



PRACTICAL RESOURCES FOR CHRISTIAN LIVING

WESTERN RECORDER

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WMU Kentucky Notes



See insert

FOR THE RECORD

Baptists

U.S. attorney general introduces "First Freedoms Project" to SBC Executive Committee. *Page 2.*

Kentucky

KBC baptisms post slight gain; five other key ministry areas down. *Page 3.*

Financial Forum

Five basic steps to enhance your investment plan. *Page 4.*

Editorial

From KBHC to Sunrise: What's in a name? *Page 5.*

Nation

Supreme Court declines to review ban of nativity scenes in New York City schools. *Page 8.*

IMB missionaries urge prayer amid upheaval in Guinea

Conakry, Guinea (BP)—Southern Baptist missionaries in Guinea are asking for prayer after the African country's president declared martial law this month in response to violent protests against his leadership. More than 100 people have died in the conflict.

The Southern Baptist International Mission Board evacuated two missionary families who were living in rural areas where violence had erupted. All other IMB personnel serving in the West Africa region reportedly are safe.

One of the evacuated missionaries said how thankful he was for safety as his family fled to the border of Sierra Leone.

"As we drove out ... the kids and I held pillows next to the windows just in case rocks were thrown (by the protesters)," he said. "God protected us. Not one rock hit our truck."

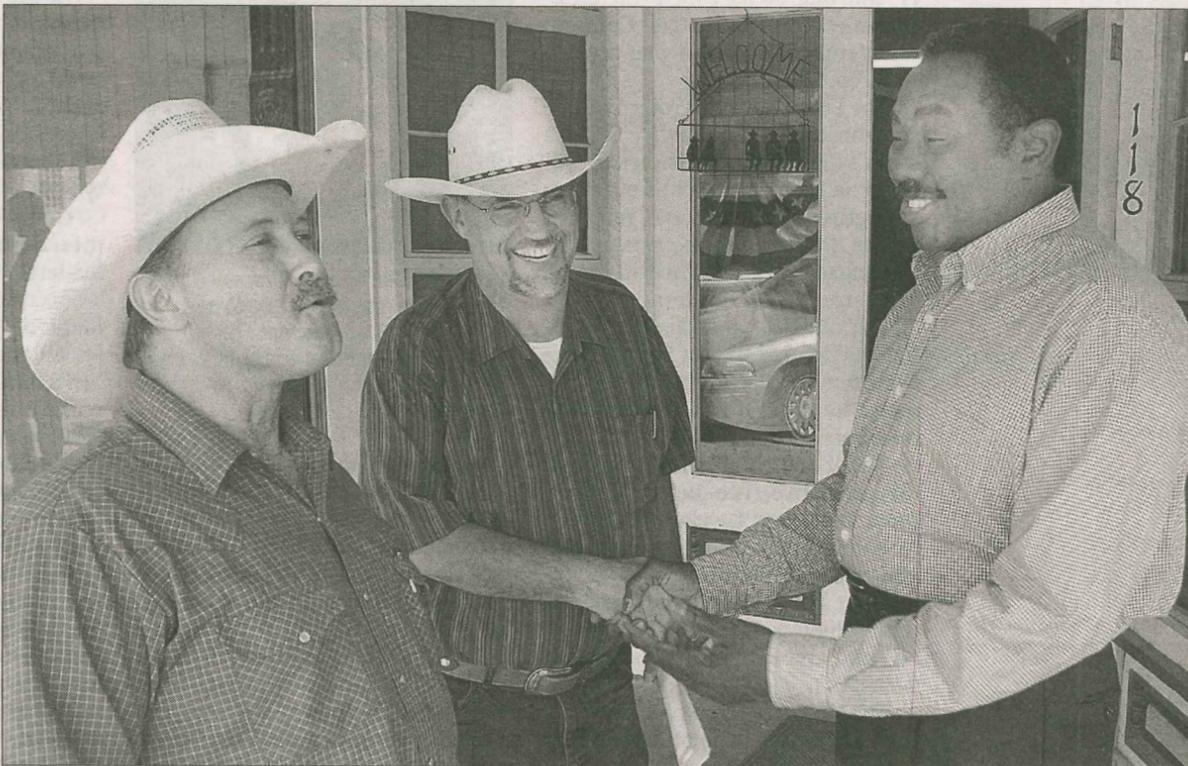
"We arrived exhausted, yet glad that we did not have to remain (in Guinea) one more night with gunfire, mortar shootings and the thought of looting," he added. "The hand of God was with us."

A mission worker is asking Southern Baptists to commit to 20 days of prayer for the country as it continues to recover from the violence.

"If ever the people of Guinea needed prayer, they need it now," the worker wrote in a prayer letter. "We need people praying for Guinea around the clock."

For more information, call the IMB at (800) 999-3113 or visit the Web site www.gowestafrica.org.

Born to plant



HOWDY, BOYS Leroy Fountain (right) greets Richard Willingham (left) and Don Ricks, pastor of Shiloh Cowboy Church in Venus, Texas, prior to the start of worship services. A former church starter in Texas, Fountain now serves on the church-planting team of the Southern Baptist North American Mission Board. The week of prayer and giving for North American missions is March 4-11. This year's national goal for the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering is \$57 million. (NAMB photo by Caleb Simpson)

Fountain shares planting possibilities with existing churches

By Mickey Noah
SBC North American Mission Board

Irving, Texas—According to Southern Baptist missionary Leroy Fountain, starting new churches can change the world.

"If there is anything being done in the world today to change the world, it is planting churches," said Fountain, a former church starter in Texas who now serves on the church-starting team for the Southern Baptist North American Mission Board.

Before moving to Alpharetta, Ga.,

to start his new role with NAMB, Fountain's mission field was as big and vast as Texas—literally. Serving through NAMB and the Southern Baptist of Texas Convention, Fountain supported coffeehouse, cowboy, African-American, suburban, college, store-front and non-English-speaking congregations in Austin, Dallas, Houston and other regions in the Lone Star State.

No matter where Southern Baptists strive to begin new worship

groups, diverse memberships, dynamics, histories and cultures make the task challenging, but Fountain said many other aspects of a church-starting ministry transcend culture and location.

"At the heart of every church, things ... are the same," he said. "We want them to be churches that concentrate on the basics of the development of a group of people who know Jesus Christ is Lord, and who are following Him as disciples."

Church planters are among more than 5,300 missionaries in the United States, Canada and their

See Church planter offers ... *Page 9*



Dated material. Please deliver by Wednesday, February 28.

With teamwork, special needs students learn truth of God's love

By Dannah Prather
Partnerships Editor

Louisville—Sharing Christ's love with individuals who have unique physical, mental and emotional needs doesn't require a team of teaching experts, according to Carlton McDaniel, a ministry specialist with LifeWay Christian Resources, but it does require a team.

"Don't call everybody teachers," McDaniel advised a group of Kentucky Baptists at a recent special needs ministry conference sponsored by the Kentucky Baptist Convention Mission Board.

Chaperones, music leaders, craft coordinators, social chairpersons—even a designated hugger—all work together to help students learn the

Bible and experience the love of a church family.

The beauty of teamwork, he said, is that the mission is accomplished five or 10 minutes at a time.

■ For example, "Miss Jones is the hugger," he said. She is in the room at the very beginning of class, greeting students as they arrive. After a few minutes, she leaves to attend her own Bible study class.

■ Another church member may arrive to lead students in a brief time of worship.

■ "Use your youth now," McDaniel continued, noting that many church-going youth say they are frustrated when adult members of

See Special needs ministry ... *Page 6*



WHAT'S NEW FOR SUNDAY SCHOOL? Jackie Koch (right), a member of Bashford Manor Baptist Church, looks over Sunday school materials with fellow church member Suzie Collins. They recently attended a special needs ministry conference at the Baptist Building in Louisville. (Photo by Dannah Prather)

Gonzales unveils 'First Freedom Project' to SBC leaders

By Lonnie Wilkey
Tennessee Baptist and Reflector

Nashville—With the Southern Baptist Convention Executive Committee as his audience, U.S. Attorney General Alberto Gonzales announced the launch of the First Freedom Project.

"Religious freedom is a fundamental part of our nation's history and one of its core principles," Gonzales told Executive Committee members during a plenary session Feb. 20.

The First Freedom Project will be spearheaded by the Justice Department's Civil Rights Division and will build on the department's efforts to strengthen and preserve religious liberty throughout the nation, according to Gonzales, who sought the meeting with SBC leaders.

"Throughout our history, nothing has defined us as a nation more than our respect for religious freedom," he said. "It is not confined to members of one church or the followers of one set of beliefs. Through this initiative, the Justice Department continues its vigorous efforts to enforce protection against religious discrimination."

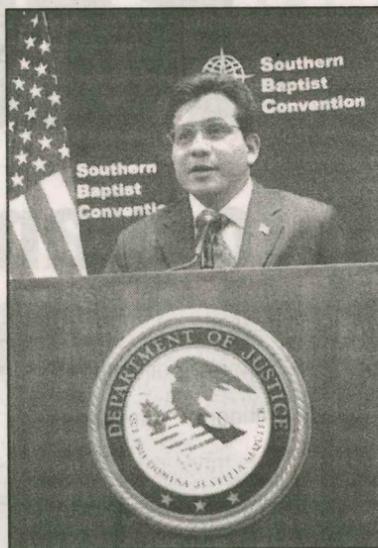
The attorney general stressed that religious liberty is "a universal right and applies to people of all faiths."

The First Freedom Project will initiate a program of public education to make certain that people know their rights. Gonzales said, noting that "people do not understand fully what their rights are."

Justice Department report released

Gonzales' remarks coincided with the release of the Justice Department's "Report on Enforcement of Laws Protecting Religious Freedom: Fiscal Years 2001-06."

The 43-page booklet, which is available on the First Freedom Web site, illustrates how the Justice Department has increased enforcement of protections against reli-



ANNOUNCEMENT U.S. Attorney General Alberto Gonzales unveils the Department of Justice's "First Freedom Project" during a Feb. 20 address to the SBC Executive Committee. (BP photo by Kristen Sayres)

gious discrimination and other laws protecting religious freedom.

According to the report, the department has filed a lawsuit to protect the right of a Muslim student to wear a head scarf while attending public school and defended the right of religious groups to meet in public facilities on an equal basis with secular groups.

The report also noted that the department has defended the right of senior adults to pray, sing religious songs and hold Bible studies at a community senior center.

"In each of those cases we argued that citizens should not be forced to check their religion at the door," Gonzales told Executive Committee members.

"We've launched scores of investigations involving religious discrimination in education and housing," Gonzales said. "We have fought to maintain and make clear the crucial distinction between improper government speech endorsing religion

and constitutionally protected private speech endorsing religion.

"Why should it be permissible for an employee standing around the water cooler to declare that 'Tiger Woods is God,' but a firing offense for him to say 'Jesus is Lord?'" he asked. "These are the kinds of contradictions we are trying to address."

At the conclusion of his address, Gonzales asked Executive Committee members to help spread the word of what the Justice Department is doing to preserve religious liberty and to help educate Southern Baptists about religious liberty laws.

Gonzales' announcement drew mixed responses from religious leaders.

According to Richard Land, president of the Southern Baptist Ethics & Religious Liberty Mission, "This initiative is needed and should make a real difference. When individuals find themselves in a confrontation concerning their free exercise rights, it helps to have the attorney general and the Department of Justice on your side."

Tony Perkins, president of the Family Research Council, noted that "we applaud Attorney General Gonzales for recognizing the ongoing threat to religious freedom and for taking firm steps to defend our 'first freedom.'"

But Bob Edgar, head of the National Council of Churches, said he wished the attorney general had chosen a more representative body to hear his announcement.

"We are pleased to see the Bush administration focus renewed interest on religious freedom," Edgar said. But he added that the NCC does "find it unsettling that only a single denomination, representing a fraction of the rich diversity of religious life of America, was selected to receive the attorney general's personal presentation. It would seem more appropriate had he made such an

appearance before an ecumenical or interfaith gathering, symbolically underlining the vision of a nation in which the law plays no favorites but sees all faiths as equal before the Constitution."

"Receptive audience"

Speaking to reporters after his address, Gonzales said he chose the SBC Executive Committee to announce the First Freedom Project because "this is a group very interested in the protection of religious freedom."

Baptists in America were early champions of religious liberty and influenced the development of the Constitution's First Amendment, which guarantees religious liberty and other freedoms.

Gonzales added that the "timing worked out where this was a good venue to speak to a receptive audience."

The First Freedom Project will hold a series of regional training seminars for leaders interested in religious liberty. The first one will be held March 29 in Kansas City, Mo., followed by seminars in Tampa, Fla., on April 25, and Seattle, Wash., on May 10. Other dates and locations will be announced later.

The First Freedom Project also has launched a Web site, www.firstfreedom.gov, which will provide information on laws that are enforced and details on how to file a complaint.

Another initiative—unrelated to Gonzales' announcement but called the First Freedoms Project—is a partnership among three Baptist organizations. The Baptist Joint Committee for Religious Liberty, Associated Baptist Press and the Baptists Today newspaper have joined in that project to emphasize the Christian commitment to First Amendment principles, particularly religious liberty and freedom of the press.

With additional reporting by Associated Baptist Press and Baptist Press

Chapman urges SBC leaders to assess convention's health

Nashville (BP)—Saying he believes the Southern Baptist Convention's "conservative resurgence" ended "as a crusade" in 2004, Morris Chapman asked SBC Executive Committee members Feb. 19 to examine the spiritual health of the convention in light of the conservative shift and to pray for revival among Baptists and across the nation.

"Is our convention any better spiritually because biblical conservatives are leading?" asked Chapman, president of the Executive Committee. "I leave that question for you to answer in the depths of your own heart."

