

PRactical RESOURCES FOR CHRISTIAN LIVING

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2007 SBC OVERVIEW



Southern Baptist Convention

Elections Convention messengers elect SBC President Frank Page to a second one-year term without opposition. *Page 2.*

Editorial Messengers tackle diverse concerns at last week's SBC annual meeting in San Antonio. *Page 5.*

Motions Convention action on Baptist Faith & Message statement prompts mixed response. *Page 6.*

Annual report Don't make every doctrinal issue a "political football," warns Executive Committee President Morris Chapman. *Page 6.*

Executive Committee Proposal to define Cooperative Program giving sparks debate before gaining approval. *Page 7.*

Resolutions Messengers adopt measure on global warming, reject call for government action. *Page 7.*

Presidential perspective "You've made our nation stronger," President Bush tells Southern Baptists. *Page 8.*

Convention sermon California Pastor Rob Zinn challenges Baptists to catch a vision for the Great Commission. *Page 8.*

NAMB report New North American Mission Board President Geoff Hammond highlights goals of sharing Christ, starting churches and sending missionaries. *Page 9.*

IMB report Former pastor to Turkmenistan recounts testimony of torture and faith. *Page 10.*

Pastors' Conference Chuck Colson cautions that radical Islam and atheism threaten America. *Page 12.*



WMU annual meeting Missions leaders emphasize need to keep focus on missions and ministry. *Page 13.*

Baptist business



CONVENTION CROWD A total of 8,618 messengers, including 399 Kentucky Baptists, gathered in San Antonio last week for the 2007 Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting. (BP photo by Van Payne)

Messengers address global warming, hear from Bush

San Antonio—Issues ranging from the Baptist Faith & Message to global warming were topics of discussion during last week's Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting in San Antonio.

Convention messengers also elected SBC President Frank Page to a second one-year term without opposition and heard a brief address from President Bush live via satellite from the White House.

A total of 8,618 messengers attended the June 12-13 meeting, marking the sixth time in 10 years that registration has dipped below 10,000. It was the smallest SBC crowd to gather in Texas since 1942, far below the record total of 45,519 messengers who met in Dallas in 1985 at the height of the SBC controversy.

Messengers affirmed the denomination's Baptist Faith & Message as the "sufficient" doctrinal guide for



SIGHT TO SEE The Alamo, located a few blocks from this year's SBC meeting site, was a popular sightseeing stop for messengers gathered in San Antonio from across the nation.

entity trustees "in their establishment of policies and practices."

SBC Executive Committee President Morris Chapman noted that "any practice instituted by an entity in the Southern Baptist Convention that has the force of doctrine should be in accord with the Baptist Faith &

Message and not exceed its boundaries unless and until it has been approved" by convention messengers.

A resolution on global warming was approved, but not before messengers deleted a section that encouraged "continued government funding" for the issue. The amended measure was among eight resolutions adopted.

President Bush expressed appreciation for Southern Baptists' Christian witness, support of religious liberty, and good works such as hunger ministries and disaster relief.

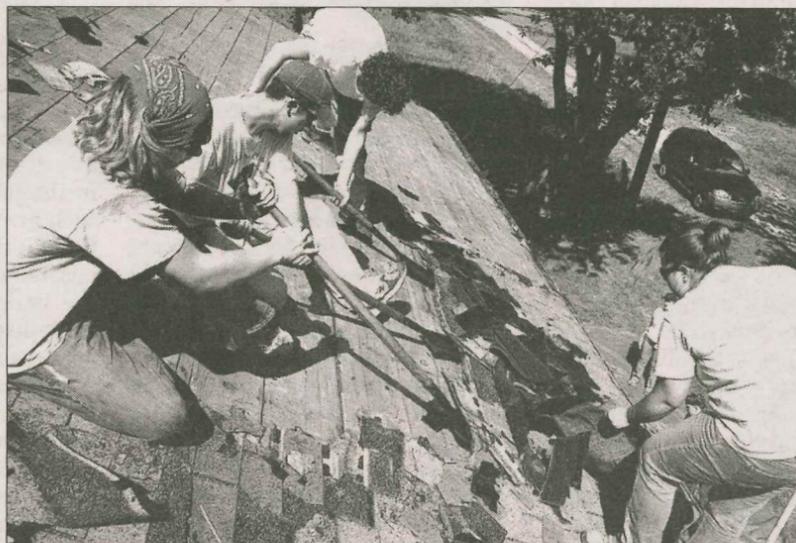
"You've made our nation stronger," he declared.

Page challenged fellow Baptists to lay aside factionalism and legalism in order to speak the truth in love to a lost world.

"Though we have significant differences, will you take my hand, and let's work together to reach the lost for Christ?" he urged.

Kentucky Changers work to make a difference in Russellville

Dated material. Please deliver by Wednesday, June 20.



HARD WORK A Kentucky Changers crew pries off three layers of shingles from the roof of Phyllis Young's Russellville home. The crew (from left) is Tim Carpenter, Phillip Alexander, Garrett Dunagan and Amber Newton. Many of the youth who participated in the project were from the surrounding area. (Photo by Drew Nichter)

By Drew Nichter
News Director

Russellville—Phyllis Young never thought it would actually happen to her.

The Russellville home she has lived in for the past year was badly in need of a new roof and she did not have the money to make the repairs. Upon hearing about a group called Kentucky Changers, Young filled out an application to have them come fix her home.

"I didn't have any clue that I'd be picked," Young explained, "because it's such a big project."

Last week, a crew of eight teenagers and four adults converged on Young's home, tore off three layers of old shingles and put on a new roof. And as the sign nailed to a tree in the front yard proclaimed, "Labor provided by Kentucky Changers."

The state-focused youth mission

project Kentucky Changers kicked off its 14th year of "on-mission youth making a difference." Sponsored by the Kentucky Baptist Convention, more than 300 teenagers and adults came together in Russellville for the first of three projects across the state this summer. The second will be in Maysville June 23-30 with the third project in Monticello July 7-14.

During the week, the participants called Logan County High School home. The teenagers spent their days working on homes doing a wide variety of repair projects. In the evenings, they had time to relax and unwind from a hard day's work, before dinner and a time of worship.

Area homeowners such as Young applied months earlier to have Kentucky Changers do work on their homes. Construction coordinator □ See Kentucky Changers... Page 3

Frank Page re-elected SBC president without opposition

"I will not back up, back down or back away from that which God has called and that in which we must be involved."

SBC President Frank Page

SBC OFFICERS Convention officers for 2007-08 are (from left) Jim Richards, executive director of the Southern Baptists of Texas Convention, first vice president; Frank Page, pastor of First Baptist Church of Taylors, S.C., president; and Eric Redmond, pastor of Hillcrest Baptist Church in Temple Hills, Md., second vice president. (BP photo by Matthew Miller)

By Lonnie Wilkey
Tennessee Baptist & Reflector

San Antonio—South Carolina pastor Frank Page was elected unopposed June 12 for a second one-year term as president of the Southern Baptist Convention.

Messengers also elected Jim Richards, executive director of the Southern Baptists of Texas Convention, as first vice president, and African American pastor Eric Redmond of Hillcrest Baptist Church, Temple Hills, Md., as second vice president.

Page's re-election ended speculation that he would encounter opposition for a second term. Page's election as president last year over Ronnie Floyd of Arkansas and Jerry Sutton of Tennessee was considered an upset by most observers because he was not the consensus choice of key SBC leaders.

Page, pastor of First Baptist Church of Taylors, S.C., has been a leading advocate of the Cooperative Program as he has spoken at gatherings nationwide during his first year as president. His church gave 12.5 percent of its undesignated receipts through CP in 2006, according to the latest Annual Church Profile.

Page thanked messengers following his re-election.

"I will not back up, back down or back away from that which God has called and that in which we must be involved," he declared.

During a press conference after his election, Page said he tried

Page: SBC has been 'fighting the wrong battles'

By Charlie Warren
Arkansas Baptist News

San Antonio—Southern Baptist Convention President Frank Page challenged Baptists to lay aside factionalism and cold-hearted legalism to develop a strategic battle plan that goes beyond doctrinal rightness to speak the truth in love to a lost world.

To illustrate his message from Psalm 51:1-13, Page referred to France just prior to World War II. French leaders, particularly André Maginot, minister of war, poured enormous financial resources into a state-of-the-art defense system along the nation's eastern border, with the exception of dense forests they considered impenetrable.

When war began, the German army marched through the forest and Paris fell within three weeks, Page noted. The Maginot line of defense had failed.

Southern Baptists "have built our own Maginot line," Page warned. "We have built wonderful entities, programs, agencies and great churches, thinking we can hold off defeat of the enemy. But the enemy has outflanked us over and over."

to hold true to his pledge last year to be more inclusive, while at the same time holding to his conservative beliefs.

"I said last year that I am a conservative and that I am in no way trying to undo what some have called the conservative resurgence," Page said. "However, I have tried to be irenic and to be kind, and I will continue to do that."

"I have said many times that I believe the Bible, I'm just not angry about it. I stand by that; though there have been some who don't appreciate that comment, so be it."

During the press conference,

Baptists are guilty of an arrogance with which God is not pleased, Page declared. He charged that instead of transforming the culture, it has transformed Southern Baptists.

"We hold our battle lines against flesh and blood," he said. "Is this our only line of defense? ... We are not the only game in town. ... God has blessed us for a reason—not that we will become spiritually obese, but so we will be on mission for Him."

Satan has robbed Southern Baptists of integrity, fellowship, passion for the lost, the joy of salvation, humility, unity, relevance and a sense of godly balance, Page asserted.

"We have lost much and there is more to be lost," he said, adding that problems in the denomination start with each individual Southern Baptist.

"Where's the joy God gave you when you were saved?" he asked. "You may be doctrinally right, but you sure don't look very happy about it."

King David, who wrote Psalm 51, "was painfully aware of his inadequacies. ... We strut while we're

still sitting down," Page said.

"This convention does not belong to you, and it sure does not belong to me. It is God's. ... Though we have significant differences, will you take my hand, and let's work together to reach the lost for Christ?"

God wants Southern Baptists to speak the truth in love, Page insisted.

"When we speak the truth without love, it leads to a cold-hearted legalism the world sees as characteristic of Christians," he added.

To regain the victory, Page urged Southern Baptists to get right with God, confess our sins, plead for forgiveness and "a spiritual heart transplant" and seek revival.

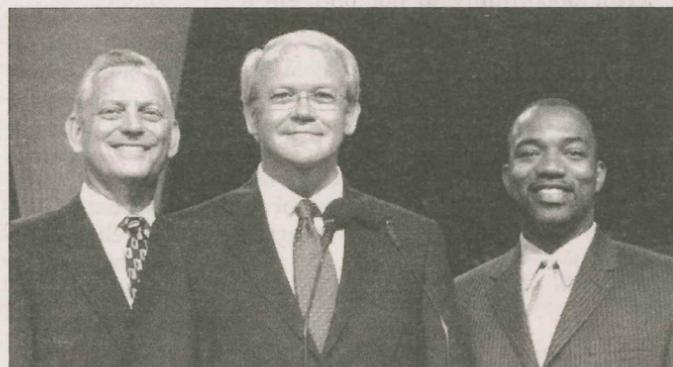
"Our baptisms languish in a day when people are receptive to the gospel," he said. "It's because we have not been right before God. ... We've been fighting the wrong battles."

He said the SBC has returned to theological rightness, "praise God for that, but if we do not seek the hand of God, our churches will be right but empty. ... The early church was met with persecution. ... We are met with a yawn."

ple to beg God for spiritual renewal and revival." He called on Baptists to not let distractions keep them from their primary task of "winning the world to Christ."

Richards was elected as first vice president over Southern Baptist missionary David Rogers, son of former SBC president Adrian Rogers. Richards received 2,177 (69.3 percent) votes to 966 (30.7 percent) for Rogers.

Redmond was elected second vice president over evangelist Bill Britt of Gallatin, Tenn. Redmond received 1,765 votes (62.1 percent) to 1,077 votes (37.9 percent) for Britt.



Ruth Bell Graham, famed evangelist's 'soul mate,' dies at 87

Montreat, N.C. (BP)—Ruth Bell Graham, wife of evangelist Billy Graham, died June 14, surrounded by her husband and five children at her Montreat, N.C., home. She was 87.

"Ruth was my life partner, and we were called by God as a team," Billy Graham said in a statement after her death. "No one else could have borne the load that she carried. She was a vital and integral part of our ministry, and my work through the years would have been impossible without her encouragement and support."

"I am so grateful to the Lord that He gave me Ruth, and especially for these last few years we've had in the mountains together," Graham added. "We've rekindled the romance of our youth, and my love for her continued to grow deeper every day. I will miss her terribly, and look forward even more to the day I can join her in heaven."

For several weeks, Ruth Graham had been confined to bed as she suffered from degenerative osteoarthritis of the back and neck. Two weeks ago she was diagnosed with pneumonia and seemed to be recovering. Larry Ross, a spokesman for the Gra-

ham family, told Baptist Press. But on the morning of June 13 she fell into a coma.

At the Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting in San Antonio, SBC President Frank Page led messengers in a time of prayer for Graham, whom he called a "dear saint of God."

Ross said Graham was alert on June 10 to celebrate her birthday and was encouraged by visits from family members.

Billy Graham released a statement June 13 announcing the plans he and his wife had settled on for their burial.

"Earlier this spring, after much prayer and discussion, Ruth and I made the decision to be buried beside each other at the Billy Graham Library in my hometown of Charlotte, North Carolina," Graham said. "We have held this decision privately and only decided to announce it now that she is close to going home to heaven."

The daughter of Presbyterian missionaries to China, Ruth Graham maintained a strong commitment to her faith and found time for prayer



Ruth Bell Graham

and Bible study every day. Those habits influenced her five children, especially Anne Graham Lotz of Raleigh, N.C., who saw her mother's spiritual discipline as a model for her ministry as a women's Bible teacher.

"What I remember is her prayer and Bible reading," said Lotz in an interview. "That's where she got her strength."

Although she published several collections of poetry and prose, Ruth Graham may best be remembered for being the guardian of the family's solitude. It was her idea to move away from downtown Montreat—across the street from her par-

ents' retirement home—to a more secluded location on nearby Black Mountain.

Graham called Ruth his soul mate and best friend, saying he cannot imagine living a single day without her by his side.

Graham said he and his wife appreciated the prayers and letters of encouragement they had received.

"Our entire family has been home in recent days and it has meant so much to have them at our side during this time," Graham said in the June 13 statement. "We love each one of them dearly and thank God for them."

Graham, 88, suffers from fluid on the brain, prostate cancer, Parkinson's disease and age-related macular degeneration. The Billy Graham Library was dedicated in his honor May 31 with three former U.S. presidents in attendance. It opened to the public June 5.

The Grahams married in 1943. In addition to their five children, they have 19 grandchildren and numerous great-grandchildren.

With additional reporting by Religion News Service

KBC's All-State Youth Choir, Orchestra to tour June 20-24

Louisville—More than 60 young people from Baptist churches across Kentucky have been selected to perform June 20-24 as part of the Kentucky Baptist Convention's 2007 All-State Choir and Orchestra.

This is the first year the 43-voice choir and 19-piece orchestra will perform together. The group is scheduled to perform six concerts at five different locations throughout the state. Concerts will be held at the following locations:

■ Wednesday, June 20, 6:30 p.m., at Campbellsville Baptist Church.

