



# WESTERN RECORDER

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## FOR THE RECORD

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### Education

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## Year in review

*Major news stories of 2006 include mix of ministry, tragedy and hope*

By **Trennis Henderson**  
*Editor*

Long-term rebuilding efforts in the wake of Hurricane Katrina, the horror of a massacre at an Amish school in Pennsylvania and scandal that toppled prominent evangelical leader Ted Haggard were among major news stories in 2006.

In Southern Baptist Convention life, news ranged from the election of Frank Page as SBC president to the resignation of North American Mission Board President Robert Reccord and ongoing debate about the use of private prayer languages.

Closer to home, Kentucky Baptists set a Cooperative Program giving record, honored the legacy of former KBC Executive Secretary Franklin Owen who died at age 93 and grieved the death of 49 people in an Aug. 27 Lexington plane crash.

Those and other top stories reported by the Western Recorder in 2006 include:

**January.** The Hispanic Bible Institute, sponsored by the Kentucky Baptist Convention, recently completed its first year of ministry, a milestone that organizers call a major step forward in meeting the spiritual needs of Kentucky's fastest growing ethnic group.

A federal appeals court has upheld a Ten Commandments display in the Mercer County courthouse as constitutional. The display is virtually identical to displays in McCreary and Pulaski counties that the U.S. Supreme Court ruled unconstitutional.

Pioneer Baptist ethicist Foy Valentine died Jan. 7 at age 82. He was executive director of the Southern Baptist Convention's former Christian Life Commission from 1960 to 1987.

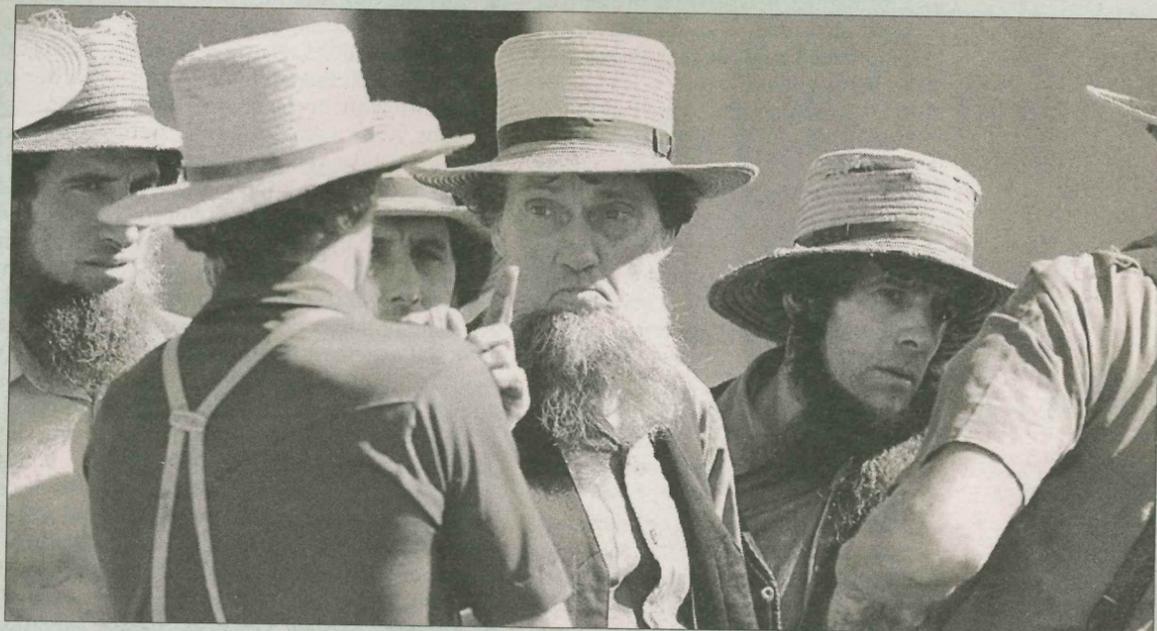
Robert Mills, president of Georgetown College from 1959 to 1978, died Jan. 6 at age 89. Mills, Georgetown's longest-serving president, oversaw construction of the school's science center, student center and south campus.

Coretta Scott King, widow of civil rights leader Martin Luther King Jr., died Jan. 31 at age 78. She was remembered for her civil rights leadership in the years after her husband's assassination in 1968.

**February.** Former SBC President Jimmy Draper, president of LifeWay Christian Resources from 1991 to 2006, retired Feb. 1. He was succeeded by Thom Rainer, a former dean at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville.

A rash of arson attacks across north Alabama left 10 rural churches destroyed or damaged. Three college students were later arrested and charged with the crimes.

Lincoln Bingham, the Kentucky Baptist Convention's cooperative ministries consultant since 1983,



**GRIEF** A group of Amish men gather outside West Nickel Mines school in Pennsylvania in the wake of a shocking school shooting Oct. 2 that left five young Amish girls and their attacker dead. (RNS photo by Tony Kurdzuk)



**SERVICE** Eric Filyaw of Ohio works on a Kentucky Changer project in Louisville.



**PRAYER** KBC Executive Director Bill Mackey (left) prays for Kentucky Baptist ministers at the close of one of 30 "Pray the Interior" stops in September.

was honored Feb. 27 during the Kentucky Baptist Evangelism Conference. Bingham is known as one of the first African-American ministers to promote racial reconciliation on the local, state, national and international levels.

**March.** Denton Lotz, general secretary of the Baptist World Alliance, announced plans to retire in 2007. Lotz, who has served in BWA's top staff position since 1988, previously was BWA's evangelism director.

Leaders of Campbellsville University and Simmons College of Kentucky crossed racial and geographical boundaries March 8 to form a long-term ministry partnership. The two schools will work together on such initiatives as a faculty exchange program and joint mission projects.

A report of the KBC's 2005 Annual Church Profile statistics showed that baptisms were down 2.2 percent despite the state convention's ambitious Kentucky Baptists Connect baptism goals. Overall ACP statistics showed gains in seven of 12

categories including church membership, worship attendance and Sunday school attendance.

After months of dialogue and debate, trustees of the Southern Baptist International Mission Board decided not to seek the removal of trustee Wade Burleson for criticizing trustee actions, but they adopted new guidelines to prohibit and punish such criticism in the future. Burleson has been an outspoken critic on his weblog of recent IMB trustee decisions prohibiting private prayer languages by missionary candidates and defining proper baptism.

Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children officials dedicated the new Spring Meadows residential facility. The 18,000-square-foot facility will house up to 20 boys ages 12 to 17 who come from backgrounds of abuse and neglect.

**April.** More than 85 Kentucky Baptist disaster relief volunteers worked in Christian and Todd counties after a tornado cut a swath through the area. The F-3 storm destroyed the facilities of Sinking Fork

Baptist Church as well as several houses in the area.

The University of the Cumberland expelled a homosexual student April 6, sparking a host of reactions on and off campus, including some state legislators who called for the school to forfeit public funds approved for a pharmacy school. Cumberland's President Jim Taylor said the KBC-related school is "different by design, and we are non-apologetic about our Christian beliefs."

Robert Reccord, embattled president of the Southern Baptist North American Mission Board, resigned April 17 in the wake of a critical 19-page report issued by NAMB trustees. The report faulted Reccord for poor management, autocratic leadership and excessive spending on failed ministry projects.

The KBC's goal of starting 25 "high-impact churches" by 2010 is on track, according to state convention leaders. In the past year, Kentucky Baptists started 46 churches, including five high-impact churches. **See 2006 news includes ... Page 8**

Dated material. Please deliver by Wednesday, January 3.

## Page, Reccord top SBC newsmakers in '06

Dallas (ABP)—The election of a little-known president of the Southern Baptist Convention was chosen by Baptist journalists as the top story in Baptist life in 2006.

The surprising first-ballot election of the SBC President Frank Page against two candidates endorsed by convention leaders and the resignation of Robert Reccord as head of the Southern Baptist North American Mission Board, after a probe found ineffectiveness and extravagant spending, were the most important Baptist news stories of the past year, according to an annual survey of journalists conducted by Associated Baptist Press.

Meanwhile, the controversy between "the blogging trustee" Wade Burleson and the SBC International Mission Board and a scandal in Texas' Rio Grande Valley over funding for phony church-starts also commanded the attention of Baptists. The shift in power to a Democratic-controlled Congress was the only non-Baptist story to crack the top five.

Based on the survey, the Top 10 news articles of the past year are:

**1. An outsider president.** In a major upset, Frank Page of South Carolina was elected SBC president over two candidates closely tied to the SBC's conservative power structure. Page, who described his election as a victory for grassroots Baptists, won slightly more than 50 percent of the June vote by pledging more openness and power-sharing among SBC conservatives.

**2. Reccord resigns.** After a trustee investigation produced a scathing report of poor management, Robert Reccord resigned April 17 as president of the North American Mission Board. Allegations first surfaced in a February investigative report by the Georgia Baptist Christian Index. NAMB trustees, after their own investigation, put Reccord under strict "executive-level controls" March 23. With his possible ouster looming at the May 2 trustees meeting, Reccord met April 13 with several prominent Southern Baptist pastors seeking advice. Four days later, he resigned.

**3. Wade Burleson.** The Oklaho-



Frank Page



Robert Reccord

ma pastor and rookie trustee used his weblog to speak against the decision by his fellow IMB trustees not to appoint missionaries who use a "private prayer language" in their personal devotions. Trustees threatened to dismiss Burleson for posting information about the board's deliberations. After a closed-door session March 22, however, trustees decided not to seek Burleson's removal, which would have required approval by the SBC. Instead the board censured him and adopted new guidelines to prohibit and punish future criticism of IMB actions by trustees.

**4. Valleygate.** A five-month investigation uncovered evidence that church-starting funds from the Baptist General Convention of Texas were misused between 1999 and 2005 in the Rio Grande Valley. Independent investigators discovered that 98 percent of the 258 new churches reported by three church planters in the Valley no longer exist or never existed. The BGCT gave more than \$1.3 million to those 258 churches.

**5. Democratic Congress.** In the Nov. 4 midterm elections, Democrats gained more than a 30-seat majority over Republicans in the House and a one-seat majority in the Senate. The power shift could refocus Congress' culture wars from arguments over church-state issues and abortion rights to battles over gay rights, embryonic stem-cell research and federal judges. The new Congress includes 68 Baptists—61 in the House and seven in the Senate.

**6. Tongues revisited.** Dwight McKissic, a pastor in Arlington, Texas, endorsed the practice of a private prayer language in an Aug. 29 chapel sermon at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, where

he serves as a trustee. The seminary banned free distribution of the sermon through its Web site and announced its opposition to the practice. A wave of discussion ensued in the Baptist blogosphere. McKissic and supporters hosted a conference and plan another one on diversity and freedom in worship.

**7. New Supreme Court.** On Jan. 24, the Senate Judiciary Committee voted 10-8 to recommend Samuel Alito's nomination to the Supreme Court. Congress concurred. Alito, a conservative, was tapped by President Bush to replace Justice Sandra Day O'Connor, a moderate. With the earlier confirmation of Chief Justice John Roberts, Republicans expect a solid conservative direction from the high court.

**8. Katrina recovery.** Churches were the "true first responders" to Hurricane Katrina victims in 2005, a new survey found. More than 86 percent of Louisiana churches gave services of some kind to Katrina evacuees, according to the study. Churches nationwide, led by Baptists, gave counseling, transportation, child care, shelter, meals and housing.

**9. Warren and Obama on AIDS.** The second annual Global Summit on AIDS and the Church, held at Saddleback Church in Lake Forest, Calif., was the loudest voice yet rallying evangelicals to fight AIDS. Some conservatives objected to the open attitude Saddleback pastor Rick Warren, a Southern Baptist, demonstrated in selecting speakers, especially his choice to invite pro-choice Sen. Barack Obama (D-Ill.). But more than 2,000 people from 39 states and 18 countries attended the training event. Warren wants Christians to mount a global effort to prevent and treat AIDS.

**10. Alabama church arsons.** Law enforcement officials arrested three men March 8 in connection with a string of nine fires at Baptist churches in rural Alabama. A tenth fire, although ruled arson, has yet to be connected to the initial nine. Most of the churches were affiliated with the Alabama Baptist State Convention and the Southern Baptist Convention.

