

PRACTICAL RESOURCES FOR CHRISTIAN LIVING

# WESTERN RECORDER

February 13, 2007  
Vol. 181, No. 7

## FOR THE RECORD

**Baptists**  
Faulls: Search narrows for new NAMB president. Page 2.



**Missions**  
IMB president challenges new missionaries to "look, love and live" for Christ. Page 2.

**Editorial**  
Increasing baptisms in Kentucky (part 2). Page 5.

**Annie Armstrong**  
Missions offering helps equip ministry evangelism director to share a helping hand. Page 6.

**Grief**  
Three Baptist volunteers killed in accidents in Arkansas and Honduras. Page 7.

**Prayer**  
How can churches strengthen their prayer ministries? Page 10.

## Most in U.S. link economic and spiritual health

**West Palm Beach, Fla. (RNS)**—The overall health of the nation's economy is dependent on how spiritual Americans are, according to a majority of respondents in a recent Gallup Organization survey.

Seventy-seven percent of U.S. adults surveyed said the nation's economic health depends a "great deal" or "some" degree on its spiritual health.

The survey, called "The Spiritual State of the Union," was conducted for the Spiritual Enterprise Institute, a West Palm Beach, Fla.-based center that focuses on building understanding of how spiritual values affect economic life. The study was released Jan. 30.

Of those surveyed, more than half say their religious beliefs greatly affect their feelings about the future, and more than one-third say their beliefs affect their relationships at work and how involved they are in volunteer activities.

Fourteen percent of those surveyed said they consider a decline in society—ethically, morally or religiously—to be among the top problems facing America today.

Other findings show that 79 percent of people believe there are clear guidelines about what is good or evil that apply to everyone.

Seventy-two percent say their faith is what gives their life meaning, and 65 percent consider themselves spiritually committed.

## Open minds, open hearts



**JESUS LOVES ME, ME, ME** Janna Goodyear teaches members of her Sunday school class at Highview Baptist Church in Louisville a new song. With co-teacher Sheri Mock, Goodyear helps students with special needs explore Bible truths at a pace in keeping with their cognitive abilities. On Saturday, the Kentucky Baptist Convention will host a special needs ministry conference at the Baptist Building in Louisville. (Photo by Dannah Prather)

## Special Needs Ministry Step 1: Congregational heart check

By Dannah Prather  
Partnerships Editor

**Louisville**—For many Kentucky Baptists, the term "special needs ministry" might spark images of wheelchair ramps, specially-fitted classrooms and huge insurance rates.

But ministers, volunteers and experts in special needs ministries say the vital ingredients to these ministries are within every congregation's grasp: open minds and open hearts.

"Church should be a place where everyone is welcome," said Wendy Dever, director of the Kentucky Baptist Convention preschool/children's ministries and Sunday school group.

When a congregation determines to welcome all members of its community, it can call upon the KBC Mission Board staff and a growing statewide network of volunteers, minis-

ters and parents who reach out every week to children and adults with special needs and their families, Dever noted.

Many members of that network will gather Feb. 17 at the Baptist Building in Louisville for a "celebration" of special needs ministry.

Dever said the event is designed to encourage people serving in cur-



□ See Special Needs ... Page 9

## Henry challenges pastors and deacons to pursue unity in Christ

By Trennis Henderson  
Editor

**Bowling Green**—After more than 45 years of pastoral ministry, Jim Henry has tons of experience working with deacons and other church leaders.

Henry, who retired last year after nearly 30 years as pastor of First Baptist Church of Orlando, Fla., drew on that extensive experience as the keynote speaker for the Kentucky Baptist Convention's recent Pastor/Deacon/Spouse Retreat in Bowling Green.

In addition to Henry leading three sessions on effective deacon ministry, his wife, Jeanette, led a pair of sessions for spouses on "Dealing with Life Issues in Ministry."

Affirming that "I have a high esteem for the office of deacon as well as high esteem for the office of pastor," Henry emphasized the importance of pursuing unity as the body of Christ.

Noting that 1,300 Southern Baptist pastors and church staff members were fired or forced to resign last year, the former Southern Baptist Convention president said, "There's something not healthy going on in our churches. ... We're having a whole lot of heartaches and problems in our local churches."

"How do we stay together?" he asked. "The pastors and the deacons have a critical role to play in that in the church."

Citing the Apostle Paul's teachings in Philippians 1 and 2, Henry told conference participants that the first element of unity is prayer.

"What holds us together? It's prayer," he declared. "I can't tell you the strength that comes from prayer for one another."

Henry said Paul also emphasized the importance of being partners in ministry.

□ See Henry urges Kentucky ... Page 3



**VOICE OF EXPERIENCE** Former Southern Baptist Convention President Jim Henry, who retired last year as pastor of First Baptist Church of Orlando, Fla., told Kentucky Baptist pastors and deacons that fellow Christians can have "differences, difficulties and disappointments" without having disruptions in their unity.

Dated material. Please deliver by Wednesday, February 14.

**"Without the love of God, your going will be futile and meaningless."**

IMB President Jerry Rankin

## IMB challenge: 'Look, love, live' for Christ

By Shawn Hendricks  
Baptist Press

Highland, Calif. (BP)—While walking in a small town in Thailand years ago, Richard Blount spotted some Buddhists entering a temple and sensed his first heart-tug for missions.

"I witnessed several Thais ... bowing down, lighting incense and praying to a big, gold Buddha," he recalled. "I thought how fruitless, these people seeking hope in an idol. It was then that God began to burden my heart for the Thai people."

Blount and his wife, Linda, were two of 43 Southern Baptist missionaries appointed Jan. 31 at Immanuel Baptist Church in Highland, Calif. The event drew a crowd of 2,200 people as part of the Southern Baptist International Mission Board's trustee meeting and Immanuel's Global Outreach Celebration.

IMB President Jerry Rankin cited the diverse backgrounds of the new missionaries, noting that "you're bringing the skills, the experience, the education, all that God has put into your life to focus on the one thing of significance—God's glory among the nations."

### Making a spiritual impact

One missionary, born a Hindu in Bangladesh, shared during the service how another missionary impacted his life when he had no other way of hearing the gospel.

"From that day I became a follower of Jesus," he said. "Afterward, God used (my wife and me) to share and lead many people to Christ in Bangladesh as well (as) in the United States."

The couple now plans to share the gospel with people in South Asia.

Another missionary, headed to Russia, told how God revealed a call to missions while he was sharing the short story "The Missing Missionary" with a group of boys at church.

"Before the end of the story, God had revealed to me the identity of the missing missionary," he said. "It was me."

During the event, trustees, mis-



**DEDICATION** IMB President Jerry Rankin offers a prayer of dedication for 43 new missionaries appointed during a Jan. 31 service at Immanuel Baptist Church in Highland, Calif. (BP photo by Bill Bangham)

sionaries and guests heard updates about how God is working around the world. Among the highlights:

- More than 17,000 South Koreans attended a missions event to learn how they can impact global evangelism.

- In the past two months, the IMB spent more than \$1 million on hunger relief and development projects. Some of the projects focused on the HIV/AIDS pandemic, while others were aimed at rebuilding areas impacted by disasters and other crises.

Rankin later challenged the new missionaries to look beyond simply going to the mission field. Missionaries must first "look, love and live," he said.

"You've got to lift up your eyes, open your eyes and look and see a lost world," Rankin said. Missionaries must "see a world as God sees it ... and the potential harvest."

Jesus also commanded His followers to love, Rankin said.

When the Pharisees asked Jesus what the greatest commandment was, He responded, "To love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, with all thy mind and thy soul." But Christ added that they also should love their neighbor as they love themselves.

Rankin challenged the crowd to remember the people Americans

tend to forget—the people of Darfur, refugees in Somalia and the Sunnis, Shiites and Kurds in war-torn Iraq.

Love "is the only thing that would motivate us to give of our lives to go," he said. "Without the love of God, your going will be futile and meaningless."

### Worship God in spirit & truth

Believers also must live out their faith in Christ wherever they go, Rankin said, noting that Jesus taught His disciples to embrace a new lifestyle.

"It was not to be the ritualistic ritual of their Jewish faith," he said. "But they were now to worship God and follow Him in spirit and in truth that would bring a new way of living that would reflect Christ-likeness and love and holiness."

Though missionaries serve in a world with risks and dangers, Rankin reminded them that there are no government laws or religious restrictions that can keep them from living their faith before the people they serve.

"You're following Jesus Christ, and He's told you to go, but what He commanded you to do was to look and to love and to live," Rankin said. "And as you fulfill that commandment, you'll fulfill the mission that God has given to you."

## Faulls: Search narrows for new NAMB president

Alpharetta, Ga. (BP)—The Southern Baptist North American Mission Board's presidential search team hopes to have a recommendation by late March or early April, committee chairman Greg Faulls reported to NAMB's trustees during their Feb. 7 meeting in Alpharetta, Ga.

"We are working now with a narrowed, select list of candidates," said Faulls, pastor of Bellevue Baptist Church in Owensboro. "We have been working hard and taking our time. We are committed to seek the Lord and are looking for God's man. We are not allowing the committee to be hijacked by outside political influence."

The search committee likely will call a special meeting of the board of trustees to announce its recommendation, Faulls added.

"We are looking for someone who has a heart for God and who not only will have integrity and be able to collaborate with the trustees, but will be chosen by God to be a catalyst for spiritual awakening in this nation," he noted.

"But I can tell you that right now, we do not know who the next president is," Faulls said. "We are waiting to hear from God."

In a financial report, NAMB trustees were advised that because of a 3 percent increase in revenues and gains, 2006 total revenues were up to \$127.8 million—\$3 million more than the previous year.

The increase was due to a record Annie Armstrong Easter Offering of \$58.5 million, plus a substantial decrease in expenses due to budget under-runs in several NAMB divisions.

Trustees voted to apply the \$3 million overage to strategic ministry needs.

In other business, trustees heard the results of two recent church planting studies. According to the studies:

- On average, 68 percent of Southern Baptist church plants survived beyond their fourth year.

- Awareness of church planting at Southern Baptist seminaries is on the rise, reflected in an increase over a six-year period from 33 percent to 55 percent of graduates who agreed strongly that they heard frequently about church planting at seminary.

- When asked two years after graduation, 97 percent of 2004 SBC seminary graduates agreed that churches should be directly involved in starting new churches.

Trustees were told that while new NAMB-sponsored church plants were down in 2006 from 1,724 to 1,457, new church plants have averaged 1,602 over the past four years.

## BAPTIST DIGEST

### Final defendants sentenced in Arizona case.

The final defendants in the lengthy Baptist Foundation of Arizona fraud case have been sentenced, with at least one receiving a harsher penalty than expected. On Feb. 2 Maricopa County Superior Judge Kenneth Fields sentenced Donald Dale Deardoff, the former foundation treasurer, to four years in prison, despite a prosecutor's recommendation that he be sent to county jail for one year. He also was ordered to pay \$159 million in restitution. Four other former foundation employees, Harold Friend, Jalma Hunsinger, Edgar Kuhn and Richard Rolfes, were sentenced to three years of supervised probation and ordered to pay restitution totaling \$440,000. The hearing marked the last chapter in fraudulent activities involving investments of mostly elderly people that cost investors more than \$550 million.

### Mission boards launch people groups site.

The presidents of the Southern Baptist North American Mission Board and International Mission Board simultaneously hit buttons to launch the new North American People Groups Web site ([www.peoplegroups.info](http://www.peoplegroups.info))

Feb. 7 during a joint ceremony. With interim NAMB President Roy Fish in Alpharetta, Ga., and IMB President Jerry Rankin in Richmond, Va., to "throw the switch," the interactive Web site—developed and funded jointly by the two mission boards—offers a wealth of missions-related data. The database is designed to sort people groups living in a given state, city or zip code by nationality, language spoken at home and ancestry. The site is intended for ministers and church member who want to better understand and minister in their changing communities by knowing what ethnic groups live nearby.

### CBF adds five-state Midwest region.

The moderate Cooperative Baptist Fellowship has added a new, five-state regional body to its group of constituents. The consortium includes Iowa, Minnesota, Nebraska, North Dakota and South Dakota. At the Jan. 25 formation meeting, representatives from four CBF-related churches also created articles of incorporation, bylaws and a budget. The new Midwest region is expected to be formally recognized by the national CBF

at the 2007 general assembly in June. The five states previously were part of CBF's 10-state North Central Fellowship region. Tim Deatrick, pastor of Ashworth Road Baptist Church in West Des Moines, Iowa, will serve as moderator and volunteer coordinator.

### Indiana Baptists' first director dies at age 90.

E. Harmon Moore, the first executive secretary-treasurer of the State Convention of Baptists in Indiana, died in Birmingham, Ala., Feb. 1 after being diagnosed with an aggressive form of cancer several months earlier. Moore, 90, was a pastor in Illinois from 1946-52 before joining the staff of the Illinois Baptist State Association as secretary of stewardship and missions. He was promoted in 1956 to associate executive secretary and director of missions. In 1955, Moore helped organize regional fellowship meetings in Indiana and in 1958 he chaired the constitution and bylaws committee for the new state convention. In December 1958, the newly elected executive board of the State Convention of Baptists in Indiana named Moore as the state convention's executive secretary. He retired Jan. 1, 1981.

## Traylor: Facing 'fear factor' enhances believers' witness

By Kristie Randolph  
Kentucky Baptist Convention

Louisville—One might assume evangelism comes easily to Ted Traylor, whose weekly radio and television ministry, "At the Heart of Things," reaches thousands of homes.

Yet he is no stranger to the fears faced by countless Christians desiring to spread the gospel. Drawing from personal experience, Traylor seeks to help others overcome fear and share their faith.

Traylor, pastor of the 10,000-member Olive Baptist Church in Pensacola, Fla., will be among featured speakers at the 2007 Kentucky Baptist Evangelism Conference Feb. 26-27 at Eastwood Baptist Church in Bowling Green.

### Urging effective evangelism

Evangelism has long been at the heart of Traylor's personal and public ministries. While he seeks to train and equip others to effectively evangelize, he said he believes the greatest challenge often is helping them overcome the "fear factor."



Ted Traylor

"People think they don't know enough, aren't smart enough," Traylor noted. "The truth is that we'll never be as prepared as we'd like to be. We must stop simply talking about evangelism and begin doing it."

In addition to feelings of inadequacy, Traylor said many Christians are afraid to share their faith because of growing opposition in the culture.

"The more we hear about hostility to Christianity in the media, the more afraid we are of sharing our faith," he said. "If we are not careful, we'll swallow the idea that everyone is hostile to the gospel. The Scriptures tell us God has placed eternity in the heart of man, so we know people are interested in what happens after this life."

Traylor, who has served as president of the Florida Baptist Convention and first vice president of the Southern Baptist Convention, calls fellow believers to face their fears by trusting in the power of the gospel and following the promptings of the Holy Spirit. Once that is in prop-

er perspective, he said, it is easier to guide people through the evangelism process.

