

PRACTICAL RESOURCES FOR CHRISTIAN LIVING

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See Insert

FOR THE RECORD

Baptists

Southern Baptists viewed favorably by most adults, NAMB study finds. *Page 2.*

Kentucky

Paul Chitwood juggles key roles as KBC president, IMB trustee and pastor. *Page 3.*

Editorial

Back-row Baptists & backslidden churches. *Page 5.*

Missions

Kentucky WMU plans trips to South Korea and China for ministry partnership. *Page 7.*

Higher education

Georgetown seeks to diversify by "adopting" Bishop alumni. *Page 8.*

Nation

Ballot measures address gambling, marriage, abortion and stem-cell research. *Page 12.*

Christmas

'Tis the season for annual debate over secular "War on Christmas." *Page 14.*

Tracking church statistics helps promote growth

By Robert Reeves
Kentucky Baptist Convention

Louisville—Most churches have them—the deacons or ushers who stand in the back of the sanctuary and count how many people are in the worship service.

It might sound like a rather menial task, but according to Rick Pryor, training and development specialist for the Kentucky Baptist Convention, effectively analyzing attendance and membership statistics can help promote a church's growth.

Pryor, who manages the Annual Church Profile data that comes from Kentucky Baptist churches to the state convention each year, says looking at this information critically can help a church understand how effectively it is reaching its community for Christ and how effectively it is assimilating new members into the life of the church.

Speaking at the KBC's recent Nuts and Bolts of Church Management Conference, Pryor said developing key definitions and then collecting information consistently is crucial in developing data that can be analyzed. He said most churches can divide their total membership into useful sub-categories.

For instance, churches might want to delineate individual church members as being either "resident" or "non-resident" and to have clear definitions for each term.

Pryor said it also is useful to divide the resident membership category into "active" and "inactive" members. Leaders should determine what constitutes an "active" member, he said, but generally it means the person attends multiple services during the year.

Inactive members then need to be divided into those who are "locatable" and those who are "non-locatable."

Inactive members who are locatable—meaning they do not attend but the church still knows how to contact them—should become the focus of a special "in-reach" ministry, Pryor said.

In addition to sorting the membership list into sub-categories, Pryor said church leaders should use the data to help identify the current condition of the church as well as to plan for the future.

"The numbers give you an

□ See *Tracking church ... Page 6*

Sunday segregation



Scott Brooks illustration

Kentucky Baptists work to bridge racial barriers

By Ken Walker
State Correspondent

Lynch—Four decades after the peak of the civil rights era, churches across America remain largely segregated, according to researcher Garrett Young.

But some churches and other ministry groups throughout Kentucky are working hard to bridge that historic gap.

Young, managing partner of Resource Education Group in Indianapolis, said 95 percent of whites and 90 percent of African-Americans attend churches predominantly composed of their own race.

He noted that studies show suspicion and distrust still exist between the two groups.

Amid such concerns, the state convention's Kentucky Baptist Connect goals include "connecting churches across different racial and/or ethnic backgrounds" through

networking church leaders for "encouragement, coaching and resourcing."

The five-year Connect initiative also calls for "connecting churches in racial reconciliation ministries."

One area where church integration gradually has developed is in the southeastern Kentucky community of Lynch—an achievement two Baptist pastors credit to a partnership formed about five years ago.

Lonnie Riley of the Christian Community Center and Ronnie Hampton of Greater Mount Sinai Baptist Church got their members together to renovate the Eastern Kentucky Social Group's building.

Helping the African-American center paved the way for other cooperative initiatives between the two churches, including multiple home improvement projects, a lawn care business that helps employees purchase school clothes and an

ice cream shop that will open later this year.

"Worship is also service," said Riley, noting that African-Americans now make up about 30 percent of his Kentucky Baptist congregation. "As we focused together to do ministry outside church, the numbers increased dramatically."

At Greater Mount Sinai, which earlier this year ordained its first-ever white deacon, Anglos represent 15 to 20 percent of attendance at the historically black church, Hampton said.

"We've learned to trust each other," said Hampton, who met Riley in college and renewed the friendship when Riley moved back to the area in the late 1990s.

"We're finding things aren't like our forefathers taught us," Hampton said. "Our forefathers, black and white, always said, 'You should stay

□ See *Kentucky Baptists ... Page 3*

Dated material. Please deliver by Wednesday, November 15.

"The servant leadership of Jesus is a universal model for those who lead in ministry and the marketplace."

Gene Wilkes, author of "Jesus on Leadership."

LifeWay campaign aims for global impact

By Russ Rankin
SBC LifeWay Christian Resources

Nashville (BP)—During his final year as president of LifeWay Christian Resources, Jimmy Draper launched a philanthropic initiative titled "A Defining Moment." By funding specific creative ministry projects propelled by LifeWay's infrastructure, the \$29 million campaign is designed address spiritual needs around the world.

"Ministry is at the heart of LifeWay and has been at the heart of what LifeWay has always been about," said Draper, LifeWay's president emeritus and chair of the campaign.

Draper described "A Defining Moment" as more than the stewardship of finances. "The greatest stewardship referenced in Scripture is the stewardship of the preaching of the gospel," he said. "Through 'A Defining Moment,' we have the opportunity to give of our physical resources, but also of the greater stewardship—the gospel itself."

Unlike an organization that would have to start from square one to create an infrastructure for such an undertaking, Draper said LifeWay is blessed to have the needed human resources and organizational infrastructure largely in place.

Draper hosted the first meeting of the initiative Nov. 1 at LifeWay headquarters in Nashville. Participants heard details from four main areas of ministry that the campaign will affect:



Jimmy Draper

Chinese Bible translation. John Broman, founder of GrapeCity—a multifaceted ministry in Asia—explained that no translation of the Bible has found broad acceptance within the Christian community in China. The most common version is nearly 90 years old.

"A Defining Moment" will support efforts by Holman Bible Outreach International, collaborating with The Asian Bible Society and GrapeCity, to produce an accurate and readable translation of the Bible in Mandarin Chinese. Portions of Scripture, including the Gospel of John, already have been completed.

2 Timothy discipleship. Of the 4,000 churches in the Kenyan Baptist Convention, only about 100 have a discipleship process implemented in their churches. "One of the most consistent requests from Kenya is assistance with biblical discipleship," said Ernie McAninch of LifeWay's international department. "Pastors and leaders understand the need

to develop true followers who reflect the person and characteristics of Christ."

Investments in the 2 Timothy Discipleship Project—which also includes projects in India and Cuba—will build on those foundations to facilitate a biblical process of making disciples through local churches by training hundreds of church and lay leaders.

LifeWay Leadership Institute. Gene Wilkes, author of "Jesus on Leadership," shared the vision for the LifeWay Leadership Institute, designed to provide Christian leaders with training in biblically based leadership and management.

"The servant leadership of Jesus is a universal model for those who lead in ministry and the marketplace—and it is the most effective model," he said.

True Love Waits International. Andrew Mwenge, who serves as pastor of Kampala Baptist Church and also directs the True Love Waits movement in Uganda, and Sharon Pumpelly, a former International Mission Board missionary in Uganda, talked about the sweeping changes that have taken place in that AIDS-ravaged country since True Love Waits was introduced there in 1994, and about LifeWay's plans for expanding the Uganda model to other parts of Africa.

SBC's Chapman proposes investment fund study

Nashville (BP)—Seeking to boost Southern Baptist investment funds managed by GuideStone Financial Resources and the Southern Baptist Foundation, Morris Chapman has called for a study regarding the investment of reserve funds held by Southern Baptist Convention entities.

Chapman, president of the SBC Executive Committee, outlined his proposal in a memo to GuideStone President O.S. Hawkins and in a letter to the heads of SBC entities, state convention executive directors and presidents of state Baptist foundations. Chapman said he has directed the staffs of the SBC Executive Committee and the Southern Baptist Foundation to engage in the study with the assistance of the SBC's attorneys.

The mission statements of both GuideStone and the Executive Committee touch on this subject.

GuideStone provides retirement plan services, life and health coverage, risk management programs and personal and institutional investment programs to Southern Bap-

tist churches and denominational entities.

The SBC Executive Committee provides investment services through its subsidiary, the Southern Baptist Foundation.

In his letter, Chapman noted, "I have asked that the study test my hypothesis: 'That the Southern Baptist Convention would be best served if GuideStone could provide institutional investment services to an entity of the Southern Baptist Convention ... without negotiating a cooperative agreement with the Southern Baptist Foundation.'

"I have come to the decision to launch this study only after several years of reflection upon the intended cooperative spirit of our convention and the review of options afforded SBC entities for management of their institutional investment funds," Chapman wrote.

"In recent years, and for reasons best known and explained by their trustee boards, entities of the Southern Baptist Convention have sought and retained investment firms outside the Southern Baptist Conven-

tion to manage their reserve funds," his letter added. "If my hypothesis becomes a proposal and a revision of GuideStone's ministry assignment comes to pass, I am hopeful that SBC entities would give serious consideration to bringing most, if not all, of their investment funds back under the management of either GuideStone or the Southern Baptist Foundation, thus keeping the funds ... completely within the Southern Baptist family.

"I believe this study will show that with only a slight modification to current ministry assignments, there will be no reason to enlist secular management for the investment of funds that come to SBC entities through the Cooperative Program, missions offerings and designated gifts of faithful Southern Baptists."

Chapman said the study is not intended "to unsettle the current requirement that GuideStone must enter into a cooperative agreement with state Baptist foundations before it can offer investment management services to churches and state denominational entities."

Anne Davis, church social work pioneer, dies at 69

Waco, Texas—Anne Davis, a pioneer in the field of church social work, died Nov. 9 in Waco. She was 69.

Davis, a native of Virginia, earned degrees from Averett College, Westhampton College of the University of Richmond, Southern Baptist Theological Seminary and the Kent School of Social Work at the University of Louisville.

Davis began her work as executive director of the Baptist Community Center in Lexington. She later served as director of Portland Baptist Center, a ministry of Crescent

Hill Baptist Church in Louisville, before joining the faculty of Southern Seminary, where she served as a professor of social work, director of social work and director of professional studies in the school of religious education.

She led Southern's school of social work to become the first seminary accredited for the master of social work degree and served as that school's first dean. She retired from Southern in 1995.

Davis moved to Waco, Texas, in 1998 to become director of operations for the Advocacy Center for

Crime Victims and Children.

She was remembered by colleagues as a scholar, administrator and teacher, but primarily as a minister of the gospel, advocating for the weak, oppressed and suffering.

Davis spoke at a number of national conferences and at the Baptist World Alliance in Stockholm, Sweden. Baylor University recognized her with a Lifetime Achievement Award in 2004.

Her memorial service was held Nov. 13 at Seventh & James Baptist Church in Waco with Raymond Bailey officiating.

Southern Baptists viewed favorably by most adults, NAMB study finds

Alpharetta, Ga. (BP)—Southern Baptists were viewed favorably by 57 percent of adults interviewed as part of recent research conducted by the North American Mission Board's Center for Missional Research through Zogby International.

The positive outlook toward Southern Baptists, United Methodists and the Catholic Church was about the same in the survey, while the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints (Mormons) and Muslims received less favorable ratings of 32 percent and 27 percent respectively.

Southern Baptists received unfavorable impressions from 17 percent of the respondents, while another 24 percent said they were not familiar with Southern Baptists. The NAMB research polled 1,210 American adults across the country.

Southern Baptists made the best impression where they are most prevalent, in southern "Bible Belt" states. Two out of three respondents in the South expressed a favorable opinion of Southern Baptists, compared to only half of respondents in the West and East.

The NAMB/Zogby poll indicated that a sizeable number of younger adults either have an unfavorable impression of Southern Baptists or are not familiar with the denomination.

About 24 percent of respondents age 18-24 expressed a "very unfavorable" or "somewhat unfavorable" impression of Southern Baptists, while 39 percent of the 25-34 age group said they were "not familiar" with Southern Baptists.

Middle-age adults think highest of Southern Baptists, with 66 percent of those 55-69 reporting a favorable impression.

Because the word "Baptist" may not always appear in a Southern Baptist church's name, the research also looked at what the significance of knowing that a particular church is Southern Baptist would have on someone's decision to visit or join that church.

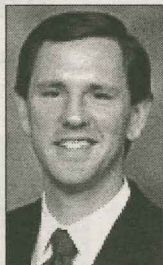
The survey showed that 31 percent of respondents said that knowledge would positively affect their decision to visit or join that church, while 36 percent said it would have no effect and 25 percent said it would have a negative effect.

Among adults age 18 to 24, more than 40 percent of those surveyed said knowing that a church is Southern Baptist would negatively affect their decision to visit or join that church. But 36 percent of people age 35 to 54 reported that the Southern Baptist label would positively affect their choice of a church.

Chitwood juggles key roles as president, trustee, pastor

By Trennis Henderson
Editor

Bowling Green—Other than serving as Kentucky Baptist Convention president and as a member of the KBC's Cooperative Program Study Committee and Mission Advisory Committee, chairing the Southern Baptist International Mission Board's mission personnel committee, serving as pastor of a growing congregation and teaching personal evangelism as an adjunct professor at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Paul Chitwood hasn't had much to do this past year.



Paul Chitwood

"It's been a lot to juggle," Chitwood acknowledged, "but the Lord's grace has proved sufficient. When one thing needed attention, other things were running smoothly. God's timing is perfect in all things. I found that to be what carried me through this year."

Chitwood, 36, is among younger leaders elected and appointed to key leadership roles in recent years.

Older leaders who remain active in convention life "have made room at the table for me and for many other young leaders," Chitwood noted.

"Obviously, the future of our convention rests on our ability to do that.

"I'm very encouraged by what I see," he added. "I don't think the Kentucky Baptist Convention will die of old age. I think we will continue to open doors of leadership to the next generation coming on."

Affirming Chitwood's service on key committees related to the state convention's "Kentucky Baptists Connect" ministry strategy, KBC Executive Director Bill Mackey said Chitwood "has a unique grasp of the KBC ministries and directions for the future."

Strong missions focus

Citing Chitwood's strong focus on missions both on the state and international levels, Mackey said, "He has provided significant leadership in enlisting support of the Eliza Broadus Offering for State Missions."

Chitwood "has been a personal friend and encourager," Mackey added, "and I look forward to his continued leadership among Kentucky Baptists."

Chitwood, pastor of First Baptist

Church of Mount Washington, said his year as KBC president has given him "an even deeper appreciation for what it means for 2,400-plus churches to cooperate. ... I think Kentucky Baptists have a desire to leave a positive impression and an authentic witness for the world.

"I've been so pleased as I've looked back over the history of our work that many of the issues we've dealt with that could have been divisive and controversial, Kentucky Baptists always have sought to find the common ground," he added. "I think that has yielded great strength in our partnerships and in our work.

"Kentucky Baptists focus on what they have in common as opposed to their differences," Chitwood reflected. "Kentucky Baptists, I think, generally are Bible-believing, conservative people who value the Great Commission. ... I see Kentucky Baptists growing together, not growing apart."

As he prepared for this week's KBC annual meeting in Bowling Green, Chitwood said he is excited about the convention's Tuesday evening Cooperative Program celebration.

"I think that is becoming a strong

theme, a renewed emphasis in Kentucky Baptist Convention life," he said, adding that an increased focus on Cooperative Program giving "is a recovery that we needed desperately and I'm optimistic will continue."

KBC's growing ethnic diversity

Chitwood also affirmed "evidence of the diversity being embraced in leadership roles" in the KBC. "It's high time the KBC opened up opportunities for leadership for our Hispanic brethren and our African-American brothers and sisters. We have many churches coming into our convention from those two communities."

He said he also is "pleasantly surprised by the way Kentucky Baptists Connect is connecting. People are rallying around these goals and I think that began with our convention staff as they've carried the banner. It's flooding through our associations and our churches."

Reflecting on his one-year term as KBC president, Chitwood noted, "It's been a lot more fun than I thought it would be—having the opportunity to meet so many people from so many walks of life and having a part in some small way in what God is doing in Kentucky Baptist life."

"I think Kentucky Baptists have a desire to leave a positive impression and an authentic witness for the world."

KBC President
Paul Chitwood

Kentucky Baptist churches seeking to overcome racial barriers

Continued from page 1

with your own kind.' But there's no color in the Bible."

Even with increasing steps toward reconciliation in various communities across the commonwealth, pastors involved in such efforts admit they have a long way to go.

Young said the challenge is widespread.

As part of his doctoral studies in pastoral counseling, Young conducted in-depth interviews with members of several churches to learn why voluntary segregation still exists.

Among the factors Young identified as contributing to self-segregation are convenience, the comfort of associating with people of similar backgrounds, and distrust rooted in racial issues of the past.

The problem is that none of that squares with biblical teaching, insisted Young, a bivocational Baptist pastor.

"From a theological view, the segregation of the church is not defensible," Young said. "We see Jesus admonishing His followers to go into all of Samaria and the world. The opportunity for salvation was not just limited to the Jewish population."

"Education is the key"

One reason churches should be more intentional about tearing down barriers, he added, is because when they allow past patterns to continue it tends to reinforce long-held stereotypes and division.

Recognizing that bias still exists within churches can help members be more open to reconciliation, Young noted.

"Education is the key," he said. "Where I see people struggling with segregation is admitting it's real."

But progress won't come from a joint worship service once a year, said Riley, who has been invited to speak this month about the Lynch

initiative at Simmons College of Kentucky in Louisville.

Simmons, a predominantly African-American college headed by Kevin Cosby, pastor of St. Stephen Baptist Church in Louisville, signed a partnership covenant earlier this year with Campbellsville University in an effort to bridge racial and geographical boundaries for the benefit of both schools.

On a similar front, Georgetown College is seeking to "adopt" the alumni of Bishop College, a historically black college in Dallas that closed in 1988. (See article on page 8.)

As individuals, churches and other entities seek to make a positive impact, Riley noted that "community involvement is one of the keys. It's our friendship in the Lord Jesus that brings us together regardless of social or cultural issues.

"As we emphasize who we are in Christ, it gives us a better sense of expressing who we are as people of Christ."

Hampton said he is a strong supporter of teaching biblical truths to counteract misguided beliefs.

"A lot comes from sharing of pulpits," said Hampton, who regularly preaches at Harlan Christian Church while its pastor speaks at Mount Sinai. "Preaching brings people out of the world, but teaching brings the world out of people."

Leaders of Greater Louisville Reconciliation Ministries acknowledge that change is slow there too, but they say greater strides are coming.

Les Hollon, pastor of the predominantly white St. Matthews Baptist Church, estimates 7 percent of its Sunday attendance comes from other ethnic backgrounds, including several African-American families.

