



WESTERN RECORDER

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FOR THE RECORD



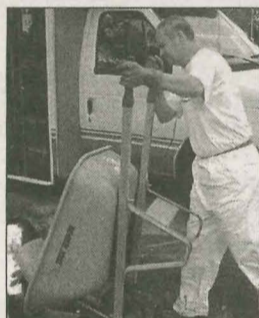
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Study tracks differences in political views for clergy & laity

Phoenix (BP)—Recent research suggests that Protestant clergy and laity are very far from being of one mind about religion and politics.

The study found few clergy or laity who believe their own congregation is highly involved in politics.

But researchers found a wide array of opinions about what types of political activities are appropriate for churches, and it found differences between how clergy and laity describe themselves politically.

The research was conducted for Facts & Trends, a bimonthly magazine published by LifeWay Christian Resources of the Southern Baptist Convention.

Most clergy and laypeople agree that their church is not heavily involved in politics.

Only 6 percent of clergy and 11 percent of laity feel their own church is very involved in local politics or political issues. The numbers are nearly identical for involvement in national politics or political issues.

Southern Baptist and Pentecostal congregations were most likely to be deemed politically involved by both clergy and laity. But even among those, few churches were described as more than "somewhat involved."

Lutheran clergy are the denominational group least involved. See Poll tracks ... Page 9

Hispanics in Kentucky



WORSHIP Pedro Blanco, music minister at the Hispanic congregation at Arcade Baptist Church in Louisville, plays bass during a worship service. Kentucky Baptists have nearly 70 Hispanic churches, Bible studies and ministries. (Photo by Dannah Prather)

State offering helps meet ministry needs

By Dannah Prather
Partnerships Editor

Louisville—Twenty years ago, Kentucky Baptists' Hispanic work consisted of a few seasonal migrant ministries in the commonwealth's busiest tobacco producing counties.

Today, Kentucky Baptists have nearly 70 Hispanic Bible studies, churches and other efforts, and leaders insist more are needed to get the gospel message to the largest-growing population of the state.

"It's been explosive growth," said Larry Baker, director of new work/associational missions for the Kentucky Baptist Convention's missions growth team.

Seasonal migrant outreaches are no longer enough, officials say, as more Hispanics are coming to Kentucky to stay.

Kentucky Baptist Convention officials have composed a strategy to train more leaders and start more churches to reach this growing population.

"The next five years are crucial,"

Baker said. "If we don't get our foot in the front door, we're going to lose an opportunity to impact the Hispanic population. It's imperative that we increase our efforts."

Increasing those efforts will depend greatly on contributions to the Eliza Broadus State Missions Offering, which funds virtually all of the Kentucky Baptist Convention's \$78,000 budget for Hispanic work.

The offering, which is being collected this month in Kentucky Baptist churches, has a total offering goal of \$1 million.

See Kentucky Baptists ... Page 3

Eliza Broadus
State Missions Offering

Corbin minister outlines 8 'simple steps' to effective outreach

By Trennis Henderson
Editor

Lexington—Acknowledging that "most of our churches today have a reaching problem," Jeff Crabtree said for many congregations, "the hardest thing you can do is start an outreach ministry."

But starting such a ministry doesn't have to be difficult, added Crabtree, minister of education at Central Baptist Church in Corbin.

Leading a recent Super Saturday workshop on "Eight Simple Steps for Reaching Adults," Crabtree noted that if prospects and new members get involved in a Sunday school class or other weekly small group Bible study, "you've got a better chance of keeping them" as long-term members.

Crabtree's eight-step strategy for reaching adults includes:

■ **Make a commitment from the top down.** "Most people will do what their leaders model and then

encourage," he said.

"Those of us who are in leadership in our churches have got to make a commitment to outreach. ... Leaders must also have a public practice of witnessing and reaching the lost."

■ **Accept responsibility for the lost.** Citing Jesus' parables in Luke 15 about the lost sheep, lost coin and lost son, he cautioned that "the church has not accepted responsibility" for reaching non-Christians with the gospel.

■ **Evaluate your readiness to reach.** "We give our time to the things of greatest importance," Crabtree pointed out.

Urging churches and individual believers to "evaluate your ability," he added, "I only need to know what Jesus has done for me" in order to reach out to others with the gospel.

Crabtree said such resources as the FAITH witnessing strategy and the EvangeCube are among tools

that can help equip individuals for effective evangelism.

■ **Make changes in priorities.** "There are a lot of churches that want to do outreach, but they don't want to make it intentional and they don't want to do it regularly," Crabtree noted. "We've got to quit wishing somebody else will do it."

■ **Set personal and group goals.** "Jesus asked us to take responsibility," he said. "How many times this week have you shared your faith? How many times this month? How many times this year?"

Crabtree encouraged church leaders to set specific personal, class and church outreach goals.

■ **Provide the means.** "What outreach events does your church plan?" he asked. "We've got to think outside the box with it comes to outreach."

Crabtree said church outreach options range from vacation Bible school, sports camps and servant

evangelism projects to church Web sites, parenting classes and feeding programs.

■ **Discover and enroll prospects.** Names of potential members are available from such sources as church members, Welcome Wagon lists and community surveys/opinion polls, he said.

■ **Follow up immediately.** "The biggest mistake we make is failure to follow up," Crabtree said. He challenged church leaders to follow up with guests with a phone call the day of their visit, a letter the next day and a face-to-face outreach visit within a few days.

Warning that "flash-in-the-pan outreach will die quickly," Crabtree said, "We've got to go back to our churches and be committed to a regular program."

"Outreach is a great ministry," he declared. "Let's just do it, evaluate it and make it a little bit better. Let's stop talking about it and do it."

Dated material. Please deliver by Wednesday, September 13.

BAPTIST
DIGEST

Leaders of LifeWay Research, established earlier this year by LifeWay Christian Resources President Thom Rainer, have announced the group's first research project will focus on Calvinism in the Southern Baptist Convention. Other proposed topics include why the dechurched left church and what would bring them back; churches that are effective in evangelism over a 10-year period and why; and from which sources Southern Baptist churches draw ministry help. Brad Waggoner, a former dean at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, began serving in July as director of LifeWay Research.

BP en Español, a Spanish-language resource published by Baptist Press, debuted Sept. 1. BP en Español's feature stories and first-person columns will include such topics as churches that are reaching non-Christians in innovative or traditional ways; biblical exposition related to current events or issues; and articles to help equip readers for life, witness and ministry, said Will Hall, executive editor of Baptist Press. The weekly edition will be posted on www.BPNews.net.

The Progressive National Baptist Convention has elected T. DeWitt Smith as its new president. Smith, pastor of Trinity Baptist Church of Atlanta, ran uncontested for the position. He succeeds Major Jemison as leader of the Washington, D.C.-based denomination. Delegates to the four-day meeting approved more than two dozen resolutions, including ones that support a "humane" immigration policy, a lift on travel bans to Cuba, the Voting Rights Act, and affirmative action. Several resolutions called for an end to the war in Iraq, urging government leaders to redirect war resources to help rebuild areas affected by Hurricane Katrina.

Painting the town

Baptists' school-painting projects open doors of ministry in New York

By Norm Miller
Baptist Press

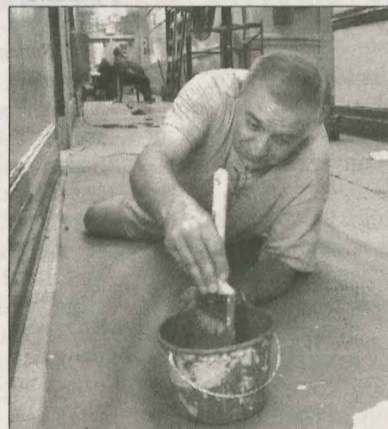
New York (BP)—The phrase "paint the town," usually associated with the color red, holds connotations of celebratory revelry. Since 2004, Southern Baptist volunteers have celebrated the love of Christ and reveled in the joy of ministry as part of New Hope New York's Paint the Town initiative.

Paint the Town grew out of the Southern Baptist North American Mission Board's Strategic Focus Cities emphasis in New York.

"Paint the Town was not something New Hope New York dreamed up; it came about because that was the expressed need," said Eric Hoenigmann, executive director of Paint the Town.

As Hoenigmann cooked hot dogs at a Paint the Town block party in Queens Aug. 15, he explained that New Hope New York leaders attempted to contact the presidents of all five of New York City's boroughs, offering whatever general services each borough might need.

The timing of that request "was something God laid out; He put that in place," said Hoenigmann, who added that the Bronx borough president—the only one to respond to New Hope New York's offer—already



TRIM WORK Gary Shows, executive pastor of Temple Baptist Church in Hattiesburg, Miss., does some trim work at a New York City school as part of the Paint the Town initiative.

had been contacted by a middle school principal whose facilities were in dire need of fresh paint.

Thus, Paint the Town was born, and the Bronx middle school—five stories high, the size of a city block, and about a hundred years old—was its pilot project, drawing more than 500 volunteers from 17 states.

At a block party celebrating the completion of the project, the borough president declared it New Hope New York Day in the Bronx. Soon after that came the request to repeat the project elsewhere in New York the following summer.

In 2005, volunteers planned to paint six schools, but completed 10 because "the volunteers who came did such great work and painted so quickly, they started running out of walls to paint," Hoenigmann said.

"Their ministry impacted about 8,000 students, not counting the faculties and staffs," he added.

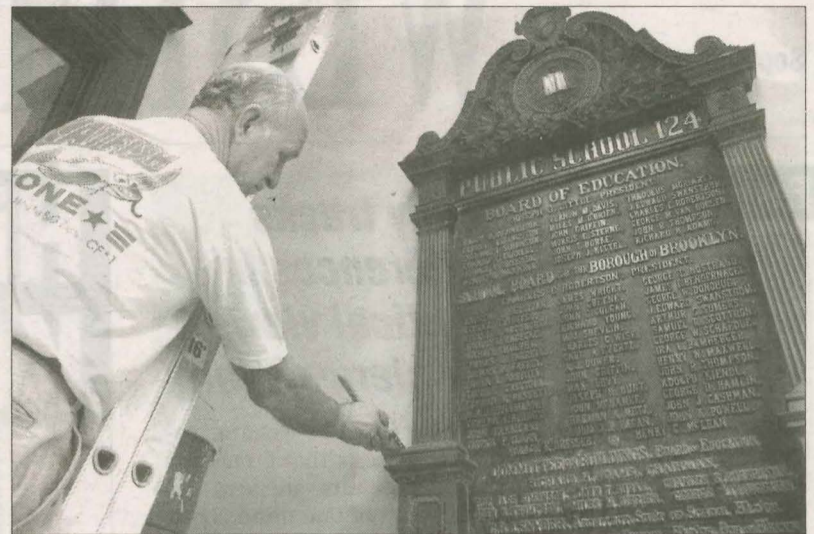
Recounting what one school principal said about Paint the Town's significance, Hoenigmann noted that about 90 percent of the students qualify for financial aid. Living below the national poverty level, these students endure disadvantaged home lives in downtrodden neighborhoods, he said.

Enhanced environment

Paint the Town provides the kids with "the nicest thing they see eight to 10 hours a day," Hoenigmann said. "It gives the kids a place that is conducive to their education. It's comfortable, it's inviting and it's warm."

The schools' faculty and staff members "have a different spirit about what's going on, and I know why: because the volunteer teams are praying over the classrooms and in the hallways," Hoenigmann said. "They're even writing prayers on the walls and covering them up with paint."

Hoenigmann said a church in Queens—the Oasis Christian Center—had reaped benefits from the project well before the first wall was



TANGIBLE IMPACT Joe Fairchild of Temple Baptist Church in Hattiesburg, Miss., doing some touch-up painting in a New York City school, considers the Paint the Town ministry a "great opportunity" to share the love of Christ in a tangible way. (BP photos by Jim Veneman)

ever painted simply because the local church made the offer to serve.

"Oasis Christian Center is the face of this neighborhood's project," Hoenigmann said, because two of the church's members were Paint the Town project managers. "That brought them into direct contact with the school's administration and staff, which is exactly what we want to see happen."

Planted by Charles Simpson, a staff member of the Metropolitan New York Baptist Association, the Oasis Christian Center's relationship with the Queen's school has opened other doors of ministry.

Starting this fall, church members will offer a "Kids' Night" each Friday for neighborhood children. Activities include arts, crafts and Bible stories, all on school property. Members also will offer tutoring services twice a week at the school.

"Guess what?" Hoenigmann asked. "Some of these kids who are in these projects here are going to have some Christian people invest in them. That is huge."

"If you could boil down what we do to one word, maybe facilitate or enable or foster," he added. "It's all about relationships, deep-type relationships that will last because we've done something with no strings attached. And that gives a platform

and a privilege of someone listening to you and saying, 'Oh, this is what Christianity is about—helping others and serving others without asking for anything in return. I see that you care because you made a difference in my child's life because of what you did at the school.'"

Talk of the town

Jimmy DeMoss, a representative to local public schools for parents of children with special educational needs, said, "Paint the Town is a wonderful idea because it enhances the kids' education. It means a lot to the parents because they respect other people who will come and paint their kids' schools for nothing. It's talked all around, especially by me."

To date, Paint the Town has impacted the lives of nearly 15,000 students as well as school officials.

"What does that say?" Hoenigmann asked. "That the local churches love their communities. They're investing, and they care."

"God is showing me that He is still in the miracle-working and multiplication business, modern day," Hoenigmann said. "I think God is poising this city for a revival. It's been a long time, about 150 years ago when they had the last big one."

Patterson's defense of sermon censorship contradicts past action

Fort Worth, Texas (ABP)—Paige Patterson, president of Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, censored a recent chapel sermon by a seminary trustee because it criticized a "sister" Southern Baptist Convention institution. Yet in 2003 Patterson himself circulated a lengthy report by one of his former professors that criticized the same agency.

Dwight McKissic, a graduate and newly appointed trustee of Southwestern Seminary, delivered the Aug. 29 chapel sermon at the Fort Worth school. McKissic, pastor of Cornerstone Baptist Church in nearby Arlington, criticized a controversial policy guideline of the International Mission Board that bans the appointment of missionaries who practice speaking in a "private prayer language."

With Patterson seated onstage, McKissic recounted how, as a Southwestern student in 1981, he had an experience of speaking in a "private prayer language" that he believes was evidence of the Holy Spirit helping him communicate with God.

McKissic, one of Southern Baptists' most prominent African-American leaders, said he has continued to have such experiences.

After the service, in a break from stated practice, Patterson ordered that a recording of McKissic's sermon not be placed on Southwestern's Web site. Later in the day, school officials released a statement saying they made the decision because McKissic had criticized actions by a sister SBC institution and because seminary leaders "reserve the right not to disseminate openly

views which we fear may be harmful to the churches."