Emphasizing the importance of interpersonal relationships, Traylor said he uses Olive Baptist Church's "LYNTYS" evangelism method, which stands for "Love Your Neighbor, Tell Your Story."

"The LYNTYS method reminds us that evangelism is a lifestyle," Traylor said. "Evangelism does not come naturally to me, so I must work at it. I'm always looking for a person to connect with, whether that be a neighbor, a friend or someone who visits our church."

### Partner with fellow believers

Partnering individuals with other Christians who are sharing their faith is another method Traylor said he has found helpful. He suggests that believers make a list of people to approach, and encourages them to ask God to give them opportunities.

Traylor said he also challenges others to spread the gospel through world missions. He will lead a session at the Evangelism Conference titled "Connecting through World Mission," in which he will address

the globalization of the gospel. Focusing on the sufficiency of Christ, Traylor said he wants workshop participants to keep the greatness of God central in their efforts to spread the gospel.

"The concept of bringing missions into our evangelistic efforts is key because there are so many opportunities today," Traylor emphasized. Leading by example, he recently returned from a two-week mission trip to Romania and will travel later this spring to Kazakhstan for church development work.

Traylor said he also sees mercy ministries as a natural extension of evangelism. He has led his congregation to develop ministries such as an outreach to drug and alcohol addicts, homes for needy men and women and a health clinic for the underprivileged.

"The goal of each of these ministries is to share the gospel after meeting the physical needs," Traylor explained. "We want to evangelize both at home and in the world."

For more information about the Kentucky Baptist Evangelism Conference, visit <http://www.kybaptist.org/evanconf>.

**"We must stop simply talking about evangelism and begin doing it."**

Ted Traylor, pastor of Olive Baptist Church in Pensacola, Fla.

## Henry urges Kentucky pastors, deacons to seek unity in Christ

Continued from page 1

"We're all together in this. We're partners in ministry, sharing fellowship together," he explained. "We're in it together, to sink or swim."

"There's a self-sacrificing in ministry ... in order that Christ can live through us," he added. "That's a powerful thing to remember."

"You can have differences, difficulties and disappointments," Henry acknowledged, "but if you are partners, you will not have disruptions."

Pastors and deacons also "are bound together in a persevering faith," Henry said.

Citing such historic Baptist doctrines as the divinity of Christ, salvation through Christ alone and security of the believer, he added, "What holds us together? Jesus Christ and some commonness in some basic doctrinal issues."

In addition to prayer, partnership and a persevering faith, Henry said, "A very practical thing that holds us together is compassion for each other."

"When we practically say, 'You're my brother and you're my sister and I love you,' it will keep the church growing stronger and will get us through the disagreements that come."

Reiterating Paul's call for Christian unity, Henry declared, "Unity is the highest expression of the Christian faith. When they see unity in a world that is disunited, it's like a magnet drawing people to Christ."

Henry said unity is essential in today's church in order to overcome spiritual warfare and strengthen our relationship to Jesus.

Detailing the difference between unity and uniformity, he added, "Uniformity comes from pressure from the outside. Unity comes from pressure from the inside and the pressure from the inside is the

work of the Holy Spirit. He is the One who compels us to do everything we can do bring unity into the body of Christ.

"It's the blood of the cross that holds us together," he said. "When we realize where we are at the cross of Jesus Christ, we understand the call for unity."

In a session geared toward pastors, Henry shared a list of ways "you can be a pastor your deacons will love to work with and follow." Among his suggestions to pastors:

**Understand the heart of your people.** Henry said that includes understanding each congregation's unique culture and learning the church's expectations.

**Serve with a shepherd/servant heart.** "Some of our pastors think they are too big to get in there with the people and have a CEO mentality," he cautioned. "It's very important to be close to your people; they've got to know you love them."

**Listen to wise counsel.** All of us preachers make mistakes. We have clay feet. We don't know everything," he acknowledged. "Get close to the wise men of the church."

**Wear humility as a badge of honor.** "All of us have to fight the demon of pride," Henry emphasized. "If you're going to pastor in a noble way, you must do it with humility."

**"Make your own butter."** "Don't preach somebody else's sermons. Avoid plagiarism," he warned. "Pastor, you have to make prayer and study a priority. That requires three things: work, discipline and a plan."

**Be careful about chasing the latest church fad.** "God does not take a cookie-cutter and say, 'This is what I want to happen in every church.'"

**Make much of Jesus.** "After we're gone, Jesus is still there," Henry concluded. "It's all about Jesus; it's not about us. We're just His messenger boys for a season."

## Keys to healing conflict: 'Let mercy lead'

By Ken Walker  
Lexington Correspondent

Lexington—People who don't learn to resolve conflict God's way might end up like the young couple Steve Pettit knows who fought so viciously that when the husband stuck his tongue out, his wife nearly bit it off.

The chagrined victim had to call the music minister from the emergency room to say he wouldn't be able to sing in the Christmas cantata the next day.

Addressing the topic of "The Warrior Within," Pettit was among featured speakers at the Kentucky Baptist Convention's recent Shepherding the Shepherd conference.

Pettit, director of a Florida-based counseling ministry, said arguing, blaming and intimidation escalate tensions instead of resolving problems.

"If you're going to have a godly fight, you have to let mercy lead," he noted. "Kindness, mercy and compassion are more powerful weapons in getting people to change. This is how God teaches us to walk in the Spirit."

Citing the heroes of the faith listed in Hebrews 11, Pettit said none of them found an intimate relationship with God without first enduring conflict.

The former Kentucky Baptist pastor said that leads him to believe that God loves a good fight.

"A holy fight is still a fight," he said. "Don't let people try to tell you the Christian life is conflict-free."

However, believers should focus on finding long-term solutions instead of thinking their job is to out-debate another person or otherwise claim victory, Pettit said.

Keeping God's mercy in mind means not giving people what they deserve. If God gave people what they deserve, they would be wiped out, he added.

Pettit said conflicts often arise because people whine that a person or situation isn't "fair."

"There's no possibility of a holy resolution as long as you and I cling to the idea of fair," he noted. "When my kids are yelling and arguing and say, 'That's not fair,' I tell them, 'You don't want fair. You want mercy.'"

"Whether it's our spouse, parents, children or himself, it's not about fair."

Instead, every situation must yield to the truth of God's Word, he said, citing Job 8:32 and Colossians 3:17.

When their 20-year-old son was an infant, he was pronounced clinically dead for 34 minutes, Pettit said.

Although revived, today he can't walk or talk, meaning that either Pettit or his wife always must stay home with him.

"We learned to say Gabe is not good for us or bad for us; this is God's story for us," Pettit said. "This is when we learned to bow before the truth."

Not only must God's children bow to the truth, he said embracing the mind of Christ means they will be fueled by love, giving them a passion for unity that always looks out for the other person.

Fighting God's way also means letting go of control, rules and attempts to fix other people, which Pettit described as egocentric weapons that spark fear.

"In parenting seminars I say, 'Teenagers don't create power struggles, parents do,'" Pettit said.

"Our anger and fear levels go up in a family—and a church family—when I try to force you to do something."

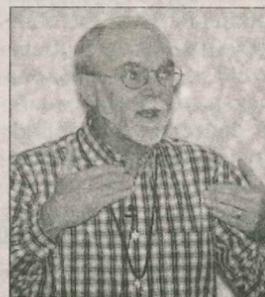
"It's not my job to make you do what you don't want to do. It's my job to teach that you have choices and someone else always determines the consequences."

Pettit said too many people believe that force and determination can prod people to do what God can't make them do.

But that kind of thinking is rooted in a spirit of fear, he said, while 2 Timothy 1:7 says God gives His followers a spirit of power, love and a sound mind.

Instead of trying to force other people to bend to your will, tell them the truth, explain the consequences and then hold your ground, he urged.

"In Christ, the object is to love, not to get results," Pettit said. "This is abandonment to the love of God. The love of God gets the final word."



Steve Pettit

## WESTERNRECORDER

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

**TRENNIS HENDERSON**  
Editor

**THOMAS C. TOWNSEND**  
Marketing & Business  
Manager

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

## The tragedy of uselessness (part 1)

By Frank Page

**Taylor, S.C. (BP)**—Our Lord Jesus has often been called the Great Teacher. For one to be a great teacher means one has developed the skills of communication to an extraordinary level.

Many of us struggle in the area of communication. Sometimes we think we are communicating and then later find we weren't.

Sitting in a hospital waiting room once, I watched a woman helping her son finish a crossword puzzle. "Mom," he asked, "what fits here?" "It's man's best friend," she hinted. The boy thought for a second, and then guessed, "Duct tape?"

Obviously, communication occurred. However, it occurred in a way other than that which was originally intended. Jesus was the greatest of all communicators. His methodology was somewhat different although it was relevant to that culture and that time.

I invite you to join me in a two-part study of Luke 13:1-9—the parable of the fig tree. The story has an interesting background.

One day a certain group came to Jesus, telling Him of a rather gruesome tragedy. To paraphrase, the group said, "Recently, there were some Galileans who were offering sacrifices and under orders from Pilate were ruthlessly put to the sword. The blood of the worshipers and the blood of the beasts they were offering in sacrifice mingled together in one common stream. It was a horrible affair. What ghastly sinners these Galileans must have been in spite of all their religious pretenses! For wherever there is great suffering there is of necessity great sin."

Such was the faith of these men who were talking to Jesus. The same was the faith of the disciples themselves. "Who did sin," they asked one day when they stood face to face with a man who had been born blind, "this man or his parents?" This is the

faith of many people today.

Many have asked me, "Pastor, why is this happening. What have I done to deserve this?" There is an old belief that all suffering is the direct result of sin. But Jesus held no such views.

Christ knew that there is suffering that is not born directly of sin. He knew that there are those who suffer, not because they are evil, but because they are good. Such was the cause behind His own suffering. Had He been less good, He certainly would have suffered less.

There is suffering all around us that is not all directly traceable to the sin of the one who suffers. But it also is true that all sin does eventually result in suffering. The man who had spent the better half of his life flat on his back by the pool of Bethesda was such a case. He was a victim of his own wrongdoing. Jesus makes this plain by the sharp warning He gives him after he is cured. "See, you are well again. Stop sinning or something worse may happen to you" (John 5:14).

Not only do open and vicious acts of wrongdoing result in suffering, but this also is true of the sin of neglect. The man who wastes his substance with riotous living is headed toward disaster. But so is the man who fails in his duty. Such also is the case with those who do nothing at all. It is to illustrate this truth that Jesus tells the story in our parable.

There are certain facts about this fig tree that demand our attention. It was a planted tree. That means that this tree is not a child of chance. It is here because someone planted it there. This is also the case with us. God has a plan for every life. This is a truth that is enforced over and over again throughout the Bible.

The purpose of this fig tree was to bear fruit. It is here to serve. That also is the purpose of you and me being here. The fact that God has put every one of us here for a helpful purpose means that helpfulness is

## FIRST PERSON

## CP gifts and ministry benefits

Thank you, Kentucky Baptists, for a near-record month in January of giving to support missions through the Cooperative Program.

Due to the strong receipts, Cooperative Program giving from September through January exceeded gifts given during the same period last year by \$70,715 (0.7 percent). Gifts to missions in Kentucky and around the world through CP totaled \$2,450,625 during January.

This strong giving was much needed. Without the faithfulness of Kentucky Baptists, missions and ministries would have experienced cutbacks in programs and services.

We need to continue to make progress, however. Although we are grateful to be ahead of last year, we still are behind budget by \$263,963.

Jim Henry, pastor emeritus of First Baptist Church of Orlando, Fla., and his wife, Jeanette, spoke at the recent Pastor/Deacon/Spouse Retreat in Bowling Green. More than 400 participants heard these outstanding servants encourage deacons to

serve the Lord by supporting the pastor and implementing his God-given vision.

## PARTNERS IN THE MISSION



Bill Mackey

Jim is an inspiration to me—in part because of his commitment to missions through the Cooperative Program. Under his leadership, First Baptist, Orlando, reached and exceeded \$1 million annually in CP missions giving.

As I reflected on the gracious and helpful biblical presentations by Jim and Jeanette, I thought about how the faithful missions giving of Kentucky Baptists made this deacon conference possible.

It was just one of several key ministry conferences offered through the KBC Mission Board in January and February. Others included:

- Shepherding the Shepherd, which encouraged 300 pastors and spouses.

- The Baptist Men on Missions Steering Committee meeting, which provides ministry coordination for 50 leaders.

- The Preschool/Children's Ministers Retreat, which provided train-

ing for 98 leaders.

■ The Pastors' Forum, which networked and encouraged dozens of pastors to reignite their passion for evangelism and preaching.

In the coming weeks, other events will focus on other areas of CP-funded ministry:

- The Partnership Missions banquet will celebrate the enthusiasm of short-term missions volunteers.
- The Evangelism Conference will inspire and encourage hundreds of Kentucky Baptists in sharing their faith with others.

All of these ministries and many more throughout the year are provided by your Cooperative Program and other gifts. CP gifts also support incredible ministries such as missions education, higher education, ministries to children and families and more through KBC institutions, agencies and Kentucky Woman's Missionary Union.

Your gifts also stretch far beyond Kentucky, providing support for more than 5,100 international missionaries and 5,000 North American missionaries and their families, plus training for more than 13,000 seminary students.

Bill Mackey is executive director of the Kentucky Baptist Convention

## FAMILY

## True contentment plays vital role in wise stewardship

By Jeremy White

The more I work with clients and consider my own life, the more I realize how financial contentment is so important to wise stewardship. Contentment helps with our spending, avoiding debt and having a God-honoring attitude.

I recently read a story illustrating contentment from a different vantage point.

One day a father of a wealthy family took his son on a trip to the country with the firm purpose of showing his son how poor people can be.

They spent a couple of days and nights on the farm of what would be considered a very poor family. On their return from the trip, the father asked his son, "How was the trip?"

"It was great, Dad."

"Did you see how poor people can be?" the father asked.

"Oh yeah," said the son.

"So what did you learn from the trip?" asked the father.

The son answered: "I saw that we have one dog and they have four. We have a pool that reaches to the middle of our garden, and they have a creek that has no end. We have imported lanterns in our garden and they have stars at night. Our patio reaches to the front yard, and they have the whole horizon."

"We have a small piece of land to live on and they have fields that go beyond sight. We buy our food, but they grow theirs. We have walls around our property to protect us, but they have their friends to protect them."

With this, the boy's father was speechless.

Then his son added, "Thanks, Dad, for showing me how poor we are."

Too many times we forget what we have and concentrate on what we don't have. What is one person's worthless object is another's prized possession. It is all based on one's perspective.