Chapman said he believes the effort "as a crusade" ended in 2004—the 25th anniversary of Adrian Rogers' election as SBC president.

"I thank God that we went through that period of time in spite of its difficulty, in spite of its hardship on all of us, regardless of position in the convention," Chapman said. "We're just beginning to build a convention for this generation on the basis of our heartfelt convictions."

"We must begin to ask the question as to what God would have us do now that we have been given the leadership responsibilities of the convention."

Chapman also urged Executive Committee members to ask if America, as well as the convention, is on the brink of a spiritual revolution.

"Every Southern Baptist leader has reason to ask, 'If not, why not?' Surely that has been the prayer of our hearts—'God, send us a revival that will turn this nation right-side up,'" Chapman said.

BF&M affirmed as worthy guide for SBC trustees

Nashville (BP)—Characterizing the Baptist Faith and Message as a sufficient guide for trustees of Southern Baptist Convention entities, the SBC Executive Committee affirmed both the SBC's trustee system of governance and its confession of faith, in effect suggesting that trustees do well when guided by the Baptist Faith and Message in crafting doctrinal policies.

Responding last week to a motion at last year's SBC annual meeting, the Executive Committee stated that it "acknowledges the Baptist Faith and Message is not a creed, or a complete statement of our faith, nor final or infallible, nevertheless we further acknowledge that it is the only consensus statement of doctrinal beliefs approved by the Southern Baptist Convention and as such is sufficient in its current form to guide trustees in their establishment of policies and practices of entities of the convention."

The statement was adopted in response to a motion by SBC messenger Boyd Luter that called for a vote by messengers on any "doctrinal position or practical policy" adopted by

an SBC entity "which goes beyond, or seeks to explain the explicit wording of the duly constituted authoritative language of the Baptist Faith and Message 2000."

During the Executive Committee's administrative subcommittee meeting, SBC President Frank Page spoke in favor of the Executive Committee guidance, saying it would give guidance to SBC entities and to all Southern Baptists while not having an undue influence on them.

Luter's motion came after trustees of the Southern Baptist International Mission Board adopted a new policy disqualifying missionary candidates who practice a private prayer language and a new guideline that missionary candidates must be baptized in a church that practices believer's baptism exclusively, embraces the doctrine of security of the believer and rejects a regenerative view of baptism.

IMB trustees, in responding to an SBC-referred motion during their Jan. 29-31 meeting in California, had stated that "while the Baptist Faith and Message represents a general confession of Southern Baptist

beliefs related to biblical teachings on primary doctrinal and social issues, the IMB retains the prerogative and responsibility of further defining the parameters of doctrinal beliefs and practices of its missionaries who serve Southern Baptists with accountability to this board."

In other action, the Executive Committee responded to two referrals from the SBC annual meeting by requesting that LifeWay Christian Resources, as a "service to the local church ... compile additional statistics relating to Calvinism, the emergent church, elder rule and other topics of interest and discussion in Southern Baptist life."

In other business, members:

- Approved a 2007-08 Cooperative Program allocation budget of approximately \$200 million for recommendation to the 2007 SBC annual meeting in San Antonio.

- Approved recommendations of Orlando, Fla., as the site of the June 15-16, 2010, SBC annual meeting and Phoenix for June 14-15, 2011.

- Approved a 2.5 percent increase for the staff salary structure, effective Oct. 1.

DOMs celebrate 300-year history of associations

Louisville—Kentucky Baptist directors of missions and Kentucky Baptist Convention Mission Board staff members celebrated the 300th anniversary of the first Baptist association in North America during a Feb. 8-9 DOM/staff forum at the Baptist Building in Louisville.

Since the establishment of the Philadelphia Baptist Association in 1707, Baptist associations have existed to assist the work of local churches. A reception and historical video presentation officially marked the 300th anniversary of Baptist associations.

This year's forum was designed to help equip Kentucky Baptist associational leaders to fulfill their associations' mission in the area of evangelism.

"We have an urgency for sharing the gospel because our message truly is life or death," said Bill Mackey, executive director of the Kentucky Baptist Convention. "If we doubt the power of the gospel, we've lost the power for evangelism."

Participants discussed ways to help churches increase baptisms during small group sessions led by DOM facilitators.

"In every case where churches have been successful in introducing people to Christ, the churches were intentional in their evangelistic efforts," said Jerry Tooley, director of missions for Daviess-McLean Baptist Association.

Many groups emphasized the importance of prayer in all aspects of evangelism. Relational evangelism also was cited as a key to effective evangelism efforts.

Among the variety of outreach suggestions shared were:

- Create and maintain a hospitable church environment.
- Develop evangelistic mercy ministries.
- Offer evangelism training to church members.
- Incorporate outreach into Sunday school classes.
- Arrange appointments to visit unchurched people.
- Strengthen programs for children and youth.
- Utilize outreach programs such as FAITH or GROW.
- Host events such as block parties or Upward Basketball.

Bob Morrison, director of missions for Little Bethel Baptist Association, delivered a concluding message focused on the Lordship of Jesus Christ in the believer's life. He emphasized the importance of obedience to God's Word in the lives of all believers.

"If we understand that Jesus is Lord over all aspects of our lives, everything else will fall into place," Morrison noted. "That is our motivation for evangelism."

KBC baptisms up slightly; 5 key stats down

By Trennis Henderson
Editor

Louisville—Kentucky Baptists recorded increases in baptisms, worship attendance and undesignated offerings during the 2005-2006 church year, but saw decreases in five other key ministry areas, according to the 2006 Annual Church Profile report.

The number of baptisms, one of the most closely watched statistics among Kentucky Baptist churches in recent years, totaled 17,784, a gain of 377 (2.2 percent) over the previous year.

The 2005-2006 church year marked the first full year of the Kentucky Baptist Convention's five-year Kentucky Baptists Connect ministry emphasis. The strategy calls for 125,000 baptisms from 2005 through 2009, an average of 25,000 per year. By contrast, baptisms during the past five years have averaged just over 17,400 annually.

"I'm grateful that we had some increase although it was very small," said KBC Executive Director Bill Mackey. "I think it was advisable to have God-sized goals that can only be reached with the intervention of God in our lives and churches."

Looking to the future, he said, "If every church just increased by one, it would be very significant, which I think is doable."

Ross Bauscher, who was elected in December as leader of the KBC evangelism growth team, noted that he is "glad to see we went over the previous year" in baptisms, adding that "I'm hopeful we can exceed that next year."

But "in order to do so," he said, "people are going to have to be prayerful and intentional in developing a strategy as the Holy Spirit leads them. You need to get a good prayer ministry in your church and get a passion and burden for lost people."

"If we are going to reach and exceed the Connect goal" in baptisms, Bauscher emphasized, "it will be because we have yielded to God's will and direction."

'Live the Call' is focus of 2007 WMU gathering

Owensboro—Wanda Lee, executive director of national Woman's Missionary Union, will present theme interpretations during each session of Kentucky WMU's 104th annual meeting March 23-24 at Third Baptist Church in Owensboro.

"Live the Call," the annual meeting theme, echoes Lee's book by the same title. The meeting will begin Friday at 9:45 a.m., and conclude Saturday at noon.

"From start to finish, WMU leaders, members and anyone who cares about missions will want to be at our meeting in Owensboro," noted Joy Bolton, executive director of Kentucky WMU. "Come enjoy the wonderful music, fellowship and inspiration."

Special guests will be the Esther Missions Choir and Handbells from Korea WMU. They will provide music in each session.

Karen Wright, a Southern Baptist missionary to Chile, will share about her work on Friday morning. Also speaking will be a missionary couple serving in the Pacific Rim.

Kentucky Annual Church Profile statistics

Category	2006	2005	+/-	% +/-
Total membership	810,112	790,936	19,176	2.4%
Resident membership	587,072	563,338	23,734	4.2%
Total baptisms	17,784	17,407	377	2.2%
Other additions	16,937	16,062	875	5.4%
Worship attendance	273,656	263,634	10,022	3.8%
Sunday school enrollment	326,203	329,598	-3,395	-1.0%
Sunday school attendance	179,665	176,514	3,151	1.8%
Discipleship training	60,759	69,224	-8,465	-12.2%
Music enrollment	65,429	67,526	-2,097	-3.1%
Woman's Missionary Union	38,580	41,370	-2,790	-6.7%
Baptist Men on Mission	13,091	14,314	-1,223	-8.5%
Undesignated receipts	\$317,393,647	\$297,940,006	\$19,453,641	6.5%

In other areas, worship attendance increased 10,022 (3.8%) to 273,656; other additions increased 875 (5.4 percent) to 16,937; and undesignated receipts increased more than \$19 million (6.5 percent) to \$317,393,647.

While affirming that "Kentucky Baptists did very well in growth in giving to their local churches," Mackey urged churches to also increase their percentage of giving through the Cooperative Program.

"If churches just increased their percentage of undesignated giving to the Cooperative Program by one fourth of 1 percent, it would make a huge difference in all of our ministries," he noted. "Incremental increases in the percentage can make a significant difference in funding missions and ministries in Kentucky and around the world."

While Sunday school attendance increased 3,151 (1.8 percent) to 179,665, Sunday school enrollment declined 3,395 (1 percent) to 326,203.

Mackey said he was encouraged by the growth in Sunday school attendance, but acknowledged

that "the bottom line is we're not keeping pace with the population growth."

Other areas of decline included discipleship training, down 8,465 (12.2 percent) to 60,759; Baptist Men on Mission, down 1,223 (8.5 percent) to 13,091; Woman's Missionary Union, down 2,790 (6.7 percent) to 38,580; and music enrollment, down 2,097 (3.1 percent) to 65,429.

Besides the one-year decreases in those five ministry areas, all five have recorded overall declines over the past decade.

Joy Bolton, executive director of Kentucky WMU, acknowledged that "WMU enrollment on the ACP seems to be somewhat of a roller coaster ride," with four years of increases and six years of decreases since 1996.

Noting that "we're not satisfied with WMU enrollment," Bolton said WMU leaders "are seeking to start new groups all the time."

She said redesigned missions resources on the national WMU level hopefully "will encourage more churches to use WMU missions education materials."

cards to be used in campus ministries to international students. Gift cards will be placed in a large container in the sanctuary and presented to Inman for distribution to Baptist campus ministers across Kentucky.

All attendees may pre-register for a box lunch on Friday at noon. Acteens and Youth on Mission members and leaders are invited to participate especially in the Saturday morning session and stay for a youth pizza party at noon. There also will be a Saturday morning missions event for children in grades 1-6 and their leaders. There is a \$2 per person program fee payable at the door for this event. Children also are encouraged to bring canned food to donate to a local food ministry.

Pre-registration is required for preschool child care, interpretation for the deaf, Friday box lunch and dinners for the WMU Executive Board, Acteens/Youth on Mission and Baptist Nursing Fellowship. Contact Kentucky WMU for registration information.

The annual meeting mission project is to bring \$10 Wal-Mart gift

WESTERN RECORDER

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

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Support WMU

Thank you for the recent story you ran about Woman's Missionary Union and funding missions education. As chair of the WMU Foundation board of trustees, I understand the financial challenges WMU is facing. But I also understand the value of missions education and the importance of looking to the future to ensure its growth.

The Bible warns us that where there is no vision, the people perish (Proverbs 29:18). The Great Commission assures us there is a future, and we must have the vision to prepare for it by making disciples of all nations.

There are two important ways we can do that. First, through prayer. This is what the WMU faithful are most known for. Pray for the lost of this world. Pray for God to raise up workers for the harvest. Pray for local churches and those in positions

of leadership. Pray about your own commitment to missions.

The second way to renew our commitment to missions is to give. Sometimes we don't like to think about money as a part of missions.



But the truth is that no missions endeavor can get off the ground without financial support. I would not be on the WMU Foundation's board if I did not believe that. One of the best ways we can support the work of missions—and of WMU—is by making a gift to the Joy Fund, which is managed by the WMU Foundation.

The purpose of the Joy Fund is to help WMU prepare for the future by meeting its operational needs. By supporting WMU's operations, we support its mission and ministries, allowing it to continue into the future. If you would like to support WMU and the future of missions education in this way, gifts to the Joy Fund may be sent to the WMU Founda-

tion, Joy Fund, 100 Missionary Ridge, Birmingham, AL 35242.

*J. Howard Cobble, Chair
WMU Foundation Board of Trustees
Carrollton, Ga.*

Outreach idea

I've used this little idea many times in churches where I've been called as pastor.

Soon after arriving, I would visit five to seven families per week by appointment. I would choose some active and some inactive members, send them a letter saying I plan to visit them the next week at their convenience and would call for the best time before coming.

I would plan a short visit, meet the family, share some Scripture and leave. I would then have them as my special guests the next Sunday and recognize them during the service.

It really works and I thought it might be helpful to younger pastors.

*Aubert Rose
Mayfield*

I can still see and smell the smoke

By Rick Lance

Montgomery, Ala. (BP)—Approximately one year ago, there was an infamous series of church fires that claimed national and some international attention. For days and weeks, national news outlets descended on rural Alabama to cover the terrible acts of arsonists, who months later were apprehended by authorities and are now facing the justice system.

Within 24 hours of the first five incidents, then-Southern Baptist Convention President Bobby Welch and I were on the scene to offer support to those church families through our presence and prayers. In a matter of days, mobile units were on site for the churches to use in their Sunday school and worship ministries. In spite of the trauma, they did not miss a worship service.

Recently, I reflected on the response to the despicable acts, and I could still see and smell the smoke

FIRST PERSON

coming out of the debris where the church buildings once stood. I also can still see the determined faces of dedicated church members who said with confidence, "We will build back bigger and better."