The church recently welcomed five Korean couples as members and agreed to allow a Korean church to use its facilities for a Sunday after-

noon service.

St. Matthews' eight-year partnership with St. Paul Missionary Baptist Church, with numerous joint worship services and mission projects, has helped heal past wounds, Hollon said.

In the next 15 years, he foresees a growing number of multi-racial congregations in the area.

One reason for his optimism is the reconciliation ministry's growth. Participation in board meetings has increased from a handful of people to 30, and there are now five cross-racial partnerships in the area.

"What I'm seeing is the beginning of a trend," Hollon said. "There's kind of a loosening of the ground for the preparation of new growth."

Progress requires cooperation

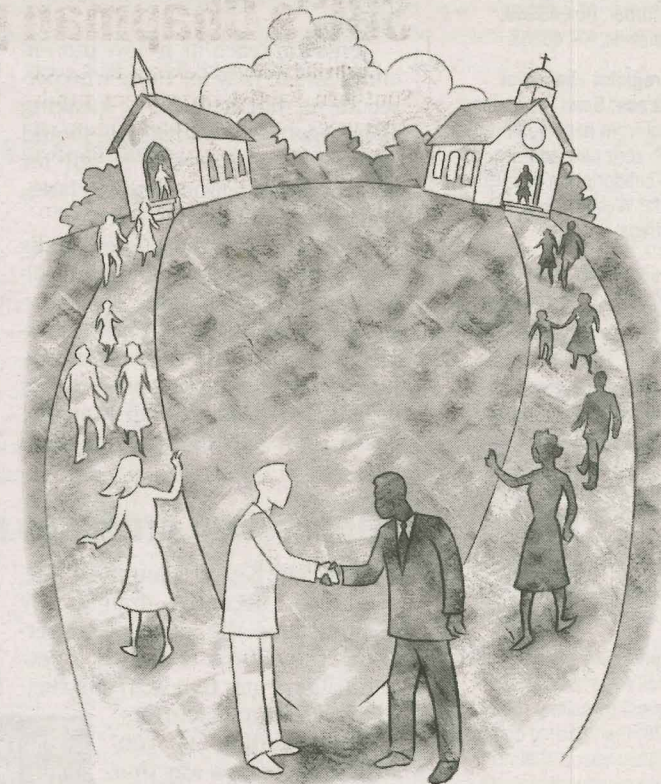
St. Paul Pastor Lincoln Bingham, who also serves as the KBC's cooperative ministries consultant, said recent initiatives slowly are creating more heterogeneous congregations.

Bingham's church ordained its first white deacon earlier this year. This summer it welcomed Mitch Byrd as the first white associate pastor in the congregation's history.

Although only half a dozen whites currently are members, a dozen showed up to hear Byrd's first sermon in late August.

"Our move with St. Matthews was intentional," Bingham said. "We intended to demonstrate that we should be more open and inviting so people can see we're complementary to each other. There are things white folks can learn from black folks, and vice versa."

Still, Bingham said, the efforts to cross racial boundaries aren't significant yet, which he attributes to the lack of a high-profile spokesman like Martin Luther King Jr., to tirelessly push for reconciliation.



Bingham said he believes progress in the church world will require continuous cooperation.

"We ought to be doing mission projects together," he noted. "We ought to find ways to impact our communities and society together, where unbelievers can see a major change in racial reconciliation ... to see there's a genuine bond between black and white."

Hampton said he thinks that day is coming in Kentucky. He cited a vision a pastor in Harlan once had about a fire coming down the mountain and spreading across the state.

"When these joint ventures started, that (vision) came to me," Hampton said. "Lynch is the highest point in Kentucky. People had to be united for the vision to flow. God chose this place to show unity."

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

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Lord, bring us to repentance

By Frank Page

Taylors, S.C. (BP)—I recently have been calling our Southern Baptist Convention to ask God to send His reviving Holy Spirit. I believe that the future of our convention and our churches will be based on God's willingness to give us His reviving power. I believe that God's reviving power is needed in several areas.

I focused on a previous column the need for God's Spirit to transform our churches. Today, I call us to seek the reviving Holy Spirit of God in personal repentance and confession.

2 Timothy 3:1-5 paints an accurate yet sad picture of our society today. It tells of what we have become. It speaks about people who have become reckless, conceited lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God.

Vehicles of justice

Over the last couple of years, I have read letters from many Kentucky Baptists urging us to take up Jesus' teaching to love our enemies and use that as a mandate for America to stay out of war.

While I am not promoting our administration's actions (I'm an Independent, for the record), I believe this is a great misuse of our Savior's teaching.

Jesus did teach us to love our enemies and to pray for those who persecute us, but here He is speaking about how we as individuals should treat one another—this is not for governmental action. God declares, "Vengeance is mine, I will repay."

Note though that when Jesus was approached by a Roman soldier about issues of faith, Jesus never told the soldier to quit being a soldier. Why? Because soldiers in military, as well as police officers, are ordained by God to help keep the peace—and sadly for many of them

Cooperation produces results

Blue Ball Baptist Church in Elizabethtown recently dramatically demonstrated the value of cooperation. The church dedicated a new family life center that was constructed by the church members.

The building is constructed in such a way that the size can be doubled when needed. It has a beautiful kitchen, classrooms and storage.

The total cost was \$250,000, and the members have given \$192,000. Arnold Moon came out of retirement in 2001 to become the church's pastor and has cast a great vision for the future growth of the church.

The current sanctuary was built in 1849 with a sawmill and brick ovens set up to provide the materials. The church ceased to meet in 1929, but was repaired and reopened in 1949.

"Established in Faith, Serving in Love and Growing in the Lord" is the church motto that captures the church's mission today as it is lived out in the power of the Holy Spirit.

Verse 5 gives the real reason behind all this for it describes people who are "holding to the form of religion but denying its power." The heart of every problem is a problem of the heart. God commands us to love Him supremely and our neighbors as ourselves (Matthew 22:34-40). If we love ourselves supremely, we will not love God or our neighbors.

FIRST PERSON

Worship God and love people

In this world, there is God and people and things. We should worship God, love people and use things. If we start worshipping ourselves, we will ignore God and start loving things and using people. This is a formula for a miserable life.

I am afraid we have become people who worship ourselves, or at least have become arrogant in our

it often involves drastic measures to make sure the citizens of our country are at peace.

Paul notes that every governing authority has been given and "instituted by God" (Romans 13:1) and that God ordains those rulers to take care of injustice, crime and evil-doing that threaten the harmony of the citizens (Romans 13:4). Some want to take Jesus and put Him against the Apostle Paul, but that is misguided as well, for all Scripture is breathed out by God (2 Timothy 3:16).

If we are going to teach the Word of God that we are to "love our enemies," then tell them that this is not for countries in general, but for individuals. The same Bible says our government should protect the sanctity of life and peace here in this country. God often uses these administrations that He has placed in power as a vehicle of His justice.

Matthew R. Perry
Lexington

actions and attitudes. We have felt that we can exalt one cause to the exclusion of other clear biblical commands and causes.

We must be on a mission together to be Jesus people. Our emphasis must be on allowing His Holy Spirit to confront us and to bring us to true repentance and confession. We need the power of God exhibited in our lives, our churches and our convention.

Let us together pray for God to do a work that only He can do. Let us remember the words of 2 Chronicles 7:14 which tell us what needs to happen before God is going to bless us with His reviving Holy Spirit, "If My people who are called by My name humble themselves, pray and seek My face, and turn from their evil ways, then I will hear from heaven, forgive their sin, and heal their land."

Frank Page, president of the Southern Baptist Convention, is pastor of First Baptist Church of Taylors, S.C.

Sad day for Baptists

I have just read the article in the Nov. 7 issue of the Western Recorder about the Missouri Baptist Convention expelling 19 churches. How sad!

I feel certain that Satan and all his minions are having a great celebration, and our precious Lord is shaking His head wondering if His wayward children will ever grow up.

There was a day when Baptists were proud of their diversity. There was a time when Baptists fought furiously to maintain the exclusive right of individual churches to choose their form of worship and governance.

Sadly, this is a new day. I wonder how long it will be before we begin electing someone similar to the pope who will dictate how all religious activities are conducted.

Tony Marraccini
Frankfort

ers who need training and to a host of people who need Jesus Christ.

The power of cooperation extends across North America as people are reached for Christ, new churches are planted, partnership ministries are implemented in all 50 states and Canada, and as missionaries are deployed in strategic locations. It is also extended to 13,000 students who receive training for ministry in SBC seminaries.

The power of cooperation extends around the world as 500,000 people are baptized into international churches, 35,000 churches are planted and more than 5,100 missionaries are placed in strategic assignments in 150-plus countries.

That same power of cooperation is also experienced in local associations and local churches as together the good news of God's love and saving grace is proclaimed and lives are changed forever to the glory of God.

I pray that Kentucky Baptists will continue to experience the power and results of cooperation under the Lordship of Jesus Christ, empowered by the Holy Spirit for the glory of God!

Bill Mackey is executive director of the Kentucky Baptist Convention

GIVING

Charitable Lead Annuity Trust can offer key benefits

By Laurie Valentine

Is your church in a building program? Has your college alma mater been encouraging you to increase your annual giving? Would you like to fund your annual giving for missions or other ministries for the next few years in a new and creative way?

If you answered "yes" to any of these questions and you would like to coordinate your charitable giving with a tax-saving way to transfer your estate to your family, a charitable lead annuity trust is a giving vehicle to consider.

A charitable lead annuity trust (CLAT) is a gift arrangement that provides a fixed income stream to one or more charitable causes for a designated period of years. At the end of the trust term, the trust remainder can either be returned to you (this is a "grantor lead trust") or be distributed to your children and/or other family members (a "non-grantor lead trust").

While a lifetime gift to a "non-grantor" CLAT does not entitle you to a charitable income tax deduction, it does provide a way to pass property to your children or others at reduced gift and estate tax rates. Gift tax savings come from the fact the tax value of the future gift to family is the current value of the remainder interest in the trust at the time it is created. With careful coordination of the fixed amount being paid to the charitable beneficiaries and the trust term, you can significantly reduce the current value of the remainder gift. Estate tax savings result from the removal of the asset, any subsequent appreciation and the future income it generates.

Example: Ralph and Martha Gray set up a 7-year 9 percent CLAT funded with \$100,000 of stock. The \$9,000 per year income stream (9 percent x \$100,000 stock gifted to the trust) will be divided evenly among the building program at the Grays' church, their Baptist college alma mater and state, national and international missions. Over the 7-year term, the charities will receive a total of \$63,000 (\$21,000 each). Assuming the trust assets earn an average annual return of 8 percent, there will be \$83,500 left to pass to their children at the end of the seven years. (The value of the future gift to their children for gift tax purposes was only \$45,175, so they transfer \$38,325 of value tax-free.)

Laurie Valentine is trust counsel for the Kentucky Baptist Foundation



How can parents help teens develop gratitude attitude?

Q: As Thanksgiving approaches, I'm aware that my teenage son does not seem to be thankful for anything that comes his way. Do you have any suggestions to help me with a teenager who seems "gratitudinally" challenged?

While Ephesians 5:20 reminds us to "always give thanks for everything to God the Father," there are reasons why some people seem to have a hard time following through. Some struggle with unrealistic expectations due to living in a culture that suggests "you can have it all." Others have a hard time due to affluent experiences. It seems that the more we have, the less thankful we are. When one regularly dines at expensive steakhouses, it is harder to appreciate fast food.

Another contributor to "thankless" living is negative companions. If our closest friends are grateful, positive people, we are more likely to follow suit.

Additionally, frequent comparisons tend to make us less thankful. Unfortunately, many teens are tempted to compare their bodies, friends, families, houses, cars, talents and even grades.

Lead your family in volunteering to help individuals in your community who are disadvantaged. Expose them to some of the "have nots." Encourage your family this Thanksgiving to make a list of the small things for which are thankful that are easy to take for granted. Lead them in praying for others who have experienced loss and difficult times in the past year. Consider establishing a mealtime ritual of each person thanking God for one specific thing that occurred that day for which he or she is grateful.—Scott Wigginton

Q: Several of our couple friends recently rented a movie and watched it together. I get so tired of marriage being portrayed as the context for betrayal and cruelty and marketed as entertainment. I am afraid this has become the norm in our world and sometimes in Christian marriages. What are we missing here?

Many couples do miss the privileged opportunity God has ordained for the marriage union. Often the results stem from individuals who become caught up in the worldview of blaming others—often a spouse—for life's trials and disappointments.

God does not provide a spouse to solve all our problems and bring us into eternal joy. It can be the gift of marriage to create a relationship on earth that reflects the safety and beauty of the relationship God desires with us. Each of us as a spouse is accountable for acting in loving ways, for becoming a trustworthy and safe person and for providing a safe union in which our spouse can grow into the person God desires.

Privileges of marriage many couples miss:

- You can provide safe haven from the world.
- The opportunity to minister the love of Christ to your spouse in ways that cannot be done with others.
- Marriage can provide the closest and best glimpse of Christ's relationship and love for His church.
- It provides the foundation from which to deal with the harshness and disappointments in life.
- You can understand the concept of grace by exposing your vulnerabilities in the context of commitment.
- You can be your spouse's strongest support and loudest cheerleader.
- You can affirm and nurture your spouse's spiritual gifts in ways others cannot.

The Apostle Paul describes the greatest, most powerful love there is in Romans 8, declaring that nothing can overcome it or separate us from it. It will never do to compare ourselves or our marriage to others or to characters in a movie. We must compare ourselves to the standard of love Christ has set. This often will reveal where we have room to grow.—Valerie Vincent

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PARENTING



Back-row Baptists & backslidden churches

Did the headline grab your attention? If so, what difference does it make which pew you sit in on Sunday mornings? And while we've all heard of backslidden Christians, what exactly is a backslidden church? I'm glad you asked.

Southern Baptists are well known for the phenomenon of back-row pew-sitters—folks who just barely set foot inside the church doors and typically are the first ones to head for the parking lot as the final words of the benediction are voiced.

But the back-row Baptists I'm talking about are not so much the ones who physically sit in the back of the church, but the ones who have a back-row philosophy about church involvement—doing the absolute minimum in ministry efforts while patting themselves on the back for bothering to show up each week.

What's the problem with such an outlook? According to 2 Corinthians 5:17, "If any man be in Christ, he is a new creature; old things are passed away; behold all things are become new." That includes gaining a fresh, new, dynamic perspective about church involvement, ministry, missions, discipleship, prayer and other disciplines that can make a positive spiritual impact in your life, family, church and community.

Colossians 3:23 instructs Christians, "Whatever you do, do your work heartily, as for the Lord rather than for men." It's a matter of moving beyond a back-row mentality and committing anew to do your very best through the power of God's Spirit for the sake of His Kingdom.

What about the backslidden church issue? Just as individual Christians can lose their spiritual zeal, the same is true of local congregations. A harsher term is "dead churches"—congregations that are going through the motions by maintaining a physical presence, but

are failing to practice effective evangelism, discipleship, outreach or other vital ministry priorities.

Revelation 2:4 warned the church at Ephesus that "you have forsaken your first love." That likely would be the same indictment of backslidden churches today that have turned inward and forgotten the call to "let your light shine before men" (Matthew 5:16).

According to Scott Pittman, a Southern Baptist missionary to Brazil who is in the States to attend this week's Kentucky Baptist Convention annual meeting, "The church is the vehicle of the gospel." He lamented, however, that "some churches have run out of gas, some have flat tires."

What's the solution? Many Baptist leaders are wrestling with that issue as they explore ways to help plateaued and declining churches capture a fresh ministry vision and commitment. Such goals are woven throughout the KBC's Kentucky Baptists Connect ministry strategy.

Former KBC evangelism leader Dan Garland, pastor of Crestwood Baptist Church, warned church leaders at a recent "Vision Night" session, "We are losing a generation with the gospel of Christ. Our Achilles' heel is we have not made disciples. The only way to grow deeper is to spend time with God."

Southern Baptist Convention President Frank Page sounded a similar theme at a recent International Mission Board trustee meeting. "For 30 years we've been trying to raise baptism rates among non-revived people in non-revived churches," he declared. "I'm asking across our convention that God's people will beg God to send revival to our land. ... That's what we need."

One starting point is to petition God to help us return to our first love of Jesus Christ and His gospel so that we triumphantly can move beyond the tragedy of being back-row Baptists and backslidden churches.

STRAIGHT FROM THE EDITOR



Trennis Henderson

Lessons from a hunter education course

One of the things I noticed as I recently sat at the Jefferson Sportsman Club and participated in the hunter education course with my son was the relationship between the people there. There were fathers and sons, dads and daughters, husbands and wives, couples in a relationship and hunting buddies. They all were there for one purpose: completion of the course in order to get their hunting license for deer season.

We willingly gave up three and a half hours on a Saturday morning to be lectured, watch outdated videos, have a hands-on learning experience at the range and be tested over the material.

Yet here we all were—in a cold room with strangers, being taught in a simple lecture format. No bells, no whistles, no PowerPoint, no listening guides, no comfortable chairs or inviting climate; just a desire to finish this course in order to participate in a desired event. For some people this was a rite of passage, for others family tradition and for some I think a chance to build a relationship with someone they cared about.

A couple of youth ministry observations:

Relationships are vital. Family members and friends attended the hunter education class because of the relationships they had with each other. They wanted a common experience. Some were there not because they had to be but because a friend or family member needed to complete the course. Our youth minis-

tries should be full of those kinds of relationships.

Students are leaving our churches in appalling numbers after they graduate from youth ministry. Some research says this number is as high as 80 percent. I believe part of the reason is that nobody outside the youth ministry has built a relationship with the youth. So when they leave the friendly confines of youth ministry there is no one in church who knows who they are, what they want to do or anything about them.

How many students in your church's youth ministry (who are not related to you) do you know by name? How about what their interests are or where they go to school or what extracurricular activities they are involved in?

A couple of weeks ago I had a hallway conversation with members of a youth minister search committee. They asked me what the No. 1 thing of importance in youth ministry was. My immediate response was relationships. That was the same answer one of their candidates had given them the week before. Students are starving for relationships with adults.

I recently had lunch with Tim Ashley, minister of youth and young adults at Beechland Baptist Church in Louisville. Our conversation turned to expectations of youth workers. Tim commented that when asked by adults how they can help, his response is: "Come, hang out and get to know the students." This

usually is followed up with, "OK, but what else?" Without the relationship, there is nothing else. Without the relationship, we are just another authority figure in their lives telling them what to do.

Passion is contagious. I am not a hunting fanatic. I have gone on occasion and enjoy it, but it is not a passion of mine. We all know people who live to hunt. They know when each season is and plan family gatherings around the hunting seasons. These people are passionate about hunting.