But three years ago, Patterson distributed a "white paper" by Southeastern Seminary professor Keith Eitel that criticized the IMB and its president, Jerry Rankin, on a number of mission practices. Eitel's report and Patterson's cover letter, which was written on seminary letterhead, were sent by Patterson to all IMB trustees.

Rankin has been the target of criticism from some of his own trustees, in part because he has acknowledged using a private prayer language.

In an open letter Aug. 30, McKissic said he respects the seminary's decision to remove the sermon, but that he still considers it "a form of unnecessary censorship."

Patterson responded that "we

continue to affirm our love and appreciation for Dwight McKissic and pray heaven's blessings on him."

Meanwhile, SBC President Frank Page issued a statement on what he called "an awkward situation" for Southwestern Seminary and Patterson.

"My prayers go out to them," said Page, a Southwestern alumnus. "While some may question the handling of this situation, please remember that they are trying to be fair, even under great pressure."

"We must affirm the principle of theological discussion, even debate, within our seminaries," Page added. "While there are certain bedrock doctrines that must be affirmed without debate within the Baptist family, there are many issues which are open to interpretation."

With additional reporting by Baptist Press

Kentucky Baptists trying to keep up with Hispanic growth

Continued from page 1

The offering supports a variety of work and ministry, from missions education to missionaries in Kentucky.

Leaders point to the rocketing growth of Hispanic residents in Kentucky to support the need for more Hispanic churches.

In 1990, the U.S. Census Bureau estimated Kentucky had 22,000 people of Hispanic origin. By 2000, that number had grown to 120,000.

Baker and other KBC ethnic ministry leaders say the number of Hispanics in Kentucky could be as high as 350,000 because of undocumented workers.

"Nobody really knows that final number," Baker said.

One recent estimate comes from a report from the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics and the Census Bureau. It projects the number of illegal immigrants in Kentucky—most from Hispanic countries—to be between 30,000 and 60,000.

Baker said the migration trend for Hispanics to Kentucky began changing in the mid-1990s.

Quotas on tobacco production lessened the need for migrant workers, but labor needs grew in other fields, such as the horse industry. "We started seeing more and more Hispanics migrating to Kentucky and staying permanently," he said.

As a result, Kentucky Baptists began to look at more permanent churches and Bible studies to meet the year-round spiritual needs of new Hispanic residents.

"Many of our associations and churches have been doing a super job (in migrant ministries)," he said. "Many people were saved, went back home and started churches. Some associations still partner with those churches in Mexico."

According to a recent census, KBC workers found 57 known Hispanic works in the commonwealth in 2005. Already, 11 more have been started this year, he added.

Officials aren't sure they've counted all of them, because some are started by local congregations without help from the state convention or local Baptist association, he added.

"We're still finding works."

In the survey, Hispanic ministries reported that in 2005:

- 184 new believers were baptized.
- The total membership of the 57 ministries is nearly 1,100.
- On average, more than 1,600 people attended worship services each week.
- Ministries are located in every region of the commonwealth.

Leadership vacuum

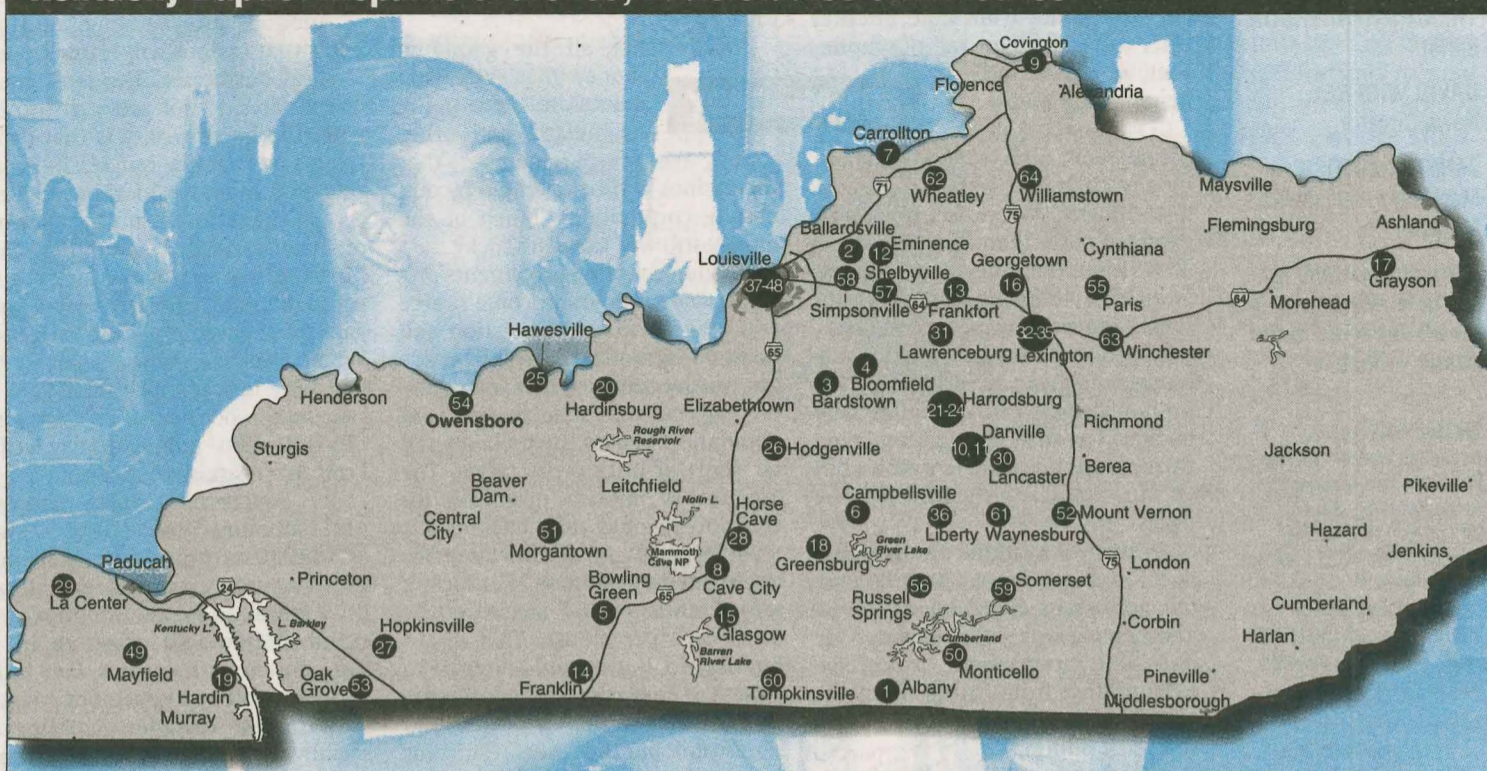
Baker said the greatest challenge facing Hispanic ministries in Kentucky is the lack of trained Bible teachers, pastors, deacons and other ministry leaders.

"For every new church we plant we need a pastor, and they're not out there."

Many Hispanic church members are new Christians, he noted, and many don't know how to teach the Bible or organize a ministry within the church.

"Officials with the North Ameri-

Kentucky Baptist Hispanic churches, Bible studies & ministries



1 Albany	First BC	23 Harrodsburg	Mercer Association	45 Louisville	Lyndon BC
2 Ballardsville	Nuevo Amanecer	24 Harrodsburg	Shawnee Run BC	46 Louisville	Nueva Jerusalem
3 Bardstown	Bardstown BC	25 Hawesville	Hawesville BC	47 Louisville	Parkland BC
4 Bloomfield	Getsemani	26 Hodgenville	South Fork BC	48 Louisville	Southside Drive
5 Bowling Green	Nueva Vida	27 Hopkinsville	El Buen Pastor	49 Mayfield	Primera Iglesia
6 Campbellsville	Friendship BC	28 Horse Cave	Horse Cave BC	50 Monticello	First BC
7 Carrollton	Primera Iglesia	29 La Center	Oscar BC	51 Morgantown	Luz y Vida
8 Cave City	Ministerio El faro	30 Lancaster	Lancaster BC	52 Mt. Vernon	Northside BC
9 Covington	Unidos en Cristo	31 Lawrenceburg	First BC	53 Oak Grove	La Roca Eterna
10 Danville	Jail Ministry	32 Lexington	Calvary BC Ministry	54 Owensboro	Iglesia Bautista Bellevue
11 Danville	Southern Heights BC	33 Lexington	High Impact	55 Paris	Central BC
12 Eminence	Henry Co. Association	34 Lexington	Jail Ministry	56 Russell Springs	First BC
13 Frankfort	Latinoamerica	35 Lexington	Racetrack Ministry	57 Shelbyville	Alfa y Omega
14 Franklin	Sulphur Springs BC	36 Liberty	Creston	58 Simpsonville	Mision Bautista
15 Glasgow	Emanuel	37 Louisville	Arcade BC	59 Somerset	High Street
16 Georgetown	Gano BC	38 Louisville	Audubon BC	60 Tompkinsville	First BC
17 Grayson	Wolf Creek BC	39 Louisville	Bethlehem BC	61 Waynesburg	Pleasant View
18 Greensburg	Russell Creek/East Lynn	40 Louisville	Carlisle Ave. BC	62 Wheatley	Montanas de Bendicion
19 Hardin	Blood River Association	41 Louisville	Churchill Downs Ministry	63 Winchester	First BC
20 Hardinsburg	Hardinsburg BC	42 Louisville	Clifton Heights BC	64 Williamstown	Mision Bautista
21 Harrodsburg	Bethel BC	43 Louisville	Cooper Chapel Rd.		
22 Harrodsburg	Bruners Chapel BC	44 Jeffersontown	Jeffersontown BC		

can Mission Board project that every new church plant needs 25 leaders," Baker said.

"If you plant 10 churches, ... we're looking at 250 additional leadership positions beside the pastor," he said. "We're talking about a huge leadership issue."

KBC leaders have a two-pronged strategy to meet the need for more leaders.

In 2005, leaders formed the Kentucky Baptist Hispanic Bible Institute to provide theological training in Spanish. Last year, Kentucky Baptists contributed \$10,000 to the institute through the Eliza Broadus Offering.

In that first year, 22 students completed the first year of the two-year program. This year, more than 55 current and potential Hispanic leaders are taking classes in Louisville, Bowling Green and Pulaski County.

But limited resources and a shortage of teachers prevent the institute from going to all areas of the state.

"We could double that number easily if we had the leadership to be professors," Baker said. "There are several sites that we could open up around the state."

To address leadership training and other needs within Hispanic ministries, KBC leaders are seeking to partner with the Florida Baptist Convention. At the upcoming annual meeting in Bowling Green, messengers will be asked to approve a three- to five-year partnership.

"Florida has 280 Hispanic congregations," Baker said. "Some of them are very mature congregations." Assistance from Florida's Hispanic ministry leaders would jumpstart the institute and provide additional Spanish-speaking mentors to growing congregations throughout the commonwealth, he said.

"The (Florida) partnership especially would be a great help in the western end of the state," said Jorge Garcia, pastor of La Roca Eterna in Oak Grove.

Long-range strategy

KBC leaders are seeking to be strategic as they look to the future.

They recently formed the Kentucky Baptist Hispanic ministry council, a 15-member panel of KBC leaders, five Hispanic regional strategists and other key supporters.

That group has developed a 10-year strategy for church starting,

evangelism and other Hispanic ministry.

The council's 10-year ministry goals include:

- Baptizing 2,500 new Christians into Kentucky Baptist Hispanic churches or missions.
- Planting 50 Hispanic churches.
- Planting five "high impact" churches, defined by the KBC as congregations that have the resources and vision to reach a five-year attendance goal of 250.

Kentucky already has one high impact Hispanic congregation, Cardinal Valley in Lexington. An estimated 10,000 Hispanics live in the area around the church.

High impact churches receive special support and additional funds through the KBC as they seek to reach populations identified as unchurched or "dechurched"—people who attended church in the past but stopped.

Many of those resources come from the Eliza Broadus Offering, Baker noted.

"There's no way we could be doing what we're doing without the Eliza Broadus Offering," he said. "We would be seriously crippled without it."

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

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Expanded gambling still not a good choice

By Howard Beaman

As I travel across Kentucky, I hear many people say they do not favor casinos coming to our state, but they voice concern about "all the money that we are losing" to neighboring states.

Tragically, many people seem more concerned about money than the well-being of fellow citizens. Americans reportedly gambled more than \$78.6 billion in 2004—more than they spent on movie tickets, theme parks, spectator sports and video games combined.

We hear claims that casino gambling could mean an additional \$300 million to \$400 million to our state budget. I realize the figures being thrown around seem enormous, but we must not be overly influenced by them.

When we examine the real impact of such figures, we discover our politicians are trying to sell us another pig in a poke. In order for our state government to receive \$400 million from casino revenues, our citizens would have to lose more than \$1.1 billion.

We are told tourists will bring in this money, but national statistics indicate that is not true. In other states, 80 to 85 percent of all money lost at casinos comes from within a

50-mile radius. The casino boom has brought little tourism to other locations, except Las Vegas and Atlantic City.

What about all the gambling money that is leaving our state and going to Indiana and other states? We must remember that the casinos will be operated by out-of-state corporations. Much of the money still will leave Kentucky.

Casino gambling proponents proclaim this newfound income source will be used to help education and assist our senior adults. While those are worthy causes, when you examine our current state budget and population figures, such claims fall far short of hitting the target. The amount of money promised for education would only operate our State Department of Education for approximately 11 days. Kentucky's senior adults would receive about \$3.22 each per month. That might buy aspirin, but it would do little to offset the escalating cost of prescription drugs. The money does sound significant, but the actual results for our citizens are quite small.

This past year in the General Assembly, the Kentucky Equine Education Project (KEEP) pushed for casinos at race tracks in the state. Why?

COMMENTARY**'Simplified faith'**

I was younger and Christianity was confusing; too many Bibles and interpretations. I remember first being what today is called a literalist but quickly noticed that other literalists didn't agree and each group claimed the real truth. The liberals were confusing too.

Choosing not to argue contradictions about Bibles and interpretations, I simplified faith and disregarded the Old Testament, miracles and New Testament but not the Gospels. If they differed about

Jesus, I chose the nicest text. Jesus never failed to help others, He loved people and was nice to them so I try to be nice to people. If asked, I reply it's because Jesus is nice to me.

Jesus loved His Dad and said He was a perfect parent. Jesus had all that going for Him but it didn't prevent His murder.

I decided that God really doesn't run the world because I've prayed in the name of Jesus that everyone be saved, but the Muslims almost outnumber us. I prayed in His name that all wars would stop immediately but they haven't; worse yet,

Because the single largest benefactor of gambling expansion would be the thoroughbred owners. They have asked for a hefty 13 percent of gross revenues or \$149 million.

Another pro-gambling rallying cry is that casinos will bring money to local businesses. The facts from other states do not prove this to be true. The harsh reality is that gambling takes money out of the local economy and hurts local businesses.