■ Thursday, June 21, 7 p.m., at First Baptist Church, Lawrenceburg.

■ Saturday, June 23, 7 p.m., at First Baptist Church, Bowling Green.

■ Sunday, June 24, 9 and 10:30 a.m., at Severns Valley Baptist Church in Elizabethtown.

■ Sunday, June 24, at Southern Seminary in Louisville, 3 p.m. The choir is under the direction of Michael Lancaster, associate professor of conducting and voice at Southern Seminary. The orchestra is under the direction of David McCullough, professor of music and director of bands at Campbellsville University.

All-State Youth Choir:

Allan Amburn, Hurstbourne Baptist Church in Louisville.

Nick Arrington, Versailles Baptist Church.

Rebekah Bess, First Baptist Church of Owenton.

Chad Blackwell, First Baptist Church of Danville.

Phillip Brewer, Robinson Creek Baptist Church in London.

Mindie Coppock, Central Baptist Church in Corbin.

Capria Crouch, Parkland Baptist Church in Louisville.

Brandi Cunningham, Zion Baptist Church in Henderson.

Christopher Deaton, Hurstbourne Baptist Church in Louisville.

Allison England, Versailles Baptist Church.

Eric Feldpausch, Hurstbourne Baptist Church in Louisville.

Megan Haeblerlin, First Baptist Church of Eddyville.

Holly Hardwick, Cornerstone Baptist Church in Lexington.

Jessica Harris, Hillsdale Baptist Church in Louisville.

Jordan Herget, First Baptist Church of Fishersville.

Ben Hussung, Rich Pond Baptist Church in Bowling Green.

Jennifer Hutcheson, Graefenburg Baptist Church in Waddy.

Kaitlin Johnson, First Baptist Church of Owenton.

Courtney Jones, Hurstbourne Baptist Church in Louisville.

Christian Kinman, Versailles Baptist Church.

Laura Laffoon, Hurstbourne Baptist Church in Louisville.

Leslie Leach, Beaver Dam Baptist Church.

Austin Linton, Hurstbourne Baptist Church in Louisville.

Lauren Lowe, Rich Pond Baptist Church in Bowling Green.

Michelle Lowe, Central Baptist Church in Corbin.

Rebecca Oliver, Scottsville Baptist Church.

Katelyn Pardue, Scottsville Baptist Church.

Matthew Parker, First Baptist Church of Murray.

Michael Peddicord, First Baptist Church of Albany.

Megan Posey, Parkland Baptist Church in Louisville.

Rebecca Price, Georgetown Baptist Church.

Kellie Puckett, First Baptist Church of Leitchfield.

Amanda Rice, Willow Grove Baptist Church in Danville.

Kacie Richerson, Campbellsville Baptist Church.

Chase Roberts, Graefenburg Baptist Church in Waddy.

Rebecca Saylor, Cornerstone Baptist Church in Lexington.

Bethany Schooler, Ballardsville Baptist Church in Crestwood.

Erin Sheilds, First Baptist Church of Lawrenceburg.

Ashley Stearns, First Baptist Church of Albany.

Kelsey Stillwell, Lexington Avenue Baptist Church in Danville.

Emma Turpin, Parkland Baptist Church in Louisville.

Jessica Waters, First Baptist Church of Fishersville.

Lauren Wooten, First Baptist Church of Owenton.

All-State Youth Orchestra:

Sarah Abell, Rich Pond Baptist Church in Bowling Green.

James Addington, Beaver Dam Baptist Church.

Kinly Bertram, First Baptist Church of Monticello.

Bryant Cary, Rich Pond Baptist Church in Bowling Green.

Miles Cary, Rich Pond Baptist Church in Bowling Green.

Kailyn Conner, First Baptist Church of Albany.

Zach Cox, Fairview Baptist Church in Mannsville.

Amy Etherington, Versailles Baptist Church.

Erica Grider, Campbellsville Baptist Church.

Ricky Gunter, First Baptist Church of Albany.

Blake Herron, Palestine Baptist Church in Campbellsville.

Rebekka Logsdon, First Baptist Church of Lawrenceburg.

James McCullough, Campbellsville Baptist Church.

John Mitchell, Lewis Lane Baptist Church in Owensboro.

Natalie Olp, Second Baptist Church of Hopkinsville.

JD Robinson, First Baptist Church of Fulton.

Georgia Sams, Millville Baptist Church in Frankfort.

Joel Sams, Millville Baptist Church in Frankfort.

Natalie Smith, Union Baptist Church.

Kentucky Changers serve others through hard work, fellowship

Continued from page 1

Will Sandlin handled the bulk of the selection process, interviewing applicants, inspecting the homes and gathering materials. Deciding which homes to work on took "a lot of prayer," Sandlin said.

"I try not to do it on what I think," he explained. "I try to just pray about it and let the Lord do what He wants with it."

Local impact

Just a short drive from Phyllis Young's home, 16-year-old Daniel Pardue stood atop a roof with his crew nailing down new shingles.

"It's a good experience to be able to help somebody else out," said Daniel, a Russellville High School junior, who was experiencing Kentucky Changers for the first time.

Pardue's crew chief, Richard Van Zee, said he had noticed that most of his crew members are from the local area.

"There are only two people from out of the county," Van Zee said. "That's unusual."

According to Peggy Murphy, ministry director for the KBC's Baptist Men on Mission department, the trend in recent years has been for youth groups to stay close to home when picking a Kentucky Changers project.

"You don't have to go to the other end of the world to be on mission," Murphy said. "The ones that have stayed in their hometowns, I think they receive more of a blessing out of it."

18-year-old Heather Stockstill, a resident of nearby Auburn and a recent graduate of Logan County High School, echoed the importance of helping people in her own hometown.

"I think it's good to show the community that we are willing to help and that our generation just doesn't think about ourselves," Stockstill said.

And helping others was indeed the main focus. Crews did all kinds of work from painting houses to installing vinyl siding to putting on new roofs. The variety of projects is just one thing that brought 17-year old Emily Faulkner back to Kentucky Changers for a fourth straight year.

"Last year, I built a deck. This year, I'm roofing. The year before that, I painted," Faulkner said. "You get knowledge of construction and also wisdom."

At Patsy Sandlin's home, the crew hammered away at new vinyl siding and repaired a leak in the chimney. Sandlin, a lifelong Russellville resi-



HELPING HAND Cecilia Jones (left) gives homeowner Patsy Sandlin a hug as the two watch the Kentucky Changers crew install vinyl siding on Sandlin's home. (Photos by Drew Nichter)

dent, moved to the home a few years earlier to take care of her father after her mother died. "I just stayed here," she explained.

Looking at her transforming home, Sandlin had nothing but praise for the work of the crew.

"It looks a whole lot better than it did before," Sandlin said. "I love every one of them."

Becoming servants

"It's just an awesome experience to see these young men and women out here paying to come ... work," said Joyce Stone, an adult member of the crew. "It's just inspiring to me."

Youth minister and crew chief Todd Davis of First Baptist Church of Oak Grove reiterated that feeling.

Kentucky Changers "gives you a great opportunity to not only enjoy yourself, but teach your youth to have a servant heart of Jesus," Davis said.

According to Murphy, as many as six teenagers made decisions for Christ in the first two days of Kentucky Changers.

"It's just been amazing to watch these kids," she declared.

Sitting atop an increasingly hot roof, Davis pointed to the word "Servant" emblazoned across his shirt, and said, "devoted followers of Christ."

"I want to see youth that have a heart for serving others, the heart of Christ," he said. "The same thing He did when He walked this earth. He loved people, He helped people and He gave the ultimate sacrifice."

"I want to see youth who have that same kind of heart that they're willing to give of themselves without expecting anything in return. Kentucky Changers will do that."

For more information, contact the KBC's Baptist Men on Mission department at (502) 489-3399 or toll-free in Kentucky at (866) 489-3527, or go to www.kybaptist.org/kychangers.



SIGN OF CHANGE The Kentucky Changers sign is displayed in the front yard of Patsy Sandlin's home while crew members are hard at work.

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

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Ruth Graham: Faithful ministry partner

By **Benedicta Cipolla**
Religion News Service

Throughout the six decades of Billy Graham's career, his wife, Ruth Bell Graham, served as the only true constant in his life other than his faith.

Despite long separations when Graham was on the road preaching, Ruth, who died June 14 at age 87, remained his bedrock, often speaking up to offer advice, yet just as often staying silent so that he could focus on his mission.

"There would have been no Billy Graham ... had it not been for Ruth," said the late T.W. Wilson, a key member of Graham's staff, in "A Prophet with Honor," William Martin's biography of the evangelist.

Graham was the first to acknowledge his wife's importance. "Your counsel, advice, encouragement and prayer have been my mainstay and at times I have almost clung to you in my weakness, in hours of obsession, problems and difficulties," he wrote in a 1963 letter to Ruth from Los Angeles, according to Patricia Cornwell's biography, "Ruth, A Portrait."

"Called as a team"

In a statement issued after her death, Graham, 88, praised his wife as his "life partner" and said "we were called as a team."

"No one else could have borne the load that she carried. She was a vital and integral part of our ministry, and my work through the years would have been impossible without her encouragement and support."

On the surface, Ruth perhaps seemed a stereotypical preacher's wife: She stayed home in North Carolina to raise their five children and kept herself—and her personal needs—out of the spotlight. Her independence in the domestic arena allowed Graham a certain freedom from family responsibilities and granted him the ability to travel widely on his many crusades.

"The self-abnegation she learned in childhood probably prepared her

for the role she played in (Graham's) life," said Randall Balmer, professor of American religion at Barnard College in New York, and author of a documentary on Billy Graham. "She had to adjust her sense of calling and mission to fit what he had in

mind."

Ruth Bell was born in 1920 in China to missionary parents. By the time she met Graham at Wheaton College in Illinois at age 20, she was used to a life of service, hardship and separation from loved ones. Originally, she planned to follow her parents to the mission field. However, she decided instead to marry Graham in 1941 and resigned to "slip into the background," as she wrote in her journal.

Although she preferred to stay behind the scenes, her impact on her husband was all too evident. Early in his career, she read her King James Bible over and over and clipped newspaper and magazine articles for sermon ideas. Raised in a family that prized intellectual inquiry, she brought to the marriage a thirst for knowledge.

"She proved for him a real, serious introduction to things overseas," said Mark Noll, professor of Christian thought at Wheaton College, the Grahams' alma mater. "This was important given the fact that from the early '60s through the '90s Billy Graham was much more active in other places in the world than the United States."

Her experience among missionaries, where women served in the same spiritual trenches as men, also shaped her view of gender roles. "Billy was brought up in a house where the women did not question the men, while in the Bell house, that's all we did," she said in Cornwell's biography.

Ruth's steadfast adherence to the Presbyterian Church, rather than joining her husband's Southern Baptist denomination, further broadened Billy Graham's outlook.

COMMENTARY

Dripping Spring Church dedicates sanctuary

Dripping Spring Missionary Baptist Church in Olmstead recently dedicated a new 440-seat sanctuary and several classrooms.

"This will be a very special day in the life of our church," said Pastor Jeff Noffsinger during the dedication. "We are nearing the end of a long journey from a construction standpoint but we can see the wonderful opportunity that is before us."

Noffsinger, who has been at the church for four years, went on to talk about the church's potential for growth and service.

"I thank God for the opportunity He has given me to minister in such a place as this," he said.

Although the church faced a big challenge in embarking upon the building program, the members have kept the focus on the main thing—serving the Lord.

When I called the pastor last week, the church was in the midst of vacation Bible school with 196 boys and girls present. Local teachers at

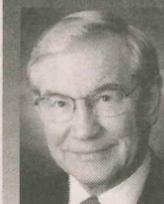
Olmstead Elementary and other laypeople provide faithful leadership in VBS, Sunday school, discipleship and missions organizations.

The church provides discipleship training on Wednesday nights for adults, except for one week each month when women's and men's missions organizations meet. Three new Sunday school classes have been started in the past two years.

The children participate in missions organizations every Wednesday night. The Royal Ambassadors group has planted an acre of corn to help support Kentucky Baptists' children's ministry, Sunrise Children's Services.

The church is very active in the local association and has sent mission teams to several places, including the Gulf Coast several times following Hurricane Katrina. The church's commitment to missions is also evidenced by the fact that it gives 18 percent of its undesignated gifts to support missions through the Cooperative Program.

PARTNERS IN THE MISSION



Bill Mackey

"He was more flexible than other evangelists, and his domestic influence was crucial in that regard," Noll said. "He never got hung up on American denominational issues. That's very much a missionary characteristic, particularly in places like China where there was a very small Christian population, and all denominations had to learn to get along."

Together with her sense of humor and love of practical jokes, Ruth's disdain for the trappings of fame and power kept Billy Graham grounded, friends said.

"When he got home she put him right back on track. She didn't kowtow to him," said Cornwell, who grew up near the Grahams in Montreat, N.C., and first met Ruth Graham when she was 9 years old.

"Steady influence"

"She kept him humble. There were temptations to be a presidential candidate, and other ambitions," said Eddie Gibbs, professor of church growth at Fuller Theological Seminary in Pasadena, Calif., and the training director for a three-month Graham crusade in England in 1984. "But he always came back, saying my calling is as an evangelist. My hunch is that she was the steady influence in the background."

While Billy Graham ministered to millions, Ruth, in keeping with her dislike of the spotlight, tended toward a smaller scale. She befriended convicted felons, troubled teens and drug addicts, and in 1975 convinced Graham to help evacuate a 16-member family from Vietnam.

Though she rarely spoke of those she aided, her efforts could not have helped but reinforced for Graham her talents and her faith, reminding him of his belief that "our marriage was planned in heaven," as he wrote to Ruth in the 1963 letter quoted in Cornwell's book.

"She never tried to be a theologian or lecture him. It was just a quiet influence," Cornwell said in an interview. "It was not what she said, but what she was."

The pastor gives credit to leaders in all age groups for their effective service. He has also encouraged lay leaders to step up to the challenge and to go beyond.

Three different lay leaders direct the choir, congregational singing and praise team. In addition to hymns, the congregation worships with Southern gospel and contemporary music.

The pastor has led the church in using the GROW evangelism strategy. The church plans to visit every home within three miles to determine the spiritual condition of each person and to follow up where possible.

The church's youth minister, Jason Sharp, has an excellent ministry. The pastor's hope is to make space for the youth in the old sanctuary building.

This is just one example of the many strong rural churches across Kentucky. No matter what size or kind of church we are in, let's all encourage each other to do the most effective work in reaching, developing and mobilizing people for the mission of our Lord!

Bill Mackey is executive director of the Kentucky Baptist Convention

GIVING

Financial wisdom from 'The Richest Man in Babylon'

By **Don Spencer**

Whatever your financial situation, there are books telling you how to fix it—get rich quick, get out of debt, make money without risk, avoid taxes, etc.



Since the days of Benjamin Franklin and his book "The Way to Wealth," financial self-help books have become like diet books: a hot item for a brief period then swiftly disappearing to the used book vendors. Only a few books have withstood the test of time. One of those is "The Intelligent Investor" written by Benjamin Graham in 1949. Another one is George Clason's "The Richest Man in Babylon" compiled in the 1920s.

Clason used parables set in ancient Babylon, the place where money may have been invented. The parables are funny, familiar and include many insights about managing money. In one parable, Algamish tells Arkad the secret of his wealth in one sentence, "I found the road to wealth when I decided that a part of all I earned was mine to keep." Arkad responds, "Is that all?"