On a return visit to one church, we had a Sunday afternoon worship service in which a man joined the fellowship. He was a volunteer firefighter who had tried to save the church building but to no avail. However, he was impressed with the spirit of love and commitment on the part of the church and said, "I want to be a part of this church."

A pastor of another church said, "This just serves to remind us that the church is not a building; it is the people, and now we can prove that

to be true."

The news media came to find what happened and who did it. I believe they left seeing something more important. I contend they saw faith, love and hope in action. They saw the people of God coming together, mourning their losses and moving forward by faith in Christ, sharing His love and holding on to the hope He provides.

Yes, I can still see the smoke coming out of the remains of church buildings, and I can smell the ashes of the burned materials, but I can see something beautiful as well. I can see the members of those churches holding hands in prayer and worship. I also can see the outpouring of support by Alabama Baptists and others as they helped friends in need. What a sight! What a memory! What a blessing! The smoke is gone, but the recollections remain.

Rick Lance is executive director of the Alabama Baptist State Board of Missions

Baptist association marks 300th anniversary

This year, Baptists in North America are celebrating the 300th anniversary of the first Baptist association.

The Philadelphia Baptist Association—now affiliated with the American Baptist Churches (USA)—was established in 1707 with delegates from five churches gathered at First Baptist Church of Philadelphia, which was a mission of Pennepack Baptist Church at that time. Delegates came from New Jersey, Delaware and Pennsylvania.

As part of the celebration, the Fellowship of State Executive Directors held its annual meeting this month in Philadelphia. While we were there, my wife, Kay, and I had the privilege of visiting Pennepack Baptist Church, established in 1688. It was a wonderful privilege to stand in the pulpit of that great, historic church and to imagine what it was like when great men and women of faith of that time came together for worship and to respond to the Great Commission.

The Philadelphia Baptist Association

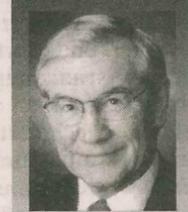
was established for the purposes of: 1. serving as a doctrinal monitor; 2. advising churches on Baptist practices; 3. serving as a clearinghouse in personnel matters; 4. promoting benevolent work in the area of Christian education, the struggle for religious liberty and home missions; 5. providing fellowship for Baptists, especially those in sparsely populated areas and those who faced persecution; and 6. providing models for preaching for young and less capable preachers.

"There will always be a need for a local body of encouragement," SBC President Frank Page told the state executive directors during our meeting.

Those weren't just kind words, as it is well known that Page himself actively participates in the local association. He recognizes that the director of missions can be the most influential person with pastors because he is the closest denominational staff member to the churches.

While in Philadelphia, it also was

PARTNERS IN THE MISSION



Bill Mackey

exciting to learn about the ministry of the Greater Philadelphia Baptist Association, which is one of the most diverse in the Southern Baptist Convention. Demonstrating this diversity, the state executive directors were invited to experience an ethnic dinner at Nazarene Baptist Church prepared by members of Korean, Ukrainian, Filipino, Haitian, Hispanic, African-American and other congregations.

The musical presentations of the evening included African-American gospel, Ukrainian choir anthems, contemporary hymns and choruses, and a powerful presentation of the gospel designed to reach the "hip hop" culture of the urban world.

Baptisms and church attendance have grown significantly in the Baptist Convention of Pennsylvania/South Jersey due primarily to the effective growth of African-American Baptist churches.

Please pray for David Waltz, executive director of the Baptist Convention of Pennsylvania/South Jersey, and for all those who work with local associations in order that we might be more effective in "connecting all people to Jesus Christ."

Bill Mackey is executive director of the Kentucky Baptist Convention

STEWARDSHIP

Five basic steps to enhance your investment plan

By Don Spencer

Selecting appropriate investments (asset allocation) is critical when investing for retirement or other purposes. Here are five things to consider when selecting your investments:



Time is critical. If you're investing for retirement that is 20 to 30 years in the future, you can be more aggressive in your investment choices than you would in saving for your child's education expense. The more time you have before you will need the money, the more you probably should put in stocks.

Diversify, diversify, diversify. Different types of investments move in and out of favor, sometimes seemingly without much rhyme or reason, but with disturbing consequences for investors who have too much of their money in the wrong area at the wrong time. By owning many different kinds of investments, you will minimize your volatility. This is one of the advantages of owning a mixture of mutual funds.

Know yourself. When stocks lost so much of their value in 2000-2002, did you get upset and move money out of stocks as a reaction? If so, you may have been invested too heavily in stocks appropriate to your temperament. History teaches us that every few years you can expect a 20 percent to 30 percent stock market decline. If you can't handle a decline that large, then don't overdo your stock allocation.

Don't fret about the short-term. On the short-term, the market's ups and down defy logic and are frightening. But history also teaches us that stocks deliver the higher returns than other investment categories over long periods of time. Don't make short-term decisions on a long-term investment such as your retirement plan.

Plan for increased longevity. Life expectancy continues to increase. If you retire at age 65, there is a good possibility you or your spouse will live 20 more years or longer. Your money will need to last that long too. Because of that, it might be appropriate to keep a significant portion of your savings in stocks when you retire. Some financial planners suggest keeping 50 percent to 60 percent of your savings in stocks or stock funds anticipating 20-plus years in retirement.

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

Consider 7 'coaching secrets' to help strengthen marriage

Q: What "coaching secrets" can you give me for marriage? It seems that everyone just struggles through and no one can tell me what it takes to make a marriage succeed.

Dr. John Gottman, one of America's foremost experts on marriage research, says there are seven principles for making marriage work. I list them with my own commentary:

Enhance your love maps. Do you know what makes your mate tick? Take time to listen, ask questions and get to know your spouse better.

MARRIAGE

Nurture your fondness and admiration.

You can choose to think fond thoughts or you can choose negative ones. Think of things you admire about your mate. Contemplate your spouse at his or her best.

Turn toward each other instead of away. Do you know how to calm yourself down when someone accidentally "pushes your buttons"? When you feel like saying something you shouldn't, don't. When you feel like doing something you shouldn't, don't. When you are ready to move toward your spouse in love, do so.

Let your partner influence you. Are you always trying to be dominant? This is not a good idea. Each person has wonderful things they can teach each other. Allow that to happen.

There are two kinds of conflict—things you can change and things you can't. Choose to solve your solvable problems and let the unsolvable go. Look into structured conflict resolution processes if you keep going around in circles.

Overcome gridlock. When you know you are stuck, enlist a counselor. Stay with the process for as long as it takes. Marriage enrichment groups and marriage education classes also are good resources to help you get unstuck.

Create shared meaning. Do you share with one another your wishes, hopes and dreams? Do you talk about what is most important to you? Are you willing to cry together, laugh together, have adventures together? The mutual cultivation of spirituality can be powerful and effective for your relationship.

To achieve marital health, give these seven principles a try. Make a point to nurture your most important human relationship.—James Stillwell

Q: How can parents and children find freedom from fear?

Fear serves a useful purpose—especially if you think of fear in terms of "respect." Fear protects us; it instructs us; it challenges us to pay attention and to take safeguards. Fear helps us make good decisions. Fear also can help children understand that events are important and worth taking seriously.

PARENTING

Life can be a frightening proposition. Without question, there are people, circumstances and situations that are dangerous and that deserve our fear. However, a Christ follower should not allow fear to dominate his or her life. Instead, they can recognize the great goodness that lies in most people and in much of our world. Like David, they can learn to lie down at night and sleep well, confident of God's presence and care in every circumstance of life. (See Psalm 4:8.) It is important learn to release fear once immediate danger has passed, much like a heartbeat gradually slowing after exertion, instead of letting fear become a pattern that paralyzes you or your child.

Teach your children to have a healthy fear and respect for people and things that can harm them. At the same time, help them learn how to lean into life with the confidence that comes from knowing that God walks with them every day. Remember that children take their cues from adults. Ask God to help you manage your own fears and not project them on your children.—David Garrard

Family Forum writers are:

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

From KBHC to Sunrise: What's in a name?

Effective next month, the Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children will no longer be known by that name. Directors of the Kentucky Baptist Convention-related ministry have voted to rename the entity Sunrise Children's Services.

Why? According to KBHC President Bill Smithwick, the new name is designed to "better clarify who we are and what we do today."

The basic perspective is that the bulk of the ministry's focus these days is on providing children's services such as counseling and foster home placement and support. While it still offers some traditional "children's home" residential services, that is no longer its primary emphasis.

In a page 1 article last week, Smithwick also noted that there are several assumptions made by many people about KBHC, including the perspective that it is only for Baptist children, that officials hire only Baptist staff members and that Baptist donations cover all of the ministry's expenses.

Emphasizing that none of those assumptions is true, Smithwick said the new name is intended to provide "a fresh start and let the name catch up to the way the rest of the program has changed."

Smithwick also is quick to point out that the name change will not alter the ministry's relationship with the Kentucky Baptist Convention or its ongoing mission and methods.

While many longtime supporters likely will appreciate the goal of better communicating KBHC's current ministry efforts, one anticipated concern will be removing the name "Baptist" from the ministry's title.

Smithwick noted that LifeWay Christian Resources (formerly the Baptist Sunday School Board) and

GuideStone Financial Resources (formerly the Southern Baptist Annuity Board) have changed their names in recent years.

But one difference is that those two Southern Baptist entities' official names are: LifeWay Christian Resources of the Southern Baptist Convention and GuideStone Financial Resources of the Southern Baptist Convention. While they typically are known as LifeWay or GuideStone in casual conversation, their full names still bear witness to their Baptist connections.

Perhaps it would be helpful for Sunrise leaders to at least include a tagline on their Web site, brochures, letterhead and other material that says something along the lines of, "Sunrise Children's Services, a Ken-

tucky Baptist ministry." That would clearly highlight the historic Baptist ties even as "Sunrise" becomes the preferred name and ministry message.

Of course, the reality is there are several KBC-related entities without "Baptist" in their name, including Campbellsville University, the University of the Cumberland, Kentucky Woman's Missionary Union and even the Western Recorder.

The bottom line is not what the ministry is called but what it accomplishes on behalf of abused and neglected children throughout Kentucky.

"What's in a name?" Shakespeare asked in Juliet's memorable words to Romeo. "That which we call a rose by any other name would smell as sweet."

Whether known as the Louisville Baptist Orphans' Home, Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children or Sunrise Children's Services, may the sweet aroma of ministry continue as Sunrise pursues its stated mission of providing "care and hope for hurting families and children through Christ-centered ministries."

STRAIGHT FROM THE EDITOR



Trennis Henderson

Beware of false advertising

By Gerald Harris

I don't think I want to be standing near Brian Sapien in a thunderstorm. He was raised a Catholic, and says he became a born-again Christian when he was 13. Now he professes to be an atheist and has entered a contest with God that makes the prophets of Baal in Elijah's day look like featherweights.

Sapien was on ABC News' Nightline last month to explain his anti-God campaign. The 30-year-old atheist has developed a Web site for the Rational Response Squad, whereby he challenges people to make videos of themselves denying, denouncing or blaspheming the Holy Spirit.

Those who are conversant with the Bible know that Mark 3:29 reads, "But he that shall blaspheme against the Holy Ghost hath never forgiveness, but is in danger of eternal damnation."

"Blasphemy against the Holy Spirit" generally is regarded as the "unpardonable sin."

Sapien boldly stated, "Initially we wanted to find a way to allow atheists to come out of the closet, speak up and show other people that there are people that think like this. We wanted to do it in such a way where we stripped the power from religious institutions that instill fear in people. We did that by blaspheming the Holy Spirit, by showing that we are not scared of this unforgivable sin."

ABC reports that one of the posts on Sapien's Web site is from a young man named Chandler, who wrote:

"I've come to the conclusion that alongside the fact that there is no Santa Clause and there is no Easter Bunny, there is also no God. So without further ado, my name is Chandler and I deny the existence of the Holy Spirit."

Sapien and his Rational Response Squad are targeting teenagers by taking their blasphemy challenge to Web sites for students. According to Sapien, teens "are not so indoctrinated and set in their ways that they can overcome this religious superstition that has been put in their brain unfairly."

Sapien's Web site has links to other sites, one of which sells bumper stickers and buttons inscribed with messages such as "Born Again Pagan," "I Pledge Allegiance to the Earth," "Nothing Fails Like Prayer," and "I Asked God, She's Pro Choice."

Interestingly, the Bible never provides us with any formal arguments to prove the existence of God. In fact, the Bible assumes that everybody knows deep down that there is a God. That is why the first book of the Bible begins with the words, "In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth."

The world has been designed and created with incredible beauty and intricate detail. The symmetry, the colors, the variety, the complexity, the climate, the exquisite facets of all of creation suggests a Designer, because every effect requires a cause, and nothing comes of nothing.

Furthermore, Psalm 14:1 clearly says, "The fool hath said in his heart,

there is no God." But before I launch into a tirade on atheists, let me give an idea as to why some folks are atheists. I think we Christians are responsible for many people turning away from God and embracing atheism.

I would have to question Sapien's "experience with Christ" at age 13 because "a faith that fizzles before the finish has a flaw from the first." However, would his quest for God have taken a different path if he had seen vibrant Christians who were empowered by the Spirit of God, if he had seen a church aflame with a passion for the souls of men, if he had seen less hypocrisy and more authenticity among the saints, if he had seen the church bravely marching in the train of our triumphant Lord?

Daniel 11:32 asserts, "The people who know their God shall be strong, and do exploits." The implication is that those who know God will be advertisements of His precepts and power.

In our churches we sing "What a mighty God we serve," but most folks see no indication that God is manifesting Himself in our lives. We are lacking in spiritual strength and dynamism. We talk about a God of might and miracles, but the world is longing to see evidences of the Almighty in us and through us.