As Christians, we must be aware of how expanded gambling will hurt the families of Kentucky. Is it right to trade perceived monetary gain for the welfare of our citizens? When every resident of our state will have to lose more than \$275 a year so the politicians in Frankfort can have more money to play with, I call that a sin.

As Southern Baptists observe Anti-Gambling Sunday Sept. 17, we as Christians must take a strong stand against expanded gambling. If we fail to do so, our children and grandchildren will grow up in a state dotted with casinos. Our lack of action will be a testimony to our kids that we consider gambling a socially acceptable way to finance public interests. That is not a good choice for future generations.

Howard Beaman is executive director of the Kentucky League on Alcohol and Gambling Problems

most aren't wars, only genocide or random mass murder. I prayed that cancer, AIDS and other incurable diseases would cease. Nothing!

All I believe by faith is that God loves me, Jesus was murdered for my sins and it all is a great mystery. That's all there is to it for me because I can handle only so much mystery about God, Jesus and the Holy Spirit. Hardly claiming anything and not having answers allows my faith to make sense to me, at least in this world. So, to repeat, should anybody ask, that's what I tell him or her and then I'm nice to him or her.

George H. Nickle
Greenville

State missions: 'Be Utterly Amazed'

"Be Utterly Amazed ... at what prayer is doing in Kentucky" is the engaging theme for the 2006 Season of Prayer for State Missions and the Eliza Broadus Offering.

The scripture foundation for the theme is "Be utterly amazed. For I am going to do something in your days that you will not believe" (Habakkuk 1:5b).

This is one of the most creative themes and most challenging offering goals we have ever had. With Kentucky Baptist Convention President Paul Chitwood's commitment to promote the offering, Kentucky Woman's Missionary Union adopted an ambitious goal of \$1 million.

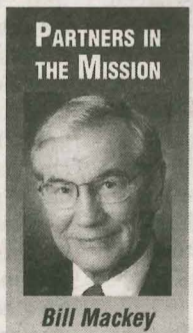
Due to the great opportunities and needs in Kentucky, Chitwood also extended a special challenge to the Kentucky Baptist Convention staff and Mission Board members to make commitments to the offering, pray for needs and promote the offering in associations and churches. I am pleased to report that 67 KBC

staff members estimated their gifts to be \$6,847. The WMU staff and board members also made commitments.

The KBC Mission Board ministries are supported by 65 percent of the Eliza Broadus Offering. The largest portion of the offering goes to support 37 associational missionaries and ministry centers such as Freeda Harris and Wheelwright.

The fastest growing area of work supported by the offering is ministry among Kentucky's rapidly growing Hispanic population. Currently, five Hispanic missionaries are funded through five regional organizations supported by local associations and churches, as well as through funds from the KBC and the Southern Baptist North American Mission Board.

The KBC has been fortunate to have Grundy Janes, a part-time language worker, and Larry Baker, director of the new work and associational missions department, who both speak Spanish.

**CHURCH****Prayer, planning help strengthen church budgets**

By Doug Strader

Many churches soon will begin their budget planning process for next year.

Hopefully your church budget committee already has begun the spiritual preparations by praying for the Holy Spirit to guide them in the process.

If churches will make the budget process a spiritual matter, it will move more smoothly and take on more meaning for the church members.

There also are practical steps that must be taken to make the process more meaningful for everyone involved. The following steps will facilitate a more meaningful approach:

■ Begin by asking: What ministries should our church do next year? The budget committee can do this by meeting with various groups within the church. Asking church members to write their suggestions and give them to the committee also can be helpful. The committee also can call a church-wide meeting to gain input from members.

■ The second question to ask is: Why do we need these ministries? Another way to ask the same question is to ask if this ministry will enable the church to fulfill its mission. No budget line item should remain in the budget simply because it has been in the budget in the past. Each ministry should be included in the budget because it helps the church fulfill its purpose.

■ A third question to ask is: How will the church accomplish these ministries? Are these ministries achievable? Some ministries might be good ideas but they might not be possible for the church to achieve in the coming year.

■ Finally ask: Are we willing to give so that these ministries can be accomplished? Funding all the church's ministries depends on the faithful support of its members. Are the members willing to commit to support the suggested ministries?

■ Conclude by thanking people for their time and input for the budget planning. Remind them that after the committee finalizes the budget, the church will have an opportunity to discuss the budget and vote on it. Church leaders also should take time to challenge members to make a commitment to support the budget with their weekly tithes and offerings.

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



Adult daughter tired of mother still treating her like a child

Q: My mother is 58 years old and I am 32. I am a responsible adult, married and a mother of two children. Yet she continues to talk to me like I am a child. I struggle to control my anger because sometimes I want to scream at her. What can I do to survive this relationship?

It is a tremendous challenge for many parents to grow and change in their role.

When you were an infant, you were dependent on your mother to feed you and change your diapers. When you were a toddler, you began to feed yourself and use the toilet on your own. Yet you needed your mother to look out for you and keep you safe.

God intends for all of us to continue growing and changing throughout our lives. We are reminded by the Apostle Paul that infant Christians require milk while more mature Christians need to move on to solid food.

It is a challenge for you and your mother to continue growing and changing in your roles. You are no longer her child. You will continue to be her daughter.

Imagine the kind of relationship you would love to have with your mother. In positive ways begin to share with her your wish. It is OK to be honest with your mother and let her know what you want from her and what you no longer need. It is important to reassure her that you do want a relationship with her and engage her in conversation about some ways the relationship could change and grow.

Some adult sons and daughters respond to this situation by cutting off the relationship. On the cross, Jesus demonstrated how the relationship with His earthly parent had changed. His mother could no longer care for and protect Him. Instead, Christ was making arrangements for her by providing her with a new son.

If you are waiting for your mother to recognize the problem and make changes, it is likely the relationship will remain as it is. If you are willing to take the initiative and seek a loving exchange with her about this, positive changes might begin to happen.

Change is not easy. It will be a risk for you and might be frightening to her. Seek God's blessing on this journey. God may grow both of you in unexpected ways.—Valerie Vincent

Q: I understand there is a new family movie, "Facing the Giants," due out in September. Is it something our family should see and support?

"Facing the Giants" hits the big screen Sept. 29. Set in small town USA, the movie tells the story of a high school football coach, his wife and his team and what they learn about themselves, about life and about faith.

The story behind the film almost overshadows the movie itself. Realizing the influence and impact of media on our culture, members of Sherwood Baptist Church in Albany, Ga., began praying, asking God if He would allow them to make a movie. Their first film, "Flywheel," garnered national attention when it outran several Hollywood films in theaters. That set the stage for Giants.

"Facing the Giants" was written by Sherwood staff. Five professionals were hired to help with production, but everyone else, including the cast, were church members and unpaid volunteers. A request for permission to use a popular song resulted in the opportunity for national distribution. The film opens Sept. 29 nationwide. Interestingly, while the movie contains no nudity, violence or offensive language, the Motion Picture Association of America gave it a PG rating. That in itself has helped create additional buzz.

Families will enjoy this film, and children will enjoy hearing how it came about. As was true with "The Chronicles of Narnia" and "The Da Vinci Code," "Facing the Giants" will provide Christians with witnessing opportunities. Visit www.facingthegiants.com for more information.—David Garrard

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State missions emphasis 'utterly amazing'

Habakkuk isn't one of the most frequently quoted books of the Bible. But the theme verse for Kentucky Baptists' 2006 Season of Prayer for State Missions and Eliza Broadus Offering offers a timely word of challenge and encouragement.

Inspiring the theme, "Be Utterly Amazed," Habakkuk 1:5b declares, "Be utterly amazed. For I am going to do something in your days that you would not believe."

So what's so amazing about state missions? According to Joy Bolton, executive director of Kentucky Woman's Missionary Union, it's not so much what Kentucky Baptists are accomplishing through state missions, but what God is accomplishing through Kentucky Baptists.

"We are utterly amazed at what God is doing" throughout the commonwealth, Bolton emphasized. She said being utterly amazed is not a matter of being surprised by God, but "more the idea of awe."

"As believers, we ought to know better than be surprised by God," she noted, "but we are always awed by His work."

As an example, she said last year's season of prayer and missions offering highlighted disaster relief ministry as a primary focus. That emphasis was planned long before Hurricane Katrina hit the Gulf Coast, but the timing of the material's release coincided with Baptist efforts to minister to hurricane victims.

This year's missions focus includes an emphasis on Baptist campus ministry. That dovetails with state and national campus ministry efforts to highlight "Haystack Awakening '06," a call for personal prayer, fasting, holiness and witnessing among Christian students on college campuses.

"I think the impact of campus ministry is huge," Bolton said. "Not only are we reaching students who need the Lord, but we are ministering to our church young people."

The college years are an ideal time "to shape students' maturing faith and prepare them for the

future," Bolton added. "Many of our Kentucky Baptist leaders through the years attest to the importance of Baptist campus ministry in their lives."

This year's state missions offering goal of \$1 million includes \$97,000 for student ministries plus \$4,000 to help provide trainers and expenses for the KBC's Creative Ministries Festival/Youth Missions Workshop.

Affirming God's leadership in highlighting such areas as disaster relief or campus ministry, Bolton said, "When you see those things, that's a God thing. The outcome is bigger than anything we could ask or imagine."

In addition to campus ministry, this year's prayer and offering resources highlight Eastern Kentucky ministries and crisis pregnancy

ministries.

The 2006 offering earmarks more than \$186,000 for ministries in Eastern Kentucky, including funds for missionary salaries, transportation, literature and ministry supplies. Crisis pregnancy ministries such as Hope Unlimited Family Care Center in Paducah and Baby Boot Camp, a Baptist Nursing Fellowship ministry to pregnant teens, will be among efforts supported by the offering's \$75,000 special ministries allocation.

Even with tremendous ministry needs throughout the state, the 2005-06 state missions offering fell short of its \$925,000 goal and dropped more than \$20,000 below the previous year's total. Bolton said part of the shortfall likely was due to increased giving to disaster relief in the wake of Katrina.

Yet Bolton remains optimistic about Kentucky Baptists reaching this year's \$1 million offering goal. The starting point, she noted, is prayer.

"The season of prayer for state missions is a season of prayer first and foremost," she said. "We know if people will pray, God will direct their giving."

"We just have to help our folks understand the need," Bolton added. "We're going to step out on faith and trust the Lord."

The results could be utterly amazing.

STRAIGHT FROM THE EDITOR



Trennis Henderson



Youth ministry at its best

I watched them come in—friends, buddies and lifesavers from 20-plus years ago.

When I got there, Jeff, Kenny and Missie were already there; so were Bill and Rhonda. Then I saw Joy as well as Kim, Keith and Dougie and later Jen, Kelly and others.

We had been youth together at Little Flock Baptist Church in Shepherdsville. They came to pay respects to Paul Montgomery. You probably never have heard of him. He never held public office nor was he the MVP of the Super Bowl, but it was obvious by the people who came and the comments they made that he had an impact on tons of people.

Paul was never our Sunday school teacher, a deacon or camp chaperone. He was just Jeff and Missie's dad. I don't know how many hours we spent at their home, having Bible studies, going on hayrides or playing extreme capture the flag. (When you wrestle over barbed wire fences and 30-foot bluffs, capture the flag becomes an extreme sport.)

For a bunch of teenagers, Paul and his wife, Lucy, provided a place to hang out, to be loved and to learn about life and about God.

More people came—parents of others who were in our youth group. They also had opened their homes

for a group of teens that just loved to be together. We went to school together and church together, played church league ball together and were inseparable friends. We studied the Bible, dated each other, looked out for one another and were always together.

Most of that group is still in church. Six or seven of us have been or are in ministry, others are married to ministers; some are Sunday school teachers, deacons or "good church members."

When we gather, the talk quickly turns to old stories of capture the flag, or dodging bottle rockets, or when Dougie stormed the girls' dorm at Camp Joy with a cup of water (and began the biggest water fight I have ever been a part of).

Eventually the conversation always turns to what made that group so special, unique and life-changing. And that is where we all get stuck.

There wasn't some great guru of a church staff. They were good men, but each had his flaws. They were human and made their share of mistakes. It wasn't some deep teaching of Scripture or a mighty "Pentecost type" movement of the Spirit. It was just, just ... just what?

One of the common threads we come up with is it was parents like

Paul and Lucy who took us in and nurtured us. Todd's mom, Alohana, and Dougie's mom, Dottie, were our Sunday school directors. Other parents were Sunday school teachers or trip chaperones. Each of them would open their homes for Bible studies and fellowships. It wasn't always organized; most generally it was, "Can we come to your house next week after church?" and they always were willing.

We also held each other accountable. It wasn't an intentional, "Let's get together and talk about our week." No, we studied Scripture together, challenged each other to memorize it, prayed and fasted together, burned our secular music together and most of us went to school together. One year some of us even were bold enough to carry our Bibles to school. We wouldn't let each other mess up because it reflected on all of us.

Also, we were family. We genuinely cared for one another, which is why we were all there at the funeral home. We were brothers and sisters with several adults who loved us like their own children.

No, Paul never taught us in Sunday school. But his love for his family, and his love for those who he and Lucy made feel like family, helped shape an entire generation of students. And that is youth ministry at its best.

Joe Ball, a former youth minister at Edgewood Baptist Church in Hopkinsville, is youth strategist for the Kentucky Baptist Convention

YOUTH MINISTRY CORNER



Joe Ball

PRAY
THE Interior
 KENTUCKY BAPTISTS **Connect** September 18-22, 2006

Plan to Participate At A Stop Near You!

Prayer is crucial to help us stay focused on God's will as we seek to achieve the Kentucky Baptists Connect goals to reach more people for Christ, disciple Christians and develop leaders. To emphasize our reliance on God and the importance of prayer, Dr. Bill Mackey, executive director of the Kentucky Baptist Convention, and other Convention leaders will lead a prayer tour that will take them through the interior of the state of Kentucky.

