



WESTERN RECORDER

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Gallup Poll finds trust in organized religion slips to near-record low

New York (RNS)—Americans trust the military and the police force significantly more than the church and organized religion, a new Gallup Poll says. Only 46 percent of respondents said they had either a "great deal" or "quite a lot" of confidence in the church, compared with 69 percent who said they trusted the military and 54 percent who trust police officers.

The figures are among the lowest for institutionalized religion in the three and a half decades that Gallup has conducted the poll. Peaking at 68 percent in May 1975, the numbers bottomed out at 45 percent in June of 2003.

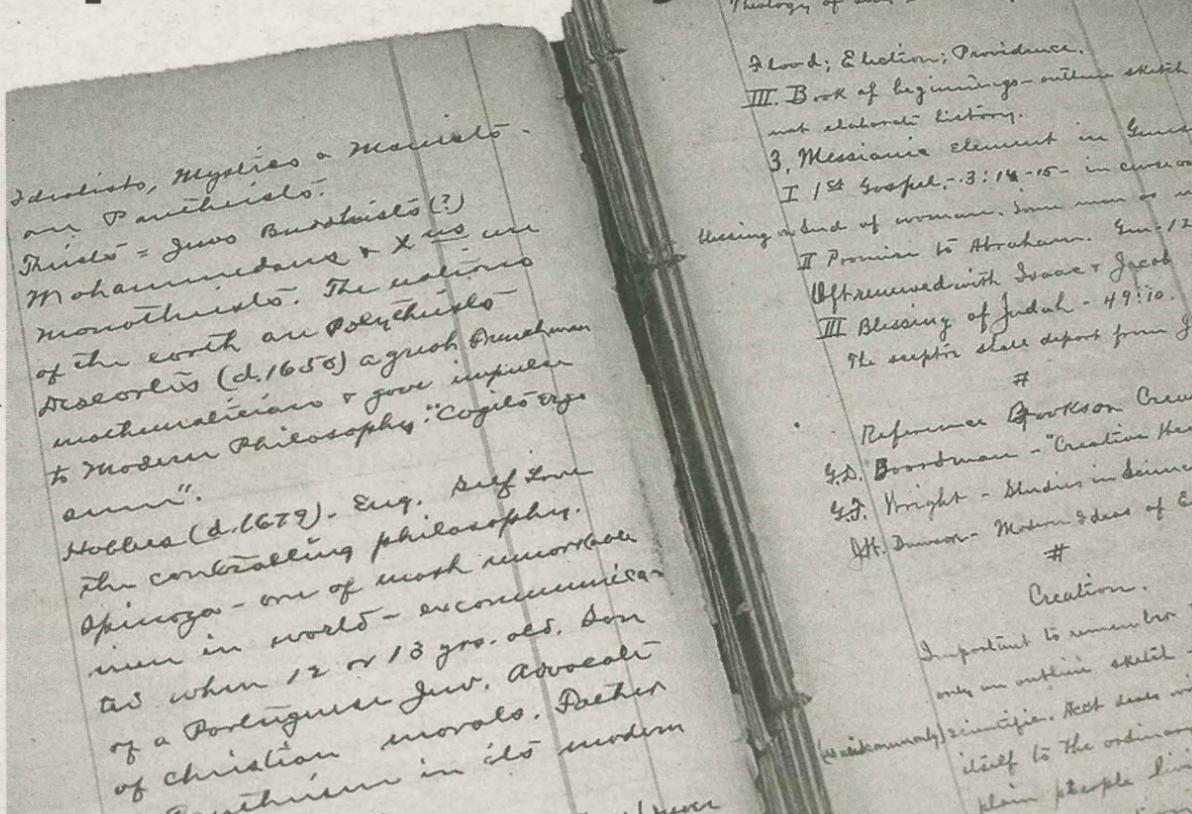
But while confidence is waning for organized religion, the numbers are even bleaker for other American institutions. Just 25 percent expressed confidence in the presidency, while a mere 14 percent say they trust Congress.

Other findings suggest the nation is focused more on political issues than morality issues.

In the monthly pulse-check poll, Gallup asked Americans what they believed was the most important problem facing the country. An overwhelming 34 percent cited the war in Iraq, followed by illegal immigration at 15 percent. The nation's religious and moral decline was fifth, with 6 percent.

The poll was conducted by telephone from June 14-17. The margin of error is 3 percentage points.

A piece of history



Harvey Boyce Taylor, former pastor of First Baptist Church of Murray, recorded his thoughts and notes in this journal—dating back to 1895—recently presented to the Kentucky Baptist Convention. Taylor was instrumental in envisioning the Cooperative Program. "He played such a key role in the life of Kentucky Baptists and our history," said Steve Thompson, assistant executive director for the KBC. (Photo by Tommy Dillard/Murray Ledger & Times)

Journals reveal thoughts, notes of key Kentucky Baptist figure

By Drew Nichter
News Director

Murray—Outside of the Kentucky Baptist Convention executive offices, the rough draft of a historical timeline is taking shape on the hallway wall. Once completed, it will contain images highlighting important moments and people in the history of Kentucky Baptist life.

One of the few individual portraits visitors will see in that timeline is of Harvey Boyce Taylor. And next to his photo, you may soon see a journal once used by the man who

planted the seed for the Cooperative Program.

On July 2, the KBC received one of two journals that belonged to Taylor. The century-old notebooks had been in the possession of Murray resident Wayne Horton's family for nearly 40 years.

After conversations with Tim Cole, director of missions for Blood River Baptist Association in western Kentucky, Horton donated one of the journals to the KBC.

"I've been looking for the last couple of years for a home for them,"

said Horton who owns a locksmith shop in Murray. "Then we met Tim Cole."

Knowing of Taylor's importance in Kentucky Baptist history, Cole jumped at the chance to find a home for the journals.

"I said, 'I guarantee you if you put them in my hands, I'll take care of that,'" Cole declared.

Dated 1895, the journal the KBC received is described by Cole as notes Taylor kept for a home Bible study. While the book may not contain any

See Taylor journals offer ... Page 3

Former translator working hard to strengthen Tanzanian Baptists

By Kristie Randolph
Kentucky Baptist Convention

Louisville—The man who once served as a translator for Kentucky Baptists is now serving as the executive secretary for the Baptist Convention of Tanzania, thanks in part to Kentucky Baptists and their giving through the Cooperative Program.

Moses Mboya, a Tanzania native and translator, first met Kentucky Baptists during a 1999-2001 KBC partnership with the BCT.

The relationship grew quickly when an International Mission Board missionary recommended Mboya for studies in the United States. The KBC joined Georgetown College in sponsoring Mboya, and Georgetown Baptist Church committed to provide care and financial support to the family.

One year after returning to Tan-

zania, the BCT elected Mboya as executive secretary.

"We went back to Tanzania because of our promise to God and to our sponsors," Mboya said. "We said, 'If God gives us the opportunity to learn, we will go back to Tanzania and serve in whatever field He chooses.'"

Mboya is now working hard to strengthen the struggling convention and bring unity to its 1,246 churches. He recently returned to Kentucky with fellow BCT officers for two weeks of leadership training at the KBC, June 19-27.

"We knew we had to change the direction of the convention, but we were starting from scratch," said Mboya, who is seeking to bring organizational structure to the BCT. "The way you do things here is a better way, so I wanted to learn from you."

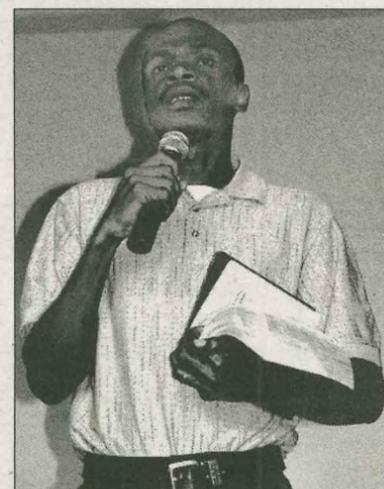
Mboya cherishes the relationships he made while he was studying at Georgetown College, and believes his education has made a significant difference in his ministry.

"My education prepared me in so many ways for leadership," he said. "I came to see things differently from the way I used to see them, and I was humbled to know how much there is to learn. I now see the need to keep learning."

In addition to overseeing the BCT, Mboya teaches Sunday school in his home and frequently conducts seminars in associations across Tanzania. His goal is to set priorities for the convention and "bring the churches back together so they feel a part of the work."

"We want to bring back the focus on missions and evangelism,"

See Tanzanian native ... Page 3



FULL CIRCLE Moses Mboya, former translator and now executive secretary of the Baptist Convention of Tanzania, speaks to KBC staff during his visit. (Photo by Drew Nichter)

Dated material. Please deliver by Wednesday, July 11.

BWA urges reconciliation, names Jamaican to top post

By Trennis Henderson
Editor

Accra, Ghana—Gathered in the courtyard of Ghana's Cape Coast Slave Castle, members of Baptist World Alliance held a somber service of memory and reconciliation July 5.

The slave castle, perched on the shores of the Atlantic Ocean, was built by the British in 1665. The fortress housed dark, dank dungeons for thousands of male and female slaves and a "Door of No Return" where they were crammed into slave ships headed for the Americas, the Caribbean and Europe. An estimated 20 million Africans were uprooted and enslaved during the trans-Atlantic slave trade that stretched from the 15th to 19th centuries.

BWA's Annual Gathering July 2-7 in Accra featured repeated references to the slave trade and calls for repentance and reconciliation. In addition to the service at the slave castle, the gathering included discussion sessions on "Slave Trade and the Unholy Triangle" of Europe, Africa and the Americas; "Human Dignity and Slavery"; and the ongoing crisis of slave trafficking today.

BWA General Assembly members adopted a resolution on "The 200th Anniversary of the Passing of the Act to Abolish the Slave Trade in British Colonies," that called for:

- "Freedom for the 27 million still trapped in modern-day slavery across the world."
- "Freedom from the global systems of economic injustice and exploitation that create the circumstances that foster slavery."
- "Freedom from all forms of racism."



SOMBER SERVICE Baptist World Alliance participants from around the globe gathered July 5 in the courtyard of Ghana's Cape Coast Slave Castle for a service of memory and reconciliation. (Photo by Trennis Henderson)

■ "Freedom from our silence in the face of the above realities."

It also called on "Baptists worldwide to stand against this ongoing and pervasive evil institution, support endeavors to eradicate it ... and compassionately minister to those trapped by it."

In an historic action, General Assembly members elected Neville Callam of Jamaica, a descendent of ancestors sold into slavery, as BWA's first non-white general secretary. He also is BWA's first general secretary from outside the United States or Europe.

