



WESTERN RECORDER

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FOR THE RECORD

Baptists
SBC leaders name national strategist for gender issues. *Page 2.*

Leadership
Embattled trustee Dwight McKissic resigns from Southwestern Seminary board. *Page 2.*

Editorial
Baptist editors evaluate messenger action on SBC faith statement. *Page 5.*



Nation
Three fallen firefighters had ties to Southern Baptist churches. *Page 6.*

Issues
Government study cites flaws in sex education programs. *Page 8.*

World
U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom decries Pakistan's abuse of blasphemy laws. *Page 9.*

College grads more likely to keep faith, research suggests

Austin, Texas (RNS)—College graduates are far more likely to maintain their religious beliefs and practices than those who never attended college, according to a study from the University of Texas at Austin.

Researchers found that four-year college students and graduates are least likely to neglect church attendance, say religion is less important in their lives or abandon their faith altogether. Those who do not pursue a degree are the most likely to leave religion behind.

"Many people assume college is public enemy No. 1 for religion," said assistant professor of sociology Mark Regnerus, author of "Forbidden Fruit: Sex and Religion in the Lives of American Teenagers." "But we found young adults who don't experience college are far more likely to turn away from religion."

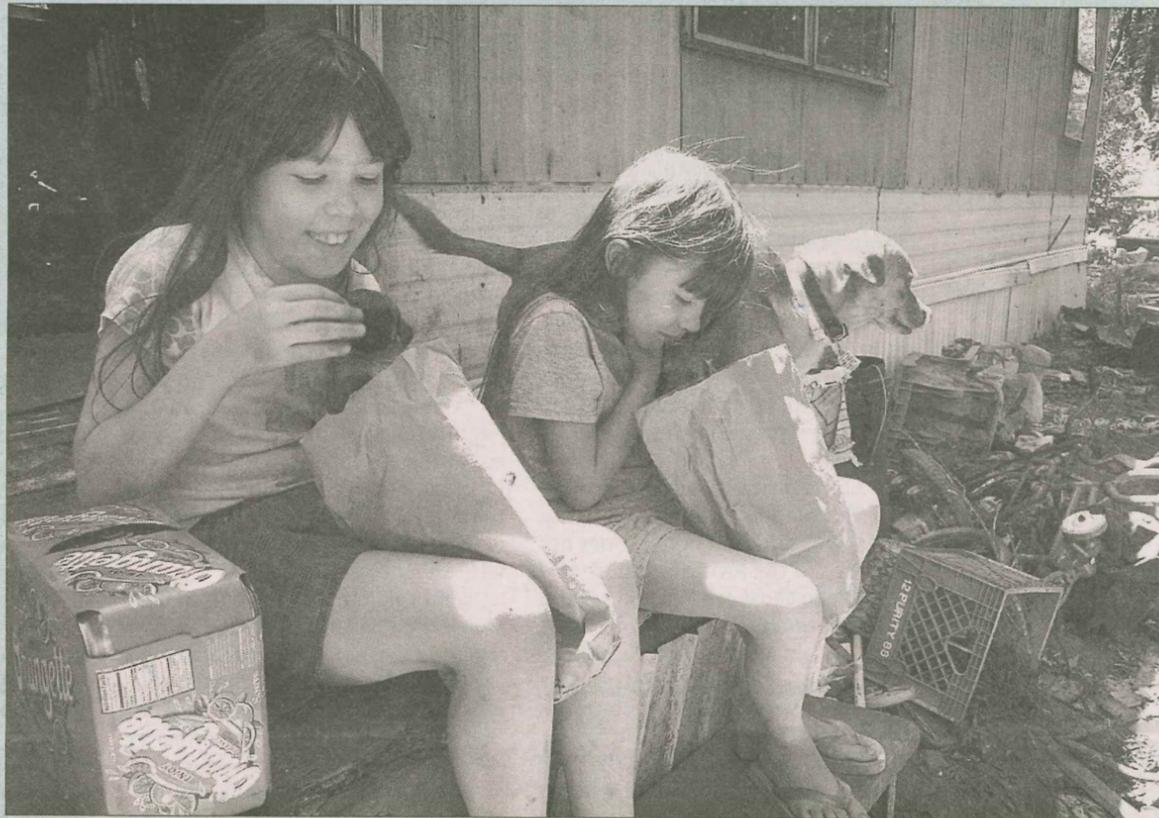
Jeremy Uecker, lead author of the study, said the findings suggest that the culture of the nation's campuses is changing.

"Religion and spirituality are becoming more accepted in higher education, both in intellectual circles and in campus life," he noted. "Religious students are encountering a much less hostile environment than in years past."

Among those least likely to leave their faith are Jews, Catholics and black Protestants, who often tie religion to cultural heritage. Women, Southerners and individuals whose parents are still married are also unlikely to abandon religion.

Researchers drew from the National Longitudinal Study of Adolescent Health, which tracked more than 10,000 Americans from adolescence through early adulthood from 1994 to 1995 and again from 2001 to 2002.

A sackful of love



Sisters Staci (left) and Breanna check out the day's lunch provided by members of First Baptist Church of Central City. The rural Muhlenberg County family does not own a car. "Sometimes I can't get to the store," the girls' mom said. Each summer, local churches work together to deliver free lunches to families with children who qualify for free or reduced breakfast and lunch during the school year. (Photo by Dannah Prather)

One hungry boy inspires brown bag lunch ministry

By Dannah Prather
Partnerships Editor

Greenville—It began with three hot dogs.

While hosting a backyard Bible club seven years ago, Pam Smith of Greenville watched a boy devour three hot dogs, "buns and all." Smith looked at her church's youth minister and said, "That

child is hungry."

Summertime, the cherished season of fun and freedom for boys and girls, also is a time where needs are harder to see. The watchful eye of teachers, school counselors and administrators is gone temporarily.

Smith, a member of First Baptist Church of Greenville, discovered

that 63 percent of the students at the local elementary school qualify for free or reduced breakfast and lunch. Although the school district provides summer meals for qualifying students, Smith noted that many needy families do not have transportation to where the meals are served.

□ See A sackful of love ... *Page 3*

National event at Campbellsville explores African-American history

By Joan McKinney
Campbellsville University

Campbellsville—Highlighting the theme, "African-Americans in Baptist History," Campbellsville University hosted the annual meeting of the Baptist History & Heritage Society June 7-9.

John Chowning, Campbellsville's vice president for church and external relations and executive assistant to the president, said the meeting's theme "is very relevant to what we are seeking to do" at Campbellsville.

The Kentucky Baptist Convention-related university marked its centennial this year with special outreach to African-American churches by adding new minority scholarships and participating in covenant partnerships with Simmons College of Kentucky and the General Association of Baptists in Kentucky.

Campbellsville President Michael

Carter emphasized that Campbellsville has adopted the approach of reaching out to everyone. "You will find that an undergirding philosophy of the university," he said.

"We are committed to the underrepresented," Carter added. "Our strategic plan is designed to keep diversity in the forefront."

Bill Crouch, president of Georgetown College, also spoke about his school's ongoing efforts in enhancing racial diversity.

Kevin Cosby, president of Simmons College and pastor of St. Stephen Baptist Church in Louisville, was the keynote speaker for the conference's closing session.

"One of the greatest problems Americans have is understanding the pathologies of many African-Americans," Cosby said. "There is a tendency to concentrate only on the effects of a situation, while totally divorcing oneself from the possi-

ble causes. The reason this happens is because to look at the possible causes would mean having to accept responsibility for those causes.

"If whites could overcome white supremacy, the problem with African-Americans would disappear," Cosby suggested. "Racism, however, has not only distorted the minds of white Americans about themselves, but it has also distorted the minds of black Americans about themselves."

Noting that "most black Baptists don't know their history," Cosby said many African-American churches have strayed from their historic mission of personal salvation, social justice and group empowerment.

Quinton Dixie, assistant professor of philosophy and religious student program coordinator at Indiana University-Purdue University in Fort Wayne, Ind., said much of the history of African-Americans is "under their beds."

As an example, he said he found an unpublished, handwritten journal of E.C. Morris, who was born a slave in 1855 and grew up to earn a doctorate, establish Arkansas Baptist College and was elected president of the National Baptist Convention.

He urged those attending to do "anything you can do to preserve black history," noting that "we are a product of our own history. We are a product of our stories."

Retired pastor Emmanuel McCall, moderator of the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship, cited Psalms 68:31 which says, "Princes shall come out of Egypt; Ethiopia shall soon stretch out her hands unto God."

"God is God and is the Creator, Sustainer and Forgiver, and we should celebrate His greatness," McCall emphasized. "If the gospel is spread to the ends of the earth, we have to do it together. When we see God, color won't matter."

Dated material. Please deliver by Wednesday, June 27.

SBC taps Stith as gender issues strategist

By Trennis Henderson
Editor

San Antonio—Texas Baptist pastor Bob Stith, who said God convicted him more than a decade ago about how he addressed the issue of homosexuality, has been named Southern Baptists' national strategist for gender issues.

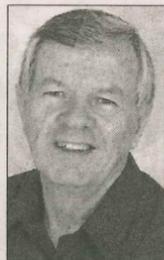
Stith, pastor of Carroll Baptist Church in South Lake, Texas, since 1970, accepted the newly created position effective June 1. The post is being funded by LifeWay Christian Resources and the Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission is providing administrative oversight.

Jimmy Draper, LifeWay's president emeritus, said the strategist role "has been a culmination of many years of planning and praying."

Draper and ERLC President Richard Land were named co-chairs of a task force on ministry to homosexuals in 2002. Land said the task force was charged with being "proactive and redemptive in reaching out to those who struggle with same-sex attractions."

While affirming biblical exposition that labels homosexuality as sin, Draper said that belief "does not relieve us of the loving response and ministry to those who face this kind of temptation."

As SBC leaders sought a national strategist, Land said Stith's congregation "is one of those churches that is most active in reaching out proactively and redemptively." He added that Stith "is the one who really has had a vision for how churches can do this."



Bob Stith

Stith, a graduate of Samford University and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, said God convicted him in 1994 about his attitude of "condemnation and judgment" in his preaching about homosexuality. People struggling with same-sex attractions "would not have come to me for help," he acknowledged.

"One of the things God really put on my heart is the fact that there are so many people in our churches who struggle with this and they do so silently" because of fear of condemnation and rejection, Stith told reporters at a press conference during the recent SBC annual meeting in San Antonio.

Responding to a question about anticipated ministry strategies, Stith said, "We don't specifically have an outline of telling churches this is what you do. We are more interested in helping them learn how to receive people who are struggling with this."

"What our church did from the beginning was for me to acknowledge that my attitude was wrong," he explained. "We should reach out to them with compassion. ... Basically what we have done is to love them with the love of Christ."

Land said one of the goals to help Southern Baptist churches minister effectively to homosexuals "is to show them a Baptist church that looks a lot like their Baptist church" that is involved in effective ministry efforts.

Stith noted that many churches separate homosexuality "as a sin that is different from other sins and

consequently we isolate" individuals who struggle with same-sex attractions. By contrast, he added, "I don't think God makes a distinction between sins."

"When pastors and churches aren't sure how to deal with it, they usually deal with it wrongly," he added. "I understand because I was there; I did those things."