I deplore what Sapien and his Rational Response Squad are doing, but those of us who comprise the church of the living God must make sure we are not guilty of false advertising. If we sing and preach about a mighty God, we need to make sure that people can see Him at work in our lives.

Gerald Harris is editor of the Georgia Christian Index

Special needs ministry happens five minutes at a time

Kentucky Baptist Conference of the Deaf set for June

For information about ministering to individuals who are deaf or hearing impaired, contact the Kentucky Baptist Convention Mission Board.

Call the New Work/Associational Missions Department toll-free at (866) 489-3528 or visit the KBC Web site at www.kybaptist.org.

Information on deaf ministry is located on the New Work/Associational Missions Department page. It includes downloadable resources and contact information for deaf ministry experts in the commonwealth.

The Kentucky Baptist Conference of the Deaf is set for June 8-10 at Camp Kavanaugh in Crestwood.

Continued from page 1

the church don't ask them to serve. Middle school and high school students can lead music, help special needs children and adults participate in recreational activities and other classroom projects.

■ "Ask a deacon to visit the class and do a short monologue" dressed as a Bible character from the day's lesson, he suggested.

■ McDaniel mentioned a church member who always organized crafts projects for vacation Bible school but the rest of the year her talent went unused. She began helping the special needs class with projects and now feels she is contributing more to her church.

■ A small group of chaperones assists teachers on a rotating basis. If a student becomes ill or disruptive, an adult is there to respond to the need without the class coming to a halt.

All of these volunteers enhance the ministry without ever opening a Sunday school quarterly, McDaniel noted.

Having several church members involved in a special needs ministry requires coordination, time and commitment, McDaniel said, but Christian leaders must realize that because of the diversity of physical, mental and emotional disabilities sometimes represented in a single class, a variety of ministry methods is needed.

■ "See it. Hear it. Do it," is the best approach for all teaching, he said, but is especially relevant for students with differing cognitive abilities.

■ Providing the same Bible translation and text helps involve students who can read but perhaps do so at a low grade-level. Referencing a page number in a Bible that everyone is using saves time trying to direct each student to a passage in his or her own Bible. Teachers should always remind students that their lesson is based on the Bible and that the Bible is God's Word, McDaniel said. Even if teachers read Scripture from the quarterly, they also should have a Bible open nearby.

■ "Our (students) enjoy stories and parables," said Ann Cope of Trinity Baptist Church in Lexington.

■ "Reading the story to them

doesn't work," advised Diane Shelton of Highview Baptist Church in Louisville. "I do my homework and talk about the story or tell the story."

■ Recreation, crafts, drama, music or other activities that illustrate the Bible truth will mean more to some students than reading the verses and listening to the lesson. Shelton said she uses these activities to re-tell the story, asking students "what happens next?" as they participate in the activity.

■ McDaniel encourages all churches to ask Bible study teachers to attend at least one training annually—no matter what type of Sunday school class they teach.

Southern Baptists must realize that serving individuals with special needs, and their families, is becoming a necessity instead of an option, McDaniel said. "Children (with special needs) that were dying years ago are now living and they're living longer."

Compared to previous generations, parents today respond differently when a church tells them they do not have a class for their special needs child. "Instead of being told 'no' and leaving, today's parents hear 'no' and reply, 'When will you have one?'" McDaniel said. "It's an amazing shift."

In the past, "parents were willing to stay silent or stay at home," McDaniel said. Mike and Julie Krieg and Donna Eustice were such parents.

Some churches the Kriegs visited with their special needs son, Eric, were friendly, Julie Krieg said, "but it was friendly (and) 'your child better fit in.'"

When Eric was about 16 years old, Mrs. Krieg said he refused to go to church because "there really was no place for him." Eventually she said, "Forget this, it's just too hard" and the entire family stopped attending.

Mainstreaming special needs children when they are young works



SEE IT. HEAR IT. DO IT. Carlton McDaniel, special needs ministry specialist for LifeWay Christian Resources, recommends using different methods of teaching children and adults with special needs because of the wide variety of physical, mental and emotional challenges that could be represented in a single Sunday school class. (Photo by Dannah Prather)

well, McDaniel said. However, as children grow and cognitive problems become more obvious, a special needs child falls behind his or her peers. Eventually the Sunday school class becomes too advanced and the special needs students become bored or perhaps disruptive.

Donna Eustice's daughter, Melissa, is autistic. At 14, Melissa also is unchurched "because there's no place for her." On Sundays, Melissa stays at home with her father. The arrangement permits Eustice to attend Bible study and worship, "but my husband is completely unchurched."

"You take it very personally until you're finally able to step back and realize that (a church) can't bend every program to fit every person," Mrs. Krieg said. "It does take a certain type of church body to be accepting."

One Saturday evening about four years ago, Mrs. Krieg said she and her husband were amazed to hear

Eric ask, "Should we go to church tomorrow?"

Mrs. Krieg, who had heard that Trinity Baptist Church in Lexington had a Sunday school class for special needs adults, told her husband, "There's only one place I think we can go and it be OK."

The family visited Trinity; today they are church members. Occasionally, Eric plays drums in worship and piano in Sunday school. His parents recently joined the special needs adult class.

Eustice and another member of New Hope Baptist Church in Versailles, John Ricketts, attended the Feb. 17 special needs conference to learn more about starting a ministry at their church. Ricketts' son, Daniel, has cerebral palsy, and there are other members of the church and community who could benefit from the ministry.

"We don't know where it's going to take us," Eustice said. "We just know we're supposed to do it."

Resources for special needs ministries

Helps for special needs ministries available through LifeWay Christian Resources can be found at www.lifeway.com under "additional ministries" located on the "ministry" pull-down menu. To speak to a staff member by phone, call (800) 458-2772.

■ "Special Education Today" is a magazine for church leaders, teachers, and families of individuals with special needs. Carlton McDaniel, a ministry specialist with LifeWay, said churches often request a resource manual for special needs ministry, but he recommends SET magazine because diagnoses of developmental disabilities, teaching resources and other pertinent information "changes quicker than we can rewrite" a manual.

■ A new Bible teaching resource for "Special Buddies" in grades 1-6 will be available this fall.

■ LifeWay's ACCESS curricula is for youth and adults.

■ VBS materials adapted for special needs learners are available at www.lifeway.com/vbs.

■ LifeWay Church Sales works with more than 100 manufacturers to offer furnishings and equipment for playgrounds and classrooms at discounted rates.

■ For additional resources, McDaniel also recommends the Web site, www.abilitations.com.

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

KENTUCKY NOTES WMU

Kentucky Woman's Missionary Union

A quarterly publication of Kentucky Woman's Missionary Union
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2007 Annie Armstrong
Easter Offering® (AAEO)
for North American Missions

Theme: Change Your World
Offering Goal: \$57 million

Giving to AAEO topped \$58 million for the first time ever in 2006, exceeding last year's goal by more than two million dollars

Kentucky Baptist churches gave \$1,910,856 to the 2006 AAEO. This offering provides missionary funding across North America and a portion of our gifts are used in Kentucky!

Spring 2007



Live the Call

KENTUCKY WMU ANNUAL MEETING
THIRD BAPTIST CHURCH, OWENSBORO
MARCH 23-24, 2007

Special Guests: Esther Missions Choir & Handbells, Korea Baptist WMU
Music Leader - Roxanne Naney • Pianist - Larry Lee

The prelude will begin five minutes before the start of each session.

All times listed are for Central Time

Friday Morning 9:45 a.m.—Hear the Call

Theme Interpretation - Hear: Wanda Lee
Offering for Kentucky WMU Ministries to Missionaries
Special Music - Esther Missions Choir & Handbells
Missionaries: Karen Wright, Chile;
Last Frontier Couple, PacRim

Friday Noon—Lunch with a Missionary

Box Lunch by reservation.
Choose a missions speaker during lunch.
Visit Displays & Bookstores.

Friday Afternoon 1:30 p.m.—Understand the Call

Theme Interpretation - Understand: Wanda Lee
Understanding the Eliza Broadus Offering: Jerry Tooley,
DOM, Daviess-McLean Association
KY WMU Business Session
Launch of 1000 Campaign for the Heritage Fund
Installation of 2007-08 Officers & Board

Friday Afternoon 3:30 p.m.—Missions Displays

"It's A Small World" - Gymnasium

Friday 5:00 p.m.—Executive Board Reunion Dinner

(All former Executive Board members are invited to attend. Advance ticket purchase required.)

Friday Evening 6:30 p.m.—Embrace the Call

Concert: Esther Missions Choir & Handbells
Theme Interpretation - Embrace: Wanda Lee
Greetings: Darren Gaddis, President, KBC
Offering for Kentucky WMU Ministries to Missionaries
Embrace the World: Parade of Flags and
Prayer Emphasis

Saturday Morning 9:00 a.m.—Live the Call

Saturday will be casual day! You are invited to wear a WMU shirt, mission trip shirt, or other casual attire.

Acteens Feature
Missionary: Drew Phillips, Christian Activity Center,
East St. Louis
Offering for Kentucky WMU Ministries to Missionaries
Special Feature: Collegiate Ministry Presentation - Keith
Inman, Cindy Pelphrey, BCM Students
Live the Call: Wanda Lee
Closing: Esther Missions Choir & Handbells

Saturday Noon—Luncheons

—Acteens / Youth on Mission Pizza Party
—Baptist Nursing Fellowship Luncheon

GA/Children in Action Missions Event
Gymnasium: Saturday, 9 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

To make meal, childcare or deaf interpretation reservations, please contact Kentucky WMU or go to www.kywmu.org.

A Personal Word

Without fail, the Kentucky WMU Annual Meeting is always a high point in the year. This year is no exception. Not only will we host the



Joy Bolton
Executive
Director-
Treasurer

Esther Missions Choir and Handbells from Korea Baptist WMU, but we will also hear from Wanda Lee, our national WMU Executive Director, as she shares messages around the theme of *Live the Call*. We will have several of our Kentucky missionaries as well as a parade of flags and special prayer emphasis in the Friday evening session. On Saturday morning our program will feature what young adults are doing in missions. Speaking

of Saturday—be sure to wear your favorite WMU or missions trip shirt for our casual day at Annual Meeting. You are also invited to bring a Wal-Mart Gift Card to give to our Baptist Campus Ministry to help international students as they get settled in the U.S. for college.

The Esther Missions Choir and Handbells group will arrive in Kentucky on Tuesday, March 20. They will be touring Kentucky missions points, visiting churches, observing missions education groups, and sharing concerts in several locations. We are hosting this group as part of our partnership with Korea WMU. The choir has sung in a number of places around the world, and we are honored to have them in our meeting.

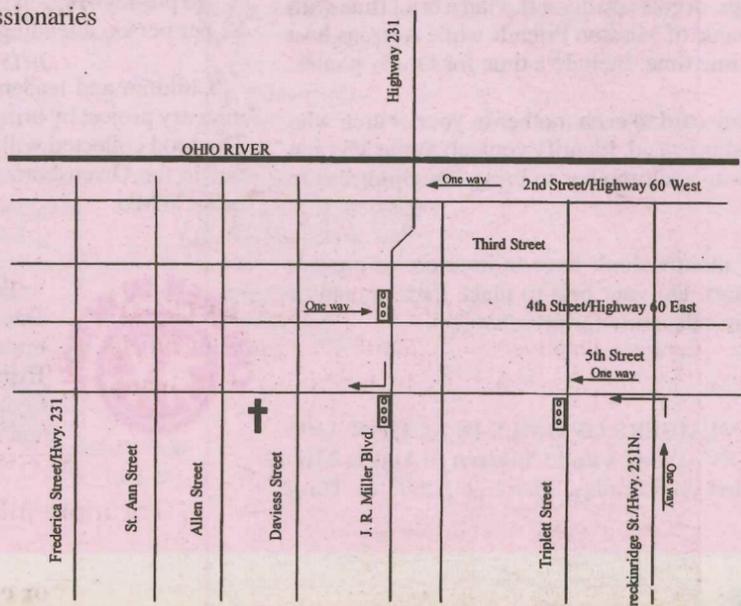
Please be in prayer for the Kentucky WMU mission teams that will travel this year. Our first team will prayerwalk and lead a WMU event in Brazil, March 5-14. We will have a team go to Korea and China May 1-11, and another team go to teach English, August 2-18. Several volunteers will be going during the summer to teach English at the KBWMU building and in churches.

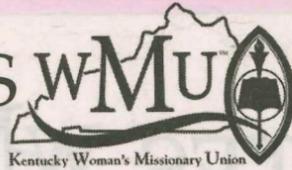
Above all, prayer is the foundation of our partnership. We have been sending prayer requests by e-mail each month. Cathy Chinn has been leading prayer conferences this year. We are praying for both North and South Korea, Brazil, and our WMU work in Kentucky. I urge you to become a prayer partner with us. Please send us an e-mail address for someone in your church who can receive the monthly prayer requests, print them, and share them with others.

Of special note is the launch of our 1000 Campaign for the Kentucky WMU Heritage Fund at Annual Meeting. Our goal is to enlist 1,000 individuals or groups who will give \$1,000 by 2010. This will increase the Heritage Fund by one million dollars and provide a good foundation for supporting the work of Kentucky WMU.

Get a carload of women and meet us in Owensboro, March 23-24. Registration information has been mailed to each church. You may pre-register for Annual Meeting as well as order a box lunch. The Kentucky WMU Annual Meeting is the gathering place for everyone who cares about missions. You will be renewed and inspired to *Live the Call*.