Callam, senior pastor of two congregations in Jamaica, is a former BWA vice president and former president of the Jamaica Baptist Union. Active in BWA for more than 20 years, he currently serves on BWA's Implementation Task Force which is

responsible for restructuring the organization's work for the future.

Denton Lotz, who is retiring after 19 years as general secretary, affirmed his "100 percent support" of Callam's election.

"I think God has blessed you in a wonderful way and has prepared you for this," Lotz told his successor.

Responding to his unanimous election, Callam told council members, "Today, in the name of the triune God, the Baptist world family joyfully declares that the BWA has become a worldwide body with a truly global reach.

"God is working to make out of our cultural plurality as Baptists a wonderful mosaic that models the diversity that enriches and builds up unity, rather than diluting or diminishing it," he declared.

Affirming that "there is a home

for all Baptists in the BWA," the newly elected general secretary said, "There is no turning back now. Christ our Lord goes before us; He leads the way. ... Let us be content to be servants among the servants of God."

Callam, a specialist in Christian ethics, is a graduate of the University of the West Indies and Harvard Divinity School. He and his wife, Dulcie, are the parents of two adult children.

During the service of memory and reconciliation, BWA leaders issued calls for remembrance, confession and pardon among the descendants of slaves, slave traders and slave owners.

A reading by five descendants of enslaved Africans declared, "If it had not been for the Lord on our side, where would we be? ... Today we have reason to rejoice: When we were oppressed, God remembered us!"

The service's printed program included thoughts for meditation during several moments of silence. The meditations featured quotes from such leaders as William Wilberforce, Martin Luther King Jr. and Billy Graham as well as the Southern Baptist Convention's 1995 resolution on slavery and racism which declared: "We lament and repudiate historic acts of evil such as slavery from which we continue to reap a bitter harvest, and ... we apologize to all African-Americans for condoning and/or perpetuating individual and systemic racism in our lifetime."

Callam called on God to "reconcile our memories, cleanse our minds and teach us to walk in your way. Enable us to forgive others as You have forgiven us."

CBF meets with American Baptists, explores U.N. development goals

Washington (ABP)—More than 2,500 Baptists gathered June 28-29 for the annual Cooperative Baptist Fellowship in Washington. For the first time, it featured a joint gathering with the American Baptist Churches USA.

The service in Washington's convention center marked the end of CBF's annual general assembly and the beginning of ABC's 100th anniversary celebration.

"This is an awesome God moment," Roy Medley, ABC's general secretary told the crowd of almost 4,000 participants, divided almost evenly between representatives of both groups.

The Baptists celebrated religious freedom and participated in workshops about congregational life, HIV/AIDS, immigration, women in

ministry global poverty and hunger. They also took the first step June 29 toward joining the United Nations' campaign against global poverty and disease, called the Millennium Development Goals.

In a break from business as usual during the national meeting, participants voted overwhelmingly to instruct their governing body to consider ways CBF can join other Christian groups "to reach the United Nations Millennium Development Goals."

The group also gave more than \$22,000 to the Jimmy and Rosalynn Carter Offering for Religious Liberty and Human Rights. The Baptist World Alliance receives one-third of the proceeds. The other two-thirds are administered through partnering organizations with existing initiatives relating to human rights and religious liberty issues.

CBF's portion this year will be shared with the European Baptist Federation, which works with governments and leaders to promote religious human rights.

Emmanuel McCall, who ended his term as CBF moderator, introduced Fort Worth, Texas, laywoman Harriet Harral as the next moderator. He also spoke to the assembly about covenant relationships.

"How does CBF fulfill covenant with God?" McCall asked. "We continue doing more of what we are doing. We are evangelizing by loving

people into a relationship with God. We are evangelizing by dealing with the needs that people have, which if not addressed obscure our message. We are evangelizing by challenging unjust situations, the disparities and inequities of life."

The cooperative event served as a predecessor to another gathering of Baptists—the New Baptist Covenant Celebration to be in 2008 in Atlanta. It will feature Baptists from more than 36 organizations.

"There's a great deal of energy about the convergence of Baptists who are coming together to find fellowship, community and address great issues of our day, particularly around the issue of poverty," Daniel Vestal, CBF's executive coordinator, said.

In his report to the Coordinating Council, Vestal cited the need for relationship covenants between national CBF and the state and regional CBF organizations.

Revenue concerns prompted Vestal to name among the challenges "developing a culture of shared fundraising."

In a June 28 business session, a \$16,481,000 budget was presented along with the nominating committee's recommendations. Nominations included North Carolina pastor Jack Glasgow as moderator elect. Also, a Blasgow amendment was proposed that would recognize a CBF regional organization in the Midwest.

All items were approved during the June 29 general session.

At the concluding general session, CBF and ABCUSA co-commissioned two couples to global missions service: Marcia and Duane Binkley, who will serve in N.Y. among Karen refugees, and Nancy and Steve James, who have been serving in Haiti as CBF affiliates.

"I am delighted that we are cooperating with American Baptists in joint appointments of the Binkleys and the Jameses to their respective places of ministry," said Rob Nash, CBF's global missions coordinator. "These joint ventures send the signal that mission engagement in the 21st century is about collaboration for the good of God's Kingdom in the world."

The previous evening, CBF commissioned 16 other missionaries to serve among the world's most neglected people. Baptist World Alliance President David Coffey affirmed and challenged the new field personnel to continue to "face the world of spiritual loss" by knowing the world and knowing the Bible.

"If you are going to be the presence of Christ in a broken world, it will not happen without risk-taking," Coffey said. "These people you've seen commissioned here tonight are risk-takers."

The 2008 general assembly will be June 19-20 in Memphis, Tenn.

TALKING BUSINESS

CBF Executive Coordinator Daniel Vestal (right) speaks during a panel discussion with ABCUSA General Secretary Roy Medley (left), and Tyrone Pitts, general secretary of the Progressive National Baptist Convention, during the combined CBF/ABCUSA worship service June 29. (Photo by Rod Reilly)



Tanzanian native comes full circle in return to Kentucky

Continued from page 1

an emphasis on discipleship," Mboya said. "I want the churches to understand that the convention is there to help them do this work."

According to Mboya, limited funding is one of the greatest challenges facing the BCT. Many churches struggle to raise funds because of Tanzania's impoverished economy, he said.

Though he works full-time as executive secretary, Mboya must volunteer his time because the convention cannot afford to support him.

"I'm not paid because the convention doesn't have any funds, but I didn't want to miss this opportunity," Mboya said. "I know this needs to be done. We're hoping that, God willing, we can come to a point where the convention can pay something."

Mboya identified the convention's immediate priorities as securing office space and a convention vehicle, as well as leadership training conferences.

During his visit, Mboya requested a new partnership with the KBC to help the BCT accomplish these goals (see accompanying story).

According to Steve Thompson, assistant executive director of the KBC,



LIGHT-HEARTED MOMENT Moses Mboya and Ernest Sumisumi, recording secretary for the BCT, share a laugh with KBC Assistant Executive Director Steve Thompson. (Photo by Drew Nichter)

a new partnership would require the consideration of the Mission Board.

"Whether or not we begin another formal partnership remains to be seen, but we are grateful for the opportunity to continue working with Tanzanian Baptists," Thompson said. "It's exciting to see how Moses is being used by God as a result of Kentucky Baptists' cooperative support."

Tanzanian Baptists look to KBC for help

Louisville—The Kentucky Baptist Convention is exploring the possibility of a renewed relationship with the Baptist Convention of Tanzania, just over five years after the end of a previous partnership.

During a June 19-27 visit, newly elected BCT officers requested assistance from the KBC to help the convention overcome financial challenges, restore broken trust and develop leadership. The previous partnership lasted from 1999-2001.

International Mission Board missionary Bill Eardensohn, who accompanied the three BCT officers, said the IMB continues to support Baptist efforts in Tanzania, but funding for much of the work must come from outside entities.

"We need a partnership with the KBC," said Moses Mboya, executive secretary for the BCT.

"I believe we are going in the right direction, but the expectations are high and this is the window in which we can affect change," he said.

While expressing a desire to assist the BCT in some capacity, KBC Mission Board staff

members cautioned that a new partnership would require careful consideration by the Mission Board.

"It is our intention to have a continuing relationship with you. What shape that takes, we don't know yet," said Steve Thompson, assistant executive director for the KBC.

Randy Jones, missions growth team leader for the KBC, said he would review the partnership proposal and determine what next steps will be taken.

During the visit, BCT officers learned about the KBC's organizational structures, functions and decision-making processes. Mission Board staff members also shared insights about current initiatives and ministries.

"We have learned a lot," said Mboya. "We've been trying to work out a plan that we can take home and make effective."

The Baptist Convention of Tanzania was established in 1971. It consists of 1,246 Baptist churches in 58 associations. Tanzania is one of 54 countries in Africa, with a current population of approximately 37 million.

Taylor journals offer glimpse into life of 'controversial' preacher

Continued from page 1

notes pertaining to Taylor's ideas for his unified church giving plan, it is no less important to the convention.

"It's a personal possession of a key figure in Kentucky Baptist life so it's special to us," said Steve Thompson, assistant executive director for the KBC. "We're grateful to be getting it."

The second journal was donated to Southern Baptist Theological Seminary. According to Cole, it contained many of Taylor's class notes while he was a student at the school in 1893. Cole said it contains the name of one of his classes, its teacher and was used for a "verse-by-verse breakdown of the Bible."

The journey of the books to their current locations began in 1969, when Horton's family purchased Taylor's former home from his widow. Horton's father found the journals in the attic, and while not realizing their significance, decided to hang on to them.

"He knew they were old and he didn't like to throw anything old away," Horton said of his father.

Horton's family moved out of the home in 1973 and took the journals with them. Ten years later, Horton's father purchased the shop where the family operated their locksmith business. The journals sat in a metal cabinet next to the shop for more than 20 years.

"About three years ago, we put them over into the shop," Horton recalled. "I was trying to find a place to display them and I couldn't decide how to do it, so I just put them on the shelf."

That move almost led to the journals' demise when the shop flooded.

"The water got within six inches of the journals," Horton said, "so we decided we better do something with them."

After talking with Cole, Horton realized the value of the journals and learned more about Taylor and his lasting impact.

Taylor served as pastor of First

Baptist Church of Murray from 1897 to 1931. During his tenure, he "became dissatisfied with the giving system," Thompson said, "so he instituted a unified giving system at First Baptist" in 1900.

At that point, Taylor began a campaign to "sell the General Association (as the KBC was then known) on that budget idea," Thompson explained.