Paul declares in the New Testament, "Not that I speak from want; for I have learned to be content in whatever circumstances I am." We came into the world with nothing and that's the way we'll leave.

Give thanks to God for all the bounty you have been provided by Him, instead of worrying about wanting more. Take joy in all He has given—and be content with that.

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

## Spurgeon's work gives insight about sensing call to ministry

**Q: Our teenage son is beginning to sense that God may be calling him into the ministry. How can we help him in this process of discernment?**

Charles Haddon Spurgeon, in a book titled "Lectures to My Students," once outlined five ways to know if one is called into ministry. While the Bible reminds us that every Christian is called to holiness, some are called into specific vocational ministries. The five indicators of an authentic call cited by Spurgeon are:

### PARENTING

**Desire.** Psalm 37:4 says, "Delight yourself in the Lord and He will give you the desires of your heart." If your son is delighting himself in God, then God's desires will become his.

**Ability.** Your son will be gifted for the type of ministry to which he is called. Perhaps he will be given the ability to preach. Maybe he will be given the ability to lead worship or to demonstrate giftedness in other areas of ministry.

**Opportunity.** When God gives passion and ability, He also provides opportunities to serve. These opportunities will present themselves as doors through which to walk.

**Blessing.** If your son is given opportunities to preach, for example, he regularly will see people being moved by his preaching.

**The opinion of others.** Discerning God's call may best be experienced within the community of believers, especially when one is seeking counsel from the great saints of God. When one will be wise to seek out the wise, godly men and women in your church and community so that he can benefit from their wisdom.—Scott Wigginton

**Q: My wife and I have an adult son who is addicted to drugs and alcohol. What should we do to help him?**

It is great that you are reaching out by asking this question. People often struggle with this "family secret" and nothing positive comes from that secrecy. Neglected too long, such secrets can result in financial, emotional and even life-and-death disasters that can be prevented by seeking help.

My first question is: Do you know how you feel about your child's behavior? Sometimes parents are so enmeshed with their child's feelings they are not aware of their own.

My second question is: How is your son's behavior affecting you as parents? Often a parent will suffer the consequences for a child's behavior because it is too painful to watch a child suffer the consequences for himself. For example, if your child has a conviction for driving under the influence, do you go out of your way to get him to his required alcohol education classes? Or do you let him suffer the consequences of his behavior, and find a taxi? Too often, parents, while intending to shield the child from pain, are shielding the child from the opportunity to grow and learn from natural consequences. All our lives we are trained to be helpful, and the urge is especially strong in one's nuclear family. But when that helpfulness shields the addicted person from the consequences of behavior, we do more harm than good. Our enabling unwittingly encourages the addict's negative behavior.

Recovery takes time. It is likely that your son needs to attend AA meetings, and you would do well to attend al-anon meetings. Still, you might find that not to be enough. One program that goes deeper is the Morton Center's Parents of Addicted Adults Program. The contact number is (502) 451-1221.

Addiction is a complicated physical/mental/psychosocial/spiritual phenomenon that must be addressed on several fronts. In the meantime, soak yourself in wisdom from the book of Proverbs and other sources. Surround yourself with support from counselors and trusted friends. Allow God to bring healing not only to your son, but to your entire family, and you can have hope for a brighter tomorrow.—James Stillwell

Family Forum writers are:

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

**James Stillwell**, minister to singles at Emmanuel 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.



## Increasing baptisms in Kentucky (part 2)

As I was writing last week's editorial about seeking ways to "significantly increase baptisms in Kentucky," I ran out of space long before I was able to address all the issues raised during the recent Kentucky Baptist Convention staff retreat. As a result, I'd like to tackle that crucial topic once again before we move on to other concerns.

Why is the issue of increased baptisms so pertinent in Kentucky Baptist life today? According to Eric Allen, director of the KBC's mission service and ministries department, "We have seen baptisms level off in recent years. What that represents is the number of people coming to know Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior has not increased."

Citing the "Kentucky Baptists Connect" goal to "encourage each church, as led by the Holy Spirit, to increase its baptisms by at least one each year," Allen emphasized that challenge is rooted in the Great Commission.

Recounting Jesus' words in Matthew 28:18-20, he added, "We have a mandate to baptize people, to bring them to Jesus Christ."

Alan Witham, the KBC's church development strategist coordinator, addressed the question, "Why have a discussion on how to increase baptisms?"

"The very issue was of utmost importance to Jesus," he pointed out. "He was willing to walk over 60 miles to submit to His own baptism. ... This should be important to us because it was important to our Lord."

Acknowledging that it's easy for an emphasis on baptism to seem like an end in itself, Witham said the key is remembering that a call for increased baptisms primarily is a call for more people to accept Jesus Christ as their personal Savior.

Chris Platt, teaching pastor at Crestwood Baptist Church in Oldham County, encouraged staff members to pursue relational evangelism.

"Teach people to communicate their faith in a

style that fits them," he urged. "Be yourself. God has created you to be you."

"We need to get it into the DNA of the church if we're going to increase baptisms in Kentucky," Platt declared. "For me, it's having the courage to make the big ask: Just ask someone, 'What is holding you back to make that decision for Christ?'"

Bob Hummel, the KBC's maintenance specialist, noted that "there are times people won't be receptive to the gospel, but it's up to you to be faithful. ... This is about getting Jesus to the people. After we bring them to Jesus, the baptisms will come."

"We can be useful to the Lord's plan and Kingdom if we are just faithful to the things He wants us to do," Hummel told fellow staff

members. "If you are walking with Jesus, there is no greater joy than to lead another person into the Kingdom. ... When we're walking in Him, we can't lose."

In addition to the baptism statistics and Scripture passages I referenced last week, the retreat also featured a prayer time focused on individual believers renewing our commitment both personally and professionally to help increase baptisms.

Among challenges shared during the prayer emphasis were:

- Ask God to impress upon you the penalty of being lost.

- Ask the Lord to send the Holy Spirit in great power to convict non-Christians of their sin and lostness.

- Ask God to enlarge the evangelistic vision of your church and to equip witnesses in it.

- Ask God to increase your skill and sensitivity in witnessing.

Well, I've succeeded once again in running out of space on this pivotal issue. Suffice it to say that we all are called to help fulfill Christ's Great Commission. As we do, it seems certain that increased baptisms will result.

### STRAIGHT FROM THE EDITOR



Tannis Henderson

## Don't blame religion for all the world's ills

By Gregory Koukl  
Religion News Service

**Signal Hill, Calif.** (RNS)—It's easy to characterize religion as a blood-thirsty enterprise. History seems to be strewn with the wreckage of witch hunts, crusades and religious jihad.

"New atheists" such as "Letter to a Christian Nation" author Sam Harris and "The God Delusion" author Richard Dawkins seem to blame religion—particularly Christianity—for all the world's ills. But nothing could be further from the truth.

Many conflicts that appear at first glance to be religious in nature are actually political or cultural wars that divide along religious lines. The strife in Northern Ireland is not a theological dispute about Catholicism vs. Protestantism per se, but rather a cultural power struggle between two groups of people. In a similar way, much of the conflict in Eastern Europe and the Middle East is the result of ethnic hostilities, not genuine religious differences.

The Crusades, the Inquisition, some of the religious wars of the Reformation and the Salem witch trials, on the other hand, were more theological. Even so, the record is not as grim as many make it.

Thousands of witches were not burned at the stake; the Salem witch trials resulted in 19 executions before they were stopped by Christians. The Spanish Inquisition involved

thousands and the Crusades tens of thousands, not millions.

Of course, it's tragic when even a handful of innocent lives are taken. Injustice isn't justified because the numbers diminish. But an accurate accounting does serve to put things in perspective, especially when you consider the alternative: Has atheism fared any better?

The simple fact of history is that the greatest evil has resulted from the denial of God, not the pursuit of God. Conservative columnist Dennis Prager has noted, "In this (20th) century alone, more innocent people have been murdered, tortured and enslaved by secular ideologies—Nazism and communism—than by all religions in history."

Grab an older copy of the Guinness Book of World Records and turn to the category "Judicial," sub-heading "Crimes: Mass Killings." You'll find that carnage of unimaginable proportions resulted not from religion, but from institutionalized atheism.

Guinness reports, "The greatest massacre ever imputed by the government of one sovereign against another is the 26.3 million Chinese killed during the regime of Mao Zedong between 1949 and May 1965."

In the former Soviet Union, Nobel Prize winner Alexander Solzhenitsyn estimated that state repression and terrorism took more than 66 million lives from 1917 to 1959 un-

der Lenin, Stalin and Khrushchev.

The worst per capita genocide happened in Cambodia under the Khmer Rouge. According to Guinness, "More than one-third of the 8 million Khmers were killed between April 17, 1975 and January 1979."

The greatest evil does not result from people zealous for God. It results when people are convinced there is no God to whom they must answer.

Nothing in Christian teaching mandates forcible conversion to the faith or coerced adherence to biblical doctrines. The teachings of Christ do not lead logically to wanton bloodshed. In fact, Christ and His followers have been the greatest force for good in the history of the world.

Consider William Wilberforce, who helped abolish slavery in England and the British Commonwealth 200 years ago; Mother Teresa, who ministered to the poor people of Calcutta; and William Booth, who worked tirelessly to alleviate human suffering with the Salvation Army.

The list goes on and on. And for every well-known servant of Christ to the poor and downtrodden, there have been millions more who served quietly, unnamed and unnoticed.

This is Christianity's real record—not a history of evil, violence and debauchery, but a legacy of radical transformation for good.

Gregory Koukl is the founder and president of Stand to Reason, an organization devoted to the defense of classical Christian values in the public square.

# Stretching out a helping hand

*Missions offering equips Arkansas missionary to bring others into service*

By Mickey Noah  
SBC North American Mission Board

Little Rock, Ark.—When the Southern Baptist North American Mission Board and the Arkansas Baptist State Convention appointed Diana Lewis as Arkansas' state ministry evangelism director almost 15 years ago, it was something akin to throwing the wily rabbit into the proverbial briar patch.

A native of Springdale, Ark., the Ouachita Baptist University and Southern Baptist Theological Seminary graduate knows all too well the bittersweet taste of Arkansas.

"I am a missionary in Arkansas, my home state, so it's a lot of fun for me," Lewis explains. "I get to travel all over my home state and work with churches that are conducting ministries in the local mission fields.

"Arkansas' nickname is 'The Natural State.' We have lots of beautiful state parks, lakes, rivers, mountains and farmland. We go from the Delta to the edge of the Ozark Mountains. It's a very, very beautiful state."

But Lewis would also be the first to tell you about the less attractive, more depressing parts and pictures of Arkansas that aren't played up in the glossy state Chamber of Commerce brochures.

In these areas, kids go without food. Senior adults choose between eating and purchasing their prescriptions. Students lack school supplies and warm coats.

"In Arkansas, there are some counties—at least three—where over half of the children live in poverty," Lewis said. "Statewide, about a fourth of the children and senior adults live in poverty. This requires ... many ministries to help these poverty-stricken people."

Lewis is one of 5,300 missionaries in the United States, Canada and their territories supported by the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering for North American Missions. This year's Week of Prayer for North American missions is March 4-11.



"HI THERE" Southern Baptist North American missionary Diana Lewis (left) visits with Chastity Stephens and her baby, Cassie. Mother and daughter receive services and other support from Mercy Pregnancy Resource Center located south of Little Rock, Ark. Lewis is the state ministry evangelism director for the Arkansas Baptist State Convention. In her role, she helps Arkansas Baptists find ways to minister to people in their communities. (Photos by William Pope)

The 2007 Annie Armstrong Easter Offering goal is \$57 million; 100 percent of the proceeds are used to support or assist missionaries such as Lewis.

## Statewide mission fields

"Much of my work as a missionary is traveling all over the state—helping, encouraging and telling our churches about the mission fields right here in Arkansas," Lewis said.

She spends much of her time on the Southern Baptist project, "Mississippi River Ministry," which started in 1992 following a government study of communities and families along the lower Mississippi River.

"This study pointed out the tremendous poverty along both sides of the Mississippi River, so we began this project to call attention to this huge mission field right in the midst of where we live," Lewis said.

Proverbs 22:2 is one of Lewis' fa-

vorite verses: "The rich and the poor have a common bond, the Lord is the maker of them all."

"I love that verse because it reminds me that we have a lot more in common with people who are in poverty than we think we do. We're all God's children."

Tiny Dixonville in central Arkansas is one such poor, backwoods hamlet in which Lewis and her Baptist mission teams have ministered for 16 years.

"We have mission volunteers who come and work at Dixonville ... helping with the children, the women or entire families," Lewis said. "One of the favorite parts of my work as a missionary has been getting to work with the children in places like Dixonville. I love going to camp each summer ... during vacation Bible school and telling them about Jesus. We hold Bible studies with their mothers. They're like family to me because I've known them so long."

Although needs are great among this population, Lewis said it is important for Southern Baptists to realize that everyone, no matter their income, can contribute in some way to God's Kingdom.

"Poor people have many strengths to share," she said. "We shouldn't measure people by money. The people I've come to know, like those in Dixonville, live in poverty but have many strengths—in family, in endurance and in character."

Phillips County, where the community of Helena is located, is the poorest county in Arkansas.

Two years ago, with Lewis' support, Mercy Pregnancy Resource Center was launched in an old house in Helena. It provides services to low-income mothers before their babies are born and after. The center also provides women information on local adoption services.

Mandy Chaney is executive director of the center. "The teen pregnancy rate here is so high, the highest in the entire state of Arkansas," she said.

The center uses an "Earn While You Learn" system that awards clients tokens for keeping appointments, attending classes, watching educational videos, meeting with mentors and completing other tasks. Tokens are used to "buy" baby clothes, maternity clothes, diapers and other necessities from the center's "baby boutique."

## Answered prayers

"When this ministry first came to my heart, I didn't know what to do about it," Chaney said. "The North American Mission Board and the state convention told us to talk to Diana. She told us that she had been praying three years for God to raise someone up in the Arkansas Delta for a ministry just like this."

Lewis says she loves to see believers sitting in the pews, wondering how God can use them, and finally realizing that He can.

"Maybe they know how to cut hair or swing a hammer. Maybe they're a professional—a doctor, dentist or nurse who can provide free healthcare. What I love most is to see people get so excited when they discover how God can use them in ministry."

The Annie Armstrong Easter Offering provides resources to allow Lewis to help individuals and entire congregations find various venues in which to serve.

Southern Baptists "make it possible for me to get into my car and go wherever I need to go in Arkansas to encourage a church's ministry or provide them with the resources they need to start a new ministry," Lewis said.



**The Week of Prayer for North American Missions is March 4-11. The national goal for this year's Annie Armstrong Easter Offering is \$57 million.**

## STATEWIDE IMPACT

Diana Lewis (back), state ministry evangelism director for the Arkansas Baptist State Convention, looks over a map of the state with co-worker Oleta Raines. Lewis' ministry is supported, in part, by the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering for North American Missions.