While agreeing that "I don't think there's a hierarchy of sins in terms of separating us from our fellowship with God," Land said, "I think that clearly the Bible is very specific in its condemnation of homosexual behavior."

As SBC leaders seek to encourage and equip churches to minister "to those who are struggling with unwanted same-sex attractions," the SBC Constitution prohibits convention involvement by churches "which act to affirm, approve or endorse homosexual behavior." Additionally, the 2000 Baptist Faith & Message urges Christians to oppose "all forms of sexual immorality, including adultery, homosexuality and pornography."

Noting that churches don't affirm pedophilia or adultery, Land said, "Unfortunately, we do have some churches in the Southern Baptist Convention that have attempted to affirm a homosexual lifestyle."

"We're at a rather odd moment in our nation's cultural history where some things are clearly condemned by Scripture that some churches want to openly affirm," Land added. "I think that's the reason for singling out" homosexuality as an issue for Southern Baptist churches to address.

William Tanner, former missions leader, dies at 77

Belton, Texas (BP)—William Tanner, who served as president of the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board from 1977-86 and in multiple leadership roles throughout the Southern Baptist Convention, died June 10 in Belton, Texas. He was 77.



William Tanner

Tanner's leadership of the former Home Mission Board (now the North American Mission Board) was marked by the beginning of the Mission Service Corps volunteer missionary program as well as an increased emphasis on language missions and strengthened partnerships between the HMB and state Baptist convention partners.

Geff Hammond, president of the North American Mission Board, expressed his gratitude for the legacy Tanner left for the home mission field.

"I am thankful for Dr. Tanner's vision and foresight," Hammond said. "He saw an opportunity to greatly expand our home missionary force and he did so with Mission Service Corps. He saw the need to minister to the nations coming to North America and he greatly enhanced language missions."

"All of us at NAMB will be thinking about and praying for Dr. Tanner's wife, Ellen, and the rest of his family during this time of loss," Hammond added. "A great servant has gone on to his reward."

Ernest Kelley, who served as a coordinator working with state Baptist conventions in the western United States during Tanner's tenure, said Tanner's commitment to the MSC program was essential to its strong beginning.

"Dr. Tanner immediately embraced the idea of Mission Service Corps and gave it the high-profile attention and funding it needed to get established and off the ground," Kelley said. "He even insisted that the MSC office be located right next to his so he could give it the attention it needed."

In addition to his service at the HMB, Tanner served as president of the University of Mary Hardin-Baylor from 1967-71, president of Oklahoma Baptist University from 1971-76 and executive director of the Baptist General Convention of Oklahoma from 1986-96. He was pastor of churches in Texas and Mississippi earlier in his ministry.

In addition to his wife, Tanner is survived by two sons, a daughter and 10 grandchildren. Memorial gifts may be made to the President William G. and Ellen Yates Tanner Endowed Scholarship at the University of Mary Hardin-Baylor.

BAPTIST DIGEST

Oldham elected SBC convention relations VP. Roger "Sing" Oldham, a pastor for more than 25 years, was elected June 11 as vice president for convention relations for the Southern Baptist Convention Executive Committee. Oldham, an outgoing member of the Executive Committee, has been pastor of First Baptist Church of Martin, Tenn., since 1986 and also has served as an adjunct instructor at several educational institutions, including Mid-Continent University in Mayfield. Oldham, 52, who begins his new duties July 16, succeeds Kenyn Cureton. A native of Louisville, Oldham is a graduate of Western Kentucky University in Bowling Green and Mid-America Baptist Seminary in Memphis, Tenn.

Peek to lead Baptist foundation. Warren Peek of Nashville has been elected president of the Southern Baptist Foundation, according to Morris Chapman, president of the Southern Baptist Convention Executive Committee. Peek will succeed Michael Weeks, who is retiring effective June 30. Peek, who served as an accountant for the Foundation from 1994-96, has served since 1999 as first vice president for institutions and government banking at SunTrust Banks, Inc., in Nashville. He also has served as a volunteer financial counselor for the late Larry Burkett's Christian Financial Concepts. He is a graduate of Union University in Jackson, Tenn., and Middle Tennessee State University in Murfreesboro.

Seminary Extension names new director. Randy Williams has been named director of Seminary Extension, succeeding William Vinson, who retired May 1 after leading the Southern Baptist education entity six years. Williams, 50, a graduate of Florida Baptist Theological College and Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, has served as an instructor at Southern Seminary and Boyce College and as an adjunct professor at the Baptist College of Florida and at Luther Rice Seminary in Georgia. He was pastor of Victory Memorial Baptist Church in Louisville from 2001-04 as well as a pastor and staff member of churches in Alabama and Florida.

Embattled trustee McKissic resigns from Southwestern Seminary board

Arlington, Texas (ABP)—Dwight McKissic, the Southern Baptist pastor frequently at odds with fellow trustees at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, has resigned from the board of the Fort Worth, Texas, school.

McKissic, pastor of Cornerstone Baptist Church in nearby Arlington, Texas, said he chose to step down in order to "return to the place I was prior to being a trustee."

McKissic, one of the most prominent African-American pastors in the Southern Baptist Convention, was the lone dissenter when trustees voted last October to forbid the seminary from employing professors who advocate speaking in tongues. Earlier, in a 2006 chapel sermon at Southwestern, McKissic said that since his days as a student at the seminary, he has used a "private prayer language."

In March, trustees tried to permanently expel McKissic from the board. The trustee chairman said McKissic used confidential material inappropriately and expressed his disagreement poorly. Trustees later decided not to remove him.

"My involvement as a trustee has been a huge distraction from my ministry priorities for the past nine months," McKissic said. "I've devoted too much mental, physical, emotional and even spiritual energy to matters resulting from the aftermath of

my chapel sermon."

While the seminary usually posts chapel sermons on its Web site, seminary president Paige Patterson declined to post McKissic's sermon, reportedly in order to avoid appearances that the school endorses the practice of speaking in tongues.

McKissic said the controversy surprised him. He hadn't thought Southern Baptists were uneasy with his views until intense opposition to his belief and practice emerged after the sermon, he said. He spoke on the floor of the recent Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting in San Antonio, urging pastors to avoid narrowing doctrinal boundaries regarding speaking in tongues.

The debate over tongues "has taken a tremendous toll on my family and ministry, and my wife believes it has negatively impacted my health," he said in a letter to Van McClain, chairman of the trustee board. He also said he has been "distracted and consumed" by the controversy and needs to refocus on his family and church.

Patterson, who currently is out of the country, said in a prepared statement that he has enjoyed a long and positive personal relationship with McKissic.

"It is well known that we have not always agreed," Patterson wrote, "but we are brothers in Christ, and I love this pastor."

A sackful of love

One hungry boy inspires Muhlenberg County summer brown bag ministry

Continued from page 1

Bible school season ended, but the memory of the hungry child stayed with Smith. "I never lost the sight of that little boy's face," she said. Later that year, Smith invited a Woman's Missionary Union leader from Elkhorn Baptist Association to speak at the Greenville church on WMU Sunday. The guest speaker shared many community ministry ideas with the congregation. Resource materials were on a nearby table. Smith spied a small, brown paper bag and accompanying flyer about a summer sack lunch ministry. "I knew this was what God called me to do," she said.

The Muhlenberg County church was without a pastor at the time, so she approached the youth minister with the idea. "Don't you think this would work?" she asked him.

Seven years and thousands of ham-and-cheese sandwiches later, the answer is "yes."

The first year, members of the Greenville congregation assembled 75 lunches twice a week and distributed them in neighborhoods with the most needy families. By the end of the summer, the number of lunches served rose to 150 twice a week. This year, it may reach 300.

More local churches became in-



EAGER HELPER Ren Lofland carries a plastic tub filled with sack lunches to a waiting van at First Baptist Church of Central City. This is his first year to help his grandfather, Tippy Lile, and other church members deliver lunches to people in need. "I like helping people," the 9-year-old said.

involved, covering the days First Baptist did not, or branching out into different areas of the county.

Three years ago, First Baptist Church of Central City, also in Muhlenberg County, came on board. Each week volunteers prepare and deliver about 350 lunches.

In recent years, Ebenezer Baptist Church in Drakesboro and Hazel Creek Baptist Church in Beechmont have adopted the ministry. Second Baptist Church in Greenville also participates. In Greenville and Central City, Methodist and Presbyterian churches joined the effort.

Financial and in-kind contributions come from church members, Sunday school classes and local merchants. Central City Royal Ambassadors recently raised \$1,000 for the sack lunch program. In Greenville, a first-time visitor donated \$500 to the ministry after hearing that funds were running low.

One small Baptist church in a community where Central City Baptists deliver more than 100 lunches was unable to start its own ministry, but they contribute financially to the sister church's effort.

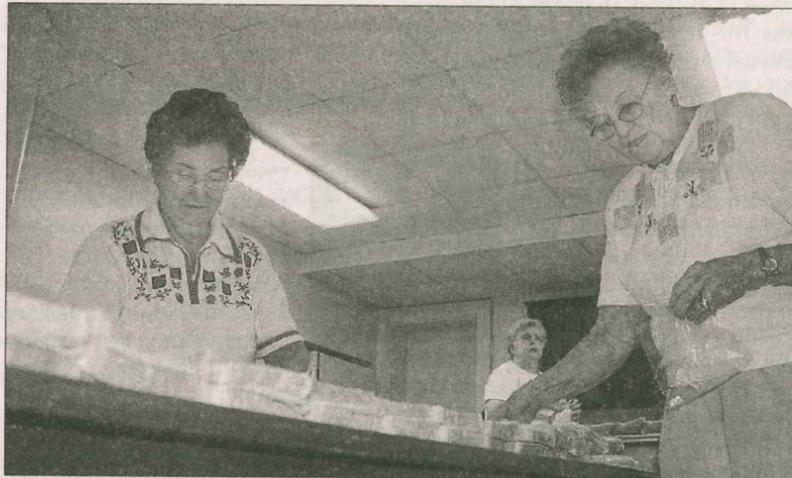
Donations undergird effort

Martha Cessna coordinates the Central City ministry. A retired home economics teacher, she strives to provide the most nutritious meals possible, but at first, funding didn't permit some of the healthiest food choices.

One Sunday, a man who attends First Baptist regularly but is not a member, donated \$5,000 to the brown bag ministry.

In that moment, "we went from bologna-and-cheese to ham-and-cheese, and from white bread to wheat," Cessna said.

Up to five delivery teams are needed on the busiest days. Most routes are completed in an hour. Playgrounds and parks are common drop-off points. Depending on the needs of an individual family, some deliveries are made directly to their door.



PROS Eunice Kendrick (left), Ann Stuart and Thelma Sherrard assemble and bag some of the 250 ham-and-cheese sandwiches that are the centerpiece of each brown bag lunch. (Photos by Dannah Prather)

The Central City brown bag ministry "has really increased church bonding," Cessna said. "One Sunday school class provides bananas for one day; another provides all the oatmeal cakes; another is responsible for leaflets." A local pharmacy donates the plain paper bags; a nurse supplies plastic gloves for volunteers to use when making the sandwiches.

Smith said the Greenville ministry received a grant from the local Wal-Mart. The Central City Kroger offers food at generous discounts, Cessna said.

Shirley, a Drakesboro native and mother of two, said she learned about the sack lunch ministry when her niece brought lunches to Shirley's daughters, Staci and Breanna.