In 1915, the General Association adopted Taylor's unified giving system at the annual meeting. Ten years later, the Southern Baptist Convention used Kentucky's plan as a model for what became the Cooperative Program.

"That's why we often say that we feel like some of the historical roots to the Cooperative Program come back to Kentucky," Thompson said.

Despite his reputation as a man of controversy, Taylor's idea has enabled thousands of missionaries over the years to spread the gospel across the globe through funding provided by the Cooperative Program.

And Wayne Horton, who serves as a deacon of missions at University Church of Christ in Murray, is grateful for Taylor's contribution.

"It's just incredible to think that from a small town like Murray, this man's idea has reached a world with the gospel."

Group urges reconciliation at annual celebration service

By Drew Nichter
News Director

Louisville—The words resonated through the sanctuary. "It doesn't matter what color you are, as long as your blood was red," sung by a choir of diverse members from many churches.

Racial, cultural and denominational harmony was the message of the evening at the Greater Louisville Christian Reconciliation Ministries Celebration June 24 at Walnut Street Baptist Church in Louisville.

This year marked the group's seventh year for the Reconciliation Celebration. The GLCRM was founded in 2001 by Lincoln Bingham, pastor of St. Paul Missionary Baptist Church in Louisville.

"This initiative is to help people understand that the negative stuff they hear does not mean that no positive stuff is happening in terms of racial and denominational reconciliation," Bingham said.

The racially-diverse crowd experienced an evening of worship, including music by the Joint Mass Choir. The featured speakers of the evening were Les Hollon, pastor of St. Matthews Baptist Church in Louisville; and Kendal Stubbs, pastor of the Remnant Tabernacle of Praise in Nassau, Bahamas.

Hollon, who also serves as co-chair of the GLCRM alongside Bingham, spoke of God's "biblical vision" for the world.

"Biblical vision is God's reality made possible by a courageous people willing to enact God's resources to fulfill His promise," Hollon proclaimed.

He also pointed out that while worldwide understanding is of



Kendal Stubbs



Les Hollon

"heavenly importance," it cannot be achieved without starting at home.

"Global reconciliation is only as powerful as it's locally applied," Hollon said.

Stubbs expounded on Hollon's point of global reconciliation by challenging the congregation to "do the unexpected."

"Jesus demonstrated that we deepen fellowship when we commit ourselves ... to giving the unexpected," Stubbs declared.

Stubbs referred to the story of Jesus and the Samaritan woman at the well in the Gospel of John. He said that Jesus revealed "the context which we must embrace, so that we might deepen fellowship."

As Ava Bingham Reynolds introduced "The Blood Song" sung by the Joint Mass Choir, she mentioned that many artists have tried to portray what Jesus may have looked like, and most look like the artist's own culture. But Reynolds countered, "all that matters is the blood."

The GLCRM is anticipating big things in 2008. Louisville will host next year's International Conference for Reconciliation Networks of Our World and the GLCRM will act as the local planning committee.

WHERE IT ALL BEGAN
A historical marker in front of First Baptist Church of Murray commemorates the role former pastor Harvey Boyce Taylor played in organizing the Cooperative Program. The plan was initiated in 1925 and is the national channel for mission giving of Southern Baptist churches. (Photo by Tommy Dillard/Murray Ledger & Times)



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

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Licensing death on the road

By David Gushee

Jackson, Tenn. (ABP)—Probably the most interesting moral issues are those raised by practices we take for granted. No one asks about the morality of playing baseball, wearing socks or taking showers. Likewise, no one asks about the morality of driving cars.

Well, actually, the Vatican does. The Roman Catholic headquarters recently issued a "Ten Commandments" for the world's drivers. These commandments include refraining from road rage, speeding, showing off, rudeness or driving while intoxicated. The AP reporter who offered the Vatican's "road to salvation" story was clearly amused.

An Allstate ad that arrived this week did not offer much ground for amusement. Allstate notes that each year nearly 6,000 American teenagers are killed in car crashes, and that the number hasn't changed in a decade. This means that 60,000 American teenagers have been killed in car accidents in that period, which means that cars have taken more teenage American lives than were lost in the entire Vietnam War.

Anna Quindlen, a columnist for Newsweek, rarely writes much of anything that I agree with. But in her June 11 column she was writing as a parent. In that column she lamented the sad rite of passage that now accompanies nearly every other high school milestone—the funeral of the dead teenager, killed in a car

accident.

We have seen far too many such funerals here in west Tennessee. I am not even talking about the horrifically stupid accident in Selmer, Tenn., in which a drag-racing stunt gone terribly wrong claimed the lives of six young people. I wasn't there, but the very idea of what was attempted on an average city street without guardrails and thronged with people seems incomprehensible.

No, my focus today is the garden-variety car accident involving the garden-variety teenager who is set loose at 15 or 16 years old driving a deadly piece of heavy machinery whose successful operation requires virtues and skills that are not always in abundant supply.

Since my daughter's near-fatal accident last year, and the birth of Loaves and Fishes ministry to meet the needs of local families hit by similar catastrophes, we have helped 14 families, almost all of them affected by car accidents involving teenagers. Given the fact that at least one-third of all 16-year-old drivers are involved in serious accidents, who will be the next to die?

Teen driving makes for an excellent example of the power of the law as a kind of social teacher. When the law books say that 15-year-olds are ready for a learner's permit and 16-year-olds are ready for a driver's license, most people tend to assume that 15-year-olds are ready for a

learner's permit and 16-year-olds are ready for a driver's license. But what if the law is wrong?

What I teach in Christian ethics classes is that the law is a floor, not a ceiling. That is, it sets minimal social expectations in keeping with a society dedicated to the maximum range of freedom consistent with social order. So most states have decided that, all things considered, the law should permit people to drive cars when they are 16. This ends up meaning that every 15-year-old expects to be a licensed driver the day he or she turns 16, as a kind of birthright or rite of passage. And on it goes.

Both Allstate and Anna Quindlen argue for changes in the law. Allstate wants to see comprehensive, graduated driving-license systems in every state. Quindlen suggests that we look at Europe, socially liberal on almost everything but its driver's license laws—in most European countries, that age is 18.

I believe in a consistent pro-life ethic. This means that any and every threat to human well-being is a moral issue. Any behavior that regularly ends human life must become a matter of especially intense moral engagement. Driving takes the lives of 1.2 million people a year around the world, and injures another 50 million. Driving, therefore, is a moral issue of the first magnitude. I think it must be reconsidered in a culture that loves its cars but buries far too many of its occupants.

David Gushee is a professor of moral philosophy at Union University in Jackson, Tenn.

COMMENTARY

Global warming debate

Southern Baptists will feel the heat from the warming of the proverbial sands into which they have thrust themselves again! Surely we are destined to use our heads for better purposes.

Early on in my Baptist heritage, I learned the stewardship concept that since God was the source of all things, materi-

als, resources and even love itself, we owed to Him the stewardship, the conservation and nurture of all of these—the earth itself, the plants and animals and especially the human beings therein.

A primary issue in our day is global warming. It will affect the future of all nations, all the species and especially our human progeny.

Therefore, why must we think

that this issue is not to be addressed by government with both legislation and resources?

I have not read the exact wording of the original resolution regarding global warming which the Southern Baptist Convention amended. However, I chide Southern Baptists for refusing to acknowledge the responsibility of government to provide research and engagement in the issue.

Glenda Tichenor
Princeton

Tanzanian Baptist leaders visit KBC

The Kentucky Baptist Convention Mission Board staff recently had the privilege of hosting the newly elected leaders of the Baptist Convention of Tanzania. It was an extraordinary visit that demonstrates how God bonds and uses Christians in all nations to further His Kingdom.

The visit was actually born out of the KBC's partnership with Tanzanian Baptists from 1999-2001. During the partnership, Ken Holden, pastor of Georgetown Baptist Church, made arrangements with Georgetown College for Moses Mboya to study here in Kentucky.

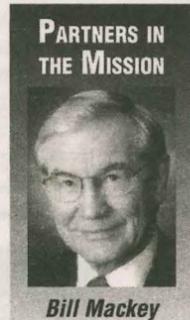
With the support of Georgetown Baptist Church, Georgetown College and others, Moses graduated and returned to Tanzania with his wife and American-born daughter.

Now, two years later, Moses is the newly elected executive director of the Baptist Convention of Tanzania. He returned to visit us along with that convention's president, Richard

Mwaihuti, and its general recording secretary, Ernest Sumisumi. International Mission Board missionary Bill Eardensohn accompanied the group. (Bill has a son attending Campbellsville University.)

The Tanzanian group came to Kentucky to learn how we do the work of our convention and to ask us to consider a new partnership arrangement. Without an office and no full-time leader, they are struggling to give direction to 1,000 churches and about 100,000 church members in a country of 38 million people. More than 90 percent of Tanzanian pastors are bivocational.

There are many challenges facing the churches and associations of Tanzania as well as the convention itself. They are particularly feeling the pressures of transition as the International Mission Board redirects its energies from more developed mission fields like Tanzania to the still unreached people groups in North Africa and Asia.



Bill Mackey

CHURCH

Benefits of tithing through a local KBC congregation

By Doug Strader

"What's in it for me?" is a popular theme for many Christians in today's church. While that question might be asked more frequently among younger age groups, it is not uncommon

for people in most age groups to feel the same way.

Many people want to know what benefits they will get if they participate, and that includes giving to the Lord through their church. Listed below are some of the benefits that a member of a Kentucky Baptist Convention church will receive by giving a tithe through his or her local church:

- You will be obedient to the Lord's command through the prophet Malachi when he said, "Bring the full tithe into the storehouse" (Malachi 3:10).

- You will be showing that you not only trust God for salvation, but you also trust Him with a life of obedience as it relates to your possessions.

- You will be participating more fully in the act of worship because you are offering to Him your best. Depending on how much you are giving, you could also be offering a sacrifice to Him. The giving of one's tithes and offerings should always be an act of worship.

- You are setting an example to other Christians by giving your tithes and offerings.

- By tithing and giving offerings, you are helping the church do all the ministry and missions in which it is involved.

- You are helping pay the utility bills, insurance, staff salaries and other vital things.

- If your church gives to the work of the local association, you will be assisting the association in all the ministry and missions in which it is involved.

- If your church gives through the Cooperative Program, you will be helping the Kentucky Baptist Convention do all the ministry and mission efforts in which it is involved.

- You will also be a part of all the work that the Southern Baptist Convention is involved in around the world. You will be helping to support more than 10,000 North American and international missionaries.

When you stop and think about the benefits you receive from giving to the Lord through your church, it is mind-boggling. What a blessing it is to be able to give our tithes and offerings to God through our churches!