At each stop, committed Kentucky Baptists will gather to pray for:

- ▶ Believers to experience Renewal
- ▶ Churches to experience Revival
- ▶ God to use our churches to share the Good News of the Gospel of Jesus Christ with every person in their community

Monday, September 18	Louisville	9:00-9:45 a.m.	Kentucky Baptist Building
	Bardstown	11:00-11:45 a.m.	Parkway Baptist Church
	Elizabethtown	12:30-2:00 p.m.	Northside Baptist Church
	Leitchfield	1:30-2:15 p.m.	Leitchfield First Baptist Church
	Morgantown	3:00-3:45 p.m.	Morgantown First Baptist Church
	Beaver Dam	4:30-6:00 p.m.	Beaver Dam Baptist Church
	Greenville	7:00 p.m.	Woodson Baptist Church, Powderly
Tuesday, September 19	Madisonville	8:00-9:15 a.m.	Madisonville First Baptist Church
	Princeton	10:30-12 noon	Highland Baptist Church
	Bowling Green	2:00-2:45 p.m.	Warren Association Office
	Glasgow	4:00-4:45 p.m.	Calvary Baptist Church
	Munfordville	7:00 p.m.	Munfordville Baptist Church
Wednesday, September 20	Greensburg	7:30-8:45 a.m.	Greensburg Baptist Church
	Campbellsville	10:30-11:15 a.m.	Campbellsville Baptist Church
	Jamestown	11:30-1:00 p.m.	Jamestown Baptist Church
	Somerset	3:00-3:30 p.m.	Buena Vista Baptist Church
	London	4:30-5:00 p.m.	Corinth Baptist Church
	Oneida	7:00 p.m.	Oneida Baptist Church
Thursday, September 21	Stanton	7:30-8:45 a.m.	Stanton Baptist Church
	Winchester	10:00-10:30 a.m.	Central Baptist Church
	Lexington	11:15-noon	Parkway Baptist Church
	Berea	1:00-2:00 p.m.	Silver Creek Baptist Church
	Mt. Vernon	2:45-3:15 p.m.	Northside Baptist Church
	Stanford	4:15-4:45 p.m.	Lincoln Baptist Association Office
	Harrodsburg	7:30 p.m.	Pioneer Baptist Church
Friday, September 22	Frankfort	7:30-8:45 a.m.	Crestwood Baptist Church
	Owenton	10:00-10:45 a.m.	First Baptist Church
	Williamstown	11:30-12:50 p.m.	Williamstown Baptist Church
	Eminence	2:00-2:30 p.m.	Eminence Baptist Church
	Shelbyville	3:30-4:00 p.m.	Highland Baptist Church

* All times are local times.

For more details about each stop, visit www.kybaptist.org/prayertour

Or call the Kentucky Baptist Mission Board at **866-489-3578** or **502-489-3578**

KBC
 KENTUCKY BAPTIST CONVENTION

Hispanic ministers stay flexible to meet needs

By Dannah Prather
 Partnerships Editor

Louisville—Flexibility is a must for Kentucky Baptist Hispanic ministry leaders.

"No two weeks are the same," said Jorge Garcia, one of five Hispanic regional strategists with the Kentucky Baptist Convention. "I'm changing baseball caps every time I'm going to a different area."

Garcia is pastor of La Roca Eterna in Oak Grove. He serves as a mentor to up-and-coming Hispanic pastors and small-group leaders throughout Western Kentucky. He also is chaplain to migrant workers in the region, and meets with Kentucky Baptist directors of missions and Anglo pastors, bridging the gap created by different languages and cultures.

Yurian Santiesteban, pastor of a Cuban congregation in Louisville, agrees that flexibility is important in Hispanic ministry. He often finds himself serving as translator, chauffeur and advocate for recent Hispanic arrivals to the United States.

The work of Garcia, Santiesteban and other Hispanic ministry leaders is made possible through many partnerships, including 29 Kentucky Baptist associations, the Southern Baptist North American Mission Board and the Kentucky Baptist Convention.

The Eliza Broadus State Missions Offering makes KBC's involvement possible by supplying the convention's entire \$78,000 budget for Hispanic missions.

"I travel around 1,500 to 3,000 miles a month," Garcia said. "That is going to Graves County, Cadiz, Hopkinsville, Elkton, Clarksville (Tenn.), and for the local church ministry." Traveling from county to county, he also travels from culture to culture.

In Oak Grove, "there mostly are Puerto Ricans and (people from) the Caribbean. ... Ninety-five percent are military," said Garcia, who is Puerto Rican.

An exception in Oak Grove

La Roca is an exception among Kentucky Hispanic missions. With a mostly military congregation, La Roca members are well-educated United States citizens with families, he said.

"We still keep our worship in Spanish and adult Sunday school in Spanish, but all our youth and children are taught in English."

Further west, Garcia's focus is on migrant ministry where he serves a mostly Mexican population. "It's very different even though they're Hispanic," he said. "The big thing is relationships. It's not just a matter of knowing the language, it's (relating) to them, so they can say, 'Yeah, he's OK. I can talk to this person.' That's the first thing I do."

When Santiesteban came to the United States in 2002, he knew he wanted to serve Christ, "but in my mind was only the idea to help." He never imagined he would become the pastor of a busy Cuban congregation meeting at Louisville's Arcade Baptist Church.



FLOCK CARE Pastor Yurian Santiesteban (right) talks with a member of the Hispanic congregation meeting at Arcade Baptist Church in Louisville. Any week, he might find himself serving as a driver, translator or advocate for Hispanic residents. (Photo by Dannah Prather)

Santiesteban, his parents and brother immigrated to the United States, joining relatives who, 11 years before, made Louisville their home.

"We didn't know what the Lord was preparing for me here," he said. "We just knew what all Cubans who come here know. You can't go back. You have to make the place you to go your home."

When the family came to Kentucky, settling in the Arcadia community near Churchill Downs, Santiesteban thought he would continue his ministry that began in Cuba as a small-group Bible study leader. He also became the chaplain's assistant at Churchill Downs, ministering to the Hispanic men who care for thoroughbred racehorses.

Crossing town, crossing cultures

Beyond the track is the permanent, and growing, Hispanic community in Arcadia. "Already there were several in-home Bible studies in the area," Santiesteban said.

Jesus Pacheco, another Hispanic regional strategist, approached Santiesteban about becoming a pastor.

The Cuban mission began in 2004 at Carlisle Avenue Baptist Church. Today, approximately 70 people attend the Cuban service each Sunday afternoon at Arcade.

Like Garcia, Santiesteban said he finds himself crossing Hispanic cultures regularly. Most of his congregation is Cuban, but at Churchill Downs he meets Hispanics from many different countries, and people from Mexico also attend his church.

He and Garcia encourage Kentucky Baptists to see the spiritual harvest fields in the commonwealth.

"The Hispanic ministry is a good place to invest for heaven because we are growing and we need workers," Santiesteban said.

"Most Hispanic pastors have to work in another kind of job," he said, adding that most of his congregation are factory workers with modest incomes. "There's a big need (for Kentucky Baptists) to pray for us."

"Some churches pay thousands of dollars to go to Mexico or El Salvador," Garcia said. "If God has put that Hispanic community in your back door, it's a blessing."

Bowhunter's fortune is ALS, but he's keeping the faith

By Gary Garth
Louisville Courier-Journal

Lebanon Junction—Archery deer season recently opened, and Mitchell Ensor plans to be in the woods soon—just as he has every season for more than 25 years.

"I started bow hunting when I was 11 years old, and I killed my first deer when I was 11," said Ensor, 38. "It was a little bitty five-point, but it was a big one for me."

This season will be a big one for Ensor. He learned in March that he has amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, commonly known as Lou Gehrig's disease.

ALS is an illness that attacks nerve cells in the brain and spinal column, eventually stripping its victim of muscular control. There's no known cure and no real treatment.

The news was crushing for Ensor and his family. He and his wife, Kay, have two children, 6-year-old Shelby Kay and 3-year-old Tanner Mitchell. They also share their rambling house with Ensor's parents and brother.

"At the time I didn't know a thing about ALS," Ensor said. "I'd never even heard of it. We researched it ourselves. The hard thing about it was the life expectancy. It's about 2½ years."

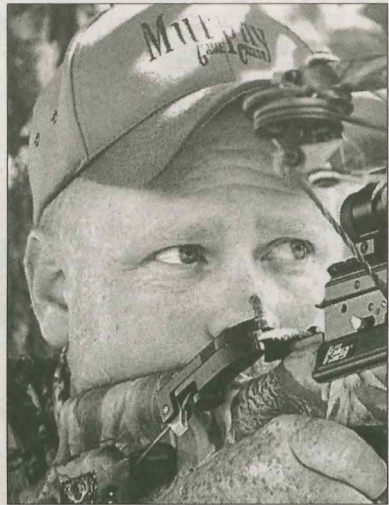
He had known for months that something was wrong and suspected it might be serious. Problems first surfaced last Sept. 8 when he was hospitalized for what was diagnosed at the time as a mild heart attack.

"They took me to the hospital about 10:30 that night, and I had all the symptoms," he recalled. "Chest pain, left arm going numb, elevated blood pressure, the whole nine yards. I even had an enzyme in my blood that showed muscle damage. But they couldn't find any damage to my heart."

He went home and resumed his regular daily routine, which hinged around his family, hunting, fishing and his job building automobile drive shafts for Dana Corp. on Westport Road.

Then during an October turkey hunt he had trouble drawing his bow and had to lighten the pull weight. In November it happened again, this time while he was hunting deer in Christian County.

"That was the second time in



HUNTER Diagnosed with Lou Gehrig's disease in March, Mitchell Ensor, 38, of Lebanon Junction isn't sure how long he'll be able to draw a bowstring—or a breath. "You should thank the Lord for every moment that you have a life," he said. (© Louisville Courier-Journal photo by Gary Garth)

three weeks that I had to turn the poundage down on my bow," Ensor said.

There were other signs, but like many men faced with health problems, he fought to ignore them.

"At first I kind of thought from what the doctors were saying that it was just the aftermath of a heart attack," he said. "But that just wasn't right. I started stumbling, and my balance was way off. I'd framed houses for years and walked on roofs and walked on walls and never had a problem, then all of a sudden I was falling."

He saw another physician who ordered more tests. The diagnosis arrived March 13.

"It was devastating," he said.

Still trusting in God

Ensor sat at his kitchen table sipping a glass of sweetened ice tea, his son crawling into and out of his lap. A few minutes later his daughter appeared, home from her second day of school and eager to tell Daddy about it.

The children soon disappeared downstairs. Ensor wiped away tears.

"When you have your kids, it's hard," he said. "My boy's really too little to understand. My daughter knows that I have ALS, but I don't know if she knows how to grab hold

of the death process. I don't know how to grasp a lot of it myself."

He's confident and optimistic but has no illusions about the future. He's not a man to wallow in self-pity. His Christian faith is solid and deep, and he doesn't question why things happen.

"The Bible says that the Lord is not going to put more on you than you can handle," said Ensor, a member of Summit Hills Baptist Church in Brooks. "I've been asked, 'With you being a Christian, why do you think God has done this to you?' The only thing I can say is that God didn't do it to me, but I know without a doubt that if it wasn't for God being with me now, I'd be in the loony bin. Without God, who or what would you turn to?"

Ensor has been overwhelmed by the outpouring of support from friends, co-workers and fellow sportsmen, who heard his news through the grapevine.

He shot competitive archery for several years with Martin bows, then worked with Scott King at Field and Stream Outfitters on Bardstown Road, through whom he shot with Hoyt and Matthews Archery. He also has filmed hunts for the outdoor video industry, and he has fished numerous local bass tournaments, often through Louisville FOP Lodge 614.

Still in the hunt

Not long after he was diagnosed, Ensor was on his way to South Dakota.

"Some guys from the Derby City and Kentucky River chapters of the NWTF (National Wild Turkey Federation) found out about me and paid for a fully paid hunt to South Dakota to hunt Merriam turkeys," he said.

He bagged a Merriam and also tagged a Rio Grande turkey in Oklahoma. He has killed several Eastern gobblers and is one bird shy of turkey hunting's Grand Slam.

"If the Lord is willing, I'm going to try to find a way to get to Florida next spring and get my Osceola and complete my Grand Slam," he said.

He recently returned from Lake City, Fla., where he participated in an archery hunt for alligators from a small boat at night. Ensor wasn't the shooter but did record some video of the hunt. The biggest gator

they bagged was 12 feet long and weighed 600 pounds.

"We were in a 16-foot aluminum boat, and he came out of the water and he and I went eye to eye."

The gator then went under the boat and raked its bony spine directly under Ensor's seat, which "nearly scared me to death."

He has several hunts planned this fall, but there's no way to know what next spring or even next month will bring. The disease has significantly weakened his arms and hands and has affected his right foot (he wears a lower leg and foot brace).

His doctors have instructed him not to go into the woods alone because if he fell it would be very difficult for him to get back up. He also can't straighten his fingers without assistance.

Ensor is shooting a modified crossbow this year. He's still able to drive a car and was mowing his lawn when I arrived at his home. He can climb the stairs, but his speech is slightly slurred.

"The complicated part about ALS is that it affects every person differently," he said. "ALS doesn't care who it gets or when it gets them. It's not a very nice disease."

Ensor wants to see something good come from his situation. He is part of a University of Kentucky study on ALS that he hopes will help lead to a treatment or cure, even if it doesn't benefit him. He's willing to tell anyone who will listen how God has blessed him.

And he intends to hunt and fish as often and as long as he can.

"I'm not going to sit here and tell you that it's all going to be a bed of roses, because it's not," he said. "But if it wasn't for the Lord and for believing that everything happens for a purpose, well, if this helps somebody who is handicapped or disabled or if someone doesn't know the Lord but they seek His will and His way and they find it, then it's worth it."

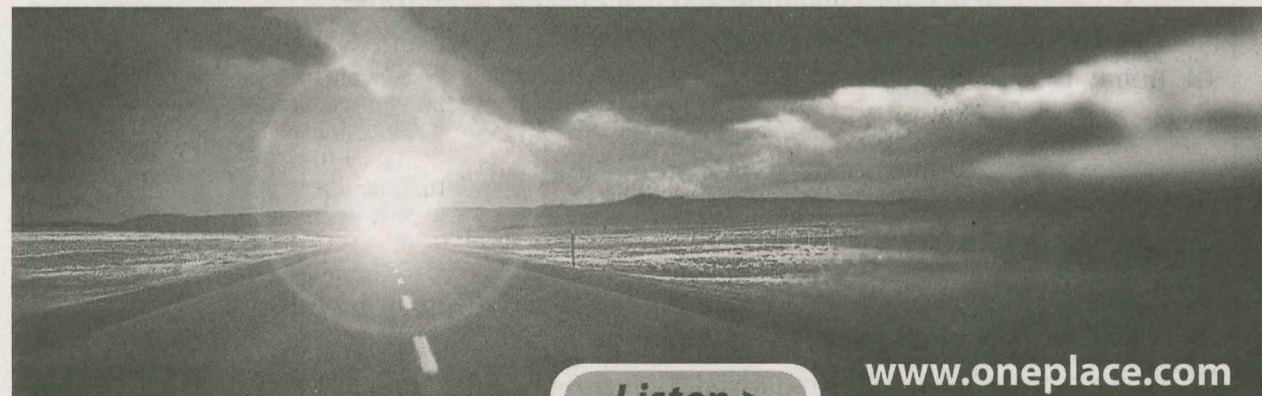
Before March 13 Ensor took each day for granted. No more.

"You should thank the Lord for every moment that you have a life," he said. "Not every day. Every moment. Because you never know what's coming."

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"If it wasn't for God being with me now, I'd be in the loony bin."