Arkad reluctantly applies the wisdom and at Algamish's death Arkad becomes the richest man in Babylon, giving that same advice to others: "Say to yourselves, 'A part of all I earn is mine to keep.' Say it in the morning. Say it at noon. Say it at night. Say it to yourself until the words stand out like letters of fire across the sky."

People often lose common sense when dealing with dollars and cents. "The Richest Man in Babylon" has endured for many years because Clason was able to put in a nutshell the basics of good financial planning:

1. Start thy purse to fattening. (Keep at least a tenth of your earnings for yourself. Save.)
2. Control thy expenditures. (Make a budget and stick to it.)
3. Make thy gold multiply. (Invest wisely.)
4. Guard thy treasures from loss by consulting with "wise men." (Get guidance from qualified financial professionals.)
5. Make of thy dwelling a profitable investment. (Own your own home.)
6. Insure a future income. (Have adequate life insurance, disability insurance and retirement income.)
7. Increase thy ability to earn. (Continually improve your job skills to strengthen your value in the marketplace.)

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

Today's youth struggle with lack of biblical knowledge

Q: Are we raising a generation of religious illiterates?

Stephen Prothero is a professor of religious studies at Boston University. His recent book, "Religious Literacy: What Every American Needs to Know—and Doesn't," points out some alarming trends.

PARENTING

Prothero says that while Americans claim to be religious people, in reality the average person knows very little about religion, even their own. According to one survey, the average high school senior thinks Sodom and Gomorrah were husband and wife. Additionally, on a recent night, not one single person in Jay Leno's Tonight Show audience could name even one of Jesus' 12 disciples.

Prothero posits that, regardless of what we believe personally, we need to be religiously aware and literate in order to understand world events and our own American heritage. His research indicates that Christians fare no better than non-believers. Not only do we not know much about other belief systems; we often don't know much about our own.

Our shortcomings may begin at an early age—a concern readily evident to those who teach children at church. Sunday school attendance ebbs and flows. When children are present, many are often late—sometimes walking in 20 to 30 minutes after class has started. Most have trouble remembering to bring their Bibles. Most do not know the books of the Bible and cannot find Bible books without turning to the table of contents. Participation in programs such as Children's Bible Drill continues to decline.

Prothero's conclusions give parents something to ponder the next time they are tempted to blow off Sunday School for a ball game.

(Google "religious literacy quiz" and see how you do on Prothero's 15-question quiz.)—David Garrard

Q: With our son's recent 13th birthday, some friends are telling us that we need to back away and give him more space. Is this a good strategy for parents to use with teenagers?

Teenagers need a healthy balance of parental involvement, strong yet flexible boundaries and "permission granted" (freedom) to grow and develop as they demonstrate increasing responsibility to their family, church, school and personal commitments.

According to Chap Clark in "Hurt: Inside the World of Today's Teenagers," "The healthiest and most productive strategy is for parents to be so involved in the lives of their (teenagers) that they can understand how complex, incongruent and layered this phase of life is for their children."

While Clark is targeting the parenting of 15- to 19-year-olds, this can be applied to younger teens as well. As outside activities increasingly vie for more and more of their attention and energy, the last thing these kids need is for parents to withdraw. Clark writes, "Even the most independent, cluster-driven (teen) needs to know that, regardless of behavior, problems, conflict or looks, the family is a safe place."

We live in a society where many forces collude to leave adolescents feeling abandoned and alone, including divorce, dual career parents and the overinvolvement that comes with layering of sports, music, academics, jobs and even church.

Parents must not abandon their teenagers to the culture of the day, but provide strong and Christ-focused leadership that allows for them to change and grow. Sometimes this will mean that we must check our tendencies for control, even our selfish need to keep our children from growing up. Keeping it in perspective, remember the words of John who wrote, "No greater joy can I have than this, to hear that my children follow the truth" (3 John 4).—Scott Wigginton

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SBC messengers tackle diverse concerns

There was no shortage of issues to discuss during last week's Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting in San Antonio.

From the Cooperative Program to the Baptist Faith & Message to "integrity in church membership," messengers made their views known on a variety of topics. In addition to the usual emphases on missions, evangelism, prayer and spiritual awakening, participants addressed such hot-button issues as global warming and child abuse and heard words of appreciation from President Bush live via satellite.

The small crowd of 8,618 registered messengers continued a trend of declining convention attendance. Since 2000, the average messenger count has been fewer than 10,000 per year—in a denomination that claims more than 16 million members in 44,000-plus congregations. That compares to an average annual registration of more than 18,000 in the 1990s and more than 24,000 in the 1980s.

Some attribute the attendance drop to a comparatively calm, peaceful time in SBC life. Others point to a growing lack of grassroots interest in denominational issues. Either way, the current level of involvement is an average of less than one messenger per every five Southern Baptist congregations lending a voice to the SBC's future priorities and direction. As with secular elections, those who don't bother to show up have little right to complain about the outcome.

As for specific issues tackled by messengers, a motion on the "sufficiency" of the Baptist Faith & Message prompted widespread discussion. Seen as a response to recent actions by leaders of the International Mission Board and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in such areas as believer's baptism, private prayer language and women in ministry, the motion described the 18-point faith statement as "sufficient in its current form to guide trustees in their establishment of policies and practices of entities of the convention."

While the messenger action sounds pretty straight-

forward, some denominational leaders quickly scrambled to explain why they needed to go beyond the faith statement's doctrinal guidelines in their hiring process to include opposition to such issues as abortion, gambling—and even cross-dressing.

It's likely that few Southern Baptists would begrudge entity leaders flexibility on such moral issues upon which the Baptist Faith & Message is silent. A far greater concern would be trustees establishing policies related to Calvinism, spiritual gifts, women deacons or other doctrinal issues open to diverse interpretation in Southern Baptist life.

"I do believe we've gone far enough and that the Baptist Faith & Message is enough,"

SBC President Frank Page told reporters, "and I encourage entities not to go beyond that in their doctrinal parameters." His view clearly echoes what the majority of messengers adopted last week.

Concerning the issue of integrity in church membership, the convention's resolutions committee declined to recommend a proposed resolution on the subject. Messengers upheld that decision, voting against considering the proposal on the convention floor.

Rather than rejecting a call for integrity, however, committee chairman Gerald Harris said the proposal was declined because it infringed on church autonomy. "The committee does not have authority to instruct churches on their membership," he explained.

Even with that said, the rejected measure surfaced a valid concern that Southern Baptist churches claim 16.3 million members, but only 6.1 million—a mere 37.6 percent—attend worship services in a typical week.

Tom Ascol, who introduced the proposal, urged Southern Baptists to "repent of our failure to retain responsible church membership."

That's a legitimate challenge for the SBC's 8,618 messengers—and for the 16.3 million others who stayed home.

STRAIGHT FROM THE EDITOR



Trennis Henderson

Family, friends affirm Ruth Graham's legacy

Family members, friends and Christian leaders from around the world mourned Ruth Bell Graham's death June 14 at age 87. Among their reflections:

Evangelist Billy Graham: "My wife Ruth was the most incredible woman I have ever known. Whenever I was asked to name the finest Christian I ever met, I always replied, 'My wife, Ruth.' She was a spiritual giant."

Franklin Graham, president of the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association: "She always, right up until the day she went to heaven, had a twinkle in her eye—a mischievous twinkle that was almost like she was sitting there thinking about what she could do to get one up on you. Mama was just always a lot of fun."

Anne Graham Lotz, founder of AnGel Ministries: "If I could have seen the other side of the pearly gates when she entered, I believe I would have seen millions of angels standing to applaud Jesus, ... giving Him all the glory and praise for the life of Ruth Bell Graham."

President George W. Bush: "Laura and I are deeply saddened by the death of Ruth Bell Graham, a remarkable woman of faith whose life was defined by her belief in a personal, loving and gracious God. Ruth's marriage to her husband, Billy, was a true and loving partnership. As the wife of the world's most beloved evangelist, she inspired people around the world with her humor, intelligence, elegance and kindness."

Beverly LaHaye, founder and chairman of Concerned Women for America: "What a wonderful example Ruth Graham has been for Christian women. She stood by Billy through the great days and through the difficult ones as well. I have never heard her give one word of negative criticism about her husband."

Kay Warren, wife of Rick Warren, pastor of Saddleback Church in Lake Forest, Calif.: "I have admired her all my life, and particularly as a pastor's wife, there was a great deal to glean from how she supported her husband's ministry. She lived a life of servanthood, and in doing so was a leader and a role model to so many others."

Frank Page, Southern Baptist Convention president: "This dear woman leaves behind a legacy of commitment to her Lord and her family which serves as an example to us all. ... We are thankful for her ministry to the Kingdom of God during her life. Heaven has experienced a great gain from our loss."

Morris Chapman, president of the SBC Executive Committee: "Her grace, humility, dignity and joy reflected her deep and abiding love for her Lord and Savior, which is certainly fitting, for now she has seen the Lord in the fullness of His glory and is able to praise and worship Him face to face."

Denton Lotz, Baptist World Alliance general secretary: "It was with great sorrow that we learned of the death of Ruth Graham. She was a spiritual giant, a beautiful Chris-

tian and a wonderful spiritual writer. To her children she was their best friend and pastor. Her essays, articles and books reveal a person who knew life at its deepest, with all its joys and sorrows."

Pat Robertson, religious broadcaster: "For decades Ruth Graham has been an inspiration to us all and a tower of strength for her husband who has been the pre-eminent evangelist of the 20th century. Her health struggles are now over and she is with the Lord she served so well."

Steve Woodworth, chairman of the Lausanne Committee for World Evangelism: "All of us in the Lausanne Movement have greatly appreciated the Graham family's contributions in spreading the message of Jesus Christ. Not only have they verbalized the gospel around the world, their lives have consistently reflected the love and grace of God. We grieve with the family knowing how much they will miss her, but at the same time rejoice knowing that we will see her again in heaven someday."

Paul Irwin, president of the American Bible Society: "When reflecting on Mrs. Graham's life as a dedicated follower of Christ, and a devoted wife and mother, the words from the Gospel of Matthew 25:23 are so appropriate: 'Well done, good and faithful servant. ... Enter into the joy of your Lord.'"

Tony Perkins, president of the Family Research Council: "Now she is face to face with the Jesus her husband introduced to millions and enjoying the heaven he preached about."

Kentuckians named to SBC Committee on Nominations

San Antonio—Don Mathis, staff evangelist for Eastwood Baptist Church in Bowling Green, and Karl Neely, a member of First Baptist Church of Henderson, were among individuals elected last week to the 2007-2008 SBC Committee on Nominations.

The 70-member committee is responsible for recommending trustees next year to serve on the boards of Southern Baptist Convention entities.

Kentucky Baptists who served on this year's SBC Committee on Committees that nominated Mathis and Neely were Todd Linn, pastor of First Baptist Church of Henderson, and Dan Summerlin, pastor of Lone Oak First Baptist Church in Paducah.

In other business, messengers elected Al Gilbert, senior pastor of Calvary Baptist Church in Winston-Salem, N.C., to preach next year's convention sermon.

The 2008 SBC annual meeting will be held June 10-11 in Indianapolis.

SBC action on faith statement prompts mixed response

By Greg Warner
Associated Baptist Press

San Antonio (ABP)—The Southern Baptist Convention affirmed the Baptist Faith & Message June 12 as the "sufficient" doctrinal guide for its agencies and institutions. But SBC leaders immediately disagreed over whether the action will keep those agencies from adopting more restrictive policies.

The motion was supported by messengers concerned that some SBC leaders have gone too far in limiting participation in the 16-million-member convention. They cite hiring guidelines adopted recently by International Mission Board trustees that exclude future missionaries who practice a "private prayer language"—a type of speaking in tongues.

Supporters called the SBC vote—58 percent to 42 percent—a victory for more openness in the convention. "This is the biggest decision in the Southern Baptist Convention in a decade," said Oklahoma pastor Wade Burleson, an IMB trustee who has led opposition to the private prayer language guideline. "The SBC has said it doesn't want the agencies going against the convention."

"The consensus of the convention is to follow the Baptist Faith & Message," said Rick Garner, pastor of Liberty Heights Baptist Church in Liberty Township, Ohio, who introduced the motion. "If they feel like they need to go beyond that, ... they will need to come back to the convention floor" to amend the doctrinal statement.

Mohler, Roberts interpret action

But two seminary presidents told messengers June 13 that, when hiring faculty members, they will use additional restrictions not covered in the Baptist Faith & Message, such as opposition to abortion and gambling.

Al Mohler, president of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, said doctrinal threats arise from

'Sufficient guide'

The SBC-approved motion on the Baptist Faith & Message, which was adopted by the Executive Committee in February, affirms: "The Baptist Faith & Message is neither a creed, nor a complete statement of 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."

time to time that are not covered in the SBC's faith statement. "You don't want to hire those who merely meet those requirements," he said, but those who thoroughly meet the standards.

Phil Roberts, president of Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, described the Baptist Faith & Message as a "minimalist statement" that does not comment on everything affirmed in the Bible.

Midwestern requires more of its employees than the doctrinal statement specifies, Roberts said. For instance, the Old Testament prohibits "cross-dressing," he said during his seminary report. "Any morning that one of our Steves shows up dressed like an Eve, that will be the last day they work on our campus."

SBC Executive Committee President Morris Chapman agreed with those who say policies should not exceed the doctrinal statement.

"Any practice instituted by an entity in the Southern Baptist Convention that has the force of doctrine should be in accord with the Baptist Faith & Message and not exceed its boundaries unless and until it has been approved" by convention messengers, he said to the applause of the crowd.

"Secondly, if an entity ... adopts a confession of faith separate and distinct from the Baptist Faith & Message and it includes a doctrine unsupported by our confessional statement, the entity should request approval from the convention prior to including the doctrine in its confession."

The Baptist Faith & Message, first adopted in 1925 and revised in 1963 and 2000, "has long been the doctrinal umbrella under which we send missionaries to foreign fields and preachers into local pulpits," Chapman noted. The faith statement "is not a creed," he added, "but it is a confession of our core beliefs of Southern Baptists."

Revising the Baptist Faith & Message "should not be lightly regarded nor should our confessional statement be re-

below.)

During floor debate on Garner's motion June 12, Jeremy Green, pastor of First Baptist Church of Joshua, Texas, agreed the doctrinal statement is "a sufficient guide, but the Baptist Faith & Message is not the only guide" for hiring. "I believe voting for this motion is a step in the wrong direction," he said.

Dwight McKissic, pastor of Cornerstone Baptist Church in Arlington, Texas, spoke in favor of the motion, insisting the SBC agencies "should be subordinate to the Southern Baptist Convention."

Children don't set the rules; parents do, he said.

McKissic, a trustee of Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, ran afoul of trustee leaders recently when he acknowledged using a private prayer language and criticized the IMB for its hiring restriction. He said he led his church to join the SBC on the basis of the Baptist Faith & Message, but "now decisions are being made that are not consistent with it."

After the motion passed, Benjamin Cole, a pastor and blogger in Arlington, Texas, said the SBC establishment "will have a very difficult time" imposing restrictions that go beyond the doctrinal statement. But he warned, "The other side is going to say (the motion) doesn't mean what it says."

"Where do we stop?"

Messengers who voted on the motion seemed reluctant to add restrictions beyond the Baptist Faith & Message.