At first, Shirley said she was concerned. "I wondered who was giving my children food." Then she learned the meals came from the church.

"I really appreciate the dinners they bring," she said. The family doesn't own a car, so "sometimes it's hard for me to get to the store," she added.

Cessna said she has seen spiritual growth in herself and fellow church members since the ministry began. Originally focused on children, "we have progressed beyond that point,"

she said. "At first, we were pretty Pharisaical about who got our lunches. ... (Later) we decided that what we would really like to do is to feed hungry people," not only children.

A transformation occurred in how volunteers related to the adults, Cessna said. "You begin to see a person in need rather than a person with misplaced priorities," she explained.

From kids to senior citizens

Smith said a similar attitude has developed in Greenville. "We'll pass out lunches to senior citizens and the parents—whenever's in the household," she said. "We don't ask a lot of questions. They don't have to fill out any forms or listen to anything."

After years of coordinating the summer lunch ministry in their churches, Smith and Cessna quickly credit God with the success.

"I never ask if I've got enough money to cover everything," Smith said. "This was God's call to do this ministry." Contributions always arrive at the right time and place, she added.

God's fingerprints cover the brown paper bags that are filled each week by loving hands, Cessna said. "It is such a privilege to see God work, and to know that it's Him."



Lunches bridge summertime gap for some students

The Muhlenberg County congregations involved in preparing meals have developed an efficient routine of making and delivering meals.

The day before a delivery, volunteers unfold the brown paper bags and put in the non-perishable items. Meals vary, but favorites items are Little Debbie Oatmeal Creme Pies, potato chips or whole-wheat Goldfish crackers, snack size boxes of raisins, bananas or small bags of trail mix. Another favorite: "fortune" cookies that contain Bible verses instead of silly predictions.

Church members put small notes in each bag. It could be details about vacation Bible school or other activities, or the simple reminder: "God loves you." A Central City deacon makes a special trip to Nashville each year to purchase gospel tracts written for children to include in the lunches.

Sandwiches are made the evening before and stored in the refrigerator. The next day, delivery crews place the sandwiches and other perishable items in the sacks; then, they hit the road.



READY FOR FILLING Pam Smith clarifies how many sandwiches need to be prepared for the next day's delivery. A few hundred brown bags on the fellowship hall tables at First Baptist Church of Greenville is nothing new. The congregation has been providing free summer meals to needy families for seven years.

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

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A life well lived

On Thursday, June 14, 2007, Mrs. Billy Graham died, Paris Hilton was moved back to her old jail, and a group of young men were in court fighting in front of their mothers to reclaim their innocence. Of the three, I believe that Mrs. Graham was the happiest that day for she had lived a life that on her death bed didn't require sadness or regret for a poorly lived life.

Several TV pundits were shouting how she had lived a life in the shadow of a giant, that she wasn't a liberated woman, and she had given up so much. Well, I think we should all look at what Mrs. Graham didn't need to do. She never visited her children in jail, and she never had to sit in a courtroom wondering why her child was in the wrong party in the first place.

Although I did not know Mrs. Graham personally, I would suggest that when she first recognized that her earthly life was nearing its end, instead of regretting her life, she praised God for loving her enough to say, "No." I would suspect that Mrs. Hilton and three lacrosse moms

probably regret they didn't say "no" more often.

I could write a long essay about the virtues of a godly woman, but I believe that Mrs. Ruth Graham, through her commitment to God and the religious disciplines of her faith, lived a life we all dream of.

Tom Cox
Crestwood

Women's roles limited



Just when we think there is nothing left in the fundamental fountain of flawed finesse, we read that at least two of the seminaries are going to offer academic programs for young women that are designed to teach them how to make a Christian home.

Making no effort to disguise the intent of this subterfuge, Dr. Paige Patterson evidently hopes that this ploy will help women further understand that there will never be a place for them in ministerial service. With that mandate in place, young women can avail themselves of this home economics class and embrace it as a divine calling to maid service and meal preparation.

Giving a pint of stewardship

By Tamara Quintana

Dallas (BP)—It's Sunday morning at your church and the subject of the preacher's sermon is stewardship. Merriam-Webster defines it as "the careful and responsible management of something entrusted to one's care."

Everything we have belongs to God. The preacher has mentioned stewardship of our time, our finances and our family, but he might have missed stewardship of our bodies.

Taking proper care of our bodies can allow us to share our health with others who are not as healthy. Every three seconds someone in our community needs blood. Just one pint of healthy blood can save three lives.

Sixty percent of the U.S. population is eligible to donate blood, but only 5 percent do. Why? Some say they're "afraid of needles" or "allergic to pain." Other are on medications or have diabetes or high cholesterol.

No one chooses to be stuck with a needle, and most all of us are "allergic" to pain. Just because you are on medication or have been diagnosed with a disease doesn't necessarily mean you are ineligible to give blood.

However, participation in mission trips to many foreign countries can either temporarily or permanently exclude you from giving because of the possibility of exposure

to certain diseases.

So, what are the benefits of giving a pint of blood? First, knowing you have helped save another life. Second, knowing that you have clean blood. Fourteen tests are performed on each pint. Eleven of these are for infectious diseases.

Science has proven there is no substitute for the human touch and there is no substitute for human blood. If you are a regular blood donor, hats off to you! If you can give but you don't, please don't wait until a national disaster. Half a million Americans donated blood in the days following the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks. Your local blood bank needs you today.

Tamara Quintana is the director of the employee wellness program for GuideStone Financial Resources

Kentucky Changers truly changing Kentucky

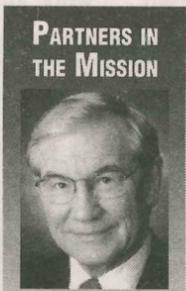
This summer nearly 1,000 Kentucky Baptist young people will choose to spend a week on a work site repairing a home in the hot summer sun during the day and sleeping at night on the floor of a school building.

These middle school and high school students could be enjoying a fun camp or earning money in summer jobs, which are both fine things. Instead, though, they have chosen to be servants of our Lord in providing ministry to people in need.

They are called Kentucky Changers and they are truly changing Kentucky.

These young people, who pay their own way to participate, are motivated by the satisfaction of knowing that they are doing something that Jesus would do. They are inspired by the example of other volunteers. They experience the accomplishment of learning new skills they can use for the rest of their lives.

But for most of the volunteers, the true joy of participating in Kentucky Changers seems to be in experiencing the joy of those who are helped.



Bill Mackey

The teens get to know many of the homeowners who participate in Bible reading and prayer with the group. The homeowners are sad to see the teens depart at the end of the week, but they have a wonderful reminder of the Christian value of service.

"I like to see the faces of the homeowners when the project is complete," Kentucky Changer Brittany Wood said.

It is truly amazing to see the transformation of homes when siding has been installed, the house painted or a new roof finished. Some projects include a handicap ramp for a disabled person or even replacing windows. A Kentucky Changers project for college students recently helped with a Habitat for Humanity construction project.

With each Kentucky Changers

crew, there is a crew chief and assistant who have construction experience. They teach the teens new skills and direct their work.

The success of Kentucky Changers also requires the help of many other volunteers such as the projects coordinator, associational coordinator, convention coordinator and assistant coordinator.

In addition, there are chaperones, volunteers from local churches who prepare and deliver meals to the crews and cooks who prepare evening meals. There are also bus drivers and a nurse.

The result of the work is not only that houses are repaired but also that lives are changed. During the concluding service for the recent Russellville Kentucky Changers project, 11 decisions for Christ were reported and five youth surrendered to God's call for vocational Christian service.

Pray for the safety of all participants and for the spiritual impact of the Kentucky Changers projects at Maysville this week and in Monticello July 7-14.

Bill Mackey is executive director of the Kentucky Baptist Convention

FAMILY

Definitions help clarify confusing financial terms

By Jeremy White

I and the other financial columnists who regularly contribute to Financial Forum may occasionally use unfamiliar terms. Here's a list of terms and definitions to help you understand, or at least clarify, their meaning:

Basis: What you have in an asset, usually the price paid; used to figure capital gains tax.

Beneficiary: One who is designated to receive a benefit, such as the person who would receive the proceeds of a life insurance policy.

Bond: A promise of a corporation, municipality, government or church to pay interest at a stated rate and repay face value of the bond. It's a loan from you to the organization to mature at a specified date.

Capital gain: Profit from the sale of a capital asset such as real estate, stock, property or land. Any capital asset held at least one year is classified as long-term and receives favorable income tax treatment.

Diversification: Spreading money among different types of investments.

Home equity loan: A borrowing against the value of your residence, a second mortgage.

Individual Retirement Account: An account to set aside funds for retirement and receive tax advantages. A traditional IRA provides an immediate tax deduction, grows tax-deferred and incurs taxes when distributed. A Roth IRA provides no immediate tax deduction, but all the growth in value is tax free. There are no taxes when the Roth IRA is distributed.

Liquidity (liquid): Describes how easily assets can be converted to cash at their current fair market value. A liquid asset will not lose value upon its sale as a result of a lack of a ready market.

Money Market Fund: A liquid mutual fund that invests in money market instruments such as U.S. Treasury bills, bank notes, etc.

Stewardship: The use of God-given gifts and resources to accomplish God-given goals and objectives.

Will: The directions of a testator (the male or female who makes the will) regarding the final dividing of his or her estate.

Withholding allowances: Used by an employer to calculate the amount withheld monthly from your paycheck for federal and state taxes.

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

Marriage manual can help couples strengthen marriage

Q: I'm looking for a marriage project for our couple time groups. Any ideas other than a Bible study?

Consider having couples in your group write out a manual for their marriage. Many organizations, businesses and churches have a manual that outlines the acceptable guidelines or procedures for a successful and efficient company.

MARRIAGE

By contrast, most marriages are regarded as a happenstance occurrence. Couples do not set clear standards, outline acceptable behavior or incorporate the necessary elements for a successful relationship.

Have some fun creating your own marriage manual. Consider including the following sections:

Purpose of Marriage: What is the purpose of your marriage?

Contribution: What does your marriage contribute to your spouse? What does it contribute to your family, to friends, to the community?

Unique descriptors: What are the unique descriptors of your marriage?

Absolutes: What are the ground rules/absolutes for your marriage?

Support system: List the individuals and groups who offer multiple supports to help build, maintain and provide checks and balances for the status of your marriage. What are your help lines to call in case of a marriage emergency?

View or mission statement: In one sentence, describe the major focus of your marriage.

Belief systems: What are the foundational beliefs for your marriage? What beliefs define and direct your marriage?

Benefits: List all marriage benefits.

Deficits: List all marriage deficits

Ratings: On a scale of 1 to 10, with 10 being awesome and 1 being horrible, how would you rate your role, behavior and attitude in the marriage?

Question Page: This section raises questions for additional exploration of your marriage. Design your own questions for this section.—Valerie Vincent

Q: We are encouraging a couple in our Sunday school class who are having marital difficulties to go to counseling. What should we be looking for in a counselor to help them?

Couples seeking a marriage counselor should make sure that a potential counselor has training in marriage and family therapy. The counselor may be a licensed marriage and family therapist or hold another license or certification, but should be able to document that he or she has training in this area. It is also important to make sure your counselor's Christian worldview is compatible with, or at least respectful of, your own.

