


December 5, 2006  
 Vol. 180, No. 48

**WMU Kentucky Notes**



See insert

**FOR THE RECORD**

**Baptists**  
 NAMB honors Mission Service Corps couple for truckers ministry. *Page 2.*

**Ministry**  
 Baptist Nursing Fellowship's "Baby Boot Camp" ministers to mothers-to-be. *Page 3.*

**Editorial**  
 "The Nativity Story" tells old story in new way. *Page 5.*

**Kentucky**  
 KBC President Darren Gaddis appoints chairs for 2006-07 convention committees. *Page 8.*



**Nation**  
 Chicago Christmas festival drops "The Nativity Story" clips. *Page 9.*

## Kentucky connection

*Bardstown congregation supports gospel 'pioneer' through prayer*

**Niger, West Africa**—The praying members of Wickland Baptist Church in Bardstown are proving that small churches can impact the nations.

The congregation, with an average worship attendance of 65, prayerfully chose to adopt the Sokoto Fulani unreached people group of Niger, West Africa. Now they praise God for providing nine individuals to share the love of Jesus Christ among the Sokoto Fulani people.

"It boils down to the hope that every living, breathing Sokoto Fulani ... will hear the message of Jesus and know eternal life through Him," said Patricia Stone, the church's missions director.

Shortly after Wickland members

began praying for the Sokoto Fulani, God called 23-year-old Danielle Koepke, a native of South Florida, to go live with and love the people as a two-year journeyman missionary.

"Talk about it being real exciting for us and encouraging for our prayers," said Dave Coffing, a member of Wickland's missions committee. "That just encouraged us to continue praying."

Now other churches work with the Southern Baptist International Mission Board to help bring the gospel to this people group, and Wickland hopes to send church members to Niger within the year.

"It's a little frustrating, not being able to go (right now), but ... you

□ See *Messengers embrace* ... *Page 6*

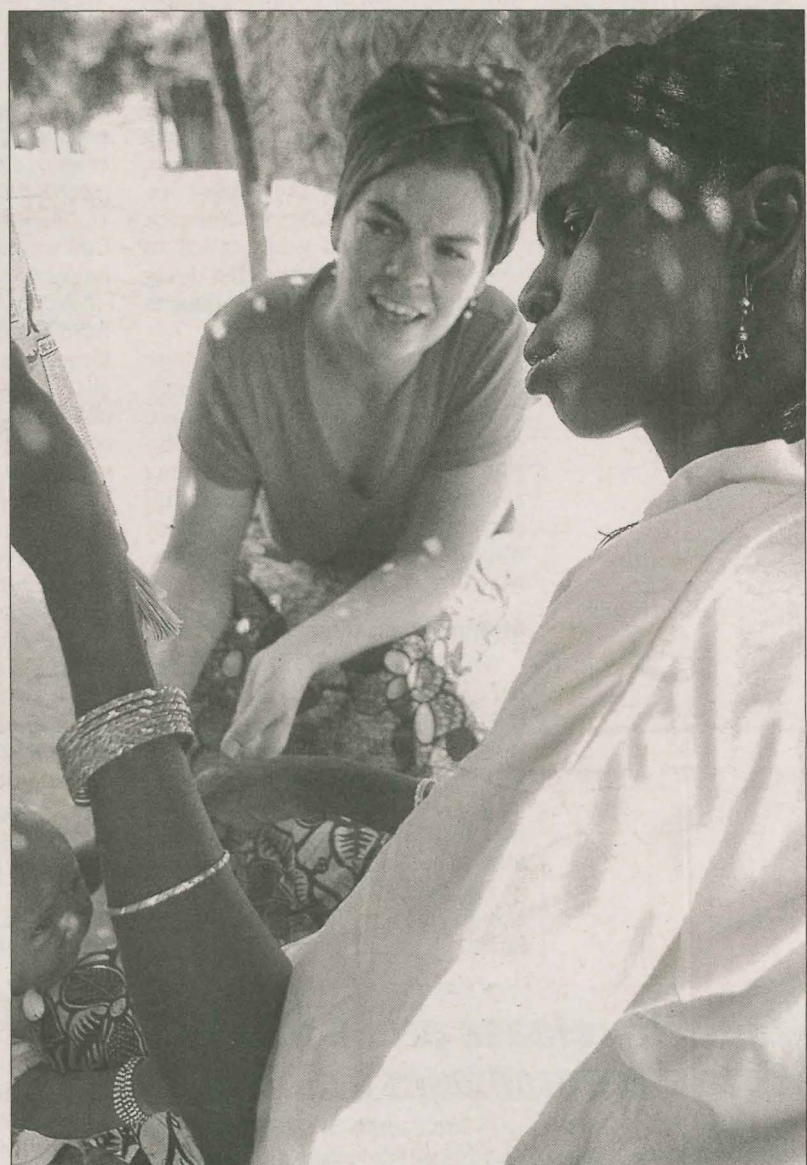
**2006 LOTTIE MOON CHRISTMAS OFFERING**



**That all peoples may know Him**



**STAYING INFORMED** Dave and Carla Coffing (left) and Pat Stone update a missions bulletin board at Wickland Baptist Church in Bardstown. Through the Southern Baptist International Mission Board's "PrayerPlus" initiative, the congregation "adopted" the Sokoto Fulani people group of West Africa. The Coffings will lead a short-term mission team to Niger, West Africa, in March. (Photo by Dannah Prather)



**BREAKING SPIRITUAL GROUND** Danielle Koepke (left), the first Southern Baptist missionary to engage the Sokoto Fulani, talks with a woman in Niger, West Africa. (IMB photo)

## Study finds most Americans don't recognize major Christian leaders

**Washington (RNS)**—If Britney Spears, Denzel Washington and James Dobson were in a lineup, most Americans would know the first two but draw a blank on the evangelical leader.

A recent study by the Barna Group found that a majority of Americans, when presented with 16 public figures, had never heard of some of the nation's most prominent Christian leaders, but instantly recognize pop-culture celebrities.

Rick Warren has sold more copies of his book, "The Purpose Driven Life," than any other nonfiction work except the Bible. But almost three out of every four adults (72 percent) have never heard of him, the survey found.

Nearly 57 percent of adults have never heard of James Dob-

son, founder of Focus on the Family and host of a radio program that reaches more Americans than any other religious personality.

Bishop T.D. Jakes, a Dallas megachurch pastor considered by many to be the most influential African-American minister in the country, is unknown to 68 percent of American adults, Barna found.

Actors Denzel Washington, Rosie O'Donnell and Mel Gibson fared better in the minds of Americans. The percentage of adults to recognize their names were 93, 95 and 96 percent, respectively.

"People pay attention to what they deem important," George Barna noted. "These figures may be another indicator that millions of Christians invest more of their mental energy in cultural literacy than in biblical literacy."

## 'Is the church out of touch?' LifeWay culture survey asks

**Phoenix (BP)**—"In general, pastors are less informed about the culture in which they live than are the people in their churches," according to research released by LifeWay Christian Resources of the Southern Baptist Convention.

Research published in the November/December edition of LifeWay's Facts & Trends magazine delves into how informed Protestant ministers and laypeople see themselves in regard to 12 facets of today's culture: books, music, sports, celebrities, television programs, politics, magazines, radio and TV talk shows, movies, the Internet, video and computer games, and clothing and fashion.

Two studies were conducted for Facts & Trends by Ellison Research in Phoenix: a representative sample of 797 Protestant church ministers nationwide and a companion survey

of 1,184 adults who attend Protestant churches at least once a month. The studies asked each group to rate whether they are very informed, somewhat informed, not very informed or actively avoid the various facets of popular culture.

Not one of the 12 categories registered a majority of clergy or laity as very informed about culture. Pastors and churchgoers rarely try to avoid popular culture, but they tend to see themselves as relatively uninformed, the study found.

Ministers tend to stay most informed about politics, with 36 percent saying they are very informed about the subject and another 55 percent saying they are somewhat informed. That was the only category in the study about which ministers feel better informed than the laity, with 29 percent of all church-

□ See *LifeWay survey* ... *Page 9*

Dated material. Please deliver by Wednesday, December 6.

## MSC couple honored for truckers ministry

By James Dotson  
Baptist Press

Alpharetta, Ga. (BP)—Ted Keller had just finished singing a stirring solo at a community New Year's Eve service in 1986 when he realized he was doing it for all the wrong reasons. His entire career in church music had been largely for his own glory, he said, rather than God's.

Keller's conviction was so strong that he left the ministry for about seven years. But he returned in 1993—this time as a chaplain to the trucking community from a base at a local truck stop.

"God's given me a burden for these truck drivers that drive all across America," Keller said, noting the 3.5 million truck drivers have been described as the largest unreached people group in America. "The mission field God's called us to is to be a part of what He's doing to bring these men and women to Jesus Christ."

Keller and his wife, Tammy, were honored recently by the Southern Baptist North American Mission Board as Mission Service Corps Missionaries of the Year. They are among approximately 2,200 missionaries currently receiving endorsement, training and other non-salary ministry support through NAMB.

### Offering counsel, encouragement

Working out of a mobile chapel housed in a tractor-trailer rig at the Columbia 20 Travel Center truck stop in Columbia, S.C., the Kellers provide counsel and encouragement, lead Bible studies and minister to truckers, their families and others in the trucking community. Last year alone they saw 54 individuals make professions of faith in Christ.



**MINISTRY IMPACT** Ted and Tammy Keller, who operate a ministry outreach to truck drivers at a travel center in Columbia, S.C., have been named NAMB's Mission Service Corps Missionaries of the Year. (BP photo)

The Kellers said they found their way to the ministry first as volunteers at the truck stop, and they later were asked to consider the call to lead the ministry full-time.

"He said, 'I'll never do that,' but God wanted him to and that's when he surrendered," Mrs. Keller said.

Part of the motivation also came from family situations. Mrs. Keller's father was a career truck driver and also an alcoholic desperately in need of Christ. And on the night of their commissioning as MSC missionaries in 1994, they saw him make a life-changing profession of faith.

"We had truck drivers and people all over the country praying," Mrs. Keller said. "He hasn't touched a drop since."

The Kellers deal with a range of problems on a daily basis, with much of their ministry related to the intense loneliness often experienced by drivers. Mrs. Keller also is able to minister to women and families, some of whom homeschool their kids on the road.

"When you have a husband and wife team and you're cooped up in that truck day after day constantly, it's real tough sometimes to not have

a break," she said. "So I'm there, and God uses me to speak to the wife."

### Diverse ministry opportunities

In just a few of their ministry encounters:

■ Keller was able to minister to a driver burned over 95 percent of his body in an accident. The trucker eventually died, but Keller visited daily while he was in a burn center in Augusta, Ga. The chaplain had experienced 37 days in a coma himself while recuperating from heart surgery, and he knew from experience that patients often are able to hear even when they appear unconscious. He also was able to minister to the family, and a trucking company even paid his expenses to travel to Canada to conduct the funeral.

■ One trucker came into the chapel with a gun and said he was going to kill his stepdaughter. But Keller was able to share the plan of salvation with him, and the trucker left with a new faith in Christ. "His whole countenance changed," Keller recalled.

■ Another driver was one of the most unlovable and arrogant men the Kellers had ever seen when they first met him. But he had found a Bible in California, saw their chapel and wanted to talk, and eventually prayed to receive Christ. Today he is preparing to take his seventh trip smuggling Bibles into a largely unreached nation.

The Kellers work in association with Transport for Christ, one of a number of organizations providing ministry to truck drivers.

For more information about their work, visit [www.chaplainted.org](http://www.chaplainted.org). To learn more about NAMB's Mission Service Corps program, visit [www.answerthecall.net/msc](http://www.answerthecall.net/msc).

## Buckner names Reyes to key post

Dallas (ABP)—Albert Reyes, president of Baptist University of the Americas, has been named president of Buckner Children and Family Services, which is being revamped to expand its ministries throughout the United States and internationally.

Reyes, 47, has been president of Baptist University of the Americas in San Antonio since 1999. He will assume his duties at Buckner International, the parent organization of Buckner Children and Family Services, Jan. 1.

Both Buckner International and Baptist University of the Americas are affiliated with the Baptist General Convention of Texas. Reyes also had been mentioned as a possible eventual successor to BGCT Execu-

tive Director Charles Wade.

Buckner International President Ken Hall, who appointed Reyes to the new position, called the selection "one of the most strategic and vital decisions" in the 127-year history of Buckner.

As president of Buckner Children and Family Services, Reyes will oversee all of the organization's ministries, both in the United States and internationally. Hall continues in his role as president and CEO of the overall ministries of Buckner International, including its retirement services division.

Buckner Children and Family Services serves more than 120,000 orphans and at-risk children worldwide each year.

## Clendenen to direct B&H Academic

Nashville (BP)—Ray Clendenen, a 15-year LifeWay Christian Resources employee, has been named director of academic publishing for B&H Publishing Group.

Clendenen is general editor of the New American Commentary series and author of the series' volume on Malachi. He currently is editorial director for Bible reference, commentary and academic books and is associate general editor of the Holman Christian Standard Bible translation project.

B&H Academic is designed to provide resources for undergraduate and graduate theological education.

Ken Stephens, president of B&H Publishing Group, said Clendenen "is well known and respected in the conservative, evangelical academic community as a scholar and a thinker."

Clendenen holds degrees from Rice University in Houston, Dallas Theological Seminary, Dropsie University in Philadelphia and the University of Texas in Arlington.

## SonicFlood tour sparks more than 1,000 decision

Hampton, Va. (BP)—The contemporary Christian band SonicFlood recently wrapped up its 57-city, missions-focused tour held in cooperation with the Southern Baptist International Mission Board.

More than 26,000 young people attended SonicFlood concerts during the 11-week national tour, which included two stops in Kentucky as well as concerts in 22 other states and Canada.

To move students toward missions and teach them about God's desire to reach all nations, SonicFlood and the IMB created a concert event that was more of an interactive experience than a musical performance. The show featured plenty of songs, but also incorporated videos and images of mission work, multimedia presentations, testimonies of students working abroad and specific opportunities for mission service.

"We've always been eager to travel the world and sing of God's love," said Rick Heil, SonicFlood's lead singer, "but I believe God is bringing us into a deeper place of expectancy to see His wonders as we worship Him."

Before the tour, Heil said he hoped it would inspire students to think about their faith and examine what it means to follow Christ. Three months later, that hope has turned into a reality for some students.

