

PRactical Resources for Christian Living

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FOR THE RECORD



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Report: 'Christian' nations enjoy more religious freedom

Washington (BP)—Countries with Christian roots are the most religiously free domains in the world, according to a report from the Center for Religious Freedom at the Hudson Institute.

The report ranked more than 100 countries according to the quality of religious freedom based on the country's religious background. The only countries to receive an ideal score were the United States and Estonia, both with Protestant backgrounds, and Hungary and Ireland, both with Catholic backgrounds.

The results of the report were announced earlier this month in a briefing at the Hudson Institute in Washington. A six-member panel spoke on the importance of securing religious liberty in countries where such freedom is most violated.

Panelist Paul Marshall, a senior fellow at the Center for Religious Freedom, said religious oppression is most often found in Muslim countries with extreme religious parties, such as Iraq, Iran, Sudan and Saudi Arabia.

"Radical Islam is probably the largest growing threat to religious freedom around the world, including in the Muslim world," Marshall said.

The panelists cited the Universal Declaration of Human Rights as a standard that all countries, regardless of religious affiliation, should uphold. Adopted by the United Nations in 1948, the declaration obligates the international community to treat its citizens humanely.

The report also found that countries with the least religious freedom were the most likely to suffer economically, naming Iran, Iraq, North Korea, Saudi Arabia and Sudan as examples.

Power of prayerwalking



PRAYER CHAIN Revive Prayer Walk participants gather in the gymnasium at Lyon County High School in Eddyville for prayer. The walks will continue throughout the summer. (Photo courtesy of Wade White)

Church prays for school, community, sparks other local efforts

By Ken Walker
Kentucky Baptist Convention

Grand Rivers—A western Kentucky prayerwalking initiative has spread to several other counties, with churches in at least two other states planning similar campaigns this fall.

Organized by Wade White, youth pastor at Grand Rivers Baptist Church, the Revive Prayer Walks generated so much enthusiasm that monthly events at Livingston County High School will continue throughout the summer.

White said the 10 students in his youth group said prior to the prayers that fights occurred daily at the school. Since mid-Janu-

ary they have rarely seen one take place.

"They've talked about their boldness and their excitement that something's going to change," White said.

The youth pastor said he sensed God calling him to pray at the high school last September. Later, he said God directed him to involve other Christians and schools.

White obtained permission from superintendents in Livingston and Crittenden counties to be on the grounds on a Sunday afternoon and gained the backing of Ohio River Baptist Association for the initiative. He then produced a DVD about the effort and mailed copies to all the churches

in the area.

About 100 people from several denominations showed up for the first walk at Livingston High School on Jan. 14. Two weeks later, the Crittenden County prayerwalk attracted 145 people.

Since then, both sites have averaged 60 to 80 people.

White also established a Web site, www.reviveprayerwalk.com, which features a free DVD download and information about how to start a prayerwalk. He said the Web site, media coverage and word-of-mouth have helped spread the walks to Lyon County, with one in Caldwell County set to begin July 22.

□ See Kentucky church sees ... *Page 8*

Urbanization is helping fuel growth in religion, U.N. report claims

By Jennifer Koons
Religion News Service

Washington (RNS)—Predictions that increased urbanization around the world would lead to a more secularized society are unfounded, and in fact the opposite may be true, according to a new report from the United Nations Population Fund.

"Rapid urbanization was expected to mean the triumph of rationality, secular values and the demystification of the world, as well as the relegation of religion to a secondary role," the report said. "Instead, there has been a renewal in religious interest in many countries."

George Martine, the chief author of the report, said the renewed religious fervor has been spurred by the increasing waves of immigrants flooding major cities around the globe.

"It's a noticeable fact that people in cities nowadays tend to find in religion a new form of belonging," he said, pointing to the immigrant experience in European cities.

"In Europe, urbanization was initially marked by a growing labor movement," he said. "The labor movement gave (new immigrants) solidarity and promise. But since the labor movement has basically been eroded by globalization ... religion is fulfilling much the same kind of role."

The report, issued June 27, found that 3.3 billion people—more than half the world's population—live in urban areas. That figure is expected to grow to 5 billion by 2030.

The growth is particularly sharp in the Third World, which is also the fastest-growing segment of global Christianity.

But the growth is not centered in the so-called "mega-cities" such as Mumbai, India, or Mexico City. In fact, more than half of the world's urban population lives in cities of 500,000 or less—about the size of Washington, D.C.

Critic disagrees with findings

Not everyone, however, agrees with the report's findings on religion. Todd Johnson, director of the Center for the Study of Global Christianity at Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary in Massachusetts, said cities serve more as a connecting point than an origin.

"I think the revivals tend to be rural and in smaller cities," Johnson said. "But the way in which these revivals are connecting with the rest of the world is through the global cities."

Johnson objected to the report's use of term "resurgence," which he characterized as a "sound bite" to describe what he said was a much more nuanced issue.

"The term 'resurgence' is a way for secular people to talk about the rest of the world," Johnson noted. "Many reports that came out in the 1960s and 1970s argued that religion wasn't going to exist in the year 2000. And that's the resurgence that everyone's talking about."

Johnson did point to one part of the world where he said "resurgence" would be an appropriate descriptor—Eastern Europe.

"The collapse of the Soviet Union has caused a true resurgence of religion," he said. "There are many more Christians, Muslims and other religionists in Eastern Europe as a result of the fall of communism."

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Post-Katrina building project hits milestone

By Michael McCormack
Baptist Press

New Orleans (BP)—More than 200 volunteers from 12 states surrounded the piers and floor structure at 1800 Bartholomew Street in New Orleans' Upper Ninth Ward last month to witness the wall raising of the 41st home to be built as part of the Baptist Crossroads Project.

Construction on the new home marks the beginning of a new chapter in the partnership between New Orleans' Habitat for Humanity and the Baptist Crossroads Foundation. Initially, plans for the Baptist Crossroads Project included 40 homes in the Upper Ninth Ward. The initiative was the vision of David Crosby, senior pastor of First Baptist Church of New Orleans.

In 2004, long before Hurricane Katrina, Crosby heard New Orleans Mayor Ray Nagin say that home ownership is the most effective way of lifting a family out of poverty. Crosby said he prayed for guidance, and soon, he and his church began making plans to build 40 homes. The Baptist Crossroads Project was the result.

Celebration and anticipation

In August 2006, just before the first anniversary of Hurricane Katrina, 30 houses were dedicated and the keys were presented to the new owners. Ten more houses were built that fall and the following spring.

"The Baptist Crossroads Project is a response to the challenge of Jesus Christ to love our neighbors as we love ourselves," Crosby said at the dedication. "We celebrate today all that God has done already, and we anticipate even greater works that lie ahead on the horizon."

Jim Pate, executive director of New Orleans Area Habitat for Humanity, pointed to what had al-



CONSTRUCTION ZONE Volunteers from 12 states look on as the first wall is raised at the 41st house built as part of the Baptist Crossroads Project in New Orleans' Upper Ninth Ward. (BP photo by Boyd Guy)

ready been accomplished by volunteers through the project.

"Almost every house in eyeshot in this whole area is a Baptist Crossroads Project house," Pate said as he motioned to the completed houses near 1800 Bartholomew. "The single most significant commitment that we have gotten to date from any organization (post-Katrina) is the Baptist Crossroads Project. We are honored to be a part of that."

Edward and Jennifer, the house's future owners, were on hand for the wall raising. The couple joined volunteers in raising the walls of the house and writing prayers of blessing on the frame. Edward briefly described the couple's journey since Hurricane Katrina.

"It took us a long time to get to the position where we are today," he said. "We've been a lot of places without the comfort of saying, 'This is our home.'"

Edward then pointed toward the dozens of houses up and down the streets that remain in disrepair.

"You all can see around here the neighborhood is still not coming back as it should be," he said. "A lot of people are not coming back to the neighborhoods. We need your help and support."

That help will be evident over the next five years, the time period in which volunteers through the Baptist Crossroads Project will build an additional 300 houses, said Inman Houston, associate pastor at First Baptist of New Orleans and director of the Baptist Crossroads Project.

"That's an incredible commitment and we applaud them," Pate responded.

And the Baptist Crossroads Project is doing more than just building new houses. In addition to the planned 350 houses to be built, volunteers with the Baptist Crossroads Project have begun conducting a 75-block, door-to-door survey of homeowners' needs.

Assessing community needs

"We've identified the 75-block area that we want to invest in," Houston said. "The first phase of survey work is to gauge the status of the community—what shape a particular structure is in."

"Right now, we're uncovering small projects. We've realized that it's a nice change of pace for teams."

Houston described how volunteers doing surveys met a woman in a wheelchair who is still living in a FEMA trailer. Her trailer is in her backyard, so she often has to push her way through high grass and mud to get to the trailer. Houston said that a group is preparing to build her a ramp to make getting to her trailer much easier.

"It's a neat complement to what we're doing at the Habitat site," he said.

The Baptist Crossroads Project needs thousands of volunteers to achieve its five-year goal. To learn more about the project, visit www.baptistcrossroads.org.

California pastors create alternative state convention

Thousand Oaks, Calif. (ABP)—A group of Southern Baptist pastors in California has launched an alternative state convention that will compete with the 67-year-old California Southern Baptist Convention for denominational loyalty.

California is the fourth state to witness such a move, joining Texas, Missouri and Virginia.

Ron Wilson, a Los Angeles-area pastor, said he helped create the California Baptist Conservative Coalition as a way to organize California Baptists who are discontent with the way the traditional state convention divides its money and the way the national Southern Baptist Convention counts church contributions.

Wilson, pastor of First Baptist Church of Thousand Oaks, Calif., has been a trustee of several SBC national agencies, including the North American Mission Board currently.

"We've got three things we're going to do," Wilson said. "We're going with a 50-50 split (of contributions) with the national convention and the (new) state convention. Our statement of faith will be the 'Baptist Faith and Message.' And we are going to meet three times a year."

The current division of funds in the California State Baptist Convention is 28 percent for SBC and 72 percent for the state convention's own ministries.

Wilson said he expects between 75 and 100 churches to affiliate with the coalition by the end of its first year.