According to psychologist Bill Doherty, there are at least four ways that therapists actually undermine marital commitment. Some are just incompetent, having no training in working with couples. Others position themselves as neutral about marriage. A third group may actually pathologize the marriage, suggesting that the marriage cannot work because it is beyond repair. A fourth group, says Doherty, undermines marriages by questioning why people stay in the marriage, subtly suggesting, "You are an idiot if you stay."

Finding a "marriage friendly" marriage counselor requires paying careful attention to training, Christian worldview and commitment to the institution of marriage, as well as word of mouth about the relative health of the counselor and the seriousness with which the counselor has taken his or her own marriage. It is appropriate and acceptable to ask counselors about themselves and their approach before scheduling the first session.—Scott Wigginton

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Editors cite SBC action on faith statement

Messenger action affirming the sufficiency of the Baptist Faith & Message "to guide trustees in their establishment of policies and practices" was the primary focus of editorials in several state Baptist newspapers following the recent Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting in San Antonio. Other topics ranged from the definition of the Cooperative Program to lessons churches can learn from the history of the Alamo

Perspectives from Baptist editors across the nation include:

Charlie Warren, Arkansas Baptist News: Just after messengers affirmed a statement clarifying the sufficiency of the 2000 Baptist Faith & Message as a doctrinal guide for all SBC agencies in setting policies, differing interpretations of how it should be applied were being tossed about. ...

Supporters interpreted it to mean SBC agencies could not set policies on doctrinal issues not clearly delineated in the BF&M. For more than a year, Baptist bloggers and others have been discussing and writing about the International Mission Board policy restricting the appointment as missionaries of anyone who uses a private prayer language, a doctrinal issue on which the BF&M is silent. Many have stated their view that the IMB trustees went too far in narrowing the parameters of who can be appointed.

Meanwhile, many SBC leaders and those who support them are saying the statement does not further restrict agency trustees. They emphasize the autonomy of each agency and the authority of trustees to set policy. They say restricting policy to only what is in the BF&M would mean agencies could not limit hiring practices regarding such things as alcohol use, divorce, cross-dressing or a host of other unacceptable behavior not spelled out in the BF&M.

Supporters, however, interpreted the statement to mean agencies are free to set doctrinal policy beyond the BF&M only if they bring exceptions before SBC messengers at annual meetings.

Southern Baptists have not heard the end of this discussion. I make no predictions regarding ultimate outcome, but I view such discussions as healthy, and I'm confident Southern Baptists will find a workable solution.

Lonnie Wilkey, Tennessee Baptist & Reflector: The 2007 annual meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention is history, but two significant actions taken during the meeting will impact convention life for years to come.

First, the convention adopted a definition of the Cooperative Program. This has been long overdue because in recent years some Baptist leaders and churches have defined "Cooperative Program" according to their purposes and desires.

The definition, as adopted by SBC messengers, says, "The Cooperative Program is 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 convention and the Southern Baptist Convention missions and ministries."

Note that "state convention" is included in the definition. ... There have been churches across the convention that have bypassed their state convention and thought they were giving Cooperative Program dollars. By the same token, there have been state conventions that have "tinkered" with the definition of CP and allowed alternative giving plans. ... All of our ministries benefit through cooperative giving. Good ministries suffer when money intended for the Cooperative Program is designated.

Second, the convention adopted the following statement on the Baptist Faith and Message by a vote of 57.7 percent to 42.2 percent:

"The Baptist Faith and Message is not a creed, or a complete statement of our faith, nor final or infallible; nevertheless we further acknowledge that it is the only consensus statement of doctrinal beliefs approved by the Southern Baptist Convention and as such is sufficient in its current form to guide trustees in their establishment of policies and practices of entities of the Convention."

STRAIGHT FROM THE EDITOR



Trennis Henderson

This action is ironic in some respects. For years, Baptist editors (and others) have been saying that the BF&M should not be creedal and, to be honest, we were "crucified" by some for saying that.

Now, the messenger, or slightly more than half of the messengers attending the convention, made it clear that the Baptist Faith and Message is "not a creed." ...

Messengers also made it plain that the BF&M is not "final or infallible." Amen! The Word of God is the only infallible book that I know of. ... Some are beginning to see a tendency to become even more narrow and strict on what it means to be Baptist. We can be a good Baptist and not agree on every "jot and tittle."

Bob Terry, Alabama Baptist: Messengers to the Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting in San Antonio sent their entity leaders a message, but it remains to be seen how the message will be understood by the various institutions and agencies.

The debate was about the role of the Baptist Faith and Message, but the real issue was the action of two trustee boards—the International Mission Board and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas.

Both boards have adopted theological guidelines for their personnel that go beyond the BF&M. About two years ago, trustees of the IMB announced they would appoint no one for missionary service who practices a private prayer language (glossolalia). Southwestern Seminary adopted a similar statement for its faculty in 2006. ...

The actions of both boards immediately drew harsh criticism from some SBC sources. In fact, both boards initially recommended that a trustee who publicly dissented from the action be removed from the trustees. But cooler heads prevailed and both boards worked out problems through trustee committees. ...

In February of this year, a compromise statement was negotiated and passed by the SBC Executive Committee that said the BF&M is sufficient "to guide trustees in their establishment of policies and practices of entities of the convention." ...

Messengers joined the discussion through a motion to make the February statement of the Executive Committee the official statement of the convention. After lengthy discussion, the motion passed on a ballot vote by a 58 percent to 42 percent margin. ...

Whether the action by the messengers will cause either trustee board to back away from its new policy remains to be seen. Honestly this writer believes it is most unlikely. Whether the vote will keep trustee boards from imposing other doctrinal requirements is uncertain.

Still it is hard to understand the vote by the messengers as anything other than their expression of unhappiness and rebuke to the trustees involved for arbitrarily excluding Bible-believing Southern Baptists from service because of a practice most consider a secondary issue on which disagreement is allowed.

Gerald Harris, Georgia Christian Index: Dr. Daniel Sanchez, a professor of missions at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, is a native of San Antonio. One day the missions professor and I were discussing the Alamo, situated only a few blocks from the Henry B. Gonzales Convention where we were meeting. He said, "You know, the Alamo was once a church, then a battlefield; and now, it is a museum."

His comments inspired me; and I thought, "This is the perfect outline for a sermon—or an editorial." ... I am afraid that there are many churches that have a grand and glorious beginning, but in the course of years become a battleground. Quite often the warfare lacks any significantly eternal purpose and unfortunately amounts to no more than infighting and power struggles that disrupt the fellowship of the saints. ...

History is important, some traditions are to be honored and some battles must be fought, but when a church insists upon holding on to the relics of the past rather than seizing the present moment for the glory of God it is courting death and destined to become a museum. Remember the Alamo!

Bush vetoes stem-cell bill, but commends other research

Washington (ABP)—For the second time in less than a year, President Bush vetoed a bill June 20 that would have expanded federal funding for embryonic stem-cell research.

But Bush coupled his veto announcement with an executive order designed to promote other kinds of stem-cell research that offer “new possibilities for progress without conflict or ethical controversy.”

Bush vetoed the “Stem-Cell Research Enhancement Act of 2007,” which the House and Senate earlier passed by wide—but not veto-proof—margins. The bill would have overturned a Bush policy that effectively banned federal funding for embryonic stem-cell research.

“If this legislation became law, it would compel American taxpayers—for the first time in our history—to support the deliberate destruction of human embryos,” Bush said, speaking to reporters after his veto announcement.

The veto is Bush’s third of his

presidency—and the second he has used to kill federal funding for stem-cell research.

Embryonic stem-cell research uses the cells—which begin to form at an early stage in the development of a fertilized embryo—because they have the ability to become many different types of tissue. Although many biologists believe the cells may hold promise for curing a number of illnesses that are currently fatal, Bush and many Christian conservatives oppose the research because harvesting the stem cells destroys the embryos.

“Destroying human life in the hopes of saving human life is not ethical—and it is not the only option before us,” Bush said. He noted that research on stem cells derived from non-embryonic sources has also shown promise in curing a number of diseases. Bush also mentioned a recent study in which researchers effectively manufactured embryonic stem cells by using cells from the skin of mice.



President Bush

Along with the veto, Bush issued an executive order directing the federal Department of Health and Human Services to come up with a plan for encouraging researchers studying non-embryonic stem cells to apply for federal funding.

However, the move is largely symbolic because such studies are already eligible for federal funding, and the order does not include any new funds for such research.

Critics said the veto and executive order were the result of Bush choosing conservative ideology over scientific research.

“This is just one example of how the president puts ideology before science, politics before the needs of our families, just one more example of how out of touch with reality he and his party have become,” said Sen. Hillary Clinton (D-N.Y.), speaking at a Washington conference of liberal activists.

The president’s veto dealt primarily with who pays for the research, not its legality. States and private organizations can conduct their own research on embryonic stem cells,

but federal funding is limited to cells that existed as of Aug. 9, 2001.

Bush’s veto came one week after he told messengers to the Southern Baptist Convention in a live satellite address he would turn back “any bill Congress sends me that violates the sanctity of human life.” The SBC approved resolutions in 1999 and 2005 opposing stem-cell research that destroys embryos.

The Bush administration has granted more than \$3 billion in federal funds for research on all types of stem cells, according to a White House fact sheet.

“American taxpayers should not be forced to fund unethical research, just as we should not be forced to fund abortion,” said Wendy Wright, president of Concerned Women for America, noting that alternative forms of stem cell research are producing promising results for patients. “Science is catching up to ethics, proving that human beings should not be destroyed for science or to benefit another.”

With additional reporting by Baptist Press and Religion News Service

Three fallen firemen had ties to Southern Baptist churches

Charleston, S.C. (BP)—At least three of the nine Charleston firefighters killed June 18 in a furniture store blaze were connected with Southern Baptist churches in the area.

Capt. Billy Hutchinson, 48, was a member of Pinecrest Baptist Church in Charleston. A 30-year veteran of the fire department, Hutchinson also was a part-time barber. He is survived by his wife, Phyllis, and three children.

Engineer Brad Baity, 37, who drove the fire department’s big trucks, attended Charleston Baptist Church with his wife, Heather, a volunteer worker in the church’s preschool department. Their daughter, Mariah, 8, recently was baptized. They also have a son, Noah, 5.

Baity, an ex-Marine, was a “born-again Christian who knew the Lord,” said Pastor Jack Moore. He described Baity as a “very conscientious, topnotch firefighter who was studious in anything he did.”

Capt. Mike Benke, 49, and his wife, Kimberly, were members of Palmetto Community Church in Charleston. The church held a vigil for the 29-year veteran fireman June 19. In addition to his wife, Benke is survived by three children.

Edgar Boles, director of missions for Charleston Baptist Association, said many churches in the area have held special prayer services for the families of the victims of the fire, the nation’s worst loss of firefighters since the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, 2001.

Boles said some of the churches also have opened their doors to firefighters “as a place of solace, to be alone, to pray, whatever they need to do.” Pastors and church members also have visited fire stations to support firefighters grieving over the loss of their comrades.

As the flag-draped bodies were removed from the rubble, firefighters and police formed two lines and saluted and a local chaplain prayed over the victims, the Charleston Post and Courier reported. The fire marked the first time Charleston had lost a firefighter in the line of duty since 1965.