Doug Strader, retired director of the Kentucky Baptist Convention's stewardship department, is pastor of Farmdale Baptist Church in Louisville



'Stress busters' help couples deal with challenges of life

Q: Our lives have become really stressed this summer. There are some family situations and job demands that have put extra pressure on us. Any ideas for some stress relievers for our marriage as we endure these circumstances?

I recently attended a health fair and received a hand-out from Norton Hospital Women's Pavilion on "A Month's Worth of Stress Busters." I decided to select 10 of these and rework them as stress relievers for marriage. May-

MARRIAGE

be some of these can help you and your spouse manage your stress this summer.

- Take a recreational, leisurely walk together. Focus on enjoying being in the presence of one another.

- Rather than watch a TV show, put on some music and relax together listening to a favorite musician, song or CD.

- Choose a book you both like or take turns reading out loud to each other from a personal favorite.

- Laugh out loud together. Go look at funny cards at the mall or local card store. Watch a funny video show on TV or watch a funny movie.

- Be a massage partner for your spouse: massage hands, shoulders, muscles and help your spouse release stress.

- Exercise together. Summer is a great time to play bocce ball, set up the badminton net or go for a swim or a bike ride.

- Sing together. Pull out the hymnal. Sing Christmas carols or favorite hymns. Look up favorite songs on the Internet and sing together.

- Use your words to build up one another; offer a positive response.

- Do something you like together. Enjoy a hobby, project or activity both of you value.

- Draw, paint or sculpt together. Share your creations with each other. God does this with us every day. Many people have felt soothed and relaxed by taking in a glorious sunset created by the Lord.

May these ideas be a way God brings peace to you both as you seek a place of calm in the midst of stormy times.—*Valerie Vincent*

Q: Our son is leaving for college in the fall. What do you think about allowing him to have a credit card?

Credit cards must be viewed in the overall context of Christians learning to be good stewards in everything with which God has blessed us. One recent statistic indicates that 64 percent of college students have at least one credit card. Among these, 42 percent do not pay their bill in full each month and have an average balance of \$577. A USA Today article in October 2006 stated that the average credit card balance for seniors in college is \$2,864.

Choosing to allow your son to use a credit card in college should depend on his having demonstrated responsibility before leaving home. Assuming that he is responsible in his spending and lifestyle choices, and that he has demonstrated restraint and self control, he needs to understand:

- A credit card is a form of borrowing; paying it off in full each month should be a condition of its use.

- People will spend more using a credit card than cash; limit use of the credit card to emergencies.

- Tracking expenses for the first few months of college will help to accurately know how much cash to carry or to keep in a checking account.

Allowing or encouraging a student to use a credit card should always come with regular evaluation, at least on a per semester basis. Consider keeping the credit limit low to avoid surprises based on impulse purchases. Remind your student that keeping the card depends on its responsible use. Ultimately, every spending decision is a spiritual decision.—*Scott Wigginton*

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BWA gathering affirms call for reconciliation

The Baptist World Alliance of the 21st century is alive, well and on the cutting edge of ministry.

Despite the Southern Baptist Convention's high-profile exit from BWA three years ago, the international organization remains the largest Baptist body in the world. Its global membership includes more than 36 million baptized believers and a fellowship of approximately 110 million worshipers in more than 210 member bodies.

During BWA's Annual Gathering last week in Accra, Ghana, participants focused on the twin themes of freedom and reconciliation. Those principles were embodied in a historic service of memory and reconciliation in the courtyard of the centuries-old Cape Coast Slave Castle.

Black and white Baptist brothers and sisters from around the world gathered to share words of remembrance, confession and pardon in response to the dehumanizing tragedy of the trans-Atlantic slave trade.

Among the most moving moments of the 45-minute service was a reading by five descendants of enslaved Africans that acknowledged, "It took ages, blood and tears and struggles before we and our erstwhile oppressors were, by the grace of God, emancipated."

BWA General Assembly members also adopted a resolution on slavery that urged "freedom from all forms of racism." Noting that 27 million people are "still trapped in modern-day slavery across the world," participants pledged "prayerfully to join hands together to refuse to celebrate until freedom is found for all."

In addition to decrying slavery and promoting racial reconciliation, BWA members put their words into action by electing Jamaican Baptist pastor Neville Callam as BWA's first non-white general secretary. While many other organizations talk about the importance of involving diverse ethnic groups in leadership, BWA is leading the way by naming a descendant of slaves to the alliance's top professional post.

Affirming that BWA "has become a worldwide body with a truly global reach," Callam urged BWA participants to "rejoice in the fact that this alliance is a privi-

leged instrument of the worldwide Baptist movement and that there is a home for all Baptists in BWA."

Steve Asante, president of the Ghana Baptist Convention, reminded fellow BWA members that "if Baptists are to have a voice, it will only come through our unity in oneness."

Christian unity "is a divine demand and a divine desire," Asante emphasized. "God has called us to be one under Christ."

Les Hollon, pastor of St. Matthews Baptist Church in Louisville, was among Kentucky Baptists involved in the annual gathering. Describing BWA's focus on "community, connection and commitment," he affirmed BWA's ongoing priority of being "a voice for the voiceless through the advocacy of human rights through the gospel of Jesus."

Charles Wade, executive director of the Baptist General Convention of Texas, emphasized that many fellow Baptists' "courage in bearing witness to the gospel in very difficult places inspires those of us from the U.S. to do better."

Noting that "the fruit of the work of missions is seen in the remarkable Christian leadership that has developed in Asia, Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean," Wade pointed out, "The Baptists in America need the reviving power that flows from these remarkable Christians."

Denton Lotz, who is retiring this year after 19 years as BWA general secretary, echoed the theme of reconciliation in his farewell address.

"If Baptists need anything, if the world needs anything, it is reconciliation," he declared. Challenging Baptists around the world to be "a people of peace and a people of justice," Lotz asked, "How can we have reconciliation in the world? Only when we look into the face of Jesus Christ. ... We need to sacrifice our egos at the cross of Christ."

That is a fitting call for all believers both here at home and around the globe. Proclaiming freedom in Christ and reconciliation with fellow believers for the sake of the gospel will always be vital goals for every Baptist Christian to pursue.

STRAIGHT FROM THE EDITOR



Trennis Henderson

After summer camp, 'now what?'

"Now what?" That is probably asked by every youth leader at some point during the summer. He or she has taken a group of students to camp and God has moved mightily and this question emerges in one form or another.

I know it is being asked here. I am at Kentucky Changers in Maysville this week and we have been blessed by God's presence. So now what? What will we as church members offer our students when they return from camp or missions experience? Here are a few suggestions:

Listen. Give them opportunities to share their stories. We might not care about how many students they stuffed into a port-a-pot at their job site or how "fly" their Bible study leader was, but that is a part of camp and their experience. By listening to those details, we also will get the details of how God worked in their lives and about the life change that is taking place in them.

Pray for them. All great movements of God have been preceded by prayer. That is one of the key factors in why God moved in young people at camp—because you were praying for them. I know that for a fact. God has blessed us, even surprised us with His presence here and I know it is in direct correlation to the amount of prayers put up on our behalf this week. For our students to

continue to allow God's presence to be as active in their lives at home as it was at camp, we must pray as hard as—or even harder—than we did for them while they were away.

Give the youth leader an extra day or two off. He or she has spent 24 hours a day for a week in charge of your students. Believe it or not, even when he manages to get some sleep, he is still on duty. Why else would he get up in the middle of the night to make sure everyone is still in the room and asleep, or go meet the securi-

ty guard at the front door because some of your students got caught TP-ing some other church's bus in the middle of the night? Time off is deserved and his family needs time to reconnect with him. It also wouldn't hurt to take the church bus or van to the detail shop and have it cleaned while he is taking these days off.

Incorporate some of the camp songs into your worship time. It will serve as a reminder to your students of their camp experience and how God spoke to them while they were there. Music is a powerful reminder of past life events. You know that because every time that certain song is played on the radio, it reminds you of your high school sweetheart because it was "your song." Songs from "Just as I am" or "Pass It On" to "Shout to the Lord" and "In Christ

Alone" speak our heart language and remind us of times when God moved in our lives.

Have a plan ready. Have some mission projects planned for the fall to continue to involve students in hands-on missions. They will come home fired up, but most of them lack the administrative skills to plan projects for themselves. We need to involve them in the planning stage, but we don't need to count on them to do it all themselves. Also have a discipleship strategy in place for new Christians. We need to ask ourselves some of these questions: Do I have a baptism service planned for after our experience? Do I have trained mentors lined up to walk alongside the new Christians for six months or so? What do I have in place to continue the discipleship process in our student?

I know the camp experience will fade away. It always does, and honestly it needs to. It needs to be replaced with a consistent discipleship plan and programs and opportunities that will challenge students in the faith all year round. The hard work begins when we all get home and try to figure out how to live this new commitment we made in the confines of the old world that we live in.

It wouldn't hurt to cut the youth leaders' grass while they are away at camp either. After all, your youth leaders gave your child a week of their lives—and that is priceless.

Joe Ball, a former youth minister at Edgewood Baptist Church in Hopkinsville, is youth strategist for the Kentucky Baptist Convention

West African missionaries survive attack, look forward

By Jesse Lyautey
SBC International Mission Board

Benin, West Africa (BP)—Bob and Becky Couts have served as Southern Baptist international missionaries in Benin for 33 years. They've experienced sickness, the joy of new believers and the sadness of seeing people reject Christ. But on the night of June 25 they were confronted with a situation like none they had ever experienced—a home invasion.

Bob was working on the Internet and Becky was washing dishes in their Oueme Valley home, when four men forced their way inside the house.

They tied up the Couts, threatened them and killed their dog.

"They had machetes and lead pipes," Becky said. "They asked for our money, so I led them to the safe and gave them all the money."

For 45 minutes, the men ransacked the Couts' home, loading all electronics devices—TV, VCR, projector, computer and camera—into the couple's truck. The men also took the Couts' residency papers, including their passports.

The men then locked the couple in their shower and drove away. The two were eventually able to escape, and went to a neighbor's house to call police.

The next day, the Couts were met by pastors and evangelists from the Weme people group, whom they work among.

They "sang and thanked the Lord for our safety," Becky said. "They told us the whole valley was upset, not just the church members. In the nine years we have lived here, we have never heard of a home invasion."

Born in Altus, Okla., Becky grew up as a missionary kid in Hawaii. She uses her nursing skills as an RN to care for the neighboring village children and to help medical volunteers.

Bob, from Springfield, Tenn., is known for having a story for everything. With 33 years of experience in Africa, his tales usually center on his African friends.