BAPTIST DIGEST

NAMB missionary John Lewis dies at age 56. John Lewis, a Southern Baptist-endorsed chaplain and a 2007 North American Mission Board Week of Prayer missionary, died of cancer July 8 in Benton, Ark. He was 56. Lewis served in a support role with his wife, Diana, in her work as ministry evangelism director for the Arkansas Baptist State Convention for the past 15 years. From 1992 until his death, Lewis was a chaplain at the Central Arkansas Veterans Administration Hospital. He held degrees from Kansas State University, Southern Baptist Theological Seminary and Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. In addition to his wife, Lewis is survived by one son, Caleb.

Gushee named ethics professor at Mercer. David Gushee, a Baptist theologian and author, has been named distinguished professor of Christian ethics at Mercer University. Gushee currently is a professor of philosophy at Union University in Jackson, Tenn. A native of Virginia, Gushee is a graduate of the College of William and Mary, Southern Baptist Theological Seminary and Union Theological Seminary in New York. A columnist for Christianity Today and Associated Baptist Press, Gushee has written or edited nine books. His 2003 work, "Kingdom Ethics: Following Jesus in Contemporary Context," with Glen Stassen, was named Theology/Ethics Book of the Year by Christianity Today.

Land elected freedom commission vice chair. Richard Land, president of the Southern Baptist Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission, has been elected as a vice chair of the U.S. Commission on International Freedom. Michael Cromartie, vice president of the Ethics and Public Policy Center, is the new chair. Preeta Bansal, a New York lawyer, was elected as the other vice chair. The USCIRF researches the status of religious liberty in other countries and provides reports and recommendations to the White House and Congress.

Baptist leaders highlight 'lessons from Africa'

By Trennis Henderson
Editor

Accra, Ghana—"Lessons from the Church in Africa" was among a variety of forum sessions during the recent Baptist World Alliance Annual Gathering in Ghana.

The forums are "designed to create an atmosphere of learning ... and dialogue" among BWA participants from diverse cultural settings around the globe.

Terry Rae, a BWA vice president from South Africa, noted that he has been involved in evangelism and church planting in nine African nations.

"There are more people coming to Christ in Africa than on any other continent in the world," he said. "Churches start all over the place. ... There is a depth of commitment that is quite unbelievable."

Describing a congregation with 300 worshippers who met for two and a half years "under the tallest tree in the district," Rae explained, "The church is not a building. It is the body of Jesus Christ. There is a concentration upon people rather than on buildings and things."

Citing such hands-on ministry efforts as literacy training, day care centers and ministry to families affected by HIV/AIDS, Rae told forum

participants, "Every single church on our continent can do something about people who are being affected by HIV/AIDS. It is the church's mandate, is it not, to care for the bereaved? It is the church's mandate to look after orphans and widows."

"I've been amazed at how many pastors and pastoral families throughout the continent have taken AIDS orphans into their own homes," he added. "It speaks to me of real Christianity."

Emphasizing that "the community is involved in every part of life in Africa," Rae said, "Amidst the poverty of Africa there has been an amazing richness of spiritual life."

Holism is key African value

Stephen Asante, president of the Ghana Baptist Convention, pointed out that "the African church obviously is the product of missionary work from the Western world."

Citing both benefits and challenges of Africa's missionary heritage, Asante said, "Even though we have made a lot of gains, we still have a lot of struggles."

Noting that "tradition is very strong" in Africa, Asante said the philosophy of holism is among key values in church and worship.

"We do not separate the spiritu-

al from the physical," he explained. "Holism has very serious implications in our spiritual formation as Africans."

"If God is living, if He is real, He must care about my health, about my food, about everything."

Describing God as African Christians' "biggest ancestor," Asante said, "He's our God. He's our great ancestor—Grandfather God."

Chamunorwa Chiromo, a BWA General Council member from the Baptist Convention of Zimbabwe, emphasized that "the spiritual world is very real to an African."

"As a result of that," he said, "one of the lessons that has come from the African church is prayer. Not just prayer, but powerful prayer. The African church really engages in serious prayer because of the awareness of the reality of the powerful spiritual world."

Explaining that "the word 'secular' is not in our vernacular," Chiromo said, "The birth of a child is spiritual. The initiation of a child into adulthood is spiritual. Marriage is spiritual; death is spiritual."

Africans "embrace the sacredness of life from Monday to Sunday," he concluded. "For the African, spirituality includes everyday experiences."

Henard to be nominated as KBC president

By Trennis Henderson
Editor

Elizabethtown—Bill Henard, pastor of Porter Memorial Baptist Church in Lexington, will be nominated as Kentucky Baptist Convention president during the KBC annual meeting Nov. 13-14 in Elizabethtown.

Henard, who has served at Porter Memorial Church since 1999, previously was nominated for president in 2003. Federal Judge Eugene Siler was elected president that year, the last time a layperson has been elected to the KBC's top office.

Henard will be nominated by Hershael York, pastor of Buck Run Baptist Church in Frankfort and associate dean of ministry and proclamation at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville. York was elected KBC president in 2004.

Henard currently is the only announced candidate for KBC office.

Describing Henard as "just a very godly man," York said, "He is a man of great integrity. He has worked hard in the Kentucky Baptist Convention. He has not been somebody who has just shown up to run for president."

Explaining that "there are several of us who believe in Bill and have encouraged him to run," York added, "I told him I thought it was time for him to do it."

"Frankly, there's no question I believe that Kentucky Baptists have become comfortable with conservative leadership," York emphasized. "I think my tenure turned out to be a watershed year because people saw my heart and the heart of other guys. ... Bill, I think, is right in the stream of leadership I have exhibited and Paul Chitwood and Darren Gaddis."



Bill Henard

Chitwood, pastor of First Baptist Church of Mount Washington and an adjunct professor at Southern Seminary, succeeded York as president in 2005. Gaddis, pastor of Central Baptist Church in Corbin, is the current state convention president.

"I'm not seeking the nomination," Henard said. "I'm really honored that Hershael and several guys approached me. They all in unison said they believe I was the person that needed to run."

If he is elected in November, Henard said initial goals include seeking to "help churches see the need to participate fully in the Cooperative Program and what the CP can do for them, and also to help churches see their personal participation in missions is something that will impact their church."

Noting that he is "at peace" with being nominated, Henard added, "If I'm not elected, I'm not going to lose

any sleep. I just want to be there to serve."

Henard, who holds degrees from the University of the Cumberlands in Williamsburg; Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas; and Southern Seminary, also is an assistant professor of evangelism at Southern.

Prior to serving at Porter Memorial, he was pastor of churches in Alabama, Tennessee and Texas. A former president of the Kentucky Baptist Pastors' Conference, he currently is serving his third term as chairman of the KBC Mission Board's administrative committee. He also has served on the KBC Committee on Nominations, Cooperative Program Research Committee and the joint committee that negotiated the KBC's response to Georgetown College's move to a self-perpetuating board.

On the Southern Baptist Convention level, Henard is chairman of LifeWay Christian Resources' trustee board. He also has served on the SBC Committee on Nominations.

Porter Memorial Baptist Church ranked second last year among Kentucky Baptist churches in CP giving, with a total of almost \$400,000 (15 percent of undesignated receipts), according to the 2006 Annual Church Profile report. Henard's congregation also was among the top 20 churches in baptisms last year with a total of 73 baptisms reported.

Statewide time of prayer seeks healing for nation, communities

Louisville—Kentucky Baptists all across the state will gather for a concert of simultaneous prayer on the evening of Sept. 11 to ask God to bring spiritual awakening and healing to communities, the state and nation.

Using the theme "With One Voice," the simultaneous prayer gatherings will be held at 7:30 p.m. Eastern time and 6:30 p.m. Central time in nearly 70 different locations across the state.

The prayer gatherings are open to the public and everyone is invited to attend.

At each location, Baptists and other Christians will gather for approximately one hour of concerted prayer. In most cases, the prayer time will be introduced with a brief service of welcome and worship, but the majority of the time will be dedicated to praying, both corporately and in small groups.

"At the gatherings, we will pray for believers to experience renewal, for churches to experience revival and for God to use revived churches to share the good news of the gospel of Jesus Christ with every person in their community," said Bill Mackey, executive director of the Kentucky Baptist Convention.

The Sept. 11 event follows up on two years of prayer tours in which a team of KBC leaders traveled the state to lead prayer gatherings. In 2005, the team traveled the perimeter of the state, making more than 30 stops for prayer gatherings of Kentucky Baptists. In 2006, the leaders' travels focused on the interior of the state.

Convention officials said they hope the simultaneous nature of this year's prayer emphasis will spark large numbers of Christians to participate.

"There's nothing magical in all of us gathering for prayer at exactly the same time," Mackey said. "But I do believe it helps us all to focus in on the importance of prayer and on the importance of the issues we are praying about."

KBC 'Super Saturday' offers variety of church ministry training options

Hundreds expected at several locations throughout Kentucky

Louisville—Church leaders and volunteers can benefit from a variety of ministry training sessions at six Super Saturday events throughout the state in August and September.

Sponsored by the Kentucky Baptist Convention, Super Saturdays are comprehensive church ministry training conferences. Hundreds of participants are expected at each of the six locations.

Events will be held Aug. 18 at Immanuel Baptist Church in Lexington; Aug. 25 at First Baptist Church, Pikeville, and First Baptist Church, Owensboro; Sept. 8 at First Baptist Church, Paducah, and First Baptist Church, Somerset; and Sept. 15 at Severns Valley Baptist Church in Elizabethtown.

New this year, an African-American track option will be available to participants at Lexington, Owensboro, Paducah and Elizabethtown. A teen track and church architecture conferences will also be held at all locations.

"Super Saturdays are for every kind of church and all kinds of ministry workers," said Darryl Wilson, adult Sunday school group director for the KBC and organizer of Super Saturday. "There really is something for everyone."

According to Wilson, partici-

pants will benefit from new conference topics, expert speakers and networking opportunities at each event.

Training is available for leaders and volunteers in most areas of local church ministry, including Sunday school, stewardship, discipleship, evangelism, Woman's Missionary Union, women's ministry, worship and music, preschool/children, Baptist Men on Mission, church finance, deacons, ministers' wives, literacy missions and trustees.

Super Saturday participants can customize their event experience by selecting from a variety of conferences throughout the day. Participants will select one leadership conference to receive in-depth training in their primary ministry area, and two afternoon conferences based on their interests and needs.

Super Saturdays begin at 9 a.m. and conclude at 3 p.m. Registration opens at 8 a.m., and lunch is provided.