## Three Baptist volunteers killed in accidents in Arkansas, Honduras

Ravenden, Ark.—Three Baptist volunteers were killed this month in two separate accidents in Arkansas and Honduras.

Roger Glenn Loyd, an Arkansas Baptist disaster relief volunteer was killed and two others were injured in an automobile accident while returning home Feb. 3 from aiding victims of a Missouri ice storm.

Perry Goad and Ric Mason, members of Tabernacle Baptist Church in Cartersville, Ga., died Feb. 6 in a remote area of Honduras after the truck they were riding in flipped over. Martha Fuller, a member of First United Methodist Church in Newnan, Ga., also died in the accident.

Loyd, 47, died at a hospital in Walnut Ridge, Ark., from injuries he received in the accident that occurred near Ravenden, Ark. He was a member of Calvary Baptist Church in Osceola, Ark.

Also injured in the accident were Richard Roberts, pastor of Yarbrow Baptist Church in Blytheville, Ark., and Scottie Pardue, a member of Roberts' church. All three were part of the Mississippi County Baptist Association's disaster relief unit.

According to Bill Cantrell, disaster relief coordinator for the Arkansas Baptist State Convention, the accident occurred on U.S. Highway 63 after Roberts, who was driving, lost control of the vehicle.

"Glenn was a dynamic guy," Cantrell said. "He had a great heart and wanted to help others in need."

Loyd served as a chaplain and a volunteer for the Mississippi County disaster relief group, Cantrell noted. He said Loyd recently had ministered in New Orleans with the Arkansas Baptist Builders. Noting that Loyd used all of his five-week vacation last year to help with disaster relief, Cantrell said, "I wish I had 100 other men like him serving in disaster relief."

In the other accident, Mason, 58, and Goad, 46, were part of a group of 28 volunteers working through Honduras Outreach International, a non-profit organization based in Decatur, Ga.

Two other members of Tabernacle Baptist, David Apple, 52, and Cary Roth, 33, were injured in the accident. Apple suffered a separated shoulder and Roth sustained knee injuries.

"Both of these guys were the type to be involved," Tabernacle Pastor Don Hattaway said of Mason and Goad. "They were the ones who get out there and do the work. They will be greatly missed by their church and their families. They had a passion for missions and epitomized going into the world to preach the gospel."

*Compiled from reporting by Associated Baptist Press and Baptist Press*

### THE BAPTIST HERITAGE LECTURE SERIES AT

## Campbellsville UNIVERSITY

INVITES THE PUBLIC TO HEAR  
NOTED BAPTIST HISTORIAN

## CAROLYN BLEVINS



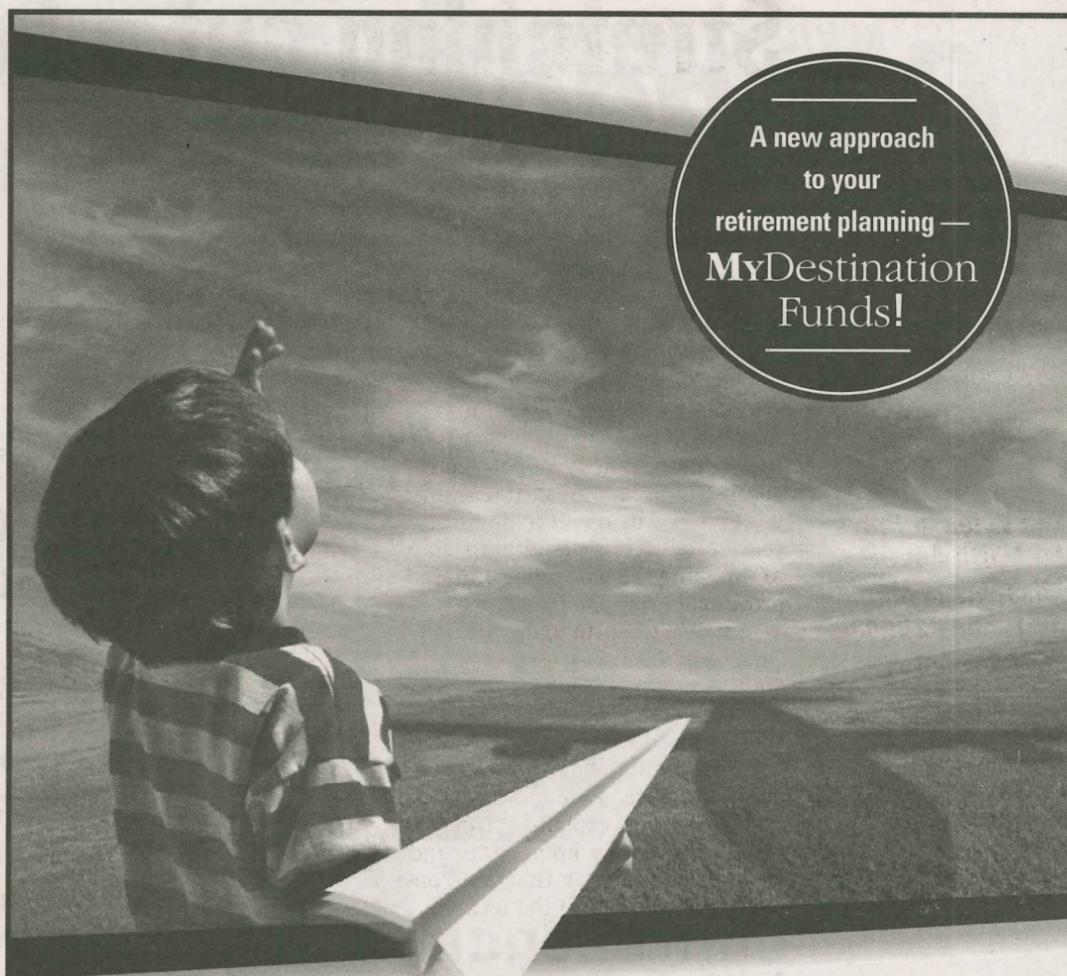
FEBRUARY 26, 2007  
MONDAY EVENING, 7 P.M.  
AT CAMPBELLVILLE UNIVERSITY'S LITTLE AUDITORIUM

PROFESSOR BLEVINS' SUBJECT IS  
"BAPTIST WOMEN IN MISSIONS AND MINISTRY"

THE MISSION OF CU'S BAPTIST HERITAGE LECTURE SERIES IS TO PROMOTE THE STUDY, DISCUSSION AND RESEARCH OF BAPTIST HISTORICAL EVENTS, THEOLOGICAL DISTINCTIVES, TRADITIONS AND LEADERS THAT ARE UNIQUE AND ESSENTIAL TO UNDERSTANDING WHO BAPTISTS ARE.

For information about The Baptist Heritage Lecture Series at Campbellsville University contact John Chowning, at 1-270-789-5520 or at [jchowning@campbellsville.edu](mailto:jchowning@campbellsville.edu).

[WWW.CAMPBELLVILLE.EDU](http://WWW.CAMPBELLVILLE.EDU)



A new approach  
to your  
retirement planning —  
**MyDestination  
Funds!**

"Well done..."

MATTHEW 25:21

### GuideStone offers a simple, one-choice retirement path.

Looking for a new direction in retirement planning? If so, GuideStone has a new option — MyDestination Funds. With the launch of the five MyDestination Funds, GuideStone Financial Resources is making available a single fund retirement solution.

The path is easy. Decide when you want to retire and pick the fund closest to your target retirement date. Then, make consistent and appropriate retirement contributions throughout your career with the goal of arriving at retirement prepared to start the next phase of your journey.

Call 1-888-98-GUIDE today to learn more about MyDestination Funds.

### WHERE DO YOU WANT TO GO?

Visit our Web site, [www.GuideStone.org/MyDestination](http://www.GuideStone.org/MyDestination), and discover how GuideStone can help you determine your route to retirement.

By investing in MyDestination Funds, you will incur the expenses of the funds in addition to the underlying Select Funds. You may invest in the Select Funds directly, except the Global Bond Fund.

You should carefully consider the investment objectives, risks, charges and expenses of GuideStone Funds before investing. For a copy of the prospectus with this and other information about the funds, please call 1-888-98-GUIDE (1-888-984-8433) or visit [www.GuideStone.org](http://www.GuideStone.org) to view or download a prospectus. You should read the prospectus carefully before investing.

PFPC Distributors, Inc., King of Prussia, PA.

© 2006 GuideStone Financial Resources

  
**GuideStone**<sup>®</sup>  
Financial Resources  
of the Southern Baptist Convention

Do well. Do right.<sup>™</sup>

11178

12/06

ENDURING INSTITUTION • SOLUTIONS FOR YOUR CHALLENGES  
SUCCESSFUL TRACK RECORD • INVESTMENTS GUIDED BY VALUES



# Kentucky Baptist Evangelism Conference

## February 26-27, 2007

Monday, February 26

10 am-Noon CST · Vocational Evangelists Pre-Conference

1:00 pm-9:15pm CST · Conference Sessions

Tuesday, February 27

8:30 am-8:30pm CST · Conference Sessions

### Eastwood Baptist Church

500 Eastwood Avenue · Bowling Green

Church phone: 270-842-7867

**FREE**  
conference!  
No registration  
necessary!

get  
connected-stay  
connected

Childcare available for children birth through preschool. Call Wendy Dever at 502-489-3357 or 866-489-3357 for reservations.

### conference leaders

#### Directions to Eastwood Baptist

From I-65S: take exit #26, turn right onto Cemetery Road, left on Greenlawn, right on Eastwood.

From I-65N: take exit #26, turn left onto Cemetery Road, left on Greenlawn, right on Eastwood.

Church address: 500 Eastwood Ave.

#### Accommodations

The two Bowling Green hotels listed below have rooms blocked for the Kentucky Baptist State Evangelism Conference. When making lodging reservations, mention the KBC and verify special rates.

#### Holiday Inn University Plaza

1021 Wilkinson Trace  
800-HOLIDAY or 270-745-0088  
Rate: \$89 + tax

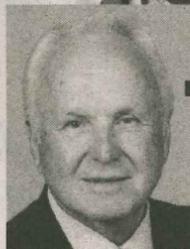
#### Courtyard by Marriott

1010 Wilkinson Trace  
800-329-0955 or 270-783-8569  
Rate: \$89 + tax



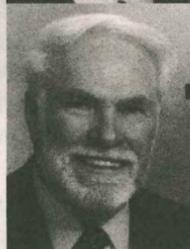
#### Mike Licona

Director of Apologetics & Interfaith Evangelism, North American Mission Board, Atlanta, Georgia



#### Charles Carter

Pastor Emeritus, Shades Mountain Baptist Church, Birmingham, Alabama



#### Bill Wagner

Professor of World Missions, Golden Gate Seminary, Mill Valley, California



#### Richard Gaines

Pastor, Consolidated Baptist Church, Lexington, Kentucky



#### Ted Traylor

Pastor, Olive Baptist Church, Pensacola, Florida



#### Don Wilton

Senior Pastor, First Baptist Church, Spartanburg, South Carolina; President, South Carolina Baptist Convention



#### Jeff LaBorg

Senior Pastor, College Heights Baptist Church, Gallatin, Tennessee



#### Raul Vazquez

Retired Director, Language Division, Florida Baptist Convention



#### Dean Haun

Senior Pastor, First Baptist Church, Jonesboro, Georgia



#### Charles Roesel

Pastor Emeritus, First Baptist Church, Leesburg, Florida

Also featuring special breakout session and lunch for women!

Tuesday, February 27 · 9:30am-1:30pm CST · Cost: \$10

Featured Lunch Speaker: Carol Kent

Register online at [www.kybaptist.org/ecwomen](http://www.kybaptist.org/ecwomen)

For more information call 502.489.3387 or 866.489.3387



502.489.3571 · 866.489.3571 (toll free in KY) · [www.kybaptist.org/evanconf](http://www.kybaptist.org/evanconf)



This event is sponsored by the Evangelism Growth Team of the Kentucky Baptist Convention and is made possible by your gifts to the Cooperative Program.

# Special Needs Ministry Step 1: Church heart check

Continued from page 1

rent ministries, provide information for newcomers, and brainstorm ways to share the gospel and Christ's love with everyone.

Carlton McDaniel, special education specialist with LifeWay Christian Resources, will be the guest

speaker. McDaniel said Southern Baptists across the nation—had some type of opportunity to minister to families in great need. He said the divorce rate for couples with special needs children is in the 80th percentile—as high as that of couples in high-risk jobs such as law enforcement.

## Unmet needs keep families home

In 2002, the U.S. Census Bureau reported that one in five Americans age 5 or older—19 percent of the population—had some type of disability.

A 2005 survey by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention found that disabilities limit the activities of approximately 23 percent of all Kentuckians, according to a recent article in the Louisville Courier-Journal.

Tim Holmes, associate pastor of education at Hillvue Heights Church in Bowling Green, said he has read research that estimates only 5 percent of U.S. churches have programming for special needs children and adults.

"That's a huge indictment against the church," he noted.

McDaniel previously served on a state Baptist convention staff. One year he surveyed that state's nearly 4,000 churches and confirmed only 160 special needs ministries. That gap in ministry exists across the country, he added.

Without a comprehensive study, McDaniel is reluctant to estimate how many U.S. families stay away from church because they cannot find a congregation that accommo-

dates their special needs child. Some ministry specialists estimate it could be as high as 85 to 90 percent.

Jeff and Janna Goodyear of Louisville understand this reality. Their son, William, 16, has Angelman Syndrome. Their younger child, Paul, is 11.



"Families go to church together," said Goodyear, children's minister for Highview Baptist Church. "If you have one child with special needs (who isn't being served), it usually puts the whole family out of church."

That reality is the same for the special needs students Mrs. Goodyear teaches during the 10:30 a.m. Sunday school hour at Highview's Fegenbush Lane campus.

Specialists and ministers agree that "Special Needs" is a big umbrella for a wide variety of disorders, syndromes, diseases and conditions.

"It's not an easy work (and) it's not so cut and dried," Dever said. If a congregation decides there is a place for everyone in its church, and knows a family in need, the first thing to do is to get to know them well.

"Talk to them and find out their needs and figure out where the best fit is," Mrs. Goodyear suggested.

Mobility, communication skills, medications, cognitive abilities and methods of motivation for a child or adult with special needs are among vital insights.

Dever said she seeks to help churches ask the right questions. "I serve as the person to help them think through all this."

Many special needs ministry experts encourage churches to invite parents to share information from their child's public school teacher. A student's Individual Education Plan can help church leaders develop a similar plan for Sunday school, Dever noted.



**HELP FROM MOM** William Goodyear gets help with a Sunday school project from his mother and teacher, Janna.

Armed with information, church leaders might be surprised to learn that the child or adult with special needs can be served through an existing class.