“Nine brave, heroic, courageous firefighters of the city of Charleston have perished in fighting fire in a most courageous and fearless manner, carrying out their duties,” Charleston Mayor Joe Riley said. “These people will never be forgotten.”

Fire Chief Rusty Thomas struggled to hold back tears as he told reporters he had just lost nine of his best friends who “did exactly what they were trained to do.”

The victims ranged in age from 27 to 56, and they had a combined 131 years of experience with the Charleston Fire Department.

State officials ordered flags lowered to half-staff, and a large American flag was draped over a sign near the front of the store. A makeshift memorial was growing onsite as people left flowers, balloons and signs, and a group of firefighters planted nine white crosses in the ground, the Post and Courier reported.

Legislators in two states endorse gay marriage

Albany, N.Y. (ABP)—Legislators in Massachusetts crushed an attempt to reverse that state’s stance on same-sex marriage June 14, while their counterparts in New York pursued efforts June 19 aimed at becoming the second state to legalize gay marriage.

Meeting in a joint session, the Massachusetts Senate and House voted 151-45 against a state constitutional amendment that would ban gay marriage in the state. The commonwealth became the first jurisdiction in the U.S. to legalize gay marriage in 2004, and it remains the only one to do so.

Massachusetts’ complicated system for getting a proposed constitutional amendment on the ballot

meant that opponents of gay marriage had to first gain hundreds of thousands of petition signatures. Then, the proposal had to gain at least 50 votes in two consecutive sessions of the legislature to appear before voters.

In January, 62 Massachusetts lawmakers voted to forward the proposed amendment. However, the latest session reacted to strong pressure from Gov. Deval Patrick (D), an outspoken supporter of gay rights.

The move means opponents of gay marriage in the state will have to wait until at least 2012 to get a proposal on the ballot that would ban the practice.

Meanwhile, in New York, members of the state assembly’s Judicial

Committee voted June 18 to advance a bill, introduced by Gov. Eliot Spitzer, that would legalize gay marriage in New York. The state assembly passed the measure the next day by an 85-61 margin.

However, the bill is expected to fail in the New York Senate, which is led by Republicans and whose majority leader is a vocal opponent of same-sex marriage.

A recent poll showed that New Yorkers are strongly divided on gay marriage, with 35 percent favoring it, 35 percent opposing full marriage rights for gays but supporting “civil unions” with rights identical to marriage, and 22 percent opposing any kind of civil recognition for same-sex relationships.

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Praying for summer camp

God answers camp staff's specific prayer requests

Camp is in full swing and many exciting changes are taking place, most significantly the change in eternal destination for many campers already has taken place. At the time of writing this, we have just finished our second full week of camp and God is teaching us many incredible truths about His nature every day.

While this might sound strange to say, over the past three months, we as a staff have learned a much deeper appreciation for praying very specifically for our requests and needs. In the past I have always thought that my prayer practice was specific, but nothing like what we have come to practice recently.

During the past weeks, we have been so specific as a staff in our prayers, that when our prayers are answered, a new and deeper meaning of God's sovereignty has captured our hearts.

One such example of specific prayers has been for Reagan Carfield—a program director at Cedar more. Reagan is living in Boone Lodge this summer and as you can imagine, gets countless knocks on

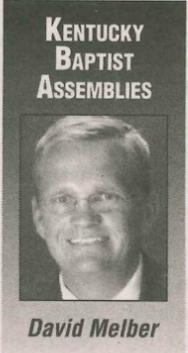
the door at all hours of the night.

Initially, we were praying for her to sleep, but we changed that request to pray that people would not knock on her door. We certainly want our guests to know that if we are needed, please call on us, so do not misinterpret that we don't want to be disturbed when needed.

After our specific prayers, Reagan has not been interrupted by knocks on the door. We have several other examples of specific prayers being answered on a weekly basis. What an amazing God we serve who does answer some very specific needs and requests.

I encourage each of you to be intentional and specific in your prayers. When God answers those, there is no mistake that He provided the answer.

I am thankful for the lives being changed as we continue with camp. Please pray specifically that students are safe and that students will accept Christ as Savior while they are at camp.



David Melber

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

Kudzu



Doug Marlette

For Heaven's Sake



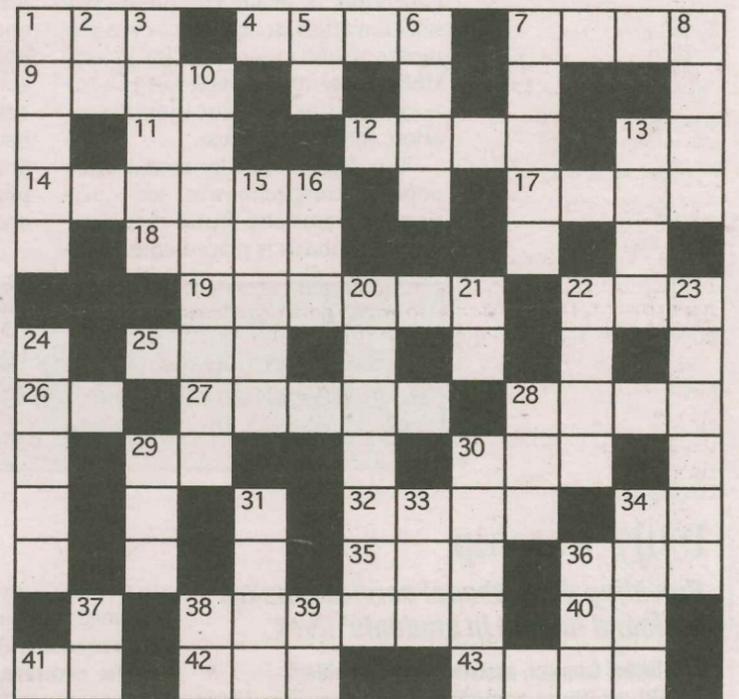
Mike Morgan

Bible Crosswords

By Michael Landi

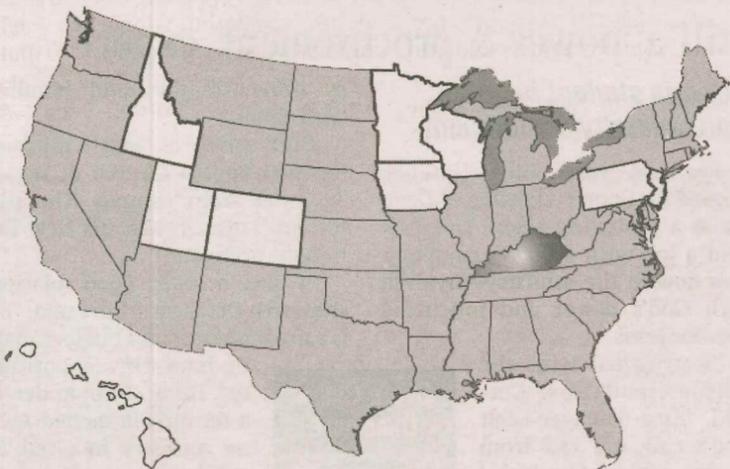
Across

- 1 "Away with such a fellow ..., for it is not ____ that he should live" (Acts 22:22)
- 4 "The joy of thy ____" (Matthew 25:21)
- 7 "Do thyself no ____" (Acts 16:28)
- 9 "A feast of wines on the ____" (Isaiah 25:6)
- 11 "Believe also in ____" (John 14:1)
- 12 "And sow wickedness, ____ the same" (Job 4:8)
- 13 "Called to be ____ apostle" (1 Corinthians 1:1)
- 14 A son of Benjamin (Genesis 46:21)
- 17 "Seeing he giveth to all ____" (Acts 17:25)
- 18 "Neither could any man ____ him" (Mark 5:4)
- 19 "His life a ____ for many" (Matthew 20:28)
- 22 "Hath the ____ of the Lord been revealed?" (John 12:38)
- 25 "Because Judas had the ____," (John 13:29)
- 26 "____, and do thou likewise" (Luke 10:37)
- 27 "Wash his feet with ____" (Luke 7:38)
- 28 "And stamp with thy foot, and say, ____" (Ezekiel 6:11)
- 29 "That where I am, there ye may ____" (John 14:3)
- 30 "Let him ____ the death" (Matthew 15:4)
- 32 "Whose shoes I am not worthy to ____" (Matthew 3:11)
- 34 "Be ye not as the horse, ____ as the mule" (Psalm 32:9)
- 35 "Do ye not therefore ____ because ye know not the scriptures?" (Mark 12:24)
- 36 "I ____ in Sion a chief corner stone" (1 Peter 2:6)
- 38 Blew trumpet before ark of God (1 Chronicles 15:24)
- 40 Preposition
- 41 Forefather of Jesus, El-mo-dam was the son of him (Luke 3:28)
- 42 "Simon ____-Jona" (Matthew 16:17)
- 43 11th letter of Hebrew alphabet



- 2 Same as, or that is, Lat. abbr.
- 3 "Thou shalt not ____ the Lord thy God" (Matthew 4:7)
- 5 "Whose ____ have I taken?" (1 Samuel 12:3)
- 6 "Mighty in ____ and word" (Luke 24:19)
- 7 "That they should seek the Lord, if ____ they might feel after him" (Acts 17:27)
- 8 "Is not ____ to give" (Mark 10:40)
- 10 "Who shall ____ us from the love of Christ?" (Romans 8:35)
- 13 "But having seen them ____ off" (Hebrews 11:13)
- 15 "Whose is this ____ and superscription?" (Matthew 22:20)
- 16 "Honour all ____" (1 Peter 2:17)
- 20 "The pen of the ____ is in vain" (Jeremiah 8:8)
- 21 First Gospel, abbr.
- 22 "Believe ye that I am ____ to do this?" (Matthew 9:28)
- 23 "Thou shalt forget thy ____" (Job 11:16)
- 24 "And being in an ____ he prayed more earnestly" (Luke 22:44)
- 28 "The prince of the power of the ____" (Ephesians 2:2)
- 29 "To ____ I am ashamed" (Luke 16:3)
- 30 Gold coin used in Palestine (Ezra 2:69 rsv & asv)
- 31 "The troops of ____ looked, the companies of Sheba waited for them" (Job 6:19)
- 33 Period of time
- 34 "Neither by any other ____" (James 5:12)
- 36 "Lot is cast into the ____" (Proverbs 16:33)
- 37 Greek, abbr.
- 38 Hebrew 5th month
- 39 "Pass over through ____, the coast of Moab" (Deuteronomy 2:18)

Our mission doesn't end at the state line

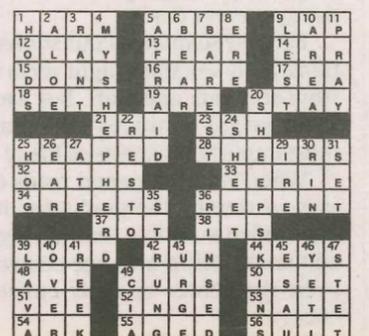


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Last week's solution



Government study cites flaws in sex education programs

To read the full Health and Human Services study and the National Abstinence Education Association report, visit www.abstinenceassociation.org.

By Erin Roach
Baptist Press

Washington (BP)—Comprehensive sex-education classes taught in public schools across the nation contain medical inaccuracies, present information in an amoral way, and do not delay the onset of sexual activity among youth, according to a study released by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

The study, released June 12, came just two days before the full House Appropriations Committee was scheduled to vote on abstinence education funding. But in a move affirmed by abstinence education supporters, the vote has been postponed until after the July 4 recess.