Registration is required for all Super Saturday events. The cost to attend is \$20 for those who register online by the Monday before each event, or \$25 by phone or at the door.

To register for Super Saturday or for more information, visit www.kybaptist.org/supersaturday, call (502) 489-3572 or (866) 489-3572 (toll free in Kentucky), or e-mail supersaturday@kybaptist.org.

Kentucky Baptist volunteers pitch in to help clean up Midwest flooding

Neodesha, Kan.—Kentucky Baptist disaster relief volunteers from across the state are working to restore areas affected by flooding in Neodesha, Kan.

Torrential rains in late June and early July forced thousands of residents in Kansas, Oklahoma and Texas to evacuate their homes. Floodwaters have receded and recovery efforts have begun.

"The rain has backed off significantly. The water is dropping and we can finally get into the affected areas," said Mickey Caison, director for adult volunteer mobilization for the Southern Baptist North American Mission Board.

A crew of Kentucky Baptist volunteers is doing what is called mud-out work, according to Larry Koch, disaster relief associate with the KBC's Baptist Men on Mission department. Crews remove water and damaged materials from flooded homes, then sanitize the homes to prevent further damage and begin the rebuilding process. The team is doing work on homes flooded "anywhere from a few inches to several feet," Koch said.

The Kentucky Baptist Convention is assisting with the relief work in Neodesha and will continue to need trained volunteers for weeks to come. Kentucky is one of 12 states responding to the disaster operations center's call for help.

Koch said that once the work in Neodesha is done, the crews could be transferred to another state hit hard by the flooding.

"Right now, for as long as we can get volunteers who are willing

to go, we can probably send crews out to Kansas, Oklahoma (and) Missouri," Koch said. "There's lots of work to be done."

Kentucky Baptists are part of a larger network of Southern Baptist volunteers trained to respond to disasters by manning mass feeding operations, using chainsaws to clear downed trees and limbs, clear mud out of flooded homes and more.

Southern Baptist disaster relief volunteers work in conjunction with other organizations, such as the Salvation Army, the American Red Cross and the Federal Emergency Management Agency. Together, Southern Baptists compose the third largest relief organization in the United States.

To volunteer with Kentucky Baptist Disaster Relief, visit www.kybaptist.org/dr or call the Baptist Men on Mission office at (502) 489-3527 or toll-free at (866) 489-3527.

With additional reporting by Baptist Press

FLOODED OUT Eddie Chadwick (left) and Joe Clark help move a friend whose home was flooded in Osawatomie, Kan., on July 1. Disaster relief teams from across the country, including Kentucky, are helping clean up areas affected by the floods. (BP photo by Jennifer Hack/Kansas City Star)



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

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Revival requires spiritual repentance

By Henry Blackaby

Atlanta (BP)—Ezekiel 18:31-32 is the heart cry of God to His covenant people, Israel: "Why should you die, O house of Israel? For I have no pleasure in the death of one who dies," says the Lord God. "Therefore, turn and live!"

God had just reminded His people that if "a righteous man turns away from his righteousness ... and dies ... it is because of the iniquity that he has done that he dies" (Ezekiel 18:24-26).

Like the "house of Israel," God's people continue to sin against God in our day and live without any awareness of the consequences.

We seem to be totally indifferent to any judgment whatsoever, as if that only happened in the Old Testament. But, of course, that's just not true. It was to the people of God in Rome that Paul wrote: "The wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Jesus Christ our Lord." For anyone who sins and continues

to sin without repentance—especially God's people—it leads to "death."

And did Jesus not warn God's people that they must repent or perish? Read the accounts in Matthew 4:17, Luke 13:1-9 and Luke 17:20-36. Repentance among God's people requires

COMMENTARY

an immediate turning that changes our heart, will and actions. Repentance requires a changed lifestyle. Therefore, we too must heed Christ's warning for our own generation.

We must possess a wholehearted desire to return to God.

Many of us today are aware that America is in desperate need of revival, but we haven't made the connection. While we see the spiritual darkness around us, we do not recognize that the greater problem is with the light. Light dispels darkness! Jesus said that His disciples are the light of the world (Matthew 5:14-16). When the light of Christ is dimmed by our sin, the darkness flourishes. But when we repent, His

light shines in us and through us to a watching world; people "see" and God is glorified!

For now, however, America continues to move steadily closer to God's judgment. And there remains a prevailing carelessness among God's people concerning this activity of God.

Revival tarries because God's people will not repent, and we see no reason to do so. So, even if we recognize that the times are urgent and the spiritual climate is dark, and even if we cry unto God for a mighty revival, without our repentance He will refuse to hear us because we keep iniquity in our hearts.

We must, therefore, heed His call: "Return to Me, and I will return to you," says the Lord of hosts" (Malachi 3:7b). We must repent and return to Him in holiness, love and obedience, or the nation will surely perish under the judgment of our sin (2 Peter 3:9).

Henry Blackaby, author of "Experiencing God," is the founder of Blackaby Ministries International in Atlanta

Response to study

This is in response to a news item published June 5: "LifeWay study: Half of SBC pastors affirm private prayer language."

1. Baptists are not Protestant. Our heritage is not from Luther or Calvin. We are Baptist and should not be linked to Protestant heritage.

2. All pastors who adhere to an unknown language should get connected to those Protestant groups who believe this.

3. In Acts 1:8 our mandate is given to evangelize the earth. This and this only is the area where God works supernaturally. He will give you the tongue (language) to speak in special circumstances.

4. We are believer priests. We do not need to have a secret access code to God. Furthermore, He understands hillbilly very well.

5. Romans 8 speaks of an inner

groaning that the Holy Spirit takes directly to God on our behalf—no special tongue needed.

As Southern Baptists, we need to remain biblical. What got us where we are is a strict adherence to sound doctrine. My advice: Go soul winning, pray, seek His will, do the work of a pastor, and be sound in your beliefs.

Charles L. Burton
Orlando, Ky.

Thanks for letter

Please accept my sincere thanks for having fortitude enough to print

What are you thinking?

The Western Recorder considers letters on any subject for publication, provided they don't make a personal attack. The maximum length for a letter is 300 words. Submit by mail to Box 43969, Louisville, KY 40253; fax, (502) 489-3565; or e-mail, wesrec@earthlink.net.

Edward Clark's letter titled "Women's roles limited." It always seemed a little strange to me that God would call women to preach from Methodist, Episcopal, Pentecostal and Lutheran churches, but not Baptist!

We have an ancestor by the name of An Askew who was burned at the stake in 1546 for heresy for refusing to recant her beliefs against transubstantiation. When asked at the trial for a last chance to refute, she replied, "I've read where God has made man, but I haven't read where man has made God."

An and I both thank you.

Judith Anne Askew
Brookport, Ill.

Families on Mission blessings

Kay and I did not know what to expect when we recently arrived in Lynch for Families on Mission week.

I knew that I was to be the preacher for worship each evening but I didn't realize how much I would be blessed by the experience.

Families on Mission is a pre-packaged, week-long family mission opportunity sponsored by the Southern Baptist North American Mission Board. It allows mom, dad and grandparents to model an on-mission lifestyle for their children and grandchildren.

Parents and grandparents have the unique privilege to be "hands on" as they guide their family through devotions, missions awareness, mission projects, worship, family small-group discussions, and interaction with resident missionaries and the community. Mission activities include acts of kindness and other evangelism events, light construction and painting, yard work, prayer-walking and others.

I was given the opportunity to work in construction, refinishing the outside of a home for a woman

whose husband had passed away. It was an incredible experience to watch parents teach their children how to scrape old paint off the siding, trim and clean up around the house, and even drive nails and cut boards.

The youngest child on our crew was age 6. I guess I was the oldest crew member but God blessed me to work six hours each day replacing deteriorated wood siding boards. There were five families represented on our crew and everyone made a meaningful contribution.

The most gratifying moment came when the job was finished and the crew members gathered to share testimonies and pray with the homeowner. She had prepared a letter of appreciation (maybe with the help of her daughters) for each family.

Kay had a most enjoyable experience with two families who worked

to sort clothes for distribution in the Freedom Center, which is directed by Mission Service Corp missionaries George and Robin Lewis.

The mission experience provided an opportunity to make new friends from numerous states and Canada. Fred and Nicole Smith, their two children and grandma, Theresa Farnson, returned for their second experience at Lynch, a nine-hour drive from Greencastle, Pa.

"Going to Lynch gives us an opportunity to be together working for a purpose and serving the Lord and finding others to connect with." Nicole said. "Little did we know that it would be so different than what we expected. We thought we'd go down and help someone else. Instead, the people of Lynch taught us how to be an even more united and stronger family and how to serve the Lord as a family."

When the grandchildren are older, Kay and I hope to accompany them, and maybe their parents, to Families on Mission. We believe it is a great way to experience missions as a family.

Bill Mackey is executive director of the Kentucky Baptist Convention

GIVING

Tax law changes restrict families' tax planning

By Laurie Valentine

The recently enacted Small Business and Work Opportunity Tax Act of 2007 makes some significant changes in the "kiddie tax" imposed on the investment income of "children."



As originally enacted in 1986, the "kiddie tax" was imposed on children under age 14 with investment income in excess of a base amount (currently \$1,700). It was enacted due to Congress' belief that affluent parents were shifting income-producing assets to their children where that income would be taxed at a lower income tax rate than that of the parents. The "kiddie tax" forced children under 14 to calculate the tax on their investment income twice—once at their own tax rate and then again at the marginal rate of their parents. They paid whichever tax was higher.

In 2006, as part of Congress' search for new revenue sources, the "kiddie tax" law was expanded to tax the investment income of all children under 18.

The 2007 tax law changes, which take effect in 2008, further expand the reach of the "kiddie tax" by creating three separate classes of taxpayers. The first class consists of those currently subject to the tax—children age 18 or younger with investment income in excess of \$1,700 and who do not file a joint return (i.e., are not married). The second class, added by the 2007 legislation, includes children 18 or younger with investment income in excess of \$1,700 who do not file a joint return and whose earned income does not exceed 50 percent of their own support. The third class, also added in 2007, includes "children" ages 19 through 23 who meet the above criteria and are full-time students at least five months of the calendar year.

