



November 21, 2006
Vol. 180, No. 46

2006 KBC COVERAGE

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Convention sermon

Bowling Green pastor Steve Ayers reminds believers, "It's about Jesus; let's get it right." *Page 7.*



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Cross Over

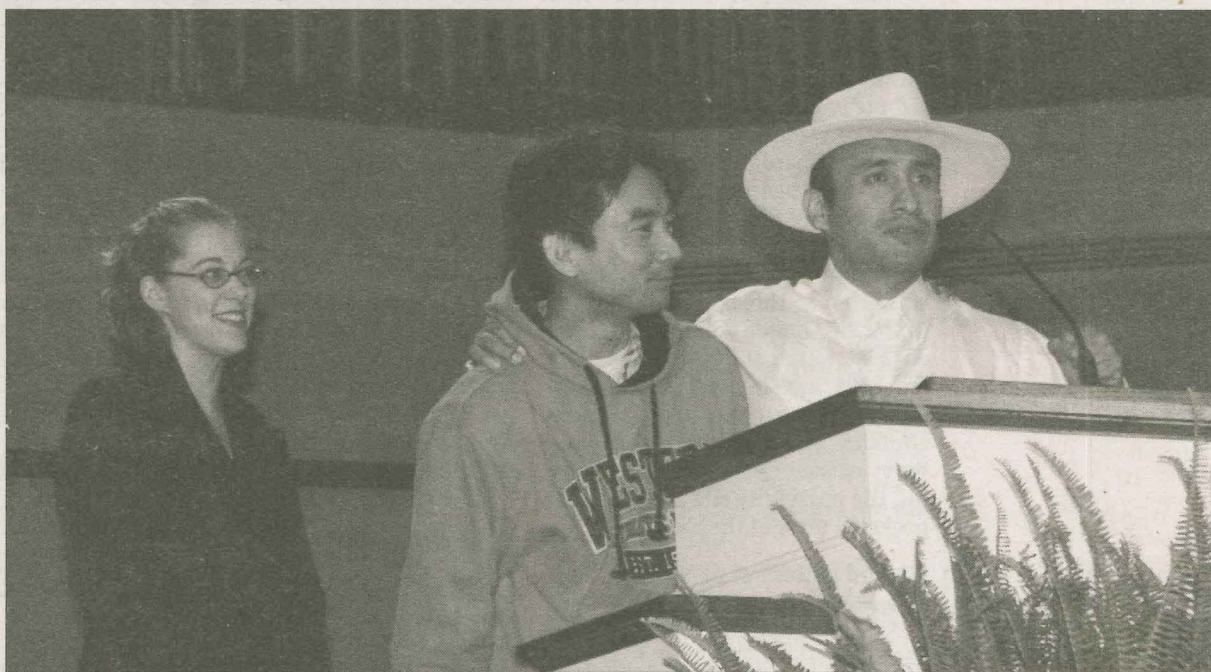
Dedication of the first Hispanic mission in Bowling Green highlights annual Cross Over evangelistic emphasis. *Page 9.*



Pastors' Conference

Pastors and denominational leaders from four states detail keys to integrity and godly vision. *Page 10.*

CP celebration



CP CONNECTION Elio Pajares (right) of Peru and Jun Inomata of Japan, international students involved in Baptist campus ministry at Western Kentucky University, share their spiritual testimonies during the KBC's Nov. 14 "Celebrating Cooperation" missions emphasis as international campus ministry intern Melissa Blankenship looks on. (Photo by Trennis Henderson)

Testimonies affirm CP's global spiritual impact

By Ken Walker
State Correspondent

Bowling Green—Southern Baptists' Cooperative Program giving plan turned 80 years old last year. But rather than looking back, Kentucky Baptists gathered last week to celebrate the Cooperative Program's future impact.

CP giving was a major focus throughout the Kentucky Baptist Convention annual meeting Nov. 14-15 at First Baptist Church of Bowling Green. The Tuesday evening session featured a special "Celebrating Cooperation" emphasis that highlighted the practical ministry results of Cooperative Program dollars.

Former KBC President Hershael

York, pastor of Buck Run Baptist Church in Frankfort, hosted the CP celebration.

The genius of the Cooperative Program was among the factors that convinced him to become a Southern Baptist, noted York, the son of an independent Baptist pastor.

"We were so independent that cooperation was almost a dirty word," York acknowledged. "We emphasized the autonomy of the local church to the exclusion of cooperating with like-minded people."

Describing the Cooperative Program as "the heart of our unity," York said without CP gifts supporting ministry efforts around the world, "the Great Commission

would simply be the great omission."

York voiced concern that average church CP gifts across the state have declined from 10 percent of undesignated receipts a decade ago to just under 7 percent today.

Highlighting Revelation 7:9 where John describes people from every nation, tribe and tongue in heaven, York declared, "That's what our dollars will achieve."

"What is the Cooperative Program?" he asked. "It's only the greatest missions enterprise this world has ever seen."

One of the most moving accounts of CP's spiritual impact came via

□ See Cooperative Program ... Page 6

Illusionist taps talent & humor to communicate gospel to teens

Dated material. Please deliver by Wednesday, November 22.



BARREL OF FUN An audience volunteer hands a set of keys to Christian illusionist Brock Gill during a Cross Over event at Hillvue Heights Church in Bowling Green. After handcuffing his wife, Andrea, inside a barrel, she reappears in another barrel on the stage. (Photo by Dannah Prather)

By Dannah Prather
Partnerships Editor

Bowling Green—Often, Christian illusionist Brock Gill finds himself shackled to a metal frame. To the delight of his audience, no sooner is a shower curtain drawn around the frame than Gill is free again, his wife, Andrea, having taken his place in the shackles.

"I escaped and someone else took my place," Gill explains to his audience. The parallel to the gospel message is crystal clear. "Jesus took my place and set me free."

With humor and amazing talent that kept his audience wondering, "How did he do that?" Gill gave two presentations at Hillvue Heights Church in Bowling Green as part of a series of ministry efforts held prior to the Kentucky Baptist Convention annual meeting.

"Cross Over Warren Baptist Asso-

ciation" included two Youth Nights featuring Gill and BMX stunt team Chaos on Wheels.

Riding a motorcycle blindfolded through the crowd, pulling cards out of thin air or risking being impaled on a sword, Gill enthralled his audience while sharing his Christian testimony and the gospel message.

Cross Over organizers said more than 100 youth made spiritual decisions at the rallies. Fifty of those decisions were first-time professions of faith.

Many youth who attended the first performance returned for the second. "I was intrigued," Adrienne Polen said.

"I wanted to figure out how he was doing it all," said Emily Smith, who recommitted her life to Christ the night before.

□ See Illusionist taps talent ... Page 10

Texas Baptists support Wade despite crisis

Dallas (ABP)—Rank-and-file Texas Baptists are sad and angry about the financial scandal in the Rio Grande Valley that has marred their reputation, but most say they still trust their leaders—including Executive Director Charles Wade—to correct abuses and restore confidence in the Baptist General Convention of Texas.

That was the message that emerged from the BGCT's annual meeting Nov. 13-14 in Dallas, as messengers turned back several attempts to take the matter out of the hands of Wade and the convention's Executive Board.

An investigative team hired by the Executive Board reported Oct. 31 that more than \$1.3 million in start-up funding and monthly support was given to three Hispanic pastors in the Rio Grande Valley who reported 258 church starts between 1999 and 2005. Investigators presented evidence that up to 98 percent of those churches no longer exist—and some never existed except on paper—raising the possibility the three pastors pocketed most of the money.

Alleged pattern of deception

Other revelations suggest that an alleged pattern of deception by one of them—Otto Arrango—was repeated in Mexico and South America where he also peddled his church-planting expertise and training materials.

The BGCT investigation also revealed the convention's staff was aware of some of those allegations years ago but ignored or downplayed them, prompting some critics to accuse Wade and others of a cover up. Two staffers already have resigned. Some BGCT insiders expected the scandal to force Wade to announce his retirement sooner than planned—perhaps even at this year's convention.

But most of the messengers to the Dallas convention accepted the apologies offered by Wade and the remedies initiated by him and the Executive Board. Wade asked Texas Baptists for a chance to “fix what has been broken,” and he promised, “Your trust will not be breached.”

“I believe Charles Wade is a man of principles and integrity,” said Nancy Pannell of Denton after hearing Wade speak to the issue. “He trusted these people, and his trust has been betrayed. ... He has already started what needs to be done to rectify the situation and make it right.”

Unconvinced was David Montoya, a blogger and pastor who has led the chorus of critics against Wade.

Montoya asked the convention to amend its constitution to give messengers the authority to terminate the executive director without Executive Board approval. And he called for the BGCT to pursue immediate legal action and criminal charges against the church-planters who al-

legedly falsified reports and benefited from the diverted funds.

“In a crisis like this, it should be the will of the convention that is heard,” said Montoya, pastor of Calvary Baptist Church in Mineral Wells. He said the Executive Board was biased and guilty of shielding Wade. “The Executive Board is intended to be a tool that exists for the body, but through this scandal we see it seems as if the body exists for the will of the tool.”

Remarks ruled out of order

Montoya accused Wade of being “a possible accessory to an attempted cover up” and “a personal friend of the main player in this scandal”—church-planter and accused ring-leader Otto Arango.

Michael Bell, BGCT president, stopped Montoya in the middle of his speech and ruled him out of order.

“That’s not appropriate,” Bell said. “We are Christians and don’t do personal attacks. Thanks for sharing your heart in the spirit of Christ, but you are attacking an individual. It doesn’t take a rocket scientist to know that. In the opinion of the chair, the motion is out of order.”

Bell also ruled out of order Montoya’s motion for the convention to initiate immediate legal action in the case. The Executive Board has asked for more time to examine those options.

N.C. Baptists vote to bar gay-friendly congregations

Greensboro, N.C. (ABP)—Messengers to the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina voted Nov. 14 to add language to its governing documents that will exclude from convention membership any church viewed as affirming homosexual behavior.

It is the strictest anti-gay policy of any state Baptist convention affiliated with the Southern Baptist Convention and is similar to an SBC policy approved more than a decade ago.

The revision adds a section to the articles of incorporation that states, “Among churches not in friendly cooperation with the convention are churches which knowingly act to affirm, approve, endorse, promote, support or bless homosexual behavior.”

Supporters of the amendment said North Carolina Baptists need to take a stand against homosexuality. Opponents said the convention already had a policy in place that has removed churches that affirm homosexuality.

Convention president Stan Welch, a conservative leader, later told reporters the previous policy “did not have teeth.” Passage of the amendment gives the convention clarity on the issue, he added.

Nathan Parrish, pastor of Peace Haven Baptist Church in Winston-Salem, said it is ironic that the convention was moving to exclude some churches while the theme of the meeting is “Cast a Wider Net.”

“Having the right to exclude doesn’t make the practice of excluding the right thing to do,” he said.

Mark Harris, pastor of First Baptist Church of Charlotte, was chair of a committee that recommended the change. He said nothing would please him more than if the motion were unnecessary. But, he added, there is a national agenda promoting homosexuality. “We truly believe this convention must stand with courage,” he said.

Don Gordon, pastor of Yates Baptist Church in Durham, said, “You can still believe homosexuality is sinful behavior and oppose this amendment.” The change turns the convention into a “watchdog” over a single issue, Gordon said.

Dan Heimbach, an ethics professor at Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary who also served on the committee that recommended the change, said that although there are many sins, homosexuality is the one challenging the church.

The action will immediately affect about 16 North Carolina congregations—whether or not they welcome homosexuals—because they are affiliated with the Alliance of Baptists, a national group that is officially gay-friendly.

Baptist volunteers respond In wake of deadly tornado

Riegelwood, N.C. (BP)—North Carolina Baptists were quick to respond when the state’s second-deadliest tornado in 50 years swept through a small community, killing eight people, injuring 20 and destroying dozens of homes.

“We are running a small feeding operation and have some disaster relief chaplains in place, and we’ll be assisting the survivors with going through the debris that was left by the storm,” Gaylon Moss, disaster relief director for the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina, told Baptist Press.

The feeding unit is set up at Riegelwood Baptist Church, about 20 miles west of Wilmington. A 1,000-foot-wide tornado struck Riegelwood in the early morning of Nov. 16, carving a path more than a half-mile wide and almost a mile long, according to the Star-News newspaper in Wilmington.

Residents were taken by surprise Thursday morning when they heard a loud rumbling sound and saw a huge funnel cloud bearing down on them, the Star-News reported.

“There was no warning. There was no time. It just came out from nowhere,” Cissy Kennedy, who lives in a neighborhood hit by the tornado, told the Star-News.

The tornado was part of a strong system of storms that moved through the South leaving a two-day death toll of 12 people. About 100 Riegelwood residents were left homeless by the tornado, and some were seeking shelter at a local elementary school.

Moss said no members of Riegelwood Baptist Church were directly affected by the twister but they were working to minister to the community.

A hospital spokesman told the Star-News that families were “in distress” over trying to locate missing family members and grieving the loss of those who died.

“We have two chaplains in Riegelwood providing spiritual and emotional care to emergency workers and survivors,” Moss said.

Other Baptists volunteers are working alongside the victims to sort through the debris.

“The first step would just be to help them dig through the rubble, to be there to offer an extra set of hands to help them sort through what they have left and try to help them through that,” Moss said.

Tenn. Baptists to ask leaders if they affirm SBC faith statement

Memphis, Tenn. (ABP)—Tennessee Baptists voted overwhelmingly Nov. 14 to publicize whether nominees to leadership posts in the convention affirm the 2000 Baptist Faith and Message statement.

Jerry Sutton, pastor of Two Rivers Baptist Church in Nashville, proposed making the change to the questionnaire submitted by potential nominees. Sutton said messengers had a right to know if the convention’s leaders affirm the document.

“When we make decisions on who goes on various board and agencies as trustees, there is a tacit assumption historically, with Southern Baptists and Tennessee Baptists, that Tennessee Baptists are vitally connected with the Southern Baptist Convention,” he said. “In the past 20 to 25 years, we’ve got a group that’s not loyal to Southern Baptists, and yet these people go on ... the executive board, and they make Cooperative Program allocation decisions for those of us who are committed to the Southern Baptist Convention,” he said.

A messenger opposed to the motion alluded to the fact that Sutton’s own church does not give through the Tennessee Baptist Convention’s Cooperative Program but designates much of its giving to the Southern Baptist Convention.

“It seems to me that those who want to make budget allocations should be people who give to the Cooperative Program, whose gifts are not designated around the Cooperative Program, but who give strongly supportive of the cooperative work

of this convention,” said James Robertson of Sharon Baptist Church in Knoxville.

Messengers amended Sutton’s motion to include a provision that the nominees’ answers to the Baptist Faith and Message question be included in the nominating committees’ report, which is published prior to the convention’s votes on the nominees.

Randall Adkisson, chairman of the convention’s committee on boards and pastor of First Baptist Church in Cookeville, asked if the motion was in order, since the convention had chosen in 2000 not to adopt the Baptist Faith and Message as its own statement of faith.