Mitchell Ensor



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Long-term commitment

Lexington church has sent 138 volunteers to Gulf Coast since Hurricane Katrina

Statewide, Baptists have made between 5,000 and 6,000 trips to volunteer in the region.

By Frank Lockwood
Lexington Herald-Leader

New Orleans—The crowbars crashed and the hammers pounded as sweat-bathed Kentucky Baptists gutted the mold-covered walls of Bernice Jack's flood-ravaged home.

By the time they finished, little remained besides cockroaches and rubble.

Wiping their brows, hauling away their wheelbarrows, the men climbed into a Porter Memorial Baptist Church van and headed for their next assignment, provided by Operation NOAH Rebuild, a Baptist redevelopment group.

In the French Quarter, tourists were ogling strippers and sipping hurricanes and shopping for voodoo dolls. Not this crew.

"You'd have to have pretty extreme blinders on to enjoy yourself, I think," said John Writt, 31, one of seven volunteers who made the journey in August.

Since Hurricane Katrina came ashore one year ago, Porter Memorial has sent 138 people to the Gulf Coast region to serve meals, repair homes and remove debris. An additional 20 to 30 will make the journey later this fall, said the assistant pastor of missions and community outreach, Larry Cranfill.

Long hours, hot work

During its latest trip, the crew headed out before 7 most mornings, going to work while the sun was still low. Initially, volunteers wore masks to protect their lungs and Tyvek suits to protect their bodies from asbestos and toxic dust.

But the bayou heat made the suits unbearable. They were quickly abandoned.

Jack Kisby of Nicholasville said he hoped his labor would send a message. "You can tell people that you love them, but it's more effective if you show them," he said. "I think that's what we're doing here."

Statewide, Baptists made between 5,000 and 6,000 trips to volunteer in the region, said Kentucky Baptist Convention disaster relief associate Larry Koch.

"It's unprecedented," Koch said. "They've been going down to help

them over and over and over."

Nationwide, Southern Baptist Convention officials say they've served 14 million meals and performed 17,000 cleanup assignments in the disaster zone.

The workers are making a difference.

"They have been amazing," said Scott Bell, a videographer from Slidell, La. "Without them, I don't think this city would be where it is."

Porter Memorial members were among the first volunteers to show up in Slidell, arriving even before electricity had been restored. They served meals in 90-degree heat and slept in a snake-infested sanctuary in September 2005.

A year later, the living conditions inside have improved, but the sun outside remains as unbearable as ever.

Despite the heat, volunteers say they were eager to go.

"Christ calls on us to meet people's needs and to minister in His name," said children's pastor Wayne Noble. "That's why we came to Slidell and that's why we're going to New Orleans."

The workers expected things would be bad in the Big Easy. But the scope of the devastation left them stunned.

"The neighborhoods, they just seemed like empty shells," Kisby said.

In at least two of the houses gutted by the Kentuckians, calendars had been abandoned, still turned to August 2005. In one, a hurricane evacuation map lay abandoned on the floor.

Personal items lay about: Jehovah's Witness books in one home. Christmas ornaments and an Easter



CLEANUP CONTINUES Don Sweet, a member of Porter Memorial Baptist Church in Lexington, carries rubble from a house in an area of New Orleans hard hit by Hurricane Katrina. He and other volunteers from Porter Memorial traveled to "The Big Easy" last month. (© Lexington Herald-Leader photos by Frank Lockwood)

basket in another.

Shards of glass littered the ground and sharp objects poked through the rubble, threatening to stab anyone walking by.

Richard Carr stepped on a nail.

Despite that, "I'm extremely glad I came," he said. The Lexington man said he appreciates "the opportunity to participate in the comeback of New Orleans."

Spartan lodging but great grub

At night, the men slept on the fourth floor of a skyscraper, overlooking the Mississippi River. The view was magnificent, but the living conditions were far from ideal.

The men slept on bunk beds in a room a few floors above the railroad tracks. On the floor, mice and cockroaches scampered about. Down below, trains thundered, shaking the building as they passed.

The lodging was lacking, but the

food was fantastic, volunteers said: red beans and rice, jambalaya, and plenty of Tabasco sauce.

"I could see why everyone's a little overweight down here," said Don Sweet of Lexington. "I didn't see too many skinny people."

Even after gutting houses for a week, the volunteers still shook their heads as they described the amount of work that is still undone.

"It's amazing that this damage is still here," said Sweet. "It's like it's been frozen in time since the day after Katrina."

Writt said he's glad he made the trip.

"It was difficult, hard work, very humid, hot conditions. But it was a rewarding experience," he said. "I think people benefited from our being down there."

© Lexington Herald-Leader story, reprinted with permission



PART OF MASSIVE ARMY Wayne Noble dumps a load of debris outside a home in East New Orleans. Southern Baptist Convention officials say volunteers have served 14 million meals and performed 17,000 cleanup assignments in the Gulf Coast since Hurricane Katrina hit a year ago.

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Poll tracks different political views between clergy & laity

Continued from page 1

likely to report significant political involvement by their church.

One reason for low involvement in politics could be the lack of agreement among clergy and laity about what is an appropriate mixture of religion and politics.

The study asked respondents to rate the appropriateness for local churches to be politically involved in a variety of ways, using a scale of 1 (not at all appropriate) to 5 (extremely appropriate). Clergy and laity are almost equally divided among all five points of the scale on some of the issues.

Only encouraging church members to vote was deemed appropriate (a rating of 4 or 5) by a majority of ministers (88 percent) and laypeople (65 percent).

The study found less than majority agreement on the appropriateness of such issues as:

- Discussing gay marriage, abortion or the war in Iraq from the pulpit (65 percent of ministers, 47 percent of laity).

- Encouraging people how to vote on issues (41 percent of ministers, 24 percent of laity).

- Encouraging people to protest or get personally involved in controversial issues (35 percent of ministers, 23 percent of laity).

- Inviting political candidates to speak in church (14 percent of ministers, 20 percent of laity).

Laity more moderate

Personally, 62 percent of the Protestant senior pastors polled described themselves as politically conservative, while 23 percent rate themselves as moderate and 15 percent as liberal. That figure varies significantly by denominational group (see chart below).

Of Southern Baptist ministers 86 percent described themselves as conservative, 10 percent moderate and 4 percent liberal.

The people in the pews are substantially more likely to consider themselves politically moderate than are the ministers in the pulpits. Among all adults who regu-

larly attend Protestant churches, 38 percent describe themselves as politically conservative, 45 percent as moderate and 17 percent as liberal.

Among Southern Baptist laity, 47 percent are politically conservative, 39 percent moderate and 14 percent liberal, while 86 percent of Southern Baptist pastors are conservative.

Interestingly, most clergy believe their political views are about the same as the views of their congregation. Sixty-four percent see themselves as politically similar to their congregation, while 19 percent feel they are significantly more conservative, and 17 percent believe they are significantly more liberal.

Among laity, 59 percent feel their own political views are similar to those of their church, while 8 percent see themselves as significantly more conservative and 18 percent as significantly more liberal than their own church. Fifteen percent have no idea what their church's political views are.

Ron Sellers, president of Ellison Research, said the findings bring to light the struggle surrounding the mixture of politics and churches.

Sellers also noted that this lack of consensus is true among a wide range of denominational, theological and political perspectives.

"There are a lot of stereotypes about churches and politics: mainline churches are liberal, evangelicals represent a politically active Religious Right, conservative churches are raising Cain politically."

But the poll figures tell a different story, he said.

"Mainline ministers are almost equally divided among political conservatives, moderates and liberals. Fewer than half of all evangelical pastors or conservative pastors believe it's appropriate to encourage people how to vote on specific issues, and even fewer feel it's appropriate to encourage their congregation to get involved with controversial issues," he said.

"It's really time to look beyond the stereotypes of churches and politics, and start dealing with the reality of the situation."

Self-described personal political views

		Conservative	Moderate	Liberal
All	Clergy	62%	23	15
	Laity	38	45	17
Southern Baptist	Clergy	86	10	4
	Laity	47	39	14
Other Baptist	Clergy	79	16	5
	Laity	40	46	14
Methodist	Clergy	27	38	35
	Laity	36	52	12
Lutheran	Clergy	43	28	29
	Laity	41	45	14
Pentecostal	Clergy	73	20	7
	Laity	49	40	11
Presbyterian	Clergy	38	27	35
	Laity	34	32	34
All other Protestants	Clergy	53	28	19
	Laity	35	46	19

The Fifth Annual Pastors and Church Leaders Conference "Transforming A New Generation - A Journey of Faith"

September 28-29, 2006

Featured Preacher:

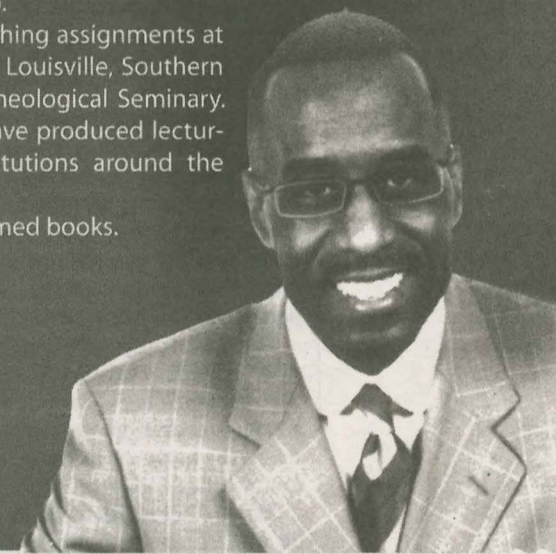
Dr. Kevin W. Cosby

- Since 1979, Rev. Dr. Kevin W. Cosby has served as Senior Pastor of St. Stephen Church in Louisville, Kentucky. Due greatly to his practical and dynamic Bible teachings, the church has grown from 500 to approximately 10,000 members.

- Dr. Cosby was named the 13th President of Simmons College of KY – an appointment befitting his credentials. Cosby earned a Bachelor's degree from Eastern Kentucky University in Richmond, KY, a Master of Divinity degree from Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, KY, and a Doctor of Ministry degree from United Theological Seminary in Dayton, Ohio.

- Dr. Cosby, assumed administrative and teaching assignments at Kentucky State University, the University of Louisville, Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, and United Theological Seminary. Additionally, his exceptional oratory skills have produced lecturing engagements at universities and institutions around the world including Harvard University.

- Dr. Cosby is the author of four highly-acclaimed books.



General Sessions:

Thursday 3:00 p.m. - First Session
"Transforming a New Generation Around the World"

Thursday 8:00 p.m. - Second Session
"Being Transformed by a New Generation from Around the World"

Friday 10:00 a.m. - Third Session
"Transforming A New Generation Here at Home Through Your Ministry"

Breakout Sessions:
September 28 at 5:00 p.m.
September 29 at 8:00 a.m.

Continuing Education Units Credit Hours: 1.5

Other Featured Participants:



Dr. Joseph Owens
Pastor, Shiloh Baptist Church, Lexington, Ky.; Campbellsville University Board of Trustees Member



Dr. Paul Chitwood
President, Kentucky Baptist Convention; Pastor, First Baptist Church, Mt. Washington, Ky.



Dr. Frieda Gebert
Associate Dean and Associate Professor of Music, School of Music, Campbellsville University



Dr. John Hurtgen
Dean, School of Theology, Campbellsville University

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10
Minutes
With ...
Jay Hein

New faith-based initiatives director talks about plans

By Adelle Banks
Religion News Service

Washington (RNS)—On Aug. 21, Jay Hein became the third director of the White House Office of Faith-based and Community Initiatives.

In his new role, the former think-tank president intends to continue toward President Bush's goal of giving religious groups equal access to federal funding for social services.

Despite the initiative's tendency to be controversial because of its location at the intersection of church and state, Hein is convinced of its purpose and hopes to see it have greater influence on the local and state levels.

Hein stepped down as elder of his nondenominational church in an Indianapolis suburb, but he expects eventually to return to the area and resume his work with Sagamore Institute for Policy Research.

RNS spoke with Hein, 41, about his plans at the White House.

Following up on the work of John Dittulo, a scholar on faith-based services, and Jim Towey, whose biggest claim to fame was being the former lawyer for Mother Teresa, what expertise do you bring to the job?

Both of those gentlemen I consider friends. I admire both John's social science background and Jim's advocacy. I do hope to bring similar strengths to the position in addition to my policy background.

What did President Bush tell you he wanted to see happen with this job?

He spoke very clearly to me prior to my appointment about his priority status for this initiative and he asked me, therefore, to concentrate on two things: ensuring results for the good work that's under way and continue to grow its impact and influence.

Given your research on faith-based initiatives and welfare reform, what is it about this complicated issue that drives you to be one of its "champions," as the president called you?

Both of these initiatives—welfare reform and the faith-based initiative—care about people who hurt and that's what draws me in. ... Welfare reform speaks to care from the government side of the question. The faith initiative speaks to how society at large, particularly private agencies, can deliver care. I consider those two efforts companions.

What do you think is least understood about the needs of faith-based organizations?

I think the scope and the scale of their reach in community. There's not a problem in society that a faith-based organization isn't addressing.

How do you respond to critics who wished the office you now lead would be closed and who think it inappropriately mixes church and state?

I understand that there are critics who share such a concern. For us, the Constitution is quite clear that religion is welcome in society and that religious organizations are protected in adhering to their religious

character. At the same time, the religious liberties of every individual (are) protected. This is the dynamic balance of our Constitution.

So our office is vigilant about the clear line that separates government (from) sponsoring religion. That does not occur in this office.

If the critics are concerned about that, we believe that's misplaced.

Do you think the continuation of this White House office will depend on the political affiliation of the next president?

I don't know what the future of this office will hold, of course, given uncertainties about political succession, but the initiative in many respects was formed prior to the president's taking office. This is something he championed as governor (of Texas). ...

And I believe strongly that it will grow at a more rapid pace or arc because of the president's leadership.

So you're saying the soul of this office will continue. But will the office's physical structure continue?

I do believe that the activities of this office are being integrated into government operations and that that will continue.

How do you feel about the use of vouchers, permitting recipients of social services to choose from faith-based or secular organizations?

It's one of my favorite strategies, to be sure. Vouchers provide consumer empowerment by giving choice to the person receiving services. They become active in their own recovery strategy or their own pursuit of economic self-sufficiency.

Vouchers also are deemed by legal experts to be the most effective tool to protect religious liberty.

10 Minutes is a new occasional series from Religion News Service featuring influential leaders in the world of religion



Jay Hein

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Evaluating the past summer

Feedback tells us to focus on size & world's influence

This past week, our staff met for our yearly summer evaluation. A great deal has changed in our ministry during the past 12 months, and those changes greatly benefited our evaluation process.

Perhaps the most noticeable difference is the change in our leadership group. In years past, we would have anywhere from four to six people in our leadership team, and this year we had 11.

Our evaluation process includes a thorough review of each adult evaluation from every church that attended Crossings. Additionally, we review a random sampling of student perspectives from their evaluations.