Map to Third Baptist Church, Owensboro





WMU Directors



It's that time again...planning and preparation for the fall in our association and churches. You will want to recruit your leadership now as the training session is soon upon us! Associational leaders: SALT is May 5 and 19. World Missions Unlimited is July 27-28 for association and church leaders. The guidebooks are new with ideas and approaches to involve all age levels in missions and mission education. I think you are going to be excited and be ready to begin the New Year with enthusiasm.

We now have four Christian Women Job Corps sites in Kentucky. However, the need is everywhere for women and men to receive basic skills to become self-sufficient. Volunteers are needed to provide one to one mentoring. It just takes time and a commitment to share His love. CWJC site coordinator training is available in many states, including Kentucky. The next training for potential site coordinators is May 21-24 in Louisville. Please call the office for more information.

Calling all nurses...

When was the last time you could get continuing education for less than \$50? Kentucky Baptist Nursing Fellowship offers summer training with continuing education for less than \$25! Please take time to read the ad on page 4 and find out more.

Do you enjoy drinking clean water, free of floating particles and clear in color? There are many of our Southern Baptist missionaries and the people groups they are serving that do not. *Pure Water Pure Love* is a simple and easy project any church or group within your church can do. For \$250, groups can purchase one filter that will provide clean drinking water for many people.

There are several different mission opportunities through Kentucky WMU and International Initiatives. Please call our office to learn more.

Have a beautiful and blessed spring!

—Wanda Walker

Adults

Recently, I had the opportunity to meet with adult consultants from other states. This was a wonderful opportunity to renew acquaintances, make new acquaintances and have a time of learning and fellowship.



One of the things we discussed, as many of you as adult leaders wonder was "How do we involve younger women and how do we keep all women in-

involved?" The one thing that kept being talked about was relationships. It's not about all the programs and events we can do, but the relationships we develop and maintain to grow the kingdom of God. It is the one to one. It is the group experience. It is the hands on experience. Relationships grow through learning, praying, giving and going.



We don't always have to think this can only be done through traditional means of missions' education. Women want the wisdom and experience of their matured sisters. Don't be afraid to share that experienced wisdom. God wants all of us to be working together to grow His Kingdom.

Peace, Joy and Blessings!

—Wanda Walker

Youth

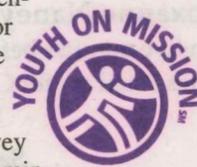
"What if..." hundreds of young women and men realized and then reached their potential in Christ? Their communities, Kentucky and the world would be changed. Your youth are invited to Hopkinsville March 30-31 for a weekend to explore "What if..." Young women will consider faith's questions during *Exalt* at Second Baptist while the young men will be challenged at 4:GO at Hillcrest Baptist. For more information, please contact Kentucky WMU.



Congratulations to Chelsea Ballou of Corbin for being named to the national Acteens Advisory Panel. Only eight young women across the country were selected for this honor. We'd also like to congratulate Rebecca Gardner of Shelbyville, and Katie Hildabrand of Russellville for being selected as "Top Teens" by national WMU. This also is a very high honor.

In February, a youth ministry tool was introduced for all Southern Baptist churches. This vital tool is the "Annual Youth Ministry Survey." Churches can begin registering for the survey February 1 at www.sbcstudents.com/annualsurvey, and the survey itself will be taken April 1-8. It is essential that a youth minister or key youth leader be the one to register for the survey and not a youth worker.

The youth ministry survey questions the youth, youth minister, parents of youth and youth workers to provide an accurate portrait of the youth ministry of a local church. It examines lifestyle and doctrinal issues as well as the overall youth program within the church. Each respondent's answers are strictly confidential. Following the survey, several reports will be generated to facilitate discussion.



Practically, the survey will help your church know where your youth stand on various lifestyle issues and what they understand theologically. Using this information, the youth minister/leader, parents and adult workers can then think strategically to strengthen weak areas. For example, the doctrinal report may demonstrate that your youth don't really understand that there is only one way to the heaven, Jesus Christ. You can then spend time comparing other religions to Christianity and helping your youth to understand the Truth of it. I highly encourage everyone to work with the leadership of your church to utilize this resource.

Plans have been made for the Kentucky party at Blume. On Tuesday night, we will enjoy a pizza party at the convention center. Information will be mailed to everyone soon!

—LaRaine Dail

Preschool and Children

PRESCHOOL—

Spring is here and an exciting adventure in Mission Friends continues for preschoolers. Begin now to plan some special experiences for your Mission Friends class. Here are some ideas:



- Involve babies and one-year-olds in Mission Friends by having a "Baby, Oh Baby" event. Use suggestions on page 2 of the spring issue of *Start*.

- Daytime and early evening meetings can be held outdoors.

- A family cookout is an excellent opportunity to involve all Mission Friends and their parents. Keep the menu simple: hot dogs, hamburgers, potato chips, drinks and dessert. Plan a brief time with parents to discuss the value of Mission Friends while Acteens host the preschoolers in a game time. Include a time for family games, too!

- Send a Mother's Day card to each mother in your church who has a prospective Missions Friend. Identify yourself as the Mission Friends teacher and invite each mother to bring her child(ren) to Mission Friends.

Spring and summer months don't have to interfere or prevent Mission Friends meetings. Do your best to make these months a special time for missions education for preschoolers.

CHILDREN—

ATTENTION ALL MEMBERS OF GIRLS IN ACTION AND CHILDREN IN ACTION! The **GA and Children in Action Missions Event** is scheduled on Saturday, March 24, 2007 at Third

Baptist Church, Owensboro. Because both Girls in Action (girls, grades 1-6) and Children in Action (boys and girls, grades 1-6) are a part of WMU, this special event is planned during the WMU Annual Meeting.

The event begins at 9:00 a.m. and concludes around 12:00 noon (Central Time). As the general meeting is in session for everyone else, the children and leaders will be having their own event with opportunities for meeting missionaries, singing, and all kinds of fun! The event will be held in the Christian Life Center of the church. Watch for signs to direct you to the entrance. See directions to the church on page 1 of this insert.

No pre-registration for the event is required. However, the cost is \$2 per person attending, to be paid on arrival.

Children and leaders attending the event can be involved in a ministry project by bringing one can of food per person to the event. The food collected will be distributed to programs for needy families in the Owensboro area. For further information contact Kentucky WMU.



Don't forget camp! Two state camps, Cedar Crest (at Cedarmore) and Jonathan Creek, offer opportunities for all girls. In addition, a special Express Week is offered for boys and girls at Cedar Crest. More information can be found on page 3 of this insert.

—Brenda Price

President's Perspective

Preschoolers are worth it! I was reminded of this again when I recently visited with a church that wanted the best for their preschoolers. We talked about missions education and using Mission Friends material. Preschoolers are able to learn about caring, praying and giving to others. If you aren't teaching missions to your preschoolers, you should be! Mission Friends material is great. While I am on the subject, let me remind those of you that haven't taught



Pat Reaves
Kentucky WMU
president

preschoolers or stayed in extended teaching care for a while to consider volunteering in this area. Preschooler's parents need to hear about Jesus too.

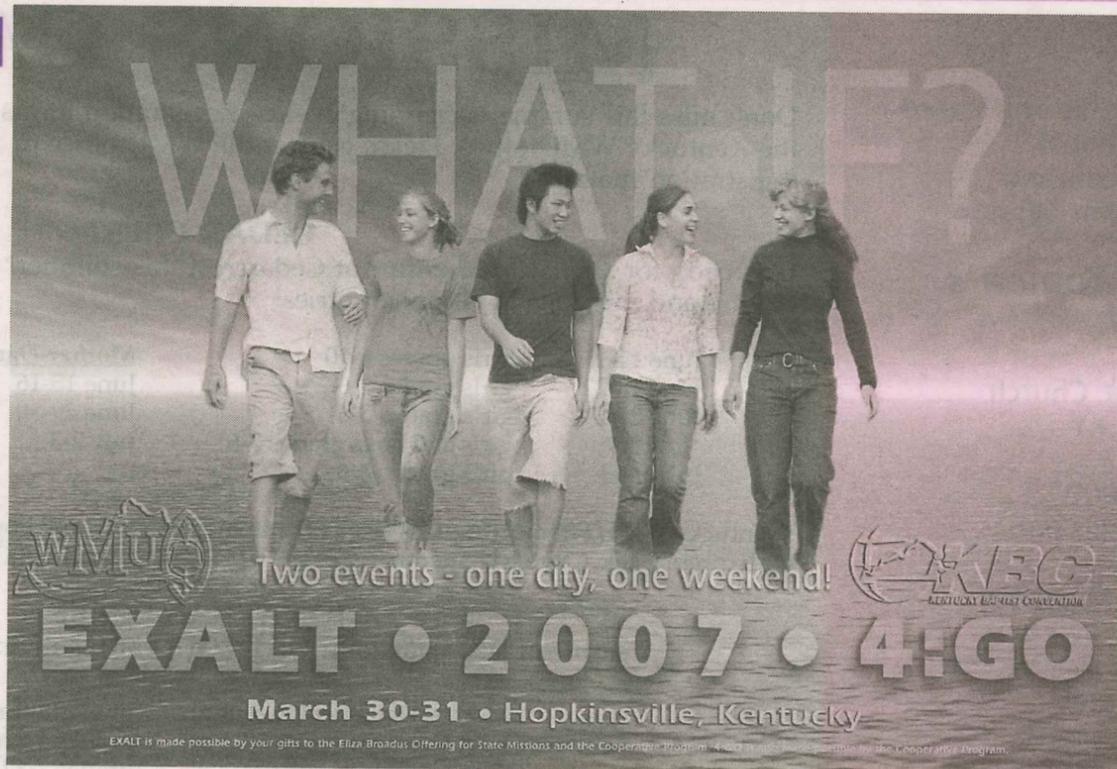
I was in Birmingham during January to learn how to be your President and to be a part of the board meeting of national WMU. How exciting to hear about the new products and some of the changes to the old. We also heard that finances are tight! WMU is funded by sale of subscriptions and products. Subscriptions have been going down. The International Mission Board has given WMU a gift each year, but within the next three years they will phase this gift out. We need to pick up the slack by encouraging our churches to buy subscriptions for all the organizations.

Hopefully all of you are planning to be in Owensboro during March for the annual meeting. The date is March 23-24. We are working to make this a great meeting. Wanda Lee, Executive Director of WMU, will be giving the theme interpretations during each session. Wanda is a great leader, and I think chosen by God "for this time." Her husband, Larry, will be our pianist, and Roxanne Nanney our worship leader. We are excited to be hosting the Esther Mission Choir and Handbells from Korea as well as many missionaries. You may even see Joy, Brenda and me in our *hanboks* (Korean dresses) if I can figure out how to put mine on! On Saturday we will be hearing from college students. Don't forget on Saturday you may dress casually - it really is OK!

Remember to make your reservations for Blume!

Walk worthy...
Working together,

—Pat Reaves



Change A Church, Change the World

This spring, WMU is launching a new series of books to help your church fulfill its mission of changing the world. These resources will examine how you can involve your church, preschoolers, children, youth and adults in missions. Go to www.wmystore.com to check them out today. We will use these resources at SALT and World Missions Unlimited to train you to help your church change the world.

Kentucky WMU Heritage Fund September 1 - November 30, 2006

The following persons were honored or remembered through gifts to the Kentucky WMU Heritage Fund during the first quarter of the 2006-07 fiscal year. Thank you to each person who gave to the Heritage Fund in honor of or in memory of someone significant to you and WMU. Earnings from this endowment fund are used by Kentucky WMU as approved by the Development Committee. During 2006-07, Heritage Fund earnings will help provide expenses for our Hispanic WMU Meeting in February and Associational WMU Leadership Training in May.

In Honor of:

Susan Bryant
Susan Bryant
Susan Bryant
Susan Bryant
Anna White
Susan Bryant
Susan Bryant
Irma Woodrow
Irma Woodrow
Susan Bryant
Susan Bryant
Susan Bryant
Susan Stinnett
Susan Stinnett
Susan Stinnett
Susan Stinnett
Susan Stinnett

In Memory Of:

William Breeze, Jr.
Dorothy Brooks Tatum
Sallie Satterly
Barbara Britton
Millie Mills
Doris Wade
Ernestine Fentress
Beatrice Brammell
Lillian McGary
Berta Leavell
Joyce Rasdall
Joyce Brooks

Special Gifts

Cropper Baptist Church WMU
Bell County Association WMU
Mr. & Mrs. J. Dudley Reaves
Twyla Sheffield

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Mr. & Mrs. Paul Briscoe
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Mr. & Mrs. Gerald W. Johnson
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Wolf Creek Baptist WMU
Mr. & Mrs. George Sadler
Grober-Parrish Baptist Women
Brenda Price
Irma Woodrow



An event for teenage girls and
collegiate young women
www.blumeforgirls.com

New Starts in WMU for 2006-07

Welcome to the following new WMU groups started September to December 2006:

Mission Friends	Farmdale, Friendship, Richland, Anchor, McKinney, Kiddville, Heritage, McVeigh
Girls in Action	Prospect FBC, Rocky Springs, New Haven, Anchor, Spann Hill, Cerulean
Children in Action	Richland, New Highland, Wice Memorial, Horizon, Hunsinger Lane, Safe Harbor, Glencoe, Raymond, Mt. Zion, New Hope, Heritage, McVeigh, Providence
Acteens	Anchor, Lawrenceville, Dyer Hill
Youth on Mission	Richland, Glencoe, McVeigh
Women on Mission	Licking River, Rock Haven, Wice Memorial, Safe Harbor, Friendship, True Light Korean, Jenkins FBC, Cardinal Hill, Morgantown Community, Calvary Missionary,
Churchwide WMU	Licking River, Rock Haven, Wice Memorial, Safe Harbor, Friendship, True Light Korean, Jenkins FBC, Cardinal Hill, Calvary Missionary



MISSIONS CAMPS

Baptist Nursing Fellowship is pleased to offer its annual Summer Luncheon and Continuing Education Session

Advances in Women's Health

Farmdale Baptist Church
Frankfort, KY

June 30, 2007
10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

\$15.00 for BNF Members
\$25.00 for non-members
Join BNF (\$15) and receive the member rate!
Lunch is included in fee.