The convention’s parliamentarians said the motion was in order, since it was only to add a question to a questionnaire and not to require that nominees affirm the confession in order to be elected.

But Bill Sherman, a messenger from First Baptist Church of Fairview, said the question and its publicized answer were intended to make adherence to the confession a de facto litmus test for service in Tennessee Baptist life. That, he said, makes it a creed—something Baptists have historically opposed as a test of faith.

Sherman offered an amendment to Sutton’s motion that would replace the question about the 2000 Baptist Faith and Message with the question: “Do you affirm your belief in the Bible alone in matters of faith and behavior?”

Sherman’s amendment failed on a show-of-ballots vote.

Gaddis, Smith, Fugitt elected to KBC's top three offices

By Trennis Henderson
Editor

Bowling Green—Continuing a recent trend of electing younger leaders, the Kentucky Baptist Convention's top three officers elected last week are under age 40.

Darren Gaddis, 37, was elected president; Kevin Smith, 39, was elected first vice president; and Chad Fugitt, 27, was elected second vice president.

All three officers also have current ties to Southern Baptist Theological Seminary. Gaddis and Fugitt both are pursuing doctor of ministry degrees from Southern and Smith is an assistant professor of church history at the Louisville-based seminary.

Gaddis, pastor of Central Baptist Church in Corbin, was elected by a vote of 792-403 over Steve Ayers, pastor of Hillvue Heights Baptist Church in Bowling Green.

Gaddis was nominated by former KBC President Don Mathis, staff evangelist at Eastwood Baptist Church in Bowling Green.

Describing Gaddis as "a leader of integrity and wisdom," Mathis said, "A leader must lead by inspiration and by example."

"CP does matter"

Echoing a focus from this year's Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting about the importance of electing officers from churches with strong Cooperative Program giving records, Mathis cited Central Baptist Church's annual CP contributions of 15 percent of undesignated receipts.



KBC OFFICERS New state convention officers include (from left) First Vice President Kevin Smith, pastor of Watson Memorial Baptist Church in Louisville; President Darren Gaddis, pastor of Central Baptist Church in Corbin; and Second Vice President Chad Fugitt, pastor of Chaplin Baptist Church.

State convention messengers voted earlier in the day to approve CP-related recommendations adopted in June by SBC messengers. The nine-point proposal includes calling for the election of convention officers "whose churches systematically and enthusiastically lead by example in giving sacrificially and proportionally through the Cooperative Program."

"The bottom line is the Cooperative Program does matter," Mathis said while nominating Gaddis. "You just can't spell convention president without 'CP.'"

During a post-election interview, Gaddis said he was "excited for Kentucky Baptists because we had two great Kentucky Baptist-focused can-

didates. I think the Kentucky Baptist Convention was going to win either way."

Ayers' congregation is the top Kentucky Baptist church in baptisms, with 435 baptisms reported last year.

"I am a Jesus preacher. Steve Ayers is a Jesus preacher," Gaddis added. "That's what I want to be about. That is what our convention is about."

Gaddis cites top goals

Gaddis said primary goals as KBC president will be to promote the Cooperative Program and Kentucky Baptists Connect, the state convention's five-year ministry initiative.

"I hope to see peace and harmony that has characterized our con-

vention to continue," he added. "We have a window of peace and opportunity and we have to take advantage of that."

In the only other contested race, Smith, pastor of Watson Memorial Baptist Church in Louisville, was elected first vice president by a vote of 423-208 over Skip Alexander, pastor of Campbellsville Baptist Church.

Smith was nominated by Bill Henard, pastor of Porter Memorial Baptist Church in Lexington, who told messengers, "To my knowledge, the Kentucky Baptist Convention has never elected an African-American to any leadership position in our convention."

In reality, Smith is at least the second African-American elected as a KBC officer. In 1971, just a few years after the height of the civil rights movement, Charles King, who was pastor of Corinthian Baptist Church in Frankfort, was elected KBC second vice president.

Describing Smith as "a brilliant conservative scholar," Henard noted that Smith led his African-American congregation to affiliate with the KBC two years ago.

"Kevin's church and Kevin Smith have embraced us," he added. "It is time that we embrace them."

The KBC's three other officers were elected by acclamation. Second Vice President Chad Fugitt is pastor of Chaplin Baptist Church. Secretary Wilma Simmons is a member of Big Spring Baptist Church and Assistant Secretary Mike Melloan is a member of Yellow Creek Baptist Church in Owensboro.

"We have a window of peace and opportunity and we have to take advantage of that."

New KBC President
Darren Gaddis

Lack of quorum prevents action on resolutions

By Trennis Henderson
Editor

Bowling Green—For the second time in three years, a lack of a quorum during the closing session kept Kentucky Baptist Convention messengers from adopting resolutions or conducting other business.

With 1,401 messengers registered for the Nov. 14-15 annual meeting in Bowling Green, the Wednesday morning crowd failed to reach the required 351 messengers needed to conduct business.

KBC President Paul Chitwood told the small crowd that the lack of a quorum was "my first disappointment of this meeting."

Rather than adopting resolutions, messengers heard a brief report from Committee on Resolutions Chairman Dan Summerlin about the resolutions that would have been proposed.

One other business item that failed to gain approval due to the lack of a quorum was a motion by Rick Reeder, director of missions for Caldwell-Lyon Baptist Association, for the state convention to explore ways to strengthen its relationship with the Kentucky League on Gambling and Alcohol Problems.

John Chowning, chairman of the KBC's Committee on Public Affairs, noted that the committee already had been discussing the issue and will continue to explore options to strengthen the KBC's relationship with the Kentucky League.

Among proposed resolutions reported by Summerlin were:

Opposing abortion and embryonic stem cell research. The proposal voiced strong opposition to "any scientific research that depends upon the killing of human embryos for the harvest of stem cells" and called for affirming "the biblical respect for life by caring for every human person from conception to grave."

Opposing expanded gambling. The measure encourages "all of our churches to find ways to educate their congregations regarding the dangers of gambling." It also urged the governor and members of the Kentucky General Assembly to "join with Kentucky citizens in finding ways to strengthen our state's economy on sound principles of creative and innovative industrial, educational and technological developments rather than on the false hopes of gambling."

Supporting a review of public policy impacts on marriage and families. The proposal calls on state government leaders to take action "necessary to assure that public policies are favorable and friendly to healthy marriages and families."

Reaffirming commitment to Kentucky Baptists Connect. The proposed resolution encouraged Kentucky Baptists to "work toward the achievement of the Kentucky Baptists Connect goals for the glory of God and to help more people come to a saving relationship with Him."

Commending the Cooperative Program. The measure pledged to "recommit ourselves to leading our churches to wholehearted and in-

creased support of the Cooperative Program through the giving of a percentage of undesignated receipts, and through the education of our members, especially the children and youth, as to the wisdom and value of the Cooperative Program." It also urged "our best efforts to raise up, train and elect leaders who strongly demonstrate a commitment to the Cooperative Program."

Other proposed resolutions focused on promoting wellness, commemorating the 110th anniversary of Mission Friends and a traditional resolution of appreciation for those who planned, hosted and led the KBC annual meeting.

Summerlin, pastor of Lone Oak First Baptist Church in Paducah, said the committee also had declined to recommend a pair of proposed resolutions introduced by messengers on the issue of public schools.

Daryl Mullins, pastor of Butler Baptist Church, had proposed a resolution encouraging increased participation in public schools and Logan Weiler, a member of Porter Memorial Baptist Church in Lexington, proposed a resolution on developing an exit strategy from public schools.

"Both resolutions were on the same topic," Summerlin said, "but their solutions were diametrically opposed."

Noting that messengers adopted a resolution last year on the role of Christian parents in public education, Summerlin said the committee on resolutions declined to address the issue this year.

KBC messengers approve \$24 million CP budget goal

Bowling Green—Kentucky Baptists adopted a \$24 million Cooperative Program goal for the 2007-08 budget year during last week's state convention annual meeting.

The goal, a 1.86 percent increase over the current budget year, includes 63.3 percent for Kentucky Baptist ministries and 36.7 percent for Southern Baptist Convention causes.

The budget proposal also includes a \$1.3 million challenge goal for a total CP goal of \$25.3 million.

A total of 1,428 messengers registered for the Nov. 14-15 annual meeting at First Baptist Church of Bowling Green. That was a decline from last year's total of 1,814 messengers in Frankfort.

In other action, messengers approved a nine-point proposal to strengthen Cooperative Program giving. The measure, approved in June by SBC messengers, encourages churches "to give an increasing percentage of undesignated receipts through the Cooperative Program for five successive years beginning in 2007." It also urges the election of convention officers "whose churches systematically and enthusiastically lead by example in giving sacrificially and proportionally through the Cooperative Program."

Messengers also approved a recommendation to hold the 2009 KBC annual meeting at Living Hope Baptist Church in Bowling Green.

The 2007 annual meeting will be at Severns Valley Baptist Church in Elizabethtown and the 2008 gathering will be at Immanuel Baptist Church in Lexington.

Messengers approved Allen Harrod, pastor of Nicholasville Baptist Church, to preach the 2007 convention sermon. James Blaylock, pastor of Corinth Baptist Church in London, was named the alternate.

Outgoing KBC President Paul Chitwood announced three appointments to the KBC Committee on Committees: Harold Cathey, director of missions for Greenup Baptist Association; David Daugherty, pastor of Clear Fork Baptist Church in Rockfield; and Kevin Smith, pastor of Watson Memorial Baptist Church in Louisville.

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

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'Digging up bones'

Whether you accept the Acts or Corinthians or some other account of speaking in tongues, I have a layman's comment and a question or two.

Paige Patterson and Dwight McKissic at Southwestern Seminary brought it to the fore for Southern Baptists. Since the elite scholars of our convention do not have enough to occupy their research and scholarship talents, they are "digging up bones" that I first discovered in the mountains of Eastern Kentucky back in the dark days of the Great Depression of the 1930s. My folks were not too well educated back in those days, and we young boys had a field day laughing and making fun of them trying to speak some kind of language.

It has been half a millennium since the Reformation and more than a century and half since the Southern Baptist Convention was organized. We have gotten along quite well without delving into something

that really has no logical or legitimate solution or explanation.

I studied German for two years. I cannot speak or write German. I once ordered "ein glasse Wasser" in Switzerland. The waitress said, "Oh, you want a glass of water," in perfect English.

I have never known or read about a person called to a foreign field as a missionary who was immediately blessed with the ability to speak that language. Do you not think God could have gotten him to the field a year or so earlier to save souls had He blessed him with the ability to speak the language? And is it not one of the requirements to speak an "ecstatic utterance" that someone be in the speaker's presence to interpret for him or her?

I'm sure God has enough trouble trying to untangle all the "babel" He hears daily from every part of the world.

Oscar Davidson
Somerset

Address dangers

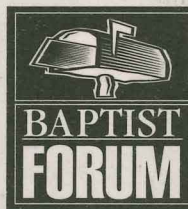
It is time for other dangers confronting the Kentucky Baptist churches to be addressed. Let us address the dangers of the CEO mentality that is expressed by some pastors. This mentality seems to be the offspring of the "senior pastor" concept.

We claim to be people of the Book. What is the biblical basis for "senior pastor"? The Apostle Paul and other New Testament writers referred to themselves as apostles, servants or slaves. That is a far cry from a CEO or "senior pastor."

Another great danger that needs to be addressed is the hyper-Calvinism theology being espoused by some pastors that results in division in the churches.

It seems to me that these dangers are as great as greed, fraud and other sins our churches are being warned about.

Ernest L. Martin
Danville

**Take time to review 2006 year-end tax tips**

By Sherre Stephens

Dallas (BP)—Think it's too early to start your tax preparation? A recent flurry of tax legislation and expiring tax credits and deductions that Congress could retroactively extend at year's end calls for early preparation despite a later filing date (April 18, 2007).

Get organized. Start now and use a checklist. Identify last-minute savings opportunities:

Maximize retirement plan election deferrals. The basic deferral limit is \$15,000 (\$20,000 for age 50 or older).

Contribute to a traditional IRA. The limit for taxpayers younger than age 70 and a half with sufficient income is \$4,000 (\$5,000 for age 50 or older). Consider an IRA for the non-working spouse. To qualify, the couple must be legally married at year's end and file a joint tax return.

Coordinate capital gains and losses. Review stock and other capital assets. Are some ripe for sale? Such tax harvesting can offset gains with losses thereby lowering taxable net gains.

Make the most of tax deductions:

Itemize deductions. The list is diverse and some impose thresholds in order to take the deduction.

Make a direct transfer from an IRA to a qualified charity. Taxpayers age 70 and a half or older can transfer up to \$100,000 to a qualified charity tax-free. The transaction must go directly from an IRA to the charity. Many IRA providers have cut-off dates for year-end transactions—some as early as Dec. 15.

Take advantage of tax credits. A tax credit reduces tax whereas a deduction reduces the amount of taxable income:

Child Tax Credit. This credit can

reduce taxes up to \$1,000 for each qualifying child.

Retirement Savings Contributions Credit. Taxpayers eligible to contribute to an employer-sponsored retirement plan or an IRA may qualify for this credit (up to \$1,000 or \$2,000 if filing jointly).

Home Energy Efficiency Improvement Tax Credits. Purchase and installation of energy efficient products qualify for a tax credit of up to \$500. Additional credit is available for certain other qualified purchases. The total credit caps at \$2,000.

Earned Income Tax Credit. Generally available to taxpayers with 2006 earned income under \$38,348, the EITC may also provide a refund.

Individuals with legal or tax questions should consult a legal or tax adviser who can provide specific information to their unique situation.

Sherre Stephens is a certified employee benefits specialist and director of executive and institutional benefit design for GuideStone Financial Resources

COMMENTARY**Counting blessings at Thanksgiving**

As we approach Thanksgiving Day, I am aware of so much for which to give thanks.

Near the top of the list is the privilege God has given me to serve our Lord by serving Kentucky Baptists. From my perspective, I have the best ministry opportunity there is among Baptists.

The main reason for this is the fact that Kentucky Baptists are so committed to the mission of our Lord Jesus Christ. Although Cooperative Program receipts currently are behind last year, all ministries are trusting in your faithfulness to keep state and world missions strong to the glory of God and for the salvation of the unreached in Kentucky and around the world. Thank you for your support and personal involvement in missions and evangelism.

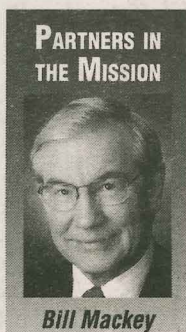
I also am grateful for the Mission Board staff God has raised up to assist Kentucky Baptist churches and ministries and associations in connecting all people to Jesus Christ.

Some staff vacancies were filled recently by action of the Mission Board and board members will be asked to consider other recommendations during their December meeting.

We desire the prayers of all Kentucky Baptists as we seek God's wisdom in identifying the right individuals for these positions. These staff members will be strategic for the implementation of the Kentucky Baptists Connect initiative. The major emphasis for the next three years will be on evangelism, with an intentional goal of breaking through the 20,000-baptisms-a-year barrier.