"Where do we stop?" asked Joe Manning, pastor of First Baptist Church of Pearl City, Hawaii. "I believe the Baptist Faith & Message is a starting point, but there are so many issues that can't be defined and that's where the churches need to step in."

In other business, the convention referred a motion to its Executive Committee that calls for the SBC to

study establishing a registry of clergy sexual offenders. The database would include ministers and church staff members "who have been credibly accused of, personally confessed to, or legally been convicted of sexual harassment or abuse."

The database would be accessible to Southern Baptist churches and entities to help prevent future abuse. The motion, presented by Burleson, asked the Executive Committee to report its findings and recommendations no later than the 2008 convention.

Other motions referred to the Executive Committee were:

- To develop a conventionwide policy that would allow Southern Baptists who hold "differing interpretations" of speaking in tongues to be "full participants" in the SBC.

- Requiring nominees to SBC committees and boards to disclose any disagreements they have with the Baptist Faith & Message.

- Urging that the convention be held in cities that have not hosted the SBC in the last 20 years.

Several motions were referred to other entities:

- A motion referred to the Executive Committee and every other SBC entity asked each SBC agency or institution to study providing reports of its trustees' attendance and voting records.

- A motion requesting more resources for one-staff-member churches was referred to Lifeway Christian Resources and the North American Mission Board.

Several motions were ruled out of order because they are under the purview of individual agencies' trustees and not the convention:

- A motion to study the salaries of SBC seminary professors.

- A motion to instruct SBC agencies and institutions to avoid promoting the "emerging church."

- A motion directing Lifeway Christian Resources to review its policy on distributing "fables and allegories."

Chapman to SBC: Don't make every doctrinal issue a 'political football'

By Trennis Henderson
Editor

San Antonio—Warning that Southern Baptists "must not make every doctrinal issue a crusade or political football," Morris Chapman declared it is a waste of time to "harshly debate disputable doctrines that lead to destructive distractions."

Chapman, president of the SBC Executive Committee, offered his assessment in the wake of widespread debate about recent actions by the Southern Baptist International Mission Board regarding believer's baptism and private prayer language.

"We have no right to judge others with whom we disagree about secondary and tertiary doctrines," Chapman insisted. "Only God is our judge."

"But we do have the right to engage in spirited debate where we differ," he noted, adding that such debate should reflect the Spirit and mind of Christ and "honor Christ in every thought and deed and word."

Without directly referencing the IMB or specific doctrinal issues, Chapman proposed "two suggestions for future consideration."



Executive Committee President Morris Chapman

vised year after year," Chapman said. "However, if we believe a doctrine is a part of the core belief system of Southern Baptists, it should be in the Baptist Faith & Message."

"Only a few years ago, it seemed sufficient for our missionaries and convention leaders to sign the Baptist Faith & Message as a statement of loyalty to Christ and to the convention," he remarked. "Now other doctrines are beginning to be required aside from our adopted confession. It causes one to ask, 'Where does it end?'"

Insisting that his proposals "do not in-

fringe upon the responsibilities of trustees to govern an entity of our convention," Chapman told SBC messengers, "We must come together in one spirit over the core beliefs that we hold in common and learn to engage in healthy debate about varied interpretations about other doctrinally-related Scripture."

"Otherwise," he cautioned, "we shall spend our time arguing among ourselves while thousands, even millions, die without a Savior."

Emphasizing that the SBC's "conservative resurgence" launched in 1979 "clarified and solidified what we think about the authority of God's Word," the former convention president said Southern Baptists are now "struggling with the temptation to lay down certain interpretations for defining a true Southern Baptist compared to a maverick Southern Baptist."

"Holiness, humility and righteousness are the traits that will rescue Southern Baptists for another day," Chapman declared. "Both in our doctrinal convictions and our attitudes toward one another, let us go before the Lord to pray, 'God forgive me.'"

Proposal to define CP giving sparks debate, gains approval

By Trennis Henderson
Editor

San Antonio—A proposal to define what constitutes Cooperative Program giving sparked lengthy debate during the opening session of the Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting, including a charge that the measure “goes against historical Baptist polity.”

The recommendation from the SBC Executive Committee defines the denomination’s 82-year-old giving plan as “Southern Baptists’ unified plan of giving through which cooperating Southern Baptist churches give a percentage of their undesignated receipts in support of their respective state conventions and the Southern Baptist Convention missions and ministries.”

Morris Chapman, president of the SBC Executive Committee, noted that “there has been no approved definition of the Cooperative Program through these years.”

Emphasizing that “we have always considered the Cooperative Program since 1925 to be a process, a delivery system that is contributed through the state and then to the SBC,” he said designated funds given directly to the SBC are still distributed according to the national CP funding formula but are not counted as CP contributions.

The proposal follows a measure on strengthening CP giving adopted last year by SBC messengers. From 1980 to 2006, the percentage of undesignated funds given by local churches through CP plunged from 10.7 percent to 6.6 percent.

Messengers voice concerns

At least 10 messengers recognized at microphones throughout the convention hall raised questions or voiced concerns about the proposal.

Ron Wilson of Thousand Oaks, Calif., warned that the recommendation “seems to be establishing a connectionalism that historically has not existed in Baptist life.”

“What if you have three entities in a state all desiring to give to the Cooperative Program?” he asked. “In our state, we’re forming a new convention for the purpose of giving a greater percentage to the national convention. Will we be allowed to do that or will we have to go back to the old convention?”

Michael Lewis, vice chairman of the Executive Committee’s CP subcommittee, responded that if a new state convention entity is recognized by the SBC, contributions through the entity will be considered CP gifts.

Currently in Southern Baptist life, the SBC has recognized breakaway conservative conventions in Texas and Virginia. A breakaway moderate convention in Missouri is not recognized by the SBC.

Lewis emphasized that the primary focus of the proposal is to acknowledge “local churches giving through their state convention to support the Cooperative Program.”

Mark Dever of Washington, D.C., asked if the proposed definition would impact current constitutional wording that allows cooperating

churches to qualify for additional messengers “for each \$250 paid to the work of the convention during the fiscal year preceding the annual meeting.”

“The recommendation does not affect that,” Lewis said, noting that designated gifts qualify as support for convention causes.

“Are we saying that if you give to the Executive Committee or to Nashville that you can bypass your state convention and it still count as Cooperative Program funds?” asked Bill Henard, pastor of Porter Memorial Baptist Church in Lexington.

“No, it does not,” Lewis responded. “It simply codifies all that we are doing and have been doing as Southern Baptists through the Cooperative Program.”

No CBF funds allowed

Tim Rogers of North Carolina asked whether contributions to a giving plan in the North Carolina Baptist Convention that includes designated giving to the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship would qualify as CP giving.

“No,” Lewis said. “We do not receive funds from the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship.”

After several other questions, Wilson returned to the microphone to propose tabling the measure until next year.

“I think it needs greater thought for there’s more issues than just what you’re dealing with,” Wilson said. “I also believe that historically we are establishing a precedent that absolutely goes against historical Baptist polity and establishes a connectionalism that was not meant in the beginning.”

Urging convention leaders to “table this motion and bring it back next year with better wording,” Wilson added, “This is a very dangerous thing we are doing here.”

SBC President Frank Page ruled Wilson’s motion to table out of order. Messengers then voted to approve the proposed CP definition.

In other Executive Committee-related business, messengers:

- Approved a 2007-08 CP allocation budget of \$200,601,536, an increase of more than \$4.6 million from the current budget.

- Requested LifeWay Christian Resources to “compile additional statistics relating to Calvinism, the emergent church, elder rule and other topics of interest and discussion in Southern Baptist life.”

- Approved three future convention sites: Orlando, Fla., in 2010; Phoenix in 2011; and New Orleans in 2012. Some messengers voiced concern about waiting five years to visit New Orleans, citing ongoing ministry needs in the wake of Hurricane Katrina. Convention officials responded that logistics and facility options make it necessary to wait until 2012.

- Gave final approval to a constitutional amendment that requires a two-year waiting period before former board trustees or Executive Committee members are eligible to serve again. There previously was a one-year wait.

Global warming debate

Messengers reject call for government action

By Marv Knox
Texas Baptist Standard

San Antonio—Southern Baptist Convention messengers generated some heat last week as they debated the government’s responsibility to address global warming.

They also stood by the SBC resolutions committee’s decision not to address how many people actually populate Southern Baptist churches. Otherwise, they quickly dispatched seven of eight proposed resolutions June 13.

The global warming resolution did not generate debate on its basic points: global temperatures have risen for decades, “scientific evidence does not support computer models of catastrophic human-induced global warming” and major steps to reduce greenhouse gases would unfairly impact the world’s poorest people.

But messengers disagreed over the committee’s call for the government to do something about climate change.

The committee’s proposal encouraged “continued government funding to find definitive answers on the issue of human-induced global warming that are based on empirical facts and are free of ideology and partisanship.”

Bob Carpenter of Cedar Street Baptist Church in Holt, Mich., proposed deleting the two sections of the resolution that called for government action.

“For 70 years, beginning with the Franklin Roosevelt administration, we’ve endured expansion of government,” Carpenter said, calling government “part of the cause of the problem rather than the solution.”

Resolutions committee member Martha Lawley countered that the committee “does believe the government has a role to play.” The resolution acknowledges God’s sovereignty, as well as individual responsibility, she said.

However, Wiley Drake, the convention’s second vice president and pastor of First Southern Baptist Church of Buena Park, Calif., claimed the disputed portions of the resolution undermine the SBC’s stand for separation of church and state.

“This weakens this resolution, by asking the government to step in,” he said.

“This is not a church-state issue,” Lawley maintained. “The government does have a role to play” in dealing with global warming.

Although messengers voted to remove the sections calling for government involvement, resolutions committee chairman Gerald Harris later told reporters the convention overwhelmingly supported the overall resolution.

“Integrity” proposal declined

The only other extended debate featured a suggested resolution the committee declined to propose.

Tom Ascol, pastor of Grace Baptist Church in Cape Coral, Fla., noted he submitted a resolution on “integrity in church membership” that did not get past the committee.

While the convention’s Annual Church Profile claims SBC-affiliated churches are composed of 16.3 million members, only 6,138,776 of them attend a worship service in a typical week, Ascol said.

Southern Baptists should “repent of our failure to retain responsible church membership and our widespread failure to lovingly correct church members” when they lapse from regular church attendance, he added.

Ascol’s proposal “infringed upon the honored principle of church autonomy,” Harris responded. “The committee does not have authority to instruct churches on their membership.”

Ascol’s proposal failed to receive a two-thirds vote required to override the committee’s decision not to recommend the resolution.



PRESS CONFERENCE Resolution committee members (from left) Greg Thornberry, Martha Lawley and chairman Gerald Harris field questions at a press conference about resolutions adopted by SBC messengers. (BP photo by Jonathan Blair)

All seven of the committee’s other resolutions passed without significant discussion or debate. They included:

Child abuse. Messengers expressed their “deep level of moral outrage and concern at any instance of child victimization” and recommended reporting child abuse “in a timely and forthright manner.” The resolution called for churches and convention organizations to perform criminal background checks on ministers, employees and volunteers.

Hate crimes. While urging Americans to “avoid acts of hatred and violence toward homosexuals and transgendered people” and calling on Christians to love and show compassion for them, the resolution condemned the Local Law Enforcement Hate Crimes Prevention Act of 2007. It said hate crimes legislation “violates the U.S. Constitution’s Fourteenth Amendment guarantee of equal protection under the law” and “criminalizes beliefs as well as action, creating a form of thought crime.”

Racism. Marking the 150th anniversary of the U.S. Supreme Court’s Dred Scott Decision—which declared African-Americans “had no rights which the white man was bound to respect”—the resolution affirmed the Declaration of Independence’s affirmation that “all men are created equal and are endowed by their Creator with certain inalienable rights.” Messengers affirmed the SBC’s 1995 vote to “unwaveringly denounce racism, in all its forms, as deplorable sin.”

Pastors, culture and civic duty. “There is a great need for a new generation of pastors to take the lead in courageously confronting an American culture and government that is hurtling downward to new depths of moral decadence,” the resolution noted. It cited “continued threats to the sanctity of human life, the sacredness of marriage between one man and one woman, and the fundamental freedom to express our faith in the public arena.”

Personal and corporate repentance. Citing Scriptures that condemn vindictiveness, bitterness, slander, sexual immorality and “failure to obey God,” the resolution called for “all Southern Baptists to humble ourselves before God” and “embrace a spirit of repentance, pursue face-to-face reconciliation where necessary and enter into a time of fasting and prayer for the lost.”

Cooperative giving. A resolution offered by the presidents of the SBC’s two mission boards lauded record receipts for the convention’s Cooperative Program budget and its home and foreign missions offerings.

Appreciation. Messengers thanked Baptists from San Antonio, as well as convention officers, other leaders and program personnel.

The committee declined to act on two topics that received intense discussion when messengers acted on motions—glossolalia, or the practice of “private prayer language,” and the ability of the 2000 Baptist Faith & Message doctrinal statement to serve as a “guide” for SBC agencies and institutions.

'You've made our nation stronger,' Bush tells SBC crowd

"We should use our resources to help those in need here at home and help those in need abroad."

President George W. Bush

By Tony Cartledge
North Carolina Biblical Recorder

San Antonio—Judging by the reaction he received at the Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting, President Bush's popularity remains strong among Southern Baptists.

Bush was greeted with a standing ovation, punctuated by whistles and cheers, as he spoke June 13 via a live satellite feed to messengers attending the Southern Baptist Convention meeting in San Antonio.

Bush expressed appreciation for Southern Baptists' Christian witness, support of religious liberty, and good works such as hunger ministries and disaster relief.

"You've made our nation stronger," he declared.

"I also appreciate that Southern Baptists are supporting our brave men in uniform and their families," he said, pausing in response to enthusiastic applause.

"I know you pray for their safe-

ty as they defend our people and extend the hope of freedom to the oppressed across the globe," Bush said. "Just like our troops, you have the gratitude of the commander-in-chief as we do the hard work necessary to defend our country and at the same time lay the foundation of peace.

"I appreciate the fact that Southern Baptists understand the importance of fair-minded and impartial judges to our democracy," he added. "I was proud to nominate John Roberts and Sam Alito to the Supreme Court, and I will continue to nominate good judges who will interpret the law and not legislate from the bench."

Bush thanked Southern Baptists for supporting "a culture of life," and reiterated ways in which he has worked to oppose abortions and the destruction of human embryos for research purposes.

The president also thanked Southern Baptists for their sup-

port of a "True Love Waits" effort in Uganda that has been credited with reducing HIV infections, and highlighted his support of programs designed to reduce malaria and HIV infections in Africa.

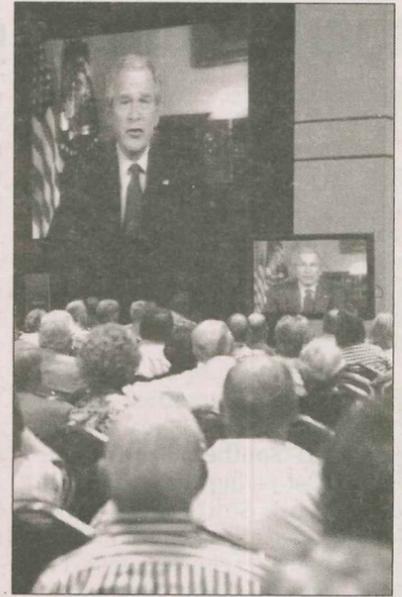
Bush singled out "my friend Richard Land," president of the SBC Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission, for helping draw attention to Sudan's genocidal actions in Darfur.