We are all passionate about something. It could be golf, our grandkids, cooking, missions or needlework. And we enjoy being around people and learning from people who have passion.

We should have the same passion for Scripture. In a recent meeting, Jane Wilson, youth ministry specialist for the Baptist General Convention of Texas, said, "Sunday school is only effective as the teacher is passionate about the Word of God. Lesson preparation is important, but your love of Scripture must come through."

The hunters in that cold, uncomfortable room had a passion and a desire to learn from others who shared their passion. Yes, we were there because we had to be. But we also chose to be.

Students need to hear Scripture taught from those who have a passion for Scripture. An old adage goes, "It is a sin to bore students with Scripture." Isn't it amazing that things we have a passion for are never boring?

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

Safety, quality essential to effective children's ministry

"Churches and other organizations entrusted with the care of children are held to a higher standard."

Wendy Dever, director of the KBC's preschool/children's ministries

By Jonathan Johnston
Kentucky Baptist Convention

Louisville—One of the hardest things Wendy Dever ever had to do was pass her 6-week-old son over the half door at the church nursery for the first time.

Dever, director of the Kentucky Baptist Convention's preschool/children's ministries, acknowledged she felt uneasy leaving her infant son in the care of others. But she noted that her anxiety eased when the nursery worker spoke words of assurance to her.

"She said, 'I will love him until you get back,'" Dever recalled. She said that simple statement gave her a calming assurance that her son would be cared for and nurtured while she took time to be fed spiritually.

"Churches and other organizations entrusted with the care of children are held to a higher standard of care," Dever emphasized during a seminar for children's workers at the KBC's recent Nuts and Bolts of Church Management Conference.

Churches must provide both a safe environment and teach children about Jesus, she added.

Dever offered several suggestions for policies that can help churches increase the safety and security of the child care they provide, including:



MINISTRY PRIORITY Churches need to put their best effort into children's ministry because it impacts both children and their parents, Wendy Dever told participants at the KBC's recent Nuts and Bolts of Church Management Conference. (KBC photo by Jonathan Johnston)

- Workers should be screened using a criminal background check.

- At least two adults should be present in each classroom, even if teenagers are helping.

- Doors should have windows so that other people can see what is happening in the classroom.

- Children should not be allowed to leave the children's area unless an authorized adult accompanies them.

- Workers should be trained in

recognizing and reporting child abuse.

- Toys should be sanitized and the floor should be tile or mats for easy cleaning.

- Fire evacuation and severe weather plans should be in place and practiced.

- Workers should know who is certified in CPR and emergency numbers should be posted.

- Workers need a list of all of the children's food allergies, and par-

ents should be informed about any food that will be served.

- Never use staples or push pins in the children's area. These are both choking hazards.

In addition to safety and security, the church is responsible for providing guidance and learning opportunities for children in its care, Dever noted. She said it is important that churches have skilled, well-trained teachers who provide a loving atmosphere in the children's classrooms.

Children "really, really understand who Jesus is by the people around them," Dever added.

Responding to a question from one of the participants, Dever said any church seeking to improve the level of child care should work with the current children's workers to gradually raise the standards.

"You just can't walk in on Sunday and say this is what we're going to do," she said. "I would take a minimum of six months to talk to the people about what is going to happen."

Dever said churches need to put their best effort into the children's area because it can have a great impact on the parents as well as the children.

"Parents are influenced more by their children than ever before in history," she noted. "They want the best for their children."

Workshop highlights practical personnel issues

By Robert Reeves
Kentucky Baptist Convention

Louisville—Churches need to be wise and careful in handling personnel issues in order to honor God, be fair to all employees and protect the church against legal liability, according to human resource professionals with the Kentucky Baptist Convention.

Speaking at the recent Nuts and Bolts of Church Management Conference, Jim Donnell, assistant business manager for the KBC, shared practical tips to help churches properly handle the hiring, evaluation and firing of church employees.

In the area of hiring, Donnell said one of the most common mistakes that churches make in conducting job interviews is to ask for information from non-ministerial applicants that is unrelated to the job or the person's ability to perform the tasks of that job.

Noting that while churches have a legal exemption that applies to ministerial positions, the same labor laws that affect secular organizations protect church secretaries, janitors, church school workers and other non-ministerial staff.

Avoid questionable questions

In hiring for those positions, churches cannot discriminate on the basis of gender, national origin, race, color, age or disability. Therefore, it is best to steer clear of questions that relate to those areas, Donnell suggested.

"In an employment interview, you really need to make sure you are basing your questions on what the job requires," he added.

Donnell also suggested that churches develop written job descriptions for each position that

accurately describe the position, define the essential functions and clearly outline the expectations.

Background checks for all potential employees also are very important, Donnell noted. He said churches should check references and conduct criminal background checks (especially for employees working with highly vulnerable groups such as children or the elderly). A motor vehicle report should be obtained for positions that call for driving a church-owned or -leased vehicle and a credit report should be obtained for those handling money and/or in high-level positions.

KBC Administrative Services Specialist Shari Rogers said that once an employee has been hired, a personnel file should be maintained. All information related to employee's work and evaluations should be kept in this file, which should be kept in a central secured location.

Access to this file should be limited only to the few individuals who have supervisory responsibilities and the employee.

Records that relate to non-performance issues such as medical information, insurance records or workman's compensation claims should be maintained in a separate file or files, Rogers said.

Donnell suggested that churches conduct formal evaluations of all staff members at least once each year. The evaluation should be a time to set goals for the new year and review past goals.

He stressed that an employee should never be surprised by anything said in an evaluation meeting because good, open communication means that supervisors are communicating on an ongoing ba-

sis and not just during the time of formal evaluation.

"You should be having continual communication with the employee about his or her performance," Donnell added.

Handle dismissals carefully

Churches should be very careful about the way they handle discharging an employee, Donnell emphasized. He said that although an egregious offense such as theft might justify an immediate dismissal, discharges generally should go through a more deliberate process.

The policy and procedures manual, church bylaws or other official documents should be reviewed along with the personnel file which should include previous counseling memos, job evaluations and other documentation related to performance. The basis for the discharge should be thoroughly investigated by the appropriate body or individuals and the church should be careful to ensure that the employee has received fair treatment.

Donnell also suggested that a termination conference be conducted with the employee. An appropriate witness should be present and the employee should be provided the reasons for the discharge. All details regarding benefits and final pay should be covered and documented during the meeting.

The employee should be given an opportunity for a final rebuttal as well, Donnell said, adding that the church representatives should remain calm and not argue the decision.

"Ensure fair treatment," Donnell emphasized. "You are doing all these things to make sure you are fair to the employee."

"In an employment interview, you really need to make sure you are basing your questions on what the job requires."

Jim Donnell, KBC assistant business manager

Tracking church statistics helps promote growth

Continued from page 1

accurate foundation for understanding what is going on in your church," Pryor noted.

He suggested that churches work with the KBC Mission Board staff to obtain a geocoded map that shows the geographic location of the home of every church member in relationship to the location of the church. This can help a church identify its actual church field (the radius around the church that it reaches).

Comparing the church attendance numbers to U.S. Census data for the same area can then help the church assess how it is doing within the community. Is the church growing as fast as the community? Is it falling behind the population growth?

Dividing the total giving to the church by the number of active members to determine per capita giving can be used to gain an understanding about the spiritual health of the church, Pryor added.

He said comparing worship and Sunday school attendance numbers with membership growth over time can give a church clues about what is happening in terms of the assimilation of new members into the life of the church. Membership growth that is not matched by attendance growth could be a sign that people are coming in the front door but going out the back, he said.

Teaching, equipping, praying

Kentucky WMU schedules trips to South Korea, China for ministry partnership

By Dannah Prather
Partnerships Editor

Louisville—In Asia's most Christianized country, where 600,000 people identify themselves as Baptist, a partnership with Baptists in the United States might seem unnecessary, but Kentucky and Korean Woman's Missionary Union leaders believe their ministry match is one made in heaven.

"Our partnership with Korea WMU is so multi-faceted, it's real confirmation that it's a God thing," said Joy Bolton, executive director of Kentucky WMU.

Sharing the gospel by teaching English to South Korean women and children, equipping Korean WMU members to provide missions education in more of their congregations, and praying for the spread of the gospel to communist North Korea are the primary goals of the three-year partnership that began earlier this year.

The first Christian missionaries went to Korea in the mid-19th century, Bolton said, and the presence of so many evangelical believers in the country today naturally led to a decrease in the number of missionaries sent there by the Southern Baptist International Mission Board.

"The IMB presence is very small," she said. "The work is being given over to Korean Baptists, but that doesn't mean Korea isn't a mission field, just like the United States is still a mission field."

In August, Bolton and three other Kentucky WMU leaders traveled to South Korea to attend the annual meeting of Korea WMU and to further plan the partnership. Also making the trip were Kentucky WMU President Pat Reaves, past president Cathy Chinn and Kentucky WMU Associate Executive Director Brenda Price.

"In some of the churches there, the concept is that WMU are the ladies that fix the meals," Reaves said. "And sometimes that's the way it is here. We want to get the women excited ... to help them get a broader view of what they could be doing."

English classes attract Koreans

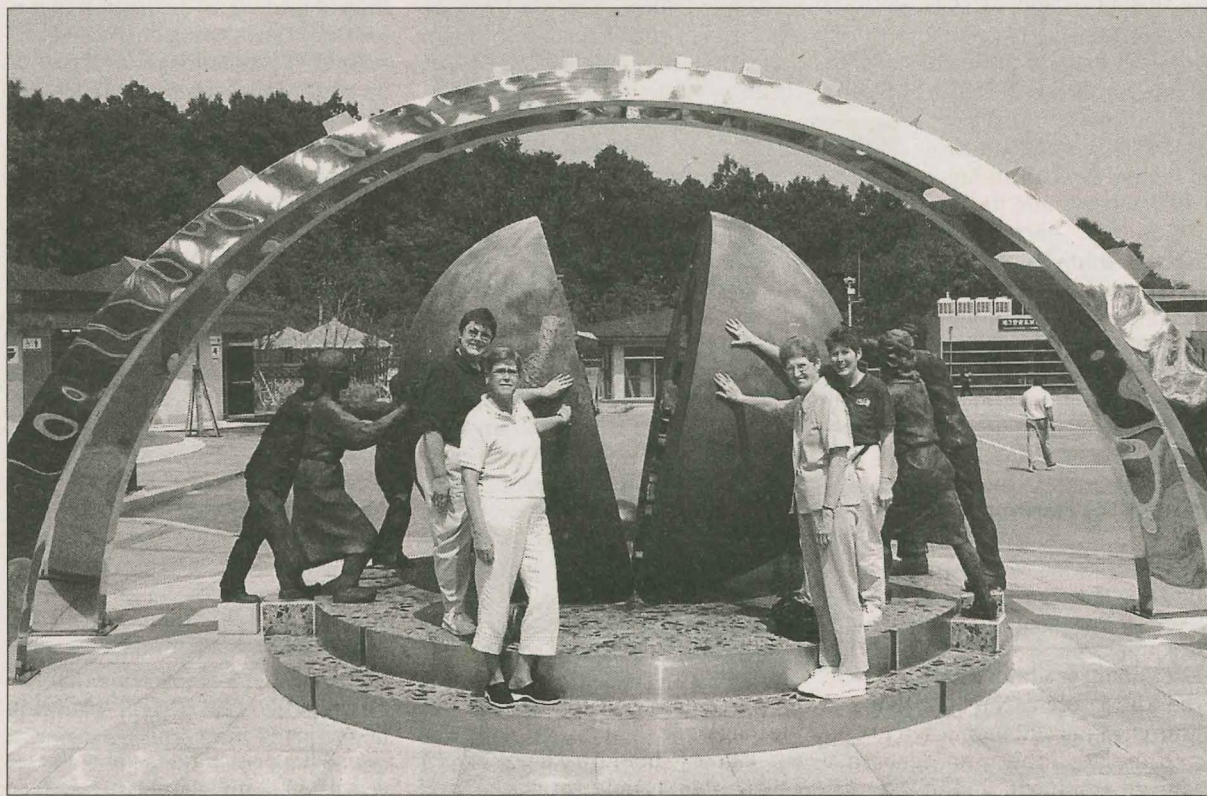
Capitalizing on South Koreans' desire to learn English, Korean WMU is organizing a missions camp for youth in January. With Kentucky WMU volunteers, Korean Baptists will offer conversational English classes, creating a platform from which to share the gospel with unbelievers and disciple believers, Bolton said.

Volunteers are needed for the Jan. 7-10 trip to help prepare for, and staff, the camp.

Korean WMU Executive Director Sook Jae Lee said the camp is only the first step. "We would like to start conversational English (classes) at our WMU building, (in Seoul)," she said.

Pairs of volunteers from Kentucky would travel to Seoul each month, beginning in February 2007, to lead classes. Lodging will be provided by Korea WMU.

Reaves said the challenge for Ko-



PUSHING REUNIFICATION Kentucky Woman's Missionary Union leaders pose at a monument representing the reunification of South and North Korea. The statue is located on the South Korean side of the demilitarized zone separating the two countries. (From left) Cathy Chinn, Pat Reaves, Brenda Price and Joy Bolton attended Korea WMU's annual meeting in August and made further plans for the three-year ministry partnership with Korea WMU that began earlier this year. (Photos courtesy of Joy Bolton)



EXECUTIVE COUNTERPARTS Sook Jae Lee, (left) executive director of Korea Baptist Woman's Missionary Union, and Kentucky WMU Executive Director Joy Bolton address a meeting of WMU leaders at the Korea organization's headquarters in Seoul.

rean Baptists to provide missions education, especially for children, is similar to what WMU members face in the States. "Families are so busy. After five or six services on Sunday, (WMU members) are struggling to find times for families to come back to church to offer missions education."

The partnership will allow Kentucky WMU leaders to share ideas with Korean Baptists on how to start Children in Action, Girls in Action, Acteens and other missions education programs. Soon Sil Back, a student at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, begins an internship with Kentucky WMU in 2007 that Bolton hopes will equip Back to become a missions education emissary to South Korean Baptists.

Through prayer, all Kentucky Baptists can participate in the partnership, Bolton said. Already, a network of believers receives prayer requests each month from the IMB. "We'd like to see someone in every church who is on this list," she said.

The most urgent requests are those for which Lee said Korean Baptists have been praying for years: the reunification of North Korea with South Korea, the spread of the gospel in officially atheist north, and the protection of Christians there.

North Korea frequently is identified as one of the most oppressive nations in the world regarding religion. "We know there are believers in North Korea under government persecution," Bolton said. "We are praying for every opportunity for the spread of the gospel."

Prayerwalking China's border

Korea Baptists—laypeople and missionaries—often pray while walking China's border with North Korea. Kentucky WMU plans to join Korea WMU on a prayerwalk in May 2007.

"Korea Baptists are sending missionaries to China, ministering (to) people escaping from North Korea," Lee said. "The Korea Baptist Home Mission Board has a plan to rebuild churches in North Korea when reunification comes." Lee said at the start of the Korean War in 1950, there were 360 Baptist churches in the north. (Korea WMU) "has been saving offerings and are interested in supporting and training refugees from North Korea as future missionaries."

Maxine Bumgarner, director of West Virginia WMU, said she hopes the lofty goals of political reunification and spiritual revival in a communist country do not intimidate Kentucky Baptists as they pray. Southern Baptists in West Virginia understand the global difference prayer can make.

"Our first prayer experience was Mongolia," Bumgarner said, noting that West Virginia Southern Baptists, led by WMU, embraced the

prayer mission in the mid-1980s when short-term mission trips were less common among Southern Baptists in the U.S.

"At that point, the economy was as slow as it could get," she recalls. "There was no money, so that limited travel."

West Virginia WMU selected Mongolia after hearing from the IMB "that there were no known Christians inside the country of 2 million."

Without the Internet, West Virginia Baptists received little information to know if their prayers were effective, Bumgarner said. "At times we would become very discouraged, but every time I got to that point, God would do something."

Once she spied a "tiny little article" in the local paper reporting that, for the first time, the New Testament had been translated into Mongolian. For Bumgarner, it was an obvious sign of answered prayer.

West Virginia Baptists prayed for the first long-term missionaries who entered Mongolia in 1991. "God is faithful. ... Today, there are thousands of Christians and hundreds of churches," Bumgarner said. "Every one of them belongs to me. They are my children because I was a part of praying them into the Kingdom. ... I am a proud mama."

Volunteers sought for 2007 trips

Bolton is seeking volunteers for the upcoming mission trips. A sense of calling from God, the physical stamina to handle one's luggage and walk for long periods of time is required. Also needed are volunteers who have "a willingness to eat whatever's placed before you," she said.

For additional details about the trips, or to join the prayer network for South Korea, contact Bolton by e-mail at joy.bolton@kybaptist.org or by phone at (866) 489-3534.

WMU returns to Brazil in March

In addition to trips to South Korea and China, Kentucky WMU is planning a prayerwalking mission to Piaui, Brazil, March 5-14, 2007. The team will pray prior to the arrival of other Kentucky Baptists who will be serving through the Kentucky Baptist Convention's partnership missions department.

This is the third prayerwalking trip to Brazil coordinated by Kentucky WMU. For details, contact Joy Bolton by e-mail at joy.bolton@kybaptist.org or by phone at (866) 489-3534. For information about KBC's partnership missions trip to Brazil, visit www.kybaptist.org or call (866) 489-3529.

Georgetown College President Bill Crouch said he has signed a contract to stay at Georgetown for the next 10 years to pursue long-term initiatives.

Georgetown seeks to diversify by 'adopting' Bishop alumni

By Hannah Elliott
Associated Baptist Press

Dallas (ABP)—Georgetown College President Bill Crouch has announced plans to revive the spirit of Bishop College, a historically black school that closed in Dallas in 1988.

Georgetown's plans, centered in the proposed Bishop Center for African-American Ministry, aim to reestablish the once-thriving Bishop community while seeking to diversify Georgetown's predominantly white student body. The proposed partnership also would designate African-American students who graduate from Georgetown as Bishop Scholars.

Approximately 200 Bishop alumni and supporters met with Crouch Nov. 2 at Friendship West Baptist Church in Dallas to discuss the proposal and form a committee to raise funds for the \$50 million initiative.

Maintaining Bishop's spirit

Denny Davis, pastor of St. John's Baptist Church in Grand Prairie, Texas, was among Bishop alumni who attended the meeting. Davis said he takes great pride in the school's reputation for turning out good preachers.

"The name Bishop itself for many carried a great deal of respect, and it still does in many places and many ways," he said. "The spirit of Bishop College is one of true fellowship,

true brotherhood and a commitment to spiritual excellence."