"When kids are little, they usually can be mainstreamed," Mrs. Goodyear said. As a child, William went to Bible study and children's choir with his peers.

"The kids were good to him," Mrs. Goodyear added, "and it helps a typical kid realize, 'Not everybody's like me.'"

When William reached middle school, his mother realized that he no longer could participate during teaching time.

"Because of William's cognitive disabilities, he still liked 'kid' things," she explained. "Most classes have a new study each week. ... Special needs kids weren't remembering what was said last week."

Mrs. Goodyear decided to start a class for those students, developing a teaching style and materials applicable to her students' cognitive abilities "so they can learn something about God's love."

Instead of a new Bible verse or lesson each week, Mrs. Goodyear and her co-teacher, Sheri Mock, focus on one verse each month. They use crafts, drama, music and other ways to illustrate the verse.

On a typical Sunday, the two teachers work with three or four students, a teacher-student ratio excessive for most classes but required for special needs.

"It is as intense an investment with three students as it would be for 30," McDaniel said.

Another option in ministering to people with special needs is the "angel" or "buddy" system that pairs a trained volunteer with a child or adult. The buddy accompanies the special needs individual to Sunday school, worship and other activities, helping him or her relate appropriately to others, assisting the student with classroom activities and meeting physical needs.

Dever said the KBC can help congregations train volunteers as buddies, and provide other assistance and advice about classroom set-up, facility changes and other issues.

## Serving "with," not "for"

Holmes said Hillvue Heights' special needs ministry has transformed itself during the past five years. PALS is an acronym for Players Assisting Loving and Serving, he said, "but it's not us doing the 'assisting, loving and serving.' We're the ones being taught." They are taught by their students, he said.

One "teacher" is Holmes' 8-year-old daughter, Abigail, who has Weaver Syndrome. "She's person number 33 on the planet with this," he said.

No one in Abby's presence ever is left out of activities or fellowship, Holmes said, adding that she embodies PALS' motto: "Making a Way for All to Play."

Hillvue Heights "has a very inclusive atmosphere," Holmes added. When he wanted to hire special needs teens and adults as interns or church support staff, he said church leaders responded, "Sure, man. Want some help?"

By reaching out to local support agencies, and recruiting people with special needs to serve in the church, Holmes said the door flew open to meet more people in the community and invite them to Hillvue.

The specialists and ministers agree that a ministry to children and adults with special needs cannot be a one-person crusade.

"A church needs to decide that we are doing this," Dever emphasized.

A team of volunteers provides prayer support, direct care and supervision for PALS, Holmes said. Although PALS is well organized and supervised, it isn't designed to separate special needs people from the rest of the congregation. "Our goal is to integrate kids into another class as you see in a school," Holmes said.

Another goal is to involve the students in the broader gospel ministry of the church. For some it could be helping manage the facility. For others it could be hospitality, music or other ministries.

"It's not just a ministry for or to people with disabilities," Holmes said. "It's a ministry with them."

## Learn more about special needs ministry at Feb. 17 KBC conference

There still is time to be part of the Feb. 17 special needs conference at the Kentucky Baptist Convention building in Louisville. The event begins at 10 a.m. For details, call (866) 489-3575 or contact Wendy Dever by e-mail at [wendy.dever@kybaptist.org](mailto:wendy.dever@kybaptist.org).

## Recommended resources:

■ ACCESS is a special needs curriculum for children and adults available through LifeWay Christian Resources. Learn more at [www.lifeway.com](http://www.lifeway.com).

■ "Special Needs, Special Ministry" has insights from several contributing authors, case studies and practical information on liability and facilities. Checklists and other forms can be copied from the text.

■ "Exceptional Teaching" by Jim Pierson provides insight into different types of disabilities and how teachers can develop a teaching style that meets the needs of their students.

■ In addition to Bible study materials, Friendship Ministries has resources to equip ministry leaders to recruit volunteers, train mentors and write budgets. Visit [www.friendship.org](http://www.friendship.org).

## A Great Commission Prayer Conference

...equipping believers to renew a personal passion to pray and to assist leaders in developing creative evangelistic prayer strategies to touch the world.

March 30-31, 2007 featuring

The Southern Baptist  
Theological Seminary  
Louisville, Kentucky



**Richard Blackaby**  
Plenary Speaker  
Author and President,  
Blackaby Ministries International

Also featuring Marshall Kellum, John Franklin,  
Chris Schofield, Rick Astle, Carolyn Fuqua,  
Randy Spinkle, David McCollum, Bud Fray,  
Tim Beougher, Robertson McQuilken...and Others!

Cost is only \$35 per person!  
(includes all materials and Saturday lunch)  
After March 16, fee is \$50 per participant.



This event is jointly sponsored by the Kentucky Baptist Convention and The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary and is made possible through the Cooperative Program.

Register online at  
[www.kybaptist.org/hearinggod](http://www.kybaptist.org/hearinggod)

For more information phone 502-489-3530  
or toll free in KY 866-489-3530  
or e-mail [Eric.Allen@kybaptist.org](mailto:Eric.Allen@kybaptist.org)

**"The measure of effective prayer is whether people are walking in communion with God and growing in their contentment with God."**

Church consultant  
Ted Elmore

## Variety, discipline strengthen prayer ministry

By Ken Camp  
Texas Baptist Standard

Dallas (ABP)—Baptists understand numbers. That's how they measure baptisms, Bible study attendance, offerings and building campaigns.

But when it comes to prayer, Baptists seem less certain about how to measure the effectiveness of prayer ministries.

Counting the number of people signed up for an intercessory prayer ministry or listing answers to prayers can provide some means of charting progress, but those are secondary standards of measurement, said Ted Elmore, a member of 121 Community Church in Grapevine, Texas, who works as a church consultant.

"How many people are delighting in God? By praying, we learn communion with God," he said. "We may not get answers to our questions, but we become a people who are contented with God. The measure of effective prayer is whether people are walking in communion with God and growing in their contentment with God."

### Sincere attitudes & actions

Church members' deeper walk with God is demonstrated through attitudes and actions, he added, noting that praying people are eager to serve, willing to forgive and full of grace.

Deirdre LaNoue, a Baptist historian and former professor of spiritual formation at Mount St. Joseph's College in Cincinnati, agreed.

"Jesus told us that the greatest commandments in all the law are to love God with all that we are and to love others as much as we love ourselves," LaNoue said. "If those partic-

ipating (in prayer) are being drawn into a deeper love for God and if people are being truly loved and served, I think these are clues that the prayer ministry is effective, although I grant that this can be hard to measure."

Small groups provide the best place to gauge the prayer life of members, Elmore stressed.

"Effectiveness is best measured in small groups where people agree to be held accountable in covenant with one another," he said. "That's where you get a sense of the spiritual growth of one another."

Betty Talbert, director of spiritual formation at Baylor University's Truett Theological Seminary, also cited the importance of small groups.

"The group should be certain about its purpose and consist of no more than 12 members. Ten is better. Eight is perfect," Talbert said. Members should pledge confidentiality and agree to be faithful in attendance, she added.

When small groups within a larger fellowship focus on prayer, pride becomes a potential pitfall—along with the perception that the small group is "holier-than-thou," LaNoue cautioned.

"The danger of pious pride is a deadly one," she said. "I think the best antidote for it is making sure the leadership constantly teaches and trains on the idea that prayer is a means of service. I don't think we teach enough on the virtues. Certainly humility and generosity are key. I think we should be watchful of our attitudes and anything else that can cause division in the body."

Leaders can help the church as a whole develop a closer connection to

prayer-based small groups, Talbert added. For instance, a pastor can lead a worship service celebrating the decision of members who have committed to spiritual growth through involvement in small groups. As a part of the service, the pastor could invite the whole congregation to pray for those members.

Church leaders also can promote harmony by working to enlist new people in the prayer groups.

"Be certain that all members feel welcome to join groups at any time," she said. "If everyone is always welcome, no feeling of superiority develops inside or outside the group."

### Avoid cookie-cutter approach

Baptists typically have focused almost exclusively on intercessory prayer, but they can grow spiritually by focusing on different types of prayer, Talbert noted.

"Try new prayers. Let some folks do contemplative prayers. Let others do prayers of adoration using Psalms as their text," she suggested. "Ask folks to use journals and write their prayers or write answers to prayers."

"We are not meant to be cookie-cutter Christians," LaNoue emphasized. "I think our unique temperaments tend to dictate the ways we are most comfortable relating to God. But this doesn't mean we shouldn't stretch ourselves and try to keep the relationship fresh and creative by utilizing a variety of disciplines."

## LifeWay removes pro-gay titles from online bookstore

Nashville (ABP)—LifeWay Christian Resources has removed a number of pro-gay titles from its online store, LifeWaystores.com, after staff members became aware of the books' availability.

EthicsDaily.com reported Jan. 29 that LifeWay had several authors listed on the site who promoted a "pro-homosexual" agenda. EthicsDaily is a news service of the Nashville-based Baptist Center for Ethics.

LifeWay was informed about the books and took prompt action to remove them, according to Mark Scott, vice president of the Christian stores division of LifeWay. "We were unaware of these and removed the titles immediately," Scott said in a prepared statement.

Scott also said LifeWay is "enhancing its efforts to ensure that questionable books are filtered out of a massive list of titles available online through its third-party distributor."

LifeWaystores.com will also soon provide "Reading with Discernment" tags on certain titles that are requested for scholarly study but may not be deemed appropriate for a broader Christian audience.



**LifeWay CHURCH BUSES**

Buses provided for LifeWay by  
Carpenter Bus Sales

1-800-370-6180 • carpenterbus.com

## Leading Small Groups?

What influences faith development in adults? How do small groups function? Why do some small groups bond and others melt away? What are effective techniques and approaches for teaching small groups?

Why not register for the online course series in Small Group Leadership? Each of the three 4-week courses is highly interactive and provides opportunities for online discussion with the facilitator and other study participants. Facilitators have extensive experience in small group leadership.

• Courses begin Jan. 15, Feb. 26, & Apr. 9

Registration: \$150 per course  
(Scholarships are available to cover 50% of registration fees).

Visit [www.btsr.edu/scm](http://www.btsr.edu/scm), or call 1-888-339-2877.



**GET  
Missions Informed and  
Missions Motivated  
at  
MISSIONSFEST 2007**  
Saturday, March 17 9:00 A.M. - 3:00 P.M.  
Clear Creek Baptist Bible College



Interact with missionaries from around the world at exhibit booths. International, North American, State, and Local Missions will be represented.

### Available Conferences:

Urban Missions Homeless Shelter / Rescue Missions  
Cults Awareness KBC Partnership Missions  
How to Pray for Missionaries  
Leadership Training for RA's, GA's and Mission Friends.

### Other Activities for:

Pre-Schoolers, Grades K-6, Youth Grades 7-12

### REGISTRATION INFORMATION:

INTERNET: <http://www.cbbbc.edu/missionsfest07>

MAIL: Clear Creek Baptist Bible College

300 Clear Creek Road Pineville, KY 40977

PHONE: 1-866-340-3196 (Local 606-337-3196)

**NO CHARGE for the CONFERENCE.**

LUNCH prepared by KBC DISASTER RELIEF will be available for \$2.00. CHILDCARE including lunch to children 2 weeks to 4 yrs. for \$2.00. Pre-register for child care at CCBBC Child Development Center (606) 337-1758.

### A new season of life

#### Parents of teens urged to help shape next generation

Last week marked a new season of life and parenting in the Melber household. Our oldest child became a teenager.

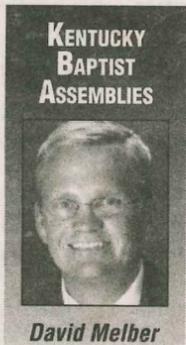
We no longer have little people running around our house. All four children sleep soundly through the night. The emotional and social issues that teens face have replaced the physical exhaustion of parenting babies and toddlers.

This will be Alex's first official year to attend Crossings as a camper. He will be heading to Cedar more with his youth group this summer. All of our kids are happiest when we are spending time with our summer staffers at camp, but this year we are thrilled to know that the staffers we love to minister to will be ministering firsthand to our own son!

As we begin this new season of our parenting life, I am even more convinced of the importance of our ministry. My wife, Tera, and I have been reading a book titled "The Last Christian Generation" by Josh McDowell. It reinforces the reality that students today are much different than when we were growing up.

Many teens do not recognize an absolute truth. They believe that truth is "what is right for me." We must be diligent in showing this generation that there is one truth and we must give them the tools to share that knowledge with others. Whether you are a parent or not, we all bear the responsibility to help shape this generation for Christ or we will be the last Christian generation.

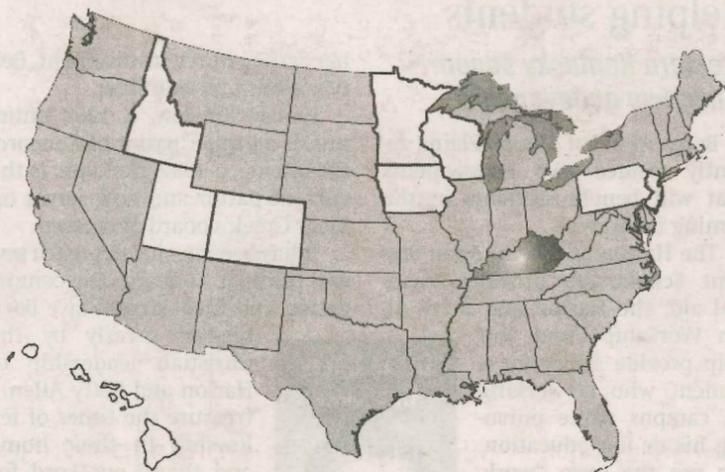
I want to encourage those of you who are parents that there are people across this state who are committed to partnering with you to help your child become a godly example to their world. I commit to you as a parent on behalf of this ministry that we are making every effort possible to effectively present God's truth to everyone who participates in our summer programs. Please partner with us in committing to pray that we will reach the students who come to our camps.



David Melber

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

## Our mission doesn't end at the state line



For more than 10 years, the Western Recorder has helped state conventions in newer work areas produce their newspapers.

We work with local convention leaders, combining their state and local news with other resources, including stories we generate as well as national and international news. As a result, the Western Recorder's ministry extends from the Bluegrass to the Colorado, Hawaii-Pacific, Iowa, Pennsylvania-South Jersey, Minnesota-Wisconsin and Utah-Idaho conventions.