## Tsunami survivors express thanks to Southern Baptists

Richmond, Va. (BP)—It has been two years since an earthquake and a deadly tsunami hit parts of eight Asian nations, including Indonesia, Thailand and Sri Lanka. Many survivors have tried to move on with their lives, while others are still working to regain a sense of normalcy and stability.

There are constant reminders of the day family, friends, homes and businesses were lost. But many survivors have found hope through Southern Baptist ministry efforts. In a new Web site (<http://www.imb.org/multimedia/tsunami/>) launched through the International Mission Board, tsunami victims thank Southern Baptists for helping them rebuild their lives.

Many Southern Baptists traveled to South and Southeast Asia volunteering their time. Others offered \$16.8 million in financial support to help hundreds of thousands who lost their homes and everything they owned.

"My entire business, my restaurant, everything was gone," said Weeset, a Thai fisherman. "It took me about a year ... before I finally found help."

Weeset's friend told him about Southern Baptist resources that had helped rebuild his house. And through the SBC, Weeset was able to rebuild his beachfront restaurant.

Because of the generosity of Southern Baptists, many victims have been able to start over. New homes have been built, food and clean water have been dispersed and means of making a living restored. As a result, many survivors who were helped have also come to personal faith in Jesus Christ.

"There are many organizations that have worked in this area," said Lamai Redson, who lives with her family of seven in a house built with SBC funds. Redson said he also was impressed that, while some other relief organizations have packed up and left, Southern Baptists have stayed and helped build more than 200 homes in Redson's village.

"They have gained a reputation for not building simple houses, but trying to restore our houses just like they were before the tsunami," she noted.

Suthep Saithaiduu is another tsunami victim who was helped by Southern Baptists. He makes his living as a fisherman, but he lost all his equipment when the tsunami hit.

"After that day, I went to stay at a temporary community built by the Southern Baptist (Convention)," Saithaiduu said. "During that time they provided our community with 40 boats" that have helped him and other fishermen return to work.

## Belmont names non-Baptist trustees, TBC leader objects

Nashville (ABP)—Belmont University, embroiled in a lawsuit with the Tennessee Baptist Convention, has appointed six non-Baptists to its board of trustees.

The Nashville school announced Dec. 21 that eight new trustees had agreed to join its board in January. While all are members of Protestant churches, only two belong to Baptist congregations—and only one belongs to a TBC-affiliated church. Among the new trustees are leaders from Nashville's business community and prominent Christian recording artist CeCe Winans.

"This is the first class of trustees elected to office under Belmont's plan to broaden representation on its board to include persons who are members of a diversity of Christian churches," a statement by school officials said. "Many of these individuals have been long-time, active supporters of the university."

But the Tennessee convention's newly elected president denounced the decision. "Having non-Baptists on the board is some-

thing I personally would not be willing to accept and I believe most Tennessee Baptists would not accept," said Ron Stewart, according to the Nashville Tennessean newspaper. "For 50 years, it has been a Baptist school, and now they're moving away from that Baptist foundation."

Belmont leaders amended the school's charter in 2005 to allow the board to become self-perpetuating. Messengers to the TBC's annual meeting had elected Belmont trustees since 1951.

Prior to amending the charter, Belmont officials indicated to TBC officials their desire to gain some representation on the school's board from outside the convention. Trustees proposed that they begin electing their own successors, that the school be allowed to draw up to 40 percent of its trustees from Christians of non-Baptist traditions, and that all TBC-contributed funds would go exclusively to fund scholarships for students from Tennessee Baptist churches.

While the TBC Executive Board's educa-

tion committee approved the covenant, a divided board rejected it. Officials from the convention and the university jointly crafted a new agreement.

But messengers rejected that proposal after school officials discovered a 1951 document detailing an agreement between the university and the convention. The agreement contained a "reverter clause" indicating that, if Belmont should cease to be a TBC-related school, all property and funds provided by the convention would be returned to the TBC.

Belmont officials have insisted the document is a "historical artifact" superseded by more recent contracts. But lawyers for the convention have said the old agreement remains in legal effect.

TBC officials filed suit against Belmont in September. It asks for Belmont to return more than \$50 million the convention has given to the school since the two institutions became affiliated. That suit is now pending.

## Campbellsville hosts day of prayer for Ransdell Chapel

By Joan McKinney  
Campbellsville University

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

The chapel, which will seat 900, was a dream of Campbellsville President Michael Carter when he became president in 1998.

He expressed appreciation to Campbellsville trustee George Ransdell, and his wife, Marie, who provided the project's lead gift of \$1.5 million. The Ransdells pledged an additional \$500,000 contingent on the university raising a matching amount of \$500,000. School officials announced that they had met the challenge goal as the result of a donation during the day of prayer activities.

Citing the Ransdells' "passion for the chapel and for young people," Carter noted, "The Ransdell Chapel is the result of people who caught the vision of a much-needed chapel on campus. ... We want all who enter this chapel to have their lives turned around with the good news of Jesus Christ."

The day of prayer began with a prayer breakfast in which students, alumni, faculty, staff and guests voiced individual prayers for the chapel and its future ministry.

Ed Pavy, Campbellsville's director of campus ministries, led the day of prayer activities.

"The chapel is not just brick and mortar," he said. "It is a holy place and when people walk in the chapel, we want the presence of the Holy Spirit to be in this place. We want students to come to know Jesus Christ here."

Pavy distributed a list of 100 prayer concerns in honor of Campbellsville's centennial. Participants

offered prayers throughout the day from 9:30 a.m. until 6 p.m.

The chapel's cornerstone and steeple were set in place in ceremonies following the prayer breakfast.

The steeple and cross are dedicated in memory of former trustee chairman Jerry Bennett, a 1963 Campbellsville alumnus, who died in 2006.

The cornerstone quotes Psalm 127:1, "Unless the Lord builds the house, they labor in vain who build it." It also features a time capsule containing information about Ransdell Chapel.

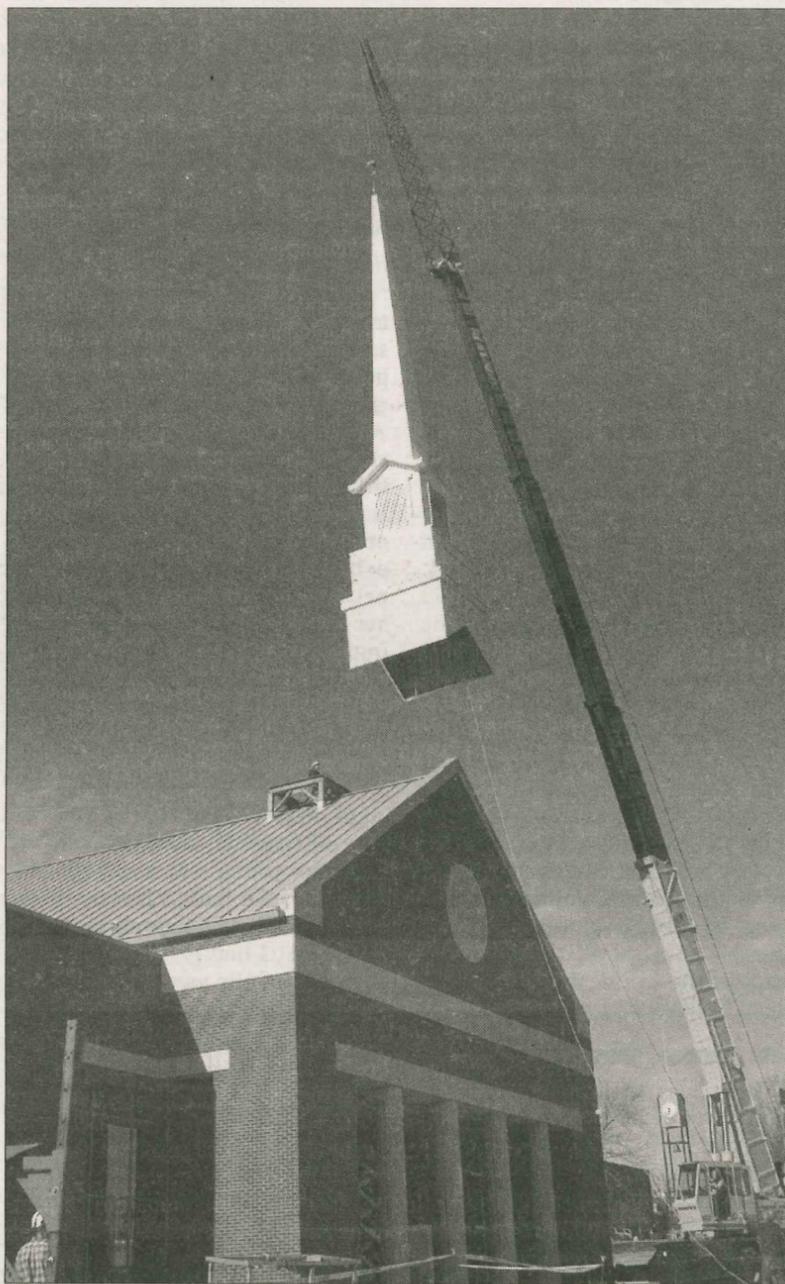
John Chowning, vice president for church and external relations and executive assistant to the president, described the chapel construction as one of the highlights of the university's centennial celebration. "A great university requires a beautiful chapel and a place to worship," he noted.

"This is a special day on our journey," said Dave Morris of Warsaw, chairman of Campbellsville's board of trustees. Noting that "education is about relationships," Morris said the chapel and its ministries will help strengthen relationships between God and individuals.

During a candlelit prayerwalk, participants were invited to tour the building and pray for the people who will participate in future chapel programs and events.

Pavy also encouraged individuals to write favorite Scripture passages on the chapel's concrete floor prior to the flooring being installed.

In addition to seating for 900 people, the facility will include the offices of the Baptist Campus Ministry as well as a small chapel, multimedia room and kitchen. Construction is scheduled to be finished in early spring with the dedication in April.



**INSTALLATION** A 58-foot steeple was installed atop Campbellsville University's Ransdell Chapel as part of recent day of prayer activities.

*"We want all who enter this chapel to have their lives turned around with the good news of Jesus Christ."*

Campbellsville  
University President  
Michael Carter

## Louisville congregation strives to make positive community impact

By Christopher Hall  
Louisville Courier-Journal

Louisville—Sojourn Community Church proclaims on its Web site that it is "in the city, for the city."

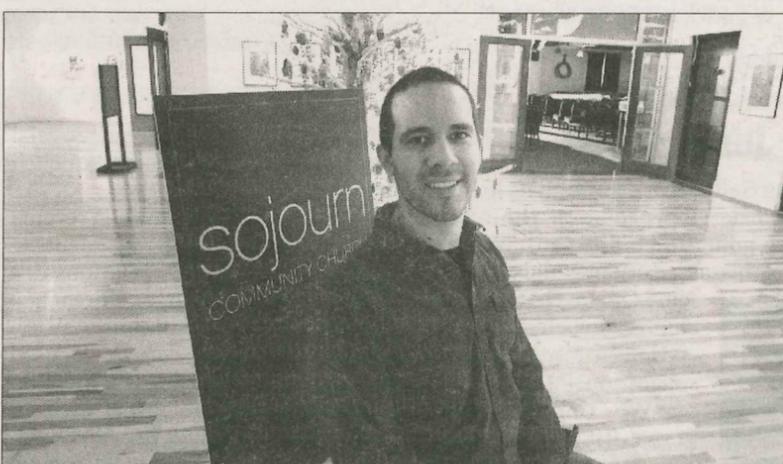
With its recent move into the old Shelby Elementary School near Shelby Park and its other initiatives the church is striving to become a force for good in Louisville.

"One of our core values is loving Louisville," noted Sojourn Pastor Daniel Montgomery.

The six-year-old church—which has grown rapidly, attracting about 600 people on Sundays—has nearly completed a \$1.2 million renovation of the former school, and it is turning the building into a community center.

It will have a children's wing, art galleries, spaces for live music and—pending permits from the city—third-floor office and art studio space for rent.

The church also is working with various agencies, including Brightside, on what it calls "urban renewal" projects, such as neighborhood cleanups, building a ramp for a Germantown man who uses a wheelchair and helping winterize the homes of low-income families and individuals. It also has a ministry working with the homeless.