Despite the Couts' friendly nature, it hasn't been easy planting churches in Benin, the birthplace of voodoo. For more than nine years, the couple has worked to plant churches among the Weme people.

Recently, they have seen their hard work pay off. In May, they baptized 16 new believers in the Oueme River to start the Kessounou church. The new church is already going into nearby villages to share the gospel.

In addition to planting churches, the Couts train local believers to be pastors and evangelists, something they had done for 23 years in Porto-Novo. When the pastors in that city found out about the robbery, they came to encourage the Couts.

"They came with a heavy heart and burden for us," Bob said. "It was

very moving and touching."

Believing that God still has a purpose for them in Benin, the Couts plan to stay.

"We have young churches to nourish," Becky said. "We are doing a lot of leadership training. We don't know why it has happened, but the Lord has purpose in it all."

"The Lord hasn't called us away yet. There is still a lot for us to do."



Bob Couts



Becky Couts

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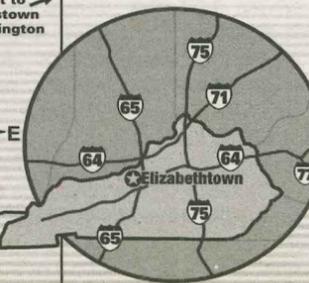
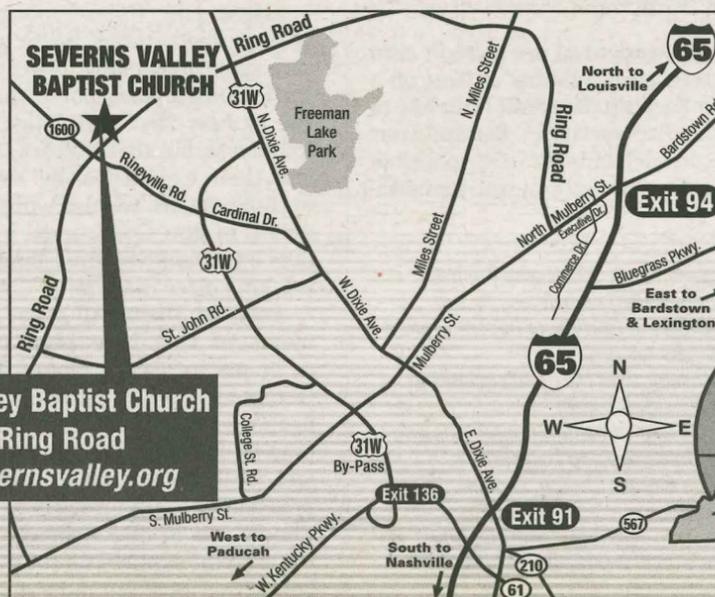
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A totally different world

Pray for today's youth as they face incredible challenges

By the time you read this, our summer camp season will be more than half over. As we begin compiling all the information, suggestions and comments from another year of camp, the most significant fact that stands out to me is the difficult reality of growing up in our society.

In the book, "The World Is Flat: A Brief History of the 21st Century," the main premise is that our world has become so connected that one-time barriers of oceans and great distances really no longer exist.

One such example is call centers. When you or I call to get help with an appliance or computer, we are connected to individuals in call centers. While they in some cases might sound like Americans, the reality is these customer service providers are located in India, the Philippines or literally anywhere else in the world.

How this "flat world" impacts our youth is that issues which were once isolated to the east and west coasts are now prevalent in rural Kentucky or any of our surrounding states.

As parents, we simply cannot

see issues in the news about youth in Los Angeles or New York and think that those events only happen there. Our youth are just as exposed to cultural problems as students in the "extreme" areas of our country.

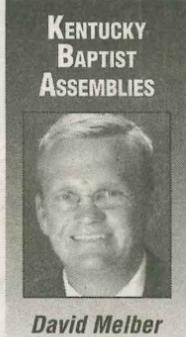
So why would I share this? Simply to remind you to not take anything for granted when working with students. We as adults simply cannot relate back to our childhood experiences and compare them to what students cope with today. It is a totally different world!

As you encounter students, try to be patient and understanding; you really have no idea what they might be dealing with.

As camp continues, I ask each of you to continue to remember us in prayer for the following specific issues: One, that campers and staff will be safe and free from injury. Two, for our gospel presentation to be clear and understood and that many students will respond. Three, that our facilities will be free from breakdowns.

Thanks for your prayers and continue to pray as we seek to reach the youth of today.

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



David Melber

Kudzu



Doug Marlette

For Heaven's Sake



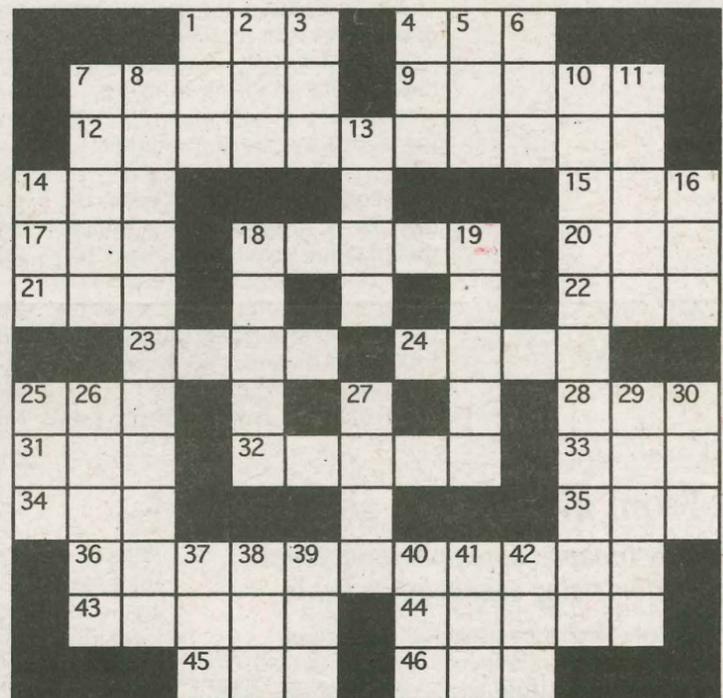
Mike Morgan

Bible Crosswords

By John Thornberg

Across

- 1 "Whose ____ is in his hand" (Matthew 3:12)
- 4 To sink downward
- 7 "Turn not ____ from following the Lord" (1 Samuel 12:20)
- 9 Half quarts
- 12 Where David's story begins (2 words)
- 14 Nothing
- 15 Doze
- 17 Raw material
- 18 "Queen of ____" (1 Kings 10:1)
- 20 "____ the kine to the cart" (1 Samuel 6:7)
- 21 "Cast him into the ____ of lions" (Daniel 6:16)
- 22 Deoxyribonucleic acid, abbr.
- 23 "Under a pomegranate ____" (1 Samuel 14:2)
- 24 "Sing unto the Lord ____ song" (Isaiah 42:10) (2 words)
- 25 Prohibit
- 28 ____ and flow
- 31 A friend, Fr.
- 32 Former
- 33 Sheltered side
- 34 Marker
- 35 "As the ____ ran, he shot an arrow" (1 Samuel 20:36)
- 36 David was one, in other words



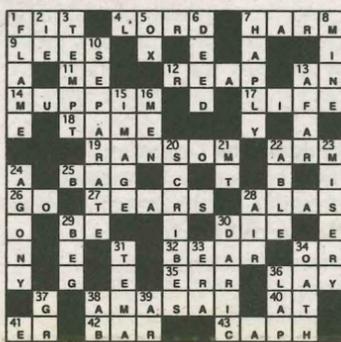
- 43 Fixed gaze
- 44 "Jonah was exceeding glad of the ____" (Jonah 4:6)
- 45 Light brown
- 46 "____ no man any thing" (Romans 13:8)

- 16 A legume
- 18 "A deep ____ fell on Abram" (Genesis 15:12)
- 19 "____ the son of Ner" (2 Samuel 2:8)
- 25 A baseball ____
- 26 Gather great numbers
- 27 "Jonah was in the belly of the ____" (Jonah 1:17)
- 29 "His spittle (fell) down upon his ____" (1 Samuel 21:13)
- 30 "David arose from off his ____" (2 Samuel 11:2)
- 37 "(David) did ____ the shewbread" (Matthew 12:4)
- 38 An epoch
- 39 "The ____ of a ready writer" (Psalm 45:1)
- 40 The conscious self
- 41 "Frankincense upon each ____" (Leviticus 24:7)
- 42 "A word spoken in ____ season" (Proverbs 15:23)

Down

- 1 "Instruments made of ____" (2 Samuel 6:5)
- 2 Advertisements, abbr.
- 3 "Cast the ____ on the right side" (John 21:6)
- 4 A mineral spring
- 5 Point at target
- 6 Wildebeest
- 7 "____ shall devour before him" (Psalm 50:3) (2 words)
- 8 A Christmas carol (2 words)
- 10 One who lives in a tent
- 11 "Worthy is the Lamb that was ____" (Revelation 5:12)
- 13 "A rod out of the ____ of Jesse" (Isaiah 11:1)
- 14 Affirmative expression

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Tireless work earns Kentucky volunteer group national honor

Lebanon, Tenn.—Last year, the Kentucky chapter of Campers on Mission logged hundreds of thousands of hours doing volunteer work across the state and around the country.

The group was recognized for its efforts recently, as it was named Honor Chapter of the Year for 2006 by the North American Mission Board. The award was presented at the Campers on Mission National Rally June 22.

The Kentucky chapter was honored as the top chapter with fewer than 200 members. The Florida chapter earned the award as the top group with more than 200 members.

"We were not expecting it at all," chapter president Jimmie Workman said of the honor.

The announcement was so unexpected, Workman remarked, that his wife could not even get a picture of the presentation.

"I went up to receive the award and handed my wife the camera and lo and behold, the battery went dead," Workman recalled.

One thing that is certainly not dead is the group's willingness to serve. Several factors went into naming Kentucky the top chapter for 2006.

According to Mickey Caison, the director of NAMB's adult volunteer mobilization team, four main factors are considered: the number of projects a chapter participates in, the number of campers involved, the total hours donated and the number of professions of faith made.

In 2006, 40 campers in the Ken-

tucky chapter participated in 16 volunteer projects. That added up to 17,834 hours of labor. Most importantly, the group saw 33 professions of faith in Christ because of their ministry.

The group's travels took them from one end of Kentucky to the other. They did work from Salyersville in the southeastern part of the state, all the way to Henderson in the northwestern area. The campers even ventured outside state lines, doing volunteer projects in Tennessee, Florida, Indiana and Mississippi.