### Kudzu

Doug Marlette



### For Heaven's Sake

Mike Morgan



### Bible Crosswords

#### Across

- 1 "Thou art an \_\_\_\_ people unto the Lord" (Deuteronomy 7:6)
- 3 "The Holy \_\_\_\_ shall teach you" (Luke 12:12)
- 7 "They went ... from \_\_\_\_ ... into Canaan" (Genesis 11:31)
- 8 A short laugh
- 9 Moses and \_\_\_\_ went before Pharaoh (Exodus 5:1)
- 10 "\_\_\_\_ is the way, which leadeth unto life" (Matthew 7:14)
- 12 Three, prefix
- 13 Des Moines' state, abbr.
- 15 One of the twelve tribes (Numbers 1:38)
- 16 David reigned there (2 Samuel 2:1)
- 17 Antimony, chem. symbol
- 19 Twelve months
- 21 Europium, chem. symbol
- 22 Northeastern region of the U.S., abbr.
- 23 Earned runs, abbr.
- 25 Sixth note of the musical scale
- 27 "The eyes of Israel were dim for \_\_\_\_" (Genesis 48:10)
- 28 "If thy brother \_\_\_\_ against thee, rebuke him" (Luke 17:3)
- 32 Pa's wife
- 34 Poem
- 35 Bonds
- 37 "\_\_\_\_ of every sort shalt thou bring into the ark" (Genesis 6:19)
- 39 "Being reviled, \_\_\_\_ bless" (1 Corinthians 4:12)
- 41 "God saw that \_\_\_\_ was good" (Genesis 1:10)
- 42 An unclean thing (Leviticus 11:29)

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

- 45 Coal scuttle
- 47 Gym, in other words, abbr.
- 48 Colorado's neighbor, abbr.
- 49 "A land whose stones are \_\_\_\_" (Deuteronomy 8:9)
- 51 Mongrel
- 53 "As \_\_\_\_ as blood" (2 Kings 3:22)
- 55 "My flesh is clothed with \_\_\_\_" (Job 7:5)
- 56 Sash worn with a kimono
- 20 "A bruised \_\_\_\_ shall he not break" (Matthew 12:20)
- 24 Regarding, abbr.
- 26 Airspeed indicator, abbr.
- 27 God's name for Himself: I \_\_\_\_
- 29 "I am the \_\_\_\_ and the offspring of David" (Revelation 22:16)
- 30 "He revealeth his \_\_\_\_ unto his servants" (Amos 3:7)
- 31 Stitches
- 33 "One \_\_\_\_ or tittle shall in no wise pass from the law" (Matthew 5:18)
- 36 "When we shall \_\_\_\_ him" (Isaiah 53:2)
- 38 "If any \_\_\_\_ have children ... let them first learn to shew piety at home" (1 Timothy 5:4)
- 40 "The noise of a \_\_\_\_" (Nahum 3:2)
- 43 Great work
- 44 Zaccur's father (Nehemiah 3:2)
- 46 Either
- 50 "To be sin for us, who knew \_\_\_\_ sin" (2 Corinthians 5:21)
- 51 2000, Romans num.
- 52 "Given \_\_\_\_ hospitality" (Romans 12:13)
- 54 "Without me ye can \_\_\_\_ nothing" (John 15:5)

### Last week's solution

1	C	A	T	T	L	E		6	F	7	A	8	S	9	A
10	R	A	I	N	S		11	F	O	R	M	12	E	R	
			14	E	T	D		15	I	R	E	16	L	E	T
17	A	P	S				19	C	R	E	A	T	E	D	
21	T	I		22	F	R	O	M		23	R	U			
24	U	C	A		25	W	A	T	E	R	S	28			
29	R	O	S	E	S		30	M	O	R	N	I	N	G	
34	E	T			35	A	H	E		37	I	N	T	O	
			38	39	G	I	N	N	I	N	G				
41	S	E	A	S		42	T	O		43	G	I	R	D	
45	S	T	A	R		46	E		47	48	49	N	O		
50	A	U	S	T	E	R	E		51	E	52	53	O	D	
			55	T	H	I	R	D		56	Y	E	57	F	E

## WORLD VIEW

**Israel recognizes first gay marriage.** Israel registered its first gay marriage in January, two months after the nation's highest court issued a landmark ruling for homosexual couples. Binyamin and Avi Rose, two homosexual men from Israel, became the first couple to have their marriage license recognized, the Jerusalem Post reported. They married in Canada last June. The November decision by the Israeli Supreme Court ordered the country to recognize gay marriages from other countries, such as Canada and Spain, although the ruling didn't allow same-sex couples to get married within Israel's borders.

**Swiss court supports assisted suicide.** A Feb. 2 decision from the highest court in Switzerland opened the door for doctors to prescribe lethal drugs to people with serious mental illnesses, according to Associated Press. The Federal Tribunal likened mental illness to a physical one in its opinion, saying, "If the death wish is based on an autonomous decision which takes all circumstances into account, then a mentally ill person can be prescribed sodium-pentobarbital and thereby assisted in suicide." The Swiss judges ruled against the 53-year-old man who brought the suit, though they expressed support for assisted suicide for the mentally ill. They rejected the man's request for lethal drugs, saying a medical exam was needed for the bipolar disorder patient.

**Airline reverses stance on religious jewelry.** Britain's largest airline, stinging under criticism from religious and political leaders, has reversed its ban on employees' openly displaying religious items such as crosses. British Airways created a furor, and reportedly lost a number of customers, when it told Nadia Eweida, a Christian check-in worker at London's Heathrow airport, that the cross she wore on a necklace violated its dress code because it could be seen. British Airways chief executive Willy Walsh, after first defending the uniform policy,

announced the about-face after he said the airline had "unintentionally" found itself at "the center of one of the hottest social issues in current public debate" in Britain. The airline said it is changing its dress code "to allow a lapel-pin symbol of faith, such as a Christian cross or a Star of David, with some flexibility for individuals to wear a symbol of faith on a chain."

**Jehovah's Witnesses battle blood transfusions.** A clash between religious beliefs and the government's responsibility to protect children is playing out in a Vancouver hospital, where government officials seized the babies of a Jehovah's Witness couple in order to give them blood transfusions. The drama began Jan. 7, when six premature babies were born to parents who are devout Jehovah's Witnesses. Two of the six babies have since died. Doctors warned that the remaining babies would likely need life-saving blood transfusions, a procedure that is forbidden for Witnesses. Social workers from the British Columbia government seized three of the four surviving babies, just long enough to give two of them blood transfusions, over their parents' objections. All four babies are in stable condition. The parents filed a court action requesting a hearing before the Supreme Court of British Columbia to challenge the province's conduct. A hearing is set for Feb. 23.

**No religious exemptions in discrimination laws.** The Roman Catholic Church has lost its fight to opt out of new laws in England and Wales banning discrimination against gay couples, throwing its adoption agencies into a bind. Despite protests from Catholics, who were supported by the Anglican Church of England in their campaign against the laws, British Prime Minister Tony Blair announced that there will be "no exemptions" for faith groups when the Equality Act goes into effect April 6. In an effort to soften the impact, Blair said the adoption agencies would be given 21 months to get ready to adopt the new rules.

## Palestinian police seize church in battle with rival Hamas party

By Robert Marus  
Associated Baptist Press

**Gaza City (ABP)**—As conflict threatened to plunge Palestine into civil war Feb. 3, a Palestinian Baptist pastor sent out an impassioned plea to supporters around the world to pray for his church, which authorities have seized in the fighting.

Hanna Massad, pastor of Gaza Baptist Church in Gaza City, sent an e-mail requesting prayer from Baptist colleagues and supporters. He said that, on the evening of Feb. 2, Palestinian Authority police seized the church's six-story building in central Gaza as an observation post.

The police are controlled by the relatively moderate Fatah political party, which has struggled with the Islamist Hamas party since Palestinian parliamentary elections put Hamas into power last year. In December, the conflict erupted into open violence in the densely populated Gaza Strip. Since then, nearly 100 Palestinians have died in the fighting.

Massad said authorities view the church facility—dedicated in November—as a vital position because of its location adjacent to the main police station in Gaza City.

"If the P.A. (Palestinian Authority) police shoot any gunfire at the Hamas people from our building, Hamas will shoot back, and this will cause lot of damage to the building, as it happened once before," Hanna wrote. He was referring to a similar incident in May, when police seized the building as a sniper post.

According to American Baptist International Ministries, Gaza Bap-

tist's facility has worship space and the Gaza Strip's largest public library. It houses one of the area's few breast cancer clinics and includes guest quarters for volunteers.

Massad said Gaza City was so perilous Feb. 3 that he could not leave his home to assess the situation at the church. "The situation in Gaza (is) very dangerous," he wrote. "We (are) not able to leave our homes much. This is the worse (sic) situation we ever went through in Gaza."

While authorities declared a cease-fire Feb. 4, there is no guarantee it will last any longer than several previous truces made since December.

Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas, Fatah's leader, was scheduled to hold peace talks last week in Saudi Arabia with his Hamas counterpart, Khaled Mashaal. According to the Lebanese newspaper Al-Akhbar, failure in those negotiations "would mean the deterioration of the internal situation and igniting civil war."

Open Doors, a United States-based Christian group that calls attention to persecution of Christians around the globe, issued a press release Feb. 5 about the church's situation. According to the group, Massad had to cancel the Feb. 4 morning worship service at Gaza Baptist because of security concerns.

Massad's e-mail called for divine intervention. "Please pray that there will not be any gunfire around the church building and God will protect this building for His glory," he wrote. "Please pray for wisdom for the leaders in Gaza to stop this evil fight."

## 'Everybody is a somebody'

### Attitude is more important than aptitude in OBI choir and other student activities

Anyone who has heard me speak about Oneida and how we are different from most schools likely has heard me tell about our "no cut" policy.

I am happy to say that there are a few other schools like OBI who make room for boys and girls who are less gifted, but Oneida places a great emphasis on helping all young people discover some of their hidden talents.

OBI helps students in four different areas. One: We help underachieving students find happiness and pride in turning D's and F's into A's and B's. Two: Through our work program, we try to prepare students for the real world by giving them practical learning experiences in how to earn an honest living. Three: Because the majority of our students come to us without any spiritual foundation, we have a wonderful opportunity to teach them about Jesus. Four: We hold dear a policy of encouraging students to go out for any activity they want, even if they don't show a natural ability for it.

Nearly every Sunday, the choir and I travel to different churches to share with them how some of their mission dollars are used when those dollars are sent to Oneida. I believe most congregations are encouraged to hear more about our ministry and are pleased that we do the things we do. The choir must get tired of hearing basically the same message week after week, but they realize most people are hearing it for the first time.

When saying that Oneida believes strongly that "everybody is a somebody," I often reference the choir seated behind me. I remind the congregation that it is not unusual to have more

than a few students in our choir who actually do not sing very well. Why do I take the choir out Sunday after Sunday to represent our school if they can't sing? Keep in mind I did not say that none of them could sing; I said some of them could not sing. But because we believe in making them feel welcome and wanted, as long as they put forth good effort, maintain a good attitude and are willing to get up early on Sundays and spend most of the day on the road, we make room for them.

Three and one-half years ago in summer school, a young man enrolled who was repeating the seventh grade for the third time. Happily, he decided to join the choir in the fall. He was not a gifted singer and he easily could have been one of those students you would just as soon not have in your choir. But we made room for him, and over time he has become a pretty good singer—good enough that this year he was chosen along with three other Oneida choir members to be a part of the All Festival Chorus in Williamsburg.

Only God knows the number of times this young man has heard me talk about making room for everyone who wants to be a part of what is happening at Oneida. I thought it was interesting to read a quote from him when he was talking about his All Festival experience. He said, "It was the first choir I've been in where everyone could sing." This young man likely does not remember that he was one of those students who could not sing when he came to Oneida. But we made room for him because, "Everybody is a somebody at Oneida!"

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



W.F. Underwood

## Helping students

### Western Kentucky support funds two endowments

Betty Allen of White Plains recently funded two endowments that will benefit students in the coming fiscal year.

The Harlon and Betty Allen Student Scholarship provides financial aid; the Harlon and Betty Allen Workshop Fund will help provide salary for a student who is working on campus while pursuing his or her education. We use the term "workshop" to describe the circumstances of these special students.

Each of these endowments gives first preference to students from Concord Missionary Baptist Church in White Plains or other churches in Little Bethel Baptist Association. Keith Williams, a product of Concord Missionary Baptist Church, recently received his B.A. and now serves as a pastor in Pike County; Keith had a campus workshop position in the business office.

The Allens were married 60 years and had three sons. They were faithful Clear Creek supporters. Harlon was a farmer and coal miner. He also served Concord as a deacon. In later years, Harlon became an excellent craftsman in his woodworking shop. He died in 2005. In addition to

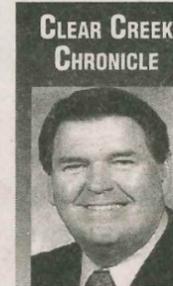
her active church involvement, Betty is a hospital volunteer.

Emory Kinslow, a 1969 alumnus, is a former pastor of Concord. Ellis Payne, a 1987 graduate, is the current pastor and now serves on Clear Creek's board of trustees.

It has been my joy to preach several times at Concord. The congregation and Clear Creek have been blessed greatly by the Christian leadership of Harlon and Betty Allen. I treasure the times of fellowship in their home and thank our Lord for the example of their stewardship. The investment Betty has made in preparing individuals called by God began with her commitment to Christ and the nurture of a godly family and a Bible-centered church. The Allens practiced a lifetime of Christian stewardship. They also saw the results of what we do in their pastors.

These gifts have been placed with the Kentucky Baptist Foundation where they will grow and be used for God's glory until Jesus comes.

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



Bill Whittaker

## Pastor, accused of 'vilifying' Islam, honored for stance

By Gregory Tomlin  
Baptist Press

**New York (BP)**—Christian leaders from six continents gathered in New York City Jan. 26 to recognize an Australian pastor who became one of the first people indicted under the country's new "religious vilification" law, which makes public criticism of any religion—including Islam—a hate crime.

Daniel Scot, an Assemblies of God minister from Brisbane, received the Kairos Journal Award for his refusal to "compromise truth for fear of jail." The award is given annually to individuals who demonstrate faithfulness to Scripture and pastoral courage. It also honors those who respond to what the journal calls a "kairos moment"—a moment that calls for timely Christian action.

Founded by retired American Standard CEO Emmanuel Kampouris, an Egyptian-born Christian, and supported by his Emmanuel Foundation, Kairos Journal provides online resources for pastors called to serve as the moral consciences and prophetic voices of their communities. The journal also champions religious liberty.

Kampouris, at the award dinner at New York's Metropolitan Club, noted that "many of my business colleagues find it odd" that he is a proponent of faith, "as they consider the church irrelevant and ineffective in today's complex world as a beacon of change."

### Gatekeeper of nation's soul

"But I happen to hold the opposite view," Kampouris said. "I think the pastor is the primary gatekeeper of any nation's soul and, therefore, essential for societal change."

Kampouris said that nothing "good or bad happens without leadership," a primary reason he founded the journal. Scot, he said, exemplifies what the journal is about.