Founded in 1881 in Marshall, Texas, Bishop College moved to Dallas in 1961. It was a non-sectarian liberal arts school that emphasized Baptist theology and religion. It frequently hosted notable speakers such as Martin Luther King Jr. and Jesse Jackson. By the mid-'70s, it had more than 100 faculty and nearly 1,300 students.

A financial scandal and conflict with the American Association of University Professors resulted in the school losing its accreditation and eventually filing Chapter 11 bankruptcy. Paul Quinn College, an African Methodist Episcopal school, now occupies the Dallas campus.

Crouch said he wants to see Bishop have a physical presence again, this time in Kentucky. His reasons, he said, are both personal and professional.

As a boy in Jackson, Miss., Crouch witnessed "a lot of showdowns" between whites and blacks and saw the anguish it caused his father, a Baptist pastor. Then one Easter Sunday, Crouch said, he walked to the church altar to commit his life to Jesus and immediately felt called to "make a difference in the world in terms of race relations."

As a Baptist college president, Crouch said he knows that part of a holistic education is learning to

live with people from diverse backgrounds.

"I can no longer raise my head high in pride at an institution that is focused on educating only one race," he said. "I can no longer be a part of an educational enterprise that's not multicultural—because that's the world we live in. And I'm trying to balance this educational philosophy. How can a person be truly educated if they live on a college campus for four years and their roommate is just like them?"

Crouch made contact with Bishop College alumni with the help of Joel Gregory, a former Southern Baptist pastor and teacher at Georgetown College, who has become a popular preacher in African-American churches and conferences. Gregory, former pastor of First Baptist Church of Dallas, now teaches at Baylor University's Truett Theological Seminary.

Memorial building proposed

Supporters acknowledge that the vision will take careful planning and support from both Georgetown and Bishop constituencies. Some reports project 2008 as a target year to break ground on a memorial building, called the Bishop College Center for Academics, but no specific timeline has yet emerged for the building or the scholarship program.

Georgetown College, founded in 1829, has approximately 1,400 students and offers 39 majors. The

school is in the process of seeking to achieve Phi Beta Kappa standards by 2012, and diversifying its student body is among the key criteria the school is pursuing.

In the meantime, Crouch said he has signed a contract to stay at Georgetown for the next 10 years. School officials plan to begin a national search for and recruitment of top African-American students in the nation, and Crouch said he plans to increase the number of minority staff.

School officials indicated they also plan to contact the top 100 companies in the Fortune 500 list to ask for financial partnerships for the endeavor.

Johnnie Johnson, director of admissions at Georgetown, said he fully supports Crouch's "unbelievable vision," although some African-Americans have expressed doubt about partnering with a predominantly white college in the South. The culture is very different in Kentucky than in Dallas, Johnson concedes, but "that's not the world."

Kevin Cosby is president of Simmons College of Kentucky in Louisville which signed a partnership covenant earlier this year with Campbellsville University.

If Georgetown's agreement with Bishop College is finalized, Cosby said Simmons, also a predominantly black school, has agreed to help advise Georgetown and the Bishop alumni.

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In support of Campbellsville University, alumni and friends are cordially invited to attend the Annual Convention Breakfast
Wednesday, Nov. 15
7:00 a.m. CST at Holiday Inn University Plaza
Bowling Green, Ky.

The breakfast is free, but reservations are requested and may be made by calling 1-800-264-6014 ext. 5211, or via e-mail at development@campbellsville.edu.



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Middle school Bible club promotes Christian witness

By Ken Walker
State Correspondent

Auburn—Kentucky Baptist students guiding a new Bible club at Auburn Middle School are seeking to promote faith in Jesus, not a denomination, according to student leaders.

Judging by the approaching baptisms of three teens from Auburn Middle School and a more positive reception from many students this school year, they appear to be succeeding.

FISH, part of a nationwide network of student Bible clubs, is an acronym for a four-week rotation used for meetings: focus, inspire, share and hook.

"Before we started FISH, I heard people (cussing) non-stop," said eighth grader Cameron Hesson, 13. "If I tried to mention the Lord to them, they'd blow me off and walk away. Now they'll let me talk to them."

"It's pretty big," said Troy Graham, 13, about the impact on the Western Kentucky school campus. "I pray for more people to come to me and other leaders and ask how to be saved."

After conducting Fellowship of Christian Athletes meetings last year, Graham and several other students decided to change the name of the club so students wouldn't think they had to be athletes to attend.

Spiritual impact

During 15-minute FISH sessions before school twice a week, students and other speakers talk about spiritual growth, share testimonies and present the plan of salvation.

Initially drawing 50 to 60 students when school started, an average of more than 80 now attend, with a single-day high topping 100.

Graham said the group's popularity is reflected by a recent T-shirt sale. They sold out the order and raised more than \$100, which they plan to use to help stage an evangelistic rally this spring.

"The shirts symbolize us doing something good," Graham said. "We need to get more of them made."

Graham and Hesson both attend New Life Baptist Church in Auburn, along with student leaders Kayla McCallister and Tommy Cook.

Other student leaders include Meagan Williams of Southern Heights Baptist Church in Russellville; Ethan White of New Friendship Baptist Church in Auburn; and Hunter Boswell of Dripping Springs Baptist Church in Olmstead.

Joe Ball, youth strategist for the Kentucky Baptist Convention, said Auburn Middle is part of a growing number of Bible clubs in Kentucky.

There are several in such areas as Hopkinsville, Henderson, Harlan, Barbourville and other southeastern Kentucky communities, and efforts are under way to form clubs in Lexington, Ball said.

Despite its Baptist leadership, Graham said FISH is open to anyone who wants to follow Christ.

Still, some students from other church backgrounds have objected to the group's presence, although one later apologized, Gra-

ham noted.

There also has been skepticism and hostility expressed by non-believers, but Graham said that is to be expected.

"When you're doing something good, the devil will try to stop you," he noted. "When people ask me how to be saved and (God) is praised, I take that as something good."

"When I see 81 people walking into the gym willing to learn, I'm so happy," added Hesson, who has prayed with several people to receive Jesus as their personal Savior since August.

Seventh-grade student Juliana Stamps, who attends Post Oak Baptist Church in Russellville, said the club has encouraged her to pray more and has made an impact on others.

Not only do the people she sits with in the cafeteria pray before their meal, so do several other tables of eighth-graders, she said.

"It's encouraging people to know what prayer is and what God is about," Stamps added.

"A lot of people didn't act the way they should, but they changed and have a different lifestyle now," she said. "It's cool to see people want to know Jesus."

Scott Cassidy, pastor of New Life Baptist, said the students are not only doing a great job but are training their successors for next year, when they move on to high school.

"I'm really proud of Troy," Cassidy said. "The students are doing some amazing things. These kids are on fire for God. This gives me hope for where kids are going."

George Vanderpool, New Life's youth leader, said the FISH club's success has boosted turnouts at his church's Wednesday night youth meetings from 50 at the start of school to 80 now.

Three-fourths of those attending are middle school students. The turnouts prompted the congregation to buy a 25-seat bus in late September so it could transport more students, Vanderpool said.

"A heart for God"

"I'm amazed at the way the Lord can give them a heart at this age to reach out," said Vanderpool, who also teaches the teen Sunday school class.

"It's blown me away the last six months to see how they have developed a heart for God. Those are things most teenagers don't even think about. It takes a lot of effort for them to have this program."

Aside from the impact on other students, Graham said the FISH club in Auburn has affected him personally.

Although he still has four years of high school ahead of him, he is already thinking about attending Bible college.

Graham outlines his two dreams as playing basketball at the college level and getting his degree to become a pastor.

"It's all up to God," Graham said concerning his sense of call to ministry. "But I'm still going to evangelize. I don't feel you have to be a pastor to preach the Word of God."

KBC Speakers Bureau

COOPERATIVE PROGRAM *God Is At Work!*

God is at work here in Kentucky and around the world in a tremendous way. The stories are powerful, compelling and ready to be told!

We'd Love To Tell Them To Your Congregation!

One of the best ways to get your church excited about missions and ministry is by having a speaker share firsthand. Whether it's by filling the pulpit on a Sunday morning, bringing a multi-media presentation on Sunday night or sharing with missions groups during the week, your Kentucky Baptist Convention Speakers Bureau is ready to help missions come alive for your congregation.

Speakers are Available on Many Subjects, Including...

- *how the Cooperative Program helps your church fulfill Acts 1:8*
- *strengthening your church through Kentucky Baptist Connect*
- *getting involved in short-term missions through Kentucky Baptist Convention*
- *or, give us YOUR desired topic and we will prepare a customized presentation to meet your church's need!*

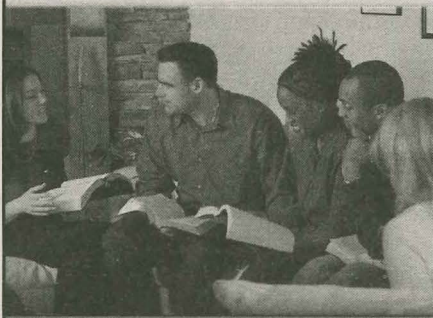
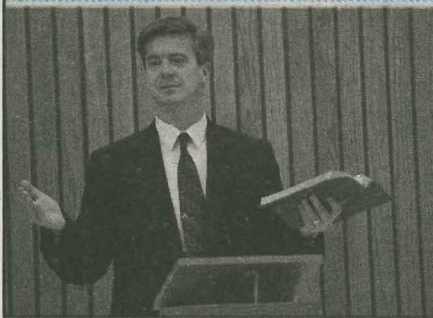
Requesting a speaker is easy. Just contact the KBC office at **866-489-3578** (toll free in Kentucky) or **502-489-3578** (Louisville area) or online at www.kybaptist.org/kbcspeaker. A staff member will then get back with you to work out the details!

There is never any charge for a KBC speaker to come to your church.



KBC
KENTUCKY BAPTIST CONVENTION
P.O. Box 43433, Louisville, Kentucky 40253-0433
Communications Department
502-489-3578 or 866-489-3578

Want to know more? Visit our web site at www.kybaptist.org/kbcspeaker



2006 Report of the KBC Committee on Nominations

SPRING REPORT KBC MISSION BOARD:

Blackford (Region 3): 2007 Unexpired Term - Foy Back (Hawesville)
South District (Region 6): 2006 Unexpired Term - Steve Fegenbush (Danville)
South Union/Mt. Zion (Region 7): 2007 Unexpired Term - Bobby Terrell (Rockholds)
Upper Cumberland (Region 8): 2008 Unexpired Term - Roger Colinger (Cumberland)
West Union (Region 1): 2008 Unexpired Term - Tommy Tucker (Paducah)

FALL REPORT BOARDS OF AGENCIES & INSTITUTIONS:

Campbellsville University (Trustees)
 2009 Unexpired Term: Henry Lee (Campbellsville); 2010 Terms (11): Barry Blevins (Campbellsville); W. D. Feltner (Campbellsville); Donnie Gosser (Elizabethtown); O. C. Jones (Radcliff); Alex Montgomery (Campbellsville); Larry D. Noe (Campbellsville); J. Chester Porter (Mt. Washington); Wendell Wyatt Ray (Murray); Ava Bingham Reynolds (Louisville); Hayward Spinks (Beaver Dam); Shirley Whitehouse (LaGrange)

Clear Creek Baptist Bible College (Trustees)
 2009 Unexpired Terms (2): M. D. Cabe (Sparta, GA); Stan Lewis (Greenville, SC); 2010 Terms (6): Esther J. Bailey (Stanford); Durwood Beatty (Murray); Jimmy Davidson (Abingdon, VA); Thomas L. Westfall (Pikeville); Robert Williams (East Bernstadt); Don Lane Young (London)

University of the Cumberlands (Trustees)
 2007 Unexpired Terms (2): Georgetta Gannon (Mt. Sterling); Oliver Keith Gannon (Mt. Sterling); 2010 Terms (7): Paul Chitwood (Mt. Washington); David N. Huff (Corbin); Jim Oaks (Jacksonville Beach, FL); Donald Patrick (Williamsburg); Paul Steely (Williamsburg); Scott Thompson (Oneida, TN); Jon Westbrook (LaGrange)

Kentucky Baptist Assemblies (Trustees)
 2010 Terms (3): Jeff Eaton (Lawrenceburg); Randy Fields (Crestwood); Doug Strader (Louisville)

Kentucky Baptist Foundation (Directors)
 2010 Terms (4): Glenn Armstrong (Beaver Dam); Morris Norfleet (Nancy); Shirley Spalding (Louisville); John Trisler (Harrodsburg)

Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children (Directors)
 2009 Unexpired Term: David W. Young (Mt. Washington); 2010 Terms (6) Thomas L. Adkisson (Shelbyville); Timothy A. Hatfield (McVeigh); Fred I. Johnson (Louisville); Charles E. Lowe, Jr. (Pikeville); William O. Price (Owensboro); Cory A. Samsil (Benton)

Kentucky League on Alcohol & Gambling Problems (Trustees)
 2009 Terms (5): John Chowning (Campbellsville); Darren Gaddis (Corbin); Bob Litton (Frankfort); Donald Reed (Paris); Rick Reeder (Princeton)

Oneida Baptist Institute (Trustees)
 2007 Unexpired Term: Dennis Raisor (Carrollton); 2010 Terms (6): O. W. Conrad, Jr. (Brooksville); Bruce Davidson (Manchester); Wm. Farrell Isenberg (Owensboro); Ron Rose (Eubank); Neville Smith (Manchester); Howard Williams (London)

Western Recorder (Directors)
 2010 Terms (3): Duane Bolin (Murray); Chip Hutcheson (Princeton); Lanna Kilgore (Bowling Green)

KBC MISSION BOARD:

At Large (Region 1): 2009 Term - Rick Reeder (Eddyville)

At Large (Region 8): 2009 Term - Kathi Miller Sparks (Blaine)

Bell (Region 8): 2009 Term - Ray Spicer (Middlesboro)

Blood River (Region 1): 2009 Term - Hal Barrow (New Concord)

Boone's Creek (Region 6): 2009 Term - Tom Cummings (Winchester)

Booneville (Region 8): 2009 Term - Royce Pile (Oneida)

Breckinridge (Region 3): 2009 Term - Doug Miller (Hardinsburg)

Caldwell-Lyon (Region 1): 2009 Term - Carl Nelson (Kuttawa)

Christian County (Region 2): 2009 Term - Jack Studie (Pembroke)

Crittenden (Region 5): 2009 Term - Conrad Hefner (Falmouth)

Daviess/McLean (Region 2): 2009 Term - Kim Thomas (Utica)

Daviess/McLean (Region 2): 2009 Term - Dennis McFadden (Owensboro)

Elkhorn (Region 6): 2009 Term - Wesley Noss (Versailles)

Elkhorn (Region 6): 2009 Term - Adam Jones (Lexington)

Elkhorn (Region 6): 2009 Term - Mary Pochodzay (Paris)

Elkhorn (Region 6): 2007 unx Term - Paul Sisk (Lexington)

Franklin (Region 5): 2009 Term - Ruth Ann Shaw (Frankfort)

Graves County (Region 1): 2009 Term - Charlie Simmons (Mayfield)

Green Valley (Region 2): 2009 Term - Andy Weaver (Henderson)

Knox (Region 8): 2009 Term - James Vandy (Barbourville)

Knox (Region 8): 2007 unx Term - Darrell Warren (Gray)

Laurel River (Region 8): 2009 Term - Dallas Riggs (London)

Liberty (Region 7): 2009 Term - Randy Scott (Cave City)

Lincoln (Region 7): 2007 unx Term - Ben Curtis (Stanford)

Little Bethel (Region 2): 2009 Term - Bobby Sellers (Earlington)

Little River (Region 1): 2009 Term - Mike Rust (Cadiz)

Logan Todd (Region 3): 2009 Term - John Birchett, Jr. (Auburn)

Logan Todd (Region 3): 2008 unx Term - Bruce Rendleman (Russellville)

Long Run (Region 4): 2009 Term - Jeff McCarty (Taylorsville)

Long Run (Region 4): 2009 Term - Randal Pollock (Louisville)

Long Run (Region 4): 2009 Term - Terry Stallard (Louisville)

Long Run (Region 4): 2009 Term - Bruce Truman (Louisville)

Long Run (Region 4): 2009 Term - Corey Abney (Taylorsville)

Long Run (Region 4): 2009 Term - Ruth Watson (Louisville)

Lynn (Region 3): 2009 Term - Kelvin Edwards (Summersville)

Mercer (Region 6): 2009 Term - Irma Woodrow (Burgin)

Muhlenberg (Region 2): 2008 unx Term - Kevin Burden (Greenville)

Muhlenberg (Region 2): 2009 Term - Kyle Noffsinger (Central City)

Nelson (Region 3): 2009 Term - Rebecca Curtsinger (Bardstown)

Northern Kentucky (Region 5): 2009 Term - Osa Hollon (Covington)

Northern Kentucky (Region 5): 2009 Term - Michael Smith (Covington)

Northern Kentucky (Region 5): 2007 unx Term - Darryl Crenshaw (Hebron)

Ohio County (Region 2): 2008 unx Term - Eddie Harpole (Olaton)

Ohio River (Region 1): 2009 Term - Robert Ison (Marion)

Ohio Valley (Region 1): 2009 Term - Noble Cobb (Sturgis)

Oldham-Trimble (Region 5): 2009 Term - Bobby Burnett (Campbellsville)

Pike (Region 8): 2009 Term - Joe Tuttle (Mouthcard)

Pulaski (Region 7): 2009 Term - James Fields (Somerset)

Red River (Region 8): 2009 Term - Wallace Lemons (Jackson)

Rockcastle (Region 7): 2009 Term - Vaughn Rasor (Mount Vernon)

Russell Creek (Region 7): 2009 Term - Mike Akridge (Greensburg)

Salem (Region 3): 2009 Term - Phillip Cole (Irvington)

Severns Valley (Region 3): 2009 Term - Betty Smith (Rineyville)

Shelby (Region 4): 2009 Term - Ed Erwin (Shelbyville)

Shelby (Region 4): 2008 unx Term - Steven Boyd (Simpsonville)

Simpson (Region 3): 2009 Term - Matthew Sickling (Franklin)

South District (Region 6): 2009 Term - Steve Fegenbush (Danville)

So Union/Mt. Zion (Region 7): 2009 Term - Bennie Bush (Williamsburg)

Tates Creek (Region 6): 2009 Term - Billy Long (Berea)

Tates Creek (Region 6): 2007 unx Term - George Bryant (Richmond)

Ten Mile (Region 5): 2009 Term - Denny French (Warsaw)

Three Forks (Region 8): 2007 unx Term - Ricky Ray (Hazard)

Union (Region 5): 2009 Term - Daryl Mullins (Butler)

Warren (Region 3): 2009 Term - Larry Howlett (Bowling Green)

Warren (Region 3): 2009 Term - Tim Cořovos (Oakland)

Wayne County (Region 7): 2009 Term - Coy Webb (Monticello)

West Union (Region 1): 2009 Term - Dee Spears (Paducah)

Whites Run (Region 5): 2009 Term - John Collett (Crittenden)

Preacher of 2007 Annual Sermon: Allen Harrod (Nicholasville)

Alternate: James Blaylock (London)

Recommended by Committee on Nominations:

Committee Members: Don Mathis (Chairperson), Chip Pendleton (Vice-Chairperson), Herb Booth, James Castlen, Joe Causey, Donna Colegrove, Jeff Coursey, Johnny Davis, Kevin Denton, Terry Garvin, Al Gisler, Bill Henard, Chris Kihn, Carl Nelson, David Nelson, Larry Noe, Tommy Pinkston, Floyd Price, John Ramsey, Gary Shockley, George Smith, Gene Wright, and Bob Young.