Combating "misinformation"

"I think that it's really good that we have some additional time to educate both members of Congress and the American public in general because—as we've communicated before—there's so much misinformation about what abstinence education is, what comprehensive sex education is, and what even the new term abstinence plus is," Valerie Huber, executive director of the National Abstinence Education Association, told Baptist Press.

The HHS study reviewed nine popular comprehensive sex-education programs and found that hardly any emphasis is placed on true ab-

stinence from sexual activity. The focus, rather, is on contraception and ways to lessen the risks associated with sexual behavior.

"Of the curricula reviewed, the curriculum with the most balanced discussion of abstinence and safer-sex still discussed condoms and contraception nearly seven times more than abstinence," the study, requested in 2005 by Republican Senators Rick Santorum of Pennsylvania and Tom Coburn of Oklahoma, found.

The appropriations committee was expected to consider a bill that would increase the largest federal funding stream for abstinence education, the Community Based Abstinence Education Program, to \$141 million per year.

Meanwhile, the House Energy and Commerce Committee is allowing another funding stream, Title V, to expire June 30 after the committee's chairman, Rep. John Dingell, D-Mich., called abstinence education "a colossal failure."

In a report similar to the one released by the Department of Health and Human Services, the National Abstinence Education Association asserted that in recent years comprehensive sex education proponents have tried to "rebrand" their programs by calling them "abstinence plus," even though the programs seldom promote abstinence.

"Americans, particularly parents,

need to closely examine what their children are receiving under the guise of 'comprehensive' or 'abstinence plus' sex education. Most will be appalled," said the NAEA report, titled "Straight from the Source" and released this month on the association's Web site.

In addition to ignoring the risks for sexually transmitted diseases, the comprehensive curricula also dismiss the emotional effect of sexual activity on teens, especially girls, NAEA said.

Competing approaches

Comprehensive sex education "is entirely different from abstinence education, and this fact must be made clear," the NAEA report said. "Sex education programs hide behind a façade of 'abstinence' because of the overwhelming support for this approach. Abstinence pro-

grams teach abstinence and sex education programs teach sex."

A Zogby poll this year found that parents prefer abstinence education over comprehensive education by a 2 to 1 margin, and parents want more funding given to abstinence education than to comprehensive sex education by a 3 to 1 margin. The overwhelming majority of parents surveyed said they want their teens to be sexually abstinent until they are married.

In Georgia, officials recently announced new figures showing a consistent and dramatic drop in teen pregnancy rates during the past 11 years since the institution of abstinence education in the state.

"There are so many pressures facing our nation's youth today," said Sen. Saxby Chambliss, R-Ga. "I believe abstinence education is a necessary investment in their future."

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Daily worship

Providing daily chapel services makes profound impact in students' lives

By Michael Spencer, assistant to the president.

OBI attempts something that very few Christian schools try to do: provide a chapel service for students and teachers every day of the school year.

I attended two Christian colleges. One did not require chapel at all. The other required 12 chapels a semester. You could attend fewer than that and still receive a grade.

When I was in seminary, chapel was held three times a week, and one of those was required. I'm sure various schools have chapel in whatever way works with their goals and values.

Other Christian secondary schools usually have chapel weekly. When our fellow educators hear that Oneida has daily chapel, they are generally intrigued. How do we do it?

Daily chapel has a long history at OBI. Even when chapel was held in the gym, daily worship was a priority. Recently, while our worship center carpet was being replaced, we once again met in the gym every day.

Because so many of our students are not Christians, daily worship might seem to be asking a lot from students and staff, but each year at graduation we are reminded that chapel is one of the most important aspects of life at OBI.

When Dr. Underwood reads excerpts from essays written by the graduates, it is obvious that our students realize that having worship, prayer and an uplifting message centered on Christ has been the center of their entire Oneida experience.

Worship at OBI expresses our need for God to

sustain us. It helps all of us to stop and pray for the needs of students and staff, including for traveling mercies, and to thank God for our friends.

The reverent time reminds faculty and staff that, as important as school is, it is not the most important element of the life we want for our students.

One of the reasons we can have daily worship is the team of preachers and worship leaders that work together every school day and Sunday.

Many of our staff preach once or twice a year; several others carry the majority of the preaching responsibility.

I could mention the names of these fellow staff members, but it is enough to say that we are tremendously blessed with people who have a vision for biblical preaching, heartfelt worship and ministry to the lost, and those who know Christ.

Many folks are surprised that OBI takes responsibility for Sunday worship as well. We recently took responsibility for all worship on the weekends, which allows our local church to concentrate on ministry to the staff and community.

If you visit Oneida, stop in our chapel at 11 a.m. any weekday for daily worship. Better yet, call ahead to arrange a tour by phoning Missy Nichols at (606) 847-4111, ext. 248. We would love to have you join us.

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



W.F. Underwood

Still a 'power & procurement' expert

Georgia student benefits from ministry assignment

For two years Curt Harbuck worked for Cooper Lighting of Georgia as a procuring agent. Later, he held a job with a power company. He's now in the ministry—involved with God's power and procuring lives for Jesus.

"I struggled with the call for several years," Curt said. "As a teenager I felt God's call and ran from it. For several Sundays I felt God pointing to me and saying, 'This is what I want you to do.' One Sunday I responded, 'Whatever it is, Lord.' We've had some hard times since then, but He's enabled us to face those times."

The recommendation to attend Clear Creek came from their pastor in Americus, Ga., alumnus Houston Berry. "He told us how fast it would go," Curt said. "We've enjoyed our time, especially the close relationship with faculty and staff."

Curt and Leah are living through the challenge of parenting two teenagers, Gabriel, 14, and Davey, 13. "They have adjusted well here," Curt said. "When we leave Georgia now they say we're going home. It was tough at first to see my son and his granddad part; they were very close. We've been helped so much

by other families and bonding with them."

Curt serves as youth minister for First Baptist Church of Loyall, 32 miles from campus. The pastor, Roy Lucas, is also his New Testament professor.

"I have a really good relationship with Dr. Lucas," Curt said. "He is a great mentor and I'm fortunate

to have this opportunity." He is commander of a recently-launched Awana ministry involved 35 children.

He is seeing youth in his group maturing in their faith following a mid-year camp in Gatlinburg, Tenn.

Plans are under way for this summer's vacation Bible school.

"My wife is side-by-side with me," Curt stressed. "When I surrendered to the call in 2003, it was some adjustment for her. I credit her more than any other for praying for me to do God's will."



Donnie Fox

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

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Commission decries Pakistan's abuse of blasphemy laws

By Jennifer Thurman
Baptist Press

Washington (BP)—Persecution of Christians and other religious minorities in Pakistan is generating increased concern from the U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom.

A recent news release from the USCIRF expressed outrage over the Islamic country's abuse of its blasphemy laws, which implement punishments, including death, to any person who defiles the name of Muhammad. Pakistan is perpetually cited for its poor track record in upholding religious autonomy.

"Pakistan's blasphemy laws are inherently arbitrary, and they de facto restrict freedom of speech and other freedoms guaranteed by international human rights norms," said Commission Chair Felice Gaer in the written statement. "These insidious laws lend themselves to misuse and abuse, resulting frequently in severe violations of freedom of religion or belief in Pakistan."

Younis Masih, a 29-year-old Christian Pakistani, reportedly was a victim of his country's manipulation of the blasphemy laws. According to the USCIRF news release, Masih asked that a noisy group of Mus-

lims remain quiet around his home in September 2005 after his nephew had died and his family was in mourning.

Angered by Masih's request, the group of Muslims accused him of insulting the Islamic religion, which signifies blasphemy under Pakistani law, USCIRF reported. The situation sparked repeated attacks on other homes in the area that belonged to Christians, and Masih and his wife were beaten during the attacks. Masih has been imprisoned for nearly two years and was sentenced to death May 30.

Due process ignored

The USCIRF cited Masih's case as one of many in which due process is ignored. Pakistani laws passed in October 2004 declare that only a senior police official can bring an indictment against a Pakistani accused of blasphemy. However, the release noted, this requirement is not consistently followed.

"In fact, the case against Younis Masih demonstrates that the officially required new procedures are not even heeded," Gaer said.

As a result, a blasphemy indictment can be placed on an individual without any evidence or proof of

intent, USCIRF says. There is no penalty for bringing a false allegation, meaning that extremists often use the blasphemy laws to threaten religious minorities such as Christians and Hindus.

In addition, trials for Pakistanis accused of violating the blasphemy laws are often chaotic. Records show the accused are attacked and sometimes killed by vigilantes while awaiting trial. Pakistanis who receive an acquittal at trial often are forced to flee the country because of threats from vigilantes.

Pakistan gained international backing for its blasphemy laws in March by successfully presenting a resolution at the United Nations Human Rights Council in Geneva that supports drastic measures to "halt the defamation of religions."

USCIRF officials noted that although these measures are implemented in the name of religious tolerance, they "routinely criminalize and prosecute what is deemed—often capriciously by local officials in countries where such laws exist—to be 'offensive' or 'unacceptable' speech about a particular religion."

A current draft bill before Pakistan's National Assembly would enforce the death penalty for individu-

als accused of apostasy by converting from Islam to any other religion. The bill states that testimony from two or more adults is sufficient evidence to impose the death sentence.

Human rights violation

"This proposed bill would violate human rights standards because it would criminalize an internationally protected right," Gaer said. "Every effort should be made by the government of Pakistan to ensure that such repressive legislation is not passed."

The USCIRF has requested that the U.S. government urge Pakistan to implement policy changes to the blasphemy laws, such as requiring an investigation of death threats and full due process during trial.

The USCIRF also is encouraging the U.S. government to press Pakistan to withdraw the draft bill on apostasy.

"The commission calls on the U.S. government forcefully to raise all of these serious religious freedom concerns promptly with the government of Pakistan," Gaer said. "These repressive measures exacerbate religious tensions rather than advance freedom of religion, and have no place in a country that claims to respect rights."

Palestinian police again seize Baptist church in Gaza during unrest

By Marlon Millner
Associated Baptist Press

Gaza City, Palestine (ABP)—Palestinian police have seized a Baptist church in the Gaza Strip for the second time in recent months, the church's pastor reported June 15.

Hanna Massad, pastor of Gaza Baptist Church, said Gaza's Baptists are safe despite turmoil in the area, which led to the militant Hamas party virtually taking over the thin strip of land on Israel's southwestern edge. The area has more than 1.2 million people, many of whom live in refugee camps.

"In the last few days, the Palestinian Authority Police took our church building as a watching point," Massad wrote in an e-mail. He said the church attempted to deny the police request to take the building, but officers broke in. Massad later discovered that a computer and other equipment, valued at about \$4,000, had been taken.

He also said he had to stop an evening worship service on June 10 due to shooting nearby. The apartment of a church member was bombed as well, slightly injuring the person, Massad said.

Christians in the Gaza part of Palestine have endured continued persecution during the recent escalation of violence between Hamas and its more moderate rival party, Fatah. Fatah and its head, Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas, have the support of the U.S.

However, Hamas received a majority of seats in the Palestinian Parliament during elections in 2006. The two factions have been fighting ever since, with the conflict recently escalating and Hamas forces displacing Abbas from his Gaza City offices. He had fled to the

West Bank, the other part of Palestine on the east side of Israel.