I also am grateful for the Christian spirit among Kentucky Baptists. Although we may have personal preferences on non-essentials, I am confident that Kentucky Baptists are together on the essentials.

The annual meeting of the Kentucky Baptist Convention was inspiring. The messages, fellowship, reports, music and video presenta-



Bill Mackey

tions were excellent. I thought the emphasis on CP missions was the best I have ever experienced. The workshops on Wednesday morning were outstanding.

Also, my wife, Kay, and I are grateful for family. We are grateful for two daughters and their families who are seeking to serve the Lord.

We are grateful for Christian parents. We were notified just after the annual meeting that my 87-year-old mother, our only remaining parent, was seriously ill. She went home to be with the Lord on Friday just before noon. My mother's 93-year-old sister passed away the following evening. Both have been dedicated Christians since their early teens.

Kay and I will be with our family during Thanksgiving. We desire your prayers.

We praise God for the hope that we have in Jesus Christ, 1 Peter 1:3-9.

Correction: In my article in the Nov. 7 issue I mentioned that Blackford Baptist Association had a new disaster relief chainsaw trailer. That actually is Little River Baptist Association.

Bill Mackey is executive director of the Kentucky Baptist Convention

FAMILY**Who determines when you have gained 'enough'?**

By Jeremy White

In my column last month, I posed the question, "How much is enough?" This is a challenging question—not just for those in the financial profession but for all us. Will it continue to be enough? Is it ever possible to have enough?

Some of you are earning more now than you ever thought possible 20 years ago. Is it enough? Through appreciation of your house, inheritances or increases in retirement plans, you might have assets that far exceed what you thought possible 20 years ago.

Our tendency is to want more and more. We seek every "want" to be met in addition to our needs. I'm certainly not against wise planning and prudent saving. But it seems there might be a maximum level that can be reached. Beyond that level, hoarding occurs rather than saving wisely, living comfortably and giving extravagantly.

God wanted to show the Israelites how they could rely on Him to provide enough as they escaped the bondage in Egypt. He provided manna: "Then the Lord said to Moses, 'I will rain down bread from heaven for you. The people are to go out each day and gather enough for that day. In this way I will test them and see whether they will follow My instructions'" (Exodus 16:4).

Notice that God used the daily provision of manna as a test for their obedience. The manna certainly met a practical need, but it also was a means to see the level of obedience to God's instructions. The same is true with money and possessions in our society.

Who defines your level of "enough"? Are you allowing advertising to persuade you to strive for more and more? Are you letting the generation before you who lived through the Great Depression determine your enough? Are you trying to win a competitive game in outdoing your neighbors and peers with the best house, nicest car, latest gadget or trendiest wardrobe?

If we let anyone besides God lead us in determining how much is enough, then we are likely to be out of balance. From God's perspective—not from TV or keeping up with the Joneses—do you have enough for your needs? He is a generous, abundant-providing Creator who often chooses to meet many of our desires as well as our needs.

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



How can divorcing parents help kids during holidays?

Q: My spouse and I recently separated and likely will get divorced. How can we make our co-parenting successful, especially during the holidays?

Divorce can be pernicious in the abandonment it creates for those involved, especially children. The tragedy of divorce does not have to result in an ongoing battle, leaving the children even more broken in a continuing tug-of-war between parents.

PARENTING

One of the big tragedies in American divorce for the past 40 years was lack of contact between children and one of the parents, most often the dad. Dads today often want to be co-nurturers more than simply breadwinners, and remain a continuing part of their children's lives. When children are asked what they want for Christmas, often high on the list is for their parents to get along.

You can set aside negative emotions for a higher goal. It is worth the effort to make a gesture such as preparing a certain type of food important to the former spouse's family tradition. Significant holiday celebrating with both parents present can lessen some of the stress on the children.

With divorce lawyers encouraging more cooperation, even offering "collaborative divorce," divorcing couples have more opportunity to treat each other respectfully and resolve most if not all of their issues out of court. This alone should be to the children's emotional benefit.

Forty states require new divorces involving children to undergo at least four hours of co-parenting education. Call your local university, city, county or state government and church to see what is available. With advance planning and the goal of "putting the children first," parents unsuccessful as spouses can still be successful co-parents, and can model for children how to live out Christ's law of love to the one other person in this world who means the most to them.—James Stillwell

Q: As our family celebrates Thanksgiving, how can I help my child develop a thankful attitude?

In Colossians 3, the Apostle Paul gives guidelines for holy living. Included in the list we find this admonition: "Be thankful." In fact, the thanksgiving theme dominates much of Paul's writing. As he looks for ways to encourage the early church, Paul constantly reminds them to be thankful. Parents must do the same for their children.

Most of our children have everything they need and most of what they want. As a result, many kids expect everything and appreciate nothing. Parents should challenge and change that way of thinking early on. Thanksgiving holidays provide a special opportunity not only to give thanks, but to teach children the importance of being thankful.

Put together a Thanksgiving Treasure Hunt for your children. Make a list of six or so things that you want your child to be thankful for such as food, family, friends, their home, God, etc. Choose something that represents each of these (a picture, a food item, a Bible, a favorite toy, etc.). Next, find Scripture verses that have to do with being thankful. Psalm 95:2, Psalm 100:4, Philippians 4:6 and Colossians 3:15b are all possibilities. Write each verse on an index card. Choose hiding places around your house and hide each item along with a verse card. Write simple clues for each location.

Give your children a plain white gift bag with handles and let them decorate it using markers or crayons. Have them include the words "Be Thankful!" on the bag. Give them the clues and send them on their way. When all the items and verse cards have been found, use them and the scriptures to frame a prayer of thanksgiving. Consider making the Thanksgiving Treasure Hunt an annual event.—David Garrard

Family Forum writers are:

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'Window of peace & opportunity'? Maybe

A strong focus on leading with integrity and godly vision, celebrating the Cooperative Program and affirming Kentucky Baptists Connect were among the many highlights of last week's Kentucky Baptist Convention annual meeting in Bowling Green.

Both KBC Executive Director Bill Mackey and newly elected KBC President Darren Gaddis described the current climate in Kentucky Baptist life as "a window of peace and opportunity." Hopefully that will prove to be true in the days and years ahead.

A growing commitment to Connect ministry goals certainly bodes well for Kentucky Baptist churches over the next three years. Such lofty goals as baptizing an average of 25,000 converts a year, launching 75 churches and leading congregations to start 5,000 new Bible study units should help keep Kentucky churches and leaders moving in a positive direction.

Another key to the KBC's window of peace has been the ability in recent years to successfully navigate potentially peace-shattering issues such as Georgetown College's move to a self-perpetuating board and addressing the Southern Baptist Convention's revised Baptist Faith and Message statement. Kentucky Baptists generally have found ways to reach positive, Christ-honoring compromises on touchy topics while maintaining historic bonds of cooperation.

But even amid those achievements, there always is room for improvement. One of the recurring themes during last week's annual meeting was strengthening Cooperative Program giving. While that definitely is a worthy goal, Kentucky Baptists must be careful not to substitute their checkbooks for personal involvement in ministry. It must be both/and.

Steve Ayers, who preached this year's convention sermon, clearly communicated that point in his forceful, straightforward way. "You want to raise Cooperative Program giving? Let's try raising baptisms," he urged. "I noticed our giving was up and our baptisms are down. Something is off the mark; they should match."

Frequent references to CP also carried over into the officer elections, the KBC Mission Board recommendations and the Tuesday evening "Celebrating Cooperation" emphasis.

While a casual observer might assume the officer

elections primarily were about CP support, there also were other dynamics involved. For instance, while KBC messengers followed the SBC's pattern from this summer and elected a president whose church is a strong leader in CP giving, they also failed to elect a first vice presidential candidate whose church has a very similar CP giving record.

Last week's elections also came amid widespread reports of pre-convention politicking across the state. For his part, Gaddis told reporters immediately after his election that he believes Kentucky Baptists are moving beyond convention politics.

"I think Kentucky Baptists reject politics in our convention. ... Those games are behind us," Gaddis emphasized. "It's no longer a matter of moderate vs. conservative. We are electing presidents who have been Kentucky Baptists all along."

In his role as KBC president, Gaddis hopefully will use his influence to help ensure that political campaigning for or against future nominees will be reduced or eliminated.

One obvious opportunity to minimize convention politics is at the annual pre-convention Pastors' Conference. During contested presidential elections each of the past three years, one presidential nominee was invited to speak the day before the election and the other was not. I would encourage incoming Pastors' Conference President Floyd Paris and future conference officers to invite either all announced presidential candidates to speak—or none.

If Kentucky Baptists truly want to rise above convention politics, one starting point is to avoid even the appearance of not-so-subtle political endorsements.

As a positive alternative, the Western Recorder annually publishes an in-depth question-and-answer interview with all announced presidential nominees prior to the KBC annual meeting. That provides messengers the opportunity to read the nominees' views on key issues in a fair, balanced format and prayerfully determine which candidate to support.

If Kentucky Baptists consciously choose to eschew convention politics while enthusiastically supporting the Cooperative Program, Kentucky Baptists Connect, integrity and godly vision, we indeed have the potential to experience "a window of peace and opportunity."

STRAIGHT FROM THE EDITOR



Trennis Henderson

What will it take to increase baptisms?

By Ed Stetzer

Alpharetta, Ga. (BP)—There's been a lot of talk recently about ways to increase baptisms. It's an important dialogue. Yet, despite all the talk, studies show we have fewer and fewer baptisms each year to discuss. That's disturbing.

Total annual baptisms by churches show alarming trends:

- In 2005, 11,740 churches reported zero or one baptism, up from 11,122 in 2004. This is an increase of 5.6 percent.

- More than 55 percent of churches baptized no youth (12-17 year olds) in 2005, up from 52 percent the previous year.

- The number of churches baptizing 10 or more people declined to 10,062 in 2005, down from 10,598 in 2004.

According to former Southern Baptist Convention President Bobby Welch, only 40 percent of SBC converts come from the ranks of the unchurched. He went on to say, "What that means is that we're not reaching the pagan pool. ... We're just rearranging the furniture inside the church."

Welch's comments line up well with a study by the Southern Baptist

North American Mission Board's Research Team. According to a study of adults baptized in 1993, nearly 20 percent of SBC baptisms came from

those who already were baptized by immersion in an SBC church. An-

other 40 percent came from people who had been sprinkled at an earlier time, mostly as children. Only 40 percent of people baptized in the year of our study considered their baptism to be a result of conversion.

The good news is that those who were baptized understood and obeyed the biblical teaching that baptism follows conversion and "got their baptism on the right side of their salvation." The bad news is that many of those who were baptized were not conversions.

The downward trend in baptisms has been noted by the secular press as well. USA Today recently wrote about the decline of the "ritual of baptism." I read the article and thought about all those compromised churches that quit baptizing. But then I saw it. The story was talking about us! USA Today explained, "Denominations that baptize only believers—older kids and adults who profess change of heart and want to witness this with an outward sign—

also are seeing a decline."

The baptismal decline has been evident since the 1950s. With the exception of a bump in the 1970s during the Jesus movement, baptisms have plateaued or trended slightly downward. The last few years indicate trouble ahead. Though we've had a renewed focus on conversion growth, and availability of evangelism resources and training, we're reaching fewer people. All of this while the population around us is growing—and growing fast.

We can bemoan declining baptisms for another year or we can ask ourselves several hard questions. Why do some churches reach people and others do not? What can we learn from them? What passion have we lost? What will it take to stir the waters of baptism once again?

It won't happen through tools and techniques—as useful as those are—but as God moves in the lives of His people and in the lives of those we encounter. We need a renewed passion for God, a burden for the lost, sensitivity to daily opportunities, and obedient and willing hearts. When that happens, baptisms will no longer be a disturbing trend, but a dynamic testimony.

Ed Stetzer is senior director of the North American Mission Board's Center for Missional Research

Churches honored for gifts topping \$1 million to CP

Bowling Green—Kentucky Baptist churches recognized last week for exceeding \$1 million in cumulative Cooperative Program giving include:

- Beechwood Baptist Church, Louisville.
- Buck Run Baptist Church, Frankfort.
- Carlisle Avenue Baptist Church, Louisville.
- Eaton Memorial Baptist Church, Owensboro.
- Eddyville First Baptist Church.
- Edgewood Baptist Church, Hopkinsville.
- Hardinsburg Baptist Church.
- Hawesville Baptist Church.
- Immanuel Baptist Church, Elizabethtown.
- Lewisport Baptist Church.
- Ninth and O Baptist Church, Louisville.
- Northside Baptist Church, Princeton.
- Rich Pond Baptist Church, Bowling Green.
- Rose Hill Baptist Church, Ashland.
- Rosemont Baptist Church, Lexington.
- Williamsburg First Baptist Church.
- Williamstown Baptist Church.

Brasher and Taylor recipients of 2006 CP leadership awards

Bowling Green—Kentucky Baptists honored two of their own for outstanding leadership and support of the Cooperative Program during a special CP celebration Nov. 14.

KBC Executive Director Mackey presented distinguished Cooperative Program leadership awards to C.C. Brasher and Eldred Taylor.

Brasher has served as pastor of Briensburg Baptist Church for more than 30 years. He also has served as a KBC vice president, president of the Kentucky Baptist Pastors' Conference and as a member of the KBC Mission Board.

"C.C. Brasher for many years has led his church to be a leader in Cooperative Program giving," noted Steve Thompson, assistant executive director of the Kentucky Baptist Convention. "The Briensburg Church has consistently been one of the top CP per capita givers."

Eldred Taylor's ministry has included 23 years as pastor of First Baptist Church of Somerset, as well as director of missions and evangelism for the KBC, executive director of the Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children and KBC president in 1967-68.

"While pastor of First Baptist Church of Somerset, he led that church to be a leader in Cooperative Program giving, often in the top three in the state," Thompson said. "Eldred has not only given generously of himself to Kentucky Baptists, but has led Kentucky Baptists to be generous givers."

Six churches were recognized as top givers to the Cooperative Program. Three were recognized for to-

tal dollars given in 2005: Living Hope Baptist Church in Bowling Green, which gave \$407,938; Porter Memorial Baptist Church in Lexington, \$365,078; and Immanuel Baptist Church in Lexington, \$335,742.

Three other churches were recognized as the top per capita givers: Countryside Baptist Church in Morganfield, whose 38 members gave a total of \$9,616, or \$253 per member; Lighthouse Fellowship in Louisville, whose 11 members gave \$2,222, or \$202 per member; and First Baptist Church of Fountain Run, whose 212 members gave \$42,164, or more than \$198 per member.

Sevens Valley Baptist Church in Elizabethtown was honored for cumulative giving of \$9 million to the Cooperative Program, while First Baptist Church of Paducah was honored for reaching \$7 million and Porter Memorial Baptist Church in Lexington was honored for reaching \$6 million.