Ex Officio Members: Executive Director, Bill Mackey and Convention President, Paul Chitwood

2006 Report of the KBC Committee on Committees

◆ **Committee on Arrangements** - 2007 unexpired Term - Faris Sahawneh (Boaz); 2009 Terms - Matt Dye (Owenton) and Debby Gruelle (Ft. Thomas)

◆ **Committee on Constitution & Bylaws** - 2009 Terms - Charles Blair (Clinton), Stephen Wilson (Paducah), and Pete Wright (Frankfort)

◆ **Committee on Credentials** - 2009 Terms - Robert Tarrance (Lewisburg), Anthony Lovett (Manchester), and Daven Watkins (Owenton)

◆ **Committee on Public Affairs** - 2009 Terms - Delton Beall (Princeton), John Chowning (Campbellsville), and Greg Cochran (Shepherdsville)

◆ **Committee on Nominations** - 2008 Terms unless noted otherwise:

Region 1: Ken Brown (Paducah)

Region 2: Nicholas Sandefur (Hopkinsville) and Nathan Whisnant (Henderson)

Region 3: Doug Williams (Shepherdsville)

Region 4: Jeff Pennington (Louisville) and Garnetta Smith (Louisville)

Region 5: Hershael York (Frankfort)

Region 6: Adam Greenway (Lexington) and David Prince (Lexington)

Region 7: Kevin Milburn (Somerset) and Marty Shadoan (Somerset)

Region 8: Ricky Ray (Hazard); and 2007 Unexpired Term: Ronnie Mayes (Ashland)

◆ **Committee on Order of Business** - 2009 Terms - Adam Polk (Glencoe) and David Scott (Princeton)

◆ **Committee on Resolutions** - 2008 Terms - Ray England (Greenville) and Russell Moore (Louisville)

Persons to Report - 2007

◆ **Cooperative Program:** Bill Henard (Lexington); Alternate - Todd Linn (Henderson)

◆ **International Mission Board:** Paul Chitwood (Mt. Washington); Alternate - Holly Henson (Smithland)

◆ **North American Mission Board:** Greg Faulls (Owensboro); Alternate - Jerry Shacklett (Irvington)

◆ **Obituaries:** Eldred Taylor (Louisville); Alternate - Bill Jagers (Louisville)

Recommended by Committee on Committees:

Committee Members: John Mark Toby (Chairperson), Ric Frazier (Vice-Chairperson), Billy Compton, John Dunaway, Ed Erwin, Alice Lynn Forgy Kerr, Rick Reeder, Rose Rexroat, and Kevin Smith

Ex Officio Members: Executive Director, Bill Mackey and Convention President, Paul Chitwood

Partnership

Touching The World Through Missions!



Kentucky Baptists have the opportunity to partner with career missionaries and other Baptists at home and all over the world to share the Good News. How? Through short-term mission trips coordinated through the Kentucky Baptist Convention's Partnership Missions office!



In this special section, you'll see and read more about ordinary Kentucky Baptists carrying the Gospel to extraordinary places both at home and abroad.

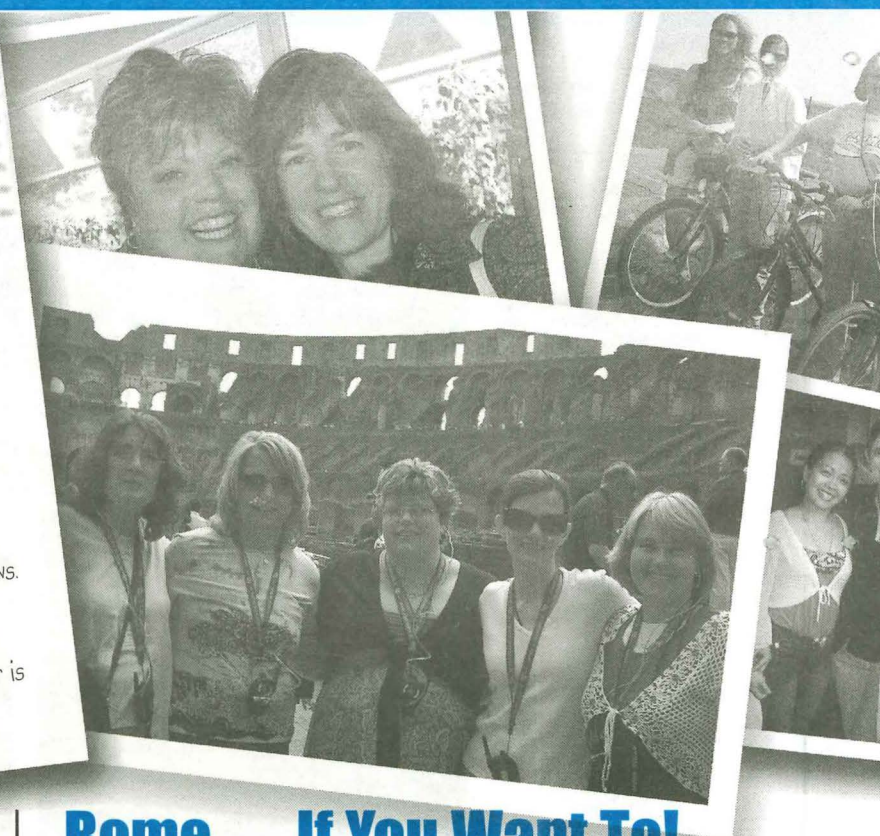
Having a Great Time!

Wish You Were Here!

Have you ever felt that tug at your heart, heard that still, small voice? You know, the one that says, "Go! Tell!" The voice urging you to take risk, step outside of the ordinary, and go on a short term mission trip.

Partnership Missions exists to enable Kentucky Baptists to "Go!" and "Tell!" others about God's love both at home and around the world. Each year, we connect dozens of mission groups eager to share the Good News with people that desperately need to hear the Good News.

On these pages, you will see and read the stories of fellow Kentucky Baptists who have answered the call to "Go!" and "Tell!" My prayer is that their stories inspire you to do the same.

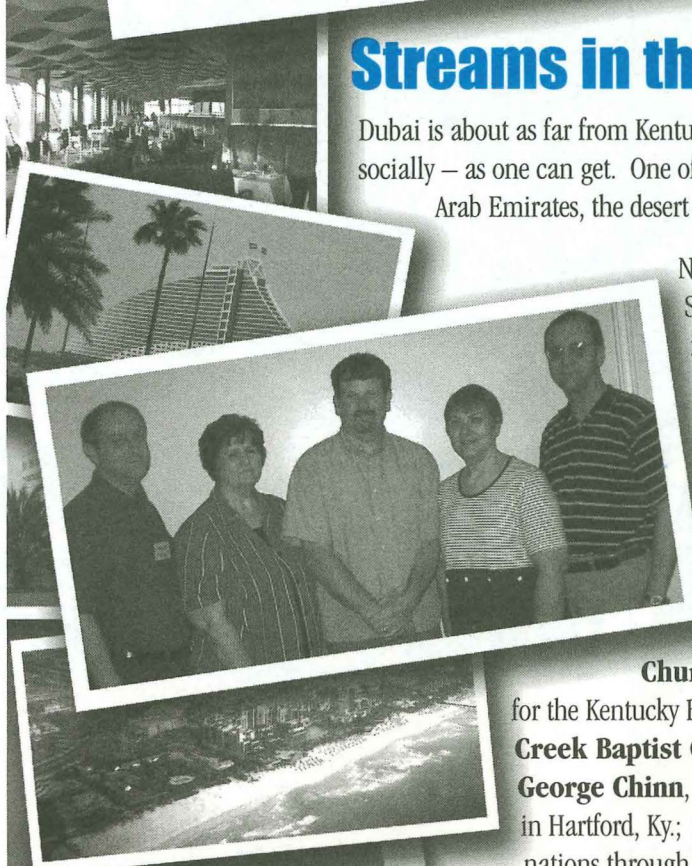


Streams in the Desert

Dubai is about as far from Kentucky – geographically, politically, and socially – as one can get. One of seven emirates that make up the United Arab Emirates, the desert city is perched on the Arabian Peninsula.

Natives of the region are predominantly Sunni Muslim, but adherents of other religions – usually foreign guest workers – are allowed to practice freely, as long as they don't proselytize.

In April 2006, six Kentucky Baptists went on a mission to strengthen and encourage Christian believers living in Dubai. At left: **Frank and Lin Harris**, members of **Trace Creek Baptist Church** in Mayfield; **Joe Ball**, youth strategist for the Kentucky Baptist Convention and a member of **Cedar Creek Baptist Church** in Louisville; and **Cathy and George Chinn**, members of **Living Faith Baptist Church** in Hartford, Ky.; traveled to Dubai to lead 70 people from 35 nations through the popular *Experiencing God* study.



Jesus Loves the Little Children

...and so do Kentucky Baptists!

An eight member team from Immanuel Baptist Church in Lexington spent three days in Dusseldorf, Germany this May leading a retreat for the children of International Baptist Church.

The team included **Betty and Ron Ide**, **Joy Meek**, **Logan Meek**, **Kristie** and **Brian Niemeier**, **Sam Powers**, and **Cynthia Whithead**.

The team taught 35 children, ranging in age from one to eleven, about God's love for them through Bible studies, crafts, games and prayer, while the adults of the church enjoyed their annual retreat at the Rehe Conference Center.



Rome ... If You Want To!

POEMA, a women's worship group from **Crestwood Baptist Church** in Oldham County, led worship for two women's retreats this spring: one in Rome, Italy the weekend of April 28-30 and one in Bremen, Germany on May 5-7.

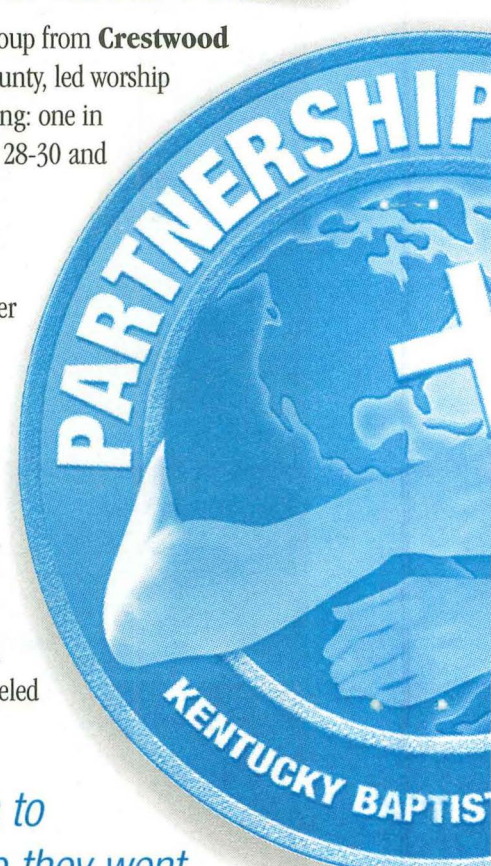
"It was humbling to go to another place in the world and see God working and moving through other people and the power that He gives us to be able to share across cultural barriers," said **Julie Fuson**, who led the team. Other team members included **Cara Hill**, **Sherry Nichter**, **Jeana Platt** and **Ruth Brinly**. Sherry's husband David also traveled with the group.

POEMA found ways to minister everywhere they went.

"One of the men who worked at our hotel in Rome said he could tell there was something different about us," said Cara Hill. "Two of the women from my group ended up ministering to him for hours, and while we had dinner one night, he read one of our Bibles for a long time. All along our journey we met people who were looking for a touch from Jesus."

"Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold all things are become new."

– 2 Corinthians 5:17



Touching The World Through Missions!

Reaping the Harvest in Northern Brazil

"In twenty-five years of service as a pastor, I've been on many mission trips, and I've never seen a town more ready to receive the word of God," says **Terry Mitcheson**, pastor of **New Light Baptist Church** in Cadiz.

In just ten days, Mitcheson and **Wayne Walker**, minister of music for **Trigg County Baptist Church**, saw more than 192 people make decisions to follow Christ, led a vacation Bible school for 100 children, and passed out more than 100 Bibles and numerous tracts in P. Bahema, a village of just 300 homes located in northern Brazil.

Mitcheson and Walker worked alongside **Joyce and Scott Pittman**, career International Mission Board missionaries, and their son **Joel**. Kentucky Baptists have an official partnership with Baptists in Northern Brazil, and the Pittmans often help coordinate mission trips in the region.

Upcoming Mission Opportunities in Brazil

Location	Date	Project/Team
Teresina, Brazil	3/5-3/15/07	WМУ
Teresina, Brazil	3/12-3/22/07	Evangelism
Teresina, Brazil	6/4-6/14/07	Evangelism
Teresina, Brazil	6/18-6/28/07	Crestwood Baptist Church
Teresina, Brazil	6/18-6/28/07	Son Team - Bill Noe, Campus Min.
Teresina, Brazil	7/16-7/26/07	Monticello First Baptist Church
Teresina, Brazil	7/16-7/26/07	Evangelism
Teresina, Brazil	7/30-8/9/07	Medical - U of L CMDA
Teresina, Brazil	7/30-8/9/07	Medical - U of L CMDA
Teresina, Brazil	8/13-8/23/07	Evangelism
Teresina, Brazil	8/27-9/6/07	Evangelism
Federal District - Brasilia		
Sector O BC	6/27-7/6/07	VBS - Revival Work Central Baptist Church, Corbin Chapel Construction and VBS
Fercal - Sobradinho	Flexible	Chapel Construction and VBS
Beautiful Waters BC	Flexible	Chapel Construction
Osfaya City	Flexible	Chapel Construction
Saint Sebastian	Flexible	VBS
Seminary	Flexible	Conference for Pastors, Leaders (workshops)

* Look for more mission opportunities on the back of this insert!

Singles Team Up for Ministry in Germany

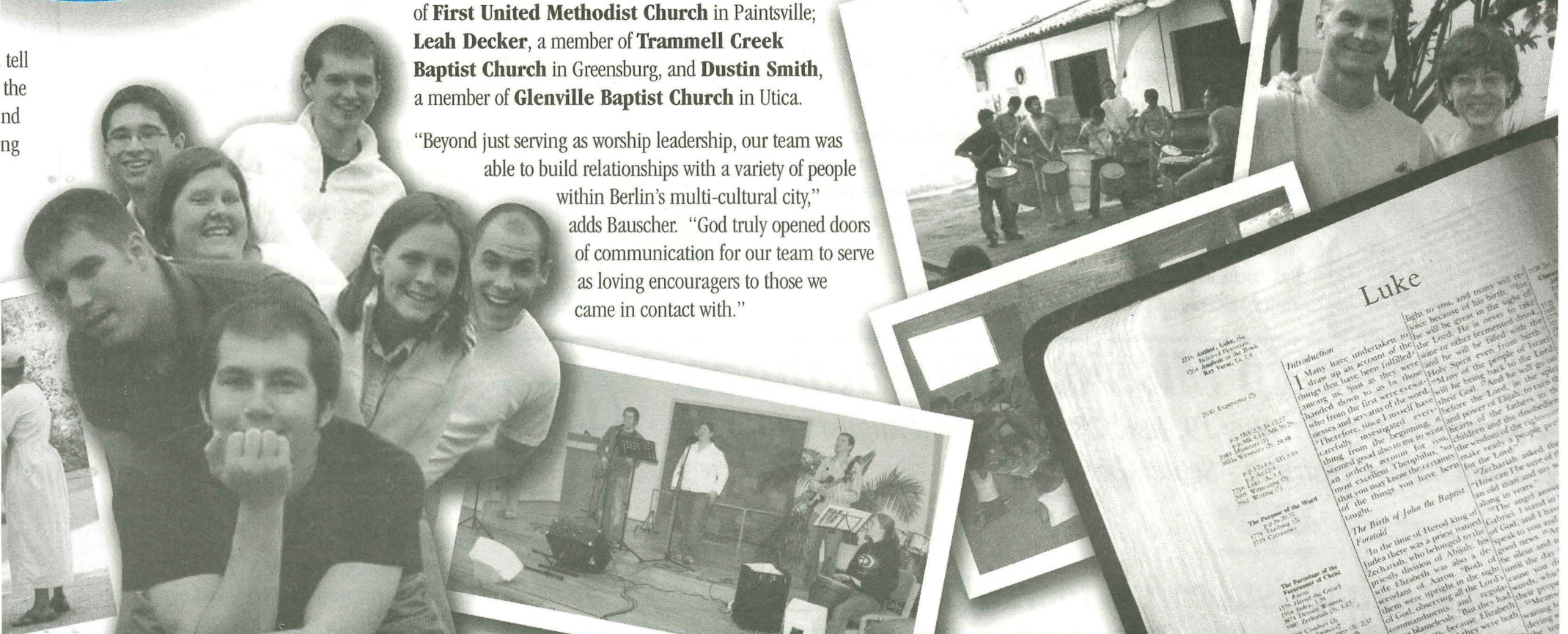
"There are so many unique and amazing opportunities to serve the Lord and others with your time, talents, and resources," says **Julie Bauscher**, daughter of Partnership Missions Director Ross Bauscher. "This summer I found myself in the middle of Berlin, working with a team of college students, leading worship for the International Baptist Convention's Singles Retreat."

Bauscher led a team of seven youth adults, including **Brad Barrett**, a member of **Henderson Memorial Baptist Church** in Hopkinsville; **Kent Billingsley** and **Josh Covington**, members of **Tatesbrook Baptist Church** in Lexington; **Levi Castle**, a member of **First United Methodist Church** in Paintsville; **Leah Decker**, a member of **Trammell Creek Baptist Church** in Greensburg, and **Dustin Smith**, a member of **Glenville Baptist Church** in Utica.

