations forming and affecting their communities."

Since Crossover originated during the SBC annual meeting in Las Vegas in 1989, nearly 37,000 people have professed Jesus Christ as their personal Savior as a result of the pre-convention effort.

With additional reporting by Norman Jameson and Mike Creswell of the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina



WITNESSING Dale Rose, a member of First Baptist Church of Monticello, shares the gospel with a worker who helped set up the inflatable games for a block party in Jamestown, N.C., near Greensboro. Rose said the man made a profession of faith. "The actual witnessing began before the block party started," he noted.

KENTUCKY BAPTIST FOUNDATION

2006-2007 Scholarship Recipients

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Ashley Barron, Eubank
Savannah Bartley, Burgin
Justin Basham, Bowling Green
Robert Bender, Campbellsville
Christopher Bland, Campbellsville
Sarah Borders, Bowling Green
Ashley Boyd, Simpsonville
Patrick Brady, Springfield
Thomas Brown, Independence
Emily Bryant, Louisville
Jeremiah Burdon, Marion
Adrienne Butler, Harned
Benjamin Carpenter, Russellville
Brian Carpenter, Springfield
Robin Chappell, Campbellsville
Daniel Cook, Princeton
Diana Creech, Burnside
Rachel Crenshaw, Shepherdsville
Antonia Davila, Hodgenville
Nicholas Davis, Campbellsville
Corey Evancho, Louisville
Cody Gardner, Campbellsville
Skye Gardner, Campbellsville
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Robert Record, Lancaster
Chelsey Redd, Campbellsville
Thomas Redd, Campbellsville
Stephanie Russell, Mackville
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Amy Schnellenberger, Louisville
Jesse Schnellenberger, Louisville
Zachary Shelton, Burkesville
Glenn Smith, Owenton
Jacob Smith, Hawesville
Morgan Smith, Stanford
Rebekah Smith, Covington
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