While we did not see any surprises, many of our internal thoughts were confirmed. We must continually seek to keep our Bible study and team building groups small. Our growth during the past years has been a blessing, but the reality of maintaining a low student-to-staffer ratio becomes more difficult each year. To those who come, our absolute and unwavering commitment is that our small

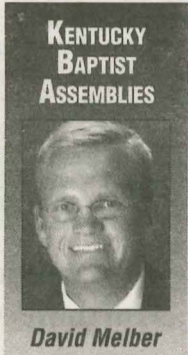
group time will remain small in the years to come.

Another key reality we gleaned from the review process was that our youth culture is under attack in the area of truth. I know many of you would agree, as the post-modern culture continues to undermine any truth claims, but the problem seemed more significant this year. Recent studies reported by the Southeast Outlook indicate more than 70 percent of churched teens do not believe in absolute truth. Take note these are the "churched" kids.

As we continue planning for the next season of Crossings, no doubt we will address the issue of truth. Please be on guard toward the culture and the influence it is having, not only on our youth, but on our society as a whole.

To all who attended this summer, thank you for giving us the opportunity to minister to you and your students. Also, thanks for your critical insight into our ministry. You, the church, are the real shapers of what we will offer in the years to come.

David Melber is president of Kentucky Baptist Assemblies. Contact him at Box 99918, Louisville, KY 42069-0918; phone (502) 491-7000.



David Melber

Kudzu



Doug Marlette

For Heaven's Sake



Mike Morgan

Bible Crosswords

Across

- 1 "Blessed is the man that _____ not in the counsel of the ungodly" (Psalms 1:1)
- 7 "The ungodly shall not _____ in the judgment" (Psalms 1:5)
- 11 "Christ is the _____ of the church" (Ephesians 5:23)
- 12 "Be like a tree planted by the _____ of water" (Psalms 1:3)
- 13 "A word spoken in _____ season, how good is it!" (Proverbs 15:23)
- 14 Nest of an eagle or hawk
- 15 Preposition: toward
- 17 "Eyes have they, but they _____ not" (Psalms 115:5)
- 18 Took food
- 19 "All we like _____ have gone astray" (Isaiah 53:6)
- 21 William, abbr.
- 22 Church, abbr.
- 23 Californian city, abbr.
- 24 "Nor _____ in the seat of the scornful" (Psalms 1:1)
- 27 Revise
- 29 It's capital is Indianapolis, abbr.
- 30 English Version, abbr.
- 31 Morning, abbr.
- 32 Vesicular exanthema, abbr.
- 33 Conjunction
- 34 "His _____ also shall not wither" (Psalms 1:3)
- 35 Elevated railroad
- 37 Alvin and Alan
- 38 Material at the bottom of the page, abbr.
- 40 "The Lord knoweth the way of the _____" (Psalms 1:6)
- 44 A cart for hire in India
- 45 National Guard, abbr.

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- 47 Word to begin a question
 - 48 To begin on a journey (2 words)
 - 51 A telephone company, abbr.
 - 52 "A tree ... that bringeth forth his _____ in his season" (Psalms 1:3)
- #### Down
- 1 "_____ he doeth shall prosper" (Psalms 1:3)
 - 2 Initials of the man who wrote the equation E=MC²
 - 3 "His delight is in the _____ of the Lord" (Psalms 1:2)
 - 4 Boxing term, knocked down, abbr.
 - 5 "I am the _____ vine" (John 15:1)
 - 6 Go quickly
 - 7 "Nor sitteth in the _____ of the scornful" (Psalms 1:1)
 - 8 "And he shall be like a _____" (Psalms 1:3)
 - 9 Airport surveillance radar, abbr.
 - 10 "Whatsoever he _____ shall prosper" (Psalms 1:3)
 - 13 Department, abbr.
 - 16 Exclamation of surprise

- 17 "We shall all stand before the judgment _____ of Christ" (Romans 14:10)
- 18 Amount, abbr.
- 20 "Therefore, _____ said unto Samuel, Go, lie down" (1 Samuel 3:9)
- 21 "The _____ driveth away" (Psalms 1:4)
- 22 "The godly are not so: but are like the _____" (Psalms 1:4)
- 24 "Nor standeth in the way of _____" (Psalms 1:1)
- 25 Gives a report
- 26 The nights before
- 28 "His _____ is in the law of the Lord" (Psalms 1:2)
- 36 Cozy talk
- 37 Gold, chemical symbol
- 39 "In his law doth he meditate day and _____" (Psalms 1:2)
- 41 Indian riverbank steps
- 42 Translation, abbr.
- 43 Public crier's word
- 45 Neither
- 46 Russian chief intelligence directorate, abbr.
- 47 Northwestern state, abbr.
- 49 Following, abbr.
- 50 Seventh note on the musical scale

Last week's solution

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Mississippi Pastor to Host

Northeast Cruise & Tour

Ukrainian Baptists rebuild homes devastated by Katrina

Pearlington, Miss. (BP)—For the last five summers, a group of Alabama Baptists traveled to Philadelphia to help fix up the houses and churches of Ukrainian immigrants.

This summer, the Ukrainian churches traveled to the Gulf Coast to return the favor.

About 40 members of six Ukrainian Baptist churches loaded up and journeyed south to Pearlington, Miss., to support the post-hurricane efforts of Madison Baptist Association in Huntsville, Ala.

"It's a true partnership," said John Long, associational missionary at Madison Association in Huntsville, which has helped build or renovate three Ukrainian churches in the Philadelphia area. "We helped them and they're now helping us."

After Hurricane Katrina struck the Gulf Coast a year ago, Madison Association adopted Pearlington. Baptists from Huntsville have since made 17 trips to the devastated town—tearing down, rebuilding and renovating homes.

"We scheduled the Ukrainian guys to do the framing and roofing on six houses, and then our guys came in and did sheetrock and finishing work," Long said.

The Mississippi conditions were a shock to the Ukrainian mission team, who acquired a taste for sweet iced tea and southern fried chicken during their short stay in Pearlington.

"John came to Philadelphia and did a presentation for us," said Filip Moshkovsky, youth leader at Ukrainian Evangelical Baptist Church in Crum Lynn, Pa., and organizer of the mission trip.

"But to see it in person is shocking," Moshkovsky said. "You touch the rubble. You stand next to a boat on top of a house. We did a lot of work, but it felt like we only put a scratch on a very big project. There is so much left to do."

Moshkovsky said the concept of a mission trip was new to them, but the trip was embraced by dozens of Ukrainian Baptists in Philadelphia. In addition to those who traveled, others provided financial resources for many volunteers to go.

The Ukrainian group of 40—from ages 14 to 76—left Pearlington with plans to return.

"We've never done this before, but we'll do it again," Moshkovsky said. "It's where people need us the most."

Workers say doors opening for gospel in Pakistan

Islamabad, Pakistan (BP)—In a nation portrayed in the media as Osama bin Laden's reputed hideout, a terrorist hot potato and a land in danger of the influences of Islamic fundamentalism, God has never been working more, according to the Southern Baptists who labor inside its borders.

The tragic earthquake that hit northern Pakistan in 2005 opened doors in previously closed areas, workers say, and the gospel is spreading in many ways.

The long-term prayers of Christians for this region are one reason for the responsiveness, according to a female worker.

"People have been coming for 10 to 20 years and praying over the nation," she said. "We're now seeing the results of that. The time for Pakistan is now. I really believe the Holy Spirit is working as He has never done before from the south to the north."

In one large city, a house church successfully reproduced itself. In another location, people groups that previously were completely unreached now have groups of believers meeting. One group has multiple churches within it.

"It was frustrating the first two years," said a representative in the group with new multiple churches.

"For the past year and a half, it's like a different place. The Lord has been working. There are 75 to 100 believers now," the representative said. "The goal is 1,000 in the next few years, and the believers here say it's going to happen."

In another city, a worker says literature distribution to refugees

from a nearby war-torn land has spread like wildfire since God provided one national believer from among this people group.

Despite the trials of living in an Islamic Third World country, many Southern Baptists can testify of the hospitality of the Pakistanis and their willingness to hear people's stories of how they came to Christ and to dialogue about Jesus' message.

The South Asia region of the International Mission Board has

established an initiative called "mPak Pakistan" through which churches in the United States can adopt various districts in Pakistan for prayer and outreach.

"If we don't get out there and get nationals to rise to the occasion, we're not going to have a part in what God is doing," one Southern Baptist representative said. "We'll miss it if we don't jump on the wave that's coming."

For more information, visit www.go2SouthAsia.org

Understanding Other Beliefs

How to Share the Biblical Jesus with Jehovah's Witnesses, Mormons and Muslims

Taught by NAMB-certified instructors
Jehovah's Witnesses - Rob Bowman
Mormonism - Bill Ellis
Islam - Don Metcalf

FREE ADMISSION!

September 21, 2006 7:00-9:00 pm
 (registration 6:30 pm)

Hosted at:

Consolidated Missionary Baptist Church
1625 Russell Cave Road
Lexington, KY 40505
Phone: (859) 299-8559

Sponsored by
 The Church Growth
 and Evangelism Team

Funded by
 The Cooperative Program



'Religion? Religion? I have no religion'

Senior Chinese student is a leader and hard worker, but doesn't know Christ

Last October, I shared about a new student who had just arrived from China. In that article I wrote that my wife had come into my office to tell me our new Chinese student was to arrive the next day at the airport. Kay also told me she was going to pick him up and that he would need some additional financial assistance, but then said with a big smile on her face, "But Lottie Moon would be very happy to know that we are helping a Chinese student."

The new Chinese student did arrive, and I am happy to say after spending the past year with him that he is one of the finest young men I have ever met. I did not know until weeks after he arrived about the original phone conversation this young man had with Kay. As she was asking him the usual questions we normally ask—most of the parents of our international students do not speak English—Kay asked him about his religion. Even though we work with international students from around the world, his answer caught her off guard. When she asked him about his religious preference he replied, "Religion? Religion? I have no religion." Since a large percentage of our students are not Christians when they enroll, it did not surprise her that this young man was not a Christian, but when he told her he had no religion she did not know what to think.

There is a difference between living in a free country—a Christian country at that—and not choosing to attend church and growing up in a country where the very existence of God is denied. It is one thing to live in a country where it

is hard to go very far in any direction and not see a church. It is quite another to live in a country where the government has successfully prevented the vast majority of its population from exposure to any form of religion.

I have paid particular attention to our special Chinese student during the past year. I have watched him in the chapel services and on many other occasions. Because of the culture he grew up in, I expected him to be somewhat hostile to

worship and anything religious. I have been pleasantly surprised to discover that not only is he not hostile to religion, he actually embodies more of the traits we Christians are supposed to uphold the teachings of Jesus. He is polite, courteous and respectful, he studies hard, is a leader and a hard worker. In spite of all the wonderful things I could tell you about this young man, he is lacking in one thing; he does not know

Jesus as his personal Lord and Savior.

This young man is a senior this year. Even if a decision to accept Christ is not made while on our campus, hopefully spiritual seeds have been planted that will influence him later in life. However, you can understand that we are anxious to see him make that decision now so we can help him grow in his early months of being a Christian. We have seven additional Chinese students this year. This door has never been open to us before. Please keep our faculty and staff in your prayers as we have this golden opportunity to share the love of Christ with students who have grown up in a culture that denies there is a God.

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



W.F. Underwood

Helping students develop their best

Gillums find God's highest calling at Clear Creek

An inquiry about a summer mission opportunity led to faculty positions for Dan and Eleanor Gillum. For her, it was a renewal of ties first made as a teenager.

Born in Laurel County, Eleanor attended YWA camp at Clear

Creek. A graduate of Sue Bennett and Union colleges, she pursued a graduate degree at University of Missouri. She and Dan met at the campus Baptist Student Union. She finished an M.Ed. at Texas Tech and an Ed.S. at University of Southern Mississippi.

Dan completed an M.Div. at Midwestern Seminary. With an undergraduate engineering degree, Dan worked 20 years with the Department of Defense. "As a result of my bivocational work, several country churches in Missouri, Iowa and Georgia had trained leadership that might not have been possible otherwise," Dan said. Eleanor played the piano in most of those churches.

Eleanor worked five years in radio and completed 35 years of teaching in public schools and community college. She taught prisoners through a community

college in Iowa. She has taught English as a second language to students from 22 countries, including two summers in China. "It is a joy to be here; I regard this as God's highest calling on my life, helping these students to develop their best speaking and writing abilities in English to share the gospel," she said.

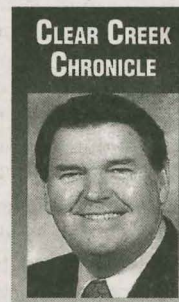
Eleanor learned about the campus

going on a professor going on a mission trip to Russia. The visit opened the possibility of ministry during retirement years. "I did not plan to finish my job with the government for another three years," Dan stated. "But as we left the campus we had God's leadership to come if the door opened." As assistant

professor of general education and director of developmental studies, Eleanor teaches three English courses and coordinates the testing program. Dan is instructor in Bible.

"We know God led us here to do His work. The students are such a joy to teach," Eleanor said. "It's great to be in a school without discipline problems. I don't have to worry about students coming to class with guns, drug problems and arrogant behavior."

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



Bill Whittaker

Book urges teens to use blogs for good, not bullying

By David Briggs
Religion News Service

West Salem, Ohio (RNS)—Beware the wrath of a dumped boyfriend or girlfriend spreading rumors about a former partner on MySpace.

Pity the middle school student whose clothes, popularity or appearance becomes the object of derision in public chat rooms frequented by classmates.

These days, teenagers and their parents don't have to look out just for sexual predators online. Some of their peers are turning into cyberbullies, using sites such as MySpace and Facebook to harass and humiliate classmates.

That's where Grace comes in.

Grace as in Grace Doe of "Grace Notes," the teenage protagonist of the first book in author Dandi Mackall's new four-part fiction series, Blog On.

Mackall, from West Salem, Ohio, developed the series as a fun way to encourage young girls to use the Internet in positive ways.

Mackall is not alone. Religious groups and schools are responding to the explosive popularity of blogs by prohibiting access to MySpace, Xanga, Facebook and other social networking sites, and asking young people to let their faith guide them in cyberspace as they would on the playground or in the classroom.

"The Internet is a gift from God," said Jeff Stutzman, catechetical media consultant for the Catholic Diocese of Cleveland, "and you must use it as all other gifts."

Three years ago, there was no MySpace. Now the site and others like it have become part of kids' lives down into late elementary school and middle school.

Young people use the social networking sites to talk, share photos and post personal journal entries on their pages or in chat rooms that can be specific to their schools.

If you don't have a blog on MySpace, "You're weird. You're not American. You're Canadian," said Ali, 16, a youth group member at Church on the Rise in Westlake, Ohio.