Central Baptist Church in Winchester, First Baptist Church of Murray and Second Baptist Church of Hopkinsville all reached \$4 million.

Churches reaching \$3 million include First Baptist Church of Henderson and Living Hope Baptist Church of Bowling Green.

Eastwood Baptist Church in Bowling Green, First Baptist Church of Russellville and First Baptist Church of Princeton were honored for reaching the \$2 million mark.

Seventeen churches were honored for topping \$1 million in Cooperative Program giving. (See article at left.)

Cooperative Program celebration highlights global spiritual impact

Continued from page 1

video from Ian Sterling of Las Vegas.

Sterling, a Red Cross volunteer, became a Christian after working alongside Kentucky Baptist disaster relief workers two years ago after a series of hurricanes struck the South.

"They weren't there to make food," Sterling said as soft chuckles sounded across the crowd. "They were there to show anyone who will listen what Jesus is all about."

"My salvation is a direct result of the generosity, commitment and dedication of ... disaster relief and the Cooperative Program (that) supports it," Sterling added. "I can't thank you enough for saving me."

Larry Koch, disaster relief associate for the KBC Baptist Men on Mission department, thanked Kentucky Baptists for their cooperative giving, noting that it has provided disaster relief equipment that enables workers to share Christ in a meaningful way.

Joy Bolton, executive director of Kentucky Woman's Missionary Union, told how 20,000 people in Eastern Kentucky had received assistance as a result of WMU's mission materials alerting people to

their needs.

Last April, when Kentucky WMU spotlighted Hispanic ministries at its annual convention, participants donated 2,400 Spanish Bibles for distribution around the state.

"Thank you for praying and giving to missions," Bolton said.

Hispanic missionary Rolando Muniz shared how cooperative giving includes more than money. For example, Warren Baptist Association's WMU provides a meal every Saturday for students at the Hispanic Bible Institute, he noted.

Ken Hemphill, Southern Baptists' national strategist for the Empowering Kingdom Growth initiative, was the closing speaker for the CP celebration.

Emphasizing that the Cooperative Program has biblical roots, Hemphill cited Paul's appeal to Christians at Macedonia and Corinth to help Jewish believers in Jerusalem.

Hemphill said he likes being part of an effort that is so big no individual person gets glory for it.

He said the global impact of the Cooperative Program is "so big only God can get credit for it."

With additional reporting by Editor Trennis Henderson

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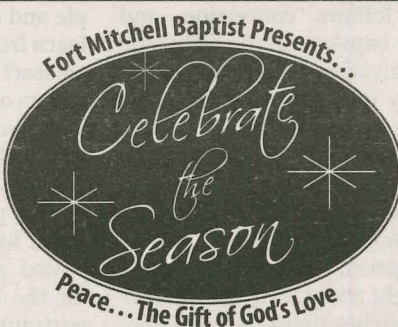
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'Give away the gospel,' KBC president urges

By Ken Walker
State Correspondent

Bowling Green—Outgoing Kentucky Baptist Convention President Paul Chitwood drew a hearty ovation during his presidential address with the aid of a clip from the film, "Facing the Giants."

The scene showed a blindfolded player crawling the length of a football field while carrying a teammate on his back as his coach urged him to give his best.

When the player reached the end zone, his coach told him God had given him the gift of leadership and not to waste it.

"God's given you the gift of leadership," Chitwood told Kentucky Baptists gathered for last week's state convention annual meeting. "Your church needs you, Kentucky Baptists need you, the Kingdom needs you."

"I'm asking you today to give your best," urged Chitwood, pastor of First Baptist Church of Mount Washington. "Do your best and don't worry about the rest."

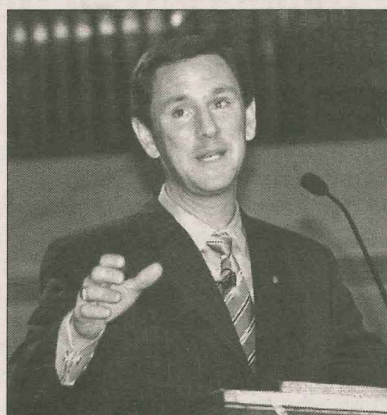
"Take notice of the times"

Echoing the convention theme of "Leading with Integrity and Godly Vision," Chitwood said to be good leaders, believers must take notice of the times.

Citing Jesus' words about the end of the age in Matthew 24, Chitwood said Christ warned of natural calamities and that those who followed Him would face hatred.

Those words are coming true worldwide, with the potential for even greater conflict in the future, he warned.

"We realize even in our own culture there's a growing hostility to the gospel message," Chitwood said.



Paul Chitwood

"The good news, as we see it shared in our land, is not considered by many to be good news."

While Christians must be prepared for tests and trials, they also must be ready to seize opportunities as they arise, Chitwood said.

That includes being open to changing some of the methods used to reach the world with the gospel, he added.

Noting that once-thriving congregations are dying because they refuse to change, Chitwood said, "We have been called to engage the culture, not where we want them to be, but where they are. Whatever it takes, that's what He has called us to. May you and I be faithful."

In addition to taking notice of the times, Chitwood said good leaders must resist the cultural trend of turning away from Christ.

He pointed to stark statistics about the prevalence of divorce, gambling and incarceration rates to illustrate Jesus' words about wickedness multiplying.

For some people, the price of remaining faithful to the gospel will be too high, Chitwood said. "The

pressure will be too great. They will cave under it."

But Christ wants His followers to understand that with such times come great opportunities to point people to the truth, Chitwood added.

Insisting that he didn't want to merely lament the situation, Chitwood encouraged Kentucky Baptists to take advantage of times by giving away the gospel and giving their best.

Giving away the gospel starts with sharing about Christ rather than one's views on theology, eschatology or other subjects, Chitwood said.

"Don't go around building fences around the gospel," he urged. "Give away the gospel."

"Do your best" for Christ's cause

Citing Jesus' call for believers to stand firm to the end, Chitwood asked whether Kentucky Baptists are giving their best to Christ's cause.

"My father always said, 'Paul, do your best and don't worry about it,'" Chitwood said. "The average expectation from my father has always been, 'Do your best.' God wants your average effort to reach the lost in your community to be the best."

In an interview after his message, Chitwood said among the state convention's strong points are its cooperative spirit and strong leadership.

Chitwood encouraged incoming KBC President Darren Gaddis to "continue to challenge (churches) on the Kentucky Baptists Connect goals."

"Kentucky Baptists are wonderful, loving, faithful people," he added. "The good will shown toward our leaders has been a positive experience for me."

Convention sermon: 'Time to share good news'

By Trennis Henderson
Editor

Bowling Green—Challenging Kentucky Baptists to "get serious about our heritage," Steve Ayers declared, "I'm tired of hearing about historical Baptists who average one baptism a year. That's not our history."

"We proclaim to the world there is good news. His name is Jesus," he emphasized. "That is what this convention is about."

Ayers, pastor of Hillvue Heights Baptist Church in Bowling Green, preached the annual convention sermon at last week's state convention annual meeting. A perennial leader in baptisms among Kentucky Baptists, his congregation reported 435 baptisms last year.

Citing Jesus' words in Luke 4 that He had come "to preach good news to the poor and proclaim release to the captives," Ayers said, "You know who the poor are? That's anybody without Jesus."

"I want to recommend for us as a convention that we get back to the purpose of Jesus," he urged. "Kentucky Baptists, we need to start being a good news people. ... You'll be amazed how people will be absolutely convinced Jesus is the Absolute if you'll just absolutely tell them about Him."

Affirming that "I believe the Bible," Ayers added, "I even believe



Steve Ayers

the parts our convention won't validate. I believe all of it. I'm not smart enough to skip any of it.

"I don't understand a lot of it," he noted, "but I can tell you this, the more you live it, the more you see clearly."

Warning that "money will never get us to where God wants us to be," Ayers said, "You get them saved; their money will come along. You want to raise Cooperative Program giving? Let's try raising baptisms. ... I noticed our giving was up and our baptisms are down. Something is off the mark; they should match."

"We can absolutely baptize 25,000 people in this state in a year," he declared, "and the only reason that hasn't happened is you can't see it yet. You're seeing what has been instead of what can be. When you hook

up with Jesus, He helps you see what you cannot see."

The key to increasing baptisms to 25,000 a year is realizing that it's about "people needing Jesus," Ayers said. "Until that vibrates through every molecule of our existence, we won't do it."

Challenging fellow Baptists to "lay down our theological differences" and "lay down our personality differences," Ayers said if Kentucky Baptists "would realize that God has put value in every one of us and we bring all that together in one motion of the Holy Spirit, this state will be changed."

Warning believers not to settle for earthly splendor at the expense of eternal glory, he added, "It's not what we have that matters; it's Who has us that matters."

"If we worship this organization, we will fail. If we worship the mechanisms of this organization, we will fail," Ayers noted. "They are man-made. They're OK but they're still man-made. If we honor God, He will supply."

Reiterating the challenge to preach good news to the poor and proclaim release to the captives, Ayers concluded, "It's about Jesus; let's get it right. Jesus said, 'I've come to love you, forgive you, change you, transform you.' It's time to share the good news."

'Be stewards of the gospel,' Draper challenges Baptists

By Dannah Prather
Partnerships Editor

Bowling Green—Say the word "stewardship" and most Baptists brace themselves for a sermon on tithing. But in his address to the Kentucky Baptist Convention, retired LifeWay Christian Resources President Jimmy Draper said believers are stewards of something more precious than money.

"The greatest stewardship is the stewardship of the gospel," Draper told messengers and guests during the final session of the annual meeting Nov. 15 in Bowling Green.

Citing 1 Corinthians 4:1-5, Draper said in the context of the passage, a steward refers to someone who manages the assets of his master. He added that the word "steward" is mentioned 18 times in the Bible and only in the New Testament.

One of the best explanations of believers as stewards of the gospel comes in 1 Peter 4, Draper said, noting that the passage "refers to believers as 'good managers' of what Peter calls 'the very grace of God.'"

When Christians accept that the message of Christ's redemptive sacrifice at Calvary is their greatest treasure, it becomes "the basis of all valid vision and missions," Draper said. "We are entrusted with God's message to a lost world. We are stewards of that."

Some Southern Baptists have substituted tithing and sacrificial financial giving for the stewardship of the gospel, he added. "We are a wealthy denomination and have done a good job in financial stewardship—the giving of our dollars," Draper said, but in "the giving of the gospel," Southern Baptists have fallen short.

"Ninety-five percent of the people in our churches don't share their faith," he said.

Humility is required for Christians to become good "managers" of the gospel, Draper said. "We'll not be good stewards until we are servants of Christ."

"It would be good if all of us in positions of leadership understood that first and foremost we are servants of Christ," he said. "We must not act like kings or tyrants, but servants."

Ambassadors for Christ

Believers are representatives of Christ, similar to the role of ambassadors who speak on behalf of someone else, not themselves. "It's not our message," Draper said. "It's not up to us to edit it, change it or expand it. ... We're pressured on every side to expand and adapt to make the gospel relevant. We can't improve upon God's grace."

Stewards must be faithful, Draper said. Believers are entrusted with "God's open secret. It's been given to me to proclaim. ... I don't think we Christians often realize that (with) grace, He's given us responsibility. We must not misuse our Master's trust."

Faithfulness requires obedience but does not require qualities believers do not possess, he said. "We're not expected to be brilliant or popular or successful or even creative," Draper said. "We're required to be faithful. God has given us the keys to the Kingdom. Those keys have been handed down to us."

Diligence and consistency are other qualities required of a steward, he added. A Christian should be the kind of person "whose Master finds him working when He comes. We must be busy. There's no place for laziness."

Accountability is crucial, Draper said, reminding Kentucky Baptists that God will hold every believer accountable for his or her stewardship of the gospel. Christians will receive "either a reward, a 'well done' (from God) or a wasted life."

Draper said the "substance of our stewardship" depends on God-given talents, abilities, resources, opportunities and experiences. "There are no sideliners or observers. Everyone has a responsibility."

One aspect of stewardship many believers may overlook is the value of experience. "You're a steward of your sorrow," he said. "We need to be good stewards of what He's allowed us to experience, success or failure, joy or sorrow." A Christian's testimony of God's provision in the midst of trials can draw others to Him, he noted.

"We must understand the stewardship of our Lord Jesus Christ," Draper said. "The purpose of all we do, every ministry, every activity, needs to be designed to equip us to make God's message known."

Draper encouraged Kentucky Baptists to live in the moment, taking advantage of every opportunity to spread the gospel. "The Master is returning," he declared, "and we will be accountable to Him."

Draper offers practical tips for finishing well in ministry

"Any pastor who falls into sin begins by flirting with it. Don't do that."

Jimmy Draper, retired president of LifeWay Christian Resources

By Trennis Henderson
Editor

Bowling Green—During more than a half century of ministry as a pastor and denominational leader, Jimmy Draper has amassed a wealth of tips for finishing well.

Sharing several of those lessons last week with Kentucky Baptists, Draper led a workshop on "Leadership: Integrity for Finishing Well."

Draper, who retired this year as president of LifeWay Christian Resources, noted that "I've watched many folks in ministry and church leadership fail."

Citing the recent moral crisis of former National Association of Evangelicals President Ted Haggard, Draper said, "It's important for us to incorporate into our lives characteristics, habits and principles that will help us do well and finish well."

Draper, a former Southern Baptist Convention president, offered a list of practical suggestions to help ministers and church leaders finish well, including:

Don't neglect your personal walk with the Lord. "Most of us in ministry tend to think we're the exception to the rule—that what we teach isn't something we have to do," he



Jimmy Draper

warned. Urging believers to maintain "a vital relationship with God," he added, "There are just some days that the only thing that keeps you going is your relationship to the Lord."

Make time for your family. "No Christian leader can be effective if he doesn't have a godly family life," Draper said. "Make time for your family; put them on your calendar."

Be an encourager. "Everybody needs encouragement," he noted. "Everybody's hurting." Emphasizing that "kindness and sensitivity are important," he added, "Find ways

to connect with people. Find people you can encourage. ... That's really what our job is" as ministers.

Be open and honest. "Those of us who lead are not perfect; those who follow us know that. Just be honest, be real, be yourself, be transparent. I know it's risky, but it's worth the risk."

Don't let anger be a pattern of your behavior. "Some preachers are always mad," he pointed out. "Treat people with courtesy, especially those who disagree with you. You can have strong convictions and be nice about it."

Let your preaching and teaching flow from the Bible. "Start from Scripture," Draper urged. "There's not any new sin or force causing difficulty in the world that hasn't been here. ... God's Word deals with it."

Don't flirt with temptation. "You need to determine now that you are not going to do anything that would be shameful or disgraceful," Draper counseled. "Any pastor who falls into sin begins by flirting with it. Don't do that."

Be an example of integrity. "Other people follow our example," he noted. "A minister cannot be seen to compromise or do something that

questions your integrity. Let your words be true. ... Let them be consistent.

Cooperate with fellow believers. "None of us can fulfill the Great Commission by ourselves. God expects us to work together," Draper declared. "The bigger your church, the more you need to be involved. You have a stewardship of influence."