Out of more than 1,000 decision cards turned in during the tour, 58 students reported making professions of faith in Jesus Christ. Another 423 made public decisions to pursue God's call to missions.

Heil noted that while many young people made commitments to Jesus during the tour, it can't end there.

"If we are truly God's people, we will have His heart of compassion and desire everyone to enjoy the hope we have in Jesus," he said. "Jesus brings life. He brings love, and that is what every heart is hungry for."

Mike Lopez, the IMB's director of student mobilization, said it has been amazing to watch God work through the concerts.

"Our main objective for the SonicFlood tour was to mobilize students for international missions service," Lopez said. "God blessed this effort in many ways. As SonicFlood led us in the worship of God, God began to work in people's hearts. As people watched the videos, heard the testimonies and learned about global needs, they began to respond."

"When He is worshiped and glorified, He begins to bring people to a realization of His purpose and plan for all nations to have a relationship with Him," Lopez added.

## BGCT to release probe results to law enforcement officials

Dallas (ABP)—Officials with the Baptist General Convention of Texas will give law enforcement agencies the documents produced by an independent investigation that revealed financial malfeasance in its church-starting efforts.

BGCT Executive Director Charles Wade will provide officials "complete copies of a BGCT-commissioned investigative report and all relevant exhibits regarding alleged misuse of convention church-starting funds in the Rio Grande Valley," according to a Nov. 28 statement released by the convention.

The statement said Wade and his associates are attempting to schedule a meeting with state and federal law enforcement officials to gauge their interest in the documents.

The BGCT will share its internal findings "in order to explore with the authorities the possibility of them doing a further investigation," the release quoted Wade as saying.

The report is 42 pages long and contains the names of several people implicated in the scandal. The investigators examined more than 10,000 pieces of evidence in their efforts, according to the statement.

The investigation, released to the convention's Executive Board Oct. 31, concluded that a portion of \$1.3 million in BGCT funds earmarked for starting churches in the impoverished Rio Grande Valley, along the Texas-Mexico border, had been misused between 1999 and 2005. The report implicated three pastors hired as church planters: Otto Arango, Aaron de la Torre and Armando Vera.

The statement quoted BGCT spokesman Ferrell Foster as saying convention leaders are taking what they feel is appropriate action: "We want to work with authorities to make sure justice is done."

It also said BGCT leaders are considering options to recover the allegedly diverted funds.

# Baby Boot Camp

*Baptist Nursing Fellowship tells mothers-to-be exactly who's in charge*

By **Dannah Prather**  
Partnerships Editor

**McDowell**—It's hard to believe that a grown woman or man could be ground into submission by an infant who typically weighs only about six to eight pounds. But, according to nurse Benita Decker, when a baby is born, that is exactly what happens.

"You're not the sergeant," she recently told a group of mothers and mothers-to-be. "The baby's the sergeant."

The first six weeks of parenthood, described by author Rebecca Ingram Powell as "Baby Boot Camp," was the focus of a recent one-day workshop by Kentucky's Baptist Nursing Fellowship and First Baptist Church of McDowell.

BNF is a ministry group of Woman's Missionary Union. Members are nurses or other healthcare professionals. Boot camp helps moms understand basic baby care, prenatal health and gives them an idea of what to expect after the baby is born.

"You won't be sleeping like you used to," Decker told the group. "You won't be doing just about anything like you used to."

Some of the women invited to the event were referred to church members by staff of God's Appalachian Partnership, a ministry center also located in McDowell. Others were recommended by teachers or other members of the community.

"We know these girls," said Libbi Hall, a church member. "Some of them are very desperate."

A few birth mothers were at the "any day now" stage of pregnancy. One woman was unsure how far along she was and had yet to see a doctor.

A few of the birth moms already had children. Others, such as Whitney Bentley, are expecting for the first time.

Decidedly unexpected for Bentley and her husband was the recent news that she is carrying twins.

"It's a big shock, two of everything," she said, including strollers, carriers, cribs and car seats.

## Emotional & spiritual issues

Topics addressed at boot camp ranged from diapering, feeding and bathing to the mental, emotional and spiritual health of birth moms.

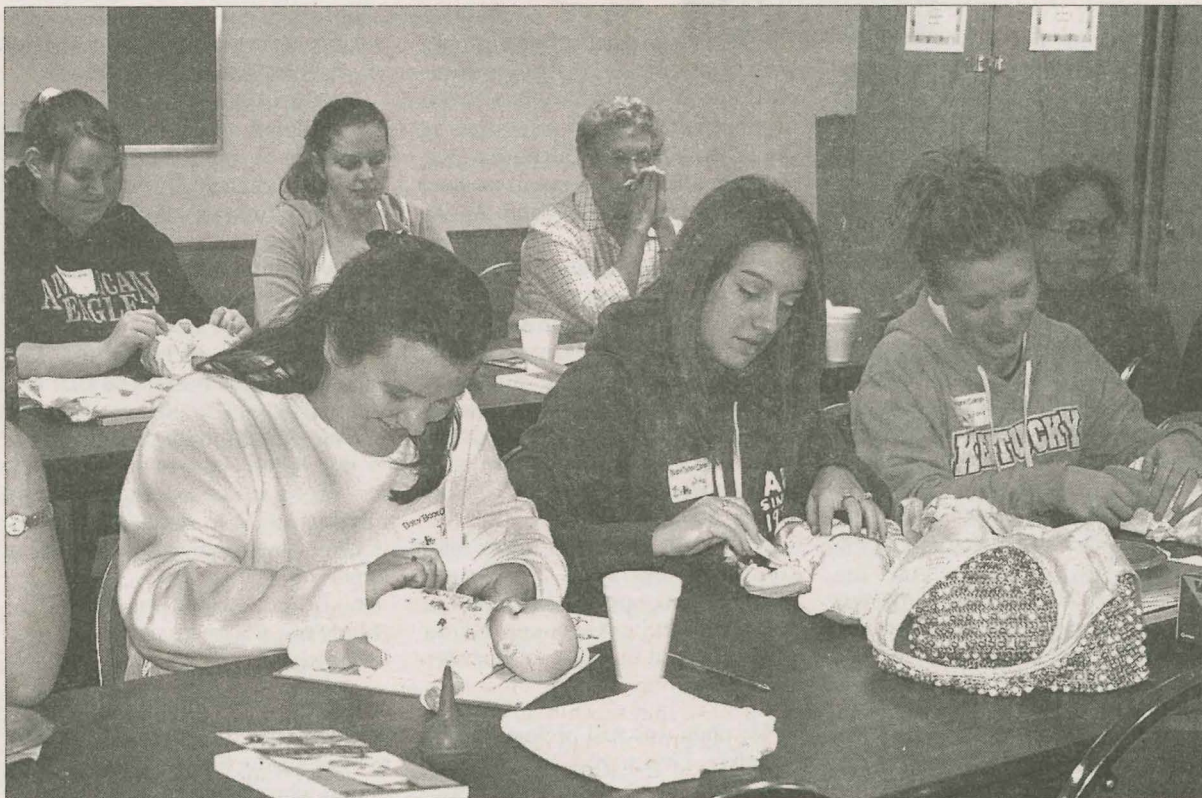
"A lot of stuff I didn't know," Bentley said, "or I thought it was different."

One example: Baby powder should not be used on infants under six months of age, Decker said. The fine particles contribute to respiratory problems such as asthma.

Kentucky WMU members have hosted four other Baby Boot Camps in other parts of the state, according to Wanda Walker, adult consultant for Kentucky WMU. "We go into communities that may not have a lot of support systems," she said.

"We've had girls come who have already had their babies and not know how to hold their baby, or diaper or burp their baby ... something that simple," she said.

Birth moms always express grati-



**DIAPER DUTY** Teresa Spears, Whitney Bentley and Stephanie Fraley practice diapering using dolls at the recent Baby Boot Camp sponsored by Kentucky's Baptist Nursing Fellowship and First Baptist Church of McDowell. (Photos by Dannah Prather)

tude for the assistance, Walker said. "The girls are excited that someone's taking the initiative to care about them."

Decker even gave advice about advice. She said some friends and family will be eager to correct new mothers on how they care for their babies. "As long as you are keeping your baby safe and healthy, take advice and use it the way you want to," she said.

Through Kentucky WMU and the McDowell congregation, each mother left the church with a basket of supplies to help them prepare for their new arrivals.

The women from BNF and McDowell Baptist hoped the young women left with other valuable resources as well.

In addition to a copy of the Baby Boot Camp which includes daily devotionals, Kentucky WMU gave each participant a copy of Rick Warren's book, "The Purpose Driven Life."

"You aren't an accident and neither is your baby," said BNF President Jessica Childers of Maysville. Childers talked about her experiences as a single mother and encouraged birth moms to become spiritually healthy.

"Our spiritual life is very important," she noted. She challenged women to become part of a local church family and, after their child is born, make a commitment to take the baby to church.

Diane Kaiser of Somerset also encouraged the women to look to God for guidance. "People will let you down. Situations will hit you hard," she said. "But God is always going to be there."

She said most moms experience feelings of sadness and depression after their baby is born. Kaiser encouraged them to build a support system of family and friends who can help during those times.

"If you get bluer than blue," she said, meaning the feelings don't go

away or worsen, moms should see their doctor. She added that, in reality, postpartum depression is rare.

This was the first Baby Boot Camp for the McDowell church located in Enterprise Baptist Association near Prestonsburg.

## "Learning venture" for church

"This is a learning venture for us," said Aimee Bracken, wife of McDowell pastor Gene Bracken. "The ladies were just drawn to it." Noting that the event was spearheaded by the church's WMU, Aimee Bracken said nearly the entire congregation was involved in some way, most by donating baby supplies. Some local businesses also contributed.

Hall said as much as she looked forward to helping host boot camp, maintaining a relationship with

the eight birth moms is just as important.

"We'd like to get some women out of the church to spend time with girls," she said. Just a phone call to check on a young woman could make a positive difference in the life of mother and baby. "We need to be asking them, 'Did you make your doctor's appointment? Do you need transportation?'"

Generous donations of baby clothes and supplies from WMU mean members of McDowell Baptist Church can cultivate ongoing relationships with birth moms, Walker said.

"The local churches that hosted Baby Boot Camps take mothers outfits for their babies after they are born as a way to do follow-up," she said.



**OFF TO A GOOD START** Ashley Lafferty (center) and Erica Howell (right) leave Baby Boot Camp with infant care items donated by members of First Baptist Church of McDowell. Kentucky WMU members from across the commonwealth donate baby clothes and supplies each year at their annual meeting. The donations will help McDowell church members such as Tootsie Acres (left) continue to offer assistance and support to the new mothers after their babies are born.



**BURRITO BABY** Benita Decker of Frankfort demonstrates swaddling to a group of mothers-to-be attending Baby Boot Camp at First Baptist Church of McDowell. Decker is a women's health nurse and member of Baptist Nursing Fellowship's Kentucky chapter. She said the swaddling technique is similar to wrapping a burrito.

## WESTERN RECORDER

Box 43969  
Louisville, KY 40253  
(USPS 679-380)

TRENNIS HENDERSON  
Editor

JANET McINTOSH  
Marketing & Business  
Manager

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

Western Recorder is published weekly by Western Recorder Inc., an agency of the Kentucky Baptist Convention, Box 43969, Louisville, KY 40253, except for one week in July and December. For general information, call (502) 489-3535. Periodicals postage paid at Louisville, Ky.

To subscribe: Send \$12.50 for a one-year, individual subscription. Group subscriptions on the church budget plan are \$10 per year. An additional church newsletter service is available for churches of all sizes. All subscriptions are payable in advance, except church accounts, which require a tax exemption number.

POSTMASTER: Send address corrections to: Western Recorder, Box 43969, Louisville, KY 40253.

To register change of address: Send the mailing label from page 1, along with your new address, to the subscription department at the Western Recorder address.

To give news tips: Call (502) 489-3422, toll-free (866) 489-3422 or write the editor or news director.

To submit a letter: Letters from subscribers on any subject will be considered for publication, provided they do not make a personal attack on anyone. Letters are limited to 300 words and may be edited for length. Submit by mail or by e-mail to: wesrec@earthlink.net

To place an advertisement: Rates are available upon request by calling (502) 489-3428. Institutional columns are paid space. Claims made by advertisers are not necessarily those of the Western Recorder's staff and directors.

Directors:  
Chairman Linda Polley, Elizabethtown;  
Vice Chairman Floyd Price, Prestonsburg;  
Skip Alexander, Campbellsville;  
Duane Bolin, Murray;  
Dan Francis, Erlanger;  
David Harmon-Vaught, Louisville;  
Chip Hutcheson, Princeton;  
Ken James, London;  
Lanna Kilgore, Bowling Green;  
Bill Marshall, Louisville;  
Bill Thurman, Lexington;  
Rodney Travis, Hopkinsville.

## There's nothing funny about racism

By Richard Land

Nashville (BP)—Most Americans are aware of former "Seinfeld" star Michael Richards' meltdown on stage at the Laugh Factory comedy club in West Hollywood. Incensed by two African-American hecklers in the audience who said the comedian's act was not funny, Richards launched into a tirade of racial slurs and obscenities including the racially super-charged "n-word."

How could this happen? In the first decade of the 21st century, how could someone with the cultural sophistication and pluralistic societal exposure of a television star like Michael Richards harbor such vile and hateful feelings and thoughts in his heart and soul? Can anyone say "Mel Gibson"? Gibson, super-star extraordinaire, under the influence of alcohol, launched into a vicious anti-Semitic rant a few months ago.

The answer is the depravity of the human heart. The Bible tells us, "The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: Who can know it?" (Jeremiah 17:9).

## 'I can fly'

The cancer came binding me with threads made of fear. The bondage began in my left breast and slowly covered me inch by inch. The threads were not pretty, they did not hurt, but they took my freedom, and I could not fly.

The threads of chemo continued to wrap, around and around. Cords of radiation overlapping made the bindings tighter and tighter. There I was imprisoned in my own cocoon. My freedom was gone, and I could not fly.

But I found peace in that still place—the peace that passes all understanding. I felt the love there that touched the depths of my heart. I found rest and a time of healing, but my freedom was still gone, and I could not fly.

Thankfully, far fewer children in America are being taught racist prejudices at home or in society, but only an extremely naïve person would say racism does not continue to exist in American culture.

## COMMENTARY

Thanks to some remarkably brave people, both black and white, who confronted the evils of racism and segregation in the civil rights movement in the middle of the 20th century, segregation and white supremacy have been largely eradicated from American society.