In 2002, Scot found himself a defendant in the courts of Victoria in Australia. Three Muslim converts ac-



**STAND HONORED** Assemblies of God Pastor Daniel Scot was honored recently in New York City for his stance against an Australian hate crimes law under which he was convicted for "vilification" of Islam. (BP photo by Tom Rollo/Grace Studio)

cus the pastor of vilifying Islam after he had delivered a series of lectures about the differences between Islam and Christianity. Scot's indictment touched off a four-year legal battle. He was convicted and ordered to apologize to Muslims in a series of advertisements in Melbourne—at a potential cost of nearly \$50,000.

But Scot refused to purchase the advertisements and launched an appeal in 2004. Mark Durie, vicar of St. Mary's Anglican Church, Caulfield, in Melbourne, recounted at the dinner that Scot would not dishonor Christ or the gospel by disavowing what he had said. Durie said Scot has a passion for sharing the gospel with Muslims, adding that people one day will grasp the significance of the stand he took.

"It's not a secret, I think, that Muslims do not like people criticizing their faith, but they particularly do not like people criticizing Muhammad," Durie said, citing the cases of Salman Rushdie, author of "The Satanic Verses" who was the worldwide target of a Muslim death

threat, and Theo van Gogh, a Dutch artist beheaded by a Muslim militant for insulting Islam.

Scot, Durie said, offered a "very carefully argued presentation from the Koran" at his own church and then gave further lectures on how to love Muslims and be friends with them.

But the government responded when three Islamic converts of the Islamic Council of Victoria complained. Scot was then indicted under the state's new Racial and Religious Tolerance Act. The judge in the case found, though falsely, that Scot had called Muslims "demons."

"In fact, what Daniel Scot had said was that in the Koran there is a story about some jinns or genies—demons, if you will—who heard the Koran being recited and they became Muslims," Durie said. "So there were some Muslim demons referred to in the Koran."

"It's amazing in fact that the Victorian Civil and Administrative Tribunal was not only standing up for the rights of Muslim persons ... but also for the rights of Muslim spirits who suddenly became legal persons in the state of Victoria," Durie said.

Challenging the teachings of Islam is nothing new for Scot, even if the costs are high. A gifted mathematician, he competed for a teaching position with Muslim scholars at the University of Punjab in Pakistan. The positions normally were reserved for Muslims, but Scot studied Islam, passed an examination about the religion and was named to the faculty.

But in 1986, Pakistan's government amended its legal code, making insults against Muhammad a capital crime. Anyone who publicly declared Jesus as the Savior likely would face a quick death. Five senior professors cornered Scot on Christmas Eve, encouraging him to convert to Islam or face losing his teaching post—or worse.

"They said to me, 'This is a golden opportunity for you to convert to Is-

lam,'" Scot told the award dinner audience. "But I said in my heart, 'This is a golden opportunity to share the gospel with five senior professors.'"

Scot turned the discussion to the issue of salvation, questioning the Muslim professors about how they could know if they achieved it. He said they had no answer, but after the discussion they filed a complaint with the government. The next day, a colleague at the university told Scot, "Your life is in danger. I cannot protect you."

### Fleeing for his life

Scot, who was born into a Christian family in 1951, went into hiding, moving from location to location where he was sheltered by friends. He assumed that he was headed for death, but his wife intervened.

"You have this madness to be a martyr for Jesus," his wife told him. "What will happen to your wife and five children?"

Scot and his family fled to Brisbane, Australia. He began lecturing on mathematics and soon earned a teaching position at the University of Queensland.

In December 2006, the Supreme Court of Victoria overturned the decision of the lower court that had convicted Scot and sent the case back to the Victorian Civil and Administrative Tribunal. The court also ruled that the judge who issued the guilty verdict against Scot could not sit in judgment in any new proceedings.

Justice Geoffrey Nettle said the lower court had erred, misinterpreting honest and comparative discussions of religion for hate speech. It is "essential to keep the distinction between the hatred of beliefs and the hatred of their adherents steadily in view," Nettle noted.

Scot's case tallied a cost of more than \$500,000 in legal fees. The high court ruled that the Islamic Council of Victoria must pay half of the cost of the original appeal from 2004.

## Justice, Homeland Security forums focus on dealing with Muslims, Sikhs

By Katherine Boyle  
Religion News Service

**Washington (RNS)**—The U.S. departments of Justice and Homeland Security have begun training employees to better understand and protect the civil liberties of American Muslims, Sikhs and other minority ethnic and religious groups in the wake of Sept. 11.

They also are attempting to involve Muslims and Sikhs in the "homeland security effort in a positive way," said Daniel Sutherland, who was appointed in 2003 as the first officer for civil rights and civil liberties at the Department of Homeland Security.

Both Muslim and Sikh Americans have dealt with increased prejudice, according to studies and crime reports, though Sikhs adhere to a monotheistic religion founded in India that is not associated with Islam. The discrimination ranges from the inconvenience of airport searches to the death of Balbir Singh Sodhi, a turban-wearing Sikh from India who was gunned down just days after the Sept. 11 attacks by a man who mistook him for a Muslim.

The Department of Homeland Security

now holds regular forums in Detroit, Los Angeles, Chicago, Houston, Washington and Buffalo, N.Y., to ensure that agency officials are meeting with people from Arab and Muslim communities. Local FBI officials and federal prosecutors often attend.

Sutherland said the Department of Homeland Security seeks to ensure that all its employees "understand how to work with American Arabs and American Muslims, as well as travelers from the Arab and Muslim world."

"We've produced a couple of training products on that (topic), which you might call cultural competence training," he noted. "We emphasize to our work force that we are not asking them to engage in something that is politically correct or what some people call sensitivity training; we're just trying to give them the skills they need to do their jobs most effectively."

Their most recent release is a DVD titled "Introduction to Arab American and Muslim American Cultures Course for DHS Personnel."

"Lastly, we're looking for ways to in-

crease our employment of people with experience in the Arab-Muslim world or specialized language skills," Sutherland said.

The Justice Department also has used videos to train its staff. The department recently released "On Common Ground," a film for law enforcement officials that educates them about Sikhs and other South Asian Americans.

Sharee Freeman, director of the Justice Department's Community Relations Service, said her organization partnered with the Sikh American Legal Defense and Education Fund after witnessing how "shaken" the Sikh American community was after Sept. 11.

The Justice Department uses the film to train police and medics because they often are the "first responders" in a potential crisis, Freeman said.

The video explains that Sikhs traditionally wear or carry religious objects, such as the kara, a steel bracelet symbolizing strength and union with God. Because Sikhs often have worn the bracelet for years, it can be difficult if not impossible to remove—and also may set off a metal detector.

Some Sikhs also carry a kirpan, or a steel dagger that symbolizes resistance to evil and defense of truth. While they must check the dagger when traveling by air, in other situations they may be carrying it in a sash over the shoulder.

The video recommends that law enforcement officials treat Sikh religious objects with respect and explain why they must be taken if confiscation is necessary. It also suggests allowing Sikhs to be searched privately and by a member of the same gender if their turban must be taken off, likening it to a strip search.

Previously, the Justice Department released the video "The First Three to Five Seconds" to help law enforcement officials distinguish between "a threat or a cultural norm" when interacting with American Arab and Muslim communities.

Sutherland said both the Justice Department and DHS need "to draw the communities into the homeland security effort and ask about recommendations on how we can do better. Our goal is to develop strategic partnerships with key parts of the American Arab and Muslim communities."

## PRAYER PARTNERS

Please pray for the following Kentucky Baptist ministries and missionaries:

**Samaritan's Food Pantry of First Baptist Church of Owenton.** This ministry is merging with other local Baptist churches to form a new and larger ministry, "Meeting the Needs." The new ministry will provide food, clothing, used appliances, infant food and supplies, and skilled assistance with electrical, plumbing and carpentry needs. Ministry coordinator Kitty Cammack said she is excited about the opportunities to share Christ through this new ministry effort. Pray that additional volunteers will make themselves available for ministry and be intentional in sharing their faith. Pray that the hearts and minds of those hardened by life's difficulties will be softened and open to the gospel.

**Mission Service Corps Missionaries Van and Marjorie Yandell of Fredonia.** The Yandells work with established ministries, churches, associations and individuals on special ministry projects. They serve as coordinators and resources for those seeking to minister in their "Jerusalem." Praise God for more than 50 salvation decisions last year. Pray that God will continue to expand their ministry and that He will give them strength and wisdom as they seek to encourage and assist others.

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

## MOUNTAINS TO THE MISSISSIPPI

COMPILED BY STAFF

■ **CAMPBELLSVILLE**—Campbellsville University will host the **McHugh Trio** in a guest recital Feb. 20, 8 p.m., in Gheens Recital Hall. For more information, call (270) 789-5237.

Mount Roberts Church recently called **Kyle Franklin** as pastor.

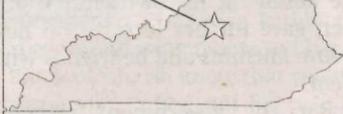
■ **LONDON**—East Pittsburg Church recently called **Denny McCowan** as pastor.

■ **LOUISVILLE**—Cloverleaf Church will host the Southern gospel group **Jubilation** in concert Feb. 24, 7 p.m. For more information, call (502) 367-0218.

■ **WESTPORT**—Westport Church ordained **Keith Abrams** to the gospel ministry Jan. 28. He serves as minister to youth.

### Spotlight on ...

#### Frankfort



Kentucky Right to Life Association will hold its annual "Rally for Life" in the Rotunda of the State Capitol Feb. 20 at noon. The keynote speaker will be **Nina Fuller**, founder of Living Proof Testimonies and author of "Special Strength for Special Parents." For more information, call (502) 895-5959.

## Blevins to speak at Campbellsville

**Campbellsville**—Campbellsville University will host Baptist historian Carolyn Blevins, as the keynote speaker for the university's Baptist Heritage Lecture Series Feb. 26 at 7 p.m. in Little Auditorium. The lecture series is part of the school's yearlong Centennial Celebration.

Blevins, who served 30 years as associate professor of religion at Carson-Newman College in Jefferson City, Tenn., retired in 2006. She also served as director of the school's Honors Program from 1978 to 1992.

"We are honored to have Profes-

sor Blevins on campus," said Campbellsville President Michael Carter, noting that she "is well-known in the history of Baptist work."

Blevins is a graduate of Carson-Newman and Southern Baptist Theological Seminary. She is a recipient of a service award named in her honor by the Baptist History and Heritage Society.

For more information, contact John Chowning, vice president for church and external relations, at [jchowning@campbellsville.edu](mailto:jchowning@campbellsville.edu) or at (270) 789-5520.



## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### February

- 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 "Early Bird" Keyboard Festival, First Baptist Church, Murray.
- 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.

### March

- 2-3 Creative Ministry Festival, Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville.
- 3 All-State Youth Choir/Orchestra Auditions, Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville.
- 3 Handbell Ring and Share—East, Immanuel Baptist Church, Lexington.
- 3 RA Congress Region 5, Aberdeen Baptist Church, Aberdeen, Ohio.
- 3 Vacation Bible School Clinic—East, Porter Memorial Baptist Church, Lexington.
- 7-21 Kentucky Changers College Blitz, Boone's Creek Baptist Camp, Winchester.
- 9-10 Creative Ministries Festival, First Baptist Church, Bowling Green.
- 10 RA Congress Region 1, Potter's House Baptist Worship Center, Smithland.
- 10 RA Congress Region 3, South Fork Baptist Church, Hodgenville.
- 10 Handbell Ring and Share—West, First Baptist Church, Bowling Green.
- 10 Vacation Bible School—West, Second Baptist Church, Madisonville.
- 17 RA Congress Region 2, Olive Branch Baptist Church, Hanson.
- 17 RA Congress Region 6, Boone's Creek Baptist Camp, Winchester.

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

## CLASSIFIED ADS

**SEEKING:** Full-time pastor for Edmonton Baptist Church, Edmonton, Ky. Parsonage provided. Send resumes to Jim Howard, PO Box 150, Edmonton, KY 42141.

**SEEKING:** Full-time DOM for Bracken Association. Send resumes to 5105 Main St., Mays Lick, KY 41055; or by e-mail to [brackenassoc@earthlink.net](mailto:brackenassoc@earthlink.net). Deadline: April 1, 2007. An associational profile will be sent via e-mail upon request.

**SEEKING:** Full-time minister of music. Applicant should have a degree in music and a strong background in traditional and praise/worship music. Individual would work with planning and implementing all aspects of the music ministry. Salary negotiable based on experience and education. Please send resume and CD (if available) to Oakland Avenue Baptist Church, 3265 Oakland Avenue, Catlettsburg, KY 41129, Attn: Mike Blankenship.

**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:** Altona Baptist Church in Calvert City, Ky., is now accepting resumes for the position of part-time youth/music minister. Send resumes to: Altona Baptist Church, 5847 US Highway 62, Calvert City, KY 42029.

**SEEKING:** Part-time/bivocational minister of music for South Elkhorn Baptist Church in Lexington. Send resume to: Dr. Damon Jones, pastor, 4867 Versailles Road, Lexington, KY 40510; or e-mail to: [preacherjones@windstream.net](mailto:preacherjones@windstream.net) or [donnacornish@windstream.net](mailto:donnacornish@windstream.net).

**SEEKING:** Part-time/bivocational music minister (approximately 20 hours per week). If interested, please send resume to Personnel Committee, Evergreen Baptist Church, 2698 Evergreen Road, Frankfort, KY 40601. Questions: please call Jim at (502) 320-1872.

**SEEKING:** Bivocational youth minister for a growing, suburban Northern Kentucky church. This ministry position could potentially become full-time in the future. A love for Christ and teenagers a must. Please send resumes by Feb. 28, 2007, to: Youth Minister Search Committee, Union Baptist Church, PO Box 194, Union, KY 41091.

**SEEKING:** Full-time minister of youth and children. Candidate should have seminary degree or equivalent. Minister will equip parents, committees and other adult members to develop an effective discipleship environment for education and outreach for K-12; plan and implement retreats, camps and mission activities. Reply by mail to: Versailles Baptist Church, 125 East Green St., Versailles, KY 40383, Attn: Personnel Committee.

**SEEKING:** First Baptist Church, Ashland, Ky., is looking to call a senior pastor who will help in meeting the churches mission statement: "Knowing God and Making Him Known." A pastor/shepherd style is desired. FBC is a downtown church with a long history of leadership within the community and an average Sunday attendance of 150. Submit resume by e-mail to: [fbcashland@fbcashlandky.com](mailto:fbcashland@fbcashlandky.com), or by mail to: Pastor Search Committee, First Baptist Church, PO Box 787, Ashland, KY 41105-0787.