"Beyond just serving as worship leadership, our team was able to build relationships with a variety of people within Berlin's multi-cultural city," adds Bauscher. "God truly opened doors of communication for our team to serve as loving encouragers to those we came in contact with."



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Closer To Home...



Kentucky Baptists are also at work closer to home through partnerships with **Appalachian Regional Ministries** and **Mississippi River Ministries**. Get Involved! Project listings are available online:

www.arministry.org
www.riverministry.com

Appalachian Regional Ministry

Appalachian Regional Ministry is an intentional missions response to the spiritual and physical needs of persons living in the Appalachian region. Southern Baptists and their resources provide ministries to evangelize the lost, assist existing churches and start new churches in the multi-state region of Appalachia. This region includes parts of Georgia, Kentucky, Ohio, Maryland, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia and West Virginia.

Mississippi River Ministry

The Mississippi River Ministry is a partnership of the area's seven state conventions, the North American Mission Board and Woman's Missionary Union.

Mississippi River Ministry exists to help churches mobilize volunteers to do missions ministries with people living in poverty.



See For Yourself!

Call (866) 489-3415 toll free in Kentucky to request your free copy of: *Kentucky Baptists Touching the World: BRAZIL*



Volunteer Requirements

To be a partnership missions volunteer, you must:

- Be a member of a Southern Baptist church.
- Demonstrate Christian values and conduct, including abstaining from the use of tobacco and alcohol.
- Be able to share your faith verbally.
- Be physically able to perform the duties of your project, including walking reasonable distances and carrying your own baggage.
- Be between the ages of 16 and 69 if participating in an international trip. If you are older than 69, you must have medical clearance from your physician.
- Be flexible! Situations and assignments can change without notice.
- Apply to be a Partnership Missions volunteer. You can download the simple, two-page application now at www.kybaptist.org/partnership or call (866) 489-3529 toll free in Kentucky to request an application by mail or fax.
- Participate in a Partnership Missions orientation scheduled by the Partnership Missions office.

Upcoming International Baptist Convention Mission Opportunities

Location	Date	Project/Team
Interlaken, Switz.	7/4-13	Extended Teaching Care
Euroventure	7/4-13	youth camp: 2 cooks, 2 nurses
Malta	7/5-16	Children's Outreach Festival, Prayer Walking - Monticello FBC
Jurbise, Belgium	8/13-17	VBS
Cuxhaven, Germany	11/6-13	Women's Conference featuring Anne Graham Lotz: seminar leaders, counselors, kitchen help pastor (need own support), ESL teachers, French teachers, summer teams (June/July), outreach teams, beach ministry, one-on-one evangelism, service ministries, homeless ministry
Nice, France	various	leaders for week-long English school, prayer walking team, street ministry, youth work, leadership development, medical missions. Need Farsi, Spanish and/or Chinese speakers for evangelism, leadership training.
Kiev, Ukraine	flexible	Village Prayerwalking & Distribution Project

Mission Opportunities Closer To Home

Location	Date	Project/Team
Vermont	Spring 2007	Small Choir
Vermont	March-May	Prayer Walking
Fairgrounds across New England	June-Oct	Evangelism
Faith Community Church, Barre, VT.	Spring	Single Parent Seminar
Barre, VT.	Spring Break	Middle/High School Students Ministry
New Colony BC, Billerica, MA.	July	Super Summer Childrens Ministry
Farmington Conf. Center, Augusta, ME.	7/14-21	Girls Missions Adventure Camp
First Baptist Church, Sudbury, MA	7/15-20	VBS
Farmington Conf. Center, Augusta, ME	7/21-27	Boys Mission Adventure Camp
Charlestown Comm. Center, Boston, MA	July or August	Kids Games
Beraca Evangelical Church, Randolph, MA	December	Construction
Faith Community Church, Barre, VT	ongoing	financial support: \$100/month for 2 years
Pleasant Street BC, Worcester, MA	flexible	Construction

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U.S. Supreme Court weighs ban on partial-birth abortion

Washington—U.S. Supreme Court justices returned to the controversial issue of abortion Nov. 8, weighing arguments on whether partial-birth abortion can be banned constitutionally.

U.S. Solicitor General Paul Clement, arguing for the Bush administration in back-to-back cases, said the procedure is "something that is far too close to infanticide for society to tolerate."

Attorney Eve Gartner, representing the Planned Parenthood Federation of America, argued the procedure is sometimes necessary to protect a woman's health.

The two-hour discussion of pros and cons of the procedure—medically known as intact dilation and evacuation—prompted justices to deal with both legal and medical questions.

One key question in the case is whether the procedure is ever medically necessary. Clement argued that it is not, while the lawyers on the other side said it can be.

The case reached the high court after two lower courts rejected the 2003 Partial-Birth Abortion Ban Act because the ban did not include a medical exception for the mother.

The two cases, *Gonzales v. Carhart* and *Gonzales v. Planned Parenthood*, were appealed from the 8th Circuit Court of Appeals and the 9th Circuit, respectively.

Associate Justice Stephen Breyer raised the issue of division among doctors about whether the procedure that would be banned is safe or not.

Supporters of the ban have cited congressional findings to defend their stance, but Priscilla Smith, the lawyer for Leroy Carhart, a New York doctor who has been involved in several cases defending the right to perform abortions, said the findings should be rejected.

The court is expected to issue an opinion in the cases before it adjourns next summer.

Congress approved the ban in 2003 with a 64-34 vote in the Senate and a 281-142 vote in the House of Representatives. Congress twice had adopted partial-birth abortion bans in the 1990s only to have President Clinton veto them.

After President Bush signed the bill into law in November 2003, abortion rights organizations quickly challenged it in three courts and blocked its enforcement.

The Southern Baptist Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission signed on to a friend-of-the-court brief in support of the ban in the *Gonzales v. Carhart* case. The U.S. Conference for Catholic Bishops wrote the brief, which was joined by other religious organizations as well.

Compiled from reporting by Religion News Service and Baptist Press



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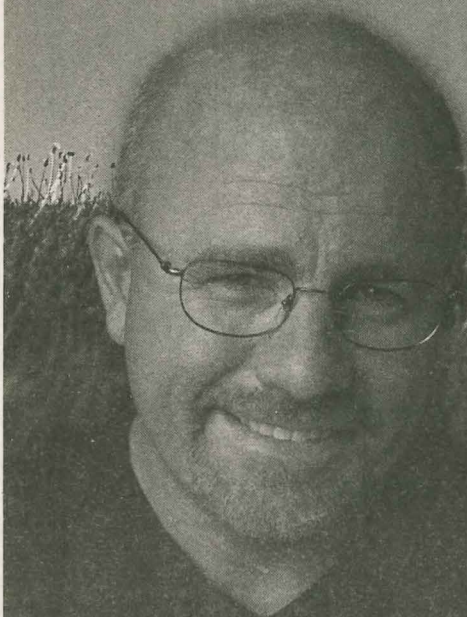
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Gambling foes win in 3 states & lose in 2

Nashville (BP)—Residents of Ohio, Rhode Island and Nebraska said no to gambling measures Nov. 7 although gambling advocates outspent their opponents by millions on the campaign trial.

Voters in South Dakota, however, failed to repeal video lottery, while Arkansas lifted a statewide ban on charitable bingo and raffle games.

In Ohio, a proposed constitutional amendment known as Issue 3 would have allowed up to 31,500 slot machines at nine sites, including seven racetracks and two non-track locations in Cleveland. Issue 3 lost by a 56-44 percent margin.

The vote marks the third time since 1990 that Ohioans have voted against gambling proposals.

The measure's backers spent more than \$20 million, likely making the battle over gambling the most expensive issue campaign in Ohio history.

Rhode Islanders defeated by a 63-percent margin a referendum that

would have allowed a casino in West Warwick operated by the Narragansett Indians and Harrah's Entertainment Inc.

The defeat came despite a campaign in favor of the casino in excess of \$15 million.

Nebraska vote bars "mini-casinos"

Nebraska voters said no to video keno in a 61-39 percent decision.

Initiative 421 would have allowed electronic keno games in bars to replace or add to the current keno games played on paper. Keno is a bingo-like game, which by some estimates provides the casino with an advantage against the player that is greater than any other gambling game.

Dave Bydalek, executive director of Family First, a Nebraska affiliate of Focus on the Family, said voters recognized keno as a way to disguise gambling and its harmful effects.

"Nebraskans by an overwhelming majority basically said, 'No. You

can't fool us. Even though it's called video keno, we understand that for all intents and purposes these are slot machines. And we don't think this is a good idea to have 600 mini-casinos across the state," Bydalek said.

In South Dakota 67 percent of voters rejected a repeal of video lottery known as Initiated Measure 7.

Supporters of the measure argued that social costs of gambling were too high and that the \$112 million annual revenue from video lottery could be replaced by other means.

In Arkansas, voters approved Constitutional Amendment 1 to lift a ban on charitable bingo and raffle games in the state. The amendment restricts the games to authorized nonprofit groups that have existed for five years, including religious, educational, veterans and civic organizations. Approximately 70 percent of voters approved the amendment.

Seven states adopt marriage measures, Colorado votes no

Washington—A majority of states in America now have adopted constitutional marriage amendments.

Seven states passed amendments Nov. 7 protecting traditional marriage, bringing to 27 the number of states nationwide that have adopted amendments aimed at prohibiting gay marriage. Arizona became the first state to reject a ban on gay marriage by a narrow margin of 51 percent to 49 percent.

The seven states opposing gay marriage passed the amendments with an average of 63.6 percent of the vote, ranging from 52 percent in South Dakota to 80 percent in Tennessee. In Colorado, voters adopted the amendment with 56 percent of the vote and also defeated Referendum I, which would have granted same-sex couples many of the legal benefits of marriage.

Margins of victory in other states included Idaho (63 percent to 37 percent), South Carolina (78-22), Virginia (57-43) and Wisconsin (59-41).

"This shows that, nationwide, Americans still support marriage," said Glen Lavy, an attorney with the conservative Alliance Defense Fund. "They know that marriage is the union of a man and a woman and they're willing to say so by their votes."

Lavy said the fact that a majority of states now have marriage amendments could impact any future gay marriage case before the U.S. Supreme Court as justices give weight to state trends.

Compiled from reporting by Baptist Press and Religion News Service

Missourians narrowly approve stem-cell research

St. Louis (ABP)—Voters in Missouri Nov. 7 narrowly approved a constitutional amendment protecting stem-cell research in the state, prompting opponents to cite deception and propaganda as the reason for their loss.

The amendment narrowly passed with 51 percent of the votes—a margin of approximately 47,000 votes. Kentucky, Florida and Georgia are among states that could face similar ballot measures in 2008.

Much of the support for the measure in Missouri came from urban centers. While voters in 90 of 114 counties rejected the initiative, the large populations in 13 counties and St. Louis, all of which approved it, pushed it through.

Called Amendment 2, or the Missouri Stem Cell Research and Cures Initiative, the measure allows federally funded stem-cell research and

treatment, including research using human embryos, in the state of Missouri.

Proponents claimed the initiative would protect the right of Missouri patients to have their diseases and injuries treated with any stem cell therapies allowed by federal law.

Opponents of Amendment 2 said supporters deliberately deceived voters by advertising the measure as a human cloning ban. Amendment 2 bans the process of cloning a live human being but also allows somatic cell nuclear transfer which involves sacrificing a donor embryo in order to create new cells.

Judie Brown, president of American Life League, said she was "profoundly disappointed" by the vote, noting that supporters of the measure "employed dangerous propaganda" to pass the law.

"For the past several months, we have watched the proponents of Amendment 2 slither through the state of Missouri, never telling the truth about what the amendment actually said," Brown said after the vote. "They said it would ban human cloning, but now Missouri will be cloning human embryos, experimenting on them and then killing them."

Brown and Amendment 2 opponents were outspent during the campaign by millions of dollars, most of which came from Jim and Virginia Stowers. The couple, who founded Stowers Institute for Medical Research, gave \$27 million of the \$28.7 million raised for the pro-research campaign.

The Missouri Baptist Convention and the Roman Catholic Church were among groups campaigning against the measure.

South Dakota voters overturn nation's strictest abortion ban

Sioux Falls, S.D. (ABP)—Voters in South Dakota overturned the nation's most stringent abortion ban Nov. 7 by a vote of 55 percent to 45 percent. Supporters of the ban had hoped to use it to challenge the 33-year-old Roe v. Wade decision legalizing abortion.

Mike Rounds, South Dakota's Republican governor, signed the act into law March 6. Called Referenced Law 6, or the "Women's Health and Human Life Protection Act," it prohibited abortions during all stages of pregnancy and in cases of rape and incest. Although it offered no exceptions for mothers in poor health, the ban did allow abortion if the mother's life was threatened.

State legislators passed the measure last spring with the expectation that court litigation from opponents would force the U.S. Supreme Court to reevaluate its 1973 abortion decision. Instead, opponents gathered enough signatures to hold a statewide referendum on the measure.

Supporters said abortion was being used too often as a form of retroactive birth control at the state's one abortion clinic, located in Sioux Falls.

In addition to the vote in South Dakota, abortion opponents suffered setbacks in California and Oregon where voters failed to enact parental notification laws.

In California, Proposition 85 lost by a 54-46 percent margin. Oregon's State Ballot Measure 43 also would have required a 48-hour notice to parents of any girl age 17 or younger. It also lost by a margin of 54-46 percent.

With additional reporting by Baptist Press



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From abstinence to tongues, studies cite religion's impact

By David Briggs
Religion News Service

Portland, Ore. (RNS)—Who's speaking in tongues? Do chastity pledges work? What do religious consumers buy?

Exploring a world immersed in faith and mystery, religious research scholars provide hard sociological data to give some practical answers about the role of religion in American life.

More than 500 researchers met recently in Portland for the joint meeting of the Society for the Scientific Study of Religion and the Religious Research Association. Some of their findings include:

Chastity pledges. Studies by scholars at the University of Texas at Austin found that religion and chastity pledges have "robust protective effects" on the incidences of premarital sex, and their restrictive influences may improve marital and health outcomes for young adults.

A lot of young people are not virgins on their wedding day, including a majority of religious individuals and abstinence pledgers, said researchers Jeremy Uecker and Mark Regnerus. But religion plays an important role for many people who abstain from sex until marriage.

Nearly 40 percent of 15-to-25-year-old virgins said their primary motivation for abstinence was that premarital sex was against their religion or morals. Twenty-one percent, the next highest group, said

they abstained because they had not yet found the right person. A study of married adults who were virgins until their wedding day revealed 48 percent were consistent chastity pledgers, compared with 9 percent who never pledged.

What would Jesus buy? A lot, if a growing religious marketplace is any indication.

Nearly half the respondents to the 2005 Baylor Religion Survey reported spending money on religious goods in the past month. Twelve percent reported spending \$50 or more, while 22 percent spent less than \$25.

Religious greeting cards were the No. 1 product, followed by religious nonfiction books and religious music. Religious-themed clothes and religious bumper stickers were the least popular categories.

Church growth. Worshipers' race, gender and personal income don't matter much in determining factors of congregational growth.

What does help a Presbyterian Church (USA) congregation grow, even when the overall denomination continues to decline, is sharing authority, welcoming new members and making children's and youth ministries a priority, researchers found.

Denominational researchers Perry Chang and Ida Smith-Williams found that churches that empower lay leaders were more than twice as likely to grow as churches that did not share authority.

Being able to welcome new members and make them feel part of the community and to care for young people also were factors associated with growing congregations.

Looked at from the other side, churches with large numbers of older worshippers were least likely to attract new members.

Wealthy Jews, poor Adventists. Remember when mainline Protestants were at the top of the nation's economic ranks?

Episcopalians still are up there, but a study shows Jews are No. 1, with a median household income of \$72,000. Episcopalians are second with a median household income of \$58,000, followed by two groups on opposite sides of the theological spectrum—Unitarian-Universalists at \$55,000 and evangelical born-again Christians at \$54,000.

Rounding out the Top 10 in rankings reported at the conference and in the new book "Religion in a Free Market" by Barry Kosmin and Ariela Keysar are Hindus, Presbyterians, Lutherans, Methodists, unspecified Protestants and Catholics. The median household incomes of all these groups were at least \$5,000 above the \$42,000 median household income in the United States in 2000.

On the lowest end of the scale were groups such as Seventh-day Adventists and Jehovah's Witnesses, with incomes of \$30,000 or less.

Speaking in tongues. A national study of U.S. congregations found

speaking in tongues is not limited to traditional Pentecostals. Researcher Keith Wulff found that 8 percent of respondents reported having spoken in tongues.

Twenty-one percent of people who reported speaking in tongues were conservative Protestants, but 5 percent were Catholics and 3 percent were mainline Protestants, according to Wulff's research.

Pastoral satisfaction. Studies comparing Eastern Orthodox and Catholic clergy show that family members can be a major source of support as well as a source of stress in a profession that demands long hours.

On the question of where they received strong support for their ministry, 90 percent of Orthodox priests said it came from their wives. In response to a separate question, 79 percent said they saw their wives as partners sharing in their ministry.

While celibate Catholic priests also said they appreciated family support, that support declined over time as parents died. Seventy-two percent of priests younger than 45 said their family was a strong source of support, compared with 59 percent of priests ages 65 and older.

Orthodox clergy also reported stresses related to family life. Thirty-seven percent said providing financially for their family was a great problem, while two-thirds said having more time to spend with their family would be helpful to their ministry.

Welcoming new members and caring for young people are among factors associated with growing congregations.

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Bah, humbug?

'Tis the season for annual debate over secular 'War on Christmas'

By Chansin Bird
Religion News Service

Orlando, Fla. (RNS)—November has barely begun and people already are fighting about Christmas.

Several Christian groups are banding together again to combat what they call the "War on Christmas." Their targets: retailers who refuse to say "Merry Christmas," schools that ban Christmas carols and Scroogey secularists who they say want to take Christ out of Christmas.

Wal-Mart officials announced last week that it's OK for employees to greet shoppers by saying "Merry Christmas" instead of the generic "Happy Holidays," according to CNN.

Wal-Mart's announcement comes a year after religious groups boycot-

ted Wal-Mart and other retailers last year for excluding the word "Christmas" from products sold in stores.

"We, quite frankly, have learned our lesson from last year," Wal-Mart spokesperson Linda Blakley told USA Today. "We're not afraid to use the term 'Merry Christmas.' We'll use it early, and we'll use it often."

But Liberty Counsel, a conservative legal watchdog group, has already kicked off its annual "Friend or Foe" campaign.

The campaign informs Americans about what's legal for religious expression during Christmastime. Liberty Counsel also offers free advice and defense for public schools that do not "censor" Christmas.