However, racism and the ugly destructive prejudices it spawns are still with us, and will continue to be. Why? Fallen, sinful human hearts are always going to be subject to the temptation to think of ourselves more highly than we ought to think (Romans 12:3), which is the root of all prejudice.

Are Michael Richards and Mel Gibson racist bigots? At some level they must have been contaminated by the noxious poison of racism or else it would not have spewed out of them when enraged or inebriated.

My body was still broken and incomplete. Cancer had left her ugly trademark right across my chest. She was sneering and laughing at me each time I saw my reflection in the mirror. Cancer took my freedom and said, "You cannot fly!"

"You will not win!" I shouted in rage. "This battle has just begun." With the mighty, healing hands of the Great Physician, the kindness and knowledge of the one in the white lab coat, and the deep love of my precious husband, the four of us began the war to win my body back. The battle was fierce and tiring. But we would not back up even one inch. Suddenly I felt a flutter, surely one day I will fly.

The reconstruction road was long and tough. But I clung to the hope from Jehovah Himself, to the reas-

ed. They themselves may have been shocked at the fires of racial hatred that resided in the deepest recesses of their beings. In the midst of his rant, Richards refers to "what lays buried." One simply cannot imagine that such foul, hateful language could be produced by anger and alcohol alone, rather than simply provoking what was already present in the darkest places of their hearts.

As Christians, we have a divinely mandated obligation to love our neighbors as ourselves (Matthew 22:39), which means allowing the Holy Spirit to eliminate all prejudice and bigotry and to produce the agape love which is a fruit of the Holy Spirit in the hearts of yielded believers (Galatians 5:22).

The Michael Richards and Mel Gibson episodes remind us that racism will always be with us. We must be ever vigilant to its presence within our fallen natures and our fallen society, as well as mindful of our Christian duty to renounce and denounce it whenever and wherever it appears.

Richard Land is president of the Southern Baptist Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission

urance from the gifted doctor, and overwhelming love that comes from a man who thinks I am the light of his life. The butterfly inside me was ready. Lord, please, let me fly.

In a moment of absolute stillness, El Shaddai reassured me, "Now, my child, it is time." His strength seemed to take charge over my body. The threads unraveled and I slowly emerged from my cancer cocoon. I sang and I danced and I give praise to my God. My wings were perfect and I could fly.

Carolyn Polk  
Prestonsburg

## What are you thinking?

The Western Recorder considers letters on any subject for publication, provided they don't make a personal attack. Submit by mail, Box 43969, Louisville, KY 40253; or e-mail, wesrec@earthlink.net.

## Tanzanian leader educated at Georgetown

Moses Mboya, a native of Tanzania and a graduate of Georgetown College, is serving as executive secretary of the Baptist Convention of Tanzania. His is a great story of God's awesomeness being demonstrated through the willingness of one pastor to take a giant step of faith.

Georgetown Baptist Church and its pastor, Ken Holden, sponsored Moses and his wife, Tunosye, when they came to the United States to study. Ken had met Moses during the time of the Kentucky Baptist Convention's partnership with Baptists in Tanzania. Southern Baptist International Mission Board missionaries Ralph and Vivian Boyles had great confidence in Moses and had been praying for him to have an educational opportunity.

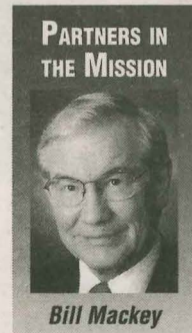
Georgetown College provided housing and significant financial assistance, as did other individuals, for four and a half years. However, it was Ken Holden who provided the coordi-

ination and leadership, supported by Georgetown Baptist Church.

There were challenging days, especially with the addition of a baby, Abagile, during the college experience. When graduation day finally came, Ken and Georgetown Baptist Church planned a service of dedication. It was a privilege to participate. My wife, Kay, and I had met Moses and his wife during a partnership trip to Tanzania, where Moses served as my interpreter.

Moses and other Tanzania convention leaders have been traveling to every association to meet with pastors.

"As we continue to meet with pastors, and other brethren in the Baptist work in Tanzania, we are very much encouraged," Moses wrote recently. "We thank God that this trip is doing what we prayed for—unity is coming back to the Baptist Church of Tanzania. There is a revival of hope and evangelism for the Baptist



Bill Mackey

## CHURCH

## Celebrate Christ's birth by giving to global missions

By Doug Strader

We will soon celebrate the birth of Christ, the greatest gift ever given to mankind.



Most Americans will give gifts to their loved ones and friends as a part of their Christmas celebration.

Southern Baptists will have the opportunity once again to give a gift to the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for International Missions.

The goal for the Lottie Moon Offering this year is \$150 million. That is a lot of money, but the goal is reachable if every church in the Southern Baptist Convention would challenge its members to give sacrificially. To help us put the \$150 million goal in perspective, research has shown that all the churches in the United States give a little more than \$3 billion each year to overseas missions while Americans spend more than \$55 billion each year on soft drinks alone!

I am not sure what all these numbers mean, but I do believe they tell us that we are not very serious about reaching our world with the gospel of Jesus Christ.

What are some things your church could do this Christmas season to raise the awareness of the needs around the world and ways to help meet those needs?

- Call the Southern Baptist International Mission Board toll-free at (800) 999-3113 and request resources to help educate church members about mission needs.

- Invite a furloughing international missionary or a retired missionary to speak to your congregation about missions.

- Support Woman's Missionary Union as it promotes international missions and the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering in your church.

- Make a commitment to pray every day for Southern Baptist international missionaries. Your church can pray for all of our international and North American missionaries each year by following the daily Missionary Prayer Calendar printed in the LifeWay Christian Resources publication Open Windows.

- As a family, pray about how much God will enable your family to give to the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering this year. Why not give more to the Lottie Moon Offering than you give for anyone's Christmas gift this year? Challenge fellow church members to do the same.

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

Bill Mackey is executive director of the Kentucky Baptist Convention

## Simple conversation starters can highlight God's blessings

**Q: I love the Christmas season and getting together with family, friends and co-workers. How can I better connect with people? I especially want my time with family to be meaningful since many of us do not live near each other.**

Although parties and family dinners typically are fun and lively, it can be challenging to have meaningful conversation in the midst of noisy festivities. Try focusing on one person at a time and ask questions that require more reflection and will reveal more about that person.

### FAMILY

Consider some of these conversation starters:

- What would you like to experience this Christmas that would be meaningful to you?
- What are some of the choices you made this year for which you are glad? How did those choices make a difference in your life?
- What would the ideal Christmas Day be like for you?
- What person or people in your life have made a difference this year? How?
- What kind of blessing do you wish you could give your family?
- How have you changed or grown this year?
- What is fun for you and makes you laugh?
- What experiences do you wish you could relive?

God has been at work in people's lives throughout the year and you can offer your friends and family an opportunity to reflect on and recognize how God loves, gives and blesses all year and not just during a few weeks in December. Perhaps some of these questions could be asked during a meal when everyone is gathered in one place and each person takes a turn sharing and listening. Such times can build the kind of community God has in mind for His people. May your conversations this Christmas be rich and full as well as a blessing to those around you.—Valerie Vincent

**Q: My wife and I tend to argue about the same things over and over. How can we break the impasse?**

Couples get stuck on specific issues for a variety of reasons including previous family patterns, beliefs about certain gender roles, etc. It can help to have a plan of action whenever a difficult issue arises.

### MARRIAGE

The PREPARE-ENRICH program of marital education includes a 10-step conflict resolution exercise to get both sides moving toward solutions. Try these steps next time you find yourself in an argument that seems to have no end:

1. Define the topic. Sometimes you simply are arguing about two different things.
2. Set a time and place for 30 minutes of uninterrupted discussion.
3. List what you have tried in the past that has not worked.
4. Have each person name a way in which he or she has contributed to the issue.
5. Brainstorm possible solutions. Have fun with it.
6. Go over each possible solution and share your feelings.
7. Find one solution you can agree on. This will be your "trial solution."
8. Discuss how each of you can contribute to making this solution work.
9. Set a date, time and place where you will have 30 uninterrupted minutes to evaluate how the trial solution is going.
10. Reward each other as you find the other person doing what they said they would do. Decide on something that would be a reward for you both.

Scripture instructs Christians to "forgive one another" and to speak words of grace "seasoned with salt." It is easier to act "Christianly" in marriage when we are on the same page. This makes it possible to meet the needs of both and achieve a win/win solution.—James Stillwell

Family Forum writers are:

**David Garrard**, minister to children at St. Matthews Baptist Church in Louisville. E-mail: dgarrard@smbclouisville.org.

**James Stillwell**, minister to singles at Immanuel Baptist Church in Lexington. E-mail: james@ibs-lex.org.

**Valerie Vincent**, Christian counselor with Hardy Associates in Louisville. E-mail: dr.vincent@insightbb.com.

**Scott Wigginton**, associate professor of pastoral ministries and counseling at Campbellsville University. E-mail: sewigginton@campbellsville.edu.

Send questions for Family Forum to Western Recorder, Box 43969, Louisville, KY 40253 or e-mail wesrec@earthlink.net.



## 'Nativity Story' tells old story in new way

One of the challenges of the Christmas season is discovering fresh ways to communicate the timeless story of Jesus Christ's miraculous birth.

While Christmas pageants and cantatas, live Nativity scenes and Christmas carols can help shift our thoughts from the season's rampant commercialism to moments of reflection on the Christ Child, the fact remains that it's easy to go through the motions of celebrating Christmas without truly pondering the eternal impact of Jesus' birth.

One new resource available to help capture that sense of wonder and awe is the movie, "The Nativity Story." Prior to the film's Dec. 1 release, I had the opportunity to attend a pre-release screening. It was well worth my time.

Even before the movie's opening scene, the tone is set as the prophetic words of Jeremiah 23:5-6 scroll across the screen: "The days are coming," declares the Lord, "when I will raise up to David a righteous Branch, a King who will reign wisely and do what is just and right in the land. In His days Judah will be saved and Israel will live in safety. This is the name by which He will be called: The Lord Our Righteous."

From the gripping opening scene to the climactic celebration of Jesus' birth, the movie treats the biblical accounts of the nativity with dignity and reverence. Those who might not choose to see "The Nativity Story" because they assume it's just one more version of familiar passages from Matthew and Luke will miss a compelling, dramatic interpretation of 1st century life.

According to the film's Web site, the movie "chronicles the arduous journey of two people, Mary and Joseph, a miraculous pregnancy, and the history-defining birth of Jesus."

The bulk of the film focuses on the story of Mary and Joseph coping with her pregnancy and society's reaction to them. From the moment Mary tells the angel, "Let it be done to me according to your word," her whole world undergoes drastic changes. The challenges, questions and fears Mary and Joseph face help com-

municate the depth of their faith and commitment to God.

While "The Nativity Story" has neither the hoopla nor the controversy that surrounded "The Passion of the Christ," the two films share a common goal of dramatizing well-known biblical passages in such a way that the viewer gains a new appreciation for the incredible truths revealed in Scripture.

Cornelia Williams, a member of Walnut Street Baptist Church in Louisville, was among audience members in the packed theater for last week's preview. Noting that "the acting and photography are fantastic," Williams described the film as "wonderful."

Acknowledging that believers today "have romanticized" the biblical account of Christ's birth, Williams said the movie "takes into consideration the hardship and struggle and loneliness and persecution" that Mary and Joseph experienced.

David Schrock, a student at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary and a member of Ninth and O Baptist Church in Louisville, said he thought the film "did a good job of not straying from the biblical narrative in Luke and Matthew."

"It was emotional just to think through the trauma that Mary and Joseph went through to bring Christ the Messiah into the world," he added. "Just seeing the humanity of Mary and Joseph was very touching."

In addition to the moments of inspiration the movie provides, another reason for Christians to view the film is to send a positive message to Hollywood about the type of movies we choose to support. Since the release of "The Passion," Hollywood producers gradually are discovering that such films as "One Night with the King" and "The Nativity Story" also can generate widespread ticket sales.

Many churches already are planning to take groups to see "The Nativity Story" during the Christmas season. As you plan your family Christmas celebration, consider including "The Nativity Story" as part of your observance. It might become a new Christmas tradition as you and your family celebrate Jesus' birth.

### STRAIGHT FROM THE EDITOR



Tretnis Henderson

## Children's ministry enhances youth ministry

Maybe it is the time of year. After all, Christmas is for kids (or is that Trix?).

Anyway, a lot of attention is focused on children this time of year: Parents going nuts trying to find that one toy that it a "must have" for this year, songs all talking about Christmas and children and presents and bows. Bah, humbug!

But the emphasis on children this time of year got me to thinking about the important role children play in our youth ministry. So I asked some youth ministers to talk about how the children's and youth programs at their church work together.

Steve Coleman, minister of youth and education at New Work Fellowship in Hopkinsville, responded, "To have a successful youth ministry, it helps to have a strong and successful children's program to ... funnel those kids into your youth ministry."

Bill Houpt, youth minister at Hillcrest Baptist Church in Hopkinsville noted, "We have an awesome children's leader. She starts the children on their spiritual journey of growth and in sixth grade I continue it. I can tell the difference from youth who come through our children's ministry and those who do not."

At New Work, the children's ministry includes KidStuf, which is a 45-

minute production for elementary-age kids. Coleman said one of the main reasons behind KidStuf is: "It's so important from the surveys that have been done about the age of children coming to know Christ, that if we don't reach them by the time they are in the eighth or ninth grade, we're behind the eight ball."

At both Hillcrest and Edgewood Baptist in Hopkinsville, Bible Bowl is a vital part of the children's ministry. J.R. Hopson, the youth minister at Edgewood, said he uses "children's Bible Bowl to get to know the children so they know who I am when they get to youth."

The children's ministry is a great place for youth to develop their teaching and leadership skills. My wife, Gina, talks about when she was a teenager, teaching preschoolers in Sunday school at Corn Creek Baptist Church in Milton. It was a great learning environment for her.

"The children's ministry is a great place for my youth to minister," Houpt said. "Whether it is helping with their Sunday school, extended care, puppets, Bible Bowl, etc., it is a great place for them to have a little leadership and a safe place to make mistakes."

"Last Sunday, we experimented with taking all the children and combining them with the youth

Sunday school," he added. "It was insane but awesome. It gave me the opportunity to give some of the youth who are not very involved the opportunity to experience some leadership."