"The people of Darfur are crying out for our help," he said, affirming Southern Baptists and America "will not turn away."

"God has blessed our nation with prosperity and great abundance," Bush said. "I firmly believe, like you, that we should use our resources to help those in need here at home and help those in need abroad."

The president congratulated Southern Baptists for "meeting the needs of broken souls" with compassion and courage.

With additional reporting by Baptist Press



PRESIDENTIAL PERSPECTIVE President Bush speaks via satellite from the White House during last week's SBC annual meeting. (BP photo by Kent Harville)

Zinn urges Baptists to catch vision for Great Commission

By Bill Webb
Missouri Word & Way

San Antonio—California Pastor Rob Zinn bemoaned Southern Baptist baptism statistics and challenged messengers to the Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting to catch a vision for winning people to Christ.

In the annual convention sermon, Zinn, senior pastor of Immanuel Baptist Church in Highland, Calif., charged that believers have fallen short of the demands of the Great Commission, and many churches deliberately have chosen not to grow.

"God's never given us the right to vote down what He has called us to do," Zinn said. "Our commission is to go. There is nothing in the Bible that says you should stay within the four walls (of the church) and the community will come."

He told messengers that the most recent annual baptism total among Southern Baptists was 364,826—fewer than the year before, despite a challenge for Southern Baptist churches to baptize 1 million people in a year.

"We're in desperate need of revival," he said. "We're in desperate need of the Holy Spirit filling us, our churches and our convention so we will be what we need to be."

Southern Baptists' biggest barrier to winning people to Christ may be their attitude, Zinn said. "Why are we baptizing less people? The answer is, 'Our attitudes stink.'"

He suggested churches in the 21st century must learn four attitudes prevalent in the first century church.

"First, we're going to have to take the Great Commission seriously," he said. "God took the Great Commission seriously; the devil takes the Great Commission seriously."

"Our problem is our attitude toward the Word of God. When it takes 45 Southern Baptists a full year to baptize one person, we're not serious about it."

Second, Christians must take the Great Commission personally, Zinn said. It is not enough to give money so that people far away can come to Christ. Believers must be active personally in evangelizing their own communities.

"Too many pastors do all their evangelism on Sunday morning," he charged. "We need to make evangelism a lifestyle. Pastor, you're going to have to get in your car" and go to visit people, he said.

Third, Christians must approach the task of evangelism enthusiastically, Zinn said.

"God said He would go with you and will empower you," he said, using the Holy Spirit to spark enthusiasm by providing a vision for the task and an attitude of love toward others.

Finally, the believer must approach his task prayerfully, he said. In the early church, "it was prayer that turned fear to boldness. Prayer is where the power comes from."



Dr. Don Mathis
Staff Evangelist
Eastwood Baptist Church
Bowling Green, Kentucky



Dr. Charles S. Kelley
President
New Orleans Baptist
Theological Seminary



Dr. Gary Jackson
Pastor
Friendship Baptist Church
Cincinnati, Ohio

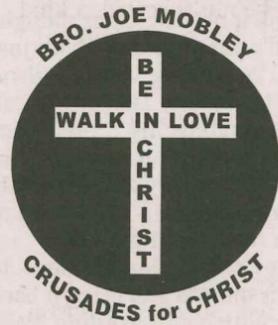


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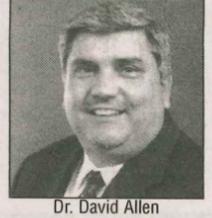
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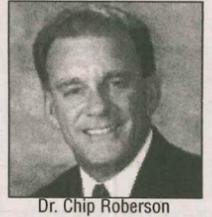
Brother Joe Mobley
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Pastor of the
Binghamtown Baptist Church
Middlesboro, Kentucky



Dr. David Allen
Dean, School of Theology
Southwestern Baptist Theological
Seminary, Ft. Worth, Texas



Dr. Chip Roberson
Pastor
Cave Spring Baptist Church
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NAMB goals: Share Christ, start churches & send missionaries

By Jennifer Rash
Alabama Baptist

San Antonio—Only three weeks into his new role as president of the North American Mission Board, Geoff Hammond took his first bow for Southern Baptists June 13 during the mission agency's report to the Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting.

"One of the greatest privileges of my life is to be called to lead the North American Mission Board," he said, noting the three main objectives of NAMB—sharing Christ, starting churches and sending missionaries.

Hammond kept messengers on their feet in ovations as he introduced three couples serving in diverse missionary roles across North America. A fourth NAMB representative—Brigadier General Douglas Carver—was presented via prerecorded video.

Carver, who is one of the more than 1,000 chaplains endorsed by NAMB, is the current candidate for chief of chaplains in the U.S. Army, which would put him in charge of 5,000 chaplains. Pending Senate confirmation for the new post, he also will be promoted to major general at a July 12 ceremony in Fort Belvoir, Va.

"I'd like to give a heartfelt thanks to the Southern Baptist Convention, the North American Mission Board and local Baptist churches for sending the finest chaplains to serve," he said. "This is a critical ministry during this time of war. Pray for our chaplains who pour out their very lives and the love of Christ."

William and Teresa Johnson, church planters in Manhattan, Mont., shared about their efforts in an area with few churches and a rugged, individualistic environment.

Another couple, who cannot be named for security reasons, shared about reaching out to a Muslim community in the greater Washington D.C. area.

Missionaries face risks

"The Great Commission is coming back to North America," Hammond said, citing the risk some missionaries take in order to share Christ in North America.

"We are going to put a lot more emphasis on church planting to the people groups right here in North America. We are no longer a melting pot, but a mixing pot," he said. "We have to church plant in order to assist churches in fulfilling the Great Commission."

"We pray that the Lord will show the North American Mission Board with His favor and our entire convention as we assist Southern Baptist in their task of fulfilling the Great Commission," the new NAMB president told messengers.

Hammond also noted NAMB's ability to step up in a crisis. Wheth-



NAMB President Geoff Hammond

er at the local church, associational, state or national levels, NAMB-sponsored volunteers are there. Pointing to the April shooting massacre at Virginia Tech, he said, "Southern Baptists showed their true colors" during that crisis.

Evangelism strategy planned

Other announcements made during NAMB's report include:

■ A new national evangelism strategy is being developed with NAMB and other Southern Baptist leaders with plans for the strategy to be debuted at the 2008 annual meeting. "It will be multifaceted, a kind of plan that can be customized," Hammond said.

■ Roy Fish, who served as interim president of NAMB until Hammond's election, will remain as an ambassador-at-large for NAMB.

Bill Curtis, chairman of NAMB's board of directors, said Fish "has led with grace ... and ministered to our missionaries and staff."

■ Curtis recognized Jim Austin, executive director of the South Carolina Baptist State Convention, and Joseph Bunce, executive director of the New Mexico Baptist State Convention, for their partnership with NAMB.

■ Curtis noted the 300th anniversary of associational missions in America. "Another key area of partnership for us involves our relationship with local Baptist associations," he said.

■ Curtis highlighted the \$58,496,633 given to the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering last year and thanked Southern Baptists for their support. "Your giving has allowed us to expand our efforts in sharing Christ, starting churches and sending missionaries," he said.



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IMB report: Pastor recounts testimony of torture & faith

Messenger poses question about IMB auditing

San Antonio—Concern about a case of alleged embezzlement on the mission field resurfaced during last week's Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting.

Southern Baptist International Mission Board President Jerry Rankin addressed the issue during his June 12 report after messenger Ron McGowin of Fairfield, Texas, questioned the outcome of a motion he introduced at last year's SBC. McGowin's motion had called for an external audit of the Central Asia Region's monetary dealings between 1999-2005.

A note in the SBC Book of Reports said a 2004 audit led to "appropriate action" taken by the board.

But McGowin, pastor of First Baptist Church of Fairfield, Texas, asked, "Why have the IMB trustees decided against the use of external audits?"

Rankin responded that an internal audit had been performed as well as an audit by an outside firm.

"The trustees were involved in the thorough review of this. Policies have been put in place to prevent this from happening again," Rankin said, noting that the board is honoring its "fiscal responsibility to the convention."

Another motion presented last year about trustee rights brought no discussion from Rankin or questions from messengers but was addressed in the Book of Reports.

The motion, presented by IMB trustee Wade Burlison of Oklahoma, called for an ad hoc committee appointed by the SBC Executive Committee to investigate certain aspects of trustee protocol.

The Book of Reports noted that the IMB board of trustees has "no authority" to question or investigate several of his concerns, including coercion and the nominating process of IMB trustees.

By Don Graham
Baptist Press

San Antonio (BP)—KGB agents had arrested Shokrat before, but this time was different. Instead of being taken for interrogation, he was tortured.

Messengers to the 2007 Southern Baptist Convention in San Antonio listened attentively as the former Turkmen pastor described how agents forced a gas mask over his head and waited for him to suffocate. As he struggled for breath, the mask was removed momentarily, then replaced and the cycle repeated.

Shokrat's skin was pierced by hypodermic needles. His throat was strangled, his body beaten and electrocuted. Threats were made to torture family and friends, rape his wife and murder his children.

He endured this abuse for days, not because he was a spy, but because he had chosen to tell a story of suffering and sacrifice not unlike his own—the story of Jesus.

Shokrat's powerful testimony came as part of the International Mission Board's annual report to the SBC on June 12, where scores of Southern Baptists answered an altar call to greater missions involvement.

Responsibility to respond

IMB President Jerry Rankin said Shokrat's story—and the stories of persecuted Christians everywhere—serve as evidence of a lost world desperate to hear the gospel.

"Numbers can be overwhelming," Rankin said, noting that "1.6 billion people have not yet heard the name of Jesus. ... Yet God's desire is for all the world to know Him, and He sent us with the responsibility to be His witnesses.

"He's not waiting on our response. God is moving in providence and power, stirring through political disruption to open doors to countries and people groups where we would have never imagined missionaries being able to serve."

Rankin cited the thousands who have come to faith in the nations of the former Soviet Union, the IMB's missions emphasis for 2007, since the collapse of the communist superpower.

Turkmenistan is among the Soviet republics that gained independence in 1991. Though Shokrat may never be able to return to his home, he continues his work to spread the gospel there thanks to a partnership with an IMB missionary serving in Central Asia who cannot be identified due to security concerns. With the support of Lexington Baptist Church in Lexington, S.C., Shokrat and the IMB missionary have developed a training program to disciple leaders in the Turkmen church. Now, churches there are growing again, even thriving under severe persecution, Shokrat said.

Rankin reported that in 2006 Southern Baptist missionaries and their ministry partners baptized more than 475,000 believers, planted some 23,000 churches and disciplined more than 500,000 Christians.

Rankin also praised Southern



PARTNERSHIP Jeremy McSwain (left) of Crestview Baptist Church in Shelby, N.C., tells about his church's partnership with an IMB missionary in Moscow. He spoke during the IMB report by Jerry Rankin. (BP photo by Kent Harville)

Baptists for enabling missionaries to serve by giving the largest Lottie Moon Christmas Offering in history, a goal-breaking \$150,178,098.

"Because of your faithfulness in giving," Rankin said, "784 new missionaries were appointed and sent out to the ends of the earth.

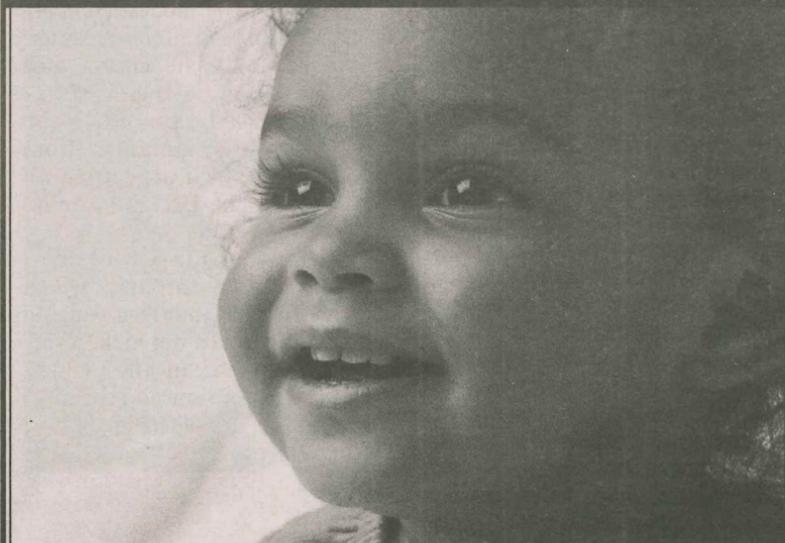
"A lost world is waiting. Multitudes are dying. ... We've been equipped with all we need to reach the lost world. It's a story, just a simple story. It's a story of how Jesus touched your life and saved you. ... A world is waiting for someone, perhaps you, to say, 'I'll be the one. I'll go and join others and tell the story of Jesus.'"

Tom Eliff, senior vice president of spiritual nurture, closed the IMB's program with an altar call for greater missions commitment, telling Southern Baptists they have an opportunity either to lead the way or fall into the shadows.

"God has a yoke for you in terms of world missions that perfectly fits you," Eliff said. "Are you willing to consider what else God might have for you?"

Nearly 100 people responded by signing cards committing themselves to exploring the possibility of serving overseas as a Southern Baptist missionary.

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Oneida is such a special place. Founded in 1899, this Christian boarding school continues faithfully and carefully to redirect the lives of its students in grades 6-12. As President Bud Underwood has said, "At Oneida we minister to young people who are lost in many ways." Prior to arriving at Oneida, some were lost in the crowd at their public schools; some felt misplaced in their families; others were adrift without a sense of purpose in their lives; and many did not know the saving love of Jesus Christ.

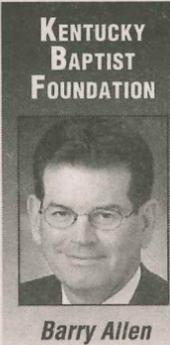
At Oneida, through the ministry of the most dedicated and self-sacrificing faculty and staff assembled anywhere, these young people find academic success, acceptance

and a sense of direction for their lives. Most importantly, they find the Savior who died in their place.

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please call President Underwood at (606) 847-4111 or visit the Web site at www.oneidaschool.org. For information on how to make a legacy gift for the benefit of Oneida, please call toll-free Laurie Valentine or me.