She and other teens from the church, identified by their first names only, said for the most part what they post online is innocent stuff.

"What we did today, what we feel," Ali said. "Basically the same old useless conversations teenagers have been having for ages."

At their best, blogs can help young people develop their voices as writers, enabling them to share their feelings and the challenges they face, say teenagers and adults who monitor these sites. The conversations and experiences also can help others through an often tumultuous stage in life.



"You can sort of reach out to people through blogs," Ali said. Sometimes a friend will tell her that it was meaningful to read her blog because the friend was experiencing the same thing.

Tasha, 15, said sometimes she shares a biblical passage. "It's my blog, so I can say what I'm feeling," she said. "From being Christian, I go at it

with God being in it."

But these sites can cause real problems. In addition to sexual predators searching out potential victims, cyberbullying has become a growing concern.

Mackall, who often visits schools as an author to find out what kids are talking about, said one young girl received 350 hate e-mails because of false information posted about her online.

"I think it hurts more than if you're physically bullied on a playground," Stutzman said. "Online, anyone can see it."

Learning to play nice

Young people deal with cyberbullying in different ways. Some try to ignore the insults, and bar people who post offensive remarks from their sites.

By staying cloaked in anonymity, online combatants are less likely to learn how to forgive after a fight, Mackall said.

In "Grace Notes," Mackall's main character is a shy person who considers herself invisible in school. But she finds it rewarding to share her experiences online.

As the book goes on, Grace finds herself constantly having to revise the stereotypes of classmates she refers to in her blog as "Bouncy, Perky Girl" and "New Girl."

Once Grace begins to know these people, and the anger they feel at her judgments from afar, she realizes both that her blogging can hurt others and that people are more complex than the boxes adolescents can use to classify one another.

Fortunately, there is a flip side to cyberbullying, Mackall said.

"It's easier to stand up for yourself or your friends in cyberspace," she said.

The Sense of the Call: A Sabbath Way of Life for Those Who Serve God, the Church and the World.

Marva Dawn. Eerdmans Publishing, 2006. 327 pages. \$16. ♦♦♦♦

Marva Dawn spends most of her life ministering to ministers. Her writings have opened doors for her to lead seminars and workshops with pastors and other church leaders across the country.

In that time, she has developed a growing concern for the physical, emotional and spiritual shape of those who serve in and with the church. In her conversations, she observes that the morale of far too many church leaders is dangerously low. In fact, many continue to serve way past the point of burnout.

She writes this book out of a longing "to inspire every Christian to enjoy more thoroughly his or her special call from God as a member of Christ's Body for the sake of God's Kingdom in the world." But she is well aware that the ability to enjoy one's calling does not grow out of superficial observance of motivational techniques.

"To be a member of Christ's body ... means that we participate in the life of Christ in all its fullness. What we keep forgetting in twenty-first century North America ... is that Christ's life constantly included suffering and ended (temporarily) in death." She confesses, along with the rest of us, that we want the benefits of Christ's death without being willing to die.

Dawn wants us to understand that true Sabbath-keeping is a way of life in which we learn to find strength by immersion in the Kingdom of God. This involves the four disciplines of: resting, ceasing, feasting and embracing.

"The Sense of the Call" is at once a challenge to the church and its ministry, and yet it is also a wealth of inspiring insight into how to survive and thrive in ministry in a trying time. *Jim Holladay*

Communicating for a Change. Andy Stanley & Lane Jones. Multnomah Publishers, 2006. 196 pages. \$19.99. ♦♦♦♦

Andy Stanley contends that many pastors are preaching with a style designed to transfer information instead of one that's designed to motivate people to change their lives.

"Every communicator I know wants to see lives changed as a result of their preaching and teaching," writes Stanley, pastor of North Point Community Church, north of Atlanta, and son of popular preacher Charles Stanley. "But too few communicators have developed an approach to communicating that supports their passion."

Divided into two sections, the first half tells a fable of Pastor Ray Martin. Ray is tired of staring at the back wall while preaching to avoid the fact that nobody's listening to him. Through the conniving of his

wife and a friend, he finds himself riding along with Willy Graham, a retired truck driver and bivocational pastor.

Willy delivers blunt assessments and advice in the form of "seven imperatives" for communication. The second half of the book expounds on most of the imperatives.

Much like author and preaching professor Calvin Miller, Stanley advocates dropping the "three points and a poem" method commonly used and instead focusing on one clear point that listeners can take home and apply to their lives.

And his "me, we, God, you, we" map for sermon and other communicators wanting to connect with their audience.

Stanley's straightforward approach might offend some readers, as may his focus on the technical points of communication instead of the spiritual. But as Willy tells Ray, "I've heard far too many preachers hide behind the excuse that it's up to the Holy Spirit to apply the message to the heart of the hearer and then not give the Holy Spirit anything to work with." *David Winfrey*

The Justice God Is Seeking. David Ruis. Regal Books, 2006. 129 pages. \$12.99. ♦♦♦♦

David Ruis is an internationally known author, song writer and worship leader. He has written such praise songs as "Every Move I Make" and "You're Worthy of My Praise." His books include "The Worship God Is Seeking," which I've previously reviewed in this column.

In this latest book, in the worship series from Regal Press, Ruis challenges the reader to become more real in worship than in just a Sunday morning setting.

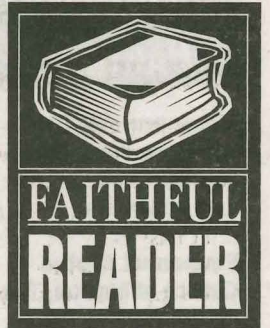
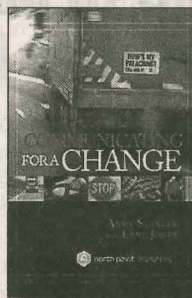
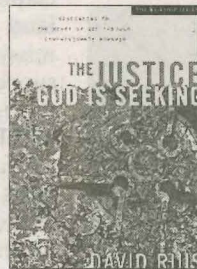
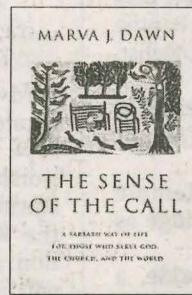
Worship is not singing songs or preaching, he states. Worship is a way of living, a way of acting in faithfulness and obedience to God in all areas of life. He also challenges the reader to recognize the issues of poverty and oppression in the world and that to truly worship one must serve the poor in ministry.

Ruis calls on Christians to form communities where love, mercy and justice are common goals.

"The worship that God is seeking is a worship that is rooted in love for each other," Ruis writes. "To be a righteous people is to be a just people. To be a worshiping people is to see at the heart of community the glory of justice breaking into a world of injustice."

True authentic worship requires that change occurs in the lives of the worshippers, he adds. After all, if no change takes place during worship, then did true worship actually take place?

Ruis does a great job in challenging the reader to understand better what worship is all about. Anyone will profit by reading this book with prayer and seeking God for life change. *Steve Coleman*



By Jim Holladay, pastor of Lyndon Baptist Church in Louisville; Steve Coleman, pastor of education and youth at New Work Fellowship in Hopkinsville; and News Director David Winfrey. They welcome feedback or suggestions for book reviews. Contact them via e-mail at: lyndonpastor@aol.com; risen4me@hotmail.com; david.winfrey@kybaptist.org.

PRAYER PARTNERS

Please pray for the following Kentucky Baptist missionaries and ministries:

Emmanuel Baptist Church of Marion. The church has started a parenting class that is reaching many unchurched parents, according to Pastor Rob Ison. He said the local family court judge requires many defendants dealing with divorce, abuse and custody issues to attend a parenting course and the church's class meets the court's approval. Pray for class leaders who train and mentor parents. Pray that the congregation will reach out effectively to those attending the class and assimilate them into the church fellowship.

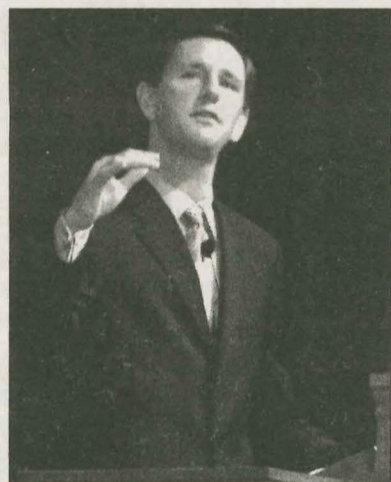
Christ Outreach for the Blind of Mount Vernon. Mission Service Corps Missionaries Mike and Lori Gates direct this 800-acre Christian camp for blind and disabled children. Gates, who is blind, said he felt led of God to provide a place where children could experience the love of Christ while participating in such activities as fishing, hunting, archery, swimming, rock climbing and horseback riding. Pray that many children and their families will experience a personal relationship with Christ through the activities of the camp. Pray also that God will provide adult staff members who understand disabilities and have a passion for sharing the gospel of Christ in this setting.

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

MOUNTAINS TO THE MISSISSIPPI

COMPILED BY STAFF

- **DeMOSSVILLE**—Unity Church recently called **Bobby Barnes** as pastor.
- **ELIZABETHTOWN**—Severns Valley Church will hold revival services during morning worship Sept. 24 and at 7 p.m. Sept. 24-27 with **Clay Smith**, pastor of Alice Drive Baptist Church in Sumter, S.C., as evangelist. **Billy Compton** is pastor.
- **HARRODSBURG**—**Kirk Greenfield** recently resigned as pastor of Mount Freedom Church.
- **HENDERSON**—Immanuel Temple recently called **Michael Eldridge** as pastor.
- **HOPKINSVILLE**—**Wayne McCorkle**, a longtime employee of the former Baptist Sunday School Board, died July 24 after battling multiple sclerosis for 33 years. He was 63. McCorkle, a native of Hopkinsville, was pastor of churches in Kentucky and Tennessee before joining the Sunday School Board staff in 1973. He is survived by his wife, Rachel, two children and three grandchildren.
- **LaGRANGE**—DeHaven Church will host the Southern gospel quartet **Crystal River** in concert Sept. 17, 2:30 p.m. For more information, call minister of music **Zach Young** at (502) 897-4853. **Tommy Purvis** is pastor.
- **LONDON**—New Salem Church recently called **Greg Deaton** as pastor.



CONVOCATION Kentucky Baptist Convention President Paul Chitwood was the opening speaker for the University of the Cumberlands' fall semester convocation services. Chitwood, pastor of First Baptist Church of Mount Washington, challenged students to model their lives after Jesus Christ.

National WMU to host 'Joy of Missions' event at Ridgecrest

Asheville, N.C.—National Woman's Missionary Union will host the "Experience the Joy of Missions" conference Sept. 27-Oct. 1 at LifeWay Ridgecrest Conference Center near Asheville, N.C.

Wanda Lee, national WMU executive director, said the event "is designed to provide a time of enrichment and renewal in one's walk with the Lord, and for participants to be inspired, encouraged and equipped with relevant and practical ways to involve their entire church in His mission."

Five general sessions will feature Lee, author of WMU's new emphasis book, "Live the Call," as well as Jennifer Kennedy Dean, author of "Fueled by Faith," and Jimmy Dorrell,

Spotlight on ...

Bardstown



Bardstown Church will celebrate its 191st homecoming Sept. 24, 10 a.m., with a joint worship service featuring **Bill Mackey**, executive director of the Kentucky Baptist Convention, as guest speaker. Activities will include a potluck fellowship lunch and an afternoon singing service. **David Stokes** is pastor.

■ **LOUISVILLE**—Cloverleaf Church will host **Jubilation** in concert Sept. 23, 7 p.m. For more information, call (502) 367-0218. **Geoffrey Lacefield** is pastor.

Fern Creek Church ordained **Lesley Hass** and **Gary White** as deacons Sept. 10. **Linda Barnes Popham** is pastor.

Iglesia Bautista Nueva Jersualen recently called **Andres Doimeadios** as interim pastor.

■ **MAYFIELD**—Graves County Association recently called **Glynn Copeland** as assistant to the director of missions for ministry and mission support. **Charles Clark** is director of missions.

■ **MILTON**—Milton Church will hold revival services Sept. 27-Oct. 1 with **Chris White** as evangelist. For more information, call (502) 268-5292.

■ **NICHOLASVILLE**—Edgewood Church ordained **James Bradley Wafford** as a deacon Aug. 27. **Steve Sholar** is pastor.

■ **SHEPHERDSVILLE**—Eastside Church recently called **Arnold Brown** as pastor.

Little Flock Church recently called **Michael Rhodes** as youth pastor.

■ **SPRINGFIELD**—**Bobby Chesser** recently resigned as pastor of Rockbridge Church.

■ **WESTPORT**—Westport Church will hold revival services Sept. 24-27, 6:30 p.m., with **Jeff Eaton**, pastor of Hope Community Church in Lawrenceburg, as evangelist.

author of "Trolls & Truth: 14 Realities About Today's Church that We Don't Want to See."

Conference coordinator Joyce Mitchell said the event will include 80 workshops addressing such issues as disaster relief, training for mission trips, starting or growing mission organizations and tips on understanding and talking to teens. There also will be multicultural conferences offered in Spanish and Korean.

Participants are encouraged to take Wal-Mart gift cards to the conference to benefit Baptist centers impacted by Hurricane Katrina.

For registration information, call toll-free (800) 588-7222 or visit www.wmu.com/ridgecrest2006.

KBC CALENDAR OF EVENTS

September

- 9 Super Saturday, Beacon Hill Baptist Church, Somerset, and Lone Oak First Baptist Church, Paducah.
- 15-16 Women on Mission/Baptist Nursing Fellowship Fall Retreat, Jonathan Creek.
- 16 Super Saturday, Crestwood Baptist Church, Crestwood.
- 18-21 FAITH Clinic, Parkland Baptist Church, Louisville.
- 18-19 Kentucky Baptist Ministers Golf Tournament, Cherry Blossom Golf Course, Georgetown.
- 23 Children in Action Day Camp, Cedar Crest.
- 25 Discipleship/Assimilation, Living Hope Baptist Church, Bowling Green.
- 29-30 FOCUS 2006, Crestwood Baptist Church, Crestwood.

October

- 5-7 Ministers in Transition, Louisville.
- 6-7 Celebrate the Mission, Hillcrest Baptist Church, Hopkinsville.
- 9 Senior Adult Choir—West, First Baptist Church, Madisonville.

- 13-14 Women On Mission/Baptist Nursing Fellowship Fall Retreat, Cedarmore.
- 14 101 Workshop, Union Baptist Church, Union.
- 16 Senior Adult Choir—East, Immanuel Baptist Church, Lexington.
- 27-28 Quarterly Prayer Meeting for Spiritual Awakening, Northside Baptist Church, Mount Vernon.