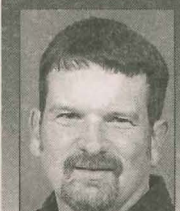
"The youth amazed me," Houpt wrote on his blog. "They pulled it off rather well. I am so lucky to be the youth minister of such awesome people. It was exciting to see my leadership and core do their thing, but what was really cool was to see youth who have not bought into the core thing lead today. I pray that now that they have tasted ministry, they might want to have their own."

Such efforts also help with the transition of students into youth ministry, Hopson said. "We also have students help out with children's activities so the children are not so intimidated by the older youth. Also, we try to incorporate the sixth grade into youth activities on occasion so they can get a feel of what the youth ministry is like before they move up."

Hopson summed it up best: "Children/preteen ministry is the foundation for youth ministry and is vital for effective youth ministry. If biblical truth is instilled in a child at a young age, then when they are teens, the youth ministry can continue to build off that foundation, take them deeper in the truth of God and help prepare them for Christian living in this world."

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

### YOUTH MINISTRY CORNER



Joe Ball

## Koepke first IMB worker to engage Sokoto Fulani

By Kristen Hiller  
SBC International Mission Board

**Niger, West Africa**—When Danielle Koepke spent her first night in a Fulani village in Niger, West Africa, she wondered if she was ready for the experience.

Surrounded by an older Fulani woman and several members of her extended family, Koepke suddenly realized how little these Fulani people understood her.

"I was just struck with the fact that she had family all around," she said, "and being in a group like

that, alone, being the only person that understands myself, I got really lonely."

Despite her loneliness, Koepke said she remembered Bible passages about being courageous and knew she was where she needed to be.

"The Bible talks a lot about being strong and having courage, so I was like, 'OK, I'm going to stay and stick it out and take up God's strength,' and it was great," she said. "The rest of the night, I didn't feel lonely."

At 24, Koepke is the first missionary to bring the gospel to the Sokoto Fulani people of West Africa, where fewer than 2 percent profess Christianity.

"There are difficulties being the pioneer," she said. Koepke faces the ongoing challenge of being a single female in a male-dominated, Muslim society. However, Fulani team strategy coordinator Kris Riggs hopes Koepke will gain a better understanding of Sokoto Fulani culture and build relationships with the people.

"Right now, nobody is focusing on the Sokoto Fulani, so we really have no ongoing witness," Riggs said. "For now, a big part of our strategy is just getting people out there to build relationships."

Recognizing the need to reach the Sokoto Fulani with the gospel, and sensing God's call to work among this people, Koepke said she immediately responded.

"I read this job request and it said, 'Go out there; live among them and love the people,' she said. "I immediately knew this job was for me."

When Koepke, a native of South Florida, decided to reach the Sokoto Fulani, she had no idea her obedience to God's call had answered the prayers of Wickland Baptist Church, a small congregation in Bardstown.

As part of the Southern Baptist International Mission Board's "PrayerPlus" program, Wickland "adopted" the Sokoto Fulani, praying that the gospel would reach the people group.

"They don't have the Bible in their native language," said Joe Taylor, who was pastor of Wickland Baptist when the initiative began. "So we began praying for that, praying that God would send missionaries to open up a dark part of the world, and that Christ would be seen through some kind of visible testimony."

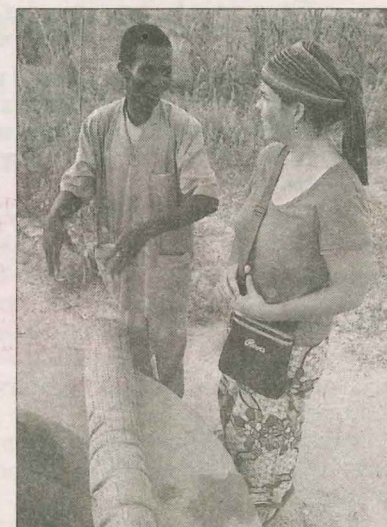
Koepke said the Kentucky congregation is part of her ministry. "They've been going out of their way to encourage me and pray for me. We've kept in touch through e-mail since I've been here."

While Koepke appreciates the church's prayers and encouragement, members said they are grateful for Koepke's willingness to serve.

"We're very impressed with Danielle," Stone said. "Although she is so many miles away, she's a great inspiration to us."

Koepke said she's blessed to serve the Sokoto Fulani. "I think it's an incredible honor. It's a really big job, but God's told me over and over that I'm not the one who has to do it, and that's a good thing."

Koepke said she believes God was preparing the hearts of the Sokoto Fulani long before she arrived in West Africa. "I just have faith that God's been working on these people for a long time, and it's not that I'm there to save them all, but I'm



**PEOPLE OF THE DESERT** The Sokoto Fulani, a people group of 800,000, live mostly in the deserts of Niger and Nigeria.

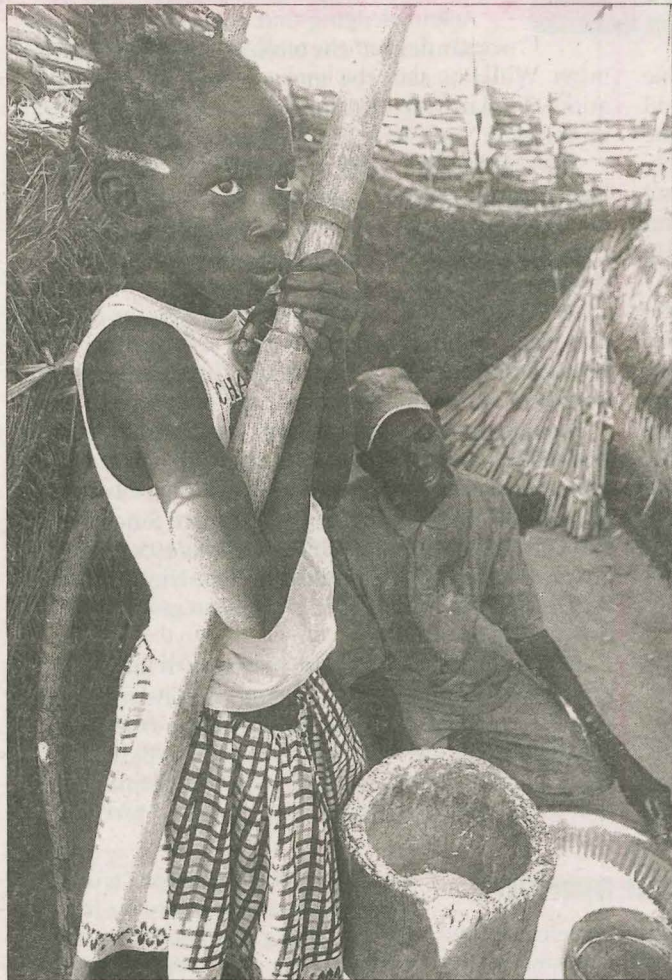
just there to be obedient and watch what God's doing among the Sokoto Fulani."

As the first missionary to engage the people group, Koepke said she has seen God's provision in a new light. She has been open to a whole new dimension of God's sustenance and how much He provides for her. She also has experienced a deep sense of satisfaction in her work.

"God's given me a desire for learning cultures and loving people," she said. "I can't get over how satisfied I am when I get to sit and talk to people and share God's love with them."

To learn how your church can pray for a specific people group, contact the SBC International Mission Board at (800) 999-3113.

**DAILY WORK FOR DAILY BREAD** A Sokoto Fulani girl clutches a wooden pestle she uses to grind grain. (IMB photos)



## Bardstown church supports 'pioneer'

Continued from page 1  
have to wait for God's timing," Coffing said.

Church members already were interceding for missionaries and people groups untouched by the gospel when they decided to do something new.

They joined IMB's "PrayerPlus" program. The partnership allows churches to adopt people groups through prayer. When the congregation received the names of three unreached people groups from which to choose, they immediately began praying for guidance. After more than a month of prayer, the congregation voted to adopt the Sokoto Fulani.

"We're just a few people doing some fairly dedicated prayer," Coffing said. "We just try to join in on what God's doing."

"This is all a part of the plan God has for the church," said Ron Hill, IMB's West Africa regional personalizer. "It's not, 'Should we do this?' or 'Does God want us to do this?' but it's more a question of, 'Where does God want us to work, and with whom?'"

After churches prayerfully determine what part of the world to lift up in prayer, they can contact spe-

cific regional personalizers to learn more about prayer needs overseas.

Before jumping into people-group adoption, Hill suggests churches ask themselves two basic questions:

- What people group does God want us to impact?
- What strategies or ministries does God want us to use to impact this people group?

As Wickland has displayed, church size plays no factor. "A church of any size can have an impact," Hill said. "They can't do it all, but they can share their passion with other churches and bring them together in a network to make an impact."

"If we have churches willing to step up and play the role of carrying the gospel to those who have yet to hear it, we could see the gospel being carried to all ... people groups in our generation," he continued. "To me, that is awesome."

**BOWLING UNITED INDUSTRIES**  
Manufacturers of Lights and Steeples for Baptistries

www.BUchurch.com  
1-800-446-7400  
P.O. Box 2250 • Danville, Virginia 24541

**2006 LOTTIE MOON CHRISTMAS OFFERING**

**That all peoples may know Him**

### The Clear Creek Baptist Bible College Board of Trustees

seeks letters of interest and inquiry from persons who feel led and called to apply to serve as President of Clear Creek Baptist Bible College



Please send letters of interest or resumés to  
Timothy A. Langford, Chairman of the Board of Trustees,  
P.O. Box 167, Hickman, KY 42050  
prior to Jan. 4, 2007

### Is Your Van Safe? Send for a FREE CD!

**Carpenter Bus Sales**, the exclusive Bus Provider for LifeWay Church Buses, not only sells buses...we keep up with safety issues, legislation, regulations and insurance considerations...  
so you can make an informed purchase!



If you are still transporting your Church members and guests in a 15-passenger van, and you're not sure about the safety issues or your liabilities, let us send you a FREE CD entitled *IS YOUR VAN SAFE?*

Request online: [carpenterbus.com/safety](http://carpenterbus.com/safety)  
Email: [info@carpenterbus.com](mailto:info@carpenterbus.com)

**America's #1 Church Bus Dealer**  
1-800-370-6180 • [carpenterbus.com](http://carpenterbus.com)

# KENTUCKYNOTES WMU™

Kentucky Woman's Missionary Union

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

Funding for this publication made possible through contributions to the Eliza Broadus Offering and the Cooperative Program

**That All Peoples May Know Him**  
Season of International Missions

Week of Prayer: Dec. 3-10, 2006  
Focus: West Africa

**National Goal for Lottie Moon Christmas Offering \$150 million**

Kentucky churches gave \$3,948,930.66 to LMCO during 2005-06

Winter 2006



## Live the Call

2007 KENTUCKY ANNUAL MEETING

MARCH 23-24, 2007

THIRD BAPTIST CHURCH, OWENSBORO



**Sessions:** Friday morning, afternoon, evening; and Saturday morning

**Theme Interpretations** by Wanda Lee, national WMU executive director and author of *Live the Call*

**Missionaries, great music, WMU testimonies, displays, and other special features** in each session.

**Lunch with a Missionary:** Friday box lunch by pre-registration. IMB, NAMB, and Kentucky missionaries will share about their work during lunch. Choose one to hear!

**Special Guests:** Esther Missions Choir and Handbells, Korea Baptist WMU. They will share in each session, plus a 30-minute pre-session concert on Friday evening and a special closing feature on Saturday.

**Musicians:** Roxanne Nanney, Music Director; Larry Lee, Pianist

**Parade of Flags** during the Friday evening session.

**Saturday** will be casual day! Wear your favorite WMU or missions trip shirt.

**Collegiate Ministry** emphasis on Saturday morning. Baptist students and campus ministers will share through drama, music, and testimonies.

**Plan to be with us all day Friday and through noon on Saturday!**

**Special Note:** The headquarters hotel will be Executive Inn Rivermont. Special rate: \$86 per night (single/double/triple/quad) includes 2 breakfast buffet coupons (additional coupons may be purchased for \$7 each). Make reservations by Feb. 19, 2007, to get your room at this rate. Hotel: (270) 926-8000 or (800) 626-1936. Internet: [www.executiveinnrivermont.com](http://www.executiveinnrivermont.com).

**Saturday Special events:**

- Missions event for Girls in Action / Children in Action
- Baptist Nursing Fellowship Luncheon
- Acteens/Youth on Mission Fellowship

*From the opening song to the closing challenge, you will not want to miss a minute of the 2007 Kentucky WMU Annual Meeting.*

Additional information will be sent to WMU directors in early 2007

### A Personal Word

I recently did some research about the influence of WMU on the development of the Cooperative Program (CP). I learned that in the early days of CP,



**Joy Bolton**  
Executive Director-Treasurer

WMU was resolute that international missions would receive 50 percent of the SBC CP funding. Over the years, as the FMB (now IMB) percentage fluctuated, WMU would lobby the SBC for an increase any time it went below 50 percent.

I also learned that in the early years, because CP was not always included in some church budgets, WMU members forwarded their CP money straight to their state WMU office. As late as 1950, the Alabama and Kentucky WMU offices

regularly received significant amounts of CP money which was then turned over to the state conventions. Through the records of WMU giving for CP, the executive secretary of Alabama Baptists could say for a fact that WMU gave more than half of the CP money in their state. I checked the Kentucky WMU records for 1950, and Kentucky WMU collected and forwarded to KBC almost 25 percent of the total CP gifts for that year.

In addition, I learned that in the early days WMU believed 50-50 should be the rule: 50 percent leaving the church, 50 percent leaving the state, and 50 percent leaving the homeland for international missions. Today if more churches were sending at least 10 percent to CP, Kentucky Baptists could come much closer to sending 50 percent on to the SBC for all SBC missions work.

In the early days of CP, there were some who wanted to count the Lottie Moon (LMCO) and Annie Armstrong (AAEO) gifts as CP giving, but WMU insisted that these offerings were gifts over and above CP. No one ever dreamed how large these offerings would become or the impact they would have on funding missions.

As we observe the Season of Prayer for International Missions this month, and the Season of Prayer for North American Missions next March, be mindful of the on-going support for missions provided every week through the Cooperative Program. CP is the foundation of our support for all Kentucky Baptist Convention and SBC work. Together we can do so much more in missions and ministry than any of us could fund on our own. While other denominations are cutting missions personnel, Southern Baptists are sending more because of CP.