Despite the circumstances, Massad said, his church continues to "experience the power of God's presence, His peace and love."

Massad, a native Palestinian, has been pastor of Gaza Baptist Church since 1987. He was ordained at Fuller Theological Seminary in Pasadena, Calif., and served at First Baptist Church of Azusa, Calif. He returned to Gaza in 1999. He receives support from International Ministries of the American Baptist Churches USA.



Kentucky Baptist Secretaries Association

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For registration packet, call 270-726-2392 before June 29. For more information, call the Church Development Team at 502-489-3571 or 866-489-3571 (toll free in KY).

Anti-Muslim bias escalated in U.S. in 2006, group claims

Washington (ABP)—Complaints of anti-Muslim bias in the United States shot up by 25 percent in 2006 compared to the previous year, according to an annual report by an Islamic civil rights group.

The annual report of the Council on American-Islamic Relations was released June 14. Titled "Presumption of Guilt: The Status of Muslim Civil Rights in the United States," it said government acts accounted for much of the increase in reports of discrimination and bias.

The report, compiled annually since 1996, said the council processed 2,467 bias complaints in 2006. That's an increase of more than 25 percent over the 2005 figure of 1,972.

The number of anti-Muslim hate crime complaints in 2006 increased to 167 from 153 the previous year.

The highest proportion of complaints—36 percent of the total—came from Muslims who claimed they had experienced discrimination at the hands of a government agency. That's a significant increase over the government agency proportion of total complaints for each of the previous two years. Alleged bias at the hands of government agencies accounted for 19 percent of the complaints in 2004 and 2005, according to CAIR.

However, the report noted, the proportion of anti-Muslim bias complaints arising in workplaces decreased significantly in 2006. While workplace complaints from Muslim constituted more than 25 percent of the total in 2005, that percentage was down to less than 16 percent in 2006.

PRAYER PARTNERS

Please pray for the following Kentucky Baptist ministries and missionaries:

Aftercare C.E.O. (Churches Embracing Others) of Livingston County in Grand Rivers. Nancy Ettinger of Lake City Baptist Church and others have developed a ministry to help people recently released from jail or prison to find or restore fellowship with Jesus Christ and the church body. Two mentors from local churches are teamed with each parolee who has agreed to participate in weekly mentoring sessions and worship services. Pray that more churches will open their doors to parolees who have a desire to make a life change. Pray that Aftercare C.E.O. members will be sensitive to the guidance of the Holy Spirit and bold in their witness of Christ.

Mission Service Corps Missionary Eleanor Bowers of Louisville. Bowers serves as a food pantry worker, preparing and distributing food through Walnut Street Christian Social Ministries in the inner city. Bowers shares the message of Christ with the needy families she gives food to. Pray that she will show the love of Jesus to every client she serves. Pray that clients who are searching for employment will be successful in finding work.

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

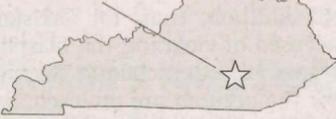
MOUNTAINS TO THE MISSISSIPPI

COMPILED BY STAFF

■ **CADIZ**—Liberty Point Church recently called **Mike Gorman** as minister of music.
 ■ **GRAVEL SWITCH**—Beech Fork Church will hold revival services July 9-12, 7 p.m. **Lee Arnold** is pastor.
 ■ **HARRODSBURG**—**Robert DeFoor**, pastor of Harrodsburg Church, has announced his retirement effective July 31.
 ■ **LOUISVILLE**—Maple Grove Church is coordinating a citywide **"777 Pray Louisville"** event July 7. The goal is to have every street in Louisville covered in prayer through community prayerwalks. Participants will gather at Cox's Park at 5 p.m. for worship. For more information, call (502) 964-0808.
 ■ **MIDDLESBORO**—East Cumberland Avenue Church recently called **Mitch Bradshaw** as pastor.
 ■ **MOREHEAD**—First Church recently honored **Don Mantooth** for 25 years

Spotlight on ...

London



Corinth Church will host a **"Calling America Back to God"** Crusades for Christ Bible Conference Aug. 1-3. For more information, call (606) 864-5440. **James Blaylock** is pastor.

of ministry as pastor.

■ **SHELBYVILLE**—First Church will host an Aloha Concert July 18, 7:30 p.m., featuring **Randy and Gay Hongo** and **Master's Touch**, a hula team from Olivet Baptist Church in Honolulu. For more information, call (502) 633-1317.

LifeWay announces 2008 VBS themes

Nashville (BP)—For those who like plenty of time to plan ahead, vacation Bible School options for 2008 were introduced during the recent Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting in San Antonio.

The main VBS line from LifeWay Christian Resources, "Outrigger Island: Living God's Unshakable Truth," will take children, youth and adults to "Outrigger Island" where they will learn to know, speak and live God's truth. Based on Psalm 86:11—"Teach me Your way, Lord, and I will live by Your truth"—the tropical adventure is designed to help participants develop the stability they need to become unshakeable

in a world of shifting sands.

In "Club VBS: Cactus Canyon," kids will saddle up and hit the trail to learn about the good news in John 3:16—"For God loved the world in this way: He gave His One and Only Son, so that everyone who believes in Him will not perish but have eternal life"—and how they can tell family, friends and people around the world about Jesus.

LifeWay will launch www.lifeway.com/vbs Aug. 15 to offer additional information and resources related to both VBS lines. The complete curricula will go on sale Dec. 1. Selected Outrigger Island promotional materials will be available Oct. 1.



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

June

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.

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



DIRECTORS OF MISSIONS OFFICERS Newly installed officers for the Southern Baptist Conference of Associational Directors of Missions are (from left) **Russell Cook**, director of missions for Pottawatomie-Lincoln Baptist Association in Oklahoma, president; **Wesley Pitts**, director of missions for Long Run Baptist Association in Louisville, first vice president; and immediate past president **Tom Biles**, director of missions for Tampa Bay Baptist Association, who will serve on the association's executive committee. Not pictured is **Ron Davis** of Greenville (S.C.) Baptist Association who was elected second vice president.

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.reunion.house.org.

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@fbhodgenville.org.

SEEKING: Pastor. Beaver Dam Baptist Church in Beaver Dam, Ky., is actively seeking the pastor whom God has chosen to lead us into the future. We are a multi-generational congregation with a strong foundation of more than 200 years of ministry. The church is located in a small, western Kentucky town. Drawing people from several communities, we have an average attendance of 350 to 450 in Sunday morning service. Beaver Dam Baptist Church has a tradition of outstanding music, a strong youth program and a thriving Christian education program. Our church upholds the priesthood of the believer and has reaffirmed our acceptance of the 1963 Baptist Faith and Message. Please send resumé to: BDBC Pastor Search Committee, PO Box 341, Beaver Dam, KY 42320.

SEEKING: SBC seminary-trained children's specialist (preschool-5th grade). Prefer individual with previous successful church experience. Send resumé, references and photo to: Preschool/Children's Search, Hixson First Baptist, 5800 Grubb Road, Hixson, TN 37343. (423) 877-2467.

SEEKING: Full-time associate pastor for discipleship ministries for Bon Air Baptist Church, Richmond, Va. The church has an average Sunday attendance of 1,800. The discipleship ministry is developed, organized and directed as part of an intentional strategy for both spiritual and numerical growth of the church family and surrounding community. The associate pastor will think creatively, positively motivate members and non-members, and utilize traditional and innovative means to effectively reach, disciple and minister to all age groups. Candidates will have experience consistent with the mission of the church which includes member mobilization, multi-ethnic mentality, mature members, missions mindset and multi-site movement. A bachelor's degree is required and a seminary degree with at least five years relevant experience is preferred. Visit www.bonairbaptist.org for additional details. Send resumé with cover letter to: apdmsearchteam@bonairbaptist.org.

SEEKING: Part-time worship pastor (20-30 hours). Bachelor's degree in music or related degree from accredited institution. Submit resumé: Rosemont Baptist Church, 556 Rosemont Garden, Lexington, KY 40503.

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: 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 Oak Grove Baptist Church. Send resumé to Pauline Crump, 2175 Old Canton Pike, Cadiz, KY 42211.

SEEKING: Part-time music minister in Madisonville. Send to Grapevine Baptist Church, 85 Sandcut Road, Madisonville, KY 42431; or e-mail inquiries to jgifford@cbnstl.com.

SEEKING: Full-time minister of preschool/children. Submit resumé to: Central Baptist Church, 101 W Lexington Avenue, Winchester, KY 40391, Attn: Dennis; or denniscb@bellsouth.net.

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: 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.

WANTED: Church van for new church plant in small, eastern Kentucky town. Call pastor at (606) 793-1179.

Witty, theological education pioneer, dies at age 100

Jacksonville, Fla. (BP)—Robert Gee Witty, a pioneer in the development of non-residential theological education and doctor of ministry studies, died June 20 at age 100 in a Jacksonville, Fla., hospice.

Witty, in 1962, was the founder of Luther Rice Seminary in Jacksonville, Fla., which relocated in 1991 to Lithonia, Ga., and last year became Luther Rice University.

Witty, who was in the ministry 86 years according to family members, served as Luther Rice Seminary's president from 1968-82 and chancellor until 1987. At the time of the seminary's founding, he was pastor of Jacksonville's Central Baptist Church, which he led from 1943-70. He also led churches in St. Petersburg and Davenport, Fla.

Over the years, Luther Rice has recorded an estimated 5,000 graduates. Currently, the university has 1,100 students (400 undergraduate, 700 graduate), 450 of whom are at the Atlanta-area campus.

He was born on Oct. 6, 1906, in Glasgow, Ky. Last year on Oct. 8, his church, Mandarin Baptist Church in Jacksonville, celebrated his 100th birthday with a special Sunday worship service.

Al Mohler, president of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville and president of the SBC Council of Seminary Presidents, described Witty as "a great Christian leader, a passionate Christian educator and one of the great innovative minds of his generation."

Mohler said Witty was "a man ahead of his time. ... His vision of taking educational programs to the people set the pattern for the radical expansion of educational opportunity in the United States. Long before the secular world had caught sight of this vision, Dr. Witty was already doing it."

"He leaves a lasting impact on Baptist education and Baptist churches," Mohler added, "but most importantly in the lives of so many he taught and served and led."

Witty was the author of several books, including "Power for the Church," "Help Yourself to Happiness," "Signs of the Second Coming" and "Church Visitation, Theory and Practice."

In addition to earning a Ph.D. from the University of Florida and a doctor of theology degree from Burton Seminary in Vermont, family members said Witty also had earned degrees from Princeton Theological Seminary, Asbury Theological Seminary, Willamette University and Campbell School of Theology.



Robert Witty

Dragster tragedy prompts ministry response

By Lonnie Wilkey
Tennessee Baptist & Reflector

Selmer, Tenn. (BP)—When a drag racing car slammed into a crowd of people who had lined the street for a parade in southwest Tennessee June 16, leaving six spectators dead, several Baptist ministers quickly were on the scene and at the local hospital.

The tragedy occurred during the Cars for Kids Car Show, an annual charity event in Selmer which draws thousands of people.