**SEEKING:** Bivocational worship leader for a blended worship church with a growing multimedia ministry. Located in a fast-growing rural community centrally located between Lexington, Louisville and Cincinnati. Position will be paid salary with available church parsonage and two weeks paid vacation. Applicants my send resumes to the attention of the Worship Leader Search Committee by mail to Long Ridge Baptist Church, 3595 Highway 127N, Owenton, KY 40359; or phone (502) 484-5127; or e-mail [trenthol@msn.com](mailto:trenthol@msn.com).

**SEEKING:** Trinity Baptist Church, Raleigh, N.C., is seeking qualified candidates for the position of minister of music. Trinity has a resident membership of 2,200. There are two morning worship services which are both traditional/blended in style. Qualifications include degree from accredited seminary and at least 5 years experience. Trinity's affiliations include SBC and CBF. Send resumes to Dr. Jeff Roberts, Trinity Baptist Church, 4815 Six Forks Road, Raleigh, NC 27609; or go online to [www.tbcraleigh.com](http://www.tbcraleigh.com).

**SEEKING:** Piano/music director for rural Grant County Baptist church. Call (859) 428-3398 for information.

**SEEKING:** Full-time minister of students with possible progression to associate pastor for Pleasureville Baptist Church. Prefer seminary student or graduate. Focus on both youth and children's ministry. Will consider part-time applicants. Salary commensurate with experience. Excellent benefit package. Send resume to Pleasureville Baptist Church, PO Box 147, Pleasureville, KY 40057 by Feb. 24, 2007.

**SEEKING:** Baptist church prayerfully seeks applications for full-time senior pastor (see our Web site: [williamstownbaptist.com](http://williamstownbaptist.com)). Average weekly attendance: 300 members, consisting of diverse age groups in a growing, northern Kentucky community. Please send your resume along with a cover letter, statement of ministry and faith, and audio/video recording to: Pastor Search Committee, Williamstown Baptist Church, 214 North Main St., Williamstown, KY 41097. Resumes will be received until Feb. 28, 2007.

**SEEKING:** Full-time minister of discipleship and evangelism with passion for community outreach and church growth. Duties include planning and implementing balanced program of adult discipleship and evangelistic activities to promote church health and growth; mission trip coordination and leadership; curriculum, space and teacher support for Sunday school, discipleship training. Reply by mail to: Versailles Baptist Church, 125 East Green St., Versailles, KY 40383, Attn: Personnel Committee.

## Rural Florida church suffers impact of deadly tornadoes

By Greg Warner  
Associated Baptist Press

Paisley, Fla. (ABP)—Like a lot of close-knit churches in rural Florida, the 100-member First Baptist Church of Paisley is small enough that regular attendees are missed when they don't show up on Sunday. But the absence of the 15-year-old Downing triplets—a vital part of the congregation for almost a decade—was more like an open wound when the congregation gathered for worship Feb. 4.

David Downing was killed when a powerful tornado stabbed down through the early-morning darkness Feb. 2, ripping the family's mo-

bile home to pieces and dropping a tree where the family slept.

The triplets' parents—Donald, 46, and Carla, 35, also were killed. A second triplet, Heather, was severely injured and remains hospitalized. The third, Kayla, slept unharmed at an aunt's house.

The Downings weren't the only family with ties to First Baptist who experienced tragedy. Seven-year-old Jacob Nolan, who also attended the church, died in his mobile home along with his father, Billy, 37. His mother and sister survived.

Last November, First Baptist held a fund-raiser to help pay hospital bills for Jacob, who lost an eye after

being kicked by a horse.

"It's just terrible, the lives that were lost," lamented Mary Miller of the 12 people killed in the nearby Lake Mack neighborhood. Miller, like everyone else at First Baptist, knows the Downing triplets well. The parents did not attend church but made sure their children did—faithfully since soon after they started school.

Church members and school classmates described the Downing kids as "sweet," polite and well behaved. "We loved those children," said Pastor John Roszak. "David was just a sweet, sweet boy."

Rozzak also was acquainted with the father, Donald Downing, although he couldn't get him to join the kids at church. "He loved to hunt and fish. He was a good ol' Florida boy."

Heather Downing "truly knows the Lord," said Sue Hartzog, one of Heather's teachers at the church. "She's always interested in Bible study. She's just a wonderful young woman. Heather was real strong in the Lord."

The Downing family, like many in the low, rolling hills that divide Florida's east and west coasts, lived close to the land on the banks of a lake surrounded by horse farms, small homesteads and thick woods. Paisley is far removed—more by lifestyle than by distance—from the bustle of the vacation capital of Orlando 40 miles south.

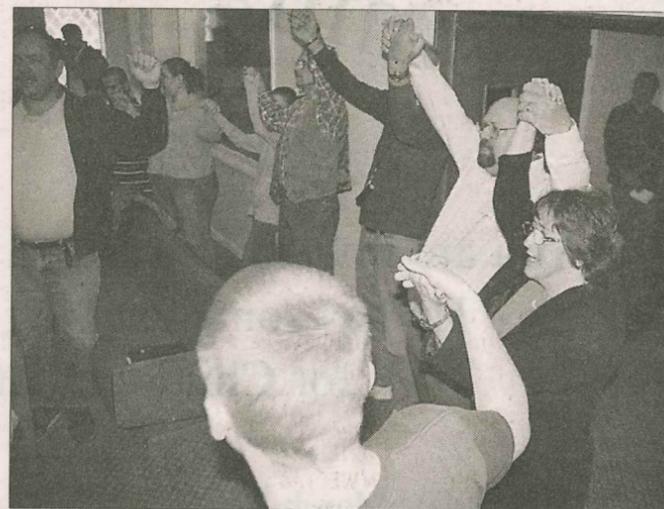
Yet the hamlet of 700 people suffered the deadliest blow from Florida's worst tornado outbreak in a decade; 12 of the storm's 20 fatalities were residents of Paisley.

### Prayer amid tragedy

The small sanctuary of First Baptist was packed Feb. 4, as church members prayed to understand the tornado's random destruction and half a dozen reporters sought a glimpse of faith tested by tragedy.

At the door, greeters welcomed friends and journalists alike with hardy hugs. Inside, the mood was far from somber as members paused from worship to embrace each other and their guests—a weekly custom that seemed as normal as the country-gospel choruses they sang.

A five-guitar band, which included the pastor and elementary school principal, played and sang a "special" they had hurriedly learned—the 1965 Pete Seeger classic "Turn!



Turn! Turn!" which captures the words of Ecclesiastes 3: "To everything, there is a season and a time for every purpose under heaven. A time to be born, a time to die. ... A time to laugh, a time to heal."

A deacon prayed: "Father, all we can do this morning is holler 'Help!' but that's all we need to do."

Rozzak brought a report from Heather's bedside: "She said she can't wait to get back to church." At the end of the service, the congregation took up an impromptu love offering for the Downing family. "We want to help our little sister in the hospital," the pastor said. "I know this little bit will help."

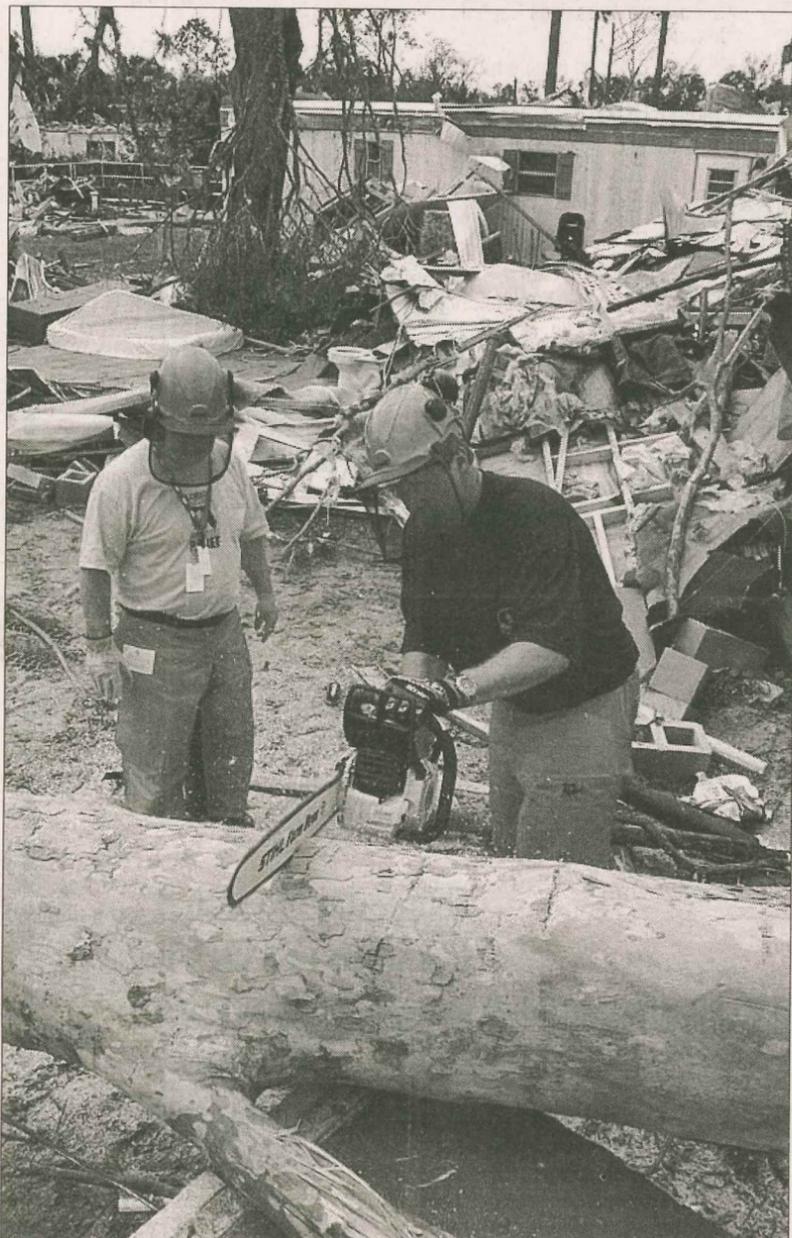
In his sermon, Roszak encouraged the congregation to ask God why tragedy had struck, but he added that answers won't come easily. God alone "sees the whole picture," he said.

"When you go through circumstances like this, you can come out better or bitter," he advised. He praised the church for responding with acts of love and kindness, such as the relief supplies Mary Miller was collecting in the adjacent fellowship hall.

"I've never seen so much harmony as in the past few days," Roszak said. "It's like a colony of ants or bees around here."

The youth of the church spent the prior day helping Miller and others organize relief supplies and load them into cars to take to Lake Mack. They were at it again after church Sunday, as furniture, food and toiletries continued to stream in. The supplies weren't getting out as fast; police temporarily closed the streets of the devastated neighborhoods to all but residents and emergency workers.

**A TIME TO MOURN** John Roszak (center right), pastor of First Baptist Church of Paisley, Fla., leads his congregation in song and prayer at the end of a worship service Feb. 4, two days after a tornado killed two young people affiliated with the church. (ABP photo by Greg Warner)



**ON THE SCENE** Florida Baptist chainsaw crews were among the first responders to Lady Lake, Fla., joining local firefighters and police in their efforts to clear the area following the deadly Feb. 2 tornadoes. (BP photo by Ken Touchton)

## Relief volunteer returns home to serve hours after surviving twister

By Lauren Urtel  
Florida Baptist Convention

Lady Lake, Fla. (BP)—Within hours after killer tornados slammed into central Florida Feb. 2, Florida Baptist disaster relief and recovery teams were mobilized with chainsaws in hand to help victims. The storm cell that spawned multiple twisters left at least 20 people dead and four counties in a state of emergency.

The storms hit in the early morning hours and by noon the same day, disaster relief teams from Florida's Lake County and Marion County Baptist associations were assessing damage and clearing debris.

"It was the scariest thing I have ever been through," Rusty Freitag, a member of First Baptist Church of Lady Lake, Fla., said. Freitag is a member of Lake County Baptist Association's disaster relief team.

Freitag, a resident of Lady Lake Mobile Home Park, was home when a tornado touched down there at approximately 3 a.m. His brother pulled him and his dog out of the debris and took them to safety.

By 12:30 p.m., Freitag was back on site and had joined his disaster relief team clearing trees that had fallen on his neighbors' homes. Volunteers from six other Florida Baptist associations awaited assign-

ments. Approximately 220 Baptist volunteers were mobilized.

The Tukes family—John, Linda and their six children—was at home when a tornado came through their neighborhood, located behind the Lady Lake Mobile Home Park. They weathered the storm without injury, but when they surveyed the damage at daybreak, they knew their home had not made it through. Every tree in their yard had fallen, taking down a fence and punching a hole through their living room ceiling.

Roy Henderson, a member of Villages of Faith Baptist Church, and a team of volunteers from Ocala,

Leesburg and other local communities came to the Tukes' rescue. They worked with the family to clear debris and cover the roof with tarps.

With immediate repairs made, the volunteers formed a prayer circle with the family. Bob Vanderverter, a member of the team, led the group in a tearful prayer for the family's safekeeping and salvation. The Tukes family was all smiles as they thanked the disaster relief team and hugged them goodbye.

"This is why we're here," Henderson said as he held up a disaster relief tract that outlined the road to salvation. "We would help them all if we could."

Coming Soon!



You are invited to a "town meeting" in your area to meet with Dr. Smithwick. He has some exciting news to share about Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children that you don't want to miss. Please join us.

Thursday, March 1

**BURLINGTON**

10 am - Burlington Baptist Church 3031 Washington Street in the Fellowship hall

**LEXINGTON**

7 pm - Immanuel Baptist Church, 3100 Tates Creek Road in the Chapel

Monday, March 5

**BOWLING GREEN**

10 am - Warren Baptist Association, 6448 Scottsville Road

**HOPKINSVILLE**

7 pm - Christian County Baptist Association, 905 North Drive

Tuesday, March 6

**PADUCAH**

10 am - Lone Oak First Baptist Church, 3601 Lone Oak Road in the Sanctuary

**OWENSBORO**

7 pm - First Baptist Church, 230 J.R. Miller Blvd. in the Fellowship hall

Thursday, March 8

**CAMPBELLSVILLE**

10 am - Campbellsville Baptist Church, 420 North Central Avenue in the Sanctuary

**LONDON**

7pm - First Baptist Church, 804 W 5th Street in the Fellowship hall

Monday, March 12

**CATLETTSBURG**

10 am - Oakland Avenue Baptist Church, 3265 Oakland Avenue in the Sanctuary

**PIKEVILLE**

7 pm - First Baptist Church, 126 4th Street in the Sanctuary

Tuesday, March 13

**MOUNT WASHINGTON**

7 pm - KBHC Ministry Support Center, 300 Hope Street in the Conference room

If you have any questions or would like more information, please call 800-456-1386 or email us at [info@kbhc.org](mailto:info@kbhc.org)