Together, CP and LMCO provide a strong financial base for international missions that is unlike any other missions sending group in the world. Our missionaries say thank you, not only for your gifts, but for freeing them from having to devote time to fundraising in order to stay on the field. Because of CP and LMCO, they are able to spend their time and energy doing what they went to do—proclaim Jesus.

Check it out in your church. What percentage of undesignated offerings is your church contributing for our work together through the Cooperative Program? Be an advocate for CP in your church. Encourage your church to not just maintain the current level of giving, but set a goal for increasing CP giving. Just maybe we could all get to the 50-50-50 plan!

## WMU Directors



As WMU Director, it is your responsibility to keep missions in the forefront all year long. The next quarter provides two opportunities to do just that in your church.

Help members to *Discover the Joy of Missions* during the **International Missions Season Emphasis**. If you did not order your IMB mission study, it may not be too late. The information is in the WMU Yearbook or Catalog. International Mission Prayer Guides, envelopes and posters are still available through the KY WMU office.

**Focus on WMU** in February is another opportunity for you to keep missions on everyone's mind. The suggested theme is *Live the Call* and offers the opportunity to present how God calls us to live out His call through missions and missions education.

As you plan for events to highlight missions and missions education, here are a few things to keep in mind...

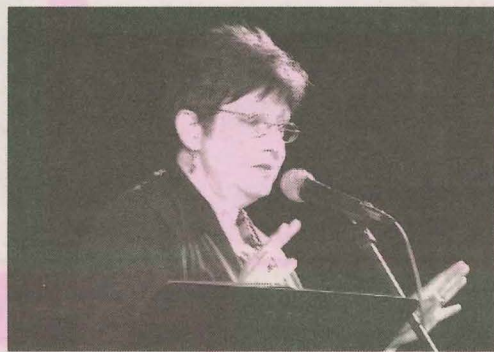
1. Pray about what God wants you to do to lead your church to understand, embrace and live the call through missions.
2. Work with your leadership team to plan the IMB Study and Focus on WMU. Remember to include all age level organizations in the events.
3. Include your pastor in the planning.
4. If you are unsure about what to do or have questions, contact your Associational WMU Director, state WMU resource team member or a state staff person. These persons are listed in the Kentucky WMU supplement.

If your pastor or director of missions does not receive *Missions Mosaic*, consider giving it to him as a Christmas gift. It will be a reminder of what God is doing around the world through missions and WMU.

As we enter the time of celebrating our Savior's birth, may you experience the peace, joy and blessings He gives.

—Wanda Walker

## Adults



Dawn Phillips speaks at Jonathan Creek

The Fall Retreats are behind us now. God blessed 488 women with opportunities to hear from missionaries and speakers to inspire them to **Live the Call** by being *Scattered*. We were blessed with Dawn Phillips as our key-



note speaker at Jonathan Creek. Saturday was a special blessing as the late Judge Brandon and Mrs. Mary Pat Price were honored with the Price Dining Hall dedication. Debra Berry, keynote speaker for Cedarmore was called away with a family medical emergency; however, Belinda Riley graciously spoke at the Friday evening session where there was a record 293 registered participants.

Thanks to pastor and director of missions, Jay Hatfield. Pastor Jay has been in to work as a volunteer by helping get the retreat bags filled and ready.

If you did not get to one of the retreats, you have another chance to attend one in January. The first winter retreat is scheduled at Laurel Lake Baptist Camp January 26-27, 2007. "Live the Call...How to

Walk Worthy of the Lord" is the theme. This informal retreat will be different than the fall retreats with one topic and one leader.

The national Baptist Nursing Fellowship Meeting is January 18-21 in Jackson, Miss. The theme is "Push Out Into the Deep Water" with the scripture emphasis from Luke 5:1-11. For more information contact BNF president Jessica Childers or Wanda Walker.

Make plans now to attend the Kentucky Annual WMU meeting in Owensboro March 23-24, 2007. Wanda Lee, our National WMU Director will be our guest as well as the Esther Choir from Korea WMU. What a treat! You don't want to miss it!

Merry Christmas!  
—Wanda Walker

## Youth

What if . . . ?

What if you believed? What if God were first in your life? What if God's people prayed?

*Exalt 2007* will examine the possibilities in these "What if . . ." questions. Mark your calendars for March 30-31 and make plans to attend *Exalt* at Second Baptist Church, Hopkinsville. Katie Richards will be this year's speaker and Rachel Hurt will lead the music. 4:GO,



the guys' conference, will take place concurrently in Hopkinsville. Watch for registration information in early January.

It's not too early to plan for Blume. I recently visited Kansas City to get an idea of what we will all experience there. It is a phenomenal place to hold the event and everyone is going to love it. I had the opportunity to stay at the Hotel Phillips where Kentucky will stay. It is an art deco hotel that you will love. For all details on Blume, go to the Blume website: [www.blumeforgirls.com](http://www.blumeforgirls.com). This



is where you will find your most up-to-date information.

Plans are almost finalized for transportation to Blume. You will receive information in the mail. Also, please check out the new Kentucky WMU website: [www.kywmu.org](http://www.kywmu.org). There will be a Blume plans discussion board on it.

—LaRaine Dail

## Preschool and Children

### PRESCHOOL—



Preschoolers can discover the joy of missions through Mission Friends! During the winter quarter:

- Involve preschoolers in the **International Mission Study** in December. The study, which focuses on missions in Nigeria, can be found in the *International Missions Study 2006 Preschool Teaching Guide*.

- Observe **Focus on WMU**, February 12-18, to help your church recognize Mission Friends as a part of WMU. Plan with the church WMU director for this special emphasis using suggestions in *Start* and the *2006-07 WMU Year Book*.

- Begin preparing for the **North American Mission Study** coming up in March! The March unit in *Start* focuses on missions work among Native Americans in Oklahoma.

### CHILDREN—

Do you subscribe to National WMU's free bimonthly e-newsletter for children's missions education leaders? If your answer is "no," why not give it a try? It includes leadership tips, ministry ideas, important dates, and resources for GA and Children in Action leaders and other missions-minded children's ministry leaders. To sub-

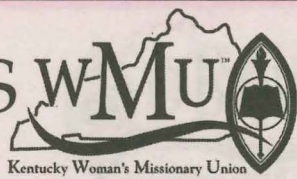
scribe, send an email to [wmuc@globalintell.com](mailto:wmuc@globalintell.com) and type "subscribe" in the subject line.

December marks the emphasis for international missions. Provide the opportunity for the children in your church to participate in the **2006 International Mission Study for Children**. Children will learn about missions in Nigeria and how a missionary family reaches out to share God's love there. Encourage members of Girls in Action, Royal Ambassadors, and Children in Action to attend. Use this special time to invite boys and girls who are not involved in missions education.

Girls and boys in Girls in Action and Children in Action are invited to the **GA and Children in Action Missions Event** on Saturday, March 24 during the WMU Annual Meeting at Third Baptist Church, Owensboro. This is a special time for children and leaders to meet missionaries, make new friends, sing and have lots of other fun. The cost is \$2.00 per person attending. No pre-registration for the event is required. Those attending the event can be involved in a ministry project by bringing one canned food per person to the event. The food collected will be distributed to programs for needy families in the Owensboro area. For further information contact Kentucky WMU.



—Brenda Price



## President's Perspective

*Gamsa hamnida* (thank you) are words that Joy, Brenda, Cathy and I used a lot during our trip to Korea. They are the words that I want to say to you for allowing me to serve as your President and to have the opportunity to go to Korea—*gamsa hamnida*. The Koreans are very giving people. Their hospitality was



**Pat Reaves**  
Kentucky WMU  
president

overwhelming. Many things were a first for me on this trip:

- going out of our country;
- eating kimchi;
- riding in a van paid for by Lottie Moon Christmas Offering;
- stepping into North Korea and pray-

ing silently;

- and having a "hanbok" (traditional Korean dress) made for me.

These are just a few of them!

We had an opportunity to talk to Korean WMU leaders about their dreams for our partnership. They have a desire to strengthen mission education for their children and youth. Pray that we will be able to help them do this. They would like some people to come and teach English and to prayerwalk places in and out of Korea. You may want to be a part of one of these trips. Watch for information.

I also have attended my first executive board meeting and annual meeting as a vice president of National WMU. The meetings were held at Ridgecrest. What a treat to be able to go back there! It was a lot like the WMU weeks we had for many years. Training was offered, the worship services were inspiring and the testimonies of missionaries were awesome. Wish you all had been there.

Wanda did a great job planning the fall Women on Mission retreats. I enjoyed being there and meeting some of you. I led conferences about Families on Mission. Think about ways you can involve your whole family in mission activities. We want our kids and grandkids to grow up having a missions lifestyle. Let's be their examples.

I hope you are encouraging the teenage and collegiate young women in your church to attend *Blume* (previously know as NAC). The event will be in Kansas City, Mo., July 10-13, 2007. It is going to be a little pricey, so you may need to help with the expenses so the girls can go. I am hoping that my granddaughters Faith and Caleigh will invite their mamoo to go with them! LaRaine can answer any questions you may have.

Don't forget Lottie at Christmas time—our missionaries are counting on us.

Again *gamsa hamnida!*  
Walk worthy...

Working together,  
Pat Reaves

## Kentucky WMU Heritage Fund

### June 1, 2006 - August 31, 2006

The following persons were honored or remembered through gifts to the Kentucky WMU Heritage Fund during the fourth quarter of the 2005-06 fiscal year. Thank you to each person who gave to the Heritage Fund in honor of or in memory of someone significant to you and WMU.

#### In Honor Of:

Rosa Jones  
Flora Foster  
Bud & Bettie Wright  
Lyndon Baptist WMU  
Susan Bryant

Cathy Chinn

Eileen Mullins

#### In Memory Of:

Gene Paris  
Jane Kent  
Mildred C. Kazlauskas

Jane Kent  
Jane Kent  
Ann Messer  
Ann Messer  
Jane Kent

Margaret Baker Collins  
Lorraine Offutt  
Mildred Kazlauskas  
Obera Hail  
Jane Kent

#### Donor:

Grace Baptist Church WMU  
Cheryl Hatfield  
Laverne Sublette  
Dudley & Pat Reaves  
Waddy Baptist Church Women on Mission  
George, Christopher, Angie, Reagan, & Andrea Chinn  
George & Cathy Chinn

#### Donor:

Peggy Monoe  
Joy Bolton  
Daviess-McLean Baptist Assoc.  
WMU Leadership Team  
Dudley & Pat Reaves  
Billy & Delores Spears  
Laurel River Baptist Assoc. WMU  
Bethel T. Wyatt  
Crescent Hill Baptist Church Women on Mission  
Maribeth Hambrick  
Maribeth Hambrick  
George & Cathy Chinn  
Joyce Mize  
Anna White

#### Gifts in Memory of Doris Mullendore, Kentucky WMU President from 1981-85, were received from:

Patricia Howard  
Jim & Linda Cooper  
Charles & Sue Theis  
Sharon C. Taylor  
Etta Odel Brown  
Mary Frances Davenport  
Virginia P. Cole  
Betty Hodge  
Mamie R. Duncan  
Mary Louise Yale  
John & Vivian Foe  
FBC Bowling Green WMU  
Friendship Baptist Church  
Joy L. Bush  
Warren Baptist Association WMU

## Calendar

### December

3-10 Season of Prayer for International Missions & Lottie Moon Christmas Offering

### January 2007

26-27 WMU Regional Retreat, Laurel Lake, Corbin

### February

12-18 Focus on WMU  
15-18 Training Effective Leadership, Talladega, AL  
24 Hispanic Women's Event, FBC, Mt. Washington

### March

2-3 Creative Ministries Festival & Youth Missions Workshop, Louisville  
4-11 Season of Prayer for North American Missions & Annie Armstrong Easter Offering  
9-10 Creative Ministries Festival & Youth Missions Workshop, Bowling Green  
22 KY WMU Executive Board Meeting, Owensboro  
23-24 KY WMU Annual Meeting, Third BC, Owensboro  
24 GA/Children in Action Missions Event, Third BC, Owensboro  
30-31 Exalt, Second BC, Hopkinsville

### April

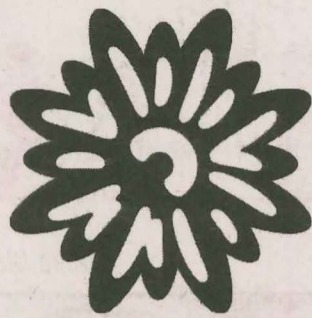
20-21 KY WMU Resource Team Training, Baptist Building, Louisville

## Letters from Lucile

Life and Letters of Lucile Daniel Clarke  
Missionary to Japan 1899-1933  
by Mary Neal Clarke

Lucile Daniel Clarke was a devoted wife and mother, an educator, professional musician, and a faithful missionary. Letters from Lucile is not only the biography of a great missionary, but this book is also an important resource for early missions in Japan, as well as the history and culture of Japan during the first half of the twentieth century.

To Order: Send a check for \$18.00 (includes shipping) to Dr. Mary Neal Clarke, 124 N. Peterson Ave. #6, Louisville, KY 40206



## blume

July 10-13, 2007  
Kansas City, MO

An event for teenage girls and collegiate young women  
[www.blumeforgirls.com](http://www.blumeforgirls.com)

### What if...

Exalt 2007  
March 30-31  
Second Baptist,  
Hopkinsville

## Live Out Loud! CAMP 2007

Make your plans now to attend Mission Adventure Camp at Cedar Crest next summer where you will learn to live the Good News of Jesus! Weeklong camps are open to girls who have completed grades 3-6. Boys as well as girls may attend Mission Adventure Camp during Express Week. Church chaperones may attend also. Girls who have completed grades 1-3 may attend an overnight with their mothers. Girls who have completed grades 6-10 are invited to a "teens only" week. Don't miss these great opportunities for fun, recreation, Bible study and missions!