While the newest changes further restrict family income tax planning, there are still opportunities available. A gift of appreciated assets will escape the "kiddie tax" as long as the sale is deferred until after the child is outside the specified age range. Gifts of assets that generate tax-free or deferred income (such as municipal bonds or series E savings bonds) are also fine since they don't generate taxable income. Finally, a gift of investment property to grandchildren may make sense if the parents' tax bracket is lower than the grandparents, since it is the parents' tax bracket that counts.

Laurie Valentine is trust counsel for the Kentucky Baptist Foundation

Variety of resources can help couples prepare for parenting

Q: My wife and I are expecting our first child in a few months. Every time we discuss discipline or raising children, we get into an argument with phrases like, "Your parents did what?" We were obviously raised differently, so we're looking for some books that will help us have some positive discussion times. What would you recommend?

A breakthrough workbook is "Parenting by Grace" by Diana Garland. Published in 1986, you might need to search for it on the Internet. Garland is the dean of social work at Baylor University.

A helpful and accessible book by Richard and Linda Eyre is "Three Steps to a Strong Family." See www.TheEyes.com. To work on a family mission statement, see "Seven Habits for Highly Effective Families" by Stephen Covey.

Check the Today's Parent Web site (www.TodaysParent.com) for its list of the Top 20 parenting books of all time. A classic from the list is "How to Talk So Kids Will Listen & Listen So Kids Will Talk" by Faber and Mazlish.

Books that are popular within the marriage education movement include: "Take Back Your Kids: Confident Parenting in Turbulent Times" by William Doherty, as well as "Becoming Parents: How to Strengthen Your Marriage as Your Family Grows" by Pamela Jordan, Scott Stanley and Howard Markman.

One important aspect of parenting is covered in "The Five Love Languages of Children" by Gary Chapman and Ross Campbell. And keep this title handy for when you need it: "Suddenly They're 13: the Art of Hugging a Cactus" by David and Claudia Arp.

You also would do well to take this discussion to the safe place of a marriage and family counselor or pastoral counselor who can help you reach consensus, listening to one another, taking the best from both traditions to create your own unique approach.—James Stillwell

Q: From a child's standpoint, why does marriage matter?

David Myers and Letha Scanzoni are respected teachers, authors and family researchers. In their 2005 book, "What God Has Joined Together," they present research showing why marriage matters. The research comes from a team of family scholars who characterize marriage as "an important social good, associated with an impressively broad array of positive outcomes for children and adults alike."

The researchers organize their findings under a series of broad headings. The results clearly show why marriage matters to children, and the difference a strong marriage most often makes in the life of a child:

Economics. Divorce and unmarried childbearing increases the chances of poverty for children. Divorce or failure to marry increase a child's chances of failure in school. Divorce reduces the chance that a child will graduate from college and achieve a high-status job.

Physical health and longevity. Children who live with their own two married parents enjoy better health on average than children living in other family settings.

Mental health and emotional well-being. Children whose parents divorce experience more incidences of psychological distress and mental illness.

Crime and domestic violence. Boys raised in single-parent families are more likely to engage in delinquent and criminal behavior. A child who is not living with his or her own married parents is at a greater risk for child abuse.

(Based on research by Norval Glenn, University of Texas; Steven Nock, University of Virginia; and Linda Waite, University of Chicago.)

Myers and Scanzoni caution that the research presents general patterns, conveys no judgment and should not be interpreted as fatalistic in a predictive sense.—David Garrard

Family Forum writers are:

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



Baptist leaders tackle sexual abuse crisis

Clergy sexual abuse has become a major topic of concern among Southern Baptists in recent months.

The issue gained national prominence in April when a segment of ABC's "20/20" warned that a handful of convicted "preacher predators" remain on the Southern Baptist Convention's published list of ministers.

SBC President Frank Page, who appeared briefly on the program, noted prior to the broadcast that he agreed to an interview "to provide some kind of balance to a program which may well be overwhelmingly negative."

Page later described the report as "an intentional slice-and-dice effort to portray the SBC and its president as uncaring and uninformed." He added that "it was a prime example of yellow journalism, in which a broad brush was used and the whole truth was denied a fair hearing."

Despite such concerns, August Boto, the SBC Executive Committee's vice president for convention policy, cited "a major benefit to the airing of the 20/20 segment—that it significantly raised the level of apprehension and wariness among Southern Baptists who have responsibilities in qualifying volunteers and prospective employees."

"Significant impact in reducing instances of sexual abuse must start at the local level," Boto declared. "The authority is there, the children are there, the applicants are there, the circumstances are understood better there, and the child's most motivated defenders are there—their parents."

Even with that said, there is a growing acknowledgement that Baptist associations, state conventions and the SBC must take active roles in helping educate, warn and curb against clergy sexual abuse. And that's where recent developments have surfaced, including:

- Members of the Kentucky Baptist Convention Mission Board approved a proposal in May calling for the board's administrative committee to "consider the feasibility of developing and implementing a registry of ministers/staff/employees in Kentucky Baptist Convention member churches who have been accused, charged, arrested and/or terminated from church re-

sponsibilities for any criminal activities including but not limited to child abuse and/or sexual abuse of any nature."

In a recent interview with the Courier-Journal, committee chairman Bill Henard said state convention leaders plan to "provide resources to churches so that they can find help in making sure they do excellent background checks on any staff or pastors or anyone that is going to be employed in their church."

Noting that "a registry would be inadequate, we feel, simply because you probably can't keep it as up to date as it needs to be," Henard said the study group may recommend distributing a booklet on ways to conduct background checks.

- The Baptist General Convention of Texas recently released a list of registered sex offenders currently or previously on staff at affiliated churches. The Texas convention posted the names of eight convicted sex offenders online. Convention leaders also have pledged to keep the list updated and mail it to all Texas Baptist churches periodically.

- During last month's SBC annual meeting in San Antonio, a motion instructing the denomination to study establishing a registry of clergy sexual offenders was referred to the SBC Executive Committee for action at next year's SBC. The proposal calls for the database to include ministers and church staff members "who have been credibly accused of, personally confessed to, or legally been convicted of sexual harassment or abuse."

SBC messengers also adopted a resolution describing "violent physical and sexual crimes against children" as "a leading issue requiring the urgent response of God's people." It called for churches and convention entities to perform criminal background checks on all ministers, employees and volunteers.

As Baptist leaders wrestle with the most effective ways to help reduce instances of clergy sexual abuse, Henard told the Courier-Journal, "If there's only one child ever abused, that's one too many."

And that's the primary reason for concerned Baptists and fellow believers in our state, nation and world to lead the way in seeking practical solutions.

STRAIGHT FROM THE EDITOR



Trennis Henderson

God at work on Thursday nights

By Jim Burton

Henderson (BP)—The Thursday commitment service at the Henderson, Ky., World Changers turned into something very special last summer. It happened when staffer Sammy Jo Turner issued a challenge for students to be involved in vocational missions.

It was an unanticipated twist to an anticipated response. On display stage left was one large candle with 100 smaller candles spread around it on a plastic sheet. The large candle was lit, as were 10 of the smaller candles.

Sammy told participants the large candle represented God, and the 10 smaller candles represented the percentage of Christians who had committed to vocational ministry. She emphasized that while we can certainly celebrate the commitment of the 10 percent, the light they emitted wasn't nearly enough.

When the special invitational call to vocational ministry began, I watched as students stood up one by one in the darkened auditorium to make their way forward. It started slowly with one or two, but quickly grew. It was as if the hand of God were moving across the auditorium, tapping students on the shoulder. More than 25 answered the call and added the light of their life to combat the vast darkness.

That same Thursday night in Sunset, S.C., Royal Ambassadors made the steep trek from the mess hall and their cabins toward the chapel on top of the mountain at McCall Royal Ambassador Camp. It's a climb an estimated 2,500 boys make

each summer in South Carolina toward the brilliantly white chapel that overlooks Lake Chilly Water. They hike, swim, shoot archery and glide on zip lines during the fulfilled week, but on Thursday night Royal Ambassador boys and Challengers young men hear a clear presentation of the gospel that encourages them to make an eternal decision. For many boys, they come off the mountain transformed, with Jesus living in their heart. At the bottom of the mountain in the darkness of the evening, luminaries light the way and point them toward an illuminated cross. Inevitably—without prompting—boys kneel at the cross and pray for their lost buddies.

This summer, it is important for Southern Baptists to remember that literally tens of thousands of our children and youth will attend mission camps and mission projects—with eternal significance. And typically, Thursday night is set aside as a time designed to challenge their relationship to Christ.

Sometimes it's easy to forget how

important these camps are in the life of our children and youth.

Typically during summers, state Baptist Royal Ambassador and Girls in Action camps report about 2,100 professions of faith annually.

Through the North American Mission Board's World Changers, Power-Plant and Families on Mission projects, more than 2,000 professions of faith will be recorded in countless communities where they will serve. And like the participants in Henderson last summer, about 400 will make a life commitment to vocational ministry and missions.

The children and youth who attend these summer mission camps and mission projects represent our future leaders. God continues to use mission education and mission action in the 21st century to shape young hearts, and let's not forget the 10 percent or more He is calling to a lifetime of vocational ministry and missions.

The busyness of life often robs us of experiencing God's activity around us. This summer, in the midst of all that seems important, will you join me in praying—particularly on Thursdays—for our children and youth?

Nothing is more important than our children and youth responding to the work of God in their lives.

Jim Burton is the Southern Baptist North American Mission Board's senior director for partnership mobilization.



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Pulitzer-winning cartoonist Marlette dies in car accident

Holly Springs, Miss. (ABP)—Doug Marlette, whose “Kudzu” comic strip has been published in the Western Recorder since 2002, was killed in an automobile accident July 10. He was 57.

The Pulitzer Prize winner, who recently joined the staff of the *Tulsa World*, died near Holly Springs, Miss., after a truck in which he was a passenger careened off a rain-slicked highway.

Marlette had just flown in from North Carolina, where he had delivered a eulogy at his father's funeral in Charlotte on July 6.

Marlette's editorial cartoons often lampooned diverse religious groups while his folksy “Kudzu” comic strip celebrated a rural Southern Baptist pastor.

“The Creator endowed him with such creativity that he was literally one of a kind—and a real Baptist,” said James Dunn, retired executive director of the Baptist Joint Committee for Religious Liberty. He and Marlette had struck up a friendship in 1972, when both were speakers for a meeting at Crescent Hill Baptist Church in Louisville.