Education Session is open to all women to attend.
2 Continuing Education Units will be given.

Call the WMU office for a registration form.

Don't miss this summer's camping events! Registration forms are now being accepted in the Kentucky WMU office. Please contact the WMU office or visit our website if you need registration materials.

CEDAR CREST

Get ready for an *Asian Adventure* at Cedarcrest this summer! Come and learn about the culture and missions in Asian countries!

June 11-15	girls grades 6-10	Mother-Daughter Overnights
June 18-22	girls grades 3-6	June 15-16 grades 1-3 and moms
June 25-29	girls grades 3-6	June 29-30 grades 1-3 and moms
*July 5-7	girls and boys grades 3-6	July 2-3 grades 1-3 and moms
July 9-13	girls grades 3-6	

*Kentucky WMU offers an Express week of camp for both girls and boys. Church chaperones are required for Express week. Church chaperones are optional for other weeks at Cedar Crest.

JONATHAN CREEK

Learn to LIVE your faith OUT LOUD at Jonathan Creek, June 22-23!

Mother-Daughter Overnight	grades 1-3 and moms
GA Overnight	grades 4-6 and their chaperones
Acteens Splash	grades 7-12 and their chaperones

CAMP STAFF NEEDED

*Applications for summer staff at Cedar Crest will be accepted until all positions are filled. Positions include: cabin leaders, assistant cabin leaders, lifeguard, recreation leader, kitchen coordinator and unit leaders. Staff members are high school juniors and seniors and college students.

*Also, medical volunteers are needed for each week of camp.

*Please contact the WMU office for applications.

For more information contact: Stacy Nall, 502-489-3454 or toll free (KY) 1-866-489-3534
Stacy.Nall@kybaptist.org ♦ Web site: www.kywmu.org

Calendar

March

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

April

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

May

- 5 KY WMU State Associational Leadership Training (SALT), Corinth BC, London
- 19 KY WMU State Associational Leadership Training (SALT), Post Oak BC, Russellville

June

- 4-9 Mission Adventure Camp for Girls, Staff Training, Cedar Crest
- 10-11 National WMU Annual Meeting, San Antonio, TX
- 12-13 Southern Baptist Convention, San Antonio, TX
- 11-15 Mission Adventure Camp for Girls, grades 6-10, Cedar Crest
- 15-16 Mother/Daughter Overnight, grades 1-3, Cedar Crest
- 18-22 Mission Adventure Camp for Girls, grades 3-6, Cedar Crest
- 22-23 Acteens Splash, grades 7-12, Jonathan Creek
GA Overnight, grades 4-6, Jonathan Creek
Mother/Daughter Overnight, grades 1-3, Jonathan Creek
- 25-29 Missions Adventure Camp for Girls, Cedar Crest, grades 3-6
- 29-30 Mother/Daughter Overnight, grades 1-3, Cedar Crest
- 30 Baptist Nursing Fellowship Summer Luncheon, Farmdale BC, Frankfort

WORLD MISSIONS UNLIMITED 2007

Training Motivation Inspiration Fellowship

July 27-28, 2007

Immanuel Baptist Church, Lexington

Friday, 6:30 - 9:00 p.m.

Saturday, 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

How can YOU become a better missions leader? Attend workshops for basic training or advanced leadership skills at World Missions Unlimited. Workshops for church leaders of all WMU organizations and Baptist Men on Mission (formerly Brotherhood) organizations will be provided. There will be a training track for Associational WMU leaders on Friday and Saturday. Sessions focusing on preschool, children, youth, and adult areas will be available for leaders. New guides will be introduced in all WMU age level workshops. During both days of World Missions Unlimited, there will also be numerous workshops dealing with special areas of interest.

Cost: \$20 if registered by July 6
\$25 if registered by July 21
\$30 if registered after July 21
(includes: Saturday lunch and resources*)

Registration materials will be mailed to all church/associational WMU leaders in late April. For more information, contact Kentucky WMU.

- Those attending WMU conferences will receive a WMU Year Book AND a new guide appropriate to their area of leadership.
- Participants in Baptist Men on Mission workshops (Baptist Men, RA, Challengers) will receive appropriate resources.

CWJC/CMJC Site Coordinator Training

May 21-24, 2007
Louisville, Ky.

Please call the WMU office for more information

Christian Women's Job Corps and Christian Men's Job Corps provide a Christian context in which men and women in need are equipped for life and employment; and a missions context in which women help women and men help men.

Crossings '07: 100 days and counting

Pray for camps at Cedarmore, Jonathan Creek and Moldova

We are less than 100 days away from Crossings beginning again for the eighth year. It is hard to comprehend the changes and events that have contributed to the summer we are preparing to begin.

Crossings, which is based on John 5:24 where people "cross from death unto life," began in 2000 with a camp known as Crossings at the Creek. The first year attracted 1,305 students and adults. As we prepare for this year, Crossings looks a little different, but the goal of seeing people cross from death unto life remains the cornerstone of this ministry.

Crossings at the Creek will continue this summer with eight weeks of camp for middle school and high school students. Additionally, the first week of Crossings for Kids will be offered at Jonathan Creek. At Cedarmore we are offering five weeks of Crossings for middle school and high school students and two weeks of Crossings for Kids.

Our partnership overseas will include four camps operating in the country of Moldova where we anticipate a total attendance

of 5,500 to 6,000 students. These camps operate because campers at Jonathan Creek and Cedarmore literally fund students to attend camp in Moldova.

We are approaching 6,000 registered students for our Crossings programs at Cedarmore and Jonathan Creek this summer—praise God for what He is doing.

KENTUCKY BAPTIST ASSEMBLIES



David Melber

When you figure that each student here basically sponsors a student in Moldova, it is quite amazing. To imagine that eight years ago what began with 1,300 participants is now approaching 12,000, I am humbled to think what God is doing.

More than just numbers of students in attendance, the most important factor is the life change that takes place. Last year we witnessed 1,895 students and adults accept Christ as Savior, 352 students called into full-time ministry and thousands of other spiritual decisions.

Please consider adding Crossings Ministries to your daily thoughts and pray that we clearly present the truth of God's Word to all who come!

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

Biblical Solutions for Life.

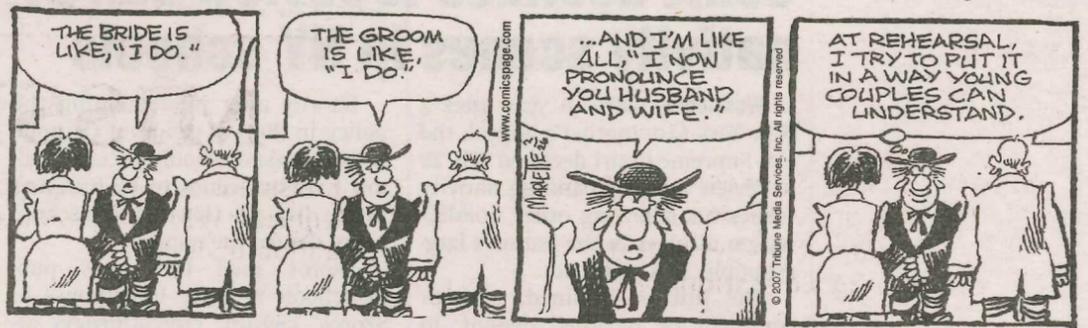


- Shop online at lifeway.com
- Call 1.800.458.2772
- Visit a LifeWay Store near you



Kudzu

Doug Marlette



For Heaven's Sake

Mike Morgan



Bible Crosswords

Cheryl Keiser

Across

- 1 "Except a man be born of ___ and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom" (John 3:5)
- 5 Preposition
- 6 "Wisdom giveth ___" (Ecclesiastes 7:12)
- 9 The son of Boaz (Matthew 1:5)
- 10 Two, prefix
- 11 Four, Romans num.
- 12 Edge
- 13 Flesh-eater
- 16 "Let their table be a snare, and a ___" (Romans 11:9)
- 18 Girl's name
- 19 "___ ... was wicked" (Genesis 38:7)
- 20 ___ Christian Anderson
- 21 "We remember the fish which we did eat freely in Egypt ... and the leeks, and the ___, and the garlick" (Numbers 11:5)
- 23 A celebration
- 25 Perform
- 26 Article
- 28 Osmium, chem. symbol
- 29 A deep breath
- 31 Taxis
- 32 "A serpent ___ him" (Amos 5:19)
- 33 Group of three
- 34 "I will not ___ out his name" (Revelation 3:5)
- 35 Single, prefix
- 36 Recover strength
- 37 "How long will it be ___ they attain to innocency?" (Hosea 8:5)

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

- 38 Executive order, abbr.
- 40 "I will ___ of mercy and judgment: unto thee, O Lord" (Psalms 101:1)
- 42 Library numbering system, abbr.
- 44 "There shall be no ___ on the vine" (Jeremiah 8:13)
- 48 Compass point
- 49 "As the ___ among thorns, so is my love among the daughters" (Song of Sol. 2:2)
- 50 "It is a ___ thing that the king requireth" (Daniel 2:11)
- 51 "For ___ so loved the world" (John 3:16)
- 8 "Whosoever believeth on him should not perish, but have ___ life" (John 3:16)
- 10 Bismuth, chem. symbol
- 14 Old Testament prophet
- 15 The person we are to love the same as we love ourselves (person who lives nextdoor)
- 17 Science of the mind
- 22 Southern continent, abbr.
- 24 Cut of meat
- 25 Nimble
- 26 Story
- 27 This, Sp.
- 29 Casual walk
- 30 Hero of David's guard (1 Chronicles 11:40)
- 31 Type of radio
- 32 Purchasing
- 39 "Break also the ___" (Amos 1:5)
- 41 New, prefix
- 43 101, Romans num.
- 45 Ma's mate
- 46 More, suffix
- 47 Compass point

Last week's solution

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
G	I	F	T		L	O	R	D	C
11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
O	N	L	Y		L	I	G	H	T
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23
D	E	E	R		O	F		O	T
21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30
N	H		E	E		S	A	R	A
24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33
S	A		S	T	A	R		C	N
27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36
L	I	V	E	T	H		B		H
32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40	41
A	L	I	T		B	A	T	H	E
36	37	38	39	40	41	42	43	44	45
I	S	R	A		E	L		C	H
39	40	41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48
N	G		L	E	C		A	S	S
44	45	46	47	48	49	50	51	52	53
I	M	M	A	N	U	E	L		U
49	50	51	52	53	54	55	56	57	58
V	I	N	E		R	O	S	E	
53	54	55	56	57	58	59	60	61	62
A	T		W	O	N	D	E	R	F

Down

- 1 Value
- 2 Man who conspired against Moses (Numbers 16:1)
- 3 Son of Esau (Genesis 36:11)
- 4 "Called the altar ___" (Joshua 22:34)
- 5 Pagiel's father (Numbers 1:13)
- 6 "Why seek ye the ___ among the dead?" (Luke 24:5)
- 7 "Behold the ___ and the wood: but where is the lamb?" (Genesis 22:7)

Court declines to review ban of nativity scenes in NY schools

Washington (ABP)—A year after a New York City mother's appeal, the U.S. Supreme Court declined Feb. 20 to review a policy banning nativity scenes but allowing other holiday-season displays in the nation's largest public school district.

The justices declined, without comment or recorded dissent, to hear an appeal in *Skoros v. City of New York*.

In the case, Catholic mother Andrea Skoros had asked the justices to overturn two rulings by lower federal courts that said the school district did not violate her two sons' religious freedom or her ability to raise her children without governmental religious interference when the district disallowed nativity scenes.

The schools' policy states: "The display of secular holiday symbol decorations is permitted. Such symbols include, but are not limited to, Christmas trees, menorahs, and the (Islamic) star and crescent."

Shortly after implementing the policy in 2001, a group of Catholic activists asked school officials to allow nativity scenes to be included in the displays. However, the school board denied the request.

Skoros sued the city's public schools in 2002. In response to Skoros' lawsuit, city attorneys argued that menorahs, dreidels, Christmas trees, Santa Claus and the star and crescent are sufficiently secular to represent the holidays celebrated by students in the diverse district. However, they contended, nativity scenes are purely Christian religious symbols.

Attorneys for Skoros, meanwhile, countered that school officials' interpretation of the policy unconstitutionally singled out Christianity for exclusion.

But both a federal district court and a divided three-judge panel of the 2nd U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals agreed with the city.

Calif. court refuses to hear cross case

San Diego (BP)—In another victory for supporters of the Mt. Soledad cross war memorial in San Diego, the California Supreme Court announced Feb. 21 that it will not hear an appeal on Proposition A, a ballot measure approved by voters in 2005 that transferred the land beneath the cross to the federal government.

A California appeals court had ruled unanimously in November that the measure was legal, after a Superior Court judge had ruled in October 2005 that the measure was unconstitutional because it violated

the ban on government preference or aid to religion.

Lawyers for Philip Paulson—the atheist who sued 17 years ago to have the cross removed—asked the state Supreme Court to review the appeals court ruling, but the justices refused.

After the passage of Proposition A, President Bush signed into law a bill that took the land by eminent domain and made it the property of the federal government. A challenge to that legislation still is pending in federal court.