### Cedar Crest

Dates	Activities
June 11-15	Girls in grades 6-10
June 15-16	Mother/Daughter Overnight, Grades 1-3
June 18-22	Girls in grades 3-6
June 25-29	Girls in grades 3-6
June 29-30	Mother/Daughter Overnight, Grades 1-3
July 2-3	Mother/Daughter Overnight, Grades 1-3
July 5-7	Express Week, Boys and Girls in grades 3-6 (Chaperones required)
July 9-13	Girls in Grades 3-6

Cost*	Activity	Price
	Weeklong Camp	\$170
	Express Week	\$88
	Mother/Daughter Overnight	\$47

### Overnights at Jonathan Creek

June 22-23	Mother/Daughter Overnight (grades 1-3 & moms or mom substitute) GA Overnight (grades 4-6 & chaperones) Acteens Splash (grades 7-12 & chaperones)
------------	--

Cost*	Activity	Price
	Mother/Daughter Overnight	\$35
	GA Overnight	\$41
	Acteens Splash	\$47

\* Early Bird Rates

The 2007 camp information will be mailed to church leaders in late January. For further information, contact the Kentucky WMU office at (502) 489-3534 or (866) 489-3534 (toll-free in KY) or email [Stacy.Nall@kybaptist.org](mailto:Stacy.Nall@kybaptist.org).



### Live the Call...

What it means to Walk Worthy of the Lord

Winter Retreat  
January 26-27, 2007

Laurel Lake Baptist Camp  
Corbin, KY

\$45.00

Please contact Kentucky WMU for information.

### Scholarships Available!!!

Kentucky WMU would like to encourage young women who are seeking a career in missions, social work, or a full time church related vocation. We offer college and seminary scholarships, as well as scholarships for Acteens. Most scholarships are for Kentucky women, although men and out of state applicants are eligible for some scholarships. Please contact our office for a scholarship brochure and application.

Applications are due in the WMU office by February 1, 2007.

## Live the Call! Join the Mission Adventure Camp Staff!

Come share and experience the love of Christ by serving on Camp Staff at Cedar Crest in Bagdad, Kentucky. You can make a difference in the lives of children and youth!

Positions	Length of Service	Qualifications
Unit Leader	6 weeks	completed freshman year of college
Cabin Leader	6 weeks	completed freshman year of college
Kitchen Coordinator	6 weeks	completed freshman year of college
Assistant Cabin Leader	5-6 weeks	high school junior or senior
Lifeguard	6 weeks	Red Cross certification, high school senior or completed freshman year of college
Recreation Leader	6 weeks	completed freshman year of college

Applications are due February 1, 2007.

For more information contact Stacy Nall at Kentucky WMU.  
(502) 489-3454 or (866) 489-3534  
[Stacy.Nall@kybaptist.org](mailto:Stacy.Nall@kybaptist.org)

### Coming Soon:

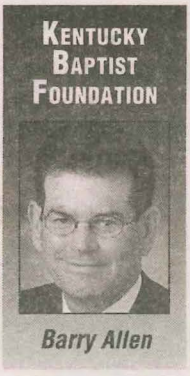
The updated Kentucky WMU website.

Go to [www.kywmu.org](http://www.kywmu.org) and check it out!

Giving now or later

Variety of options available to help fund legacy gifts

Each of us faces the challenge of balancing the need to provide for our own retirement income, to take care of family members, to assure funds are available for emergencies and special needs, and to make charitable gifts for the benefit of causes in which we believe. As a result, we may vacillate between making that legacy gift now or later. Here are some ideas, for prayerful consideration.



Barry Allen

You may be able to give now and protect your economic future by (a) using the proper asset, (b) making a gift that will provide a lifetime of income to you and/or a family member, (c) making a gift that will fund educational expenses of a grandchild, (d) making a gift that minimizes capital gain, income and estate taxes. If you are over age 70 and a half, you may be able to make certain tax-free gifts from your IRA.

You may decide you are not able to give now, but in the future. Some ways to give later are: (a) a gift through your will or revocable living trust, which allows you to maintain control of your assets until death, (b) a gift through a beneficiary designation of your retire-

ment plan assets for all or a portion of the balance once you no longer need them; this may allow you to give more than you thought possible while leaving heirs other assets that may be taxed at lower rates, (c) a gift of a life insurance policy or the cash value of a policy you no longer need; you also may use life insurance to "replace" assets you use to make a legacy gift, which allows you to provide for your family and your charitable interests, or (d) a gift that provides you immediate tax savings as well as generous, guaranteed lifetime income while maintaining or enhancing your financial security.

And don't forget, making a gift using any of these ideas in honor of someone who has touched your life is a wonderful way to make a legacy gift.

Please call us for assistance in your gift planning.

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

Kudzu



Doug Marlette

For Heaven's Sake



Mike Morgan

Bible Crosswords

Cheryl Keiser

Across

- 1 Formal request for one's presence
- 9 Preposition
- 11 Sodium, chem. symbol
- 12 Nickel, chem. symbol
- 13 Man's name
- 14 "\_\_\_ it with thy might" (Ecclesiastes 9:10)
- 15 "The Lord knoweth the \_\_\_ of the wise" (1 Corinthians 3:20)
- 18 "\_\_\_ hath he quickened" (Ephesians 2:1)
- 19 Worries
- 20 Belonging to
- 22 Nurse, abbr.
- 23 Belonging to Judah's firstborn (Numbers 26:19)
- 24 The Anointed One
- 26 Frigid
- 29 Indefinite article
- 30 Flightless bird
- 32 "For God \_\_\_ loved the world" (John 3:16)
- 33 Concept
- 36 Twelfth-grader, abbr.
- 37 Frightened
- 39 Article that precedes a vowel
- 40 "Phebe our \_\_\_" (Romans 16:1)
- 43 Anger
- 44 Floss
- 47 "That have the rule \_\_\_ you" (Hebrews 13:17)

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11		12		13				14	
15	16			17				18	
		19				20	21		22
			23			24		25	
26	27	28					29		
30			31	32			33	34	35
36			37	38					39
40		41						42	
			43			44	45		46
47	48	49		50	51			52	
53				54					55
	56						57		

- 50 Atomic energy, abbr.
- 52 Not, prefix
- 53 "Ye might have life through his \_\_\_" (John 20:31)
- 54 Shut noisily
- 55 Bristle
- 56 "Is my hand shortened at all, that it cannot \_\_\_?" (Isaiah 50:2)
- 57 Light wood
- 9 Smells
- 10 Spring of water
- 16 Preposition
- 17 Altitudes, abbr.
- 20 Exclamation
- 21 Scared, for short
- 24 Group of singers
- 25 India, abbr.
- 27 Son of Becher (1 Chronicles 7:8)
- 28 Lutetium, chem. symbol
- 31 Someone who takes advantage
- 32 Southern continent, abbr.
- 34 Apiece, abbr.
- 35 Feelers
- 38 Wrinkle
- 41 Exhausted
- 42 Trite
- 45 "A \_\_\_ without blemish" (1 Peter 1:19)
- 46 Promises
- 48 Various, abbr.
- 49 Suffix
- 51 Shade tree

Last week's solution

H	O	L	Y	G	H	O	S	T	U	R
A	O	B	H	A'						
N	A	R	R	O	W	T	I	A		
D	A	N		H	E	B	R	O	N	
S	B	Y	E	A	R	S	U	N	E	
E	R	S		E	L					
A	G	E	T	R	E	S	P	A	S	S
M	A		J	O	D	E	T	O	E	S
T	W	O		O	C	I				
W	I	T		T	O	R	T	O	I	S
H	D			E						
I	R	O	N	M	U	T	T	R	E	D
P	W	O		A	P	O		I	O	

Biblical Solutions for Life.



- Shop online at [lifeway.com](http://lifeway.com)
- Call 1.800.458.2772
- Visit a LifeWay Store near you



## Gaddis appoints chairs for 2006-07 KBC committees

Louisville—Five former state convention presidents are among 16 committee chairs appointed for the coming year by Kentucky Baptist Convention President Darren Gaddis.

The committee chairs include nine pastors, two directors of missions and five laypeople. Individuals appointed to chair KBC standing committees are:

**Committee on Arrangements.** Layne Johnson, a member of Living Hope Baptist Church in Bowling Green.

**Committee on Committees.** Harold Cathey, director of missions for Greenup Baptist Association.

**Committee on Constitution and Bylaws.** Stephen Wilson, a member of Lone Oak First Baptist Church in Paducah.

**Committee on Credentials.** Daven Watkins, pastor of First Baptist Church of Owenton.

**Committee on Nominations.** Hershael York, pastor of Buck Run Baptist Church in Frankfort and KBC president in 2004-05.

**Committee on Order of Business.** Charles Barnes, a member of Hurstbourne Baptist Church in Louisville and KBC president in 1998-99.

**Committee on Public Affairs.** Paul Badgett, pastor of First Baptist Church of Pikeville and KBC president in 2002-03.

**Committee on Resolutions.** Mike Rice, pastor of Fairview Baptist Church in Ashland.

Appointed to chair KBC Mission Board committees are:

**Administrative.** Bill Henard, pastor of Porter Memorial Baptist Church in Lexington.

**Agencies and Institutions.** Tom Dowling, a member of Central Baptist Church in Corbin.

**Business and Finance.** Jerry Tooley, director of missions for Daviess-McLean Baptist Association.

**Church Development and Evangelism.** Jammie Vance, pastor of High Street Baptist Church in Somerset.

**Leadership Development.** Shannon Back, pastor of Broadway Baptist Church in Lexington.

**Missions Growth.** Mary Lou Crutcher, a member of Hurstbourne Baptist Church in Louisville.

**Nominating.** James Jones, pastor of Pleasant Hill Baptist Church in Campbellsville and KBC president in 1988-89.

**Resource Development and Communications.** Billy Compton, pastor of Severns Valley Baptist Church in Elizabethtown and KBC president in 1994-95.

## Campbellsville to host day of prayer for new chapel

Campbellsville—Campbellsville University will observe a day of prayer Dec. 11 for the school's new Ransdell Chapel.

Campbellsville President Michael Carter said the event "will be a very special day for us with the setting of the steeple and placement of a cornerstone for the Ransdell Chapel and a time of prayer for this wonderful new addition to our campus facilities."

Campbellsville trustee George Ransdell and his wife, Marie, donated the lead gift of \$1.3 million for construction of the chapel. The facility will seat 900.

Activities Dec. 11 will begin with a prayer breakfast at 7:30 a.m. in the Winters Dining Hall.

A ceremony for setting the chapel's cornerstone, which includes a time capsule, will be held at 9 a.m. The steeple, which also will be set during the day of prayer, will be dedicated in memory of Jerry Bennett, former chairman of Campbellsville's board of trustees.

The prayer emphasis will be from 9:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. in the school's Distance Learning Lab in the lower level of the Technology Training Center.

The day of prayer will conclude with a 6 p.m. candle-lit hour of prayer and walk through the chapel. Individuals from the area who want to participate can contact Ed Pavy, director of campus ministries, at (270) 789-5227.

For prayer breakfast reservations, call (270) 789-5001 or e-mail president@campbellsville.edu.

## ATTENTION

### FULL TIME AND BI-VOCATIONAL MINISTERS

### Earn your Master of Theology Degree from Campbellsville University.



### Choose From Two Locations:

#### Northern Kentucky/Greater Cincinnati Area

#### Louisville Metro Area

#### Accelerated programs

#### Classes meet one night a week

#### Designed for the working adult

#### Complete in as little as 24 months

#### Louisville Center also offers a B.S. in Pastoral Ministries

**Campbellsville**  
UNIVERSITY  
Louisville Education Center

1-800-735-0610  
502-753-0264

4400 Breckenridge Lane, Suite 320  
Louisville, KY 40218

[www.campbellsville.edu/louisville](http://www.campbellsville.edu/louisville)

## It really was a wonderful meal!

### Oneida's Thanksgiving tradition builds memories for students, faculty & staff

I don't know how many people you crowded around your dinner table on Thanksgiving Day, but we had more than 250 at ours.

Most of our students go home for the Thanksgiving holiday, but every year we have some who live too far away to travel home for the long weekend. There are others for whom, for various reasons, going home may not be an option. During the past 10 years, we normally have had between 75-100 students spend Thanksgiving with us. This year we had 135.

Some of the students who spend Thanksgiving with us are from other countries and may never have heard of Thanksgiving. As Thanksgiving Day drew closer, our international students likely heard their American classmates talk about all the wonderful food that goes along with it. As many different cultures as we have on our campus, adjusting to American food is part of the experience of going to school here for our international students.

I like to see the expressions on the faces of the students as they enter the dining room. Unlike our usual meals, the tables are arranged differently and are covered with tablecloths. Plates and silverware are set at each place and the food is already on the tables. That is quite different from the daily routine of going through the serving line with a blue tray and serving yourself. From the moment the students enter the room, they know this is going to be a different kind of meal.

Platter after platter of turkey and dressing—lots of dressing—and baskets of dinner rolls, along with dozens of bowls of sweet potatoes, green

beans, mashed potatoes, cranberry sauce and cranberry salad adorn the tables. As soon as everyone is seated—and it takes a little time to seat 250 people—we thank the cooks for coming in early and giving up their Thanksgiving morning to prepare the wonderful meal for us to enjoy.

Before we eat, students, staff and guests are reminded of our many friends who support us financially who made the delicious meal possible. Everyone also is reminded of the many people around the world who do not have such an abundance of food.

Then someone is called on to thank the Lord for all He has done for us. With the "Amen," whether the students have eaten many Thanksgiving meals or it is the very first time, it does not take long for everyone to fill their plates with the tasty food.

I often have wondered how the cooks feel when, after all the hours of preparation, the bounty of food is consumed in a matter of a few minutes. Needless to say, no Thanksgiving meal is complete without dessert and we always have plenty of that, too.

Just as soon as everyone is finished, two- or three-dozen volunteers begin to gather the food and clear the tables. It only takes about 30 minutes with all the extra help. The primary reason so many help clear the tables is so the cooks can return home to be with their families before it gets too late.

We are thankful for many things, especially our large family of friends. Without your support there would not be an Oneida. We hope you had a wonderful Thanksgiving, too.

W.F. Underwood is president of Oneida Baptist Institute, Box 67, Oneida, KY 40972; [www.oneidaschool.org](http://www.oneidaschool.org); e-mail: [president@oneidaschool.org](mailto:president@oneidaschool.org)

#### THIS IS ONEIDA



W.F. Underwood

## The price of freedom is not cheap

### 1991 alumnus serves as military chaplain in Iraq

The following e-mail from Danville native Dan Stallard was sent on Sunday, Nov. 19, at 10:39 a.m.

"I have an interesting assignment as the evening chaplain in the Iraq Joint Operations Center in the Al Faw Palace built by Saddam Hussein in 1991 following Desert Storm.

"My job is mainly administrative and classified 'secret.' Beyond that I get the privilege every day to share either the 'Word of the Day' or 'Good News of the Day.' This is in the form of a PowerPoint slide with a picture, scripture quote or motivational phrase. I read the quote during one brief, then later in the night I reflect on the slide in an evening mediation.