**CORE VALUES** "One of our core values is loving Louisville," said Sojourn Community Church Pastor Daniel Montgomery. The six-year-old congregation has nearly completed a \$1.2 million renovation of the former Shelby Elementary School. (Courier-Journal photo by Keith Williams)

The church held its grand opening ceremony recently, and has held a number of celebratory events and openings—such as a music venue opening featuring local musicians.

Sojourn also held an opening for the art gallery space at the center and hosted a recent party for children.

Erin Richter, 24, the church's financial administrator, has been a member of Sojourn for about two and a half years. Richter said the last year or so has been a busy time for

the church.

"It's really exciting to see this building be transformed into something totally different—a place that the community can come into and get involved in different areas like the arts and music and worship as well," she said.

Sojourn began as a prayer group of Highlands-area 20-somethings in early 2000. Montgomery and his wife got involved with the group while they were starting a church in the Smoketown neighborhood,

and ended up helping to start Sojourn as well.

Church members met in the basement of Deer Park Baptist Church, the back room of the old Twice-Told Coffeeshop, Highland Baptist Church and finally at the Highland Christian Fellowship building before moving to their current location.

Sojourn's congregation has since gotten a little older. The median age is still probably in the early to mid-30s, Montgomery said.

The church, which is affiliated with the Kentucky Baptist Convention, is less concerned with who or what people are than with where they are in their relationship with Jesus Christ, Montgomery said.

"We're a church that is more defined by the center than by the boundaries," he said.

The congregation never intended to get its own building, but it "hit a wall" when it outgrew its rented space, Montgomery said.

All but about \$110,000 has been raised for the \$1.2 million renovation of the old school. That figure does not include the \$300,000 cost of the property, which was purchased a year ago at auction from the Jefferson County Public Schools. © The Courier-Journal. Reprinted with permission

## WESTERN RECORDER

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

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## Have you tried to outgive God lately?

By Howard Dayton

Gainesville, Ga. (BP)—For the vast majority of Christians, serving God probably will not lead to worldwide fame, writing best-sellers or ministering to hundreds of people in foreign lands. But there is hardly a Christian who cannot give. And when that giving is done in love, it demonstrates the greatest sacrifice ever made for mankind—the death of Jesus Christ on the cross.

The way we use our money expresses the true depth of our love for God and others. God calls each of us to fill some gap in order to spread His gospel to all parts of the world. And, much like Esther, every believer must decide either to be used of God or to be bypassed and allow another to be chosen instead.

Giving so that God's servants can take His message throughout the world is an outward material expression of a deeper spiritual commitment and is an indication of a willing and obedient heart. "Each person should do as he has decided in his heart—not out of regret or out of necessity, for God loves a cheerful giver" (2 Corinthians 9:7).

As Christians, we speak boldly about the Great Commission. And there is enough money in North America to fund all the Christian work in the world, if only the people of God would give.

## Debt hampers gospel efforts

The desire to give might be in the hearts of most Christians, but Americans are so caught up in making more money and buying bigger and better things, and paying for the things that they already have, that they have lost focus on the unsaved world.

The gospel literally has become shackled because money needed for worldwide ministry is tied up in personal debt and large monthly payments.

The Southern Baptist International Mission Board currently has

about 5,000 field personnel under appointment. The Lottie Moon Christmas Offering goal for 2005 was \$150 million. Although it set a record, receipts fell short by \$12 million.

The Lottie Moon Christmas Offering goal for 2006 is \$150 million. Although the Christmas season is over and a new year has begun, receipts still will be counted toward the 2006 offering goal for the next several months. This looks like a good year to help make up any lost ground.

One of the primary reasons why the late Larry Burkett and I established Crown Financial Ministries is to teach people God's principles of finance so that they can be free of debt in order to help fund the gospel of Christ worldwide. "Remember this: The person who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and the person who sows generously will also reap generously" (2 Corinthians 9:6).

## Carey: God never fails

In 1832 William Carey, the "father of modern missions" said, "I was once young and now I am old, but not once have I been witness to God's failure to supply my need when first I had given for the furtherance of His work. He has never failed in His promise, so I cannot fail in my service to Him."

Give so that the gospel of Christ will be preached throughout the world, and God will reward you spiritually. "Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap. For

## What are you thinking?

The Western Recorder considers letters on any subject for publication, provided they don't make a personal attack. The maximum length for a letter is 300 words. Submit by mail to Box 43969, Louisville, KY 40253; fax, (502) 489-3565; or e-mail, wesrec@earthlink.net.

## Connecting all people to Jesus Christ

One of the major goals of the Kentucky Baptists Connect mission plan is for Kentucky Baptists to be used by God to see a significant increase in baptisms through the churches. This means that we must ask the Holy Spirit to fill us and do a mighty work through us. Adjustments must be made in our lifestyles so that we can relate to individuals not yet reached for Christ.

If we get close to the heart of God, we will spend time with people who need to know Him. Jesus was on the most awesome mission the world has ever known and yet He spent time with unreached people (Luke 15:1-2).

Unfortunately, Kentucky Baptists have been plateaued in reaching people for Christ and baptism. I believe that God wants to bless us to experience Kingdom growth through the churches.

As we enter 2007, I am asking all Kentucky Baptists to join me in ask-

ing God to work through us to reach and develop people. If the results are going to be different, we must do this as an intentional and conscious plan that involves changes in behavior.

Here are some specific suggestions:

■ We can develop a prayer list of lost people and pray for each person by name on a daily basis.

■ We can spend time with unreached people to build relationships and meet needs. Learn where they are in their spiritual awareness and receptivity by asking questions. The response will give clues about where the person may be spiritually.

■ Pastors and church leaders can teach believers to share the gospel through their personal testimony. While he was pastor at Williamstown Baptist Church, Steve Rice, the KBC's new discipleship/assimilation department director, taught church members to share their testimony and arranged for a

with the measure you use, it will be measured to you" (Luke 6:38).

If you're looking for investment advice, think about this: The very best investment a person can make is an investment in the Kingdom of God. "Seek first the Kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things will be provided for you" (Matthew 6:33).

## Giving brings spiritual blessings

Though the reason we should give to missions is to fund the work of the Lord around the world, there also are benefits to us. First, we remember that He is the owner of all we have, and we are only managers. Then, giving ensures that the spread of His gospel will be advanced throughout the world. Next, we will be blessed spiritually because we know that we have realized God's calling for each of us as Christians to "stand in the gap."

The great 19th century preacher Charles Spurgeon addressed the subject of giving while speaking at a home mission inaugural conference at the Metropolitan Tabernacle in south London in 1889.

"In all of my years of service to my Lord, I have discovered a truth that has never failed and has never been compromised," he declared. "That truth is that it is beyond the realm of possibilities that one has the ability to outgive God. Even if I give the whole of my worth to Him, He will find a way to give back to me much more than I gave."

So, getting back to the question: Have you tried to outgive God lately? Please, go ahead and try—you'll never be able to outgive our generous Lord.

Howard Dayton is CEO of Crown Financial Ministries

church member to share a personal testimony the first Sunday of each month.

■ Churches can conduct events and ministries that will enable members to build relationships and meet the needs of unreached people in the community. Vacation Bible school can be focused to build relationships with parents and share the gospel with all ages. Some churches use block parties, concerts, sports and wild game banquets, Upward basketball, servant evangelism, etc., to build relationships, meet needs and share the gospel.

■ Churches can create new open Bible study groups in order to assimilate new members.

Through all of this, encourage one another to focus on connecting all people to Jesus Christ. He is the only one who can change their lives and empower them to live the Christian life with joy and peace. Pray that 2007 will be the year that God enables Kentucky Baptists to move beyond plateau!

Bill Mackey is executive director of the Kentucky Baptist Convention

## STEWARDSHIP

## Practice steps to financial security in the new year

By Don Spencer

As you begin a new year, here are six steps to help ensure financial security:



**Step 1: Invest in yourself.** Your earning power is an important

asset. Seek opportunities to develop skills that will increase your earning power. These new skills might be related to another job, but often they simply are improving the skills required of your current work.

**Step 2: Protect your loved ones and your assets.** Have adequate insurance to cover possible major expenses due to illness, disability, liability and death. Without adequate insurance, you are betting your financial security that nothing bad will happen.

**Step 3: Control the use of debt.** This is a major problem for many people today. If debt is a problem, then it controls your life. You will never have financial freedom as long as debt controls you. If debt is a problem, get rid of the credit cards.

**Step 4: Pay God and yourself first.** As a Christian, contribute your tithe and set aside a specific amount for savings. Do this first. Do not wait to see if there is money left at the end of the month. Discretionary expenses always seem to expand to consume all available funds.

**Step 5: Don't go for the home runs.** Invest regularly and wisely. Use time, not timing, in investing. In baseball, those who go for the home runs also strike out frequently. Most successful investors aim for lots of singles and doubles. Invest in high quality. Diversify your investments. At any given time, some types of investments will be up and others will be down. No one can consistently predict with accuracy which ones will be up in the near future. Diversifying into different investments reduces your risk in investing.

**Step 6: Reduce expenses now to fund a more comfortable future.** Take steps now to make it comfortable for you and your heirs. Take advantage of tax-deferred retirement plans. Reduce and avoid debt. Use a budget to help prioritize your fixed and flexible expenses.

Address all six of these steps in the context of a biblically based perspective and your financial security will improve dramatically. Jonathan Swift reminded us, "Every man ought to have money on his mind. No man ought to have money on his heart."

Don Spencer is a certified financial planner and directs the Kentucky Baptist Convention's church financial benefits department

## Discover ways to gain a new perspective in the new year

**Q: As a single person, I find the start of a new year depressing—another year gone by, still single, regrets, feeling blue. Have any suggestions?**

Tackle the challenge of a new year with the following considerations:

■ Allow yourself to go solo to social gatherings in the new year if you prefer to do so. Find ways to socialize the way you choose, not how others might pressure you. Also consider making time for prayer, remembering, planning, thanking God, counting your blessings, etc. As you do so, nourish yourself. Treat yourself to what nourishes you: hot chocolate or hot tea? A favorite meal? A therapeutic massage? Soft music with scented candles? Curling up with a good book?

■ Take the initiative of calling a friend or seeking information if you want to be with others. Call churches and ask what activities are available for single adults. Most groups would love for you to join them. Churches that reach out to the "single again" through divorce recovery or grief gatherings might also have groups for other adult singles. It matters little whether you have never been married, have been divorced or widowed when it comes to being a part of a healthy, active single adult group. Don't count out groups that include both married and single people. Friendships can cross traditional barriers.

■ Use the calendar as an impetus for personal growth. Consider making an appointment with a trusted pastoral counselor as a first step to getting through "the blues" and regaining perspective. The start of a new year can bring you to the awareness that this is a transitional time for you, a time for guidance. If so, consider the services of a life coach. According to Dr. Jennifer Degler, a life coach helps "explore and clarify your strengths, values and dreams," and serves as "a source of encouragement and support and a source of challenges and accountability."

Transitional markers such as the end of one year and the beginning of another one can be transformational occasions for taking your life in a new direction.—James Stillwell

**Q: My husband and I have struggled in our marriage for the last two years. How can we keep 2007 from being more of the same?**

Imagine 2007 as a blank canvas just waiting for the first strokes of a brush. Imagine 2007 as an empty page beckoning a willing pen to create a new chapter.

Leave 2006 with the rear-view mirror full of forgiveness. Leave 2006 with the windshield flush with hope. Leave 2006 less focused on changing your partner. Leave 2006 reminded that God is more interested in holiness than happiness.

Leave 2006 with the affirmation that it is not all about you, but about Him.

Enter 2007 with the daily goal of catching your spouse doing something right.

Enter 2007 focused on telling your spouse what you see him or her doing right.

Enter 2007 committed to asking God to transform you into a more loving person.

Enter 2007 willing to pray more about His will than your wants.

Enter 2007 believing that it is the little things that make the big difference.

Put yourself in a position to be changed by daily reading God's Word, spending time regularly with other faithful believers, giving some time each day to prayer and declaring moment-to-moment how He is working in your life. If you really want to put yourself in position for radical change, consider meeting with a prayer partner weekly to discuss God's working in your life and to lift up your marriage.—Scott Wigginton

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.

## 'Year in Review' highlights paper's vital role

It's always an interesting exercise to compile the Western Recorder's annual "Year in Review" coverage of the past year's top news stories. Reflecting on the 40 or so article recaps from 2006 featured on pages 1 and 8 of this week's issue provides a clear reminder of why Baptists throughout the commonwealth should subscribe to the state Baptist paper.