There are nearly 7,000 members of Campers on Mission nationwide. In 2006, they participated in almost 1,200 projects, logged more than 346,000 hours and saw nearly 700 professions of faith made.

Caison said most Campers on Mission groups focus their energy on construction projects as well as backyard Bible clubs, vacation Bible schools and festivals.

As for the Kentucky group, they seem to be making a push for a repeat honor in 2007. The campers have already been to numerous sites around the state this year and more are yet to come.

"We're happy with receiving the honor," Workman said, "and I hope that it will encourage others to get involved in volunteering and doing ministry for the Lord."

For more information about getting involved with Campers on Mission, contact Jimmie or Julia Workman at (270) 737-8553 or (270) 401-4674, or visit www.namb.net/campersonmission.



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My decision to attend Mid-Continent University was an easy one. The core belief system embedded in the history of the school was only one factor. This institution offered a positive atmosphere and a size that was not intimidating to me, someone who graduated with 60 other people. It became very apparent during my first few months that each and every teacher wanted to help students succeed not only in the classroom but also in life. They went above and beyond the realm necessary to make sure everyone got the attention and help needed, something that is rarely seen in many other schools. My experience was a positive one. It would be very easy for me to recommend this school and these teachers to other potential students.

 **MID-CONTINENT UNIVERSITY**

From around the globe to OBI

New timepiece helps international students stay connected to home

By Laura Stockton, secretary, OBI High School

From the day it opened its doors in 1899, Oneida Baptist Institute has been a boarding school. Housing its students made an education possible for boys and girls who lived outside a reasonable walking distance.

As time passed, the school's student body included more than those from neighboring counties. Boys and girls came from throughout the commonwealth, and eventually from all across the U.S.

In the 1950s, Oneida welcomed our first students from outside the U.S. Living away from home is a challenge for most young people but imagine the added stress of a new language, culture and time zone. Such profound differences are hard to comprehend.

It is not uncommon for houseparents to receive phone calls from international parents who want to talk with their child, not realizing that while it may be the middle of the afternoon for them, it is the middle of the night in Oneida. Modern technology and the Internet have narrowed this gap of travel and communication but many questions remain: "What time is it at home?" "Is it day or night?" "Is my family enjoying pleasant days of spring or enduring blazing days of summer?"

All of Oneida's students can now better answer these questions with the addition of the Geochron Global Time Indicator recently installed in the library. This amazing timepiece was a gift from Naomi Edwards, a friend of the school who has volunteered at OBI with her church.

The Geochron was invented in 1963 by James

Kilburg. It is a global time machine that shows the time, date and other specific information for any location in the world. Because the display is a detailed world map, it is a lesson in geography as well. Information is displayed by easy-to-read features on this beautiful instrument. The map moves from left to right and is updated as the International Dateline crosses the frame each day. Users can identify the 24 standard and 16 non-standard time zones; the day, date and month; and the season.

The most obvious feature is the illuminated area of the map. As the map passes into the light, that portion of the world is being greeted with the sunrise. As the map passes out of the light, the sun is setting.

The shape of the illuminated area changes with the seasons. During the spring and fall equinox, when the sun is directly over the equator, the lighted area has straight edges that run perpendicular to the equator. As the seasons progress, the edges become more angled to allow for the difference in daylight between the northern and southern hemispheres.

The northern hemisphere receives more daylight during June, and the southern hemisphere during December. Just as the days gradually grow longer or shorter by minutes, the daily changes to the illuminated area's shape are so slight, they go virtually unnoticed.

For Oneida's students the Geochron is more than a beautiful and educational timepiece. It will also serve as a tangible connection to wherever in the world they may call home.

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

You can go home again

Somerset student serves home congregation

We have all heard the proverbial saying, "You can't go home again." In ministry settings, some would interpret that to mean that a minister cannot be effective serving in his "home" church. This saying doesn't apply to second-year student Keith Bowling. He feels right at home serving in the church where he surrendered to the Lord's call.

Bethany Baptist Church in Somerset is home to Keith. "I was saved at 16 when my mother took me to a revival at Bethany," he said. "I am the youngest of six brothers. All of them except one have come to know the Lord since my salvation experience. I am glad to have the opportunity to influence my family for Christ."

Keith served as a deacon in the church for seven years. "I have a greater appreciation for deacons as a pastor now because of my experience of having served in that capacity myself," he said.

It was at Bethany that Keith said he sensed God was calling him to pastoral ministry. "I surrendered my life to God's call in July 2004. A motorcycle wreck made me open my eyes to the Lord's calling on my life. I know the Lord was telling me

that this was my last chance."

He now serves as associate pastor at Bethany while studying at Clear Creek. Keith preaches when the senior pastor is away. He also directs a home visitation ministry to homebound and lapsed members.

"It's exciting to see some people begin to come back to church after

not attending for over a year as a result of our visits in the home," Keith said. He also helps coordinate two other special outreach activities. "We have a 'Hot Rod Sunday' and a motorcycle Sunday that we use as an outreach to the community," he said. "On these designated Sundays, we have hot rod and motorcycle enthusiasts bring their cars and bikes to church. We have a meal for them after the service and a short cruise that afternoon. We have seen one man come back to church after being away for 20 years as a result of this outreach."

Keith Bowling is proof that you can go home again when that's where God calls you to go.



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.ccbcc.edu; e-mail: dfox@ccbcc.edu

Marriage amendments prompt Kentucky, other states to repeal domestic benefits

Nashville (BP)—A handful of states are repealing same-sex domestic partner benefits for public employees in light of recent amendments defining marriage.

USA Today reported June 20 that a Michigan court ruled earlier this year that cities, universities and other public employees may not continue the practice of offering benefits to homosexual couples because of a 2004 marriage amendment in that state.

Twenty-one public employees in Michigan are appealing to the state Supreme Court in order to keep their benefits, and the outcome could set a standard for how such cases are handled in other states, the newspaper reported.

In Kentucky last month, Attorney General Greg Stumbo ruled that the University of Kentucky and the University of Louisville could not offer health insurance and other benefits to domestic partners after both schools had approved plans to do so. Stumbo said the universities' policies to provide domestic partner benefits came too close to the legal definition of marriage as defined by a constitutional amendment passed in 2004, which de-

finer it as between one man and one woman.

A ban on domestic partner benefits for state employees is part of the agenda for a special legislative session called last week by Gov. Ernie Fletcher. The ban would include employees at state universities.

A U.S. appeals court last year upheld Nebraska's amendment prohibiting government employers from granting benefits to same-sex couples, USA Today noted, and in Ohio, state Rep. Tom Brinkman has filed a lawsuit to keep Miami University of Ohio from offering domestic benefits for homosexuals.

Supporters of the traditional definition of marriage as between one man and one woman say same-sex domestic benefits afford homosexuals rights that should be reserved for married people.

"The other side wants the same recognition as marriage, and obtaining domestic partner benefits is an important step in their overall goal," Michael Johnson, senior legal counsel for the Alliance Defense Fund, told USA Today.

With additional reporting by News Director Drew Nichter

Religious conservatives applaud Supreme Court term decisions

Washington (RNS)—Conservative religious advocacy organizations roundly praised the U.S. Supreme Court term that ended June 28, saying they are pleased with the way the court resolved several high-profile church-state disputes.

The court left high school students with considerable leeway to voice religious opinions, cleared the way for interest group-funded campaign ads and shielded the White House's faith-based initiative from challenge in the courts. The justices also upheld the constitutionality of a federal ban on partial-birth abortions.

"Overall, we had a very good term with the partial-birth abortion case and the Wisconsin Right to Life case all being decided in our favor," said Jay Sekulow, counsel for the American Center for Law and Justice.

In a friend of the court brief filed in the campaign finance case, Sekulow's office urged the justices to end the prohibition on issue advocacy ads in the days leading up to an election. Chief Justice John Roberts cited that brief in rejecting arguments by the law's defenders that the intent of the organization should be considered.

In the student speech case, *Morse v. Frederick*, the court held that public school officials do not violate a student's free speech rights when they prohibit displays that promote illegal drug use. In the ruling, however, the court majority suggested that schools could not similarly suppress speech that voiced real politi-

cal or religious points of view.

The decision appeared to satisfy many religious groups, which had expressed concern that a ruling could give schools power to limit student religious expression that officials find offensive.

The case left wiggle room for future litigation about religious expression in public schools, said Ira Lupu, a law professor at George Washington University.

"The kid in this case had a goofball message," Lupu said, referring to student Joseph Frederick's 14-foot banner that said "Bong Hits 4 Jesus."

"But when a kid shows up with a serious political or religious message, that's no longer the kid being the goofball. And you can see how the argument will go," he said. "The school will say that this undermines its ability to enforce its tolerance policy and the other side will say that this is religious or political speech."

Meanwhile, in *Hein v. Freedom From Religion Foundation*, the court barred taxpayer challenges to executive branch funding of arguably religious activities, such as faith-based social services. Taxpayers are still free—for the moment—to use federal courts to challenge congressional funding decisions.

But Congress could get around that distinction, said Douglas Laycock of the University of Michigan Law School, by simply funneling money to the executive branch and letting it specify how the money will be used.

Report highlights success, obstacles for Baptist women

Washington (ABP)—While moderate and progressive Baptists continue to grow in their theoretical support for women as pastors, their churches remain far behind in practice.

That's one conclusion from the second annual "State of Women in Baptist Life" report, released by Baptist Women in Ministry.

Authors Pam Durso and Eileen Campbell-Reed released the report at the organization's annual meeting June 28, held in conjunction with the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship general assembly in Washington.

The authors estimated that as many as 1,825 women have been ordained to the gospel ministry by churches of Southern Baptist heritage or that grew out of controversies in the Southern Baptist Convention.

However, the report found, only about 600 women serve as senior pastors of Baptist churches in the United States.

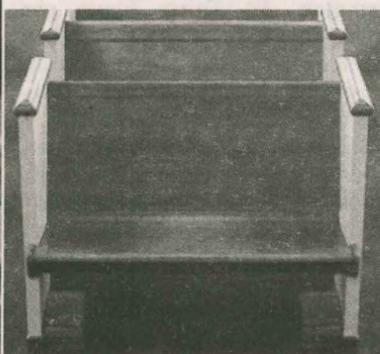
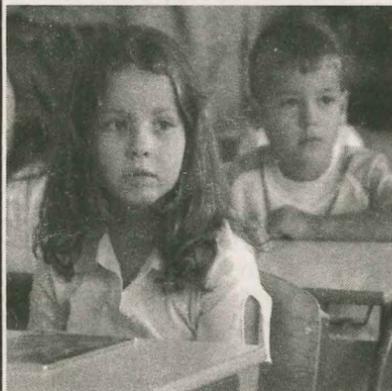
And, Durso said, "The great majority of those are American Baptist women."