Practice humility. "Don't always hog the spotlight; give credit to other people," he said. "Humility is at the heart of character, consistency and compassion. You never really succeed until those you work with succeed."

Demonstrate courage. "We need to have courage in ministry which speaks of vision," he noted. "Courage is not blind hope that we're going to succeed. It is courageously following God's plan."

Keep your eyes on the goal. "Maximize the opportunities you have," Draper urged. "Wherever you are, serve every day with the belief that you'll spend the rest of your life there."

"Trust God to bless you," he concluded. "Pray every day that God will help you finish well."

Leadership expert cites 'habitudes' that enhance leaders' impact

By Ken Walker
State Correspondent

Bowling Green—Tim Elmore, founder and president of "Growing Leaders," an organization established to help develop emerging leaders, said the local church is an ideal laboratory for building leaders, but it takes education and effort to achieve results.

Elmore, a longtime associate of leadership expert John Maxwell, led a workshop on "Habitudes: Images that Form Leadership Habits and Attitudes" during last week's Kentucky Baptist Convention annual meeting in Bowling Green.

Reflecting on becoming a youth pastor at age 19 and recognizing the awesome responsibilities he faced, Elmore said, "I realized I didn't know how to lead. I had more passion than insight."

An art major in college, Elmore said he gradually gained expertise

by developing pictures of principles that he needed to know.

Over the years, he developed those pictures into a series of 52 images known as "habitudes" featured in a set of books. Three volumes are in print and a fourth volume is scheduled for release in February.

Elmore reviewed four of his habitude principles during the Nov. 15 workshop, including:

An iceberg. The iceberg illustrates the first rule of leadership, Elmore said, with the 10 percent above the surface representing skills and the 90 percent hidden below the surface representing a person's character.

He described self-discipline, emotional security, core values and a sense of identity as the fundamental elements of character.

"It's always what is below the surface that sinks the ship," he said, warning that leaders sometimes ignore warnings about their character

flaws from a spouse, church members or other church leaders.

Chess and checkers. Although the playing boards for both look the same, chess requires knowing the strengths of each piece, Elmore said.

Good leaders will ignore the conventional wisdom to treat everyone alike and instead learn each person's strong points when forming a team, Elmore said.

"I'm an advocate of strength-based leadership," he added. "I don't think God makes average people. We've got to help them flourish."

Rivers and floods. Both are bodies of water, Elmore noted, but floods go in every direction.

While floods often cause damage, rivers are dynamic and have useful purposes because they are moving in the same direction, he added.

In the same way, when leaders try to do too many things they wind up accomplishing nothing, Elmore

warned workshop participants.

"Sooner or later you've got to narrow the focus," he said. "Leaders can do anything but they can't do everything."

The bit market. Elmore illustrated this principle with a drill bit boring a hole in a piece of wood.

He said too many leaders fall in love with a particular program or method instead of remembering the results they want.

"Great leaders keep their eye on the hole, not the drill bit," Elmore said. "They're always looking for new ways to make holes."

As an example, he added, good church leaders recognize that if their aim is to reach people for Christ, they might have to scrap a popular program when it loses its effectiveness.

"In the kind of world we live in, we cannot use the same drill bit (forever) to make the hole," he said.

Kentucky Baptist churches, associations honored for starting other churches

By Dannah Prather
Partnerships Editor

Bowling Green—During last week's Kentucky Baptist Convention annual meeting, state convention leaders honored churches that start other churches

KBC Executive Director Bill Mackey reported that 50 congregations were launched in 2006. Fourteen of the churches are Hispanic. One congregation is Korean, and another church is for the deaf.

Pastors and other representatives from several of the sponsoring congregations and associations were on hand to receive trophies from the KBC missions growth team. Those recognized were:

- Anchor Baptist Church, Lexington.
- Bardstown Baptist Church.
- Beechwood Baptist Church, Louisville.
- Benton First Baptist Church.
- Blackjack Baptist Church, Franklin.

- Calvary Baptist Church, Lexington.
- Carlisle Avenue Baptist Church, Louisville.

- Central Baptist Church, Paris.
- Clifton Heights Baptist Church, Louisville.

- Covington First Baptist Church.
- Grace Baptist Church, Malone.
- Grayson First Baptist Church.
- Elkton Baptist Church.
- Fort Thomas First Baptist Church.
- Highland Baptist Church, Shelbyville.

- Immanuel Baptist Church, Lexington.
- Little Flock Baptist Church, Shepherdsville.

- Living Hope Baptist Church, Bowling Green.
- Louisa First Baptist Church.

- McDowell First Baptist Church.
- Memorial Baptist Church, Frankfort.

- Memorial Baptist Church, LaGrange.
- Ninth and O Baptist Church, Louisville.

- Northside Baptist Church, Mayfield.
- Owingsville Baptist Church.
- Piner Baptist Church, Morning View.
- Rockford Lane Baptist Church, Louisville.

- Shelbyville First Baptist Church.
- Sojourn Baptist Church, Louisville.
- Central Baptist Association.
- Graves County Baptist Association.
- Lincoln Baptist Association.
- Monroe Baptist Association.
- Ohio River Baptist Association.
- Red River Baptist Association.

"I'm grateful for our Connect emphasis," Mackey said, referring to the five-year Kentucky Baptists Connect effort to increase baptisms, outreach efforts, discipleship and other aspects of ministry in the commonwealth.

"It's a privilege to serve when you have a direction from God," he said. "I believe (Connect) is God's vision for Kentucky Baptists at this time."

One of the goals of Kentucky Baptists Connect is to see 125,000 people baptized by 2010. More than numbers, Mackey said, baptisms represent a serious effort by believers to "reach people, disciple them, enable them to be fulfilled in their God-given mission."

Citing the annual meeting theme, "Leading with Integrity and Godly Vision," Mackey said for Christians to be people of character and integrity, they must be involved in reaching others with the gospel.

"Integrity requires each of us take seriously the Great Commission," he said. "None of us can pass that responsibility along to our church, pastor or denominational agency."

Leaders dedicate first Hispanic mission in Bowling Green

By Ken Walker
State Correspondent

Bowling Green—Former Kentucky missionary Gus Reyes found it hard to talk as he greeted well-wishers after the dedication of Bowling Green's first Hispanic mission Nov. 12.

"How would you feel if you had dreamed about something and four and a half years later it's here?" said Reyes, blinking back tears.

"Today has been too exciting, too emotional for words," said Reyes, the founding pastor of Nueva Vida Baptist Mission who served from August 2002 until last year, when he returned to Texas. "We thank God for what He's going to do here."

"I believe this is the first (facility) built specifically for an Hispanic congregation," said Jerry Oakley, director of missions for the sponsoring Warren Baptist Association. "This is a dream come true."

Located on six acres in Bowling Green's west side, the brown brick building includes a 250-seat sanctuary and five classrooms.

A crowd that included KBC Executive Director Bill Mackey and other convention officials filled the sanctuary to capacity for the two-hour dedication service.

The day before, a dozen members of the small congregation joined other teams to canvass the mostly Hispanic area surrounding the church as part of Cross Over activities preceding the state convention.

Pastor Jose Luis Espinosa said the survey identified several prospects for the congregation. He anticipates that average attendance, which has ranged from 30 to 40 people, will increase dramatically.

"This place will give us access to the Hispanic community, flexibility in worship services and ownership

of this ministry," Espinosa said. "We expect to grow."

Espinosa served as the interpreter for several speakers during the bilingual dedication service.

However, some—such as Larry Baker, director of new work and associational missions for the state convention—delivered their remarks both in English and Spanish.

"This is a very important day in the history of Hispanic work in Kentucky," Baker said. "Today we have a lot of Spanish-speaking churches that are reaching that goal of becoming constituted churches."

While Hispanic outreach in the state started as ministry to migrants, he said, two years ago it shifted to a church-planting emphasis.

Fourteen Hispanic churches were started last year and 14 in 2006, with a goal of 16 for 2007, Baker added.

Hillview Heights Pastor Steve Ayers also called the celebration an historic moment, expressing appreciation to volunteers and churches that helped start the mission.

Among those he singled out were Mark Baldauff, pastor of Forest Park Baptist Church, which allowed Nueva Vida to meet in its facility and still provides a parsonage for the mission's pastor.

Ayers also commended Larkin Ritter, who donated the property; Bill Jackson of Eastwood Baptist Church, who chaired the building committee; and the Oldham-Trimble Baptist Builders and Warren Association's disaster relief crew for

construction assistance.

Declaring that people need to be willing to take chances and allow the Holy Spirit to do His work, Baldauff recalling how Nueva Vida started with just eight people.

Noting that he met people from Laos, Guatemala and Bosnia while conducting Cross Over surveys the previous day, Baldauff said Christians must recognize what is happening.

"We need to change our vision," he said, citing Christ's command to go to the ends of the earth to make disciples. "God's bringing the ends of the world to us."

Oakley said God gave His people both a vision and a purpose to moti-

vate them.

"He has inspired and will not let us fail," he added. "We are committed to reaching the community for Jesus Christ."

Espinosa emphasized the church will succeed if it focuses on its three primary objectives to lead people to Christ, equip them as disciples and send Hispanics out to minister in Jesus' name.

"It is a great thing God has done through the Warren Association, state convention and different people from other places," Espinosa reflected after the service. "This building will give us an identity in the Hispanic community. They will know we are here."

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In Theatres Everywhere December 1

Pastors' Conference highlights keys to integrity, vision

By Trennis Henderson & Ken Walker
Editor & State Correspondent

Bowling Green—Highlighting the theme, "Leading with Integrity and Godly Vision," eight pastors and denominational leaders from four states preached at last week's Kentucky Baptist Pastors' Conference.

Ken Hemphill, national strategist for the Southern Baptist Convention's Empowering Kingdom Growth strategy, detailed seven characteristics of a Kingdom-centered leader.

He said such leaders always point to the activity of God, give away ministry, stand in the gap for their people, provide for generational leadership, serve and speak kindly to people, model and mentor, and find a ministry partner.

"God always begins a great work in the heart of leaders," Hemphill emphasized. "Help your people see where God is at work."

Effective ministry "is not about growing a church, it's about advancing the Kingdom," he added. "The bottom line is it really isn't about us. It's about His Kingdom, not about our church."

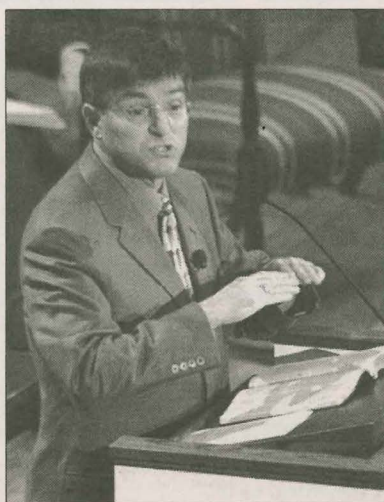
O.S. Hawkins described integrity as the most vital component of the pastorate, saying it ranks higher than intellect, intensity or insight.

"Integrity is the most important thing we can possess," said Hawkins, president of GuideStone Financial Resources. "Where do we find our integrity? It's rooted in a private place, in our secret place with God."

The prophet Elijah modeled the discipline of going to a private place, Hawkins added. He said Elijah's solitary time at the brook at Cherith was more important than opposing Baal's prophets on Mount Carmel.

"At the brook we find God's plan for our integrity," Hawkins said. "We cannot bypass the brook on the way to Mount Carmel."

Thomas Hammond, director of personal and mass evangelism for the Southern Baptist North American Mission Board, recounted Peter and John's encounter with a beggar who had been lame since birth.



INTEGRITY & VISION Dan Garland (left), pastor of Crestwood Baptist Church, and O.S. Hawkins, president of GuideStone Financial Resources, were among pastors and denominational leaders who issued calls during last week's Kentucky Baptist Pastors' Conference for ministers to lead with integrity and godly vision. (KBC photos by Jonathan Johnston)

Noting that Peter fixed his eyes on the man and instructed him to "look at us," Hammond said Christians today need to look at the needs of the world around them and challenge the world to look to believers for help.

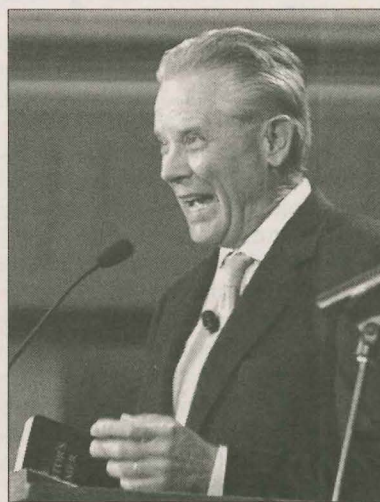
Hammond said the key to Peter healing the beggar was relying on the power of Jesus Christ. "We do have the answer to those who are lost and hurting and broken," he declared. "It is Jesus."

Chuck Lawless, dean of the Billy Graham School of Missions, Evangelism and Church Growth at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, outlined four primary characteristics that enabled the early church to gain victory over Satan.

Those included supernatural unity, focusing more on others than themselves, realizing that holiness matters and praying together.

"They prayed because they loved the One who was their Lord," Lawless said. "They also realized they could never do what God called them to do under their own power."

"One reason we never threaten hell is because we do ministry in our own power," he added. "It's easy to start ministry on our knees because we know as young ministers



the task is beyond us. But it's tough to stay there."

Dan Garland, pastor of Crestwood Baptist Church in Oldham County, challenged ministers to "finish the race of faith and finish well."

Garland, former KBC evangelism leader, cited the Bristlecone Pine Tree, which can live for more than 4,000 years, as an example of endurance amid adversity.

He said the hardy trees thrive despite hardship; experience slow, steady growth; reproduce themselves; grow extensive roots; and are disease-resistant.

In the Christian life, he said, those characteristics translate into being faithful, encouraging one another, disciplining fellow believers, building accountability networks and knowing and living the Word of God.

"You love the Book and you love Jesus and you love each other," Garland urged. "That's how we can finish well."

Richard Gaines, pastor of Consolidated Baptist Church in Lexington, said pastors must have a relief valve if they hope to withstand the pressures of ministry and maintain their integrity.

Using Job as an illustration, Gaines said pastors will encounter

challenges and losses that will either make them better or bitter.

Gaines said he is part of a weekly ministers' accountability group who confide in and challenge each other.

"We need an accountability group where we can bare our soul and not have it in next Sunday's bulletin," Gaines added, reminding pastors that God knows how much opposition they can endure.

"God's going to keep you through if you'll trust Him," he said. "God knows you as His own. There's nothing your enemies can do to separate you from the love of God."

Darren Gaddis, pastor of Central Baptist Church in Corbin, called for pastors to proclaim God's Word even when such a stand is inconvenient or unpopular.

Citing 2 Timothy 4, Gaddis said the times Paul warned about are reality today. Many people will not endure sound doctrine and will search for teachers who will tickle their ears instead of telling them the truth, he noted.