The future of what we do

Despite challenges, future is optimistic with support from Kentucky Baptists

By Michael Spencer
OBI assistant to the president

I tend to think about the future a lot. The times in which we live reflect both the post-World War II optimism that characterized our country during my childhood, and the limitations, fears and realism that have dawned at the beginning of the 21st century.

I especially think about the future of what we do here at Oneida Baptist Institute. I'm realistic, but in the end, I also am optimistic.

I'm optimistic because our current president, Dr. W.F. "Bud" Underwood continues to take the legacy of our founder, Barkley Moore, and translate it into a school with a solid foundation, a clear ministry vision, substantial improvements in every area of campus life, and a widened, overflowing ministry made possible through the work of volunteers and their financial contributions.

Dr. Underwood exemplifies the kind of stewardship that OBI supporters expect and trust.

I'm optimistic because, compared to previous years, we provide more specialized assistance for our students, we see more of them graduate and have more creative ways to share the gospel with them.

Where many Southern Baptist ministries are going today is a place we've been for a long time.

I'm optimistic because I believe the alumni of this school will continue to come through for us, providing financial support to meet our growing needs.

I'm optimistic because churches are looking

for practical ways to do missions, and we are missions. We don't talk about it; we do missions. We need your help as volunteers, prayerful intercessors and financial supportors.

I'm optimistic because our students receive something special for having been part of a unique, Christian community. I am confident that, instead of paying us back, they will "pay it forward" by referring new students to us, supporting us financially, and encouraging gifted, Christian individuals to become members of our staff. Some of them may even become staff members themselves.

I'm optimistic because our relationship with Kentucky Baptists is strong and healthy. Oneida Baptist Institute wants to be in the heart of the Kentucky Baptist vision to connect Kingdom people with Kingdom purposes.

God's support of OBI comes through people who have decided to believe in what we do and how we do it. There is no more open ministry than OBI. Come and see what we do, and then decide for yourself. Won't you join us in a positive vision for the future—one that glorifies Jesus by serving students in His name?

There always are reasons to be concerned. Challenges and threats to a ministry like ours are formidable and real. But our God is an awesome God who has demonstrated His goodness on these Eastern Kentucky hills for more than a century. As we glorify His Son in all we do, I believe He will remain faithful.

Join us in our optimism. Invest, pray, give, visit and promote. With your help, the best days of this ministry are ahead of us.

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

THIS IS ONEIDA



W.F. Underwood

CLEAR CREEK CHRONICLE



Bill Whittaker

SIMPLE CHURCH

March 20, 2007

9 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Crestwood Baptist Church
Crestwood, Kentucky

Cost: \$20 per person

(includes lunch and a copy of the book)

Reservations required.

Register online: www.kybaptist.org/simplechurchseminar

or mail your check with the form below to:

Kentucky Baptist Convention
Simple Church Seminar
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Louisville, KY 40253

Name _____

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Association _____



This event is made possible in part by the Cooperative Program.



Explore the concepts outlined in *Simple Church*

with Eric Geiger, Ed.D. He is executive pastor of Christ Fellowship, a large and growing multi-cultural church comprised of more than seventy nationalities near Miami, Florida.



For more information, contact the Church Development Team
Phone (502) 489-3335
or toll free in KY (866) 489-3335

'Father Abraham'

Father of seven prepares for ministry through Clear Creek

Not many men with seven children answer the call to preach. When Kurt McKinney announced his call, it was a shock to some.

"I'm the only preacher in the family," Kurt said. "But when I told my mother and father-in-law, he started crying and gave me a hug; they are Christians."

As the father of seven children, some of Kurt's fellow students call him Father Abraham, but he hasn't always reflected the faith of Abraham.

He once described himself as an "E and C Christian—I thought Easter and Christmas took care of my spiritual need for the rest of the year."

Kurt was born in Ohio and lived the last 20 years in Indiana. Although his parents were not believers, they took the children to church in Indianapolis every Sunday. "We rode the church bus to Sunday school," Kurt said.

"I was saved at age 10. During my teen years, I drifted away from the Lord. I now recall signs that God was calling me, but I didn't want to hear.

"My family moved around and I wasn't involved in church; it's hard

to hear when you're not in tune with His Word and His people."

Kurt's wife, Carey, got him to church one Sunday. "We kept going back, and God got stronger in my heart," he said. "Carey was doing youth work and they needed someone to help lead and I became more involved."

With four of their children on campus, they appreciate Clear Creek's family emphasis. "The kids love it here," Kurt said. This is their first experience at home schooling. "We were so pleased to know about the campus home-school group," Carey said. "They are very helpful." The McKinneys' three older children need Christ; Kurt is thankful

"God is working in their lives." When Kurt first sensed God's call, it was to do pastoral work. "Now I feel He is leading some in evangelism," he said.

"We prayed about coming here, so we'll listen to God and let Him guide. We are so thankful to be in a place where people care and the whole family is blessed."

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

Church planter offers possibilities for new congregations

Continued from page 1

territories supported by the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering for North American Missions.

In Southern Baptist churches, the annual Week of Prayer for North American Missions is March 4-11. The goal for this year's Annie Armstrong Easter Offering is \$57 million; 100 percent of the receipts are used to support or assist missionaries.

"By planting new churches, we want to develop an evangelism program that will cause people to be missionaries in their own communities, reaching out and becoming transformation agents in those neighborhoods where they live," Fountain said. "Then they can begin to lead people to Christ, and help the church become a beacon of light in neighborhoods where there is often darkness."

Texas is 161 years old and situated "smack dab" in the Bible Belt, but Fountain said neither age nor location protect a place from spiritual darkness.

"We often think that all the darkness is in the urban inner-cities," he said. "But there's so much darkness in our suburbs, in our young peo-

ple and in our senior citizens. Even though the world is more crowded than ever, people are lonelier than ever."

Despite its long history, Texas still is growing, Fountain added. "All you have to do is drive around the Dallas-Fort Worth area to see all the homes being built. There are a lot of communities in Texas—Collin County, for example—that are among the fastest-growing areas in the U.S."

With such growth, new and unique congregations are needed. "If everybody in these new neighborhoods were to show up for church Sunday morning, there wouldn't be enough seats," he said. "We need new churches."

As a church-planting associate, Fountain identifies, assesses and trains ministers to become pastors of new churches. He works with local Baptist associations to identify existing congregations interested in sponsoring a new ministry such as a home Bible study, cowboy church or other type of mission. He helps pastors and other leaders of existing congregations see the value in investing funds and people into a new church.

Sponsoring missions or starting a Bible study group that blossoms into an independent church isn't a new phenomenon in Southern Baptist life, but Fountain is quick to point out that he's not trying to plant the same kind of churches Southern Baptists have started in the past.

"We need new churches that stretch us—churches that look like the new generation," he said. "Many of the new-style churches are actually more demanding, more discipleship-oriented and have stricter accountability than traditional churches."

Not only are these new congregations "niche" churches that serve a specific demographic, some are designed to be temporary.

"We want to instill a missionary mindset in the hearts and minds of young people in Texas that if and when they move to another state or city, they don't have to look for a church, they can start a new one," Fountain said.

The Annie Armstrong Easter Offering is important to the church planting process, he said. "It is the primary funding agent for our North American missionaries. ... It allows ... missionaries to concentrate on the work rather than on worrying about how we're going to take care of the daily necessities of our families."

Fountain and his wife, Carolyn, have been married 27 years and have



two daughters.

Helping start new churches by educating and encouraging existing congregations, their pastors and members "is what I was shaped to do," Fountain said. "It's what I am gifted to do. It's the place where I'm most comfortable in ministry."

Although Fountain no longer lives in Texas, he said he feels as though he left a piece of himself there.

Church planting "gives me an opportunity to invest my life with a group of people in one community, and then move on to do the same in another community," he said. "Church planting has brought a joy to my life. It's something I still get a thrill in doing."

DIVERSE WORSHIP

Leroy and Carolyn Fountain clap their hands during a worship service at New Creation Christian Center in Duncanville, Texas. Through his ministry as a Southern Baptist church planter, Fountain serves a variety of congregations from coffeehouse and storefront churches to cowboy and non-English-speaking congregations. (NAMB photo by Caleb Simpson)

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You are invited to a "town meeting" with Dr. Smithwick in your area. He has some exciting news to share about Sunrise Children's Services (formerly KBHC) that you don't want to miss. Please join us.

Thursday, March 1
BURLINGTON
10 am - Burlington Baptist Church 3031 Washington St
LEXINGTON
7 pm - Immanuel Baptist Church, 3100 Tates Creek Rd

Monday, March 5
BOWLING GREEN
10 am - Warren Baptist Association, 6448 Scottsville Rd
HOPKINSVILLE
7 pm - Christian County Baptist Association, 905 North Dr

Tuesday, March 6
PADUCAH
10 am - Lone Oak First Baptist Church, 3601 Lone Oak Rd
OWENSBORO
7 pm - First Baptist Church, 230 J.R. Miller Blvd

Thursday, March 8
CAMPBELLVILLE
10 am - Campbellsville Baptist Church, 420 North Central Ave
LONDON
7pm - First Baptist Church, 804 W 5th St

Monday, March 12
CATLETTSBURG
10 am - Oakland Avenue Baptist Church, 3265 Oakland Ave
PIKEVILLE
7 pm - First Baptist Church, 126 4th St

Tuesday, March 13
MOUNT WASHINGTON
7 pm - Sunrise Ministry Support Center, 300 Hope St

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

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Visit www.btsr.edu/scm, or call 1-888-339-2877.

PRAYER PARTNERS

Please pray for the following Kentucky Baptist ministries and missionaries:

Mentoring ministry of Greensburg Baptist Church. Kelli Estes has developed a mentoring ministry for students called "SEED" (Sowing from Experience to Edify and Develop). This ministry matches students with adults who desire to mentor teens by investing in their lives. Pray that additional adults will volunteer to participate and not allow fear to hinder their involvement. Pray that God will lead them to discover the resources needed to effectively develop the ministry.

Mission Service Corps Missionaries John and Melanie Austin of McDowell. The Austins work with God's Appalachian Partnership to enlist and coordinate volunteer mission teams traveling to Floyd County. Team members share the love of Christ with residents while repairing their homes. Pray that God will give the Austins endurance and strength for the summer months as volunteers arrive weekly. Pray that God will be glorified through each project and that residents will begin a personal relationship with Christ.

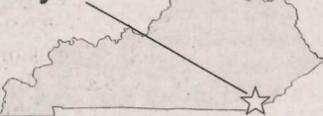
If you would like Kentucky Baptists to join in praying for a ministry of your church or association, please send the information to Eric Allen at Eric.Allen@kybaptist.org or call (866) 489-3530.

MOUNTAINS TO THE MISSISSIPPI
COMPILED BY STAFF

- **BARDSTOWN**—Bardstown Christian Fellowship recently called **David Lau** as children's pastor.
- **CAMPBELLSVILLE**—Pleasant Union Church and Saloma Church will hold a joint worship service March 4, 11 a.m., at Saloma Church, with **Michael Caldwell**, pastor of Pleasant Union Church, preaching. A potluck meal and fellowship time will follow the worship service.
- **EDDYVILLE**—**Heath Carlton** resigned as pastor of New Beginnings Church effective Feb. 18.
- **FORT MITCHELL**—Fort Mitchell Church recently called **Russell Rowland** as minister of music. **Joby Tricquet** is pastor.
- **LOUISVILLE**—Hurstbourne Church ordained **David Seaver** and **Mike Stiles** as deacons Feb. 18. **Mike O'Neal** is pastor.
- **MELBER**—Melber Church will hold revival services March 5-9, 7 p.m.,

Spotlight on ...

Loyall



John Lambert will preach at Calvary Church March 4, the same church where he preached his first sermon 51 years ago on March 4, 1956. **C.B. Rezek** is pastor.

with **Jason Porter**, pastor of Beulah Church in Fancy Farm, as evangelist. **Jeff Cruse** is pastor.

- **VERSAILLES**—New Hope Church recently called **Chris Harper** as youth pastor. He previously was facilities manager at Ashland Avenue Church in Lexington. **Wesley Noss** is pastor.

Campbellsville, African-American Baptist group form partnership

By Joan McKinney
Campbellsville University

Campbellsville—Leaders of Campbellsville University and the General Association of Baptists in Kentucky signed a wide-ranging partnership agreement Feb. 13.

The signing celebration, held during the General Association's recent pastors' conference in Louisville, affirmed the growing working relationship between the two Baptist entities. The agreement was signed by Campbellsville President Michael Carter and General Association Moderator Russell Awkard.

"It's exciting to put this partnership on paper as a force with a new sense of community," Carter noted.

Voicing concern for "young people who are ill-equipped for the future," Carter added, "We want to bridge the gap and be faithful partners and work together in love."

Awkard described the agreement as "historic," adding that "God is blessing this partnership."

A key component of the partnership is establishing a scholarship program for qualifying students. The new "General Association of Baptists in Kentucky Award" will provide scholarship aid to any student from a General Association church.

Three other minority scholarships will include minority teacher education scholarships, minority Christian ministry scholarships and



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

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.
- 17 Statewide Keyboard Festivals, multiple locations.
- 20 Simple Church Seminar, Crestwood Baptist Church, Crestwood.
- 22-25 Adult Kentucky Changers, Boone's Creek Baptist Camp, Winchester.
- 23-24 Kentucky Woman's Missionary Union Annual Meeting, Third Baptist Church, Owensboro.

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

a President's Minority Leadership Award. All four scholarships will be available for freshmen and transfer students who enroll at Campbellsville's main campus. The scholarships will be available beginning in the 2007-08 academic year.