The Western Recorder is a major news and feature source for local church and associational leaders as well as grassroots Bluegrass Baptists. Seeking to provide fair, balanced, in-depth coverage for the benefit of all Kentucky Baptists, the Recorder staff produces 50 newspaper issues each year that highlight a vast array of local, state, national and international news.

In recognition of the Western Recorder's ongoing commitment to quality Christian journalism, the state paper staff has earned more than 20 national awards from Baptist Communicators Association in recent years for news and feature writing, interpretive reporting, editorial content and publication design.

The Western Recorder also partners with dozens of churches throughout the state to publish their local church newsletters on the back pages of the Recorder. That service provides congregations an efficient, cost-effective total information package that ranges from local church activities to international missions news.

In addition to the Recorder's weekly publications and Web site, the Recorder staff partners with half a dozen smaller state Baptist conventions to publish their monthly state Baptist papers. That ministry partnership currently includes Baptist conventions in Colorado, Hawaii Pacific, Iowa, Minnesota-Wisconsin, Pennsylvania/South Jersey and Utah-Idaho.

Of course, the Recorder's primary focus continues to be on news, feature and editorial content of interest to Kentucky Baptists. But that doesn't mean every news story focuses only on the positive. We also seek to provide timely, accurate coverage of major trends, current events and other newsworthy issues.

Challenging stories from the past year that we wish had never occurred and that no one would ever have to cover include the tragic murders of innocent schoolgirls at an Amish school in Pennsylvania, the sex and drug scandal that derailed the ministry of National Association of Evangelicals President Ted Haggard and the August plane crash in Lexington that killed 49 people.

While some people might prefer to ignore such painful developments, the Recorder staff is committed to providing appropriate news coverage of such events for the benefit of our readers. Rather than just reading such stories and quietly thinking to yourself, "What a shame," make a point to add those concerns to your prayer list and intercede on behalf of people enduring physical, emotional and spiritual pain.

On the positive side, the Western Recorder also features a host of articles on such topics as Kentucky Baptists' growing ministry efforts among Hispanics and other ethnic groups; disaster relief work that addresses both physical and spiritual needs; Kentucky Baptist Connect initiatives in baptism, discipleship, church growth and other key ministry areas; Kentucky Baptists' record Cooperative Program giving and much more.

Obviously, the vast majority of individuals who are reading this editorial already are regular subscribers to the Western Recorder. But if you know of fellow church members who are not subscribers, encourage them to explore the benefits of staying informed week to week about key issues in Kentucky Baptist life and beyond. If you're reading this article online and haven't subscribed to the full print version, give us a call to begin receiving additional features available only in our print edition.

As the new year begins, why not resolve to subscribe to the Western Recorder and stay informed about what God is accomplishing among Kentucky Baptists? For more information, call (502) 489-3535 or visit WesternRecorder.org.

### STRAIGHT FROM THE EDITOR



Trennis Henderson

## The most uplifting movies of 2006

By Phil Boatwright

**Kansas City, Kan. (BP)**—For the best films of 2006, I am focusing on films that especially moved me with their spiritual or uplifting themes.

**"Charlotte's Web"** (G). What an incredible film, one loaded with life lessons for children and

reminders for adults. Not only have Walden Media and Paramount Pictures done justice to the book, they have given families a flawless film. I was completely charmed and that's saying something, because I am not a fan of films with talking animals. Perhaps my objection to talking-animal movies rests in the fact that they usually say nothing worthwhile. Here, they do.

**"Facing the Giants"** (PG, nothing objectionable). A down-and-out coach and his beleaguered high school football team are regenerated when they are inspired to give God glory in all things. Financed on a shoestring budget, with associate pastors Alex and Stephen Kendrick of Sherwood Baptist Church acting as an artistic and technical two-man army, the issues of faith and fear have been addressed within a satisfying sports movie.

Oh, there are the usual filmmatic shortcomings associated with well-meaning religious storytelling. This awkwardness is seen especially in the opening scenes, where both actors and introductory dialogue are clumsy and forced. But with-

in minutes, something special begins to happen. Suddenly, the story kicks in. (Story used to be a main ingredient in the filmmaking process before special effects and cartoonish concepts became cinema kings.)

Here's a narrative that provides positive answers to nagging spiritual questions.

**"The Nativity Story"** (PG, nothing objectionable). Though missing some of the grandeur we would love to have seen when the angels proclaimed the birth of the baby Jesus, the film successfully fleshed out Mary and Joseph, making them real people and clarifying their love and devotion to God and to one another. It's a love story in so many ways.

**"Beyond the Gates of Splendor"** (PG-13 for violent content). Based on a best-selling novel, the documentary "Beyond the Gates of Splendor" premiered on DVD in October 2005 from Fox Home Entertainment. I mention it because this past year a movie version of the story was released called "End of the Spear." I personally found the earlier documentary version a more powerful film. It is more successful at capturing the faith, forgiveness and cultural boundaries. Narrated by the son of one of the missionary couples, it uses historical footage and personal insights to reveal how the two groups came to understand and eventually embrace each other.

The documentary catches the

spirit of people who trust so much in God that they are willing to sacrifice their lives in order to follow His will. "Beyond the Gates of Splendor" is a moving testament to those who have taken Christ's teachings to heart and given all in order to take the gospel to the ends of the earth. It is an emotional journey that will give you new insight concerning international missions and a deepening respect for missionaries.

**"Akeelah and the Bee"** (PG for some language). Smartly written, uplifting and charming, a great film about a young girl participating in a national spelling bee. The film has several positive messages, including caring and sacrificing for others. It also reminds each of us that while there are dark valleys we must go through on our travels through life, green pastures also lay ahead.

**"United 93"** (R for strong language, scenes of violence and terror). For me, this was the best film of the year. The day that changed the modern world hits home and testifies to the fact that this war will be unlike any other. (How do you defeat zealots willing to kill themselves and innocent bystanders for an unjust cause they believe is just?) Though our country is at odds with its involvement in Iraq, the film makes it clear that we face an evil masking itself as righteous. It is a film that will touch you, move you and make you think.

Phil Boatwright is the editor and film reviewer for [previewonline.org](http://previewonline.org)

## NATIONAL NOTES

**Graham on "most admired" list for 50th time.** Evangelist Billy Graham has been named in the Gallup Poll's top 10 "most admired" men list for a record 50th time. In a poll taken in mid-December, the 88-year-old evangelist came in fifth. Ranked before him, in order, were President George W. Bush, former President Bill Clinton, former President Jimmy Carter and Sen. Barack Obama, D-Ill. The men ranking behind Graham, in order, were former Secretary of State Colin Powell, Pope Benedict XVI, former South African President Nelson Mandela, former President George H.W. Bush and Microsoft founder Bill Gates.

**Former students plead guilty to arson.** Three former college students face seven to eight years in federal prison after admitting Dec. 20 they participated in burning nine churches in Alabama. Matthew Cloyd, Russell Lee Debusk and Benjamin Nathan Moseley stood before a federal judge to enter guilty pleas to conspiracy and arson charges in the fires set Feb. 2 and 7. They are scheduled to be sentenced March 28. All three face a minimum of seven years in prison because two firefighters were injured battling a blaze at Ashby Baptist Church.

**Mormons won't baptize Holocaust survivor.** The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints removed the name of Holocaust survivor and Nazi hunter Simon Wiesenthal from a list of those to be posthumously baptized, after the organization bearing his name issued a statement calling for the removal. "They did the right thing," said Marvin Hier, founder and dean of the Simon Wiesenthal Center. "I'm sure they realized this was a terrible mistake on their part." The international Jewish human rights organization based in Los Angeles issued a statement last month asking the church to remove Wiesenthal's name from the list of those to receive posthumous ordinances. Church officials confirmed his name had been removed.

**Woman awarded \$115,000 over religious dispute.** A federal jury has awarded an Alabama woman \$115,000 in damages after finding she was fired as a medical clinic office manager when she chose not to discuss her relationship with God with a doctor. The jury returned the verdict Dec. 20 in favor of Carolyn Hall, who sued her former employer, Alabama Pain Center. She contended her firing came after a meeting with Dr. Dean Willis, who told her he was concerned about her job performance because he did not know where she stood with God. Hall responded that her relationship with God was personal and chose not to discuss it. The defense maintained Hall was fired because of her job performance, not because she was the victim of discrimination. Willis denied the October 2003 conversation occurred.

**Religious groups object to prayer ruling.** The Washington-based Interfaith Alliance has filed a brief with the U.S. Court of Appeals criticizing a lower court ruling that allowed a New Jersey high school football coach to join team prayers prior to games in the 2005 season. U.S. District Judge Dennis Cavanaugh determined in July that coach and Spanish teacher Marcus Borden could bow his head and take a knee during student-led prayers before games at East Brunswick High School. But a coalition of religious groups led by the Interfaith Alliance filed a friend of the court brief Dec. 20 opposing Cavanaugh's decision.

**Harvard drops proposed religion requirement.** Harvard College students don't need a religion requirement after all, following a recommendation of a key faculty panel which had proposed in October making coursework in "reason and faith" mandatory for all undergraduates. Now, after soliciting professors' feedback, the Task Force on General Education is calling instead for required coursework in the area of "what it means to be a human being."

## Calif. Supreme Court to review high-profile gay marriage case

**San Francisco (BP)**—The California Supreme Court announced Dec. 20 it will take up a much-publicized gay marriage case.

At issue is a California law passed by voters in 2000 that protects the traditional definition of marriage. Known as Proposition 22, it passed with 61 percent of the vote.

"The people of California spoke in 2000, and the people's voice should be heard," Glen Lavy, an attorney with the Alliance Defense Fund, said.

Massachusetts remains the only state to recognize gay marriage, although Maryland's highest court heard a gay marriage case in December and could issue a decision in early 2007. Also, Connecticut's highest court is considering whether to accept an appeal of a gay marriage case.

The California Supreme Court's announcement further highlights a divide among conservative groups. Conservatives had hoped to place an amendment prohibiting gay marriage on the ballot in 2006 but could not agree on the proposal's language. They subsequently divided into two competing groups and began gathering signatures. Both petition drives fell short of the requirement.

The California court likely will rule on the issue before an amend-

ment can be placed on the ballot. If the court legalizes gay marriage, any statewide campaign to adopt a marriage amendment could be much tougher. But the court's Dec. 20 announcement also could make it easier to collect signatures to qualify an amendment for the ballot.

The lawsuit was filed by the city of San Francisco and a host of liberal legal groups, including Lambda Legal, the American Civil Liberties Union and the National Center for Lesbian Rights. They won at the trial court level but lost 2-1 at the appeals court level. That appellate decision was handed down in October.

"Courts simply do not have the authority to create new rights, especially when doing so involves changing the definition of so fundamental an institution as marriage," Justice William McGuinness wrote for the majority in October. "The time may come when California chooses to expand the definition of marriage to encompass same-sex unions. That change must come from democratic processes, however, not by judicial fiat."

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North Carolina Baptist Minister to Host

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On September 14, 2007 join your Spiritual Director, Baptist Minister Dr. Clarence Freeman on this 15-day vacation including a 7-day deluxe Alaska Cruise with Holland America Line and a 7-day Pacific Northwest vacation with Your Man Tours. Daily Devotions will be made available for those in the group who wish to participate. Your group will fly into Seattle for a night before a scenic motor coach drive to Vancouver where you'll board the five-star ms Zuiderdam.

**Next, travel through a wondrous maze of forested island and glacier carved fjords, past charming coastal villages, migrating whales and calving glaciers to Juneau, Skagway, Ketchikan and spectacular Glacier Bay.**

After the cruise you'll start a six-night motor coach tour with daily sightseeing visiting British Columbia; the Cascade Mountains; Washington; the Grand Coulee Dam; Lake Coeur d'Alene; Montana; Yellowstone (Old Faithful) and Grand Teton National Parks; Jackson Hole, Wyoming; and in Utah: the Great Salt Lake, Mormon Tabernacle, and more. You'll fly home after a night in Salt Lake City. \*Prices for this 15-day vacation start at only \$1399 (per person, double occupancy) plus \$349 port charges, taxes, services, government fees and the new Alaska state visitor's tax. Add \$550 airfare from Lexington or Louisville, KY; Nashville or Knoxville, TN.