"Two nights (each) week, I deliver a 'Hero Tribute' slide focusing on one of our many warriors who have died in battle. The inspirational reflection on their life and death is delivered via microphone and intranet. When doing a hero tribute, one quickly learns that the price of freedom is not cheap. Later in those two evenings, I share an additional meditation with prayer.

"On Sunday nights at 22:30,

(10:30 p.m.) I have a Lord's Supper or Christian Communion Service for about 15 minutes in one of our war rooms. I am working with coalition forces that include all of our U.S. service branches and many foreign militaries and Iraqi forces. I also get to be the 'pastor' in the Al Faw Palace (at night) to all who have spiritual needs. The

folks here are very open to God's work and love. They genuinely appreciate having a chaplain with them throughout the night.

"I work a 12-hour shift for 365 straight days with a two-week R & R in the middle. ... The real heroes are our service members who bear the burden of battle all day, every day. These young men and women amaze me. They are patriots and are willing to lay down their lives for the greater good of all. I pray each day for their protection and provision and that God will grant them grace and peace.

"The price that our coalition of the willing is paying is one that our nations should not forget."

Lt. Commander Dan Stallard, chaplain corps, U.S. Navy

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

#### CLEAR CREEK CHRONICLE



Bill Whittaker

## Warren challenges churches to battle AIDS

By Hannah Elliott  
Associated Baptist Press

Lake Forest, Calif. (ABP)—For 20 years, Rick Warren was wrong about AIDS, he told listeners at the opening session of the 2006 Global Summit on AIDS and the Church.

The megachurch pastor and author said he initially wasn't afraid of AIDS, nor did he judge those who had it—"It's not a sin to be sick." But he just didn't care about it.

Fortunately for him, he said, his wife did care. Four years ago, Kay Warren's compassion led the couple to travel to several countries in Africa to learn about the disease. And since then, the Warrens, who founded Saddleback Church in southern California, have worked to raise awareness in their church and among Christians worldwide with the ambitious goal of eradicating the contractible immune deficiency.

Warren told conference participants he can't believe he was "so blind to something this big," adding that it makes the bubonic plague look "like a picnic."

### Overwhelming statistics

Indeed, the statistics about people with HIV/AIDS are astounding. In the United States, more than 1 million people live with the HIV virus that causes AIDS. Worldwide more than 40 million people have it, and experts project that by 2010 a total of 100 million people will have carried HIV.

To get the church involved, the Warrens invited AIDS experts, policymakers, religious leaders, medical researchers and ambassadors to their Lake Forest, Calif., church for a two-day summit headlined by Sens. Barack Obama (D-Ill.) and Sam Brownback (R-Kan.) with video presentations from Bono and Bill and Melinda Gates.

The event, attended by more than 2,000 people, featured training sessions and seminars, plus free AIDS testing for anyone who came. Warren, to provide an example to other Christian leaders, was tested for HIV a year ago, along with 60 of his staff members. Obama and Brownback also agreed to undergo a public AIDS test Dec. 1, World AIDS Day.

And despite some criticism from the evangelical community that Warren should not work with Obama because of the senator's pro-choice stance on abortion, Warren said he will cooperate with anyone who wants to work against AIDS.

"I think the Jesus way of change is always to show love, even to your critics," he said. "We will work with whoever wants to work to save lives and let the chips fall as they may. ... I don't care what motivation you have. Let's just get it done."

Kay Warren said she had that same sense of urgency when she first learned about the 12 million African children who are orphaned by AIDS.

Until then, she told the crowd, she thought AIDS was "a gay disease, as though that meant it was something I didn't have to care about." But then, in 2002, she picked up a news magazine "and suddenly caught a glimpse of a new reality. It rocked my world."

At that moment, "it was as if my senses had been awakened and that was all I could see," she said. If Christians do not become "seriously disturbed" by the millions of people who die every year from AIDS, she continued, they will have lived lives using the wrong measure of success.

Of course, when Mrs. Warren first realized her obligation to help AIDS victims, she said, she faced several obstacles—barriers that also stop

churches from taking action: ignorance about the disease, irrational fear about contracting it; worry about what others will think; and paralysis because of the sheer size of the problem.

All of her fears were unfounded, she said. Humanly speaking, it is impossible to end HIV, she said, "but with God, it is possible. With His church, when you and I show up, I do believe there is hope.

"Jesus was not worried about His reputation. Ever. Ever!" she said. "Jesus Christ lived boldly. He talked to those He was going to talk to. He talked frankly. He talked straight. Jesus hung out with everybody and anybody—prostitutes, tax collectors. And Jesus didn't give it a thought. And if Jesus didn't put any barriers around the people He would hang out with, who was I" to do so?

### Church-based strategy

Kay and Rick Warren's conference is the first to promote a solely church-based strategy to mobilize millions of Christians to work toward the prevention and treatment of HIV/AIDS. They said they hope pastors will use strategies and resources from the conference to develop AIDS-fighting plans within their congregations.

Those local churches, Warren said, are the only force that can eradicate the disease. In many parts of the world, he said, the Christian church is the only civil-social structure. And the church is the "only truly global organization, existing in every country and in thousands of indigenous people groups that are not represented by the United Nations or any multi-national corporation."

"The purpose of influence is to speak up for those who have no influence," he said. "We are blessed to be a blessing. God does not bless you just so you can feel good. He blesses you to be a blessing to others."



Rick Warren



TABOO? Clips from "The Nativity Story," which opened Dec. 1, have been dropped from a Christmas festival in Chicago. (RNS photo courtesy of Jaimie Trueblood/New Line Productions)

## Chicago Christmas festival drops 'Nativity Story' clips

Chicago (RNS)—A flap over whether to show clips from "The Nativity Story" movie at a Chicago Christmas festival has some conservative Christian activists saying "Bah, humbug."

New Line Cinema, which produced the film about Jesus' birth, had been listed as a sponsor of the annual German Christkindlmarkt, planned to show clips from the film during the month-long festival in the city's Daley Plaza.

"The Nativity Story" hit theaters Dec. 1. Although it is a mainstream release film, it has been heavily promoted at churches and among religious groups.

Veronica Resa, a spokeswoman for Mayor Richard Daley's special events office, said the city never forced the market to drop the film but "recommended it because we thought (playing the film) might be insensitive," she said. "Chicago is a diverse city that embraces all people and religions and Daley Plaza is a public place."

But Resa also said the concern "was never about religion, it was about marketing." She said the festival would have received \$12,000 to \$15,000 from the movie promotion, and officials didn't want advertisements in the middle of a festival that had never had them before.

Melissa Caldwell, senior director of programs with the Parents Television Council, a family entertainment watchdog group, called the decision to block the nativity movie "anti-religious bigotry."

"I can't imagine them doing something like this with any other faith," Caldwell said. "It's part of a Christmas festival. Why not include a film about Christmas?"

## LifeWay survey explores gap between church and popular culture

Continued from page 1

goers feeling very informed about politics and another 47 percent feeling somewhat informed.

Pastors and laypeople feel about equally informed about sports. Twenty-four percent of clergy feel very informed about sports and another 44 percent consider themselves somewhat informed, with similar percentages stated by churchgoers.

On each of the other 10 topics, ministers feel significantly less informed about the culture surrounding them than do churchgoers. Twenty percent of ministers feel very informed about the Internet compared to 43 percent of laity; 19 percent of ministers feel very informed about what's on television today compared to 31 percent of laity; 18 percent are very informed about books compared to 27 percent of laity; and 16 percent are very informed about movies today compared to 24 percent of laity.

### Major gaps: music, video games

Pastors rarely feel very informed about the other culture topics on the survey: radio and TV talk shows (12 percent versus 20 percent among laity); music (11 percent versus 28

percent among laity); magazines (11 percent versus 17 percent among laity); clothing and fashion (7 percent versus 16 percent among laity); video and computer games (5 percent versus 16 percent among laity); and celebrities (4 percent versus 10 percent among laity).

The areas where the greatest gaps exist between pastors and churchgoers are in video and computer games, fashion and celebrities. Fifty-nine percent of ministers said they are uninformed about fashion compared to 37 percent of the people in the pews; 69 percent are uninformed about celebrities compared to 49 percent of laity; and 71 percent are uninformed about video and computer games compared to 49 percent of laity.

Among ministers, there were no dramatic differences among denominational groups (Methodists, Baptists, etc.). In general, mainline ministers tend to feel slightly more informed about books and movies than do evangelical pastors, but the other findings are similar.

There are some differences according to age, however. Younger ministers (under age 45) said they feel more informed about sports,

the Internet, music, clothing and fashion, celebrities and video and computer games than do older ministers. That also is true among the laity—younger churchgoers feel more informed about those areas and others in today's culture than do older people.

Among the laity, how informed they are about the culture does not vary significantly according to how long they have attended their current church, whether they are involved in a mainline or evangelical congregation, how often they attend or whether they are in a volunteer leadership position within the church.

### Separation vs. involvement

Ron Sellers, president of Ellison Research, said the survey raises the question of whether churches are having an impact on how people interact with culture.

"There's a long-term debate within Christendom about what is an appropriate level of involvement in popular culture," he noted. "Some Christians believe separation from the world is part of godly behavior, while others believe involvement in the world is necessary in order to

reach out to the world. Either way, one might logically expect church involvement to change how a person looks at culture—either becoming more involved in order to have more effective outreach or becoming less involved as they seek to lead a less worldly lifestyle.

"But the data shows no difference in cultural awareness according to how frequently people attend church, how long they've been there or whether they are in a leadership position," Sellers said. "This raises the question of how much churches actually impact how people live their daily lives.

"The data shows ministers are, generally speaking, not all that informed about the culture in which they seek to minister," Sellers added. "The people in the pews feel much more informed about the Internet, movies, videogames and other expressions of popular culture than do their pastors. People are definitely impacted by the culture they consume—the Web sites they visit or the music they listen to, for instance. Pastors need to be informed about what's out there in order to understand how the culture is influencing the people they are trying to reach."

## HOW TO BECOME A CHRISTIAN

By French Harmon

As a parent of three preteens, our Christmas conversation often turns to gift-giving and especially gift-receiving.

Recently, my family and I went shopping at a Louisville-area mall, and it was enjoyable to watch the smiles covering my children's faces as they encountered various Christmas themes: lights, decorations and toys. Christmas is a special time in a child's life.

I encourage you to reflect upon the wonder of Christmas throughout this season. For parents, our response to children must include a witness of "God's wonderful gift" during this season of Advent. Consider several scriptural truths about this special gift:

**Giving.** God gave humanity the greatest gift that anyone can ever receive. "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten son that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish but have everlasting life" (John 3:16).

**Inviting.** God invites a watching world to receive His matchless gift. "Yet to all who received Him, to those who believed in His name, He gave them the right to become children of God" (John 1:12).

**Faith.** God requires faith in Jesus to receive the wonderful gift of salvation. "For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved" (Romans 10:13).

**Timeless.** God's gift of salvation is an everlasting and eternal treasure. In the words of Jesus Christ, "I am the Way, the Truth and the Life. No one comes to the Father except through Me" (John 14:6). Experience this wonderful gift for yourself or in the lives of others this Christmas season.

*French Harmon is leader of the Kentucky Baptist Convention's church development team*

## MOUNTAINS TO THE MISSISSIPPI

COMPILED BY STAFF

■ **BANDANA**—Bandana Church recently called **Don Wann** as pastor. He previously was pastor of Sassafras Ridge Church in Hickman.

■ **BARDSTOWN**—Wickland Church recently called **Brad Woods** as pastor.

■ **BARDWELL**—Bardwell Church recently called **Rodney Bice** as pastor.

■ **CLINTON**—Obion Church recently called **Jerry Rollins** as pastor.

■ **EDDYVILLE**—Bethany Church ordained **John Reed** as a deacon Dec. 10.

■ **ELIZABETHTOWN**—Northside Church recently called **John Akers** as minister of students. He previously was Baptist campus ministries director for Erskine College in South Carolina.

Younger's Creek Church called **Bill Phillips** as pastor effective Dec. 3.

■ **FANCY FARM**—Beulah Church ordained **Ed Richard** and **Alan Richards** as deacons Nov. 5. **Jason Porter** is pastor.

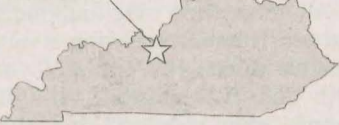
■ **FRANKLIN**—First Church's worship choir and dramatists will present "Christmas Is Jesus" Dec. 10, 6:30 p.m. The youth praise team will present "Grace in a Cradle" Dec. 17, 6:30 p.m.

■ **HODGENVILLE**—First Church ordained **Kenley Connor**, **Tommy Locke** and **Tim Underwood** as deacons Nov. 26. **Gerald Murphy** is pastor.

■ **LEXINGTON**—The combined choirs

### Spotlight on ...

#### Radcliff



Stithton Church's choir will present the Christmas musical, "Once Upon a Night," Dec. 15 at Towne Mall at 7 p.m., and Dec. 16, 6 p.m., and Dec. 17, 10:45 a.m., at Stithton Church. For more information, call (270) 351-6055.

of Boone's Creek Church and Second Independent Church, will present "Sing Joy" Dec. 10, 6 p.m. Boone's Creek's youth choir will present the musical drama, "Christmas Time," Dec. 16, 7 p.m.

■ **LOUISVILLE**—Lyndon Church's sanctuary choir will present "Shine on Us: A Musical for Christmas" Dec. 17, 5:30 p.m. **Jim Holladay** is pastor.

Walnut Street Church's music ministry will present the Christmas program, "O Come Let Us Adore Him," Dec. 8, 7 p.m., and Dec. 9-10, 2:30 and 6 p.m. For free tickets, call (502) 589-5290. **Rusty Ellison** is pastor.

■ **MOUNT VERNON**—First Church's choir will present the Christmas cantata, "Wondrous Gift, The Treas-

## KBC CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### December

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

### January

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

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

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

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

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

### February

1-3 Youth Leaders Conclave, Chatanooga, Tenn.

2-3 Deacon/Pastor/Spouse Retreat, Holiday Inn University Plaza, Bowling Green.

17 Special Needs Ministry Conference, Baptist Building, Louisville.

19 Financial Support Issues for Ministers and Church Employees Conference, Lone Oak First Baptist Church, Paducah.

20 Financial Support Issues for Ministers and Church Employees Conference, Daviess-McLean Baptist Association, Owensboro.