“He could see the ironies and the contradictions (in political or religious life) so clearly and then reduce them to just a few strokes in a cartoon,” Dunn noted.

Dunn and another famous Baptist preacher, Will Campbell, reportedly were the inspiration for one of the lead characters in “Kudzu,” a small-town Baptist preacher named Will B. Dunn.

Marlette won the Pulitzer for editorial cartooning in 1988, after a series of drawings about the Religious Right's increasing involvement in secular politics. They included one depicting Jerry Falwell as a snake in the Garden of Eden.

However, according to Dunn,

Marlette “was an equal offender—he went after whomever was a good target of the day.” Among his other frequent targets for political cartoons were fellow Baptist Bill Clinton and Pope John Paul II.

According to David Williams, president of Tribune Media Services, which distributed Marlette's cartoons, Marlette “was a sophisticated political thinker who could have lectured on national and world affairs at any university in the country. ... His drawings delivered a bite, but he was never cruel. Doug delighted in making his points while bringing smiles to the faces of his readers.”

Islamic job sparks controversy

Marlette's fiery depictions sometimes generated controversy. In 2002, he received heavy criticism from Islamic groups over a cartoon that depicted an Arab-looking man driving a rental truck with a nuclear bomb hanging out the back. The caption read, “What Would Muhammad Drive?”

In a Tallahassee Democrat guest column responding to the criticism, Marlette wrote: “In my 30-year career I have regularly drawn cartoons that offend religious fundamentalists and true believers of every stripe. ... I have outraged fundamentalist Christians by skewering Jerry Falwell, Roman Catholics by needling the pope, and Jews by criticizing Israel. I have vast experience upsetting people with my art.”

In 1981, Marlette was the first cartoonist to be awarded a Nieman Fellowship at Harvard University—the most prestigious award for journalists in mid-career. In recent years, he published two novels, both of which earned critical acclaim.

Marlette is survived by his wife, Melinda, and an adult son, Jackson.

Pope: Protestant denominations aren't churches ‘in proper sense’

Vatican City (RNS)—Seeking to assert the primacy of the Roman Catholic Church, Vatican officials released a statement July 10 calling other Christian churches defective and saying Protestant denominations are not even churches “in the proper sense.”

The statement, which was “ratified and confirmed” by Pope Benedict XVI, reiterates some of the most controversial ideas in a 2000 Vatican declaration published under Benedict's authority when he was still Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger.

The four-page document claims to correct “erroneous interpretation” and “misunderstanding” of the teachings of the Second Vatican Council of the 1960s, which paved the way for ecumenical dialogue between Catholics and other Christian churches.

The new document said Vatican II “neither changed nor intended to change” the teaching that the “one Church of Christ ... subsists in the Catholic Church” alone. Other Christian denominations, it argues, can also be “instruments of salvation,” but “suffer from defects” insofar as

they depart from Catholicism.

Protestant denominations, “because of the absence of the sacramental priesthood, have not preserved the genuine and integral substance of the Eucharistic Mystery,” and are therefore to be termed mere “Christian communities.”

The document breaks little new ground but is likely to open old wounds from *Dominus Iesus*, the 2000 document produced by Ratzinger, which said Catholics alone have “the fullness of the means of salvation.”

One ecumenical scholar suggested the document is a piece of historical revisionism.

“From a careful reading of the documents of Vatican II, it is clear that the Roman Catholic Church wished to affirm the ecclesial reality of the Protestant churches,” said Vincent Cushing, former president of Washington Theological Union.

Cushing said he views the statement as part of a trend in Benedict's papacy to reinterpret the teachings of Vatican II as merely the reassertion of traditional doctrines, not something new.

Small trusts statute

Foundation can often fulfill role as successor trustee

As a result of bank mergers and acquisitions, some banks do not desire to serve as the trustee of the "small trusts" they receive as a result of the merger or acquisition. Various banks have different definitions of "small trusts." In these cases, a successor trustee must be selected and approved by the district court.

In other circumstances, increased fees by the bank trustee may result in a disproportionate amount of the earnings being consumed by the fees, and therefore, less of the earnings distributed to the beneficiary cause or causes. It may be desirable both to the trustee bank and the beneficiary cause or causes to select and petition the district court to approve a successor trustee that can manage the trust at a lower cost to the beneficiaries.

The commonwealth of Kentucky has a statute that deals with trusts of \$25,000 or less. It is KRS 386.185. It allows a trustee to make a distribution of the trust assets to another responsible party who shall be under duty to use the trust assets for the purposes of the trust.

The Kentucky Baptist Founda-

tion is available to serve as the successor trustee if (1) either of the above conditions exists, (2) all of the beneficiaries are IRC 501(c)(3) exempt organizations and their purposes are not in conflict with Kentucky Baptist Convention purposes and (3) the board of directors of the

Kentucky Baptist Foundation approves the beneficiaries.

There have been instances in the past, and we anticipate in the future, where the bank trustee and the beneficiaries have petitioned the district court to name the Foundation as the successor trustee, and the Foundation gladly accepted this fiduciary responsibility to assist the beneficiaries. In addition to an excellent long-term investment performance record, the Foundation applies a Christian-based social screening policy on all individually held securities and charges a below market fee.

If you are aware of any "small trusts" that are in need of a successor trustee, please call toll-free Laurie Valentine or me to determine if we can be of assistance.

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



Barry Allen



In memory of Pulitzer-winning cartoonist Doug Marlette

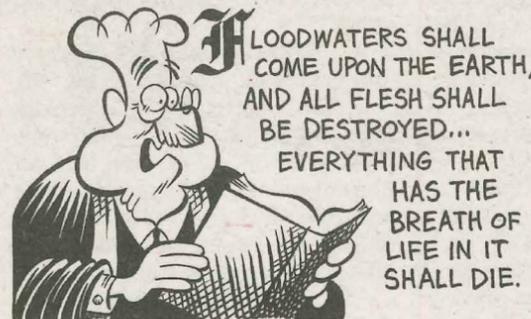
1949-2007

(See related article on page 6)



For Heaven's Sake

Mike Morgan



Bible Crosswords

By Mary Louise DeMott

Across

- 1 Father of 23 and 48 Across (Genesis 4:21)
- 4 Father of those who dwell in tents (Genesis 4:20)
- 8 A tract of open grassland
- 10 Pursuing wild animals for food
- 13 A length measured in yards
- 16 To rub or scrape out
- 17 Serial, abbr.
- 18 Suitable
- 20 Iridium, chem. symbol
- 21 Dry cut stalks of grain
- 23 Musical instrument with strings stretched on a roughly triangular frame
- 24 Barium, chem. symbol
- 26 Fermented grape juice
- 28 No
- 30 Using land to grow crops
- 33 Color of the sky
- 35 First note of the musical scale
- 36 Argon, chem. symbol
- 37 "___ the mighty hunter" (Genesis 10:8-9)
- 40 A bag, or envelope, inflated with air
- 41 Rural Electrification Administration, abbr.
- 42 Einsteinium, chem. symbol

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42					43			44	45		
46			47					48			

- 43 Mystery writer Christie's first name
- 46 Latin, Locus Sigilli, means place of the seal, abbr.
- 47 School, abbr.
- 48 Musical instrument made of pipes, that air is forced through

- 15 Gallium, chem. symbol
- 19 Tantalum, chem. symbol
- 21 Number 39 Down turns this when he works
- 22 Opposite of husband
- 24 Bachelor of Arts, abbr.
- 25 Opposite of 28 Across
- 27 Sodium, chem. symbol
- 28 National Guard, abbr.
- 29 Fluid, abbr.
- 31 Mother
- 32 Noncommissioned Officer, abbr.
- 34 Mottled yellow and green citrus fruits
- 36 Father of 7 Down (Genesis 4:2)
- 37 Built the ark, the father of zoology (Genesis 6:13-14)
- 38 To pull something with difficulty
- 39 Father of 30 Across
- 44 Preposition
- 45 Home run, abbr.

Down

- 1 A summer month
- 2 A person who carries something
- 3 Unit of money in Turkey
- 4 A summer month
- 5 Thorny or prickly plant with woody stem
- 6 Forward section of lowest balcony
- 7 Tending a flock of sheep
- 9 Opposite of west
- 11 Walk or run with quick, light steps
- 12 Not specified, abbr.
- 14 To pull back his hunting equipment for 37 Across

Last week's solution

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

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Kentucky church sees power in prayerwalking initiative

Continued from page 1

The youth pastor has heard from organizers planning to start this fall at schools in Frankfort, in Marshall, Muhlenberg and McCracken counties, and in Doniphan, Mo., and Salem, Va.

"God was calling us to our local schools, not just here but across the country," White said. "God is getting ready to do something."

Walks at Lyon County High School started March 4 under the leadership of Jay Brown, youth pastor at First Baptist Church of Eddyville. More than 200 people showed up for the first walk and there has been an average of 175 since then.

"The kids have said they get strength from seeing so many adults showing up to pray and to pray for them," Brown said. "They hear adults telling them they're praying for them, but to see it right in front of them—they're amazed."

As for the impact, the Eddyville youth pastor said a principal told him after the first walk he felt peace despite several highly stressful days. After a walk where Brown asked participants to pray about drug problems at the school, several people were arrested on drug charges.

"There has been an impact on our youth group," Brown said. "It's given them a focus that has drawn them together. I heard them talking more about the friends they're trying to share Jesus with or invite to church."

None of this surprises Ross Bauscher, evangelism growth team leader for the Kentucky Baptist

Convention. Previously director of partnership missions for the KBC, Bauscher said he noticed a correlation between advance prayerwalking teams and evangelistic success on the mission field.

"I think it's exciting," Bauscher said of the Grand Rivers-led effort. "Anything relating to prayer and embracing the sense of community when they're praying for school is very timely. That's what it's all about."

Elaine Helms, manager of prayer and spiritual awakening for the Southern Baptist North American Mission Board, said prayerwalking is used on the mission field, in housing areas prior to special events and even on church campuses prior to Sunday services. She said it is an effective evangelism strategy.

"We are basically working with God to do what He wants to do," Helms said. "Praying on site gives insight into the area and the people living or working there."

Even with the spreading awareness of the Grand Rivers initiative, White continues to distribute resources free of charge, defraying expenses by selling T-shirts that include 2 Chronicles 7:14 on the back.