"A lot of the issues we got were a result of misinformation, in which case we provided the right information and the issue was resolved," said Erik Stanley, the group's chief counsel. "Harder instances were when there was outright hostility to religion. In those cases where Christianity was being discriminated against, we would threaten lawsuits and seek to protect people's constitutional rights."

Christian Educators Association International and Jerry Falwell Ministries joined forces with Liberty Counsel again.

"I'm urging people to get involved in this issue so that we can turn back these anti-Christmas organizations' efforts to stifle public Christmas expressions," Falwell said.

Defending "reason for the season"

Last year, Liberty Counsel received hundreds of calls from across the country from employees who were prohibited from saying "Merry Christmas," students who weren't allowed to sing Christmas carols, teachers who were reprimanded for displaying Nativity scenes and those upset by city councils renaming Christmas trees "Holiday trees."

"Contrary to what some may say, Christmas is not constitutionally taboo in our public schools," said Finn Laursen, executive director of Christian Educators Association International. "We will defend the law, which by any standard permits ob-

servance of Christmas by children in the schools. We want to ensure that the 'reason for the season' remains part of the holiday celebration."

Americans United disputes claims

But the Washington-based Americans United for Separation of Church and State disputes that a "War on Christmas" even exists.

"In all of last year, when they tried to make a big issue of this, they came up with no examples of any so-called 'War on Christmas,'" said Joe Conn, a spokesman for Americans United. "It's completely a figment of (the Liberty Counsel's) and Jerry Falwell's imaginations."

He said Americans United looked into the facts of each of the examples Liberty Counsel cited as "so-called attacks on Christmas" and found them without merit.

"Some cases were completely bo-

gus and others had one or two facts that were distorted beyond reason. Occasionally you'll have a discussion in the community ... but there is certainly no war," Conn said.

Stanley disagrees.

"Tell that to the hundreds of people who have called with issues," he said. "They won't believe it and no one else should, either."

To educate government officials, teachers, parents and others, Liberty Counsel is offering a "Help Save Christmas" action pack. The pack includes an "I love CHRISTmas" button and an "I Helped Save Christmas" bumper sticker.

"Their only response is to say there is not a 'War on Christmas' in the face of overwhelming evidence of the fact that there is a 'War on Christmas,'" Stanley said. "Just because they say it isn't so doesn't make that true."

CELEBRATION An 18-foot Noble fir presides over the Blue Room as the official White House Christmas Tree during a previous Christmas season. (RNS photo courtesy of the White House)





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Celebrate God's work in others

Expressing sincere thanks should precede correction

One of the benefits of living in Louisville is the opportunity to hear some gifted men of God as they speak at the Southern Seminary chapel service each week on Tuesday and Thursday. While I do not take advantage of this very often, I certainly enjoy the messages I do hear.

A recent chapel service certainly was good as C.J. Mahaney spoke. He is of special interest since our staff is reading his book titled "Humility." His message I was able to hear was on 1 Corinthians 1. The central idea of his sermon was that we should be able to give thanks and celebrate God's work in the lives of people regardless of where they might be at fault.

Mahaney pointed to the church at Corinth and its countless failings detailed later in the letter from the Apostle Paul, but first Paul communicated his thankfulness for God's work in their individual lives prior to any correction of conduct.

As I listened, I thought of how many times I simply point out the error of a person's life as opposed to being thankful for what God is

doing in them. We all know it is God who works in us and He has promised to complete that which He has begun, therefore we can be at peace knowing that God will get done what needs to be done and we should celebrate His actions.

While the thought of first being thankful did not keep Paul from proposing correction to the Corinthians' actions, it simply kept Paul's comments in correct order: thankfulness for God's work in them and then correction for poor life habits.

I know that I certainly pray to see others in a more positive light. First and foremost should be my thankfulness for God's activity in their lives.

We as believers have a real enemy and his name is Satan. If we each would seek to recognize the positive activity of God in other believers' lives and express our thanks first, our correction and instruction would be better received.



David Melber

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

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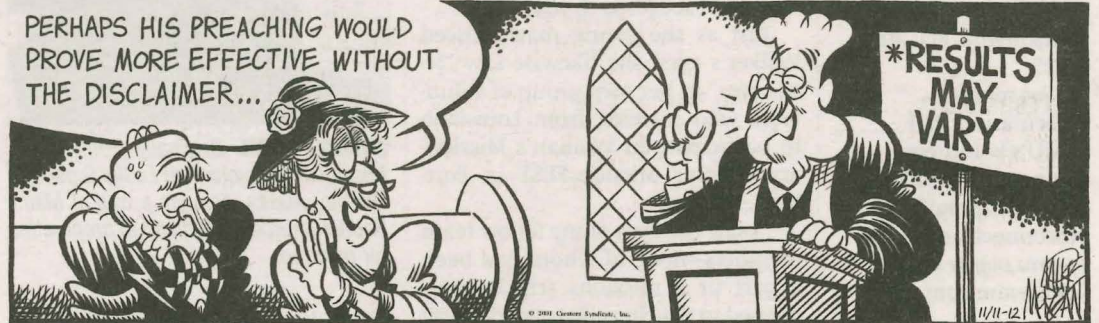
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Doug Marlette

For Heaven's Sake



Mike Morgan

Bible Crosswords

Carole Stengel

Across

- 1 "He that loveth his ____ abideth in the light" (1 John 2:10)
- 6 "They ... spake ____ one to another" (Malachi 3:16)
- 10 Anger
- 12 When you'll get to your destination, more or less, abbr.
- 13 "The ____ of the Lord ... run to and fro" (Zechariah 4:10)
- 16 "Let ____ the rich man glory in his riches" (Jeremiah 9:23)
- 17 Classifies
- 18 "We are the people of his pasture, and the sheep of his ____" (Psalms 95:7)
- 20 Dormitory helper, abbr.
- 21 "____ is the fulfilling of the law" (Romans 13:10)
- 22 "Love worketh ____ ill to his neighbour" (Romans 13:10)
- 23 Plural suffix
- 25 Month, abbr.
- 26 "Good ____ from a far country" (Proverbs 25:25)
- 28 Article that precedes a vowel
- 29 "Jesus saith unto them, Come and ____" (John 21:12)
- 31 "Do not your ____ before men" (Matthew 6:1)
- 32 "The first covenant had ... a worldly ____" (Hebrews 9:1)
- 38 "For the wrath is come upon them to the ____" (1 Thessalonians 2:16)
- 41 Swine
- 42 Preposition
- 43 Noah's vessel
- 44 Assist

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47	48					49	50				51	52
53						54						55

- 46 "He hath a great ____ for you" (Colossians 4:13)
- 47 Nathan, for short
- 49 Tell an untruth
- 51 "The light of the body is the ____" (Luke 11:34)
- 53 And, Lat.
- 54 "A woman hath a familiar spirit at ____" (1 Samuel 28:7)
- 55 Extraterrestrial, abbr.
- 14 Year old, abbr.
- 15 "Do not ____, my beloved brethren" (James 1:16)
- 18 "____ thy father and thy mother" (Exodus 20:12)
- 19 "A ____ commandment I give unto you" (John 13:34)
- 22 "Father, glorify thy ____" (John 12:28)
- 24 Sister, abbr.
- 27 Simon ____
- 30 Nothing
- 33 New England state, abbr.
- 34 "Ye are the ____ of the living God" (2 Corinthians 6:16)
- 35 "They were all ____ at the mighty power of God" (Luke 9:43)
- 36 "I am the ____ of Sharon" (Song of Sol. 2:1)
- 37 Backbone
- 39 "We spend our years as a ____ that is told" (Psalms 90:9)
- 40 Trapshooting
- 45 Narrow fish
- 48 A unit of value in Laos
- 50 Not out
- 52 "____ shall be as gods" (Genesis 3:5)

Last week's solution

1	A	S	A		J	I	B	B		A	B	L	E					
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MissionsFEST ministers in Maine

By Ashley McCleery

Portland, Maine (BP)—Holding containers of frozen casseroles, Cindy Walker arrived at the homeless shelter when a man in his 30s with a backpack, wearing clean but worn clothes, parked his bike and offered to help.

For the rest of the evening, Walker listened as he talked about the Lord and life. Before she left the shelter, the man told Walker, "Thank you for listening. Most people don't look at me when I talk, and I don't know why. But I see Jesus in your eyes."

Just as the young man noticed Walker's eyes, she likewise saw "Jesus eyes" in her own group of volunteers who traveled from Louisiana to participate in Woman's Missionary Union's MissionsFEST in Portland, Maine.

"I saw the eyes of my fellow team members—none of whom had been a part of a missions trip before—opened to Southern Baptist life away from the Bible Belt," Walker said.

About 90 other volunteers from 17 states participated in missions away from home, partnering recently with seven churches in the Portland area. They contributed to the community through prayerwalking, block parties, light construction, yard work, day camps, door-to-door ministry and English as a Second Language classes.

Working with Little River Baptist Church, Dottie Eastman of Arlington, Texas, gave residents popcorn and invited them to "pop in" to church anytime.

As her group delivered brownies to the police and fire stations on Sept. 11, led a women's Bible study, hosted a fall festival and organized



COMING HOME Originally from Maine, MissionsFEST volunteer Leslie Gipson of Wasilla, Alaska, scrapes a wall at Maine Baptist Church in Portland in preparation for painting.

the church library, she began to realize the importance of these random acts of kindness.

"I believe MissionsFEST opened our eyes to this mission field ... just 18 Baptist churches in the entire state compared to 400 in our local association," Eastman said.

Leslie Gipson of Wasilla, Alaska, is a native of Maine and understands the great spiritual needs that exist there.

"I'd prayed for people to ask why we were there, and we were asked many times," Gipson remarked. "It gave us a great opportunity to brag on the goodness of our God."

MissionsFEST in Maine was a partnership between national WMU, New England WMU and the Maine Baptist Association.

WMU sets 2007 MissionsFEST, FamilyFESTs

The next MissionsFEST will be Oct. 10-14, 2007, in Philadelphia and South Jersey.

Entire families, including children age 6 or older, can serve during FamilyFEST in El Paso, Texas, and Juarez, Mexico, June 16-21 or Jacksonville, Fla., July 20-25.

For more information, call WMU's Volunteer Connection at (205) 991-4097, e-mail volconnection@wmu.org or visit www.wmu.com.

Special people meeting special needs: part 2

Volunteers serve OBI with diverse gifts on the farm, in maintenance & shops

Another incredibly special couple is Paul and Sharon Detro, from Ohio. Paul and Sharon came with their church group several times as volunteers. Paul often helped operate the backhoe or bulldozer but eventually ended up working mostly on our farm. He is one of the most cheerful, faithful people I have ever met. Sharon provides a special blessing by helping in our craft shop.

When Paul retired a few years ago, the Detros told us they would be happy to give more of their time to volunteer at Oneida. The first summer or two they lived in their travel trailer and stayed in our campground.

Initially, they spent three or four months with us each summer, but now they are nearly full-time volunteers. Now they arrive early in the spring and leave in November. I am happy to say they have accepted more permanent school housing instead of living in the travel trailer.

Paul still works on the farm where the hours are long and hard. I just don't know what our farm staff would do if Paul were not around to help. The other day I was on the farm and told Paul how much we appreciate him. His reply was, "I sure am glad God led me to Oneida."

Paul, we are sure glad He led you to Oneida, too. In addition to taking care of our craft shop customers, Sharon helps volunteers who choose to work in the craft shop, normally a week at a time. Many times when our regular craft shop staff are not able to be there, Sharon holds down the fort herself. What special people Paul and Sharon are.

THIS IS ONEIDA



W.F. Underwood

Another couple just joined us this year. Jerry and Libby Claypool volunteered at OBI with their church a couple of times and knew about some of the things volunteers did on campus.

Jerry was offered early retirement from Lucent Technologies in 1989. He used the opportunity to go back and finish his college work. He earned his B.S. in math and computer science and worked in a variety of places using those skills. Libby was a homemaker until the children were grown, and then she worked at Wal-Mart.

Jerry and Libby visited several months ago and asked if we could use a couple of extra hands. I assured them we could and asked when they wanted to start. They had a home in Owensboro to sell, and said they would be here as soon as possible. God blessed them by sending a buyer in less than a week.

Jerry uses his communications and technology skills in our maintenance department, trying to improve our communication and computer systems. He is very cheerful and dedicated.

Libby originally offered to help in our used clothing store where she has done a wonderful job. Our Friendship House receives tons of used clothing every year. Proceeds from the sale of the used clothing provide additional scholarship funds for our students.

Libby also helps in our Carnahan Store on campus where our students purchase snacks, school supplies and personal items. She has been a tremendous help in both places. Jerry and Libby plan to be here a few more years and then may officially retire.

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

Moving from president to pastor

Glasgow Baptist Church extends call to pastor

My ordination to the ministry came in 1964 when I became pastor of Jackson Grove Baptist Church in Warren County. I'll begin the New Year as pastor of Glasgow Baptist Church in adjoining Barren County.

The process started Jan. 9, 2005, when I supplied the pulpit and preached two sermons in Glasgow. At that time, the church had been without a pastor about four months. About two months later, the search committee asked to interview me.

With awareness my time at Clear Creek was drawing to a close and in a desire to know God's will, I talked with the committee but could not secure spiritual leadership to proceed.

A year later the committee inquired again with a request for me to pray anew and contact them should God direct me. The name and phone number lay on my desk for several weeks and during that time, I worked through the process of consideration for a director of missions position.

Glasgow called again and it was God's timing. I preached in view of a call on Oct. 29 and the

vote to call came Nov. 5. One of God's choice servants, Wendell Romans, has served so well as interim pastor.

The church and Clear Creek trustees agreed on a transition plan that allows me to become pastor Jan. 1 and work part-time with Clear Creek through the May 5 graduation. Many people are

praying that the presidential search will culminate with a trustee vote on April 17. The search committee already has received resumes.

Since 1988 I have worked to equip leaders for local churches and the mission field. I return to the front lines of Christian service. I pray God will use the coming years so that Rebecca and I can help the church fulfill its purpose of proclaiming the gospel, ministering to human needs and growing the body of Christ.

We've been part of Christ's mission in Kentucky, the Philippines and Florida. We'll still be on mission. I'm praying God will call out some preachers from the church. Guess which school I'll recommend?

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

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'Bonus years'

Escaping AIDS, pastor spreads message that 'True Love Waits' has changed Uganda

By Don Beehler

SBC LifeWay Christian Resources

Nashville (BP)—Growing up in a polygamist home, Andrew Mwenge learned firsthand of the devastation and heartbreak of AIDS.

His father had four wives and 23 children, nine of whom were with Mwenge's mother. Five of those nine died from AIDS. One of his remaining sisters is HIV-positive and the other one refuses to be tested. Only he and his brother know for certain that they are free of AIDS.

"Most of the people I grew up with in the village are not alive. ... If it was not for Christ, I wouldn't be here. I know that for a fact," Mwenge told an audience Nov. 1 in Nashville at events related to LifeWay Christian Resources' "A Defining Moment" capital campaign.

In a country where AIDS has reduced the average life expectancy from 54 to 42, Mwenge, 45, has had three "bonus years," as he put it, describing his determination to make

the most of each day.

Mwenge became a Christian through the ministry of missionaries Larry and Sharon Pumpelly. Today he is pastor of Kampala Baptist Church, one of the largest churches in Uganda, and director of the country's True Love Waits movement.

The Pumpellys introduced True Love Waits to Ugandans in 1994. With the help of Uganda's president and first lady, they organized a parade in downtown Kampala to bring True Love Waits' abstinence-until-marriage message to what Sharon Pumpelly described as "a desperate place."

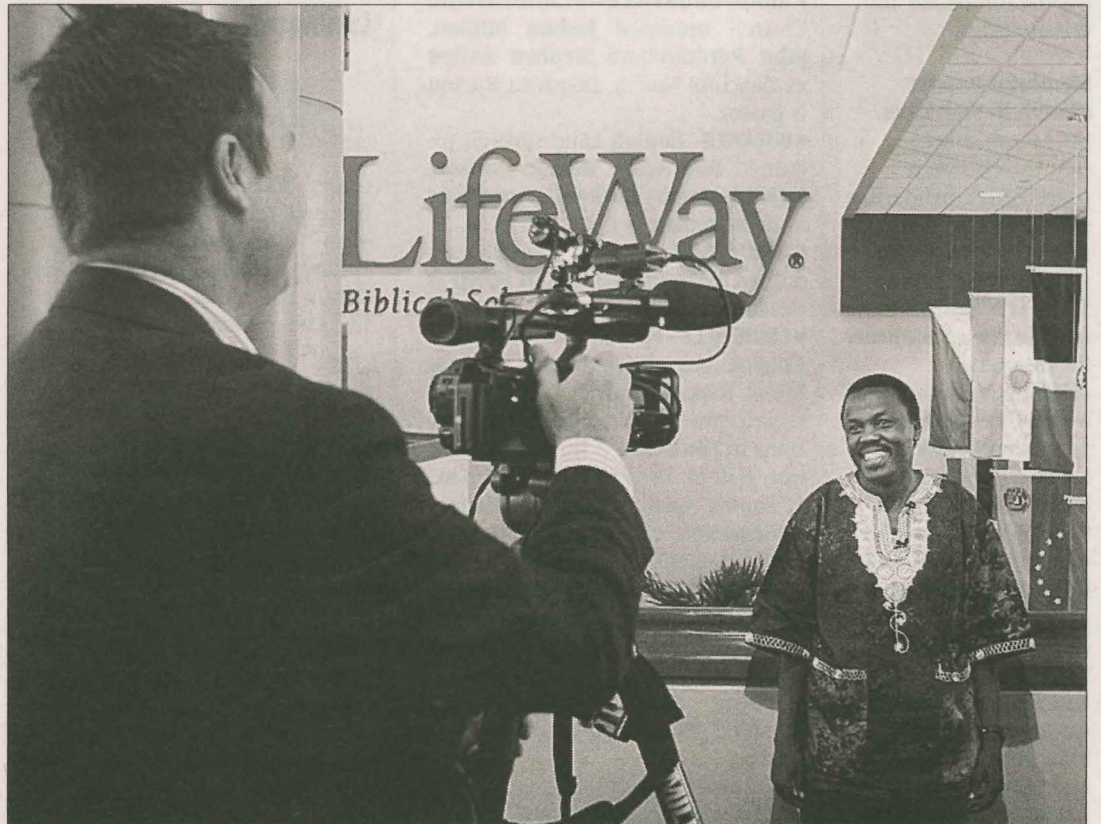
"We were aware that people were dying (of AIDS)—just fading away—before it had a name," she recalled. "We heard about True Love Waits and wondered how it would translate in Uganda."