Barry Allen

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

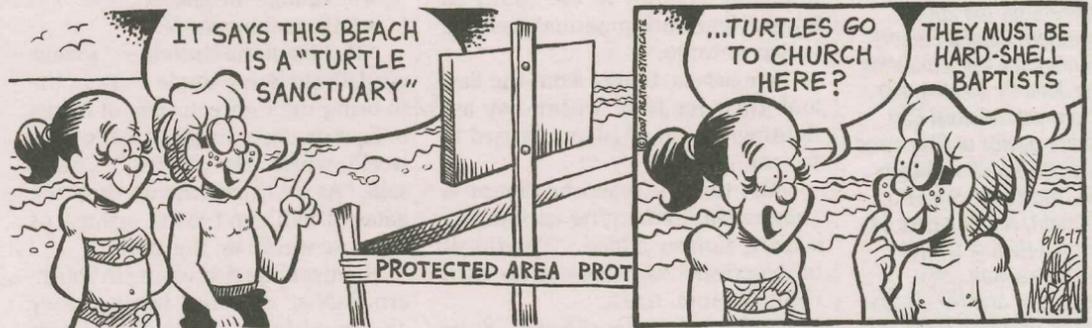
Kudzu

Doug Marlette



For Heaven's Sake

Mike Morgan



Bible Crosswords

By Elaine Okupski

Across

- 1 "Do him no ____" (Jeremiah 39:12)
- 5 Abbott, Fr.
- 9 "Also I shook my ____" (Nehemiah 5:13)
- 12 Oil of ____, skin softener
- 13 "The ____ of the Lord is clean, enduring for ever" (Psalm 19:9)
- 14 "Do they not ____ that devise evil?" (Proverbs 14:22)
- 15 Puts on
- 16 "And it is a ____ thing that the king requireth" (Daniel 2:11)
- 17 "Now as he walked by the ____ of Galilee" (Mark 1:16)
- 18 Father of Enos (Genesis 5:6)
- 19 "Blessed ____ the pure in heart" (Matthew 5:8)
- 20 "And ____ ye not, but pursue after your enemies" (Joshua 10:19)
- 21 A son of Gad (Genesis 46:16)
- 23 Librarian's whisper
- 25 "Ye have ____ treasure together for the last days" (James 5:3)
- 28 "For ____ is the kingdom of heaven" (Matthew 5:10)
- 32 "And it shall be unto them ... that have sworn ____" (Ezekiel 21:23)
- 33 Weird
- 34 Welcomes
- 36 "____, and be baptized every one of you" (Acts 2:38)
- 37 "He ... chooseth a tree that will not ____" (Isaiah 40:20)
- 38 "That which groweth of ____ own accord" (Leviticus 25:5)
- 39 "I will bless the ____ at all times" (Psalm 34:1)
- 42 "Let us ____ with patience the race ..." (Hebrews 12:1)
- 44 "The ____ of the kingdom of heaven" (Matthew 16:19)

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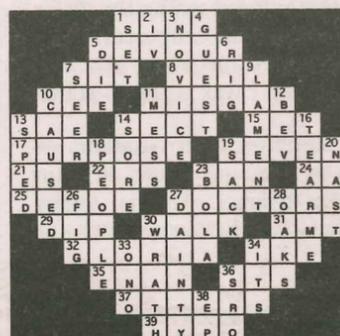
- 48 ____ Maria
- 49 Mongrels
- 50 "And the rest will ____ in order when I come" (2 words) (1 Corinthians 11:34)
- 51 22nd letter of alphabet
- 52 Swedish name
- 53 Nickname for Nathaniel
- 54 "Make thee an ____ of gopher wood" (Genesis 6:14)
- 55 "That the ____ men be sober, grave, temperate, ..." (Titus 2:2)
- 56 "I will give thee ... a ____ of apparel" (Judges 17:10)

- 10 Length times width
- 11 "____ without ceasing" (1 Thessalonians 5:17)
- 20 "They wandered about in ____ and goatskins" (Hebrews 11:37)
- 22 "Return unto thy ____ my soul" (Psalm 116:7) (2 words)
- 24 "A great ____, knit at the four corners" (Acts 10:11)
- 25 Domesticated swine
- 26 "That which ye have spoken in the ____" (Luke 12:3)
- 27 "I ____ no pleasant bread" (Daniel 10:3)
- 29 Anger
- 30 ____-tin-tin, hero dog
- 31 "And God ____ them in the firmament of the heaven" (Genesis 1:17)
- 35 Put beads on a string
- 36 "It shall be both scoured, and ____ in water" (Leviticus 6:28)
- 39 Molten rock
- 40 "Stretch forth thine hand with thy rod ____" (Exodus 8:5)
- 41 To stink
- 43 "The Pharisees began to ____ him vehemently" (Luke 11:53)
- 45 Jacob's brother (Genesis 25:26)
- 46 Abominable snowman
- 47 Editor's instruction
- 49 Government agency

Down

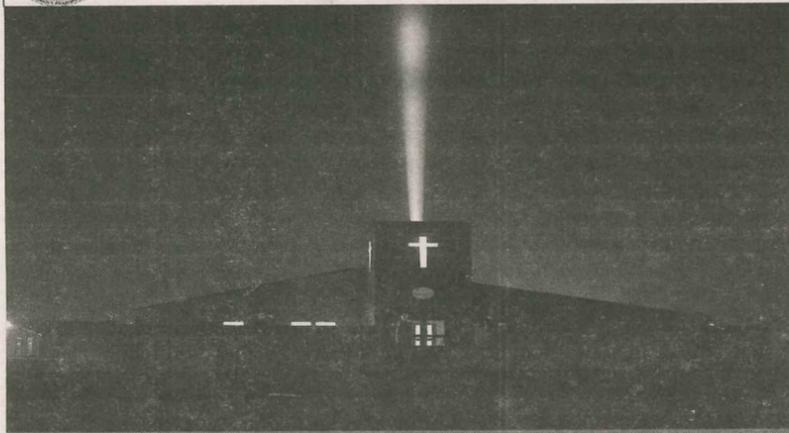
- 1 Bricklayers' troughs
- 2 "Burn plant"
- 3 To speak vehemently
- 4 "The Lord is ____" (Psalm 23:1) (2 words)
- 5 "They fell on their face, and were sore ____" (Matthew 17:6)
- 6 "____ ye one another's burdens" (Galatians 6:2)
- 7 "Because thou ____ the ark of the Lord God" (1 Kings 2:26)
- 8 "And ____ the lamp of God went out in the temple of the Lord" (1 Samuel 3:3)
- 9 "Neither shall ye touch it, ____ ye die" (Genesis 3:3)

Last week's solution



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Jesus had done for me. After hearing others' testimonies and talking to girls on the team, God opened my eyes to see the truth. I accepted Jesus as my Lord and Savior my Freshman year. Since that time I have had the chance to grow and share the love of Christ to my fellow teammates and now that I am a coach, I get to do the same with the team. God used softball as a tool for me to reach others for Him.

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Colson: Radical Islam, atheism threaten America

By Jim White, Jennifer Rash & Grace Thornton

Virginia Religious Herald & Alabama Baptist

San Antonio—The United States faces the twin dangers of radical Islam and radical atheism, Chuck Colson, the former Watergate conspirator who founded Prison Fellowship Ministries, told the Southern Baptist Pastors' Conference.

"No time in history have we looked around and seen greater danger," Colson told the assembly, held immediately prior to the Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting in San Antonio.

"We have a danger from the East and a danger from within. We are fighting a form of Islam married to facism," he said.

"But there is a second threat—a culture war" emerging in Western society, Colson added. "Two-thirds of Americans say there is no such thing as moral truth.

"Today with neo-atheism, it is all-out war," he said, citing Richard Dawkins' book, "The God Delusion."

"We are under a vicious attack by neo-atheists. Christians have got

to be able to speak up and give a reason for the hope that is within us," he stressed.

Colson insisted that Christians should:

- Know what Christianity is.

"Christianity is a way of seeing all of life and all life from a specific viewpoint," he said. "Reductionism is reducing everything down to its manageable part."

- Understand a biblical worldview.

- Revitalize the gospel.

- Engage the culture.

"The job of the church is ... to take gospel into every single walk of life to bring the righteousness of Christ to bear on every single aspect of this world which He created," Colson said. "As we Christians do that, the gates of hell can't stand against us because we are on the attack."

Baptisms are decreasing in Southern Baptist churches because they are "not doing evangelism God's way," author and prayer leader T.W. Hunt declared during a prayer time at the Pastors' Conference.

"God cannot use our arrogance," he said, asking the pastors to individually "pray that God will reveal what in us is arrogant enough that it impedes His work."

Hunt directed the prayers thematically—otherness of God in churches, institutions and in the convention; love as sacrificial and divine; humility as a non-negotiating affirmation of others; and Christ's supremacy and high-mindedness as preparation for eternal nobility in heaven.

"Never do anything in your ministry that Jesus would not do," he

urged. "Pray to be high-minded, not petty."

The Pastors' Conference also offered traditional preaching and worship as well as breakout sessions.

Following the conference theme of "Jesus Christ ... From Him, Through Him, to Him," preachers highlighted personal evangelism, the role of the Holy Spirit in one's life and living out one's ministry calling.

Former Southern Baptist Convention President Jerry Vines said divine encounters are "scripted in heaven, produced on earth and choreographed by the Holy Spirit" to give believers the opportunity to share Christ with the lost.

The chariots of opportunity that come by today are changing from what they looked like in the past, Vines said.

"They're changing racially, they're changing with their religions, they are changing technologically," he said. "Amidst those changing chariots there are two constants that do not change. People have the same needs and the same holes in their hearts that people have always had. And the same gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ that can meet the need in that heart."

Dwayne Mercer, pastor of First Baptist Church of Oviedo, Fla., challenged pastors to be filled with the Holy Spirit.

"Why do we need the Holy Spirit?" he asked. "The Holy Spirit provides the power to live the Christian life, (and) the Holy Spirit provides the power to minister in His name."

Michael Catt, senior pastor of Sherwood Baptist Church in Albany,

Ga., said pastors, churches and conventions must allow God to prune them "so that we can bear more fruit and much fruit."

Preaching from John 15, he said pruning is necessary for individuals and churches to stay healthy and plugged into the vine.

"We won't be dynamic and Spirit-filled without the power of the Holy Spirit working Himself out in our lives on a daily and continual basis," he said. "If the Holy Spirit left us, we as a denomination could run for 10 years and never realize He was gone."

Paige Patterson, president of Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas, offered encouragement for pastors and their families facing opposition. Look for the victory in spite of opposition, he said.

"You may not see it right now but there is coming a day when the just God will reward you for every heartache," he said. "Tribulation, yes, sorrow ... heartache, it is OK. The glory that shall be revealed shall be greater than all the suffering."

Noting the oppositions will come, Patterson said, "The greatest sorrow and difficulty you will face is not what comes to yourself. It will be the sorrow visited upon your family. Your wife will suffer. Your family will suffer."

But no matter how much opposition one has or how much suffering one experiences, always remember that "mine is infinitesimal in comparison to what others in the world are suffering."

"We never suffer as much as others," he said.

NEWLY ELECTED

Officers for the 2008 Southern Baptist Pastors' Conference elected during the June 11 meeting are (from left) Michael Catt, senior pastor of Sherwood Baptist Church in Albany, Ga., president; Steve Dighton, senior pastor of Lenexa Baptist Church in Lenexa, Kan., vice president; and Roy Crowe, senior pastor of Highland Baptist Church in Laurel, Miss., secretary/treasurer. (BP photo by Matthew Miller)



Creativity recognized

OBI students take top prizes in regional, state arts competitions

By Tamara Cochran, OBI publications

Oneida Baptist Institute is proud to have two students place in the Kentucky State High School art competition April 20.

Min-Jee Park received first place in the state competition with her watercolor painting, "Ceremony." Suzanne Scull won second place for her graphic design entry. Both girls advanced to the state level after winning in their respective categories at the regional contest.

The 2007 Bluegrass Regional Art Competition was held at Eastern Kentucky University's Giles Gallery March 18. Suzanne, Jeff Skaggs and Ellie Kendrick swept the graphic design category with first, second and third places.

Min-Jee placed first in the international section of the culture/heritage diversity category.

"It blows me away," said OBI art teacher Sandra Anderson. "A lot of Min-Jee's training happened in Korea. Her technical skills are very good. What I have been helping her with is mainly knowing why she is doing her artwork."

Min-Jee has been doing art for about 10 years. She said she was happy that her painting won first place in the state. "I wanted to describe (the Korean woman's) beauty," Min-Jee said. "I wanted to show the people that it's kind of special. I wanted to describe it in paint." Her painting incorporated red and blue, the Korean flag colors, and depicted a Korean bride/dancer.

This was Min-Jee's second all-state art prize for the school year. She also earned second place in a statewide competition last December. The contest

was part of the annual Touchstone Energy All "A" Classic, which includes the All "A" Classic state basketball tournament.

Another art student, Harrison Laws, had a painting in the regional show. It was an acrylic titled, "Fourth of July," and was entered in the celebration section of the culture/heritage diversity category.

Sheri Nutter, OBI's commercial art teacher, gave partial credit for the success of her students to OBI Principal Dan Stockton who approved the purchase of a state-of-the-art wide format printer for the sign lab this year. This allowed students to print on larger paper and judges to see more clearly details of their designs.

"Each of our entries this year was nearly twice the size of last year's," Nutter said. "It was very impressive to see all 10 of our graphic design entries on the gallery wall. The talent of the students really shone through and obviously impressed the judges."

Suzanne has been in commercial art for four years and plans to study graphic communication in college. She said she enjoyed seeing the different genres, such as wire art and sculptures, in the regional show. "It surprised me when Mrs. Nutter told me I got first and I was going to state," she said.

Seven other OBI commercial art students exhibited works in the regional show: Brittany Weatherford, Heaven Tebabe, Ameria Argaw, Zach Walton, Melissa Lichavoli, Wayne Hawk and Zach Futrell.

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

THIS IS ONEIDA



W.F. Underwood

Peace in the midst of the storm

Mission trip reveals strong faith of Katrina survivors

Clear Creek students and faculty have been involved with post-Katrina clean-up and rebuilding efforts on the Gulf Coast. Teams have served in Pascagoula, Miss., and New Orleans. Our most recent trip, May 19-25, was to Waveland, Miss.

Cameron Debit, Aaron Denton, Bill Helton, Sean Lee, Lonnie Rickets, Fred and Marge Cummings and myself stayed at Shore Line Park Baptist Church in Waveland. In addition to our group, the church provided lodging and three daily meals for other teams from Kentucky, Alabama and West Virginia.

A highlight of the trip was worshiping with local residents on Sunday and Wednesday. We were so impressed by the strong faith these people exhibited, even after nearly two years of struggling with such devastation.

As we visited Sunday school classes and worship, we heard people praise and thank God for all that is being accomplished through the army of volunteers. Residents realize the sacrifice the teams make, giving of their time to help people rebuild or restore their homes.

We heard people praise God for

bathtubs and showers being installed in their homes. The opportunity to bathe in a "real bathroom" brings them one step closer to getting back to "normal."

Another highlight was getting to meet Charlie, a resident who has been living in a very small trailer provided by the Federal Emergency Management Agency since Katrina destroyed his home. Our assignment was to get Charlie's new house "under roof" and "in the dry" by the end of the week.

Before we left, we completed the sheeting on the outside walls and installed a new, shingled roof. Throughout the week we saw Charlie's enthusiasm and thankfulness to God for sending

volunteers to help him complete his home. These trips have reminded all of us about how a personal relationship with Jesus Christ brings hope and peace to our lives in the midst of the many types of storms that affect all our lives in many different ways.

Donnie Fox is president of Clear Creek Baptist Bible College, 300 Clear Creek Road, Pineville, KY 40977; toll-free: (866) 340-3196; Web site: www.ccbbc.edu; e-mail: dfox@ccbbc.edu

CLEAR CREEK CHRONICLE



Donnie Fox

WMU strives to keep emphasis on missions and ministry

By Charlie Warren, Lisa Watson & Bill Webb

Arkansas Baptist and Missouri Word & Way

San Antonio—Prayer for missions took center stage as Woman's Missionary Union leaders and missionaries challenged participants at the WMU annual meeting, held June 10-11 at San Antonio's Marriott Rivercenter, prior to the Southern Baptist Convention gathering.