He said he knows he has struck a nerve because of frequent comments from others saying they had felt for a long time this needed to be done.

Still, the fact that the idea originated in a church with an average attendance of 100 is impressive.

"I think God did that so it would be obvious it was God and not us," White said.

Leading the way

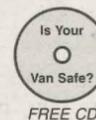


Shea Hubbard (center) leads a large crowd of Zimbabwean children to a nearby field to play ball. Hubbard was part of a group from Christ Baptist Church in Cold Spring that traveled to Bulawayo, Zimbabwe, last month. During their trip, the team held sports camps and purity conferences for the children. The group also helped lead a pastors' conference, presented the gospel to thousands of children in the public schools and conducted crusades in local churches. The group has planned a return trip to Zimbabwe next June hoping to reach even more people with the gospel. (Photo courtesy of Randy Coleman)

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Summer school ... Who needs it?

Summer term can help students adjust to campus, regain lost academic credits

During the past 24 years I have met only a very small number of students who actually wanted to attend summer school and eagerly looked forward to it. The vast majority of students cannot think of a more dreadful way to spend the summer than to attend school.

On more than one occasion when I was a child, my mother threatened me with the prospect of going to summer school if my grades did not improve. I thought it was just one of those things parents thought up to scare kids into doing something they did not want to do. I also remember being told about the electric paddle in the principal's office. I was sent to the principal's office many times and I received a paddling on most of those trips, but I don't recall ever seeing that electric paddling machine, for which I was extremely grateful!

I don't think kids today are much different than I was. The very thought of having to attend summer school can just ruin your day. Even though I don't believe most students need it, there are certainly some who do.

Summer school has been part of our program for many years. For students who have failed classes prior to coming to Oneida, summer school is a wonderful opportunity to earn missed credits and graduate on time.

Even though most of our students do reasonably well academically, some do not do well during those first few weeks at OBI. Summer school gives them the opportunity to get back on track.

For our middle school students who have struggled and may not be quite ready to be pro-

moted to the next grade, summer school often is recommended. This will hopefully give them the extra help and instruction they need to make sure they are prepared to advance to the next grade. There are fewer students here in summer, so it provides new students a great time to better adjust to boarding school.

While most students never believe they will get homesick or have a difficult time adjusting, we know the opposite is true. Being away from home for the first time can be a very challenging and emotional time. While middle school students normally have the most difficult time, high school students are not immune to shedding a few tears when they think they may never see home again.

During the interview process we always try to make sure we can meet the student's needs before enrollment. Even though we would like to meet the needs of every prospective student, some need help and instruction we do not provide. At times we are just not sure if we are the right educational environment.

In many of those situations we will recommend summer school so we can have a little better understanding of the student's needs before a decision is made about fall enrollment. At the conclusion of summer school, if we believe Oneida has been a good match, the student may return for the fall term.

Summer school ... who needs it? Frankly, many students could benefit from it. After all, summer school doesn't take the whole summer, just a few weeks.

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

THIS IS ONEIDA



W.F. Underwood

Sustained by the call

Bivocational pastor, student learns time management

Third-year student Scott Mullins works 32 hours a week at Wal-Mart, is pastor of a church and also a full-time student at Clear Creek.

"It's rough sometimes, but it is God's calling that keeps me going," he said.

Since April 2006 Scott has served as pastor of Calloway Baptist Church in Livingston. "We average about 15-20 people in attendance but it is the most amazing place," he said. "You encounter the Spirit of God immediately. We may be a small church but we serve a big God."

What's a major lesson he's learned at Clear Creek? "I've learned to manage my time better; and that has helped me work better with people," he said. "I also thought I knew a lot about the Bible, but coming to Clear Creek has revealed how little I knew."

Scott became a Christian at age 19. "I had been in church since I was three weeks old. I knew my parents wanted me to be saved and at age 10 I went up and shook the preacher's hand, but I knew I had not surrendered," he recalled.

"In a revival an evangelist asked the question about assurance of heaven if I died. I had no assur-

ance. God confronted me with the awareness of how I could teach a boys' class and not be saved. Pride kept me from admitting my lost condition, wondering what people would think."

During the following five years Scott experienced a deepening hunger to be more involved in God's work.

"God called me," he said. "I wasn't sure which direction. My pastor Barin Bolin, a Clear Creek graduate, brought me to see the college but it wasn't the right time. I worked for a while in a factory until God confirmed His timing."

Scott's sense of God's giftedness and leadership points him to a teaching ministry. "I'm not sure how He will work that out for me to teach and preach," he said.

"I realize that will require additional education. I'll need some time out of the classroom after Clear Creek, but I know He will accomplish His will at the right time."

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.cccb.edu; e-mail: dfox@ccb.edu

CLEAR CREEK CHRONICLE



Donnie Fox

Passport backlogs create headaches for mission travelers

Chicago (RNS)—In the wake of tighter passport restrictions, thousands of jittery missionaries-to-be added something new to their prayer lists: passport delays.

Passport offices have experienced a deluge of applications since new rules went into effect in January that require passports for reentry after flights from Mexico, Canada, the Caribbean and Bermuda.

For churches, delays that can exceed 12 weeks have added more headaches at the height of mission trip season.

Jeremy Horneck was among the stressed. A recent graduate of Maranatha Baptist Bible College in Wauwatertown, Wis., Horneck learned in April that he landed his dream job—teaching English in the steamy tropics of Saipan, an island in the South Pacific.

Only two months from his June departure date, Horneck assumed he would be able to receive his passport within the normal six-week processing timeframe. This year, however, normal time estimates don't apply. Between October 2006 and April 2007, the State Department issued 8.6 million passports—more passports than were issued in any single full year before 2003.

Just one week before his flight to Saipan was scheduled to depart, a passport-less Horneck phoned the

Passport Information Center to ask about the document's whereabouts. When it didn't arrive as promised, he got worried.

A flurry of fruitless calls to the swamped Passport Information Center ensued, followed by urgent calls to his congressman. Four days before he left, he arrived at a Chicago passport office at 5 a.m. Nearly 10 hours later, a relieved Horneck had the little blue booklet in his hands.

"The worst thing would be delaying my trip, which would have cost hundreds of dollars which I didn't have," Horneck said. "I knew that God had called me to Saipan and He would get me there in plenty of time for His work."

Horneck isn't alone—thousands of anxious travelers are keeping the phones ringing at congressional offices.

"Since the rules have been relaxed, it's been about 25 (calls) a week," said Andy Stone, a spokesman for Rep. Jerry McNerny (D-Calif.). The situation was even more intense, McNerny pointed out, before the House voted in June to delay the passport stipulation on air travel to

Mexico, Canada, the Caribbean and Bermuda.

At Rep. Dennis Cardoza's (D-Calif.) office, the total number of calls from concerned travelers has exceeded 1,000.

Mission organizations have also been hearing an earful. Lisa Countiss, an administrator for Adventures in Missions, fields calls from anxious parents and travelers who participate in AIM's numerous trips overseas. This year the number of calls to her office has spiked.

Countiss said a few AIM mission trip participants were forced to stay home. Some missionaries received their passports just days before their trips. Others chose to fly to passport offices in New Orleans or Chicago, where they stood in line with hundreds of others.

Though the delays have complicated mission travel and increased costs, at least one pastor believes that the obstacles won't affect the number of missionaries who serve.

John Bowersox, youth pastor at Spanish River Church in Boca Raton, Fla., said it would take more than

passport issues to discourage the church's annual trips to the poor areas of Cancun, Mexico.

The service trips to Cancun are very important to the youth group, he said. "People that go on those trips are by far more connected (with each other) than those that don't."

During this year's service trip, 37 people traveled to minister to children and help construct walls for an open-air church. The church, which has planned such trips for years, is particularly travel-savvy. Even before the State Department required travelers to carry passports when they went south of the border, Spanish River had that requirement.

Bowersox said the additional \$60-\$125 cost for a passport is something his teens are prepared for. He believes the new restrictions will have a minimal effect on Spanish River's ministry—only those teens who are late to apply might run into problems, he said.

While passport lines continue to stretch for blocks, the nightmare ended well for many missionaries. Horneck wrote from Saipan to say the passport situation was resolved—he's already hard at work teaching English to 20 Korean-speaking students.

"I am so thankful (God) worked everything out so I could get here," he said.



Increasing number of churches seek to become mission-senders

By John Hall
Associated Baptist Press

Knoxville, Tenn. (ABP)—While Baptist missiologists are declaring church-based missions the future of global outreach, some pastors are saying it is already here.

Although evidence is largely anecdotal, many Baptists believe church work overseas without the help of mission boards, agencies or parachurch organizations is on the rise. The trend began with members taking short-term mission trips, but it has shifted toward churches looking to send members to the mission field for longer periods of time.

First Baptist Church of Knoxville, Tenn., followed that pattern. It began as a partnership with Croatian Baptists that focused on support, then gradually moved to taking short-term mission trips and now there are plans to send students to serve in Croatia for several months at a time.

The congregation is helping to "plug the holes in the dike" left by denominations in Croatia, Pastor Bill Shiell said.

"We cannot find another denominational entity that is willing to send missionaries to this part of the world because they have other priorities," he said. "We wanted not only to send our own missionaries but also be connected to the people there."

The relational aspects of this kind of mission work are key attractors for the churches doing it. Ministers want congregations to feel connected to where the church is serving, which requires more than just sending money to a mission board.

"We're sharing life with them," said Ben Dudley, community minis-

ter at University Baptist Church in Waco, Texas.

University Baptist has partnered with Baylor University to work in Kenya, particularly in an orphanage there. Once the church built the relationship, it started empowering students to serve there for several months at a time.

First Baptist Church of Arlington, Texas, and Cottonwood Baptist Church in Dublin, Texas, have partnered to start the Global Connection Partnership Network, a program to help congregations train and send missionaries.

Cindy Wiles, executive director of the network, believes her organization can help facilitate congregations that want to assist members in working in missions.

"There are no rules," she said. "Churches are looking to do what they feel God calling them to do."

The increase in direct mission work is forcing many state and national conventions to re-evaluate their mission efforts. Critics of the increase argue that there is little coordination of efforts, which leads to unneeded duplication of ministry. They also say direct mission work takes money from traditional Baptist cooperative funding channels.