\$100 deposits are now due. Friends and family are welcome.

For information, reservations, brochure, and Dr. Freeman's letter call:

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## Effective Deacon Ministry

for Pastors, Deacons and Spouses

Friday evening and Saturday morning

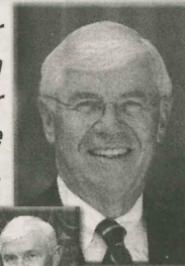
**February 2-3, 2007**

Bowling Green, Kentucky

Holiday Inn University Plaza Hotel

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connected-stay  
connected

Hear **Dr. Jim Henry**, Pastor Emeritus of First Baptist Church in Orlando, Florida, (where he was pastor for almost 20 years), share a more effective way to do Deacon ministry in the church.



**Especially for spouses!!**

Mrs. Jeanette Henry will speak on "Dealing With Life Issues in Ministry" on Saturday morning.



Jeanette & Jim Henry

An on-site bookstore will feature resources discussed in the sessions and other related materials.

**Only \$30 per person!**

(Includes dinner, breakfast and conference materials)

Overnight lodging is available at the conference site (KBC rate: \$79 + tax per night). For reservations, call the Holiday Inn University Plaza Hotel directly at **800-423-0908** or **270-745-0088**.

This event is sponsored by the Kentucky Baptist Convention's Church Development Team, and made possible by gifts to the Cooperative Program.



For more information or to register, visit

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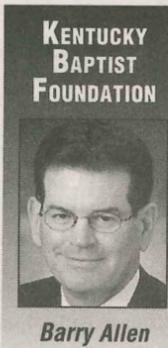


Giving online

New contribution option is fast, convenient and secure

Your Kentucky Baptist Foundation has implemented a new giving method whereby you can support your favorite Baptist and other charitable causes with a gift or gifts to an endowment fund that will provide financial support until Jesus comes again. This new method is via the Foundation's Web site: [www.kybaptistfoundation.org](http://www.kybaptistfoundation.org).

Most of the gifts the Foundation receives are to establish an endowment fund, or to add to an existing endowment



Barry Allen

fund for the perpetual benefit of one or more charitable causes. When living donors make those gifts, they typically give them in the form of a check, appreciated securities, appreciated real estate or mutual fund shares. Generally, the amounts of those gifts are greater than four digits and are sent via the U.S. Postal Service or wired from a brokerage account.

The new online giving opportunity is intended to provide a fast, simple, convenient, safe, secure and confidential way for you to give an amount each month, or periodically, to one or more endowment funds. It can be an automatic

arrangement, if you prefer. Furthermore, the minimum gift amount is only \$25. You can use any of these credit cards to make your gifts: Visa, MasterCard, American Express, Discover or Diner's Club. If you decide to make a recurring gift, your gift amount will be charged to your credit card on the 25th of each month.

Let's assume you wanted to make a \$50 per month gift to an existing endowment fund that benefited one of the KBC-related educational institutions. Log on to our Web site and click "Give Now" located toward the bottom right side of the home page. Just follow the instructions from there either to make a one-time gift or to arrange for a recurring gift.

Your gift is tax deductible, and you will receive an immediate acknowledgement of it. If you desire to give for the benefit of a cause not listed on the "Give Now" list, or you desire to establish a new endowment fund, please call toll-free, or e-mail Laurie Valentine or me via the Web site. Give it a try; you may really like it.

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

Kudzu



Doug Marlette

For Heaven's Sake



Mike Morgan

Bible Crosswords

Across

- 1 "Ye tithe \_\_\_\_ and rue and all manner of herbs" (Luke 11:42)
- 4 "But the \_\_\_\_ are beaten out with a staff" (Isaiah 28:27)
- 9 Sound of hesitation
- 10 "I will sing of the mercies of the Lord for \_\_\_\_" (Psalms 89:1)
- 13 Poem
- 14 "Then took Mary a pound of ointment of \_\_\_\_" (John 12:3)
- 17 Royal Air Force, abbr.
- 18 African antelope
- 20 "All thy garments smell of myrrh, and \_\_\_\_" (Psalms 45:8)
- 22 "I will give unto thee the \_\_\_\_ of the kingdom of heaven" (Matthew 16:19)
- 23 "I ... brought thee out of \_\_\_\_ of the Chaldees" (Genesis 15:7)
- 24 Republic of Rwanda, abbr.
- 25 "They slew the kings of Midian ... namely, \_\_\_\_" (Numbers 31:8)
- 27 Biblical plain (Nehemiah 6:2)
- 28 Arid
- 29 "Ye pay tithe of mint and \_\_\_\_ and cummin" (Matthew 23:23)
- 33 Follows em
- 34 A greeting
- 35 "Beaten out with a staff, and the \_\_\_\_ with a rod" (Isaiah 28:27)
- 38 Sixteenth letter of the Hebrew alphabet
- 39 Myself
- 40 "Thou shouldst be for salvation unto the \_\_\_\_ of the earth" (Acts 13:47)
- 41 Sweet potatoes
- 43 "The smoke of the \_\_\_\_ ... ascended up before God" (Revelation 8:4)
- 45 Cereal grains
- 46 First day of the week, abbr.
- 47 Twice, prefix
- 49 City in Nevada
- 50 Native of Serbia
- 53 Canned meat product
- 54 "Such \_\_\_\_ as the queen of Sheba gave king Solomon" (2 Chronicles 9:9)

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Down

- 1 "Faith as a grain of \_\_\_\_ seed" (Matthew 17:20)
- 2 Mischievous child
- 3 Moslem monastery
- 4 "They presented unto him gifts; gold and \_\_\_\_" (Matthew 2:11)
- 5 "\_\_\_\_ shalt thou be with me in paradise" (Luke 23:43)
- 6 Record's replacement, abbr.
- 7 Zeus's sister
- 8 "Thy plants are ... spikenard and \_\_\_\_" (Song of Sol. 4:13-14)
- 11 Bible division within a chapter
- 12 Printer's measure
- 15 "His belly is as bright \_\_\_\_" (Song of Sol. 5:14)
- 16 Grain
- 19 Library science, abbr.
- 21 "The \_\_\_\_ is my shepherd" (Psalms 23:1)
- 23 Infinite
- 26 Southern state, abbr.
- 30 Iowa University, abbr.
- 31 Not large, abbr.
- 32 To correct
- 34 "They filled a sponge with vinegar, and put it upon \_\_\_\_" (John 19:29)
- 36 \_\_\_\_ and outs
- 37 "They presented unto him gifts; gold, and ... \_\_\_\_" (Matthew 2:11)
- 38 Prayer endings
- 39 Do, re, \_\_\_\_
- 42 Opposite of nay
- 44 Worthless dog
- 48 Frozen water
- 50 Samarium, chem. symbol
- 51 Undergraduate degree, abbr.
- 52 Seventh note of the musical scale

Last week's solution

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
C	O	M	E	A	I	T	R	U	S
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**Wouldn't it be great ...**

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

**You're holding it.**

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

PRACTICAL RESOURCES FOR CHRISTIAN LIVING

**WESTERNRECORDER**

## 2006 news includes diverse mix of ministry, tragedy, hope

Continued from page 1

expected to achieve a five-year attendance goal of 250 people.

Kentucky Woman's Missionary Union officials launched a three-year partnership with Korea WMU during its April 21-22 annual meeting. The partnership will focus on prayer, mission projects and other ministry efforts.

**May.** About 200 seniors at a Russell Springs high school graduation stood and recited the Lord's Prayer in response to a federal judge banning prayer at the ceremony after a student's lawsuit. A similar lawsuit appears to have stopped formal prayer during graduation ceremonies in Shelby County.

Several Baptist groups have joined the worldwide outpouring of support for victims of a deadly 6.3-magnitude earthquake that killed more than 6,000 people May 27 in Indonesia. More than 200,000 people remain homeless, according to the Indonesian government.

**June.** Southern Baptist Convention messengers elected a little-known South Carolina pastor as SBC president in an unusual three-way race for leadership of the convention. Frank Page, pastor of First Baptist Church of Taylors, S.C., narrowly earned a first-ballot victory over two candidates endorsed by SBC leaders.

U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice was a featured speaker at the 2006 SBC annual meeting, declaring that the U.S. must address disease, the rule of tyrants and infringements on religious liberty.

Eileen Mullins, founder of Haven of Rest ministry in Inez, was awarded the 2006 Dellanna West O'Brien Award for Leadership Development,

national WMU's top honor.

**July.** More than 850 Kentucky Changers volunteers served 65 homeowners this summer in Lawrenceburg, Louisville and Russellville. For 13 years, Kentucky Changers has provided free home repair and renovation to families in need.

As fighting continued in Lebanon between Israeli forces and Hezbollah guerrillas, Baptist mission officials confirmed that all Southern Baptist workers in the region were accounted for and safe. Three groups of Southern Baptists, including 19 mission volunteers from Georgia and Texas, were among an estimated 12,000 Americans evacuated from Lebanon.

**August.** Kentucky Baptist leaders have announced plans to join a long-term rebuilding effort in New Orleans one year after Hurricane Katrina devastated the region. Operation NOAH (New Orleans Area Homes) Rebuild is being coordinated by the North American Mission Board, Louisiana Baptist Convention and the Baptist Association of Greater New Orleans.

A Habitat for Humanity official headed to the Gulf Coast was among 49 people killed in an early morning plane crash Aug. 27 in Lexington. Pat Smith of Lexington, a member of Habitat for Humanity International's board of directors, was on his way to Mississippi for the one-year anniversary of Hurricane Katrina.

Franklin Owen, KBC executive secretary in 1972-1983, died Aug. 30 in Lexington at age 93. Owen, a former KBC president, was lauded by Baptist leaders as a man of vision and integrity.

**September.** A chapel message

by Southwestern Seminary trustee Dwight McKissic affirming the spiritual gift of speaking in tongues was banned from Southwestern's Web site by seminary president Paige Patterson. Patterson said he didn't want "uninformed people" to believe that McKissic's view on speaking in tongues "is the view of the majority of our people at Southwestern."

Record giving during the KBC's 2005-06 fiscal year topped \$36.5 million, including \$1.6 million for disaster relief in the wake of Hurricane Katrina. Cooperative Program gifts for 2005-06 also set a record, topping \$23.3 million—more than \$300,000 above the previous record.

"Pray the Interior," the KBC's follow-up to the 2005 "Pray the Perimeter" tour, made 30 stops throughout the commonwealth Sept. 18-22. The five-day tour, which covered more than 1,200 miles, focused on prayer for spiritual renewal and revival.

Greg Faulls, pastor of Bellevue Baptist Church in Owensboro, has been named chairman of the North American Mission Board's presidential search team. He replaces Terry Fox of Kansas, who resigned his pastorate amid reported controversy over financial issues.

**October.** A gunman shocked the nation Oct. 2 when he barricaded himself in an Amish schoolhouse in Pennsylvania and shot 10 young girls, killing five of them, before killing himself.

Bill Whittaker, president of Clear Creek Baptist Bible College in Pineville since 1988, announced his resignation effective at the end of the 2006-07 academic year. Whittaker, 63, told trustees, "The time has come for me to turn the leadership

task over to another."

A group of 24 evangelical leaders placed full-page ads in leading U.S. newspaper Oct. 18 calling for President Bush and the American public to help stop genocide in Darfur. An estimated 400,000 people have died in Darfur since the genocide began in 2003.

**November.** A five-month investigation has uncovered evidence that more than \$1.3 million of Baptist General Convention of Texas church-starting funds were misused between 1999 and 2005 in the Rio Grande Valley.

Ted Haggard, president of the National Association of Evangelicals and an outspoken opponent of gay rights, resigned Nov. 2 after a Colorado man claimed Haggard paid him for sex and drugs.

Continuing a recent trend of electing younger leaders, the KBC's top three officers elected Nov. 14 are under age 40. Darren Gaddis, 37, was elected president; Kevin Smith, 39, was elected first vice president; and Chad Fugitt, 27, was elected second vice president.

**December.** "The Nativity Story," a Hollywood movie focusing on the story of Mary and Joseph coping with her pregnancy and society's reaction to them, debuted Dec. 1. Church groups in Kentucky and elsewhere reserved theaters to take groups to the film during the Christmas season.

A statue honoring evangelist Billy Graham was unveiled Dec. 13 in Nashville. The statue of Graham standing in the shadow of a 17-foot cross is located at LifeWay Christian Resources' headquarters in Nashville.