In her annual address, WMU President Kaye Miller, a member of Immanuel Baptist Church of Little Rock, Ark., cited 2 Chronicles 7:14, highlighting from the passage "humble yourselves" and "pray and seek God."

Miller recounted her experience growing up in Thailand, where her parents were career missionaries. She recalled her missionary surgeon father treating the sores of lepers.

"It took a special kind of man to humble himself before a leper, to sponge out foul-smelling wounds, to carefully wrap bandages around people no one else wanted to be around, to listen, to care, to love in Jesus' name," she said.

Miller, a nurse, also remembered a motherless 2-year-old with AIDS whom no one wanted to hold or rock and the response to her appeal to fellow WMU members to help. Within hours, volunteers were waiting for their opportunity to care for the dying youngster, and they were with

Evangelists: Spiritual awakening requires recommitment to prayer

San Antonio (BP)—If Southern Baptists are to serve as catalysts for spiritual awakening across the United States, pastors and churches alike must recommit to praying persistently and to the equipping needed for sharing the gospel of Jesus Christ.

That was the message voiced to several hundred people attending a worship service sponsored by the Conference of Southern Baptist Evangelists June 10 at the Henry B. Gonzalez Convention Center in San Antonio prior to the Southern Baptist Convention's June 12-13 annual meeting.

"The person who is going to reach the world for Jesus is the body of Christ," said Sammy Tippit, a Southern Baptist evangelist from San Antonio. "There must be a prayer movement among the people of God."

Having preached in 80 countries around the world, including war zones and regions closed to Christianity, Tippit contrasted Americans with much of the international world by describing U.S. citizens as a "needy people who don't know it."

"We have fainted in our prayer lives," Tippit said. "The purpose of prayer is when you begin to pray what is on God's heart. ... We must give ourselves to pray for our families and our world until revival comes or Jesus comes. ... If we were to have revival in our families, we would have revival in our churches."

Tippit preached from Luke 18:1-8, in which Jesus instructs His disciples to never stop praying regardless of the circumstances. "Seek God in a fresh way, in a new way," he said.

Recalling the last great spiritu-

him when he died.

"What would happen if we, as God's people, would truly pray and seek God?" she asked. "Often in our churches and in our personal lives, we spend much more time talking about prayer than actually praying. Let us, as Woman's Missionary Union, keep calling ourselves by His name, keep praying and seeking His face so that we will keep reaching and teaching the generations."

Seeking God's will

Travis Collins, pastor of Bon Air Baptist Church of Richmond, Va., used the acronym COMPASS—meaning constancy, observation by others, motive, peculiar passions, aptitudes, seasoning and sensible decision-making—to talk about how Christians determine God's will.

"Do you have a vision that won't go away?" asked Collins, author of "Directionally Challenged," "It might be a divine call."

He warned participants not to "blame God" for their own bad decisions. "Sometimes it's easy to baptize our agendas in God language," he said.

Collins urged participants to be aware of people who may need God's direction in their lives. "There may be somebody you know who has missed a turn or two in life and they need someone to say, 'Can I help you find where you want to go?' It might

al awakening in America about 150 years ago in New York City, Tippit said God "can do it again and He wants to do it."

Randal Helms, an evangelist from Woodstock, Ga., described churches that aren't focused on evangelism as a "country club with a steeple on top."

"Everywhere we go we are to be sharing the gospel of Jesus because that old-fashioned gospel can change lives," Helms said, preaching from Romans 1:16. "Jesus calls us to be fishers of men; He never said we are to be a keeper of the aquarium. If we aren't fishing, we aren't following. Too many churches are more of an organization than an organism that is making a difference in the lives of people who are lost and going to a devil's hell."

Phil Glisson, an evangelist from Memphis, Tenn., said familiarity can be among the problems that hinder Christians from reaching others for Christ.

"Don't miss God (at work) in the ordinary here and now," Glisson said in a message from Mark 6:1-6. Familiarity, he warned, can easily lead to complacency.

Victor Benavides, an evangelism specialist with the North American Mission Board, said every Christian has been called by God to do the work of an evangelist. "There's a divine power that we have," he said. "If you're saved, you're sent."

Benavides said one-on-one personal evangelism through surveys or evangelistic block parties are highly effective ways to reach people for Christ. "Door-to-door still works," he declared.

change their life."

Mark Edworthy, IMB associate for Central and Eastern Europe, related a story about his experience serving in Poland when he was discouraged and received a letter from a man in jail who had heard him preach several years before. Though the man had not made a decision to follow Christ at that time, he wrote Edworthy to thank him for sharing the gospel because he had later made the commitment.

Rebecca Hogg, who serves with her husband, Bill, as regional associate for Central Asia, said WMU prayer advocacy was the "backbone" of the region's ministry with Muslim groups. "Over 99 percent of our region is Muslim," she said. "But don't be despairing. I'm here to tell you, the church is alive and well in central Asia. Growth may be slow, but it's steady."

Dangerous, difficult field

A missionary couple serving among Muslims in the Middle East and North Africa, who cannot be identified due to security reasons, shared their call to a dangerous, difficult field of service.

The wife told how her husband was called to international missions three years before her call.

"He knew he was called, and I knew I wasn't," she said. After resisting for a couple of years, she agreed to begin the application process with the IMB. She asked God to either shut the door to missionary service or change her heart.

"In a 20-minute interview, God changed my heart," she testified.

Her husband said the IMB sends missionaries into the dangerous place they serve because "people are dying in that place without a witness," because of the love God has



for those people and because they are victims of Islam.

"They've been taught who God isn't," he said. "They need to know who God is through Jesus."

Also at the WMU annual meeting:

■ Robin VanSickle Hoke of Midland, Texas, received the Martha Myers GA Alumna of Distinction Award, which honors a GA alumna who exhibits a missions lifestyle and has dramatically influenced the lives of others, especially young girls, through missions, ministry and/or civic duty.

■ The WMU Foundation will rename its GA Endowment Fund the Marjorie McCullough GA Endowment, in memory of McCullough, former national WMU GA director.

■ Wanda Lee, WMU executive director, presented the Dellanna West O'Brien Award for Women's Leadership Development to Debby Akerman, a Massachusetts native who served for 25 years in Greenland, N.H., as a Girls in Action leader in her church and association and as a WMU director.

■ Participants marked the 100th anniversary of the WMU Training School and the 10th anniversary of Christian Women's Job Corp.

MISSIONS REPORT Kaye Miller, national Woman's Missionary Union president (left), and Wanda Lee, executive director of national WMU, present the WMU report June 12. (BP photo by Rachel Lloyd)

DOMs celebrate 300 years of associational work

By Vicki Brown
Missouri Word & Way

San Antonio—Unless associational leaders pray for and work with their churches, they run the risk of becoming "as obsolete as a horse and buggy in a NASCAR world," Jim Henry of Orlando, Fla., admonished Southern Baptist directors of missions.

Henry, a former Southern Baptist Convention president and pastor emeritus of First Baptist Church of Orlando, was the featured speaker as the Southern Baptist Conference of Associational Directors of Missions celebrated 300 years of associational work in the United States June 10.

The group focused on its history and its future during its annual session, prior to the Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting in San Antonio.

At the directors of missions' invitation, Woman's Missionary Union launched its own annual meeting by joining the associational celebration because of the two groups' close relationship, WMU Executive Director Wanda Lee explained.

"We joined them out of that respect and love for our partnership," Lee said.

Lee joined a host of agency heads to bring greetings at the celebration held at historic First Baptist Church of San Antonio.

Using Mark 4:35-36 as his text, Henry challenged listeners to look back on associational history with "deep appreciation."

Then, he noted, directors of missions must evaluate the present. After Jesus finished a long

day of teaching, Henry said, He called His disciples to get into a boat and row to the other side of the Sea of Galilee.

"What was on the other side?" Henry asked. It was the Gentile side where Jews didn't go, he explained.

"Jesus was challenging His men ... to go to a world they had never known. I call on you as DOMs to go to the other side ... to our rapidly changing culture."

Henry reminded directors of missions that churches have a choice when dealing with the world—separation from it, assimilation into it or association with each other to reach it.

Associational leaders must move into the future, where Henry said they face "extinction or expansion," depending on choices they make in ministry to their churches.

Based on his own informal surveys, Henry said he found that younger pastors often see the association as antiquated and unnecessary. They are not interested in institutions, but they do want to know directors of missions on a personal level, he said.

He encouraged directors of missions to love their ministers as pastors love their churches.

"I believe the director of missions who can work with entrepreneurial churches will find a supply of larger and middle-sized churches ready to work with smaller churches" to help them, Henry said. "My challenge to you is to go over to the other side until our Father calls us to be at His side."

With additional reporting by Tony Cartledge of the North Carolina Biblical Recorder

PRAYER PARTNERS

Please pray for the following requests associated with the Kentucky Baptist Convention's partnership missions efforts:

■ **VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL** teams are needed for one week of July at Timothy Baptist Church in Roxbury, Mass., and July 30 to Aug. 3 at Faith Baptist Church in Carver, Mass.

■ **PRAY FOR SUPER** Summer volunteers for kindergarten through fifth grade July 23-27 at New Colony Baptist Church in Billerica, Mass.

■ **KENTUCKY BAPTISTS' SONBURST** creative ministries team is serving this week in Teresina, Brazil. They are performing at state and federal universities, schools, day care centers, prisons and a center for delinquent boys.

■ **AN EVANGELISM TEAM** from Crestwood Baptist Church in Oldham County is serving June 19-27 in Teresina, Brazil. Volunteers are working with a church plant conducting vacation Bible school, evangelistic home visits, worship services and discipleship.

For more information about partnership missions opportunities, contact the KBC partnership missions department at (502) 489-3529 or toll-free in Kentucky at (866) 489-3529.

MOUNTAINS TO THE MISSISSIPPI

COMPILED BY STAFF

■ **ELK HORN**—**Bob Langlois** recently retired as pastor of Yuma Church. He and his wife, **Bonnie**, will continue to live in Elk Horn.

■ **KINGS MOUNTAIN**—Pond Church called **Floyd Eric Douglas** as pastor effective June 3. He was ordained to the gospel ministry May 27 by High Street Church in Somerset.

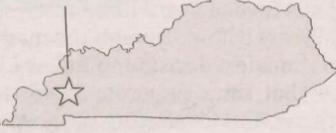
■ **LOUISVILLE**—Cloverleaf Church will host **The Galloways** in concert June 22, 7 p.m. **Geoffrey Lacefield** is pastor.

Walnut Street Church will host a piano concert by **Albin Whitworth** of Lexington July 1, 6 p.m., to raise funds for the church's SEAL (Student Enrichment in Academics and Life) program which provides support for at-risk middle school students through in-depth tutoring. For more information, contact **Angela Carpenter**, Walnut Street's Christian social ministries director, at (502) 589-5290.

■ **SCOTTSVILLE**—Faith Church recently called **Ed Goodman** as associate

Spotlight on ...

Princeton



First Church honored **Merlin and Pat Alsobrook** on their 50th wedding anniversary June 10. **Tom Hughes** is pastor.

pastor. He will be ordained to the gospel ministry June 24, 2:30 p.m., with **Wyman Copass** as guest speaker. **James Parker** is pastor.

What's going on?

Mail your happenings to Mountains to the Mississippi at Box 43969, Louisville, KY 40253. E-mail: wesrec@earthlink.net.



TECH TIME Kevin Kennedy (left) and David Brainard from Beacon Hill Baptist Church in Somerset try out a digital audio console at KBC's "Tech Connect" event.

Tech ministry workers get hands-on training with KBC's 'Tech Connect'

Louisville—More than 60 audio system operators, ministers of music and worship leaders explored the latest digital audio technology available to churches during the June 9 "Tech Connect" event at the Baptist Building in Louisville.

Sponsored by the Kentucky Baptist Convention, the event provided hands-on training for beginner and intermediate technicians interested in the technology. Ten state-of-the-art digital soundboards were available for on-site practice, and two educational conferences were offered for in-depth training.

According to Larry Brannin, media production associate for the KBC and organizer of this year's "Tech Connect" event, churches will eventually need to embrace digital audio technology as it becomes more accessible and more practical for use in churches.

Brannin said the technology is already popular at mainstream concerts and other live events, but churches have been slow to accept the technology because of its per-

ceived complexity.

"My goal was to get the technical fear out of people," Brannin said. He designed the event to help prepare churches for the anticipated move from analog to digital audio systems in the coming years.

Featured speakers included Dan Craik, console product manager for Yamaha Commercial Audio Systems, Inc., in Buena Park, Calif., and Steve Ross, lead design engineer and director of technical operation for CIM Audio Visual in Louisville.

"Technical ministries are vital to the church, and we want to help equip them to be as effective as possible," Brannin noted. "This kind of training is very hard to come by, so we were thrilled to offer it to Kentucky Baptist churches."

Hosted by the KBC's communications department, "Tech Connect" events are held on a biennial basis.

For more information about digital audio technology, call (502) 489-3578 or toll-free in Kentucky at (866) 489-3578 or e-mail communications@kybaptist.org.



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

June

22-23 Acteens Splash, Girls in Action Overnight, Mother/Daughter Overnight, Jonathan Creek.

23-30 Kentucky Changers, Maysville.

25-29 Mission Adventure Camp for Girls, Cedar Crest.

29-30 Mother/Daughter Overnight, Cedar Crest.

30 Baptist Nursing Fellowship Summer Luncheon, Farmdale Baptist Church, Frankfort.

July

2-3 Mother/Daughter Overnight, Cedar Crest.

5-7 Express Mission Adventure Camp for Girls & Boys, Cedar Crest.

5-7 Pursuit Student Leadership Academy, Campbellsville University.

7-14 Kentucky Changers, Monticello.

9-13 Mission Adventure Camp for Girls, Cedar Crest.

19-20 Quarterly Prayer Meeting for Spiritual Awakening, Northside Baptist Church, Mount Vernon.

25-26 Kentucky Baptist Secretaries' Summer Conference, Baptist Building, Louisville.

27-28 World Missions Unlimited, Immanuel Baptist Church, Lexington.

August

11 Crafters on Missions, First Baptist Church, Central City.

14 Understanding Other Beliefs, Bellevue Baptist Church, Owensboro.

18 Super Saturday, Immanuel Baptist Church, Lexington.

20-22 Freedom Experience, Lincoln County High School.

25 Super Saturday, First Baptist Church, Owensboro, and First Baptist Church, Pikeville.

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

CLASSIFIED ADS

FOR RENT: Family reunion or wedding parties. Highway 30A, beachside, 75 yards from the ocean; more than 5,000 square feet, eight bedrooms including five masters; full game room; large dining area; private heated pool. Call Suzannah at (800) 397-2708; www.reunionhouse.org.

FOR SALE: Cookware. We stopped doing dinner parties. Have some fabulous 17-piece sets left. Heavy, 7-ply, brilliant surgical stainless steel; waterless and greaseless. Keep in flavor, color and nutrition. Brand new. Previously \$2,000. First seven callers for only \$299. (800) 434-4628. vapoaseal.com.

SEEKING: Full-time minister of education for Hurstbourne Baptist Church, Louisville, Ky. Leadership opportunities to include Sunday school, small-group discipleship, community outreach and member assimilation. Send resumé to: Minister of Education Search Committee, 8800 Shelbyville Road, Louisville, KY 40222.