At least two of those killed were members of Tennessee Baptist churches—Brook Pope, 20, of Lakeview Baptist Church in Selmer and a student at Blue Mountain College in Mississippi, and Scarlett Replogle, 15, of West Jackson Baptist Church in Jackson, reported Blake Carroll, a Southern Baptist evangelist and chaplain for the McNairy County Sheriff's Department.

According to a report in the Jackson Sun, a professional driver was performing an exhibition burnout (spinning his tires to make them heat up and smoke) when his car went out of control.

The car was a National Hot Rod Association-approved race car driven by Troy Warren Critchley of Wylie, Texas, the newspaper reported.

Chaplains mobilize response

Carroll had taken his family to a carnival held in conjunction with the car show when he learned about the accident.

Sheriff Ricky Roten informed Carroll about the accident and encouraged him to go to McNairy Regional Hospital.

"At that time I did not know the extent of the tragedy," Carroll said. "I

did know there had been fatalities." When he arrived at the hospital, Carroll said the parking lot "looked like a mall at Christmas. People were everywhere."

Other ministers of various denominations, including at least six Tennessee Baptist ministers, began to arrive, immediately ministering to and praying with families affected by the tragedy, Carroll said.

Phil Mitchell, pastor of First Baptist Church of Adamsville, and a volunteer chaplain at the hospital, was called to the hospital by a church member who is a nurse there.

"I had never seen anything like it," Mitchell said. "Seminary does not prepare you for a time like this."

Mitchell said he accompanied a father to view the body of his 15-year-old daughter who had been killed. "He told me she had been saved," he noted. "That was bringing him great peace and hope."

Mitchell said he ministered to patients and families in the emergency room. He recalled walking by a man lying on a stretcher and seeing a nurse just holding his hand.

"Sometimes a touch is the best thing we can do," he added.

"People were not only injured, they were scared," Mitchell said. Many people did not have family members with them and some of the patients initially were unidentified.

Carroll noted that many of the people at the hospital were in shock. He told of one girl who suffered minor injuries and was released from the hospital, but then sat down on the steps and began weeping.

"I knelt beside her and asked if I could pray for her," he recalled.

IMB missionary fulfills grandparents' ministry goal

By Shawn Hendricks
Baptist Press

Richmond, Va. (BP)—After committing his life to missions in Mozambique, Brian Harrell learned that his grandparents also had a heart for the African country.

In 1941, however, a German warship sank his grandparents' plans to serve there as missionaries.

Harrell, a third-generation missionary, and his wife, Becky, were appointed to Mozambique in 2004 by the Southern Baptist International Mission Board. Before leaving for the field, he discovered that his grandparents, Irl and Florence McAllister, had planned to serve there with the Evangelical Alliance Mission. German forces and bad timing, though, kept that from happening.

His grandmother told him, "You will go for us," Harrell recalled.

"It was just a confirmation for us that our grandparents had tried to get in, (and) two generations later God is sending her grandson."

It was just before the United States entered World War II, and the McAllisters were aboard a ship with more than 200 passengers—many of whom, like them, were missionaries—headed for Africa. However, a German warship attacked their ship, firing 55 shells from more than three miles away.

Nine shells hit the vessel—more than enough to send it to the bottom of the South Atlantic.

Everyone aboard survived the attack but was taken captive by German forces. The McAllisters and the other Americans spent a month on a German supply ship before being released in France. Several passengers were sent to internment camps where many stayed for the duration of the war.

After returning to the U.S., the McAllisters still planned to go to Mozambique, but the country soon closed its borders. Instead, the couple ended up serving for years in South Africa. Harrell's parents, Al and Kathy, also served as missionaries for the same mission organization in Cape Town, South Africa.

Brian admits that after living in Africa with his parents most of his life, he had no desire to be a missionary when he returned to the U.S. But that changed during his college years when he gave up his own "selfish ambitions" and accepted God's calling.

When he and Becky married, they began looking for a place "on the edge" where there was no missionary presence.

Shortly after he and his wife announced they were going to Mozambique, Harrell's grandmother shared with him the full story of how she and his grandfather, who had died several years before, attempted to make the journey. Although he had heard the story of "the sinking" before, Harrell has never known exact-

ly where his grandparents had been headed.

Three weeks later, Harrell's grandmother died.

"I thought it was neat that she got to see the end of that story," he said. "I think for me it was just the realization of the legacy that we were a part of and the grand plan that God had for us that we hadn't seen."

The Harrells and their three children have spent nearly three years on the mission field. They continue their work among a Muslim people group with a population of 500,000 that has little evangelical presence.

Carroll, who was interviewed by national media following the tragedy, said a reporter from CNN asked him how a person ministers in a situation like this.

"I told him that all you can do is to put your arms around the people, tell them that God loves them, and that there is hope and encouragement through Jesus Christ," Carroll said.

"Sharing God's mercy and grace" Pastor Greg Gaddis of First Baptist Church of Selmer, who has been through crisis intervention training, said, "I don't think anything can prepare you for this kind of trauma. You pray that God will use you as an instrument of His mercy and grace to individuals in a time like this."

Gaddis noted that all the ministers worked well together in praying with people or helping them get information about their loved ones. All the injured taken to the hospital were released or transported to other hospitals in Jackson, Memphis or Nashville, Carroll added.

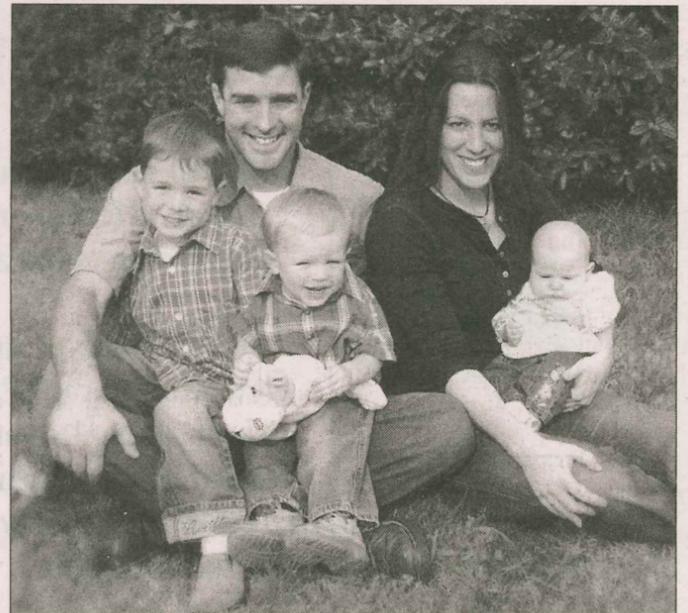
The community remains in shock, he said, because numerous individuals and families have been affected in addition to those injured and killed.

"The streets were lined with hundreds of people," Carroll said. "This accident will be forever etched in their minds and will probably affect them for the rest of their lives."

Carroll said he and Don Harold Lawrence, a Methodist minister and grief counselor for Shackelford Funeral Directors, will conduct a support group session on June 28 at the McNairy County Justice Complex for people affected by the tragedy.

"I don't think anything can prepare you for this kind of trauma."

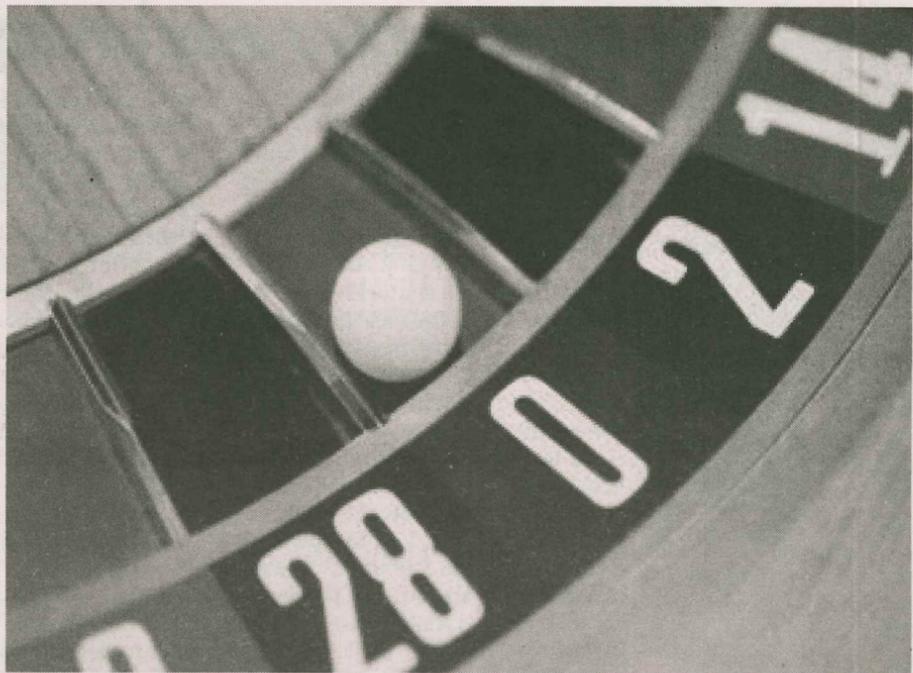
Greg Gaddis, pastor of First Baptist Church of Selmer, Tenn.



ANSWERING THE CALL
IMB missionaries Brian and Becky Harrell, with their three children, serve in Mozambique among an unreached people group. (BP photo)

Kentucky League on Alcohol & Gambling Problems

2722 Crittenden Drive
Louisville, KY 40209
(502) 635-0002
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Words from the President:

The Kentucky League on Alcohol and Gambling Problems is very concerned and active in the areas of alcohol and gambling. We have faced the issue for several years. We will face it again in the 2008 session of the Legislature. It is already an issue in the Governor's election this year. Many people think that more gambling is the answer that will solve our states revenue problem. More gambling will mean more money going out of local economies. The costs to the state will be more than it produces.

Alcohol continues to be a problem that faces all of our communities. According to Kentucky State Police reports there were 7,971 total collisions in the state involving Drugs and Alcohol in 2005. There were 244 fatal collisions, 3,060 injury collisions. Preliminary statistics for 2007 indicate that 18 people died in 16 separate crashes on Kentucky's roadways from Monday, Apr. 2 through Sunday April 8. Three of the crashes involved the suspected use of alcohol. When you add up the costs for medical treatment, property loss, loss of work, increase in all of our insurance premiums, loss of a husband, wife or child to being useful citizens the costs become very great.

Issues facing our local communities.



Many of our communities are facing the issue of allowing Sunday sales of alcohol. The City Council of Richmond defeated Sunday sales. Thanks to a large number of concerned citizens voicing opposition at the council meeting considering the vote.

The best study of the affects of Sunday sales comes from a study of New Mexico statistics. New Mexico repealed the ban on Sunday sales of alcohol. That was followed by a 29 percent rise in alcohol related crashes on Sunday and a 42 percent increase in alcohol related deaths on Sunday. During a five year period there were 543 more alcohol related crashes and 42 deaths on Sunday than in the five years prior to the repeal. Published online by American Journal of Public Health.



Now that HB 138 is law many of our smaller communities will face a vote on selling alcohol in restaurants that seat 50 or more. Citizens need to stay informed on issues facing the city councils, and actions of county governments. Sometimes these issues are voted on without citizens being aware that is happening.

State Senator, Jack Westwood, District #23 made the following statement. "Until the righteous voters demand righteous leadership, the unrighteous politicians will decide important legislative issues— with frightening consequences."