Wiles, Dudley, Shiell and others believe their direct efforts get more people involved in mission work and raise more mission funds, since individuals tend to give more than normal to support direct missions.

Proponents of direct mission work also argue that their churches look for partnerships in the areas they serve. They learn what groups in a given area are doing and look for ways to coordinate efforts.

Pastor: 'God has not forgotten Zimbabwe'

Kadoma, Zimbabwe (BP)—Ray Motsi knelt in prayer. His knee rested on the dirty, cold, concrete floor while one hand grabbed a steel bar. Two other pastors knelt beside him inside the jail cell. They prayed for revival in their country.

Arrested moments earlier at a prayer meeting, the Zimbabwean pastors were charged with leading an anti-government meeting. Hundreds of Christians followed them to the jailhouse, continuing the prayer meeting asking God for revival.

"There was revival in Kadoma that weekend," the Baptist pastor said. "Fifty-two inmates and guards asked Jesus to be their Savior and many more heard the gospel."

"Times may be tough, but God has not forgotten Zimbabwe," Motsi continued. Charges against the pastors were dropped in May. "Disasters are often God's loudspeakers to His people. People hear better during these times."

In addition to political woes that continue to gather international headlines, the country is suffering from an economic meltdown that has most Zimbabweans struggling to meet day-to-day needs. A severe drought combined with the under-production of wheat and maize resulted in 4 million people needing food aid, according to the United Nations. HIV/AIDS, meanwhile, also wreaks havoc in the country.

Zimbabweans are learning to appreciate the simple things and live by faith, a pastor in Harare said.

"When we were comfortable and had everything we needed, people didn't stop to pay attention to God," the pastor said. "Now, we live simple lives and the focus is slowly turning back to God. People want to know about Him. The Lord, in an amazing way, is looking after His people."

Nhamo Chigohi remembers a time when he was persecuted for his faith, but now people stop him to ask questions about Jesus. Chigohi was among the first believers with the Shangaan people in eastern Zimbabwe. The Shangaan are known for their adherence to traditional African religions, such as following an-



NATIONAL PRAYER A young man prays for Zimbabwe, which is suffering from economic and political turmoil. Many churches reserve a special time in their services to pray for their country's recovery and revival.

cestral spirits and witchdoctors. When Chigohi turned away from the ancestors to follow Christ, his family and village ridiculed him.

After discussing it with his wife, Chigohi turned down a pastorate with a large church in Harare to minister among his own people.

"It takes a Shangaan to minister to a Shangaan," the pastor said nine years after returning home. "It was slow at first, no one wanted to believe. For the last two and a half years now, planting churches in Shangaan land is easy."

An estimated 20 churches have started in this area of Zimbabwe. Missionaries have described the area as "hungering after God." Chigohi said the difference in heart came as the Shangaan saw God's love and compassion shine through difficult times.

One village elder admitted he once regarded Christianity as a religion only for the Shona, the majority people group in Zimbabwe. But he stepped back and watched how God provided for the Shangaan through food, water and medicine—not to mention caring for the orphans in their community. He knew Jesus came for the Shangaan as well.

"Life is not easy here. It's very difficult," Chigohi said. "The difficult times keep us challenged and turning to God. God is moving. He has now opened the gospel to the Shangaan people and many others."

PRAYER PARTNERS

Please pray for the following Kentucky Baptist ministries and missionaries:

Russian ministry of Maple Grove Baptist Church in Louisville. Pastor Ray Hayes and other leaders are reaching out to the nearly 4,000 Russian immigrants who live in metro Louisville. A monthly worship service is conducted with an authentic Russian meal served afterwards. Russian believers also meet every other Saturday night at a local bakery for dialogue and Christian fellowship. Pray that Russian immigrants will hear the gospel and respond to God's call in their lives. Pray for leaders to assist in continuing this ministry to reach people for Christ.

Missionary Jammie Stone of Louisville. Stone serves as a church and community missionary at the Baptist Fellowship Center. She gives direction to after-school programs for children, food and clothing distribution, and offers financial assistance to needy families. Pray that additional volunteers will make themselves available to help in the ministry. Pray also that Stone will show the love of Christ to center visitors and that they will discover Jesus as the ultimate answer to life's problems and questions.

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**—Ponderosa Church will hold revival services July 22-26 with **Her-shael York** and **Noble Cobb** as evangelists. For more information, call (270) 522-9305.

■ **CRESTWOOD**—Ballardsville Church recently called **Greg and Julie Schwab** as ministers to students. Former student minister **Don Wright** was named associate pastor.

■ **GHENT**—Ghent Church recently called **Pauline Bloat** as part-time music director.

■ **HAWESVILLE**—Mount Eden Church ordained **Justin Nugent** and **Tim Young** as deacons July 8. **Mark Rowe** recently was called as minister of youth and students. **Foy Back** is pastor.

■ **LONDON**—Robinson Creek Church recently ordained **Mark Penley** as a deacon. **Geral Wells** is pastor.

■ **LOUISVILLE**—Bethlehem Church will host **Randy and Gay Hongo** and **Master's Touch**, a hula ministry team from Olivet Baptist Church in Honolulu, July 22, 10:45 a.m.

■ **MIDWAY**—Forks of Elkhorn Church celebrated its 219th homecoming June 23-24. Two descendants of the church's founder and first pastor, **William Hickman**, led the celebration. **Walter Hickman**, associate pastor of Fremont First Church in Ne-

Spotlight on ...

Central City



Ebenezer Church will celebrate its 126th anniversary and homecoming Aug. 12. For more information, call (270) 754-4462 or e-mail ebe@muhlon.com.

braska, delivered the homecoming message and his brother, **Bob Hickman**, retired minister of music for Florence Church, presented special music. **Todd Lester** is pastor.

■ **MURRAY**—**Joetta Kelly**, minister to preschoolers and children at First Church, resigned effective July 15. **Wendell Ray** is pastor.

■ **WACO**—Creekside Church ordained pastor **Tom Barnes** to the gospel ministry June 3.

■ **WICKLIFFE**—**Jan Carrico**, pastor of Bethlehem Church, recently resigned to attend Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Kansas City, Mo.

KBC CALENDAR OF EVENTS

KENTUCKY BAPTIST CONVENTION

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.
- 14-15 Women on Mission/Baptist Nursing Fellowship Fall Retreat, Jonathan Creek.
- 15 Super Saturday, Severns Valley Baptist Church, Elizabethtown.
- 17-18 State Baptist Ministers Golf Tournament, Cherry Blossom Golf & Country Club, Georgetown.
- 22 Children in Action Day Camp, Cedar Crest.
- 22 Punt, Pass & Kick, Campbellsville University.
- 28-29 Focus 2007, Crestwood Baptist Church, Crestwood.

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



Because 'Desperate Housewives' probably isn't your best source for family advice.

WESTERNRECORDER

CLASSIFIED ADS

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

FOR SALE: Children's animated Bible DVDs. Professionally made; enchanting to watch. Free resource books. Each DVD plays in Spanish or English; each has Web access. Call (859) 699-8384. E-mail wjenkins@nestfamily.com.

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

SEEKING: Full-time pastor who loves the Lord and the local church. Must preach the gospel message, practice the truth of the Bible and seek growth through outreach. Please send resumé and preferably a DVD or other taped message to: Pastor Search Committee, High Point Baptist Church, 220 West Farthing St., Mayfield, KY 42066.

SEEKING: Part-time minister of education for First Baptist Church of Oak Grove. Please send resumé to Helen Stanfill, First Baptist Church, PO Box 27, Oak Grove, KY 42262. For more information, contact Helen Stanfill at (270) 439-5331.

SEEKING: Part-time paid minister of preschool/children's department. If interested, please submit resumé to: Fisherville Baptist Church, 15001 Old Taylorsville Road, Fisherville, KY 40023; or call (502) 267-5605 or e-mail to: secretary@fisherville-baptist.com.

SEEKING: Part-time paid minister of music. Will be working with various ages and doing PowerPoint presentations. Send resumé to: Personnel Committee, Fisherville Baptist Church, 15001 Old Taylorsville Road, Fisherville, KY 40023; or e-mail to: secretary@fisherville-baptist.com.

SEEKING: Part-time children and family pastor for Rosemont Baptist Church, Lexington, Ky. Candidate will lead creative ministry for children ages birth through 6th grade and their families. For application information, please contact the church: (859) 277-6147.

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/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. Send resumé to Hyattsville Baptist Church, 3245 Richmond Road, Lancaster, KY 40444, Attn: Cynthia Bourne; or e-mail: crbourne@windstream.net.

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 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: 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 (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: 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: 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.

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

The price of salvation

Foreign exchange student accepts Jesus Christ, is disowned by family

By Charlie Warren
Arkansas Baptist News

Scott, Ark. (BP)—Sherzod Odilov, an exchange student from Uzbekistan, did not anticipate the high price he would pay for his decision to follow Christ, but knowing the price Christ paid for him, he stands firm.

When Sherzod, who recently graduated from Jacksonville (Ark.) High School, telephoned his Muslim parents in Uzbekistan to tell them of his newfound faith, his father disowned him, making it clear he was no longer welcome in his home and was never again to speak to his mother or his siblings. He withdrew all funds from Sherzod's U.S. bank account, arranged to cancel his son's U.S. sponsorship and college scholarship and even drew up legal papers declaring Sherzod is no longer his son.

As devastating as that must be for an 18-year-old, Sherzod remains strong in his commitment to Christ.

"I am not sorry I accepted Christ," he said. "I am not sorry for getting baptized. Even though my parents did that, I am not sorry for anything that happened."

He faces his uncertain future with confidence that God will lead him.

Sherzod was led to faith in Christ by Kari Hand, 16, who befriended him and introduced him to the Savior.

"I was strictly Muslim. I prayed five times a day and read the Koran and learned it by heart. I kept it with me all the time," Sherzod said. "All I knew was Islam, and I believed in Islam. I really prayed. I thought all religions except Islam were wrong."

Then he met Kari at a basketball game.

"After that, whenever I talked to her, she always talked about Christianity and her faith and about Grace Baptist Church," Sherzod recounted. "When she talked about Christianity, I used to get mad. But I didn't tell her that because I didn't want her to feel bad."

"All the time, she spoke about

Christianity and about the Bible. She gave me some books about Christianity, too. I really felt strange because I had never heard Christian things before. I didn't believe in Christianity."