21 Financial Support Issues for Ministers and Church Employees Conference, Eastwood Baptist Church, Bowling Green.

22 Financial Support Issues for Ministers and Church Employees Conference, Versailles Baptist Church.

23 Financial Support Issues for Ministers and Church Employees Conference, Florence Baptist Church.

24 "Love 101" True Love Waits Conference, Living Hope Baptist Church, Bowling Green.

24 Hispanic Evangelism Conference, First Baptist Church, Mount Washington.

26-27 Kentucky Baptist Evangelism Conference, Eastwood Baptist Church, Bowling Green.

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

sure of Jesus," Dec. 16-17, 7 p.m. **Eddie Nation** is pastor.

■ **OWENSBORO**—First Church's sanctuary choir and orchestra will present "First Christmas" Dec. 17, 7 p.m. **Paul Strahan** is pastor.

Yellow Creek Church recently called **Chris Holmes** as minister of education. He previously was min-

ister of education and music at New Salem Church in Coxs Creek.

■ **SOMERSET**—High Street Church's choir will present the Christmas musical, "Shepherds Rejoice," Dec. 17, 7 p.m. **Jammie Vance** is pastor.

■ **STANTON**—Emmanuel Church recently called **Aaron Cude** as minister of music. **Greg Webb** is pastor.

## CLASSIFIED ADS

**FREE:** Interested in revival? Five free booklets available (in quantity) to leaders of ministries, Sunday school and home groups. Visit [www.keytorevival.org](http://www.keytorevival.org) or write: Alliance for Christian Fellowship, Int., PO Box 747, Burnet, TX 78611.

**FOR SALE:** Christian, Spanish and patriotic neckties; retail value: \$12-\$15; your cost: \$6; great fundraiser. Humor book: "500 Laughter Deth Good Like a Medicine" \$8. (606) 285-3051.

**SEEKING:** Full-time minister to children, youth and families at Deer Park Baptist Church, Louisville, a moderate church with 100 years of service. Opportunity to guide children, families and volunteers toward a comprehensive children and youth ministry. Advanced degree and some previous experience required. Visit our Web site for job description and application details: [www.deerparkbaptist.org](http://www.deerparkbaptist.org).

**SEEKING:** Part-time ministry assistant (20-30 hours/week) to senior pastor. Ideal candidate should be proficient in Microsoft Office Professional and ACS church membership software. Will function as part of a multi-staff team and be responsible for scheduling, correspondence, desktop publishing and filing. Strong organizational abilities, outstanding people skills, excellent communication skills and professionalism are absolute requirements. Benefits negotiable based on hours. Submit resumé to Pastor's Office, Shively Baptist Church, 1599 Sadie Lane, Louisville, KY 40216; or via e-mail to [bruce@shivelybaptist.com](mailto:bruce@shivelybaptist.com).

**SEEKING:** Full-time pastor for Donaldson Baptist Church, a conservative congregation in the Caldwell/Lyon Baptist Association. Sunday school attendance runs in the 70s with 100-plus in morning worship. Interested pastors are encouraged to send their resumé to the church at 104 Enon Road, Princeton, KY 42445.

**SEEKING:** Part-time minister of youth and children for Buffalo Baptist Church. Responsibilities include: planning and implementing programs of discipleship, missions and activities for middle and high school students. Also lead in monthly recreational activities for grades 1-6. Salary to be determined based on experience. Send resumé to Buffalo Baptist Church, 2530 Greensburg Road, Buffalo, KY 42716, Attn: Mike Ovesen.

**SEEKING:** Full-time staff member with a focus on outreach and ministry to children, youth and families. We are a new church start that has an existing committed core group and adequate resources. The position occasionally will require filling in for the senior pastor. Seminary degree and experience required. If interested, please send resumé and cover letter to: Journey Search Committee, PO Box 22137, Lexington, KY 40522-2137.

**SEEKING:** Part-time youth minister (grades 6-12) for Mexico Baptist Church in rural western Kentucky. Average Sunday school attendance: 135. Send resumé to MBC Youth Council, 175 Mexico Road, Marion, KY 42064, Attn: Brent Highfil, or call (270) 965-2149. [brent.highfil@gmail.com](mailto:brent.highfil@gmail.com).

**SEEKING:** Part-time music minister. Send resumé to: Friendship Baptist, 5411 Bengal Road, Campbellsville, KY 42718.

**SEEKING:** Full-time minister of youth and young adults for Trinity Baptist in Lexington. Please send resumé to: Trinity Baptist Church, 1675 Strader Drive, Lexington, KY 40505, Attn: Personnel Committee.

**SEEKING:** Part-time praise and worship leader for Liberty Baptist Church to lead a blended service and establish a praise band. Send resumé: Jerry Netherland, 301 Coopers Point, Leitchfield, KY 42754.

**SEEKING:** Part-time minister of music for three services and adult choir rehearsal each week. Please contact Personnel Committee at Beechmont Baptist Church, 4574 South Third St., Louisville, KY 40214. (502) 368-5806.

**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 [suecbc@bellsouth.net](mailto:suecbc@bellsouth.net). (859) 987-3951. Questions: Chris Jones, chair; [chris@qx.net](mailto:chris@qx.net).

**SEEKING:** Full-time pastor in rural town near Owensboro (1.5 hours from Louisville). Worship attendance: approximately 280. Requirements include seminary degree and at least five years head pastor experience. Submit resumé with cover letter to Pastor Search Team, Lewisport Baptist Church, Lewisport, KY 42351; or [www.lewisportbaptist.org](http://www.lewisportbaptist.org).

**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. Resumé should be sent by Jan. 15, 2007, to: Pastor Search Committee, PO Box 327, Paris, KY 40362; or e-mail: [fbcparis@aol.com](mailto:fbcparis@aol.com).

**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 resumé with cover letters and salary histories to: [humanresources@sbts.edu](mailto:humanresources@sbts.edu).

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

# 'Full-throttle for Jesus'

As 'born-again heathens,' motorcycle ministers are sold-out believers

By Kay Campbell  
Religion News Service

Huntsville, Ala. (RNS)—The cruisers rumble into the parking lot in quick pairs.

The riders dismount, shaking ponytails out of their helmets. They've got patches on their leather jackets, tattoos on their arms, and eyes that have seen everything.

Move over, Satan, and heads-up, heathens: These bikers have Jesus in their hearts and Bibles in their saddlebags.

"The Hellfighters are sold-out, 100 percent, foot-stomping, Bible-thumping Christians," said Richard Headrick, a bike-riding sign painter from Laurel, Miss., who started the Hellfighters motorcycle ministry a few years ago. "Only the bold will qualify."

Headrick and his wife, Gina, recently traveled to Huntsville, Ala., to meet a group of Hellfighters—one of their 10 national chapters—that gather at the International Worship Center, a nondenominational church led by mild-mannered pastor Mark Beard.

Beard welcomes the group of unconventional Christians as part of the flock of about 100 at the church. "I don't care if they wear leather to church or not," he said. "Give me someone who wears leather and wins souls over someone who wears a suit and never talks to anybody about God."

## 'Aggressive' witnesses

The Hellfighters aren't shy about talking about God.

"Being aggressive is a must," said James Caffery, an ex-con and member of Hellfighters. "We kind of like you to be a born-again heathen. Sure, we ride and we eat, but our main concern is to tell people about Jesus."

"We'll pretty well go in anywhere," he said.



**ROADWAY WITNESSES** Members of the Hellfighters bikers group in Huntsville, Ala., include (from left) James and Lynn Caffery, David Bates, Possum Pierce, Chris Roberson, Richard and Gina Headrick and Joanna Roberson. (RNS photo)

Their witness to a biker bar east of town a couple years ago led to the owner renouncing the business and closing shop. The Hellfighters were there the day he brought out his stash and smashed the bottles of beer and whiskey. For the biker Christians, many of whom are recovering alcoholics, the fumes rose from the lake of alcohol in the parking lot like a cloud of demons set loose.

Then everyone circled around the building, their palms flat against the walls to pray for a new use for the building that had sheltered a place of temptation.

It was a place God had called them to, said James Caffery's wife, Lynn. She and her husband, formerly partners in fraud that landed them in prison for more than 10 years, now team up for God's work.

"God always lets you know where you need to be," she said.

On one ride, they stopped for gasoline, and saw an elderly man fuel-

ing his car. Lynn felt led to start a conversation with him.

"He didn't know Jesus," she said. "He gave his life to God at the gas pump. He and I were both just boo-hooing."

Her husband joined the conversation a moment later, giving the new convert his first pep talk. "I told him, 'You need to stay tight with Jesus because you're fixin' to meet Him face-up.' ... Lynn punched me in the ribs, but, look, he was 86 years old. It was time for him to get right and stay right."

## Spiritual presence at Sturgis

The bikers have ridden to Sturgis, the infamous two-week rally that draws upwards of 500,000 bikers to South Dakota every August. It's famous for scantily clad women, drunkenness, rock bands and full-throttle hedonism.

"Sturgis is where Satan is," Richard Headrick said. But the Hellfight-

ers say it's also where Jesus would want them to be, handing out their biker's Bibles, tracts and a relentless call to turn to Jesus.

They figure their past qualifies them for that ministry in a way no seminary ever could.

"Jesus Christ did not use 'Goody Two-Shoes' to take his message," said David Bates, a psychiatric nurse who's come out the other side of drug addiction and mental illness. "He used people like in this room. We're survivors."

Add up the prison time, the bike wrecks, the drugs, drinking and brawling, the times they've been shot or cut and none of the Hellfighters should be alive, they agreed.

## A wealth of compassion

"It was like my ears was handlebars and the devil was riding me like a motorcycle," said Possum Pierce, a tough old biker who moves with the care that comes from a body wired together with plates and screws. "I was riding wide-open."

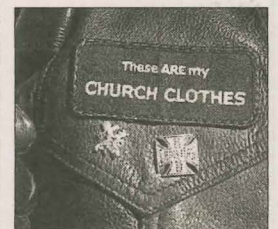
That past gives him a wealth of compassion to share with the bikers he meets, Pierce said.

"When I see a guy drunk and sick, I know what he feels," Pierce said. "I'm not going to put him down—you know you're low-down when you're doing it. I knew I was nothing but trouble."

That, James Caffery said, is the main message they can give other bikers looking for fun in a bottle, a syringe, a crime or illicit sex.

"The Lord put me on a permanent high," Caffery said. "He just made me high and left me there. I'm on a mission to deal the devil all the pain I can. I like pulling his top dogs away from him."

"And when I get to heaven and they come out with my crown, I want it so big that two men and a fat boy are totin' it. And I want Jesus saying, 'That's my boy!'"



**"Give me someone who wears leather and wins souls over someone who wears a suit and never talks to anybody about God."**

Mark Beard, pastor of International Worship Center, Huntsville, Ala.

## S.C. retirees contribute \$10,000 to Adopt an Annuitant over past decade

Irmo, S.C. (BP)—"Ten thousand dollars? I can't believe it!" But it was true.

In 1996, Anne Brooks, on staff with the South Carolina Baptist Convention, watched a video about the Adopt An Annuitant program. It was the first time she'd heard about the financial assistance ministry for retired ministers and their widows in need.

At the time, \$50 monthly supplements were being provided through the ministry coordinated by GuideStone Financial Resources of the Southern Baptist Convention.

Brooks was in a women's Sunday school class at Riverland Hills Baptist Church in Irmo, S.C. The following Sunday, she showed the Adopt An Annuitant video to other members of the Lamplighter class and gave them a challenge.

"Listen, there are 10 of us in class. I know most of us are widows and some are on Social Security, but if we each gave a few dollars a month, maybe we could come up with \$50 to help out a pastor's widow."

The class agreed and started taking up a collection on the first Sunday of each

month. Some put in a dollar. A few put in more. One of the women gathered the loose change from her purse because that's all she had. That first week, they collected enough for Brooks to send in a check for \$50. It didn't seem like much at the time, but she knew it would help with some groceries or an electric bill.

Several members of the Lamplighter class were part of a group that attended a recent Adults 55+ Conference sponsored by LifeWay Christian Resources and held at LifeWay's Ridgecrest Conference Center in North Carolina.

John Ambra, GuideStone's director of development, was one of the conference speakers. Brooks introduced herself to Ambra as her group arrived for Monday evening's opening session. She told him that her Sunday school class gave to the Adopt An Annuitant program. Ambra looked up their giving information. What he discovered would be a big surprise for the women.

On Tuesday night, Ambra asked the members of the Lamplighter class to stand. "I want to say a personal word of

thanks to this group of ladies who are here tonight," Ambra said. "For more than 10 years, they have been faithfully giving each month and, with their next gift that will arrive in just a few days, they will have given \$10,000 to the Adopt An Annuitant ministry."

The Lamplighters were shocked at the total. "If you had asked us 10 years ago to give \$10,000, we'd have thought you were crazy," said Dot Nodine, who teaches the class. "We were just a small group of ladies, but God had blessed us and we knew we could do something."

One of their charter members, Doris LeCroy, was a pastor's widow herself and knew what it was like to live on a modest fixed income. She made a commitment that first Sunday to give \$5 every month. Along the way, though, her income declined and she was faced with a dilemma. Would she have to stop her Adopt An Annuitant giving?

A longtime Atlanta Braves fan, LeCroy loved to watch baseball, and it was the main reason she subscribed to cable television service, but she also loved God and

loved people. "She called up the cable company and told them to cut off her service," Nodine said. "She took the money that she was paying to the cable company and gave it to the ... collection each month. She kept that up for the rest of her life."

When LeCroy died, her daughter, Becky Bruce, discovered that her mother had been giving a monthly gift. Bruce also is a member of Riverland Hills.

"I was a pastor's kid and I know what it was like growing up in a parsonage and not having a lot of extras," Bruce said. "We never went without food but my parents were very frugal. I know it was important to Mom to help some of these other widows—to make sure they were taken care of." Bruce continues to share a generous monthly gift in honor of her parents.

The Lamplighters now have 35 active members. Their goal is to fully adopt an annuitant in the next few years. "We all have something we can give up so others can get their medicine or pay for food," Brooks said. For more information about the Adopt An Annuitant program, visit [www.GuideStone.org](http://www.GuideStone.org).



**That all peoples  
may know Him**

**Week of Prayer for  
International Missions  
& International Mission  
Study**

**December 3-10, 2006**

**Lottie Moon  
Christmas Offering  
National Goal: \$150 Million**