November

- 3-4 International Student Conference, Cave City Convention Center.
- 4 101 Workshop, Bellevue Baptist Church, Owensboro.
- 10-12 All State Jr. High Choir, Eastwood Baptist Church, Bowling Green.
- 10-12 Crossover, Bowling Green.
- 13 Kentucky Baptist Music Conference, Rich Pond Baptist Church, Bowling Green.
- 13 Kentucky Baptist Pastors' Conference, First Baptist Church, Bowling Green.
- 13 Kentucky Baptist Youth Ministry Association Fall Meeting, Bowling Green.

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



OUTDOOR BAPTISM Skip Alexander (left), pastor of Campbellsville Baptist Church, baptized 10 people during an Aug. 27 baptism service hosted by Taylor County Baptist Association at Green River Lake. Michael Goodwin, pastor of Salem Baptist Church in Campbellsville, baptized two people during the service. Director of Missions Robert Clark said the public event provided "a powerful witness to the new life with Jesus Christ."

CLASSIFIED ADS

FOR SALE: Baptistry. Over 11 feet long (double stairs), six-plus feet wide (main circular) and 40 inches deep (very large). Must sell ASAP; asking \$2,000 (or less). Located in Mayfield, Ky.; please call Bro. Terry at (270) 247-4118.

FREE: 1960 model Hammond organ (to a needy church). We have switched to keyboards and need to find a new home for our organ. Must provide own transportation from Harrodsburg. For more information, call (859) 734-3546.

SEEKING: Part-time youth director for Southern Baptist church in Prestonsburg, Ky. Membership: 325. Contact Pastor Mark Tackett at (606) 285-0900; or George May at (606) 874-2464 or may_george@bellsouth.net.

SEEKING: Full-time student minister and church-wide outreach coordinator. Individual will work with students, their families and adult volunteers in the student ministry; individual will coordinate church-wide outreach. Individual will be responsible to plan, promote and implement an exciting and balanced ministry, leading students to worship, serve, grow and share. Bachelor's degree required—seminary preferred. Please send resumé to Crestwood Baptist Church, 1006 E Main St., Frankfort, KY 40601, Attn: Ms. Dottie O'Keefe.

SEEKING: Pastor for Meadow Land Baptist Church. Please submit resumé with references to 1188 Detour Road, Bowling Green, KY 42101.

SEEKING: Full-time music/youth pastor for a Southern Baptist church in Salyersville, Ky. Please send resumé to dlalucas@gmail.com.

SEEKING: Part-time youth minister. Send resumé to Bellfield Baptist Church, 9980 Highway 136 E, Henderson, KY 42420, Attn: Personnel Committee.

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

SEEKING: God's man to pastor Bardwell Baptist Church, a member of West Kentucky Baptist Association. Please send resumé to: Pastor Search Committee, Bardwell Baptist Church, PO Box 147, Bardwell, KY 42023.

SEEKING: Minister of music/church ministries for Memorial Baptist Church in Murray, Ky. Applicant must have at least five years experience, must be a Baptist seminary graduate and meet other qualifications. For a detailed position description or to submit resumé, e-mail mbcsearch@hotmail.com.

Teen's witness continues more than a month after his death

By Dawn Ferguson
Tennessee Baptist and Reflector

Hendersonville, Tenn. (ABP)—“If it means me dying and lost people coming to know Christ, I’d die.”

Those words were spoken by 16-year-old Nathan Johnson at summer camp, just weeks before he lost his life in a car accident.

His words have come true. Weeks after the death of the popular Hendersonville, Tenn., football player, hundreds of other teens who knew him or knew of him continue to make professions of faith.

In more than 240 remembrances written in notebooks by visitors at his funeral service, friends made clear they saw in Johnson a passion for Christ.

“God shined through him.”

“He had a full life with God at the center.”

“God’s Word—he lived it.”

And on and on.

“Nathan was an incredible kid,” said Jeff Lovingood, youth minister at Long Hollow Baptist Church in Hendersonville, where Nathan worshiped. “He got it. Wherever he went, he shared Christ. He was a special kid. When he entered a room and flashed that million dollar smile, it was evident he was different.”

By all accounts, Nathan had everything going for him. He was the place kicker and punter for his high school. He also played in a band that was scheduled to perform the night of his death. And, he was gifted with good looks.

Didn't want Nathan to be mad

Lovingood said he’s never seen anything like the responses since Nathan’s death. “At visitation, it took four hours to get in and just say something to his parents,” he said.

“The morning of his funeral I woke up in a cold sweat wondering about what I would say,” he added. “I knew I had to give an invitation. If I didn’t, Nathan would be mad at me.”

In 24 years of ministry, Lovingood says he’s never seen anything like it. After the invitation to the 1,000-plus attendees at Nathan’s funeral, 30 to 40 people walked the aisle to pray to receive Christ as their personal Savior.

In just the first week after Nathan’s death, more than 150 people had prayed to receive Christ. And more have been reported since.

On Aug. 23, “25 people prayed to receive Christ,” Lovin- good added. “We had 800 to 900 youth last night. He’s still having an impact. It’s like he’s still alive. And he is, through all the people his life and his story are continuing to touch.”

Still inspiring

Even in retirement, Taylor still ranked among America’s best preachers

By Kim Lawton
Religion & Ethics NewsWeekly

Raleigh, N.C.—He’s 88 years old and technically retired. But Gardner Taylor still shows the preaching skills that have placed him on virtually every list of America’s greatest contemporary preachers.

As a guest preacher in pulpits throughout the nation, Taylor continues to charm—and enlighten—worshippers as he has for more than six decades. But he says preaching is always a tenuous endeavor.

“It is quickly lost,” he recently told the PBS show “Religion & Ethics NewsWeekly.” “It’s uttered, heard and sometimes lost. But it is the mystery of preaching that it survives, and that it has survived so much of our bad preaching.”

By most accounts, little bad preaching can be traced to Taylor, who moved to Raleigh after retirement.

“He almost single-handedly has elevated and made visible great preaching,” said Richard Lischer, who teaches preaching at Duke Divinity School in Durham, N.C.

Wanted to be a lawyer

Taylor was born in Baton Rouge, La., in 1918. He said growing up, he didn’t want to follow in his minister-father’s footsteps.

“I wanted to be a lawyer, but no person of color had been admitted to the Louisiana bar, ever. And when I told an old family friend ... that I wanted to be a lawyer, he said, ‘Where you gonna’ practice, the middle of the Mississippi River?’” Taylor recounted.

Taylor ended up at Oberlin College’s School of Theology in Ohio, where he discovered he had his father’s gift for speaking.

In 1948, Taylor and his wife, Laura, moved to Concord Baptist Church of Christ in Brooklyn, where he spent the next 42 years until his retirement in 1990.

His eloquence and intelligence led to national prominence.

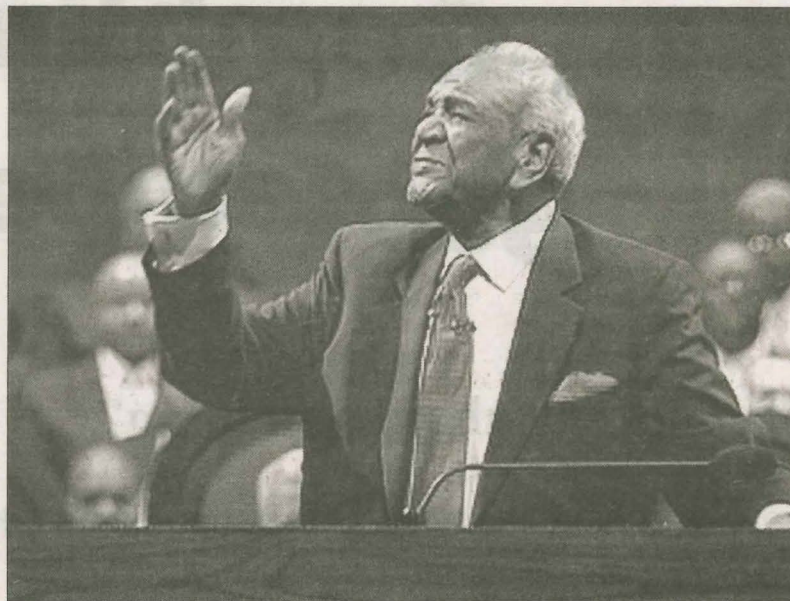
“He manages to keep an enormous range of rhetorical skill under tight, disciplined control, so that when you’re listening to a Gardner Taylor sermon, you feel like something is about to break out, or explode,” Lischer said.

Christian musician Phil Driscoll could face jail time for tax evasion

Nashville (RNS)—One of Christian music’s most acclaimed artists could face jail time for failing to report more than \$1 million in income to the Internal Revenue Service.

Phil Driscoll, 58, founder of MightyHorn Ministries and recipient of Grammy and Dove awards, denies any intent to “defraud” the government. He blames an error in bookkeeping, Christian Retailing magazine reported.

“I am still trusting the Lord to vindicate me,” he said in a statement to the magazine. “I know in



IN DEMAND Gardner Taylor, 88, retired from his Brooklyn church in 1990 but remains a guest preacher in pulpits across the nation. “You do not want to be known as a great preacher,” he recently told students. “You do want to strive for people to feel when you have tried to preach what a great gospel it is.” (RNS/Religion and Ethics NewsWeekly photo)

During the civil rights era of the 1950s and 1960s, Taylor played a key role in raising money in the North to support the Southern churches’ efforts. Together with Martin Luther King Jr., he pushed the black Baptist establishment to get more involved in the movement. That conflict led to the founding of a new denomination, the Progressive National Baptist Convention.

Lischer says Taylor was King’s “role model of how one employs the Scripture in order to use its great themes to preach the gospel of freedom for all humanity.”

Even after the great civil rights struggle waned, Taylor remained actively involved in social issues and the political process.

Looking back, he admits he at times might have been too involved with Democratic Party politics. But Taylor also worries that many contemporary churches have lost their prophetic edge, focusing more on personal prosperity than on issues like poverty and injustice.

“I think the church today in America partakes of the contemporary disease of ‘let me alone, I want to get along, and I don’t want to be bothered with too many things,’ and I think that’s in the churches,” he said. “When the pulpit becomes an echo of the pew, it loses, I think, almost all of its reasons for existence.”

Taylor says that as he’s aged, his preaching has begun to reflect more about the frailty of human life.

That was tragically brought home in 1995, when Laura, his wife of 55

years, died after being hit by a truck. He has since remarried and settled in Raleigh, where he often can be found playing golf.

This past spring, Taylor taught a preaching class at nearby Shaw University, telling the students: “You do not want to be known as a great preacher. You do want to strive for people to feel when you have tried to preach what a great gospel it is.”

Relying on God's promise

Taylor keeps busy, but in recent years he’s also begun to practice what 19th-century British pastor Alexander McLaren called “sitting silent before God.”

“This is not praying. It is not reading. It is just opening oneself,” he said. “It’s a mystic kind of thing. But we do so little of it, and we who preach are likely to engage ourselves in so many things and neglect that aspect of being open to what God has to say. I wish to heaven I had practiced this more early on in my ministry.”

The older he gets, he said, the more he relies on God’s promise of eternal life. “I’m 88, and I lean much more upon the promises,” he said. “Because I need them. I guess I always needed them, ... but I feel the need of them more.”

And which of God’s promises has he been leaning on?

“That He will see about me. And I do not know what, but that I will be in a better condition than I am now. And I think that’s at the heart of the Christian gospel.”

Blankenship, the ministry’s former bookkeeper, died before the trial began.

Will Mackie, assistant U.S. attorney for the eastern district of Tennessee, told Christian Retailing that the Driscolls owe more than \$250,000 in back taxes on unreported income between 1996 and 1999.

Driscoll, a trumpeter, toured with Joe Cocker and worked with groups such as Blood, Sweat & Tears and .38 Special before converting to the Christian music scene in 1981.

“It is the mystery of preaching that it survives, and that it has survived so much of our bad preaching.”

Gardner Taylor, retired pastor of Concord Baptist Church of Christ in Brooklyn

Anti-Gambling Sunday September 17th

What does God say about gambling?

“A faithful man will have many blessings, but one in a hurry to get rich will not go unpunished.”
Proverbs 28:20 (HCSB)

“For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil, and by craving it, some have wandered away from the faith and pierced themselves with many pains.”
1 Timothy 6:10 (HCSB)

Gambling doesn't hurt anyone?

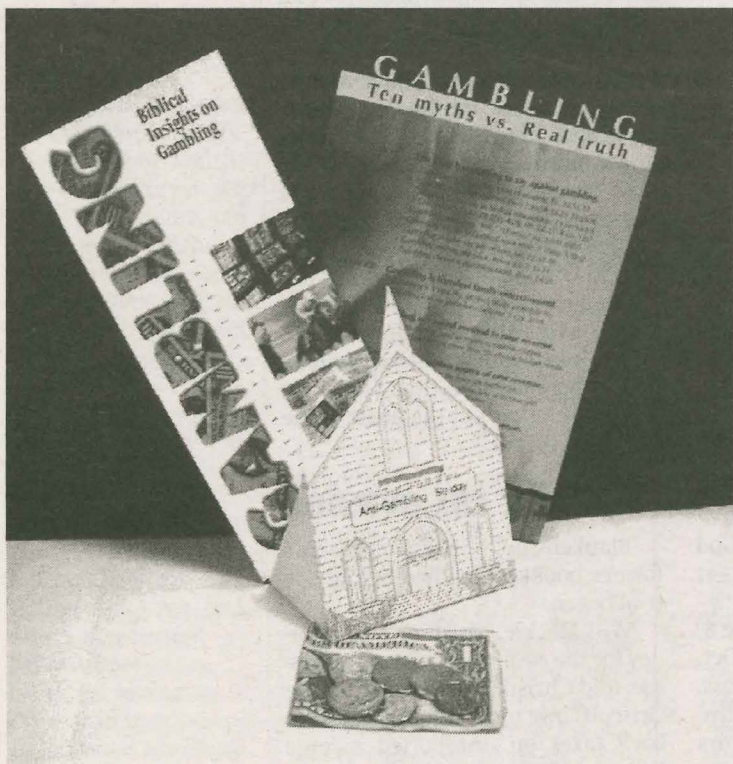
The National Council on Problem Gambling, citing various studies, reports that one in five pathological gamblers attempts suicide, a rate higher than for any other addictive disorder.

Gambling is good for the community and society?

Gambling corrupts:

- In Kentucky ... there are 40,000 compulsive gamblers.
- The average compulsive gambler costs society \$13,585 annually. Extrapolating that figure to the number of compulsive gamblers in Kentucky means the aggregate cost to society in Kentucky is about \$340 million each year.

(retrieved from Kentucky Council on Problem Gambling, <http://www.kycpg.org>, Jan 13, 2006)



To order the “Anti-Gambling Sunday” Banks, please return this flyer with the following information (or contact us at our website – www.kentuckyleague.org)

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Address: _____ Contact Person: _____



“Let Your Light Shine Before Men”
Matt 5:16

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