As time passed, Kari's testimony and witness began to reach him.

"I got used to that and started to feel something whenever she talked about that," Sherzod continued. "I asked a lot of questions of her, everything about Christianity. I asked them on purpose to see if she could answer or not. She could answer those questions, and that really surprised me."

Christianity vs. Islam

Then he began to read the Bible and explore the difference between Islam and Christianity. He began to rethink Islam and open his mind to Christianity.

"In Islam we have to pray five times in a day, and it is not guaranteed that you go to heaven. It is not guaranteed that all your sins are going to be forgiven," he said. "But when I read the Bible, I began to realize I had been following something that was wrong all my life."

Sherzod began attending Grace Baptist, where Kari is a member. He liked the church, the people, pastor Jerry Terrell and the youth group.

"The preaching of Brother Jerry really touched my heart," Sherzod said.

One day while on the phone with Kari, she asked Sherzod if he was ready to accept Christ.

"That really touched my heart, too, because I had been wanting to do that for a long time, but I didn't know how to start," Sherzod said. "So, I said, 'OK, what am I supposed to do?'"

Kari, who had been trained in Evangelism Explosion, guided him through what it means to confess sin, repent and place his trust in Jesus Christ alone for salvation, and Sherzod responded by praying to receive Christ.

In conversations with Terrell about seeking baptism, they decid-



RENOUNCED Sherzod Odilov (left), an exchange student from Uzbekistan who was introduced to Christ by Kari Hand (right), has been disowned by his family in the central Asian country. (BP photos by Charlie Warren)

ed he should share his decision with his parents.

Sherzod said his parents had always shown their love for him, met his needs and supported him in every way. He thought they would support his decision.

He phoned his parents on his dad's birthday.

"I said, 'Dad, I have to tell you something very important. It's very important to me and it's a big change, and I hope you are not going to get mad or upset with me,'" Sherzod remembered.

His father told him he could never be angry at anything Sherzod did.

"I told him, 'I accepted Christ and that I'm getting ready to get baptized,'" Sherzod said. "He kept silent for a couple of minutes. I said, 'Dad, are you OK?' and he said, 'Sherzod, I don't think the thing you are doing is right, and I didn't really expect that from you. If you are sure the thing you are doing is right, and if you are not going to follow Islam, there is no hope for you to come to Uzbekistan. If you ever come to Uzbekistan, don't ever come to my house. I don't want you to talk to your brother or sister or to Mom or to any other relatives.'"

Motivated by fear

"He hung up the phone," Sherzod recalled. "After a couple of minutes, I tried to call him again, but he wouldn't pick up the phone. I tried to call him every day for a couple of weeks, but no one picked up the phone."

Terrell speculated that the father's decision may have been motivated by love and fear. Uzbekistan is 88 percent Muslim. Sherzod's father may have feared for his son's life and for the lives of his family.

"I don't blame his parents or anyone else, and I don't want him to hold anything against his parents," Terrell said. "They are loving parents. They have done what they believe is the best thing to do. We just need to gather around this young man and help him."

Sherzod was scheduled to return to Uzbekistan June 27. Terrell contacted Homeland Security, explaining the situation. The contact said, "Do not put him on that plane!" Terrell discovered if Sherzod returned, he would have no place to go, he

might not be able to get out again and as a former Muslim converted to Christianity, he could be in danger.

"Putting all those things together, we felt it was best to try to do something to keep him here," Terrell said.

Seeking shelter

Sherzod was baptized June 24, and Grace Baptist has made a commitment to assist the young man with his financial and legal responsibilities as he seeks religious asylum in the United States.

Linda Hand, Kari's mother, is helping with all the paperwork challenges.

They have filed for an F-1 visa, which will allow Sherzod to stay in the United States as a student. He has already been accepted at the University of Central Arkansas at Conway, where he will major in international relations and political science. But without his Uzbekistan scholarship, the university needed a guarantee regarding his financial support, since an F-1 visa does not allow him to work. Doing so would mean deportation.

Terrell presented the need to the church and they voted to sponsor Sherzod for tuition, room and board, books and spending money. Yet, such a small church (about 150 resident members) knows they will need help.

"I told them if we could get 100 churches or individuals to put up \$200 each, we could collect \$20,000," Terrell said. "We felt that would be enough to take care of him for a whole year."

"Religious asylum is the ultimate goal," Terrell said, but many people are filing for that and it is difficult to obtain. Also, the cost is about \$4,000.

"But we believe with God's help, anything is possible. So far the Lord has really inspired everything that has taken place."

Through the entire ordeal, Terrell said he is proud of how Sherzod has handled himself.

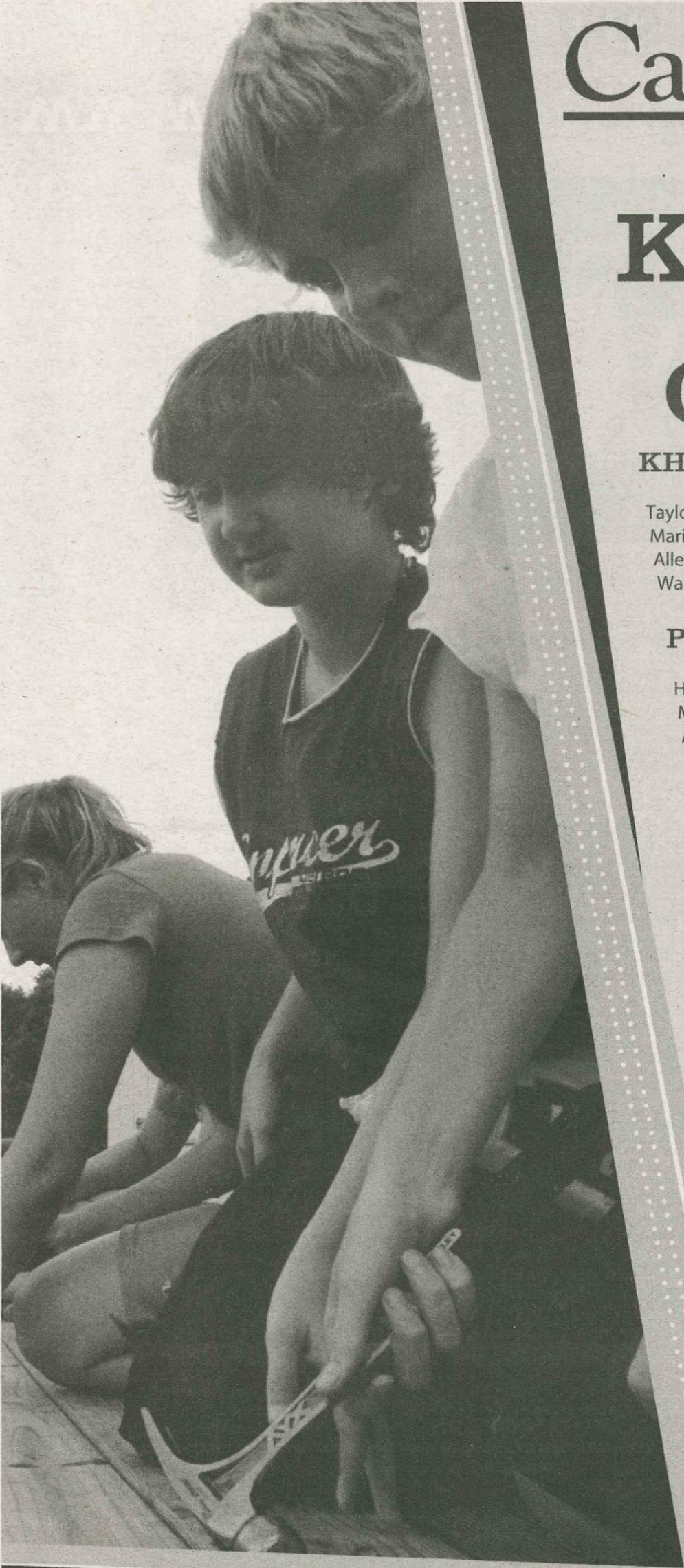
"It has really been an inspiration to our teenagers, and our adults also, to meet someone who stands strong, realizing the price he has had to pay," Terrell said. "God has really blessed us by bringing him to us. He'll be a real blessing to the Lord."

"I am not sorry I accepted Christ."

Sherzod Odilov, a foreign exchange student from Uzbekistan, who was disowned by his family for accepting Jesus Christ as his Savior



SAFE HAVEN Sherzod Odilov (right) is being assisted in seeking religious asylum by Linda Hand (left) and Jerry Terrell (in back), pastor of Grace Baptist Church in Scott, Ark. The church has agreed to sponsor Sherzod and provide money for him to attend college.



Campbellsville UNIVERSITY

Summer 2007

Kentucky Heartland Outreach

KHO Camp Locations:

Taylor County
Marion County
Allen County
Warren County

Participating Churches:

Hillside UMC (Woodstock, GA)
Munfordville Baptist (Munfordville, KY)
Ascension Lutheran (Louisville, KY)
Grace Community Church (Marion, NC)

Clay FBC (Clay, KY)
Mount Vernon Baptist (Boone, NC)
Orange UMC (Chapel Hill, NC)
St. Luke's Church (Hilton Head, SC)

Scottsville Baptist (Scottsville, KY)
College Parkway (Annapolis, MD)
Eubank Baptist (Eubank, KY)
Nineveh Christian Church (Southern Indiana)
Highland Hills (Fort Thomas, KY)

Pinelands/ Youth for Christ (Miami, FL)
Elmhurst CRC (Elmhurst, IL)
Faith Reformed (Zeeland, MI)
FBC Chillicothe (Chillicothe, MO)
Walnut Memorial (Owensboro, KY)

Pleasant View Baptist (Waynesburg, KY)
Hillside Ave. Church of God (Anderson, IN)
FBC of Pascagoula (Pascagoula, MS)
Meadow Park Church of God (Columbus, OH)
Columbia FBC (Columbia, TN)
Grace Baptist (Somerset, KY)
Indian Valley Mennonite church (Harleysville, PA)
Woodburn Baptist (Bowling Green, KY)

KHO is an affiliate ministry of Campbellsville University providing housing improvements for lower income homeowners and involves CU students in servant evangelism opportunities. During the summer of 2007, nearly 700 volunteers are involved in KHO's ministry.

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