True Love Waits became a catalyst for bringing people together to address the AIDS problem and spread the message of biblical purity to schools, youth groups, communities and other places. In the 12 years that followed, Uganda's HIV/AIDS infection rate dropped from 30 percent to about 6 percent.

"God began to move in hearts," Mwenge said. "The government was open and people were open. God's standards for sex began to catch fire in Uganda."

Other African countries have since sent representatives to Uganda to learn how that country has done such a remarkable job of reversing its deadly AIDS trend. The statistics for the continent are alarming: In Sub-Saharan Africa alone, 23.3 million people were HIV-positive in 1999. By the end of 2004, that number had risen to 29 million, leaving a staggering number of orphans and a human tragedy that is almost beyond comprehension.

"We can change the story," Mwenge said. "True Love Waits helps young people put sex in con-



text and fit within the totality of life. As they think through that process, they realize that God's standards are best."

In addition to being one of the speakers for "A Defining Moment," Mwenge participated in strategy sessions about expanding True Love Waits' work in Africa and, in interviews, he recounted to reporters how True Love Waits has made such a remarkable impact in Uganda.

"The success of the abstinence movement is greater when it is multifaceted—involving government, business, education, health organizations, churches, schools and others—because students hear the same message from different avenues," said Jimmy Hester, co-founder of True Love Waits.

"It just takes one generation following God's plan to end this (the AIDS crisis)," Sharon Pumpelly said.

"God gave us a program that can multiply easily."

Mwenge hopes his "bonus years" will help him not only continue to reach young people in Uganda but also parts of Africa where he is confident the True Love Waits Uganda model can be replicated.

Seeing the success in Uganda and the possibilities for other parts of Africa, as well as the way Jesus Christ has changed his life, Mwenge voices a passion to rescue as many people as possible from the ravages of AIDS and help them live lives of biblical purity.

"One of my great privileges as a pastor is to do weddings where I was part of the process of speaking with young people about abstinence, watch them exchange their True Love Waits commitment cards and say to each other, 'I waited for you.'"

TELLING HIS STORY

Andrew Mwenge of Uganda is interviewed by a Nashville TV station about the abstinence-until-marriage success of True Love Waits in his homeland. (BP photo by Kent Harville)



MINISTRY OF HEALTH As missionaries, Sharon Pumpelly and her husband, Larry, introduced True Love Waits to Ugandans in 1994. The country's president and first lady are major supporters of the campaign.

Study indicates younger generation accepts sexual experimentation

By Hannah Elliott

Associated Baptist Press

Ventura, Calif. (ABP)—If a recent survey is correct, there is a bigger generation gap between Baby Boomers and Baby Busters than most people care to admit, especially when it comes to opinions about sex.

According to recent research by the Barna Group, Busters—people born between 1965 and 1983—significantly differ from older Americans in their opinions of extramarital sex, pornography, homosexuality and sexual fantasies.

For instance, more than two-thirds of the Buster generation believes adults living together before marriage is morally acceptable. Most young adults also said pornography and sex outside of marriage are not morally wrong. Only one-third of Boomers—people born between 1946 and 1964—agreed.

And roughly 50 percent of Busters believe homosexual relationships are acceptable, compared to half as many older adults.

The director of the research, David Kinnaman, said in the report that Busters' perception of morality comes from their environment. Whereas Baby Boomers took moral experimentation to new heights, he said, Busters view things like divorce, crime, single-parent households and suicide as much more normal than their parents did.

"It is rare to see such large gaps between population segments, and it confirms a major shift in the way Busters think and behave sexually," Kinnaman said about the survey results.

To be sure, Busters have an individualized view of morality—one that disconnects the individual from the group. A belief in situational ethics affects morality in

a big way. The report listed Busters as twice as likely to watch sexually explicit movies; two-and-a-half times more likely to commit adultery; and three times more likely to look at sexually graphic content online.

Gregory Koukl, founder and president of Stand to Reason in Signal Hill, Calif., said he is not surprised at the survey's results. Koukl established Stand to Reason as a training resource for Christians.

"The emerging Christian generation is more like the world than their predecessors," Koukl said.

Apparently, the Buster generation does not follow Christian teaching, even though Busters may know correct terms and are able to recite tenets of the faith. Instead, when it comes to daily life, Busters follow peer groups.

One way to reach those groups,

Koukl said, is to stop giving "topical" sermons and start preaching Scripture.

"When you have teachers that are consistently preaching topically to make it consumer-palatable, those who listen never learn the Bible in the sense in which it was originally given," he said. "They don't learn the structure, they just have all these bits and pieces." The key is to contextualize the message for the culture, Koukl continued. Leaders at Stand to Reason, for instance, say their goal is to make "engagement with culture look more like diplomacy than D-day."

For the survey, the Barna Group conducted telephone interviews with more than 7,000 adults nationwide. The Ventura, Calif., group is a privately held, for-profit corporation that has conducted research and produced media resources since 1984.

PRAYER PARTNERS

Please pray for the following Kentucky Baptist ministries and missionaries:

Memorial Baptist Church in Frankfort.

J.D. Moore shared that the church is prayerfully considering starting a thrift store ministry as a tool for sharing the gospel. There is a significant need in the community for inexpensive clothing and household items. Clients would pay a small amount for items or they could earn payment vouchers in return for volunteer work in the ministry. Pray for the church as it seeks God's direction concerning the development of this ministry. Pray that volunteers will effectively share Christ and see a spiritual harvest of souls as a result of their outreach to the community.

North American Mission Board Missionary John Morris of Hazard.

Morris serves as an associate with the Kentucky Baptist Convention, assisting with outreach ministry development and ministry center networking in Eastern Kentucky. He procures food, provides training, offers assessment assistance, discovers resources and encourages ministry directors. Pray that God will provide a regular source of food for the hunger needs in Eastern Kentucky. Pray also that ministry centers and churches will be intentional in sharing the gospel of Christ while meeting physical needs.

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

■ **ARLINGTON**—First Church recently called **Nick Robertson** as pastor.

■ **BRADFORDSVILLE**—Bradfordsville Church ordained **Joshua Million, John Purdom** and **Stephen Raikes** as deacons Nov. 5. **Donovan Burton** is pastor.

■ **BUCKNER**—Beulah Land Church ordained **Don Acree, Ronnie Dawson, Jack Eds, Bobby Rockwell, Tony Terry** and **J.R. Walker** as deacons Oct. 8.

■ **HENDERSON**—Hyland Church ordained **Mark Beals** and **Bart Eblen** as deacons Oct. 22.

■ **LOUISVILLE**—Fourth Avenue Baptist Church has merged with Walnut Street Baptist Church. The churches are two of the oldest congregations in Louisville. A merger celebration will be held Nov. 19, 1:15 p.m., at Fourth Avenue Church. For more information, call **Todd Robertson** at (502) 589-5290.

Donald MacDonald recently resigned as associate pastor of Franklin Street Church. He previously served five years as senior pastor.

Green Acres Church recently called **Wes Smith** as minister of youth.

Lakeside Church will present "The Sanders Family Christmas" dessert theater Dec 15-16, 7 p.m., and Dec. 17, 4 p.m. The program is the sequel to "Smoke on the Mountain." To reserve free tickets, call (502) 267-4446.

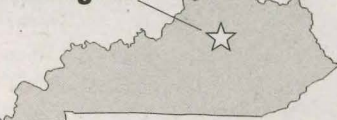
Ninth & O Church celebrated its 100th anniversary Oct. 29.

■ **OWENTON**—Beech Grove Church recently called **Steve Delaney** as pastor.

■ **WILLIAMSBURG**—**John Hill**, pastor of New Mount Zion Church, recently was ordained to the gospel ministry.

Spotlight on ...

Lexington



Chevy Chase Church will celebrate its relocation and new beginning as "Journey—A Baptist Fellowship" by observing Celebration Sunday, Nov. 19, during the morning worship service. For more information, call (859) 266-2601.



HAPPY DAY *Legendary jockey Pat Day recently shared his testimony at a chapel service for Kentucky Baptist Convention Mission Board staff. Day urged listeners to actively share their faith when they have the opportunity. Day, who retired last year after winning more than 8,800 races, has been a committed Christian since 1984. He serves on the board of Race Track Chaplaincy of America. (KBC photo by Jonathan Johnston)*

CLASSIFIED ADS

SEEKING: Enthusiastic youth minister, full-time or bivocational (requires minimum of 20 hours a week). Please send resumé to Ferguson Baptist Church, PO Box 247, Ferguson, KY 42533. For more information, call (606) 679-1690.

SEEKING: Part-time youth minister to lead tomorrow's future generation at Bedford Baptist Church in Bedford, Ky. If interested, please send resumé with cover letter to Bedford Baptist Church, PO Box 277, Bedford, KY 40006; or e-mail to: bbclinda@bellsouth.net. Questions, call (502) 255-3240.

SEEKING: Part-time minister of youth to lead 7th-12th grade students toward a deeper relationship with Jesus Christ. Please submit resumé with cover letter by Dec. 6, 2006, to New Bethel Baptist Church, 2022 Verona-Mudlick Road, Verona, KY 41092; or email to: NBBC2003@aol.com with subject line, "Attention Minister of Youth Selection Committee." If you would like a copy of the requirements, please contact the church office at (859) 485-4864.

SEEKING: Part-time director of missions (12-15 hours/week) for Simpson Baptist Association in Franklin, Ky. Ministry experience and the ability to work with both pastors and laypeople will be a must. Please send resumé to Rev. Tony Brown, 1429 Lake Spring Road, Franklin, KY 42134; or via e-mail to pastortb@aol.com. We will accept resumé until Friday, Dec. 15.

SEEKING: Full-time student minister (grades 1-12). Please send resumé to: First Baptist Church, 916 Main St., Paris, KY 40361, Attn: Personnel Committee.

SEEKING: Part-time music minister for Ghent Baptist Church in Carroll County, Ky. Minister will be focused on leading the congregation in blended worship. Experience preferred but not necessary. Send resumé to: Ghent Baptist Church, PO Box 457, Ghent, KY 41045. Questions, call (502) 347-5540 or 222-2221.

SEEKING: Full-time pastor for First Baptist Church, 916 Main Street, Paris, Ky. We are a growing church located in central Kentucky with an average worship attendance of 240. Resumes should be sent by Jan. 15, 2007, to: Pastor Search Committee, PO Box 327, Paris, KY 40362; or e-mail: fbcparis@aol.com.

SEEKING: The University of Mary Hardin-Baylor, one of eight universities affiliated with the Baptist General Convention of Texas, seeks applications and nominations for Dean, College of Visual and Performing Arts (departments of Art, Music—including Conservatory—and Theater). While the position is available after Jan. 1, 2007, starting date is negotiable before fall semester 2007. For a full description of the position and to apply, please access the following: www.umhb.edu/resources/employment_listing.html?job+3620. Confidential inquiries may be made to provost@umhb.edu.



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

December

11-12 Kentucky Baptist Convention Mission Board meeting, Baptist Building, Louisville.

January

18-20 Shepherding the Shepherd Conference, Radisson Hotel, Lexington.

23 Pastor/Staff Forum, Severns Valley Baptist Church, Elizabethtown.

25-26 Quarterly Prayer Meeting for Spiritual Awakening, Northside Baptist Church, Mount Vernon.

26-27 Preschool/Children's Ministry Meeting, Lakeside Baptist Church, Louisville.

26-27 Woman's Missionary Union Regional Retreat, Laurel Lake Baptist Camp, Corbin.

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

Paducah church makes impact in New Orleans neighborhood

By Marilyn Stewart
Louisiana Baptist Convention

New Orleans—Members of Rosebower Baptist Church in Paducah recently threw a block party for nearly 500 residents of New Orleans and led seven people to professions of faith in Christ.

The team included 55 volunteers from Rosebower, including 91-year-old Leroy Fox.

"We've never done anything like this before—never a block party or a project this big," said Kenneth Puckett, who has served for 29 years as pastor of Rosebower Church.

Fox, who will turn 92 in January, said there is a job for everyone, including senior adults, in the rebuilding and recovery efforts in New Orleans.

On his first trip with the church to the area in May, Fox helped with electrical work on a home. During the church's latest trip, he cleaned and prepared the lot for the block party.

When asked if the 12-hour trip and hard work were worth it, Fox declared, "Absolutely, it's worth it!"

Until this year, Puckett said, his church had not attempted a mission project that involved adopting a particular church. Twice this year, the church has sent small construction teams to New Orleans and had sent a team as early responders to the Gulf Coast of Mississippi after Hurricane Katrina. The most recent New Orleans team of 55 primarily included adults, with several families involved.

Prior to the event, an evangelistic team distributed 1,400 promotional flyers and led seven people to faith in Christ.

Block party attracts 500 people

The Rosebower team initially planned for 100 people at the block party, then doubled it, then doubled their estimate again as word of the community's response to the flyers reached them. Once the event arrived, almost 500 people participated in the block party.

Rosebower worked with two churches in New Orleans, Gentilly Baptist and Elysian Fields Baptist. Both churches lost a large percentage of their congregations to relocation and since their return to the city, the remnant of each congregation has met together for worship.

The extent of the damage to the

Elysian Fields facility made it necessary to demolish the building. While Gentilly Baptist sustained heavy flood damage, its facility was salvageable and is being rebuilt. Teams of volunteers have been housed on the second floor of the Gentilly building since May when utilities were restored to the area.

Church expands missions vision

Puckett said his church, which averages 225 people in Sunday worship, has been thoroughly changed by the experience in New Orleans.

"We have always been a very generous church in our mission giving," Puckett said. The church gives 10 percent of its undesignated offerings through the Cooperative Program. "But now we are involved and hands-

on. We have seen that we are capable of meeting people's needs."

Neil Ward, a Rosebower member and owner of Neil's Catering, felt led to do something to encourage the Gentilly residents. Tony Baugus and his team of coordinators helped develop the idea into a block party when Ward decided to donate all the needed food items and services.

John Samsill, an Atmos Energy employee and a Rosebower church member, approached his employer about helping underwrite the event. Atmos Energy provided gas grills for food preparation, gas for the grills, a truck and trailer to haul the equipment and gasoline for travel as well as Samsill's time and services at company expense.

"Emotions here in New Orleans are still a little raw," Baugus said. "But we can listen to a homeowner tell his story and let them know we care."

The Rosebower team was pleased with the number of people who attended the event, but they said the comments made by community residents was the real measure of the effort's success.

"We really needed this," a neighbor responded. "We needed something to lift our spirits."

For information about how to help rebuild New Orleans, contact Operation NOAH (New Orleans Area Homes) Rebuild, sponsored by the Southern Baptist North American Mission Board, toll-free at (877) 934-0808 or call the Kentucky Baptist Convention's Baptist Men on Mission department at (866) 489-3527.



Leroy Fox

Getting ready for the world

Southern Baptists prepare for historic gospel-sharing opportunity during '08 Olympics

Richmond, Va. (BP)—As China races to spiff up for the 2008 Summer Olympics in Beijing, Southern Baptist workers are preparing for a different kind of gold.

Ministry teams are working with churches in the United States for thousands of volunteers to sow gospel seeds through Olympic-related ministry events.

"It's encouraging and exciting to see the interest level among Southern Baptist churches," said Richard Darby*, a Southern Baptist worker helping organize ministries for the games. "Our people understand that coming into China for the Olympics is more than the games. It's about actually impacting the country and the people of China. To me, that's what it's all about."

Anticipation is at a fever pitch in Beijing. Advertisements displaying the "Friendlies," the five Beijing

Olympic mascots, dot the city's buses and billboards. A citywide tangle of construction cranes signals the progress of new sporting venues. The government even has mobilized a squad of "hygiene police" who levy fines against Beijing residents found spitting or littering.

And while China prepares for an Olympiad unlike any other, Christian ministry teams are preparing for a spiritual harvest unlike any other. Darby noted that the games have created a focus on China among both large and small U.S. congregations that previously shied away from the magnitude of the China task.

"We are seeing an awakening of our people to go through that window of opportunity into what has long been seen as such a closed-off place," he said.

As the Olympics draw closer, Chi-

nese organizations from all sectors are seeking innovative ways to connect with the world. For Southern Baptists, those relationships are a natural bridge to share Christ with a spiritually hungry nation.

Opportunities abound for involvement before, during and after the games. Possibilities include crisis intervention, counseling, first aid, sports camps and clinics, dramas, musical performances, face painting and humanitarian work.

Volunteers needed now

Project leaders emphasize that volunteers are needed long before the torch is lit in 2008. Prayerwalking teams are a necessary precursor to a successful ministry during the Olympics. English speakers also are in high demand to help public-sector workers struggling to meet mandatory English requirements before

the games start.

Darby is strongly encouraging Southern Baptists interested in leading volunteer teams during the summer of 2008 to participate in one of several familiarization trips during 2007.

With the crush of volunteers expected in 2008, Darby said team leaders must be prepared to manage their groups with little oversight from the overall Baptist Olympic ministries team.

"People who bring groups to China (during the Olympics) without having been to China before will be limiting their ministry potential," he said.

Participants in pre-2008 familiarization trips not only will receive necessary training but also will have an opportunity to develop a spiritual burden for the Chinese people as they travel to various cities and regions.

"I want them to look in the faces of the people of China and understand their need for Jesus," Darby said. "They can then lead their team with a broken heart so we can help the Chinese see their need for Jesus."

Southern Baptist workers are anticipating a great spiritual harvest through Olympic ministry, but they know that nothing can happen without a strong foundation of prayer. Several churches already have committed prayer teams to meet weekly until the games end. The team wants churches and individuals to commit to faithful prayer for God's Spirit to blaze the way for His message in China.

While Southern Baptist organizers are excited about the spiritual possibilities, they recognize that working in China will be different from other locales.

"In Athens or in Australia, teams already had support from a strong network of Baptist churches on the ground. We don't have that," Darby said. "But God is already doing some miraculous things to prepare the way."

To learn more about how to volunteer at the 2008 Summer Olympics in Beijing, visit easia.imb.org or contact volunteer2008@topicbox.com.



EVERYONE'S INVITED
Signs pointing to the 2008 Summer Olympics are increasingly evident in Beijing, China. Southern Baptists, meanwhile, are enlisting thousands of volunteers to share something more valuable than a gold medal—the gospel—through Olympic-related events.



TIME TO CELEBRATE Chinese children perform in a cultural festival celebrating the approach of the 2008 Olympic Games in Beijing. Southern Baptists hope to enlist thousands of volunteers to share the gospel through Olympic-related events.



KEEPING WATCH
Chinese military personnel walk through Tiananmen Square in Beijing, which is preparing to welcome athletes from around the world during the 2008 Summer Olympics.

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