### It happens four times each year

#### Students leave for home, providing well-earned break for Oneida staff

It happens four times a year, but I never get used to it and I never want to. One of the inherent problems of a boarding school with a 12-month program is providing time off for our staff. I caution prospective faculty and staff that the hours here are long and often demanding, physically, emotionally and spiritually. Most people who serve at OBI have never worked this hard before.

Even though my words of warning are given in earnest, it does not take long to find out who was listening during the interview process and who thought I was exaggerating. Some of my more seasoned staff have told me of new faculty and staff who sometimes ask, when I am not around, "Does everyone work this hard? Does it ever get easier?" I can't be honest and say that everyone works equally hard day in and day out, but I can respond with honesty and say that few ministries have a staff who works as hard as our staff does for so few dollars of compensation.

There are some things we can do to help ease the workload and one is to have four required breaks throughout the year. A required break means that our students must go home for nine days three times a year, and two weeks during the Christmas holidays. It's a big job just getting all of our students to their homes or other destinations during those breaks. Arranging transportation is no easy task. Some students travel by bus; others travel by air. A few are underage, by air travel standards, and must be accompanied by an adult until their flight takes off. Taking care of one student at the airport is one thing, but when you take a bus-

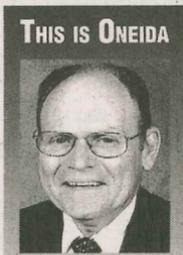
load, well, let's just say it can challenge the patience of the most dedicated staff, especially with all the frustrations everyone faces at the airport these days. Most of our students will be collected by their parents or grandparents, and will travel by car. Though we ask guardians to pick up their child by early evening, often it is midnight before some students finally leave.

There are two windows in my office and I can see our students crossing the campus all day, especially between classes. Seeing them every 55 minutes as they walk to class helps me keep track of the time. When the students are gone during the breaks, I miss that hourly reminder of why we all are here.

The faculty and staff I interview for ministry positions at Oneida come from across the U.S. They did not travel all that distance to interview for a high-paying job. We do not have any such jobs at Oneida. We do have many opportunities to work with young people who need the attention we provide. When the students are here, it is simply a wonderful feeling to see why we work so many long hours. Even the buildings seem to come alive and have a purpose when our students are here. But when our students are gone, this is a very lonely place.

Frankly, money would be a poor exchange for the satisfaction of knowing we are helping young people prepare for life. They try our patience and often they break our hearts, but they are the reason we are here. I am glad they're home for a few days, but we all want the students back just as soon as my staff has had a little rest!

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



W.F. Underwood

### A reporter who knows Good News

#### 1980 grad fulfills calling through newspaper career

Perry Cook grew up in Oregon and came to Christ as a sixth grader in the Oak Ridge (Ore.) Baptist Church. While working as a photographer, he was called into ministry and served as a supply preacher in Oregon, Idaho and Nevada. A friend of his had attended Clear Creek two years earlier and recommended the school to him.

"I was fortunate to be in the first four-year class," Perry said. "I graduated in 1980 with a bachelor of theology and felt the need to remain in the area. I stayed busy supply preaching in Kentucky, Tennessee and North Carolina."

While in school, Perry also worked as a radio announcer in Pineville. The Middlesboro station wanted to use him as a disc jockey, and required him to use a different name on their station.

In high school and for some magazine writing, he used the pseudonym Clayton James Harte. At church, he always is Perry Cook. Most of us know him as C.J. Harte, and have seen his byline often in local newspapers.

He served a stint as editor of The Pineville Sun and is now a report-

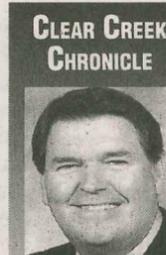
er for the Middlesboro Daily News. Clayton had heart bypass surgery in 2004 and now works part-time.

"My training at Clear Creek has kept me in focus on doing God's work," he said. "As a reporter, I talk with many people in many positions of life. I've had more opportunities to speak to government leaders than a pastor could have had—from local leaders to governors and senators. I've seized those opportunities to speak about their spiritual life. Some were willing to talk and some were not; I try not to let the opportunity pass."

Twelve years ago, Clayton's wife, Joann, died on Christmas Day; the couple's son was 10 years old. This personal tragedy changed the emphasis of the holiday for his family.

"We focus more on the birth of Christ and His gift of life as we remember the loss of wife and mother," he said. "Relationships are so important and time is so uncertain."

Clayton James Harte is one reporter who knows the Good News.



Bill Whittaker

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

## Students with Ky. ties among Southern grads

Louisville—Several students with Kentucky ties were among more than 140 graduates who received degrees during Southern Baptist Theological Seminary's recent commencement services held in Alumni Memorial Chapel on the school's Louisville campus.

Graduates, their hometowns and degrees include:

**Eric Baker**, Franklin, master of arts in Christian education.

**Robert Bebout**, Louisville, master of arts in theological studies.

**Kristina Bruce**, Union, master of arts in Christian education.

**Jeffrey Canter**, Paducah, master of arts in Christian education.

**Dawn Denyes**, LaCenter, master of arts in Christian education.

**Duane Farley**, Louisville, master of divinity.

**Eric French Sr.**, Louisville, master of arts in theological studies.

**Diane Gooch**, Georgetown, master of arts in Christian counseling.

**Ronald Green**, Mayfield, master of arts in worship.

**Jennifer Hart**, Elizabethtown, master of arts in Christian counseling.

**Kathleen Hausman**, Louisville, master of arts in theological studies.

**Timothy Holmes**, Ashland, master of arts in Christian education.

**Richard Humphrey**, Louisville, master of divinity.

**Stephen Keene**, Paducah, master of arts in Christian education.

**Terry Leap II**, Alexandria, master of divinity.

**John Lucas**, Pikeville, master of divinity.

**William Marrett**, Louisville, master of divinity in pastoral counseling.

**John Meade**, Louisville, advanced master of divinity.

**Gregory Newell**, Louisville, master of divinity in pastoral counseling.

**Heather Nunn**, Crestwood, master of arts in missiology.

**Jessica Perkins**, Paducah, master of arts in theological studies.

**Matthew Pinkston**, Henderson, master of arts in Christian education.

**Jeff Prosser**, Louisville, master of arts in Christian education.

**Ricky Ray**, Hazard, doctor of ministry.

**James Stallons**, Hopkinsville, master of divinity.

**Tim Stutler**, Glasgow, master of divinity in worship.

**Ronald Woodson**, La Grange, master of arts in theological studies.

**Michael York**, Lancaster, master of divinity.

# Overcoming obstacles

## 76-year-old minister earns doctorate from Southern

By Garrett Wishall  
Baptist Press

Louisville (BP)—Nearly five years ago, William Rogers began working on his doctor of ministry degree at age 71.

At age 76, Rogers received his degree from Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville in December and was the oldest graduate in his class. During those five years, the New Orleans pastor endured the death of his wife and the ravages of Hurricane Katrina, seeking to hold himself and his church together as he completed his degree.

Rogers acknowledged that his dream of earning a doctorate was a long shot from the beginning.

In 2001, he received a letter from the Billy Graham School of Missions, Evangelism and Church Growth about the D.Min. program it offered at Southern Seminary. Out of school for more than 40 years, Rogers dismissed the letter without a second thought. Then came a second letter. And then a third.

"I got the second letter and thought, 'It would be a chance in a thousand to be accepted,' and I threw it away," he recalled. "The third time, something in my heart said, 'If you don't check this out you will regret it for the rest of your life.' So I decided to give the school a call. I would have been satisfied if I had never been accepted, but Dr. J.D. Payne told me to send in an application. I did, and I got accepted."

### A pastor for 50-plus years

In January 2002, Rogers enrolled in Southern's D.Min. program, 42 years after earning a master of divinity degree from New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary. A pastor for more than 50 years, Rogers has served as senior pastor of Grace Baptist Church near downtown New Orleans for the past 30 years. While working on his D.Min., Rogers continued serving at Grace, commuting to Louisville with his wife, Joan, for J-term classes each January and summer.

Rogers and his wife celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary in 2003 and Rogers slowly but surely continued to work on his degree. In September 2004, the couple had to evacuate their home because of Hurricane Ivan. Returning home after the evacuation, Rogers said he and his wife were teasing each other like they always did and were glad to be back safe and sound.

"I went to start the coffee and put some laundry in and then I went back to tell her the coffee was ready," he said. "When I came back she was on the floor."

Members of an emergency medical team worked to resuscitate Mrs. Rogers, but were unsuccessful. She died of an apparent heart attack, and after 51 years of marriage, Rogers was alone.

"Jesus took her by the hand, and said 'Joan, it's time to go home,' and He took her home," Rogers noted.

Devastated by the loss, Rogers lost 30 pounds and considered giving up his pursuit of a degree. But buoyed by the support of his congregation,

he decided to press on.

"It was very hard for me," he said. "I didn't get over it, but I got through it."

A year later, Rogers had begun work on his final project and his goal of completing his doctorate was in sight. Then Hurricane Katrina struck.

The extent of the flooding from Katrina caught many people off guard because no hurricane in the past had such a devastating impact, Rogers said.

"Some of the members of my congregation had water 15 feet deep in their neighborhood," he said. "New Orleans looked like a Third World country. Flooded water came into our church and my house. What the flooded waters didn't do, the hard winds did."

Rogers evacuated to his son's home in Poughkeepsie, N.Y., to stay clear of the storm. Members of Grace Baptist also scattered across the country, and Katrina threatened to tear apart Rogers' church just as it had New Orleans. Though separated by great distances, the congregation remained in touch through the church's Web site.

"About three weeks before Katrina, a lady in our church felt an overwhelming need to start a Web page for the church," Rogers recounted. "After the hurricane, we began posting our contact information and evacuation location on the Web site. We kept the church together when everybody in the church had evacuated."

Grace Baptist partnered with the Louisiana Baptist Convention in relief efforts, working with other local churches to help rebuild communities.

"We were able to function as a church before all of our members got back," Rogers said. "We started scheduling volunteers to help rebuild New Orleans, from our church and other churches in the area. At one time, we had 75 people from 24 different churches helping gut and rebuild homes in the area."

### Church marks 101st anniversary

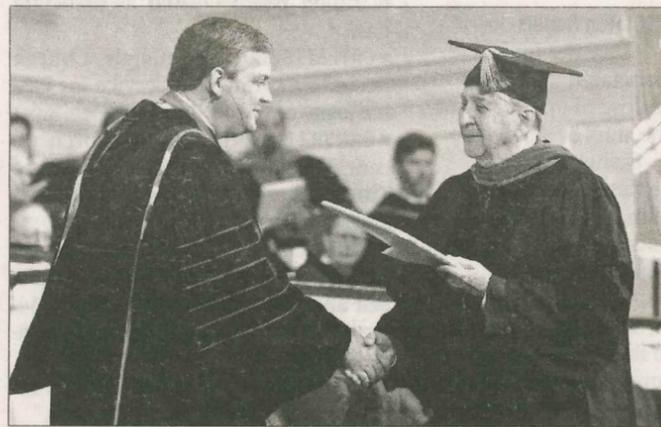
Six weeks after Katrina ravaged the Gulf Coast, a few members of Grace Baptist met on the front steps Oct. 9 for a worship service led by associate pastor Charlie Dale. Rogers returned Nov. 1, and on Nov. 5 the church held its 101st anniversary service. Current and past members of Grace Baptist drove from Texas, Florida, Alabama, Mississippi and elsewhere to attend the anniversary service.

Recounting God's faithfulness to his church, Rogers noted that the congregation now has greater influence in its community than ever before.

"Our church now has the reputation of reaching out to people," he said. "We have been able to reach the local people in a great way."

Rogers' D.Min. studies were placed on hold in the months following Katrina. But four months after the storm hit the coast, Rogers got back to work.

J.D. Payne, assistant professor of



church planting and evangelism at Southern Seminary and Rogers' doctoral supervisor, said Rogers' upbeat attitude and persistence enabled him to continue in the midst of such harrowing circumstances.

"During his study, he has shown the most Christ-like spirit that I've seen in some time," Payne said. "In light of his circumstances, I never sensed a critical or hardened heart. I never heard him complain. Bill never seemed discouraged, though I'm sure he probably was at times. He was just an example of what it means to walk in joy even in difficult days."