"People in the pews are shaking their heads as we preach the truth of Scripture," Gaddis said. "God's called us to preach the Word. Stay strong and preach the Word."

Adam Dooley, pastor of Red Bank Baptist Church near Chattanooga, Tenn., also highlighted the necessity of biblical preaching, noting that many people have diminished its importance.

Dooley said he is thankful the Southern Baptist Convention has reaffirmed its historical roots, but he cautioned that doesn't guarantee people will treat the Bible like the Word of God.

"If the Scriptures are not our primary source, then to affirm inerrancy does us no good," Dooley declared. "We must be voices crying in the wilderness."

Pastors' Conference officers elected for the coming year are President Floyd Paris, pastor of Unity Baptist Church in Ashland; President-Elect Corey Abney, pastor of Washington Baptist Church in Mount Washington; and Secretary Randy McPheron, pastor of West Corbin Baptist Church.

GOSPEL MESSAGE

Locked into wooden stocks attached to a metal frame, Brock Gill manages to quickly free himself as his wife, Andrea, takes his place in the "shower." The illusion provides an ideal illustration of the gospel message. "I escaped and someone else took my place," Gill told his audience, just as Christ sacrificed Himself for humanity. (Photo by Dannah Prather)



Illusionist taps talent to share gospel with teens

Continued from page 1

Gill named his latest outing "Hidden Agenda Tour," referring to his not-so-hidden method of using his talents to attract youth, and then sharing the gospel with them.

"We live in a very religious world," Gill said. "But religion without Jesus Christ is pretty much worthless."

Until he was 15, Gill said, "all I had was religion. I didn't have a relationship with Jesus Christ. ... I hope you understand there's a big difference."

Gill emphasized that Jesus was not a magician or an illusionist, and His resurrection confirms Christ's deity. He added that the Bible states that every person will be judged by God, and that people without a relationship with Jesus will hear God say, "Depart. I never knew you."

Although Gill describes himself as an illusionist, Lyndsey Deene said his message is very real. "A lot of people try to make the gospel 'sound

good," she said. "Brock just speaks the truth." Deene was one of the volunteer counselors on hand to assist youth who made spiritual decisions.

"It really spoke to me," Smith said, "It was like (the message) was to us, to teenagers."

During the opening session of the KBC annual meeting, Alan Witham reported to messengers and guests about the many projects conducted as part of Cross Over Warren Association.

"It began in July with the construction of Nueva Vida Bautista Iglesia," a new Hispanic congregation dedicated during Cross Over. Witham, the KBC's church development strategist coordinator, said volunteers from Oldham-Trimble Baptist Association joined Baptists from Warren Association to help construct the church facility. (See related article on page 9.)

In other Cross Over ministries, "nine churches received training in

September to conduct prayerwalking journeys during October," he said. Another 12 volunteers worked with Community Action of Southern Kentucky to provide extensive home winterization for people in need.

Through door-to-door surveys, Witham said volunteers made 270 personal contacts in three Bowling Green neighborhoods. A "Needs Fulfilled Ministry Giveaway" served 121 families with food, clothing and household items donated by local churches. The surveys and giveaways gave volunteers an opportunity to share the gospel with residents and to pray with them, Witham added.

The final Cross Over event was Tuesday evening at Western Kentucky University. WKU's Baptist campus ministry hosted a leadership forum with Tim Elmore, president of "Growing Leaders," discussing Jesus Christ as the greatest leader in history.

Why is it?

Don't let excuses sidetrack faithful estate stewardship

So many Kentucky Baptist Christians die without having included any provisions in their estate plans for the ongoing support of Christ's mission in this world.

As you would understand, that is very frustrating to me, because I have dedicated myself to educating, encouraging and enabling Kentucky Baptists in the Christian discipline of financial stewardship, with an emphasis on Christian estate stewardship.

Why is it this way? Did they not understand what the Scriptures teach about estate stewardship? Did they not receive any stewardship education? Did they not conceive of how they could help through their estate plans those who would be in need and those who would be without Christ?

Did they not have relationships with various missionary, educational and benevolent ministry organizations, including their churches, through which they could have made a lasting difference in the world for Christ? Did they consider their giving during life to be sufficient and all God expected of them? Did they feel they

would not have enough of an estate left to give to make a difference?

Did they have good intentions, but procrastinated too long, and then it was too late? Did they expect, if married, the surviving spouse to fulfill a plan, and the surviving spouse did not? Did they fail to execute any estate planning documents, like a will, and thus forfeited the privilege of leaving a lasting legacy? Did they think they were too young?

What have you done to ensure at your death you will have been faithful in your estate stewardship? I urge you prayerfully to ponder what the Lord is calling you to do through your estate plan, and then to do what is necessary to put into place that plan.

Jesus alerted us in the parable of the rich fool recorded in Luke 12:20-21: "God said to him, this very night you will die. Then who will get what you stored up for yourself?"

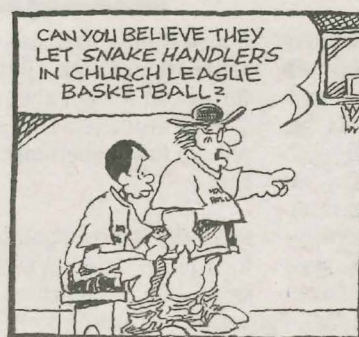
My plan is in place, and Laurie Valentine and I are just a toll-free call away to assist you to put yours in place as well. Let's be found faithful in our estate stewardship.

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



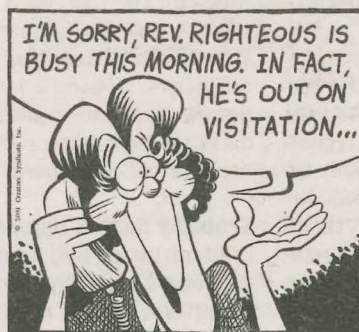
Barry Allen

Kudzu



Doug Marlette

For Heaven's Sake



Mike Morgan

Bible Crosswords

Across

- 1. "We should be made ____" (Titus 3:7)
- 5. "Now I have prepared ... for the house of my God ... all manner of precious stones, and ____ stones in abundance" (1 Chronicles 29:2)
- 10. Each, abbr.
- 11. "I entreat thee also, true ____ fellow, help those women" (Philippians 4:3)
- 14. Federal Aviation Agency, abbr.
- 15. "This ____ said, I am able" (Matthew 26:61)
- 17. Laughter sound
- 18. "A meat offering baken in a ____" (Leviticus 2:5)
- 20. Unit of verse measurement
- 22. District of Columbia, abbr.
- 23. Letter after em
- 24. Timothy, for short
- 25. Hare
- 27. Railway, abbr.
- 28. Do, ____ mi
- 29. Kilogram, abbr.
- 30. "This ____ the day which the Lord hath made" (Psalms 118:24)
- 31. "All things ____ together for good to them that love God" (Romans 8:28)
- 32. The self, according to Freud
- 34. Common Era, abbr.
- 36. Louise, for short
- 37. Matured
- 38. Springfield's state, abbr.
- 39. "A time to weep, and a time to ____" (Ecclesiastes 3:4)
- 41. Pierre's state
- 42. Paid, abbr.
- 43. Capital of Tibet
- 46. "I, John ... was in the ____ that is called Patmos" (Revelation 1:9)

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52			53	54		55			56		
			57								

- 48. "As many as they found, both ____ and good" (Matthew 22:10)
- 50. "My fellow ____ in Christ Jesus" (Philem. 23)
- 52. "Thou shalt not muzzle the ____ when he treadeth out the corn" (Deuteronomy 25:4)
- 53. Gym class, abbr.
- 55. Iridium, chem. symbol
- 56. To-do
- 57. Joined himself to a ____ of that country (Luke 15:15)
- 19. "Lest at ____ time thou dash thy foot against a stone" (Matthew 4:6)
- 21. Tattered
- 22. "And the ____ were called Christians first in Antioch" (Acts 11:26)
- 24. "Emptied her pitcher into the ____" (Genesis 24:20)
- 26. Two, prefix
- 31. "They ____ have repented long ago" (Matthew 11:21)
- 33. Exclamation of pain
- 35. "The four and twenty ____ ... fell down and worshiped God" (Revelation 19:4)
- 36. Californian city, abbr.
- 39. Work
- 40. Sound of laughter
- 44. South America's language, abbr.
- 45. Western state, abbr.
- 46. Independent Order of Foresters, abbr.
- 47. A blunt nose
- 49. "Now also the ____ is laid unto the root of the trees" (Matthew 3:10)
- 51. Anger
- 53. Greek letter used for the ratio of a circle's circumference to its diameter
- 54. And, Lat.

Last week's solution

B	R	O	T	J	H	E	R	O	F	T	E	N
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Wouldn't it be great ...

... if churches had a resource to help families with the challenges they're facing?

You're holding it.

Every week, the Western Recorder offers Family Forum, a faith-based column to help with the variety of issues families face today. Specialists on parenting, seniors, singles, teenagers and relationships can help equip your congregation to live out their Christianity where it matters most. Shouldn't your members be getting Family Forum?



PRACTICAL RESOURCES FOR CHRISTIAN LIVING
WESTERNRECORDER

Kentucky League director Howard Beauman retires

Bowling Green—The Kentucky League on Alcohol and Gambling Problems is in a period of transition, but according to board chairman Don Cole, the message remains the same and remains urgent.

"We've got to stay informed (and) connected to society," Cole said during last week's Kentucky Baptist Convention annual meeting.

Cole announced that Howard Beauman has retired as director of the Kentucky League. Despite financial challenges, Cole said the league remains on the job, ready to assist churches and individuals interested in defeating legislation related to alcohol and gambling.

John Chowning, chairman of Kentucky Baptists' Committee on Public Affairs, said the committee will launch a "preaching and teaching" initiative in 2007 encouraging pastors to address such issues as healthy lifestyles, racism, marriage, family and other Christian values.

Campbellsville University. "We're in our centennial year celebrating Christian educational service and loving and caring about that next generation of leaders," said President Michael Carter. This year, CU entered into an agreement with Simmons College of Kentucky for faculty exchange, missions projects and other partnerships. The school has reported 13 consecutive semesters of record enrollment. Carter thanked Kentucky Baptists for providing \$7.8 million in scholarships. A dedication service is planned in spring 2007 for a new chapel and other campus improvements also are being planned. The Centennial Capital Campaign reached its initial goal of \$35 million 18 months ahead of schedule and a \$15 million phase two goal was added.

Clear Creek Baptist Bible College. Upon the recommendation of the Association of Biblical Higher Education, Clear Creek trustees recently drafted a Christian Worldview Statement expressing the school's core values and beliefs. Retiring president Bill Whittaker said it is "thrilling" to see how Clear Creek students are pursuing evangelism and missions. In the past year, 2,393 professions of faith in Christ were reported through such student ministry efforts as prison ministry, disaster relief and missions to New York, Alaska, Scotland and Haiti. Messengers and guests gave Whittaker a standing ovation in gratitude for his nearly 19 years of service to Clear Creek. He has accepted the pastorate of Glasgow Baptist Church.

Kentucky Baptist Assemblies. President David Melber said a record 13,000 people participated in assemblies' programs this year, including camps in Moldova supported by campers in Kentucky. Through Crossings Ministries, 237 campers made first-time professions of faith in Christ, and 352 youth responded to a call into full-time Christian ministry. In Moldova, 1,400 youth made first-time professions of faith. Lake activities, horseback riding and mountain bike trails were among new activities at Cedarmore.

AGENCY REPORTS

A new dining hall and swimming pool opened at Jonathan Creek. "Buildings are a part of our future but it's not about facilities," Melber said. "We want to create an environment where people can fully experience Christ or come to know Him."

Kentucky Baptist Foundation. The annual meeting theme, "Leading with Integrity and Godly Vision," is particularly appropriate for the foundation, according to President Barry Allen. "As Kentucky Baptists' only trust agency, we consider our mission an inviolate and sacred trust," he said. The foundation reported \$20 million in new funds for the year, for a total of more than \$230 million now under management. Last year the foundation distributed \$9.5 million to Baptist ministries, passing a landmark of \$100 million donated since its founding. Giving via the foundation's Web site, www.kybaptistfoundation.org, also was instituted.

Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children. President Bill Smithwick said approximately 320 children are served each day through KBHC's residential facilities or foster care. The ministry serves "a vast array of children who sometimes don't get noticed," he said. In the past year, 94 children made professions of faith in Christ. Spring Meadows Children's Home and KBHC's central office relocated from Louisville to Mount Washington. The new administrative facility was named for former KBHC President Eldred Taylor.

Oneida Baptist Institute. This year Oneida welcomed students from 24 states and nine countries, according to President Bud Underwood. "I give you the deepest and most sincere appreciation for what you do for Oneida through your Cooperative Program gifts and our Father's Day Offering. Our work depends upon that." He also reported that this year the campus welcomed 1,000 volunteers who helped in various projects. Three Oneida students assisted Underwood in presenting the school's report.

University of the Cumberlands. President James Taylor reported that, among other recognitions, this year the school ranked in the top tier of Best Universities, Masters Level in the southeast for the fourth consecutive year, and the teacher education program was ranked second among all colleges and universities in Kentucky. The campus "is alive with great people and wonderful programs," he said. Academic options were added allowing students to study fitness, sports management and criminal justice. Future emphases will be on developing a pharmacy school and initiating sister school and exchange agreements with Christian universities in Korea.

Western Recorder. "Leading with Integrity and Godly Vision," Western Recorder Editor Trennis Henderson said, is "a challenge for all of us in ministry. The bottom line of how we measure up is the example of Christ." Kentucky Baptists can measure their "involvement and impact as we gain ideas from one another in the pages of the Western Recorder," he added. In his written report, Henderson reminded Kentucky Baptists that each pastor receives a complimentary subscription of the paper, congregations can publish their own newsletters through the church-page program, and six smaller state Baptist conventions publish their monthly newspapers through a cooperative agreement with the Western Recorder.

Kentucky Woman's Missionary Union. Kentucky WMU Executive Director Joy Bolton reported to messengers during the Tuesday evening Cooperative Program Celebration. Among the year's ministry highlights was launching a partnership with Korea WMU. In her written report, Bolton noted that more than \$865,000 was contributed to the 2005-06 Eliza Broadus State Missions Offering. She said WMU's new logo prominently features the letter "M" as a reminder of WMU's missions commitment. Kentucky WMU elected Pat Reaves as its new president earlier this year.

Special people meeting special needs: part 3

Oneida volunteers make contributions in craft shop and business, alumni offices

Three other full-time volunteers are meeting special needs at Oneida. The first is Carol Cole. Carol and her husband, Lynn, our farm manager, came to us 10 years ago from Ohio. Originally Mrs. Cole had a paid position as our food service director, but when another faithful volunteer, Donna Atto, died, Carol asked to fill that position. Mrs. Atto served as a volunteer in our craft shop for nearly 20 years. When Carol asked for the job, I told her that it was a volunteer position and if she decided to serve in the craft shop it would have to be as a volunteer. She and her husband discussed the situation and Carol accepted.