Durso said BWIM had identified only 117 women serving as senior pastors of congregations of Southern Baptist heritage.

Those figures, Campbell-Reed said, showed that, "Despite some marginal increases, women are still not making dramatic advances."

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HOW TO BECOME A CHRISTIAN

By Carlos De la Barra

Summer is here and it is the season I enjoy the most. God has given the seasons for us to enjoy.

Summer is a time of sunny days, blooming flowers, outside activities, time with family, swimming and vacations. It's always sad for me that it lasts only a few months. It would be marvelous if it lasted a little longer.

But God is so wise that He even teaches us with summer. He teaches us daily that we must organize our lives.

God in His mercy has made this universe so that all His children can enjoy it in all of its fullness. Our favorite seasons come and then leave us, but the Lord wants us to enjoy them forever. He does this by offering us eternal life—"that whoever believes in him may have eternal life" (John 3:16). Only by believing in Jesus will we have eternal life. This eternal life, close to God, is not just for a season of the year, but forever.

How can we achieve this eternal vacation? According to Acts 16:31, "And they said: Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved." What does this mean? It means that we should recognize that we are sinful and that Christ died for our sins (John 3:16); that we regret that we have offended Him and repent of our sins (1 John 1:9); and that we recognize that He is our Lord and Savior and that we proclaim it to the world (Matthew 10:32).

God also calls us to commit our lives to honoring Him (Matthew 5:16). Do you want to have an eternal summer and to enjoy eternal life? God already did His part; now it depends on your decision.

Carlos De la Barra is the Kentucky Baptist Convention's new work ethnic associate

MOUNTAINS TO THE MISSISSIPPI

COMPILED BY STAFF

■ **CADIZ**—Liberty Point Church recently called **Brian Martin** as youth/associate pastor.

■ **DANVILLE**—First Church recently moved into its new \$4.25 million facility at 1560 N. Danville Bypass. **Tim Mathis** is pastor.

■ **GRASSY CREEK**—Crossroads Mission has started as a new church plant with **Ray Fallen** as church planter. Faith Church of Cannel City is the sponsoring/partnering church.

■ **GREENSBURG**—Pleasant Ridge Church recently called **Dwayne Southwood** as pastor.

■ **LOUISVILLE**—Carlisle Avenue Church ordained **Brad Walker** to the gospel ministry June 24. **Jason Allen** is interim pastor.

Valley View Church recently called **Joel Carwile** as pastor.

■ **MARTIN**—First Church ordained its pastor, **Dolvin Ratliff**, to the gospel ministry June 10.

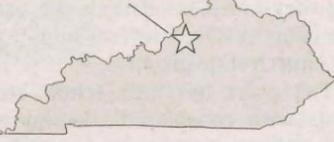
■ **SCOTTSVILLE**—Scottsville Church ordained **John Mark Williams** to the gospel ministry July 1. **Dale Darley** is pastor.

■ **SOMERSET**—**Don Jones** recently retired as pastor of Immanuel Church.

■ **STANFORD**—**Jeremy Johnson** was ordained to the gospel ministry June 10 in a service jointly convened by Stanford Church and Dry Run Church of Georgetown.

Spotlight on ...

Crestwood



The 48th annual Kentucky Baptist Conference of the Deaf was held June 8-10 at Camp Kavanaugh. Officers for 2007-2008 are **Richie Noble** of Hazard, president; **Beth Driver** of Bowling Green, vice president; **Janet Warmack** of Lexington, secretary; and **Steven Whitehead** of Erlanger, treasurer. For more information, contact **Tim Bender**, KBC missionary with the deaf at tllsbender@aol.com.

■ **WHEELWRIGHT**—**Roger Trusty** recently resigned as pastor of Jack's Creek Church.

■ **WACO**—Waco Church will host a musical concert featuring **Robin Mark**, a concert artist and song writer from Belfast, Ireland, July 17, 7 p.m. For more information, call (859) 369-5766 or e-mail waco.baptist3@aol.com. **Fred Livingood** is pastor.

AVAILABLE: Ordained Southern Baptist minister seeks church to pastor, bivocational or full-time. Resumé and references available upon request. For information, call (859) 272-7156 and leave a message, or e-mail georgebryant@hotmail.com.

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

FOR SALE: 1993 32-foot Holiday Rambler motorhome. Ford chassis, 460-ci motor with fuel injection. Must sell; reduced to \$21,000. For information, call (502) 245-4781.

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 youth and education for First Baptist Church, Danville, Ky. This position is responsible for planning, conducting and overseeing a comprehensive program for the youth and education of the church. A bachelor's degree is required and a seminary degree is preferred. Ministry experience may be accepted in lieu of seminary degree. First Baptist Danville is located in beautiful central Kentucky and has just relocated to a new facility. We are seeking a God-called person who loves youth ministry, is a self starter, mature in spirit and a team player who is able to plan and manage. Please send resumé to Tina Watson, First Baptist Church, PO Box 132, Danville, KY 40423; or e-mail to watson87@adelphia.net. Visit our website at www.fbcdanville.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 preschool/children. Submit resumé to: Central Baptist Church, 101 W Lexington Ave., Winchester, KY 40391, Attn: Dennis; or denniscbc@bellsouth.net.

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

SEEKING: 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.



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

July

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

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

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

August

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

14 Understanding Other Beliefs, Bellevue Baptist Church, Owensboro.

18 Super Saturday, Immanuel Baptist Church, Lexington.

20-22 Freedom Experience, Lincoln County High School.

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

September

1-3 Wrangler Trail Ride, Land Between the Lakes.

8 Super Saturday, First Baptist Church, Paducah, and First Baptist Church, Somerset.

13 Understanding Other Beliefs, Baptist Building, Louisville.

13 Retired Director of Missions/Spouse Luncheon, Severns Valley Associational Office, Elizabethtown.

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

Campbellsville names Kelly to VP post

Campbellsville—Benji Kelly has been named the new vice president for development at Campbellsville University.

For the past four years, Kelly served as director of alumni relations and director of planned giving in the CU office of development. Kelly has also served as an admissions counselor for the university.

"Benji has been a key player in our fundraising success in recent

years," said Campbellsville President Michael Carter, "and he is widely respected by his colleagues on campus and among the various constituency groups that are so important to the future of Campbellsville University."

Kelly graduated from Campbellsville in 1999 with a bachelor of science degree in communications. He also received a master's degree in business administration from the school in 2005.

CLASSIFIED ADS

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: 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 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: 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: Full-time pastor for Oak Grove Baptist Church. Send resumé to Pauline Crump, 2175 Old Canton Pike, Cadiz, KY 42211.

SEEKING: Part-time worship/music leader (20 hours a week). Duties include: organizing and leading Sunday morning worship in a blended music style, and developing adult, youth and children music ministries. Send resumé to: Music ministry, Bagdad Baptist Church, PO Box 8, Bagdad, KY 40003; or e-mail kyleamanda@bellsouth.net.

SEEKING: Full-time pastor for Anchor Church. Looking for a non-traditional, Spirit-filled church with Southern Baptist doctrine? If interested, please submit your resumé no later than Wednesday, Aug. 15, 2007, to: Pastor Search Committee, Anchor Church, 3126 Riggs Avenue, Erlanger, KY 41018; or e-mail to sjmorrison@insightbb.com.

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.

SERVICES: Christian long distance: 3.9 interstate; 3.9 in state. No monthly service charge. Call: (866) 587-8346 or www.lowermyphonebill.com/haroldtt.

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

Betrayed trust

By Greg Warner
Associated Baptist Press

Jacksonville, Fla. (ABP)—Secrecy about clergy sexual abuse may protect an abuser's current church from embarrassment but often comes at the expense of his next church—and its children.

Like many small, rural congregations that find themselves without a pastor, East Bonne Terre Baptist Church had a small budget and few options. When church members heard there was a new preacher in the area seeking a pulpit, it looked like God's timing.

"When somebody comes along who has experience, can talk the language of love, and is a good preacher, it's easy for them to believe God has called him to be their pastor," recalled Randy Black, a member of the Missouri church.

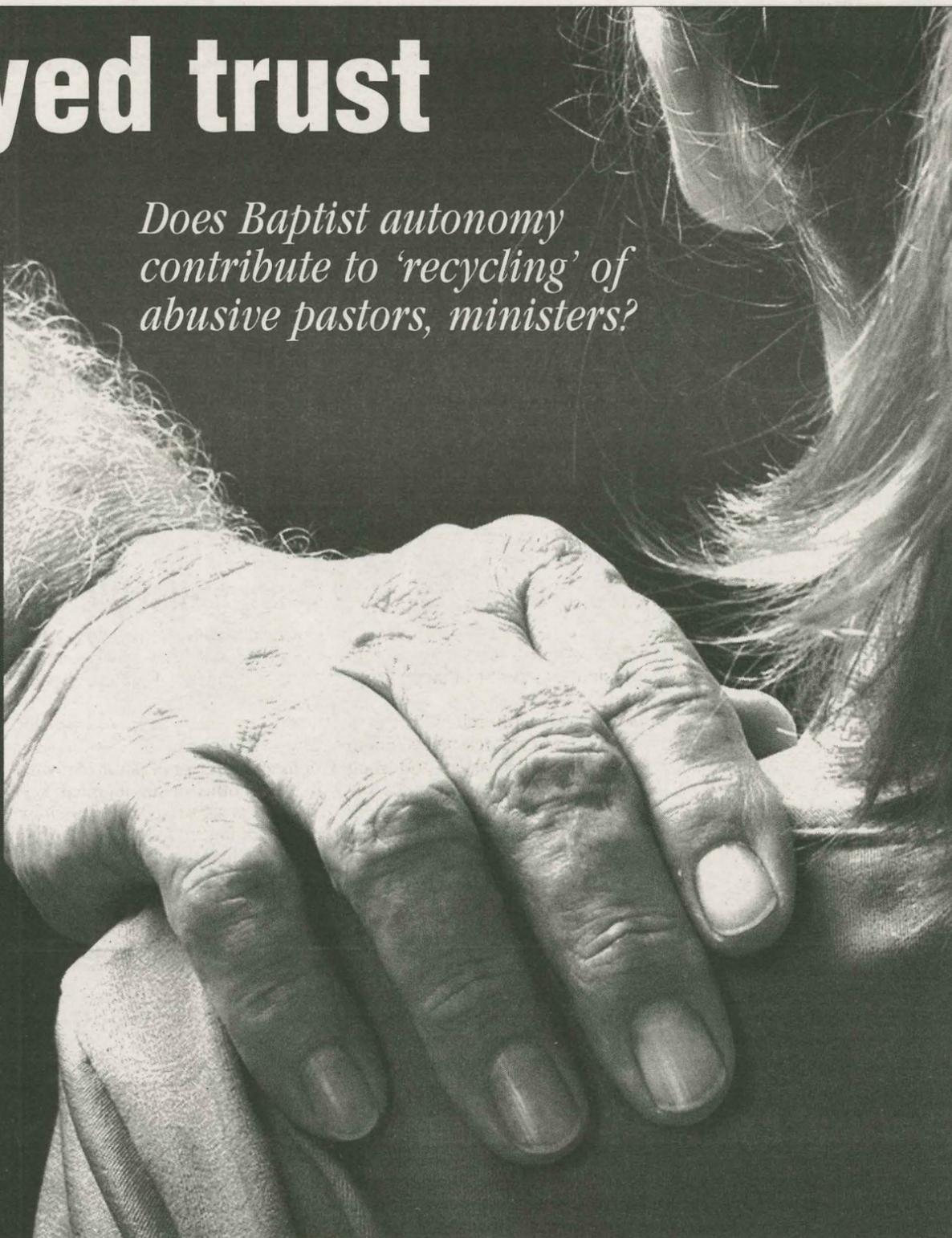
The preacher was "a smooth talker" who impressed the congregation as "a godly man," Black said. When his references checked out, he was hired. One day before he was to preach his first sermon, however, the church received a tip. Their new pastor was a convicted child-molester.