### LifeWay, others replace library

Katrina caused Rogers to lose more than 1,000 books. He said LifeWay Christian Resources and other businesses replenished much of his library, sending him boxes of books.

Rogers' project, the final step in earning a D.Min., focused on how Grace Baptist carried out the five functions of its mission statement. Payne asked Rogers to include a chapter detailing his and the church's experiences in the months following Katrina.

Friendly, supportive students and experienced professors made Southern's doctoral program well worth the effort, Rogers said.

"The cohort system, where you work closely with five other students, was one of the main things that impressed me," he said. "Six of us started out together in 2002, and we got to be like brothers. I was old enough to be their father, but they didn't treat me like that."

Reflecting on his decision to pursue the doctorate, Rogers said he is grateful he gave it a shot and he encourages other pastors to do the same.

"Look, try it," he said. "I wasn't the world's best scholar in seminary, but I came back and I did it. You can do better than you think you can do, so just try it."

Rogers said that through all of the pain and suffering he endured in the last few years, especially losing his wife, God has always comforted him.

"When you have a strong relationship with your wife, like I did, it is difficult to move on. For a while, I would cry myself to sleep. It was hard, it really was hard," he said. "But I know that God doesn't make mistakes. And I know that God comforted me. He says that He will not leave His people comfortless and He didn't leave me."

**GRADUATION** William Rogers (right) is congratulated by Southern Baptist Theological Seminary President Al Mohler after earning his doctor of ministry degree at age 76. (BP photo)

## HOW TO BECOME A CHRISTIAN

By Darren Gaddis

I love the imagery associated with the ending of one year and the start of a new one.

Father Time is depicted as an elderly man carrying an hourglass and wearing a sash featuring the outgoing year. Father Time passes the torch to Baby New Year, complete with diaper and a sash featuring the incoming year. These images portray the death of the past year and the birth of a new year. It is a time to put away the old and bring in the new.

The idea of rebirth is at the center of the Christian faith. Jesus declared that "unless someone is born again, he cannot see the Kingdom of God" (John 3:3). The Apostle Paul noted that it is possible for a person to become a new creation: "Old things have passed away" and "new things have come" (2 Corinthians 5:17).

How can we experience this new birth? It begins by recognizing that a new start is necessary. All of us are sinners (Romans 3:23) and in need of the forgiveness that only Jesus provides.

Anyone who will seek the forgiveness of Jesus, turn from his or her sin, and let Him be in control can find new life. Remember that "God, who is abundant in mercy, because of His great love that He had for us, made us alive ... even though we were dead in trespasses" (Ephesians 2:4-5).

It is time to put away the old and bring in the new. At the beginning of a fresh new year, choose Jesus and experience the new birth.

*Darren Gaddis, pastor of Central Baptist Church in Corbin, is president of the Kentucky Baptist Convention*

## MOUNTAINS TO THE MISSISSIPPI

COMPILED BY STAFF

■ **ASHLAND**—Fairview Church recently called **David Cordial** as associate pastor.

■ **CATLETTSBURG**—Burnaugh Church hosted an ordination service for **Pastor Josue** of the Philippines Dec. 3.

■ **DANVILLE**—Gethsemane Church recently ordained minister of music **Tim Hooper** to the gospel ministry. **Steven James** is pastor.

■ **EDDYVILLE**—First Church members **Sam and Louise Robertson** and **Russell and Dorothy Bingham** each celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary Dec. 23.

■ **FLATWOODS**—Danleyton Church recently called **Jim Forrest** as pastor.

■ **PADUCAH**—Oaklawn Church recently called **Willis Henson** as interim pastor.

## Kentuckians among Southeastern grads

**Wake Forest, N.C.**—Three students with Kentucky ties were among more than 160 graduates who earned degrees from Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary in Wake Forest, N.C., during the school's commencement services Dec. 15.

## Spotlight on ...

### Bardstown



People's Church will dedicate its new facility Jan. 7, 2 p.m. The event also will mark the church's seventh anniversary of ministry. **Douglas Bunch** is senior pastor.

Park Avenue Church recently called **Dewayne Franklin** as pastor.

■ **WORTHINGTON**—First Church recently called **Dane Armstrong** as pastor.

Graduates, their hometowns and degrees include:

**Kristopher Dixon**, Fulton, master of arts.

**Kristin Line**, Munfordville, master of arts.

**Jeremy Mathis**, Hopkinsville, master of divinity.



## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### 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, Chattanooga, 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)

## CLASSIFIED ADS

**SEEKING:** Bivocational pastor. Send resumé to Brooksville Baptist Church, Box 126, Brooksville, KY 41004.

**SEEKING:** Minister to students for small Kentucky/Southern Baptist-aligned church in south central Kentucky in the heart of Big South Fork Recreation Area. Individual would work with youth in grades 1-12. We are looking for someone to develop and lead our youth in spiritual growth. Please send resumé and address any questions to: Pastor Ronald Davis, Whitley City First Baptist Church, PO Box 670, Whitley City, KY 42653. Phone: (606) 376-2418; e-mail: [fbwc@highland.net](mailto:fbwc@highland.net).

**SEEKING:** Part-time music minister for a growing community. Seeking an energetic person who has a love for tradition and change. Average attendance 250 in two morning services (blended and traditional). Praise band and adult choir (30 members). Please send resumé to Pleasant Grove BC, 5825 Highway 44E, Shepherdsville, KY 40165; or seek more information online at [www.PGBC.net](http://www.PGBC.net).

**SEEKING:** Part-time or bivocational minister of music for Hawesville Baptist Church. Responsibilities will include preparation of weekly order of service, leading the adult choir and development of children and youth choirs. Hawesville is on the Ohio River roughly midway between Louisville and Evansville, Ind., about 25 miles from Owensboro. HBC runs about 190 in Sunday school, with morning service attendance around 250. We anticipate an exciting future under the leadership of a dynamic young pastor. Applicants may send resumé to the attention of the Music Minister Search Committee, by mail to Hawesville Baptist Church, PO Box 57, Hawesville, KY 42348; or by e-mail to [hawesvil@bellsouth.net](mailto:hawesvil@bellsouth.net).

**SEEKING:** Part-time music minister for blended worship. Come grow with us. Send resumé to Fairview Baptist Church, 6426 Ky. Highway 1247, Waynesburg, KY 40489, Attn: Bro. Johnny Baker.

**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:** Erlanger Baptist Church of Erlanger, Ky., seeks an interim pastor as we begin the pastor search process. This position is for an individual who can provide excellent Bible-based preaching, possess encouraging leadership style, ability to help us focus on our vision and provide competent pastoral care. In other words, someone who loves God and loves people. Hours and compensation are negotiable. Contact Harold Caddell, search committee chair, 2221 Beil Road, Burlington, KY 41005.

**SEEKING:** Volunteers for Glorieta Conference Center. Volunteer March-November in the mountains, 18 miles east of Santa Fe, N.M., at 7,500 feet. Serve in maintenance, conference support, grounds and food service. Long-term commitments are preferable with a minimum commitment of one month. Each volunteer works at least 30 hours a week for which Glorieta will provide: a full-hookup RV site, or an apartment or hotel room and meals. For information or an application, contact Lee or Bea Carl, Coordinator of Volunteers, at (505) 757-4298; or [Lee.Carl@lifeway.com](mailto:Lee.Carl@lifeway.com); or mail request to PO Box 8, Glorieta, NM 87535; or visit our website, [www.glorieta.com](http://www.glorieta.com), and download application/information.

**SEEKING:** Part-time youth minister for Bellfield Baptist Church, Henderson, Ky. Send resumé to: Personnel Committee Chairman Larry Sutton, 6094 Highway 1299, Robards, KY 42452.

**SEEKING:** Full-time minister of youth and children for Fairview Baptist Church. Please send resumé to Fairview Baptist Church, 6426 Ky. Highway 1247, Waynesburg, KY 40489, Attn: Bro. Johnny Baker.

**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 minister to children and youth. Children's ministry includes Wednesday nights and Sunday mornings plus other special activities. Youth ministry includes Sunday mornings and Sunday evenings with minimum of one other activity per month. Salary negotiable based on experience, and housing may be included. Send resumé to: Personnel Committee, Hillcrest Baptist Church, 684 Devils Hollow Road, Frankfort, KY 40601.

**SEEKING:** Part-time (20 hours/week) college minister for St. Matthews Baptist Church. We are seeking an energetic individual who loves God and loves students. Responsibilities include teaching college students at St. Matthews and on various campuses in the metro area; and organizing small-group Bible studies, retreats, worship events and mission projects. Please send resumé to Tomara Brown at 3515 Grandview Ave., Louisville, KY 40207.

**SEEKING:** Part-time children's minister. Some experience required. Send resumé to: Victory Memorial Baptist Church, 3805 Southern Parkway, Louisville, KY 40214; or e-mail [vmemori@aol.com](mailto:vmemori@aol.com).

**SEEKING:** Full-time office manager to support five staff members and congregation for 700-member church in Lexington, Ky. Must possess a positive attitude, excellent phone personality, and a knowledge of Publisher, Excel and PowerPoint. Salary negotiable. Send resumé to: Personnel Committee, Victory Baptist Church, 2261 Armstrong Mill Road, Lexington, KY 40515; or e-mail to [wddowns@insighbb.com](mailto:wddowns@insighbb.com).

**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:** Full-time minister to children for First Baptist Church, Owensboro, Ky., to lead our ministry to birth through 5th grade. Individual must have the gift of administration, enthusiasm to generate creative ideas, patience to be an educator and the dedication to oversee children's spiritual growth. Previous leadership experience in children's ministry and motivating teams preferred. Send resumé and references to: First Baptist Church, PO Box 904, Owensboro, KY 42302, Attn: Children's Search Committee; or [pstrahan@fbcowb.org](mailto:pstrahan@fbcowb.org).

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

# Is nothing sacred?

*Haven Equity Co. case in Ohio spotlights ballooning scam rate in Christian circles*

By Molly Kavanaugh and John Caniglia  
Religion News Service

Elyria, Ohio (RNS)—Sarah Presnell did not think she would ever come home from the hospital.

Before she went in, the Tennessee woman got her finances in order for her elderly husband and disabled daughter. She cobbled together \$25,000 from the couple's savings and her daughter's meager earnings from bundling silverware at a restaurant and sent it to Gary McNaughton, an Elyria, Ohio, church leader recommended to her by relatives.

As promised, he sent her a check for \$250 the next month.

The first check would be the last.

McNaughton, former youth assistant at Church of the Open Door, sits in jail without bond. In Novem-

ber, the 51-year-old Canadian was charged in federal court with fraud and tax evasion, accused of selling \$17 million in bogus securities. Allegedly, he tricked 200 people from 1999 to 2003. Prosecutors said many of those people attended the church or had relatives who did.

Authorities say scams that sprout in church pews are among the fastest-growing frauds in America.

In 1989, the North American Securities Administrators Association found that 15,000 people lost \$450 million over five years in schemes centered at churches. Those numbers have ballooned. The association found that 80,000 people were victimized between 1998 and 2001, losing nearly \$2 billion.

"I've seen more money stolen in the name of God than in any other

way," Deborah Bortner, the group's former president, said in a news release on its Web site.

Bob Webster, spokesman for the securities administrators group, said fraud linked to religion thrives as society grows more threatening and people more cautious. One lasting place of trust is the church.

"People tend to let their guard down there," Webster said. "Con artists realize that. Outsiders look to penetrate the circle of trust."

Under the name Haven Equity Co., McNaughton promised clients interest rates as high as 20 percent annually on investments and told them their principal was guaranteed.

Church of the Open Door, incorporated in 1950, draws 1,800 people to Sunday services and operates its own school. The interdenominational church never invested money in Haven Equity and had no involvement with the sales, Open Door's attorneys said.

But the pastor at the time, David Walls, and other church leaders invested their own money and recommended the investments to church members, according to court records. Walls left the church in 2003.

Presnell, the Tennessee woman, and James and Dorothy Jevack of Medina, Ohio, said the only reason they invested their money was because they believed it was connected with the church.

"Open Door's public venue and promotion of the scheme provided a ripe environment for unscrupulous shysters," according to court documents filed by the Jevacks, who lost nearly \$200,000 and sued the church.

Lorain County Common Pleas Judge Christopher Rothgery dismissed the couple's suit, claiming the church had nothing to do with McNaughton's business. The Jevacks are appealing the decision.