A second faithful volunteer is Betty Hasty. Mrs. Hasty has one of those jobs where she is not in the limelight often. She and her husband worked at Oneida in 1980. They later moved away, but Mrs. Hasty returned when her husband died in 1990. She works faithfully in our business office. Though she reached retirement age many years ago—I would tell you her age, but we are friends—she has faithfully served the Lord as a volunteer for many, many years past the normal retirement age. Mrs. Hasty always has a warm smile and rarely misses her daily work responsibilities unless she is under the weather. She has been a lifelong student of the Word and often reminds us what we should do, or not do, according to Scripture.

A third volunteer is Myrtle Cooke, an OBI graduate in the class of 1960. You can do the math, but I am not going to tell you her age, either. She and her late husband moved to Oneida in 1984, the same year Kay and I returned. Her late husband

did not work for the school, but Mrs. Cooke became our high school guidance counselor. Shortly after my predecessor, Dr. Barkley Moore, died, Mrs. Cooke asked me if she could become our alumni director. To be honest, I just could not imagine her not being our guidance counselor, so I refused to consider her request. Over the years, she continued to restate her request, but I steadfastly refused. Three years ago she reached retirement age and offered to continue serving at Oneida but only if I would let her become the alumni director. To my knowledge, we have never had a full-time alumni director, though some people have worked at it on a part-time basis. She told me that if I would allow her to work in that capacity, she would be willing to serve as a volunteer. Well, what could I say?

There is only one sad part to her story; I should have allowed Mrs. Cooke to do this years ago! She has done a marvelous job, especially considering she had to start from scratch. Several alumni have told me how much they appreciate what she has done. The only problem now is that we will never allow her to step away from this responsibility. I fully expect the next OBI president to be writing about her 50 years from now.

During the past three weeks, I have told you about several wonderful people who serve this ministry as full-time or nearly full-time volunteers. God chooses to bless His work in many ways. One way He blesses us is with volunteers. Thank you, Lord, for allowing us to have so many wonderful friends, including our volunteers.

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



THIS IS ONEIDA

W.F. Underwood

Thank you, Kentucky Baptists

Bowling Green convention affirmation for Clear Creek

I'm in the season of last things. The Kentucky Baptist Convention annual meeting in Bowling Green was the last convention I will attend as president of Clear Creek.

I approached my five-minute report with mixed feelings of thanksgiving and sadness. How proud I was to recognize our alumni and campus family and realize the impact they have on Kentucky Baptist life. My report highlighted our uniqueness as a Bible college and the adoption of a Christian Worldview Statement that strengthens the connection between the Bible and our curriculum. I emphasized our core value of evangelism and missions, illustrated by the 2,393 professions of faith our students were involved in last year, and recent missionary appointments of graduates to China and Mozambique. I closed with the last words our founder, Dr. Kelly, spoke to trustees in 1954: "May you have eyes to see, ears to hear, hearts to understand and wills to ever be true to this heavenly vision."

The standing ovation that followed was an unforgettable and amazing spiritual blessing to me,

but most of all an affirmation of Clear Creek's unique mission in Kentucky Baptist life. The prayers and Cooperative Program giving by the churches have sustained us through the years. You have sent us students and called our students to serve your churches. We are so thankful to be a KBC agency.

On Tuesday evening my last state convention alumni gathering occurred at my home church, Calvary Baptist. The dining hall was full of alumni and guests. The ladies prepared and served a delicious and bountiful meal. It was a festive time of remembrance and affirmation of our commitment to Clear Creek.

The KBC Mission Board approved Clear Creek presenting the "Affirming Our Values, Leaving a Legacy Campaign" to the churches. This modest campaign seeks \$1 million to begin a student "workshop" endowment to help provide campus jobs. We have reached half of the goal. This is another tangible way for Kentucky Baptists to affirm our ministry. We anticipate celebrating reaching the base goal by the May 4, 2007, graduation.

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

CLEAR CREEK CHRONICLE



Bill Whittaker

Youth ministers use MySpace to help connect with teens

By Chansin Bird
Religion News Service

Fayetteville, Ark. (RNS)—Youth minister Lara Blackwood starts her day the same way most of the young people at her church do—she signs on at MySpace.com.

"Any time they post a new blog, I get a message in my e-mail and cell phone that such and such has posted a new blog," said Blackwood, youth minister at First Christian Church of Fayetteville, Ark.

"If the title tells me 'Gosh, prom was fun,' I'll read it within a couple days. If it says 'I hate my life, I want to die'—which I've read some similar to that—I'm on immediately."

More youth ministers are discovering the promises and pitfalls of social networking Web sites such as MySpace.com as they use them to stay connected with their students. It's a place where students can be honest about their lives and keep an open dialogue with their ministers.

MySpace is one of the hottest sites on the Web. It has more than 100 million accounts with a demographic that is dominated by teens and 20-somethings.

While the site has allowed ministers to advertise activities and keep in touch with students, youth ministers and students alike also can be bombarded with pornography, and teens can be subject to predators.

Parents seek details

Leaders of Travis Avenue Baptist Church in Fort Worth, Texas, are trying to familiarize parents with MySpace.

Last month Wesley Black, a professor of student ministry at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, led an instruction session for parents at Travis Avenue. Thirty attended, along with some teenagers enlisted to teach.

"Most of the questions dealt with (parents) struggling with the technology," Black said. "They brought laptops, and we met in a room with wireless access."

"Social networking is what being a teenager is about," said Kenda Creasy Dean, associate professor of youth, church and culture and director of the Tennent School of Christian Education at Princeton Theological Seminary. "For people my age (in their 40s), technology is a tool. For kids, technology is the air they breathe. It's social glue."

Students in Blackwood's previous youth group in Abilene, Texas, initially encouraged her to get an account so she could read their blogs. Her involvement grew from there.

She keeps in touch with her former students, encouraging them and offering advice when asked, on MySpace primarily. She currently is working on building her roster of "friends" with the students in her new youth group so she can send out mass announce-

ments about upcoming events.

"They'll get the word faster if I post it as a MySpace message than if I try to call them," she said. "Most of them check their profiles so many times each day."

Michael Davison, an associate regional minister to the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Kentucky, said he is concerned that young people see the Internet as far-reaching but think there is still anonymity in it.

"They are surprised when I say, 'I saw your MySpace page.' They're shocked that an adult might see what's on their site," Davison said. "Most of them don't equate the Web site with the fact that everyone in the world has access to them."

Desire for community

Julie Richardson Brown, minister of youth and young adults at Beargrass Christian Church in Louisville, has used social networking sites to promote church events. She said part of the appeal of MySpace for students is the community aspect.

"I think they long to be part of something bigger than themselves and desire to be part of a community," she said. "My hope is to make them part of a Christian community."

Some ministers might be surprised at what they find on their students' profiles. Some teenagers present themselves online in a different way than they present themselves at church.

"It's definitely something you can talk about, though," Blackwood said. "They've opened the door to that conversation."

Some youth ministers serve as watchdogs as they scan their students' sites. Students post full names and even personal calendars on their profiles. Blackwood says it's her responsibility to help students be aware when they're posting too much personal information.

"It can definitely be a dangerous thing for them to have a profile," she said. "They do it without even thinking about it. They may not say they go to such and such high school, but if they post a picture from homecoming and they're wearing a letter jacket, you can figure out what high school they go to. It's easy to hone in on someone with things like that."

The church needs to recognize MySpace can be used in good and bad ways, Dean said.

"It's more helpful for parents, youth ministers and churches to become aware and conversant with MySpace than to spend all our time railing against it."

Dean thinks few parents will be able to keep up with their tech-savvy kids, and said it's more likely for a youth minister to be on MySpace.

"By definition, youth ministers are people who want to connect with teenagers," she said. "This is the world we live in."

An Emergent Theology for Emerging Churches. Ray S. Anderson. InterVarsity Press, 2006. 236 pages. \$17. ♦♦♦♦ (out of five)

Weariness (or should I say wariness?) of all the talk about the emergent church and postmodern, missional churches could lead you to overlook this book. That would be a mistake because Ray Anderson, who for years has been writing in the field of practical theology out of Fuller Seminary, has written a stimulating reinvestigation of the foundation of the church's mission and ministry.

Anderson locates his theological reflection in the tension between the church in Jerusalem and the church at Antioch. He clearly prefers the paradigm offered by the Christians in Antioch, understanding them to be the model for any discussion of what an emergent church should look like.

Unlike many people who write about this issue, Anderson refuses to use postmodernism as a hermeneutical principle, describing it instead as a context for doing ministry and theological reflection. "My concern," he writes, "is not to trace out the contours of a church emerging in a postmodern context but to tease out an emergent theology that is truthful only because it is discovered along the journey (revelational), contextual only because it is currently being lived out (incarnational), and contemporary only because it visibly takes us into the future (eschatological)."

Most people do not think of theology books as being real page-turners, but this one is. I found it hard to put down. At the same time, I found myself stopping to ponder an insight he offered or stimulated. Anderson's writing style is clear and concise, and the book is written so that even those with an aversion to theology will find it appealing. *Jim Holladay*

The Peacemaking Pastor: A Biblical Guide to Resolving Church Conflict. Alfred Poirier. Baker Books, 2006. 317 pages. \$14.99 ♦♦♦♦

Alfred Poirier certainly has bitten off a huge subject. And for the most part, he presents his case well. Church conflict is pervasive today as it has always been—just read the Apostle Paul.

Poirier does not have to convince the reader of the problem. But he does spend considerable time trying to convince the pastor that helping resolve conflict is a part of one's calling. He presents some excellent biblical studies of God's desire for God's people to live in peace.

Poirier contends that the church has a responsibility to intervene in the lives of its members when there is conflict. He is disappointed with the lack of the church's willingness to practice discipline. This is where discomfort will rise for most people. Poirier reminds us that the early church was encouraged to settle disputes among its members. Yet, how reluctant are most pastors to address a conflict between two members over a business deal or something similar?

Poirier says we must intervene if we are going to be the community we are called to be. He notes that pastors should expect and welcome the role of mediator, not judge, in public and personal conflicts.

I have to admit that after reading the book, I am uncomfortable with the way he sees pastors inserting themselves in the day-to-day life of members. Of course, he would say that is why he has written the book, adding that if pastors would practice peacemaking and not just "loving the congregation," then conflict would be reduced.

While I cannot fully accept all of Poirier's contentions, I suspect his argument will continue to roll around in my brain for a while, especially when the next church conflict erupts or the next personal feud spreads out into the life of the church. *Wayne Hager*

Blessed Be Your Name: Worshipping God on the Road Marked with Suffering. Matt and Beth Redman. Regal Publishing, 2005. 107 pages. \$12.99. ♦♦♦♦

"Worship is always a choice" is how Matt and Beth Redman begin their book titled "Blessed Be Your Name." The book is the same name of that great worship song that has been sung in many churches in the past few years. The song was written in the aftermath of 9/11.

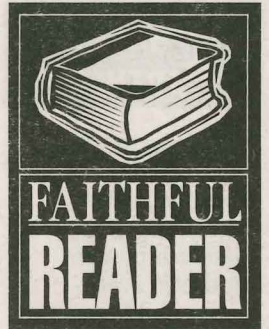
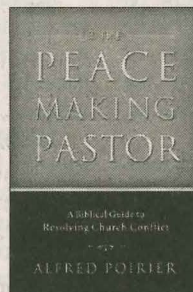
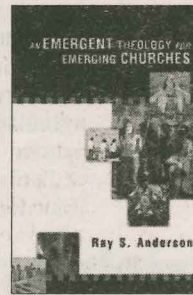
This book is a continuation of the worship series from Regal Publishers. The Redmans tell of their own hard experiences in life that God has taken them through as they have grown closer to Him. They tell of disease, hardship, miscarriages and a conscious choice to still worship and praise God. "When trials come, trust must arise," they write. They go on to say that when things are good and easy, it is easier to praise God and thank Him but when things are hard, people tend to blame God.

When things go wrong, people often ask: Where is God in all of this? This book offers ways to find God in the midst of such difficulty. At times when God is hard to find, the Redmans urge readers to realize and know what is real. God is there even in the darkness and despair people might be going through.

How does one find God? "Open the Bible and feed upon the truths of God and His faithfulness," the Redmans write. This brings to mind the classic hymn, "Count Your Many Blessings."

The authors tell of little things we can do to have a better opportunity to choose to worship God, such as practicing an attitude of gratitude. "Saying thank you is more than good manners," they note. "It is good spirituality." They urge readers to express thanks to God for all He is and all He has done for each person.

Worship is a lifestyle, and this little book can help improve your worship lifestyle. A quick read, the book is full of illustrations and stories that can make saying "Blessed be Your name" a reality in one's daily life.—*Steve Coleman*



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

PRAYER PARTNERS

Please pray for the following requests related to Kentucky Baptists' mission partnerships with Baptists in Brazil, Europe and New England:

■ Pray for international missionary Earl Pinkston and his family as they travel to Kentucky and Tennessee for a time of leave from Malta. Pray for the visits they will make to volunteer mission teams that have accepted projects for 2007.

■ Pray for Scott Pittman and his family during their five-week visit to the States. Pray also for their contact visits with volunteers to fulfill mission project opportunities in Teresina, Brazil.

■ Pray for Bruce James who recently was named evangelism/missions director for the Baptist Convention of New England. He will be working with the Kentucky Baptist Convention to promote mission projects in New England.

MOUNTAINS TO THE MISSISSIPPI

COMPILED BY STAFF

■ **CAMPBELLSVILLE**—Saloma Church ordained **Kyle Franklin** to the gospel ministry Nov. 5. **John Chowning** is pastor.

■ **COXS CREEK**—Coxs Creek Church recently called **Jim Bratcher** as pastor.

■ **HARRODSBURG**—Pioneer Church recently called **Andrew Dyer** as pastor. He previously served with the Southern Baptist International Mission Board.

■ **LEXINGTON**—Grace Church ordained **Lee Davis** and **Sonny Price** as deacons Nov. 12. **Terrence Freeman** is pastor.

■ **LOUISVILLE**—Cloverleaf Church will host the Southern gospel quartet **Gold City** in concert Nov. 25, 7 p.m.

■ **MADISONVILLE**—First Church will present "Return to Bethlehem," a walk-through drama, Dec. 9-12. For information, call (270) 821-3611.

Kentucky ministries impact college campuses, raceways, Brazil

By Dannah Prather
Partnerships Editor

Bowling Green—Collegiate, raceway and partnership ministries received special attention at last week's Kentucky Baptist Convention annual meeting.

In 2006, **Wyndee Holbrook**, campus minister at Berea College, reached 20 years of service to and through Kentucky Baptists. She said that as a college student, the on-campus Baptist ministry had a powerful impact on her life.

When she felt God calling her to full-time Christian service, Holbrook said she assumed that would mean leaving the university environment she had grown to love. It was her own campus minister who asked her, "Can you imagine a richer missions field" than a college campus?