SEEKING: Administrative assistant, Cornerstone Baptist Church, Lexington, Ky. Thirty hours per week. Submit resumé by e-mail to alan@cornerstonelex.org; or by mail to: Personnel Committee, 4451 Winchester Road, Lexington, KY 40509.

SEEKING: Full-time pastor for Parksville Baptist Church in Boyle County, six miles west of Danville, Ky. Please mail resumé to: Search Committee, Parksville Baptist Church, 6610 Alum Springs Road, Danville, KY 40422; or e-mail kathybelcher@bellsouth.net.

SEEKING: Minister of education and administration. Seminary degree preferred. Duties include oversight of church education and outreach programs and supervising day to day operations of the church. Please send resumé to: Personnel Committee, Salvisa Baptist Church, PO Box 75, Salvisa, KY 40372; or e-mail salvisa@bellsouth.net.

SEEKING: Part-time (Sunday morning only) organist for First Baptist Church, Hodgenville. Please send a resumé to: First Baptist Church, 730 Tonieville Road, Hodgenville, KY 42748; or e-mail to greg@fbc.hodgenville.org.

SEEKING: Part-time minister of music (called to the ministry) for a dynamically growing congregation (20 hours per week). Duties: leading a comprehensive music program including two Sunday morning blended services, Sunday and Wednesday night services, adult choir; and coordinating other choirs and special music. For more information, go to www.woodburnbaptist.org. Send resumé to: Personnel Committee, Woodburn Baptist Church, PO Box 38, Woodburn, KY 42170.

SEEKING: Full-time pastor for First Baptist Church, Paris, Ky. We are a growing Southern Baptist church in central Kentucky. Please send resumé and a tape/DVD of a sermon by June 30 to the Pastor Search Committee, PO Box 327, Paris, KY 40361.

SEEKING: Bivocational pastor for Calvary Baptist Church in Maysville, Ky. Send resumé to Tom Adams, 9529 St. Rt. 41, Aberdeen, OH 45101. Phone: (937) 549-2006.

SEEKING: Part-time/bivocational minister of music (approx. 20 hours/week). Duties include leading Sunday morning worship and evening congregational singing in blended music style, plus leading adult choir, youth choir and children's choir. Send resumé to: Search Committee, McHenry Baptist Church, PO Box 154, McHenry, KY 42354; or e-mail mchenrybaptist@voyageonline.net.

TOURS: Join Christian Life Tours for an Alaska cruise in August, a Caribbean cruise in September, an 11-day Hawaii cruise next February or a Mediterranean & Greek Isles cruise in June of 2008. For information and reservations, call toll-free (877) 557-0073; or e-mail ddale1950@aol.com. Early bird discounts available.

Taking it to the streets

Crossover San Antonio volunteers share Christ in 18 communities

By Mickey Noah
SBC North American Mission Board

San Antonio (BP)—Some 1,000 Southern Baptist volunteers weathered 90-degree temperatures to fan out across 18 San Antonio communities June 9-10, sharing the gospel via Crossover 2007.

Now in its 19th year, Crossover preceded the Southern Baptist Convention's June 12-13 annual meeting at San Antonio's Henry B. Gonzalez Convention Center.

"Crossover will be a catalyst for other things to come," said Steve Payne, Crossover coordinator for San Antonio Baptist Association. "Today made churches realize what they can do in the future. They can do door-to-door evangelism and block parties on their own time schedules. It will really open up a lot of avenues and opportunities. The churches can say, 'Hey, we did it once for Crossover, we can do it again on our own.'"

Payne said 55 San Antonio Baptist churches participated in Crossover 2007.

The evangelistic events drew nearly 7,000 people from throughout the host city, touching a total of 2,493 homes, according to Crossover organizers. Of those who heard gospel presentations, 959 made first-time decisions for Christ.

"Behind every one of those numbers is a real person," said Gary Hollingsworth, who heads the cultural evangelism division at the North American Mission Board. "Statistics are exciting, but stories are even better."

More than 1,000 people attended Crossover's signature event, Festival de Alabanza (Festival of Praise), in Guadalupe Plaza west of downtown San Antonio.

With rhythmic mariachi music and the aroma of Mexican food in the background, teams of Inter-

national Community Evangelism volunteers shared the gospel of Jesus Christ in both Spanish and English in the Hispanic community.

"Our team of 14 from the First Baptist Church of Sevierville, Tenn., has seen 40 people come to Christ," said David Cobb of Gatlinburg, Tenn. "That was just over a two-hour period. And, boy, has it been hot."

In the middle of it all

Roland Lopez, Hispanic coordinator for San Antonio Baptist Association, said his local team worked for nearly a year to plan the festival.

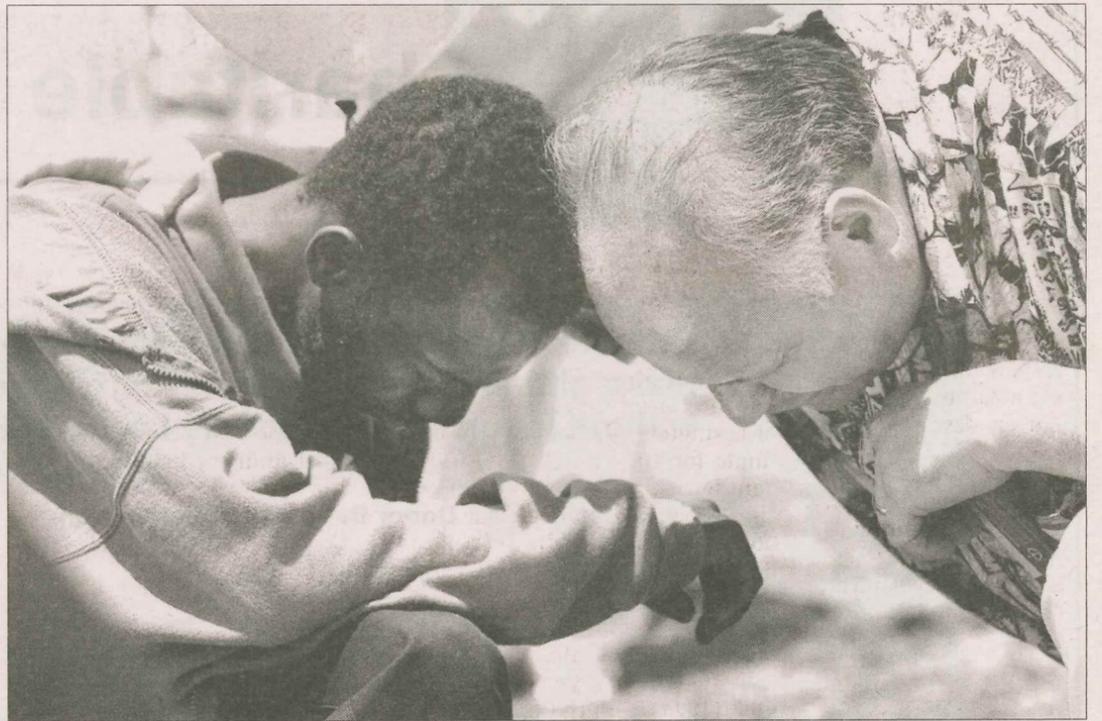
"The highest percentage of San Antonio's Hispanic population surrounds Guadalupe Plaza," Lopez said. "And we're right here in the pocket of a strong Catholic community, with a Catholic church right across the street. But we'll try anything to share the gospel with those needing to make decisions. Our job is to sow the seeds and extend the net of evangelism."

As a praise team from New Beacon Hills Baptist Church and the Christian mariachi group Campanas de America entertained the crowd, Richard Leach was still seeking to lead people to faith in Christ.

Leach, director for evangelism for the Southern Baptist North American Mission Board, sensed an openness among the festival-goers. "They're here because God brought them here," he noted. "It just sometimes takes time to talk with them about their lives."

Shawn McCloskey, an ICE volunteer from Wichita, Kan., left the insurance agency he operates to spend nearly two weeks in San Antonio, where he's seen ICE teams reap a total of 600 decisions since June 2.

"This is my fourth year of Crossover so I just (took) my vacation to come. I'm the boss so I can take off



CONNECTIONS A series of Crossover San Antonio evangelistic outreach events preceded the June 12-13 Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting. ■ Above: Bobby Worthington (right), director of Encounter Missions at Criswell College in Dallas, prays with Nathaniel Harris, 20, as Harris prays to put his faith in Christ during a Crossover block party. ■ Left: Two join hands before a block party at First Samuel Bible Fellowship to pray that God will bless Crossover ministry efforts. (BP photo by Jonathan Blair)

as long as I want to," the 43-year-old insurance agent joked.

"It's been a wonderful experience. More people, especially pastors, should come out here and work the streets and see what can happen with people. Your perspective and relationship with God grows 1,000 percent. If you want a change in your life and in your church, come out here. Get out of the walls of the church. Your life will never be the same.

"People are hurting out here, but there's the gospel that saves them," McCloskey added. "And you don't have to drag them into church in suits and ties. And when they come into your church, don't expect them to act like third-generation Christians. Just love them for Jesus."

Block party

At a Crossover block party at San Antonio's Woodlawn Lake Park sponsored by members of University Park Baptist Church, Pastor Bob Canion was busy getting the snow cone machine ready and firing up the grills to cook 500 hot dogs.

Although the church is 60 years old, its members are mostly young people. Canion said his goal is to reach kids in the community first and then their parents. Canion and members of the church reached out to kids with snow cones as well as face painting, balloons, clowns and games.

"Once they hit the teenage years, it's hard to reach them," Canion said. "If we can reach the kids, we

know the parents will come too."

A T-ball tournament was the main attraction at a block party sponsored by South San Filadelfia Baptist Church. Victor Rodriguez, the church's senior pastor, said nearly 400 people took part in the day's activities.

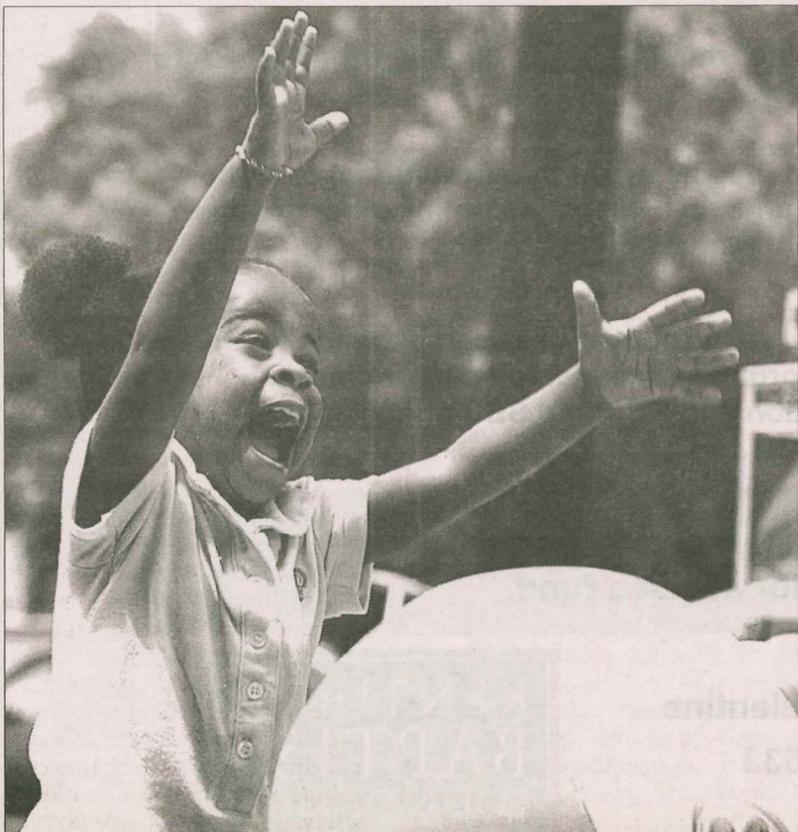
With support from about 200 volunteers from the church and across the Southern Baptist Convention, Rodriguez said the block party "gives me a chance to meet people from the community, take off my tie and coat, and really get to know people."

"Our goal is to evangelize the community, let them know that there's a God and a church that loves them," he said. "Once the community sees what's going on, they are at ease with what we're trying to do."

NAMB President Geoff Hammond visited several Crossover venues and called the outreach a great example of Southern Baptist partnership at its best.

"Crossover presents a crystal-clear picture of the types of ministries NAMB is doing all year long in assisting churches," the new NAMB president said. "It also shows what can happen when local churches, associations, state conventions and NAMB all come together to share Christ."

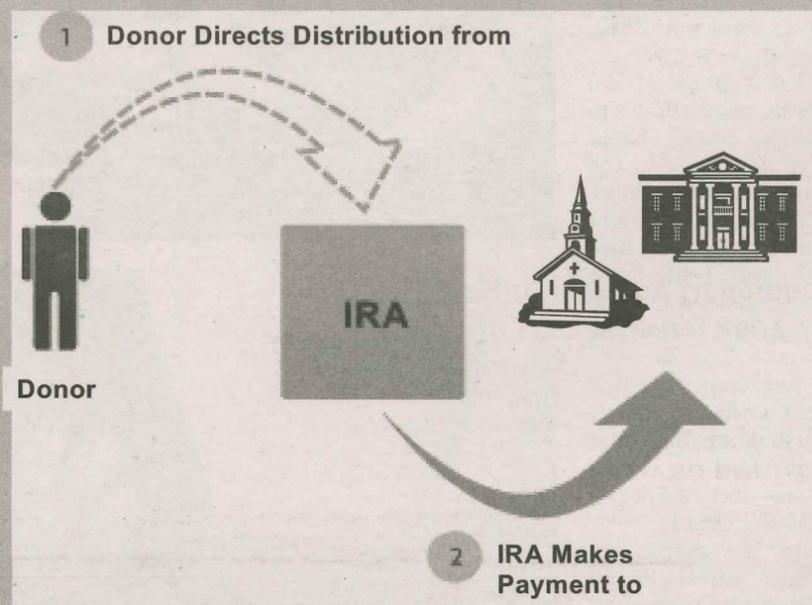
Since Crossover originated during the SBC annual meeting in Las Vegas in 1989, more than 38,000 people have prayed to receive Christ as a result of the annual evangelistic campaign.



HAVING A BALL Two-year-old Kayla Lee gets excited during a block party at Starlight Missionary Baptist Church during Crossover San Antonio. (BP photo by Matthew Miller)

Charitable IRA Rollover

Legislation enacted last year provides a *window of opportunity* for certain individuals to make gifts this year to one or more qualified charities out of an IRA without incurring any income tax on the withdrawal from the IRA.



Who Can Do This?

Individuals who are 70 1/2 or older at the time they direct their IRA administrator to transfer the funds to charity.

When Can This Be Done?

Any time during 2007. The transfers must be completed by December 31, 2007.

How Much Can Be Transferred?

A total of \$100,000.

How Must The Gift Be Made?

The transfer must be made directly from the IRA to the charity.

From What Accounts Can The Gifts Be Made?

Gifts can only be made from traditional or Roth IRA's. Funds in a 401(k), 403(b) or other qualified retirement plan cannot be used.

To What Charities Can These Gifts Be Made?

Charitable IRA rollover gifts can be made to any tax exempt organization including your church, association and KBC and SBC agencies and institutions.

Charitable IRA rollover gifts cannot be made to fund a charitable remainder trust, gift annuity or donor advised fund.

For more information contact Barry Allen or Laurie Valentine
1.866.489.3533 (toll-free, KY only) or 1.502.489.3533