Campbellsville officials also will appoint a General Association pastors and church leaders council to explore additional ways of working together in such areas as church support and training in leadership, evangelism and missions. Campbellsville also will sponsor sessions highlighting the General Association's history and heritage as part of the school's Baptist Heritage Series.

The General Association's mod-

erator and/or superintendent of missions will serve on an advisory group, along with John Chowning, Campbellsville's vice president for church and external relations, to assist with the school's ongoing "Dialogue on Race—Campus and Community."

Campbellsville and General Association leaders also will explore the possibility of CU's Technology Training Center and Louisville Education Center providing technical assistance in developing a Web site for the association.

For more information about the partnership, including the minority scholarships, contact Chowning at jchowning@campbellsville.edu.

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FOR SALE: Christian, patriotic and solid-color neckties; retail value: to \$15; your cost: \$6; great fundraiser. Dake compact Bibles: \$27. Humor book: "500 Laughter Doeth Good Like a Medicine," \$6. (606) 285-3051.

SEEKING: Full-time minister of youth and education at Harrodsburg Baptist Church, PO Box 286, Harrodsburg KY 40330. Primary focus is youth, but education experience is important. For more church information, see www.harrodsburgbaptist.org.

SEEKING: Experienced, full-time pastor for church in small, Southeastern Kentucky village. Average Sunday morning worship attendance is 200. Salary based on education and experience. Send resumé with references to Bond Baptist Church, PO Box 520, Annville, KY 40402, Attn: Kenneth Moore, search committee chairman. Deadline for receiving resumé will be 5 p.m., March 16, 2007.

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 resumé by Feb. 28, 2007, to: Youth Minister Search Committee, Union Baptist Church, PO Box 194, Union, KY 41091.

SEEKING: Pianist for Southern Baptist congregation with about 250 attending worship weekly. Pianist works directly with and is supervised by the minister of music. Duties include playing for two Sunday morning services; adult choir rehearsal on Wednesdays; Sunday and Wednesday evening services when needed. Other opportunities include instrumental ensemble, children's choirs, youth choir and soloists. The church uses a wide range of musical styles, including traditional, classical and contemporary. Please respond to: Personnel Committee, 4300 South Highway 53, Crestwood, KY 40014.

SEEKING: Memorial Baptist Church is seeking God's leading for the position of full-time associate pastor of worship and education. We are a Southern Baptist church with an average attendance of 400-450. We are seeking a man of God, conservative in theology (Baptist Faith and Message 2000), who has a love for Jesus Christ, a desire for evangelism and a passion for leading the congregation in worship. His primary responsibility will be to direct the entire worship experience and to continue to grow all aspects of a total multi-faceted music program. He should be a "people person" and a team player. He also would have a secondary re-

sponsibility in overseeing the entire educational program of the church. A seminary degree is preferred and an undergraduate degree in music is required, as well as 3-plus years of experience in working with a church body. Contact: Search Committee, Memorial Baptist Church, 1405 South Kanawha St., Beckley, West Virginia 25801; or e-mail: memorial-baptist@hotmail.com.

SEEKING: Minister of youth. Responsible for providing ministerial leadership and a comprehensive youth ministry that is consistent with the vision and mission of the church. Please send resumé to: Youth Minister Search Committee, First Baptist Church, PO Box 446, Taylorsville, KY 40071.

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

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

SEEKING: First Baptist Church, Ashland, Ky., is looking to call a senior pastor who will help in meeting the church's 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 resumé by e-mail to: fbcashland@fbcashlandky.com, or by mail to: Pastor Search Committee, First Baptist Church, PO Box 787, Ashland, KY 41105-0787.

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

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 may send resumé 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.

African Children's Choir helps spread message of hope

Abilene, Texas (ABP)—Like most boys his age, 8-year-old David dreams about what he wants to be when he grows up. This week, he wants to be an air-traffic controller.

A year ago, he probably never dreamed he would be in the United States. Born in one of the most impoverished areas of Uganda, he had little hope of getting an education.

His 9-year-old friend Esther aspires to be a professional singer, but a year ago that would have been highly improbable. Now, a choir trip around the U.S. is changing both of their lives.

Esther and David sing in the African Children's Choir, which is touring the U.S. They are two of 24 singers from the ages of 7 to 11 who make up the world-renowned choir, now on its 28th U.S. tour.

Singing about how the pure in heart will walk the highway of heaven, the children's choir represents millions of children in Africa. Choir leaders say the children sing on behalf of Africa's 12 million AIDS orphans. Many of the singers have lost one or both parents through war, famine or disease.

Education is expensive in Africa because there are no free public schools. The students on tour spend part of their days rehearsing, but they also take classes from teachers who travel with them. They also will receive full tuition for the remainder of their primary, secondary and college education.

Through its parent organization, Music for Life Institute, the choir currently is providing an education for more than 7,000 children in Uganda, Rwanda, Kenya, Sudan, Nigeria, Ghana and South Africa. It also finances other relief and development projects in Africa.

"These children are bright, articulate and motivated to realize their potential," said Ray Barnett, founder of the African Children's Choir. "We believe they can make a difference, and we believe that when audiences see Africa through their eyes they will want to partner with us to give these children every opportunity to succeed and impact their countries."

During the course of performing 35 concerts in Texas in five months, the choir sang Feb. 21 at Shining Star Baptist Church in Abilene, Texas.

Richard Darden, pastor of Shining Star Church, said he considers the choir performance an extension of his multi-ethnic congregation's ministry and community outreach.

"This, we hope, will make communities aware that churches do care," Darden noted. "We all have something in common—children at risk."

Teen's life, death making spiritual impact

By Kelly Davis ShROUT
Baptist Press

Hendersonville, Tenn. (BP)—It's been six months since Tennessee Baptist pastor Chris Johnson and his wife, Kathy, lost their 16-year-old son Nathan in a tragic car accident. Amid their grief, the Johnsons have a story to tell—of their son's love for life, football and, most importantly, his love for God.

Last July, Nathan was on his way to football practice at Beech High School in Hendersonville, Tenn., when his vehicle drifted across the centerline and struck a cement truck head-on. He died shortly after a LifeFlight helicopter transported him to the Vanderbilt University Hospital emergency room.

"We woke up that morning and we were excited because it was the first day of football practice," Johnson said, recalling the early morning moments prior to Nathan leaving for school. "I remember sitting across the table from Nathan and I just looked at him. I was looking at how handsome he was, how smart he was and just how proud I was of him." An hour and a half later Nathan was gone.

In months following the tragedy, Nathan's testimony has echoed throughout the U.S. and as far away as Germany and Africa, inspiring others with his penchant for leading non-Christians to faith in Christ. His witness extended even further via a recent segment on the "700 Club."

Diary details "revolution"

"We want Nathan to be remembered for his love for God and how he told others about Jesus," said Johnson, pastor of Central Baptist Church in Hendersonville and editor in chief in LifeWay Christian Resources' church resources division.

"It is our desire that Nathan be remembered for the revolution he started for Christ."

That "revolution" came from an entry in Nathan's diary, written more than a year before his death. Nathan penned the following as his mission statement at Beech High School: "Today, through His mighty power and glorious grace, God has brought me back to Him. He has enlightened the eyes of my heart to His will in which He has with no doubt called me. His will for me is to radically impact my school for Him."

Nathan was steadfast to his commitment and led many of his friends to personal faith in Jesus. "Just nine days before he died, Nathan called me and said, 'Dad, I just led a ninth-grader to the Lord,'" Johnson recounted. "That is what Nathan was all about. I knew he was committed to winning souls, but we didn't know how pervasive it was until after his death."

At his high school mission field, Nathan was determined that nothing would derail his efforts to boldly proclaim the gospel, even if that meant forfeiting a contract with a record label. The day Nathan died, his band Through a Glass was scheduled to play at a local music venue where record company representatives would be in attendance. A music contract was within reach, but Nathan didn't want to neglect ministering to his high school.

"Nathan always knew that his mission was his high school," Johnson said. "He said if there was one person at Beech High School who needed to hear about Christ, he would forfeit touring or signing with the record company."

Nathan's impact on his school



and community was evident when more than 2,000 people attended his July 31 funeral. Nathan's older brother Andrew invited those in attendance to trust Christ as their Savior. More than 30 people professed faith in Christ at the funeral and an estimated 300 more have become Christians as a result of Nathan's testimony.

Grief process continues

Johnson said he and his family are "surviving" and continue to walk through the grief process. "We are so grateful to our LifeWay family," he added. "So many have sent cards and e-mails. We are especially grateful for the prayers. Keep praying for us."

"We have had many people express that they can't imagine what we are going through," Johnson noted. "We always tell them—don't even try. It's worse than you can imagine."

Healing is a process, he said, and part of that process is telling Nathan's story so that others will know the hope and grace of Jesus Christ.

"We want his story to motivate others to move out of their comfort zone and reach others for Christ."

CHRISTIAN WITNESS

Nathan Johnson, a Tennessee Baptist pastor's son, died in a car accident last July at age 16. Since his death, an estimated 330 people have made professions of faith in Christ as a result of his Christian testimony.

Pastor visits Vietnam to evangelize his homeland

By Dianna Cagle
Associated Baptist Press

Greensboro, N.C. (ABP)—One Baptist pastor in North Carolina isn't content simply to reach out to his fellow Vietnamese living in the United States.

"God has opened the doors in Vietnam, allowing the gospel to be shared, and there have been many lost souls who now embrace the Lord," said Hoa Duc Vo, pastor of Vietnamese Baptist Church in Greensboro, N.C.

Vo tries to make at least two trips a year to his home country. Of more than 82 million people in the Southeast Asian nation, Vo said, only 1 percent are evangelical Christians.

Vo was raised Roman Catholic. He left Vietnam in 1975 with his wife and three-day-old daughter as "boat people" after the fall of South Vietnam.

"With a weak and sick wife and child on the vast ocean, I prayed to whatever god to save us and vowed that whatever god or religion that rescued my family, then that was the religion I was to dedicate my life to," he said. "It was then a Christian family from Salisbury (N.C.) sponsored our family and brought us to the United States."

Vo came to the U.S. and began to work, putting his promise out of his mind. His family expanded to

include two more daughters and a son. They moved to Charlotte and opened an ethnic food store and fish market.

"We were living the 'American dream,'" Vo said. "However, I never had any peace, and I then remembered my promise of 1975. It was then that I sold everything and dedicated my life to be the Lord's servant."

Southside Baptist Church in Greensboro invited the Vo family to that city and established the Vietnamese Baptist Mission.

"When I first came to Greensboro in 1986, there were only about eight or nine families with a total Vietnamese population of about 70 people" in the area, Vo said. "I began the mission with my family as the only members, then I readily went out witnessing to the Vietnamese people in Greensboro. Steadily God opened the doors allowing many refugees to immigrate to North Carolina, and from there the Lord's work began to grow."

Then in 1991, Southside helped build a facility to house the growing church. Vo said the debt for the building was paid off in seven years, which opened financial means for him to go to Vietnam to minister to people in his country.

Vo's most recent trip to Vietnam took place over two months last fall.

"I visited churches throughout Vietnam, from the north to the south, with the purpose of encouraging, having revivals, training, leadership (and) discipleship conferences so that the new believers and leaders are adequately equipped so that they can go out and witness to the people of Vietnam," he explained. "I was able to baptize 520 new believers on my latest trip."

Vo said he typically baptizes about 500 new Christians each trip to his home country.

"God has given me a vision of 1 million lost souls to the Lord and for that reason my sole agenda is to bring the gospel to the lost."

The majority of the Vietnamese population is Buddhist, he noted, but the Great Commission is his driving force.

"It is His word, our Lord Jesus Christ's Great Commission," he said. "Every time that I return to Vietnam, it seems that the servants in Vietnam find great encouragement that someone cares for them."

Vo's next trip is scheduled for March 15, but he said he's waiting on God to provide the needed funds.

"I know if He opens the door, then He will make a way and provide the financial assistance that is needed," Vo declared. "Over the last 10 years, it has been by this faith that I have worked."

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

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WEEK 7 Sunday Evening, October 22nd, 6:00 PM
WEEK 7 Cecilia Baptist Church & Western Recorder
WEEK 7 Cecilia Baptist Church & Western Recorder
WEEK 7 Cecilia Baptist Church & Western Recorder

POTLUCK
Mission Appreciation Dinner
On Sun. Oct. 22nd, after the morning worship service, there will be a heartwarming potluck dinner in the Fellowship Hall. Come for the fellowship and enjoy the food. We will have your appreciation for your wonderful staff. The church will furnish the bread and drinks, so please bring a couple of dollars. There will be a market for the cards for the occasion.

Happy Birthday
1948: Arthur Giles, Jacksonville, Ohio
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PRACTICAL RESOURCES FOR CHRISTIAN LIVING
WESTERN RECORDER
The Good News
First Baptist Hopkinsville Edition
October 17, 2006

FROM THE PASTOR
THANK YOU—We need to thank the men and women who helped return all the things we had to give at the Pleasant Ridge. It was a big job with several hundred items, and it was done in a very timely manner. We will have a big thank you to the staff and church members who helped with this. We will have a big thank you to the staff and church members who helped with this. We will have a big thank you to the staff and church members who helped with this.

REMEMBER IN PRAYER
CHRISTIAN SYMPATHY is pleased to announce that we will be sponsoring a mission trip to the Philippines. We will have a big thank you to the staff and church members who helped with this. We will have a big thank you to the staff and church members who helped with this. We will have a big thank you to the staff and church members who helped with this.

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

Touch One Life, Start a Ripple

OCTOBER IS SUNDAY SCHOOL EMPHASIS MONTH HIGH ATTENDANCE DAY IS OCTOBER 22 GOAL: 901

Touch One Life, Start a Ripple

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October 19, 2006
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