Last year 6,000 college students participated in Baptist campus ministry around the commonwealth, Holbrook reported. Nearly 350 people began a personal relationship with Christ through the work of BCM. Each year approximately 1,000 students from other countries hear the gospel for the first time through BCM. Hundreds of students participate in short-term missions, and nearly 500 are called to full-time Christian service.

Collegiate ministry is demand-



Joyce and Scott Pittman

ing, "but it never takes more than it gives," Holbrook said.

John Roberts, founder of Kentucky Raceways Ministries, told messengers that Kentucky Baptists contact about 300,000 people each year who attend races at the Sparta track.

A Southern Baptist Mission Service Corps missionary, Roberts coordinates an army of volunteers from around Kentucky and other states. Owen County and White's Run Baptist associations are major contributors to the ministry.

During races, yellow-shirted volunteers hand out water, Christian literature, Bibles, cookies and other items. Roberts said track employees and spectators sometimes walk up to the ministry tent, asking volunteers to pray for or with them.

Some volunteers are trained



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.

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

chaplains and accompany medics into the stands during a medical emergency. Roberts said as emergency medical personnel treat a patient, the chaplain is there to comfort friends and family and to offer prayer.

There are as many as 10,000 people at the nearby RV park during races, Roberts said. Between races, Kentucky Baptists provide games and activities for children and adults.

"One in five people are connected to motor racing in the United States," Roberts said. That translates to 480,000 people in Kentucky who might be reached through the ministry.

"There is an excellent opportunity for Kentucky Baptists to connect with people," Roberts said, noting that there are "60 speedways that dot the landscape of Kentucky."

Southern Baptist international missionaries **Scott and Joyce Pittman** reported to Kentucky Baptists about the eternal difference God is making through Kentucky Baptists as they partner with the Brazilian Baptist Convention.

Since 2005, 45 teams of Kentucky Baptists have served with believers in Piaui, a northeastern state of Brazil that is among the least evangelized in the country. The partnership continues through 2008.

Scott Pittman told messengers that a Brazilian Baptist leader in Piaui considered the presence of Kentucky Baptists "the greatest evangelical event in the history of the state of Piaui."

Kentucky Baptists have served the people of Piaui through vacation Bible schools, Bible and Christian literature giveaways, medical clinics, home construction and repair, sports clinics, music workshops and hundreds of home visits.

Joyce Pittman said 7,300 people in Piaui have heard the gospel through the partnership. Approximately 2,400 people have made first-time professions of faith "from personal interaction with Kentucky Baptists," she said.

Pittman, a former Kentucky Baptist pastor, said God used partnership missions to call the couple to the international mission field.

"Who really cares if Kentucky Baptist volunteers go to Piaui, Brazil?" he asked. "God cares. He's shown us He's an incarnational God. It is an incarnational ministry when volunteers go and do the Great Commission."

Pittman reminded Kentucky Baptists that Jesus called out all believers to share the gospel, "not just missionaries in the professional sense. He sends out laypersons."

CLASSIFIED ADS

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 resúmes until Friday, Dec. 15.

SEEKING: Minister of music (part-time or full-time). Position includes directing music for all worship services (Sunday morning and evening; Wednesday evening), weekly adult choir practice with approximately 40 dedicated and talented choristers, and supervision of organist and pianist. Regular attendance: approximately 400 and growing. Love for traditional and contemporary music in praise and worship. Seeking someone to grow with us through music ministry for all ages. Full job description available upon request. Mail resumé to Central Baptist Church, 829 High St., Paris, KY 40361, Attn: Music Search Committee; or e-mail to suecbb@bellsouth.net. (859) 987-3951. Questions: Chris Jones, chair; chris@qx.net.

SEEKING: Minister of music and a pianist. Send resúmes to Grace Community Baptist Church, 7300 National Turnpike, Louisville, KY 40214; or e-mail to gcbc7300@peoplepc.com.

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: Full-time associate pastor for First Baptist Church, Richmond, Ky. The position is responsible for assisting with the proclamation of the gospel of Jesus Christ through congregational worship, preparing and delivering sermons, providing clergy services, leading congregational spiritual development and providing pastoral care. Ability to build and maintain effective working relationships and rapport with members, staff, prospects and the community is required. Compensation includes salary, vacation, insurance, SECA and retirement. Send cover letter, resumé, salary history and available starting date to: Search Committee, First Baptist Church, 425 Eastern Bypass, Richmond, KY 40475; or via e-mail to Richard.landiers@firstbaptistnet.com.

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 e-mail 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: Payroll accountant (immediate need) for Southern Baptist Theological Seminary. This position is responsible for the accurate and timely preparation of all seminary payrolls, resolution of payroll-related problems and questions, and the organization and maintenance of payroll records. This position requires an associate degree in accounting, at least two years of accounting experience and at least one year of payroll experience. The seminary offers a fast-paced, multi-tasking work environment, plus a competitive salary and benefits package. Qualified candidates should e-mail their resúmes with cover letters and salary histories to: humanresources@sbts.edu.

SEEKING: Full-time associate pastor with emphasis on youth and children. Growing church located five minutes from Owensboro. Send resumé to: Search Committee, Dawson Baptist Church, 5880 Highway 54, Philpot, KY 42366.

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: 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: 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. Resúmes should be sent by Jan. 15, 2007, to: Pastor Search Committee, PO Box 327, Paris, KY 40362; or e-mail: fbcparis@aol.com.

'Girls just like to be pretty'

With nail polish & 'Duck, Duck, Goose,' M.K. joins parents in ministry to Sereer-Palor

By Emily Peters
Baptist Press

Senegal, West Africa (BP)—Meredith Queen's favorite dress is splattered with red and pink splotches, but she doesn't mind.

That doesn't keep the lively 8-year-old from wearing the dress again as she and her parents visit a village to share Jesus with Sereer-Palor people.

Sitting on a mat in the shade of a tree, Meredith bites her tongue and crinkles her nose in great concentration. She pumps the brush into the polish bottle and dabs a bit of color onto the toenails of a young girl with dark, dusty feet.

"We girls just like to be pretty," Meredith said, explaining her toenail-painting ministry in her thick Carolina accent. "The village girls never had anything like that done to them before. God made them, and they need to feel loved and needed."

There is a crowd of girls waiting, each eager to choose their perfect shade from a sack of options: Pink Lady. Sheer Moon Berry. Shimmering Lilac Frost. They each get painted, and when Meredith accidentally smears a bit on her dress, they share a giggle with the only fair-haired playmate they've probably ever had.

Playmates with a purpose

While they gather for the primping treat, the girls listen intently to the Bible stories being told by Meredith's parents and volunteers from the United States.

"Meredith really brings something to our team that we can't," said Meredith's mother, Angela Queen. "She bonds with the children in a special way, faster than we ever could."

Meredith has lived in Senegal since she was 5 years old with her parents, missionaries Greg and Angela Queen, but she had a hard time moving away from family and the life she knew.

"We told her we had been called by God to Africa, but she didn't really understand," her mother explained, laughing in retrospect.

"She said she didn't get that phone call from God. She didn't even hear the phone ring. If it had been ringing, she said she wouldn't have answered it."

Meredith's parents research small, unreached people groups throughout West Africa. At least monthly, they take American volunteer teams to the villages to share the gospel. Previously, Meredith stuck by her mother's side, but she's learned how to feel comfortable in the villages and become a part of the ministry.

She knows the proper way to eat rice and fish with her hands out of a common bowl on the dirt floor of a mud hut. She teaches the village children how to play "Duck, Duck, Goose." She loves to dance with the women and cuddle their babies.

Giving moms a break

"The women have to hold these babies all the time," Meredith explained, noting they even tie the babies to their backs while they work. "They never get rest, so I just like to hold them for a while."

She can also greet people in about five different languages.

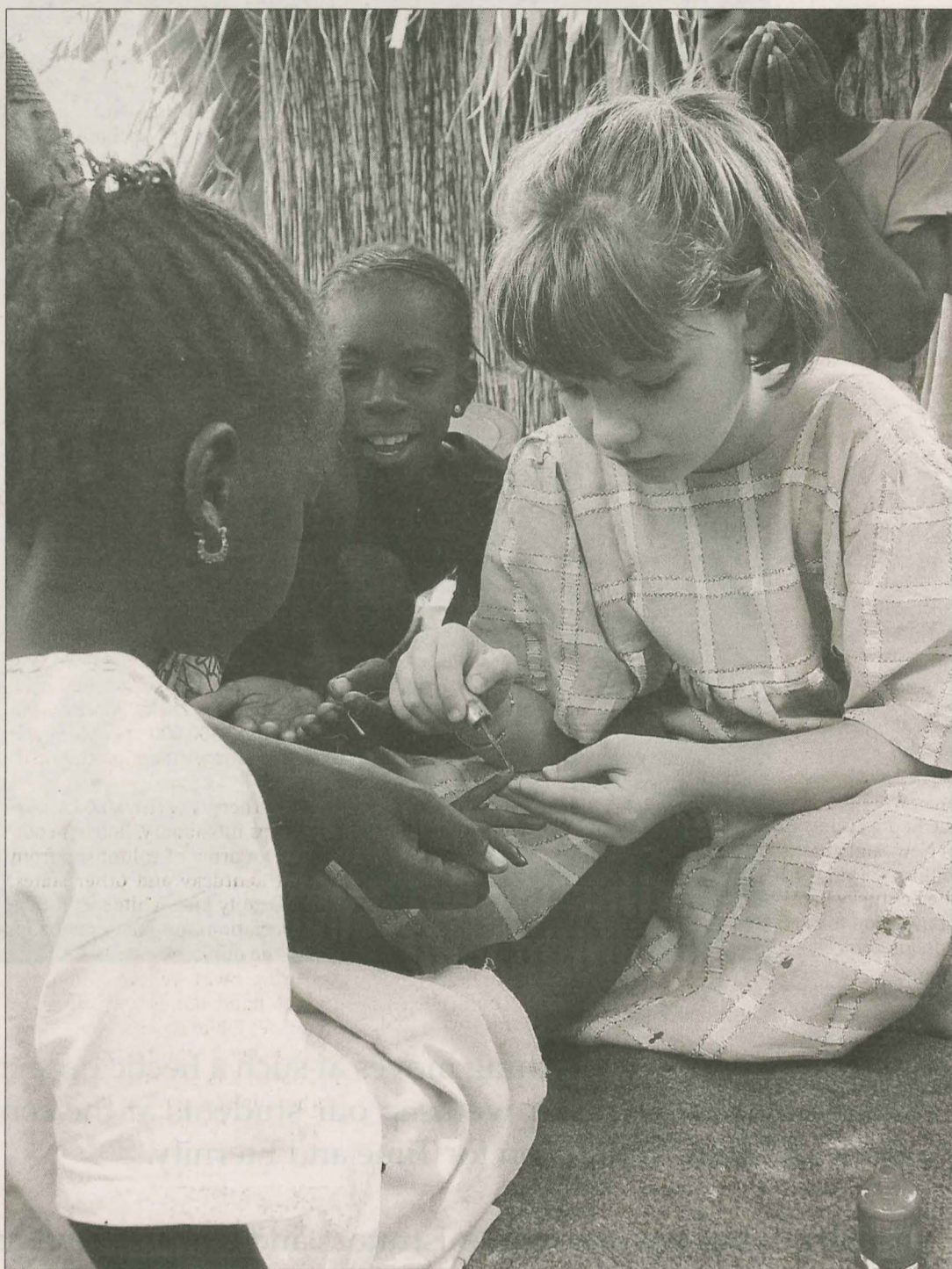
"It is really special to have her as part of our ministry," Meredith's father said. "I'm not sure what it is, but people are much more eager to welcome us into their village when we have a child with us."

But Meredith also enjoys some of the same things as American kids her age. She totes her favorite baby doll, Mary Grace, wherever she goes. She watches Andy Griffith DVDs with her parents, often quoting Opie's quips. She cranks up her vivid imagination to instantly become an orchestra conductor, a ballroom dancer or the ringleader of a circus.

Meredith knows when the village children gather around her, curious about the petite foreigner, they are very impressionable.

"Sometimes I just start running, because I know they will follow," she said. "They just do whatever I do."

Recently, in the Sereer-Palor village on a sun-scorched afternoon, Meredith decided to share the story



of Jonah through an interpreter. The children sat quietly, realizing these stories aren't just for adults since they are coming from the mouth of someone their age.

"The kids in America know about

Jesus," Meredith said, "but the kids here don't have anyone to tell them. They don't have a church to go to. That's why we have to tell them."

To learn more about West Africa, visit GoWestAfrica.org.

ONE COAT OR TWO?

Missionary kid Meredith Queen, 8, polishes the toenails of a new friend in Senegal, West Africa. Meredith joins her missionary parents in telling Senegal's Sereer-Palor people the good news of Jesus. (Baptist Press photo)

Arkansas church doubles offering goal as tribute to pastor

By Don Graham
Baptist Press

Little Rock, Ark. (BP)—Her name is synonymous with international missions, but this December a congregation in Little Rock, Ark., may have someone else in mind when they collect their Lottie Moon Christmas Offering.

John Savage stood before his congregation Dec. 24, 2005, just as he had done for the past six years. Proud to have his family together on Christmas Eve, the 58-year-old pastor told the story of Jesus' birth. He led communion with bread he had baked himself. He also offered a challenge for his church to double their Lottie Moon offering goal of \$2,000.

It was one of the last sermons he would preach. Six days later, John

suffered a heart attack at his home and died. Janis, his wife of 19 years, was with him.

Days later, mourners crowded the small church to say goodbye to John one last time. The funeral was so full that the county's volunteer fire department where John served as chaplain had to sit in the choir loft. Janis sprinkled her husband's ashes on Cross Road's grounds. It was a fitting resting place for a man who spent most of his life at church.

A pastor at 19, John earned his master of divinity degree from Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Kansas City, Mo. When he wasn't at church, John volunteered with International World Changers.

Janis said some of her happiest moments with John were watching

him work outdoors. "He loved to garden," she recalled. "I would get the lawn chair and sit out there and visit with him. That's when we would really talk about things."

The pastor never got a chance to see the fruit of the final seed he planted at Cross Road. Less than two weeks after his death, the church met his challenge, more than doubling their Lottie Moon goal. The total came to \$4,091.16, the largest missions harvest in Cross Road's history.

Member Gwen McCallister wasn't surprised. "Our church is committed to missions," she said. "After John's death it was just one of those things. We have to do this. It was something to honor him."

"Missions was something God laid on his heart," Janis said. "He

felt like taking salvation to the rest of the world was what God wanted him to be a part of."

Judy Wood, director of Cross Road's Woman's Missionary Union said John's leadership is missed, but she believes God is using his death to bring new purpose to Cross Road. "It's made us draw a lot closer and be more determined to carry on John's vision," she said. "We are realizing that the time is drawing near, and the Lord will come back, and we have a job to do."

"It never ceases to amaze me that it's the small churches, per-person, per-income, which seem to give just as much or more to Lottie Moon. In that sense, John could stand proud of his people that we didn't sit back and say, 'Well, we're small, not much is expected of us.'"

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