Other victims believe the church should not be held liable. "Any judgment against the church will turn me upside down," said Seth Stevens of Amherst, Ohio, who blames himself for being naïve, and McNaughton and his Canadian partner, Andrew Lech, for deceiving him.

Stevens, who lost almost all of his \$750,000 investment, is still a member of Church of the Open Door.

In a deposition, McNaughton said the investment business had nothing to do with his job at the church. He added that he told investors that he was not a financial planner and that he would be sending their money to Lech, a stock trader in Canada.

Lech is in jail on contempt of court charges for refusing to give information in one of the civil cases filed by investors. Criminal charges related to the investments are pending.

McNaughton filed for bankruptcy last year, citing debts of more than \$1.1 million.

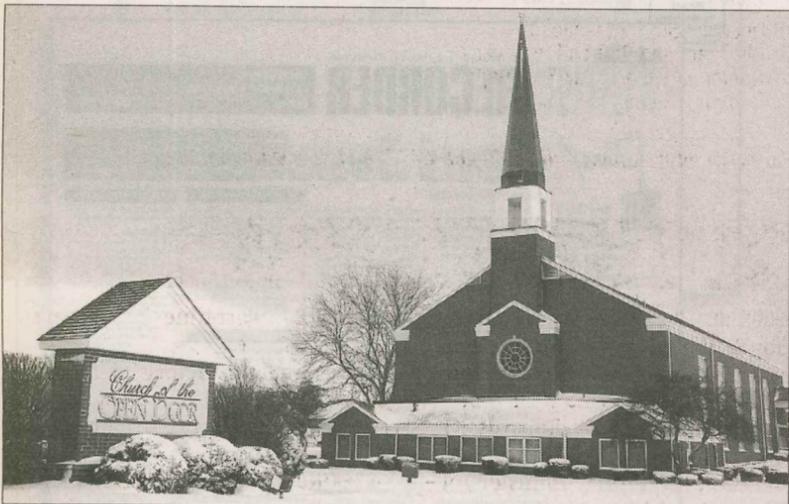
As for the Presnells, they were forced to sell their home of 27 years for a smaller house and abandon their dream of securing health insurance for their 56-year-old daughter, Diana, who has cerebral palsy.

Sarah Presnell said she was grateful to receive recently a check for \$1,980 from Lech's settlement in a class-action case in Canada.

"I've never lost my faith in God," she said.

**"People tend to let their guard down there. Con artists realize that. Outsiders look to penetrate the circle of trust."**

Bob Webster, spokesman for North American Securities Administrators Association, on why churchgoers are targets for fraud



**SCENE OF A CRIME?** The Church of the Open Door in Elyria, Ohio. Many of the people who lost money in Haven Equity Co., run by the church's youth assistant, were members of the congregation or friends and relatives of members. (RNS photo by Jon Fobes/Plain Dealer of Cleveland)

## Publishers seek to make the Good Book an easier read

By Jeff Diamant  
Religion News Service

New York (RNS)—A few years ago, on the theory that many readers of the Bible don't have any idea what a manger is, the American Bible Society replaced the word in a new edition with the term "feed box."

The change never caught on. All you have to do is sing a few bars of "Away in a Feed Box" to understand why the Virgin Mary still places baby Jesus in a manger in most versions of the Bible sold in the U.S. today.

But the broader effort by the American Bible Society—to make the book accessible to people intimidated by the "thees" and "thous" and other antiquated language of the 17th-century King James Version—continues with many publishers.

"We're always looking for better ways to engage people in the Bible," said Paul Caminiti, a vice president for Christian publisher Zondervan, headquartered in Michigan. "Plain-text Bibles are well over 1,000 pages. We're talking about 66 different books of the Bible, and a book that was written to a culture that is 2,000 to 4,000 years old. It can be challenging for people to jump into."

The Bible is the bestselling book in history. For people making a gift of the gospels or selecting a version for themselves, options include:

■ "The Bible Experience," an audio version available as a CD or MP3, which first went on sale last fall. It features 250 African-American entertainers. Caminiti said it already has become the best-selling audio Bible in the world, with an estimated 200,000 sales.

■ "The Story," a 464-page book first sold in 2005, which shuns standard chapter-and-verse breakdowns for a narrative form.

■ The "New Living Translation," first published in 1996. It is the fourth-best-selling Bible translation at Protestant bookstores in the United States, and it is written at a sixth-grade level, according to CBA (formerly the Christian Booksellers Association).

■ The New International Version, first published in 1978, is the most popular Bible sold at Protestant bookstores in the U.S. and is written at an eighth-grade level.

At bookstores, the translations have led to an alphabet soup of options widely known by their initials: KJV, NLT, NIV, RSV (Revised Standard Version), NAB (New American Bible) and HCSB (Holman Christian Standard Bible, published by LifeWay Christian Resources).

The King James Version, renowned for centuries for its majestic, rhythmic prose and poetry that

can entrance those it doesn't befuddle, was long the best-selling English version. It's still the second-best-selling Bible in the country, according to CBA.

The New King James Version, considered slightly easier to read, was published in 1982 and sells third-best in the country at Protestant bookstores.

Bible translations usually involve dozens of scholars who know their quest for readability will fail if English readers think a translation strays too far from the King James Version. Some scholars translate every word literally from ancient sources, while others go "thought for thought," concerned more that broader passages are understood.

Robert Hodgson, an American Bible Society scholar, said even the broadly done translations are valuable.

"Christianity is a translated religion," he said. "From the times of Jesus onward, Christians have depended on translation to spread the word around the world. Jesus spoke in Aramaic, but the Gospel writers wrote those words down in Greek and within (100 years) that was translated into Latin.

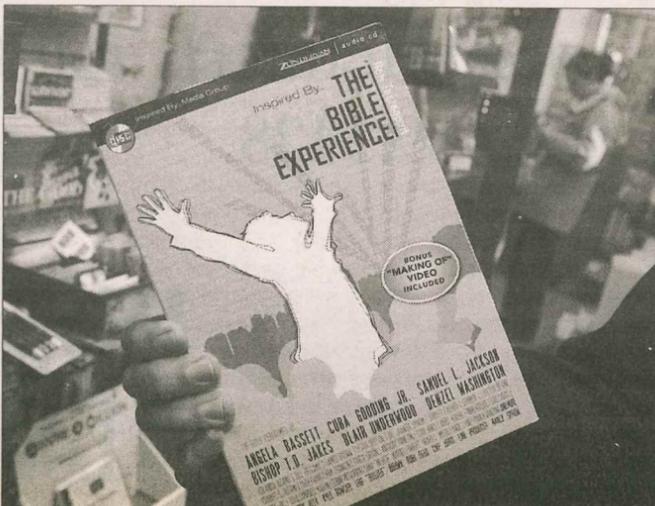
"The thing to remember is, the original Bible authors and writers were writing to be understood.

They were not trying to write in obscure or archaic or even difficult language," Hodgson said.

Like many at her Assemblies of God church, Jean Douma of Bedminster, N.J., takes her Bible to Sunday services. It's a New Living Translation, the version she began using when she started going to the church a decade ago.

"That's the one I use every day, with my notes in it," she said. "It's very easy to understand. ... The old King James Version, the way the sentences were structured made it hard to understand. It's not the way we speak now."

**EXPERIENCING SCRIPTURE** The Bible Experience is a popular audio Bible featuring African-American actors and celebrities. Released last fall, it already is the most popular audio Bible in the world, according to a representative of Zondervan Publishing. (RNS photo by Tim Farrell/The Star-Ledger of Newark, N.J.)



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PRACTICAL RESOURCES FOR CHRISTIAN LIVING  
**WESTERN RECORDER**

PRACTICAL RESOURCES FOR CHRISTIAN LIVING  
**WESTERN RECORDER** Cecilia Baptist Church Edition October 17, 2006

**COMMUNITY WILL UNITE CONCERN TO AID CECILIA BAPTIST CHURCH**

**SPONSORED BY THE CECILIA BAPTIST CHURCH**

**WEEK 2** Sunday Evening, October 22nd, 7:00 PM  
**WEEK 3** Cecilia Baptist Church & Eastern Epistle  
**WEEK 4** 7:00 PM, 7:30 PM, 8:00 PM, 8:30 PM, 9:00 PM  
**WEEK 5** 7:00 PM, 7:30 PM, 8:00 PM, 8:30 PM, 9:00 PM

**THIS BENEFIT WILL RAISE MONIES TO AID THE TOWER AND FUTURE**  
 Families who had much of their homes and belongings during the weekend of September 22nd.

**POTLUCK**  
 Monday, September 22nd  
 On the 22nd, after the morning service, there will be a church-wide potluck. Come to the potluck at 7:00 AM, 7:30 AM, 8:00 AM, and 8:30 AM. Please bring a potluck dish. There will be a potluck for each of the weeks.

**OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD**  
 Offering to date: \$2,412.00

**CALENDAR OF EVENTS**  
 Wednesday, October 18  
 5:30 PM: Wednesday High Mass  
 6:00 PM: Children's Choir  
 6:30 PM: Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal  
 6:30 PM: Mission Organizations  
 7:30 PM: Church Council

**Thursday, October 19**  
 5:30 PM: FAITH Classes  
**Friday, October 20**  
 10:00 AM: Bible Study  
 11:00 AM: Mission Organizations

**Sunday, October 22**  
 9:45 AM: Bible Study  
 11:00 AM: Morning Worship (Psalms, Acts)  
 5:30 PM: Children's Choir Rehearsal  
 6:30 PM: Prayer Team  
 6:30 PM: Worship Service

**Wednesday, October 25**  
 6:00 PM: Wednesday High Mass  
 6:30 PM: Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal  
 8:15 PM: Children's Choir  
 8:30 PM: Prayer Team

**UPCOMING EVENTS**  
 OCTOBER  
 23rd - Ministers' Appreciation Dinner

PRACTICAL RESOURCES FOR CHRISTIAN LIVING  
**WESTERN RECORDER** The Good News First Baptist Hopkinsville Edition October 17, 2006

**First in Good News 2006**

**IT IS OUR VISION TO:**  
 EQUIP our members to serve  
 EVANGELIZE Christian County and Beyond

**FROM THE PASTOR**  
 Thank you to all who have helped return all the things we lost to us at the Phelps Dodge Warehouse. It was a big job with a lot of heavy lifting. We will continue to work on the things that God has given us. We will continue to work on the things that God has given us. We will continue to work on the things that God has given us.

**REMEMBER IN PRAYER**  
 Remember in prayer: [List of names and requests]

**CALENDAR OF EVENTS**  
 Sunday, October 22  
 8:00 AM: Children's services  
 9:00 AM: Sunday School  
 9:30 AM: Morning Worship  
 10:00 AM: Prayer Team  
 10:30 AM: Worship Service

PRACTICAL RESOURCES FOR CHRISTIAN LIVING  
**WESTERN RECORDER** First Baptist Owensboro Edition October 17, 2006

**Touch One Life. Start a Ripple**

**OCTOBER IS SUNDAY SCHOOL EMPHASIS MONTH**

**HIGH ATTENDANCE DAY IS OCTOBER 22**

**GOAL: 901**

**Touch One Life. Start a Ripple**

**A Word From Our Pastor**  
**SUNDAY MORNING HIGH ATTENDANCE DAY!**  
 The Power of One, this Sunday, October 22! We have set a goal of having 901 in Bible Study. Will you be one of the 901? Check your calendar and make sure you add attending Sunday School and Church to your list of things to do on this day. It will be a lot of fun. Making this a priority!

**EXPERIENCING GOD ON SUNDAY EVENING!**  
 Thanks for your commitment to our Sunday evening study. We are half way through and are learning a great deal about our church.

**2007 BUDGET!**  
 On Sunday evening we discussed our 2007 budget and this Sunday morning following both worship services we will ask for a vote of approval. Thanks to Jim Ruth and his Finance Committee for a job well done and to each of you for supporting our church through your tithes and offerings. You will see a 7.6% increase over last year's budget. God has been good to us this year and we give Him the glory.

Thanks for allowing us to be gone for some vacation time. We had a great time but are glad to be home. Thanks to Jerry Tinsley for filling the pulpit and the rest of the staff for all they do. I am thankful for the staff the Lord has provided for us here at FBC.

From my family to... WE LOVE YOU!  
 Paul

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