"He ran a deaf ministry and took advantage of those boys who were deaf and mute who couldn't tell anybody," Black said. When the layman called one of the references back, he was told, "He's an excellent pastor and he preaches great messages. He just has that one problem that he says he's dealt with and put behind him."

This far-too-common episode demonstrates why clergy sexual abuse—which some say has reached epidemic proportions—seems so insidious and hard to stop.

The situation in East Bonne Terre included many factors that make

Does Baptist autonomy contribute to 'recycling' of abusive pastors, ministers?



Baptist churches a breeding ground for clergy sex abuse: a trusted ministerial position, a winsome authority figure, an inadequate background check, church members who want to believe the best, a church's fear of embarrassment and liability, a tradition of autonomy, no denominational certification or safeguard, and no clearinghouse to identify repeat abusers.

"Recycled predators"

Baptists might be tempted to think the abuse and cover-up scandals in the Catholic church are the result of a church hierarchy bent on self-protection, but experts warn the lack of such a hierarchy in Baptist life gives abusers free rein. Essentially, they say, the system permits "predator pastors" to be "recycled" from one unsuspecting congregation to another.

Recent incidents of sex abuse of minors and adults by Southern Baptist and other evangelical clergy have made national headlines, sparking widespread calls for reform.

In June, the Baptist General Convention of Texas took action, posting online the names of eight convicted sexual offenders with past or current local Baptist ties. BGCT compiled the list from sexual miscon-

duct complaints filed with the convention office.

Texas leaders say they will review the list of ministers serving at each of the more than 5,600 churches in the convention. They pledge to add the names of convicted sexual offenders to the Web site, www.bgct.org/brokentrust.

Nationally, messengers to this year's annual meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention passed a resolution expressing a "deep level of moral outrage and concern at any instance of child victimization."

The statement also challenged Southern Baptists to report suspected abuse "in a timely and forthright manner." The statement also called upon churches to commit to thorough background checks for staff members, and denounced any efforts by "individuals, churches or other religious bodies that cover up, ignore or otherwise contribute to or condone the abuse of children."

Because the SBC does not have the authority to dictate hiring/firing or disciplinary practices to its member churches, many people may think the resolution only a gesture, but action may be on the horizon.

Also during the annual meeting, a motion was made to develop a national registry of "clergy and staff

who have been credibly accused of, personally confessed to, or legally been convicted of sexual harassment or abuse."

Wade Bursleson, pastor of Emmanuel Baptist Church in Enid, Okla., made the motion. Messengers referred it to the SBC Executive Committee for action, essentially tabling the matter until next year's meeting.

The Journal of Pastoral Care reported in a 1993 survey that 14 percent of Southern Baptist senior pastors have engaged in "sexual behavior inappropriate for a minister." This included incidents with adults.

The victims-advocate group Darkness to Light reports that 70 percent of all reported sexual assaults involve minors. The group estimates that 30 percent of abused children never tell anyone about the abuse. According to long-term studies, one-fourth of girls and one-sixth of boys are sexually abused. Most abusers will have multiple victims; serial abusers can have 40 to 400 in a lifetime.

A place of trust

But why churches? Experts say all sexual abuse involves broken trust.

"Churches have always been a place where everybody trusts everybody," said Robert Leslie, a detec-

tive with the Greenwood (Mo.) Police Department. "Everybody feels safe there. If you think about it, what better place for a predator to go?"

Too often, a church that discovers a predator in its midst tries to minimize the damage by keeping the incident secret.

"The tendency has been to bend over backwards to protect the good name of the church or the reputation of the minister charged with clergy sex abuse," said ethicist Joe Trull of Denton, Texas. Often, the church "re-victimizes" the victim.

"Because most Baptists have no system of ministerial ethical review or power to rescind ordination, we are vulnerable to terrible life-shattering situations," said retired pastor Michael Olmsted of Springfield, Mo., who twice in his long career has intervened when abusers were discovered in his church. When later he refused to provide positive references for two pastors with ethical failures, he "was treated as though I didn't believe God forgives sin," Olmsted said. "A good-old-boy system that rewards people for denominational service and recommends them to other churches, while ignoring immoral and abusive behavior in our churches, neither honors God nor represents the God of grace."

Helps available to help churches keep kids safe

Nashville (BP)—There are steps congregations can take to ensure the safety of children attending their church.

The first is to conduct thorough criminal background checks of all pastoral/ministerial candidates before hiring.

In 2002, LifeWay Christian Resources of the Southern Baptist Convention negotiated reduced-rate background check services with the firm U.S. Investigations Services. USIS can be reached by phone at (800) 288-8504. Callers should identify themselves as representatives of SBC-affiliated churches or ministries.

At www.lifeway.com, visitors can find checklists, articles and links to other resources on topics such as:

- "Four Steps to Prevent Child Abuse."
- "Preventing Child Abuse."
- "Seven Ways to Protect Your Church Staff from Scandal."
- "How to Protect Your Church from Lawsuits."

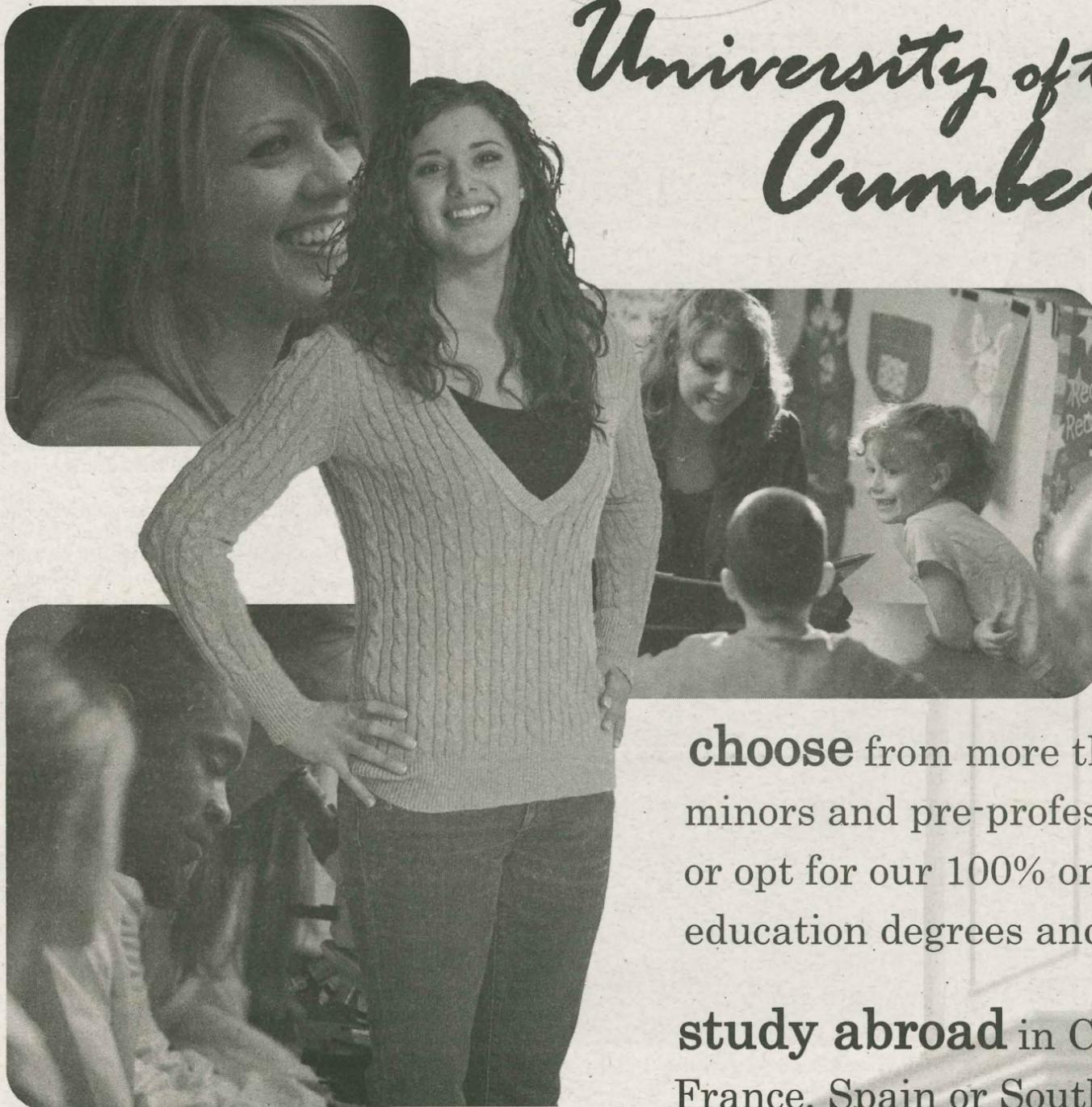
For more information, call LifeWay at (800) 458-2772.

This story is part of a series of articles by Associated Baptist Press on clergy sex abuse. Bill Webb of the Missouri Word & Way and Jim White of the Virginia Religious Herald contributed to part one. Read all the stories at: www.abpnews.com

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